

### 631 DISAPPEARED FROM THE WORLD

Actually, Shi Xuejin had fully explained the current situation on the phone. Could Nie Ting have called for the same reason? No, no way. Nie Ting only aimed to annoy him.

However, it wouldn't be that convenient either to follow Shi Xuejin's advice of changing his look. Did he have to go overseas eventually?

In fact, what Shi Xuejin was implying was still the same old topic. For Lu Shu to accept the position as the Ninth Heavenly King. Currently, Lu Shu was not as opposed to the idea as much as before, probably because You Mingyu's words had made him realize that his potential could only be unleashed to the fullest abroad...

Yet, Lu Shu felt that he did not have to make the decision so soon. "I wonder how well our Chinese chives are growing. By the way, Nalan Que agreed to help us build an inn and its foundation had already been complete before I left. I reckon the construction should be done now."

Time flew by during their conversation. Soon, they had arrived at their destination.

After they got down from the plane, Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu walked towards the exit. Suddenly, someone walked past them and hit Lu Shu. Stunned, Lu Shu tilted his head to see a white-collar woman beside them. She was very attractive, dressed in a white shirt. Her black hair swayed over her shoulders, revealing her fair neck and a fiery tattoo on the right side of her neck.

Wait a minute. Lu Shu hesitated. The fire seemed living, it not just any normal tattoo.

For some reason, Lu Shu had a strange feeling. The woman's side face was already extremely pretty, but her beauty felt abnormal, as if there was an attraction from the

inside.

Furthermore, Lu Shu could not sense any energy waves from her.

Commoners usually had energy waves of value 1, and Class F's 10. No one could have zero.

The woman walked on and cast Lu Shu a cold glimpse, as though she was studying an ant. Lu Shu was displeased. "Hold on. Shouldn't you at least apologize since you've hit me?"

"From Cloud Yi's distress, +99!"

Lu Shu drew a startled breath...

Cloud Yi fixed him with a frosty and condescending stare, as if she was a superior creature compared to Lu Shu.

"Oh?" she said. Her voice was not gloomy at all, but rather melodious and crisp. Perhaps she had purposely processed her voice when she was in the black robe.

Lu Shu immediately made a bow and said, "Sorry."

Cloud Yi was speechless.

Lu Shu was frightened. He shouldn't take the risk!

Cloud Yi could not understand what was wrong with this human, while in fact Lu Shu had figured out her identity directly from her distress points...

After Shi Xuejin's call, Lu Shu had already been suspecting that the Puppet Master might simply be a bloody job title. Hence, no one knew how many there were.

But Lu Shu felt that there should not be too many of them. Otherwise, they could have overthrown the humans easily. What were they waiting for?

Moreover, Lu Shu had ruled out the possibility of people with the same name. After all, it was almost impossible that two Cloud Yi's were both of special existence with totally no energy waves.

But Lu Shu believed it was also a coincidence that they were on the same flight. Otherwise, she would have dismantled the plane directly judging from her power in the sea. She did not have to waste any time with the pseudo-Class B Lu Shu...

Luckily she did not recognize him...

Cloud Yi ignored him and continued walking forward. As the clatter of her heels drifted further away, Lu Shu heaved a sigh of relief, his shirt had been wet by his sweat. He was seized with terror. Even terrorists were just anti-human, while this lady was not even a human at all...

But Lu Shu suddenly realized that his sensory-type abilities were not reliable in many situations because they had failed him multiple times so far. It could either be due to something they wore or the Puppet Masters' own abilities.

Lu Shu led Lu Xiaoyu towards another exit. "Hurry!"

Lu Xiaoyu whispered, "Who was she?"

Lu Xiaoyu knew that she had to keep quiet and cooperate with Lu Shu when he apologized politely to the woman.

"She's the Puppet Master," replied Lu Shu.

Lu Xiaoyu was stunned. "But she wasn't wearing a black robe! How did you recognize her? Do you have some secrets with her?"

Lu Shu was dumbfounded.

Her imagination was too wild!

Lu Shu patiently explained, "I can't tell you exactly how, but I just know it."

"Is that an explanation...?" Lu Xiaoyu said, expressionless. How's that any different from the typical excuse "I believe it no matter if you buy it or not"?

Lu Shu started packing up once he got home. He was genuinely scared. Apparently the Puppet Master named Cloud Yi had a permanent residence in the country and she could wreak havoc anytime. Moreover, her top target at the moment would probably be Lu Shu...

Speaking of which, did Nie Ting even know that there was such a great threat within the national borders? It was no longer safe for Lu Shu to stay locally anymore!

Lu Shu called Nie Ting at once. However... "Sorry, the number you are dialing is unavailable..."

Haha! Come! Let's harm each other!

Not before Lu Shu called him six times in one go did Nie Ting finally answer the phone. Nie Ting said calmly before Lu Shu could even speak, "Don't even think about the rewards for the remains adventure this time. I won't ask you for the items you pocketed yourself either."

Lu Shu paused and said, "That's not why I called!"

"Oh," Nie Ting said and put his phone aside, as if talking to someone else. "Why do we have to eat scallion? Can you put it away?"

"... I want to go overseas!"

"AGAIN?" Nie Ting's volume suddenly went up.

"I said, I want to go overseas!" Lu Shu repeated. "Check the airport surveillance camera footage. After I got off the plane, I bumped into a lady on my way out. She's the Puppet Master. Don't ask me how I know. Find her!"

This time bomb must be found. She was the danger hidden in the country.

Shi Xuejin called two hours later and said, "You will go overseas in three days. We couldn't find the Puppet Master, it's as if she has disappeared from the world."

### **632 ANOTHER REJECTION**

After bumping into Cloud Yi at the airport, she disappeared in the crowd. This made Lu Shu very insecure. Who knows when she would find out about his identity and come to kill him?

She was a Class A too. If she really wanted to kill someone, Lu Shu could not depend

on Nie Ting to protect him all the time, right?

Nie Ting could use Lu Shu as bait to kill them, but the problem was that Lu Shu did not want to be bait... she was a Class A. If things went wrong, he would be dead before he even realized it!

Nie Ting's arrangement was not complex. After three days, deploy a group of secret practitioners towards Europe from Luo City. These secret practitioners were recruited by the Heavenly Network. There would be members from the Heavenly Network to lead this group.

Lu Shu knew that this group even had a few ordinary people. They were experts in negotiating with overseas partners.

Their task was to buy and sell training resources, as well as contact training organizations to engage in business talks and build alliances.

With transport becoming increasingly convenient, the world felt as if it was getting smaller. For example, every time a remain opened, Practitioners from all over the world would gather there.

The Heavenly Network could not assume that it did not need allies and everyone else was their enemy just because it had two Class A's.

After all, they had to compete for training resources. Some conflicts were bound to happen. In these times, the Heavenly Network needed to find some friends.

The ideal situation would be to reduce the number of hostile Practitioners at the borders of the Heavenly Network. It was fine even if they could not completely

eradicate them. If they had more allies, their allies could check for the Heavenly Network. The Heavenly Network could also check other ambitious organizations.

Of course, they both had to consider their own benefits.

There were ordinary people in the group because the Heavenly Network did not have professional negotiators. There were often soldiers in history who could cause a hundred thousand soldiers to surrender with just their words. Many people felt that they had the gift of the gab. They felt that if they were born in that era, they would be able to do the same.

But many people thought too highly about themselves. Real life negotiations were not as easy as in stories. They needed not just eloquence. They needed courage and insight, as well as plenty of time spent preparing in advance.

Lu Shu did not hate this. Furthermore, he was very clear that this time, Nie Ting had included him in the group to act as the strongest secret bodyguard.

This was simpler. The secret practitioners did not have to worry too much. They only had to ensure the safety of the ordinary people.

As for the identity that Lu Shu wanted to use, it was as he had expected. It was the identity that You Mingyu had prepared for him earlier. He was the original owner of the Darkness Kingdom ID, Li Teng.

Back then, Lu Shu had realized that Li Teng's height and physique was similar to his. Furthermore, he was a spy and an overseas Chinese businessman. It was very easy to take over his identity.

Nie Ting had actually thought a step ahead of Lu Shu, who had only realized how this identity was very suitable for him to substitute. Nie Ting was different. For the unforgivable crime of having always been selling classified intelligence from the country, Nie Ting would not hesitate to push Li Teng out to be the scapegoat for Lu Shu if Lu Shu got into any great trouble out there.

When he was allocating the identities, Nie Ting had already made preparations in this area. This was based on his understanding of Lu Shu...

All in all, Nie Ting was very happy. This idiot was finally out to damage others!

As for whether Lu Shu would wreck the group, Nie Ting still approved Shi Xuejin's plan. Lu Shu had morals. He was very clear on what he should and should not do.

This was a young man that often frustrated him, but could be trusted during crucial times...

That night, You Mingyu came to the Xingshu Road courtyard to see Lu Shu. He brought resources for the trip to the west and the position of Heavenly King.

You Mingyu looked at Lu Xiaoyu and Little Fury watching television. He had no intention of keeping Lu Xiaoyu away, because he knew the close relationship between Lu Xiaoyu and Lu Shu.

"I didn't expect that you would become a Heavenly King in the blink of an eye..."  
You Mingyu sighed with emotion. "The Ninth Heavenly King. The world will definitely have their eyes on you."

He did not expect Lu Shu to suddenly shake his head. "I can't become a Heavenly



King. Help me tell Heavenly King Nie that I have no intention of becoming a Heavenly King."

Lu Shu had pondered deeply about rejecting the position of Heavenly King. Once he took on this position, his responsibilities would increase significantly.

Maybe he was not mature in his thinking. Maybe his many years of experience had caused his personality to be as such. He would do his all to protect the team in this trip and do what he should do.

He could consciously decide to get rid of the snake in the grass rather than to enter the remains at the cavern of lizards. He could lead his comrades to bravely kill the enemies on the island. But he did not want to become a Heavenly King.

You Mingyu was dumbfounded. "Are you serious? This is the position of Heavenly King... a position that many yearn for! Did you know? There are newly ascended Class B's in the Heavenly Network, but till today, they have not gotten the chance to become a Heavenly King. You can't be a Heavenly King with your abilities now!"

Lu Shu shook his head. "I cannot accept this position yet."

"Slap me. Am I dreaming?" You Mingyu said.

Lu Shu said, "What are you saying?!"

But Lu Shu did not do anything. He was not asking Lu Shu to really slap him, right? Suddenly, You Mingyu urged him, "Hurry up and slap me!"

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. What a strange request. He hesitated before slapping him.

Slap!

You Mingyu shouted, "Ah!"

Lu Shu was dumbfounded.

Lu Xiaoyu was confused.

Little Fury was confused too.

To be honest, this was the first time Lu Shu felt uncomfortable after slapping someone. Why did he feel like he was being taken advantage of...

Lu Xiaoyu glanced at You Mingyu. "He doesn't seem like a serious person."

Little Fury's knowledge about humans was once again overturned. There were no such strange hobbies among its own species...

"Ahem." Lu Shu had a strange expression on his face. "Thanks for the resources. It's getting late. You should go back. I'll take a look at the resources."

### **633 CLOUD YI, WE MEET AGAIN**

After hearing this, Lu Shu could immediately feel the great importance that Nie Ting had placed on him. Of course, it was best if nothing happened. But if they really faced a hopeless situation that they could not salvage, then it was best to not put his life in danger.

Everyone hoped for things to turn out as expected. Everyone hoped that this trip to the west would proceed safely, and that they would be able to make beneficial allies. But the problem was, reality would not change because of this hope.

Who could guarantee that this group would definitely not run into danger? For sure, no one could guarantee that.

When they could not escape danger and no one else could escape, the most important thing was to ensure that Lu Shu did not die.

Lu Shu was silent for a while. He said, "Please tell Heavenly King Nie that I will do my best to bring all of them back in one piece. I will do everything I can."

The next day, Lu Shu headed towards the Liu village. He had thought that the inn would take one or two months to complete, but he did not expect to receive a notice from Li Yixiao saying that it was already complete.

Not only was it completed, the Nalan family even managed the inn.

The Nalan family had several big businesses. They even had a chain of hotels. Now, a common business model among hotels was to build the hotel, and then have another party to manage the hotel. For example, InterContinental Hotels have adopted such a model.

When Lu Shu reached the Liu village, he saw Li Yixiao directing people to hang a plaque. The two inns were very close to each other. The inn that belonged to Lu Shu still did not have a name. On the other hand, Li Yixiao's inn was called...

When Lu Shu saw the plaque that was put up, he was confused. A few lines were printed on the plaque in small print. "Love Your Wife, Love Your Life, Don't Hide Your Money, Don't Quarrel, Don't Talk Back Inn".

"This is my first time seeing an inn with such a long name..." Lu Shu sighed.

Nalan Que was already sitting behind the counter as the current lady boss. Lu Shu could not help but sigh. There was always one thing to conquer another. Who would think that Li Yixiao would be so terrified? Who would think that Nalan Que, whose family was very rich, would give up on her family business to open a small inn with Li Yixiao?

Lu Shu suddenly realized that there were only male staff in this inn...

When Nalan Que saw Lu Shu, she immediately beamed with joy and said, "Xiaoshu, come over for lunch!"

Li Yixiao's expression changed greatly. "We have just opened our inn. Eat more here!"

Nalan Que laughed coldly. "So you do have some personal savings!"

"From Li Yixiao's distress, +199!"

Lu Shu smacked his lips. Could they exclude him from their conflict?

When Lu Shu heard this, he was very happy. This was his not his first time dealing with the villagers of the Liu village. The villagers had initially planned to use the strawberries in their greenhouses to earn extra income, but the strawberries had been wiped clean by Lu Shu.

But Lu Shu had a clear conscience. This group of people had taken advantage of Lu Xiaoyu, thinking that she was easily bullied. They had come to steal their Chinese

chives. Lu Shu was already showing mercy by not destroying their homes.

"Leave this to me. We will go the high-end way. If they are able to steal our business, it's my loss," said Lu Shu with a smile. He had the Seal of Lands in his hands. If he increased the concentration of magical energy in these two inns, the two inns would not only become places for people to fulfill their needs. They would also become sacred training locations. But this way, they would have to reconsider their prices.

Although the Beimang remains had a high concentration of magical energy, but if ten thousand people went there and shared the magical energy, it would only become a slightly magically rich land. It was no match for magically rich lands with very high concentration of magical energy.

The concentration of magical energy was high here because Lu Shu planted Chinese chives. If the concentration continued to increase, the concentration of magical energy here would be higher than that of highly magically rich lands. It could be said that after Lu Shu got his hands on the Seal of Lands, the ones who directly benefited from it were Jiang Shuyi, Liu Li, and Lu Shu himself.

Nie Ting knew that the Seal of Lands was with Lu Shu. Lu Shu was sure that Nie Ting would not respond if he did such a minor move.

As Lu Shu was high-spirited and energetic, he heard a familiar voice coming from behind him. A cold voice said to Nalan Que, "Do you have any rooms?"

Lu Shu turned stiff. He knew that voice even without turning back. Puppet Master Cloud Yi!

When Nalan Que saw such a pretty lady, she had wanted to reject her. After all, even

the staff in this inn were guys. Li Yixiao was clear on who to reject...

Now, there was a lady who was devastatingly beautiful. With Nalan Que's temper, she would definitely not let her stay here.

But Lu Shu, who had his back facing Cloud Yi, glanced at Nalan Que. Nalan Que said without any hesitation, "Oh, yes. We have rooms with a double bed and standard rooms. We have just started operations and are offering a 20% discount."

Lu Shu heaved a sigh of relief. The Puppet Master was the greatest security threat in the country. He was afraid that if Nalan Que rejected her, she would flatten this place in a matter of minutes...

Although Lu Shu was very sure that since the Puppet Master was hiding her whereabouts and would not make a fuss out of such a minor thing, who could guarantee that it would definitely not happen?

Didn't she vanish into thin air? Heavenly King Nie, could you really be relied upon?

Lu Shu kept his back towards Cloud Yi the entire time. He did not know why she came here. Did she already know that he was here? That did not make any sense. She would kill him immediately. She would not ask things like whether there was a room or not...

So what was special about the Liu village and Luo City? Lu Shu thought carefully about it. One had a Cultivation College, and the other was the biggest black market in the country. They both attracted many Practitioners.

And this inn... was one of the places with the highest concentration of magical

energy...

The Puppet Master had to train too. Thus, she just chose a place with a high concentration of magical energy. There was nothing wrong with that...

It was as if Lu Shu had shot himself in the foot. Lu Shu was considering whether he should earn a little less money to increase the magical energy in the inn. This idea sounded quite reliable.

Lu Shu waited for Cloud Yi to head towards her room before walking out. Once he was a kilometer away, he started to run wildly. As he ran, he called Nie Ting. "Didn't you say that she had vanished into thin air? The Puppet Master is at the Liu village now! Come encircle and annihilate her!"

Nie Ting was silent. Annihilating a Class A in the middle of a city? Was it worth sacrificing the lives of half the city to do so?

This was why Class A's were truly experts. They were like atomic bombs. No matter where they exploded, the people in the area would definitely be plunged into misery and suffering.

### **634 PUNISHMEN**

When Nie Ting went silent on the call, Lu Shu knew his plan was unreasonable. Actually he was also aware that as the leader of the Heavenly Network, Nie Ting would do his best not to confront the Puppet Master, a mid-Class A, anywhere close to the cities. This was out of consideration for the greater good.

It was not because Nie Ting was scared, nor because he had no confidence in defeating the Puppet Master. Instead, countless innocent lives might be lost during the fight of two or more Class A's.

The main difference between the Heavenly Network and many practitioners organizations was that the latter aimed mainly for their own international influence and cultivation resources whereas the former played more of a guardian's role.

Nie Ting would view himself as unworthy as the leader of the Network if he fought the Puppet Master at Luo City and put everything else at stake.

Lu Shu understood his stance. Just like that analogy, when a Class A, now situated in the city center, could only be destroyed by a nuclear bomb, would you still press that button?

Therefore, the Heavenly Network had adopted an alternative measure. The newly constructed inn that belonged to Lu Shu had been fully occupied by members of the Heavenly Network because they did not dare to stay in Li Yixiao's inn... What was its name again?

Back then, the Heavenly Network decided not to monitor Li Yixiao because experts were very sensitive to being watched. It was like their sixth sense after they had achieved resonance with the heaven and earth. Hence, it was possible that the Puppet Master Cloud Yi might go on a killing spree if she noticed she was under surveillance. The Heavenly Network had always been extremely prudent and careful when dealing with their enemies. They watched their distance and never underestimated their opponents, let alone the fact that the Puppet Masters had proven themselves to be rather cunning.

On the other hand, the Heavenly Network had to know the movement of their enemies. That was why Lu Shu's inn was chosen. All of them hid inside the inn and all communication was conducted with paper and pens. Even surveillance footage were played 15 seconds late, out of the fear that the Puppet Master might notice



anything unusual if they were live.

On the afternoon of the same day, Chen Baili also rushed to Luo City and secretly settled down in Luo Shen Cultivation College.

Although the country's borders were important too, there had been an improvement in the border management recently. Moreover, the newly ascended Class B, An Sheng, could also replace Chen Baili to guard the Southern Tibetan border temporarily.

Due to Cloud Yi's arrival, Nie Ting decided to send Lu Shu overseas at once, instead of three days later. So long as Lu Shu was not in the country, the Puppet Master probably would not want to make more enemies right after the confrontation with the Saint.

They would not act rashly if their target, Lu Shu, was not in the country.

Truth be told, Lu Shu did not feel good at all. He was supposed to be going overseas to cause other people trouble, but now it seemed as if he had fled abroad...

But he had a question, how long had Cloud Yi stayed in China? It did not seem like a short stay, but what was she up to? As a Class A, she did not have to take orders from anyone in the world. So why was she so loyal to somebody?

Moreover, she wanted to kill the Small White Fish when she learned about its betrayal, and it appeared that the only task they had been doing was drawing in former subordinates for their master.

But why were all the former subordinates in the remains? Lu Shu believed it had to be related to the Ancient Yi clan, and... it might be associated with the origin of the

Spirit Qi regeneration.

Having packed up his stuff, Lu Shu immediately headed to Luo City Train Station to meet up with the group of secret practitioners. He had changed into Li Teng's appearance. According to the plan, they would fly to Russia and execute the mission under the name of medical exchange.

From Russian practitioners organizations, they would extend all the way into Europe. Most importantly, they had to circumvent the territory of the Department of Faith Theory. Currently, the Department was an ambitious organization eager for expansion. The Heavenly Network's hope to seek European allies also served to thwart their development.

Eventually, this so-called medical exchange group would arrive in Sweden and form an alliance with the Deities...

When Lu Shu heard about that, he knew Nie Ting must have been lying about his role in the mission. Apparently, Nie Ting wanted to utilize Lu Shu's connection with Coral, not some secret protector of the group...

The Puppet Master had gone out again before Lu Shu left. This time, she went to the downtown area. To everyone's surprise, she went grocery shopping in a supermarket, followed by a movie and a steamboat meal at a Quanzhou restaurant...

All of the Heavenly Network members, including Lu Shu, were rendered speechless. She seemed just like any normal human being...

Lu Shu went for a walk in the village head's strawberry farm before he left. He stole all the strawberries as his snacks during his trip. Nalan Que said that the village head

always threw his construction garbage at the doorstep of their inn at midnight. What a scoundrel!

Afterwards, Lu Shu took out the red paint which had made significant contributions in the Collection of Gods, and wrote a gigantic "REMOVE" on the wall of the newly constructed inn...

When the village head came to check on the progress of construction, he was totally dumbstruck. Who the heck did this?!

Then his wife rushed over, reporting that all the strawberries were gone...

At this moment, the village head immediately knew who was behind it. He led a group of people and walked towards Lu Shu's inn, each holding a steel pipe from the construction site. This was a piece of advice he was taught. No Daoyuan Class student could get away with beating up villagers for no reason. Send someone to film the happenings in secret and upload the video online once the student used violence. Then, the student would be punished by public comments and he would never dare to do it again!

The group of people rushed towards the inn aggressively. However, the main gate was close and it was completely quiet inside. In fury, the village head's son kicked the door open.

In the next instant, a clang pierced through the silence. They saw a group of Heavenly Network members inside the inn, holding their swords in their hands, ready to attack...

All of them were speechless. They thought it was the Puppet Master who had returned

from the steamboat restaurant!

The leader asked, his face darkened, "What are you doing here?"

The village head's son looked at the steel pipe in his hands and asked, "Brothers, wanna see a pole dance?"

"From Liu Weidong's distress, +999!"

"From..."

At this moment, the village head suddenly understood that that boy had purposely tricked them because the Heavenly Network was here!

How freaking despicable!

Meanwhile, Lu Shu had already reached the train station. Based on the time... the village head must have already been punished by then. The Puppet Master was still at the steamboat restaurant and had yet to return to the inn. So perhaps the village head's family had finally learned their lesson this time...

### **635 BARRIER**

Lu Shu started his journey. What Nie Ting did not tell him was that the Puppet Master Cloud Yi had entered India through legal means, with a valid visa and plane ticket, the day after Lu Shu had left.

She must be kept out of China's territory...

In the underground part of the base, Nie Ting's eyes were glued to the surveillance video footages. Confused, Shi Xuejin asked, "So what was that Puppet Master doing

here? But it seems that our speculation was right. They are interested in India in its most vulnerable state."

"It's not that simple," Nie Ting said calmly, "It's possible that they already know Lu Shu's real identity."

Think about it, the Puppet Master's stay in the Liu Village was rather baffling and she was even on the same flight as Lu Shu. Could both incidents have been a pure coincidence? Or was it a plan?

"But the thing is, why didn't she take action if she knew who Lu Shu was?" Shi Xuejin was confused, "I'm more inclined towards thinking that she's looking for or waiting for something at Luo City."

"Not entirely impossible," Nie Ting agreed with a nod, "Speaking of which, why is there such a long delay in the opening of Longmen Mountain remains at Luo City? What's behind it?"

"I'm not sure about that. Our prediction of the remains on Longmen Mountain is only based on our experience too. Nowadays, with the increasing rate of Spirit Qi regeneration, there are more and more people who can practice cultivation. But our judgment about the Longmen remains may have been wrong since there's been nothing special spotted around the region," said Shi Xuejin, "By the way, do you think anything bad may happen to the team with Lu Shu there? I reckon he'd better act alone..."

Nie Ting turned and looked at Shi Xuejin. "Do you mean that bad things will happen to him or others in the team?"

"Others, of course..."

...

Lu Shu's team gathered in a separate carriage on the train. They would take the plane from the Capital and the following procedures had all been settled.

He studied everyone in the carriage. The so-called negotiation group consisted of three people only, one woman and two men, each dressed in a suit and a pair of spectacles with an intellectual air.

But those secret practitioners were different. They lay around in the carriage, chatting and smoking, while some were playing cards. There were a total of 14 practitioners, including Lu Shu and a team leader who was from the Heavenly Network.

Lu Shu did not know the leader. Despite his young age, his energy waves had reached the peak of Class C. According to his self introduction, this man named Xia Rensheng had received relevant training and was a proficient Russian and English speaker, which explained why he was selected to be the leader this time.

These people always came fully prepared. There was no reason to convince others without good knowledge of both parties' situations.

Admittedly, they were very committed about their job. They spent the entire train journey flipping through their materials and in quiet discussion except for toilet breaks, a drastic contrast with the surrounding secret practitioners.

Before those practitioners were employed by the Heavenly Network, they were experienced magical stone smugglers who led a life-threatening lifestyle.

They used to deal with black markets with their cunningness and schemes. On the other side, the negotiation elites were rather conservative people with conventional mindsets.

However, all of them worked in the same team for Xia Rensheng.

Lu Shu alienated himself from everyone since he did not know any of them. He closed his eyes and rested on a bed in the corner.

He did not find anyone there trustworthy because he had no idea about their backgrounds. He would be a reliable protector, but not someone there to talk about cooperation or trust.

Although those secret practitioners now belonged to the Heavenly Network, it did not guarantee their personality.

Lu Shu had his hands on the black market for a while, and he could not have a better idea of how the majority of the secret practitioners were like. Hence, Lu Shu would rather try not to reveal his own information in the group, just in case any traitor there would sell it.

The only woman in the negotiation group was quite young. Her name was Lin Ganyu and she had a pair of black-framed specs on her nose. Suddenly she turned to Xia Rensheng and said, "Mr Xia, could you please ask those people to keep quiet? Our current work plays a vital role in the diplomatic tie between the Heavenly Network and Europe. May we please request to have our discussion in a quiet environment?"

Lin Ganyu's choice of words was very polite, but not her tone.

A secret practitioner called Liu Fan replied with a disapproving laugh, "You have your work to do, so do we. Why should you act as if you are superior to us?"

Lin Ganyu's eyes narrowed in slight annoyance. "So how does your card playing help you with your work?"

Liu Fan lit a cigarette in the carriage. Immediately the stinky smell permeated the entire room. Lu Shu frowned at him. Certainly Liu Fan himself would not mind it since he was a smoker, but how could he smoke in such an enclosed environment?

The wily slicker Liu Fan said with a grin, "We can do our work well so long as we are happy. So stay out of our business!"

Lin Ganyu instantly exploded into rage. "How can a bunch of scoundrels do their job well? Look at what you have done on the train! You play cards, chitchat and that one, who's been sleeping since the train started moving! What work can you do if you lack sufficient prior knowledge about your rivals?!"

Lu Shu was shocked.

He was the only sleeper there, so she must be referring to him! It was fine that you were all having an argument, but could you please exclude the innocent one?

At first, Lu Shu felt sympathy towards the negotiation group, but not anymore. Neither side were kind-hearted people. Ha, it's a long journey ahead. Let's harm one another.

Smiling, Xia Rensheng patted those secret practitioners' shoulders and extinguished



the cigarette with a pinch of his fingers. "Observe the rules on our way there. Okay, go and take some rest."

One sentence from him worked better than ten sentences from Lin Ganyu. None of the secret practitioners would go against the Heavenly Network because they had to seek refuge under the Network.

Laughing, the group dispersed and went to rest. They were still cursing on their way to bed, as if to show to the negotiation team that they had done so only to save Xia Rensheng's face, not theirs.

Lu Shu started his journey. What Nie Ting did not tell him was that the Puppet Master Cloud Yi had entered India through legal means, with a valid visa and plane ticket, the day after Lu Shu had left.

She must be kept out of China's territory...

In the underground part of the base, Nie Ting's eyes were glued to the surveillance video footages. Confused, Shi Xuejin asked, "So what was that Puppet Master doing here? But it seems that our speculation was right. They are interested in India in its most vulnerable state."

"It's not that simple," Nie Ting said calmly, "It's possible that they already know Lu Shu's real identity."

Think about it, the Puppet Master's stay in the Liu Village was rather baffling and she was even on the same flight as Lu Shu. Could both incidents have been a pure coincidence? Or was it a plan?

"But the thing is, why didn't she take action if she knew who Lu Shu was?" Shi Xuejin

was confused, "I'm more inclined towards thinking that she's looking for or waiting for something at Luo City."

"Not entirely impossible," Nie Ting agreed with a nod, "Speaking of which, why is there such a long delay in the opening of Longmen Mountain remains at Luo City? What's behind it?"

"I'm not sure about that. Our prediction of the remains on Longmen Mountain is only based on our experience too. Nowadays, with the increasing rate of Spirit Qi regeneration, there are more and more people who can practice cultivation. But our judgment about the Longmen remains may have been wrong since there's been nothing special spotted around the region," said Shi Xuejin, "By the way, do you think anything bad may happen to the team with Lu Shu there? I reckon he'd better act alone..."

Nie Ting turned and looked at Shi Xuejin. "Do you mean that bad things will happen to him or others in the team?"

"Others, of course..."

...

Lu Shu's team gathered in a separate carriage on the train. They would take the plane from the Capital and the following procedures had all been settled.

He studied everyone in the carriage. The so-called negotiation group consisted of three people only, one woman and two men, each dressed in a suit and a pair of spectacles with an intellectual air.

But those secret practitioners were different. They lay around in the carriage, chatting and smoking, while some were playing cards. There were a total of 14 practitioners, including Lu Shu and a team leader who was from the Heavenly Network.

Lu Shu did not know the leader. Despite his young age, his energy waves had reached the peak of Class C. According to his self introduction, this man named Xia Rensheng had received relevant training and was a proficient Russian and English speaker, which explained why he was selected to be the leader this time.

These people always came fully prepared. There was no reason to convince others without good knowledge of both parties' situations.

Admittedly, they were very committed about their job. They spent the entire train journey flipping through their materials and in quiet discussion except for toilet breaks, a drastic contrast with the surrounding secret practitioners.

Before those practitioners were employed by the Heavenly Network, they were experienced magical stone smugglers who led a life-threatening lifestyle.

They used to deal with black markets with their cunningness and schemes. On the other side, the negotiation elites were rather conservative people with conventional mindsets.

However, all of them worked in the same team for Xia Rensheng.

Lu Shu alienated himself from everyone since he did not know any of them. He closed his eyes and rested on a bed in the corner.

He did not find anyone there trustworthy because he had no idea about their

backgrounds. He would be a reliable protector, but not someone there to talk about cooperation or trust.

Although those secret practitioners now belonged to the Heavenly Network, it did not guarantee their personality.

Lu Shu had his hands on the black market for a while, and he could not have a better idea of how the majority of the secret practitioners were like. Hence, Lu Shu would rather try not to reveal his own information in the group, just in case any traitor there would sell it.

The only woman in the negotiation group was quite young. Her name was Lin Ganyu and she had a pair of black-framed specs on her nose. Suddenly she turned to Xia Rensheng and said, "Mr Xia, could you please ask those people to keep quiet? Our current work plays a vital role in the diplomatic tie between the Heavenly Network and Europe. May we please request to have our discussion in a quiet environment?"

Lin Ganyu's choice of words was very polite, but not her tone.

A secret practitioner called Liu Fan replied with a disapproving laugh, "You have your work to do, so do we. Why should you act as if you are superior to us?"

Lin Ganyu's eyes narrowed in slight annoyance. "So how does your card playing help you with your work?"

Liu Fan lit a cigarette in the carriage. Immediately the stinky smell permeated the entire room. Lu Shu frowned at him. Certainly Liu Fan himself would not mind it since he was a smoker, but how could he smoke in such an enclosed environment?

The wily slicker Liu Fan said with a grin, "We can do our work well so long as we are happy. So stay out of our business!"

Lin Ganyu instantly exploded into rage. "How can a bunch of scoundrels do their job well? Look at what you have done on the train! You play cards, chitchat and that one, who's been sleeping since the train started moving! What work can you do if you lack sufficient prior knowledge about your rivals?!"

Lu Shu was shocked.

He was the only sleeper there, so she must be referring to him! It was fine that you were all having an argument, but could you please exclude the innocent one?

At first, Lu Shu felt sympathy towards the negotiation group, but not anymore. Neither side were kind-hearted people. Ha, it's a long journey ahead. Let's harm one another.

Smiling, Xia Rensheng patted those secret practitioners' shoulders and extinguished the cigarette with a pinch of his fingers. "Observe the rules on our way there. Okay, go and take some rest."

One sentence from him worked better than ten sentences from Lin Ganyu. None of the secret practitioners would go against the Heavenly Network because they had to seek refuge under the Network.

Laughing, the group dispersed and went to rest. They were still cursing on their way to bed, as if to show to the negotiation team that they had done so only to save Xia Rensheng's face, not theirs.

## 636 TRUSTED SUBORDINATE

Suddenly, Lu Shu realized one thing. He was only 50 thousand distress points away from lighting up the seventh star!

Lu Shu was suddenly excited. His journey to earn 3.2 million distress points was finally coming to an end. Class B was within his reach!

This would not do. He had to earn distress points!

Xia Rensheng looked at Lu Shu, who was crouching in one corner. This "Li Teng" had not spoken. He seemed easier to handle than the rest of the Practitioners. It seemed like this was the only person who could save him some trouble on this vehicle. Xia Rensheng was gloomy. Although he had gone through training before, this was his first time actually leading a team.

The fact that Lu Shu had entered the team was a classified secret. The information that Xia Rensheng could see was limited to "Li Teng". Lu Shu's information was kept under high levels of security. Xia Rensheng did not have access to this information.

As the leader of the team, Xia Rensheng wanted to have a trusted subordinate on this long journey. Even if there were conflicts within the team, he would be able to take control easily.

Being a leader was not easy. If there were things that could not be easily said, he could still use his trusted subordinate as his buffer. One could play the good cop, while the other played the bad cop. This would be a better solution.

Thus, Xia Rensheng set his sights on Lu Shu, who was the most well-behaved here...

Suddenly, he saw Lu Shu get up and fish out a box of stinky tofu from his bag. He

silently put it on the table and lay down once again. He had no intention of eating the stinky tofu...

Xia Rensheng was confused. Why did you bring stinky tofu on board?! And why did you take it out but not eat it?!

Suddenly, the secret practitioners and the negotiators flared up!

"Ugh, what is that smell?!"

"Which idiot brought stinky tofu on board? Hurry up and open the windows!"

"Are you dumb?! You can't open the windows in a train! Whose stinky tofu is this? Hurry up and get rid of it!"

"From Liu Fan's distress, +399!"

"From Xia Rensheng's distress..."

"From..."

In this airtight train, Lu Shu was in a frenzy to earn the last few distress points he needed...

But Lu Shu did not think that he had gone overboard. After all, there were no particularly kind people on board...

But this caused Lu Shu to become a neglected character, away from the negotiators, the secret practitioners, and Xia Rensheng...

The train continued north. The future of their trip to the west was unpredictable.

It was said that the perfect instant noodles required 500 milliliters of mineral water from the Himalayas. Boil the water to 100 degrees Celsius, then pour the water into the noodles and let it cook for three minutes.

But Lu Shu felt that the secret to a bowl of perfect noodles was not how you cooked it, but when you ate it. Some people liked eating it while spending the night at an internet cafe. Others liked to eat it on the train. Some liked to eat it in a hotpot, like in Korean movies, while watching dramas.

As for Lu Shu, he liked to eat when others had no appetite.

Lu Shu held a bowl of instant noodles and sat by the secret practitioners. He listened to them chat. After a while, Liu Fan could not take it anymore. "Brother, could you go somewhere else to eat? Just now you had stinky tofu, now you have a bowl of instant noodles. Are you really out on a mission?"

"From Liu Fan's distress, +99..."

"From Ye Zichen's distress, +99..."

Their train car was sealed shut. At first, everyone thought that they could buy things while on board. This was a mission, not a leisure trip. Everyone felt that it would be shameful to bring instant noodles.

But they could not buy any now, and they did not bring any either...



Lu Shu carried his bowl of instant noodles and happily walked away. He had approached the negotiators and the secret practitioners to hear what mission the Heavenly Network had assigned to them. After listening for a while, the secret practitioners talked about black markets and women...

He could even occasionally hear stories about "The Venerable". It was as if the Venerable had become a legend among the secret practitioners. It was like a young martial arts master with white flowing robes and peak combat power in novels.

The chat from the negotiators' side was of more substance. Lu Shu heard some clues from them. The Heavenly Network wanted to sell their standard long swords to small organizations who did not pose a threat to them in order to obtain their ores.

These ores were all metal ores that could be used to produce standard training weapons with magical energy after the rise of the magical era.

The Heavenly Network had a good plan. They could check other big organizations by trading their weapons to small organizations. These small organizations also did not have the technology to produce their own weapons and could only rely on bought weapons. The Heavenly Network would also obtain some of the resources that they desperately needed.

History had proven that isolated countries would only be beaten up by other countries. Thus, the strategy that the Heavenly Network had chosen was to actively make use of their global position, and not to persistently develop the strength of the Practitioners in their organization.

There may be some people who felt that the Heavenly Network acted like gangsters. But Lu Shu felt that being vigilant in times of peace was the way to survive.

Lu Xiaoyu was bored. She did not want to stay at home and watch Naruto. She felt that there was no meaning when Lu Shu was not home.

Lu Xiaoyu carried her small bag. Little Fury obediently crawled up to her bag. The two of them headed to Luo Shen College. Big Cat and Naughty Pig were playing in the fields. Lu Xiaoyu let them take a break.

When she reached Luo Shen College, a group of people greeted her. She bumped into Li Yixiao and Nalan Que walking towards the residential area. When Nalan Que saw Lu Xiaoyu, she beamed with joy. She liked Lu Xiaoyu from the bottom of her heart. "Xiaoyu, Xiaoyu, come, have some food at our place."

Li Yixiao wanted to reject her, but thinking about it, Lu Xiaoyu was not Lu Shu. He was relieved and did not speak.

Lu Xiaoyu thought about it and agreed. She walked in and put on a pair of cotton slippers. "There's something wrong with this pair of slippers."

Li Yixiao's expression changed. Nalan Que calmly took a pair of scissors and cut the pair of cotton slippers. There were two 100 hundred dollar bills inside...

"Wow, Li Yixiao. Did you learn how to sew so that you can hide your savings?" Nalan Que's expression darkened.

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

Li Yixiao understood. Nothing good ever happened when either of the siblings came. "Ha ha ha, I just realized that we have no food at home. Let's go out to eat!"

Lu Xiaoyu looked around. "Okay. To thank you for taking care of me, I will treat you to a meal. Treat it as a form of thanks for building the inn."

When they reached the restaurant, Lu Xiaoyu ordered a bottle of alcohol for Li Yixiao. After waiting for Li Yixiao to drink a bit, Lu Xiaoyu asked, "Do you know where exactly Lu Shu is headed to this time?"

Li Yixiao said without thinking, "Somewhere in Europe. After forming an alliance with the Deities in Sweden, they will come back. I don't think they will take long. Maybe at most half a year?"

"Sweden? The Deities?!" Lu Xiaoyu was dumbfounded. Lu Shu had never told her any of this!

Lu Xiaoyu put down her chopsticks and grabbed Little Fury, who was still eating. She headed to the cashier to pay the bill. She had to go to Europe!

The boss of the restaurant calculated the cost and said with a smile, "Young lady, your total is 201 yuan. But I'll charge you 200 yuan!"

Lu Xiaoyu thought about it and said. "Then if the total is 204 yuan, how much will you charge me?"

The boss was dumbfounded. He waved his hand. "I'll also charge you 200 yuan!"

Lu Xiaoyu nodded. "Then could I trouble you to give me a bottle of Coca Cola?"

The shop owner was confused.

## 637 CHANGE OF COURSE

Lu Shu was very busy. He had to feed Lu Xiaoyu fruits while eating fruits himself.

To be honest, he did not want to keep earning distress points from his comrades. Although he was only one step away from the third Nebula, he did not feel satisfied immediately advancing without earning experience. But after all, they were his comrades. He came to earn distress points with a clear conscience, right?

The train towards the Capital was very fast. They reached it in a few hours. After they alighted, there was no vehicle for them, nor did anyone come to receive them. They had to go to the airport by themselves to settle the procedures.

From this moment onwards, they had become people who came under no one's jurisdiction. If anything happened overseas, the Heavenly Network would not admit to their identities. This was why secret practitioners were chosen for this.

It was not because the Heavenly Network was heartless and did not protect their own people. If this was the case, they would not have to assign Lu Shu to accompany them.

This was the situation they were in. Although it seemed rather cold, the Heavenly Network could not affect the entire situation just because of an individual.

But there was a problem with the transport arrangements. There were two nine-seater SUVs. There were 18 people in the team, including Xia Rensheng. There was nothing wrong about this. But Xia Rensheng had forgotten about something, their luggage.

Two SUVs could not store 18 people's worth of luggages. They had to take up three seats at the back to put the luggage, but these three people would not have a place to sit.

Liu Fan happily sat at the passenger seat of an SUV. "I'll sit here. You guys can slowly choose your seats."

When it came to Lu Shu, there were no more seats. Liu Fan jeered, "Li Teng, I think you can sit on top of the car. How about it?"

After the stinky tofu incident, a group of secret practitioners grouped together to pick on the three negotiators and Lu Shu. They could not provoke the negotiators much, since Xia Rensheng had placed a greater focus on protecting them. But Li Teng was different. He did not quite fit in with the rest of the secret practitioners and was easy to bully.

Lu Shu was rather depressed. He did not want to think too much about going overseas and earning distress points. The trees long for peace but the wind will never cease.

Lu Shu suddenly realized that this phrase suited him very well. He was a Shu 1 and he wanted to treasure harmony, but others did not agree!

Ka! Lu Shu opened the passenger seat door and pulled Liu Fan out. Liu Fan wanted to resist, but he realized that he could not move! He had thought that Lu Shu was easy to bully, but that did not seem the case! What a pain in the ass!

"From Liu Fan's distress, +199!"

The average strength of the secret practitioners was around Class E. Liu Fan himself was a middle Class E. According to his calculations, Lu Shu was at least a beginner Class D! Or even a middle Class D!

His imagination was very limited. To him, the secret practitioners were not much different from one another. Since Li Teng was a secret practitioner too, his abilities would not be that high either!

This was a normal thought process. After all, if a Class C or even a Class B appeared among the secret practitioners, it would be very frightening...

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Liu Fan stood near the SUV and laughed coldly. "Brother, take care of your temper when you are out. If not, something bad will happen to you."

Lu Shu did not feel that this was logical. He was silent. "Why should I control my temper? Shouldn't you all take care not to provoke me?"

"From Liu Fan's distress, +666!"

"From Ye Zichen's distress, +666!"

Li Ganyu, who was sitting behind, suddenly laughed coldly. "Jackals from the same lair."

Lu Shu suddenly could not understand. Why did she like to do such a thing... did elite members go through this many times? From Li Ganyu's point of view, the quarrel between him and Liu Fan was like a dogfight...



The most depressed person in the entire team was Xia Rensheng. He could not understand. This was his first time leading a team. Why were they at odds with one another even before they went overseas? He was very tired...

"From Xia Rensheng's distress, +99!"

They would stay in the Capital for a day before boarding their plane. Their original plan, to set off after three days, had been changed. Thus, they could not book so many air tickets in one go. The entire team was hence in chaos.

Everyone had only thought that the Heavenly Network's plans had clashed. They took into consideration the overall situation and did not mind that the plans were shifted earlier. But they did not think that shifting their travel date earlier had nothing to do with the overall situation. It was only because Lu Shu wanted the date to be shifted earlier...

When they alighted and were about to enter the hotel, a middle-aged man with a walking stick and wearing glasses approached Li Ganyu and said, "Pretty lady, I have not eaten for a day. Do you have money to spare?"

Lu Shu had thought that Li Ganyu would not give him any money. But Li Ganyu fished out ten dollars from her bag and gave it to him.

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. He waited for the man to walk away before saying. "He did not ask for money from the rest of us even though there were so many people. He had chosen you because you were the only girl who seemed to have some sympathy. If he was really blind, how would he know that you are pretty?"

Li Ganyu was dumbfounded too. "I've been cheated! My ten dollars!"

"From Li Ganyu's distress, +299!"

Lu Shu was puzzled. He was not the one who had cheated her of her money. Why did he earn distress points?!

Lu Shu laughed. "You've gained from this. He called you a pretty lady for ten dollars. I won't call you that even if you gave me 100 dollars. Maybe 1000 dollars would be enough..."

"From Li Ganyu's distress, +499!"

When Lu Shu saw that Li Ganyu's expression had darkened, he was happy. Anyway, there was nothing wrong with causing mutual harm to the people in this team. Suddenly, Li Ganyu fished out 1000 dollars from her wallet and passed it to Lu Shu...

Lu Shu said, "Pretty lady."

"Brother..." Liu Fan and the rest looked at Lu Shu humiliating Li Ganyu, but they did not expect this turn of events. "Although you've earned easy money, do you not have any moral principles? If I give you 1000 dollars, will you call me handsome?"

"If you want me to call you handsome, I'll have to charge more... maybe 10 thousand..." Lu Shu said after carefully looking at Liu Fan.

"From Liu Fan's distress, +666!"

Lu Shu was happily earning distress points. He was getting closer and closer to

lighting up the seventh star. Lu Shu could feel boundless joy...

He did not feel guilty. On one hand, it was because the situation would take its own course regardless of his wishes. On the other hand, he needed these distress points for his own training.

### **638 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE**

The allies that the Heavenly Network selected for trading their standard swords had to fulfill a few conditions first.

Firstly, they had to be in possession of the ores needed by the Heavenly Network. The Network was not a philanthropist and it was meaningless to exchange the weapons for tens of thousands of magical stones too.

Secondly, they had to be geographically close to the Network's potential threats for strategic reasons. Nowadays, the competition for remains and resources was worldwide, and it would not be a worthy deal if it could not result in two powers draining each other. Otherwise, the Network would be nurturing their own enemies.

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Thirdly, they had to be strong enough to safeguard the weapons provided by the

Network from the other organizations. Else, the Network's potential threats would be the ultimate beneficiaries of their deals.

Nonetheless, the Heavenly Network was not omniscient. In their available information, the two greatest practitioners organizations in Russia were the White Bears and the Red Sparrows.

The Red Sparrows had been more powerful all along because they were the first to produce a Class B and their total number of Class B's had always been more than that of the White Bears during their subsequent development. In Russia, the White Bears took up about 20% of the cultivation force while the Red Sparrows the remaining 80%.

Usually, other forces would be more careful when plotting against the White Bears because it would be a drain on their resources and manpower. What if they were taken advantage of by other organizations then?

Therefore, Nie Ting would want to restrict the development of the Red Sparrows using the White Bears to create some room to grow for the latter.

In the end, things were too unpredictable. The White Bears had already been wiped out...

It was an unexpected and unprepared plot twist even for Nie Ting. At the moment, the leader of the White Bears had fled overseas and his people had been almost exterminated.

As a result, the initial plan to go to the north was now rendered meaningless.

The negotiation team had spent days studying the relationship between the White Bears and the Red Sparrows but now their efforts had all gone down the drain. What's the use of it now, with the White Bears out of the picture? Yet, the secret practitioners showed no sympathy at all. Instead, they were all happy for their misfortune. They had purposely raised their voice loud enough for the negotiation group to hear. "Haha, I also conducted some good research on the relationship between the White Bears and the Red Sparrows. Although I couldn't really get it, it seems that those professionals can't do the job either."

It felt as if a professional team had lost their match by 0 to 3, and then people were bitching online saying they would have achieved the same result if they were on the field...

But Lu Shu disagreed with their view, because one would not even be able to enter the Finals without professional expertise...

Everyone stayed at the hotel and waited for orders from the Heavenly Network.

Unexpectedly, the order came on the night itself. Xia Rensheng frowned at the message. Their new destination was thousands of miles away from Europe, it was South Africa!

Xia Rensheng had studied that country before. At the moment, the entirety of South Africa was involved in a battle between the practitioners and the mercenaries, vying for the ownership of a recently discovered, enormous mineral reserve of special metals. It was the only war-torn place in the current relatively peaceful world...

As a matter of fact, most of the native practitioners had disappeared from the land and the current owner of the reserves was a mercenary organization called the EO. At the

beginning, they were a group of soldiers hired for military purposes, but in the end they started slaughtering local practitioners after the discovery of the mineral deposits.

Undeniably, the mercenary industry had always been a messy one. It was not because of their complicated demographics, but their interest-oriented nature.

However, the order Xia Rensheng received was not to fight them, but to hold a preliminary trading negotiation with them. Afterwards, people would be sent there to finish off the follow-ups with the EO and only then could the team leave for Europe.

What made the matter even more complex was that it was not their own plan to head towards South Africa. After claiming the ownership of the mineral reserves, the EO had sent an invitation to all big organizations in the world the night before for a business deal.

Therefore, the exercise might be more dangerous this time.

Xia Rensheng was confused. He had yet to reach the completion stage despite his peak-Class C abilities. But there would probably be Class B's in South Africa when all the big organizations swarmed there. He was clearly incompetent for the task! Why couldn't they at least send a Heavenly King for such a serious matter?

However, he was well aware of the working style of the Heavenly Network and the Network would never send their men on an impossible mission. In the movie series Mission: Impossible, it seemed super cool that Tom Cruise could always complete extreme tasks. But they were not in a drama! It would be a failure of Nie Ting's duties if he intentionally sent his people on a deadly assignment.

So why his team? Xia Rensheng was perplexed and could not figure out why. The

only possible reason was that his was the only ready team at the moment and the task was too urgent to allow time for other teams to prepare.

Everyone was shocked to hear the new order from Xia Rensheng. Although none of them had been to South Africa, they had all heard about how inhumanely cruel those mercenaries were.

Furthermore, the secret practitioners in the team were a far cry from the mercenaries. On one hand, they lacked professional training and were obviously inexperienced in killing people and on the other hand, they were totally different people at heart. While Liu Fan and others simply longed for a stable life with sufficient money and time for cultivation, the mercenaries would not even blink an eye to have blood on their hands.

"Don't worry too much, though," Xia Rensheng explained, "We are not there to fight. In fact, the EO will probably be responsible for keeping the order as they were the invitation sender. Anyway, they are businessmen this time, not soldiers. Hence, the result will be different as the starting point is different."

But even Xia Rensheng himself did not buy it. Why would practitioners obey rules? He could not say it out loud, though. What if someone in the team wanted to escape!

While the group of secret practitioners remained quiet, Lin Ganyu spoke, clenching her teeth, "We are going since they need us to negotiate with the EO. If we die in the end, we'd rather die on a mission... Captain, please tell the Heavenly Network that we will study the EO's information carefully."

### **639 I'M ONLY ASKING FOR THE DIRECTION**

It was bitterly cold in Russia, a northern country.

The majority of the land in Russia was still covered in ice when spring had already

visited China. In fact, the leader of the White Bears, Lev Shagin, did not flee overseas as stated in the report. He was hiding on an ice sheet within Russia, deliberating about his future plans.

At the moment, the Red Sparrows were ready to ambush him on his possible escape routes. They would never let him go so easily.

Shagin's initial plan was to develop slowly in secret and maybe even overthrow the Red Sparrows' rule one day. However, never had he expected that his enemies were already on the move before he could prepare.

In this battle, he was a deserter. He had kept his life at the cost of sacrificing his brothers and his friends' families. Otherwise, he would not have been alive now.

He did not feel guilty though, because the fact that he was still alive meant the possibility of revenge. Everything would be gone if he was dead.

At nightfall, Shagin's face was glowing beside the campfire. His facial expression was gloomy and hopeful at the same time. With the Red Sparrow dictatorship, what could he do?

Actually, in terms of names, the White Bears sounded more aggressive than the Red Sparrows, while in reality it was the reverse. Due to the same reason, the Red Sparrows was more popular among prospective members...

After a long consideration, Shagin decided to flee to Mongolia first and suspend his revenge. Just when he extinguished the fire and was about to set off, a black, giggling shadow emerged from the floor with a little girl. Lu Xiaoyu!



Lu Xiaoyu did not use any proper transport because there was no time for visa application. Hence, the easiest and most efficient way was of course Anthony.

Lu Xiaoyu took a look at her GPS and sighed in distress as if no one was around. "Wrong direction again..."

Admittedly Lu Xiaoyu had come fully prepared. She had bought a huge pile of equipment before she departed. However, there were no signals underground and she could not tell the direction under the surface either. Hence, it was perfectly natural to get lost...

Shagin was utterly confused. He did not know what was going on, a little girl of such a young age was brought out of the ground by a black human-looking shadow, and she was speaking Chinese.

Lu Xiaoyu took a glimpse at Shagin and continued studying her map. After a long while, she keyed in something in her device, expressionless, and pointed it towards Shagin. Then, a female machine voice said, "Can I ask how to go to the headquarter of the White Bears?"

"From ЛевШакин's distress, +199!"

Shagin was stunned. Then, he replied in Russian, "Why do you need to find the White Bears?"

"From ЛевШакин's distress, +199!"

Shagin paused and repeated his question more slowly, "Why, do, you, need, to, find, the, White, Bears?"

He felt wronged. Why was he being yelled at by a little girl after his team was wiped out by the Red Sparrows!

He was curious, though, why a little girl who had appeared in such a creepy way was looking for the White Bears?

Lu Xiaoyu pondered and answered, "No reason. Just tell me where it is."

Shagin shot a look at Lu Xiaoyu. He felt that this little girl must have come from a big background. Could she be a successor of a Chinese practitioner family? Would it be possible to fight the Red Sparrows using her power?

Unrealistic. Why should she help him, a lone loser? She wouldn't get any benefits from it.

Nonetheless, hatred was the best poison for eliminating sound logic. Shagin suddenly had a plan. What interesting things might happen if he killed this little girl and blamed it on the Red Sparrows?

Yet, just when his murderous will appeared, a wall of deep sea white sand had already separated him from Lu Xiaoyu. In the next instant, Johnson sprang out of the black hole. Swarms of purple crows bombed Shagin.

Lu Xiaoyu did not try to summon Lu Shu because she did not want her secret trip to be exposed. Lu Shu would find out if his clones were summoned there!

It was totally out of Shagin's expectation that Lu Xiaoyu, having sensed his evil plan, would take action first. At first, he thought this girl could not possibly be that strong.

As a Class B expert, it would be a joke if he could not even kill a little girl.

However, in reality, he really couldn't...

As the purple crows swarmed towards Shagin, countless grains of deep sea white sand had launched their attack as well. Instantly smoke and sand shot up on the battlefield. Shagin's astonishment was unspeakable. How was he... suddenly under the joint attack of two Class B's?!

"From ЛевШакин's distress, +999!"

Where did they come from? Were they the little girl's bodyguards? Which bloody family were you from? Even the head of the family would not have the luxury of having two Class B's as his bodyguards!

Although the materialization-type was not that strong, Johnson was still a solid Class B!

Swarms of purple crows poured out continuously, just to cover Anthony's attack. Their aim was very clear!

It was not Lu Xiaoyu's ability to materialize so many purple crows, but Johnson's. He had used it in Pattaya.

That was Lu Xiaoyu's most powerful combat method. Anthony as the main attack force and Johnson as his cover. Her victory was almost certain when fighting a single Class B because her opponent would have to juggle with two strong rivals...

Shagin was a metal-type Metahuman. Suddenly countless blades shot out from him

towards Lu Xiaoyu, but all of them were blocked by deep sea white sand and Lu Xiaoyu herself was also dodging the attack agilely. Only a few blades hit her, but to Shagin's consternation, she did not bleed at all.

A few cracks formed on the layer of deep sea white sand surrounding Lu Xiaoyu's body. However, given the strong defense of the sand, it was impossible for a few remaining blades to destroy her armor.

If there was only half of the deep sea white sand, Lu Xiaoyu would only be able to use it for either attack or defense. But then the Collection of Gods had delivered the other half themselves...

Lu Xiaoyu was exasperated. She was going all-out!

The crows surrounded Shagin, trapping him inside. This time, the inner layer was exploding crows and the outer was deep sea white sand. Lu Xiaoyu watched quietly as Shagin died a slow death due to exhaustion.

"From ЛевШакин's distress, +1000!"

Lu Xiaoyu was perplexed. "Who's he? I'm only asking for directions!"

Distressed, she studied the map for a long while. "Where on earth are the headquarters of those White Bears? Which direction should I go now?"

She waved at Anthony, who spat out a black soul pearl from his mouth. It was the one Lu Shu fed him last time. At this moment, Anthony finally stopped his silly laugh.

After the soul pearl absorbed Shagin's soul itself, Anthony swallowed it again. In a

split second, Anthony's power soared from mid-Class B to the peak of Class B!

Even Lu Shu was unaware of it!

### **640 ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Lu Xiaoyu had been vexed for a very long time. Why was it that whenever Anthony was laughing, he would realize that he could spit out the soul pearl and use it for other purposes?

After the soul pearl absorbed the soul, Anthony's strength would increase, just like how absorbing a soul pearl would increase one's strength. Lu Shu had thought that the soul pearl was a one-use item, but this was not true.

Lu Xiaoyu had planned to stop Anthony from laughing. Having thought about it, she realised this would not do. If Anthony no longer laughed, how would she be able to find Lu Shu?

Although Anthony's laugh made Lu Xiaoyu rather unhappy, she calmed down when she thought about how she could make use of this to get back at Lu Shu...

The soul that had absorbed Lev Shagin gave Lu Xiaoyu a few new memory fragments. These fragments were dispersed, but they all pointed towards the same reality. Lu Xiaoyu opened her mouth in shock as she saw the body of Lev Shagin. So this person was the leader of the White Bear organization?

She had gotten rid of the last person in the White Bears?!

Such luck! What had she done?!

Lu Xiaoyu suddenly realized one problem. If the White Bears were gone, then would Lu Shu and the rest still come here? Obviously not...

Lu Xiaoyu was upset. Why was he so easy to kill?! She had come here for nothing.

Thus, Lu Shu and the rest most likely changed their plans and headed directly to Europe. Lu Xiaoyu pondered deeply. Her face while she was thinking was cute but serious.

"Then let's go to Europe!" Lu Xiaoyu said with certainty. Suddenly, Anthony laughed and took Lu Xiaoyu underground to flee to the west.

At the same time, the plane that Lu Shu was on had landed in South Africa. He suddenly saw a Russian name register on Lu Xiaoyu's distress points record page.

Lu Shu felt uneasy. After he exited the plane and changed his sim card, he called Lu Xiaoyu. "Sorry. The number you have dialed is unavailable."

Although this was not the first time Lu Shu had heard this line because of Zhong Yutang's ringtone, this time, Lu Shu was very certain that Lu Xiaoyu had gone somewhere out of range and had lost signal...

What was happening? Did Lu Xiaoyu secretly head to Russia to find him? Lu Shu remained unsure. As there was only one Russian name recorded, Lu Shu was not sure whether Lu Xiaoyu had attacked a Russian within China...

He had wanted to use Johnson to summon a clone and see what exactly Lu Xiaoyu was doing. But as Lu Shu wanted to use the celestial map to activate Johnson's abilities, Lu Xiaoyu suddenly kept Anthony in the black hole in a frenzy...

Lu Shu had to obtain proof of Lu Xiaoyu's approval before summoning a clone.

Furthermore, Lu Shu could not use Anthony without Lu Xiaoyu having first released Anthony.

When Xia Rensheng saw this name, he was dumbfounded. "Isn't this the leader of the White Bears that had escaped overseas? Lev Shagin! Many organizations are looking for him."

Ha ha, no need to find him anymore. 1000 distress points had appeared. Bro, he is dead!

Lu Shu was slightly depressed. How did Lu Xiaoyu bump into him and kill him?!

What a mystery...

The weather in South Africa was very hot and humid. They were in Anguo, which was where the headquarters of EO were as well.

The minerals were in the east. Due to EO going back on their word, and the fact that their combat power was evidently much higher than that of the local Practitioners, there had been conflicts for a few consecutive years. But due to the intervention of outside organizations, there was suddenly a rare peace in this region.

Although they were in South Africa, Lu Shu estimated that they would spend most of their time dealing with Practitioner societies like the Phoenix Society. They would not have many opportunities to interact with the locals.

As they walked out of the airport, Lu Shu saw Howard from the Phoenix Society walking out as well. There were at least 20 members from the Phoenix Society that surrounded Howard. They all held formidable strength!

Lu Shu had dealt with Howard before. He was in charge of foreign relations in the Phoenix Society and had an air of arrogance. He was a rather high-levelled Class B.

Lu Shu accidentally glanced at Xia Rensheng. He realized that Xia Rensheng looked as if he was feeling weak...

Lu Shu was curious. "Leader, you don't look very confident."

Xia Rensheng did not say anything, but he felt weak. He was in charge of research on foreign relations. How could he not have come across any information about Howard? As expected, he was an important Class B. Xia Rensheng himself was a peak Class C. Was it possible for him to not feel weak? What was this? Heavenly King Nie could not have underestimated the importance of these minerals, right?

These thoughts continued to spiral in Xia Rensheng's head. But as the leader of the team, he could not expose his weakness. Even if he felt weak, he still had to lead the team to complete their task.

He could not let his emotions affect his team. This was what a leader had to do.

There were times where whether you wanted to do something was not important. What was important was whether you needed to do it.

Xia Rensheng said calmly, "It seems that almost all the representatives from the respective countries have arrived. We will most likely proceed with the negotiations once all the representatives have arrived. For the secret practitioners, you can relax for now, since there are no resources to be traded in Africa. But for the negotiators, your responsibility is heavier. I hope that everyone can work together and focus on the task



so that we can complete this mission."

When Li Ganyu heard this, her eyes lit up. She wanted to be useful to others. When others needed her, she could prove that there was value in her existence. She would feel accomplished as well. "Leader, you can rest assured!"

"For the secret practitioners, try not to have any conflicts with the other representatives." Xia Rensheng reminded them. "The other representatives are stronger than us. But everyone, there is no need to worry. The Heavenly Network has been notified when we left the borders. Follow-up support from the Heavenly Network will arrive in two or three days."

As Lu Shu looked at the environment around him, he nodded casually. "Yes, yes, no conflict, no conflict..."

Liu Fan and the rest also assured Xia Rensheng that at most, they would only take a walk around and not get into any fights with the other representatives. After all, they knew that they were not that strong.