

Global CM 451

Chapter 451: Incompatible Strength! (Four-in-one)_2

Smog Spirit:

Appearance: The Smog Spirit's body emits a dense, black mist. It has no noticeable facial or limb features, and generally, only a pair of red eyes can be seen.

Attributes: High Dodge, low Health; both physical and Magic Attacks are weak. It can move silently within the smoke.

Poison Tree Demon:

Appearance: The Poison Tree Demon is tall and covered in tangled branches and vines. Its skin is light green, and its eyes are red.

Attributes: High defense and high Health, strong physical attack power; it can release poison attacks, causing poison damage and poisoning the enemy.

Smog Spider:

Appearance: The Smog Spider is enormous, with eight poisonous, sharp spider legs and a gray-black abdomen. In the smoke, their bodies seem to be composed of mist.

Attributes: High attack power and moderate Health; it can release poisonous attacks and bite attacks, causing physical and poison damage.

Fog Beast:

Appearance: The Fog Beast is tall and robust, with sturdy scales and iron-like claws. It is enveloped in thick smoke, and its eyes are usually red.

Attributes: High attack power, high defense, and high Health. It can absorb smoke to enhance its power and launch physical and poison attacks. It can use range attacks and melee attack Skills.

There were several others of this kind.

Chen Mo compared these monsters to his own Soldiers. Despite the large number of his Soldiers, he feared many would perish if they were to engage these creatures. Fortunately, he hadn't brought them along. Of course, Chen Mo himself could deal with them relatively easily. However, he was in no mood to clash with these monsters at the moment, as he was circling within the forest, searching for the two missing villagers from Green Bamboo Village.

At the same time, he had dispatched a large number of his Skeleton Monsters, effectively increasing the search efficiency, though this also raised the likelihood of encountering other monsters. However, this was only a first-transition, level 40 instance dungeon. Each of Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters could inflict damage comparable to that of fourth-transition entities. Even if they encountered monsters, it would be a simple sweep with no real difficulty.

Five minutes after Chen Mo entered the Smoky Intoxicated Forest, he couldn't help but complain, This forest is too big! Even with my wide-range perception ability and 3,000,000 Skeleton Monsters searching, we still haven't found a single trace of those two villagers.

Is this a 12-hour timed mission?

Chen Mo even began to suspect he might only be able to find them at night.

However, since the forest was so vast, he hadn't searched it all yet and thus hadn't given up completely. Over the next period, Chen Mo continued to search deep within the dark and mysterious forest for any sign of the villagers.

A short while later, just as he was about to give up and head to attack Storm City first, one of his Skeleton Monsters discovered a faint clue. It was a set of footprints resembling those made by human shoes. Using his Unity ability, Chen Mo observed them closely and confirmed that the marks were indeed left by human footwear.

Discovering this clue, Chen Mo felt a surge of energy. He directed the Skeleton Monsters to continue searching in that direction while he himself sped over by Flying. As the Skeleton Monsters followed the

direction of the footprints, Chen Mo soon discovered more tracks in the forest, along with some discarded items and scraps of torn cloth. This all proved that humans had been nearby, and he was on the right track.

Seeing the tattered cloth, Chen Mo felt a sense of relief. Finally, I'm on the right trail, he thought, now certain he hadn't made a mistake. However, he was curious. Since these were villagers from Green Bamboo Village, they should have been well aware of the dangers in this forest. Why then would they choose to venture so deep into it?

Soon, Chen Mo would find out why.

Continuing deeper into the Smoky Intoxicated Forest, Chen Mo gradually discovered some strange marks—remnants, it seemed, of some sort of ritual. He frowned; the scene unfolding before him felt distinctly unusual. A short while later, the Skeleton Monsters arrived before a large, circular altar constructed from earth and stone. Traces of fresh blood and candle wax remained on its surface, clearly indicating that someone had recently performed some kind of ritual here.

As the Skeleton Monsters neared the center of the altar, Chen Mo noticed a strange item emitting a dark aura. It appeared to be some kind of medium used for summoning devils. Nearby lay multiple offerings of the kind Cultists would use, including animal carcasses and some unidentifiable objects. The altar was encircled by strange symbols and formation patterns. These markings were highly mysterious and likely served to amplify the ritual's power. The entire altar exuded a bizarre, unsettling aura, making one feel a sense of unease and fear.

Could the two villagers have been kidnapped by Cultists? he wondered. Are they planning to use them as live sacrifices?

He began to meticulously search the area around the altar and soon discovered more unsettling traces. The Cultists had placed numerous offerings around the altar. Some of these were corpses bearing marks of having been bound—apparently humans intended as sacrifices.

Chen Mo frowned and glanced at The Heavenly Path's Hint. Fortunately, the mission timer was still counting down normally. This indicated that the sacrifices currently on the altar were not the villagers from Green Bamboo Village.

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Why on Earth would these guys choose to conduct a ritual in this perilous Smoky Intoxicated Forest? What are they trying to achieve?

Chen Mo became even more intrigued.

From the traces left behind, it seemed these cultists were likely performing a summoning ritual of Dark Magic, possibly intended to bring forth a devil or some other malicious entity. They had placed numerous offerings around the altar, including animal and human corpses, implying that they required sacrifices to enhance the power of the ritual. In addition, the peculiar item at the center of the altar could possibly serve as a medium for the summoning. This inevitably brings to mind the summoning mediums in ancient magic. No matter what they were trying to summon, it was doubtlessly a very dangerous and evil entity.

They wouldn't be summoning a Demon God, would they? This is just a first-transition instance.

However, upon further thought, this was a hidden mission, a type of side mission. The difficulty of hidden missions was occasionally not directly tied to the primary mission. For example, one might encounter a monster far exceeding the current instance's strength when venturing into the Treasure Secret Realm.

Though he remained cautious, being equipped with impressive survival skills, Chen Mo wasn't exactly frightened. Moreover, he himself hadn't flown over yet; it was the Skeleton Monster carrying out the actions. Even if they did summon a powerful Demon God, it couldn't harm him.

As the Skeleton Monster continued its rapid advance, more traces became evident. Before long, Chen Mo himself arrived. With his arrival, his perception range instantly expanded, dwarfing that of the Skeleton Monster. Soon, he discovered an extraordinarily frantic scene.

In a gloomy clearing ahead, a group of cultists cloaked in black robes, their faces painted with strange symbols, were gathered around a large stone altar. They were whispering an incomprehensible language in bizarre tones, their chanting sounding as if it was coming from the depths of hell, making one shudder upon hearing it.

After chanting for a while, their behavior grew even more bizarre and frenzied. Some were spinning in place, seemingly performing an evil dance, while others were tearing out their own hair and smearing their blood on the altar. The hair, slowly burning on the altar, emitted a foul smell. Other cultists grabbed handfuls of soil from the ground and forcefully stuffed it into their mouths, seemingly savoring an odd delicacy.

On either side of the altar, two villagers were tied to pillars. Their bodies were tightly bound with heavy ropes, their faces as pale as paper, and their eyes filled with fear. They watched the erratic and manic cultists before them as though they were witnessing devils in hell. They were trembling incessantly, their lips twitching. They wanted to scream for help, but terror prevented them from making any sound. They had lived all their lives in this tranquil forest, remote from the world, and had never witnessed such a bizarre situation.

Fortunately, it was still daytime, and the cultists hadn't started the sacrificial summoning yet; they were merely making preliminary preparations. This meant the villagers were still relatively safe. However, the cultists' perverse behavior was causing them considerable psychological terror.

After each strange ritual, the cultists would bite each other, drink each other's blood, then erupt in maniacal laughter as though they were experiencing immense pleasure. No humanity could be seen in their eyes, only madness and evil. A black energy was slowly swirling around their bodies, an aura filled with death and a rotten stench.

Chen Mo sensed the cultists' attributes; they weren't particularly high. An average first-transition level 40 professional could easily deal with them.

This baffled Chen Mo. After all, these cultists seemed far too weak. This is the hidden mission of an SSS-level difficulty instance. It's completely inconsistent with that difficulty! Could this hidden mission truly be completed so easily?

Though it seemed implausible, Chen Mo still ordered his Skeleton Monsters to attack.

In an instant, a hail of arrows and Energy Bullets rained down on the cultists. Given the Skeleton Monsters' current impressive attack power, their attacks should have one-shotted these trash cultists. However, when the Skeleton Monsters' attacks landed on the cultists, although their Health was instantly depleted, they mysteriously remained alive!

At the same time, they all turned in unison to look in Chen Mo's direction.

But Chen Mo was currently in an invisible state. Logically, these trash cultists shouldn't have been able to see him.

This turn of events made Chen Mo feel the scene was even more bizarre. It also confirmed his suspicion: hidden missions were indeed not so easy to complete!

At the cultists' feet, Chen Mo noticed some mysterious runes. Upon closer inspection, he realized that these runes were interwoven in a regular pattern, forming a peculiar magic array. Chen Mo's intuition told him this magic array was likely the reason for the cultists' immortality.

Thinking this, Chen Mo glanced at the central area enclosed by the runes. If this is a magic array, then that central area enclosed by the runes must be its Array Eye. Destroying the Array Eye should be equivalent to destroying the entire magic array!

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With a clear target, Chen Mo immediately ordered the Skeleton Monsters to change direction, hurling all their attacks toward the center of the magic array.

Facing Chen Mo's onslaught, the Cultists seemed undeterred, continuing their eerie incantations.

As Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters bombarded the center of the magic array, a potent surge of Magic Power suddenly erupted from within it. Instantly, a strange and deep hole, resembling a Black Hole, appeared in the magic array's center. This terrifying cavity spiraled continuously, sucking in surrounding trees, rocks, even the Miasma Poison Gas, and the arrows and Energy Bomb Attack from the Skeleton Monsters.

If the two villagers hadn't been bound securely, they too might have been swept away. Chen Mo quickly cast a shield Skill on them. According to The Heavenly Path's Hint regarding the task's timing, the villagers shouldn't die so soon, but it was better to be safe than sorry.

With the appearance of the strange Black Hole at the magic array's center, it began absorbing everything in its vicinity.

At that moment, the Cultists' bodies also began to change. Their eyes glowed with a crimson light, their skin darkened, and a visible black liquid began to surge from their bodies, as if an unseen power was swelling within them.

Their eyes grew wild, completely devoid of reason and humanity, their entire beings morphing into something demonic.

Radiating an aura of darkness, they appeared even more terrifying than before.

Under the influence of this dark power, their attributes suddenly became extraordinarily powerful, surpassing even high-ranking professionals.

Seeing this, Chen Mo couldn't help but frown.

These seemingly weak Cultists have somehow become incredibly powerful with the help of the magic array. The worst part is their immortality. That's the thorniest problem!

To kill them, the magic array has to be broken first. But the magic array swallows any attack, making it virtually unbreakable. This traps me in a seemingly insolvable cycle.

With that path blocked, Chen Mo began to think of other ways to break the magic array.

The Cultists, however, were not idle. It seemed they could see Chen Mo and his Skeleton Monsters. Once fully augmented, they launched an attack from a distance, aiming at Chen Mo and his Skeleton Monsters.

All the Cultists were adept in dark Spells, their Spells surprisingly lethal. Combined with their enhanced attributes, any ordinary person encountering them would surely keep a wide berth.

However, they didn't simply leverage their amplified attributes to attack Chen Mo and his Skeleton Monsters. Instead, they chose to perform a Prayer Ceremony to unleash a bizarre assault.

The Cultists' hand gestures began to change mysteriously, and in unison, they loudly chanted in a strange language Chen Mo had never heard.

While reciting the bizarre incantation, they all raised their hands, pointing their index fingers at Chen Mo and his Skeleton Monsters. Their incantation grew louder and faster, as if summoning something.

Soon, Chen Mo felt the magic elements in the air begin to surge violently. A suppressive atmosphere instantly enveloped the entire area.

A dark magical Energy emerged around the Cultists, swallowing everything like a Black Hole.

Next, the Cultists opened their mouths, spewing out wisps of black smoke.

The smoke quickly spread in the air, forming a massive black cloud.

The black cloud rotated in the air with increasing speed, resembling a gigantic black hurricane threatening to engulf everything.

CRACK! CRACKLE! As Heaven Shaking roars echoed, the black cloud suddenly burst apart. Streaks of black lightning shot out from the cloud in a frenzy, like dark dragons, hurtling toward Chen Mo and his Skeleton Monsters.

The black lightning moved at blinding speed, as if capable of traversing space, appearing before Chen Mo and his Skeleton Monsters almost instantly.

Chen Mo could discern that these black lightning strikes were nothing like ordinary attacks.

These black lightning bolts carried a terrifying destructive power. Each one brought Chen Mo a strong sense of threat, as if imbued with a force of annihilation.

As the black lightning rained down mercilessly upon Chen Mo's ranks, the Skeleton Monsters near him began to explode, turning into piles of white bone dust before vanishing completely.

Regardless of how thick their shields or how high their Health, each lightning bolt was enough to instantly reduce a Skeleton Monster to dust.

However, the lightning didn't have the same effect when it hit Chen Mo.

So this lightning just has the ability to instantly kill summoned creatures, Chen Mo realized. Of course, the lightning itself deals high damage, but it isn't as threatening as it first appeared.

Seeing that the black lightning's display was formidable but its actual threat wasn't that great, Chen Mo stopped paying it much attention and refocused on how to resolve the current predicament.

After careful observation, he suddenly noticed that the same symbols appearing on the ground were also visible on the Cultists' bodies.

Could the symbols on their bodies be connected to the symbols forming the magic array on the ground?

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These cultists' bodily transformations are intimately linked to the magic array. Since the array itself cannot be directly disrupted, perhaps destroying the symbols on their bodies will achieve the same effect.

With this thought, Chen Mo immediately ordered the surviving Skeleton Monsters to direct their attacks at the symbols on the Cultists' bodies.

A barrage of arrows and Energy Bullets rained down like hail, forming a dark curtain of rain. This curtain swept towards the Cultists like a tempestuous storm.

The arrows whizzed through the air, cutting through it at a rapid pace, while the Energy Bullets, like cannonballs, left trails in the air, emitting sharp whistling sounds.

The dark onslaught rained down like a heavenly torrent, relentlessly striking the symbols on the Cultists' bodies. In no time, the symbols on their bodies started to shatter.

Strangely enough, even when their Health was depleted, they never let out agonized screams.

Even when they harmed each other, they never let out agonized screams either.

But now, as the symbols on their bodies were attacked and shattered, they let out a chorus of gut-wrenching howls, like wild beasts being torn apart.

The scene was utterly bizarre.

As the Skeleton Monsters' attacks continued, more and more symbols on the Cultists' bodies were completely destroyed. Simultaneously, the Dark Power within the Cultists began to fade. Their bodies gradually regained their natural color, and the red glow in their eyes dimmed.

In no time, the symbols on the ground also began to crack and crumble, emitting peculiar sounds.

As more symbols broke, the Cultists' wails grew louder, echoing through the area like the lamentations of a hundred ghosts. The sound was so terrifying that even the monsters living in the Mystic Forest were too afraid to approach.

With the destruction of the last symbol, the strange Black Hole at the center of the magic array abruptly stopped spinning. After a desperate struggle, it shattered and vanished. The magic array lost its power, and the once mighty Cultists all fell weakly to the ground, convulsing. They groaned in misery. Their bodies, as if drained of all life force, instantly became incredibly weak.

In just three breaths' time, their bodies suddenly trembled. Then, as if drained of all moisture, they shriveled, eventually turning into desiccated corpses that rotted into the ground, leaving not even bones behind.

Witnessing this, Chen Mo felt a growing unease. He had a strong premonition that this wasn't over.

After all, The Heavenly Path's Hint had not yet sounded, indicating that simply destroying the magic array was not the crux of this hidden mission.

However, just as Chen Mo was contemplating this, black smoke suddenly billowed from the withered, rotten body of one Cultist. Instead of decaying further, the smoke rapidly coalesced around the corpse, eventually forming a freakish Black Skeleton that gleamed with a pitch-black luster.

A terrifying aura emanated from this skeleton, and cruel green flames flickered within its eye sockets.

Each step it took was accompanied by the sharp grating of bone against bone.

Above its head, the eerie cloud the Cultists had previously summoned—one capable of unleashing black lightning—began to coalesce once more.

Within the cloud, black lightning constantly rumbled and flashed.

The Black Skeleton, the black lightning, and the black forest combined to form a terrifying and shocking scene.

The moment the Black Skeleton appeared, Chen Mo immediately examined its attributes.

It was clear that he had to defeat the Black Skeleton before him to complete the mission and protect the two innocent villagers.

Just as Chen Mo was examining the attributes of the Black Skeleton...

Suddenly, a loud noise came from the center of the magic array. The place where the Black Hole had been was abruptly ripped open, and a dazzling light gushed out from it.

Chen Mo turned his head and saw a figure materialize in the center of the rift!

This person was clearly related to the Cultists, as he also wore the same style of black robe, though his appeared more opulent.

The figure was tall and slender, exuding an incredibly terrifying aura that seemed to make the surrounding air oppressive and heavy.

This must be the Sect Hierarchy of the Cultists, Chen Mo thought to himself.

At this moment, the man's expression was grim. He glared at Chen Mo and his Skeleton Monsters, his voice cold as he said, "So it was you who destroyed my Dark Abyss Formation and killed the followers of our Abyss God Cult!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he stretched out his hand. A giant black demon hand materialized from thin air and snatched Chen Mo, gripping him from afar.

Abyss God Cult?

Chen Mo recognized the name. He quickly checked The Heavenly Path's Hint.

He instantly understood.

Good heavens, wasn't the Sect Hierarchy of the Abyss God Cult one of the four Marshals previously mentioned by The Heavenly Path's Hint?

This must be the City Lord of Storm City.

Chen Mo recalled the information The Heavenly Path had provided about this world.

If I could kill the City Lord of Storm City here, wouldn't conquering the city become much simpler?

Chapter 455: Yin and Yang Killing Array! (Two in One)_1

Did this fool bring himself right to my doorstep?

Chen Mo grinned. Can there be better luck than this?

Kahn, the Devil Marshal renowned for his dual status as Sect Hierarchy of the Abyss God Cult and Imperial Marshal, could hardly save face. He had captured the impudent youth before him, yet the boy was still smiling smugly. He instantly clenched his fist out of rage.

The giant Demon's Hand that held Chen Mo followed suit and tightened its grip!

He had assumed he could easily squash his opponent into pulp with one squeeze. However, it felt as if he had seized an uncrushable diamond.

"Marshal, did you miss a meal?" Chen Mo asked, grinning.

"Young man, you do have some skills. No wonder you're so arrogant! But that's as far as you'll go! Although the demon's bone is not fully formed, it's already quite potent!"

The instant Kahn finished speaking, he merged with the Black Skeleton beside him.

Chen Mo had just discovered through his perception that the Black Skeleton was named Kahn's Bone. Clearly, it had a fundamental connection to this Devil Marshal.

Now, hearing Kahn's words, it seemed this Black Skeleton was indeed the demon's bone he had mentioned.

It appeared his deployment of these men to cause trouble here was all to nourish his demon's bone.

The already imposing Black Skeleton and Kahn, after merging, achieved an aura that climbed to an even more terrifying degree!

[Enemy Name]: Kahn (Half-Demon)

[Enemy Rank]: BOSS

[Demonization Talent]: Dark Poison Cloud

『Dark Poison Cloud』 : Kahn's body is constantly wreathed in a dark and poisonous cloud, suffocating those nearby. Creatures within the poison cloud continuously sustain toxic damage and suffer a sharp decline in all All Attributes due to the corrosive darkness. While enveloped by the Dark Poison Cloud, Kahn himself is immune to all abnormal status effects, and his All Attributes are significantly enhanced.

[Level]: 40

[Attribute]:

『Life』 : 50,000,000,000/50,000,000,000

『Energy』 : 50,000,000,000/50,000,000,000

『Physical Attack』 : 210,000 (Talent Strengthening)

『Magic Attack』 : 210,000 (Talent Strengthening)

『Physical Defense』 : 410,000 (Talent Strengthening)

『Magic Defense』 : 410,000 (Talent Strengthening)

[Active skills]: Demon Bone Shield, Demon's Wing, Demon Bone Burst, Demon's Tear, Demon Bone Descend

『Demon Bone Shield』 : Kahn instantly releases a Demon Bone Shield, which can block all types of attacks and inflict damage on the attacker. Upon activation, demon bones sprout from the ground, completely enveloping Kahn and forming a shield resembling jagged bone.

『Demon's Wing』 : Kahn releases two black Demon's Wings from his back, allowing him to fly instantaneously or move with extreme speed. When activated, two wings suffused with dark Magic Power emerge from Kahn's back.

『Demon Bone Burst』 : Kahn uses his Magic Power to detonate all demon bones on the ground, inflicting massive damage to surrounding enemies and stunning them. When released, the demon bones on the ground glow brighter and brighter, then suddenly explode, unleashing a violent shockwave.

『Demon's Tear』 : Kahn releases two black demon hands that can seize enemies and tear them to shreds. During activation, two demon hands suddenly appear from behind the enemy and lunge for them.

『Demon Bone Descend』 : Kahn summons countless black demon bones, completely surrounding his enemies and leaving them no avenue of escape. Upon release, numerous black bones rapidly erupt from the ground, trapping the enemies within.

[Passive skills]: Demon Bone Protection, Power of Demon Bone, Demon Bone Revival, Demon Bone Concentration, Demon Bone Rage

『Demon Bone Protection』 : Kahn's skeleton is incredibly hard, reducing Physical and Magic Damage taken by 50%.

『Power of Demon Bone』 : Immense Magic Power resides within Kahn's skeleton, increasing his Physical Attack and Magic Attack by 50% each.

『Demon Bone Revival』 : In battle, Kahn's demon bone automatically recovers his life value and Energy, restoring 1% of each per second.

『Demon Bone Concentration』 : When Kahn's life value drops below 20%, all his passive effects are doubled, and he absorbs all damage taken during this period. This lasts for 10 seconds with a 30-second cooldown.

『Demon Bone Rage』 : For every physical or Magic Attack Kahn endures, he accumulates 1 rage point. Upon reaching 100 points, he unleashes an attack dealing damage equal to ten times the total damage he sustained while accumulating rage to all enemies within a ten-thousand-meter radius.

After inspecting Kahn's strength post-merger with the demon's bone, Chen Mo felt that his adversary's power level finally matched the current mission's difficulty.

However, while Kahn was powerful, it was merely SSS-level—standard for this instance dungeon.

Chen Mo wasn't afraid in the slightest.

With a wave of his Magic Wand, Chen Mo activated the Illusion Creation Skill. Instantly, over two million Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters materialized beside the more than two million Skeleton Monsters already present.

These Skeleton Monsters exuded a chilling aura, their eyes blazing with endless ferocity towards Kahn, as if their sole purpose was to grind him into dust.

Because Kahn possessed the Demon Bone Rage passive skill, Chen Mo deliberately altered the damage type of his Skeleton Monsters. This was to avoid triggering the passive, which would be quite troublesome.

Following a heart-stopping volley, a deluge of arrows and Energy Bullets interlaced in the air, raining down upon Kahn like a torrential storm.

Kahn had initially believed himself sufficiently formidable after merging with the demon's bone. However, upon facing Chen Mo's Skeleton Army, several million strong, he felt an overwhelming pressure, as if a colossal mountain range were bearing down on him.

Chapter 456: Yin and Yang Killing Array! (Two in One)_2

As a barrage of arrows and Energy Bullets rushed towards him like a destructive torrent, Kahn felt as if he were caught in its midst. He immediately activated his Skills furiously, conjuring the Demon Bone Shield and Demon's Wings.

Kahn sprouted wings from his back, a bone shield enveloping him from the front. Aided by the shield's ability to absorb attacks and the high mobility of the demon wings, he quickly dodged away.

A single, simple volley from Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters was enough to force Kahn to immediately use two of his life-saving skills. The difference in their combat power was stark. Anyone who didn't know better might have mistaken Chen Mo for the BOSS.

In that instant, Kahn felt his own insignificance and vulnerability; his heart swelled with humiliation and terror! This young man's strength is absolutely extraordinary.

Just as he was contemplating how to deal with the next attack from Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters, the surrounding space suddenly froze. Affected by the Space-Time Pearl, Kahn was frozen solid on the spot.

Chen Mo hadn't used this Skill initially because he had taken Kahn's Passive Skill, Demon Bone Concentration, into account. As long as this Passive Skill wasn't on Cooldown, Kahn couldn't be killed, unless one possessed the ability to wipe out his entire ten billion Health in a single blow. That's highly unlikely. Even if the Skeleton Monsters attacked simultaneously, their blows would land sequentially. A mere 0.01-second gap is enough to trigger the opponent's Passive effect.

Chen Mo had planned to trigger Kahn's Passive Skill with the first volley, then freeze him while it was on Cooldown and finish him off. But, unexpectedly, he was so terrified that he immediately used two life-saving skills in succession. In that case, I won't bother waiting. I'll just freeze him and pummel him.

Originally, if Chen Mo could have sealed Kahn's abilities, he wouldn't have needed to go to such lengths to kill him. The main issue was that when Chen Mo attempted to use the effects of The God of Bravery title, The Heavenly Path's Hint indicated that Kahn didn't qualify as a monster. Although Kahn had undergone Demonization, his demon's bone wasn't fully transformed. He was still classified as human. Since he fell into that category, the Sealing Effect of The God of Bravery title naturally couldn't seal his powers. Furthermore, since he wasn't a god-grade entity, the Sealing Effect from the Godslayer Challenger title also couldn't be activated. This meant none of his Sealing Abilities could work perfectly, making the kill more troublesome.

After freezing Kahn with the Space-Time Pearl, Chen Mo immediately had his Skeleton Monsters deploy the Yin Yang Formation around him. This formation, learned on the fly, was extremely effective for a one-on-one kill against a single enemy. Once he's trapped, he won't be able to escape this encirclement anytime soon.

It has to be said, the efficiency of commanding my own summoned creatures to form ranks is truly incomparable to that of a normal army. With a mere thought, all summoned creatures could execute the command perfectly and swiftly.

In an instant, Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters had completed the formation and launched their attack on Kahn. After a volley of attacks, Kahn's Demon Bone Concentration Passive effect triggered, and simultaneously, the Space-Time Pearl's freezing effect expired.

The moment Kahn was released from the temporal freeze, he regained his senses and found himself surrounded by a dense mass of Skeleton Monsters arranged in a peculiar formation. Relying on the damage absorption provided by his Demon Bone Concentration Passive Skill during its active period, he immediately flapped the demon wings on his back, intending to escape the Skeleton Monsters' encirclement from the air.

But unfortunately, this tactic was useless. Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters had all been empowered by Undying Worship and could fly. To think he could escape a fully formed array merely by flying? That's simply impossible.

The over two million Skeleton Monsters in the sky maneuvered, maintaining their formation and sticking to him tightly. Meanwhile, the over two million Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters on the ground, unable to benefit from Chen Mo's Undying Worship, weren't idle either; they lay in wait below. We're just waiting for his Passive Skill's duration to end. Then, with a coordinated attack from above and below, it will be hard for Kahn to survive!

In the air, seeing Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters clinging to him like an irremovable plaster—impossible to shake off—Kahn knew he was finished today.

I am filled with regret right now! If I had just abandoned this demon's bone earlier, I wouldn't have been forced into such a humiliating predicament. I, the mighty Lord of Storm City, command tens of thousands of troops and a fortress as strong as iron! If I had just stayed within my city, how could I have

fallen to this state? Although I can see no escape now, there's still one path to survival. To find life in a desperate situation!

Kahn fixed his gaze on Chen Mo. Since he's a Summoner, his true body must be incredibly fragile.

He immediately unleashed a frenzied barrage of Skills at Chen Mo. As long as I can kill this Summoner while my Passive Skill is active, I still have a chance to live!

A cunning glint flashed in Kahn's eyes. He released two black demon hands from his back, and they vanished abruptly. The next moment, with a wave of Kahn's hands, the two black demon hands shockingly reappeared behind Chen Mo, lunging to grab him fiercely. The demon hands, covered in black Energy and resembling bone claws, aimed to tear Chen Mo to shreds.

However, Kahn was quickly disappointed. Although the demon hands successfully struck their target, when they violently tried to rip Chen Mo apart, he remained unscathed. Only the shield points of the surrounding Skeleton Monsters decreased slightly. The immense damage had been completely transferred. Witnessing this, Kahn clearly understood Chen Mo's capabilities.

Seeing this attack fail, Kahn had no choice but to use his final combo. As Kahn's aura surged, the ground began to rumble violently. Suddenly, countless black demon bones erupted from the earth—SWISH! SWISH! SWISH! Hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands—too many to count! Like a legion of demon bones surging from the depths of hell, they varied in form: Longswords, spears, blades, axes, and more. Magic Power coursed over their surfaces, emitting piercing shrieks. Their primary target was Chen Mo, and the instant they emerged, they completely encircled him within a forest of chilling demon bones.

The moment he finished casting Demon Bone Descend, Kahn immediately followed up with Demon Bone Burst! This two-Skill combo was a terrifying killing blow that ordinary people couldn't possibly withstand!

With another wave of Kahn's hand—BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The deafening explosions thundered through the heavens and the earth; even people far away in Green Forest Village heard the extraordinary commotion! All the demon bones detonated instantly, unleashing incredibly terrifying shockwaves of dark Magic Power within the confined space around Chen Mo. The massive Energy shockwave instantly engulfed Chen Mo entirely!

Dark explosions continuously lit up the ground, casting an eerie, blackish luminescence.

CRASH! BANG! BOOM!

Accompanied by the roar of the exploding demon bones, the ground around Chen Mo had long been blasted into a chaotic, cratered mess. The air was thick with the stench of decaying Magic Power, so potent it was almost suffocating. Throughout the execution of these Skills, the Dark Poison Cloud around Kahn intensified, forming a massive black vortex that billowed outward. Within this vortex, Kahn's body seemed to swell, his Magic Power growing even more immense. He appeared like a devil incarnate, filled with savage ferocity and brutal tyranny!

I initially thought my ultimate killing move would leave that arrogant brat dead or crippled. But who could have guessed that, despite the spectacular explosion, it was all just for show? The surrounding ground is riddled with craters.

When the black light dissipated, Chen Mo was still there, floating calmly above the deep pit, looking at him with a faint smile, completely unharmed.

"Impossible!!!"

Seeing this, Kahn could no longer contain himself. He let out a furious roar and lunged madly towards Chen Mo. Unfortunately for him, the Skeleton Monsters surrounding Chen Mo, having exited their invisible state, now had collision physics. He couldn't penetrate their tight encirclement to reach Chen Mo.

He only made it halfway before the duration of his Passive Skill expired. Without the life-saving Passive Skill Demon Bone Concentration, Kahn wouldn't survive even a second.

The Skeleton Monsters surrounding him, now forming the Yin and Yang Killing Array, attacked him in unison. A dense black mass of projectiles and arrows converged on the center of the array, as if a magnet had been dropped into a pile of iron filings. Instantly, a massive barrage of dark attacks erupted from every corner of the formation, concentrating with extreme speed and bombarding Kahn at the center!

Chapter 457: Blood of the Evil God! (Two in One)_1

Facing the attack of millions of Skeleton Monsters, and with no way to protect himself, Kahn's Health was instantly depleted.

At that moment, the demon wings on Kahn's back lost their supply of Energy and dissipated into a plume of black fog.

Without his wings, Kahn's body fell from the sky, surrounded by countless Skeleton Monsters.

In the midst of his fall, a surge of black fog suddenly emanated from his ear canals, enveloping his entire body.

Kahn felt his Energy rapidly draining, seemingly siphoned away by this Power of Darkness.

He wanted to struggle free, but his body was already immobilized.

Soon, an intense pain engulfed his entire body, as if his blood were boiling...

"No! Lord Abyss, don't... please spare my soul!"

The once arrogant Kahn, holder of the title Devil Marshal, roared hoarsely, but to no avail. Dark Energy began to gather around his body, seemingly preparing for his demise.

Kahn felt his body gradually dissolving, accompanied by waves of intense pain. His consciousness began to blur, and everything around him became fuzzy and indistinct.

A vast darkness gradually appeared before Kahn's eyes, like an endless abyss.

He felt his soul being devoured by the Dark Energy, gradually fading from this world.

Observing from the side, Chen Mo felt an overwhelming Divine Power surging around him.

However, he didn't actually see anything materialize.

Instead, Kahn's previously vacant eyes suddenly refocused, as if he had seen something terrifying.

However, before he could speak, his body and soul completely vanished into the darkness. As the last wisp of black fog dissipated, the terrifying Divine Power also faded away completely.

Seeing that Kahn had left nothing behind after his death—not even a remnant of his body or soul—Chen Mo was speechless. Is this the fate of those who throw in their lot with Demons? To die without a complete corpse, and even have their souls reaped?

Only after Kahn had completely perished did Chen Mo receive The Heavenly Path's Hint.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: For this hidden mission, rescuing two villagers was the only requirement. However, you also successfully killed the hidden BOSS Kahn (in his Half-Demon form)! You have completed a hidden BOSS battle, received a vial of "Blood of the Evil God," and gained an extra 1,000 dungeon points.]

Previously, Chen Mo had only obtained a total of 200 dungeon points for completing the fortress conquest.

This hidden mission, however, granted him a whopping 1,000 dungeon points, which was a pleasant surprise.

After all, his previous 200 points were earned through the perfect completion of a regular mission, plus the completion of a hidden achievement.

Normally, that segment of the mission would only award 50 points.

The reward for this hidden mission, however, was twenty times the normal reward for that first segment—an extremely generous amount.

Chen Mo pulled up the dungeon-related reward list. Accumulating 10,000 dungeon points would grant 100% of the dungeon rewards.

Every additional 100 dungeon points beyond that would increase the dungeon rewards by 1%.

However, to obtain the SSS-level reward, one needed to earn double the normal dungeon points. For this dungeon, that meant acquiring 20,000 dungeon points.

Earning as many dungeon points as possible outside of regular missions was always better. A single task granting 1,000 points was a windfall, equivalent to increasing the overall dungeon reward by ten percent.

A single task worth ten percent of the total rewards for completing an SSS-level dungeon was indeed highly valuable.

What is this 'Blood of the Evil God'?

Chen Mo immediately checked its description out of curiosity.

[Blood of the Evil God: A special mission item. It can be found in various SSS-level dungeons, though it is quite difficult to obtain. If you manage to collect 10 drops, you will gain an opportunity to communicate with an Evil God. Perhaps you can acquire some valuable items from him that are not normally obtainable.]

An item to communicate with an Evil God? That doesn't sound like a good thing at all.

Chen Mo had encountered many Evil Gods in previous dungeons. Although they sometimes offered benefits, the outcomes were invariably bad. He didn't particularly want to get involved with Evil Gods.

However, Chen Mo wasn't one to pass up a clear advantage. If an opportunity presented itself, he wouldn't let it slip by.

He temporarily stored the "Blood of the Evil God," planning to see what benefits it offered once he collected 10 drops.

Since Kahn's body and soul had been completely taken by that so-called Abyss Evil God, Chen Mo couldn't even claim his Ghost.

Compared to the two General Ghosts he had obtained from the fortress, Chen Mo naturally preferred the powerful Kahn.

Those two Generals were not weak, but their strength was only slightly above that of an average first-transition, level 40 Golden BOSS.

They didn't hold much collection value.

Kahn was different. His strength was clearly a cut above that of a regular BOSS.

Unfortunately, his Ghost couldn't be collected.

Seeing there was nothing left to gain in the surroundings, Chen Mo walked towards the two villagers, who had long since fainted from fright. He ordered the Skeleton Monsters to untie them and then carry them back to the village.

When Chen Mo returned to the village, Alina immediately ran towards him.

"Chen, did you encounter something in the forest just now? I heard a huge commotion from the village!"

Chapter 458: Blood of the Evil God! (Two in One)_2

"No worries. I just completed a task to find some people and ran into a monster blocking the way," Chen Mo said with a smile, instructing the Skeleton Monster to place the two unconscious villagers on the wooden posts in the village.

At this point, the village chief had also walked over. Chen Mo immediately asked, "Mr. Village Chief, could you please check if these two individuals are the villagers who have gone missing from your village?"

Because the two villagers had been in the woods and were disheveled, they were difficult to recognize. Suddenly, the village chief tapped his cane forward, and two balls of water immediately sprang up, landing on their heads.

As the water washed the dirt from their faces, the village chief finally recognized them and joyfully confirmed, "Yes, it is indeed Kaldor and Reed."

As the village chief spoke, the two men slowly regained consciousness. The moment they opened their eyes, their memories were still from before they lost consciousness—the scene of crazed Cultists, a memory that haunted them.

Luckily, they soon came to their senses and realized they were back in the village. However, they didn't feel as if they had been saved; instead, they thought they were in a dream world after death.

"Have we already died?" the two muttered to themselves.

Reality only hit them when the village chief explained that Chen Mo had brought them back. Overwhelmed with gratitude, they said to Chen Mo, "Thank you for saving us! We really didn't know how those lunatics were going to treat us!"

Kaldor and Reed bowed deeply to Chen Mo, their voices filled with utmost gratitude. After all, they had nearly been sacrificed by those lunatics; such trauma had left them in emotional shock.

Remembering the scene, they could still feel the chilling gazes of the Cultists, the sharp weapons in their hands, and the echoes of their crazed chants.

Chen Mo waved them off with a smile. "There's no need for that. I simply did what I should have."

Kaldor and Reed exchanged a look, their eyes full of gratitude and amazement. This stranger, though young and slender, possessed strength and courage beyond the ordinary, managing to save them from the terrifying Cultists. They admired him deeply.

"Now that they're okay, I have other matters to attend to, so I'll be leaving first." After saying this to the village chief, Chen Mo prepared to continue his journey.

"Please wait!" Kaldor suddenly stopped him. "We haven't repaid you for saving our lives."

Reed quickly chimed in, "Yes, please allow us to express our gratitude."

Chen Mo smiled gently. "There's no need for that. I just did what I could."

Green Bamboo Village didn't seem prosperous, and Chen Mo had no intention of getting any generous reward from them.

"But we can't let you leave empty-handed," Kaldor said. "We have something valuable that might assist you."

"Something valuable?" Chen Mo was surprised. He looked at Alina, unsure what valuable item Kaldor and Reed possessed.

"Yes, we found it in the forest ruins," Reed and Kaldor said, pulling a small bottle from their bosoms.

When they opened the bottle, a greenish liquid inside exuded a refreshing scent. The liquid glowed faintly, involuntarily drawing people's eyes.

"This is Natural Dew, a precious holy water from legends," Kaldor explained. "It has extraordinary power and can purify many things."

"This is our most precious treasure. We hope you'll accept it," Reed added.

Regarding Purifying Holy Water, Chen Mo had previously obtained seven bottles. Five of these were tradable. He knew there were five specific non-tradable Holy Waters he needed to acquire for himself; he had already obtained Elf Holy Water and Saintess' Spring. This Natural Dew was one of those remaining non-tradable types.

Seeing this, Chen Mo gladly accepted the two bottles of Natural Dew and handed one to Alina.

"An SSS-level dungeon is always an advantage, providing unexpected rewards! Now I only need two more types of Holy Water to gain divinity using the Heart of God!"

"Thank you so much for your gift. I'll definitely make good use of it," Chen Mo said with a smile.

At this point, the village chief also came over and handed him a bag of coins. "We've been secluded from the world for many years, so the coins we once used are of little use to us now. Please accept them as a token of our gratitude."

When Chen Mo took the bag of coins, he discovered it contained ten eternal gold coins.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The hidden mission has been completed. You have been rewarded with 100 dungeon points.]

The task was worthwhile, bringing in one billion in earnings, Purifying Holy Water, and 100 dungeon points; the rewards were plentiful.

Although Alina received less than Chen Mo because she didn't get the hidden BOSS reward, she was still quite content with the reward for completing the hidden mission.

After Chen Mo gave five eternal gold coins to Alina, he left Green Bamboo Village with a smile.

Kaldor and Reed watched Chen Mo until his figure disappeared into the distance before returning to their respective homes to rest.

Although they weren't physically injured by this experience, the psychological damage wasn't something that could be healed so quickly. They would probably have recurring nightmares every night.

Since he had already inspected the situation in the forest and completed the hidden mission, Chen Mo wasted no more time. He activated his Illusory Spirit Feather Boots, crossed over the Smoky Intoxicated Forest without stopping, and consumed Energy to transform into a stream of light, flying toward Storm City.

As he accelerated madly, his speed became comparable to the speed of sound, covering several hundred meters in a second. However, accelerating this quickly consumed a lot of Energy. If it weren't for Chen Mo's abnormal Energy recovery speed, his Energy would have been depleted in a second. Chen Mo was maintaining his flight speed by consuming 100% of his maximum energy value every second. Otherwise, he couldn't possibly be this fast.

Storm City was only about forty kilometers from Green Bamboo Village. At Chen Mo's speed, it took him just over two minutes to reach its vicinity.

Chen Mo immediately observed the appearance of Storm City.

Storm City, like a towering boulder, stood on a mountain peak, overlooking the surroundings. The city walls were tens of meters high, built from huge stones, like a natural barrier safely separating the city's residents and guards from the outside world. Scattered along the city walls were numerous arrow towers and watchtowers, each attesting to the city's formidable defenses.

The arrow towers were the best spots for soldiers to ambush enemies, filled with countless bows, arrows, and catapults that would rain down like a storm on any invading army. The watchtowers were places for the guards to observe the area outside the city, equipped with telescopes and magic crystal balls that allowed them to see distant hills and plains. Even poor weather wouldn't affect the guards' observations.

Outside the city walls lay an open plain and hills. As soon as an enemy approached, archers on the walls and scouts would quickly detect them and report to the guards inside.

The city gate, situated at the base of the wall, was the only entrance to the city. It was tall and sturdy, composed of a heavy iron door surrounded by huge stones and wood, appearing as an insurmountable natural barrier. With the press of a mechanism, the enormous iron door could close at lightning speed, making it impossible for anyone to rush into the city by speed alone. Above the city gate hung a huge flag bearing the sigil of the City Lord's clan, representing the honor and dignity of Storm City.

This Storm City, located on high terrain, possessed an absolute advantage in visibility, making it even tougher to conquer than the previous fortresses.

Chen Mo was speechless. Why would the Heavenly Dao assign such an abnormal task to me? Is it possible for a normal person to conquer this city with an army of twenty thousand? Obviously, this is an impossible mission. Unless the city has a loophole.

However, Chen Mo knew he could straightforwardly use his strength to conquer this city without exploring any loopholes. But he also considered the hidden achievement. Just like with the previous fortress, if the hidden achievement was completed well, he could reap additional rewards.

Anyway, the other two teams have only completed half of their journey. Even if I conquer Storm City early, I'll still have to wait for their news. I should first see if there's a non-strong attack method to capture Storm City, Chen Mo pondered.

Chapter 459: Making Profits! (Two in One)_1

Due to Chen Mo's divine stealth ability, those with lower Divine Power than him could not see him, so he easily entered the city.

Once inside the city, Chen Mo scanned his surroundings. He discovered that although Storm City appeared impregnable, there were still vulnerabilities for a sneak attack. One way was to infiltrate through underground passages, though the environment was quite harsh. Alternatively, he could disguise the entire army as merchants and civilians to enter the city, but this would be more troublesome than infiltrating through the tunnels.

While strolling through the city and contemplating the simplest way to capture it, Chen Mo passed by the City Lord's Mansion. In that instant, a sudden idea struck him; he realized he'd forgotten such a

simple method. Ordinary professionals entering this instance would certainly not be able to implement this method. Only Chen Mo could create such conditions for himself now.

The method he thought of was very simple. Seeing that the Lord of Storm City was not in the Storm City Owner's Mansion, he immediately remembered that Kahn, whom he had just killed, was precisely the Lord of Storm City. Now that Kahn was dead, wasn't the position of Lord of Storm City completely vacant and unmanned?

If I disguise myself as Kahn now and impersonate him, wouldn't that be equivalent to directly taking over the entire Storm City without shedding a drop of blood? Wouldn't this be simpler and easier than any other plan?

Thinking this, Chen Mo couldn't help but feel a little excited. He decided to act immediately and used the ability of his Illusory Spirit Feather Boots to transform into Kahn's appearance. Afterward, relying on his invisible state, he returned to the City Lord's Mansion.

Since Kahn had the title of Devil Marshal, his style was evidently quite iron-fisted, decisive, and ruthless. Even if ordinary people suspected something was wrong, they would likely not dare to say anything to him. Impersonating such a person was incredibly easy.

After returning to the City Lord's Mansion in his invisible state, Chen Mo then canceled the invisible state and revealed himself. After revealing himself, Chen Mo deliberately strolled around the city for a while. Whenever he passed by servants of the City Lord's Mansion, they all bowed their heads low, respectfully addressing him as 'City Lord'.

It seems my guess was indeed correct. This Kahn's authority is very strong; even the servants around him don't dare to look up at him. This way, there's almost no chance of being exposed!

Thinking this, Chen Mo was very excited. Does this mean I've directly taken over the city?

Chen Mo opened the Heavenly Path System to take a look. Unfortunately, at this time, the Heavenly Path System did not directly notify him that he had completed the mission to conquer Storm City.

I've already become the City Lord, don't I count as having conquered Storm City?

Chen Mo immediately checked the Heavenly Path's explanation carefully.

The Heavenly Path's explanation says 'lead your troops to take Storm City.' Could it be that because my troops haven't entered the city yet, and only I alone have entered, it doesn't count?

Thinking this, Chen Mo felt it was quite possible. After all, given Kahn's status, no one else in Storm City could contend with him, or would dare to. Taking over his identity should definitely be equivalent to taking Storm City.

Looks like I still have to wait until tonight.

Chen Mo decided to spend a night in the city.

He just needed to first check on the progress of the other two teams. At this time, looking at the marching speed of the other two teams, it seemed the battle would likely start tomorrow. As for the group from the Yongming Star System, because the distance was quite far, they hadn't come over directly. Chen Mo didn't know what on earth they were thinking.

Actually, the people from the Yongming Star System had a very simple thought. There were three major BOSSes in the Imperial Royal City, one of whom was a super BOSS. To ensure they could kill Chen Mo, they were thinking of borrowing all the power they could. Instead of leaving the Imperial City to find Chen Mo and fight, they thought it better to wait for Chen Mo to come to them. The Demonic Queen and the treacherous minister weren't much of a concern; the key was the Grand Marshal.

After they discovered this Grand Marshal's strength far exceeded that of a first-transition level 40 BOSS, they had already started thinking of borrowing her power. However, getting her to act wasn't easy. The people from the Yongming Star System analyzed the worldview and the relationships of each identity given by The Heavenly Path's Hint when entering the instance, and then began to think of ways to lure the Grand Marshal into action. But they also knew this was very difficult. After all, for a BOSS of this level to appear in this instance was already unreasonable. Wanting to borrow her power was even more difficult.

According to Heavenly Dao's fair division, they were, at most, grouped with the Demonic Queen and the treacherous minister. The factions within this instance were actually divided into a total of three camps:

the Demonic Queen and the treacherous minister were one faction; the Rebel Army was another faction; the Grand Marshal belonged to a separate faction, responsible only to the Emperor.

However, there was a point of balance within this. That is, the Grand Marshal must not know that the Emperor is actually the Princess; otherwise, the Grand Marshal would not be responsible to anyone. So, the Emperor could not directly dispatch the Grand Marshal to deal with the Demonic Queen and the treacherous minister because the Demonic Queen and treacherous minister would expose her identity, and she dared not risk it. But she could directly order the Grand Marshal to stand down and take no action.

By doing so, the Demonic Queen and the treacherous minister also wouldn't dare to directly command the Grand Marshal. First, they didn't have the qualification; second, they also wouldn't dare let the Grand Marshal know the Emperor was actually the Princess, otherwise they themselves would be in danger. Unless it was a situation threatening their own lives, there was no need for them to harm others and themselves. So they also couldn't order the Princess to make the Grand Marshal act.

Currently, the Emperor not interfering with them and letting them act freely was already the situation they wanted to see. They naturally didn't dare to ask for more. Otherwise, if they overreached and lost the authority they currently held, it wouldn't be ideal.

Chapter 460: Making Profits! (Two in One)_2

After all, if the Grand Marshal were to unleash her full power, no one in the entire Imperial City could stop her. Her own strength and prestige within the army were sufficient for her to usurp power with a single thought.

Under such a delicate balance, the Emperor only needed to prevent the Grand Marshal from intervening and allow the Rebel Army to deal with the Demonic Queen and the treacherous minister. This would give him a chance to reclaim his own authority.

Of course, this was predicated on the assumption that the Rebel Army would not continue to infringe upon imperial power after eliminating the Demonic Queen and the treacherous minister.

Under normal circumstances, everyone knew of the Grand Marshal's existence within the empire. Her reputation was quite good, and unless absolutely necessary, no one dared to provoke her.

However, the Rebel Army was now allied with professionals. If these professionals defeated the Demonic Queen and the treacherous minister and then decided to overthrow the imperial power, they were free to make things more difficult for themselves.

Yet, the choice to increase this difficulty rested solely in the hands of the professionals aligned with the Rebel Army.

Generally, professionals from the Imperial Army had no means of forcing this additional difficulty upon the professionals of the Rebel Army.

Currently, the people of the Yongming Star System were researching how to draw the Grand Marshal into the conflict, to make her an enemy of Chen Mo and his group.

"Captain, that fellow from the Solar System is so formidable. Perhaps we don't need to worry about this at all. Knowing his style, he might just choose to challenge the highest difficulty for the best rewards. It's not impossible that he'd provoke the Grand Marshal himself."

"Although that possibility is significant, we must try to be proactive rather than reactive. Pinning all our hopes on our enemies making foolish mistakes is unacceptable. Your primary task now is to think carefully if there's any way to lure the Grand Marshal into attacking the people from the Solar System."

"It's very difficult. The Heavenly Dao emphasizes balance. For such an overwhelmingly powerful individual, it's hard to find a way to make her strike before she herself is provoked."

As they were speaking, someone suddenly interjected, "Normal methods won't work, but we could try some unconventional tactics."

"Oh? What kind of tactics? Do tell."

Everyone immediately looked at the speaker with curiosity, eager to hear what ingenious plan he had to incite the Grand Marshal against the group from the Solar System...

* * *

On Chen Mo's side, after checking the task prompt, he surmised that all his subordinates would need to enter the city to complete the mission. He decided not to dwell on it further and planned to wait until the next day when his people entered the city before reassessing.

If The Heavenly Path's Hint still hadn't indicated task completion by then, he would devise another plan.

For tonight, he would stay in Storm City.

However, having finally obtained such a high-ranking identity, Chen Mo intended to exploit it to the fullest.

Logically speaking, the City Lord's Mansion should have a treasure vault or something similar, or at least a storeroom for disbursing salaries and such. If I could loot a bit, wouldn't I make a fortune? It would be delightful if I could score some good stuff for free.

Thinking this, Chen Mo immediately focused his senses. While he didn't detect a treasure vault, he did locate the storeroom.

He promptly strode towards it.

People he encountered along the way either showed profound respect or hastily stepped aside.

Thus, Chen Mo arrived unimpeded before the storeroom.

"Lord of the City!"

Seeing Chen Mo arrive, the storeroom Steward immediately stood up and saluted him respectfully.

Chen Mo looked at the Steward impassively and said, "I've come to see how much money is left in our storeroom. I need to check the accounts."

The sight of the Devil Marshal himself coming to inspect the accounts scared the wits out of everyone working in the storeroom.

The Steward also feared he had made some mistake in the accounts to warrant the City Lord's personal visit. He was terrified, and cold sweat streamed down his forehead.

He immediately grabbed the ledgers, ran over, and knelt before Chen Mo, saying with genuine fear and trepidation, "Sir, all of last month's accounts are here. Every line, every item, I've listed clearly. I've checked it multiple times; there shouldn't be any omissions..."

He knew he shouldn't say too much at this moment; otherwise, if he angered the other party, his life would be forfeit.

But if he remained silent and was misunderstood, his life would be forfeit all the same.

Caught between a rock and a hard place, the Steward decided it was better to clarify.

Chen Mo took the ledger and flipped through it perfunctorily.

In reality, he had no interest in the City Lord's Mansion's accounting. He only wanted to see its surplus.

As he scanned the ledger, Chen Mo saw that last month's surplus was as high as 2,000 eternal gold coins.

Although this Instance World wasn't Chen Mo's real world, 2,000 gold coins weren't 20 billion, but it was close.

After all, eternal currency was divided into eternal coins, eternal copper coins, eternal silver coins, and eternal gold coins.

Under normal circumstances, people in the Instance World used eternal coins as their basic currency.

One eternal gold coin was equivalent to one million eternal coins.

In other words, in the typical consumer economy of this Instance World, possessing a single eternal gold coin was like being a millionaire.

The fact that the Green Bamboo Village Chief could produce 10 such coins was already extraordinary.

And 2,000 eternal gold coins were equivalent to 2 billion eternal coins!

This just showed how incredibly rich the Storm City Lord's Mansion truly was.

"Where is the surplus money?" Chen Mo's expression sharpened as he looked at the storeroom Steward.

The trembling Steward immediately ordered his men to retrieve a large box from a heavily guarded section of the storeroom and swiftly presented it to Chen Mo.

"Sir, all the surplus eternal gold coins are in here. You may count them."

Chen Mo sensed the contents. Since the 2,000 coin surplus was from last month, with this month's revenue added and wages not yet paid, the amount had accumulated to over 3,000 coins.

Chen Mo, holding the ledger in one hand, took the box with the other, pocketed all the money, and said, "I will check this thoroughly when I get back."

"Yes, sir. Take your time, check it carefully."

The storeroom Steward was certain he hadn't made any mistakes; he was now terrified that Chen Mo might miscount or misunderstand.

Seeing this, Chen Mo said no more, took the money, and swaggered out of the City Lord's Mansion.

Just by putting on an act, he had directly pocketed over three thousand eternal gold coins. Chen Mo couldn't help but feel ecstatic. After squeezing every last bit of profit from the City Lord's Mansion, perhaps I could siphon off a little more from other places?

With this thought, Chen Mo began to sense the conditions within the city.

If one were to ask where the most profit could be reaped, it would naturally be the commercial district.

Chen Mo immediately focused his senses on Storm City's commercial district.

The commercial district in Storm City was the heart of the city, bustling, noisy, and teeming with people.

In the city center, there was a wide and busy commercial avenue, lined with a dazzling array of shops and markets.

This place was a trading hub, with all sorts of goods continuously transported in from trade routes outside the city.

The merchants here were diverse, including traveling traders from various places, resident city merchants, and even some from distant lands, all thriving on the exchange of goods.

On both sides of the commercial avenue were rows upon rows of shops.

The first things that caught the eye were towering storefronts; some were grand furniture stores with spectacular architecture, others were jewelry shops with golden carpets, and some were luxurious boutiques selling various high-end goods.

Interspersed between the shops were street vendors and performers, creating a lively, flowing scene.

At the end of the commercial avenue was a grand market square.

In the center of the square stood a solemn statue of Kahn. It was evident Kahn was quite narcissistic, as his statue symbolized the city's power and spirit.

Surrounding the square were numerous markets selling an encyclopedic range of goods—from various foods, fruits, and vegetables to all sorts of crafts, magic tools, and more; they had everything imaginable.

The market was a sea of people, with vendors hawking their wares and pedestrians weaving through the throngs of goods. The sheer bustle was overwhelming.

Besides the commercial avenue and the market square, Storm City had many smaller alleys and streets, which were even more animated.

In these alleys and streets were numerous small shops and stalls, offering a dazzling array of miscellaneous goods.

People here often purchased more practical items, such as various potions, magic scrolls, and sundries.

The atmosphere in the entire commercial district was prosperous and vibrant. Merchants and buyers constantly came and went, infusing the city with a potent vitality. It was clearly evident that there was plenty to gain!