

Oh My God 511

### **Chapter 511: The Useless A'Ji**

At this moment, the thief had already removed the tactical bag from Meng Chao's body.

He weighed the heavy tactical bag in his hands, and his eyes lit up. He whistled.

Once he opened the tactical bag, he saw the high-purity crystals and nameless high limit credit cards inside and gasped, then giggled, unable to help himself.

Just as the boy licked his lips and wanted to steal Bloody Soul and the other weapons, Meng Chao suddenly opened his eyes and sat up straight.

The thief yelped and shot away like he was electrocuted. He wanted to run away in a panic, but Meng Chao grabbed his wrist.

His fingers were as strong as metal pliers that could crush bones. His spirit energy then turned into electric currents that seeped into the thief's bones.

The thief was terrified. He was in so much pain that he was about to cry.

But even if he was in such a situation, he was still thinking of ways to escape. His crystalline left eye looked about before a cunning light shone in it, and he pretended to look shocked and delighted as he said, "Y-You're awake? I was thinking of how to save you—"

Meng Chao let out a cold snort. He said nothing and only increased the level of his spirit energy piercing into the boy's bones. He also used his hand to slowly knead the boy's knuckles and wrist bone, as if he wanted to crush the thief's hand.

"It hurts! IT HURTS!" The thief screamed like a pig being killed, then started crying from the pain. "Please spare me! I won't do it again! Forgive me!" he wailed.

But Meng Chao remained unmoved.

The building had collapsed, and there were countless people who were dead or injured, but the boy was not thinking about saving anyone. Instead, he came to steal from the dead. He did not deserve kindness.

Besides, based on how skilled he was at cutting things and searching his body, he was a repeated offender.

Most of the things such people said were fake.

If he did not crush the boy's mental defenses right at the start and make him fear himself, it would be difficult to get the boy on his side and get any use from him.

Hence, Meng Chao not only retained the strength as he crushed the boy's bones, he also circulated his spirit energy and activated his brain waves while he looked into the boy's eyes. Then, he released a mind attack that could stir up the fear in the deepest parts of his mind.

In an instant, the thief looked as if he saw the most terrifying thing in his life and became so scared that his complexion and voice changed so much that he looked like a different person.

The moment Meng Chao let go, he fell head first into the viscous, swamp-like, polluted water.

Then, he struggled with everything he had to emerge from the polluted water.

The thief did not dare climb up the mountain of trash or flee through the water. The Fear Bomb had crushed his will to resist. He knew that he could not escape Meng Chao's "claws" and could only let Meng Chao do whatever he wanted to him.

It was only then that Meng Chao nodded in satisfaction.

With two fingers, he brought out a nameless, high-limit credit card from the tactical bag.

It could allow a normal family to buy large amounts of weapons and daily necessities from the lair warehouses controlled by the gangs. With the amount in it, they could live comfortably for a few years.

Meng Chao tossed the credit card in front of the thief, and it landed diagonally in the trash.

The thief was holding his red and swollen palm while blowing on it. When he saw the credit card, greed shone in his eyes again. He gulped, but he did not dare to pick it up. He only stared at Meng Chao in puzzlement and fear.

"Answer a few questions for me and do some things as my lackey, and that card will be yours. Aside from that, all the crystals in the bag will be yours as well. Do you understand?"

The thief was flabbergasted. When he saw that Meng Chao did not seem to be lying, he was so happy that snot bubbles came out of his nose. He quickly nodded and went to grab the nameless, high-limit credit card.

But Meng Chao had attached a bit of spirit energy to the credit card. Right when the thief took hold of it, Meng Chao used his ability to control items remotely and sucked the credit card back.

The thief instantly felt disappointed.

If he had never held it in his hands, it would have been fine. But he had clearly held it and could even smell the stench of money before he lost it again. That feeling was even worse than cutting off his hand.

The thief was angry, but he did not dare to say anything. His emotions were controlled firmly by Meng Chao.

"Don't be so impatient. As long as you do a good job, I won't go back on my word. Perhaps after we're done, I will give you even more benefits. You should be able to tell that I don't care about one or two measly credit cards," Meng Chao said coldly.

"But on the other hand, if you can't do a satisfactory job or are up to mischief and harbor ulterior motives, then you won't just be losing this credit card and the crystals, you'll also be losing your life.

"This time, do you really understand?"

The thief shuddered and anguish appeared on his face. He knew that he was in real trouble.

But since he had offended a fiend like Meng Chao, things were no longer in his control.

He was a boy who had struggled to survive at the bottommost level of the lair and managed to go on like a weed. He knew how to adapt to a situation.

He immediately put on an obedient expression and nodded in an exaggerated manner.

“Come up here.” It was only then that Meng Chao called out to him. “What’s your name?”

“A’Ji.” The thief climbed up the mountain of trash but did not dare to get close to Meng Chao. He curled up to one side as he shuddered like a drenched rat.

“A’Ji, what’s your surname?”

“You can call me whatever you like,” A’Ji replied. “I don’t know, so any surname will do.”

Meng Chao narrowed his eyes in displeasure.

A’Ji shuddered and quickly waved his hands. “It’s true, I’m not lying. My parents left me in a trash dump. They might have already died a long time ago. I don’t even know who they are, so how am I supposed to know what my surname is? In any case, when the people are happy, they’ll call me ‘A’Ji’, and when they’re not, they call me ‘Useless A’Ji’. It doesn’t matter, any name is fine.”

Dragon City’s mortality rate was really high, and it was higher still in the lair. But the mortality rate in Leprosy Village was the highest.

It was not just due to a lack of food, medicine, the fights between the gangs, and the viruses wreaking havoc among its inhabitants.

The main reason was the innate deficiencies due to their genes being deformed. It resulted in many of the descendants of the infectees having genetic illnesses, so it was only natural that their lifespans were not like those of normal, healthy people.

It was common for the children who wandered the streets in Leprosy Village to grow up without ever seeing their parents.

Meng Chao thought for a while and nodded. “A’Ji, what were you doing here?”

“I... I was saving someone.” A’Ji hesitated for a while. “A major explosion happened in the building in front of us, and the fire burned for more than two hours. Later, the entire structure collapsed and plenty of people died. There are a lot of survivors stuck under the ruins.

“They’re my comrades, so I can’t just watch them die. So, we decided to work together and save them.

“I... I’m small and weak. I can’t move the debris nor put out the fire, so I thought that I could go to the sewers and take a look to see whether anyone had fled through the sewers. Then, I found you—  
AAAAHHHH!!!”

Meng Chao grabbed more than ten steel balls with two fingers and flicked them at A’Ji.

The steel balls were as powerful as bullets. A’Ji screamed and covered his head with his arms.

“Looks like you’re really displeased with your life and want to be reborn.” Meng Chao sighed. “Fine. I don’t want to waste my time on idiots. There must be smarter children than you around here who value their lives in Leprosy Village.”

While saying that, Meng Chao positioned a steel ball at A’Ji’s forehead.

He did not hide his killing intent, and it looked like he was about to use the steel ball to pierce A’Ji’s head.

A’Ji’s face turned stark pale. He did not dare to move, so he screamed at the top of his lungs and spoke quickly. “D-Don’t kill me! I-I’ll tell you the truth! I-I came here to recover resources!”

“Recover... resources?” Meng Chao frowned a little.

“That’s right. There are plenty of dead people in the ruins and they have a lot of weapons, ammunition, synthetic food, and gene medicine. They’re all valuable survival resources, which the dead can’t use anymore!”

A’Ji spoke in a matter of fact tone. “But I’m alive. I have nothing, and I’m hungry. Even though I was not crushed by the building, I might starve to death in a few days.

“My life might be worse than a dog’s right now, but I’m not in a hurry to be reborn. It’s better to recover some resources and let myself live for a few more days. There’s nothing wrong with that!”

Dragon City was a place that lacked resources, so A’Ji’s words were not entirely wrong.

Meng Chao looked at his reed-like, thin limbs and his body that was so tiny it looked like a small gust of wind could blow him away. He found that he did not want to linger on this issue for too long.

But there was something that he had to understand clearly.

“If the people were dead, I wouldn’t mind that you stole their resources to survive,” Meng Chao said. “But what if they’re not dead and are still breathing? Do you kill them before stealing from them?”

A’Ji shuddered and got worried that Meng Chao would misunderstand him. He quickly waved his hands and said, “I don’t. I would never. I only take things from the dead. I never touched a single hair from those who are nearly dead. I absolutely didn’t, trust me!”

Naturally, Meng Chao would not believe him so easily.

It was one thing to steal from the dead, but another to kill the survivors trapped under the ruins to steal their belongings.

If the boy did the latter, Meng Chao would not use him.

“It’s true!” A’Ji said with a long face. “The explosion was terrible, and more than ten floors collapsed. The corpses are all squashed. You wouldn’t be able to find many who managed to survive.

“I’m small and weak, so I’m already exhausted from just taking things from the dead. Why should I go through the trouble of offending the people who are still breathing?”

“Before the explosion, there were a lot of loud sounds in the building. It’s clear that it had plenty of people we cannot afford to offend inside. What if I was captured by them and dragged to death with them? Wouldn’t that be the absolute worst?”

When A’Ji said this, he seemed to have suddenly remembered that Meng Chao might be one of those people whom he could not afford to offend.

He immediately pulled an even longer face.

Meng Chao scanned the thief’s microexpressions and found no traces of lying.

When he thought about it carefully, he decided that what the boy said was true.

Meng Chao nodded and continued. “Since you don’t know who your parents are, where did you live and with whom? How did you survive?”

### **Chapter 512: Useful A’Ji**

A’Ji blinked and said, “I’ve been wandering alone. If I’m tired, I curl up in a corner of an underground shelter and sleep. I don’t need a home, and I don’t need any belongings. If anyone needs me to work for them, I’ll work and get a few cans of earthworm meat to eat. If no one looks for me, I’ll work at the resource recovery centers. Of course, I’m not taking things from the dead and selling them. I’m just picking trash!”

Meng Chao smiled and shook his head while he mumbled, “Looks like I’m still too merciful. I should have crushed your hands before anything else. In any case, I just need your mouth. It doesn’t matter to me whether you have hands or not.”

As he spoke, he stood up as if he was going to walk to A’Ji.

A’Ji’s face went stark pale. He waved his hands in a panic and said, “U-Uncle, I’m telling the truth. Picking trash isn’t shady business. Wh-Why are you so angry?”

Meng Chao was covered in dust and looked nothing like his usual self. No one could tell how he was supposed to look like, nor what was his age. To show respect, A’Ji naturally decided to refer to him as an elder.

“So that you’d understand why you died.” Meng Chao smiled coldly. “Before you started running your mouth off, your hands had already betrayed you. Your hands don’t belong to a waste recoverer!

“There are plenty of people who take up jobs to categorize waste and recover them in Dragon City, but Dragon City’s trash is different from that on Earth. We have a lot of monster carcasses, substances derived from crystals that possess strong radioactivity, acidic substances, poisonous substances, viruses, and other dangerous things.

“Even if you wore a few layers of plastic gloves and completely airtight protective suits, it’d have been impossible for the strong acid and poisonous substances to not seep into the gloves and damage your hands.

“I’ve seen plenty of waste recoverers’ hands. All of them were waxy yellow or black and had a lot of atrophic scars. They also had calluses that looked like scales. Many of their joints were swollen and large, and their fingers were deformed. Their nails had fallen, and it was an unbearable sight.

“And these waste recoverers handled relatively safe and valuable trash.

“After they processed it, the unwanted stuff was sent to the lair to go through a second filtration. I believe that after the waste recoverers in the lair filter through that trash, the leftovers are then finally sent to Leprosy Village.

“In other words, the waste recoverers in Leprosy Village should be facing trash that has been filtered countless times, have the least value, and is the most dangerous. You would have to spend a lot of effort processing it, and you would be attacked by even more acid and poison before you could get any ‘treasure’ from the piles of trash.

“If you’re in that field, why are your hands so nimble, graceful, and tender? Why do they look like a newborn’s hands?”

A’Ji was dumbfounded. It seemed that he hadn’t expected that Meng Chao would be able to decipher so much information from his hands.

“You don’t have to wreck your brains to come up with a lie. Let me guess your occupation,” Meng Chao said calmly. “Even if you were outside and wanted to have such graceful and nimble hands, you would need to spend a lot of money to buy all sorts of gene medicine and secret ointments to take care of them meticulously.

“But you look thin and dirty. You don’t even have the money to treat the scabies on your head. You don’t seem like someone who will fork out a lot of money to nourish his hands.

“So, someone nourished your hands for you, yes?”

“You don’t have stunning looks, but whoever it is was willing to spend a lot of money nourishing your hands. It’s clear that he doesn’t have any strange kinks, but wants your hands to work for him.

“I can think of only three jobs that require hands that need to be protected and trained to such an extent. First, assassins, second, harvesters, third thieves.

“But you don’t just need to train your hands to be an assassin. You need to train all your joints and muscles. You’re weak, so it’s clear that you have never received any proper martial arts training.

“And it’s also impossible for you to be a harvester. The reason is simple. Freshness is very important when it comes to harvesting monsters. There are plenty of harvesters in Dragon City, so no one will send a monster they killed in the wild or at the borders of the city into the depths of the lair, which is polluted, noisy, and filled with germs.

“So, the answer is simple. You’re a thief— Don’t be in such a hurry to deny it. I had used a special method to tie that tactical bag to my leg. Unless you were a professional, no matter how much strength you used, it would have been impossible for you to get it off me. But you managed to do it in half a minute.

“Also, you were sure that I was a corpse, but your movements were still very light, as if you didn’t want to wake me up. That’s a habit of a pickpocket.

“Useless A’Ji”? Heh. You were dishonest right from the beginning. With such graceful and nimble hands, you should be a trump card in your den of thieves. How could anyone call you Useless A’Ji? You’re too useful!”

A’Ji took two steps back and nearly fell into the water again.

His face turned red, and he shouted, “I’m not a thief! I-I was just trying to survive!”

“I’m not interested in you being a thief at all.” Meng Chao stared at him and released the second Fear Bomb. “If you really want to survive, then behave when you work with me. Otherwise, even if I don’t kill you, before long, you will die. In fact, everyone in Leprosy Village and all of Golden Tooth Lair will die!”

A’Ji’s eyes went wide, filled with the fear of Leprosy Village being destroyed.

This time, he seemed to be really frightened and became much more honest. He hunched his shoulders and mumbled honestly, “Alright. I’ll tell you. I was brought up by Boss Feng. I’ve been working for him.”

“Boss Feng?”

“Boss Feng is Three Fingers Feng. He’s very famous in Golden Tooth Lair. Apparently, he once boasted that there is nothing he can’t get within the lair with just three fingers. But we think that he’s called Three Fingers Feng because he was once caught when stealing, so seven of his fingers were chopped off and only three are left.” A’Ji shrugged. “In any case, after Boss Feng was left with only three fingers, he seldom steals on his own. Instead, he brought a group of children up and taught us how to... recover resources and redistribute them.”

Meng Chao narrowed his eyes. “So, you’re saying that there are plenty of young thieves in the den of thieves. I don’t understand it. Leprosy Village looks very poor. How could there be so many targets to steal from?”

“We don’t steal from our own, so we don’t steal from the villagers in Leprosy Village... I mean, we don’t recover resources from them and redistribute them,” A’Ji said. “There are plenty of rich people in the lair. There are also plenty of rich guests who come from the city area to visit the monster coliseums.

“They get very excited by the monster fights, and their eyes become stuck on the arena. When the fights end, there’s a huge crowd as well, and it’s cramped. Those are good chances to steal from them. It’s not hard to fill our pockets with money during those times.”

“Wait,” Meng Chao said. “I thought that Leprosy Village villagers are isolated from the world and seldom go out.”

“Uncle, that was decades ago.” A’Ji sniffed. “If you’re more than three meters tall and look like a bear when you stand up or you have a tail that’s even thicker than a crocodile’s, you’ll definitely scare the kids and weeds outside when you go out!

“But people like me are smart and harmless. We only have some mild defects. If we wear thick sunglasses and masks, then lower the hoods of our cloaks to cover our faces, we look no different from the people outside. Even if we sneak out, no one discovers us.

“But if we’re discovered, we’re still fine, because Boss Feng has already discussed and settled things on how we’re supposed to split the loot with the gangs in the lair.

“Anyway, I’ve gone out dozens of times, and only once have I been discovered by a superhuman with sharp senses. So the gang members who are in charge of guarding the place beat me up in front of that superhuman. Once that person left, they threw me back in Leprosy Village. Of course, it was unavoidable that I was beat up again by Boss Feng!”

Meng Chao’s mind raced. “So, you’re saying that you’re pretty familiar with the situation and forces of power in Leprosy Village and the entire lair?”

A’Ji slapped his chest and said, “I can’t say that I’m pretty familiar, but I know a bit. Uncle, what do you want to know? Even if I don’t know, I’ll think of a way to get that information for you.”

“I’m not in a hurry,” Meng Chao said. “First, tell me. Where is Boss Feng’s den?”

A’Ji pouted and pointed at a spot behind Meng Chao.

Meng Chao frowned a little. The spot behind him was where the building collapsed.

Based on how the polluted water was flowing slower in the sewer with each passing moment, the building had to have collapsed entirely, and even the underground space was blocked. The polluted water was going to be cut off soon.

But once he thought about it carefully, he did not find it strange.

If Boss Feng’s den was not nearby, A’Ji would not be stealing from the dead in this area.

“Where is Boss Feng?” he asked.

“Dead,” A’Ji answered frankly. “He died with everyone else when the building collapsed.”

A’Ji told Meng Chao that Boss Feng’s den was located on the second underground floor of the collapsed building. Boss Feng and dozens of other young thieves lived there.

They had wanted for it to be easy to escape if any enemies or family members of their previous targets came looking for them, so they situated their den close to the surface.

But the major explosion caused by the super crystal bomb had created an unstoppable shockwave that instantly killed most of the villagers from the first to the third underground floors. Boss Feng and the young thieves were all killed by either the explosion or the shockwaves.

As for A’Ji, since he did not steal enough to hit the quota yesterday and talked back to Boss Feng, he was punished and not allowed to sleep in the den. He was asked to search for a few rich-looking targets in Leprosy Village and only allowed to return once he hit the quota.

But how could he possibly get any rich-looking targets in Leprosy Village? It was just a punishment.

But unexpectedly, it allowed A’Ji to escape the disaster.

Meng Chao thought that with the power of the super crystal bomb, the possibility of those living in the second underground floor escaping was close to zero.



“Boss Feng and your companions died, so you’re alone now, but you’re not the slightest bit sad?” Meng Chao looked into A’Ji’s eyes.

“Why should I be?” A’Ji flung his graceful and nimble hands. Suddenly, his fingers moved in different directions, and they wriggled bizarrely in the opposite orientation of the joints. “Even though Boss Feng brought me up, you have no idea what sort of life I lived under him. To make my fingers as nimble as earthworms, he crushed my palms and fingers three times. Three times!” he hissed.

“Now that the bastard is dead, if I had money, I’d definitely buy lots of good food to celebrate his death. Why should I be sad? What am I, out of my mind?”

“As for my friends... Compared to living in this stupid era and this stupid place, dying painlessly might be better.”

The boy who looked as pathetic as a rat in the drain had a self-deprecating look on his face. He also looked lost, and there was envy on his face.

### **Chapter 513: Let the Sun Shine in Every Corner!**

Meng Chao sighed and asked, “My condolences, but you must live so that the dead can rest in peace. What about you? After leaving Boss Feng and your friends, you’re alone. What do you intend to do in the future?”

“Dunno.” A’Ji shook his head. He pretended to be strong and nonchalant. “I’ll live through the next few days before thinking about how I’ll live the next few days after that. Live for today, not for tomorrow. That’s how all Leprosy Village villagers continue.

“At least I have a skill. I won’t starve to death no matter where I go.”

“Your ‘skill’ isn’t really a skill, and it’s not a long-term plan.” Meng Chao could not help but laugh. He changed the topic and said, “But judging by your age, it must have been difficult for you to train your hands to this extent. If you were to receive proper professional education, perhaps you could become an outstanding harvester.”

“Received... proper education?” A’Ji looked like he had just heard the greatest joke in the world.

“There’s a compulsory education system in Dragon City. Right now, the government is also promoting the plan to provide three nutritious meals in schools. All the children in Dragon City, be they poor or rich, and no matter how they look, have the right and responsibility to receive education and be trained so that they can serve our civilization,” Meng Chao said with a stern expression.

“Regardless of whether you’re local citizens or from Leprosy Village, all of you are part of Dragon City and came from Earth. You shouldn’t be an exception.”

A’Ji looked like he had so many things to say that he did not know where to start.

There was a really complicated look on his face, and he looked at Meng Chao like he was staring at an idiot.

The boy cleared his throat a few times and pretended to scratch the scabies on his head to hide his gaze, but he could not hide the dismissal evident on his face.

Meng Chao sighed in his heart.

He was not a nerd who studied behind closed doors in an ivory tower.

He had rich life experience from his previous life, and he had also experienced how it felt like to be at the bottom level of society for years. He knew that the current Dragon City was not a paradise where light shone on every corner of the city.

Even though their martyrs had fought hard and sacrificed their lives for more than half a century, due to the lack of resources, that they were surrounded by powerful enemies, and other reasons, there were still plenty of cold places where hope could not be seen.

Many of the laws and moral truths that seemed to be unquestionable were weak and powerless before the cold, harsh reality.

Logically, since Dragon City had the compulsory education system, everyone should have the right to enjoy cultivation.

But the Survival Committee's financial system was swaying, and the annual budget could not cover everything. It was normal for them to shift the funds for teachers to war. The education quality of the public schools outside were miles behind private schools, and the government did not even have the money to build new schools in the lair and Leprosy Village.

Where were they supposed to get land to build the school? How were they going to build it? How were they going to build the cultivation facilities? How were they going to provide funds for the teachers? How were they going to solve the problem of funding for the children's cultivation? All these things cost a lot of money, so who was going to pay for that?

Of course, logically, the Survival Committee should be the one paying for it.

But the Survival Committee did not have money, so it could only remove funding from a lot of important projects to cover for these projects. For example, the Colonization Party and Home Party's politicians were engaged in a major argument just to deal with the budget to upgrade all the armored airships and modify all the defense systems in the old residential areas. They could not spare any money to build schools!

It has to be known that education in this era was different from Earth. All the children on Earth needed was just a pen, a book, and a stack of draft paper. Meanwhile, the children in Dragon City had to take countless gene medicines and high-calorie nutritional fluids to solidify their foundation and make their bodies stronger, thus awakening to supernatural abilities.

Without enough resources, forcing children to cultivate was not just pulling at a shoot to make it grow faster, but was practically the same as draining the children of all their potential without thinking about the consequences. It would only cripple the children, and it was especially the case for children from Leprosy Village.

As descendants of infectees, their genes had mutated. Once they guided spirit energy into their bodies, it was not rare for things to go out of control and for them to go through secondary mutation.

If the city wanted to turn them into talented people, they had to pour extra manpower, resources, time, and effort into cultivating them. Otherwise, their kind would only end up with going through secondary mutation, and their mortality rate would increase.

Due to this objective reason, up to that date, the number and quality of the schools in the lair were still far beneath the ones outside.

There was also no public school in Leprosy Village. The children did not drop out of school. Instead, they simply did not have the concept of going to school.

It was no wonder then why A'Ji thought that proper education was something far-fetched.

At that moment, Meng Chao decided that he had to solve the problem in the lair and Leprosy Village.

In his previous life, Dragon City lost the northern offense and never solved their problem of resources even after they gained the pyrrhic victory in the Monster War.

They had located most of their resources into the new Colonization War and were dragged into the world war of the two major camps of the Other World.

Meng Chao remembered that even during the best years during the Extraordinary Disaster, Dragon City was not able to solve the problem of cultivation for the children at the bottom level of Dragon City.

Only the descendants of the strong could become new powerhouses. The descendants of the weak could only be weaklings.

Dragons gave birth to dragons, phoenixes gave birth to phoenixes, and the children of rats could only crawl in the holes.

This was a reality they were resigned to.

Perhaps it was one of the reasons why Dragon City lost.

But it was different this time.

In this life, Dragon City won the northern offense, and with the resources they gained by developing the northern frontlines, they started attacking from all fronts and were launching a tactical counterattack.

It was only by winning the current war that Dragon City would get an overwhelming tactical advantage.

Then, they should be able to free up their hands to solve the problem of the lairs and Leprosy Village so that the warm light of hope could shine on every corner of Dragon City equally.

Meng Chao swore that he would do everything it took to make this real.

For now, though, he could solve A'Ji's problem, since he was just one person.

With that thought in mind, Meng Chao asked, "A'Ji, how old are you?"

"Eleven or twelve," A'Ji said. "I don't really know when my parents gave birth to me."

“Eleven or twelve, huh? It’s not too late yet,” Meng Chao said. “Listen. I know a few friends outside. Perhaps they can get you a place and let you receive proper education so you can develop your potential and become an outstanding harvester.

“As long as you perform outstandingly, they will give you a proper job that will garner you respect. You will no longer have to live in fear. It won’t be a problem to ensure that you will always have a full tummy either.

“You won’t have to worry about being discriminated against by the people from the world outside because of your appearance either. Trust me, before long, Dragon Citizens’ views will change.”

Dragon Citizens’ discrimination toward the descendants of the infectees came from their fear toward the zombie virus, the lack of resources, and the limited space they had for survival. Hence, they were instinctively against people who were different from them.

But before long, Dragon City would get out of the “newbie village”, and their survival space would instantly expand a hundred times its original size. They would also see all sorts of strange people from other races. They will even talk to half-orcs and vampires. The descendants of the infectees would become their own kind, so it won’t be a problem to accept them.

A hint of longing appeared on A’Ji’s face, but he soon squashed that tiny bit of hope.

It seemed like the children in Leprosy Village had long since learned to not have any hope for anything. That way, they would not taste any disappointment and despair.

Meng Chao could tell what the boy was thinking just by looking at his expression. After some thought, he brought out a high-purity crystal from the tactical bag and tossed it to him.

A’Ji caught it instinctively and found that this time, Meng Chao did not use the skill to control items remotely to pull the crystal back. He was stunned.

The hope that he had just squashed started flickering in his eyes again.

“I’m a man of my word. Consider that crystal as your deposit,” Meng Chao said. “But you must help me solve the problem in Leprosy Village and the lair; otherwise, all of Dragon City will end up in chaos. Then, my promise and your hope will naturally turn into dust.

“So, helping me is the same as helping yourself leave the fate of slowly rotting away under Leprosy Village behind you and start a brand new life, understand?”

A’Ji pondered his words for a while before he tightened his hold on the high-purity crystal and nodded earnestly.

“Alright. Now, tell me. Do you have any communicators with you? Handphones, computers, walkie-talkies, anything will do,” Meng Chao said.

“Yeah.”

Meng Chao’s words seemed to have touched A’Ji’s heart. The boy opened his cloak, removed a few communicators from his thick belt, and handed them over.

There were two rugged phones wrapped in rubber, a tactical communication watch, a tablet, and a point-to-point walkie-talkie specifically built for mines.

Meng Chao turned on these communicators, but aside from the rustling sound of static, he could hear nothing else.

The top corner of the phone showed the sign of the phone not able to get any signal. Meng Chao could not even send a single message.

It was the same for the tablet.

“Darn it, looks like the Vortex has completely blocked the internet in this area!” Meng Chao cursed under his breath.

He had wanted to test his luck.

It was possible that all communications had just been cut off temporarily because of the explosion from the super crystal bomb, since it led to spirit energy waves surging into the air and creating a large-scale spirit energy magnetic field interference.

But A’Ji had a point-to-point walkie-talkie used in mines. When they were built, their creators considered the problem of the interference caused by spirit energy magnetic fields in the crystal mines, so these walkie-talkies were really good at resisting interference.

A crystal bomb would not be able to completely cut off communications through this walkie-talkie.

The only thing that could affect it was military-grade, high-power signal interference equipment. It had to have been used to block all communications from Leprosy Village and perhaps all of Golden Tooth Lair to the world outside.

Because of this, Meng Chao’s plan to search for the command center and report their current situation went up in smoke.

But that made sense, since the Vortex had a detailed plan. It would naturally not make such a low-grade mistake.

Aside from cutting off communications, it probably had already set up its best assassins at the highest spots in Leprosy Village.

If the Heaven Realm superhumans who were heavily injured wanted to use maglev to flee from Leprosy Village via the sky, the assassins would easily strike them down like children using slingshots to hit sparrows.

As for Meng Chao, he had not recovered his ability to use maglev just yet.

But even if he did, he did not intend to run like a dog with its tail between its legs.

Meng Chao pondered his situation for a while before he said, “Forget it. Throw away all the communicators you picked up so that no one can figure out our location.

“A’Ji, tell me. Where can you find a large amount of cultivation resources in Leprosy Village?”

Meng Chao's current most important task was to treat his wounds.

He had to heal at least 80% of his wounds before he could continue playing with the Vortex in their game.

And the stake was Dragon City's survival!

#### **Chapter 514: Wild Wolf**

"Cultivation resources?" A'Ji scratched his head and said in a slightly troubled manner, "Everyone in Leprosy Village is poor. The places with loads of cultivation resources do illegal businesses, so defenses there are really tight. It'll be really dangerous if you try taking anything from them. Anyway, I don't want to go and provoke them.

"If I had to pick one place, though, the village chief has most food and drinkable water in Leprosy Village, so he must have a lot of cultivation resources as well!"

"Leprosy Village has a village chief?"

The moment Meng Chao asked that, he realized that he had just said something really stupid.

Leprosy Village had all sorts of people and its environment was really bad, but since it could trade with the world outside, it was clear that it was not a society operating by the law of the jungle.

There was basic order in the place, and if that was the case, someone had to maintain the order and manage everything.

The village chief probably did not receive orders from the Survival Committee directly, but he would not betray Dragon City, or at the very least, he would not have done that before the Vortex infiltrated his area.

However, Meng Chao did not intend to go for the village chief.

The reason for it was simple: as a target, the village chief was too eye-catching.

Regardless of whether the Vortex had dragged the village chief into the mess or not, after the super crystal bomb explosion, it would definitely attack the village chief.

It would either tempt and coerce him to join its side or kill him.

That was the only way it could throw the situation into chaos and destroy or take over the order in Leprosy Village.

If Meng Chao went to the village chief recklessly, he would only be marching into the trap.

"Tell me. How many forces of power are there in Leprosy Village? Is the village chief the person with the greatest power in the village? How did he become the village chief?" Meng Chao asked.

His question stumped A'Ji.

He scratched his head for a long time before he said, "The village chief is the village chief. How would anyone know why he became the village chief?"

“If I were to make a guess, it might be because the village chief often sells large batches of food and water-purification chips from the world outside to us at a very cheap price. So, in reality, he’s just giving them to us for free.

“Surviving in Leprosy Village isn’t easy. It’s normal for you to go hungry. Whoever has food and drinkable water is in control of everything. I think that’s the gist of it?”

“Then...” Meng Chao said without much hope. “Do you know how the village chief manages to get so much food and water? It’s not easy for him to fill the stomachs of all the villagers.”

He did not think that he would get any answers from A’Ji, but it wouldn’t hurt to ask.

To his surprise, A’ji actually thought about it and gave him the answer. “I think... it’s because the village chief has some connections with Golden Tooth? The village chief might be old as bones now, his beard is almost to the floor, and he looks like he’s going to be blown away by the wind, but I heard that he was really powerful when he was young and even saved Saber Jin Wanhao!

“The village chief and Saber Jin Wanhao are really close. Jin Wanhao is the leader of the greatest gang in the lair and the underground emperor of Dragon City. Out of respect to the village chief, it’s not that much of a problem for him to give some synthetic food and water-purification chips to Leprosy Village, right?”

“I see.” Meng Chao nodded.

The Underground Emperor Jin Wanhao was supporting the village chief. This also explained how Jin Wanhao could ask Leprosy Village to just maintain its order and not cause trouble.

As the Underground Emperor, Jin Wanhao had a close relationship with the nine great mega corporations. He was even the spokesperson for the interests of the nine great mega corporations in the lair.

It was also why Saber Jin Wanhao had readily released most of the data in the lair and mobilized a large number of powerful fighters to work together with the hunting squad.

The Underground Emperor did not seem like someone who would be corrupted by the Vortex and drawn to its side.

In other words, did that mean that Meng Chao could trust Leprosy Village’s chief?

Meng Chao set aside this problem for the time being and continued questioning the boy. “Aside from the village chief, do you have any other powerful people in Leprosy Village? No, I don’t mean the leader of thieves like Boss Feng. I want someone even more powerful. How should I put it? Let’s use this as an example. If the current village chief died one day, who is the most likely to become the next village chief?”

A’Ji blinked and blurted out, “That would be Wild Wolf!”

“Wild Wolf?”

“Yeah. The leader of Wild Wolves. He’s the best fighter in Leprosy Village. All the kids really admire him!”

When A'ji mentioned his idol, he became excited and started explaining things to Meng Chao while gesturing wildly. "Decades ago, there were no gangs in Leprosy Village, because everyone here is a descendant of infectees. Most of the people here have inborn illnesses and all sorts of deformities.

"And most of our inborn illnesses and deformities make us really weak, so we can't fight at all.

"At that time, even though Saber Jin Wanhao had reluctantly given us a place to stay out of respect for the village chief and sent us synthetic food and water-purification chips regularly, he didn't do it for free. We had to do manual labor for the gangs in the lair and work hard for any tiny bit of daily necessities.

"It's just like what you said, Uncle. Even when it comes to trash, the recoverers outside process it first before they send it to the lair, and when it's delivered to us, we only have trash that contains a lot of acid, poison, inflammable and explosive gas, and trash that is the most dangerous, the most difficult to process, and the least valuable.

"But even when it comes to leftovers like that, we can't think about getting them just like that. When the gangs in the lair saw that we're easy targets, they often came to take advantage of us. They dominated our market and forced us to sell and buy things. The only thing that they didn't do is shit on our heads.

"I heard that the village chief had gone to discuss this with Saber Jin Wanhao a few times. In the beginning, Jin Wanhao executed justice out of consideration to maintain order in the lair. Golden Tooth also treated us pretty nicely.

"But the lair has a lot of gangs. They were good only for a few days before they went back to their old ways. The village chief couldn't always bother Saber Jin Wanhao with such trivial matters either. So, he asked us to endure it and taught us that our misfortunes are a blessing in disguise.

"I might be young, but I know that all that talk about our misfortunes being blessings in disguise was just plain bullcrap. But we couldn't do anything about the situation, so we had to accept it. Leprosy Village was in the depths of the lair, so we were living under their roof. The world outside wouldn't welcome us, so what else could we do aside from enduring it silently?

"The people in Leprosy Village endured it for decades until Wild Wolf appeared out of the blue.

"Honestly, it's not just Wild Wolf. The first batch of Leprosy Village people who were weak after going through their genetic mutations gradually died out. The ones who managed to survive had endless potential from their mutated genes. This potential made them no longer look human, but gave them astonishing power.

"The descendants of these infectees got together and produced more children. Most of them died of hunger, illness, or some unknown reason, but those who managed to survive were the real powerful people!

"Just like that, Leprosy Village slowly gained its own fighters, and the most outstanding one among them is naturally Wild Wolf.

"I heard that with just one punch, he can blow apart a wall that is half a meter thick and is made of reinforced concrete.



“He can also easily twist eight rebars bound together.

“I even heard that Wild Wolf can fly! It’s true, he can fly!”

A’Ji’s face was full of excitement, and he appeared to long for this ability.

Meng Chao thought. ‘Looks like this Wild Wolf is a Heaven Realm superhuman.

‘He was born in Leprosy Village and relied on his own ability to keep climbing up. He managed to reach Heaven Realm like that, so he does deserve the title of an elite.’

“Wild Wolf is strong, and he’s full of justice as well. If anyone in Leprosy Village is bullied by a gang outside, regardless of whether that person has any connections with Wild Wolf, he will immediately go out and fight for that person. A few years ago, Wild Wolf and his companions fought a few hard battles against the gangs in the lair.

“It didn’t matter whether they lost or won, at the very least, those gangs no longer dared to look down on us. Later, when they traded with us, their prices also became much more reasonable,” A’Ji waved his fists. “After that matter, everyone was really impressed with Wild Wolf, and more people asked to join Wild Wolves and train with him.

“The village chief has a lot of prestige, yeah, but he’s old. Many people don’t like how he’s such a yes-man to the world outside either. But Wild Wolf, he has the guts to fight. It fits the tastes of people in this new era. If there comes a day when Wild Wolves replace Golden Tooth and become the strongest gang in the lair, we’ll live good lives!”

A’Ji was so excited that he gulped.

Meng Chao frowned. “The village chief relies on the support from Golden Tooth to remain the village chief. So it’s only natural that he has to be humble toward Golden Tooth. Wild Wolves is a group of young turks that hope that Leprosy Village can display a firmer attitude against the world outside. Is there any sort of conflict between them?”

A’Ji was slightly stunned, then shook his head. “Conflict? No, no way!

“Even though their attitudes toward the world outside are different, Wild Wolf was brought up by the old village chief. If it weren’t for the village chief’s great care while training him, Wild Wolf could not have possibly become so strong. They are as close as father and son. I’ve never heard of them having any sort of conflict between them.

“Right now, Wild Wolf and Wild Wolves are getting stronger. We’ve been saying in private that even if they can’t win against Golden Tooth, Poison Scorpion, Black Bone, and the other powerful gangs, at the very least, they would have no problem squashing the second-rate gangs in the lair, but due to a single sentence from the old village chief, Wild Wolf decided to stay in place and limit Wild Wolves’ influence in Leprosy Village. Unless someone decides to bully us, they seldom cause trouble. There’s no conflict between them.”

“Alright. So if the village chief lives, Wild Wolf will remain good.” Meng Chao’s mind raced, and he asked, “But what if the old village chief died? Is there anyone who would fight for the position of village chief with Wild Wolf?”

“No, plenty of people already treat Wild Wolf as the next village chief,” A’Ji answered without even thinking.

But after he said that, he hesitated for a moment.

“You’re hesitating,” Meng Chao said. “What is it? Did you think of someone else or some other force of power? It’s fine, tell me. Leave thinking about the possibility of it happening to me. You just need to tell me everything that you know.”

“If I had to pick someone, there is one person who’s on par with the village chief and Wild Wolf when it comes to being trusted and liked,” A’Ji said. “It’s Ms. Mu Lian.”

### **Chapter 515: Ms. Mulian**

“Is Ms. Mulian a young girl?” Meng Chao asked with great interest.

This was a girl who had others refer to her as “Miss” despite her age, and she had the same status as the village chief and Wild Wolf. There had to be something special about her.

“Ms. Mulian is the village chief’s granddaughter. She’s only twenty years old, but she’s really amazing,” A’Ji said seriously. “She has a unique superpower, which allows her to shine with a pure, holy light. It is warm, and when she turns that light on someone, she can get rid of their sicknesses and pains. No matter how bad the sickness is, she can cure it without using any medicine, or at the very least give the sick some relief.

“And Ms. Mulian isn’t stingy about using this amazing power either. Since she was around seven or eight, she started wandering the streets to relieve the villagers of their pain. When she treats the villagers, she doesn’t take much money from them. She just takes a few items as a symbol. They’re just synthetic food cans, toys made of scrap metal, or even just a word of thanks.

“She doesn’t set any boundaries when she treats the villagers and doesn’t choose people. As long as she sees some pitiful sod tormented by an illness, she is willing to do everything in her power to help them.

“More than ten years have passed since she began helping us, and countless villagers have received blessings from her.

“Even I... People usually avoid resource recoverers like me. They pinch their noses when they see me and kick me into the drain. But Ms. Mulian is really gentle toward me. When she treated me, she spoke gently to comfort me while I basked in the warm, pure light around her. I think that she’s a living Buddha sent to save the people who are living hard lives!”

Meng Chao was contemplative. “You were also healed by Ms. Mulian?”

“That’s right. Boss Feng took me to her.” The corner of A’Ji’s eyelids twitched. “Boss Feng knew that Ms. Mulian has superpowers, so he intentionally crushed my hands and sent me to Ms. Mulian for healing. Without spending any money, he got a lot of precious medicine from Ms. Mulian. It was his way to increase the agility of my hands.”

“Did Ms. Mulian know about Boss Feng’s goals?”

“Boss Feng naturally never dared to appear in front of her. He asked the children who had their hands crushed to go to her alone and lie to her.

“Ms. Mulian must have guessed what was going on, but she never refused to treat us. She would just sigh, and when she healed us, she looked even more sympathetic than when treating others. I’ve lived for more than ten years, but that’s the only time someone showed me so much pity. I will never forget how Ms. Mulian looked at me.”

Meng Chao nodded.

The lack of medical treatment had always been a chronic illness of Dragon City, and it was really difficult to treat it.

While powerful people with a lot of power and influence gained cultivation resources worth astronomical figures and continued breaking the limits of their lives to develop the endless potential within their bodies so that they could become stronger, normal people were often not even able to get the most basic healthcare security.

Meng Chao’s family was a good example.

His father, Meng Yishan, was from the Red Dragon Army and knew how to harvest monsters. He had two children at home, but it was not too hard for him to put bread on the table. His children also worked hard and went to key public high schools, so he did not have to spend extra money for them to go to training classes.

Even so, in ten years or so, Meng Yishan was never able to get enough money to get super alloy joints for his wife, so she had to walk with a limp and be tormented by pain.

The medical treatment that the villagers could buy was probably even worse than that.

And as the descendants of infectees, their chances of being infected by illnesses were much higher than of the normal citizens outside.

The villagers might look powerful with their horns, wings, claws, fangs, and great strength, but there were only a handful of people who could use their deformities to increase their strength while still remaining healthy. They were the lucky few.

Most of the infectees’ descendants could not get any benefits from their deformities. They only had weak bodies and lived in pain and suffering.

In that sort of situation, Ms. Mulian appeared, and she was willing to provide free, effective medical treatment. She was truly a living Buddha sent to save the poor and the suffering. It was no wonder then why the villagers had such good opinions about her.

Meng Chao believed that Ms. Mulian was like monsters who were born with racial skills and could use supernatural abilities without cultivation.

He had heard his lecturers in the university talk about cases of people who were born with supernatural powers.

Compared to those who awakened through cultivation later on, the people who awakened to supernatural abilities by birth could only control a limited number of skills. At most, they could only create one to two spirit energy magnetic fields.

But if they used their entire lives to polish these spirit energy magnetic fields, they would become outstanding people in their fields.

‘Looks like this Ms. Mulian is a born superhuman with skills made for the medical field.’

Meng Chao thought about this for a moment and said, “Since you like Ms. Mulian so much and she’s the village chief’s granddaughter, is there a possibility that she will become the new village chief once her grandfather dies?”

“If Ms. Mulian really wanted to become the village chief, I think that Wild Wolf wouldn’t compete with her. Instead, he would support her with everything he has.

“But I think Ms. Mulian doesn’t have a lot of interest in becoming the village chief. She has opened a hospital and is busy with healing the sick every day. She doesn’t have the time and energy to become the village chief.

“Besides, Wild Wolf and the village chief are as close as father and son. Even though Ms. Mulian is the village chief’s granddaughter, she still has to refer to Wild Wolf as Uncle Wolf. Their relationship is very good. In the past, when Ms. Mulian went to the most dangerous underground shelter in Leprosy Village to give free treatment, the people from Wild Wolves protected her.

“If Ms. Mulian wanted to become the village chief, Wild Wolf would definitely support her fully, and it’s the same the other way round. If Wild Wolf wanted to become the village chief, Ms. Mulian would definitely support him fully.”

Meng Chao nodded, and three lines of words appeared in his head.

Villager: Food, drinkable water, survival resources.

Wild Wolf: Brute force.

Ms. Mulian: Medical treatment, health, and perhaps psychological comfort to a certain degree.

The order in this area was the amalgamation of these three things.

“By the way, since Ms. Mulian is the village chief’s granddaughter, what about her father, the village chief’s son?” Meng Chao asked. “He should be someone powerful as well. Why didn’t you mention him?”

A’Ji was taken aback for a moment. He thought for a long time, then shook his head and said, “Um... I don’t know. I’ve never heard anyone mention Ms. Mulian’s father before. The village chief doesn’t have any children either. He must have died a long time ago.”

“So, these are the three people who have the power to control the situation in Leprosy Village? The village chief, Wild Wolf, and Ms. Mulian?” Meng Chao said.

“Yeah, it’s these three... No, two and a half,” A’Ji said. “Everyone respects and loves Ms. Mulian a lot, but I don’t know whether she can control the situation. After all, she only knows how to heal. She doesn’t know how to fight.”

“Alright.” Meng Chao’s mind raced and quickly assessed the three candidates. Half a second later, he made his decision. “Didn’t you say that Ms. Mulian opened a hospital? Take me there now.”

A’Ji hesitated a little.

Meng Chao scowled. “What’s wrong?”

“Well...” A’Ji was conflicted, and he even clenched his fists before he forced himself to straighten his back, puff out his thin chest, and say loudly, “I can bring you over to Ms. Mulian, Uncle, but you must first tell me who you are, whether you’re a good guy or a bad guy, and why you want to look for Ms. Mulian.

“I-I might not be in a hurry to die, but I’m not scared of death at all— Fine, I’m scared of death, but there are certain things that I won’t do even if it means death, and one of them is betraying Ms. Mulian!

“I’m telling you, Uncle, Ms. Mulian has a very unique status in all of the villagers’ hearts. If you dare to touch even a single hair on her head, Wild Wolf, all of the villagers, and I will not spare you!”

When Meng Chao saw how the boy was pretending to be tough despite trembling all over while saying the toughest words with the most cowardly look he had ever seen, he laughed.

“Don’t worry, I’m not a bad person,” Meng Chao said.

“It’s not as if bad people write ‘I’m a bad person’ on their heads.” A’Ji gathered his courage. “How are you going to prove it?”

Meng Chao spread his arms and said, “You should be able to tell that I have no deformities. I came from the outside world.”

“So what?” A’Ji said. “To us, the people outside are all bad guys, or at least, none of you are good.”

Meng Chao had nothing to say to that.

Naturally, he had one hundred ways to force the boy to “work” with him.

But after he heard A’Ji’s words, he did not want to do that.

He only sighed and said, “Judging by your actions, you’re a pretty smart boy, so use your head and think carefully. If I were a bad person and wanted to do bad things, I’d definitely plan carefully and understand the entire situation before I take action. How would I not even know how many important people there are in Leprosy Village and where they live?

“The information you shared could be learned by just asking around outside. To those who are really bad, it’s not valuable, right?”

A’Ji tilted his head to the side and thought about it for a long time before he nodded and said, “Yeah, I guess so.”

“So, I’m not a bad person,” Meng Chao said. “But you might be right about something. There might be a group of bad people who want to harm Ms. Mulian right now. So, we have to do everything we can to save her!”

A’Ji was shocked. “Wh-What? Who could it be?”

“Of course it’s the group who caused the explosion earlier. I’ll explain the details and the causes to you later. Right now, we must hurry to Ms. Mulian’s hospital. You don’t want Ms. Mulian’s hospital to end up in ruins like the other building and be leveled to the ground, right?”

A’Ji’s face turned stark pale. He was stunned for half a second before he immediately said, “I’ll take you there right now!”

With the local boy’s help, Meng Chao gained the best guide in a dark maze.

A’Ji led Meng Chao around. At times, they crawled through ducts, and at other times, they descended further into the ground. They moved through drainage pipes, ventilation pipes, maintenance shafts, abandoned elevator shafts, and took a lot of shortcuts.

In just ten minutes, they moved through the entire underground and arrived at a manhole cover near the surface.

#### **Chapter 516: Just Who Is It?**

Meng Chao held his breath and released a bit of spirit energy into the outside world through the hole in the manhole cover.

His spirit energy fluctuated and released ripples into the area. He did not manage to find any powerful vitality magnetic fields.

It was only then that Meng Chao carefully and silently opened the manhole cover and crawled out with A’Ji.

They were now at a quiet corner of an alley.

Through the cracks of two tilted, illegal buildings, they could see the building where the Deification Capsule pharmacy was. It was, of course, now completely collapsed.

The flames surrounding the surface of the ruins had already been put out by the Leprosy Village.

But there were still a lot of substances containing spirit energy in the depths of the debris. They were burning silently and releasing ink-like smoke through the cracks in the ground.

The smoke was like a black pillar that reached the skies. It shot through the dusk-colored sky and dyed the rainbow-colored fog in the air black.

It was as if a black coffin had been turned upside down on Leprosy Village, and it was currently squashing the place... No, it was squashing all of Golden Tooth Lair.

Meng Chao knew that this glue-like, black cloud was the product of low-grade crystals and the incomplete combustion of etherealized substances.

Based on his experiences, the black smoke would remain for around half a month or an even longer period of time. During that time, most of the electromagnetic signals, spirit energy magnetic signals, and wireless signals would be blocked.

The enemy had also started a signal interference, which blocked off all forms of communication, so it was difficult for the outside world to know what had happened inside.

Sophisticated equipment like drones would have a hard time operating for a long time in the black smoke as well.

Before long, their control chips would be invaded by the powder from the low-grade crystals in the black smoke, and they would fall like headless flies.

The same logic applied to the Heaven Realm superhumans. If they flew for a long time in the black smoke, the powder from the low-grade crystals would block their pores and interfere with their vitality magnetic fields, so their cultivation realms and fighting strength would both plummet. They could then be easily shot down like sparrows hit by slingshots.

Meng Chao only wished that before the black smoke completely shrouded the sky above the lair, Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the other veteran hunters would be able to run out and report what had happened to the command center.

With that thought in mind, Meng Chao and A'Ji went to the entrance of the alley.

Since Meng Chao did not have a cloak, he looked eye-catching due to the Bloody Soul and Tiger Fang Saber on his back, the chain saber around his arm, his bulky muscles that made it look like he was carrying explosives, and the intersecting wounds that covered his built body.

He could only hide in the darkness and look out to observe the streets from the darkness.

There were quite a number of villagers wandering around like ghosts in the streets.

By the looks of it, they had just run out of the collapsed building.

Many of them were touched by the flames. Their robes were tattered, and their skin was covered in patches of red and white. There was also some fluid oozing out from the damaged areas, which was an unbearable sight.

There were some people who were not injured, but had lost their homes and all their belongings in the explosion. Now, they stood like statues that stared upward at the black, suffocating sky.

Many people watched everything coldly, as if they had burning hatred for everything, and did not bother to hide their desire to live. It was the type of desire that would drive them to do whatever it took to survive.

No matter what, survival was the first instinct for all those living.

If they wanted to live, they needed food, water, and living space. If they did not have such things, they would go and snatch them!

Meng Chao could sense an underlying current that was going to destroy everything brewing silently among the survivors who lost everything.

He suddenly understood why the Vortex gathered so many cultivation resources and created a super large crystal bomb.

It didn't matter how many veteran hunters were killed.

The important part was to create people who lost their homes, families, and had nothing left but hatred and the desire to live.

Such people were going to completely destroy the order in Leprosy Village.

And with the Vortex fanning the flames, they would create even more people who had nothing but hatred and the desire to survive.

They would rush out of Leprosy Village after it lost all order and was reduced to ruins. From there, they would destroy the order in Golden Tooth Lair and make the lair citizens lose everything they had. This would then fill them with hatred and a desperate desire to survive.

It would be like a rolling snowball.

With the super crystal bomb, the Vortex destroyed the order in Leprosy Village, which then allowed him to motivate all the villagers who had nothing but hatred, anger, and the desire to survive to destroy the order in Golden Tooth Lair.

After that, all the lair citizens would care about nothing else but escaping Golden Tooth Lair. This would then spread chaotic lawlessness all over Dragon City.

"Chaos..." Meng Chao mumbled. "Chaos is all that the Vortex wants!"

At that moment, piercing alarms suddenly rang out all over the place.

All the buildings rumbled.

Even the ground trembled a little.

This was an alarm that Dragon Citizens knew all too well.

'Fortification!' Meng Chao narrowed his eyes. 'The Golden Tooth Lair is going to be fortified!'

The lair had been a super fort built during the zombie crisis.

When the Golden Tooth Lair entered full fortification, its defenses were ten times greater than those of an old residential area like Blessed Heavenly Garden.

This should be the second plan Nie Chenglong mentioned.

After the hunting squad's operation failed, the world outside would lock down the Golden Tooth Lair.

With the severe lack of fighting power in the city, fortifying the lair would maximize their ability to maintain order so that the chaos in the lair would not spread through the other regions.



But during the subsequent few days, it would be difficult for the outside world to mobilize power to enter the lair to handle the situation. Even half a month might not be enough to gather the forces to send them into the lair.

This might make it... into the Supernatural Entity's paradise.

"Uncle..." A'Ji stood on his tiptoes behind Meng Chao and stared at the smoke that rose into the sky above the ruins. He also perked up his ears and listened to the alarms and the sounds of machines all around. He suddenly asked, "Did the people outside abandon us?"

Meng Chao was slightly stunned.

"It's fine. I've known this since a long time ago." A'Ji sniffed. "The people outside had abandoned us decades ago and left us to our own devices."

"Nonsense." Meng Chao turned around, grabbed A'Ji shoulders, and said firmly, "Humans won't abandon their comrades. Dragon City did indeed not solve a lot of problems, but that's because it does not have enough resources, but as long as we win the war before us and get resources, we will be able to solve all our problems!"

He put too much strength in his grip, so A'Ji winced with a pained expression.

Meng Chao quickly let go.

A'Ji grimaced and rubbed his shoulders, but Meng Chao's promise did make him much happier.

"Uncle, I'll go get a cloak for you first," he said, eager to please.

Before his voice could fade away, a deafening explosion sounded above their heads.

"Careful!"

Meng Chao grabbed A'Ji and yanked him back.

A stone the size of a head fell from the sky. It grazed A'Ji's nose before landing on the ground and terrified the boy so much that he turned pale.

The two men looked up.

Sparks flew from the balconies of the buildings around them. Bullets intersected with each other, and like a burning net, they sealed off the entire sky.

A few people had flown into the sky and tried to retreat when the smoke receded. They were immediately struck by the flames and fell like shooting stars. They crashed so violently that the ground shattered, and more than ten buildings were destroyed.

Immediately after, a group of superhumans in heavy motorized armor, surrounded by spirit flames, and skeletons painted on their helmets pounced aggressively where the people landed.

Meng Chao and A'Ji's gazes were blocked by the buildings, so they could not see the two parties' fight.

They could only hear banging sounds from the guns and clashing steel, screams, and the booming from shockwaves. From all that, it was clear that the fights were pretty intense.

The buildings in Leprosy Village had been designed based on forts, so they were pretty sturdy.

But they could not accommodate the rapid increase of villagers over the decades. To increase living space so that they could stuff more people inside the buildings, the villagers added a lot of illegal structures without considering safety at all.

When the superhumans activated their spirit flames, they were the same as self-propelled artillery with an unlimited amount of ammunition. If they fought at full force, they would naturally affect the buildings and innocent villagers around them.

In just a short half a minute, a number of buildings were covered in holes. Terrifying cracks intersected on the walls.

The illegal structures attached to the main buildings tilted and collapsed.

Many villagers started bleeding from their orifices because of the shockwaves created by the superhumans when they fought.

Some people did not manage to dodge in time and were severely wounded by the falling tiles, debris, and reinforced concrete.

Many of the villagers had felt fortunate that their modest homes were not affected by the super crystal bombs, but suddenly, two superhumans turned the area around them into their battlefield, and as they fought, they crashed into their house.

Each punch and kick from the superhumans possessed the power of pile drivers. With just a few exchanges, they blew apart the walls, crushed the floorboards, and created holes in the ceiling. But this was unavoidable.

Hence, the streets were in chaos once more. The villagers screamed as they fled their swaying homes. With hands covering their heads, they ran far away from the battlefield before they dared to turn their heads around with fear pounding in their hearts. Their eyes were fixed on their homes burning under the superhumans' feet.

Some people were overwhelmed by grief, some wanted to cry, but could not, some gnashed their teeth and clenched their fists so tightly that it sounded as if their bones were about to crack. Their eyes burned with anger.

'These people are too rash!' Meng Chao cursed in his heart. 'Even if it's to capture the mastermind, they can't just ignore the safety of the innocent villagers and their belongings. If they end up hurting loads of villagers and creating a mess in the village, what's the point even if they manage to capture the mastermind?'

'Wait... Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong's hunting squad and the superhumans from the gangs should have been gravely injured during the explosion of the super crystal bomb. And for the time being, the secret police, abnormal beast research department, and the gangs in the lair shouldn't be able to mobilize a second wave of attacks.'

'Just who are these people in motorized armor and skeleton masks? They're destroying the place wilfully and don't care about injuring the villagers by accident!'

## Chapter 517: I Don't Believe It!

Meng Chao thought about it carefully. The people who tried to use maglev and escape through the sky just now should have been the members of the hunting squad.

They were the only ones injured by the super crystal bomb and unable to continue fighting. That was why they were forced to retreat.

As for the people on the Vortex's side, their plan had succeeded and they had the advantage, so why did they need to run?

Besides, even if they wanted to run, they would not go into the sky.

After all, even if they flew out of Leprosy Village and Golden Tooth Lair, they would be immediately discovered by the superhumans stationed outside. That would be the same as death.

Hence, if the Vortex's subordinates really wanted to escape, they would be escaping through the underground tunnels, just like the insects during the Noble Descent Hotel ambush.

At that moment, A'Ji took the initiative and said, "Uncle, when I get the cloak for you, should I ask around for information as well?"

Meng Chao pondered this for a while, then nodded. "Go. Be careful."

"Don't worry. If Boss Feng died but I didn't, it means that God doesn't want to take my life for the time being!"

A'Ji grinned and snuck out.

Meng Chao watched him stick close to the walls and blend into the crowd discreetly.

He then dragged a villager who was bleeding all over his head because he was hit by a stone to a safe place and used the chance to talk to him.

After speaking to him for a while, he ran to another side and worked together with the people to carry a villager whose legs were broken. He seized the chance while helping to understand the cause behind the fight above them.

Gradually, A'Ji moved further away and disappeared in the depths of the bustling crowd.

Meng Chao waited patiently in the beginning.

But soon, he sensed something. His expression changed, and he cursed under his breath.

He retreated into the alley and used his hands and legs to climb up the wall like a huge gecko.

He silently climbed up until he was on the eighth floor. There he found a terrace that protruded out of the building while held up by steel pipes.

To provide shelter, a rainproof canvas had been put over the terrace.

Meng Chao yanked off the canvas and placed it around his shoulders to cover his built body, the terrifying scars, and his fierce-looking weapons.

He narrowed his eyes and moved like lightning between the buildings while avoiding the superhumans in skeleton masks in the area.

Soon, a sneaky youth showed up below him like a rat in the drain.

It was A'Ji.

He was already four streets away from the manhole cover they had crawled out of.

There were no villagers around him, and it did not look like he was searching for anyone to ask for information either. He only ran forward with his head bowed.

After running for a while, he stopped to catch his breath and turned his head back to look. When he didn't see anyone chasing him, he sighed in relief and continued running.

It was clear that he did not plan to look for a cloak or get any information. Instead, he found an excuse and ran away!

Meng Chao looked down from the fourth floor of a building. He snorted coldly.

A'Ji stopped as if he was struck by lightning. He turned his head around and went pale as if he had seen a ghost. He screamed and started running at full speed.

But he could not outrun his enemy.

Meng Chao casually fired two steel balls and accurately hit the backs of A'Ji's knees.

"Ack!" The boy fell to the ground. Bruises bloomed on his face, and he looked really pathetic.

"And why are you running?" Meng Chao descended from the sky and brought A'Ji up like an eagle with a chick in its claws. He glared at him. "Do you think that I really won't hurt you?"

"Let me go! Just let me go! You're all bad guys!" A'Ji was terrified and anxious. In his desperation, he gathered his courage and struggled fiercely in Meng Chao's hands. He kicked and hit him. "You just want to destroy Leprosy Village! I won't help you! I'd rather be reborn than help you!"

"What do you mean?" Meng Chao scowled. "Tell me clearly. Who wants to destroy Leprosy Village?"

"It's you! It's all of you and those people in skeleton masks and motorized armor! They're all fighting in Leprosy Village! You're with them!" A'Ji's face was flushed red and he spoke quickly. "I heard from the villagers just now! You're from a capture squad from outside! You're here in Leprosy Village to catch wanted criminals.

"Your only goal is to capture the wanted criminals. To achieve your goal, you don't care even if you need to destroy Leprosy Village and kill all the villagers!"

Meng Chao was stunned. "What? Who said that?"

"Everyone is saying that. Someone saw it with his own eyes and heard it with his own ears!" A'Ji shouted in anger. "The big explosion that affected a few buildings in the beginning was caused by you because you wanted to catch those wanted criminals. Then, you announced to all the villagers that there are

fierce wanted criminals hiding in Leprosy Village and that all the villagers have the duty to help you capture them.

"If we won't work with you, it'll mean that we're hiding the criminals and will have to receive the worst punishments together with the criminals.

"Just now, to capture the criminals, you didn't even bat an eyelid and started fighting in our village. You destroyed countless people's homes, caused rocks to fall, and killed so many villagers. All of us saw it. Are you going to deny it?"

"Those people in skeleton masks are captors from outside, and they threatened you to help them?"

Meng Chao's face was grave. He scowled. After pondering it for a while, he immediately understood the situation. "Listen to me, A'Ji, I am indeed a captor from outside, but I'm definitely not with those people in skeleton masks.

"On the contrary, it's highly likely that they're the criminals we wanted to capture, and they're the ones who want to destroy Leprosy Village!"

A'Ji was shocked. He felt confused and stuttered, "Wh-What?"

"It's true. Trust me. We did come to Leprosy Village to capture the wanted criminals, but we would never use whatever method possible and harm people. In truth, before we entered the lair and Leprosy Village, we went through special training to target the situation here. We even had to make certain sacrifices to reduce the collateral damage here to the lowest so that the innocent wouldn't be hurt.

"We didn't set up the super crystal bomb that blew up the building. The people who started fighting in the air in Leprosy Village without caring about the villagers' safety are not part of us either. I have reason to believe that the people who threatened all of you are not captors either, but wanted criminals. Their goal is to make you hate the world outside and turn the situation even more chaotic!"

Meng Chao put A'Ji down.

A'Ji covered his throat and coughed a few times before he said with bloodshot eyes, "I-I don't trust you. None of you from outside are nice.

"Over the past few decades, you have never cared about Leprosy Village nor provided any help to us. You left us to our own devices.

"To you, we're just the deformed and ugly descendants of zombie virus infectees. We're not any better than zombies. Even if one hundred years have passed, we will still spread terrifying viruses and bacteria to you.

"As long as you capture the wanted criminals and maintain the order in the world outside, even if all the villagers die, you won't care, will you?"

"Of course will care," Meng Chao retorted firmly. "To me, there's no such thing as villagers from Leprosy Village or people outside the village. I don't care how you look like because of the virus either. We're all Dragon Citizens and humans who came from Earth. We're all comrades who share the same civilization. We're the same."

“Stop lying. We’re not the same,” A’Ji said. “What sort of lives are the people outside living, and what sort of lives are the villagers living?”

“You might have some misunderstanding toward life outside,” Meng Chao said. “The normal citizens outside might be living slightly better than the villagers, but it’s not much better. They have to face the threats of zombies, monsters, and viruses. They also are troubled about their livelihoods and futures. They have to work day and night to struggle to survive too.

“It’s not that we don’t want to solve the problems of Leprosy Village. It’s just that we have limited resources, and we can’t solve the problems for the time being.

“I told you while we were underground. As long as we work together and win this war, we’ll be able to get enough resources, and Leprosy Village will definitely gain a completely new look. The villagers will also live like the citizens outside.”

“I don’t trust you. I’ve never believed in a single word you said since the beginning,” A’Ji hissed. “The villagers might seldom go out, but we’re not barbarians who don’t receive information from the world around us. We can surf the net too!

“I’ve seen a lot of videos about how the people outside live. They live in huge houses, drive pretty cars, and enjoy all sorts of things that I can’t even name but never dare to think about enjoying.

“Do you even know that we can’t eat earthworm cans every day in the village? Plenty of times, I had to fight with my friends until we were all bleeding for one rotten can!

“But one time I saw someone outside actually feed the freshest Iron-armored Rhinoceros Steak to her pet dog!

“I’ve never tasted fresh Iron-armored Rhinoceros meat in my life. At most, I’ve only eaten the leftover flesh of Iron-armored Rhinoceros or synthetic food made from their poop.

“You’re outsiders who feed your pets steak, so would you care about the lives and deaths of the villagers here? I don’t believe it!”

Meng Chao was silent for a while before he sighed and said, “I’ve never fed my pets steak, and I wouldn’t do something like that. I don’t understand why people do that either.

“Trust me. Most of the normal citizens outside are like me. They wouldn’t understand, accept, or support this sort of thing.

“Only a handful of powerful people and their disciples do that sort of thing.”

“But isn’t Dragon City controlled by those powerful people?” A’Ji retorted. “They say that they don’t have the resources to solve the problems in Leprosy Village and the lair, but they have the resources to feed their pet dogs steak, live in mansions, drive fancy cars, eat good food, and buy crazy things? How then are there no resources to help us?

“And you’re saying things like as long as we win this war, we can solve all problems easily? How am I supposed to know whether you will really help us instead of using those new resources to get more steaks to feed your pet dogs so that they will become fatter and stronger?”

## Chapter 518: For Steak!

Meng Chao had nothing to say about that.

He was stunned for a long time before he heaved a long sigh and said, "Looks like you won't believe anything I say. Alright, I won't force you. Go."

He waved his hand to chase A'Ji away.

He did this so readily that it made A'Ji uncertain.

Meng Chao saw his uncertainty and stared into A'Ji's eyes. "But there is one thing that you must know clearly. Right now, the enemy is causing trouble in your home.

"If you're filled with resentment for the outside world because of your experiences over the past few decades and decide to act rashly because you think the situation is hopeless, the first thing you'll be destroying will be yourselves.

"The enemy has already begun its operation. Before long, the village chief, Wild Wolf, and Ms. Mulian, who healed you before, will end up in the enemy's claws. At that time, Leprosy Village will descend into chaos, and the villagers will even become the weapons of the enemy. It will use all of you to stab Dragon City's most vulnerable parts.

"Once the enemy succeeds in its scheme, I don't know whether those powerful people high above will still be able to feed their pet dogs steaks, but I know that all of you in Leprosy Village will definitely find yourself in ruins.

"If that's the end you want, then hurry up and leave. Search for the best seat, open your eyes wide, and watch Leprosy Village be destroyed in this vortex!"

A'Ji clenched his teeth tightly. His body shuddered, but it looked like he was rooted to the ground.

He hesitated for a long time before he said, "If those superhumans in skeleton masks aren't your friends, then where are your friends?"

Meng Chao thought about this for a while and said honestly, "I won't lie to you. For the time being, my friends are dead, injured, gone, or captured by the enemy. I should be the only one left who can carry out the operation. But I'm injured as well, and I can't bring out all of my fighting strength. Communications here have also been blocked, so I can't send any information outward."

A'Ji's eyes went wide and he cried out in surprise. "Then, aren't you fighting alone?"

"I'm not fighting alone. I have you and all the villagers." Meng Chao smiled.

A'Ji did not know what sort of expression he should have.

It seemed like no one had ever said that kind of thing to him, and he did not know how to react.

He was stunned for a long time before he stuttered, "Wh-What can we do?"

“Do the same thing as the citizens outside. Protect our home. This is the only home we have, and it’s the home we share.”

Meng Chao spoke clearly and firmly. “I don’t care whether you believe me or not, but I swear to you that once this battle comes to an end, I will do everything it takes to change the lair and Leprosy Village and promote the plan to improve the living conditions of the people here.

“Trust me, all the villagers in Leprosy Village will definitely be able to eat nice, hot steaks in the future!”

A’Ji’s eyelashes fluttered, and his lips quivered.

He did not seem to want to believe it, but he could not stop himself from believing. “Then... I’ll... bring you to Ms. Mulian?”

“We must first understand the superhumans in skeleton masks who are pretending to be the hunting squad. Then, once we meet Ms. Mulian, Wild Wolf, and the others, we’ll have something to tell them. Wait for me here.”

Meng Chao attached himself to the wall of the building again and climbed to the roof, which was dozens of meters from where he had been.

With the cover provided by the waterproof canvas, he looked like a huge chameleon. He blended with the mottled wall of the building.

He narrowed his eyes and observed the “hunting squad”’s movements.

The frauds seemed to have been sent to stir up the anger in the villagers. Compared to capturing people, they were more concerned with causing destruction in Leprosy Village. They enjoyed that a lot.

They activated their spirit energy magnetic fields and made their spirit flames burn fiercely. Then, they did not control the shockwaves charging out from them like avalanches. In just half an hour, they destroyed a lot of buildings in Leprosy Village.

The villagers were livid, but they did not dare to say anything.

One of the reasons was because they were afraid of these people’s fearsome power.

The other reason was because they heard that they came from the world outside, and their backgrounds were even greater than those of the gangs in the lair. No one dared to provoke them.

Because of it, Meng Chao could easily locate where they were.

He also found a “captor” who was far away from his squad.

Meng Chao silently climbed back to the ground.

This time, A’Ji had not run away. He stayed obediently where he was.

Meng Chao told him, “There is a captor two streets away from here. He’s in a building with more than twenty floors and a lot of neon lights on the walls.

“Sneak around the building and lure that person over. We’ll see how strong he is.”



A'Ji scratched his head and said, "I know how to be sneaky, but why would that guy be interested in me?"

"Take out the crystal I just gave you," Meng Chao said.

A'Ji felt a little hesitant. He put his hand into his crotch, groped around, and brought out the crystal.

"..." Meng Chao frowned a little before he released a bit of spirit energy into the crystal.

The crystal shuddered a little and released the sound of a wind chime. It started shining brightly.

"I activated the spirit energy reaction in the crystal. Even if you stuff it into your crotch, when a superhuman looks at you, the crystal will be like a shining lightbulb and reveal its presence," Meng Chao said. "There's no reason for a Leprosy Village boy like you to have a high-purity crystal that's worth cities. This will definitely stir up his curiosity.

"So pretend to look guilty and run. That superhuman will definitely chase after you, understand?"

A'Ji's eyes sparkled and he nodded. "Got it. But what if he alerts his friends and a group of them surrounds me? Uncle, you're injured, and your chest is still bleeding. Can you fight against so many armed superhumans?"

"We'll take a gamble," Meng Chao said. "The enemy has performed an interference that blocks all frequencies, and all communications are cut off. We're unable to contact the outside world, but the enemy's walkie-talkies and other communicators should also be useless.

"Right now, the only form of communication in Leprosy Village and perhaps all of Golden Tooth Lair is shouting.

"As long as you run fast, the enemy will have no time to contact his friends, so he will have to come after you alone.

"But I reckon that he won't even think about notifying his friends. These people are really arrogant. They don't think that the villagers are of any threat."

"But he's a superhuman. What if he catches up to me in just a few seconds. What should I do?"

"You have me," Meng Chao said. "We're in a hurry. Time's wasting. Don't you want to eat steak?"

A'Ji gulped.

The fragrant, warm steak helped him summon his courage.

He stuffed the crystal back into his crotch and tightened his belt before running to the entrance of the alley.

After just taking a few steps forward, he ran back and stared at Meng Chao with a strange expression.

"What's wrong?" Meng Chao frowned.

"Uncle, how did you find me just now?" A'Ji asked. "I was already four streets away, and I used the cloak to completely hide myself. There were around one thousand people dressed like me in the streets nearby. How were you able to locate me so accurately and see through my disguise immediately?"

“Um...” Meng Chao did not know how he should explain it.

“It’s this crystal, right?” A’Ji narrowed his eyes and pouted. “When you gave the crystal to me in the beginning, you did something to it. This isn’t a deposit. You placed a tracker on me. You don’t trust me at all!”

“Don’t bother about the details. What’s important is to save your home and eat steak!” Meng Chao said. “Hurry up and go. Remember to try and sneak around as much as you can so you lure the enemy here. I will be close behind you!”

“I knew it. All of you people outside are cunning,” A’Ji mumbled under his breath.

Then, like a rat that had stolen something, he stuck close to the wall, went to an alley, and blended into the crowd.

Even though he was just like the other people in the streets who wore gray cloaks, had either transparent or ink-colored goggles over their eyes, and used simple masks or anti-poison filtration masks to cover their faces, the crystal in his crotch was like a shining firefly in the dark. It instantly attracted the attention of the “captor” in the building ahead.

The “captor” jumped out of the building, and with the jets in the motorized armor, he levitated in the air and searched for the spirit energy reaction in the crowd.

A’Ji hunched his shoulders and acted like a rat that had been discovered after it stole grain. He turned tail and ran into an alley.

The “captor” snorted coldly and stared at him from above. Then, he shot down at A’Ji like a falcon.

A’Ji yelped and increased his speed. Then, as if he was making a panicked decision, he ran into a deadend.

The end of that alley was filled with stinking trash.

A’Ji scrambled toward the trash like he wanted to crawl inside it because he had nowhere else to go.

The “captor” chased after him and was about to approach the trash when because of A’Ji acting over the top or because this “captor” had sensed a dangerous presence, he suddenly stopped moving. He narrowed his eyes and stared at the trash.

Craacccccckkkkkk.

The weapon system behind the motorized armor was activated, and two hornet rocket launchers rose on his shoulders.

When he saw the shoulder rocket launchers, A’Ji was so terrified that his face turned pale. He shouted at the trash, “UNCLE!”

A brutal smile appeared under the skeleton mask, and he was just about to fire when a black figure shot out like lightning from the shadow behind him instead of the trash in front of him.

Whoosh!

The saber glare moved like the wind, and with an upward motion, it went for the spot between his legs.

No matter how great the defense of the motorized armor was, to ensure the agility of the legs, it was impossible for the defense at the waist, thighs, and crotch to be as great as at the chest.

When the “captor” sensed the bone-chilling saber glare seeping into his crotch and invading his urinary system, his face turned pale.

But fortunately, he was a veteran superhuman who had survived through countless battles and had loads of experience.

He immediately made his decision and growled, then turned around and kicked sideways. The entire process was over in one breath, and at the final moment, he avoided the fatal slash that would have cut him in half.

But a second slash came down on his head 0.1 seconds later.

### **Chapter 519: Reaper Squad**

“Impossible!”

The “captor” was shocked.

Meng Chao held the heavy saber with two hands, and when he swung it up between his legs, it was so fast and swift that after the “captor” dodged it, its momentum had not reduced. Under the force of the inertia, the saber should have gone straight up past his head.

And the “captor” had planned to unleash the fiercest counterattack while Meng Chao’s front was wide open.

Against his expectations, though, Meng Chao acted as if inertia did not exist, and the second slash came from a different direction.

The “captor”’s pupils shrank rapidly, and he immediately found the reason for it.

While Meng Chao swung his sword, he threw the second saber above his head.

The first slash was a feint, and Meng Chao was certain that he could dodge it.

And right after the first slash missed, Meng Chao immediately let go and brought his hands up to catch the second saber that came flying at him.

That was why he did not need to overcome the powerful inertia from the first saber. He even managed to increase the speed with which he attacked by more than 100%!

‘What... is this saber technique?’

The “captor” felt his skin crawl and was really shocked. He instantly deduced that it was impossible for him to dodge the second slash.

He gritted his teeth and took half a step toward Meng Chao’s saber.

Since he could not avoid the second slash, he would choose the spot where he would be cut.

He wanted to use the sturdiest shoulder armor and chest plate of the motorized armor to take the attack.

Besides, with his spirit energy armor and his refined physical body as well as bones, he should be able to get the saber stuck in his shoulder.

If that happened, his ambusher would lose both sabers, and he could shout loudly to warn his companions that there was a fierce battle over here.

Then, he would have a chance to turn the tables around!

While thinking this, the “captor” saw Meng Chao’s second saber land on his right shoulder armor at lightning speed.

He was prepared to withstand bone-crushing pain, but against his expectations, the slash did not bring him any pain and shock.

The seemingly unstoppable slash did not even cut through his shoulder armor.

Instead, the heavy blade fell out of the ambusher’s hands and flew to the side.

The “captor” was delighted before he registered what had happened.

‘No!’

But it was already too late for him to adapt to the situation. A sharp blade as thin as a cicada’s wing and one that had no shadow or form shot out of Meng Chao’s empty right hand. It gently seeped into the motorized armor’s crack and pierced the “captor”’s throat.

Before the “captor” could release his sharpest scream, the blade had already cut through his voice box, neck artery, cervical spine, and cervical nerves.

The “captor” could only widen his eyes and release gurgling sounds.

Red blood trailed down the formless blade and drew an outline of the blade.

The “captor” recognized the blade.

It belonged to Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang.

His face under the skeleton mask filled with shock and fear.

But no matter what sort of emotion he had, it was meaningless.

When Meng Chao exhaled spirit energy, his throat was cut by a saber glare, and his large head fell off. His headless body twitched for a while before it slowly fell to its knees in front of Meng Chao.

The entire process lasted less than one second.

A’Ji blinked when he saw the armed and fierce “captor” become a headless corpse that knelt in front of Meng Chao.

This was the first time he saw Meng Chao’s skills.

The Leprosy Village boy looked like he had seen a God and a monster in human skin.

It was only when the head landed on the ground that Meng Chao sighed in relief. He cradled his chest and sat down slowly on the ground.

He called out to A'Ji. "Come here. Help me check whether he has an emergency kit and medical fluids."

Then, he looked down at the wound on his chest. Blood and black fog gushed out of it, and it hurt so much that his mouth twitched.

If it were possible, Meng Chao would have preferred not to kill this "captor" instantly.

After all, the living could always reveal more information than the dead.

But he was heavily injured, and the "captor" had motorized armor increasing his defense. His fighting strength was about the same as that of Meng Chao.

If he could not kill him in one blow and the "captor" made a ruckus or released a fierce shockwave to attract his companions' attention, Meng Chao would be the one who ended up dead.

Fortunately, the "captor" really did bring an emergency kit and medical fluids in his motorized armor.

Meng Chao injected himself with a cell growth hormone and used one hemostatic gel. Then, he used an emergency tool that looked like a stapler and sutured his wounds together for the time being. His complexion looked a little better after that.

"Now, let's see who you are!"

Meng Chao moved swiftly and removed the corpse's mask and helmet.

Since he had instantly killed the "captor", his face did not become distorted.

After washing away the camouflage paint from his face, he saw a fierce-looking man.

Meng Chao observed him for a long time before he came to a conclusion. 'He's not a veteran hunter, and he doesn't look like a fighter sent by the gangs in the lair. So, who is he?'

Meng Chao shut his eyes and quickly shifted through the lost people on the bounty list released by the Supernatural Tower.

As superhumans, they were willing to side with the enemy and become the claws of the monsters. There should be no one else who was willing to do this aside from lost people who were hunted by the entire city and had nowhere else to go.

But to Meng Chao's surprise, after checking the hundreds of lost people he could remember in his head, he could not identify the person in front of him.

But that did not make sense!

It has to be stated that after he reached Heaven Realm, his memory had increased by leaps and bounds. He could remember most of the lost people after just seeing them once.

Could the man be one of the nobodies ranked in the hundreds on the bounty list?

But that should not be the case. His alertness and reaction speed were pretty extraordinary. If Meng Chao had not obtained the shadowless saber from Bloody Slaughter Gao Yang and used just his chain saber and Bloody Soul to fight against him, it would have been impossible for him to kill him instantly without making a sound.

With this sort of fighting power, he could commit horrific crimes. It was impossible for him to be a nobody.

'Just who are you?'

Meng Chao thought about it for a while before he decided to remove the headless corpse's armor and nano fighting suit.

He examined the corpse's fingers and skin inch by inch, especially the scars on his skin.

The man had a few healed burn scars. They were like dense holes that looked a little nauseating.

"It looks like scars left by insect-type monsters with powerful venom and acid in the wild. After he was repeatedly bitten, it resulted in a chronic skin disease, and the scars from it are on his skin..." Meng Chao mumbled. "This person has experience of surviving in the wild for long periods of time, but he's not a veteran hunter..."

Meng Chao continued searching until he reached the corpse's neck. His expression suddenly changed.

He brought the head over and pushed the hair on the back of the man's head up. When he connected the head and the corpse together, he saw a complete barcode on the neck.

It had been printed on the skin by laser, and like a key, it opened a database in Meng Chao's mind.

Faces appeared in his head, and Meng Chao was finally able to identify the "captor".

But it should have been impossible.

A'Ji was adept at observing emotions, so he asked tentatively. "Uncle, do you know this guy?"

"I don't." Meng Chao shook his head slowly. "But I've heard his name before."

"Who is he?"

"Someone dead."

"Of course he's dead," A'Ji said. "Anyone who is beheaded will definitely die. There's no doubt about it."

"You don't understand what I'm saying. This guy died three years ago."

A'Ji's eyes went wide. "What?!"

"Look at this." Meng Chao showed the barcode on the corpse's neck to A'Ji and explained what it was to him. "This is the symbol of the Reaper Squad. This person belongs to the Reaper Squad."

A'Ji blinked and asked, "What's this 'Reaper Squad'?"

"It's like this. There are plenty of superhumans who go through spirit energy deviation while cultivating spirit energy. Their temperaments change, and they commit crimes. We call them lost people," Meng

Chao said. “Many lost people can’t control their strength and desires, so they commit heinous crimes. If we were to punish them based on the laws on Earth, they would definitely receive the death penalty.

“But in Dragon City, aside from killing lost people on the spot during the capturing process, we don’t usually consider carrying out the death sentence immediately.

“It’s not that the laws in Dragon City are more merciful than on Earth. It’s not because the law enforcers are more merciful here either.

“It’s because we only have that many resources in Dragon City. The lost people have all used up a lot of cultivation resources before they gained supernatural abilities. If we destroy them with just one bullet, they are going to die, but how are we going to compensate for the resources they wasted and the damages they caused to society?

“So, when it comes to bringing judgment to these heinous lost people, we usually implant mini crystal bombs in their bodies and have them wear specially designed remote collars and spirit energy magnetic field shackles. They are then assigned to a special force known as Reaper Squad.

“The Reaper Squad is in charge of carrying out missions that are so dangerous and have such high mortality rates that normal squads have trouble handling them. They’re all deep in the fog.

“For example, they might be sent to investigate Apocalyptic Beasts’ nests, draw maps of places hundreds of kilometers away from Dragon City, search for crystal mines that have such powerful radiation that even superhumans can’t handle them, and other such missions.

“To those lost people, living is better than dying. Even though each mission is almost a guaranteed death and they can’t return to society even if they complete their mission, if they manage to survive through it, they will get to live. These people consider themselves to have earned another day of living when they complete a mission, because the crimes they committed should have led them to be sentenced to death.

“Besides, many lost people are controlled by a murderous instinct when they enter spirit energy deviation. They don’t long for worldly enjoyments, but are satisfied if they’re able to continue killing.

“To the Survival Committee and the Supernatural Tower, using the Reaper Squad to carry out missions helps minimize the mortality rate and chances of superhumans becoming crippled. They consider it as reusing waste.

“Over the ten years or so since the Reaper Squad was formed, they’ve gained great achievements, which is why this system has been maintained until this day.

“If my memory is correct, this guy is Corpse-eating Dog Du Ming. He was once a talented hunter who loved eating monster flesh raw, but he and his squad lost their way in the wild and could not return to Dragon City. After they used up all their provisions, they killed each other and even ate each other’s flesh. In the end, he was sentenced to death and sent to the Reaper Squad.

“But three years ago, during an outdoor exploration mission, his Reaper Squad had run into an Apocalyptic Beast, and the entire squad died. No one managed to survive...”

## **Chapter 520: Out-of-control Reaper**

A'Ji was puzzled and asked, "Since this Corpse-eating Dog Du Ming died in the wild, how could he appear in Leprosy Village three years later? Uncle, did you mistake him for someone else?"

"No way." Meng Chao shook his head slowly. "Even if I mistook him for someone else and he isn't Corpse-eating Dog Du Ming, there's no mistaking his tattoo and scars. He's definitely a member of the Reaper Squad.

"Look, aside from the laser barcode at the back of his neck, he also has a small circle on his neck that is slightly different in color from the skin around it.

"This is a sign that he wore a spirit energy magnetic field collar for a long time. But just now, when I beheaded him, the upturned flesh and blood that gushed out covered this part.

"Look here too. This is the most indisputable evidence I found."

Meng Chao lifted the corpse's left arm and revealed the armpit.

Meng Chao held a harvesting blade between his fingers and pointed at the corpse's armpit. "Do you see that? There's a small wound over here."

A'Ji widened his eyes and stared for a long time before he nodded and said, "I see it. It's a wound the size of a grain. What is it?"

"It's a mark left by minimally invasive surgery. The members of the Reaper Squad receive surgery where a tunnel is opened on their left armpits, and a mini crystal bomb is implanted near their hearts. This is the only way for the government to be in control of their lives and deaths, and it's how they receive the right to continue living."

As Meng Chao spoke, he gently cut open a wound in the corpse's armpit.

His movements were gentle, accurate, and stable as he tried to not damage the proliferative tissue. He delved deep into the wound by peeling off the layers. Soon, he dissected the area until he reached the heart.

And just as he expected, he saw a few stents around the heart. They had now become one with the heart.

But the mini crystal bomb that should have been fixed to the stents was gone.

"He has a laser barcode on his nape, a mark that he once wore a spirit energy magnetic field collar on his neck, and stents in his heart. If one piece of evidence may just be a coincidence, then when three pieces of evidence are piled up together, can it still be a coincidence?"

Meng Chao narrowed his eyes and gritted his teeth. "Someone helped this guy remove the mini crystal bomb bound at his heart, and he regained his freedom!"

A'Ji's eyes were wide from shock.

"Trust me. The government is always very careful when it uses the fearsome Reaper Squad. They are only allowed to carry out suicidal missions in the wild, and it's the same as an exile. They are never allowed to carry out missions in the city," Meng Chao said. "This person is definitely not one of us!"



“But...” A’Ji scratched his head. “I don’t get it. He’s someone who should have died three years ago. How did he resurrect from the dead and remove his spirit energy magnetic field collar and bomb?”

“Let me think about it. I don’t recall the government ever finding all the corpses from that Reaper Squad.

“The Apocalyptic Beast had already trampled some and eaten others, so it was a dream to want their corpses to remain unmangled. I think the government only managed to find some severed limbs, mangled organs, lots of blood, and crushed bones. They had also used the long-distance monitoring system to watch the members of Reaper Squad, and all of their physiological parameters had been reduced to zero, which was why they were announced to be dead.

“Now that I think about it, as long as you were great at hacking, you could hack the monitoring system of the Reaper Squad and change their physiological parameters.

“And even after you lose a lot of bones and flesh, it doesn’t mean that you will necessarily die. Superhumans have great vitality. Even if they lose a few organs, as long as they have time, someone with great medical skills treating them, and a lot of cultivation resources, they can regrow those organs.

“Perhaps most of the people from the Reaper Squad died without a grave in that battle, but a handful of people were only heavily injured and were... captured by something in the fog!”

When Meng Chao said this, he shuddered.

He suddenly realized that the Reaper Squad System set up by the government had a fatal loophole.

The members of the Reaper Squad were all wild and brutal lunatics, madmen, criminals, and even demons who had already long ago forgotten the ideals of society.

If there were only monsters with no intelligence in the wild, then using the Reaper Squad to fight against them until they were both heavily injured was indeed the best way to use them as resources.

Even if the members of the Reaper Squad could temporarily break free from the government’s control, the mini crystal bomb implanted into their neck arteries, cervical spines, central nervous systems, and hearts would start counting down and blast them into pieces, while their heads would also be blown off.

It has to be known that even fearsome Apocalyptic Beasts like the Crystalline Nine-headed Dragons did not have the intelligence, skills, and facilities to remove the mini crystal bombs from the members of the Reaper Squad.

This was why the government was at ease when they “exiled” the Reaper Squads.

But now, the monsters were no longer monsters with only brawns and no brains.

Instead, they had been enlightened, had technology in their hands, and even used the strength of humans to create their own civilization.

Based on the fact that the monster civilization had created the White Spirit and the other Supernatural Entities, the enemy was already in control of rather good biochemical modification techniques and surgical abilities.

It was not a problem for them to remove the restraints from the Reaper Squad.

Then, was Corpse-eating Dog Du Ming the only Reaper Squad member that the monster civilization had captured and “freed”?

There were more than one thousand Reaper Squad members who had died in the past decade. It was common for no one to be able to find the corpses of the dead in the fog, so no one ever suspected their deaths.

Yet the “dead” Reaper Squad members had actually gone missing. Just how many of them were retrieved like Corpse-eating Dog Du Ming and taken in by the monster civilization, where they were brainwashed to the point that they became the most loyal claws of the monster civilization? And how many of them snuck into Dragon City in the disguise of humans?

Meng Chao could not help but cuss.

He had thought that the only enemies he had to face were the Vortex and a group of lost people who had bounties on their heads.

They might be powerful, but as long as he had the chance to tell the truth and reveal the enemy’s scheme, then receive support from the powerful people in Leprosy Village and Golden Tooth Lair, such as Dragon City’s Underground Emperor, maintaining the order in the lair would not be an impossible task.

After all, the difference between humans and monsters was too great. No matter how great the Vortex was, it would not dare to reveal its true face in public.

But now, the enemy side did not just consist of the Vortex and the lost people. There were also an unknown number of former Reaper Squad members.

These people had committed heinous crimes and fought at the borders of hell. Some of them had even died once. They were definitely the most terrifying opponents.

Meng Chao’s head started to throb, and it hurt. It felt as if there were ten thousand hornets stabbing him, which was extremely uncomfortable.

“There’s still no signal?” he asked A’Ji.

To prevent themselves from being located, both of them had thrown away most of their communicators. They only retained a rugged phone with a rubber cover.

A’Ji brought out that phone and cast a glance at it. He shook his head. “There’s nothing.”

“Forget it.” Meng Chao gave up on the hope of communicating with the outside world. He took the phone and pulled out the chip to crush it.

Then, he directed the camera at the corpse’s face, the laser barcode on the nape, the clear white skin circle on the neck, and the wound on the armpit from the minimally invasive surgery. He took pictures of them from various angles.

These were all proof.

At a critical moment, they might be of surprising use.

Once he was done, he removed all weapons from Dog-eating Corpse Du Ming's motorized armor.

Then, he pondered over his choices before he chose a mini gun that was easy to carry and some hand grenades, then stuffed them beneath his waterproof canvas.

As for ridiculously bulky guns like the shoulder rocket launcher, he connected them together to turn them into explosives that would explode upon contact.

Meng Chao stuffed Du Ming's corpse and motorized armor deep into the trash pile.

Of course, he also stuffed a lot of "mines" made of rocket projectiles underneath as well.

"Let's go," Meng Chao told A'Ji. "We have to hurry and find Ms. Mulian before our enemy reaches her and tells her some lies. Then, we'll have her bring us to the village chief and Wild Wolf so that we can tell them that the 'captors' who are wreaking havoc in Leprosy Village are all fake. They're not sent by the government but are fakes formed by lost people and former Reaper Squad members!"

Before his voice could fade away, thunderous roars came from the streets again.

It seemed like there were countless people running in anger.

Meng Chao and A'Ji exchanged a glance. They could see the puzzlement in each other's eyes.

"Let's go take a look."

While sticking close to the walls, they took a few turns and approached the main street from the shadows.

They saw thousands of Leprosy Village villagers gathering into a roaring wave. All of them were gnashing their teeth in exasperation and fury.

Quite a number of people had tears spilling out of their eyes, which were as hot and fiery as magma.

"Revenge!" someone shouted loudly in the crowd.

"We have to take revenge for the village chief!"

"These people are bastards! They don't treat our lives as anything important!"

"Capturing wanted criminals? They're one hundred times more brutal than the wanted criminals!"

"We have to hurry and find Wild Wolf! The village chief is dead. Right now, only Wild Wolf can protect us and Leprosy Village!"

"The village chief is dead?"

Meng Chao felt as if someone had hit him over the head, and he saw stars.

But when he thought about it carefully, he did not find it strange.

Since the village chief could get Leprosy Village an endless supply of synthetic food cans and clean, drinkable water, it meant that he had been in constant contact with the outside world. He might even

be able to contact the nine great mega corporations, the Supernatural Tower, and the Survival Committee through Saber Jin Wanhao.

Hence, the outside world had always tacitly allowed Leprosy Village to continue existing.

As long as the village chief remained alive, Leprosy Village would not descend into chaos. At the very least, the village chief would not mindlessly believe that the super crystal bomb explosion that happened earlier was due to the captors from outside.

He might even be suspicious of the fake “captors”.

Getting rid of the village chief was a necessary step for the Vortex’s scheme.

Meng Chao whispered to A’Ji, “Go and ask for information about how the village chief died, what the villagers are currently doing, and whether Ms. Mulian is still in her hospital.

“If my guess is correct, the next to die is Ms. Mulian.”