

Versatile 2811

Chapter 2811: Rock Paintings

Only the staff of the Magic Department could take care of the changes in magic. Mo Fan knew nothing about it.

Even though Mo Fan had almost cultivated his skills to the peak, he still felt helpless sometimes.

He was strong, but he could not help other people become stronger. At the end of the day, he was only a good enough Mage. In the future, he could only fight with demons when he was needed. Although he enjoyed it, he was still not as good as a scientific researcher at the spiritual level.

The Little Loach guided them in a direction. There were huge mountains and valleys along the way. Little Loach guided them to turn right to reach their destination. However, there was a surging river on their right, so they could cross it.

Little Loach should have directed them to a bridge.

The wind was strong, and the gravel that hit their bodies caused pain. Mo Fan did not want to waste his magic energy on such trivial things, so he could only lower his body and bury his head in the broad neck of the Combat Blue Sheep and wish for it to be over soon. Although the smell of wool was strong, it was better than letting the gravel hit his face.

“The visibility is too low. Mo Fan, are you sure we’re heading in the right direction?” Mu Bai began to doubt.

They had known each other for many years, and Mu Bai knew for a fact that Mo Fan had a very bad sense of direction.

How could someone with no sense of direction lead the way?

“Trust me,” said Mo Fan.

“Look below. There are rock paintings,” Song Feiyao pointed to a cliff.

The two walked over and looked in the direction Song Feiyao pointed at. At first glance, it looked like the rocks were eroded by the strong winds so much so that it left deep cracks on them. It didn’t look like a ‘rock painting’. However, when Mo Fan and Mu Bai rode the Combat Blue Sheep to the other end and looked at the cliff, the messy patterns merged into a distinct shape.

“You can recognize it even if it is upside down?” Mo Fan admired Song Feiyao’s eyesight.

“We were taught about these ancient paintings since we were young, and we can recognize them even if there is only a part of them,” said Song Feiyao.

“What does it mean?” Mo Fan asked.

“A door. There is a door, and we need to find another rock painting to know the specific location of the door,” Song Feiyao said with certainty.

Since they had found the right place and knew the secrets, they could find the target easily. The most troublesome thing was finding something without any clues and directions.

The rock paintings spanned a very large area. Mo Fan and Mu Bai searched south and east for several kilometers before they found another rock painting.

Mu Bai was smart. He reminded Mo Fan that if the people of the Underground Holy Spring Clan wanted to leave a mark on Helan Mountain, they would choose a rock that would not be easily eroded by strong winds, acid rain, ice, and even snow. Otherwise, nature would destroy the rock paintings in no time.

After screening out several special rock structures, it became much easier to find details on the rock through the dragon sense even if dust and thick sand were covering them.

Even so, they spent two whole days here, and the Combat Blue Sheep grew impatient and wanted to go home.

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"We've found everything. Do we need to interpret it in a certain order?" Mo Fan asked impatiently.

'Underground Holy Spring...'

In these few days, Mo Fan had felt that his Fire Element was about to break through.

His cultivation skyrocketed even though he did nothing. It fueled Mo Fan's infinite desire to find the new Underground Holy Spring quickly.

"We have to put them together to be able to decode them," Song Feiyao said with a frown.

"It's impossible. The rock paintings in the south are seven kilometers apart from the rock paintings in the north, and they are all imprinted on the rocks with special methods. Forcibly moving them will only destroy the rock paintings," Mu Bai shook his head.

"What about copying it?" Mo Fan asked.

"It's also difficult. These rock paintings point to a certain mountain pass. If we copy it, we might not find the mountain pass accurately," said Mu Bai.

Song Feiyao pondered. She raised her head and stared at the brown and cloudy sky. The murky sky made it hard to tell what time it was.

"I remembered an ancient method of staring. We can look at these ancient paintings from a certain angle in the sky. Unfortunately, the weather is bad. We can't see all the rock paintings if we fly too low, but we also can't see the mountains if we fly too high," said Song Feiyao.

"When I borrowed the sheep, the herdsman told me that the weather would be sunny in two days. If we are going to go through with it, we need to find a cave to take shelter. Let's find the way when it is sunny," said Mu Bai.

"Okay, let's wait for two more days. We need to find a cave to take shelter. I can also check if my Fire Element can break through," said Mo Fan.

“Didn’t your Lightning Element just break through?” Mu Bai asked in surprise.

“Well, the things our ancestors left us are mysterious,” Mo Fan said vaguely.

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If they could not find a cave, they might as well dig one themselves. Which was exactly what they did. It was not a difficult thing. Besides, the cave they dug was clean and comfortable. They set up a tent at the entrance of the cave. When the tent flap was open, they could see the magnificent scenery of the steep and dangerous mountains. With a view like that, it wasn’t such a bad idea to stay here.

“I want to drink mutton soup.” Mo Fan was about to sit down and cultivate when a light flashed suddenly.

“Second-level protected war beasts,” Mu Bai said without looking up.

“We didn’t get to taste the mutton steamed buns in the Ancient Capital before we left.” Mo Fan sighed. He had a strange obsession with food even in times like these.

“How did you meet her?” Mu Bai asked in a low voice gesturing towards Song Feiyao’s tent.

Song Feiyao had a tent of her own. She had proposed digging her own cave and setting up a tent. The tent flap was closed. She must have been sleeping. She didn’t want the two men to watch her while she slept. She needed her privacy.

“It’s a long story, so I’ll keep it short. She admires me for being young, handsome, and strong. I told her I have a partner, but she said she didn’t mind...”

“I am not asleep yet and I can hear you, you know,” said Song Feiyao from inside her tent.

“Oh, we met at Licheng Afterglow Island. We both shared the common interest of freeing the totem beast,” said Mo Fan indifferently.

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“Mu Bai, tell me about the time when you left the Ancient Capital and traveled to Helan Mountain,” Mo Fan said.

“There’s nothing special. I was just a little confused.”

“Do you want to listen to what I did in the National Institute with Zhao Manyan?” Mo Fan asked with raised eyebrows.

“Haha.” Mu Bai sneered. He was too lazy to listen to that.

“So, Zhao Manyan almost did it with a female thief.”

Mu Bai was speechless.

Chapter 2812: Human Body Mural

The herdsmen knew the weather in Helan Mountain very well. After two days, the sunlight dazzled the mountain terrain in the morning.

Mo Fan stretched and smiled. He never thought there would be such a day when cultivation could be so easy. It would have been great if Little Loach had reached such a level from the beginning. He would probably become the youngest Forbidden Mage in the world who was skilled in multiple elements.

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His Fire Element had reached the third level!

The form of the Flame Demon King was Mo Fan's strongest ability, and it could even compete with strong ruler-level creatures. His Fire Element had entered its peak. His entanglement with Little Flame Belle, as well as the Great Heaven Seed, Chongming Divine Fire, and Tiandi Flame Calamity, would make him comparable to the Goddess Soul Shadow from during the catastrophe of the Ancient Capital.

At that time, it even defeated the Mountain Zombie. Mo Fan's mood was as bright as Helan Mountain in the brilliant sun!

"What did you dream about?" Mu Bai asked seeing him so happy.

Mo Fan touched his face and found that his cheeks were hot, and he grinned like an idiot. He wanted to hide his advancement and show his skills only when it was critical. But it turned out it was harder to hide his excitement.

"The sky is clear. Let's hurry up and find the Underground Holy Spring quickly!" Mo Fan said.

Song Feiyao had woken up earlier than the two of them. She washed up with the clean water she carried before leaving the tent. She was looking for a suitable viewing angle.

When Mo Fan and Mu Bai found Song Feiyao, she seemed to have already determined the location.

"Would you like me to take you for a ride? I can fly very high." Mo Fan wanted to show off his Black Dragon Wings to her.

"No, that's okay."

On Song Feiyao's palm, there was a greenish-red seed constantly absorbing sunlight. The seed slid down to the barren soil and quickly spread out its strong roots beneath the soil. After the roots stabilized, a slender vine moved toward the air like a small green snake. The vines were very long. After it climbed for a while, Song Feiyao grabbed one position, and she flew into the air with the rapidly rising vines.

"This environmentally friendly sightseeing elevator is good," Mo Fan commented.

Afterward, the two followed the vines that had grown to the sky into the air together. When they reached the same height as Song Feiyao, Mo Fan looked at the marked rock paintings.

All the rock paintings were to the east of them. At first, Mo Fan could not understand them, but as his field of vision became wider and his observation angle increased, Mo Fan was surprised to find that the rock paintings were getting closer!

Of course, the rock paintings weren't moving.

All the rock paintings were arranged according to the shape of Helan Mountain. A large rock painting occupied the entire mountain wall in that area as far as the eyes could see. They saw the end of the rock painting on the sloped cliff when they looked down from a height.

On the mountainside on the left was an engraving of another rock painting. From their current angle and height, the peak of the mountain touched the rock painting on the edge of the cliff.

Several rock paintings merged owing to the different heights, sizes, and locations of the mountains. They had become one complete rock painting at the mountain pass!

In Mo Fan's opinion, the designer was too bored to think of such a mural.

But Mo Fan also had to admit that the ancients were very good at making these fancy puzzle-like drawings. If Song Feiyao did not know how to observe them, they would never have been able to decode the meaning of the paintings.

"The mountain pass is just to the east. An underground tributary of the Yellow River flows into it. The people who live in isolation won't be affected even if some huge mountains cover it," Song Feiyao said confidently.

The rock paintings marked the secluded place of the clan that guarded the Underground Holy Spring and marked a special underground valley. They could easily find where they wanted to go if they followed the water source.

"There won't be people living there, right?" Mu Bai asked.

"It's unlikely to have people living there. Bo City, Licheng Afterglow Island, and Weiju Clan have all assimilated. No matter how isolated the places are, the residents must have left such a place," said Mo Fan.

"We'll know after we go in and look around. I hope these people didn't disappear. The Underground Holy Spring will be very weak if no one was there to protect it," said Song Feiyao.

They found the mountain pass, but there was no river there. Instead, an obvious alluvial fan had formed, like a completely dry delta. It was not a natural phenomenon in Helan Mountain.

They walked along the gravel-filled mountain pass. Those steep peaks were like gates of heaven that would fall at any time in front of the three of them. Without stepping into it, they could only see the dangerous mountain. They never thought that there was a road below. There was still sunlight in the morning, but it became very dark in the afternoon.

The passage through the mountain pass was not stable, and a lot of gravel and thick soil slid down. If it was the rainy season, there would be a disastrous flood. Mud, boulders, and sand would flow like wild beasts.

Fortunately, it had not rained recently.

The deeper they went, the more traces they found of life lived in this place. They even saw a few stone houses standing alone by the cliff. They looked at the outpost of the village. People might have used that to guard the entrance.

However, the stone houses had long been abandoned, and it was not clear when.

“The guardians of the Underground Holy Spring of Helan Mountain seem to like rock paintings, murals, and geoglyphs, and they were mostly represented by human body shapes, movements, and postures.” Mu Bai observed.

The floor they walked on and the cliffs on both sides had a ‘human’ shape that had been cut. The way it was cut was very fascinating. It seemed like when the cement had not even dried completely, a cat and a dog had accidentally stepped on it. Their small footprints had been immortalized on the wall and the floor.

It was the same for the human shapes. They had different postures. It seemed that when everything was still being fabricated and shaped, many people posed differently to leave their mark.

It was some sort of sculpture art. Most of the mural sculptures were convex, but some were concave.

Chapter 2813: The Underground Holy Spring

As they continued to go deeper into the cave, they found a clean stream.

The stream flowed through the mountain valley they had been walking on. Song Feiyao told them this was the exact stream they were looking for that crossed the ancient village before reaching the Yellow River.

The clear stream water suggested that the stream did not flow on the surface. Otherwise, the surrounding mud and dirt could easily turn it muddy.

The stream water spilled out from the rock strata, then passed by a fault valley blocked by the rocks. The mysterious and ancient village where the Underground Holy Spring was located at the fault valley.

The rock mass on top of the mountain within the fault valley resembled a gigantic umbrella that blocked the sun from view. It covered the entire fault valley. Even if one looked down from the sky, they could not possibly notice the cave down there.

The crystal-clear stream water flowed out of the fault valley through the cracks that were either formed naturally or man-made. The water flowed along the steep rocks and formed a transparent pool at the back of the village. It was truly a rare scenery to behold.

The village was surrounded by rocks and wood. Most of the houses were made of wood.

When they got closer to it, the village did not look much different from any other quiet mountain village. There were roads, a village entrance, a fortress wall, and rusted farming tools strewn about.

The village was so quiet that the visitors dared not venture inside to ask questions even when they stood right at the entrance.

“It’s deserted.” Song Feiyao sighed.

Unlike Licheng Afterglow Island, all the guardians of the Underground Holy Springs did not remain as a complete society. Not all of them knew the significance of what had been passed down by their ancestors. After all, it had been a long time since the guardian tribes were formed.

In the past, dozens of guardian tribe branches stood guard over the Underground Holy Spring. However, hardly any of them had survived till today.

“There are some farming tools with some words on them. They look like they are from the modern era.” Mo Fan used his dragon sense to search for clues from his surroundings.

“In other words, it hasn’t been long since the village was deserted. It’s possible that the villagers guarded the Underground Holy Spring until recently,” said Mu Bai.

Mo Fan nodded. He hoped the Underground Holy Spring was not nearly dried-up like the one he had seen in Bo City.

Judging from the current amount of sustenance Little Loach needed per day, it would be a waste of a trip if Mo Fan did not get an Underground Holy Spring that was on par with the one at Licheng Afterglow Island.

“Let’s split up and look around. I’ll explore the pool under the waterfall,” said Mo Fan.

“I’ll look around the village.”

“I’ll explore outside the village.”

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Mo Fan walked toward the waterfall. Not all waterfalls flowed down with force and a rumble.

The waterfall here was small. It flowed quietly along the fault valley’s cracks formed over the years into a pool of water.

The pool was not very deep. After all, there was no impact from the downward flow of water. It looked like a huge spring which might have served as drinking water for the villagers. Mo Fan had the strong urge of rolling up his pant legs and soaking his legs inside the clean and refreshing spring water. He often did that when he was young.

He took off the pendant hanging on his chest, then soaked and washed it inside the water. Mo Fan had been keeping his pendant well-hidden to prevent himself from exposing Little Loach to the public. He sweated quite a bit and it was due for a wash.

As soon as he put his pendant inside the cold spring of the fault valley, Little Loach shone, making the pendant look as if it was alive. It broke itself free from Mo Fan’s grasp and burrowed into the shallow cold spring.

Mo Fan was puzzled. But he was not in a hurry to pick it back up. He seldom saw Little Loach so impatient.

It slid to the bottom of the spring. When it glowed, Mo Fan realized there was another layer of liquid with different density at the bottom of the spring. Ordinary stream water had very low density and floated on the upper layer.

Meanwhile, liquid with high density rested at the bottom. It looked like it had been sealed by a layer of something that resembled thin ice. When the spring water flowed down and struck it, it would sway,

just like any other liquid. However, the liquid moved with a sense of sluggishness, making it seem like it would not break free of the ice even if a gargantuan force struck it.

Mo Fan smiled. So, the Underground Holy Spring was sealed at the bottom of the spring!

The Underground Holy Spring was completely different from ordinary water. The Underground Holy Spring was like sunken oil. There was a clear layer of boundary that separated the stream water from the Underground Holy Spring. Even a Water Element mage could not expose it with ease, let alone the villagers who collected water from it.

The Underground Holy Spring was hidden within the normal spring. It was a brilliant way of concealing it. Even if people with ulterior motives found the pool, they would have a hard time finding the Underground Holy Spring.

Fortunately, Mo Fan had Little Loach with him. Otherwise, they would have spent a lot of effort in finding the Underground Holy Spring. Mo Fan, Song Feiyao, and Mu Bai would have subconsciously looked for it at the hidden caves, mysterious realm, and underground places, inside the village with no result.

The village itself was secretly hidden between the fault valley of Helan Mountain. It was difficult to discover the petroglyphs unless they were the guardian tribe of the Underground Holy Spring. Only the leader of the guardian tribe had the knowledge of combining all the petroglyphs.

Those who used this method to hide the location of the Underground Holy Spring had done so to prevent the insiders rather than the outsiders from stealing it.

Little Loach was not restrained by the layer of Forbidden System. It was literally a movable Underground Holy Spring storage. Hence, the Forbidden System recognized it as part of the spring.

The moment it reached the bottom of the spring, Little Loach quickly absorbed the holy spring essence. Meanwhile, Mo Fan kept a close eye on their surroundings on the shore.

Something was strange.

There was no one in the village, and the Underground Holy Spring was skillfully hidden. If no one was here to manage it, how did the spring thrive? How had it not dried up?

If there was no water inside the pool, could the Forbidden System transform into sand and continue to keep the Underground Holy Spring hidden?

No one had discovered the secret of the petroglyphs. No one had barged into this place and discovered the guardians of the Underground Holy Spring secrets yet.

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Little Loach absorbed the holy spring essence rapidly. Mo Fan let down his guard.

Obtaining the Underground Holy Spring was more crucial than anything else! Before Mo Fan could celebrate, Mu Bai rushed over to him after surveying the surrounding of the village.

"It doesn't seem as simple as it appears to be, right?" asked Mo Fan.

“Simple? Have you found the Underground Holy Spring?” Mu Bai was stunned.

“Yes, and I’ve kept it.” Mo Fan nodded.

“Do you still remember the engraved frescoes when we entered through the cave...?” Mu Bai asked.

Chapter 2814: The War Of The Humanoid Golems

Roar!

Before Mu Bai finished his words, a roar came from the majestic fault valley above them.

A giant, rocky leg trampled the steep, huge mountain. Its foot landed near Mo Fan and Mu Bai. Its foot was as huge as a stone house they had seen on their way here. It could easily trample animals and humans into meat pies.

With this foot down, the other one moved out of the remains of the mountain wall. Mo Fan and Mu Bai looked up and saw the giant’s waist in the middle of the stone wall. It slowly detached its waist from the wall.

After its waist was detached from the wall, it began to pull its upper body out.

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It was as if its flesh, skin, and bones grew on the rocks, and it was trying to peel them out!

Finally, the giant removed itself from the rocks and stood before Mo Fan and Mu Bai. It was as tall as the peak of the mountain. It towered over everything.

Mo Fan looked at the giant and then at the mountain wall along which the spring water flowed, only to realize that an enormous shape of a human had dented the mountain wall.

‘What the heck! It was not a performance art piece, it’s a living body...!’

When they walked all the way in, they saw many human shapes dented on the mountain walls. It was clear that those were the living rocky giants like the one they had seen. They had been wandering around this area from the beginning.

Roar!

The humanoid golem roared, as if declaring a war against all the tribes in Helan Mountain.

It radiated an imposing and terrifying aura. Mo Fan and Mu Bai dared not slow down. They exchanged glances and decided to leave the rocky place and to fight the rocky giants in an open space.

However, the humanoid golem did not notice the duo under its feet. It stretched out its rocky arm and grabbed the rock mass that blocked the sun view. It climbed out of the mountain valley through it.

The mountain valley shook. Brown humanoid golems crawled out of the mountain wall one after another. The afternoon sun gleamed into the mountain valley and reflected on the humanoid golems. They shone like the Buddha. They looked holy and majestic!

More humanoid golems pulled themselves out of the steep cliff along the stone walls. They crawled outside and followed their leader.

A huge and majestic humanoid golem army was formed within a short period of time.

They made their ways to the outside world. The mountain valley was covered with countless dented traces that resembled footprints. Mo Fan and Mu Bai were shocked.

“It seems like they are not coming for us,” said Mu Bai after a long silence.

Mo Fan was stunned.

He had thought that the humanoid golems guarding the Underground Holy Spring had discovered him stealing the spring. However, the humanoid golems ignored them completely and made their way out of the cave. Mo Fan and Mu Bai did not know what was happening outside...

“Shall we follow them?” asked Mu Bai.

“Yes.”

Mo Fan had no idea where the humanoid golems were heading. If they swarmed the cities nearby Helan Mountain, Mo Fan and his group would have committed a sinful deed.

Mo Fan was an Earth Element mage. The surrounding earth element was so rich that his Earth element magical power increased by multiple folds. Mo Fan went after the humanoid golems along the rocks.

Song Feiyao and Mu Bai followed closely behind. They were worried that their invasion might have led to a disaster.

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After the humanoid golems crawled out of the mountain valley, they found themselves on a land that faced the east. However, they moved toward the bulging mountains in the north. The peak of the mountains crossed with one another like huge swords clashing one another. Even the rocks that resembled the schists and spears laced with one another...

There were no flat grounds. Below the mountain peaks and rocks were cliffs that fell hundreds of meters down. The deep valley was bottomless with visible cracks. It was a large hollow piece of land with large rocks. If ordinary people were to walk on top of the land, they may slip and fall to the bottom of the mountain and shatter into pieces.

The humanoid golems spread across the hollow land made of rocks on top of the mountain. They heavily guarded and sealed the area. They unanimously turned to the north.

Meanwhile, the giant beasts covered in thick fur were seen at a higher mountain in the north. They leaped over the ridge and got closer to the humanoid golems. The giant beasts looked strong and ferocious. They bared their fangs. They were stronger and more powerful than the beasts within the forest. They gathered in a large group on the mountain line.

The beasts' roaring shook the surrounding rocks. The rocks fell and crashed down. The humanoid golems were undaunted. They stood guard over their territory and were ready to fight the Blood Beasts from Northern Xinjiang.

"The Blood Beasts want to cross the Helan Mountain!" Mu Bai exclaimed.

The thick-haired demons were the Blood Beasts from Northern Xinjiang. These ferocious demons usually cooped up on the higher grounds in groups. The killing between humans and the Blood Beasts in Xinjiang had never ceased, and the war continued for several dynasties.

Roar! Roar!

The far end of the mountain was covered in crimson. The Blood Beasts roared in fury. One of them was covered with blood-red mane, and it stood in the middle of the Blood Beasts. It was the leader of the Blood Beasts.

Roar!

Likewise, the leader of the humanoid golems roared back in rage. They did not leave their positions.

The confrontation did not last for long. Both sides were gathering their soldiers. In the end, the Blood Beasts could no longer hold back their thirst for the northern border and charged at the humanoid golems.

There was no bloodshed in this war. The humanoid golems had no blood. They were elemental substances. The residents of Helan Mountain knew them as the Elemental Soldiers.

Similarly, the Blood Beasts did not bleed. Their blood fused with their muscles which then transformed into a terrifying force that could tear their enemies apart.

Even though not a single drop of blood was shed in this war, it was brutal. The Blood Beasts bit off some of the humanoid golems' heads and threw their bodies into the bottomless pit. The Blood Beasts pounced on some of the humanoid golems, crushing them into pieces and scattering them across the gap between the rocks. The Blood Beasts crushed some of the humanoid golems into powder, and the powder flew away in the breeze.

Chapter 2815: Soul Entering The Rocks

The war was chaotic. Mo Fan, Mu Bai, and Song Feiyao stood there and watched the two parties fighting each other. Both the humanoid golems and the Blood Beasts turned a blind eye to them.

'Why did they kill each other? Was this purely another senseless battle between the demons?' they wondered.

The humanoid golems possessed elemental lives. They did not have to fight for any resources with the Blood Beasts. Meanwhile, the Blood Beasts were purely carnivorous. They could not possibly find the elemental lives to be useful to them.

"Could the humanoid golems be the reason why the Blood Beasts can't go over to Helan Mountain?" Mo Bai asked.

There was a large Blood Beast tribe in the north of Helan Mountain. They were rampant and large in number. They had to cross Helan Mountain to invade human territories.

However, the Elemental Soldiers inhabited Helan Mountain. They would awaken whenever they sensed a large number of Blood Beasts encroaching on Northern Xinjiang.

Baa! Baa!

The Combat Blue Sheep bleated. But they did not sound as if they were intimidated by the Blood Beasts.

Mo Fan turned and saw several men and women in local herdsmen attire behind them. They might have rushed over after such a large commotion, or they could have been waiting here because they knew the war would happen.

“Guys, come over here lest the Blood Beasts hurt you,” said one of the herdsmen with his tanned arms exposed.

The trio retreated to the top of the fault valley in confusion. It was just the right height to watch the war unfold.

“Did you find what you were looking for?” asked the Chief of the herdsmen with a round hat.

“Did you find the Combat Blue Sheep to be useful?” The man whom the trio had first met at the bottom of the mountain grinned and revealed his yellowish teeth.

Mo Fan glanced at the crowd. The number of the herdsmen was scarce. Each of them rode on horses and deer. It was clear that they were used to the brutal and horrific war before them.

“What exactly is going on?” Mu Bai could not stop himself from asking.

“Even though Helan Mountain is very near to the Beast Kingdom of Northern Xinjiang, there’s not a single fortress and army to protect the mountain. We’re the only ones who stand guard over here. Do you really think we possess some sort of supernatural powers, or that Helan Mountain is so lofty and dangerous that the Blood Beasts can’t cross it?” said the man with the yellowish teeth.

The Chief with the round hat raised his hand, signaling the man to watch his words.

The Chief then stared at Mo Fan, looking like he knew something more.

However, he looked away and said nothing. He fixed his gaze on the leader of the humanoid golem, as if looking at an old friend.

The crowd turned quiet suddenly. The roar on top of the mountain intensified. Several Blood Beasts were ruthlessly thrown from the mountain. Their bodies smashed onto the fault valley below and ended up in a bloodless mess.

The leader of the humanoid golems and the Blood Beast covered in blood-red mane were in the middle of an intense fight. The mountain peak and rocks continued to collapse and fall into the deep valley. Countless rocks as huge as the houses crashed and fell down the mountain.

“Are they helping you to guard Helan Mountain?” Mo Fan asked.

“Do you know why we’re known as the herdsmen?” the Chief asked.

“Because you’re the beast tamer. You tamed the horses, deer, and Combat Blue Sheep,” answered Mo Fan.

“No! No! No! We don’t tame animals. We tend the Elemental Spirit of Helan Mountain!” said the Chief of herdsmen.

Mo Fan, Mu Bai, and Song Feiyao were shocked. ‘Did the Elemental Soldiers listen to their orders?’

The Elemental Soldiers were powerful and large in number. They were more powerful than an army of elites!

“What spell do you use?” Mo Fan asked. ‘What kind of power summoned the Elemental Soldiers? Could it be the Psychic Element magical power?’

“We don’t summon the Elemental Soldiers. They live here in the Helan Mountain. They don’t completely listen to my instructions. They will only awake when the Blood Beasts come and temporarily become our soldiers to fight the beasts. Otherwise, they are dormant in Helan Mountain most of the time,” said the Chief.

“So, you’re using the Psychic element magical power, right?” Mo Fan asked again.

“Yes and no. Let me tell you a story from a long time ago. If you stay here for a while longer, you’ll learn that this is a story that has been passed down from ages ago.” A smile was finally seen on the Chief’s face.

Mo Fan was all ears.

“We used to be ordinary herdsmen. We’re neither Combat Mages nor Patrolling Border Team. No matter how many livestock we tended, we always had trouble making ends meet because the Blood Beasts often crossed Helan Mountain and hunted for food.”

“The Blood Beasts are powerful creatures, and we’re weak. Soon, our livestock were insufficient for them. The Blood Beasts then targeted the residents in the cities. One fine afternoon, the Blood Beasts covered Helan Mountain and swarmed us in groups.”

“We thought we were going to die. Little did we know about a village in the depths of Helan Mountain. The villagers stood up and cast powerful magic to defeat the Blood Beasts. However, all of them ended up dead.”

“They were hermits. Even though the Blood Beasts had not discovered their valley, they stood up for us. Only a few of them survived the battle. We invited them to stay with us. Unfortunately, they turned down our offer.”

“There’s a person in the village skilled in Black Magic. He substituted the wine with spring water and sprinkled it across the entire valley to commemorate the deceased. Later, he branded their souls on the high rocks, mountain wall stones, and large valleys.”

“We were puzzled and asked him the purpose of it. We wondered why he didn’t allow the respectable souls to leave of their own free will.”

“He told us that the deceased souls had to stand guard over something. Even though they had become ghosts and spirits, they had to continue guarding their ancestral inheritance.”

“Their souls entered the mountain and gave lives to the rocks. The Elemental Soldiers originated from the villagers’ souls. They forgot about the thing they were supposed to protect, but they always fought for us against the Blood Beasts.”

When the Chief told the story, his gaze focused on Mo Fan. He emphasized his words and stared hard at Mo Fan.

‘Substituting wine with spring water...’

The spring the Chief had referred to was not the spring that spilled out of the rocks. He was referring to the Underground Holy Spring!

The Underground Holy Spring was the only thing granted those rocks with extraordinary power and life!

Chapter 2816: The Chosen One

The first question that the Chief had asked was, “Did you find what you were looking for?”

He knew everything. He knew Mo Fan had found the Underground Holy Spring and stolen it from the bottom of the spring for himself.

He had narrated that story so that Mo Fan could understand that the Underground Holy Spring was what granted the rocks life. The lives of the deceased people from the village.

The villagers were all gone. They had died protecting Helan Mountain.

While the guardians of the Underground Holy Spring at Helan Mountain stood up and faced the disaster with bravery, the people from Mingwu Ancient City and Licheng Afterglow Island decided to keep themselves away from the war.

“Go now. Since you’ve found this place, I believe you’re not far from the truth,” said the Chief to Mo Fan.

Mo Fan knew he had to return the Underground Holy Spring to them. The Underground Holy Spring was needed to summon the Elemental Soldiers at Helan Mountain. He could not take it away from them.

He could not afford to steal the spring for his own cultivation at the expense of the southern cities at Helan Mountain.

“I understand it hasn’t been easy for you to protect Helan Mountain. I’ll return the thing that I’ve taken from you,” said Mo Fan to the Chief.

However, the Chief shook his head. “The reason I told you the story is not to raise your conscience; I’m telling you so that we will never forget our ancestral tradition. Our ancestors have used up half of the Underground Holy Spring to protect the residents at Helan Mountain, and they continued to stand guard over the remaining half in an undead elemental form.”

“I understand....” Mo Fan was guilty.

“Say no more. I already know who you are and your background. You’re the same as the villagers. Go now. Go for the sake of saving the residents of Helan Mountain and protecting the East Coastline. By doing so, our ancestors’ effort of guarding the Underground Holy Spring for so many years would not go to waste!” said the Chief.

“How about Helan Mountain?”

“Using half of it is already sufficient. Besides, they were the ones who owed it to that person. If not, why would they have guarded the Underground Holy Spring? The villagers strongly believe that that person will come someday. When that person comes and takes the Underground Holy Spring, the spring must be in complete form. It’s their fault if they failed to protect the spring,” said the Chief.

The true purpose of standing guard over the Underground Holy Spring was to wait for the right person to take it away, instead of allowing the spring to dry up or possess it without a purpose.

Both Bo City and Licheng Afterglow Island had failed to stand guard over the Underground Holy Spring; even Helan Mountain had done it only half right. Fortunately, the fragmented, sealed, and incomplete springs were still functional.

“You will do us a huge favor as long as you don’t take back the Elemental Soldiers’ lives,” said the Chief as he cupped one hand in the other before his chest.

Mo Fan could not possibly call back the Elemental Soldiers’ lives.

Mo Fan did not quite understand why the Chief said they only required half of the Underground Holy Spring. Also, why was the Chief so sure that Mo Fan and his group were the ones they had been waiting for?

The Chief was firm in his decision.

Mo Fan did not turn down his offer. After all, the Underground Holy Spring was hard to understand. Instead of allowing it to dry-up in a no man’s island, he might as well use it well like the guardians of the Underground Holy Spring.

...

With the presence of the herdsmen and the Elemental Soldiers, the Blood Beasts could not possibly cross towards the Helan Mountain. The mountain’s defense line was more robust than any other fortress with an army. The Elemental Soldiers were the purest souls that would fight the Blood Demons till the end. Maybe they didn’t even know why they still fought...

After watching Mo Fan, Song Feiyao, and Mu Bai depart to the east, the herdsmen remain in their positions. They continued watching the chaotic battlefield. Some of the herdsmen quietly chanted an ancient spell to summon the scattered souls back to the rock mountain.

“Chief, are you sure that kid is the person we’ve been waiting for?” asked the man with yellow teeth.

“Why would that matter?”

“If yes, we can finally break ourselves free. If not, he has taken advantage of us!” said the man.

“The ancestors never told us who we should give the Underground Holy Spring to,” said the Chief.

“I wonder why the Elemental Soldiers allowed him to take the Underground Holy Spring without stopping him. Normally, the Elemental Soldiers would attack anyone who got near to the Underground Holy Spring,” said the man.

“So, then it must be him. We can finally break ourselves free,” said the Chief calmly.

...

There was a narrow area somewhere around the Yellow River at Helan Mountain. There was a rope bridge above it. Mo Fan and his group reached that place, but they could not stop looking back.

“Mo Fan, they look like the surviving villagers. They have become part of the herdsmen,” said Mu Bai.

“I know. If they were the herdsmen, they couldn’t possibly have known about the history of the Underground Holy Spring so well. Song Feiyao, what do you think?” Mo Fan turned around to Song Feiyao.

After all, Song Feiyao was a genuine guardian of the Underground Holy Spring.

“Yes. Their analyses are the same as mine,” said Song Feiyao.

“Analyses? What analyses are you talking about?” Mo Fan asked in confusion.

“Someone will take the Underground Holy Spring someday. I don’t know who the person is. Nobody does. But it’s possible that the person might be you,” said Song Feiyao solemnly.

‘Was he the Chosen One? Could it be...’

“What is the basis of your analyses?” Mo Fan found this to be ridiculous. He did not believe he could be the Chosen One. Although he believed he was gifted and extraordinary, and even Mo Jiaxin had mentioned there was a thunderstorm on the day he was born, he wondered what made them think he was that person the guardians had been waiting for.

“Not everyone can take the Underground Holy Spring whenever they want. Throughout the years, no one has ever stolen the Underground Holy Spring. It’s a holy relic, and it’s indestructible. Nothing can hide its great aura. Even if it’s stolen, we can find it back. If one steals it, it means that they are protecting the Underground Holy Spring on our behalf,” said Song Feiyao.

“I don’t understand,” said Mo Fan.

“There must be something on you that allows you to digest the tremendous energy from the Underground Holy Spring, as well as preventing the energy from spreading,”

“I-I...” Mo Fan panicked. ‘She has discovered Little Loach’s existence!’

“Since you’re capable of digesting the holy spring, you must be the one destined to take the Underground Holy Spring away,” said Song Feiyao.

She had discovered this when they were at Licheng Afterglow Island.

Chapter 2817: Overeagerness Ruins The Growth

While not everyone could take the Underground Holy Spring and digest it, Mo Fan was the exception.

The intense warmth from the Underground Holy Spring attracted many demons to fight for it. Only the guardians of the Underground Holy Spring knew how to keep its energy well-hidden to prevent trouble.

Mo Fan took the Underground Holy Spring and prevented the spread of its energy. On top of that, he could use the Underground Holy Spring energy to accelerate his growth of cultivation instead of going through a long, arduous cultivation journey.

Did this not show that the Underground Holy Spring belonged to him?

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Regardless of whether Mo Fan was a perfect match for the Underground Holy Spring and could absorb the spring energy through his physique, or there was something on him that enabled him to absorb the spring energy and possess the spring, it showed that Mo Fan was the one the guardians of the Underground Holy Spring had been waiting for.

Even if Mo Fan was not that person, so what?

The guardians of the Underground Holy Spring could not possibly continue to stand guard over the spring forever until it dried-up.

If that was the case, the Underground Holy Spring's guardians might as well give the spring to the person they believed was the one to end the curse placed on them over thousands of years.

The guardians' mission was accomplished when that person arrived and took the Underground Holy Spring. They no longer had to hide or fight among themselves because of the mysterious treasure.

"Mo Fan, you don't have to feel pressured. You came from Bo City. Uncle Zhuoyun is the person in charge of the Underground Holy Spring at Bo City. He will pass the spring down to Mu Ningxue sooner or later, and she is part of your family. It will eventually fall into your hands. The guardians of the Underground Holy Spring have assimilated, split, and disappeared over the years. So, it's only normal that you be the one to protect the remaining Underground Holy Spring. You don't have to care too much if you are truly the one they've been waiting for. If some day there comes that person who truly is for the spring, he will defeat you." Mu Bai patted Mo Fan's shoulder and tried to comfort him.

Mu Bai noticed that Mo Fan did not look pressured. In fact, Mo Fan was more than willing to take the place of the chosen one.

'Why do I even need to comfort him?' thought Mu Bai. He sighed. 'It's obvious he is enjoying the attention and the assumption. Even if he isn't the right person, he will strive to become one.'

1

"Since you've said so, I'll force myself to accept it, then!" Mo Fan smiled.

Song Feiyao did not know Mo Fan as well as Mu Bai. She nodded. "Hopefully we can find the remaining long-lost Underground Holy Springs so that you can dabble into the realm of Forbidden Curse."

"Forbidden Curse?!" Mo Fan could not help but cry out loud.

“Isn’t the Earth Pistil required for the Forbidden Curse?” Mu Bai asked in confusion.

“The genuine Underground Holy Spring energy is as powerful as the Earth Pistil. In fact, Eldest Grandpa and Eldest Granny strongly believed that if I continue to cultivate in the Underground Holy Spring at Licheng Afterglow Island, I might be able to dabble into the realm of Forbidden Curse within ten years. However, I didn’t think so. Instead, I believe undue haste will only spoil the growth of my cultivation. I find my cultivation to be different compared to those who work hard to build their foundations and are familiar with magical skills, just like you two,” said Song Feiyao.

“Makes sense.”

Both Mo Fan and Mu Bai had experienced various fights to sharpen their skills. They continued to break through their cultivation in the middle of a crisis and stimulated their spiritual potential. Although they were young, they had a wealth of experience in combat compared to many old mages who lived in comfort.

Most people were selfish, lazy, and waited for others to provide for them. They strove hard in the beginning of their cultivation but when they had a decent life, they slacked off. Many people cultivated in their own backyards, or they relied on their own network, social status, and wealth to accumulate resources for their cultivation.

Even if they always secluded themselves from others to cultivate, they were always inferior to the mages who risked their lives in the battlefield. Cultivation based on resources would only ruin their growth.

Cultivation did not represent one’s real strength.

Even Mu Bai could defeat the so-called mages who had completed their cultivation, let alone Mo Fan with his large amount of Heaven Seeds.

By the time Mo Fan and Mu Bai completed their cultivation, their peers would be no match for them.

The reason Zhao Jing was a strong opponent was because his strength was on par with Mo Fan and Mu Bai.

They possessed Heaven Seeds, something that many third-grade Super Level mages desired!

While they could spend money to buy Soul Seeds, they could not do the same for Heaven Seeds. Sub-heaven Seeds alone were priceless, let alone the Great Heaven Seeds!

Besides, Song Feiyao had not achieved Super level for several of her elements.

Even though both Song Feiyao and Mo Fan were third grade Super Level mages, Mo Fan could inflict direct damage to a Supreme Ruler with his Fire element. Song Feiyao, on the other hand, could only peel off a layer of the Supreme Ruler’s skin.

The reason Song Feiyao agreed to follow Mo Fan and Mu Bai was not only to search for the Underground Holy Spring and totem beast, but also to gain some experience for herself.

She had a high level of cultivation, but she needed to strengthen herself by gaining more experience by venturing outside. She believed she still had a large room for improvement. Without practical

experience, she could not reach the realm of Forbidden Curse even if she was provided with ten Underground Holy Springs.

Resting on one's laurels was Licheng Afterglow Islanders' biggest weakness. Song Feiyao knew this would only lead them to a dead end soon. They placed all their hope on the Underground Holy Spring. But the Underground Holy Spring would only bring them death. The moment the Ocean Demons arrived at their island, all of them would be wiped out and nobody would actually be able to fight.

Song Feiyao had never betrayed her people. All she did was find a way of survival for the islanders. Even though the road would be tough, at least they would be alive. She didn't mind if none of them understood her purpose. It did not matter that they continued to misunderstand and blame her. She was fine with anything if Licheng Afterglow Islanders had a shot at survival.

...

"Mu Bai, did you go to Helan Mountain just to enjoy the scenery?" Mo Fan recalled.

"Actually, I heard about a type of bug in the valley of Helan Mountain. Its scientific name is..."

"Stop talking about the strange bug. Do you plan to find it during this trip?" asked Mo Fan.

"The valley at Helan Mountain is complicated. There are many fault valleys. It will consume a lot of time to find the bug. Moreover, we have something else to do," said Mu Bai.

"Zhang Xiaohou hasn't given us any clear clues. I don't think we can help much even if we go to him. Let us go to the Bug Valley with you," said Mo Fan.

"Will this..."

"We can't find the totem beast in a day or two. What matters most is that our strengths have increased compared to the past. You were still too weak to go to the Bug Valley back then. But you're different now. If your purpose is clear, with our current strengths, we won't have to spend a lot of time in finding the bug," said Mo Fan.

"Makes sense. Let's go, then. There's an entrance to the Bug Valley at the east of the Helan Mountain foothill." Mu Bai nodded.

Song Feiyao had no qualms about it. After all, her purpose of venturing outside was to gain experience.

Chapter 2818: The Bizarre Star Bug

At Yinchuan plain, when they looked down from the sky, the form of the Yellow River resembled a Chinese word. The water washed sediments accumulated at the river's bottom to the shore and formed a rich plain.

The Ocean Demons frequently encroached on Chang River and Zhu River because these rivers were situated along the coast. They found it harder to invade the Yellow River. One of the reasons was that Zhang Xiaohou had destroyed the massive underground river tunnel of Bo City. Another reason was that a large amount of sediments and impurities accumulating in the Yellow River had severely hindered the Ocean Demons from marching to it.

The Yellow River water flowed rapidly. It was difficult to control its speed. It often led to disaster. The turbulent flow of water made the low-level Ocean Demons difficult to swim.

The Ocean Demon army was mostly made up of low-level Ocean Demons. By the time they swam to the Yellow River, they were already exhausted. How could they still have the strength to encroach on the cities of the Yellow River?

This was the fallen area of the plateau. Even though it was only plains, the altitude was more than a thousand meter. The Ocean Demons had difficulty reaching the zone.

Most civilization was impossible without the water. They needed water to irrigate, farm, generate electricity, and even for transport. Mo Fan wondered where the water came from. Probably rainwater. Meanwhile, those areas where the rain was scarce had to rely on the snow and ice from the mountain.

When the temperature rose, the snow on the mountains melted. The melted snow flowed to the lower areas and formed streams. The streams converged at a certain point to form rivers. When the rivers converged, they formed bigger water bodies. Prosperous cities were formed around these water bodies. It had been this way since ancient times.

However, a cold wave befell China. The snow on the mountains hardly melted. Many rivers had dried up. Without the supply of water, the crops died. Even transportation by river was hampered.

Even though the sea water could keep the difference of temperature along the coast balanced, many Ocean Demons attacked the coasts. The weather was bitterly cold, and the rivers were frozen.

With the Ocean Demons' attack, humans were left with only five base cities to rely on.

The South Emperor joined forces with the Ocean Godly Horde of the Pacific Ocean. This was no different from ending humans' all possible means of survival.

If they gave up the East Coastline and retreated to the country, could humans truly survive under such a poor environment?

...

Zhao Xiaohou used to serve in the military both within the country and along the coast. He was absorbed in his thoughts while staring at the icy cold Yellow River.

A lot of ridiculous ideas were published on many websites. They suggested retreating from the East Coastline and focusing on destroying the Ocean Demons in the country. They suggested taking back their territories from the weaker Ocean Demons to alleviate the current situation.

The seemingly wise people came up with endless plots. They made analyses and came up with winning scenarios. As a result, the admirers began to question the government's decisions.

The truth was those 'wise' people had never fought at the frontlines. They were narrow-minded and thought they could solve the problems only by their words. They had never witnessed the Ocean Demons' brutality. They had never seen the hopelessness and disappointment reflected on the citizens' faces when they stared at the snow mountain where the snow no longer melted to provide them with a reliable water source.

There was no peace. No places to hide. The country had to ignore those suggestions and its supporters. It had to resolve the issue surrounding the snow mountain, kill the Ocean Demons, and save the people from desperate situations!

In fact, the people needed ways of preventing their crops from freezing, they needed ways to melt the snow mountains, they needed more advanced water transportation, they needed more powerful mages to fight the Ocean Demons and they needed a lot more solutions than the 'wise' people behind their keyboards giving suggestions.

The country was in a dire situation. As the cold wave continued, the upstream water might freeze forever. By then, there would be no water supply to irrigate the crops. The dams could not generate electricity. The country's civilization would regress. Even if humans were not entirely wiped out, the Ocean Demons would have won.

"Chairman Shao Zheng was not impeached. He is somewhere he is needed the most. He always has a farther vision than others," Zhang Xiaohou said to himself.

"Hey, are you daydreaming?" asked Jiang Shaoxu.

Zhang Xiaohou returned to his senses, only to realize that two women had crawled to the bottom of the plain and discovered some clues on the river banks.

"I've checked the surroundings. There are no demons around this area," said Zhang Xiaohou.

"Okay, we'll go down there, then. Lingling and I found a river monument. I believe this is what we're looking for," said Jiang Shaoxu.

"Good. I'll continue to keep a close eye on the surroundings. Let me know if anything happens," said Zhang Xiaohou.

"You're indeed an experienced soldier. You could even lure the Golden Sand Demon Tigers away. How did you do that?" asked Jiang Shaoxu.

The ability to evade demon hordes in the wilderness was very important. Even if one had a very high level of cultivation and could easily kill a demon horde, the vibration from the use of spell and smell of blood could attract a larger number of demon hordes.

"I was a scout when I first joined the army. So, scouting is my strongest ability." Zhang Xiaohou smiled. He was quite proud of his scouting ability.

"Okay. You may continue fooling those Golden Sand Demon Tigers. We'll copy the words and patterns on the river monument before leaving," said Jiang Shaoxu.

"Is that a sacred totem beast's clue?" Zhao Xiaohou asked.

"It must be," Jiang Shaoxu said.

"Great!"

...

On the east foothill of Helan Mountain, a large flock of tens and thousands of creatures that resembled crows swarmed out of the valley. The creatures had venomous purple pupils. They flew in flocks in the sky. It almost looked like a night sky spangled with stars.

However, it was noon, and the sun was still bright. The view made one palpitate.

“Damn it! Are you setting me up?! The Bug Valley is barely considered a small horde!” Three people were speeding on the plains. They looked like tiny dots.

The bizarre Star Bugs were behind them. Some Blood Beasts had been wandering on the plains and preying on the bison. But when the Blood Beasts saw the bizarre Star Bugs swarming them, they fled.

The Blood Beasts were slow. The Star Bugs passed by them like a gust of black wind, and the next moment, the Blood Beasts were reduced to bones. Even the surrounding plants were gone. It was a frightening sight to behold!

“Instead of teasing me, why don’t you kill them with your Fire Element magical power? I remember there’s a special effect of your flames. It can jinx those bugs!” Mu Bai cried out.

“Are you kidding me?! They placed their eggs in a valley rock fire for them to hatch. If they are afraid of fire, why do we even have to run?!” cursed Mo Fan.

“It’s because your fire power isn’t strong enough!”

“Hah! Then why are you running away?”

“I just don’t want to mess with them,” Mu Bai said coolly.

Chapter 2819: The Ancient City Wall

Mo Fan and Mu Bai had assumed that with their current strengths, they could do anything they wanted at the Bug Valley of Helan Mountain.

However, the situation in the Bug Valley was more dangerous than it appeared to be. Every different creature had their own principles. The bizarre Star Bugs possessed extremely powerful soul-sucking abilities. The moment Mo Fan, Mu Bai, and Song Feiyao entered the Bug Valley, the Star Bugs slowly absorbed the intruders’ soul energy.

If it had not been for the fact that Little Loach warned Mo Fan about the Star Bugs, they would have only found out about them by the time most of their soul energy had been sucked away.

The valley was enveloped with fog that had anesthetic effects. The Fog Leaf Bug was the source of the anesthetic fog. They were a perfect match for the strange Star Bugs. The Fog Leaf Bug spread anesthetic fog in the air while the Star Bugs sucked humans’ souls.

After one’s soul was sucked, they could not recover from the severe damage. Although Mo Fan and Mu Bai had traveled to various places, they had never learned of the existence of such a bug in this world until now. They had to find their nest and take back their soul energy.

When one's soul energy was impaired, their abilities would be suppressed significantly. Mo Fan and his group took their soul energy back, as well as the other soul energy that had been accumulated in the nest. However, they did not want to confront the Star Bugs.

The Bug Valley dominated Helan Mountain. The war between the Elemental Soldier and Blood Beasts provided them with an ample amount of 'food'. As a result, the nest grew. Besides, the topography of Helan Mountain was complicated. There were many faults and cliffs. Thus, it served as a suitable habitat for the bugs. It was only when Mo Fan and Mu Bai stepped into the Bug Valley that they realized the existence of such a terrifying bug dynasty within Helan Mountain.

Fortunately, the bugs did not show interest in humans. Given the natural advantage in Helan Mountain, the bugs rarely left the Bug Valley. Otherwise, the bug nest would have been far more threatening than the Blood Beasts.

The bugs were like the Americans in the Second World War. They grew up in war.

Even though the trip to the Bug Valley was dangerous, Mu Bai reaped a great harvest.

He had once come here in the past. However, his lack of strength had prevented him from entering the Bug Valley. At that time, he resolved to enter the Bug Valley only when he reached Super level.

But now it seemed that even a Super Level mage could easily die in the Bug Valley. The bizarre Star Bugs hoarded the soul energy and the massive energy served as a wealth crystal., Mu Bai and Mo Fan benefited from taking the energy for themselves.

Taking the risk was not a bad thing, after all.

...

They finally got rid of the strange Star Bugs after speeding for hundreds of kilometers. They had manifested their high level of cultivation. If the road was not blocked, the demons could not catch up with them as they fled.

The trio found a resting place. Mu Bai took out some ointment and glanced at the swollen Song Feiyao. He tried to hold back his laughter.

Song Feiyao graciously accepted the ointment. She was annoyed.

The two men were fine. But she was the one who had suffered. She wondered if the areas that got stung would leave scars.

Mo Fan went to the river to see if there was any cell tower. He could not contact Zhang Xiaohou and his group if there was no signal.

"Hi, where are you? We've just come out of Helan Mountain." Mo Fan took out his phone and raised it high. He wondered if this would help his phone receive a better signal.

"Yes. Have you settled the things on your end? Good, where are we going next? There are traces of the Ancient City Wall? I have a poor sense of direction. How about we wait for you here, and you come to us?"

...

Zhang Xiaohou and his group arrived within an hour. They were not far from Mo Fan and his group.

Song Feiyao kept her face well-hidden because she didn't want Lingling and Jiang Shaoxu to laugh at her.

Mo Fan pointed at Helan Mountain. "There's a Bug Valley inside. It is very dangerous. But there are many premium quality Soul Honey. We can harvest them once every several years. Soul Honey serves as a useful medicine for healing soul damage."

Medicines for healing soul damage were rare. They could sell Soul Honey at a very high price at an auction.

"I've recorded the location," said Mu Bai.

Mo Fan considered telling Mu Linsheng about it. He would ask someone from Fanxue Mountain to obtain the Star Bugs' Soul Crystal regularly. By doing so, they could suppress the Bug Valley's domination in Helan Mountain to prevent the powerful bugs from invading the cities near the mountain. Also, they could earn a lucrative sum for Fanxue Mountain.

Honey industry was a profitable business.

Of course, Mo Fan would also take a trip down to kill some of the bugs. He was afraid that the vanguard, Bai Hongfei, could not take on them alone.

In fact, it would be best if Mu Ningxue personally came to the Bug Valley. The bizarre Star Bugs was not afraid of fire. Mu Ningxue was an Ice element expert, and she could intimidate the Star Bugs. If Mu Ningxue came in as a team, they could basically wipe out the Bug Valley.

Mu Bai was an Ice element mage, too. However, his Ice element magical power was still weak.

"After the investigation, we noticed that the materials of the river monument are the same as the Ancient City Wall. It could have come from the same craftsmen in ancient times," said Lingling.

"Will the Ancient City Wall be buried under the loess? Is it difficult to find it?" Mo Fan asked in concern.

"No. It has always been there. It is very well protected."

"By the way, Big Brother Fan, the Great Wall of Northern Line starts from the north of Helan Mountain. The Ancient City Wall with the sacred totem beast's trace happens to be a ruin in the middle of the Great Wall of Ningxia," said Zhang Xiaohou.

The Ancient City Wall, the Great Wall of the Northern Line, the Great Wall of Ningxia...

'Could the sacred totem beast be related to the Ancient Great Wall?'

When they were at Beiguan Town, a Heavenly Wall appeared from the Ancient Great Wall's land. Millions of Khufu's spirits were trapped there. Mo Fan vividly remembered the sight. He was bewildered whenever he recalled that image.

'What was the sacred totem beast that was related to the Ancient Great Wall?' Mo Fan was looking forward to finding it.

“Some of the ruins were buried under the loess. There are remains of base cities and crumbling beacons. The Great Wall of Ningxia has more than 1,500 kilometers of ruins. Fortunately, the part we are looking for is still well preserved. Otherwise, it would be difficult to find the Ancient City Wall in a short period of time even if we summon a team of archeologists,” said Lingling.

“Then, let’s go now without further delay.”

...

According to the record on the river monument, the Ancient City Wall was known as Cang Wall. It was a part of the ancient fortress city. It was not part of the Ancient Great Wall ruins.

Cang Wall had a very long history. It was a small relay station in times of peace. But it flourished in times of war. It was not near the river or on the ground. There were no mines. After the unification, there was no war. It gradually fell into disuse and was left with an exquisite ancient city wall.

When Mo Fan and his group arrived at the destination, they noticed the place was occupied. It had grown into a small town. Most of the people in the town conducted business through the barter system.

Chapter 2820: Awakened At The Age Of Ten

The Ancient City gate faced the sunset with its back facing the east. Several children in simple clothes played at the gate. They climbed to the top, then they slid down along the pile of sand. They rolled down and were covered in dust and mud. It was hard to identify them with their muddy faces.

Soon, their parents shouted at them from afar. The children ran to the side of hay that had been tied up and jumped on it.

Mo Fan noticed a child at the corner of the wall. The child was drawing with a tree branch. The walls of the Ancient City Wall were covered in mud. The child picked out the mud from the cracks of the walls. When Mo Fan approached the child, he was focused on picking out the mud from the cracks.

“Kid, what are you doing?” Mo Fan asked.

“Are you blind? Can’t you see?” the kid shot back.

“You want me to beat you up, huh?” Mo Fan rolled his sleeves up.

Lingling was by his side. She stopped Mo Fan and rolled her eyes at him.

“Why are you scraping the dirt off the wall? Do you know what it means to scrape this area?” asked Lingling.

“My dad used to do that. He said he doesn’t want the things passed down from the ancestors to be buried by the sand and dust, or let the wind spoil the drawings on the wall,” the child answered.

“Where’s your dad?” Lingling asked.

The child stared at Lingling. He must have never seen such a beautiful woman from the city. He blushed bright red. “My dad will be back at night.”

“Can we wait for him?” asked Lingling.

“No. He doesn’t like meeting people,” the child said.

“If you take us to him, I am sure he will be willing to talk to us. After all, we know the secret of the Ancient City Wall. Do you think I look like a bad girl?” said Lingling.

“You don’t, but he does,” said the child, pointing at Mo Fan.

Mo Fan raised his fist and gestured to hit the child. Lingling glared at him.

After a bit of persuasion, the child agreed to take them to his father. However, they had to stay until the night. His father worked very late into the night.

...

“We can’t pamper the child. If we strike him, he will spill everything out. Why did you have to tempt him with your beauty?” Mo Fan had a problem with the child who viewed him hostilely.

“Humans always have a thing for pretty stuff. They have a good impression about beautiful people. The child must have thought you’re ugly and fierce.” Zhao Manyan mocked Mo Fan.

Mo Fan ignored his mockery. He climbed to the top of the Ancient City Wall and found a space with a wide horizon. He then sat there and focused on his cultivation.

He had found another Underground Holy Spring. Even though half of it had been used, the remaining half was as powerful as the spring at Licheng Afterglow Island.

The guardians of the Underground Holy Spring at Helan Mountain took their ancestors’ words seriously. The spring was undoubtedly very well preserved.

Dusk came, and everything turned dark including the Ancient City gate. The town was lively during the day. When the sun was up, the place below was abuzz with markets, stalls, cars and even horse traders. But when dusk fell, the stalls were hurriedly closed, and the people returned to their respective houses.

The children playing near the Ancient City gate left with their parents. The sky had turned dark, but the child’s mother still had not come to fetch him.

Mo Fan and his group had thought the town was fairly big in the day because of so many people in the streets but the moment it began turning dark, every corner was deserted.

After Mo Fan and his group strolled around for a while, they realized the houses in the town were basically empty. The tools were covered in dust. The vendors did not live here. The bazaar was temporarily set up by the vendors from various towns, villages, and counties.

There was no one left at the Ancient City gate except the child who scraped the wall. It was late at night; the cold breeze blew. Still, no one came to pick the child up.

“What’s your name?” Mo Fan opened his eyes and realized the kid was still there.

“Xiao Tai,” answered the child.

“Where’s your mother? Everyone has disappeared. Are you still waiting for your father to come back from work?” asked Mo Fan.

“Yes.”

“Why is there no one living here? Did you live somewhere else?”

“I live here.”

“Okay. So, you and your family live here. It’s quite crowded during the day. But it’s cold and eerie at night. It must be difficult for a child like you to live here,” said Mo Fan.

Mo Fan suspected that the reason the Ancient City Wall was so well preserved was related to this child’s family. People usually had a strong desire to destroy things. The historic Ancient City Wall would have long been destroyed if somebody wasn’t looking after it.

“What were you doing just now? Are you doing your homework?” Xiao Tai was curious about Mo Fan’s cultivation.

“I was cultivating...,” Mo Fan replied. “You can consider it as a sort of homework.”

They attended nine years of compulsory magical education and cultivated after each class. So, it could be considered as a kind of homework.

“No one taught me that. Can you teach me?” asked Xiao Tai.

“Didn’t you say I look like a bad guy? How can you learn things from a bad guy?” Mo Fan said.

“After I learn it, I won’t do bad things like you. There are good and bad people, but there are no good and bad abilities,” answered Xiao Tai.

Mo Fan was at a loss for words. But others burst out in laughter.

“You’re still very young, so I can’t teach you. You must build up a good foundation in magic. After fifteen weeks when your physical condition is suitable for learning, only then you can awaken your first element of magical power. When you gain your first magic Star Dust, you can cultivate like me. However, not everyone can become a mage. You don’t seem like you know anything else apart from scraping the wall. So, let’s stop dreaming of becoming a mage,” Mo Fan dissuaded Xiao Tai while patting his shoulder.

“Is this the Star Dust that you’ve been talking about?” Xiao Tai stretched out his palm, and a pale-yellow swirling light pattern appeared on it. It looked like some sort of yellow peaceful Star Dust from a distant starry universe.

Mo Fan’s jaw dropped. ‘How old is this brat? He must be ten at most! How could he have already awakened the Earth element?! Who gave him the Awakening Stone? Was that person trying to get Xiao Tai into trouble?!’

The reason awakening had to be done after fifteen weeks was because it put a huge mental and physical pressure on the one who attempted it. Children who were under fifteen years old had incomplete brain development and mental capacity. Therefore, awakening them early would risk damaging their minds.

If their minds were damaged, it would pose even greater difficulty in the path of cultivation in the future. They would not be able to focus on their cultivation, much less increase it. They would even feel their minds hurt during cultivation.

