

Ice Age 951

Chapter 951: Destroy Two Teams in One Day

Huo En didn't take Zhang Yi's hunting operation seriously.

In his view, Zhang Yi was just a coward who only dared to hunt weaklings.

He posed no threat whatsoever to their core force, Hell's Lock.

Therefore, he gave no response to Savendra's request for assistance.

The navy's powerful combat forces had no time to go to great lengths for him.

After all, the superhuman troops from other countries were only there in a support capacity.

Savendra received no response from the Colombian Navy.

But Zhang Yi's response arrived.

He whispered a few words to Hua Hua and Lele, and then the cat and dog immediately dashed off wildly in opposite directions.

Savendra watched everything unfold, still puzzled.

"What do they plan to do? It's useless! Physical attacks can't harm me at all!"

"Here, I'm naturally in an invincible position. Even if I can't kill you, I can use the toxic miasma to escape far away!"

But Hua Hua and Lele ran farther and farther away, showing no signs of stopping to attack.

Savendra didn't know what Zhang Yi had in mind.

But he didn't stop his offensive actions.

The surrounding rolling gray toxic miasma surged, and one gigantic poisonous insect beast after another abruptly appeared, then charged towards Zhang Yi.

Zhang Yi, however, paid no attention to this at all.

He coldly scanned his surroundings, knowing Savendra was hidden within this patch of toxic miasma.

Then he stomped the ground with both feet, and his whole person instantly shot up into the sky!

Savendra looked up at the high altitude, unsure what Zhang Yi intended to do.

"Is he trying to escape?"

He suddenly sneered coldly: "Heh heh, no use! In this place, as long as I've locked onto your position, you can't escape anywhere! I'll keep pestering you relentlessly."

"You must be a high-level superhuman. If I can take you down, I'll receive a huge bounty from the Colombian Navy!"

He had no illusions about the Divine Source, knowing it wasn't something he could lay hands on.

From the very beginning, he had resolved to only seek limited benefits.

Zhang Yi flew up several thousand meters into the air, reaching the edge of the toxic miasma zone.

Then he looked down at everything beneath his feet.

A trace of gloomy light gathered in the palm of his right hand. Unstable void dark matter twisted and jumped like lightning, like a fierce beast ready to break free from its cage at any moment, yet was forcefully restrained by Zhang Yi.

Zhang Yi brought his hands together in mid-air, and the unstable dark matter grew increasingly frenzied.

"Condensing the Void—Dark Realm!"

Savendra was still curious whether Zhang Yi planned to escape or had some other scheme.

But suddenly, an extremely dark radiance appeared in his eyes.

That incredibly black light devoured all surrounding light; it was a substance darker than darkness itself.

The next instant, he saw a gigantic black sun appear in the sky!

It also resembled a circular dark space that seemed capable of swallowing everything into it.

The threat of death instantly enveloped him.

Savendra's pupils constricted sharply, but he had no chance to escape.

Because by the time he saw that enormous black sun, it had already instantly reached the ground!

Silently, a massive black Dark Realm sphere emerged from the ground!

With a radius of several kilometers, it directly engulfed everything in the vicinity.

In the southeastern area of Golden Phoenix City on Star Island, a huge black sphere surfaced from the vast toxic miasma.

At almost the same moment, superhumans in several locations on Star Island detected this.

They simultaneously turned to look in this direction, a mix of wariness and fighting spirit flashing in their eyes.

Qinglong from the East Sea Region narrowed his eyes as he looked towards this direction.

"This direction is... Golden Phoenix City? Such a powerful energy fluctuation. The destructive power is at least over 9600 points! Who on earth would appear there?"

In another location, Deng Shentong, clad in his luxurious silver combat suit, led his Celestial Squad forward through a ruined area.

Sensing that familiar aura, he raised his head, a silvery light flashing in his eyes.

Piercing through the thick toxic miasma, he caught sight of that blooming dark sun.

"Zhang Yi, he's grown stronger again."

Deng Shentong murmured to himself.

He couldn't help but clench his fist.

He had thought that after five months of arduous training, he had become much stronger.

He never expected that Zhang Yi hadn't fallen behind while at sea either.

"I need to work even harder!"

The corner of his mouth lifted in a competitive smile as he flung his silver cape. "Let's go! We must obtain the Divine Source!"

In Makipo City near Mist Valley, a cowboy wearing a felt hat with two revolvers at his waist lifted his hat brim, looking thoughtfully towards the direction of Golden Phoenix City.

"I seem to have detected an interesting power."

He was the deputy captain of [Hell's Lock], the strongest after Cadillus—Yasin Canero.

He was known as the number one genius of the Ocean Fleet.

Unlike Cadillus, he was a natural awakener.

And in many people's minds, once he broke through to the Epsilon level, he would undoubtedly possess even greater strength than Cadillus!

He whistled leisurely and proceeded unhurriedly along the markers left by the reconnaissance troops.

...

Zhang Yi slowly landed on the ground. The area for several kilometers around had been completely cleared, leaving only a smooth, enormous circular pit in the ground.

Hua Hua and Lele ran to Zhang Yi's side.

Lele asked curiously: "Boss, did you take care of that guy?"

"He's already been devoured by the Dark Realm."

Zhang Yi said calmly.

Since he couldn't eliminate him with a single-target attack, then he would just devour the entire area along with him.

His void power could devour everything.

Savendra's self-proclaimed invincible defense seemed utterly laughable in the face of a higher-tier ability.

"Still, he was somewhat capable."

Zhang Yi glanced at his palm.

"Just a superhuman with a bit over 8000 points actually forced me to use void power. He didn't die for nothing."

Zhang Yi simultaneously took out ability-boosting food from his dimensional space to replenish his energy.

On the other hand, he opened his communication device and sent a message to the command center to report his results.

"This is Chaos. I just eliminated a Malayan superhuman unit in the Golden Phoenix City direction."

This time, Li Tianyang and the others completely couldn't sit still.

The operation had started less than a day ago. Everyone else was still adapting to the environment of Mist Island and searching for their way forward.

Yet Zhang Yi had already achieved two consecutive kills!

Xuanwu, who was also present, said: "Once could be called luck, but twice is not. That guy... what exactly is he trying to do?"

Suddenly, Xuanwu's eyes lit up. "I think I somewhat understand his plan."

Chapter 952: Hermet Boone

At the Operations Command Center, everyone was still reeling from the news of Zhang Yi's achievements.

Xuanwu's words immediately captured everyone's attention.

Li Tianyang looked at Xuanwu and asked, "Xuanwu, what are your thoughts?"

Xuanwu glanced at Situ Xin, who merely smiled without saying a word.

Xuanwu then clasped his hands behind his head and lazily reclined in his chair, saying:

"When I first encountered Chaos, I knew he was powerful. Furthermore, he absolutely possesses Epsilon-level potential!!"

His words caused a wave of shock throughout the room.

"What? E... Epsilon-level!!"

Everyone was utterly astonished; even Situ Xin narrowed his eyes, a strange glint flashing within them.

Li Tianyang looked disbelievingly at Situ Xin, then turned back to Xuanwu. "Impossible! If the Jiangnan Region truly had such an individual, I believe they would spare no expense in nurturing him! How could they allow him to remain at the Delta level?"

In their conventional understanding, this was an unimaginable scenario.

Take Xuanwu, for example. Once his immense potential was discovered, the Theater Commander-in-Chief Li Guangxiao personally signed the order to mobilize the entire region's resources to cultivate him.

Situ Xin, with his hands clasped behind his back, now slightly furrowed his brow.

An officer from the East Sea Region said leisurely, "I heard that Chaos is not a superhuman from Blizzard City, but rather came from outside. Moreover, his relationship with Blizzard City doesn't seem to be one of subordination, but rather a cooperative partnership."

Hearing this, Li Tianyang suddenly understood.

"Oh, I see! Heh, that certainly sounds like the Jiangnan Region's style."

Li Tianyang adjusted his hat brim, a hint of disdain in his eyes.

As a military man, although his methods were fierce and he would stop at nothing to achieve his objectives, it was because of his loyalty to his post.

However, the practice of suppressing talent for personal goals was something he found contemptible.

Situ Xin smiled but did not respond.

Everything was according to Zhu Zheng's plans; what could he do?

From the very beginning, the resources the Jiangnan Region provided to Zhang Yi were limited to some weapons, food, or medicine he exchanged with points.

This was because Zhu Zheng also worried that Zhang Yi might become too powerful to control.

Then he would become a second Gao Changkong.

Xuanwu, still holding his head, said calmly, "That's precisely why Chaos chose this place as his hunting ground. Superhumans of Captain rank and above are extremely rare; nurturing each Captain-rank superhuman requires a massive investment of the region's resources."

"It's very difficult to even encounter one under normal circumstances, let alone hunt them down and devour their origin to level up."

"But here, Captain-rank superhumans and above are everywhere!"

Xuanwu was clever; he quickly saw through Zhang Yi's objective.

A cold light flashed in Li Tianyang's eyes.

It suddenly occurred to him that if Zhang Yi truly had Epsilon-level potential, and if he continued to develop on Star Island, he might genuinely cross that threshold.

If that happened, and with no Epsilon-level presence currently on Star Island, wouldn't Zhang Yi inevitably become the final victor?

Li Tianyang's expression grew increasingly grim. This was not an outcome he wished to see.

Situ Xin's face was also somber. He stroked his chin, remaining silent, his mind undoubtedly calculating something.

He probably guessed Li Tianyang's thoughts, and they were very dangerous.

The Jiangnan Region currently needed Zhang Yi's power greatly.

...

Meanwhile, at the Colombian Navy Command Center.

The death of Savendra and the image data he transmitted to the command center before his demise immediately caught the attention of General Huo En.

"This is a very powerful superhuman, undoubtedly one of the top experts in the Huaxu Kingdom's superhuman domain!"

"Eliminating two teams in a single day, this individual is extremely dangerous."

He originally hadn't paid much mind to Zhang Yi.

He only thought there would be minor skirmishes at most in the outer areas of the toxic miasma.

He planned to let the allied nations' superhuman units contain him, while the core mission remained for Hell's Lock to compete for the Divine Source.

However, Savendra hadn't even lasted five minutes before being killed by that mysterious superhuman.

This finally put pressure on Huo En.

"We now know that a powerful superhuman from the Huaxu Kingdom has been hunting our allied superhuman teams."

"Furthermore, he is very peculiar; he can actually locate the positions of two superhuman teams within the thick toxic miasma. That is the most terrifying part!"

"He is a hidden danger that must be eliminated. Otherwise, who knows how many more will die by his hand?"

They weren't afraid of Zhang Yi's strength alone.

But a powerful enemy who also possessed hunting capabilities, able to hunt within the toxic miasma at any time—this was something they had to guard against.

Lieutenant Colonel Keludi proposed, "For safety's sake, we shouldn't employ a piecemeal strategy. I think we should directly send a member of Hell's Lock to hunt him down!"

Hell's Lock, the Colombian Navy's strongest superhuman unit.

Every member admitted into its ranks is a top-tier superhuman expert.

General Huo En looked at the three-dimensional map. "Who is the nearest Hell's Lock member with abilities suitable for dealing with this type of superhuman?"

Soon, he got the answer he wanted.

"It's Hermit Boone."

Huo En nodded. "Sending him for this hunt is indeed most appropriate."

East of Golden Phoenix City, in Yuming City, a Colombian superhuman team was advancing deeper into the toxic miasma.

Every superhuman wore black combat suits and carried state-of-the-art laser weapons.

These weapons, which use high-energy lasers to kill enemies, represent Columbus Ocean's latest weapons technology.

In the Great Mutation Era, conventional weapons have largely lost their effectiveness.

However, these high-energy laser weapons still possess lethal capability against superhumans.

In the center of the team, a cloaked man suddenly stopped.

The moment he halted, the others immediately stood their ground, adopting alert postures, aiming their guns in all directions.

Long blond hair extended from beneath the man's hood. His face was unclear, only his firm chin visible.

He was a member of Hell's Lock, Hermit Boone.

"You have a new mission. Do not proceed to Mist Valley for now. Not far from your location, there is a Huaxu Kingdom hunter. Eliminate him!"

Upon hearing this, Hermit Boone said calmly, "Give me his intel!"

"Intelligence is scarce. We only know he is a sniper and seems to possess considerable strength!"

Boone: "A sniper? Interesting. Understood!"

He ended the communication with the command center.

Then he issued orders to the team members beside him.

"You continue clearing the path here! Stay hidden and avoid detection."

He looked at a tall, imposing man beside him; this was his adjutant, Rem Magrian.

"Magrian, you're coming with me to hunt someone down."

Chapter 953: Is this the source of God?

Boon was very clever. He understood that on this battlefield, combat was a matter for top-tier superhumans.

Lower-level superhumans or reconnaissance units were only responsible for auxiliary work, not participating in the core battles.

Since they were going to hunt down a sniper with unclear intelligence, bringing too many team members would be useless.

Therefore, he only took his adjutant and, following Huo En's guidance, began returning the way they came.

This was a hunt within the toxic miasma. Without the assistance of precise instruments, finding Zhang Yi could take who knows how long.

But as a professional soldier, he had ample patience.

Boon's subordinates respectfully saluted him, then watched as Boon and Magrian departed, disappearing into the thick toxic miasma.

...

Zhang Yi had hunted down two superhuman squads, but for him, this was merely equivalent to warming up.

First, he needed to familiarize himself with the rhythm of this kind of hunting, then start advancing from the peripheral areas towards the deeper regions.

"My goal is to hunt down superhumans with at least a superhuman ability index of 9200 points."

Because the further one goes, the more difficult it becomes to enhance superhuman abilities.

For example, when Zhang Yi's superhuman ability index was 9600 points, killing a 9200-point Fin Dragon would only increase his index by about 100 points.

But the closer one gets to the 10,000-point threshold, the smaller the gains become.

This meant he had to hunt even more powerful superhumans.

Only by doing so could he truly reach the Epsilon level.

"Malai and New Rohan are small countries; the superhumans they sent aren't powerful enough."

"I think the superhumans from Hell's Lock and the Neon Pirates would be more... delicious."

After all, compared to Malai and New Rohan, even the Neon Pirates could be considered a powerful nation.

Zhang Yi reached out and stroked Hua Hua's head, saying softly, "It's time to go deeper into the toxic miasma zones! We should also find some interesting opponents, shouldn't we?"

Hua Hua narrowed its eyes, "I also want to eat something good."

Zhang Yi laughed, "Good, then let's go!"

Lele lay on the ground, sniffing hard with its nose. The scents of living creatures flowing in the air, even from far away, would be keenly detected by it.

"Boss, if we want to go deeper into the toxic miasma zones, we need to go in this direction!"

Its nose pointed to the left front.

Zhang Yi raised his hand and opened the Dimensional Gate. A huge circular passage appeared before them.

"Alright, let's go!"

...

"Latest message from the command center confirms that Chaos has eliminated two superhuman teams from New Rohan and Malai."

"Confirmed fatalities: New Rohan's Spider Demon and Tangun; Malai's Sea Husband."

The combat report was synchronized in real-time by the command center to every superhuman present.

This was a suggestion proposed by Li Tianyang to motivate every combat personnel on Star Island.

Indeed, everyone was greatly encouraged upon hearing that Zhang Yi had successively annihilated two superhuman teams in a single day.

"That guy really loves to show off!"

On the Demon Squad side, the captain Lu Huang, codename Taotie, a short figure, raised the corner of his mouth, revealing sharp canine teeth.

"Can't let him have all the spotlight! It's time for us to act too!"

Deng Shentong, Lilong, and others were also inspired. They might not say anything, but they quickened their pace.

Deng Shentong was advancing forward.

In this area, visibility was extremely limited, but for Deng Shentong, this restriction was minimal.

Because he was the embodiment of light. Wherever light existed, his eyes could see through everything.

If he weren't afraid of exposing himself, he could even transform himself into a light source to illuminate the path ahead.

As he was moving forward, a pleasant laughter suddenly rang in his ears, echoing from deep within the thick fog.

Everyone immediately became alert.

Several team members cautiously looked around, but the laughter echoed around them, making it difficult to pinpoint its source direction for a moment.

"Is it an enemy?"

Deng Shentong, however, calmly looked up elsewhere, "It seems... not?"

His gaze, sharp like a hawk's, pierced through the thick mist. Deep within the fog, he saw a very strange existence.

They were several pure white creatures, shimmering with silvery moonlight. They were even shorter than knee-height, yet adorable like miniature crescent moons.

The moment he saw them, Deng Shentong's eyes instantly lit up.

He felt his DNA stir, an instinctive impulse driving him to obtain those creatures.

"Could this be... the Divine Source?"

Deng Shentong was utterly astonished; this was his first thought.

He originally thought the Divine Source should be some kind of ore or energy body, but he never expected it to be living creatures?

No, he couldn't be sure, but he had to catch those little sprites and investigate.

Deng Shentong didn't have time to call his subordinates. He lowered his body and shot like lightning towards that direction.

In just a few breaths, Deng Shentong passed through the thick toxic miasma and arrived where the group of little sprites was.

They looked at Deng Shentong with innocent faces, their silvery moonlight radiance utterly intoxicating.

Upon seeing Deng Shentong, they weren't frightened or ran away. Instead, they giggled and ran over, happily dancing around Deng Shentong.

They made strange yet pleasant sounds from their mouths, as if chanting some ancient ballad.

Deng Shentong didn't dare be careless. His hands were clad in silver gloves, infused with his ability. In a flash, he turned into an afterimage and captured one little sprite.

In that instant, a familiar feeling arose deep within his heart.

It was the feeling of absorbing a superhuman's origin.

Deng Shentong's heart was incredibly excited.

"Could this... be the Divine Source?"

Almost without hesitation, he immediately began devouring this power.

The little sprite in his palm was slowly devoured, yet it showed no signs of fear or anger. It just peacefully turned into wisps of pure energy and entered his body.

Deng Shentong felt so comfortable he almost cried out.

This pure energy was even more exhilarating than absorbing a superhuman's origin!

Just this one little sprite increased his superhuman ability index by at least 50 points!

Comparable to a superhuman with over 8000 points!

"There's no mistake, this must be the Divine Source!"

Deng Shentong looked at the dozen or so little sprites still in front of him, a gleam of fervent heat appearing in his eyes.

He chose not to report the intelligence to the command center.

Instead, he was going to devour all the little sprites before him first. That way, his superhuman ability index could skyrocket by several hundred points!

However, in the next moment, a tremendous sense of crisis enveloped him.

The little sprites sang and danced joyfully, as if performing some kind of sacrificial or summoning ritual.

From deep within the mist, a giant white sprite emerged. It was adorable like an oversized plush toy, with big eyes that seemed very dumbly cute, and antler-like horns on its head.

But when it saw Deng Shentong had killed a little sprite, those dumbly cute eyes instantly turned blood-red.

An immensely fierce and terrifying power instantly erupted from its body, surging towards Deng Shentong!

Chapter 954: Tapper Elias

Moonlight covered the entire area.

The giant sprite's body erupted with icy blue light, instantly covering all surrounding areas with a biting cold wind.

Deng Shentong was wearing a specially made combat suit, but in an instant, his clothes began to freeze.

"Crack!"

A silver glow from Deng Shentong's Sacred Form Enhancement flashed across his body, directly shattering the ice.

But immediately after came an overwhelming blizzard!

Deng Shentong had no footing and was directly blown hundreds of meters away by the storm mixed with huge ice blocks, smashing countless dead trees along the way.

"So powerful! This sprite's strength is probably above mine! Can't confront it head-on, must use strategy."

Deng Shentong made his judgment in an instant.

At the same time, a strong impulse arose in his heart.

Just absorbing one little sprite had given him energy that could increase his superhuman ability index by 50 points.

If he could take down this big one, would it be possible to directly advance to the Epsilon level?

"I never expected that this time, I would be the luckiest one!"

A smile appeared at the corner of Deng Shentong's mouth.

After just one day on the island, he had actually found this thing that major nations were desperately fighting over.

But just as Deng Shentong wanted to pursue, he was shocked to discover that the giant sprite and the dozen little sprites had all disappeared!

"They... vanished?"

Deng Shentong stood dumbfounded on the spot. Before long, his subordinates caught up.

"Captain, are you alright? What happened just now?"

Deng Shentong glanced at Bai Chunyu and said calmly, "Perhaps we've already found the Divine Source!"

He explained the situation to the several people.

These were all core members cultivated by their Deng Family, trustworthy.

After hearing this, Bai Chunyu said excitedly, "Doesn't that mean you have a chance to advance to the Epsilon level?"

Deng Shentong said, "That thing is very strange, and very powerful, not easy to capture."

He sighed, "Having missed it this time, who knows when we'll encounter it next."

But he clenched his fist, his eyes full of desire.

"But it can't have gone far, it must be nearby. We must find it!"

In his heart, he had already made a judgment.

Those strange little sprites should be some kind of energy entity.

Although they possess terrifying power, their combat methods and techniques are very lacking.

That's why after repelling Deng Shentong, they immediately chose to escape.

This way, their hope of capturing that guy was even greater!

"Yes, Captain!"

Bai Chunyu and others received the order and immediately began dispersing to search the nearby area for traces of the strange creature.

Deng Shentong lowered his head, looking at his right hand, beginning to miss that feeling of enhancing his strength.

Having almost reached his limit, every step forward now was extremely difficult.

And here, he had found an opportunity to break through.

"Will I be that lucky one?"

"No, it must be me!"

He clenched his fist and said with determined eyes.

The Celestial Squad began searching for clues around where the mysterious creature was discovered.

A Celestial Squad member stepped into the mist and found some footprints in the snow, seemingly left by those little sprites.

From within the thick fog, a hard carapace slowly emerged.

It was a ferocious and terrifying monster, its entire body covered in dark blue carapace, with a gloomy luster sharp like knives.

Its long mouth opened, emitting a puff of white smoke, green saliva dripping along its jaw.

"Huh?"

The investigator sensed danger and stopped his advance.

The next moment, two giant scythes extended from the toxic miasma, sweeping toward his head!

The investigator's pupils contracted, his body rapidly retreating while simultaneously spitting out a large web condensed from spider silk, covering the approaching threat.

"Shred!" "Shred!" "Shred!"

The white spider web was instantly torn apart. The monster revealed its true form—it was actually a giant mantis over three meters tall!

However, judging from the combat suit covering its body, it was a beastman series, insect-type superhuman!

"Enemy spotted!"

The investigator reported this to everyone through the communicator. Then his cheeks bulged high, and a large mass of white mucus surged toward the opponent!

The scythe-wielding mantis vibrated its wings, charging rapidly through the air, but couldn't avoid this large-area mucus, with multiple joints getting stuck.

The investigator opened his mouth, his jaw splitting apart to reveal a huge, ferocious mouthpart and massive fangs, biting toward the mantis!

The mantis widened its eyes, struggling desperately to break free, but the white mucus was more troublesome than glue.

Its scythes could cut through steel but were ineffective against the mucus on its own joints, making it impossible to dodge immediately.

It seemed about to be swallowed by the investigator's mouthpart.

Just then, the toxic miasma suddenly dispersed, and a thick arm over ten meters long grabbed over here!

The investigator was caught off guard, grabbed like an insect by the giant arm.

The arm exerted just a little force, and the investigator's bones and internal organs directly shattered!

"Pfft!"

He vomited a large mouthful of blood mixed with internal organs, his eyes gradually dimming.

The arm slowly retracted. Several people walked out from the thick fog.

The leader had chestnut-colored curly hair, a mustache above his lips, and wore a deep and exquisite combat suit.

Seeing that person, the mantis quickly knelt down: "Datuk! This subordinate... this subordinate is incompetent, requiring you to take action personally. Please punish me!"

This superhuman team came from Malaya.

And appearing here was Malaya's number one powerhouse, Tapel Elias.

He coldly glanced at the mantis, pointing at it and saying, "Don't underestimate your opponent! Huaxu Kingdom's superhumans are quite strong."

He clasped his hands behind his back, "Even as subordinates of me, Tapel Elias, don't be arrogant!"

From deep within the toxic miasma, a silver glow pierced through the thick fog, arriving at the battlefield in an instant.

Deng Shentong saw the twisted, deformed body on the ground, his narrow peach-blossom eyes turning icy cold.

He looked at the superhuman opposite him, "Jiangnan Region, Celestial Squad Captain [Erlang Xianshen Zhenjun]. And who might you be?"

The corner of Tapel's mouth lifted, his handsome little mustache twitching, always giving a teasing, playful feeling.

"You ask me? Fine, listen carefully!"

He clasped his hands behind his back, standing proudly with an extremely arrogant posture:

"I am Malaya's number one expert, number one collector, number one aristocrat! The undying star of Annasai City, the most brilliant genius of the Elias family in a century!"

"Now, I am even a deity of Malaya. The pride of the Elias family, Tapel Elias!"

Tapel announced his string of titles.

He didn't have a code name like ordinary superhumans.

Because in Malaya, whenever people mentioned powerful figures, everyone would mention his name.

Tapel Elias.

This name itself represented supreme glory.

Chapter 955: Giant God Dato

Elias extended a finger and pointed at Deng Shentong.

"You are fortunate to encounter me. However, your life will also end here!"

"Unless, you are willing to submit to me!"

A cold smile appeared at the corner of Deng Shentong's mouth.

"A mere Malayan does not yet have the qualification to be so arrogant before me!"

Before his words had even finished, a terrifyingly powerful gust of wind assaulted the area next to Elias's head!

Elias glanced sideways with his eyes, only hearing a "Boom!" as a tremendous impact produced radial air currents that dispersed all the toxic miasma within several miles!

However, after the toxic miasma was blown back, it was quickly compressed and returned.

"What?"

Elias protected his head with his arm just in time, but his body was still sent flying hundreds of meters by the powerful impact force.

He didn't know what had just hit him.

In the void, Deng Shentong's figure slowly materialized.

Meanwhile, the "Deng Shentong" who had been standing in place moments ago gradually dissipated.

"The eyes can deceive others!"

Deng Shentong silently recited in his heart.

The ability of [Hymn of Light] allowed him to possess the power to control light, and simultaneously create illusions in people's eyes.

He had grown now, no longer that gentleman pursuing splendor and nobility.

He was merely a warrior pursuing victory to obtain honor!

From the moment he appeared in this area, everything the superhumans of Malaya saw with their eyes was an illusion!

"Clang!"

The long rapier was drawn from Deng Shentong's waist.

His figure suddenly vanished from his original position, and then Elias saw strings of blood flowers spraying in the air.

His five subordinates all had their hearts pierced by Deng Shentong in an instant!

The slender rapier only left a deep red plum blossom pattern on their chests, making their deaths so tragically beautiful.

Elias's face instantly darkened.

"Attacking without declaration is the method of vile mobs! You, this person, truly lack any elegance!"

The response to him was a sword thrust from behind!

"What I want is only victory! Only the victor has the qualification to end the battle with a splendid posture!"

Deng Shentong's sword thrust pierced through Elias's combat suit, on the verge of penetrating his heart.

And in that very instant, a sudden change occurred.

Elias's body suddenly began to release scorching hot air currents, like a jet fighter, directly blowing Deng Shentong away!

Deng Shentong struggled to stab his sword into the wall of a ruined building mid-air, then hung on the wall to stabilize his posture.

But Elias's eruption did not stop; surging heat waves swept out indiscriminately in all directions, blowing away everyone nearby!

As the thick steam slowly dissipated, a gigantic figure gradually stood up.

It was a colossal entity over thirty meters tall, its entire body covered in brown, hard armor. When it straightened up, the surrounding skyscrapers appeared small in comparison.

This was Tapel Elias's ability [Giant Spirit Datuk].

Deng Shentong slightly frowned; he could feel that terrifying power was contained within this body.

Elias turned his head to look at Deng Shentong.

"Mortal, you are attempting to deicide! This is a capital crime!"

As soon as the words fell, his massive arm turned into an afterimage, sweeping toward Deng Shentong's location.

"Boom!!!"

The huge skyscraper was directly swept in half, with the upper section collapsing downward.

But Deng Shentong's figure had already disappeared from the spot.

"Can turn invisible, huh? Hehe, blind arrogance!"

Elias's enormous ears twitched.

He possessed a gigantic body, and also possessed unparalleled physical strength.

Along with this, his cellular activity far exceeded that of ordinary people, naturally granting him superhuman five senses.

He suddenly threw a fierce punch at the ground, directly shattering the earth, his right hand sinking into the ground like plunging into mud.

Then, he pulled out a green staff over ten meters long from deep within the earth.

Deng Shentong leaped violently into the air. Facing such a behemoth, ordinary attacks would be completely ineffective.

He had to find a way to attack his vital points.

For example, the heart or the head.

But the attack method must be effective; otherwise, a sword thrust into his body might not even penetrate the muscles.

With his left hand, he drew a slender silver pistol with elegant violet patterns.

"Bang!"

An Origin Bullet shot toward Elias's eye.

But the massive body, with an unimaginable reaction speed, casually swung a strike, the green staff deflecting the bullet.

Deng Shentong's figure turned into afterimages, continuously moving at high speed around Elias, while the bullets in his hand shot toward Elias without pause.

Although the gigantic body possessed high-speed reactions, its reaction speed in such a confined area ultimately couldn't match Deng Shentong's.

"Crackle-pop!"

A series of chaotic sounds, like firecrackers exploding on the body, erupted as sparks appeared in multiple places all over Elias.

But such attacks simply couldn't break his hard shell.

"You have no concept of [Divinity]! Your attacks are ineffective against me!"

Elias raised the staff high in his hand, then smashed it down fiercely toward the top of Deng Shentong's head!

A flash of silver light appeared around Deng Shentong as he agilely rolled away, dodging this strike.

But at that moment, a thunderous roar erupted from behind him!

The ground was directly torn open, shattered buildings and debris flew chaotically, and a building ahead collapsed with a crash due to the broken ground!

Deng Shentong's pupils slightly contracted; if that hit had landed solidly, even he would have lost half his life!

The terrifying power possessed by the Elias before him was far too astonishing!

"My superhuman ability index is only 9400 points, while his must be at least 9500!"

Deng Shentong instantly made a judgment based on his experience.

He knew he had encountered an extremely troublesome opponent this time.

He could dodge the opponent's attacks countless times, but if he got hit even once, the battle could basically be declared over!

Therefore, he had to be extremely careful!

Deng Shentong steadied his footing on the ground, and Elias's gaze instantly turned toward him.

Although the distorted light made Deng Shentong's features unclear, relying on his exceptional five senses, he could still determine Deng Shentong's position.

"Here, is it? Insect!"

Another sweeping strike, simple and unadorned, swept toward the area where Deng Shentong was!

His enormous arm span, combined with the staff's enhancement, made this strike cover a fan-shaped area with a radius of nearly thirty meters!

Deng Shentong retreated again and again.

And his eyes met Elias's.

"Great Sumeru Illusion!"

His body erupted with a chilling white light, like a sun appearing before Elias's eyes.

Causing the giant to involuntarily narrow his eyes.

He used his hand to shield the light before his eyes, but when he opened them again, the entire world before him had suddenly completely changed.

This was no longer the Star Island shrouded in toxic miasma, but his homeland, the vast estate of the Elias family.

His family was having afternoon tea on the green lawn, his beautiful wife wearing a purple gown, elegant and lovely.

His son, clever and adorable, was sharing interesting stories from school with his wife.

The servants around smiled warmly as they looked at them, holding teapots and snacks while attending nearby.

Not far away came the "snip-snip" sound of the gardener trimming the branches.

"Illusion?"

Elias thought of this possibility first.

But this illusion was excessively realistic, to the extent that he could clearly hear his wife's laughter and the clipping sound of the shears.

Chapter 956: My Family is Quite Rich

Elias clearly knew everything before his eyes was an illusion, yet it felt all too real.

Just then, his wife suddenly looked at him, a brilliant smile spreading across her face as she lifted her long skirt and ran towards him.

A mocking smile curled on Elias's lips.

"Such a cheap trick, and you think you can use it against me? Foolish!"

He swung the scepter in his hand with force, instantly obliterating his "wife"!

But the illusion before him didn't disappear; he could even clearly see the gruesome sight of his wife turning into a bloody, mangled corpse.

Screams instantly erupted around him.

"Datuk! What are you doing!"

"Father! You actually killed mother!"

...

The cries of distress were incessant. Even though Elias knew full well these were all fake, as a human being with emotions, he couldn't remain completely unmoved facing such intensely realistic illusions.

And at that moment, a long sword quietly appeared behind his head.

"Sacred Form Enhancement!"

A sacred and brilliant silver radiance enveloped Deng Shentong's entire body.

The purest light represented immense power.

The silver radiance extended to his sword, Griffith, which thrust fiercely towards the back of Elias's head!

"Crack!"

A crisp shattering sound rang out as the bony carapace covering Elias's body, thick like heavy metal armor, fractured.

But this strike also made Elias react swiftly.

Before the sword tip could pierce through the outer carapace into his brain, Elias swung his hand back, slapping hard towards Deng Shentong!

It was a palm thicker and larger than the main gate of the Deng Family courtyard.

Deng Shentong's sword was stuck in the outer layer of the carapace; the brief hesitation as he pulled it out made it too late for him to dodge this slap.

"Thump!!"

Deng Shentong was sent flying like a cannonball through over a kilometer of ruins and jungle.

He struggled to stabilize his posture mid-air, supporting himself on the ground with his sword in his right hand.

A trickle of blood slowly seeped from the corner of his mouth.

That sword strike just now hadn't killed Elias; instead, it had left him quite injured.

"I underestimated his defensive power!"

Although using the Great Sumeru Illusion could create illusions and affect Elias's five senses,

the physical pain was real and would allow Elias to instantly locate his position.

The most difficult part was still breaking through that armor-like bony shell covering his body.

Elias didn't pursue him; he remained immersed in the illusion.

As long as Deng Shentong didn't voluntarily dispel the Great Sumeru Illusion, Elias could never escape this situation.

Elias stood still, frozen in place as if his system had crashed.

He knew he had to find a way to break this illusion.

Otherwise, he could only remain passive and vulnerable to attacks.

"Think, how did I fall for this?"

"Right, it was the light. I saw his light."

"Then, if I close my eyes, would that work?"

Since everything before his eyes was an illusion anyway, his eyes had already lost their function.

Thus, Elias chose to close his eyes, cutting himself off from the light of this world.

When everything before him turned dark, the various chaotic sounds around him also disappeared.

A wild, ecstatic smile appeared on his lips: "Heh, is that all?"

Meanwhile, Deng Shentong's new round of attack arrived.

He took two silver spheres from under his robe and threw them at Elias's feet.

Moments later, a shocking explosion erupted violently at Elias's feet!

A pained grunt came from the scene as the hard carapace on Elias's leg actually cracked, with large amounts of blood flowing down like a spring.

"What kind of weapon is this? It can actually injure my body!"

Elias shouted in disbelief.

"This is a special bomb specifically designed to deal with high-level superhumans like you!"

Two more silver spheres appeared in Deng Shentong's palm. "Each one has power comparable to a Tomahawk missile!"

However, there was one rather unfortunate aspect.

Its cost was excessively high, and the required materials were extremely difficult to obtain.

Most crucially, Deng Shentong wasn't Zhang Yi; he didn't have the means to carry large quantities.

Otherwise, given the Deng Family's resources, it wouldn't be too much to say they could equip him with three to five hundred of these at once.

"I don't have any other special talents, but my family is quite wealthy."

Deng Shentong couldn't help but sigh.

In the past, he had always been unwilling to admit that his strength came from his family.

He believed he was a natural-born powerhouse who could reach the pinnacle even without relying on the Deng Family's power.

Therefore, when carrying out missions, he would try to avoid using products from Deng Technology as much as possible.

Now he had come to understand.

As long as it leads to victory, everything one possesses can be used.

Winning is all that matters.

Elias laughed coldly: "You're comparing wealth with me? I possess the entire nation of Malaya!"

Deng Shentong glanced at him coldly: "A tiny, insignificant country, what wealth can it have? The wealth I refer to is the foundation of technology! Not mere money."

Although Elias's legs were somewhat injured, looking terribly wounded and bleeding profusely,

compared to his massive body, these injuries weren't considered a major problem.

"Very well, this time, I'll be prepared!"

He tightened his grip on the scepter in his hand, pricking up his ears to carefully listen for sounds.

His exceptional five senses allowed him, even with closed eyes, to still discern the weapons attacking from around him.

Deng Shentong's body moved at high speed around him, actually transforming into a circular silver vortex.

Seizing the moment, he flung his wide cloak, instantly sending dozens of silver bombs shooting violently towards Elias!

"Among these bombs, only one is real. Guess which one it is!"

Elias's movements showed a momentary hesitation.

Deng Shentong's words gave him a psychological suggestion.

If every bomb were real, he would definitely fight desperately to counterattack all of them.

But if most were fake, then counterattacking the fake ones would be meaningless.

However, Deng Shentong could also be lying.

All these dozens of silver spheres could potentially be the kind of bombs capable of injuring him.

After a brief moment, Elias made his judgment.

Since it wasn't clear which one was real, he might as well counterattack them all!

He let out a roar, gripped the green scepter with both hands, his massive arms moving so fast they left afterimages!

"Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!"

Like playing baseball, he counterattacked each bomb coming at him.

"Boom!"

A violent explosion sounded as one real bomb detonated the moment it touched the scepter.

Among the bombs Deng Shentong threw, only one was real.

But he wasn't anxious, because he knew that hoping to kill Elias relying solely on bombs was completely unrealistic.

He was just creating opportunities to discover Elias's weakness.

Chapter 957: Gentlemen's Showdown

Closing his eyes indeed affects his movements.

Even with extraordinary senses that can determine my position, even being able to accurately deflect tiny explosive pellets back.

But since he dares not open his eyes, what he most likely relies on is hearing!

Deng Shentong gently pressed his left hand on the combat suit on his right arm. The outer shell of the combat suit opened, and six micro-robots flew out from inside.

In the Ice Age, high-power consumption robots have gradually been phased out on the battlefield, but these little gadgets running on micro-batteries can still play a role.

Deng Shentong quickly gave them instructions.

The six micro-robots flew towards six directions around Elias respectively.

"Now, begin!"

Deng Shentong issued the command.

In the next instant, these six micro-robots actually emitted an ear-splitting sound!

The sharp sound pierced the ears like needles.

Deng Shentong had already used the principle of sound wave cancellation in advance, employing sound waves of the opposite phase to cancel out this noise.

But for Elias, this sudden noise instantly plunged him into immense agony.

His brain felt as if being pierced by ten thousand steel needles, the pain so severe he immediately covered his ears.

But this kind of sharp sound wave, even with ears covered, still drills into the ears, stimulating his eardrums.

"Eyes cannot see, ears cannot hear, let's see what you use to counterattack now?"

Deng Shentong, carrying his sword, swiftly charged towards Elias.

This time, his target was Elias's left foot, whose external carapace had already been blasted open!

"Thwack!"

The long sword slashed a huge gash, blood gushing out torrentially like a waterfall.

The tendon in Elias's left foot was directly severed.

He cried out in agony from the pain, and because his left foot could no longer support his body, he crashed to his knees on the ground.

After Deng Shentong dashed forward and steadied himself, he intended to repeat the trick and sever Elias's other foot.

"Damned insect, go die!"

Just then, Elias let out a pained roar, and his body actually began to rapidly expand, with various parts emitting scorching white steam.

For some reason, Deng Shentong suddenly felt uneasy.

It was a threat close to death.

He immediately halted his forward dash, without hesitation, swiftly retreating backward!

Just as he expected.

Elias, transformed into the Giant Spirit Datuk, suddenly began to violently expand, the white steam soaring skyward like a heat wave.

In a brief moment, it was like a huge bomb starting to explode!

The Giant Spirit form's trump card — [Mortal Nuclear Weapon].

Releasing the power of the transformed Giant Spirit Datuk all at once will trigger a violent explosion with a two-kilometer blast radius!

The surging heat wave swept out in all directions, clearing away all surrounding buildings and withered trees completely. The thick snow on the ground melted and then evaporated.

Deng Shentong, with high alertness, escaped immediately, but was still caught by the blast wave and sent flying hard.

He felt intense heat on his back, and his combat suit was burned with a large tear.

Fortunately, he had the protection of Sacred Form Enhancement, which prevented him from being seriously injured.

But his throat felt a metallic sweetness, and he couldn't help but spit out another mouthful of blood.

His chest cavity throbbed with raw pain.

"If I had been in the core area of the explosion just now, I might be dead by now."

Deng Shentong thought with lingering fear.

Battles between high-level superhumans are just so perilous; a single moment of carelessness can cost you your life.

In the peripheral areas of the battlefield, the superhuman team members of both squads were also engaged in fierce combat.

But the commotion here terrified them to the core.

Combat at the captain level and above exists on a different dimension from theirs; they simply aren't qualified to intervene.

At this moment, both sides could only pray for their own captain, unable to provide any other assistance.

Deng Shentong slowly stood up. He took a healing pill from his pocket and put it in his mouth.

As for compounds, he wasn't planning to use them for now.

Unless forced into a corner, he didn't want to use something that overdrafts his body.

Because overdrafting power at such a time is equivalent to automatically withdrawing from the competition for the Divine Source.

He was not willing to hand over such immense fortune to others.

This area of the battlefield had been completely cleared, and the toxic miasma had rolled far away, unable to approach for a short time.

Elias had returned to his human form. Holding the green scepter, he walked step by step towards Deng Shentong.

His combat suit had already shut down the visual system and activated active noise cancellation.

Deng Shentong's same trick could no longer be used a second time.

But Deng Shentong also made a judgment.

That kind of high-consumption skill couldn't possibly be used a second time in a short period either!

"You do have some strength, but now, I've already figured out your abilities."

After saying this, Elias actually reached out and drew a sharp long sword from within the green scepter.

It was a rapier, its tip pointing directly at Deng Shentong's head.

"Next, let us have a duel between gentlemen!"

The two had pretty much used up their respective trump cards in the life-and-death struggle.

So next, it would be a true clash of hard strength.

Deng Shentong wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth and assumed a classic fencing stance.
"Good, then let us fight!"

As soon as the words fell, the figures of both men disappeared from their spots simultaneously, then charged towards each other.

Fencing combat is extremely dangerous; it is a blade focused primarily on thrusting. However, unlike sport fencing, its sides are also sharpened.

So besides having formidable thrusting power, it can also slash open wounds on an enemy with its side blade.

When thrusting, the sword tip never leaves the enemy's center line, creating a tremendous sense of pressure.

A single mistake and it will ruthlessly pierce your heart!

The sound of clashing blades was like raindrops falling on rocks during rain, a continuous crackling patter.

Both men considered themselves nobles, were skilled fencers trained since childhood, and both possessed formidable close-combat strength.

So this battle was extremely intense, and soon both showed obvious bloodstains on their bodies.

"Thud!"

Elias found an opening and thrust his sword straight through Deng Shentong's lower abdomen!

And Deng Shentong took the opportunity to pierce through Elias's sword-wielding shoulder.

Injuries exchanged for injuries, neither had an easy time!

Both men endured the severe pain and separated. The first thing each did was take out hemostatic medicine and begin treating their wounds.

Otherwise, in these temperatures, they would quickly lose combat effectiveness due to frostbite.

And just as the two were fighting desperately, their strength nearly depleted, and both seriously wounded...

A bullet shot out from deep within the toxic miasma and pierced through Elias's head.

Chapter 958: Watch Your Back

Elias fell to the ground, his eyes still filled with bewilderment and confusion.

He didn't understand why the world before him had suddenly gone dark.

Deng Shentong was equally puzzled.

His nerves had instantly tightened, and he was just about to flee.

At that moment, he heard a familiar voice.

"Making such a huge commotion, you're really asking for death!"

A circular portal appeared in mid-air, and Zhang Yi emerged with Hua Hua and Lele, standing before Deng Shentong.

He carried a massive silver-gray sniper rifle on his shoulder, smiling as he looked at Elias's corpse on the ground.

"Zhang... Zhang Yi?!"

Seeing that it was Zhang Yi who had arrived, Deng Shentong's body immediately relaxed.

Zhang Yi raised a finger to his lips in a shushing gesture. "How many times have I said it? Use codenames during operations."

Zhang Yi hadn't just arrived.

He had appeared several minutes earlier.

However, he was waiting for Deng Shentong to exhaust Elias to the limit, a point where Elias's attention would be divided.

Only then could Zhang Yi succeed with a single strike.

"Thank you."

Deng Shentong suddenly clutched his chest, and fresh blood trickled from the corner of his mouth.

If Zhang Yi hadn't arrived just in time, it was hard to say which of them—himself or Elias—would have survived.

"No need for thanks with me. After all, I won't be polite with you either."

Zhang Yi picked up Elias's body and said to Deng Shentong, "The credit goes to you, his origin belongs to me. You don't have a problem with that, do you?"

What problem could Deng Shentong possibly have?

Zhang Yi had just saved his life.

"That's fair."

Deng Shentong replied with a smile.

Zhang Yi originally intended to leave immediately, but seeing Deng Shentong's severely injured state, he slightly furrowed his brow.

Leaving Deng Shentong here might allow someone else to take advantage and kill him.

His relationship with the Deng Family was decent, so there was no reason to let something happen to Deng Shentong here.

"I'll take you back for treatment first! Come back after you've recovered."

Although his injuries looked serious, as long as it wasn't a terminal illness, physical wounds like these could be healed quickly.

In a day or two at most, Deng Shentong could return.

Deng Shentong looked at Zhang Yi gratefully, his smile bright as he said, "Thank you!"

"But before that, let's clean up the battlefield first!"

Zhang Yi's gaze swept around the area.

The fighting in this particular area had ended, but the battles involving the other team members were still ongoing.

"This is exactly why I didn't want to bring Baili and the others here!"

Zhang Yi sighed with emotion.

The intensity of this battlefield exceeded ordinary imagination.

Even squad leaders risked death here, let alone regular team members.

Their presence here would only serve auxiliary roles like reconnaissance assistance, with almost no ability to intervene in battles at the squad leader level or above.

Deng Shentong said helplessly, "Probably no one expected superhumans from nations like the Columbus Ocean to appear either!"

Zhang Yi said lightly, "Yeah, who would have thought!"

"I'll go clean up the battlefield now."

As soon as he finished speaking, he instantly vanished from the spot, leaving Hua Hua and Lele behind to protect Deng Shentong.

One minute later, the team of Malaya's number one powerhouse, Tapel Elias, was completely annihilated!

Zhang Yi returned to find Deng Shentong and said to him, "I can only take you back alone. The others will have to stay here for now."

Deng Shentong thought for a moment, then called for Bai Chunyu.

"Old Bai, take everyone and hide nearby. Don't make any rash moves before I return! And absolutely avoid conflicts with others."

Bai Chunyu nodded. After this battle, they had become acutely aware of the brutality on the island.

Zhang Yi, however, asked, "Do you want them to die that badly?"

Deng Shentong and Bai Chunyu looked at Zhang Yi.

Zhang Yi said calmly, "I was attracted here by the commotion from your fight. While I can't be sure there are definitely other superhumans from the joint forces nearby, what if there are? What will they do?"

Deng Shentong fell silent for a moment.

Zhang Yi had just arrived and didn't yet know about the mysterious creature Deng Shentong had discovered.

But given his current injuries, he truly couldn't continue the mission.

So he ordered Bai Chunyu to take the team back to a shopping mall they had passed earlier.

After these arrangements were made.

Zhang Yi had Lele carry Deng Shentong on his back, then opened a Dimensional Gate to begin spatial traversal.

Although he couldn't determine direction, Zhang Yi had left spatial markers along the way when they came, so he only needed to follow the original path back.

Deng Shentong looked at Zhang Yi and couldn't help but sigh, "Spatial-type superhumans are so convenient! If only I could have gotten you to join the Celestial Squad back then."

Zhang Yi glanced at him and asked with a faint, ambiguous smile, "Then would you serve as my deputy squad leader?"

Deng Shentong raised an eyebrow. "Dual squad leaders! You're the captain, I'm the captain too. That way, no one has to fight over it."

Zhang Yi chuckled dismissively. "We can discuss it after we get back. By the way, I'll take you fishing in Tianhai City when you have time next."

As they bantered, Zhang Yi brought Deng Shentong back along the route.

Deng Shentong suddenly said to Zhang Yi, "Chaos, wait a moment! There's something very important I need to discuss with you."

Zhang Yi stopped. "Oh? What is it? More important than your life?"

Deng Shentong smiled and shook his head. "This little injury won't kill me. And don't think I'm that delicate just because I'm a sixth-generation rich heir."

Zhang Yi nodded. "Good. Hearing that makes me want to punch you already."

Deng Shentong coughed. He cautiously glanced around, though the gesture was purely instinctual.

With Zhang Yi, Hua Hua, and Lele present, it was almost impossible for anyone to ambush them nearby.

"We'll be back on the Xuanwu soon. I originally planned to keep this to myself and take it all alone."

"But now I'm injured, and it will be discovered sooner or later anyway. So I might as well tell you, as repayment for saving my life."

Zhang Yi looked at him. "What is it?"

"Divine Source!"

Deng Shentong said slowly.

Zhang Yi met his gaze. He could sense that Deng Shentong wasn't joking.

Zhang Yi said flatly, "You must have seen wrong. The Divine Source is in Mist Valley."

Deng Shentong shook his head. "No, it definitely was! The Divine Source isn't an inanimate object—it's alive!"

He told Zhang Yi how he encountered those Little Sprites, absorbed one, and how his superhuman ability rapidly increased afterward.

However, after listening, Zhang Yi merely smiled faintly.

"I can tell you with absolute certainty that it's not the Divine Source. However, it should be some kind of miraculous entity, possibly a byproduct or companion of the Divine Source."

Zhang Yi stated.

He had contacted fragments of the Divine Source and understood this better than anyone else here.

Deng Shentong looked at Zhang Yi in surprise. "Why do you say that?"

Zhang Yi said calmly, "Because the power of the Divine Source allows one to break through genetic limitations. If it were just pure energy, killing a squad leader-level superhuman would give you more."

Chapter 959: A Jealous Dog

Zhang Yi's words instantly calmed the fire that had been burning in Deng Shentong's heart.

However, after thinking about that large spirit, he decided not to tell Zhang Yi.

If, as Zhang Yi said, the small spirit was just an energy construct, then what about the large one?

That one might be the real Divine Source!

Deng Shentong had his own selfish motives; he kept the matter to himself.

"Anyway, thanks for sharing the intel. I'll keep an eye out."

Zhang Yi smiled at Deng Shentong.

Deng Shentong felt a little guilty, but people are selfish by nature. His talent wasn't as outstanding as Zhang Yi's, so he had to look out for himself.

He wanted to become stronger and refused to be anyone's understudy.

Not long after, the two of them left Star Island.

Zhang Yi brought Deng Shentong back to Xuanwu.

Their return astonished everyone on Xuanwu.

It was only the first day, and Deng Shentong came back covered in wounds.

A few officers from the East Sea Region couldn't help but sneer when they saw him.

"The Jiangnan Region captain-level, already withdrawing from the battlefield so soon?"

"Well, at least he kept his life."

Nearby, Yan Yun Guard members from the Jiangnan Region hurried over to provide support.

Hearing those remarks, anger flashed in their eyes.

But Deng Shentong was clearly badly injured, and they had no way to refute it.

Zhang Yi glanced at the few Sea Dragon unit officers making snide comments and said calmly,

"Yeah, we just wiped out three allied superhuman squads—completely annihilated them!"

"I wonder how your East Sea Region's record is doing right now?"

The Sea Dragon officers from the East Sea Region immediately changed expression.

This sort of thing could be verified with a simple check, and given Zhang Yi and Deng Shentong's status, there was no way they could be lying about it.

Their faces grew awkward, and for a moment they had to cover it up with coughs.

Zhang Yi couldn't be bothered with them and ordered that Deng Shentong be taken to a medbay pod for treatment.

When Li Tianyang and Situ Xin heard the news that Zhang Yi and Deng Shentong had returned, they also came over.

They couldn't monitor the island's situation in real time.

After the various superhuman units landed on the island, they had dispersed to operate independently.

Because everyone secretly had designs on the Divine Source, they wouldn't synchronize battlefield updates in real time.

Only special incidents would be reported to the command center.

"Chaos, Erlang Shen, why are you back so soon?"

Li Tianyang asked with his hands behind his back and a frown.

Zhang Yi shot him a glance. "Erlang Shen singlehandedly wiped out a Malai superhuman squad. Their leader claimed to be Malai's number one powerhouse—called... what was it? The name was so long, it's damn hard to remember."

Deng Shentong smiled, "Tapel Elias."

Li Tianyang and the others changed color.

Of course they had heard of that Malai superhuman's reputation.

Li Tianyang looked at the severely injured Deng Shentong. "You killed Elias?"

"No, Chaos and I teamed up to kill him."

Deng Shentong spoke frankly.

Zhang Yi looked at him in surprise—hadn't they agreed that the origin would belong to Zhang Yi and the credit to Deng Shentong?

Deng Shentong smiled at him. "Empty fame? I've had too much of that in my life. It doesn't matter to me."

Zhang Yi gave a helpless laugh. "Fair enough."

As a scion of the Deng Family, Deng Shentong didn't care much about mission credits.

Li Tianyang stared at Zhang Yi sharply, his gaze like a shark locking onto prey.

Zhang Yi gradually narrowed his eyes in response.

Li Tianyang had always been at odds with him. Hearing about Zhang Yi's achievements now clearly made him resentful.

But Zhang Yi simply ignored him. Although this operation was led by the East Sea Region, that didn't mean the Jiangnan Region could be bullied.

Besides, Li Tianyang was only an operations chief, not the regional commander.

"I need a batch of new supplies prepared. Especially high-yield explosives and weapons, plus food and fresh water."

Zhang Yi told Situ Xin.

Situ Xin nodded. "Okay, no problem. Whatever you need, we'll get it!"

Situ Xin's grin was almost crooked.

Zhang Yi's performance today had really put some honor back into the Jiangnan Region.

It showed the East Sea Region that Jiangnan wasn't as weak as they assumed.

"Hold on!"

Just as Zhang Yi was about to leave with the logistics officer, Li Tianyang suddenly called after him.

Zhang Yi gave him a cold glance. "What is it?"

Li Tianyang asked sternly, "How could you act on the battlefield without authorization? Why didn't you follow my orders to advance toward Mist Valley? Instead you conducted guerrilla operations at the edge of the battlefield and disturbed the enemy. That affects the entire campaign!"

He lifted his chin and snorted coldly. "Is it impressive to have wiped out a few small squads? Why didn't you go take on Colombia's Hell's Lock?"

"Don't forget our main goal. It's not for you to show off—it's to obtain the Divine Source!"

After hearing Li Tianyang's words, Zhang Yi slowly narrowed his eyes.

This bastard, shamelessly using public duty as a pretense to criticize him.

Zhang Yi glanced back at Xuanwu.

Although Xuanwu's head was down playing video games, Zhang Yi couldn't take action against Li Tianyang while he was here.

He could only let out a cold laugh and look at Li Tianyang with disdain.

"When did we need to report to you about every move on the island?"

Li Tianyang didn't expect Zhang Yi to retort and immediately scolded loudly, "How rude! I'm the overall commander of this operation. On the battlefield you must obey all my orders! Otherwise it's disobeying military command!"

Situ Xin approached Li Tianyang with a smiling face and put a hand on his shoulder.

"Minister Li, calm down. As the saying goes, commanders in the field may need to disobey some orders. Conditions on Star Island are complicated; some situations require flexible responses."

"Chaos's actions were driven by many environmental factors."

A flash of killing intent flickered in Zhang Yi's eyes and then vanished.

Although Li Tianyang's attitude was infuriating, Zhang Yi wouldn't be foolish enough to strike him here.

Maybe Li Tianyang's purpose was to provoke him, to force Zhang Yi to act.

If Zhang Yi struck, with Xuanwu present they could easily detain him.

They would then accuse him of disobeying orders and confine him within Xuanwu's body.

In that case, Zhang Yi would be unable to take part in the struggle over the Divine Source.

Having figured it all out, Zhang Yi restored his calm demeanor.

But he noted the matter and would remember it.

Xuanwu noticed that the killing intent in Zhang Yi had disappeared and gave him a bright smile.

That made Zhang Yi's heart tighten.

"Looks like he's ready to move against me."

Although Xuanwu was currently in spirit form, on his true body he was the absolute master.

Zhang Yi didn't know Xuanwu's methods, and he wasn't stupid enough to pick a fight with him.

Chapter 960: The Pursuer

Situ Xin spoke up for Zhang Yi and offered a few polite words for show.

Li Tianyang actually had no real way to control Zhang Yi.

Everyone would act on their own once they landed on the island — that was an unspoken rule everyone understood.

After all, every person had their own agenda and wanted to claim the Divine Source. Who would obediently follow Li Tianyang, the nominal commander? He was just using the moment to rile Zhang Yi on purpose.

Li Tianyang pointed at Zhang Yi with a hand, frowning as he said sternly, "If you act like this, you'll only waste our strength! So from now on, you must take more proactive measures."

Zhang Yi smiled faintly and nodded, "Alright, I will do that."

Zhang Yi's cooperative tone displeased Li Tianyang; his plan to provoke Zhang Yi hadn't worked.

Zhang Yi left with the quartermaster to collect a large cache of weapons, ammunition, food, and fresh water.

Beyond the standard allowance, he spent all his points and claimed even more supplies.

Although he had only eliminated two squads and split the credit for taking down Elias's team with Deng Shentong, the materials he secured filled several shipping containers.

The rule had been to collect supplies after the battle — who took them on the spot like Zhang Yi did? The quartermaster's staff were dumbfounded watching him.

Zhang Yi ignored them. He didn't need these things, but if they were free, why not take them? Since he'd come all this way, he wouldn't leave empty-handed; he was used to that.

But thinking of Li Tianyang's attitude chilled the smile in Zhang Yi's eyes.

"This guy is probably afraid I'll compete with them for the Divine Source. He'll likely keep targeting me next."

"Doesn't matter. Until I reach my goal, I won't come back."

If it weren't for escorting Deng Shentong, he wouldn't have needed to return here at all. He hadn't expected to be put through Li Tianyang's nonsense on his return. So after collecting the supplies, he planned to leave immediately and head back into the island's interior.

Situ Xin came over.

“Captain Chaos, your performance here was very good. I’ve reported the situation to Regional Headquarters — Zhu Shuai is very satisfied with you.”

Zhang Yi looked at Situ Xin’s ever-smiling face and returned the smile, “Tell Zhu Shuai I’ll keep working hard. I’ll try to bring the Divine Source back to the Jiangnan Region!”

Situ Xin nodded with a smile. “I will pass it on.”

Zhang Yi left Xuanwu, taking Hua Hua and Lele with him, and returned to the island to continue his hunt. Li Tianyang watched Zhang Yi depart, his expression growing darker and more overcast.

“Will he really become a variable?” Li Tianyang murmured.

Standing beside him were officers from the East Sea Region. Xuanwu held a handheld game console and wore headphones, speaking absentmindedly:

“Not necessarily a good thing. Someone with Epsilon potential doesn’t always become Epsilon.”

“The closer you get to the boundary, the harder it is to advance.”

Everyone looked at Xuanwu, puzzled. Xuanwu raised his eyelids. “What they call ability points are just artificial divisions — they’re essentially optional.”

“But the barrier between Delta and Epsilon is very real.”

“The further you go, the stronger the origin you need to absorb to breakthrough. Once you break the barrier, the sky’s the limit — but the difficulty lies in breaking that layer.”

He smiled with meaning and said, “If he reaches over 9,900 points, he’d probably need to kill at least two other superhumans of the same level before a breakthrough becomes possible.”

“That’s not easy!” Li Tianyang said, suddenly recalling some legends about Xuanwu, and his expression relaxed a bit.

“True. If Epsilon were that easy to reach, the East Sea Region wouldn’t have only you at that level.”

...

Zhang Yi returned to the island and moved deeper inland along the route he’d been following earlier. Elias’s death had finally stirred the Colombian Navy into action.

“Two superhuman squads sent by Malai were wiped out in a single day!” Huo En’s expression was grim. “This is no accident. Someone is deliberately hunting them. But to what end?”

Those forces were allies of the Colombian Navy, though allies are united by interest. Their loss wasn’t a major blow to the navy. If they could secure the Divine Source, the death of several allied teams didn’t matter — a single Epsilon-level superhuman was worth more than all the island’s superhuman units combined.

His subordinate, Lieutenant Colonel Keludi, pondered for a moment then said as if struck by an idea, “Is there another possibility? Maybe the enemy’s target was those high-level superhumans themselves?”

Huo En glanced at him. “What do you mean by that?”

Keludi replied, “There’s only one Divine Source; not everyone can get it. Of course our navy wants it, but even if our allies obtained it, they wouldn’t dare hide it secretly.”

“So can’t we say most of the island’s superhumans actually had no chance at the Divine Source?”

“Some clever ones would give up competing for the Divine Source and instead hunt other superhumans to obtain origin energy!”

Huo En nodded. “If that’s true, then such people pose less of a threat to our mission.”

“But we can’t let them continue killing. Any unexpected variable must be eliminated!”

Keludi said, “Hermit Boon has already gone after him. He won’t survive long.”

...

Zhang Yi, with Hua Hua and Lele, returned to the island. He revisited what Deng Shentong had said earlier and, after thinking it through, had clarified the sequence of events in his mind.

“The encounter between him and Savendra wasn’t accidental.”

“The strange creature he mentioned was probably the catalyst. Both sides likely discovered it at the same time and then clashed over it.”

“Otherwise, they wouldn’t be fighting to the death.”

Zhang Yi stood near the battlefield from before and stroked Lele’s head. The dog’s nose was extremely useful.

“Deng Shentong hid something from me. Sniff around here and see if you catch any suspicious scent.”

Lele lowered its head. Zhang Yi flared his own nostrils and breathed in hard. Soon Lele lifted its head and said to Zhang Yi, “This place was too badly damaged. I do smell a faint, unusual scent in the air, but it’s too weak to pinpoint.”

Zhang Yi gauged his current position. He should be deep within Golden Phoenix City or on the edge of Bato City. From the map, either way, it was still far from Mist Valley.

“That thing is interesting, but might not be the Divine Source.”

“However, if we have time, we can track it down.”

Zhang Yi said calmly. But they didn't rush into action. They'd already been busy for the whole day; Zhang Yi planned to find a place to rest well first, then act later.