

Wow 501

Chapter 501 Razor Face_2

Even without looking back, Dai Lian could feel the footsteps of his pursuer drawing ever closer behind him.

Above the wilderness, there was not the slightest space to hide.

This was also the core reason why humans were almost unwilling to stray too far from city life, for even without the protection of those steel walls, just leaning back would immediately bring the coverage of steel cannons and gun towers, causing the foreign tribes to steer clear.

Only when absolutely necessary would one venture out, and then it was just a gamble on not being discovered by the foreign tribes.

And at this moment, luck clearly was not on the side of the players.

"Damn it!"

Dai Lian's gaze rapidly swept over the terrain beside him. While running, he projected several small objects with a flick of his wrist, swiftly setting up a few simple traps in an instant.

As his proficiency with trap-setting grew, not only did the time it took Dai Lian to set up traps drastically decrease, but more importantly, he obtained the ability to make portable trap devices.

It might seem only slightly better than nothing, but this was the best preparation Dai Lian could manage.

The distance Dai Lian had initially created and his not-so-slow running speed weren't inferior to most orcs, with only the orc chieftain in pursuit managing to close the gap swiftly.

And in the chase that ensued, the main force of orcs behind them fell farther and farther away.

This sort of isolation was a fleeting opportunity.

If he could only severely wound that orc, the rest would probably not be able to catch up with him.

His contemplation stopped there as Dai Lian, fully focusing on the battle itself, began to rehearse in his mind all the possible battle scenarios that could arise, making advance preparations accordingly.

The trap should at least buy him a few seconds...

The remaining Spiritual Energy was enough for him to shoot his strongest shot yet...

The previous arrow, due to the distance, hadn't reached the orc chieftain, but if the latter were to be hit dead-on without dodging, even the leader among orcs would likely not withstand such a sophisticated arrow technique coming from his boss.

While setting the traps, Dai Lian once again took down the longbow strapped to his back.

Appearing to flee in panic, he suddenly turned around and shot an arrow at his pursuer.

The very nature of a trap lies in its concealment and the element of surprise.

His previous subtle moves might have escaped his opponent's eyes, but to prevent a close-range observation from spotting any flaws, he needed to distract his adversary head-on.

"Whoosh!"

The arrow tore through the air, striking iron armor.

With a "ding," the iron arrow, full of force, was instantly bent out of shape, and fell powerlessly to the ground.

[Your attack hit the target, but failed to penetrate the armor.]

"..."

No reaction.

Seeing this, Dai Lian's eyes narrowed slightly.

The orc's armor didn't seem very thick, and was even comically crude, which they had been able to tell during their previous observation.

But now... his full-force shot under normal conditions disappeared without a trace, not even a hint of feedback.

Could there be some trick to the orcs' equipment?

But all that was irrelevant now.

The objective had been achieved, as the orc chieftain, struck in the chest by his arrow, appeared not to have noticed the traps set in advance.

The robust green figure rushing forward was instantly captured and restrained by the web that spewed out; the exceedingly tough silk threads were both strong and slightly elastic, making it difficult for the orc chieftain to break free immediately.

This was the opportunity!

Dai Lian's gaze was frosty as he stood on a rock jutting about half a meter out of the ground, pulling back the bowstring once more. The familiar whistling of the wind again began to arise around the arrow.

The orc chieftain, sensing the familiar aura, felt his eyes bulge with feral excitement.

A mix of past fear and the desire to challenge a strong opponent coalesced, bringing him both anticipation and dread.

For some reason, including this encounter, the intimidation of the arrow was far less than during their first meeting.

After his last panicked escape, he had been eager to confirm his suspicions with the protagonist.

And now... the chance had come!

With experience, charging up a powerful shot didn't take long, just a noticeable pause compared to the normal speed of drawing and shooting, followed by a sudden strike.

"Woo!"

The wind howled, and the arrow shot forth like a dragon.

"Thump!"

The sound, like a great bell or drum, echoed by Dai Lian's ears.

Dai Lian loosed an arrow and looked in disbelief at the direction he had aimed, as the target orc's chest, the impact area, remained intact. The only damage was to the iron armor, which seemed not very thick, now sporting a clearly chiseled semi-circular groove and was miserably cracked.

A belated notification slowly slid across the panel—

[Your attack has hit the target but failed to pierce the target's armor.]

No... no harm done.

How could this be!?

This was the first time he had encountered a being that could withstand his arrow without injury.

The last orc he had encountered was merely "undying," using its regenerative power to rampage, but this orc leader was truly a terrifying enemy!

If even their strongest attack they could muster at the moment could not breach the defense, then Dai Lian could no longer imagine a strategy to defeat the enemy.

"Damn it!"

Is it time to wait three days for the respawn?

Death in the game didn't cause players to genuinely fear, but without playing Galaxy Online, I would really die QAQ

"Is this all?" With a wave of his hand, Dao Mianlao patted his chest, his eyes somewhat puzzled.

Apart from a slight dullness, he felt no lethal threat.

The dangerous sensation he had felt in the first two encounters, like the blade skimming his neck, was no longer there.

Has the opponent weakened?

Or have I become stronger?

Or... is it not just one person?

Humans are keen on passing on their knowledge to others who may not even know each other; similar techniques could probably be targets for learning.

But even in Dao Mianlao's experience, archery skills were an exceptionally unique existence, rarely found among humans.

Even if this was not the same person, the human before him must know the initial powerful human!

"Da da da da da da~"

Not far away, a lively sound echoed; the rattling gunfire was a distant support.

However, the bullets with their erratic trajectory could hardly inflict any substantial harm.

Dai Lian looked toward the direction of the sound and saw a group of players, dressed in all sorts of costumes, giggling and running over quickly from afar.

"Sheng Yan has sent us to help you."

"Da da da da da da~"

"Let's take down these beasts!"

"Da da da da da da~"

The sound of gunfire accompanied the shouts, and the voices of the players were exceptionally excited amid the roar of the weapons.

Having grown up in Grey Iron City, they hadn't seen much of the world, seldom experiencing such lavish battles.

Finding themselves in one at last, they were too excited to contain themselves.

And actually, Dai Lian's suggestion was not unfeasible.

Some audacious players wanted to try their luck against the orcs, just when the large group's maneuver needed time.

Sacrificing a few for the survival of many was undoubtedly the wisest choice.

"Focus fire on this big guy, we'll kill him!"

"You can tell he's a mini boss, he must drop a lot of experience."

The quickly approaching group of twenty or thirty players mostly focused on "sniping" the approaching orc troop, while nearly all of them concentrated fire on Dao Mianlao.

The team had brought nearly all their firearms, heeding the official advice stating that firepower was king in the early stages of the game.

Among the clinks of ejected casings, the "ding ding dong dong" sounds were incessant.

"So noisy!" Dao Mianlao frowned and pulled a stiletto blade from his waist.

To humans, it seemed like quite a large knife, but for the orc, it was as handy as a dagger. With a flick of his wrist, the arriving players were skewered like a string of gourds.

"Pur pur pur pur!"

The leading player, his face filled with excitement, stared down blankly as he noticed the huge hole torn through his chest.

[Player "Ma Xiaohou" has died...]

[Player "Ye Gaocen" has died...]

[Player "Han Yuan" has died...]

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Just one strike, and a fifth of the two or three dozen players who had come to help were dead.

The formidable strength of the BOSS evidently caused a collective moment of shock among the ambitious players.

Dai Lian's calm voice provided them with guidance, "Move to the west!"

The main group was behind them to the northeast, and by heading west they could maximise the chance of the orcs not finding the main forces of Grey Iron City.

As for this BOSS... no need to think about it.

Escaping alive would already be a great fortune.

Is this one of the disasters of this world, an orc? It is said that they are not even among the most dangerous; there are also the Mech, the Bug Race, and the demons that cannot appear in large numbers frequently...

Thoughts flashed through his mind, and seizing the moment when his allies distracted the BOSS, Dai Lian took to his heels and ran.

As he ran, he directed, "Everyone scatter and run, we can't beat it."

More people arriving meant more bait to draw attention; the number of survivors would depend solely on luck.

"waaaaagh!"

Blademaw extended a hand to stop one of the fastest-charging players wielding a machete.

This giant orc, with his green fingers, pointed in a certain direction before speaking in a buzzing, naive tone, "Over there, there are more people, catch them, don't kill."

This kid had been brought along by him, and on several previous trips to human settlements in the wilderness, he had been the one commanding him on various tasks.

Having made these instructions clear to him, he would surely carry them out perfectly.

The orc, who was picked up by the hand, nodded with an excited and frenzied look that gradually faded, revealing a hint of intelligence, "Got it, boss."

"Go."

The machete-wielding youngster turned and saw more orcs rushing towards them from behind.

The humans armed with weapons had clearly stirred up the youngsters' fighting spirit.

Seeing a few familiar faces among the youngsters, the machete-wielder quickly raised his weapon and shouted loudly, "waaaaagh!"

Then pointed towards the direction the boss had indicated, "waaaagh!"

The group of youngsters, having received the order, responded even more excitedly, "waaaagh!"

"waaaagh!"

Amidst a sea of "waaaagh" shouts, Dai Lian and others, too busy trying to save their own lives, hadn't even noticed that a substantial troop had split off from the pursuing orc horde.

It wasn't until a rock hit his calf hard, causing his leg to go numb and lose most of its functionality, making him fall, that Dai Lian turned his head and, with a face of resignation awaiting the game's first blood, realised the orc troop chasing them had significantly dwindled.

An unpleasant guess came to mind instantly, and Dai Lian, who had given up resisting, used his hands to prop himself up again, trying to find another chance.

However...

"Bang!"

A stone hurled from afar struck with pinpoint violence.

Another good leg was brutally hit by a stone, the numbing sensation spread throughout his body in an instant, and the message on the panel informed him that he'd lost 90% of his mobility.

Spiritual Energy depleted, mobility reserves exhausted, and barely a tenth of his strength remained.

To make his escape lighter, Dai Lian had already discarded all his burdens... including his equipment.

Now, only the small pistol in his arms remained, his last chance for a struggle.

Dai Lian reached into his arms and tightly gripped the handle of the pistol, watching the tall figure slowly approaching and resignedly awaiting death.

"Me name's Blademaw, we might've met before," Blademaw said as he walked over, his large shadow blocking the sunlight, casting a dark pall over Dai Lian who was half-lying on the ground.

"..."

Can communicate? And he's initiating it?

A glimmer of hope flashed in Dai Lian's downcast eyes, and only then did he truly lift his face to stare at the towering creature before him.

'Met before?'

Other than an encounter with orcs when most of the players from Blackwater City were out on a collective mission, he hadn't had any other opportunities to encounter orcs.

So this orc was one of those he had met before?

But...

Just like how all humans look the same in the eyes of orcs, in the eyes of humans, orcs also look roughly the same.

Not to mention that this orc had just undergone a sudden growth spurt, significantly altering his appearance; it was impossible to recognize him at this time.

Wait... hold on.

The shoulder!

There was a wound on the shoulder!

It was the orc chieftain from that time!

After one of his arrows had pierced through several of his minions, this chieftain, already baptized by a Minefield Array, had fled like a scared rabbit.

It was him!

He had become the leader of an even larger orc tribe?

It was over... encountering an old adversary who had come for revenge.

'No wonder so many were fixated on me...' Dai Lian thought to himself, with a slight movement of his fingers around the pistol in his embrace.

Whether a pistol could penetrate the defense that arrows could not, he did not know, but as long as there was a drop of blood left, a player wouldn't give up the chance to fight.

Perhaps he could take advantage of the enemy's complacency and turn the tables?

Looking at the human who was eyeing the wound on his shoulder, Blademaw revealed a naive smile on his face, "Looks like you recognize me... adding to this time, we've met thrice now."

Hearing the shouts of those who had come to support him, occasionally caught by orcs and letting out indistinguishable shouts of excitement or despair, Dai Lian felt a pang of sorrow.

After processing the meaning of the opponent's words, Dai Lian suddenly gasped, "Three times?"

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'Wasn't it twice?'

"When have we ever met three times?"

So, with a sudden happy smile, Blade-Face E said, "The first time really wasn't you."

"The first time?" Dai Lian's eyes narrowed slightly as he finally recalled something unusual.

Yes... he had always known that the first group of orcs he encountered had actually been scared off, not truly defeated in combat.

His arrow hadn't really inflicted serious damage on the orcs, and with his skill level at the time, he wasn't capable of firing arrows of the same caliber consecutively.

Besides himself, the players' team at that time couldn't inflict effective damage on the orcs either.

After all, the orcs had managed to get through the Minefield Array, which could be the doom of the players, not to mention the small guns and short swords they had at the time.

If a real fight had broken out, the players would probably have been wiped out as a group.

Unfortunately, the orcs may not have known their own strength, and had been scared off by his single arrow.

At the time, he even thought these orcs were fools; if he could really shoot that kind of attack without limit, why would he wait until the last critical moment to act?

If only they had persisted a little longer, the players' side would have been completely finished.

Looking at it now... what they were afraid of was probably not himself.

Before they met him, they had encountered the same or similar attacks.

Such an attack had left a deep psychological shadow on them, which made them choose to flee the moment they encountered him... or rather, right after they encountered the arrow he fired.

This was the truth!

The same or similar attack?

Where did his archery skills come from?

The answer was already emerging.

Watching Dai Lian's expression intently, as he seemed to finally understand, a "wakaka" laugh came from Blade-Face E's face.

"How about it? Remember everything now? You should know who used the same archery skills as you, right?"

Then it was Dai Lian's turn to regain some leverage, "Are you looking for my Lord?"

"Yes."

That human was simply too waaaagh!

If he could stand in front of that human again and become his opponent, it would surely be an incredibly waaaagh-worthy thing.

Find him! Defeat him!

What could be more waaaagh than that?

Blade-Face E's face was full of excitement as he stared at Dai Lian, "Tell me, where can I find him!"

"You want to find my Lord? You're not afraid of seeking death?" Dai Lian's eyes were scornful, full of mockery.

This orc had a huge force, and seemed to be incredibly strong, so much so that an arrow, passed down from his Lord, could not break through his defenses. He wondered whether his Lord would have an advantage against him.

He probably couldn't escape, but at least his Lord had treated him and the others well, and even if he were to die for the first time in the game, he couldn't bring more trouble to his Lord.

With a smug, I-knew-it look, Blade-Face E's orcish emotions were crystal clear, written all over his face, "I knew you humans don't like to speak frankly, but since I've captured your comrades, I reckon you'll probably tell me, right?"

Following Blade-Face E's lead, Dai Lian swiftly turned his head.

Sure enough, in the distance within his line of sight, a bedraggled group was stumbling towards his location under the watch of several dozen green-skinned orcs.

From the bruises and wounds on their faces and bodies, it seemed these people had put up a valiant fight before capture.

Unfortunately, the humans who could be expelled from Grey Iron City were obviously losers who hadn't fared well under the city's rules of strife.

When facing the more savage and violent orcs, they were utterly helpless.

Dai Lian saw Gong Yan.

Hidden among the crowd, Gong Yan had managed to conceal herself well; from the way the orcs escorted them, none of the orcs knew she was the leader.

"..."

Yanzi couldn't escape either?

Yes...

No matter how well they had planned, a troupe of over a thousand, filled with destitute commoners, couldn't move quickly.

If discovered, capture was just a matter of time and cost.

Pushed by an orc whelp, Yafei, who the orcs thought was the leader, was shoved over.

"They said they wouldn't kill us, and since they indeed held an overwhelming advantage, they didn't follow through with killing. That's why we surrendered," Yafei came over and voluntarily explained.

Stubborn resistance would only lead to unnecessary casualties in the confrontation. Since these orcs were actively communicating, it must mean they wanted something.

They were poor and had nothing to lose but themselves.

Listening to the orcs' demands wasn't out of the question.

"Did you hear that?" the broad-faced orc laughed heartily with his mouth wide open, "I won't kill you guys. I just want an address. Tell me, and I'll let you go."

"What does he want?" Yafei asked.

"The location of our master."

Dai Lian frowned, occasionally glancing in the direction of Gong Yan.

In his heart, he felt it wasn't entirely impossible to tell.

After all, the master was stationed in the military camp of Blackwater City.

Even if the master alone wasn't a match for these orcs, the power of an entire military camp was something to consider, not to mention the city behind it.

If human cities couldn't resist foreign races, then cities would have been leveled long ago.

Just these few hundred orcs definitely wouldn't be able to do anything to the master in the military camp.

Even as members of a foreign race, they probably wouldn't dare to approach, which is why all humans wanted to live in or around cities.

Reason told him that speaking probably wouldn't be a big problem.

But if one logically considered the situation, a person who had the intent to seek revenge on another already had a rough plan in mind.

No one would declare revenge on someone without any logical consideration or regardless of any influencing factors.

If these orcs did something harmful to the master, it would be his own fault.

Not to mention the sensation of guilt and sin from divulging information under coercion—it felt like he was selling out the master.

They were players, not real people of this world.

What's the big deal if you die? Why take on any kind of psychological pressure?

At that moment, Dai Lian stiffened his neck, "Gurgle! Just kill me then!"

"If you don't speak, I'll kill them. One by one until you do," said the orc.

The orc's thought process was very straightforward. The broad-faced orc plainly stated his plan, the threat was clear.

Yafei was getting antsy on the side, "Didn't you say your lord was like a demigod who could kill at will? What's the big deal in telling him?"

In the days since encountering Gong Yan, Dai Lian, and others, Yafei had heard multiple times how their "lord" was mighty.

The monsters the army couldn't defeat, he could. The demons that Arbitration Place couldn't kill, he could.

A man with "unbeatable" etched onto his face, would he be afraid of these green-skinned, foolish-looking foreign giants?

Dai Lian glanced at Yafei without saying anything.

Just a silly girl duped by Kuang Xin.

With his deeper knowledge of this game world, he knew even more so that almost no one could stand against thousands alone in these game worlds.

He certainly trusted his lord, but it was a trust born of rationality and clarity, not a blind and fanatical belief like Kuang Xin's.

No matter how fierce the lord was, could he single-handedly take down these hundreds of orcs?

Impossible!

...

Above the vast land, a black SUV traveled alone on a wild land full of scattered stones.

"Buzz~"

The drone emitted a low hum as it was released from the roof-mounted device box and flew towards the distant sky.

"Captain, orcs' traces have been detected ahead," said Zero, who was inside the same vehicle operating the drone to scout the surroundings.

"Hmm?" Bai E opened his eyes which had been closed in repose, showing some interest, "How many?"

"Roughly three hundred, and it looks like... they've taken a group of civilians hostage?"

"Hostage?" This word caught his interest.

Bai E nodded and sat up straight, patting Rose, who was driving in front of him, on the shoulder, "Let's take a closer look."

Chapter 504 the arrow is released, the enemy's courage is chilled

The drone's resolution was not sharp, at least not sharp enough to clearly make out each person's face when it couldn't take close-up shots.

Moreover, the orcs weren't entirely unaware of flying units in the air, and a drone that got too close could easily be shot down. Returning for repairs or replacements would have to come out of one's own pocket.

Bai E had no intention of using the drone for close-up photography.

Just a few hundred orcs, Bai E didn't mind testing his current skills.

Over the past few days, he had confirmed that the primary benefit of his newly acquired "Virtual World" was rapid mana recovery, but he didn't know if there was a limit.

Ordinarily without warfare, it was rare for him to have the opportunity to continuously deplete his Spiritual Energy multiple times. If possible, he wanted to test it out on this group of orcs.

"Hiss~" The car slowly came to a stop behind a small boulder, quite a distance away from the band of orcs.

The sliding door opened, and Bai E stepped down lithely. The car window rolled down, and Rose's face peeked out from inside, "Captain, are you sure you don't need our help?"

Bai E was rotating his arms to loosen his muscles. Hearing this, he turned his face slightly and gave a cool smile, "What help do you need to offer? Just wait here, I'll call you if there's anything."

As he spoke, he tapped the small black headset on his right ear and then strode towards the distance.

The metallic combat boots crunched over the gravel, his black combat suit stark against the reddish-brown Gobi desert.

He had left to accomplish a mission... of course, that was the way to put it for those back at the military camp.

After investigating and eradicating a suspicious insect activity site, the rest of his itinerary was entirely up to him, and naturally, after completing his mission, he expected to head towards Grey Iron City to see if he could rendezvous with the returning players.

Now, he hadn't encountered the players, but rather stumbled first upon a group of orcs that had taken human prisoners.

What could these orcs possibly want with human captives? Could it be they were after human teeth again?

The orcs he encountered last time had said the same thing—teeth were like the Blackwater coins of Blackwater City for them, a tradable currency.

Teeth were precious to humans in this era. Without a good set of teeth, a person's health would completely collapse within a few months.

Although orcs weren't archenemies to humans like insects and demons were, such vile behavior was still hard to forgive...

Bai E walked on, drawing his handgun from his waist and chambering a round with a "click."

Watching Bai E's lone figure departing, the four teammates muttered among themselves.

"That's hundreds of orcs there... Has the captain become this powerful after visiting the server ruins?" Stone mused, his face filled with wonder.

The captain was fierce alright, but even a few sandworms would leave him gasping for breath.

The threat of hundreds of orcs was far greater than a few sandworms. Could the captain really handle them alone?

"He seldom does anything without certainty," You said, her eyes slightly unfocused but reflecting a sliver of concern within those glassy pupils.

"I believe in the captain," Zero said, intently watching the drone's monitoring screen with calm, dogmatic faith.

Only Rose watched Bai E's receding silhouette, her eyes filled with fervent aspiration.

Getting stronger and stronger!

She often sparred with top fighters in the military camp, and not all her records were wins. Though not everyone in the camp was strong enough to overpower her, there certainly were some.

Yet over time, she had surpassed each one.

When it came to the pace of improvement, her progress astounded every fighter and even the officers she had crossed hands with.

However... as she kept on making mad progress, she couldn't even catch sight of Bai E's shadow anymore.

She couldn't imagine how she would combat hundreds of orcs with the abilities she had now.

But to Bai E, it seemed like a trivial matter, as casual as any other.

Just where was this guy's limit?

Not until Bai E's figure vanished from view did Rose turn her attention to the drone's monitoring screen.

The slightly blurry footage trembled, but thanks to the abundant daylight, the events unfolding were mostly visible—

The orc leader, nearly twice the height of an average human and the largest among them, was "interrogating" a few black dots that were humans.

Observing his continuous talking, it seemed like negotiations between the two parties had not been settled.

In the midst of this deadlock, a dark figure abruptly entered from outside the edge of the surveillance area.

"Bang!"

The sound of a gunshot exploded, echoing long and far over the empty land.

As the solitary figure approached, almost every person and orc jerked their heads towards the sound in unison.

'Who is this guy?'

'Where did this person come from?'

"What are you discussing? Mind if I join in?" The not-so-loud voice, amplified by Spiritual Energy, carried equally to everyone's ears.

Hearing this voice, Gong Yan, Kuang Xin, and the others were taken aback, then their faces swiftly brightened with surprise and joy.

The big guy!

Scimitar-faced Lao scratched his thick green forehead unconcernedly, not bothering to figure out where this newcomer had appeared from, vaguely gesturing with his hand behind him and not even uttering a sound.

Chapter 505 the arrow is shot, the enemy's courage freezes

The orcish youths instantly lit up with excitement.

They didn't care who their target was, nor how many there were.

As long as there was a chance to go berserk, they wouldn't miss it.

The sound of the wind whipped up by their mad dash along the hunting trail was, to them, the greatest pleasure.

"waaaaagh!"

"waaaagh!"

The chorus of "waaaagh" filled the air.

Bai E shook his head helplessly and took the bow slung at his waist.

With a light flick, the mechanism unfolded.

There was a concept that had been brewing in his mind for a long time, never finding a suitable target.

Spiritual Energy came from the heart, and without a sufficiently strong practical target, summoning it during ordinary training just wasn't as satisfying.

Now was the chance to test it out.

Four fine-steel arrows were placed on the bowstring at the same time, their black diamond-shaped tips reflecting a cold, sharp metallic sheen in the sunlight.

Watching dozens of orcs charging from various directions, a massive surge of Spiritual Energy burst forth from his sea of consciousness, transforming into a power that was drawn but not loosed, accumulating wildly.

Dai Lian, who had just turned back to look at Kuang Xin again, suddenly faltered; the image of that figure emerged unbidden in front of his eyes.

The black uniform of memory overlaid with the figure that had suddenly appeared, and in the blink of an eye, Kuang Xin turned his head back and saw the tall, dark silhouette standing atop a distant mountaintop.

And so he saw again the scene that would be etched in his memory for life...

"Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!"

The black arrows traced four completely different arcs through the air, arcs that even Kuang Xin's eyes, enhanced after ascending to a war boss, could barely capture.

But capture was all he could do.

Four tornadoes of wild wind entwined with each other, only beginning their rampant dance upon this earth after the arrows had flown past.

The howling wind stirred up yellow sand and red dust, lifting tumultuous rocks and pebbles.

What followed the hurricane brought about by the arrows was a flattened ground with only large stones remaining.

The orcs running toward Bai E were flipped in an instant, tumbling through the air along with countless severed limbs and dismembered arms.

Perhaps having learned from past lessons, the orcs' charge was so scattered that it was nearly impossible to find any bodies aligned in a straight line from any angle.

Yet even the deliberately spread formation was no match for the arcing, shuttle-strike of "Arc-hit".

Arrows, imbued with the power of "Piercing Wind Breaker," swam through the paths of as many orcs as possible like fishes, the four shots fired simultaneously almost covering every single charging orc's body.

What came were dozens of pieces, and what left were hundreds.

The green rain of blood had not even touched the ground before it vanished into nothingness in the wind. In the direction where the arrows had come to a stop, orcs waiting on standby sat dumbfounded on the ground, staring at the affected area that stopped just short of their feet.

The view slowly shifted upward to reveal the bruised and swollen orcs' faces, battered by the rocks.

Seeing the havoc he had wrought with "one arrow," Bai E raised his eyebrows.

Not bad... the experiment was a success.

It just used up a bit too much Spiritual Energy.

A regular powerful shot cost 3 points of Spiritual Energy per arrow, but using techniques like "Control Wind," "Arc-hit," "Multishot" together with Piercing Wind Breaker required even more formidable Spiritual Energy to sustain, driving the cost up to about 5 points of Spiritual Energy per arrow, then multiplied by four.

This was the most reliable number of multishot levels Bai E could currently maintain. Even though his level 4 specialization had a chance to fire a quintuple shot, the probability was so minuscule it was not worth the risk.

With one arrow, he struck awe into both gods and ghosts.

Dozens of orcs turned into a field of fragments in an instant, and such a fierce feat left the circle of humans, guarded by orcs in the distance, all agape with shock.

How could those at the bottom of Grey Iron City ever witness such a scene?

Even the occasional magma behemoth attack seemed like child's play compared to this.

Is this an attack that a "human" could possibly unleash?

With a bow and arrow?

"That's our lord!" Though Kuang Xin was bound, at that moment he still jumped up with a gleeful face and called out loudly.

"Die, beastmen plant creatures!"

To these beings called beastmen who in fact have no gender—a plant people—Kuang Xin, who had originally come for the sake of a beastwoman sister, felt completely disillusioned, thus his love turned to hate.

"Lord..." Yafei, propped up from behind by two beastmen, opened her pale pink lips in shock. She stared blankly in a mechanical way at Dai Lian, who was half-lying on the ground, her large eyes with their distinct black and white brimming with questioning—"This is the lord you spoke of?"

'Damn it, if your lord was this fierce, why didn't you just say it and let those beastmen go find him? Why go through all this suffering here?'

"..." The only response Yafei got was Dai Lian's equally confused face.

He knew the lord was fierce, but he didn't know the lord could be this fierce!

This archery skill had never been displayed in their previous encounters, of course... it might also be because the opponents they had all encountered before didn't require the lord to use such a level of archery.

I have a profound (strike-through) understanding of this world

I know nothing about this world!

However, this miraculous arrow that could probably drop the jaws of everyone present failed to quench the fervent heart of Kuang Xin, the beastman with a blade for a face.

That's right!

That's right!

It was this familiar sense of danger and thrill, like the icy sharpness of a blade grazing one's neck, that he had always been in pursuit of!

"Waaaaaagh!" The beastman raised a meaningless cry, lifting a massive axe as big as a person with one hand.

The axe, either rusty or haphazardly covered in a combination of abstract colors, and the blade, looking like it was coated with a thick layer of grime and wear, seemed to be enveloped in an invisible aura of light around Kuang Xin, including his weapon, amidst the soaring "waaagh" cry.

The impassioned voices energized the entire tribe, an odd, almost imperceptible force field rising imperceptibly in the area.

The quick recovery sensed this field's presence, slightly increasing the rate at which Spiritual Energy was restored to Bai E.

Watching the gigantic beastman charge towards him, Bai E's gaze turned icy. He drew with a reverse grip, with a fluctuation of Spiritual Energy in the air manifesting a huge Bug-Slaying Blade that Bai E's slender hands gripped by the hilt and suddenly pulled out.

Like fighting?

Then let's have a satisfying battle!

After his last fight with the War Demonic Prince, some innate craving inside Bai E had seemingly been unwittingly sparked.

Compared to the cold sniping from a distance, a close quarter, real sword and spear clash were far more exhilarating.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

The Spiritual Energy-enhanced Bug-Slaying Blade and the "waaagh" force field-enhanced battleaxe created a spectacle like missile explosions.

Watching the endless explosions rise on the spot with sounds that only grew louder and more frequent, both humans and beastmen widened their eyes, trying to discern what was happening inside.

"Gulp!"

The four-person team watching from the safety of their vehicle through a drone swallowed their saliva in unison at the sight.

"Whoa~" Stone exclaimed in awe.

"This beastman is pretty fierce..."

You, still remembering the role she was supposed to play within the team, calmly analyzed based on the data accessed through her upgraded clearance after several military successes, "Beastmen believe that the person who can become their leader must be the strongest, and this belief also enhances the one

they believe in. Being the leader of hundreds of beastmen here, their chieftain is already considered high-level combat power among beastmen."

"Bang!"

With a deep thud, even the team observing from afar through the drone could clearly hear the noise transmitted by the drone.

Within the lingering view, only a dark shadow was seen being smashed and sent flying like a cannonball, crashing into a distant rocky mountain... rocks shot out, and the small mountain collapsed.

Metal-clad boots stepped lightly out of the dust cloud; Bai E's calm face showed no sign of having just been through a fierce battle.

"Shing!" The Bug-Slaying Blade thrust into the ground, Bai E stood with arms crossed, waiting for the beastman to return.

Chapter 506 My name is Dao Mian Lao.

With a thunderous crash, debris shot out in all directions.

The collapsing rocks were blasted apart by an enormous strength, as a towering green figure slowly emerged from the dust.

Those beast-like pupils fixed on the agile, dark figure in the distance, eyes filled with an excitement that was fervent to the extreme.

"Yes! Yes! Just like that!"

If previously the human's archery simply demonstrated one aspect of the adversary's strength, the impressive suppressing force displayed in close-quarters combat now thrilled him to the core.

It was this all-encompassing, relentless suppression, with not a single vulnerability, that reminded him of the invincible Overlord he could never forget.

I reckon I can become such a powerhouse too, but first I need to comprehensively understand this opponent.

That was the reason he had recklessly sought out this human.

The stimulation was so intense that his body trembled. Visible to the naked eye, his already muscular and fierce body seemed to swell even larger for a moment, "waaaagh!"

With a roar, the orc, wielding a massive axe, burst forth once again.

His body shot out like a cannonball, too fast for the average human eye to track his trajectory. Only the shocking explosion the ground emitted where he had been could belatedly inform all spectators of what had just occurred.

The position of an orc war BOSS gave Dao Mian Liao unimaginable attribute enhancements. In terms of agility, Bai E even felt that the opponent surpassed him.

This was a domain governed by one of the body's four major attributes, "reflex." Bai E's current reflex attribute of 14.8 might be nearing the limit that a human body could achieve, but it was still far from the truly powerful forces in this world.

Moreover, he lacked other abilities that could enhance his reflexes; even the only ability that could, Rage's Torrent, required a certain mental state to activate.

These orc's actions were reckless but not infuriating. While most of the humans present might have injuries, these were inevitable in combat. Of course... there were also some bodies on the ground.

This was why Bai E did not intend to let these orcs off easily, but, after all, there wasn't that sickening, intense rage of indignation.

At this moment, if it were just a contest of reaction speed, he was no match for the orc before him.

However, immense strength can always create miracles.

Orcs were excellent fighters, naturally able to spot an opponent's weaknesses and exploit them during combat.

Only Bai E's sufficient level of Heavy Weapon Specialization, enhanced by his Weapon Master proficiency, allowed him to always precisely catch the opponent's weapon swings. Each collision between weapons demanded more time for the orc to recover due to the immense force produced.

The gap in reflex attributes was thus compensated for by strength.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Almost every strike included all the conventional burst strength that Bai E could muster: Overlimit Drive, Overlord's Grasp, Sky-High Strike, and the first phase of Spiritual Energy activation—Spiritual Heart Crossing.

Other than the extraordinary "Slay a Hundred with a Blink," which he had yet to use, Spiritual Energy flowed out like water.

The resulting combat suppression was obvious.

Together with the initial four arrows of "Power Shot," Bai E had used up well over a hundred points of Spiritual Energy in this brief fighting period, far surpassing his existing Spiritual Energy system's limit.

In fact, among all the enemies Bai E had faced thus far, this promoted orc war BOSS could be considered the strongest, possessing no special abilities but formidable strength, quick reflexes, resilience, and fierce regeneration.

Translated to human attributes, all of them would likely be above a score of 20, let alone the various combat instincts inherited naturally by orcs.

Even the War Demon Prince who had descended to Earth could not hold a candle to it when he was amongst humanity.

But the tireless "Fast Recovery" always transformed an unknown power into the purest Spiritual Energy in Bai E's sea of consciousness, making it thick and readily available, even as he recklessly tapped into it without reservation.

The unrestricted and frenzied outburst of a vast amount of Spiritual Energy multiplied Bai E's combat power immensely, so that even against his strongest opponent to date, he managed a previously unimaginable one-sided suppression.

Is this the charm of unlimited mana?

In combat, Bai E's eyes were only filled with a calm fervor.

Spiritual Energy comes from the heart and inherently possesses the "inertia" that's part of one's will.

Normally, depleting it once during training would be incredibly difficult. Only in such boiling-blood battling could he squeeze out Spiritual Energy time and again.

One hundred points...

Two hundred points...

Three hundred points...

In the midst of battle, Bai E, who always maintained composure through "self-restraint," had a rough estimate of how many points of Spiritual Energy he had consumed in total.

The orc's incredible regenerative ability undoubtedly made Dao Mian Liao an ideal punching bag; despite repeated beatings, he was always capable of standing up again and again.

In reality, without using "Slay a Hundred with a Blink," Bai E, even if willing, probably lacked the power to severely injure this orc war BOSS.

As for actually using "Slay a Hundred with a Blink," Bai E, who had not yet attempted it, dared not assert that it would surely finish the opponent.

He didn't want to end the fight too quickly.

Testing the limits of his Spiritual Energy recovery in this "virtual world" was one goal; training himself during such intense combat was another.

Chapter 507 I'm called Daomian Lao_2

Any ability that is suppressed or challenged is undoubtedly the best opportunity to train it.

Bai E never felt he was strong enough that he needed no further improvement. Finally having a target superior to himself in "reflexes", it would be a waste not to use this opponent to train his weaker attributes.

[You have gradually reached your limit in the fierce battle, and made a breakthrough under immense pressure, reflexes +0.2.]

...

[Reflexes +0.2.]

...

'The pressure is immense...'

The once imposing green figure started doubting itself after being mercilessly knocked down time after time.

'Is this human really someone I can defeat at the moment?'

'Maybe it's better to come back next time... If I get hit again, I'll turn into a mushroom.'

'But... one last try!'

Show them your signature move!

Behold my little Liao's throwing knife!

"Whoosh!"

"Clang!"

The sound of metal clashing rang out as the knife-like sleeve sword fiercely ripped through the "fragile" special forces combat suit. However, when faced with a chest as hard as eight-element alloy, it could only deform and silently fall to the ground after the loud clash.

Bai E squinted and patted his slightly painful chest. It wasn't just a slight pain; there was also a faint trace of blood... Absolute Defense became more effective as his Spiritual Energy level rose, like a rising tide lifts all boats. To be able to injure himself in his current state proved this orc was indeed formidable.

Casually tearing off the few strands of the combat suit hanging off him, Bai E wrapped the remaining clothes around his waist and tied them into a knot, revealing a muscular, yet not overly exaggerated, and uniquely attractive, bare upper body.

A few beads of sweat glistened in the sunlight, sliding over his slightly tanned pectoral muscles that appeared like a distinct and tough steel plate, yet filled with resilience.

"Slurp~" An indistinct noise suddenly sounded off within the sealed combat vehicle, piercing the silence of the confined space.

The four squad members exchanged glances as Stone chuckled, touching the corner of his mouth.

The awkwardness dissolved.

Only then did Rose, who had been staring in a daze, lick her lips, and in the corner, You carefully touched the corner of her mouth with her index finger.

"Boss is so cool~" The Grey Iron City players, who had never witnessed such a scene, instantly bought the persona of the "War God Squad" always touted by the Blackwater City players.

"Is this our Boss? Totally in love~"

"Life is all about the Boss..."

"I'm the Boss's dog (super loud)!"

Bai E glanced at the noisy crowd in the distance and, considering the orc's potential to tear up the ticket, he intentionally moved closer during the prolonged battle. Only at this distance did he keenly notice several familiar figures among the hostage crowd.

Is that Dai Lian, Kuang Xin and the others?

Quite a coincidence... He was coming in this direction originally to meet them, but it was unexpected to encounter them here.

And with so many players? In such a situation, only those silly players would stand out without a second thought.

As for the more silent crowd, probably the locals?

From where? Grey Iron City?

The thought flashed by momentarily.

The details can wait until he's driven away these orcs.

Bai E turned again to look at the green figure standing up from the ground nearby.

He wasn't sure if it was an illusion, but Bai E felt that the orc's physique seemed to have shrunk since their first encounter...

"I'm not gonna fight you!" the Blade-faced Liao waved his hand, "But I will come back! My name is Blade-faced Liao! Remember this name!"

Stating his own name seemed to be an extremely exciting affair for Blade-faced Liao.

"waaaaagh!" With that said, he turned and started running away with jumps.

The comical retreating figure showcased an impressive speed; even Bai E might not be able to catch up if he ran at full speed.

"waaaaagh!"

A chorus of "waaaagh" cries followed.

The bewildered orc youngsters, touching their foreheads in confusion, saw their boss's cheerful departure and wondered why he seemed so happy. But as long as they followed the boss, it must be right, right?

"waaaagh!"

"waaaagh!"

Abandoning the human prisoners, the orc youths, holding their weapons and baring their large mouths, hopped and jumped as they pursued in the direction where the enemy had retreated.

The noise was messy, the green tide like the sea at ebb, chaotic and noisy yet uniformly in sync.

Even humans who couldn't understand the language could instinctively detect the cheerful mood from the emotions, as the bottom-dwelling civilians of Grey Iron City blinked their eyes in bewilderment, utterly failing to comprehend what had just happened.

Bai E didn't understand either.

But who cares?

Orcs were not like insects or demons, the absolute mortal enemies of humankind.

These orcs hadn't gone on a brutal killing spree, and more importantly, the situation of the humans captured by the orcs was unclear. Bai E, with only a four-man squad at his disposal, had no way to catch and kill all the fleeing orcs at once.

Leave it to them...

Bai E pressed his headset and whispered to his team members in the distant vehicle, "Come over."

Then he stepped on the ground that had been nearly sunk down by a dozen centimeters and walked towards the group of humans gathered together.

Gong Yan rose from the crowd with a smile on her lips, her voice, enhanced by Spiritual Energy, evenly reaching the minds of every civilian present, "This is the noble person I told you about who would accept us. Everyone... we're safe now."

A moment of silence.

The hopeless gloom of collective capture by the orcs had not yet completely cleared, as a human powerhouse had effortlessly defeated an orc tribe of hundreds all by himself.

From the words of those strange beings, some of the shrewder civilians had already sensed that this newly emerged strongman was one they knew.

However, it wasn't until Gong Yan's acknowledgment at this moment that all speculations found their final confirmation.

The noble person...

The noble person...

Is this the noble person Sheng Yan always spoke of?

Is this the noble person who commanded "Sheng Yan" to come to their rescue?

That term, which had seemed so distant and unattainable, suddenly became close, and the young man before them with a serene smile on his face, was that legendary noble person?

The strongman with power beyond their imagination, was he the object of their future hopes?

Were they... safe?

"What's the noble person's name?"

Thanks to his more approachable personality, an aboriginal who was familiar with Kuang Xin moved closer and asked Kuang Xin, who was only grinning foolishly at the moment.

"The noble person?" Kuang Xin asked in confusion, looking at the other party, "The noble person is the noble person, why do you need to call them by any name?"

"Oh~" The aborigine scratched the back of his head in embarrassment and knelt down respectfully on the spot, "Noble person, you are mighty!"

"Noble person, you are mighty!"

Bai E blinked his eyes, puzzled, and looked towards Gong Yan.

'What's going on?'

Dai Lian, supported by Yafei, dragged his legs over to Bai E's side and explained with a pale smile, "Noble person, these are the helpers we hired during our mission in Grey Iron City. Because they resisted the city, they were all driven out. Now... only you can give them a new life."

"..."

New life?

Over a thousand people?

Do you really see me as the big shot of Blackwater City?

So many ordinary people without any special talents approaching the city would have been discovered long ago by various patrolling alert teams coming from different forces around the city, right?

Black Street?

Forget about it.

Before reaching Black Street, who knows how many layers of screenings they would have to undergo, and even if they got there in the end, it would only cause an unimaginable disturbance to the existing order and easily attract a lot of unwanted attention.

Bai E wasn't averse to more people, but taking too big a step could lead to trouble.

You guys really know how to give me a challenge...

Bai E narrowed his eyes in contemplation, when suddenly a target jumped out from his memory.

Chapter 508 April 19 Development

On the way to escort Gilder and his group of refugees, who were trapped by the demon of fear, back to the city, they once passed by an abandoned human town.

Time had granted them the ability to repair that human town, but the precondition was that they needed to find... or rather build the things necessary to activate the city's functional buildings.

Then came the issue of population.

No matter how many and how good the buildings were, there needed to be people to use them. The former residents of Black Street clearly weren't suitable for direct relocation. Asking them to abandon the safety and warmth of the city's periphery for a completely new and strange wilderness was something normal people would probably not accept, and the city wouldn't sit idly by as so many people abruptly left.

But now... these refugees, abandoned by the city, were exactly in a situation of having nowhere to go.

Having them build a place for themselves with their own hands and becoming the first masters of that land was something they would presumably be eager to do.

"I can't take them back to Black Street directly," Bai E shook his head, his gaze heavy as he looked at Dai Lian, Kuang Xin, Gong Yan, and the others gathered around.

Even if it was refusal, their sincere gaze was filled with strength. After spending a long time together, these players held absolute trust in their leader.

Even in refusal, the leader would certainly not abandon them.

"But I will give them another option..."

"Using your own hands, to create an alternative belonging to your city," Bai E looked at the crowd of refugees who were staring at him. Perhaps to the city, these refugees were insignificant, but for an individual, the gaze of over a thousand people already carried enough weight.

In that weight, there was full expectation.

"You will be the first masters of that land, and your homes will be governed by yourselves.

The new homeland is currently a wild frontier, which you will need to cultivate for yourselves.

But don't worry, I will help you.

There are no endlessly spewing volcanoes there, nor gangs that are constantly planning to eat people.

In this new land, you can freely breathe the fresh air without worrying about being discovered as unmodified.

In this new land, you can use your hands to gain wealth that belongs to you without fearing it will be seized by the powerful.

The fresh and free air will belong to you, as will the sweet and delicious bread.

In the future, there may be more people joining your homeland. In the new homeland, I will ensure one thing:

All of you will gain fairness... and freedom— the freedom to say 'no'!

We are human and thus have the right to remain human!"

The wind hummed quietly over the silent land, yet what was brewing in everyone's hearts was indeed a leaping flame.

"A new... homeland?"

"Built by our own hands?"

Confusion was evident in the refugees' eyes.

They had never dared to dream that their future could be so bright.

At most, they had shifted from one city that devoured people to another that wasn't so bad.

But cities... are probably all grey, right?

Even if not so black?

Cities are just like that, always have been, here and everywhere.

Endless drudgery and barely enough food to prevent starvation.

They were born, grew up, and lived in such cities, and the rumors they heard about other cities were all of the same sort, with some even sounding scarier...

But now...

An untouched, pure land?

A home built by their own hands...?

Isn't the wilderness very frightening?

All those endless beasts and the bugs they've heard about...

Oh! That's right!

Looking at the so-called "leader" in front of them, the refugees' eyes lit up again.

Beasts? Bugs? Beastmen?

What just happened?

Those hundreds of beastmen who could easily have captured them were like immature children in the face of this leader, being unilaterally slaughtered.

If they hadn't run fast, they'd probably all have joined the great fire not far away by now, becoming fuel for its all-consuming flames, right?

With such a powerful leader to protect them, they should be able to survive in the wilderness of this era... probably.

"Leader, please guide us."

"Leader, we are willing!"

Some of the sharper refugees even rushed to the front and prostrated themselves, shouting loudly.

And that caused a great resonance.

"Bang!" A gunshot interrupted those who were trying to bend their knees. Bai E's face remained calm as he swept his eyes over everyone's faces before he raised his eyebrows and commanded, "No kneeling! The city made you kneel, but I want you to stand up! You do not need to bow to anyone, and no one is worthy of your kneeling!"

Then, turning around and waving his hand, he added, "Let's go, set out! The road is long, and we don't have much time."

Murmurs rose softly from inside the lead vehicle driving slowly ahead, "The captain is so cool..."

"He's a natural-born leader," You murmured softly, pausing for a moment before adding in a sticky tone, "Our former captain said so."

Rose glanced through the rear-view mirror and nodded, "He truly is a natural-born leader..."

Then, she pressed down on the accelerator with her military boots and sped up.

They needed to be on guard ahead.

Since they had arrived, those less professional refugees didn't need to do that kind of work themselves anymore.

...

[Side quest - Genetic Collapse (Combat/Resource Compound Commission) has been completed, rewards have been distributed.]

Chapter 509 April 19 Development_2

[Additional Commission: Side Quest—Reconstruction of the City (Combat, Resource Complex Commission), has been completed, rewards issued.]

With the simultaneous completion of the two missions, a large sum of experience and item rewards were credited all at once.

Looking at the "biochemical components" in the mission rewards, the players all looked at Bai E with confusion.

After their experience in Grey Iron City, they had developed some aversion to bioengineering surgeries.

The high risk of failure was unacceptable to them.

Bai E smiled at them and explained gently, "The same surgery can have differences in technology. Technology itself isn't inherently good or bad, it's the human heart that is. We shouldn't give up on the entire future because of a temporary limitation. This is a creation from the Golden Age, it may have some differences from current technology. If you have the chance, you could find a way to make use of it."

The technology that could create the ancient warrior who protected the server base obviously had its unique strengths. Although the methods used by Grey Iron City, which had inherited its core, were somewhat barbaric and bloody, it was not reason enough to dismiss the direction of this technology.

One has one's own limitations, perhaps the players have unconventional ways?

Passing on things that are not immediately useful to oneself to the players, they might just find their own way out.

Just like the current situation, without even asking, these guys had already brought over a thousand people to him...

It's not a matter of good or bad, just that one must keep moving forward.

"Yes, my lord!" Dai Lian was the first to respond.

The rational trust in their hearts had been shattered by Bai E's otherworldly performance, and the current Dai Lian was showing a trend of gradually transforming towards Kuang Xin.

"My lord, when we get to the place you mentioned, what exactly do we need to do?"

Their initial task of constructing an underground storage with the lord had been tough, and now encountering the notion of "creating their own homeland from scratch" again touched their sensitive nerves.

They wouldn't have to dig on that tiny plot of land again, would they?

Just digging a small storage had exhausted them, and now to dig a place large enough for over a thousand people, wouldn't that break their backs?

"They should handle the basic construction themselves." Bai E shook his head, not intending to assign such basic tasks to the players, "You have more important matters to attend to."

"What matters?" Kuang Xin asked, full of excitement.

"Hunting monsters" almost slipped out of Bai E's mouth. He pursed his lips, suppressing the impulse, "According to my preliminary survey at that time, the target area is occupied by a group of wild creatures. To take over the target zone, we first need to get the 'original owners' approval."

"Original owners?"

...

Footsteps trod upon the gray-white gravel as they delved deeper into the underground cavern, and upon seeing those ubiquitous white silk threads bathed in moonlight, some of the players' hearts began to quietly pound with fear.

It wasn't until the rounded body with its white fluffy surface and long sharp claws came into the area illuminated by light that a player spoke with trembling lips.

"Is this the original owner the lord mentioned?"

"Huge spiders, wow!"

The players who were about to turn and run bumped into an iron wall. Kuang Xin stood behind with his chest puffed and his chin raised, "What are you running for!"

"Spid... spiders, wow!"

This game was too realistic.

Those who were afraid of spiders in reality were just as afraid here.

Not to mention, the spiders here... were on steroids.

"What's wrong with spiders? Kill them all the same!"

Kuang Xin took the alloy axe off his back and strode toward the forefront.

The spiders, towering two to three times taller than humans, had legs like sharp blades, but Kuang Xin, with a shield in hand, charged into their midst without a care.

Dai Lian carried two submachine guns, transforming into a firepower shooter who wildly scanned the area, with the precise bullets aiming for the vital points on each spider's body.

These spiders only appeared ferocious, but in reality, their defensive capabilities were not strong, they simply had the advantage of numbers.

Under the barrage of submachine gun fire, copious amounts of body fluid poured out from the damaged shells.

The remaining players, although not tremendously powerful, fought with some tactics and orderly retreats under the leadership of Kuang Xin and others.

"Aren't you going to help them?" Rose, who was watching from a distance, curiously asked Bai E.

She knew Bai E could not stand to see innocent people suffer, and for Bai E at his current level, such "beasts" could be cleared in the blink of an eye.

Bai E shook his head, "People cannot always rely on others; true strength comes from within oneself."

The players also needed to grow.

It was meaningless for him to compete with them for a bit of monster experience, as killing the same kind of monster too much would eventually yield no experience. Instead, allowing the players to struggle on their own, the benefits they could achieve would be greater.

Looking at the historical messages left on the panel, Bai E's lips curled into a smile.

[Your power has recruited a batch of new members. The increase in numbers grants you more rights. From now on, you can issue time-limited quests within the region where the majority of your members are located.]

[Basic Limited Commission (1/1 can be issued): Authority (Commission experience quota from 1 to ???, or half the quota of personal abilities special experience you have); Payout (reputation value services the area can provide for an individual); Return (All "basic attribute improvements*1/10" and "special experience acquisition*1/20" gained during the target player's task performance).]

The benefits of large regional tasks were obviously inferior to those from issuing tasks to an individual player.

Thinking about it, if the rewards for issuing tasks to a large number of players were also substantial, then high-ranking individuals with more authority who casually issued a large task to players in their region could cause their attributes to skyrocket, right?

Even so, the attributes provided by these dozens of players had still significantly and rapidly boosted his strength.

After all, for players born in Grey Iron City, when had they ever experienced such stimulating battlefields? Their rate of growth was much faster than that of seasoned players like Kuang Xin.

After everything was settled, he could still offer a range of services to them, including resources like bullets, gun repairs, injury treatment, and specialized skill training, thereby recouping the task experience rewards the players had just received.

They gained strength, and so did he; it was a win-win situation!

Everyone had a bright future...

"Hey! Watch your back!" Stone, also watching the conflict from the sidelines, couldn't bear to see any players get hurt and loudly warned from a distance.

"Bang!" With a kick, his bovine leather boot struck the leg of a spider that had raised its sword limb. Dai Lian, wielding dual pistols, lightly stepped onto the back of one of the large spiders using the ruins as leverage. His body twisted as he fired in all directions.

The metallic bullet stream shot out at a faster rate than usual.

Gun Fighting Skill!

"Holy shit! That's so cool!"

"Bro, where did you learn that?"

"Dadada!" A burst of bullets shattered the spider beneath him, and Dai Lian landed gracefully on the ground from the slowly collapsing spider, casually glancing towards the distance, "Who else could it be but our lord?"

"Can... can I learn that too?"

"Yes!" A player, red-eyed from battle, had just received treatment from Sheng Yan at the rear and rushed back to the combat zone as quickly as possible.

The player, excited upon hearing his comrade's question, shouted from afar, "I just saw it; there's a skill teaching panel with our lord. Everything's available, but it's limited-time only, exclusive to us as we complete the preliminary development of this region. Hurry, kill monsters for experience, because once this chance is gone, it's gone for good!"

"Holy shit!"

"Holy shit!"

One stone stirred a thousand ripples.

The girl who was just afraid of spiders suddenly grabbed the long rifle in her arms. With fiery red eyes, she charged into the depths where the giant spiders lurked, shouting, "I'm going to shred you all!"

Chapter 510 Appointment

[Combat halted; Reward calculation in progress...]

[Based on your achievements in battle, you have gained "Influence—Dawn Town" reputation +2, experience +10.]

[Dawn Town Reputation (Level 1): You have already received the town residents' natural goodwill, establishing a foundation for building relationships with them.]

"Boss, if we're not killing monsters, what are we hanging around here for?" Wang Wenyan scratched his head in complete bewilderment.

While other players were zealously slaying monsters, the three of them loitering in the town's ruins without fighting seemed somewhat useless.

"Killing monsters?" Yafei turned back to glance at the two brothers with contempt, "Are you two cut out for that?"

Together, the three had skulked in a corner for half a day and had only barely managed to attribute a spider's "kill" to one of them. With such an efficiency in killing monsters, competing with others for kills was sheer folly.

"Then what are we doing?" Wang Wenyan touched his head, looking completely lost.

Everyone was killing monsters to rack up experience and learn skills from the Great One, who was said to be stationed here for a limited time—miss this chance, and there'd be no other.

Moreover, because of the pioneering mission, everyone was receiving double experience due to both the experience from killing monsters themselves and additional mission reward experience.

Once this pioneering period was over, the gap between players would become quite pronounced.

"I know," Yafei said nonchalantly waving her hand. "That's exactly why I brought you guys to the ruins to try our luck. The entire town is in ruins and awaits restoration. The task of clearing out the beast threat we have is certainly just one part of it. Since we can't beat others in monster hunts, we might as well try to get a head start elsewhere."

"But didn't the Great One say to let those NPCs figure out the basic construction tasks by themselves? What can we do to help?"

"I don't know either..." Yafei rolled her eyes, "So aren't I leading you guys to look around now?"

The construction site by the roadside was bustling with activity.

Rebuilding the ruins would be a long-term effort, and a place sheltered enough to sleep peacefully was essential.

So, the first thing that needed to be rebuilt in the town was... the residential buildings.

Now, the long streets on both sides were bustling with the busy figures of NPCs at work.

The three onlookers, who stood by the roadside as if they were stray dogs being shooed away, drew disdainful glances wherever they went, implying that they were just in the way.

"Boss, I feel like we're here at the wrong time," Wang Wenyan said, feeling somewhat dejected.

"No," Yafei narrowed her eyes, looking like a fox that had spotted something. "Follow me."

A few NPCs were gathered around a newly collapsed pile of rubble, loudly arguing with one another. The gist of their arguments was nothing more than "You should've listened to me!" "If you'd followed my method, this wouldn't have happened!" "If only you'd listened to me sooner, it wouldn't have collapsed!" and so on.

No one could persuade the others, and eventually, they came to a unanimous decision: "Go find the Great One!"

Sheng Yan was certainly impressive, but she was busy at the moment and had mentioned that she was not knowledgeable in these matters. Only the most superior Great One had said he could help with anything and was quite idle...

Bai E, who had come over with Li Ming, was somewhat vexed as he watched Li Ming explain to the refugees the specific steps of how to proceed with each part of the task.

That Li Ming was involved in some basic construction work in the military camp was a surprise that Bai E had not anticipated, and it was a pleasant one at that.

Indeed, the current problem could be resolved, but they couldn't always rely on their own personnel to do so.

After all, their own people would eventually leave.

Take, for example, the five members of their special team, who could all serve as temporary skill instructors stationed here. Li Ming took care of close-combat abilities, Ling took care of long-range abilities, You was responsible for charging, coordination, and medical skills, and Rose was almost an all-rounder.

This was a harsh reality, and learning skills wasn't just a matter of a simple click—it required actual teaching. Including themselves in the effort was necessary to meet the learning needs of players, so they wouldn't have to wait in long queues.

However, whenever the locals encountered construction-related issues, Bai E had to step in to mediate and solve the problems. This resulted in long lines forming in front of the temporary instructor services whenever he was called away on those duties.

He had considered appointing someone to take on that responsibility, but capability was one aspect, and prestige was another.

While there were talented builders among the locals, they also had their own matters to attend to, and not everyone among the group of over a thousand recognized one another.

He was inclined to promote someone from among these people to be an "official" responsible for these aspects, similar to the role that Xu Ruoguang played in Black Street as the "Captain of the Guard."

People with responsibilities could solve related issues.

It's just that he hadn't yet decided who should take on this responsibility.

Perhaps he had never considered developing this town's ruins before, but now that things were on the right track, this large "base" would undoubtedly play an important role in all of his future plans. Hence, deciding on the person for this responsibility couldn't be taken lightly.

Assigning it to the local NPCs? He wasn't too comfortable with that idea.

After all, everybody in this world naturally possessed the potential to turn hostile at any moment, and since he couldn't always be stationed here, it would be very easy to lose everything should a problem arise that he couldn't support in time.

By comparison, players—who were inherently unpredictable creatures—were ironically more reliable in this regard.