

Versatile 2461

Chapter 2461: It's all Speculation?

England, a castle close to a cliff...

A magnificent corridor led to a luxurious suite at the end. A man was lying tiredly on the couch in the living room.

Another man was also lying on the carpet in front of the couch. Only Mu Bai, clad in a sharp gray suit, was resting on a chair.

The man on the carpet had a phone beside him. When he heard what the other end was saying, he immediately sat upright with a stern face.

"We have to go back to China now!" Mo Fan said.

"Are you kidding me? We just finished a job for that little witch Ayleen. I'm worn out!" protested Zhao Manyan, who had just sunk into the couch.

Mu Bai opened his eyes. "Mo Fan, tell us what happened." He had heard a little of the conversation on the phone.

"We'll hear it from Houzi in detail on the way!" Mo Fan answered.

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They put on helmets and asked for the fastest Wind Gauze Inferior Dragon. Soon they were soaring into the stormy clouds above England and heading west.

"Are we going in the wrong direction?" Zhao Manyan asked. The Wind Gauze Inferior Dragon was heading to the Pacific Ocean!

"The Earth is round, dumbass!" Mo Fan finally found a chance to mock others despite being completely clueless about geography.

"Is Zhang Xiaohou in Hawaii?" Mu Bai asked, noting their course.

"Mm, we'll meet him there first. How long will it take this Wind Gauze Inferior Dragon to reach Hawaii?" Mo Fan asked.

"Around twenty hours," Mu Bai calculated.

The Wind Gauze Inferior Dragon was Ayleen's reward for their job. It had Wind Magic comparable to the Flying Dragon. It was also faster than a Flying Dragon, and its Tamed Level was Six Stars.

However, Ayleen was extremely stingy. She only gave them one Wind Gauze Inferior Dragon. She was unwilling to give them two Flying Dragons.

Luckily, even though the Wind Gauze Inferior Dragon was slightly smaller than a Flying Dragon, it had enough strength to carry the three men.

Flying over the oceans was a lot safer than flying on land. After all, most sea monsters were deep in the sea. They were not interested in trespassers in the sky above.

The land had species and tribes that ruled the skies. They would not allow low-level creatures to fly over their territory.

That being said, the Wind Gauze Inferior Dragon would have no trouble flying over most places. Most demon creatures would avoid it after sensing the huge dragon's presence!

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A flight of twenty hours was enough for the three to get some rest.

When they arrived in Hawaii, Mo Fan could not help but wonder how the Americans were able to guarantee the safety of these islands that were in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

"Apparently, the Hawaiian Islands have a natural mineral around them that releases a special magic Aura. The sea monsters hate it, so they aren't interested in these islands," Mu Bai explained to him, as expected of the top student!

"Wouldn't our coasts be safe if we placed the mineral along the coastline?" Mo Fan asked eagerly.

"Do you think that's possible? It has to be natural and unmined."

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They found Zhang Xiaohou in a park. Mo Fan could not help but chide him, "Do you really have to hide in the park like a homeless guy, even though you are a Super Mage?"

"I don't have anything to identify myself, nor did I bring any money," Zhang Xiaohou coughed awkwardly.

Mo Fan was speechless. They were about to do something shocking, but he still cared if he was to do a little stealing?

"I'm actually very tired. I have the urge to enjoy my vacation here. I've always wanted to come here," Zhao Manyan went on tiredly.

The four sat down on the grass.

Zhao Manyan even went to a vending machine to buy some cold beer. However, he dropped the bottles on the ground when he heard that their operation that was related to a Forbidden Curse.

"Are you out of your minds?" Zhao Manyan shrieked.

They were planning to stop a Forbidden Curse by destroying its Induction!

Zhao Manyan had a feeling they were going to do something crazy when the four of them had come all the way here to work together. Knowing their strength, it had to be something insane if the four of them had to cooperate.

However, he never thought it would be stopping a Forbidden Curse!

They were talking about a Forbidden Curse. Every human was equal before a Forbidden Curse!

Everyone was going to perish, whether they were a Super Mage, an Advanced Mage, an Intermediate Mage, or a Basic Mage!

“What exactly is going on? Isn’t the Forbidden Curse supposed to eliminate the threat? Shouldn’t the military be giving its full support?” Mu Bai asked quickly.

“I only know there is something scarier than we all have imagined among the sea monsters. Not only is their intelligence on par with humans, but they have also been using all kinds of ways to understand us, and learn our strategies and abilities. They are also using certain people to set a trap for us,” Zhang Xiaohou told them.

Even though humans were generally weaker than demon creatures, they had relied on their intelligence and unity to fend off the demon creatures that had invaded their territory.

Therefore, they subconsciously thought they could fend off the sea monsters with their intelligence too, but this time, they were wrong!

“Well... some academics did mention the possibility of the sea monsters having their own civilization in the deep sea, but we know too little about the sea,” Mu Bai nodded, agreeing with Zhang Xiaohou.

“It’s likely that the sea monsters already know about our plan of using a Forbidden Curse. They are planning to use it to their advantage!” Zhang Xiaohou continued.

“Xiaohou, aren’t you a general? You can just show your superiors the evidence. I believe we can solve the matter peacefully. Why do we have to do it the hard way?” Zhao Manyan complained.

Zhang Xiaohou shook his head with a wry smile, “The problem is, I don’t have any evidence.”

“...”

“So you’re saying it is all your speculation?” Even Mu Bai was stunned.

He thought Zhang Xiaohou had discovered a shocking secret, but he did not have any evidence to back his statement?

Were they going to stop a Forbidden Curse because of mere speculation?

If it had happened in the old times, it would be treason, and their whole family for nine generations would be sentenced to death!

“Don’t worry, I won’t ask everyone to risk their lives for something that is just speculation. It’s a little sloppy. We might have to split into two groups,” Zhang Xiaohou went on.

“Why are we splitting up?” Mo Fan asked.

“I’ll look for the evidence.. It’s in the area another troop is surveying as an option for the Induction. If it also has the Crust’s Axle like the silver vein I found, the Dragon King Krill might end up being a trap!”

Chapter 2462: They will Die after Finishing the Job

"If you are looking for evidence, what about the other group?" Zhao Manyan pressed.

"The other group is going to stop the Induction. Isn't it obvious?" Mu Bai cast a disdainful look at Zhao Manyan. He had noticed the man's intelligence would drop rapidly whenever he was involved in something risky and challenging.

Zhang Xiaohou nodded and added, "I need more convincing evidence, and it will only appear when the Induction is happening."

"So we are splitting into two groups. You are going to verify if your speculation is right while we will be waiting at Qinghuangdao. Once you confirm it's true, we'll have to stop the Induction immediately. Am I right?" Mo Fan asked for clarity.

"Yes!" Zhang Xiaohou nodded firmly.

Zhao Manyan disagreed with their plan. "But, can't we just sit this one out? If it's only a fifty percent chance of it being a trap, we'll just let it be. Why do we have to insist on getting ourselves killed?"

It was ridiculous! They had finally made it to the Super Level. It was time for them to shine!

They were planning to stop a Forbidden Curse when they had yet to enjoy the benefits of being Super Mages! Was it their job to worry about a Forbidden Curse?

What were the Magic Association of the Five Continents doing? What about the mysterious organizations of their country and the powerful organizations across the world?

"I would like to try my best if possible," Zhang Xiaohou looked at the others sternly.

"Brother Fan, Brother Zhao, Mu Bai, I...I'm not good with logic and reasoning, nor am I good at organizing information. I can't even tell if the sea monster was playing with my mind or if it's actually what I want to do.

"However, I couldn't allow myself to just stand on the side and watch it happen. I have to find out the truth, whether it's a trap or not!

"I also believe you guys are the only people with the same thoughts as me."

Zhang Xiaohou's thoughts were still in chaos.

The sea monsters were capable of playing with their minds. Yang Xiajie's lingering soul might also have been fake. The sea monster could be trying to trick him into stopping the Forbidden Curse so the Dragon King Krill could survive.

He had no idea if he was being tricked, or if he was told the truth. He had to find out the truth himself!

“Brother Fan, I don’t know if you can understand me, but... it’s what I’m going to do,” Zhang Xiaohou lowered his head. It was obvious that he felt sorry for involving them.

It was an extremely risky operation. He was basically asking the three to jump into a burning sea with him!

“I understand,” Mo Fan patted Zhang Xiaohou’s shoulder.

“Are you sure you understand? Why can’t I make sense of it!?” Zhao Manyan protested.

“Old Zhao, let me explain it to you in a simpler way. Don’t the criminals in the movies always run away whenever they hear police sirens?” Mo Fan said.

“Why are you bringing that up now?” Zhao Manyan was confused.

“Many people feel confused and scold the police for being stupid. Why do they have to turn on the loud sirens to warn the criminals they are coming? Isn’t that just giving the criminals time to run away?” Mo Fan went on.

Mu Bai and Zhang Xiaohou were looking at Mo Fan with puzzled expressions too. What did this have to do with their situation?

On second thought, the sirens in the movies were indeed unnecessary. The criminals were long gone by the time the police arrived!

“But think about it... the sirens are meant to prevent crimes. If the sirens reach the scene a minute earlier than the police cars do, it might save a victim’s life.

“Although it’s unlikely that the criminals will happen to be killing the victims a minute before the police arrive, the sirens still have a slim chance of scaring the criminals away and saving lives. Therefore, it’s worth it to turn on the sirens.

“After all, they can still catch the criminals again after they escape, but a lost life is gone forever. It’s the best way to preserve human lives.”

Mo Fan patted Zhang Xiaohou on the shoulder again and smiled, “Even if the odds are only a hundred to one instead of a fifty percent chance, you will still try to find out the truth. It’s your way of treasuring human lives.”

As long as they still had a chance, it was worth the try!

Mo Fan was too familiar with Zhang Xiaohou. He had never changed. If Zhang Xiaohou had decided NOT to do anything, Mo Fan might think he had been influenced by the sea monster.

“Let’s do it. From now on, I am your soldier ready to follow any orders from you!” Mo Fan might not be a soldier, but he gave Zhang Xiaohou a proper salute.

Zhang Xiaohou bit his lips and took a deep breath.

When he woke up on the deserted island in despair, Mo Fan was the first person that came to his mind.

There was no need to say anything. They just had to do it. Zhang Xiaohou had no regrets knowing he had a brother like Mo Fan!

"If something goes wrong, we'll just tell the military tribunal that you were the mastermind," Mo Fan added firmly.

"..."

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"So how are we going to split up? Is Zhang Xiaohou going by himself, while the three of us wait for his news?" Mu Bai asked.

"He's still injured. He won't be able to do it himself. We will have two people in each group," Mo Fan declared.

"Coward Zhao, I'll let you pick first." Mu Bai glanced at Zhao Manyan, who was pretending he had nothing to do with all this.

"I'll go with Mo Fan!" Zhao Manyan immediately picked Mo Fan. After all, Mo Fan still had a chance if he turned on his hacks.

"Mm, fine, we'll be forcing our way up the Giant Clock Mountain at Qinghuangdao to stop the Induction in front of thousands of Mages and a Forbidden Mage. We should plan the details first. The place will be heavily guarded," Mo Fan informed him.

Zhao Manyan's face paled. "Well, after second thought, I think I should go with Zhang Xiaohou. I feel like I'm not good enough for that. I'm just a defensive Mage. I'm not good at destroying things!" He had immediately changed his mind and decided to go with Zhang Xiaohou.

Mu Bai laughed while Zhang Xiaohou looked grim, as if his impression of Zhao Manyan had changed. "It's decided, then. Mu Bai and I will ambush the Giant Clock Mountain. We'll wait for your news!"

Zhao Manyan twisted his lips. He still felt like neither of them were a good option. It was like a criminal who had been sentenced to death got to choose between a lever-style guillotine or a falling-style guillotine.

Most people planned to retire after pulling off a huge job.. As for their job, if they did it right, they would find themselves at a dead end. If they failed, they would die horrible deaths!

Chapter 2463: Losing the Will to Live!

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Zhang Xiaohou was waiting.

The phone booth in the garden where Zhang Xiaohou was waiting started ringing after the sky turned colors as the sun was on the horizon.

Zhang Xiaohou took the call and nodded. He quickly wrote down some numbers on the ground with his Wind Magic.

"I've confirmed the location of the Induction. Let's go!" Zhang Xiaohou told Zhao Manyan.

Mo Fan and Mu Bai were already riding the Wind Gauze Inferior Dragon to Qinghuangdao.

Zhang Xiaohou had to wait until a place was chosen for the Induction. He had just received the information he needed.

Zhang Xiaohou rode the Flying Dragon with Zhao Manyan. They soared directly into the sky and flew toward the Bohai Sea, even though the Flying Dragon might cause some panic in Hawaii.

The Flying Dragon was well-rested. It flew to its destination at its quickest speed.

The sun that was falling below the horizon was directly ahead of them. The Flying Dragon was shockingly fast, and almost caught up to the setting sun's speed. They had been flying for several hours, but the sun was still hanging on the horizon!

(Ed. Note: It's traveling almost 1000 mph)

They finally reached the Bohai Sea. The sun had completely disappeared under the horizon, allowing the darkness to fall across the sea.

"Brother Zhao, I must say you have a high notion of your duty when it really matters, even though you normally treasure your life!" Zhang Xiaohou complimented him.

"What do you mean?" Zhang Xiaohou was confused. Why was Zhang Xiaohou looking at him like that?

"Weren't you listening when we were discussing our plan?" Zhang Xiaohou asked.

"What are you referring to?" Zhao Manyan was clueless.

"Once the Induction Seal appears, it means the Forbidden Curse is close to being completed. It covers a truly massive area, and it might even trigger a Gravitational Vortex to prevent living creatures within the Forbidden Curse's coverage from escaping to safety..." Zhang Xiaohou explained.

Zhao Manyan reacted like a startled cat after hearing those words. If he was covered in fur, it would instantly have stood on its end.

"Holy crap, are you saying if Mo Fan and Mu Bai fail to stop the Induction, the Forbidden Curse is going to land on us!?" Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

Zhang Xiaohou nodded. It was the reason why he had chosen to check the Forbidden Curse's target point. He had to do the dangerous job himself!

To Zhang Xiaohou's surprise, Zhao Manyan had the courage to come with him. Zhang Xiaohou was very impressed!

Zhao Manyan dropped his jaw! He never thought he was going to the area where the Forbidden Curse was targeting.

He was not naïve enough to think he could survive the Forbidden Curse, even with his defenses. In other words, if Mo Fan and Mu Bai failed their mission, he and Zhang Xiaohou would have to face the Forbidden Curse!

For God's sake, did he lose his mind? Why did he choose to go with Zhang Xiaohou? It was worse than trying to interrupt the Forbidden Curse!

"Is it too late to change groups now?" As soon as Zhao Manyan finished the sentence, thin yet visible rays of light descended from the sky.

They split up the sea and the sky into different parts, like geometrical lines.

It was already dark, but a strange light was shining upon the area, like a thin illusion. The surroundings turned a little blurry, like they were heading into a mirage.

"What's happening now!?" Zhao Manyan blurted out in shock.

Zhang Xiaohou said with a wry smile, "Didn't I mention it? The Forbidden Curse might trigger a Gravitational Vortex."

"I'm not good with my studies. Can you please explain what a Gravitational Vortex is?" Zhao Manyan was starting to feel uneasy.

The sight was too shocking. It was not exaggerating to say the world was changing. Zhao Manyan might have believed that everything within view would be dragged into a deep abyss in the next second!

"It's similar to the gravity of the Earth, which we can only escape by traveling at a certain speed. Otherwise, we won't be able to reach other planets.

"The Forbidden Curse has a gravitational field, so unless our speed and momentum is enough to exceed its force, we won't be able to escape to safety!

"It takes a long time to Cast a Forbidden Curse, but it obviously won't allow its target to escape easily. The Gravitational Vortex is the first sign of a Forbidden Curse!" Zhang Xiaohou patiently explained to Zhao Manyan.

"You don't have to explain the details. Just tell me, is it too late for me to make a run?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"Yes, the Gravitational Vortex covers dozens of kilometers. If the Forbidden Curse is the God of Death, every creature within its area now has their names written in the Book of Life and Death," Zhang Xiaohou informed him.

Different Forbidden Curses had different levels of Gravitational Vortexes. Zhang Xiaohou had only learned about some of the Forbidden Curses' powers from the military.

If using the Earth's gravity to describe the Gravitational Vortex was not clear enough, one could treat the Gravitational Vortex as invisible chains.

Creatures as small as flies to as large as Ruler-level sea monsters within the area covered by the rays of light were tied to the chains.

They would need to exceed the restraining force of the chains to break free from them, or the chains would eventually drag them back!

Zhang Xiaohou could not reach the required speed needed to escape a Forbidden Curse.

Most Super Mages could not reach it, either. Even the Flying Dragon, Wind Gauze Inferior Dragon, and the powerful sea monsters could not reach it.

The only thing they could do was to look up at the lights and wait for the Forbidden Curse to be stopped prior to its Induction, or watch it fall on them!

Zhang Xiaohou knew there was no backing away from his decision. He had placed his life in Mo Fan and Mu Bai's hands.

"So if we want to live, first, it must be a trap the sea monsters have set, and second, Mo Fan and Mu Bai must stop the Forbidden Curse successfully?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"Yes."

"But what if it isn't a trap? Mo Fan and Mu Bai won't stop the Forbidden Curse, which means it will happen according to the plan. As for the two of us who are stuck in the Gravitational Vortex..."

"That's why I'm impressed by your resolve," Zhang Xiaohou smiled, like he was not going to feel lonely even if he died here.

Zhao Manyan's face paled.. He had completely lost the will to live.

Chapter 2464: Forbidden Curse Mountain

The sea under the brilliant rays of light had turned restless. Countless species in the sea were fleeing for their lives.

Several fish, their scales gleaming like delicate blades, flew out of the water and spread fins that resembled wings.

They were traveling at insane speeds, having sped up in the water. Their fins were short and small, but they allowed the fish to fly through the air.

It looked like the fish would soon fly into the distance, but when they reached the boundary of the Gravitational Vortex, they were dragged back by a great force in mid-air, and flung back whence they came!

Most importantly, the speed they had when flying out of the water to escape the Gravitational Vortex was the same speed they were traveling at when they were pulled back by the force.

Zhao Manyan felt like he was watching a weird rewinding clip!

“Perhaps they tried to run away in the water, but they couldn’t swim to safety, so they were trying to leave the field above the surface. These Flying Swordfish Beasts are smart, but unfortunately, the Forbidden Curse is covering the sky, the surface, the deep sea, and even under the ground. There’s no escape,” Zhang Xiaohou mentioned.

“Can you please stop?!” Zhao Manyan was about to burst into tears.

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The Giant Clock Mountain at Qinghuangdao...

The mountain was facing the vast sea. A huge clock tower as tall as a skyscraper stood on the top. It was around a hundred and thirty meters tall, including the clock at the top.

The people in Qinghuangdao City and the fishing boats in the nearby waters were able to see the clock clearly.

When the countdown on the clock started, the nearby islands and peninsulas were told to evacuate.

The hour hand on the clock was close to finishing a circle. Only one and a half days were left.

Mo Fan and Mu Bai were at the bottom of the mountain. They could see the magnificent tower past the woods that were swaying in the sea breeze.

The clock would chime every hour. It was a special warning to the people on Qinghuangdao to seek shelter against a calamity, instead of telling them what time it was!

The loud chime of the clock placed Mo Fan and Mu Bai under huge pressure. It continued to spread throughout Qinghuangdao and the nearby waters.

“You two finally arrived?” a woman’s voice rose from the bushes.

Mo Fan and Mu Bai followed the voice and saw a woman with an alluring figure. She had a stern and fierce face, like an untamable deer!

“Are you... oh,” Mo Fan did not state the obvious after noticing something.

“Please don’t misunderstand. I just happened to lose an important map after you crooks beat me up,” Hua Yuezhu said as she approached Mo Fan. She passed a map to Mo Fan and Mu Bai as she spoke.

Mo Fan opened the map. Mu Bai immediately went closer to look at it.

The two looked at the map for a while, but they could not understand a single thing on it.

“Can you please explain to us... oh, what I am trying to say is, we’re going to force you to tell us what the map is about,” Mo Fan played along with Hua Yuezhu’s acting.

“The markings on the map are the junctures of the Magic Formation. The Forbidden Curse has three hundred and sixty-five Elemental Points. Each juncture is defended by at least a Super Mage. Theoretically, every juncture is guarding fifteen Elemental Points, but the junctures are also connected with one another. The juncture you attack will alert the other two junctures it’s connected to,” Hua Yuezhu said.

“How many Energy Points do we have to destroy to stop the Formation from operating?” Mo Fan asked.

“More than forty.”

“...”

Mo Fan recalled asking the Hunter from America what Elemental Diamonds were for when he had gone to Tianshan Mountain. He now knew the Elemental Diamonds were used as a source of energy.

When a Mage used Magic, they had to rely on the energy in their Stars, except for some special Magic Tools.

Only a limited number of Magic Tools could transform the energy inside objects into Magic.

Elemental Diamonds were the purest Magic Ores. They were not used to supply magic technology and machinery with energy, but to support the Induction of a Forbidden Curse!

The amount of energy required by a Forbidden Curse was crazy.

People who were called Forbidden Mages did not necessarily have the capability to construct the whole Star Complex to Cast a Forbidden Curse. Those Forbidden Mages were only opening the door of the Forbidden Curse. They needed external energy supplies to support the Forbidden Curse itself.

This huge operation on Qinghuangdao was a perfect example. Magic Formations with a huge number of junctures and countless magic devices had been established throughout the mountain. More than three thousand Mages were involved!

The military had even prepared a canteen and a residential building on the mountain to satisfy the needs of the people involved in the operation.

When Hua Yuezhu gave the map to Mo Fan and Mu Bai, the two were dumbfounded by its scale, even though they did not understand the details on it!

All this just to cast a spell? So many people had been kept here like workers for almost half a month!

“Can we really do it? With a scale like this, I’m pretty sure the military is expecting someone to try to disrupt it,” Mu Bai said.

He had always been a well-behaved student and citizen throughout his life. He was struggling to adapt to the special circumstances.

On the other hand, Mo Fan had already long gotten used to this.

“Do we have enough time to destroy forty Elemental Points? Is there a simpler way?” Mo Fan had to ask.

Mo Fan looked extremely confident, but he was internally panicking when he asked for another plan. The scale of the Forbidden Curse was far greater than he had thought!

“A simpler plan?” Hua Yuezhu harrumphed coldly before answering Mo Fan’s question, “You can try and knock out the Forbidden Mage, but keep in mind that the Forbidden Mage can use his magic freely even while he’s preparing the Forbidden Curse.”

“Mu Bai, you take care of twenty Elemental Points to the north, while I handle twenty Elemental Points to the south.. Is that fine with you?” Mo Fan said promptly.

Chapter 2465: Challenging to Retrieve their Remains

“Someone is coming!” Mu Bai’s gaze sharpened as he looked at the woods.

Mo Fan and Hua Yuezhu followed his gaze. To their surprise, two Mages wearing patrol uniforms came out of the woods before they could hide.

“Who are you?” one of the patrol Mages demanded. He could sense a strong presence from Mo Fan and Mu Bai.

“They are my men. They are reporting to me,” Hua Yuezhu told the high-ranked officer, reacting quickly.

The officer came closer and noticed Hua Yuezhu had a badge on her shoulder. Her rank was also higher than his. He saluted quickly.

“What is this about?” the officer was obviously treating everyone in the mountain with great caution.

Hua Yuezhu frowned.

The officer seemed to be suspicious of them. He had to be a Psychic Mage. Their acting was not going to trick him.

Hua Yuezhu had no choice but to say in a stern voice, “Our General was searching for a suitable spot for the Forbidden Curse. Our superior has already sent out a rescue team, but I was hoping to find people who are familiar with the Bohai Sea to join the rescue operation, so I found them.”

Since their cultivation was not low either, the Psychic Mage would not be able to tell they had other plans in mind just by looking at them.

The officer nodded and said, “Are you referring to General Zhang Xiaohou of the Violet Imperial Battalion? I met him a few days ago. I did hear he was missing. Did you find anything?”

The officer looked at Mo Fan like he was interrogating him. He was indeed suspicious, or he would not be talking to another person.

Hua Yuezhu was going to speak, but she knew it would only make the officer more suspicious if she answered too quickly.

“He’s dead,” Mo Fan replied calmly.

Hua Yuezhu opened her mouth in silence.

“We found his body, but it’s a little difficult to retrieve it,” Mu Bai added.

The officer had a surprised expression. He soon said with a sorry face, “I’m sorry to hear that.”

He shook his head and let out a sigh. He briefly explained how he had met Zhang Xiaohou the first time.

“You two have done well. Please retrieve General Zhang’s remains and give him a proper burial,” the officer patted Mo Fan and Mu Bai’s shoulders apologetically.

“It’s our duty. Don’t you worry,” Mo Fan said firmly.

“It’s getting late. You should all get some rest,” the man sighed. “Even though the military has decided to Cast the Forbidden Curse on the Sea Cliff Peak, General Zhang’s contributions cannot go unnoticed. His sacrifice is honorable, just like Advisor Zheng Wu, who failed to retreat in time,” the officer said.

The three did not say another word, as the officer had already let them go. They were in a hurry.

The Giant Clock Mountain had strict security and was using magic Barriers. Someone had already come to question them as they were having a secret discussion at the bottom of the mountain. It was likely there were more security measures they did not know about on the mountain.

Luckily, they had managed to trick the officer, or the plan would have failed before it even began. After all, the officer was a Psychic Mage. If they messed up even a little, the officer would easily see through their lie!

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Hua Yuezhu let out a relieved sigh. She was already soaked in cold sweat.

Mu Bai raised his thumb at Mo Fan. It was brilliant that he had used Zhang Xiaohou’s shocking ‘death’ to end the interrogation.

He wondered what Zhang Xiaohou would think when he heard about it. It was probably like a grandfather going looking for his grandson at a school, but the class teacher told the grandfather his grandson was absent because he was attending his grandfather’s funeral!

“Who was the other guy that the officer mentioned?” Mo Fan asked.

“You mean Zheng Wu? He was stuck in the Forbidden Curse’s Gravitational Vortex after he helped his team escape. The Forbidden Curse is unstoppable, so even though he’s still alive, he will still most likely die to the Forbidden Curse,” Hua Yuezhu said.

“Oh,” Mo Fan nodded. He suddenly asked, “What is the Gravitational Vortex?”

Hua Yuezhu looked at Mo Fan. She did not understand why General Zhang Xiaohou had assigned an ignorant man to do such an important job. They might get themselves killed considering what they were going to do!

Not only were their lives in danger, it would also affect their standing. They might be sentenced to treason!

The knowledgeable Mu Bai knew a little about the Gravitational Vortex. He briefly explained what it was to Mo Fan along the way.

"I see. Does it mean the other two are dead for sure if we don't stop the Forbidden Curse?" Mo Fan asked slowly.

"Mm, and it's going to be tricky to retrieve their remains," Mu Bai nodded.

Hua Yuezhu brought them to a crossroad and pointed at one of the paths.

She was about to say something, but visibly changed her mind, as if she had made a sudden decision. She said, "Forget it, that officer has already seen us together. If you two are caught, they will hold me responsible too. I'll go with you!"

"You don't trust us?" Mo Fan asked her directly.

"That's right!"

Mo Fan was left speechless.

On the other hand, they would have higher odds of achieving their goals if Hua Yuezhu joined them.

Mo Fan sincerely did not want Zhang Xiaohou and Zhao Manyan to die to the Forbidden Curse. It would be too difficult to retrieve their corpses!

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A place with several cliffs facing the sea had been chosen as the target for the Forbidden Curse.

The sea stacks rose from the sea a great distance above the surface. Some of them were hundreds of feet high.

Night had already fallen, and a thin mist covered the area. The sea stacks looked like the buildings of a dark city from afar.

"Those cliffs must be very sturdy, being able to withstand the waves," Zhao Manyan observed.

Several other troops had been given the same mission as Zhang Xiaohou's troop. They were all from different special forces.

Zhang Xiaohou's Violet Imperial Battalion had failed its mission, thus the military had set the target for the Forbidden Curse as a nest of the Dragon King Krill another troop had discovered.

"The cliffs are made of Hardened Salt Rocks. Not only are they not corroded by the tide, they will absorb the salt of the sea and grow out of the surface like bamboo shoots," Zhang Xiaohou explained.

Places with these special Hardened Salt Rocks were most likely crawling with an enormous number of Dragon King Krill!

Chapter 2466: The Underwater River at the Bottom of the Sea

"It's too dark now. Should we wait until morning?" Zhao Manyan suggested.

"Brother Zhao, if we wait until morning, we will have less than twenty hours left. We have to inform Brother Fan and Mu Bai of what we have discovered so they have enough time to stop the Forbidden Curse," Zhang Xiaohou answered.

Zhao Manyan knocked his head on a Salt Rock nearby. He wished he could just knock himself to death. Why did these guys always drag him into life-and-death situations?

"So what exactly are you looking for that will prove it's a trap set up by the sea monsters?" Zhao Manyan asked him.

He was clueless about the entire situation, especially the reason why Zhang Xiaohou was so confident that the Forbidden Curse was a trap. Where did he learn it was a part of a conspiracy by the sea monsters?

"I encountered an unusual creature in a trench. We'll refer it to as the Trench Demon for now. Its intelligence is on par with humans, and it also has abilities similar to the Curse and Psychic Elements. It can consume human souls to obtain their knowledge after killing them," Zhang Xiaohou said.

Yang Xiajie was definitely not the first victim of the Trench Demon. It must have killed a high-ranking military officer and obtained lots of information from him, including the operation of the Forbidden Curses!

"The sea monsters already know we are using a Forbidden Curse?!" Zhao Manyan blurted out in surprise.

Zhang Xiaohou nodded. The sea monsters had long learned their secrets. They even knew about the Forbidden Curse before Zhang Xiaohou did!

Zhang Xiaohou's troop was given the mission to find a suitable target for the Forbidden Curse. The operation involving a Forbidden Curse would obviously take the military a long time to plan and discuss after being proposed.

Zhang Xiaohou's troop had only learned about the Forbidden Curse at a later phase in the operation, after the countdown started.

Zhang Xiaohou was spooked when he learned the Trench Demon had already known about the Forbidden Curse before the countdown even started!

The operation was kept confidential. Outsiders might be able to tell a huge operation was taking place on the Giant Clock Mountain, but no one would ever link it to a Forbidden Curse. The people had been evacuated for 'other reasons'.

Even Super Mages did not know much about Forbidden Curses, let alone other people and Mages!

The Trench Demon obviously did not learn about the Forbidden Curse by stealing the information from a nobody.

The sea monsters were prepared for it!

"I have to go to the bottom of the sea to look for a silver vein."

"A silver vein at the bottom of the sea? Are we trying to make a fortune?"

"Brother Zhao, can we focus on the Forbidden Curse? We might die if we don't do our job properly. What's the point of being rich if we won't survive it?"

The two snuck into the area of the cliffs while they were talking.

The isolated sea stacks were some distance apart from one another. Each stack was like a dark mysterious tower rooted to the bottom of the sea.

Zhang Xiaohou and Zhao Manyan were both Water Mages. They were able to move freely in the water without worrying about oxygen or water resistance.

They dove into the sea rapidly, but it was too dark at the bottom of the sea. They could only see a limited range, even with night vision.

Zhang Xiaohou was having doubts as they reached the bottom of the sea. Everything looked perfectly normal. There was no sign of a deep trench, nor did they see any special creatures.

Zhang Xiaohou had done a quick scan on the surface. The Dragon King Krill had gathered in a specific area like fish in a pond, but the sea was a lot bigger than a pond. The number of the Dragon King Krill there could easily take out a county without alerting anyone!

However, Zhang Xiaohou did not find the clues he was looking for, except for the Dragon King Krill.

"Perhaps I was wrong?" Zhang Xiaohou murmured to himself regretfully.

"Houzi, over here!" Zhao Manyan suddenly yelled.

Zhang Xiaohou swam toward Zhao Manyan. He was close to a thick undersea cliff, and pointed at a hole in it.

"It's empty inside, but I noticed unusual flows of the water inside it," Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

"How can you tell?" Zhang Xiaohou was shocked.

"I'm a Super Water Mage. Do you think you can compare yourself with me when you only just Awakened the Water Element as your Fourth Element?" Zhao Manyan replied.

Zhang Xiaohou nodded and said, "It seems like we have made a wise decision to assign you to my group."

"Bullsh**, it will not happen again!" Zhao Manyan instantly refuted.

Zhang Xiaohou smiled. He was familiar with Zhao Manyan's personality. He might say no with his mouth, but he could not stop himself from diving into dangerous and exciting situations!

The base of the cliff at the bottom of the sea was the size of a building. The two went inside the hole and quickly noticed they were able to dive deeper than the bottom of the sea!

Another well at the bottom of the sea!

It had been hidden under the thick and hollow cliff. Zhang Xiaohou realized why he had not been able to find anything. The nest of the Dragon King Krill was truly well hidden!

The two continued down the well. They roughly estimated the well was around a thousand meters deep.

They eventually discovered an underwater river in the well. The water was flowing rapidly across the bottom of the well.

The underwater river was bigger than the one Zhang Xiaohou had discovered in the sea trench, easily wide enough to support a city. It could fit the biggest cargo ship!

"Such an incredible sight! There are rocks at the bottom of the sea, and a river under the rocks! Its current is ten times stronger than normal rivers!" Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

He would never have believed it if he had not seen it in person!

"There are many hordes and kingdoms in the sea. Not every species is planning to invade our land. Our leaders have already told us that the sea monsters which are eying our shores covetously are from an ancient and powerful kingdom. They have yet to launch a full-scale attack on our shores because they are waiting for the sea level to rise again. They need the help of the tides to boost their momentum. They also have to construct a convenient shortcut so the powerful creatures of their dynasty can arrive at the battlefield in the shortest time possible," Zhang Xiaohou explained.

"So you're saying this river under the bottom of the sea is..."

"It's a river that allows the sea monsters to travel between the middle of the Pacific Ocean and the Bohai Sea in a short amount of time!" Zhang Xiaohou said.

"Holy crap, so the kingdom of sea monsters has built a highway... No, it's an express high-speed rail!" Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

Their shores had always been safe because the most powerful sea monsters resided in the deep sea.

However, this underwater river would allow powerful sea monsters to sneak right into human territory without losing their way or trespassing on other territories. How could the savage Rulers in the deep sea behave themselves, knowing they finally had the chance to conquer the land?

Could anyone resist the temptation of the teeming world when the ride had already arrived in front of their home?

Even if only some of the Rulers were tempted to invade their shores, the destruction they could unleash would be unimaginable!

Chapter 2467: Invading the Land

“The Dragon King Krill can digest most rocks and stones, including iron and copper, but the silver deep in the sea is an exclusion. If they swallow the silver, they will die in no time,” Zhang Xiaohou mentioned.

The silver veins in the deep sea went all the way into the Earth’s crust. The silver veins had followed the underground rivers like huge dams.

The Dragon King Krill had made holes in the silver veins, but they had to get rid of most of the entire silver veins to make the Underground Rivers accessible to the sea monsters. The larger sea monsters were too massive to swim through the little holes of the silver veins.

“The silver veins are indeed giving the sea monsters a headache. Are you saying the sea monsters are trying to use our Forbidden Curse to destroy the silver veins?” Zhao Manyan asked. He understood the situation better after hearing Zhang Xiaohou’s explanation.

In the past, humans had always used their intelligence to keep demon creatures at bay. They had also used the demon creatures’ power against them by outsmarting them. Who would have thought the sea monsters would do the same in return?

Zhang Xiaohou now understood why Yang Xiajie’s soul kept warning him not to underestimate the sea monsters’ intelligence!

Humans had spent a long time fending off demon creatures on land, yet they were still stuck in the safe zone in the form of cities. The oceans were a lot bigger than the land. More than half of the oceans remained unexplored.

The sea monsters they had encountered were only the tip of the iceberg.

These unknown species would bring forth a different war. Being alert along the coastline was no longer enough!

The sea monsters were able to conspire against the humans now. Everything might seem calm on the surface, but the sea monsters’ invasion had already begun!

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Zhang Xiaohou thought he would have to swim in the opposite direction of the Underwater River for some time to locate the silver vein.

To his surprise, the silver vein was right there at the bottom of the ‘well’. It was bigger than the one he had found before. The Dragon King Krill were biting at the silver ore and moving it to other places.

The Dragon King Krill were like slaves without their own will, but they were great in number. Even though they were going to die because they could not digest the silver ore, they were still eating the silver ore recklessly.

“There really is a silver vein here!...” Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

The silver vein was right in the middle of the underground river. As a Water Mage, Zhao Manyan could sense a stronger current on the other side of the silver vein.

Once the silver vein was cleared, not only would the underground river enlarge by tenfold, the water would flow at a quicker rate, too!

“The demon creatures of Mount Kunlun are unable to pose a threat to our coasts because there are countless hordes, kingdoms, and powerful species between Mount Kunlun and our coasts. They would have to pay a huge price just to reach our coasts. Similarly, there are many hordes between the middle of the Pacific Ocean and the Bohai Sea, making it difficult for this kingdom of sea monsters to travel to our coasts. However, things will be different once the underwater rivers are cleared,” Zhang Xiaohou pointed out.

Zhang Xiaohou insisted on finding out the truth. He realized he had made the right decision after seeing the huge silver vein and the underwater river!

“Damn it, the Forbidden Curse is going to land right on the silver vein. It will obviously destroy the silver vein. The sea monsters are trying to trick us!” Zhao Manyan cursed.

Zhao Manyan was now utterly convinced the sea monsters were using them. It was impossible to have so many coincidences in a row.

Deep Sea Silver was an extremely scarce resource, and the Forbidden Curse happened to be targeting the silver vein that was intercepting the underwater river.

In addition, a crazy number of Dragon King Krill were clearing the silver ore. Wasn’t their goal obvious?

The Forbidden Curse might eliminate most of the Dragon King Krill and resolve the danger they were posing to the coasts’ defenses, but once the Forbidden Curse destroyed the silver vein, it would open a door which would result in a war with the sea monsters of the Pacific Ocean.

The kingdom of sea monsters in the middle of the Pacific Ocean would keep coming to the Bohai Sea. The coasts were not the only places they would lose!

The kingdom of sea monsters was targeting the whole continent!

The thought alone was terrifying. Everyone knew the sea monsters were around three times stronger than the demon creatures on land. They were not only stronger physically, but they were smarter, too!

“We must let Mo Fan and Mu Bai know as soon as possible. Holy crap, these sea monsters are going to take over our country!” Zhao Manyan shouted.

They did not dare to stay any longer, and immediately left the water.

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The sky was already lighting up by the time they reached the surface. The silver-white dawn light sprayed across the calm surface of the sea like a land covered in silver tiles.

"Only eighteen hours left," Zhang Xiaohou murmured.

"Let's hope they can make it in time. They better not let us down. Not only is our country in danger, our lives are in their hands too..." Zhao Manyan muttered.

"Brother Zhao, did you get the order wrong?" Zhang Xiaohou asked with a wry smile.

"I didn't."

Zhang Xiaohou took out a golden device. It was the military's communication device that allowed soldiers to fire a signal into the sky when there was no Light Mage around.

"Brother Zhao, the Gravitational Vortex might weaken the signal, so you will have to boost it a little," Zhang Xiaohou said.

"Not a problem!" Zhao Manyan immediately summoned a special light which almost turned his body transparent. His heart was shining as brightly as the sun!

"Brother Zhao, your Light Element..." Zhang Xiaohou was surprised. Zhao Manyan's Light Element had changed significantly!

However, a black figure suddenly approached them before he could finish the sentence.

The figure was closing in from behind, moving close to the surface of the sea. It was aiming straight at the back of Zhao Manyan's neck, like it was delivering a deadly blow.

Zhao Manyan was busy Channeling his Light Spell. After all, he had to construct a Star Palace so the signal could overwhelm the restriction of the Gravitational Vortex.

Most importantly, the enemy was almost undetectable. They did not notice it until it was extremely close to them!

"Brother Zhao!" Zhang Xiaohou quickly stood behind Zhao Manyan and Cast a spell.

A Water Curtain the size of a shield formed in front of him.

However, the black figure was very quick.. An object resembling a sharp spear stabbed at them at a terrifying angle. Not only was it trying to stab through Zhang Xiaohou's heart, it was going to pierce through Zhang Xiaohou's neck!

Chapter 2468: A Real Man

The attack was totally unexpected. The enemy had been hiding nearby a long time. It had waited until they lowered their guard when they were busy firing the signal.

Feathers of the Wind Spirits circled Zhang Xiaohou as the spear sliced through the Water Curtain. They gathered in front of Zhang Xiaohou's chest to protect him.

The protection knocked the spear off its initial angle, causing it to miss Zhang Xiaohou's heart!

However, the spear went through his chest and headed right at the defenseless Zhao Manyan.

Luckily, it only scratched Zhao Manyan's neck a little after it was knocked off its initial angle. Zhao Manyan barely survived the attack.

"Damn it!" Zhao Manyan was enraged. His heart, glowing like a new sun, pounded heavily and released waves of light at the black figure.

The black figure immediately backed away. The bright light revealed its identity.

To Zhang Xiaohou and Zhao Manyan's surprise, it was not a sea monster, but a man!

The man was wearing a military uniform. His disheveled hair and the vicious look in his eyes no longer resembled a human, but a demon from the deep sea!

"Advisor Zheng Wu!" Zhang Xiaohou recognized the man, but blood was pouring out from his chest as he was shouting. The spear was still stuck in his chest.

"Zhang Xiaohou, you should treat your injuries first... don't you die on me!" Zhao Manyan yelled.

Zhao Manyan was relieved to see Zhang Xiaohou was still alive. He would have felt guilty for the rest of his life knowing Zhang Xiaohou had died to save him.

Zhao Manyan glared at the soldier, whose eyes were brimming with hostility.

"Brother Zhao, I'm fine. We don't have much time left. You have to send the signal out of the Gravitational Vortex to tell Brother Fan and Mu Bai..." Zhang Xiaohou did not back down.

Blood was pouring out of his chest and his back. The Feathers of the Wind Spirits transformed into a pair of hands and pulled the spear out of his body.

Blood jetted out like a fountain after the spear was pulled out from Zhang Xiaohou's body, but his body did not sway, nor was he showing any pain on his face.

"Brother Zhao, I won't let anything come close to you, including that man! You just have to fire the signal!" Zhang Xiaohou declared.

The Gravitational Vortex had complicated the process of firing off a signal. Zhao Manyan wanted to fight the enemy with Zhang Xiaohou, but he realized Mo Fan and Mu Bai needed time to stop the Forbidden Curse. He understood why Zhang Xiaohou insisted on standing in front of him, even though he was in great pain!

"Fine, I'll do it! The Gravitational Vortex won't stop my light!" Zhao Manyan promised.

The enemy did not have to kill them both, he just had to stop them from firing the signal. If they decided to focus on him, he would just kite them instead.

He just had to waste their time to win the battle!

Zhang Xiaohou and Zhao Manyan were well aware of the situation. Their first priority was to fire the signal out of the Gravitational Vortex!

“Feather of the Wind Spirits, grant me your protection!”

Zhang Xiaohou opened his palm and blew the feathers at Zhao Manyan like petals

A gust of wind wrapped around Zhao Manyan. He could feel its protection, even though he could not see it.

Zhao Manyan had learned during the battle in Xiamen that the Feathers of the Wind Spirits was Zhang Xiaohou’s strongest ability of the Wind Element. He was extremely touched when Zhang Xiaohou gave him the Feathers of the Wind Spirits.

Zhang Xiaohou had a bleeding hole in him. He had suffered serious injuries, even if the spear had missed his heart.

But he had no time to stop the bleeding. Their enemy had already found an opening through the waves of lights. The man was flying at him like a black fang.

He thought their enemy was aiming at his heart again, but he realized the man was targeting his eyes instead once he was close enough!

It was extremely difficult to defend against a stab. A destructive spell with a wide area would spread its power over the area, but an attack was a lot deadlier when the force was gathered on a single point. Therefore, Zhang Xiaohou had to gather his defense on a single point as well. If he defended his whole body, the enemy’s attack would break through his blocking with ease.

If Zhang Xiaohou still had the Feathers of the Wind Spirits, he could use them to protect his eyes, but now he had to figure out another way to defend himself.

“Intercepting Claw!”

A cold light flickered like lightning down Zhang Xiaohou’s arm, from his shoulder to his fingertips. Sharp blades poked out of his fingers like claws!

He did not have a better way to defend himself. The enemy was attacking him at a close distance. He decided to give the enemy a taste of its own medicine. He swung his claws at the enemy’s throat!

If the enemy was going to stab his eyes, he would pierce the enemy’s throat! Zhang Xiaohou made his move decisively, even though he might die to the man’s attack.

Zheng Wu hesitated in the nick of time. He might stab Zhang Xiaohou in the eyes and puncture his brain to kill him, but he would also be killed by Zhang Xiaohou’s attack.

It meant he would not be able to stop the other guy from firing the signal!

Zheng Wu quickly canceled his attack and backed away. He dodged the claw and moved away to prevent Zhang Xiaohou from following up with another attack.

"Damn it, do you really have to risk your life like that!?" Zhao Manyan was soaked in cold sweat after seeing what had happened.

Zhang Xiaohou was too reckless. The traitor was most likely going to die after being stuck in the Gravitational Vortex. What if their enemy was not afraid of dying?

"I know what I'm doing!" Zhang Xiaohou grinned.

"Nonsense, you should treasure your life more. Dying for a greater cause is just a child's ideology of heroes. Not only should we fight for a greater cause, we should try our best to stay alive too! That's what a real man would do!" Zhao Manyan proclaimed.

Why did their options have to be sad? Were they only limited to dying for the greater cause, or living like a coward?

They had to save the world, but they had to live too!

Zhang Xiaohou was stunned by Zhao Manyan's words. He did not expect to hear that from someone like Zhao Manyan.

His impression of Zhao Manyan had changed once again.

Dying was very simple. All he had to do was to give up!

It was more difficult to stay alive in difficult and deadly situations. Wasn't it more impressive to survive after giving his everything?

Zhao Manyan was absolutely right!

Not only did they have to fight for a greater cause, they had to stay alive, too! It was what a strong real man would do!

Chapter 2469: Wind Ultimate: Nine-Headed Serpent

Zhang Xiaohou was able to buy some time with his recklessness, but he still briefly treated his injuries. His life would be in danger if he kept bleeding.

Advisor Zheng Wu glared at Zhang Xiaohou, and suddenly raised his hand. Pitch-black cracks tore through the rift. They looked like branches of an old tree lit up by the light of the moon. They seemed sharp and deadly in the dark.

Zhang Xiaohou focused himself. His enemy was like an assassin, with outstanding speed. Every move he used relied on his speed. His attacks were deadly and quick, not giving his target any time to react and prepare a defense.

Even the slightest mistake might cost Zhang Xiaohou's life against an enemy like Advisor Zheng Wu!

Chaos Cracks was an ability that could ignore every defense of its target. It could slice space itself and everything it contained in half. The cracks even lasted for some time and only slowly dissipated.

Another crack sliced across space like a giant axe, splitting reality around Zhang Xiaohou in half.

Zhang Xiaohou nimbly dodged the axe, but more cracks suddenly appeared under his feet. They did not cover a large area, but it was enough to cover his landing spot.

The defense of the Earth Element would be ineffective, as the Chaos Cracks would intercept any form of magic.

Zhang Xiaohou had once fought a flying beast with the Chaos Element in the Qinling Mountains. Its abilities were strange and unpredictable, and its every attack was deadly. He had lost many of his men to the Chaos Cracks!

Zhang Xiaohou was extremely cautious against the Chaos Element after his experience fighting the creature with the Chaos Element. He knew the Chaos Magic could appear out of nowhere. He left other options open with every step he took.

Zhang Xiaohou did not land on the Chaos Cracks, instead swinging his right arm at a nearby cliff-face.

A rope of white wind wrapped around the stone, and Zhang Xiaohou pulled himself toward the cliff, gliding across the sky.

The Chaos Cracks were still growing in size. Zhang Xiaohou let go of the wind rope and landed on another area on the surface of the sea. He swore when he saw the Chaos Cracks at the spot where he was supposed to land initially.

The cracks could easily slice through an enormous beast, let alone a human!

Zhang Xiaohou withheld his anger and demanded, "Advisor Zheng Wu, what are you doing?"

Every move from Zheng Wu was deadly enough to kill Zhang Xiaohou. Why was he working for the sea monsters?

"Die, die, die!" Advisor Zheng Wu shouted madly.

His voice was extremely strange. It not only carried his angry scream, but another vicious screech was also coming out of his throat.

Zhang Xiaohou immediately recalled the demon in the trench. It sounded similar to the demon's shrieking!

Zhang Xiaohou finally noticed Advisor Zheng Wu's eyes. They were dark and green, and a strange flower was swaying in his pupils.

Zhang Xiaohou was stunned. His eyes were the same as the demon in the trench!

Wasn't it hiding in the trench? How did it take over Advisor Zheng Wu's body to attack them on the surface?

Hang on, something is not right!

The man in front of him was clearly Advisor Zheng Wu. Even the spells he was using were a human's abilities.

In other words, the demon in the trench was controlling Advisor Zheng Wu's mind. He had been turned into a puppet.

Controlling humans' minds!

Apparently, many sea monsters had the ability to do this trick. It explained why the Operation of the Forbidden Curse had been compromised, and the reason why Zheng Wu had stayed behind after the coordinates were set.

The military thought Advisor Zheng Wu had sacrificed himself so his troop could escape from the Forbidden Curse's Gravitational Vortex, but the demon in the trench had long been controlling him. He had stayed behind to guard the place, in case someone like Zhang Xiaohou showed up to ruin its plan!

These sea monsters are truly cunning!

Most importantly, humans were unaware of the sea monsters' intelligence. They never thought humans, whose greatest power was their intelligence, would become the sea monsters' puppets and spy on them!

"It seems like you have lost your heart. I won't show you any mercy. Advisor Zheng Wu, I'll free your soul!" Zhang Xiaohou declared.

Yang Xiajie had died a painful death. Advisor Zheng Wu had been trapped for an even longer time. He had completely lost his will and become a puppet. He must have been tortured greatly.

Zhang Xiaohou had decided to use his deadly moves. It was unlikely Advisor Zheng Wu would survive them.

Advisor Zheng Wu did not react even in the slightest after hearing the words, having totally lost his mind. Zhang Xiaohou did not notice any sign of his lingering spirit from his eyes, like he had Yang Xiajie.

What a pity...

It was like a free man who had been turned into a mindless slave after being whipped for several days. He had completely lost his true nature!

"Wind Ultimate: Nine-Headed Serpents!"

Zhang Xiaohou suddenly flew at Advisor Zheng Wu, like a fierce gust of wind.

Advisor Zheng Wu immediately summoned branches from the Chaos Cracks to defend himself, but Zhang Xiaohou was faster. He had already flown past Advisor Zheng Wu before the branches even appeared.

A trail remained in Zhang Xiaohou's flight path. It resembled a savage serpent surrounded by strong winds. Its body was as thick as a dragon, and it had a giant head.

Advisor Zheng Wu quickly turned around in case Zhang Xiaohou was readying to strike him from behind.

As soon as Advisor Zheng Wu fixed his eyes on Zhang Xiaohou, he turned into a gust of wind again and flashed past him, leaving another trail resembling a ferocious serpent.

Zhang Xiaohou began moving even faster. Advisor Zheng Wu could not even see him properly as he flew back and forth again several times, he could only see the trails Zhang Xiaohou was leaving behind himself.

Zhang Xiaohou suddenly stopped, his back facing Advisor Zheng Wu. He pulled the wind rope in his right hand with great strength.

The wind trails tightened as strong winds started surging. Advisor Zheng Wu began struggling to maintain his balance.

Most terrifyingly, nine enormous figures rose from the winds. There were nine wind serpents there, all sharing a body. They spread apart like a blossoming flower.

The nine serpents arched back and lunged at Advisor Zheng Wu, who was right above their backs. The serpents began to tear at him.

Advisor Zheng Wu was knocked into the air by one of the heads. The rest of them immediately went after him.

Fresh blood sprayed in the air as his body was savagely torn to pieces.

Even the demon in the trench who was controlling Advisor Zheng Wu had not expected the human who had escaped from it to possess such terrifying strength!

Chapter 2470: It's a Forbidden Mage

Zhang Xiaohou did not feel like looking at Zheng Wu's remains, but his face was firmly set.

He could not allow himself to be merciful in the middle of a war!

He believed Advisor Zheng Wu would understand him if he had retained a little of his will.

"That was... awesome!" Zhao Manyan was impressed by Zhang Xiaohou's strength after he saw the ferocious Nine-Headed Wind Dragon.

No wonder Zhang Xiaohou was promoted to General at such a young age. His strength was worthy of the rank!

"Brother Zhao, how did it go?" Zhang Xiaohou asked.

"Of course I'm fine, look at the sky," Zhao Manyan pointed.

Zhang Xiaohou looked up and saw a bright light shining in the sky. It was obviously outside the Gravitational Vortex.

Zhao Manyan had done it. The people on the outside would have no trouble seeing it.

Zhang Xiaohou let out a relieved sigh. Blood was leaking out from his lips. He looked at his chest and noticed the hole in it was bleeding again.

Luckily, his vital organs had not been damaged. He would not die once he treated the wounds.

"We'll leave the rest to Brother Fan and Mu Bai." Zhang Xiaohou laid down, breathing deeply.

"Damn it, it's my first time being in a situation where I still have to wait quietly for my death after beating the enemy with everything I have," Zhao Manyan cursed quietly.

The two were standing on sea stack and staring into the distance. The Gravitational Vortex had visibly separated the inside and the outside, like there were two different worlds.

The water suddenly became restless. It went from small splashes to huge waves.

Zhao Manyan immediately rose to his feet on alert. Something dangerous was coming out of the sea!

Some time passed, but nothing appeared from the water. The surface of the sea was moving vigorously, like creatures were dancing around in it, but Zhao Manyan could not see a thing.

"It's the Dragon King Krill," Zhang Xiaohou murmured.

"What are they doing?"

"They must be afraid. The Forbidden Curse is coming," Zhang Xiaohou guessed.

The Dragon King Krill was finally going to show their true numbers across the vast sea.

They were strange creatures with the whiskers of a dragon, the body of a krill, and the tails of a fish. The small ones were as tiny as tadpoles. They gathered in groups and headed for the cliffs and the sea stacks.

The cliffs started collapsing. The scale of destruction was no weaker than an Advanced Spell.

There were bigger Dragon King Krill, too. They were crawling on the paths established by the smaller Dragon King Krill, stacking on top of one another. Several of them could eat a boulder and turn it into dust in just a few seconds.

A barren island further away suddenly sank into the sea. Zhang Xiaohou and Zhao Manyan watched it happen, and it took them a while to collect their thoughts.

The waves grew taller, like moving hills. They soon noticed a shocking figure.

Its dragon whiskers split the waves in half. Its body was like the size of a ship. Countless small Dragon King Krill were attached to it. A single wave of its tail would kill thousands of them easily.

The Dragon King Krill in the area had completely panicked as the Forbidden Curse was approaching. They no longer had the same color as the water, spots forming on their smooth bodies. They would look like giant wriggling tongues if they did not have whiskers.

“F**king disgusting!” Zhao Manyan almost vomited when he saw the enormous King of the Dragon Krill. He had goosebumps when he imagined the Dragon King Krill swimming around him when he was in the water not long ago.

“Brother Zhao, if the Forbidden Curse stops, the Dragon King Krill will live,” Zhang Xiaohou pointed out.

“That thing must be their leader. Let’s kill it!” Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

“Sure!”

They were half-dead anyway. What was there to be scared of?

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A special light was shining in the night sky. It stood out in the stars and moon.

“Mo Fan, look at the sky!” Mu Bai pointed at the display.

“What’s the point? I was going to do it even without the signal. Otherwise, what were we doing here?” Mo Fan replied.

Mu Bai was startled. He did not understand Mo Fan at first, but he soon realized what he meant.

Mo Fan would do anything for his brothers!

“The situation has changed,” Hua Yuezhu came over with a grim look, like she had just attended a funeral.

“We don’t have much time. Spill it,” Mo Fan said.

“Initially, we just had to destroy the forty Energy Points to stop the Forbidden Curse, but I just learned the Forbidden Curse has saved up enough energy. Even if we destroyed the Energy Points, the Forbidden Curse will still fall. It will only weaken it slightly,” Hua Yuezhu told them.

“Ugh... does that mean Zhang Xiaohou and Zhao Manyan are dead for sure?” Mu Bai blurted out.

There was no stopping the Forbidden Curse. Even if it was weakened, it would still kill everything!

Their only chance was if Zhao Manyan could Summon Baxia to his side instantly and use all his defense to have a slim chance of survival!

The problem was, the Gravitational Vortex was still around. Even if Baxia could make it in time, he would not be able to enter it!

There was no chance of living!

Hua Yuezhu lowered her head. Her face was twisted, and her eyes were tearing.

She was not able to stop it in the end!

“Does the Forbidden Curse not have a blind spot or a weak point?” Mo Fan asked grimly.

“There is, but only the Forbidden Mage knows where they are. However, even the weakest points and blind spots can kill Ruler-level creatures and Super Mages. A Forbidden Curse is stronger than you can imagine. It’s not the same as the difference between the Basic Level and the Intermediate Level, or the Intermediate Level and the Advanced Level. It’s a disaster!” Hua Yuezhu said.

Mu Bai opened his mouth, but he could not find any words.

It seemed like they really had no way of stopping it!

Zhang Xiaohou was already dead the moment he decided to go to the coordinates. The three of them would never stop the Forbidden Curse!

“There’s one more option,” Mo Fan declared.

“What option? We didn’t even have time to come up with a plan, nor do we have the manpower or information. Most importantly, we don’t have the necessary strength. Even if we attack the Energy Points, there’s a great chance we will be arrested!” Hua Yuezhu cried out.

“Who’s the Forbidden Mage?” Mo Fan asked with a serious face. He did not care about Hua Yuezhu’s attitude.

Mu Bai stared at Mo Fan with wide eyes. He asked, “Mo Fan, what are you thinking?”

“I’m going to beat him,” Mo Fan stated firmly.

Hua Yuezhu and Mu Bai stared at Mo Fan.

Was Mo Fan crazy? That was a Forbidden Mage!