

641 BIOCHEMICAL WEAPONS

It was not that Lu Shu did not listen to what Xia Rensheng had said. In the first place, the two of them had come here with very different objectives. Xia Rensheng and the rest were here to trade minerals with EO. When Lu Shu took a look at the information, he realized that they had a decent stock of minerals. The EO had called the large organizations over not to sell the minerals to only one organization, but to discuss the price and allow the representatives of each organization to then compete over that price.

On the other hand, Lu Shu only had one objective coming here. He was here to earn distress points and increase his strength...

How could he earn distress points? He could not promote harmony here. If he did, where would the distress points come from?!

The EO had arranged accommodation for everyone. The representatives from each organization would stay in a newly-built villa. But Lu Shu felt that EO had intentionally put everyone in close proximity with one another so that there would be friction between the organizations, making it easier for EO to take control amidst the chaos.

Lu Shu did not care much. After he decided on where he would stay, he went out for a walk. When the secret practitioners knew that his abilities were higher than that of theirs, they decided not to provoke him directly. Lu Shu did not care about whether they would carry out any cheap tricks in private.

As he walked on the old streets of Anguo, he realized that this place was very different from other places. Back in China, you could only see dirt roads in the countryside. Here, half the roads were made of dirt, while the other half was made of

cement. When a car passed by, it would stir up a cloud of dust that filled the air.

Lu Shu saw a fleet of cars with the EO symbol. There were all sorts of people in the cars. Their expressions were valiant and cold. EO was a global Practitioner organization.

To be honest, South Africa was a mystical place. The most popular Chinese products were motorcycles, followed by essential balms. A small bottle of essential balms that sold for a few dollars back in China was worth 8 USD here. Furthermore, the motorcycle companies that were worth ten billion dollars here were all Chinese companies.

Thus, some people could not understand why China wanted to provide South Africa with aid in construction. After learning about this information, Lu Shu could understand it a little more...

In the past, there were many people who wanted to smuggle essential balms. As a result, the customs imposed strict rules and checks on essential balms. If one brought more essential balms than allowed, their balms would be confiscated.

There was a businessman who brought second hand clothes from China to South Africa. One piece of second hand garment was worth a few USD, providing him with high profits.

As with any other country, there were many poor locals here. But their spending habits were different from that in China. It did not matter that they could not afford the clothes that cost eight dollars. They would still buy it, even if they had to borrow money...

The Chinese also came to South Africa to open factories. When they first opened, they gave out a month's worth of pay in advance. But three days later, the local workers went on strike. They had already spent all of their wages...

Everyone knew that this way of thinking was limited. The locals here would spend all their money and not save up. If they were given a month's worth of pay in one go, they did not know how to budget for the other 27 days...

The Chinese factories thus changed the way they paid their workers. They would pay their wages every three days. But the locals then spent three days' worth of wages in just half a day...

They had no choice but to give out wages at the end of every work day. But once they did that, the locals used up all their money and went out, never to return again...

What the...

This place was not fair at all. It had become normal for Chinese comrades to be robbed here. When they were driving, they would have to pay a fine whenever they encountered the police. But now, it was different, everyone who came here were Practitioners. The local thieves became quails. The combat power of the Practitioners was just too high. They could not provoke these Practitioners...

Thus, stealing became a technical job here. If you did not have good judgment, you would not dare to even make a move.

Lu Shu saw that the sky was turning dark and headed back. He felt slightly regretful that no one had come to steal from him and help him earn distress points.

But these locals who had rich experience in stealing did not know that someone was here, waiting to scam them.

When Lu Shu returned to the villas, he realized that something was not right. The villas were very luxurious, like a Chinese garden. But the problem with this Chinese garden was that there was too much vegetation suitable for hiding. He could sense unusual waves of energy from within the vegetation.

There were seven large organizations. But Lu Shu could sense five unusual waves of energy from the vicinity around the villa.

Lu Shu was unhappy. They were all large organizations! Could you enhance the quality of your surveillance technology?!

He started to patrol the area. When he sensed a wave of energy, he raised his hand and threw a box of stinky tofu. He did not care whether the soup would spill. He was using the stinky tofu as a biochemical weapon.

"From Ian Clinton's distress, +399..."

"From..."

After throwing the stinky tofu, Lu Shu even asked softly in English, "Is there anyone inside?"

The people inside had wanted to escape when they smelled the stinky tofu. But when they heard this sentence, they stopped in their tracks. This stinky tofu truly packed a punch. Lu Shu had never smelled any stinky tofu as strong as this. The distress points continued to increase...

Lu Shu was happy. He did not leave and stood there, waiting to see how long the people inside could bear the smell. This bunch was a point-generating machine. They did not even escape...

Lu Shu had thrown the box of stinky tofu when it was half open. When he threw it, it spilled on the floor. After more than ten minutes, someone screamed and ran off...

The others followed behind him. That night, there was a rumor among the large organizations that someone had brought biochemical weapons in! This was not a peaceful competition at all!

Lu Shu happily returned to the villa. He heard Xia Rensheng talking to the rest. "This time, we have to be extra careful and wait for the assistance team to come. When you speak, be careful. When you sleep at night, take turns to do the night shift. Remember to pull the curtains. The environment around us is perfect for surveillance."

Lu Shu did not speak. He secretly changed his clothes and sneaked out through the window. As he jumped out of the window, he changed his appearance to that of a white man. When he found the villa where the large organizations were staying at, he used a stone to break the window before throwing stinky tofu inside.

Earlier, someone in the villa had said, "I don't think that it is an actual biochemical weapon. It does not inflict any real harm on Practitioners."

Now, the people in charge of surveillance all stepped back. If it really was a biochemical weapon, there would at least be some symptoms on their skin. But there was nothing.

"It is most likely just a method to get rid of surveillance. I suspect that the Heavenly Network is behind this. After all, it happened beside the Heavenly Network's villa."

"Since it does not inflict any harm and is just to get rid of surveillance, we can just keep a lookout for them. Also, we have to find out who exactly did this," said Howard slowly.

The next moment, as they were discussing their next move, they heard the sound of glass breaking. A white person flashed past the window. Suddenly, an unpleasant smell filled the villa...

"From Ian Clinton's distress, +666..."

"From..."

642 ENEMY ATTACK

As of now, a total of seven organizations had arrived. Lu Shu's stinky tofu attack was targeted at all six of them. The unpleasant smell rendered them unable to focus on the task at hand.

All six organizations suspected that it was a planned attempt to provoke conflicts among them!

However, they were wrong. Lu Shu had not done it to earn an advantage in the negotiations, the trade deal, or the mineral reserves. It was only for the distress points.

But to him, distress points translated to power. While others would recognize the importance of the negotiations, trade deals and product exchange, Lu Shu believed power spoke in all situations.

Besides, the very fact that the Heavenly Network had received the invitation was not because they had rich resources or affluence, but because they were one of the strongest organizations in the world.

With two Class A's and a few Class B's, their overall strength could be ranked as the world's top organization with no disputes. But they had too many enemies.

If they were weaker, no one would fancy negotiating with them. They could simply rob them of all their resources. Easy.

That was why it was crucial that Lu Shu officially ascend to Class B. Very crucial.

Meanwhile, the members of the various organizations were slowly approaching the stinky tofu. Only one organization had figured out that it was not some biochemical weapon, but merely a Chinese dish. However, they could not understand why a Caucasian would be running around with so much stinky tofu, and why its smell was so awful...

"It's for sure that there are no Caucasians in the Heavenly Network's team, and no one entered or exited from their villa," someone explained his analysis, "He used a typically Chinese object to piss us off probably because he didn't know we saw that he's a white man. Hence, he wanted us to think that it's the Heavenly Network."

"I get the logic. But are you sure this stuff is edible?!" another person exclaimed.

It was a smelly black cube! Was it really food? How shocking...

"Someone go and check whether anything happened at the Heavenly Network's villa," one of them said.

Meanwhile, Lu Shu had already returned to his room through the window. After conducting a ground check, people from other organizations reported back and formed the same conclusion. "Nothing happened to the Heavenly Network!"

"As expected, the man wants us to blame it on the Heavenly Network!" Howard said with a nod, "Of course, it's also possible that the Heavenly Network is behind it. But I'm more inclined towards the first possibility. They have just arrived and there's no time to plan all this."

Undeniably, it was a logical deduction. Xia Rensheng's team consisted mainly of secret practitioners because their original mission was nothing righteous, and Lu Shu's joining was only due to the urgency of sending him overseas...

Yet, as the team was formed in a hurry, the Heavenly Network decided to send another more professional group to replace them three days later. As a matter of fact, Nie Ting was uninterested in whether they could get the reserves in the beginning. He only wanted Lu Shu to piss off the other organizations...

That created the illusion that the Heavenly Network was prepared to lose the deal...

In fact, Lu Shu himself had almost forgotten about one of his top talents, that things would always steer towards an advantageous direction for him if he did not intentionally put in much effort. At the moment, he was ready to sing his Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and cast the rest to the back of his mind...

It was only ten thousand points to go till Class B!

Four more organizations arrived on the next day, all under EO's invitation. Hence,

there were as many as 11 organizations here for the trade negotiations!

The circulation of intelligence had already started before any visible movement of the teams. It was the norm among big organizations, though. Thus, the four organizations who had arrived later were well informed of the stinky tofu incident too.

Sitting on the rooftop of the villa, Lu Shu gazed at the entire residence area. Suddenly he saw a group of practitioners slowly enter the region, each clad in a white cloak.

Lu Shu studied them closely. They had their hoods on despite the sweltering weather, the pure white color looked cold and lifeless on them.

The Department of Faith Theory. It was Lu Shu's first time seeing them in real life. He could tell their ranks from their clothes, and the leader of the group was the Cardinal, who was only second to the alpha of the Department.

At this moment, the Phoenix Society happened to meet them head-on. The leader of the Department of Faith Theory suddenly stopped, smiling at Howard. "It's said that you mistook food as biochemical weapon last night. Interesting."

Howard's eyes narrowed in hostility. "Correct me if I'm wrong, but I heard that the Bishop of your Department shut himself up when the Puppet Master headed to Europe."

The Cardinal laughed. "Ha, the Puppet Master, not a big deal. He's not worthy of our attention. Nevertheless, we do anticipate the appearance of the man behind the Puppet Masters. That's more entertaining."

"Don't use euphemisms to justify your own cowardice," Howard said with a sneer,

"I'm afraid you may piss your pants in fear when that man truly makes his appearance."

Currently, the battle between the leader of the Phoenix Society, the Saint, and the Puppet Master in the South American remains was well-known across the world. Although no one emerged as the final winner, the Saint's terrific power was now widely recognized. That had gained the Phoenix Society much influence on the international arena.

The Cardinal shook his head with a faint smile. "One day, you will understand our standing. Honestly, though, what a disgrace, that the famous Phoenix Society would be scared by a Chinese dish."

After he finished his sentence, the team of the Department of Faith Theory moved forward, ignoring the Phoenix Society completely. The Cardinal suddenly looked up at Lu Shu, grinning widely, showing his teeth. "The Heavenly Network is getting worse too."

Then, he led his team towards the villa allocated by EO. Once the door was open, a strange smell blew straight into their face. One of them roared at once, "Enemy attack!"

643 THE IGNITION OF THE SEVENTH STAR!

"Enemy attack!"

"Abandon the place! In case it's toxic!"

The smell was very special, no one in the Department of Faith Theory had ever encountered it before. They had been very cautious about potential schemes plotted against them by other organizations and hence, it was an understandable reaction to a strange smell like that.

Instantly swords clanged out of their sheaths from under their cloaks, ready to attack. However, there were no enemies, but only a box of stinky tofu behind the open door...

Lu Shu did not rest after the tofu incident the previous night. Since all of the villas would be occupied by the other organizations, it would be the same no matter who he pissed off. Thus, he placed a box of stinky tofu in each vacant building...

"From Francesco Russo's distress, +666..."

"From..."

They had fallen for the same trick right after jeering at the Phoenix Society... Who the heck did it? That was so despicable!

Howard's group had not walked far. They laughed out loud at the scene. Although they had been fooled too, it did not matter if everybody else had been tricked...

Then, Howard turned away, his face darkened. "Try to find that person."

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As a matter of fact, the Phoenix Society was genuinely interested in a collaboration with EO, which would allow them to slowly take control of EO and make them the Phoenix Society's puppet. They had done similar things before.

Thus, they would not be pleased if their plan was disrupted by an outsider.

But no one had expected that the man they were looking for was sitting on the rooftop the entire time. At the moment, Lu Shu was overjoyed. This round of tofu attack had helped him with the completion of the third level of his Nebula. Perfect!

Having returned to his room, Lu Shu closed his door and redeemed the Nebula Fruit. He waited patiently as the seventh star lit up. What would his third flying dagger be like? Lu Shu eagerly anticipated.

In fact, most people only had one flying dagger because typically one would not have so much energy to spare and the daggers were hard to find. As for the Hall of Swords, they did not need so much effort to train their swords as they only relied on swords of will. However, even after the creation of such swords, one still required the Treasure of Heaven and Earth as the weapon container. That was the origin of Li Xianyi's white jade flying dagger.

Nonetheless, Lu Shu needed neither effort nor resources for nourishing his swords.

Furthermore, his swords could be wielded as naturally as his own arms. Hence, the more swords he had, the stronger he was.

It showed that Lu Shu had yet to pass the level!

The seven daggers, namely the Corpsedog, the Concealed Arrow, the Yin of Sparrow, the Seizing Thief, the Non-Toxic, the Filth Removal and the Smelly Lung, corresponded to the seven basic instincts of joy, anger, grief, fear, love, hatred and lust respectively. Thus, he must experience the emotion of grief this time.

Then, Lu Shu retrieved a trident from his Seal of Lands. Decisively he broke it...

But nothing happened. Lu Shu smacked his lips in confusion. "What? I'm very sad already..."

Lu Shu had given it a lot of consideration about how to pass this level. To him, what could be more grievous than the loss of personal property...

No matter what, nothing was comparable to class advancement. He would do it himself...

But why had he not powered up yet? The trident had already been broken! Lu Shu pondered. Could it be because... he was not sad enough?!

With tears on his face, Lu Shu broke four more tridents. One for the rising sun, one for the moon, one for his hometown, and one for his dreams...

This was so freaking heart-breaking! But still nothing happened to the third nebula!

Ha, even the cultivation techniques were unreliable now...

Lu Shu tossed the broken tridents back into his Seal of Lands, hoping that his son, Chaos, would not mind eating broken tridents... After all, it should not make a difference whether they were broken, right? For instance, broken dough sticks, broken chocolate bars and broken prawn crackers were still edible. So broken tridents should probably follow the same logic too...

As the saying went, daughters must be spoiled with material affluence but sons must not. Hence, he should not spoil Chaos either. It should make do with whatever was available.

Only then did Lu Shu feel better about the broken tridents. Undeniably, Lu Shu was good at staying optimistic...

Back to the question at hand. Lu Shu was now suspecting whether he had remembered the sequence wrongly. Could it be the third dagger was not the Yin of Sparrow, but something else?

But how would he know which one it was! Besides, he had not figured out how to trigger the other emotions too!

Suddenly, he heard a knock on his door. Xia Rensheng called from outside the door, "Li Teng, gather downstairs. We are having a preliminary negotiation with EO."

"Okay. Coming!" Lu Shu smoothed his mood and headed down.

Once he came down, he heard Lin Ganyu talking to everyone, "The preliminary negotiation is equally important too. I hope everyone will cooperate with the three of us. Don't cause any trouble."

Xia Rensheng added, "Last night, someone tried to use a very despicable means to cause conflicts between us, the Heavenly Network, and the other organizations. Fortunately, his plot has been exposed. But please bear in mind that we have to be careful with our words and actions before the arrival of our support team. We will be able to act more freely with them by our side."

At this moment, the secret practitioners behaved themselves too. Indeed, they did not dare to make any bold moves with only one Class C in the team, while all the other groups were led by Class B's. Someone asked softly, "Who do you think will come and support us?"

"Some Heavenly King, of course. There aren't many Class B's. Easy guess," another person replied excitedly. It was their first time working with a Heavenly King.

"Is the Lord coming? I think he's rather suitable."

"I don't think they'll send a Class A because Class A Heavenly Kings are so precious. It'll be a disgrace to come for such a meeting personally. I also guess it'll probably be the Lord. It's said that the Lord was in charge of overseas matters."

"Then how about... the Venerable?" someone suddenly said, "Didn't they say the Venerable is also from the Heavenly Network? It'll be excellent if he's coming. The elders in the Route 301 black market said that the Venerable is quite nice to the secret practitioners despite his mean words and bad temper. They said the Venerable can help you make money but the Lord can't..."

644 NEGOTIATIONS ARE TEMPORARILY CANCELED

The negotiations did not occur at the EO headquarters. Instead, the wilderness in the outskirts had been chosen. According to Lu Shu's analysis, EO might be quite worried that these experts would destroy the EO headquarters if the talks did not go the way they wanted.

It did not matter who would eventually win. If the EO headquarters were flattened because of this, it would be very embarrassing for them.

Even if the large organizations destroyed their headquarters, what could they do? EO was very strong. There were no other organizations in South Africa who had two Class B experts like them. But the problem was, these two Class B experts were no match for the large organizations.

EO was depending on the large organizations to create checks and balances for one another. This was the reason why they had invited 11 organizations to hold talks. If there was any organization who wanted to monopolize all the minerals, the others would cooperate to drive them out. They would not allow an opponent of the same

ability to take advantage of them.

Under these circumstances, EO, who was an organization that the other large organizations could easily destroy, would act as a buffer and a middle man. Everyone wanted to take control of EO in the future. On the other hand, EO would be able to achieve success without much trouble. They would be able to experience a thrill, as if they were walking on a steel wire.

Lu Shu felt that the leader of EO was very daring. It was not enough for him to ask a tiger for its skin. He even found 11 tigers.

Out of these 11 organizations, the Department of Faith Theory, the Phoenix Society and the Heavenly Network had the most influence. They were organizations with Class A experts. They were truly top-notch.

But the other organizations were curious. The Heavenly Network was evidently the stronger organization among all the organizations. But why did they seem so weak...

Before they set off, Xia Rensheng suddenly asked curiously. "Li Teng, why do I sense that you are not scared at all? On the contrary, you seem rather excited..."

"I have never seen negotiations on such a large scale before," Lu Shu said and laughed buoyantly.

Xia Rensheng felt that Li Teng was not too reliable, but he had a decent way of thinking. He brought Li Ganyu, Liu Fan and the rest to the wilderness on the outskirts. Lu Shu occasionally observed the terrain. If they were to battle here, he had to see where he should run towards. After all, there was no way the group would be able to face a group of Class B experts head-on.

He would be fine, but Li Ganyu, Liu Fan, and the rest might die. Even Xia Rensheng, a Class C expert, might not be spared.

During the magically-rich era, the leader of the organization, Bennett, as well as many key members suddenly experienced an awakening. Since Africa did not have many Practitioners, they could occupy a dominant position in the region.

But if this was the case, it was hard for EO to sustain themselves. Only Bennett's family could grasp the methods of training. This had no use during magically scarce eras, but their skills could shine during the magically-rich era.

EO had their own mercenary training camp made up of sharp young men. There was no easier way for Bennett to choose those with potential and train them as Practitioners.

Thus, the rise of EO in Africa was accidental, but necessary. Lu Shu stopped and read the information that Shi Xuejin had sent him. His phone from the Heavenly Network probably had more information than that of Xia Rensheng, Li Ganyu, and the rest.

There was information regarding Bennett's youth. For example, when he was 13 years old, he had gotten into a fight and blinded his classmate with a pencil. Thus, he went overseas and became a mercenary soldier. After the magical era, EO did not just seek money. They had greater ambitions. Thus, they became one of the evil organizations in the country.

There were also some informational videos about EO, as well as their hobbies, etc. In the video, Bennett was wearing a beret with a very cold expression on his face. He seemed to be lecturing the others. The one who had secretly filmed the video was one

of the participants in the military training.

The Heavenly Network provided Lu Shu with thorough information.

But Lu Shu could not analyze the information about Bennett now.

Lu Shu suddenly thought of a problem. He had to think of more ways to earn distress points. If not, he would have gone overseas for nothing! But he was stuck at the third level of Nebula and could not use his distress points. What a headache!

Wait. Lu Shu suddenly thought of one thing he could spend his distress points on! Chi Fruit!

He had collapsed one chi mountain to produce a sword spirit. His second chi mountain had not fully formed. He could use his extra distress points to buy Chi Fruits and speed up the pace!

Although this sword spirit was not very strong in terms of combat power, it could still provide solid support.

Lu Shu had felt that since he was stuck at the third level of Nebula, there was no point earning distress points. But now, it could be used to purchase Chi Fruit and produce a sword spirit.

They were approaching the destination. The representatives from each organization waited. They made sure that there was some distance between them and the other organizations. They were only waiting for the leader of EO, Bennett, and the rest of the people. Xia Rensheng softly reminded them, "Remember what I have said. Be careful in your actions, and... wait. Where is Li Teng?!"

They suddenly realized that Lu Shu did not follow them here.

As the large organizations were waiting, everyone's satellite phone started to ring wildly. Howard furrowed his eyebrows and picked up the phone. He was dumbfounded. "Did you say that someone almost destroyed the EO headquarters?! Who did this?!"

"You didn't catch the culprit? You didn't catch the culprit even with two Class B's? Where is Bennett?"

After questioning around, they realized that Bennett and another Class B expert from EO were on their way to the negotiations. There was no one guarding the headquarters. The headquarters were left vulnerable.

At this moment, someone suddenly ran over wildly with a small mountain in hand. The person had hurled the small mountain at the EO headquarters, resulting in a giant hole...

Bennett and the Class B expert, who were originally on their way to the negotiations, rushed back to the headquarters. The culprit had vanished. He was a white man.

When they mentioned a white man, everyone thought of the person who had thrown stinky tofu. Someone raised the point that this person and the person who had thrown the stinky tofu could be the same person.

The negotiations were temporarily canceled. There might be an organization who was planning to sabotage this deal...

"From Howard Miller's distress, +666!"

"From Xia Rensheng's distress, +666!"

"From Francesco Russo's distress, +666!"

645 GREAT DETECTIVE XIA RENSHENG

Why did Bennett chose to hold the negotiations in the wilderness? Because, it would be easier for them to escape if the talks fell through, and it prevented Class B's like Howard from destroying their headquarters.

But what happened? Their headquarters had been destroyed even before the negotiation started...

Bennett had an easily irritable temper as well. He sent out a message. Whoever was able to find and kill the culprit, he would hold talks with first!

This was incredibly embarrassing. EO was not the only organization in this country. Within two hours, the news that EO headquarters had almost been destroyed by a small mountain got out. If they could not find the culprit, Bennett would have to live the rest of his life in shame.

Not only did he try to find the culprit, he even roped in the big families to help out. But the big families were very shrewd and would not pointlessly engage in this exercise in trying to find a needle in a haystack.

It was obvious that some unknown organization had come prepared and they wanted to take this chance to sabotage the deal. What if they were very strong?

Some organizations were not invited, but this did not mean that they were not powerful. Some examples included the Deities and a newly established organization

in Australia.

The large organizations were not in a panic. If they could not find the culprit, would Bennett then be unwilling to hold talks with any of them? Bennett was probably seeing how long the organizations were willing to wait.

Everyone agreed that EO was the middle man and a buffer for the large organizations who did not want to have any direct conflict with each other. Instead, they wanted to peacefully solve the issue as far as they could. But if this middleman was not qualified, then they would work together to change their middleman and restart the negotiations.

The large organizations decided to wait and see what would happen.

Xia Rensheng and Li Ganyu heaved a sigh of relief. This way, they could wait for the assistance team to rush over. But they still did not know the culprit behind this. What was their objective?

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Xia Rensheng sent information on the situation back to China. This information would eventually reach Nie Ting. But what made Xia Rensheng surprised was that whenever it came to this group of people, Heavenly King Nie would choose to silently observe.

He did not even bother to give Xia Rensheng a reply, on whether his decision was right or not. He also did not use the information to help them find out who the culprit was...

When they returned to the villa, Xia Rensheng suddenly thought of something. He brought Liu Fan and the rest up to Lu Shu's room and knocked on the door.

Although Xia Rensheng said so, he had cleared a doubt in his heart. When the EO headquarters were attacked, Lu Shu was coincidentally not around. This made Xia Rensheng recall an anime called Detective Conan. When he watched the anime, he could not help but think that all the characters were stupid. Every time they were solving a case, did no one realize that Conan had disappeared?

Thus, when Lu Shu disappeared, he immediately suspected that he was the culprit. But it seemed like his suspicions were wrong...

How could a minor secret practitioner have the ability to do such a thing? Even if Lu Shu did it, there should be people chasing him now.

Xia Rensheng would never know that no one, except Class A's, would be able to chase Lu Shu, who was very determined to run away.

Liu Fan laughed coldly. "You may be stronger, but so what? Turns out you're a

coward! Do you dare to go out of this villa?"

"Of course." Lu Shu was dumbfounded. He said, "What's so scary about that?"

As he spoke, Lu Shu went down and walked out of the villa. No one knew where he was headed...

The people behind him looked at one another helplessly. What was happening? Did you really go out? The problem was, negotiations had been cancelled! Where were you going?!

Taking into consideration everything that had happened, it was hard for everyone to hold a good impression of Lu Shu. The impression of Lu Shu was that of a cowardly secret practitioner with no moral principles. Lin Ganyu even felt that Liu Fan was cuter than Lu Shu...

Lu Shu wandered on the streets before finally walking into a grocery store selling cigarettes and alcohol. He took a box of cigarettes and asked, "How much?"

"Six dollars," said the boss.

Lu Shu thought about it and said, "Give me a discount of 2 dollars and 33 cents. If it is cheaper, I will take it."

The boss was a local citizen of Chinese origin. There were many of these people in Africa. It was normal to encounter them.

The boss lowered his head and did not make eye contact with Lu Shu. He passed a bag to him. "I can't reduce the price any further. How about this?"

Lu Shu took the bag and walked out without even looking at the contents of the bag. As he walked out, someone pulled on his sleeve. The boss looked at him and said, "Pay up. Boss Nie has told me that you have to pay."

Lu Shu's expression darkened. "How much?"

Nie Ting was weird. Why did you have to annoy me here?!

"One dollar," the boss said with a laugh. "It's hard to do business with stiff competition here. Please give me some business."

Lu Shu made sure that there was no one around before fishing out a trident and pointing it at the boss. "I'll give you one more chance to rephrase your sentence."

The boss was confused.

"From Zhao Yongchen's distress, +399!"

Zhao Yongchen was dumbfounded. "Heavenly King Nie said so..."

"Let go of me," Lu Shu said calmly.

Zhao Yongchen smacked his lips and let go of Lu Shu's sleeve. "It's just one dollar..."

"Are you that poor?" Lu Shu kept his trident. "What else did Nie Ting say?"

Zhao Yongchen said, "I am in charge of intelligence in South Africa. If you have any problems, just come and find me. The entire African information network will be in

your hands. This was the message Heavenly King Nie wanted me to pass to you. Let us do our best to obtain the minerals."

Lu Shu was unhappy. Why was he tasked with such a heavy responsibility? And yet, he was being charged as well? Are you out of your mind?

"Do you know who I am?" Lu Shu asked. He still had Li Teng's appearance.

Zhao Yongchen shook his head. "I'm not supposed to know. I don't know anything. I'm just relying on code words."

Lu Shu turned and left. Zhao Yongchen chased behind him and said softly, "How should we assist you?"

"No need," said Lu Shu. He did not want the intelligence personnel, whose jobs were already very tough, to take risks with him. This was also his original intention in rejecting the position of Heavenly King.

But Zhao Yongchen did not give up. He asked, "Then what about the ores?"

"Let's go with the flow."

"From Zhao Yongchen's distress, +199!"

Zhao Yongchen did not know who Lu Shu was. He also did not know what tasks Lu Shu had completed earlier. He just felt that this was the first time, control of the entire African information network had been passed onto someone else without any conditions.

646 YOU ARE NOT SUITABLE

Lu Shu walked on the road. He had kept the goods from Zhao Yongchen in the Seal of Lands. He looked out as far as the eye could see. This African city was desolate and dilapidated.

This place had experienced many wars. Furthermore, the locals here were not very courageous. Many of them wanted to reap without sowing. He was not belittling them. Their personalities were indeed very different from the people back home. This piece of land was very fertile. There were many resources whose potential had not been tapped on.

When Lu Shu walked past the building, he could still see a hole in the building, as well as countless dilapidated walls.

When he returned to the villa, everyone was in the living room discussing their next move. Lu Shu realized that for some reason, while he was gone, the secret practitioners and the three negotiators had become closer with each other. What was happening? How did these two groups of people bond so quickly?

To be honest, Lu Shu did not expect that the secret practitioners and the negotiators would be bound by hatred for a common enemy, Lu Shu. Thus, they were on much better terms with each other...

After entering the villa, Lu Shu walked up. Liu Fan shouted, "Where did you go? The mineral resources are very important. Don't you feel that you should help out? We have put in so much effort. And here you are, observing by the side?"

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. "What exactly have you guys done?"

This baffled Liu Fan and the rest. Up till now, everyone had only been discussing. As

for the concrete steps they would take to carry out the organization, they had not even seen the people from EO, let alone start any negotiation. If you were to ask them what exactly they had done... even Liu Fan could not come up with an answer.

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

"From Xia Rensheng's..."

Lu Shu had offended everyone. He had rejected everyone's contributions.

"The negotiations will eventually begin. We have to make preparations in advance so that during the actual negotiations, we will be able to proceed smoothly," said Li Ganyu coldly.

Lu Shu nodded his head and went up. If he said this, they may not believe him. But he thought that... the talks would not go through...

In other words... if he succeeded, then Liu Fan's, Li Ganyu's, and everyone else's preparations would be for nothing. But he could not accuse them of not taking the initiative.

The Heavenly Network's objective this time was to obtain all the mineral resources. Lu Shu had his own judgment of the situation. He felt that as long as one organization took all the mineral resources for themselves, they would definitely be attacked by the others. He did not know how he could obtain the resources. But now, he decided to just stir up trouble.

After he changed his clothes, he changed his appearance to that of Bennett's and jumped out of the window. At first, he had thrown the stinky tofu to make the large

organizations give up on surveillance. Now, the entire vegetation was filled with the smell of stinky tofu. No one would be able to stay there for long. This made movement for Lu Shu much easier.

If he did not do so and someone saw him jump out of the window, what would he do?

Thus, Lu Shu felt that he had great farsightedness... although he did not think of this back then when he threw the stinky tofu.

Lu Shu walked around and arrived at the villa where the Phoenix Society was staying at. The members of the Phoenix Society were doing shifts at the door. Initially, they did not plan to do so. Now, they did so to escape the stench of stinky tofu. After all, the box of stinky tofu back then had made them nauseous for an entire night. The smell still had not dissipated.

Lu Shu calmly stood at the door. "I have something to discuss with Howard."

The members of the Phoenix Society looked helplessly at each other and welcomed Lu Shu in. In the afternoon, they were still talking about Bennett's message that he would talk to whoever found the culprit first. They had decided to wait patiently, but they did not expect Bennett to personally come and find them!

It seemed like the message was just an excuse. They had to pretend to advance on one path while secretly going along another!

Howard walked down with a smile. He said proudly, "Mr Bennett, you have made a wise decision. The Phoenix Society is your best partner."

Lu Shu calmly said, "There's no use just talking. I need to see the actual goods. After

all, there are many organizations competing. What has the Phoenix Society brought to me?"

"We have whatever the other organizations have. I heard that Mr Bennett's son has not awakened. The Phoenix Society has a fruit that can awaken earth-type abilities," Howard said.

Lu Shu felt slightly disappointed. He had no use for the fruit. After all, he could not eat it. How nice it would be if he could obtain a weapon! But either way, Howard was giving it to him for nothing. He said calmly, "Then what are you waiting for..."

"Ha ha, Mr Bennett, there's no hurry." Howard invited Bennett to sit on the sofa. From this, Lu Shu could see Howard's superiority. They were evidently on EO land, but he acted like the owner of the house. This was the result of being one of the most powerful people.

To be honest, destroying EO would be like completing an easy game to a Class A. This was a true top-notch organization.

This time Lu Shu did not come to obtain goods. The people in charge of foreign affairs from the large organizations would not commit themselves until success was certain. Was it logical to offer payment even without seeing the actual goods? They had nothing to fear because of their strong backing!

Thus, from the start, Lu Shu had determined that it was not realistic for him to obtain anything. He was only testing the water. He had no time for this. He went straight to the main point.

Lu Shu thought about it and said, "The Phoenix Society wants to obtain the mineral

resources through us, right?"

He had hit the nail on its head. Everyone clearly had this intention. Lu Shu just wanted them to reveal it. Howard laughed and calmed down. He said in a serious tone, "Mr Bennett, I don't know why you have called the large organizations here. Since you've said it, we will not hesitate to lay our cards on the table."

"The mercenary organization EO has developed very well in Africa. But we are facing some limitations. We are too weak to set our eyes on the world. Thus, we planned to choose an organization to protect us through this deal. Frankly speaking, it is a merger," Lu Shu said. He had randomly come up with an explanation.

Howard's eyes lit up. So this was Bennett's original intention! The Phoenix Society was their first choice because of its power!

As for the merger, they would wait until the influence of Bennett and the others were taken away by the Phoenix Society. Then, they would have no say!

Howard laughed. "So, Mr Bennett, what do you think about the Phoenix Society?"

Lu Shu was silent. "You are not suitable."

Howard was speechless.

"From Howard Miller's distress, +999!"

647 A HUGE MESS!

Howard's expression instantly changed. He did not think that Bennett, the leader of the second-rate organization, was this crazy. He actually dared to come here alone and talk wildly like that!

Lu Shu imitated Bennett's expression. He maintained a calm but fierce expression. "What, do you think that I have to fear you just because I am alone? You can try to hold me back. The Phoenix Society is indeed very strong, but this is not America."

Wei. Howard suddenly felt that Bennett was very confident. Did he already form an agreement with the Department of Faith Theory? Or the Heavenly Network?

So Bennett was not here to negotiate with him. He was most likely here to spur him on, then destroy all the members of the Phoenix Society here!

In the worst case scenario, the Department of Faith Theory and the Heavenly Network would already have cooperated. This would explain why the Heavenly Network did not send any members with high combat abilities. The two organizations had already come to an agreement. It was enough for just Francesco to come.

As for what exactly had happened, Howard had not worked it out.

Howard did not think about the other large organizations, as only the Department of Faith Theory and the Heavenly Network had Class A's. Only these kinds of top-notch organizations would be able to give Bennett the courage to face the Phoenix Society.

"Send him off," Howard said with a wave of his hand. He did not want to get into a conflict with Bennett. He decided to remain calm and get rid of any misleading leads before uncovering the truth.

The organizations that Bennett had invited had indeed given EO the liberty to choose. But this also gave Lu Shu a lot of room to express his creativity.

Lu Shu walked out and took the opportunity to go to the villa where the Department of Faith Theory was staying. No matter whether it was the Phoenix Society or the Department of Faith Theory, Lu Shu realized that the thought processes of the people in charge of foreign affairs were amazing...

It seemed that only prudent people like them were suitable to handle foreign affairs. So why did Nie Ting feel that he was suitable? He felt that he was prudent in his own life, but to others... it was decent...

If he really became the person in charge of foreign affairs and gathered with those from the other organizations, he was evidently different from the rest...

Francesco from the Department of Faith Theory was more introverted than Howard. But this could also mean that he thought a lot. Thus, after Lu Shu earned distress points from the Department of Faith Theory, he would leave...

Lu Shu felt a sense of pity. He knew that Howard was willing to give items like awakening fruits to pull him over to his side, but Lu Shu did not get anything.

After he was done with the two large organizations, the remaining organizations were easier to handle. Those organizations were stronger than EO, but there was a limit to their strength. At most, they had a few Class B experts and were not a real threat.

No matter whether they were suspicious, they would not dare to attack. They would just not understand Bennett and think that there was something wrong with him. Was it appropriate for him to come over late at night just to anger people?

Lu Shu was used to acting. Even Xie Rensheng and the rest were not spared.

Bennett was still in a frenzy to find the culprit. On the other hand, all the organizations felt that they were being targeted...

Lu Shu happily jumped back into his room and ate the Chi Fruit. Even if there was a disaster outside, he could only do so much, right? As for the others, he would act according to the circumstances. He would see the reactions of the large organizations before deciding on his next course of action.

The next day, Bennett finally calmed down. He realized that he may not be able to find the culprit. But he could not cancel the talks. Back then, he was taking a large risk in inviting so many organizations here. He was very clear that he had to rely on the conflict and suspicion between the organizations in order to benefit. He could not be upset.

Thus, he immediately deployed people to invite the organizations to a second round of negotiations. But when his staff returned, they told him that the attitude of the large organizations had changed. All of them rejected the invitation and did not want to hold talks anymore...

Bennett was dumbfounded. What was happening? Why did they not want to discuss?

If only one or two organizations backed out, it was not a problem. But all 11 organizations had suddenly changed in their attitude! Had the world changed overnight...

Bennett was suspicious. He told his subordinates to bring some special local products to the large organizations as a gift. This was a smell meter. He wanted to see how the large organizations would react. Why in the world did they reject?

The subordinates left dumbfounded and came back dumbfounded. The reply from the organizations? We are not suitable.

Bennett was confused.

"From Bennett Thomas' distress points, +999!"

What were you not suitable for? If you were not suitable, then who else in the realm of cultivation would be suitable?

And everyone said the same thing! Are you kidding me?!

Lu Shu earned an endless flow of distress points. After the first big wave, he only earned a few points here and there. But it was much faster than before when he had just started to build his chi mountain. After all, he had more energy to aim at. He did not have to continue eating Nebula Fruits. He felt that his efficiency was very high just by eating Chi Fruit.

His second chi mountain was almost complete. As he waited for the birth of his second sword spirit, he did not care what was happening outside.

After the formation of the chi mountain, he still had to scrape it. But this time, it was different. He scraped the bottom of the chi mountain as he built it. He did not delay any further.

When it was time for a meal, Lu Shu headed to the dining room to make himself some food. He saw Liu Fen, Xie Rensheng and Li Genyu discussing in the living room. Find authorized novels in Webnovel, faster updates, better experience, Please click

Lu Shu was suddenly happy. "How were the talks?"

Liu Fen held back. "... they have not started."

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

"From..."

Lu Shu did not question further. Instead, he encouraged them. "All the best! There will eventually be talks!"

"From Liu Fen's distress, +499!"

"From..."

To Lu Shu, everyone's objective was the same, thus he did not want to discount their enthusiasm. It was just that the methods that they used were different. But he was obviously cheering them on. So why were there distress points...

At that moment, there was a sudden uproar outside. There were people fighting!

The fight started quickly and ended quickly. Xie Rensheng took a quick look outside and came back. He said, "There was some conflict between the Steel organization from Germany and the Serdin organization from Italy. It was nothing big."

Howard's expression instantly changed. He did not think that Bennett, the leader of a second-rate organization, was this crazy. He actually dared to come here alone and talk wildly like that!

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648 FIGHT! FIGHT!

At first, the situation was very straightforward for EO. There were only two outcomes. First, they could mediate the discussion between the large organizations and eventually benefit. Second, they would be destroyed by the large organizations and the winners would then distribute the mineral resources.

The day after Lu Shu tricked the large organizations, he received the latest news from the Heavenly Network. EO had made this decision not because Bennett was superior

and brave, but because the Department of Faith Theory had prescribed a time limit for EO to give them the mineral resources. Bennett did not give in. He took a dangerous risk and invited 11 organizations in one go. In the worst case scenario, it would become a life and death struggle with the Department of Faith Theory.

Lu Shu's doubts had been cleared. Bennett was not taking a huge gamble. Lu Shu felt that although Bennett could be considered an expert in the realm of cultivation, he was not powerful, nor did he brag that he was smart. One could even say that he was not particularly intelligent. So why was he taking such a risk?

So the Department of Faith Theory had been involved all along. Lu Shu had to protect himself.

To be honest, Lu Shu respected Bennett. Lu Shu felt that the realm of cultivation had now become a place where the weak were prey to the strong. The Department of Faith Theory, who had Class A's, unscrupulously plundered resources, while Bennett, who was a Class B, could only use a potentially fatal method to protect himself.

But after spending so much time on this land, Bennett had not done many good deeds. The information that Lu Shu received indicated that the military training camp Bennett had initiated was to provide EO with new blood. But the people in the training camp were not recruited. Instead, they were forced to join.

They destroyed an entire village and took their children away. Lu Shu had heard of this before, but after reading the information provided, he felt that this was completely unethical.

Lu Shu silently ate a Chi Fruit in the villa. Now, the large organizations and EO were thrown into a state of chaos. It was not time for Lu Shu to make his move. He felt that

the situation would be worsened if he did so.

But if the Heavenly Network could get a hold of this information, Howard most likely could as well.

Earlier, he had made the organizations falsely assume that Bennett had backing. How would the situation develop now?

That night, Lu Shu suddenly sensed a wave of energy from outside the villa. The frightening power from the wave of energy made Lu Shu realize that something major had occurred outside.

Their subordinates waited outside the battlefield and prevented anyone from launching a surprise attack.

Howard pointed his magnificent red staff at the sky. The fire phoenix turned from orange to a deep red. All the subordinates were sent flying by an explosion!

Francesco walked slowly, as if he had not been affected. When the fire phoenix appeared in front of him, he suddenly spread out his arms. A pure white light appeared in front of him and acted as a shield, keeping the fire phoenix out.

He calmly flew upwards, as if he was in a storm. He calmly said, "The light of a villain must be extinguished. His flame does not have to shine."

Howard laughed coldly. "The Department of Faith Theory is such a sanctimonious organization. Since you have formed an alliance with Bennett, you must face the rage of the Phoenix Society."

Francesco fell silent. He could not understand. Wasn't Bennett's backing the Phoenix Society? Why was the Phoenix Society so angry...

Francesco consciously realized that something was not right. They had all assumed that Bennett had the backing of a large organization, but was Bennett deliberately confusing them and putting up an act? So he had no backing in the first place?!

What was Bennett doing...

They may not believe this, but even Bennett himself did not know what he was doing...

But Francesco did not want Howard to know the truth. He could seize more benefits when there was information asymmetry.

Suddenly, Francesco drew his long sword from within his white cloak. The sword produced a silver light that shone towards the fire phoenix. The air was distorted because of this silver light.

The conflict between the two Class B experts was terrifying. The silver light engulfed the fire phoenix. Howard felt that it would be difficult for his fire phoenix to escape this bind.

He placed his staff on the floor and burst into raging flames. He leaped towards Francesco like a fiery poison snake.

Suddenly, a Class B earth element Metahuman who had been watching them suddenly attacked Howard. Francesco broke into a smile.

This time, 11 organizations had come. No one would seize the mineral resources by themselves. The alliances had already decided on their formation. They were just waiting for the actual battle!

Howard, who was vulnerable, was suddenly sent flying into the air by the soil underneath his feet. Howard was indeed very strong. When the ground underneath him rose, he had completely merged with the flames. The flames protected him!

However, his staff that he had left on the floor was sent flying outwards. The fire phoenix returned to its orange color and its strength had decreased considerably.

Francesco slowly folded his cloak and walked towards Howard. Suddenly, a massive stone flew over. Someone shouted, "Howard, we will work together to kill them?"

The massive stone flew past Francesco. Francesco suddenly recalled the hole in the EO headquarters caused by the small mountain...

For some reason, Francesco suddenly realized something. So Howard had destroyed the EO headquarters? Why would he do so?

Howard thought for a long time, but he could not understand why these reinforcements had come. Out of the 11 organizations, the Phoenix Society had allies as well, but this white person who attacked... he did not recognize them at all!

They probably wanted to borrow his power to pin down the Department of Faith Theory. After all, if anything happened to him here, the Department of Faith Theory would dominate the entire situation.

Howard knew that he was probably being used as a weapon by others. But he did not

reject this, as he needed to give the Department of Faith Theory some pressure!

But that person did not run towards Francesco. Instead, his target was... Howard's staff!

Suddenly, a silence descended on the battlefield. Everyone looked helplessly as the white person bent down and picked up Howard's staff before running off...

"From Howard Miller's distress, +999!"

649 THE FLOW IS MOST INTRIGUING

This fight should not have ended this way. The Phoenix Society and the Department of Faith Theory would be inextricably involved in a dispute. They would use up all their strategies and allies. The other organizations would take sides with the two organizations. Eventually, it would become an earth-shaking battle.

After all, the two organizations had expanded their influence overseas. It was inevitable that they would clash. Leaving aside the Heavenly Network, a first-rate organization that did not seem very strong on the surface, the strongest global Practitioner organizations were the Department of Faith Theory and the Phoenix Society, both had Class A's. Thus, they would eventually get into a conflict. Even the leaders of the two organizations were mentally prepared for this.

The two organizations had intended to fight when they met in Africa.

But everything changed after Howard's fire staff had been taken away by that white man. The situation had spiraled out of control...

Not only was Howard very shocked and very angry, even Francesco was dumbfounded. "Who was that..."

They were both left dumbfounded. No one understood what had happened. But when Francesco thought about how Howard's staff had been stolen, he almost could not help but laugh out loud...

Howard did his best to maintain the connection between him and his staff, but realized that the staff had seemingly disappeared from his senses. There was no response. There was only one explanation. The person had placed the staff in their invisible storage equipment.

Who on earth was that person?

Everyone began to analyze the information on this person. He was the one who threw the stinky tofu. He was the one who attacked the EO headquarters. He was the one who stole Howard's staff. What exactly did he want? Which organization was he from?

To be honest, there were instances of subterfuge in legends, but it was nothing too mysterious. Make up could do wonders. But they had never seen anyone who could change their race as a disguise.

With this subconscious knowledge, no one thought of the Heavenly Network. After all, this person was at least a Class B. They had never heard of any foreign experts that had joined the Heavenly Network.

The fact that Lu Shu had the mask was still a secret. Everyone knew that the Heavenly Network had obtained the relic from the Koh Chang Island remains, but no one knew what function the relic had.

Lu Shu had only wanted to watch the two organizations fight. He knew that once he made his move, there would be an awkward silence. But when he saw Howard's staff, he could not resist...

But anyways, he had told Zhao Yongchen to go with the flow. The flow was most intriguing.

Francesco laughed. He neither confirmed nor denied. This person was definitely not on Howard's side. If he could apply the pressure of another hidden Class B on Howard, then there was no reason not to be happy.

"Very good." Howard laughed. "As expected of a sanctimonious organization. You would only commit such immoral acts."

There were over twenty Department of Faith Theory members there. Their expressions changed. Howard's words were belittling the entire Department of Faith Theory. Francesco said in a very tolerant tone, "It is honorable to forgive the faults of others."

As he finished talking, Howard's sleeves flapped in the still air. His entire body had burst into flames. Even his hair had turned into flames. His eyes magnificently blazed. He said, "Did you think that you could gain the upper hand because I have lost my staff? How laughable. This is the reason why you shut yourselves in when you encountered the Puppet Master, while we chose to face her!"

In a flash, the fire phoenix suddenly struggled free of the silver light from Francesco's sword and returned to Howard. Howard floated in mid-air like a deity. The splendid fire phoenix suddenly spit a large flame in Francesco's direction.

The flame rushed towards him like a powerful current!

Francesco was no longer calm and at ease. He knelt down on one knee and stuck his sword into the ground. A pure, white shield surrounded him.

At that moment, there was suddenly a sharp roar that pierced through the dark night. Countless needles attacked. Howard had been hiding a metal type Class B Metahuman!

Howard and his comrades immediately joined forces and planned to kill Francesco. The earth element Metahuman wanted to provide aid, but suddenly stopped in his tracks. An Australian Class B Metahuman was blocking his way. Howard's backup was far more powerful than Francesco's!

Boom! The current of flames and the needles clashed above Francesco's shield of light. The explosion resulted in countless turbulence in the air. The turbulence were like thin threads that recklessly covered everyone's vision. The subordinates on the sidelines had no way of interfering. They were all sent flying outwards!

Within the chaos, Francesco suddenly pulled out the sword in the ground and pointed it at Howard. He wanted to give up on defense and use his most powerful attack to kill Howard. This would prove who was truly stronger.

A sword appeared out of thin air. A set of knight armor also appeared on Francesco's body. The fire phoenix dived towards Francesco. Both of them were going full out!

There was another explosion. Cracks started to appear on the ground. The clash of energy rippled through the dark night sky.

Howard and Francesco both flew backwards. Both sides had sustained injuries.

At that moment, someone started jumping around like stars in the night sky. He went against the waves of energy and stepped onto the battlefield. He had resisted this frightening clash of energy!

When Francesco and Howard saw him, they had an unpleasant premonition...

Francesco did not say anything.

Howard was silent.

After the person entered the battlefield, he seemed like he was looking for something. As his eyes fell on Francesco, there seemed to be a reaction from him. He rushed towards Francesco and jumped over in one go!

The next moment, Francesco felt that someone else was holding the sword in his hands...

Francesco, who was still in midair, held on to his sword tightly. "What the..."

"From Francesco Russo's distress, +666!"

The person spoke in English. He said to Francesco in a small voice, "You have a fungal infection on your nail. It will spread to him too."

Francesco exclaimed, "What???"

Francesco was shocked and in that moment his sword was taken away! Until now,

Francesco could not understand why that person had said that to him. He had no fungal nail infection! At first, he had still thought that that person had something important to say to him. But now, there was no trace of him?

Are you out of your mind?!

At that moment, Francesco dropped a metal ball from his right sleeve. He wanted to make the metal ball explode and bring Lu Shu to death with him.

But before he could make the ball explode, Lu Shu had already run off...

650 CLEAR UP

The battle between the Department of Faith Theory and the Phoenix Society, anticipated by both parties for a long time, suddenly turned into a comedy because of the stranger's appearance.

Given the ongoing competition among top-notch organizations for power and influence, the fight between the Department of Faith Theory and the Phoenix Society seemed inevitable. It could happen either in or out of the remains, and the winner would certainly enjoy greater dominance in the world.

However, what had actually happened today in the battle would probably be a shameful event for the both of them...

But Francesco found the man's despicable moves to be totally inexplicable.

At first, Howard almost coughed up blood after being hit by Francesco and losing his control over Spirit Qi.

Then, he could not help but laugh upon seeing Francesco's weapon being stolen...
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"From Francesco Russo's distress, +999!"

In fact, Howard's fire staff had not been obtained easily. It took the Phoenix Society an immense amount of research on historical legends to locate a staff so perfectly built for fire-type Metahumans. And now, it had been stolen.

He was exasperated. But he also knew that Francesco's sword carried even greater significance as it strengthened his superiority in the Department. To him, the sword was both a weapon and a symbol of power, and now it was gone too...

It felt strange. Howard was supposed to be sad, but he was not...

While struggling, the two men stood up from the ground. Suddenly, they were no longer sure whether they should carry on with the fight... What the... their train of thought had been disrupted too.

At this moment, there seemed to have been a silent consensus reached between Francesco and Howard. After an exchange with their eyes, they ran off towards the direction Lu Shu had disappeared into, along with their own people...

Francesco said with a cold laugh, "It's your own stupid idea, to lure out the Heavenly Network expert using a conflict between us so as to weaken them. But we've lost loads before the Heavenly Network has even come out!"

The temporary alliance between the Department of Faith Theory and the Phoenix Society was totally unexpected to the outsiders, who had been anticipating a deadly fight between them. In reality, they were trying to kick out the Heavenly Network first!

Then, to their surprise, there was not even a single Class B in the Heavenly Network's team, which led to a change in their plan.

They had long since decided to kill a Heavenly King. It was widely recognized that the Phoenix Society and the Department of Faith Theory were almost the strongest in the world, but they were worried about a common rival. The Heavenly Network.

Nevertheless, there was an unimagined plot twist, the much anticipated Heavenly King was absent...

In fact, Francesco and Howard were both confused about it... Besides, who the heck

was that thief?

From this moment onwards, that guy would definitely be on the top watch list of the Department and the Phoenix Society!

Howard replied calmly, "But didn't you support the idea too? I reckon there's no need to start the blame game now. On the other hand, it can be confirmed that the Heavenly Network probably has no interest in the mineral reserves because our fight didn't even attract anyone from them, as my men observed."

"Wait," Francesco stopped and asked, "Your men didn't notice that guy coming?"

"They did," replied Howard, "He wasn't watching from the darkness at all. He came straight for our weapons and my people couldn't stop him."

Francesco was speechless.

Howard diverted the topic immediately. "Quickly send people to locate that man. Bennett is not a threat. The matter of urgency now is to find that person."

They could fight whenever they wanted, but not without their weapons...

Their alliance only existed in this scheme against the Heavenly Network. Aside from it they were enemies in front of remains and mineral reserves.

That was how large organizations were usually like. They had shared interests, and disagreement too.

Now, they had unanimously agreed to hold the competition over the reserves until the

troublemaker was found. They had to eradicate external threats before resolving their own issues.

Basically, they had to clear up the battlefield first!

At the moment, Bennett was still in ignorance. He did not know that he had become a vulnerable target, while he had hoped to keep himself alive using the conflicts between large organizations.

He was asking favors from tigers, but he forgot that real tigers were thirsty for blood and flesh.

Francesco pondered and said, "As you wish. Bennett is a good place to start."

...

The headquarters of EO had been abandoned. EO had temporarily requisitioned a neighboring building with no intention to pay for the rent.

Lu Shu had changed into Howard's appearance and clothes. Now, he was walking towards the building elegantly like a gentleman, with the fire staff in his hand.

Normally, the fierce-looking guards outside the entrance of the EO building would not let any stranger in without identity verification. But they did not dare to stand in Howard's way, a Class B expert. Hence, they could only allow his entry and report to their boss immediately.

Lu Shu walked in with an arrogant air, as though those EO mercenaries were non-existent.

Bennett came to greet him. Lu Shu spoke with a calm smile, "I have a proposal."

Bennett did not hesitate any longer. "Come in, please."

Having followed Bennett into the meeting room, Lu Shu said directly, "I know you are cornered by the Department of Faith Theory. So, let's be frank. On behalf of the Phoenix Society, I welcome you to join us. Not only so, we will give you 30,000 magical stones, 10 magical weapons and 10 awakening fruits. And you will become a councilor in the Phoenix Society. However, in return, we will have full ownership of the mineral reserves and all mines must be transported to America."

Bennett froze. How could it be so good? That was utterly unexpected!

But Bennett had his own plans too. He said, "We have another Class B. He should be a councilor too."

Lu Shu rose and headed off. "You have no bargaining chips. Come to us tomorrow to claim the items I promised."