

# Outside of Time

## **Chapter 31: You Asked When I Shall Return, I Have No Idea\* (1)**

Under the twilight, the youth's figure caused Fire Crow's heart to be shaken.

He was a well-experienced scavenger. If it was a newbie in his shoes, they'd definitely be shocked despite the fact that their cultivation level clearly surpassed the other party.

Even he felt shaken, but that was quickly suppressed by the viciousness and fury of being injured. At this moment, his eyes revealed intense killing intent.

"B\*stard, I'll pluck out your teeth one by one as my spoils of war."

As Fire Crow spoke out in a deep voice, he tugged off his clothes and revealed a skinny upper body.

Not paying any heed to the injury to his ear and chest, he performed a set of mudras with both hands. When his face flushed red, a fireball that was even larger than the ones earlier suddenly appeared.

Upon seeing this, Xu Qing's eyes narrowed and he abruptly moved.

"Scatter!" Fire Crow let out a low bellow and the big fireball in his hand split into five smaller fireballs that headed straight for Xu Qing.

After that, explosive sounds instantly resounded and flames covered the ground. Amidst all the burning, Xu Qing's figure dashed out once again. He launched two consecutive punches as he did before to shatter the barrier.

Although his body would inadvertently be pushed back from the impact, in addition to suffering burns from the high-temperature flames, his speed didn't reduce at all. His killing intent also didn't slacken in the slightest.

Just like that, using such a method that ignored his own injuries, he started a fierce battle in the jungle against Fire Crow.

The battle became increasingly intense.

It was true that Xu Qing wasn't a match for Fire Crow.

Regardless of whether it was the spirit energy barrier or the fireballs, they were all very disadvantageous for Xu Qing. The former made it hard for him to perform close-range attacks, while the latter posed an extremely great threat to him.

However, Xu Qing's recovery ability was astonishing, and it allowed him to quickly recover after he got injured. His injuries didn't affect his battle prowess.

Besides, his stamina was as abundant as at the start of the fight. Although the prolonged pain from his body would form a mental torment, he, who grew up in the slums, had nurtured a tolerance that surpassed that of ordinary people.

The most important thing was... the spirit energy that contained a high density of anomalous substances didn't have any influence on Xu Qing at all. However, to Fire Crow, it was completely different.

It was still fine for the ear's injury, but the injury on his chest became increasingly aggravated. The most important thing was his spirit energy...

Even though his cultivation base was at the fifth level of Qi Condensation, he was unable to withstand such a depletion. Hence, he could only passively absorb spirit energy to replenish his consumption.

Moreover, the pressure Xu Qing brought him in the intense battle caused him to have no time to catch a breath at all. With that, the amount of anomalous substances in his body kept surging and accumulating.

Very soon, the anger that Fire Crow felt in the beginning transformed into nervousness. In the end, anxiety actually appeared on his face.

He had noticed that something was amiss with his body and that there was a problem with this young man!

Anyone else at the third level of Qi Condensation, or even at the fifth level, wouldn't have been able to hang on for so long in the face of such fireball attacks. They would have turned into dried corpses long ago.

He felt that even if he was in Xu Qing's shoes, he wouldn't be able to do what he did.

However, this youth in front of him, despite his injuries increasing and looking serious, his speed and power didn't diminish in the least.

This made the unsettled feelings in Fire Crow's heart grow increasingly intense.

At this moment, the anomalous substances in Fire Crow's body kept on increasing, and he was getting close to mutation. This caused his breathing to become even more anxious.

"Fire Crow, you trash! Hurry up and end the battle!!"

In the far distance, the Bloodshadow Team Captain who was fighting Captain Lei had no choice but to be distracted as he spared some attention to the situation here. When he looked at this scene right now, he roared angrily.

He wanted to help, but Captain Lei suddenly exploded forth with attacks to obstruct him, making it hard for him to leave. Right now, he could only feel anxious.

Moreover, Captain Lei could already tell that Xu Qing's battle plan was to drag out the battle until Fire Crow mutated.

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Although he didn't know why Xu Qing was confident nor why he was able to perform as usual amidst his injuries and pain, everyone had their own secrets. Captain Lei understood this point. He had his own secrets too.

Therefore, he had no intention to probe further. What he could do was to not allow the Bloodshadow Team Captain before him to go over to help.

The battle continued.

Fire Crow cast three other fireballs but was still helpless against Xu Qing. Hence, he, who was already anxious, now that he was scolded by his captain, the negative emotions in his heart completely erupted and turned into craziness.

He abruptly raised his right hand and hammered his chest, spurting out a large mouthful of blood. After that, he quickly swung his left hand and caught some of the blood before the droplets fell onto the ground.

As he chanted an incantation, the blood in his hand quickly turned black.

At the sight of this, Xu Qing's eyes contracted and he felt an even more intense sense of crisis. He charged out and wanted to disrupt the other party's spell.

However, this time around, Fire Crow's spell was cast extremely fast. At the instant Xu Qing moved, Fire Crow lifted his head abruptly and his expression became distorted. His gaze then flashed with cruelty as he waved his right hand.

The black blood in his hand instantly swelled up to form a ball of blood that was the size of a human head.

It seemed to be bubbling inside, and it flew toward Xu Qing with astonishing power.

"Die!" Fire Crow let out a low and sinister bellow.

Perhaps because the spell this time was too exhausting and the anomalous substances in his body continued to increase, his legs were trembling weakly at this moment. On the other hand, the killing intent in Xu Qing's eyes abruptly intensified. Just like Captain Lei had thought, he was indeed prepared to drag out the battle until the other party mutated. However, it wasn't exactly correct either.

Xu Qing had never given up on the thought of killing his opponent in his process of mutation.

Although he was no longer holding onto the dagger and iron stick, he still kept on looking for an opportunity to deal the killing blow.

This chance finally appeared now when Fire Crow showed his fragility.

Almost at the instant the black-colored ball of blood fired over, Xu Qing's advancing figure hastened his speed.

He didn't dash toward Fire Crow in a straight line but shifted his direction slightly to where Barbaric Ghost's corpse was at.

Barbaric Ghost's corpse was covered in burn marks from Fire Crow's large area of effect fireball attacks. But in this place, other than the corpses, there were also... Barbaric Ghost's weapons!

Footnote:

[1] A line from a poem by Li Shang. A translated version of the poem, 'To a Friend in the North on a Rainy Night' can be found here:

<https://28utscprojects.wordpress.com/2010/11/23/298/>

## Chapter 32: You Asked When I Shall Return, I Have No Idea (2)

There was a mace and two pieces of broken finesteel shield.

However, Xu Qing's target was the bigger piece of the broken shield.

His figure instantly got close, and he grabbed the heavy finesteel shield. After that, with his small and skinny body covered by the shield, he charged out instantly, heading straight for Fire Crow who was behind the black blood ball.

A moment later, an explosive sound echoed out as Fire Crow's blood ball came into contact with Xu Qing, smashing onto the shield before transforming into endless jets of black blood that shot out.

That finesteel shield also couldn't withstand the attack, instantly fragmenting. However, it still withstood most of the impact.

This caused Xu Qing, who was behind the shield, to not suffer from a lethal attack despite being hit by some of the black blood. At this moment, he clenched his teeth tightly and didn't slow down, showing no hesitation at all as he sped forth like an arrow, closing onto Fire Crow.

Fire Crow's gaze revealed a look of mockery, and he didn't plan on dodging at all. As he performed a set of mudras with both hands, the scattered black blood behind Xu Qing quickly rose from the ground into the air. It seemed that it wouldn't be long before the blood would all levitate and transform into blood arrows that fired urgently at Xu Qing.

All of this left Xu Qing with nowhere else to dodge, but he wasn't planning on dodging either.

As he got close, his left hand clenched into a fist, but the punch being thrown out was done by his right hand instead.

As a result, cracks appeared on the spirit energy barrier outside Fire Crow's body, and the inner part of Xu Qing's right fist became bloodied. Amidst the blood, there were also scaled pierces of flesh.

Before Fire Crow could see clearly, Xu Qing's eyes turned bloodshot as he unleashed a second punch.

With a bang, the barrier broke down into pieces and the tremendous impact wave spread out, pushing back Xu Qing's body. This was like what had happened previously, and he couldn't get close at all as the impact waves forced him back.

The mockery in Fire Crow's eyes grew. However, at this moment...

Xu Qing's body seemed to gain additional strength from nowhere.

Amidst the impact from the shattering barrier, Xu Qing wasn't pushed back as he was previously.

He charged out fiercely and withstood the pressure, stretching out his right hand as he fiercely grabbed at the bloody part of Fire Crow's chest, where the iron stick had pierced through previously.

However, it was like the additional strength only allowed him to have enough energy to make this grab. Although he tore open Fire Crow's injury, he was unable to deal a lethal blow and could only choose to retreat rapidly at this moment.

Fire Crow's countenance changed and he stumbled backward.

After he discovered that Xu Qing's grab wasn't too much of a threat to him, he let out a sinister laugh and wanted to cast a spell to shoot the black blood.

However, at the next instant, his countenance changed once again and he lowered his head abruptly.

At the bloody part where his chest was... there were some shards of broken fangs as well as mushy flesh with scales on them.

Right now, the flesh part of the injury corroded, and venomous blood flowed out. Wherever they passed by, his skin would rot rapidly.

Unbearable pain gushed forth intensely at this moment, causing Fire Crow to let out an agonizing cry. A look of unprecedented terror appeared on his face.

He then retreated unceasingly and saw Xu Qing crouching in the far distance. The latter opened up his right palm and threw out some broken pieces of flesh and crushed fangs that looked similar to the one on him.

If one pieced these broken pieces of flesh and crushed fangs together, they'd form the shape of a snake head.

It was the venomous snake head Xu Qing had used to deal with the corpses.

Moreover, his left hand was shivering slightly and slowly opening up. As the shattered amber pieces fell, it revealed the ghostface scorpion's tail that pierced deeply into his palm!

The former let his palm contain intense venom, while the latter caused him to have the additional strength to attack despite facing the barrier's impact!

"You..." Fire Crow trembled, unable to say a word amidst his howls, let alone cast a spell.

His gaze revealed intense dread in the face of death, and he struggled to wipe off the venomous blood on him. However, a tremendous amount of venomous blood gushed out, causing his stamina and vitality to seep rapidly.

Xu Qing took a deep breath. The recovery effect shown by the purple crystal in his fight with Fat Mountain allowed him to know that he could neutralize poison.

His right hand, which had been tainted by the snake venom, didn't corrode. This made everything clear.

This was the killing blow he had prepared for use against Fire Crow.

Right now, he stood up and ran straight for Fire Crow.

After that, the horror in Fire Crow's gaze turned into despair as Xu Qing got closer. He struggled and retreated as he wailed in agony.

"Captain, save me!"

This tragic scene caused the eyes of the Bloodshadow Team Captain, who was currently fighting with Captain Lei, to open wide. He wanted to go and save Fire Crow, but Captain Lei's attacks kept obstructing him, making it hard for him to go over.

He could only watch as Xu Qing's figure rapidly closed in on Fire Crow.

As Xu Qing moved closer, Fire Crow's injuries and the breakdown of his mental state caused the dense anomalous substances that had accumulated in his body to not be suppressed any longer.

Before Xu Qing completely got close, Fire Crow's body stiffened up fiercely amidst his despair. After that, anomalous substances spread out in his entire body and with an

Some people left behind greenish-black corpses when they mutated, while others exploded into blood mist.

Xu Qing halted his steps and looked at the spot where Fire Crow had turned into blood mist. After that, he turned and looked coldly at the Bloodshadow Team Captain.

The sun was setting, but the dusk in the sky was different compared to the past. The dark night didn't come, but instead, the sky had a strange red glow covering it.

Under this redness, Xu Qing's figure was also dyed red. He stood there, covered in wounds, and his cold and sharp gaze emitted an indescribable pressure.

This pressure caused the mentality of the Bloodshadow Team Captain, whose cultivation surpassed his, to tremble intensely.

Fire Crow's death was too tragic and this dealt an extremely great blow to the Bloodshadow Team Captain's inner heart.

He had failed to take down Captain Lei despite fighting for a long time, and in addition to how bizarre Xu Qing was, all of these factors caused the Bloodshadow Team Captain to feel great unease. At this moment, his gaze flickered, and the instant when Xu Qing glanced over, he blasted back Captain Lei with a punch and rapidly retreated with no hesitation.

He didn't wish to continue with the fight any longer.