

## **Wizard 2001**

Chapter 2001: 'Extreme Dao Strategy', 27 Witch Marks!

A true Combat Skills Master, even in IKEA, can become the "Furniture City War God."

Freedom Extreme Intent—effortlessly natural, returned to its original state. My moves are combat skills!

Thus, Levi spent a long time pondering how to fully integrate and master the combat techniques he had learned.

Finally, the "Extreme Dao Strategy" came into being.

Levi opened the proficiency panel.

Levi

Extreme Dao Strategy: Level 7 (1/50000), Special Effects: Ten Absolute Extremes, Ten Evil Martial Arts.

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[Ten Absolute Extremes: As a Weapon Master, you are proficient in a variety of melee weapon combat techniques, as well as unarmed combat skills. To you, grass, wood, bamboo, and stone—everything can become a weapon to slay your enemies. Limitless transformations, all lead to the Extreme Dao!]

[Ten Evil Martial Arts: Your martial techniques become instinctive movements akin to those of ferocious beasts. Your physical reflexes are faster than your consciousness itself—your strikes are swift, precise, and unpredictable. When entering the Ten Evil Martial Arts state, you can freely switch your combat styles, activating different martial forms. Currently available: "Heavenly Badger Path," "Sky Peng Dao," "Sky Lion Path," "Heavenly Cold Path," "Sky Dragon Path."]

"Heavenly Badger Path: Sweeping slashes, bold and unstoppable, invincible with my presence!"

"Sky Peng Dao: Peerless movement, peculiar strikes, ultimate ferocity!"

"Sky Lion Path: Devouring the heavens and earth, unmatched dominance, overwhelming aura!"

"Heavenly Cold Path: Frigid to the bone, freezing all beings, locking everything in ice!"

"Sky Dragon Path: The path of ultimate strength, no weaknesses, most comprehensive."

"After pushing the 'Whale Emperor Power Book' to its maximum, it can also integrate into the [Ten Evil Martial Arts], forming [Sky Whale Path], unparalleled in strength—the power to shatter all techniques!"

"The 'Ten' here is symbolic, encompassing endless variations of martial techniques. In the future, as I learn new techniques, everything can be integrated into it, creating entirely new martial forms."

"The Extreme Dao Strategy is not fixed. With further understanding of combat skills, I can create more techniques, unlocking additional special effects."

"At this point, my path of combat skills has been simplified and unified. No matter how many skills I learn in the future, they can all be integrated into the [Extreme Dao Strategy], ultimately forming a complete and systematic methodology for combat skills—master one technique, master all techniques!"

"This decade-long retreat has surely caused my rank on the [Demon Slaying List] to drop again."

Levi opened the leaderboard to take a look.

As expected, his ranking had slipped to 150th.

"Huh, Elena has actually climbed to 99th place, with 1.9 million points. It seems the invasion of the Ancient Dragon Continent by demon lords has been relentless over these years."

As for monsters in the top 10 like the Destruction Realm Thunder, Light Divine Sword, and Hand of Fire God, their points had already broken into the tens of millions.

The top rank even neared 20 million—completely insane.

The powerful beings of the Wizard World had clearly been suppressing their bloodlust for far too long.

This blood battle against the demons had fully unleashed their thirst for slaughter.

Moreover, with rare oddities like Radiant Sun and Bright Moon available for exchange, everyone was fighting as if on a frenzy.

Meanwhile, Levi lived like an old recluse, shutting himself away for cultivation.

He hadn't paid attention to the affairs of the Ancient Dragon Continent in a long while.

Currently, the Ancient Dragon Continent's collective strength was already at the highest level among top-tier organizations.

Just their Level 7 Guardians numbered three: Ghost Bone Dragon, Giant Elephant King, and Snow Mountain Dragon King.

Coupled with Hundred Flowers and Levi's own presence.

The demons knew this was a hard nut to crack.

Over the years, they had become increasingly aggressive toward the Ancient Dragon Continent.

There had been over a hundred invasions, large and small.

After each demon-slaughtering battle, the organization always dispatched teams to spray Purification Elixir, to prevent excessive contamination by demonic aura.

Demon corpses were piled up in the Fungal Botanical Garden.

Those fungi were used to absorb the demonic aura from the bodies.

Levi glanced at the newspapers from these years, his brows furrowing.

[Endless Sea Legal Gazette: Recently, the Snow Lotus Witch from the Witch's Family encountered an assassination attempt by assassins from the Council of Ten Thousand Clans during a demon hunt. Gravely injured, she managed to escape. The Witch's Family spokesperson has issued a severe condemnation.]

"As expected, the Council of Ten Thousand Clans is stirring up trouble again. The blood war has spread the forces of the Wizard Council too thin, leaving no time to deal with these petty clowns. Truly adding insult to injury."

Levi sighed helplessly.

This calamity of the great planar convergence far exceeded the previous ones.

Hopefully, those reincarnated Legendary Wizards will emerge soon.

"The Witch's Family is really unlucky. The Snow Lotus Witch was just about to achieve Sixth Circle Perfection, and now this misfortune—a complete lack of successors."

Aside from the Snow Lotus Witch, there were some promising witch Children of the Elements, but none had advanced to the primordial soul stage yet.

In the Six Pagodas of the Endless Sea, they were gradually falling behind.

"With the Council of Ten Thousand Clans making a comeback, I'd better be more cautious during future Holy Infant missions. After all, his very existence draws provocation."

Concluding his retreat for now, Levi headed to Little Cold Mountain.

The [Ice Crystal Snow Pear Trees] he had planted over a decade ago had finished blooming, and the crystalline [Honey Snow Ice Pears] had begun to grow.

In about thirty more years, they should fully mature.

"There are 98 in total. I'll use some to accelerate spell cultivation; let Hundred Flowers and my Three Avatars consume the rest, giving extra to the Holy Infant. I'll set aside ten—some for Triss to repay her kindness, and a few for the Tower of Dawn to inspire its members."

This Honey Snow Ice Pear was definitely not for sale.

Levi didn't need the money; it was strictly for internal use.

Meanwhile, the Heaven Crystal Dragon Ant had entered another deep slumber.

Levi estimated that after its next shedding, it should advance to Level 6 Late Stage.

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That Level 7 crystal core is truly priceless.

"The area of Little Cold Mountain has expanded considerably compared to before."

In fact, with the advancement of Mana to Level 6 Late Stage, the entire Ancient Banyan Fairyland has expanded in size.

Even the secondary plane, the [Ice Sea Secret Realm], has seen some expansion.

Nowadays, the Ancient Banyan Fairyland is no longer an embryonic plane but a true small-scale plane.

However, compared to something like the Ancient Dragon Continent, it is still much smaller.

After all, its time of existence has been too short.

Within the Ice Sea Secret Realm, the Snow Elf Clan is flourishing and growing.

Patches of gardens designated for cultivating Frost Medicine Grass have been cleared and prepared.

These gardens are jointly tended to by the Tower of Dawn and the Snow Elves.

In the seawater, transcendent creatures released by the Giant Beast Paradise are frolicking.

"Not bad, it won't be long before we can turn the Ice Sea Secret Realm into a botanical garden."

Every top-tier wizard organization has many specialized secret realms for tasks such as cultivating medicinal herbs and mining resources.

These are the foundations of their strength.

Levi then headed to Sky Fire Fortress.

A group of Dragons was scattered across their respective territories, sleeping.

They were convulsing and growling as though playing VR games.

Clearly, these creatures were at war in the Nightmare World.

Levi also entered the Nightmare World.

Black Dragon Territory.

A massive Black Dragon loomed, its shadow blotting out the sun, as it patrolled its domain.

Only 21 years remained until the Millennial Locust Plague.

Even Levi, amidst his busy schedule, had to check on everyone's preparations.

Counting Black Dragon Territory and Dreadtree Territory, he had a total of 17 territories under his command.

With the sub-dragons and transcendent creatures inhabiting Ancient Banyan Fairyland, as well as the sixth-level Nightmare Creatures that had naturally arisen within his territories over the years,

he could perfectly allocate one creature per territory to maintain order.

The once-sheltered Triangle Head and Electric Saw Head had now advanced to become Level 6 Nightmare Lords.

The King of Thousand Eyes, with the help of Golden Fertilizer, had also mostly recovered its strength, returning to the Level 6 Late Stage.

In the Chaotic Wilderness,

The Bloodsucking Demon Dragon, Black Lotus Beast, Snake King Dragon, and Three-Eyed Shrimp—these Four Dragons—were battling a wandering Nightmare Lord.

This Nightmare Lord bore a mosquito-like appearance and emitted a constant buzzing sound.

"That's the Mosquito Beast Lord..."

The mosquito beasts were a relatively common type of Nightmare Creature in the Nightmare World.

Their power varied wildly, with extremes on both ends of the spectrum.

The weak ones weren't even at Level 1, but the strong had the potential to become Nightmare Monarchs!

For example, the infamous [Blood Sea Mosquito Lord] was originally a mosquito beast.

Additionally, the true body of the Blood Rain Overlord was also a mosquito beast.

Clearly, a significant number of living beings across the Multidimensional Plane deeply feared and loathed mosquitoes for the suffering they caused.

Among the Four Dragons, the strongest was the Snake King Dragon, which had reached Level 6 Late Stage.

The other three Dragons were only at Level 6 Middle Stage, and many had just barely advanced.

This Mosquito Beast Lord, however, exuded an aura at Level 6 Peak, not far from reaching Level 7.

Levi took a step forward, ripples spreading across the fabric of space, and disappeared.

The Mosquito Beast Lord exuded terrifying might, rivers of blood swirling around it fiercely while its sound wave attacks annoyed and disturbed the Bloodsucking Demon Dragon and the others.

Suddenly, on the Mosquito Beast Lord's back, Levi appeared with a calm expression.

"Ten Evil Martial Arts·Heavenly Cold Path!"

He nonchalantly thrust out a palm strike!

From his palm, Frost Qi spiraled and surged outward!

In an instant, billions of ice crystal particles coalesced, forming an azure crystalline structure with a five-kilometer diameter.

The Mosquito Beast Lord felt an unstoppable force of frost enveloping it.

Its movements and consciousness slowed, its body stiffened, and the rivers of blood froze solid.

It was immobilized, staring in terror at the black-armored swordsman standing with hands behind his back.

"Black Dragon Lord, spare me—I serve the Blood Rain Overlord."

Levi frowned.

"Continue."

For some time now, Levi had been wary of the Blood Rain Overlord.

This creature was also a mosquito beast, so it was highly likely to be one of the Blood Rain Overlord's subordinates.

The Mosquito Beast Lord recounted everything without leaving out any details. Hearing this, Levi fell into deep thought.

It turned out that this creature truly was under the Blood Rain Overlord's command.

After the last Overlord-level war, the Tyrant of Horror had retreated and vanished with injuries.

The Blood Rain Overlord had gained a significant opportunity from the Tyrant of Horror at that time, one likely related to its ascension to Monarch.

Subsequently, it went into seclusion, ignoring worldly affairs.

The Blood Rain Overlord had eight trusted Great Lords with Level 8 strength under its command, collectively known as the "Blood Rain Eight Kings."

Without the Blood Rain Overlord's suppression, these Great Lords' ambitions steadily grew.

While devouring the territories of the Tyrant of Horror's subordinates, discord arose between the [Black Death King] and [Yellow Fever King] among the Eight Kings due to disputes over spoils, leading to a ferocious war between them.

Eventually, the conflict embroiled the [Cholera King], [Smallpox King], [Dengue King], and other kings as well.

This ultimately spiraled into the current state, where the Eight Kings were completely mired in infighting, with smoke and chaos engulfing the Blood Rain Realm.

Blood Rain City turned a blind eye to all of it.

There was even widespread rumor that the Blood Rain Overlord had failed its ascension to Level 10.

Otherwise, the Blood Rain Overlord would have intervened to put a stop to it.

Being a mosquito beast itself, it believed that the Blood Rain Overlord was unlikely to have perished.

As such, it sought to avoid siding with the rebellious Eight Kings, desiring only to protect itself.

However, the Eight Kings were intent on dragging more lords into their conflict.

Thus, the Mosquito Beast Lord was stripped of its territory and hunted, fleeing all the way to the remote wilderness.

It had come to the godforsaken Black Dragon Territory, intending to seize a domain.

But it was discovered and besieged by the Four Dragons instead.

And so, this was where things stood.

Levi sighed inwardly.

"We've just barely weathered the [War of the Twin Cities], and now we have the [Eight Kings' Turmoil]—this Nightmare World never knows peace... Then again, with these Great Lords' level of strength, it's true they wouldn't be too troubled by the impending Millennial Locust Plague."

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He gazed at the Mosquitobeast and said:

"What is your true name?"

The Mosquitobeast replied:

"Lord, my true name is Mos."

Levi unleashed his Level 7 aura and said:

"I originally intended to kill you, but seeing as you seem honest enough, I could spare you. You need only acknowledge me as your lord."

The Mosquitobeast replied:

"Lord, I was already thinking of doing so... The Eight Kings are truly foolhardy. Once the Blood Rain Overlord breaks through his seclusion, he will surely settle accounts with them!"

After subduing the Mosquitobeast, Levi sent it to Triss to assist her with her tasks.

The Bloodsucking Demon Dragon flattered him:

"As expected of Lord Dragon King, a Level 6 Peak being—capable of destruction at the flick of a finger."

Levi said:

"From now on, reinforce our vigilance. Though remote, this area might still be affected by the Eight Kings' strife. Furthermore, the Millennium Locust Plague is now only 21 years away. When the time comes, another tide of bloodshed and chaos will arise."

The Black Lotus Beast replied:

"Understood. With us here, the territory will surely remain unharmed!"

Black Dragon Territory.

Greed, Lust, Sloth, and Mosquitobeast—the four Protectors—stood guard over the four corners.

The Wizard Tower loomed high above.

Triss was not at home.

Levi assumed she was out collecting Nightmare Creature materials.

After a fiery rendezvous at the Tower of Summer Flowers with Hundred Flowers, he resumed his seclusion.

In these years, he had acquired several new Primordial Soul spells.

Next, he planned to push through cultivating all 27 Witch Marks in one effort.

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Midland Continent.

Fire Dragon Shop.

Alexandra's form materialized, her face brimming with excitement.

"Master, the Evil Spirit Armor you consigned for sale has auctioned for five billion!"

Elsie said:

"Indeed, in these chaotic times, such armor naturally sees its value skyrocketing. If only it suited our sect, we would surely have purchased it ourselves."

The Holy Infant said:

"You're not far off from becoming Sixth-Circle Artifact Makers yourselves. Just strive for some additional time, and you'll be able to forge Wizard Tools perfectly tailored to yourselves. No matter how fine someone else's refinement may be, it cannot compare."

Unbeknownst to him, Alexandra and Elsie had been studying weapon-making under him for nearly three centuries.

Alexandra said:

"The seventh-level Demon Slaying List—most of the top hundred belong to officials or top wizard organizations. Master, when will we begin our hunts?"

The Holy Infant replied:

"There's no rush for now. Strength is the true king. The blood battles still have a long way to go."

Elsie said:

"Master is right. I glanced through the rankings of the top hundred, and practically all of them are Six-Circle Perfect Wizards. Given Alexandra's and my current strength, even if we make the cut early on, it would be difficult to maintain our position. Moreover, those in the military specialize in demon hunting. For us civilians, attaining a high rank will not be easy."

As the three conversed.

Gandaph strolled in, beaming.

Not long ago, he had ascended to become a Six-Circle Perfect Wizard, significantly bolstering his power.

Most importantly, after centuries of effort, he had also risen to become a Sixth-Circle Alchemist.

Now, equipped with a skill of his own, he was a man riding high on dual blessings. Naturally, his mood was excellent.

"Ace, traces of the Level 7 Flame Demon have been discovered. Prepare for action."

The Holy Infant immediately perked up and said:

"Ladies, please tend to Fire Dragon Shop."

Alexandra said:

"Rest assured, Master, you be careful as well. Hunting Level 7 demons is no task for us—we wouldn't want to hold you back."

Elsie nodded.

"We wish you triumph. After this battle, you three heroes of Gondor City should make it into the top hundred of the Seventh-level Demon Slaying List!"

After proper arrangements for Fire Dragon Shop.

The Holy Infant headed to the Weapon Refinement room, where two streams of light darted into a storage space.

They were his newly refined [Bag of Gluttony] and [Purple Holy Crucible].

After infusing them with Fury Liver and Heart of Jealousy, the two top-grade Wizard Tools had significantly increased their power.

Even against a Level 7 Flame Demon, they should be able to trap it for a time.

First, an actual battle test would verify their effectiveness before sending them to his main body.

Meanwhile.

Daybreak Tower.

Victor opened his eyes.

"9 Witch Marks... Still 6 more to go. To ascend to the next ring, I'll need much more time."

Cultivation is truly arduous. Having only practiced for 150 years, Victor couldn't help but sigh.

Six-circle Senior ranks, 6 Perfect ranks, and 9 marks were already the minimum requirement for ascending to the seventh circle.

The mere thought of his main body needing to brand 27 Witch Marks filled him with despair.

"Victor, let's go."

Gandaph and Holy Infant's forms emerged.

Victor polished his Star Sword, plucking it gently.

Buzz!

Its killing intent burst forth!

He exhaled deeply.

"Let's move. May our hunt... be thrilling!"

...

God-forsaken Continent.

Since the Wizard Council implemented the "Fixing the Heaven Plan."

This desolate land, long abandoned, saw some improvement.

But with the onset of the Abyss Blood Battle, the "Fixing the Heaven Plan" was forced to halt once more.

Flame Demon Tyrant Casas' Seventh Legion, under the command of several Level 8 demons.

Began a massive invasion of the God-forsaken Continent.

Including the Mountain Giant Wizard Group, over a dozen Wizard battle groups descended upon the land.

Gandaph naturally obtained intel on the Flame Demons via Soraya.

The frontline stronghold.

In the distance, war raged endlessly, demon flames soaring high.

Clearly, a fierce battle was underway.

The Mountain Giant Wizard Group's temporary barracks.

Inside the Wizard Tower.

Soraya had just returned from the battlefield, her expression slightly pale. She asked:

"Gandaph, are you certain about hunting the Level 7 Flame Demon?"

Gandaph spoke resolutely:

"The demons' assault grows stronger by the day. As members of the Wizard World, it is our duty to contribute our part. Hunting demons is an unequivocal obligation."

Soraya glanced at Ace and Victor.

"You two have decided as well?"

Ace and Victor nodded.

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Soraya said:

"Alright... We've learned that at the 8th construction site of the Heaven-Mending Plan, a Level 7 Flame Demon is leading an army invasion. Currently, the various battle groups on the God-forsaken Continent are tied up by the Demon Army and cannot spare duplications. Only a small battle group stationed at the site is resisting. Please go and provide support."

Gandaph replied:

"Don't worry, leave this mission to us. You stay safe at the frontline too."

Soraya waved her hand.

"Go quickly!"

Gandaph and his companions immediately rushed to the 8th construction site.

Soraya looked with a heavy expression as they disappeared.

"I hope you can live up to your word."

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At the 8th construction site.

Two parties were engaged in a fierce battle.

On one side was the wizard battle group stationed there, and on the other was the overwhelmingly strong Demon Army.

From a distance, Gandaph could feel the shockwaves transmitted from the war.

"Victor, I'll take on the frontal fight alongside Master Fire Dragon. You're responsible for delivering a killing blow."

Victor responded:

"You two be cautious, safety first."

Gandaph and the Holy Infant exchanged glances, their figures flickering as they vanished.

On the battlefield.

The echoes of slaughter and spell explosions were relentless.

Every now and then, meteoric streams of magic radiance lit up the sky.

The wizard battle group was retreating step by step under the pressure of the sudden Demon Army attack.

A towering Flame Demon, a thousand meters tall, stood high against the heavens. With every gesture, magma flowed, and heavenly fire descended!

"Hahaha, perish!"

"To die under the flames of the great Lord of Flame Demon, Rogner, is your honor!"

The Flame Demon's arrogance soared to the heavens, releasing the aura of a Level 7 Early Stage force that shook the sky.

The strongest from the wizard battle group were merely a handful of Sixth-Circle Wizards.

They could only rely on their combat array to barely hold on while fighting and retreating at the same time, awaiting reinforcements.

Warband Wizards continued to die, reduced to ashes under the flames.

Compared to the demon side, the battle group was vastly inferior in terms of lord numbers and ash demons.

The sole advantage was their training, cooperation, and combat array, which the demons lacked.

Demons often started fighting among themselves mid-battle, a common occurrence.

Yet the absolute numbers rendered all of this insignificant.

Rogner slaughtered madly, striking the combat array with great force, causing several wizards to spit blood and grow mentally exhausted.

"Too weak! Pathetically weak!"

Battle Group Commander Nerod calmly said:

"The combat array is about to collapse. I'll try to buy some time. Everyone, use whatever means you can and prepare to escape."

He was a Sixth-Circle Perfect Wizard, and with his hidden cards, he felt capable of stalling that Level 7 Flame Demon for a while.

After the battle group evacuated, he would then attempt his own escape.

The 8th construction site would have to be abandoned.

There was no other option.

The Demon Army's invasion of the God-forsaken Continent was too aggressive this time.

While the congress had dispatched over a dozen battle groups, they wouldn't make an impact anytime soon.

Fortunately, non-official wizard elites had been arriving gradually, holding off the first wave of attacks.

Upon hearing that the Commander planned to risk his life against a Level 7 Demon,

the warband wizards who had worked alongside him for a long time all had their expressions change.

But as soldiers, their prime duty was obedience.

Staying behind would only lead to greater casualties.

Thus, everyone prepared themselves mentally for the sacrifice.

"Breath of Destruction!"

Rogner roared, unleashing a terrifying flow of flames that swept across the combat array!

Crack.

Amid spreading cracks, the combat array crumbled to pieces.

"Purgatory Nine Dragon Umbrella!"

From within the battle group, a crimson-haired wizard draped in fiery robes appeared, his clothing fluttering.

Holding an Ancient Burning Sky Umbrella in his hands, he stood unmoved under the torrent of flames.

The Holy Infant spoke softly:

"Commander Nerod, lead the battle group to deal with the other demons. Leave this Level 7 Flame Demon to me."

Nerod's face paled with shock before lighting up with joy.

"Thank you, Master Fire Dragon, for your support."

It seemed like a civilian wizard had arrived.

"But Master, this is a Level 7 Flame Demon. Are you sure you're confident enough to handle it?"

He hesitated.

Rogner, seeing his Breath of Destruction blocked by a Sixth-Circle Wizard, was infuriated.

"What insect dares challenge me?! Die!"

Suddenly, a voice rang out from the high heavens, accompanied by laughter.

"Hahaha, damned flame beast, it's you who will perish today! Radiant King Shocking God Palm!"

Within the cloud layer cloaked in demonic aura, an Ancient God atop a White Elephant descended in awe-inspiring fashion.

The Ancient God assumed the Thousand-Hand Avalokitesvara stance, as the White Elephant trumpeted.

Millions of Ancient God Runes interlaced with Heavenly Dragon Runes formed a colossal palm, spanning a thousand-meter diameter and blotting out the sun!

Rumble!

After achieving Sixth-Circle Perfection, Gandaph's Radiant King Martial Way had grown even more formidable!

With the might of a single strike, heaven and earth shook!

Under the awe-inspiring palm, the vast body of the Level 7 Flame Demon was driven underground amidst roaring dust and collapsing mountains.

Gandaph gripped the Sun King's Sword, aiming its blade at the massive pit.

"Sun King's Cannon!"

Boom!

An incandescent burst of white light pierced layers of shadowed clouds, scattering the demonic aura across the cosmos!

Within the explosion of white light at the pit's center came Rogner's agonized screams.

Countless low-level demons around Rogner vaporized instantly, unable to even let out a single cry.

Nerod's eyes widened with astonishment.

"Is... Lord Gandaph also here? Could it be that the Gondor City Three Heroes have all emerged?"

Steadying his thoughts, he exclaimed excitedly:

"Thank you all! Everyone, recover quickly and prepare to engage the Demon Army!"

Gandaph gazed numbly at the pit below.

"This sword is ridiculously powerful... If it didn't take so long to charge, I'd fire it ten more times and silence the whole battlefield."

Suddenly, a furious roar echoed:

"I'll tear you all apart!"

A Flame Demon emerged at lightning speed, half its flesh melted away, its appearance gruesome and horrifying.

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It wielded the flaming whip, lashing toward Gandalf in the sky.

"Radiant King World Suppressing Fist!"

Gandalf unleashed a punch, and the thousand hands behind him formed a wall of fist winds!

Crack.

The wall shattered.

The Demon Suppressing Ming King and Gandalf both recoiled violently.

Just one exchange, and the Radiant King Wizard Form visibly faded.

The power of a Level 7 being, truly terrifying!

At the same time.

The Holy Infant's ultimate move was already upon them.

Seven Ice Phoenixes and nine Red Flame Fire Dragons roared out, surging forward like an unstoppable army!

A purple sun rose over the battlefield, enveloping Rogner.

"Victor, strike now!"

The Holy Infant thought to himself.

In the distance.

Across the wilderness.

Demons roared as they charged toward Victor from all sides.

His expression remained unchanged as he spoke calmly:

"Gold Star Taibai!"

**BOOM!**

A platinum-white star, a thousand meters in diameter, burst across the sky!

The low-level demons were instantly shredded by Sword Qi within it, vanishing without a trace.

"Go!"

The Star Sword emerged from the Gold Star Taibai, carrying the power of the metal elements from a twenty-mile radius. A billion streams of Elemental Sword Energy shot forth instantly!

One by one, the phantom shadows of distant sword sages followed, heading out to battle!

On the battlefield.

Rogner was now besieged by both the Demon Suppressing Ming King and the Purple Extreme Holy Dragon.

Ice flames ravaged his body, rendering him stiff. Even the Flame Demon Fire could no longer flow properly.

His furious roars echoed across the battlefield, spreading for hundreds of miles around, where no one dared to approach.

Nerod watched the battlefield.

"Can they really hunt a Level 7 demon? Even if Rogner is outmatched, surely he can escape?"

As expected.

Rogner, sensing he was no match for the combined might of the Holy Infant and Gandalf, thought of retreating.

Those two were simply monstrous.

His pride, the Level 7 Flame Demon Fire, couldn't even penetrate their layered armor.

These are supposedly Sixth-Circle Wizards? The depth of the Wizard World is unfathomable.

Magma spewed violently from within Rogner, and fiery storms billowed forth, blasting apart the Purple Extreme Holy Dragon and the Demon Suppressing Ming King!

"I will still..."

Before he could finish.

A streak of starlight flashed, and Rogner's rigid, magma-encrusted head was abruptly pierced through!

Sword Qi rampaged, slicing in interwoven arcs. The headless Flame Demon's body was hurled backward by sheer force!

Immediately afterward, phantom sword sages entered his corpse, and cracks spread across the surface of his body.

Buzz!

Thousands of streams of Sword Qi burst outward, shattering Rogner's body in a colossal explosion.

A Level 7 Demon Soul emerged, trembling as it looked around in terror.

"Another one! What kind of power is this?"

Seeing this, the Holy Infant quickly threw out the Purple Holy Crucible and the Bag of Gluttony.

A powerful suction ensued as the Demon Soul was drawn into the Purple Holy Crucible.

Jealous Poison Water filled the crucible, dragging the Demon Soul into a nightmare.

Enveloped in confusion, the soul was tossed into the Bag of Gluttony, where endless flames mingled with the sound of exploding fat, consuming it completely.

Before long, the Demon Soul evaporated, its dazed remnants heading toward the Underworld.

A crystal core emitting scorching heat floated in the air.

Amidst the scattered chunks of flesh and shattered remains, a faintly trembling heart of magma could be seen.

The Holy Infant collected both.

"It's done. Let's clean up the battlefield, and earn some extra war merit while we're at it."

Nerod's heart quivered in awe.

"The Dawn Divine Sword was here as well... With the Gondor Three Heroes united, what is there to fear from a Level 7 demon?!"

"The upcoming Seventh-Level Demon Slaying List will truly be a contest of titans."

With the death of the Level 7 Demon Lord, the aftermath was a one-sided slaughter.

Ordinary Level 6 demons were no match for the Holy Infant and his allies.

As for the low-level demons, a single primordial soul spell could obliterate hordes of them.

In the end, the demon army scattered in panic, utterly crushed.

They didn't pursue the fleeing remnants. For safety's sake, the Holy Infant and his team stopped in time.

Nerod and the warband wizards narrowly escaped with their lives.

"Thank you, all three of you. I will report the details of this battle to the congress; there should be additional war merit rewards."

Gandalf replied:

"Slaying demons is the duty of all. No need to be so formal. We must head to other battlefields to provide support. You should also retreat and regroup with the main forces."

Elsewhere.

Soraya prepared herself, looking toward the distant battlefield, refraining from dwelling on Gandalf's situation.

[It's a success. Thank you—Gandalf.]

Before departing, her communication device transmitted Gandalf's message.

Her anxious heart finally calmed.

"What was I even worrying about? That old fellow, how could he possibly be in trouble? I'd better focus on dealing with the enemy in front of me."

...

Before long.

The names of three individuals suddenly appeared within the top 100 of the Seventh-Level Demon Slaying List.

[Fire Dragon Master Ais: Rank 91, 1.01 million points]

[Demon Suppressing Ming King Gandalf: Rank 93, 940,000 points]

[Dawn Divine Sword Victor: Rank 97, 900,000 points]

The competition within the Seventh-Level Demon Slaying List was second only to the Sixth-Level.

To make it into the top 100 was a mark of the greatest talents among primordial soul wizards.

For years, the Gondor City Three Heroes had been relatively unknown.

But after their joint takedown of the Level 7 Flame Demon, they skyrocketed to prominence.

They divided the credit for the Flame Demon's death, along with the kills of other demons, plus the extra war merit granted by the congress.

They immediately surpassed even those still in seclusion.

A projection of the Flame Demon hunt caused a significant stir in the Wizard World.

Gandalf's mighty palm, Victor's unparalleled sword, and Ais's purple sun.

These left a profound impression on countless witnesses.

After this battle, the rankings for the Holy Infant's and Gandalf's Wizard Forms and Soul Artifacts advanced considerably, nearing the top 500.

Demon Suppressing Ming King at 530th, Purple Extreme Holy Dragon at 535th.

Above them, the rankings mostly belonged to the Wizard Forms of Seven-Circle Wizards.

Chapter 2006: 'Extreme Dao Strategy', 27 Witch Marks!

The [Hundred Flowers and Thousand Trees], which had just advanced to the seven-circle rank, ranked only 478th.

Meanwhile, Triss, who had been living in seclusion in the Nightmare World and had virtually no record of combat achievements,

her wizard form, [Medicine Girl], ranked an even lower 489th place.

However, the lady didn't care about rankings and had long since become indifferent to them.

After this battle, the Gondor City Three Greats wisely withdrew and hurried back to the Midland Continent.

Drawing from the repeated experiences of the Holy Infant being targeted by the Council of Ten Thousand Clans,

they understood that staying on the Godforsaken Continent meant inviting trouble from those schemers, who would inevitably come looking for trouble.

Thus, they needed to lay low for a while, wait for the storm to pass, and then act again.

...

Godforsaken Continent.

The chaotic clashes between wizards and demons intensified by the day.

In such murky waters, there were always those tempted to fish for profit amid the chaos.

In the Land of Darkness beyond the continent.

In the vast void, a lone airship flew silently and concealed.

On the deck stood a figure dressed in purple, hands clasped behind his back.

This was none other than Taigu, a Level 7 member of the Amethyst Race.

Over these years, the Amethyst faction, led by Taigu, had created endless trouble for the Wizard World.

He had personally killed numerous Sixth-Circle Wizards.

Of course, the Amethyst Race had also suffered significant losses.

The "Gondor Three Greats," those damn troublemakers, alone had taken the lives of several members of the Amethyst Race.

Projections of the Snake Envoy and Emperor Dagon surfaced.

"Taigu, traces of Fire Dragon Ais and others have been discovered on the Godforsaken Continent," the Snake Envoy reported.

Taigu replied, "I've already heard. I'm heading to the Forsaken Land, planning to remain hidden and act only when the opportunity arises."

The Snake Envoy added, "The Black Dragon Pirate Group is now part of the Council of Ten Thousand Clans. They've taken advantage of the chaos to also hide themselves on the Godforsaken Continent. When the time comes, you can coordinate with them."

Emperor Dagon said, "Taigu, if you manage to capture Ais alive and deliver him to me, I can transfer ownership of a small mining plane to you."

This Emperor was still coveting the Holy Infant's weapon-making skills.

Taigu sneered coldly, "My fists are merciless, and my blade is blind. I fear one punch from me will kill him outright... unlike those weaklings like that Level 7 Flame Demon."

As a member of the Amethyst Race, his pride was unwavering.

Emperor Dagon's expression darkened.

"Do your best. I need this man!"

As silence loomed over the plane teetering on the brink of death, the Snake Envoy spoke calmly,

"Let us not forget, we are now fighting on the same front. For survival and dignity, we must give it our all, no matter the cost... even if it requires sacrificing our lives!"

...

Human Realm.

Ancient Dragon Continent.

Outer sea region.

A black-robed figure silently appeared.

His face was hidden beneath a hood, and his gaze, deep as a black hole, seemed to devour all light in its path.

He gazed calmly at the distant horizon, seemingly lost in thought.

"Black Sun Adam, you actually dare to show yourself in the human realm," came a voice.

From the ocean waters emerged a figure robed in blue.

His face was sharp, a middle-aged male wizard emanating the majestic aura of a Grand Wizard.

The waters for thousands of miles trembled as though boiling, pulsating at his mere thought.

It seemed as if, with a single notion, he could cover the sea and overturn the heavens!

Despite having his identity exposed, Black Sun Adam remained unperturbed, smiling as he said,

"Sea Covering Wizard Matia, you truly live up to being the prized disciple of the Black Abyss Walker. And congratulations on quietly advancing to Grand Wizard. Relax, my friend. I'm merely passing through the human realm—no need for such animosity. Besides... you're not my match."

The Sea Covering Wizard sneered,

"You should know, the Hundred Beast Berserk Witch, whom you manipulated, has already been slain."

Black Sun Adam sighed, "Of course I know. Poor Caesar... a pitiful creature whose entire life was under someone else's control."

BOOM!

Thousands of miles of seawater surged upward, pouring toward Black Sun Adam.

Black Sun Adam, unhurried and composed, snapped his fingers.

"Solar Eclipse!"

In an instant, the world plunged into darkness, and all light vanished.

A sinister black sun descended upon the ocean.

Seawater transformed into black flames, turning the scene into an infernal sea of ink that illuminated the Sky Dome!

"Goodbye, Matia. You're as impatient as ever," a faint voice echoed.

The darkness receded like a tidal wave, leaving a massive vacuum spanning a thousand miles in the ocean.

The black flames slowly extinguished, and the seawater gradually flowed back into place.

Gazing at the Sky Dome, the Sea Covering Wizard furrowed his brows.

"Black Sun Adam has returned to this world... and he's set his sights on Levi. I must inform my master of this immediately."

He cast a glance at the Ancient Dragon Continent behind him, sighed softly, and vanished.

...

Time flies like an arrow; years pass like a shuttle.

In the blink of an eye, twenty years had flown by.

Year 250 of Nora's calendar marked the 38th year of the Blood Battle.

The Abyssal onslaughts came in relentless waves, growing larger like inexorable tides.

The Godforsaken Land had become the main battlefield of the first phase of the war.

The Abyss sought to seize the relatively weakly defended Godforsaken Land, intending to use it as a bridgehead for their assault on the Wizard World.

Endless demon armies flooded this already scarred and battered land.

Once serene caverns had now become the demons' natural "nests."

The Council continuously dispatched reinforcements to the Godforsaken Land.

Countless independent demon-hunting wizards and teams also flocked to this perilous yet opportunity-filled region.

Among them emerged waves of exceptional demon hunters,

striking fear into demons' hearts and making them flee on sight.

Of course, there were also terrifying demons entrenched in various regions, slaying countless brave souls who attempted to challenge them.

The battlefield was a relentless meat grinder, where demonic blood and wizard blood spilled across skies and land alike.

And in this brutal war, the mechanical creations of the Council made their debut.

The "Demon Extermination Shuttle," "Mechanical Battle Group," and "Heavenly Element Divine Cannon"—

These advanced inventions, jointly developed by Herman and the Council, dazzled on the battlefield.

Powered by intellectual property royalties and Council funding, the Tower of Dawn thrived immensely.

More Demon Extermination Shuttles and Extreme Battle Armors started rolling out across major organizations on the Ancient Dragon Continent.

To Herman, war represented the greatest opportunity.

The old School of Alchemy underwent rapid transformation, evolving into the more advanced Mechanical School.

The Fire Dragon Knight and the Dark Queen also rose to fame during these twenty years, becoming renowned as the "Ancient Dragon Duos."

The former was granted the title "Ten Thousand Demon Slash" by the Council, ranking 49th on the leaderboard.

The latter, undeterred by her gender, held the 56th spot.

However, not long after, the two suddenly went silent.

People noticed their leaderboard scores had not changed for a long time.

Until one day, the names of the Fire Dragon Knight and the Dark Queen appeared on the Seventh-level Demon Slaying List.

Only then did everyone realize that they had ascended to new heights.

...

A year later.

In the year 251 of Nora's calendar, Levi emerged from a long retreat.

This time, he had primarily focused on cultivating spells.

Through tireless diligence, both [Dry Hand] and [Water Ghost Hand] had reached their maximum limits.

Additionally, over the past twenty years, he had learned eight new primordial soul spells, though none had reached Perfection, leveling instead at around 14th-tier.

After scanning through messages,

he found updates from organizational leaders that the materials required for the Golden Brilliance Dragon Breath Technique had been prepared.

However, this year was clearly not the time for advancement.

Because... the Millennial Locust Plague had begun.

Chapter 2007: Golden Brilliance Breakthrough, Witch Mark Perfection!

Emperor's Palace.

Leaders from major organizations such as the Tower of Dawn and the Dusk Holy Temple, as well as those in charge of the various battle groups without current missions, all sat around the massive round table.

Levi said:

"Everyone, the Millennium Locust Plague of the Nightmare World is about to begin. Aside from countless ordinary famine worms, this plague will also give rise to Famine Raiders with strength comparable to primordial soul wizards, ranging from Level 6 to Level 8. Therefore, we must not take this lightly. Aside from the essential personnel needed to guard the Ancient Dragon Continent, each organization must dispatch troops to suppress the insect calamity in the Nightmare World."

The Blood Knight said:

"At the Dusk Holy Temple headquarters, aside from the four main battle groups responsible for maintaining order on the continent—Fire Dragon, Steel Dragon, Silver Dragon, and Snow Dragon—all can head to the Nightmare World. If it's only for a year, that shouldn't pose much of an issue. Moreover, during this period, we can still return to the real world if any matters of greater importance arise on the Ancient Dragon Continent, which naturally takes priority."

The Black Knight added:

"As for the branch divisions, aside from leaving personnel to guard their sites, they too can enter the Nightmare World."

Next, all organizational leaders discussed their respective situations.

Levi, who had been in seclusion for decades, also grasped the current state of affairs.

First, there's the 18 Twilight Cavalry.

Among the old generation of knights, the Blood Knight, Ash Knight, and Divine Light Knight, who had all reached Level 6 early on, are now at the middle stage of Level 6.

Golden Lion, Saint Ape, Goddess Knight, and Black Knight are still at the early stage.

Since Elsa's Level 6 promotion, decades have passed.

Among the middle-generation knights, the Silver Dragon Knight has also successfully advanced to Level 6 without relying on Levi's life-saving rare treasure.

Dark Moon, Hundred Flowers, Thousand Illusions, and Steel Dragon remain at peak Level 5.

Hundred Flowers needs no elaboration—her numerous roles occupy her time, and she’s currently pushing hard toward a breakthrough in realm.

The other three middle-generation knights are still refining their combat techniques, divine weapons, and advancement materials.

It may still take them some time before reaching Level 6.

Thus far, the knights advancing to Level 6, aside from Goddess Knight Elsa, have all had relatively smooth journeys.

Among the newer generation of knights, Fire Dragon Knight stands out unmistakably.

He is a true anomaly, a monstrous talent capable of surpassing even the Wizard World’s apex prodigies.

Although he joined relatively late, he has ascended rapidly, leaving the rest of his generation a full cycle behind and now even surpassing the middle-generation knights.

At this rate, it’s only a matter of time before he overtakes the old generation and becomes the leading figure of the future 18 Twilight Cavalry.

Levi holds Fire Dragon Knight in high regard.

He treats him as the "flagship" knight, cultivating him accordingly!

After the Blood Battle began, Fire Dragon Knight already established the knight's reputation in the Wizard World.

This has greatly aided both recruitment efforts for the Dusk Holy Temple and increased the congress's attention on knights.

Knights, long lagging behind, are still viewed by some of the Wizard World's antiquated elders even today as mere "upstarts," despite their resurgence.

Such ingrained stereotypes will require time to dismantle.

Aside from Fire Dragon Knight.

Jade Elephant Knight and Snow Dragon Knight are both at peak Level 5.

Jade Elephant Knight's meteoric rise can be attributed not only to his decent talent but also to fortunate timing, as Levi happened to bring back the Level 7 Giant Elephant King.

Using such high-level secret medicine for cultivation at lower realms is naturally an overwhelming advantage.

Take, for example, the Sea Demon Knight Order, whose members all started their cultivation using Level 6 secret medicine.

With high-intensity training and a sole focus on knighthood, they quickly reached Level 5.

As the saying goes, "A favorable wind aids my ascent to the heavens," which also applies to Snow Dragon Knight. His compatibility with the Snow Mountain Dragon King's bloodline essence is unparalleled.

Other knights, even if they stockpiled a wealth of contributions, currently lack access to such high-level secret medicine.

Feather Knight, Pheasant Knight, and Halberd Knight are all at the late stage of Level 5.

This constitutes a relatively precarious situation, as within the Dusk Holy Temple, geniuses sporadically emerge.

These individuals might later surpass them, relegating them to obscurity.

Still, even if relegated, their battle group allocations will not be revoked.

After all, extensive teamwork makes frequent changes impractical.

Moreover, while they might temporarily be surpassed, all possess the potential to eventually reach Level 6, indicating their capacities are not negligible.

New members joining the 18 Twilight Cavalry can form their own battle groups.

These are different times—the Tower of Dawn has gained wealth, and the cost of Extreme Battle Armor has significantly decreased compared to before.

Establishing new battle groups is now merely a matter of time.

On the side of the Ancient Dragon Empire.

Following Feather King's advancement to Level 6, Wing King and Lord Cang also achieved Level 6 successively.

In addition to the three kings, two Ancient Kings attempted to advance to Level 6.

One failed, and not even a rare treasure could save their life.

The other succeeded but didn't achieve perfection.

Levi realized that even for Ancient Saint-level prodigies of the Ancient Dragon Empire's bygone era.

Level 6 advancement entails substantial risk.

In truth, the same applies to the Dusk Holy Temple.

Although the current members of the 18 Twilight Cavalry who advanced appear to have relatively smooth journeys.

This impression stems from survivorship bias.

After all, they already stand at the pinnacle, excelling in talent, mental fortitude, perseverance, technique, and luck.

As more knights attempt advancement in the future, failures and deaths will inevitably increase.

These are the objective laws governing organizational development—no one can evade them.

That said, unless one is like Levi, who created his own breathing technique.

Level 6 advancement for knights is actually less challenging than for wizards.

The battle group led by Algerta, the "Barbarian Ancestor," has also produced numerous Level 5 experts.

Chapter 2008: Golden Brilliance Breakthrough, Witch Mark Perfection!

In the early days, people like Taiger were already at the peak of Level 5, but whether they could advance to Level 6 was still unknown.

The cultivation of the Giant Breathing Technique by those two-headed beings under the roar of the Giant Soldiers has shown positive results.

They are naturally powerful transcendent races, with rich Frost Giant bloodlines flowing within them.

Whether it's their knight talent or wizarding talent, both are excellent.

Commander Beisita fully utilized their strengths.

Those who enjoy spellcasting were directed to the Tower of Dawn for further studies, while those skilled in combat techniques were sent to the Dusk Holy Temple for training.

Additionally, those with Qi Sect talents could even become "Giant Qi Sect" practitioners—it was entirely feasible.

On the Ancient Dragon Continent, regardless of your race, as long as you demonstrated sufficient talent, you could choose an Extraordinary Path that suited you.

As for the Doomsday Valkyrie and Song of the Sirens, they have also developed beyond Levi's expectations over the years.

The Tower of Dawn, in particular, is flourishing.

Aya, whom Levi had brought out from the ancient tower over four hundred years ago, has now become the star of tomorrow in the Wizarding World.

The Shadow Queen, who has attained Perfection in nine talents, like Levi, is a one-person army, commanding the Shadow Army with unmatched efficiency in slaying demons—even better than the Fire Dragon Knight.

This gave Levi a sense of accomplishment in nurturing talent.

As for Sorrett, he is now a Senior Sixth Ring Wizard, living in seclusion in the tower while teaching students and nurturing many excellent seedlings.

One of his students, Sta, whom Levi brought out three hundred years ago, is now a Fifth-Circle Perfection Wizard, currently refining the nine talents.

Because of his talent as the Thunder Wizard, Sta has gradually emerged in blood battles, making remarkable achievements.

On the Sixth-level Demon Slaying List, he's now ranked within the top thousand.

These individuals are regarded by the council as potential candidates for achieving the Sixth Ring in the future.

Whether they can reach that level still depends on their fortune.

Toby, at 180 years old, a rare Child of the Fire Element and a bearer of Earth Special Talent, descends from the lineage of the Fire God's Hammer.

Under the guidance of the Holy Infant, he has already become a Senior Fourth Ring Wizard, and even a fourth-circle weapons craftsman.

Though his advancement speed does not match that of Simon, the Dual Fire Talent Master of the past, Levi finds this pace healthier.

In the future, steady advancement to the Sixth Ring will suffice.

If that happens, the Holy Infant can essentially step back entirely.

Occasionally putting some top-grade Wizard Tools refined by himself up for auction would suffice to maintain popularity.

Beyond that, he wouldn't need to worry much.

These geniuses are but a microcosm of the Tower of Dawn.

In truth, over its four-hundred-year history, this organization has produced numerous talents.

But whether they can successfully reach the finish line remains uncertain for everyone.

Lastly, the Panda Clan and the Qi Sect, though cultivating with a relaxed attitude, are developing anything but passively.

First is Saint Emperor Zhou, who had been stuck at the Sixth Level Middle Stage for a long time.

Then, during a teaching session, he unexpectedly had a moment of enlightenment.

At that time, the skies were adorned with celestial flowers, the earth surged with green lotuses, azure dragons circled overhead—a grand anomaly appeared.

Under the watchful eyes of thousands, he directly broke through two minor stages in a row, reaching the Level 6 Peak Realm.

The Qi Sect practitioners present were dumbfounded, and the event even alerted the "Qi Sect Research Institute" under the Wizard Council.

Wizard Cultivation has always been step-by-step, with no concept of breaking through multiple minor stages at once.

The sense of shock was immense.

After various interviews and studies, the council members could not derive any substantial conclusions and eventually left disappointed.

Saint Emperor Zhou himself could not explain it, merely remarking, "When the spirit is attuned, enlightenment comes naturally."

After this event, the number of people signing up for Qi Sect's Heart Inquiry Test rose sharply.

Out of the applicants, one true talent emerged.

It turned out to be Link, who possesses a Golden Spear Iron Heart.

This is one of the strongest talents in the Giant Qi Sect.

Link subsequently joined the Golden Stone Qi Sect and embarked on a dual cultivation path, combining Qi Sect and Secret Sword Flow Wizard disciplines.

However, most of his time was spent on the front lines of the blood battle battlefield, honing his skills through practical combat and slaughter.

This caused his points to surge ahead.

Like the Fire Dragon Knight of the past, Link is now ranked among the top fifty on the Demon Slaying List, becoming a rising star.

Beyond that, the Four Sons of Qi Sect—Ann, Chen, Li, and Hong—had long advanced to Level 6.

Some who had experienced more enlightenment have already reached the Sixth Level Middle Stage.

They have returned to their respective Qi Sect mountain gates to become figures guarding their territories.

Observing the talents and flourishing development of the Ancient Dragon Continent nowadays, Levi, as the "Supreme Elder," has finally felt at ease.

All he can do is continue charging toward higher realms, constantly raising the organization's ceiling!

Several days later.

After intense preparations.

The personnel began entering the Nightmare World, heading toward various territories to defend them.

Since Levi's capacity to bring people in was limited, priority was given to selecting powerful individuals.

The Dusk Holy Temple, Tower of Dawn, Ancient Dragon Empire, and other major organizations each retained at least two Level 6 experts for defense.

Guardians like the Ghost Bone Dragon, Giant Elephant King, and Snow Mountain Dragon King—all Level 7—stayed on the continent to guard against Level 7 demons.

In addition, the entire Dragon Palace and undead creatures adept at combat were also sent in.

As for the Shell Demons and Snow Elves, they continued to hold their respective posts.

Levi, Hundred Flowers, and Triss would all reside in the Nightmare World over the coming year.

The Gondor City Three Greats were also invited to join in the insect extermination operations.

...

Nightmare World.

Chaotic Wilderness.

In the peculiar grasslands, a bug-like monster with a dry and sallow human face and beast-like features crept out slowly, measuring about one meter in length.

Chapter 2009: Golden Brilliance Breakthrough, Witch Mark Perfection!

Sounds of rustling came from underground.

Within the soil layers, it was as if countless ants were crawling.

Before long, layers upon layers of pitch-black, monstrous insects began emerging on the Earth.

Some were small, about the size of wild dogs, while others were as massive as giant elephants.

Some were even over one hundred meters in length.

Their bodies were covered in durable heavy armor, gleaming with a metallic sheen, with six legs like sharp blades.

Every one of them, without exception, was a sixth-level Famine Worm.

They belonged to the special soldier species known as the [Famine Raiders].

Each one was an extremely troublesome Nightmare Lord.

With bodies forged of iron armor, impervious to blades and bullets, and blade-like legs capable of slicing through anything.

In fact, even the weaker Famine Worms were immensely dangerous.

Their mouthparts could chew through anything, even sixth-circle defensive fields.

Their flapping wings could create terrifying negative energy storms.

On this day.

Throughout the Nightmare World, after hibernating for a thousand years, countless Famine Worms broke out of their shells.

They gathered together, forming black mist, their noise resonating for hundreds, even thousands of miles, like thunderclaps.

Whether it be the territory of Nightmare Monarchs or Nightmare Lords, they were equally unmerciful.

...

Outside the Black Dragon Territory.

This was Levi's stronghold.

It was guarded personally by him.

Additionally, a [Phantom Apostle Group] led by the Thousand Illusion Knight was stationed here to alternate shifts with him.

Then there was the Nightmare Creature army native to the Black Dragon Territory.

It could be said that Levi relied on his own strength to defend the Black Dragon Territory.

Levi had deployed the forces of the Ancient Dragon Continent to other territories.

Both Hundred Flowers and Triss had also gone to Seven Sins City.

Ensuring that each territory had at least two sixth-level guardians so as not to lose any ground.

Yet, due to the thousand-year locust plague, Levi was mentally prepared to lose some territories.

As long as losses weren't excessive, everything could be regained once the plague ended.

"Buzz buzz buzz!"

From the distant horizon, it was as if ten thousand planes were streaking by, their engines roaring!

The Thousand Illusion Knight looked a bit tense as she gazed at the silent figure standing there.

"Commander alone—is it really going to be alright?"

She knew the commander was powerful, but facing such an intense locust swarm all alone was hard to imagine.

Soon.

Countless locusts swept down and blanketed the skies.

A black energy storm dyed the skies within a range of hundreds of miles completely black.

Levi said:

"Thousand Illusion Knight, you and the battle group are responsible for cleaning up the locusts I miss."

Thousand Illusion Knight replied:

"Understood, Commander, take care!"

Levi's figure vanished.

The storm formed by countless locusts swept toward him.

"Shadow Dragon Group! Attack!"

At his command, shadows behind Levi erupted.

Three thousand soldiers from the Black Shadow Army surged forth like tidal waves.

Among them, the most striking was undoubtedly the shadow centipede hundreds of meters long and the arrogant golden brain!

Thousands upon thousands of spells and spell-like abilities lit up the sky like fireworks.

In an instant, tens of thousands of locusts were annihilated, Nightmare Crystals falling like raindrops.

Levi gripped the Crimson Dragon Slash tightly, his figure stepped forward, arriving before a [Famine Raider] that was recklessly slaughtering shadows.

This Raider exuded an aura not inferior to a sixth-level early-stage powerhouse.

Behind Levi, an invisible dragonlike aura surged, solidifying into substance as if it were an emperor's cloak!

"Sky Dragon Path!"

Among the Ten Evil Martial Arts, the Sky Dragon Path was the most versatile.

One sword fell!

The Raider was severed in two, its vitality extinguished!

This also meant that Levi's Shadow Army would gain an additional rank-five elite.

"Leon, collect the Raider's corpse," Levi ordered.

The Raider's armor was naturally sixth-level biological metal.

Perfect for forging divine weapons, Extreme Battle Armor, and the Demon Extermination Shuttle.

Thus, the locust plague, while dangerous, was also an opportunity.

Among the locust swarms, there were plenty of Raiders like this.

Leon carried a woven bag crafted from spider webs, activating the "auto-pickup" function.

Following Levi closely, he was in charge of collecting spoils of war.

Occasionally, he'd also snag some locust true souls to be canned as reserve food.

But his tastes had grown picky; other than sixth-level ones, he ignored the rest.

According to Leon, these lower-level food items were no longer nutritious for him. Eating too many just took up space in his stomach.

Over the following hours, Levi charged through the locust swarm seven times in succession.

One Raider after another fell under his sword.

Whether they were sixth-level early-stage, late-stage, or even peak-tier.

To Levi now, they required at most one or two swings of his sword to be dealt with.

He and the Shadow Dragon Group successfully stalled the locust army spanning hundreds of miles.

Watching from afar, the Thousand Illusion Knight opened her small mouth slightly, her beautiful eyes filled with awe.

"Incredible!"

Members of the Phantom Apostle Group were even more stunned.

With a thought, three thousand shadow soldiers followed him!

Any sixth-level enemy fell within a single sword stroke!

Though they had imagined such strength in their minds before.

Seeing it in person was entirely different.

And so.

Taking advantage of this locust plague, Levi used live combat to enhance his proficiency in the [Extreme Dao Strategy].

The results were far superior to regular training.

Although Levi's current [Extreme Dao Strategy] was at level-seven, only requiring tens of thousands of proficiency points.

This was because the proficiency panel had been calibrated during the fusion.

The current level-seven actually corresponded to his seventh-level realm.

Acquiring 1 proficiency point now was vastly more challenging compared to the past breathing techniques at level-seven.

On the ground, the pile of locust corpses continued to grow larger and larger.

Chapter 2010: Golden Brilliance Breakthrough, Witch Mark Perfection!

In other directions, hordes of locusts continued to arrive.

However, Levi had the Shadow Dragon Group, along with the Phantom Apostle Group and the Nightmare Creatures in his territory, and so far, they had successfully held their ground.

After months of battle, his Shadow Army had suffered considerable losses.

But at the same time, new locust shadows joined their ranks.

Just among the Plunderer's Level 5 shadows, four new ones had been added.

For now, at least, neither the Black Dragon Territory nor the other territories had seen the emergence of a Level 7 Plunderer.

This gave Levi a brief moment of relief, as the Level 6 Plunderers weren't too difficult to handle.

When he grew weary, he let the Giant Whale King take his place.

Alternating strategies, taking turns.

He had lost count of how many locusts he had slain.

It felt as though the locust armies were endless, infinite, and impossible to eradicate.

Meanwhile, in the Nightmare World.

Territories across the dreamscape were being consumed by the locust swarms, which blotted out the skies.

More and more Nightmare Lords were becoming Wandering Lords.

Those who attempted to fight to the death alongside their territories were relentlessly bitten apart by countless locusts.

The Mother Flesh Trees within the territories collapsed and vanished in the face of the insect plague.

Thus, new unclaimed lands began to form.

The Mother Flesh Trees were destroyed, though their roots remained, leaving the possibility of sprouting anew in the future.

Seven Sins City.

Hundred Flowers crushed the Plunderer before her effortlessly, in her wizard form.

"Can Levi really endure this for an entire year?"

Even after just a few months of slaughter, Hundred Flowers was already feeling mentally fatigued.

She found herself mechanically spellcasting, numb to the action.

Triss, too, had the same feeling.

She was slightly concerned about Levi's mental state.

Black Dragon Territory.

After finishing his rest, Levi instinctively summoned Crimson Dragon Slash, only to find the sword blade dulled.

Expressionless, he returned the divine weapon to his body to be nurtured.

"Kill!"

He was a machine of senseless slaughter.

"Heavenly Badger Path!"

He seemed to embody the spirit of the Heavenly Badger, as the Sun, Moon, and Stars—man's three vital forces—converged within him!

With every punch, countless locusts were shattered mid-air into fragments.

If he unleashed the Red Emperor Domain or employed large-scale primordial soul spells, the killing efficiency would skyrocket.

But in doing so, the materials from the middle and low-level locusts would all be reduced to ashes—a complete waste.

Every bit counts, and Levi felt capable of sustaining himself for now.

Of course, if his territory ever faced a life-and-death crisis, he wouldn't hesitate to deploy such power.

Time swiftly passed.

Half a year had gone by.

The locust plague was finally nearing its end.

Surviving just a few more months would mean victory.

During this time, the Ancient Dragon Continent had seen only occasional demon incursions, but nothing significant.

During his rest intervals, Levi would scrutinize the outside world.

Suddenly, he received a transmission.

His expression subtly changed.

Over in Dreadtree Territory, a Level 7 Plunderer had emerged.

The stationed Blood Apostle Group, along with the Level 6 Blood Knights and Bloodsucking Demon Dragon, had been entirely annihilated.

Levi could only sigh; currently, he could only set resurrection points in the Black Dragon Territory.

By the time he led the Blood Knights back to Dreadtree Territory, it was too late.

The locusts devoured at an astonishing speed.

Thus, Levi decided to let the Blood Knights return to the physical world for recovery and stationed them to protect the Black Dragon Territory instead.

Fate had dealt him a bad hand—a Level 7 Plunderer had appeared.

If it had shown up near Seven Sins City, it would've been manageable, as Hundred Flowers and Triss could have provided support.

"Judging by the Level 7 Plunderer's trajectory, its next stop is the Black Dragon Territory. If I can weather this storm, the locust plague should be over."

Levi used this opportunity to quickly recalibrate himself.

A few days later.

A black storm, stronger than any before, approached from afar.

At the center of this storm was a massive locust, with a wingspan of a thousand meters, exuding overwhelming pressure as it closed in.

"What a monstrous beast—Level 7 Middle Stage!"

Levi's eyes narrowed in alarm.

The Level 7 Plunderer's head was adorned with thousands upon thousands of gaunt human faces.

"Hunger... Hunger... Hunger!"

The entity emitted an eerie, chilling voice, gazing at the Black Dragon Territory with greedy, ravenous eyes.

Levi stood tall in the void, the Shadow Dragon Group materializing behind him.

The scarred Giant Whale King silently rose to its feet as well.

"Thousand Illusion Knights, Blood Knights, focus on clearing the stragglers."

Against a Level 7 Middle Stage Plunderer, Levi had to exercise utmost caution.

The Shadow Dragon Group roared into the locust swarm.

The Giant Whale King, wielding its bone knife, brandished its brilliant blade fearlessly!

Levi set his sights resolutely and appeared above the Level 7 Plunderer in a flash.

"Underhook Earth Shattering Fist!"

The Doomsday Fist struck downward!

The Plunderer's steel wings folded inwards, slashing toward Levi, rending the void wherever they passed!

BANG!

Levi was sent flying into the Sky Dome, hit as if by a thunderous impact.

The Plunderer didn't walk away unscathed either, crashing heavily to the ground and crushing a batch of locusts beneath its body.

A dented fist mark marred its steel wings, but it was hardly affected.

"Such formidable defense—stronger even than Andreas."

It was the first time Levi encountered a foe that his Underhook Fist couldn't severely injure.

He didn't feel fear, but sheer exhilaration.

This Plunderer's steel armor—how many Wizard Tools or battle armors could be refined from it?  
Priceless!

This fight wasn't simply about winning; he had to ensure minimal damage.

With this resolve.

Levi summoned the Nine-headed Emperor Dragon and his Emperor allies.

The Emperor Dragon called forth four Level 6 Late Stage Spiritual Weapons, activating his innate spell before engaging the Plunderer head-on.

The Emperor, gripping the Emperor's Sword, joined Levi in pinpointing an opening and attacking!

A surge of terrifying Chaos Sword Energy streaked toward the Plunderer's head.

The Plunderer's blade-like limbs swung violently, shredding the sword energy to pieces.

Before long, even the four Spiritual Weapons that had previously been unbeatable were torn apart like paper.