

Oh My God 541

Chapter 541: Secret of Leprosy Village

Wild Wolf stared at the smoke pillars and flames not far from them for a long time.

His gaze slowly turned cold and sharp before he said to Zhang Tie, "Have everyone gather the villagers. Split the strong to one group and the elderly and sick to another group. Distribute weapons and food to them based on different standards.

"Remember this. We don't have a lot of cans and drinkable water left. Make sure to watch closely as to whether the villagers are hiding any food on them. You must ensure fairness. Don't let anyone have too much food so that others wouldn't become jealous and start a conflict."

Zhang Tie was delighted. He shouted, "Got it!"

He gathered the Wild Wolves and hurried away.

Meng Chao panicked and asked, "Wild Wolf, what are you doing?"

"You heard very clearly," Wild Wolf said coldly. "I'm going to lead the villagers out."

"This is a plot by the abnormal beast! You mustn't fall for it!" Meng Chao quickly said. "Remember what Bai Shan said? Don't you understand that the enemy's goal is to make you lead the villagers out and spread the chaos further?"

"In the beginning, the enemy wanted to kill the old village chief and Ms. Mulian to make you angry and used the fake secret police to spread rumors to anger all the villagers. The enemy wanted you to be overcome by rage and turn into a rampaging wave that will charge out of the village.

"But they didn't expect that I and Ms. Mulian would survive. The abnormal beast's scheme has now been revealed.

"Once it blasted the food and drinkable water storage, it's clear that it wants to destroy your means of survival and force you to rush out so that both you and the gangs will end up severely wounded! You can't fall for it!"

"You're right. I also believe in where you stand in this, Meng Chao. This is indeed the abnormal beast's scheme. I'm very calm now. I don't have any anger or hatred in me to interfere with my judgment," Wild Wolf said calmly.

"Even so, it doesn't matter. Are we supposed to stay here obediently and wait for our deaths while we watch the smog and flames devour the village? Or are we supposed to die of starvation and thirst because we don't have any food and water?"

"No, before we die of starvation, the villagers might start attacking and killing each other for a single can or a single bottle of drinkable water."

"They won't, Wild Wolf. As long as we can persevere, reinforcements will arrive!" Meng Chao hissed.

"And when is that?" Wild Wolf retorted. "After the pitched battle at the borders ends? Do you know when it will end? Three days? Five? Seven to eight? Half a month? Even longer?"

“If this pitched battle is going to decide Dragon City’s fate and it really drags out to half a month, how are we going to ‘persevere’ through this period?”

“I know that we should tighten our belts, endure hunger, not fear the flames, not be afraid of sacrifice, and overcome this ‘temporary difficulty’ regardless of the cost.

“But this ‘temporary difficulty’ is something that we have been overcoming for over a friggin’ half a century!

“Perhaps to you outsiders, we should defend Leprosy Village to the death and quietly endure all our suffering, chaos, pain, and destruction. It would be best if we ended up badly injured together with the abnormal beast so that Dragon City’s peace and order remained intact.

“But I’m sorry, the current order in Dragon City is just unfair toward the villagers.

“I might not be as extreme as Bai Shan and would not become the monsters’ puppet just to destroy this order, but I just can’t find any reason to defend this order to the death. I can’t find even a single reason for us to do so. I’m sorry.”

Meng Chao started speaking rapidly. “Wild Wolf, that’s not the case, listen to me! I admit that the current order in Dragon City is not perfect, and a lot of problems have indeed popped up because of the nine great mega corporations getting stronger on a daily basis. Leprosy Village isn’t the only one affected, even the division between the strong and the weak outside is getting stronger day by day, and the promotional channel is slowly shutting down. The social stratum is solidifying as time goes by, and cultivation is getting tied together with money and power as well. There are plenty of problems.

“But while some of the problems appeared during the dark and bloody era of the zombie crisis, the others inevitably rose up while we were going through rapid development.

“The Survival Committee and all the citizens have already noticed these problems. We’re already changing. The Broken Star Club and Blue Home have risen to power. The Home Party and the Colonization Party share equal power in the Survival Committee. They’re all parts of the transformation, but we need time if we’re going to change. Hope is right in front of us!

“The mega corporations themselves aren’t completely evil either! They’re the ones who ended the chaotic era of lawlessness and collapse of order. They built the Survival Committee and created as well as defended the current Dragon City!

“I don’t doubt the truth behind what Bai Shan said at all, and all the suffering the villagers faced is definitely real, but you can’t look at the truth from one side alone.

“To create Spirit Snake Venom Blades at the lowest cost and at the highest efficiency, many villagers quietly sacrificed their lives in the production lines of the illegal forgeries, just like Bai Shan’s mother. This is part of the truth.

“But countless Dragon Citizens also swung the Spirit Snake Venom Blades to kill monsters and defend home as well as expand our living space. Because of that, there will come a day when we will dominate the Other World. This is another side of the truth!”

Wild Wolf scoffed. "So? Are the villagers supposed to eternally suffer and be oppressed to help the mega corporations rule over the Other World? Are we not allowed to struggle and say anything about it?"

"That's not what I meant," Meng Chao said. "I'm saying that Dragon City is pushing forward nonstop, and all our ugly problems will be solved. But the prerequisite is that we must be united and maintain order.

"I believe that the citizens outside and the mega corporations do not know what is going on in Leprosy Village. Once they understand all the pain the villagers are going through clearly and learn just how many of the unique weapons, including Spirit Snake Venom Blades, were created by you, they will definitely support the idea of investing a large amount of resources to change the lair and the village so that the villagers and the lair citizens can have better protection and benefits!

"Trust me, Wild Wolf, I may not be able to represent other people, but I can represent myself. Once we get through this and I go out, I will deploy all the power of the Broken Star Club and Blue Home to speak for the villagers so that Dragon City will know what is going on here. At that time, every problem will be solved and everything will change!"

Wild Wolf cast Meng Chao a deep glance. Then, he turned and looked at Su Mulian, who had remained silent since the beginning.

"Ms. Mulian, your thoughts? Do you believe in the boy's big talk?"

Su Mulian hesitated for a moment before she nodded slowly. There was a bit of hesitation on her face, but she spoke firmly. "I trust Meng Chao."

Wild Wolf was a little stunned.

Even Meng Chao himself found it a little strange. He had never met Su Mulian before and when she had learned that he was Meng Chao, she had looked terrified. So why was it that she trusted him completely?

Su Mulian did not just represent herself. As the Goddess of the village born to save the people from their suffering, she had a lot of swaying power.

Wild Wolf could not overlook her views, and he just started laughing strangely.

"Fine, Meng Chao, half of what you said convinced me. I do believe that the citizens outside might not know what exactly the villagers are going through."

Then, he smiled coldly, revealing sharp canine teeth. "But it's a joke if you say that the mega corporations might not know everything that is going on in Leprosy Village.

"Bai Shan was right. Not knowing is one thing, but ignoring it despite knowing about it is another. However, even worse is knowing everything about it and not wanting to change anything but using our harsh conditions to get profit. It's an entirely different story.

"The nine mega corporations' stance toward Leprosy Village is the third situation."

As he spoke, he took out a fang-shaped pendant from his chest. He opened the fang gently, and a data chip was revealed inside.

Wild Wolf tossed the chip gently to Su Mulian.

“What is this, Uncle Wolf?”

Su Mulian and Meng Chao exchanged a glance. They could see the puzzlement in each other’s eyes.

Wild Wolf said calmly, “Ms. Mulian, this is Leprosy Village’s greatest secret. The old village chief handed this to me a year ago. We intended to never share it with you, but right now, Leprosy Village is in chaos, and I don’t know how long I’m going to stay alive. If I die an untimely death, someone must learn about this thing.”

The tactical watch Meng Chao wore had the ability to read and manage data.

He removed his watch and handed it to Su Mulian.

She slotted the data chip inside and opened a few password-locked documents. A large wave of data and symbols instantly poured down the screen like a waterfall.

“This is... an account book?” Su Mulian asked hesitantly. “Uncle Wolf, is this the account book for the unique weapons Leprosy Village created for the mega corporations?”

“It’s indeed an account book, but it’s not the one for the unique weapons,” Wild Wolf said faintly. “More than 95% of the villagers have all sorts of innate deformities and illnesses because of their gene mutations. Many of them don’t have a lot of stamina to do hard labor, but they need a lot of money for medicine.

“Even if the healthy villagers worked day and night and did the most dangerous and tough jobs, the entire village’s income would still not be able to cover all the villagers’ expenditure.

“So, you might not be able to imagine, but Leprosy Village’s largest source of income isn’t our work with highly polluted, radioactive, and corrosive lethal weapons to help those outside.

“It’s the testing of gene medicine and cultivation methods.”

Su Mulian’s eyes went wide. “Wh-What?”

“Every year, Dragon City develops hundreds of new gene medicines and high-calorie nutritional fluids. The old gene medicine and high-calorie nutritional fluids are also constantly revised and improved upon while the smart superhumans continue creating brand new spirit energy magnetic fields to make powerful meditation techniques or killing moves.

“All of the gene medicines, high-calorie nutritional fluids, meditation methods, and killing moves must go through a large number of repeated tests,” Wild Wolf said. “The villagers are born with a lot of illnesses, and our genes are really unstable. We have all sorts of problems and can mutate at any time. Many people are also unable to live long because they’re tortured by illnesses. Instead of just waiting for their deaths, isn’t it better for them to use desperate measures and try to get better? That makes them best test subjects, no?”

Chapter 542: Absolutely Won't Trust Them

"No wonder..." Su Mulian mumbled under her breath. "We always got a lot of special medicine from the outside world every year. Many of them were useful and could at least alleviate pain for the time being, but some of the special medicine came with strong side effects and consequences. They brought out secondary mutations in their users.

"Since these patients were already critically ill, even I could do nothing to treat them. I forced myself to try all sorts of methods, but if the pills were useless, only the Gods could save those people.

"So, these special medicines were given to us for testing?"

"That's right. Decades ago, the old village chief signed an agreement with the mega corporations and the peerless elites behind them through the gangs. The villagers would test the newest gene medicines and cultivation methods, and the precious test data would then be exchanged for food, drinkable water, and all sorts of things necessary for our survival," Wild Wolf said gravely.

"Ms. Mulian, don't blame your grandfather. He did this for the survival of the villagers. If it weren't for the testing of the gene medicine and cultivation methods, in that lawless era when order had crumbled, it would have been impossible for Leprosy Village to survive. Back then, the world was brutal and only the strong could go on.

"Meng Chao, don't go thinking that I'm lying either. Think about it carefully. Dragon City has transmigrated to the Other World for a little over half a century, but we have turned from a society with nothing to a society with a complete spirit energy cultivation system.

"Even with the help from the advanced technology discovered in the ancient ruins under the Supernatural Tower, if no one conducted repeated tests and continued perfecting the system, it would have been impossible for the superhuman circle to be as developed as it is today."

"That's..." Meng Chao gritted his teeth. "Wild Wolf, tell me, did the people who participated in the tests know the truth?"

"They knew, but they had no other choice," Wild Wolf said. "It's true that the mega corporations never hid the truth about the cultivation methods and gene medicine, and they didn't force anyone to join their tests either. All the people who received the tests signed the informed consent and confidentiality forms. They also knew about the possible side effects and sequelae from the tests, so everything looks legal on the surface.

"But the mega corporations have completely monopolized the food, drinkable water, and all daily necessities of the village. If we didn't agree to be test subjects, we could only starve and die of thirst. What's the point of all the legality, then?"

"The villagers aren't ignorant brats. We know that there is no such thing as free lunch in the world. We don't mind taking up some really dangerous jobs to have a chance at survival. There's no difference in essence when it comes to us becoming test subjects and you becoming hunters.

"But just like how we only get the smallest bits of leftovers from the weapons deals after the numerous subcontracts, the test subjects who risk their lives get little rewards too.

“When the mega corporations develop a new gene medicine and send it into the village for tests, many of the villagers have to endure different degrees of pain. Some of them get irreversible sequelae.

“In the end, when the new gene medicine is sold in the market, more than 90% of the profit ends up in the hands of those who control the mega corporations, while only less than 1% reach the villagers’ hands.

“The owners of the mega corporations and their children can then use that 90% of the profit to get more resources and become stronger. They can evolve into existences that are greater than humans. Meanwhile, Leprosy Village can only continue struggling in this badly polluted shithole, just like every other day. We become even more deformed, ugly, and less like humans. Is this fair?”

Meng Chao had nothing to say to that.

“I’m not telling you this because I want to use the chance to complain about the ‘crimes’ of the mega corporations. I’m not that naive. After all, we’re willing to be oppressed, and the other side is willing to oppress us. This is just an unfair trade. The only thing to blame is that we’re weak. It’s no reason to blame others,” Wild Wolf said coldly.

“But saying that the mega corporations don’t know the truth about Leprosy Village... That’s impossible. They are constantly paying attention to the test data of the villagers, and they know about the deformities and suffering they cause.

“Unfortunately, not a single one of the mega corporations wants to change our fate. They just want to use the tragic fates of the villagers and squeeze out the last drops of profit from our deformed bodies to become stronger and stand above all humans. That’s all they want!”

Meng Chao still had nothing to say.

He did not know what he would choose if he were in their shoes and had grown up in Leprosy Village.

Now, he felt too ashamed to tell Wild Wolf and the villagers to be united and maintain order.

Wild Wolf continued, “You were not born in the nine great cultivation families, and the remarks about you online are pretty good. That’s why I was willing to tell you so many things. In fact, I’m willing to trust you, Meng Chao.

“But the villagers behind me and I absolutely don’t believe that those mega corporations will have even a shred of kindness for us and want to save us.

“Reinforcements won’t come, or at least, they won’t arrive soon. The mega corporations have invested astronomical figures in the mining and developing bases at the borders of Dragon City. Their wealth is there, and once the mining and developing bases take shape, they will provide endless supplies of cultivation resources to the mega corporations and the peerless elites.

“Then, they will continue growing so that they can control Dragon City forever. In time, they will be able to rule the whole Other World, which you mentioned just now.

“So, the borders of Dragon City are the main focus, and they’re essential to the mega corporations, so they will risk everything to defend them.

“Besides, if they manage to kill Apocalyptic Beasts in the pitched battle at the borders, they might be able to move from a Deity Realm superhuman to a whole new realm.

“In comparison, Leprosy Village and the lair are both of little value, and providing reinforcements to this place is just too bothersome. There is no peerless elite who will enter the lair to fight against the abnormal beast. It’s a troublesome and unrewarding task, after all.

“Let me put this in not so flattering terms—to the mega corporations and the peerless elites, Leprosy Village and the lair are like chamber pots. When they need us, they will bring us out from underneath the bed, but once they’re done using us, they will think that we’re dirty and smelly. They’ll kick us into a corner. No one will do everything they can to save a chamber pot.

“If you still don’t trust me, then think about the hunting operation you joined this time. Based on what you said, aside from you, the group consisted of veteran hunters from insurance companies and powerful fighters from the gangs.

“Then, what about the abnormal beast research department and the secret police? What about the tactical squads of the mega corporations? What about the special forces from the Red Dragon Army? What about your close comrade, the model superhuman Lu Siya? She has always been with you.”

“Well, I can explain this,” Meng Chao said. “It’s because there have been multiple robberies in Dragon City over the past few days. Signs of monster hordes have also been discovered at the forward operating bases around the city. We just can’t mobilize more forces.”

“Is that so? They can’t mobilize more forces?” Wild Wolf snorted. “If Leprosy Village wasn’t the one in trouble today but Dragon City No.1, would they really be unable to mobilize more forces?”

Meng Chao was rendered speechless.

“Listen, I’m not complaining about anything. I don’t detest the world and think that Leprosy Village can be compared to Dragon City No.1. Humans are born into different social classes, just like how monsters are divided into Crystalline Nine-headed Dragons and Demonic Halberd Pigs,” Wild Wolf said.

“If you’re a Demonic Halberd Pig, then you should have the awareness of one. When a Demonic Halberd Pig’s nest is in trouble, don’t go thinking that a Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon Will descend from the sky to save its nest. Even if a supreme Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon releases a kind whine to the Demonic Halberd Pigs and tells them to wait patiently for it to save them, don’t trust a single word from it. At the end of the day, humans must depend on themselves!”

When Meng Chao heard Wild Wolf’s unyielding words and sensed his firm determination, he was silent for a while. “Wild Wolf, have you already decided to lead the villagers out?”

“What else?” Wild Wolf retorted. “If you give me a method that will allow most of the villagers to survive, I’ll listen as long as we’re not required to stay here and wait for our deaths.”

“But if you rush out recklessly, you will definitely have to fight against the surprised gangs,” Meng Chao said. “Trust me. The abnormal beast and its puppets have definitely disguised themselves and are lurking among the panicking villagers. Even if you don’t want to fight against the gangs, the abnormal beast will definitely force you to fight. Both of you will be heavily injured, and then, things will escalate to the point where you won’t be able to turn back.”

"I believe you, but I want to escalate things to the point where there will be no return," Wild Wolf said. "Over the past few decades, the mega corporations have ignored Leprosy Village. If we obediently stay in the village this time, they will absolutely leave us to our own devices. They will probably arrive when the village is about to be destroyed by the abnormal beast.

"But if we cause a major ruckus and spread the chaos from Leprosy Village to the entire lair or perhaps all of Dragon City, then maybe the mega corporations and the peerless elites will risk it all to provide us with reinforcements."

"Wild Wolf, don't be rash, if you do that, many people will die!" Meng Chao hissed in exasperation.

"I don't think I'm being rash. On the contrary, my mind has never been clearer and I've never been more rational. A lot of people will die, but having 99 people die is better than having 100 people die, and having 999 people die is better than having 1,000 people die. This is a simple mathematical question, and even an elementary school student can figure it out," Wild Wolf answered calmly.

Meng Chao was worked up. "We should try and talk to the gangs first and tell them what happened in Leprosy Village, then have them tell the government outside to open up a temporary shelter in the lair and hurry with the reinforcements!"

"I've already sent someone over for negotiations. Bai Shan went, but she didn't even see the leader of the other side before she was chased back," Wild Wolf hissed.

"I'll go!" Meng Chao blurted out. "If you trust me, then do this for the sake of countless villagers who shouldn't die like this. Let me talk to the gangs. I swear that I will definitely find the Underground Emperor. Saber Jin Wanhao is their leader, and he will think of a way to find a place for all the villagers to settle down!"

Chapter 543: In the Name of the Survival Committee?

His words took Wild Wolf aback.

When he looked at Meng Chao, his gaze turned strange.

He frowned and asked, "Why? If it's really as you said and everything is the abnormal beast's scheme, then the most important segment of this scheme is to block off all information.

"Anyone who wants to tell the gangs about what is really going on in the village and reveal the abnormal beast's intentions will definitely be stopped and killed. This matter is very dangerous. Are you sure you want to take this risk?"

"That's right. I will definitely find Saber Jin Wanhao and obtain his trust. I'm the only one who can do it!" Meng Chao said quickly. "When the hunting squad entered the lair, the gangs cooperated with us. The information about the squads and our appearances was shared with the gangs through the tactical data link. Even Saber Jin Wanhao has it. The elites of the gangs know me and that I represent the will of the secret police and the abnormal beast research department.

"Besides, the major explosion created by the Deification Capsule pharmacy might not have killed all the veteran hunters. If anyone retreated while injured, there is a high chance that they have met the gangs.

“Perhaps Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the other veteran hunters are getting treatment there. As long as I can find them, we will definitely be able to communicate and get the gangs to find a place for the villagers. Trust me!”

Wild Wolf was silent for a long time. He stared at Meng Chao.

“Why do you want to help us? I heard your story before. Meng Chao, even though you were not born among the nine great cultivation houses, you have been rising to power miraculously over the past few years, and during this, you received a lot of help from the mega corporations.

“Now, you have the support from the Broken Star Club and Blue Home, which are two big organizations. You are also an off-staff member of the abnormal beast research department. Superstar is also developing really quickly. You are even closely connected to model superhuman Lu Siya as well as Sky Pillar Corporation, which supports her.

“With you being the youngest Heaven Realm superhuman in Dragon City, with just a tiny nod, any of the nine great cultivation families would take you in at any moment.

“If you’re prideful and don’t want to submit to anyone, you still have the chance to use your own hands to create the tenth cultivation family.

“In other words, you’ve already reached the top and can turn into a Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon at any moment. Why are you so concerned about the lives and deaths of us Demonic Halberd Pigs?”

“Because the Crystalline Nine-headed Dragons and Demonic Halberd Pigs are all just beasts, and I have no interest in beasts, even the smartest and strongest of them all.”

Meng Chao did not look away from Wild Wolf’s gaze and said firmly, “I am a human, and I only want to be a human. I also hope that the people beside me can live like real humans. That’s all!”

Wild Wolf’s gaze had been as steely as an ice spike, but at that moment, it shattered before Meng Chao’s even firmer gaze.

He fell into deep contemplation.

“Uncle Wolf, perhaps we can let Meng Chao try it.” At that moment, Su Mulian vouched for Meng Chao. “Just now, the one who went out to negotiate with the gangs was Big Sis Bai Shan. Since she had been tempted to the monsters’ side a long time ago, there’s no way she would have wanted to sincerely solve this problem.

“Perhaps the monsters have also cut off information on the gangs’ side. They might have also been deceived by Big Sis Bai Shan and don’t know the situation inside the village. That’s why they’re acting as if they’re facing a major enemy.

“If we rush over rashly, forget about the number of people who will die during our skirmish with the gangs, even if some villagers manage to survive, when the battle ends, how are we going to deal with the situation?”

“You don’t want the village to be treated as the cause behind why Dragon City lost the war, right?”

Su Mulian's words affected the scale in Wild Wolf's heart. He looked like he was already a little convinced.

Suddenly, gunshots came from the perimeter of the village.

Everyone was stunned, and they quickly ran in the direction of the noise.

On their way there, they saw a lot of villagers who were injured and crying.

When they asked what happened, they learned that a batch of villagers could not stand the scorching flames around them and the torture from the smog. They wanted to escape the village to get on the path of survival.

But what happened was that they were sent back by the gangs on the other side of the river of trash.

"Wait. Who told you to charge out?" Wild Wolf glared at them and grabbed a villager who had taken the lead. He growled, "Even if you really wanted to charge out, you should do it under the command of Wild Wolves. You would have been told to spread out and charge forward in an orderly manner. If you run around like headless chickens, you'll just be a plate of scattered sand charging to your own deaths!"

The villager was badly burned by the flames and scared out of his wits. "D-Didn't you give us the order?"

"What?" Wild Wolf's gaze was so terrifying that he looked like he wanted to eat the villager. "Who told you that I gave the order? My order was to distribute weapons and replenishments for everyone and divide the people into the strong and the weak. Then, you were supposed to gather together and wait for our next course of action!"

"Th-That's what everyone said," the villager said. "Everyone heard that some really powerful monsters appeared in Leprosy Village and were about to release terrifying mutated viruses and Blood Flower spores. They also have this Deification Capsule that will make humans go completely out of control and turn into mutated monsters.

"In any case, Leprosy Village is now a den of monsters, so there's no way you can protect it. The outside world is prepared to 'clean up' the place.

"Also, the old village chief and Ms. Mulian are both dead. No one knows how they died, and no one will come to save us.

"Right now, our only path of survival is outside Leprosy Village. We will only have hope of surviving if we cross the river of trash. That's why you gave the order for all villagers to spread out and run. Anyone who makes it out alive is another life saved—"

"Ridiculous! If you spread out and run, aside from creating chaos and dying, you won't achieve anything!" Wild Wolf then dragged the villager to Su Mulian and hissed, "Open your eyes wide and look at who this is!"

"M-Ms. Mulian?" The villager was shocked and delighted. Then, he sank into deep puzzlement. "You're not dead?"

"It's very clear now," Meng Chao said to Wild Wolf. "The abnormal beast and its puppets are spreading rumors in the village. They want you to run in all directions and spread the chaos to more places.

“You don’t want the people who killed the old village chief to achieve their goals, right?”

Before his voice could fade, there were more gunshots ahead of them.

They seemed to have come from their side of the river, which meant that it was on the village’s side.

They looked at each other and quickly went forward.

After moving through alleys with so many twists and turns that Meng Chao felt like he moved through a maze, the area in front of him turned bright.

They arrived outside Leprosy Village and gathered at the miasma-shrouded bank of the river.

Sparks from gunshots flew everywhere from both sides of the river of trash. The gunshots were as deafening as firecrackers.

The armed gang members’ mission was to lock down Leprosy Village completely and not let anyone out. They used loads of ammunition belts to stir up wave after wave of water in the river.

The villagers believed that their burning home was about to turn into hell and their only way of survival was to risk the shower of bullets and charge forward bravely.

In the past, they had to endure the outside world exploiting them because the food and drinkable water they needed for survival was controlled by the gangs, but now, the flames, smog, monster, virus, and terrifying mutation gels oppressed them to the point that they could no longer tolerate it. There was no need for them to tolerate it either.

They lived in an era when anyone who did not have weapons in their hands was not a true Dragon Citizen.

Now, the destitute villagers were not even in possession of two cans of earthworm meat, but they had all sorts of cold weapons and guns they had assembled by stealing parts from the production line of the illegal forgeries.

The appearances of their guns and weapons were cruder and uglier than of the guns and weapons Dragon City created.

They were also not as sturdy and durable as mass-produced weapons.

But they had a lot of highly radioactive, polluted, corrosive, and poisonous raw materials in them, so their damage was no different from that of the bullets sweeping at them from the other bank.

For the time being, both sides still retained their final, thin shred of rationality.

They only used light machine guns to fire at random across the river as a warning and threat. They were not really trying to kill anyone.

But as the firepower from both sides grew stronger and more accurate, tension rose and a full-on battle was about to erupt.

When Meng Chao and the rest reached the river bank, they heard shouting from the other side of the river on a megaphone. “A large number of monsters have appeared inside and outside Dragon City. In

the name of the Survival Committee, the city is now under the highest state of emergency! All regions are to be fortified, and unless absolutely necessary, all citizens are not allowed to move across regions!

“Leprosy Village has been classified as a highly dangerous warzone. Based on the Pitched Battle Regulations, all villagers must defend their positions and fight to the end. Those who leave their positions on their own will be treated as deserters and will be given the harshest judgment!

“Did you hear me?! Go back! Retreat! Swear that you will fight to the end and wait for reinforcements!”

“Go to hell!” someone on their side of the river answered. “Since you know that Leprosy Village is a highly dangerous warzone, then hurry up and let us leave! We’re just normal villagers!

“The Survival Committee has ignored us for decades, so what right do they have to give us orders NOW?!”

“We’ve been defending Leprosy Village for decades! DECADES! Where are the reinforcements? Where are they!

“If Leprosy Village is really a warzone, why aren’t there any superhumans helping us? Are all the peerless elites dead?

“How can we fight against those fierce monsters on our own? When you say you want us to fight to the end, do you want us to use our flesh and blood to fill the monsters until they explode from eating too many of us?

“But even if there weren’t any monsters around, the flames alone would be enough to burn the village to a crisp!”

As the shouting from both sides of the river grew stronger and anger on both sides rose, the bullets clashed in midair and sparks flew.

Those sparks could ignite the miasma above the river of trash at any moment and set the whole area on fire!

With bloodshot eyes, Wild Wolf stared at Meng Chao.

“Has the Survival Committee already given the order for the villagers to stay here and fight to the bloody end?”

Chapter 544: A Very Beautiful Tattoo

“That’s impossible! Someone gave a false order!”

This was Meng Chao’s first reaction.

The current Pitched Battle Regulations in Dragon City had been passed down for decades.

Logically speaking, it did state that all citizens were soldiers, and if they ran into monsters, they had to defend their positions and fight to the bitter end.

Those who did not take up arms because of fear and deserted would be court martialed and denounced by the public after they were punished.

But such harsh regulations had already fallen behind times and hadn't been carried out for a long time.

The reason for that was simple. Decades ago, Dragon City was in a critical state and was about to be destroyed. The entire city was in ruins, and only one-third of the main city area was still under human control.

All the strong young men had the elderly, their wives, and children behind them. If anyone deserted, the entire frontline would crumble and countless humans would end up as food for the monsters. Even an entire region might turn into the monsters' paradise. This could then lead to the flames of Earth's civilization being completely extinguished in the Other World.

During the ruthless era when human civilization was about to be destroyed, military law was adhered to strictly. There was no room for exceptions.

But the current age was different from the past.

As human civilization rebuilt its foundation and the Great Expedition Era that lasted for ten years passed them, the frontlines at the borders of Dragon City stabilized and they moved from defensive strategies to tactical counterattacks. There was no longer any need for people to use their precious lives in exchange for space that they could regain at any moment.

Even if the monsters temporarily occupied a building or a street, humans could calmly mobilize superhumans and the Red Dragon Army to turn the territory the monsters occupied into a slaughterhouse for the monsters.

Hence, unless they saw someone who refused to obey orders and ran around like a headless chicken, which destroyed an entire frontline, or some other extreme situation, like people not saving the elderly and the weak, the Survival Committee usually assessed that normal citizens were helpless against the monsters invading their region and would not force the normal citizens to use their bodies to fight against the monsters' fangs and claws to make them die from overeating.

The situation was even more special in Leprosy Village. The Survival Committee should know very well that they did not have the right or power to order the villagers to fight to the end against the fearsome monsters without there being any reinforcements. If that were the case, why did they release such a stupid order?

"Wild Wolf, I'll tell you the truth, the Survival Committee had indeed set up Plan B. If the hunting squad's operation failed, they would lock down the entire lair," Meng Chao said. "And when I say full lock down, I don't mean them blocking off the flow of information, resources, and manpower.

"Usually, when it comes to a full lock down, they set up a lot of hubs, temporary hospitals, and temporary resource storages between the lair and the outside world. They also send a lot of drones to constantly monitor the situation inside the lair to ensure that the survival and rescue resources can be transported over so that the patients and casualties in the lair can be moved out or at least transferred to the temporary hospitals around the lair to be treated in time.

"The goal of a full lock down is to maintain order so that everyone can survive. But now, they are not sending any resources and manpower to provide reinforcements, so they don't understand the situation

in Leprosy Village, yet they're using guns to perform a lock down? That's way too simple and crude. That's not maintaining order. They're basically intensifying conflict and destroying order.

"Wild Wolf, you can choose not to believe that the Survival Committee has a conscience, but you must believe that those who managed to become the owners of mega corporations and the politicians of the Survival Committee have some intelligence. It's impossible for them to be that dumb!"

Meng Chao's words extinguished Wild Wolf's rage for the time being, and he fell into deep thought.

Meng Chao saw that his words were working, so he decided to continue. "Also, there's something more that you should find strange. Based on our guesses, the abnormal beast has already blocked off all internal and external communications in the lair, so how did those armed gang members manage to get the order from the Survival Committee?"

Wild Wolf was slightly stunned, and he narrowed his eyes.

"Let's say that I'm an armed gang member on the other side of the river and that the news I received is that Leprosy Village's Wild Wolf has taken many Deification Capsules and is completely mad now. He wants to bring thousands of villagers who have also taken Deification Capsules to rush out. Among them are a lot of people who joined the monsters, and some of them are even carriers of the mutated zombie virus.

"When 'I' really saw you charging out murderously, what would I do? I'd definitely fire without hesitation!

"Wild Wolf, do you really want this to happen?"

The wild light in Wild Wolf's eyes sparkled nonstop.

The gunshots from both sides of the river became louder, and gradually, they were joined by the cries of the dying.

Boom! Boom, boom, boom!

Someone from the other side of the river was finally unable to hold back. His mind broke, and he increased his firepower by switching from normal bullets to grenade launchers.

Balls of fire exploded above the river of trash and ignited the miasma above it. Huge flames that shone with a bewitching light bloomed in the air.

There were also villagers on their side of the river who were unable to hold back. They gritted their teeth and switched from normal bullets to plague bullets that contained poisonous blood from monsters. Every bullet that landed on the other side would release green, poisonous bubbles that smelled sour and foul. They also made sizzling sounds.

There were a few unarmed elderly and sick on their side of the river. They were people who had decided to risk their lives to swim to the other side of the river but were chased back by the bullets.

Since they were too weak, before they even climbed up the bank, they were caught in the dense crossfire from both sides and were so terrified that they did not dare to raise their heads.

Fortunately for them, there was a lot of trash floating in the river. They gathered into tall piles, and these people grabbed onto the garbage, which allowed them to catch their breaths.

At that moment, the miasma had begun burning, and the grenades just kept exploding above the river and the embankment.

The elderly and sick panicked, but they had nowhere to run. They could only risk being shot as they tried to climb up the bank.

Meng Chao's expression changed, and he said to Wild Wolf, "We'll talk once we save them!"

Before Wild Wolf could react, Meng Chao headed to the place with the most grenades so that he could help the elderly and the weak who had sunk into the mud in the river and could not move.

The gangs across the river only intended to force the villagers back. They never thought about killing them.

But bullets were blind, and when there were so many of them crossing each other's paths, a lot of the ricocheting bullets and shrapnel from the grenades once they exploded flew everywhere. Dozens of fatal shrapnel charged at the heads of the weak and elderly of Leprosy Village.

When their heads were about to be pierced by burning shards, Meng Chao shouted and punched the air, stirring up layers of air that diverted the shrapnel's trajectory. They narrowly missed the elderly and landed in the loose mud.

"Come! I'll take you away!"

Meng Chao pulled out the elderly folk from the mud and helped them climb out of the river.

"Big Brother Chao, I'll help you!"

A'Ji had been following like a shadow all this while, and he showed a great sense of camaraderie by running over while facing the bullets head-on. He extended his young hands to Meng Chao.

Suddenly, the other side of the river fired a few grenades, and they exploded not far away from A'Ji.

Even though the grenades' power was largely diminished because they sunk into the mud, the shockwave still threw the boy five meters away before he crashed to the ground.

"A'Ji!"

Meng Chao was furious. He grabbed a few stones that jumped up from the mud and wrapped them with his spirit energy. Then, he threw them violently to the other side.

Even though the largest stone was less than the size of a fist, when Meng Chao threw it with the monstrous strength granted to him by his spirit energy, it still looked like he had just fired a shot from a railway gun.

He did not intentionally aim at the armed people on the other side of the river but the bank with no one around, but the waves of air and the dust that he created still caused a temporary lag in the firepower from the other side.

Wild Wolf and the other Wild Wolves used that chance to save all the elderly and weak who were trapped in the mud.

Su Mulian quickly healed them.

“How is it? Is the kid okay?” Meng Chao paid attention to A’Ji, whose face was pale and whose eyes were shut while he lay in Su Mulian’s arms.

No matter what, this boy was connected to him through fate.

“He’s fine. He just has a mild concussion and some lacerations in his organs.” To Su Mulian, these were minor injuries that could be effortlessly healed.

As expected, as faint green energy flowed from her palm to the boy, and A’Ji’s face quickly gained a rosy hue.

His eyelashes fluttered, and he opened his eyes.

“Big Sis Mulian, you saved me again,” the boy said with an expression of bliss.

Meng Chao sighed in relief.

Then, his gaze froze for a second.

The shockwaves from the grenades had not just blasted A’Ji into the air. They also tore his cloak around shreds and revealed his thin body.

Even though A’ji soon used the tattered pieces of the cloak to cover his chest and Su Mulian brought a new cloak for him, during the one second he was not covered, Meng Chao saw a tattoo on A’Ji’s chest.

They were two intersecting eyes that shared a single pupil. They looked like an X, and the pupil shone with a bewitching light.

Meng Chao’s gaze only froze for one second before he relaxed and said as if nothing happened, “That’s a very beautiful tattoo.”

“Boss Feng forced me to get it.” A’Ji looked disgusted. He pout

Chapter 545: Countdown, Twelve Hours

“Is it?” Meng Chao fell into deep thought.

At that moment, a set of disorderly but heavy footsteps came from Leprosy Village.

It was Strong Arm Zhang Tie, Wild Wolves’ commando leader. When he heard the crossfire from the river of trash, he was worried that the villagers would suffer losses, so he quickly led a large group of Wild Wolves over.

These Wild Wolves were trained elite fighters who had gained supernatural powers through genetic mutation. They were another form of superhumans.

Now, they were equipped with motorized armor that was specially made for their bodies, and they looked like steel demons with multiple heads and arms.

The runic symbols shone with a dangerous light, and their chainsaws let out loud cracks that caused chills to climb down people's backs. The exhaust pipes were directed skyward, and they released hot spirit gas. Their heavy machine guns also had barrels that were thicker than their thighs. Each person had around five of them.

Their appearance was no different from adding oil to the battlefield that was about to explode at any moment.

The river of trash was not wide, and the armed gang members behind the blindage across the river could clearly see the movements of the villagers.

When they saw that Wild Wolves had brought out motorized armor, they became worked up as well, and as gears turned and metal moved against tracks, heavy weapons like dual mount anti-aircraft guns were pushed to the firing points.

"Wild Wolf, these guys are really not going to friggin' let us have any means of survival!"

Zhang Tie saw the villagers who had fled back pathetically. They were now lying on the ground while moaning, and his eyes immediately filled with fury.

He punched the air, and explosive sounds came from his steel-like arms that were thicker than gun barrels. He roared, "Give the order! We'll charge forward!"

"Wild Wolf, things haven't progressed to the point where there's no turning back! Let me try to stop this!"

Meng Chao quickly stood up and strode to the top of the highest point of the bank. He shouted to the other side, "I'm Meng Chao, and I represent the abnormal beast research department and the secret police in the mission in the lair! You should have someone who knows me! Let me cross the river and talk to your leader!"

The other side was silent for a while before someone from behind the blindage shouted, "We don't know whether you're Meng Chao or something else! In any case, the government has already given orders! Leprosy Village is completely locked down! No one is allowed to enter or leave!"

"If you really came from the world outside to carry out a mission, then help us maintain order in Leprosy Village! Defend your positions and fight to the bitter end!"

Meng Chao yelled back. "We definitely don't want to give up on Leprosy Village, but where are the reinforcements?!"

"You should have seen the fierce flames in Leprosy Village and heard the deafening explosions! The explosion and flames have caused many casualties and many villagers are now homeless! Even their food and water supply is almost completely depleted!"

"We need food, water, doctors, a place for the homeless to stay, and manpower and resources to help us put out the fire so that the flames won't spread to other places!"

"Open your eyes wide and look! The flames are getting fiercer. If we don't stop them, they'll spread outside Leprosy Village at any moment! At that time, Golden Tooth Lair and your homes will all go up in flames too!"

The other side was silent for a long time before they said, "I'm sorry! The orders we received are to lock down Leprosy Village and not let anyone enter or leave! No one can leave their positions to help you!"

"Who gave the orders?!" Meng Chao shouted.

"The Survival Committee!" the other side replied.

"That's impossible! Let me talk to your leader! I want to see Saber Jin Wanhao!"

"I'll send your message to the leader! If Mr. Jin is willing to see you, he'll naturally summon you! But before that, Mr. Jin has said that not even a single fly is allowed to fly out of Leprosy Village!"

Meng Chao cursed in his heart. He gritted his teeth in exasperation. "Then how long do we have to wait?! Does Saber Jin Wanhao want to watch Leprosy Village's flames burn for three days and three nights?!"

The other side was silent. They no longer wanted to speak to him.

All he heard was the sound of people moving heavy weapons, locking them in place, and loading them with ammunition.

Meng Chao could only retreat.

Zhang Tie growled, "Did you hear that, Wild Wolf? Those people have no sincerity at all!"

"We can't just wait around like idiots for them to show mercy! We have to charge out with our own abilities!"

"Wait, Wild Wolf, I feel that there's something off about this," Meng Chao said. "Based on logical reasoning, if the gangs really wanted you to stay obediently in Leprosy Village, Saber Jin Wanhao should have showed up. After all, he was once someone equal in rank with Battle God Lei Zongchao. Even if he's old and frail now and has fallen from Deity Realm, he's still stronger than most of us. No matter what, he's the strongest person in Golden Tooth Lair."

"As long as Saber Jin Wanhao appears among us with his might of a peerless elite, he will be able to suppress Leprosy Village, and you will be obedient for some time, since you'd be afraid of his might."

"This is something simple. So why didn't Saber Jin Wanhao do it? Why is he letting us fight here?"

"Besides, bullets are blind, and so is the fire. The fire will not care whether you're from Leprosy Village, the lair, or Dragon City. If you just ignore it, it's going to affect the lair sooner or later. Even if Saber Jin Wanhao doesn't care about your lives, he should still put out the fire!"

Wild Wolf thought about it and said, "So? What are you suspecting?"

"I don't know either. I just think that if Leprosy Village and the gangs really fight, it won't be good for Saber Jin Wanhao's interests."

"I'm still going to say the same thing. I don't understand Saber Jin Wanhao's character, but since he became the Underground Emperor, even if he was just a puppet of the mega corporations, he couldn't be a stupid puppet. Would he really give such a crude and simple order like not letting a single fly out of Leprosy Village? That's basically the same as forcing you to revolt!"

“In any case, I must go out and personally meet Saber Jin Wanhao. I’ll tell him everything that happened in Leprosy Village face to face and demand his stance. Perhaps we’ll still be able to change things!”

Wild Wolf stared at his face and fell into deep contemplation.

“Even if worst comes to worse and you really want to charge out, you can’t just run around like headless flies. You have to mobilize your forces, set up a plan, and do it properly,” Meng Chao said. “Give me twenty-four hours. I believe that the food and water supply in Leprosy Village should be able to last you for at least one day, right?”

“During that one day, you can mobilize all villagers and arm everyone to the teeth. After one day, even if just one second over it has passed and I still haven’t delivered any good news, you can let loose and do whatever you want!”

“Uncle Wolf, let me go with Meng Chao and persuade Saber Jin Wanhao,” Su Mulian piped in.

Wild Wolf and Meng Chao were both stunned. “What?”

“Since we’re telling him about the current situation in the village, stating our stance, and requesting reinforcements from the outside world, it would only be appropriate if I show up. Besides, Grandpa had a deep relationship with Saber Jin Wanhao in the past.

“If I meet him, perhaps Mr. Jin would show some respect to the deceased village chief,” Su Mulian said. “Besides, if we run into any danger on the way, I can heal Meng Chao and ensure that he can still fight.”

Su Mulian had a firm stance.

Wild Wolf clearly agreed with her, but he was hesitant. He did not want Su Mulian to take any risks.

Su Mulian smiled wanly. “Uncle Wolf, I know that you want to ensure my safety, but please, think about it. If I don’t go with Meng Chao and he isn’t able to persuade Saber Jin Wanhao, I’m still going to have to face the bullets from the gangs and rush out with you. My life will be in danger either way.”

“Then, I’ll go,” Wild Wolf said gravely. “I’ll go with Meng Chao to meet Saber Jin Wanhao.”

“No, Uncle Wolf, you must stay in Leprosy Village to handle the situation,” Su Mulian refuted him. “We don’t know whether there are more monsters’ puppets in the village, but with how cunning the abnormal beast is, there must be more of them around, right? If I stay here, I won’t be their opponent, and I might be in even more danger.”

Her words convinced Wild Wolf.

“Zhang Tie, send the Wild Wolves to drag back all the villagers who are near the river of trash. Tell them to not engage the gangs across the river for the time being. Then, have people put out the fires. Even if you can’t get rid of the huge flames, demolish the buildings near them and create an anti-fire wall. Do your best to control the fire,” Wild Wolf ordered grimly.

“And finally, tell the Wild Wolves and all villagers that the world hasn’t given up on us yet. The reinforcements and resources will arrive within twenty-four hours. We only need to defend the place for twenty-four hours, then we’ll be free!”

Zhang Tie gritted his teeth. It didn't look like he was unwilling to obey the orders.

The burning village was reflected in Wild Wolf's eyes. "Zhang Tie, look behind you. The village we have built with blood, sweat, and tears for decades might be dilapidated, old, messy, and dirty, but it's our only home.

"Tell me that you're the same as I am. Even if there is only a shred of hope, you don't want to give up on this place."

Zhang Tie was slightly stunned. He then took a deep breath and nodded. "Got it, Wild Wolf. I'll get our members to do the work."

Meng Chao was delighted. "Thank you, Wild Wolf!" he said excitedly. "I won't let you down! I'll definitely bring good news within twenty-four hours!"

"No. You don't have twenty-four hours." Wild Wolf's gaze was as sharp as lightning. He said clearly, "You have twelve hours, and that's the maximum amount of time I will give you. The situation might change in an instant, so if you don't bring any concrete news to me within twelve hours, I can't guarantee you anything."

Su Mulian wanted to say something, but Wild Wolf had already extended a hand to her, effectively stopping her from speaking. "Don't say anything, Ms. Mulian. This is my bottom line."

Meng Chao extended his hand as well and said firmly, "That's a promise, Wild Wolf! I will definitely bring good news within twelve hours. Until then, I hope that you will persevere in Leprosy Village!"

Slap!

They smacked their palms together and made their promise.

A'Ji seemed to be deeply touched and very excited. He jumped up and swung his fragile fists as he said, "Big Brother Chao, let me go with you! I want to do something for Leprosy Village too!"

Chapter 546: Mystery of the Tattoo

Meng Chao stared at A'Ji in slight shock. "Why do you want to join the mess, kid?"

"Hmph, don't look down on me! I'm useful!" A'Ji puffed out his thin chest. "While working for Boss Feng, I went out many times. I know where everything is at. I know the streets and alleys in the lair, the headquarters of the gangs, the coliseums, illegal gambling sites, and most importantly, I know the headquarters of Golden Tooth Lair. I also know how to sneak through the messy underground tunnels without anyone noticing.

"Take me with you, Big Brother Chao. The lair is already fully fortified. You can't just waltz into Golden Tooth Lair through the streets, right?"

"Well..." Meng Chao fell into deep thought and hesitated. "You're right. Ms. Mulian and I are both unfamiliar with the layout of the lair, and we do need a guide.

"But you're still young. What are you going to do if we run into danger?"

“I’m not scared! I’m not scared of any danger!” A’Ji might have been young, but he was cunning and filled with a strong sense of righteousness. He slapped his chest and said, “Don’t look down on me! I’m also from Leprosy Village! I have to work to protect my village!”

“Besides, I’ve worked for Boss Feng for years. I’ve seen plenty of things. If I really run into danger and can’t win, I’ll know how to run.”

“Please, Big Brother Chao, take me with you. What Ms. Mulian said just now is right. If you really fail, I’m most probably going to die while charging out with the crowd, since I’m so small. It would be better to go out and fight with you while I still have the chance. This way, I can at least be in control of my own fate.”

“Ms. Mulian, please take me with you. You healed my hands, and you also healed me today, so you already saved me twice! I’m not some good person, but I still know that I need to repay kindness. I can’t just watch you take risks. I have to protect you!”

Meng Chao seemed amused by A’Ji when he said this with apparent earnestness.

“Alright!” Meng Chao swung his arm. “We’ll take you along!”

“YES!” A’Ji was delighted. Then, he stood at attention and gave Meng Chao and Su Mulian a messy salute before he said loudly, “Don’t worry! I won’t hold you back! I promise that I’ll complete my mission!”

“Alright.” Meng Chao nodded. Then, he said to Wild Wolf, “Well then, please ask the Wild Wolves to provide us with some equipment.”

“No, I don’t need any powerful weapons. I’m not going out to slaughter people. And if we end up needing to spill blood, the other side will have weapons of mass destruction for me to plunder, and I can use my pistol too.”

“I need some materials and drugs. Since Leprosy Village tests drugs and makes unique weapons, you should have all sorts of monster materials and top-notch gene medicine.”

“Let me think. I need ten spider threads from Seven-star Spider Wolves, one hundred grams of poison from Poison Arrow frogs, two sets of manes from Bloody Feather Arrow Pigs, one solid block of glue from the swim bladder of a Yellow Marlin because it has the strongest adhesive properties...”

“Alright, I’ll just write a list. Please get me everything on the list. If you don’t have a certain material, I’ll be fine with something similar too.”

“As for weapons, I just need some smoke bombs, tear bombs, and flash grenades. What’s important is Ms. Mulian and A’Ji. Please get two sets of lightweight bulletproof vests for them.”

The items in Meng Chao’s list were not completely out of the ordinary, so Wild Wolves had most of them in store.

They lacked some of the items, like the swim bladders of Yellow Marlins, but they could replace them with slightly inferior materials, like the swim bladders from Blue Marlins.

Soon, the Wild Wolves packed three military-grade backpacks full of materials and weapons.

They also prepared three large cloaks with drawstrings at the sides of the hoods. Once the group put on the goggles and tightened the drawstrings, their skin would be completely covered.

Su Mulian and A'Ji were not as built as Strong Arm Zhang Tie, and they were not especially large either. Once they disguised themselves, they were no different from normal lair citizens.

"Ms. Mulian, take the account book I just gave you," Wild Wolf said. "I'm not sure whether that thing will be useful, but it might turn out to be an important bargaining chip. I believe that the gangs won't bother about where all the money and test results in the account book went, but the mega corporations won't want the truth of Leprosy Village to be revealed.

"But I don't know how to use it so that this bargaining chip will show its maximum value. Perhaps Meng Chao will be able to think of something for you."

Su Mulian tightened her grip around the fang pendant that had the data storage chip in it. She carefully hung it around her neck.

"Alright, let's go." Meng Chao squinted and scanned the other side of the river. "The river surrounds the entire village, but it's impossible for each part to be defended heavily. We'll find a spot with the thickest smoke and swim over."

"There's no need for so much trouble," Wild Wolf said. "Come with me. I'll take you to the secret tunnel."

"Secret tunnel?" Meng Chao was slightly stunned.

"Leprosy Village can't be completely isolated from the world. The underground ventilation pipes, drainage pipes, maintenance tunnels, and all sorts of complicated underground cracks lead to the world outside." Wild Wolf smiled. "Over the past few decades, the gangs have always served as the mega corporations' puppets and tried to lock us up in an attempt to monopolize survival resources and make endless demands from us.

"Unfortunately, the gangs aren't completely united. For example, the Underground Emperor clearly shares different interests compared to the hooligans of the other gangs.

"As long as Jin Wanhao focuses on working with the mega corporations, he will be able to gain success and live a lavish life, but the hooligans won't get anything, so they make use of underground tunnels to conduct small businesses with the village and earn a living."

As he spoke, he brought Meng Chao, A'Ji, and Su Mulian behind a building that was far from the river.

They were in an alley filled with trash.

It was guarded by a few Wild Wolves in motorized armor.

When they saw Wild Wolf, they quickly used thick crowbars and special tools to pry open a few stainless steel trash cans that seemed to be fixed to the ground. They quickly moved them to the side.

A manhole appeared under the trash cans.

“If you crawl through this place, you’ll pass under the river and reach the outside world,” Wild Wolf said. “But this tunnel hasn’t been in use for a long time. We don’t know what’s the situation at the exit. Based on the direction and distance, when you crawl out, you should be behind the armed gang members. I can’t guarantee what is going to happen if you’re discovered, though.”

“Remember this, you only have twelve hours. If you’re by even one second, I can’t guarantee that I will be able to control the situation, not when it’s about to explode.”

“Got it,” Meng Chao said. “But since there are so many secret tunnels that are connected to the outside world, this means that no matter what, Leprosy Village is still part of Golden Tooth Lair, and by extension, Dragon City, right? In fact, you can say that you’re part of a whole that can’t be separated, no?”

Wild Wolf smiled. “Perhaps.” He looked at Meng Chao and said, “I hope... that you’ll really be able to bring back good news.”

“I will,” Meng Chao stated firmly.

At that moment, more gunshots sounded near the river once again.

Meng Chao cocked an eyebrow.

“I asked them to intentionally fire a few more shots to attract the attention of the gang members across the river so that it’ll be easier for you to sneak out of the tunnel,” Wild Wolf explained. “Once you get inside, I will have everyone retreat and stop getting into contact with the other side of the river.”

“Thank you, Wild Wolf.” Meng Chao opened the manhole cover and said to Su Mulian and A’Ji, “Time’s running out. We must go immediately. A’Ji, you’re the smallest, so you take point.”

“Got it!” There was no fear on A’Ji’s face. He crawled into the tunnel like an ape-type monster.

Su Mulian crawled in as well.

Meng Chao peeked in and asked, “What’s the situation inside?”

“It’s a bit stuffy. There’s also the smell of rotten eggs. If you breathe in too much, you’ll feel dizzy.” A’Ji’s muffled voice came from the darkness.

“Wear a mask with poison filtration in it. Persevere for a while. If you can’t hold on, ask Ms. Mulian to heal you. You just need to continue crawling forward. I’ll have Wild Wolf get some medicine!”

Meng Chao stared at the darkness. His eyes sparkled and shone with a mysterious light.

It was only when A’Ji and Su Mulian’s thermal images became incredibly small and they disappeared behind a corner that he turned his head around and rearranged the contents of his backpack at a leisurely pace.

“By the way, are you familiar with Boss Feng, Wild Wolf?” he asked in a seemingly casual manner. “I’m talking about Three Fingers Feng, the one who said that he can steal everything in the lair with just three fingers.”

Wild Wolf was a little taken aback by the question, but he still answered. "I only knew him somewhat. I wasn't very close to him. Three Fingers Feng took care of a group of children, and their main task was to work outside Leprosy Village. They didn't bother Wild Wolves.

"That guy knew that he shouldn't steal from his own villagers and was somewhat respectful to Wild Wolves. Is there a problem?"

"No. I just wanted to ask whether Three Fingers Feng and the children he took care of have any special tattoos?" Meng Chao probed.

"Special tattoo?" Wild Wolf thought about it and shook his head. "I don't remember seeing any tattoo on Three Fingers Feng. And I don't think it's a good idea to put any tattoos on the kids either."

"Oh? And why is that?" Meng Chao asked.

"Three Fingers Feng was a thief, and he took care of a group of thieves. What's the most important thing for thieves? To be as ordinary as possible and not stand out, of course. Even if they were caught, they must pretend to be innocent," Wild Wolf said. "There are plenty of times when one thief steals then passes the stolen goods to someone in cahoots with them. Even if they're caught red handed after that, as long as they don't have any stolen goods on them, the victim can't do anything to them.

"But if the entire gang of thieves has the same tattoo, while it looks cool, it'd be the same as confessing without there even being a need for an interrogation whenever they're caught. It's the same as writing the word 'thief' on your own body.

"The Wild Wolves like getting all sorts of tattoos, but I don't think that Three Fingers Feng and the rest did the same."

"Makes sense." Meng Chao's mind raced, and he mumbled to himself. "For a professional wealth transferer, there's really no reason to make everyone get the same tattoo. Then, do any of the Wild Wolves have special tattoos?"

"What sort of tattoo are you looking for?" Wild Wolf asked.

"An X-shaped eye." Meng Chao raised two fingers and crossed them. "It looks like this. It's a tattoo that looks like two eyes overlapping with each other to form an X."

Chapter 547: Do The Same Thing

Wild Wolf thought about it seriously for a while before he shook his head. "I don't think so. Is this tattoo important?"

"No, I was just asking." Meng Chao waved his hand in dismissal. "Forget it. I'm leaving!"

He turned around and went into the manhole.

Once he climbed down a ladder that was more than ten meters long, he stepped in a puddle of water that reached his knees.

The water was sticky and smelly. It was like rotten ink.

The further he went, the narrower the tunnel became. There were many places where he had to bend his back, and his nose had to practically touch the surface of the water before he could force his way through.

Fortunately, A'Ji and Su Mulian were already used to living in a heavily polluted environment, so they were now basically immune to poison.

And as a Heaven Realm superhuman, Meng Chao was not easily affected by miasma, either.

They quietly walked ten meters, then sensed water dripping on their heads. They had probably come under the river of trash.

If they listened carefully, they could hear weak gunshots on both sides of the river.

A metal fence suddenly appeared ahead of them. A'Ji reached out to shake it, and it seemed to be really sturdy.

Meng Chao had A'Ji curl up by the side while he went forward. He grabbed two of the bars and started rattling them at high speed.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

A gap that looked like half a meter square had long since been left behind on the metal fence. However, since it was no in use for a long time, it became covered in rust again.

Meng Chao pulled the bars to the side, and the gap was immediately widened. He lifted A'Ji and Su Mulian so that they could go through the gap. After that, he also went through like an agile panther.

They covered dozens of meters and took a few twists and turns. Then, the ground started going up. The tunnel also became dry.

They swept aside numerous spider webs and finally reached the end of the tunnel. A manhole appeared above their heads. It was sealed shut by a cover.

The ladder leading to the manhole cover was covered in rust. Meng Chao was not sure whether it was sturdy enough to bear all their weight, so he climbed up first to test the durability of the ladder and check the situation outside the manhole.

Banging sounds came from the river not too far away, signalling that the fight was going on fiercely. The armed forces from the gangs had their attention fixed on the other side of the river, so they did not notice the alley where the manhole was.

To completely lock down Leprosy Village, all the buildings around the village were taken over, and their residents were sent to other places. Even if the gangs filled up many rooms with ammunition, there were plenty of empty rooms that the residents had vacated. Hence, Meng Chao did not hear any sounds of breathing or heartbeats. Neither did he sense any normal people's temperature.

Meng Chao quietly lifted the manhole cover and pulled A'Ji and Su Mulian up.

Before the armed patrol guards from the gangs could hurry over, he gently shut the manhole cover and swept a pile of garbage from the side over to cover the traces that the three of them had climbed out. Then, he brought the two of them into an empty building not far away.

Meng Chao jumped lightly and stuck himself to the ceiling and pressed his ear against it. He listened attentively for a while before he said to the duo, "There's no one on the second floor. We'll go up and take a look."

They found a window facing the river in a room on the second floor.

Meng Chao opened the window a little and squinted. Circles of bright light appeared around his pupils, allowing him to gain vision as if he was a high-power telescope. He started observing the situation.

From his position, he could clearly see that within a short half a day, the armed forces had already dug a large number of trenches and secret tunnels along the bank of the river. They used rapid drying reinforced concrete to build barricades and bunkers. They also set up well-spaced firing points using the buildings around them.

They had even brought all sorts of lethal weapons like rocket launchers, heavy machine guns, anti-aircraft artillery, motorized armor, and spider-shaped intelligent fighting vehicles with monster brains installed in them.

Trained armed forces were everywhere. At first glance, they appeared murderous, but once Meng Chao observed them carefully, he could tell that they were incredibly tense and would suffer a mental breakdown at any moment and go insane.

"Even if there really are monsters in Leprosy Village, aren't these guys... behaving a little too extreme?"

Meng Chao saw squads of armed forces pushing large mortars and artillery shells to the frontlines, and he could not help but gasp in amazement.

Honestly, if he looked at the scene in front of him without the memories from his previous life and knew immediately that this was the Vortex's scheme, it would be difficult for him to not share the same suspicions as Wild Wolf and the other villagers. He would also believe that the outside world was willing to pay any price to completely destroy the monsters lurking in Leprosy Village.

And Leprosy Village was that "price"!

"Are they really going to destroy Leprosy Village?" A'Ji popped his head out from behind Meng Chao. His face was stark pale, and he said with fear and despair, "Big Brother Chao, what should we do? Are we going to Saber Jin Wanhao just like that? Judging by the situation in front of us, it doesn't seem like Jin Wanhao will listen to our explanation!"

"Thanks for the reminder. Of course we won't go and search for him just like that." Meng Chao cast a deep glance at A'Ji and said gravely, "Looks like the abnormal beast is ahead of us and has done something to the gangs, but that's to be expected. When you want to sow discord, you have to do it on both sides. That's the only way you can force your targets to kill each other.

"So, our immediate task is to understand what the abnormal beast has done or said to the gangs. Why do they look so panicked and like they're facing a great enemy?"

A'Ji scratched his head and asked, "But how are we going to figure out the abnormal beast's scheme?"
"It's simple. We'll just ask someone."

Meng Chao brought out the items from his military-grade backpack and spread them all over the floor.

Under A'Ji and Ms. Mulian's puzzled gazes, he began working.

He first squashed a can of earthworm meat and used natural glue to stick it to the pelt of a Demonic Halberd Pig.

Then, he spread monster blood mixed with glue on it, which made it a sticky and foul-smelling substance.

After that, he used a harvesting blade to carefully make the pelt and meat on it look even more messed up.

Once he was done, he opened his cloak and stuck the bloody pelt on the left side of his abdomen.

At first glance, it would look like there was a terrifying wound on the left side of his abdomen. It shuddered when he breathed, and it looked like his organs were about to be exposed at any second.

Then, he used his harvesting blade, a file, and reinforced concrete he took from the floor itself to cut a few wounds on his face and hand.

Even though they were superficial wounds, he looked terrifying.

Finally, he brought out 50g of black zircon powder and 25g of the shell powder from Purple Star Beetles. He opened a bullet, poured out the gunpowder inside it, mixed the three types of powder on his palm, opened his mouth, and swallowed it.

A'Ji's skin crawled when he saw this. He whispered, "Big Brother Chao, can you actually eat that?"

"Of course you can't." Meng Chao grimaced. "This thing is poisonous. If you eat it, your face will turn pale, your nerves will go numb, your heartbeat will become erratic, and your spirit energy magnetic field will become chaotic!"

While he spoke, he actually started sweating bullets. His hands and feet trembled, and even his lips turned so dry that not a single hint of blood could be seen on them. It looked like he was heavily injured and had lost so much blood that he was about to keel over and die.

It was only then that A'Ji and Ms. Mulian figured out how Meng Chao managed to trick Bai Shan into thinking that he was about to die. This was what he had done.

"Wait for me here. Don't make a sound. A'Ji, try to recall the terrain around this place and the highest spot possible as well as an underground path for us to retreat through safely."

Meng Chao wrinkled his nose to identify the vague smell of piss in the air.

As a Heaven Realm superhuman who had trained for a long time in the wild, when he injected spirit energy into his nose and nasal mucosa, his sense of smell would become so strong that he could identify the scents of more than ten Hell Beasts' excrement at the same time.

He snuck out of the window like a huge chameleon.

Meng Chao trailed after the faint smell of urine in the air and soon found an open-air toilet, which had been hastily set up for the time being.

Just as he expected, the armed gang members had only paid attention to swiftly digging trenches and building barricades. They did not have the time to set up a proper toilet nor run to the toilets in nearby buildings, so they could only allocate a region to serve as a toilet so the gang members could quickly take care of their business.

Meng Chao lurked in the dark and waited patiently.

Although Wild Wolf only gave him twelve hours, patience was a hunter's best friend. He would not take any unnecessary risks to race against time.

He spared two armed gang members who came over to urinate because they looked like nobodies that would not know anything.

He also spared an entire squad because there were seven people in it.

Even though he was certain that he could subjugate them in one second, if seven people disappeared at once, it would cause too much of a ruckus.

He waited for a total of ten minutes before a suitable candidate finally arrived.

This person was alone.

He had a valuable-looking saber that had a high-grade crystal embedded in it at his waist.

Judging by his steady footsteps and breathing as well as the spirit energy that surrounded him, he was a superhuman who was at least at Spirit Tattoo Realm.

In the lair, a Spirit Tattoo Realm superhuman was already a small leader of a gang.

Besides, there had not been anyone else who came to the toilet over this period of time. The nearest armed gang member was dozens of meters away, so his sight was blocked by the buildings.

Hence, when this leader whistled and peed, a sharp blade as thin as a cicada's wing was placed against his throat.

The leader's pupils shrank swiftly.

The sound of peeing came to a swift stop.

"D-Don't be nervous... Relax. Con-cough-continue."

Meng Chao appeared behind the man like a ghost and whispered into his ear.

The leader's eyeballs moved swiftly, as if he was thinking whether he should counterattack or scream.

The sharp blade against his neck kept trembling. Not only did it cut into his skin, the icy killing intent kept seeping into his nerves and bones. It could behead him at any moment.

Meng Chao said, “S-Sorry, bro. I-cough cough cough-I don’t want to hurt anyone. “But... I’m heavily wounded. I can’t hold a saber and can’t control my strength. Don’t blame me... if I cut your throat by accident, okay?”

The leader really wanted to gulp, but his Adam’s apple was frozen by Meng Chao’s killing intent and his saliva felt like icy barbed wire. He could not swallow it.

Chapter 548: Deception

“We only have a limited amount of time. I’ll give you three seconds to make a choice between two options.” Meng Chao continued scraping the blade against the leader’s neck artery and coughing. “First, quietly pee and come with me so that we can talk, then help me. Second, do your best to scream, and I’ll cut off your trachea, neck artery, and voice box. I’ll then drag you away quietly so that we can talk, and you will still help me a little.

“Of course, when it comes to the second choice, you will no longer be able to make any sound, so you will only make gestures and write, so it’ll be very troublesome.

“So-cough-I hope that you make the first choice. What do you think?”

The leader’s eyes roved about, and he saw the glint of the blade on his neck.

He shuddered and raised one finger.

“Very good. You can continue peeing. Holding it back isn’t good, after all.”

Meng Chao patiently waited for the leader to clean himself before he brought him back to the building where he originally was through an empty alley.

Since he kept coughing on his way back, the blade left around eight bloody gashes on the leader’s neck, scaring the leader so much that his eyeballs nearly popped out. He did not dare to make even a single sound.

And the “wound” on Meng Chao’s stomach kept “bleeding” and releasing “tissue fluid” while he coughed, dirtying the leader’s urban camouflage fighting suit.

“Sit.”

Once they entered the room, Meng Chao found that A’Ji and Su Mulian had already hidden.

Meng Chao sat down while leaning against the door. He gasped and used his saber to make a few random gestures, as if he was exhausted.

The gunpowder and crystal powder he ate earlier started showing their effects. At that moment, his eyes were sunken and he was drenched in sweat. He looked like he needed to use all his strength to do even the slightest thing.

The leader was very observant. When he saw this, his eyes started sparkling with who knew what thoughts hiding behind them.

“You’re from Poison Scorpion?” Meng Chao saw the poison scorpion tattoo on the back of his hand.

“Poison Scorpion’s Dong Sibao.” The leader touched the bloody gashes on his neck.

His voice box was already injured by Meng Chao’s killing intent, and his voice was really hoarse.

“Sorry, the situation was unique. I could only use the worst plan possible.” Meng Chao looked at Dong Sibao. “Do you know me?”

The gangs in the lair had received support from the mega corporations in secret.

Poison Scorpion was a gang second only to Golden Tooth in the lair, and their support was Sky Pillar Corporation.

The first time Meng Chao entered the lair was to look for clues about the murderous pets with Lu Siya. At that time, they looked for a leader from Poison Scorpion to be their guide.

Meng Chao had fought beside Lu Siya during the Noble Descent Hotel Ambush as well and killed the Demonic Abyss Eye.

Sky Pillar Corporation packaged this matter nicely and turned it into Lu Siya’s glorious achievement. After the social media platforms and promotional organizations repeatedly spoke about it, everyone in Dragon City knew about it and were very familiar with the whole thing.

Of course, Lu Siya did not forget Meng Chao.

It did not matter whether she valued her relationship with him, had high regard for his potential, or hoped to get into the vast low-end and middle-tier market that Meng Chao represented, in her promotions, she always lumped herself together with Meng Chao.

Even if he was training in the wild and did not have the time to join the promotion of certain brands, she often mentioned his name to set up the image that she was someone who valued her friendship.

Besides, Meng Chao’s Superstar was working closely with Sky Pillar Corporation through Lu Siya and her father.

In the eyes of Poison Scorpion, Meng Chao should be somewhat of a strategic partner with Sky Pillar Corporation. Hence, when he noticed that the leader was from Poison Scorpion, Meng Chao sighed slightly in relief.

Just as he expected, Dong Sibao nodded and answered honestly. “I know, you’re Meng Chao.”

“Good, then do you know that I’m an off-site member of the abnormal beast research department and stopped the scheme of an abnormal beast in Noble Descent Hotel half a year ago?”

“I know.”

“Then, do you know that this morning a group of hunters entered the lair to catch the abnormal beast related to the Deification Capsules? That the members were all veteran hunters who came from mega corporations and I was one of them? This hunting squad had the support from various gangs in the lair. Even Saber Jin Wanhao gave us the green light and let us do whatever we wanted.”

“I know. This morning, our gang leader personally gave the order to work unconditionally with you in whatever operation you cooked up.”

“That’s good.” Meng Chao heaved a long sigh. “Then, you should believe what I say, right?”

“Of course.” Dong Sibao touched his neck and smiled wanly. “Mr. Meng Chao, I know that you’re friends with Ms. Lu Siya. Honestly, you didn’t have to use this method to bring me over. You could have just talked to me if you wanted to know something. I wouldn’t have dared to disobey you.”

“Sorry, you know that many things happened in Golden Tooth Lair today. Once everything has settled, I’ll personally set up a banquet to apologize to you.” Meng Chao tilted his chin in the direction outside the window. “But even if there are monsters lurking in Leprosy Village, there is no need for such a grand lineup, is there? You guys look like you want to mobilize heavy weapons and level Leprosy Village to the ground. Mr. Dong, what on earth is going on?”

“I don’t know either,” Dong Sibao said. “Right now, there is a shocking pitched battle at the borders of Dragon City and there are monsters lurking in the lair. They might cause major destruction at any moment. Our communications are facing major interference, and our leaders’ expressions are each darker than the last.

“The government asked all of us to come here and be ready for combat. We didn’t dare say anything about it and just carried out orders.”

“Alright, if you don’t know, then I’ll tell you,” Meng Chao said. “There is indeed a smart abnormal beast lurking in Leprosy Village, but its goal isn’t just Leprosy Village. It wants the entire lair.

“I’ve figured the general gist of the abnormal beast’s scheme, so I need to tell Saber Jin Wanhao everything and have him spread the information around.

“I know that you wouldn’t be able to meet Saber Jin Wanhao directly, but I still have to ask you to tell what I just told you to the highest-ranking person-in-charge you can find so that he can come and find me as soon as possible. Can you do that?”

Dong Sibao stared at the wound on the left side of Meng Chao abdomen and nodded. “Sure. I’ll have someone notify the vice gang leader now and have him come here with a doctor.”

“No. The information I brought is of utmost importance. It might decide Golden Tooth Lair’s survival. Right now, I don’t know who I can trust. Mr. Dong, could you personally head to your headquarters and tell your vice gang leader?” Meng Chao asked earnestly. “I’m begging you!”

Dong Sibao hesitated for a moment before he nodded. “Alright, I’ll immediately head to the headquarters!”

“Thank you.” Meng Chao smiled. He looked at the messy gashes on the man’s neck and felt a little embarrassed. After a moment’s consideration, he decided to flip over his saber and presented it then hilt first. “I’m really sorry for what happened just now. Do you want to stab me a few times to vent your anger?”

Dong Sibao smiled as well. “You must be joking, Mr. Meng.”

He removed his thigh bag, unzipped it, and revealed the medicine and battlefield suturing kit inside. “I’ll go now. I’ll leave this emergency medicine and tools inside for you. Please treat your wounds. You must persevere, Mr. Meng!”

“Thanks. Go on ahead, Mr. Dong.” Meng Chao took the medical bag with a tight grip and gave a weak smile.

Dong Sibao hurriedly left the building, and A’Ji as well as Su Mulian immediately came out.

“Big Brother Chao, can that person be trusted?” A’Ji asked with a frown. Clearly, he disapproved of Meng Chao’s method.

“Of course not.” Meng Chao instantly regained a sharp look.

He narrowed his eyes and poured out all the contents of the medical bag Dong Sibao left for him. He gathered spirit energy on his fingers and carefully pressed and squashed the medical bag, especially the flaps and hidden pockets. He checked the bag repeatedly for faint bumps and stitches.

Just as he expected, the moment he picked at one spot with his harvesting blade, it tore open the flap, and with his fingertip, Meng Chao brought out a chip that was not bigger than one-quarter of a fingernail.

“What is that?” Su Mulian asked in shock.

“A locating chip,” Meng Chao said coldly. “If I take this medical bag with me, no matter where I go, I’ll be within the gangs’ radar.”

He did not seem surprised that Dong Sibao would leave a locating chip behind.

He threw the medical bag to the side and brought out the items from the military-grade backpack he got in Leprosy Village. He started swiftly making arrangements.

He first used the Seven-star Spider Wolf threads to set up a few tripwires at the door and the sides of the window.

Then, he set the smoke bombs and flash bombs to their most sensitive setting and carefully tied them to the strings.

He also placed a few inflammable monster materials in the room. After being ignited, they would release a pungent scent that would make it seem like they were poisonous, but in truth, they posed no threat to the human body.

After a short five minutes, the room turned into a trap filled with all sorts of dangers. It did not matter whether the enemy attacked from the windows, door, ceiling, or floor, they would definitely experience something they would have a hard time forgetting.

Meng Chao nodded in satisfaction once he saw that the threads, smoke bombs, and flash bombs covered every inch of the room. “Let’s go. You should have investigated the terrain nearby, right? Is there any place that will allow us to see this room easily from the distance and is open in all directions so that it’s easy for us to run?”

A’Ji then proved that he was indeed a professional “wealth transferer”.

He knew of a high spot Meng Chao wanted two streets away.

But he could not understand what they were doing. “Big Brother Chao, you didn’t trust that person from the start?”

Meng Chao swept A’Ji a glance. “That’s right. The situation is very complicated, so I don’t trust anyone.”

“Then, why did you bring him here and tell him that you’ll wait here for them?” A’Ji could not understand it.

“I’ll understand what attitude the gangs have toward me based on what people he brings. Then, from there, I can tell whether the ranks of the gangs have been completely infiltrated and controlled by the abnormal beast,” Meng Chao explained. “If he only brings a small number of people and a doctor, it means that he has no ill will toward me and I can keep him alive as well as trust him.

“But if he only agreed to my request on the surface and mobilizes a large number of elites to surround the building or even charges straight in without another word, then we will need to reset our plan.”

Chapter 549: Rattlesnake

A’Ji thought about it and said, “Big Brother Chao, that makes sense. But you were really fierce just now. You nearly cut his neck, even. It’s only normal for him to call for reinforcements to catch you, right?”

“The forces you mobilize when you want to capture someone or kill someone and the weapons you use as well as the strategy you deploy are all different.

“If the abnormal beast didn’t infiltrate the gangs and the gangs only wanted to lock down Leprosy Village, once they discovered that I have run out, they would definitely think of ways to subjugate me, tie me up, make sure that I have nothing suspicious on me, and deliver me to Saber Jin Wanhao or the other gang leaders to ask just what is going on. During that process, they won’t be averse to getting into contact with me. In fact, they will take the initiative to get important information from me.

“But if the gangs have already been infiltrated by the abnormal beast, then they won’t allow me to leave this place alive. They will definitely try to kill me immediately. They will bring heavy weapons to level the entire place to the ground and get rid of all possibilities for me to get in contact with the outside world.

“So, all we need to do is see how they’ll react and we’ll know just how far the abnormal beast’s scheme has progressed.

“Also, I need to talk with the higher-ups in the gangs, and I have two methods for that. First, I just go to them. Second, they come to me. It doesn’t matter whether they’re prepared to capture me or kill me. The one commanding the operation won’t be some nobody. Through this commander, we might be able to meet Saber Jin Wanhao.”

A’Ji was dumbfounded as he listened, and he stared at Meng Chao with a strange look. He mumbled, “Wow, Big Brother Chao, you’re so sinister. You’re completely different from the persona the social media platforms created for you!”

“I have no choice. If it’s possible, I’d like to be an innocent, honest, and normal university student too.” Meng Chao sighed. “Unfortunately, if I want to survive in this dangerous and evil world, I must be sinister. A’Ji, you probably have a deeper understanding about this than me?”

A’Ji was a little stunned. He did not seem to have understood what Meng Chao meant.

Meng Chao cast him a glance through his peripheral vision before he focused on the street dozens of meters away from the window they were hiding behind.

"They're here," Meng Chao whispered with narrowed eyes.

Dong Sibao had returned quickly.

There was a mini ambulance behind him.

A few people with white-hooded cloaks with a red cross on them and poison filtration masks came out of the ambulance.

"Doctors!" Su Mulian exclaimed happily. "Looks like the abnormal beast wasn't able to carry out its scheme in the gangs. We'll be able to meet Saber Jin Wanhao immediately!"

"Don't be in such a haste. We'll continue watching," Meng Chao said. "These people's muscles are far too developed for doctors. Their footsteps are also too heavy. By the looks of it, they're wearing armor made of super alloy, which weighs dozens of kilograms.

"Mhm... Even if those doctors are all workout enthusiasts and armor collectors, then how are you going to explain the bumpy, tube-shaped things on their backs? If they're not heavy machines or weapons, are they supposed to be large medical kits?"

"Huh?" Su Mulian felt a little dumbfounded. She then focused and observed them, only to notice that the people in white did indeed give off a different presence compared to the doctors she usually came in contact with.

Three of the people in white moved forward in a triangle formation. With every step they took, they observed the area, as if they were snakes alert of their surroundings.

"This is the standard triangle formation for urban warfare," Meng Chao said coldly. "They're not doctors. They're trained killing machines."

"Big Brother Chao, there are people over there!" A'Ji tugged at Meng Chao's cloak.

Meng Chao and Su Mulian looked along the direction where he pointed, and they saw a street to the right of the building.

A group of armed forces in camouflage uniforms and carrying loaded guns sneakily surrounded the building.

The glint from a high-powered scope shone faintly from the building across from the one in which they were supposed to be meeting up. It was clear that a sniper had occupied a high point.

A large number of armed forces had also gathered around the building. As their leader shouted something, the heavy machine guns and anti-aircraft artillery that had been directed at Leprosy Village changed their direction and were directed at the building where Meng Chao had been hiding earlier.

Meng Chao also sensed a few powerful presences. They were on the walls of the buildings nearby and were climbing swiftly like geckos to close in on his previous hiding spot.

If he had really waited there like an idiot for Dong Sibao to bring doctors to save him, he would have fallen into an all-encompassing trap filled with blades.

“Judging by this lineup, do you think these guys just want to capture me?” Meng Chao sneered.

A’Ji and Su Mulian looked at each other.

Even if they were blind, they could still sense a strong killing intent from the weapons and guns of the armed forces.

Those people did not intend to capture Meng Chao alive.

The moment they arrived, they planned to kill him without mercy!

But why?

“Even if the abnormal beast was able to tempt Bai Shan to join its side, it would have been impossible for it to tempt all the higher-ups in the gangs within just half a day? After all, there are plenty of them,” Meng Chao mumbled. “No matter what, I’m quite the internet celebrity on social media platforms and have millions of fans.

“How could they listen to everything the abnormal beast said while they know who I am and still want to kill me? I’ll only know the answer once I capture their commander.”

As the saying went, “the mantis stalks the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind.” When the enemy thought that they had quietly approached the building where Meng Chao originally was, the real Meng Chao was observing all of them coldly from the darkness while he attempted to figure out who their commander was.

Fortunately, their commander did not hide his tracks. He gave commands in the open and even did so from the frontlines.

When Meng Chao saw his face clearly, he was stunned for three whole seconds.

“Rattlesnake Xiang Wei?”

Meng Chao remembered that he was one of the powerful elites in Poison Scorpion. He was a Heaven Realm superhuman, which was something rare in the lair.

More importantly, he was one of the people who had infiltrated Leprosy Village with the hunting squad. Later, he disappeared during the explosion caused by the super crystal bomb!

He was really the person Meng Chao thought he was. As Meng Chao observed him closely, he noticed that Rattlesnake Xiang Wei’s hair had been burnt. His bald head and face were covered by ugly scars that had just scabbed over. His right arm seemed to be suffering from comminuted fracture; it was fixed to his chest by a strengthened protector made of alloy. His expression was grave, and he looked murderous, as if he wanted to flay Meng Chao alive.

By the looks of it, he had been injured by the explosion in the Deification Capsule pharmacy, but had managed to retreat from Leprosy Village in time.

But this puzzled Meng Chao to no end.

'He was clearly on the same side as me in the morning when we entered Leprosy Village to hunt down the abnormal beast, so why is it that in just a short half a day, he came to kill me with such murderous rage?'

Meng Chao's first reaction was that this person joined the other side because of the abnormal beast, just like Bai Shan.

But he could not ignore the people he commanded. They had all sorts of equipment and different emblems sprayed on their cloaks.

There was Poison Scorpion's fierce twin tails, Black Bone's intersecting bones with the sharp sword in the middle, and Golden Tooth's huge fang, which seemed like a golden horn.

The powerful gangs in the lair had all sent their forces to surround Meng Chao. Rattlesnake Xiang Wei did not have such a high status in the lair, right?

Meng Chao quickly assessed the enemy's strength and his own strength.

Even if Rattlesnake Xiang Wei had a broken arm and his cultivation realm had plummeted to the ground because of the crystal bomb explosion, he should still have the strength of someone at the peak of Earth Realm.

Otherwise, it would be impossible for him to be sent to the frontlines to command the troops. Instead, he would be staying in the medical cabin.

Even though Meng Chao had been treated by Su Mulian, he had not recovered all his fighting strength.

It would be difficult for him to quietly take Rattlesnake Xiang Wei away and shake off his pursuers right in front of so many armed forces and hundreds of guns.

However, at that moment, Meng Chao noticed a person who appeared to be slightly more fragile compared to the other people. He had a large head and spirit tattoos at the corners of his eyes and his temples. He was talking to Rattlesnake Xiang Wei, and the other armed forces appeared to be quite respectful to him.

If Meng Chao's guess was correct, this person was the "military adviser" and the "brains" of the gang. He mainly used spirit energy to stimulate his brain so that he could increase his logic and deduction abilities, thereby allowing him to make plans for the gang.

Although he was a superhuman, he was support-class superhuman or researcher-like. His fighting strength should be nothing amazing.

Meng Chao knew his sort. At most, they practiced a few mind attacks.

Half of Meng Chao's soul had come back from the apocalypse, so he did not fear mind attacks.

'That's it. You're my target...'

When three "doctors" reached the entrance of the building where Meng Chao had previously hid and the tactical teams, snipers, and superhumans around the area entered their positions, the atmosphere was so tense that a single spark could make a battle erupt.

So Meng Chao told A'Ji and Su Mulian, "A'Ji, when you hear the first explosion, immediately take Ms. Mulian to the underground tunnel you found. We'll meet underground."

Before his voice could fade away, he charged out like an arrow.

The three doctors tapped the door a few times at the entrance of the building, but received no reply. Then, they released their spirit energy to scan the area carefully, but they heard no breathing or heartbeat. It was then that they realized that the situation was not right.

The doctor who was at the very end raised his arm up high before bringing it down swiftly, motioning for the tactical team and snipers behind him to fire.

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

In an instant, dozens of bullets shot from the high points. The dense bullets storm was like a burning tornado. Not only did it destroy the windows of dozens of rooms on the first, second, and third floors of the building, a large number of armor-piercing shells even blasted the walls made of reinforced concrete full of holes. The shrapnel bounced off the walls and, along with a large number of debris, rendered the rooms a mess.

Right after the burning tornado swept through the rooms, four trained tactical teams simultaneously jumped into the dilapidated building from different angles.

Rattlesnake Xiang Wei was among them. The superhumans' eyes shone intensely and burned with spirit energy. They carefully searched through the hot ruins for the slightest heat signal and magnetic field of a living creature.

Unfortunately, all they shot was air and the smoke bombs, flash bombs, tear bombs, and the large number of inflammable monster materials and crystal shards that Meng Chao had set up earlier.

Chapter 550: God of Fog of War Battles

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

The room where Meng Chao had stayed before turned into a fireworks factory.

Along with the strong light and shock waves came colorful flames. They quickly turned into smoke that was such a brilliant shade of red and purple that it looked like it was rotting.

The smoke spread out really quickly and instantly encompassed the streets in the area. It engulfed all the attackers in it.

"Careful! Poison!"

When the attackers smelled the foul and acidic scent in the air, quite a few of them felt their skins crawl.

Over the past few decades, Leprosy Village was synonymous to viruses and plagues.

And monsters were especially skilled at creating zombie viruses and fatal spores.

Who knew what sort of terrifying creatures were hiding in the colorful smoke?

The attackers had come prepared, however.

They immediately put on full anti-epidemic suits so not an inch of their skin could be seen and highest-grade poison filtration masks. They even used compressed oxygen tanks to ensure that they would not take in even a breath of the fatal smog.

But the price for wearing the anti-epidemic suits and poison filtration masks was a much more limited field of vision. The goggles of the poison filtration mask were also stained, so they were unable to see clearly.

Since they wore anti-epidemic clothes, their senses also became relatively dull.

The crystal powder Meng Chao had mixed into the inflammable substance had also released spirit energy ripples while it burned, which interfered with the superhumans' spirit energy circulation and creation of spirit energy magnetic fields.

The situation instantly turned chaotic, and everyone was caught off guard.

Hence, while remaining absolutely tense, the attackers in front cast all their attention to the area ahead of them. No one noticed a panther-like black shadow entering the smog at lightning speed from behind them.

The real hunter had arrived!

Slap!

Meng Chao dashed forward at full speed, and the first attacker was sent flying by getting hit in the back.

This pitiful man was like a bowling ball. He crashed into half of the squad in front of him and knocked them off their feet.

Meng Chao seized that moment to go forward with his back bent. While holding a sturdy diamond in his hand, he stabbed a few attackers' poison filtration masks.

Crack! Crack!

The masks shattered right away, and a large amount of acidic and foul-smelling smoke seeped in.

The attackers cried out and covered their throats while foaming at their mouths.

The smoke was completely harmless and normal, but the men were extremely terrified of it, so the effect was even better than when smog was released.

Meng Chao did not stay around to fight. The moment he succeeded in his attack, he immediately switched locations.

With a few jumps, he circled around the smoke.

Sometimes, he shattered a few attackers' poison filtration masks. Sometimes, he cut the flexible tubes connected to their oxygen tanks. Sometimes, he grabbed their guns and fired randomly at the air.

"Here!"

"Kill him!"

“Help! I’m poisoned!”

In an area with smoke bombs and flash bombs wreaking havoc, having a large number of people on your side was not an advantage. It was a burden.

Ever since Meng Chao rose to fame during the practical exam of the national college exam, he had improved by leaps and bounds within just a few short years and left behind a deep impression on the superhuman circle.

This was especially so when he killed the Demonic Abyss Abyss and reached Heaven Realm in the middle of the battle. Countless people were shocked by it.

The gang members had naturally heard of his infamous deeds.

They knew that he was a ruthless person who was unmatched among the young superhumans in Dragon City.

Once they learned that their mission was to surround and kill Meng Chao, their hearts thundered in their chests.

At that moment, when they noticed that Meng Chao attacked as fiercely as a flood, fear rose in them, and they could only swing their weapons and fire their guns randomly to chase away their fear.

But once they fired at random like headless chickens, they achieved nothing aside from hurting their comrades with friendly fire. They did not hurt a single strand of hair on Meng Chao’s body. Instead, they created the image that Meng Chao was everywhere.

When everyone began attacking like mad dogs, Meng Chao remained as calm as water. He used Walking Corpse to maximize his control over the secretion of his hormones, his breathing, and heartbeat.

Even his body temperature went down to twenty-six degrees Celsius, which was basically the same as the temperature around him.

He was like a shadowless ghost. Time and again, he shot out of the smoke to attack.

This time, his target was a strong, built man who was more than two meters tall.

Aside from a four mount rocket launcher on his shoulder, he also had more than twenty rocket projectiles in a huge backpack.

Meng Chao grinned, revealing sharp white teeth in the darkness.

Half a second later, the backpack filled with rocket projectiles swelled up after being injected with a hint of spirit energy. They rose high into the sky.

Once stimulated by spirit energy and a fierce shock, the rocket projectiles instantly exploded.

The shockwaves carried with them thousands of shrapnel that spilled everywhere.

The attackers on the lower floor started wailing. They wrapped their arms around their heads and could not even be bothered to figure out just where Meng Chao was.

Meng Chao used the chance to release an astonishing killing intent, and it was like a saber that he fished out from magma. Then, he charged to Rattlesnake Xiang Wei, whom he had targeted since the beginning.

Boom, boom, boom, boom!

His footsteps created even louder roars than the explosions of the rocket projectiles.

“Meng Chao!”

No matter what, Rattlesnake Xiang Wei was a Heaven Realm superhuman. Even if he was heavily injured, he managed to sense Meng Chao’s fierce murderous intent.

He was a man with an iron will. His eyes became bloodshot, and anger filled his system. He did not bother to dodge. Instead, he drew his saber and let out a loud shout to face Meng Chao, as if he was facing a mortal enemy.

But against his expectations, Meng Chao had his eyes set on an ammunition box on the sidelines of the battlefield.

The moment he dashed forward, he fired his chain sabers, swept up the ammunition box, and threw it at Xiang Wei.

Since Rattlesnake Xiang Wei was injured, he did not dare to be reckless and face the “smog” head-on. He also wore a poison filtration mask, so his vision and senses were affected.

He only saw something charge at him from the black smoke.

He reacted instinctively and swung his saber immediately.

Crack!

The runic symbols on his saber shone. Electrical arcs surrounded the blade, and flames flickered. The second he cut open the ammunition box, a lot of ammunition ignited, creating yet another situation where the area was filled with smoke which was lit up by flames. The people around them began to panic.

Meng Chao never intended to fight head-on against Rattlesnake Xiang Wei.

He was just diverting the superhumans’ attention.

While Rattlesnake Xiang Wei was badly battered and confused, Meng Chao bent his knees and fell on the ground. He used the movements of his muscles and, like a snake, slithered to his real target—the “military adviser” with the big head and small body.

While he was on his way there, he removed the poison filtration mask of an unconscious, unlucky sod lying on the floor and placed it on his face.

This “military adviser” was not strong. When the explosions rang out, he naturally remained at the end of the street to observe the battle, which meant that he was at the border of the area affected by the smoke bombs and flash bombs. There was no one beside him to protect him.

The situation in the smoke was rather chaotic, so he could not immediately tell what was going on. At that moment, he was hesitating as to whether he should go back and call for more reinforcements.

Meng Chao jumped out of the smoke and ran toward him while staggering.

The “military adviser”’s eyes lit up, and he was about to go forward to ask what was going on when warning bells rang out in his head. He noticed that Meng Chao’s equipment was different from that of the other attackers.

The “military adviser” immediately brought out two modified handguns that contained great power as if he was doing a magic trick. A mystifying light shone in his eyes.

But when a prepared Heaven Realm superhuman attacked him, all his struggles were in vain.

Meng Chao dropped the poison filtration mask, and his eyes shone with an even stronger light.

With the use of Fear Bomb, his brain waves rammed into the “military adviser”’s head in the form of astonishing waves. They made him see an apocalyptic scene that was as if hell had descended among them.

The “military adviser” screamed. He took three steps back. His face was pale and full of sadness, as if he had just seen the apocalypse.

Something seemed to have shattered in his eyes, and sticky, bloody tears flowed out of his eyes.

He fired two shots at random.

They grazed Meng Chao’s scalp.

Meng Chao covered eight meters with one jump and struck the “military adviser”’s chin. A high frequency shockwave was delivered into the “military adviser”’s brain through his skull.

The “military adviser”’s soft brain instantly rammed more than one thousand times against his sturdy skull. In an instant, he suffered a concussion and fainted.

Before Rattlesnake Xiang Wei and the other attackers could registrar what was going on, Meng Chao picked up the unconscious “military adviser” and crawled into the manhole he had chosen as a rendezvous spot with A’Ji.

In the complicated underground space that was shaped like a maze, A’Ji and Su Mulian quickly went up to Meng Chao.

“What should we do now?” A’Ji heard the gunshots above him and felt really anxious.

“We can’t stay here for long. Let’s run away first and look for a safe place. Then, we’ll interrogate this person slowly,” Meng Chao said.

“But how are we going to escape?!” A’Ji asked with a glum face.

The underground of the lair was much larger and complex compared to the surface, and there were also more paths around. It was something everyone knew.

Hence, not only did the lairs set up defenses on the surface, they also sent up a lot of manpower underground, which allowed them to form a net that covered all directions.

Meng Chao might have succeeded in his ambush, but he had also poked the hornet's nest.

Now, all the armed forces nearby were shouting, running, contacting each other, and forming teams in a frenzy to form the second and third defense line to trap Meng Chao. They wanted to catch at least his tail.

Rattlesnake Xiang Wei would not be confused for long.

Very soon, they would start searching in every nook and cranny.

Meng Chao and Su Mulian were not familiar with the place, so their chances of breaking out were slim to none.

"Didn't you say that you're really familiar with the lair?" Meng Chao stared at A'Ji with an intense gaze. "We can only rely on you now to bypass our pursuers and find a path to escape."

"No way." A'Ji pulled a long face. "I'm familiar with the headquarters of the gangs, the monster coliseums, gambling sites, financial companies, and other places like that. Those are the places where the rich appear so I had business over there!

"But I'm not familiar with this area. There are so many branching paths underground, so how am I supposed to know which one leads to our survival?"

"No other choice, then. We can only do everything we can to survive. We'll trust your instincts and my luck," Meng Chao said. "Just choose one path!"

A'Ji was dumbfounded. He screeched, "Any random path?"

"Trust me. My luck today is pretty good. I have a hunch that we'll definitely be able to find the path to survival," Meng Chao said with a smile.

A'Ji was stunned for a long time.

When he heard disorderly footsteps getting closer, he was forced into a corner, and he made his decision. He pointed at a random path. "Then, we'll go there first!"