

Seller 331

Chapter 331 Lin Xue And Allen's First Quest (Part-7)

The invisibility wore off right away and Yao Ling was seen on his knees with two on his stomach of which one of them cleanly pierced the navel while the other only heavily bruised the skin.

The blood was gushing out of his navel at a rapid pace while he helplessly fell to the side, "you bastard..."

Meanwhile, Lin Xue, who leaped forward in reflex, slowly landed on the ground and looked at the scene.

A look of surprise appeared on her face, "Yao Ling was defeated just like that?" She turned her head to look at Allen, who then explained, "I attacked his navel, where not only the central focal point of the energy pathway system is located but was also one of the vulnerable parts of the human. Without any external defensive barrier on top of a body, it is easy for my laser beams to strike it. He was quite careless to attack me, I should say."

As Lin Xue stared at him in a daze, feeling it very hard to believe her eyes, Allen reminded her to quickly heal the unconscious party or else, the latter would die due to blood loss.

She hurriedly healed her bodyguard by pouring potions on the injured part while Allen scanned the barrier and walked toward it.

Touching the scarlet barrier, he mumbled, "Hmm... the barriers were stuck onto each other. The defensive stat is about 7.6 and has no weak spots. It can be solved by unleashing either the light dragon or a light beam.

But, the only problem is that the cool-down periods vary on the outcome. If we face an unexpectedly strong opponent, then, these skills from the sword will come into use. In such a case, it is too much of a waste."

As Allen was formulating a strategy to get out of this place, Lin Xue, meanwhile, sent her lightning attribute energy into the body of Yao Ling and made sure to paralyze all the ether particles so that even if he woke up later on and tries to free himself, they would get enough time to knock him out again.

Allen takes out the divine sword of Emperor Shun and the lightning sword in Lin Xue's hands started shaking wildly. "Hmm, what happened, Lei?"

Usually, all the semi-divine grade traditional weapons develop a certain amount of consciousness due to the cores of the beasts that were used in their creation.

That is also the reason why Doom's scythe tried to escape from Mark's grasp, back when he acquired it from the assassins of the Church of Doom.

If it isn't for the fact that the system wiped out Emperor Shun's soul fragment and the weapon's consciousness from the divine sword, it would have been impossible for Allen to even wield it with his current strength.

Anyways, back to the present situation, Lin Xue's semi-divine weapon, which she was using for more than a decade, spoke its mind through telepathy. It appears to be afraid of the sword in Allen's hands.

It only then did Lin Xue finally realize the odd situation and turned her head to look in the direction of Allen. Her eyes fell on the glowing divine sword and widened in surprise.

Dismissing her lightning sword, she left the unconscious Yao Ling on the ground and walked toward him with a look of surprise, "Allen, what sword is that? The intensity of its aura is off the charts."

"My master gifted me," replied Allen with a proud smile on his face before raising it above his head. Looking at it, she thought, "it looks like Owner Lu wasn't as bad as he appears, after all. He indeed treats Allen more than a servant or a simple family member."

The light energy flowing into the sword glowed brighter as he swung it down. Cracks appeared on the lower part of the barrier where the sword slashed down. He swung it down at that part, two more times, and then finished with a punch. A hole was formed in the barrier.

Both of them got out of the cave while carrying an unconscious person respectively. They moved at a slow pace without forgetting to be keeping an eye on the surroundings.

About 35-40 minutes later, Yao Ling got out of his unconscious state. As soon as Lin Xue heard him groan while opening his eyes, she threw him onto the ground and summoned her weapon before moving to Allen's side just in case.

Thankfully, he appeared to be himself without the signs of being hypnotized again, thereby reducing a great headache for the Lin Clan's heiress.

Yao Ling first expressed his confusion about how he was in the forest when he was supposed to be captured. Once it was cleared by Lin Xue, he then explained of his story.

After following the assassin to the hideout, he got caught and fought with a couple of 6-circle realm experts before taking on the boss, which eventually led to his capture.

From his story, Lin Xue once again confirmed that the enemy is indeed far stronger than they can handle.

She already decided to quietly leave this place. Hence, there is no change in the plan, although their speed was rather quick with Yao Ling volunteering to carry their lone baggage while sending him to an unconscious state every time he wakes up.

Six more hours passed away and the sunlight slowly disappeared over the Phoenix Empire. As they were too careful and went on a longer route under Allen's guidance, it took them a while to finally escape not only the forest but also the ambushes placed at several exits of the forest.

At the moment, they were almost at the border of Qing province and the Kunyu mountain range. Allen's strategy is to go into the mountains and take a detour to the imperial city.

By taking full advantage of his scanning ability, Allen was confident about losing the trail in the mountains. Of course, he was confident about taking the enemy but Lin Xue insisted on avoiding the battle at all costs. She might be brave but not foolish and reckless. Hence, Allen had to opt for this method.

However, even he didn't anticipate the enemy's bold move.

Just as they reached one of the peaks of the Tuoshan hills, the place outside the Qing province's border where they planned to rest for the night, a large-scale golden barrier was erected from four sides, trapping them in between.

The four elderly mages who created the barrier through joint effort started walking toward their target.

"What the..." Lin Xue's widened in surprise and Yao Ling panicked. He immediately made a request, "Young miss, use the teleportation scroll and escape from here."

"How in the hell we walked straight into the trap?" Lin Xue questioned Allen without bothering to hear Yao Ling's request.

This time, Allen didn't have an answer. He shook his head, "I don't know. But, I'm sure that there is no trap laid here before we reached."

"That means they anticipated your strategy and were waiting for us here?" asked Lin Xue, feeling that her suspicion might be right.

Allen thought for a bit and answered, "Either that or they were tracking us from far away every second. I cannot sense anyone's presence around 500 meters though."

"A tracking seal?" Lin Xue's attention immediately shifted to her bodyguard who could only bitterly smile upon realization. "Damn..."

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The golden barrier formed over the hill illuminated the area that it covered. In an instant, Lin Xue, Allen, and Yao Ling could see their surroundings as well as they could in a day.

Throwing away the unconscious Yan Huian aside, the three of them took a triangular formation in order to keep an eye on all sides.

Maybe, it is because the top of the hill is an open place, or maybe, it is because the top echelons of the 'Crushing Giants' gang were confident enough to take out their enemies. Whatever the reason might be, the boss of the gang and his four elders calmly climbed up the hill and slowly walked toward Lin Xue and others from all sides without any sudden ambushes.

Meanwhile, Allen was checking out the barrier that covered the entire hill. After analyzing its power through his scanning ability, he said, "Sister Lin, this barrier is quite different from the one that was placed at the cave. It seems to have a number of functions like anti-teleportation, noise canceling, vision canceling, self-repair, and ether restriction."

As Allen's voice wasn't low, the long-bearded old man who was walking with the help of a wooden staff let out a smile and nodded, "Indeed, the servant of Lu Zhen won't be an ordinary expert. Not only you had the strength but you also have great sensory abilities. It is too bad that you had a strong background that we cannot offend but that also means that you won't be able to leave alive from here as we want to protect our secret."

The old man's statement first shocked Lin Xue and Yao Ling, and then followed by making them feel depressed as their entire day had gone bad all because they discovered the existence of red sandalwood.

While Yao Ling was regretting his capture, Lin Xue was wondering whether she made the wrong choice in accepting this quest. After all, it is clear that they were at a great disadvantage when facing four experts of the peak-6-circle realm and a 7-circle realm expert.

As she was blaming herself in her head, Yao Ling spoke with a determined look, bringing her to reality, "Young Miss, all of this is my fault. I will detonate myself to take down the enemies and the barrier altogether. You and Mr. Allen should escape."

"What did you say?" She gave a sharp look as she immediately rejected the idea. "There's no way I'll allow you to do that, Uncle Yao."

Allen then shifted his attention to his friend as she was the leader of this party, "Sister Lin, what is your decision? Kill them and escape or destroy the barrier and escape?"

She took a glance at him and then at the enemies that surrounded them. After quick thinking, she connected her consciousness with her storage ring and took out a scroll before handing it to the android.

"Here, this is an instant teleportation scroll, which will take you directly to the Lin Clan's Mansion as long as you are not far than 10,000 km from our home. Look for an opportunity and use it by pouring ether energy." She gave away her life-saving treasure to Allen without caring about her own life.

Of course, she took this decision not just because she cares for Allen but it was also because of Mark.

She knew that Allen's unreasonable master would probably destroy the whole Lin Clan in revenge once he learns that she was the one who dragged her friend into this adventuring business.

And not to mention, if she wasn't with him, he could have escaped on his own with ease. For the sake of her clan, Allen must stay alive. Or atleast, that was what she thought at the moment.

However, she doesn't know that Allen cannot activate the scroll as he doesn't have any ether energy inside his system.

But, as he cannot say it out loud because of his master's order, Allen replied without taking the scroll from her hand, "The best course of action in this current situation is for you to escape, not me. Big Brother Lu is out of town and I don't have much credibility compared to the heiress of a major noble clan when it comes to convincing Lord Lin or Emperor Shang."

"You underestimate your master's fame in the city, Allen," said Lin Xue, not intending to back down from her decision. "You just need to meet my father and explain it to him. Without fail, he will talk to His Majesty to deploy a general to save us."

Allen stared at her while thinking about how to convince her in a logical way.

But, the enemies will not sit around and do nothing, right?

The boss of the gang appeared to have lost his patience and spoke out loud, "Okay, you have wasted enough time with pointless discussion. Now, prepare yourselves to die." He raised the staff and slammed its bottom end on the ground.

A mud dragon rose from the soil and flew toward Lin Xue's party at a very quick pace.

"Careful," screamed Yao Ling as he quickly shielded his young miss. Without hesitating to suppress his strength, he unleashed a barrier in the shape of a scarlet wall made of his ether energy.

While the barrier couldn't manage to stop the mud dragon, it took some of the damage and reduced the dragon's size, indicating its reduced power.

Allen immediately summoned his divine sword and swung it down at the incoming attack. The mud dragon was cleaved into two before disappearing into thin air, taking the enemies by surprise.

The old man furrowed his brows as his eyes fell on the glowing sword, "That sword's aura is too powerful. A top tier semi-divine grade sword or..."

As a crazy guess came to his mind, he dismissed the wooden staff and summoned his personal weapon, a semi-divine grade staff with the shape of a snake with its cobra head constantly spitting little flames. "Ashei, check out that sword's grade." He instructed.

The flames spitted by the cobra-headed scepter intensified all of a sudden as the old man received a reply. His eyes widened upon hearing it, "A divine grade?"

His facial expression immediately changed and a look of greed appeared on his face. He raised the scepter once again to unleash the skill, and this time, he didn't play around.

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"Elders, summon that thing right now." He ordered the elders who were silently standing away in different directions. After that, he proceeded to unleash another mud dragon but this one was a lot bigger and appeared to be quite powerful, almost reaching the power of a legendary realm beast (low-8-circle).

Seeing that their boss was going all out right from the beginning for some reason, the other four mages also raised their respective scepters and unleashed a combination skill, summoning a giant serpent with four heads.

Each head was of a different attribute (fire, wind, lightning, dark) and the monster seems to be in the 7-circle realm, turning Lin Xue's face pale. "We're doomed." She felt like all of her plans were useless in front of these extraordinary powers and there was no way they could escape.

"I'm sorry." She mumbled in sadness and looked at Allen's back as the latter raised the sword above his head.

Even Yao Ling was also not confident about escaping with his life. Hence, he decided to follow his original plan. He dashed forward toward the giant serpent and the four elders, planning to detonate his ether particles and take down the enemies with him.

But, just as he reached halfway, he felt an enormous power behind him. The four-headed serpent started shivering as it raised its head. Even the elders took a step back in reflex.

Yao Ling couldn't help but stop in his tracks and turn around only to see a giant light dragon floating above the heads of Lin Xue and Allen. "What the hell..."

Meanwhile, the old man looked like he was also in a daze, "Supreme realm?"

Roar

The light dragon let out a powerful roar as Allen swung down the sword, "Skill: Light Dragon, complete. Go..."

The light dragon, which was only as big as 10 ft, rushed forward while opening its mouth.

"Defend..." The old man momentarily forgot about the energy mud dragon that was summoned right beside him and hurried up to conjure a defensive wall.

The light dragon slammed into the barrier, destroyed it, then, went on its way, collided with the boss of the gang along with his energy mud that was on standby, and finally struck the wall of a barrier.

The golden barrier was destroyed, the mud dragon and the old man were nowhere to be seen, and the surroundings became dark once again.

"Skill: Illumination."

The words escaped Allen's mouth before a wave of light energy was released by the divine sword, illuminating the surroundings.

The android then turned around to look at Lin Xue and smiled, "the barrier is destroyed. Will you teleport to your home?"

He didn't have much reaction to the death of the enemy of the prowess of the light dragon. All he cared is about completing the mission that he had taken.

Seeing that he helped out his friend to teleport away,

Lin Xue's heartbeat rose rapidly as she stared at Allen, forgetting everything around.

"Sister Lin? Sister Lin?" Allen had to call her a couple of times to bring back her to reality.

"Allen," She pointed her finger at the empty space before them, "What was that?"

"Oh, it is one of the skills that are possessed by the sword," calmly replied the android.

Lin Xue followed up with the next question, "What was that sword anyway?"

"My master calls it the divine sword Aries, which was once wielded by Emperor Ku and passed down to Emperor Zhi, Emperor Yao, and finally Emperor Shun."

"Emperor Ku, Shun, Yao, and Zhi?" Lin Xue was never shocked more than when she heard of those figures. "You mean the one from the legends? I heard various stories about them but didn't know that they were real. How did your master acquire it?"

Allen answered without hiding the truth as it wasn't prohibited by his master, "It was given by Emperor Shun's spirit."

"So, the stories about those five emperors and three sovereigns becoming immortals and leaving for the celestial realm might be true, after all," exclaimed Lin Xue in excitement before she came to her senses by another piece of logic came to her mind, "Nah, their names might have also been used to cover up its real origins."

She doesn't know whether Mark lied to Allen or not, but one thing became clear to her. Allen was too precious for his master.

She also realized that it might be challenging for her to free Allen from his master's control.

Perhaps, she should just stop thinking about it and try to get along with Mark instead so that he willingly frees Allen. Or else, she would be forced to live on the first floor of the Genesis Weapon Store after her marriage.

Hmm, wait a second...

Lin Xue suddenly realized that something was off in her latest thoughts. "Marriage? Are you crazy? Why the hell are you thinking of such a ridiculous thing?" Her eyes unknowingly shifted to Allen, who shifted his attention to the kneeling four elders.

The four-headed serpent was dismissed by them upon realizing that their enemy is too strong for them to even try and escape.

As Allen walked toward them while feeling that they were no longer a threat with the fear clearly displayed on their faces, Lin Xue kept staring at his back. "Well, alongside his looks, he does have perfect broad shoulders, neither too buffed like the second prince nor thin like the third prince." She shook her head immediately, "what are you thinking, Lin Xue? Get a hold of yourself."

One week later;

On one of the beaches of Fujian island, Mark was enjoying a morning walk alongside Song Yue with both of them linking their arms and chatting about various things, although it was mostly Mark talking about the stories from his past life.

"So, you use this thing called a phone to talk to a person even from the other side of the world?" Song Yue couldn't help but be excited whenever her fiancé explained a new thing that was unheard of in this world.

Mark nodded with a smile and proudly bragged about his past once again for the nth time, "It's just the beginning, my Schatz. We can take photos, record our moments to watch them later, and learns things that were happening in a corner of the world. The technology developed so quickly that by the time of the war, we can wrap the superphones around our wrist like a bracelet."

"Ohhh..."

While Song Yue didn't understand even half of Mark's explanation about the features of the mobile phones from his time, she was fascinated by the things from the other world and even wanted to go there one day if she gets an opportunity.

After a while, the Black Knight entered the beach to fetch the couple for the morning breakfast.

However, as he saw the both of them quite intimate with each other, a satisfactory smile appeared on his face. "I guess I shouldn't disturb them. It is just breakfast anyway. Missing it will not be a big deal."

Seeing that his daughter is quite happy with his future son-in-law, he turned around to walk away to busy himself with sword training.

As a mage, he was never good with swords but lately, to pose as the mysterious swordsman, he was practicing common sword techniques from the books sold by the Swordmasters guild.

Chapter 334 Tishanan's Breakthrough

It was the time of the day when the sun was almost at its peak position.

Mark, Song Yue, and Song Yun finished their lunch together and the former started talking about his plans for their next destination.

Meanwhile, the manticore was sleeping, as usual, the anaconda continued to coil itself around the mountain and keep an eye on the ocean, and the demigod realm beast, Lan Ju, on the other hand, was babysitting the golden-furred kitten.

The Zheng and Tishanan were of the same species and shared a common ancestor. Hence, it didn't take long for them to bond. Not to mention, the kitten was also of beast emperor grade.

As a result, Lan Ju became its teacher and tried his best to train the junior.

For the past few days, he woke up the little kitten early in the morning and made it run ten laps around the perimeter of the island as a warm-up.

After that, Tishanan will tag along with Lan Ju as it goes into the ocean to catch some beasts.

The kitten, which used to only drink milk, eat eggs, and some cooked chicken meat until it came onto the island, was fed the meat of the high-quality Aquatic Spirit beasts along with their core.

However, since it refuses to eat raw food unlike the manticore, Mark had to cook it in the form of stew before feeding it. Song Yun also helped by volunteering to cut down the beasts, removing inedible parts, washing their meat, etc...

After eating fill, the kitten will sleep until the evening. And then, it will spar the manticore in darkness to improve its reflexes and senses. Of course, it goes without saying that the beast king will go easy on the little creature.

As a result, Tishanan grew stronger at a rapid pace. Only ten days have passed since they came onto the island and the golden-furred kitten was already on the brink of making a breakthrough to the 4-circle realm, although its size hasn't changed a bit from the day it was born.

Very soon, it will make a breakthrough. Mark was also postponing his plans for the past couple of days for the same reason. And if all goes well, it will happen today.

At present, somewhere deep in the ocean about 300-400 meters below the surface, a five-tailed scarlet leopard was choking a great white shark with one of its tails while the little kitten was watching it from the leopard's head.

It was surrounded by some kind of bubble technique that was not only nullifying the water pressure but also making it stick to the leopard's head. Soon, the powerful beast king of the 7-circle realm became a corpse and the other tails of the zheng slapped down the water, making the both of them swim upwards to the surface.

In no time, both of them returned to the island.

As soon as Tishanan got free, the kitten left its master and rushed toward one of the houses and entered the one where the humans were in the middle of their discussion.

Meowwww

The delightful greeting call from the kitten interrupted them and the couple rose to their feet immediately to welcome it with smiles on their faces as if their little kid returned from kindergarten.

As Song Yue and Mark raised their arms to hug it, the kitten halted in its footsteps and stared at the both of them.

"Tishanan, come here." "You'll come to this big sister, right?"

Mark and Song Yue crouched down and suddenly fought for its attention. It's just a little contest they do every day for fun.

The little kitten moved his head left and right to look at both of them for a while before it rushed toward Song Yue and snuggled in her arms.

Song Yue let out a grin and showed a 'V' to her fiancé, "Schatz: 4, Markie: 2. Hehe, I win once again..."

Mark crossed his arms to the chest and scolded the kitten, "betrayer. I'm your master, and yet, you always take her side."

As soon as the words escaped his mouth and he looked away, the kitten suddenly opened his eyes and jumped onto his shoulder, rubbing its cheeks with his cheeks, "Mawww".

Mark didn't look at it and continued to play it out, "Hmpf, I won't talk to you."

Song Yue knew that Mark was acting. So, she didn't interfere and quietly watched the kitten, which jumped onto his head and then at his other shoulder to lick his other cheek.

When Mark turned his head once again, the kitten dropped down his head and let out a woeful meow, expressing its sadness. Perhaps, that already melted down Mark's heart and he didn't try to take the joke too far, quickly petting it by rubbing its chin.

The kitten became happy and it jumped back into Song Yue's lap to take a short nap, making Mark shake his head with a smile. "This cheeky little brat..."

Roughly after 15 minutes, the kitten was woken up by Song Yue and its eyes directly fell on a spherical shaped organ that is as big as Mark with bones protruding from all of its sides. It appears to be so much rich in energy.

Even the manticore in the house and the anaconda on the mountain couldn't help but stay awake and stare in the direction where they were sensing such energy.

However, just like the aquatic beasts in the ocean, none of them dared to come closer to the core as Lan Ju displayed the aura of a demigod.

Of course, after staying for more than a week on the island, Song Yun already knew his real identity and it appeared that Mark doesn't care about it. Neither did Song Yun confront Mark on the matter nor did the latter have given any kind of explanation. In fact, it only made Song Yun more loyal to his friendship with his son-in-law.

Anyways, back to the present, Tishanan jumped from Song Yue's arms and landed on the ground before steadily walking toward the core.

Looking at it, Mark asked the zheng once again, "Are you really sure that Tishanan is going to be alright? He is only a 3-circle realm beast." He was worried that the core of a 7-circle realm beast king will be too much for the tiny little kitten.

For a brief moment, Lan Ju showed signs of being frustrated upon being questioned by Mark for the nth time since noon. But, since he is the future Patriarch of the Lan Sect, he cannot get angry with him without any good reasons.

Hence, taking a deep breath, Lan Ju answered as calmly as possible, "I told you earlier. Tishanan is different from me. He was born to an ancient-grade beast and would likely be one in the future. So, there's nothing to be worried about."

Mark nodded and signaled the kitten to proceed.

As Tishanan opened its tiny mouth, Lan Ju forcefully plucked out a bone, letting the energy escape the core through a hole. The demigod realm beast then redirected the energy toward the kitten.

At a rapid pace, all the energy flew into the kitten, which started refining it. Soon, a blinding flash of light covered the kitten and the latter started to float in the air.

The phenomenon made Lan Ju's eyes light up and he exclaimed, "It's going better than I expected."

Meanwhile, far away from the location, deep inside the ocean where there is no sunlight, a pair of glowing eyes opened before a deep voice escaped like a sonic boom, "the time has come sooner than I thought. I wonder whether he is truly ready for the task."

Chapter 335 Tishanan Mutates Into An Ancient Grade Beast

At one of the beaches of the Fujian island, the humans along with Lan Ju were staring at the floating ball of light while praying for success.

Earlier, when Tishanan was covered by the light and flew into the air instead of making a breakthrough to the next realm, the zheng explained to everyone that the golden-furred kitten's bloodline triggered the process of mutation.

However, it wasn't as if there was a hundred percent possibility. But, if it becomes successful, then, the little kitten will become an ancient-grade beast like its parent.

Mark was obviously excited to see the kitten power up. The stronger it gets, the more useful it will become to him in battles. Or maybe, he can just let Song Yue continue to keep it as a pet while the latter acts as her secret protector.

Anyways, back to the current situation, the kitten continued to float as a ball of light in mid-air for the next ten minutes before it expanded into an elliptical form vertically.

Once the light was dimmed, in place of the golden-furred kitten, everyone saw an attractive cute little boy with shoulder-length golden hair. In human terms, he can be considered a 3-4-year-old kid.

The boy slowly landed on the ground and looked around the surroundings before examining his own hands and legs.

"Is that our Tishanan?" asked Song Yue, rubbing her eyes. Just like Lan Ju, the kitten's transformation didn't leave any trace of a beast.

Meanwhile, Mark immediately activated his Sage eyes to inspect its details.

Tishanan

Title: N/A

Status: Humanoid

Grade: Ancient

Species: Cat

Gender: Male

Rank: 4 (intermediate stage)

Type: Balanced

Attribute: Water, Wind, Light

Description: The child of the Golden Demon Cat, which is one of the demon lords of the undying lands. Like the other Beast Emperor and above-grade beasts, it matures along with its power instead of its age.

Skills:

Heal: Using the attribute of light, the beast could heal the target's injuries and wounds. Effect: 120% attack power.

Hydro Blast: Using the attribute of water, the beast can spit a powerful stream of water and injure the enemies. Effect: 130% attack power.

Air Gust: using the attribute of wind, the beast can release wind over a specific target area, delivering great shock waves of pure force. Effect: 130% attack power.

Purification: Remove any type of debuff on the target caused by magic.

Water prison: The beast unleashes the skill to bind, imprison and/or otherwise stop objects/beings by surrounding them with huge volumes of water. Effect: Those who were trapped inside the prison will have their ether energy slowly absorbed by the beast.

"Well, not as great as I imagined," thought Mark in disappointment as he stared at the holographic screen floating before his eyes. He expected great abilities from Tishanan as it mutated into an ancient-grade beast.

If one considers the relation between each grade, then, at present, this kitten should have the strength to defeat a 7-circle beast king like Cerberus or the anaconda.

However, its stats and skills state something else entirely. If in the humanoid state, the beast has 4.6 points of intelligence, which is its highest stat, then, after transforming back into its original form, in the best-case scenario, it would be around 5.5 or 5.6.

It means that Tishanan can at most defeats go against an elementary-stage Exalt realm beast (low-7-circle). Forget about beast kings and emperors. And that is just in theory. In reality, the battle experience should also be considered.

Anyways, all of these worries can be shut down once it makes another breakthrough. Thinking that way, Mark calmed down his emotions and focused on the curious-looking boy instead of the stats.

"Wu..." "Wu..." "Ah..."

Tishanan started making sounds like a baby, addressing everyone. Mark and Lan Ju understood what it was trying to say.

He walked forward and patted the head of the naked boy with a smile, "Since you have attained the humanoid transformation, I think it is more appropriate to give you a human name.

After me, Allen, and Alina, you will be the third one to join our family. As the fourth-born child, your name will be Anan Spencer."

"A... na... nu?" The golden-haired boy somehow managed to speak of his name, earning applause from Song Yue. "Woohoo! Congratulations Tishanan, I mean, Anan. You spoke your first word."

Mark glanced at his fiancée, who appeared to be too happy. He was disappointed earlier for the beast betraying his expectations but upon seeing a hearty laugh from Song Yue, his negative feelings were slowly washed away from his heart.

He placed his attention back on the boy. Just as he was about to congratulate Anan, all of a sudden, the water nearby the beach moved back at a rapid pace. The attention of Lan Ju was quickly drawn to it.

"Lu Zhen," called Lan Ju, raising his voice.

Mark turned his head to look at the zheng, "Hmm?"

Lan Ju then pointed at the ocean, "Look, the water is going back. I don't feel good about this."

Song Yue heard it and looked in that direction before letting out a gasp, "My goodness. Markie, it is the signs of a tsunami."

"It looks that way," replied Mark with a serious look. However, he felt something was strange as things don't add up. He stared at the retreating waters of the ocean for a while.

"What should we do now?" Song Yue became worried, although not because of the upcoming disaster. After staying in this peaceful place for 10 days without leaving Mark's side except during the night's sleep, she became a little bit attached to the house they lived in and the beaches they take long walks daily.

We need to leave

Meanwhile, Scarlet words appeared in the air as Song Yun wrote them through his ether energy. As he didn't think that it would be a crisis with so many powerful beasts around, he didn't need the feel to get out of the Black Knight character yet.

Fortunately for him, Lan Ju was standing in the opposite direction. Hence, the words were seen and the zheng quickly responded, "No need to worry, Mr. Black knight. I can conjure up a barrier to defend the whole island against the natural disaster."

"No, Lan Ju. This isn't a natural disaster. This is created by someone or something," said Mark after analyzing the situation in his head. Everyone was startled by his claims and looked at him.

Mark then turned around and explained, "Water is sure going back but none of the beasts or the small birds and animals living on this island got an inkling of a natural disaster beforehand."

He then pointed at the ground, "Tsunamis are created by earthquakes inside the ocean. If we look at the rate of water retraction, the magnitude of the earthquake must be at least over 9. That means we will be able to feel the tremors on the island.

Other warnings include a loud roar from the ocean and the strange behavior of the aquatic beasts. But, none of this happened until now.

Everything indicates that it is either an unintentional attack of a sea beast or a deliberate ambush from an enemy of the mage Spirit Path. Whatever the case, the enemy doesn't appear to be weak."

After concluding the nature of the tsunami, Mark didn't bother to wait for the reactions from the listeners and directly passed the orders. "Song Yue and Anan will go back to the house. The both of you will stay inside while Baltrow and Mr. Black Knight will guard the house. Lan Ju and I will take care of the rest. Understood?"

With Mark making a serious expression and speaking in a commanding tone, everyone couldn't help but just nod in response and follow his orders. Anan also transformed back into the kitten, which was slightly bigger compared to before, although not fully grown.

Before leaving, Song Yue gave a tight hug to her fiancé, "Markie, be careful."

"I will be," replied Mark and hugged back.

They retreated back to the house that is located hundreds of meters away from the shore and Song Yun conjured an ether energy barrier over the house just in case. Baltrow stood beside him to guard the house after receiving the telepathic message from its master.

Roughly after 15 minutes, a tsunami of 480 meters in height that is stretching for only ten kilometers had appeared in front of Mark, proving his theory.

Chapter 336 The Trial Of The Holy Beasts (Part-1)

A gigantic wave was approaching the island at a speed of about 150 km/hr. Lan Ju and Mark were waiting at the beach to face it.

Soon, it struck both of them and then washed away everything on the island that is on its path. Thousands of small fishes and other aquatic beasts crashed onto the island.

Lan Ju was not only unharmed but also didn't move an inch from the spot.

As for Mark, who wore the Exo suit in order not to waste his defensive skills and ether energy, he was pushed away atleast for a hundred meters before the water retreated to the ocean. He was of course unharmed.

However, his attention was on the house with the barrier as it was also hit by the wave. Seeing that there were only cracks in the barrier, Mark let out a sigh of relief and rose to his feet.

Meanwhile, Lan Ju's focus was on the ocean. His senses were at their peak but couldn't sense the enemy no matter how far or how deep he searched.

"Is there a demigod trying to play hide and seek with us or was Lu Zhen just mistaken?" The zheng wondered as he cannot sense any other presence.

It was at that moment a heavy sigh was heard in the surroundings, making the demigod-realm beast emperor jump on his feet in an alert. "Who is it?" Lan Ju asked in a loud tone.

A reply came in the form of two words, "Truly disappointing." The voice was quite deep and quite commanding to the zheng, increasing his curiosity.

Lan Ju looked around and tried his best to locate the enemy but to no avail. He couldn't help but wonder out aloud, "Did the enemy master the art of invisibility or something?"

The voice responded once again, this time with a bigger sentence, "Feline creature, you are too noisy. Stay silent for a while and let me concentrate on the guy with the weird costume."

As soon as his words ended, four large turtles were summoned around Lan Ju with each one releasing an energy chain. These chains bound Lan Ju and completely restricted his movements.

Lan Ju resisted for a couple of seconds and then became silent, although, for some reason, he didn't transform into a beast to free himself.

Meanwhile, Mark halted his footsteps in shock. After all, the zheng is his greatest backing. Anything that can capture him is something that is too powerful and running away is a terrible idea. He understood that very well.

Now, this situation leaves him with only one choice. He would have to raise the upper limit of his skill prowess. In the present situation, all the damages of his skills were capped at 10.9 points of stat, which might or might not be enough if this unknown enemy was prepared.

Luckily, the stat pills were also in his storage ring.

However, this also had a problem. Even after he raises his cultivation level, his ether points will still be at around 1 million. It means that he might have to depend only on the skills that consume a fixed percentage of ether energy rather than a numerical amount.

So, bloodline skills like Absolute Freezing, Blizzard wings, and summoning his beasts might be out of the question. But then again, with Baltrow and Lan Ju on his side, he never had to depend on his summons either. Hence, there wasn't much to lose.

Before he proceeded, he just needed to be sure that what he was going to do is worth the trouble. Judging by the tone of the invisible stranger, it appeared more like he wasn't that hostile.

Should he trust his instincts or should he take the intelligence pill to be safe?

Just as Mark was contemplating on whether to make a breakthrough to 7-circle or talk it out with the ambusher, the voice was heard from the sky once again, "Good, stay that way without making any trouble, feline creature. Now, the master of the zheng, hear me out carefully. Before I reveal myself, you will have to prove your worthiness. You failed the earlier test. But, I was willing to give you another chance. Of course, you weren't given any choice about this. So, get prepared to face the trial."

"Trial?" Mark's thoughts about the breakthrough were thrown into the back of his head as his attention was picked by the voice from the sky. Naturally, he wasn't pleased by the proposal either. "Who are you? What do you want?" he asked, trying his best to stay calm on the surface.

"Calmness is a good trait for any kind of Spirit Warrior but having pride should be in respect with one's strength. After all, excessive pride will only lead to a downfall in the end. Let's see if your pride is in the same equation as your strength or if it is excessive." An odd reply came from the sky before a golden portal appeared before Mark and engulfed him.

After Mark disappeared from sight, Lan Ju took a deep breath and asked, "Why are you doing this? For what reason do you want to test Lu Zhen?"

"Ho, now that's unexpected." The voice exclaimed in surprise. It further commented, "It appears that you have discovered my identity."

Lan Ju nodded firmly and then spoke in a polite manner despite his hands and legs being tied up by energy chains, "Yes. Those spirit-suppressing turtles gave away your identity. It is also the reason why I no longer wanted to resist, Lord Yuqiang."

Once Lan Ju spoke those words, the turtles disappeared and he was freed. Followed by that, an old man with an ordinary-looking face made his appearance.

One cannot be fooled by his average build and the peaceful vibes of a civilian he was giving at first glance. Lan Ju knew how dangerous this fellow is.

Hence, he fell on his knees and kowtowed to greet the stranger.

In response to the greeting, the old man chuckled and made a comment on the appearance of the zheng, "You rejected the human civilization for three decades without bothering to integrate into their society, and yet, you like to stay and behave like them in the end."

Lord Yuqiang's comment was only met with Lan Ju's silence.

Seeing this, Yuqiang lost interest to converse about other matters and proceeded to speak of his real intentions, taking the zheng by surprise.

Meanwhile, Mark was transported to a place where he can only see a stairway to some kind of door in the end. Everything else was blocked.

At first, he was angry at this mysterious being for transporting him to this place without his consent but then as he calmed down himself, Mark realized that the enemy isn't hostile and wanted to test him for something.

With the zheng being captured too easily, he became worried about Song Yue's safety. After all, none of those will be able to protect her. Adding on top of this, the system is offline.

Hence, he first needed to control his emotions and get out of this situation by following the rules set by the enemy. Mark proceeded to go through this trial by stepping on the first step without knowing what kind of test he was going to face.

Quickly, his surroundings changed once again. The place looks like a cave of an ether mine. Thousands of ether ores could be seen protruding from the walls.

However, none of that mattered as there is a giant creature waiting for him.

Chapter 337 The Trial Of The Holy Beasts (Part-2)

Mark activated his Sage eyes without wasting any time in inspecting the details of the monster with the body of an ox, four horns with two protruding from the forehead and the remaining two protruding from the back of its head, human eyes, and pig ears.

honk

Looking at its prey, the beast let out a sound that is similar to a goose, although it was a bit too loud for a human. Mark was forced to close his ears for a second while staring at its details.

*

Zhuhuai

Species: Hybrid

Rank: 7 (advanced)

Grade: Beast King

Type: Balanced

Description: A monster from the undying lands.

*

"Just a 7-circle monster, huh?" Mark felt more relieved upon seeing that his opponent is someone he can defeat without relying on external assistance.

However, the problem here is that he doesn't have much experience in close combat.

And the more time he spends here, the more worried he might get regarding the safety of his fiancée as he couldn't trust this invisible enemy to not keep them hostage.

Then, should he summon the missile defense system and bombard the opponent with missiles? This way, he could save ether energy.

But, is there a need to save it?

With the 'Ether Regeneration' passive skill, he can recover his ether energy at the rate of 1% every 1.7 seconds. That's only three minutes to recover all of his consumed ether points.

As Mark was contemplating on whether he should go for the quick route or use this opportunity to test his own power, the beast charged at the intruder like a bull. Its horns were glowing in scarlet energy, aiming to kill him in one shot.

Seeing that, Mark quickly activated the suit's flight ability and flew higher to dodge the incoming attack, followed by taking out a sniper battle rifle and pouring about 500 thousand ether particles into it (~49% ether energy).

As Mark then proceeded to set the power to 3 using the dial switch placed above the trigger, the beast put a brake on its legs and turned around. It raised its head to look at the enemy flying without any wings.

Honk

Letting out a snort, the beast unleashed a skill. Energy started to condense at the tips of its front horns.

Mark raised the rifle and aimed at the beast. With enhanced vision, Mark didn't bother to use the scope and directly clicked on the trigger.

Swoosh

A rank-3 energy bullet was released from the rifle and cut through the air like lightning and perfectly piercing the beast's right eye.

Graaaa

The beast roared in anger as the blood oozed from its eye. Maybe, it is because it isn't real or maybe, it is because Lord Yuqiang created it that way. Whatever the case, it wasn't showing any signs of feeling pain or trying to heal its eye injury. Instead, it resumed gathering the energy at its horns to complete the technique.

"So, it is a dumb one, eh?" Mark's confidence increased by its move and he clicked the trigger once again, aiming at its other eye.

The beast couldn't complete its technique and it lost its vision, although it doesn't pose any problem for Zhuhuai as the beast kings don't need the vision to sense the enemy. Its smelling capability is more than enough to locate its prey.

A giant energy ball was thrown at Mark, who in turn, faced it head-on and took the blow directly to test the suit's defense. Of course, the beast's 7-circle realm cultivation is the primary reason for him to take such a step.

As for its grade, according to the manuscript of Legendary Beast Tamer Xie Chen, which he received from his sister on the engagement ceremony day, the difference in the grade of beasts lies in their respective skill set.

If a king-grade defense appeared to be a lot stronger than the fierce-grade beast of the same realm, it's because of the passive skill of the former. But, at the same time, battle type also plays a major role here.

For example, if a king-grade beast is a defensive type, then, its normal defense and active defensive skill prowess might be far higher than a fierce-grade beast of the same realm. In such a case, their attacking prowess remains the same.

And if both are offensive types, then, their defensive prowess remains the same. As for the balanced type, the difference will be seen both in offense and defense but it won't be much higher when compared to the other two types.

Anyways, back to the present, Mark knew that an offensive type beast king of the 7-circle realm (advanced stage) cannot unleash an attack on a Supreme realm.

Hence, he was confident about taking it head-on.

And just like he expected, as the energy ball struck his suit, it dissipated right away without even pushing him away lightly much less hurting him.

"So, it doesn't have pain receptors but still can sense my presence, eh," Mark observed the beast from the air as it was conjuring another energy ball. "Hmm, either through the smell or through sensing of a life. That means I haven't done any proper damage."

It was then a sudden thought came to his mind and his facial expression hardened, "Sh*t... Song Yue was still out there. I cannot waste the time."

Mark suddenly realized that he doesn't have the time to toy with the opponent or test his suit. Not to mention, this might not be the only opponent he will face in the trial.

Mark slowly landed on the ground. As the beast turned his head to change its aim, he mumbled, "Gravity Dome, activate."

However, nothing happened.

"Ah, right. I forgot." Mark remembered that he doesn't have the system running in the background to automatically unleash the skill through voice activation.

Since he never mastered the skills in a traditional way like the other Spirit Warriors, Mark had to depend on manual activation (except for the bloodline skills). He opened the skills interface, which is still working despite the system's offline status.

He clicked on the Gravity Dome under the Active Skills section. And as the system is offline, there was no prompt message received by him and it directly activated right away, unleashing an invisible dome in a 100-meter radius.

Once the skill is launched, Mark's consciousness was connected with the dome and he could sense the unfamiliar yet familiar particles filled all around the place, possibly the gravitons.

It was a strange feeling. Mark somehow felt like he was looking at ether particles inside his body with an ability to control them.

While he was experiencing a new feeling, the beast completed its energy ball and threw it at him once again.

The result was the same as earlier. Mark was struck by the attack without receiving any damage but it surely helped him to return to reality.

Meanwhile, the beast felt frustrated and it unleashed another skill, increasing its size by several folds.

Placing his attention on the opponent, Mark then raised his free left arm. "Good that you have increased your size and weight. Now, I'll help you increase it even further. Gravity at maximum."

In an instant, an enormous pressure descended onto the beast, increasing its weight by 40 times the original as the gravitational force was increased within the dome.

The beast collapsed onto the ground, unable to bear it. And Mark calmly walked toward it.

Chapter 338 The Trial Of The Holy Beasts (Part-3)

honk honk* honk*

The beast named Zhuhuai was struggling to move but to no avail under the effects of the 40g environment and Mark reached it before he took a leap and landed right before its face. The beast struggled to open its mouth and snap him into two halves with its sharp teeth but it couldn't move an inch from the spot.

Raising his foot and stomping on its mouth that's as big as a fully grown pumpkin, Mark changed the power from 3 to max (8) and pierced one of its injured eyes through the sniper's barrel, "If I do like this, then, your tough skin will not come in the way. Time to disappear."

Mark proceeded to click on the trigger with a murderous gaze on his face.

The remaining amount of the ether energy that he poured into the sniper rifle was consumed and a rank-5 energy bullet escaped from the rifle's barrel, piercing through everything and destroying the brain in the end.

The beast's eyes turned lifeless in one shot and disappeared instantly, leaving behind the rifle with blood on its barrel.

And in the next second, a white portal appeared a few feet away, clearly inviting him to step inside and get out of this place. However, Mark didn't readily do that.

Instead, he walked to a wall and punched the ore a couple of times to break apart a chunk of it. As a Spirit Warrior with 4.5 points of strength, it isn't that difficult to accomplish such a feat.

Taking the ether ore into his hands, Mark tried to absorb the ether energy to see whether it is fake or true.

Unfortunately for him, while the ether ore turned white and the energy absorbed into his body, it only replenished it, not increased the ether points. Mark lost interest right away.

"I'm a fool to even expect something good comes out of misery." He threw away the white ore and walked into the portal, returning to the stairway. All of the steps were white like earlier except for the bottom step, the one he was standing on. It turned black.

"Hmm, I see. So, this is like a dungeon with various levels?" Mark wondered as he proceeded to climb onto the next step. Just like earlier, it glowed before transporting Mark to a similar kind of place.

It almost looked like the same cave with ether ores protruding from the walls and ceiling all over but the place is a lot bigger and there were two monsters this time. Both the blue-furred hounds were beast kings of the 7-circle realm.

"Gravity Dome"

He unleashed the same skill that doesn't have any cooldown, making the two hounds grovel on the ground due to the immense pressure.

Assuming that there are still more battles to go, Mark decided not to explore the powers of his suit or his strength. Instead, he opted for the easiest route to clear this difficulty.

"Lightning Clone"

He summoned the super-powerful lightning clone that has the stats of a Supreme realm expert and ordered it to finish the hounds.

The lightning clone charged forward. It only took one powerful kick from the lightning clone to kill each monster. As a result, the battle was over in a couple of seconds and Mark returned to the stairway without bothering to place attention on the ether ores.

With the Ether regeneration, he can recover his ether points within a couple of minutes anyway. So, there's no need to depend on them.

Anyways, with an aim to complete this so-called trial in hurry, he didn't take much rest and stepped onto the third step.

The location was again similar to the previous one, although increasing the cavern size. And this time, the opponents are giant Spiders that are as big as an average adult male. They were four in number and all of them had the ability to spew poisonous venom.

But, in front of the Gravity Dome and Lightning Clone combo, none of those beasts stood a chance as Mark took the initiative to start the battle. It lasted only a few seconds and Mark proceeded to the next step.

On the fourth level, the difficulty increased along with the change of location.

Mark found himself in the middle of a forest covered by snow and a giant Ice ape was seen jumping from one branch of a tree to another. He activated the Sage eyes' ability and observed the ice ape.

"Okay, now, it is an 8-circle realm beast king, eh?" Mark didn't pay much attention to the monster that has no chance of facing against his powerful combo attack.

The ice ape was fallen only in a few seconds, and in this level, along with the portal, something new, although with similar power, made an appearance as soon as the beast disappeared.

It resembled largely like an energy ball floating in the air. When Mark inspected it, he lost interest right away.

Beast Spark

Grade: N/A

Description: Contains the extracted core energy of a beast. Used for replenishing one's ether energy based on the quality.

"Forget it. I don't have the time to spend time on refining it. I would rather waste the time by taking a short break."

Mark walked past the free reward and stepped into the portal.

After returning to the stairway, he continued his trial right away as there is enough ether energy left to use.

On the fifth level, Mark faced two ice bison, which of course, didn't last even ten seconds in battle.

On the sixth level, the opponents were four yetis.

Just like before, once again, the battlefield changed. This time, it was on an island surrounded by endless lava, which is as hot as over 2000 degree Celsius.

On the seventh level, a bull that breathes flames turned out to be the opponent. It was a nine-circle beast king that managed to defend quite a few punches and kicks before finally getting killed.

And on the eighth level, two giant fire golems became the opponents that drew their energy from the lava lake around the island. The lightning clone faced great difficulty to defeat them. By the time this level was cleared, Mark was left with only a little over 22k of ether points, which would be enough for just two seconds of the clone.

Hence, he decided to take the beast sparks left behind by the golems and replenished his ether energy. Thankfully, the process didn't take much longer; within minutes, he was ready to face the next challenge.

Mark's confidence in his combo attack was at his peak and he wasn't that bothered or looking forward to battling the opponent. For him, this trial became a walk in the park.

Little did he expect that the opponent on the ninth level won't be four 9-circle realm beast kings but a single opponent of emperor grade.

Bi'an

Grade: Emperor

Rank: 9 (peak stage)

The tiger with dragon scales and wings let out a mighty roar, launching an attack as soon as it spotted the intruder. Mark couldn't even properly see its details or observe the surroundings and was forced to defend himself against its attack.

Within a fraction of a second, it covered the distance between them and slashed at his chest with its claws.

As he blocked the attack by crossing his arms to the chest in reflex, Bi'an's claws tore through the suit and scratched his wrist.

"Argh..." Mark let out a painful scream and quickly backed away while unleashing the Gravity Dome.

Chapter 339 The Trial Of The Holy Beasts (Part-4)

Like in the earlier levels, the invisible dome with 100 times the gravitational pressure had made its appearance to trap the beast emperor. However, it didn't appear to be that effective against this opponent when compared to the previous one.

Bi'an managed to resist the pressure and kept moving forward albeit at a slow pace. As for the location, it appeared to be plain grassland surrounded by a forest.

Why is there such a setting? Neither Mark cares nor will anyone explain it to him. So, it is mysterious for the time being.

Anyways, back to the battle, after leaping back and landing on the ground, Mark summoned his lightning clone once again to deal with the opponent.

However, this time, the lightning clone couldn't gain any advantage against the dragon tiger. Perhaps, if it was an android like Alina and Allen, it would have been different. Alas, the lightning clone was just a skill and all of its attacks were pretty much straightforward.

The lightning clone charged forward and threw a punch at its target. Due to the slow movements, Bi'an got hit by the punch but its defense appeared to be quite stronger and it barely bruises one of its dragon scales.

Grrr

Bi'an growled in anger and opened its mouth to breathe out powerful flames, burning the clone and the cracks started forming all over its body.

As the clone cannot receive any pain either, it didn't care about the state of its body and proceeded to attack the dragon tiger at a close range. It went for the neck where the dragon scales weren't present.

Bi'an was in the middle of trying to turn its enemy into ash and it, unfortunately, didn't have the time to dodge the attack. If anything, it increased the intensity of the dragon fire so that the enemy will die before it gets injured.

The lightning clone's hand pierced through the beast emperor's neck.

Scraaaa

Bi'an's flames were stopped and the blood started to trickle down its neck, earning a satisfactory nod from Mark.

However, in the next second, the beast let out a sonic scream to push the clone away before proceeding to heal itself. Even Mark was also affected by it, but thanks to his suit's resistance capabilities (9.0 resist stat), he managed to defend against it just by tightly closing his ears and moving away.

Meanwhile, the lightning clone used friction between its feet and the ground to not get pushed for more than a few meters. It quickly charged forward and attacked the dragon tiger that was still in the middle of healing.

Like the previous battles, Mark watched it as a spectator for more than a minute until his ether energy was down by more than two-thirds and the clone was at a complete advantage. However, at the same time, it was also on the verge of getting destroyed with its body full of cracks from head to toe.

Upon remembering the cooldown period of 12 hours in case it destructs, Mark wondered whether he should intervene or not.

"What do I do? Surely, this monster isn't going to be the last one I have to face. And who knows, how strong the next is going to be. I will have to depend on the lightning clone for now. But, it was also winning. Shouldn't it be better if I let it continue to fight? I still have a lot of ether energy left to use."

After much contemplation, he decided to wait as Bi'an's natural healing powers weren't able to catch up with the rate of injuries inflicted upon its body.

Ten more seconds later, the clone ducked its claws and slid on the ground, reaching below its body before giving a powerful punch to its inner side. Its ribs were cracked.

The beast's body flew up in the air for a few meters before the gravitational force dragged it down.

Thud

It fell on the ground heavily and that collision broke its ribs completely.

As Bi'an motionlessly lay on the ground for a few seconds, the lightning clone tried to take advantage of it and raised his hand. It started to vibrate very fast and didn't miss Mark's enhanced vision either.

"What is that blurring?" He wondered out loud in surprise. This was the first time he saw the clone use something like this but unfortunately for him, at the moment, the system isn't online to give him the answers he needs.

"Whatever the case, I will just watch for now. Answers can be found later on." Mark put aside his curiosity and continued to be a spectator.

With a vibrating hand, the lightning clone proceeded to place it on the beast's neck to slice its head completely and effectively end its life.

It was at that moment that Bi'an slightly raised its head with a serious look on its face. Suddenly, its expression changed as its mouth widened.

"What the..." Mark took a step back in surprise, "is it smiling?"

So far, in this trial, he saw nothing but anger from the beasts. It is the first time he saw a beast smiling and that smile was quite similar to the one he often finds on Tishanan before he acted like he was sick and doesn't want to drink milk.

In that instant, Mark felt like the beast was trying act to set a trap for the clone. He wanted to warn the clone and order it to move away but there wasn't enough time to do that.

Before he could even send his thoughts to the clone through their telepathic connection, the beast had already made it move.

As the clone's vibrating hand reached the edge of its neck, Bi'an's body turned into some kind of green smoke that enveloped its target. Soon, the clone was trapped by a ball filled with a gaseous substance.

Mark didn't even get enough time to react to the situation and everything just gets destroyed with the release of nearly a billion joules of energy. "The fuck..." He screams out loud and hurried to unleash the Exo suit's nullification.

But, before he even tries it, the energy just passes through his body and proceeds to destroy the surroundings. Mark was left completely unharmed and this led him to an assumption that this energy was actually released by the lightning clone which he was immune to the damage.

Staring at the beast spark that was left behind by Bi'an, Mark mumbled, "I guess it did something to the clone and kill it, eventually leading to its energy release. But, that smile on its face was quite weird. Either there is something that I have yet to understand or the creator was just a strange fellow. Whatever the case, I need to get out of here fast."

Mark proceeded to walk forward and absorb the energy from the beast spark. In half a minute, he recovered all of his ether energy and went on to step inside the portal, returning to the stairway.

However, this time, he didn't step on the next one right away. He observed the stairway for a while, falling into deep thoughts once again.

"There are six steps to the door. So, that means six levels. Judging by the battles so far, the next one would be two 9-circle realm beast emperors. Just one was enough trouble and now, there will be two? Moreover, I need to face them without my lightning clone. How should I proceed now?"

Chapter 340 The Trial Of The Holy Beasts (Part-5)

After much deliberation, Mark came to a decision that is going to alter the course of his grand revenge plan, very soon.

He took out a bunch of black colored pills that resembled fish oil capsules and swallowed them one after another without any hesitation.

While there were no notifications from the system because it was offline at the moment, it didn't stop Mark's stats to rise according to the stat pill.

All in all, he took five strength pills (advanced grade), 3 intelligent pills (intermediate grade), 1 defense pill (advanced grade), 3 agility pills (advanced grade), 3 vitality pills (advanced grade), and 3 resistant pills (advanced grade).

These pills took all of his stats to cross 9 points, effectively making him a Supreme Being, although without proper ether energy to match his stats.

Due to the requirement of a high number of ether points, the Absolute Freezing skill became unavailable to use. Because of the system's offline status, the new summoning beasts weren't added to the list either. After all, a summoner, in general, would use a summoning spell to summon a beast from other planes and form a soul contract through ritual.

However, it was different for Mark. The system stores the beasts and unlocks them when its host reaches a required rank. In a way, it is like the system is giving him a free gift for breaking through to the upper realms.

Fortunately, this wouldn't disappoint Mark as he doesn't have many ether points to summon them anyway. With his 1 million EP, the most he could do is summon a 6-circle realm beast for one minute.

And since the lightning clone skill's cooldown timer has been reset with these multiple breakthroughs, Mark's mood also recovered a bit and he felt ready to go to the next level.

As he climbed the next step, the location changed once again, this time, he was on a small islet located in the middle of an endless ocean. There wasn't much space to move around but thankfully, the Exo suit can handle even the deepest parts of the ocean without a worry. Hence, he wasn't bothered by the place but focused on the surroundings to spot the enemy that appeared to be hiding underwater.

As the suit's enhanced vision only zooms into the object or makes things appear slower for a clear view, it didn't help him much in locating the beast. Hence, he could only prepare himself for the incoming attack.

As for summoning the lightning clone beforehand, he cannot do that either until the battle starts. After all, that skill would consume 1% of his ether energy per every second.

So, that leaves him with unleashing the other skill, which only consumes 1% per 40 seconds. With his ether regeneration passive skill, he could maintain it 24/7 without any problems.

Then, why would he delay it and wait for the enemy?

Mark decided to unleash the Gravity Dome and set it up beforehand.

He opened the skill interface, and as soon as his eyes immediately fell on the other details of the upgraded skills, his face glowed up in joy. "Man, every complex issue has been solved just like that. Now, I can clear up this trial with ease."

PASSIVE SKILLS:

Ultimate Defense I (disabled): By Default, the store is invincible under the heavens and cannot be damaged by anyone under the Demigod realm.

Ultimate Defense II (disabled): Within the store, the host cannot be harmed by anyone under the demigod realm. The host cannot also be dragged outside against his will.

Sage eyes: Allows the user to inspect any non-living thing or living thing and find their details.

The Devil's hand (disabled): Dismantle any object that you can touch and exchange in equivalent credits. And in case the object has an owner (bound to one's soul), then, you get 50% of equivalent credits as long as it is below Mythril grade (i.e. semi-divine and below).

Enhanced durability (level-1): Increase the user's body durability to receive less incoming damage of all types except for mental attacks. Effect: 1% DR. Limit: Opponents who are no greater than two ranks/realms above the user.

Ether Regeneration: Increase the ether recovery rate by 100 times. Effect: 1% recovery per every 0.7 seconds.

No Touch (Deactivated): Upon activation, the user's body will be untouchable physically. Nothing in the world (except for the items owned by the user and energy) can touch the user.

**

ACTIVE SKILLS:

Thunderblast (Lv-7): Summon a lightning bolt from the heavens to strike down the enemy with 150% attack power (max: 10.9). Cost: 50% ether. CD: 15 min.

Lightning Clone: Summon a lightning clone with stats equal to your maximum stats+1. Cost: 1% ether/second. CD: None

Gravity Dome (Level-9): Creates an invisible dome around the user. Inside the dome, the user could control the gravity from 0.2g to 200g. Range: 1000 meters. Cost: 1% Ether Energy per 120 seconds. CD: 0 seconds.

**

BLOODLINE SKILLS:

Absolute Freezing: Freeze your surroundings for 1800 seconds. Those who were frozen will face a temperature under -220 degrees Celsius. Range: 3000m. Cost: 100,000,000 EP. CD: 60min.

Ice bolt: Conjure any number of ice spears with your ether energy at any time to launch them at your enemies with 120% power. Anything that gets pierced will be frozen. Cost: 20% ether. CD: 0 sec. Range: 3000m

*

Blizzard Wings: Create a pair of indestructible icy wings, which can be used to fly, block incoming attacks, or attack enemies with a blizzard.

Flying: 10 EP of consumption every second.

Block: Up to 150% defense stat points (max: 12.5). Cannot fly or attack. The back will also be vulnerable. No ether consumption. And no external items can augment this feature (original defense points).

Attack: Generate a blizzard for ten seconds with the power of 100% intelligence stat points. Cost: 10,000,000 EP. CD: 30 sec. Range: 3000 meters. The host is immune to the reduction of visibility due to the blizzard.

*

Freezing gaze: Freeze any kind of matter just by looking at it and locking the target. Those without bloodline skills, divine weapons, and less cultivation level than the user's intelligence stat points will not be able to escape. The frozen people face a temperature of -220 degrees Celsius. Cost: 1,000,000,000 EP. CD: None. Range: 3000 meters.

Without thinking much, Mark clicked on Gravity Dome, unleashing the skill.

An invisible dome was released into the surroundings, instantly.

"Cool." Mark let out a pleasant smile as he started sensing the graviton particles even far as 1 kilometer away when it was only 100 meters a while ago.

"Now, for the next safety measurement."

The torn part of the suit around his wrist reminded him to be careful of physical damage from close combat. Hence, he toggled on the "No Touch" passive skill he bought a while ago.

With the skill staying activated, apart from the things he owned, no object or living thing in the world could touch him. As for how it decides what he owns, usually, it was the system that decides.

With the system going offline, Mark didn't know its overall limits but with the experiments, he conducted during the past ten days, he concluded that the skill would atleast push away the people and doesn't resist the ether weapons bound to his soul.

That much is satisfactory enough for Mark to depend on this passive skill of his.

Once he was done with setting up the defenses, he was finally relaxed and read the description of the skills once again to formulate a plan against the future enemies.

"Let's see... My body can regenerate all of the ether energy within 70 seconds. That means I can continuously keep the lightning clone with me without worrying about consumption. Maybe, if I can cover it up with armor like Song Yun, I can also use him as a bodyguard.

Thunderblast skill was a bit of a disappointment but it is expected anyway. After all, it depends on intelligent stat points. While I might have them over 9 like the rest of the stats, the original int stat was still only at 7.6.

Anyway, against beast emperors of the 9-circle realm, the skill will be more than enough to turn one of them into ash even if they turned out to be a defensive type.

But then again, I won't have to depend on the rest of the skills with the lightning clone to do the job for me.

As for defense against the ranged attacks, I would have to unequip this suit and depend on the wings. They will protect me as long as I don't let them attack me from behind."

While keeping his eyes on the surroundings in wariness of a sudden ambush, Mark proceeded to summon the lightning clone and then went on to take off the suit, followed by unleashing the Blizzard wings.

"Okay, now I'm ready. Only the enemies are left to appear," mumbled Mark as he spread his wings widely.

He waited for half a minute in patience before bubbles appeared on the surface of the water, just a hundred meters away, and nine giant snake heads rose from the water.

Surprisingly, there was only one 9-circle beast as an enemy but this one isn't a beast emperor. When Mark inspected its details through his Sage eyes, his expression changed right away upon finding that it is a beast that could be said to be on par or stronger than even Lan Ju at his peak strength.

Xiang Liu

Grade: Ancient

Rank: 9-circle

Description: Xiang Liu, a monster with 9 snake heads was once the underling of the Water God.

"Who the fuck is the creator of this trial?" Mark couldn't help but cursed out loud in anger while staring at the giant squid.