

Versatile 761

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Chapter 761: I'm Sleeping with Mu Ningxue

"I understand, but Zhao Manyan is different; I don't care about him, but I can't risk putting you in danger!" Mo Fan immediately spilled the beans.

If Zhao Manyan in his bed heard those words, his missing soul would come straight away to teach Mo Fan a lesson. Why would he befriend such scum!?

"Let's not waste our time. Tell her, or else we're just a bunch of headless flies," said Mu Ningxue.

Mo Fan tried to convince Mu Ningxue, yet she insisted on doing do it her way. "I don't want anything to happen to you!" he blurted out.

"If you really think that, then do your best to help Zhao Manyan and I recover if anything happens, instead of saying that here," replied Mu Ningxue seriously.

Her gaze was determined and fearless; she had been mentally prepared since she first embarked on this journey. She had no intention of running away.

"Do you really trust me so much?" Mo Fan's gaze softened.

Mu Ningxue did not reply. She had no idea how to answer Mo Fan's question.

If she answered yes, Mo Fan would totally misunderstand her, yet the truth was, Mu Ningxue never doubted him. She believed if the same thing that happened to Zhao Manyan happened to her, he would give everything he had to help them recover.

What else could Mo Fan do after Mu Ningxue made her decision?

He returned to the slope where Miyata was still standing with her back toward them.

She turned around with the same innocent look. The truth was, Mo Fan was hoping that she would be wearing the rotten, terrifying face of a demon creature when she turned around. That way, Mo Fan could simply fight her instead of telling her Mu Ningxue's name!

Mo Fan never thought the situation would be this complicated. Not only was his friend in danger, he also had to place someone he cared a lot about in danger.

"Her name is Mu Ningxue," said Mo Fan.

For some reason, Mo Fan regretted as soon as he said the name.

He could sense Miyata smiling, it was an evil grin under her innocent look. It was most likely her true appearance.

However, Mo Fan knew it was meaningless to threaten her by saying something like, "If you dare harm her, I'll tear you into pieces." Just saying it would not help in any way, it was more important to keep his promise.

"Alright, I'll look around at the back of the mountain. Perhaps I can find the cure to the strange disease," said Miyata with a faint smile. She even gave Mo Fan a slight bow.

"Wait, how am I going to... find you?" blurted out Mo Fan.

Miyata disappeared before Mo Fan could finish, leaving only the patches of wild chrysanthemums swaying slightly to the wind on the slope, releasing a fragrance similar to Miyata's into the air...

"Did she leave?" asked Mu Ningxue.

"Mm, I think she's the one," said Mo Fan worriedly.

He had to stick to Mu Ningxue closely from now onward. Zhao Manyan had most likely lost his soul since he was unable to see Miyata. However, since Mo Fan could see her, he could catch her red-handed if she tried to harm Mu Ningxue!

"It's useless to discuss it here, let's head back," said Mu Ningxue.

"Aren't you scared?" asked Mo Fan.

"I'm fine..."

"Is it because you believe that I definitely can save you?" asked Mo Fan.

"You're being annoying."

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Mu Ningxue and Mo Fan returned to the room where everyone was staying in to check out Zhao Manyan's condition.

Zhao Manyan was still the same, with Nan Rongni looking after him. The girl was using the Healing Element to maintain his body temperature, and prevent the cold from affecting his body.

Mo Fan touched Zhao Manyan's head and immediately felt the chill. It was below the acceptable body temperature for human. His life would be at risk if he was not a Magician.

"Nan Rongni, I'm sleeping with Mu Ningxue tonight," said Mo Fan.

Nan Rongni's eyes widened slightly before she nodded shyly and said, "Alright, I'll sleep with Nanyu..."

"Did you really have to say that?" snapped Mu Ningxue after hearing Mo Fan's words.

"I have to look after you!" Mo Fan did not think he had said anything wrong.

Everyone needed some rest. They had no choice but to leave everything until the next morning. Their best option was to look for the monks who had left for some kind of ritual. They would surely know something about Zhao Manyan's condition. Even if they could not find the monks, they could ask the

nearby residents for more information. It was difficult to gather information when everyone was fast asleep.

“Nan Rongni, please don’t take it wrongly...” Mu Ningxue knew Mo Fan would not leave her. She quickly explained the situation to Nan Rongni.

Nan Rongni agreed with Mu Ningxue’s approach. If even she, a Healer had no clue how to deal with the strange disease, the only way left was to find its source.

“Why don’t we all stay up for the night and look after Mu Ningxue?” suggested Nan Rongni.

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A while later, everyone had gathered back in the room.

Jiang Shaoxu and Jiang Yu had returned too. It was quite late when they went down the mountain, thus they could not find the owner of the izakaya. They simply grabbed people on the streets, yet none of them knew anything about the temple. As such, they had no choice but to wait until tomorrow.

The other groups had already gone through the temple a few times, yet they had failed to find any clues. The only place left was the back of the mountain, but since the woods were currently pitch-black, they still had to wait until morning to investigate.

“You asshole, how could you place Mu Ningxue in danger? You’re the reason all of this is happening!” Gong Yu went into a frenzy when he heard Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue’s plan.

In Gong Yu’s eyes, he was Mu Ningxue’s escort. How could she risk her life without his permission?

“Just piss off if you don’t want to help. No one needs to listen to your barking anyway,” shot back Mo Fan.

Gong Yu was about to scold back when he was stopped by Ai Jiangtu.

“Enough! Mu Ningxue has already agreed with the plan. Let’s wait for now. Mo Fan, you look after her. The rest should get some sleep. Everyone must be tired, too. We must rest up if we want to overcome this problem,” said Ai Jiangtu.

“No way, I don’t think Mo Fan alone can look after Mu Ningxue,” said Gong Yu.

“Then you two will guard her tonight,” said Ai Jiangtu.

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Chapter 762: The Soul Eater Is Back

Frankly speaking, if Miyata showed up again, Mo Fan would not hesitate to give her Guan Yu’s name.

Everything was already perfect if he could spend the night with Mu Ningxue in the same room, yet this guy had to come and disturb them. If it wasn't him, perhaps in two years, their kid would be old enough to buy some soy sauce from the grocery store...

Mo Fan was nodding off, sitting close to the window. The trip on the sea had been extremely tiring, especially for someone who had not gotten used to being tossed back and forth by the waves. It would take a few days to recover.

However, whenever Mo Fan closed his eyes, he would remember the evil grin under Miyata's innocent face. He had trouble clearing it from his mind.

Mo Fan sat there and quietly watched Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue had her eyes closed. She seemed to be meditating. The girl was really something, still having the mood to cultivate despite knowing Zhao Manyan's condition.

Looking at her smooth face, Mo Fan realized that her slightly curved eyelashes were quite attractive. He could not help but stare at them longer. However, his focus was soon attracted by her graceful breasts. It was surely a pair of bouncy, firmly beautiful mountains. Her thin clothing and undergarment were not enough to conceal the scenic view.

Below the mountains were a long, slim waist which Mo Fan could wrap around with half his arm. He could not help but wonder what hugging her waist would feel like?

As he further lowered his gaze, he immediately saw the girl's curves from her upright sitting posture. The curves were not just between her buttocks and her legs, but the elegant lines between her waist and pelvic bones. It was just perfect, without any sign of excess flesh. Her gentle curves and boniness were somehow alluring. Her silver hair dangling to the side was eye-catching even though it was slightly disheveled.

Such a gorgeous beauty! If the asshole Guan Yu wasn't around, he would have the urge to pounce on her. It was necessary to act first and report later in many cases. The chance to go on a honeymoon with Mu Ningxue for more than a year was hard to come by. In Mo Fan's opinion, he strongly believed that he would be a disgrace to his identity as a pervert if he failed to make Mu Ningxue pregnant during this time!

If a pervert did not have an ambition, how different was he from a gentleman?

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Nothing happened for the rest of the night apart from the rustling of leaves outside.

Mo Fan and Guan Yu did not fall asleep for the whole night. Glancing out of the window, they could see a corner of the sea lit up by the rising sun. The waves were like pieces of colorful cloth, resulting in a beautiful scene.

Mo Fan rose to his feet and stretched.

He walked up to Mu Ningxue and nudged her, to let her know it was daybreak.

“It seems like we’ve made a mistake, I think...Mu Ningxue...Mu Ningxue? Mu Ningxue!” Mo Fan nudged the girl again.

Mo Fan initially thought Mu Ningxue was still meditating, hence he tried to wake her up. To his surprise, Mu Ningxue did not open her eyes, even after the second nudge.

Mo Fan felt his heart skipped a beat. He quickly touched her forehead.

Ice cold!

Mu Ningxue’s forehead was icy. Even though she normally had an icy aura too, Mo Fan knew it did not necessarily mean her face and body were ice cold!

She was in the same condition as Zhao Manyan, her body temperature had fallen.

Mo Fan opened her eyelids and saw her pupils covered by a layer of grayness. She did not react even when he blew into her eye.

“Go, tell the others!” said Mo Fan sternly as he glanced at Guan Yu who was feeling drowsy.

“Did she lose her soul too?” Guan Yu was astounded. He quickly checked Mu Ningxue’s condition.

The situation escalated when Guan Yu learned Mu Ningxue’s condition. He glared at Mo Fan, as if he was blaming it all on him. He quickly left to wake the others.

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Mo Fan was left alone in the room. Mu Ningxue remained in her sitting posture, yet somehow her life force had frozen. She did not wake up no matter how hard Mo Fan tried.

Mo Fan clenched his fists when he saw Mu Ningxue’s condition. His chest pulsed heavily with anger!

That Miyata, he would never forgive her!

Nan Rongni came not long after. After checking Mu Ningxue’s condition, she concluded that Mu Ningxue was in the same condition as Zhao Manyan. Their bodies were ice cold, and they had lost consciousness. According to the residents, they had lost their souls.

“Were both of you keeping an eye on her all the time?” asked Ai Jiangtu.

“I...I might have taken a little nap just before daybreak. I was too tired,” said Guan Yu softly.

“I have been watching her the whole night. Nothing happened, the girl did not even show up in the room,” said Mo Fan confidently.

“Two of you will stay and look after her. The rest should split up,” said Ai Jiangtu.

“I didn’t expect us to encounter something so strange just after we arrived in Japan,” said Nanyu.

“There must be a reason behind every strange incident. Guan Yu, Li Kaifeng, look for the monks who had left the temple for the ritual. They must know the reason behind it if they have been living here for a long time. Mo Fan, Jiang Shaoxu; Nanyu and I will look for the girl. I don’t care what she is, there must

be a way to cure them. Jiang Yu, Mu Tingying, the rest of you will ask for information in the city. Find anything you can that's related to the temple!" said Ai Jiangtu.

Two members of the team had fallen victim. No one had expected the situation to be so serious.

The good news was, they found out that the girl Miyata that Mo Fan mentioned was responsible for it. They would soon find the answers after locking her down.

"We should look around the back of the mountain. I believe there's some secret there," said Mo Fan.

The others had already checked the temple, yet they did not find any clue. The girl must be staying somewhere. The back of the mountain was suspicious for sure!

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The rest of the team immediately split up. Mo Fan, Jiang Shaoxu, Ai Jiangtu and Nanyu proceeded to the back of the mountain. They found an abandoned path. It seemed like someone had been here in the past...

The woods at the back of the mountain were fairly thick. As they continued along the path, they even discovered stone lamps on both sides of the track. They could still see a marble path after clearing the weeds and soil covering the top of it.

"Mo Fan, I don't understand. If she can really kidnap their souls without us knowing, why didn't she target all of us at once? Why did she have to learn their names from you? Are the names that important?" asked Nanyu.

"I can't figure it out either. Damn it, if only the monk was still here. He can see the girl too; he definitely knows more about her," cursed Mo Fan.

The young bald donkey was not at the temple either. It definitely gave Mo Fan a huge headache!

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Chapter 763: Vessel Demon Spirit

The path on the back of the mountain was longer than expected. The stone lamps on both sides of the path were overgrown with weeds. The branches of the trees nearby even grew in the direction of the path, as if trying to block them.

It was obvious that the plants were not too fond of having visitors. Mo Fan was currently in a fit of anger, and had the urge to burn everything in his path. He completely forgot about the rule that prohibited them from starting a fire in a sacred mountain like this.

The path started to lead them up a slope. As they arrived at the top, Mo Fan discovered an ancient structure nearby, hidden by thick trees and bushes. It was almost impossible to see it without following the path leading to it.

“I’ll do it, I wouldn’t want you to burn the structure down,” Ai Jiangtu immediately stopped Mo Fan when he was about to vent his anger again.

Ai Jiangtu’s gaze sharpened as a silver glow burst out from his eyes and slashed at the bushes ahead. Its sound was similar to a series of firecrackers.

“Break!” Ai Jiangtu’s clothes flapped wildly in the wind. The energy of the Space Element immediately cleared the branches and shrubs around the structure, leaving a clear path. They were finally able to take a clearer look at the structure.

It was a small, wide-open temple with three stairs, a balcony, and finally a central room.

Mo Fan went up and saw something covered in dust in the temple...

Mo Fan blew the dust away and realized the thing was a wooden clapper. The strange thing was, a wooden clapper usually had a smooth surface. It was commonly used to beat rhythm, yet the surface of this particular wooden clapper was full of markings. These markings were perfectly aligned, with strange fonts in the little squares between the markings. The fonts did not look Japanese, but more like some kind of ancient, magic runes!

Mo Fan had a strange feeling when he saw the wooden clapper. Somehow, he felt like he had seen the strange, twisted fonts before.

“Why is there a wooden clapper here?” Mo Fan tried to touch the wooden clapper, yet it suddenly unleashed a bright yellow arc of electricity. Mo Fan subconsciously withdrew his hand when he touched the lightning arc.

“A Magic Lock?” Jiang Shaoxu stared at the junk-like wooden clapper with a confused look.

Mo Fan could feel his finger turning numb. His gaze was fixed on the lightning arc covering the object.

“It looks like a magic equipment. Strange, why was it left here?” said Nanyu. She was quite an expert when it came to magic equipment. She drew closer to the wooden clapper and inspected it closely.

Mo Fan was left speechless. He had never heard of a magic wooden clapper. What the hell could it be used for? Don’t tell him that using it to beat rhythm would be able to convince the enemy to lay down their butcher’s knife?

Nanyu’s hand hovered over the wooden clapper. She did not touch it directly.

She closed her eyes and tried to communicate with the wooden clapper mentally. Surprisingly, the lightning arc slowly weakened.

“This must be a shield equipment, but its uses aren’t as simple as shielding its bearer. It seems to be hiding some other power,” said Nanyu.

“I only want to know if this thing is related to their condition,” said Mo Fan.

“I’m not sure either, give me some time, I might be able to decipher the text on it. This thing is very ancient. I’ve only seen something similar in Hangzhou,” said Nanyu sternly.

The path had ended here. It was meaningless to venture any further. They had no choice but to wait patiently for Nanyu.

However, a sudden thought crossed Mo Fan's mind when Nanyu mentioned Hangzhou!

Mo Fan recalled that when Tangyue brought him to the island on West Lake, there was an ancient building there. Its walls had many strange drawings and weird letters. The letters were distorted and incomprehensible, yet they were similar to the letters on the wooden clapper.

"The Magic Lock is quite powerful, can she crack it?" Jiang Shaoxu asked Ai Jiangtu. She was quite knowledgeable in that field, too.

Ai Jiangtu was more familiar with Nanyu than anyone else. He glanced at her stern expression and said, "She's quite an expert in things like formations, Magic Locks, and ancient curses. I believe she can crack most Magic Locks."

A Magic Lock was a kind of magic applied to a certain thing to forbid people from touching or approaching it. Its concept was similar to a Magic Formation, supported by some other supplements.

Usually, a vessel was the best carrier for a Magic Lock. Even though it looked like the wooden clapper was merely covered in some strange, scribbled runes, it was likely that the runes were actually a tiny Magic Formation. It would unleash a strong energy to protect it if anyone touched it.

The lightning arc was quite powerful. Even Mo Fan, who possessed the Lightning Element, did not dare to touch it again. More importantly, Equipment with a Magic Lock would remain unusable without unlocking the lock.

They had no idea where Miyata was, so they could only hope that Nanyu could find some useful information from the strange wooden clapper.

Sometime later, Nanyu sneezed softly. It was obvious that she was extremely focused. She would frown at times as if she was experiencing some difficulties.

Jiang Shaoxu ran out of patience. She was just about to speak when Nanyu stopped inspecting the wooden clapper.

"What did you learn?" asked Mo Fan.

Mo Fan did not care about the wooden clapper. He was more eager to learn if the wooden clapper was related to Miyata in some way.

"I think the girl you saw is most likely a Vessel Demon Spirit," said Nanyu.

"Vessel Demon Spirit, what the heck is that?" Mo Fan's eyes widened. It was his first time hearing about it.

"It's a kind of ancient creature. A Vessel Demon Spirit normally needs a very long time to form too...I bet you know that the magic equipment we use is also classified into different levels, normal, Spirit-grade, Soul-grade... Spirit-grade implies that the equipment's intelligence is awakened. As for Soul-grade, it means the item has acquired its own soul," said Nanyu.

Mo Fan knew about the classifications. It was the same as Elemental Seeds, normal seeds, Spirit-grade Seeds, Soul-grade Seeds...

"A Soul-grade vessel has its own consciousness, and even their own soul. If the vessel has existed for a long time, and with some exceptional conditions, the vessel can also cultivate and evolve into demon spirits... these demon spirits are similar to elemental spirits, except for the fact that they were born in powerful vessels!"

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Chapter 764: The World Inside the Vessel

A frosty land, where the immediate area was rich with the Ice Element, would not only nurture a powerful Ice Seed, there was a chance that it would give birth to an Ice Spirit, too.

Mo Fan's little Flame Belle was the same. It was a unique creature born in the North Burning Valley, a life form nurtured by the flames of the Fire Calamity.

Since places rich with Elements had elemental spirits, and some vessels had souls; their souls would evolve into some unique life form.

Mo Fan had never heard of demon spirits. He believed none of the classes he took had mentioned demon spirits either, so he was fairly astounded by Nanyu's explanation!

-Are you telling me that a mere wooden clapper could give birth to a charming, dangerous teenage girl?-

"It's rare to find a Vessel Demon Spirit, and only those with a vessel can see a Vessel Demon Spirit..." added Nanyu.

"That's strange. Mo Fan, why can you see it then? The wooden clapper's Magic Lock tried to shock you, it's clearly rejecting you, and if only its bearer can see the Vessel Demon Spirit, why can you see the girl?" said Jiang Shaoxu.

"How do I know? Since we've figured out that little bitch is a Vessel Demon Spirit, that makes the situation a lot easier. Let's smash the wooden clapper into pieces and kill her!" Mo Fan's hot temper erupted again.

He had no time to waste. He had to wake Mu Ningxue up... oh, and Zhao Manyan too.

"Don't!" replied Nanyu immediately. "Nan Rongni already said that the girl is the only way we can wake them up. If she's dead, Mu Ningxue and Zhao Manyan might not wake up forever."

"How are we going to deal with the demon spirit, then?" asked Ai Jiangtu.

"The demon spirit is bound to the vessel. Destroying the vessel is indeed the only way to kill the demon spirit. Even the strongest Magician can't do anything to an amorphous demon spirit..." said Nanyu.

"But you also said that they might not wake up if we destroy the vessel."

“Just let me finish! There’s another way too, but it’s a bit risky. However, it’s the most effective way to deal with a Vessel Demon Spirit,” said Nanyu.

The others looked at her, waiting for her to tell them the method.

“I don’t know if you can understand what I’m about to say, but from my understanding, some powerful Soul-grade vessels have a confined space in them. You can think of it as a stand-alone world inside the vessel...” Nanyu paused on purpose, as she was afraid that they could not grasp it.

Jiang Shaoxu and Ai Jiangtu were indeed puzzled by Nanyu’s explanation, but Mo Fan surprisingly nodded.

An inner world in a vessel was not a surprise to him. The Little Loach Pendant had a spacious world and the Nether River that stored countless Soul Remnants and Soul Essences!

Using the Little Loach Pendant as an example, Mo Fan easily understood the concept of having an inner world in the wooden clapper.

“You’ll need to enter the world inside the vessel, and you’ll be able to see and attack the demon spirit inside it,” said Nanyu.

“Can living humans go inside the vessel?” Jiang Shaoxu never heard anything like this. She looked at Nanyu in disbelief.

“Yes, to be precise, you’re not entering the vessel physically, it’s only your will...how do I say it, it’s like entering the vessel with your soul, like an out-of-body experience,” said Nanyu.

It was difficult to explain the details. Even Nanyu was unsure if a person’s consciousness could enter the world inside a vessel. After all, she did not own a special vessel herself.

Mo Fan was not too surprised. He would often enter the world inside the Little Loach Pendant too to check out the progress of the Nether River. Mo Fan could not wait to fight the demon spirit now that Nanyu had told him he could enter the vessel!

“I’m afraid it’s difficult to crack the Magic Lock, but I can help you enter the vessel...” said Nanyu.

“I...I don’t think I will be going in there,” said Jiang Shaoxu, shaking her head. She did not dare to try something she had never heard of, especially something like entering the vessel with her soul. What if her soul did not return? She would end up like Mu Ningxue and Zhao Manyan!

“Mo Fan, I’ll go with you!” Ai Jiangtu was the fearless kind too.

“Alright, based on what Nanyu said, it’s possible that Mu Ningxue and Zhao Manyan’s souls were sealed inside the vessel, which is why we failed to wake them up,” concluded Mo Fan.

“I’ll stay here and keep an eye out. I have to say, it’s my first time hearing about entering a vessel in the spirit form,” said Jiang Shaoxu.

Nanyu slowly placed her hand onto the wooden clapper. The same lightning arcs burst out from it. Nanyu frowned slightly, as if she was enduring some pain...

“You have to find the demon spirit and eliminate it as quickly as possible once you’re in there. I can’t last for long,” said Nanyu.

“What do we do now? Do we just pry into it with our will?” asked Mo Fan.

Mo Fan knew how to enter the Little Loach Pendant, but he was unsure if it was the same for other vessels. The Little Loach Pendant was bound to his soul. Whenever he focused and cleared his thoughts, his consciousness would arrive close to the Nether River.

“Don’t, the Magic Lock will react if you try to pry into it. It will inflict damage to your soul. I’ll let Jiang Shaoxu hypnotize you two first, before guiding your spirits into the vessel...the process will feel like a dream. By the way, if you’re injured in the vessel, your soul will be injured too. If you die, your soul will die,” reminded Nanyu.

“Seriously, we don’t even know what’s inside the vessel. Aren’t we screwed if it’s too dangerous in there?” said Mo Fan.

Nanyu shook her head and said, “It won’t be that serious. Both of you are Advanced Magicians, after all, so your souls are also at the Advanced Level. The world in the vessel is maintained by the vessel’s energy. It’s not strong enough to create an environment that’s powerful enough to kill you.”

“I don’t understand, why would there be such an evil thing in the mountain behind a temple?” Jiang Shaoxu felt uneasy.

“Just pretend the vessel is able to create an illusion, and you two are entering the illusion inside the vessel,” said Nanyu.

“Oh, does that mean it’s related to the Psychic Element?” said Jiang Shaoxu.

“It’s a mix of the Psychic Element, Chaos Element, and Space Element. If we break it down further, it might involve the Sound Element and Curse Element too. The vessel is quite high-level, it contains Magic Formations constructed with a variety of Elements... I’m surprised too; why would such a rare Soul-grade vessel be left in this place?...” wondered Nanyu.

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Chapter 765: Searching for the Demon in the Illusion

Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu were anxious about the condition of their teammates. They could not care less about the concept behind the wooden clapper.

As Nanyu mentioned, they only needed to treat the world inside it as an illusion. The only way to deal with the amorphous demon spirit was by going into the illusion.

Jiang Shaoxu followed Nanyu’s instructions and hypnotized Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu, before Nanyu used some special method to guide their souls into the vessel.

The truth was, the wooden clapper was imbued with the magic of the Curse Element. The curse was able to drag the soul of any living human nearby into the vessel and trap them like a cage. It was the main reason why the locals referred to it as a Soul Eater!

It was not an exaggeration to call it a Soul Eater. Among the Curse Element spells, both the Sinister Spider Trap and Demon Torture were able to inflict damage directly to their target's soul. Demon Torture could even torment the target by separating their soul from their body!

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Mo Fan felt his eyelids falling heavily after he was hypnotized. He sat beside the wooden clapper and closed his eyes.

Strangely, when he opened his eyes again, he somehow felt restless.

He glanced at Ai Jiangtu beside him and saw the man had just opened his eyes too. They both shared a similar experience.

"Damn!" Mo Fan cursed all of a sudden.

Ai Jiangtu quickly rose to his feet and scanned the surroundings, yet they did not see Jiang Shaoxu or Nanyu!

"What happened? Where did they go?" Ai Jiangtu was confused too. He looked around in the old and shabby temple, yet he did not see the two girls.

"The wooden clapper is gone too, in just a blink of an eye..." said Mo Fan.

"Either way, we should go and look for them first," said Ai Jiangtu.

Zhao Manyan and Mu Ningxue had already fallen victim, and now the two girls had gone missing right beside them. The situation was a lot more complicated.

The two took the same path back and soon realized something strange.

They remembered the path was previously covered by shrubs and vines, and the stone lamps on both sides were hidden by thick bushes too.

But now, the path was clear and spacious. Not even dust could be seen on the marble path. It was clean enough to reflect the two's faces...

"What's going on?" said Mo Fan.

Ai Jiangtu shook his head. He too found the series of events extremely odd.

They continued along the path and went back to the main temple, and discovered that the temple was livelier than they thought...

Around eight monks were busy carrying baskets of fresh ingredients and vegetables around in the kitchen. Meanwhile, a slightly plump monk was giving orders and pointing his fingers around.

"Hey, you two...oh, pardon me, but you're not allowed to go to the back of the mountain. It's not open to visitors," the plump monk said in an unpleasant tone when he saw Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu.

Ai Jiangtu and Mo Fan exchanged glances with one another. They had no idea how to respond. The truth was, they could not understand what the monk was saying, as he was speaking in Japanese.

They proceeded to the main hall and saw lots of people visiting the temple. They even saw an endless line at the entrance.

Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan were dumbfounded. They immediately went to the room to find Nan Rongni, Mu Ningxue, and Zhao Manyan, but all the rooms were occupied by visitors from other places. There was no sign of their teammates.

“Did we somehow go back in time?” Mo Fan stared at the lively temple in disbelief.

Ai Jiangtu remained silent as he pondered. He glanced at the walls of the temple and said, “Mo Fan, I believe we’ve entered the world in the vessel.”

Mo Fan was startled, but he soon understood what Ai Jiangtu was trying to say.

“Are you saying that the world inside the wooden clapper is actually this temple?” said Mo Fan in astonishment.

“Mm, didn’t Nanyu tell us that we’re going into an illusion created by the vessel? I think we’ve fallen asleep, and our consciousness has entered someone else’s dream,” said Ai Jiangtu.

Mo Fan calmed down and began to think.

If Miyata was a Vessel Demon Spirit, the world inside the vessel was most likely constructed based on her memories, including the monks, visitors, and residents...

“It feels too real, so real that we can’t even tell we’re experiencing an illusion,” exclaimed Mo Fan.

“By combining the Curse Element and the Psychic Element, it’s possible to convince a target to believe that a nightmare is real and torture the target to death using it,” said Ai Jiangtu.

Ai Jiangtu possessed the Curse Element, and so was rather calm after realizing the situation.

“If everything we see is part of an illusion or a dream, doesn’t that mean we can do whatever we want?” asked Mo Fan.

Ai Jiangtu shook his head and replied, “It’s unwise to think like that. The illusion is based on reality, so if we killed someone, the people of the Enforcement Union would appear and sentence us to death, too. Once our souls die in here, we will never wake up.”

“It turns out that it isn’t as real as I thought; I have lost my sense of smell and taste,” said Mo Fan, helplessly munching on a carrot that he stole from the kitchen.

“We can still feel pain,” emphasized Ai Jiangtu.

“Screw it; we won’t be able to understand what’s happening in this world, so let’s find that goddamned demon spirit as soon as possible,” said Mo Fan.

After all, the illusion was still different from the real world. Once Mo Fan calmed his thoughts and observed his surroundings closely, he realized how different the world in the vessel was compared to

the world outside. It felt similar to the moment he was about to wake up from a deep sleep. His vision was still in the dream, yet his smell, hearing, and touch were on the bed. It felt extremely strange!

Mo Fan was munching a carrot, yet not only was it tasteless in his mouth, his nose had captured a totally different smell...

The scent resembled the fragrance of a rose. Somehow, Mo Fan felt like Jiang Shaoxu was beside him, and standing very close to him.

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As a matter of fact, Jiang Shaoxu was indeed standing right in front of Mo Fan. She was trying to see if Mo Fan was really asleep while his consciousness was roaming somewhere!

Jiang Shaoxu never thought that her perfume would somehow remind Mo Fan that he and Ai Jiangtu were still in the temple at the back of the mountain where they found the wooden clapper.

—

However, Ai Jiangtu and Mo Fan were troubled when they stood in front of the temple. They could see all of Xixiong City from here. How were they going to find the demon spirit in this world? The people in the illusion looked perfectly alive. They could not tell the difference between them and ordinary humans.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 766: Using the Fragrance as a Clue

Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu searched the temple, yet the place was too crowded with people from Xixiong City or other places. It was impossible to find the demon spirit among the crowd.

They decided to visit the city after failing to find any clues in the temple. The city was lively and busy, but for some reason, there was something missing.

Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu walked from the temple to the city. They took the same stairs, the same path, walked on the same street. Even the owner of the izakaya was the same. Mo Fan clearly remembered his gently flickering, tiny eyes.

However, Mo Fan could tell something was wrong with the city. He finally realized what it was when he almost reached the other side of Xixiong City.

The world in the illusion was like a GIF image. Unlike the real world where everyone was carrying on with their lives, the people and events in the illusion were like a scripted program. They would all return to their initial position after the loop restarted.

For example, they had seen an old woman dropping some fruits from her basket on the side of the road an hour ago. However, when they walked past the same place again, they saw the old woman dropping

the fruits again in the same manner. Even the trails of the fruits when rolling on the ground were exactly the same. An old, yellow truck had just driven past, but it would drive past again some time later. They also heard the same honks from the harbor repeating after the same period of time.

“It seems like everything here is constructed based on the Wooden Clapper Demon Spirit’s memories, which is why the events kept repeating in the time frame that she remembered. Didn’t you notice the one particular area is somewhat blurry? It means she has never been to that part of the city, so she doesn’t have any memory of it.” Ai Jiangtu possessed the Space Element, and soon discovered the bugs in this illusionary world!

Mo Fan nodded, although he was fairly surprised on the inside. He did not think a small wooden clapper would be able to construct such an enormous world. He could not help but wonder at the wooden clapper’s background.

“If this world is constructed based on her memories, it’s most likely she’s still using her own identity here...” said Mo Fan.

“That’s right, you’ve already seen the demon spirit, you know what she looks like. All we need to do is to find her,” said Ai Jiangtu.

“I believe we’ve taken the situation too lightly. If we can wait until Jiang Yu and the others come back with some information, it will be easier for us to find Miyata!” said Mo Fan.

Ai Jiangtu nodded. He was about to say something when he smelled something. He subconsciously turned around, but there was nothing behind him.

“Did you smell something?” asked Ai Jiangtu.

“I did, it smells like Chinese mugwort,” said Mo Fan

It was fairly easy to identify the smell of Chinese mugwort when it was set aflame. Mo Fan remembered his dad often burned it to provide some relief for his stomach.

“Is there Chinese mugwort nearby?”

“I don’t think so... hang on, we have no sense of smell in this world. The scent has come from the outside. Strange, aren’t Nanyu and Jiang Shaoxu keeping an eye for us? Why are they burning Chinese mugwort? I think it’s right in front of...(cough cough) Holy crap, are they burning it right beside my nose? The smell, it’s too strong!” Mo Fan began coughing.

“What are they up to? Why are they burning Chinese mugwort close to us?” Ai Jiangtu was confused.

—

Back in the run-down temple, Jiang Yu was holding a stalk of burning Chinese mugwort and fanning it into Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu’s noses. The two almost teared up from the strong smell.

“Is it going to work? Chinese mugwort is pretty common in our country, but the environment here in Japan isn’t suitable for their growth,” said Mu Tingying.

“Which is why, if they can find the place with Chinese mugwort, they will be able to find Miyata too. Didn’t you hear them sleep talking? They are most likely in Xixiong City from a few years ago,” said Jiang Yu.

—

Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu were unaware that every conversation they had in the illusion would be spoken too in the real world. To the others, it simply looked like they were talking in their sleep.

Through their speech, Jiang Shaoxu and Nanyu were able to understand the world inside the vessel.

“By the way, didn’t you say that Miyata is actually a person from Xixiong City?” said Jiang Shaoxu to Jiang Yu.

“Yeah, Miyata’s house has a herb garden planted with wild chrysanthemums and Chinese mugwort. When some monk that knows the art of healing came to the temple, he needed to find a supply of natural herbs. Miyata would visit the temple occasionally to deliver the dried herbs, so she’s quite a regular of the temple,” said Jiang Yu.

“Then how did she become a dangerous demon spirit?” asked Jiang Shaoxu.

—

Inside the illusion of the wooden clapper...

The quick-witted Mo Fan immediately realized that someone in the outside world was trying to give them hints when he smelled Chinese mugwort. Otherwise, it did not make sense for them to burn a stalk of Chinese mugwort and fan its scent at them!

“It doesn’t make any sense. Why would they know what’s happening in this world?” said Ai Jiangtu.

“I feel like they do, should I try?”

“How?”

“Hey, if you assholes know what’s happening in here, please move the herb away, I can’t even breathe!” Mo Fan raised his head and cursed pointing at a cloud.

Ai Jiangtu was left speechless. He had failed to understand Mo Fan’s intelligence, coming up with such an unreliable approach!

However, Ai Jiangtu was soon dumbfounded when he discovered the scent of the Chinese mugwort weakening!

The heck? Did it actually work?

Ai Jiangtu was lost for words.

“It actually worked, HAH!” Mo Fan grinned. To confirm it once again, he added, “Ask Jiang Shaoxu to come closer, so I can smell her perfume!”

A while later, after the scent of the Chinese mugwort weakened, Mo Fan immediately captured Jiang Shaoxu’s alluring rose fragrance.

Ai Jiangtu had smelled it too. His tanned face had an utterly impressed expression.

“Come closer, come closer...hey, Ai Jiangtu, do you know that vixen Jiang Shaoxu has a natural body fragrance? She smells like roses even though she isn’t using any perfume. It smells quite nice. Mm? The smell is stronger, are her boobs right in front of us? Could this be the so-called boob fragrance?” Mo Fan wondered aloud.

As soon as Mo Fan finished the sentence, he immediately felt his face burning with pain.

Ai Jiangtu was startled, too. He took a closer look and saw a palmprint on Mo Fan’s face...

“It seems like they can hear whatever we say...” Ai Jiangtu coughed awkwardly. “You should watch what you say.”

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 767: The Non-Existent Island, Part One

Mo Fan was unaware that his actual self would be repeating the same words he said in the dream. Not only was he scolded as a pervert, he even took a slap to the face!

Mo Fan did not dare to make a sound after receiving the slap; not because it was heavy, but he was feeling awkward after exposing his true nature.

“Are you trying to tell us to look for places with Chinese mugwort? If yes, ask Jiang Shaoxu to move her boobs... er, let me smell Jiang Shaoxu’s fragrance,” said Mo Fan, looking at the sky.

As he thought, the faint rose fragrance appeared again. It implied that the people on the outside could actually hear them talking, thus they had responded using smell.

The situation was clearer with the clues provided. Since Xixiong City was located by the sea, they would only find Chinese mugwort in certain places.

—

Not long afterwards, they found an herb garden less than two kilometers away from the temple.

The herb garden looked quite ordinary, with a short fence surrounding it. There were a few white sheds nurturing a few plants that were not suitable for planting outside due to the moisture in the air.

“Everything is clearer and more specific here. I think we’ve found the right place.” Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu immediately felt everything was more realistic when they arrived at the herb garden.

It was a sign that the creator of the illusion was more familiar with this place than anywhere else. Even the island to the south looked clearer than other places.

The two entered the herb garden and saw an old man looking after the place. The old man was surprised to see them, since it was rare for their garden to have customers.

Mo Fan asked the old man if there was a girl called Miyata in English.

The old man could only speak Japanese, yet he did understand the name Miyata. He replied in Japanese, telling Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu that the girl had gone to the rock by the sea.

The two walked south from the herb garden. They passed a barren area, and reached a giant rock at the end. The rock was like a little cliff because of the height of the area, and they could see a part of Xixiong City and the sea in the distance.

Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu walked straight to the cliff and saw a teenage girl in ordinary clothing. Her hair was tied up in a ponytail with an orchid hairpin. Her face was pale white. She was wearing a dress that reached her knees, and a pair of sandals. Her legs were like lotus roots, making her look very petite!

“Is that her?” asked Ai Jiangtu.

Mo Fan nodded. He directly approached Miyata.

Mo Fan saw her crouching on the rock. She was holding a little carving knife with her back toward them.

It looked like she was carving some words on the rock. She was extremely caught up in the process. Her lonely figure facing the ocean was somehow pitiful.

Mo Fan walked up and stood beside Miyata.

Miyata was totally unaware of his presence. She continued to carve the words on the rock. Mo Fan realized that her hand had already been cut by the carving knife. Fresh blood was dripping onto the rock, filling the gaps of the carved words, like they were written in blood!

Mo Fan could not read Japanese, but some of the letters were the same as Chinese letters. He could clearly tell that Miyata was carving the young monk’s name!

She kept bleeding while carving the words, tears rolling down her cheeks. The sorrow displayed on her face felt extremely real!

“Why didn’t they believe me? Why did none of them believe me... we didn’t do anything...” Miyata finished carving the last word in tears.

Before Mo Fan could chat with Miyata, she suddenly rose to her feet and ran to the edge.

She had her eyes closed. Her sandals fell off as she ran. Mo Fan subconsciously tried to stop Miyata, yet discovered that she was only an illusion. He could not stop her. She ran to the edge and fell off the cliff.

Mo Fan stood on the edge, watching her dress drifting in the wind and her sad expression as she fell in the air, before landing in a pool of blood, splattering on the rocks under the cliff...

Ai Jiangtu was stunned by the sequence too. The whole thing looked so real, like a girl overwhelmed with despair committing suicide. Even her corpse was extremely shocking!

“Does....does this mean she killed herself many years ago?” said Ai Jiangtu after calming down.

“It does look that way... So, she turned into a harmful demon spirit?” wondered Mo Fan.

The two stood on the edge. Someone soon discovered Miyata's corpse. More people crowded around her corpse. The police quickly sealed the area off.

—

"What do we do now?" Ai Jiangtu asked helplessly.

"No idea, I don't think that's the demon spirit. It's like a memory fragment," said Mo Fan.

"It smells like sandalwood..." said Ai Jiangtu, all of a sudden.

Mo Fan took a deep breath and indeed smelled sandalwood.

"Are they asking us to go to the temple?" speculated Mo Fan.

"Most likely!"

They hurriedly made their way back to the temple.

The temple was no longer crowded with people. It seemed like news about Miyata's death had reached the temple.

The door was tightly shut. Xin Yu, the old monk in charge of the temple who had allowed Mo Fan and the others to stay at the temple, was gathering the monks. He had asked them to attend a meeting in the rear hall.

It was obvious that they all knew who Miyata was. They were exchanging glances with one another after they heard the news. Mo Fan could see the shock and helplessness in their eyes!

"She left a suicide note. Even though she has died, we're responsible for her death for pressuring her. The police are already asking us questions, should we cover it up?" asked the old monk, Xin Yu.

"We can't let anyone know the truth. If the incident is reported, no one will ever come to our temple," responded the plump monk in charge of the kitchen.

"That's right, our temple is famous for blessing people's relationships and marriages. Her death is surely going to affect us. (sigh) She was nothing but trouble!"

"How can you say that? Even though what happened between Nara Orisora and Miyata is unpleasant, Miyata has already used her death to prove that she didn't have an affair with him. We should be held responsible for her death!"

"Orisora, we never thought Miyata would do something like this. My condolences," said Xin Yu.

Nara Orisora was sitting on a futon with his head lowered. It was impossible to tell if he was listening.

However, from his dark expression and his occasionally-twitching face, he was clearly feeling a great rage in his heart!

"Everyone knows Qi Hai was the one who was spotted meeting a girl privately, but somehow Miyata and I were accused instead! How dumb are you all? Look what you've done, you've forced Miyata to kill herself to prove that we were innocent!" Nara Orisora rose to his feet and snapped furiously, pointing at another young monk.

The monk called Qi Hai tried to hide from Nara Orisora's gaze, but he soon spoke with a firm tone, "I didn't do it. You weren't at the temple, and when they asked where Miyata was, she said she had spent the whole night on a little island, but there's no island around here at all. She must have come up with the lie in a panic when we discovered your secret. How absurd, she even took us to the cliff to show us the island, but there was nothing there. She was clearly lying, she must have had a secret date with you. You've ruined the temple's reputation, and you even tried to frame me!"

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Chapter 768: The Non-Existent Island, Part Two

The run-down temple...

Jiang Shaoxu leaned against a pillar slightly covered in dust and looked at Jiang Yu.

"So you're saying, the monk called Qi Hai is messing around with some girl, and he's jealous of Nara Orisora because he's popular among the visitors. When someone saw Qi Hai with a girl, he framed Nara Orisora instead and accused him and Miyata, who often came to the temple to deliver the herbs," Jiang Shaoxu repeated Jiang Yu's words.

"Exactly, the witness didn't see it clearly either. He only saw the person's bald head, wearing the same clothes as the monks of Yanming Temple.

"I believe we all know how scary rumors are. Even when the witness didn't see the person clearly, soon everyone will assume it was Nara Orisora and Miyata. After all, Nara Orisora is indeed quite close with Miyata..."

"So the people found Nara Orisora and Miyata and asked what they were during that night."

"Nara Orisora did visit Miyata that night, he said that he went to pick up some herbs, and went back to the temple right after. He happened to stumble into Qi Hai, who was going down the mountain on the same night, which is why Nara Orisora was confident that Qi Hai was the one who was spotted. However, when the people asked Miyata where she was, something went wrong," said Jiang Yu.

Jiang Shaoxu said confusingly, "What exactly did Miyata say to make everyone believe they were both lying?"

"Miyata said she was in a bad mood that night, so she went to the island opposite the cliff and spent the whole night there enjoying the sea breeze. She even saw the sunrise," said Jiang Yu.

"Is there anything wrong with that? Even if they didn't have any witnesses, they still can't deem them guilty just like that," said Jiang Shaoxu.

"The problem is the island, the island that Miyata mentioned never existed. We even went to confirm it; there isn't any island there. I don't understand why Miyata would say that when there's obviously no island around. It's obvious that Miyata is lying. She even brought the people to the cliff to show them the island, but it was completely empty. Since Miyata was lying, everyone immediately assumed there

was something going on between Nara Orisora and Miyata. Only people panicking would try to cover things up with such a ridiculous lie..." said Mu Tingying.

Jiang Shaoxu was confused too. "Why would she say that?"

"How would I know?"

"The rumors spread quickly, even people in the city knew about it. After that, Miyata learned that the temple was going to expel Nara Orisora for ruining the temple's reputation. To prove they were innocent, the girl soon committed suicide. After Miyata's death, the whole situation escalated. Soon, rumors about the Soul Eater in the temple began to spread around. Everyone said that it was Miyata's ghost roaming around the temple. She would be infuriated when she saw young couples at the temple, and would kidnap their souls..."

Jiang Shaoxu recalled everything that happened and soon understood the entire incident.

Although Miyata did not turn into a ghost, she did turn into a Vessel Demon Spirit and kidnapped people's souls.

"So you are here... we've been looking for you all!" Li Kaifeng was walking toward them on the path.

Jiang Shaoxu blurted out when she saw them approaching, "Aren't you and Gong Yu supposed to look for the monks who left the temple for some ritual?"

"Yeah, we found them. They told us they are clueless, too. By the way, what are they doing? They looked like they are asleep," Li Kaifeng walked up to Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu and stared at them blankly.

"They went inside an illusion, the world that the demon spirit created with her memory.

"It's a Vessel Demon Spirit. Some high-level vessels have a unique space inside them. The Vessel Demon Spirits can create an illusion inside the space as they wished. The illusion is Xixiong City a few years ago. Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu are in there looking for the demon spirit, which is the girl Miyata..." Jiang Shaoxu tried to explain the situation to Li Kaifeng in a single speech.

Li Kaifeng had a blank face after hearing the explanation.

Jiang Shaoxu rolled her eyes.

Jiang Yu chuckled too. It was difficult to understand the situation in a short amount of time.

—

Inside the illusion...

Even though Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu did not understand Japanese, it was obvious that the entire city was discussing the incident. Everyone had already heard the details of the whole process.

"He must be very sad?" said Ai Jiangtu, glancing at Nara Orisora.

Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu had lost the trail. They could only follow the sad Nara Orisora secretly.

Nara Orisora left the temple. He headed to a mountain to the north of Xixiong City.

Up on the mountain, Nara Orisora was holding the carving knife left by Miyata. He was carving crazily on every rock, trying to vent his anger.

His hand was bleeding, too. The blood dropped onto the rocks. Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu were grieved by the sight.

It was obvious that Miyata was in love with the monk, and the monk was in love with her, too. However, they did not cross the line. Their pure relationship only consisted of delivering herbs and healing people. They did not mess around with one another like the others had described.

Now that Miyata was dead, Nara Orisora could only hurt himself to vent his sorrow and anger, to mourn for the deceased girl on this deserted mountain.

“Mo Fan, I think we’re running out of time,” Ai Jiangtu looked into the distance and saw Xixiong City turning blurry. The space within his vision was distorted.

“But we haven’t found the demon spirit!” Mo Fan was unwilling to give up.

He felt sorry for Miyata, yet it did not mean she could turn into a demon spirit and hurt other people.

“We can come back again, but it’s too much of a burden if we stay any longer. Let’s head outside and discuss things with the others, Mu Ningxue and Zhao Manyan will be fine for now,” said Ai Jiangtu.

“Alright.” Mo Fan knew it was useless to search aimlessly. The Miyata that died was only an illusion. It was not Miyata herself. Perhaps the actual demon spirit was still roaming in the outside world.

—

Back in the run-down temple, Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu opened their eyes.

Even without smelling Jiang Shaoxu’s scent, they could easily tell they had returned to the real world.

“How was it?” asked Jiang Shaoxu.

“It feels like we’ve just watched a sad movie,” Mo Fan calmly replied. Ai Jiangtu nodded silently.

Mo Fan saw Li Kaifeng and immediately asked excitedly, “By the way, did you find the young monk, Nara Orisora?”

“Don’t mention it, I was almost scolded by those monks,” said Li Kaifeng.

“What? Why would they scold you?” asked Mo Fan in confusion.

“Nara Orisora died a few years ago,” said Li Kaifeng.

Mo Fan’s eyes widened, “Bullshit, I even talked to him at the temple yesterday. He told me not to sit on the stone turtles, said that I’ll be punished by the ocean.”

“That’s what the monks told me, I have no reason to lie to you,” said Li Kaifeng.

Mo Fan was just about to respond when Nanyu interrupted quickly, “Mo Fan, the young monk you mentioned, did anyone else other than you see him?”

Mo Fan immediately shivered when he heard Nanyu’s question. It even gave him goosebumps!

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Chapter 769: The Monks Are In Trouble

The chill covering Mo Fan from his head to his toes stayed for quite a long time. He stood there blankly until he finally collected his thoughts!

“There are two demon spirits. Otherwise, we wouldn’t be able to see the memory fragments after Miyata’s death. Those memories belonged to Nara Orisora,” blurted out Ai Jiangtu when he suddenly realized the same thing.

Ai Jiangtu’s words immediately reminded Mo Fan. He looked at Li Kaifeng and asked, “By the way, where did you find the old monks?”

“Manying Mountain, I think that’s how the locals call it. The monk in charge, Xin Yu and the others are all there. What were you two saying? I didn’t understand a single word, what demon spirits?” said Li Kaifeng.

As soon as Li Kaifeng finished his sentence, Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu exchanged glances with one another.

They both saw the shock in one another’s eyes, as if they were aware that something terrifying was about to happen!

“This is bad, we must go to Manying Mountain at once!” Mo Fan raised his tone.

Ai Jiangtu was most likely the only one who understood what Mo Fan was trying to say. He immediately used Blink without hesitation, blurring and vanishing in the next second. Mo Fan could sense the ripple of the Space Element a few hundred meters away.

“What’s going on?” Li Kaifeng was even more confused.

Nanyu and Jiang Shaoxu knew something serious was about to happen judging from their stern expressions.

“Stop asking questions, bring us to Manying Mountain at once,” urged Mo Fan.

“Al...alright!”

—

They did not have the time to notify the rest of the team. They immediately headed for Manying Mountain at the quickest speed possible.

Manying Mountain was located on the other side of Xixiong City. It was just an isolated mountain, with nothing on it apart from some rocks. It was rare to see any visitors on the mountain, either.

After passing Xixiong City, Mo Fan, sprinting with the Blood Tabi, barely caught up to Li Kaifeng.

Ai Jiangtu was already on his way to the mountain, but it was hard to tell if he could make it in time...

“What the heck is going on?” Jiang Shaoxu could not help but ask as they were running.

Mo Fan glanced at Manying Mountain that was still around two kilometers away and said with a deep voice, “We saw Nara Orisora doing something strange in the illusion.”

“What thing?” asked Jiang Shaoxu.

“After Miyata killed herself, Nara Orisora was carving strange words on some rocks. Ai Jiangtu and I thought he was only venting his anger, so we didn’t put too much attention on them, but we now realized that wasn’t the case!” said Mo Fan.

“Was there anything wrong? I heard Miyata was also carving words on a rock from your sleep talking. Nara Orisora must have done the same thing because he loved her,” said Jiang Shaoxu.

“The problem is, the place that Nara Orisora was carving the words was...Manying Mountain, the place where all the monks of Yanming Temple have gone to!” said Mo Fan.

Jiang Shaoxu, Nanyu, and Li Kaifeng immediately came to a realization. They stared at the barren Manying Mountain in astonishment.

A bloody ray burst into the sky from Manying Mountain, still a block away, proving that Mo Fan’s speculation was on point. The light was bright and eerie, like a reflection when sunlight was shining off a lake of blood, a sinister sight!

“The monks are in trouble!” screamed Jiang Shaoxu.

—

Manying Mountain basically had no plant life. The city area at the foot of the mountain was an old block that was scheduled to be demolished. The work had resulted in dust filling the sky. The mountain was barren rocks, even weeds were rare.

A few dozen bloody rocks were floating in the air, forming an eerie curse pattern looming over the mountain.

The ground had some notches filled with fresh blood. The smell of it lingered in the air.

The fresh blood continued to flow through the notches, constructing the same curse pattern formed by the floating rocks. It looked like a three-dimensional skeleton’s head when viewed from the sky!

When the pattern on the ground was completed, the blood rocks gathered together and stacked up into a tombstone at the center of the mountain!

The initial random carvings on the rocks combined into a eulogy. The dried blood suddenly turned fresh and bright, as if someone had just filled them!

“What’s going on? Why is this happening to us all of a sudden!?” the plump monk in charge of the kitchen screamed like a terrified woman.

“It’s the revenge of the ghosts, it must be; I told you we should leave the temple when we had the chance, we’re done for...” a middle-aged monk who was in charge of discipline shrieked hoarsely.

A few other monks who were still dressed in special outfits fell to the ground in fear. A cold breeze with the stench of blood swept in their direction. Under their feet was an eerie pattern, and at the center of stood a tombstone with blood-written words. They had never seen anything so horrifying. They could not even stand properly despite having yet to see any demon creature.

“It’s finally happening. I have already had enough over the past few years...” an old monk sat on the ground and closed his eyes.

They were invited here to conduct a ritual, yet it turned out that the ritual was conducted for them instead. They were the ones who should repent and be transcended!

“Orisora, Orisora, I know we’ve made a mistake. We’ve been chanting the sutras and praying for you and Miyata, hoping that you can find peace in the afterworld...” Xin Yu dropped to his knees and buried his face on the ground.

The others were absolutely terrified. They were only a bunch of ordinary monks. They had never seen a real curse or ghost before. They had been living in fear for the past few years, but it had still happened in the end. Nara Orisora had never planned to forgive them!

Qi Hai pointed at the blood tombstone and yelled, “Stop trying to trick us, Nara Orisora, you shameless prick, trying to scare us with a little trick? We all assumed you who brought disgrace to the temple had died, and everything would remain in the past. However, not only did you fake your death, you even tried to scare us with such petty tricks! Nara Orisora, show yourself, I’m not scared of you!”

“Qi Hai, admit what you’ve done, he might spare us our lives...” said the old monk who had his eyes shut.

“What is there to admit? I didn’t do anything wrong, it was Nara Orisora having a secret date with that little bitch... AHHH!”

Before Qi Hai could finish, he was knocked flying by some force. His body slammed hard against the tombstone.

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Chapter 770: So You’re That Kind of a Monk

Qi Hai’s limbs were spread apart as he was hung on the eerie tombstone. He finally realized that it was not some magic trick after the unknown force appeared...

Qi Hai suddenly burst out screaming. His right eye was torn out, as if some ghost had just ripped it out. Blood jetted out from the hole, smearing down his face!

The monks shivered in fear when they saw Qi Hai suddenly lost an eye.

However, the monks soon cried out in agony too. Their ghastly cries reached the bottom of the mountain.

The monks were holding their right eyes. Blood jetted out between the gaps of their fingers. Every monk's right eye was torn out, starting from Qi Hai, including the old monk who had accepted his fate. He was the only one who did not cry out. He remained sitting on the ground with a pale face while enduring the pain, but the other monks were already rolling on the ground, leaving blood all over the trail!

"What is the point of keeping your right eye if you can't tell who's right or wrong?" an icy voice echoed in everyone's ears.

The monks huddled in fear, and some even begged for their lives. They recognized Nara Orisora's voice. The man was already dead, yet they still heard his voice. Wasn't it obvious that he had turned into a ghost and come to get his revenge? He had come for them!

"It's meaningless to keep your right ear if you insist on believing in rumors instead of the truth," Nara Orisora's ghastly voice appeared once again.

The monks immediately felt their right ears being contorted. The same sharp pain they felt from their right eye was coming from their right ears!

"AHHH!!!"

It started with Qi Hai who was hung on the tombstone. His right ear was torn off, blood splattering everywhere. The monks felt like they had all fallen into Hell after hearing him scream.

Every monk from Yanming Temple, including Xin Yu, had their right ear tore off. An enormous pain came from their right ear even before they managed to recover from the previous pain coming from their right eye. They even preferred that Nara Orisora kill them straight away instead of torturing them.

"A hand that only knows to hit a person who is down instead of helping them up is useless too!" Nara Orisora's voice was filled with suffering.

The monks who had gone through the punishment twice were aware of their upcoming fate. Their fear and hopelessness had turned into incoherent cries and begging. They did not want to experience the same thing for the third time. They were utterly regretful!

"Please, I'm begging you... Ori...Orisora...it's all our fault. Please stop...stop torturing everyone." The old monk was soaked in sweat. His willpower was quite impressive, as he was the only one that could speak properly.

The other monks were already rolling on the ground begging for mercy, especially Qi Hai hanging there on the tombstone. He had already wet his pants from the mix of pain and fear.

"Your resentment isn't going to bring a dead person back to life!" said an icy voice.

The old monk felt that the voice was just nearby. He slowly raised his head and saw a monk in a black robe standing in front of him with the blurred vision of his left eye.

The old monk was stunned. The person he was looking at was Nara Orisora!

Did losing his right eye allow him to see the ghost?

Nara Orisora slowly walked toward the tombstone. He stood in front of Qi Hai with an eerie grin.

Two red demons were standing close to the tombstone. They looked exactly the same as the demons described in scriptures and ancient scrolls that were responsible for punishing people for the sins they had committed. They had horns on their foreheads, intimidating faces, sharp fangs, hands like claws, and chains on their feet!

The two demons were the ones punishing them. One of them was holding Qi Hai in place, while the other was grabbing his right arm. It was planning to rip his arm off!

“Stop it, Nara Orisora!”

A firm voice appeared as the old monk was at his wits' end.

The old monk did recognize the voice. It belonged to one of the young travelers staying at the temple!

Nara Orisora slowly turned around. His eerie, dark gray eyes were staring at Ai Jiangtu.

His lips slightly curled upward as he said in a cold tone, “Are you poking your nose into someone else’s business... oh, I forgot that you can’t understand Japanese.”

“What happened to you and Miyata was pitiful, but trying to get your revenge by kidnapping people’s souls and turning them into demons is a wicked and abominable act!” snapped Ai Jiangtu, glaring at the cursed pattern.

“Try to stop me if you can, but unfortunately, you can’t even see me...” said Nara Orisora disdainfully.

Ai Jiangtu’s heart sank. Nara Orisora had nailed it. He was unable to see Nara Orisora. He could only estimate Nara Orisora’s position judging from the monks’ sufferings and the demon spirit’s voice.

“Stop it at...”

“AH!” Qi Hai screamed out in agony before Ai Jiangtu could finish his sentence.

Fresh blood splattered on the ground. Qi Hai’s right hand was torn off. His throat could no longer make any noise after all the screaming. His body was jerking wildly as blue veins surfaced all across it!

“Asshole!” Ai Jiangtu was infuriated. A great aura burst out from his body, knocking everything nearby away.

His will was lingering in his surroundings. Everything that his furious will came into contact with was shattered into pieces.

Nara Orisora was crueler than he had imagined!

“Nara Orisora, Nara Orisora!” Mo Fan’s shout came from behind Ai Jiangtu. Ai Jiangtu turned around and saw Mo Fan sprinting on the mountain path in his Blood Tabi. He was charging like a wild boar, leaving a trail of dust behind!

Mo Fan ran to the edge of the cursed pattern and saw Nara Orisora standing inside it. He was wearing a slightly different robe this time!

“Nara Orisora, I never thought you were that kind of a monk!

“When I first met you, I thought you’re a righteous bald donkey who will stick to your bottom line. Who knew you’re nothing but a psycho, using the vessel to keep your memory fragments and convince yourself that the whole world owed you justice, and you turned yourself into a detestable demon spirit. Miyata is already dead, yet you still did not spare her. You used her ghost to prey on the visitors of the temple! You’re a shameless, vicious, filthy, selfish, merciless, depraved monk; go to Hell and stay there forever!” Mo Fan was already full of rage. He pointed at Nara Orisora and cursed him soundly.