

Oh My God 461

Chapter 461: More Than One Hundred Crimes At the Same Time

Meng Chao brought those questions to Shen Yupeng.

The secret police of the adjudicator court leaned against the wall with his hands in the pockets of his lead-gray trench coat. He stared at the dancing flames with a contemplative expression on his face while thinking hard about the clues.

Meng Chao did not want to interrupt Shen Yupeng's thoughts.

After all, Lu Siya admired Shen Yupeng a lot as well, and she was his competitor. She believed that he was a criminal investigator with thoughts as sharp as a surgical knife.

But after waiting for a moment, Meng Chao heard faint snores coming from Shen Yupeng's nose.

"..."

Meng Chao cleared his throat softly.

Shen Yupeng was startled awake and blinked. He stared at Meng Chao with bloodshot eyes.

Meng Chao was shocked. "Big Brother Peng, are you infected by Blood Flower spores or the new zombie virus? Why do you look so haggard?"

They were quite close to each other, so even though Meng Chao was the victim of the case, if they were to talk to each other, there was just no need for them to discuss things formally. Shen Yupeng smiled wanly and said, "Sorry, I've been pretty busy lately, and I haven't slept in a while."

"Haven't slept in a while." Meng Chao frowned. "That sounds new. Big Brother Peng, how long is 'in a while'?"

Shen Yupeng thought about it. "Around one month, I guess."

"You haven't slept for around one month?" Meng Chao was shocked. "Why?!"

"Over the past few months, the crime rate in Dragon City has been growing. It's especially the case for malicious crimes. There's also been an increase in High-IQ offenders."

Shen Yupeng was unable to stop himself from yawning. He rubbed his face and scratched his stubble. "The adjudicator court has been going through a structural change as well. We can't mobilize more personnel for these things, so we have to work 24/7."

Meng Chao knew a bit about the structural change in the adjudicator court.

It was mainly because they discovered quite a lot of superhumans being involved in the ambush of Noble Descent Hotel through Zhou Tianshui.

Many of the superhumans might not have intentionally collaborated with the abnormal beasts, but they still took bribes, engaged in nefarious plots, did all sorts of illegal things, and had, in an objective sense, provided a crack for the abnormal beasts to attack while the city was weak.

To take precaution against evil, to win the Monster War beautifully, and for superhumans and normal people to be able to continue existing harmoniously and closely so that Dragon City could spread Earth's civilization to all of the Other World, the Survival Committee took the lead and forced the nine great mega corporations as well as various powerful organizations to examine themselves, perform auditing, learn, and change on a spectacular scale.

The adjudicator court was a very unique law enforcement organization.

To investigate superhuman criminal activity, there were plenty of times when they had to perform investigations under highly classified situations. They also had to use various legally ambiguous methods or downright illegal methods to secure evidence.

And to obtain that evidence, they needed a lot of secret capital that they could write into the accounts.

If it was absolutely necessary, before they gained proof, they could even execute justice on certain lost people who were highly destructive. That was what people meant by saying that they could act before reporting to the authorities.

This sort of organization where criminal investigation, judgment, and law enforcement were all encompassed in one body was a major disaster area that violated standard protocol.

At the moment, the abnormal beast research department was enjoying the limelight while the adjudicator court was losing favor.

Meng Chao had heard from Lu Siya long ago that a few really powerful secret police officers and adjudicators had been fired from their positions. She had sounded really happy at their misfortune at that time.

It was no wonder then why Shen Yupeng looked so haggard and could not help but grumble while they were talking on the phone.

But even though he had grumbled about it, he was still a very professional and experienced secret police officer. When he saw Meng Chao's expression, he immediately asked, "What's the problem?"

Meng Chao repeated his question.

In the end, he came up with this conclusion, "Let's just say that we're dealing with a criminal organization here. Then, Ning Lang is definitely not the mastermind.

"With his experience, intelligence, and strength, it's impossible for him to come up with such a meticulous criminal plan. The Deification Capsules, blueprints of the warehouse, and the large number of military-grade weapons are also not things that he could get.

"That's why I think that there's a great chance that the mastermind behind this criminal group is someone else. Ning Lang is just a chess piece sent to break enemy ranks. He's just carrying out orders loyally."

"I've been thinking about this possibility too. Regardless of whether it's the murders in the trash site or the robbery here, Ning Lang's decisiveness is far past the limits of a newbie with no criminal record. His ruthlessness and cunning reminds me of plenty of lost people who have been fighting against the adjudicator court for more than ten years," Shen Yupeng said with a grave expression.

“But the effects of the Deification Capsule aren’t over yet. Even though his life is not in danger, his organs are still showing signs of weakening. He’s currently incredibly frail, and he’s receiving treatment in a hospital under the adjudicator court.

“If we look at this optimistically, we will only be able to interrogate him by the second half of the night at the earliest. Once we get results, I’ll immediately inform you. If we get any clues, I might have to ask you to use the power of the large number of members you have in the Broken Star Club to conduct the investigation.”

“Don’t worry, Big Brother Peng, I’ll definitely help!” Meng Chao agreed readily.

It was not just because this case was related to his company.

Even if a warehouse from another company was burned down, Meng Chao would still look for the truth, because he was really interested in the enigmatic Deification Capsule.

They were about to continue discussing the case when they suddenly heard explosions in the distance.

The explosion happened at least eight kilometers away. The sound waves were blocked off by the skyscrapers, so when they reached Meng Chao and Shen Yupeng, they were very faint.

But as Heaven Realm superhumans, when they heard the familiar sound, their expressions still changed.

Based on the sounds, it was not an accidental explosion. It reminded them of crystal bombs and anti-monster mines having exploded in a chain in another battlefield in the city.

They exchanged a glance. Then, they simultaneously used their maglev abilities to rise into the air.

Looking into the distance, they saw flashing lights and fireballs rising and falling in the depths of the dark city. They were like dazzling but bizarre fireworks.

Meng Chao shuddered. His instinctive reaction was that the abnormal beasts had launched another large-scale attack.

At this time, he was finally able to call Lu Siya. But while the abnormal beast research department was indeed really busy, they did not find a single clue leading them to abnormal beasts. They did not find a single monster, zombie, or undead.

“It should... just be a normal robbery, I think?” Lu Siya said uncertainly over the phone.

“A normal robbery?” Meng Chao looked at the brilliant fireworks in front of him and did not know whether he should laugh or cry. “Did the robbers in the whole city make an appointment to rob their targets together tonight? That doesn’t make sense. How could there be so many robbers in all of Dragon City?!”

Even though they lived through a period of lawlessness that was like a bloody hell decades ago, and all of them did not want to recall it, ever since the Survival Committee was built and order returned, the crime rate in Dragon City had been controlled pretty well.

Even though it was general practice for all the citizens to practice martial arts and learn how to use light and heavy firearms, which led to fighting and crimes of passion everywhere, there were not many meticulously planned, sophisticated, and having stewed around for a long time crimes.

The reason behind it was simple.

The difference between normal people and superhumans was too great.

And the difference between superhumans of different levels was also so great that it brought about despair.

Even if normal people were so desperate that they wrecked their brains to think of a foolproof robbery and even if they managed to steal the goods; afterwards, the superhumans would definitely be able to find clues and capture the perpetrators.

And if Earth Realm superhumans wanted to commit crimes, they would face just punishments from Heaven Realm superhumans.

Once superhumans reached Heaven Realm and became famous people, they would become the vested beneficiaries of the current rules of the game. The money they earned through legal means could fill up their pockets, so why would there be a need for them to take risks?

Of course, lost people did cause great damage to Dragon City, but the birth of lost people was mainly due to spirit energy destroying some mysterious region in their brains, which led to their central nervous systems being invaded and their thoughts becoming distorted. Thus, they would go through spirit energy deviation and commit crimes. They did not do it purely for interests.

Besides, once lost people decided to break free of the law, they would be mercilessly suppressed by the adjudicator court. Even if they managed to escape through sheer luck for a period of time, they could only run into the depths of the lairs and hold hundreds of thousands of lair citizens as hostages. They would then be people so despised by society that they could not see the light of day.

Could it be that the lost people hidden in the depths of the lair decided on the spur of a moment to run out to steal from others as they pleased?

That was impossible. They had no reason to be so stupid. It was basically the same as them surrendering themselves.

But Shen Yupeng kept receiving news that stated that there were indeed dozens, no, more than one hundred malicious crimes happening at the same time in Dragon City, and all of them involved supernatural abilities.

Meng Chao could not understand it.

Hence, when Shen Yupeng hurried to the other crime sites, he mentioned that he wanted to help.

They had long since established a happy working relationship during the Blessed Paradise murderous pets case.

Dragon City also promoted the idea that all citizens were soldiers, so the Red Dragon Army, research departments, and adjudicator courts would never reject the help from citizens when they carried out their duties.

Shen Yupeng was experiencing a severe lack of manpower on his side, so he was grateful for Meng Chao's help.

In truth, Meng Chao was not the only one shocked. Dragon City had not experienced more than one hundred malicious crimes happening simultaneously over the past thirty years. The endless explosions surprised plenty of superhumans, and all of them rushed to the crime sites.

But they soon realized that the situation at the crime sites was really problematic.

Malicious crimes were different from zombie hordes and monster invasions.

The people had gone through countless simulations of fog descents, monsters invasions, and zombie viruses and Blood Flower spores causing riots. They knew how to handle them.

Even if they did not receive any orders from their superiors, once they saw zombies, monsters, and the undead, they would just fight fiercely while ensuring that their bodies were safe. Unless they were told to stop by their superiors, they would stop.

In any case, most of the zombies, monsters, and the undead were creatures with grotesque appearances and strange figures. They were eye-catching existences that humans could tell were different from them with just one glance.

But the criminals of the one hundred or so malicious crimes were all humans.

When the superhumans heard the explosions, it usually meant that the crimes had already reached their end, and the criminals had already obtained the items they wanted. They were just using the explosives to get rid of all the clues and evidence on the crime site.

The criminals could even pretend to be the reinforcements who arrived with the other superhumans.

As for the superhumans, they were not used to treating humans as their opponents, so it was difficult for them to see through their disguises.

Chapter 462: Ignited Within The City

Dozens of robbers in clown and animal masks had robbed dozens of material warehouses from different industries in the eastern part of the city.

Those warehouses were basically one grade lower than Superstar's warehouse, so they naturally could not offer a high salary to superhumans to hire them as security guards. The warehouses were easily broken into, and once the robbers took everything to their hearts' content, they left freely.

Even though the warehouses did not contain the most valuable cultivation resources, when more than dozens of robberies were added together, the losses amounted to an astronomical figure.

The criminals had also targeted dozens of middle and higher level managers of industries and research centers at the western part of the city. These people were all support-class superhumans who only had high cultivation realms but lacked fighting power.

Not all superhumans could fight.

For example, Ning Shewo, the leading figure of the harvesting world, was a Heaven Realm superhuman based on the cultivation realm, but he mainly cultivated his branch meridians, harvesting skills, and studied natural history. Besides, he was old and weak now, so he could no longer fight highly intense battles.

There were also plenty of researchers and managers who worked using their heads. Their brains were incredibly developed due to the refinement of spirit energy, and correspondingly, their limbs were a tad weaker.

These people did not lack money, and they usually had a lot of cultivation resources stacked up in their homes.

Since they had all sorts of industries and forces of power behind them, usually, no one would dare to target them.

But for some reason, that night, many of the experts encountered fully-armed robbers breaking into their houses.

Of course, some of the researchers fought back desperately.

But the robbers were all fierce and malicious. If the targets showed the slightest sign of resistance, they lost their rationality and acted like they were maniacs. They even died together with the experts.

Within just a short hour, more than one hundred crimes happened in the city.

Meng Chao felt that Shen Yupeng had turned into a firefighter captain, and he himself was a firefighter following him around. They went all around the city like headless chickens.

But every single time, they were one step slower than the robbers and could only clean up the mess.

It was not that the robbers were really powerful or cunning.

In truth, most of the robbers were like Ning Lang. They were normal people who had eaten Deification Capsules and temporarily gained supernatural abilities.

No matter how meticulously they planned their crimes, they still left behind vast amounts of clues on the site, so it would be easy to locate them.

They were normal people and did not know just how terrifying supernatural abilities were. They did not know how to control their strength to deliver force at a stable pace, either.

Once the secret police or righteous superhumans discovered them, they usually panicked and acted in desperation, which usually resulted in losses to everyone that were ten times worse than the robbery itself.

Ning Lang was an example of that.

If Meng Chao had just opened up his warehouse and let Ning Lang rob him, he would have taken a small portion of the cultivation resources in the warehouse to fill up one measly truck.

But due to Meng Chao's arrival, Ning Lang decisively (read: stupidly) chose to detonate a high-energy napalm bomb and destroy an entire warehouse's worth of cultivation resources. The irredeemable losses were then instantly magnified by ten times.

If the judge used the measurement of punishment, he would definitely have to consider this and increase the severity of his punishment.

Of course, before he performed the robbery, he had already killed someone intentionally, so he might not care about it anymore.

Just like Ning Lang, many of the robbers intentionally detonated all the remaining cultivation resources in the material warehouse to throw off the pursuers' attention while they fled.

Some people also threw smoke bombs and napalm bombs at large quantities in densely populated areas once they broke in and robbed houses, so all the citizens would be in a terrible fix.

Some people also took in even more Deification Capsules after they were surrounded by their pursuers. They instantly released the potential in their cells and turned into creatures even more terrifying than monsters. Before their organs withered and their bodies went up in flames, they engaged their pursuers in a terrifying and devastating battle in the downtown areas. Naturally, it caused a lot of innocents to be injured.

When Shen Yupeng saw the messy crime sites and the destroyed sites of capture, he was shocked and felt really anxious.

It has to be known that it was precisely because superhumans were monsters in human skin and could even be thought of as walking super cannonballs that they had to be careful when dealing with superhuman criminals.

Without absolute confidence, it would be better to give up on the chance to capture them. Also, before they captured the criminals, they had to not let the criminals detect even the slightest hint of danger.

Otherwise, the criminals would decide to do even worse things because they knew that they would definitely be captured, and the consequences would be dire.

This was why normal police were not allowed to handle superhuman criminals.

It was also why the police officers in the adjudicator court were known as secret police.

But there was a limited number of secret police officers, and they never thought that they would need to handle more than one hundred superhuman malicious cases simultaneously.

The righteous superhumans only had passion in them and lacked professional skills. They fought against the criminals like zombies and monsters, so they were basically making things worse even though they had kind intentions, and the losses kept on growing.

Of course, they did manage to capture some criminals.

But most of the criminals' lives were drained within just a few minutes. Their cells withered away, and they died.

Only a handful were lucky enough to survive, but they were really weak and were at their deathbed. For the time being, it was really hard to make them talk and get any useful information from them.

With the help of face and fingerprint identification, they identified these people. All of them were normal people. There was not a single big fish worth any value among them. No one knew why these normal people saw eye to eye and chose the same night to take such a risk.

The long night was finally over.

Practically all the citizens knew that more than one hundred malicious crimes had happened in Dragon City.

The losses were basically the same as from a large-scale monster invasion.

But the effects from the crimes were far from just this.

A human's greatest fear was always the fear toward the unknown.

Regardless of whether it was zombies, monsters, or invasions from the undead, Dragon Citizens could predict them. They were also used to them.

The disgusting and ugly monsters were "them", and humans could tell they were "them" based on their appearance alone. It was also natural for "them" to attack "us". All "we" needed to do was just to counterattack. That would be enough.

But no matter how fierce and lunatic the robbers were, they were still just normal people. Logically speaking, they were one of "us". This sort of killing among fellow humans puzzled Dragon Citizens. It made them worried, and they were filled with a feeling that something bad was going to happen.

From a more practical standpoint, monster invasions did indeed cause great damage to the city, but as long as they could kill the monsters, their flesh and other materials could cover the losses. Sometimes, the benefits would even be greater.

But the losses created by the robbers were just losses. Even if they captured all of the robbers and executed them so that they could extract oil from their bones, it would not even cover 1% of the losses.

Besides, the number of criminals they captured was far from one-third of all the robbers. Many of the criminals removed their masks and changed their clothes afterward to escape into the crowd, and the government would have to use a lot of manpower and resources to find and capture them.

In fact, if they brought the cultivation resources they snatched and fled into the lairs to mix around with the lost people who had been lurking there for decades, then, unless the government got rid of all the lairs that contained more than one million people, it would be practically impossible to capture them.

"This is an unprecedented, serial criminal case. It's definitely the abnormal beasts' new, savage attack against Dragon City. Their goal isn't just to snatch cultivation resources, but also to throw Dragon City's societal order into chaos and cause humans to not trust each other. They want to make human

civilization return to decades ago, when we lived in a lawless, bloody era that operated on the law of the jungle!”

Meng Chao did not sleep the entire night. At six in the morning, he met up with Lu Siya, who looked just as disheveled, and Ye Xiaoxing.

Even though they had not found any traces of abnormal beasts masterminding the crimes, this did not mean that the abnormal beast research department could sleep without worry.

To prevent abnormal beasts from attacking Dragon City during the disaster or doing something like Noble Descent Hotel again and attacking them from another direction while they were busy on another warfront, the abnormal beast research department placed all of the investigators with fighting power outward and defended the important facilities and tactical strongholds.

And there were actually a few ignorant thieves who went straight for the abnormal beast research department.

Unfortunately, before the investigators could capture them, these robbers showed cunning that was far greater than that of the monsters and ran off into densely populated residential areas or downtown areas. They intended to use innocent citizens as hostages.

The investigators had to use ten times the intelligence and energy they used while capturing abnormal beasts to finally capture these people.

Ye Xiaoxing, captain of Group 9, sensed the presence of abnormal beasts hidden in these serial crimes.

His thoughts were the same as Meng Chao’s.

Hundreds of malicious crimes had happened in one night, and practically all the criminals were normal people who ate Deification Capsules or low-grade superhumans who took large quantities of Deification Capsules. This was definitely not a coincidence.

In the One Hundred Ways to Destroy Dragon City, Meng Chao had long since mentioned that compared to powerful external attacks, the cost-performance ratio of causing Dragon City to implode and make the city get destroyed due to internal chaos was much better.

It was then no wonder why the abnormal beasts had lurked for such a long time after the Noble Descent Hotel ambush and did not do anything for half a year.

It seemed like they wanted to use this operation to do what they did not manage to do last time. They set up a huge ticking time bomb in Dragon City, and it finally detonated the night before.

Unfortunately, the abnormal beast research department did not have many clues related to the cases themselves.

Before they had concrete proof, the authority over the cases remained in the adjudicator court’s hands, and Ye Xiaoxing as well as Lu Siya could not do anything to continue the investigation.

But Meng Chao was the first to get in contact with the Deification Capsules.

Among the series of robberies the previous night, the losses Superstar's material warehouse suffered were also the greatest.

He was not an official investigator of the abnormal beast research department, so he was considered a victim and informant of the case.

Besides, his relationship with Shen Yupeng was pretty good, so he could go and ask for information.

Ye Xiaoxing's thoughts about this was that a lot of areas were involved in these cases. The effects were also rather bad, so the abnormal beast research department and the adjudicator court would definitely not be able to handle the cases alone.

At that time, they would definitely mobilize resources from everywhere and both parties would work together to investigate it.

Now, he and Lu Siya would continue the investigations based on the clues given by the White Spirit, Earthquake, and the Demonic Abyss Eye. Meanwhile, since Meng Chao was not part of the research department, it would be better if he checked what the adjudicator court intended to do through Shen Yupeng.

Meng Chao knew that the relationship between the adjudicator court and the research department was complicated. There were plenty of times when they had small conflicts between them while they fought for cases. Having them work together was like trying to force two complicated and sophisticated machines together. Making them work in unison was not something that could be accomplished in one go.

It would be better to use Meng Chao and Shen Yupeng's relationship to first form a knot between the two law enforcement organizations.

Chapter 463: Teacher of Crime

When Meng Chao reached the Supernatural Tower, it was seven in the morning.

The people's market in front of the Supernatural Tower was already filled with people. It was full of normal citizens and superhumans who were there to report cases.

The law enforcers of the adjudicator court were known as the secret police. To prevent alerting the superhuman criminals while they were investigating a case and causing them to act in desperation, which would lead to even greater damage, they did not wear uniforms and conducted investigations as well as executions in secret.

But the adjudicator court itself was no secret.

Its headquarters was located in the Supernatural Tower.

In truth, when the Supernatural Tower was first formed, its goal was to arbitrate the conflicts between normal people and superhumans, as well as the conflicts between superhumans.

Up to that date, the Supernatural Tower still had stations to report crimes and boxes to inform the adjudicator court about criminal cases. If the normal people felt that they were harassed by superhumans, they could report the cases directly or do so anonymously.

Ever since the Supernatural Tower had been formed, it had been nearly thirty years since Dragon City encountered a night like this, where order was completely destroyed.

It was no wonder then why the station the adjudicator court set up to report cases was cramped!

Meng Chao had not contacted Shen Yupeng yet. He looked around and saw a lot of Broken Star Club members in the crowd.

The Broken Star Club members also saw him. They squinted and stared at him for a long time before they dared to come up to greet him. While they asked him about his training in the wild, they also told him about what had happened during the night.

While listening to the broken-star superhumans' descriptions, Meng Chao realized that Superstar was not the only one that suffered major losses. Many of the broken-star superhumans and the middle or small firms they opened were also robbed.

The reason for it was very simple. The middle-grade and high-grade superhumans who came from cultivation families and were Heaven Realm superhumans usually lived in high-end apartments with tight security systems.

Ever since the new zombie virus and Blood Flower spores wreaked havoc, the defense systems of the high-end apartments went through full upgrades, and the residents were all above average elites.

Even if the robbers, who were normal people, ate ten Deification Capsules in one go, it would be impossible for them to break through the defenses of the high-end apartments and rob the powerful fighters' apartments.

Most of the residential areas where normal people lived in had not been upgraded yet, so they were easy targets.

The problem was, most of the normal people had empty apartments, and they could not get a lot of money from them!

But through the Broken Star Club and the Ultimate Style, the broken-star superhumans had regained hope in cultivating, and all of them were motivated to work hard. They flourished, and they had a lot of cultivation resources accumulated in their apartments and companies.

However, they could not get stronger as fast as Meng Chao. So, if the robbers ate a few Deification Capsules and dared to risk their lives, they would be able to somewhat match the broken-star superhumans.

Naturally, they became fat wallets in the eyes of the robbers.

The Broken Star Club had more than two hundred thousand members.

It was a lax organization that people could join and leave as they pleased, and they were not bound by a lot of restrictions. In other words, it was just a large club house. The Broken Star Club members were essentially no different from supermarket members or public bath house members. Naturally, it was difficult for them to distinguish between who was the good, the bad, the loyal, and the spying.

A day before, a handful of broken-star superhumans with ill intentions had gotten themselves Deification Capsules from somewhere and temporarily gained the power of one-star and two-star superhumans. They turned into robbers and extended their evil claws toward the innocent.

Some of the broken-star superhumans were harmed because of it. It angered the lawful broken-star superhumans so much that they started cussing up a storm. They said that they could not judge a book by its cover and that the rotten eggs destroyed the whole basket. The Broken Star Club had been a good club, but now, it was destroyed by these scum.

Aside from this, Meng Chao also noticed a lot of injured, dejected-looking normal people.

When he spoke to them, he learned that even though they were not the direct targets of the robbers, they were affected by the bombs. The flames from the napalm bombs had burned their bodies or their homes were destroyed during the fights between the robbers and the pursuers.

Just who was supposed to be made accountable for this mess?

The area was noisy and chaotic. Meng Chao waited until noon before he finally saw Shen Yupeng, who came to him swaying and looking haggard.

“Big Brother Peng, are you okay?” Meng Chao was shocked. “You look green in the face. It’s like you’re going to experience organ failure or going to combust at any moment. Do you want to look for a place and enter deep meditation for a while?”

Shen Yupeng made a gesture and said weakly, “Help me out and bring me to a cultivation room, please. The guy confessed. I can finally rest a bit now.”

Meng Chao quickly helped Shen Yupeeng to a cultivation room deep in the Supernatural Tower.

Once Shen Yupeng was submerged in ink green gene medicine and moaned in exhaustion, some color finally returned to his face, and his vitality magnetic field started turning slowly. After seeing this, Meng Chao finally sighed in relief.

“Ning Lang confessed?” Meng Chao opened a high-calorie nutritional fluid and handed it to Shen Yupeng. He asked tentatively, “There were a lot of robberies last night, so they must be connected, right? Could it be that Ning Lang and these robbers belong to some big criminal organization?”

“If we’re talking about connection, there is some bit of connection between them. But Ning Lang doesn’t have any connection with the other robbers. There’s no big criminal organization with a strict order lying around either.” Shen Yupeng looked exhausted. He closed his eyes and contemplated what he knew.

“That’s impossible! These robbers are just chess pieces. There must be an incredibly diabolical chess player behind them!” Meng Chao blurted out.

“There’s a chess player, alright, but there’s no horizontal connection between the chess pieces,” Shen Yupeng said. “In truth, based on Ning Lang’s confession, he’s controlled remotely by this ‘chess player’ online.”

“Online?” Meng Chao’s mind raced. “How was he remotely controlled? The Deification Capsule, the weapons, the meticulous surveillance on the targets, and the bizarre criminal plan all came from the internet?”

“That’s right. It all came from the internet. More accurately, it all came from the deep web.” Shen Yupeng finished the high-calorie nutritional fluid in one go, and his complexion looked a little better.

“You know that the materials in the Other World are incredibly unstable. Our computers and internet systems are different from those on Earth.

“We added a lot of monster brain cells and biochemical plug-ins that are imitations of neurons. You can say that they’re the amalgamations of computers and living brains, that’s why we call them superbrains.

“This sort of new data terminal and internet system ensures large scale, real-time information transfer in the Other World, even though it’s filled with spirit energy and materials that are really unstable, but it also provides brand new challenges toward retaining and investigating information, locating the coordinates of terminals, and other things.

“In the deep web, there are one hundred ways for you to perfectly hide your identity and address, then send emails anonymously to have others commit all sorts of dangerous and evil crimes.”

Meng Chao knew this very clearly.

In truth, he had been active on the deep web as the Old Fire Relayer, and even till now, no one managed to see through his disguise.

But... Meng Chao still found it unbelievable.

“The person used an anonymous email to tempt Ning Lang to steal from Superstar’s warehouse?

“That’s not quite possible, right? Based on what I know, Ning Lang is just a hooligan. He wanders about the gray area, and people like him know the boundaries of law the best. Would he risk everything because of one anonymous email and do something so dangerous?”

“He might not have, originally. But when he threw in all his money and even got himself high-interest loans from underground finance companies, then lost everything in the wild and came back with nothing... You can’t really say what he would do after that,” Shen Yupeng said.

“Ning Lang said that he failed his business. After he returned to Dragon City, he was chased by the underground finance companies, and he also had to be accountable to the families of his dead friends. Gradually, he lost himself in the abyss of despair. At that time, if there appeared a burning log that could save his life, he would hold it without a care.

“Coincidentally, at that time, someone sent him an invitation through an anonymous email system in the deep web and asked him whether he was interested in taking part in a huge business.

“Naturally, Ning Lang did not believe it in the beginning.

“Even if he believed it, it would be useless. Because when it came to the big businesses in Dragon City, the legal ones and illegal ones all required you to have awakened to supernatural powers to join.

“In the end, the other party said nothing and just gave him an address. That person did not give any explanation about what it was.

“Ning Lang was conflicted for three days. Once he heard that the debt collectors sent people to his apartment to force him to pay his debts again, he made his decision and went to check out the address mentioned in the email.

“He found that the address brought him to an abandoned factory that was about to be demolished. It was located in the suburbs.

“Then, he received a series of directions in the factory. In the end, he found a Deification Capsule in an abandoned grinder.

“[Eat it.] These words were written on a note stuck to the Deification Capsule.

“There was a bone-chilling air in the entire affair. But Ning Lang had no other choice. He had run into insect hordes in the wild and watched his childhood friends be reduced to skeletons by insects.

“Since then, his mental strength index had not been very stable. His understanding toward life and death became skewed. Not only was he not scared of death, he even had the desire to jump straight into flames like a moth.

“He swallowed the Deification Capsule without hesitation, and for the first time in his life, he experienced what it meant to have supernatural powers.

“Meng Chao, we’re both in Heaven Realm, so we’re already used to one-star superhuman strength. But I think that even if we manage to reach Deity Realm one day, we would never forget how it felt to first awaken to supernatural powers and use them. That peerless excitement and pleasure cannot be described with words.

“Ning Lang got completely addicted to this pleasure. He said that he destroyed the entire grinder until it was just scrap metal, and he felt like he was a God who could do everything.

“Unfortunately, the Deification Capsule the other party gave him was not strong enough. It was probably a test version with really low density.

“Soon, when the effects ran out, he became normal again, and since he was exhausted, he became even weaker than before.

“Ning Lang said that at that moment, he was drenched in sweat and lay on the ground while panting. He could not even lift a finger. The pleasure he had from possessing great strength was completely overwhelmed by a feeling of helplessness.

“There’s a saying, isn’t it? ‘If I had never seen light, I could endure darkness forever.’”

“In Ning Lang’s case, it was if he had never tasted supernatural strength, perhaps he could forever endure a life of normalcy and mediocrity.

“But now, as if he was possessed by madness, he longed to become stronger. He wanted to eat more Deification Capsules and possess peerless power once more. Even if he had to trample on all laws and morals, he wouldn’t care!”

Chapter 464: Break Dragon City’s Secret Police

Meng Chao could understand how Ning Lang felt.

In a world where strength could determine life and death, the difference between superhumans and normal people was even greater than the difference between the rich and poor on Earth.

The poor could endure being in poverty, but only because they did not know how much of a lavish lifestyle the rich lived.

If you robbed someone of their supernatural abilities, it was something even worse than death.

Shen Yupeng continued, "After he returned home in great regret, Ning Lang received another mysterious email reminding him of the various harms of eating the Deification Capsule.

"The anonymous sender did not mind mentioning the side effects of the Deification Capsule. It was an extreme, super-high stimulant. It could allow people to gain supernatural powers at the price of draining their lives and losing their minds.

"But if they ate the Deification Capsules and took in a large amount of gene medicine and high-calorie nutritional fluid in time, they could avoid the drug harming their body.

"The mail sender mentioned that he could continue providing Deification Capsules to Ning Lang so that he could enjoy being a superhuman again.

"But there is no such thing as a free lunch in the world. Ning Lang had to pay a high price for the Deification Capsules and solve the problem of gene medicine and high-calorie nutritional fluid on his own.

"The good news was that the mail sender knew that Ning Lang had a huge debt and did not have even a single penny in his pocket. He could give Ning Lang another chance and let him buy some Deification Capsules and even weapons on credit.

"But that was if Ning Lang was bold enough to carry out the criminal plan he provided."

Meng Chao narrowed his eyes. "So, Ning Lang was really not the one who created the plan to rob Superstar's warehouse?"

"Of course not. The plan was really sophisticated. The marmormind needed at least ten blueprints and maps of the area, the transportation routes and shifts in Superstar, understanding of how to block off the emergency lines to the police, and a plan for the retreat.

"Ning Lang and his companions are all hooligans. They don't have the ability to create such a sophisticated plan," Shen Yupeng said. "Ning Lang said that the full plan was sent to his email in the deep web by the other party. The person was also the one who provided him with weapons and ammunition."

"How did he do it?" Meng Chao asked. "Did he send them to Ning Lang?"

"No. Ning Lang doesn't have fixed accommodation, so sending it via mail was too risky," Shen Yupeng said. "It's just like the first time. The other party sent Ning Lang an address. Everything was in an abandoned factory, the depths of a trash site, in complicated underground pipes, or even the storage

racks of supermarkets. He was to go and get the equipment. Sometimes, the person also gave Ning Lang some money and asked him to recruit and train companions.”

“I see...” Meng Chao pondered over this for a while. “Ning Lang should have also resold a batch of Deification Capsules. What’s with that? Did he do it behind the other party’s back?”

“No. Ning Lang isn’t stupid. The other party was really mysterious and knew everything about him. He wouldn’t dare to take action under the other party’s nose,” Shen Yupeng said.

“Aside from controlling him to carry out crimes, the person also asked him whether Ning Lang had any friends like him, who are desperate and long to take some risks to change their destinies.

“Ning Lang naturally knew a lot of hooligans who were in the same situation as him. Most of them were like him and owed others a huge amount of debt because they failed in their pathfinding adventures.

“But even if they weren’t in debt, the unemployment rate in Dragon City is really high. There are thousands of young adults who have dim futures because they couldn’t awaken to supernatural abilities. They’re all willing to risk their lives.

“Ning Lang provided a list to the other party. They were all bold and ambitious young adults who were willing to fight for their futures.

“The other party asked him to not question him any further about what would happen next.

“But while the mohawk man you mentioned was ambitious and wanted to change his destiny, he hadn’t gone through hardships yet and wasn’t forced into a corner. He didn’t want to participate in any criminal activities and still wanted to rely on pathfinding to change his destiny.

“The mail sender wouldn’t force a young adult like the mohawk man. Instead, he suggested to Ning Lang that he could sell him a batch of Deification Capsules on credit so that they could discuss things further after the mohawk man tasted what it felt like to be a superhuman. This is the origin behind the Deification Capsules you saw in the developing land.”

Once Shen Yupeng mentioned this, Meng Chao had a basic idea of the progression of events for the entire matter.

But there was something Meng Chao still did not understand.

“This means that practically all the criminals last night were tempted by someone, and they have no horizontal connection to each other? All of them were controlled by the mail sender?” Meng Chao frowned. “Then their coordination is really good. In just one night, more than one hundred criminal cases happened simultaneously. This organizational power is equal to that of a regular army.”

“Honestly, it’s insignificant,” Shen Yupeng said. “The mail sender meticulously planned their time of action, but it was not supposed to be yesterday. It should have been two days later.

“However, the mail sender made a few extra preparations. One of them was that if the criminals heard deafening explosions outside and learned of countless crimes happening at the same time online, they were to not hesitate and act immediately.

“The mail sender said that there is a severe lack of secret police in Dragon City. The more crimes happen at the same time, the more they could break the adjudicator court. As long as the adjudicator court is forced to work over its capacity and even breaks because of it, it will be very difficult for anyone to get to the bottom of their crimes.

“So, there’s no need for any organization or any orders to be given. The gunshots, explosions, and bloody pictures on the forums were the orders. The more robbers participated in the crimes, the safer they would all be.

“And the truth is, the mail sender was right. Dragon City’s secret police is really working past its limits now.”

Meng Chao saw how haggard Shen Yupeng looked, and he could only say, “Fortunately, the robbers are only composed of normal people who ate Deification Capsules, like Ning Lang. Superstar’s warehouse suffered the worst losses, and we still captured a lot of robbers. Even though we didn’t find the mastermind, we still managed to squash their claws. We should still make it if we want to prevent further accidents.”

“Do you think that the mastermind did so many things after so much planning just to steal from Superstar’s material warehouse?”

Shen Yupeng chuckled wanly and said, “I can’t tell you the details, but Superstar and the other middle and small firms’ warehouses weren’t the only ones robbed and damaged last night. Normal people like Ning Lang and the handful of broken-star superhumans aren’t the only robbers who took action, either.

“Honestly, the normal people and broken-star superhumans who took the Deification Capsules were just a diversion. While they were doing whatever they wanted and threw Dragon City into chaos, a few batches of robbers and assassins blended into their midst and stole really valuable cultivation resources. They also assassinated the crucial people in a few important projects and departments.

“They were different from the normal robbers controlled by the emails. These people were real elites. They didn’t leave behind any clues, and we only discovered the damage they caused right before dawn.

“Our attention last night was entirely captured by insignificant nobodies like Ning Lang! We didn’t notice their existence at all!”

“What?!”

This time, Meng Chao was truly shocked.

However, when he thought about it carefully, it made perfect sense.

After learning from the Noble Descent Hotel ambush, if the abnormal beasts wanted to make a comeback, they would definitely not be satisfied with just causing destruction of the same scale as last time.

If one wanted to hide a leaf, the best place to do it was to hide it in a forest with fallen leaves all over the ground.

Thus, the best method to hide shocking cases was to create more than one hundred other cases to confuse their sight, so the Dragon City secret police would spend its time puzzling over them!

Meng Chao felt a little troubled.

The enemy this time seemed to be even more advanced compared to Supernatural Entities like the White Spirit, Earthquake, and the Demonic Abyss Eye.

“Didn’t the secret police receive any news beforehand?” Meng Chao asked tentatively after thinking about it.

Even though the deep web could let a person remain perfectly anonymous, the other party had done a lot. He had recruited and trained more than one hundred robbery teams, meticulously set up more than one hundred criminal cases, and sent them many Deification Capsules and weapons. Logically, the person had to have left some clues.

If the adjudicator court had nipped this in the bud, there would have been no need for them to deal with such a rotten situation.

“No.” Shen Yupeng buried his face in the high-calorie nutritional fluid and rubbed it fiercely. When he scrubbed his face red, he stared at Meng Chao and said, “I heard that the abnormal beast research department has made an internal reference document called the One Hundred Ways to Destroy Dragon City?”

Meng Chao was taken aback. He did not understand why Shen Yupeng suddenly changed the topic.

“I also heard that it’s mentioned in the document that if Dragon City wants to develop long into the future, it must solve the problem of the great disparity between superhumans and normal people, as well as the rifts that appeared between the social strata?” Shen Yupeng said expressionlessly.

“The more resources the superhumans get, the higher they can advance in their cultivation realms, thereby making even more important contributions to society and performing even greater meritorious deeds. Then, they can naturally get even more resources.

“If this goes on, under the Matthew Effect, the strong will become stronger, and the weak will become weaker. The strong will have no one keeping them in check, while the weak will forever require the strong to protect them.

“This sort of societal structure is deformed, and it will definitely be unable to fight against the brand new threats who are not monsters lurking in the depths of the Other World. In fact, it might even cause our civilization to collapse under its own weight.

“Let’s not talk about the flighty future for the time being and talk about the now. There are already a handful of superhumans who are too greedy and have monopolized a lot of important industries and positions, so the normal people are getting dissatisfied. The conflict between the two groups is accumulating day by day, and it gave the abnormal beasts a chance to attack.

“If we want to win the Monster War beautifully, we must work in two directions and solve the cause and the symptoms at the same time. While we continue colonizing the wild and destroying the abnormal beasts’ nests, we must also change the practice of superhumans in Dragon City so that we can promote equality, harmony, and unity. That’s what was said in the booklet, right?”

Meng Chao felt a little guilty under Shen Yupeng’s stare.

The One Hundred Ways to Destroy Dragon City was naturally his major work.

In the beginning, it was just a few disconnected articles and some assumptions toward the future. However, after his fight to the death against the Demonic Abyss Eye, he remembered a lot of the memories from his previous life, which gave him a deeper understanding toward the timeline in which Dragon City was destroyed.

Since he could remember the apocalypse even clearer, Meng Chao connected all his assumptions together and added a little more content so that it would turn into a thin booklet.

It was the same as in the past. He stood in the monster civilization's shoes and wondered how he could destroy Dragon City's civilization.

If he used military exercises as a comparison, it would be that he treated himself as the perfect enemy. He used everything in his disposal to find the weaknesses of his target and dished out all sorts of precise and brutal attacks.

The booklet had a wide reception within the abnormal beast research department.

It was not strange that it traveled to the secret police, then.

But what connection did the booklet have to the one hundred criminal cases from the previous night?

Could it be that the abnormal beasts had stolen his ideas?

What a joke!

Chapter 465: Double-edged Sword

"Um... Is there a problem with the One Hundred Ways to Destroy Dragon City?" Meng Chao tested the waters by asking.

Shen Yupeng replied seriously, "No, absolutely not. The booklet is written really well. It has great foresight and has enlightened us. It gave a good lesson to the secret police, nine great cultivation families, mega corporations, and other related departments.

"Plenty of seniors in the superhuman circle also believe that this booklet went straight to the point and highlighted the hidden problems in Dragon City. Supernatural abilities are a double-edged sword our civilization has never seen before. It can push our civilization to a brand new height, but it can also plunge our civilization to an abyss of destruction. Where it will lead us will depend on how we use it.

"So, after the ambush on Noble Descent Hotel, the secret police, related departments, the mega corporations, and nine great cultivation families started reflecting and reorganizing themselves at a grand scale.

"It was especially so during the months you went to train in the wild. Everyone made bold decisions and practically hurt themselves to get rid of the evil practices that had formed over the years. They also started learning and developing the spirit of serving the citizens.

"Specifically, many departments and industries organized strict examinations over the distribution of cultivation resources and how they have been used over the past ten years or even longer. Even if it's

just one high-calorie nutritional fluid, one gene medicine, or one karat's worth of crystal, they wanted to know where it went so that they can ensure that it's used for official business.

"At the same time, all the small banks and secret accounts that have existed long ago were exposed so that we could reduce a lot of illogical expenses. We also reduced quite a number of excessive benefits we give to superhumans. The money and cultivation resources that we freed were then given to the people to upgrade the defense systems of the old residential areas and modify the normal schools in those areas so that we can support the cultivation of poor children.

"At the same time, we also noticed that many superhumans in the past paid too much attention to their own cultivation, so it was inevitable that they put themselves on a pedestal and could not connect with the people. It's no wonder then why the distance between them and the normal people kept widening. It even caused some of the citizens to have certain thoughts about us.

"When it came to this, the ace investigator of the abnormal beast research department, Lu Siya, set up an example for us. Under your influence, she got rid of her arrogance and delusions of grandeur, then took the initiative to merge with the people. She did voluntary work and promoted the thought that superhumans should serve the normal people. It received good comments from everyone.

"So, with great seriousness, we learned from Lu Siya and wrote a report on our thoughts and did voluntary work for the public. I have to say, doing voluntary work is much more relaxing than capturing lost people!"

The more Meng Chao listened, the stranger he found it.

He felt that Shen Yupeng sounded a little... out of character.

Meng Chao could only brace himself and said, "Big Brother Peng, from what I heard, the superhumans in Dragon City have been doing a good job over this period of time and are getting closer to the normal people. Isn't that a good thing?"

"Of course it's a good thing. I didn't say it's a bad thing. I'm just praising the writer of the One Hundred Ways to Destroy Dragon City for having great foresight and Lu Siya for being the model cultivator!"

Shen Yupeng stretched out three fingers and pushed them together. That gesture generally meant "insignificant." "It's just that we ran into a small problem. It's not big, but the secret police lost one-third of its forces over the past few months."

"Wh-What do you mean?" Meng Chao was dumbfounded. "One-third of the secret police left? Why?!"

"Because these people's determination wasn't strong enough, I guess," Shen Yupeng said expressionlessly. "Of course, objectively speaking, it's not easy being a secret police officer and adjudicator.

"What are good jobs for superhumans? Honestly, it's simple. There are two criteria for it. First, they can earn cultivation resources. Second, they have room to grow stronger. If I were to add one more, it would be that they want their names to be known and for people to call them heroes, right?"

"Take the hunters, pathfinders, and explorers as an example. These are jobs where you enter the wild and face monsters head-on. They fit the criteria perfectly. The superhumans just need to keep fighting

the monsters while they practice their fighting skills, and they will get a lot of cultivation resources. Their cultivation realms will naturally increase by leaps and bounds as well.

“If they manage to record footage of exciting fights or kill high-grade superbeasts, they might even become famous overnight. It’s no wonder then why countless superhumans flock to those jobs like bees to honey.

“But what about the secret police in Dragon City?”

“First, due to the needs of the job, most of the secret police and adjudicators cannot reveal their identities. They can’t appear under the spotlight and become heroes welcomed with cheers by the people.

“Second, similarly, due to the unique nature of our work, we can’t guarantee that we will run into superhuman criminals every day either.

“One hunter might kill hundreds of monsters while training for a month in the wild. After eating a large amount of monster flesh and gene medicine as well as gathering countless spirit energy and fighting experience, he or she will naturally reach a brand new cultivation realm.

“But the secret police in Dragon City sometimes spend a month to get to the bottom of a case. It’s highly likely that we will spend twenty-nine days on trivial clues and writing official documents.

“It’s also highly likely that we will not sleep for seven days and nights just to keep a criminal under surveillance. And it’s even likelier that after we will find that we ended up on the wrong path after spending a great deal of time and energy on it, which means that we ended up doing something useless.

“And when we capture the criminal in the end, we have to do it quickly and suppress the criminal instantly. We can’t give the superhuman criminal any chance to retaliate. This means that we can’t improve our fighting strength.

“The path of cultivation is an upstream. If you don’t improve, you fall back. If you get more of such criminal cases, you won’t have any time to train at all, and you will be left far behind by the hunters, pathfinders, and explorers. Meng Chao, don’t you think that their choice makes sense?”

Meng Chao scratched his head.

When he thought about it, it made sense.

During his three-month training in the wild, he spent every second focusing on killing monsters, harvesting, and eating valuable materials. His cultivation improved by leaps and bounds basically every day.

If he spent those three months investigating and monitoring superhuman criminals, he would have been lucky if his fighting strength did not decline.

“The secret police has never been a good job. It could only attract talented people through good benefits. But we face real troubles in this regard too.” Shen Yupeng shrugged. “Why is hunting such a popular job among superhumans? It’s because when hunters form a superhuman fighting squad, they can enter the wild to hunt monsters and gather a large amount of resources.

“If we speak using business terms, hunter squads are the first line of business of the industry, and they create direct profit.

“While hunters hunt monsters, they also harvest resources from monsters. They distribute those materials on the spot and eat them. After something’s digested, no one can say anything. First, because it’s hard to examine what anyone does in the fog. No one knows just how many monsters hunters have killed and how many they brought back. Second, when they create profit for their companies, it’s impossible for the companies to create many clauses to restrict them. The more they eat, the stronger they become, and the more game they can bring back. There’s nothing wrong with that.

“We can use the same logic with schools like Agricultural University or the four research centers. Even though they don’t receive direct benefits from the hunter squads, they produce large amounts of research results and create a lot of companies with their alumni. They even work together with the Red Dragon Army to organize pathfinding and hunting trips. From it, they can also get a lot of cultivation resources so that the people in these organizations can live comfortably.

“But it’s different for the adjudicator court. We’re a law enforcement organization. We can’t go into the wild to hunt monsters and create direct benefits. We can only rely on the Survival Committee to give us funds.

“And due to the unique nature of our job, it means that we can’t have side jobs or create our own business. If a secret police officer captures superhuman criminals while having his own business, it’ll sound odd no matter what, right?”

Meng Chao thought about it and nodded. “It does sound off.”

“But this is how we operated in the past,” Shen Yupeng said expressionlessly. “If we relied solely on the funds from the Survival Committee, it’d be impossible to satisfy the cultivation needs of every secret police officer.

“Besides, the lost people are not normal criminals. They’re superhumans with supernatural abilities. If we want to capture them silently, we have to do even more meticulous work and face greater risks than our colleagues on Earth.

“There are plenty of times when we have to venture into gray areas and support gray forces of power that are loyal to us. Then, through not exactly legal channels, get a large amount of cultivation resources or clues that we can’t get through legal means.

“While we handle superhuman criminals, it’s inevitable that we sometimes use some simple and brutish methods. We might even end up working with some superhuman criminals who are not that dangerous to deal with superhuman criminals who are really evil.

“During this process, there have been many secret police officers who couldn’t resist the temptation and gradually fell from being ‘gray’ to ‘black’. They collaborated with superhuman criminals and even became puppets of abnormal beasts without their knowledge.”

Meng Chao knew that Shen Yupeng was talking about the matter a few months ago.

The Noble Descent Hotel ambush had been like a deep water bomb. Even though it had detonated a long time ago, the shockwaves were still making the city shake.

“After this reorganization where we had to cut off the poisonous parts within our organization, the general atmosphere in the adjudicator court has changed. I can assure you that right now, you can’t find any traces of illegal activity. There’s no gray areas, no one is keeping cultivation resources in secret, and all of our rules and procedures allow us to endure the strictest tests,” Shen Yupeng said.

“Of course, because of it, the position of secret police officer and adjudicator under the adjudicator court lost all its attractive qualities. There’s no cultivation resources, no room for getting stronger, and no chance of being revered by the public. It’s a tough and tiring job.

“If that wasn’t enough, while we’re in the process of capturing superhuman criminals, if we’re careless, it’s far too easy for us to end up causing collateral damage in terms of destroying buildings and harming innocent citizens. That’ll make us scapegoats for all sorts of crimes.

“So, a superhuman must be really taking things too hard on himself or herself to give up on being a hunter, pathfinder, or explorer and choose the adjudicator court.

“Most superhumans still know how to calculate, so even though we lost one-third of our members, it’s not much.

“The secret police who remain have not found their next prospect or have not made up their minds to create their own companies yet. One of the reasons behind it is because our workload has increased by one-third its original amount. The other reason is because we have to study the One Hundred Ways to Destroy Dragon City and imitate Lu Siya and the other model superhumans to do volunteer work and teach poor children how to cultivate so that we can become close to the normal citizens.

“Due to various reasons, it just can’t be helped that we didn’t manage to discover the Deification Capsules and the mastermind who created the whole plan beforehand.”

Chapter 466: Tear Down the East Wall to Mend the West Wall

Meng Chao scratched his head for a long time.

“Big Brother Peng, did you know... that the One Hundred Ways to Destroy Dragon City was... written by me?” he asked with slight awkwardness.

“Of course I know,” Shen Yupeng said. “That’s why I complained to you for so long!”

Meng Chao had nothing to say about that. “Do you think that my method is wrong and we shouldn’t solve the problem between superhumans and normal people?”

“Only children will try to differentiate between right and wrong. I’ve no interest and no energy to care whether your thoughts are right or wrong.” Shen Yupeng shrugged. “In any case, that’s the situation right now.

“Since our benefits are getting cut and the management is getting stricter with us, many of the secret police officers and adjudicators don’t see a future, so they took up jobs that offer better futures or created their own companies to go out of the city on pathfinding trips.

“By the way, to protect Dragon City’s order and to capture lost people who create vast damage, the Supernatural Tower has always issued a bounty list, right? There’s even a bounty hunter club. As long as

you complete one of the missions up there, you get Supernatural Coins that will allow you to get cultivation resources.

“Originally, this work mode helped take off a lot of work from the adjudicator court’s shoulders. The bounty hunters have been great helpers for the secret police.

“But over the past few months, the Supernatural Tower has been cutting down its budget, and many of the rewards for lost people on the run have been reduced by one-third or half. A lot of the missions that got you Supernatural Coins have also been removed, so plenty of bounty hunters changed jobs. Those who haven’t are not as enthusiastic as before. That’s why the robbers got so many chances to take action.”

“Why?” Meng Chao was flabbergasted. “Why did the Supernatural Tower cut its budget?”

“Because they need to upgrade the defense systems of the old residential areas!” Shen Yupeng explained. “The ambush on Noble Descent hotel created a series of chain reactions, and the Colonization Party received a huge blow. The Home Party rose to power now and gained more support from the people.

“The Home Party said that the threat from the new zombies and undead is increasing day by day, and they threw the proposal to upgrade the defense systems for old residential areas at the Survival Committee, and through social media platforms and Blue Home, they let all the citizens know about this.

“By the way, I remember that the first residential area the Home Party modified is Blessed Heavenly Garden, the place where you once lived. The battle simulation video after Blessed Heavenly Garden was modified has been circulating among the people. Many of the citizens in the old residential areas are really envious, and they’ve been strongly requesting that the government use the same standards to solve the problem of their safety.

“Originally, the astronomical figures the Home Party proposed for the project wouldn’t have gotten the green light.

“But the Home Party has the popular opinion now, and they escalated the problem until it grew into whether the Survival Committee cares about the survival of the normal people when it is controlled by superhumans.

“The people are angry, and the Survival Committee can do nothing to stop it. They can only promise that at least one hundred old residential areas’ defense systems will be completely upgraded this year, and by next year, they will fully upgrade at least three hundred old residential areas to ensure that the number of anti-aircraft machine guns, infantry fighting vehicles, rocket launchers, and railguns in these residential areas is not lower than in middle-grade commercial housing areas.”

Meng Chao remembered now. He seemed to have heard Zhao Feixuan and the committee members of Blue Home mentioning this before.

“Isn’t this good?” Meng Chao asked.

“Of course it is,” Shen Yupeng said. “The problem is, there are only a limited number of resources in Dragon City. It’s impossible for us to create so much manpower, resources, and high-grade crystals out of the blue to fully upgrade up to three hundred old residential areas.

“In the end, out of necessity, we can only use the budget from other areas, and that includes the budget from the Supernatural Tower. The superhumans all have to tighten our belts so that the normal people can be satisfied.

“I’m not saying that you’re solving one problem at the expense of another, but without sufficient cultivation resources as a stimulus, the bounty hunters won’t be very motivated. Instead of staying in the city to capture superhuman criminals, they will choose to go out of the city to hunt monsters. It’s more satisfying, after all, and that is a fact.

“Besides, Dragon City is expanding nonstop. There is an increasing number of superhumans in the forward operating bases and developing lands in the fog. The number of superhumans in the city has fallen to the lowest over the recent ten years, so you can say that Dragon City’s awareness and defense toward human criminals has fallen to an all-time low over the past ten years.

“If this large-scale robbery is really a brand new attack by the abnormal beasts, just as you said, these creatures really hit us where it hurts.”

Meng Chao thought about it.

Recently, he heard that quite a lot of his friends in the superhuman circle had gone out of the city on pathfinding trips and explorations.

Everyone wanted to kill monsters while they were launching the tactical counterattack and get more cultivation resources so that they could reach greater heights.

Very few people were willing to stay in Dragon City and handle complicated and thankless problems.

“Speaking of which, you don’t have to be too worried,” Shen Yupeng said faintly. “Even though being in secret police isn’t something easy, there will be people who are willing to do it. I’m still around, aren’t I? I think that I won’t leave the adjudicator court for the rest of my life.”

“Big Brother Peng, your determination is strong.” Meng Chao was a little touched. “You knew that being in secret police is a thankless task, but you’re still willing to sacrifice your entire life for the safety and order of Dragon City. It’s no wonder why I felt like we’ve known each other for a long time from the moment we met!”

“It’s not a problem of determination. It’s mainly because I have subsidies from my family, and being in secret police is purely in my interest,” Shen Yupeng admitted openly. “The poor people who have to rely on their own strength to take care of their families and earn a sufficient amount of cultivation resources are not suitable for being the secret police and adjudicators.

“But people like us still have some money at home. We can solve the problems we face in terms of cultivation, so it’s fine for us, no?”

Meng Chao found himself speechless again.

He wrote the One Hundred Ways to Destroy Dragon City not only because he wanted to change the relationship between the superhumans and normal people for the better, but because he had an even more important goal: to limit the power of the nine great cultivation families.

They could do whatever they wanted, and it increased the speed at which the superhuman circle solidified. This was not beneficial to anyone, including the nine great cultivation families themselves.

But why was it that after all the fierce changes, they ended up forcing away all the poor superhumans from vital organizations like the adjudicator court and only rich superhumans like Shen Yupeng who do not lack money were left?

Meng Chao was never skeptical about Shen Yupeng and even Lu Siya's moral views. Both of them were his coattails—no, his good friends.

He did not have extreme hate toward the rich, either. He did not believe that those who were born in the nine great cultivation families and lived in Dragon City No.1 were definitely bad people.

The point was, based on what he remembered of his previous life, the nine great cultivation families would end up being deformed, twisted existences and would interfere with the normal development of Dragon City's civilization, which would send them down the path of destruction!

This was a major problem.

But it was not something Meng Chao could solve right away.

He should think about it once he was done with the Deification Capsule problem.

Meng Chao organized his thoughts and stated the abnormal beast research department's stance on this matter.

Shen Yupeng then mentioned that even though the two law enforcement organizations had some minor misunderstandings with each other while they were fighting for cases and budget, when it came to major cases that concerned their lives and deaths, they still knew what was more important and how they should act.

The scale of the chain robberies this time was really huge, and the Deification Capsules were really bizarre. They could break the boundaries between normal people and superhumans and destroy the societal order that had only taken shape after decades.

There was not even a need for societal order to really collapse. If some part of it was destroyed, the might of the Survival Committee and the Supernatural Tower would be sullied and damaged by the superhuman criminals, which would have an irreversible effect.

It was necessary for the adjudicator court to work together with the research department.

Speaking of which, if the two law enforcement organizations really wanted to work together, they would need an adjustment period.

But speed was the most important thing in war. Regardless of whether it was the abnormal beasts or some other dangerous person who concocted the whole scheme in the dark, they would definitely not give Dragon City's government time to catch its breath.

Hence, it was the higher-ups' problem as to how they wanted to work together. Shen Yupeng and Meng Chao were the vanguard which rushed to the frontlines. They could just work together first and carry out the investigation.

“That’s just to my liking!” Meng Chao nodded readily. “I’ve just reached Heaven Realm, and Superstar was robbed. If I don’t find the mastermind and cut him to pieces, I can forget about staying in the superhuman circle!”

“If that’s the case, I’ll bring you to Universe Insurance. I believe that with those outstanding instincts you showed during the ambush of Noble Descent Hotel and the Broken Star Club’s resources, you will definitely be able to help us crack the case.”

Shen Yupeng jumped out of the medical cabin.

“Universe Insurance?” Meng Chao was a little surprised. “Aren’t we going to the adjudicator court to investigate the case?”

“Didn’t I tell you? The adjudicator court is currently tight on manpower and money. It’s also tied down by more than one hundred robberies. I believe that with the intellect of the mastermind, these one hundred or so robberies are just a smokescreen and a huge bluff. It won’t give us many valuable clues. Even if we continue investigating them, it’ll be useless.”

Shen Yupeng smiled faintly and said, “Besides, the secret police is law enforcement. We have to adhere to the basic rules and moral limits, so there are plenty of times when our actions are limited.

“Universe Insurance is one of the largest insurance companies in Dragon City. We’ve accepted a lot of property insurance for many companies and personal accident insurance for support-class superhumans. Plenty of them suffered severe losses during the crimes last night. If we have to insure them based on the highest standards, not only will Universe Insurance have to declare bankruptcy straightaway, even the headquarters and all of Universe Corporation will suffer a major blow.

“Now, the people in Universal Insurance are like howling mad dogs. Trust me, they’ll be willing to do anything and trample over all their moral limits to get to the bottom of this.”

Meng Chao knew that the threshold to get insurance was one hundred times higher in Dragon City than on Earth.

The reason behind it was simple, because the chances of property and lives being threatened here was also one hundred times higher than on Earth.

Even among the nine great cultivation families, there were only a measly two or three families who had the strength and resolution to venture into the insurance business.

Universe Corporation was one of them.

Chapter 467: Robbers’ Logic

But even the insurance company under Universe Insurance did not dare to insure losses caused by monsters.

Monster invasions were like earthquakes, tornadoes, and floods. They belonged under the category of “cannot be fended against”. No one could predict it and bear responsibility for it.

The same logic went to the fighting-class superhumans who often went to fight in the wild. There were very few insurance companies who would dare to be held accountable for their lives.

But the series of robberies the night before had been conducted by human robbers.

Quite a number of superhumans who were injured or killed during the break-ins were also support-class superhumans, so they lived rather safe lives. They were experts from various lives, and many of them had personal accident insurance from the insurance companies.

If the Universe Insurance had to insure all of these cases, forget about the fact that they would definitely go bankrupt, all the insurance and finance companies in Dragon City would experience a tidal wave and might collapse because of it.

That was why the insurance companies were more impatient than anyone else to find traces of abnormal beasts hidden in the series of robberies.

If they could really figure out the mastermind, then even if they could not completely avoid compensating the people, the money they needed to compensate would still go down by a huge margin, and there would still be hope for them to maintain the stability of the entire business market.

Meng Chao thought about it. When it came to this matter, the insurance companies stood on the same side as the abnormal beast research department and himself.

“Can the insurance companies get the newest data and clues?” Meng Chao asked.

“The data from the insurance companies in Dragon City is connected with the data of the adjudicator court and the research department,” Shen Yupeng explained. “In truth, the adjudicator court and research department are very willing to see the insurance companies use some methods that the government can’t use to obtain first-hand information. Of course, we might have to rely on your instincts to find crucial evidence from all that disorderly information.”

“Last time, I managed to predict all that happened due to sheer luck. How can you call it instincts?” Meng Chao said readily. “But if we have more people with us, we’ll be stronger. We’ll brainstorm together, and we’ll definitely be able to spot those elusive clues. Big Brother Peng, let’s go now!”

Universe Insurance was located at the central commercial area in New Riverside Town.

It was a mighty building filled with anti-air machine guns, which made it look like a steel porcupine. It created a sense of strength and safety.

Shen Yupeng was an outstanding leader of the third generation in the Shen family.

His status was higher than Lu Siya’s in the Lu family.

In the future, he would need to take over at least half of Universe Corporation.

When he came to Universe Insurance, it was only par for the course that his words carried weight and he could get whatever he wanted.

He brought Meng Chao to the emergency crisis response department and asked for the manager there. A middle-aged man who had a fierce look in his eyes, could not seem to shave his chin clean, and gave off a murderous air from every single pore came up to them.

“Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong?”

Meng Chao recognized the manager immediately.

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong was the same as Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu. They were both seniors famous in the hunter circle.

More than ten years ago, when Meng Chao and the rest of the Golden Era were still learning how to speak, Zhou Chong was running all over the fog while slaughtering monsters left and right.

The depths of the fog in the past were different from the present.

The hunters did not have the support from the Red Dragon Army, and there were not that many forward operating bases and developing lands either, much less the support from automatic machines and heavy firepower. Fighting alone was the norm, and they could end up being surrounded by a monster horde at any moment. The mortality rate of hunters was ten times higher than in the present.

The ones who managed to survive in such a brutal battlefield and were famous because of it were all ruthless people with a set of valuable skills.

Luo Wu was ruthless, but Zhou Chong was even more ruthless. He seemed to have been born with a sense of smell that made him sensitive to prey. The moment he smelled blood, he would charge over like a hungry shark. He would devour his prey whole, even its bones, which gave him the name Man-eating Shark.

Meng Chao remembered liking to watch Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong's battle videos while he was in high school.

He also had a deep impression of Zhou Chong's Sand Tiger Shark Saber, whose blade, he claimed, was created by imitating the sharp teeth of sharks with the principles of bionics.

Over the last two years, Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong had seldom released his battle videos online and his name seldom appeared on the hunter achievement rank released by the government. Meng Chao had thought that he had accumulated too many hidden injuries and was forced to retire from the hunter circle.

He did not expect that he had joined Universe Corporation as the superintendent of Universe Insurance's crisis management department.

Meng Chao looked at the staff members of the crisis management department behind Zhou Chong.

All of them were built and sturdy. They gave off a sharp, murderous aura. They also had all sorts of weapons at their waists. When they communicated with the other departments, they slammed their fingers on the tabs fiercely while they used their daggers to scratch their beards. They were... really fierce people.

After three months of training in the wild, Meng Chao was very sensitive to the presence of the wild.

With just one glance, he could tell that these staff members in the insurance company had stayed for a few years in the wild and killed more than one thousand monsters. If it was necessary, they would cut off their limbs without flinching. They were all veteran hunters.

'As expected of an insurance company. The killing intent here is much stronger than in the research department or adjudicator court!' Meng Chao gasped in amazement.

While he was observing them, the group was also sizing him up.

A person's reputation spread far and wide, just like a tree's shadow. Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and his subordinates had naturally heard of the youngest Heaven Realm superhuman in Dragon City before.

But not all of them believed his strength.

Plenty of them believed that Meng Chao was just lucky and ran into a major case. Then, due to the needs of propaganda, he was made famous.

He was but a Heaven Realm superhuman who gained his cultivation realm due to a vast amount of cultivation resources. The more everyone praised him, the harder his fall would be in the future. Before long, he would fade away into obscurity or even fall to his original state.

But at that moment, when they saw Meng Chao himself, they immediately sensed a presence that was ten times more dangerous than theirs.

Their pupils shrank, and they instinctively tensed up their muscles. It was as if they had returned to the depths of the fog and were facing a matchless beast.

Meng Chao was a little surprised.

Then, he realized that he was a little agitated because of the matter last night and he forgot to control his spirit energy.

He quickly activated Walking Corpse and adjusted the speed of his breathing, heartbeat, blood circulation, and vitality magnetic field fluctuation so that they would fall to the level of a normal person.

But because of it, Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and his subordinates were even more unable to gauge Meng Chao's level.

"Superintendent Zhou, what's the situation?"

Shen Yupeng did not intend to waste even half a second. He went straight to the point and said, "I heard that last night, a group of robbers snuck into a lab under Universe Corporation and tried to steal a batch of high-end research materials. In the end, you killed two and captured one alive. Before you sent him to the adjudicator court, did you manage to get any valuable information from him?"

"Yes."

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong tapped open a video on his tablet.

Judging by the time on the top right corner of the video, it had been filmed around half an hour ago.

The main character was a person with bloodshot eyes who was foaming at the mouth, had deformed muscles, and had such an abundant amount of hair that he looked like a savage.

His limbs were tied down by monster bands. A large number of IV tubes and wires were connected to his limbs. He lay in front of a machine that looked like an MRI scanner, and three powerful rays of light shone into his eyes and his forehead.

Since his head was fixed firmly in place and his eyelids were forced open by machines, he could not break free. He could only screech like a trapped beast.

It was shown on the monitor that his organs were rapidly failing, and he had to rely on high-calorie nutritional fluid and gene medicine to remain alive.

But he remained very energetic. His brain waves fluctuated so wildly that they were stronger than those of a lot of superhumans.

There was no doubt about whether the man was a robber who took a Deification Capsule.

An androgenous, gentle voice came from the machine. "Who told you to rob the lab?"

The robber looked around rapidly. His body temperature climbed higher, and he looked even more worked up. He shouted at the top of his lungs, "No one told me to do anything! I didn't steal anything! Those things have always been mine! I'm just retrieving what belongs to me!"

"It is Universe Corporation's property," the voice said.

"Universe Corporation's property, my foot. Those crystals, ores, and monster materials are resources that belong to all humans! I'm a human as well! So why don't I have the right to use those resources?!" the robber said through gritted teeth.

"It's unfair! This world is unfair! Why is that you superhumans can monopolize all cultivation resources and become stronger while standing above us?! Why can you stay in such beautiful mansions and live relaxing or exciting lives?! Why do we normal people not have any power, jobs, money, and hope?! Why don't we have anything at all?!"

"It's because you stole all the resources!"

"That's right! That's exactly it! You stole all the resources and claimed them as your own! You stole what should belong to all humans and claim they're Universe Corporation's property! You're the robbers! I'm just stealing what belongs to me from all of you robbers!"

He kept on struggling, and the monster bands let out loud ripping sounds.

His bloodshot eyes looked like two burning bombs that would explode at any moment.

The androgenous voice went silent for a while.

It seemed like the interrogator was puzzled by the robber's logic.

But to obtain more clues, the interrogator continued asking him questions based on the robber's logic. The interrogator said patiently, "The superhumans fought and obtained those resources to protect and develop Dragon City."

"I can fight for Dragon City too!" the robber screamed, "As long as I get these resources, I can awaken to supernatural abilities, and at that time, I will definitely sacrifice my life for Dragon City! I won't stop until I die!"

"You took drugs." The interrogator did their best to not reveal their emotions. They continued, "Do you know that you took a forbidden drug that has not been approved and is highly dangerous? This drug has fatal side effects and consequences. It's without a doubt, poison. It will only destroy your life."

"No, the Deification Capsule isn't poison. It's a miracle drug! It's definitely a miracle drug!" the robber said hysterically. "The Deification Capsule can grant us normal people the power to seize everything back! It will help us regain our future, hope, dignity, and everything!"

"Haha! HAHAHAHA! With the Deification Capsule, the days where you high-and-mighty superhumans monopolize resources and rule over Dragon City will be gone!"

Chapter 468: Squirming Vortex

The interrogator fell silent for a moment before they said, "Looks like you have some misunderstandings toward the relationship between superhumans and normal people."

"You were deceived. Who told you these things?"

"I wasn't deceived! That's the truth!" the robber shouted out.

"You superhumans declare that you're protecting Dragon City and fight for humans, but you're just standing on the normal people's shoulders and stealing everything from us! Yet we don't have any power to fight back against your rule! We can only be controlled by you!"

"We let you do whatever you want with us! Let you stuff us into spaces that are only fit for dogs and pigs! We eat synthesized food made of earthworm meat and monster poop! We can never see hope of becoming successful! We even have to be grateful when you save us!"

"But things are better now! With the Deification Capsules, normal people can obtain power equal to that of superhumans! We don't need to rely on you anymore! We can protect ourselves and our homes!"

"A grand, new era is about to descend upon us! We no longer need superhumans! Dragon City no longer needs superhumans! Human civilization no longer needs superhumans!"

"You will die." The interrogator had gradually gotten used to the robber's disorderly logic and calmly pointed out the truth. "If you take the Deification Capsule for a long time, the chances of death will continue piling up, and you will be unable to continue draining yourself. If this continues, you will die from every bit of energy being squeezed out of you."

"No, I won't! As long as I have enough cultivation resources, the Deification Capsules will release the greatest potential in my human body! It's absolutely stable and safe!" the robber screeched. "But we'll die if you superhumans monopolize everything and are unwilling to give us cultivation resources! That's right, you're scared of normal people awakening to supernatural abilities and threatening your rule! That's why you hid away all the cultivation resources!"

"You're scared of us! You're the ones who want to stand by and watch us die!"

The robber's eyes moved faster and faster. His skin turned redder, and smoke came out of his orifices.

He could not move, but he used the back of his head to knock against the metal headboard violently, which created loud banging sounds. It sent chills down Meng Chao's spine.

But the man did not seem to have noticed it. Instead, he let out strange cackles. There was a crazed, longing look on his face, as if he could see the arrival of the new era in his hallucinations.

Based on the skyrocketing figures on the monitor, Meng Chao could tell that the robbers' organs and cells were all vibrating madly. Very soon, he would reach the border for human combustion.

The interrogator could only increase the dose of tranquilizers.

But even after increasing the dosage until it was five times greater than the maximum amount a normal person could endure, it was still not enough to make the robber fall into deep sleep. It could only make him calm down a little, and from shouting hysterically he went to mumbling in broken fragments.

The video ended at that point.

"Meng Chao, what are your thoughts?" Shen Yupeng asked.

"There's something off about what he said." Meng Chao thought carefully about it. "'Human civilization no longer needs superhumans.' These eloquent words shouldn't come out of a normal robber's mouth. It's like the words seen in books. Someone must have taught him these things or even used a psychological skill to repeatedly inject these words into his head."

Shen Yupeng looked at Zhou Chong.

"That's right. What the robber said isn't the main point. In any case, all robbers have their own circular logic."

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong opened a few brain scans on his tablet. "During the interrogation, we observed the robber's brain closely, and we noticed that his brain is different from a normal person's."

For comparison, Zhou Chong brought out a normal person's brain scan and tapped open a superhuman's brain scan.

Even if Meng Chao had zero knowledge regarding brains, he could still tell the difference between the three scans.

A normal person's brain scan was like a rather dim butterfly.

A superhuman's brain scan was like a colorful butterfly.

But the butterfly wings of the robber's brain scan were in fragments. The colors in certain regions were too bright, while others were really dark. They were like black dots scattered all over his brain.

"Once we made comparisons of the robber's brain scan with the pathology database, we found that the robber seems to be under some really advanced hypnosis," Zhou Chong said.

“It’s not the normal hypnosis, where the person is in a muddled state and can be controlled however the other party likes. The robber has a clear sense of self, logic, and deduction abilities. He knew who he was, and he believed that everything he did came from his own heart.

“But a small ‘idea’ was implanted in his mind. ‘Superhumans stole all our resources, so I must retrieve everything that belongs to me.’”

Meng Chao immediately remembered the Demonic Abyss Eye.

Since the monster civilization could create one Demonic Abyss Eye, it would not be hard for them to create a second Demonic Abyss Eye.

“We also noticed that some of the robber’s brain tissues are about the same as those of an addict,” Zhou Chong continued. “His central nervous system and certain brain tissues have been corroded. That’s why he’s heavily dependent on the Deification Capsules.”

Meng Chao’s pupils shrank swiftly. “Senior Zhou, are you saying that the Deification Capsules are addictive?”

“Based on our test results, which we obtained after a whole night of analysis, mind you, it seems like it,” Zhou Chong said. “In truth, spirit energy itself has certain addictive properties. When we inhale and exhale spirit energy, we cleanse our bone marrows, bones, and brains, and that peerless pleasure is something no enjoyment can ever replace.

“Many superhumans cast aside a life of luxury and enjoyment and throw themselves completely into training. They even go to places filled with the dead to kill just so that they can continuously experience this increasingly powerful pleasure.

“But superhumans slowly upgrade this pleasure during their long years of cultivation. The most important lesson in the path of cultivation is to subjugate our desire for spirit energy and learn how to control it.

“Most of the users of the Deification Capsules are normal people. Only a handful of them are broken-star superhumans or one-star superhumans.

“The Deification Capsules can stimulate their brain cells so that they can taste the pleasure that can only be obtained by Heaven Realm superhumans or even Deity Realm superhumans within a short period of time. After this, there’s no way they will not end up as the slaves of these Deification Capsules.”

Meng Chao and Shen Yupeng looked at each other.

They also remembered what Ning Lang had said.

The Other World was a place where the strong ruled and feasted on the weak. The desire among normal people for strength was one hundred times greater than on Earth.

And with the highly addictive properties, the Deification Capsules were basically the most terrifying stimulants.

“This means that there is indeed a mastermind behind these robbers?” Shen Yupeng scowled. “Did you manage to find how this person managed to hypnotize the robbers? We obtained a testimony from another robber. The mastermind should not have met with the robbers.”

“There’s no need for them to meet. An email will do.”

Zhou Chong brought out a screenshot of an email.

The contents of the email were very simple. It was the number of a storage box in a supermarket located in a downtown area, where a lot of people went.

The email had to have asked the robbers to go there to retrieve the Deification Capsules or weapons.

However, there was a vortex watermark on the email.

At first glance, it looked like the scribbles of an elementary school student. The lines in the circle varied in terms of breadth and were entangled with each other in a mess.

But if they stared at it, the vortex gained a strange, attractive nature, as if it could suck in a person’s soul.

Even Meng Chao and Shen Yupeng instinctively drew closer to the tablet, wanting to take a closer look.

When they realized it, both of them broke into cold sweat.

“What a powerful picture. What is it?” Meng Chao gasped in amazement.

“This is an email the other party sent to the robber’s mailbox in the deep web. Our technician recovered it. Unfortunately, the deep web’s mail boxes all have multiple email shredders. We can’t recover more data,” Zhou Chong said. “As for the vortex-like shading, based on our research, it should be some sort of ancient runic symbol. It can subtly hypnotize a person and implant certain thoughts in them.”

“Implanting thoughts through a picture?” Meng Chao was in disbelief. “Isn’t that a bit far-fetched?”

“It’s not far-fetched at all. In truth, there are plenty of examples in life when people implanted thoughts in others through pictures,” Zhou Chong said. “If you let a normal person see the picture of a skeleton or rotting corpse, I can guarantee you that he will have shivers down his spine. He might even experience a few days’ worth of nightmares.

“But if you show a man a picture of a beautiful lady, not only will you implant thoughts in him, you might even cause a certain organ on his body to change. Besides, there are advertisements all over the streets. Their goals are to control people’s thoughts.

“These vortices are the same. It’s just that they’re even more advanced than the pictures and advertisements we usually see.

“It might look simple and appear to be a child’s scribbles, but in truth, the information contained in each vortex is one hundred times higher than in super high-definition pictures and videos!”

While Zhou Chong spoke, he continued magnifying the screenshot.

In the beginning, Meng Chao did not notice anything unusual. He just thought that the strokes that formed the vortex were uneven and rough. They gave off a furry feeling.

Then, when Zhou Chong magnified the picture ten times, Meng Chao finally saw that the strokes forming the vortex were actually made of multiple tiny vortices.

They were less than 1 mm and packed densely together to form a huge vortex.

It was clearly a still screenshot, but the tiny vortices seemed to possess life. They appeared to be squirming and releasing wisps of black smoke.

Meng Chao even began to suspect that the vortices that could only be measured in the millimeters were formed by countless other even smaller vortices that could only be measured in the nanometers.

Meng Chao felt numbing electricity flow in his cerebral cortex.

It was as if an innumerable number of squirming vortices had appeared in his brain.

Suddenly, Kindling popped up before his eyes, and a row of faint golden words showed up.

[Increase progress for the Mystery of the Supernatural Entities by 1%. Current Progress: 47%]

‘This is...’

Meng Chao’s mind raced. He immediately understood. He was right. A new Supernatural Entity had appeared.

It had to be a brand new Supernatural Entity that wrote the emails, created the Deification Capsules, and controlled the humans to steal. It was something even more terrifying than the Demonic Abyss Eye!

Chapter 469: Underground Emperor

Meng Chao vaguely remembered that there was a terrifying existence known as the Vortex among the Nine Great Supernatural Entities in his previous life.

Unfortunately, he was just a normal citizen at the bottom of society back then and did not have much information about the Supernatural Entities, aside from the White Spirit and a few others. He did not know how Vortex looked or what sort of skills it had.

But there was one thing he was certain of.

Each of the Nine Great Supernatural Entities had a unique skill set. Since the Demonic Abyss Eye’s skill was to implant thoughts and spread fear, then the Vortex’s skill was definitely not limited to this.

The chaos the previous night was just a gift to Dragon City as a greeting.

The real bloody banquet would start later.

Shen Yupeng might not have known about the Vortex’s existence, but based on the hypnotic vortex, he could sense just how troublesome their enemy was. He could not help but frown. “If the other party can easily implant thoughts in others through a picture, then we have a major problem on our hands.”

“It’s not that the other party can ‘easily’ implant thoughts,” Zhou Chong said. “We’ve asked the hypnotists and neurosurgeons in Universe Corporation to perform preliminary evaluation, and they found that these vortices can turn into photoelectric signals and invade the human brain through the optic nerves, thereby interfering with human emotions and thoughts, then expanding the negative emotions in the human heart.

“In other words, it can’t create something out of nothing and make people be hostile toward superhumans out of the blue or suddenly want to destroy the current order.

“But if someone already has strong negative emotions, this vortex can infinitely magnify those thoughts. Then, those thoughts will tempt the person to act on all those ugly and evil emotions.

“Besides, the Deification Capsules give people great power and are fatally addictive, so the people who receive the emails will naturally end up as the sender’s puppets.”

While he was speaking, Shen Yupeng received a new email from the adjudicator court.

It was an investigation on the dozens of captured robbers’ identities and backgrounds.

Shen Yupeng quickly scanned it and immediately said, “Superintendent Zhou, you’re right. The secret police investigated dozens of robbers’ identities, experiences, and their recent financial situation, and almost all of them have borrowed money from illegal finance companies in the past year and have been unable to pay by the due date multiple times.

Their interest has been multiplying to the point that it has already reached an astronomical figure that they can definitely not pay back with normal jobs. Besides, it’s not easy for a normal person to find a ‘normal job’ in the current Dragon City.

“These people went to borrow money from the illegal finance companies to buy equipment and receive training to become unlicensed pathfinders, buy a large number of gene medicine and high-calorie nutritional fluid in an attempt to awaken to supernatural powers, or were shouldering an expensive medical fee because they went through spirit energy deviation while they were cultivating and were injured badly.

“In any case, these people were all ambitious and refused to live a life of mediocrity. They had also received relatively professional combat training.

“Their fighting strength is considered at the top among normal people. They’re only one step away from becoming superhumans.

“Besides, most of them have experience fighting in the wild. A lot of them faced attacks from monster hordes in their developing lands and even watched a large number of their friends die.

“First, they have great fighting experience. Second, they might be suffering from PTSD, so their mental strength indices are really unstable. They don’t place any value on their own lives and other people’s lives, so it’s much easier for them to take risks.

“These people are truly the best puppets the mastermind could find!”

Zhou Chong sighed and said, “That’s right. Ever since we won the northern offense, many superhumans and normal people ran off to the wild to test their luck, but at the end of the day, only a handful of

people can become famous and rich overnight. Most of the people have to suffer the bitter taste of defeat.

“The strong prey and rule over the weak, this is just how brutal this world is. The bodies and spirits of losers who are in a huge amount of debt then become deformed. It’s inevitable for them to have thoughts like ‘I’m not the one who’s wrong, it’s the world that is wrong’, and they become filled with jealousy and hate toward the victors. They even want to exact vengeance on the victors. This is the dark side of human nature.

“Originally, even if the losers’ minds were engulfed by darkness, since they lacked strength and guidance, they wouldn’t be able to cause major trouble.

“But now, someone is providing these losers with Deification Capsules and temporarily increasing their strength until they’re as strong as superhumans. That someone also helped them plan a series of crimes. Whoever they are, they’re basically teaching them how to rob step-by-step, thus increasing their level of danger by more than ten times in an instant.

“What’s even more terrifying is that the mastermind even stated in the email that if more crimes happen at the same time, the secret police would have to face greater pressure. Once the secret police completely breaks down because they have too many things to investigate but have too little manpower, Dragon City will turn into a lawless, chaotic world again.

“I believe that after the motivation provided by the crimes last night, over the next period of time, Dragon City’s public order will continue becoming worse. The crime rate will skyrocket to a rate that we cannot possibly imagine.”

Meng Chao, Shen Yupeng, and Zhou Chong practically thought of the same thing at the same time. “We have to capture the mastermind as soon as possible. The longer this drags on, the more crimes will happen, and the consequences will be unbearable!”

Zhou Chong pondered over something and asked, “Do you know from which illegal finance companies these robbers borrowed money from?”

“It’s naturally the illegal finance companies in Golden Tooth Lair. More than 90% of the gray industries in Dragon City are gathered in the three lairs, especially Golden Tooth Lair. It’s basically the main base for gray industries, and it’s the same for illegal finance companies,” Shen Yupeng said. “Superintendent Zhou, do you think that this matter is related to the gangs in the lair?”

Zhou Chong fell into silent contemplation for a while, then shook his head slowly. “Chances of it being a direct connection aren’t big.

“The lairs might be gray areas that give shelter to all sorts of evil things, but under the management of the gangs, there’s still basic order in there. Many of the gangs have to rely on the resources and spaces provided by the mega corporations to continue surviving.

“The gang members are very smart. They know the limits of tolerance from the Survival Committee and the Supernatural Tower. Unless it’s absolutely necessary, they won’t publicly declare that the outside is the enemy.

“Besides, I just can’t see how this series of robberies will benefit the gangs in the lairs. Last night, a lot of the robbers fled to the lairs after they successfully stole a large number of resources. To the secret police and other armed forces of the mega corporations, this might have increased the difficulty of investigation and capture them, but to the gangs in the lairs, so many malicious robbers suddenly coming into their midst mean bloodshed. The order itself in the underground world might change.

“I just can’t think of a reason why the gangs in the lairs would want to cause such a stir out of the blue, not when they’re enjoying life in the lairs.”

Shen Yupeng narrowed his eyes and said, “The gangs in the lairs might not be doing anything, but this doesn’t mean that the enemies aren’t hiding in the lairs.

“If the mastermind wants to get the blacklist from various illegal finance companies and look for valuable puppets, they have to go to the lairs. To create the Deification Capsules, the mastermind needs a secret lab and illegal workshop with a complete set of equipment. The lairs have all of that. The lairs also have black markets offering all resources as well as allow people to buy and sell stolen weapons and equipment. Besides, after so many robbers were successful, they fled to the lairs. It’s most likely that the mastermind’s nest is in the lair, too!”

“Golden Tooth Lair, huh?”

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong scrunched up his face. He looked like he was suffering from constipation.

Shen Yupeng also fell silent.

Meng Chao knew that Golden Tooth Lair was a very unique region in Dragon City.

It was the largest slum, and plenty of areas there still retained their look from decades ago. The people in the lair had their own effective laws of survival, and it was difficult for external forces to affect the depths of the lair.

The one in control of Golden Tooth Lair was not the Survival Committee, either. Instead, it was a number of gangs, and among them, Golden Tooth Gang was the strongest.

The leader of Golden Tooth Gang was Jin Wanhao. He belonged to the same era as Thunder God Lei Zongchao and was among the first batch of people in Dragon City infected by the zombie virus to survive. Not only did these peerless fighters not become zombies, they awakened to supernatural abilities.

In the past, Jin Wanhao had yanked out a golden horn from a beast and made it into a saber, then used it to create a reputation for himself. He was known as Golden Flare Saber.

If they had not died, most of the powerful superhumans who once shared the same status as Saber Jin Wanhao had created mega corporations or cultivation families and became the fathers and mothers of the nine great cultivation families. They also set up the Survival Committee when Battle God Lei Zongchao made the call, which set them up as the rulers of Dragon City.

Jin Wanhao might have chosen a different path from them, but he was still someone who ruled over a territory in Dragon City. He controlled more than 30% of Dragon City’s gray industries and was known as

the Underground Emperor. He was influential and had a great foundation, so his position could not be easily shaken.

Even so, Meng Chao could not understand it. “Big Brother Peng, is the Underground Emperor really that amazing? I heard that he’s old and has not appeared in public for a long time. I think it’s because he has sustained many hidden injuries when he was cultivating and fighting in the past. He should be in his twilight years and just struggling to live right now.

“Since the enemy might be hiding in Golden Tooth Lair, why don’t we just gather our forces and the matchless fighters in Dragon City to take care of the enemies and the problems in Golden Tooth Lair together? We can’t just let this tumor keep hiding evil people and evil practices, then grow into some deformed monster in our heart!”

“Things are not as simple as you imagine them to be.” Shen Yupeng smiled wanly. “I know that Saber Jin Wanhao is just one person. He’s in his twilight years and at his last breath. Even if he has really reached Deity Realm, there are plenty of other Deity Realm elites. If everyone attacked together, they could take down even ten Jin Wanhaos.

“The problem is, Golden Tooth Lair is the largest slum with the longest history in Dragon City. The official data shows that there are at least six hundred thousand people in Golden Tooth Lair. In truth, based on the synthesized food, recycled drinkable water, and filtered liquid medicine that we send to Golden Tooth Lair every month, it’s likely that there are more than one million citizens in Dragon Tooth Lair.

“If we want to take down Saber Jin Wanhao, suppress all the gangs, ruin the order underground, and even dismantle all of Golden Tooth Lair, we can definitely do it.

“The problem is, what will we do next? After we take down Golden Tooh Lair, how are we going to solve the problem of the citizens who had been living for decades in the slums having no homes now?”

Chapter 470: The Terrifying Jin Wanhao

This was indeed a troublesome problem.

Meng Chao remembered that Dragon City only started to slowly modify and solve the problem of the slums long after the Monster War.

At that time, Dragon City had already walked down the path of the great expedition with great vigor, and through the colonization war, they continued getting new territory and market.

The industrialization machine known as the city rumbled. It continued providing countless new jobs for the people, and the Red Dragon Army continued expanding. It could provide positions for the large number of young adults. And with the new territories, they could also build new homes. Naturally, the millions of citizens living in the slums then could be sent to different places.

But the current Dragon City lacked resources and space. It did not have a sufficient number of jobs either. It was thus easy to pull down the lair, but impossible to resettle the one million citizens.

Shen Yupeng continued, “I told you just now that due to the pressure from the Home Party, the Survival Committee has to use a special budget to upgrade at least three hundred old residential areas fully by the end of the year. This money alone is enough to crush Dragon City’s financial system.

“Also, right now, the industries and the Red Dragon Army are expanding outward. We have to set up a large new city in the northern area from Shattered Starlake to Raging Waves. The frontlines in the east, west, and south also have countless forward operating bases and developing lands that are slowly merging together. We have hundreds of projects that are about to start, because we’re trying to build around twenty new areas at the same time.

“If we manage to build all these new areas, we will, of course, be able to change the tactical situation of Dragon City. The threat from the monsters will even be destroyed without us having to do anything. The internal conflict in Dragon City will also be solved perfectly.

“The problem is, if we take leaps instead of steps, we’re going to end up with a sprain. There are hundreds of projects in all the cardinal directions, and we want to build around twenty new areas. Every single one of these new areas require an astronomical amount of resources. No matter how fast our cash flows, we’ll only be able to see the effects three or even five years later, and this is if the monsters don’t launch any large scale attacks and everything goes smoothly.

“All the projects take up a lot of resources. I’m going to be blunt here and say that the nine great cultivation families, including Universe Corporation, might seem to be rich and powerful, but everyone is giving up everything they have and betting their life savings on these projects. We even have problems ensuring daily operations. There’s just no way we can solve the problem of the slums.

“Also, the people from the Home Party threatened the Colonization Party with public opinion, right? Now that they’ve tasted victory, aside from asking for the upgrading of the old residential areas, they’re starting to promote the plan to provide three nutritional meals for children of the right age groups. They want to be in charge of the meals of the children from three to eighteen years old and the young adults’ meals as well.

“They want the government to provide high-calorie nutritional fluid and standard food packs with spirit energy to ensure that each child can bring out their full potential, withstand high-intensity training, and in the end, awaken to supernatural abilities.

“I know that this is a good thing. After all, every child is equal and every person has the right to cultivate. The problem is, who is going to provide those three nutritional meals?

“In any case, the financial situation in Dragon City is absolutely terrible. During this critical moment, we just don’t have the money and resources to solve the problem of the lairs.”

Meng Chao had heard about the three nutritional meals plan from Zhao Feixuan before, and he agreed to it fully.

After all, after the Monster War, they would immediately head into the colonization war.

There were countless enemies who were even more terrifying than monsters lurking in the depths of the Other World.

The new generation of Dragon City had to do its best to grow, cultivate, then surpass their predecessors and their limits. At the very least, they had to be ten times stronger than what he remembered so that they could have hope of standing proudly at the top of all the races in the Other World.

Aside from that, if they could unify the standards of the cultivation resources for all the young adults and teenagers in the city, it would be beneficial to the breaking of the solidification of the social strata and promoting the unity of different social strata.

But Shen Yupeng's words hit the point as well. The plan was good and all, but who would be in charge of it?

Meng Chao could only scratch his head. "So, this means that even though we know that the lairs have a lot of gray industries, are corrupted places that hide evil, and have plenty of wanted criminals hiding in them, we still can't do anything about them?"

"There are certain really old professions in human history that have existed for thousands of years. There were also plenty of rulers who had great visions in the past who wanted to be in control or get rid of them completely, but even after countless dynasties and emperors died, these ancient and ugly gray industries still remain," Shen Yupeng said.

"Dragon City is a place that is not quite the same as the normal countries on Earth. On one hand, we have to constantly be on guard against zombie and monster invasions. No one knows whether they will still be alive in the next few seconds. Everyone is facing great mental pressure, and they need all sorts of channels to vent their frustrations and seek comfort.

"Yet plenty of young adults can't find suitable jobs, so for the sake of survival, they can only work in the gray industries. The Survival Committee can do nothing aside from turning a blind eye to it.

"The only thing we can do is gather all the gray industries in one place and ensure that they remain in the lairs. First, it's so that they won't affect the rest of Dragon City. Second, it's so we can execute the barest control over people like Saber Jin Wanhao.

"Let me be blunt, if you think of Dragon City as a mansion, then the lairs are the toilets. They are, obviously, the places where dirty stuff gathers. Sometimes, the drainage will be blocked and make the mansion stink. Sometimes, you will even have pests crawling out.

"But before we have the ability to completely renew the mansion, the only solution is to pinch our noses and go down to clear the drain, not blow up the toilets.

"It's easy to blow up the toilets, but how are we going to handle the things under them?"

This comparison was very crass, and it might not suit the idealists' tastes, but Meng Chao could understand it.

He pondered over it before he asked, "If the mastermind is really hiding in the depths of Golden Tooth Lair, what are we going to do?"

"I'll first contact Saber Jin Wanhao. This Underground Emperor is not going to just watch so many robbers make his kingdom stink," Shen Yupeng said. "If the mastermind is really an abnormal beast and its biochemical lab is really hiding in the depths of Golden Tooth Lair, Jin Wanhao should be even angrier and more agitated than we are. We might not even need to do anything; he will get rid of all the robbers and the abnormal beast on his own."

Meng Chao remembered that he had caused quite the trouble the last time he came there with Lu Siya.

In the end, they were only able to get out unscathed because Shen Yupeng had paid his greetings to Saber Jin Wanhao.

By the looks of it, Shen Yupeng shared a pretty good relationship with Jin Wanhao.

Or rather, Universe Corporation had a good relationship with Golden Tooth Lair.

But Meng Chao was still skeptical about whether Saber Jin Wanhao could handle the Vortex.

Shen Yupeng could tell that Meng Chao was feeling skeptical, so he said, "Don't underestimate Golden Tooth Gang's leader. He has been lurking in the lair for decades, and he might be the most unfathomable one among all the older generation elites in Dragon City. He might not have shown his strength for years, but one thing alone is enough to make you understand how terrifying he is.

"You should know that plenty of infamous lost people all choose to hide in the depths of the lairs, right?"

Meng Chao nodded.

Everyone knew this.

Many lost people chose to hide in the lairs after they committed major crimes because the lairs were densely populated with good and bad people and had buildings set up in such a complicated fashion that they were like mazes. The lost people relied on the hundreds of thousands and even millions of lair citizens as hostages to deal with the secret police and bounty hunters.

The secret police was really troubled by the lost people, but they could not face the risk of tearing down the lairs and taking away the homes of hundreds of thousands of people as well as fighting the lost people in an all-out battle. That was why it could only allow the lost people to remain inside.

"It has been years, and plenty of lost people have fled into the lairs, but the secret police can't do anything about it, and it's a really embarrassing thing when we talk about it." Then, Shen Yupeng changed his tone and said, "But did you notice that once the lost people flee into the lairs, they usually fall silent and seldom commit any crimes? If any lost person uses the lairs as their base and comes out often to commit crimes, they are soon captured or killed by us."

Meng Chao was a little taken aback.

It seemed like... that was really the case.

The infamous lost people seemed to always hide their identities once they committed the crimes that made them infamous and fled into the lairs. It was as if they completely disappeared once they entered inside.

If any of them still decided to keep to their old, evil ways and attacked time and again, they were mercilessly suppressed by the adjudicator court.

A thought popped up in Meng Chao's mind, and he said, "Saber Jin Wanhao takes in the superhuman criminals who flee into the lairs?"

“I don’t know and I don’t want to know. In any case, Saber Jin Wanhao is a really charming and resourceful person. He won’t allow anyone to destroy the order in Golden Tooth Lair. We can’t do it, the lost people can’t do it, and naturally, the abnormal beasts are not allowed to do it too,” Shen Yupeng said.

“Regardless of why he does it, what method he used to maintain order, and how twisted the order in Golden Tooth Lair has become after it has been used for decades, it’s still better than no order and things returning to a lawless, bloody jungle.

“This is a tacit agreement among the older generation superhumans and Saber Jin Wanhao.

“I believe that Jin Wanhao won’t break that agreement so easily.

“So, he will definitely give us an explanation in regards to the large-scale robbery, the origins to the Deification Capsules, and the truth about the mastermind!”