

Ice Age 981

Chapter 981: Open the door and let the flowers bloom!

Hua Hua charged directly toward Baldier from the front. Its fur resembled obsidian armor, combined with the custom-made battle armor crafted specifically for it by Lu Keran, granting it astonishing destructive power!

In terms of close combat, Hua Hua and Liang Yue were roughly evenly matched.

But purely in strength and destructive capability, as a giant beast, Hua Hua absolutely surpassed Liang Yue.

Zhang Yi retreated into the Mirror World, with Hua Hua taking his place to battle Baldier.

Baldier found himself caught between two difficult situations.

Still under the effects of the drug, he didn't fear a beast like Hua Hua at all.

However, he had to constantly guard against Zhang Yi hiding in the shadows, preventing him from using his full power.

With the wolf pack completely wiped out, he could no longer rely on shifting positions to evade attacks.

Left with no choice, he could only raise his crimson dagger.

Hua Hua let out a tremendous roar and charged straight for Baldier's face, its sharp claws and body full of spikes radiating chilling killing intent!

It raced forward, wrapped in an endless storm, like a massive battle tank.

Baldier positioned his dagger in front of him. Facing the charging Hua Hua, he planted his feet firmly on the ground, then seized the moment to slash forward!

With just one slash, Hua Hua's armor was torn apart, silver-white metal fragments flying everywhere, along with dozens of its black, hardened hairs being shaved off.

Baldier barely managed to dodge Hua Hua's claws.

But this move had consumed too much of his energy.

So when he withdrew his attack, at his weakest moment, Zhang Yi struck again from mid-air.

The horizontal sword burning with Void Black Flames aimed straight for his neck, slashing down directly!

The blood vessels in Baldier's pupils grew increasingly dense.

He didn't have time to turn around.

But just as the horizontal sword was about to strike, his left hand grabbed the compound bow and blocked it behind his back.

Holy Judgment struck the body of the compound bow, and black Void Power erupted violently!

The raging Void Black Flames were blocked by Baldier's superhuman ability, engaging in fierce confrontation.

A stream of black Void Power shot upward like a sharp sword, actually flowing counter-current and soaring high into the sky.

But for this strike, Baldier ultimately wasn't properly prepared. The ground beneath his feet instantly shattered, and he was smashed deep into the earth!

At the Colombian Navy command center, red alarm sirens blared urgently.

According to conclusions derived from intelligence analysis, Baldier could no longer hold on!

"The simulation results from the computer show Uller's chance of victory is now less than one in a hundred million!"

"His escape probability is one in 36 million, and his survival probability is only one in 10 million!"

General Huo En clenched his fists, unable to accept such results.

"No! Baldier cannot be lost. Our fleet invests too many resources to cultivate a top-tier superhuman. His death would be even more unacceptable than losing an entire mixed fleet!"

In his panic, General Huo En even forgot the principle of using code names during work.

Because he was truly panicked.

"Is there anyone nearby who can provide support? Is there!"

General Huo En roared his question.

But the intelligence personnel's response was: "In Golden Phoenix City, there currently aren't any superhumans capable of changing the battle situation. The nearest are the superhuman teams from New Rohan, but their strength..."

General Huo En's heart sank completely. Even Cadillus, who was watching from the sidelines, raised his eyebrows.

Baldier's abilities were quite useful, especially for assassination missions.

However, Cadillus only felt somewhat regretful about Baldier's potential defeat and death.

On the battlefield, Zhang Yi clearly sensed that Baldier's drug effects were rapidly fading.

Because he was too eager to kill Zhang Yi, he had overdrawn his strength too quickly, causing the weakness period to arrive early.

"I can't keep delaying either. If I wait for their reinforcements to arrive, he might just survive."

Zhang Yi quickly made a decision in his heart.

"Hua Hua, attack!"

Hua Hua's defensive power was definitely the strongest among all of Zhang Yi's companions.

Although Zhang Yi was a cat lover, having it take the frontline at such times was the most reliable approach.

Hua Hua roared, its body quickly curling into a ball and then beginning to roll.

【Chariot】 , this was one of its most unstoppable abilities.

Hua Hua rolled like a giant spiked iron ball, crashing toward Baldier.

Zhang Yi, meanwhile, held his sword in one hand and his gun in the other, beginning to use the twelve layers of the Mirror World to launch long-range attacks against Baldier.

As a Navy SEAL, Baldier possessed formidable close combat skills.

Even when facing a beast like Hua Hua, he could still handle it with ease.

From a size perspective, Hua Hua was dozens of times larger than him, creating a visual impact that made people exclaim in disbelief.

However, this alone was completely insufficient to handle the battlefield situation.

Because there was still Zhang Yi, attacking him from unpredictable locations in long-range form.

The twelve layers of the Mirror World, twelve Dimensional Gates allowing Zhang Yi to move through any position on the battlefield.

And the positions of these twelve gates could be changed.

What appeared to be twelve gates actually represented countless positions.

This left Baldier completely unable to predict where the next attack would come from.

What made him most desperate was that his plan to concentrate power and kill one opponent had now completely failed.

He never expected that Zhang Yi would have a high-level Delta-grade mystical beast accompanying him.

Initially, that black cat demon didn't seem remarkable.

But only after it joined the battle did Baldier begin to suffer.

Its physical attributes were extremely high, combined with feline natural hunting skills, making it incredibly difficult to deal with.

"So from the very beginning, you've been hiding your true strength!"

Baldier finally realized this point.

He had thought himself the hunter, viewing the other as prey.

But the other party thought the same way.

Zhang Yi intentionally showed weakness just to avoid startling this self-righteous hunter.

Because if Zhang Yi had displayed sufficient power early on, the distant Baldier might have abandoned the hunting operation.

Or chosen to summon teammates for a joint hunt.

In the end, he became the one who entered the trap.

"Meow!!"

Hua Hua's attacks grew increasingly fierce.

It stared at the enemy before it, eyes filled with fervor, because this was a very high-level superhuman.

If they could kill him, they would obtain the most delicious origin energy since the island landing operation!

"Awooo!!"

Baldier finally couldn't withstand Zhang Yi and Hua Hua's infantry-tank coordination.

He howled at the sky, actually emitting a cry like a wild wolf.

Then, in Zhang Yi and Hua Hua's eyes, he actually transformed into a two-meter-tall crimson giant wolf!

But after transforming, he didn't choose to fight desperately against Hua Hua and Zhang Yi. Instead, he turned around, dropped to all fours, and fled for his life!

Chapter 982: He is so powerful!

Hell's Lock member, Hunting God Ullr, Vito Baldia.

Ability: Wolf Pack Hunt.

With the power to control wolf packs, he can also transform into a giant wolf himself.

However, this ability of his is rarely seen in daily life.

After transforming into a giant wolf, he gains even stronger physical abilities, with explosive improvements especially in speed and stamina!

When he uses this ability, he is either pursuing prey or attempting to escape for his life.

At this moment, he had already felt the weakness of his physical condition.

Continuing to fight would mean certain death, so he had to flee!

But seeing this scene, a faint smile suddenly appeared at the corner of Zhang Yi's mouth.

"Trying to escape in front of me, are you insane?"

"Hua Hua, pursue!"

At Zhang Yi's command, he immediately activated spatial traversal to chase forward. Hua Hua was slightly slower, but still closely pursued Baldia without letting up.

After a few moments, Zhang Yi arrived above Baldia. With a wave of his hand, ten Dimensional Gates appeared around Baldia.

This wasn't the first time Baldia had seen this ability. He keenly sensed the existence of the Dimensional Gates from the subtle airflow fluctuations in the air.

He immediately changed direction to escape, but this brief hesitation was enough for Hua Hua to catch up.

Until this moment, Zhang Yi had not chosen to actively close in and fight him directly.

Baldia was too fast, making it difficult for Zhang Yi's attacks to hit him.

Rashly approaching might allow the critically injured Baldia to turn the tables and kill him.

So the best method was to let Hua Hua hold him back.

Sure enough, Hua Hua lived up to expectations, charging straight over and pouncing onto Baldia's back, biting his neck!

Felines are superior to canines in terms of hunting and reaction speed.

Baldia cried out in pain, trying desperately to shake Hua Hua off.

But the brief moment Hua Hua bought was already enough.

Zhang Yi took out Thunderbolt, aiming directly at Baldia's heart without even needing to aim.

He amplified his superhuman ability to the maximum, causing a layer of pitch-black flames to appear on Thunderbolt's surface.

"Go die!!"

Thunderbolt roared silently as a bullet instantly traversed space, penetrating Baldia's body amidst his desperate struggles.

The bullets Zhang Yi used were all poisoned—even a graze would rapidly cause poisoning.

The toxin's potency wasn't particularly high either, just the kind where 0.1 milligrams could kill a whale.

Even Zhang Yi had to carefully wear gloves and keep an antidote in his mouth while loading them.

After being shot, although Baldia desperately avoided his heart, he quickly lost his ability to move.

The movie trope of continuing to struggle and fight after being shot in the chest doesn't exist in reality.

The toxin rapidly spread throughout his body.

Baldia's body quickly lost strength, and he was directly pinned to the ground by Hua Hua.

At the Colombian Navy's temporary command center, the final scene they saw was the giant black cat severing Baldia's head with one claw.

"NO!!!!"

General Huo En roared furiously upon seeing this scene.

"F**K, F**K!"

Witnessing Baldia's death firsthand made him utterly enraged.

Hell's Lock's third-ranked member, a superhuman the Ocean Fleet had spent enormous resources to cultivate, was actually killed by a superhuman from the Jiangnan Region??

He absolutely could not accept this outcome!

Cadillus looked at the furious Huo En with a somewhat mocking expression on his face.

He showed no sadness over his comrade's death.

Instead, looking at Zhang Yi's image in the remaining footage made him somewhat curious.

"What an interesting guy."

He said this while resting his chin on his hand.

Zhang Yi's image in his mind became more three-dimensional.

Zhang Yi picked up Baldia's head and said to Hua Hua, "His body can't be eaten anymore; it's full of toxins. We can only destroy it."

Hua Hua looked somewhat disappointed. The flesh and blood of high-level superhumans were perfect nourishment for it.

Zhang Yi recorded a video of Baldia's head and sent it to the command center.

"I killed a superhuman, a member of Hell's Lock."

He only recorded a brief few-second video without any additional content.

However, he didn't realize what immense psychological shock he had delivered to those in the command center.

When the command center received the video from Zhang Yi, the entire place exploded!

Situ Xin and others didn't know much about Hell's Lock, only that Zhang Yi had killed another superhuman from the joint forces.

But when Li Tianyang and others saw Baldia's head, they instantly stood dumbfounded, turned into fools.

They all widened their eyes, their minds somewhat blank, unable to believe what their eyes were seeing was real.

"This... this couldn't be..."

Li Tianyang felt his mouth go dry. He stammered for a long time before finally raising a finger, pointing at the screen and saying to the officers beside him, "Why does he look... somewhat like Hell's Lock's [Ullr]?"

The staff compared the facial features of the head in the footage.

They quickly obtained a result.

Equally surprised and shocked, he stammered, "That's right, he... he is indeed Hell's Lock member [Ullr]!"

Li Tianyang stood dumbfounded, rooted to the spot in shock.

This scene made Situ Xin and other Jiangnan Region officers exchange puzzled glances.

They roughly guessed that Zhang Yi must have killed a very remarkable figure.

A Jiangnan Region officer couldn't help but ask, "Is this Ullr very strong?"

"Is he strong?"

An East Sea Region officer nearby responded in an exaggerated tone.

"He's Hell's Lock's third-in-command! A being with a superhuman ability index as high as 9800 points!"

When mentioning Ullr's name, he actually seemed somewhat nervous, taking several deep breaths.

"During the naval standoff back then, he alone killed five of our fleet commanders!"

"Equivalent to five of your investigation team captain-level superhumans."

Only then did Situ Xin and the others understand how powerful the person Zhang Yi had killed was!

Not to mention anything else, just the 9800-point superhuman ability index alone was enough to dominate the entire Jiangnan Region.

Even within the Colombian Navy, he was a top-tier transcendent powerhouse!

His strength probably wasn't much weaker than that previous [Billy the Kid].

And such a figure was actually killed by Zhang Yi?

Situ Xin's heart surged with wild joy. This time, who would dare say their Jiangnan Region was weak?

After all, even though Zhang Yi was also a 9800-point superhuman.

Everyone knew Zhang Yi's ability codename was [Absolute Defense], indicating an extremely conservative, defense-oriented superhuman.

So how did he manage to kill Ullr, who also had 9800 points?

Chapter 983: Glorious Sacrifice

Situ Xin was utterly perplexed in his heart. He felt that neither he personally, nor the entirety of Blizzard City, had ever truly understood Zhang Yi.

Every time they thought they had Zhang Yi figured out, they would quickly be proven wrong with a slap to the face.

However, this didn't prevent the officers of the Jiangnan Region from standing tall with their chests out, facing the officers of the East Sea Region with proud expressions.

As for the officers of the East Sea Region, their attitudes had also become considerably more restrained by now.

After all, even if a fleet commander from the East Sea Region encountered a powerhouse of Uller's caliber, it would undoubtedly be a fierce and difficult battle.

"Chaos eliminated Uller. Just this one person alone is worth 5 billion points!" Li Tianyang said gravely.

Situ Xin nodded. This point value wasn't an exaggeration.

Even among superhumans also in the 9000+ range.

Uller's combat power could rival that of ten captains around the 9300-point mark.

He was a terrifying powerhouse who was already approaching the Epsilon-level.

"But," Li Tianyang took a deep breath and said sternly, "For such a crucial battle, why didn't Chaos communicate with headquarters?"

He glanced at Situ Xin beside him and said coldly, "He simply doesn't trust us! Minister Situ, what is your view on this?"

Situ Xin knew that Li Tianyang was deliberately picking a fight again.

To put it bluntly, he was just sour inside, unwilling to see the Jiangnan Region achieve such a brilliant result on the battlefield, overshadowing the East Sea Region.

Situ Xin, with his hands clasped behind his back, said with a beaming smile, "The situation on the battlefield changes in the blink of an eye; how can everything possibly go exactly as one wishes?"

"Minister Li, the opponent was the third-ranked member of Hell's Lock! You should also understand how arduous this battle was. The fact that we won— isn't that the best news for us?"

Li Tianyang snorted coldly, his dissatisfaction clearly written all over his face.

This wasn't due to personal grudges.

He was just worried that if Zhang Yi displayed excessively formidable strength, he might ultimately intervene to seize the Divine Source.

Originally, he hadn't given the strength of the Jiangnan Region's superhumans a second thought.

Nor had he considered the possibility that they would compete with the East Sea Region's superhumans for the Divine Source.

But now, the current Zhang Yi had actually managed to kill Baldier!

Just how powerful exactly was his strength then?

Perhaps he already possessed a level that ranked among the very top echelon across the entire Star Island!

Even Qinglong, Baihu, and Zhuque from the Four Spirits, or Billy the Kid from the Columbus Ocean, might not be able to suppress him.

"Get me connected to Chaos!" Li Tianyang barked sternly.

The staff on duty immediately began working on establishing a communication link with Zhang Yi.

Xuanwu was nearby, slurping his cola, watching the whole scene with an expression of someone enjoying the spectacle.

"Chaos, that guy, might actually step over the threshold into Epsilon!"

Xuanwu wasn't particularly concerned about this.

Because the path to advancement was extremely tortuous.

And even if Zhang Yi advanced, he still couldn't pose a threat to Xuanwu himself, with his 15,000-point superhuman ability index.

The vast gap in power wouldn't shrink as levels increased; it would only grow wider.

On Zhang Yi's end, after killing Baldier, he swiftly collected all the items from the body.

Including that quite excellent dagger of his, and the compound bow.

The other items gathered from his person were also top-quality.

Firearms, ammunition, medicines—all were the highest-grade supplies from the Colombian Navy.

The technology and medical science of the Columbus Ocean were world-class. Bringing these items back for Zhou Ke'er and Lu Keran to study could present an opportunity to upgrade Zhang Yi's current equipment. ¶ÄÑøßÊ\$

Right at that moment, a communication request from the command center came through on the comms device.

Zhang Yi snorted coldly, wondering what those jealous dogs were planning to do now.

He accepted the communication. "Hello, this is Chaos."

The images of Li Tianyang, Situ Xin, and the others appeared on his visor.

Li Tianyang's expression was still as rigid and unpleasant as ever. He put on a show of praising Zhang Yi's achievements.

But afterwards, he shifted his tone and began criticizing Zhang Yi's methods.

"Chaos, your methods are too extreme. When combat occurs on the battlefield, as a precaution, you should keep communications open for the entire duration!"

"This way, our command center can also provide you with battlefield analysis assistance. We could also collect intel on the enemy in real-time."

"I hope you won't continue acting so individualistically in the future, understood?"

Zhang Yi laughed.

"Oh, so are you planning to collect my data too then?"

This statement caused everyone in the command center to look at each other in surprise, some even unable to believe their ears.

They were all military personnel. In their ideology, soldiers should consider obeying orders as their sacred duty.

No rebuttal was allowed; one only needed to answer "Yes, sir!" correctly.

Not waiting for Li Tianyang to speak, Zhang Yi said directly, "Sorry, I'm not a soldier, so you don't need to bother me with all that messy nonsense."

"I've already killed multiple powerful superhumans from the allied forces. The merits are right here, plain to see. If you're so capable, why don't you come down here personally and show me? Stop always talking big without feeling any strain!"

Li Tianyang was so angry that killing intent surged in his eyes.

"Chaos!!"

He roared, pointing at Zhang Yi and furiously rebuking him, "This is a military mission! Disobeying orders on the battlefield, and you still think you're in the right!"

Zhang Yi sneered, "Not happy about it? Come over here and bite me then!"

After saying that, he directly cut off the connection with the command center.

Anyway, he had already obtained everything he needed during the last supply collection. He knew Li Tianyang would continue to deliberately pick faults with him afterwards.

So he had no intention whatsoever of going back.

His relationship with the Jiangnan Region was one of cooperation. Even Zhu Zheng had to treat him politely and respectfully, so why would he put up with the nonsense from a mere operations minister like Li Tianyang?

As for any other issues, he'd leave them for Situ Xin to argue about.

Right now, the two major regions needed Zhang Yi's combat power, not the other way around.

Apart from bluffing and blustering like a fox borrowing the tiger's ferocity, and barking a few complaints, Li Tianyang wouldn't dare to actually do anything to Zhang Yi.

After all, they still had their greatest enemy at present: the allied forces led by the Colombian Navy.

Back at the command center, Li Tianyang was flying into a rage.

"Outrageous, absolutely outrageous! He actually dares to ignore my orders! Is he planning to defect?"

When Situ Xin heard this, his voice turned somewhat cold.

"Minister Li! Watch your words. Don't forget the current situation. If Chaos really is driven to defect by you, can you bear that responsibility?"

This was the first time Li Tianyang had seen Situ Xin display such a firm and unyielding attitude.

Coming back to his senses, he felt some regret, even a chill running down his spine.

The current Zhang Yi possessed the strength to kill Baldier, making him one of the most powerful combatants on Star Island.

Coupled with his unique spatial abilities, he could ruthlessly hunt every superhuman on the battlefield.

What would be the consequence if he joined the side of the allied forces?

Li Tianyang swallowed hard and snorted coldly, "That's still no reason for you to shield him! For a soldier, disobedience is the greatest transgression! Even if we ordered him to die, that would be a glorious sacrifice for the Region!"

Chapter 984: Eyes Focused on the Body

Hearing Li Tianyang's words, Situ Xin smiled.

"Unfortunately, he really isn't a soldier. Minister Li, our Jiangnan Region isn't like your East Sea Region—we place more emphasis on commercial spirit."

"Chaos's relationship with the region is more like cooperation rather than subordination. So, please don't measure him by your region's standards."

Situ Xin slowly withdrew the smile from his face.

"Moreover, the superhumans of our Jiangnan Region are not for your region to deal with!"

Li Tianyang's expression turned ugly, and the East Sea Region officers present also looked deeply frustrated.

Currently, Zhang Yi had been continuously achieving military successes on the battlefield, having killed multiple powerful superhumans. These illustrious achievements were right before their eyes, impossible to deny.

On the battlefield, those with capability command respect.

Their East Sea Region hadn't achieved any significant results yet, making it difficult for them to speak with confidence.

However, this really couldn't be blamed on the East Sea Region's fleet commanders.

After others landed on the island, they all headed straight for the Divine Source.

The closer they got to Mist Valley, the more dangerous it became. Everyone considered advancing carefully, focusing on seizing the Divine Source first.

No one acted like Zhang Yi, who conducted himself so ostentatiously, hunting superhumans from the joint forces everywhere.

What was particularly infuriating was that despite Zhang Yi's arrogant methods, he had succeeded!

Where was the justice in that?

Although the East Sea Region people were frustrated, overall, their mood wasn't too bad.

At least Zhang Yi was a superhuman from Huaxu Kingdom, and he had killed two members of Hell's Lock.

From the perspective of national interest, this was a good thing.

However, the Colombian Navy side had now fallen into complete and utter rage!

Huo En clenched his fists, his face frighteningly pale with anger.

In less than five days, two members of Hell's Lock had been killed!

And the perpetrator was the same person.

"What a terrifying individual—his hunting methods are even more formidable than Uller's!"

"Looking at the current situation, unless Billy personally takes action, anyone else who encounters him will meet certain death."

But Keludi quickly reminded him: "General, Billy the Kid has the most important mission—to seize the Divine Source! We've already lost Uller and suffered a major setback. We cannot send Billy the Kid now!"

There was one thing he didn't say aloud.

Although Billy the Kid's strength was second only to Cadillus within Hell's Lock, if he truly encountered the current Chaos, there was no guarantee he would definitely win.

Huo En took a deep breath through his nose, quickly calming himself down.

Keludi's words were correct.

Billy the Kid bore the most critical mission.

Although their current losses were severe, as long as they could obtain the Divine Source and enable Billy the Kid to successfully break through to the Epsilon level, then even if all other members of Hell's Lock died in battle, it would be worth it!

"Let that foolish fellow continue his disgusting hunting plan!" Huo En sneered coldly. "He simply doesn't understand how difficult it truly is to become an Epsilon-level superhuman."

"If it could be achieved through simple hunting and Co-Devour, there would already be numerous Epsilons in this world."

In the field of genetic engineering, the Columbus Ocean possessed the world's most advanced technology.

They understood better than anyone the fundamental difference between Delta and Epsilon levels.

"Even if he possesses Epsilon potential, simply devouring superhuman origins will yield diminishing returns. Moreover, absorbing massive amounts of superhuman origins in a short time will greatly reduce absorption efficiency."

"Only the Divine Source offers the most reliable path to advancement."

Huo En narrowed his eyes and sighed: "After all, that is the purest life energy!"

Hell's Lock member, [Billy the Kid].

He was the most valued member of Hell's Lock, and in the eyes of many high-ranking officials, he possessed even greater growth potential than Cadillus.

Because he too was a superhuman born with Epsilon potential.

This was evident from his exceptional growth rate during his training period.

Previously, the navy had attempted to rapidly advance him to Epsilon level by feeding him large quantities of superhuman origins.

But when his superhuman ability index broke through 9,900 points, this progress suddenly plummeted.

No matter how much he absorbed, his ability growth became extremely slow.

While not completely stagnant, he genuinely couldn't break through.

After research by the scientific department, they ultimately discovered that superhumans using Co-Devour ability also faced barriers.

Reaching Epsilon through sheer quantity wasn't practical.

It wasn't until later that the appearance of the Divine Source substance directly broke through that barrier.

Huo En took a deep breath. "Let him continue his hunting! Anyway, if he can't reach Epsilon, he won't become a real threat."

And during this hunting period of his, it would provide enough time for Billy the Kid to seize the opportunity to obtain the Divine Source.

Thinking this, he gave orders to Keludi: "Notify all allied forces of the joint troops—we're raising the bounty on [Chaos] to 5 billion! Dead or alive!"

"After killing him, we don't need his origin—they can claim it for themselves."

5 billion Columbus Ocean credit points equated to over 35 billion Huaxu Kingdom points!

This was already equivalent to the construction cost of an aircraft carrier.

This sufficiently demonstrated how great a threat Zhang Yi represented to Huo En.

Keludi immediately understood: "You mean to have the allied forces surround and kill Chaos, preventing him from joining the main battle for the Divine Source?"

Huo En nodded.

"Exactly, that's my thinking. No matter how strong he is, as long as he doesn't compete with us for the Divine Source, we eliminate one very powerful opponent."

"As for those fellows from the East Sea Region," a confident smile appeared at the corner of Huo En's mouth, "they're old adversaries of ours. I know their capabilities well. Unless Xuanwu personally enters the fray, [Billy] won't lose to them!"

"Moreover, we still have our trump card!"

A shadowy glint flashed in Huo En's eyes, sending chills down one's spine.

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On Zhang Yi's side.

After absorbing Baldier's origin, he discovered that his ability improvement wasn't as terrifying as imagined, let alone directly breaking through to the Epsilon level.

Hua Hua sat beside Zhang Yi, looking completely puzzled.

But Zhang Yi smiled unconcernedly: "This was all expected. Reaching the Epsilon level isn't that easy."

"As strength increases, the conversion rate of absorption decreases. But there's still progress."

"No problem," Zhang Yi said cheerfully, stroking Hua Hua and Lele's heads. "There are plenty of powerful superhumans on this island—we just need to hunt more of them."

"Even if we can't use them immediately, we can save them and bring them back for others to use."

A sharp glint flashed in Zhang Yi's narrowed eyes. "This is a perfect hunting ground! If we miss this opportunity, who knows when so many prey will appear together again."

Chapter 985: Storms Everywhere

Jiangnan Region headquarters.

Blizzard City.

Zhu Zheng held a communication device, speaking with Deputy Minister of Operations Situ Xin who was on the front lines.

After hearing Situ Xin's report, Zhu Zheng's expression also showed some emotion.

"Oh? Chaos's performance was actually this exaggerated? He even killed the third-ranked member of Hell's Lock?"

His expression contained joy, along with a trace of melancholy.

The joy was because the overall strength of the Jiangnan Region would reach new heights due to Zhang Yi's existence.

The melancholy was because Zhang Yi, to this day, still maintained an ambiguous relationship with him.

Ever since being betrayed by Gao Changkong, Zhu Zheng's defensive mentality had grown heavier, and he wouldn't easily trust anyone.

But soon enough, he composed his expression and said to Situ Xin with a smile: "This is good news. Tell Chaos that the hopes of the Jiangnan Region rest on his shoulders!"

"Tell him to work hard, but prioritize protecting his own safety. Leave the frontal resistance to the East Sea Region."

Zhu Zheng's words sounded very pleasant, but he also knew that even if he didn't say this, Zhang Yi would definitely act that way anyway.

After ending the call, he looked toward an open area ahead, his gaze turning stern and murderous.

In the icy snow, a row of prisoners knelt on the frozen ground, their bodies tightly bound.

A group of execution squad members aimed rifles at them.

"Is it time for the execution?"

Zhu Zheng turned his head to look at his secretary Lan Xincheng beside him.

Lan Xincheng glanced at his watch and bowed his head to Zhu Zheng: "The time has arrived."

Zhu Zheng nodded: "Then carry out the execution!"

Lan Xincheng stepped forward in his black military boots, coldly looking at this group of prisoners as he loudly rebuked: "You despicable criminals! Blizzard City saved you from lands of suffering, giving you food and warm shelter."

"Yet instead of feeling gratitude, you actually attempted rebellion—a crime that cannot be forgiven!"

"Before your deaths, do you have anything you wish to say?"

Even in this apocalyptic era, Blizzard City remained very rigorous about executions.

Because any unfair killing could potentially cause unrest among the people.

What Zhu Zheng worried about most was a crisis of trust emerging in Blizzard City.

Upon hearing these words, some of the kneeling criminals looked sorrowful and burst into tears.

But others looked up and laughed heartily toward the sky, their faces full of disdain.

A big man with a full beard cursed bitterly: "Bah! What good people are you pretending to be!"

"Back then we were living just fine outside, solving our food and shelter problems ourselves. Then we believed your nonsense and entered this prison."

He gritted his teeth, staring fiercely at Lan Xincheng and Zhu Zheng, these two well-dressed important figures.

"After coming here, you actually treated us like dogs and pigs! Making us do the lowest jobs! If I had known it would come to this, I never should have believed your lies back then!"

Hearing this, Lan Xincheng chuckled coldly.

He casually adjusted his deerskin gloves and said lightly: "Don't always think about what Blizzard City can give you. First consider what you can do for Blizzard City."

"Instead of being grateful, you gathered crowds to cause trouble—you deserve what's happening to you today!"

The bearded man spat fiercely, "We were just gathering together to fight for our rights as human beings! We never intended rebellion, yet you arrested us and now want to execute us."

"Enough, enough! If you want to condemn someone, you can always find a pretext. Our only mistake was being blind dogs back then!"

Lan Xincheng smiled contemptuously and said to the execution squad members beside him: "Carry out the execution!"

With a burst of dense gunfire, soon that row of prisoners was riddled with holes like sieves.

They turned out to be several enhancement-type superhumans with exceptionally powerful physical constitutions. They withstood the bullets completely unharmed.

But Lan Xincheng seemed to have been prepared for this.

This batch of prisoners were all superhumans.

Soon, the execution squad members reloaded with new bullets, using both Origin Bullets specifically designed to counter superhumans and large armor-piercing rounds.

Before long, these dozen or so prisoners had all become cold corpses.

Lan Xincheng walked to Zhu Zheng's side, raising his hand in salute: "Commander Zhu! The execution is complete."

Zhu Zheng glanced at him: "Including this batch, how many does that make?"

Lan Xincheng said: "That makes two hundred and sixteen people already."

"As the Great Mutation Era arrived, the survivors are all elites, and the mutation rate is very high."

Zhu Zheng nodded: "Soon, very soon. Our plan continues. Currently it's still not enough, we're still short some."

He raised his head, his gaze seeming to penetrate the thick dark clouds, seeing the distant Star Island in the far ocean.

"Compared to risking everything to compete for something like the Divine Source, this method is much simpler and more effective."

"And all we need to do is sacrifice a minority of people."

...

The Karkong Mountain Range located northwest in the Bharata region had now become a massive snow mountain due to a full year of snowfall.

On the empty snow plain, dozens of corpses lay scattered about, their blood already frozen into ice.

Most of them wore grayish-white combat suits, but a few were dressed strangely, especially with their heads wrapped in long turbans coiled round after round.

This was traditional Bharata clothing, and these people were all superhuman experts from the Bharata region.

Just looking at the current situation made it clear they had just experienced a bloody and brutal battle.

But on the battlefield, three people still stood.

One was a monk wearing Bharata religious robes, dignified and solemn, covered in blood, appearing both sacred and eerie.

One was a young man in a combat suit holding a katar punch dagger, with sharp eyes and fair skin, but his breathing was somewhat uneven.

The last one held a golden longsword, his hair disheveled, appearing the most composed.

The cold icy wind brushed through his long hair, revealing that resolute face.

If Zhang Yi had appeared here, he would have certainly exclaimed his name in surprise—Gao Changkong.

Gao Changkong glanced at the two men in the distance; both the young noble and the monk were wary of each other.

"Only three of us remain. Shall we continue?"

Gao Changkong said with a smile.

Compared to him, the condition of the other two was clearly worse.

The monk Hama-Raje used his vajra pestle to heavily strike the snow ground, "To think that in the end, it would be you, a foreigner, who survived!"

And the young noble in the combat suit also looked coldly at Gao Changkong.

"The gods will not bless you, and our Bharata nation cannot accept you obtaining that supreme honor!"

Gao Changkong cleared his throat and said with a smile: "I've said many times, I am a descendant of Bharata who was lost abroad. My name is Samir-Khan."

"As for whether the Trimurti will bless me and grant me supreme glory, that's not for you to decide!"

He slowly raised the golden holy sword in his hand, "You'll have to ask this!"

Chapter 986: Azure Dragon

The news of Baldier's death quickly spread throughout the entire Star Island.

If Hermit Boone's death only shocked everyone greatly.

Then Baldier's death was nothing less than a bolt from the blue, completely unacceptable to the entire upper echelons of the Colombian Navy!

Because Baldier's reputation was simply too immense.

A top-tier superhuman with a superhuman ability index of 9800 points.

No matter which faction in the world he belonged to, he would be considered core combat strength level.

For such a figure, even if one couldn't say he was invincible on Star Island.

Killing him would absolutely be extremely difficult!

With Epsilon-level superhumans not taking action, it was even hard to imagine exactly how it could be accomplished.

General Huo En didn't conceal the truth, because doing so on the battlefield would be incredibly dangerous.

All members of Hell's Lock received this intelligence.

General Huo En spoke into the microphone: "Listen, there's a somewhat troublesome individual who's appeared on the island. He's already taken down Uller, but there's nothing to fear about that. In terms of overall strength, we still hold an absolute advantage!"

[Billy the Kid] Yasin Canero took a deep breath upon hearing the news of Baldier's death.

The death of the number three position below him also gave him a sense of sorrow for a fellow's demise.

He somewhat impatiently interrupted Huo En's motivational speech.

"Alright, what I want to know now is how much intelligence have you gathered about that guy? We can't just let Uller die in vain, right?"

Every sacrifice has its value.

Baldier's death indeed brought the Colombian side substantial intelligence about Zhang Yi—one could even say, nearly complete intelligence.

After all, in combat against superhumans of Baldier's level, there was no possibility of holding back strength.

And this intelligence would guide the remaining members of Hell's Lock to respond effectively when encountering Zhang Yi.

Especially for Canero.

When this deputy captain of Hell's Lock mastered intelligence about the opponent's abilities, his own capabilities could easily kill the other party.

Huo En coughed once to ease the awkwardness of being contradicted by a subordinate.

"The intelligence will be transmitted to you immediately. Please be sure to proceed with caution in your upcoming missions."

His brow suddenly furrowed, a flash of killing intent appearing in his eyes.

"If the situation gets out of control, I may have no choice but to deploy [Soul Reaper]!"

At the mention of that name, the expressions of all Hell's Lock members changed drastically.

Some showed fear, some wore pained expressions, while others closed their eyes tightly, opening them again filled with pity.

Canero moved his lips and said in a low voice, "If it truly comes to that, I will spare no effort to avoid reaching that outcome."

...

General Huo En then issued a massive bounty for Zhang Yi to other members of the joint forces.

He didn't mention that Zhang Yi had killed Baldier, only informing them of Zhang Yi's abilities and requiring them to do their utmost to intercept and kill Zhang Yi.

This was to buy enough time for the Hell's Lock members.

However, the bounty amount as high as 5 billion was sufficient to make others suspicious.

In the mist, a woman dressed as a shrine maiden, with straight-across bangs, skin colder than ice and whiter than snow, murmured softly:

"Regular captains only have bounties of a few hundred million points, yet this [Chaos] actually reaches 5 billion! He must be a top-tier powerhouse from the Huaxu Kingdom, not to be provoked lightly."

This one was a top superhuman from one of Neon Pirate's two major organizations—Izumo.

The most powerful superhuman organization in Izumo was an institution called [Pillar of the Gods].

The shrine maiden's name was Karasenshu, codename [Tsukuyomi].

After receiving the intelligence from the Columbus Ocean command center, flickering light appeared in her eyes.

"Such high value seems more cost-effective than competing for the Divine Source."

It wasn't that they didn't want the Divine Source, but with the Colombian Navy present, even if they obtained it, they absolutely couldn't keep it.

Might as well settle for the next best thing and pursue other benefits.

Beside Karasenshu, a young man with somewhat long hair, not wearing a helmet but instead clad in black metal armor, showed an expression of distrust.

"Is the Colombian Navy trying to use us as cannon fodder? For them to issue such an enormous bounty, it must be an enemy very difficult to deal with."

"Tsukuyomi, you're not foolish enough to die for them, are you?"

The second-in-command of the [Pillar of the Gods] organization, divine codename [Kagutsuchi], real name Amatsu Tenshi.

Karasenshu's cold red lips curved slightly, the edges of her narrow phoenix eyes darkened with smoky makeup, giving her an evil and eerie feeling.

Her red and white shrine maiden attire was patterned with golden trim, and within her wide sleeves, something strange seemed to be hidden, continuously wriggling.

"Kagutsuchi, remember, the lower overthrows the higher!"

"Whether it's the Huaxu Kingdom or the Columbus Ocean, they are all stepping stones for us to climb to the top!"

"The sun shines brightly, the gods bless Yamato! In this chaotic era where heroes rise together, why can't our Neon Pirate seize this opportunity to stand atop the world!"

She gave a bewitching smile: "Let's start here on Star Island! Let them also witness the power of our Neon Pirate!"

...

Everyone on the island had their own thoughts.

For the superhumans of the two major regions, Zhang Yi's success did indeed give them some encouragement.

However, Zhang Yi himself wasn't necessarily particularly happy.

He knew that after killing two [Hell's Lock] members, he would become the joint forces' most wanted target for elimination.

At such a time, he couldn't continue to be conspicuous.

He also needed some time to recover the large amount of superhuman energy he had consumed.

After all, the battle with Baldier hadn't been that easy for him.

"Let's go, we'll quietly wait for how events develop."

"I've already muddied the waters, they should start fighting among themselves now. Let's just wait quietly."

Zhang Yi took Hua Hua and Lele, left Golden Phoenix City, and came to Yuming City in the border area.

Then he found a hidden basement, using the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms to completely isolate his, Hua Hua's, and Lele's presence from the outside world.

After that, he ate large amounts of food prepared for him by Yang Siya and began covertly hiding.

Arana City around Mist Valley.

East Sea Region, Qinglong, stood on the snowy ground carrying a gray-green backpack.

Before him, a group of reconnaissance troops soldiers were reporting the situation ahead to him.

"Captain Qinglong, after we arrived here, we can no longer advance forward. Ahead is already the edge of Mist Valley, the concentration of toxic miasma exceeds the safety indicators."

"With our protective equipment, we cannot proceed deeper inside."

The reconnaissance squad leader wore an apologetic expression, deep in his eyes showing a longing for life.

At the same time, there was also deep unease.

As reconnaissance troops, this operation itself carried enormous risks.

Not just from the island's toxic miasma and dangerous creatures, but also from the pressure from their supervision teams.

If Qinglong gave the order, even knowing it meant certain death, they would have to continue forward.

Chapter 987: Kim Heechul

Qinglong looked at the nervous reconnaissance team before him and shrugged with a smile.

"There's no need for that. You've already done very well."

"Among the multiple reconnaissance teams we sent out initially, only you were the first to locate Mist Valley. This achievement deserves great credit."

"You can return now. As for what comes next," he casually slipped his hands into the tactical pockets of his combat suit, thumbs sticking out, "leave it to us!"

Hearing these words, the reconnaissance team leader let out a long, relieved sigh.

"Yes!"

Then he added, "By the way, Captain Qinglong, there's one more piece of intelligence, though it's just my personal feeling, that I'd like to report to you."

Qinglong slightly raised his eyebrows. "Oh? What's the situation?"

The reconnaissance team leader's words were unusual.

They wouldn't shoot without a target; typically, unless they had some degree of certainty, they wouldn't report speculative intelligence to their superiors.

The reconnaissance team leader said, "When we approached the edge of Mist Valley, as the concentration of toxic miasma increased, I seemed to sense a peculiar energy."

It was this statement that made Qinglong slowly withdraw his hands from his pockets, his gaze becoming sharp.

"The Divine Source?"

Mist Valley, the place where the Divine Source was discovered.

If there were any unusual energy fluctuations, it was highly likely that thing had appeared.

The reconnaissance team leader quickly added, "I can't determine its nature, but something within my body seemed to produce an instinctive reaction. It was quite remarkable."

"I can't express it in words, and I didn't witness it with my own eyes."

But Qinglong understood clearly what it was.

The East Sea Region also possessed fragments of the Divine Source.

Those were ores imbued with the Divine Source's aura, originally gifted to Li Guangxiao by the Shengjing Region.

Before setting out, they had all been exposed to them to familiarize themselves with that energy signature.

Qinglong said in a deep voice, "Tell me, where did you sense it from?"

The reconnaissance team leader immediately approached and used military hand signals to indicate the direction to Qinglong.

"Two o'clock direction, approximately 7 kilometers."

Qinglong nodded. "I understand. Alright, you should quickly leave this area!"

The reconnaissance team departed from this place, their mission effectively complete.

They were also one of the few reconnaissance teams that managed to survive throughout this operation.

After waiting for them to leave, Qinglong immediately opened a private channel and contacted personnel from the East Sea Region.

Indeed, the reason he didn't contact the command center directly was because that way, the Jiangnan Region would also receive the intelligence.

Soon, Qinglong connected with intelligence personnel from the East Sea Region.

"I have approached Mist Valley and will proceed deep inside to search for the Divine Source's location."

"Currently, based on reconnaissance team reports, suspicious energy signatures have been located. I will proceed to investigate and confirm the situation before reporting to headquarters."

"Over!"

After completing his report, Qinglong walked at an unhurried pace toward that direction.

His footsteps were light, crunching softly on the snowy ground, appearing as if he were casually strolling through the snow, nothing particularly remarkable.

But as he walked, his attention remained at its highest level, not missing the slightest movement around him.

Before long, he arrived at the area mentioned by the reconnaissance team.

Sure enough, he also felt that soul-stirring sensation.

The equipment system of his combat suit picked up a special audio signal that transmitted into his ears.

It was a clear, melodious laughter like a children's nursery rhyme, as pure as the tinkling of silver bells.

Qinglong wiggled the five fingers of his right hand, each finger distinct like bamboo segments, knuckles clearly defined.

Then he reached behind his back and pulled out a broad-backed broadsword about one meter long from beneath his tactical backpack.

"Found it, have I?"

Qinglong narrowed his eyes slightly, a seemingly relaxed smile appearing at the corner of his mouth as he stepped deeper into the toxic miasma.

Visibility here was even lower, with visual range not exceeding three meters.

Moreover, the miasma had turned into a somewhat nauseating dark yellow, seeping through like leaking sulfur gas.

Following his intuition, Qinglong walked step by step toward that area.

Suddenly, light pierced through the miasma ahead.

His heavy military boots stepped through the fog, the toxic miasma dissipating before him to reveal a group of adorable little yellow sprites.

They stood no taller than his shins, like a group of bananas with hands and feet, holding hands in a circle while singing.

The moment he saw them, a pleased curve appeared at the corner of Qinglong's mouth.

"Source sprites! It really is you."

Qinglong wasn't in a hurry to collect them but instead turned his gaze toward the right direction.

At that very instant, a white light shot through the thick fog, arriving right before his eyes!

Qinglong didn't dodge or evade, simply sweeping his right hand casually from below.

The white light passed through the broadsword, directly split in half from the middle.

"What a coincidence, someone else has come too!"

Qinglong said with a smile.

The fog stirred as a superhuman wearing a white combat suit with a taiji emblem on his left chest slowly emerged.

His body displayed special powers, the left half glowing with white light while the right half emanated brown light.

Two powerful energies enveloped his entire body, and at this moment, he was fully prepared for battle at any time.

When he saw the taiji emblem, Qinglong already knew who stood before him.

"Among New Rohan's superhumans, only one is qualified to come to Mist Valley."

"If I'm not mistaken, you should be New Rohan's number one powerhouse, [Young Lad] Kim Hee-chul."

New Rohan had a small population, making it difficult to produce powerful individuals, thus intelligence was relatively easy to obtain.

Kim Hee-chul watched Qinglong cautiously, the superhuman abilities concentrated in his hands nearly materializing.

Compared to Qinglong, he was clearly more cautious.

"Who are you, sir?"

Hearing this, Qinglong smiled.

"Who I am isn't important. You can't defeat me, so you'd better leave this place quickly."

New Rohan was merely a lackey of the Colombian Navy.

This country was small and not strong, always acting like a fence-sitter.

For the East Sea Region, they could sometimes serve as helpers too.

More importantly, Qinglong currently wanted to collect those source sprites as quickly as possible.

If he fought with Kim Hee-chul, it might attract other enemies, which would be quite troublesome.

But Kim Hee-chul obviously wouldn't leave just like that.

He had also seen those source sprites, and his eyes were shining with excitement.

Since landing on the island, nearly a week had passed.

Almost everyone had become aware of these things' existence.

They were widely distributed; some believed they were part of the Divine Source itself.

Others thought they were symbiotic entities with the Divine Source.

But regardless, their capabilities were gradually becoming known to all - they could enhance superhumans' power!

Even for high-level Delta-ranked superhumans, their effects were quite significant.

The energy from a single source sprite was comparable to that of a deputy team leader-level superhuman with an 8000-point superhuman ability index!

New Rohan was a weak country with scarce resources.

Kim Hee-chul needed their power.

Even though he clearly knew that Qinglong before him might be very powerful, he couldn't retreat here.

Thinking this, Kim Hee-chul raised his hands into a combat stance.

[Twin God Power], representing two different types of superhuman abilities, surged and coiled violently around his body.

"The one who should leave is you!"

Chapter 988: Huge Force

Since ancient times, New Rohan, as a small nation, had always existed as an appendage to other countries.

Even in modern times, this situation had never changed.

However, every citizen of the Great New Rohan Republic carried a dream of becoming a major power in their hearts!

This could be seen from their country's name alone.

The only nation in the entire world that used the word "Great" in its official name.

As New Rohan's number one powerhouse, Kim Hee-chul possessed extreme nationalistic sentiments.

Before coming to Mist Valley this time, he had sworn an oath to everyone.

He would definitely seize the Divine Source and become an Epsilon-level powerhouse!

"As long as I reach Epsilon level, no one will dare ignore our existence anymore."

"By that time, New Rohan will no longer be a vassal of either Huaxu Kingdom or Columbus Ocean."

"The people of our nation will finally be able to proudly hold their heads high."

"The fate of New Rohan rests entirely on my shoulders, Kim Hee-chul!"

He wasn't acting blindly.

His superhuman ability index reached a staggering 9500 points—even in Hell's Lock, he would barely qualify for the lowest ranks.

With such strength, he believed he had the right to covet the Divine Source within Mist Valley.

As long as he didn't encounter the top experts from Huaxu Kingdom's two major regions, he definitely had the power to put up a fight.

Kim Hee-chul let out a furious roar.

"Tiger God Spirit!"

White light began to envelop his body.

A massive white tiger phantom materialized behind him, its roar deafening to the ears.

"Whoosh!"

Kim Hee-chul vanished from Qinglong's sight, his speed so fast it was dizzying to watch.

Qinglong's eyes began to show some seriousness.

He held his left hand suspended before him while gripping his broadsword with his right hand at his side.

"Tiger—Killing—Fist!"

A blinding white light shot toward Qinglong from his left side.

From his peripheral vision, Qinglong could only see blinding whiteness filling the space to his left, while a gigantic fierce tiger stared fixedly at him, opening its ferocious maw to pounce and kill!

Qinglong sensed an intense, murderous intent and instinctively swung his left fist to block.

A tremendous force crashed against his arm, producing a dull, resonant sound like a massive bell or drum.

Kim Hee-chul, hidden within the white tiger phantom, narrowed his pupils slightly.

His full-power strike had actually been blocked so effortlessly by his opponent.

Qinglong hadn't even shifted his footing by a single millimeter.

"Descendants of the Sun, White Tiger Frenzied Kill!"

Kim Hee-chul slightly retracted both fists, then launched a continuous assault of attacks that were nearly impossible for the naked eye to follow, all aimed at Qinglong.

Qinglong remained standing in place, his side facing Kim Hee-chul.

Facing Kim Hee-chul's furious onslaught, he did only one thing—his left hand remained blocking in front of him, swaying gently like a breeze brushing through willow branches.

Kim Hee-chul's speed was incredibly fast, while Qinglong's movements appeared somewhat slow by comparison.

But no matter how swift Kim Hee-chul's attacks were, his fists couldn't breach Qinglong's defense, all being blocked by Qinglong's single hand.

After unleashing several hundred consecutive punches, Kim Hee-chul was starting to break out in cold sweat!

"Bear God Power!"

He changed his combat style.

The white tiger phantom surrounding his body gradually dissipated, transforming instead into the shadow of a brown bear.

When he struck again, his arm collided directly with Qinglong's arm.

"Crack!"

The impact of their bones colliding actually produced a crisp, metallic ringing sound.

"Oh?"

Qinglong sensed the change in Kim Hee-chul.

His speed had decreased, but his power had significantly increased.

"A reinforcement-type superhuman, but possessing two different types of power, is that it?"

"Pretty strong."

Qinglong mentally assessed Kim Hee-chul.

However, he wasn't in any hurry to counterattack, instead keeping his broadsword in his right hand while using only his left hand for defense.

Yet that right-hand blade exerted immense pressure on Kim Hee-chul.

Kim Hee-chul's throat began to feel dry.

Because from beginning to end, Qinglong hadn't displayed any superhuman abilities whatsoever.

He seemed like an old farmer working the land, merely repeating simple farming motions.

Returning to simplicity and authenticity.

Only these four words could describe Qinglong at this moment.

"Just... who are you?"

After throwing several hundred punches, Kim Hee-chul finally exhausted his strength and retreated dozens of steps back.

His eyes fixed intently on Qinglong as he gravely voiced the suspicion in his heart.

"Chaos from the Jiangnan Region, or one of the Four Spirits from the East Sea Region?"

Qinglong silently watched him.

"Why is your hand trembling?"

He looked at Kim Hee-chul's right hand hidden behind his back and asked calmly.

Kim Hee-chul's expression turned ugly.

Even though he was the one launching the offensive, every one of his punches felt like they were striking heavy metal plates.

While Qinglong appeared completely unharmed, his own hand was probably already bruised and swollen.

"I don't want to make too much of a commotion."

Qinglong's tone was so casual it sounded like he was chatting with the air.

"If you leave this place now, I can pretend this never happened."

"You should understand," he glanced at Kim Hee-chul, "you're no match for me."

These words sent a chill down Kim Hee-chul's spine.

From start to finish, Qinglong had displayed a dismissive attitude toward him that bordered on disregard.

No, it couldn't even be considered dismissive.

Because dismissal first requires some level of attention.

But Qinglong treated him as if he were mere air.

This dealt a severe blow to Kim Hee-chul's fragile self-esteem.

Moreover, he didn't believe Qinglong's words at all.

Because if he fled now, Qinglong might attack him from behind.

In these times, few people adhered to martial virtue anymore.

Many preferred to deceive, to launch surprise attacks.

"Don't get too arrogant!"

Kim Hee-chul growled in a low voice: "I'm not the only one around here! Once this commotion grows loud enough, soon all the superhumans from our joint forces will come rushing over!"

"No matter how powerful you are, if we all swarm you at once, you might not be able to kill all of us!"

Qinglong sighed helplessly.

"Then what do you want to do?"

Kim Hee-chul's eyes glanced toward the source sprites not far away.

He gulped audibly, swallowing hard.

Then he extended two fingers toward Qinglong: "Two, I only want two! You can have the rest."

Qinglong let out a long sigh.

"In that case, there's no other way."

He flexed his arm, then raised it up.

Kim Hee-chul elevated his superhuman energy to its peak state.

"Come on, now it's your turn to attack!"

The next moment, Qinglong's left arm suddenly expanded.

In that brief instant, his body transformed into an extremely disproportionate form.

A human torso, but with an arm like a celestial pillar.

That arm tore through his combat suit, pierced through the thick toxic miasma, resembling Sun Wukong's ocean-calming pillar.

At a glance, it appeared to stretch hundreds of meters long!

Kim Hee-chul froze in stunned disbelief—he had never witnessed such a terrifying colossal object before?

"BOOM!"

The gigantic arm came crashing down like a collapsing celestial pillar.

The entire edge of Mist Valley echoed with terrifying, earthquake-like sounds as the ground directly split open into a massive, deep chasm.

Kim Hee-chul stood no chance of resistance, instantly being crushed into a bloody pulp.

Chapter 989: Wu Haichi

Qinglong put away his arm and sighed somewhat helplessly.

"Why are people from your country always so arrogantly overconfident and seem to enjoy seeking death?"

This situation couldn't really be blamed on Kim Hee-chul.

If he had known from the beginning that he was facing the East Sea Region's Qinglong, he would have fled long ago.

But why would Qinglong ever reveal his identity to him?

On Star Island, what kind of enemies you encountered often came down entirely to luck.

It had to be said that Kim Hee-chul's luck was just a bit worse than average.

Qinglong reported the battle situation here to the command center, then went after and retrieved those source sprites that had been frightened and hidden themselves in the ruins.

However, he didn't absorb them.

Because at his level, absorbing such pure energy no longer provided significant improvement.

It was better to leave them for others to use.

He took out a blue transparent container from his backpack and directly stuffed the source sprites inside.

The yellow source sprites quickly dissipated, transforming into the purest energy that was then stored away.

In reality, just as Zhang Yi had said, these strange creatures were merely byproducts of the Divine Source.

This wasn't the East Sea Region's first time coming to Mist Valley - they had previously sent reconnaissance troops here.

So they had also conducted research on the source sprites.

Although they still didn't understand exactly what they were.

But one thing was certain - they contained extremely pure life energy within.

For superhumans below high-level Delta, they possessed very powerful effects for enhancing strength.

But for Qinglong, with his superhuman ability index reaching 9,800 points and his innate potential nearly at its limit, no matter how many of these he absorbed, they couldn't provide much improvement.

At the command center.

After receiving the intelligence that Qinglong had killed Kim Hee-chul, Li Tianyang's face finally showed a pleased smile.

He nodded with satisfaction and said loudly: "Good, as expected of Qinglong from our East Sea Region's Four Spirits Fleet!"

The East Sea Region officers exchanged smiles, finally relieving some of the pressure from Zhang Yi.

Only Situ Xin smiled and asked: "How many points was this New Rohan superhuman's superhuman ability index?"

The staff provided the answer.

"According to our intelligence, his superhuman ability index reached 9,500 points."

Hearing this, Situ Xin's smile widened even more. He clasped his hands behind his back and nodded steadily.

"Oh, that's quite impressive indeed. Very good, very good."

These seemingly complimentary words made Li Tianyang and the other East Sea Region officers' expressions flicker uncertainly.

Actually, eliminating a captain or fleet commander-level superhuman was a very significant achievement in any battle campaign.

And superhumans with ability indexes reaching over 9,000 points - looking across an entire region-level force, there were at most only about a dozen or so.

However, as the old saying goes, without comparison there's no sense of injury.

What Zhang Yi had killed were three captain-level superhumans with ability indexes over 9,000 points.

Among them even included a Hell's Lock member with 9,600 points and another with 9,800 points!

Compared to Zhang Yi, Qinglong's combat achievements didn't seem quite as brilliant anymore.

Li Tianyang avoided looking at Situ Xin's expression and said solemnly: "Announce this combat achievement throughout the entire region! Boost morale and have them learn from the exemplary warrior Qinglong!"

The staff went to handle this matter, as expected.

As various organization superhuman groups gradually approached the core area of Mist Valley, the collisions between them became increasingly intense.

Especially when approaching Mist Valley, those miraculous biological source sprites also successively became more numerous.

These creatures with pure energy could rapidly enhance people's strength.

Even if one couldn't use them personally, they could be collected and sold at high prices to other forces, or used to arm one's own superhuman teams.

Because of this thing, conflicts were not few in number.

In the southwest direction of Mist Valley.

The East Sea Region's fleet commander Xie Zhi arrived at this location.

Following the guidance of reconnaissance troops, he also discovered a place where source sprites had appeared.

Source sprites were byproducts of the Divine Source.

Whether for the purpose of competing for the Divine Source, or simply collecting source sprites, one could participate in the search for source sprites.

Xie Zhi's luck was quite good - he actually discovered over a dozen moon-white source sprites on a withered old tree.

The massive tree stood dozens of meters high, having turned into an eerie blackish-brown due to contamination by the toxic miasma.

Those cheerful little sprites hopped and jumped between the tree hollows, completely unaware of the approaching danger.

They sang and danced, like a group of children who understood nothing.

Just like when humans were first born.

Xie Zhi didn't dare delay any longer - hesitation breeds complications.

He immediately took out a sealing container, preparing to collect all these source sprites.

But just as he approached that withered tree, a melodious shakuhachi sound reached his ears.

Xie Zhi's pupils sharply contracted.

There were people in the surrounding area!

In that brief moment, he understood everything - someone was using the source sprites as bait, waiting for others to take the hook, then hunting them!

In duels between high-level superhumans, victory, defeat, life and death were often decided in just an instant.

When the prepared side schemes against the unprepared, the side that seizes the initiative gains an immensely huge advantage.

Originally, with Xie Zhi's alertness, he wouldn't have made such a basic mistake.

But the importance of the source sprites made his heart grow impatient, thus creating cracks in his psychological alertness.

This provided the opponent with an opportunity to exploit.

Xie Zhi intended to immediately retreat, but it was already too late.

When he stepped into this area, a woman dressed in grand miko attire had already begun playing the shakuhachi melodiously from behind the scenes.

The deep sound seemed to come from the deep sea, elegant with a hint of huskiness, yet also possessing a dizzying, bewitching effect.

The world before Xie Zhi's eyes had already begun twisting like Van Gogh's "Starry Night."

His body was also twisting, his legs unknowingly moving above his body.

Although he hadn't moved at all, he felt as if he was upside down, hanging inverted in the air.

"Illusion technique!"

Xie Zhi immediately understood this, yet the nauseating, seasick-like feeling in his mind couldn't be erased.

The miko didn't reveal herself, the shakuhachi's sound growing increasingly graceful and melodious.

A piece called "Mist Sea Chi" created an inescapable illusion for Xie Zhi.

Among all abilities, psychic-type superhumans were one of the rarest.

Both their frail physiques and their hard-to-defend-against illusion attacks were particularly representative.

And once enveloped by illusion techniques, no matter how powerful the superhuman, it was very difficult to quickly break free from the illusion's control.

Chapter 990: Harmony of All Things

Xie Zhi's face gradually twisted, his face turning bright red as if something was choking his neck.

Xie Zhi's hands tightly gripped his own throat, "I... I can't breathe!"

Perhaps even he himself didn't realize that it was his own hands forcefully choking him.

"Crack!"

A crisp sound came from his throat, he spat out a mouthful of blood from his mouth, then weakly collapsed.

Shortly after, from behind the withered large tree, Tsukuyomi slowly walked out.

She wore red and white miko robes with golden decorative patterns around the edges, and a golden crown on her head, appearing incredibly divine.

Seeing that Xie Zhi was already dead, the corner of her mouth curled into a cold smile as she slowly walked toward Xie Zhi.

But when she reached Xie Zhi's location, the corpse that was originally on the ground suddenly began to crumble at a visible rate.

It actually instantly turned into a pile of mud!

"Crash!"

The ground behind Tsukuyomi directly shattered open, and along with earth and stones, Xie Zhi's figure lunged toward Tsukuyomi.

His right hand held a triangular bayonet, stabbing toward the back of Tsukuyomi's head!

When the heart is pierced, a person doesn't die immediately, still posing the risk of a dying counterattack.

But when the brain is destroyed, death is instantaneous.

The triangular bayonet instantly reached behind Tsukuyomi's head, just about to pierce through when a miraculous fluctuation suddenly appeared in the air.

Then the triangular bayonet was suddenly blocked by something, emitting a "Clang!" sound as if it had collided with some hard object.

Xie Zhi's pupils contracted, and without hesitation he retreated dozens of steps back.

His right hand held the triangular bayonet in reverse grip, while his left hand pulled out a black handgun, looking seriously at the woman before him.

Facing Xie Zhi's counterattack, Tsukuyomi remained expressionless, though a flicker of curiosity flashed deep in her eyes.

She slowly turned to look at Xie Zhi.

And behind her, a phantom nearly two zhang tall gradually solidified.

It was a Warring States period samurai clad in black and red armor.

The massive and exaggerated plate armor made his already huge body appear even more imposing.

His face was unclear because it was covered by an oni mask.

His left hand held a vermilion katana, while his right hand held a pitch-black katana, the two swords crossed before Tsukuyomi, firmly protecting her within his embrace.

This was Tsukuyomi's ability [Oni God Child].

"Guardian spirit?"

On Xie Zhi's side, he had already obtained intelligence about the opponent through the command center.

Because of this miko attire and distinctly marked ability, her identity could be immediately recognized.

"Neon has two major organizations: Izumo from Kanto and Pelican from Kansai."

"And the superhuman corps of the Izumo Organization is called [Pillar of the Gods]."

Xie Zhi stared at Tsukuyomi, saying word by word: "You are the leader of Pillar of the Gods—Tsukuyomi, right?"

Every nerve in Xie Zhi's body was tense.

Because according to command center intelligence, Tsukuyomi's superhuman ability index was 9,500 points.

While Xie Zhi's superhuman ability index was 9,400 points.

Although the gap seemed small, the opponent absolutely had the capability to kill him.

Therefore he had to be extremely careful in dealing with the opponent before him.

But Tsukuyomi wasn't in a hurry to attack him, instead asking: "I'm curious, how did you evade my illusion technique?"

Xie Zhi coldly laughed: "Come try it yourself, won't you find out then?"

East Sea Region fleet commander Xie Zhi, ability codename [Universal Harmony].

Throughout the entire East Sea Region, he was the benchmark for combat power assessment.

Not because of the strength or weakness of his power, but because the [Universal Harmony] ability allowed him to adapt to any environment.

Simply put, he could adjust his ability attributes according to changes in the surrounding environment to mitigate his weaknesses.

So when facing Tsukuyomi's illusion technique, he could strengthen his mental power to counteract the illusion's effects.

Xie Zhi stared at Tsukuyomi, his mind already beginning to contemplate how to fight.

From the moment they landed on the island, they had mentally prepared for death.

Because once they encountered superhumans from hostile forces, it would inevitably be a fight to the death.

No one would let go of this opportunity to eliminate as much of the enemy's combat strength as possible.

Xie Zhi's eyes saw the shakuhachi in her hand, and the [Oni God Child] beside her.

"A mental ability user, or special-type."

"I have ways to resist her illusion attacks, but from our earlier exchange, the oni god behind her is clearly close-quarters combat type."

"Then, would ranged attacks be her weakness?"

With this thought, Xie Zhi unhesitatingly pulled the trigger aimed at Tsukuyomi.

One Origin Bullet after another shot toward Tsukuyomi.

Tsukuyomi's face remained calm, her right hand holding the shakuhachi, her wide sleeves completely unmoving.

Without wind, they unusually billowed as if concealing something bizarre.

All of this was observed by Xie Zhi's eyes.

Facing Xie Zhi's shooting, Oni God Child's eyes suddenly burst with dazzling red light.

His mouth exhaled blue mist, emitting low roars that seemed to come from the underworld.

Then, the Oni Slayer in his left hand and the God Slayer in his right hand swiftly slashed forward!

A black and a crimson energy slash flew forward in a cross shape, precisely blocking Xie Zhi's shooting path.

All bullets were deflected, not coming within three meters of Tsukuyomi.

After deflecting the bullets, Oni God Child's attack didn't stop.

His eyes emitted bewitching red light, staring intently at Xie Zhi, then crossed his dual blades.

The next moment, Xie Zhi's eyes saw his afterimage sweeping across the sky.

Oni God Child's speed was so fast that it left dozens of images in Xie Zhi's pupils.

He charged straight toward Xie Zhi, his massive dual blades fiercely slashing down!

"Universal Harmony!"

Xie Zhi's eyes turned icy cold, instantly activating his own energy.

This time he enhanced his physical body's strength.

Facing Oni God Child's terrifying slash, he gripped his bayonet and blocked above his head.

"Clang!"

The crossed dual blades slashed down, colliding with the bayonet made of Adamantine Metal, emitting an ear-piercing screech.

Powerful shockwaves spread from beneath their feet, instantly causing the toxic miasma for several thousand meters around to surge and roll back!

The ground beneath their feet shattered severely.

Xie Zhi's legs sank deep into the earth, yet he remained completely unmoved, only the land beneath his feet didn't shatter or sink.

He could utilize the earth's power to counterattack.

As for Oni God Child, his lower body was only a phantom, only his upper body existed, hovering mid-air like that as he began fierce combat with Xie Zhi!

Xie Zhi's eyes stared at Oni God Child while also looking toward the distant Tsukuyomi.

"If I can bypass this oni god and attack her main body directly..."