

## **Origin Powers 501**

Chapter 501 - War in the Depths of the Secret Realm

The two of them have now become well-adapted to the perilous environment within the Secret Realm.

Xiaoya no longer needs to remind them, she just points the way for them...

The crises encountered along the way can be easily resolved by the two of them.

Reaching this place, their absolute strength no longer gives them much of an advantage over the Demon Beasts...

But what humans have over the Demon Beasts is naturally their ability to coordinate.

Moreover, they rely not solely on combat abilities.

An hour later...

The two stood in front of a skeleton.

The skeleton was still dressed in clothes, though they had been torn to shreds, but the remnants suggested these were the clothes Liu Yuanlang wore before.

The skeleton in front of them was undoubtedly Liu Yuanlang.

Han Yun City sighed softly and said, "It seems Grandmaster Liu reached this position and finally succumbed to those hidden demon beasts, ambushed and killed."

He looked at Xu Lingjun and said, "Old Xu, could you help? You have quite a few Transformation Capsules, let's gather up Grandmaster Liu. He died for our Great Xia Empire; we cannot leave his body exposed in the wilderness."

"Don't worry."

Xu Lingjun bent down to collect the skeleton, but as soon as he did, he paused.

Fixing his gaze on the skeleton in front of him for a while, he asked, "Old City, what do you think about the physique of the demon beasts we've encountered along the way?!"

Han Yun City said, "Their strength is certainly formidable. In fact, if it weren't for the unique Cultivation Techniques we practice, we wouldn't have been able to explore this area on our strength alone."

"I'm asking about their size, not strength."

"Of course, they are all quite large..."

Han Yun City also stopped speaking.

He looked at Xu Lingjun in shock, already grasping his meaning.

If Grandmaster Liu indeed met his end at the maw of a Demon Beast, yet here, all the beasts are enormous, Liu Yuanlang is taller than the average person.

But if he was consumed...

When humans eat shrimp, they discard the shells, but do they discard tiny shrimps?

"And look here."

Xu Lingjun gestured for Han Yun City to come closer, pointing at a spot on the skeleton.

Han Yun City's gaze landed and suddenly focused sharply... he exclaimed, "This... is a handprint?"

Indeed...

Though the flesh had been thoroughly eaten away, the bones remained intact.

And at the position of the chest, three ribs were broken, with bone spurs turned inward... if the flesh wasn't eaten, the spot likely pierced would have been the heart.

The size of the fracture marks on the ribs was evidently the size of a normal human handprint.

Han Yun City exclaimed, "Are you saying Grandmaster Liu wasn't killed by a Demon Beast, but by a human?!"

"There are traces on his bones that show they've been gnawed by Bone Eating Worms!"

Xiaoya said.

Xu Lingjun said, "He must have been badly injured by someone, then fled in a panic to this place, dying from his injuries... those large Demon Beasts had no interest in dead prey, so they left him be, but underground might exist small worms that devour flesh, so his corpse was eaten clean."

"So his primary cause of death was human-induced, not Demon Beast?"

Han Yun City said, "But within the Secret Realm, everywhere is filled with Demon Beasts, where could there be living humans?"

Xu Lingjun said, "If a Demon Beast truly had eaten him, not just the skeleton, but even the clothes wouldn't be left behind."

Han Yun City's expression was grave as he exclaimed, "There are people in the Secret Realm?! Could it be the original Blue Star didn't only have Demon Beasts, but also living humans, and now these people are hiding in the world of the Secret Realm? But how could they hide, even though the Secret Realm is vast, the number of Demon Beasts is far greater inside..."

"Could it be that these Demon Beasts are actually being driven by someone?!"

Xu Lingjun speculated.

He gathered up the skeleton.

Remarked, "As it stands, there's too little evidence, but as long as we continue forward, we'll soon discover the truth."

"I suddenly feel a bit excited; in the deepest part of the Secret Realm, there are actually living humans."

Han Yun City sneered, "And Grandmaster Liu actually fell into their hands, it seems they have intense malice toward us."

"Perhaps it's because we intruded into their home... Let's go... I can't wait to learn the truth."

"Me too."

The two moved on deeper.

And with this new anticipation, their movements quickened substantially.

For half a day, encountering numerous demon beast attacks again during the journey... but by now, they've become adept from previous experiences.

They used a peculiar juice from a Cannibal Flower.

Such a flower, even the most powerful Demon Beasts dare not rashly provoke... fearing they might become entangled by mistake.

Ultimately it was Xiaoya who donned her Nanometer Armor to enter and collect two flowers, applying the juice on them, and then activating Iron Blood Technology's Invisibility Device.

Thus...

Even the most keen-sensed Demon Beasts, upon catching the scent of the Cannibal Flower juice, were unwilling to cause extra trouble, even knowing that beings had passed through.

This made their journey considerably smoother.

For a full two days, excluding two hours for rest, the remaining time was spent continually moving forward, forward, forward.

Even the two of them couldn't foresee that they could delve this deeply... and under Xiaoya's guidance, Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City could always trace human remnants.

Or rather the remnants left by Liu Yunlang.

Meaning he wasn't killed at where he died, but deeper inside, was seriously injured by adversaries... then... seemingly attempted to flee back, but was targeted by Bone Eating Worms halfway, by which point he was already too exhausted and weak to resist, only to be consumed clean.

Now where the two have advanced to.

No longer a sign of human life remains, like a primal forest.

And reaching there...

Formidable Level 9 Demon Beasts were now appearing in abundance.

This level of power exceeds that of a human Grandmaster.

And at this location, Han Yun City and Xu Lingjun finally found where Liu Yunlang had previously clashed with adversaries.

Though some time had passed, in less than a year, not enough time to erase all the tracks.

In the vast forest, scorched trees and broken wood...

The ground still bore traces of destruction left by great beasts, now only massive skeletons remained, evidently also devoured by other demon beasts.

Both of their faces revealed stunned and dumbfounded expressions.

"It's the smell of gunpowder, even after all this time, I can still catch that pungent aroma; someone fought here, and Grandmaster Liu must have been inadvertently caught in the midst, fatally ambushed by enemies."

Xu Lingjun also nodded in agreement.

Solemnly said, "Now it can be confirmed, they are not the original Blue Star's natives; they are humans... humans exactly like us."

The two exchanged glances, seeing the shock mirrored in each other's eyes.

In the deepest parts of the Secret Realm.

There are... humans!

And there is war.

Chapter 502 - Selfish

At first, the two mistakenly thought there were indigenous people inside.

But the smoke directly erased this possibility.

These are traces left by modern weapons...

Who could it be?

Baoxue Empire?

Or the Land of Light?

Blue Star is now divided into three, with the Three Great Empires facing off... It can be confirmed it's not someone from the Great Xia Empire, so is it Baoxue Empire or the Land of Light?

What are their real intentions in venturing deep into the Secret Realm?

Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City's instincts nearly screamed at them...

Perhaps, they were right to come here.

"Let's go!"

Two nearly invisible transparent figures continued advancing.

Further ahead, they even saw the scattered human footprints... On this soft, primordial land, it could take years for a footprint to dissolve.

And they clearly couldn't bother hiding traces.

After all, in this deserted, primitive atmosphere-filled forest, who are you hiding your steps from?

But as Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City walked, they became more and more shocked.

"Looks like the people who came are elite among elites!"

Han Yun City was a recon soldier back then, excellent at detail scouting, and Xiaoya was practically a computer capable of artificial scanning.

With their joint effort, hardly any detail was overlooked.

But because they saw too many details.

Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City's hearts felt heavier instead.

Especially upon seeing the uncollected corpses.

"It's people from Baoxue Empire!"

"Why would people from Baoxue Empire appear deep in the Secret Realm?"

They finally realized that for the past two years, they had overlooked a crucial piece of information.

For the past two years, the Great Xia Empire had been strategizing to expand the battle to the Polar Star Battlefield.

They couldn't even spare attention to the secrets of Blue Star, merely sending a dozen Grandmasters to investigate, seemingly taking it seriously, but actually... that's all the manpower they could spare.

The reason they couldn't spare more manpower is that while the Great Xia Empire was battling at the Polar Star Battlefield, they also had to guard against attacks from the Baoxue Empire and the Land of Light.

The Three Great Empires were not a monolithic bloc... Rather, they were overtly and covertly competing. If anyone showed a flaw, no one would miss such a good opportunity.

So the Great Xia Empire was well-prepared for simultaneous internal and external wars.

But there were two things they completely didn't foresee...

One was the appearance of Xu Lingjun, which ended the war extraordinarily quickly.

In just two years, the Great Xia Empire had completely overcome the trouble from foreign enemies.

The second was that they were prepared for a two-front attack, but neither the Land of Light nor the Baoxue Empire seized the opportunity to attack when weak.

Could it be that they were concerned about the so-called Blue Star Co-prosperity Circle?

At that time, everyone just felt fortunate.

But now, a question had to be considered.

For the past two years, the Great Xia Empire was busy with foreign wars... so what were the Baoxue Empire and the Land of Light doing?

Or rather.

What were the people from Baoxue Empire doing?

Now, they somewhat knew.

By this time, the two had arrived at a broken battlefield.

To this day, the land remained yellowed, alongside the deadly radiation... and those mountains of skeletons.

There were human, and Demon Beast ones.

Evidently, long ago, an extremely brutal battle erupted here, the enemy even used nuclear weapons.

Using nuclear weapons on Blue Star soil.

Their madness is evident!

"Truly a dog can't change its habit... If you say those bastards from Baoxue Empire wouldn't seize an advantage, I'd rather believe the Chi Yu mysterious clan annihilated my mother's clan all for cosmic peace!"

Han Yun City angrily spat on those remains, saying, "I really don't want to speak of bloodlines, but the descendants of criminals can't breed anything good. Is having a few nuclear bombs impressive? Do they think this planet belongs to just them? We painstakingly protect our homeland like this, yet they're ruining it... damn... don't they care about future generations?"

"They are hedonists, selfish to the point of not even loving their own country... Future generations? What's that, do you think they care? The biggest issue now is why they invade the Secret Realm? Even resorting to nuclear missiles, that heinous thing!"

Xu Lingjun said solemnly, "For over a hundred years, it's mostly been the Secret Realm offending us, and we merely defended passively... What lure made Baoxue Empire provoke the Secret Realm when external threats hadn't subsided, risking simultaneous internal and external wars?"

Han Yun City said, "The secret of Blue Star?! It seems to be the only possibility... Otherwise, simultaneous internal and external wars would be unbearable even for Baoxue Empire, they are courting self-destruction."

"But we knew the secret because of Sun Yangwei's dying advice. Frankly, if not for chance, we might not have known this secret at all, so where did the Baoxue Empire learn of it to act on their temptation?"

Xu Lingjun glanced at Han Yun City.

Han Yun City glanced back at Xu Lingjun.

Both thought of an extremely terrifying possibility.

"Unless they no longer have those worries."

Xu Lingjun's heart pounded.

He said, "Let's go, we continue forward, given so many traces, we are likely very close to people from Baoxue Empire."

"Alright!"

Han Yun City also held his breath.

The two walked forward side by side.

Sure enough...

Going a bit further, Xiaoya started alerting them about military surveillance in the vicinity.

Both understood that Baoxue Empire had been stationed here for quite a while, even setting up military surveillance.

Unfortunately...

When it comes to technology, my cutting-edge tech doesn't fear your stuff.

The two continued deeper.

By now, the ground began to continuously shake violently.

With their rich experience, it was evident that there was a battle ahead.

And it was extremely fierce artillery fire...

Both moved more lightly as a result.

Under the cover of the Invisibility Device, they rushed forward.

After traveling roughly more than ten miles.

Upon crossing a thriving thicket...

They saw a broad open field.

At this moment, the battlefield roared with fire.

A fierce war was ongoing with intensity.

On one side, fully armed humans.

Various high-tech weapons were announcing powerful destructive capabilities.

Countless cannon shells and lasers, mixed with powerful bullets...

Were pouring upon their enemies.

The explosions resonated, and the earth trembled.

Countless smoke billowed, the pungent smell mixed with scorched flesh, the once flat primitive forest, now almost turned into ruins under the bombardment!

But their human enemies were not humans.

Instead, they were gigantic Demon Beasts.

Giant pythons, giant leopards, giant tigers, Xu Lingjun even saw a giant ape with snow-white fur, holding a giant tree with its branches stripped as a club, leaping into the crowd of people.

Sweeping with its club, dozens of warriors were flung out, bones and muscles snapped, none could survive!

But a huge iron net was raised, trapping the giant ape within.

And then forcefully tightened...

The giant ape was directly crushed into chunks no larger than fists, scattered on the ground.

The Demon Beast died.

But it further roused its companions' frenzy and rage-filled roars.

Countless Demon Beasts surged through the fierce barrage, charging towards the humans.

Chapter 503 - Crazy, the Baoxue Empire Is Crazy

The war between civilization and barbarism.

The most primitive savagery and the most advanced technology engage in the fiercest battle here.

The earth trembles, and the roars of Demon Beasts are endless.

Amidst the rumbling cannon fire...

One giant beast after another falls with a mournful cry.

More often, it's the human corpses that are directly torn apart by the Demon Beast's claws.

Even with the most powerful thermal weapons' enhancement, how could the strength of Level 7 and Level 8 Demon Beasts be merely countered by thermal weapons...

It takes nearly hundreds of humans to exchange for the life of a single Level 8 Demon Beast, among which there are many Martial Artists of exceptional prowess.

And at this moment, Han Yun City and Xu Lingjun stealthily hide on the side with an Invisibility Device...

The completely distinct technology makes it difficult for even the most advanced technological civilization to detect their traces.

They seriously observe at the edge of the battlefield for a while...

Han Yun City's face becomes increasingly grave.

He says solemnly, "There are at least five Grandmaster-level Martial Artists active here!"

"It's seven,"

Xu Lingjun says solemnly, "There are also two Grandmaster-level masters hidden in the shadows, waiting for these Demon Beasts to be unguarded for an opportunity to strike; during our peek, they've already taken down three Level 8 Exotic Beasts."

"Damn it, could it be that everyone in the Baoxue Empire has gone insane? While we're striving to expand outward, they are fighting inwardly; with so many weapons and Grandmaster-level experts, it's enough even to start a war against the Great Xia Empire."

Han Yun City's expression is grave as he says, "Insane, they really are insane."

"Definitely insane,"

Xu Lingjun says solemnly, "Why would they risk such great danger to attack the Inner Domain... this is already using human lives to forge results, why do you think they are doing this at all costs?"

Why?

The Baoxue Empire has the worst reputation among the Three Great Empires.

Greedy and treacherous, ungrateful, fickle...

Such people never set out without seeing the rabbit first; something big enough to drive their Sovereign to frenzy must be involved to make them this crazy.

Or perhaps their Sovereign is crazy himself.

Without asking, both of them already guessed something.

Starting a war on both sides?

The Great Xia Empire didn't even have the courage to start a two-front war after acquiring the Transformation Capsules and Mechas... how could the Baoxue Empire dare to?

Especially, how did they even know this information?

Just thinking about this possibility...

Though without evidence, both were those who wouldn't hesitate to think the worst of their enemies, or rather, the Baoxue Empire's conduct over the years hasn't allowed high expectations of them.

After observing for a while...

Han Yun City asks, "Old Xu, are we just going to keep watching?"

Xu Lingjun tilts his head and asks, "You want to join?"

"Frankly, yes,"

Han Yun City says solemnly, "If our guessing is correct, then the Baoxue Empire is really disgusting... and now it's nearly certain that Grandmaster Liu wasn't killed by the Demon Beasts, it was these Baoxue Empire people's treachery, and thinking further, perhaps the other two Grandmasters might have met similar fates."

His eyes flash with a bit of murderous intent, coldly saying, "I do hate these Demon Beasts, but more than the Demon Beasts, I despise the people of the Baoxue Empire... Demon Beasts are just that, not monsters."

"I agree,"

Xu Lingjun says seriously, "No matter what their intentions, we absolutely cannot let them succeed; we've already lagged behind these people by focusing on the outskirts of Blue Star, we must disrupt the Baoxue Empire people's plans!"

Though it's clear that letting the crane and clam battle while the fisherman benefits is the right principle.

But unfortunately, there are only two of them.

Their force is really too weak, all they could do is create some chaos on the fringes... securing final victory in the war seems impossible.

And two equally hated enemies.

There's no doubt that the people of the Baoxue Empire are the most disgusting.

Compared to them, Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City would rather let a group of animals win.

Seeing the war raging fiercely on both sides.

Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City exchange a glance, and then each disperses.

With only two people, the power they can exert in war is really very, very minimal.

So quietly hiding behind the enemy and eliminating their living forces was the earliest correct method...

Especially as the enemy's full attention is ahead, almost unaware that two Death Gods have stealthily infiltrated their rear.

A tall, exuberant Baoxue Empire soldier loudly roars, teaming up with a few comrades to direct the Rainbow Cannon at the Demon Beasts in the sky...

Although his strength is only at the Profound Realm.

But with the enhancement of thermal weapons, he can pose a great hassle even to those Level 8 Demon Beasts...

And now, he has locked onto a Poisonous Dragon Falcon soaring in the skies, which can release lethal poison, though its strength is only at a Level 7 Demon Beast, its destructive power far exceeds any Level 8 Demon Beast.

This shot is intended to be lethal.

But before he could fire...

His neck suddenly twisted, and he lost his breath.

In an instant, all five Warriors operating the Rainbow Cannon perished... and then...

The gigantic Rainbow Cannon, as large as a whole warship, suddenly trembled, and a huge light ring appeared nearby.

Next, the Rainbow Cannon vanished.

Han Yun City, who had just ruthlessly taken their lives, couldn't help but be stunned and turned around in shock.

Others couldn't see it, but he naturally could...

Xu Lingjun merely retrieved a firearm, aimed it at the Rainbow Cannon... and then with a kick, the Rainbow Cannon was sent onto the other side of the light ring.

Meanwhile.

Far away in the capital of the Land of Light.

A light curtain suddenly flashed across the sky...

A gigantic cannon turret fell straight from the sky, crashing into the bustling crowd.

"Help!"

"Someone got smashed inside, call the authorities, hurry!"

"I've already called the authorities."

"Hey, is this the patrol team, I need to report... we have over twenty people injured by a cannon turret, what, no trajectorial data on the giant gun was detected? It wasn't fired, it just dropped from the sky onto us."

"I'm not lying, I'm not, don't hang up, damn it, what's your badge number? I'll report you to Captain Tailuo."

.....

Xu Lingjun had no idea that his casual toss would cause so much trouble for the enemy.

It was unavoidable; the Space Time Gun is very useful, but its uncontrollable nature adds too many variables, so much so that he doesn't dare to use it against Demon Beasts.

After all, if one of the Demon Beasts got teleported to a densely populated place...

Wouldn't that mean risking the lives of those innocents?

But these turrets don't have these problems."

At most, they might hurt some people... but whichever country it lands on might be thrilled to death.

Wouldn't it be a heavenly weapon gifted to them?

As for any fatalities, Xu Lingjun thinks, if luck is truly that bad, perhaps it's better not to leave the house."

He gestures at Han Yun City.

Han Yun City is shocked inside, but is all the more admiring of Xu Lingjun, this boy's methods are simply astounding...

The two then quietly move toward their next weapon.

Chapter 504 - Confused

They discovered that Xu Lingjun possessed such mysterious powers.

Han Yun City acted with even more purpose.

Aiming specifically at those massive weapons at the very rear with the strongest power...

Rainbow Cannon, Decomposition Cannon, Light Speed Cannon, Satellite Cannon, and all kinds of powerful weapons were their targets.

Especially after cooperating twice...

Their actions became more skillful and fluid.

The strength of Han Yun City was already infinitely close to that of a Grandmaster.

And Xu Lingjun's strength was even enough to rival Sun Bumie, a very strong Grandmaster.

The two of them teamed up, hiding in the shadows, quietly launching sneak attacks...

Especially when the war was at its most intense, the atmosphere of the entire battlefield was almost at its peak.

Not to mention the distant Demon Beasts, even the Baoxue Empire warriors who were close at hand did not notice... after all, it's not uncommon for weapons to suddenly stop firing during a battle.

How can there be a war without casualties?

But gradually...

As time passed, not to mention the warriors charging forward, even the Demon Beasts at the forefront noticed something was off.

The severe firepower that could suppress everything was gradually weakening.

Even more, it was weakening at an incredibly inconceivable speed.

In two years...

The Baoxue Empire and the Demon Beasts within the Secret Realm had fought more than a hundred battles, but now with the smooth advance of the Baoxue Empire.

Step by step, they advanced at a very stable speed, and it was almost rare to see living Demon Beasts at the rear, which also led to very few attacks from the rear... the artillerymen could fire at those Demon Beasts with confidence.

But this degree of weakening, even when they initially decided to declare war on the Secret Realm, perhaps the casualties were not so great.

"What's going on, go back to the rear and check what's happening."

General Carlos of the Baoxue Empire turned back and shouted to his trusted guard: "If the firepower support is insufficient, we will be torn to pieces by these Demon Beasts. I don't care what is going on, in three minutes, three minutes I want the fire suppression completed!"

"Yes!"

The man responded.

Then quickly rushed towards the rear...

Passing by the silhouettes of the continuously charging warriors.

It should be known that the charge speed of the Demon Beasts is really too fast...

If they are not held back by strong Martial Artists, the artillery fire simply cannot stop their steps.

But how can relying solely on human Martial Artists counter the fiercest Demon Beasts?

They were really piling up lives...

But if the firepower cannot provide cover, even piling lives up cannot help.

Seeing the heavy casualties... if the fire cannot be restored, this well-planned war, which seemed like a sure victory, might end in failure instead.

This logic does not even require profound knowledge of warfare to understand.

The guard rushed all the way, moving very fast, obviously understanding well that time is life amidst the flames of war.

But when he reached the rear...

He couldn't help but be dumbfounded.

He had imagined many possibilities.

Demon Beast sneak attack?

Weapon jam?

Or maybe the warriors suffered heavy casualties, leaving no one to operate the weapons...

Various possibilities.

But no matter how divergent the guard's thinking was, he couldn't have thought the truth was actually...

All the artillerymen were already lying dead, which wasn't entirely unexpected for him.

But the weapons?

How were the weapons gone?

Those cumbersome weapons that almost entirely relied on mechanical transport were stolen?

A cold wind blew through...

The guard shivered uncontrollably, feeling this desolate position was so empty and vacant.

What on earth happened... yet even they didn't know.

He rushed to the monitoring room at once, only to find all the monitors had been destroyed.

And the previously remaining surveillance showed nothing abnormal... only seeing people die suddenly, then after a halo appeared, the weapons were gone.

"What the hell is this thing?"

The guard Losen couldn't help but widen his eyes, murmuring in shock.

At this moment, the abnormality noticed by humans...

The Demon Beasts naturally also noticed it...

Though they didn't know what exactly happened.

But they clearly sensed the suppression from the enemy weakening.

Seizing the opportunity to take lives...

All the Demon Beasts immediately became agitated.

Amidst the frenzied roars.

Countless black shadows surged out, instantly tearing through the previously impenetrable line of defense, directly shredding the Baoxue Empire warriors at the front line to pieces.

Carlos frantically screamed for support, support!

Ceaselessly urging the warriors at the rear to charge forward...

But the following artillery fire just couldn't keep up.

The originally impenetrable line was now missing a crucial part bit by bit.

Especially when Carlos heard the message returned by the guard...

"What? The weapons... have... disappeared?!"

Carlos cried out: "Where's Leidun? Wasn't he responsible for guarding the rear? Did he just watch the weapons get taken away... wait... how did they manage to take the weapons away?"

"I haven't seen any sign of General Leidun."

The guard Losen looked extremely grim, saying: "I'm afraid something happened to General Leidun."

"To even make something happen to General Leidun, these Demon Beasts must have been plotting for a long time, damn... could these creatures actually be playing the trick of luring the enemy in deeply?"

Carlos clearly misunderstood something.

But to even catch a Grandmaster Realm Martial Artist off guard... besides these cunning Demon Beasts, who else in the Secret Realm could have this power?

The Great Xia Empire?

Those simple-minded folk are still desperately resisting the mysterious races of the heavens, laughably oblivious to the real threat, which actually comes from within.

Though the Great Xia Empire's military might is strong now, long fights will eventually lead to fatigue, and as long as they can secure the Secret Realm, the entire Great Xia Empire will fall into the hands of their Baoxue Empire... then the Polar Star Battlefield created will ultimately become their spoils of war!

But now they have lost the most crucial weapons in this critical battle.

The originally certain victory has instantly turned into a possibility of defeat.

Carlos's pupils contracted, exclaiming: "Retreat quickly, preserving the living force is the proper principle... retreat!"

Previously, they could win, naturally even at the cost of lives.

But now it's already a certain defeat...

So, it is necessary to retain the living forces and then quickly organize a new round of attacks.

Otherwise, new weapons will arrive, but the personnel won't keep up.

The population of their Baoxue Empire is still significantly less than that of the Great Xia Empire, how can they withstand such an almost wasteful battle?

Once the order to retreat is given.

The previously evenly matched sides suddenly became drastically different in strength.

During the retreat...

Numerous Baoxue Empire generals were torn to shreds by the Demon Beasts, and those who were a step slow in escaping were tragically killed by the Demon Beasts.

Even those who escaped too quickly might become targets for those Demon Beasts, being plucked into the sky by flying creatures.

Only by escaping amidst the crowd can there be a slight hope of survival.

Carlos, being already at the back, naturally fled the fastest...

Only during the flight, his mind was still puzzlingly confused.

What on earth... happened?

How did the weapons just vanish?

Where's Leidun?

The distinguished Grandmaster Level expert ranked seventeenth on the Saint List...

How did he disappear so silently?

Chapter 505 - Giving the Young Guy a Lesson

At this moment.

Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City had ceased their sabotage.

In fact...

The enemy was not so easy to deceive.

Although the Invisibility Device could hide their traces to the greatest extent, as long as they took action, there would definitely be traces left...

As early as when they sabotaged the third weapon, they had already been discovered by the enemy.

Moreover, the two of them did not expect that even in the deep rear of the position... there would actually be a guardian of Grandmaster Level.

But thinking carefully, this was clearly quite normal.

After all, these weapons were too important, almost directly linked to the outcome of a war...

Therefore, after their sabotage, the two also had to stall that Grandmaster Level expert and other experts who joined the fray.

The two encountered quite a few crises.

In the desolate jungle.

Xu Lingjun had already taken all the weapons away...

As for where they were taken, it was beyond his control.

No matter whom they ended up with, they would probably be delighted.

It's known that any war is a money-burning affair.

Where does the money burn?

Even military pay and provisions are secondary; the real money-burners are those cutting-edge technologies, some of which might never have been publicly demonstrated.

In order to deal with the Secret Realm, the Baoxue Empire had truly dipped into their reserves...

And now, these reserves may have returned to the Baoxue Empire, may have gone to the Land of Light, or perhaps to the Great Xia Empire.

According to Xu Lingjun's estimation, it was likely more to the Great Xia Empire...

After all, it was closer to the Great Xia Empire here.

And in this period, the reason he could move all the weapons so smoothly was evidently due to the time Han Yun City had stalled.

"Alright, it's time to switch."

Xu Lingjun walked over to Han Yun City and patted his shoulder...

Engaged in a bloody battle with a formidable Grandmaster-level expert with extremely rich combat experience was undoubtedly immense pressure for Han Yun City.

At this point, the Emperor Blood Heaven Slayer had already been pushed to its utmost, his whole body bathed in blood like a person made of blood.

Every pore was steaming with Blood Qi.

With Xu Lingjun patting his shoulder...

He suddenly turned his head ferociously towards Xu Lingjun, seeming angry at being interrupted in his enjoyment.

Slowly...

Rationality finally reclaimed the high ground, looking at the opponent who was also not lightly injured, but much better than him, the Baoxue Empire Grandmaster.

Han Yun City realized that although the two were still evenly matched, if the fight continued, he feared his Blood Qi would dissipate and he would die... while the enemy would at most be lightly injured.

Although he could temporarily match the enemy with his Cultivation Technique and ferocity, he could hardly sustain it~ long.

There was no point in risking his life here.

"Alright, this guy is pretty strong, I'll leave him to you."

Han Yun City bumped fists with Xu Lingjun, panting as he stepped back for a rest... his eyes filled with intense pleasure.

While Xu Lingjun was responsible for dealing with the opponent's weapons, this Grandmaster had no way to hinder Xu Lingjun, naturally thanks to his efforts.

This bloody battle, to him, was exhilarating, with a feeling of something needing release from his body... it even seemed like breaking through his current Realm was not so difficult.

Indeed, this is the kind of battle I desire.

And not like fighting with Old Xu, which seemed exhilarating but benefitted that guy entirely...

Thinking this, Han Yun City already unconsciously looked at Leidun with a slight hint of pity in his eyes.

"Damn it, our Baoxue Empire and your Great Xia Empire have always minded our own business, why do you hinder us, why!!!"

Leidun roared in anger repeatedly, questioning in clumsy Great Xia language, and with his questioning, came an overwhelming killing intent.

The Martial Skills of the Baoxue Empire and the Great Xia Empire differed fundamentally...

Large and open, like breaking rocks on a mountain, leaving no room for finesse.

Destroying everything with absolute power.

Especially the might of a Grandmaster, the Fist Force was like a sky-crushing collapse, with no chance to avoid a punch.

"Hahaha, good timing."

Xu Lingjun had no thought of dodging at all, he laughed loudly and charged forward...

Throwing a punch likewise.

With a loud bang, fists splashed in all directions.

Neither side retreated.

Punching again.

Already clashed head-on and hard over ten blows.

Every clash was like a cannon blast...

Even by the fourth punch he was already at a disadvantage.

Yet Xu Lingjun seemed to have aroused boundless ferocity, even when repeatedly knocked back, he still aggressively advanced.

Even when facing the might of a Grandmaster, relying purely on the courage of Blood Qi, he fought to a draw.

"Refreshing, refreshing!"

Xu Lingjun laughed heartily, despite being repeatedly hit...

Yet he was completely unharmed, just charged back again.

This gradually sank a concern into Leidun's heart.

This year he was already fifty-two, considered middle-aged among Grandmasters...

His strength placed him in the top ten of the entire Baoxue Empire.

But facing these two youths, they both had the power to challenge him, albeit with a definite gap...

But these two were far too young, youth represents infinite possibilities.

When these two spread their wings fully, the Baoxue Empire would have two additional formidable enemies.

He couldn't help but harbor savage thoughts!

At this moment, what do weapons count for?

What does being lured to this desolate place count for?

Just to prevent him from returning to aid the battlefield... but compared to the battlefield, this place is undoubtedly more critical.

Losing a war might only mean the death of hundreds of thousands of elite warriors... but if he could slay these two...

No, even if I die here today, I cannot let these two continue growing.

"Die!"

With a fierce roar.

Fist Gang earth-shaking, vowing to cut Xu Lingjun down.

And with Leidun going all out...

Xu Lingjun indeed faltered, consecutively hit, knocked back staggeringly.

Seeing Han Yun City recuperating nearby, Leidun's heart eased slightly, knowing that these two not teaming up was the greatest luck... indeed, youth means arrogance.

Today I'll teach these two young brats a lesson.

Unaware that while Han Yun City was slowly restoring his True Qi, he couldn't help but envy quietly.

Especially watching Xu Lingjun with every punch taken...

Others might not know, but how could he not know?

Every time this guy took a punch, his strength exceeded the previous moment.

He came here seeking precisely this kind of exhilarating battle...

But alas, this Baoxue Empire's Grandmaster, though strong, wasn't too bright.

Does he not suspect, thus far, Old Xu hasn't even spat blood?

No...

In this environment, he probably didn't even dare to wear his Battle Armor, fearing the opponent's Fist Force would be weaker by half.

Bang~! Bang~! Bang~!

The fierce battle between both sides grew more exhilarating.

Even Lingering in Leidun's heart full of murderous intent, he couldn't help but feel a sense of exhilaration, thinking such exciting combat hadn't been encountered in many years.

"Able to take so many of my moves, not bad kid, now take my Wolf Fang Wind Fist!"

Leidun's fist suddenly changed...

If before it was like Mount Tai pressing down, making it impossible to resist.

Now it became like a surging ocean, with seamless waves of Fist Force stronger than the last...

Directly overwhelming Xu Lingjun.

"Good timing!"

Xu Lingjun likewise roared.

Recklessly charging forward.

Unfortunately, his absolute strength was slightly lacking.

Directly engulfed in the boundless Fist Force...

Chapter 506 - The Crane and the Clam Fight, and the Fisherman Gains?

The battle between the two sides became even more intense.

Xu Lingjun had no strength to fight back, being relentlessly beaten back by Leidun, unable even to fend off the opponent's punches...

In the blink of an eye, he had taken dozens of punches in succession.

Each punch was accompanied by a huge amount of True Essence pounding into his body, making his face flush red, clearly unable to withstand such severe injuries.

Han Yun City just watched.

He didn't consume an Immortal Bean; this battle after such exhilaration was an invaluable experience for him... Naturally, he was reluctant to recover immediately but wanted to carefully recall the previous battles and connect them with the injuries on his body.

Only in this way could he completely digest these experiences...

Especially when facing two masters of Grandmaster Level fighting fiercely.

It made him feel refreshed and delighted just by watching.

He watched for about two hours or more.

Han Yun City couldn't help but turn his ear slightly and then shouted loudly, "Old Xu, I hear the gunfire has stopped. It seems like this battle is about to end. Stop playing around. If you keep this up, we might get surrounded by that group of lingering soldiers."

"What, playing?!"

Leidun had already been giving it his all, unable to take down a strong enemy after several hours, already feeling irritated. He didn't expect to hear this remark suddenly.

He couldn't help but scream in surprise.

And Xu Lingjun sighed helplessly. Indeed, there were many Grandmasters on the enemy side, and now that they had retreated—if they got surrounded by them... He would be fine, but Han Yun City might get trapped here.

Trying to swallow a fatty bite all at once seems impossible.

But right now, it was not too far off...

After all, not every Grandmaster is silly and foolhardy like the one in front of him.

No longer holding back.

The Qi Blood inside him surged.

Activated "Qiantian Gang Qi."

With the blessing of "Ninefold Thunder Tribulation," the True Qi within Xu Lingjun, who was previously at a disadvantage, suddenly surged significantly.

"Thank you so much!"

Xu Lingjun didn't even use the Sword of Oath and Victory, but instead, he formed his hand into a blade, with cold Blade Qi carrying boundless Qi Blood Forest Gang, slashing right at the opponent.

With a deafening boom...

Leidun, who had been battling for a long time and had exhausted seven to eight tenths of his Power, only felt that Xu Lingjun's strength had multiplied several times over at this moment, even surpassing his peak period.

There's no need to speak of defense; he couldn't even block it.

Spat a mouthful of bright red blood.

Leidun was sent flying with a fierce blast...

Crashing into and felling several giant trees.

Almost unable to even crawl up.

Lying on the ground, he looked at Xu Lingjun, whose body was slowly emitting Blood Qi, in shock.

Exclaimed, "You actually had such a trump card hidden... why didn't you use it earlier?"

Xu Lingjun didn't answer him.

He simply submerged all his Heart and Spirit within his body...

Why didn't he let Han Yun City help him?

Because now his True Qi's purity was infinitely close to True Essence, if one's strength was below the Grandmaster Realm, if the True Qi wasn't purified into True Essence, even if it was driven into his body, there wouldn't be much left after purification...

But if it was the Grandmaster Realm.

In this fierce battle with Leidun, for the entire two or three hours, he kept getting hit...

However, it seemed like he was getting beaten, but only someone as crazed in fighting as Leidun wouldn't notice. Change to another person, and they would have already noticed Xu Lingjun didn't even spit a mouthful of blood.

The True Essence pounding into his body was all digested by Xu Lingjun.

He even reluctantly held back from counterattacking...

Though if he wanted, he could at any time reflect the True Essence blasted into him back to the enemy.

But if he reflected it back, wouldn't he lose this powerful True Essence?

Over several hours...

His strength didn't double, but it was equivalent to several months of bitter training.

He had a premonition, as long as he fights at this level two more times, he could directly break through the Grandmaster Realm!

Though he didn't want to continue this war...

But he couldn't gobble up a fatty bite in one go, could he...

Right now, the Baoxue Empire had erupted in extremely intense war here, and if desired, it wouldn't be hard to find battles of this level, right?

"Not playing with you anymore."

Xu Lingjun suddenly opened his eyes.

The Qi Blood that was spreading outward suddenly paused, like iron sand attracted by a magnet, all rushing back into his body.

Even along with the internal True Qi continuing to purify...

In just a second

The True Qi inside Xu Lingjun kept purifying, reaching a level that surpassed True Essence.

"Ninefold Thunder Tribulation" reached the limit directly!

The body's temperature rose sharply, and there were huge changes in True Qi within his body.

Han Yun City jumped up in shock, thinking to himself, this guy's strength is progressing so quickly, even before breaking through, the momentum is already so amazing...

Once he entered the Grandmaster Realm, he dared not imagine how strong he would become.

He didn't feel any jealousy, but instead felt overwhelming excitement.

This is right...

This kind of skill and strength gave him motivation to chase.

"Today I must kill you!"

Although Leidun didn't understand what was happening, he clearly sensed Xu Lingjun's changes.

This guy improved so much during their fierce battle... Such talent couldn't be allowed to live!

Regardless of the severe injuries Xu Lingjun's earlier punch had already inflicted on him.

He leaped high, fiercely punching downward at Xu Lingjun...

But before the fist even approached, a boundless Qi Force had already formed a protective shield, directly blocking Leidun's full-force strike at the periphery.

"Use your life to honor Grandmaster Liu first!"

Xu Lingjun let out a long howl...

In an instant, the Qi waves surged immensely.

The boundless momentum swept through heaven and earth, True Qi surged directly into the sky, instantly dispersing the dense clouds...

Looking at Leidun, who was close at hand.

Xu Lingjun's eyes flashed with a sharp light, then quickly restrained, all gathered within.

"Take another punch from me."

"Qiantian Gang Qi"! Yet there was no trace of Qi Blood spilling out.

"Ninefold Thunder Tribulation"! Didn't even need to channel.

As soon as he raised his fist.

All prerequisites were completed.

Directing the True Qi, no less than True Essence, into his hand, throwing a punch.

Seeing Xu Lingjun voluntarily giving up the protective Qi Force...

Leidun immediately thought of it as an opportunity.

Without hesitation, he gathered twelve levels of Power, clasped hands, and a killer punch of his strongest strike fiercely targeted Xu Lingjun.

In the next moment, only feeling a boundless, immensely powerful force enough to sweep through earth and sky, an ultimate True Qi, like immense waves, rushed in.

Such immense power, it couldn't be resisted.

"Impossible... Impossible..."

Leidun shrieked, "How could I lose to... mere... Dongxuan..."

Before he could even finish the sentence, he tilted his head and died.

In front of Xu Lingjun, the mist of blood gradually dispersed.

One punch.

Even though he wasn't yet at the Grandmaster Realm, this full-power punch exceeded that of so many Grandmasters.

In an utterly committed state.

Relying on his own full-force attack.

Instantly killed a Grandmaster whose strength was overwhelmingly unassailable!

Xu Lingjun exhaled slowly.

Clearly advancing rapidly, yet his heart instead felt a sense of fatigue.

"Sigh, he helped me increase my strength so much, but instead, I killed him, what a shame, such a shame."

Xu Lingjun turned his head and looked into the distance.

Said, "You've been watching the show for so long, isn't it time you all came out?"

Saying this.

He crossed his arms.

Xiaoya obediently stood up, along with the manipulation of his Nanometer Armor.

Behind...

Deus Ex Machina Mecha and Infinite Justice Mecha were already hovering behind him.

Watching the several colossal Demon Beasts slowly emerging ahead, the largest one even matched the Mechas size.

Clearly...

Now the Demon Beasts had secured the final victory, and when these Demon Beasts were clearing the battlefield, they discovered their existence!

Chapter 507 - Secret Realm Leader

Suddenly, Xu Lingjun called out their whereabouts.

The expressions of the few slowly emerging Demon Beasts were quite peculiar...

It's hard to imagine that a Demon Beast's furry face could show expressions... but they indeed seemed a bit stunned.

During this time, the battles between humans and Demon Beasts have been intense.

Suddenly seeing a powerful human fighting in a hidden place, these Demon Beasts responsible for chasing humans naturally easily discovered their tracks.

Demon Beasts aren't low in intelligence... they also know what it means to profit from the conflicts of others.

The original plan was to wait until the humans had decided a winner, then go and claim the victor's life.

Especially watching the fierce battle between the two sides, it seemed almost like mutual destruction was imminent...

They were even ready to rush out at any moment.

But who would have known that the battle which was evenly matched before, and even at a disadvantage, would turn into a reversal in an instant?

This left them a bit bewildered.

So, was the last several hours of battle just playing with the enemy?

Especially when the heavily injured man, covered in blood, slowly stood up... the once waning aura suddenly restored its wild intensity.

Looking at them with eyes as if they were lambs awaiting slaughter.

At this moment, all the Demon Beasts were instantly stunned.

They weren't foolish...

This scenario of extreme contrast made them suddenly think of something they'd frequently encountered during this period.

Trap.

This was supposed to be a trap for them.

The eyes of a leading violent lion filled with suspicion and uncertainty, it let out a low growl, clawing fiercely at the ground...

If it were before, they would likely have rushed up and ripped these two people to pieces by now.

But after so many battles...

They had already understood that if this was a trap, stepping into it could potentially lead to a crisis capable of annihilating all of them... but they genuinely couldn't discern where the danger originated from.

"Old Xu, should we kill them all?"

Han Yun City had already consumed an Immortal Bean by this time, regaining a full state of health.

He slowly walked to Xu Lingjun's side and said, "Or should we use their strength to simply push through to the Grandmaster Realm?!"

Xu Lingjun appeared interested.

Just one Leidun was obviously not enough.

And at this moment...

A sudden booming shout rang out overhead.

It was like a thunderclap in everyone's ears, but it wasn't a call to attack, rather it carried a weighty air of authority.

A snow-white giant leopard stood atop a treetop, roaring at the ones below...

The Demon Beasts that were confronting Xu Lingjun and the others heard the roar, each displaying an expression of doubt and uncertainty.

They looked at each other.

Finally, glaring fiercely at Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City, they turned and disappeared into the dense forest.

"Roar~."

The giant leopard softly called out to Xu Lingjun twice, waved its paw twice, jumped to the ground, slowly heading into the forest... after walking a few steps, it waved its paw again at the two, clearly signaling them to follow it.

"Is it...?"

"Let's follow and have a look, at worst, we use the Space Time Gun to escape."

Xu Lingjun thoughtfully looked at the figure of the giant leopard.

He glanced back at two massive Mechas behind, motioning for Xiaoya to come down, then stored the Mechas into the Transformation Space.

The giant leopard patiently waited for the two to finish their discussion... then followed behind it.

Its speed suddenly surged.

Weaving through the mountains and forests, Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City easily followed behind...

The giant leopard's speed grew faster and faster.

But the two always kept close behind it.

Along the way...

Demon Beasts occasionally appeared from the side, seemingly intending to attack Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City, yet accompanied by a roar from the giant leopard.

No matter how powerful the Demon Beast might be, even those looking more formidable and ferocious than the leopard...

They dared not show any disrespect in the face of its roar.

The duo, alongside the beast, slowly approached the deepest part of the forest...

The number of encountered Demon Beasts increased along the way.

But with the giant leopard leading the way, the two didn't encounter a single attack, smoothly reaching the deepest part of the Secret Realm.

A vibrant, lush Secret Realm.

Upon reaching this point, there was already a rather narrow path... winding into the distance.

"Here... arrived!"

The giant leopard suddenly stopped, turned to Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City and said.

Han Yun City exclaimed, "You can talk?"

"The leader taught me, it's quite easy to learn. I've already learned the languages of the Baoxue Empire, Great Xia Empire, and the Land of Light."

The giant leopard seemed disdainful of Han Yun City's surprise, raised its head to point forward, and said, "The leader is waiting for you ahead."

"Leader?!"

The two exchanged glances, seeing the seriousness in each other's eyes.

Could the leader the Level 8 Demon Beast Cloud Leopard mentioned...

Be the leader of this whole Secret Realm?

Imagine, Demon Beasts have hierarchies among them... or rather, who would've thought Demon Beasts have their own society?

"Rest assured, you helped us. We Demon Beasts are not like you humans; we won't do things that are ungrateful. The leader wants you over for something."

Seeing the two still filled with doubt, the giant leopard reassured them.

Xu Lingjun asked, "What's your business with us?"

"You'll know when you meet."

The giant leopard said no more, turned, leapt to the treetop, and left.

"Let's go have a look."

Han Yun City nodded.

Putting away the weapon he held in hand, the fact that the Demon Beasts could speak human language... this meant their intelligence wasn't inferior to humans'.

Or it could be that the calm demeanor of the giant leopard delivered a major blow to Han Yun City, who once struggled to learn the languages of the Mysterious Clan and ended up confused.

One should know, if only he'd scored a bit better in his cultural studies back then, he would've done more than place second in the Dragon Gate Examination. Looking back, perhaps that was the closest he'd ever gotten to defeating Old Xu.

Despite the accusations of cheating...

Winning is what counts. Who cares about cheating or not?

After all, as long as they can speak human language, it means there's communication.

And as long as there can be communication...

"Perhaps, we're already very close to that secret."

The thought suddenly arose within them both... they continued forward.

Demon Beasts appeared less frequently now, but those that did were mainly Level 8 or above, even a few Level 9 Demon Beasts.

Yet they all showed little hostility towards Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City...

Or rather, their gazes seemed rather kind.

The two proceeded to the end of the path...

An Ancient Tree with its branches spread wide, almost shading the sky.

Lush and verdant, with leaves of tender green, its trunk was so thick that four or five adults could wrap their arms around it, its mottled bark and gnarly, exposed roots clearly displaying the long years it had endured...

"Hm?!"

Xu Lingjun couldn't help but flinch, hurriedly covered his chest.

Just at the moment he saw the tree...

His heart suddenly beat violently, as if it had encountered something that made it flutter.

"You've arrived."

The Ancient Tree trembled gently, causing all its leaves to sway along...

It felt as if a breeze swept by.

An old female voice rose from within the tree.

Said, "Thank you for helping us fend off the human attack... I didn't expect after all these years, humans remain so strife-ridden. Perhaps only the human species could, not for survival, but for sheer ambition, bring themselves to viciously attack their own kind."

This time, even Xu Lingjun was somewhat stupefied, let alone Han Yun City.

Demon Beasts speaking human language was one thing.

Now even trees could talk...

Chapter 508 - The Secret of Blue Star

"The leader is expressing gratitude to you, following your human customs, you should respond with 'You're welcome'!"

A voice replied from beside them.

The giant leopard slowly walked out from behind the tree, staring intently at the two below, saying, "They've said thank you, if there's no response with 'You're welcome', it only proves that this person is ungrateful and expects a return favor, not a good person."

Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City both blinked in confusion.

They thought, where did this kid come from?

The Ancient Tree chuckled.

Its branches and leaves shook as a voice laughed, "Don't mind it, although I've taught Xiaoyun the human language, she has hardly ever used it, so she's still at a textbook level."

"Isn't that right?"

The giant leopard Xiaoyun asked curiously.

"It is, but not that rigid."

The Ancient Tree laughed, "Dear human friends, we thank you for all you've done for us. Without you, we might not have won this battle, or even if we won, the casualties would have been severe."

Xu Lingjun asked, "You know what we've done?"

"I am a spirit of the trees, all the plants within the Secret Realm are my eyes and ears. From the moment you entered the Secret Realm, I've been watching you."

The Ancient Tree said, "So I know, you came from the direction of Xia Country... you're not with those humans who attacked us. Especially since you helped us repel those humans, you provided significant assistance, which is why I invited you to talk with me."

Han Yun City said, "So, we've been under your... no, it's not just me, all of us have been under your watchful eyes?!"

"Yes."

The Ancient Tree answered, "During this time, you've been entering our domain one after another, and those who came were the most elite experts... I watched them explore the Secret Realm, watched them clash with my kin, watched them retreat in embarrassment, watched them get killed by others..."

Han Yun City keenly caught the nuance and asked, "Killed by people? They died at the hands of humans?"

"Yes."

The Ancient Tree replied, "They were well-prepared, especially equipped to handle us, along with being very powerful. Although my kin aimed to kill, they all barely escaped... Unfortunately, they didn't expect that the current Secret Realm isn't just a world of our Demon Beasts anymore, humans are here too, and they were caught off guard, killed!"

"So it was them after all!"

Han Yun City angrily said, "Damn, we should have struck harder from the beginning, while Old Xu was battling that Grandmaster, to kill more of those Baoxue Empire bastards!"

The giant leopard Xiaoyun tilted her head curiously, asking, "Why bring your mama into this when you want to kill people?"

Han Yun City: "....."

Xu Lingjun asked, "So what do you want from us?"

The Ancient Tree said, "I'm seeking your help."

She gave a bitter smile, saying, "My eyes can see through the entire Secret Realm, so I know just how powerful the enemy is... Especially after they detected that I can see through all their actions, they stopped making surprise attacks, advancing steadily instead, and I have no way to counteract this."

"Actually, whether we reach out to them or not, this is our territory, if it truly comes to a fight, we will win."

Xiaoyun lazily sprawled on the ground, saying, "Sister, don't you understand our strength... If it really comes to a fight, no matter how powerful their weapons are, we won't lose..."

"If there weren't third-party interference, we'd be the ones losing!"

The Ancient Tree explained kindly, "Xiaoyun, you don't understand, when they first entered the battlefield, they directly wiped out over twenty Level 8 Demon Beasts of ours and numerous powerful Demon Beast weapons..."

"Just avoid them."

"The places attacked by those weapons can't sustain life anymore."

The Ancient Tree explained to Xu Lingjun, "Previously, we had a significant advantage, mere humans arrogantly trying to defeat us on our own turf was impossible... But when they were thoroughly defeated by us and fled, they launched that terrifying weapon."

At this point.

The leaves of the Ancient Tree couldn't help but tremble slightly.

It said, "I've never seen such a fearsome weapon... The plants were conveying their fear to me, and I found that the areas baptized by that weapon were completely beyond my observation range, not even a blade of grass can survive there."

Xu Lingjun explained, "Nuclear bombs, they leave behind a great deal of radiation after striking, if you continue living in those areas, you'll be contaminated by radiation, turning into a monster, and this radiation may linger for hundreds of years without fading."

"This is the real reason we've been retreating at every step."

The Ancient Tree said, "If we win greatly, they will launch a nuclear bomb... We can only lose, can only retreat, and they just keep advancing..."

Xu Lingjun thought, does this tree read books?

It actually uses idioms.

Han Yun City asked, "So you want to seek our help?!"

"The enemy of my enemy is my friend, isn't it?"

The Ancient Tree said, "Our Secret Realm and you humans have always been water that doesn't interfere with well water, although occasionally a demon beast breaks out... But those that go out don't listen to us and have nothing to do with us, we have no interest in outside lands, we just want to live peacefully on our territory, you shouldn't want those insane humans to obtain the Secret Realm either?"

Xu Lingjun asked, "Why are those Baoxue Empire bastards so obsessed with the Secret Realm? I noticed their casualties are actually even worse than yours, their numbers actually can't compare to our Xia Country, but such sacrifices, even our Xia Country can't endure, let alone them, what exactly is their purpose?"

"This... Maybe they intend to use the Secret Realm to attack you? After all, the Secret Realm acts as an interlocking between your two countries..."

"To deal with us, they'd risk incurring a force possibly even stronger than us?"

Xu Lingjun shook his head, saying, "To be honest, we are here for a purpose... We've been developing the Outer Universe Battlefield over this period, and the mysterious races of the heavens that tried to invade Blue Star were forced to retreat by us, and through this war, we've discovered one thing, Blue Star being targeted by so many mysterious races of the heavens actually has a reason."

"And this reason, according to our judgement, should be in the Secret Realm!"

Han Yun City said, "That's why we've sent so many experts into the Secret Realm during this time... And now, it seems those people from the Baoxue Empire are also here for this purpose, but we only learnt about this through prisoners of the mysterious races of the heavens in the cosmic battlefield, while the Baoxue Empire, despite not waging war with the mysterious races of the heavens, knows this information."

He asked, "Do you know what this implies?"

Xu Lingjun said, "To not hide it from you, we are here to clarify this matter... You must understand, the mysterious races of the heavens have always been targeting Blue Star, we're fighting very hard, and in a way, if we can't defend Blue Star, you won't have it any better."

He explained earnestly, "We are all native Blue Star inhabitants, maybe indeed your homeland was destroyed beneath ours, but that wasn't deliberate, more a coincidence, we're also victims, but now Blue Star is our mutual home, if we can understand why Blue Star is being targeted, maybe we can be more guarded against the mysterious races of the heavens, and by then, we'll all be much safer."

The Ancient Tree: "....."

She sighed long and hard, "Well, we need your help, otherwise, I'm afraid the Secret Realm will be completely destroyed under a nuclear bomb, and seeking help, indeed, needs sincerity."

Both of their eyes lit up involuntarily, Xu Lingjun said in surprise, "You're willing to tell us?"

"The secret has already leaked, how long can it be concealed by not saying anything?"

The huge tree gave a bitter smile, "You're very right, we are all native people of Blue Star, but there's one thing, you were wrong in saying... Our homeland wasn't destroyed beneath yours, we have no deep-seated enmity between us, rather, you saved us."

Chapter 509 - Blue Star Destroyed Blue Star, Blue Star Saved Blue Star

Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City both held their breaths, a hint of anticipation in their eyes.

The emergence of the Baoxue Empire was indeed unexpected for both of them...

But in terms of results, it was undoubtedly good.

They provided Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City with great assistance, allowing them to become benefactors to these Demon Beasts, and even now, they could personally listen to a tree explaining the real secrets within the Secret Realm.

Good people... later when I hit you, I'll go easy on you.

The ancient tree's leaves shook.

At this moment, Xu Lingjun and Han Yun City both felt the gaze upon them.

Moreover, this attention came from all directions.

Obviously, even though it couldn't be seen, the giant tree indeed had sight, and every plant within the Secret Realm was its eyes.

It asked, "Do you think that the collision of two planets, the merging of two planets, caused our world to shrink dramatically, reducing our living territory significantly, so we should hate you, and always think

about breaking out of the Secret Realm to completely kill you and be the sole occupiers of this newborn planet, is that right?"

Xu Lingjun retorted, "Isn't that the case?"

Han Yun City said, "I learned from textbooks that after the fusion of two Blue Stars from different universes, we came to this malicious Cosmos, and our first enemies were the indigenous people of the Blue Star, terrifying and fierce Demon Beasts that were fearless of death..."

The ancient tree asked, "How did the textbook describe it?"

"Spiritual energy mutation, Demon Beasts tumultuous chaos, the Demon Beasts fearlessly charged the human defense lines, our Human Race's Heroic Spirits used blood and tears to keep them trapped within the Secret Realm!"

"That's quite fair, but if I tell you that the so-called Demon Beast chaos was not our intention, would you believe it?"

The ancient tree said, "Demon Beasts fearlessly, I believe your humans also suffered heavy casualties, but later you were attacked by the Mysterious races of the heavens. If we could have unleashed even half of our combat power at that time, you would have had no chance of survival under the pincer attack, haven't you considered this theory?"

"What do you mean?"

"The Demon Beast chaos was not our intention, it was the riotous Spiritual Energy entering the body, causing us to lose control of ourselves, only knowing to crazily kill all the moving creatures around us... and just when you humans arrived, you replaced our kind as our targets."

The ancient tree took a deep sigh and said, "I am already over a thousand years old, I have seen so much. Although many of your humans died tragically at our hands, you can still fairly evaluate Demon Beasts without branding us as heartless maniacs... that's quite commendable."

Xu Lingjun just wanted to speak.

The ancient tree waved its leaves, as if waving its hand to stop him from speaking, with a hint of reminiscing in its tone, saying, "Do you know what the necessary condition for Demon Beasts to survive is?"

Xu Lingjun answered, "Spiritual Qi?!"

"Correct, Spiritual Qi!"

The ancient tree said, "Although we cannot progress through cultivation techniques like you humans, we can hunt our kind. By devouring the blood and Spiritual Qi within our kind, we can quickly enhance our strength. It was due to this ability that when the Spiritual Energy Revival began, we evolved from ordinary beasts into Demon Beasts, Level 2 Demon Beasts, Level 3 Demon Beasts... eventually into Level 12 Demon Beasts."

Han Yun City exclaimed, "Level 12?!"

He seemed shocked, thinking to himself that Level 8 or 9 could match slightly weaker Grandmasters, how powerful would Level 12 be?

The ancient tree smiled and said, "At that time, we had already developed our own civilization, the Demon Beast civilization. Naturally, our strength was not comparable to your humans' centennial progress in Martial Tao. Although Demon Beasts don't have the same fortunate advantages, to think you can surpass thousands of years of our essence in just a century, you really underestimate us."

Xu Lingjun asked, "What about the Demon Beast civilization?"

"It's gone, we were solely focused on pursuing our strength, ignoring the fact that Spiritual Qi is finite, all things rise and fall, and blind exploitation yields only short-term benefits but endless future troubles... The mass devouring quickly depleted Blue Star's Spiritual Qi."

The ancient tree said, "Strength reached the point of a Level 12 Demon Beast, powerful enough to destroy worlds and even leave Blue Star autonomously, wandering the cosmos... But reaching this level, the demand for Spiritual Qi is unimaginable. As Spiritual Qi depletes, they're the first to be affected; unable to absorb enough Spiritual Qi from heaven and earth, they resort to cannibalism, devouring the blood and Demon Qi of their kind to make up for Spiritual Qi!"

"But as everyone was suffering from Qi deprivation, soon, even cannibalism couldn't satisfy their growing hunger... Many powerful Demon Beasts left the planet, searching for life in the cosmos, while those who were attached to their home died slowly of hunger."

The ancient tree sighed again and said, "The Demon Beast civilization was wholly destroyed due to Qi deprivation, and we previously utilized these energy sources too aggressively, leading to an ongoing depletion of Spiritual Qi. Initially, it only affected powerful Demon Beasts, but later began to affect ordinary Demon Beasts... We all knew that Blue Star was on the verge of destruction, the consumption of its Spiritual Qi reaching an end, yet sadly, we lacked the means to leave and were also reluctant to abandon our home."

She smiled bitterly, saying, "As the Spiritual Energy grew thinner, the strength of Demon Beasts weakened significantly until one hundred years ago... the Spiritual Energy mutated, suddenly becoming exceedingly abundant, but this abundant Qi carried chaos and brutality, as if someone had tainted it. As we absorbed this energy, we became riotous, became frenzied... perhaps it's true that before one perishes, madness takes over."

Xu Lingjun was surprised and asked, "You've read books?"

"There were humans on the Original Blue Star back in the day, but they were eliminated in the survival of the fittest. Didn't I mention? I've lived many years... and the most unforgettable thing in my life was when a young scholar sat beneath me reading, and I sheltered him from wind, rain, and sun, listening to his resonant reading. I felt that my sentience might be tied to him."

One cannot see the ancient tree's face, but it's imaginable that right now she must be filled with nostalgia.

The implications revealed in the ancient tree's words were quite shocking to both people.

Human existence on the Original Blue Star?

Simply eliminated in competition with the Demon Beasts, which led to their extinction.

"Just mentioning it, seeing you reminds me of him... both equally handsome and pleasing to the eye."

The giant tree said to Xu Lingjun.

Xu Lingjun: "....."

He felt that perhaps beauty lies in the eye of the beholder.

But now was naturally not the time to focus on such matters.

Xu Lingjun asked, "So you're saying, back when our Blue Star descended, your Blue Star was at the stage of shining its last light, and due to the chaotic Spiritual Energy, everyone... no, all the Demon Beasts fell into chaos."

The ancient tree nodded and said, "In fact, that's true, but not only so..."

She paused and said, "Blue Star destroyed Blue Star, but Blue Star also saved Blue Star."

Chapter 510 - Spirit Stone

The ancient tree explained, "Our Blue Star collided with your planet, shattering it into pieces, causing countless Demon Beasts to perish in the aftermath. But in reality, because of this accident, Blue Star, which should have been completely destroyed due to the exhaustion of Spiritual Qi, managed to survive. In a sense, isn't this akin to a hero sacrificing a hand to save the body?"

Saying this, it looked at the two stunned individuals.

She laughed, "Do you find what I said unbelievable? But it's true. Blue Star also once interacted with foreign settlers, including those who had lost their homes. Their planets, like ours, also suffered from

Spiritual Qi depletion due to over-extraction. From what they shared, I can almost conclude that first comes Spiritual Qi turmoil, then geomagnetic chaos, and finally, the entire planet gets destroyed.

"Spiritual Qi is the most crucial element for a planet's existence. Once it's lost, the whole world will lose its vitality."

She sighed, "This is probably the result of excessive exploitation—endlessly demanding from the land without giving back. When nature's wrath comes, the consequence is catastrophic. Either leave this planet to find a new home or stay and perish with it."

Han Yun City was already shocked beyond words. He never imagined that, from the perspective of these Demon Beasts, Blue Star's descent was not the loss of their homes but their salvation.

"Then why do Demon Beasts appear in the Secret Realm every year, causing heavy casualties to our Four Great Martial Mansions?"

"Why did you establish Martial Mansions there in the first place?"

The ancient tree said, "Though our land was reduced by ninety percent, we not only escaped the crisis of planetary destruction, but also the Spiritual Qi here became several times denser than before, making it truly a paradise for survival. However, the lands were still reduced, and the Demon Beast's breeding ability is astonishingly high, making some degree of culling inevitable."

She explained, "Therefore, we drive newly born Demon Beasts to live in what you call a safe zone for a period. Only those who survive can truly join our Secret Realm, which is a more stringent test. Unfortunately, the survival territory is limited, and we had no choice. In reality, didn't you establish Martial Mansions here for the same possibility—to train your soldiers?"

"Is this why Blue Star is targeted by the Mysterious races of the heavens?"

Xu Lingjun said, "Blue Star, which should have been destroyed, not only survived but thrived, and according to what you said, the surviving Blue Star, though with a reduced land area, actually has even more flourishing Spiritual Qi than before."

"Exactly, if we were to pinpoint a reason why Blue Star is targeted by the Mysterious races of the heavens, I think this would be it."

The ancient tree said, "In this cosmos, Spiritual Qi is the most vital resource, second only to the oxygen you humans breathe, but it is a non-renewable resource. Once depleted, a homeland planet is destined for destruction. The cosmos is vast with countless planets like grains of sand, but finding a planet that perfectly matches a native one is exceedingly difficult."

"That's indeed the case."

Xu Lingjun understood the ancient tree's meaning.

The existence of all races in this universe relies on Blue Star. The ancient tree mentioned that other planets also have travelers post-destruction... meaning perhaps the timeframe varies, determined by the foundations of each planet.

Yet, as populations increase and dependency on Spiritual Qi deepens, especially as racial power strengthens over time,

they inadvertently march towards destruction...

Though it's possible to exist relying on other planets, even conquering them,

but a gold nest or a silver nest, nothing compares to one's own doghouse?

And where to find a planet that matches their physique, strength, even lifestyle habits?

Once a home is lost, they become a rootless drifting weed...

Even the mightiest race, at this juncture, embarks on a path to destruction.

Xu Lingjun then understood why this universe is dominated by the theme of plunder.

It turns out that while they were plundering resources to replenish their planets, they were also searching for suitable homes...

as their second homeland.

And amid the impending crisis of planetary extinction throughout the cosmos,

Blue Star, a planet that should have perished, survived, even thrived, and has a Spiritual Qi purity superior to the past.

If Xu Lingjun were in the place of the Mysterious races of the heavens, he might adopt the same approach because this is no longer a battle between good and evil but a struggle for racial survival.

"So that's the truth, then."

Han Yun City shook his head, "We always regarded Demon Beasts as an imagined enemy, but instead, we've actually been your benefactors."

"Not exactly benefactors, just as you argued before, Blue Star's descent wasn't a result of your actions; it was fate giving our Blue Star a lifeline. Although we're interested in outer land, Demon Beasts are very attached to their homes, unwilling to leave unless survival is impossible."

The giant tree said, "But you helped us repel the enemy this time, and we are indeed very grateful, which is why I am willing to share these secrets with you..."

"However, given this explanation, it's unreasonable for the Baoxue Empire to attack you with such effort."

Xu Lingjun said, "Based on our guesses, the Baoxue Empire attacked you completely because they wanted to uncover Blue Star's secrets. They learned these secrets by colluding with the Mysterious races of the heavens..."

He paused, frowning, "But if it's truly as you say, then the collusion between the Mysterious races of the heavens and the Baoxue Empire makes sense. But what is the Baoxue Empire after? Blue Star is doing fine now, and who knows how many years until the next spiritual exhaustion. They don't need to pay such a high price..."

"As for this issue... perhaps the Baoxue Empire also has its intentions."

The giant tree hesitated for a moment and said, "Indeed, Blue Star survived, but do you know why it survived?"

The two shook their heads in unison, and Han Yun City asked, "Do you know?"

"In fact, I don't know."

The giant tree said, "But back when even the Spiritual Qi was most tumultuous, I couldn't move, so I witnessed the scene when the two Blue Stars merged, discovering a stone... This stone contains very pure Spiritual Qi, much purer than what we currently extract. Such stones are only formed when two planets fuse. I estimate that Blue Star's renewed vitality is inseparable from these stones."

She said, "I named this stone Spirit Stone, and I'm sure the Baoxue Empire is after this stone as well."