## Versatile 1341

Chapter 1341 The Chief Extraditor

That night, Mo Fan, Lingling, and Zhao Manyan arrived at Mount Wuyi Enforcement Union. They went to Mount Jueguai and soon noticed the place was in a mess. It was obvious that something had happened.

They went into the main hall and saw a group of people talking amongst themselves with strange looks.

A woman was crying sadly in the main hall. They went forward through the heavy and depressing atmosphere and saw a few Enforcers.

"I believe she's Su Qingqing, the person you are looking for..." the Enforcer leading Mo Fan and his crew said with a frown.

"We are one step late," Mo Fan said.

"And you are?" An Elder looked at Mo Fan and his crew doubtfully.

"This is Mo Fan, the strongest participant in the World College Tournament. These two are his partners. They are investigating Elder Leng Qing's murder," Enforcer Qi Yang answered.

Qi Yang was a member of the Preventive Committee. He had the authority to investigate members of the Enforcement Union. Secretary Gu Lian had asked him to assist Mo Fan with the investigation.

"What does Elder Leng Qing's murder have anything to do with us?" the Elder of Mount Wuyi Enforcement Union, Zou Hui, asked.

"We have discovered a traitor in the Enforcement Union was responsible for Leng Qing's death. We just found out that the traitor is here in Mount Wuyi Enforcement Union, and was Su Qingqing. However, she's dead now," Mo Fan said.

Zou Hui frowned. He said in a deep voice, "We believe it was a suicide."

"She killed herself out of guilt?"

"Who could have thought that Su Qingqing was one of the Black Vatican..."

"She must have realized that she had been exposed, so she chose to kill herself!"

The rest of the crowd burst into an uproar. The members of Mount Wuyi Enforcement Union did not expect it to turn out like this. They immediately investigated everything Su Qingqing had done and her possessions.

The process was conducted smoothly. They soon discovered the confidential information that Su Qingqing had leaked and traces of her sending the information to outsiders. They also found things that could possibly identify her as one of the Black Vatican among her belongings.

Mount Wuyi Enforcement Union was shaken by the findings. They never suspected such a young Enforcer would be a spy of the Black Vatican, nor did they have any idea how she was able to trick the Tree of Vows!

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"I thought we finally found a clue, but it's gone again. How cunning the Black Vatican is!" Zhao Manyan burst out angrily.

If they could get their hands on Su Qingqing, they could easily track down the member of the Black Vatican she was contacting. That person would at least have the rank of Blue Deacon, which might lead them to the Cold Prince...

Now that Su Qingqing was dead, the trail was gone too.

"Yeah, we are back to square one!" Mo Fan said helplessly.

"What should we do next?" Zhao Manyan said.

"What else can we do? The trail has stopped here. We can only think of something else. Let's go back tomorrow morning. We'll bring Su Qingqing's corpse, so we can explain it to Lingyin Enforcement Union," Mo Fan said.

"I guess that's all we can do."

The third day after Su Qingqing's death, the higher-ups thoroughly investigated the Mount Wuyi Enforcement Union. Its members were severely impacted. The members, Enforcers, Supervisors, and Elder all suffered the wrath of the higher-ups.

Luckily, it had all come to an end. Su Qingqing and Bei Jiang had paid for Leng Qing's death.

Half a month later, Mount Wuyi Enforcement Union was back to normal. The disturbance slowly faded away.

Supervisor Cheng Ying requested for a vacation to take some time off. Elder Zou Hui did not have any objection. After all, the Enforcement Union was now in a slump after they discovered there was a traitor among them. It was necessary for them to take a little break.

Cheng Ying left Mount Wuyi Enforcement Union without leaving any traces behind. The first thing she did after she left was find a desolate altar and activate it.

The altar was connected to her soul. She endured the pain and forcibly severed the vow she had taken as a member of the Enforcement Union.

Severing the vow inflicted serious damage on her soul. She fell feebly to the ground and took a long time to recover. She dug up a black stone behind the altar...

She staggered to the pond nearby and placed the stone in the water. The water immediately turned black, reflecting Cheng Ying's pale face on its surface.

Cheng Ying murmured a strange mantra. A few ripples appeared on the surface of the pond. It immediately displayed the image of a person wearing the crimson-red mask of a demon!

"Crimson Demon, it's me, Blue Deacon Eagle Eye," Cheng Ying said.

"Master Cold Prince just mentioned you recently. You have done well. Once you're back, we might consider promoting you to a Great Deacon!" the man wearing the crimson-red demon mask answered.

Cheng Ying was suffused with joy, her body shaking in excitement. However, she soon realized the situation she was in and said, "My cover has been compromised, but I managed to trick them with the girl I had long prepared as a scapegoat."

No one in the Enforcement Union knew about the relationship between Cheng Ying and Su Qingqing. Cheng Ying had never allowed Su Qingqing to meet her when there was someone else around, nor did she allow the girl to call her aunt in front of others. Therefore, she was not implicated after Su Qingqing's death. The higher-ups did not find anything suspicious about her, either. Cheng Ying had done everything that involved betraying the Enforcement Union under Su Qingqing's name.

Of course, Su Qingqing had been totally unaware of it!

"You're very cautious. You already knew something like this would happen!" the man smiled.

"The higher-ups have given up on Mount Wuyi Enforcement Union. I don't think I will need to stay here any further. I will find a valid excuse to leave the Enforcement Union and return to the organization," Cheng Ying said.

"Very well. The Cold Prince is busy preparing a great plan, so he definitely needs some help. Go to him after you're done cleaning up your trail. I'll send an Extraditor to pick you up," the man said.

"Thank you, Master Crimson Demon! Please send my humble regards to Master Cold Prince." Cheng Ying bowed and kissed the rock in front of her like a humble servant.

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Cheng Ying left the cave and proceeded with her plan of taking a vacation.

She could finally go back to where she belonged after so many years. It was tiring wearing this disguise. She was looking forward to relaxing and getting rid of her burdens during this vacation!

However, little did Cheng Ying know, that as she was just about to welcome her new life, a man had witnessed everything that had happened in the cave!

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Mo Fan picked up the unique black stone and walked out of the dark hole. He chuckled when he saw Cheng Ying leaving in high spirits.

"So this is the Black Vatican's Messenger Stone, something that only a Blue Deacon would have..." Lingling came out from the woods near the cave and inspected the stone.

"How was it? Did we manage to locate the Red Cardinal?" Zhao Manyan asked.

Mo Fan shook his head and said, "She was talking to a guy called the Crimson Demon. He said that he would send an Extraditor to pick her up..."

"He must be the Chief Extraditor! I didn't expect her rank to be high enough to have direct contact with an Extraditor... my sister told me about the Chief Extraditor of the Black Vatican before. The Chief Extraditor is even more mysterious than a Red Cardinal, since only the Chief Extraditor has the complete list of members of the Black Vatican! This Cheng Ying is clearly a deadly chess piece that the Black Vatican has long placed in the Enforcement Union, if she's taking orders from the Chief Extraditor!" Lingling murmured.

"Which means we are really dealing with the authorities of the Black Vatican now!?" Mo Fan asked.

The Chief Extraditor was only slightly inferior to a Red Cardinal. The guy called Crimson Ghost had the list of members under a Red Cardinal. If they could get their hands on the Chief Extraditor, wouldn't that mean they could take out a seventh of the entire Black Vatican!?

The Black Vatican was infamous for its ability to conceal its members' identities. Most of their members were disguised as ordinary civilians. They were like human time bombs, posing a great threat to society. If the Extraditor really had the information on those people, taking him down would allow them to find many members of the Black Vatican too!

"Yeah, he must be the Chief Extraditor, but unfortunately, he isn't the one picking Cheng Ying up. Otherwise, we could just take him down and take out the Cold Prince!" Lingling swore.

"Yeah, he's only sending an Extraditor over, meaning he won't show himself."

"I believe we can't afford to touch this Cheng Ying yet. If an Extraditor is coming to bring her back to the Black Vatican, we might be able to follow them to their secret lair and learn the Cold Prince or the Chief Extraditor's true identity..." Mo Fan said.

It was an extremely risky move. It was likely that Leng Qing had done the same thing, which eventually led to her death.

However, it did not necessarily mean Mo Fan and Lingling would back away!

The Calamity of the Ancient Capital had too much of an emotional impact on Mo Fan. He would not allow the same thing to happen again in his country. He would be filled with remorse for the rest of his life if his homeland was stacked with corpses and rivers of blood!

However, Mo Fan could not afford to act recklessly either. The Black Vatican was brutal and cautious. Even someone as smart as Leng Qing did not escape from them. Mo Fan was unwilling to follow in her footsteps. Every step forward was like walking on a thin layer of ice. He had to think carefully before making any move!

Chapter 1342 Transferring Dark Material

Mo Fan was not in a rush. The Preventive Committee had already allocated an expert to spy on Cheng Ying. All he needed to do was to improve his strength.

Being strong enough was the key to taking on the Black Vatican. Mo Fan once again realized how many extraordinary talents there were in the world after he fought Bei Jiang. Perhaps he might find himself in a dead end someday. Therefore, it was important to focus on becoming stronger, so he could handle any kind of situation when the time came!

Mo Fan went back to Guangzhou. Feng Zhoulong seemed to have something urgent to tell him.

Mo Fan initially thought Feng Zhoulong had learned some useful information from Xiao Ping after she recovered. To his surprise, Feng Zhoulong brought him to Canton Tower's basement instead.

Mo Fan did not know there was a spacious magic lab right under the tower. Feng Zhoulong turned out to be the head of the lab. He cautiously brought Mo Fan to a room separated by white steel plates.

Mo Fan stood in front of a transparent steel glass window. He could see a scorched corpse on an operating table in the room.

"Old Feng, did you really ask me to come all the way from Fujian to show me a burned corpse? And can you stop looking at me with glittering eyes? I'm starting to feel uneasy," Mo Fan said.

Feng Zhoulong was an easy-going person, not really a Battlemage. He was more into researching magic, similar to Dean Xiao.

"Don't you recognize it?" Feng Zhoulong asked.

"Are you serious? Why are you expecting me to recognize something that disgusting?" Mo Fan said.

"Kid, it's Bei Jiang's corpse; you dragged it back here. You're the first person to drag a corpse into the Nanguo Magic Association. Do you have any idea how many civilians you scared back then?" Feng Zhoulong snapped.

"I only brought him back to serve justice for Leng Qing and the Lingyin Enforcement Union, I didn't ask you to keep it..." Mo Fan said.

"This Bei Jiang has something similar to you. Do you know what it is?" Feng Zhoulong hinted at him.

"Mr. Feng, I'll be leaving if there isn't anything else. I'm a busy man," Mo Fan replied, rolling his eyes.

"Fine, I'll cut straight to the main point. Bei Jiang's Innate Talent is very similar to yours. He Awakened two Elements at the Basic Level; the Shadow Element and the Chaos Element. Most importantly, the two Elements shared the same Star Dust!" Feng Zhoulong exclaimed.

"Two Elements sharing the same Star Dust?" It was Mo Fan's first time hearing anything like it.

Elements were not compatible with one another. Even though many Mages in the Advanced Level and the Super Level were able to combine two spells into one powerful spell with enough control, it was only possible if the Mage could cast the spells within a short period of time, while preventing their energy from clashing with one another.

The simplest example was how Mu Ningxue was using both her Wind Element and Ice Element simultaneously to summon forth a strong tornado with icicles. It was only possible due to her outstanding control. They were actually different spells that she had skillfully combined into one.

However, according to Feng Zhoulong, Bei Jiang's Shadow Element and Chaos Element had merged into one, since they shared the same Star Dust. It was against the principles of scien... the principles of magic, or at least the basic principles that every student was taught over nine years of school. Those rules clearly stated that every Element could only have one Star Dust. It was an unamendable rule of magic!

"If he had Awakened two Elements that had merged into one, wouldn't that make it a new Element? Like the Shadow Chaos Element?" Mo Fan had to ask.

Feng Zhoulong shook his head and explained like a knowledgeable scholar, "No, it's definitely not a new Element. Its traits are exactly the same as the Shadow Element and the Chaos Element, even though it's leaning more toward the Shadow Element. However, his Innate Talent has proven one thing; it's possible to merge different Elements, resulting in unimaginable abilities! For example, the way he corrupted his targets with the dark energy, the manipulation of his shadows, the unusual behavior of his Shadow Domain... if we can prove there's a way to merge the Elements, it might be a world-changing evolution to the Elements!"

"I'm sorry, I'm not really good at studying; I don't really understand something that complicated," Mo Fan admitted awkwardly.

He was utterly clueless about the history, basic principles, and experiments of magic. Otherwise, he would have known more than just understanding the questions on the high school exam.

"HAHA, don't mind it, I was too excited with the discovery after you've killed Bei Jiang, it's the start of a new domain for us! Even though we still have no clue why Bei Jiang's two Elements merged into one, we believe we'll learn many things if we keep heading in the same direction. Think about it! If we found a way to merge the Elements, how strong would humans be? We would no longer have to hide in the cities..." Feng Zhoulong said excitedly.

"I understand, but unfortunately, it's not my area of expertise. I'll leave the future of mankind in your hands. Now, if there isn't anything else, please excuse me!" Mo Fan said.

"Why are you in a rush? I didn't say I was going to conduct experiments on your Double Innate Elements. The Research Union of the Magic Association's main headquarters did propose treating you as a test subject, to see if we can duplicate your Double Innate Elements, but that proposal has long been rejected. Innate Talents are like the unique traits of a person. It had long been proven that it's impossible to duplicate Innate Talents..." Feng Zhoulong added.

Mo Fan rolled his eyes. He only realized how much of a nerd Feng Zhoulong was now, despite his appearance. Whenever the topic was about something technical, he could do all the questioning and answering passionately, all by himself!

"I really have to go if there isn't anything else!" Mo Fan emphasized.

"Mm, go ahead," Feng Zhoulong nodded. He suddenly acted indifferently.

There was no reason for Mo Fan to stay any longer. He would have asked Feng Zhoulong to compensate him for the flight ticket if it wasn't for the fact that the man was the head of the Research Union of the Nanguo Magic Association.

Mo Fan had just turned around when Feng Zhoulong said casually, "Feel free to leave if you aren't interested in obtaining Bei Jiang's power of the Shadow Element. There are lots of Shadow Mages in our Nanguo Magic Association that are begging us to give them a chance. (Sigh) Such a pity, I was considering giving it to you since you were the one that defeated him. I didn't think you would have no interest in it. I guess someone like you who's the strongest participant in the World College Tournament isn't too fussy about it."

Mo Fan's hand froze on the button to open the sliding door. The hint of dislike on his face was gradually replaced with joy and excitement!

"AH, I suddenly realized I'm not really in a rush to go back! Brother Feng, what do you want for dinner? My treat! As a junior, I never had the chance to pay my respects. I apologize for that," Mo Fan turned around with a smile.

"Seriously, I've never seen a young man less patient than you!" Feng Zhoulong said with a displeased voice.

"Are you saying that you've managed to acquire Bei Jiang's Dark Material?" Mo Fan asked.

The Dark Material had dissipated as soon as Mo Fan killed Bei Jiang. Since it was impossible to take away a person's Spirit-grade Seed or Soul-grade Seed, Mo Fan did not really care much about it.

"My Secondary Element is the Undead Element. I'm very familiar with dealing with corpses. To me, every corpse is like a fortune," Feng Zhoulong said.

"I see; no wonder you were able to figure out Bei Jiang's two Elements have merged into one!" Mo Fan nodded.

"Acquiring the power of a dead body was my field of research during university. Everything being lost after death is a terrible belief. I've managed to acquire toxins from dead sea monsters that made us immune to their deadly poisons. I've retrieved the Summoned Beasts of the Summoners that died and prevented them powerful Summoned Beasts from going astray in the Summoned Beast Plane after their masters have died. I've... fine, considering how impatient you are, I'll cut straight to the main point.

"I've obtained the Dark Material inside Bei Jiang's body. It didn't disappear after Bei Jiang died, but it has gathered like an elemental energy on Bei Jiang's Soul Remnant. The problem is separating the Dark Material from Bei Jiang's Soul Remnant. The two are tightly bound together. If you want to accept the Dark Material to enhance your Shadow Element, you will have to accept Bei Jiang's Soul Remnant, too. I'm worried that it might result in negative mental impacts," Feng Zhoulong said.

"So you're saying that it's possible for me to use the Dark Material?" Mo Fan said.

"You won't be able to acquire his Innate Talent, but you can absorb his special Dark Material. With some practice, you should be able to control your shadows like he did, and use the Darkness Corruption. You should know that the power of darkness is like a contract. You can think of the Dark Material as a non-living Summoned Beast. It will look for a new master once their previous master dies... Back to the

question, the Dark Material contains Bei Jiang's Soul Remnant. Considering his hatred of you, when you bind the Dark Material to your soul, he will make use of the opportunity to attack you, and it might cost you your life!" Feng Zhoulong said.

"The power to control shadows, the Darkness Corruption... those are more than enough. Quick, tell me, what should I do!" Mo Fan answered excitedly, not caring about the risk!

Chapter 1343 The Fiendish Night Contrac

The scariest thing about Bei Jiang's Darkness Corruption was the ability to track down its target. Every person, device, and energy ripple of spells that the target had contact with would provide feedback to the caster. No tracking ability was more impressive than that. Mo Fan desperately needed its power to track down the Cold Prince!

The ability to manipulate shadows was even crazier. Mo Fan would never forget how the demonic shadows had left him with injuries and bruises, or the shadow waiting to backstab him at any moment!

"What is it?" Mo Fan asked when he saw Feng Zhoulong glaring at him.

"Do your ears only hear the things you want to hear? Bei Jiang's Soul Remnant is a huge problem. It might inflict serious damage on your soul!" Feng Zhoulong exclaimed.

"Oh, that, don't worry about it, my soul is pretty strong. He won't have any chance to damage it," Mo Fan said casually.

"You should treat it more seriously. If you want to obtain the Dark Material, you will need to accept it with your soul. It's similar to forming a pact with your Contracted Beast, and since the Dark Material is so close to your soul, Bei Jiang's Soul Remnant can easily inflict serious mental and spiritual damage to you. It will haunt you like your shadow for a long time," Feng Zhoulong told him.

"Everything will be fine. I wouldn't take the risk if I wasn't confident enough. Just teach me how to accept the Dark Material. I'll deal with the Soul Remnant. Why would I be afraid of his soul if I've already killed him?" Mo Fan said confidently.

"Fine, I can tell you've already made up your mind. The Dark Material is called the Fiendish Night. It's more powerful than a Soul-grade Elemental Seed. It can significantly boost the power and abilities of your Shadow Element, but to freely manipulate it like Bei Jiang, you will have to improve your Shadow Element. Your Shadow Element isn't that impressive at only the first-tier of the Advanced Level," Feng Zhoulong advised him.

"Of course I will train it harder after acquiring the power!" Mo Fan promised.

"Mm, you can accept the Fiendish Night here. No one will disturb you," Feng Zhoulong told him.

Mo Fan nodded...

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Feng Zhoulong soon returned with a container. It looked like a typical magic container that was used to contain souls. It was likely that the Dark Material could not be stored like Elemental energy, and could only be stored like a soul.

"The Dark Material will look for a new master on its own, so you won't have to guide it into your body and your soul like an Elemental Seed. You just have to wait for it to approach you and accept it. Remember what I told you; the thing is basically Bei Jiang's Soul Remnant. If you expose your soul to it, it will surely tear your soul into pieces!" Feng Zhoulong said.

"Bring it on, I'm ready!" Mo Fan declared.

Feng Zhoulong did not say a word further. He did not believe Mo Fan was a careless man. He was utterly impressed by the young man after seeing how he had tried to save Leng Qing. Otherwise, he would not have asked Mo Fan to pay him a visit as soon after he obtained the Dark Material.

"I'll be leaving after releasing it. Be careful!" Feng Zhoulong warned him again.

It was necessary to leave, so as to avoid the Dark Material approaching him!

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Feng Zhoulong left the room and closed the door, leaving Mo Fan alone with a black mist in the space surrounded by white steel plates.

Mo Fan could see a twisted face in the black mist. It was obviously Bei Jiang. A wisp of his soul had turned into a vengeful spirit. He wondered if it was Feng Zhoulong's doing.

Mo Fan could see Bei Jiang's hatred of him from the face. The strong hatred soon filled up the space.

Mo Fan waited patiently for the Fiendish Night to enter his soul. He closed his eyes and meditated. As he thought, his Spiritual World was covered in darkness. It even shrouded the brilliance of his other Elements.

"An imbecile like you is trying to claim my power? HAHA, I'll definitely make you suffer!" Bei Jiang's voice echoed in Mo Fan's mind.

Mo Fan was not bothered by the vengeful spirit. He slowly accepted the Fiendish Night. He was not trying to merge the Dark Material with his soul. It was more like expressing sincerity to one another before forming a pact.

The power of darkness was from the Kingdom of Darkness. The process of drawing the Stars of the Shadow Element was actually sacrificing energy to the Lord of Darkness in exchange for its power. It was different from the Elemental energy readily available from one's surroundings.

The Curse Element and the Undead Element were the same, too. They were the powers of the Lord of Darkness.

A long time ago, humans were sacrificing souls and lives in exchange for the Lord of Darkness' power. It was the reason why Dark Magic was forbidden by the Magic Association. Western countries even killed many wizards and witches during a certain era...

Humans eventually discovered the sacrifices offered to the Lord of Darkness did not necessarily have to be their souls and lives. The sacrifices were not restricted to mere fresh blood and death. The Lord of Darkness was more interested in the Dark Energy. Since then, Dark Magic had been slowly accepted by the Magic Association and was included in the teaching materials.

The Dark Contract was not something as terrifying as selling their soul to the Lord of Darkness. It was just an agreement that the person would provide Dark Energy to the Lord of Darkness in exchange for certain abilities, resulting in a mutually beneficial relationship.

It was orthodox Dark Magic, a pact that most Dark Mages had formed with the Lord of Darkness.

As for the Dark Material Fiendish Night, it had an extra requirement. When Mo Fan was trying to form a pact with it, it stated that Mo Fan would have to offer it a Soul Remnant every time he wanted to use its power.

In other words, using the Darkness Corruption would not only cost Mo Fan energy, but a Warrior-level Soul Remnant too!

Every time he cast the Demon Shadow, apart from expending the energy required for an Advanced Spell, he also needed to expend a Commander-level Soul Remnant!

No Soul Remnants meant no power. The energy was for the Lord of Darkness, and the Fiendish Night wanted the Soul Remnants. Otherwise, where did the shadows even come from!?

It was Mo Fan's first time signing a contract with a high-level Dark Material. He initially thought the Shadow Element had things like the Spirit-grade Seeds and Soul-grade Seeds too, but Zhao Manyan had laughed so hard and called him an idiot after hearing that from him. Since then, Mo Fan felt like his Shadow Element was too inflexible, so it was not that useful in fights anymore.

However, it was no longer the case after obtaining the Dark Material!

Despite having a higher consumption, it did not matter much to Mo Fan, since it was only asking for Soul Remnants!

"Deal!" Mo Fan signed the contract.

The Fiendish Night swiftly entered Mo Fan's soul and made his Shadow Element stronger, more imperious, and more unpredictable. It also granted Mo Fan two new abilities: the Darkness Corruption and the Demon Shadow!

"Don't you dare, you imbecile! I will not give my power to you!" Bei Jiang's vengeful spirit screamed.

It was like seeing his gorgeous ex-wife having an affair with a handsome rich man. He would not allow it, even though he was already dead!

Bei Jiang's vengeful spirit lunged at Mo Fan's soul. Since the Fiendish Night had entered Mo Fan's soul, it allowed Bei Jiang to attack Mo Fan's soul directly, too. A Mage's soul was strong since all magic originated from the soul. However, the soul was fragile, too. A single stab could leave a person in great pain, and the damage was usually incurable!

It was Bei Jiang's perfect chance to take revenge. He had already died, yet he would not allow Mo Fan to get the better of him. Besides, the person that killed him had claimed the power he was most proud of. It was a great humiliation to him!

"Bei Jiang, to be honest with you, I have a special power too. I will normally use it on creatures that I have killed, but to prevent someone as filthy as you from corrupting my precious, I normally just throw the souls of people like you away like trash and let the Heavens deal with you. However, you are too naive if you think you can do anything to me just because I have accepted the Fiendish Night!" Mo Fan replied coolly.

"You're the one that is naive. I might just be a vengeful spirit, but I can still tear a huge hole on your soul. HAHAHA, besides, Leng Qing is already dead! It's worth it if I can inflict serious damage on your soul!" Bei Jiang laughed hysterically. He assumed Mo Fan was just bluffing.

"Who told you Leng Qing is dead?... oh, I forgot to mention, my wife is a Saintess of the Parthenon Temple, a candidate for the role of the Goddess. If she can bring a dead person back to life, why can't she save a person who merely has a wilted heart?" Mo Fan said confidently.

"The Parthenon Temple..." Bei Jiang murmured. He immediately realized why Leng Qing was able to come back to life and send a secret message to the Enforcement Union when she was supposed to be dead!

If it was someone from the Parthenon Temple, it was indeed possible for them to save Leng Qing's life!

"There's no way she survived, there's no way!" Bei Jiang shrieked.

"You are already so close to my soul. I believe you can easily tell if I'm lying or not. You just chose not to believe the truth!" Mo Fan replied.

Bei Jiang's aura weakened slightly. It was indeed as Mo Fan had said. There was no way a person could lie to their soul, unless even they did not realize it was a lie!

"So you still think you can hurt me? Idiot?" Mo Fan remained calm.

The hate-driven Bei Jiang finally noticed a strong force dragging him in another direction as he was approaching Mo Fan's soul. The force was like a whirlpool with a radius of over a thousand meters. He was like a tiny plank drifting in the strong current. He had no chance of breaking free from it. Bei Jiang was well aware of what it was, since he was also an Undead Mage!

"A Soul Container!" Bei Jiang was dumbfounded. He could sense the extraordinary power of the Soul Container. It was way beyond the power of the Soul Containers he normally used to collect Soul Remnants and Soul Essences. He could not imagine what level the Soul Container was, that even a powerful vengeful spirit like him was extremely tiny before it!

"I have to spend a Commander-level Soul Remnant every time I use the Demon Shadow. Mm, I have already collected one extra here," Mo Fan murmured.

The Little Loach Pendant was the master of soul collectors. What chance did a little vengeful spirit even stand against it?

It was the reason why Mo Fan did not treat Feng Zhoulong's warning seriously. He could easily absorb ten thousand Bei Jiang-class vengeful spirits with the Little Loach Pendant!

Chapter 1344 Seed of Darkness

"How was it? Are you alright? What did you do to the vengeful spirit? Tell me immediately if you feel anything," Feng Zhoulong asked worriedly.

Mo Fan slowly opened his eyes. A dark substance was flowing in his dark brown eyes. They looked as if they had sealed a strange life form inside.

"It's fine, that guy couldn't really do anything to me, but the Dark Material is quite special. It needs sacrifices other than the energy when using it," Mo Fan said.

"Sacrifices? Is it something evil? You should give it up if that is the case!" Feng Zhoulong said quickly.

"It needs Soul Remnants; it's not really evil," Mo Fan explained.

Soul Remnants were purchasable. After all, they were essential for the tools used to increase a person's rate of cultivation. However, only Undead Mages could forge rare and expensive tools like the Soul Containers.

"It's not too bad if it only needs Soul Remnants. Speaking of which, I do have a Soul Container here. I can give it to you," Feng Zhoulong said.

"That's fine, I have one already, it's useful enough for me. The Dark Material is already a great gift, HAHAHA!" Mo Fan burst out laughing.

"Well, you were the one that killed him, so you have the right to claim the loot first. Besides, you've already pointed us in a new direction for our research. Once I learn the secrets of merging different Elements, I promise to tell you our discovery first... I have other things to attend to, but feel free to rest up here and familiarize yourself with the Dark Material. There's a spacious training ground a level below that you can use," Feng Zhoulong said.

"Alright, thanks!"

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Mo Fan went to the fourth floor underground and found a spacious training ground. It was built with a kind of sturdy white rock strong enough to endure Advanced Spells. Mo Fan did not have to worry about the impact of his magic bringing down a few streets on the surface!

That being said, Mo Fan was not going to use his destructive magic. He had just obtained the Fiendish Night, thus he was planning to familiarize himself with it.

Little Loach Pendant had stored lots of Soul Remnants. The number of Soul Remnants was not enough to refine Soul Essences, but they were perfect to be used as sacrifices!

"Old Wolf, come out here!" Mo Fan swiftly tore open a rift and summoned the Flying Creek Snow Wolf from the Summoned Beast Plane.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf observed its surroundings and saw the mischievous grin on Mo Fan's face. He immediately realized he was summoned here to be Mo Fan's punching bag!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf unwillingly stood in a corner and howled, indicating that he was ready.

"Darkness Corruption!"

Mo Fan waved his hand. The invisible aura moved without leaving any trace. A strange black mist appeared out of nowhere at the spot Mo Fan was focusing on. It went into the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's body like a little squid setting up an ambush for a creature larger than it.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf turned around as he sensed something, yet he did not see a single thing. He was totally unaware that the dark substance had already gone into his body!

"Invisible and untraceable, even the victim is unaware of it! Brilliant!" Mo Fan mumbled.

The Darkness Corruption was different from the Giant Shadow Spikes. It was still possible to track the Giant Shadow Spikes with the mind and follow their trails through certain reflections. Meanwhile, the Darkness Corruption was able to appear out of nowhere. When the Seed of Darkness was planted inside the target's body, it would grow and sprout on its own. It could even spread to things nearby, while keeping the target under surveillance...

"I remember Leng Qing was murdered by the Demon Shadow that came out of Xiao Ping's body, which means Xiao Ping was a victim of the Darkness Corruption, too. The Seed of Darkness was planted in her body. Even if Bei Jiang was quite a distance away, the Sprout of Darkness can still turn into a Shadow Demon..." Mo Fan analyzed.

Mo Fan could see the Seed of Darkness growing in the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's body. The dark energy was flowing in the creature's blood, muscles, and bones. When Mo Fan gave his order, the Fiendish Night could activate the dark energy that was corrupting the target!

"Summon Servant!" Mo Fan instructed.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf remained still. His head was full of question marks.

Normally, his master would have fired destructive spells at him; why was he acting so calm today? Did he misunderstand his master? He was not treating him as a punching bag today?

"Awoo!" The Flying Creek Snow Wolf suddenly let out a painful cry. Something had just stabbed him on the back. The pain he felt was several times stronger than usual. He furiously turned around to see. He wanted to know what was trying to mess with him!

However, he did not see anything after he turned around.

"Awoo!"

Before he could react, something stabbed him on the back of his leg. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf immediately realized the place he was standing on was dangerous. He spread his limbs and sprinted across the training ground.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf kept turning his head around to find the thing that was attacking him. He believed it would struggle to hit him while he was running.

"Awooo!"

To the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's surprise, he felt a sharp pain from his head. It immediately drove the creature mad. He swung his claws around. It did not matter if the enemy was close to him. He had to counterattack first!

"HAHAHAHA!" Mo Fan burst out laughing after seeing how miserable the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was.

Little Flame Belle had snuck out too. She sat on Mo Fan's shoulder and burst into laughter.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf concentrated. He finally noticed his shadow moving into a blind spot. The pain had come from the shadow's claw!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf did not understand why his shadow was attacking him all of a sudden. He started running again.

The only problem was... how could a creature possibly outrun its own shadow? The Flying Creek Snow Wolf soon howled in pain again.

"The sequence of using the Darkness Corruption is to first plant a Seed of Darkness, then wait for it to sprout. I can then Summon a Shadow Fiend Demon Servant from it, basically the target's own shadow. The target has no chance of running away from its attacks..." Mo Fan finally understood why Leng Qing's heart had stopped beating, even when she was under heavy surveillance!

It was impossible to defend against the ability if they were unaware of it in the first place!

Chapter 1345 The Shadow Fiend Demon General

"Next is the Shadow Fiend Demon General!" Mo Fan continued with his experiment.

Mo Fan used the Shadow Manipulating Art, but the Shadow Fiend Demon Generals did not show up around the Flying Creek Snow Wolf as he had expected. He had no idea what went wrong.

He remembered how Bei Jiang had summoned many Demon Shadows when fighting him. The shadows looked exactly the same as him, and possessed remarkable strength. Mo Fan could not find a way to get rid of them or kill them. Most of the injuries he had suffered were inflicted by the demon shadows.

Mo Fan was able to Summon the Shadow Fiend Demon Servant from the seeds of Darkness Corruption. However, he believed Bei Jiang was able to Summon many shadows in a shorter time. They did not have to rely on a body as a medium. They could roam freely, like they were alive, and they knew how to work together, too. They were clearly separate from the target's shadow.

The ability was quite powerful. Even though the Darkness Corruption was useful in many ways, the ability to Summon duplicate Demon Shadows was the one that would significantly improve his strength!

"Why isn't it working?" Mo Fan was confused.

He had already sacrificed a Commander-level Soul Remnant, but there was still no sign of the Shadow Fiend Demon Generals around the Flying Creek Snow Wolf, the shadow fiends that were capable of attacking on their own, surrounding the target, and had special abilities...

Mo Fan suddenly realized something after a while.

The Shadow Fiend Demon Servant only showed up when the Darkness Corruption had accumulated enough dark energy in the target's body. If so, he would need a certain amount of dark energy to Summon Shadow Fiend Demon Generals powerful enough to move around and attack the enemy!

"Let's have a go at it... Nyx Regime!" Mo Fan constructed a Shadow Star Constellation.

The training ground was ten meters high; quite impressive, considering the place was built underground. It was completely sealed off by the white bricks. The ceiling was domed like an egg. As Mo Fan completed the Advanced Shadow Spell, the spacious training ground was immersed in complete darkness, as if the lights had been turned off.

The Nyx Regime's darkness was not as simple as turning off the lights and shrouding the sun. It would also strengthen the presence of Dark energy in the area. Its iciness and emptiness would amplify the negative emotions of humans, especially fear. Meanwhile, Darkness Creatures would become significantly stronger in the darkness!

If Mo Fan had a Shadow Element Summoned Beast, it would work well with his Nyx Regime...

The Nyx Regime was established. Mo Fan could see clearly in the darkness. He stared at the Flying Creek Snow Wolf and sacrificed a Commander-level Soul Remnant to Summon the Shadow Fiend Demon Generals!

A silhouette soon appeared in the darkness. The darkness surrounding it seemed a little stronger. It was like a puff of gas floating freely.

As Mo Fan finished channeling the spell, the puff of gas slowly took the shape of a wolf, starting from the head, then the body, and finally the limbs and tail. In just a short period of time, the black gas had turned into a Shadow Fiend Demon General that looked like the Flying Creek Snow Wolf. It emitted a mysterious and dangerous aura!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf seemed to have realized that something was behind him. He turned around and bit with his fangs, confident that his attack would land on his enemy.

The bite was deadly and quick. It was powerful enough to easily crush a meter-thick block of steel.

The Shadow Fiend Demon General immediately turned into mist when it was attacked and spread into its surroundings. The mist slowly gathered in another spot not far away from the Flying Creek Snow Wolf.

Mo Fan gave the order to attack. The Shadow Fiend Demon General bit at the Flying Creek Snow Wolf the same way he was biting at the shadow previously!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was not that intelligent. He was still searching for the Shadow Fiend Demon General when he was attacked from behind. The bite did not cause him to bleed, but his flesh had turned black and corrupted, as if the cells were dead!

"I see! Bei Jiang was using the Dark Swamp to summon the Shadow Fiend Demon General, which means I'll need some sort of Shadow Domain to set up an ideal environment!" Mo Fan finally understood how to use the ability.

Mo Fan had gained a lot of confidence after testing out the two abilities.

Mo Fan was using the Shadow Element as an escape tool most of the time, as the Shadow Element was not compatible with his violent fighting style. However, with the two new abilities, the Shadow Element had become very powerful in fights. The untraceable Darkness Corruption, the betraying shadow that could rise without alerting the target, and the Shadow Fiend Demon Generals that were like duplicates of the target; once Mo Fan improved his Shadow Element, he could defeat lots of experts with just these abilities!

Unfortunately, Mo Fan could only Summon one Shadow Fiend Demon General at most. He was unable to Summon a bunch of them to flank the enemy like Bei Jiang had.

"I'll need to improve my Fire Element. Otherwise, Little Flame Belle won't be able to Possess me.

"I need to improve my Shadow Element as soon as possible to Summon the Shadow Fiend Demon Generals...

"AH, I can't afford to fall behind on the other Elements either! The Space Element, the Lightning Element, the Summoning Element... I still haven't found the way to Awaken the Second Contract. I'll become even stronger if I have another Contracted Beast. It's best if I could get a Shadow Contracted Beast and utilize the maximum potential of the Nyx Regime!"

Mo Fan reflected on his cultivation while sitting in the spacious training ground. He was now strong enough to take on the experts of the Black Vatican!

Mo Fan did not stay in Guangzhou for too long. He went back to the Mount Wuyi Enforcement Union to plant a Seed of Darkness in Cheng Ying, preventing her from evading them regardless of what she was planning.

Mo Fan felt a lot more confident against the Black Vatican after obtaining Bei Jiang's power!

Feng Zhoulong was finally done with the tasks on hand. He went to the training ground to see how Mo Fan was doing with the new Dark Material. However, the guard told him that Mo Fan had already left Guangzhou.

"That ungrateful prick; didn't he promise to treat me to dinner, yet he already left without telling me!" Feng Zhoulong cursed.

Feng Zhoulong shook his head, but he was not too fussed about it.

His thoughts were all on the possibility of merging different Elements. Why were Bei Jiang's Shadow and Chaos Elements merged as one? Was it a sign that the other Elements could merge into one, too? What would happen when the Elements were merged? Would they become stronger, or more unpredictable?

Chapter 1346 Extraditor, the Shepherd

## China's Northwest...

A herd of sheep was moving slowly up a slope. Their white fur resembled the clouds floating in the sky, like reflections of the clouds.

A shepherd sat on a boulder, away from the sunlight. He was munching something, and seemed to be enjoying it. He was not in a rush to tend the sheep. He just let the sheep move on their own, as if he was not worried that they would stray away, or be eaten by the wolves in the wild.

He was about to take a nap when he suddenly sensed something behind him.

He turned around and saw a drawing appearing on the loose ground behind the boulder. The drawing formed a line of unknown characters.

The Shepherd smiled when he saw the magical characters. "You finally remembered me."

It took the words some time to complete a sentence. Extradite Blue Deacon Eagle Eye from Mount Wuyi. She has just taken out an Elder of the Enforcement Union for the Cold Prince. She has merits.

The Shepherd read the sentence, acting as if he was having a conversation with them. He even bowed sincerely at the words.

"I'm willing to serve, but is it really necessary for me to do so for only a Blue Deacon? Where are the stupider, younger Extraditors?" the Shepherd asked.

The Cold Prince is in need of manpower. I've already sent out many of the Extraditors to retrieve capable disciples. The situation Blue Deacon Eagle Eye is in isn't as simple as you imagine. The Enforcement Union might be keeping an eye on her still... appeared on the ground.

"I see. You want me to conveniently take out the pests tailing her, too. Hopefully, the Enforcement Union will send out someone capable. Otherwise, killing them is easier than killing sheep... which is why I would rather tend the sheep now," the Shepherd replied.

There was no further response, since the Shepherd understood his mission.

The Shepherd blew a heavy whistle. The sheep scattered across the place immediately gathered to the Shepherd...

They seemed to be hurrying; not because they were well-trained, but because something terrible would happen to them if they were late...

"Let's go. I bet you all are tired of eating grass, too! Time to change it up..." the Shepherd told them.

Nanping City...

A bus arrived from Mount Wuyi in the city. Cheng Ying, wearing a light blue sweatshirt, came down from the bus.

Behind her was an old man with a walking stick. He was a little scared when he was taking the stairs down the bus. Cheng Ying had a gentle smile and reached her hand out to help the old man.

The old man expressed his gratitude. He even gave Cheng Ying a mandarin peach and said, "Take it, it's very sweet, I planted it myself!"

Cheng Ying took the mandarin and headed to the other side of the bus stop. She seemed to be switching to another bus here. She threw the mandarin into a bin she walked past with a disgusted face.

She hated pretending to be a friendly person. It felt as if she was stained by a disgusting thing, yet she had no choice but to wear the disguise as an authority of the Enforcement Union.

She took a deep breath. She could already smell freedom. She no longer had to wear a mask after today. She no longer had to drape a filthy human skin over her shoulders. She could just be herself; she could torture others and herself as she wished!

There was a bus parked in the corner of the bus station. It was a coach, heading to a different city.

Cheng Ying sat down in the last row. There were a few passengers on the coach. In front of her was a man wearing a gray hat and an outfit common in the northwest. His legs were on the seats in front of him as he leaned against the chair. His face was covered by the hat, fast asleep.

Members of the Black Vatican did not like meeting in suburban areas; it was unwise to do so. The Enforcement Union would never find them as long as they blended into the crowd and society.

"Blue Deacon Eagle Eye?" the man sleeping on the seat in front other spoke up. He did not purposely lower his voice.

Chen Ying was startled. She initially thought she would meet the Extraditor at her destination. She was surprised to see the Extraditor here on the coach.

"I am," Cheng Ying knew that only someone from the Black Vatican would know her title.

"I am the Shepherd."

"It's you... Did the Chief Extraditor send you to me!?" Cheng Ying was overjoyed.

The Shepherd was famous among the Extraditors. It was a great honor for anyone in the Black Vatican to be extradited by him. She believed she had done a great job helping the Cold Prince take out the Elder of

the Enforcement Union. She might be promoted to a Great Deacon after returning to the Black Vatican, and even become the right arm of a Red Cardinal!

"You are clearly not worthy enough to be extradited by me. I believe the Chief Extraditor has sent me here to make sure the Enforcement Union doesn't mess with their plan... Master Cold Prince is up to something huge this time, I can feel it! The smile he had was wider than the one he had during the bloodbath of the Mediterranean Sea. I feel bad for China; they first lost their pride as a nation against Salan, and now, they will be trampled by Master Cold Prince again!" the Shepherd replied.

"I'm willing to take part! Mr. Shepherd, please extradite me, I will not let you down!" Cheng Ying said.

"There's no rush; let's see how many of the Enforcement Union are on your trail," the Shepherd said.

"On my trail? That's impossible. I used a perfect chess piece I had prepared as a decoy. There's no way they will suspect me. I don't think anyone is following me, either," Cheng Ying said confidently.

"Is that so?" The Shepherd smiled and fell silent.

Cheng Ying was aware of the Shepherd's capabilities. She remained quiet, too.

The coach soon left the city and went off on the highway...

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The highway from Nanping to Jiangxi was along ridges and mountains with a meandering path. The highway either went along the middle of mountains or crossed tall bridges between two mountains and drove through tunnels through the huge mountains. The coach would drive from one mountain to another, so the journey was framed by never-ending mountains and faint mists...

"Here will do," the Shepherd stated.

"What do you mean?" Cheng Ying was confused.

"So you're an unqualified Blue Deacon? You should know what you're supposed to do, a simple way to find out if anyone is on your trail," the Shepherd said.

"You're asking me to..." Cheng Ying soon realized what he was referring to...

Chapter 1347 The Gruesome Battle on the Bus

An old man slowly rose to his feet on the bus. He cautiously hid some mandarin peaches behind his seat and used an old shirt to cover them, as if he was worried that someone would steal the mandarins.

He went to the washroom at the back of the bus. He decided to relieve himself after struggling for some time. There was still more than an hour's journey before he reached his son's place.

"Ah, you're on this bus too, what a coincidence!" The old man immediately recognized Cheng Ying seated in the last row. He had a friendly smile like he was eager to converse with her. "People are less polite nowadays. It's really rare to see someone like you, who's willing to help the elderly. Was the

mandarin I gave you sweet? I planted it myself. My son loved them when they were young. I always bring him some whenever I visit him in the city. (Sigh)...he rarely comes home after he started working in the city. We aren't as close now, I wonder if I'm troubling him and his family with my visits..."

Cheng Ying looked at the old man silently. She had already noticed the old man was heading to the same destination as her.

The old man seemed to have misunderstood her. He thought Cheng Ying was willing to hear him out. He added, "There seems to be something wrong with my legs. I can no longer live in the mountains and plant fruits. The doctor suggested me to move to the city since it's cold in the mountains, but my daughter-in-law doesn't seem to like me very much. Besides, I'm having trouble moving on my own because of my legs. I wonder if I'm going to be a hassle for my son. I wouldn't want to disturb them..."

"I can help if it really is troubling you," Cheng Ying said.

"Really? Please tell me," the old man blurted out.

"It's no longer a problem if you were to die now!" Cheng Ying's voice turned cold. She held a sharp icicle that had appeared out of nowhere. She stabbed the defenseless old man in the heart.

The old man did not feel any pain at the start. He only felt a chill around his heart. There was no blood pouring out, as it was frozen by the ice.

Even his breath had turned into a mist. He looked at the woman in astonishment.

The old man had assumed Cheng Ying was a gentle, kind-hearted woman. She even helped him down the stairs, and he had given her a peach as a token of gratitude. The little encounter had provided the old man some relief. If even a stranger was so friendly to him, his son's family would not think of him as a hassle, either.

He never thought the kind-hearted woman would suddenly turn into a detestable murderer!

"Your mandarin was terrible, I believe your son only likes them because he doesn't want to hurt the ego of a piece of trash like you!" Cheng Ying grinned and shoved the old man away.

The old man stared at her. The thought of his son's disgusted face crossed his mind prior to his death.

Was it true?

Was it really that bad?

Was he really a piece of trash?

The pain surged across his body, but for some reason, the emotional pain was worse than the pain from his heart.

"AHHHH!" The other passengers had seen what had happened, and screamed in fear, "Help, she's a murderer!"

The driver quickly slammed on the brakes to stop the bus so the passengers could escape, but a strange voice suddenly barged into his mind, forcing him to lock the doors and continue driving.

The passengers completely lost their calm. They never expected that there would be two cold-blooded murderers on the bus!

"The Enforcement Union will never stand a chance against us. It's too easy to kill someone, but saving a person's life is ten times harder than that! It's very simple to find out if the Enforcement Union is on our trail. We just have to kill these useless vermin of society. If they are nearby, they will show themselves to stop us," the Shepherd yawned.

Every member of the Black Vatican being extradited was an important clue that could lead the Enforcement Union to the Black Vatican. Therefore, every time the Shepherd did his job, he would always use this simple yet effective method.

Killing the people!

Killing at will!

The more innocent the people were, the better!

If the scum of the Enforcement Union were around, they would surely intervene!

If they were not around, they could just treat it as a way to entertain themselves. Besides, the number of people in the world was so high. Even if they were to kill from morning to night, it would still not make any difference to the world!

"Continue with it, take your time, let's torture the people that are on our trail," the Shepherd said.

"I have waited too long for this day!" Cheng Ying laughed. She stared at the timid passengers hiding and screaming in the corners.

A pair of golden wings were soaring in the sky above the mountains. He remained on one side of the mountain to prevent the people on the bus from seeing him.

"Shit, they seemed to be murdering the people on the bus!" Zhao Manyan blurted out.

"Those assholes of the Black Vatican!" Mo Fan's heart burned in rage.

"What are you doing?" Qi Yang of the Preventive Committee immediately stopped Mo Fan.

"Saving the people, of course!" Mo Fan said.

"If you show yourself now, they will know that we are following them. This is the common approach that the Black Vatican use when they are extraditing someone important. If we are serious about taking down the important authorities of the Black Vatican, we have to ignore it. Saving them is the duty of the Enforcers, but our duty is to track them down. If we all act on impulse like you when dealing with the Black Vatican, we'll never be able to track down their Blue Deacons and Red Cardinals!" Qi Yang held Mo Fan firmly, not willing to let Mo Fan act recklessly.

Qi Yang had been hunting for the Black Vatican for a long time. The Black Vatican had always played them like a fiddle. The Enforcement Union never made any progress because of this, thus they came up with a different approach.

People like them were only responsible for tracking the Black Vatican. They were not allowed to show themselves, no matter what happened.

Against a cult like the Black Vatican, they would never make any progress by adhering to normal ways!

"So you're telling me to just watch them die?" Mo Fan looked at Qi Yang.

"If you are serious about tracking down a Red Cardinal, you will have to bear the condemnation of your conscience. Cheng Ying is a Blue Deacon, and the Extraditor with her is one of the best they have. Not only is he extremely powerful, he also has direct access to the higher-ups of the Black Vatican. There's a good chance we'll learn the identity of a Chief Extraditor, or even a Red Cardinal. There are only around a dozen people on the bus. It's worth it if we can stop something like the Incident of the Red Mediterranean Sea from happening!" Qi Yang said sternly.

Mo Fan was in the car right behind the bus. He took a deep breath.

He stood up with silver Stars flickering around him. The Stars joined into Star Orbits, which further combined into Star Patterns, and eventually constructed a Star Constellation...

"I'm afraid I don't agree with you. I'm not a Tracker like you, and I don't really care about the bigger picture here. We can always find another way to stop them, but the dead will never return. I don't want to carry the guilt for the rest of my life!" Mo Fan said.

As he finished the sentence, the number of Stars around him had reached 343.

The brilliance of the Stars reached its limit. They soon shattered into pieces and disappeared magically.

The following second, Mo Fan appeared on the roof of the bus.

Qi Yang looked at Mo Fan's figure standing in the strong wind. He was left speechless for a moment.

Every person had their own decisions to make. It did not necessarily mean Mo Fan was doing the wrong thing. Qi Yang had understood that the heart of the strongest participant in the World College Tournament was like a fire burning without restrictions.

"Damn it, I can't stand it any further too. I'll kill those two sons of b\*\*ches!" Zhao Manyan dove from the sky and landed heavily on the roof of the bus.

The impact blasted a hole in the roof. Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan jumped into the bus.

The bus was quite big, with a spacious walkway. The driver's mind was being controlled. The bus was still picking up speed on the highway. A strong wind was now blowing in through the hole, knocking the things inside the bus flying.

"Save the people," Mo Fan told Zhao Manyan.

"Got it!" Zhao Manyan had outstanding defensive powers. He would not have any problem protecting the civilians.

He immediately cast Water Barrier on the passengers. A golden Rampart split the bus in two, preventing any harm from befalling the passengers.

Mo Fan saw the passengers were all at the front of the bus. He decisively summoned a bolt of lightning.

The bolt of lightning slashed at the spot where Zhao Manyan had placed his Rampart, splitting the bus in two!

The second half of the bus began to lose its momentum, but the front half sped up and pulled away!

Mo Fan was left in the second half of the bus. He stood close to where the bus was split in half and stared at the Shepherd and Cheng Ying coldly. His chest was burning with rage when he saw the dead old man.

"You couldn't even bear it when we only killed one person," the Shepherd sighed. "You're most likely a new Enforcer...there were fifteen people on the bus. If you didn't show up, only fifteen would die, but it's now seventeen, including you and your partner," The Shepherd remained seated even while the second half of the bus was shaking vigorously.

"Extraditor, he's not an Enforcer, he's Mo Fan!" Cheng Ying recognized Mo Fan right away.

Cheng Ying was surprised to learn that she was actually being followed. In other words, she had killed Su Qingqing for nothing. Her identity had been exposed!

"Mo Fan? Oh, I remember now, you're the guy that gave Salan a huge headache! I believe they also call you the strongest participant in the World College Tournament... it turns out that the Chief Extraditor wasn't lying to me. This is indeed an interesting job!" The Shepherd finally rose to his feet and took a closer look at Mo Fan.

Chapter 1348 Black Goat General

"Come out! Time to enjoy the delicacy you all have long waited for!" the Shepherd declared. Evil lunar-colored Stars connected in lines and combined into a dimensional gate.

A strong presence of evil burst out of the dimensional gate. Mo Fan first saw a pair of giant black horns emitting a strong aura of the dead. It looked like countless vengeful spirits were circling the horns.

A black creature stepped out of the gate. The bound spirits were creatures that its horns had brutally killed and tortured. They broadcast their pain and fear at Mo Fan as they lunged at him.

Mo Fan could not care less about the vengeful spirits. He was staring at the creature with black goat horns.

As a matter of fact, the creature did resemble a goat, but it was standing like a human, its body leaning forward. Its chest, arms, and stomach were covered by black armor. It had hands, currently holding two blood-stained giant black hammers. Obviously the creature used the hammers to smash meat!

The Black-Armored Goat-Horned Demon let out a roar. The deafening cry penetrated Mo Fan's Spiritual World eerily and disrupted the order of his Stars.

Mo Fan hated creatures with the ability to disrupt his mind the most, since he would have trouble using his magic. He took a few steps back.

Cheng Ying grinned cruelly. She waved her hands, firing blue light dots all over what remained of the bus. Several Man-Eating Plants grew out from them. Their stems and roots started attacking Mo Fan at his blind spots.

Mo Fan's Spiritual World was still being disrupted by the Black-Armored Goat-Horned Demon's roar. He had no choice but to keep moving back. When he noticed the bus was about to enter a tunnel, he decisively jumped out onto the flat highway.

The second half of the bus lost control, and eventually slammed into the wall of the tunnel. Both the Shepherd and Cheng Ying jumped off the bus before it crashed.

Thick smoke rose as the bus burst into flames. Mo Fan glanced at the bus, his eyes emitting a silvery glitter.

Mo Fan controlled the bus that had erupted in flames with Telekinesis, hurling the bus at the Black-Armored Goat-Horned Demon. He would not let the creature utter that annoying roar again!

The Black-Armored Goat-Horned Demon swung its hammers and smashed the bus away and down the mountainside. The sounds the bus made as it rolled down the mountain gradually faded into the distance.

"Nine Dragons!" Mo Fan slammed his fist into the ground. The road cracked apart in front of him as pillars of lava burst out like fiery dragons, a spectacular and deadly sight.

The nine pillars of lava did not form the pattern of the Nine Palace, springing up in a straight line instead. A strong fire burst out as they approached the Black-Armored Goat-Horned Demon, instantly devouring it!

The creature's armor turned blazing red from the heat, and the impact sent the Black-Armored Goat-Horned Demon flying. It took the creature some time to fall back to the ground.

However, a blinding lightning bolt swept across the dim sky and struck the creature before it reached the ground!

The armor of the Black-Armored Goat-Horned Demon was not effective against the lightning, especially when its damage was amplified twelvefold. Even its flesh blistered after the lightning broke through its armor!

The blast left a scorched hole in the Black-Armored Goat-Horned Demon, yet it soon rose to its feet, as if it did not feel any pain. It started swinging the hammers around again.

The hammers slammed into one another, unleashing inky-black sparks in Mo Fan's direction . He dodged aside with the Fleeing Shadow, not daring to underestimate the dancing black motes.

The sparks crashed into the mountain wall and left huge cracks on it. A few seconds later, the cracks had drive deep into the stone. The mountainside soon shattered, and exploded into pieces!

Mo Fan glanced at the remains of the mountainside in shock. The creature possessed remarkable strength. The sparks it fired would crush a living thing to pieces!

"Man-Eating Plant!" Cheng Ying cast after she located him.

Mo Fan had turned into a tiny shadow standing at the entrance of the tunnel. The mouth of a huge plant came down from the ceiling of the tunnel and lunged at him fiercely.

The stomach of the Man-Eating Plant was extremely thick. Once the creature swallowed its target, not only would its victim struggle to break through its stomach, its strength would decrease significantly due to the plant's secretions. The longer its prey spent in its stomach, the greater the danger it was in!

Mo Fan immediately cast the advanced Fleeing Shadow. His shadow split into six and fled rapidly in different directions. The shadows all looked exactly the same. It was unlikely that anything could tell which one was real quickly enough to attack him!

The shadows scattered like a school of fish. The Man-Eating Plant's attack missed.

Mo Fan snuck into the dim tunnel. It was more favorable for him.

The Shepherd and Cheng Ying followed him into the tunnel, eager to murder him. Cheng Ying's Man-Eating Plants were everywhere. Mo Fan kept feeling a chill going down his back wherever he went.

Meanwhile, the creature that the Shepherd had Summoned was clearly not as simple as it seemed. It was surprisingly quick, and suddenly charged at Mo Fan with a burst of speed. Mo Fan barely dodged the creature by sticking close to the edge of the tunnel.

"Nyx Regime!" Mo Fan did not want to be so passive in the battle, especially since the goat-horned creature was able to disrupt his magic.

Thick darkness billowed up the long tunnel. The lights inside it could no longer illuminate anything. The Domain would at least prevent the Goat-Horned Demon from roaring at Mo Fan directly!

The creature's roars fanned out from it. Even though it did not necessarily mean Mo Fan could not hear the roar if he was behind it, the disturbance to his mind was significantly weaker, so he could Cast more easily!

"If you're so keen on using these little tricks, my Black Goat General is more than willing to play with you!" the Shepherd called out disdainfully.

Cheng Ying and the Shepherd had no reason to stay any longer. It was obvious that the Enforcement Union was trying to follow them to the Black Vatican's headquarters, and they were still in the Enforcement Union's territory, after all. If they stayed too long, they would have a hard time running away once the Enforcement Union's experts showed up!

The Shepherd uttered a strange chant that drove the Black Goat General mad. It slammed its hammers onto its chest. Every strike produced a ripple of black energy, and the creature began to grow!

After a few blows, the Black Goat General, which was initially around four meters tall, reached the ceiling of the tunnel. It continued to grow larger. The tunnel began to tremble under the pressure...

The tunnel could not withstand the pressure. The creature's head smashed through the ceiling.

The tunnel was ran through a mountain. As the Black Goat General kept growing, the mountain began to shake, and huge rocks began to tumble down from it. Half the mountain collapsed, together with the tunnel!

"Damn it, it's still growing?" Mo Fan stared at the Black Goat General. He could not help but wonder what kind of monster it was.

The Shepherd was obviously a Summoner, and his Summoned Beast was extremely unique. Mo Fan had no clue how to deal with it. He could only watch it keep growing...

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On the other side of the mountain, rocks and soil crumbled as the tunnel began to collapse. The front half of the bus was still moving down the road.

As the mountain shook, the bridge connecting the mountain outside the tunnel began to collapse. Zhao Manyan was standing on the roof of the bus. He yelled at the driver when he saw the bus was still picking up speed, "Stop, stop outside the tunnel, don't go onto the bridge!"

Zhao Manyan's shout was ineffective. It seemed the driver was determined to take every passenger with him to death, as he stepped hard on the gas. The bus raced out onto the bridge, which was already crumbling!

The bridge was built between two mountains, held in place by supports rising from the narrow valley below. A few of the supports had already collapsed when the mountain rocked behind them!

The bridge began to collapse in front of them after the supports broke. It was like the bridge was diving straight down. The passengers on the bus were terrified. Some immediately fainted, while the ones that were still conscious were screaming at the top of their lungs.

"Damn it, the driver is being controlled. The Extraditor is still trying to kill everyone on the bus!" Zhao Manyan jumped back into the bus after he realized something was not right.

He glanced at the driver before knocking him out with a single punch.

The bus shook and occasionally slammed into the barriers on the sides of the bridge. It almost went over the side a few times. To make things even worse, the middle wheels began to fall off under the vibrations. The bus started to skid as it slowed down, but it was moving too quickly. It continued its descent into the canyon below!

Zhao Manyan hopped into the driver's seat and grabbed the wheel. "Hold on tight!" he yelled at the passengers.

The color of his pupils shifted. A brown light glowed in them as he activated the Eyes of the Rock Demon!

Zhao Manyan gained control of the crumbling stone. He swiftly gathered them to where the bridge had broken. The bus hurtled into the gap, but a bridge made of rocks had formed a path for it!

The bus continued forward onto the bridge that Zhao Manyan had built with the Eyes of the Rock Demon. The stones behind them collapsed completely, while the bridge kept extending forward in front of them. It felt like the bus was riding on air!

With a massive bump, the bus landed on the other half of the bridge. The road there was still intact. Zhao Manyan set up a Water Curtain about the bus, preventing it from ramming into the mountain wall!

"Phew"! Such a close call!" Zhao Manyan had full control of the bus now, and let out a relieved sigh.

He had never dared to fly across bridge-gaps in his sports car, but now he had experienced it first hand while driving a bus!

He turned around and saw most of the passengers were unharmed, apart from a few bumps. No one had been flung from the bus, either.

"Consider yourself lucky, to bump into me, Zhao Xiaotian!" Zhao Manyan smiled.

The passengers were troubled by nausea, and some even vomited. They were just ordinary people. It was too terrifying an experience to be flying across the valley just now.

As Zhao Manyan was treating the injured, a huge explosion came from the tunnel. The passengers had yet to recover when they saw the mountain collapsing behind them. As it was happening, an enormous figure stood up from within, rocks and boulders rolling off its body!

Zhao Manyan whirled around and stared in astonishment!

He initially thought the mountain had collapsed because of Mo Fan's destructive magic, but it turned out the mountain had collapsed because that enormous creature kept on growing!

"Get on your feet and run!" Zhao Manyan did not dare let the passengers rest. He quickly used Earth Wave to send the people on ahead.

The creature was just too huge! Humans were like mere insects to it. Even the vehicles on the highway were like toys to it. It could easily smash them flat with a slap!

Huge deafening impacts continued. The ridges nearby were starting to collapse now!

Zhao Manyan saw the goat-horned monster was holding two steel hammers. It smashed the hammer down at a hillside, and almost broke it to pieces.

Zhao Manyan noticed a black figure hopping nimbly between the falling rocks. He was using the rocks as stepping stones...

The figure reached the area where the bridge had collapsed. The monster swung its hammer down at the same time. Zhao Manyan was aghast; he thought Mo Fan was about to turn into a meat patty, and

then Mo Fan suddenly showed up beside him after a silver light flickered beneath the descending hammer. He still had a faint silver glow about him!

"What the heck is that!?" Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

"How do I f\*\*king know?! Let's find a place to hide!" Mo Fan had almost been buried under the mountain!

Mo Fan thought the Black Goat General would only grow a few times bigger, to a maximum height of forty meters. He had fought against huge creatures before. To his surprise, the creature just kept growing. It even destroyed the tunnel, and the mountain above! The four-lane highway was barely big enough to fit its hoof. A little stomp had destroyed more than two kilometers of the road!

Luckily, Qi Yang had stopped other vehicles from entering this stretch of road. Otherwise, a lot more people would have died!

The Shepherd was out of his mind, causing such destruction on purpose, as if he simply wanted to create chaos. Only members of the Black Vatican who were confident in their strength would dare to blatantly cause so much destruction. The Enforcement Union was not just mere decoration!

However, the Shepherd did indeed treat the Enforcement Union as just air. He had no respect for them whatsoever!

"Where are they?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"They ran away. Let's take this monster out first. Otherwise, everyone on the highway is going to die!" Mo Fan said.

"You say it like it's easy! A small creature isn't necessarily weak, but a huge creature is always strong. It can knock us to the other side of the mountain with a sneeze!" Zhao Manyan complained.

"Cut the crap, and lure it away from the highway with me. We'll take it out in the basin there!" Mo Fan pointed.

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They tried luring the creature to somewhere favorable for them to fight, but the Black Goat General seemed intelligent, and was reluctant to leave the highway. It started destroying the hillsides as soon as Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan tried to leave.

They were left with no choice. They had to fight the Black Goat General here!

A swing of a hammer brought down the second half of the bridge. Zhao Manyan failed to find himself a foothold. He fell into the stream, together with the bridge, rocks covering him...

Zhao Manyan activated his Magic Wings as he almost reached the bottom, and came to a stop in midair. However, more concrete, debris, and rocks collapsed on him, and he still ended up being buried in the waters below!

"Damn it, how useless is he!?" Mo Fan cursed when he saw Zhao Manyan buried under the debris.

Mo Fan raised his head almost ninety degrees. He was shocked to see the Black Goat General opening its mouth again. It was trying to unleash the sonic wave again!

The sonic wave had created a great disturbance in his mind when the creature was only a few meters tall. Mo Fan bet the sonic wave at its current height would make him explode!

"Sky Lightning Claw!"

Mo Fan didn't allow the creature to have its way. He clenched his hands into claws, lightning flickering around them. A stormy cloud quickly gathered above the Black Goat General, and a dark Sky Lightning Claw swept down when the Black Goat General opened its mouth.

The Black Goat General did not dare eat the lightning. It quickly closed its mouth and raised a giant hammer to resist Mo Fan's Sky Lightning Claw.

The lightning attached to the hammer instead of dissipating. The intelligent Black Goat General swung the hammer, firing a shocking lightning bolt in Mo Fan's direction!

Mo Fan was dumbfounded. The creature had used the hammer to absorb his lightning!?

Mo Fan dodged the hammer, but the black sparks and the lightning were right on his trail. Mo Fan had no choice but to bring out his Black Snake Armor.

The Black Snake Armor was not that effective against the lightning. The black sparks the hammer produced were shockingly powerful, too! The Black Snake Armor was severely damaged even though Mo Fan had just put it on. Great pain surged across his body as he spat a mouthful of blood out.

"Little Flame Belle!"

Mo Fan knew he did not stand a chance against the enormous creature. He immediately Summoned Little Flame Belle.

Little Flame Belle was at the Advanced Commander-level. Her body was engulfed in two different kinds of flames. As her flames sprang into the sky, a glamorous sorceress with elegant long hair appeared!

Flame Belle was enraged when she saw Mo Fan was injured, and let out a cry into the sky. The flames swiftly dyed the blue sky red and scattered across it, forming a spectacular blazing diagram above the Black Goat General!

Chapter 1350 Act in Contravention

Flames poured down from the Fury Flames Sky Diagram. The trails of the flames burst through the clouds and ridges, forming spectacular fiery pillars. The flames lunged at the Black Goat General. The creature raised its hammer again to defend itself.

However, the Black Goat General was struggling to resist the Flame Belle's overwhelming power. The flames spread wildly after landing on the hammer, covering everything within a kilometer. It was a great display of how powerful the flames were.

The Black Goat General slid down the mountain and was knocked to a lower altitude by the flames. There were a few gentle slopes nearby, but they were only around the height of the Black Goat General's knees.

The Black Goat General slid across the hills and razed them to the ground!

Its hammers were blazing red from the heat of the flames. Their scorching heat spread to the Black Goat General's arms, forcing it to toss the hammers to the ground. The hammers were the same size as the hills!

"Nicely done!" Mo Fan exclaimed.

As he thought, Little Flame Belle was strong enough to take on the creature. Mo Fan was clearly struggling against it. The new abilities he had recently acquired was obviously not that effective against the enormous creature.

Mo Fan had no intention of using his newest abilities for the time being, either. Cheng Ying and the Shepherd would be much more cautious if they learned he had acquired Bei Jiang's abilities!

Flame Belle was not done with her attacks. She floated freely in the sky and glided down the steep slopes, followed by flames engulfing her like a blazing robe.

The Calamity Fire burned vigorously as she was gliding down. She gradually turned into the outline of a Vermilion Bird as she charged at the Black Goat General.

The Vermilion Bird's size was quite impressive. It was like a cloud when it fully extended its wings, ramming into the Black Goat General and stirring up a great storm as it knocked the Black Goat General to the ground.

The mountains were devoured by the flames. Mo Fan looked down and saw the entire basin had turned into a burning ocean. He could not help but feel impressed by Little Flame Belle's strength. Mo Fan felt like he did not even need to take part in the battle.

"Little Flame Belle is taking care of the monster. Let's go after those two. We can't let them run away!" Zhao Manyan finally showed up again.

"It's fine, we'll take care of this Black Goat General first," Mo Fan shook his head.

"Why? Are you seriously willing to let them run away?" Zhao Manyan said.

"I've already planted the Dark Material in their bodies. I can easily tell where they are. Just let them go. If they don't feel confident and safe, we'll never come into contact with the Chief Extraditor and the Red Cardinals," Mo Fan told him.

The Fiendish Night was the best Dark Material when it came to tracking down targets. Mo Fan would immediately receive feedback from the Dark Material whenever Cheng Ying and the Shepherd cast the simplest spell. Mo Fan did not show up intending to take the assholes out. He believed they would assume they had gotten away safely after this encounter, allowing him to track down the authorities of the Black Vatican!

"What Dark Material?" Zhao Manyan was clueless about what Mo Fan was saying.

"Anyway, they won't run away from us... I'm feeling a little hungry, let's have some roasted lamb tonight!" Mo Fan said.

"..." Zhao Manyan was left speechless.

Mo Fan was a battle maniac. He could not rely on Little Flame Belle every time. If he was up against someone like Bei Jiang, even Little Flame Belle could not do anything to them. As such, he had to keep improving through endless battles!

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"I'm seriously going to die because of you one day!" Zhao Manyan grumbled.

Zhao Manyan was circling in the sky like a golden eagle.

Around a thousand meters below them, the enormous Black Goat General was recklessly destroying everything. It tried to climb back up to the highway to kill more humans, but Flame Belle did not give it a chance. She continued to blast the Black Goat General and injure it.

A huge creature usually had outstanding vitality. Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan did not want the creature to continue with its tantrum. They were waiting for an opportunity to strike while circling in the air!

"Go down!" Mo Fan said.

"Now?"

"Of course!"

Zhao Manyan dove from a thousand meters with Mo Fan.

Mo Fan began to unleash his lightning. It was like a lightning tribulation from the Heavens, coming down right at the Black Goat General.

Mo Fan had accumulated lightning in the sky for a long time. Its power was more than double normal as it drilled its way down!

Mo Fan blasted a hole in the Black Goat General's head. Its brains scattered in the air.

The Black Goat General was focused on the battle against the Flame Belle, totally unaware that Mo Fan was in the sky above it. The powerful lightning bolt staggered the creature. Flame Belle, whose mind was linked to Mo Fan's, immediately took hold of the opportunity. She uttered a cry, summoning the Calamity Fire of the Heavens and Earth!

The flames swiftly formed a burning sword as tall as a building. Its ripples spread through the sky and burned the trees within a kilometer into ashes.

The burning sword howled and stabbed the Black Goat General in the hole that she had previously left in the creature's chest. A third of the sword went into the creature's body. The raging flames set its insides on fire.

The Black Goat General cried out in agony. An evil aura jetted out from the stab wound like a black gas. The Black Goat General began to shrink in size.

The enormous creature that had been like a giant pillar between the sky and the ground soon became small enough to hide among the trees on the mountain.

The little black goat realized it was no match for these maniacs. It immediately fled for its life, but Flame Belle saw through its disguise right away. She forcibly dragged the creature back with Space Magic and prepared to roast it with the Calamity Fire.

Perhaps she had heard Mo Fan mentioning that he wanted to eat some roasted lamb tonight. She could easily roast some delicious lamb shanks for him!

"Oh my! Since when is your Little Flame Belle so strong?" Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

The enormous creature was so unstoppable, yet it could not do anything to Little Flame Belle. Little Flame Belle in the Adolescent Phase was still dominating when going up against regular creatures!

"She's currently in the Advanced Commander-level!" Mo Fan smiled.

"Doesn't that mean she is very close to becoming a Ruler-level creature?" Zhao Manyan exclaimed. "If she's already so strong in the Adolescent Phase, won't she be a lot stronger than normal Ruler-level creatures once she reaches the Adult Phase? What a lucky bastard you are!"

"Do you have any idea how much I've spent on her 'milk powder'?" Mo Fan retorted.

The money he had spent on Little Flame Belle was almost the same as the money he had spent on himself! Lingling had already mentioned right at the beginning that if he fed Little Flame Belle 'milk powder' of the best quality, she would be stronger than normal Flame Belles. After all, the Flame Belles were a unique Fire Elemental species. Giving her a stronger source of flames would help her to awaken stronger powers!

That being said, Zhao Manyan was right, too. If Little Flame Belle was already so strong in the Adolescent Phase, she was clearly going to be a formidable Ruler-level creature once she reached the Adult Phase!

"Why do I feel like there's nothing special about the Shepherd? The monster goat is pretty tough, but it's not something that we can't defeat," Zhao Manyan said.

Mo Fan shook his head and said, "I'm afraid you are wrong. He just left the Black Goat General here without bothering to retrieve it. It just means he doesn't even care about this Summoned Beast. Besides, he's called the Shepherd. Have you ever seen a shepherd with only one sheep?"

Zhao Manyan blurted out in surprise, "Holy crap, are you saying the guy has a whole pack of these monsters?"

"I bet so; the Shepherd is very powerful, indeed	. It won't end up well i	f we insisted on	chasing him
down," Mo Fan said.			

Mo Fan soon regrouped with Qi Yang.

Qi Yang was an experienced Enforcer. He had done a great job at preventive measures. He immediately intercepted all the vehicles on the highway when Mo Fan decided to engage the enemy, limiting the casualties for this incident.

Zhao Manyan managed to save the passengers on the bus, too. The driver was still in a terrible state. It would take him a long time to recover.

Apart from the Summoning Element, the Shepherd also had the Psychic Element. His mental strength was very impressive. Most ordinary people would be trapped in a vegetative state after falling victim to him. It was a great relief that the driver was still able to recover.

"A person still died on the bus, but it's the best we could do. You guys... not only did you lose the important person we were tailing, people are going to comment on how bad you guys were, causing such devastating damage to the highway and stirring up panic!" Qi Yang sighed.

"Who cares? There are too many idiots in this world. If we cared so much about what they thought, we would only wear ourselves out," Zhao Manyan answered.

"Don't worry, they won't get away this time. I know where they are," Mo Fan smiled. He slowly opened his palm. A little black fly-like fairy landed on it. "They have crossed the mountains and are heading for the city. How cunning are they, acting in contravention. They were planning to hide in the city all along..."

"They went back to the city?" Qi Yang was stunned.

He had already sent his men to search for them in the mountains after they disappeared, hoping to pick up their trail again. He was surprised to learn they had gone back to the city instead. If so, they would not find any clues, even if they searched in the mountains for days!