

Oh My God 501

Chapter 501: The Lone Chess Player

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the other veteran hunters took a lot of gene medicine in their daily lives, so they knew a little about drug creation processes.

With Meng Chao's reminder, they immediately noticed that the situation did not seem to make sense.

Even though the robbers had stolen quite a lot of cultivation resources, there were a lot of them, the quality varied, and their types varied as well. They had to be carefully analyzed before they could be used in an industrialized pharmaceutical production line.

Even if the enemy did not need to care about the side effects and complications from the Deification Capsules and did not need to get rid of too many impurities, the idea of creating one hundred thousand Deification Capsules in twenty-four hours was still ridiculous.

At first, through the biochemical rats' cameras, they only saw a corner of the container used to create the drugs. They thought that the container was huge, so the enemy might have a few floors worth of containers, each of which had more than ten of them, and multiple places to create the drug.

Later, everyone's attention was caught by the one hundred thousand green Deification Capsules taken by Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang and the other criminals. In their haste to catch them, the hunters did not have time to think.

It was only when they entered the Deification Capsule pharmacy that they realized that it was far smaller than what they expected. They could not stop their hearts from starting to beat faster.

"The mastermind knows very clearly that they can cause trouble and catch us off guard with the robbers they had tempted long ago." Meng Chao continued analyzing at his fastest speed. "But be it the secret police, the abnormal beast research department, or the superhumans affiliated to the mega corporations, they won't just watch their precious cultivation resources being sent into the lair and slowly turned into terrifying super gene medicine.

"With the mastermind's intelligence and cunning, it wouldn't be difficult for them to guess that we will definitely charge into the lair at first notice.

"No matter how carefully they hide the pharmacy, it'd be impossible for them to escape our surveillance, so they won't have the time to use the cultivation resources they snatched to create the Deification Capsules that will throw Dragon City into further chaos.

"So, they could use our habitual thinking patterns and blind spots to carefully create a fake pharmacy and use Big Brother Knife, the residue of the Deification Capsules in the sewers, infamous lost people like Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang, and more than one hundred thousand fake Deification Capsules to lure us here.

"Next, if my guess is correct, they will use the simplest, crudest, but most destructive method to instantly release all the spirit energy contained in the stolen cultivation resources!"

That would be the super large crystal bomb Meng Chao had mentioned.

All the veteran hunters and the superhumans affiliated to the clubs in the lair could already see a terrifying scene in their heads.

The Other World was an unstable world, and crystals were one of the most unstable materials in the Other World.

They contained a huge amount of spirit energy and were natural bombs that were really fragile and violent. The slightest bump could cause them to release an unstoppable force.

Besides, if all the crystals and cultivation resources stolen from hundreds of robberies were gathered together and intentionally detonated...

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong's face turned stark pale.

He thought about this and did not ignore Meng Chao's warning because of his age. Instead, he accepted his warning and immediately made his decision. "All hands, immediately retreat from the building. Hurry!"

Most veteran hunters had connected to the communication channel and heard Meng Chao's analysis.

They immediately shot outside the building.

Some of them thought that running through the winding corridors was too slow, so they circulated spirit energy and charged through the walls like human-shaped trains.

But some of the armed forces affiliated to the clubs had just entered the building through the balconies. They had not connected to the neural tactical data link shared by the Heaven Realm superhumans and did not receive orders from their higher ups in time.

Quite a number of people found square metal cases in crucial areas supporting the building.

The gang members thought that they were stuffed with Deification Capsules or the stolen cultivation resources.

They opened the metal cases and found that while the cases did contain cultivation resources, crystals, monsters' crystalized neurospheres, and all sorts of crystalized things, they were bound and connected by a metal wire.

The crystals and crystalized neurospheres released enchanting light, as if they were breathing. It was like they possessed an evil life force.

"This is..."

One of the armed members curiously looked into the depths of the crystal cluster where he saw a flickering light.

In 0.1 seconds, that light got ten thousand times brighter.

From an insignificant spark, it turned into an incredibly dazzling flame.

The flame then turned into something that seemed like a beast straight from hell, and it engulfed him and his ignorant comrades.

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom!

Deafening explosions that sounded like they could destroy the world came simultaneously from the highest part of the building to the shelter around eight levels underground.

Then, crystals weighing tons and the spiritualized materials containing rampaging energy from superbeasts turned into a destructive flood that engulfed the entire building.

Meng Chao had not finished speaking, but was already running so fast that he looked like he had wind under his feet.

Unfortunately, he was on the first floor, so he was very close to the main explosion site, which was deliberately set by the enemy as such.

The enemy was clearly an explosion expert and had carefully surveyed the area before placing the bombs in the building. He had set up a circle of detonations around the building.

When Meng Chao rushed out of the building, he faced a firewall and a wave of air that came at him like an avalanche.

The impact wave was like a huge hammer that blew him back into the building.

He had once experienced a destructive flood under Raging Waves, and now, he experienced it again. It felt as if the impact wave wanted to tear apart and destroy all his cells before squashing them together all so that it could tear them again, then squash them together again, and repeat the process a billion of times.

Meng Chao activated his vitality magnetic field and circulated his spirit energy so that it reached his skin. His goal was to create a sturdy spirit energy armor.

But the spirit energy armor of a four-star superhuman was as brittle as a butterfly's wings in the face of a storm from the charge of a super crystal bomb whose force was so great it had to be measured in tons.

Meng Chao's spirit energy armor was soon ripped to shreds and turned into moaning spirit flames.

He was swept up by huge flames, darkness, and pain.

He felt as if it was not just the building collapsing, but heaven and earth fusing together over him. They sealed him completely within them.

During the crucial moment, he only had time to stir up a final bit of spirit energy to protect his brain and heart.

In the end, like a lone boat floating in a tumultuous sea... No, like someone trapped in a coffin in the sea, he gritted his teeth and listened to the collapse outside while he sank into an unfathomable darkness.

He did not know how much time passed, but the dust finally settled.

Pain flared in his body, and it was like a fishing net covered in hooks had wrapped itself around him and dug into his skin. It dragged him out of the abyss.

His body was covered in injuries, but he regained his sense of pain and heat, and he felt really weak.

However, his soul was like a spinning top. It spun madly in his skull and trembled for a total of half a minute before it finally returned to his brain.

Blood surged into his mouth from his throat. He held it inside.

The faint heat allowed Meng Chao to know that he was not dead yet.

Shattered reinforced concrete was around and above him.

He was stuck between some broken walls in a very awkward posture.

Just then, during the explosion, the shelters underground were also destroyed, so he should have sunk underground.

His body was stuck under a few ten thousand tons worth of ruins.

The situation was absolutely disastrous.

Meng Chao swallowed his blood and grinned in the dark. It was a really tragic expression.

'The Nine Great Supernatural Entities are seriously each stronger than the last. Vortex considered every single detail of its plan, including human worries, their states of mind, and Dragon City's internal conflicts.

'As the saying goes, when you attack an enemy, you attack the places they want to protect. Even if I managed to predict its scheme, it was useless, because Dragon City would not dare to take the risk and bet that there weren't more than one hundred thousand Deification Capsules!

'But Vortex didn't manage to fully succeed, either.

'I remember that before the explosion, Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the others had already retreated to the edge of the building.

'They were a few floors above me. Some of them were even more than ten floors above me. The spirit energy wave they have to endure was definitely weaker. With the thickness of Heaven Realm superhumans' spirit energy armor and the strength of their physical bodies, they wouldn't have been injured heavily, let alone died.

'More importantly, I'm still alive!

'As long as I'm alive, the apocalypse has not arrived, or at least, it's not the apocalypse that I'm worried about.

'Vortex, our fight has just begun. You've already played your trump card, so it's my turn now, right?'

Kindling shone at the bottom of Meng Chao's field of vision.

[Increased progress for the Mystery of the Supernatural Entities by 3%. Current progress: 51%]

[Congratulations, Fire Relayer, you are about to figure out the truth of the mystery behind the supernatural entities. Increased contribution points by 2,400.]

Two rows of small, golden words appeared one after another.

'I knew it, the Deification Capsules and this stupid explosion are related to a Supernatural Entity.

'Even though I've been blasted underground because of a super crystal bomb, I've come closer to the truth.'

Meng Chao blinked and tried to connect to the neural tactical data link.

But no matter how much he focused, all he saw was a mix of blood and darkness. He could not see a single bit of light.

All he heard was rustling, as if there were insects eating his eardrums. The ears itched and hurt, but he could not hear Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong or any of the other hunters' voices.

By the looks of it, when the super crystal bomb exploded, the powerful spirit energy interference completely destroyed the neural sensory chip attached behind his ears.

Of course, if Meng Chao were Vortex, he would definitely secretly set up a lot of spirit energy magnetic field interference equipment within the lair so that he could block off the hunting squad's ability to communicate with the outside world. He would even block the entire lair's ability to communicate with the outside world if he could.

The spirit energy magnetic fields in the Other World were incredibly complicated. It made it so that setting up signal interferences was one hundred times easier than setting up anti-interference measures.

Even if the weather was good and everything was normal, the wireless network would still hitch and the lag and interference might be pretty bad.

Besides, right then, Dragon City was engaged in a major battle that would last for days at the borders of Dragon City. The powerful humans and powerful monsters were activating their spirit energy magnetic fields at a frenzied pace, which created powerful sources of interference. It was not impossible for them to even tear the spirit energy magnetic field above the city into shreds.

'Looks like I can only rely on myself,' Meng Chao thought quietly in the darkness, just like a lone hunter or chess player.

Chapter 502: Flee Into Darkness

The first thing Meng Chao was certain of was that the hunting squad was not Vortex's final target.

While the thirty-three Heaven Realm superhumans were a force to be reckoned with, they were not so important that they could completely change the tactical situation.

But Vortex still paid a huge price to destroy them.

The thousands of robbers in Dragon City, the cultivation resources that it had gathered with great effort, and the large number of puppets it managed to turn into its subordinates in the lair had all been used as bait and died with the hunting squad.

Forget about the countless cultivation resources that it wasted, the most crucial thing was that it had revealed its existence and lost its tactical flexibility and the element of surprise.

The secret police and the abnormal beast research department had already set up defenses outside. Vortex could not possibly carry out a second wave of large-scale robberies and destruction.

Besides, the thirty-three Heaven Realm superhumans might not have been killed by the super crystal bombs either.

Based on his injuries, Meng Chao deduced the power of the super crystal bombs and analyzed the situation with the hunting squad's cultivation realms in mind. At the very least, two-thirds of the Heaven Realm superhumans had the chance of surviving. They would just temporarily lose their fighting ability and have to retreat from the battlefield.

If he analyzed things based purely on the use of resources and exchange of fighting power from both sides, this was still a very unequal trade.

At the very least, Vortex, who had the initiative and had calmly set its traps, would not be satisfied with just this.

Right from the start, it knew that no matter how it set up its trap, it would be impossible for it to kill thirty-three Heaven Realm superhumans.

But as long as it could temporarily cripple them and force them to retreat, it could continue to calmly carry out the next stage of its plan.

Right then, Dragon City was engaged in a major battle that could shock the entire world.

The peak fighting powers of human civilization and monster civilization were holding each other back, and like intersecting fangs, they were pinned at the borders of Dragon City.

Before the great explosion that caught all of them off guard, the hunting squad to which Meng Chao was assigned was the only fighting force that humans could send deep into the lair and the only mobile force that was strong enough to handle the situation.

If this mobile force was severely wounded, the lair would enter a vacuum period in terms of fighting power.

Even if Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the other veteran hunters were still alive, they were heavily wounded and their spirit energy was drained. They had to retreat from the lair for the time being and be treated in hospitals or cultivation rooms. They needed to meditate and recover their fighting strength.

Based on the severity of their wounds, the treatment would last from three days to half a month.

And the Heaven Realm superhumans as well as Deity Realm superhumans fighting at the borders of Dragon City would also be drained after fighting Hell Beasts and Apocalyptic Beasts, even if they managed to win. They would be exhausted and need a long time to recover before they could join another battle.

The secret police and abnormal beast research department naturally had some forces they could use, but right then, there were plenty of tactical strongpoints and fundamental facilities like the water

treatment plants, power generator plants, spirit energy purification and pressurization factories, hospitals, schools, and densely populated residential areas that had to be defended all over Dragon City.

They had to set up defenses everywhere, so they were really short on fighting power.

It was impossible for them to set aside the vital parts of the city and form another force to enter the bottomless pit that was the lair.

Before the operation, Vice Director Nie Chenglong of the abnormal beast research department had clearly said that if the hunting squad's operation failed, they would carry out the second plan. They would lock down the lair from the outside and not let a single rat that might carry the zombie virus, Blood Flower spores, or Deification Capsules escape.

When the battles at the borders came to an end, they would mobilize their forces to completely solve the problem in the lair.

'The highest fighting powers and armed forces from the clubs within Golden Tooth Lair had also entered Leprosy Village with us just now. They should have suffered devastating losses during the major explosion.

'For the next three to fourteen days, the clubs will be in an unprecedentedly weak state. Their might would definitely be challenged.

'If Golden Tooth Lair were to be locked down at this moment, Vortex would be able to do as it pleases inside.'

Meng Chao did not have any fondness toward the clubs in the lair, be they Golden Tooth, Black Bone, or Poison Scorpion, but he had to admit, the worst form of law was still better than no law.

And the absolute form of lawlessness might be what Vortex wanted.

'No, I have to stop it. Vortex will definitely want to throw the lair's order into chaos, so I have to prevent it from invading the clubs and make a mess out of the lair!'

Meng Chao sucked in a deep breath and used up nearly ten thousand contribution points for six Middle Stage Healing Skills.

When the golden light flowed through his entire body like warm dew and his repeatedly crushed cells let out comforted moans, his originally destroyed and withered meridians were repaired one by one. They became full and crystalized once more. Due to being repaired too well after they were repeatedly torn, they became even stronger than before.

When Meng Chao's body was healed without any medicine, the hunger from his cells flared like sparks set off in the plains. It instantly swelled up like a sea of fire that filled his entire body.

Contribution points could cure his body, but energy did not come out of nowhere.

If he did not replenish his energy in time, he would be like those robbers who took too many Deification Capsules and used their lives in exchange for fighting power. He would be wrung dry and turn into dust.

Fortunately, he had Raging Dragon Blood with him.

He had stuffed that super gene medicine inside his nano fighting suit.

With great difficulty, Meng Chao pulled his right arm out from under the distorted reinforced concrete.

There was only a limited amount of space beneath the ruins. He could only dislocate his shoulder joints and elbow joints and use the connection between his muscles and tendons to make his right arm move like a python until it was in front of his chest and he found the Raging Dragon Blood.

He used his thumb to break open the lid of the super gene medicine, and a sharp needle was revealed.

There were three ways to take Raging Dragon Blood. It could be taken orally, injected into the bloodstream, or injected into the rectum.

If he took it orally, his intestines could absorb medicine, and with the help from his crystalized organs of his digestive system, the medicinal properties would slowly and gently be released. The side effects would be the weakest and the absorption rate the highest.

If he injected it into this bloodstream, the medicinal liquid would reach his blood and flesh and instantly replenish his spirit energy and restore his fighting strength.

There was no need to even mention how effective it would be to inject it into the rectum. It would be even faster than a regular injection, but the side effects also would be the greatest.

In truth, since Raging Dragon Blood was one of the most domineering gene medicine in Dragon City, taking it was a very dangerous thing in itself.

If a superhuman were heavily injured and their vitality magnetic field and mental strength indice fluctuated but they still forced themselves to take Raging Dragon Blood, not only would they be unable to recover to full health, they might even enter spirit energy deviation and explode.

Even people as powerful as Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the other veteran hunters would not dare to take Raging Dragon Blood after they were attacked by the super crystal bomb and their cells were torn apart by the spirit energy tsunami.

But Vortex would never expect that there would be a bizarre existence like Meng Chao, who had incredible self-regeneration abilities.

Shick!

Meng Chao stabbed the needle with the Raging Dragon Blood into his arm.

In an instant, he felt a fierce dragon formed by magma rising in his blood vessels, nerves, muscles, and spirit meridians.

As the raging dragon bared its teeth, a piercing pain descended onto Meng Chao, but this time, the pain did not last for long before it turned into an indescribable pleasure. The raging dragon blended into his flesh and blood, allowing him to control the explosive power.

Crack, crack, crack, crack!

The reinforced concrete that pinned him down and seemed indestructible was reduced to dust when he stretched his back.

'I've regained around 80% of my power. That should be enough for the time being.

'Before the explosion, the enemy was hiding in the dark while we were exposed in the open. But after the explosion, the enemy is now exposed, and I'm hidden in the dark. Vortex won't be expecting me to run around energetically while knowing about its existence!'

Once Meng Chao pushed the reinforced concrete high enough that he had enough space, he brought his wrist up to check the tactical watch.

The screen had shattered and was covered in dust.

But even if the screen was in perfect condition, the chip inside would be facing interference, just like the neural tactical data link chips. It might even be blocked.

So, Meng Chao decided to yank off the neural tactical data link chips behind his ears and his tactical watch, then crush them.

They were in a battlefield where spirit energy magnetic field interference was incredibly strong. The two tools would not only be useless baggage, but the enemy might even be able to use them to monitor him. In a worst case scenario, the enemy might even use the brain-computer ports in the neural tactical data link chips to invade his brain.

Based on the memories of his previous life, many people had used neural networks and brain-computer ports, which turned their brains into defenseless cities. They were invaded by enemies who were skilled in mind attacks and learned a painful lesson from it.

Meng Chao had returned from the apocalypse and paid more attention to protecting the safety of his brain compared to the superhumans of the era.

He listened carefully in the dark and began contemplating his choices.

Right then, the most important thing to do was to find a way to escape.

Above him were the ruins. The wreckage from when a giant of a building that was nearly one hundred meters tall collapsed was not a joke.

With his maximum punching strength and endurance that surpassed those of other superhumans at his level, he could activate Demon Subduing Pole, swing his arms, and blast his way out with explosions all along the way.

But if he did that, he might destroy the fragile balance of the ruins weighing tons that was keeping everything together.

If a second collapse happened, he might end up being crushed again.

He did not have an endless supply of contribution points and Raging Dragon Blood, and they were not omnipotent. Meng Chao did not want to take unnecessary risks.

Besides, the Vortex might be lurking in the area and observing the battlefield.

If he crawled out with a swagger from the ruins, it would discover him immediately, and he would lose the element of surprise and initiative.

At that moment, Meng Chao sensed a faint flow of air coming from under him.

He could also hear rustling sounds.

'That's right. This building had a really large and complicated underground structure.

'When the enemy buried the super crystal bombs, its main purpose was to destroy the area above the surface, so it focused all its firepower there. At most, the first three floors underground would have collapsed.

'The areas further down should have only caved in at some points. They might be distorted and some parts might be unpassable, but it's impossible for all of them to have been reduced to ruins.

'Instead of fleeing upwards, it's better for me to flee downwards!'

Chapter 503: Gaze in the Darkness

Once Meng Chao thought of that, he did his best to stretch his limbs. He used the pulses in his muscles to search for the tough and weak spots around him.

Spirit energy gushed out of his pores, and like a radar reflector, it scanned the structure of the ruins around him. It also created a small, virtual ruin in his head.

With the nourishment from the spirit energy, his brain cells worked over their capacity, and his calculation abilities increased by several levels.

He repeatedly created simulations in his head and calculated the results of punching through certain parts of the ruins or kicking down certain steel beams.

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

The ruins in his head collapsed repeatedly, and the broken walls fell like an avalanche once more to crush him into a thin layer of meat.

He remained patient and continued the exercise. He did not spare a single piece of reinforced concrete and did not overlook any crack, even if they looked strange and were so small that no human could possibly pass through them.

Approximately half an hour later, the virtual ruins in his head swayed a little before stabilizing in a precarious position.

'It's this place!'

Meng Chao was definitely not the only survivor in the depths of the ruins.

He was calm, but that did not mean that others would not do anything stupid.

Before the overall structure of the ruins changed, Meng Chao swiftly came to his decision. He dislocated 70% of his joints and used the pulses of his muscles to reduce his size to the minimum. Then, like an aquatic dragon lurking in the abyss, he carefully crawled to a crack to near his right leg.

The narrowest part of the crack was only wide enough to fit a fist.

The crack was also filled with broken steel beams and needles, so it looked like a mouth with intersecting fangs.

Normal people would not choose to escape through such a place.

Even if they did, it would be difficult for them to quietly crawl into it without destroying the structure that was barely stable around it.

But Meng Chao could sense fresh air coming out from within the depths of the crack.

He moved through the darkness with everything he had.

When necessary, even if it meant that he had to let broken steel beams exposed from the reinforced concrete cut so deep into his flesh that his bones could be seen, he did not stop.

Soon, he saw rocks blocking the path ahead of him.

They should be the structure that supported the underground shelter.

Meng Chao looked around. First, he used the gentlest movements to draw two broken I-beams and moved them so that they formed an inverted V on top of the structure.

Then, he placed his palms on the stone that blocked his path. The muscles on his palms started trembling at super high speed. He used Ripple Force to its maximum potential and pushed some spirit energy out of his body into the rock blocking his path.

The rock shattered quietly.

It was still dark ahead of him, but the airflow became much faster.

The structure remained still. It did not collapse.

The ten thousand tons worth of ruins above his head did not fall down either.

Meng Chao sighed in relief and moved past the rock.

At that moment, he was already more than twenty meters deep underground. He was now around five floors below the surface.

The area was affected by the explosion and the ruins pressing down on it. Meng Chao could see broken walls that were at their limit.

But due to the constructors putting into consideration the possibility of zombies and monsters completely taking over the surface when they built this place in the past and that humans might have to hide underground to continue fighting, this shelter was connected to many places and was abnormally sturdy.

Some parts of the floor had collapsed, but an escape tunnel wide enough for an adult was still around. One could crawl into it and escape to a relatively safe space.

Meng Chao slithered forward like a snake through the twisted escape tunnel.

He perked his ears so they worked like a radar. He listened to all the sounds in the area.

First, he heard weeping and screams of pain.

The explosion had not just engulfed the hunting squad and the armed forces from the clubs in the lair.

It also affected the villagers, whose numbers were hundreds of times larger than those of the hunting squad and armed forces combined.

Most of the villagers knew nothing about the Vortex's scheme. They were just living their normal but difficult lives, and now, while ignorant, they were ruined by the explosion.

The villagers who were not dead yet could not be considered lucky.

The broken walls had squashed their bodies to the point that they were bent out of shape. It was likely they were envious of the people who died painlessly in an instant.

There were flames too.

The super crystal bomb had destroyed all the spirit energy ducts in the building.

And since the villagers were at the bottommost level of society in Dragon City, the spirit energy they could afford had a lot of impurities in it. Hence, it was also the most unstable, most inflammable, and most explosive spirit energy.

Because of it, after the major explosion, all sorts of minor explosions followed it.

Once they subsided, flames traveled everywhere, and they contained chemicals and spirit energy, so they could not be put out with water and foam.

Quite a number of Leprosy Village villagers living nearby came forward to put out the fire.

But in the face of the burning flames, the poisonous smoke, and the ruins that could collapse at any moment, they were helpless. There was nothing they could do without serious firefighting equipment.

They could only do their best to pull away the broken walls at the outermost layer before the flames and explosions completely destroyed the ruins to save some of the survivors.

Then, they would set up barricade tapes to prevent the flames from spreading to other buildings, but that was all they could do.

The huge explosion was the worst disaster Leprosy Village had encountered over the past few decades.

A number of villagers cried, screamed, and shouted in anger. Judging by the sounds, they were about to descend into a frenzy.

Meng Chao could guess even with his toes that the Vortex would use the hunting squad as a scapegoat and trick the villagers who did not know the truth.

For example, it could tell the villagers that the hunting squad from outside did not care about the lives and deaths of the villagers in their quest to capture the robbers and wanted criminals. So, they used destructive, large-scale weapons to attack the place, or something along those lines.

To prevent that, Meng Chao had to crawl out in time and tell the villagers the truth so that the order between the lair and the village would be maintained.

Meng Chao gritted his teeth. He ignored the searing pain in his joints and struggled. In a while, he finally crawled out of the last crack.

And fell into a broken escape tunnel.

He lay sprawled out on the dusty floor and quietly enjoyed the feeling of his cells cheering in joy for regaining freedom.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Through the shrinking of his muscles and tendons, the dislocated joints returned to their place.

Aside from temporary stiffness and slight pain, Meng Chao did not experience other difficulties.

He held Bloody Soul's hilt and the chains carved with lightning and flame runic symbols. He grinned in the darkness and revealed sharp, pearly-white teeth.

"From now on, I am the hunter!" he said clearly and firmly.

He looked around and saw that he was in a garage full of all sorts of things.

There was a long and narrow corridor going into the distance on the other end.

Since a major explosion had occurred above it, the ground had sunken and the ceiling had become distorted. The thick girders everywhere had cracks or jutted out. Bone-chilling creaks could be heard all the time.

It sounded like the place would collapse the next second, and he would be buried by ten thousand tons worth of ruins.

Even though the flames, smoke, and poisonous fog were all going upwards, some of the heat came down through the cracks.

It caused Meng Chao to be unable to help but think that soon, the rebars and girders supporting the building would melt and pour down onto him.

The environment was really bad. Hence, the villagers who had been staying in it had fled long ago.

The Black Soul Meng Chao wore had practically been torn to shreds by the explosion. Aside from a tactical bag made from a Hell Beast's pelt, his sabers and chains, he could hide nothing else on his body.

He searched quickly in the garage, but he did not find any weapons or ammunition. However, he did find some dirty cloaks that the lair citizens often wore.

He also found half a box of steel balls. They could be used as bearings.

He measured their weight on his palm and found that their weight and sturdiness were quite suitable for him. They could be used to cover up the lack of harvesting knives.

Meng Chao put on the cloak to hide Bloody Soul, the chains, and the steel balls. Then, he touched his face and became certain that he was now so badly battered and wounded after crawling through the ruins and smoke that even his parents would not recognize him.

Then, he pulled the cloak tightly around himself and staggered forward in the direction of the loudest noise.

He went down two more floors before seeing people. They were all villagers living there.

The explosion had not reached them, but the impact waves had created a deafening sound wave that rammed into the people so badly that some of them had blood coming out of their orifices and suffered from concussions. They had unfocused eyes that were wide open and stood in corners like puppets.

Some people had received huge blows to their organs and were curled up like prawns on the ground while vomiting their guts out. A number of them were vomiting blood.

There were also some who were running around like headless chickens and looking panicked.

They were all normal citizens, and the underground shelter was their only home.

They knew that the building was about to collapse, but some of them still wanted to test their luck. They believed that they were deep underground, so they could definitely persevere. Besides, they did not know where they should go if they were to leave the place.

But even if they were willing to leave, they would not be able to part with their belongings. It didn't matter that most of their "belongings" were trash thrown away by the lair citizens since to them, they were priceless treasures.

For a period of time, the sounds of vomiting, crying, sighing, shouting, and pulling made Meng Chao agitated.

He hid his eyes under the shadow of the cloak and swept his gaze over the villagers.

He saw children with sharp ears holding dirty dolls. Their faces were as dirty as those of the dolls.

He also saw elderly folks covered in scales. Their skulls were deformed to the point that they looked like reptiles. They could not bear leaving the place, so they sat in front of their homes and wept silently.

Other people stood around like black bears. They were giants who weighed around 250 kg and had fists, which looked like iron hammers. But they did not know who were the criminals who caused the explosion, so they did not know at whom they should vent their anger.

Meng Chao also saw a man who had four arms. He was tall and thin and held a pile of cans in his arms. They were all made of earthworms, sandworms, aquatic monster scales and organs, the bone powder from Demonic Halberd Pigs and Iron-armored Rhinoceroses, and all sorts of monster flesh and leftovers of the lowest quality.

It was the crudest form of synthetic food, and even the normal citizens living in Blessed Heavenly Garden seldom ate it. Most of them would process this sort of stuff and turn it into feed.

But the man carefully and greedily insisted on grabbing as many cans as he could from his home, which was about to collapse.

Unfortunately, things did not work out as he wanted. A neighbor crashed into him while panicking, and all the cans he held in his arms fell on the floor, then rolled to a corner with loud clunking sounds.

The four-armed, thin man let out a wail full of despair. He quickly bent down to pick up the cans, not caring whether the place would collapse in the next second and be reduced to ruins.

The sight made Meng Chao sigh.

The people's deformities were not something they had gotten by themselves. The different appearances also did not prevent them from possessing normal people's thoughts and feelings.

The villagers were also humans, so Meng Chao should protect his comrades from Earth and citizens of Dragon City!

He squatted down and helped the four-armed man pick up a synthetic food can that had rolled to his feet.

He pulled his cloak tighter around himself and walked to him silently.

Then, a thought rose to his mind. It was only then that he found that he had sensed something really uncomfortable when he squatted down just then.

It seemed like something had stabbed his hand when it came out from beneath the cloak.

It was a gaze.

It came from the darkness in the corner ahead of him and shone with a red light.

It was Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's gaze!

Chapter 504: A Frightening Battle in the Shadows!

Meng Chao's pupils shrank into two dots before they instantly returned to their original state.

He did not slow down. Instead, as if nothing had happened, he continued staggering toward Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang.

Meanwhile, his brain cells let out high-pitched screams as they worked at high speed and above their maximum capacity.

'Is it a coincidence?' Meng Chao thought nervously. 'Did Bloody Slaughter Gao Yan run here from the ruins?'

No. It was not a coincidence.

Gao Yang wore a cloak made of a special material. It seemed like it had the effects of optical camouflage and mimicry. It could change continuously based on the changes in the surroundings.

When the man hid in a corner, the cloak also turned dark.

Besides, he reduced his heartbeat, breathing, and vitality magnetic field to the lowest, so the villagers who fled into the area in a hurry would not spot him.

Even Meng Chao had not noticed his existence in the beginning.

It was a high-grade optical camouflage cloak. Its internal structure was definitely very sophisticated, so it was impossible that it could withstand great heat, high pressure, and impact waves.

So, Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang was never affected by the explosion.

He did not escape to this place, but waited here intentionally!

When Meng Chao thought about it carefully, it made sense.

Ghost Eagle Song Yu might have been an infamous wanted criminal, but the worst crime he committed was harming a few innocent citizens walking in the dark at night.

He had a high cultivation realm but did not have much fighting experience and possessed relatively weak willpower. He was the stereotypical case of someone who was not good enough to accomplish anything and would spoil everything. It was impossible for the Vortex to treat him as its henchman.

Using him as bait to lure the hunting squad was making full use of trash.

But Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang was different.

He was a superhuman who had slaughtered his way out of a pile of corpses.

Forget about whether he stood on the side of evil or good for now. If Meng Chao only looked at his experience, cultivation realm, willpower, and fighting strength, the man was top tier.

Besides, he was originally a hunter. After he entered spirit energy deviation, he broke away from dozens of pursuits by other hunters. During that time, he also repeatedly counterattacked them and killed a number of them.

It could be said that he had a clear understanding of the specialties and weaknesses of the veteran hunters and the situation in the hunter circle.

The Vortex would be reluctant to use him as bait.

In fact, the Vortex and Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang might have been the ones who created the plan to use the fake Deification Capsule pharmacy, robbers, and wanted criminals as bait to lure the hunting squad to die.

Even if Ghost Eagle Song Yu and Tsunami Wan Zhuiyun were kept in the dark, Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang had to know the truth. Before the super crystal bomb exploded, he should have gotten himself out of explosion range.

Then, since he had already fled safely, why did he come back?

Meng Chao gulped under his cloak.

'He's here to kill those who remain.'

The Vortex naturally knew that a single explosion from a super crystal bomb could not possibly kill thirty-three Heaven Realm superhumans.

But quite a number of them would be badly wounded and caught under ruins weighing a few ten thousand tons, so they could not move.

Practically everyone should have been affected by the impact waves and spirit energy tsunami, so they would temporarily lose their fighting ability, or at the very least, their fighting strength and cultivation realms would end up compromised.

The hunting squad was now at its weakest.

This was the moment when the hunter would become the hunted, and the hunted become the hunter.

If the uninjured Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang found the veteran hunters who were badly injured, drained of spirit energy, and at lower cultivation realms, he would, without a doubt, kill them.

And he had really good instincts.

He deduced that some of the veteran hunters would not be able to run up and would choose to crawl underground.

So, he decided to hide and wait for them to fall for his trap one by one.

Now, the question was: Had Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang noticed him?

Meng Chao recalled what he did after he appeared within Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's sight.

He knew that before coming he had adjusted his breathing, heartbeat, and vitality magnetic field to the point that it was the same as those of the villagers and wrapped himself tightly in the cloak. His face was also so swollen that his parents could not recognize him.

Even if Bloody Soul's outline was revealed under the cloak, weapons were a daily necessity in Dragon City, because there were dangers everywhere.

Forget about cold weapons, it was nothing strange if someone decided to carry with them a rocket launcher.

The only possibility of him exposing himself was when he revealed his hand from under the cloak when he squatted down to pick up the synthetic food cans.

Meng Chao was a veteran hunter. He needed his hands to use most of his skills, so he used a lot of monster blood and fat to nourish them. He also nourished them day and night by circulating spirit energy through the spirit meridians around his fingers.

His hand was naturally different from the villagers' hands, which were incredibly coarse because of their lives.

But it had only taken a moment for him to pick up the can.

Besides, his hands had been ripped to bloody ribbons when he pushed aside the ruins. They were covered in dirt, dust, and blood.

Could Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang have realized that he was different?

Or was he just being paranoid?

Meng Chao entered a fierce debate with himself.

Even so, he did not slow down. He blended in among the fleeing villagers and slowly headed to a corner. He was only five meters away from Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang.

Now, he had two choices.

First, he could test his luck and take a gamble that Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang had not noticed him and pass by him as if nothing was out of the ordinary.

Second, he could attack first.

Even though they had fought earlier and Meng Chao had a slight advantage and had even relied on his own strength to make Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang, Ghost Eagle Song Yu, and Tsunami Wan Zhuiyun retreat in a sorry state, he knew very clearly that he was not actually so strong that he could fight against three people and win.

The point was, at that time, he had the initiative. The thirty-two Heaven Realm superhumans were also about to surround the place at any moment, so he did not really have to kill the three criminals. All he needed to do was to hold them back, which was why he could calmly choose his strategies.

Now, he was the one alone and without backup.

As for Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang, he might receive the Vortex's support at any moment.

Before Gao Yang went through spirit energy deviation and became a lost person, he was at Spirit Gaze Realm. In other words, a five-star superhuman.

Even if he didn't improve after so many years, he had still managed to escape after being chased by other hunters, and his hunting and counter-hunting experiences were definitely top-notch.

Right now, he was also within the claws of the Vortex, so he would have gained a lot of benefits from the monster civilization.

In terms of overall strength, his fighting skills might be at Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong's level.

Based on Meng Chao's data on paper, he should not be Zhou Chong's opponent.

But he had a trump card that could turn the tables—Gao Yang should not have guessed that he would recover so soon.

Even if Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang could recognize him, from what he knew, Meng Chao should be heavily injured and drained of spirit energy, which would compromise his fighting strength, right?

If Meng Chao could use his trump card well, he might be able to launch a miraculous counterattack on this peerless criminal and cut down the Vortex' right hand in the lair!

Four more steps.

Three more steps.

Meng Chao's mind raced. He instantly squashed the faint thought of trying to test his luck.

He would not let anyone else decide his fate.

Even if he were to take a gamble, he wanted to be the one to throw the dice.

Even if Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang really did not see him, Meng Chao did not intend to spare this peerless criminal whose hands were stained with the blood of innocents, who joined the monster civilization, and who worked together with the enemy!

There were only two steps left between them.

Meng Chao intentionally increased his breathing and heartbeat to make it look like he had discovered Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang and exposed some openings in his panic.

And while his body temperature and vitality magnetic field were firmly controlled by Walking Corpse, he pretended that his spirit energy was drained and that he had lost a lot of blood.

He believed that Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang would notice his erratic breathing and rapid heartbeat, then put two and two together to make sense of this abnormality.

He also believed that Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang would deduce that Meng Chao was testing his luck and trying to pretend to be a Leprosy Village villager to escape from his claws.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang should then try to use his trick against him and attack when Meng Chao passed him.

Meng Chao's plan was to be ready, all his muscles, bones, nerve endings, and cells tensed in preparation.

The moment Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang attacked, Meng Chao had absolute confidence that he could cut off his hand!

Two steps. One step.

Meng Chao passed him without incident.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang did not attack. He continued to hide in the dark corner like a silent shadow.

He had even moved his gaze away from Meng Chao and cast it on another Leprosy Village villager, as if he was not interested in the one who just went by at all.

Meng Chao was puzzled.

'Could it be that he didn't notice the breathing and heartbeat I intentionally made obvious?'

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's act of ignoring him was against his expectations.

Meng Chao was caught off guard, and he lost the best angle and distance to attack Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang. He could only join the group of Leprosy Village villagers and continue onward.

Once they reached the end of the corridor more than ten meters away, they would enter a corridor leading downwards.

Even so, Meng Chao did not hear Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang chasing after him, nor sense any fluctuations in his breathing, heartbeat, or spirit energy.

Meng Chao sighed in relief.

Even though he did not manage to ambush him, he was not discovered by Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang either. This was an ending that was neither good nor bad, but he could accept it.

Wait!

Meng Chao suddenly realized something so bone-chilling that he felt his skin crawl.

There was no way Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang could not have noticed him.

Even if he did not hear the breathing and heartbeat he intentionally revealed, when Meng Chao squeezed through the ruins, he'd gained dozens of lacerations and scratches on his body.

They might be superficial wounds, but he bled a lot, so there was a heavy scent of blood about him.

Gao Yang was a Heaven Realm superhuman and an ace hunter with a lot of experience. With these two statuses, it was impossible for him to not have smelled the blood on Meng Chao.

So there was a problem. The underground had not been affected by the explosion. Even if the Leprosy Village villagers were affected by the shockwave, they either had internal injuries or concussions.

And here he was, a guy covered in injuries and drenched in blood. His presence was a bizarre event. Could Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's awareness be so bad that he would not even be bothered to check it?

Meng Chao's pupils shrank to the max.

A piercing wail came from the depths of his mind.

Cracking sounds came from his spine, and he moved his head backwards in a fierce motion.

Whoosh!

A sharp blade that was as thin as a shadow shot out from the wall ahead of him at the spot where his head was 0.01 seconds ago.

Chapter 505: The Only Person Worthy of Hunting

If Meng Chao's reaction speed had been 0.01 seconds slower, the sharp blade that was as thin as a cicada's wing, nearly invisible, and had no shadow or form would have pierced his temple and sank into his brain.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang had indeed seen through him, but he did not choose to attack at the moment they passed each other.

Instead, he pretended to be ignorant to make Meng Chao relax his guard.

He then used some sort of method to move in front of Meng Chao and attack him through the wall.

The reinforced concrete appeared to be thick, but to a Heaven Realm superhuman, it was no different from a wet newspaper.

Meng Chao felt the sharp blade brush past his nose.

It cut his skin, and the pain pierced his brain.

But he did not panic nor continue retreating.

Instead, he used the stretch of his cervical spine and muscles to fling his head back and bite down on the blade.

He poured his spirit energy into his teeth so they would be as sturdy as steel. Like that, he could even crush a Hell Beast's bones to powder.

The blade got stuck between his teeth and did not move for a period of time.

Right away, Bloody Soul shot out from under Meng Chao's cloak, and with a thud, it sank into the wall from which the blade came.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang did not expect that Meng Chao would be so alert and courageous.

Not only did he not fall for his trick, he even decided to fight with his life on the line, like some lunatic.

Since he was behind the wall, Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang could not swing his thin, shadowless saber.

He immediately made his decision and let go, allowing Meng Chao to take away the shadowless saber.

But he pressed his hands on Bloody Soul's blade and caught the blade barehanded.

Everything happened too quickly, so both sides did not have time to activate the crystals on their sabers or the killing moves that had already been stored in the runic matrices.

They could only activate their vitality magnetic fields to the max and have them crash into each other crudely. It was as if two waves had rammed into each other with the wall between them.

Boom!

The reinforced concrete instantly shattered.

Debris and dust circled and rubbed against each other at high speed while stuck between the vitality magnetic fields. They turned into blinding sparks and fell on their heads like a meteor shower.

Both of them could not open their eyes because of the sparks.

Meng Chao seized the chance to turn his neck and yanked away Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's shadowless saber.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang did the same and stole Meng Chao's Bloody Soul.

Meng Chao did not even think. He fired the chain that was encircled by electrical arcs, and it surrounded the second saber that Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang had just drawn, jamming it in place. Both of them were now stuck in the same situation.

Thud!

Meng Chao circulated his spirit energy and used his ability to control objects remotely to fire the shadowless saber at Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's face.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yao threw away Meng Chao's Bloody Soul and grabbed hold of his second saber with both hands. He summoned his strength to hold Meng Chao's chain.

At the moment Bloody Soul landed on the floor, Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang kicked its hilt, and Bloody Soul turned into a fierce, blood-red light that shot toward Meng Chao's face.

All this happened within half a second.

It was enough time for them to exchange blows and run through dozens of shocking life and death offensive and defensive strategies in their heads.

In the end, both of them chose to pour spirit energy under their legs and blow through the floor. It pierced the reinforced concrete under their feet, and they fell into an underground maze.

With this method, both of them dodged the fatal attacks that were coming straight at their faces.

They also grabbed their main weapons once more.

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

While they were still falling and had yet to regain their balance, they eagerly exchanged the second round of attacks with their enemy.

This time, there was no longer a wall blocking them. Now, they were just competing in terms of strength and speed, and their movements had no flourish whatsoever.

In just three seconds, they exchanged more than one hundred blows.

They were both using sabers that could cut through metal as easily as mud and had unstoppable sharpness, but it felt like they were using heavy warhammers and maces.

Their limbs were like four pile drivers, and their bodies were two large demolition machines.

Not a single floor could withstand their rampaging, monstrous strength.

They created holes that were each more ridiculous than the last on every floor they passed as they fell deeper underground.

In no time, they fell through more than ten floors.

When the Leprosy Village villagers heard the noise, they ran with their hands covering their heads.

The reinforced concrete above their heads was also affected by the shockwaves and spirit energy magnetic fields, so it collapsed and fell down as well.

Both of them fell to the bottommost level of the building.

Right then, there was a sturdy foundation and an even sturdier rock strata under their feet .

The debris that had fallen with them also blocked their paths once more.

However, the debris was not packed densely. The two could still see each other through the cracks.

But even if the debris was packed densely or it was a slab of concrete ten meters thick, it would not be able to stop them from sensing each other's fierce killing intent.

Meng Chao gasped like an injured tiger.

To create the illusion that he was heavily injured and his spirit energy was drained, when he fell and fought Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang, he did not fight with his full strength. He only used 70%, and he had even intentionally made his spirit energy output hitch to make it look like it was really unstable.

As a result, new, deep wounds had been left on his right pulicue, wrist, elbow, and shoulder blade. They were so deep that his bones could be seen.

Fresh blood dripped down like from an open tap. The sound when it hit the ground was really obvious in the underground, which was as silent as a grave.

Rip!

But not even a single one of his eyelashes fell.

Meng Chao used his teeth to tear off a strip of cloth from his tattered cloak and bind his slightly trembling right hand together with Bloody Soul's wet hilt.

Then, he narrowed his eyes and observed Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang on the other side of the debris.

The optical camouflage cloak Gao Yang wore was ripped to shreds by Meng Chao's saber glares, revealing his metal-like built body.

Just like ace hunters and outdoor survival specialists, Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang did not like wearing nano fighting suits.

Strong superhumans like him believed that while nano fighting suits could increase the maximum output of their muscles and distribute the received damage, it would also weaken their skin and pores' sense of their surroundings. It might even interfere with the spirit energy gushing out of their pores and stop it from circulating and resonating with the planet's magnetic field.

Besides, once they got used to the increase in strength and the defense provided by nano fighting suits, when the fighting suit was destroyed, their fighting strength would drop rapidly, and it would turn into a fatal problem.

The old school superhumans had the utmost trust in their own bodies and believed that they were the best armor and weapon.

IBloody Slaughter Gao Yang's distinctive muscles were like an impenetrable armor.

And the intersecting, dense scars as well as the shining spirit tattoos that surrounded them were domineering and shone like medals.

Meng Chao's gaze moved from Gao Yang's scars to his weapons.

During their first duel, Gao Yang only had two normal scimitars, and they were both crushed by Meng Chao's Bloody Soul.

This time, this peerless criminal had switched to two brand new weapons.

There was no need to even mention the sharp saber in his left hand. It was as thin as a cicada's wing, nearly invisible, and had no shadow or form.

Meng Chao's gaze stayed on the saber in the man's right hand for a long time. It was as sharp as a tiger's fangs.

Meng Chao had seen the saber before, just a few hours ago, in fact.

It was not Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's weapon. It belonged to a veteran hunter called Sword Teeth Tiger, who was part of the hunting squad.

At that time, Meng Chao's curiosity as a harvester had stirred when he saw how extraordinary the saber was based on how the light reflected from it. He asked a few questions about it and learned that more than one hundred fangs and leg bones from three high-grade Hell Beasts were used to create the saber.

Even if it was in the hands of a normal person, they would be able to cut the armor of a main battle tank as easily as if it was toilet paper.

It was no wonder then why only grain-sized chips had appeared on the blade after the fight against Meng Chao's Bloody Soul that had lasted hundreds of rounds.

No superhuman would leave their weapon.

Meng Chao sighed. By the looks of it, Sword Teeth Tiger, the veteran hunter who was the original owner of the saber, was already dead.

And just as expected, when Meng Chao shifted his gaze to Bloody Slaughter Gao, he saw a necklace on his neck.

It was made of bloody human ears.

Meng Chao knew that many old school hunters loved cutting off the ears of large monsters weighing dozens of tons, because they were difficult to move whole. Sometimes, they would also cut off other parts that were unique to the monster they killed, which would serve as a symbol of their achievements.

In this "hunting ground", the only "creatures" worthy of being acknowledged by Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang were, without a doubt, Heaven Realm superhumans.

'He has already killed three Heaven Realm superhumans?' Meng Chao coolly spat out a mouthful of bloody spit.

The sight was like fuel for his killing intent, and he could not control it anymore.

'If that's the case, I can't spare you anymore. Even if I die here, I have to hold you back. With each second I hold you back, the chances of the heavily injured veteran hunters escaping will increase, and our chances of launching another attack will get higher!'

While Meng Chao was sizing up Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang, the infamous, peerless criminal was also carefully sizing him up in exchange.

He was like a hungry demon in the depths of hell who had just discovered a tasty banquet.

They were engaged in a stalemate for a long time. Then, Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang suddenly grinned and did something Meng Chao did not expect.

He yanked off the three human ears on his neck and stuffed them into his mouth. Then, he started chewing on them with loud crunching noises.

In the face of Meng Chao's shocked and puzzled expression, Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang chewed and cackled. "Today, I've already killed three prey, but after I met you, I've realized that they didn't have the right to be my prey at all.

"Compared to you, they were weak and stupid. Veteran hunters? They didn't even have the most basic awareness. They were just pigs waiting to be slaughtered.

"While I was killing them, it was just a boring butchering session. It was not a real hunt.

"Your ears are the only ones worthy of being around my neck.

"You're also the only one worthy of me absorbing every bit of energy and mobilizing every bit of my intelligence and strength to carry out an exciting hunt that I will enjoy to my heart's content!"

Chapter 506: True Evil

All the pores in Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's body released incredibly invasive spirit energy. It enveloped Meng Chao's entire body like a huge, gaping mouth.

With each word the man said, spirit energy crashed violently against Meng Chao's vitality magnetic field. It was like an invisible hyena tearing into his flesh.

Meng Chao's spirit energy circulated and gathered into spirit gas to surround his body and form an impenetrable armor.

Their second competition began from that second onward.

Meng Chao was not at all terrified by Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's sinister actions.

He said coldly, "Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang, you were once a famous ace hunter in the hunter circle and killed countless monsters. I didn't expect that you would one day end up as their lapdog."

Meng Chao did not think that he would be able to convince Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang to change his ways with a glib tongue.

After all, this peerless criminal was different from Lin Chuan and Gao Ye.

However, Meng Chao really wanted to beat around the bush and see whether Gao Yang knew about the mastermind and the monster civilization.

And if he did, he wanted to see whether he could get more information about the Vortex.

At the same time, Meng Chao wanted to give the impression that he was badly injured and had to stall time by talking so that he could control his injuries.

In any case, after the explosion, all of Leprosy Village and half of Golden Tooth Lair faced a powerful spirit energy magnetic field interference that attacked every electronic indiscriminately and every radio signal.

It were not only Meng Chao's neural tactical data link and communicators that were crippled. Most of the communicators were suffering from major interference and could not be used.

Meng Chao could not get any reinforcements from outside the lair, but Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang could not contact the Vortex either.

The underground was now theirs alone. Before they found out the victor and the loser was killed, no one would interfere with their fight.

When Meng Chao said that Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang was the monsters' lapdog, he did not seem shocked or angry.

He cackled and swallowed the remaining half of the last ear before he licked the blood on his lips. Then, he said calmly, "You're mistaken. I became a hunter for the pure joy of hunting. It doesn't matter to me whether my prey is a human or a monster.

"Honestly, after the first time I killed a human, I discovered that compared to most monsters, humans are the better prey.

"Humans possess brains that are much more developed than those of most monsters, and they possess more intelligence. They can, thus, execute much more complicated strategies. The feeling of success from hunting down a human cannot be compared to hunting down a monster.

"Besides, humans are full of emotions.

"When humans think that they have escaped from me, they feel joy from having escaped a disaster. When they surrounded me and are about to kill me but end up stepping into my trap, they show shock and fear. There are also those who show courage by gritting their teeth and swinging their weapons at me, even though they can't win against me. These things are something that most monsters do not possess.

"Trust me. Once you've hunted a human once, you can never go back.

"The hilarious thing is, you call me Bloody Slaughter, but yourselves hunters. But you don't know that those who only know how to hunt monsters are at most butchers. Only those who hunt humans are real hunters!"

'This guy is absolutely mad.'

Meng Chao was unmoved. He said coldly, "Unfortunately, Mr. Real Hunter, you're beaten up to the point that you could only run away from us butchers. You had to hide like a rat in a drain.

"At the end of the day, you could only submit to the creatures you once hunted. You bent your knee to monsters and betrayed the interests of humans. Even so, you only got a bit of power from the monsters to flaunt.

“Hah, scum like you only knows how to hide. You’re not a hunter. At most, you’re just a lapdog kept by the monsters!”

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang did not deny his relationship with the monsters, but he was not angered by Meng Chao’s words either.

He only said, “I might be the monsters’ lapdog, but you’re not that much better than me. You’re the lapdog of the nine great mega corporations.”

He thought that Meng Chao was the same as Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the other veteran hunters and was hired by Sky Pillar, Universe, Soaring Dragon, Thundercloud, or one of the other mega corporations.

Of course, Dragon City was built by the tens of millions of citizens under their lead.

The nine great mega corporations, the nine great cultivation families, their creators, and the most powerful Deity Realm superhumans in Dragon City had firm control over the authority of Dragon City. Their hands stretched to all the businesses.

Meng Chao’s Superstar had received investments from the nine great mega corporations through Lu Siya and the others, which was why it could develop so swiftly.

After Superstar merged with Spirit Creations Creatures, they obtained numerous major deals that promised good money. It was all thanks to the abnormal beast research department’s connections and the help from the nine great mega corporations.

Meng Chao avoided mentioning that he had received a lot of help from powerful people while he improved at such a drastic pace.

But treating the act of riding on powerful people’s coattails the same as becoming the lapdog of monsters was a little hilarious.

Meng Chao gritted his teeth and said, “Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang, is there no difference between humans and monsters to you? We have a civilization, so you should belong to this civilization!”

“Civilization? Ha! Civilization!” Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang’s eyes went wide as if he had just heard the funniest joke in the world. Then, he spat out a mouthful of spit containing shredded flesh and smiled coldly. “This so-called civilization is just an illusion you gain after you’re full.

“As long as the fiercest tigers are full, they won’t kill the cows and lambs nearby. Meanwhile, the kindest human you know will turn into the fiercest robber after starving for three days and three nights. They will even turn their weapons on their own kin.

“Perhaps I am an irredeemable, wicked person in your eyes, but you have never seen and experienced true evil before. Tell me, have you ever seen a kind granny and an innocent tearing at each other like monsters and ripping each other’s throats apart for half a bottle of dirty rainwater?

“Have you ever seen a woman doing whatever a man wants for half a bun? Have you ever seen a man being willing to kill anyone for half a bun and a woman?

“Have you ever seen groups of starving people eating dirt to lie to their own stomachs because their minds have been overtaken by hunger and despair? In the end, they won’t be able to digest it, and their stomachs would bloat up and they would die. Some of them may even rip apart their stomachs from below their navels to stop the pain.

“Have you ever seen people from other settlements using napalm bombs to burn the survivors in another settlement because one zombie appeared in it? They would do anything from fear that the zombie virus would wreak havoc in their own settlement, you know?

“Have you ever seen normal people curling up underground because of hunger, pain, and the zombie virus? The shelters were like a vermin’s nest, and even when they cried, they had to grit their teeth, because they wouldn’t dare to let out a single sound. Meanwhile, the powerful gathered large amounts of resources together, but it’s not for the weak to survive. It’s all so that they can cultivate and continue improving as well as increase their own authority.

“Have you ever seen countless normal people reduced to mangled skeletons, while the powerful superhumans ignore their deaths and just keep monopolizing resources so that they can become stronger? In the end, they added another title to their authority and called themselves mega corporations. Ha! What a brilliant title! These powerful people then made themselves the creators of the Survival Committee and pretended that they’re oh-so-noble.”

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang’s voice was incredibly sinister and strange.

He was clearly standing in front of Meng Chao, and there was an entire set of ruins between them.

But his voice made it sound like he was whispering in Meng Chao’s ears.

His gaze also seemed to see through Meng Chao’s flesh and bones. He seemed to be staring at his brains, blood vessels, and nerves.

“You’re smart and young. You’re so young that you have never witnessed true evil, so you believe in justice and this so-called ‘civilization’,” Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang continued. “But if you were one of those people who lived through the bloody era when we had just transmigrated to the Other World and struggled through the age of viruses, zombies, broken order, and lawlessness, you’d have seen countless acts of true evil and an innumerable number of truly evil people turning into the ones controlling Dragon City today. Then, you would be just like me. You wouldn’t believe in all those morals, laws, justice, and civilization.

“Now, I only believe in one thing, and that’s strength.

“It’s when you have absolute power that you can say whatever you want and it will be treated as the truth. Evil can be disguised as justice. The merciless, cold-hearted gang leaders who monopolized resources in the past have now all turned into veteran politicians of the Survival Committee or VIP members of the Supernatural Tower.

“If anyone could help me gain more power, I would work with them for a time. If anyone were to stop me from becoming stronger, I would kill them. Just like that, I will kill, and I will become stronger. If I’m lucky and never die, perhaps there will come a day where I reach the supreme state above Deity Realm. At that time, perhaps the Supernatural Tower will remove my bounty, and the Survival Committee will

even ask me to go back in a carriage and a fanfare so that I can kill monsters and defend human civilization. Haha! HAHAHAHA!”

He laughed in a slightly manic manner.

“And what if you’re unlucky and die today?”

Meng Chao slowly lifted Bloody Soul, which was bound to his arm.

“Then, at the very least, I would have died for myself, with complete control over my own fate!”

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang’s eyes shone with an incredibly violent light.

The Tiger Fang Saber shone with an extremely fierce saber glare.

The debris between them instantly shattered.

The rebars, metal needles, stones, and other sharp objects that formed the ruins were stuck between their spirit energy magnetic fields, and like bullets fired from a gun, they instantly filled up the entire space.

And at the moment the saber glare dazzled Meng Chao’s eyes, Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang disappeared from in front of him.

He was so fast that it looked like he had teleported in the dark.

The slash from the Tiger Fang Saber was a feint. He had moved his body behind Meng Chao and used the shadowless saber to launch a silent attack.

Chapter 507: Spoiler

Meng Chao looked like he had not registered it and just let the shadowless saber come toward his neck artery.

But his neck muscles turned as hard as metal. He even had the spot where the saber would cut sink in.

At the same time, with just his left ring finger and pinky, he controlled his chain sabers and used an unbelievable angle to slash at Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang’s throat.

If both sides refused to switch their tactics, Meng Chao’s artery might be cut off by Gao Yang, but Gao Yang’s Adam’s apple, cervical spine, and central nervous system would be pierced as well.

Gao Yang could only hunch his shoulders and avoid it.

Thus, he lost his initiative and failed his ambush.

Meng Chao refused to relent after he gained momentum. His chain sabers moved with the agility of a venomous snake, and he switched from a thrust to a sweep in an attempt to bind Gao Yang’s neck.

At the same time, the Red Radiance Jade crystal marrow that was embedded in Bloody Soul shone with a bewitching, blood-red light. It lit up the entire underground space and turned into thousands of fierce saber glares.

The thousands of saber glares cut toward Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang from multiple angles.

Gao Yang roared. He ignored the chains that came to bind him and the saber glares that came from everywhere and just brought the Tiger Fang Saber high above his head to deliver a simple and crude downward slash.

This was the wildest move among the most basic of all saber techniques—Forward Wind Cutter of One Hundred Saber Techniques!

It was a move that even elementary school students in Dragon City could execute.

When Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang used it, it gave off the feeling that it could cut through everything effortlessly.

Regardless of how bizarre Meng Chao's chain sabers were, how many illusions Bloody Soul could create, and how Meng Chao had attached bits of a mind attack into his strike, Forward Wind Cutter was definitely going to drag him into hell before he could kill Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang.

Hence, Meng Chao could only act like Gao Yang earlier. He gave up on all the variations and backups he had and dodged in a rather pathetic fashion.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

They exchanged more than ten blows again.

One of them held the heavy Bloody Soul in his right hand, and the other held Tiger Fang Saber. With each clash, it was as if two main battle tanks had been driven within ten meters of each other and were now firing at their reactive armor with a shocking effect.

If there were others watching by the side, they would definitely feel terrified and worried that the sparks created by the sabers would light up the entire ruins in flames.

However, the real killing moves were in their left hands.

The chain saber in Meng Chao's left hand and the shadowless saber in Gao Yang's left hand were soft weapons that did not contain any presence or killing intent.

When the chain saber and the shadowless saber clashed with each other, not only did no sparks come out, they did not produce even a single sound.

Most of the time, their left hands and secondary weapons turned into gray fog and were like magnetic fields that rejected each other. The moment they drew closer, they bounced away fiercely. No secret or danger could be drawn from their attacks.

Only the two of them knew that within the ten short seconds, their eyes, forehead, temples, throats, hearts, Dantian regions, groins, joints and other vitals had been targeted multiple times by the chain saber and shadowless saber.

One of them was a peerless hunter who had broken out of encirclements multiple times ten years ago and even counterattacked.

The other was a returnee who came back from the apocalypse and possessed practical fighting experience that far surpassed what he should have.

The two monsters were somewhat equal.

If it were anyone else, even if their cultivation realms and combat parameters on paper were better, they would have died under their blades without knowing how.

Crack!

Even the ceiling could not handle the shockwaves that came from the two monsters' vitality magnetic fields crashing against each other. First, intersecting cracks that looked like spider webs showed up, then, they began spreading. In the blink of an eye, the cracks expanded from being able to fit only a finger to a whole fist.

When Bloody Soul and Tiger Fang Saber clashed once more, the reinforced concrete above them finally collapsed and fell.

The two men finally separated from each other.

With the collapsed debris between them, they panted harshly.

Their right arms were bloody and mangled, as if they had been placed in a meat grinder for five minutes.

Their left arms might have seemed to be in perfect condition, but their knuckles, elbow joints, and even shoulder joints were all trembling out of control.

Meng Chao discovered that he had underestimated Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's ferocity.

His original plan was to show weakness and lure his enemy to close in on him. Then, at a critical moment, he would use all his strength and instantly kill the criminal.

But after fighting against him for ten seconds, he found that the battle felt like he was walking on a tightrope above hell. When he faced this fierce demon whose cultivation realm was above his, he had to use all his strength and intellect to fight against him. Every 0.1 seconds was of utmost importance.

Even if there was a 1% neglect, he might die.

If he tried to lure Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang to close in on him, there was a high chance that his plan would backfire on him, and from pretending to lose, he would end up really losing. Then, things would take a downward turn for him and he would be completely defeated.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang looked at his chest. There were a few wounds close to his heart. An unprecedentedly grave look appeared on his face.

The wounds were really faint and not a lot of blood flowed out before they were cured by the nourishment of his spirit energy.

To Heaven Realm superhumans, such wounds were no different from ant bites.

The problem was, he had not been able to see just when Meng Chao had managed to land those hits that were so close to his heart. He could not tell from what angle he had attacked nor what weapon he had used.

For a period of time, they treated each other as a powerful enemy they had never met in their entire lives.

And it was at this moment that they really felt that they might die.

This feeling made their fighting spirit burn one hundred times brighter, and their conditions reached a state beyond their personal best.

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

At that moment, a dull explosion came once more from above them. It seemed to have come from a spot far away from them.

For a period of time, the entire place swayed violently.

Their expressions changed at the same time.

It happened. A second collapse. It was what they were most afraid of.

After Dragon City transmigrated to the Other World, most of the buildings were made of multi-layer frames and composite support structures. Some people were even crazy enough to use the techniques to build gravity dams.

No matter how strong the super crystal bomb was, it did not manage to collapse the entire building.

Only the internal structure was reduced to ruins.

There was a lot of room to move about in the ruins. Otherwise, Meng Chao could not have crawled away so easily.

But after the explosion, spirit energy spilled out, and flames burned.

As they flowed about like magma, a lot of the girders, steel pillars, and steel frames melted, and the frames lost their support.

When ruins that weighed more than ten thousand tons collapsed, it was very likely for there to be chain reactions.

The more areas fell apart, the faster the collapse would be, and the larger the scale of the collapse would be as well.

Before long, the second collapse might level the entire building to the ground. The burning pieces and the magma that was mixed with melted steel would fill every inch of the underground levels, and even the place where Meng Chao and Gao Yang were would turn into a huge graveyard.

Even powerful fighters like Meng Chao and Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang could not promise that they could survive the second collapse, because it was bound to be even fiercer than the first.

Even if they managed to survive, they could not predict how they would end up when they were squashed underground by a few ten thousand tons of ruins, burned by heat that was thousands of degrees Celsius hot, and surrounded by melted steel.

Perhaps they would be trapped under the ruins for more than ten days while heavily injured.

Then, they would not be able to control their lives and deaths, as well as what would happen to them after they managed to escape.

When the two thought of this, their eyes sparkled at the same time, and they started looking around.

Explosions kept sounding above them.

The ground swayed even more viciously.

They could even hear creaking sounds coming from the floors and frames above them. They originated from metal pushed and bent beyond its limit.

The two men felt like they were ants trapped in a metal can and tossed into the sea. Now, they had to withstand atmospheric pressure thousands of times stronger than the surface pressing on them.

The smoke as thick as ink slowly spilled through the holes and cracks above them.

Usually, once smoke became hotter, it would become lighter than air and drift up through ventilation pipes and cracks.

But this smoke and poisonous fog was heavier than air, which was why it came underground. It contained a lot of impurities, so it could enter human organs and interfere with the superhumans' spirit energy magnetic fields.

The black fog gradually covered their ankles, knees, and waists. It was about to fill the entire space.

Both of them felt their mouth, throat, and lungs burn and sting.

Their wounds also burned and started to turn black.

They looked at each other and understood the elusive thoughts in each other's eyes.

With great tacit understanding, they carefully took one step back, then another, and another to widen the distance between them.

They retreated from the battle area to the two corners that were diagonally apart from each other. The distance between them was the farthest possible within the limited space.

It was only then that they sighed in relief. They wanted to turn around and leave the battlefield.

However, at the moment both of them turned around, a spark lit up in Meng Chao's eyes.

He pushed against the wall in front of him, and with the force it provided him, he jumped straight back.

With the distance that they gave each other, it was perfect for him to summon his strength and charge back at maximum speed.

He turned into a human-shaped saber, and the sound of the wind as he pushed through the air was about to turn into a sonic boom. Bloody Soul instantly filled with spirit energy and revealed its second form, which was even fiercer than the first. Now, it looked like a huge axe that could split a mountain, and Meng Chao swung it viciously at Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang.

However, what he saw was not Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's back.

Instead, he saw the peerless criminal's face and bloodshot eyes.

His Tiger Fang Saber had also become wider, longer, and sharper as he filled it full with spirit energy.

His spirit energy crushed the crystals on the saber, causing the brightness of the saber glare to instantly surpass the long-distance searchlights used by outdoor survivors. It dazzled Meng Chao's eyes.

Bang!

Bloody Soul and Tiger Fang Soul crashed into each other, creating thousands of electric arcs that danced like snakes.

They fell back with blood gushing out of their mouths, as if they had been struck by lightning.

But they did not dare to stop and catch their breaths. They did not even dare to moan in pain.

They knew very clearly that right from the start, the other party never thought about running away from this incredibly dangerous battlefield.

Unless they died together, one of them was bound to die before the building completely collapsed!

Fierce Fight in the Graveyard

Chapter 508: Third Saber!

Words were no longer necessary.

The light and shadows from their weapons were already the main tune in the hell on earth they found themselves.

In three seconds, they had already fought more than ten rounds and exchanged more than one hundred slashes.

They were like tidal waves stirring up tornadoes and howling shooting stars crashing into each other.

Their vitality magnetic fields attracted and repelled each other to release a destructive power that caused the frames supporting the whole building around them to continuously crack.

The hole above their heads became bigger, and the reinforced concrete from thirty floors above fell down like burning mud from a landslide.

The venomous, black smoke reached their chests.

And as they gasped for breath, they sucked in the smoke. It burned their tracheas and invaded their lungs.

Normal people would have already started feeling dizzy from staying in the poisonous smoke for a few minutes. Even if they held their breaths, they would end up fainting.

Even normal superhumans would not dare to continue using their powers in such a terrible environment. Otherwise, if they sucked in too much poisonous smoke, there was a high chance that they would end up with irreversible consequences.

Even powerful fighters like Meng Chao and Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang saw stars and felt their organs burn.

Soon, the collapsed ruins and the thick poisonous smoke swallowed them whole like a swamp.

But they did not even blink.

Instead, they hoped that the other would have a desire to test their luck and get distracted in this extremely terrible battlefield, then choose to leave the place for real.

In this horrible, hellish battlefield, the one with the stronger desire to survive would have a weakness, and that person would be the one to die!

Unfortunately, both of them were people with willpower that was as firm as steel.

Even if they looked conflicted, agitated, and full of despair, that was just an act for their opponent. They were just baiting them to fall for their lies.

As the building continued collapsing and debris gradually filled up the space around them, the area they could use to fight became smaller. They were forced in very close proximity, which made the brutal fight with their sabers more dangerous.

Boom!

A deafening explosion occurred just four floors above them, and it shot out from the darkness like a roaring dragon.

The citizens this deep below had been using spirit energy of the lowest quality which had the most impurities.

Their spirit energy ducts were filled with large amounts of impurities that could not be dispelled fully with regular methods.

As they accumulated over time, they gathered together to form substances similar to crystals at the sides of the pipes.

At that moment, as they were scorched continuously by heat that was thousands of degrees Celsius hot and affected by the shockwaves of the explosions above them, the impurities within the pipes underground went through fierce reactions that were similar to sympathetic detonations.

They instantly pierced five levels of floorboards.

The reinforced concrete above Meng Chao and Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang collapsed. The structure of the entire building swayed violently, as if the entire planet was shaking.

Between them, Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang was in a worse situation. There was a rebar with a very sharp end above him, and it was about to pierce through his skull.

Gao Yang seemed to be ignoring it, but Meng Chao saw that his eyeballs had inevitably turned upward by ten degrees.

Meng Chao finally summoned his full strength.

The spirit energy in his 108 main meridians and 1,024 branch meridians circulated at maximum speed, and he brought forth all of his power. He then spat out hundreds of steel balls from his mouth, and with spirit energy added to them, they were like a storm from a heavy machine gun, interfering with the enemy's line of sight and taking up their attention.

Then, he raised Bloody Slaughter with both hands and moved like a phantom. He slid forward and swung his saber upward, creating a perfect arc.

The thick back of the saber clashed against the thin edge of the Tiger Fang Saber and sent it flying!

When powerful fighters fought, the most important thing to them was rhythm.

Before that slash, Meng Chao had made sure that his average damage output was around 70% of his maximum fighting strength.

Even if he was suppressed time and again by Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang and the shocks caused his skin to tear and blood to gush out, his greatest damage output was never more than 90%.

It was to make his enemy think that he was heavily injured.

It was only at this moment that he burst forth with his full strength. Once he knocked away the Tiger Fang Saber, he threw his chain saber forward, and it moved like a hissing snake to bind his enemy's shadowless saber.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang no longer had any weapons to use.

After Meng Chao knocked Tiger Fang Saber away, he brought Bloody Soul high above his head and pointed it at Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's neck artery.

The peerless criminal finally revealed fear, as if he was truly terrified.

But the next second, that seemingly real fear turned into great excitement and ill will.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's Tiger Fang Saber had clearly been knocked away by Meng Chao and his cloak had long since been ripped apart by spirit gas, so he had no pockets or anything else that could hide things.

But as if he was performing a magic trick, a sharp blade that was as thin as shadows and curved like a snake appeared in his empty right hand.

When he sent spirit energy into it, the sharp, black blade became longer.

Meng Chao had Bloody Soul high above his head, so his front was wide open.

The two of them were close to each other, and since the continuously collapsing reinforced concrete continued interfering with their fight, Meng Chao had no room to dodge.

Thud!

The sharp, black blade struck Meng Chao's heart.

It easily tore apart his spirit energy armor and his steel-like muscle armor. Then, it sank deep into his heart.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang narrowed his eyes, and a satisfied smile appeared on his lips.

That slash was an accumulation of all his experience from counterattacking while he fled for nearly ten years and retreated with all his body parts intact despite countless hunters chasing after him.

Even people like Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong would die if they had their hearts pierced.

Yet when he wanted to release spirit energy and burn Meng Chao's heart to a crisp, Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang suddenly felt a chill. Something was not right!

... The feeling of his blade stabbing Meng Chao's heart was not right.

Since he had killed many people, he could tell the most minute difference between the muscles in the heart and normal muscles.

He seemed... to have missed his target.

But that was impossible, he had clearly stabbed Meng Chao's heart.

Besides, during the fight, he had heard Meng Chao's heartbeat countless times and sensed his powerful vitality magnetic field being released into the area from his heart.

It was impossible for Meng Chao to have something as strange as a deformed heart or it being on the right side of his chest.

He had locked down on Meng Chao's heart, so why?

The thoughts had only appeared for a brief moment in his head.

Then, shock took over Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's features.

'Run! I have to run, no matter the cost!

'Even if I lose an arm— No, even if I lose both arms and have to cut off half of my body and cough up my organs like monsters, I have to give up on everything and run!

'I HAVE TO RUN!'

The veteran hunter of the past and the peerless criminal who had killed countless hunters only had one thought left in his mind.

It was strange. The enemy did not seem to have stopped his attack. He was just staring at him coldly.

But why did he lose all his strength, as if he had been encased in invisible ice?

Wait, when did Meng Chao bring that burning saber down by his thigh from high above his head. It's as if... he had already completely a fatal slash.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang suddenly felt that his throat was a little itchy.

Bang!

Meng Chao fell to the floor on his back before Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang did, and the sharp, black blade was still stuck in his chest.

It was as if the slash had forced him to use up all his strength, spirit energy, and vitality.

Fortunately, his eyes were still as bright as the stars in the sky.

Inch by inch, he carefully pulled out the sharp, black blade from his chest.

Even though there was no blood on the blade or his wound, his face was stark pale, and his heart hurt like crazy. He was in urgent need of spirit energy to repair his wound and could not move for the time being.

Meng Chao was in his weakest state.

If Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang moved even a single finger, he could kill him.

The peerless criminal widened his eyes, and a violent as well as greedy light shone in his eyes.

But even though they were so close to each other, it was as if the river of death separated them, and he could not cross it.

“Hiss... Hisssssss...”

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang opened his mouth, and hissing that no one could understand came out from the depths of his throat.

Yet Meng Chao seemed to have understood it. While he treated his wounds, he nodded and said, “Yeah, I knew right from the start that you had a third saber with you.”

Disbelief shone in Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang’s eyes.

“It’s true. The reason is simple. The first time I fought against you, you used two scimitars,” Meng Chao said. “At that time, through the clashes of our blades, I noticed that there is a slight difference in terms of the arc of your scimitars, weight, and the distribution of the center of gravity. They should have been specifically tailored to the characteristics of your hands.

“In other words, you’re used to fighting with two sabers. You didn’t just randomly prepare two sabers as weapons.

“But based on your strength, the quality of the two scimitars was a little lacking. They shattered after a slight clash.

“Even though you have been chased by the entire hunter circle and might not be able to get any treasures while fleeing and hiding, since you joined the monster civilization, no matter what, they will definitely offer you weapons to bribe you, because that’s the only way it will make sense.

“And just as I expected, during our second fight, the weapon in your left hand turned into a shadowless saber that is as thin as a cicada’s wing, has no shadow, no form, and no presence, but can pierce through reinforced concrete as easily as a newspaper. This saber might be thin and light, but it never let you down when it fought against my Bloody Soul.

“Only a weapon like this is suited for your fighting prowess.

“But here’s the problem. The weapon in your left hand is outstanding, so why are you using the Tiger Fang Saber that you obtained from Sword Teeth Tiger in your right hand?”

“Tiger Fang Saber is a good weapon, but it is not your weapon, and at most, you’ve only obtained it two hours ago. You aren’t used to its weight, length, and center of gravity, so you can’t bring out its full power.

“When powerful fighters fight, the victor is decided in an instant. Our weapons must be understood to perfection, since even the slightest oversight might end up killing us.

“It’s hard for me to believe that a veteran who has been mingling in a hellish battlefield for decades would use a weapon he is not familiar with to fight against an enemy in a life and death situation just because he longs for the power of the weapon.

“And since you’re used to dual-wielding incredible weapons like the shadowless sabers, you wouldn’t have prepared just one.

“This made me certain that the fierce Tiger Fang Saber is just a cover. Your real killing move is the third saber that you’ve been hiding!”

Chapter 509: I Staked My Heart!

Gurgling sounds came from the depths of Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang’s throat.

His face was turning paler by the second, and now, it was as if the shadow of death had settled on his face as well.

As for Meng Chao’s voice, it became even calmer. “Since I knew that you were hiding the third saber, it wasn’t difficult for me to guess the shape of the saber. To lower my guard, you intentionally ripped off your cloak and let your upper body remain bare. It was to show that there’s nothing on your body and that there’s absolutely no place for you to hide more weapons.

“And that would have been the case if we were talking about double-handed heavy sabers that are made of super alloys and weigh more than 10kg. No matter where you hid it, it’d be discovered.

“Besides, I analyzed your arms based on their diameter, muscle strength, and average power output. They are about the same. There’s no sign of your right arm being especially strong or your left arm being relatively weak.

“Since you’re a dual-wielder, this can only mean that the two sabers that you’re using are about the same in terms of weight and properties. So, the right side and left side of your body are balanced.

“I was originally a dual-wielder as well, but since the saber in my right hand was too heavy and the saber in my left hand was rather light, after training for a few months, I noticed that my right arm became a few millimeters thicker compared to my left arm.

“Based on all that, the third saber you were hiding had to be the same as the shadowless saber in your left hand. It would be as thin as a cicada’s wing and really light.

“And just as I expected...”

When Meng Chao said this, he pulled out the sharp, black blade from his heart.

It was not that much wider than a lancet knife.

To maximize its agility and bizarre nature, it did not even have a hilt.

Meng Chao clasped it between two fingers. It did not look like a weapon, but like a black mica sheet or the cartilage of an Apocalyptic Beast.

He groped around and soon found its secret.

Based on the strength of the spirit energy injected into it, the hardness and malleability of the sharp, black blade would change to a certain degree at the user's will.

All of a sudden, it could become as tough as steel and easily cut through or tear apart even a main battle tank's reactive armor.

Yet the next moment, it could become pliant and gain amazing stretchability. It could extend or shrink at will.

Meng Chao thought for a while before he wrapped the black blade around his wrist, and it instantly stuck to his skin.

As he changed the frequency of the fluctuations of the spirit energy magnetic wave on his arm, the material changed, but that was not all. The color of the blade turned from black to nearly see-through, then it perfectly imitated Meng Chao's skin color.

The sharp blade was as thin as a cicada's wing, so even if it wrapped itself around Meng Chao's wrist a few times, not a single trace of it could be found.

When it matched Meng Chao's skin tone, it seemed like he had gained a second layer of skin.

It was no wonder then why Meng Chao was not able to find where Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang had hid his third saber even though he had been certain that he had a third saber and had been looking with his eyes wide open for a long time.

The blade had optical camouflage technology, and it could change its appearance at will to blend with the environment. This was the Wilful Blade, and since Meng Chao was an assassin from Ghost Tribe, giving him such a blade was like adding wings to a tiger!

"Amazing. You must have done a lot to get this weapon." Meng Chao gasped in amazement and put away the Wilful Blade. "Once I became certain that you had a third saber and decided on its general shape and material, the most probable method you would use to attack me came to light.

"A long time ago, I admired you a lot and researched your fighting style.

"You were originally a hunter. Even though you're known as the Bloody Slaughter and seem to be peerlessly fierce and do whatever it is with brute strength, in truth, you have a bad habit while you fight, just like other hunters and harvesters. Compared to effortlessly cutting down your prey, you and I both love killing our prey with precise stabs.

“To ensure that your prey remains in perfect condition so that you can harvest the most valuable raw materials, the smaller the fatal wound is, the better.

“When you hunted with your comrades, this habit was harmless.

“But now that you’re alone and fighting against someone equal to you in a life and death battle, this habit is a fatal flaw.

“I knew that you would try to ambush me and stab me, so your choices became rather limited. Your target could only be my eyes, throat, heart, and Dantian region. So, I naturally prepared a few defense and counterattack measures for these vitals.

“Also, I hid my strength, and you knew very clearly that I did that.

“Yet I also knew that you know that I hid my strength. After all, you’re a rare, powerful enemy. In the place of your murderous offense, it’s impossible for me to hide the fact that I’m hiding my full strength.

“Once I realized this, I decided to give up on my initial plan and stopped trying to form any plans about hiding my strength as the main part.

“So, my true trap ended up being my heart.

“I practice a secret technique known as Walking Corpse. It helps me restrain my breathing and heartbeat to the bare minimum, which turns me into something like a living dead.

“With this secret technique, I intentionally controlled the activity of my heart and reduced my heartbeat to nearly zero. At the same time, I used my spirit energy to stimulate the muscles around my heart, causing them to spasm at a rhythmic pace to imitate the sound of heartbeats.

“And with the subtle changes in my vitality magnetic field, it allowed me to change the location of my heart. The ‘heart’ you located was half an inch away from my real heart.

“Of course it’s really risky to use my heart as a gambling chip, but I believe that in the face of someone like you, who has incredibly great hunting experience, if I don’t let you truly stab the area where my heart is, you wouldn’t relax and lower your guard, so you’d never expose an opening that would allow me to end the fight.

“I also know that you and your master must have set up linked schemes and endless backups. If I didn’t kill you, then even if I found a way to escape from this place, it’d be difficult for me to escape being hunted down by you and your master.

“So, no matter how great the price I had to pay and even if I had to use my heart as a gambling chip, I had to kill you here while the signal is bad and you haven’t managed to send information about me!”

At the end of his speech, Meng Chao gritted his teeth, and his expression became fierce.

As for Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang, he looked so dejected that it was as if that emotion was about to take physical form on his face.

He opened his mouth, but he could not say a single word of praise or disgust.

He could only let out a sigh after he understood what happened and accept his defeat.

He extended a shivering hand.

Meng Chao did not know whether he was trying to give him a thumbs-up or launch a final, useless attack.

Before his fingers could touch Meng Chao, though, a thin and long red line appeared on his neck.

The red line spread out quickly, and soon, it surrounded his neck.

Thud!

His huge head flew into the air, and blood gushed out. His headless body flailed around for a few seconds before this peerless criminal finally fell down by Meng Chao's feet. At the end of his life, he finally showed submission.

Meng Chao stared at Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's corpse coldly.

He still remained at the highest state of wariness.

The memories from his previous life told him that there were plenty of strange and unfathomable techniques in the Other World that could make carbon-based life forms retain a certain degree of offensive abilities after their deaths.

Even though they could not come back to life, they could drag an enemy who has lowered their guard into hell with them.

This was why he had let his mouth run and revealed his entire strategy.

On the surface, he seemed like he was boasting about killing a powerful enemy whose cultivation realm was above his.

But if Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang really thought that he was over his head with victory and ambushed him so that they would die together, Meng Chao would have at least ten ways to launch the fiercest counterattack.

Fortunately, Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang was not one of the monsters who refused to die no matter what. Those were the ones they would encounter after they stepped out of Monster Mountain Range.

When Gao Yang's headless body stopped twitching for a full three minutes and was even smashed to a bloody pulp by the reinforced concrete that kept falling down, Meng Chao released a long sigh. The old hunter was now deader than dead, even his head was smashed to bloody pieces after it rolled into a corner.

Meng Chao was finally able to relax his nerves and muscles after they had stayed so tense that they nearly snapped. The wound in his chest, which was only half an inch away from his heart, started hurting. The pain instantly flared to great heights.

It was just as he mentioned. He had staked everything and even used his heart as a gambling chip.

Even if he had managed to kill someone as fearsome as Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang, he paid a heavy price for it.

He was stabbed in the chest. Even though the blade did not hit his heart, spirit energy had still invaded his heart, ripping countless, nearly invisible tears on the muscles of his heart. This caused major damage.

And right from the beginning, to ensure that Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang would walk step by step into his trap, Meng Chao had exchanged hundreds of destructive blows with him, so his body was ripped to shreds and covered in wounds again, despite the fact that he had just used contribution points to heal himself.

Besides, during the fierce fight, he had sucked in a lot of exhaust and poisonous smoke, so he felt like there was acid invading his lungs right now.

Contribution points and the healing skill were not omnipotent.

If he repeatedly stimulated his cells to split, swell up, replicate, and regrow within a short span of time, there would definitely be all sorts of complications and consequences.

This was just like how people always warned about using miracle drugs. While the drugs could make a person appear amazing and powerful, it did not mean that they could enjoy life day and night and indulge in sexual pleasures however they wanted.

Meng Chao felt his world spin and saw stars. His fingers were as heavy as lead, and it felt like he had really overdosed on miracle drugs.

He knew that he could not activate the Healing Skill without restraint anymore. His cells and soul needed some room to breathe.

He gritted his teeth and used the last bit of his strength to reach Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's corpse.

With familiar ease, he searched the corpse, and soon, he found a tactical bag bound firmly to his right thigh.

He removed the tactical bag, opened it, and took a look. It was full of emergency medicine, some tools for simple suturing and dressing, a few gene medicine, and a high-calorie nutritional fluid. There were also a few high-purity crystals that could be used as hard currency, three nameless high-limit credit cards used in the lair, and a small communicator.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang had a lot of experience in running for his life. He knew that he had enemies and bounty hunters coming for him all the time and that he might not have the chance to pack all his belongings every time they showed up.

Hence, he packed all the necessities he needed to survive in a desperate situation in a small tactical bag. In the end of the day, it ended up benefitting Meng Chao.

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

The explosions above his head became louder.

This time, they seemed to have happened only two or three floors above him.

Waves of heat descended from above like a waterfall.

Chapter 510: Thief

Meng Chao knew that the building would collapse completely in three minutes.

But he had not gathered even a single bit of energy to escape just yet.

Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's fatal attack was worse than he had expected. The Wilful Blade had been made from some sort of unique biochemical material, had been poisoned with something made by the Vortex, or Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang had activated his spirit energy magnetic field when he stabbed Meng Chao's chest, thus destroying the tissue around the blade. Or he might have done all three of these things.

In any case, no matter how Meng Chao used his spirit energy to stimulate the tissue around his heart, the speed of recovery for his wounds was really slow.

The newly made cells instantly withered and decayed. They turned into poison that slowly invaded the important organs in his body, including his heart and lungs.

With great difficulty, Meng Chao looked down.

He saw a circle of black fog around the wound on his chest. It looked like a plague that was about to explode.

Whenever he was finally able to gather some strength, all of it would flow out through the fog-shrouded hole on his chest.

If he did not use spirit energy to suppress the area, the poison would have spread out long ago. His heart would have been corroded so badly that it would have ended up as pus.

'Looks like I'll need to use around twenty Healing Skills to solve this problem.'

Right then, he did not have the time and the resources to completely treat his wound and get rid of the poison.

Meng Chao injected a gene medicine and high-calorie nutritional fluid into his chest and thigh.

Then, he got the ice spray he obtained from Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang's corpse and sprayed the area around his wound.

Once he finished using the ice spray, a thin layer of ice formed on his wound.

Even the black fog was frozen.

He had some difficulty breathing and his heart was a little affected by it, but at the very least, he was able to block the hole in his chest with the ice for the time being and could gather enough strength to escape at the last second.

For the moment, though, Meng Chao could do nothing.

He could only lie on the ground with his limbs splayed while he watched the dozens of floors above his head burn, explode, and collapse.

Reinforced concrete weighing tons poured down. It was as if thousands of Tyrant Mammoths were using War Trample at the same time.

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

When the floor above him fell apart, the space around him distorted due to the pressure, and everything was about to be reduced to ruins. By then, he had recovered one-tenth of his mobility.

“Now!”

Meng Chao sucked in a deep breath and used his hands and knees to flee to the escape tunnel in the corner. The moment he entered it, he heard a loud bang, and the building behind him collapsed completely, swallowing up Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang’s body whole.

The dust and air gathered together into a fierce wave that chased after Meng Chao relentlessly and kicked his butt several times.

Even the escape tunnel was collapsing bit by bit.

The ruins weighed thousands of tons and were burning fiercely, which turned it into a matchless monster that had been lurking underground. It opened its mouth wide, revealing fangs that went after Meng Chao.

If he was the slightest bit slower, he would have been completely swallowed up by the falling debris and dropped to the deepest parts of hell together with Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang.

But even if he did not care about the pain in his body and just kept speeding up, he did not seem to be able to outrun the destructive wave behind him.

The escape tunnel in front of him kept letting out creaking sounds. It was the sound of metal fatigue that made his skin crawl.

The metal started distorting really badly at a rapid pace.

It was as if an invisible hand was squashing and kneading it from outside to turn the escape tunnel and him into a crystal the size of a can.

Meng Chao could only dislocate his joints and shrink his muscles again to contort himself into all sorts of weird shapes and force his body through the cracks.

Even so, the poisonous smoke, heatwaves, and explosion caught up to him.

Meng Chao’s mind was a little blurry, and he could not quite understand what happened next.

In a daze, he continued climbing through the poisonous fog that was hundreds of degrees Celsius hot and contained a lot of impurities from low-grade crystals.

It was as if he was struggling in a dark oceanic trench that was twenty thousand meters deep in the sea.

With every breath of poisonous smoke he inhaled, he felt like a main battle tank’s cannon had fired a shot at his heart and lungs.

His organs seemed to have been burnt to a crisp, and only an empty shell was left struggling uselessly against the push of the shockwaves.

Suddenly, he remembered that everything around him had collapsed, and he was sealed under tons of reinforced concrete. It made him feel as if he had sunk into the deepest parts of an oceanic trench.

Against his expectations, the feeling was not too bad. It felt a little warm.

It was as if there was a soft voice mumbling in his ears. "Sleep. You're too tired. Why don't you take a rest?"

However, when he really thought about lying down in the depths of the oceanic trench, he always saw ten thousand suns descending from above and exploding like supernovas. They released the most violent and brilliant rays.

Those rays destroyed everything and burned his soul.

It made him summon 120% of his courage and strength to struggle with everything he had through the darkness, all so that he could find a bit of light that might not even exist.

He had no idea how much time had passed, but in the end, he finally emerged from the darkness.

It appeared that he was flowing along a really stinky sewer.

It was a sewage system shared by several underground shelters in the area.

The liquid waste was really murky. After the explosion, it was filled with blood and suspicious-looking substances, which made it as thick as a swamp and hot as magma. Meng Chao felt as if he had acid invading his body all over again.

There were also all sorts of deformed pests around him.

The hideous creatures were shining as they climbed eagerly onto him.

He held his breath as he waited for the pests to fall into his trap. His plan was to open his mouth and stuff them all inside to serve as precious protein and energy.

Unfortunately, the pests living under Leprosy Village were really alert.

They sensed his uncontrollable killing intent at the final moment and fled with a screech.

Meng Chao clicked his tongue in slight disappointment and dropped to a dead faint again.

He seemed to have flowed along the underground sewer for a long period of time and was brought far away from the collapsed building by the sticky, polluted water.

When he opened his eyes again, the area had already stabilized. He could no longer feel vicious tremors that shook the world nor hot poisonous smoke.

Aside from the stab wound that still had black fog around it, the wounds on his body had already started healing and had thin scabs. It gave him some of his strength back.

He was now at a corner of an underground sewer.

Ahead of him was an incomplete metal fence. It blocked quite a lot of trash that flowed down the sewer, which created a mound that slowly circled around itself.

Meng Chao was slumped on top of the mountain of trash.

There were rustling sounds next to him. It seemed like an audacious rat was searching through his body.

... No, not a rat. A human.

Meng Chao reacted instinctively. His killing intent gathered into a sharp blade that seemed to have physical form and stabbed right into the enemy's eyes.

The boy shuddered and stopped searching. He looked around for a while before he stared at Meng Chao in slight puzzlement.

It was a boy. He was around seven or eight years old, at most twelve. But since he was so thin that he was emaciated, Meng Chao could not tell.

His hair was as messy as a bird's nest, and there were scabies all over his scalp. He was also ugly, so he looked more pathetic than a rat.

His right eye was a normal shade of black, but his left eye reminded of gold. It even had a crystalline quality to it. The light shining from it was so brilliant that it seemed like it was not a real eye.

If this eyeball was embedded into a handsome face, perhaps it would make the man look even more powerful and mighty.

But when it was on an ugly face, it created a stark contrast to the rest of his body, and it made people pay more attention to how ugly the boy was. It would even give them a ridiculous thought that he stole someone else's eyeball.

Of course, that was not true.

The boy was most likely the descendent of a Leprosy Village infectee. The crystalline, light gold eye was the result of his deformity, the same as the fangs that stuck out of the left side of his mouth.

He probably knew that his left eye and the fangs on the left side of his mouth were really eye-catching, which was why he had a black pair of goggles, a black bandana with the picture of a skull as a mask, and a wide cloak to cover his face.

However, he was the only one working on the mountain of trash in the sewer deep underground. So, to make it easier for himself, he had shoved his goggles up and pulled down his mask.

Yes, he was "working".

Meng Chao secretly activated Walking Corpse and made sure that his body remained cold and made sure that his breathing and heartbeat were practically non-existent. He also narrowed his eyes to slits and watched just what exactly the boy was doing.

There were bulges on his waist, pushing his cloak out to the point that a slit was created.

Meng Chao saw three wide monster pelts on his waist. They had his "loot", which was making a lot of noise. Some of the items were synthetic food cans wrapped in a net. Some were daggers with no sheaths. There were two bloody pistols as well, along with a crossbow, and a pair of motorized boxing gloves with crystals embedded in them.

The motorized boxing gloves were too huge. Clearly, they did not belong to the child.

After looking around, the boy did not find the source of the killing intent, so he thought that his mind was playing tricks on him. He mumbled under his breath and continued using all his strength to cut the tactical bag tied to Meng Chao's body with all his strength.

'Got it. He's a thief, robbing others while they're suffering a misfortune. He's here to steal from the dead.'

A huge building had collapsed, and countless Leprosy Village villagers were buried underneath. Even though they lived at the bottommost part of society and were really poor, they still had some nutritional fluids, food cans, and weapons.

The boy had to have been targeting such people.

After figuring out the boy's identity, Meng Chao wanted to subjugate him, but a thought rose in his mind.

'I paid a huge price to kill Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang. Right now, I'm heavily injured, and my fighting strength has plummeted. I can't even activate maglev. It'll be hard for me to leave the lair straightaway.'

'Besides, I wouldn't leave even if I could. I have to stay here and fight the Vortex.'

'That means I need resources and support.'

'I've just woken up, so I don't know what's going on nor anything about the outside world. I don't even know how much time has passed since the explosion. I have to get a spy to help me understand the situation.'

'And if I want to maintain the order in Leprosy Village and the lair, I will need to look for a leader who can manage things. The lair is easy, I can just look for Golden Tooth. But I don't know who the leader of Leprosy Village is, and I don't know where to find them. I don't even know whether they were lured over to the Vortex's side. The situation is really complicated!'

'This thief is a local. He'll be of some use.'