

Wow 611

Chapter 611: Flow state!_2

Yet even though it was just an image, the conspicuous white light was definitely extraordinary.

What is that!

What has happened!

...

The longsword had finally quenched its thirst on the blood of demons.

[Current longsword proficiency 1005/1000, "Personal School Formation" is in progress...]

It had been some time since Bai E sensed the power of these slaves of desire continuing to rise.

The bodies of lower-level demons could only withstand so much power; they could not endlessly draw endless strength from the increasingly higher layers of "Last Words."

They had reached their limits!

Moreover, his newly acquired absolute mastery had finally accumulated enough proficiency to unlock the most basic so-called "combat school."

The formation process of the personal school seemed instantaneous, yet in Bai E's consciousness, it felt like a long time had passed.

An invisible probing tentacle was searching through Bai E's soul at that moment.

The instant of school formation was constructed based on Bai E's current emotions, abilities, understanding of the present situation, and the rough idea of breaking the game in his mind.

This exploration of the self was incredibly fascinating. Bai E could clearly perceive this process but was unable to precisely control the direction of its development.

[The formation of the current "Personal School" requires reliance on a certain existing ability, now attaching to: Rage Torrent.]

[The current "Personal School" keywords: Burst, Group Attack.]

All information flashed through his mind, and by the time Bai E understood it, his ability had already taken shape.

["Personal School" has formed.]

[Absolute Mastery (Longsword) *Heartflow (Rank 1): When using a "longsword" type weapon and fully immersed in battle, you will enter the "Heartflow" state. In this state, you can perfectly manifest your understanding of combat and will completely ignore any external factors affecting you—the world must listen to the whispers of your heart! Any opponent who dares to face your inner world will suffer the wrathful counterattack from you. In the "Heartflow" state, your reflex performance is increased by +3 (Rank 1). Current progression to Rank 2: 5/3000.]

Burst: Whenever your rage accumulates to a certain level, any target facing your inner self will suffer the violent backlash of your inner fury. The endless rage sweeps over everything like a towering wave, and the longsword becomes the sole vessel carrying it. Within a certain range, you can instantly deal a fatal blow to every target that probes your heart! Energy consumption: up to 50 points of Spiritual Energy.]

The snow-white sword light burst out instantly with Bai E at its center.

The boundless rage transformed into waves sweeping across the mortal realm, and the pulsing sword intent instantly swept across the entire first-floor hall.

The stroke imbued with "Instant Kill Hundred Heads" was equally applied to every demon of desire under the influence of the Heartflow counterattack.

Even without the additional conversion from the Exorcism Essential Oil, this strike, which reached the essence of the soul, still dealt devastating blows to these demons.

The fierce flames that burned voraciously consumed the bodies of each demon of desire present in an instant, and the momentary sensation of being burned alive as they died made them feel an unprecedented scorching ascension.

Their twisted desires made them find this strange shock infinitely pleasing, and the layers of "Last Words" almost instantly piled up to the point of exploding!

An endless cold wind whirled above the entire atrium, and the dense black aura emitted an almost tangible shriek.

Those beyond the barrier could not see the endless black aura that was only visible to the spiritual senses, nor the incessant winds that acted solely on the soul.

All they could see was another dazzling sword light flashing before their eyes, and the next moment, all the demons of desire on the field were consumed by the surging flames.

[The soul-devouring demonic blade has absorbed a small amount of the target essence, special attack effect is generating: 920/1000.]

Sword cleanses evil spirits!

Such terror!

"This this this..."

"What kind of move is this!"

"I knew it, our mentor definitely held back when teaching us!"

Morphie and Kiro Lan's mentor's eyes widened in confusion, his white eyeballs especially conspicuous on that black face, "I don't know this either!"

The information exchanged just a short while ago was clearly not precise; Arnold suddenly turned to look at the tall woman with a hint of dark blue in her hair not far away, "Was he not said to have received no training in Spiritual Energy?"

Aglaya, too, widened her beautiful eyes. The dignity and pride that usually marked her face were now full of confusion, "I have never seen this move either..."

Among all the spiritual energy tomes in Blackwater City, there was never a record of a similar move.

Bai E could never have accepted the guidance of Spiritual Energy from Blackwater City!

Had he come into contact with the Spiritual Energy guidance of other forces outside the city?

Or had he self-created it?

The former seemed unlikely, because if Bai E, with his strength, had truly been touched by other forces outside the city, they would hardly be willing to let such a formidable talent return to serve Blackwater City.

Especially after teaching him such powerful Spiritual Energy techniques, they would be even less willing to tolerate such a loss.

So, could it only be... self-created?

Indeed.

If he had possessed such abilities all along, why would he have waited until this last moment to release them?

The only explanation was that under the endless fierce attacks of the demons, Bai E had delved deeply into his own heart and, with Spiritual Energy as the guide, successfully created this terrifying move to annihilate evil demons.

Those few ashes drifting down after being burned by the bodies of demons were the best medal for the heroic human at the gate.

"This is too fierce, isn't it?"

"It seems we still have a chance to snatch back the space where this castle stands from the hands of demons!"

Bai E's astounding performance reignited a glimmer of hope in the hearts of the disheartened enforcers.

But after only a brief attempt, the effort was once again defeated by reality.

"Can't break through, can't break through at all!"

"The barrier is as strong as before, with absolutely no sign of weakening."

Aglaya, who stood not far from Arnold and also heard the reports from the enforcers, squinted her eyes slightly, "Of course there's no change."

Only some basic pawns died, which hardly touched the core.

After all, the ones truly corrupted are not the individual humans who step into it; they are the enablers as well as the victims.

The real target of corruption... is the castle itself, steeped deeply in countless desires!

As long as the high-dimensional ripples echoing within the castle remain unabated, the Void Barrier maintained by high-dimensional forces will absolutely not weaken in the slightest.

Even if Bai E used his newly awakened powers to cleanse the demons, a new wave of them would soon attack again.

And with so many desire slaves dying at once, the "whisper" layers they provided would be terrifyingly high.

The next enemy to appear... is likely the death sentence for everyone!

"We can't win this." Aglaya bit her lip gently, her gaze anxious.

Her originally indifferent attitude had now undergone some clever changes.

Bai E's strength was undoubtedly formidable, and when piloting Mecha, he was even regarded as the War God of the military district, an important strategic force for the city's outward expansion.

But before dealing with external threats, one must secure the home front.

Compared to external enemies, the demons that constantly coveted humans and infiltrated everywhere were an even greater threat to mankind's heart, incurable and needing constant vigilance.

In such a situation, Bai E, who had only awakened his Spiritual Energy but did not know how to wield it, could not provide much assistance to the city in the field of Spiritual Energy.

If Kiro Lan and Morphie could take one person out, it would naturally have to be Weslin, the son of the city lord.

Taking out just one person was already extremely difficult.

Taking out two was even more insurmountable.

Now, Aglaya had begun to waver regarding the single possible slot for escape.

She had never expected Bai E to be able to make his mark in both piloting Mecha and the field of Spiritual Energy.

In her heart, Bai E's strength had already surpassed the status of Weslin, the son of the city lord.

Unfortunately, Kiro Lan and Morphie had already gone in and currently could not be contacted.

In the end, the choice would in fact depend on the preferences of the two youngsters themselves.

Chapter 612: First doubt, then become

"We cannot be left here!" Feeling the difficulty of the demon before them, Kiro Lan became somewhat anxious.

She did not know which part of the castle she and her companion had entered after breaking through the barrier, nor how far away they were from Bai E.

All she knew was that this demonic invasion was out of the ordinary; Bai E was fighting a losing battle on his own, and if they didn't escape the pursuit of the demon before them to reach Bai E's side and get him out, they might all end up dying here!

Even after spending considerable time learning and training, facing an invasion of this caliber was still a first in their lives.

For two children, how much confidence, how much certainty could they have?

A burning desire to help was the only reason why Kiro Lan, upon seeing Bai E also inside, had volunteered to enter.

As for the instructions given by Aglaya and the others... if there was any strength left after rescuing Bai E, then they could consider trying to help the rest.

"I know!" Morphie gritted his teeth, his war blade hacking away at everything around him.

The black breath transformed into endless specters and demons, each phantom circling in the mist appeared both illusory and real, yet if their claws touched someone, it would cause a terrifying pain that seemed to bore into one's bones.

Morphie's Spiritual Energy was nearly pushed to its limit, his attributes enhanced by Spiritual Energy allowed him to barely maintain an undefeated stance.

"But you don't seem to be in very good shape?" Like a flowing iridescent bubble, a round light shield protected Kiro Lan; the phantoms' attacks were relentless, but futile against the shield.

The light shield connected to Kiro Lan's spiritual will allowed her to feel the force of the specters' impacts.

The attacks, realized by the authority of the world, turned into tangible assaults in this void realm, bombarding Kiro Lan's spiritual world wave after wave.

Calm was certainly out of the question, her face pale as death.

Yet she knew Morphie's combat strength; fighting against the same enemy, he should not have appeared so strained. He should have been cutting a swath through his foes!

But facing the same adversary's assault, his performance seemed even less tenable than hers.

Kiro Lan bit her lip, looking towards the darkest part of the mist.

Whether through spiritual perception or vision, the central area beneath the high platform was hard to fully scrutinize in her observation.

She could just make out three... maybe four shadows entwined and swaying within it.

It seemed that the central force had not been completely seized. Once the "struggling" shadows finished unifying their power, they would probably lose their ability to resist.

Furthermore, once the highest demon completed its power consolidation, it would inevitably sweep through everything in the castle. By then, the entire castle being stripped from the real world and cast into higher-dimensional space would be an irretrievable event.

Before that happened, they had to reach Bai E's side and get him out!

"Something's not right about this place! It may be the core area where the entire castle has fallen!"
Morphie responded through gritted teeth: "We need to find where the exit is!"

The entire hall was shrouded in darkness; even with Spiritual Energy enhancement, they were unable to see through the fog that was purely demonic in nature.

This place already possessed some characteristics of higher-dimensional space.

In that wondrous world, space was no longer in the conventional sense of north, south, east, and west; someone could be moving in what they believe to be one direction but, in the eyes of a true higher-dimensional being, they might as well be spinning in place.

Without a "beacon" to guide them, those lost within would never find their desired direction.

And with their abilities, breaking the concept of higher-dimensional space or the architecture of the castle itself was out of the question.

Prior to arriving here, they had learned some basic information about this place from their teacher.

That's why they felt particularly desperate now.

"Maybe I should try to lead the way?" Compared to Morphie, who was fully committed, Kiro Lan, cocooned in her light shield, seemed a bit more relaxed.

Just as a person in a maze might have a slim chance of finding their way out by wandering, they too, if lucky enough, might possibly find a way out of this accursed place against all odds.

"Okay!" Morphie trembled as he responded in the moment.

A phantom unexpectedly slammed into his lower back and burst out from the front of his abdomen.

The black mist solidified into something resembling a human head, which turned to look at Morphie.

The sinister laughter sounded ethereal and mocking, and the pain tearing through his body and soul nearly drove Morphie to madness.

Yet a persistent clarity inside him, crucial at that moment, violently cleansed his soul, relieving some of the intense pain.

Morphie quickly regained his bearings and swung his war blade once more; traces of his past style began to reemerge within his movements.

Initially, having observed combat techniques from a certain figure, and capable of delineating the underlying logic of their combat style, Morphie could instinctively overlay the observed tactics onto his current combat style. Having a photographic memory which allowed him to analyze and replicate the fighting methods he had seen, even if only in part, he could swiftly deduce all aspects of the adversary's approach.

Now, having accepted a gift from that person once again, his struggle against those ghostly apparitions seemed to become much easier.

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Morphie, engrossed in battle, had no time to attend to the emotions in his heart. When faced with adversity, his instinctive choices superseded all his thoughts at the moment.

"Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!"

The light from the blades became more intense, dancing together to form a curtain.

The confidence that came with battle reignited the light in Morphe's eyes.

'I can do it! I can do it!'

'What he couldn't accomplish, I can!'

'I will take everyone out of here!'

'This time, I am everyone's savior!'

"Swoosh!"

A ring of blade light flashed past, temporarily clearing out all the phantoms within a large area.

Even the omnipresent dark mist was swept away for a short while.

Devoid of the black miasma and not truly being a high-dimensional space, a small area within this illusory realm momentarily revealed its original form.

"It looks like there's someone over there!"

Morphie pointed in a direction, his expression somewhat surprised.

Living people!

And they hadn't been corrupted by the demons!

The space Morphie had cleared with his attack was like a faint firefly's light in the endless darkness—dim and fleeting, but in this dark world, it was undoubtedly the "beacon of light" for everyone.

Guided by her Spiritual Energy senses, Gu Lan instantly noticed this momentary change.

Her level of Spiritual Energy was slightly stronger than Gong Yan's, and she was better at combat and capturing intuitive insights in split seconds.

At times like this, the entire player team almost depended on her for navigation.

"There is 'light' over there! Maybe someone has come to save us!"

"It could be the War God!" Gong Yan's eyes lit up.

In this place, only the War God could possibly save them from peril.

They had all seen the silhouette of the War God when he made his breakthrough just now.

It's just a pity that it seemed the War God hadn't seen them, and considering they had to take care of Kuang Xin, who was trapped with the three aberrant sources' "slaves", they hadn't chosen to run away immediately.

But who could have known that the situation here would become so rapid and dire.

Now they couldn't rescue Kuang Xin, and it seemed they also had a hard time escaping.

"Let's move towards that direction! Quick!"

The brief flash of light was enough to serve as a temporary "beacon".

Even if it went out, it could support them to move a few steps within the fog.

They were not afraid of slow progress, only of the absence of hope.

Of course, they also weren't very afraid—after all, the worst outcome was just waiting three days for a reset.

Hehe~

"What about Kuang Xin?"

"Never mind him! Let him fend for himself, it's better for one to die than for all of us. If we survive, when he revives and finds us, at least we can still help him out." Dai Lian made the most rational decision, and directly ordered, "Wen Jie, you and Zhou stand in the middle of us, we'll protect you!"

Wen Jie was the weakest in terms of combat power, and Zhou hadn't cultivated Spiritual Energy, being purely a master of physical skills.

In a domain against demons, Zhou, the strongest fighter in the team, had far less presence than any member of the player team.

Even Dai Lian, who had no talent for Spiritual Energy, had exchanged the option to cultivate Spiritual Energy with the War God.

"Okay!" Wen Jie grasped Zhou's hand, feeling her big sister's palm for the first time so cold.

Gu Lan, Gong Yan, and Dai Lian formed a circle, standing at the outside, holding hands to face the onslaught of howling phantoms—together, hand in hand, was the only way they wouldn't get separated in this eerie place.

And under the lead of Gu Lan at the forefront, they could also move a few steps whenever the distant faint light occasionally flickered on.

Facing the endless assault of phantom shadows, Gong Yan tightly clutched a small banner in her hand, casting a faint light that shielded the entire team, offering them fragile protection.

Wielding the Longsword, Gu Lan energized its blade with Spiritual Energy, occasionally managing to disrupt one or two of the attacking shadows.

Apart from that, the endless phantoms seemed to pass in and out of their bodies, each passage forcing them to make a willpower check and determining what they would lose—perhaps Spiritual Energy, perhaps their reserve of movement, or possibly even life itself.

Their level of Spiritual Energy was basically at the stage where they treated it like mana, with only Gong Yan and Gu Lan capable of using some of the skills from their Spiritual Energy talent.

As the two groups hurried toward each other from opposite directions, they quickly converged.

Seeing that their targets were only five "ordinary people," Kiro Lan and Morphie were momentarily taken aback.

But they showed no displeasure or disappointment; Morphie even smiled warmly at the five, "It's okay, you've been rescued. Follow me, and I'll lead you out!"

That was the feeling the great one had given him, so warm and reassuring.

Morphie would never forget that feeling, and when facing others, he subconsciously imitated it.

Seeing that their rescuers were just two childlike figures, Dai Lian, Gu Lan, and the others were stunned.

This was not quite what they had expected...

However, seeing the child make such an adult declaration, the five of them couldn't help but feel a certain trust.

'Maybe these two really have some strength.'

'That makes sense. How could a major city's core building not have a few experts in residence? So these two are the experts, though they look...not very tall.'

"Keep up," Morphie waved his sword and turned toward a certain direction.

His trust in a certain figure's battle techniques grew stronger, and it seemed to become easier to face the phantoms.

Every slash he made effortlessly cleared a large area of space, dispelling the demons' presence.

With Morphie taking the lead, Kiro Lan sheltered under the protective spell immediately felt much more at ease.

Glancing over his shoulder at the few people following, Kiro Lan paused slightly, his gaze focusing on the object in Gong Yan's hand—a flag supported by an iron rod with a piece of cloth.

Upon seeing that item, his keen Spiritual Energy talent immediately analyzed all the details of the target.

After a brief hesitation, Kiro Lan concentrated on casting a spell, and under the focus of Spiritual Energy, an orb of light floated up from above his head.

The warm glow, like a veil of light, gently enveloped everyone present.

The players were the most aware of this ability; as soon as they were covered by the veil of light, the rate of willpower checks caused by the impact of the phantoms visibly decreased, the probability of failing the checks also dropped significantly, and the Spiritual Energy, movement reserves, and even health that they had lost began to slowly recover under the illumination of the light orb.

Under a more advanced ability, the small banner in Gong Yan's hand suddenly seemed dull and lackluster.

Feeling this sudden surge of power, everyone's gaze turned in astonishment to the seemingly frail girl.

Dai Lian exclaimed in a low voice, "So fierce!"

"Indeed..." Gu Lan glanced at the light orb above everyone's heads and then at the small flag in Gong Yan's hand, "NPCs are just fierce."

The orb not only offered everyone more effective protection from the phantoms but also lit up the area around them to some extent.

Even the invasive black demonic presence, which seemed to penetrate everywhere, struggled to enter when it encountered the light spread by the orb as if it had come across some kind of barrier.

Under the orb's cover, even their vision into the black fog seemed to clear up a bit.

With Kiro Lan's support from behind, Morphie seemed even more like a War God, striding confidently in the chosen direction, his voice rousing and uplifting.

"The exit is right ahead, let's get out of here first!"

"Squeak!"

The simple door was violently burst open, and the wandering monster at the entrance appeared stunned by the sudden appearance of living beings.

This was also the players' first glimpse of a demon's true form—

The demon, entirely red, had a tall figure, muscular thighs, a slender waist, and a robust chest, with two horns curving upwards on its forehead.

Its gait was swaying, like a dancing girl, full of grace and charm, easily arousing endless desires within humans.

"So seductive..."

"But also so weird..."

"Don't get entangled with them! The real battlefield is on the first floor! There's a hole down there! Jump in!" Morphie, leading the way, headed straight for the irregular hole in the center of the hall.

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Morphie, holding his battle saber, hacked down at the approaching Desire Slave in front of him.

The Desire Slave, which was out of range and not blessed with "Death Speech," only had its initial strength and was almost powerless against Morphie's slash.

"Hurry up!" Dai Lian called to everyone to quickly catch up, only Gong Yan, who was at the back, turned to look at the auction hall they had escaped from.

Kuang Xin was still inside, his condition unknown.

The pitch-black mist was like some sort of inherent barrier, precisely stopping at the boundary of the auction house's doors, with a mysterious and elusive aura within.

Occasional tendrils of roiling mist reached out, but the ghostly shadows hidden within showed not a trace.

The feeling of being in the fog just moments before echoed in their hearts, but that very real sensation always seemed to be blocked by something, like scratching an itch through a boot, making it impossible to truly immerse oneself...

'Strange...'

"Keep up!" Morphie cleared the way at the front and, seeing a figure lagging behind, couldn't help but call out.

If they were to rescue, they naturally couldn't let anyone die!

When did Bai E, when saving others, ever abandon anyone?

"I'm coming!" Gong Yan replied immediately, running to keep up.

Everyone's physique was now far beyond that of ordinary people; a platform several meters high posed no challenge to them.

Jumping down instantaneously from the high corridor's edge, the floor beneath them was the lowest level of the building.

The elevator had long been damaged, and at the staircase entrance on the side, there were many bones and demon infantry lurking; to get to the first floor as quickly as possible, this huge hole was the fastest and safest way.

Surrounding the hole, Morphie and Kiro Lan looked somewhat astonished.

They were familiar with the castle's construction techniques and knew that with their abilities they could not disturb any inherent wall within the building in a short time, yet the power that had punched through the flooring between two levels was hard for them to accept.

"Was it him?" Morphie's expression was complicated.

His emotions made him want to believe it was the work of demons, yet reason told him that the only one capable of this feat here, apart from Bai E, was none other!

Had Bai E's physical abilities already reached this terrifying level?

But unfortunately, even the strongest physical skills were insufficient against demons.

Bai E was devoid of Spiritual Energy talents; back when he saved them, it was by using Exorcism Essential Oil obtained from gods-knows-where, plus arousing everyone's will to resist, that they successfully fended off that terrifying demon.

Now, within the demon's domain, only he was the true savior!

'This time, it's my turn to save you!'

Glancing at Kiro Lan who was closely following him, Morphie cast aside distracting thoughts and peered through the giant hole in the floor to observe the situation on the layer below.

The numerous Desire Slaves still roamed beneath, trying to spot any human figure that could provide them with a bit of fun.

Without looking behind, Morphie backhandedly sliced off the arm of a Desire Slave and then with a spinning back-kick, he sent the one-armed Desire Slave flying towards other oncoming Desire Slaves.

The kicked Desire Slave barreled into several others in pursuit, and Morphie's gaze swiftly swept around.

Looking at his companions forming a circle, he said, "I'll go down first to clear the way; you guys follow quickly! Don't be afraid, I'll be below to cover you. Got it?"

Morphie's gaze fell on the leader-like figure among the few people he had just saved, the one who seemed the most mature, the Wolf-Scorpion, "Do you understand?"

Wolf-Scorpion nodded blankly and replied, "Understood."

But as someone who came from an ordinary city fight club, when had she ever seen such a spectacle? Her own abilities were almost useless against demons, so besides running, there was little help she could offer; not getting in the way was her highest expectation for herself.

"Good!" Morphie nodded and leaped down.

The group did not tangle, killing the Desire Slaves they could and repelling those they could not, single-mindedly heading for the first floor to meet the survivors.

Regular Desire Slaves on the floors were no match for Morphie's war saber until they dropped to the second level, where for the first time a four-legged demon with lower limbs like crab pincers blocked the blow Morphie aimed with his battle saber.

Even as Morphie subconsciously increased his Spiritual Energy output, the four claw-like pincers still firmly gripped the saber, and for the first time, his advance was halted.

"Clack!"

"Clack!"

Sounds of landing came from behind; Morphie grew impatient, withdrew his saber with a flick of his wrist, and the blade furiously burned with Spiritual Energy.

Under the intense stirring of Spiritual Energy, the surface of the war saber seemed to be coated with a layer of orange, scorching flames.

Morphie leaped on the spot, soaring high, and with the next slash, the four-clawed demon's raised pincers cut as easily as butter under a hot knife.

"Hiss!"

Steam rose as several cut pieces of claw helplessly fell from the air.

Kiro Lan behind Morphie mustered his Spiritual Energy and thrust out a palm.

A palm strike at Morphie's back came with an extra boost provided by Kiro Lan; Morphie pulled out his saber and spun around to strike again.

As he hacked, the size of the saber greatly increased; the four-legged demon, twice the size of a normal person, was hit on the shoulder with the blow, emitting a sound of perverse and eerie ecstasy.

"There are more behind!"

"And to the left!"

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The people who landed later, including Dai Lian, immediately noticed in the other corners of the second-floor hall, several demons of the same kind entangled with Morphie were rushing towards them.

The types of demons on the second floor were clearly entirely different from those on the upper floors, with a stature twice or thrice the size of ordinary people, and a form with four arms and four legs, making them appear quite menacing.

Moreover, even this NPC, who seemed quite formidable in their eyes, could not quickly eliminate a single one; wouldn't they be directly doomed if it were up to them to fight?

"I'll hold it off! You all run ahead!" Morphie kicked back the four-legged demon mid-air, tumbling down from the sky with exceptional agility.

Apart from the one in front of him, there was only one other demon left between them and the hole in the floor leading to the first level.

While these newly emerged demons were certainly powerful, facing one was still preferable to being attacked from all directions by even more demons.

Staying put and resisting was undoubtedly akin to waiting for death, their only chance was to quickly reach the hole and jump down to the first floor.

"Follow me!" Kiro Lan made a snap decision, and even before Morphie could speak, he had already acted, leading the others past Morphie's side towards the front.

As he walked, Kiro Lan stretched out his left hand and drew a circle with his right hand above it, and then a pale blue orb instantly formed.

The orb was dazzling, emitting a faint coldness.

As the four-armed demon with pincer-like arms raised them high, Kiro Lan thrust his left hand forward violently, and the orb hovering above his palm was instantly propelled forward, crashing into the demon's chest.

Amidst the "crackling" sound, layers of frost spread from where the orb had hit to the rest of the demon's body.

However, with a shiver, the demon shook off the frost, the ice crystals scattering into the air and vanishing before they could hit the ground.

The impact of the orb did not slow down the four-legged demon for long, and those following closely behind Dai Lian knew they could not simply wait to be killed.

Gu Lan took out her Spiritual Energy handgun from the root of her thigh, while Dai Lian bent his bow and notched an arrow, with Spiritual Energy raging within him, driving his skills.

A powerful strike was the strongest attack he could deliver.

Gong Yan was following close by, directing her Spiritual Energy onto the arrow nocked by Dai Lian.

As they became more familiar with their cooperation and the development of their Spiritual Energy, their combined attack abilities occasionally showed their power.

"Whoosh!"

A tearing gust followed the arrow, and as the four-legged demon gazed at the bowling-ball-sized hole in its chest, its blood-red eyes suddenly fixed on Dai Lian, who had delivered the shot.

The demon's face, androgynous yet somewhat human-like, twisted into a strange smile, after which it moved its four crab-like legs forward, charging at Dai Lian like a war chariot gone mad.

"Whoosh!"

A streak of light flashed by, the ensuing wind lifting the edges of everyone's clothes.

Standing atop the corpse of the first four-legged demon, Morphie still held a bow of light, the bowstring now empty.

Clearly, the arrow of light had just been shot by him.

An opening the size of a bowl appeared right in the center of the forehead of the demon blocking their way, its body frozen still.

After pausing for a moment, it crashed backward onto the floor, shaking the boards.

"Move quickly!" Morphie's expression was cold, void of any joy.

As the two four-legged demons fell dead, he could clearly sense the surge in the aura of the remaining demons.

The "Death Whisper" trait possessed by common thralls was naturally also present in these higher-level demons.

And due to their rank, the enhancements these high-level demons could bring to their cohorts were even more terrifying!

"Understood!" Kiro Lan charged forward, leading by example. With Morphie covering their retreat, there was no doubt that only she could pioneer their escape.

Morphie, who was now in the rear, drew his bow of light once more, glancing back at the other demons and catching sight of Dai Lian's side profile.

There was a hint of strangeness in his eyes.

In the hands of these seemingly unremarkable folks were techniques of such a high level.

Inspiring flags and that extraordinary arrow...

Both he and Kiro Lan could analyze all aspects of the skills used by these people the moment they made their moves; they just didn't expect these individuals to wield abilities that were so unexpectedly useful.

If they hadn't learned these two techniques for using Spiritual Energy on the fly, their journey would not have been so easy.

"Whoosh!"

Another arrow...

And another...

And another...

Under the volley of three arrows, another four-legged demon that had been strengthened by two layers of "Death Language" collapsed with a boom.

"Morphie! Come quickly!"

"Got it!"

The falling of the corpse was like welcoming the new king of this place.

With the bow of light in hand, Morphie felt he took another step closer to becoming the savior of this place!

Apart from the excessive consumption of Spiritual Energy, he felt his condition had never been better.

He couldn't help but wonder if even their teacher, if personally present, could kill such demons as swiftly as he had?

Could you still do it, my lord?

Several figures fell one after another; the moment they landed, Morphie, holding the bow of light, vigilantly looked around, ready to guard against any potential demonic attacks.

However, after scanning his surroundings, there was not a single tall figure attacking.

Instead, a dark shadow flying backwards quickly enlarged in front of his eyes and was caught by Kiro Lan with Spiritual Energy, slowly lowering to the ground—

a freshly dead four-legged demon corpse.

The dead four-legged demon looked extraordinarily serene, with a slash that nearly bisected its entire body.

Only upon seeing the scene on the first floor did Morphie gasp in shock.

Corpses... corpses...

They were all corpses.

A pile of four-legged demon corpses lay scattered around the vast first-floor hall like trash.

Some of the demon corpses were already starting to dissipate at the edges, indicating that the nature of their high-dimensional space was being reclaimed, thus brewing new and even higher-level demons.

Five... ten... or twenty, thirty?

"Gulp!"

Morphie subconsciously swallowed, looking for the mighty being who had accomplished all this.

Although he had his suspicions, he was entirely unwilling to accept them.

But beyond that group of people huddling in the corner, shivering, there was only one figure with a sword standing in the center of the hall in front of the archway...

Bai E.

...

"They've regrouped!"

With the demonic bodies no longer obstructing the view, through the spacious archway, the people outside could clearly see most of what was happening in the castle's first-floor hall.

Seeing the legendary War God of the military district use an ordinary noble's decorative longsword to pierce through the constantly surging elite demons, and realizing that Morphie and Kiro Lan, whose whereabouts had been unknown, were also on the first floor, everyone outside breathed a sigh of relief.

All eyes of the Observers converged on the figure holding the longsword, filled with deep reverence.

"He can even kill the Sons of Desire like dogs; what is the background of this person?"

"I heard his name is Bai E, the War God of the military district that has been very popular lately."

"Isn't he a god of mecha piloting? How come he's also an expert in dealing with demons?"

'He's not an expert,' Aglaya thought, her gaze flickering, 'Not an expert at demon confrontation, especially at the beginning, he appeared particularly unfamiliar.'

With the terrifying dominance he displayed at the end against the Sons of Desire, he would not have performed so poorly against those servants of desire at the start.

He had simply broken through his limits in the battle with the demons and swiftly made adjustments to the characteristics of his Spiritual Energy, which allowed him to display fearsome combat skills in a short time.

A natural-born warrior who can rapidly learn from battle experiences!

No wonder this ordinary synthetic man could rise so rapidly in the military, astonishing everyone, to the point that even she had to view him in a new light.

However...

'The next step will depend on Morphie and Kiro Lan's decisions...'

With the imminent threat temporarily cleared, Kiro Lan and Morphie, both possessing the ability to break through dimensions, likely couldn't move in and out without restraint—having enough strength left to only carry one person, they must make a choice. The only instruction given to them by themselves and their teacher before entering was—

Bring out Weslin.

Chapter 616: Demon-Expelling Grand Array

Weslin's condition was poor, his limp body supported by a spiritual energy practitioner.

Knowing that this man was the one War God Bai E was sworn to protect, Weslin became their primary target to protect while Bai E valiantly battled against a horde of demons. Even during the most ferocious onslaught by those creature slaves, two of the strongest spiritual energy practitioners always guarded Weslin's side.

Now that the situation seemed temporarily settled, the spiritual energy practitioner supporting Weslin managed to make his way to Bai E's side with difficulty, "My Lord, I have not failed you."

With one hand, Bai E received Weslin and, sensing the latter's feeble state, "Heavenly Eye" spiritual energy made a quick revolution around him.

However, some invisible force emanating from within the man's body resisted, making it difficult for Bai E's spiritual energy to penetrate deeply.

Everyone has their own "life force field," and the more robust one's vitality, spirit, and mind, the larger this field tends to be.

Although spiritual energy is mysterious, unless one's realm is far superior, it is quite difficult to directly take effect within someone else's "life force field."

Even though Bai E could effectively have infinite mana, his realm might not necessarily be higher than Weslin's own level.

Facing resistance from the other's self-conscious life force field, it was hard to forcefully break through and inspect the condition of his body.

It was also unclear what impact the "black breath" that had previously penetrated his body would have on him.

Moreover... that terrifying heartbeat that had resonated before those demon entities had truly appeared was still of an unknown status at the moment.

The danger was far from over.

Looking at Morphie and Kiro Lan, who had just jumped down from the second floor, Bai E's gaze swept over the players behind them before settling on Morphie's face, "How did you get in here?"

"The news of the demon corruption here spread immediately throughout the city. The Arbitration Place's people gathered outside at once."

Facing Bai E once again, Morphie tried to muster all his courage, hoping to maintain an equal stance with his chest out in front of this man.

Only what he himself didn't notice was that his supposedly firm and stable voice involuntarily quivered slightly.

The four-legged demons that Morphie found quite a challenge to kill were slaughtered like pigs in the presence of Bai E.

The disparity in strength couldn't have been more obvious.

Standing slightly behind Morphie, Kiro Lan took a step forward, his eyes filled with a fervent admiration as he looked at Bai E, "But due to some special reasons, they were unable to break through and enter this place, which is currently in a special state. Only Morphie and I, who were completely unaware of this matter beforehand, were able to cross the barrier and enter."

After openly sharing these details, Kiro Lan channelled his spiritual energy for confidential communication, "People outside can see in through that archway behind you; be mindful to conceal anything you'd prefer not to expose."

Upon hearing Kiro Lan's reminder, Bai E's expression remained unfazed, simply nodding slightly to show he understood.

"Then what can you do now? And how are we going to get out?"

Kiro Lan proactively stepped forward and took Weslin's body from Bai E's hands.

Gentle spiritual energy transformed into healing power, softly nourishing the marshal's depleted vitality, "Our mission is to get him out. He's the son of the city lord; if he dies, the Arbitration Place won't be able to withstand the city lord's wrath."

Having laid eyes on Bai E and seeing that even in such dangerous circumstances he still possessed the power to slay enemies left and right, the urgency that Kiro Lan had previously felt eased somewhat.

The Lord was always like this... Even when everyone was in desperation, he stood like a pillar holding up the sky, never wavering.

"Then let's get him out first," Bai E handed Weslin over to Kiro Lan completely, feeling somewhat relieved.

The bodies of the four-legged demons he had slain were dissipating, returning to the pure essence of high-dimensional space.

However, in places dense with emotion, the essence of high-dimensional space would inevitably follow certain intrinsic laws, transforming into demons bound by those rules.

The four-legged demons were not the ultimate crisis; an even more formidable wave of demons was brewing!

"What about you?"

Blocked by Bai E's silhouette, Kiro Lan looked up, his eyes as gentle as water, fixed on Bai E's face, and asked in a voice only the two of them could hear, "With our current abilities, at most we can take one person with us. If we take him, what will you do?"

"How would they, the Arbitration Place, resolve such a matter?"

Bai E originated from a wild background, without any systematic study.

When it came to knowledge about demons, these two kids sent to the Heretical Arbitration House certainly knew more.

When it came to his field of study, Morphie stepped forward confidently, "They wouldn't be able to do anything."

"..."

???

"Everyone who knows of the existence of this castle is, in some abstract way, a source of power for it. Naturally, a source cannot sever itself; only we can!"

"Then you..."

"We can take someone and leave this place!"

"..."

Fine.

"Actually, there is a way..." Kiro Lan said softly, his expression grave, "If you can buy me enough time to inscribe an Array, I think I can completely purify this fallen castle. However, it will take a long time, and... I can't guarantee absolute success. If we fail, we will all actually fall into high-dimensional space. In the realm of high-dimensional demons, it will be hard for us to find our way back..."

Chapter 617: Demon-Expelling Grand Array_2

The secret message, unknown to others, once again rang directly in Bai E's mind, "So, shall we take you out after all? Morphie and I are among the rarest top talents in the city, and no matter how furious the city lord gets, it won't affect us."

Barriers blocked everything, and apart from images, nothing else could be seen.

And just the children's faces were completely obscured by Bai E's back, making it impossible for even an expert in lip-reading to know what the people inside were actually saying.

Aglaya frowned with some hesitation.

On one hand, she hoped the two kids would act according to the instructions given before entering, which would definitely not cause any trouble.

The death of a so-called War God of the Military District in exchange for the life of the city lord's son seemed quite a bargain.

But now... the strength of this Military District War God was outrageous.

Most importantly, it hadn't been long since his rise from birth to prominence.

And his terrifying ascent during the fight against demons had happened right before her eyes.

The potential for the future was unimaginable.

It was the first time Aglaya felt that an individual's strength could possibly overturn the world Order.

If there were truly no hope, she wouldn't hesitate or struggle with the decision.

But these two kids had been saved by Bai E initially, and they seemed to share a deep bond at first; had it not been for her intervention, they might have maintained close contact to this day.

Now... if the two kids still remembered their initial bond and chose to help Bai E escape, she truly didn't know whether to be happy or scared.

Of course, if they made that choice, it would definitely be bad news for the Arbitration Place...

As the organization fully responsible for this incident, they would be the primary entity directly accountable to the city lord.

Seeing Kiro Lan holding Weslin's body motionless for a long while, Arnold grew anxious.

"What are you hesitating for? Have you not already captured the person? Hurry up and come out!"

The crisis within the castle was far from over, which was known to everyone.

The longer one stayed, the harder it would be to escape.

No one knew when the demonic presence inside would build up to a breaking point. If it exploded, with the kids' current strength, it might not be enough to secure their escape.

"Hurry up and move!"

...

"Morphie and I joining forces can only send one person through the breach, and as the pathfinder, he must go first, but in the final moments, I can break away and return. I don't know what you'll choose, but if you truly want to save everything in this castle... this time, I'll stand by you," Kiro Lan said, looking at Bai E with a gentle gaze, willing to sacrifice everything rather than see Bai E fight alone.

"Even if all the demons are slaughtered, it won't work?" Bai E asked curiously, as this was his initial thought.

"It won't work..." Kiro Lan shook his head slightly, "The demon's aura has already filled this castle, and mere killing can't purify it completely. Only the Demon-Expelling Grand Array, empowered with the Power of Laws, can eradicate the aura of desire from the foundations of the castle."

"Does the Formation have to be executed by you?" Bai E narrowed his eyes, spotting an opportunity in the details.

"In the entire Arbitration Place, fewer than five people have learned this Grand Array..." Kiro Lan shook his head, his gaze firm as he looked at Bai E, "And among those present, I am the only one."

Morphie stood behind Kiro Lan, his gaze complex as he stared at Kiro Lan's back.

A feeling he had suppressed in his heart surged up again in an instant.

There were things Kiro Lan hadn't said; only he knew how difficult it was to accomplish what seemed to be a simple statement.

The demons' strength would keep increasing, and it was uncertain when the master of the black fog in the auction house would achieve unification. Moreover, Kiro Lan was alone in setting up the Grand Array, while dealing with the endless erosion of "desire" at this place, and the duration was unknown.

Most importantly, to successfully activate the Grand Array in the end, the required Spiritual Energy was beyond Kiro Lan's current capacity.

Only after managing to advance to the third rank of Spiritual Energy would she stand a chance to succeed with great difficulty.

With such a decision, Kiro Lan was almost resolved to share fate with her superior.

Either succeed in breaking through and triggering the grand array or fall into the high-dimensional abyss with Bai E.

At this thought, Morphie couldn't help but interrupt, "Kiro Lan, you know that even if you can successfully inscribe it, you won't be able to activate the array! You need to advance to the third rank before your Spiritual Energy is sufficient to sustain the consumption of the grand array. Only you can inscribe and power the array, and there's no way I can be of any help."

But if Kiro Lan really insisted... he could only accompany her to the end.

"Not necessarily," Bai E's mouth curved into a slight smile, "Perhaps you can try to cast it now."

Learn a skill?

I'm all too good at that.

As for the consumption of Spiritual Energy?

Let's see how much "mana" this so-called grand array can drain from me.

Seeing that confident smile reappear on Bai E's face, as if controlling everything, the two children who had originally prepared for certain death once again saw the brilliant savior who had pulled them from despair.

Morphie clenched his teeth hard, shaking his head in an attempt to shake off the involuntary admiration rising in his heart.

"Let's begin," Bai Chu tossed his longsword lightly, his tone somewhat cheery, "The next wave of demonic attacks will come soon, let's act during this quiet period!"

Kiro Lan nodded vigorously, believing with all her heart, "Yes!"

"Go guard her," Bai E said to Morphie with a smile, his face solemn, "Don't let her suffer any harm, I believe you can do it."

Feeling the trusting gaze of Bai E, Morphie's mouth tightened slightly, with a hint of soreness in his eyes.

Yet stubbornly shaking his head, he followed Kiro Lan away, leaving only his voice trailing from afar, "Of course!"

The action finally beginning inside startled all the onlookers.

The two children who had been picked by Weslin did neither follow the original plan of sending him out nor did they send out the notably outstanding War God.

The unusual behavior left Aglaya, who was mentally prepared to make a choice between the two, somewhat confused.

But as Kiro Lan, who had almost run out of sight, began using Spiritual Energy to sketch something, Arnold, Aglaya, and the teacher of the two children were all momentarily stunned, realizing something.

"She's inscribing the Demon-Expelling Grand Array!"

"She's mastered this grand array?" Aglaya's incredulous gaze turned to the children's mentor.

The mentor wore a pained expression, "She has learned it, true... but that's limited to inscribing. To activate it, her current level is far from enough. Unless..."

Arnold, impatient, promptly asked, "Unless what?"

"Unless she can break through her own limits in endless tempering and advance to become a third-rank Spiritual Energy wielder! Otherwise, the inscribed array will just be a soulless skeleton."

When inscribing the array, one must immerse their entire mind and spirit into it.

And since the goal is to purify the entire castle, during the inscribing process, one needs to continuously combat the sin and desires soaked into every inch of the castle walls with their willpower.

This process will forge the individual's will to the fullest extent, and its effect on the cultivation of Spiritual Energy is also significant. If the inscribing is indeed successful, there might be a chance to break through with such tempering.

But that's only if the inscription is successful.

If it fails, it's doomed forever!

"...The sin and desires will instantly invade Kiro Lan's body, and then it will be her, mutated into a demon, who becomes the greatest enemy of everyone inside!"

Of course... if that really happened, there would be no need to consider the consequences anymore.

Without Kiro Lan's help, Morphie alone wouldn't be able to break the bounds and leave.

Everyone in the castle would tumble into high-dimensional space, at which point it wouldn't matter who the enemy is.

"How could they be so reckless!" Arnold slammed a hand against the wall beside him, causing stones to fly.

Chapter 618: Big Devil!

Kiro Lan mysteriously produced an engraving knife imbued with Spiritual Energy. The moment its tip, filled with Spiritual Energy, pierced the wall for the first time, an invisible shock instantly shot through Kiro Lan's entire body.

At first, the shock was minor. After a barely perceptible shake of her body, Kiro Lan continued with a serious face, her small hand tightly grasping the knife as she slowly traced the design.

Bai E stood not too far away, with his "Heavenly Eye" Spiritual Energy enveloping everything within its range.

Within the Heavenly Eye, everything could be seen clearly.

However, the extent of knowledge one gained through it was limited by the user's own breadth of understanding.

If everything could be analyzed and learned, then the original owner of "Heavenly Eye," the spiritual practitioner Pansen, would have long become an all-knowing deity.

At the moment, the grand formation that Kiro Lan was depicting was also beyond Bai E's basic knowledge.

He could only "see" that, under the influence of Spiritual Energy, lines containing some peculiar rules were being slowly drawn out. It was as if they were being engraved directly into the void, detached from the physical walls of the castle, lighting up a line that snaked through the pitch-black world of his mind like a luminous serpent.

He could also "see" the backlash from the "wall" entering Kiro Lan's body bit by bit through her act of engraving.

And as the scale of the engraving grew, so did the accumulation of the backlash's essence within Kiro Lan's body.

But his role was irrelevant; this challenge was one that only Kiro Lan could face on her own.

Bai E didn't know how long Kiro Lan could withstand it, but he knew one thing—

Relying on the "Heavenly Eye" Spiritual Energy, he clearly couldn't cheat and learn on the spot. He couldn't just coast along without effort.

[You are observing a demonstration of a professional formation. Should you gain any insights...]

[Tutorial: Sensing the professional skills of the other party, you are determined to pay a certain price (combat experience/general experience) to learn the corresponding abilities. Note: The skills demonstrated by the target are too advanced; you need to pay more to speed up the understanding of this ability.]

Add, add, add!

It's just experience. He had over twenty thousand points of it saved up, and the skirmish he had just now netted another three thousand points of combat experience.

As long as he could master a new ability, experience existed for this very purpose!

[You are paying combat experience to understand and memorize the array being depicted by the target...]

[The target has successfully completed a node, node record +1.]

"Ding~" With the completion of the first node, a soft chime suddenly rang within his spiritual senses. In the dark expanse of his mental world, the end of the snaking luminous line suddenly lit up with a bright star.

Bai E, who had been observing constantly, discovered the sudden change immediately with his "Heavenly Eye"—

A denser black essence surged out from where Kiro Lan's knife was carving, tracing back along the knife and violently rushing into Kiro Lan's body.

The impact was relentless, yet Kiro Lan, who was holding the knife, couldn't withdraw even a fraction.

To relax now would waste all her previous efforts.

Faced with the abnormal impact, Kiro Lan's complexion turned pale, and she involuntarily let out a muffled groan.

Yet, the hand holding the knife never halted, always moving forward.

"She can't handle it! She won't last!"

Through the wide archway, the external tutors, clearly anxious, could be seen moving.

Inscribing the Demon-Expelling Grand Array across the entire castle was akin to filtering the ultimate desires causing the castle's corruption with one's own will, first and foremost.

It was hard to imagine the strength of will needed to complete such an unimaginable feat.

Indeed, maintaining a clear mind under fierce confrontation was a rare trial for one's will and Spiritual Energy, naturally leading to increased strength.

However, Kiro Lan hadn't even been at the second stage of her Spiritual Energy for very long. Could it truly be expected that she would advance to the third stage amidst her struggle against those desires?

"Maybe we should call upon the Holy Artifact."

Arbitration Place could accept the loss of a Weslin; that would merely mean facing the lord's wrath.

But they could not accept the loss of two future pillars of the city as well, even if it meant risking the city's foundation to call upon the Holy Artifact.

Aglaya's gaze was fixed intently on the two children inside, and the steady figure holding the sword. Her intuition told her that the people inside would not be so reckless.

From the peculiar actions exhibited by both parties after receiving Weslin, Aglaya knew that the heartlessness the two children had shown her before was an act.

They had never forgotten who brought them out of that fearful lair, nor had they ever abandoned the bond they shared with Bai E.

These children hadn't volunteered to go inside for their own training or to rescue Weslin for Arbitration Place.

They went for Bai E!

Looking over Bai E's rise to power, one could see that this synthetic warrior was not a reckless brute!

What was he plotting?!

"Let's wait and see, there may be a turn of events..." Aglaya said with furrowed brows, suppressing the unease in her heart.

...

Endless, fading whispers circled around her ears, dazzling lights and shadows encircled her eyes.

All the most licentious, indulgent, pleasurable, and stimulating images, sounds, and even sensations of the world constantly eroded Kiro Lan's entire being.

In a daze, Kiro Lan even thought she could see herself grown up in her fantasy, naked, welcoming the endless charges from a certain figure.

The enticing pleasure stimulated her whole body, almost making her moan aloud.

Chapter 619: Big Devil!_2

...

The figure standing before them was so mesmerizing that the familiar face seemed just within reach, as if extending a hand would allow one to touch it.

As their eyes clouded with confusion and desire, a cold sun rose high in the distance of their vision, its endless radiance shining upon each of its believers.

It also brought a moment of clarity to Kiro Lan's consciousness.

Spiritual Energy, which seemed to spontaneously generate like a suddenly bursting spring, filled his eyes with clarity as his engraving tool again thrust forward with force, stabilized by the steady infusion of Spiritual Energy...

[You are currently expending combat experience to comprehend and memorize the Array depicted by the target...]

[Target successfully completes a node, node record +1.]

...

[... node record +1.]

Perhaps it was getting past the initial discomfort, but Kiro Lan's pale face surprisingly looked much better now.

The engraving flowed smoothly and swiftly, even faster than when he started.

However, this fallen ancient castle would not give them endless time.

In the perception of Spiritual Energy, dark auras arose like a tempest in their consciousness; a thousand-armed monster, covered with various bizarre organs, slowly presented itself before the eyes of all survivors within the castle.

Seeing the monster that suddenly appeared, Arnold's face turned ashen outside the scene as he exclaimed, "Great Demon!"

The mentor's eyes were dark, his tone dead, "...A thousand faces."

Every Great Demon represented the absolute fighting force within a faction of demons.

No one knew exactly how many demons there were in the higher dimensions.

Apart from the supreme lords of the four major factions, there might be quite a few other faction origin demons with abilities not inferior to the four pillars.

Beneath the four pillars, there were the numerically scarce demon princes or the God-chosen children who rose from among humanity; they were the outstanding ones just below the pillars.

Following them were the Great Demons, the highest tier of high-dimension demons humans commonly encountered and the main manifestation of the combat power within the demonic ranks.

The higher-tier demons would probably never be seen in the real world unless humans ventured deep into the higher dimensions.

There were not a few Great Demons, and the strong among them could even wrestle with some of the demon princes, while the weaker ones... weren't much weaker either.

A thousand faces, indeed, were what the Arbitration Place... or rather, what the Arbitration Place had encountered before the Empire had completely fractured—a Great Demon of the desire series.

In that battle, nearly all of the second-tier Spiritual Energy users were nearly wiped out. However, the final outcome was only to shatter the real-world body of that Great Demon, sending it back to the higher dimension to wait for a long "resurrection."

Unexpectedly, at this moment... it had manifested in this fallen castle through such an opportunity.

Demons entering the real world were almost always suppressed by the laws of reality, which prevented them from fully displaying their original strength. Yet now, a Great Demon in the interlayer between two worlds, even if not at its prime as in the higher dimension, was probably not comparable to when it arrived in the real world before.

"We're really in trouble now!"

"Trying to leave... probably won't be possible anymore!"

"Quick, call for the Holy Artifact!" the mentor demanded with stern eyes.

"The Holy Artifact isn't something you can just move whenever you wish..." Aglaya narrowed her eyes lightly, "You'll have to apply to the Elder Council."

"Then go apply!"

However, watching the commotion inside the castle, Aglaya spoke calmly, "Let's... wait and see."

The arrival of a Great Demon should have instantly killed the lower-tier power holders.

But not to mention the lower-tier power holders, even those survivors without Spiritual Energy seemed to be unaffected, standing still in place.

Apart from the evident bewilderment, Aglaya didn't find anything unusual about them.

In fact, she had sensed something amiss from the beginning.

At first facing the Lust Slaves, the other survivors besides Bai E already seemed to be struggling greatly.

As the "Murmurs" accumulated layer by layer, the "Slowing Aura" exerted its maximum effect.

Yet after the arrival of the four-legged demon "Child of Desire," who inherited the "Murmurs" ability, the performance of those survivors actually became noticeably lighter.

...

The ability possessed by the Desire's Child was not few, yet how did those survivors suddenly become able to ignore the presence of the "Slow Aura"?

The answer might just lie with that military area War God who created endless miracles—Bai E!

...

The longsword in his hand emitted a cool radiance, waves of which rippled outward, invisible to anyone but Bai E himself.

Having acquired enough proficiency through "Absolute Mastery" to form his personal style—"Heart Flow"—his sword, nurtured by the essence of demon after demon, had finally unlocked a fixed magical blade that specialized in attacking demons.

[Noble Longsword (Magic Blade): As a blade blessed by radiance, this decorative noble longsword has completed a transformation of its mission. From now on, it will permanently possess the attributes of

eternal light—exorcism, Heart Flow, and +30% attack power against "Desire Demons"; all members under his command will ignore the effects of "Desire" laws, unless they actively "touch" it or the bearer of the sword falls first. You may name this longsword, and only those who have your permission and extol its true name can utilize its full power.]

[Your skill—Enhanced*Magic Blade has successfully recorded a new racial special attack attribute: +30% attack power against "Desire Demons", and all members under your command will ignore the effects of "Desire" laws, unless they actively "touch" it or the bearer of the sword falls first. From now on, when you use any enchanted weapon, you can bestow it with this special attack attribute. However, if you wish to continue enhancing the effect of the special attack attributes, you must use the very first blade that completed the leap—"The Blade of Origin". Current level 2 special attack effect progress: 2300/3000.]

Lawful Blade of Heart!

This was the new name for the noble longsword.

Before Bai E fell, all warriors who believed in him would not be beguiled or controlled by the demons of Desire.

Not even by the newly arrived great demon!

Bai E's longsword trembled as he took the initiative to strike first.

Like a tower, the great demon's body focused its eyes on the charging human warrior instantly.

"Hah!"

A fierce shout and the illusion shattered.

Under Heart Flow, the world operated solely according to Bai E's will.

Sensing the uselessness of illusions, the great demon immediately switched combat style, filling the entire first floor of the castle with a plethora of false shadows in the blink of an eye.

From the bodies that seemed both illusion and reality, countless arms waved, and black auras, fast and slow, attacked towards Bai E's position.

For a time, the entire first floor of the castle seemed to be filled with dense, dark malice.

Malice is the bone-scraping knife.

Each stroke shaved at the heart.

Swirling sword shadows around Bai E, the malicious aura struggled to approach him.

However, passively taking hits was never a good strategy.

As one sword stroke opened a curtain of light, Bai E instantly reached into the void and drew out a bow and arrows.

Suspended in midair while being sent flying backward, he drew the bow and notched seven icy-cold arrows, which shimmered coldly on the bow.

In the next moment, endless Spiritual Energy converged in his hand, exploded at the tip of the arrows, and transformed into a force as solid as reality.

In this layer between two worlds, not only were the powers of demons manifested at their source, but his Spiritual Energy was also more active than ever before.

Kill a hundred with a single shot!

The seven arrows dispersed like swimming dragons, followed closely by a myriad more shadowy arrows all rushing out together.

One arrow shot out as if it were an army of a thousand troops.

The endless arrows traced a curved trajectory, successively piercing through the bodies of several great demons.

It must be said that the strength of the great demons was particularly horrifying, with each illusionary body possessing a physical form as real as the original.

But when struck, they did not hold up nearly as well as the original body.

[Your attack has successfully hit the target, causing 100 points of penetrating damage.]

[Your attack has successfully hit the target, causing 100 points of penetrating damage.]

[Your attack has successfully hit the target, causing 20 points of penetrating damage.]

Among the dense numbers indicating damage, the smallest feedback visibly allowed Bai E to lock onto his target.

Chapter 620: Thousands of people, thousands of faces!

It was just over a thousand experience points away from leveling up the mastery of remote weapons.

In the final moments of his attack, Bai E directly raised his stagnant remote weapon mastery to level 5, which naturally elevated all the various special attribute bonuses that came with it.

Under the additional bonuses of the Weapon Master, the expressiveness of the mastery instantly reached level 6.

The scatter shot, initially allowed to shoot seven arrows at once, under the now extremely active surge of Spiritual Energy, and with his spirited will, turned even the lowest probability into a certainty.

Morphie, who was guarding Kiro Lan's side, felt an intense urgency in his heart at the sight of the demons' shadows filling the space.

The "one arrow" shot by Bai E instantly gave him hope of strangling the demons.

Not to mention that within this one arrow, there was a hint of the aura he had just become familiar with.

The process of the arrow unfolded in slow motion in his eyes, and every detail was replayed in his mind.

Piercing through the phenomenon straight to the essence, the myriad of intricate skills following it seemed to instinctively overlay onto his body.

However...

Morphie, who was subconsciously drawing his Light Longsword, paused ever so slightly.

Normally, witnessing others' abilities directly translated into a thorough analysis in his mind, allowing him to use those endless skills subconsciously even if he didn't understand them.

But now...

The complete set of skills behind that one arrow seemed to whirl chaotically in his mind like a jumbled jigsaw puzzle, and for the first time his usually infallible subconscious imitation encountered something seemingly unreplicable.

He tensed and then relaxed, relaxed and then tensed again.

No matter how much Morphe gathered his Spiritual Energy to attempt imitation, he could not find that fleeting sensation.

Unable to imitate?

Looking at the imposing figure surrounded by countless shadows, a dark and indescribable look flashed in Morphe's eyes.

The master was still the master.

"Just protect Kiro Lan, leave the rest to me." Through the feedback of the damage numbers, Bai E successfully located the true body of his target.

He vibrated the longsword in his hand and launched an instant attack toward the target.

In the seemingly chaotic world before him, there was only a narrow path linking him directly to his target in a straight line.

Beyond that, nothing else mattered to Bai E.

Zeal surged!

"Clang clang clang clang!"

The evil aura thrown out by the shadows when it hit Bai E's body seemed as if it was absorbed, rendering it futile.

Bai E, ignoring all blows, rushed straight at the true body of his target, even slashing with his sword reflexively when struck by attacks from other sources.

The counterattacking force, manifested by Spiritual Energy, turned into tangible Gang Qi, cleaving into the shadows, splattering blood and flesh.

[Soul Devouring Demon Blade has absorbed a portion of the target's essence; special attack effect is upgrading, 2310/3000.]

[...2315/3000.]

[...2320/3000.]

Plunging through, blood and flesh flew in all directions.

Even the shadows, in some sense, allowed for the extraction of some essence to strengthen the blade after successful damage.

The phantasmal shadows, which could be tangibly attacked, were comprised of the demon's essence and the laws of higher-dimensional space.

Hitting these shadows and the main body made no difference to the enhancement of the magical blade.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh!"

Those outside the fray could only see sword lights flashing across the castle, dazzling to the eye.

The Great Demon's most troublesome technique, "Thousand Faces of a Thousand Souls", seemed utterly useless against him.

However, the Great Demon was by no means an easy adversary. Upon realizing that simple attacks were ineffective, a multitude of fleshy tendrils suddenly burst out from every shadow.

Countless tendrils intertwined in front of everyone's eyes, to the extent that even the onlookers, including Aglaya, had their vision partially obstructed by the rapidly woven fleshy vines.

The red, fine blood vessels, like mysterious patterns, crept over the pale meaty walls resembling human intestines, and the throne of bones rose under the true body's target.

A symphony of agonizing screams, akin to the moaning of thousands, rang in Bai E's ears, and it seemed as though he could see the revelers who, in a frenzy, had torn open their bellies with their bloodied, sharp claws, pulling out their intestines, and then wrapped them around the necks of others, pulling till they tightened.

"Pull harder! Pull! Don't you eat?" The one with their neck entwined laughed maniacally as they plucked the blood vessels from another person's body, adoringly looking as if they were admiring a piece of art, while leaking a foul, pale yellow liquid in throes of asphyxiating climax, their hoarse voice spent.

The intestines still connected to their own body twisted violently against the friction, pulled by the other end, and the dizziness from excessive blood loss blissfully closed their eyes as they collapsed.

Yet, with a flash of light and a swath of bloodiness, the figures who had been mangled just moments ago ran from afar, tearing at each other's scalps, attempting to rip off each other's faces from their flesh.

At the edge of the vision, male and female figures intertwined under the crimson veil, wildly seeking to merge each other into their own bodies like beasts.

An endless carnival of hell...

An immortal paradise of ecstasy!

Innumerable shadows swirled around Bai E, and a cage named "bondage" was silently spreading its claws towards him.