

Ice Age 1031

Chapter 1031: Hunting the Giant Totoro

After traveling some distance from Mist Valley, Zhuque finally managed to contact the command center.

She immediately reported the recent battle situation and the news of Baihu's death.

The command center fell into another long silence.

Everyone felt deeply heavy-hearted about Baihu's death.

The Four Spirits Fleet represented the highest-tier combat force of the East Sea Region!

Baihu's death was undoubtedly a massive loss.

However, they also knew that casualties were unavoidable.

Currently, both sides had reasons they absolutely could not afford to lose this battle!

Only by obtaining the Divine Source could all their losses be compensated.

Otherwise, it would result in an unimaginably devastating defeat.

First, they would have to face the enormous losses within their own superhuman teams.

Second, they would have to watch helplessly as the opposing side gained an additional Epsilon-level powerhouse.

With one side weakening while the other strengthened, the combined losses would be unimaginable.

Situ Xin stood slightly behind and to the side of Li Tianyang. At times like this, his best course of action was to say nothing at all.

Moreover, he had to do his best to display a sorrowful expression on his face.

Because even the slightest hint of relief would be interpreted as deliberate mockery.

There was no other way.

Originally, everyone from the East Sea Region thought the Jiangnan Region only qualified to provide auxiliary support during this operation.

After all, judging by their strength, they were indeed significantly inferior to the East Sea Region.

But who could have imagined that the lone wolf everyone initially looked down upon, the one without any military honor or collective spirit known as Chaos, would deliver such a resounding slap to everyone's faces!

The achievements he accomplished alone surpassed those of the entire East Sea Region's superhuman team.

In contrast, the East Sea Region hadn't achieved any particularly remarkable results so far.

Instead, they had successively lost three captains, including even Baihu with his superhuman ability index of 9600 points.

Li Tianyang struggled to open his chapped lips. Recently, his urine had turned dark yellow, clearly indicating he was under significant stress.

In a hoarse voice, he said, "On the battlefield, situations change in the blink of an eye, and casualties are inevitable. But currently, the overall situation still remains within our control."

As he spoke, he turned to look at Situ Xin.

"Minister Situ, can you contact Chaos?"

Situ Xin rubbed his nose, thinking to himself: I've been so quiet, yet you still haven't forgotten about me!

"Chaos proactively disconnected from the command center. He's always been very independent in his actions, and I can't command him."

Li Tianyang's right hand, hidden behind his back, gripped his left arm tightly.

His breathing became heavy as he spoke word by word, "But now, the peripheral superhumans have either died or withdrawn. Shouldn't he be heading to Mist Valley by now!"

What Li Tianyang most wanted now was for Zhang Yi to appear quickly and engage in a decisive battle with that damnable Billy the Kid!

As long as Zhang Yi could tie down Billy the Kid, even if Zhang Yi died in battle, it would at least severely injure Billy the Kid.

This way, their East Sea Region's final and most important seed on Star Island, Qinglong, would have a tremendous opportunity to obtain the Divine Source!

Situ Xin responded vaguely, "Mhm, well, this issue you mentioned isn't about what I should or shouldn't do. Nor is it about Zhang Yi necessarily having to act a certain way. So, this matter still requires us to discuss it slowly and properly, and come up with a specific plan."

Situ Xin wasn't going to fall into Li Tianyang's trap.

Right now, he absolutely adored Zhang Yi in his heart.

In his view, obtaining the Divine Source wasn't even the most important thing anymore.

The most crucial thing was that Zhang Yi must survive!

If Zhang Yi survived, within at most a year, the Jiangnan Region would gain an Epsilon-level powerhouse!

He had made up his mind; after returning this time, even if it meant being scolded by Zhu Zheng, he would propose that the Jiangnan Region utilize its resources to fully cultivate and develop Zhang Yi!

This battle had made him realize more clearly than ever the importance of a top-tier superhuman in large-scale warfare after the apocalypse.

...

Zhuque, disheartened and disillusioned, decided to withdraw from the Star Island battlefield and no longer participate in the struggle for the Divine Source.

Stumbling along unsteadily, she left Mist Valley and headed in the direction where Xuanwu was located.

...

Karadayan City.

This was an area far from Mist Valley, currently in a period of ceasefire.

Because all the truly top-tier experts had already gathered near Mist Valley.

Zhang Yi, Dragon King, Qinglong, and Yasin Canero.

In a spiral valley frozen into moon-white ice sculptures, over a dozen elegant and beautiful figures stood on terraced ice layers, cautiously observing their surroundings.

This was precisely the Jiangnan Region's Rose Squad.

A cute female team member with long hair crouched on the ground. In front of her stood an adorable moon-white little sprite.

Judging by height, if it jumped up, it could just about kick her knees.

But it didn't jump up to kick her knees. Instead, it looked curious, blinking its large eyes as it stared at the girl before it.

The girl smiled sweetly, her cherry lips slightly parted as she communicated with the little sprite using sound waves at frequencies inaudible to humans.

After a while, she turned her head and said to the dashing Rose Squad captain with ice-blue long hair, Linghu Feixue:

"Captain, it says the big guy is nearby."

Linghu Feixue's beautiful eyebrows immediately perked up excitedly.

"Oh, really? Have we finally found it?"

Some people came to the island for the Divine Source.

Others came for different things.

What was rare, however, was having clear objectives and knowing exactly what one could achieve.

From the very moment she set foot on the island, Linghu Feixue had been acutely aware that the Divine Source had nothing to do with her.

She clearly understood the caliber of the top experts from both major factions.

Given her squad's current strength, they simply weren't qualified to compete with those powerful individuals.

But while losing in the east, one might gain in the west. As long as one remained patient and observant, unexpected gains could always be found.

For example, source sprites.

Within Rose Squad, there was a female member named Gu Yufei.

Her ability wasn't particularly strong in combat, but it could play an extremely crucial role in certain situations.

Arioso.

The ability to communicate with all living beings.

She could naturally communicate with various creatures.

Including these cute little things.

So ever since landing on the island, while others were busy hunting superhumans or searching for the Divine Source,

only Rose Squad had been tirelessly searching for source sprites.

Although these things couldn't help someone achieve a breakthrough, they could provide effects superior to superhuman origin energy, enhancing a superhuman's power.

Thanks to Gu Yufei's ability, they had already found over a dozen source sprites on the island.

Linghu Feixue's ability had consequently increased to a value of 9400 points.

However, the further one progressed, the slower this enhancement became.

Therefore, Linghu Feixue began setting her sights on a special existence mentioned in intelligence reports.

That being known as the giant source sprite, the one that closely resembled Totoro.

She believed it must be a higher-level source sprite, perhaps possessing functions similar to the Divine Source.

If she could obtain it, it would undoubtedly grant her a massive boost in power!

Chapter 1032: Berserker

Linghu Feixue immediately walked over upon hearing news about Totoro.

"Where is it?"

Gu Yufei tilted her head and continued communicating with the small moon-white source sprite.

After the source sprite babbled for a while, Gu Yufei said:

"It says that big guy isn't always with them. Most of the time, it appears anywhere."

"But it really likes source sprites and often appears near them, absorbing energy from them. Once it's satisfied, it leaves."

Linghu Feixue raised her eyebrows slightly and said with some surprise: "The big guy absorbs energy from the little ones? Could they be different species?"

Very few people truly understood the symbiotic creatures of the Divine Source.

Because that thing had only appeared after the apocalypse.

Currently, the only known region that had obtained the Divine Source was the Shengjing Region.

"Nowadays, we've encountered many types of source sprites. That must be a special existence!"

"Anyway, let's capture it first! Then we can study what it really is."

Linghu Feixue waved her hand at Gu Yufei.

Gu Yufei's eyes showed some helplessness, but she still reached out and grabbed the source sprite.

Although the little creature was a sprite formed from high-purity energy, it had no resistance ability and was eventually stuffed by Gu Yufei into a metal canister.

Linghu Feixue looked at the huge spiral-shaped pit before her and said:

"Capture all the source sprites here! Then use them as bait to attract the big guy over."

"Too much time has passed, and this island is becoming increasingly dangerous. We'll stop after finishing this job."

Linghu Feixue seemed to also sense that the atmosphere on the island wasn't quite right.

She knew that once the competition for the Divine Source truly began, all previous agreements between both sides might be torn up.

Even Epsilon-level superhumans might personally enter the fray.

By then, the entire island would become a massive battleground.

If people like them stayed behind, they wouldn't even qualify as cannon fodder - their ashes would be too fine.

"Yes!"

The female team members responded crisply, each taking out their equipment.

Gu Yufei placed her hands on her chest, her cherry lips slightly parted as she emitted singing inaudible to human ears.

Soon, one little sprite after another crawled out from the white spiral.

The team members immediately pounced, capturing them all in metal canisters.

Then another group of team members took out various tools and set up traps within the white spiral, waiting for the giant source sprite to appear.

To lure Totoro over, Rose Squad adopted a relatively aggressive approach.

After determining that there were basically no superhuman activities in areas far from Mist Valley, they used high-power signal transmitters to simulate the source sprites' energy signals and broadcast them to the surroundings. ~~ranō B ẽ~~

Then all team members ambushed around the white spiral, waiting for their prey to take the bait.

Less than half a day passed.

The investigation team members' detection equipment registered a response.

"The prey has taken the bait!"

Excitement flashed in Linghu Feixue's eyes as her right hand immediately rested on the sword at her waist.

In the distance, the toxic miasma churned as something huge rapidly approached from afar.

Just as they thought it was Totoro attracted by the source sprite signals, suddenly a massive and ferocious monster leaped dozens of meters high from the toxic miasma, then slammed violently into the deep pit where the white spiral was located!

Everyone looked up at the huge figure.

However, it wasn't the giant source sprite mentioned in the intelligence.

Instead, it was a huge humanoid monster over three meters tall, clad head to toe in black-gold armor!

"This is..."

All members of Rose Squad were stunned.

They hadn't expected such a thing to suddenly appear.

But in the blink of an eye, the huge humanoid monster had already landed deep within the white spiral like a cannonball.

"BOOM!!"

The entire white spiral was directly shattered, with earth and stones flying up like a reverse waterfall!

The strange man stood in the ruins, opening his huge palm to find only a signal transmitter.

"A human trap?"

The strange man emitted an angry voice.

Clearly, he had also been attracted by the amplified source sprite signals.

But he never expected to fall for someone else's trick!

By this time, Linghu Feixue had already communicated the intelligence here to the command center.

After receiving the message, the command center immediately began analyzing the on-site footage.

The conclusions reached by the intelligence personnel made Li Tianyang, Situ Xin, and others fall into silence.

"Moon Palace, what you've encountered is a member of Hell's Lock, Berserker Bàsǎkǎ."

Their silence was because they clearly understood Rose Squad's capabilities.

If they encountered members of Hell's Lock, the probability of complete annihilation was extremely high!

"Retreat, retreat immediately! Moon Palace, he's not an opponent you can handle!"

Li Tianyang issued the warning immediately.

Berserker was a special existence among Hell's Lock members.

He had obtained perfect enhancement through human experimentation, being an enhancement-type superhuman with optimal attribute points.

His enhanced physique could directly withstand battleship main cannons!

His only flaw was that once he activated killing mode, he would lose all rationality.

Linghu Feixue's pupils contracted sharply.

She never imagined she could encounter a member of Hell's Lock in such a place!

Unsurprisingly, the other party had been attracted by their methods for luring Totoro.

But now, how should they deal with this terrifying guy before them?

Escape?

Linghu Feixue immediately abandoned this thought.

Even if she could escape, she still had so many subordinates who would definitely die here.

Better to take advantage of their terrain advantage and fight him once!

"Activate the traps!"

Linghu Feixue directly gave the order to her team members.

"Received!"

From various directions, team members pressed the activation devices on their arms.

The traps set up to capture Totoro were officially activated.

Capture devices had been installed in all directions around the white spiral.

Blue energy fibers shot out from the metal boxes, forming a huge energy net that crisscrossed as it shot toward the angry Bāsǎkǎ.

Moments later, Bāsǎkǎ, who was still furious about being tricked, was completely covered by the giant blue net.

He looked down at the net on his body, his eyes gradually turning crimson as he roared furiously at the sky.

"AH!!!!!"

His arms directly grabbed the net on his body, his muscles swelling up like balloons.

Then he suddenly exerted force, using raw physical strength to confront the high-tech product.

The blue energy net was woven from high-purity energy, containing energy exceeding 100,000 volts of high-voltage electricity, capable of easily cutting a building in half!

But Bàsǎkǎ actually used his bare hands to directly twist and deform the net, forcibly tearing open a gap!

"How is this possible!"

One team member's eyes bulged wide, "He... is he a monster?"

Chapter 1033: Powerful Physical Body

Linghu Feixue was the first to react.

They had to launch their attack immediately while Berserker was still entangled by the energy net.

Otherwise, once this monster driven solely by killing desire broke free, even if everyone here combined their strength, their chances of victory wouldn't likely exceed thirty percent!

"All units, attack!"

Linghu Feixue drew her longsword and raised it diagonally upward.

Hearing their captain's voice, the team members finally snapped out of their daze.

Instantly, various weapons began raining down on Berserker deep within the white spiral!

"How did I end up here, encountering a bunch of insects like you? Damn it, this is completely wasting my time!"

Berserker roared in pain, his furious bellow growing increasingly violent.

He exerted tremendous force, directly tearing the massive energy net to shreds.

By this time, Linghu Feixue had already completed plating for all team members.

"The opponent is a reinforcement-type superhuman, skilled in close combat, so maintain distance!"

She herself leaped high into the air, sword at the ready, flying straight toward Berserker!

"Midsummer Night's Dream!"

Her cherry lips parted slightly as she exhaled a sky full of rainbow-colored bubbles that instantly enveloped the entire white spiral.

Each colorful bubble was a high-purity bomb transformed from superhuman energy.

"Explode!"

The rainbow-colored bombs exploded like fireworks across the sky, completely engulfing Berserker.

Soon, Berserker's combat suit became riddled with holes.

However, this revealed his dark, robust, and even somewhat exaggerated muscles.

His muscles gleamed like forged black gold, shimmering with an eerie light in the faint sunlight.

Linghu Feixue had already used the rainbow bubble cover to position herself above him.

A pure, bright full moon slowly emerged behind her back, making her appear like a fairy under the moonlight, though more like a beautiful and heroic female general. §

Linghu Feixue's longsword traced an elegant arc through the air.

Moonwheel Slash!

From that full moon burst forth light like ice and snow.

Then one after another, brilliant white moonlight arcs descended from the sky like crescent moons, falling like blades, like battle axes aimed at Berserker within the white spiral.

By now, Berserker was thoroughly enraged.

He drew a bloodstained silver armored battle axe, roaring as he glared at the sky.

One moonwheel slash after another fell before him, but he simply swung his battle axe, without any fancy techniques, directly smashing them to pieces through sheer force!

Energy explosions filled the entire white spiral.

The combined attacks of the entire Rose Squad converged on him alone.

Berserker couldn't block all the attacks, so some inevitably struck his body.

Before long, shallow wounds actually began appearing on his physique.

But the flowing blood only made him more excited.

"Heh, woman!"

Those insignificant wounds vanished in an instant, regenerating at visible speed.

Berserker Garrett Brent, ability codename Viking War Spirit.

A top-tier reinforcement-type superhuman with a superhuman ability index of 9500 points.

He possessed almost every perfect ability of reinforcement-type superhumans.

Such as Hyper-Speed Regeneration.

Berserker gripped his battle axe, staring at the woman floating among the rainbow bubbles.

He let out a chilling mad laugh, bending his legs as his powerful thigh muscles coiled like two thick steel cables twisted together.

"Boom!"

His legs powerfully stomped the ground, launching him skyward like a cannonball straight toward Linghu Feixue!

His speed was so fast it was simply breathtaking!

Linghu Feixue didn't hesitate at all, opening her mouth to release a sky full of rainbow bubbles that obscured Berserker's vision.

Meanwhile, she quickly flew away to another location.

She wasn't foolish enough to engage in close combat with a reinforcement-type superhuman.

Berserker's missed attack immediately drew encirclement from all Rose Squad members.

"Damn insects!"

The wounds on his body multiplied, though not fatal, making him look quite disheveled.

But as he sustained more injuries, his skin color gradually shifted from black to red.

A more frenzied aura emerged from within his body, and his eyes became clouded by intense killing intent.

He looked up at Linghu Feixue in the air, pulling back his right arm like a discus thrower before violently hurling his battle axe!

Linghu Feixue prepared to dodge.

But when the axe came flying, she realized her reaction speed couldn't possibly evade this attack!

The gap in speed and power was too great—her eyes couldn't even track the axe's trajectory.

In haste, she could only reinforce herself with seven layers of plating for protection!

"Pop!" "Pop!" "Pop!" "Pop!"

The resilient superenergy plating burst like balloons one after another.

Linghu Feixue blocked with her longsword, and as the seventh layer shattered, she finally managed to block Berserker's thrown axe.

However, the tremendous force transmitted through her arms left them completely numb, with excruciating pain tearing through her tiger's mouth.

Without looking, she knew her sword hand was already drenched in blood!

This was the terror of reinforcement-type superhumans.

In close combat, almost no other type of superhuman could match them!

Linghu Feixue was sent flying hundreds of meters before stabilizing, nearly knocked out of the sky by a single blow!

The mechanical flying axe was equipped with an automatic recall device.

Berserker raised his hand, and it quickly returned to his grasp.

Linghu Feixue's heart trembled violently.

Even the lowest-ranking member of Hell's Lock possessed such fearsome combat power?

Was this the foundation of the world's number one military power?

Seeing Linghu Feixue unable to withstand Berserker's attacks, her vice-captain Kanyue couldn't stand by any longer.

She drew a massive war blade and charged straight at Berserker!

"Captain, I'll help you!"

Seeing Kanye join the fight, Linghu Feixue felt sudden anxiety—she had already experienced Berserker's power and knew Kanye was no match for him.

But at this moment, the only one who could help her contain Berserker head-on was Kanye, being a reinforcement-type superhuman herself.

"Alright!"

Linghu Feixue stopped hesitating, positioning herself before and after Kanye as they launched a coordinated assault on Berserker!

Berserker gripped his Viking battle axe, laughing crookedly when he saw two women daring to attack him.

"Roar!!"

He let out an exhilarated roar, swinging his axe first at Kanye who was charging at him!

No fancy techniques—the berserker's fighting style could be summed up in two words: brutality!

The massive battle axe came crashing down, moving so fast it created sonic booms in the air!

Kanye raised her giant war blade, meeting the attack head-on!

"Clang!"

The sound of metal clashing rang out—the war blade was forged from Adamantine Metal, making it exceptionally durable.

So Berserker couldn't break it.

But Kanye's arm shattered completely under that single blow!

The war blade flew from her grasp, her arm pulverized, both hands twisted out of shape.

Berserker's power exceeded her expectations.

Facing a member of Hell's Lock for the first time, she finally understood why the entire East Sea Region regarded this name with such profound fear.

Chapter 1034: Attribute Counter

Kanye had initially believed that as a reinforcement-type superhuman with an 8,000-point superhuman ability index, even if she couldn't defeat Berserker, she could at least hold him off head-on for several dozen seconds.

She never expected that he would completely incapacitate her with just one swing of his axe.

If Linghu Feixue hadn't attacked Berserker from behind at the critical moment, distracting his attention, the next axe swing would have split her cleanly in half from head to toe!

Linghu Feixue immediately applied another layer of Plating to Kanye and sent her flying into the air.

But this action left Linghu Feixue herself trapped in a desperate battle.

Getting close to Berserker was easy, but creating distance again proved incredibly difficult!

Berserker's attacks held no fancy techniques—just pure, raw brute force!

The more injured he became, the more excited he grew, and the stronger his attacks became, as if he never knew fatigue.

After just three exchanges with him, Linghu Feixue was violently sent flying, with multiple fractures in her arms.

The members of Rose Squad grew anxious and rushed to support her, but they only dared to attack from a distance.

They tried to disrupt Berserker's vision with smoke grenades as much as possible.

While this couldn't harm Berserker, it was enough to enrage him.

"Damn pests! I was planning to kill you all slowly later. Now, just die!"

He turned around and hurled his axe upstream; two beautiful female squad members didn't even have time to make a sound before their heads were chopped off.

"Everyone... retreat now!!"

Linghu Feixue shouted with all her might.

She had already realized the gap in strength between them.

So it was true—even after barely enhancing her superhuman abilities using the source sprites, the immense gap in innate talent couldn't be bridged by mere numerical values alone?

A bitter taste filled Linghu Feixue's heart.

If she hadn't been so greedy, so insistent on obtaining that giant source sprite, she wouldn't have attracted this terrifying monster.

Now, it seemed the entire Rose Squad might be wiped out by his hands.

The apocalypse was a merciless world; without sufficient strength, one didn't even have the right to breathe.

She had already decided to inject herself with Compound-5 and fight Berserker to the death.

Even if she couldn't survive, she would strive to create an escape route for her squad members.

Just then, a cold, clear voice reached her ears.

"Why are you still here instead of leaving?"

Berserker raised his battle axe high, his face twisted with fury as he prepared to slaughter the remaining squad members.

Suddenly, from deep within the distant toxic miasma, a vast expanse of ice-blue light spread forth.

In an instant, it froze him solid in place.

Berserker's body jolted violently; he felt as if a massive hole had been torn open within him, causing his strength to drain away.

He explosively released his superhuman energy, dispersing this uncomfortable sensation.

From within the toxic miasma emerged a woman dressed in a dark red combat suit.

Her body was enveloped in ice-blue flames, with streams of fire emanating from her feet, restraining Berserker's movements.

When Linghu Feixue saw her, a surge of excitement welled up inside.

She recognized that woman—one of the East Sea Region's Four Spirits, Zhuque.

Linghu Feixue felt some confusion—why would a powerful member of the Four Spirits appear here, so far from Mist Valley?

Shouldn't someone of her caliber be competing for the Divine Source?

But setting aside these thoughts, her presence here was the best news possible.

When Berserker saw Zhuque, the killing intent in his eyes intensified; he knew he had encountered a much stronger opponent.

However, a berserker knew no fear!

"Zhuque! It doesn't matter how many of you come—I'll kill you all!!!"

He let out a terrifying roar.

Zhuque had already received intelligence from the command center and knew exactly who stood before her.

A cold smile touched the corners of her lips.

Hell's Lock.

After the events on Star Island, the hatred between them had grown even deeper.

Without uttering a single word, she simply extended her right hand and clenched it tightly!

Surging Ice Flame erupted from her body like a tsunami, sweeping toward Berserker!

Berserker roared furiously; the power of Viking War Spirit made his blood boil as he stomped the ground and leaped toward Zhuque!

Boom!!

The Ice Flame tidal wave engulfed Berserker mid-air.

He swung his battle axe, trying to cleave through the fiery waves, but no matter how fast he moved, he couldn't stop the pervasive Ice Flame.

Soon, his skin became coated with the blue Ice Flame.

This Ice Flame, as the antithesis of fire, devoured the energy of all matter as it burned.

Including human bodies.

In a sense, Zhuque was like Zhang Yi—the bane of close-combat superhumans!

No, she was even more effective against close-combat types than Zhang Yi!

Because while Zhang Yi leaned toward passive defense, Zhuque's Ice Flame could actively launch fierce assaults!

With just a single touch, the power within Berserker began draining rapidly.

He roared with unwilling rage, burning his Viking War Spirit, and after landing, raised his axe to strike at Zhuque!

Zhuque swung a fiery whip with her left hand, forming an impenetrable defense around herself.

Using softness to overcome hardness, she redirected the force of Berserker's axe, which sank deep into the earth.

The bloodlust in his pupils quickly cleared.

"No!!"

He could feel his burning fervor cooling down.

The power within his body was being constantly devoured by the icy flames clinging to him like maggots feeding on bones!

A berserker who relied on strength—if he lost that power, nothing would remain.

He swung his axe in desperation, but couldn't dispel the ice-blue flames covering him.

After absorbing his power, these flames only grew stronger.

Ice Prison Zhuque—once entangled by this power, the outcome was nearly inevitable.

So from the moment he recklessly charged forward, this battle had ended without any suspense.

As Zhuque watched Berserker struggling painfully within the Ice Flame, she thought of Baihu, who had died fighting for her, and the killing intent in her eyes grew even heavier!

Her right hand gushed with even more violent flames, forming a massive firestorm hundreds of meters high upon the earth, trapping Berserker within and mercilessly plundering his vitality!

This scene left Linghu Feixue and the Rose Squad members trembling with fear.

"Is this... the power of those who truly possess innate talent?"

That bitter feeling surfaced once again in Linghu Feixue's heart.

The last time she had felt this so strongly was when she encountered Zhang Yi.

Chapter 1035: The Cat Playing the Flute

Berserker was completely enveloped by Zhuque's Ice Flame. That extreme cold flame, capable of devouring all energy, rapidly drained every last bit of his energy.

The Rose Squad watched this scene in complete silence, unable to imagine such a combat method even existed.

A superhuman with a 9500-point superhuman ability index had actually been so easily crushed and killed!

Berserker's voice slowly faded away as he finally fell to the ground, transforming into a skeletal, emaciated body.

Zhuque did not kill him.

Even though she harbored overwhelming hatred toward Hell's Lock in her heart at this moment, she hadn't forgotten her duty as a soldier.

Capturing a member of Hell's Lock alive was far more valuable than killing him.

Zhuque walked over, immediately binding him tightly with the long whip in her hand, then injected him with Compound 3.

Finally, she shackled his arms in one smooth, continuous motion.

Linghu Feixue approached and sincerely thanked her: "Thank you, Captain Zhuque!"

Zhuque raised her head to glance at her, forcing out a faint smile.

"This place isn't suitable for you to stay any longer. It will only get more dangerous from here. You'd better leave with me."

Linghu Feixue nodded: "I was thinking the same thing."

The entire Rose Squad had nearly been wiped out by Berserker alone just moments ago!

She wasn't foolish enough to stubbornly remain here searching for source sprites.

So Linghu's squad gathered all members and had them set off immediately to leave this damned area.

However, just before departing, something occurred to her mind.

They had actually already gathered some intelligence about Totoro.

It would be such a pity to leave just like that.

After some contemplation, she made a decision.

She sent all the intelligence about Totoro to Zhang Yi.

At least they were all from the Jiangnan Region, and Zhang Yi had sufficient strength to continue staying in this battlefield.

If he could obtain that creature because of this, no matter what, he would owe her a favor.

...

Meanwhile, Zhang Yi was quietly waiting in the shadows for the Divine Source to appear.

During this process, however others fought had nothing to do with him; he would just silently watch the show.

At most, he would step in at critical moments to pluck the fruit or save some people's lives.

However, he was completely unaware of what was happening inside Mist Valley.

On this day, after a long time, his communication device received a message.

Zhang Yi was somewhat curious.

He had already blocked the command center's communication channel.

This meant that whoever could contact him now must be from the Jiangnan Region.

Who would contact him at this time?

When he opened the message, he discovered it was intelligence about that giant source sprite sent by his old friend Linghu Feixue.

After several days of investigation, they had basically figured out Totoro's movement patterns and tracks.

However, because they believed their own strength was insufficient and didn't want to continue risking staying on the island, they handed all the information to Zhang Yi.

"Giant source sprite? It really doesn't look like one!"

Zhang Yi stroked his chin, also very curious about that thing.

Based on the current intelligence, it displayed powerful combat capabilities that source sprites shouldn't possess, even rivaling high-level superhumans.

Zhang Yi even somewhat suspected it had evolved from some mutated creature on the island.

Yet, it definitely had some mysterious connection to the Divine Source.

Those source sprites were very affectionate toward it.

"Now that we have intelligence, why don't we go look for it, what do you think?"

Zhang Yi said to Hua Hua and Lele beside him.

As long as the area was pinpointed, searching for a clearly visible target wasn't difficult for him.

Anyway, he wasn't going to interfere with others' battles right now, so it was perfect to pass time with that thing.

He might even get an unexpected harvest.

Hua Hua shook the fur on its back and extended its claws to scratch the carpet beneath its feet.

"Meow—Are we going hunting again? Yay!"

When excited, the strength in its claws unconsciously increased, pulling out several tufts of fur from the thing beneath its feet.

Lele, underneath Hua Hua, grimaced in pain with a wronged expression.

Since joining Zhang Yi's group, aside from being Zhang Yi's search dog, it had basically become Hua Hua's mount.

Hua Hua would punch it randomly from time to time, and it didn't dare talk back.

Lele's internal monologue:

Hah, just live your lives, who could possibly outlive you two!

Your claws are so sharp, scratching on my back all day long, using me as a scratching post, aren't you?

How presumptuous!

What a miserable life for a dog!

Yes, I can't beat you, I'm inferior before you, but I've contributed plenty since coming to the island!

Terrible creature, you're truly terrible.

...

Even though filled with grievances, Lele could only bury its dog nose into the snow and sulk alone.

Zhang Yi and Jingwei watched from the side, secretly amused.

But they just found the minor conflicts between animals entertaining.

When real danger appeared, Hua Hua never hesitated to protect Lele.

Zhang Yi confirmed the location provided by Linghu Feixue—excellent, far from the central area of Mist Valley.

This meant there wouldn't be any powerful superhumans nearby.

Well, this thought actually aligned perfectly with Linghu Feixue's.

The difference was, for Zhang Yi, there were hardly any people on the entire island qualified to be called strong by him.

Even fewer could pose a life-threatening danger to him.

So he immediately decided to take one cat, one dog, and Jingwei to see what exactly that mysterious Totoro was.

If it really was an oversized source sprite, he could choose to absorb it himself, or appropriately keep it to bring back for his family members to use.

The mobility of a spatial superhuman was truly strong.

Once the decision was made, after brief preparations, they soon arrived nearby.

Lele lay on the ground, its big nose sniffing repeatedly, searching for the Divine Source's scent.

With Lele's help, it didn't take long for Zhang Yi to confirm Totoro's location.

It was in a deserted valley.

The only benefit brought by the toxic miasma's spread was preserving the basic forms of many trees.

The entire valley had turned deep green, filled with deathly stillness and swirling toxic miasma.

Zhang Yi deployed the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, isolating all traces of their presence.

He advanced slowly, faintly hearing a melodious and graceful musical tune drifting through the air.

"They say that big guy can play the flute? How fascinating."

Zhang Yi grew even more curious.

He stepped forward carefully, making sure not to be discovered.

After passing through layers of mist, he finally saw Totoro's true form.

Just as the intelligence described, it was exceptionally adorable, its body shape strikingly similar to the Totoro from animations.

However, its head more resembled a reindeer's, with impressively lush large antlers.

It sat dopedily on a withered tree, eyes closed, completely immersed in the world of music.

And because Zhang Yi had the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms concealing him, it hadn't detected Zhang Yi's presence.

Chapter 1036: The Souls Move Out

The scene before them was incredibly serene, making it hard to bear disturbing it.

Totoro's adorably dumb appearance even caused Jingwei, who usually preferred keeping a cold face, to show some expression softening.

Women generally had little resistance against such oversized cute creatures.

However, Zhang Yi didn't have time to appreciate this elegant melody.

He raised his hand and directly set up ten Dimensional Gates around Totoro.

Then he openly appeared right in front of it.

Upon seeing a human, Totoro immediately became alert, its facial expression gradually shifting from dumb cuteness to ferocity.

Zhang Yi didn't waste time with words either, directly drawing Holy Judgment and covering the area with one move of [Heavenly Net and Earthly Snare]!

Unexpectedly, although that Totoro appeared clumsy, its movement speed was actually incredibly fast.

As over a dozen slashes descended through the void, its speed created a series of afterimages.

Even Zhang Yi couldn't help feeling somewhat surprised.

This creature had a unique sensitivity to space, actually causing Zhang Yi's first strike to achieve limited effect.

Its speed far exceeded that of many high-level superhumans!

Zhang Yi continued attacking without hurry or delay.

The Dimensional Gates had already enveloped the space around it, forming a natural cage.

No matter how fast it dodged, Zhang Yi could continuously change the gate positions to pursue, intercept, and block it.

Then, it was time for the hunt!

Zhang Yi held White Owl in his left hand and Holy Judgment in his right, using the pistols for shooting while employing Void Slash to disrupt its movements.

"Hiss—"

The enraged Totoro opened its large mouth and let out a sharp hissing sound, a raging frost storm erupting from its body!

Yet this powerful force was completely absorbed by the Dimensional Gate in front of Zhang Yi.

Zhang Yi was very patient - he felt quite curious about this thing and wanted to study it slowly rather than hastily kill it.

After all, any creature trapped by his Dimensional Gates couldn't possibly escape - being captured alive was just a matter of time.

Totoro's expression turned extremely fierce as it continuously jumped and dodged, resembling an agile meatball.

However, it had to both evade ten invisible Dimensional Gates and deal with Zhang Yi's continuously launched attacks, quickly becoming quite disheveled.

"Whoosh!" "Whoosh!"

Caught off guard, two Sacred Silver bullets tore through its fur, actually causing blue blood to flow out!

"This thing is..."

Zhang Yi's eyes widened slightly.

"A living creature?"

Source sprites were merely energy entities and couldn't possibly have blood. After capture, they would transform into pure origin power for superhumans to absorb.

But this Totoro was clearly not a source sprite!

"There's definitely something fishy about this - what exactly is it?"

Zhang Yi grew increasingly curious about Totoro, further solidifying his determination to capture this creature alive.

The toxic miasma that had wiped out half a country due to the Divine Source's presence hadn't killed it.

Instead, it had gained power attuned to the Divine Source's companion entities.

This creature definitely possessed some special abilities.

Totoro nimbly leaped through the air, dodging the bullets Zhang Yi fired.

Just as it was about to land, a massive Dimensional Gate opened beneath its feet.

Totoro could sense the wind direction changing beneath it and understood there must be some danger there.

At the critical moment, it unleashed a powerful ice and snow storm toward the ground, forcibly propelling itself back into the sky.

But by now, Zhang Yi no longer intended to continue playing with it.

Six Dimensional Gates simultaneously appeared around it, forming a tightly sealed massive hexahedron.

"Void Coffin!"

Totoro had now completely entered Zhang Yi's domain, and no matter how much it resisted, it inevitably fell into Zhang Yi's Dimensional Space.

Totoro - capture complete.

Zhang Yi looked at the large creature in his Dimensional Space, not really wanting to kill it.

This thing was interesting, and crucially, quite cute. At his current level, Zhang Yi didn't have particularly strong demand for origin power of this caliber.

Therefore, killing it wasn't absolutely necessary.

And such rare creatures were extremely hard to come by.

So after brief consideration, he injected it with Compound 3 to suppress its superhuman abilities, then tossed it to Lele to carry.

Although Totoro was large in size, for Lele it was only equivalent to carrying a backpack.

"Master, let's just eat it!"

Hua Hua was already growing impatient.

Its eyes shone with blazing fire, its tongue constantly licking the corners of its mouth.

Since Totoro carried the aura of the Divine Source and its own power appeared quite strong,

for a fierce beast like Hua Hua, it represented massive nourishment.

"Let's keep it for now. This creature is quite interesting - I plan to take it back for research."

Zhang Yi said while stroking his chin.

He felt deeply curious about anything related to the Divine Source.

So far, nobody knew exactly what the Divine Source was or how it came into existence.

Zhang Yi was someone who liked to know not just what something was, but why it was that way.

He still wanted to gather more intelligence about this thing.

With Zhang Yi having spoken, Hua Hua could only scratch its claws and helplessly watch the juicy prize slip away.

After being suppressed by Zhang Yi's drugs, Totoro had completely become an oversized useless creature.

It could only lie sprawled on Lele's back, its tongue hanging from the corner of its mouth, presenting a completely helpless appearance.

Jingwei couldn't resist walking over and reaching out to stroke its furry back, her face suddenly flushing with a faint blush.

The corners of her mouth seemed to reveal a barely perceptible smile.

This didn't escape Zhang Yi's notice.

He thought to himself: It seems this woman isn't as cold as she appears on the surface!

"Alright, we should leave now. We just had a fight here, and although the commotion wasn't too big, we can't guarantee nobody noticed."

"Let's be careful and leave early. We'll wait for the Divine Source to appear before taking action."

After speaking, Zhang Yi prepared to leave with the others.

But what he didn't know was that the moment he took action, a hunter who had been searching for him sensed his presence from a great distance away.

In the thick fog, Soul Reaper, this massive white monster, slowly raised its head, the bloody killing intent in its eyes almost becoming tangible.

The moment it sensed Zhang Yi's presence, without any hesitation, it violently kicked off the ground with both legs and shot forward like a cannonball!

With just a simple charge, all buildings along its path were smashed through, ice, snow, and dust soaring into the sky, leaving a long trail behind it!

It wanted to kill Chaos, because that was the meaning of its existence.

To kill its target, it could pay any price.

No, for it, there was no concept of cost, because its own life was fundamentally meaningless.

Only killing had meaning.

Chapter 1037: Chase, Escape

Zhang Yi opened the Dimensional Gate and after several teleportations, suddenly felt a warning in his heart.

The instinct of Echo of Time allowed him to sense the arrival of danger.

"Whoosh—"

A powerful gust of wind suddenly swept in from the distance, instantly carving out a massive path through the city.

Everything in its path—trees, buildings—was violently smashed apart, bricks and tiles shattering like bean curd dregs.

"BOOM!!!"

Zhang Yi suddenly saw a huge white silhouette appear not far away.

It descended from the sky, stirring up a blizzard dozens of meters high!

A sense of crisis enveloped Zhang Yi, and he instinctively turned to look outside the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms.

He saw a white monster, its eyes filled with killing intent, staring fixedly at him.

Just that single glance gave Zhang Yi a terrifying feeling he hadn't experienced in a long time.

The last time he'd felt this way was when he encountered Cadillus in the East Sea.

"Epsilon-level!"

These two words immediately surfaced in Zhang Yi's mind.

The pursuer was none other than the Colombian Navy's failed experiment—Soul Reaper.

He stood precisely outside the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, not stepping even a single inch inside.

His astonishing insight was breathtaking.

Upon sensing Soul Reaper's aura, Jingwei, Hua Hua, and Lele all turned pale. Hua Hua's fur stood completely on end.

Lele was so frightened it started barking "Woof! Woof!" loudly. If Zhang Yi hadn't been nearby, it might have lost control of its bladder right then and there.

High-level battle, absolutely high-level!

What business did a Gamma-level Demon Dog like it have joining a fight of this caliber!

Lele looked at Zhang Yi with a terrified expression, its fear making it want to flee immediately.

No wonder everyone reacted this way.

Epsilon-level—the very concept of this rank was too terrifying for every superhuman.

The gap between 10,000 points and 9,999 points was like an insurmountable chasm!

One could say that after evolving to this level, they were essentially a different kind of creature altogether.

Seeing Zhang Yi inside the barrier, Soul Reaper opened his mouth, his jawbone stretching to an unimaginable angle.

A terrifying energy condensed and took shape within his mouth.

Zhang Yi's expression changed instantly. "Retreat, now!"

Jingwei immediately transformed into a shadow without hesitation, staying close to Zhang Yi.

Hua Hua, who had been resting nearby, also instantly shifted into combat form.

"BOOM!!!"

A purple beam shot from Soul Reaper's mouth, slamming violently against Zhang Yi's barrier!

That long-unfelt, dreadful power!

"Is this thing the joint forces' trump card? Damn it, I knew they would definitely deploy Epsilon-level forces!"

He had originally thought they would send out Cadillac when backed into a corner.

He never expected they had other Epsilon-level assets.

Fortunately, it was Zhang Yi who was here today.

Anyone else wouldn't have been able to block even Soul Reaper's casual attack at Delta-level.

The title of Absolute Defense wasn't entirely wrong, after all.

Relying on the formidable absorption capability of his Dimensional Gate, Zhang Yi temporarily blocked Soul Reaper's assault.

However, there was a chasm-like gap between Delta-level and Epsilon-level.

This was also one of the biggest differences between the two ranks—the level of superhuman energy.

Facing a failed Epsilon-level experiment like Soul Reaper, Zhang Yi could indeed block his temporary attacks.

But aside from defense, he couldn't accomplish anything else.

And the vast difference in superhuman energy between them meant that even if he consumed all his remaining Ability-Boosting Food, it would likely be difficult to bridge the gap.

In other words, as long as the fight continued, he would inevitably exhaust his origin energy and be crushed to death by Soul Reaper!

Thankfully—aside from his strong defensive capabilities, his escape skills were also top-notch.

If I can't beat you, at least I can outrun you!

"Time to bounce!"

Without another word, once everyone around him was prepared, Zhang Yi took a few steps back and directly opened a Dimensional Gate behind him.

The moment the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms dissolved, he vanished with Hua Hua and Lele, reappearing a kilometer away.

With the barrier gone, that purple superhuman energy beam devoured everything in its path, shooting straight through the massive city!

With just one strike, all buildings within seven or eight kilometers turned to dust!

Even from a great distance, one could feel the astonishing residual power of this attack.

On Star Island, superhumans who sensed this power all changed expressions.

The joint forces' superhumans were relatively calm, having received early warnings from General Huo En.

Therefore, upon detecting that powerful force, they immediately and without hesitation moved as far away as possible.

Soul Reaper didn't care who you were when he killed—any living thing that appeared in his sight would not be spared!

However, the Huaxu Kingdom's superhumans didn't know the truth of the matter.

Qinglong immediately contacted the command center: "An anomalous power source has been detected on Star Island, located northeast of Mist Valley's periphery. Suspected to be... Epsilon-level."

Not just him, other superhumans from both major regions who detected this energy fluctuation also reported to headquarters immediately.

Upon receiving these reports, Li Tianyang and others immediately took this information seriously.

"Epsilon-level? Could it be that Cadillus has made a move! How dare the Colombian Navy break the rules!"

Li Tianyang's face changed color.

If Cadillus had indeed taken action, the result would be mutual destruction.

No one would gain any advantage in that scenario.

But just then, Xuanwu suddenly frowned.

His gaze turned toward the distance as he said calmly, "No, it wasn't Cadillus who acted."

Far away, on the flagship of the Colombian Navy, Cadillus stood with arms crossed on the main gun of the ship, radiating his powerful pressure toward them.

Xuanwu could clearly sense that aura.

Xuanwu understood clearly that Cadillus was telling the people from both major regions that they hadn't broken the agreement.

"It wasn't Cadillus? How is that possible? Could they have another Epsilon-level superhuman?"

Li Tianyang said incredulously.

Situ Xin frowned as he walked over. "That's also impossible. If they truly possessed two Epsilon-level combatants, there would be no need for them to compete with us fairly."

"They could completely rely on military force to forcibly drive our troops away."

Li Tianyang frowned. "But then how do we explain that powerful superhuman energy reaction on the island?"

Situ Xin had a speculation in his heart.

He believed this matter might be related to Zhang Yi.

Could it be that Zhang Yi had advanced?

If that were the case, it would be tremendously good news for the Jiangnan Region.

Situ Xin directly said, "Let me contact Chaos! See if he has any information."

Chapter 1038: I Order

Situ Xin began communication contact with Zhang Yi.

A full five or six seconds passed before the connection was established.

"Hello, this is Chaos, over."

Zhang Yi's voice was clear yet hurried.

This was quite different from his usual calm and composed tone.

Situ Xin frowned, thinking to himself: So it really is related to you?

"Chaos, an unknown energy source suspected to be Epsilon-level has been detected on Star Island. Do you have any information about this?"

"Of course. That energy source you mentioned is currently hunting me!"

As Zhang Yi said this, he was fleeing with Hua Hua and the others.

After being targeted by Soul Reaper, they had no better option than to escape.

If it weren't Zhang Yi here today, but any other Delta-level superhuman, they would undoubtedly be dead.

Only Zhang Yi, possessing top-tier defensive capabilities and superhuman unlimited movement abilities, could barely evade his pursuit.

However, this didn't mean the situation could easily be resolved.

Zhang Yi could traverse a kilometer through space in one second, while Soul Reaper, relying purely on his formidable physical body, could move eight hundred meters in the same time!

But Soul Reaper could launch highly destructive energy cannons from the air, with a range of over ten kilometers!

Zhang Yi had to constantly change direction, moving in serpentine patterns to avoid being targeted by Soul Reaper.

He had already sensed that this thing's form was highly unstable.

It appeared completely devoid of reason, possessing only the purest will to kill.

Perhaps the only good news was that his power was far inferior to Cadillus and Xuanwu.

That was why Zhang Yi still had room to maneuver against him.

But this meant he would have no extra time or space to intervene in the battles of others on the island.

Not only could he no longer attack the joint forces members, but he couldn't even think about getting involved with the Divine Source!

This was not good news for Zhang Yi.

Because before this, he should have been the strongest contender for the Divine Source.

Actually, for the joint forces commanders, this was precisely the purpose of deploying Soul Reaper.

Of course, it would be best if they could kill Zhang Yi.

But even if Soul Reaper couldn't kill Zhang Yi, the worst-case scenario—completely removing Zhang Yi as a piece from the chessboard—was still an acceptable outcome for them. ㄟ(ゝ▽ゝ)ㄟ

When Situ Xin heard Zhang Yi's explanation, a chill ran down his spine.

Zhang Yi didn't have time to explain further and directly transmitted the battle footage to him.

When Situ Xin saw that massive white monster, a horrifying sensation made all the hairs on his body stand on end.

"This... this is a Colombian Navy human experiment product?"

After the apocalypse, every nation had been sparing no effort in developing superhuman abilities.

As for human experimentation, this had become a key area of competition among the various powers.

And Colombia possessed the world's most advanced genetic engineering systems, achieving significant breakthroughs in this field.

Cadillus was their most successful product.

No one expected something like Soul Reaper to exist.

Situ Xin asked anxiously, "Chaos, how are you holding up? Can you withstand this?"

Zhang Yi took a deep breath and executed a nimble turn, dodging an energy cannon blast from Soul Reaper.

After he dodged, the position where his body had just been was left with a narrow channel dozens of meters wide and over ten kilometers long!

Hua Hua and Lele had all their fur standing on end, especially Lele, who was already panting with his tongue out, scared nearly to death.

Zhang Yi replied to Situ Xin, "What if I can't withstand it? The other side has cheated, already deploying Epsilon-level power. Do you have any countermeasures on your end?"

Situ Xin said helplessly, "Since they haven't deployed Cadillus, we won't deploy Xuanwu either. Currently, the two Epsilon-level forces are in a standoff, and neither dares to make the first move."

"Therefore, we don't have any better way to support you."

Zhang Yi rolled his eyes. "I see."

Then what the hell was the point of calling me!

"Wait a moment!"

Situ Xin went to Li Tianyang and transferred the battlefield footage from Zhang Yi.

Li Tianyang and the other East Sea Region personnel gathered to look.

When they saw the monster's appearance, expressions of astonishment and terror appeared on their faces.

"This... isn't this Soul Reaper? He's actually still alive!"

Situ Xin had already guessed that the East Sea Region, as old rivals of the Colombian Ocean Fleet, would definitely know some background about this thing.

Seeing Li Tianyang and the others' reactions, he immediately asked, "What exactly is this thing? Chaos is currently being hunted by it. If you have any intelligence about him, please tell Chaos immediately."

Li Tianyang looked at the ferocious monster in the footage, the whites of his eyes becoming more pronounced.

On this day, he recalled the fear of being dominated by this monster.

Both the East Sea Region and the Colombian Navy had conducted superhuman modification experiments.

Among the East Sea Region's superhumans, there were no shortage of artificial creations.

However, Colombia's genetic engineering was more advanced and more insane.

They were the first to begin developing Epsilon-level superhumans.

But this overly aggressive approach had once brought a great disaster to the East Sea.

The monster codenamed [Soul Reaper] had been the first semi-successful test subject.

The reason it was called semi-successful was because he successfully possessed Epsilon-level combat power.

However, he was a monster who only knew killing, lacking self-awareness most of the time.

On the day he was developed, he directly destroyed half of a Colombian Navy base, slaughtering over ten thousand people.

Along with them, the East Sea Region's patrolling forces at that time were completely annihilated.

Later, if it weren't for Cadillus—the complete test subject—being successfully developed, combined with Xuanwu's cooperation, no one knew how many people this monster would have slaughtered in the East Sea before stopping.

After that battle, many people thought Soul Reaper had died.

No one expected that the insane Colombian Navy had recovered him and deployed him as a secret weapon on the Star Island battlefield!

"They've gone mad!"

Li Tianyang said through gritted teeth.

"If this guy appears, no one on the island is safe!"

At this point, Li Tianyang didn't dare to hold back information.

If Soul Reaper was allowed to rampage, probably all the East Sea Region's elites would be wiped out!

He quickly shouted to Chaos, "Chaos, listen! This guy is a failed experiment. He has no reason whatsoever. If he remains on Star Island, everyone faces the danger of death!"

"I command you to immediately use your abilities to flee beyond Star Island! Lure him into the deep ocean!"

When Zhang Yi heard Li Tianyang's words, he slightly frowned.

"Lure him into the deep ocean? Are you saying he won't drown in seawater either?"

Chapter 1039: Long Time No See

Li Tianyang said to Zhang Yi, "He's a monster developed by the navy, of course he has the ability to adapt to aquatic environments!"

A sharp gleam flashed in Zhang Yi's eyes.

"Then can I assume he becomes even more powerful in seawater?"

Li Tianyang's tone faltered. "This... I'm not very clear about that. Almost everyone who experienced that battle back then died."

His eyes clearly shifted evasively as he spoke.

Situ Xin keenly detected the loophole in his words.

"Minister Li! That's not quite right, is it? It was Xuanwu and Cadillus who teamed up to defeat that guy back then. Xuanwu should be very familiar with his abilities."

"This..."

Li Tianyang was immediately at a loss for words.

It was Xuanwu who removed the virtual headset from his head and said to Situ Xin with a smile, "That's about right! That guy should be comparable to an amphibious combat unit, possessing relatively strong combat capabilities whether underwater or on land."

His eyes rolled upward as he continued, "But... who knows how Chaos's underwater combat abilities are!"

Hearing this, Situ Xin laughed in anger. "Li Tianyang! You're absolutely insane! Actually making Chaos take risks to hold back an out-of-control Epsilon!"

Veins bulged on Li Tianyang's face. Xuanwu wasn't giving him any face at all, but there was nothing he could do about it.

He could only roar, "What else can I do? Only Chaos has the ability to hold him back now. If we let him run rampant killing on the island, everyone will die!"

Zhang Yi felt he had learned enough of what he wanted to know.

He directly cut off the communication, no longer listening to their bickering.

After using spatial traversal to dodge Soul Reaper's attack, Zhang Yi glanced at the white giant-like monster and revealed an evil smile at the corner of his mouth.

"So that means he's a monster who only knows how to kill, with little self-awareness. Right?"

"Then don't blame me!"

Zhang Yi clearly understood one thing at this moment - this monster had already locked onto him, you could say it was a fight to the death.

No matter how he ran, this monster would chase him.

According to Zhang Yi's personality, he should originally disregard everything to find Xuanwu or the Colombian Navy for a solution.

But upon careful thought, both approaches carried too much risk for him.

Soul Reaper was a madman who couldn't distinguish friend from foe.

If Zhang Yi lured him over for Xuanwu to handle,

even if Xuanwu could kill him, he would definitely consume considerable energy. If Cadillus took the opportunity to sneak attack, it could potentially wipe out the entire Huaxu Kingdom alliance forces.

In that case, Zhang Yi would suffer losses too.

As for leading him to the Colombian Navy, that would be even more suicidal.

Not to mention that Cadillus would immediately attack him,

Zhang Yi didn't even know if the Colombian Navy had methods to control this thing.

Zhang Yi wouldn't take such risks.

He always operated steadily and wouldn't take risks.

Since he couldn't provoke the powerful ones, then he would bully the smaller ones instead!

Therefore, Zhang Yi decisively made a decision that no one would expect.

He raised his hand, and twelve Dimensional Gates appeared within a one-kilometer radius.

"Twelve-Layered Mirror World!"

After the twelve gates opened, Zhang Yi said to Jingwei, Hua Hua, and Lele, "Choose a gate and escape! Find somewhere to hide, don't let anyone find you!"

By now, most superhumans on the island had been killed. There wouldn't be much danger in the periphery.

On the contrary, staying by his side, Lele's strength level meant it could easily be killed by collateral damage.

Its mission for this trip had already ended, there was no need for it to continue following Zhang Yi.

As for Hua Hua, it would be difficult for it to play much of a role against an opponent of Soul Reaper's level.

With it around, Zhang Yi's movements might be inconvenienced.

At this moment, Jingwei spoke up, "They can enter my shadow. As long as you stay alive, we won't be in danger."

Jingwei's ability was attached to her shadow. As long as the chosen carrier remained safe, her shadow space wouldn't collapse.

This ability was a subordinate ability to Zhang Yi's Dimensional Space, but it had its own convenient aspects - its time flow matched the external world, and it could sustain living beings inside.

However, during such dangerous times, Jingwei didn't abandon Zhang Yi to escape alone, which made Zhang Yi's impression of her improve considerably.

Zhang Yi thought for a moment and said, "Alright then, you can come with me!"

Hua Hua and Lele entered the shadow space, then Jingwei attached to Zhang Yi's body, following closely by his side.

Instead of fleeing Star Island as others might have expected, Zhang Yi suddenly changed direction and headed toward Mist Valley!

You can't distinguish friend from foe, right?

Well then, I'll drag everyone on Star Island down with me - we'll all die together!

Just as he expected, Soul Reaper didn't hesitate, directly locked onto his escape direction and pursued him!

The will to kill was intensifying in Soul Reaper's eyes!

Aside from killing Zhang Yi, he currently had no other thoughts.

Sometimes, these kinds of crazy guys were the most terrifying, because they weren't constrained by anything and would sacrifice everything, including their own lives, to kill their target.

And to the Colombian Navy, his life wasn't important anyway.

As a defective product, he was already broken and tattered.

The moment he was unsealed, his lifespan wouldn't exceed 24 hours.

He was already destined to die.

...

Arana City.

Dragon King and Vice Captain Bailian were hiding deep in an underground cavern.

While expelling the toxins left by Helshest from their bodies, they waited for the Mist Valley battlefield to open.

They had made their decision - unless the final battle began, they absolutely would not make another move.

This battle related to whether the Tianlong Pirate Crew could rise again.

Therefore, they could no longer afford any more mistakes!

"I must obtain the Divine Source!"

Dragon King clenched his fist, which was as large as a casserole, and declared this.

Bailian sat on a rock, with a pile of compressed biscuits placed in front of him.

As for drinking water, it was formed by Bailian using his ability to condense moisture from the air into ice, which then melted.

Looking at Dragon King, whose fighting spirit remained undiminished, Bailian's eyes were filled with gratification.

"Dragon King, you will definitely become the King of the Seven Seas! The Divine Source is just your starting point. One day, you will possess power that even the major nations will have to acknowledge!"

Dragon King bit off several layers of compressed biscuits and chewed them vigorously.

"Right now, we just need to wait patiently. As long as no accidents occur in the meantime, I'll have a chance..."

Before his voice even faded, the bunker they were in was directly destroyed by a massive force!

True to his experience as a battle-hardened veteran, Dragon King immediately transformed into his Diamond Armor Dragon form and carried Bailian upward into the air.

"Who dares to ambush me!!!"

Dragon King roared furiously at the sky.

His gaze swept across the surroundings, finally spotting two rapidly flickering black dots several kilometers away.

Just that one glance allowed Zhang Yi, who was in the midst of spatial traversal, to detect them.

Zhang Yi hadn't expected that while darting around with Soul Reaper, he would unintentionally dig a loach out from underground.

After just a moment of stunned silence, a mischievous smile appeared on Zhang Yi's lips.

"Dragon King, it's been a long time! Since you're already here, don't leave - let me give you a big gift, brother!"

He made an emergency brake in mid-air, then turned around and headed straight for Dragon King!

Dragon King also recognized Zhang Yi by now.

However, soon there was someone even more troublesome than Zhang Yi that he had to take seriously.

"Epsilon!!!"

Chapter 1040: Difficult to handle? Then let's not handle it!

Soul Reaper's overwhelming killing intent and that terrifying, bone-chilling pressure instantly froze the fiery hearts of the Dragon King and Bailian.

"Stay away from us!!"

The two roared in terror, glaring at Zhang Yi who was charging straight toward them.

Even the dumbest person would realize Zhang Yi was planning to redirect the threat toward them.

But why would Zhang Yi let them off so easily?

During the East Sea operation, the Dragon King had only sent a doppelganger, giving Zhang Yi and Linghu Feixue no chance to kill him.

Now that they had encountered each other here, Zhang Yi certainly wouldn't hold back.

A mischievous grin spread across his face as he performed several spatial traversals, blinking to the Dragon King's vicinity with Hua Hua in tow.

Soul Reaper's eyes were fixed solely on Zhang Yi.

Without a second thought, he roared and gave chase.

The Dragon King was so furious he wanted to fight Zhang Yi to the death, but the most immediate danger was that thing chasing behind them.

In Soul Reaper's vision, two additional figures suddenly appeared around his target.

Kill!!

That was the only thought occupying his mind.

The spherical, egg-like head opened a ferocious maw as an energy cannon rapidly took shape.

"Motherf*cker!"

The Dragon King cursed violently, then tried to drag Bailian away to separate from Zhang Yi.

But why had Zhang Yi come here in the first place?

His entire purpose was to drag the Dragon King into this mess.

As the saying goes, those who witness should share the burden—of course he had to share this troublesome matter with his good brother.

Wherever the Dragon King went, Zhang Yi directly followed.

No matter how fast the Dragon King was, how could he possibly outpace someone with spatial traversal abilities like Zhang Yi!

Zhang Yi swept past the Dragon King, giving him a sinister smile.

In the next instant, Soul Reaper's energy cannon engulfed the space behind them, roaring forward with mountain-splitting force!

Originally, given Zhang Yi's speed, he might not have been able to dodge Soul Reaper's attack with 100% certainty.

Fortunately, his Echo of Time ability would alert him to danger in advance, allowing him to instinctively evade.

This had become a passive ability—his body reacting before his brain could even process the threat.

However, the Dragon King possessed no such capability.

His body was directly grazed by Soul Reaper's strike.

Then, that massive Dragon King form, with scales comparable to the highest-grade alloy equipment, shattered piece by piece like brittle crackers!

His vice-captain Bailian faced even less suspense, directly blasted into dust!

The power of an Epsilon-level superhuman represented absolute domination over lower-ranked superhumans!

Only a freak like Zhang Yi—extremely rare, specializing in defensive capabilities, and possessing top-tier spatial abilities—could possibly hold out against him for a period of time. ~~RAN~~ ~~Ō~~ ~~BE~~ ~~Ş~~

One second later, Soul Reaper swept past the Dragon King, impatiently swatting at him with a casual backhand.

The Dragon King felt as if his body were being sliced to pieces, every muscle and blood vessel rupturing!

BOOM!!!

He was smashed deep into the earth.

Terrifyingly, the ground where he landed actually sank downward massively, revealing a bottomless, horrifying abyss!

The scene was extremely bizarre, but Zhang Yi no longer had the mental space to concern himself with the Dragon King's survival.

If he could delay Soul Reaper for even one second, that counted as a meaningful achievement for Zhang Yi.

His original plan had been to drag every superhuman on Star Island into this mess!

Well... except for those few from the Jiangnan Region.

They were simply too weak.

...

Command Centers of the Two Major Regions.

Zhuque had just returned with Linghu Feixue not long ago.

The moment she arrived, she was immediately ushered into the medical bay, receiving treatment from the most professional medical team.

Li Tianyang specifically visited to offer her comforting words.

"This time you lost to Billy the Kid only because you awakened later than him, and your superhuman ability index isn't as high."

"Don't be discouraged. Sooner or later, you will surpass him and become an Epsilon!"

"Besides, didn't you also take out one member of Hell's Lock?"

Hearing Li Tianyang's consolation, Zhuque's heart remained as still as an ancient well.

Billy the Kid had completely shattered the arrogance within her.

That feeling of losing teammates and brushing shoulders with death was something she would never forget in her lifetime.

It would also drive her to become stronger!

"Right now on the island, we still have Chaos and Qinglong on our side. But the enemy's only notable combatant is Billy the Kid alone."

"I've witnessed Billy the Kid's abilities. Qinglong holds no advantage against him. But Chaos's abilities counter his! We should have him compete for the Divine Source!"

Zhuque earnestly offered her suggestion.

She believed that even if this operation didn't proceed according to the original plan, the Divine Source falling into the Jiangnan Region's hands was still better than letting the Colombian Navy obtain it.

Hearing this, Li Tianyang fell into brief silence.

After a while, he finally said, "Chaos... probably won't survive!"

Zhuque, startled by this, asked, "Why? Could it be that he can't defeat Billy the Kid either?"

Li Tianyang shook his head. "No, not because of that. It's because the enemy deployed Soul Reaper!"

Even Zhuque couldn't help her body stiffening upon hearing that name.

She had witnessed firsthand how much damage Soul Reaper had inflicted on both armies back then.

If the two sides hadn't temporarily reached a truce, leading to Xuanwu and Cadillus joining forces to defeat him, the consequences would have been unimaginable!

"If that's the case, then everything is truly dire!"

Zhuque helplessly closed her eyes.

"If Chaos really dies, any advantage we held in this operation will be completely lost."

However, a strange smile curled at the corner of Li Tianyang's mouth.

"It won't happen."

He clasped his hands behind his back, speaking ominously, "All warfare is based on deception. They came fully prepared, but does that mean we didn't? Hehehe!"

"We must obtain the Divine Source. Zhuque," he placed his hand on her shoulder, "you will become the East Sea Region's second Epsilon-level superhuman! There will be no accidents regarding this matter!"

Zhuque didn't understand what Li Tianyang meant by this.

As combat personnel, they weren't involved in key decisions and intelligence.

The most important quality for an excellent soldier was obeying orders, not having their own ideas.

She nodded, saying nothing more, simply trusting the organization.

However, at that very moment, an officer suddenly rushed over, urgently seeking Li Tianyang to report the situation.

"Minister, something terrible has happened! Chaos... Chaos has gone mad!!"

Li Tianyang's eyes widened sharply. Whenever something happened related to Zhang Yi, it was never good news.

"What has he done now!"

The officer trembled as he spoke, "He... didn't follow orders to lead Soul Reaper out to sea. Instead, he turned around and headed straight for Mist Valley!"

Zhang Yi, with Soul Reaper in tow, rampaged across the entire Star Island.

His target was extremely clear—he charged straight toward Mist Valley!

Since you all want me to be the sucker, fine then, let's see who gets to play at all!