

Ice Age 991

Chapter 991: The Ghost Son Takes

Xie Zhi's mind raced with this thought, and in the next instant, his body abruptly sank into the ground as if melting into it.

Oni God Child's long sword sliced through empty air.

A moment later, a humanoid figure suddenly emerged from the ground in front of Tsukuyomi.

The ability of Universal Harmony allowed him to merge with any surrounding environment.

And obtain corresponding capabilities accordingly.

Earth Diving was one such ability within this power set.

Xie Zhi appeared before Tsukuyomi, his triangular bayonet thrusting toward her pitch-black pupils!

However, Oni God Child, who had been dozens of meters away just moments before, vanished instantly and reappeared behind Tsukuyomi.

"Clang!"

Oni Slayer precisely intercepted the bayonet, while God Slayer slashed toward Xie Zhi's neck.

Xie Zhi had no choice but to retreat while defending against Oni God Child's assault, using the movement to dissipate the powerful force behind the attacks.

Each slash from Oni God Child carried such terrifying power that his arms grew somewhat numb from the impact.

Clearly, direct confrontation wasn't the solution.

"But it can instantly teleport to Tsukuyomi's side, making surprise attacks useless."

"However, if this is a guardian spirit type, then its range must be limited."

Having realized this, Xie Zhi once again utilized his Earth Diving ability to sink into the ground.

Tsukuyomi watched the scene unfold before her, gaining some understanding of Xie Zhi's capabilities.

She extended her right hand toward Oni God Child.

"Dig out this rat!"

Black and crimson supernatural energy swirled around Oni God Child as he let out a low growl, sounding like a malevolent spirit emerging from the depths of the underworld.

Then he reversed his grip on the swords and violently plunged both massive katanas into the ground!

[Thunderous Roar]!

The powerful supernatural energy immediately shattered the earth beneath their feet, turning even the hard frozen soil into dust as if it were mere tofu.

Amid the shattered rocks, Xie Zhi's form could no longer remain concealed.

Without hesitation, he turned and fled deeper into the toxic miasma.

"After him!"

Tsukuyomi's cold eyes followed Xie Zhi's escape route as she issued her command.

Oni God Child returned to Tsukuyomi's side, hoisted her onto his shoulder, then brandished both swords and charged at extreme speed into the toxic miasma!

Oni God Child moved with incredible swiftness, catching up to Xie Zhi within the miasma in less than five seconds.

The enormous dual swords slashed left and right, with crimson and black supernatural energy materializing into tangible blade lights that continuously assailed Xie Zhi.

"Universal Harmony!"

In an instant, Xie Zhi underwent his transformation.

His eyes flickered with dark, gloomy light.

This time, the triangular bayonet in his hand precisely intercepted Oni God Child's attacks.

Compared to their first encounter, he handled the assault with much greater composure.

The Universal Harmony ability, much like a chameleon, allowed him to better adapt to his environment.

And even adapt to his opponent's capabilities.

The longer he fought an opponent, the more his body would naturally adapt to their combat style, spontaneously evolving in response.

By now, he had rapidly adapted to Oni God Child's frenzied combat style.

And now, it was time for the performance to begin.

Dual katanas versus triangular bayonet and pistol.

This became a rapid-fire exchange too fast for the naked eye to follow.

Oni Slayer and God Slayer descended upon Xie Zhi in a frenzy of slashing attacks.

The earth groaned in protest as the ground beneath their feet continuously shattered.

Xie Zhi countered with his triangular bayonet. Although he was at a disadvantage in raw power and found himself constantly retreating, he maintained relative composure rather than appearing disheveled.

Moreover, during defensive gaps, he managed to utilize Origin Bullets to attack Oni God Child, searching for weaknesses in his form.

Any entity formed from supernatural energy would inevitably be affected by Origin Bullets.

The extent of the effect depended on the potency of the supernatural energy involved.

"Clatter-clatter!"

Soon enough, Xie Zhi emptied an entire magazine, with black shell casings scattering across the ground.

The next moment, the ground beneath his feet was pulverized by a single slash from Oni God Child.

As the two combatants fought their way forward, surrounding urban structures crumbled under the residual force of their clashes.

Yet Xie Zhi showed no urgency whatsoever, deliberately guiding Tsukuyomi toward narrow alleyways within the city ruins.

Then he utilized the confined terrain of the alleyways to maneuver and counterattack.

Tsukuyomi sat perched on Oni God Child's shoulder, watching him with cold indifference.

Until he could break through Oni God Child, Xie Zhi couldn't harm her in the slightest.

"Swish!" "Swish!"

Two blazing blade rays crisscrossed as they slashed toward him. Xie Zhi narrowly dodged with a sideways leap, diving into an adjacent alleyway.

A nearby high-rise building was instantly carved open with a cross-shaped hole running completely through its structure.

Oni God Child pursued relentlessly, turning into the alleyway.

But the moment he appeared at the alley entrance, two silver grenades suddenly materialized at his feet.

Instantly, dazzling white light engulfed everything in the vicinity!

Xie Zhi hung suspended mid-air with one hand gripping the wall, observing the scene before him.

"Origin Grenades. I wonder how much threat they pose to you in such confined terrain?"

Just then, the familiar sound of the shakuhachi flute once again reached his ears.

Xie Zhi frowned. "Illusion technique again?"

"But I'm truly sorry—such abilities are utterly useless against me!"

From within the explosive dust and smoke, Oni God Child emerged completely unscathed.

Yet this time, Xie Zhi sensed that something felt different.

Thick black energy swirled around the massive Oni God Child like beacon smoke.

A more terrifying, more evil, more dark sensation had emerged.

After finishing her shakuhachi melody, Tsukuyomi spoke coldly to Xie Zhi:

"My ability may be useless against you, but it serves its purpose well enough against others."

Xie Zhi's brow furrowed as he felt a dangerous aura firmly enveloping him.

Tsukuyomi's words left him both surprised and perplexed.

If this illusion technique wasn't targeting him, then who was it intended for?

There were no allied forces nearby.

Suddenly, a strange thought surfaced in his mind.

"Could it be... you're trying to jam my signal transmission?"

Back at the command center, the communication signal with Xie Zhi suddenly became disrupted, the screen turning extremely blurry.

Even the monitoring staff responsible for this channel began showing dazed expressions.

Eventually, they actually reached up and started strangling themselves, attempting self-harm.

Others nearby quickly intervened to restrain them upon seeing this.

But upon hearing the eerie shakuhachi melody, they also began experiencing dizziness and disorientation.

A colonel among them reacted swiftly, immediately cutting off the signal transmission to prevent further audio playback.

This allowed the affected staff members to gradually recover.

"Auditory illusion technique!"

He immediately identified the nature of the problem.

"Except the target wasn't Xie Zhi, but our personnel here. What could be the purpose behind this?"

The signal interruption left Li Tianyang and others somewhat displeased.

Now, at this critical juncture of the battle, how could their communications fail?

"What's the problem? Restore communications immediately!"

Chapter 992: Pirates

Xie Zhi hung his body in mid-air, just about to figure out a way to break through Tsukuyomi's Oni God and kill her true form.

But suddenly, he saw an utterly terrifying sight.

The already murderous Oni God now grew even more massive and dreadful within the billowing thick fog.

Dense black smoke surged skyward, completely enveloping the Oni God.

Xie Zhi's eyes slowly widened, his pupils contracting to the size of mung beans from sheer terror.

And before the Oni God Child, Tsukuyomi's eyes had also turned dark, icy, and malevolent.

"Now that there are no witnesses. You can die!"

...

Back at the command center, the lost communications took several minutes to be restored.

When they reconnected the video feed, they discovered the scene before them had rotated ninety degrees.

This angle only had two possibilities: either the equipment had fallen, or Xie Zhi himself had collapsed onto the ground.

Li Tianyang's heart tightened. He quickly leaned over the command console and shouted, "Xie Zhi, Xie Zhi! What's the current situation?"

But he received no response.

"C-could it be... that Captain Xie Zhi has fallen in battle?"

An officer's forehead broke out in cold sweat.

From the moment their view disappeared to the reconnection, only a few short minutes had passed.

They had no idea what had happened in between.

It's just that when the smart device inside the combat suit detached and they couldn't contact the person, it most likely meant something extremely bad had occurred.

Li Tianyang gritted his teeth, his expression incredibly grim.

"Xie Zhi, Xie Zhi, answer me!"

Finally, a response appeared in the lens.

A pair of feet wearing wooden clogs stepped into view before the lens.

They were very petite feet, wrapped in white cotton socks, and the red pleated skirt around the calves was also visible.

As if hearing the sound from the communication device, one foot slowly lifted and then stepped directly onto the lens.

From the Operations Command Center's perspective, they saw a small foot clad in a white cotton sock stepping on their faces.

"CRACK!"

The lens developed cracks; as expected of military equipment, durable enough.

But that stomp drove the device into the soil, causing them to completely lose their view.

"That was... Tsukuyomi's foot."

An officer murmured, his voice tinged with bitterness, involuntarily swallowing hard.

Everyone looked towards Li Tianyang.

The battle situation was already self-evident.

Xie Zhi was most likely in grave danger by now.

Li Tianyang slammed his fist onto the command console in fury.

"Impossible! With Xie Zhi's ability, even if he couldn't defeat his opponent, he shouldn't have been killed so quickly!"

"Tsukuyomi's ability absolutely cannot achieve this!"

Xie Zhi, who possessed the [Universal Harmony] ability, had top-tier survival skills.

Even when encountering opponents stronger than him, he could quickly adapt to their abilities and optimize his own.

Everyone knows that in duels between superhumans, the rock-paper-scissors relationship of ability attributes is particularly important.

So even if Xie Zhi couldn't defeat someone, escaping should have been easy for him.

Unless he encountered someone far stronger than him.

Someone so powerful that his ability couldn't even be activated before he was slain.

But Tsukuyomi from Neon Pirate, was she really that powerful?

Li Tianyang's eyes were filled with resentment. "Neon Pirate shouldn't be allowed to have such an overpowered existence! She must have used something we're not yet aware of."

At this moment, Situ Xin spoke up leisurely: "The people from Neon Pirate are the most treacherous and cunning. Since ancient times, they have adhered to the principle of the inferior overthrowing the superior, constantly thinking about domination."

"These fellows probably won't reveal their true strength so easily."

He said meaningfully: "Do you all truly understand the strength of these people?"

This statement served as a wake-up call for everyone in the East Sea Region.

Since the apocalypse, their most concerning opponent had only been the Colombian Navy.

They hadn't paid any attention to countries like Neon Pirate and New Rohan.

Because the East Sea Region's strength was indeed solid, possessing a large amount of weaponry and equipment, excellent troops, and top-tier superhumans.

Neon Pirate, a country whose military had been restricted for a century, truly didn't have any decent armed forces.

But that didn't necessarily mean they lacked powerful superhumans!

Li Tianyang's expression was frighteningly gloomy.

When Lilong had fallen earlier, he had felt some schadenfreude and looked down on the Jiangnan Region.

But now, their own fleet commander had also fallen so quickly.

To be fair, on the battlefield, life and death are commonplace.

But when a fleet commander, cultivated with massive resources from their own region, truly falls in battle, saying it doesn't hurt is definitely false.

After remaining silent for a long while, Li Tianyang said: "Immediately update the information on Tsukuyomi, mark her superhuman ability index as unknown. Notify all superhumans on the island to be wary of this individual!"

Xie Zhi's death served as a wake-up call for everyone.

Only on the battlefield can one see the true depth of a person, or a faction's real foundation.

Those who are extravagantly praised before the battle, elevated to the heavens, might not possess much dominating power when actually on the battlefield.

And those who keep a low profile will also reveal their sharp claws and fangs, astonishing everyone.

For example, Zhang Yi. For example, Tsukuyomi.

You never know exactly how strong the opponent you're about to face is.

Don't be deceived by appearances, and even more importantly, don't underestimate any opponent.

And while the forces on their side were all cautiously advancing, trying to locate the Divine Source.

A particular special team like this also appeared around the periphery of Mist Valley.

Not affiliated with any country, the Tianlong Pirate Crew members who roamed the Starry Sea Region had also joined the struggle for the Divine Source.

The Dragon King was among the first batch of people to obtain intelligence.

It could even be said that he arrived at Star Island earlier than the other factions.

It's just that the intelligence he initially obtained was clearly inferior to that of the major factions.

He could only determine that the Divine Source was located on Star Island.

Therefore, he organized his elite subordinates and landed on this island nation.

Within the pirate crew, there was no shortage of talented individuals.

Through analysis and exploration of the strange toxic miasma, they also made their way to the edge of Mist Valley.

The shrinking of the toxic zone increased the probability of encounters between the various teams.

For this trip to obtain the Divine Source and revitalize the prestige of the Tianlong Pirate Crew, the Dragon King had brought all the capable superhumans under his command.

This included his deputy leader Bailian, as well as the four surviving fleet division captains.

The Dragon King led them to the edge of Mist Valley.

This area was a desolate wasteland, surrounded by trees that had withered and frozen into ice sculptures, along with vast stretches of scattered rocks.

The Dragon King's tall figure stood at the very front of the team. Gazing at the even denser toxic miasma ahead, a flicker of excitement appeared in his eyes.

"I think I can already sense a powerful energy emanating from over there!"

Chapter 993: Helsister

Upon hearing the Dragon King say this, Deputy Captain Bailian immediately bowed and flattered:

"Congratulations, Dragon King! Once you obtain the Divine Source, you will certainly advance to the Epsilon rank!"

"By then, whether it's the Huaxu Kingdom or the Columbus Ocean, they'll all have to treat you with respect. From that point on, our Tianlong Pirate Crew will be able to roam freely throughout the East Sea District!"

Several squadron leaders also began showering the Dragon King with praise.

"By then, we'll make those guys from the Jiangnan Region unable to set sail for the rest of their lives!"

"Let them see who truly rules the East Sea."

"And they'll have to hand over the killers who murdered Nirot and the others!"

A pleased smile curled at the corners of the Dragon King's lips.

Making the Jiangnan Region hand over Zhang Yi and Linghu Feixue was an impossible demand.

He didn't dare to be that arrogant.

But at the very least, after he advanced to Epsilon, the Huaxu Kingdom wouldn't be able to simply send a small fleet like before and scare him into hiding in his bunker, too afraid to show his face.

"I will obtain the Divine Source!"

The Dragon King clenched his massive fist and declared in a deep voice.

Just as they began moving forward, preparing to enter the depths of Mist Valley.

In an area ahead, the toxic miasma that had thickened to a dark green hue began to churn unusually.

As the Tianlong Pirate Crew members stepped into the area ahead.

Suddenly, from deep within the dense toxic miasma, dark green figures emerged one after another.

They all wore clothing so green it appeared black, with gas masks on their heads, yet their hands and feet were strangely exposed, all showing an eerie black-purple color.

Especially their fingernails, which were three to four centimeters long, all in a dark purple shade.

Like ghosts, they emerged from the depths of the toxic miasma and surrounded the Tianlong Pirate Crew members.

The Dragon King and his crew initially noticed nothing.

By the time they realized the surrounding toxic miasma was showing unusual fluctuations, they had already completely fallen into the encirclement of these strange figures.

"Halt! It's an ambush! Don't make any rash moves!"

The Dragon King raised his right hand, signaling everyone to stop.

All crew members immediately assumed combat stances.

But the strange figures continued approaching without stopping, closing in on them.

By the time the pirate crew noticed them, these strange figures were already within twenty meters.

Close enough to vaguely see the toxic miasma fluctuations with the naked eye.

This couldn't help but shock everyone.

Being able to approach so closely without their notice meant these newcomers' strength was definitely extraordinary!

Deputy Captain Bailian opened an ornate iron fan in his hand, warily scanning the surrounding strange figures.

They appeared like walking corpses, without even any presence.

But seeing them somehow always evoked the deepest fears in people's hearts.

"Just who are these guys?"

Among the various teams participating in this island landing operation, few moved in large groups.

Even among superhuman teams, those below deputy captain level would almost always become cannon fodder in encounter battles.

To the extent that later on, many captain-level operatives would adopt solo action strategies.

Unless they had assistants with special abilities, they wouldn't even bring deputies.

Yet these strange figures, shadowy and indistinct, numbered in the hundreds!

Just as they prepared to engage in combat, from these hundreds of strange figures came the exact same voice.

"Tianlong Pirate Crew, gang led by Li Fengxian. This is not a place you should approach. Leave immediately."

"Otherwise, you will face suppression from the Colombian Navy!"

"Listen clearly, this is the final warning. Leave this place now!"

The voice came from all directions, echoing in everyone's ears.

The Dragon King frowned: "It's a member of Hell's Lock! Are these surrounding figures clones? Then his true body must be nearby."

Bailian looked at the Dragon King: "Dragon King, should we... engage the Colombian Navy in battle?"

The Dragon King's gaze turned extremely grim.

Having finally found this place, leaving now was simply impossible!

If he couldn't obtain the Divine Source to advance his power further, he would only become an eel in the East Sea.

Exactly like those monsters hiding in the ocean depths, eyeless creatures.

He could never become the mighty, unrestrained celestial dragon that soars through the skies and roams the seas!

But currently, if he fought the person before him, it would mean tearing all relations with the Colombian Navy.

That outcome would still mean death.

He probably wouldn't even be able to leave Star Island.

After careful consideration, the Dragon King suddenly declared loudly: "I am Li Fengxian, captain of the Tianlong Pirate Crew! May I ask which member of Hell's Lock has come?"

"Our Tianlong Pirate Crew has always maintained friendly relations with the Colombian Navy, never showing disrespect, and we share your stance on blockading the Huaxu Kingdom."

"Therefore, we are not enemies!"

Deep within the toxic miasma stood a similarly strange figure wearing dark green combat attire and a gas mask.

A member of Hell's Lock, codename [Hell Horse] also known as [Helhest].

Superhuman ability index: 9600 points.

His superhuman ability index was lower than Vito Baldia's.

But in this Mist Valley filled with toxic miasma, the effectiveness of his abilities might actually surpass Baldier's.

Currently, Helhest hid deep within the toxic miasma.

For him, this was a natural barrier.

He communicated unhurriedly with General Huo En at the command center, reporting the situation here.

"I've encountered enemies at the edge of Mist Valley. It's that pirate group from the southeastern sea region."

Upon hearing this, General Huo En was greatly surprised.

"Pirates?"

All officers at the command center found it utterly ridiculous.

This battle represented warfare between several major nations of the ocean regions.

Although the number of participants wasn't large, they represented the top combat power of their respective regions.

Moreover, behind each of them stood forces that the Tianlong Pirate Crew absolutely couldn't afford to provoke!

"Have these pirates gone mad? How dare they come to cause trouble at such a time!"

Huo En's eyes filled with killing intent.

Keludi inquired beside him: "Should we engage them in battle? But the Tianlong Pirate Crew does possess considerable strength. And we only have Helhest there alone."

Li Fengxian, the Dragon King, with a superhuman ability index of 9800 points - this intelligence wasn't exactly secret.

But General Huo En showed almost no hesitation, leaning on the command console with both hands, declaring in an absolutely firm tone:

"Helhest, eliminate them!"

The battlefield is cruel - any potential threats must be eradicated!

As for whether Helhest could handle the Tianlong Pirate Crew?

"The enemy's superhuman ability index is 9800 points, plus over a dozen elite pirates following him."

"While Helhest's superhuman ability index is only 9600 points."

Huo En recited the data provided by intelligence, yet a cruel, confident smile appeared on his lips.

"Therefore, the advantage is ours!"

Chapter 994: Spreading Plague

Helhest received Huo En's command and responded coldly:

"Received!"

At the same time, those strange people surrounding the Tianlong Pirate Crew all stepped forward simultaneously.

"Drop your weapons, put your hands on your heads, and I can spare your lives!"

The wall of strange people advanced through the toxic miasma.

The Tianlong Pirate Crew couldn't figure out their opponents' true capabilities at all.

If they attacked, it would mean declaring war against the Colombian Navy.

But surrendering and letting themselves be captured was obviously impossible!

The Dragon King quickly made his decision. "Kill!!"

He roared angrily, his clothes instantly bursting apart.

His solid muscles bulged out, then took on a black iron-like luster.

Soon he transformed into his beast form [Diamond Armor Dragon]!

"If you want war, then I'll give you war!"

The Dragon King roared furiously.

The pirates around him laughed wildly, unleashing various supernatural abilities as they clashed with those bizarre soldiers.

Hundreds of soldiers charged forward, with over a dozen soldiers ganging up on each person, beginning an intense battle.

These soldiers' combat skills were extremely formidable, and their strikes carried immense force.

Especially during physical collisions, it felt like hitting cold, hard steel.

The Dragon King transformed into a several-hundred-meter-long giant dragon circling in mid-air, coldly observing his surroundings.

The fog was too thick—he couldn't see through to locate the controller of these strange soldiers.

"Diamond Body!"

The Dragon King's massive body powerfully coiled around, his tremendous force instantly sweeping away hundreds of soldiers.

"Dragon Flame!"

He opened his enormous maw and spewed a raging black flame stretching a hundred meters, burning through the surrounding toxic miasma.

The toxic miasma quickly burned away completely when encountering the ultra-high temperature flames.

The pirate crew members saw this and cheered excitedly: "Dragon King is mighty! Dragon King is mighty!"

But the Dragon King and Bailian didn't feel the slightest relief.

Because they knew the Colombian Navy too well—they were the true overlords of the ocean regions.

Without absolute confidence, they wouldn't lightly start a war.

Even the Huaxu Kingdom, which competed for dominance with Columbus Ocean, had to admit: You could say Columbus Ocean was evil, but you couldn't say they were weak!

They couldn't believe they could strike their opponents so easily.

Sure enough, just as their subordinates were still cheering.

Suddenly, a pirate felt some itching on his arm.

He lifted his arm to look, and what he saw made his face instantly turn deathly pale!

The knockoff combat suit on his arm had already corroded with seven or eight large holes, and the flesh inside was visibly turning pale, then continuing to change to dark green, before rapidly blackening.

Soon, his flesh rotted away, the intense pain making him scream in utterly miserable agony.

"Ahhhhh!!!!!"

The Dragon King and Bailian looked at him, but soon, he wasn't the only one screaming.

Nearly half the team developed identical symptoms.

Large areas of corrosion and ulceration appeared on their bodies, soon revealing bone, with the injuries continuing to spread.

"It's poison!"

Cold sweat dripped from Bailian's forehead. "Everyone who made contact with those soldiers has been severely poisoned!"

Some pirates couldn't endure it anymore, drawing knives to cut away the corroded flesh from their arms, abdomens, and thighs.

Those who acted quickly could manage, but some had injuries too severe to completely remove.

Moreover, in this environment filled with toxic miasma and extreme cold, even exposing large wounds was certain death, let alone severing limbs!

The worst part was, the Tianlong Pirate Crew had zero intelligence about their hidden enemy.

Yet all their information had already been transmitted to Helhest's data system in the first moments.

Within the toxic miasma, Helhest remained as cold as a machine.

He suddenly reached up and lifted the bottom of his gas mask, revealing his lower jaw.

It was a half-rotted, horrifying face with pale teeth exposed, even lacking lips.

Yet he opened that demon-like mouth and took deep breaths of the dark green terrifying miasma.

[Hell Horse] Helhest, the deity representing plague in Norse mythology.

Helhest lived up to his name—his ability was poison, the most terrifying deadly poison.

His ability was called [Spreading Plague].

He himself was a massive source of plague.

And he could devour all toxins in the world, making them his own.

That's why when he appeared on the Mist Valley battlefield, his ability reached its ultimate enhancement.

This was also why General Huo En was certain he alone could wipe out the entire Tianlong Pirate Crew.

The superhuman ability index was sometimes just a number.

The pitiful pirates, in their eyes, were merely beggars of the sea.

They lacked the most advanced weapons and equipment, and had no powerful intelligence system.

In such a lopsided matchup, he didn't know how Helhest could possibly lose.

Helshest absorbed the dense toxic miasma around him.

Soon, he excreted even purer toxins refined through his pores, releasing them into the surroundings through the exhaust ports of his specially designed combat suit.

Before long, his entire surroundings were filled with this disgusting poisonous gas that could easily kill whales.

That poisonous gas rapidly condensed into form, becoming human shapes identical to himself.

[Calamity Legion].

As long as he remained on this land, he could continuously obtain the purest toxins and infinitely summon these calamity soldiers.

They themselves possessed formidable combat power.

Most terrifyingly, their entire bodies carried deadly toxins.

With the Tianlong Pirate Crew's shoddy equipment, they couldn't withstand its corrosion at all.

Just one hit was almost certainly a death sentence!

On the Tianlong Pirate Crew's side, they had already suffered casualties without even seeing their enemy's appearance.

Those poisoned endured bone-deep pain, even knowing they couldn't survive, they still cut away the corroded parts.

But after cutting them off, they would quickly die anyway.

The Dragon King raged, roaring furiously from his mouth.

Black supernatural energy light shimmered around him, and moments later, another identical Diamond Armor Dragon emerged from that black light!

Doppelganger ability [Mirage Dragon]!

The two giant dragons stood back-to-back, their long bodies stretching forward as they spewed slender black flames!

The flames stretched nearly a kilometer long, instantly incinerating the toxic miasma and calamity soldiers ahead into ash.

The two dragons rotated, clearing a kilometer-radius blank zone around them as the center in less than ten seconds.

Chapter 995: Double Dragon, Hell Horse

The Dragon King transformed into twin dragons, using super high-temperature dragon flames to burn away the surrounding toxic miasma and those plague soldiers covered in poison.

This bought the pirate crew some breathing room.

But it didn't take long before the surrounding toxic miasma surged back again.

This was Mist Valley, the center of the toxic miasma. Any area that became clear would quickly be filled again.

Unless he could eliminate all the toxic miasma across the entire Star Island, there was simply no way to resolve this crisis.

Moreover, hidden within the toxic miasma, the second wave of plague soldiers flickered in and out of view, surrounding them like zombies.

The Dragon King felt somewhat heavy-hearted.

For him, escaping from here was no problem at all.

But once he left, his subordinates here would struggle to withstand the enemy's endless assaults.

Vice Captain Bailian recognized the Dragon King's dilemma. He also knew that to break the current deadlock, they had to find the superhuman hiding in the shadows.

So he said to the Dragon King, "Dragon King, you should go find the superhuman hiding in the shadows! We'll hold the line here!"

The Dragon King looked at his second-in-command, knowing in his heart that this was currently the most correct course of action.

And just at that moment, large numbers of plague soldiers approached like a wall, numb and sluggish.

They issued cold warnings from their mouths.

"Tianlong Pirate Crew, you are already surrounded. Immediately surrender and cease resistance, or we will eliminate you all!"

"All members of Hell's Lock are here. Don't put up futile resistance."

These words made the pirates feel even more despair.

Due to the absolute information asymmetry, they had no idea who they were facing.

Even less did they know how many enemies lurked in the shadows.

If multiple Hell's Lock members appeared here, aside from the Dragon King and Vice Captain Bailian, the others would have no power to resist and could only wait for death.

But the Dragon King wasn't so easily fooled.

Someone capable of becoming a pirate king possessed courage and intellect far beyond ordinary people—with the exception of a certain third-generation surnamed Lu.

So when he heard Helshest's warning, he revealed a cold smile at the corner of his mouth and declared loudly, "If there really were so many Hell's Lock members here, you wouldn't be putting on such mysterious airs!"

After speaking, he raised his head and let out a long roar, a black pillar of light shooting straight up into the sky!

Soon after, thick clouds began to gather around that black pillar of light.

The clouds in the sky were gray-white, and snow had been falling continuously.

As they gathered, they quickly turned into pitch-black storm clouds.

"Crackle pop!"

Large hailstones began falling from the cloud layer, covering an area of nearly ten kilometers around.

Meanwhile, the twin dragons transformed by the Dragon King began spewing high-temperature flames from their massive dragon heads toward the surroundings.

The temperature in the surrounding area rapidly increased, causing the hailstones to melt before they even hit the ground, turning into rain.

"Splash splash!"

In the bitter cold of winter, it actually started raining—a rather miraculous sight.

One of the Dragon King's abilities—Rain Summoning.

Rain poured down from the sky like buckets being emptied.

The thick toxic miasma particles were enveloped by the rainwater and quickly diluted.

The visibility around them became increasingly clear.

Helshest, hiding deep within the toxic miasma, looked up at the sky and murmured to himself, "It's been so long since I've seen rain."

His figure was finally detected by the Dragon King.

The Dragon King glared furiously at the figure wearing a gas mask in the distance, letting out an ear-splitting dragon roar as the twin dragons spiraled up into the high sky.

"Summon Thunder and Lightning!"

Thunder rumbled within the cumulonimbus clouds, and one massive ball lightning after another appeared to fall slowly but actually descended rapidly toward Helshest.

Yet Helshest remained completely unruffled at this moment.

He spread his arms with enjoyment, allowing the rain mixed with large amounts of toxic miasma to wash over his body.

"What wonderful rain!"

His hands slowly lowered, and then a powerful suction force appeared within his arms.

The dark green toxic liquid on the ground "gurgled" as it surged into his arms.

With a casual wave of his right hand forward, a stream of dark green toxic liquid mixed with his foul-smelling superhuman ability transformed into a hemispherical barrier blocking in front of him.

Ball lightning fell one after another, crashing against that dark green barrier, producing continuous "crackle pop" sounds.

The toxic liquid was constantly evaporated by the thunder, but Helhest could similarly replenish it through the toxic pool beneath his feet.

Standing in this battlefield, he could utilize his abilities to their fullest potential.

The Dragon King watched from afar but didn't dare approach recklessly.

Because his opponent was covered in deadly poison—if they engaged in close combat, it could pose a huge threat to him.

However, while he didn't attack, Helhest wouldn't give him time to catch his breath.

He crossed his hands in front of him, and large amounts of toxic liquid began bubbling as if boiling.

These bubbles quickly expanded, growing to human height.

Then from these green bubbles emerged one plague soldier after another covered in mucus.

"Kill them!"

Helhest coldly issued the command.

Large numbers of plague soldiers began launching attacks toward the pirates.

As for Helhest himself, he pulled a long bayonet from his tactical backpack, which gleamed with an eerie green light.

Needless to say, it was coated with deadly poison.

Probably just touching the skin would immediately cause rotting!

He stared at the Dragon King, his eyes devoid of any extra emotion.

According to intelligence reports, the Dragon King's most formidable ability was close-quarters combat.

Although in close combat, Helhest wasn't confident about winning against him.

But he had plenty of methods to splash toxic liquid onto the Dragon King's body.

No matter how strong that steel-like body was, once contaminated by the deadly poison, it would scream in agony and beg for mercy.

The Dragon King exchanged a glance with Bailian below.

Bailian gave him a look and nodded silently.

The meaning was: leave this place to him!

The Dragon King no longer hesitated, instantly charging toward Helhest.

The first to charge forward was naturally his Mirage Dragon doppelganger!

He wanted to see how much damage this poison-wielding enemy could inflict on him.

Plague soldiers continuously emerged from the toxic liquid, then charged toward the pirates on the ground.

Bailian's gaze turned icy cold as he forcefully swung the iron fan in his hand.

"Dance, Frost White Lotus!"

The iron fan elegantly swept around him, and a blizzard-filled hurricane instantly centered on him, sweeping toward the plague soldiers attacking from all directions!

The bodies formed from toxic liquid hadn't even gotten close before gradually freezing into ice sculptures.

On the ground, it looked like a massive white ice lotus had bloomed.

Hundreds of plague soldiers were all sealed within it.

Meanwhile, on the main battlefield, the showdown between Helhest and the Dragon King was the core of cores.

Facing the attack of the Mirage Dragon doppelganger, Helshest's gas mask suddenly cracked open.

His pale white teeth parted as he spat out a stream of black mucus from his mouth.

The mucus immediately began swirling like a vortex, attracting the surrounding toxic liquid, and within moments transformed into a hideously ugly, extremely ferocious hell horse with only three legs!

Chapter 996: Netherworld Undead

Netherworld Wraiths

The embodiment of calamity, the source of plague, Hell Horse.

It had only three legs, symbolizing disease, famine, and death.

Its pitch-black body emitted a filthy, fishy stench, but its head was a ghastly white skull.

Helshest summoned it, and it let out a piercing whinny before charging toward the Mirage Dragon in the sky, enveloped in endless toxic liquid.

The Mirage Dragon roared thunderously, opening its mouth to spew dragon flames.

However, the toxic liquid carried by Hell Horse was like a colossal tidal wave.

In this environment where toxins were nearly limitless, Helshest's combat power skyrocketed accordingly.

Not only was he not at a disadvantage against the Dragon King, but he even seemed to hold a subtle advantage in controlling the overall situation.

The dragon and the horse began a fierce battle.

The Mirage Dragon's flames spewed forth, easily tearing off half of Hell Horse's body.

But the splattered foul toxic liquid also corroded the Mirage Dragon's steel-like outer shell.

The Dragon King's eyes grew increasingly cautious.

Faced with such terrifying toxins, even with his steel body, he absolutely did not want to touch them even once.

So he chose to adopt long-range attacks to seize the initiative!

With a dragon roar from him, spherical lightning rained down from the sky, crashing toward Helhest.

But Helhest remained unhurried, pressing a button on his arm with his hand.

"Click!"

Two rows of small shoulder cannons popped out from his shoulders, aiming at the spherical lightning in the sky and beginning rapid-fire bombardment!

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

The micro-shells made of special materials also had unique effects against abnormal energy.

Although those spherical lightning bolts were fast, the combat suits were equipped with intelligent combat systems that could lock onto targets for attack.

In a sense, this was a lower-tier version of Precision Shooting.

Helhest pressed his hands downward, and the toxic pool formed by rainwater at his feet began to surge violently!

A massive toxic dragon soared into the sky, attacking the Dragon King's main body!

The Dragon King's face turned green.

Helhest's approach was clearly deliberately trying to disgust him!

He opened his large mouth and spewed a surge of dragon flames, rapidly vaporizing that toxic dragon.

But at that moment, an anomaly occurred among the other pirates.

The Plague Soldiers were frozen by Bailian's frost.

Originally, Bailian thought the problem was temporarily under control.

But he never expected that those Plague Soldiers would actually self-destruct directly!

As their bodies exploded, they turned into sky-full sticky, foul-smelling toxic liquid and dark green poisonous mist.

There were no wind-attribute superhumans among them, and the only one who could suppress the poisonous mist, the Dragon King, wasn't nearby.

So soon, more people fell victim.

If even a little touched their bodies, their shoddy combat suits would be corroded.

And the inferior gas masks couldn't last long in Helhest's poisonous mist either.

Once the purification substances began to fail, death awaited them.

The gap between irregular forces and regular army was completely not on the same level in terms of weapons and equipment.

Yet Helhest wore an expression of indifference, showing no joy or pride at this.

unless the opponent was particularly strong, whether there were a hundred or one made little difference to him.

Especially when bullying weaker opponents, he simply had no match here!

Billy the Kid needed to reload Goldenrod after killing.

But his ammunition here was endless!

Although the Dragon King saw his subordinates' miserable state, he couldn't return to support them at this moment.

Facing an opponent of Helhest's caliber, any distraction could cost him his life.

But how could he win?

The Dragon King also faced a massive dilemma.

His greatest strength was close-quarters combat ability, and in the ocean, with his Dragon King body, he was exceptionally powerful.

But this guy in front of him made him not want to get close at all.

However, just as the Dragon King hesitated, he suddenly felt his vision sway.

A feeling of drowsiness and fatigue instantly enveloped him.

The Dragon King's eyes snapped open, "This is..."

He stared intently at Helhest, his body instantly retreating hundreds of meters.

Then he growled, "When did you poison me?"

The abnormality in his body made him immediately realize he had been poisoned!

But Helhest didn't answer his question.

The answer wasn't actually difficult.

The Dragon King's methods could only block tangible toxins, but couldn't withstand intangible ones.

Hell Horse was a Poison Beast he created using his own gastric juices.

As a carrier of plague, every cell in Helhest's body contained lethal toxins.

The reason he wrapped himself up so thoroughly and wore a gas mask wasn't to protect himself.

But to protect others.

Otherwise, anyone who came into contact with him would be poisoned and die painfully in the shortest time possible.

And when the Dragon King's Mirage Dragon tore Hell Horse apart, its deadly toxins spread into the air.

Entering the Dragon King's body through breathing.

Helhest removed his gas mask, revealing his face, twisted like a ghost from toxin erosion.

It was a face difficult to describe with words.

The entire face was deathly pale, like a corpse soaked in water for half a month.

Without a single strand of hair, the flesh around his lips, nose, and eyes had been completely corroded away.

The flesh on his face twisted, his facial features randomly placed on his face like building blocks hastily assembled by a three-year-old.

"Hunt and kill, wraiths of the netherworld hell!"

After saying this, he spat out a large pool of disgusting mucus.

Dense needles extended from his combat suit, piercing his skin, then flowing with brown blood.

Those liquids flowed into the toxic pool at his feet, quickly dyeing the pool a deep blackish-brown in moments.

Toxic liquid monsters, like nightmares, crawled out from the toxic pool, roaring as they charged toward the Dragon King and his subordinates!

The Dragon King was already terrified by the scene before him.

Even though he had experienced countless bloody storms, when had he ever seen hellish demon-like creatures like these?

The extremely uncomfortable feeling inside his body continued to spread.

He forcibly used his powerful physique and superhuman abilities to suppress it, but black toxic blood still couldn't help but trickle from the corner of his mouth.

"I can't continue fighting! This battle is completely unequal!"

Realizing this, the Dragon King decisively made a tail swipe in the air, rushing toward Bailian and the others.

The other pirates weren't faring well either at this moment.

Although they weren't facing Helhest himself, only the Plague Soldiers he created.

But the toxin erosion had already corroded many of them into skeletons.

Bailian used his frost power to condense magnificent frost armor on himself, desperately resisting the toxin erosion.

...

Chapter 997: Hidden Dragon in the Abyss

Helhest alone was beating the entire Tianlong Pirate Crew into a miserable state.

Even the Dragon King had no good way to directly confront Helhest.

He was a ruthless man, but reckless courage held no value against an absolute gap in power.

The Dragon King's eyes were terrifyingly cold.

If he risked being corroded by the deadly poison, he definitely had a chance to close in on Helhest and attempt to kill him!

But now he was already exposed within the Colombian Navy's line of sight.

Even if he killed Helhest, he would still be unable to escape the fate of death.

After careful consideration, the Dragon King made a decision.

He used his Mirage Dragon doppelganger to block Helhest's attacks, then abruptly turned in mid-air and rushed toward his crew members.

At this moment, every member of the Tianlong Pirate Crew was suffering terribly.

Some had already been corroded by the deadly poison on half their bodies, becoming half-human, half-monster creatures that were horrifying to behold.

Without saying a word, the Dragon King directly wrapped his tail around Vice Captain Bailian, then soared away into the distance.

"Dragon King, we haven't gotten on board yet!"

The other crew members shouted anxiously and painfully.

But the Dragon King turned a deaf ear to their cries.

In such an environment, superhumans with low power levels could no longer influence the battlefield.

They had already helped the Dragon King approach Mist Valley, and each of them was poisoned with deadly toxins - carrying them would only be dead weight.

The Dragon King was, after all, the leader of pirates - ruthless and merciless, so useless subordinates would naturally be abandoned without hesitation.

"Thank you for your contributions to the pirate crew over these years."

The Dragon King left only these words before soaring away.

This enraged the remaining pirates so much that they cursed loudly.

"Li Fengxian, you despicable, shameless bastard!"

"We'll go down first and wait for you - you'll definitely die too, you'll definitely die!"

"You'll absolutely never obtain the Divine Source!"

But after the Dragon King and Bailian left, they became even less capable of resisting the erosion from Helshest's Plague Soldiers.

Soon, accompanied by a chorus of miserable screams, these people were all corroded by the deadly poison into puddles of pus and blood.

Helhest watched the departing Dragon King and Bailian without any intention of pursuing them.

He calmly reported to the command center.

"Two people escaped - the pirate crew's leader Li Fengxian and vice captain Bailian."

Attempting to chase a flying dragon through the air would be absolutely irrational behavior.

Helhest wasn't that stupid, and he certainly wouldn't leave the ground environment that was most advantageous to him.

General Huo En frowned upon hearing the report.

"That guy isn't so easy to kill!"

Lieutenant Colonel Keludi beside him commented, "Even though he wasn't a superhuman trained by the military, after all he has a paper strength of 9800 points on the superhuman ability index. If he's determined to escape, he's really not that easy to kill." ~~RaHÔES~~

Helhest excelled at positional warfare, not pursuit operations.

General Huo En took a lit cigar from his secretary beside him and took a hard drag.

Then he said with some annoyance, "I'm just worried this guy might become a hidden danger for us on the battlefield later."

He wasn't particularly concerned about the Dragon King cooperating with Huaxu Kingdom's two major districts.

Because the conflict between the Tianlong Pirate Crew and Huaxu Kingdom was much greater than their conflict with Columbus Ocean.

The Dragon King carried Bailian away from this area, and only after a long time did he land in a quiet zone.

After Bailian jumped from the Dragon King's tail to the ground, his body involuntarily half-kneled.

His face was frighteningly pale as he covered his mouth with his hand, coughing violently, and soon black blood spilled from his mouth.

The Dragon King transformed back into human form, took a bottle of medicine from his person, and tossed it to Bailian.

"Are you alright?"

Bailian opened the antidote's cap and drank the medicine.

Some color returned to his face, but his body still appeared very weak.

Bailian struggled to stand up and said apologetically to the Dragon King, "I'm sorry, Dragon King, for making you worry."

The Dragon King snorted coldly, clenched his fist, and said with a cold gleam in his eyes:

"Damn Colombian Navy! After all the work I did for them in the past, they stab me in the back in the end!"

"It was all fake! In the end, you can only rely on yourself!"

In this battle, the Tianlong Pirate Crew's elite forces were almost completely wiped out.

However, the Dragon King didn't feel too much grief or regret.

Thinking back, he had grown from an insignificant fisherman into a hegemon dominating the southeastern seas.

As long as he had sufficiently powerful strength, it wouldn't take long for him to raise a team no weaker than before.

After the apocalypse, refugees were everywhere - a single meal could secure a useful subordinate.

As long as Bailian survived, that was enough.

After Nirot died in battle, he was the only captain-level combat power left under the Dragon King's command.

Such talent wasn't easily obtained.

After Bailian swallowed the antidote, his body was temporarily out of danger.

He coughed lightly and said to the Dragon King, "Dragon King, from now on, we can't afford to be reckless anymore!"

"The fact that Columbus Ocean's superhumans have appeared at the edge of Mist Valley means people from the other major forces have also reached this vicinity."

"If we continue forward, we'll definitely encounter enemies again."

The Dragon King looked at Bailian.

Within the Tianlong Pirate Crew, although Bailian possessed powerful combat abilities, his most crucial role was serving as the strategist.

When it came to planning and strategizing, he was exceptionally skilled.

Back when the Dragon King first became a pirate and competed with the various powers of the Southern Sea, relying only on brute strength hadn't gained him much advantage.

By chance, he encountered Bailian who was nearly starving to death at sea.

Bailian was from the southern region of Huaxu Kingdom, sharing the same ancestral origins as the Dragon King.

Out of this sentimental connection, he saved Bailian.

Unexpectedly, Bailian used his intelligence and wisdom to help the Dragon King continuously expand his power.

He mastered "The Art of War" with consummate skill - relative to those pirates anyway.

Combined with scientific management knowledge learned online and paired with the Dragon King's powerful combat abilities, they quickly made the Tianlong Pirate Crew rise to prominence, annexing dozens of surrounding pirate crews.

Eventually creating the situation where the Tianlong dominated the southeastern seas.

Therefore, the Dragon King particularly respected Bailian's opinions.

"Bailian, what are your thoughts?"

Bailian lowered his voice and said, "If we confront them head-on, we have no chance of winning. Whether in intelligence systems, weaponry and equipment, or numbers, we're at an absolute disadvantage."

"But we can wait!"

His eyes gleamed with cunning ruthlessness.

The Dragon King's curiosity was piqued: "Wait for what?"

"Wait for them to fight each other!"

Bailian said with firm conviction, "They see each other as their biggest competitors, so they don't really care much about us."

"We might as well hide and wait for them to start fighting first."

"When they've fought enough, then we'll make our move. This strategy is called 'when the snipe and clam grapple, the fisherman profits'!"

Chapter 998: Know How to Disguise

The Dragon King nodded after listening to Bailian's words.

His brief encounter with Helhest had made him deeply aware of the gap between himself and the superhumans from major factions.

His strength wasn't weak, but the difference in prerequisites during combat was too great, leaving him constrained and restricted.

If today, instead of one member of Hell's Lock appearing before him, there had been two, escaping would likely have become an impossible dream.

"Alright, I'll listen to you. Now we need to find a place to rest for a while."

As a superhuman with a powerful physique, the Dragon King could use time to slowly expel the toxins from his body.

As for Bailian, even though he had survived thanks to the antidote, he wouldn't be able to fight for quite some time.

They needed to lie low and wait for the battle between the major factions to erupt!

That wouldn't be difficult to detect.

The top superhumans from the major factions had all reached the peak of the Delta-level.

When such individuals clashed, it would affect an area of at least several dozen kilometers.

The Dragon King would definitely sense those fluctuations.

...

Three days had passed since Zhang Yi killed Vito Baldia.

During these three days, he hadn't conducted any further hunts.

Instead, he had remained hidden, observing the movements on the battlefield.

After all, he had killed one of Hell's Lock's key members.

It was hard to guarantee that the Colombian Navy command center wouldn't fly into a rage and dispatch large forces to hunt Zhang Yi down.

So Zhang Yi found a deep basement, deployed the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, and sealed himself, Hua Hua, and Lele inside for three days.

During these three days, he hadn't sensed any crisis of being searched for or hunted.

Meanwhile, Zhang Yi had recovered his strength, bringing his condition to its peak level.

Therefore, he decided to strike again and hunt other superhumans from the joint forces.

Zhang Yi reached out and patted Hua Hua and Lele's heads. "Let's go. Three days is enough for many things to happen outside. Let's go join the excitement."

"Meow—"

"Woof woof!"

Zhang Yi emerged from underground with one cat and one dog.

During this period of fighting, he had basically familiarized himself with the terrain map of this area.

The principle was actually quite simple.

Although Star Island couldn't be located via satellite due to the toxic miasma and special magnetic fields, areas traversed manually could be mapped out through intelligent systems.

This highlighted the convenience of spatial-type superhumans.

He could quickly travel between various regions, so he had already obtained maps for a large portion of the area.

After briefly checking, Zhang Yi said meaningfully, "Unknowingly, ten days have already passed. Thinking about it now, they must all be approaching Mist Valley!"

Approaching Mist Valley wasn't the end, but the beginning.

Because everyone knew that the ultimate target for all was the Divine Source buried underground within Mist Valley.

Finding such an underground treasure within the vast Mist Valley wouldn't be easy.

Moreover, as the toxic zone shrank, enemies would frequently appear nearby.

Combat had become unavoidable.

Everyone had to be even more careful.

Zhang Yi opened the Dimensional Gate and said to Hua Hua and Lele, "Let's go, we're heading there too!"

The fish were gathering, and it was time for the fisherman to go out with his gun.

Zhang Yi moved forward with one cat and one dog, soon reaching the edge of Mist Valley.

He stopped, not rushing to enter that terrifying area recklessly.

Instead, he had Lele scout first to see if there were any enemies nearby.

Lele pressed his nose to the ground, using his innate ability to capture scents lingering in the air.

Before long, Lele suddenly perked up his ears, his eyes shining brightly as he stared in a certain direction.

"Boss, there's something good!"

Zhang Yi asked curiously, "Oh? What kind of good thing?"

Lele turned to look at him, and due to excessive excitement, his large paws kept scratching at the ground.

"That energy entity we saw before!"

A gleam of light flashed in Zhang Yi's eyes.

"The companion entities of the Source?"

That was indeed genuinely good stuff.

Since Zhang Yi had encountered it, he naturally wouldn't miss it.

But this time, he didn't choose to bring Hua Hua and Lele along.

Instead, he said to Hua Hua and Lele, "You two stay here, don't move."

Hua Hua looked at Zhang Yi with incomprehension. Though it said nothing, its eyes showed surprise.

Its master was overly cautious—this time he wasn't bringing it along and was acting alone?

At this moment, Zhang Yi had already deployed the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms and started changing clothes.

When Hua Hua saw the combat suit on Zhang Yi, its eyes went wide.

"Master, why are you wearing the combat suit of a Colombian superhuman?"

Zhang Yi said calmly, "Since we're pursuing excitement, we should go all the way!"

That's right, he was wearing Baldier's combat suit.

"The people from the joint forces have already set their sights on me. As soon as I appear, they'll quickly identify me based on my personal characteristics."

"Those who can't match me will immediately flee, while those who can contend with me will immediately call for reinforcements."

"It's better to disguise myself so they can't gauge my strength."

One cat and one dog were the most obvious features associated with Zhang Yi.

Beyond that, there was nothing else.

By acting alone and changing clothes, even if others could tell he wasn't a Colombian superhuman, they wouldn't quickly figure out who he was.

And this brief hesitation would be enough for him to accomplish many things.

Lele immediately flattered, "Boss is mighty! You're really too clever!"

Only Hua Hua looked speechless, muttering quietly, "Is this necessary? With your current strength, who on this island could possibly threaten you?"

Hearing this, Zhang Yi simply smiled faintly. "Caution preserves longevity."

And just as Zhang Yi was making preparations, in the direction where Lele had discovered the source sprites...

Someone had already appeared there.

Deep within the toxic miasma, there was an area not shrouded in the poisonous gas.

Here, hazy moonlight supported a tranquil environment.

Over a dozen source sprites sat on the ground or lay on ruined walls, their faces content as they comfortably squinted their eyes and swayed their heads to the melodious rhythm.

In their midst was a large spirit—that mysterious creature with white fur and antlers on its head.

It held a long flute in its hands, playing enchanting music.

But this peaceful scene didn't last long.

A person walked in from the mist.

He had very long hair, with a black headband covering his forehead, and around his eyes was a punk-style smoky makeup.

When he saw the sprites before him, an extremely exaggerated smile spread across his face.

"Hahaha, source sprites, and there's even a large one! Indeed, coming to Mist Valley, even the NPCs encountered have become higher level!"

Chapter 999: Medusa

The man with heavy eyeliner laughed recklessly, his body leaning back exaggeratedly.

At that moment, another person emerged from nearby.

This person had fiery red hair and carried a long, ancient-looking katana at his waist.

Seeing the heavy eyeliner man's expression, he said coldly, "Otaku, control your habits. Making loud noises here is very dangerous!"

The heavy eyeliner man said somewhat disconsolately, "I'm loud because I stand on righteous ground!"

The red-haired man shook his head helplessly.

If not for this guy's considerable strength, he truly wouldn't want to work with him.

"Now, before anyone else discovers it, let's collect this thing!"

The red-haired man stared at the giant Totoro-like creature, a flash of fervor appearing in his eyes.

"This creature's origin is equivalent to a high-level Delta-ranked superhuman!"

When the two appeared, the sprites made no movements.

But when they showed malicious intent, the Totoro's melody immediately stopped.

The little sprites scattered in panic, hiding behind it.

The Totoro's originally cute and innocent eyes suddenly turned fierce.

"Roar!!!"

It opened its massive maw and emitted a somewhat sharp roar.

White moonlight instantly surged outward in all directions, the violent superhuman energy storm pushing the thick toxic miasma back hundreds of meters!

The red-haired man and the heavy eyeliner man seemed prepared, both calmly releasing powerful superhuman energy to block the impact force.

The companion creatures of the Divine Source were incredibly mysterious beings.

They possessed extremely powerful life energy within their bodies.

However, they could only rely on instinct to fight.

This was why the heavy eyeliner man called them NPCs.

By simply discerning their fighting patterns, one could quickly kill them through prolonged combat.

Then they could obtain sufficiently pure energy origin.

That was something even captain-level superhumans coveted!

But before the two could act, they sensed another presence approaching from a different direction.

Their expressions immediately turned vigilant.

Looking over, they saw a slender figure slowly emerging from the dense toxic miasma.

It was a tall woman with the striking waist-to-hip ratio and bust characteristic of Western women.

From her combat suit, the two recognized her identity.

Among the Hell's Lock members, there was only one female.

Codename [Medusa].

"Crap, why did it have to be her?"

The red-haired man and heavy eyeliner man frowned upon seeing the newcomer.

Encountering a Hell's Lock member here complicated things for them.

Because this time, they were here to assist Hell's Lock.

The two sides were allies, not enemies.

Since everyone had discovered the source sprites, it would be difficult for them to monopolize them.

Behind Medusa, mist swirled as a massive, colorful figure loomed faintly visible.

When she realized others were present, she immediately prepared for battle.

[Medusa] Judy Christina, superhuman ability index 9600 points.

Although her ability index wasn't particularly high among Hell's Lock members,

she had one advantage nobody else possessed.

That was a superhuman beast partner with an ability index of 9500 points - [Blood-Spotted Snake King].

Yes, it was a highly venomous patterned snake, not a python.

Pythons are non-venomous and lack fangs, but the Blood-Spotted Snake King possessed both viper venom and fangs, along with a massive python's body.

With this venomous pet, Christina's actual combat power approached that of Hell's Lock's upper echelon.

When Christina spotted the two men, the command center immediately provided their information.

"These two come from the Neon Pirate Pelican group's superhuman unit [Takamagahara]. The red-haired one is [Amaterasu], the guy with dark circles is [Susanoo]."

Knowing these two were allies from Neon, Christina curled her lips in a mocking smile.

She swayed her figure, gracefully moving to the side.

On one hand maintaining a safe distance from the Takamagahara duo, while simultaneously blocking the Totoro's escape route.

"What a coincidence, you appearing in this place too."

"As allies, I assume we won't fight over these source sprites, right?"

[Amaterasu] Ohgami Benimaru narrowed his eyes slightly.

"Of course, we're allies. We shouldn't conflict at such a time."

[Susanoo] Ounami raised his voice impatiently, "We came here to help! Shouldn't Hell's Lock's target be the Divine Source? Do you really need to compete with us over this?"

Christina laughed contemptuously, crossing her arms to emphasize her ample bust.

"Since it's valuable, there's no reason to pass it up. And the Divine Source material is limited—not everyone gets the opportunity."

General Huo En could see everything from the command center.

However, the allied forces weren't directly under their command.

To communicate, they needed to go through Neon's responsible personnel.

General Huo En thought for a moment and decided not to intervene in this matter.

According to their agreement, aside from the Divine Source belonging to the Colombian Navy, other acquisitions weren't explicitly defined.

Therefore, Ohgami Benimaru and Ounami had every right to obtain the source sprites.

However, even if General Huo En said nothing,

on such a battlefield, they still needed to consider the Colombian Navy's reputation.

Christina said with a smile, "Alright, since we all found it, for fairness' sake, let's split it fifty-fifty! Each side takes half."

Ohgami Benimaru and Ounami frowned, clearly disagreeing with this distribution.

Ohgami Benimaru said calmly, "There are three of us here. You take half while we split the other half—that's clearly unreasonable."

"I'd say it should be divided into three portions."

Christina scoffed derisively. Behind her, the over-twenty-meter-long Blood-Spotted Snake King opened its mouth, flicking its blood-red tongue. A scorching heat instantly melted the ground's solid ice, turning the soil dark black.

"If you put it that way, shouldn't my precious count as one too? Right, Mirian?"

She reached out to stroke the giant snake's head. The snake Mirian emitted a hiss, clearly agreeing with Christina's view.

Ohgami Benimaru and Ounami's expressions turned unpleasant.

Treating a superhuman beast pet as equal to humans when sharing such valuable resources?

This was somewhat hard for them to accept.

But suddenly, the Pelican organization leader from Neon communicated something to them.

Ohgami Benimaru and Ounami's expressions shifted slightly, but they understood they weren't on equal footing with the Colombian Navy now.

If they caused trouble, they would be the ones suffering losses.

Chapter 1000: Great God Red Pill

Ohgami Benimaru reluctantly made a compromise.

"Fine, we'll split these source sprites equally!"

The giant Totoro showed a ferocious expression, warning these humans.

But the three of them didn't take it seriously at all.

With the three of them working together, dealing with a creature formed from source material would be effortless.

"Hiss~ hiss~"

Just then, the Blood-Spotted Snake King beside Christina flicked its tongue, issuing a warning.

Christina tilted her head to listen, and her gaze immediately turned playful.

Crossing her arms, she smiled at Ohgami Benimaru and Ounami:

"Excellent, let's divide them according to this plan!"

"But before that, we need to clean up this place first."

"Someone came without an invitation."

Upon hearing this, Ohgami Benimaru and Ounami immediately understood Christina's meaning.

There were more than just the three of them here.

The Blood-Spotted Snake King turned its body, opened its large mouth toward a direction, and let out a piercing roar!

A foul-smelling wind blasted from its mouth, dispersing large patches of toxic miasma ahead.

A figure slowly emerged.

When Christina saw that combat suit, her relaxed smile instantly changed.

"Hmm?"

Because the person who arrived was wearing the uniform of a Hell's Lock member.

Frowning, she inquired to the command center: "Did you send someone else? Don't you trust me?"

General Huo En and the others were also somewhat surprised by the scene before them.

"No, you're the only one still in that area. That person is fake, definitely not a Hell's Lock member."

A cold killing intent flashed in Christina's eyes.

"A fake, is it?"

On the battlefield, it wasn't strange for enemies to infiltrate by wearing their uniforms.

It could easily be done using optical camouflage functions.

So in Christina's view, the other party doing this was purely mocking her.

"Looking for death!"

Christina said coldly. The giant king snake coiled beside her opened its blood-red vertical pupils, sensing its master's killing intent, it also emitted a predatory pressure.

Ohgami Benimaru and Ounami exchanged glances.

Ohgami Benimaru's right hand rested on his long sword, both ready to fight at any moment.

"What does this mean?"

Ohgami Benimaru inquired.

Christina said disdainfully: "Can't you tell? That's an impostor."

After saying this, she shouted toward the person: "Hey, you're a superhuman from the Huaxu Kingdom, right? How sneaky to disguise yourself as one of us, really cunning!"

After being discovered, Zhang Yi didn't show any surprised expression.

He never expected to fool these people with this outfit anyway.

It was enough just to conceal his identity.

With a quick glance, he basically obtained the identity information of the three people before him.

Through [Thor]'s intelligence, Christina's characteristics were too obvious—that large snake revealed her identity.

As for Ohgami Benimaru, that head of red hair and the iconic samurai long sword also allowed Zhang Yi to identify him.

"[Amaterasu], [Medusa]. As for the guy next to them, he should also be a member of [Takamagahara], so if I'm not mistaken, he's [Susanoo]."

Zhang Yi narrowed his eyes.

All three of them had very high superhuman ability indices.

[Medusa] Judy Christina, superhuman ability index 9600 points, plus assistance from her battle pet Blood-Spotted Snake King, making her comprehensive combat power even stronger.

[Amaterasu] Ohgami Benimaru, superhuman ability index 9600 points.

[Susanoo] Ounami, superhuman ability index 9500 points.

If it were one-on-one, Zhang Yi was confident he could kill any one of these three.

But currently, it was one against three.

Outnumbered by the enemy, in such situations, Zhang Yi would never take reckless risks.

He smiled and raised his hand, saying: "Sorry, I think I came to the wrong place. Bye!"

With that, Zhang Yi quickly turned and sprinted deep into the toxic miasma.

Zhang Yi's escape confirmed his identity as a Huaxu Kingdom superhuman.

Currently, the joint forces had three high-level superhumans here.

Encountering a lone enemy like this, there was no reason to let him escape!

"What should we do?"

Ohgami Benimaru narrowed his eyes, looking at Christina.

"Let our Hell's Lock friend make the decision!"

Christina stuck out her tongue—it was crimson red and much longer than a normal person's.

She licked her lips, which were also a seductive bright red.

"Of course we can't let him escape!"

"How about this: I'll stay here capturing these source sprites, and you two go chase him!"

Ounami snorted coldly, "Don't take us for fools! If we go chase that superhuman, who can guarantee you won't take the source sprites and leave alone?"

Christina turned to look at him, "Oh? Then what do you propose? As you said, if I go chase that person, I'd also worry about you taking the source sprites and running off!"

Ohgami Benimaru narrowed his eyes.

"It's not that complicated. Perhaps we can solve this with a simple method."

He pressed his hand on the Kokonoe Nagamune at his waist.

"I'll chase that guy! You two stay and capture the source sprites."

"But I want an extra ten percent share of the divided source sprites!"

Christina looked deeply at Ohgami Benimaru.

[Amaterasu] Ohgami Benimaru, reputed as the top expert in the Neon superhuman domain.

Although his superhuman ability index was only 9600 points.

On the Neon island split into two factions constantly fighting, it was enough to dominate.

Christina nodded, smiling playfully: "Since you put it that way, of course I'll give you face. Let's do as you say!"

They couldn't afford to argue too much here either.

Otherwise, the escaped person might get too far away.

If he brought back more enemies, even these three would find it troublesome.

"Alright, I'm off!"

Ohgami Benimaru said to Ounami: "Keep an eye on her!"

Then gripping the Kokonoe Nagamune with his left hand, he pushed hard against the ground with both legs, shooting like lightning toward the direction Zhang Yi had fled!

Zhang Yi was running fast, but his movement stirred the air, causing the toxic miasma to churn violently.

This acted like road markers, clearly pointing the way for Ohgami Benimaru.

Ohgami Benimaru's hand rested on his sword hilt, his gaze focused and sharp.

As a Menkyo Kaiden of the Shinryu Mushin-ryu style, his drawing speed was extremely fast.

Especially his Iaido slash—so fast it could deceive the eyes.

Calm heart, steady breath, concentrate spirit.

Every slight movement around him would be detected.

He wasn't worried about any tricks from the person fleeing ahead.

Because at such close distances, in close combat, he had never encountered a match!

Except for those few guys from [Pillar of the Gods], no one could withstand his drawn Iaido slash.