

### Chapter 151: Why Don't We Become Friends?

Duan Lian was shocked awake by the phone. He felt his head pound, and his limbs were weak. He could even smell a sweet scent in the air. It was as if half of his mind was awake, but the other half was still tormented by a nightmare.

He was located in a luxurious, single dorm room, where the spirit energy density was incredibly high. If he slept deeply for an hour or two, he should have recovered his strength.

This was a strange thing which had never happened before.

He thought about it carefully and figured that it must be because his nerves were stretched too tightly as he trained madly over the past six weeks. He had also fought fiercely during the tournament between courses, which made him use up too much of his stamina and spirit energy.

But the tournament had come to an end, and he had already obtained the right to head to the northern battlefield, so his mind relaxed. It was only natural then that it would send warning signs to him.

Duan Lian grabbed his handphone and checked the time.

It was 00:35. Who would call him so late at night?

"Hello?" he asked in a hoarse voice. "Big Brother Duan, Qiu Jie was knocked out in the toilet!" a martial arts course coursemate who was quite friendly with him said anxiously.

"He went to bathe just now, and he didn't come back even after more than half an hour passed. I thought that something was weird, so I knocked on the door loudly, but he didn't react. Then, I kicked it, and I saw him unconscious on the floor while foaming at the mouth. There's a deep bruise on his neck, and it looks like he was choked by someone until he fell unconscious!"

"What?" Duan Lian was shocked. "You're in a four-man dorm, right? Was Qiu Jie alone in the dorm when he went to bathe?"

"Little Tao and I were here all the time. He didn't come out, and the bathroom was locked on the inside. No one could have possibly gone in," he said, "unless they jumped in from outside through the transom in the bathroom. But we're staying on the ninth floor, and the transom is tiny. Even a girl who is 160cm tall would have a hard time crawling in. Who could have crawled in silently to attack Qiu Jie?"

Duan Lian frowned. "What happened then? Why did you call me?"

"While we were preparing to send Qiu Jie to the medical office, we ran into the people from Dorm 608. They were carrying their friend Zhou in a flurry of motion. They were also sending him to the medical office," he said.

"I heard that Zhou was training with two of his dormmates. After they ended their training session, while they were on their way back, the two dormmates walked slightly ahead, and around twenty

seconds later, they notice Zhou having vanished without a trace. They searched for more than an hour and finally found him in a shrub very far away. He was beaten black and blue and lay unconscious!”

“That’s...” Duan Lian’s pupils shrank. “Wait. Qiu Jie and Zhou are both people who challenged Meng Chao with me during the day!”

“That’s right. That’s why I decided to call you,” the coursemate said.

“Bastard. Could it be that Meng Chao doesn’t dare to face the ten of us head-on so he decided to sneakily follow us and attack us after the match has ended and we’re alone?” Duan Lian was furious. “Hurry up and call the others!”

He also made some calls. Three challengers did not pick up. The other two had their dormmates pick up their phones.

Three people were missing. From witnesses, they learned that before ten o’clock at night, they were seen in cultivation rooms or the library. Then, they vanished.

The other two were discovered under their beds. They were unconscious and had been beaten really badly.

Two of the students had stayed in dorms with multiple people in one room. They had dormmates sleeping soundly in their rooms, but even when they were shocked awake by the phone call, the muddle-headed dormmates did not know that there had been a fight in their rooms. Or rather, they did not know that their dormmate had gone through a one-sided fight.

Yet they were all martial artists with incredibly sharp senses!

Duan Lian could not help but cuss.

When he made his final call, the person himself picked it up.

“Zhang Nuo, you have to be careful of Meng Chao. That despicable guy is ambushing us!” Duan Lian said quickly. “You’re staying in a single dorm room too, right? Hurry up and go to a place with a lot of people or come to my place! We’ll go and look for a lecturer together!”

“Big Brother Duan...” The voice on the other side of the phone was very weak. “My... My head is really dizzy. My limbs are weak. I think I’m poisoned.”

“What?” Duan Lian was shocked. “Hurry up and open the door. Call for someone!”

“Ah!” A pained scream came from the other end of the phone.

“What’s going on!” Duan Lian almost went mad.

“Someone... Someone stuck a semi-transparent layer of monster spikes on my door handle. I think it’s coated in poison as well. I wanted to open the door, but when I held it, my skin was pierced, and it’s numb now.”

Zhang Nuo’s voice became weaker. “He also... used monster glue to seal my door shut. I... can’t go out.”

His words were followed by a loud thud of him falling on the floor. Then, it was as if great darkness had swallowed up whatever was on the other side of the phone. Not a single sound came through.

Duan Lian quickly got up. He did not care about his dizziness and immediately put on combat boots he had spent two thousand monster coins to make. The bottom of the boots was inlaid with steel, and he even had sharp blades hidden in them.

“Ah!”

Right when his right foot entered his combat boot, he cried out. When he pulled his foot out, his big toe was covered in blood.

He untied the laces and turned the boot upside down. A dark purple bindii fell out.

Its thorns shone with a dark green light, and they were covered by a few drops of blood.

When he looked at his toe again, the blood flowing out was dark green.

Duan Lian’s eyes went wide, and he wanted to call for help, but his world spun. It was as if the air had been instantly sucked out. He did not even have the strength to grab his phone.

Duan Lian moved to the door.

Right after he threw himself forward, he stopped himself and staggered to the window.

But right after he took two steps, he was tripped by something and crashed onto the floor.

The crash was very bad, and it knocked out his last remaining strength. He could only gasp for breath like a fish on a chopping board.

Duan Lian lowered his head with great difficulty and saw a nearly invisible, strengthened spider thread between the end of his bed and the foot of his cabinet.

While he was sleeping, someone had snuck in without his notice. They stuffed the poisonous Iron Bindii into his combat boots, tied a rope to the end of his bed to trip him, released anesthetic gas into the air, and might have even stuck monster spikes to the handles of the door and the window. Naturally, they would also be poisoned.

While all of that was being done, Duan Lian was going through a nightmare.

His skin crawled.

Compared to the fear he had yesterday when he faced monster controller Wu Wu, who was as crazy as a Ghost Leopard, he was even more frightened now.

They were both monster-level opponents, but the monster today was definitely even more capable of destroying his mind.

At that moment, a dissection blade that was as thin as a cicada’s wing landed gently on his neck.

A ghost materialized above him. His eyes shone with a teasing light, and he bent his body to whisper into his ear with a smile.

“Duan Lian, I won.”

Goosebumps broke out on Duan Lian’s skin.

“Th-this means nothing!” He used anger to mask his fear.

“If you’re talking about time and place, please think about what Ms. Li and I said this morning. First of all, the rules of the challenge are set by the challenged, but I didn’t specify how big the arena was nor how long the match could last. I only said that both sides have to do their best to completely defeat the other party.

“That’s why, this is a match that has no limits and will never end. I only love these sort of fights,” Meng Chao said faintly. “If you’re talking about me poisoning you or setting up traps, I remember that the norm in the martial arts course is that we can use any weapon and method of our choice. No one ever specified what sort of weapons we can use.

“We can choose sabers, swords, daggers, thickened steel, combat boots with blades hidden in them, or guns. Since martial artists practicing the Gun Fighting Style and Machine Armor Style can combine martial arts with guns and machines, why can’t I use my abilities to poison my opponents?”

“You...” Duan Lian hissed and used every ounce of his strength to say, “How can this be considered the secret of the Ultimate Style!”

“This IS the secret of the Ultimate Style,” Meng Chao said calmly. “You already know how the other challengers ended up, right? If I hadn’t cleared all 1024 branch meridians so that my senses would become much shaper and I could control every muscle fiber and nerve ending at will to deliver fatal moves in a small space, how would I have been able to quietly get rid of one person why four or more people slept in a dorm?

“And it would have been impossible for me to carry someone into a shrub in just a few seconds without anything noticing me. I even made sure that he couldn’t make a single sound. It also would have been impossible for me to climb up nine floors and crawl through a narrow transom to where a superhuman was bathing. Then, before he could even react to the situation, I managed to choke him until he fainted.”

Duan Lian had nothing to say. Even so, he remained stubborn, and his face was full of wildness.

“The war has changed,” Meng Chao said calmly. “In the past, we had the advantage of fighting on our home turf. We could rest and obtain supplies at any time we wanted. We could release all sorts of dazzling killing moves with electricity effects since we had the support of powerful firepower. I won’t talk about the effects of the attacks itself, but it’s worth it to spend some of the precious spirit energy just to increase morale.

“But in the future, we might end up as a lone army marching away from our home turf. We will be entering the world of monsters behind the fog and will probably have to face existences even more terrifying than monsters.

“If we only know how to stand around in stances like idiots waiting to execute our attacks, martial artists won’t be any different from large tanks. But creating an armored tank is much cheaper than cultivating a high-ranked martial artist.

“Ambushing, infiltrating, scouting, assassinating, surveying, and creating chaos is something tanks, cannons, and even nuclear weapons can’t do. This is the value of martial artists.

“And the real battlefield is in the depths of the fog. There won’t be rules, judgment, boundaries, or ends to fights. The enemy won’t care whether you’re sleeping, bathing, eating, or relieving yourself. Once you’re killed by a despicable method, you won’t have the chance to complain about it to your lecturer. Dying is the only judgment you will face.

“When you’re in that sort of battle, you have to pay attention to details. Even powerful people who have powerful killing moves might be set up and taken out by surprise by the enemy if they’re the slightest bit careless.

“The Ultimate Style mainly cultivates the 1024 branch meridians, so it’s the most suited for that sort of battle. This is the logic I wanted to tell all of you who challenged me.

“Duan Lian, I know that there has been a slight misunderstanding between us during the admission test, but please believe me when I say that I really don’t have any ill will. I really regret that you couldn’t choose an ace lecturer for yourself. As compensation, why don’t we become friends, and I’ll teach you the Ultimate Style?”

Meng Chao looked very sincere.

“Bah!” Duan Lian was still lying on the ground. His body was numb, and he was gradually unable to feel his limbs. He was so angry that he lost his mind and could not read Meng Chao’s good intentions.

“Dream on! Go to hell with your Ultimate Style! I refuse to admit defeat! Meng Chao, I’m telling you, things haven’t ended between us!”

“How troublesome.” Meng Chao scratched his head with a troubled expression. He drew closer and said softly, “Then, I have no choice.”

Whoosh!

The dissection blade between his fingers turned into lightning, and he cut the artery in Duan Lian’s neck.

Duan Lian felt pain in his neck, then saw a stream of blood gush out. It rushed out like a sprinkler and dyed half of the room red!

## **Chapter 152:**

Duan Lian could not believe his eyes.

A bone-chilling pain spread through his entire body from his throat.

He felt as if he had fallen into an abyss of death that was as cold as ice.

He still remained in the position where he fell after tripping over the spider threads. Due to his muscles relaxing and his limbs going limp, he could not tell how much blood he lost nor how deep was the wound on his neck.

He could only see a pool of sticky blood spreading out from around his neck. Soon, it reached his mouth and nose.

His chest was damp, and the air filled with a pungent scent of blood.

'He... He's mad!' Duan Lian's mind was blank. Countless chaotic thoughts appeared in his head, and fear, puzzlement, and regret fought for supremacy in his brain. He just could not figure out what was going on. 'This lunatic! Demon! Monster! Just why?'

He wanted to cry, but could not shed any tears. It was too late for regrets. He slapped himself fiercely in his mind and regretted the fact that he did not learn his lesson during the admission test and insisted on provoking a monster like Meng Chao.

But who would have thought that this monster would descend into such madness?!

"Do you know why you must die?" Meng Chao brought his bloody right hand in front of him and rubbed it on the floorboard, dragging out a really long bloody trail. His voice was very calm, and he looked as if he had just completed something really minor and common.

"It's not because of the grudge we formed during the admission test. I don't really care about that. Even if you really set me up, it's fine. Besides, I do prefer using these... strategies that require wit, not ones that require brute strength.

"It's because you're big and built, yet you're extremely petty and hold grudges! It has almost been two months since the admission test, but you're still bothered by it. You're filled with animosity toward me, and you told everyone that you're going to teach me a lesson.

"Many of the rumors about me lacking fighting spirit, not having enough room for growth, and being about to leave the martial arts course were released by you, right?"

"I asked around and learned that you were like this even in high school. When anyone got into a conflict with you, you gave them a lot of flak.

"But your family has quite the authority, and they indulge you when you act absurdly. I'm poor, so I can't provoke you!"

He sounded troubled and wronged, but when his words entered Duan Lian's ears, they were even more terrifying than a demon's whispers.

"Honestly, time might provide us the chance to slowly wash away the conflict between us, and I wouldn't have had to use such a bad strategy." Meng Chao continued speaking coldly. "But we're about to head to war in the depths of the fog, where there are dangers everywhere.

"Anything can happen, and we have to be focused at every second. I don't want to fend against monsters in front of me while fending against you behind me.

"If your mind suddenly went haywire and you decided to shoot me in the battlefield, I'd die without a grave. And don't say that it's impossible. Human thoughts are usually even more unfathomable than a monster's ill will. Would you have expected that I would suddenly slit your throat?"

"I can't read your mind, so I can only guess your actions with the greatest malicious intent. Sorry about that!"

Duan Lian's eyes were bloodshot, and all he saw was a swaying red in front of him. He really wanted to say "Just because of that? It's all because of that?!"

But aside from making gurgling sounds, he could not make any other sound from his throat.

"Also, due to various reasons, I have to quickly promote the Ultimate Style. I need the students to support me. At the very least, you can't cause me trouble, but it's very easy for you to cause me trouble. You also have a lot of chances to do so."

Meng Chao seemed to have read his mind based on his expression. "It's enough once I add these two reasons together. I'm pressed for time, and I have a lot of things I have to do. I don't have the time to sulk around like a child with you. I gave you the chance to become my friend just now, but you didn't treasure it. You chose to be my enemy, so this is the only thing I can do."

"There's naturally going to be trouble for killing you, but if I set up the murder site carefully and create an illusion of us fighting fiercely and me being at a disadvantage, which led to me panicking and killing you by accident, I'll have a good chance to escape the punishment of law."

"Of course, I was the one who snuck into your dorm, so this is going to be really troublesome to me, and your family will definitely not stop trying to take revenge on me. There's going to be a whole load of trouble."

"But that's okay. Regardless of whether it's the university's punishment, the judgment from law, or your family's revenge, all of it will happen later. Right now, I'm standing, and you're lying on the ground. I'm living and enjoying the pleasure of breathing freely, while you're about to die. You can only choke in the pool of your own blood. In the end, I won this match, no?"

Duan Lian's lips and eyelids twitched. All he could repeat in his head was one word 'Lunatic, lunatic, lunatic, lunatic!'

"And in your final moments, let me give you a friendly reminder." Meng Chao tapped his cheek gently with his bloody hand. "In your next life, when someone like me extends a hand to you and offers friendship with a smile, it's in your best interests to take that hand firmly."

Meng Chao pulled his bloody hand from Duan Lian's eyes, then retreated into the darkness, and his breathing vanished.

'D-Don't go!'

Duan Lian widened his eyes and opened his mouth to scream, but no sound came out.

He wanted to struggle, but he was afraid that his struggles would tear at the wound, which would make him bleed out even faster.

He could only watch as his blood continued spreading around him in the dark. Cold tears spilled out of his eyes, and they flowed even faster than his blood.

"Save me, Meng Chao! I was wrong. Spare me! I won't bother you again!"

He wanted to shout these words, but he could not make any sound. Pain had already sealed his throat shut, and the gurgling sounds turned into hissing.

Was it because his blood was gushing out madly from his artery or was it because his windpipe was cut? Whatever it was, it was the sound of his life spilling out of him.

Duan Lian did not dare continue with that train of thought.

He felt his vision turning darker and his consciousness fading away. The pain in his throat became dull, as if a beast named Death was eating him inch by inch.

Duan Lian was continuously eaten up by Death for three minutes, five minutes... then ten minutes.

His mind gradually stepped away from despair and filled with puzzlement.

'Why... am I not dead yet even after I lost so much blood? I even feel like I've recovered some strength in my limbs...'

He gritted his teeth and pushed himself up from the floor.

When he looked at the blood that covered half of the room, he found it unbelievable. He shuddered and touched his neck, but he did not manage to feel the wound. Instead, he touched an incredibly elastic pouch made of a monster's bladder or some other organ. It was as thin as a cicada's wings.

Incredibly sticky bioglue covered one side of the pouch. After great difficulty, he tore it off his neck.

Contained in it was a liquid similar to blood. There was a small tear on it, and when he pressed the pouch, blood gushed out.

"This is..." Duan Lian was dumbfounded.

Click!

Someone turned on the lights, and the room lit up. It was as if he had returned from hell to the land of the living.

Meng Chao crossed his arms in front of his chest and leaned against the wall while staring at him with a grin.

"Sorry about that, Duan Lian. I played a harmless prank on you. You won't mind, right?" Meng Chao put on a sincere, friendly, and hearty smile.

"The blood is fake. Your throat wasn't cut. But you did suck in pores that have very mild hallucination effects. The bindii that stabbed your toe also had highly-effective muscle relaxants and nerve numbing agents extracted from monster poison. Then, when I 'cut' your throat, I stuck the pouch on you and injected some biopharmaceutical drugs that cause great pain and disrupt your senses. That's all."

"You..."

Duan Lian had been hovering at Death's door. He alone knew what it felt like during the ten minutes just now. His limbs were still weak, and he no longer had the courage to be angry.

"We're fated to be classmates, you know? Unless it's completely necessary, why would I do something so cruel?" Meng Chao said. "But I really do want to resolve the conflict between us. It's better to get rid



of enmity than deepen it, you know? We've been going on and on about something so small for two months. Do you really want to keep that grudge for a whole year?

"Now, let me be frank. I believe you know my personality. We should put an end to the matter during the admission test, don't you think so?"

"Duan Lian, as a compensation, why don't we become friends, and I'll teach you the Ultimate Style?"

Meng Chao walked over and smiled sincerely. He stared at the artery on Duan Lian's neck, and when he extended his hand, it was the bloody hand.

Duan Lian stared at his hand and did not dare to look into his eyes. Even so, he still shuddered.

He gulped with great difficulty and extended a trembling hand to grip Meng Chao's lightly.

"That's good." Meng Chao sighed in relief. "That's the best outcome. If I really had to kill you, there would be a lot of things I had to do, and it'd be so troublesome!"

Duan Lian was speechless.

"Hahahaha! I was joking! You know I was joking, right?"

Duan Lian was even more speechless.

He had just gone through a terrible shock and had temporarily lost his ability to think.

"I'm not someone who likes to put up an act. It's meaningless to hide my strength when I have abilities and can strike you in the face when you come to me aggressively and provoke me. But if I did it, you'd just end up with even more loathing and bring out more of your family's power to fight against me, and I'd just be striking you in the face repeatedly. It's meaningless, don't you think?"

"It would be better to do what I'm doing now and let you see my true face so that we can prevent further misunderstandings and conflicts from happening. It's perfect this way! We can achieve harmony!"

"Now, we're friends, so help me out. Tomorrow, go to Ms. Li and tell her that you lost the challenge and accept your defeat wholeheartedly. That won't be a problem for you, right?"

"Among the ten challengers, you're the strongest, and you're ranked the highest. If you take the lead to admit defeat, no one else will say anything about it."

Duan Lian still said nothing.

But before he could even think about it, he had already nodded like a chick eating grain.

"That's great. Problem solved. I'm leaving. Sleep tight!"

Meng Chao left Duan Lian's room with light footsteps.

As Duan Lian stared at the blood that came out of some unknown monster on his floor and smelled the pungent scent, he wanted to cry, but no tears came to him. How was he supposed to "sleep tight" in this sort of environment?!

Three seconds later, Meng Chao pushed the door open and entered again.

Duan Lian's door could lock automatically on its own, but he had somehow managed to open it without making a sound.

"By the way, I almost forgot to tell you, but I smeared Poisoned Arrow Lizard's venom on your toilet seat. It might just be a thin layer, but it's colorless, odorless, and transparent, and the venom is very strong. If you get in contact with it for ten seconds, you'll be numb for an entire night. If you want to poop, remember to use alcohol to wipe off the venom."

This time, Meng Chao truly left.

Duan Lian remained sitting on his bed like a cracked stone statue. While all sorts of emotions raced through him, he lived through the longest night of his life.

## **Turning Animosity Into A Friendly Relationship**

### **Chapter 153: Mom is a Genius Too**

Meng Chao used his sincerity and friendliness to ingeniously resolve the conflict between him and the students.

It also meant that he didn't need to do anything extra to destroy the rumors of not having enough room for growth and not having enough strength.

The next morning, when the day had just become bright, Duan Lian brought the other nine challengers to the lecturers. They told them that they accepted their defeat and that Meng Chao definitely had the right to represent Agricultural University in the war and show the monsters how shameless— No, how smart he was.

Meng Chao's rich fighting experience had also enlightened them and helped them understand that the Ultimate Style, which had just been created, did indeed have great research value. When they reached the battlefield, they would definitely learn from him.

The matter of the list of soldiers to be sent to the battlefield was settled like that.

There were still three days until they would be sent out to battle, so Meng Chao and the other students finally had a break to go home to visit their parents.

Everything went on smoothly at home.

Meng Chao's mother had received her first treatment in Fengshui Medical Center. A strengthened cell growth serum extracted from superbeast blood and flesh was injected in her, and Dr. Su Yuan used spirit energy every day to probe into her nerves and bones to stimulate her cells. Her legs recovered very quickly. Now, she could cast aside her cane and her leg stent to walk around with light footsteps.

His younger sister had to work hard for the exam for her third year in middle school. According to their parents, she had improved at a rapid speed over this period of time. She had managed to get the top score twice in school, and there was a high chance that she would get into one of the three top high schools.

Father's resource recovery company was getting more and more popular. Thanks to Meng Chao predicting that the Monster War would get more intense, and through Thunderbolt as well as Yan Organization, they managed to get some investments, which allowed the company to get more harvesters. They also got themselves four mobile collection and cold storage vehicles.

In the beginning, there were some people who laughed at Meng Yishan for not knowing how to spend his money. There were many resource recovery companies, but not enough monsters. The monster supply in the city was gradually drying out, but he hired so many people and bought equipment. In less than half a year, he would definitely suffer a huge loss.

When the scale of the offense in the north swiftly grew and the Survival Committee released the major news that they wanted to build a new area, the monster carcasses were suddenly being sent nonstop back to the city. All the resource recovery companies then began regretting not hiring more people. While all the harvesters longed for having four arms, they also envied and admired Meng Yishan for being able to predict the future.

Soon, Superstar Resource Recovery Company became famous within the harvesting circle.

Meng Yishan was busy every day, but he was happy and in high spirits. He looked to have become younger by ten years. Compared to the troubled man in Meng Chao's memories of his previous life, he had become much more carefree.

They still sat around the dining table in the living room in their public renting house, but the food on the table had become much better. In fact, they even had super high-grade sausages that had the blood of superbeasts and boiled crocodile eggs. The aroma was so strong that it was a little pungent.

The family was happy as they listened to Meng Chao talk about the things he went through in the university.

"My coursemates are really friendly, and they're really good to me. There's this big guy called Duan Lian, who begged me to be his friend.

"Can't help it. I'm just that popular.

"Tutor? Naturally, I have the best of them all. My tutor is strong, has high morales, is handsome, and elegant. He is the pillar of the martial arts course, and if I follow him, I will definitely have a bright future!"

Due to his words, his family stopped worrying about him.

But his next news caused his mother's expression to change.

"What? You're going to the frontlines?" Bai Suxin asked worriedly. "You're just a freshman. Why are you going to the frontlines? When you went through the practical test of your national college exam, you were sent to the depths of the fog, and you fought against a Bloody Moon Wolf King, which almost got you killed! Do you know how terrified I was? It has only been a short time since then, so how could you not remember the lesson?!"

“Mom, the two are very different things. What happened last time was an accident. More than one hundred muddleheaded examinees had to face hundreds of Demonic Bloody Moon Wolves, so of course it was dangerous,” Meng Chao quickly explained.

“But this time, the scale of the offense in the north is really huge. You should have seen the news, right? The Red Dragon Army has mobilized a few of their elite squads. The Supernatural Tower has also sent nearly ten Deity Realm elites. Agricultural University isn’t the only one who has to provide reinforcements to the battle. All the universities in Dragon City have to send reinforcements to expand, build, and defend the new area.

“Humanity’s steel army is moving forward, and no monster can stop our footsteps. I’ll be going with the army, and I’ll be polishing my tactics as well as expanding my horizons. I can even earn cultivation resources and form connections. Compared to the benefits, the risks aren’t even worth mentioning. Mom, don’t worry!”

In truth, Meng Chao knew that the offense in the north would not go smoothly.

But he could not tell the truth, or else, his mom would definitely not let him go.

“Suxin, our son isn’t an average joe. Since he has become a superhuman, he must climb to the top bravely.” Meng Yishan worked in society, and he knew more things than his wife. “Besides, this time, all the citizens are mobilized.

“Even normal harvesters like us have to be constantly prepared to go to the edge of the city to provide reinforcements. Our son is an undergraduate student. He has been given many cultivation resources, so he must take up his responsibility.

“Don’t worry, if he could kill a Bloody Moon Wolf King during the national college examination, he will definitely turn danger into a blessing and create a new miracle!”

Bai Suxin knew that her son would not listen to her. Besides, with Dragon City’s environment, it was impossible for superhumans to stay at home and do nothing.

She sighed in resignation. “Why did they suddenly mention that they want to build a new area? Just because an accident happened during the national college examination? They could have waited for another two years. When you graduated, your cultivation base would be higher, and it would have been more natural for you to go out for this expansion!”

“We can’t wait anymore. Regardless of whether the accident happened during the national college examination this year, the government would still have chosen to expand.”

Bai Jiacao, who had been eating silently, suddenly looked up and licked off the rice at the corners of her lips. She grinned and said, “If you’re going to blame someone, blame big brother’s Agricultural University!”

“What logic is this?” Bai Suxin could not understand.

“Since Agricultural University has developed so many amazing 3D farms, technology to modify genes and man-made food, they provided us with enough food!” Bai Jiacao said matter-of-factly. “Some thirty years ago, Dragon City faced its most dangerous moment, and its survival was threatened.

“At that time, Agricultural University’s chancellor, Jin Zhenglin developed a lot of new technology and completely got rid of our food problems. He turned earthworm meat into luncheon meat as well as made all sorts of sticky, synthesized food in cans. The taste is horrible, but it definitely provides us with enough calories.

“Since food is no longer a problem and we lost so many people during the war, to protect Dragon City and pass down our civilization, the humans had to keep on producing children. Every family now has at least three children, but having six or eight children is also quite normal. There are even those who have more than ten children.

“Dad only let mom give birth to one child because her legs were injured and he didn’t want her to suffer, but my classmates all have at least three siblings running around their house.

“Our agricultural technology has developed so much that it turned the city into something like a hive. There are all sorts of high-calorie foods being produced hundreds of meters underground and above ground. Even if we have to produce food for more than ten million people, we can do so.

“But there’s a problem. Humans are not pigs. We aren’t satisfied by just eating our fill.

“Let’s forget about the problem of us not having enough houses for the time being. The problem of the city not offering enough jobs is even more pressing.

“We must understand that a creature like a ‘city’ is born to suck blood from its surrounding areas. Then, it dumps its industrial products and services to the borders. That way, it can provide for the tens of millions of people despite its tiny area of tens of thousands of square kilometers.

“Dragon City had relied on the materials, technology, people, and market from the prefectures around it on Earth to retain its large structure. It even relied on the nation and the whole world to ensure its continued existence.

“Once we transmigrated to the Other World, the city had nothing but tens of millions of people. It did not have vast foundations to produce materials and markets for dumping. It didn’t even have enough jobs for all the people.

“Over the past few decades, we faced the threat of elimination, so everyone gritted their teeth and ate only canned food containing black stuff. We slept in deck beds with four or five layers, since as long as we could survive, everything was fine.

“Now, our lives are getting better. The number of youngsters who have nothing to do have increased by ten times compared to the past. The threat of monsters is also gradually reducing, so it’s only natural that the people want better lives, more appropriate jobs, larger living spaces, and fresh, real food.

“We can’t solve the problem of providing for tens of millions of jobs for youngsters within Dragon City itself. So what else can we do aside from expanding our territory and building new areas?

“With that, we can provide jobs in the Red Dragon Army as it grows larger, among builders for new areas, and even more in the new mining area. When we’ve squeezed out almost every last drop from the new area, we’ll head further to colonize the vast Other World’s core to provide for the people. There’s no other way for us. We have to do this.

“So, Mom, you have to stop complaining. This is the fate of Dragon City. Forget about Big Brother going to war. In two years, I will definitely be swept into this as well, and I will brave the winds and waves!”

After Bai Jiacao finished speaking, she noticed that her entire family was staring at her with slack jaws.

“What? Do I have something on my face?” Bai Jiacao touched her cheeks with a puzzled expression.

“Why do I feel like after you’re got into the third year of middle school, your horizons have expanded. You sound like a mini adult now!” Meng Chao said, unable to believe his own ears.

“Recently, Little Cao has been changing a lot. It feels like she has been growing every day, and she often says shocking things. I’m almost unable to understand her,” Bai Suxin said.

“I only know that the lass’ appetite has increased by a large degree. I bring two heavy sacks of monster meat back from the company every day, which tires me out a lot, but it’s not enough for her,” Meng Yishan said with a grin.

Bai Jiacao’s face turned red, and she quickly defended herself. “I’m not just eating. I train too. Recently, I feel like I’ve become much stronger. My saber skill, gun technique, and strength often shock my teachers. Even the boys in school can’t win against me.

“Also, after I read a book, I remember most of its contents. It’s the same with news and information online. Once I give it a casual sweep, it’s branded inside my brain. If I don’t pay attention, I then end up saying things like what I mentioned just now.

“... Hey, could it be that I’m actually one of those really rare, legendary geniuses?”

The girl puffed out her chest and swung her fist excitedly.

Meng Chao’s smile turned a little stiff.

Could it be... that the Night Demon Blood in his sister’s body was about to awaken?

Meng Yishan sipped his wine and said with a sigh, “I didn’t expect that I would be blessed, even though I’m a fool. I can’t believe that I would have two geniuses in the house!”

“It has nothing to do with you. It’s mainly because of Mom. I inherited Mom’s intellect.” Bai Jiacao stuck her tongue out at Meng Yishan. “Dad, did you know that Mom was even more of a genius compared to me when she was young?”

“Huh?”

Meng Yishan and Bai Suxin were both stunned.

Meng Chao could not understand what Bai Jiacao meant.

“It’s true. Even I was shocked. I didn’t expect that Mom would be so amazing when she was young.” Bai Jiacao patted her head and went out to bring out a rusty metal box from her room. “By the way, I haven’t had the time to tell you. This is something I found at the partition in the corner under the bed when you went to the hospital in the afternoon. I was bored, so I was looking around. It’s something that you put inside a long time ago. Did you forget about it?”

## Chapter 154: The Witch's Secret

After Granny Wang next door turned into a zombie and joined the Eternal Journey, her granddaughter got into a public renting house that provided better living conditions and was closer to her school. Meng Chao, then, used his contribution to apply for their room and moved out.

They were no longer short of living space, so once Meng Yishan had some money, he decided to remodel the apartment, which led to him digging up quite a lot of the wall plaster and floor tiles.

Coincidentally, Bai Jiacao was at home in the afternoon. She had been bored, so she groped around until she found a box hidden in a corner.

It was a metal box used to store MRE hardtacks around thirty years ago.

At that time, they lacked resources, so when they finished eating the food inside, they were often reluctant to throw away the box, so they used it to store other stuff.

"I think... I put it there when we married." Bai Suxin and Meng Yishan could not quite remember it clearly.

Bai Jiacao opened the lid, and the first thing in sight was a red, heart-shaped mechanical watch.

Due to the strong interference from the spirit energy of the Other World, the screen had distorted a long time ago.

Bai Suxin was surprised and delighted. She brought out the damaged mechanical watch and looked at it before she put it on her wrist and said happily, "This is the first birthday present your Dad gave me. So it's here? I was wondering why I could never find it!"

Meng Yishan giggled.

Under the mechanical watch were a few postcards and birthday cards. They were written full of words, and some of them had hearts drawn on them.

Meng Yishan's face turned red. He quickly snatched them from his daughter and said hastily, "Don't look!"

"Too late, Dad. I already read them. I didn't expect that you were so cheesy when you were young!" Bai Jiacao covered her mouth and giggled.

"What? What is it?" Meng Chao was very curious as well. "Are those love letters Dad wrote to Mom when he was young? How cheesy was he?"

"Bai! Jia! Cao!" Meng Yishan was angry, and he looked ready to throw punches.

"Big Brother, as Dad's dearest daughter and the one who gives him the most love and affection among his children, I will definitely not betray him," Bai Jiacao said righteously. "Even if you give me one thousand... make that one thousand five hundred, I won't betray him!"

“Alright, stop causing a ruckus, you two.” Bai Suxin picked up the letters and birthday cards she received when she was young while recalling all the sweet memories from the past. “Little Cao, what exactly did you discover? Why did you say that I was really good when I was young?”

“It’s this.”

Bai Jiacao brought out a mottled notebook from the bottom of the tincan.

The yellow cover did not have any words or pictures. After it was corroded by the passage of time for more than twenty years, the paper was very brittle, and when Bai Jiacao flung it a little, pieces fell off. The ink on them was very faint, but they could still tell that their mother had indeed written the notebook.

“What is this?” Bai Suxin frowned. She looked confused. “Why don’t I remember having this notebook with me?”

Meng Chao went over and read it carefully with Bai Jiacao.

After flipping through two pages, his pupils shrank swiftly.

“This is... something like a notebook for class, or something like a handwritten copy of exercises,” Meng Chao mumbled. “The question on the first page is a function problem that requires you to modify a force execution problem slightly in a zero gravity environment. It involves advanced mathematics, physics, ergonomics, and other fields. It’s at least five times harder than the questions in the national college examination!”

“What?” Bai Suxin was absolutely baffled. “Zero what?”

“Zero gravity. In simple terms, it’s a problem about how we can use martial arts in space,” Bai Jiacao explained. “Even though we haven’t managed to break through the Other World’s ozone layer, the explorative dive into this theory is very helpful to solving the tactical mobility of the powerful fighters when they move like the wind or are going through free fall.

“In any case, this is top-tier martial arts research. That’s why I said that you’re amazing, Mom. You were just in your teens or twenties around twenty years ago, right? You were about the same age as I am, and you didn’t live in such a good environment as we do, but you were already looking into such difficult questions. It’s nothing strange that I inherited your talent, then.”

“This too. I think this is a design of a spirit energy conductor drawn after assembling or disassembled a really intricate machine.” Meng Chao narrowed his eyes. “The interference in the Other World is great, so the materials are not stable at all. You seldom see such intricate machines. This looks like... some sort of stimulation device. It looks like... it can make something explode.”

The more he looked at it, the more shocked he was.

All the questions in the hand-copied exercise book involved really profound theories, and they gave off a really dangerous presence.

It was difficult for him to believe that this was created during the warring era twenty years ago, when the research of spirit energy was far less advanced.



It was even more difficult for him to imagine that his mother, Bai Suxin, who was a normal housewife, would be able to solve most of the problems.

Suddenly, he stopped flipping through the pages.

He saw a picture casually drawn by his mother at the corner of one of the pages.

It was a long, narrow eye formed by two overlapping "X"s.

Each X seemed to be an eye, but they were sharing one pupil.

A dark light shone from the black pupil, which looked like a black hole that could devour souls.

'Ow! It hurts!'

A sharp pain pierced his brain after coming through the center of his brow. The memory fragments from his previous life danced around like shrieking sparrows. Meng Chao knew that he had seen this picture before in his previous life, but where?

"Big brother? Heh..."

In his daze, he heard the Dark Witch's derisive cackles in his ears.

An illusion appeared in front of his eyes.

Meng Chao felt as if he was living through his previous life again. His world was filled with darkness and blood.

Purple hair burned, and bloody wings spread out. His little sister looked as if she had escaped from a bloody hell. She clutched his neck and lifted him from the ground.

"You have no idea just what it is that I face.

"Trash like you are a burden that will bring me to my ruin.

"From the day Dad and Mom died, we've had nothing tying us together. Stop bothering me by saying that you're my big brother!

"Get lost! Leave my side! Go to the ends of the world! Go as far away as possible! Otherwise, the next time we meet, I will kill you!"

Meng Chao ignored the Dark Witch's poisonous and resolute words.

He stared at her hand, the one she used to clutch his neck.

On the back of his younger sister's hand was the strange picture of the two "X"s that resembled eyes. They overlapped with each other and shared one single pupil!

The picture protruded on her skin and shone with a strange light. It did not look like a tattoo, but something branded deeply into her skin, a curse that would never be wiped off!

Thud!

Meng Chao fell forward. The memories from his previous life shattered, and his mind returned to the present.

“Big Brother, why did you fall down all of a sudden?”

The middle school version of the Dark Witch did not have any mark on the back of her hand, and she quickly helped him up.

“You’re bleeding from your nose.” Meng Yishan frowned.

“Quick. Use a cold towel to cover your nose. Don’t be in a hurry to stuff your nostrils. Stuff it only when the blood has flowed out completely.” Bai Suxin took care of her son with her heart aching for him. “You silly boy, you must have been training really hard in the university, yet you only talk about the good things you went through there. How can we not be worried if you act this way?”

“I... I’m fine. It’s just been really hot and dry lately, so my body is a little heaty.” Meng Chao couldn’t care less about his bleeding nose right now. He pointed at the eye made of the Xs on the notebook.

“Mom, did you draw this?”

Bai Suxin looked at it. “I think so.”

Meng Chao sucked in a deep breath. “What is it?”

“I don’t know. I drew it casually more than twenty years ago. I must have seen it somewhere, and since I was bored, I just drew it. What’s wrong? Your face is really pale. You look like you saw a ghost.” Bai Suxin was puzzled. “Is there something wrong with this picture?”

Meng Chao opened his mouth, but he did not know what to say.

The clues in his mind were still scattered and jumbled together.

“Alright, let’s not talk about the picture for now. Mom, what’s with this notebook? You’ve never attended university. Did your high school teach such difficult problems at that time?”

Meng Chao was truly skeptical. He thought about it and asked, “Mom, have you been hiding your true identity all this while? Are you actually the heir of some ancient and mysterious cultivation family? Did you decide to hide your name and elope with Dad due to those cliché reasons born from the grudges between aristocratic families?”

“What?” Bai Jiacao widened her eyes. In an instant, her mind came up with a two million word story. She even picked the male and female protagonists for it.

“What do you mean elope?” Meng Yishan used his chopsticks to rap his son’s head. “I married your mother legally! I even brought her back to the house with a proper car!”

“What are you thinking about?” Bai Suxin could not help but laugh. “Your grandpa and grandma were both normal people. The world was in chaos at that time, so they died a long time ago during the monster invasion. We do have some photos of them, though. They record how I lived when I was young. Do you think that was the life of an aristocratic family?”

“As for these exercises, I do find them a little strange. Now, even when I look at them, I don’t understand them, but this is indeed my handwriting.

“But that’s normal too. Didn’t they say that you’re at the peak of your intellect when you go through your national college examination? Perhaps I was really smart when I was young, but my legs were injured, and I’ve stayed in the house for twenty years. I just manage the house all the time, buy ingredients, and cook. I also play mahjong with the neighbors. So how could I still be smart?”

“That’s not right.” Meng Chao shook his head slowly. He became even more certain of his guess. “This is definitely not the level a normal high school student could attain twenty years ago by sheer talent and hard work.

“The high schools at that time wouldn’t teach this sort of questions either.

“This notebook must have come from another source. Mom, trust me, this is very important. You have to think about it carefully. Just when, where, and in what sort of situation did you write these things down in this notebook?”

His stern expression scared his family.

Bai Suxin thought about it seriously for a long time, but then shook her head. “It was too long ago. I just can’t remember it. But I don’t think this was taught in my high school. At that time, we faced constant invasions from monsters, and the entire city was a battlefield.

“Society was in chaos, and I only went to high school for a year before it was destroyed by monsters. Besides, my parents were no longer around at that time. So I came out to look for a job to survive.”

“Where did you work, Mom?” Meng Chao asked hastily.

“At that time, there was a huge shortage of jobs, and I didn’t have any qualifications or supernatural abilities, so I could only work as a nurse,” Bai Suxin said. “We were at war every day, so many people were injured. There was a huge shortage of manpower in the hospitals. With just a bit of training, we were told to handle tasks like dressing up patients and giving them injections.”

“A nurse? Which hospital did you work in?” Meng Chao felt that he was getting closer to the answer.

“I switched a few hospitals, so I can’t remember the names. But they weren’t any big hospitals. The nurses in big hospitals had all received professional training and graduated from nursing school,” Bai Suxin explained.

“At that time, societal order had just been reconstructed, so we didn’t have a lot of big public hospitals. There were a lot of clinics and temporary hospitals set up in battlefields, though. They were opened by powerful people, and many of them didn’t even have names. Those hospitals and clinics were promoted orally by the patients, and those who needed help naturally flocked to them.

“Monsters invaded us every day, and viruses as well as bacteria spread everywhere. The dead turned into zombies at any moment. In that sort of environment, no one cared about hygiene or professionalism. If someone treated them, they might be able to live if they got lucky, but if they died, they could only accept it. No one came causing trouble.

“But even though they were all underground clinics without names, the doctors there had decent skills. I remember that I worked for around a year in one hospital. It was the longest time I stuck to one place.

“They had a medicine there that was really mysterious. We had one patient who had a hole in his head from a monster’s attack. It was a mess inside his skull, but after he was injected with that medicine, he survived, and he could even continue fighting. Isn’t that amazing?”

1

“So, I worked really hard in that hospital and forced myself to learn a lot of stuff, because I wanted to get a proper nurse’s license. I probably took those notes at that time.”

### **Chapter 155: Got New Equipment!**

Meng Chao was pensive. “What happened later?”

“The situation gradually stabilized, and large scale monster invasions reduced in number. After a few expeditions by the Red Dragon Army, Dragon City regained order, and we didn’t need that many temporary hospitals and unlicensed nurses anymore,” Bai Suxin said. “Many of the temporary hospitals were either combined together or upgraded to big public hospitals, and most of the underground clinics were shut down. I remember that my hospital was shut down in the end, and everyone was laid off.

“I wanted to apply for a position in a public hospital after I got my license, but there were too many people in the same position as me at that time. The competition was incredibly fierce. While I was studying, there was a monster invasion, and my house collapsed on me. I was buried under the debris for a long time, and the nerves and bones in my legs were crushed. Naturally, I couldn’t be a nurse anymore.

“It’s been years. If Little Cao didn’t find this notebook, I would have even forgotten about being a nurse in the past. I don’t understand a single word in the notebook now. It’s as if it wasn’t written by me at all. Ah, my brain has regressed so much, am I useless now?”

“Of course not!” When Meng Chao saw how dejected Bai Suxin looked, he quickly shook his head.

“You’ll always be the greatest mom in Little Cao and my heart! But do you really not remember a single detail about that hospital? Even a name or a doctor you know from there will do!”

“A’chao, enough.” Meng Yishan sighed. “That year, you and your mom were both buried in the debris for too long. You were a baby, so it’s only natural that you don’t know anything, but she went through a great shock.

“She was in a daze for a few months in the hospital before she slowly recovered. The doctors said that it was PTSD, which is very common in Dragon City.

“Anyway, it has been many years, and it doesn’t affect her daily life now. A few days ago, Dr. Su Yuan from Fengshui Medical Center gave your mom a full body check, and he didn’t find anything wrong about her. Is there a reason why you must make her remember this?”

Meng Chao did not know how he should explain it.

When he had just returned to the past, he thought that his younger sister's Night Demon Blood came from the Other World. He thought that she was infected or had it implanted after she came into contact with Dragon City or the Other World's civilizations.

But from what he saw now, it seemed like it was related to some force of power from twenty years ago.

Did it mean that a mysterious power from the Other World had invaded Dragon City twenty years ago?

The fog was not a natural chasm, even though it could stop the major civilizations from coming into contact with each other at a large scale. With fate playing a hand and creating coincidences, individual intelligent life forms could get through the fog and into the city.

'This hospital and this picture of the overlapping eyes should be the main reason behind why my sister's corruption rate just won't go down.

'Could it be that twenty ago, some Other World resident discovered Dragon City by accident and made home in it in secret?

'Or perhaps Dragon City itself has some sort of secret that no one knows and our transmigration wasn't actually pure coincidence?

'No matter what, monsters aren't our only enemy...'

Meng Chao rubbed the bridge of his nose and thought about it for a long time.

"Alright, let's set this matter aside for the time being. Dad, Mom, Little Cao, don't breathe a single word about this to anyone else. Don't draw this picture outside casually either, understand?"

Meng Yishan and Bai Suxin exchanged a glance before they nodded. "Aside from our family, who else would we mention this to? But what does this picture represent? Is it very dangerous?"

"This is..." Meng Chao thought about it. "It means certain things, but we don't have to be in a hurry to figure them out. When I get back from the northern frontlines, I will get to the bottom of this and get rid of it."

He swore in his heart that once he went to the northern frontlines, he would train madly to increase his strength so that he could gain the strength to protect his family as soon as possible.

Fortunately, he finally had the initiative and had learned of the X-shaped eyes' existence in advance.

When the picture appeared again, no matter which bastard dared to extend their claws toward his family, he would definitely cut off those claws and behead those bastards!

After resting for a night at home, Meng Chao went to meet up with Luo Hai at Supernatural Tower.

"Good news. The alpha version of the new saber that's based on the Strengthened One Hundred Saber Techniques has already been created."

Luo Hai grinned as he brought out two rectangular wooden caskets in the cultivation room.

Once he opened a lid, Meng Chao saw a black blade that had gone through light extinction. His eyes lit up when he saw it.

“This is a good blade!”

Meng Chao picked up the saber and executed a few of the slashes from the future One Hundred Saber Techniques. His movements were really smooth, as if there was some sort of power guiding him. His saber technique was even more refined than before.

“The blade, spine, and the center of gravity have all been designed meticulously, and they perfectly fit the characteristics of the One Hundred Saber Techniques. We used various monster materials to create this. The research team went all out with this, and we suffered a bit of a loss to create them, but if we can gain popularity with them, it’ll be good!”

Meng Chao admired the brand new sabers and extended two fingers to flick the tip of the saber. He brought his ear closer to it, and he heard a sound that resembled waves but also thunder.

This meant that the monster materials resonated with the spirit energy in the cultivation room. It was the unique sound of that resonance.

“That’s right. This saber’s name is Surging Lightning, and it’s aimed at the youngsters in the middle-range and low-end of the market. Even though we intend to sell them for a cheap price so that we can sell loads of them and earn major profits from large sales, we didn’t slack off in terms of design and the creation process.”

Luo Hai picked up a Surging Lightning and brandished it casually. He created a thunderous boom that was even stronger than Meng Chao’s. He gasped in amazement and continued, “Dragon City Steel Organization’s metal research center recently came up with a Special Alloy No. 3642. We used it as the raw material for the blade, but that’s not all.

“When we refined it, we also added the tailbone powder of a Grade One superbeast called Thundertail, whose tailbone is the sturdiest part of its body. Compared to other sabers of the same type, it’s lighter by 15%. At the same time, it’s 5% more durable and sharp. It can bring out even greater power at a faster speed.

“Look at the fine patterns on the blade. That’s a unique tiger cowry pattern that is only created after the blade has been refined for more than three thousand five hundred times. It can destroy shell-type monsters’ defense even more cleanly and smoothly.

“Our competitors use this sort of technology on their flagship models. We will be the first in the market to use it on a saber tailored for beginners!

“Also, there are three indentations on the blade for us to embed crystals, superbeast crystals, or neurospheres. While they’re missing, the three indentations use the principles of aerodynamics to guide the air by the sides and suppress the saber so that its slashing trajectory is more stable. The drainage groove on the spine can even slightly push the blade forward.

“After embedding crystals or neurospheres of different properties, the saber can release different spirit energy magnetic fields, which allows the saber to have its own skills. It has a lot of room for improvement, and it has high value.

"I believe that when the first batch is sold in the market, we will be offering four different colors as well, which are silver moonlight, volcano ash gray, refined metal red, and starry sky black. We'll also give the option to choose the material for the hilt.

"We'll also offer an option to carve seals on the saber with lasers. We can carve words or pictures on the blade, sheath, or hilt. We'll even allow the buyer to use a picture of their lover or idol on their sabers.

"It'll allow us to fully satisfy the youngsters' desire to create their own blade and be unique. With this, we'll definitely live up to our brand of creating the first saber for youngsters!"

Meng Chao stared at the PowerPoint on Luo Hai's tablet computer.

There were introductions for four sheaths on it, along with the rendering of a saber with an incredibly cute 2D picture of an idol carved into its blade.

There was an advertisement as well. It was presented by a well-dressed, handsome boy and a beautiful girl. They looked like white-collared workers who had just joined the ranks of society and were dating in a cafe that provided a very pleasant ambience.

They chatted with two Surging Lightnings on the table beside their coffee. Three monster heads lay by their feet.

The slogan was: From now on, killing monsters is easier than drinking coffee.

"Um..."

"This is just something I threw together while searching for random source materials. Anyway, the saber is still in its testing stage. When we gather fighting data and decide on the final version of the saber, we'll definitely look for a professional advertising agency to help us create an advertisement.

"Our main market will be high school students and the grassroots forces of the Red Dragon Army. As for undergraduate students who have already awakened to supernatural abilities like us, we're more suited for the flagship model!"

He brought out another wooden casket, which was even more dazzling than the previous one. When he opened it, a grave, murderous presence shot out, and a faint rumble of thunder could be heard in the air.

"Whoa." Meng Chao took the flagship model of the Surging Lightning in his hands. Before he even swung it, he already had the urge to get a monster so that he could kill it to test out the saber.

"Compared to the youth version, the materials used to create the flagship model are even more lavish. Not only did we upgrade from Special Alloy No. 3642 to Special Alloy No. 3724, but we also upgraded the tailbone powder of the Thundertail to the spine powder of the Lightning Ghost, a Grade Two superbeast," Luo Hai said.

"Aside from that, we also provide seventeen different versions of the saber so it would match the user's personality. Take this saber for an example. It has a Fire Crystal, Green Frost Stone, and a crystalized neurosphere from a Terror Dragon.

“If you inject a bit of spirit energy in it, you can strengthen this saber from its molecular level. It can release heat that is hundreds of degrees Celsius or super-low temperatures that drop straight to negative one hundred and twenty degrees Celsius. The length and strength of the saber’s glare can also be increased up to five times. You’ll then be able to swing this saber like a T-rex!

“Regardless of whether it’s the youth version or the flagship model, we’re going to sell them at cost price. We’ll also be teaching the Strengthened One Hundred Saber Techniques without taking any money, which is what you wanted. So, where will we be earning our money? We’ll be earning it from the three embedded crystals and monster cores.

“The power contained in the crystals and monster cores is limited. You can only release it a limited number of times. Once you release all of it, you need to get a new one.

“When the customers buy the sabers, they will definitely look for someone to polish crystals and monster cores to embed them into the sabers, but they won’t be as perfect as the ones embedded by our factory.

“If they leave behind a gap, it might affect the balance, which will affect fighting power. Those people will then have to send the saber back to the factory to embed the crystals or monster cores, upgrade them, and maintain them. It’s only like that that they will be able to release their full power.

“The business model has been cleared, and we won’t have any problems securing channels in secondary schools, elementary schools, and the Red Dragon Army. Now, the key is to verify Surging Lightning’s power in real battle. We must bring solid data to show off Surging Lightning’s advantages when compared to sabers used by high school students, normal citizens, and grassroots units.

“And what a coincidence, both of us are going to the northern frontlines. Let’s use the Surging Lightning and kill to our hearts’ content!”

## **Chapter 156: As if He’s a Completely Different Person**

“Alright!”

Surging Lightning was custom made for the future One Hundred Saber Techniques. Meng Chao himself had a lot of shares in this, so it was only natural that he needed to test it personally.

“Also, when you’re fighting at the northern frontlines, remember to fight beautifully so that we can upload videos online. It’ll help us create momentum for Surging Lightning and yourself.

“But don’t upload them using your own account. Look for a few classmates and pretend that they accidentally recorded a video of you. Make the video titles thrilling, like ‘Shocking! A freshman actually did this to the monsters!’. It’s only then that you’ll be able to attract attention, understand?” Luo Hai said.

“If you don’t have any suitable people to use, I can contact a group and film you from multiple angles. We’ll also get copywriters and ghostwriters and deal with everything in one go.



“If the saber’s performance is really good and the results of your fight are great, my dad will film a documentary to talk about your story. We’ll turn it into a pretty package with a ribbon tied on top and turn you into an internet celebrity. Then, we’ll use it to promote the saber as well.”

Meng Chao was slightly stunned. “Why is it me, but not you? You’re his son.”

“There’re more topics about you!” Luo Hai said matter-of-factly. “The son of Soul Breaking Saber has great saber skills. There’s nothing special about that. But a poor kid who lived in a public renting house managing to climb to the top with his own strength and even understanding an amazing saber technique along the way?

“Now that’s news, it’s even a selling point. After all, the main market of the youth version of Surging Lightning is the normal citizens, so of course we have to turn you into an idol!”

“Makes sense, go on.” Meng Chao declined to make any comments and smiled. He rubbed the tiger cowl pattern on the saber. As he stared at Luo Hai, his gaze turned sharp. “If we’re really going to film a documentary, what do you think of this opening? A poor kid living in a public renting house fought against the son of Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu in a cultivation room with Surging Lightning in hand. In the end, he defeated this superior, noble son of a powerful martial artist at the peak of Heaven Realm.”

Luo Hai instantly understood what he meant.

He laughed and got up quickly, then placed his saber on his shoulder. Spirit flames instantly surged out of his body. The spirit tattoos on his body were even finer and more beautiful than two months ago.

“Sure. Even though I’m not some noble son, if you want to fight, we’ll fight. Come, let me see just how much you’ve improved compared to the moment you awakened, you monster!”

Ten minutes later, both of them lay in a disheveled cultivation room. They were exhausted and gasped for breath with sweat and blood covering their bodies.

There was a terrifying gash on Meng Chao’s chest. His flesh had been cut before it was burnt by heat that was hundreds of degrees Celsius high. With the slightest movement, it cracked again, and the sight of it could make anyone’s skin crawl.

Luo Hai’s body was covered in numerous fine wounds that looked like a toddler’s mouth flipped inside out. Even though each wound was not fatal, all of them were very close to his tendons. If they moved by another half an inch, he might have become disabled.

Neither one could move, and their sabers had been knocked off their hands due to a fierce clash just now. They could only stare at each other with wide eyes.

Now, the person who healed faster would be the winner.

Luo Hai shut his eyes and used the Tiger Soul that was passed down in his family to increase the circulation of his spirit energy. It allowed him to quickly recover his stamina.

However, right after he regained control over his upper body, Meng Chao started crawling toward the two sabers. He picked them up and observed the chips on the blades while gasping in amazement.

“Not bad. Just now, I delivered 1,154 slashes, and you executed 825 slashes. We clashed 122 times. The chips on the blade are absolutely acceptable. This is a good saber!”

Meng Chao tossed Luo Hai’s saber back at him and reached out to help him up.

If they were in a real fight, he could have just plunged his saber into Luo Hai’s heart.

Luo Hai was stunned for a long time, then shook his head and smiled wryly. “My dad’s right. He told me not to strive for temporary superiority against a monster like you; otherwise, my confidence will be completely crushed.

“I thought that I would be able to turn the tides after training madly for nearly two months in Dragon City University’s martial arts course. I was repeatedly tormented by the monster-level geniuses over there, and my strength increased by leaps and bounds, but who would’ve known that you were training just as crazily in Agricultural University’s martial arts course. You’re at about the same level as the most terrifying monsters in our course!”

Meng Chao grinned shyly and said, “Your fighting strength has really increased a lot. It’s really shocking. If the cut on my chest had gone half an inch further, my sternum would have been cut through. Then, the results of the fight would have been completely different. And you’re telling me that there is someone who can torment you in Dragon City University’s martial arts course?”

“Of course there is. I’m only ranked around the twentieth place among the freshmen in Dragon City University’s martial arts course. The ones in front are all horrific monsters.

“We have three specially recruited students in our batch this year, you know? When stuck between these monsters, you find yourself wanting to die as they bully the crap out of you every day. Seriously, it’s completely different from the university life I had envisioned,” Luo Hai said with a bitter look.

“I’m beginning to wonder whether it was the right choice for me to enroll in Dragon City University’s martial arts course. I should have enrolled in Agricultural University’s martial arts course like you and Xie Feng and become attention seekers like you so that I can enjoy ace lecturers and get a lot of cultivation resources. That would’ve been great!”

“You’re the attention seeker!” Meng Chao did not know whether he should laugh or cry.

But he was shocked by the foundation and strength of Dragon City University’s martial arts course.

Luo Hai’s base power was about the same as his.

Meng Chao only managed to gain a slight advantage because he cultivated 1,024 branch meridians and could recover faster.

Yet there were more than twenty students who were stronger than him in Dragon City’s martial arts course? And there were even three specially recruited students?

It has to be known that Agricultural University only had two specially recruited students.

Aside from Wu Wu, there was another student who was snatched by the etherealized plants course, because they were rumored to be able to hear the murmurs of the Other World plants since birth. That

student should be able to become an outstanding etherealized plants botanist, but it was unlikely that they had any fighting power.

Yet Dragon City's martial arts course had more specially recruited students in one course compared to Agricultural University. It was the strongest fighting course in Dragon City for a reason!

'My opponents are really strong!' Meng Chao mumbled in his heart. 'That's... awesome!'

His fighting spirit became even stronger.

"But when I fight against you, the feeling that I have is completely different when compared to being trampled all over by those monsters." Luo Hai recalled the fight just a moment ago, and cold sweat covered his forehead.

"When I fight against the monsters in Dragon City University's monsters, I know just which aspect of theirs is stronger than mine, and I know why I lose. I can see the difference between us clearly. Even if I am defeated, at least I know the reason behind it.

"But when I fight against you, I feel as if I'm facing obstructions everywhere, and all the moves I make are sloppy. When I want to create my spirit energy magnetic field, you interrupt my moves, and if I died, I wouldn't even know how I died. It just feels horrible.

"Is that the Ultimate Style?"

The Luo family was also one of the investors in the Ultimate Style, so it was only natural that Luo Hai knew about it.

Meng Chao did not hide it from him. He nodded and said, "Yeah, a few days ago, the Ultimate Style achieved progressive success. Now, this can be considered the beta version. We're going to test it in real fights now."

"Your efficiency is really high. I just knew that nothing will go wrong if I invest in your project."

Luo Hai hesitated for a moment. It looked like he had something to say, but was holding himself back.

Meng Chao frowned a little. "What do you want to say?"

"So, is this the reason behind why you dealt such a heavy blow to Duan Lian and the other nine people? You wanted to leave behind a deep impression of the Ultimate Style in them?"

Meng Chao was slightly stunned. "You know about this too? ... Well, it makes sense. Duan Lian graduated from Construction High. I even asked you about him last time. Besides, you're close to Xie Feng, and you have a lot of high school mates in my course. It only makes sense that I can't hide this from you."

"Why were you so ruthless? I don't think this is good for promoting the Ultimate Style. No one will think that your martial art is strong. They'll just think that you're shameless, crazy, and maybe a little perverse," Luo Hai said.

Meng Chao shrugged. "How else was I supposed to resolve the conflict between me and Duan Lian? You're highschool mates, so you know his character very well. Even if I won against him legitimately in the arena ten times, do you think that he would admit defeat and stop attacking me?"

Luo Hai thought about it carefully, then shook his head. "I don't think so. He would only think that he was humiliated ten times and that all the people laughed at him ten times. He would even think that you are the cause of his humiliation, which will lead to him hating you even more."

"That's right, so I started thinking. Since I can't really kill him, I can only use this reckless plan. In the end, I managed to turn an enemy into a friend," Meng Chao said with a shrug.

"What about the other nine students?" Luo Hai asked. "They didn't provoke you."

"I didn't harm them. I saved them," Meng Chao said faintly. "If they can't change their student-like mindsets and throw all the rules, laws, logic, and habits into the wind, when they reached the wild, they would die without even knowing how they died."

"Fighting with the city as our battlefield and running into a monster's nest, which is their turf, are two completely different things. I'm shameless, mad, and perverse? Those monsters are definitely even more shameless, crazy, and perverted than I am!"

"If those students can't accept this fighting style, then they should stay in the university obediently and come up with theories as well as conduct research in the labs. Why should they run to the wild and lose their lives as well as drag others down into the mud with them?"

"You..." Luo Hai looked at Meng Chao with a complicated expression for a long time before he exhaled. "Alright. I understand your kind will, but as your friend, let me give you a reminder. Next time, when you do something, could you just pay attention to the method that you use? Do you have any idea what Duan Lian and the others say about you now?"

Meng Chao let out a bark of laughter. "No way. Is Duan Lian really that stubborn and hasn't had his fill yet?"

"No. He has completely admitted defeat. He won't dare to provoke you again," Luo Hai said. "He said that you have a multiple personality disorder. On the surface, you look like an average university student, but in the depths of your heart lies a crazy lunatic who looks like... a veteran who suffers from PTSD because he has been tormented by hundreds of battles, and that veteran is someone who will react in extreme ways at any moment. That lunatic is also a merciless assassin and an inhumane killing machine."

"Honestly, I think he's pretty accurate. You might not notice it, but after you awakened to your supernatural abilities, you've been changing a lot. Just now, your gaze was like that of the God of Death himself, and the presence you gave off when you attacked was completely different from when we fought together during the national college examination's practical test."

"Even though all superhumans experience certain changes after they awaken, they usually aren't like you. You're like a completely different person now."

"So, Meng Chao... are you okay?"

## Chapter 157: Birth of a Broken Soul in the Apocalypse

Meng Chao's smile froze on his face.

There were indeed two souls living in the depths of his body.

One of them was his eighteen-year-old self. He was at the height of his youth and vigor, and he was full of passion. He was rash, determined, naive, and had a somewhat righteous mindset. He also believed that something beautiful was happening right now. In other words, he was similar to the other people around the same age as he was.

The other one was a broken soul which had survived hundreds of battles and returned from the apocalypse.

He should think about it carefully. When Dragon City was destroyed, what sort of mindset did he have?

He fought for decades, and the battles he faced every day grew more and more brutal and tragic. Even though the experiences refined and polished his ability to kill, he lost everything—his family, his home, and his future.

There was no way this sort of soul would be as passionate, bright, and naive as his eighteen-year-old self.

When he had just returned to the past, his cerebral cortex was still very weak. So, the broken soul from the apocalypse was suppressed by his eighteen-year-old self.

As he awakened to his supernatural abilities, his spirit energy kept on stimulating his brain, and the broken soul from the apocalypse started waking up. At the same time his eighteen-year-old received rich fighting experience and support skills, they brought back his habits, mindset, and instincts from the apocalypse.

There was something that Meng Chao had been subconsciously overlooking over the past few months.

Just how did a third-class fighter like him manage to struggle and survive so long in the apocalypse?

Many outstanding fighters had died, so why didn't he?

Was it because of the incredibly brutal skills in his arsenal, like ambushing, infiltrating, poisoning, assassinating, setting up traps, and interrogating others? They had become as easy to him as breathing. What sort of price did he pay to learn them, and in what situation did he learn those skills?

What did he lose in the process of turning from a passionate youth of eighteen years old to a broken soul which had crawled out of hell? What did he gain from it?

Humans usually beautified their memories.

As for the memories that they could not beautify, they would choose to just wipe them off.

It was just like how his mother simply could not remember all the things related to the X-shaped eye and the mysterious hospital.

Meng Chao himself also seemed to have forgotten how he turned from a normal person the Dark Witch mocked as baggage to a third-class fighter who thrived in the apocalypse.

His neck hurt. He felt as if there was blood gushing out of it.

He could not breathe.

Meng Chao gulped. He instinctively covered his neck, but he did not know why he did that.

Luo Hai did not notice that there was something off about his expression. "Seriously, I can accept everything else, including you lying in ambush in a shrub to ambush other students. That's still kind of a normal fighting skill. But you slitting Duan Lian's throat? Even if it was fake... it's still too crazy. It makes people's skins crawl!

"I'm not just treating you as a friend, but also a partner I chose from among thousands of people. We'll be working together to build our empire, you know? You have to pay attention to your personal image and your market value, get it?

"For example, when you become the spokesperson for Surging Lightning, we'll be causing a huge storm when we package the saber, promote it, and get ghostwriters to sell our product. At that time, if our competitors reveal that you cut Duan Lian's throat, what is everyone going to think?

"I don't understand, even if Duan Lian is really difficult to deal with, wasn't there a more suitable approach to settle the problem? Did you have to be so brutal?"

'That's right.' With his hand covering his neck, Meng Chao looked ahead with confusion. 'Why did I decide, without any hesitation, to cut his throat?'

Sharp pain flared in his neck. A memory fragment that he had been ignoring suddenly bloomed red.

Countless bloody streams shot out and dragged his consciousness to the depths of his past life.

Meng Chao felt like he had been plunging for a long time through a nightmare until he crashed into a foul-smelling puddle of mud.

Luo Hai and the cultivation room were gone.

In their place was a strange-looking forest and a black swamp.

A quick look around revealed that he was waiting in ambush with a group of soldiers with cold gazes and bleak presences.

All of them had already removed their camouflage uniforms, guns, and daggers. They brought out lively-looking coats made of monster materials, which turned them into half-beasts with really horrendous appearances.

Then, they put on armor made of monster bones and bronze and grabbed crude cold weapons with crystals embedded carelessly in them.

The human soldiers opened their mouths and stuffed sharp fake teeth into them.

Then, they used paint that looked like chalk to draw animal faces for themselves. It made them look like skeletons.

“This is...”

Meng Chao’s mouth was dry. He realized that he had returned to a military operation from his previous life.

He turned his head around and used his HD binoculars to observe a village not far in the distance. It was located beyond the forest.

The village looked to be straight out of a fairy tale or a fantasy novel. It did not have any advanced technology or showed any signs of industrialization.

The area, however, was surrounded by man-eating flowers and poisonous, spiked vines. They formed a simple barricade.

There were also Shriekers who were as big as beach umbrellas. They were intelligent fungus with incredibly sharp senses. If someone unfamiliar approached them, they released spores at a rapid speed, which created shrill sounds.

Through the fence, Meng Chao could see the villagers working hard.

They were humanoid beings with lean bodies and sharp ears.

Their skins were blood-red, and they were covered in dazzling tattoos that looked like spirit tattoos.

Smoke curled into the air. The village was full of life. The adults were busy, and the children laughed. They were no different from humans.

Meng Chao saw three children run outside the village due to some game.

They took turns extending their four-fingered hands toward the pistils of the man-eating flowers. Before the pistils could shrink back, they pulled their hands back at lightning speed.

This was a children’s game, and it happened to be a really stupid and boring one.

“Don’t speak in any language from Earth, and don’t use weapons from Earth,” a deep voice said from behind Meng Chao. “Don’t let even a single person survive, understand?”

Meng Chao turned around and saw an incredibly large half-beast with its face painted to resemble a deformed skeleton.

In truth, though, it was an Earthling in the disguise of a monster.

He chewed on something in his mouth, and his breath stank horribly.

“Sir, there are children over there,” Meng Chao heard himself say.

The instructor drew closer to him, and a savage smile bloomed on the skull he had for a face now. “99, are you mad or blind? There aren’t children there, just cubs of the creatures of the Other World. We’ve killed a lot of monster cubs before, these aren’t any different.”

Meng Chao heard himself hesitate. “But—”

“No buts!” The instructor squeezed his shoulder. His grip was so strong that he nearly crushed Meng Chao’s shoulder blade. “99, you’re one of the ones I favor a lot in the training camp. Your talent with the gun and your exquisite skills with the knife, which you gained from harvesting, are both miracles for someone your age.

“But your personality is weak.

“Put aside that humanity of yours, it’s not appropriate for this situation. Think about the difficulties and dangers that Dragon City is facing now. Many of our comrades might be taking action or dying for us!

“Remember, even if you become a despicable cockroach, a brutal demon, or a cold machine, as long as we can preserve the flames of Earth’s civilization, everything is worth it!”

Meng Chao heard himself saying stiffly, “I-I understand.”

“Really, 99?” The instructor smiled and stuffed a mace embedded with the shattered teeth from monsters into his hands. He slapped Meng Chao on the shoulder and said, “Then, I’ll have you deal with the three cubs of the Other World’s residents, alright? You’ll leave the training camp in possession of even greater power!”

Meng Chao stared at the hand he used to hold the mace. It was trembling heavily.

“I...” He couldn’t say anything.

“What? You can’t do it?” The instructor frowned.

“I don’t know, Sir. I... I might not be ready yet,” Meng Chao heard himself say weakly.

“You aren’t ready yet? True, the other people in the training camp were sent in to be trained since they were young. You’re the only who joined halfway. You’re too old, and your head is stuffed full of things that are preventing you from becoming stronger. It’s only logical that you’re not prepared yet.”

The instructor patted his shoulder gently. He sounded sympathetic and even a little considerate.

But the next second, he cut Meng Chao’s neck with his palm. “If you’re so useless, die!”

Meng Chao’s eyes went wide as pain flared in his throat. Blood gushed out, and he fell limp on the ground.

All of the human soldiers who pretended to be monsters and used pictures of skulls to hide their real faces walked over his body.

Like a punctured ball, he instantly lost all of his strength. He could not move nor see the wound on his neck. He could only hear the sound of blood gushing out. It kept on running down his skin, and he felt his life rapidly flowing away through his fingers.

Even if he was just remembering the feeling of moving closer to death inch by inch and being devoured by darkness, that feeling still invaded his senses like acid, making him want to scream, but he could not release even a single sound.



The instructor squatted down and stared at him.

“In your next life, no matter what I say, you’re only allowed to give me one answer, and that’s ‘Sir, yes Sir!’”

He used his bloody, deformed hand to pat Meng Chao’s cheek gently. “Remember the standard answer, 99.”

Meng Chao remembered it.

The instructor rose and left then. “I repeat. Don’t speak using any language from Earth!”

Soon, the Shriekers started shrieking at a spot Meng Chao could not see.

He waited for his death while listening to them.

Darkness soon enveloped him. He moved through it and returned to the present, where he found himself curled up in a corner. He still had a hand covering his neck, and his arm as well as chest were covered in blood from his nose.

He hadn’t sweated during the fight earlier, but now, his shirt was drenched in cold sweat.

“Meng Chao, what’s wrong?!” Luo Hai was dumbfounded. He wanted to help his friend up, but he did not know how he should even begin helping him. He did not dare to shake him either. When he saw him open his eyes again, as if he had regained his senses, he said, “Did your spirit energy deviate?”

“No.” Meng Chao sucked in a deep breath. He felt like he was a man who had drowned in a swamp for several minutes before he was saved.

It was no wonder why his memories had to be unlocked bit by bit.

The impact from the memory just now was too strong and terrifying.

If he had unlocked it a few months ago as a normal human, his brain might have been burnt to a crisp.

Even now...

Meng Chao covered his burning head, still immersed in the immense shock he experienced.

‘So, I used that fake throat slit on Duan Lian because I had personally experienced it in some secret training camp in my previous life, and it left behind a deep impression on me?’

‘Just what did I, Dragon City, and our entire civilization turn into for the sake of survival?’

## **Chapter 158: Mystery of His Return to the Past**

Luo Hai handed Meng Chao a high-calorie nutritional fluid that could help him focus.

Meng Chao drank it all in one go and exhaled long and hard.

“Hey, have you been practicing some kind of deviant, evil martial art all this while?” Luo Hai asked in a semi-joking tone. “I once asked my dad whether I can be like you. Even if I’ve just entered university and

don't have any real life experience in fighting, was there a way for me to fight like an elite special forces soldier and have outstanding willpower as well as rich experience?

"He told me that there was.

"For example, we can use superbrain technology to create a virtual world and increase the stimulation of the nerves to 500%. It can allow a person to experience five times the pain in the virtual reality training compared to reality, and they can even lengthen the ratio of time between the virtual world and reality to 5:1. Then, five hours in the virtual world would be equivalent to only one hour in reality.

"With this sort of method, you can be immersed in virtual fights for long periods of time and gain the fighting experience of an elite special forces soldier. That experience would get branded into our mind and turn an ignorant amateur into a veteran who has fought and survived hundreds of battles.

"But he strongly suggested that I don't do this, because one has to pay a devastating price for this sort of extreme training."

Meng Chao was slightly stunned, and he asked in a hoarse voice, "What sort of price?"

"If you want to have the fighting experience of a veteran, you will have to withstand the mental wounds of a veteran has as well. A real fight isn't some hot-blooded game. Even the most righteous battle can completely destroy the winner's mind. They will suffer all sorts of effects from PTSD and the curse of war," Luo Hai said.

"If a real warrior can use undefeatable will and time to withstand this curse, a fake who quickly gained such experiences through man-made methods would definitely be unable to handle such powerful mental shock. There's a 99% chance that they will experience spirit energy deviation.

"In truth, there are a lot of forces of power in Dragon City who once researched Supersoldier Projects like the one I just mentioned. Most of them failed, but only after causing devastating tragedies. The main problem wasn't the subjects' strength, but their mental capabilities.

"Meng Chao, remember the first time we went to the Supernatural Tower to register ourselves? We saw that small booklet they gave us, right?"

"Since superhumans absorb a lot of energy, their brain cells are constantly surging madly in the spirit energy magnetic fields they create. They're constantly working beyond their limits.

"We're just like a race car moving at max speed, and the tiniest stimulation can make us react in the most extreme ways. That's why it's easier for us to lose control of our emotions, desires, and even thoughts compared to normal humans.

"Sometimes, the most terrifying thing that can happen to us isn't meeting a monster which is skilled at controlling minds, but us losing control of ourselves."

Meng Chao looked at Luo Hai with a confused expression. "What do you mean?"

"My dad said that monsters aren't located just around Dragon City. They also exist in everyone's heart. All humans have a tiny monster residing in the depths of our hearts from the moment we're born," Luo Hai said.

“It’s just that most of the time, since humans are relatively weak when they’re alone, they are suppressed by moral values, laws, societal order, and the organizations a nation uses to condone violence. This monster then doesn’t dare to act recklessly. The people, in such times, ignore its existence and think of themselves as kind people who are worthy of trust.

“But as a superhuman grows stronger, moral values, laws, societal orders, and the organizations a nation uses to condone violence gradually become unable to do anything to them. The monster then wakes up and starts baring its fangs. It makes a person reveal what’s in the depths of their heart.

“It’s just like how a lot of people appear to be humble, gentle, kindhearted, rational, loyal to their lovers and their families, and good people with good reputations, but if they become rich overnight, they start to live in luxury and do whatever they want. They become completely different compared to the past.

“In truth, those people weren’t good people in the past either. They just didn’t have the capital to be ‘bad’. But once they were surrounded by money and power, the monster in their heart woke up. If allowed to grow, it would then devour the human skin it dons on the surface.

“Meng Chao, cultivating isn’t just about increasing our fighting power. We have to fend against the monster in the depths of our hearts as well. If you can, slow down a little, don’t be in such a hurry to become stronger.”

Luo Hai spoke sincerely, honestly, and earnestly.

It was common knowledge that giving honest advice to someone who was only a mere acquaintance was a major taboo. Luo Hai was a smart boy, and he was even the student council president of Construction High, so he should not have said such sharp words to Meng Chao.

But he did, which revealed that he treated Meng Chao as a true friend.

Meng Chao could sense his kind will, so he nodded and said, “I will, thanks.”

“That’s good. Did I say too much just now?” Luo Hai asked with slight embarrassment. “Everyone has their own path to becoming a superhuman, but cultivating the soul and understanding yourself is incredibly important. Take my dad as an example. He has long since reached the peak of Heaven Realm, and if he takes one more step forward, he can reach Deity Realm. He already has that power, and his vitality magnetic field as well as his understanding of life are already enough to propel him to Deity Realm, but he just can’t reach that realm. Think, what’s the reason behind it?”

“What is it?”

“He doesn’t dare to.” Luo Hai hunched his shoulders as if he was afraid that his father would notice what he was doing. “He said that he’s afraid of taking that step forward,” he whispered. “He’s worried that he will see the monster version of himself residing in the deepest depths of his heart when he reaches Deity Realm.”

Meng Chao pondered those words for a long time.

Even Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu did not dare to face his true self, despite the fact that he was at the peak of Heaven Realm?

What about him then? Should he take a clear look at the broken soul from the apocalypse? Should he release it completely and let it take over this body as Meng Chao?

Meng Chao felt that he had to continue cultivating, fighting, and thinking about it before he could find the answer.

“You brought me out of my muddled state. Looks like I was indeed a little too eager for results during my cultivation over the past month.” Meng Chao smiled and extended a hand to Luo Hai. “I thought that we were just pure business partners, but since you said those words today, from now on, we’re real friends!”

Luo Hai laughed and shook Meng Chao’s hand. “Don’t you think business partners are actually even more reliable than real friends? I don’t have a lot of strengths, but I do have one. I know what I want to do, what sort of person I want to become, and what sort of road I want to take!”

“Oh?” Meng Chao could not help but ask, “What sort of road are you going to take?”

Luo Hai answered readily. “First of all, I will continuously train myself through battles, and I’ll reach Deity Realm, at the very least.

“While doing that, together with you, I’ll make our company grow. With Surging Lightning as the start, we’ll expand our products to cover all the needs of youngsters while they cultivate and fight. Then, we’ll try to get bigger benefits from the depths of the fog.

“Once I’m done accumulating my base capital, I’ll fight for a position of a normal assemblyman in the five hundred-man town hall assembly. Then, I’ll fight for a position as a high-ranking assemblyman in the Survival Committee. In the end, I’ll get the highest possible rank in Dragon City!

“So, you understand why I said these things today, right? I don’t want the loyal right hand who has been following me for decades to suddenly have his misdeeds exposed when I fight for the position of a mayor. I can’t have someone say that he’s an evil person who has been practicing evil martial arts in the dark, that his spirit energy deviated, and that his mind distorted a long time ago!”

“Hang on!” Meng Chao could not help but smile. His mood gradually became better. “We’ve fought twice in a row, and you didn’t win against me once. Why should I be your right hand man?”

“It’s not as if the person who rules over Dragon City is the person who is the best fighter. Battle God Lei Zongchao was never the mayor!” Luo Hai said with a grin. “Anyway, I’ve already accepted you as a stupidly powerful fighter. And when I think about it carefully, it’s pretty logical for the right hand man to be slightly more powerful than the protagonist, anyway.”

They laughed at his words, and it helped to get rid of the rather gloomy atmosphere from a moment ago.

“By the way, I have a question,” Meng Chao said to change the topic. “What do you know about the temporary hospitals and underground clinics from twenty to thirty years ago?”

Luo Hai thought about it. “At that time, Dragon City was constantly fighting within its borders. The citizens had to battle monsters every day. Societal order has just been reconstructed, so there aren’t

many public hospitals around. Because of that, temporary hospitals and underground clinics were as numerous as mushrooms after a rain. What exactly do you want to know?"

"I have a friend whose father was attacked by monsters more than twenty years ago. I heard that his head was bitten through and he was about to die," Meng Chao explained, "but he received treatment in an underground clinic and survived. Unfortunately, the situation was really chaotic at that time, and as time passed, circumstances changed, he forgot just which hospital and which doctor treated him.

"Years passed, and you know those old people. They always talk about their saviors from the past. He wants to thank that person personally, so I'm just asking around for him."

"I see. That's a bit difficult," Luo Hai said. "I'd advise your friend's father to forget it. The ones who had the power to open up temporary hospitals and underground clinics were mostly powerful people who had deep knowledge of spirit energy studies, life sciences, and genetic modification technology. Now, these people have probably reached Heaven Realm or even Deity Realm. They have a lot of power in their hands and deal with a host of problems every day. You won't be able to get in contact with them easily."

"Someone in Deity Realm?" Meng Chao thought about it.

"If you really want to search for it, you should go to the library in the Supernatural Tower. There are a lot of books, documents, newspaper articles, videos, audio recordings, and all sorts of resources accumulated over the past half a century in there. You can find everything there," Luo Hai said.

"But most of the information is incomplete. It's in a state of disorder. There's a lot of sources, and they're in a chaotic mess. If you'll try to look for useful information there, it'll be the same as searching for a needle in a haystack."

Meng Chao thought about it for a moment. "I'm already here, so I might as well search for it. When I meet that friend, I can tell him that I tried."

"Sure. Then I'll bring you to the library." Luo Hai opened the door, but then suddenly turned around and said, "But you have to tell me something."

"What is it?"

Luo Hai winked at him. "That friend of yours is a girl, right?"

The library was on the third floor of the Supernatural Tower.

It was a place that normal citizens and superhumans could enter alike.

Most of the books, newspaper articles, and videos there could be perused by normal citizens as they liked.

Meng Chao knew that Dragon City's internet had not been fully set up thirty years ago because the spirit energy interference was really bad, and the transmission of electronic signals was obstructed. Due to this, articles, leaflets, and booklets printed by mimeograph machines became really popular. They were used to send orders, coordinate organizations, and increase morale.

Meng Chao wanted to see whether he could find articles, magazines, or booklets related to the medical world at that time.

And whether he could find the X-shaped eye.

“Please wait a moment. We will request the catalogue for the related newspaper articles and magazines from that time. There’s a lot of them. Which type do you require?”

The librarian told Meng Chao that aside from the information between July to September of the Year 22 of the New Era, he could request for all other information.

“Why can’t I get the information from those three months?” Meng Chao asked in passing.

“They’re burnt,” the librarian said. “There was an explosion in June, and the underground fire managed to make its way to our storage room. It affected some of the documents. Do you need the information from those months?”

Meng Chao calculated the time. His mother should not have run into the X-shaped eye that early.

“No, thank you.” He looked down and started examining the catalogue carefully.

Ten seconds later, he looked up. His pupils had shrunk.

“I’m sorry, did you just say that there was an explosion in June in the Supernatural Tower? When exactly did that happen?”

His expression slightly terrified the librarian. She looked at him before she looked at Luo Hai, who was beside him.

“What’s wrong? I feel like you’ve been really weird this entire day.” Luo Hai tugged at his sleeves. “Is there something wrong with the explosion in June?”

Meng Chao looked at him. “Do you know about that explosion?”

“I know a bit about it. I think one of the core labs connected to the ancient ruins under the Supernatural Tower exploded,” Luo Hai said. “I don’t know the specifics. Only Deity Realm elites are allowed to enter those core labs. Even my father doesn’t have access. They usually conduct all sorts of really dangerous experiments, so explosions are very normal there.

“Speaking of which, that even was rather strange. The safety measures and spirit energy shield around the labs leading to the ancient ruin are very strong, so no matter how bad the incident is, even if it causes the death of a Deity Realm elite, it doesn’t reach the surface.

“I don’t know what happened in June. Some of the flames tore through the defensive measures and crept up. Fortunately, it was just a few sparks, and the damage wasn’t great. What’s wrong with you?”

Meng Chao sucked in a deep breath and said as calmly as possible, “Nothing. I just wanted to know on what date that explosion in June happened.”

“It should be a little after I ate lunch,” the librarian said after thinkin about it for a moment. “I can’t remember the exact date, but it should have been around seventh or the eighth.”

"I don't remember it either. I just remember that my dad told me about it when he came back home. Later, the fog descended, and monsters invaded our midst. My dad went out to fight, and we didn't talk about it again," Luo Hai added.

"Oh," Meng Chao said. He pretended to be calm and continued reading through the catalogue.

But his mind was no longer on the matter.

He remembered very clearly that there was only one monster invasion on a rather large scale in the beginning of June, and it was the only one in which someone like Soul Beaking Saber Luo Wu would have been called to fight against the monsters.

It was the day he returned from the past.

He returned from the apocalypse in that afternoon, and at the same time, a strange explosion happened in the lab leading to the ancient ruins under the Supernatural Tower.

### **Chapter 159: Branch Base**

Three days later, the fog in the north of Dragon City tumbled about, and the land over there raged.

It was due to the rich ores and crystals hidden underground. All sorts of magnetic fields clashed violently against each other, and they kept on releasing raging energy.

The land there was broken. All sorts of formations could be found, and it was a chaotic mess.

There was a land full of lush, green grass several kilometers away, but soon, it led to a burning desert, which had bone-chilling lakes at random points of it.

Towering mountains intersecting with each other surrounded these places, and they covered an area that was close to eight hundred meters in diameter. Trees that were hundreds of meters tall could be found all over the place. Their branches hung low, and no one knew just how many venomous creatures lived in them.

There were also creatures which were not afraid of venom that enjoyed their life in the trees. However, they were hunted by matchless beasts, which possessed great spirit energy, for snacks.

The place was a forbidden zone for humans, but it was a playground for monsters as well as their slaughterhouse.

At that moment, an insect with a crystalline body that looked as pure as a white piece of jade and had four pairs of purple wings was attracted by a sickeningly sweet flower growing in the wild. The insect swirled about in the air before it landed on it. A long needle grew out of its mouth to extract the nectar.

Suddenly, the flower shuddered. Four leaves with sawteeth at the edges snapped shut on the insect.

It looked as if it had been electrocuted. It tried to flee, but one of its wings was torn off by the sawteeth.

A few thin tendrils shot out of the depths of the pistil to bind the insect's remaining wings.

The insect fled in a panic in an unbalanced rush. It stumbled up and down in the air. Just as it was about to be caught by the flower, a bird with feathers as sharp as blades beat it to the punch. It used its

feathers to cut off the pistil and take the insect while leaving behind the “flower”, which shook its fang-like leaves angrily.

With a snap, the bird crushed the insect. It ate it, but it had not had its fill yet.

Very soon, it found new prey. It was a gray spider crawling about the crack in a rock.

When the bird pounced on its new target, it was struck by a venomous snake, which had blended with the rock and had been waiting for prey for a long time.

The gray spider was actually the venomous snake’s tail, which it used to attract its food!

The venomous snake’s scales were as bumpy as a rock. Its fangs were in the bird’s neck, where they injected extremely corrosive venom.

Slurp, slurp.

The snake kept sucking and gulping. In an instant, only a pile of feathers was left. Not even a single bone was left of the bird.

The venomous snake squirmed about in satisfaction, as if it was stretching its back after a good meal.

Then, it was snatched up by a red falcon that came diving at it from nearly one thousand feet in the air.

The red falcon’s feathers were as bright as flames. When it spread its wings, they were dozens of meters wide. Its talons shone with a metallic light. No matter how sturdy the venomous snake’s scales and bones were, they could not prevent the snake from being torn in two when the falcon gave it a gentle tug.

However, a shadow that was even larger appeared above.

It looked as if something had just whipped the mighty red falcon. It released a shrill screech and threw away the food in its claws to bunch up its wings and talons. Its speed instantly rose to another level. Waves spread through the air, and a deafening sonicboom rose.

The falcon actually broke the speed of sound!

Even so, it could not escape from the even more dangerous hunter in the air.

Boom!

A purple fireball appeared after the red falcon and struck it down. When it fell around three hundred meters, it was captured by a creature that looked like the amalgamation of a lizard and pterodactyl, but it was even more monstrous and large. The red falcon did not even have the time to shriek before it was torn to shreds.

The pterodactyl howled. Spirit flames gushed out madly as it made a declaration of its tyranny to its heart’s content so that all the other monsters would know that the true master of the area was around.

But the next second, it looked as if it rammed into an invisible wall. It stopped in a strange fashion in the air.



Clear strangulation marks appeared on its neck and wings. Its vertical, dark green pupils shone with incredible pain.

It struggled madly and attempted to spit out a fireball at the enemy it could not see, but huge black spots appeared on its body, as if some terrifying virus was invading its organs at lightning speed.

In half a minute, it changed from an elegant, mighty, and brutal tyrant of the air to a rotten piece of food.

At that moment, the invisible hunter appeared in the air.

It was a superbeast that looked like a giant jellyfish. Its head was as bumpy as a balloon, and hundreds of tentacles covered in thorns hung low under its body.

It was a close cousin of the Demonic Air Ripping Eye, the Demonic Air Hunting Eye.

There was only one word difference in their name. The Demonic Air Hunting Eye did not have the mind attacks that the Demonic Air Ripping Eye had, but it had more tentacles, and they were longer and sturdier. It also possessed fatal venom, was much more agile, and could control its spirit energy magnetic field to interfere and change the trajectory of light so that it could turn itself invisible.

Before the twenty-four 88 mm rapid-firing guns went on full blast and tore it to shreds, it was the true king who stood on top of the food chain in the area.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The pods of three armored airships were installed with a huge platform for weapons. Each side contained four 88 mm rapid-firing guns, two hornet rocket launchers, and six heavy machine guns.

They seemed like ancient firearms, but with the addition of spirit energy and runic symbol technology, they gained a brand new life.

The new fire powder had processed monster materials. It had destructive power that was ten times stronger than that of normal ammunition.

When rune ink made of monster blood that contained a lot of spirit energy was painted over the runic symbols carved into the gun barrels, artillery barrels, and rockets, these firearms could create spirit energy magnetic fields that could change the essence of the weapons from a molecular level and even an atomic level.

If crystals were embedded into the tips of the bullets, they could seal certain spirit energy magnetic fields which would then trigger under certain conditions. This allowed normal bullets and artillery shells to contain their own "skills".

Even though humans could no longer use supersonic fighting jets and beyond-visual-range missiles, their 88 mm guns and rocket launchers still had the effect of destroying everything effortlessly and suppressing everything in sight.

The Demonic Air Hunting Eye was instantly reduced to mince meat and then burnt to a crisp. It was reduced to wisps of smoke that fled in a panic in every direction.

The sounds of the firearms were like shrill shrieks that told all the living creatures in the wild just who was the real ruler of the region!

The booming sounds from the flames and propellers tore through the rolling fog and got rid of a lot of aerial monsters who did not know what was good for them.

First, three armored airships with the symbol of the Red Dragon Army painted on them descended from the sky like steel deities. They were surrounded by spirit energy and looked really mighty.

Then, another three appeared.

They were followed by three more airships.

They had around ten propeller airplanes. They were crude fighting crafts with simple structure. Hundreds of even smaller unmanned fighting vehicles surrounded the propeller airplanes, and they were just as deadly.

It was as if the aerial killing machines of three different generations had transmigrated to appear in the same place. Their bodies were covered in runic symbols, and they had dazzling crystals embedded in them as well. They shone with spirit energy, which was like seven-colored magma. It flowed slowly along the patterns of the profound and complicated runic symbols, which made the armored airships, propeller airplanes, and unmanned fighting vehicles give off a crystalline feeling, and somehow, the sight of them together in one place was no longer a jarring one.

Under humanity's aerial force was its steel army. It marched forward through the wild.

Hundreds of machine monsters formed the steel army. It consisted of crawler tanks, wheeled infantry fighting vehicles, multi-crab-legged fighting vehicles, spider-shaped intelligent fighting vehicles, automatic armored engineering vehicles, mine site trucks, and super large wheeled excavating machines. They were like the powerful arms of humanity that delivered vicious punches from Dragon City to the wild. It told all the creatures that from this moment onward, the rules in the place would change!

The new batch of freshmen from Agricultural University sent to the northern frontlines were in the pods of the armored airships. They looked down at the battlefield and the uncultivated land that had no end in sight, then the human army, which was bound to conquer it. They could not help but look forward to the fight, and their blood surged.

They really wanted to jump down at that moment to fight against the numerous monsters lying in wait in the wild.

Suddenly, the armored airships slowed down.

The students stuck their eyes and noses against the windows to see what was ahead of them.

Two mountain ranges towered into the clouds ahead of them. They were like two iron walls in the wild.

The clouds and fog in the place hung low, and the mountains were hidden in gray clouds. The black ones bared their teeth, and thunder could be heard faintly rumbling in there. Neither the armored airships nor the peerless elites wanted to fly into them.

Fortunately, a somewhat straight and smooth valley went between the two mountain ranges. It was as if someone had taken an axe and delivered a vicious slash that split the land in half. The valley was a path that the armored airships and steel army could pass through without encountering any obstacles.

But the valley was not wide. When wind blew inside, it was suppressed by the two steep slopes, which formed countless turbulences. The armored airships could not get too close, or they might lose control and crash. They had to levitate outside the valley and form a line. Then, they would have to enter one by one.

Fortunately, the Red Dragon Army had already built forts that served as command centers by the sides of the valley.

The Supernatural Tower had also sent technicians who were skilled with maglev technology and powerful people who could control air flow, wind pressure, and aerodynamics. They could handle aerial traffic in the valley.

They had also carved humongous runic matrices on the smooth slopes on the sides of the valley with the hopes to change the spirit energy magnetic field and completely get rid of the turbulence.

The armored airships spent half an hour passing through the valley slowly and steadily. Then, the area in front of the students opened up.

There was another world in the valley. It was a basin filled with spirit energy and a lot of resources. It looked like paradise!

The land in the basin was incredibly flat. Sparkling lakes that looked like silver mirrors were scattered all over the fertile, dark red soil. Three streams resembling jade belts zig-zagged all over the land. All sorts of strange plants displayed their beauty between the silver mirror and jade belts. A lot of gentle, sentient creatures treated this place as their habitat.

Even someone with no geographical knowledge whatsoever would be able to tell that it was a land blessed by the gods. If humans could develop this piece of land, they would be able to fit millions of people there, and it would become the first and most important branch base in Dragon City's road to claim the Other World!

## **Chapter 160: Four Battlelines**

The students were attracted by the incredibly beautiful scenery outside the portholes.

They had been born among concrete buildings in a city that looked like a hornet's nest, so it was the first time they saw an endless expanse of land.

Even the youngsters who were usually mature looked bedazzled and could not contain their excitement.

Only Meng Chao remained sitting in a corner of the pod while focused on the military map and reports of the battle. He tried to use the information before his eyes to predict the progress of the battle.

Based on the military map, the two mountains they had just passed were known as Lion Fang Mountain and Tiger Fang Mountain.

The paradise in front of them was Shattered Starlake.

It was not just one lake. Instead, the name referred to all the lakes of varying sizes scattered all over the land. There were more than one hundred of them, and it was rumored that they were countless craters from a prehistoric meteor shower. As time went by, the land created the beautiful scenery, where it looked as if scattered stars were shining brilliantly on the ground.

In truth, the Dragon Citizens had discovered Shattered Starlake a long time ago.

There was a spirit energy ley line contained underground, and it was full of spirit energy. All sorts of strange plants and valuable beasts were around it, and hidden under most of the lakes were valuable meteorite fragments from outer space. They were well suited to build incredibly powerful weapons or turned into critical components for supercomputers, nuclear weapons, and other sophisticated equipment. The tactical value of Shattered Starlake was immense.

The only problem was that it was somewhat far from Dragon City. The distance between Shattered Starlake and Dragon City was fifty kilometers, and along the way they had to pass swamps, forests, valleys, cliffs, and never-ending mountains.

Lion Fang Mountain and Tiger Fang Mountain served as the guards of Shattered Starlake and made it difficult for the Earthlings' mechanized army to spread through the area.

For half a century, Dragon City had licked the wounds it suffered from transmigration. It did not have enough resources, and there was also a severe lack of firepower and ammunition. Since the fog kept invading, the dimension was unstable, they felt as if walls had been set up around them. They were boxed in and did not have the power to send their army to Shattered Starlake.

Only the powerful superhumans occasionally came there to investigate the land, search for mines, hunt superbeasts, and train.

Lately, however, genetic martial arts and spirit energy technology matured, and the fog started to disperse. The dimension became more stable, and the light and heavy industries all recovered and were even upgraded. The Red Dragon Army completed a new round of expansion and upgrades.

This was especially so when they successfully developed the multi-joint limbs, which could be used for war vehicles that resembled animals. There was also the runic symbol technology to strengthen the brittle metallic limbs and joints, which allowed the crawler fighting vehicles to compensate for their lack of fighting ability in forests and mountains. Dragon City, thus, gained the ability to open up a branch base.

The northern offense was launched more than a month ago.

The battlefield was split into four battlelines.

The first goal was to build a railroad and a public road between Dragon City and Shattered Starlake so that armored trains installed with railway guns could reach it smoothly and bring soldiers as well as resources. The railway would be the main artery that connected the main city area to the branch base.

The monsters naturally did not just watch humanity link their civilization's blood vessels, bones, and muscles to this place. Hence, they started attacking the forces building up the base day after day like a tidal wave.

The Red Dragon Army sent in a large amount of forces to the sides of the "main artery" and built forts as well as battle fortresses. When thousands of forts were connected as one, countless signal towers were set up in every space available to ensure that the Internet was stable, which allowed to summon powerful fighters, intelligent fighting vehicles, and unmanned fighting vehicles at any time. The monsters would then be unable to stop the humans from moving forward.

Humanity also wanted to set up an etherealized plants farm and residential area in Shattered Starlake.

With genetic modifications and 3D farms, the synthesized food technology in Dragon City was pretty advanced, and even if the population increased by another fold, they would not face any issues with hunger.

But synthesized food could only provide basic calories and increase the strength of physical bodies. It could not increase spirit energy, so they could not satisfy the increasing cultivation demands among the large number of Dragon Citizens.

Shattered Starlake had fertile soil and a lot of spirit energy. It was a good place to plant etherealized plants and launch all sorts of agricultural research. At the very least, it would allow them to satisfy the cultivation needs among the youths in the city.

Some large and incredibly fierce Nightmarish Beasts and Hell Beasts had resided in Shattered Starlake. However, during the fierce fighting since the battle began, they were chased away.

But plants grew wild, and the speed at which they grew was very fast. Even if the humans used flamethrowers to burn them all down, the next day, the plants would once again be the height of a human.

And lurking in the grass that looked like a green curtain were many middle-sized and small-sized canine-type, feline-type, and rodent-type monsters. They posed a major threat to the constructionists, botanists, and environmental reconstructionists from Dragon City.

The first task for Meng Chao, the other university students, and the weaker but still pretty strong members of society was to clear out Shattered Starlake and destroy the monster nests so that the botanists and environmental reconstructionists could station themselves safely and deal with the troublesome weeds.

To the north of Shattered Starlake was a dangerous region known as Graveyard Forest.

It was rumored that countless carnivorous plants grew there, and they could even strip Nightmarish Beasts down to their bones. When the first Dragon City's powerful fighters stepped into this place, they saw piles of monster skeletons, which was why it gained such a strange name.

Based on the geologists, there were several spirit energy ley lines under Graveyard Forest, and they contained a lot of crystals and rare metals. Water was abundant there as well, so if they could develop the place, they could set up a large base for metal work, refinement, and heavy industry outside Dragon City.

But Graveyard Forest had been nourished by spirit energy and given birth to countless powerful Nightmarish Beasts and Hell Beasts.

If Dragon City did not kill these superbeasts and clean Graveyard Forest, they would not be able to work in peace.

Of course, Meng Chao and the other freshmen who were in Spirit Tattoo Realm had nothing to do with such a dangerous place for the time being.

It was the battlefield of special forces from the Red Dragon Army, the elite superhuman fighting squad, and the Deity Realm elites.

Beyond Graveyard Forest was the end of the basin. Raging Waves stood there, and it was an even more majestic and dangerous mountain range compared to Lion Fang Mountain and Tiger Fang Mountain.

Dragon City did not know what exactly was strange about this mountain range. It was not a living volcano, but the mountain range was covered in cracks so deep that their end could not be seen. It was as if those cracks ran straight to the depths of the planet. Smoke that seemed to be produced by a fire gushed out of it all year long and spread through the sky like raging waves. That was how the mountain range got its name.

Dozens of Hell Beasts resided in Raging Waves.

In fact, a Grade Eight Apocalyptic Beast and its pack lived deep in the mountain range.

Apocalyptic Beasts usually possessed intelligence. Hence, it would definitely not allow its bed to be developed by humans into farms, mines, factories, and cities without a fight.

If humans wanted to fully develop Shattered Starlake, they had to first kill the Apocalyptic Beast residing in Raging Waves.

This battleline was led by Deity Realm elites. Meng Chao didn't have anything to do with it at all, since he was just a one-star superhuman.

'There are four battlelines. One of them is the construction of the main artery connecting the main city area and the branch base, one is in Shattered Lake, one is in Graveyard Forest, and one is in Raging Waves. Just which one will encounter a problem?'

Meng Chao shut his eyes and rubbed the bridge of his nose to search through the memories of his past life. But he gained nothing.

'Based on the scale of the military operation and the strategy they employed, the Supernatural Tower deployed loads of elites, the Red Dragon Army is going to stand firm and fight steadily, and they're paying a lot of attention to each area. The underestimating of the enemy and recklessly pushing forward should be impossible.

'And based on the military map and the report of the battle, the elites have been scouting and exploring Shattered Starlake for years. The information about this place is very detailed, and the data is solid. The higher-ups should have everything under control.

'So what sort of accident will occur that the army would be forced to return without any gains, even though it was so sure of victory?'

Meng Chao could not understand it.

He really wanted to go past the leaders of his university and search for the higher-ups of the military so that he could grab their collars and say, "This is a battle we're bound to fail!"

If he had just returned to the past and was overcome by passion, he might actually do that.

But now, he had come to realize that his return to the past was not that simple. Dragon City and the ancient ruins it suppressed seemed to contain a lot of secrets.

'The person who created the X-shaped eye might have already reached Deity Realm. Just who is he, and why did he activate Night Demon Blood?'

'Also, if Deity Realm elites, the army from Dragon City, and large railway guns attack together, we can even win against Apocalyptic Beasts. Why did the Monster War last for so long in my previous life, then? Different types of monsters also improved in strength practically at the same time. What's the logic behind this?'

'Does my return to the past have something to do with the ancient ruins? Did the monsters skilled in controlling minds and creeping into human brains take action?'

'The instructor with the bad breath had brought a group of mysterious fighters from a training camp and had them disguise themselves as Other World creatures to attack another group of living beings from the Other World. Why did he do that?'

A lot of questions danced in Meng Chao's head, but he forced himself to calm down.

He could not be reckless.

He had to search for more information, but even more crucial was to find the person who could do something. It was only then that he might have the butterfly bat its wings and change the direction of the battle.

If he revealed information that he was not supposed to reveal in front of the wrong person, the future might end up even worse.

'I've decided. I'll first fight in Shattered Starlake and practice my saber skills to improve. Then, I'll have the chance to enter Graveyard Forest.'

'It's only when I enter Graveyard Forest that I'll have the chance to come into contact with more Heaven Realm elites and even Deity Realm elites.'

'The key of the battle will be Raging Waves. When the Deity Realm elites fight against the Apocalyptic Beast, no matter what, I have to...'

Meng Chao narrowed his eyes, and unbeknownst to him, he started releasing killing intent.

When the students around him sensed it, they sucked in sharp breaths, and fear appeared on their faces.

Meng Chao saw them showing great cooperation by moving back a few steps together. He was a little stunned and asked with a frown, "What's wrong with you guys?"

"What are you thinking of doing?" a student named Zhou Yun asked warily. "Poisoning, setting up traps, or setting up an ambush?"

Meng Chao felt gloomy. "Am I that sort of person in your eyes? I already told you, I was being kind a few days ago. I just wanted to make you more alert so that you can survive the battlefield where danger lurks behind every corner. We're on the battlefield now, so we're all comrades who share the closest bond with each other. Why would I stab you in the back?"

"Who knows?" Zhou Yun said coldly. "No matter what, just stay away from me!"

"Zhou Yun, I think you're biased against me," Meng Chao said. "I just snuck into your dorm, knocked you out, and stuffed you under your bed. You didn't experience any pain nor suffer any wounds, right? I showed you the greatest mercy among the ten challengers.

"Look at Duan Lian. I fought against him so fiercely that we ended up bleeding all over the place, but we decided to open our hearts to each other in the end. We wouldn't have gotten to know each other if we didn't fight, and we've settled our grudge now. We've put all that bad blood behind us!"

"Would I be the same as Duan Lian?!" Zhou Yun flew into a rage.

"We're all students. What's the difference?" Meng Chao was puzzled.

"I'm a girl! You snuck into the girls' dormitory, knocked me out, and stuffed me under my bed!" Zhou Yun shrieked.