

Chapter 991

Someone once proposed such a worldview.

In the world of ants, they had their development of civilization. They had their own scientists, artists, and ants who belonged to all the other professions.

They developed their own kind of science. It might even be very advanced.

Even so, their science couldn't explain everything.

For example, why big drops of hot water would fall from the sky? It would cause floods and kill countless ants.

Why would big flashes strike and destroy their colonies?

Phenomenons like these came and went fast. None of the ant scientists could explain those. So they categorized them as supernatural phenomena.

What they didn't know was that a human being spilled a glass of hot water caused the flood. And their colonies were destroyed by a driving-by car, and the flashes were its headlights.

People living in the small society created by Recluse Association were like those ants. They believed Recluse Association when the organization told them the rock over their heads was the sky.

At this moment, Henry, Andrew, and the others were standing in front of a stone wall, which was located at the edge of the city.

Before scientists had proven the theory of spherical earth, many people had tried to reach the end of the earth. In the end, they realized that the end didn't exist.

But in this city, this wall represented the end of the world. On one side of the wall, it was the home for people living there, and the other side of the wall was full of monsters.

Standing in front of the stone wall, Andrew said, "About eight years ago, we discovered a gap that could lead us to the center of the earth. The gap shifted its location closer to us due to crustal movement. We went in and found countless of Alvin League's monsters. From that day, the battle had begun. The air here is full of spiritual matter. Cultivation of Qi is one of the most important things for everyone here. But because of the difference in talent, there aren't many Qi-controlling Realm masters. There are only about sixty people who have reached Qi-controlling Realm, and only one has reached the Transformation Realm. As for Qi-concentrating Realm, no one reached there yet."

Henry was shocked by what Andrew told him. This was only one of

many small societies of Recluse Association, and there were more than sixty Qi-controlling Realm masters. Henry was in awe of the power of this two thousand years old organization. How many Qi-controlling Realm masters the organization had if put all of its societies together?

"You don't have to be surprised."

Andrew shook his head helplessly, "The number may sound scary, but it is nothing in reality. The air here makes them more sensitive to Qi. They are cultivating Qi from the moment they were born. They also have a head start because their elders would help them. Even so, there are only a couple of dozens of Qi-controlling Realm masters within the population of sixty thousand. They are too weak for those monsters."

Finished his words, Andrew sized up Henry, "I heard what you have done in the Zhu Family of the Capital. You defeated all three Mr. Zhus. I guess you are probably very close to Qi-concentrating Realm?"

Andrew didn't know Henry's real capacity. He only speculated based on the stories.

Henry smiled but did not speak.

With a sigh, Andrew continued, "You're only in your twenties, and you taught yourself to reach the later stage of the Qi-controlling Realm in less than six months. With your talent, if you were born here, you could have reached Qi-concentrating Realm already!"

"Commissioner Andrew!"

Sackcloth Visitor suddenly spoke, "I don't think your purpose today is to show Henry how miserable you are."

"You're over-worried, Sackcloth Visitor."

Andrew smiled, "I just cherish the talents. Henry is one of our own, and I personally appointed him as the prison warden. I don't need to sell him my miserable face. I just wanted to let him know more about Recluse Association."

Henry's expression did not change. Deep down, he knew that Andrew wasn't putting on a miserable look for him.

Although Andrew used a depressing tone, Henry knew Andrew's true purpose was to show off the power of the organization.

In a small society with dozens of thousand of population, everyone was cultivating Qi. That's the true power of Recluse Association! Andrew was trying to threaten Henry. Even the organization was scared of the prisoners of the eighteenth level of the City of Hell, Henry still couldn't defeat Recluse Association. People of the organization with similar talent as Henry achieved far more than Henry had done. That was Andrew's true message to Henry. At this moment, everyone

was waiting in front of the stone wall. Two men walked over. They wore red cloaks, and their faces were hidden under the hoods.

The moment Henry saw them, he sensed danger. Henry could tell both of them were masters no weaker than Silver Visitor. Henry was sure that both of them had reached Qi-concentrating Realm. Andrew was definitely here to show off the power of Recluse Association.

"Please open the door."

Andrew took out a diamond-shaped badge from his belt and held it in his hand.

The two men took a look at the badge and didn't say a word. They walked to each side of the stone wall and stood at a distance of thirty meters apart. They circulated Qi on their palms and pounded heavily on the stone wall at the same time.

The moment their palms hit the stone wall, an invisible Qi wave rose upward. Then, there was a rumbling sound, and the wall that connected the top and bottom of the underground area cracked open in the middle. The two sides of the wall moved apart slowly.

"The machinery inside is powered by spiritual energy. It must take at least two Qi-concentrating Realm masters together to open up the stone wall. All the cities of Recluse Association operate like this."

Andrew explained it to Henry while, again, showing off the power of Recluse Association.

The stone wall didn't open for too wide. There was only a three-meters wide opening, which barely enough for two adult males to pass side by side. The moment the wall was open, a strong smell of blood burst out.

"Henry, in the area where there are a lot of Alvin League's monsters, we call it... Purgatory."

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The Purgatory! It was such a horrifying and gloomy name.

"The King of the City of Hell, excuse me, the former King of the City of Hell. Does the Purgatory look similar to the City of Hell?"

Andrew laughed out loud and then walked into the wall opening.

After glancing at Sackcloth Visitor, Henry followed Andrew.

There was a narrow and dark passage inside of the wall. Henry couldn't see anything. He followed the sound of Andrew's footsteps.

"We call this the passage of life. Beyond this passage, you have forsaken the control of your life. If you are able to get back to this passage again, congratulations, you have regained your life."

The passage was not long. Henry felt that he had only walked for about five minutes when he saw the light shining ahead. As he moved forward, the blood in the air became stronger.

All of a sudden, a cold light suddenly appeared at end of the passage and flew straight to Henry.

Henry snorted. Instead of stepping back, he took a step forward and punched out.

It was dark, and Henry couldn't see what he was hitting. One thing he was sure, it wasn't Andrew.

He felt that his fist landed on something very hard.

Then, Henry heard an ear-piercing scream. It sounded like hysterical cawing from crows.

"Bang!"

With a muffled sound, the thing that attacked Henry was thrown heavily on the wall of the passage.

Henry bolted toward the attacker. He moved as fast as an arrow that shook out from the bow.

Henry could tell the attacker was very strong. One thing he learned from his experience was never leaving a moment for attackers like this.

Under the dim light from the end of the passage, Henry finally got a look at the attacker. He was stunned by what he saw. The attacker was a less-than-one-meter-tall dwarf. He had a human face, but this face had disfigured. His nose was like an eagle's beak. The cold light Henry just saw wasn't caused by a metal weapon but by his arms. He had the arms of a mantis. "Creak!"

The creature roared and swung his sickle-like arms at Henry. When the

arms touched the stone wall, the wall was sliced up like a piece of tofu.

"Maybe it's easier for you to be dead!"

A cold snort rang out. Andrew flicked his fingers, and a gold needle flew out. It pierced through the monster's head.

The monster's sickle arm stopped thirty centimeters away from Henry.

Henry stared at the dead monster in front of him.

"This is one of Alvin League's experiment samples. They combined the genes of crows and mantises into human genes. This monster has strong vitality and feeds on rotten meat."

Andrew walked over and squashed the head of the monster by his foot.

He then patted Henry on the shoulder and asked, "Are you okay? My words can't really tell you how scary those monsters are. How do you feel now, after seeing one of them with your very eyes?"

Henry took a deep breath, shook his head, and said nothing.

"Alvin League's inhumane experiments have been carried on for thousands of years. You can say they are conducting the most despicable and evil behavior in the history of humanity. We may sometimes kill for wealth and power, but that's nowhere near what they are doing."

Andrew took out a small bottle from his pocket. He opened the bottle and poured the powder inside of the bottle on the dead body.

The moment the powder made contact with the dead body, the sizzling sound was heard, and white foam and bubbles appeared. The dead body was melting.

In just a few seconds, the monster's dead body had turned into a puddle of turbid liquid.

"The dead body will only become another monster's food. Let's go."

Andrew walked toward the end of the passage.

Henry and others followed him.

The moment they walked out of the cave, a creature with a human face and bird wings flew past Henry. It was so fast that Henry couldn't even get a look like what it was.

At this moment, they were standing on a cliff. At the bottom of the cliff, there was a dense forest. At the edge of the forest, rotten bodies were scattered. Some creatures were feeding on them. Some of them had human faces but animal body parts. Some of them had animal faces but human bodies. There were also creatures on the tree branches, tearing the tree bark.

This was a monster world. The strong smell of blood filled the air. The scariness of every single one of the creatures was beyond human imagination.

A cheetah that was running suddenly looked up to Henry. But what faced Henry was a face of a man, on which there was an evil smile. The creature hissed. When it opened its mouth, a forked tongue stuck out. It flicked like a snake.

On the other side, there was a thirty-meter-tall tree. The trunk of the tree was thick enough that it would take more than a dozen adult males to circle it hand in hand. But a palm-sized bird crashed into the tree at high speed, and the tree was broken down.

An ape swung over. It grabbed the bird. The ape opened its mouth and revealed a mouthful of spikey teeth. The ape put the bird in its mouth and started to chew. Blood flowed down from the corners of its mouth. The ape smacked its mouth, looking unsatisfied. Then it saw Henry and the other people standing on the cliff.

With his back facing the cliff, Andrew walked up to Henry and gave him a gesture, "Welcome to the Purgatory."


The moment Andrew finished his words, the ape jumped upward. Its body looked like a detonated bomb flew toward Henry.

The cliff where Henry was standing was more than fifty meters high, and it was hundreds of meters away from the tree branches the ape was on. When the ape reached the mid-air, a pair of wings appeared on its back. The creature glided in the air with its mouth wide open. The flesh of the bird was still left between its teeth.

When the creature got closer, Henry could get a clearer look at it. It was four meters tall at least, and its forearm was as thick as Henry's thigh.

"Well, that thing has the genes of chimpanzees, maybe with some eagle genes and Salticidae genes. From the look of it, that creature should be the king of this area."

Standing on the cliff with his hands rested behind his back, Andrew sized the creature up without the intention to fight.

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Seeing the ape flying over, Henry laid his right palm open, facing down. He then turned his palm half of a circle clockwise and fisted.

An invisible Qi dispersed from his fist.

Still flying in mid-air, the ape swung its strong right arm and threw a blind punch toward the people standing on the cliff.

At the same time, Henry also threw out his punch. Two fists collided, creating a huge crashing sound.

In comparison to the ape's huge fist, Henry's looked like a baby's hand.

The air burst out because of the collision, blowing up Andrew's coat.

One second later, with a sound of bang, the ape's right fist burst. Blood sprayed out.

There was fear in the ape's eyes, which could only be seen in the eyes of a human. The ape couldn't believe that a tiny creature such as Henry could be so powerful.

The ape's eagle-like wings were closed, and it fell to the bottom of the cliff.

"Boom!"

A loud noise was heard.

The ape fell to the ground from fifty meters high above the ground. Following the loud crashing sound was the burst of dust. The body of the ape was lying in this area, smashed into pieces. Countless creatures swarmed over to feed on its flesh.

Looking at the scene, Andrew said, "Small underground worlds will shift their locations along with the crustal movements. Some of them will disappear. For those that are still here, a unique set of laws of nature were formed. In order to survive, Alvin League's monsters would feed on each other, which further complicates their genetic makeup. Some of them can even produce offsprings. The most powerful one will become the dominant creature within each underground world. Now, Henry, after seeing it with your own eyes, can you imagine the disaster it would cause if those things get out above the ground?"

Henry didn't say anything. He jumped toward the spot where the ape's body was.

He landed steadily after a fifty meters fall. His knees wouldn't even bend.

The feeding monsters noticed Henry. They all stopped eating and

looked at him.

"Roar!"

Countless monsters ran toward Henry.

Henry closed his eyes, and invisible Qi emitted from his body, fluttering his clothes. A creature with a leopard body and a human face was pushed over by the Qi when it got close to Henry. Its face showed horror.

On the cliff.

Andrew, Sackcloth Visitor, and Andrew's two men were watching the battle down below.

"He is very powerful. I'm afraid that most of the masters who have reached Transformation Realm won't be able to defeat him," Andrew commented as he watched Henry fight.

Under the cliff, Henry was facing numerous vicious monsters. He wanted to experience how powerful those monsters were by himself.

Hearing Andrew's words, Sackcloth Visitor did not respond. He could tell that Henry, in fact, fought with restrained power. Sackcloth Visitor looked into the distance and asked, "How many secrets are there on this planet? This place is so deep into the earth, but there are so many giant trees. I don't think the nutrients from the ground only are enough."

With a wry smile, Andrew said, "Your question is too deep for people like us to answer. The planet earth has so much more than we realized. Human beings think they are the dominant species, but, in fact, their tunnel vision fools them into believing they know everything about this planet. What they know is only limited to the surface of the earth. It's nothing compared with the planet as a whole."

During the conversation of Sackcloth Visitor and Andrew, Henry's battle had almost finished.

At this moment, Henry was holding the neck of a female-looking creature. From the upper body, it looked like a beautiful woman in her mid-twenties. Leaves covered its curvy body. But its lower body wasn't legs, but a plant stem that grew from the ground.

Alvin League didn't only experiment on animal genes. They also tried the genes of plants.

Henry squeezed its neck harder.

To his surprise, it didn't struggle. The arms of the creature hung on the side of its body. In its eyes, Henry saw a look of relief.

He was shocked by this discovery!

The vicious attacks made Henry forgot about one thing. Those creatures were once human beings. The altered genes made them

violent and bloodthirsty, but the human part still existed.

Alvin League had turned human beings into monsters!

There was a trace of pity in Henry's eyes. He squeezed harder and broke the creature's neck.

"Perhaps, it's easier for you this way."

The body slipped down to the ground as Henry loosened his grip. It almost looked like the creature was smiling.

"Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!"

Four men who were standing on the cliff jumped down. Andrew's two men took out the bottles of powder to melt all the dead bodies around Henry.

All the bodies of the monsters turned into a pool of blooded liquid.

Henry looked at Andrew and asked, "How many are those in this place?"

"I don't know," said Andrew, shaking his head. Having guessed what Henry was thinking, Andrew continued, "We have done a total cleanup when we found this place. We waited for a year for this place to become inhabitable. However, when the time came, we discovered more monsters. Our guess was that crustal movement made another small world connected with this one. But we didn't explore further in."

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Looking into the distance, Andrew said, "This space is about nine thousand square kilometers, which is much smaller than the space we are occupying. But it has richer resources. The shame is that so many monsters living in this place. Five months ago, we organized an attack. There were ten Qi-concentrating Realm masters and countless masters of Transformation Realm and Qi-controlling Realm in the troops. But most of them didn't make it out of here."

Andrew's face turned dismal. Henry could tell he was telling the truth.

This place was the size of Yinzhou City.

Andrew continued, "The creatures here are way too monstrous. For one thing, bio-engineering genes from different species is a despicable act that should be shunned by the whole world. For the other thing, by conducting this kind of experiment, Alvin League imposes itself as GOD. Their ambition and hubris will lead them into doing more detrimental things."

A trace of horror showed on Andrew's face. "After years of slaughter, cannibalism, and evolution, what remains are a bunch of extremely fearful monsters. I have come across one of them. It had human limbs and a huge body like which of an elephant's. It had the speed of cheetahs and the strength of ants. The creature also had gills, which allowed it to breathe underwater. What most horrifying was that the creature could think like a human and it mastered Qi. It looks like a demigod from the ancient tales."

Henry asked, "Did you kill it in the end?"

"Yes."

With a nod, Andrew continued, "For that battle, we dispatched thirty-seven Qi-concentrating Realm masters and only them. Everyone knew that it was a trip of no return. I was one of them and just reached Qi-concentrating Realm at that time. I was sure I would die there when I saw the monster. After twelve of us had died and the rest were severely injured, we managed to lure it up on the surface of the earth and bombed it into pieces by rocket. The only reason that we could defeat it was that the creature had never lived in contemporary society and had no idea of the existence of rockets."

Henry's brows gradually furrowed. After so many Qi-concentrating Realm masters either died or were injured, the creature was only killed by a rocket.

He looked into the distance of the forest. A hint of curiosity flashed in his eyes.

"Hey, what's going on in your mind?"

Sackcloth Visitor walked to Henry and whispered, "Don't tell me you want to go in and have a look?"

"Or else?"

Henry asked in rhetorically.

Sackcloth Visitor put his hand on Henry's shoulder and said, "Curiosity kills the cat. Cats have nine lives, but you only have one."

Henry smiled and said, "My life is much harder to end than a cat's."

Henry walked toward the forest.

"You can't go in there."

Andrew stopped Henry, "You've seen the situation here. This space is merely a couple of hundreds of meters below the surface. Any massive event can affect the real world up there directly. You don't know how many monsters are down there. If things go wrong, the disaster would be much bigger than what you can be responsible for."

"So?"

Henry shrugged, "So you just want me to tell you the secret of the eighteenth level of the City of Hell?"

"That's right."

Andrew said, "People that are locked up there are all very powerful even though they are vicious criminals. If somehow, we can convince them to fight with us, it would be much easier to eliminate all the monsters. When the time comes, we can send them back."

"Haha."

Henry chuckled, "I say, Commander Andrew, do we have a feud?"

Startled, Andrew shook his head and asked in confusion, "No."

"Then do you hate me?"

"Of course not?"

"So you just think I'm very stupid?"

Henry stared at Andrew and continued, "Send them back to the City of Hell? Do you think anyone can believe your plan?"

"There will be a discussion about how to deal with them. But right now, those creatures are the most pressing problems."

Andrew continued, "The worst scenario would be that we fight those prisoners. It will still be a battle between human beings, which is so much better than fighting against countless powerful monsters!"

"Commander Andrew, if that scenario really happens, my life will be your best bet."

Henry smiled and dashed away into the forest.

"How dare you!"

Andrew's men were stunned. They were about to follow Henry.

"Let him go. He just doesn't want to tell me that secret, dodging my questions."

With a sullen face, Andrew watched Henry running deep into the forest. "The secret of the City of Hell is his only lever. He knows he will be of no use to us once the secret is out, and we will probably kill him, so he plays delaying tactics. No problem, we will play with him. I'm curious how long he can stay alive there."

Andrew didn't care Sackcloth Visitor could hear him.

Sackcloth Visitor shook his head and did not say anything. He had done all he could. Henry's secret had been driving every one of Recluse Association crazy. If they wanted to take action on Henry, even Sanford Chu couldn't save him. At this moment, Henry could only count on himself."

Running through the forest, What went through Henry's mind was exactly what Andrew had guessed. Henry knew he would not leave this place alive if he did what Andrew asked of him, and this was his last chance to escape.

Recluse Association had been after Henry for the secret of the eighteenth level of the City of Hell. But only Henry knew that there was no secret at all. He made it up. Henry wouldn't have come here if he had any other choices. If he refused a visit to Recluse Association, the organization would threaten Henry using the Lin Family. Moreover, Radiant Island, which was located near the prison of the City of Hell, would be destroyed by Recluse Association either. It might look like a trip of no return, but it didn't mean that Henry had to die here. What made Henry what he was at that time was that he could create his own chance to survive.

After seeing Alvin League's experimental creatures, Henry had many unanswered questions. He wanted to find out the answers. Nine thousand square kilometers was a large area, but for someone like Henry, he could travel to the edge of the area by foot in a short period of time.

Along the way, Henry encountered many monsters. Without exception, they were brutal in nature. They all had different appearances with different abilities. But none of them was powerful enough to be able to put Henry in danger.

As for the monsters that had killed dozens of masters of Qi-concentrating Realm and countless masters of Qi-controlling Realm, Henry hadn't met any one of them yet, and he didn't intend to.