

Chapter 987

"Recluse Association is everywhere?"

When Henry heard this, he smiled but didn't say anything. Henry and Sackcloth Visitor didn't leave the airport. They were taken to another small plane.

The plane could only contain fifteen passengers. There was no window on the plane. Apparently, Recluse Association didn't want Henry to know where their headquarters was.

After a quick check of the inside of the plane, Henry asked Sackcloth Visitor, "They do this every time?"

Sackcloth Visitor shrugged and didn't make a sound.

Getting his answer, Henry chuckled, "I thought people of Recluse Association would know some more advanced techniques."

Sackcloth Visitor walked into the cabin and said, "They just do the best they can. The members of Recluse Association are from everywhere, and their salary rate is only around the level of a Qi-controlling Realm expert who doesn't belong to any organization. Recluse Association doesn't conduct background checks on its members. So the inner circle of the organization is a totally different world from their members'. Even their members have to go through this every time they get back to the headquarters. They only know the headquarters is located somewhere in Forbidden Canyon, but no one knows exactly where. You know how big the canyon is. It's impossible for them to find the headquarters by themselves."

Henry nodded and did not speak.

After Henry and Sackcloth Visitor settled down on the plane. Someone shut the cabin door, and the plane took off.

Henry sat on the spacious leather chair with his eyes closed. Time passed by slowly.

A few hours later, Henry felt shakes of the plane and then heard the sound of tire friction. He knew they had landed.

Henry took out his cell phone to check the time. Eight hours had passed. When the cabin door was opened, it was already dark outside.

Not like traveling on the ground, it was hard for Henry to tell their route traveling in the air. Henry couldn't even tell by the position of the sun and stars. It was also possible that the plane just circled in the air for a couple of hours for confusing them.

The Recluse Association member who greeted Henry was a middle-

aged man. He put on a poker face and never showed any expression. Sackcloth Visitor told Henry the background of the man in a whisper. The man belonged to Recluse Association's Death Squad. The organization trained these people into someone who didn't have emotions and would do anything the organization asked them to do. Death Squad members didn't have names. They were identified by numbers, which were attached to the chest of their shirts. Henry took a look at the number on the man's chest. It said 9276, which meant there were at least ninety-two hundred and seventy-six members of the Death Squad!

"Oh? Didn't they claim that their motto was to maintain world peace? Why they need Death Squad?" Henry sounded sarcastic.

Sackcloth Visitor shook his head, "The so-called motto is just a propaganda trick. It's beneficial to say they care about world peace. You were the King of Hell, don't tell me you actually believed them."

"Of course," Henry nodded vigorously, "I always thought Recluse Association was an organization of justice."

Sackcloth Visitor gave Henry a hollowed laugh. He didn't believe Henry was serious.

"Gentlemen, please follow me," 9276 stood outside the cabin.

Henry walked toward him.

Even though it was pitch black outside, Henry could tell they were surrounded by mountains. The moment he stepped out of the plane, every inch of his body could feel the freshness. The air here was full of spirit.

As an organization that had existed for more than two thousand years, the amount of Spiritual Stone Recluse Association possessed was more than anyone's imagination. Their technic of utilizing the stones was beyond the understanding of Henry, who was hardly an expert on this matter.

The spiritual matter accumulated in the canyon was preciously balanced to an extent that the human body could absorb but not be harmed. After spending long enough time here, the body's sensitivity to Qi could be improved significantly.

Henry speculated that the reason for the strong magnetic field in this area was due to the Spiritual Stone. The spiritual matter could interfere with the function of electronic devices. When there was a large concentration of spiritual matter on Radiant Island, Future had to modify all the devices to make them function properly.

Henry looked around and realized that the space in the canyon wasn't big.

"Gentlemen, this way," 9276 made a gesture and then clapped his hands.

Henry heard the sound of machinery cranking and then felt the shaking of the ground. In front of him, a ten-meter-width piece of ground was rising.

It was raised about ten meters off the ground. What stood in front of Henry looked like a ten meters tall stone wall.

After a few seconds, six meters below the top of the stone wall, a crack opened up, which revealed a door. The door was so well hidden that no one could find it by merely digging up the ground.

9276 led the way and entered the doorway. Henry and Sackcloth Visitor followed him.

On the other side of the door, it was spacious and empty. When all three of them had entered the doorway, the door was closed behind them, and the stone wall sank back to the ground.

Outside, there wasn't even a trace that the stone wall ever existed, not even a seam on the ground.

Henry stood inside of the stone wall and heard more of the machinery cranking sound.

"Ha," Henry smiled, "I thought you guys were using something far advanced technology. It turns out just man-operating heavy-duty machines. Don't tell me you guys just take shifts to operate door every day as a show."

Henry's insulting words didn't cause any emotional changes on 9276's face, "Because of the interference of the Spiritual Stone, we can't use electronic machines. Out of the consideration of keeping our reclusiveness and not affecting the world outside, we had to adopt this method."

"Fair," Henry nodded. Henry purposefully talked cynically to provoke Recluse Association. Once they were mad about Henry, he could read off a lot of information from their reaction. But up until then, Henry got nothing from 9276.

There was a reason for Recluse Association to exist for more than two thousand years.

Twenty seconds later, the shaking of the floor stopped. The stone wall in front of Henry opened up, and a beam of light shined in. Henry was stunned by what was in front of his eyes.

"Let's go. I felt the same the first time I was here," said Sackcloth Visitor.

Chapter 988

Henry had tried to imagine what the headquarters of Recluse Association would be like. He thought maybe it was a small town. But he could never think that Recluse Association was actually a fully developed underground society.

No one could ever believe that within the area that no one dared to enter, there was an underground world.

At this moment, what Henry was seeing was a huge underground space. Inside, there were buildings and large areas of vegetation. Henry looked up. Thirty meters above his head was the top of the underground cave. It was made into an artificial sky. Without scrutiny, people would take it as the real sky.

Judging by the sound and the time they spent inside of the stone wall, Henry would guess that they were descending at least thirty meters underground. But the stone wall was only ten meters tall.

"No way!" Henry was shocked. He turned to 9276. He had started walking forward.

Sackcloth Visitor said with a smile, "What do you think? Surprised by how cautious Recluse Association is again?"

Henry nodded, "I thought that the machine sound was made by stone wall descending vertically, but it was made by the machine moving the stone wall somewhere else but vertical downward. If my guess is right, no matter how deep we dig at the place where we enter the stone wall, we can't find anything. The moment we entered the stone wall, the wall has changed its coordinate. Recluse Association is indeed doing everything they can to prevent us from locating them!"

Sackcloth Visitor shook his head with a smile. He sped up to follow 9276. Henry followed them.

When Henry walked out of the stone door, he heard a sound. He turned around and saw the door descending. It contradicted his earlier speculation, which the stone wall was just an elevator to send people down.

When the stone wall completely disappeared, Henry saw an endless space. There was vegetation, farms, livestock, and people.

On their way, Sackcloth Visitor explained to Henry, "Recluse Association is an organization that is more enormous than you can imagine. Take this space as an example. It has formed its own ecosystem, which makes it an independent world. The organization was established in Year Morvyn. Some people here have been living here for generations without seeing the world outside."

Henry was mesmerized by what Sackcloth Visitor was telling him.

Looking at the people here, they farmed what they needed. People were riding horses on the stone-paved streets. Down here, there were no skyscrapers. The tallest building was four-story tall. Henry even saw someone was still using firewood!

The Sackcloth Visitor went on, "The spiritual matter is rich down here, and no electronic device can function. The only way to make electronic devices work is to dispel all the spiritual matter. Do you think Recluse Association would sacrifice the spiritual matter for some electronic technology?"

"But they can go out, right?" Henry asked, "They can't stay here forever."

"Haha, Henry, you are finally here. I've been waiting for you for a long time," Said in a Yan Xia language with a heavy accent. Then Andrew Garfield, a blond who worn an industrial revolution costume, came over. Followed him were two men, which Henry had met at the entrance of the eighteenth level of the City of the City of Hell. Both of them were masters who had reached Qi-controlling Realm.

9276 bowed to Andrew and walked away.

Andrew walked up and hugged Henry, "How do you feel on your first time here?"

Henry said one word, "Amazed!"

It was Henry's true feeling. Establishing an underground world wasn't a small task even for a real country. It was even more stunning that this place had existed for over two thousand years. What Recluse Association had achieved was far beyond the capacity of Radiant Island.

"Haha, come. I've been thinking about you all the time," Andrew made a gesture to lead the way for Henry.

"What you are thinking of is the way to enter the City of Hell, am I right? Or, you are worried about the two people who got out," Henry asked deliberately.

For saving himself. Henry made up the story that two prisoners had got out from the City of Hell.

Henry closely observed Andrew's facial expression after he finished his words.

A hint of gloom flashed in Andrew's eyes, "You just got here. Get yourself comfortable first. I have arranged a banquet for you. I want to welcome you in the manners of where you come from. Let's talk about the other business later. Haha!"

Accompanied by Andrew's laughter, Henry and Sackcloth Visitor were

taken into a carriage.

The carriage was from 1880s Europe. It looked luxurious but not comfortable.

It wasn't fast or stable. Traveling by foot was far more effective than by one of those.

However, none of them were in a hurry, obviously.

As the carriage moved forward, the architectural style had changed along the way.

The scenery Henry saw when he just got out of the stone wall was more like the countryside of 1880s Europe. What they were about to travel on was the street of 1880s urban area. Appearing in front of Henry's eyes was the magnificent gothic-style city wall.

Entering the gate of the city wall, Henry saw a totally different view. There were numerous gothic buildings. In the center of the town was a huge clock tower, which telling the time to the whole town.


The citizens of the town all wore 1880s costumes. When they saw Henry, they all looked surprised and curious about what Henry was wearing. Henry was surprised and curious about their reactions too.

The situation was like tourists were curious about the monkeys' behavior, and at the same time, the monkeys were curious about the tourists.

"Do you find it curious?" asked Andrew.

"Yes," Henry answered honestly and did not deny his true feeling.

"Don't be. Your curiosity will soon disappear. I'll explain everything to you when we arrive."

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Chapter 989

The carriage stopped in front of a gothic-style tavern.

Henry and Sackcloth Visitor stepped out of the carriage, following Andrew.

Entering the tavern, what Henry saw was exactly a scene out of the industrial revolution time of Europe. There was a fireplace in the lobby, and people were drinking beer and smoking cigars indoors.

The customers were talking and swearing loudly, and all they talked about were women and money. Henry suddenly had a feeling that he was time-traveled back in history.

"Are these actors?"

Henry said to Andrew with a smile.

There were a bunch of hunters talking about hunting animals and trade them with coins. Henry couldn't believe there were actually hunters who sustained their livelihood by killing animals. After all, the world was created by Recluse Association.

Andrew answered, "Of course not. You should be able to tell that their wounds are real. They were caused by animals. Come. Sit over here. Waiter, go and bring my best liquor. I have important guests."

They sat by a table near the window. Henry's attire caused the attention of those hunters. It seemed they had never seen anyone dressed like Henry.

"Yes, Lord Garfield."

The waiter carried two large kegs of ale and several beer mugs. The mug was twenty centimeters tall and ten centimeters in diameter.

One of Andrew's Qi-controlling Realm masters poured the beer for everyone.

Andrew raised his mug and said, "Cheers! Bottoms up, folks!"

Henry did not say anything. He chugged the whole mug of beer down his throat after clinked the mugs.

It was the first time Henry had tried ale. He felt that it wasn't too different from the other beer he used to drink, only sweeter. It was because ale was brewed using a warm fermentation method.

Andrew took a loud hiccup after finishing up the whole mug of beer. He said, "It isn't too peaceful out there recently. Many groups are making troubles."

He then looked at Henry, "How do you think about Alvin League? Don't tell me you know nothing about them."

Henry poured another mug of ale for himself and answered, "I understand Recluse Association only wants world peace. So taking your perspective, Alvin League should be classified as a cult?"

"No, you're wrong."

Andrew shook his head, "They aren't classified as a cult. They are evil. You should know this. Alvin League believes that human being from the older time is better than contemporary man. Their theory was that human being has been losing good traits in its evolution. They have been trying to search for those traits and restore the society into the old one."

Henry looked outside the window and said, "You mean like what you are doing?"

"Those people who live here. Do they put themselves in older times to stimulate the potential hidden inside of them?"

Henry told Andrew what he had speculated. He couldn't understand why Recluse Association would create this small society.

Andrew confirmed Henry's speculation, "You are half right, but what we are doing is totally different from what Alvin League is doing. We are trying to maximally stimulate human being's potentials, and our method is proven effective. In our society, a ten years old child could hunt and make fire, surviving in the wild. A fifteen years old teenager is capable of surviving all by him or herself. And that's our end goal. However, Alvin League is trying to alter human genes."

Andrew took a sip of ale and continued, "Alvin League is known for collecting historical artifacts, hoping to find any trace of human genes, which can be used for altering contemporary human genes. But what they are really doing is to combine human genes with which of other species."

"What?"

Henry was stunned by what he was hearing.

Similar bio- experiments had happened before, and they were condemned by the whole world for their inhumane nature. Henry was particularly disgusted by such experiments.

Seeing the expression on Henry's face, Andrew wasn't surprised. He continued, "Cheetahs' speed can reach 120 km/ h. In terms of acceleration, no sports car can beat a cheetah. Peregrine falcons flying speed can reach three hundred and fifteen two km/h. Dynasties can carry eight hundred and fifty times of their own weight. Mantis shrimps can burst out the force twenty-five hundred times of their weight, which equals the kinetic energy of a .22 bullet. If an adult male processes the same power, he can throw a baseball into the satellite orbit. Those are the sort of thing Alvin League is into. They have been

conducting experiments for hundreds of years."

Andrew's words put Henry in disbelief. He paused for a long time. It wasn't the Alvin League's advanced biotechnology that surprised Henry. He was stunned by the fact that the organization could conduct such inhumane experiments and what monsters the experiments could yield.

"Monsters! Alvin League is creating monsters!" Andrew pointed upward and continued, "Secret worlds like ours are not rare on this planet. Clans, Alvin League, and Noble Berserkers all occupied their own. Those reclusive worlds are the product of millions of years' crustal movements. Here, we have rich natural resources. Many countries know the existence of those reclusive worlds, but do you know why none of them is working on exploiting the resources?"

Andrew had opened up a door to a whole new world to Henry. Indeed, he had seen a couple of reclusive worlds before, such as the City of Hell and the underground palace of Yinzhou.

Henry had thought places like these would only be a handful. But what Andrew was trying to tell Henry was that there was a lot more than Henry's knowledge.

The natural resources human beings exploiting were merely something that our modern technology allowed us to reach. It seemed that no one knew what's so deep down under the ground.

But at this moment, Andrew just revealed to Henry that, in fact, leaders of countries had known what's deep down under our feet. For some reason, they just didn't take action.

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Chapter 990

Andrew raised his mug again, "Cheers!"

Sackcloth Visitor raised his mug and chugged down the full mug of ale.

Henry just sat there and didn't touch his mug.

Andrew shook his head. He raised his mug to Sackcloth Visitor and finished his ale.

He continued after the drink, "The reason there haven't been countries working on exploiting resources from the reclusive locations is that they are unable to do so. During the last thousands of years, Alvin League has been setting up labs in those locations to conduct their gene experiments. At first, the method was rudimentary and repulsive. It was basically bestiality, and the success rate was near zero. Later on, after the creation of biogenetic technology, Alvin League's experiments started to conduct on a greater scale, which caused all the troubles we are facing now."

Henry looked up and asked, "They produced too many samples for them to handle?"

"Something like that."

Andrew nodded, "Alvin League's experiments contain too many uncontrollable factors. In the end, they lost control over a large number of their samples. Their solution was to abandon the lab along with the reclusive location where there were too many dangerous samples on the loose. Because of the interference of Spiritual Stone, modern weaponry and machinery couldn't function in those locations. That's the reason none of the countries are able to get their hands on the natural resources."

Henry lost in his thoughts.

Andrew depicted a new situation to Henry. Not even a master who had reached Qi-controlling Realm was able to survive in one of the abandoned locations. No one could imagine what kind of monsters were running free there.

Andrew refilled his drink, "Because of crustal movement, many locations like ours are no longer exist. But a bunch of new ones emerged. You should have noticed that there are many new locations have emerged in Yan Xia. Section Nine's underground palace is one of them. They are lucky that their underground palace doesn't have one of Alvin League's experiment samples. Imagine this, if one day there is a new location emerges under one of the major metropolitans, and Alvin League happens to set up a lab and abandoned it there, a lot of

monsters they have created would swarm above the ground, then it would be an apocalypse."

"Alvin League wouldn't abandon their lab unless their experiment samples were causing uncontrollable damaging effects."

Henry took a deep breath and said, "I don't understand."

Andrew stared at Henry, "What don't you understand?"

"Why are you telling me this?"

Henry stared at Andrew with confusion, "Do you think I'm an altruistic person?"

"Or someone who has a reason to care?"

"No, I don't."

Andrew shook his head, "You should know the existence of a prison in the City of Hell. I just want you to know that you are holding a piece of vital information! The powers of the prisoners of the City of Hell are beyond your imagination. Do you remember the huge black hand that appeared in the sky? I promise you. The hand isn't as one-tenth of powerful as its owner in his peak moment! If we can make them listen to our command, we can use them to eliminate all the experimental monsters that Alvin League left behind, doing some greater good for the whole world!"

Henry looked at him without saying a word.

"I know that the secret of the eighteenth level of the City of Hell is way too important. Whoever can control all the prisoners has the power to take over not only the reclusive locations but also the whole planet earth. But you should also know the motto of Recluse Association. Take a look at those residents!"

Andrew pointed at the hunters in the tavern, "You're confused by the landscape here, their costume, and the trade they are talking about. I can tell you this. They have been living here for generations, and they have no idea there is a whole world outside of the area they are living in. In their mind, this is their only home. If this place is destroyed, they will have no place to go!"

Henry was stunned. He finally understood the reason the people here all looked at him strangely and why everything here looked like coming from a time capsule. Recluse Association had created a separate world for them. "You definitely disagree with our way of life. How could we lock them up and shield them off from the real world?"

Andrew drank up again, this time silently by himself.

Finishing his mug, Andrew refilled another one.

Three mugs of ale later, Andrew wiped his mouth using his sleeve, "People here are all descendants of the Elders of Recluse Association."

As descendants, they were born to carry the mission and responsibility of Recluse Association. To tell you the truth, this is not the headquarters of Recluse Association. In fact, we don't have headquarters. We occupy many reclusive locations like this one. The association would patrol those locations. Once we found any of the Alvin League's monsters close by, we would do our best to eliminate them. It is because people here believe that this is their only home, so they would risk everything they have. The animals those hunters were talking about are Alvin League's monsters."

Andrew pounded the table, "I admit that there are dirty things that happen inside of the organization. But I can assure you, all of us have the same ultimate goal! Come with me."

Andrew stood up and took his luxurious coat. He said to Henry, "Let me show you those monsters."


Henry turned to look at Sackcloth Visitor.

Sackcloth Visitor nodded to Henry secretly, indicating that Andrew was telling the truth.

Henry stood up and followed Andrew exit the tavern.

Sackcloth Visitor and Andrew's men followed them.

Andrew didn't get in the carriage. He used Qi to bolt in the direction opposite the city wall gate. He didn't care that his behavior would cause chaos because most of the people here have the ability of Qi.

This city was big. It took even Andrew more than an hour to reach his destination. He traveled by foot for more than fifty kilometers, but that's the distance of the whole world for people living here. 

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