

441 IMPASSE!

Beetles flooded out of the river and became crazier at the scent of humans.

Within two seconds, the body of that poor individual Practitioner was covered by bugs. The rustle of their shells was clearly audible in the underground cavern, making people's flesh creep!

Panic spread through the individual Practitioners as the experts urged them to kill the bugs.

Those insects were far too frightening and a single bite spelled death. Despite their fit bodies, those bugs could easily inject poison into that Class D expert's ankle and numb his lower leg.

Under such conditions, who could guarantee his own safety? There were just too many bugs!

Those nearest to the river had to take the initiative to protect themselves through any means possible. A flame shot out from a fire-type Metahuman's mouth, illuminating the entire space, whose boundary blurred into the darkness.

They were neither at the source, nor the mouth of the river.

Insects were commonly believed to be scared of fire. However, this primal instinct of animals did not seem to be applicable to these beetles. Usually, on Earth, even ants would speed up and escape when touched by fire. Unlike them, these bugs were pouncing onto humans fearlessly!

Some beetles curled up in the high heat of flames, but that acted as no deterrence for

another wave, stepping into the breach from behind. There was no end to them.

Before that Metahuman could react, his entire body was already wrapped in a blanket of bugs. His heartbreaking howling accentuated the gruesomeness of the surroundings.

As the Australian leader raised his hand, the atmosphere around him seemed to have twisted, instantly crushing all beetles on the ground. Yet, another wave was already on the move!

Horrified by the sight, everyone started to retreat as they fended off the bugs with all their strength. Furious, the leaders of the big organizations roared, "Go on and kill those bloody bugs!"

But their words were not as powerful as people's fear of the bugs. While Practitioners might be able to bargain for a life with humans, the insects in front of them were savage beasts that would attack them indiscriminately!

The exit that they had painstakingly found turned out to be an impasse!

Meanwhile, Lu Shu pulled a beetle into his Seal of Lands by its leg in secret and wrap it in his divine water. Yet, almost instantly, the corrosion halted without any increase to the size of the water. Even the active golden snake swam away from the bug, as though it was too dirty to be touched.

Lu Shu was disappointed. If the divine water could feed on those bugs, he would happily claim possession of the entire river...

But, what a pity, knowing that the river could possibly lead them to the relic, yet they

were forced back to the tunnels?

In the meantime, the leaders were racking their brains for any solutions!

The only viable way now was to break through the encirclement by leaving the slower individual Practitioners behind as human shields. In that case, they would be safe!

Not only that, they could then proceed on with their remains exploration without worries, as long as they stayed clear of the riverside!

Within seconds a silent consensus had been achieved. The Class B expert whispered, "Break through!"

On his cue, all of them ran out through the crowd of individual Practitioners. Just when the latter was happy for their willingness to fend off the bugs, they soon saw through their evil plan!

The Class B expert split a road among the throng of bugs through changing atmospheric pressure. They were actually breaking through in such a straightforward manner!

In spite of their advantage in numbers, the bugs were not gifted with speed. Thus, they would never be caught by these beetles again!

Just when the Australian Practitioners were ready to embrace their new-found hope, the Class B expert was suddenly caught by the wrist...

Lu Shu asked curiously, "Where are you going?"

In his struggle, the Class B realized that the person's strength was definitely not one of a rookies! As a matter of fact, in the peak of Class C, Lu Shu was almost as strong as Class B's!

The man chided, "... Let go of me!"

Then, half of his sleeve was torn with a hiss...

"From Arago Kingsley's distress, +666!"

Before Lu Shu could reply, he felt the depression of air around him. Arago actually intended to kill without any prior warnings!

Yet, at this moment, a louder rustle came from upstream. It sounded like rolling waves!

Everyone turned to see Li Yixiao, wrapped up in his tiger sign, running wildly, followed by a large crowd of Practitioners. Behind them was a wave of bugs, sweeping across the entire area...

A Practitioner shouted in English, "Li Yixiao! You are anti-human!"

"Li Yixiao! You must be charged after we get out of the remains!"

Unable to understand their complaints, Li Yixiao only concentrated on running closely beside the river, triggering even more beetles along the way!

On the other side, the sight reminded those downstream of the fearful scene of thousands of gargoyles chasing behind Li Yixiao...

"Run! Go downstream! We will all die if we don't run fast enough!"

Both the pros and individual Practitioners freaked out. In comparison to the incoming bug wave, the few beetles in front of them amounted to nothing at all. Sometimes, courage could only be spurred in times of urgency. Thus, all of a sudden, everyone quickly united together and cleared all the bugs in their proximity...

Usually, people were unwilling to unleash their full strength if there were other possible solutions. This was especially so in a big group where many tended to depend on others to figure a way out.

With hundreds of Practitioners gathered here, it did not make sense if they could not fend off those black beetles. Humanity's true potential could only be seen at this impasse!

But it was none of Li Yixiao's concern. How much potential people had was none of his business.

442 THE FIRST MARATHON MATCH IN THE REMAINS

Every member of the Australian organization was sparing no effort in fighting off the black beetles. In spite of their commendable teamwork, there were casualties every now and then, as one bite could be fatal for an ordinary individual Practitioner.

However, strangely enough, human blood would be quickly absorbed by the earth upon contact, at an incredible speed!

When they were done clearing up most of the bugs around, Li Yixiao had almost arrived as well. At this moment, Arago glanced around in search of the individual Practitioner that held him back just now, but the person was nowhere to be found...

Wait a minute. Arago looked downstream, only to see Lu Shu hundreds of meters away. What the hell!

"From Arago Kingsley's distress, +666!"

Now, everyone took to their heels while cursing silently inside, could someone please discipline this Li Yixiao?! Although the bug flood was relatively slow and could not even outrun a Class E, but who could deal with so many of them? To make matters worse, Li Yixiao was still roping in even more!

Having recognized Lu Shu from behind, Li Yixiao quickly sped up, overtaking Arago's team...

Damn you, thought everyone in the team. What could they do when the troublemaker could actually run faster than themselves? How frustrating!

Lu Shu turned to see Li Yixiao waving at him. "Wait for me, Lu Shu!"

Ha, only bloody idiots would wait for you! Lu Shu continued running without hesitation, while Li Yixiao shouted loudly from behind, "Help me explain to that old man! I didn't mean it!"

"Help you?" Lu Shu sneered. "I shall burn some sticks of incense for you. How about that?"

At this moment, Lu Shu ran past an exit, from which the Golden Foundation members were walking out under Zhi Wei's leadership.

Zhi Wei's face lit up at Lu Shu, who had run past without saying a word...

"From Zhi Wei's distress, +666!"

Zhi Wei's jaws dropped in shock but did not manage to get a word out. But something was fishy, where was Lu Shu hurrying to? His face turned pale as he gazed upstream.

"Li Yixiao! Bloody hell you just wait for the old man to chop you into pieces!

Everybody, run!"

Li Yixiao was displeased. "Oh, man! Your greetings are so hurtful! It's the beetles, not me!"

"Like hell I will believe you! F*ck!" Zhi Wei then turned and led his people to flee.

By all rights, getting out of the labyrinth was an achievement worth celebrating, but in fact, it signaled the commencement of the first marathon match in the remains on the fourth day since their entry...

...

In the end, the Deities still did not enslave individual Practitioners. While some believed that the approach would doubly insure their own safety, others deemed it as an act of inhumanity. As a result, the debate went on and on.

Therefore, as the biggest organization in Northern Europe, the Deities were in fact a supporter of peace. Their internal discord between various factions could often be resolved through debates during meetings, which was much less violent than many other organizations.

The Collection of Gods, for instance, had many records of bloodshed due to internal conflicts.

A Class C frowned. "I don't think it is necessary to make such a fuss over enslaving individual Practitioners. Anyway, they'll be safer with us. Do you think they'll be safe if left to explore the remains on their own? Besides, other organizations will take them too even if we don't."

The Class B leader pondered for a long moment before raising his head in shock. "Where are those individual Practitioners?!"

All of them had been claimed by other organizations during their long discussion...

Suddenly both parties... let out a sigh of relief...

If so, what was there to debate about? Let's go then!

Same as the others, the Deities were trapped in the tunnels for a long time and they were not exempted from the heart attack given by Lu Shu's wall arts as well...

Things like "The relic is directly below you", "Class A creatures loitering 500m ahead", "Time machines given out for free by doraemon 500m ahead". Spare me great lord, please!

But it did not take them long to find the right way. At the riverside, the triggered bugs were soon cleared up through their united and strategic efforts!

At this moment, a pretty little girl suddenly emerged from the ground, which startled everyone present. She took a calm glance around and murmured, "You agreed to wait

for me outside the palace, but where's the palace?! You've changed, Lu Shu!"

The palace was already gone by the time she reached the site!

Hissing with anger, Lu Xiaoyu controlled Anthony to bring her down from the surface directly. When she finally managed to find the palace, Lu Shu had disappeared again!

The Deities were dumbstruck by the scene in front of their eyes. It was understandable, suddenly seeing a pretty girl coming out of the earth in underground remains. Besides, her voice just now was too soft to be heard. A person asked in caution, "Little sis, are you a Practitioner... or a creature here?"

Lu Xiaoyu turned and fixed them with a frosty stare. At that moment, Anthony and Johnson were on command under her feet, ready to attack anytime when needed.

But she kept silent for one minute, her brows knitted closely together. Confused, the Deities did not take any action either.

They wondered, was there something wrong with what they said or was she really a native creature?

Just when they were getting nervous, Lu Xiaoyu replied in English, "Can you speak Chinese?"

What?!

She frowned because she could not understand a single word in the Deities' question!

Now, all of them looked at one another at a loss. For some reason Coral felt a

disposition to Lu Xiaoyu and she would be glad to have a chat with her. But that was impossible due to the language barrier. Despite Lu Xiaoyu's vigorous efforts in cramming herself with high school knowledge, she had never really practiced her listening and oral English skills, unlike Lu Shu.

Lu Xiaoyu eyed the crowd, but had an inexplicable urge to beat Coral up when her gaze swept past her...

Why was that? Lu Xiaoyu could not justify it either. In any case, she should not inflict violence on others for no particular reason. It must be because I have transferred my anger on Lu Shu to her, thought Lu Xiaoyu, since the group in front was so far, still rather friendly.

443 TRIUMPHANT CONVERGENCE OF FORCES

Lu Xiaoyu had lost her ownership of Lu Shu's clones. It had been tested and proven that Lu Shu's clones could only be materialized if permitted by Lu Shu himself, through their celestial maps.

In the meantime, Lu Shu was too engrossed in his running and certainly did not notice the flickering on his map.

It felt like her call was not being answered...

Lu Shu must have purposely ignored her call! Lu Xiaoyu thought.

"Irritating!" Lu Xiaoyu kicked a stone into the river, which started boiling again after the hard-fought peace...

Coral, "..."

The Class B leader of the Deities, "..."

"From Coral Johnson's distress, +666!"

"From..."

...

Lu Shu was so far in front, in the leading position of the grand marathon contest. The number of athletes was constantly on the rise as the existing crowd dashed past a few batches of Practitioners who had just made it out of the tunnels.

At the moment, Li Yixiao had arrived by Lu Shu's side. He lowered his voice and pleaded, "Please say something nice of me if we run into the old man. I can tell that he likes you and Xiaoyu!"

Lu Shu looked back to see huge throngs of people, which made his head throb in pain. With the increasing number of beetles, who knew when they would reach the end of the marathon? Lu Shu replied meanly, "Shut up. I need some time alone..."

Rejected, Li Yixiao turned to Zhi Wei. "Really! It's the beetles that attacked me first! I didn't provoke them!"

Zhi Wei raved, "Rot in hell!"

Li Yixiao bit his gum. "In any case we are considered comrades in the Laos remains..."

"Rot in hell!"

Li Yixiao raised his brows. "I reckon you caused me trouble the previous time too!"

"Rot in hell!"

Distress crawled up from the bottom of Li Yixiao's heart. Honestly, he did not see it coming, as his initial intention was simply calling together a group of backers like how he did on the surface. Back then, it was such a success! Even the experts did not dare to pick a fight with him! However, never had he expected the bug flood to be so much bloody scarier than the gargoyles. More importantly, earlier the old man had not minded too much anyway as he was only targeting the big organizations while sparing the lives of individual Practitioners.

But now, who could avoid him on this one-way route!

Yet, it was still not his greatest worry, which was the fact that he really could not overpower the old man...

At that moment, Lu Shu suddenly asked in bewilderment, "Can you hear that rustle?"

Li Yixiao did not pay much attention. "Isn't it all behind us?"

"Rot in hell!"

Lu Shu's face changed. "Hell! I'm not talking about that! I mean in front!"

It was not so obvious from afar just now, but the sound had grown louder the closer they headed downstream...

The bugs were converging with death in the air. The upstream branch was led by Lu Shu, Li Yixiao and Zhi Wei, whereas the downstream by the Deities.

At that instant, Lu Shu was stunned. "!!!"

Li Yixiao, "!!!"

What a triumphant convergence of the beetle forces! They managed to pincer the humans in underground remains...

Coral was in high spirits due to her encounter with Lu Shu. "Thank God you are here too!"

The other Deities almost cursed aloud.

Is this the right time for the both of you to be flirting?!

As a result, they all lost hope. Where could they run to? Just fight, for God's sake!

The Phoenix Society took the lead to swerve backwards. Emotionless, Howard released more than ten fiery phoenixes from his palms. The birds flapped their gorgeous yet fatal wings towards the bug tide, immediately burning the vanguard beetles into ashes!

However, given their huge number altogether, the vacancy was instantly refilled by those from behind. At that moment, people realized that those insects would disperse into a wisp of black smoke after death, leaving behind a pile of rubble on the ground.

But there was no time to be too particular about that. In times of a real crisis, no one,

including the organizations and individual Practitioners, could deny the fact that their only chance of survival depended on unity!

Furthermore, this time, the remains were far more dangerous than any before!

Of course, it would not have necessarily become like this if not for Li Yixiao...

In fact, many big organizations had decided to complain to the Heavenly Network for sending such an anti-human expert into the remains after they made it out!

With no further hesitation, Lu Shu's divine water flooded out from his Seal of Lands, wrapping himself inside.

As a matter of fact, Class C's had an edge in resistance against those low-level beetles. With their increased defense due to their armor, Class C's would be safe from the poison of those bugs unless their armor was compromised.

And Lu Shu's armor was particularly huge...

Li Yixiao darted into the bug flood, his tiger sign serving as his defensive shell. Every punch from him was able to crush a stretch of bugs. Meanwhile, Lu Shu also advanced with his divine water, upon contact, it would result in the beetles burning or exploding.

Those insects could not survive even a split second due to its high corrosive power!

A few words flashed across Lu Shu's mind as he ran past Coral, gratitude, remuneration, 500 thousand euros for monthly pocket money...

Lu Shu told her in English, "You are only a Class D. Seek shelter at the back."

Happiness danced in Coral's eyes. "Okay."

The strong and independent woman of the Deities who never accepted any form of help suddenly seemed to have changed her disposition in front of this young man. A strange feeling crawled up the Deities experts' heart to see the well-protected apple of their eyes throwing herself on a dunghill...

Never mind, at least that fellow took the initiative to protect Coral...

However, no one noticed the malice in the Pledge leader's narrowing eyes as he saw the golden light surrounding Lu Shu.

He had inquired many times about the whereabouts of his men, as their uniform was easily recognizable.

He had learned that one of them was killed by a young man who had robbed Earl's divine water. Moreover, their hundreds of pieces of broken weapons were also looted by him, within the witness of many individual Practitioners!

This hatred must be avenged!

Of course, he was only aware that one of the five Class C's was punched to death by Lu Shu and the location of the rest remained uncertain. Certainly he did not know that they had actually surrendered themselves to Lu Shu again...

444 NIE TING THE KILLER PART 1

Courtyard, Liuhai Lane, Capital.

Shi Xuejin sat in idleness in the shade of the walnut tree, whose luxurious canopy

stretched in all directions, providing coolness and comfort for those under its shelter.

Rested in his hands was a purple sand teapot and a book, which had stayed on the same page for a long while. Shi Xuejin sat with his eyes shut, as though ruminating on what he had just read.

Suddenly, Hao Zhichao trotted over in a hurry and handed a file to Shi Xuejin. "Taken by satellite one month ago."

From the documents Shi Xuejin took out a stack of photos that showed withered trees on a Pacific island, around which countless bodies of fish and shrimp were floating on the sea surface, lifeless.

The once beautiful island was now teeming with the stench of death!

Shi Xuejin frowned. "Any other clues?"

"No. No records of incoming boats in the past six months," Hao Zhichao replied honestly. All of the details had been verified before the report.

Shi Xuejin mused. "Hope that person is not on Koh Chang island, right now."

The dead island was actually a signal of ascension to Class A!

Back then, during Li Xianyi's promotion to Class A, strong beams of sword energy covered a swathe of land with diameter of ten kilometers and Luo Cheng at its epicenter. Had Li Xianyi lost control, Luo Cheng would have been a dead land by now.

The status of all things as swords only existed in legends and for a very long time, no one was able to achieve that even in Li Xianyi's faction. In any case, it was completely impossible to shatter the shackles of Nature in the energy-scarce era.

In fact, Li Xianyi's training in swordplay actually turned him into a special case, as more focus on self-accumulation had been placed on his internal sea of chi and his snow mountain.

Meanwhile, as for Chen Baili, no single magical tree in a radius of five kilometers in the remains survived his ascension. At that time, he could have easily wiped out all the animals in the area too.

Ascension to Class A was complete at the expense of Spirit Qi in Nature. In order to alter one's fate, other lives had to suffer, in exchange for the betterment of oneself.

Now, although the truth remained unclear, the right attitude of a big organization was to expect the worst and strive for the best.

Besides, there was no reason for a newly promoted expert to miss his chance at the remains. However, there was no relevant information available as of now, testifying to the person's equanimity, should the deduction be real.

A rare look of worry surfaced on Shi Xuejin's face. "Why does he hide himself so well? What is he up to? I hope Li Yixiao does not inconvenience him accidentally..."

Hao Zhichao's eyelid twitched in embarrassment. So you too are aware of Heavenly King Li's unpleasant personality.

"Yes, I have. But he has not replied to me and his phone is beyond reach as well,"

replied Hao Zhichao.

"I see," Shi Xuejin nodded and said, "I'm afraid he has already reached."

Hao Zhichao froze. "Where is he?"

Shi Xuejin picked up his thread-bound book from the stone table and sank deeper into his chair, which squeaked gently under his weight. "He's probably out to kill."

His voice was soft and calm, as though it was perfectly normal to associate Nie Ting with words along the line of "killing".

As a matter of fact, Shi Xuejin and Nie Ting were brought up together, though the former was much older. Nie Ting's master was Shi Xuejin's father.

By right, exclusive techniques of the Shi's should not be leaked to an outsider, but Shi Xuejin was not born with the aptitude for cultivation. This extinguished his right of inheritance. Thus, his father adopted the orphan Nie Ting, which was rarely known by the public.

Precisely due to his lack of inborn talent, since a young age Shi Xuejin had been striving to be an erudite in the three teachings so as to open up new possibilities for those like himself.

This old courtyard in Liuhai Lane was bequeathed by Shi Xuejin's father too. Back then, he was still a young man and Nie Ting was still a child. Both of them were beside him when Shi Xuejin's father planted the walnut tree himself.

Over the years, Nie Ting had changed. Shi Xuejin almost witnessed personally how

the innocent, naive child had stained his hands with blood in the relentless pursuit of his dream. Indeed, he had too much blood on his hands.

Meanwhile, Shi Xuejin would call him in to the courtyard for a moment of peace after every killing Nie Ting committed. This helped to quell his bloodlust and keep him from going astray.

Over the course of time, Nie Ting would stay in the courtyard himself for a few days after every kill.

Honestly speaking, Shi Xuejin had never had any qualms with Nie Ting's murderous deeds. He only harvested lives from those who deserved to die.

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6000m campsite, southern slope of Mt Everest, Nepal.

It was a great time then for conquering Mt Everest. In the upcoming month of October, weather conditions on the mountain were relatively more stable in late autumn.

At the moment, the campsite was overcrowded. Colorful tents were erected across the land, and a gust of frosty wind often brought along the rustling of tents.

Commercialization was a serious issue here as well. Regular exercise and some money was all one needed.

Shortage of oxygen was the most severe problem for climbing world-class tall mountains. Prolonged deficiency of oxygen could lead to failures in the heart and

lungs. Many climbers could not even make it to the 4000m mark.

At 6000m, everyone had to acclimate to the high altitude conditions for one to two weeks, before they were allowed to venture even further.

Conquering Mt Everest was totally different from climbing up a hill for a good view of the sunrise. It was a long and tough battle.

At 7200m, humans were tantamount to walking corpses without enough oxygen, as almost all of their thinking abilities were lost. Thus, oxygen tanks were a must for modern climbers.

Of course, the native Sherpa were willing to carry a bunch of oxygen tanks with you if you had the money...

Oxygen deficiency was non-existent in the face of money...

Many climbers at the 6000m campsite were still in the process of adjustment. Thus, most of them would return to their tents after a short session of adaptability training outside.

But one team stood out from the rest. They were totally unaffected by the high altitudes.

Judging from their dark, yellow skin and thick beards on a few faces, they looked like Middle-Easterners.

Sitting on a stone, one of them laughed. "Look, they look like they are dying when lying in their tents. I don't understand why they still come for the climb."

Another person shot him a glimpse. "Don't be mean. Stay focused on your satellite phone. We need to be ready all the time."

445 NIE TING THE KILLER PART 2

"If really necessary, we may have to go ourselves. Don't lower your guard," a relatively more mature-looking person said. Dressed in a white short-sleeve T-shirt in the chilly environment, the man drew startled stares from all around.

But in the times of power awakening, the presence of Metahumans and Practitioners was not as astounding as before.

After all, sometimes they did appear on the screens too.

To top it off, a movie showing this year claimed to feature real Metahumans' abilities instead of special effects.

On African battlefields, Metahumans were even deemed as the deities. Thus, eyeing their cultivation resources, many low-level Metahumans flocked to Africa as fighters. It was very normal, really.

Even some big organizations had founded their headquarters in Africa to secure an advantageous place in the competition for local resources, including an abundance of magical stone mines. Some transnational Metahuman organizations were formed there as well, following the same veins of mercenaries in the old times.

Currently, Metahumans were already able to get along well with commoners. Not acceptance, though, simply tolerance.

Business and money were always the best incentives for embracing change.

A member of the team had just returned from outside. The speaker just now cast him a serious look. "Behave yourself. We are going back once the remains are closed."

The newcomer wiped his mouth and smiled. "It's always more interesting up here on Mt Everest. Those women are actually willing to play with me though they themselves are panting like pigs."

"My goodness! You are actually doing that at such a smelly place," another person grunted scornfully.

The campsite was far worse than expected. There was neither a sewage system nor toilets. Thus, feces and urine were dumped everywhere, making the site unbearably foul-smelling.

At this moment, a young man in an outdoor jacket and a pair of shades steadily arrived at the campsite. He took a casual glance around the place before darting his gaze towards the Middle-Eastern Practitioner in a white T-shirt.

He smiled. "Finally found you."

Usually, even Practitioners would only come in groups, seldom alone.

But more importantly, they had recognized the newcomer. Yet, his arrival was utterly unexpected! According to the information, he was supposed to be in the Capital now!

The white T-shirt leader replied coldly in awkward Chinese, "Nie Ting, aren't you worried about us launching revenge together when you are absent from the Capital now?!"

Slowly Nie Ting unloaded his camping bag from his back, before replying calmly, "I will already be back when other people find out."

"Are you openly making an enemy against the Union?"

Killing was not Nie Ting's main agenda of the trip. He wanted to convey the message clearly, that uniting against the Heavenly Network would certainly come with a price.

Nie Ting did not intend to wipe out all the experts along the boundaries. In fact, he could not finish all of them off either. It was not so easy to locate this team, but with them as an example, others would start to wonder who would be the next unlucky dog.

Besides, Class A's mobility should never be underestimated. He would reach the Capital when the news of his killings were received by the various big organizations.

Meanwhile, the commoners around were utterly confused. Were those Practitioners speaking Martian?

Many climbers had come out of their tents for a closer look at the fight between these superhumans. It was probably their only chance of getting so up and close with the cultivation world.

All of a sudden, Nie Ting's camping bag shattered to reveal the snowy glow of Xin Ting. Instantly, its blade cleaved mountain gusts and snow piles in halves, forming a crack along the rubble at the site.

Many climbers immediately backed down in horror, so as not to be roped in as

collateral damage during the Practitioners' fight.

Seven Middle Eastern Practitioners sought shelter at once. But how could they outrun the blade? In the blink of an eye, two of them were already dead inside their tent.

The man in the white T-shirt suddenly unleashed his strength. In a split second, all of the stones across the entire campsite were lifted into the air and were hurled towards Nie Ting like a tornado! Even the climbers' tents were tossed up and blown away in the strong gust of wind!

Meanwhile, Nie Ting simply stood still, keeping all the stones around him in a circle of 10m in radius under his control. Despite his Class B abilities, the white shirt pro's power was still unmatched to Nie Ting's!

When the rubble tornado drew close, Nie Ting suddenly raised his blade and swung it down gently.

In the next instant, he was still steady like a rock. In his resonance with Nature, the Spirit Qi in the area was actually locked in place. Without any contact, the tornado split up from the center by itself!

Despite taking no extra action, Nie Ting's blade energy was already in the formation. Even the commoners on site could feel a sword hanging over their heads.

It was like a deity sent from above!

Before his sword was out, a gap of more than twenty meters in width suddenly formed on the rubble ground. Then, the man in white threw up a mouthful of blood, unable to use his willpower anymore.

In fact, Nie Ting had already severed the foundation of his willpower. It was the true force of a Class A!

Some tried to flee. But Nie Ting immediately rose to the sky, shooting through the air like an arrow. The accompanying piercing sound gave a prick to every commoners' eardrums!

To him, techniques he had been practicing for years were but the nonessentials, and the sword energy was the exact power he was now after. Through it, he was able to connect himself with the sky and the earth, using Nature at his fingertips.

Invisible sword energy erupted outwards from Nie Ting, cutting the ground surface below him into pieces. The piles of rubble also collapsed into stone dust!

Those Middle Eastern Practitioners on the run were soon caught up by Nie Ting's sword energy, which tore their clothes and flesh apart. Blood stained the floor with a gorgeous scarlet.

Since their Class B leader was already down, the others were well aware that they had no chance of survival against this enemy!

446 WHOEVER DARES TO TAKE ACTION HOLDS ME IN CONTEMPT!

The black tsunamis engulfed the underground corridor from both ends, trapping most of the Practitioners in the remains in between. With no way to back down, they could only fight till the end.

The Class C's formed the first line of defense with their Spirit Qi armor, which served as effective protection against single bugs. Initially the big organizations wanted to force individual Practitioners to shield off bug floods from the front, but soon they

realized that their defense was too weak to sustain without Spirit Qi armor.

If all the individual Practitioners died off, big organizations like themselves, would be no match for so many beetles. They could be easily breached against such a grand scale of monsters.

An analogy would be, how could a powerful man who could defeat ten or a hundred enemies at the same time be able to overpower thousands or more? Besides, there were no Class A's among them.

Thus, although reluctantly, they had to protect individual Practitioners so as not to create too many casualties in a short time.

With them in the inner circle, even Class E Metahumans were able to use their power to wipe out a swathe of low-defense bugs.

In fact, the key issue was individual Practitioners' low resistance to poison. Despite their combat skills and ability to withstand physical attacks, a dosage of beetle venom was lethal.

The danger of those bugs lay in their sheer number, and every single one of them could spell death for Practitioners.

But do not underestimate those experts from big organizations either. They were all elites from their respective teams, shouldering the exceptional responsibility of managing external affairs. Under their extraordinary leadership talents, a large-scale yet orderly defense system was quickly established. Though slightly messy, it indeed brought down the rate of casualties.

Meanwhile, in the south, Lu Shu, Zhi Wei and Li Yixiao joined forces with the Deities.

It was only until then did Lu Shu learn that Zhi Wei's inheritance was thunderbolts.

According to Li Xianyi, the nine major directors of the Golden Foundation inherited their strengths from ancestors, not power awakening. Moreover, each bloodline had their own, unique ways of passing down their legacy.

Surrounded by lightning, any beetles in Zhi Wei's proximity would be smashed to powder at once.

"Keep a distance from me!" Li Yixiao shouted, "You are abusing your power to retaliate against your personal enemy!"

Li Yixiao could feel his hairs stand up every time Zhi Wei took a step. Luckily his hair was pretty short!

Meanwhile, be it wittingly or not, Zhi Wei kept closing the gap between himself and Li Yixiao. Occasionally Lu Shu could even see electric arcs flying towards Li Yixiao...

Blue lights flickered around Zhi Wei. Operating at his full strength, countless electrical balls were shot from his palms into the throng of bugs, shattering them into pieces upon impact!

Zhi Wei suddenly turned to Lu Shu. "Why aren't you making an effort to fight off the bugs? Or should I present you with a slacker certificate? Don't you wanna do anything when we are all busy killing the bugs?"

Actually, Lu Shu wasn't really doing nothing per se, just that his main priority was protecting Coral, not attacking bugs...

Do anything? Do what? Lu Shu paused for a while before he answered, "Then... all the best you all?"

"From Zhi Wei's distress, +666!"

In fact, he felt guilty for simply watching others dealing with the bugs too. Thus, after advising Coral to stay safe, Lu Shu walked straight into the bug throngs with divine water over his entire body. Upon contact with the water, those bugs immediately evaporated into the air.

Despite not being an active member, Lu Shu's contribution was still rather commendable for the whole team. Now, the size of his divine water was more than seven times of Li Yixiao's. Hence, burning a layer of beetles into ashes was quite helpful indeed.

But how did he get the idea of building up his armor with so much divine water?! He looked like a bloody oversized Pikachu!

Soon, Lu Shu noticed something was up!

Those beetles could actually increase the volume of the water!

Earlier, the result of the experiment he conducted on one single bug was negligible.

One bug might not even be comparable to one thousandth of a piece of broken

magical weapons. But now, they were being corroded on the magnitude of thousands. Thus, the expanding volume of the water was clearly detectable!

How did that feel...?

"Stop! They are all mine! Whoever dares to take action holds me in contempt!" Lu Shu shouted at the top of his lungs!

Li Yixiao, "???"

Zhi Wei, "???"

Is he nuts?! We didn't see you so active earlier, did you eat the wrong pills?!

At first, Zhi Wei thought it was only a joke. But his jaws dropped in shock in the next second!

All of a sudden, Lu Shu unloaded his divine water, only leaving behind a layer of ordinary armor to hide his celestial cloak.

Then, under his control, the divine water rolled towards the beetles, forcibly opening a gap in the bug floods against the currents!

Instead of shrinking, the divine wave had actually expanded!

What the hell was that? Zhi Wei was aghast. This slacker certainly had his skills!

Truth be told, Zhi Wei knew that Lu Shu was only a Class C. But since when could a Class C be so powerful?

In the aspect of killing bugs alone, Lu Shu's method was much more productive than Li Yixiao's and Zhi Wei's!

His wide-range attack was simply more powerful!

Coral's face was teeming with admiration. "Courage is the most splendid elegance under stress!"

At that moment, the Deities were scratching their heads over how to report back to Coral's father. His daughter had become someone else's fan-girl due to their negligence?!

Now, even Li Yixiao and Zhi Wei were starting to doubt who was the true Class B.

The Deities were dumbfounded too. They had not believed it when Coral claimed that Lu Shu was very powerful. But now, they had no reason not to. Moreover, most commendably, Lu Shu showed no sign of fear when facing the bug surge.

Instead, he was freaking excited at the moment!

Meanwhile, Lu Shu murmured as he was on a bug killing spree, "One broken weapon, two broken weapons... 31 broken weapons..."

447 HADES

Zhi Wei and Li Yixiao stood in silence, ten meters away from the bug wave.

However, it seemed that they had ceased all actions, not because they were unwilling to fight, nor was it because the beetles were dying out, but that they simply did not even know how to help...

Lu Shu's golden wave pranced about in the inky bug flood, like a lively performance

of Lion Dancing during festive seasons...

All beetles, upon contact with the divine water, were burned to death and reduced to crumbs. Due to its distaste of those insects, the golden snake kept swimming about in the water so as to maintain its distance. But after Lu Shu unleashed his full strength, the shape and orientation of the divine water started to get unpredictable, spinning the golden snake around and making it want to puke!

Shouldn't a mythical object be fed with a supreme diet that matched its status? But its owner remained unconcerned about that at all!

From not too far away, Zhi Wei suddenly asked, "Is he... usually like this too?"

Li Yixiao was uncertain which aspect Zhi Wei was referring to. "You mean... is he usually so courageous?"

Zhi Wei was speechless. "I mean, is he usually such a nutcase!"

That displeased Li Yixiao at once. "Why are you talking about our Heavenly Network member in such a manner? Do you have any issue with us?"

Zhi Wei, "???"

Both of them were nuts!

Can we please have a proper conversation?!

Then, an unusual feeling caught Zhi Wei's attention. As he glanced over at Lu Shu's divine water, its size was actually bigger than earlier?!

Earlier on, Zhi Wei was responsible for passing those broken magical weapons to Lu Shu at Li Xianyi's command, as it was not possible for the old man to do everything personally. Thus, Zhi Wei was aware that Lu Shu was not so particular about the diet of his divine water, since he was even willing to feed it broken weapons!

At the moment, Zhi Wei felt that he had seen the truth, as the divine water continued to expand in the throng of bugs...

He was neither courageous nor nuts! He was simply greedy for money and he could not let go of any free opportunities to strengthen his divine water!

Meanwhile, fighting on his own, Lu Shu ripped open the bug flood, instantly throttling their speed. Almost at the same time, all the bugs surged towards Lu Shu, who remained calm and composed in the center of the beetles.

For those who did not know the truth, Lu Shu was almost like a deity. His golden glow flickered in the dark bug throng, invincible and unbeatable.

At this moment, Lu Shu suddenly stopped short. Wasn't he bouncing around just now? Was he in danger?

Li Yixiao was nervous. He yelled, "Don't be scared, Lu Shu! I'm coming to save you!"

However, when they got close, they saw Lu Shu standing in his divine water shell lightheartedly, holding his phone. On the screen, it was the interface of a calculator...

"From Li Yixiao's distress, +666!"

"From Zhi Wei's distress, +666!"

What are you calculating about?

Zhi Wei's face darkened as he continued to back down from the incoming bugs.

"What are you doing? We thought you were in danger seeing you standing still there!"

Lu Shu shot them a startled look, while mumbling to himself, "Five times five is 25... Six times six is 36... Five one Labor's Day... Six one Children's Day... Freak! It's all messed up!"

At first Lu Shu would initiate attacks, but slowly he wondered why he even needed to run around when those bugs would come to him?

Initially, the army of beetles was the synonym of death and fear. Every single life in their course of path would be killed. Moreover, all Practitioners' blood was drawn underground, its mana absorbed by some unknown source.

But now, they ran into Lu Shu. Although they would not be wiped out so quickly, they could not lay a finger on Lu Shu as well.

Without intelligence, those bugs were only programmed with murderous primal instincts. Hence, Lu Shu's presence was intolerable to the entire bug flood. As a result, all of them were held back by Lu Shu...

Coral felt fireworks exploding in her heart. The man of her dreams was standing still in a throng of black beetles, like a graceful deity. She was mesmerized by his composed demeanor, even simple actions like pressing plus and multiplication signs on his phone screen looked particularly attractive when they were done by him...

Undeniably, Lu Shu had given Coral too many surprises since the moment they met. Although there were many even stronger experts out there, be it Chen Baili or Li Xianyi, they belonged to the old generation.

Among their peers, few could be comparable to Lu Shu. Besides the youngest Class B bishop from the Department of Faith Theory, the Northern European Class C who had awakened to a divine bloodline at such a low level, and the young man named "Hades" in the Phoenix Society, across the globe there were fewer than ten who were on the same level as Lu Shu in Coral's knowledge.

In fact, there was another Hades in Egypt. The Hades of the Phoenix Society was full of himself, and it was said that he had already made an open challenge to the Darkness Kingdom against his Egyptian competitor. There should only be one Hades in the world.

Thankfully Lu Shu was unaware of that. Else, he would call himself Hades as well. By then, he would get a constant income of distress points from the Phoenix Society's Hades every time the latter thought of him! So easy!

As a matter of fact, the new generation of the Heavenly Network was also the center of global attention. A big organization's true power lay in the abilities of their fresh blood. But to everyone's surprise, Class C's had been brought up in the Heavenly Network at an astonishing rate!

Furthermore, most of the other organizations would choose to advertise their newly recruited geniuses as a display of their profound power. Thus, more foreign talents would be attracted to compensate for their weak legacy or small population.

But it was a different case for the Heavenly Network. They held confidentiality in high regard, and might even release fake information to cause public confusion.

Now, many members inside the Heavenly Network were suspected to be key talents nurtured by the Network. They included Class A aptitude geniuses and the first batch of low-profile experts selected from army.

The world was constantly changing and the golden times of Practitioners had since arrived. But Lu Shu's heart was filled with money, Lu Xiaoyu, and nothing else...

448 THE BUGS WERE GONE!

Human howling echoed through the underground remains every now and then. It was the desperate cry when one's life was drawn out of his body as beetle poison set in.

Even the Class C Practitioners' armor was not always foolproof. Sooner or later, their protection would be compromised as their mana ran out over time.

Thus, occasionally Class B experts of various big organizations had no alternative but to shield their members from life-threatening dangers.

They were not cold-blooded reptiles either. Besides, who would still follow them if all their men died during the first remains expedition?

People were not stupid. Understandably they were more willing to obey leaders who took their safety into consideration. Otherwise, what was the point of following them?

Class B moves never failed to surprise. Fully concentrated, Howard unleashed his full power. Now, amidst the bug flood, he surrounded himself with a ball of flames that turned from red to white, emitting intense heat. Before they could reach his vicinity, countless beetles had already been melted in the heat, which burned the ground into transparent fluid!

Suddenly, the ten plus fiery phoenixes summoned by Howard combined into one, whose wingspan was as wide as six meters. A flap of its flaming wings instantly set a large swathe of bugs ablaze!

"If a Class B is already so powerful, how about Class A's?"

"The glory of ancient myths is likely to return in the future. Are they the reincarnation of Gods..."

"No. They are the founders of a new legend, and we all are inside this myth..."

"Eh? Look! A person downstream pinned down the entire bug wave on his own! Could he be a hidden Class A?!"

An individual Practitioner recognized the golden glow. He replied with a complicated look on his face, "Not a Class A. He's a mentally twisted expert who likes to watch us digging earth..."

Other individual Practitioners were stunned. What kind of hobby was that?

On Lu Shu's side, his efficiency of killing bugs could not be compared to those big organizations. In the lapse of time, the downstream area was still infested with bugs while the sight upstream was more hopeful...

On a brighter note, his divine water had almost doubled in size, comparable to an entire public bathroom!

Since the situation upstream was under control, some organizations came over to help.

The Pledge expert went downstream as well, his expression cold as ice. Yet, his main target was not the beetles, but Lu Shu!

It was time to avenge his comrades!

Indeed, it was a perfect opportunity for him. Trapped in swarms of bugs, who would notice whether Lu Shu was secretly attacked? After all, the stakes were too high to kill him outside the remains.

Howard announced proudly, "The Phoenix Society can take care of the upstream. Now go and help with the downstream."

Individual Practitioners exchanged startled look with one another. Never had they expected the Phoenix Society to be so confident.

Another pro sneered. "Don't bluff. We won't take responsibility if you die. Fine, let's go downstream."

Then, he walked away with his people.

At that moment, the golden glow erected against the bug flood caught everyone coming downstream in awe.

Though unwilling to admit it, the experts understood that a new beast-level genius had risen from the Heavenly Network!

Speaking of which, it was the first time that the Network showcased to the world how powerful their geniuses were. A mere Class C was already able to hold back the entire swarm of bugs!

Thus, they started pondering the true strength of the Network. Was this young man a pure coincidence, or the norm?

But those individual Practitioners felt otherwise. They were awestruck by his heroic deed of confronting so many bugs on his own. A strong wave of enthusiasm overwhelmed their hearts, as they aspired to be a brave man just like him!

Their ambitions were groomed in the era of Spirit Qi regeneration, but now, many were defeated by reality.

It was a mental struggle that many experienced in their growth. In adolescence, they believed the world revolved around themselves, but later they were told that they would only reach maturity after acknowledging full-heartedly that they were not the center of everything.

But must we all bow our heads to the world?!

Must we all cut away our uniqueness so as to conform with the rest?

All kinds of thoughts and emotions welled up in the individual Practitioners' hearts. Finally, they shouted, "Let me help you!"

Their blood was boiling in passion, as though they had found their long-lost youth and dreams.

Yet, in the next instant, they heard an angry roar from inside the golden glow, "Bloody hell! Stay away from me! These bugs are mine!"

"From Li Yixiao's distress, +666!"

"From Zhi Wei's distress, +666!"

"From Park Geung-ho's ..."

"From Demon's..."

The spark of enthusiasm was extinguished...

The image of an imagined hero collapsed...

"Anyone could enlighten me on what's happening..." an individual Practitioner asked, his eyes glazed over.

"Maybe experts are all freaks..."

"Then are we still killing bugs?!"

"I suppose we are..."

All of a sudden, all the Practitioners were at a loss of what to do.

Though forbidden to take action, those beetles blocked their way downstream!

In the end, they still decided to kill those bugs. As they approached, Lu Shu led the bug flood away...

He ran away...

Leaving behind a bunch of Practitioners, shocked and confused. You brought those bloody bugs away?!

"From Li Yixiao's distress, +666!"

"From Zhi Wei's distress, +666!"

"From Park Geung-ho's ..."

"From Demon's..."

We are only here to help you! Why did you do that?!

Why? Did you rear them so it pains you to see them killed?

Everyone found it hard to clear their thoughts. "So? What now? Should we chase?"

"Honestly, neither do I know what to do..."

449 THE MURALS

The receding bug flood reduced the crowd to a state of confusion. But the most shocked of all was still the leader of the Pledge...

Earlier, he had been trying to incite everyone to advance when they were mired in hesitation. In any case, how could he find the chance to deal Lu Shu a fatal blow when the situation was not messy enough?

However, Lu Shu's bloody response was totally unexpected!

Why would he run? It did not make any sense!

We are only here to help get rid of the bugs, so shouldn't you be grateful? Why did you lead them away? So counterintuitive!

Lu Shu thought in his heart, haha, actually, it was rather intuitive.

Why would he let anybody stop him from becoming stronger? His divine water was experiencing a rapid and healthy growth!

Plus, it was not easy to find such a perfect opportunity! Now, he could groom it well without spending a fortune on the purchase of magical weapons. Why would he let the chance slip through his fingers?

No way!

The Pledge expert said, "He must be worried about our personal safety. But that gives us even more reasons to assist him!"

Puzzled, individual Practitioners looked at one another. "Then what should we do?"

"Catch up and help him kill the bugs!" the expert replied in a firm voice.

Then, he took the lead, followed by the rest. No one expected they would be chasing a wave of bugs in the remains.

The Pledge expert was fast. When he drew near, he shouted at Lu Shu across the sea of bugs, "Don't run! We are here to help!"

Lu Shu yelled back coldly, "You are ill-intentioned!"

The Pledge expert, "..."

Was his plan exposed? Otherwise, it could not be explained! But the more he thought, the more confused he got. How did the person find out about his hidden agenda? Huh?!

"From Caiden Davies' distress, +499!"

To everyone's surprise, Lu Shu suddenly slowed down. Just when the rest was confused whether he had changed his mind, they realized that he was only waiting for the bugs!

This was mental!

As a matter of fact, Lu Shu himself was well aware that it was impossible to claim ownership of the entire wave of bugs. First of all, they could be easily caught by other pros from behind given the bugs' slow speed. Secondly, his divine water would take too long to consume the whole bug flood.

Furthermore, the visible increase in the size of the water would certainly arouse suspicion in onlookers. Those big organizations were not stupid, and certainly they would not stay put and let him gain powers on his own!

The terrific nature of Earl's mythical item was well-known. Even a single drop would cause much of a headache to opponents of the same level. But now, in Lu Shu's hands, the divine water was already large enough to encircle his rivals!

In addition to magical weapons, it could now engulf humans!

At that moment, the Pledge expert was pleasantly surprised to see Li Yixiao too far away from Lu Shu to be of any useful help. Not a bad opportunity, he thought to himself calmly, gauging the distance between Li Yixiao and himself. He could easily run away after taking Lu Shu down at lightning speed!

In a split second, he started to accelerate from behind. If everything went according to his plan, he would pierce through the bug flood like a sharp sword, aiming directly at Lu Shu!

Yet, at this very moment, Lu Shu took action. The gigantic ball of divine water suddenly spread out into a flat surface, folding its edges to trap a large swarm of bugs inside like stuffing fillings into a giant pie.

Then, Lu Shu quickly ran away with the lump. He looked like Santa Claus with a giant golden sack behind his back...

This time, his escape was way too fast, and very decisive as well. As a result, Caiden replaced Lu Shu to become the man nearest to the bug flood!

Those beetles lacked consciousness, and they would prioritize creatures closest to them as their targets. In terms of combat awareness, they were very different from the gargoyles.

Hence, once Lu Shu was gone, the entire group of bugs swerved back towards Caiden and those Practitioners behind!

Bloody hell... They were totally caught off guard!

"From Caiden Davies' distress, +999!"

Other than him, those Practitioners were scared too. Suddenly they became the front-line warriors before they were even ready!

Therefore, those individual Practitioners immediately took to their heels when Caiden was still fighting his way out of the swarms. Screw those heroic dreams and enthusiasm! How could a hero be such a joker?!

In the meantime, Lu Shu dashed downstream while the bugs dragged along were being corroded by his water.

His greed stemmed from years of poverty. Following the same veins, people who used to be starved in their childhood may feel more insecure about food even after they got rich later on.

But Lu Shu was not the kind of person who would risk his life for money. He knew his limits.

Thus, the Pledge expert's hasty approach had already sent a warning signal to him. It was no secret that he had inconvenienced members of the Pledge. So, something must be wrong with that Pledge expert's "kind-hearted" offer of help!

Conclusion, it was time to run!

His divine water had expanded more than double this time. It was his greatest takeaway in this remains!

After a while of running, Lu Shu's attention was suddenly arrested by something on

the walls. There were words there!

Lu Shu had put away most of his divine water, since few beetles were left. Holding a few drops in his hands for lighting purposes, Lu Shu leaned closer to the stone wall for a better look. But he was immediately alarmed by what he saw. It was not words, but... a down-pointing arrow.

Others might have ignored the marking as they had been fooled by too many random symbols like this thanks to Lu Shu.

But this arrow, blended in perfectly with the coarse stone wall, was not his work!

What was it?!

Lu Shu took a deep breath to calm himself down before his eyes followed the arrow down to the ground. Xiaoyu was here.

Lu Shu, "???"

450 LU XIAOYU PROTECTS LU SHU

Gazing at the words written by Lu Xiaoyu, Lu Shu found it hilariously interesting. He had played the role of a prankster for too long, but now, it was his time to be fooled! He felt cheated!

On second thoughts, right, why would there be an arrow pointing straight to the treasure or relic in the remains...

In fact, he thought Lu Xiaoyu was still on the surface, as she did not make it in time before the palace sank into the ground.

Which meant the little girl could just be in front. Lu Shu moved on along the stone

wall, but his face darkened at once at the next line. "Lu Shu is a pig".

Lu Shu, "???"

The five words were so small that Lu Shu almost missed them had he not paid special attention to search. But what are you doing in the remains? Vandalism? Besides, why are you name calling me? You've changed, Lu Xiaoyu!

Then, Lu Shu erased the words with his Corpsedog. Haha, lucky that he had walked past here!

Then, even more appeared on the wall, things like "Lu Shu once cried over TV dramas", "Lu Shu once didn't wash his face for three days", "Lu Shu is a big idiot"...

Lu Shu took a deep breath. He carved on walls for distress points, but Lu Xiaoyu did so specifically to target him...

All the words were then removed by Corpsedog. Lu Shu was happy, no one else could see those negative comments about him!

At this moment, he stopped short at another line. "Lu Xiaoyu will protect Lu Shu for a lifetime".

Suddenly, waves of emotions welled up from the depth of Lu Shu's heart, but he could not explain why. It felt like some long-lost feelings had surfaced yet again.

Usually, Lu Shu seldom expressed his feelings, as he viewed it as a waste of time and energy in this hard life. He would never put his reliance on Lu Xiaoyu into words and he felt ashamed to do so.

But at the moment, a white dolphin sprang across the waves, joyfully, breaking the silence that had shrouded the ocean for an eternally long time. Actually, Lu Xiaoyu had said it to him before. Back then, she said she would awaken to her powers to protect Lu Shu, as he was too weak to be a Metahuman.

At that time, Lu Shu only took it as the little girl's innocent joke. Ever since his power awakening, he thought that sentence would slowly fade away from Lu Xiaoyu's mind as time went by.

For years, it was always him that was protecting Lu Xiaoyu and never had he thought about Lu Xiaoyu's true feelings about it. Yet, that promise was still on her mind.

In this world, no one had ever promised to protect Lu Shu, except Lu Xiaoyu.

Upon seconds thought, Lu Shu carved another line of small letters below. "Thank you. Lu Shu will protect Lu Xiaoyu for a lifetime too."

...

Wandering in the lower reaches of the river, Li Xianyi saw the water turning bright red. Just a while ago, the river was still normal, but now it reeked of blood. Li Xianyi was certain, something must have happened upstream.

His instincts had already told him that this place was an oddity when he slaughtered Inferno Blood Devil. To him, it was an unrighteous practice to sacrifice human Practitioners for improvement of devils' powers. A downright heresy!

In fact, he had seen such things a long time ago. But at that time, it was not Blood

Devils that the altar was feeding.

The reason for Li Xianyi's decision to act solo was that he had experienced déjà vu with many features of these remains. Casting aside the agreement of non-involvement of Class A's in the competition for the relic, he must find out the truth behind them all.

The worst nightmare of the Golden Foundation seemed to be looming over the horizon with the onset of the pinnacle of Spirit Qi regeneration.

At the end of the river was a stone wall as tall as a few people stacked together. Complicated patterns sprawled the surface of the door, looking like some bizarre symbols. At the moment, blood flowed into the door started wriggling along the lines like worms.

Meanwhile, the river of blood flowed to the other side from underneath the door. It seemed that the end of it laid across the door.

With a cold sneer, Li Xianyi imbued mana into his white jade sword. In the next instant, hundreds of beams of sword energy banged on the door, breaking its patterns into pieces. The entire structure collapsed into a pile of powder.

Inside was a gigantic cavern, similar to the one in which Inferno Blood Devil was found except for the fact that this one was even more magnificent.

Li Xianyi's brow knitted together in astonishment. There were neither altars nor human skeletons here, instead, it was a blood-filled basin into which all the underground river systems converged.

Situated at the center of the basin was a black stone platform, surrounded by a pool of

boiling blood. A giant stone coffin was placed on the platform, with an Inferno Blood Devil kneeling on the ground in front.

At the moment, the bottom of the coffin had already turned red. It looked as if the Pandora's box would be open when the entire coffin was soaked in blood.

Fed by the blood basin, this Inferno Blood Devil was far stronger than the one killed by Li Xianyi earlier.

Suddenly, the Blood Devil reared its sinister head towards Li Xianyi, who was still studying the spooky place calmly. No matter how powerful this one was, Blood Devils were Class B's at most.

But what was inside the coffin? A native spirit of the remains? Dead or alive?

Then, Li Xianyi's eyes were drawn upwards to the dark dome, where countless gargoyles were hanging upside down in their slumber. More than ten of them had already turned red.

The old man frowned again. It would not be nice to have over ten newly groomed Class B Blood Devils here.

Flapping its blood-red wings, the Inferno Blood Devil soared into the air. But, it was intellectual enough not to confront Li Xianyi head-on. Instead, it suddenly punctured its heart with its claws. Then, large volumes of blood splashed out from its wound onto the stone coffin. It actually sacrificed itself for the thing inside the coffin!

Certainly, the spirit inside was at least a Class A.