

## Ice Age 1011

### Chapter 1011: Truth

Jingwei felt Zhang Yi's undisguised killing intent.

She knew Zhang Yi wasn't joking.

If she couldn't give Zhang Yi a satisfactory answer today, he would definitely kill her!

After remaining silent for a moment, she said, "Chaos, I just saved your life."

Zhang Yi narrowed his eyes and asked word by word, "Do you really think I needed you to save me?"

Jingwei's expression became less certain.

She had revealed herself earlier because she judged that Zhang Yi couldn't block the combined attack from three people.

But soon after, the power Zhang Yi displayed exceeded her expectations.

Could it be... that Zhang Yi had a way to save himself even in that situation?

Zhang Yi unhurriedly drew White Owl and Holy Judgment.

"You've been staying by my side quite well. I think every word I've said during this time has already been reported to Zhu Zheng by you."

"Then even if I kill you, Zhu Zheng has no right to blame me. He's the one who played tricks on me first!"

Jingwei was intimidated by Zhang Yi's intense murderous aura and instinctively took several steps back.

"Wait! I haven't had time to report to headquarters yet!"

Zhang Yi tilted his head and looked at her, while Hua Hua had already raised its tail and slowly blocked her retreat.

If Jingwei couldn't explain herself clearly with even one sentence, Zhang Yi would decisively take action.

Even if he didn't kill Jingwei, he had to make her suffer enough to express his attitude to Zhu Zheng.

Jingwei quickly explained, "During this time, I've been hiding in your shadow the entire time. I simply had no opportunity to transmit information to headquarters."

"As a spatial-type superhuman, you should understand this principle. The signals on Star Island are inherently unstable, let alone transmitting messages from an independent dimensional space."

A cold smile appeared at the corner of Zhang Yi's mouth.

"Why should I believe you?"

Jingwei said in a cold tone, "I'm telling the truth. If you don't believe me, you can check my communication system."

"How do I know you haven't secretly deleted the communication records?"

Zhang Yi held his knife, watching Jingwei cautiously, maintaining a state ready to strike at any moment.

"Unless... you let me give you an injection!"

"An... injection?"

Jingwei looked stunned.

Then she saw Zhang Yi take out a tube of blue liquid.

Truth Serum - direct injection works best. Once injected with this stuff, even the toughest warrior's psychological defenses would crumble.

Jingwei certainly knew what this was.

Her face changed slightly: "No, I absolutely won't allow you to do this to me!"

Zhang Yi sneered twice: "Heh heh, I'm afraid it's not up to you now."

"To be honest, I don't trust you at all. If you really want to break with me, you can try what the consequences will be."

He spread his arms wide and said fiercely, "If Zhu Zheng really has any sinister plans against me, then at worst, we'll just go our separate ways!"

If the Jiangnan Region lost him, they would completely become a second-rate force on Star Island, completely losing the qualification to compete with the joint forces.

Zhang Yi did not accept betrayal.

No matter the reason.

Jingwei was really getting anxious now.

As a captain temporarily promoted, her strength wasn't outstanding. Fighting against a top-tier expert like Zhang Yi, she would definitely be instantly killed.

Even her most skilled spatial abilities were completely countered by Zhang Yi.

"Chaos, I can have the commander speak with you!"

But Zhang Yi shook his head: "I don't trust you, do you think I'll trust Zhu Zheng? Don't play games with me. Whether you take this injection or not, you choose yourself!"

Jingwei was enveloped by the killing intent from Zhang Yi and Hua Hua, unable to move an inch.

When she chose to reveal herself from the shadows, she was destined to become meat on the chopping block.

"Can I request instructions from headquarters?"

She was still making a final attempt.

"No!"

Zhang Yi couldn't be bothered to play games with that old man Zhu Zheng.

That he had tolerated until now was already considered good temper.

And this was only because Jingwei had chosen to step out and help him fight at the critical moment.

Jingwei secretly clenched her fist, and finally, under duress, she lowered her head and slowly nodded.

Zhang Yi immediately had Hua Hua rush forward to completely restrain her.

The corners of Hua Hua's mouth lifted, revealing an eerie smile.

Its massive body stood upright, actually holding Jingwei in its arms like a doll.

Zhang Yi walked over, made her expose the skin on her neck, and then injected her with one stab!

"You'll regret knowing too much. So you'd better not ask unrelated questions."

Jingwei said, staring hard at him through her black eye patch.

Zhang Yi raised an eyebrow, "Oh? Interesting, really interesting. It seems you're hiding many secrets!"

Zhang Yi didn't stay in this place for long, avoiding the superhumans from the joint forces attacking again.

But thinking about it carefully, this wasn't much of a problem anymore.

Because so far, he had already killed three members of Hell's Lock, nearly half of them.

He still had Hua Hua bring Jingwei along, traversing to ruins dozens of miles away.

Then he slowly interrogated Jingwei.

Jingwei didn't hold out for long before losing her will.

This kind of subcutaneous injection couldn't be cheated, so it was certain she would answer whatever was asked.

Combined with her previous inexplicable words, Zhang Yi felt he could get a lot of useful information from her mouth.

Especially about what happened in Blizzard City during those five months when he left the Jiangnan Region.

He took out a chair, sat down in front of Jingwei, and crossed his legs.

Zhang Yi thought for a moment, then reached out and removed her black eye patch.

When he saw her eyes, Zhang Yi couldn't help but freeze momentarily.

Those eyes were large and ethereal, with pupils glowing with an icy blue color.

Zhang Yi always felt these eyes were somewhat familiar, as if he had seen them somewhere before.

Vaguely recalling a certain old acquaintance.



He asked word by word: "Tell me, your identity and background."

Jingwei's eyes were vacant as she slowly spoke: "My name is Mu Yan, from Moshang District, Jiangning City..."

Jingwei's self-introduction was quite lengthy, and Zhang Yi listened patiently.

Opportunities to obtain intelligence at the captain level weren't common.

Soon, Jingwei had finished introducing her origins.

And now the important part arrived.

"After the apocalypse, I struggled to survive in Jiangning District with some friends I met along the way. Because I awakened supernatural abilities, I could barely maintain survival."

"Four months ago, Blizzard City's military found me and brought me back."

"They performed human experiments on me, implanting a special type of cell in my body. This made my strength improve rapidly."

"And I wasn't the only superhuman implanted with cells. Along with me when I was brought back to Blizzard City, there was a large group of superhumans from the Outer City. We all underwent the same human implantation experiments."

"Later, I accidentally learned that those special cells originated from a common parent organism."

"Her name is Yuan Kongye."

#### Chapter 1012: Zhu Zheng's Plan

The appearance of those three characters—"Yuan Kongye"—caused Zhang Yi's pupils to contract slightly.

He never expected that after such a long time, he would once again hear this familiar name.

The leader of the Bai Xue Jiao in Tianhai City.

The most dangerous enemy Zhang Yi had ever encountered in his life, and also the first Epsilon-level superhuman he had ever faced.

Although a long time had passed, the difficulty of that battle remained unforgettable to Zhang Yi.

Back then, they had to gather the combined strength of the entire Tianhai City, plus everyone from the Black Robe Investigation Team except for Bian Junwu.

In the end, they only managed to kill her with great difficulty by relying on the trigger Zhang Yi had secretly planted.

"So that's how it is, I understand now. So that's it, so that's it."

Zhang Yi murmured to himself, a look of reminiscence and emotion appearing in his eyes.

He remembered that Yuan Kongye had once given all of them Ice Souls.

The several major factions in Tianhai City, including Zhang Yi, had all used up the Ice Souls in their possession.

However, the Black Robe Investigation Team had kept one.

If nothing unexpected happened, it must have ended up in the Scientific Research Department of the Jiangnan Region headquarters.

"Did they manage to replicate the Ice Souls?"

Zhang Yi frowned.

If they could clone Yuan Kongye, that would undoubtedly be an extremely terrifying matter.

This would mean that Epsilon-level superhumans could be replicated on a large scale.

However, when Zhang Yi looked at Jingwei again, he dismissed this idea.

The cloning technology of 2051 still couldn't reach such a terrifying level.

Otherwise, Jingwei's strength wouldn't be so weak.

Probably only around 9300 points or so.

He stared at Jingwei and said calmly, "Tell me everything you know about the Yuan Kongye clone cells."

Jingwei held nothing back.

However, her knowledge of the entire scientific research project wasn't complete.

She only knew that sometime after Zhang Yi left the Jiangnan Region, Blizzard City suddenly began gathering talented superhumans from the Outer City in large numbers. **Really?**

Then, they began conducting large-scale adaptation experiments with the Ice Souls on them.

And this type of experiment had a high probability of failure.

In other words, the cloning technology actually had significant flaws, so the Ice Souls weren't perfect either.

But when she reached the end of her explanation, Jingwei's words made Zhang Yi become alert.

"The entire Night Crow Squad consists of superhumans who were the most successful in receiving the clone transplants."

"But we know that there exists one nearly perfect being who was created through complete cloning. And the purpose of our Night Crow Squad's existence is to help her achieve **【Flawlessness】**."

"Her name is Zhuyu. It's said that she's a superhuman with no upper limit, capable of continuous growth. One day, all of us Night Crows will wither and die, becoming her nutrients."

"This is also the origin of my codename 【Jingwei】 ."

"Carrying stones to fill the sea, throwing ourselves into it without regard for our own safety, ultimately shaping a powerful divine entity!"

Zhang Yi's gaze grew colder and colder.

By the time she reached this point, he already understood everything that had happened during those five months.

No wonder Zhu Zheng's attitude toward him had suddenly become somewhat cold.

No wonder large numbers of Outer City refugees and numerous superhumans had begun appearing in Blizzard City.

That ethereal girl named Yuan Kongye had reappeared in this world in another form.

But this time, she didn't need to exhaust all her schemes to plunder others' origin energy.

She had obtained the support of the highest levels of the entire Jiangnan Region.

Zhu Zheng wanted to cultivate an Epsilon that would be completely under his control!

"So that's how it is, so that's it!"

Zhang Yi didn't make any judgment about this matter.

How Zhu Zheng cultivated his subordinates was his own business.

But he absolutely shouldn't have set his sights on Zhang Yi!

Zhang Yi grabbed Jingwei's chin with one hand, forcing her to look up at him.

Then he asked coldly, "What was Zhu Zheng's purpose in having you follow me?"

Jingwei replied, "First, to protect you. More precisely, to assist you. He thought you were too impulsive acting alone, and wanted me to help you when necessary."

This point wasn't problematic at all.

Regardless of whatever schemes Zhu Zheng might have, Zhang Yi was still one of the Jiangnan Region's most valuable combat assets.

He could shift his favor to Zhuyu, but he wouldn't abandon Zhang Yi either.

Zhang Yi snorted coldly, "And what else?"

Jingwei said, "To monitor you, especially to observe whether you have the capability to seize the Divine Source. When necessary, to prevent you from monopolizing the Divine Source."

"According to Commander Zhu's plan, he intends to give a portion of the Divine Source to that perfect clone for her use."

After hearing this, Zhang Yi slightly frowned.

He didn't feel particularly angry.

Isn't this how relationships between people should naturally be?

People can come together for common interests, and conflicts can arise due to conflicting interests.



Anyway, he hadn't held any particular expectations of Zhu Zheng from the beginning.

Naturally, he wouldn't feel betrayed and angry because of Zhu Zheng's self-interest.

Children talk about right and wrong, adults only weigh advantages and disadvantages.

To borrow a classic line from film and television:

If you shoot me but don't kill me, and I survive, we can still do business together—as long as the price is fair.

In Zhang Yi's eyes, Zhu Zheng was merely a collaborator, not someone he owed any loyalty to.

However, regarding Zhu Zheng sending Jingwei to monitor him... heh heh, he would definitely make good use of this issue when he returned.

At the very least, he would make Zhu Zheng pay dearly before considering the matter settled.

As for that perfect clone of Yuan Kongye, Zhuyu...

Zhang Yi thought about it.

If calculated by time, if he completed his Star Island journey and returned to the Jiangnan Region,

she would probably already be at Epsilon level, or close to Epsilon level by then.

"A clone isn't the original. As long as they don't share the same memories, they can't be considered the same person. She probably won't come seeking revenge against me."

"Besides, even if she does come looking for me then, I'm not afraid."

Zhang Yi had this confidence.

By the time he returned to the Jiangnan Region, he would definitely already be an Epsilon!

Zhu Zheng wasn't stupid either—he wouldn't allow the two of them to engage in a major battle.

Zhang Yi reached out, removed the communication device from her body, and threw it into his Dimensional Space.

Hua Hua's huge eyes had been fixed on her the entire time. "Master, why not let me eat her!"

"No, Zhu Zheng and I haven't completely torn face yet. Killing her offers me no benefit."

Zhang Yi refused outright.

"But carrying her around is a burden."

Hua Hua tilted its head to look at Zhang Yi. "Her target is the Divine Source. She might do something disadvantageous to you at a critical moment."

Zhang Yi shook his head and said calmly, "She won't."

Hua Hua's large eyeballs rolled, then it said with a smile, "You're right!"

"Let her properly witness the master's strength, then report back to that old fart Zhu Zheng! That should prevent him from overestimating his abilities and doing something stupid."

Chapter 1013: Great Achievement

After killing Amaterasu, Susanoo, and Medusa, Zhang Yi understood clearly that the battle for Star Island was nearing its conclusion.

There weren't many surviving captain-level figures left on the island, and most of them had already reached the core area of Star Island, Mist Valley.

So from now on, the opponents he would encounter would become increasingly powerful.

This exhilarating hunt would also become more exciting and thrilling.

He wasn't in any particular hurry.

Unless he encountered Epsilon-level superhumans, no one below Epsilon level could threaten his life.

Even if Zhang Yi encountered someone he couldn't defeat, he would definitely not lose at worst, it would be an even match at most.

He adjusted his communication channel, choosing not to directly contact the command center.

Instead, he contacted Deputy Minister of Operations Situ Xin.

After receiving Zhang Yi's communication, Situ Xin hurriedly stepped aside and asked in a low voice:

"Captain Chaos, is there something you need to communicate?"

Zhang Yi simply said calmly: "I eliminated three superhumans: Neon Pirate's Amaterasu and Susanoo, and Columbus Ocean's Medusa."

Situ Xin froze on the spot.

His expression was as if frozen solid, and it took him a long moment to regain his composure.

Zhang Yi said: "Hello? Minister Situ, are you still there?"

Only then did Situ Xin snap back to reality and quickly nodded: "Oh, I'm here, I'm here! Sorry, Captain Chaos. What did you just say? Could you repeat that?"

He was now seriously wondering if there was something wrong with his hearing.

Chaos actually said he took out three high-level superhumans from the joint forces?

In their intelligence system, these three were all first-class experts.

Only slightly below supreme beings like Billy the Kid.

Zhang Yi... actually eliminated three people at once?

Even though Situ Xin and Zhang Yi were both from Jiangnan Region, he still felt like he was listening to a fantasy tale.

Taking out one person and taking out three people were completely different concepts!

Zhang Yi chuckled wryly, "I said, I eliminated three superhumans."

He had to repeat his previous statement.

Situ Xin's inner shock was beyond measure, and he finally confirmed he wasn't hallucinating.

Because soon after, to make him believe, Zhang Yi directly sent him photos of Christina and Ounami's corpses.

As for Ohgami Benimaru, since he had been completely devoured by the void, he only showed Situ Xin his somewhat damaged samurai long sword Kokonoe Nagamune.

This time, Situ Xin had no more doubts whatsoever.

He was shocked beyond measure, while simultaneously trembling with excitement.

He knew Zhang Yi was strong, and had never underestimated Zhang Yi's capabilities.

But today, he had to admit that he had still underestimated Zhang Yi.

Who said Jiangnan Region's Chaos was only good at defense?

His offensive capabilities were equally sharp!

Achieving a complete victory against three opponents, this level of strength was probably approaching Epsilon level!

"I hope you'll record my achievements, I'll be exchanging them for rewards later."

Zhang Yi said with a smile.

"Of course, of course, definitely. Chaos, you've really accomplished an unparalleled feat this time!"

Situ Xin grinned so widely it seemed his mouth might reach the back of his ears.

He suddenly felt an impulse to have Zhang Yi return and not continue risking himself on Star Island!

A superhuman with such capabilities was absolutely Jiangnan Region's most precious treasure.

After all, from the very beginning, Jiangnan Region hadn't held much expectation of obtaining the Divine Source.

With Zhang Yi eliminating so many superhumans, their Star Island expedition could already be considered a triumphant success.

However, this matter wasn't his decision to make; he had to report to Zhu Zheng.

Zhang Yi ended the communication, then took Jingwei and left.

Hua Hua ran deep into the ruins and dug out Lele, who was hiding underground.

There was no helping it—Lele's combat ability was too weak.



During proper battles, it could only hide.

Meanwhile, at the command center, inside Xuanwu's body.

Situ Xin was so excited he couldn't control his expression.

This abnormal situation made the East Sea Region officers feel puzzled.

Because for officers of Situ Xin's rank, not showing emotions was a basic skill.

Yet he was so agitated that his whole body trembled, and the smile on his face couldn't be wiped away.

Without a doubt, he had encountered something that brought him extreme joy.

One officer then asked: "Minister Situ, what happened that has you so happy?"

Situ Xin walked over with a beaming smile, glanced at Li Tianyang and the other East Sea Region officers, and said proudly:

"Nothing particularly special. It's just that our region's Captain Chaos just contacted me, saying he eliminated a few more superhumans from the joint forces."

Li Tianyang's mouth twitched involuntarily.

Chaos, he had accomplished another feat!

He snorted lightly, "Chaos is really impressive! Tell us, which superhuman team did he eliminate this time? Was it Neon Pirate superhumans, or New Rohan superhumans?"

"It couldn't possibly be Hell's Lock members again, could it?"

Situ Xin chuckled, "Minister Li, if they were just ordinary superhumans, it wouldn't be worth mentioning like this."

He lowered his head, and when he slowly raised it again, his gaze carried a profound meaning.

It seemed to mock Li Tianyang while also brimming with pride.

"Let me be frank with you—this time, he didn't eliminate many superhumans. Only three."

"These three individuals are Neon Pirate's Amaterasu and Susanoo, and Hell's Lock's Medusa."

"Minister Li, what do you think of this achievement? Is it acceptable?"

Situ Xin smiled as he stared at Li Tianyang and the others in the command center.

Soon, he saw the reaction he wanted.

Everyone in the command center stood dumbfounded, their faces filled with shock and disbelief.

They all widened their eyes, mouths agape, instinctively wanting to say "Impossible! Absolutely impossible!"

But these words came from Situ Xin's mouth—he wouldn't joke about something like this.

Yet, who could believe that Zhang Yi could eliminate three high-level superhumans in one go?

Those were two of Neon Pirate's main pillars, plus a member of Hell's Lock!

If they encountered these three individuals, even one of the Four Spirits would have a very difficult time, to be honest.

Whether they could win was still unknown.

How could Chaos possibly do it?

Even Xuanwu, who had been leisurely playing video games comfortably in the command center, couldn't help but glance over.

"Are you saying Chaos eliminated all three of them in one go?"

This question was very important.

Killing them one by one versus eliminating three at once were completely different concepts.

Situ Xin nodded and uploaded the photos Zhang Yi had given him to the command center's system, publicly displaying them for everyone to see.

Chapter 1014: A Battle Created by One Person

The photo showed the already slain Medusa and Susanoo, along with the broken famous sword left behind by Amaterasu.

The facts spoke for themselves - all three of these individuals had been killed by Zhang Yi.

And it was a completely one-sided, absolutely overwhelming victory without any doubt!

On the East Sea Region's side, it was as if someone had cast a freezing spell - complete silence, everyone standing dumbfounded with nothing to say.

Their brains, their common sense, couldn't comprehend such an existence.

This was clearly something only an Epsilon could accomplish!

Zhang Yi, Chaos of the Jiangnan Region.

Wasn't he only supposed to have a 9800-point superhuman ability index, with the codename "Absolute Defense"?

How could a superhuman like that possibly take on three opponents alone and kill so many powerful superhumans?

No one could understand it.

Li Tianyang remained silent for several long minutes.

This time, the expression in his eyes had completely transformed into bewilderment.

Even he didn't know how to explain this phenomenon.

Xuanwu glanced at the photo, then lowered his head and continued playing his game.

"So the Jiangnan Region is finally going to have their own Epsilon?"

He didn't really care about this.

If anything, it would be better if Zhang Yi ultimately obtained the Divine Source and became an Epsilon.

Because that would mean—he would be the East Sea Region's only Epsilon.

Li Tianyang's silence lasted a full five minutes.

Even five minutes wasn't enough time for him to digest this reality.

The combat achievements Zhang Yi had accomplished since landing on the island were simply mind-boggling.

The points he alone had obtained exceeded the total of everyone else combined!

Even the Four Spirits, the East Sea Region's proudest assets, had been completely overshadowed by Zhang Yi.

He slowly lowered his head, his heart filled with immense complexity.

If this continued, wouldn't the Divine Source end up in Zhang Yi's hands?

Although this outcome wasn't that difficult to accept—certainly better than it falling into the hands of the Colombian Navy—Li Tianyang couldn't accept this reality.

Because from the very beginning, personal enmity had already formed between him and Zhang Yi.

The more brilliant Zhang Yi became, the more despicable his own previous actions appeared.

Zhang Yi's radiance was the shadow cast over him, the slap across his face.

A thought even flashed through his mind.

Even if it meant leaving the Divine Source to the joint forces, he couldn't let Zhang Yi obtain it!

Otherwise, given the enmity between them, if Zhang Yi became an Epsilon, he would definitely come to settle accounts!

This thought startled Li Tianyang greatly the moment it appeared.

As a military officer, how could he entertain such narrow-minded thinking?

But malice was like floodwaters—once released, it was difficult to contain.

Jealousy—he was beginning to feel jealous of Zhang Yi.

And he absolutely could not allow this man to continue growing stronger, to continue shining so brilliantly!

Li Tianyang abruptly turned to face Situ Xin.



"Minister Situ, I am the overall commander of this operation, correct?"

Situ Xin smiled and nodded.

"You are the battlefield commander."

Battlefield commander, but above you are the supreme commanders of the two major regions.

Li Tianyang demanded sternly, "Then why didn't Chaos report his actions to me first, but instead communicated them to you? What does he mean by this?!"

Li Tianyang's behavior made everyone present turn to look at him.

Even the East Sea Region officers looked away in embarrassment.

Li Tianyang's suppression was too obvious.

Zhang Yi had achieved tremendous merit, yet at this moment, due to personal grudges, instead of giving praise, he was first questioning faults.

This was becoming hard to watch.

Situ Xin wasn't someone to be trifled with either.

Zhang Yi's glorious combat achievements were his greatest source of confidence.

"Ahem, Minister Li, isn't this rather inappropriate?"

"Chaos has achieved such remarkable accomplishments, we should be rewarding him."

"With you picking faults like this, no wonder he doesn't want to report to you."

Situ Xin's words carried barbs, showing no courtesy toward Li Tianyang.

They were only temporarily cooperating anyway. Although the Jiangnan Region's combat strength might be inferior to the East Sea Region's, they weren't made of mud.

Li Tianyang's gaze turned gloomy as he pressed down on his hat brim.

"Regardless, acting independently on the battlefield is a major taboo!"

"Have Chaos contact me immediately. Since he enjoys hunting superhumans so much—"

"Fine, then have him go kill Hell's Lock's deputy captain, Billy the Kid! This way, we can ensure we securely obtain the Divine Source."

Li Tianyang's intentions were glaringly obvious.

Billy the Kid's strength wasn't something other superhumans could compare to.

He was a superhuman just one step away from crossing the threshold into Epsilon.

By having Zhang Yi go kill him, regardless of the outcome, the East Sea Region would ultimately benefit.

When two tigers fight, one is bound to be injured—or perhaps both would be wounded.

At that time, the East Sea Region's Four Spirits could reap the rewards, and the Divine Source would become their certain possession.

Situ Xin clasped his hands behind his back and said calmly:

"That's not quite right. Our Jiangnan Region has now achieved glorious combat results on the battlefield."

"Whereas your East Sea Region, ah..."

His sigh made the East Sea Region officers present exchange glances, feeling utterly ashamed.

When they first arrived, they had looked down on the Jiangnan Region, believing themselves to be the absolute main force on the battlefield.

They had said that the Jiangnan Region only needed to provide them with good support.

But now, where were their combat achievements?

Only Qinglong had killed a Kim Hee-chul, which was a decent result.

The others hadn't yet achieved any merit of killing captain-level opponents.

Actually, this couldn't really be blamed on them.

In the heavily fogged areas, everyone moved cautiously, not daring to act recklessly.

Zhang Yi was an exception.

With his space-type superhuman ability, he could travel between various areas at the fastest speed.

Moreover, he had prepared in advance, bringing Hua Hua and Lele along to facilitate searching for enemies.

From this perspective, he was the most thoroughly prepared among everyone.

It couldn't necessarily be said that he was far stronger than the Four Spirits or Billy the Kid and others.

He had simply maximized the convenience of his abilities.

Situ Xin said to Li Tianyang with a smile, "The prestigious East Sea Region should also demonstrate your strength. How about you go kill Billy the Kid?"

Li Tianyang was getting red-faced from being countered like this.

He actually had no retort.

What the other said wasn't wrong.

Zhang Yi alone had killed three Hell's Lock members!

Whereas their East Sea Region had no significant combat results to show.

In the end, Li Tianyang could only snort coldly.

Without reason, his words carried less weight.

Moreover, not only did he lack reason now, he also lacked sufficient combat achievements to support his arrogance.

Li Tianyang stared coldly at the three-dimensional map.

He thought to himself: Just let you be arrogant for a while longer! That Chaos fellow only cares about hunting superhumans all day. This is actually good—at least he's cleared away many troubles for our people.

Qinglong and the others can proceed to Mist Valley more smoothly.

As long as we obtain the Divine Source, everything you've done before will pale in comparison!

## Chapter 1015: Lost Soul

In the Huaxu Kingdom's command center, while there were indeed some minor frictions, overall, aside from Li Tianyang, everyone else felt jubilant.

The more high-level superhumans from the joint forces that Zhang Yi killed, the greater their chances of ultimately winning this battle.

However, it was still too early to celebrate just yet.

Because their ultimate goal in landing on the island wasn't to kill anyone.

It was to obtain the Divine Source!

One Divine Source could, at the very least, create one Epsilon-level superhuman.

To put it bluntly, the value of a single Epsilon-level superhuman was equivalent to the combined value of the vast majority of people on the entire island.

If the joint forces got their hands on it first, they would still be the ultimate losers.

...

At the temporary command center of the Colombian Navy.

Oppressive.

Silent.

The atmosphere inside the command center office was terrifyingly deathly still.

The officers watched helplessly as Christina fell in battle.

They stood ramrod straight, each secretly glancing at General Huo En in front of them from the corners of their eyes, not daring to breathe too loudly.



Just from his back, they could feel that this general's fury had reached its absolute peak.

Another member of Hell's Lock had fallen!

This time, unless they obtained the Divine Source, they would face their greatest loss since the apocalypse!

When they returned to the naval base, he would definitely be stripped of all rank and would never have a chance for promotion in the navy again!

Although, so far, it wasn't due to failures in combat, and he didn't bear much fault.

But when things went wrong, someone always had to take responsibility.

As the overall battlefield commander, he couldn't shirk the blame.

General Huo En clenched his fists and slammed them hard onto the command console.

His eyes were bloodshot, his teeth clenched so tightly that his gums bled.

"We cannot continue like this! This guy is more troublesome than imagined."

"Right now, we no longer hold any advantage on the battlefield."

He turned his head, his eyes ferocious as he glared at his deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Keludi.

"Deploy Soul Reaper!"

He said coldly.

Along with his words, the hearts of everyone present also turned cold.

Keludi swallowed hard and asked with difficulty, "Do we really... have to go this far?"

Even Cadillus, who had been watching the show with his arms crossed, showed a change in his gaze when he heard the name [Soul Reaper].

He sighed, as if reminiscing about something.

General Huo En roared, "We have no way back now! Three members of Hell's Lock have already fallen, causing a severe imbalance in our combat power!"

"Even if we send other superhumans to the island now, we'd just be delivering them as easy prey to that bastard called [Chaos]!"

"We cannot afford to lose this battle! No matter the cost, we must win!"

General Huo En waved his hand. "Right now, I am the highest-ranking officer here. Follow my orders. Hurry up, release Soul Reaper!"

The officers looked at each other. Although they didn't want to see that monster reappear, they truly had no other options now.

At the operation console, several operators brought up the operational diagram of the flagship.

The screen showed the entire structure of the flagship.

The screen zoomed in, all the way to the deepest part of the flagship.

There, beneath layers of armor, was an iron box resembling a coffin.

The operator's hands trembled as she looked at General Huo En.

"General, please input the command."

An operation panel appeared before General Huo En. He hesitated for a second, then quickly input the release command.

A moment later, in the lowest level of the flagship, there was a sealed room.

This room was filled with transparent liquid, the most dangerous organic solvent. An ordinary person would rapidly turn into an ice sculpture upon contact with even a trace.

Thousands of cubic meters of space were filled with this solution.

"Gurgle~"

The sound of flowing water was heard. A hexagonal mark appeared on the floor at the bottom of the room.

Then, a section of the floor began to slowly rise.

The floor rose higher and higher, revealing what was beneath it—a coffin made of some unknown black metal.

It was entirely pitch black, non-reflective, as if even light passing by would be devoured by it.

Thick, heavy metal chains dragged it, slowly floating to the surface of the solution.

The room door opened.

Dozens of fully armed Colombian superhuman soldiers, armed to the teeth, pointed their guns at it as if facing a formidable enemy.

Even though they knew the coffin before them was sufficient to seal an extremely powerful superhuman.

But the monster inside that coffin had once cast an immense shadow over them.

Anyone who thought of his name would shudder.

Usually, within the Colombian Ocean Fleet, very few dared to even mention his name.

Everyone referred to him as "you-know-who."

He was the nightmare of the entire Colombian fleet.

Under the escort of the soldiers, the massive black coffin was placed onto a launch platform.

A superhuman who appeared to be an officer came to the operation console and sent a ready signal to the command center.

They immediately began operations, transmitting all of Zhang Yi's personal information.

"Soul Reaper, your mission is to kill him!"

The command was simple and direct.

Because he couldn't understand overly complex orders.

Inside the black coffin, a pale and ugly head suddenly opened its eyes.

This was a face that didn't look like that of a living person, with a terrifyingly large head, much like a human head boiled in a pot.

His pupils were as small as grains of rice. Electrodes inserted into his head directly fed the intelligence on the target [Chaos] into his brain.

Then, they pressed the launch button.

The flagship's launch bay doors opened.

The black coffin was catapulted toward Star Island like a missile.

It was a rather ridiculous action.

Because they didn't even dare to let the person inside out to send him to the island.

[Soul Reaper], the double-edged sword of the Colombian Navy.

Strictly speaking, he was a failed experiment from the [Super Soldier] project.

Out of the one thousand soldiers with superhuman potential initially selected, only Cadillius ultimately succeeded.

Almost all the rest died.

But [Soul Reaper] was an exception. He survived, but he almost completely lost his reason, retaining only his instinct for killing.

Most of the time, he was just a killing machine, only occasionally remaining clear-headed.

So when he appeared, more often than not, the first people he killed weren't the enemy, but Colombian Navy personnel.

As a joking matter, far more Colombian soldiers had died by his hand than enemies.

But the Colombian Navy chose not to destroy him, instead preserving him.

Because such a pure and dangerous killing machine would eventually come in handy.

For example, right now.

Chapter 1016: There is a Monster



A black coffin launched from Huo En's flagship, tracing a parabolic arc through the air before slamming violently into Star Island's soil.

This commotion naturally didn't escape the notice of the Huaxu Kingdom allied forces.

However, as long as the other side didn't deploy Cadillus, it didn't technically violate the game rules on the surface.

Aboard the flagship, Huo En immediately notified everyone on the island the moment he deployed Soul Reaper.

He warned them to be extremely cautious and avoid encounters with Soul Reaper at all costs.

Because once you encountered that creature, he would kill everyone indiscriminately, friend or foe!

The only silver lining was that the command center had given him orders to eliminate [Chaos].

So he would prioritize hunting down Chaos as his primary target.

The massive coffin had almost completely buried itself underground, leaving only a short section exposed above.

But the disturbance here attracted the attention of nearby superhumans.

Several kilometers away, space suddenly distorted atop a tall building.

A man in his thirties, wearing the East Sea Region navy combat suit, appeared there.

Seeing the churning toxic miasma in the distance, he immediately reported to the command center.

"Detected suspicious object launched by enemy forces. Impact point located north of Karadayan City."

Li Tianyang checked the map, confirmed the location, and noted it was still quite distant from Mist Valley's direction.

He frowned. "What did those Columbus Ocean bastards launch over there?"

An adjutant beside him said, "We can first rule out superhumans. Even enhancement-type superhumans couldn't withstand that launch method physically."

"It's most likely a weapon."

The distance from General Huo En's flagship to the mysterious object's impact point spanned over ten kilometers.

A person being loaded into an iron box, launched like artillery, then plummeting from high altitude—

Even a pure enhancement-type superhuman like Baili Changqing would either die or lose most of their life force.

So based on common sense, it couldn't possibly be a superhuman.

Li Tianyang strongly agreed with the adjutant's assessment.

"Since it's something the enemy needs, we absolutely cannot let them obtain it!"

"The current battlefield situation favors us. As long as we block their reinforcements, the Divine Source will be ours for the taking!"

As he spoke these words, his gaze deliberately or unintentionally glanced at Situ Xin and the other Jiangnan Region officers.

He feared that later, Jiangnan Region—or more precisely, [Chaos]—would become their biggest competitor.

Situ Xin smiled faintly without speaking.

Li Tianyang ordered Bai Ze, who was near the area: "Maintain observation and destroy that object while ensuring your safety!"

Bai Ze: "Received!"

He watched the churning toxic miasma ahead, which made visual or telescopic confirmation of the landed object impossible.

So Bai Ze adjusted his equipment, cradled a specially-made black rifle, and cautiously advanced toward that direction.

However, as he proceeded, he didn't encounter anyone else nearby.

The expected Columbus Ocean superhumans also failed to appear.

But following orders, he still carefully approached the mysterious object's impact point.

Only when he closed within ten meters did he clearly see the object's appearance.

A metal box. A pitch-black metal box.

Bai Ze didn't dare let his guard down for even a moment, immediately raising his rifle to aim at the box.

"Could it be some lethal weapon? But why launch it here?"

"Unlikely to be a weapon of mass destruction—their own people are still on the island."

"What exactly is this?"

Bai Ze felt deeply perplexed.

He carefully scanned his surroundings, then retrieved a small metal box from his tactical backpack.

The metal box placed on the ground quickly split open, transforming into a small spider-like robot that crawled toward the black metal box.

The spider robot quickly climbed onto the metal box, projecting two red beams from its detector to begin scanning.

But right at that moment, the metal box suddenly shook violently.

"Creak!"

A crack split open on the box, releasing thick white smoke.

Bai Ze didn't hesitate, immediately activating his ability.

"Black Domain!"

His pupils flashed with profound darkness.

Within moments, a massive black domain centered around him appeared.

Nothing could be seen within this area—not even light could penetrate.

Only Bai Ze himself could see everything happening within this domain.

The black metal box's crack widened further, emitting "creak-creak" sounds as if something was slowly forcing it open.

Bai Ze quickly raised his rifle and fired!

The specially-made black rifle also used Origin Bullets, capable of dealing significant damage to superhumans.

"Boom!"

A loud explosion sounded as the black metal box actually burst apart, with thick metal plates flying in all directions from the ground.

From underground emerged a naked, monstrous creature.

His body was an unnerving white, like a zombie soaked in water for years, with twisted muscles bulging as if ready to explode at any moment.

Especially his head, which resembled an oversized basketball.

Such appearances weren't actually rare, but typically only appeared on corpses—a phenomenon called giant bloating.

However, what filled Soul Reaper's body wasn't proliferating microbes and gases, but excessive drugs.

Or perhaps you could say he existed somewhere between the living and the dead.

The Origin Bullets Bai Ze fired "crackled" against his body without even breaking his skin.

Soul Reaper, freshly unsealed, looked utterly bewildered.

But when he felt the bullets impacting his body and saw the living human before him, his confused eyes suddenly surged with bloodthirsty killing intent.

Bai Ze felt his spine turn ice-cold.

That monster shouldn't be able to see him within the Black Domain.

But Soul Reaper's eyes were definitely locked directly on him.

This represented a terrifying sensory ability.



Moreover, the oppressive aura emanating from Soul Reaper made Bai Ze feel like he was facing a devil.

"Not good!!"

Bai Ze screamed.

Because of the Black Domain's presence, the command center didn't know what was happening.

Li Tianyang urgently asked: "Bai Ze, Bai Ze! What's happening?"

"There's a monster, there's a mon—"

The voice cut off abruptly, quickly turning into static.

Soul Reaper's figure instantly appeared before Bai Ze.

With just one motion, his massive right hand crushed both the rifle in Bai Ze's hands and the arm trying to block, then seized his throat!

"Crunch!"

Soul Reaper squeezed forcefully, and Bai Ze's neck snapped as if clamped by iron pincers, directly flying off.

This superhuman captain from the East Sea Region was crushed to death like an insect before Soul Reaper.

#### Chapter 1017: Devil Squad

Soul Reaper crushed East Sea Region fleet captain Bai Ze as easily as squashing a bug.

Without the slightest hesitation, he tossed the corpse aside, his icy gaze sweeping across the surroundings.

His brain had been implanted with a primary command overriding his killing instinct—to eliminate a target codenamed [Chaos].

Soul Reaper couldn't sense Chaos's presence, and a trace of confusion appeared in his eyes.

Completely naked, he walked through the minus sixty-degree snowy wasteland, searching for his prey.

By the time Huaxu Kingdom's command center confirmed Bai Ze's death, Soul Reaper had already disappeared into the vast toxic miasma.

From beginning to end, no one ever learned how Bai Ze died.

Li Tianyang's mood grew increasingly oppressive.

Watching Jiangnan Region achieve victory after victory while his own forces suffered repeated setbacks made him feel utterly humiliated throughout the entire command center.

Yet aside from impotent rage, he had no other recourse.

He didn't even know what was hidden inside that metal coffin.

The command center could only issue warnings for everyone to exercise extreme caution.

.....

As time passed, various superhuman teams gradually approached the Mist Valley area.

Most teams had encountered source sprites during their exploration.

Every survivor had gained tremendous rewards from these encounters.

Through this experience, the high command of both major regions finally understood why Shengjing Region had been able to acquire power surpassing the entire Huaxu Kingdom ahead of them.

Beyond possessing the most powerful weapons and military systems, they had also previously discovered a Divine Source in the Qinling Mountains.

It turned out the Divine Source's value wasn't limited to helping people break through Delta-level bottlenecks.

Even the accompanying substances of the Divine Source could produce numerous powerful individuals!

Consequently, most teams had shifted their primary objective to hunting source sprites.

Only individuals like Billy the Kid and the Four Spirits still focused their attention on the Divine Source itself.

However, teams like those from Jiangnan Region and the joint forces' foreign superhumans understood that the Divine Source was beyond their reach.

Instead, finding source sprites offered opportunities they could actually seize.

Makipo City, located northeast of Mist Valley.

Here resided Jiangnan Region's Demon Squad.

Under captain Lu Huang's leadership, they slowly approached Mist Valley.

Based on experience, they'd discovered that the closer they got to the Divine Source's core area, the higher the probability of encountering source sprites. R A N Ó ß Ě §

By now, their objective had shifted to hunting source sprites.

The entire Demon Squad consisted of twelve members.

They were now one of the few teams still operating as a complete unit.

For reference, consider the Tianlong Pirate Crew.

In combat between high-level superhumans, numerical advantage might not translate to actual superiority if the level disparity was too great.

Instead, numbers could become a liability.

However, the Demon Squad had maintained exceptionally good luck.

From their island landing until now, they hadn't encountered any joint forces superhuman organizations.

This was largely because Zhang Yi had eliminated so many joint forces superhumans, drawing most of the attention.

But as they approached Mist Valley, their good fortune couldn't last forever.

Lu Huang walked through the toxic miasma, accompanied by his tall, curvaceous deputy captain Li Yue.

The other ten team members operated in dispersed formations, gathering intelligence in the surrounding area.

One team member stood on a tree branch, watching an energy detection device showing faint reactions.

"Captain, energy reactions detected southwest."

Upon receiving this intelligence, Lu Huang nodded coldly.

"Just as we anticipated. The closer we get to the Divine Source's location, the more numerous these accompanying creatures become."

Li Yue smiled and bent down, whispering close to his ear, "Captain, but moving forward also increases the likelihood of encountering danger!"

"Ah, I know."

Lu Huang's tone remained as detached as ever.

Though young, he wasn't foolish.

However, encountering such a rare opportunity to rapidly enhance his power—how could he possibly let it slip away?

Throughout their journey, they'd found source sprites twice.

The entire Demon Squad's strength had been upgraded.

His own superhuman ability index had now reached approximately 9500 points.

Of course, the ability index was a conceptual measurement requiring professional assessment.

But high-level superhumans could make rough estimates based on experience.

"If I can advance further, or even find those large source sprites they mentioned, might I approach Epsilon level?"

A glimmer of anticipation appeared in Lu Huang's eyes.

In this apocalypse, strength meant everything.

"If one day I obtain unparalleled power, even my monstrous form might gain universal acceptance!"

He thought to himself.



The team member who detected the energy fluctuations asked, "Shall we advance?"

Lu Huang responded immediately, "Don't rush! Everyone proceed according to plan, advancing toward the energy source in dispersed formation."

"Remain vigilant. The path ahead grows increasingly dangerous."

The communication channel echoed with the team's unified response, "Yes, Captain!"

Through the dense toxic miasma, streams of light scattered like meteors, racing toward the energy source.

Lu Huang turned to look at his deputy captain Li Yue.

"Li Yue, stay close behind me!"

His eyes matched his expression—icy cold, as if utterly disinterested in the entire world.

His beauty seemed unreal, almost mask-like.

Yet when speaking to Li Yue, he tried to inject some warmth into his voice.

"I can already sense danger approaching!"

He took a deep breath, "When I can no longer control my killing intent, you must stop me immediately. I fear my demonic state!"

Li Yue's face blossomed into an incredibly sweet smile, creating a stark contrast with Lu Huang's demeanor.

She smoothed her long hair, and due to their twenty-centimeter height difference, when she spoke to Lu Huang, he found himself directly facing her generous chest.

"Yes, Captain!"

Lu Huang watched for several seconds before silently turning his gaze toward the distance.

"Let's proceed!"

.....

Deep within the thick fog, a massive crater sank into the ground. Judging by the surrounding structures, this might have been a large underground parking lot.

At the crater's depths stood a silver-gray metal cage.

A fiery red little sprite was trapped inside the cage, looking up blankly at the sky.

Meanwhile, hidden in the shadows, a gigantic monster watched from afar.

Its head bore dozens of eyes, with green liquid dripping from its mouth that had already corroded through the stone pavement.

A breeze stirred.

Wind generated by rapidly moving prey.

Throughout the surrounding structures, countless imperceptibly fine, elongated white threads began to tremble in response.

Chapter 1018: Iga

The Demon Squad members quickly approached the area based on the detected energy reaction.

The thick toxic miasma was one of the greatest dangers here.

It wasn't entirely because its toxins were deadly, but more because it rendered most reconnaissance equipment ineffective.

Therefore, they couldn't assess the situation here from a distance.

However, among the Demon Squad members, there were naturally skilled reconnaissance experts.

A superhuman descended from high altitude, his body drifting lightly like a kite.

He landed on all fours, his body suddenly swelling up, his belly expanding several times in size, and his throat becoming thick and broad.

"CROAK!!!"

He emitted a frog-like croak directed at the area ahead.

The sound rippled out in a fan shape, and everything it touched along the way would be fed back to his brain.

Although he couldn't see directly with his eyes, he could determine the basic situation ahead through the echoes.

The sound waves quickly swept through the area ahead.

He discovered the massive open-air pit and the source sprite inside emitting fiery energy.

The Frogman was overjoyed and immediately reported his findings to Lu Huang.

"Target spotted, confirmed to be a source sprite! However, only one has been found."

Lu Huang furrowed his brow. "Only one?"

Those things usually moved in groups, making a single sighting extremely rare.

Lu Huang thought for two seconds, then immediately ordered, "Be careful, it might be a trap!"

The Frogman laughed and said, "Don't worry, Captain. No enemy traces have been detected nearby. We're perfectly safe."

As his words fell, within the thick toxic miasma, wisps of nearly imperceptible white threads drifted quietly.

The next moment, the ground beneath the Frogman's feet cracked open with a thunderous roar!

White threads like steel cables shot up into the sky, tightly binding him!

The Frogman looked down in terror, seeing only a deep pit that had appeared beneath his feet.

And at the very bottom of the pit crouched a giant patterned spider.

All the white threads were webs it had spat out.

The dense spider webs had long covered every part of the pit, spanning an area of several hundred meters in radius!

This was a massive trap!

The Frogman's expression changed dramatically as he desperately tried to break free, but his entire body was tightly bound, making it impossible to tear through the spider webs tougher than steel reinforcement.  $\hat{A} \, \mathcal{N} \, \mathcal{Q} \, \mathcal{B} \, \mathcal{E} \, \mathcal{S}$

"Enemy attack!!"

Demon Squad members nearby saw this scene and immediately reported the enemy attack situation to Lu Huang while leaping forward to rescue him.

However, the moment they revealed themselves, deep within the thick fog, as if tearing through canvas, a group of figures wearing gray-brown combat suits emerged from the decaying forest.

Their combat suits were quite distinctive, completely enveloping their bodies while revealing only their eyes behind tactical goggles.

They uniformly carried two katana swords on their backs, dressed like ninjas.

They used camouflage techniques to blend perfectly with their surroundings.

And among the ninjas were those skilled in invisibility techniques, who had actually evaded the Frogman's detection.

The battle erupted instantly. Since both sides confirmed the other as mortal enemies, there was no unnecessary dialogue—only deadly combat!

Not every superhuman landing on the island targeted the Divine Source.

Superhumans without that level of strength thought about how to maximize their own benefits.

For example, these Neon Pirate superhumans set traps specifically waiting for Huaxu Kingdom superhumans to take the bait.

As long as they could claim the bounties on Huaxu Kingdom superhuman forces, it would still be an extremely rich reward!

Lu Huang realized immediately that they had fallen into an enemy trap.

At that moment, two nearby dead trees suddenly twisted strangely.

As if the trees had shed a layer of bark, two ninjas wielding katana swords jumped down.

Lu Huang's eyes turned terrifyingly cold. He opened his right hand, and a ferocious gash quickly split open across his palm.

Then a long white bone forcibly drilled out from within—it was clearly a great sword crafted from bone!



Facing the assault from these two, black energy currents erupted around Lu Huang. His figure flashed as he passed by the two ninjas.

"SPLAT!" "SPLAT!"

Blood gushed out like waterfalls. The two ninjas, along with their swords, were actually cleaved in half across their chests!

Massive amounts of blood mixed with shattered internal organs splattered onto the ground, strikingly similar to pig entrails flowing out when slaughtering pigs during New Year celebrations.

"They're Iga-ryu ninjas from the Neon Pirates."

A layer of bloodlust surfaced in Lu Huang's eyes as he spoke in an icy tone.

Deputy captain Li Yue hurried over. "Captain, how could you tell?"

Lu Huang said, "Iga-ryu ninjas only know how to communicate with katana swings."

Li Yue placed her finger before her face mask, blinking her cute big eyes. With her playful movement, her impressive bust involuntarily swayed.

"So that's how it is!"

The battle ignited without any extra words.

Just as Lu Huang killed the two ninjas, the leader of these guys revealed himself.

He was a tall superhuman wearing a white combat suit, standing two heads taller than the other ninjas, nearly two meters tall.

When he emerged from underground and struck suddenly, two Demon Squad members didn't detect him at all.

With just two flashes of white light, their heads flew high into the air.

This was the ninja way.

Their eyes saw only results, caring nothing about methods.

Even Tanaka Ryūseki, the Iga-ryu ninja leader who stood as one of the two major forces of the Neon Pirates, still preferred using ambushes to achieve results.

The moment he appeared, Lu Huang sensed his presence.

The strong always attract each other, especially with power that dominated the entire battlefield, making people instinctively clear space for them to fight.

At this level, lower-tier superhumans could hardly contribute much to their battles.

Lu Huang's cold face suddenly revealed a ferocious smile, so excited that the corners of his eyes nearly split open.

That was the demon's expression when encountering perfect prey!

"After holding back for so long, I've finally met a decent opponent! Interesting, truly interesting!"

Li Yue saw the killing intent in Lu Huang's eyes and quickly came over, gently holding him in her arms, comforting him with a smile like a caring mother:

"Captain, calm down."

Her body emitted a soft white light that enveloped Lu Huang, gradually calming the bloodlust in his eyes.

However, she couldn't quell the intense fighting spirit in Lu Huang's gaze!

After landing on the island, he had been eagerly wanting to achieve merits and kill enemies!

Especially after continuously receiving reports of Zhang Yi's battle achievements, he grew increasingly restless.

It was only due to Deputy Captain Li Yue's reminders that he hadn't actively sought out enemies.

But now, the enemies had delivered themselves to his doorstep.

So why hold back?

## Chapter 1019: The Eight-Forked Serpent

Tanaka Ryūseki gripped his dual blades, advancing step by step toward Lu Huang and Li Yue.

Beneath his mask, his gaze was icy and terrifying.

His pace wasn't particularly fast because he was carefully observing Lu Huang and Li Yue's appearances.

"Jiangnan Region, Demon Squad, captain [Taotie]. The woman beside him has no records, probably not captain-level."

Meanwhile, Lu Huang was also receiving notifications from the command center.

"Taotie, the person appearing before you is the leader of the Neon ninja organization [Yamata], [Yamata no Orochi] Tanaka Ryūseki."

Both of them had immediately obtained partial intelligence about their opponent from their respective command centers.

Both sides remained exceptionally cautious, neither rashly initiating an attack.

Only after confirming the other's codename, superhuman ability index, and abilities did they make basic judgments.

Tanaka Ryūseki, superhuman ability index 9500 points.

Lu Huang, superhuman ability index 9400 points. The two could be considered evenly matched opponents.

Except Lu Huang had an additional deputy, Li Yue, by his side.

Tanaka Ryūseki's gaze paused on Li Yue for less than a second.

In captain-level battles, the presence of a deputy captain might not necessarily provide a positive influence.

Generally speaking, only two situations were meaningful.

One, being able to complement the captain-level abilities.

Two, being a support-type superhuman who could enhance that captain-level individual.

And Li Yue clearly belonged to the latter category.

Lu Huang reached out and shielded her behind him.

Li Yue's gentle gaze also turned sharp.

She slowly raised both hands, two white beams like ribbons connecting to Lu Huang's body, gentle as a loving mother's embrace.

This was her protection ability [Love and Sincerity].

Tanaka Ryūseki raised his dual blades.

Lu Huang also lifted his great demon sword, pointing it directly at Tanaka Ryūseki.

Both were masters of close combat, exchanging no words as they instantly charged toward each other.

Among superhumans, the most brutal slaughters always occurred between close-combat types.

Because only they fought blade-to-blade, blood splattering everywhere, risking their lives with every strike.

If either side showed any opening, the other would instantly seize it, determining life or death.

In other words, close-quarters combat between superhumans usually resulted in at least one death, or sometimes mutual destruction.

Great sword against dual blades, both pushing their strength and speed to the limit. Every collision between blade and sword stirred up endless storms, blasting the surrounding toxic miasma kilometers away! řAŇ**ob**Ěš

Sparks flew westward, the clanging sounds of collision ringing incessantly.

Li Yue stood at a distance, continuously providing protection for Lu Huang.

Tanaka Ryūseki's blade technique was extremely refined, but Lu Huang's swordsmanship was equally sharp and ruthless.

The two met mid-air, landing separately in less than a second before charging up to clash again!

Every brief exchange involved hundreds of collisions between blade and sword!

Tanaka Ryūseki's gaze fell upon Li Yue.

"So you have a support-type superhuman providing protection? Then I'll kill your support first!"

He pulled out two crimson metal spheres from his person and threw them toward Lu Huang.

Lu Huang frowned deeply, neither blocking with his sword nor evading.



Because Li Yue was behind him—he couldn't dodge.

So he opened his mouth and let out a furious roar!

"HA!!!"

His expression suddenly became terrifyingly distorted, his skin seeming to contort strangely, with something eerie faintly visible beneath the surface.

The roar swept through the air, and the moment it passed over the two crimson metal spheres, they exploded.

"BOOM!" "BOOM!"

The metal spheres exploded directly, but instead of the expected blast, they released massive amounts of crimson smoke that began spreading around Lu Huang.

Tanaka Ryūseki gripped his dual blades, his figure slowly fading into the dust and smoke.

"Invisibility technique!"

He held his breath, making his presence fade, then stealthily attempted to bypass Lu Huang to kill Li Yue first!

But such tricks naturally couldn't escape Lu Huang's notice.

He and Li Yue were longtime teammates, and famously known lovers.

He understood better than anyone that in battle, Li Yue would be the enemy's priority target.

Tanaka Ryūseki stealthily passed by Lu Huang's side, rapidly approaching Li Yue.

"Success? This easily?"

Even Tanaka Ryūseki hadn't expected things to be so simple.

He felt a moment's hesitation, but since he'd found the opportunity to eliminate the opponent's support, there was no reason to hold back!

Tanaka Ryūseki swiftly swung his blade, cutting toward Li Yue's head!

"SWISH!"

The blade swept past rapidly. Li Yue's pupils contracted, the blade edge magnifying infinitely in her eyes.

"CLANG!"

Just as the blade was about to reach her head, a long sword suddenly appeared before Li Yue, blocking Tanaka Ryūseki's strike.

Tanaka Ryūseki froze momentarily.

He had imagined countless outcomes, including the possibility of Lu Huang blocking his attack.

Even then, he could have used Li Yue to restrain Lu Huang, making him fight with restrictions.

However, he hadn't expected this.

Because that blade didn't come from Lu Huang, but from the support before him—Li Yue herself!

Li Yue held the long sword, a strange white light flashing in her eyes.

"Do you think killing me would be that simple?"

When she spoke, two voices emerged—one hers, the other Lu Huang's.

"Two... captain-level individuals?"

Li Yue drew her sword and slashed. Tanaka Ryūseki quickly reacted, hastily blocking several strikes before rapidly retreating.

Lu Huang and Li Yue stood about ten meters apart, both holding weapons, their stances almost identical.

After careful observation, Tanaka Ryūseki finally vaguely grasped some aspects of their ability.

That woman named Li Yue didn't possess captain-level strength.

Because when she displayed powerful combat capability, Lu Huang's main body noticeably weakened somewhat.

"Can they borrow and transfer power between each other?"

Li Yue's ability [Love and Sincerity] was that of lovers.

Between lovers who adore each other and share intimate bonds, they can share everything with one another.

Including strength and superhuman abilities.

This was also why Li Yue, as a support, could openly appear on the battlefield.

Because at any time, she could borrow power from Lu Huang.

Even when Lu Huang lost combat capability, she could temporarily assume his role.

Tanaka Ryūseki murmured softly, "What an interesting ability! Such a wonderful woman, I wonder how you found her."

"However, it's time I showed some real skill!"

A dense white mist enveloped his body as he forcefully plunged his dual blades into the ground.

Moments later, accompanied by a tremendous roar, a massive, ferocious white monster appeared on the battlefield with a "BOOM!"

A snake demon covered in white barbs, with eight heads, roared furiously as it looked down upon all directions!

Chapter 1020: Great Winged Demon

Tanaka Ryūseki revealed his ability.

Beast-type ability user, Yamata no Orochi!

A giant monster standing over a hundred meters tall appeared before Lu Huang and Li Yue.

Lu Huang's gaze sharpened as he felt an astonishing pressure emanating from the monster before him.

"Haha, hahaha!"

He covered his face with one hand, actually laughing maniacally.

Overwhelming black demonic energy overflowed from his entire body, soaring into the sky like smoke signals.

Simultaneously, his body underwent visible changes.

His height rapidly grew from one meter sixty to over two meters tall in the blink of an eye!

His pale skin began to take on a dark coloration, his arms and claws elongated, especially his hands which had completely lost their human appearance, transforming into demonic talons!

That exquisite, porcelain doll-like pale face also developed crack-like patterns as if it might shatter at any moment, with large amounts of black energy leaking out from the cracks, coiling around his body.

"Whoosh!"

Two enormous demonic black wings pierced through his combat suit from his back, violently spreading open!

With a flap of his wings, Lu Huang directly soared into the air.

And because of the Love and Sincerity ability, Li Yue also shared the flight capability, growing two transparent wings on her back as she followed closely behind him.

Demon Squad captain, Taotie Lu Huang, special-type ability user.

Ability codename: Great Winged Heavenly Demon.

The probing phase had ended, both Tanaka Ryūseki and Lu Huang had unleashed their true power.

In Lu Huang's right hand, the Great Demon Sword forged from white bone also seemed to come alive, stained with a pitch-black color.

"Thump thump~"

Black flesh wrapped around the sword blade, and a ferocious vertical pupil appeared at the hilt, its eyeball constantly rotating.

"Kill!!!"

Yamata no Orochi's eight heads erupted with violent roars, then the heads merely pulled back before violently charging toward the Great Winged Heavenly Demon in midair! *raNoBES*

The eight heads were covered with sharp white barbs, like eight long swords.



Lu Huang gripped the Great Demon Sword and shot upward, directly confronting Yamata no Orochi's eight heads!

The collision of power was incredibly brutal.

He gripped the massive demonic blade with both hands, fiercely slashing at every head that assaulted him.

As the sword edge swept through, scales fell from the serpent heads.

However, his opponent had eight heads total, each moving with lightning speed!

From a distance, it looked like a giant pile driver continuously hammering at that tiny figure in midair.

Lu Huang's eyes showed no fear; instead, they glowed crimson as he grew more ferocious with each battle.

Yet in this contest of strength, he was still at a severe disadvantage.

He only had two hands and one sword, while his opponent had eight heads!

"Slice!"

He desperately cleaved through one serpent head's neck, blood gushing out like a waterfall from midair!

Two other heads from left and right immediately closed in to attack.

With a flap of his heavenly demon wings, he swiftly dodged their assaults.

But from above and below, more serpent heads attacked.

Tanaka Ryūseki's superhuman ability index was originally higher than Lu Huang's, and even with Li Yue's enhancement, he couldn't gain an advantage in combat.

When both were close-combat superhumans, even the slightest disadvantage would be infinitely amplified.

"Boom!" "Boom!" "Boom!"

Once Lu Huang was struck hard by one head, it was followed by continuous attacks from other heads without a moment's pause!

Lu Huang was violently thrown backward, crashing toward the ground like a cannonball.

Li Yue followed closely behind, her eyes blazing with white light.

Love and Sincerity—love meant devotion, giving everything to heal the wounds of the one she loved.

Though Lu Huang was deeply embedded in the ground, his injuries were rapidly healed by Li Yue.

But Tanaka Ryūseki wouldn't give him any chance to catch his breath.

The eight heads aimed at Lu Huang and Li Yue like pile drivers, then with a simple backward pull, they madly plunged downward!

Lying in the deep crater, Lu Huang saw this and raised his right hand.

The crimson in his pupils intensified, his originally normal pupils actually twisting into terrifying vertical pupils.

A black and red glow rapidly condensed in his palm, finally forming a sphere the size of his palm.

"Demonic Cannon!"

This power violently erupted from his palm, shooting toward Yamata no Orochi's body in the air!

There might be eight heads, but there was only one body.

Caught off guard, Yamata no Orochi took this attack head-on, immediately forced backward some distance.

Black smoke coiled around his chest, yet after the dust cleared, no wound could be seen.

Only the scales there were slightly deformed.

Beast-type ability users of divine beast species would obtain the purest and most powerful abilities.

Lu Huang shot up from the ground, with Li Yue closely following behind him.

"In close combat, we're at too much of a disadvantage. With that kind of body, even if we land a strike, it might not be fatal. Moreover, we don't know which head is his true body," Li Yue reminded Lu Huang.

Lu Huang stared coldly at the giant monstrous serpent. "If we can't find it, then we'll just cut off all eight heads, won't that solve it?"

Hearing these words, Yamata no Orochi just sneered, "Arrogant brat, I'll bite you to death right now!"

After slightly adjusting his posture, he charged forward again!

His attack method was extremely simple, without any flashy techniques.

He simply used his pure, overwhelming power and massive size to crush his opponent!

And Lu Huang's combat style was equally straightforward—direct confrontation!

Gripping the Great Demon Sword, he soared upward.

Though fighting madly, he hadn't lost his rationality, continuously observing Yamata no Orochi's weaknesses.

Among the eight heads, one must be the main body.

But every head looked identical—how should he find it?

"If all else fails, we'll let the dice decide!"

In the heat of battle, there wasn't much time for thinking.

Lu Huang chose the most reliable approach—gambling.

With eight heads, he'd leave it to luck, attacking them one by one.

If his luck was good enough, he might kill his opponent in one try!

"Hah!!!"

Yamata no Orochi charged again, all eight heads launching frenzied attacks at Lu Huang.

Lu Huang raised his left hand, "Continuous Demonic Cannon!"

The black and red condensed demonic cannons blasted toward Yamata no Orochi's heads!

This time, hundreds of demonic cannon shots flew from his palm.

All eight heads came under attack.

This scattered energy assault couldn't cause significant damage, but it effectively delayed Yamata no Orochi's offensive.

Then, gripping the Great Demon Sword, Lu Huang selected the third head from the left and charged forward with a powerful wing flap!