

Oh My God 251

Chapter 251: Even If We Die, We Have to Persevere!

Qin Hu sucked in a deep breath. Then, he snorted. He was so happy that he even made a bubble through his nose.

“I didn’t expect that even though I’m a middle-aged man, there would come a day when I would run into a legendary blessing!” He slapped his thigh with happiness.

“Don’t be too happy just yet. We have to seal up the hole and the other cracks on the wall,” Lu Siya said. “This wall isn’t too thick, and the rock is very weak. Otherwise, Meng Chao would not have been able to knock it down so quickly just now.

“Soon, the rampaging spirit energy will rush here. If it enters through the hole or knocks down a wall, it will crush us and we will still end up reduced to ashes.

“We have to use these Blue Origin Crystals to seal up the hole so that the Red Radiance Jades’ spirit energy will shine on us through a large amount of Blue Origin Crystals. Then, there will be a certain chance that it will turn into absorbable energy that will give us life!”

“I’ll do it!”

Meng Chao gritted his teeth and used his Surging Lightning as a crowbar to dig out the blue crystal clusters.

A few of the crystals let out cracking sounds and fell off.

Qin Hu and Lu Siya joined him in a flurry and they pushed the Blue Origin Crystals to the cracks in the walls.

Meng Chao repeated his actions and uprooted a few more Blue Origin Crystal clusters. The three of them worked together and gradually sealed up the main hole.

Lu Siya pressed her hand on the Blue Origin Crystals and mumbled under her breath. Spirit tattoos spread out on her forehead. The Blue Origin Crystals in front of her drew closer together and gathered into a crystal wall.

She swayed and coughed up blood.

“My spirit energy is already dried up,” she said with a pale face. “This crystal wall isn’t too sturdy. It has fine cracks. There’s still a possibility that the Red Radiance Jade’s spirit energy tsunami will knock it down.”

“Then what should we do?” Qin Hu asked anxiously.

“We have to hold it up.” Lu Siya turned around and used her thin back to push against the Blue Origin Crystals. “We hold it back like this!”

At that moment, they could see red light through the blue crystal wall. It was like an aquatic dragon baring its teeth while getting closer to them.

They could hear the sounds of a volcano eruption and waves crashing against rocks.

Their vitality magnetic fields stimulated their cells and let out pained screeches.

Meng Chao and Qin Hu moved forward quickly and imitated Lu Siya. They used their shoulders and backs to push against the Blue Origin Crystals.

“We’ll definitely survive!” Meng Chao motivated the other two.

‘In my previous life, Qin Hu was alone. He didn’t have any mine explorer helping him to strengthen the crystal wall, so at best, he could only stack the Blue Origin Crystals in the hole randomly, and he still managed to survive the invasion of the spirit energy tsunami. He even got a blessing from it and reached Heaven Realm.

‘Now, there are three of us, and we have a mine explorer who knows the structure of crystals, so there’s no way we would be reduced to ashes.’

But when he thought about it, it didn’t sound right.

The largest difference between this life and his previous life was that now, they were gravely injured, and their spirit energy had dried up.

Based on Qin Hu’s sleazy personality despite his boorish appearance, he had most likely never got into a conflict with Lin Chuan and the White Spirit, so he had escaped to this place while unharmed.

He was at the peak of Earth Realm and had monstrous strength. His physical body was like refined iron, so he could withstand the impact of the spirit energy tsunami. Even if a few wisps of spirit flames crawled in through the crack, he could grit his teeth and endure it.

After he withstood the battering of spirit flames, his body was refined into steel.

In their current situation, how could they possibly compete against the Qin Hu of Meng Chao’s previous life? After all, that man had been at the peak of Earth Realm and at the peak of his health.

As they were feeling uneasy, the volcano eruption and the raging wave outside turned into a shocking thunderous roar.

The tsunami formed by magma launched its final charge at them.

“It’s here!” Lu Siya said sternly. “We have to block it! Even if we die, we have to block it!”

“Don’t worry, Ms. Lu, for that 15% of profit from the first mining rights, I will definitely help you block it!” Qin Hu shouted with his eyes wide.

Boom!

Hidden within the Red Radiance Jades was a spirit energy tsunami that had been accumulating for billions of years. It surged at them through the winding underground crack and rammed heavily against the wall formed by Blue Origin Crystals.

The three humans were deafened by a thunderous roar.

But even if their ears could not hear for a moment, the impact wave seeped through the crystal wall and rammed against their cerebral cortexes, brains, bladder, and all the cells.

The shock was so great that they felt as if their heads had split up. Their hearts thundered, and they could not help but start peeing. Each of their cells started vibrating rapidly.

The millions of shades of red from the Red Radiance Jades and the millions of shades of blue from the Blue Origin Crystals intersected with each other, and it looked like a red army was fighting to the death with a blue army.

The red light was like blood as it seeped in. Soon, it occupied the entire Blue Origin Crystal cave.

When red was mixed with blue, it should turn into purple.

But natural crystal caves never only had one single type of crystal. There were always a lot of other crystals mixed in, and among them were small bits of rare crystals.

The resonance of Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals caused these crystals to vibrate, and the small cave filled with red, orange, yellow, green, indigo, blue, and purple lights. It was like a rainbow-colored ocean.

The different shades of light shone on the group. Then, through their pores, they even permeated into their skin. They charged into them eagerly and illuminated their organs, blood, bones, and every single one of their cells. It occasionally gave them a comfortable feeling, as if they were wrapped up in a warm blanket, but at other times, they felt like their skin was cracking. Their blood boiled, and their bones were about to be burnt dry.

Sometimes, they could not even breathe, because their lungs shrank to the size of two very small ping pong balls, and sometimes, they felt like countless strange underground gases had seeped into their chests through their noses and their lungs were about to burst.

"I... can't block it anymore!"

With a scream, Qin Hu was sent flying when the impact wave formed by the spirit energy tsunami of the Red Radiance Jades crashed into him through the crystal wall.

Craaaaack!

With one less person pushing holding it, the crystal wall cracked in a dozen places. The spirit energy from the Red Radiance Jades crawled in through the cracks like the tongues of flame monsters and licked at Meng Chao and Lu Siya's spines.

Lu Siya grunted and fell on the ground limply.

More cracks appeared on the crystal wall. Hundreds of spirit flames crawled in through the cracks and tore at Meng Chao's body.

Qin Hu and Lu Siya's eyes were filled with despair.

They could already see Meng Chao being sent flying and the crystal wall collapsing the next second. Then, the spirit energy tsunami would turn the small cave into a furnace that would burn everything inside.

But...

'Initial Stage Healing Skill, exchange!

'Intermediate Stage Healing Skill, exchange!

'Initial Stage Healing Skill, exchange!'

Meng Chao was shouting madly in his mind.

The contribution points he had been accumulating for months were all exchanged for the mysterious and powerful self-regeneration abilities.

Whenever the spirit energy tsunami left a tear in the depths of his cell, new flesh pounced on the tear, just like a warrior who would sacrifice themselves to block a dam when a flood was about to charge through the cracks in it.

The biggest obstacle when it came to using contribution points to repair the body was in the usage of energy.

If Meng Chao did not eat enough high-calorie food and did not have enough energy but forced his body to repair itself, he would end up starving to death.

But now, he was receiving an endless supply of energy from the Red Radiance Jades, Blue Origin Crystals, and the slight amounts of other crystals.

The unstoppable spirit flames continued destroying his body, but as Kindling exchanged his contribution points for healing, they became the source his body used to renew itself.

All his blood vessels, bones, organs, nerve bundles, and spirit meridians were repeatedly damaged and regenerated. They were refined until they were improving from their essence itself.

"He... can actually block it?"

Qin Hu and Lu Siya looked at Meng Chao in disbelief.

They saw how the rampaging spirit energy shot through the blue crystal wall and rammed against his spine and organs, but he still blocked it alone and did not fall. He persevered while holding back the invasion of the wave.

The seven-colored light that was mainly made of red and blue shone on him, enveloped him, permeated into his skin, and nourished him. Meng Chao's body gradually gained a crystalline quality, as if he was about to fuse with the crystal wall behind him and become one with the crystal mine and the spirit energy tsunami.

"This is..."

His 1,024 branch meridians could be seen clearly under the semi-transparent state of his skin.

After the energy of the Red Radiance Jades was neutralized by the Blue Origin Crystals, it became much more stable and started circulating through the 1,024 branch meridians, which gave his organs, bones, and muscle fibers a crystalized effect.

“His branch meridians have become really thick after the spirit energy that’s formed by the resonance of the Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals circulated in him. They’re now as thick as a normal superhuman’s main meridians!”

Qin Hu and Lu Siya looked at each other, and they could see the shock in each other’s eyes.

It was well known that superhumans had 108 main meridians and 1,024 branch meridians.

Cultivation theories of the past believed that the volume runoff and strength of the branch meridians could never reach even one-tenth of the main meridians. When spirit energy circulated through the branch meridians, it could only do so slowly, so the branch meridians were used for support-class work. It was very difficult to use them for battle.

The stimulation from the Ultimate Style could increase the volume runoff and strength of branch meridians by more than 100%, which meant the practitioners could use branch meridians in battle, but it was very difficult for them to use branch meridians to create spirit energy magnetic fields and release ultimate moves that could plow through everything in their wake.

But the current volume runoff and strength of Meng Chao’s branch meridians seemed to be twice as strong as before, and that was based on the basis that he practiced the Ultimate Style. They now had one-third of the main meridians’s strength, or even more.

His branch meridians were at least one-third or half as strong as main meridians.

But he had nearly ten times more branch meridians than main meridians.

Besides, as his branch meridians were strengthened, the dozens of main meridians in his body also received incredibly great stimulation.

In fact, a dragon meridian that went through his body from his spine received the most severe impact and the greatest refinement because Meng Chao used his spine to block the crystal wall. It was gradually awakened and started shining, which made him look like a huge dragon who had gained enlightenment in hell and slaughtered his way back to the human world!

“Some of his spirit meridians are showing a crystalized quality, so he can take in even stronger spirit energy, which will allow him to circulate his spirit energy at even higher speeds and even nourish his organs. This will allow part of his organs to go through superhuman changes. This is the sign of a two-star superhuman at Spirit Transformation Realm!”

Qin Hu felt his skin crawl. He could not believe his own eyes. “This brat awakened a few months ago in the practical test of the national college exam as a mere one-star superhuman. He was even a broken-star superhuman whose main meridians had shrivelled up.

“Only a few months passed since then, and he managed to become a two-star superhuman?”

Chapter 252: A Blessing in Disguise

The Spirit Transformation Realm was only the second grade among the nine grades of the superhuman cultivation system and could only be considered to be the middle stage of Earth Realm, so it was only average. But in the superhuman circle, if they were to use a rather professional phrase to describe this realm, it would be “a village mayor was still a government officer even if his rank is low.”

Superhumans were found only one in a hundred, so one-star superhumans or even broken-star superhumans were very rare.

And there were plenty of people who were stuck at Spirit Tattoo Realm even after they had cultivated for four years in their university.

If anyone could reach two stars soon after their awakening, it meant that they had the potential to continue growing.

Once they entered society, if they were two-star superhumans, they would definitely be referred to as elites.

And when it came to corporations, they would definitely be able to get the position of project managers.

In the military, it would be very easy for them to get a position of a platoon commander.

Qin Hu had spent five years to become a two-star superhuman.

And how long did Meng Chao take? Five months?

“He’s not a normal two-star superhuman,” Lu Siya said with a solemn expression. “I’ve never seen a monster like him before!”

Qin Hu looked in the direction of her gaze and saw Meng Chao’s body shining with flowing light. His spirit tattoos looked as if they were alive as they traveled through his body. They enveloped and nourished his organs, and he instantly understood what she meant.

Usually, after a superhuman awakened to supernatural abilities, unless it was absolutely necessary, it was impossible for them to clear all 108 main meridians and 1,024 branch meridians.

It was just like how it was impossible for top-class martial artists on Earth to learn all the martial arts on Earth.

There were further specializations within every field, and the time, energy, and resources they had did not allow the superhumans to develop in all areas.

Even if the rich children had been bathing in superbeast blood since young, ate a lot of valuable resources, and were incredibly talented, just like Sun Ya of Agricultural University’s martial arts course, they still faced limitations, even if they cleared nearly one hundred main meridians.

Most of the superhumans had enough main meridians cleared once they cleared sixty main meridians.

During the process of moving from a one-star superhuman to a two-star superhuman, a superhuman used spirit energy to repeatedly refine around ten of the most important and commonly used main

meridians among the dozens they had cleared. Then, once they were crystallized, their volume runoff and strength would continue increasing.

During the process of moving from a two-star superhuman to a three-star superhuman, the superhuman used the ten crystalized spirit meridians to strengthen certain organs. It could be the heart, spleen, lungs, kidneys, some bones, muscles, and nerves. Those organs would then gradually gain the crystallized quality and turn into something that was semi-energy, semi-material.

Once they reached Heaven Realm, their vitality magnetic field would become stronger. Then, they could use the strengthened organs to target certain parts in the brain and activate all sorts of amazing divine abilities.

This was a scientific cultivation method that humans had figured out after decades of research. It was considered to be the traditional cultivation method since it was stable and had a high chance of success.

Even those who reached Deity Realm were not omnipotent. They placed emphasis on certain things, such as certain organs, certain sulci, and certain regions in the brain to strengthen. It was impossible for them to be invincible in all areas.

There were quite a number of life science scientists who had imagined a superhuman perfecting each realm before advancing forward to the next.

When they were one-star superhumans, they cleared all 108 main meridians and 1,024 branch meridians.

When they were two-star superhumans, they crystallized all their spirit meridians and turned them into the incredibly powerful crystal meridians.

When they were three-star superhumans, they turned all their organs, muscles, bones, blood vessels, and nerves into something that gave off the partial presence of pure energy.

If they continued like that and reached Deity Realm, how strong would they be?

In the end, however, they came up with the conclusion that it was impossible.

Even if they poured all the cultivation resources in the Other World and Dragon City on one superhuman with extraordinary talent, it would be impossible for such a thing to happen.

They lacked one resource that they could not lack—time.

Time treated everyone fairly.

Even if a person had extraordinary talent, was born with a silver spoon, was loved and supported by powerful families, they would only have twenty-four hours a day and would not have an extra second more or less than a poor person.

No one could obtain twice the time.

And no one could live twice.

No one could reach absolute perfection either.

But in Lu Siya and Qin Hu's eyes, at that moment, Meng Chao was closer to perfection than any other superhuman they had ever seen.

Or perhaps it was because they did not have a lot of knowledge of the world and had never heard of any peerless elite in Dragon City who were able to shine with such radiance while they were one-star superhumans or two-star superhumans and ran into an accident like Meng Chao.

Both of them had complicated emotions in their hearts.

Suddenly, Meng Chao grunted and took half a step forward.

One spirit flame instantly crept into the small cave from the crack behind him.

The temperature in the cave immediately climbed up by at least five degrees Celsius.

It was only then that the two realized just what terrifying power Meng Chao was currently blocking.

"We have to go back!" Lu Siya moved forward. "We have to help Meng Chao!"

"There's... There's no need for that, right?" Qin Hu said hesitantly. "He's being really brave. He can withstand the spirit energy tsunami alone. I really can't handle it. I'm weak..."

"Nonsense!" Lu Siya glared at him. "If I die here, don't even think about getting a single penny! If he dies, it's the same!"

Qin Hu slapped his thigh and gritted his teeth. He crawled to his feet, and with his powerful arms, he helped Meng Chao support the swaying crystal wall. "Stop talking about money. Money is only for bastards. I only care about the code of brotherhood!"

An unknown amount of time passed with them working together.

The spirit energy tsunami from the Red Radiance Jades did not just wreck havoc in the small cave.

It also crept up hundreds of cracks and went to Raging Waves. It shot into the air like a volcano eruption.

Countless superhumans who were either cultivating or fighting fiercely in Raging Waves, Graveyard Forest, and Shattered Starlake saw the unbelievable sight.

Thousands of red pillars of light shot into the sky, illuminating the cloud-covered sky until it gave off a crystalline shade of red.

Then, the red light scattered and turned into various shades of incredibly bright lights.

Immediately after, a brilliant, warm, and rich rain of light poured down.

The specks of light danced in the air like swan feathers and snowflakes. They were like spring rain that nourished the earth silently. They rained on the mountains, the plants, the lake, and the humans and other living beings generously. It treated all of them as equals.

All the humans and monsters could sense their vitality magnetic fields getting stronger. It was as if flames had burst forth from the deepest parts of their cells, mitochondria, and genetic chain.

Humans and monsters were all exposed to the rain.

The difference between them was that the humans had a scientific cultivation method and could adjust their vitality magnetic fields to resonate with the spirit energy released from the crystal mine deep underground. Then, they could absorb the ancient power that came from billions of years ago into their bodies and refine it.

The monsters could only use their instincts to absorb the spirit energy passively. The benefits they gained were less than one-tenth of what the humans gained.

But the Apocalyptic Beasts had some cultivation and ways to evolve.

However, before they could make use of them, they were located by the Deity Realm elites from Dragon City.

Raging Waves burned with spirit flames, and it was their battlefield. A final fight at a scale never seen before.

Meng Chao had a nightmare. It seemed like an illusion, but also felt like reality.

The nightmare was very long. It was so long that he thought that he was living through a completely different life.

But the thunderous roars from beyond the nightmare reminded him time and again not to get lost in the depths of his nightmare.

When he woke up, he was stunned for a total of three minutes. Then, he realized just what mission he was currently carrying out and where he currently was.

The world in front of him had become completely different.

He remembered that before he fainted, he was in a natural mine.

And now, while the Blue Origin Crystals still looked the same, they had lost their lustre and turned into dull and brittle normal rocks. With a touch, they would shatter and crumble.

‘This mine is dead.’ A strange thought rose in Meng Chao’s mind. ‘It fought against the spirit energy tsunami from the Red Radiance Jades, and the fierce resonance caused them to release all their energy, so they were drained and died. As for the spirit energy that they released...’

Meng Chao widened his eyes and looked at Lu Siya, who levitated in the middle of the cave with light surrounding her. She looked brilliant.

At that moment, she was no longer covered in wounds and was no longer drained of spirit energy. She no longer looked pathetic.

She had regained the domineering air she had when Meng Chao first saw her, and her ambition could be seen clearly in her eyes.

Meng Chao felt that Lin Chuan’s death and the experience from their mission had allowed her to break free of some sort of shackle. She now wore a brand new armor covered in spikes and became even more aggressive than before. She was like a drawn sword.

Lu Siya levitated in the air and carefully observed the tattoos on her palms.

Then, she made a light snap.

Dozens of sharp spikes immediately shot out of the walls in the cave. They rose and fell like the teeth of a zombie.

Immediately, the fangs intersected with each other to turn into a brand new stone snake that was even fiercer than before.

The stone snake slithered swiftly over the wall like a living creature.

Occasionally, it disappeared into the wall. Then, it would reappear in another spot to snap its jaws at a target that did not exist.

At the same time, two pits full of spikes appeared on the ground.

'When Lu Siya summons those stone snakes in a fight, she could use two pits full of spikes to lock down the enemy's legs or make them have nowhere to stand.

'What a diabolical, ruthless method that can catch people off guard!'

Qin Hu sat in a corner in a state of deep meditation. Even though he did not shine as brilliantly as Lu Siya, Meng Chao could vaguely feel that his body was stuffed with a lot of spirit energy, since it spilled out of every pore. He was like a statue carved from a crystal, and his spirit energy was so high that he broke through Earth Realm.

"We survived!" Meng Chao had managed to live through the disaster, and he was delighted. "Big Sis Ya is right, when the Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals crash into each other, they cause waves and resonate with each other, which turned this place into a super cultivation room. Both of you have become so much stronger!"

His words made Lu Siya stop testing her Spike Art.

Qin Hu also snapped out of deep meditation.

Both of them stared at Meng Chao with a very strange look.

It was the type of look poor-performing students would give to an ace student when a test's results were announced and the ace student came over to say, "Whoa, both of you did really well. You improved a lot!"

Chapter 253: The Nightmare Shattered

"Brat, how do you feel?" Qin Hu hesitated for a moment before he added, "I feel..."

Meng Chao cradled his head and endured the pain. It felt like a volcano had erupted in it.

The nightmare a moment ago appeared before his eyes again.

The fragments of the nightmare stuffed his eyes, which made them shine with a fierce light. He gave off a completely different air.

He was no longer an eighteen-year-old, hot-blooded youth, but a burning skeleton which had crawled out of hell.

Qin Hu and Lu Siya sucked in a sharp breath and retreated to the deepest part of the cave in spite of themselves.

"I feel like I had a nightmare." Meng Chao had a dazed look on his face. His lips twitched, and he said in a grave voice, "In my nightmare, the northern offense failed because of various reasons, and Dragon City's first large-scale expansion ran into a wall.

"All the resources that had been poured into the northern offense were lost, and we couldn't organize a second offense within a short period of time. Dragon City descended into a vortex where it did not have enough living space and resources. This resulted in the conflicts that had been brewing among us for decades to explode.

"To obtain more resources for the city with a population of tens of millions to continue its operations, the superhumans had to go into the fog to hunt more often, and they had to fight in an environment where the weather was extreme and space and time were distorted. Normal people and the Red Dragon Army could not help them much, so the superhumans could only rely on their individual strength.

"To increase their individual strength, the city had to pour a vast amount of resources into them.

"But the more resources the superhumans obtained, the fewer were received by the normal people.

"And as the superhumans continued improving and evolving through the fights, they gradually learned divine abilities that allowed them to transcend and even destroy the world. Their strength, power, and wealth took another step beyond the normal people. The differentiation between the powerful and the weak in Dragon City grew to the point where it could tear apart our entire civilization.

"In time, many superhumans became arrogant. They believed that they were the ones defending Dragon City and civilization when they fought in the fog, while normal people were just trash, a burden, and pitiful insects who could only tremble behind them for protection.

"Normal people might have been grateful for the superhumans' contribution, but they grew increasingly displeased with the superhumans' aggressive and superior attitude. Being protected but not being able to do anything to help did not feel good, and the people did not want to forever rely on the mercy and charitable acts from the superhumans to survive. But the point was that they could not see an end to this life.

"At some point, we won against the monsters. But a rift that could not be crossed had already opened up within our civilization. Superhumans and normal people had turned into two completely different existences. They had different interests and ways of living. The definition of 'us' and 'civilization' were completely different between the two groups.

"Dragon City, at that time, seemed to be flourishing and burning with power. We appeared to be winning and advancing boldly. We could still motivate our people by saying that we are doing this for Earth, and while stimulated by the thought of snatching loot, we could maintain the face of unity.

"But in truth, the people had already divided themselves a long time ago. Once we ran into truly powerful enemies, the war machine that seemed to be indestructible and operated with loud rumbling sounds started crumbling from within until the day of its ruin arrived."

Meng Chao's expression terrified Lu Siya and Qin Hu.

But the next moment, two sparks lit up in his eyes. He clenched his fists and growled, "But that's just a damn nightmare! I will definitely shatter this nightmare!"

Boom!

Dozens of spirit tattoos appeared on his arms. As a thunderous roar rose, he punched the ground and left a deep crack. It crushed countless dim crystal clusters and traveled forward until it reached Lu Siya and Qin Hu's feet.

Even if most of the spirit energy contained in the Blue Origin Crystals had been drained dry, his force was still terrifying.

Lu Siya and Qin Hu gulped.

Both of them had the same question pop up in their heads at the same time.

His spirit energy ripple was really strong. Was it really something a mere two-star superhuman could create?

Meng Chao's punch allowed him to vent the fighting will burning in his heart. It also allowed him to regain some clarity of mind.

'Oh, no,' he thought.

He had absorbed too much of the rampaging spirit energy and his cultivation base had increased by leaps and bounds, which instantly unlocked many memories from his previous life. For some time, the emotions and thoughts from his previous life enveloped him, and he lost control over himself.

One of the people in front of him was ambitious and longed for power. She would use every method at her disposal to achieve her goal.

The other was selfish. He acted according to the situation and never sided with anyone.

When faced with the threat of death, the three of them worked together.

But now, the main danger had passed, and their relationship had become delicate. It would be better if he did not let them know too many of his secrets and his real strength.

After thinking about this, Meng Chao circulated his spirit energy in secret and forced out a mouthful of blood from his throat. At the same time, he made his face turn pale and swayed his body a little.

He fell on the ground and cried out, "It hurts! It hurts! My head hurts! I think the rampaging spirit energy from the Red Radiance Jades was too strong and I'm suffering from really bad internal injuries. I-I've always been a broken-star superhuman. Now, my injuries have worsened, and I'm going to become useless..."

Lu Siya and Qin Hu looked at each other.

"Brat, we saw it just now. The spirit energy moved slowly into your organs through all 1,024 branch meridians and your organs were all refined. You've already become a two-star superhuman. Why are you still putting up an act?!" Qin Hu spat in anger.

“And you’re not a normal superhuman in Spirit Transformation Realm either,” Lu Siya said airily. “You have hundreds of branch meridians, more than ten main meridians, and a crystalized dragon meridian going through your spine. I’ve never heard of such a strange phenomenon before.

“Your fighting strength right now is probably higher than that of any ordinary two-star superhuman. There’s no way that you would suffer from a rebound so bad that you would cough up blood after a simple punch.”

Meng Chao got up while feeling slightly awkward. He found it too shameful to continue coughing up blood, so he could only scratch his head and say, “There isn’t?”

“Duh. Do you think we’re blind or dumb?” Qin Hu said angrily. “When the spirit energy tsunami rushed inside and the Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals resonated with each other, you absorbed at least 70% of that spirit energy, brat.

“Damn it, your body is practically like a blackhole. It just kept sucking in spirit energy. There were a few times when we thought you were going to explode and die, but you just kept sucking away. You only left 30% for us to enjoy.

“With just these scraps, Ms. Lu was able to become a fighting-class and supporting-class superhuman who is at Heaven Realm, and my spirit meridians were stuffed full as well. I haven’t cleared them yet, but once I do, I’ll be able to beat up Hell Beasts with one punch.

“We became so much stronger from the scraps, while you took the biggest slice of the pie and didn’t end up dead from it. So you’re definitely so strong that everyone will want to beat you up! Why are you still pretending to be weak?!”

Meng Chao was speechless for a moment. “You can say anything you want, and you can cause a ruckus as well, but please be civilized when you speak. I wasn’t pretending to be weak. I was just... being humble.”

“Humble, my foot,” Qin Hu said firmly. “Ever since elementary school, I hated ace students who like pretending to be humble. If it weren’t for my spirit meridians being blocked and my strength still exhausted, I would definitely beat you up until I cripple you!”

Meng Chao found himself feeling resigned.

When he recalled what had happened, he realized that it was really dangerous.

The spirit energy tsunami had ravaged his body and mind more than a hundred times.

The tens of thousands of contribution points he had accumulated after so much effort should have been gone long ago, so how?

Meng Chao blinked. He could vaguely remember that when his body was about to be crushed, Kindling shone at the corner of his eyes and a lot of notifications popped up.

The ending of the northern offense had changed!

With Lin Chuan working together with them, the explosion from the Red Radiance Jade mine was not as strong as it had been in Meng Chao's previous life. The spirit energy tsunami that rose up did not turn into a spirit energy magnetic field storm that could destroy the world, either!

The numerous superhumans who were fighting fiercely in Raging Waves, Graveyard Forest, and Shattered Starlake all survived!

Hence, he managed to get an astronomical amount of contribution points. He exchanged them all for healing, and with the super healing skill fighting the rampaging spirit flames, his body was refined to the point that he became a new man and was born anew!

"Big Brother Lin, you did it! We did it!" Meng Chao mumbled.

Even though he could not be certain whether the victory of the northern offense would mean that Dragon City would no longer head to ruin, at the very least, he could now sit down and catch a breath before he went down a brand new path.

While thinking about this, Meng Chao looked at Lu Siya and Qin Hu.

These two people's fates had also been changed completely by him and Lin Chuan.

Lu Siya did not die tragically underground. This ambitious woman, instead, gained a brand new ability and "weapon".

Qin Hu no longer had a reason to turn into that dark, ruthless, and lonely avenger who spent the rest of his life and energy on chasing the White Spirit, even though he could never kill it.

Now, what sort of ripples or storms could these two brand new "butterflies" bring to Dragon City?

Meng Chao had a thought, and he said hesitantly, "I know that everyone's stances, interests, personalities, and thoughts are slightly different. When we were underground, I had to say certain things that... weren't a reflection of what I really think. It was to fight against a powerful enemy.

"But since we met, it's fate. We managed to escape death together, and we gained a blessing in disguise, which can even be considered a miracle. There's no longer a need to hold any hostility toward each other and suspect as well as be wary of each other, right? We should be able to face each other honestly and carry out Big Brother Lin's dying wish. What do you think?"

"Makes sense. A person should be sincere. There's no need for us to keep lying to each other. So, we should start with you," Qin Hu's gaze burned intensely. "Let's not talk about anything else, but focus on how you knew that there was a Blue Origin Crystal cave here and that it could help us avoid the disaster. We even encountered a miracle because of it."

Meng Chao was slightly stunned. He shook his head and said, "I didn't know that there was a Blue Origin Crystal cave here!"

"You didn't know? Then why did you drag us over here? You even said that it had a perfect S-shaped curve! Did you think you were lying to elementary school kids?!"

Meng Chao scratched his head. "Um..."

Qin Hu sneered. "Go on. Keep lying!"

"It's fine. Everyone has their own secrets," Lu Siya said. "There are plenty of times when blood has to be spilled once a secret is revealed. I've seen too much blood over the past few days and don't wish to see us shedding our own blood.

"Of course we should be honest with each other, but we have to deal with the aftermath of this incident and get rid of the problems so that we can maximize our interests. We'll talk about the other stuff later!"

Chapter 254: Three Small Holes

"That's right!" Qin Hu's eyes lit up, and he said, "Even though we're the ones who discovered the Red Radiance Jade mine first, we were pressed for time and couldn't complete the exploration, so we didn't set up landmarks. Even if we did, everything, including all the living would have been engulfed by the spirit energy tsunami, which would have reduced them to ashes.

"This matter concerns the competition between Sky Pillar Corporation and Universe Corporation. Other mining companies might want to profit from this too. If we end up with an internal conflict, it'll be very difficult to ensure that we'll get the first mining rights.

"Also, the White Spirit's carcass has a lot of research value. It is a monster who evolved on its own and learned to speak to humans. It's a rare creature, and if we sell it to the monster research center, one of the universities, or some rich mega corporation, we will definitely be able to earn a lot of money.

"These two things are our greatest sources of profit. As for the other secrets, it's fine even if we don't figure them out. I'm an adult, and I do know the logic behind 'the more you know, the sooner you die.'"

Meng Chao agreed with her words.

If they researched the White Spirit's carcass in depth, it would help them uncover the secret behind the Supernatural Entities.

It was the most important thing.

Once he thought of this, his expression changed, and he cried out, "No! The White Spirit's carcass!"

While fleeing, they had to climb through a winding crack, and naturally, they could not care about the White Spirit's carcass knocking against the walls.

Once they rushed into the Blue Origin Crystal cave, the three of them could only push against the crystal wall arduously while fending off the resonance from two waves of spirit energy and the impact. They did not have time to care about keeping the White Spirit's carcass in good condition.

And monster carcasses were things that rotted and went bad really easily.

Under the impact of the spirit energy tsunami, it was hard to say what it was like anymore and whether it still had any research value.

Meng Chao quickly headed to a corner where they kept their items.

The White Spirit's carcass had yet to rot away, but it had been torn apart and was already starting to become soft. A faint stench came from it.

It was unlikely that it would last through a difficult trek that would take from six to twelve hours, then survive the journey on the surface.

Meng Chao did not have any stabilizing solution or liquified condenser which he could use to slow down its decay either.

"There's no other choice. I have to dissect it and categorize all of its organs. I'll have to save as much of it as possible." Meng Chao looked to Lu Siya for approval.

She was the recruiter and sponsor of the mine exploration team.

And he was one of the mine explorers she hired.

Based on the rules in the field, since Lu Siya had hired him with a lot of money, the right to make the decision was always in her hands for everything that they obtained in the mission.

Besides, if they did not consider when the Blood Flower had turned the White Spirit into an undead, while the Blood Spirit was still a White Spirit, it was killed by Lu Siya's Spike Art.

Since she killed it, the game was hers.

If they had worked together to hunt a creature, the person with the higher cultivation real, the one who put more effort into the fight, and the one who landed the final hit would naturally get the larger share.

This was the rule that had been adhered to over decades in the field, and it was very fair.

Meng Chao might not like Lu Siya's ambitious and domineering nature, but he did not want to break the rules.

Besides, he could not win against Lu Siya. For the time being, at least.

"Alright, I believe in your skills," Lu Siya agreed to it readily.

If he did not look at her nature of using every method at her disposal to achieve her goal, she was actually not very difficult to get along with.

After the accident underground and how Lin Chuan had sacrificed himself like a true hero, whenever she looked into the eyes of the junior who often chatted away into the night with Lin Chuan, she would find that there was another spark in Meng Chao's eyes.

Meng Chao asked Qin Hu for two Shooting Star Blades.

The throwing knives were as thin as a cicada's wings. They were made of a material which was both tough and soft, which was one of the reasons they were considered to be top-quality lancet knives. When Meng Chao cut into the monster's carcass, he felt pleasure all over his body. It was as if he was swinging his brush.

In truth, there was not much of the White Spirit's carcass left.

Its upper body had been blasted to bits by the self-destruct gun, and its organs had spilled out when the spike pierced its abdomen. Aside from the Blood Flower bacterial flora, it only had half a thorax, its hind legs, and its three bald tails.

Meng Chao thought about the dozens of diagrams of canine-type monsters in his head, especially those of the Illusion Wolves.

With smooth motions, he harvested the legs and tails before he went to handle the remaining half of the spine.

The swollen bump of nerves that the White Spirit used to control minds was located at the coccyx, and it was the most important part.

The moment Meng Chao cut into it with the Shooting Star Blades, he heard a plop, and a foul, bloody stench flowed into the air.

No matter how gentle and precise Meng Chao's movements were, the swollen bundle of nerves at the White Spirit's coccyx still turned into sticky pus.

"Damn it!" Meng Chao could not help but curse. "It has been too long, and its second brain has already rotted away."

"Ah..." Qin Hu was incredibly disappointed. "Then, we won't be able to sell this for a lot of money, right?"

"There's nothing we can do about it. After all, we've been pressing on for a day and night here," Lu Siya said. "The brain has always been the monster organ that rots and goes bad the easiest. It's already all thanks to the Life Stone that it still looks like this."

Meng Chao shook his head.

Lu Siya and Qin Hu would never know just how valuable this future Supernatural Entity was.

But now that things had progressed to this state, it was impossible for him to bring it back from the dead. He could only continue with his task and scrape away the rotted pieces of flesh and extract the parts that could still be brought out.

Suddenly, he froze up like a statue.

He narrowed his eyes, and his fingers trembled. A Shooting Star Blade cut his finger, and a drop of blood fell out.

"Meng Chao?" Lu Siya and Qin Hu were a little taken aback.

They knew about Meng Chao's skills. Even though he was new in the field, his harvesting skills were definitely as great as his fighting skills.

Unless he had gone through some kind of great shock, it was impossible for him to make this sort of beginner-level mistake.

Both of them observed him and saw that he was extracting the White Spirit's broken spine.

After Meng Chao processed it, a small dot of different color compared to the rest of the bone around it appeared. It was located three vertebrae above the tail.

“What is this?” Qin Hu asked curiously. “Is it a pattern on its bone?”

“... It’s a hole.” Meng Chao shut his eyes and used his fingertips to rub it for a long time. Then, he mumbled, “It’s three holes, actually. They should have been made when the White Spirit was a cub. A long, narrow thing that is like a needle was planted in it and only taken out after a long time had passed. So, even though the bone grew well, it’s slightly different from the ones around it.”

Lu Siya and Qin Hu required half a minute to understand what Meng Chao said.

“Why are there three holes on the White Spirit’s spine?” Qin Hu asked in disbelief. “Was it born this way?”

“Based on what I know, it’s impossible for natural holes to form on the spines of the Illusion Wolves, or rather, on all animals with vertebrates. No monster is able to form such fine holes on their spines either. Whoever did it didn’t harm nor cripple it,” Meng Chao said. “You need advanced technology and equipment for this.”

Qin Hu thought about it for a long time. “Are you saying that someone made these holes? Why?”

“In the monster controller and biochemical courses in Agricultural University, if we want to make unique biochemical beasts, we might implant chips into their spinal nerves or inject medicine into them,” Meng Chao said. “If we inject medicine into a biochemical beast’s spine for a long period of time, we can stimulate their spinal nerves to grow faster.

“Since it’s impossible for us to inject it once every day, we drill a hole into the spine and use special equipment to drip the concoction inside. Once the modification is complete, the equipment is taken out, and bone cell growth serum is injected inside so that the wound will recover. This is something very common.”

“What?!” Qin Hu was shocked. “The White Spirit was modified by Lin Chuan?”

After giving it some thought, Meng Chao said, “Not possible. Big Brother Lin might have come from Agricultural University, but he’s from the martial arts course. He should not have come into contact with such technology and equipment. Besides, when he got to know the White Spirit, he had already graduated, so it’d have been impossible for him to bring the White Spirit back to Agricultural University.

“The equipment in Agricultural University isn’t advanced enough to make monsters gain wisdom, anyway. Besides, Big Brother Lin told us basically everything, so I don’t think he would have hidden something like this.

“If the White Spirit was really modified before, it was before it met Big Brother Lin. It didn’t use its mental channels to tell Big Brother Lin about this, either; otherwise, Big Brother Lin would have said it.

“Once I combine all that I’ve said with my analysis of its spine, I can conclude that it was modified when it was very young. It’s likely that the White Spirit itself didn’t even know or remember it.”

Qin Hu scratched his head. “Then, someone did it?”

“Take note, I didn’t say that a ‘person’ did it. I only said that based on the current information about monsters that we have, even Apocalyptic Beasts don’t have such precise surgical abilities.”

Qin Hu frowned and said, “Isn’t that the same? Aside from Earthlings, monsters are the only living creatures in the Other World. Oh, I heard that there are humanoid creatures who eat raw flesh and drink blood. I think they’re mutated ape-shaped monsters, not ‘humans’. Who else could have done it?”

“I don’t know.” Meng Chao shook his head slowly. “The only thing I am certain of is that there are three small holes on the White Spirit’s coccyx, and its wisdom might not have come about naturally. It didn’t get it by eating other monsters’ brains either. When you think about it, it gained wisdom like this actually makes more sense.”

“Oh well, it’s not important.” Qin Hu punched the ground and said excitedly, “What’s important is that now, it can sell for a lot of money, right?”

Meng Chao found himself absolutely speechless.

Lu Siya said, “It might sell for a lot of money, but there’s also a possibility that we will be dragged into an even bigger storm. Looks like regardless of whether we like each other or not, we’re going to be bound together.”

Meng Chao fell silent.

He knew that the White Spirit was a future Supernatural Entity and was much more clear about just how mysterious and dangerous the storm they were about to get dragged into was.

It was one of the Nine Great Supernatural Entities, who were peerless existences that did not make any scientific sense. Just how did they come to be?

“Thank goodness all three of us survived. Looks like Meng Chao is right. When the three of us are together, we are indeed ridiculously lucky.” Lu Siya stared at Meng Chao with an intense gaze.

“Let’s go. Since this dangerous situation has not killed us, I believe that no matter what sort of storm or typhoon we face, it won’t stop us from advancing forward. Now, it’s time for us to return to the surface and face a brand new future!”

Chapter 255: Seeing the Sun Once More

They climbed for a total of three days and three nights up the winding crack.

Since the spirit energy tsunami had torn through a lot of walls and made a lot of them collapse, the alignment of the underground cracks changed, and the escape paths that Qin Hu had recorded in the beginning were useless.

Fortunately, Lu Siya had been baptized by the Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals. Her sensitivity to the fine changes in spirit energy had increased multiple times. She could also change the atomic structure of the stones and turn indestructible stone walls into fine sand. With this method, she increased the size of the cracks and cleared out tunnels for them.

Besides, wherever the spirit energy tsunami passed, the originally coarse, sharp and angular stones had all been melted to the point where they were as smooth and round as glass. If the group just squeezed their bodies through the cracks, they could easily move through.

Like that, they gradually got closer to the surface. The air that surged into their nostrils became fresher.

The faint light above their heads grew stronger until it occupied their entire field of vision. The three people who were used to long periods of darkness felt a piercing pain in their eyes.

When they were about to escape from the underground, they felt complicated emotions well up in their hearts. They felt as if they were wanderers who had just returned home.

Even if Meng Chao knew that he had changed a lot of things through the increase in his contribution points, he still felt a little uneasy.

Was the wave they stirred up enough to cause a storm that could change the world?

Would the Apocalyptic Beasts and Deity Realm elites still end up badly injured? Would it affect the countless middle-grade and low-grade superhumans? Would the area around Raging Waves end up in a mess, and they would temporarily lose the chance to develop and use the area?

Just what sort of effect of the Red Radiance Jades continuously releasing spirit energy? Would it be like what Lu Siya had mentioned? Would it turn into energy that could nourish spirit meridians and stimulate their genes? Would the middle-grade and low-grade superhumans seize this rare chance to cultivate madly and fight as much as they could?

“Meng Chao, we’ll pull you up!”

While he was thinking, he heard a voice above his head.

Lu Siya and Qin Hu had already crawled out of the underground and turned their heads around to reach out to him.

Meng Chao smiled and extended his arms to them. They grabbed him with firm grips and pulled him up, bringing him back to the world of light.

The three of them narrowed their eyes for a total of ten seconds before they got used to the blinding light that came charging into their eyes.

They looked around and were stunned for a moment as they wondered whether they were in Raging Waves or a brand new world.

They could not see a single tree around them. The mountain near them was barren, but filled with holes that breathed hot steam rolling upward. The bottom and the edges of the holes looked like glazed tiles. The holes seemed to have been made by incredibly hot meteors.

Intersecting trenches could be found as well. It looked as if deities and demons had used their weapons to create them. The trenches were also colorful, like glazed tiles.

“This is...” Qin Hu’s eyes bulged out, and he gulped while he mumbled, “Are these marks left behind by Deity Realm fighters?”

Meng Chao was struck dumb with amazement.

‘Deity Realm fighters are truly people who are like deities,’ he thought. ‘But no matter how strong they are, at the end of my previous life, they didn’t manage to protect Dragon City from destruction. Looks like I will have to train harder. I can’t just reach Deity Realm and stand at the top of the Supernatural Tower. I must surpass Deity Realm and see just what exists beyond the skies above the Supernatural Tower.’

‘Only by surpassing Deity Realm will I be able to prevent the apocalypse, and only when I stand above the heavens will I be able to see just how this world looks like under the skies!’

“Look, over there!” Lu Siya suddenly pointed at a “meteor pit” not far away from them.

When the three of them went forward to observe the place, they noticed an incredibly large monster’s carcass lying in the pit.

It looked like a huge mammoth with metal armor around it, but also like an enlarged Iron-armored Rhinoceros. It was ten times as terrifying and monstrous as a regular Iron-armored Rhinoceros.

Its bumpy skin had a metallic shine while its huge tusks were more than ten meters long. They were covered in profound and complicated patterns, which shone together with the single horn standing tall on its head. Even if the creature was dead, they continued releasing fierce flames.

The gravel and walls of the meteor pit had all been glazed, and it looked like a seven-colored glass bowl, but the terrifying monster that looked like a hill was uninjured. Not a single piece of its skin was burnt.

“This is a legendary Apocalyptic Beast, Earth-shattering Bull. I heard that not only does it have super powerful defenses that won’t lose to those of the Black Tortoise, it also has the ability to change the structure of the ground and start earthquakes by creating tremors. The powerful fighters from the military once led a platoon of commandos to kill it, but they were all sent to the ground by the earthquake it created!” Qin Hu said in shock.

“It’s no wonder why we couldn’t find an exit after climbing for three days. Many of the cracks I had taken note of were blocked or twisted. So, this is the one who has been causing us all the trouble.”

“That’s right. Raging Waves has the nest of the Earth-shattering Bull. It’s because we were afraid of its ability to create earthquakes that we didn’t dare to send many of our heavy weapons, including the railway guns, into Raging Waves. Now, that the Earth-shattering Bull is done for, our steel army can finally be of use. But how did it die?”

“This is the cause.” Meng Chao finally discovered a hole the size of a finger on the Earth-shattering Bull’s left ear.

There was also a finger-sized hole on its right ear.

Based on the location of the two holes, someone used an incredibly thin weapon. Or rather, it would be better to say that he or she used a steel needle to pierce the Earth-shattering Bull’s head and destroy its brain completely.

This discovery silenced the three people for a long time.

Lu Siya looked at Meng Chao and said in a profound manner, "There's no need to be envious of other people's strength. If we work together, there will come a day where we can do this too."

"I'll be able to do it even without us working together," Meng Chao said warily.

Even though Lu Siya was very pretty, not old, was rich, had a lot of power, and long, straight, curvy, and powerful legs, Meng Chao had his principles.

He could not just ride on Lu Siya's coattails.

At the very least, he should think about it carefully before he asked to ride on her coattails.

"I'm not as ambitious as you two. I'll be satisfied once I get to Heaven Realm." Qin Hu stared at the Earth-shattering Bull and drooled. "Why isn't there anyone harvesting the carcass of the Apocalyptic Beast? How much is this thing worth?"

Before his voice could fade away, a deafening boom came from nearby.

A light breeze blew over and got rid of the thick fog around them.

It was only at that moment that the three of them realized that the extreme weather conditions with lightning crackling and strong wind blowing fiercely were gone without a trace.

The fog surrounding the area was real fog, not the ripples formed due to the distortions of time and space. When the sun shone on it, it disappeared without a trace.

The three people's field of vision brightened. It was as if a brand new world had been slowly opened up in front of them.

The raging dark clouds above their heads were torn to pieces and could only hide in the horizon while gasping for their last breath.

The sky was occupied by blue and white, along with a brilliant, red sun.

As it shone on them, a red cloud that looked like the Undying Bird spreading its wings rose slowly. It refused to disappear even after a long time had passed.

Under the red cloud was a rising and falling mountain range, a lush, green forest, and lakes spreading out like pearls on the bed of an ocean which was an endless meadow. The trio could see all this with just one glance.

The world was beautiful, wide, and clear.

And in between the wide world were more than one hundred armored airships flying with rumbling noises.

They were shipping large amounts of heavy weapons, construction machines to the depths of Graveyard Forest and Raging Waves to build fortresses, bases, and railways, and transporting the carcasses of the superbeasts from deep in Raging Waves so that they could become valuable raw materials for the development of Dragon City.

Some of the large middle-grade or high-grade superbeasts like the Earth-shattering Bull even needed a few armored airships to lift them, and even then, they swayed while being transported away.

But it was fine. After five days and five nights of rain, most of the raging energy that had been accumulating underground for billions of years was gone. The spirit energy magnetic field within the area had become stable, and lightning, invisible wind force, and turbulence did not bother them anymore. Humanity's armored airships and steel army could now do their job.

"The situation is set! We won!"

This scene caused the three people with different statuses, backgrounds, strengths, personalities, and beliefs to smile in an identical way.

Perhaps the battles scattered here and there had not ended, but as long as the Apocalyptic Beasts residing deep in Raging Waves were all killed, the extreme weather conditions were gone, and the spirit energy magnetic field interference was no longer around, humanity's steel army would be able to enter the battlefield, and nothing could stop their victory.

"Look!"

"That... at the horizon..."

"Over there!"

The three of them cried out at the same time.

In the direction they pointed was a rainbow that was much more brilliant than the ones that could be seen on Earth. It stretched over Dragon City and Monster Mountain Range until it reached the horizon and ended at a spot far away in the Other World.

The trio was soon discovered by armored airships.

For nearly five days, humans had fought fiercely against the monsters in Raging Waves. The Deity Realm elites and Apocalyptic Beasts had clashed against each other, and the impact waves they created affected a lot of middle-grade and low-grade superhumans.

There were plenty of other people who were scattered on the mountainside, forest, and even in the underground. There were also plenty of superbeast carcasses that had to be harvested, nests that needed destroying, and fortresses that needed building.

The military units were so busy that they could not breathe, so they could not see what was extraordinary about Meng Chao's group straight away. They only thought about sending them and the other injured people back to the bases in Shattered Starlake.

But Lu Siya had a lot of authority in her hands. She contacted an armored airship with a red cross painted on it.

It was a mobile war hospital with advanced equipment. Based on Lu Siya's words, it did not lose to the private medical centers in Dragon City.

Meng Chao did not want to let Lu Siya check his body, but once he thought about it, there was just no reason for him to hide his strength in this world where resources were the most important thing.

If he revealed his strength at suitable moments, he would be able to attract more people to invest in him and would be able to get more cultivation resources.

Besides, the miracle had happened right in front of the other two's eyes and it could help him hide the strange abilities he gained after he returned from the past.

Also, Lu Siya had already seen his naked body while they were at the depths of the cave, so there was no need for him to hide anything right now.

After thinking about this, Meng Chao and Qin Hu happily boarded Lu Siya's medical airship.

Chapter 256: Taking in a Lackey and Forming His Own Business

The trio might have been refined by the Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals, but they were still heavily injured and had crawled through underground tunnels for three days and three nights while starving. Their bodies were drained and they suffered from all sorts of different sequelae.

Meng Chao was in the best condition. He was just hungry, and after he was injected with a nutritional fluid that had ten times more calories than what a normal superhuman would take, he slowly recovered.

As a Spirit Sensor, Lu Siya's spirit energy sensitivity had been magnified several times, which meant that she was now too sensitive to spirit energy. It was just like how a person's brain would not be able to handle a gigantic amount of information flooding into it if their vision and hearing became ten times better than before.

As for Qin Hu, he had been too greedy and absorbed too much spirit energy in one go. It was now stuck in his spirit meridians. Some of it had even poured out of his spirit acupoints, so his limbs and joints were stiff. His whole body was filled with power, but he could not use it.

The trio lay for a few hours in medical cabins, and after the doctors treated them carefully, they were able to sigh in relief for the time being.

While they were being treated, they also received a lot of information about the war. They learned about what had happened on the surface during the five days since the Red Radiance Jade mine exploded.

First, Lin Chuan's self-explosion had successfully weakened the strength of the spirit energy tsunami.

With the numerous walls and cracks continuously weakening the spirit energy tsunami, the spirit flames that gushed out onto the surface did not reach the requirements to form a spirit energy storm. Instead, they turned into highly concentrated spirit energy that the human body could absorb directly, so all the superhumans in the area from Raging Waves to Shattered Starlake benefited from it.

This was especially so for low-grade and middle-grade superhumans. The sudden appearance of the spirit energy was a rare blessing. Many of the broken-star superhumans' spirit meridians were nourished and repaired. Plenty of people who had been struggling for years at Spirit Tattoo Realm but were never able to get lucky reached Spirit Transformation Realm as well.

Second, the spirit energy rain also brought benefits to the Deity Realm fighters. Even though the benefits were not as great as those to low-grade and middle-grade superhumans, they did avoid becoming violent, going through spirit energy deviation, and their bodies exploding.

Under the stimulation of the spirit energy, the Apocalyptic Beasts hiding deep in Raging Waves were all forced out.

Hence, under the leadership of the military's Deity Realm general, Thunder God Shao Zhengyang, humans engaged in a shocking battle against the Earth-shattering Bull, Demonic Amethyst Gold Ape, and Heaven Devouring Dragon. They killed them as well as their descendants.

Once the Apocalyptic Beasts no longer posed as a deterrent to the humans and all the monsters in Raging Waves to Shattered Starlake lost their leaders, the monsters became terrified.

The humans chased after these monsters while seeing victory in their grasp. Quite a number of Earth Realm and Heaven Realm fighters who had become much stronger killed a lot of Nightmarish Beasts and Hell Beasts. Monster carcasses stuffed the winding rivers flowing from Raging Waves to Shattered Starlake.

The spirit energy rain lasted for a few days, which meant that a lot of the rampaging energy squashed underground was spent. The spirit energy magnetic field gradually became stable and the fog scattered. The sky became blue once the clouds faded away.

Humanity's steel army could then enter freely. The internet became smooth again, and the Red Dragon Army could fight at full strength. There was no longer any doubt that they would win the northern offense. Dragon Citizens were finally able to take their first, firm step toward colonizing the Other World!

Something else worth mentioning was that Meng Chao saw a few familiar names in the war reports. They were youngsters who had performed outstandingly during the battle and were future stars worthy of being nurtured with plenty of resources.

Wu Wu was among them, and the other three specially recruited fighting course students from the alliance of the five universities were also in the list.

Based on the war report, they had been fighting fiercely in Graveyard Forest. Even though their lives were not at stake underground like what Meng Chao and the others went through, they still had terrifying experiences while surrounded by danger.

With their strength of one-star superhumans, they killed Hell Beasts in Graveyard Forest. Even if their strength increased because of the spirit energy rain, it was still an astonishing achievement.

What was even more surprising was that Meng Chao actually saw Chu Feixiong's name on the list. Apparently, he had followed Shao Jianqing to fight and stood out as well.

The war report did not say what he did in detail, and Meng Chao could not puzzle it out. Just how did the white bear—no, the black bear—"stand out"? Did he end up standing out even more than he?

“These brats are really lucky. It’s the first time they went out on a mission and they encountered a spirit energy rain. It’s something you can only encounter once in a blue moon, you know? Many people managed to reach a breakthrough in battle!”

There was a lack of space in the medical airship, so Qin Hu and Meng Chao could only squeeze into one medical room. When Qin Hu recovered, he put a hairy leg outside the medical cabin and said in a jealous and pained voice, “But the spirit energy rain also took away most of the spirit energy contained in the crystal mines. If the crystals could have been mined and sent to crystal refinement factories to be turned into the purest spirit gas, everyone would have benefited even more.”

That was true.

Spirit energy should be conserved because blessed grounds did not appear out of nowhere. The price for a large number of middle-grade and low-grade superhumans reaching a breakthrough during battle was a sharp drop in crystal mine grades. Many of the mines even became completely useless.

And it was impossible for the superhumans to absorb all of the spirit gas that gushed out. A lot of it flew a thousand kilometers away or even escaped to the ozone layer.

If they were to talk about the event from the perspective of efficient spirit energy usage, it was not a profitable deal.

But Meng Chao knew about the ending of the northern offense in his previous life. All the crystal mines, Raging Waves and a large area around the place had been rendered useless. A lot of powerful fighters and future stars also died because of it.

He was already very happy that he could get so many benefits in this life.

“At least we won,” he told Qin Hu.

“We did win, but I’m still pained over the profit we lost from the first mining rights!” Qin Hu covered his chest. “After this rain, the Red Radiance Jade mine should have fallen by at least two grades and its value by two-thirds. I fought for it with my life, but in the end, all the brats managed to profit from it!”

When Meng Chao saw that Qin Hu was still not satisfied even after he managed to survive, he could not help but say, “Mr. Hu, do you really like money that much?”

“You don’t like money?” Qin Hu glared at him and extended his hand to Meng Chao. “Cool. Give me your wage from the mission and all the extra benefits that woman promised you. I’ll enjoy half of it, and I’ll donate the rest to poor children. How does that sound?”

Meng Chao found himself speechless for a period of time.

After not knowing what to say for a long time, he said, “What I mean is, aside from money, we should be concerned about something else.”

“Such as?” Qin Hu asked.

“Such as this mysterious medical airship. Don’t you think that the equipment here is a little too advanced? The doctors we saw just now were really professional as well. Many of the doctors’ vitality magnetic fields were really powerful. They should be, at the very least, at Heaven Realm.

“At first, I thought that this was a private medical airship that belonged to Sky Pillar Corporation, but after observing it for a while, I found it strange. The medical staff here work in a very militarized fashion.”

“So it’s a medical airship that belonged to the Red Dragon Army,” Qin Hu said casually. “There’s nothing wrong with it. In any case, no matter which organization this medical airship belongs to, it won’t stop me from healing my wounds, reaching Heaven Realm, becoming a hero, and getting rich!”

“It’s not the Red Dragon Army.” Meng Chao shook his head slowly. “I observed it. This airship doesn’t have a single insignia from the Red Dragon Army. The medical staff and the people wearing black uniforms in the corridor give off a different presence from actual soldiers. They seem... more mysterious.

“Also, you saw those war reports? The area around Raging Waves is still in a state of chaos. Even though the Apocalyptic Beasts have been killed, there are plenty of superbeasts and normal monsters still hiding in the forest.

“Forget about monsters, even if there were thousands of pigs hiding in the forest, it would still take some effort to capture all of them, right?”

“But in such a chaotic situation, these people managed to write such clear war reports. Everything in them is logical and well-recorded. They even managed to detect new superhumans like Chu Feixiong, who only shone a little. This sort of information gathering ability is not something a normal hospital or any other industry should have.”

“So?” Qin Hu was still unbothered by it. “Before we came here, we saw a lot of Red Dragon Army soldiers, and we even told our families that we’re safe. You also contacted Agricultural University’s martial arts course so that everyone knows that we’re together with Lu Siya. Why are you still worried?”

“I say, you’ve been underground for too long and you’re a little paranoid now. But that can be easily treated. In any case, all of the medical cabins, high-calorie nutritional fluid, and gene medicine over here is free. We can just eat, drink, and rest comfortably for a few days while waiting for the high wages and profit from the first mining rights. Hahahaha!”

Meng Chao looked at how carefree Qin Hu was and felt that they simply could not communicate with each other.

But once he thought about it, he felt that Qin Hu was not the selfish kind of sleazy person.

After all, once he escaped from the underground in his previous life, he gave up on most of the profit he could get and dedicated his entire life to hunting the White Spirit.

Meng Chao did not know the reason behind his actions. It could be because Qin Hu wanted to take revenge for Frenzied Saber, because all of them had died aside from him.

It could also be because he regretted that he did not prevent the White Spirit’s scheme and wanted to “atone for his crimes”, for running away and causing the northern offense to fail.

No matter which reason it was, it meant that while there was a sleazy heart hidden under his bold and crass appearance, there was some loyalty and honor deep in that sleazy heart of his.

Meng Chao thought of something. While Qin Hu had become alone again, he had obtained a miracle, so he should be able to easily reach Heaven Realm. If he had the 10% from the first mining rights, he might even surpass his level in Meng Chao's previous life and go higher than a five-star superhuman, which would mean he would stand at the peak of Heaven Realm. He would become someone like Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu.

Also, Qin Hu had already been in the hunting circle for years. He had a lot of connections, tricks, and was experienced. He could be considered to be a person of great skill.

If Meng Chao wanted to change the future, it would be impossible for him to fight alone. He had to form his own force.

If he took in Qin Hu as his lackey, it would be much easier for him to do a lot of things, such as creating his own superhuman squad.

After thinking about this, Meng Chao said, "Mr. Hu, what do you say if I take you in as my lackey?"

Qin Hu was stunned. "What did you say?"

Meng Chao's expression did not change. "I mean, we went through a mission in which we nearly died, but we survived. Now, what sort of plans do you have? Have you ever thought about working together with me to form a business?"

Chapter 257: A Stupid and Lazy Normal Person

"Well..." Qin Hu scratched his beard and thought about it. "I didn't really have any plans. I was just thinking about rebuilding Frenzied Saber. With this miracle, I can get to Heaven Realm with no problem. I'll also get 10% of profit from the first mining rights. If I ride on Lu Siya's golden coattails too, I'll definitely be able to rebuild Frenzied Saber and make it stronger than before.

"But now that you said it, b— kid, you're right. I'm already a married man, and I'm an honest person. I have a harmonious relationship with my family, so it's not very appropriate for me to ride on Lu Siya's coattails.

"You're different, though. You're Lin Chuan's junior, and your background, experiences, and every other aspect is really similar to his. You're even considered as his kindred. From a certain sense, you can absolutely turn into his 'substitute'.

"Even a blind man can tell that Lu Siya has feelings for Lin Chuan. Now that he is dead, her coattails must be feeling really light. You can take advantage of her weakness, and I'll even give you technical pointers from behind.

"Then, we'll definitely be able to become her left and right hands. We might even be able to help her seize major authority in Sky Pillar Corporation. We'll definitely be able to rise to the top!"

Meng Chao stared at Qin Hu expressionlessly.

Qin Hu's face was hidden by his moustache and beard. He did not know if his face had turned red, but he coughed dryly and said, "Don't look at me that way. I'm just pointing you in a clear direction. If you settle with Lu Siya, you can cut down your cultivation time by twenty years. When we become the right

and left hands of the boss of Sky Pillar Corporation, we'll be able to eat all the good food and have all the money—”

“Do you really like money that much?” Meng Chao could not help asking.

“What else am I supposed to like aside from money? Dreams?” Qin Hu snorted. He paused for a moment before he started talking earnestly. “Kid, I'm not a petty person. The things that happened in our past are now buried underground, and whoever mentions it is a bastard. I'm really thinking about you. Seriously, don't be too extreme.

“Lin Chuan's sacrifice was really heroic, I know, but that doesn't mean that his thoughts were not problematic. In truth, most of the powerful fighters in Dragon City are pretty good. After they get cultivation resources, they fight for Dragon City with everything they have, including me. When I want to earn money, I earn it, but when I need to risk my life, I risk it. Don't you agree?”

“Due to his personal experiences, Lin Chuan got himself stuck in his thoughts, though he managed to see light in the end. Don't be influenced by him and take things too hard!”

Meng Chao thought about it and said, “I admit that most of the superhumans in Dragon City, including the Deity Realm fighters who fought their way here from the dark ages, are all heroes... including you, Mr. Hu.

“But what about their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren? If the distance in power between powerful fighters and the weak keeps becoming wider, I think that in less than a few decades, Dragon City will become completely different, and by then, even if we want to change, it'll be too late!”

“That's something that will happen decades later. Who would think so far ahead? We might have already conquered the Other World by then or cleared the way back to Earth.” Qin Hu laughed.

“Besides, there are plenty of higher ups who are really smart in Dragon City. They will think of these problems and deal with them accordingly. No matter what, these are not things that a newbie like you should worry about.”

“Do you think that I'm overestimating myself and entertaining groundless fears?”

“A little. But that's normal. All youngsters are like that. When I was young, I was worried about everything like you as well.” Qin Hu grinned. “Haven't you heard of this joke before? Teenagers think of the fate of the universe, the meaning of civilization, and the future of Earth.

“Young adults wonder about whether the country will fall and Dragon City's war strategies. Adults in their thirties wonder about how they can get rich overnight and marry rich so that they can become presidents of companies. When they're in their forties... Ha! All they think about is how to live a comfortable life or just get by. That is enough.

“Trust me, you're still young. You just lost the status of a normal person not long ago, and you're yet to get used to the world of superhumans. You haven't been beaten down by society, which is why you're going through all these conflicts. You still want to save normal people to satisfy your cheap hero complex.

“Once you’re at my age, you’ll understand that it’s pretty good if a person can take care of themselves and their family. As for those normal people who have nothing to do with us, they should just do their best to save themselves so that they can be happy!”

Meng Chao stared at Qin Hu for a while and shook his head. He said seriously, “No, even if I reach your age, I won’t become like you.”

“It’s fine. We’ll see about that.” Qin Hu shrugged. “In any case, you gained the most benefits from the Red Radiance Jade mine explosion. Lu Siya and the other forces of power will definitely regard you even higher than before. They will continue pouring investments on you, and you’ll definitely be able to reach higher heights easily. It will be easy for you to stand out!

“So, if you have any good projects that will lead to good money or can help me get famous, you can come to me. If you want to do business or something else, I will definitely help you.

“As for the other stuff... like helping normal people, rebuilding elementary schools, rivaling the wealthy and powerful mega corporations, destroying the scheme hidden behind the White Spirit, or all the other thankless tasks, I will support you in spirit!”

Meng Chao frowned again. “I really don’t get it. You seem to have a lot of biased opinions about normal people.

“I don’t have any prejudice against the normal people who work hard, but those normal people are the ones who usually become superhumans.” Qin Hu pursed his lips. “In the past, I had nothing in my hands. After eating lunch, I might not have dinner. I had no money in my pockets. But even if I started empty-handed, I became someone at the peak of Earth Realm... No, now, I’ll even reach Heaven Realm soon!

“Since I could do it, why can’t the normal people you mentioned do it? They’re either stupid, lazy, or stupid AND lazy. Hmph, I’ve seen plenty of such people in the past. They don’t work hard, and when they’re on the battlefield, they only know how to cry. When I became a superhuman, they came to guilt trip me and shamelessly said things like ‘the stronger you are, the greater your responsibility becomes.’ All of them wanted to trick me into working for them!”

Meng Chao could not help but say, “Mr. Hu, your situation in the past is different from the situation at present. In the past, Dragon City was in chaos, and even though there were dangers everywhere, there were also fortuitous chances everywhere. As long as someone was brave and willing to risk their life, it was easy for them to get cultivation resources.

“But no matter how hard the current youngsters work, if they don’t have a good father—”

“Hold the phone. You’re talking about an important point here. It’s their problem for not having a good father, right? That’s not my fault, I’m not their father!”

Qin Hu interrupted Meng Chao and stuck out his thumb to jab his chest. “I only believe in one thing. I relied on my abilities and risked my life to earn my money, strength, and status. I earned everything I have through upright and honest methods, so my wife and children can enjoy life however they want.

“If the normal people find it an eyesore, they can work hard and learn from us. They can go to the underground to explore it, fight against fierce monsters there, then run while they have a spirit energy tsunami hot on their tails. They can work hard in the caves.

“But if they’re lazy, stupid, and afraid of death, then there’s nothing they can do, right? They can only be normal people their entire lives and live through their tedious existence. This world is just that normal, hahahaha!”

Qin Hu threw his head back and laughed.

His legs were outside the medical cabin and he swung them.

At that moment, a few people in white coats entered through the door.

“Doctor, how’s my situation?” Meng Chao could not be bothered to continue talking rubbish with Qin Hu, so he stood up from the medical cabin.

“Meng Chao, you’re in very good condition.” A doctor in white smiled. “The activity of your cells and your spirit energy value have all gone over the normal values for Spirit Transformation Realm by a large degree. Also, we noticed that you have hundreds of branch meridians, dozens of main meridians, and most important of all, one of the dragon meridians surrounding your spine that are showing signs of crystallization. That’s what we call crystal meridians.

“This is a very rare condition. You have fully recovered and can resume training or fighting at any moment. I believe that you will shine brilliantly into the near future!”

Meng Chao released a long breath. “Thank you, doctor.”

The doctor waved his hand and turned away from him.

Qin Hu longed to hear such things as well, so he asked eagerly, “What about me, doctor? This b— kid will soon shine, so when can I recover and train? Have I already reached Heaven Realm? Why do I feel like my limbs are still numb and my joints are stiff even though I’ve stayed in the medical cabin for so long?”

“It’s like there’s something blocking my nerves, so I can’t bring out any of my strength, even though I’m filled with strength. Is this a normal phenomenon for those who reached Heaven Realm? Or did I become one of those legendary Heaven Realm superhumans?”

“Um...” The doctors looked at each other with troubled expressions.

“Mr. Qin, calm down, take a deep breath, and try to relax as much as possible. This is your current situation...” one of the doctors said. “You should know that cultivation is not you crudely sucking in a large amount of spirit energy and turning it into fighting power and your cultivation base, right?”

“It’s just like how you’re not supposed to eat too much high-calorie food in one go. If you ignore the limits of what you can digest and absorb, you end up with indigestion or your stomach or intestines rupturing.

“You absorbed a lot of Red Radiance Jade and Blue Origin Crystal energy when the spirit energy tsunami charged at you. That energy has filled up every part of your meridians.

“But you were heavily injured at that time, and your organs had nearly collapsed. The activity in your cells was also at its lowest. That’s why you didn’t manage to absorb the spirit energy. Instead, it crystallized in your body... and completely blocked up your meridians.

“That’s why, over the past few days, you have been feeling that your limbs are numb, your joints are stiff, and you can’t bring out your strength even though you’re filled with it.

“Based on the examinations and estimates we made, your body is currently only slightly stronger than that of a normal person. Regardless of whether we take your mobility or fighting strength... you’re not that different from a normal powerful human.”

Qin Hu’s smile stiffened up.

“Wh-What do you mean?” he stuttered. “I’m not highly educated, so I don’t understand all your professional jargon. Doctor, just tell me when I can go back to training and reach Heaven Realm!”

The doctors looked at each other again.

“It’s very hard to tell. We’ve never met anyone with conditions like yours, Meng Chao, and Ms. Lu, and you’re the one with the most problematic situation among all of you,” the doctor said tentatively. “We don’t know how to dissolve the stagnant spirit energy in your body. With Dragon City’s current medical standards, all the extreme treatments might end up with your body going through a mini Red Radiance Jade energy explosion. It’ll result in you going through spirit energy deviation and exploding.

“So, our suggestion is that you wait calmly for a period of time. The stagnant spirit energy might end up dissolving on its own under the vibrations from your vitality magnetic field. At that time, not only will you be able to reach Heaven Realm in one go, you might also become a five-star superhuman in one breath and witness a miracle!

Qin Hu scratched his beard. “How long is this ‘period of time’?”

“If we’re being optimistic, it might dissolve on its own in three-five days, and you’ll reach Heaven Realm.”

“And if we’re not being optimistic?”

“If we’re not being optimistic, it might take three-five months, a year, or even three-five years.”

“Three-five years? You might as well say that it’ll take one hundred years!”

“There’s a possibility that you’ll need one hundred years too.”

“...”

“Mr. Qin? Mr. Qin, are you alright?”

“I-I’m fine. Doctor, let’s talk about the worst possible scenario. What if the stagnant spirit energy doesn’t dissolve in one hundred years? What will happen to me?”

“It’s nothing major. It should not be life-threatening. At worst, you won’t be able to use your supernatural abilities and will remain a normal person for the rest of your life.”

Chapter 258: Abnormal Beast Research Department

The porthole of the ward was shut, but Meng Chao felt cold wind blowing at them, and it blew at Qin Hu so strongly that he turned into an icicle.

Meng Chao felt that the doctors were a little strange. They did not seem like normal ones.

When normal doctors told patients about their conditions, they seldom were... so straightforward.

"Doctor, can I ask a question? Which hospital or unit does this medical airship belong to?" Meng Chao asked.

The doctor smiled faintly. "You can ask Ms. Lu explain it to you personally. Meng Chao, this way, please. She's waiting for you in the ward next door."

He went to the ward next door, and right after he shut the door, Meng Chao was shocked by Lu Siya's brand new image.

She had taken off the hospital gown and now wore a custom-made fitted suit. It was a mysterious dark red color, and there were barely noticeable flowing patterns sewn on it. They looked like a dragon, and she seemed to be even more mature and domineering than before.

Her face was covered by a mask with no holes. It covered half of her head and blocked off her ears. Her expression could not be seen at all, but Meng Chao could see his own twisted expression on the arc-shaped, polished surface.

The mask... No, the underground trip had changed her completely, and she was now a different person.

"The doctor said that my spirit sensitivity has increased ten times, so I can also see and hear ten times the things a normal superhuman can detect. My brain is not able to handle so much chaotic and useless information." Lu Siya tapped her head. "I was fine underground, because there wasn't that much noise down there.

"But once back on the surface, I've been exposed to too much light, sound, and spirit energy ripples. They charged at me like a flood, and my head hurt so much that it felt like bursting, so I faced the risk of going through spirit energy deviation at any moment.

"So, I have to wear this medical helmet for the time being. It blocks as well as filters out most of the information. I didn't scare you, did I?"

Meng Chao shook his head.

If he had to be honest with himself, with Lu Siya's figure, it didn't matter if she was wearing a mask shaped like a curved mirror. Even if she had the head of a female ghost, many of the hot-blooded teenagers and young adults would still not be afraid of her and approach her.

"Then sit closer to me. No matter what, we've gone through a life and death experience together, and we have Lin Chuan as our mutual friend," Lu Siya said airily. "I don't have a lot of friends, and Lin Chuan was my most important one. Now, he died, and I don't want to miss the chance of becoming your friend."

Meng Chao thought about Lu Siya's words for a while and decided that they were quite believable.

Lu Siya went straight to the point. "I know that you have been influenced by Lin Chuan slightly and think that I'm a Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon while you're a Demonic Halberd Pig. So, somehow, we're not the same kind of people.

“But no matter what, that is a bad comparison. We’re neither dragons nor pigs. We’re humans who know how to think, size up the situation, compromise, and work together. Do you think that our interests conflict with each other from the roots?”

Meng Chao shook his head. “I hope they don’t.”

“Then, do you think that I’m so stupid that I can’t see our mutual interests and would drive a future star like you who has extraordinary talent and has obtained a blessing to become my enemy?”

Meng Chao continued shaking his head. “You don’t seem that stupid.”

Lu Siya smiled under the mirror mask. “So, what reason is stopping us from becoming real friends?”

Meng Chao thought about it and extended his hand to Lu Siya. He gave hers a light squeeze before he asked, “Just which unit does this medical airship belong to? We seem to have been circling around Raging Waves for a long time and taken in a lot of injured people. I also saw a lot of monster carcasses. They’re all monsters skilled in mind attacks and mind control.

“In other words, this isn’t just a medical airship. It’s also a moving lab that can conduct research on the freshest of monster carcasses. Sky Pillar Corporation doesn’t have the need nor ability to do this, right?”

Lu Siya nodded and admitted it readily. “This airship belongs to the Other World Beast Research Department.”

Meng Chao’s mind raced.

His eighteen-year-old self had never heard about the Other World Beast Research Department before.

But certain information lurking in his previous life’s memory fragments was stirring up.

“The Monster War has continued for thirty years now. Humans have defeated almost all the well-built, simple-minded, and brutish traditional monster kings who don’t know how to hide themselves nor understand what civilization is,” Lu Siya explained. “The battle at Raging Waves might be the last fight for these powerful but stupid large monsters.

“As Apocalyptic Beasts like the Demonic Amethyst Gold Ape, Earth-shattering Bull, and Heaven Devouring Dragon are defeated, a generation will now come to an end. We might seem to be welcoming victory, or at least, walking down the correct path leading to victory.

“But the Other World is a place with unstable materials and quick evolution. Monsters who have been able to stand out in the screening process and lasted until today in the brutal fight for survival that lasted for billions of years are not easy to deal with.

“Many of the Apocalyptic Beasts possess power to destroy the world, and they have been occupying the top of the food chain for a long time. They didn’t need wisdom to live comfortably. That’s why when they realize that humans are a brand new enemy and are completely different, it is already too late for them to gain wisdom.

“But the monsters who are smaller and don’t have brute strength, are at the middle or low spectrum of the food chain, and are often treated as food by the high-grade superbeasts have to wreck their brains to think about how to survive. There is a high possibility that they might gain wisdom and start a brilliant

battle against human civilization. They have the potential to create a brand new path of evolution and become even more mysterious and dangerous.

“During the prehistoric ages, Earth once faced the fall of numerous meteors, and the dinosaurs who ruled the place at that time were destroyed. But the entire ecosphere was not destroyed. Instead, many of the middle-sized and small-sized mammals gained space to thrive. It allowed them to develop, and in the end, glorious civilizations were created.

“Now, Earthlings who invaded the Other World are the ‘meteors’. We destroyed the traditional monster kings, but in turn, we gave the other monsters the chance to evolve. No one knows just how these monsters will evolve and what sort of effect it will have on our civilization.

“Would you believe me if I told you that the White Spirit is not the only intelligent monster?”

Of course Meng Chao did, but he only said, “Isn’t it?”

“Of course, monster intelligence is different from what we understand,” Lu Siya said. “But there is indeed a batch of smart monsters who are not large Apocalyptic Beasts with monstrous appearances, thunderous roars, and ability to destroy the world. They can change their appearances, bewitch people, release viruses, and make use of all sorts of unfathomable techniques to influence their environment, infiltrate Dragon City’s internal structure, and try to defeat human civilization’s fortress from within.

“Right now, we have a very crude categorization for monsters. Regardless of whether it’s monsters, superbeasts, Nightmarish Beasts, Hell Beasts, or Apocalyptic Beasts, they are all categorized based on their talents and fighting strength.

“But fighting strength and the level of threat are two completely different concepts. The White Spirit’s fighting strength was definitely not comparable to that of most Hell Beasts. It was far weaker than an Apocalyptic Beat, and its mind control ability was not even that strong, but you personally experienced just how threatening it could be, right?”

“Yeah.” Meng Chao nodded. “Many of the Apocalyptic Beasts aren’t willing to take the initiative to provoke humans. They only want to be in their territory to comfortably be their own kings. When the other Apocalyptic Beasts are killed by human hands, they even feel lucky. These creatures who only have brute strength but no brains are just slightly stronger monsters. They’re naturally not human kind’s opponents.

“But the monsters who possess intelligence, understand civilization, know how to unite, and take the initiative to launch attacks on us are the real danger.”

“That’s right. The level of threat those monsters pose is not directly proportional to their fighting strength. They can no longer be described as superbeasts, so they have a brand new title—abnormal beasts.

“The abnormal beast research department is naturally an organization that specializes in dealing with abnormal beasts.”

Meng Chao understood it now. “You’re a member of the abnormal beast research department?”

“That’s right. I’ve gone through one year’s worth of secret training in the abnormal beast research department, and it’s only then that I was able to turn from a pure mine explorer to an investigator who has certain fighting abilities.

“The abnormal beast research department is a recently formed brand new organization. In the beginning, no one paid any attention to the abnormal beasts who possess intelligence and can infiltrate human society. Most people just scoff and say that it’s all just a bunch of nonsense.

“But the Lu family is a large family, and we have to be involved in many things and support stuff that has not gained power yet. Some people stay in Sky Pillar Corporation, some people join the Red Dragon City, some people go to Dragon City University or the alliance of the five universities to conduct academic research, some people enter the zombie research center, some people join the Supernatural Tower and become adjudicators, and some people become part of recently formed abnormal beast research department.

“Earlier, no one thought that the abnormal beast research department would be able to produce anything good and were sure that it was just an insignificant, small organization. My cousins ranked above me and favored more by the older generation treated it as nothing.

“But I knew that if I do things according to procedures in the family, I will definitely be unable to seize authority in Sky Pillar Corporation, and if I join the Red Dragon Army, Supernatural Tower, or other organizations, I will meet my cousins or uncles or aunts who’ve had great success in the army since a long time ago. They will even monitor and limit my actions. So, it’s better for me to bet all that I have on the abnormal beast research department.

“Even though I had to go through a lot of training in the abnormal beast research center, I also gained a lot of help. Still, I never quite believed that monsters could become truly intelligent and cause major damage... until I met the White Spirit.”

Even though she wore the silver arc-shaped mirror mask, Meng Chao could sense her complicated emotions.

They appeared for an instant before Lu Siya pushed them down to the bottom of her heart.

“Now, I believe that the war is about to change completely. The fights humans conduct against monsters in the wild will no longer decide whether we will win the war or not. Instead, we will be shifting to a more secretive battlefield, but it will be even more bloody and crucial.”

Lu Siya laced her fingers together and looked at Meng Chao. “And the abnormal beast research department must rise to power and become one of the most important forces protecting Dragon City.”

Chapter 259: Riding the Tail of the Wind

Meng Chao could not see Lu Siya’s expression under the mask.

He could only hear her say, “Do you know why I insisted on inviting you and Lin Chuan to the mine exploration?”

“It was originally a three-in-one mission.

“First, I wanted to work together with the researcher from the abnormal beast research department to investigate the mystery of the Blood Flowers under Raging Waves. She’s Professor Ye, the Blood Flower specialist.

“Second, I wanted to get the first mining rights for the Red Radiance Jade mine which would gain me a higher status in my family as well as give me my own funds to recruit and launch my own operations.

“Third, this was also a recruitment mission. The abnormal beast research department is recruiting people to expand. Outstanding people like Lin Chuan could take the chance and use this golden platform to rise to the top.

“Unfortunately, he was already bewitched by an abnormal beast and became the target of my investigation... But fortunately, you were around, Meng Chao. Are you interested in joining the abnormal beast research department?”

Meng Chao cocked his eyebrows.

“There’s no need for you to be so surprised. Don’t you understand your value yet? Even if we don’t consider the mine exploration, your performance during the northern offense was already outstanding. Most importantly, you don’t belong to any force of power.

“You’re not influenced by any family either. You’re a talented person who is very worthy of being cultivated,” Lu Siya said. “We also share a relationship with the same secrets from the mission in which we gained a blessing. Your extraordinary performance has already proven your loyalty and abilities. I assure you, you will definitely be able to ride the tailwind from the abnormal beast research department and realize your ambitions.”

Meng Chao was very tempted.

The abnormal beast research department sounded really powerful.

The research of monsters hidden in Dragon City fit the progress of the war based on the memory fragments of his previous life as well. It was the key deciding whether they would lose or win.

Besides, Qin Hu might have been crass in his words, but his logic was sound. If he managed to ride Lu Siya’s coattails, he could cut down twenty years of his cultivation time...

Meng Chao narrowed his eyes and thought about it carefully.

“Will you pick my coat?” Lu Siya suddenly asked.

“What?” Meng Chao was shocked. He shook his head quickly. “No. Fine, perhaps my gaze has been focused on your coat, but your coat isn’t the coat I’m thinking about... What I’m saying is—”

“There’s no need to explain it. I heard you,” Lu Siya said airily. “If you ride on my coattails, you’ll get to cut down twenty years of your cultivation time, right?”

“Huh?”

“Don’t misunderstand. I didn’t do something as despicable as installing a listening device on you. I didn’t eavesdrop intentionally either. It’s just that my spirit sensitivity is too high right now. Even if I wear the

blocking helmet, there are all sorts of sounds that reach my ears. You and Qin Hu were in the ward next door, and you were... talking really fearlessly. Trust me, I didn't want to hear all of your crass words."

"..." Meng Chao sucked in a deep breath and said seriously, "Big Sis Ya, since we're already at this point in the conversation, I have to explain myself. Honestly, I'm not familiar with Qin Hu at all. No, I can't even say that we're not familiar with each other. It would be better to say that we have a grudge against each other. I can't stand sleazy and slick middle-aged men the most. I absolutely disagree with his crass words, and I'm really angry about it!

"So, you don't have to try to preserve my dignity. If you want to teach him a lesson, do it. You can also take away two percent of the profit he will get from the first mining rights."

Lu Siya chuckled softly under the mask and said, "Of course I believe you. But you have to believe in me as well. I'm not treating you as Lin Chuan's replacement when I ask you to be my friend and invite you to join the abnormal beast research department.

"After all, his looks are... and you look... You understand. No one will ever talk about you two in the same vein."

"...Oh," Meng Chao said. "But I'm still studying!"

"That's not a problem. The special service members of the abnormal beast research department are divided into different ranks. There are full time staff members, off-staff investigators, and temporary technicians," Lu Siya explained. "For example, I'm still working in Sky Pillar Corporation and am even managing my own company. I don't have to go to the frontlines twenty-four hours a day to fight.

"Due to your situation, there's no need for you to become a publicly known investigator of the abnormal beast research department. You can still be a student and go to university, cultivate, and live your life. Just that from time to time, you will receive secret training and obtain resources. With your status, you'll also be able to join some of the more secretive missions, which is where you will be able to maximize your value."

Meng Chao thought about it.

An off-staff investigator sounded pretty decent.

Lu Siya continued, "You have a lot of spirit energy, and you're much stronger than most people at the peak of Earth Realm. What you lack is the way to lawfully use your power.

"Agricultural University's martial arts course definitely has a lot of amazing martial arts, but I can see that you have ambitions. You don't want to become a pure martial artist or someone who is just skilled in harvesting, right?

"If you join the abnormal beast research department, you will not only be able to come in contact with a lot of core secrets, you will also learn a lot of ways to use your spirit energy. These methods are all those you could not learn from the alliance of five universities and even Dragon City University. They will help you climb to the top of the Supernatural Tower.

“We might be a small organization which has just been born, but we have the best Deity Realm fighters in Dragon City supporting us. You won’t be able to find anyone outside teaching you how to use stones to fight.

“Also, don’t you want to get to the bottom of the secret behind the three holes on the White Spirit’s spine?”

Meng Chao thought about it. “Does the abnormal beast research department know the answer?”

“Not for the time being.” Lu Siya shook her head slowly. “But the only department with the ability and responsibility to investigate this matter in Dragon City is the abnormal beast research department. I swear that I will use every bit of my ability to uncover the truth. If you want to take revenge for Lin Chuan, you should help me. Regardless of whether the being who drilled those three holes into the White Spirit’s spine is a ‘human’ or some other creature, that being is the culprit!”

Meng Chao stared at Lu Siya and said, “Not only will I take revenge for Big Brother Lin, I will also carry out his dying will. I’ll ensure that all children in Dragon City will be able to grow under the same brilliant sun and be involved in a fair competition.”

“Then, you have all the more reason to join the abnormal beast research department and climb up the ranks with everything you have. Then, you’ll be able to have more power, wealth, authority, and influence,” Lu siya said coldly.

“Right now, you’re just a puny two-star superhuman. No one will listen to you seriously and think about what you say. No matter how loud you shout, your voice will be easily intercepted, drowned out, or twisted. In the end, aside from you satisfying your cheap sense of justice, you won’t be able to change anything.

“I might not agree with Lin Chuan’s ideals completely, but there is something that he said that is true. It’s only when you climb to the top of the supernatural path will you be able to carry out your will and change the world.

“More importantly, if you act recklessly now, it’s very likely that you will alert the enemy. Lin Chuan and the White Spirit might be dead, but the real culprit remains at large. In fact, he, she, or it might be cooking up an even greater scheme.

“Your passion alone won’t be enough for you to solve all problems. You might even end up getting into trouble.

“If we work together and use the power from the abnormal beast research department, we’ll be able to fulfill Lin Chuan’s dying wish and help all the children in Dragon City bask under the same sun in the future.”

Meng Chao’s heart raced.

As an eighteen-year-old, hotblooded youth, he did not completely agree with Lu Siya’s points.

But as a dead spirit who returned from the apocalypse, he had to admit that not only was it naive of him to think that he could solve all problems with a swing of his arm just because he had a heart full of justice and passion, it was also another form of laziness, cowardice, and running away.

When it came to a fight, you could end it by not being afraid of death and just pressing onward.

But if you wanted to win, you needed a lot more things.

Meng Chao shut his eyes and tried to look for answers in his memory fragments.

The abnormal beast research department... With the number of times it was mentioned, the name gradually became more familiar. It sounded like it was some really powerful organization in the future, but...

"I need to think about this." Meng Chao shook his head. He had not found his answer yet.

"But of course. You can go back to your ward and think about it. We still have half a day before we go back to Shattered Starlake's base. Before we leave, tell me your decision," Lu Siya said. "Share everything with Qin Hu as well. He's a smart person. I believe he will understand how severe this matter is the moment he hears the abnormal beast research department's name. He'll know what he should and should not say when he goes back."

Meng Chao nodded and walked to the entrance. He then remembered something and turned around.

"By the way, there is something I never got around to asking you," Meng Chao said in puzzlement. "Back when Qin Hu and I were hiding under the cliff and eavesdropping on you, Lin Chuan, Shen Yulong, and the White Spirit, how did you know that we were around? Is it because you have heightened senses?"

This had been the deciding factor for the battle.

It completely changed their fates, decided the success of the northern offense, and changed Dragon City's future.

Lu Siya was silent for a long time before she said airily, "It's not entirely the case. It's the Blood Jade Essence."

Meng Chao was stunned.

"Do you remember the Blood Jade Essence that I asked you to give to Lin Chuan to heal his wounds?" Lu Siya said. "I got it after a lot of trouble. There were originally two of them, and they were a pair. Aside from stimulating vitality magnetic fields and increasing the speed of healing, it can also cause a subtle resonance between the vitality magnetic fields of the people who have the pair of jades if they're within a certain distance from each other.

"Normal superhumans can't sense it, but I'm a Spirit Sensor. If Lin Chuan had it on him, I would be able to sense his breathing, heartbeat, and temperature when he was a certain distance away from me.

"I... I knew that this mission would be dangerous and a lot of people would probably die. That's why I was concerned as to whether Lin Chuan would remain safe.

"I didn't expect that even when I was in close contact with him, I wouldn't be able to sense the existence of the Blood Jade Essence.

"It was only when the two mine exploration teams began fighting against each other and after he revealed his true colors that I sensed a faint ripple from the Blood Jade Essence at the edge of the cliff.

“Once I thought about it carefully, aside from him, the only other person who could possibly have the Blood Jade Essence was you.”

Meng Chao found himself feeling a little awkward.

He did not expect this to be the answer.

He quickly searched through his pockets. “Then, I’ll return it to you now.”

“Forget it. You put it on yourself before. I don’t want it.” Lu Siya sighed softly and said, “Lin Chuan is no longer around. Even if you give it to me, who am I supposed to give it to?”

Chapter 260: Big Winner

When Meng Chao returned to the ward, Qin Hu was still letting his mind wander while he sat in the medical cabin with his legs crossed. He looked like an old monk meditating.

“Mr. Hu?” Meng Chao called out to him tentatively. “What are you thinking about? You seem really focused.”

When Qin Hu saw that he had returned, his eyes shone, and he jumped out of the medical cabin. He went forward to hold Meng Chao’s hand and shook it with everything he had.

“I was thinking about what you said just now. You’re right, normal people and superhumans are like fish and water, earth and shoots. Without water, there’s no fish, and without fertile soil, there’s no trees. A’chao, you’re right!”

“A’chao?” Meng Chao shuddered.

“That’s right, A’chao. I’ve thought things through, completely!” Qin Hu said with a strong sense of righteousness. “You only get to live that many years, and it’ll be boring if you work hard for the sake of profit and fame. If you want to live as a human, you need some dreams.

“Since you asked me so passionately to help you with your business and I’m a senior in the field, I don’t have the heart to refuse you. In the future, let’s work together and make Dragon City a brighter place. All the normal children will be able to live happily!”

“Hey, why did you change so much?” Meng Chao asked in puzzlement. “Is it because the doctor told you that your spirit energy has stagnated and there’s a possibility that you will not be able to cultivate anymore for the rest of your life?”

“No way.” Qin Hu laughed boisterously. “When you become a hunter in the wild, it means you’re stretching your neck out constantly, and you need to be prepared to die at any moment. This time, everyone but me in Frenzied Saber died. I’m already considered very lucky. No matter what price I have to pay, I can accept it.

“But I’ve really thought things through. I want to form a business with you, bring blessings to the people, and develop Dragon City together.”

“Ah... yeah, that works too.”

Meng Chao scratched his head. He did not regard Qin Hu with disdain because he was unable to fight at the level of someone at Heaven Realm for the time being.

After all, what he regarded with importance was Qin Hu's rich experience in the world and his connections. These would not disappear just because his spirit energy stagnated.

Besides, Meng Chao felt like he could learn a lot of things from Qin Hu, such as his perfect acting skills, which allowed him to lie without ever changing his expression.

He set aside the matter of them forming a business for the time being and told Qin Hu about what he had learned from Lu Siya.

"The abnormal beast research department?" Qin Hu's eyes lit up. He grabbed Meng Chao's shoulders and said, "A'chao, I didn't expect for that woman to be from the abnormal beast research department. This is an organization that has been really influential lately. Even though they have just been built, there are already a lot of rumors about them in the circle. I heard that they figured out a series of important cases and even stole the adjudicators' limelight.

"There are even people who say that the top Deity Realm elites in Dragon City stand behind the abnormal beast research department. They have an endless supply of resources, martial arts, and secret information. They even have a certain degree of power that allows them to strike first before reporting to the authorities. They can do whatever they want in Dragon City!"

Meng Chao really wanted to tell Qin Hu that the "woman" he was talking about might be listening to them.

He opened his mouth, but did not know how to say it, so he just let it go.

Qin Hu was experienced. He knew that things with the White Spirit had not ended just yet, so since a powerful organization like the abnormal beast research department had taken over the case, he struck his chest and promised that he would definitely not talk about it to cause himself trouble.

Meng Chao knew the weight of the situation as well. Before the mystery of the White Spirit was uncovered, if he recklessly revealed such secrets, he would just end up alerting the enemy.

Then, should he accept Lu Siya's invitation?

He had to think this question through.

Meng Chao immersed himself in medical fluid and rubbed his forehead.

Since the ending of the northern offense had completely changed, Dragon City should be in a much better condition compared to his previous life. At the very least, they should not run into enemies they could not hope to win against on the battlefield.

Now, their main problem was the Nine Great Supernatural Entities.

Unfortunately, in his previous life, during the Monster War, he was just a normal citizen. He did not pay much attention to the news and war reports about the Supernatural Entities. He only paid attention to the White Spirit because it was related to Qin Hu.

Meng Chao was immersed in his thoughts. 'Even if I heard about them, I was not paying attention and forgot about it once some time passed. Perhaps I'll be able to remember more things after the abnormal beast research department gathers more information.

'Judging by the time, we're only a few years before the Nine Great Supernatural Entities start causing trouble. They should be in a state of incubation and evolution, just like the White Spirit. It was only a Hell Beast when we met it.

'If we kill the remaining eight of the Supernatural Entities, will we be able to completely win the Monster War?'

There was also the matter of the only clue that led to his younger sister's corruption and transformation into the Dark Witch—the mysterious hospital in which his mother had once worked. Up till now, aside from that picture of the X-shaped eyes, he did not have any other discoveries.

And just what sort of secrets were held by Ghost Tribe, the black skeleton training camp he went to in his previous life? He might not be able to get any answers if he stayed in Agricultural University.

'Will I get more information from the abnormal beast research department?'

Also, there was the matter of Kindling.

Meng Chao was beginning to find Kindling, the system that had awakened in him, to be really bizarre.

In the beginning, it judged Lin Chuan as a pseudo heroic citizen. Later, he was demoted to special citizen, and at the end, he was demoted to normal citizen. Could it be at least a little reliable with its ranking system?

Just what sort of system did Kindling use to judge the different ranks of citizens?

Could it be his subjective views?

When he treated Lin Chuan as his idol, he was a pseudo heroic citizen. When he began suspecting Lin Chuan, he turned into a special citizen. In the end, when Meng Chao trusted him again, he turned into a normal citizen.

Also, Meng Chao noticed that when it came to the skills Kindling gave him, they were either ones that he had learned in his previous life or those he had come into contact with in this life.

In other words, Kindling did not create something out of nothing and give him a brand new skill.

Similarly, the reward of repairing his main meridians was actually just the 1,024 branch meridians using spirit energy to constantly nourish his withered main meridians after they were completely cleared. They could be cleared and repaired bit by bit, and the reward just shortened the time.

It seemed like Kindling was not omniscient.

This made Meng Chao sigh a little.

He did not want to turn into an all-knowing, all-powerful puppet. Even if it was for the sake of a bright and just target, he refused to.

'There is definitely some kind of scientific logic behind Kindling. It should be related to the mysterious explosion at the underground ruin under the Supernatural Tower.'

Meng Chao would definitely solve this mystery.

He wanted to learn more secrets that have been hiding in Dragon City over the past half a century.

He also wanted to learn the secrets of Dragon City from the dark, chaotic, and bloody era before the Supernatural Tower was built.

The abnormal beast research department seemed like a really good entrypoint.

In the end, Meng Chao told Lu Siya that he was still a student, so he had to prioritize his studies. It was impossible for him to become a full-time special service agent in the abnormal beast research department.

But if there was some kind of mission that required him to use his professional skills to fight against the evil abnormal beasts, he would naturally not refuse to carry out the duties of a good Dragon Citizen.

However, it was impossible for him to force himself to carry out a mission that was beyond his abilities and when he knew nothing about it.

Lu Siya told him to rest easy about it.

Since her fighting strength was not great in the past, her position in the abnormal beast research department was not high. Even if she strove to get the dangerous and important missions, it was difficult to get them for the time being.

"We've just completed a very dangerous mission, so we'll definitely need time to recover. Let's go at it slowly," Lu Siya said. "As for your wages, don't worry about them either. We won't mistreat any of our heroes."

"Hero?"

Meng Chao smiled. He said that he did not wish to be treated better than how people were awarded for contributing to the frontlines, but he hoped that he could read various documents from the abnormal beast research department, such as the data that they currently had about the abnormal beasts, the cases of abnormal beasts invading Dragon City, the process of how they captured these abnormal beasts, and other such information.

Also, he had a special request. He hoped that he could join the subsequent operations to uncover the mystery behind the White Spirit.

"I can request it, but I can't give you any guarantees," Lu Siya said. "Right now, aside from the three small holes on the White Spirit's spine, we don't have any clues, and we don't know how to carry out any following operations, but I believe that as the person who went through this whole thing personally, you will be of great help if you join."

Aside from that, Lu Siya also promised Meng Chao that she would use the name of the abnormal beast research department to apply for war achievements.

After all, most of the signs left under Raging Waves were burnt by the spirit energy tsunami, and it was very difficult for them to find any proof of a fight. If they waited for the government to slowly conduct their research and approve of it, it would take a lot of time.

But if the abnormal beast research department got involved, in a few days, he would be honored as he should and get the resources he deserved as reward.

The rewards from his war achievements, the wages from the agreement he signed when he joined the mine exploration, and the double refinement provided by the Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals... It was just as Qin Hu had said.

Many of the superhumans might have gained a lot of amazing benefits from the battle, but even if the benefits of dozens of Meng Chao's peers were added together, they would not be as high as his. He could be considered to be the greatest winner in the entire northern offense.

Just like that, half a day later, Meng Chao returned to the east lake base with his pockets full of rewards.

"Meng Chao!"

He had already contacted his tutor, classmates, and his best friend while he was on the medical airship.

Everyone knew that he went to a mine exploration mission, and there was even a possibility that he went under Graveyard Forest. The crystal mine explosion a few days ago had been really fierce. They lost contact with a few of the mine exploration teams, and everyone thought that he had probably lost his life, which made them really anxious. They did not know how they should tell his family about it.

Once they learned that he was still alive, they were naturally delighted and went to the entrance of the base to wait for him.

Upon seeing him, Chu Feixiong was so excited that he leapt more than ten meters with just three steps and enveloped him in a bear hug. He squeezed him so tightly that Meng Chao saw stars.

"I just knew that you wouldn't die so easily! You're Ace Student Chao!"

Chu Feixiong laughed and spread his fingers to slap Meng Chao's back so hard that Meng Chao was about to start coughing up blood. Then, he let go of him, though he did not seem to have had his fill of slapping Meng Chao's back yet. He took a few bodybuilding poses, and his pectorals jumped.

"But you might not be able to compare to me, Ace Student Chao. You wouldn't believe me even if I told you about it. Guess what I went through in Graveyard Forest? I practically ran into one of those legendary miracles!"