

Oh My God 211

Chapter 211: Demonic Stone Statue Spider!

The sticky liquid under the feet of Meng Chao's teammates formed long threads, and he suddenly stopped as he watched them while they moved in front of him. He shuddered.

As a sharp stab of pain bloomed in his head, he remembered.

Stone Statue Fungus were a unique fungus that grew near spirit energy ley lines. They did not take the initiative to attack, but once they were attacked, they would fire a large amount of sticky liquid.

This sticky liquid was not poisonous or corrosive. In the beginning, it would not affect the enemies in the slightest.

But very soon, a few seconds after the enemies stood on the liquid or were covered in it, the sticky liquid would turn firm and even freeze over. It would root the enemy tightly in the spot.

Based on the biologists' speculations, after the sticky liquid from Stone Statue Fungus solidified, it was stronger than even reinforced concrete.

Small monsters like snakes, rats, and insects were not able to break free of it at all. They could only watch as they turned into a statue and in time became one with the Stone Statue Fungus.

This was the reason behind the name.

Even superhumans who wanted to break free of the Stone Statue Fungus' sticky liquid after it solidified had a hard time doing so.

What was even more terrifying was that Stone Statue Fungus usually formed a symbiotic relationship with a monster known as Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spider.

They were small arthropod-type monsters, which had a unique hunting method.

Just like many spider-type monsters, the Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders were able to create sturdy and sticky spider webs.

But it did not wait for its prey to come to it. Instead, after it finished weaving its spider web, it would work with two or three other Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders to pull back that spider web like a slingshot, and by using the powerful spring of it, they would fire their spider web at their prey.

Their spider webs were created from a natural, single-molecule substance that was even sharper than blades.

The more a prey enveloped by it struggled, the more the spider web dug into their body. The prey's strength might even end up in it being torn to shreds.

The Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spider and Stone Statue Fungus' abilities complemented each other. When they worked together, they were usually able to kill large monsters that were more than ten times their size. Even low-grade superbeasts had a hard time breaking free from their hands, so they were one of the most dangerous hunters in the underground world.

Meng Chao's body turned cold.

"Careful! Don't step on the sticky liquid released by the fungi!" he shouted loudly as a warning and shoved a mine explorer who was about to step on it.

Almost at the same time, dozens of Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders jumped up from the depths of the Stone Statue Fungus forest. Like the most brilliant fishermen, they flung around eight webs that covered the entire area straight at the three Heaven Realm elites who were levitating in the air.

The three were affected by the powerful spirit energy magnetic fields and were already feeling incredibly dizzy. It was difficult for them to just remain levitating using the maglev principle, so they did not detect the Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders ahead of time.

When they saw the light, cotton-like spider webs that were about to touch them, the three finally displayed the powerful strength of Heaven Realm elites. They moved like phantoms and dodged the webs. Then, their weapons turned into millions of sparks and lightning arcs that reduced the Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders behind the spider webs into pools of blood.

But one of the spider webs still ended up entangling Scimitar's combat boot.

His pupils shrank. He used the tremors in his calf and feet muscles to kick away his combat boot.

The boot was made of processed monster leather, and it even had steel plates embedded in it. But the spider web had sunk deep into it. When the three saw this, they gasped in amazement.

The mine explorers on the ground were not as lucky as the three Heaven Realm elites.

They had been moving through the Stone Statue Fungus forest, and at some unknown point in time, their bodies and soles were covered in the sticky liquid. When they realized it, the sticky liquid began to solidify and limit their movements.

And the number of Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders before them was growing. Spider webs shining with cold light came charging at them.

One of the mine explorers who was covered in the most sticky liquid was enveloped by a spider web.

He struggled instinctively, and the spider web sank into his uncovered face and hands like ten thousand soft blades.

His face was instantly covered in intersecting cuts, and he lost three of his fingers.

The mine explorer was in great pain, but he could no longer move. He fell to the ground, and coincidentally, he fell into a pool of sticky liquid flowing out of the Stone Statue Fungus.

Due to the stimulation of his fresh blood, the sticky liquid instantly solidified and blocked his entire face.

He could not breathe, and by pure instinct, he started struggling. The spider web tightened swiftly and cut into his flesh, exposing his bones.

Soon, the mine explorer died tragically from suffocation, pain, and blood loss.

Even the veteran hunters who had been hunting in the wild for ten years had never seen such a strange combination of a monster and a fungus, and they could not help but shudder.

“Don’t attack the fungus around you! Those flying spiders are afraid of fire! Everyone, charge forward! We’ll be safe after we get out of their hunting range!” Meng Chao shouted.

He activated the Fire Crystal on the Surging Lightning Flagship Model and released a slash that was nearly one thousand degrees Celsius. It cut into a spider web, and even the four Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders on it started burning.

Everyone became motivated to fight.

Creating high-heat flames was one of the most common offensive methods used by superhumans.

Many of Sharp Blade’s members had practiced fire-related skills or carried weapons embedded with Fire Crystals or fire-type crystals.

Even the mine explorers usually had combustion liners or blast burners to melt minerals and survive in the wild.

Once they understood the monsters’ weaknesses, they could target them.

Even though they still paid a devastating price, they were no longer helpless and forced to wait around like sitting ducks.

A number of mine explorers fell down because of the combined attacks from the sticky liquid and spider webs.

Once they fell down, it was very difficult to stand back up by relying on their own strength. Usually, they got stuck beside a Stone Statue Fungus. If they tore at the sticky liquid and webs, they would end up tearing at the Stone Statue Fungus, and it would spit out even more sticky liquid, which would catch even the person who came forward to save them.

But most mine explorers and hunters used flames to open the path, and they gradually broke free of the area with the Stone Statue Fungi.

Meng Chao had brandished his chain sabers like burning windmills to kill a lot of Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders.

He was about to leave when he saw that Lu Siya and the others were ahead of him and were about to get out of this terrifying hell made of sticky liquid, but a Stone Statue Fungus that was shining with a faint red light suddenly moved. It revealed a spider-type monster that was even larger than a washing basin residing under it.

“Demonic Stone Statue Spider!”

Meng Chao’s skin crawled.

It was the king of Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders. Under the great radiation from the crystal mine, it had mutated at a rapid pace, and its body swelled up dozens of times its original size. Then, it perfectly blended in with the Stone Statue Fungus.

Demon Stone Statue Spiders could fire super powerful liquid that could instantly solidify as well as sharp spider webs. They were at least Grade Two Nightmarish Beasts.

When it came to places where spirit energy ley lines gathered, Heaven Realm elites and Hell Beasts' vitality magnetic fields were affected and suppressed. Because of this, the fierce and cunning Nightmarish Beasts were the most difficult hunters to deal with.

The Demonic Stone Statue Spider jumped up high and drew close to Lu Siya.

Based on what Lin Chuan said, Lu Siya was a Spirit Sensor, so she focused on spirit energy ley line explorations and crystal researches. She was not very powerful in terms of fighting.

And it was just as he said, she seemed to be dumbfounded and shocked by the Nightmarish Beast that suddenly appeared.

Her bodyguard, Lu Fengying, let out a loud shriek. A sword thrust shot forward and cut into the Stone Statue Fungus above the Demonic Stone Statue Spider.

The wound might have been deep, but it did not manage to cut the Stone Statue Fungus in half. Sticky liquid gushed out, and in an instant, it recovered her.

Lu Fengying wanted to turn around and provide reinforcement, but more than one hundred Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders dragged out dozens of spider webs to block her path.

When Lu Siya was about to be torn to shreds by the sharp spider web that the Demonic Stone Statue Spider released, Meng Chao, a puny one-star superhuman, was unaffected by the interference caused by the crystal mine. He swung his chain sabers from the left and right. The chains wrapped around the upper body of the Demonic Stone Statue Spider, and he yanked them, which made the spider web drop half an inch off its mark.

Lu Siya's face was stark pale. She cast Meng Chao a deep glance.

The Demonic Stone Statue Spider bared its teeth and hissed.

With a shout, Meng Chao's spirit surged into the offensive runic symbols on the chains. The fire snakes spread to the Demonic Stone Statue Spider and started burning it.

The Demonic Stone Statue Spider was soon burned so badly that it looked battered.

Its shell started cracking, but it did not wither as Meng Chao expected.

Instead, red tentacles shot out of the cracks and devoured the flames.

The Demonic Stone Statue Spider brandished the red tentacles, and it looked like a large sea anemone from a sea of blood.

'A Blood Flower infested creature! An undead!'

Meng Chao's thoughts raced, and he broke out in cold sweat.

The mine exploration team from Universe Corporation must have fought hard against the Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders and Demonic Stone Statue Spider when they passed through the forest of Stone Statue Fungi. They even killed the Demonic Stone Statue Spider.

But they did not expect that a Blood Flower sclerotia had infested this Demonic Stone Statue Spider a long time ago, and after it died, the Blood Flower turned it into an undead, a creature that was even more difficult to deal with.

The mine exploration team from Universe Corporation managed to get through, but they left behind the zombified version of the Demonic Stone Statue Spider to those who arrived after them.

The monsters who turned into the undead possessed weaknesses that were different from when they were alive. The zombified Demonic Stone Statue Spider was not afraid of flames.

It was enraged by Meng Chao's provocation, and it spared Lu Siya by jumping in front of a different target.

Meng Chao's fingers controlled the chain saber like he was plucking at the strings of a zither. He attacked the joint connecting the Demonic Stone Statue Spider's upper and lower body. That part was its weakest point.

The Surging Lightning Flagship Model released a cold, blue light that was at negative one hundred degrees Celsius before stabbing into the flesh.

The Surging Lightning Youthful Version could not handle the repeated impacts from the rampaging spirit energy and intersecting cracks appeared on the blade. It was destroyed by the Demonic Stone Statue Spider as it swung its bladed limbs.

Meng Chao had been creating his Thousand Moon Slash, but he was interrupted and stiffened up for half a second.

The Demonic Stone Statue Spider instantly released hundreds of spider threads that could cut even fine hair straight at Meng Chao's face.

At that critical moment, Meng Chao heard the shriek of the Undying Bird by his ears.

Lin Chuan appeared in front of him to block the attack. He brandished his chain spear which looked like a burning vortex and swept down most of the spider threads.

The spear tip moved like a venomous snake and accurately stabbed the arachnidium in the Demonic Stone Statue Spider's mouth. Then, it struck the aciniform gland.

The Demonic Stone Statue Spider was in pain. The Stone Statue Fungus on its back swelled up rapidly, and more blood-red tentacles came out through the cracks. They swung madly.

"Go!"

Lin Chuan's expression changed drastically, and he grabbed Meng Chao to run.

The group stumbled out of the Stone Statue Fungi forest.

They ran for dozens of meters before they shoved each other into a crack in a crystal mine.

Deafening explosions came from behind them.

When the group looked there, they saw that the huge Stone Statue Fungus on the Demonic Stone Statue Spider's back had exploded, and it was mixed with the sticky liquid of the Blood Flower bacterial flora. It spread through the entire Stone Statue Fungi forest.

Chapter 212: Upgrade Equipment

After the Stone Statue Fungi which had been cut down by the superhumans were nourished by the sticky liquid, their wounds gradually closed up, and the incomplete parts regrew.

The corpses of the humans and their equipment that remained on the ground were covered by the liquid as it squirmed about, and they became one with the ground and the Stone Statue Fungi.

The Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders and Demonic Stone Statue Spider did not give chase.

Perhaps it was because they knew that without the liquid from the Stone Statue Fungus, they would be unable to do anything to humans. Instead, they would end up as the prey.

It could also be that their harvest for the day was already enough for them.

They hid in the depths of the Stone Statue Fungi and disappeared.

Silence returned to the depths of the cave. It was as if the fierce fighting a moment ago was just a nightmare that plagued their minds and refused to leave.

"Butterfly!"

There was a girl in Sharp Blade known as Butterfly Knife. She had fallen in the Stone Statue Fungi forest.

The eyes of some of the men turned bloodshot. They wanted to go back and fight.

"Stop!" Scimitar took a step forward and blocked their way. "Butterfly is already dead. Her corpse was enveloped by the liquid from those fungi. How are you going to get her out? You'll just be casting your lives away!"

Those Sharp Blade members who wanted to go back were pulled back by the others. After struggling for a while, they wept. Someone hit the wall beside him, and sparks flew.

"Those bastards from Universe Corporation... They've clearly gotten through this place, so why didn't they get rid of all those fungi and monsters? Instead, they left an undead superbeast for us... They just want to destroy the path behind them! They set up this trap for their competitors!" Lu Siya cursed.

"It's those bastards who killed our teammates! I swear that once I catch up to them, no matter who their leader is, I will kill him!"

The attack by the Stone Statue Fungi and Ten Thousand Blade Flying Spiders resulted in the loss of five more people.

Along with the four people who died tragically before, there were only fifteen people left in the mine exploration team. When they started off, they had twenty-four.

The eyes of the mine explorers and hunters were red.

But when things had progressed to this stage, it was meaningless to try and figure out who was responsible.

They could not return without any results. They could only brace themselves and continue onward.

“Should we destroy this fungi settlement?” Scimitar asked. “We know that their weakness is fire, so it won’t be difficult to handle them. We still have some flares and fuel with us. With the help from fire-type skills, we can create simple napalm bombs and burn them all.

“That undead spider isn’t afraid of fire, but the fungus on its back exploded. It should be in a weakened state right now. Once we burn all the fungi and spiders, we can get rid of it.”

Lu Siya thought about this for a moment. When she saw their dark looks and the strange light shining in their eyes, she shook her head and said, “There might be fresh air in the cave, but it’s still an airtight space. Air seeps in through the winding cracks. If we recklessly use fire, we might burn away all the fresh air and face the lack of oxygen, which will be dangerous.

“Forget it. Right now, the most important thing is to look for the Red Radiance Jade mine. We can’t let those bastards from Universe Corporation beat us to the draw. When we come back, we can get rid of the fungi and the undead. At that time, I will personally cut that undead into pieces to comfort those who passed away.

“Everyone, the dead are gone. We have to carry their dying will and persist onward! The appearance of the undead means that there were once Blood Flowers here. This means that we’re very close to the Red Radiance Jade mine!”

Lu Siya was about to motivate the people to move forward when Lin Chuan suddenly grunted and sat down on the ground.

It was only then that Meng Chao noticed that Lin Chuan’s right arm was drenched in blood, and his face was pale as a sheet.

Meng Chao quickly used a dissection blade to cut through his sleeve, and he saw that his arm was covered in fine wounds. His flesh was flipped out like a baby’s mouth.

“I’ve been hunting for so long, and in the end, I was attacked by one of those I hunt, and a small one at that.” Lin Chuan smiled in embarrassment. “The interference to vitality magnetic fields here is too strong. I was careless and got injured by an undead Nightmarish Beast with its spider threads. How embarrassing!”

Meng Chao knew that Lin Chuan had only decided to fight against the Demonic Stone Statue Spider to save him, since his vitality magnetic field was heavily affected.

He quickly disinfected Lin Chuan’s wound, applied medicine on it, and sprayed medical gel on him.

“We need to rest!” Meng Chao looked up and stared at Lu Siya. “We can’t continue like this. If we run into another attack like this, we will all end up dead!” he said stiffly.

He had been the first to give the warning just now and pointed out the strange properties of the liquid from the Stone Statue Fungus. He had also told them about the fact that the Ten Thousand Flying Blade Spiders were afraid of fire, which was why he had the trust and favor of most people in the team.

At that moment, they instinctively stood on his side.

Lu Siya narrowed her eyes and thought about it for a moment before she nodded and said, "But of course. I told you that we will search for a place to rest for eight... no, six hours once we get past this strange fungi settlement. Let's recuperate and seek to locate the Red Radiance Jade mine after!"

They found a rather large and dry space far away from the Stone Statue Fungi settlement.

The exhausted and wounded mine explorers could finally stop and catch their breath.

The temperature deep underground was very low. It was not suitable for the wounded to recover.

Fortunately, everyone had a tent in their bags, and it was covered in insulation coating. After they lit up a small stove inside with heat provided by a fire-type crystal, the temperature became as warm as in spring.

After dressing their wounds and taking in gene medicine as well as high-calorie nutritional fluid, quite a number of people sat down in meditative positions to enter deep meditation. They wanted to recover as much strength and spirit energy as they could.

Meng Chao also found a corner and spent thousands of contribution points to perform full-body health care.

Moments later, Lu Siya summoned him into her tent, and she even zipped up the entrance.

She had a tent used to survive underground. The space inside was not big, and two people felt a little cramped.

The bodyguard was gone.

Lu Siya was alone. She removed her bloody military pants, which were covered in sticky liquid and used a secret medicine to massage the muscles on the calf to ease the fatigue from traveling for so long.

Her legs were covered in black and blue spots. They were bruises she suffered on the way.

They made the skin around them look like crystal white jade. It was so beautiful that it could cause hearts to race.

If Meng Chao were a normal eighteen-year-old boy full of passion, he might have been enraptured by her.

But he had the whole city's hopes on his shoulders, and he was a man who had miraculously returned from the apocalypse. He had gone through all sorts of trials and tribulations, so it did not work on him.

He snorted coldly in his heart and fixed his gaze sternly on Lu Siya's thighs. He wanted to see what she wanted to do to him.

Lu Siya picked yellow ointment with her fingertip and wiped it on her calves. She slowly smeared it all over her muscles while saying faintly, "Do you know what part of you I admire the most?"

"Your performance during the national college examination's practical examination and the admission test of Agricultural University's martial arts course were indeed exciting, and Lin Chuan praises you

highly. The Ultimate Style you're currently dabbling in is also very interesting, but what I admire the most about you is your performance during your mental strength test.

"Back then, you hadn't awakened to supernatural powers, but in the virtual battlefield, even when you faced all sorts of terrifying monsters and your pain feedback was more than 120%, your mental strength index remained at 100%. It shows that you have extraordinary willpower, which is something you can't train no matter how much you practice.

"And just as I expected, just now, it was all thanks to you not panicking in the face of danger and reacting quickly that I was saved."

Meng Chao thought about it and said, "Since we're all teammates, no matter who is in danger, as long as I have the power to do so, I will save them."

Lu Siya smiled. "I don't care about anyone else, but my life is very valuable. You saved me, so I will do something to thank you."

As she spoke, she brought out an exquisite, dark red leather pouch from behind her and handed it to him.

It had a short saber that was slightly longer than a dagger.

Meng Chao had not even drawn the saber yet, but the moment he touched its hilt, he felt a numbing electrical current flow through his entire body. It was as if every drop of his blood was dancing in his blood vessels.

Whoosh!

He drew the short saber, and the small tent filled with a blood-red light. It looked as if the two of them were in a red ocean.

"This is a good saber!"

Meng Chao's pupils shrank. He saw the dense runic symbols covering the saber, and he praised it from the bottom of his heart.

Even if he was not a weapons craftsman, he could tell that the short saber was much stronger than the Surging Lightning Flagship Model. It was a truly good weapon.

"I heard that Lin Chuan gave you a pair of chains as a gift and taught you the ways to dual wield them. You used those chain sabers to save my life just now."

Lu Siya watched Meng Chao's expression with satisfaction and said with a grin, "Unfortunately, the sabers you use are nothing much. The one in your right hand is only of average quality and is just somewhat usable. As for the one in your left hand, it's just scrap metal. It'll break the moment something touches it.

"Coincidentally, I have here with me a short saber I have been carrying with me for years. I seldom have the chance to use it, but I can now gift it to a hero.

“This saber is known as Bloody Flame. It was created from the fangs of a Grade Six Hell Beast known as Bloody Fire Tiger. They are hard to come by, but what makes this even rarer are the runic symbols carved onto the blade. This is the third-to-last item engraved by runic symbol master Shi Xunmo before he stopped writing runic symbols.

“Everyone knows that Master Shi has to use his brain’s capacity when he comes in contact with runic symbols all year long. His brain filled up with too much information after a while, and it can no longer bear the burden of writing runic symbols.

“The last item he inscribed was Celestial Death, a broadsword. It was sold in an auction in the Supernatural Tower for the exorbitant price of 990,000 Supernatural Coins.

“Bloody Flame might not be like Celestial Death and not have all of Master Shi’s blood, sweat, and tears poured into it, but it’s still an exceptional weapon. Once it enters the enemy’s flesh, it can break their vitality magnetic field and absorb it as well as send it in endless streams into the user’s body.

“I can sense that it will be even more suitable to be bound to your chain compared to the shattered saber you were using earlier!”

Meng Chao swung Bloody Flame gently and sensed the layers of red ripples surging like waves. It contained a destructive power that did not fit to its size.

His Surging Lightnings were heavy cold weapons. After he processed them and turned them into chain sabers, while he could still control the saber in his right hand, he could not quite use the one in his left hand as agilely as he wanted.

He could use the Surging Lightning Flagship Model with his right hand to execute Demon Subduing Slash or other such ultimate moves that were powerful and fierce.

Meanwhile, if he attached the chain to Bloody Flame, he could use attack trajectories that were agile, strange, and unfathomable, and the blade could even suck blood from his enemies.

This would definitely have the one plus one is more than two effect!

Chapter 213: Big Sis Ya Offering Meng Chao to Join Her

Meng Chao knew that it was one of Lu Siya’s tricks to get him to join her, but he could not help taking Bloody Flame.

He made his decision.

To save millions of Dragon Citizens, even if she made outrageous requests, he would... just endure it.

“Thank you, Ms. Lu,” he said.

Lu Siya’s eyebrows curled up. “I don’t like my friends calling me Ms. Lu,” she said with the ghost of a smile.

Meng Chao hesitated for a moment, then said, “Thanks, Big Sis Ya.”

Lu Siya could see his hesitation, and with a chuckle, she went straight to the point. “What is it? Do you think that it’s impossible for us to become friends? Do you think that I’m unreasonable and will do

everything I can to get that Red Radiance Jade mine ahead of others, even trample on human lives like they're grass? Do you think I'm risking so many human lives for the mine?"

Meng Chao was slightly stunned.

He did not expect that she would be so straightforward.

And for some time, he did not know how he should reply.

"There's a saying that goes like this, 'Those who are merciful cannot command an army.' The success and failure of this trip does not just concern us. It also concerns the thousands of comrades who are currently fighting with their lives on the surface as well as the lives of the millions of people in Dragon City," Lu Siya said faintly.

"Of course, I can put on a merciful facade and feign petty kindness while we advance forward carefully to ensure that everyone doesn't lose a single hair and are grateful to me, but if we discover the Red Radiance Jade mine a second later, the resonance of the spirit energy ley line will last for another second longer.

"The fog, storms, lightning, spirit energy magnetic field interference and all the other extreme weather conditions on the surface will wreak havoc for another second. Then, the number of soldiers and comrades who will die tragically by the claws of monsters will number ten times, a hundred times, or even a thousand times more.

"If the northern offense continues to drag on until the harshest winter weather arrives, all our sacrifices will be in vain. That's why we have no other choice. We can only do everything we can to save ourselves and save the citizens!"

Meng Chao said nothing.

Lu Siya's words were decorated nicely, but they were not sincere. They could only trick stupid greenhorns.

He was someone who had seen what Dragon City was like after the northern offense failed.

And he had also carried out countless missions in which he would do anything to achieve his goals after he went through the training camp with the black skill and after Dragon City slaughtered its way out of Monster Mountain Range only to be engaged in an even more brutal war.

That was why Meng Chao said, "Big Sis Ya, I'm just like you. I want to find the Red Radiance Jade mine as soon as possible and win this damn war."

Lu Siya stared at Meng Chao and searched for any signs of contradicting emotions on his face, but she found nothing. So, she nodded in satisfaction.

"That's good, then. You're much smarter than I thought you were. Perhaps... you're even smarter than Lin Chuan."

A thought rose in Meng Chao's mind, and he could not help but ask, "Pardon me for the question, but Big Sis Ya, just what is going on with you and Big Brother Lin? I mean..."

He did not know how he could phrase this question in a suitable manner.

Lu Siya smiled in a faint manner and said generously, "We were once the best of friends. His father saved my father's life. We studied together at high school, and he even stayed in my house for a period of time. At that time, both of us thought that our friendship would last an eternity and would never change.

"Unfortunately, people grow up. Over the past few years, everyone has been busy with work and training, and we grew distant. My original intention was to use this mission to gather as old friends and improve our friendship, but I didn't expect that he wouldn't agree with my actions."

Meng Chao wanted to defend Lin Chuan, but Lu Siya waved her hand and interrupted him by saying, "Lin Chuan has never been happy with what I do. He thinks I'm too eager for rewards and will do anything to get them. This was especially the case when we were in university.

"After we parted ways, I entered Sky Pillar Corporation to work and faced all sorts of attacks and lethal traps. For the sake of survival, I had no other choice but to arm myself from head to toe and step on other people's shoulders and even heads to continue climbing upward!"

Meng Chao frowned and said, "But you're a lady of the Lu family."

"So what?" Lu Siya asked with a cold smile. "Sky Pillar Corporation might have been created by my grandfather, but over the years, the consolidation of resources and buying of other industries resulted in him bringing in other factions. The internal conflict in the corporation is incredibly intense, and the Lu family doesn't have the say in the corporation.

"Even in the Lu family, there are more than ten people with my status, and there are also uncles and aunts who long for power. They treat the outstanding ones in the third generation as thorns in their side.

"To the outsiders, children from powerful families like me are dressed in pretty clothes and live luxurious lives, but who knows about the dangers and pain I face when I walk on thin ice?"

"Lin Chuan doesn't understand me. That guy's personality is just like his nickname. Weeping Reaper... hah! He might seem like a ruthless person when he cuts monsters as easily as cutting vegetables, but I know him. He has a soft heart, and he's a very nostalgic person. His sympathy often starts acting up; otherwise, why would he cry while fighting?"

"By the way, what did that kind Weeping Reaper say about me? He must have said that I'm a witch and tried his best to stop you from joining this mission, right?"

Meng Chao was caught off guard and was rendered speechless for a time. He thought for a few seconds before he said, "No, Big Brother Lin said that you're a good person."

Lu Siya's beautiful eyes instantly widened. She was stunned for a long time before she laughed in spite of herself. "A good person? I've been his friend for so many years, and the only remark I have from him is that I'm a good person? Since I'm a good person, why did he refuse my offer to join Sky Pillar Corporation and help me so many times in the past?"

“He would rather live in the wild and stay among monsters than join Sky Pillar Corporation, where he could enjoy power and resources that other people would never be able to get their entire lives.”

Meng Chao could sense Lu Siya’s grudge.

He had a feeling that they could not continue on this topic, or it would really not be worth it if she destroyed his friendship with his idol.

Before he could say anything, though, Lu Siya changed the topic. “Forget it. We shouldn’t talk bad about him behind his back. Let’s talk about you. Meng Chao, have you ever thought about joining Sky Pillar Corporation?”

Meng Chao was stunned and said instinctively, “I’m just a freshman. I haven’t thought about such questions just yet.”

“Then think about it. You’re in the Other World, and you’ve awakened to supernatural abilities. Our brain cells are highly developed, and our memories as well as comprehension are ten times stronger than those of university students on Earth. We only need around a year to understand the knowledge they need four-six years to learn.

“So, the students in Dragon City, especially those who learn from the ace courses of the famous universities only stay in the university to learn during their freshman years. When they’re sophomores, they come in contact with the society extensively, and they carry out internships in major corporations, superhuman squads, the military, the police force, and other forces of power.

“Many of the incredibly talented people even sign contracts with various powerful forces right after they step into their respective universities and are cultivated with a predetermined direction, which allows them to enjoy much better cultivation resources than their coursemates can get.

“Besides, Dragon City is now moving to tactical offense, so the intensity of the war is going to increase. It’s the optimal time for ambitious youths to get achievements. Why should you stay in that ivory tower for four years? It’ll be a huge waste of your talent!

“I’ll get straight to the point, Meng Chao, did you think that I invited you to join this mission on a whim? No. I’ve admired your talents from the start, and I believe that you’re a talented person that can be molded. You could lend me a hand in Sky Pillar Corporation, so I wanted to test you during this mission.

“To my surprise, you performed even more exceptionally that I thought you would, so you’re truly worthy of me offering you a contract. I promise you, it’ll be a long term contract that you won’t be able to refuse.”

Lu Siya extended a hand to Meng Chao.

He put on an overwhelmed expression, but his thoughts were already racing in his mind.

Based on the memories from his past life, after the Monster War, Sky Pillar Corporation was around for a long time and had coattails that were worthy to be ridden on.

But Lu Siya seemed to be a person who wanted to be in control of everything.

And she did not have a position where her word carried weight in Sky Pillar Corporation. She also faced all sorts of obstacles from all directions.

At the very least, Meng Chao did not remember a woman called Lu Siya being among the higher ups in Sky Pillar Corporation after the Monster War.

Of course, with him as the butterfly flapping its wings, he might be able to change Lin Chuan's fate, and if both of them helped Lu Siya rise up the ranks, she might be able to hold great power in Sky Pillar Corporation, which would affect the political direction in Dragon City.

But he had to give this matter further thought and gain Lin Chuan's support.

Meng Chao did not want to face the ambitious, dominant, and dangerous woman on his own.

After deciding that, he said, "Thank you for thinking so highly of me, Big Sis Ya. I'll think about this carefully."

"Usually, when people say that they will think 'about this carefully', it means that they're refusing. Why?" Lu Siya stared deeply into Meng Chao's eyes. "You don't seem like those cultivation maniacs who do not care about what is going on in the world. I know that you're working on business projects with Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu and his son, as well as Yan Organization.

"Luo Wu has been pretty famous over the past few years, but he's just at the peak of Heaven Realm, while we have Deity Realm elites in Sky Pillar Corporation!

"Yan Organization's Ripple Force might be really popular, but the organization still lacks power. It is far from reaching the heights of Sky Pillar Corporation.

"I believe that someone as talented as you will only shine with your full brilliance if you join Sky Pillar Corporation. Then, you'll realize your dreams and won't waste your talents!"

"Big Sis Ya, I understand it. Sky Pillar Corporation is a mega force of power that is at the top of Dragon City. Many superhumans have been wreaking their brains for ways to join Sky Pillar Corporation, and I'm the same as them."

Meng Chao smiled and chose to push Lin Chuan forward as a shield. He believed that Lu Siya would understand his meaning if he did it like that. "But this is the first time I'm carrying out a mission, so I don't have a lot of experience. My tutor told me that I am to listen to Big Brother Lin's suggestion no matter what happens, so I want to ask for his opinion. Then, I'll also ask the opinion of my personal tutor."

Lu Siya's gaze turned colder with every word.

"Of course. I don't like to force people to do things," she said coolly. "Future stars who will shock the world like you have a lot of paths to choose from. Regardless of whether you accept my offer, we will still be friends. If anything happens, you can come to me. Don't feel burdened by it."

Meng Chao sighed in relief. "Thanks, Big Sis Ya. If there's nothing else, I'll go and rest. We have to hurry forward later, after all!"

Lu Siya nodded.

Meng Chao quickly unzipped the tent to get out.

“Wait.” Lu Siya suddenly called out to him. “Help me take this to Lin Chuan.”

She placed a red crystal emitting the temperature of a human body into Meng Chao’s palm.

“This is a Blood Jade Essence. It’s a very unique supreme-grade crystal. It can stimulate the activity in cells and promote the recovery of wounds. It can also automatically guide torn blood vessels to connect with each other, which will ensure that the healing will not affect the functions of nerves and tendons.

“Lin Chuan’s right arm was cut to bloody ribbons by the spider threads, right? Even though he’s currently a Heaven Realm elite and has great recovery abilities, we can’t be careless. If he reconnects the wrong blood vessels, it will affect the precise control he has over his fingers.

“Tell him to place this on his palm and circulate his spirit energy to heal. It’ll be better.”

Chapter 214: Stepping on Corpses to Move Forward

Meng Chao was beginning to think that Lu Siya and Lin Chuan’s relationship was really strange.

“Okay,” he said, and took the Blood Jade Essence.

“By the way, do you know how crystals are formed?” Lu Siya held onto his hand and refused to let go. She stared at him while saying, “The scientists from Earth have performed a lot of research on the Other World’s crystal mines, and they created all sorts of strange theories. One of the most popular ones is that crystals are the corpses of powerful and intelligent lifeforms from the ancient civilization that once ruled over the Other World.

“When the terrain changed through the course of billions of years, incredibly high heat and intensely high pressure refined and squashed them, which is how they condensed and slowly turned into crystals.

“If we look at this from a certain angle, crystals are the fossils left behind by those from the ancient civilization. When we mine crystals, we’re digging out the corpses of those from the ancient civilization. And when we find the Red Radiance Jade mine, we’ll have located the blood vessel of a huge giant from ancient times. The Blood Jade Essence in your hands is the bone marrow or heart blood of someone from the ancient civilization.

“It’s no wonder then why the resonance from crystals can affect a human’s vitality magnetic field and even cause our spirit energy to deviate, which makes us see all sorts of illusions and hear things. It’s because we’ve disturbed the spirits who have been sleeping here for billions of years, and we’re hearing the murmurs from ancient times!”

Meng Chao suddenly felt that the Blood Jade Essence in his palm was quite the trouble.

Lu Siya continued by saying, “Of course, there isn’t a lot of proof supporting this hypothesis. But the coal, petroleum, and natural gas on Earth were indeed created by the corpses of ancient beings as the terrain on Earth changed over the course of a long time. Earth’s civilization was built on the foundation of the coal and petroleum industry, and they rely on extracting the corpses of the ancient beings to obtain the power to continue pushing forward.

“Do you understand what I’m saying? The road human civilization steps on boldly has always been built by billions of corpses. It happened on Earth, and it’s the same in the Other World. Regardless of whether we’re stepping on our own corpses, the enemies’ corpses, the corpses of the ancient beings from billions of years ago, or the corpses of the people who are bound to be sacrificed in the future, we have to do it to move forward. Without sacrifice, there is no civilization.

“That’s why I don’t want you to adopt Lin Chuan’s petty kindness. You have to realize that you must step on other people’s corpses to move forward. Human civilization has always done this, and if we want to reach the top and become matchless among billions of people, we must do this!

“Tell this to Lin Chuan. I will pay three times the blood money to all the people who die in this mission, and I will buy twice the Red Radiance Jades that they should get to their families. But if we run into danger next time, I will still take the lead, and I will not stop until I reach my goal!”

Lu Siya flung away Meng Chao’s hand and zipped up the tent from the inside.

Meng Chao returned to his and Lin Chuan’s tent and handed the Blood Jade Essence to him. Then, he gave a simple account of Lu Siya’s words to Lin Chuan. Of course, the words he used were not as extreme as hers.

Lin Chuan held the Blood Jade Essence in his hands and inserted a bit of spirit energy into it. In an instant, blood red mist spilled out through the gaps between his fingers and circulated around his arm.

As the red light nourished him, his wounds started healing. Soon, a faint layer of scabs formed up.

Lin Chuan exhaled in comfort. He drank a high-calorie nutritional fluid made from superbeast blood, and blood returned to his face.

Perhaps it was because Meng Chao’s expression had been a little strange when he shared Lu Siya’s words, Lin Chuan had been staring at him for a long time. Suddenly, he frowned and asked, “Are you bewitched by that woman?”

“Of course not. How could I possibly be bewitched by a woman?!” Meng Chao denied stoutly.

Then he thought about it, and found that his words were a little ambiguous, and he added. “That’s not right. Of course I might be bewitched by women, but I won’t be enchanted by women like Ms. Lu...

“Ah, that’s not right either. She’s indeed a very charming woman, but I might fall for her type, but I will absolutely not fall for her— Anyway, she asked me to join Sky Pillar Corporation, and I refused.”

“Why?” Lin Chuan asked. “Working together with Sky Pillar Corporation is a chance that many superhumans dream of having, but can’t get.”

“Can I tell you the truth?”

“Of course!”

“Because I feel like you have a strange relationship with her. You might have gone through some cliché romance where you loved and hated each other, which got you deeply entangled with one another. Then, for some reason, you split up on bad terms, and since she can’t have you anymore, she thought about using me as your replacement.

"I'm a passionate youth with great ambitions, and for my ideals, I don't mind working less for twenty years, but you're involved in this, and you're my neighbor, senior brother, and idol. I can't destroy our relationship for one Ms. Lu. And women aren't as important as the brotherly relationship between real men, you know?"

"..." Lin Chuan sucked in a deep breath and said with a complicated expression, "You're overthinking things. Lu Siya and I are just friends. Besides, even if we really did have some other relationship, she would definitely not look for you to serve as my replacement."

"Why?"

Lin Chuan touched his incredibly handsome face.

"Oh, got it. Then, Big Brother Lin, do you suggest that I join Sky Pillar Corporation and become closer to Ms. Lu so that we can work on some projects?"

"That's your own path. No matter what you choose, I will support you. But I will give you this piece of advice: Your life is your own. You shouldn't work too hard for anyone else," Lin Chuan said.

"You fought against that undead creature to save Lu Siya just now, but it was far too dangerous. Even if it was to gain her favor so that you can realize your ambitions in Sky Pillar Corporation, there's no need for you to be so eager.

"By the way, have I ever told you about my father? And did I tell you how a poor boy like myself managed to get into the same high school as a lady like Lu Siya and even became her best friend?"

Meng Chao was a little taken aback, and he said, "Ms. Lu said that your father saved her father's life."

"Is that what she said? Heh, that's correct too, I suppose." A complicated light shone in Lin Chuan's eyes, and he said softly. "While my father was alive, he was a normal miner working in a mining company that belonged to Sky Pillar Corporation. He was not very educated and didn't have a lot of skills. The only good thing about him was that he was a diligent worker and quite strong.

"To take care of me and my four siblings, he stayed in the mines all year long and worked in the dark, humid places with lots of radiation and monsters lurking everywhere. Since he was constantly 'nourished' by the crystals, his arms became deformed and swelled up. They were even thicker than his thighs, and his strength improved. Gradually, he became the best miner in his group.

"At that time, Lu Siya's father had just come to the mining company under the corporation to manage the mining industry in the area my father worked.

"Even though he was part of the Lu family, the competition in the family is very fierce, and he had to have outstanding results to have the chance to take over the mining company and then usurp the person with the greatest power in Sky Pillar Corporation.

"Lu Siya's father was very talented, and he was a first-class mine explorer. He also had a lot of amazing ideas that improved the mining efficiency after he used those ideas to smooth out and modify the exploration and mining processes at that time.

“My father was his best grassroots miner, and he recognized his worth. But if he wanted to stand out among the dozens of mines in the mining company, it was not enough for him to just modify the procedures and rely on my father’s hard work. Those were nothing.

“Lu Siya’s father relied on his sharp intuition and discovered a new mine near one of the mining spots he managed. It was a crystal mine that might contain a lot of spirit energy, but was stuck between two mining spots.

“The person in charge of the other mining spot was one of Lu Siya’s father’s competitors in the corporation, but no one knew just which mine this winding crystal mine would eventually connect to.

“To prevent any accidents from happening, Lu Siya’s father did not report his findings to the higher ups of the corporation. Instead, he formed a mine exploration team on his own. He wanted to draw a full map of the crystal mine before doing anything else. Among the team members he brought with him was my father.”

Meng Chao was engrossed in the story.

He remembered that Lin Chuan had once mentioned that his father died in an accident when a mine collapsed. It should be this mine, then.

Just as he expected, Lin Chuan soon continued, “At that time, my father had already worked for a few months in the mining spot without coming back home once. It was my birthday soon, and we had promised that we would have a family gathering. He had even asked his workmate to buy a teddy bear made on Earth from a secondhand market. He intended to gift it to me.

“He really treasured that teddy bear after he bought it, and he was reluctant to part with it. He even stuffed it into his chest pocket when he went to explore the mines. He treated it as his talisman... or as a token from the family he was missing.

“But that talisman wasn’t very useful. They ran into a superbeast deep underground, and while they were fighting fiercely against it, the crystals resonated with them, and spirit energy surged forward. The mine collapsed, and their exit was blocked.

“In the end, all the normal miners and the low-grade mine explorers died. Only Lu Siya’s father escaped, and he brought with him the present my father intended to give to me.

“Based on the words he said during the press conference after the accident, during the final moments, he and my father supported each other while they searched for a way out.

“But while my father had deformed arms, he was still a normal human. He couldn’t handle the pressing of the walls, the friction of the stones on his skin, the hunger, and the torture of suffocation. He didn’t manage to last until the end.

“Lu Siya’s father couldn’t save my father, so he could only fulfill his final wish and bring that teddy bear out. A very touching story, isn’t it?

“As the young master of the powerful Lu family, while he faced the danger of the mine collapsing, he still remembered the present a normal miner wanted to give to his son on his birthday. The news spread

out, and Lu Siya's father instantly won the favor of a lot of citizens. Even Sky Pillar Corporation's reputation increased because of it.

"Even though the mine exploration team had been completely wiped out, they managed to complete their mission. They drew the layout of the mine, noted the crystals it had, their alignment, and the components of the crystals. They gained the right to mine it first.

"Because of this, Lu Siya's father was able to raise up the ranks in the corporation. He reached the position of the general superintendent in the mining company, and it was a blessing in disguise for him.

"But my father never came back. The only thing left of him was a teddy bear covered in ash. It didn't even have a single bit of fur left on it."

Chapter 215: No Humans

Meng Chao sank into deep thought.

He did not know whether his mind was playing tricks with him or whether he was affected by the powerful interference from the crystal mine to his spirit energy magnetic field, but he thought that Lin Chuan's vitality magnetic field was a little strange. Meng Chao felt that after they went underground, a strange light had started flowing in Lin Chuan's eyes.

The sharp glint vanished the next moment, and he said calmly, "Lu Siya's father did everything right when he settled my father's funeral. He called my father his best friend on many occasions and took care of my family's daily needs, but especially me, who received the birthday gift.

"After he discovered my talent, he did everything he could to train me and gave me the chance to study in a school for the rich. In fact, at the critical moment when he fought for the position of the general supervisor of the mining company, he even brought me to his house to stay with him for a while, which allowed me to become good friends with Lu Siya.

"Once I entered society, Lu Siya and her father continued helping me with everything they had. It's thanks to their support that I managed to become the Weeping Reaper of today.

"If all of it is just an act, then Lu Siya's father has really good acting skills, because it was practically perfect.

"Even so, all of that cannot replace a real, living, and breathing father. Can you understand how I feel?"

"The pain of losing my father is like a pot of wine left to brew underground. When you're a teenager, you can't taste it fully, but as you slowly grow up, that piercing pain occasionally rises in your mind, causing you to be unable to sleep at night and you end up filled with great disappointment.

"That's right. My father's death got us a lot of things. In fact, it completely changed my fate, and while he was alive, he couldn't be considered to have been a perfect father. Instead, he was rather ugly and constantly reeked of sweat. He even had a bad temper. He was very different compared to Lu Siya's elegant and wise father... but he was still my father!"

Meng Chao nodded. He remembered his own father.

Meng Yishan was a harvester, and sometimes, when he worked too hard and was tired, he would not even have the time to bathe before he came back home, so he smelled.

Besides, since they were poor, when things did not go well at work, his temper would also be pretty bad.

But he was still a mountain that could not go missing from Meng Chao's heart.

Even if he had awakened to superpowers now and could kill Nightmarish Beasts with his bare hands, when he smelled his father's scent, he still felt strangely at ease.

"While I was an ignorant teenager, I could ignore the difference in our status and play with Lu Siya, but people inevitably grow up and learn of the differences between them."

Lin Chuan's eyelids twitched, and he said with great difficulty, "This is especially so after I became a superhuman and gained experience in fighting in the wild as well as exploring the mines. When I looked back and carefully examined the mine exploration mission that killed my father, I noticed a lot of suspicious parts suggesting rashness due to an eagerness for glory.

"Perhaps, if Lu Siya's father had brought it up to the higher ups and sent a larger mine exploration team or chose a stabler path and method, the accident could have been prevented.

"I don't want to say that Lu Siya's father killed mine. After all, he led the exploration and also faced a threat to his own life. He did not force the people to join him either, but used great rewards to attract the miners and mine explorers to join him voluntarily. Everyone knew that the mission would be very dangerous. And since fate was already predestined, if they lost the gamble, so be it.

"What Lu Siya's father did can't be blamed on her, though. Even if her father's choices that year were flawed, it shouldn't affect my friendship with her.

"But humans aren't beings with absolute reason. Logically, I know that she is innocent. But when my emotions come into play, it's become hard for me to mingle around her as purely as in the past.

"Besides, whenever I see her, I am unable to avoid meeting her father, the man who might have caused my father's death, but took care of me and nurtured me.

"So I avoided her for a few years, but this time, she came to Graveyard Forest, the place where I usually fight. I could no longer avoid her, so I had to join her mine exploration team.

"I thought that we could repair our friendship a little during this mission, but I'm regretting it now, because when I see Lu Siya's methods and how she is ready to do anything regardless of the costs, I cannot help but pay attention to it. Did her father do the same thing that year while they were underground? Did he spur people like my father time and time again to look for the crystal mine, which resulted in everyone's deaths?"

Meng Chao saw that Lin Chuan was getting worked up and even started to grit his teeth. He looked completely different from the usual gentle and elegant Weeping Reaper, so Meng Chao put a hand on his shoulder and said, "Big Brother Lin, are you okay? Is the interference from the spirit energy magnetic field too strong? Your mental strength index is fluctuating. Do you want to enter deep meditation and rest for a while?"

"I'm fine." Lin Chuan sucked in a deep breath and calmed down. "Let me tell you something. It's a reminder to you as well. Your life belongs to you, but it also belongs to your family. If you want to be outstanding, you will naturally need to work hard, but you can only fight for yourself and your family. No one else is worth you risking your life.

"So, in the next stages of the mission, if you run into any danger, you must remember that the most important thing is to protect your own life. No one is worthy of you risking your life to save them in the team, regardless of whether it's Lu Siya, me, or the others. Otherwise, if you die and she completes the mission, all she will do is cry a few times at your grave after she obtains all the riches, glory, and strength. Is that meaningful?

"You can join Sky Pillar Corporation or any other mega corporation, but remember this: You have to fight only for yourself. You can sell your time, skills, wisdom, and even your dignity, but absolutely do not sell your life, understand?"

"Got it." After hearing that whole speech, though, he couldn't help but add, "Big Brother Lin, you seriously misunderstood me. I wasn't thinking about selling my life for Ms. Lu just now when I risked my life to save her.

"I didn't join this mine exploration mission for her either. I only want to fight with you so that we can end this war earlier.

"I'm the same as you. I don't admire the way Ms. Lu does things, and I refuse to believe in her promises and her honey-coated words, but I do believe that there is some truth in what she says. Locating the Red Radiance Jade mine is incredibly important if we want to win the northern offense, and she is a Spirit Sensor, so she cannot be replaced when it comes to locating the Red Radiance Jade mine. That's the reason why I decided to risk my life.

"I don't care about how ambitious Ms. Lu is, and I don't care how many benefits she can get from the Red Radiance Jade mine. I'm only concerned if she can end the extreme weather and the fog on the surface so that our steel army can rush into Shattered Starlake and Graveyard Forest, thereby helping us secure a smooth victory.

"It would be beneficial for Dragon City and human civilization. Isn't that something worthy of us doing everything we can to achieve?"

Lin Chuan stared at him for a long time.

Suddenly, he grinned and laughed soundlessly.

His laughter was very maniacal. He covered his hands with his face, and his shoulders trembled as if he was dancing a clumsy and strange dance.

Meng Chao frowned. "Did I say something wrong? Was it that funny?"

"No. I'm not laughing at you. I'm just laughing at my past self, because my original thoughts were the exact same as yours."

Lin Chuan finally had enough of laughing. He moved his palms away, revealing a tear-stricken face.

There was still a faint smile on his lips.

But his gaze was as cold and sharp as a blade.

However, he seemed to have come to some sort of decision.

He drew closer to Meng Chao, and with a stern face, he said clearly, "Listen, Meng Chao, if you really believe in Lu Siya's promise and fight, you can sell her your life for money, power, authority, or other resources. It might be stupid, but there is still a slight possibility that you will be able to get what you want.

"But you must absolutely not fight for your 'comrades, humans, and civilization'. It's better to sell your life to Lu Siya, any other human, or any specific benefit, but never for human civilization. This is the most sincere warning I can give you."

Meng Chao could not understand it, but chills crawled down his spine. "Why?"

Lin Chuan looked at him in an unfathomable manner. "Because there is no such thing as human civilization. In fact, there is no such thing as humans." Then, he stood up. "Come with me."

He brought Meng Chao out of the tent. They moved through the camp and came to a corner of the cave.

The spirit energy there was rich, and it nourished all sorts of pests as well as underground creatures.

The corner was close to the territory of the Stone Statue Fungi, which released a scent that humans could not decipher but which attracted pests and lured them into the trap.

When Lin Chuan gently moved a stone away, they could see a lot of squirming insects and vermin. They formed a small but specific ecosystem.

Lin Chuan asked Meng Chao to hold his breath and observe them quietly.

Most of the insects and vermin had never seen humans before, and they did not fear them. They could not even fathom what sort of existence they were.

They just continued hunting, eating, digesting, and reproducing.

Soon, Meng Chao saw a small insect eating moss while it squirmed about. Then, it was eaten by a monster in the shape of a praying mantis. This "praying mantis" was then gobbled up by a lizard-type monster, and that lizard-type monster was then eaten by a monster with flesh tumors growing on its head. A snake was attracted by the fragrance from the Stone Statue Fungus. It swayed about as it slithered to the Stone Statue Fungus troop—the hell made of liquid and sharp blades.

"Do you see those monsters?" Lin Chuan asked.

"Yeah." Meng Chao nodded.

Even though there was no sunlight underground, the crystal mine shone with a faint, fluorescent light that stimulated the superhumans' visual cells. They could see an incredibly dazzling world full of life.

Lin Chuan shook his head and said, "No, there are no monsters here."

Meng Chao was stunned for a moment. He thought that Lin Chuan was saying that these pests were too weak and were not fit for being known as monsters.

"I only see vermin, praying mantises, lizards, venomous snakes, spiders, and fungi. Tell me, where are the monsters?" Lin Chuan asked.

"Aren't they monsters?"

"Are they?" Lin Chuan smiled faintly. "If they're monsters but a mysterious power suddenly granted them human wisdom and the ability to communicate with each other, then, if this venomous snake told the lizard, 'Big Brother Lizard, we should fight to the death against human civilization for monster civilization.' What do you think the lizard who was just eaten by the venomous snake would think?"

"Let's say the venomous snake goes even further and says, 'Big Brother Lizard, for the great, holy, and noble monster civilization, all monsters should do their duty and offer up all their strength to fight for our civilization. So, you should jump into my mouth on your own and sacrifice yourself so that I can become stronger and kill more humans. We'll be doing this for millions of our monster brethren!'"

"Do you think the lizard would believe the snake?"

Chapter 216: Major Difference

Meng Chao stared at the lizard eating the insect in the crack. Then, he watched the snake eat the lizard.

His instincts screamed at him that Lin Chuan's logic was wrong, and his emotions were off as well.

But Lin Chuan looked as if he was severely affected by the crystal mine. His vitality magnetic field jumped about like a bewitching flame, and he answered the question himself.

"No, it won't. No matter how stupid this lizard is, it won't trust the snake's words. Vermin is vermin, lizards are lizards, snakes are snakes, Demonic Halberd Pigs are Demonic Halberd Pigs, and Crystalline Nine-headed Dragons are Crystalline Nine-headed Dragons. Each race has its own interests, and they treat each other as mortal enemies. There has never been an entity known as a monster!"

"To Demonic Halberd Pigs, humans are terrifying, but they might not be as terrifying as Crystalline Nine-headed Dragons. After all, millions of years before humans transmigrated to the Other World, the Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon had already eaten countless Demonic Halberd Pigs, and even if Demonic Halberd Pigs and Crystalline Nine-headed Dragons group together to form the so-called monster civilization and defeat humans together, eventually killing the last human, will the Demonic Halberd Pigs' fates change, and will the Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon not eat them because of it?"

"So, if you're a Demonic Halberd Pig and a Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon appears in front of you with a smile and invites you to contribute to monster civilization, you should definitely act fearlessly and without hesitation."

"But in your heart, you must understand that you're fighting against the humans right now because you don't want to be eaten by the Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon. You should fight for yourself, and at most, your kind. You should fight for the other Demonic Halberd Pigs, not the vermin, lizards, Iron-armored Rhinoceros, or the Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon. You must not fight for this 'monster civilization', because there is no such thing as monsters. Do you understand? There is no such thing as friggin' monsters!"

“Big Brother Lin, you can’t just compare monsters and humans together... They’re two fundamentally different things.” Meng Chao scratched his head. “Vermin, lizards, snakes, Demonic Halberd Pigs, and Crystalline Nine-headed Dragons have great differences between them, and they aren’t the same creatures, but we’re humans. We have the same appearance, share the same language, and can understand each other.

“Based on your logic, if I’m a Demonic Halberd Pig, then everyone in Dragon City is also a Demonic Halberd Pig. Shouldn’t we fight and walk together if that’s the case?”

“Is that really the case?” Lin Chuan asked coldly. “Do you really think that all the creatures known as humans in Dragon City are the same species?”

“Even the strongest and most fearsome leaders in Demonic Halberd Pig drove are simply known as Demonic Halberd Pig Kings. Their daily lives are similar to those of normal Demonic Halberd Pigs. I know that they enjoy living in the best nests in their drove, but it’s still just a swamp that’s slightly larger and prettier.

“What about the human world?”

“Some people live in broken down, old, and narrow apartments. Their houses aren’t that much larger than a rat’s nest. They sleep in bunk beds with three levels, and they have to squeeze in with four or five of their siblings. Every day, they have to smell spirit energy that stinks of garlic, and when they eat, they can hear their neighbors peeing or pooping.

“You should know this very well.

“Oh, but your family is better off. You only have a younger sister, so you can empty out some space in the living room to call your own and retain the most basic human dignity.

“But I had four siblings. We lived like this since we were young, and I have no idea how I managed to get through my childhood.

“And my family’s condition wasn’t the worst. Among the tens of millions of Dragon Citizens, there are millions who are still living in the slums in shacks. They don’t even have their own kitchens, toilets, and plumbing!”

“Big Brother Lin, that’s all because of monsters,” Meng Chao said, interrupting him. “The monsters are the ones who destroyed our beautiful homes, which left countless people homeless. The Survival Committee is already doing their best to solve this problem, but we don’t have enough resources, and we lack space. We need to get through these difficult times before we can improve our situation and solve the problem.”

Lin Chuan cackled. “Heh, we lack resources and space? Then why is it that when millions of people are staying in shacks, there are those who live in Dragon City No.1? And Dragon City No.1 isn’t even where the most luxurious mansions in Dragon City are! You can’t even imagine the mansions in which Deity Realm elites live!

“The nests of the Demonic Halberd Pig Kings are at most twice as large as the nests of normal Demonic Halberd Pigs. They might also place some of their prey’s bones inside as a decoration, but there’s no difference in their nature. So, they’re the same kind.

“But when it comes to humans, the living space of someone strong can be dozens of times larger than that of the weak. The price for it is also hundreds of times higher. How can they be considered the same kind?”

“I won’t talk about accommodation anymore. From food, clothes, accommodation, and transport, let’s talk about food now. What do the normal people in Dragon City eat? They eat luncheon meat that is made from monster organs and the meat of gigantified earthworms mashed together.

“But what do the powerful eat? Superbeast meat that has rich spirit energy. It can fill them with power and vigor. It can make them live longer, and it can even change the essence of their lives, allowing them to be far above normal people!”

“I didn’t even need to mention it, did I? You should know just how different is the food eaten by the rich and normal people. Let’s talk about the food we’ve been eating during this mission. The value of one set of the high-calorie meal that Lu Siya provides is already higher than the monthly food and beverage expenses of a normal family!”

“No matter how much a Demonic Halberd Pig King can eat, it’s impossible for it to eat ten times the food of a normal Demonic Halberd Pig. Their menu is not different in terms of its nature, so, they are still the same.

“When you eat instant noodles and luncheon meat, but can see other people enjoying good food in a luxurious hotel and know that you can only eat one of those meals if you spend half a year of your food and beverage expenses on it, can you really proudly say that you are the same as they are?”

Meng Chao could not say anything to that.

“Admit it. You don’t know what sort of lives the children from powerful families lead. They are destined to become superhumans and stand above other people since birth. You never even had the time to think about these questions.

“You only saw that they look similar to you and can speak the same language as you. And when rich ladies like Lu Siya lower themselves and come forward to recruit you by slapping your shoulder and saying that ‘we’re all friends’, you believe in her and think that you’re all the same.”

Lin Chuan narrowed his eyes, and veins popped up on his face. He gritted his teeth and said, “But I’m different. I’ve personally seen how the rich live daily, and I know very well that even if I can become friends with Lu Siya, I will never be the same as her.

“Did you know? That year, when Lu Siya’s father was fighting for the position of the general supervisor in the mining company, to create his character of someone who values his relationships, he deliberately brought me into his house on my birthday so that Lu Siya could celebrate my birthday with me.

“His house was at the top three floors of a luxurious apartment with more than thirty floors.

“For the first time, I learned that humans can have houses that are as luxurious as palaces. Even their nanny had a house larger than my entire family’s. They even had a borderless swimming pool built on the roof and a multi-purpose field. It could be used by their entire family of seven.

“I also saw a small swimming pool by the big swimming pool. I said that it’s a ‘small’ swimming pool, but it was twice as large as the kitchen and toilet combined in my house. Do you know what that small swimming pool was used for?”

Meng Chao shook his head and asked, “What was it for?”

A strange smile appeared once more on Lin Chuan’s face. “It was for the dog to swim. Lu Siya reared two biochemical hunting dogs that had been genetically modified. According to her, they had to swim every day to retain their mobility.

“By the way, those two biochemical hunting dogs daily got the two most tender tenderloins located at the back of Iron-armored Rhinoceroses. Before I arrived at the Lu family, no one in my family had ever eaten tenderloins of that grade. Not me, not my entire family, and not my ancestors.

“That was an incredibly perfect birthday party.

“All the people in the Lu family were high-class members of society. They were cultured and very polite.

“They put on the most sincere smiles when they surrounded me and treated me like I’m the main character. They asked me to blow the candles, cut the cake, and even hugged me gently. Then, they asked the reporters to take photos of me with the bald teddy bear.

“At that time, I didn’t think that there was anything strange about this. I was dazed and thought that I just had a good dream.

“But when I was sent back to Joyous Heavenly Garden by the Lu family’s elongated, luxurious car and got back home, I discovered what was strange about it.

“My youngest sister was curled up at a corner of the dining table while eating luncheon meat made of earthworms.

“Two of my older brothers argued nonstop because they couldn’t agree who should use the toilet first.

“I could hear heavy breathing and the sounds of someone knocking against the wall next door. But nothing could be done about it. The people who stayed in this sort of place were already used to this sort of life.

“And I couldn’t run, because the whole of Joyous Heavenly Garden was that way. Even if I escaped, my pores would still release an acidic and rancid smell left behind on me by low-grade crystals after they were activated.

“At that moment, when I watched my family eat earthworm meat and argue about who should use the toilet first while I listened to the disgusting sounds next door, I remembered what I saw a moment ago in the Lu family: Lu Siya placing her two biochemical hunting dogs into the swimming pool to play with water, her younger brother playing alone in a wide field, her mother lying beside the swimming pool while drinking a chilled beverage in the sun. At that moment, I felt a flash of lightning in my mind.

“For the first time, I began wondering about this question. Just what are humans? I believe that between Lu Siya and I, one of us is definitely not a human.

“If Lu Siya is not a human, then my family and I are definitely not humans. Instead, we are creatures who are even more lowly than her biochemical hunting dogs.

“If we are humans, then Lu Siya and her parents are definitely some sort of high-grade, super intelligent lifeforms. They’re gods or aliens, which is why they have the right to live a life that is practically a dream.

“Otherwise, I just couldn’t understand what I just saw. If we were all humans, why would our living environments be so different? Why would there be such a huge difference between us when compared to the difference between Demonic Halberd Pig Kings and normal Demonic Halberd Pigs?”

Chapter 217: Could not Understand His Thoughts

Meng Chao sighed softly.

Honestly, he understood Lin Chuan very well, and he did not think that his thoughts were extreme.

After all, in his previous life, he was set up by his rich class rep. His mother was injured badly, and his father was tricked by Shen Rongfa, the general manager of Prosperous Resource Recovery Company. He was also at the risk of losing his life, but the law did not protect them. When he could not reclaim his insurance money and the compensation money, his heart had been filled with darkness.

When his increasingly corrupted sister said that the law existed to protect the rich and the poor could only rely on themselves, he had actually agreed in his heart. He was certain that the poor and rich were two completely different beings.

However, when the apocalypse arrived and millions of lightning bolts crackled above Dragon City, the rich and the poor alike were reduced to ashes. It did not matter whether they were dozens of people squashed in a dark and humid shack or a luxurious mansion; it did not matter whether they could jump forward like kangaroos after they put on their 3D mobile gear or sat in elongated, luxurious cars; it did not matter whether they were powerless or were at Deity Realm. All of them died without a burial.

After returning to the past, all Meng Chao could think about was saving Dragon City and his family.

Naturally, there was something wrong with the inner structure of Dragon City, but it was only if he survived that he could change it slowly and solve the problem once and for all.

Perhaps it was because he had an empathizing look on his face because Lin Chuan smiled.

“I just knew that you would understand me. Our backgrounds and experiences are too similar. You and I are the same,” he said. “From that day on, a small seed took root in my mind, and it started growing slowly. While I stayed beside Lu Siya and her rich friends, I observed how the rich and noble children chosen by God lived. During that time, I tried to search for similarities between us. I wanted to prove that there is no difference between us, and we are all humans.

“But I couldn’t find them. Are we the same just because our appearances are similar?”

“But our appearances are different. At the very least, the clothes they were wearing are fighting suits made of superbeast leather and shells. We can’t afford to buy those. No one from Blessed Heavenly Garden and Joyous Heavenly Garden can buy them.

“Besides, every time after they finish training, they nourish themselves with secret medicine. They take supreme-grade gene medicine, use the most modern cultivation machines, enjoy the most scientific cultivation methods, and occasionally have peerless fighters personally teaching them.

“Spirit energy can promote the activity in cells and metabolism, so they grow tall, handsome, and beautiful. Their skin is fair, their vitality magnetic fields are crystalline, and they look as if they don’t belong to this world.

“But what about us?”

“My father had to take care of a family of six, and he worked hard in a dark and endless mine. He wanted to mine minerals and he practiced some martial arts, but he had never obtained any guidance from famous teachers or had modern tech to help him. He could only let the residue left from his super high metabolism to continue accumulating in his body, so his arms would become deformed and swollen up. In time, his arms became thicker than his thighs, and he... looked like a gorilla.

“When I was younger, whenever my father came home, the children in the neighborhood would imitate the way my father walks because of their immaturity, and I always fought them.

“But as my father’s arms became even more deformed, I could not help but mumble about it in my heart. If he continued training like this, how would he look? In the end, will he only have a brain left that is connected to two incredibly large arms?”

“Oh, even his brain was unnecessary, because when my father worked, he didn’t need to think. Thinking was Lu Siya’s father’s job. My father only needed to act according to instructions and mine.

“That was my father’s job, and the adults living in Blessed Heavenly Garden, Joyous Heavenly Garden, and the shacks did that as well in their various jobs. Due to the infection from the virus, the bites from the monsters, and the mutation of our genes, many of the Dragon Citizens were born with defects.

“Even so, they had to be tormented by all sorts of occupational diseases while they worked day and night. They couldn’t catch their breath all year long. Gradually, they turned into something that no longer resembled humans, but they didn’t look like monsters either.”

Meng Chao nodded.

The problem Lin Chuan mentioned did exist.

The Other World was an incredibly unstable world.

Since the spirit energy magnetic fields could affect the atomic electron shell and completely change the nature of a substance, it naturally meant that it could also break the genetic chain of carbon-based life, which resulted in all sorts of strange, mutated shapes.

This was something that happened to both humans and monsters. All of them had to face the problem of evolution and mutation.

Humans, though, attempted to control the direction of their evolution and mutation through cultivation.

The children from powerful families had a lot of cultivation resources as well as guidance from peerless elites to aid them, so they had a higher chance of controlling their mutation.

“If outer appearances are not the key that decides whether we are the same type of people, what about language? No matter how we look like, at the very least, we can still talk to each other, and that’s good, right?”

A strange smile rose on Lin Chuan’s face again. He shook his head slowly and said, “If that’s what you think, you’re gravely mistaken. When I was in the same school with Lu Siya, I noticed a very strange phenomenon. The rich children did not even look at the janitors and handymen in school.

“They sometimes ordered the handymen to do certain things and even politely said please and thank you to them, but there was no warmth in their eyes. They acted like this was the nature of the world and they were just inserting a bunch of code into a machine.

“As for the children of the janitors and handymen, they didn’t even have the right to enter the school, because it was designed for rich children. Sometimes, when they came over because they had some matters with their parents, they had to wait outside the fence.

“The rich children often never speak once to the children of the handymen, so even if they speak the same language, is there any meaning to it?

“If it’s not our outer appearances and language, could it be our genes? That would be even more hilarious if that’s the case. We live in an era where biochemical tech is used by the general public. Humans can easily use spirit energy to break the chains of their genes and put in brand new gene segments. Genes are no longer the key that decides the essence of a species.

“I get it, then, it’s our hearts, yes? Regardless of the differences in our appearances, genes, and standard of living, our hearts will still understand each other... But I don’t! Up to this day, I don’t understand why someone could deliberately build a swimming pool for their dogs to bathe nor why would they feed their dogs the best tenderloins!

“Even if I’ve earned a lot of money now and could dig a hole for a swimming pool, rear two dogs, use the best tenderloins to feed them until they are fat, then toss them into the swimming pools to digest the expensive rhinoceroses, I wouldn’t do that!

“Even if there comes a day when I reach Deity Realm and have money that I can never finish spending, I won’t understand those actions, and I don’t want to understand them either!”

His eyes shone fiercely, and he swung his arms viciously.

The wounds that had just been repaired tore open again.

“Big Brother Lin, your wounds reopened.” Meng Chao had tourniquets and bandages in the harvesting pack he brought with him. He quickly treated Lin Chuan.

“I’m sorry, I got too worked up.” Lin Chuan sucked in a deep breath and gradually calmed down.

“Honestly, there’s no need for me to say this. These words only paint me in an ugly light, and I sound like an ungrateful brat. I destroyed the perfect image of the Weeping Reaper, right?”

“Of course not.” Meng Chao smiled. “I think you’re even more of a real person right now. You have flesh and blood, and every person fighting to survive has definitely lived a tough life!”

“If you think that way, then I didn’t waste my breath. I just want you to understand within the shortest amount of time possible that school and society is different. In school, everyone enjoys cultivation resources that are more or less the same, and they are also bound by the same rules. The children of Demonic Halberd Pigs and Crystalline Nine-headed Dragons are about the same, but when you step into society, the difference is instantly clear.”

Then, with extreme seriousness, Lin Chuan used his bleeding right hand to hold Meng Chao’s hand tightly. “You must understand your status as soon as possible and find those of your kind. It’ll be good for you. Trust me, we’re the same kind of people. No matter what, I will absolutely not hurt you. I swear on my heart.”

Meng Chao narrowed his eyes and stared at Lin Chuan for a long time.

“I trust you, Big Brother Lin.” He nodded slowly.

“That’s good.” Lin Chuan smiled and stuffed the Blood Jade Essence into Meng Chao’s hands. He whispered, “I want you to have this. Put it away in a secretive spot. Don’t let Lu Siya know about it.”

Meng Chao cocked his eyebrows.

“I’m mostly healed now. The rest is just superficial wounds. They won’t bother me. Besides, I’m already in Heaven Realm. My healing abilities are better than yours. You need it more than I do,” Lin Chuan explained. “But this is something Lu Siya gave to me. If she knows that I gave it to you, it won’t be proper. That’s why, when you use it, try your best not to let her learn of it.”

“... Thanks, Big Brother Lin.” Meng Chao took the Blood Jade Essence and asked in a seemingly casual manner, “Do you think I’ll need to use it?”

Lin Chuan was stunned, then said quickly, “It’s better to be prepared. Who knows what sort of dangers we’ll run into later. Besides, even if we locate the Red Radiance Jade with ease, when we come back, we will still have to face that undead with the fungus on its back and Lion Dragon Fish!”

He massaged his temples and seemed to realize that he had said too many things that he should not have under the influence of the crystal mine’s spirit energy magnetic field. He turned around and left toward the camp.

“Wait, Big Brother Lin.” Meng Chao stared at his back and thought over his words before he said, “What you said just now makes great sense, and I thought about many things. Indeed, transmigration, the Other World, spirit energy, supernatural abilities, and these new creatures are all things that Earthlings have never encountered in their millions of years of history.

“Dragon City is a lone army here, and we transmigrated here, which caught us off guard. We faced an unknown world to us, and we fought against zombies, monsters around our city, and the death of order. Things haven’t been easy for us, and there definitely are some complications that we haven’t been able to deal with perfectly.

“There are plenty of things in Dragon City that we should work hard to change, but I think that there are two things that are still pretty good.

“First, you said that those rich families have a lot of resources and can live lavish lives. This is something I believe that the powerful have risked their lives to obtain with every slash and bullet they fired to contribute to society. They didn’t exactly seize it by force, right?”

“Let’s talk about the Lu family. Lu Siyaa’s grandfather is Lu Zhongqi, the creator of Sky Pillar Corporation. He was formerly the strongest mine explorer in Dragon City and discovered nearly one hundred spirit energy ley lines. He built a solid foundation for Dragon City’s crystal technology system, which is why the Lu family can enjoy their lavish lifestyle today.

“If Lu Siya’s father could become the general supervisor of the mining company, he must have some skills as well. It’s impossible for him to get it just because he values his relationships. After he mines and refines the crystals in the crystal mines he discovered, he always gifts them to schools, the military, and the other factions of power. He sent them to various superhumans and helped people like us to cultivate and protect civilization.

“The stronger you are, the more responsibility you have, but after you carry out those duties, you get more resources and enjoy an even better lifestyle. It doesn’t seem like much of a problem, does it?”

Chapter 218: We Will Bring Back the Beauty and Glory of Earth’s Civilization!

Lin Chuan swiftly turned his head around.

A cold anger burned in his eyes for a brief moment, but Meng Chao noticed it.

He felt that every time he mentioned Lu Siya’s father, Lin Chuan got especially worked up, as if he bore a deep animosity to him.

Why?

Could it be because he had escaped during the mine collapse that year and his father had unfortunately perished?

Meng Chao set aside this question for the time being and continued, “Let’s put ourselves in their shoes. If I fight against monsters and use my blood, sweat, and tears to earn riches so that I can buy a huge house that has 300 square meters in Dragon City No. 1 and stay in a luxurious apartment that is a few floors big, would I be living a corrupt life?”

“When I have children in the future, even if they are useless and have no ambition, do they have no right to inherit my legacy and continue staying in the mansion that I got through my blood, sweat, and tears?”

“If that’s really the case, it’s fair. But where would we gain our motivation to fight? Why should the powerful fight to the death against monsters for normal people?”

Lin Chuan sneered coldly. “Based on what you said, the children of the powerful are born with the right to inherit resources and power and become the new generation of elites, while the poor don’t have any hope in standing out. Is that it?”

“Of course not. The promotion in Dragon City is still very smooth, and everything can be decided by the tests, competitions, achievements, and various other marking systems. The rules are transparent and

fair, and all of us receive the same treatment. As long as we have the ability and are willing to fight, everyone has the chance to become outstanding!

“Both of us are examples of that. We were poor, but we relied on ourselves to change our fate!”

Lin Chuan could no longer hold back. He returned to Meng Chao’s side and gave him the ghost of a smile while staring at him.

“As to your first point, I won’t argue with you. In time, you’ll slowly discover just what the mega corporations and superhuman families who control Dragon City today have done during the chaotic era before the Survival Committee was built.

“But let’s talk about the second matter. The rules are transparent and fair, and the promotion channel is smooth, you say? Hah. If that was really the case, why is it that only a handful of children from Blessed Heavenly Garden and Joyous Heavenly Garden can become superhumans, and they’re all friggin’ broken-star superhumans?”

“Is it because the children in Blessed Heavenly Garden and Joyous Heavenly Garden are born with no talent and aren’t smart when compared to the rich children who are destined to become superhumans?”

“Well...”

Meng Chao found himself speechless for a moment.

“As for us, do you think that we really relied on our talent and efforts to stand above the others?” Lin Chuan gritted his teeth. “I was discovered by Lu Siya’s father because my father died, and he gave me a lot of resources. If my father didn’t use his life to get this chance, no matter how great my talent was and how hard I worked, I would have become a broken-star superhuman at best and would have never been able to reach Heaven Realm.

“As for you, Meng Chao, you fell from the seat of power when you were in the second year of high school. You only rose to power miraculously when you met the Old Fire Relayer.

“I believe that you know just what sort of person this Old Fire Relayer is better than I do. He’s a mega corporation with a lot of power and wealth. They discovered a brand new cultivation method that violates all sorts of morals, and since they did not dare to publicly bring it out to experiment on it, they used the Old Fire Relayer’s name to search for a lab rat in secret.

“You are a lab rat of a mega corporation! But you’re lucky, and the experiment was a success.

“That’s why the mega corporation continues to use the puppet that is the Old Fire Relayer to continue working with you. They pushed you high up on a pedestal and made you like me, a fictitious idol.

“But you and I both know very well just how dangerous these forbidden martial artists from the underground life science forums are. When one lab rat succeeds, how many other lab rats go through spirit energy deviation because their experiments failed?”

“The rich rely on technology, and the poor rely on luck. From a certain point of view, both of us were really lucky. It’s like we hacked a game. That’s why we stood out among the poor in Blessed Heavenly Garden and Joyous Heavenly Garden. Do you think our experiences have universal significance?”

Meng Chao could not retort. Even though Lin Chuan's guess regarding the Old Fire Relayer was wrong, he was right in one regard.

Meng Chao was indeed lucky.

Lin Chuan's gaze was intense. "Have you ever thought about how your future would be like if you hadn't been so lucky?"

Meng Chao's lips twitched.

He did not just imagine it. He had personally experienced it.

The moment he closed his eyes, he could remember the tragic life he had in his previous life.

"Alright," Meng Chao admitted. "It's like both of us cheated in a game. If we weren't lucky, we might have not been able to change our fate."

Lin Chuan smiled. "Meng Chao, do you know why I treat you like my bosom friend? It's because you have the courage to face your true self.

"In the past, I've run into other people who had fought their way out of the slums. I wanted to treat them like my own kind, but after talking to them, I realized that they don't believe that their success was based on luck and chance. They think that their good luck is their hard work.

"They won't admit that they are Demonic Halberd Pigs, or they believe that as long as they persist, they can turn into Crystalline Nine-headed Dragons as well. If you can't change, then it's just because you didn't work hard enough.

"Our thoughts weren't the same, so I chose to remain silent. I don't even want to talk to those who think that they can rely on their hard work to turn from a Demonic Halberd Pig to a Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon.

"Honestly, I can hypnotize myself just like they did and believe that I can climb up the ranks. Then, I could think of ways to solve the problems from the position of a Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon.

"After all, as a Heaven Realm elite and with the support from the Lu family, it wouldn't be difficult for me to build my own tiny superhuman family and get into the upper-class society. I could even kiss goodbye to everything in Joyous Heavenly Garden.

"But I just can't.

"I can't forget the things in Joyous Heavenly Garden, and I can't forget the Demonic Halberd Pigs who are still struggling in the swamp. I can't forget those who are the same kind as me.

"I know that you and I were lucky enough to find our blessings and climb up the ranks. But there are plenty of the poor who don't have blessings. What will be the future of our elementary school classmates and the children of those who were our classmates?

"If we fight and kill countless monsters, but the children of Demonic Halberd Pigs will forever remain as Demonic Halberd Pigs and have to struggle for eternity in the swamps, what's the meaning behind our cultivation and fights?

"I haven't found the answer yet.

"Perhaps this is why I seldom return to Dragon City and Joyous Heavenly Garden. Every time I do, the neighbors and children in Joyous Heavenly Garden surround me and call me a hero. They cheer me and treat me like an idol.

"I feel guilty about it. I don't think I can change their fates at all. In fact, I've cast them aside and betrayed them, so how can I possibly face their sincere smiles?

"Perhaps this is also why I fight and cry, because I think that I'm fighting an endless but ultimately meaningless battle. No matter how many monsters I kill, it's useless."

Lin Chuan's vitality magnetic field started trembling like a candle in the wind.

Meng Chao could sense the strong conflict and pain in his body.

"Big Brother Lin, please don't think that way. Our fight is definitely meaningful. Victory is not so far off in the distance that we can't see it. The current Dragon City might have a lot of problems, but at the end of the day, it all boils down to one problem: we don't have enough resources.

"As long as we conquer the Other World and obtain enough resources, we can solve all problems easily!"

"Can we?"

"Of course!" Meng Chao said firmly. "Think about half a century earlier. Before Dragon City transmigrated, we had all the resources on Earth. At that time, everyone lived and worked in peace. The difference between the rich and the poor wasn't as great as it is now. The salary of a corporation's CEO was not five times more than the salary of a janitor.

"Our positions in society were absolutely fair. Regardless if someone repaired the planet or repaired the toilets, all of them were respected. Their children could study in the same schools and play together without worry. Even when children took over their parents' jobs, they had bright futures ahead of them.

"At that time, normal people only needed to take up jobs that they could handle and they were able to enjoy living in wide and comfortable living spaces. Even if they had to work overtime occasionally, they could get a lot of overtime wages.

"During that era, the strong didn't have any special privileges. When someone powerful committed a crime, they were treated as a criminal, just like when a normal person commits a crime.

"While we were on Earth, humans didn't have to become deformed and ugly for the strenuous work they did.

"During those times, there naturally wasn't something as ridiculous as the powerful people's pets eating better food than normal people!

"In other words, at that time, when we had all the resources on Earth and did not have the bloody monsters bothering us, we could let everyone live satisfactory lives. Earth's civilization could shine at its brightest.

“After Dragon City transmigrated to the Other World, we found ourselves alone. We faced the threat of viruses, zombies, and monsters, and we lost most of our living space and resources. That’s why the normal people live such difficult lives. This is caused by monsters, not the powerful. And it’s not a problem of our civilization, do you understand?”

“Besides, we’re at a war. To motivate the powerful to kill, they were given the optimized allocation of resources, so the situation where the powerful get more resources occurred. This is something that cannot be avoided during war. We can’t ask for absolutely fair treatment between a general and a soldier, right? How can we win a war if that were the case?”

“I’m the same as you are. I can’t stand some of the chaos in the current Dragon City. That’s why we’re fighting so hard to defeat the monsters and to conquer the Other World. We wish to turn the Other World into a second Earth.”

“I believe that when the flames of Earth’s civilization light up in every corner of the Other World, all the problems will be solved, and the lives of the normal people will become better. Dragon City will become more prosperous, powerful, and fair. In the end, we will rebuild our past glory and bring back the beauty of our civilization. We won’t be divided into Demonic Halberd Pigs and Crystalline Nine-headed Dragons again. All of us will just be Earthlings!”

Meng Chao’s fervent words left Lin Chuan silent for a long time.

“Alright, you might be right. I might have gone off track with my thoughts.” Lin Chuan rubbed his face hard and exhaled heavily before he said, “Perhaps it’s because I have been staying in the depths of the wild for too long that I’ve gotten too tense. That’s why it’s easy for me to overthink things.”

“After your lecture, I feel much better. Thank you, Meng Chao.”

Chapter 219: A Showdown

When Meng Chao saw that Lin Chuan had relaxed and that his vitality magnetic field stabilized, he sighed in relief.

“We’re all on the same side. This is just a casual conversation, right?” Meng Chao said in a semi-joking manner. “Big Brother Lin, you might have really stayed in the wild for too long. You’re alone, and it’s really easy for you to think yourself into a dead end. You should go back home more often. We can look for our neighbors and elementary school homeroom teacher to have a gathering with them and relax.”

“Then, I’ll recommend you to Fengshui Medical Center so that you can go through a full body examination. I can even recommend a psychologist to talk to you— No, I mean, I’m not saying that there’s something wrong with your mind. But even if there was, it’d be normal. Everyone is stressed and has their own problems in this era, right?”

“I just think that you’ve been training, fighting, and doing the online promotions too hard. You’ve been working day in and day out, and your body and mind are too tense and tired. You should rest for some time.”

“You treat me like a brother, so please listen to me, okay?”

He thought that Lin Chuan would refuse his offer or avoid talking about it, but to his surprise, after being silent for a while, Lin Chuan nodded. "Alright. Since you're being so kind, I don't have a reason to reject it. But you have to promise me one thing."

"What is it?"

"Take care of yourself. Don't risk your life for Lu Siya or anyone else like you did just now, including me." Lin Chuan stared into Meng Chao's eyes and said, "Promise me that you'll protect your own life, and I'll promise you that once this mission ends, I will go back to Dragon City and visit our elementary school homeroom teacher and a psychologist. I will rest for as long as it is necessary."

Meng Chao smiled. "Alright. I know that you really care about me, after all."

"Duh. I know that you really care about me as well. After all, we're the same." Lin Chuan smiled as well. "Let's go. When we go back, we can enter deep meditation for three or four hours. It'll be enough for us to recover our spirit energy and stamina."

They headed to the camp.

At that moment, gunshots came from deep in the cave. The sound was deafening in the airtight space underground.

The pests around them were instantly shocked awake and fled helter-skelter.

Noise filled the camp.

Meng Chao and Lin Chuan looked at each other, and like lightning, they shot in the direction of the gunshots.

The cave was like a maze. They were surrounded by tunnels whose end could not be seen. There were also strange-looking stalagmites everywhere that resembled demons. They gave off a chilly and dangerous presence in the dark.

When Meng Chao jumped over a fold of rock, a black shadow suddenly shot in front of him.

He instinctively swung his chain saber, and sparks flew when his weapon clashed against the other party's saber.

Both sides kicked forward at the same time and hit the other's chests. Two thuds were heard, and both of them fell into the fold.

They relied on the light on their helmets to dazzle the other party's eyes. Then, they narrowed their eyes and threw a punch at each other. It was only when they pushed five meters away from each other that they saw each other's faces clearly.

"Qin Hu?"

Meng Chao was a little stunned.

He did not expect that he would run into someone familiar underground... No, it would be more accurate to say that he ran into an old enemy. It was Qin Hu, a veteran hunter and boss of Prosperous Resource Recovery Company.

In Meng Chao's previous life, Meng Yishan had ran into a tragic accident while harvesting a highly-risky monster carcass and did not obtain insurance money. In the end, he died, and the one who caused all of this might have been the general manager of Prosperous Resource Recovery Company, Shen Rongfa, but Shen Rongfa was Qin Hu's brother-in-law, and this boss still had to bear the responsibility of oversight.

Meng Chao was not fond of him in the slightest.

After he returned to the past, he seized the chance and unhesitantly struck Shen Rongfa and Qin Hu in the face. He even convinced his father to take away half of the skilled harvesters from Prosperous Resource Recovery Company and build Superstar to fight against Prosperous.

According to his father, Prosperous had not been having a good time after that.

Most of their skilled workers had left, and they did not manage to handle some of their deals in time, so they had to pay quite a lot of money for liquidated damages.

They wanted to hire another batch of people, but the northern offense started, and the Monster War grew in intensity, so skilled harvesters instantly became high in demand. When they heard that Prosperous did not provide good treatment and even did underhanded things in terms of their insurance, no one wanted to work for them.

Superstar might still be unable to fight against Prosperous, but with the support from Ning Shewo, Thunderbolt, and Yan Organization, they became an existence which could not be destroyed by Qin Hu as he pleased.

Their company constantly frolicked around in front of Prosperous, and sometimes, they even snatched some of Prosperous' deals. When Qin Hu saw that they were encroaching upon their work, he was angry, but he could not do anything about it.

When enemies met, they were filled with hostility, so upon recognizing Meng Chao, Qin Hu became so angry that his curled moustache straightened up. He hissed in exasperation. "I didn't expect it to be you, bastard..."

"I didn't expect to run into you here either, Mr. Hu." Meng Chao smiled and pretended as if he did not hear Qin Hu cursing him. He only asked curiously, "Huh? Wasn't Prosperous growing stronger every day after you kicked away the black sheep who ALSO happened to be MY dad? I thought you were getting busier?"

"Why aren't you in Prosperous and dealing with the business over there? Why are you so free as to come underground for an exploration? Oh, I remember now. General Manager Shen is very devoted to his job and is loyal to you. He will definitely make your company really prosperous, so you don't have to worry about it."

Qin Hu was so angry that he nearly fainted. His killing intent went pressing down on Meng Chao like roaring thunder.

Even when Meng Chao was still a normal human, he was not afraid of his murderous intent. After he awakened to supernatural powers, Qin Hu became even less of a threat.

Qin Hu was a three-star superhuman, which meant that he was at Spirit Gathering Realm and at the peak of Earth Realm. He could gather his spirit energy to refine his organs so they could crystalize. But when it came to his fighting strength, he was not that much stronger than a one-star superhuman.

Meng Chao had Surging Lightning in his right hand, and in his left, he had Bloody Flame. He had his chain sabers along with tens of thousands of contribution points with him. He could perform a full-body treatment at any moment he wanted and return to the peak of his condition, so even if he faced someone at the peak of Earth Realm, he would not be afraid.

Qin Hu's eyes were dark. He seemed to be deliberating the consequences of attacking Meng Chao.

The place was dark, and there were scarcely any people here. Spirit energy magnetic field interference was strong, and the urges lying deep in humans were magnified ten times.

But he could tell that Meng Chao's Bloody Flame was not something ordinary, because there was red light surrounding it as Meng Chao held it in his left hand.

His brief moment of hesitation gave Lin Chuan enough time to arrive above them, and he stared at Qin Hu coldly.

'A Heaven Realm fighter?'

Qin Hu's pupils shrank swiftly, and he snorted before he put his saber away. "You're lucky, bastard!" he hissed.

"Mr. Hu, if you call me a bastard one more time..." Meng Chao was still smiling as he spoke politely. "Then I swear to God that I will use every resource that I have to destroy Prosperous. It doesn't matter whether it will take five years, ten years, or twenty years, as long as I'm not dead, I will make sure that no one in Dragon City will ever hear of Prosperous again!"

Qin Hu could not help but shudder. And his own reaction angered him.

The sounds of fierce arguments came from the distance.

Qin Hu cast Meng Chao and Lin Chuan a few glances before he grit his teeth and jumped out of the fold so that he could head to his own camp.

Lin Chuan landed on a stone and frowned a little as he fell deep in thought. "Is that... Qin Hu of Frenzied Saber Squad?"

Meng Chao nodded.

Frenzied Saber Squad was a rather famous superhuman squad in the hunter circle. Qin Hu was a vice captain there, while their captain was a Heaven Realm elite.

Both of them hurried to gather with their mine exploration team and found Lu Siya stuck in a cold stalemate against a young man with triangular-shaped eyes. There was a crack between them.

Sharp Blade was behind Lu Siya.

And behind the young man with the triangular-shaped eyes was Frenzied Blade and a group of mine explorers.

Both sides had raging spirit flames. Ripples shot out as they crashed, and they looked like dark flames that could combust at any moment.

Lin Chuan said to Meng Chao in a whisper, "That is Shen Yulong from Universe Corporation. His status is about the same as that of Lu Siya. Both of them are outstanding members of the third generation in their families.

"We're high school mates. Shen Yulong and Lu Siya have been competing against each other since they were young. I didn't expect that they would end up as competitors again over here.

"Qin Hu's Frenzied Bladed should have accepted Shen Yulong's deal and beat us to this place. This is going to be hard."

After Meng Chao talked to the people from Sharp Blade, he learned that after they set up camp, they posted sentries and ran into sentries from Frenzied Blade. Since it was dark, neither side realized that the other party was human. They thought that they had run into monsters, which is why they fired. They also exchanged a few blows, which made the atmosphere incredibly tense. A battle was about to erupt.

Fortunately, they were only lightly injured, and no one was gravely wounded.

However, no one could tell just how things were going to develop next.

Shen Yulong grinned. "I was wondering about it just now. I've been feeling someone sneaking behind me, and I was thinking about whose ghost it could be. So, it's you, NINTH lady of the Lu family.

"Unfortunately, you came too late. Didn't you see the plate I erected outside? I'm the one who has the right to mine this place!"

Lu Siya was ranked at the ninth place in the ranking of the people in the third generation of the Lu family.

Since he called her the ninth lady of the Lu family, he was naturally mocking her for not being able to secure a powerful rank among those in the third generation.

"Enough with your tricks. You can take the scrap metal outside all you want. I have no interest in it. I just want the Red Radiance Jade mine."

A frosty look settled on Lu Siya's face. "FIFTH master of the Shen family, if you've already found the Red Radiance Jade mine, bring out concrete proof, and I will turn around and leave. I will not stop you from getting rich. Otherwise, no one knows just who will get the last laugh!"

Shen Yulong's smile turned vicious.

The hunters from Frenzied Blade did not hide their killing intent in the slightest.

In fact, two of the Heaven Realm elites used maglev to step into the air and look down.

Lu Siya snorted coldly, and Lu Fengying as well as Scimitar levitated at the same time to show off their power.

Lin Chuan flew behind Lu Siya and activated the red wings of his Undying Bird.

Upon recognizing Lin Chuan, Shen Yulong's expression changed.

"You even brought your loyal dog? Lu Siya, looks like you're determined to get the mine!" He spoke severely, but actually looked a little timid. "Then, we'll fight fair and square, and we'll rely on our skills to see who finds the mine!"

Killing intent flashed briefly in Lin Chuan's eyes, but he remained silent and did not move.

"Alright, we'll act based on the rules of mine explorers. Whoever doesn't find the Red Radiance Jade mine first will stand back on their own. This is a fair fight, and we will accept the loss if we do lose. We should avoid causing an irreparable misunderstanding between Sky Pillar Corporation and Universe Corporation."

As Lu Siya spoke, she brought Sharp Blade and her mine explorers away.

Shen Yulong flung his hand and brought Frenzied Blade and Universe Corporation's mine explorers into the darkness.

Qin Hu glared at Meng Chao fiercely from the darkness, then vanished

When they returned to their camp, Lu Siya asked Lin Chuan impatiently, "Did you see how many people they had at the peak of Earth Realm and Heaven Realm? If we run into the worst case scenario, can you get rid of them in one go?"

Chapter 220: Be Wary

Lin Chuan thought about it.

"Nie Kuang is the captain of Frenzied Blade, and he's famous for being ruthless in the hunting circle. It has been a few years since he reached Heaven Realm, so he should be very familiar with using maglev to fight.

"I also saw Li Xina behind Shen Yulong, and he's famous for being a gunslinger who acts alone. That guy is a ruthless person who can kill superbeasts with normal handguns. Even I would have a hard time running away if he targeted me. Thank goodness we're in the dark underground, and he will face certain limitations.

"Also, Shen Yulong himself is a fighting-class superhuman. Two years ago, he reached the peak of Earth Realm, and he is one of the outstanding ones in Universe Corporation. Naturally, he is supported by his family with a lot of cultivation resources. I can't tell whether he has reached Heaven Realm over the past two years.

"That guy has been really cunning since we were in school, and he might have been pretending to be scared just now. It's to make us lower our guard and underestimate his fighting power.

"It would be better to believe that our enemy is strong. If we face three Heaven Realm fighting-class superhumans, this fight will be difficult. There will be many variables, and I'm not confident in our victory."

“Even if they’re going to be difficult opponents, we still have to fight.” Lu Siya cast a glance at the people and gritted her teeth. “Everyone, you understand the situation now, right? This is no longer the problem of us getting rich or not. It’s a problem of whether we can get out of this place alive.

“Everyone, get ready for battle. Once we run into the enemy ambush, immediately counterattack without hesitation. If someone dies, I will bear the consequences. Even if we need to kill Shen Yulong, as long as we’re in the right, Sky Pillar Corporation will support us!”

Regardless of whether it was the hunters or mine explorers, they were used to this sort of situation. They nodded and checked their equipment with familiar ease. They then distributed their weapons.

Even Zhang Weiyan, who was a veteran mine explorer with graying hair, hid a dagger in his boot. He also grabbed a handgun from Scimitar’s hand and put it behind him.

Meng Chao was the only one who watched this with slack-jawed awe.

Lin Chuan went up to him and stuffed a large amount of gene medicine and high-calorie nutritional fluid into his hands. He whispered, “If we really end up fighting, don’t think about anything else. Just take care of your own life and run if you can!”

Meng Chao could not believe this. “Big Brother Lin, what’s going on? Are the mine explorers from Sky Pillar and Universe really going to fight against each other?”

“I can’t tell.” Lin Chuan shrugged. “You saw what happened just now. Do they look like they can happily hold hands and look for the mine together?”

“B-but...” Meng Chao stuttered. “We’re humans. The northern offense is raging right above our heads. We’re fighting against monsters. We’re at a critical juncture, so how can we start fighting among ourselves?”

“There you go again. Didn’t I tell you that there is no such thing as humans?” Lin Chuan whispered. “It doesn’t matter even if war is raging. Monsters might be fighting against humans, but that won’t stop a Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon from eating dozens of Demonic Halberd Pigs every day.”

Meng Chao found himself speechless.

“Listen, greenhorn. If you want to survive in this brutal world, set aside those thoughts. They only belong to students.”

Lin Chuan slapped Meng Chao’s shoulder and said earnestly, “I know that the university teaches you to be united, to work together, and that a common will is as strong as a fortress. They make it seem as if all humans are close family and that there is no conflict between you. Even if there really is, you can solve it by backing down and communicating sincerely.

“Yeah, while we’re in Dragon City and while spotlights, CCTVs, and everyone’s eyes are trained on us, that’s the case. When Lu Siya and Shen Yulong attend a charity dinner together, they can even chat and dance with each other!

“But we’re in the wild.

“There’s no spotlight here, no CCTVs, and there are no eyes watching us. No matter what happens, even if we kill another human and toss their corpse into an abyss or a bottomless pit, in less than twenty-four hours, the monsters and microorganisms will devour him or her clean. Not a single piece of their bone will be left. No one will ever know how they died.

“Do you think that everyone can remain the brightest face of humanity in this sort of situation?”

“I’m telling you, behind the fog is the depths of the wild. And over here, it’s not uncommon for superhumans to fight among themselves for crystal mines, high-grade superbeast materials, the interests of mega corporations, or settle conflicts between their families.

“Veteran mine explorers and hunters have all experienced it. At the very least, they’ve heard about it, and that’s why they prepared for it a long time ago.”

Meng Chao clenched his fists and said, “But—”

“But why haven’t you heard about it before, right?” Lin Chuan asked. “The Survival Committee will never tell the citizens about what happens in the wild. It would corrupt the bright image of superhumans and make everyone come to a swift realization that aside from the conflict between humans and monsters, there exists other conflicts.

“Of course, don’t worry about it, we’re logical. We will not take the initiative to attack Universe’s mine exploration team. But if they decide to kill us, we will have to defend ourselves. It won’t trample on your morals, right?”

Meng Chao thought about it. “Will they ambush us?”

“Who knows? Qin Hu from Frenzied Blade has a grudge against you, right? I could see the fierce look in his eyes when he left. It looked like he wanted to skin you alive. He might incite his employer to attack us,” Lin Chuan said. “You shouldn’t think about harming others, but you must be wary of others. We must be prepared for the worst, so we can protect ourselves.”

Meng Chao nodded with a solemn expression.

If they took the initiative to attack, he would definitely not sit around twiddling his thumbs.

Besides, based on the memory fragments from his previous life, there was a high possibility that the mine exploration would end in failure and Lin Chuan would die, which is why Dragon City would not hear of his name again.

If that were the case, the possibility of both sides fighting was very high.

Even if Meng Chao had a grudge against Qin Hu, he did not want to walk down the path of death where they crossed swords the moment they met each other.

After all, this did not just concern the safety of two mine exploration teams, but also the success and failure of the northern offense. It would also affect whether the countless destructive sparks would explode above Dragon City decades later.

Once he thought about it, Meng Chao asked, “Can’t we work together to explore the mine and share the right to mine the Red Radiance Jade mine?”

Lin Chuan threw a strange pitying glance at him as if he was staring at a naive child. "Let's not talk about whether the corporations behind the teams would be willing to do so nor the grudge between Lu Siya and Shen Yulong. Let's just focus on them hypothetically smiling and coming to an agreement. How can you promise that they won't be hiding knives behind their backs with the thought of making the other party lower their guard? Then, at the most critical moment stabbing the other in the heart?"

"After all, monsters live here, and spirit energy magnetic field interference is very strong. We're in the dark underground where danger is everywhere. It's really easy to kill one person or even a hundred. And it's just as easy to destroy their bodies and be rid of suspicion. Besides, the right to mine the Red Radiance Jade mine first is linked to an extravagant profit. It's enough to make even ancient eminent monks become greedy.

"Even if Lu Siya was willing to believe in Shen Yulong, Shen Yulong would not believe in Lu Siya.

"And since Lu Siya knows that Shen Yulong won't believe in her, how could she possibly believe in him?"

"But even if the leaders of both teams were willing to trust each other, what about the teammates? We have dozens of people on both sides, and if just one person starts getting evil thoughts, it'll be like a spark being ignited in a barrel of gunpowder. For example, let's say Qin Hu seizes the chance to kill you deep underground. It'll stir up a chain reaction, and with a boom, everyone will be killed by the explosion.

"Do you understand now? Once we get locked into this dead end where we suspect each other, we can only pray that we will stay far away from each other in our mine explorations. We can't run into each other again, and once one side discovers the Red Radiance Jade mine, they have to pray that the other side will retain absolute rationality and morals, that they will be willing to accept defeat and will leave on their own.

"Otherwise, only God will know just what will happen."

Meng Chao remained silent.

Lin Chuan sighed. "I told you before that I didn't want you to accept Lu Siya's invitation and join the mission. I even told you that you'd regret it."

"No, I don't regret it at all." Meng Chao shook his head slowly and said firmly, "Perhaps I know even better than you just how ugly humans can be, but no matter how ugly we can be, humans are humans. We will definitely think of a way to break free of being trapped in this darkness!"

Lin Chuan cast him a deep glance.

Meng Chao did not back down. He stared right back into Lin Chuan's eyes.

In the end, Lin Chuan was the first to look away. Without another word, he turned around and left.

Since something like this happened, it was only natural that the group could not continue resting.

Many people had just entered deep meditation, which was similar to REM sleep, but they were forcefully awakened, and it was a torture to their minds and bodies.

But everyone knew just how severe the situation was. Their competition was right in front of their faces, and whoever managed to find the Red Radiance Jade mine first would have the initiative in terms of morals, the law, and the right to defend themselves in a fight.

They had already lost so many of their people underground that they just could not accept going back empty-handed.

Soon, the group packed up and took their weapons in a reverse grip. Then, carefully, they seized every second that they had to continue their exploration.

With Lu Siya's guidance, they drew closer to their target.

Gradually, faults in the rock that had only occurred in the last month or two appeared around them.

The shattered underground folds created a 3D maze that was shattered by nature's ax and then put together in a mess.

There were certain parts where they had to use ropes and spiked shoes to climb cracks or cliffs. If they dropped, they would fall down a hundred meters.

There were certain places where they had to swim through swift subsurface streams.

Different crystal mines released spirit energy at different frequencies, which resulted in drastic changes in temperature. One cave was as hot as a steel refining furnace, and the next cave, the walls were covered in sharp icicles.

The switch between extreme cold and extreme heat affected the superhumans' vitality magnetic fields.

The powerful interference affected a humans' optical nerves and perception of space. Even the experienced mine explorers found themselves lost, and they started moving around like lost spirits.

Even with a superhuman's powerful physique, they could not handle such high-intensity torture, and all of them were near a mental breakdown.

But compared to the treacherous environment and the difficulty of their work, what made them the most wary was the shadows of Universe's mine exploration team occasionally popping up in their field of vision.