

## Wow 601

### Chapter 601: Auction 2

Bai E simply shook his head, showing no interest at all.

The battles he had participated in weren't something these greenhouse-controlled deathmatches could compare with.

"Right..." Weslin nodded, "These fights might be a bit boring for you. Shall we go check out some other places?"

...

"This is the largest gambling venue in the city where millions of blackwater coins can come and go every second. By the way, do you have any money?"

Looking at Bai E's clueless expression, Weslin couldn't help but smile wryly, "Money is a good thing. In human society, money is everything. When you come to the inner city more often and see something you want, you'll understand the benefits of money."

...

"This is the dance hall, where many people who come here for the first time choose to stay overnight." Weslin said this with a wink and a mischievous grin, "You'll spend the night here, and we'll head back to the barracks tomorrow."

"..."

'Old lecher!' Bai E thought to himself without changing his expression.

He was well aware of what these traditional activities involved.

Just by seeing the provocative dances and those closed-off rooms, Bai E had a good idea of what kind of place this was.

Forget spending the night, he'd rather go back and practice Spiritual Energy.

...

"Finally, this is the auction house. Anything that can be sold or can't be sold in the city, you can see it here. Or you can make a request for them to find even the hardest to find items," Weslin said, leading Bai E into a private box to sit down, leaning back on the comfortable sofa as he watched the real-time footage of the auction stage on the screen in the box, explaining with a smile, "Actually, I came here today for one of the items..."

Even if he were the frivolous type, he wouldn't come all this way for enjoyment without much need.

Even if he wanted to, his pocketbook wouldn't allow it.

The auction clearly hadn't started yet; the host on stage was spouting off some nonsensical babble, which was nothing more than about the nature of the valuable items that would be auctioned today and leaving some suspense to pique the interest of visitors who had no intention of staying.

Bai E, brought to this kind of place by Weslin, was feeling utterly bored, even a bit eager to seize the time for meditation to train his Spiritual Energy.

However, as his gaze swept over the transparent windows surrounding the box, Bai E's eyes narrowed and he looked slightly stunned.

In the fleeting glimpse just now, Bai E thought he saw several familiar figures.

Like... Dai Lian and Gong Yan?

The enhancement of Bai E's tri-dimensional attributes had made his senses even sharper and, coupled with his increasingly powerful cultivation in Spiritual Energy, he had an intuition-like judgment for those fleeting inspirations or previously uncertain things, which were often quite accurate.

Bai E was increasingly sure that he had seen those players.

But what were they doing here?

"..."

Right, he had heard that they had come to the inner city.

Only he hadn't expected that these players, who had just entered the inner city not long ago, could also find their way into such a high-end place as described by Weslin.

Could it be the prerogative of being players?

He just wondered what they were planning to do here?

Judging by their sneaky movements in that fleeting moment, it didn't seem like they were up to any good?

Should he help them?

Feeling a bit bored and slightly resentful towards this lousy place, Bai E's heart began to stir.

...

"Don't mess around, if you guys cause trouble here, I can't save you," said Zhou with a pack of youngsters in tow, admonishing them repeatedly, unable to control himself.

If it hadn't been for Wen Jie's continuous pleading of "sister," "dear sister," she definitely wouldn't have brought these kids straight to a place like this.

Mainly because she suspected that Wen Jie's handsome, robust friend was probably taken to this place.

After all, his friend was full of prowess, especially in close combat. Lang Xie didn't think he could gain much of an upper hand against that guy.

If someone with that level of combat skill could be kidnapped without anyone noticing, then the capabilities of smaller places probably just didn't measure up.

And if that guy with his talents had been kidnapped to a place like this, he was either set to be a gladiator in the negative second floor or a special toy for those with particular tastes in the titillating area on the third floor. But all of this was predicated on the assumption that he wouldn't be sold at auction or that he wouldn't fetch a decent price.

So, it was definitely the right choice to first take a look around the auction venue.

But what to do after confirming the person was indeed here?

Lang Xie felt somewhat at a loss.

Should she spend a fortune to buy the person back from this place?

Or should she just take action and snatch him away?

The former was out of the question due to a lack of funds, and the latter was likely beyond her strength.

Neither option seemed particularly feasible to Lang Xie.

If it hadn't been for Wen Jie incessantly calling her "Sister," "good sister," she wouldn't have even been willing to voice this speculation.

Wen Jie, however, didn't pay much heed to Lang Xie's repeated cautions and dismissively waved his hand, "I got it, I got it, we know what we're doing."

When us guys are on a job, do we really need a woman nagging us?

Besides, they were players—if they died, the worst that would happen was a restart after a three-day wait.

What's an NPC like you doing sticking your nose in this business? Your job was to sneak us in; now that's done, roll back home and wait for news. But no, you insist on hanging around with us, getting all worried.

Women! Such a nuisance!

"I went back and asked Guang, who had just logged off. Guang had also contacted Kuang Xin privately. Kuang Xin said he really had been kidnapped; someone apparently injected him with something, and he blacked out instantly. When he opened his eyes again, he was in a sealed room. No more information could be found out until he logs off today to get the next update. I figured we can't just wait around, so I came right back," Dai Lian softly exchanged information with his companions.

Gu Lan nodded and followed up, "Then let's search. Where do they deliver goods to the auction stage? Why don't we follow their path to sneak in and take a look? We might just find traces of that big gorilla."

"But there are cameras and guards everywhere; it doesn't seem realistic to just sneak in. How about we observe the situation for a while, gather some information, and then decide what to do?"

Facing this sudden change, none of them were too worried.

This wasn't reality; even dying in the game simply meant a restart.

Although all the achievements they had accumulated in the game so far would be wiped, in the end, it was just a game. What did it matter if everything was reset?

On the contrary, encountering such a unique situation made each of them exceedingly excited.

The hidden storylines triggered by the unique templates of individuals in their group made the game much more interesting.

They even wished similar scenarios would happen to them, just to see what was really going on.

"Let's go, let's go!"

"Act natural, don't draw suspicion by looking like you're up to something."

"Split up and meet back here later."

Making up his mind, Dai Lian turned and walked away.

...

In the private room, Bai E was hesitating about whether to make up some excuse to go out and mingle, to confirm if those familiar figures were indeed Dai Lian and the others, and secondly, to ask them what they were planning to do here.

If there was a chance to lend a hand without too much trouble, Bai E didn't mind improving his favorability with these players a little more.

But before he could make a move, he saw through the clear windowpane the players splitting up and going their separate ways.

Those who initially seemed to have a special aura about them blended into the auction house atmosphere after just a couple of steps. Among the scattered guests coming and going, they didn't stand out at all.

They do have a bit of a spy gene in them...

Bai E, chuckling to himself, folded his arms and decided to see what those fellows were up to.

In this place he found somewhat dull, perhaps these players could provide some amusement.

However, in the next moment, the sound of a gong echoed throughout the venue.

Weslin, who had been meditating, opened his eyes and spoke softly, "The auction has begun..."

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...

Weslin was just giving a reminder.

He had no interest in the initial items on stage, and his purpose in reminding Bai E was to let him know that the main event was about to begin.

As expected, as a briefcase was brought to the center platform of the central auction stage, the seats farther from the auction in the regular seating area nearly settled down.

Even those who weren't interested would often stop to see what exactly was being auctioned on stage.

The few players mingling among the crowd had no choice but to stay in place, pretending to be attracted by the item up for auction.

"This is a Gene Optimization Solution that has accidentally leaked from the channels of the Scientific Research Institute. As a basic type of Optimization fluid suitable for zero to five degrees, its value need not be elaborated upon further by me or anyone else. Also, as a bonus, we will provide absolutely safe and reliable injection services, free of charge, ensuring the highest possible success rate. The starting bid is ten thousand Heishui coins, and each bid must increase by no less than five thousand Heishui coins. Now, let the bidding begin!"

The starting bid wasn't important; any scarce item has its value in the hearts of people, and a vial of Gene Optimization Solution could potentially create an absolutely powerful warrior.

It was the only possibility for ordinary people or those from general powers to transform and ascend their social class.

Not to mention, this was a basic entry-level Optimization fluid suitable for zero to five degrees, the most broadly applicable type of fluid. Even most individuals with genetically optimized talents who were going for their second injection of the Optimization fluid would use the same grade of fluid.

Moreover, it was a product that had leaked from the Scientific Research Institute, ensuring absolute quality, much more trustworthy than those concocted by other organizations. The use of it would significantly improve the development and safety of the physical body after injection.

By using such a highly sought-after item to kick off the auction, they ensured that the proceedings would not start on a dull note.

As the auctioneer's words fell silent, a cacophony of frantic bids immediately echoed through the seats at the venue.

"I bid twenty thousand!"

"Thirty thousand!"

"Thirty-five thousand!"

"Fifty thousand!"

The Scientific Research Institute's supply of various materials to the city's official organizations was limited, and facing constant internal and external threats, the city did not have the luxury of indulging in nepotism. Only the most outstanding members of many families could join the core institutions of the city, qualifying to compete for the allocated quota from the Scientific Research Institute to each organization.

However, bloodline-maintained families always needed resources to sustain these tight familial relationships. Those in the family who had been capable had received support from the family in the past, and now that they were capable, they naturally needed to find ways to repay the younger members of their family through various channels.

Generation after generation, this tradition continued.

Moreover, the city was too large, and consolidating power was difficult, with various families, both large and small, and the countless emerging combat groups like bamboo shoots after a spring rain, being defiant of each other.

Without the ability to expand their territories, they could only ensure their own survival by preying on others' resources.

As a result, any item of value would inevitably lead to fierce competition.

The auctioneer looked at the bids coming from the individual seats with a smile, not in the least bit anxious.

He knew that only the big players in the private booths upstairs had the absolute say in the fate of such hotly contested resources.

Of course, occasionally, when none of them desired the item, only then would a precious resource slip through their fingers for the other strays to fight over.

This time, however, appeared to be one of those occasions.

From beginning to end, it seemed no one in the upper-tier private booths took any interest.

In the end, the item was acquired for a bid of 105,000 by a buyer in the individual seats, seemingly a bargain.

Judging by the buyer's jubilant departure, this opportunity might have been a once-in-a-lifetime chance for him.

Perhaps he could craft a powerful warrior who might someday shine on the grand stage of the city and leap to prominence.

Bai E watched quietly, forming a general impression of the city from these little details that emerged.

"Next item!" the auctioneer took out a paper document from the tray held by an attendant behind him.

"A contract for the sale of four hundred pounds of Origin Crystal ore. The city recently reintroduced internet technology, and creating your own private network center requires the use of Origin Crystals, a special crystalline material. Those interested in developing in this area must not miss this rare contract! The starting bid is five thousand Heishui coins, and each bid must increase by no less than two thousand Heishui coins. Now, let the bidding begin!"

The reintroduction of internet technology in the city had not been long, and spreading it to the general public would take even more time.

Fearing a lack of demand due to obscurity and risking the auction flopping due to a lack of interest, this was the first time that this kind of technologically demanded ore was being auctioned, thus the estimate was relatively conservative.

As expected, this level of resource naturally had a certain barrier to entry, and hardly anyone on the individual platforms bid, until, after some waiting, the first offer came from a private booth on the second floor—

"Five thousand!"

The first bid seemed to light a fuse.

"Seven thousand!"

"Ten thousand!"

"Fourteen thousand!"

"Thirty thousand!"

Some were determined to win, observing the others and realizing that actually, not many were in dire need of this commodity.

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A bid far exceeding those around instantly dissipated the thoughts of those who only wanted to buy for a trial play.

No one in the private suites knew who the others were, and there was no need to purposely drive up the price just to spite others.

In case the bid was won on a rash impulse, it would result not only in a loss but also in offending people; everyone was there for what they truly needed, each with their own demands.

Standing by Weslin's side, Bai E nodded, suddenly forming his own idea.

Being able to appear in the auction house implied, in an indirect way, that the benefits handed over to the city were definitively less than those from auctioning.

If this was the case with the source crystal ore essential for internet technology, would the steel produced by Li Ming Town be an exception?

As the doctor left, the steel orders from the wild frontier warlords dissipated along with him.

Before his power could completely absorb the steel he produced, Bai E urgently needed a channel to liquidate the steel.

Originally still worried about which channel to transport through, the current auction might just be a decent destination.

If there was a chance in the future, he could come here alone, avoiding Weslin, and inquire.

Auctions continued one after another on the floor.

Items that appeared at the auction had all been carefully selected by the venue, and there was almost never a dull moment at any of the events.

Individuals in the general seating began to move around gradually, and Bai E, who was always monitoring those players, distinctly noticed they had begun to take action again.

But seeing their random blundering, Bai E felt they were probably looking for something?

It was strange that he didn't see Kuang Xin among them.

Perhaps, to them, their movements were sufficiently covert, but Bai E was certain they had been marked.

The cameras high above were far too clear; if it weren't for the fear of disturbing the atmosphere of the auction, Bai E even felt there should be fully armed men pointing their guns and herding them out by now.

But they seemed completely oblivious.

As the dust settled on yet another treasure, the circular central stage suddenly descended. Amidst the hum of mechanical operations, the corner of a steel structure slowly rose from beneath.

The corner of the steel structure gradually became visible, and only then did the gray iron cage fully reveal itself for all to see.

If the previous items were of practical value, then it was only at this moment that the luxury items of the auction came to be presented.

People!

Four people.

Two men, two women.

Their bodies were exposed with only key parts covered by scanty fabric; all four were suspended by hands and feet in a "big" character, displayed within the steel cages.

The auctioneer stepped aside, his expression fervent and voice impassioned as he introduced the items behind him, "Four excellently conditioned, top-quality slaves! Whether you wish to train them as the most loyal personal guards, beasts that dominate the underground fighting ring, or cultivate them into outstanding assassins, they are the perfect choice! All four will be auctioned together! The starting bid is 50,000 Blackwater coins, with each increment no less than 5,000 Blackwater coins. Now, let the bidding begin!"

The four bound figures all seemed somewhat lethargic, obviously controlled by some drug.

But on the enlarged screens within the private suites, one could clearly see the fine details of the four "slaves," with complete medical data directly provided for each person.

The three-dimensional attributes of each individual had one attribute close to the peak of an ordinary person's 15-point limit, the remaining two also not lagging too far behind, especially the biggest of them all. With physical and reflexes both at 15 points and insight not far behind at 14 points, their attributes were luxurious indeed.

Additionally, the men were handsome, the women beautiful, with pleasant faces and robust physiques. They weren't overly muscular, exuding a sense of health; their well-defined, clearly trained muscles indicated a solid foundation for each one.

Aside from one of the male figures, the other three "slaves" appeared very young, looking to be perhaps only in their early teens.

The perfect age for grooming.

Bai E's gaze sharpened, locking onto one figure in an instant—

Kuang Xin!

His previous questions were answered in a flash.

No wonder he hadn't seen this guy among those players running around aimlessly.

No wonder these players had mingled in a place momentarily above their station.

They had come looking for a companion who had been kidnapped... wait a minute! Knowing the players' unconventional ways, it's possible they deliberately sold Kuang Xin to get the money and then planned to rescue him.

Typical of wanting to have their cake and eat it too—they wanted the money but not to give up the person.

But regardless of the truth, they were probably about to kick a steel plate this time.

This place was not somewhere they could act brashly and without consequence.

Four "slaves" of outstanding appearance caused a sensation.

With proper training, these individuals could not only possess formidable combat power, but also serve as personal bodyguards that provide companionship in bed, the perfect sidekicks for many core members of influential forces.

Not to mention, as the temporary "face representative" among the four "slaves," Kuang Xin, at the moment, attracted countless fervent gazes.

The effect of a +10 charm bonus was indisputable, common folks simply didn't have such heaven-defying, naturally enhanced appearances.

No matter how you looked, they were pleasing to the eyes, captivating to behold.

Some wealthy madams, just by ogling Kuang Xin's face and figure, couldn't help but salivate.

"I bid fifty thousand!"

"I bid sixty thousand!"

"I bid eighty thousand!"

The scene was momentarily insane.

Players scattered throughout the venue promptly converged, watching the explosive scene on stage, collectively rendering their minds into a state of paralysis.

"Damn, is Kuang Xin really that valuable?"

"Maybe he's just making up the numbers?"

"Suddenly, I don't feel like rescuing him anymore..."

"What if we save him and then tie him up to sell again?"

Then rob and sell again! Rob and sell again! A golden avenue to fortune was just before their eyes!

With money, each could get a vial of the very Gene Optimization Solution that appeared at the beginning of the auction, one for each person!

A must-inject! If one isn't enough, get another one!

Money equates to domineering power.

After locating Kuang Xin's position, the group suddenly felt no rush.

Under the watchful eyes of the public, of course, they couldn't just storm the stage and snatch him.

Either find a way backstage—even though they still had no idea how the intricacies of this auction house worked—or track down the buyer and play the mantis stalking the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind.

After a brief discussion, everyone agreed that the latter method had a higher success rate.

So they all cheerfully pretended to be spectators of the "how much can Kuang Xin sell for" show.

In the end, the final deal was struck at the astronomical price of two hundred and ten thousand!

"Good, good, good!"

Dai Lian's eyes were filled with murderous intent, "we'll definitely have to sell him again later, it would be such a loss not to pocket this money!"

Emotions surged, hearts raced with fervor.

The fervent emotions of the entire venue almost converged to a single point.

Standing next to Weslin, Bai E, who had been watching the excitement all this time, suddenly felt a chill at the back of his neck at that moment.

His supernatural perception of space and time almost came to a standstill instantaneously, as if every movement in front of him had slowed to a crawl.

From the private room screen, the actions of certain players in the common seating area, such as turning heads and waving hands, seemed to play out frame by frame, and the auctioneer's mouth, shouting with passion, was wide open, with the gavel frozen in the endless process of descending.

In a corner, several fully armed guards were targeting the clustered players on the orders of a supervisor.

Everything seemed to unfold in an inherent logical sequence.

Bai E suddenly closed his eyes, trying to locate the source of the odd feeling.

The next instant, Bai E's eyes snapped open, his sharp gaze suddenly shifting towards the stage.

At the same time, the two women and a man, bound hand and foot in an "X" shape on stage, also abruptly opened their eyes at that very moment...

Time resumed its normal flow, carrying all the sounds into Bai E's mind. However, within Bai E's head echoed a resonant buzz, like the sound of a tolling bell!

Devil!

He's arrived...

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...

The surging demonic aura emanated from the three "slaves" whose eyes opened, almost instantaneously flooding the space above the platform.

Kuang Xin, the auctioneer, and the three waiters not far away were naturally among them, but from within the distorted space, Bai E could no longer clearly discern the specific conditions of those affected.

In fact, the demonic aura that Bai E "saw" with his spiritual perception wasn't just emanating from them; the aura they released was condensed and restrained, merely enveloping their bodies.

However, from the corners of his eyes, Bai E could "see" even more black aura, flowing like currents in all directions.

Whenever it encountered any figure with a hint of life, the black aura would, as if alive, separate a strand from its source and, like a spirit snake, burrow into the bodies of the unwitting from behind.

Including Weslin, who was within arm's reach!

Bai E's immediate reaction was to grab with his arm imbued with Spiritual Energy, but it was like grabbing at an illusion and he grasped nothing but air.

It was unclear whether the black aura was merely an illusion or some special effect that transcended basic Spiritual Energy.

For the moment, Bai E couldn't detect any visible changes in those individuals who had been penetrated by the black aura, but it was obvious that he couldn't allow the situation to develop further.

"Marshal, we need to leave now," Bai E spoke, keeping in mind his fundamental duty to accompany and protect Weslin.

If the marshal were to die by his side, Bai E couldn't shirk responsibility.

Even if there was compelling evidence that he'd done everything within his power, as long as the fact remained, there would always be an indelible stain on his reputation.

The current demonic incident took place in the Inner City, and whatever adverse effects it had would be dealt with by the Inner City's professionals.

Bai E wasn't so arrogant as to think that only he was indispensable.

In a situation where he was absolutely certain of not losing, Bai E, alone, might have risked a direct confrontation, but with such an important person by his side, he couldn't act on a whim.

"Go! Go!" The moment the catastrophe struck, Weslin, sensing that ultimate sinister presence, panicked.

Weslin, bolstered by Bai E's prompt response, grabbed the arm Bai E offered and, using the strength provided, tried to make his way out, "Hurry up! Move it!"

He too possessed Spiritual Energy and could also see the black miasma that was visible only to spiritual vision.

The aura spread at the edges of all visible things, enveloping everything.

The transformation on the field became genuinely terrifying, kindling fear from deep within the heart, even for those lacking Spiritual Energy, as the drastic changes occurred in the real world!

The previously normal space now seemed as if refracted and reflected by countless irregular crystals or mirrors, creating a kaleidoscope of confusion.

The auctioneer, waiters, and iron cages within this space were already shattered and distorted beyond recognition.

The entire space around seemed like the blurred, distorted atmosphere above a furnace, filled with surreal distortions.

A heartbeat-like pulsation echoed from this hazy space, and those individuals with slightly weaker resolve merely felt their hearts beat a few times before a thread of blood trickled from the corner of their mouths, and they collapsed to the ground, never to rise again.

"How are those Arbitration Place enforcers monitoring the situation?"

"A great demon is nearly tearing through the barrier between high dimensions and reality to descend directly, and they still have discovered nothing!"

It wasn't just Bai E and Weslin; all the city's upper echelons in the private boxes—with their own Spiritual Energy experts or accompanied by them—what was happening, even if they had never truly witnessed it, was something they'd surely heard about during their Spiritual Energy practices.

An invasion from higher-dimensional demons!

All those who could still move and realize this began to flee from the private boxes, while many others, upon hearing that heartbeat pulsing from the distorted space, plunged into boundless panic and confusion. They either scampered around biting the dust or stood frozen in place like petrified chickens.

In the midst of the chaos, Bai E even lacked the time to concern himself with the whereabouts of the few players close to him.

Escorting Weslin through the crowd, Bai E realized that outside the auction hall, chaos reigned just as much.

The endless black aura continued to wriggle and spread at the edges of his vision, that horrifying presence constantly eroding people's sanity, like heavy drumbeats striking incessantly at their hearts.

"Slap slap slap slap!" Someone rushed to the elevator shaft and frantically pressed the button, but as the elevator doors opened, the one who first pressed the button had already become meat under the feet of those who stampeded in.

"This is the top floor!"

Although the building connected to even higher structures outside, the higher you go, the more the building is reinforced with special materials. Even one person's strength would not suffice. Even a barrage of missiles would likely take a while to blast even a crack open.

"Head to the first floor!"

Bai E only glanced at the chaos around the elevator door and didn't plan on taking Weslin down by elevator.

If the people on the top floor wanted to leave, wouldn't the people on every other floor below be just as eager?

At these times, it would stop on every floor, and every floor would require a fight for escape.

And the elevator would not close its doors as long as there was something blocking them at the entrance. Unless those inside had sufficient deterrent power and were ruthless enough, anyone taking the elevator would probably never reach the ground floor in their lifetime.

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As for the stairs...

Staircases in such places are generally for show. Aside from the circular staircase in the central hall of each floor that connects only a few stories, staircases that connect the major floors are tucked away in dark corners and stairwells.

The paths are narrow and exceptionally dim.

Moreover, they had already been filled to the brim with a crush of people. Forcing his way through the crowd with Bai E's strength was certainly possible, but it would inevitably result in much unnecessary killing.

Glancing down at the floor beneath his feet, a flash of murderous intent passed through Bai E's eyes.

Spiritual Energy concentrated, fire at full blast!

Overlimit Drive, Gift of Liberation, Instant Kill of a Hundred Beasts!

Multiple skills unleashed at once, Bai E, carrying Weslin, directly jumped from the third floor atrium down to the first floor and punched downwards at the floor.

"Hiss?" Beneath Weslin's horrified gaze, Bai E's right fist resolutely smashed towards the ground beneath his feet.

In such dire urgency, he couldn't even utter a word, only managing to emit a meaningless hiss.

The reason this place had become the pinnacle of the entire undercity's black market was that it was taken to extremes in every aspect.

Even the floor here was no ordinary matter.

It was made of reinforced stone material that was no less than that of an alloy of eight elements, and furthermore, it was inscribed with several Arrays that strengthened defenses and added rebounding capabilities with Spiritual Energy.

Shoot a barrage of bullets at this kind of wall, and you might just get half a barrage bounced back at yourself.

What sane person would head-on confront such a wall?

If you want to die, don't drag me into it, agh!

However, lightning-fast thoughts could barely keep up with Bai E's actions.

"Boom!"

His fist, swift as lightning, suddenly crashed down, and a powerful rebound force was instantly absorbed and reflected back in some strange way.

Even Bai E, who had applied "Absolute Defense" to himself, felt his insides quiver violently.

'Thank goodness the rebound has an upper limit.'

If the rebound truly reflected back the force at an absolute ratio, Bai E felt he probably couldn't withstand even half the force of his full-powered strike.

This rebound was not only directed at Bai E but also spread outward from him in a booming shockwave. All those who were unsteady on their feet staggered violently from this one blow on the floor.

Those who were closer simply slipped and crashed to the ground.

Countless angry glances were thrown in an instant, but Bai E ignored these stares and once again gathered strength for another punch towards the floor below him.

With the first punch, cracks had already appeared on the floor.

As long as this thing didn't have the absurd self-repair capabilities of the first-generation intelligent machines, a few more punches, and Bai E felt it was not impossible to carve out a brand new path downstairs.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

Punch after punch!

The hall vibrated, the chandeliers swayed wildly.

Those unsteady decorative pieces tumbled down to the ground one after another, and the people who had been glaring at Bai E with rage could barely believe their eyes as they saw the floor genuinely being broken through with fists, their eyeballs nearly popping out of their sockets.

"Which god descended here?"

"This floor can even be breached, damn it!"

Weslin propped his hands on the ground, unable to rise anyway, so he might as well just lie there; his only task was to ensure he wasn't thrown by the vibrations.

Looking at Bai E, his eyes were filled with awe for his strength.

He only knew that this guy had invincible marksmanship, clearing a path with a pair of machine guns through a sky filled with bugs that even ordinary Mechas would struggle to carve.

He only knew that this guy was unbeatable when piloting a Mecha, able to send even a Mech Pilot from the Mechanical Court scurrying in defeat.

But he never imagined that this marshal, whom he had personally promoted, could break through a special floor that even a barrage of missiles would take several rounds to penetrate, all with his bare hands.

"What kind of War God have I picked up?" Weslin's face was blank, his expression collapsing.

...

["Lucky Strike" charge +50.]

"Boom!"

The sound of the system notification ringing in his ear did not affect Bai E's movements in the slightest. As the final punch thundered down, the force of the rebound had already vanished.

"Whoosh~"

Mixed with some metal rods, massive stones crashed thunderously down toward the empty floors below, as people on the next level, already aware of the commotion overhead, didn't foolishly stand still to watch the spectacle unfold.

No ordinary person was harmed by the falling boulders; Bai E grabbed Weslin's ankle, hoisted him over his shoulder, and jumped down through the large hole he had smashed.

"Holy shit! He really broke through?"

"What 'War God' on earth?!"

Many who could move freely, already attentively following Bai E's movement, lined up behind him, jumping down into the hole without a second thought.

Falling the ten or more meters felt impactless, thanks to Bai E's quietly diffused force. Weslin, hoisted over Bai E's shoulder, gazed blankly at the expressionless warrior before him, feeling for the first time the damn safety of having such a War God by his side.

"Snap!" The moment he landed, Bai E casually threw Weslin aside.

This was the fourth floor, and they were a long way from the first floor!

He started smashing again!

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

His right fist was bloodied and blurred, but under the power of Bai E's unlocked super "Rapid Recovery," his wounded skin and bones were indeed regenerating quickly—all while excruciating pain gnawed at Bai E's will.

Even with "Self-Restraint" actively suppressing it, the pain was still heart-wrenching. Had it not been for the "Highly Effective Pain Relief" from the Blood God, Bai E would have lost the courage to strike the next blow.

Nevertheless, the next punch always arrived steadfastly without delay.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

The building trembled unstoppably.

One floor!

One floor!

Another floor!

Only those who kept closely behind Bai E knew how incredible the War God before them truly was.

He was basically a superhero!

"Rumble!"

Almost simultaneously with the landing rubble, Bai E, carrying Weslin on his shoulder, was about to rush out of the first floor.

In the time it took him to break through floor by floor, the demon's scent had become so intense it was unimaginable.

With each breath, it seemed one could smell a kind of sweet fragrance that was hard to resist indulging in.

Some with Spiritual Energy but slightly lower levels of it thought they saw a thin, pink mist and, with infatuated smiles, staggered into it.

What followed were horrific screams mixed with an inexplicable sense of delight.

Such sounds were incessant, arising from every corner of the building.

The survivors following Bai E were petrified, their hearts in their throats, as if they might leap out at any moment...

And indeed, one individual spat out a still beating heart right from their mouth!

However, the person themselves continued to follow Bai E as if completely unaware of their own gruesome act.

Bai E merely glanced at this scene before continuing, without looking back, carrying Weslin to the open square outside.

His "Heavenly Eye" Spiritual Energy was burning at all times, shielding Weslin within its range from the demonic breath's interference as much as possible.

Yet the moment he stepped through the vast stone archway of the castle, Bai E saw a layer of neon-like colorful coating bubble up before his eyes, enveloping the entire Gothic castle.

Extending his hand towards what appeared to be a bubble layer so fragile it seemed it would pop at a touch, it felt as if he would be scattered and ignited by an endless high-dimensional space storm.

The demons had cut off the castle's reality to some extent from the actual space around it.

This void barrier prevented people outside from coming in and those inside from holding on to any hope of getting out.

Bai E turned back to see the misshapen humanoid monsters emerging from the underground fighting ring, now almost flooding the entire first-floor hall...

"Hiss~"

"Hiss~"

In the eyes of those monsters, looking at Bai E and the survivors following him, there was nothing but endless greed and desire...

Chapter 606: I want to give it a try

...

A hand clad in a pair of black gloves gently caressed the "membrane" in front of her eyes, which rippled slightly like water waves. Aglaya narrowed her eyes slightly, a mysterious and faint light emanating from her pupils.

What seemed like a simple layer of space-time distortion barrier effectively isolated the inside and outside of the castle into two distinct worlds.

"Still can't break through?"

An officer from the Arbitration Place not far from her, drenched in sweat, explained, "We initially suspect that under the long-term influence of demons, the entire castle has been corrupted into a nest of desires. It's spontaneously sacrificing all the living beings within the castle to the demons in exchange for complete corruption. If everyone inside is sacrificed or corrupted, this castle will forever fall into the realm of high-dimensional space!"

Aglaya's sharp eyebrows furrowed slightly with displeasure, cutting in, "I only need results."

There are experts in every field.

Even though her Spiritual Energy level might surpass everyone present, when it comes to demons, the officers from the Arbitration Place are the experts.

"We are trying!" was the only response the officer could give.

The officers were the ones who needed to detect the presence of demonic essences faster than anyone else.

However, in the face of such a degree of demonic erosion, any of their responses seemed inadequate.

He knew that Aglaya was a top figure in the city and also knew that she was the core high-ranking official of the Spiritual Energy Administration Bureau.

And because of this, some things were difficult for him to say outright.

The corrupt sacrifices within the castle were just the surface; the essence of this demonic invasion event was the result of the extreme desires of the entire city fermenting over many years.

It did not target any individual, nor was it a deliberate attack by those high-dimensional demons... but merely the ultimate backlash of the city's dark underbelly!

Long-term suppression could not completely solve underlying dangers, and the extremely developed desires deeply embedded the seeds of demons into every corner of this castle—the more it was suppressed, the deeper it hid.

And the backlash... thus came all the more fiercely.

The dire consequences of these desires originated from every single person currently within this castle, and even more so from every person who knew of the existence of this castle!

The "desire" of each individual was the absolute cause of today's backlash!

The entire city, not one could escape!

In the face of such a large-scale invasion of this level, almost everyone related to this in the city would find it nearly impossible to make any impact on this corrupted and degenerate castle.

Therefore, breaking through this barrier, which seemed as gentle as paper, would likely be as difficult as ascending to heaven!

"Who are the important figures who came here tonight?"

An officer of the Arbitration Place, clad in a red robe, approached quickly from behind and asked coldly to the person coordinating with various forces.

"So far, we have only confirmed \*\*\* and \*\*\* ..."

"That's a relief..." The officer, upon hearing the names and their affiliations on the list, relaxed his expression slightly.

Being from the Arbitration Place, he was more aware of the difficulty of breaking through this barrier.

If the task was impossible, they would already consider minimizing the loss as part of their contingency plans.

Relieved to hear that no truly important figures were trapped inside, he allowed himself to breathe a bit easier.

Not far away, Aglaya's brows knit tightly, "Arnold, what do you mean by that?"

"I don't mean anything." Even though Aglaya was in a position of power, Arnold, who did not report directly to any department head, did not care about her opinion, "Most likely, those people can't be saved, and this place will probably completely sink into the high-dimensional space."

Anticipating this outcome, Arnold almost seemed to take pleasure in the misfortune, "This damn place should have been eradicated long ago. Good riddance; I'd like to see who dares to cause such messes in the city again!"

So many officers from the Arbitration Place had to guard it every day, but it was just to maintain an outlet for the majority to indulge and vent.

This pathological outburst was inherently unreasonable, and most in the Arbitration Place had long been displeased with this place.

It was a pity that they were a sword with a master; otherwise, they would have leveled the place long ago.

Aglaya's piercing eyes firmly raised, "Do you intend to just give up like this?"

The people of the Arbitration Place only cared about the outcome of single battles with demons, but the researchers studying the ultimate path of Spiritual Energy in the world would consider every bit of loss to the real space and the impact it would cause to both the real and high-dimensional worlds.

Sooner or later, the balance would be broken.

If one day the world was completely engulfed by high-dimensional space, where would humanity go?

"Look! Someone is coming out!"

Someone suddenly pointed at the scenery behind the transparent, water-like barrier and shouted.

The barrier had different effects on each side.

Perhaps from inside, the barrier was covered with twisted, deadly beauty, which were manifestations of the high-dimensional space storms' distortions to human senses.

But from the outside, in the real world, it looked at most like a mirror smeared by a stream of water—somewhat blurry, but it did not hinder sight.

At that moment, from the high arching stone entrance of the castle, suddenly, a large group of creatures still capable of moving freely and maintaining human features emerged.

"They are alive!"

"They are not dead!"

Aglaya's eyes suddenly widened, exclaiming in surprise, "Weslin!"

Commander of the military district, the lord's son.

He would usually be stationed outside the city in the military camps, and despite much questioning, nobody had linked the issue to him.

Chapter 607: I want to give it a try\_2

Although the personal ability of this military district marshal seemed so-so to most people in the city, his status meant that he could never be a disposable pawn.

Arnold, who also saw Weslin, had his eyes round with astonishment and cursed emphatically, "Fuck!"

"Why is he here?"

What was the governor's son doing wandering around here for no reason?

"Find a way to get him out!"

Aglaya narrowed her eyes, not distracted by Weslin's arrival.

Those slender, sharp eyes just swept over Weslin and then settled on the figure who was carrying him beneath.

For some reason, the figure who carried Weslin out from under the archway seemed very familiar.

As the person approached within a meter in front of her and reached out, grazing the air beyond the barrier, a fragment of memory spontaneously leapt out from the clutter in Aglaya's mind.

"...Bai E."

She pronounced the two syllables in an odd tone.

It was this warrior, a member of a special military squad at the time, who had rescued Kiro Lan and Morphie, along with the refugees accompanying them, from the fear nests outside the city, and brought them back.

It was obvious that the two youngsters had greatly admired this soldier at the time, but due to the natural gulf between them caused by talents and background, and to protect both sides, she had chosen to separate them.

It had not occurred to her, however, that in the recent series of military operations, this warrior named Bai E had won the recognition of a Mecha Spirit with his perfect talents in mecha piloting, thus once again entering her field of vision.

What was more unexpected was that... just these past few days, having returned from a campaign against the Bug Race's nests, he had brought back an unbelievable message through the lips of Scholar Helen from the Scientific Research Institute—

Bai E, whom she had considered completely devoid of Spiritual Energy talent, had successfully awakened his Spiritual Energy talent with the help of Gene Optimization Solution and could even absorb the intense combat spirits and remnants of the souls of surrounding warriors to replenish his Spiritual Energy so that, with the assistance of the Mecha Spirit, he, without any training in the use of Spiritual Energy, was able to defeat that extremely terrifying Bug Race Overlord!

"It's really him..."

He was here too?

Yes... he should be here.

Any commander who was not a fool would want to recruit such an outstanding warrior like Weslin!

So, the way to recruit him was to bring him to this den of iniquity...

Watching the figure leading the charge, Aglaya's face became a little blurry.

Had she been too heartless before?

But what could she do?

Caught in the thick of it, even the enforcers from the Arbitration Place had almost given up hope...

"They're doomed."

"The demons have caught up..."

"All demons, they're not going to make it..."

Demons layered upon demons surged like a tide, almost completely sealing off the small archway entrance.

The group that had escaped was cluelessly following the warrior named Bai E as if entrusting their fates to him.

The crowd parted behind Bai E, who put down Weslin and turned back alone towards those ferocious looking demons...

"Teacher, I want to give it a try!" a gentle voice appeared from nearby, at some point.

"It's too dangerous, Kiro Lan!" said a hearty voice, not willing to let his prized pupil take such a risk. Kiro Lan was the most intelligent and talented Spiritual Energy user he had ever seen; she was perfection itself.

Without her dying an untimely death due to an accident, her future was bound to uphold half of the city's sky!

"But it's such an ordeal that we need to advance to the third stage of Spiritual Energy, isn't it?" Kiro Lan's gaze was fixed on her teacher, resolute.

Morphie looked at the figure inside the barrier with a complicated gaze.

It was him again!

It was him again!

Every time he was around, he attracted everyone's attention like the greatest hero!

On what grounds!

Morphie suddenly turned his head and looked at his own teacher, "Teacher, I'll accompany her."

As a top-level talent with Spiritual Energy, Kiro Lan's talent was multifaceted, almost all-around.

However, Morphie was almost purely a combat-oriented Spiritual Energy user, with rapidly soaring combat power. When it came down to a real fight, there were probably only a few ordinary enforcement officers at the institute who could be his match.

And his feelings for Kiro Lan...

The tall figure fell silent, not daring to make this decision lightly.

Aglaya, in her long boots, walked over, "If you want to try, then go ahead and try."

Bonds, emotions.

These are treasures that Spiritual Energy users must not overlook.

Not long ago, Pansen, a Spiritual Energy user who was merely a common Second Order in the military camp, became curious about the makeup of an electronic demon.

However, after that "peep into the secret," he leaped to become a rare Third Order Spiritual Energy user in the entire city.

Despite recently falling into a coma yet again due to the "treasure" left behind by the electronic demon, this does not deny the significance of such adventures.

The growth of a Spiritual Energy user is never smooth sailing; those raised in a greenhouse are doomed to mediocrity!

"Lady Aglaya!" The two youngsters' teacher looked at the tall woman who had come over with a complex expression in his eyes.

He hadn't forgotten that these two were originally from the Spiritual Power Managers Center and had only been temporarily placed under their instruction at the Arbitration Place due to a late start in their foundational learning.

Now that she had spoken, he had little room to refuse.

With a complex look in his eyes at the two still youthful faces before him, the teacher remained silent for a long time before sighing and waving his hand, "Go on then... Perhaps it's only you who can break through this barrier here."

How could he not know the secret that all the enforcement officers were aware of?

Every person familiar with this castle in the city carries a natural "original sin"; their very existence is the source of power that sustains the castle exiled in high-dimensional space.

Only these "blank pages," who know nothing of this existence, might attempt to forge a "path" with their Spiritual Energy that could be passable.

"Thank you, my lady." Kiro Lan bowed deeply to Aglaya who had spoken, then turned and walked away, "Morphie, let's go!"

Morphie suddenly drew his sword from his waist, and a rich Spiritual Energy formed a barrier on the blade that seemed as if it wanted to devour everything, "I'll take the lead!"

Facing the twisted barriers that nearly all the Spiritual Energy users in the city were powerless against, Morphie struck down from the air with all his might!

A brilliant light burst forth, blinding all beings present, whether they possessed Spiritual Energy or not.

Even the perception of Spiritual Energy blurred under the glare, with only the knowledge that after the two powerful bursts of Spiritual Energy, the two teenagers had disappeared from the spot...

"Where did they go?"

"They... went in?"

The others who came back to their senses spoke in amazement, filled with disbelief.

The twisted barrier that so many enforcement officers from the Arbitration Place had been unable to handle had been penetrated by two barely grown children?

"Where did they go?" Arnold asked urgently.

The teacher shook his head, "The twisted barrier is just a visual manifestation; passing through it could potentially connect to various places inside the castle."

Aglaya, looking at the spot where the children had disappeared, clenched her hand slightly.

'I hope you can succeed...'

She turned and looked towards the only visible arch-shaped door.

Those survivors... backed up against the barrier of despair, they had nowhere left to retreat.

'I also hope they can hold on until Morphie and Kiro Lan find them...'

As the two children disappeared, everyone's gaze could only turn towards the arch-shaped doorway where they could see into parts of the castle's interior.

Watching the figure who led the charge break away from the group and walk toward the back alone, someone couldn't help but express their alarm, "What is he doing!?"

Chapter 608: Slave Desire

Bai E didn't want to do anything, but the environment he found himself in left him no room for choice.

Behind him was a Void Barrier that isolated everything, and in front of him was an endless horde of high-dimensional demons.

The environment he was in wasn't entirely in real space, but it wasn't completely part of the high-dimensional space either.

His "Heavenly Eye" Spiritual Energy could sense the attributes of the space—this was a transitional "interspace" lying between the real world and high-dimensional space.

The corruption of the demons had temporarily severed this castle from the real world; as long as he could calm all the demonic auras within the castle, it could still be restored to the boundaries of the real world, somewhat similar to that "blood pool" where the demonic prince of war was born.

And now, in a castle with a more robust aura than the "blood pool" of that time, it was likely that a demon more terrifying than the demonic prince of war would be born.

Bai Chu knew not where the adversary was, nor whether it had already taken shape within the castle.

But the only choice left for him, who was deeply trapped in this place and the only one who could escape the danger and return to the real world, was—

Wipe out the demons!

He casually pulled out a ceremonial longsword worn at the waist of a short, chubby man passing by his side and ran his left hand, formed into a sword gesture, across the blade.

A layer of active Spiritual Energy suddenly attached to the blade, more active than it had ever been before.

[Enhancement\*Magic Blade: Current hunting target: Demons. Template record: None. Basic bonus: Attack power +10%.]

Reaching out, he grabbed from the void a transparent glass bottle filled with a pale yellow liquid.

As the longsword was doused liberally with the liquid, the drops of Exorcism Essential Oil sizzled wildly as they burned in the presence of the endless demonic aura!

"Storage space!" Aglaya, who was outside the barrier, whispered incredulously upon seeing this scene, "Wasn't it said that he had never systematically learned any skills for using Spiritual Energy?"

Other spiritual power users and enforcers who were ignorant of the details merely sighed in admiration, "It seems that there are powerful spiritual power users among those survivors after all..."

Arnold nodded slightly, "It looks like they won't be wiped out so quickly."

"Hiss~Ha~"

The demon's tall form was crimson all over, with healthy and long thighs as voluptuous as those of the healthiest human beauties.

Its waist was thin like a wasp's, its chest muscular, and its forehead adorned with upward-curving horns.

On its four arms, structures resembling scorpion pincers "creaked" as they opened and closed, with sinister spikes revealing a bloodthirsty desire.

Yet the demons walked with a swaying posture, as graceful as if on a catwalk, easily evoking in humans that endless desire.

The cold blade hissed through the air, sweeping across the demon's throat.

How could these ordinary demon foot soldiers withstand Bai E's level 9 expertise with light weapons?

The Exorcism Essential Oil sizzled in the wounds, the dense smoke burning the non-physical bodies of the demons.

"Puff!"

Another sword strike as fast as lightning, and the body of the demon was split in two before Bai E.

[Your attack hits the target successfully, inflicting 200 points of fatal damage!]

[You have completely killed the target, gaining 20 battle experience points.]

[The soul-absorbing magic blade has absorbed a small portion of the target's essence, with special attack effects now being generated 5/1000.]

Behind the edge of the sword, Bai E's face was handsome and resolute, with an expression of icy ruthlessness.

Even the domain of spiritual energy dominated by the demon lord could not affect him in the slightest; how much less the characteristics carried by these small demon foot soldiers?

Desire...

These were the slaves of desire!

Enveloped by the "Heavenly Eye" Spiritual Energy, the origins of these demon foot soldiers, transformed by the demonic aura at the moment of their death, were instantly analyzed—

These were the "spectators" attached to the fighters in the underground combat arena, now transformed into demon foot soldiers belonging to the series of demons driven by desire, raising their mutated claws against their fellow humans.

In the beginning, they just wanted to see a fair fight.

Latterly, they sought a taste of blood for stimulation.

Further on, what they yearned to see was flesh and blood flying.

Now...they were no longer satisfied just watching others enjoy this excitement.

They wanted to experience it themselves!

The threshold of their desires was fulfilled as they continually broke through the lower limits; yet in their constant fulfillment, they grew ever harder to satisfy.

They craved.

They sought.

Their search for increasing stimulation eventually caught the attention of the Evil God residing in the high-dimensional space, the ruler of "desire."

This instinctive longing brought the high-dimensional authority known as "desire" to focus spontaneously on this land.

And now, irrespective of whether they supported "red" or "blue", they had all become but minor demon foot soldiers in the service of desire, turning their mutated bladed limbs against their own kind.

If they were not satisfied with spectating, then it was time to join the fray themselves!

To tear the flesh of others or to be torn apart.

In that instant of tearing, these demons experienced the utmost satisfaction.

Bai E could clearly see that the demon he had just split in two had a twisted smile of satisfaction upon its face, happy and content even as it rushed towards death.

The contentment of the demon foot soldiers in their final moments was perceived by all other demons, and the fleeting thrill and satisfaction instantly drove the remaining demons into utter madness.

Find, the enemy!

Tear apart, or be torn apart.

Indulge in the temporary pleasure of absolute destruction of the body to satisfy the unceasing thirst for desire!

Chapter 609: Slave Desire\_2

Bai E could visibly notice that the moment the first demon died, the bodies of all the remaining demons seemed to swell in size.

The overall demonic aura never waned in strength, but the aura from each demon became even more concentrated.

[Based on the effects of your attack, you have obtained the following information——]

[Desire Slave (Demon): Health Points 0/200; Defensive Power: 15; Attack Power (Type: Blunt) 20~30; Trait: Death Rattle; Mobility: 50%...]

[Death Rattle: The moment each Desire Slave dies, it spreads its "pleasure" to other Desire Slaves within a certain range, driving the recipients even more frantic with the instant gratification. The effects of "Death Rattle" can stack, and each time a certain threshold of layers is exceeded, it will cause substantial power-ups! Current "Death Rattle" Effect (One-layer): Attack Power +1, Defensive Power +0.5.]

"Death Rattle..."

Bai E's eyes were sharp.

"So what if it is?"

Only by eliminating these demons can the castle be completely purified.

For every one slain, the rest of the demons would grow stronger.

By the end, there might be a terrifyingly strong demon that surpassed everything else.

But by then, what kind of exclusive enchanted blade might he possess?

Gaining power through battle?

Let's try it then!

"Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!"

Sword light chaotically intertwined; Bai E, sword in hand, entered the fray alone.

Countless crimson figures of demons fell in succession, determined to seek the ultimate thrill in their final moments, a transformation that transcended all experiences!

Many demons had their eyes on the other survivors huddled in trembling groups in front of the Void Barrier.

Not to be torn apart completely, to methodically deconstruct the flesh and bones of others before their eyes, to pull out intestines... even using the blood vessels to paint, was also an exhilarating new experience.

Demons who still retained many human characteristics suddenly trembled with excitement at this unexpected thought, and roared as they charged towards the survivors.

Among these survivors were also masters proficient in Spiritual Energy, but when facing these demons, they felt their limbs go weak, unable to exert even half their strength.

"Puchi!"

A blade slashed through flesh.

Spikes growing on the scorpion-pincer-like claws easily tore open a ferocious and terrifying wound, and the Spiritual Energy user, in severe pain, squeezed towards the others behind them.

"Why do I feel like my reactions are getting slower?"

This sudden remark instantly resonated with everyone.

"Me too! It feels like my limbs are getting heavier..."

"I can barely lift my sword..."

The defensive line formed by the Spiritual Energy users wavered under the relentless assault of the demons.

The scene made the spectators watching from outside anxious and terrified.

"These are demons of the Desire series! They naturally have a 'Sluggish Aura' around them that numbs their opponents, and as their desires grow stronger, this effect intensifies. Even if we were to go in, we wouldn't be able to avoid being affected by it," said the teacher instructing Morphie and Kiro Lan in a grave voice. Precise knowledge about demons like this is only known by seasoned exorcists from the Arbitration Place.

"It's his slaughter that's amplifying the desires of those demons!" Arnold looked at the figure almost swallowed by the mass of demon Desire Slaves with complex emotions in his eyes.

"We can't let him continue killing!"

"By the time he finishes, the other survivors will have been annihilated."

"He could have waited for Morphie and Kiro Lan."

"But those inside have no idea that Morphie and Kiro Lan have already started the rescue. If they don't kill the demons, they will die themselves!"

No matter what the people outside thought, they were unable to pass even the slightest message, and that was an even deeper layer of despair.

"But why isn't he affected?"

Enveloped by countless demons, the sword light remained fierce, showing no signs of being "sluggish."

No matter how many demons there were, they were all ended with a single stroke of his sword!

In the midst of the melee, Bai E's gaze remained cold and clear; he had sensed something was off long ago—

"Your will is as firm as a rock; with the aid of 'self-restraint,' you have successfully passed a 'mental check.'"

"You have successfully passed a mystical check, adding +0.1 to Mysticism."

"You've sensed a special effect covering your body: the Aura of Slowness."

"Aura of Slowness: While in its domain, your actions will gradually become slower, and as the 'Death Whisper' stacks increase, the effect of this aura will strengthen. Current 'slowness' effect: reflex attribute performance -10%."

"Heavenly Eye" Spiritual Energy provides an even more thorough analysis.

The so-called Aura of Slowness is actually a twisted delay from thought to action.

In this world, no one can completely escape the influence others have upon them.

Therefore, when undertaking any action, everyone must consider its impact on others.

The influenced individuals, in turn, may affect you.

This back-and-forth consideration becomes the greatest hindrance to action.

So-called slowness is the consideration of one's own interests.

So-called interest is the desire to 'gain.'

For these higher-dimensional demons, the effects manifested by laws are more direct and cannot be cleansed.

Even with awareness, Bai E at first had no way of coping with such effects.

None of his existing abilities could specifically weaken their influence on him.

In the chaos of battle, the only countermeasure Bai E could think of was to continue enhancing his combat skills.

As long as his martial prowess always surpassed the reactions of these demonic grunts, he would always have the upper hand against them.

Until the "Magic Blade" was unlocked and solidified.

So...

"[Payment: Potential Points\*4, Battle Experience 20,000 points.]

"[Skill learned — Absolute Mastery.]

"[Absolute Mastery: From now on, you may choose any specific weapon as the focus of your mastery. When wielding this weapon in combat, you can enhance your combat abilities with it as your proficiency increases. Current selected weapon: (To be chosen). Base bonus: (To be confirmed).]"

When his gaze fell on the noble's ceremonial rapier in his hand, the skill panel clearly marked the targeted category — Longsword.

"[Selected weapon: Longsword.]

"[Base bonus: Attack speed +50%.]

"[Current Longsword proficiency 0/1000, 'Personal Style' in formation...]"

Swiftly increasing skill bonuses temporarily counteracted the intensified effects of the 'Aura of Slowness', and every demon fell completely under the Longsword, contributing to Bai E's continuous growth.

"[Your attack hits the target, dealing 1000 points of critical damage!]"

"[You have completely killed the target, gaining 10 battle experience points.]"

As the targets' health and defensive power became thicker and harder to kill, the experience they provided grew scarcer; Bai E began to make up for insufficient damage with 'Instant Kill Hundred Heads.'

But clearly, the combat power of these demons was continuously growing under the blessing of 'Death Whisper.'

"[Based on your attack results, you have obtained the following information—]"

"[Desire Slave (Demon): Health Points 0/1000; defensive power: 25.5; attack power (type: blunt) 41~51; traits: Death Whisper; action speed: 70%...]"

"[Death Whisper: ...current 'Death Whisper' effect (twenty-one layers): attack power +21, defensive power +10.5, health points +800/800, action speed +20%.]"

The only good news might be that his own abilities are also rapidly growing amidst the battle.

"[The soul-devouring Magic Blade has absorbed a small portion of the target's essence, and the special attack effect is generating 325/1000.]"

"[Current Longsword proficiency 370/1000, 'Personal Style' in formation...]"

Not enough!

Not enough!

Killing them off one by one like this is too slow!

He must reach his peak performance before these lesser foes grow strong enough to threaten him and before that true great demon lurking somewhere shows up!

Chapter 610: Flow state!

It seemed as if Bai E's determination was felt, as intense battle will stirred up the Spiritual Energy.

In this place infinitely close to a true high-dimensional space, the performance of Spiritual Energy was more active than ever before.

One stage of Spiritual Heart Passage, two stages of Heavenly Heart Connection.

The basic effect, when added to Bai E, also exhibited a power far beyond the usual.

Even the special talent from the Blood God, which was usually hard to trigger, was playing its role at this time—

"[Infinite rage ignites your soul, anger's flames dominate your actions. With the blessing of 'Raging Fury', your 'Reflex' performance +3, due to special environmental factors, the actual performance bonus is: Reflex +1.5.]"

The sword light is me, eradicating all filth!

"Shua shua shua shua shua!"

Bodies of demons were flung in front of Bai E, and as he cleaved another slave of desire in a moment, the 'Heavenly Eye' Spiritual Energy, which decrypted everything around him all the time, instantly analyzed the origin of the opponent!

Endless carnal desires and raucous laughter flooded Bai E's mind in an instant, attempting to drown out his original consciousness.

Analyzing the enemy, he was also contaminated by them.

Ultimate carnal desire was also a kind of extreme human craving, with unspeakable acts washing over Bai E's mind.

However, a piercing sword light easily tore through the veil.

Bai E's gaze moved beyond the endlessly surging slaves of desire to the staircase entrance, where countless demonic soldiers with scorpion-like arms were howling and rushing over.

The demons converted from the underground coliseum were not yet all dead; more flesh-devouring demons from the individual rooms on the second floor rushed down to join the fray.

Bai E stood alone in front of all the survivors, but the power of one person was ultimately limited and couldn't completely block the large archway's gap.

"Save... save us." A weak cry for help came from the crowd behind.

"The person you're protecting is about to lose their ground..."

The only hope rested on Bai E, and the increasingly powerless survivors could only wish that the lone figure fighting would quickly resolve the battle.

Or that, while still having some strength, he could spare a glance at the situation behind them.

That was their last and only hope.

But the demons that joined the fray almost completely submerged that solitary fighting figure. So much so that the originally sharp sword light was about to be drowned out for good, seeing only endless demons swarming towards the same spot, with the snow-white sword light no longer chaotic in people's sight.

"Is he going to die..."

"Surrounded by so many demons, it's impossible to survive..."

Outside the barrier, a group of enforcers specialized in dealing with demons sighed in pity as they watched the figure being gradually swallowed by the demons, losing all sounds.

They knew better than anyone the tricky nature of these demons.

The strength of a single slave of desire, of course, wasn't tough, but swarms of them coming together, with each death making all the remaining slaves stronger and also affecting humans, made these demons the most troublesome existence in large-scale battles.

Without large-scale lethal means to kill them simultaneously, the slaves of desire left at the end would grow into super beings that even the enforcers would have difficulty dealing with alone.

Frankly, if they were put in the same situation, they wouldn't know what to do either.

Surrounded by demons, fighting alone.

If truly alone, that would be one thing, but this valiant figure clearly intended to protect a special individual that he had carried out, not to mention a bunch of survivors dragging their feet that needed to be considered.

"Where are Morphie and Kiro Lan?"

"This warrior has held out for so long, why haven't they arrived yet?"

"If they don't come soon, everyone will be dead!"

Listening to those noisy voices, Aglaya, who seemed calm, clenched her hand tightly.

It's a pity...

It's a pity that Bai E awakened to his Spiritual Energy without self-awareness, and the city found out too late!

If only it was known sooner that he had the capacity for Spiritual Energy, and had passed on some of the city-developed burst techniques unique to Spiritual Energy users, if only he could have learned one or two of them, perhaps in the face of such a predicament, there might have been a glimmer of hope.

But now...

The attributes of the slaves of desire were probably at their zenith.

With the combat power he demonstrated at the beginning... there was no chance left.

Moreover...

Aglaya could clearly see the bodies of demons shattered by Bai E converging under a strange force.

This convergence was no coincidence; even without seeing it, Aglaya could easily guess the reason behind this change.

In the wake of Bai E's rampant slaughter, the bodies of such low-level demons as the slaves of desire could no longer withstand the enhancement brought on by higher strata of "Death Whispers."

And yet, the demonic aura within the entire castle was unprecedentedly strong, the power of those "Death Whispers" had nowhere to go, only higher-level demons could withstand the infusion of such force!

Even the slaves of desire were not easily defeated, facing the higher-level demons that were about to appear, what could Bai E use to counter them?

A deep sense of regret and remorse appeared in her sea-blue pupils, yet within the space wrapped into a spherical shape by the crimson creatures, a thread of white light suddenly struggled to emerge through those weak gaps!

Aglaya, the first to notice this subtle change, suddenly widened her eyes.

The void barrier isolated all sound and perception, aside from sight they knew nothing.