

Oh My God 621

### **Chapter 621: Not Innocent**

"I don't want things to be as we guessed either." Meng Chao sighed. "No matter what, Saber Jin Wanhao is a powerful fighter who has been famous for decades. Even if he's definitely not a kind man because he has been causing trouble in Dragon City's gray industries, and all the things he does often treads the borders of the law, during the darkest and most chaotic era in Dragon City, he killed countless monsters and protected plenty of lair citizens so that the people who were tormented by pain and fear could enjoy a period of happiness.

"I do believe that he deserves the title of a heroic man.

"I really don't want to see this heroic man who has ruled over the lair for a long time to reveal himself as a demonic man who treads past the limits of humanity in the dark!

"So, A'Ji, if you know the truth, you should tell us now. If you hesitate for too long, you might not have the chance anymore."

A'Ji hung upside down as he thought about it. A profound light shone in his eyes.

The ancient and annoyed expression appeared on his young face again.

"Honestly, Meng Chao, I don't have any ill will toward you. Think about it, have I ever harmed since we met?"

Even A'Ji's voice changed. It was calm and firm.

"You didn't." Meng Chao shook his head. "That's the main reason behind why I still haven't crushed all your bones."

"Then I have to thank you for showing mercy to me, huh?" A'Ji asked. "It doesn't matter whether you believe me or not. If you were here alone, I'd be willing to share all my secrets with you, including the other inheritances of Saber Jin Wanhao. I'd be willing to share all of them. Did you actually think that the mighty Underground Ground would only have one treasure trove after ruling over the lair for decades? Even a cunning rabbit would know to have three dens!"

Meng Chao's pupils shrank.

Lu Siya's breathing became heavy as well.

But A'Ji changed his tone and gestured at Lu Siya with his chin. "But she's here. Queen Bee Lu Siya is someone I will never trust."

Meng Chao was slightly stunned. He turned his head and looked at Lu Siya, then at A'Ji. "That's strange. Do you know Big Sis Ya and have a grudge against her?"

"I've never met her, and there's no grudge between us," A'Ji said.

Meng Chao grew even more puzzled. "Then, why were you willing to help me unveil the Vortex's scheme and would now tell me all your secrets, but not Big Sis Ya?"

“You should know that we were only able to win against the Vortex by fighting together. If any one of us was missing, the other two would have definitely died. All of us saved each other’s lives.

“If this is a plan to sow discord among us and make us become divided, don’t you think it’s a really clumsy plan?”

“I was careless and lost everything. Now that things have already progressed to this point, I no longer have the mood to do something as boring as sowing discord. Besides, you’re so close that you can soak in a medical cabin together. I wouldn’t be able to sow discord with just a few words,” A’Ji said.

“I don’t like her, and I don’t trust her. There’s only one reason for that, and that’s because she’s someone from the nine great cultivation families. She’s not even a member of the branch family or a normal member. She’s an outstanding third generation member directly related to the main family, who might take over Sky Pillar Corporation and the entire Lu family in the future!”

“Got it. Just like Red Brows Su Lun, you have a grudge against the nine great mega corporations?” When Lu Siya heard this, she climbed out of the medical cabin and went to stand beside Meng Chao.

“Circumstances change with time, so there’s no need for me to be conflicted by any grudges,” A’Ji said in a really mature tone. “But if my secrets are discovered by the nine great mega corporations, you’ll steal everything from me and lock me up in secret. You’ll even cut me up to conduct research on me, and I’ll live a life worse than death for the rest of time.

“Compared to being captured by you and going through cruel experiments without being able to escape the control of the nine great mega corporations, I’d rather choose to die right now!”

“Is it?” Lu Siya cocked her eyebrow and put on a mysterious and charming smile. “Let’s not talk about whether you’re really that important and that you’d have to be... locked up in secret and cut into pieces to be researched. I’m curious. Why must you lump me together with the nine great mega corporations?”

“I’m me. I’m Queen Bee Lu Siya. I don’t represent Sky Pillar Corporation or the Lu family, much less the nine great mega corporations. In other words, my interests might not be completely aligned with Sky Pillar Corporation, the Lu family, or the nine great mega corporations at all times.

“So, what sort of major secret do you have? Why don’t you tell me? If I feel like this secret will bring me benefits that are greater than what it will give Sky Pillar Corporation, the Lu family, and the nine great mega corporations, perhaps Meng Chao and I will help you keep the secret.”

Lu Siya winked at A’Ji.

A’Ji pondered over this. “Everyone knows that you’re an outstanding member of the third generation among the nine great cultivation families. Your father is also in charge of the most important mining company under Sky Pillar Corporation. Your grandfather is the owner of the Lu family, and he values you highly. Over the past few months, he spent an astronomical amount of resources to personally teach you. How can you say that your interests don’t align with those of your family and the corporation?”

“Heh.” Lu Siya gave an unamused smile. “The most outstanding member of the third generation among the nine great cultivation families? It’s just an empty name used to flatter me. Aside from putting me under the risk of being rebuked and the subject of envy, there’s no meaning to it.

“My father is indeed in control of Sky Pillar Minerals, but there is a major difference between being in control of something and completely occupying something.

“My grandfather does value me, but valuing me and pampering me are two different things. He might value me highly today, but he might show his favor to his other grandchildren tomorrow, and on the day after tomorrow, he might send me to the harshest frontlines to ‘train’ for the grandchild he loves more.

“Besides, even if everything went smoothly, when would I ever be able to take control of the Lu family and Sky Pillar Corporation?”

“As life sciences become more advanced and the environment around Dragon City becomes better, the nine great mega corporations will develop lands rich with resources to set up high-grade nursing homes. Powerful and rich people placed at the top ten of the rich ranking in Dragon City, like my grandfather, will enjoy medical treatment and resources that will preserve their life far better than this lab of Saber Jin Wanhao. My grandfather was also never injured as badly as Saber Jin Wanhao when he was young, so he won’t have any problem living up to more than one hundred years old.

“As for the people in my father’s generation, they took in all sorts of gene medicine and high-calorie nutritional fluids from a young age and received professional and perfected spirit energy cultivation training. My father and my uncles will not have any problem living up to at least 150 years old.

“Once these people all die and I become the matriarch of the Lu family and the owner of Sky Pillar Corporation, I’m going to be a super old granny who is more than one hundred years old, won’t I? And that’s just one of the nine great mega corporations I’m talking about. I haven’t even counted in the other eight corporations!”

“Do you actually think that I would patiently wait for eighty years to climb up that supreme throne after I become an old granny?”

A’Ji could sense Lu Siya’s ambition. Not that she bothered to hide it.

In a daze, he gained the misconception that if he ignored her face and figure, she was like another version of Phantom Bear Xiong Wei. In fact... she was even like his past self.

“A’Ji, the choice is in your hands,” Meng Chao said. “You will either tell us all your secrets, and if you didn’t cross the limits of humanity in this matter and didn’t... um... break too many of Dragon City’s laws, then we might be able to find common interests and welcome an ending where everyone is happy.

“But if you don’t talk, we will have to investigate everything on our own, and once we figure out every single detail, your arms are going to be useless. Forget about Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash, by then, you won’t even be able to pick up nail clippers on your own!”

A’Ji gnashed his teeth together and swept his gaze back and forth between Meng Chao and Lu Siya.

Meng Chao’s final sentence finally made him come to a decision.

“Fine. I’ll talk.” He stared at Meng Chao. “I just hope you won’t regret hearing it.”

“I never regret any of my decisions.” Meng Chao used his toes to nudge the horrible pictures over and said coldly, “But you must explain what these are clearly. Did Saber Jin Wanhao really sacrifice so many innocent people to conduct evil experiments?”

“Experiments? He did indeed conduct some experiments. Before these guys died, they also went through cruel torture, and they didn’t... die pleasant deaths,” A’Ji said falteringly. “But they’re definitely not innocent people.”

Meng Chao and Lu Siya looked at each other. “What do you mean?”

A’Ji pointed at the first picture. It was of a corpse that was dissected by strange machines. “This person is Unlucky Star Huang Xin. He’s the mastermind behind the robbery of Development Bank twelve years ago. At that time, he and his accomplices not only stole a few ten million crystal coins, they also killed seventeen bound bank employees. It was completely unnecessary for them to do that.

“Unlucky Star Huang Xin’s highest ranking was 95 on the Supernatural Tower’s bounty list.

“But this guy is really cunning and brutal. When he noticed that he’s being chased relentlessly by the secret police and bounty hunters, he killed all his accomplices and fled with all the stolen money. He disappeared without a trace.

“Once his accomplices died, the trail went cold. The secret police and bounty hunters couldn’t do anything about him. He escaped from judgment for ten years until he ended up in Saber Jin Wanhao’s hands.

“Do you think that Jin Wanhao crossed the limits of humanity by using him as a research subject?”

Meng Chao and Lu Siya were both stunned.

The fierce fights between humans and monsters caused thousands of deaths. The deaths of seventeen people normally would not be something that Lu Siya and Meng Chao would remember.

The problem was, Unlucky Star Huang Xin had killed the bound bank employees one by one as if he was executing them.

When superhumans descended into spirit energy deviation, they usually committed crimes of passion.

This calm and brutal method was enough to make him leave his name on the bounty list.

They did not expect that this wanted criminal who had the blood of dozens of innocent souls’ lives in his hands and had escaped from the law would have died in Saber Jin Wanhao’s hands without anyone hearing of it.

## **Chapter 622: Ending of the Sinful**

A’Ji gestured at the second set of papers with his chin. “As for this guy, he’s a serial killer who wreaked havoc in Dragon City for a few years. Thirty-seven identified victims died horribly in his hands, and there are plenty of other innocent souls who died for no reason, but the city was never able to figure out who they were.

“So, this guy is also in the top 200 of the Supernatural Tower’s bounty list.

“Unfortunately, his attacks were very elusive, so no one ever found any clues about him. When his crimes were exposed, he immediately changed his appearance and snuck into the lair, causing the cases that he committed to become old cases that could never be solved.

“This one, too. Three years ago, he was the mastermind behind the ‘Murders of Door 529’. Due to a conflict in a crystal trade, he killed his long-term business partner and his family of twelve. He even burned the crime scene, and the fire expanded so much that it burned two houses. This killed nearly one hundred innocent people. At that time, his ranking on the bounty list was 99.”

A’Ji identified all the research subjects in the pictures.

They were either evil robbers or inhuman serial killers. All of them had the blood of at least dozens of innocents staining their hands.

Based on their numerous crimes, they were all malicious criminals who would be considered to have gotten away easily even if they were cut to pieces.

Instead, they ended up in Saber Jin Wanhao’s hands and went through brutal experiments that were much worse than being cut into pieces. Their deaths were also ten times more painful than being cut thousands of times.

A’Ji told Meng Chao and Lu Siya that since thirty years ago, the rumor that the lair was a paradise for crime and a safe haven for wanted criminals had begun circulating in Dragon City.

Many infamous wanted criminals had fled into the lair after they were driven into a corner in the outside world once they committed heinous crimes. They then disappeared without a trace and lived beyond the law.

Hence, the first thought among many of the superhumans was to flee into the lair after they made major mistakes due to entering spirit energy deviation.

What they did not know was that this was a rumor Saber Jin Wanhao had released intentionally.

His goal was to lure all the wanted criminals into the lair so that he could kill them.

The lair was truly a foul place with all sorts of people inside. The environment was bad, and when the secret police or bounty hunters entered this complicated maze, they were usually very confused and had to return empty-handed.

But this was the same for wanted criminals who just arrived.

To avoid being captured by the secret police and the bounty hunters as well as turn all the spoils from their crimes into resources universally used in the lair so that they could continue living luxurious and pleasurable lives, they had to get into contact with the gangs. Some of them even tried getting Saber Jin Wanhao’s protection.

As the master of the lair, Jin Wanhao naturally had plenty of ways to capture the wanted criminals without anyone noticing.

The information and data Meng Chao and Lu Siya found were just the tip of the iceberg.

Over thirty years, Saber Jin Wanhao had captured no fewer than one hundred wanted criminals and sent them all into the “underground grotto”, as Meng Chao put it.

He first used various cruel methods to figure out their hideout's location, then squeezed out the last drop of these evil people's bone marrow and blood to fill up his treasure trove.

After that, he turned those people into cultivation tools. He used them to conduct tests of new fighting styles, spirit energy magnetic fields, and gene medicine.

In conclusion, he did not even waste those people's bones. He insisted on squeezing out all of their value and used them until they were reduced to ashes.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya's hearts filled with fear.

They did not expect that over the past thirty years, countless wanted criminals who everyone thought lived free lives in the lair had been killed by Jin Wanhao.

But the wanted criminals deserved it for what they did.

Jin Wanhao's methods were sinister and brutal, but there was a saying that "A mighty man builds his success on ten thousand corpses". The Underground Emperor had naturally left behind plenty of corpses and spilled a lot of blood to become who he was.

"Based on what you said, over the years, Saber Jin Wanhao didn't kill a single innocent person?" Meng Chao asked tentatively.

"He couldn't avoid killing in fights for control over the lair and his interests in the gray industries," A'Ji said. "But there has never been a normal person or innocent person who appeared in this secret lab. All those who died here are infamous people from the bounty list.

"If you don't believe me, once you leave this place, you can go to the Supernatural Tower's database and search for the information about these wanted criminals. I can promise you that you'll find exactly what I told you.

"You'd know it, too, if you thought about it carefully. There was no need for Jin Wanhao to experiment on normal people.

"They're weak. The martial arts and medicine suitable for them aren't anything that Jin Wanhao would use.

"Besides, even if Jin Wanhao really wanted to test some sort of martial art or medicine on normal people, as long as he was willing to spend money, many volunteers from Leprosy Village and the lair would fight one another to help him. The testing agency and outsourcing service for research subjects in this area are well-developed as well.

"Since there are proper methods, why would he go about it sneakily and do something so inhumane?"

"As for superhumans, if they didn't commit crimes, they would be protected by the Supernatural Tower. Besides, every superhuman has a family and a complicated network of connections. If he captured such superhumans, he might be able to get away with one or two people, but if he captured a lot of them, there's no way he wouldn't leave traces.

“While wanted criminals are hated by everyone. To escape being captured by the secret police and the bounty hunters, they took it to themselves to cut off all their connections with the outside world. They even changed their appearance and threw away their names. Doesn’t that make them the best pray?”

“Even if these people were reduced to ashes in the secret lab and didn’t appear for more than ten years, everyone would just think that they changed their identities and are still living freely in the lair!”

“Tell me, wouldn’t Jin Wanhao just be wasting their identities of wanted criminals if he didn’t capture them and use them for experiments?”

A’Ji cackled.

Even though he was still hung upside down and could not move an arm, his casual demeanor and words that treated the fierce wanted criminals as pigs waiting to be eaten made Meng Chao and Lu Siya’s skin crawl.

Speaking of which, if Saber Jin Wanhao’s cruel experiments only involved evil wanted criminals, Meng Chao really did not find anything wrong with it.

Even though he and Lu Siya were public figures and held the image of model superhumans, they were not actually moral prudes.

To Meng Chao, as long as he could help Dragon City escape from the apocalypse, plenty of things that were considered problems to the world were not actually problems to him.

“So, Jin Wanhao spent his entire life’s blood, sweat, and tears to build this secret lab and killed more than one hundred wanted criminals here? Just what sort of experiments did he conduct that couldn’t be brought to light?” Meng Chao asked patiently.

A’Ji’s eyes roved about. In the end, he stared at Meng Chao.

“What do you think?” A’Ji asked slowly. “Saber Jin Wanhao was someone who had already reached Deity Realm and had unparalleled power. He ruled over the lair and was so rich that he could rival the government. But he was in his twilight years, and all the injuries he gained when he fought and trained madly while young started acting up. His life was about to come to an end. What would the Underground Emperor want the most at such a time?”

Meng Chao pondered this for a while. “Red Brows Su Lun told me that Jin Wanhao built this underground lab as his personal cultivation room and medical room. It was to prolong his life and let him retain some fighting strength.

“He recruited Red Brows Su Lun’s mother for the same reason. After all, she was a talented genius when it came to creating drugs.

“But all that we see isn’t as simple as prolonging someone’s life and helping them retain their fighting strength.”

A’Ji cackled again. “Of course not. The supreme fighters of the older generation, like Saber Jin Wanhao and Battle God Lei Zongchao, are the pioneers of life science and spirit energy martial arts. When they were groping blindly in this area, they did not have anyone providing guidance and giving reminders to them.

“They walked through mountains of corpses. They might have obtained peerless power, but the price was also great. It led to numerous injuries. They not only affected their bones, but were so severe that their cells and souls were affected as well.

“If Saber Jin Wanhao relied on normal medicine and surgery to prolong his life, at most, he would only retain his life. He wouldn’t be able to retain the glory of the Saber and the power of the Underground Emperor. There would even come a day when he would lay paralyzed in bed and struggle to breathe for thirty years before he died. Jin Wanhao would never want that!”

“Then, what did Jin Wanhao want?”

“It’s simple.” A complicated but pleased expression appeared on A’Ji’s face. He said firmly, “Jin Wanhao wanted to regain his youth. He wanted to become young again!”

Meng Chao and Lu Siya were silent for a long time.

For a period of time, they could not tell whether this was a ridiculous joke or a really crazy plan on which the Underground Emperor had actually spent decades, unimaginable effort as well as all his resources.

“Is it really possible for someone to regain their youth?” Meng Chao mumbled.

“Theoretically speaking, why not?” A’Ji said. “Meng Chao, you and the Vortex as well as plenty of other superhumans plus superbeasts have relatively terrifying regeneration abilities.

“When you get wounded, your cells split up, copy each other, and reproduce at a crazy speed so that you will heal swiftly.

“The new skin is as tender as a baby’s. It means that the cells inside have just been born. They’re filled with life and have endless energy.

“Since the cells in your entire body can be regrown, as long as all the cells in your body were switched out at once, why couldn’t you regain your youth and obtain a new life?”

Meng Chao wanted to say that those were two completely different matters, but when he thought about it carefully, in his previous life, he had seen all sorts of strange and amazing creatures in the boundless Other World. Plenty of races had abilities that Earthlings would never dream of possessing while they were on Earth.

The world was large, and all sorts of amazing things existed in it.

And in the Other World, this thing might not be as ridiculous as it sounded.

Besides, Jin Wanhao was the Underground Emperor.

All of the emperors in the past wanted immortality, and it was not strange for Jin Wanhao to have such a desire as well.

### **Chapter 623: It’s Me, But Not Me**

“Then, did he succeed?” Meng Chao could not help but ask.

The moment he heard his own question; however, it sounded like something stupid.



If Saber Jin Wanhao had really managed to regain his youth, he would have both the Underground Emperor's powerful cultivation realm and the physical body of when he was in his twenties or thirties, which would mean that he would be at the prime of his life. It would make him one of the top fighters in Dragon City, and in truth, there wouldn't be anyone who could be his match.

A young Jin Wanhao would never let the Vortex wreak havoc in the lair and do nothing when Golden Tooth was about to fall to ruin.

Yet A'Ji seemed to know all of Jin Wanhao's secrets, and he could even use Celestial Tyrant's Star Shattering Slash. It caused Meng Chao to think that Jin Wanhao's research in regaining his youth did not fail completely.

A'Ji was conflicted once more.

"He succeeded, but he also failed," he said. "Jin Wanhao's original plan was to develop a super cell activation serum to increase his cellular function. Then, with a unique technique, he could increase the fluctuation and circulation of his vitality magnetic field. This would then make his body return to around the time when he was twenty-five years old, which is the period of time when his body was at its best shape.

"The cellular activity, physical strength, and even vitality of a human in his twenties and thirties is the strongest, and with the fighting experience as well as spirit energy martial arts he gained after fighting for decades in a sea of blood, Jin Wanhao would definitely become the strongest superhuman in one go!

"Unfortunately, the medicine to regain youth cannot be easily created.

"Jin Wanhao wasn't a pharmacist. It was by sheer coincidence that he managed to get some bits of technology and formulae that had been lost throughout the ages in the Other World.

"He couldn't leak any of this stuff to other people; otherwise, the nine great mega corporations would covet his belongings and steal from him. The mighty Underground Emperor might even get killed to ensure his silence.

"He could only conduct his own research while searching for trustworthy people who shared his ideals.

"He definitely couldn't find companions like that overnight. He waited for ten whole years before Red Brows Su Lun's mother came along. This genius pharmacist had deep hatred for the nine great mega corporations, and with the condition that he would help her destroy Heaven Pharmaceuticals after this was done, he invited her to join him. They built the underground lab and pushed the research forward.

"Unfortunately, Red Brows Su Lun's mother had used up all her strength to fight against Heaven Pharmaceuticals. After she researched the medicine for Jin Wanhao for a few years, she could no longer withstand the torture of living, and she left the world of her own choice.

"From then on, Jin Wanhao had to resume groping around in the dark by himself, so he naturally made a lot of mistakes. He even entered spirit energy deviation a few times, but luckily for him, the spirit energy deviations were light, and he could use his strong spirit energy to temporarily suppress them.

"Then, on a day a few months ago, when he was conducting his research in the secret lab, he could no longer suppress them. The injuries and wounds that had accumulated for decades and the damage

caused to his body during the spirit energy deviations exploded like a tidal wave and he went through the most dangerous spirit energy deviation in his life.

“At that time, he was creating a medicine that was even more violent than Hell’s Blood.

“He used nearly one hundred violent superbeast materials and high-grade crystals. They were the type of materials that even if they were the size of a fingernail, they could still blast a place apart.

“Jin Wanhao could not control himself after he entered spirit energy deviation. He flailed around, and his spirit flames surged. He knocked over a lot of apparatuses storing those materials and made them shatter. The materials inside all fell on him.

“The semi-completed medicine was mixed among them, and it was crushed by his vitality magnetic field, then absorbed into his body.

“Since there were nearly one hundred energy forces that did not blend with each other running amok in Jin Wanhao’s body, they nearly tore apart every cell in his body. The situation was so dangerous that it was even more terrifying than when you drank Hell’s Blood, Meng Chao.

“Even if Jin Wanhao was the Underground Emperor, he was in so much pain that he fainted.

“He did not have any idea what happened, but when he woke up, he found that he was still alive. But that’s not all, he also discovered to his surprise that his body had gone through astonishing changes. He seemed to have accidentally fulfilled his wish and regained his youth!

“But... But the formula for the medicine was a little too strong. It didn’t make Saber Jin Wanhao regain a physical body that was around twenty-five years old, which was what he wanted the most. Instead, he returned to the time when he was around eight years old!”

“What?!” When Meng Chao and Lu Siya heard his words, they could not help but exclaim. “Are you trying to say that you’re Jin Wanhao?”

The moment they said this, they looked at each other at a loss. They could see the disbelief on each other’s face.

They were not slow-witted people.

The moment they discovered that A’Ji actually knew the secret tunnel to Jin Wanhao’s secret lab and the password to his safe, and even declared himself as the master of the place as well as executed Jin Wanhao’s unique skill—Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash, they knew that this boy definitely had a close tie with Jin Wanhao.

But regaining youth was just too bizarre, and it was difficult for them to accept it immediately.

Besides, Meng Chao felt that A’Ji’s demeanor was completely different from that of the domineering Underground Emperor spoken in legends.

In the beginning, he arrived beside him sneakily like a boy from Leprosy Village who was both cunning and loyal. He had not seemed to be putting up an act, and there were plenty of times when he had shown that he really wanted to help the people there.

While when he executed Celestial Tyrant's Star Shattering Slash and announced his identity, he had an ancient and mighty demeanor, but it looked quite out of place on him, like he was a monkey who had put on a crown and declared itself king.

Of course, this could also be because his face was bruised, and he was hanging upside down.

"I... can't believe it."

Meng Chao drew closer and widened his eyes to observe A'Ji for a long time. But he still could not find any of the domineering air of the Underground Emperor. He asked in puzzlement, "When we first entered the lair to find clues related to Blessed Paradise's murderous pets, Big Sis Ya and I both encountered Saber Jin Wanhao.

"At that time, we didn't see him in person. He was just standing on a building and cast us a cursory glance through a French window, but that one glance made me break out in cold sweat, and I nearly suffocated.

"He was a mighty man of his generation and someone very domineering. Even if he... shrank, he shouldn't be like you."

"That's right," A'Ji said. "I don't think I'm Saber Jin Wanhao either."

Meng Chao was taken aback by his statement.

"If you are, then you are. If you aren't, then you aren't. What do you mean, 'I don't think I am?'" he asked curiously.

"Let me put it this way. Do you think your three-year-old self who was peeing everywhere and playing with mud is the same as your thirty-year-old who is full of ambition and wants to create his own force of power or your eighty-year-old self who is full of sicknesses and has a slow mind? If the souls from these three different stages of life changed with each other, would their thoughts, movements, and will be the same?" A'Ji asked.

This question caused Meng Chao to sink into deep thought.

Perhaps to other people, A'Ji asked an illogical question.

Of course I'm "me". It doesn't matter whether I'm three years old, thirty years old, or eighty years old. In fact, even if I'm three hundred years old, I'd still be "me".

This would probably be what most people would think.

But Meng Chao had come back from the apocalypse, and he had noticed the differences within himself.

After experiencing hell and walking through a sea of blood as well as witnessing Dragon City burning in the flames of the apocalypse, along with all Earthlings being reduced to ashes, he brought with him a slew of nightmarish memories and returned to the time before he took his national college examination. Was that person the same as the him who lived a directionless life and failed his national college examination in his previous life?

Meng Chao did not think so.

In his previous life, he was a harvester at the bottom rank of the entire harvesting circle at this point in time. He was struggling among piles of low-grade monster materials.

At that time, Dragon City faced a crisis when its army was destroyed, and they were forced into a defensive position.

At that time, all his ambition from before his national college examination had been crushed to bits by cruel reality. He just wanted to live a normal life as a normal person. That was his greatest wish.

In this life, he managed to reach Heaven Realm and become the strongest among the Golden Era. He had Superstar, was in control of the Broken Star Club, and had a say in Blue Home. He also had the abnormal beast research department, Sky Pillar Corporation, Agricultural University, and other major forces supporting him. He could mobilize an astonishing amount of connections and resources. If he utilized all his forces, he might even be able to ask one or two Deity Realm superhumans to help him.

He had a chance to live again. If he compared his own lives, even though they were at the same age, the status, power, and authority each had were very different.

Naturally, their personalities, values, ways of thinking, and even the things they would sacrifice their lives to get had changed.

In fact, even their appearances were completely different.

Meng Chao had awakened to supernatural abilities and fought several major battles. He also trained in the wild and had just drunk a lot of Hell's Blood. Right now, he looked like a statue carved out of a Red Radiance Jade and Blue Origin Crystal. He was full of explosive power and vitality. This was something his previous life had not obtained even after training for his entire life.

Meng Chao felt that if his current self ran into his previous life's self on the streets, he would be unable to recognize him.

In truth, he had gradually forgotten what exactly he had been striving for in his previous life when he was at this age.

Even if he knew, it would definitely not be what Apocalyptic Version Meng Chao was after.

Humans were not just made of flesh and blood. Their societal connections also made them who they were. Their thoughts, personalities, and goals were refined by everything they experienced during their long life.

When their experiences changed, everything would become different. After all, one Meng Chao's long life had become a future the other Meng Chao had not experienced yet.

"So, you're really the Underground Emperor after he regained his youth, but you think that you're not the ambitious and ruthless Underground Emperor who is the owner of the lair?"

The gears in Meng Chao's mind turned, and he finally understood what A'Ji meant.

"I knew you'd understand me, Big Brother Chao!" A'Ji's expression changed like he had switched a face. He returned to the expression he used when he just met Meng Chao, and he said in a slightly aggrieved

manner, "I've never lied to you before. A'Ji has always been my real name. Jin Wanhao is the fake name that person gave me.

"If you look at this as a bystander, it's just like you said, Saber Jin Wanhao went through spirit energy deviation and accidentally regained his youth.

"But to me, I'm just nine-years-old. It's just that after I woke up, I found myself lying in a mysterious underground lab and I have these memories that appeared out of nowhere!"

#### **Chapter 624: People Can Display Talents Freely if They Have Sufficient Space**

After saying that, A'ji became worked up.

If he were not bound, he would definitely be flailing his arms.

"At that time, my mind was filled with a lot of questions.

"What? Dragon City transmigrated to this Other World from Earth?

"What? This stupid Other World is filled with zombies and monsters?

"What? I'm actually an old man who is the leader of a gang and commands an entire area?

"What? I've built a secret lab underground and even captured more than one hundred evil wanted criminals to experiment on them?

"Can you imagine what sort of a fierce storm these questions would create in an innocent nine-year-old boy's mind?

"I spent three days and three nights digesting all my memories and slowly accepting reality.

"But even now, I still won't admit that I'm Saber Jin Wanhao. I'm A'Ji. I just want to be A'Ji, a normal boy from Earth!"

Meng Chao and Lu Siya looked at each other.

"Wait. There's something wrong." Meng Chao narrowed his eyes and pointed at A'Ji's silver eye and canine teeth. "A normal boy from Earth would not have a silver eye. Also, what's with those canine teeth of yours? They make you look like a werewolf or a vampire.

"Besides, you can still use Celestial Tyrant's Star Shattering Slash.

"They show that you didn't just return to Jin Wanhao's nine-year-old self. You have a lot of memories and abilities Jin Wanhao had when he was an adult, and you even retained his personality.

"So, if anyone believed that you're an ignorant normal boy from Earth after listening to you, they're as stupid as a pig. They'll also have no idea what is happening after you stabbed them in the back!"

A'Ji's face turned red, and he looked quite embarrassed.

But the next second, he grinned carelessly again.

"As expected of Big Brother Chao, you have a keen eye. I really can't deceive you," A'Ji said. "Alright, I admit it. I'm not really the same as my nine-year-old self from Earth, but I'm really not Underground

Emperor Jin Wanhao, either. If I had to explain it, I'd say that I'm the fusion of the nine-year-old A'Ji and the old Jin Wanhao. I'm a brand new personality!

"In any case, at the moment I entered spirit energy deviation, the circumstances matched, and I regained my youth. The past Saber Jin Wanhao is dead, and this is a fact."

Meng Chao thought about it.

When it came to personalities, the relationship between souls and bodies was deep and profound. For the time being, there was no value in discussing it. It would be better if they focused on more realistic problems.

"Alright, let's say that you're telling the truth, why did you run to Leprosy Village?" Meng Chao asked/ "Wouldn't it have been better for you to stay here and live a comfortable life?"

"No. It's absolutely terrible." A'Ji shook his head. "This place might be hidden, but no matter what, it belongs to the gangs. Even if the door of the secret lab is really sturdy, it will be broken down one of these days. If I stayed here, I'd be a sitting duck.

"But if I snuck into Leprosy Village, I could maintain a certain distance from the gangs. That place is also rather chaotic, so it was easy for me to lurk around there and investigate the secrets in my body. Then, I could think about what I should do and where I should go next.

"So, over the past few months, I spent most of my time in Leprosy Village."

Meng Chao was a little surprised. "You want to break free of the control of the gangs? But you're the master of Golden Tooth, the strongest gang in the lair. Even if you're... tiny now, your fingerprints, irises, and ear shape haven't changed. Your cells and genes haven't changed, either. You could definitely find a way to verify your identity and gather a group of people you could trust."

"Forget it!" A'Ji said with wide eyes. "I finally got rid of my status as the leader of Golden Tooth after so much effort and regained my freedom. There's no way I'd go back to being the Underground Emperor!"

"Isn't... being the Underground Emperor good?"

"It's not the problem of it being nice or not," A'Ji said. "Having glory, power, a nice car, and beautiful ladies is definitely good, but those are meaningless to a nine-year-old boy.

"Besides, even if I still wanted to be the Underground Emperor, my physical condition wouldn't allow it.

"The living environment in the lair is pretty bad, and the competition between the gangs is brutal. This is a small area, and every day, there are bloody fights. All of the mighty-looking gang leaders are terrified in the dark. They constantly risk their lives and live with their necks on the line.

"In the past, Saber Jin Wanhao used his domineering power to suppress the people who refused to bow down to him, including powerful, fierce, and ruthless people like Phantom Bear Xiong Wei. All of them then regarded him as their leader.

"But during this process, he naturally offended a lot of people and created loads of blood feuds that would never end unless he or the other party died.

“When Saber Jin Wanhao showed signs of weakness and was going to die, many of the forces of power became restless. Quite a number of people tried to assassinate him, but since he constantly hid underground, they didn’t find the opportunity to kill him.

“If everyone learned that the powerful and domineering Underground Emperor had turned into a nine-year-old boy, how do you think Jin Wanhao’s enemies, rivals, and competitors would treat me?

“This is especially so when the secret lab and the other secret warehouses still have all the treasures that Jin Wanhao gathered throughout his entire life. Those things could help a nameless nobody become a top-class fighter, and I’m the only one who knows their coordinates, passwords, and the methods to open them.

“If I declared my identity, I’d end up attracting attention, and once that happened, I’d soon end up in a ditch somewhere!”

Those words were logical, and it also showed that A’Ji had a clear understanding of the darkness within human hearts.

Asking a nine-year-old boy to become the gang leader of the strongest gang in the lair was the same as throwing him into a pack of hungry wolves.

“Besides, even if I truly regained all that belonged to Saber Jin Wanhao, it would be meaningless,” A’Ji said. “Jin Wanhao fought for his entire life, but at the end of the day, he only got himself the empty title of the Underground Emperor. It sounds mighty, but he was just the puppet of the nine great mega corporations. He had to go against his own will and help the nine great mega corporations to do dirty, tiring, and dangerous unpresentable work.

“The strongest emotion I received from Jin Wanhao’s memories is his resentment toward the nine great mega corporations. He constantly wanted to break free from the control of the mega corporations, but all of Dragon City belongs to them. He couldn’t do anything, not when he lived in the society they ruled. So, there was no way for him to escape from the mega corporations’ palms.

“But now, things are different for me. I’m reborn, my appearance has changed, and no one knows who I am. That’s the same as me having all the room to do whatever I want. Only an idiot would go back to take Jin Wanhao’s identity. It would be the same as jumping into a trap!”

Meng Chao cast Lu Siya a glance.

He could finally understand where A’Ji’s hostility toward Lu Siya came from.

Lu Siya just kept listening quietly. She did not bat an eye nor show her stance or attitude on the matter.

Even when A’Ji said that all of Dragon City belonged to the mega corporations, she said nothing.

“So, you snuck out through this secret tunnel and went to Leprosy Village?” Meng Chao asked.

A’Ji nodded. “Saber Jin Wanhao built that tunnel in secret a long time ago. The initial goal was to have a backdoor. That way, when he said that he went into isolated training, he could escape from the ears and eyes of Golden Tooth and run off to capture wanted criminals and bring them here for his experiments.

“After I was ‘reborn’, I was panicking, but I also knew that I couldn’t let any outsider know anything regarding the secret lab.

“Coincidentally, there was an evil criminal who hadn’t died yet, but was on the verge because of the torture Saber Jin Wanhao subjected him to. I used him as Jin Wanhao’s substitute and lied to Red Brows Su Lun through the door of the lab.

“Honestly, my lie was very bad, and with Red Brows Su Lun’s intellect, he should have seen a lot of flaws in it. At that time, I was really scared and worried that he would summon a large group of Golden Tooth members to charge in regardless of the cost. I even made the decision to give up on everything in the secret lab and run away with the most valuable cultivation resources.

“To my surprise, Red Brows Su Lun accepted everything that I said and didn’t suspect any of it. He even helped me handle the affairs in Golden Tooth. My identity wasn’t exposed in the slightest.”

Meng Chao thought about it and could not help but laugh.

Humans would only believe in the things that they wanted to believe.

Red Brows Su Lun was definitely smart, but at that time, his focus was on the Vortex’s scheme.

He longed for Saber Jin Wanhao to really be paralyzed in bed and in a state of near death. He wished for him to be comatose.

As long as Jin Wanhao was really curled up in the underground lab, Red Brows Su Lun did not care about his true condition.

In any case, if the Vortex succeeded in its plan, the lair would be in chaos. Even if Jin Wanhao is resurrected from the dead, he would be unable to do anything.

“After I was done setting things up in the secret lab, I left the place through the secret tunnel and went to Leprosy Village,” A’Ji said. “The old village chief of Leprosy Village was once a comrade of Saber Jin Wanhao. They had fought side by side back then and kept in close contact over the years. Jin Wanhao had also given a lot of help to Leprosy Village. Of course, he only provided what he could within his power, but even so, without him, the descendants of the infectees would not have been able to survive to this date.

“Compared to the jackals in the gangs, I trusted the old village chief more.

“Of course, I wasn’t as stupid as to meet the old village chief directly. I just used Jin Wanhao’s name to indirectly ask for some help.

“At that time, I still hadn’t figured out what I wanted to do and what path I should take. I only wanted to recover some of the Saber’s strength so that I could protect myself. Also, I wanted a new identity in Leprosy Village. It didn’t need to be a legal identity, either. As long as it made sense and sounded plausible, it would do.”

### **Chapter 625: Made a Mistake, But There Are Still Benefits**

A’Ji told Meng Chao that there were plenty of orphans who lost their parents since young, so forget about having a legal identity, they did not even have proper names.



Some of them were going around stealing stuff and performing illegal wealth transferring businesses to keep themselves alive. Others worked in the production lines of illegal workshops and carried out strenuous and dangerous tasks.

Besides, due to the genetic modifications from the zombie virus, they suffered from all sorts of innate diseases.

Many of the children were like weeds. They grew without a sound and died just as silently.

A'Ji's goal was to take over one of them and live a brand new life.

"This dazzling world where the good and bad live together is completely different from the Earth in my memories. It's like I left my home planet just yesterday," A'Ji said and sighed. "Earth is definitely not a perfect heaven either. There were plenty of problems in it, like the difference between the rich and the poor.

"But on Earth, the difference between the rich and poor wasn't as great as it is in Dragon City.

"In the current Dragon City, the wealthy who stand at the top have the power to destroy the world. They're the same as supernatural beings, and have even declared themselves as the guardians of all humans. Even the Survival Committee is something they set up and control.

"As for the poor in Leprosy Village, they're deformed, ugly, and live in poverty. They're squashed up in cramped nests like bees and ants. They're willing to do everything for a can of earthworm meat. Even if one hundred or one thousand of such poor people surged up, they couldn't win against the rich superhumans. In other words, they don't have the power to change the rules of the game.

"After living here for a while, I began to understand why Saber Jin Wanhao was so angry in the past and so averse to the nine great mega corporations. I also understood why he tried everything he could to break free of the mega corporations' control.

"I haven't figured out what path I want to take yet, but I'm on the same vein as the Saber Jin Wanhao in the past when it comes to breaking free from the mega corporations' control.

"That's why I was reluctant to reveal my identity. I've made my decision to let Jin Wanhao die.

"The current me has inherited some of Jin Wanhao's experiences and spirit energy martial arts, so I'm naturally stronger than normal nine-year-old children.

"I believed that as long as I could gather all the secret treasures Jin Wanhao accumulated and hide in Leprosy Village while training quietly for a few years, I would have a chance to do something shocking.

"With Saber Jin Wanhao's experiences, I would definitely surpass the Underground Emperor and live a life with more freedom and satisfaction.

"But I didn't expect that the monster civilization's claws would stretch into the lair and turn Leprosy Village into the main battleground.

"Honestly, I had a faint inkling about Red Brows Su Lun's abnormality and the Vortex's actions in the lair. If I were the past Saber Jin Wanhao, I'd definitely have been able to see the full picture of their scheme and thought of a way to handle the situation.

“But the problem is, I’m not Jin Wanhao, and I’ve been spending all my energy on researching how I’m supposed to inherit the power he left behind. I was oblivious to what was happening, which was why I missed the best chance and only came to realize what was happening around me when Leprosy Village was affected by the explosion!”

When Meng Chao heard this, he thought, ‘Oh, thank goodness’.

Thank goodness that A’Ji was not Saber Jin Wanhao.

Otherwise, A’Ji would have instantly seen through him when he smeared Red Radiance Jade powder on his shoulder. After all, it was a low-class trick.

“Once I noticed that the monster civilization had infiltrated the lair en masse, I was anxious,” A’Ji continued. “No matter what, the lair is my home. It’s a place that houses all my memories. Besides, during the few months since I regained my youth, I made some friends in Leprosy Village. When I told you that I’m Three Fingers Feng’s lackey, I wasn’t truly lying to you. I did indeed get to know quite a number of Three Fingers Feng’s thieves and become really good friends with them. Unfortunately, all of them died in the explosion.

“Also, there were plenty of valuable treasures, cultivation resources, and research data stored in the secret lab under Golden Tooth, including the seven vials of Hell’s Blood. All of them were good stuff that you couldn’t buy with money. They were also the tool necessary for me to rise to power once again with another identity as well as Saber Jin Wanhao’s greatest secret.

“On top of that, if anyone with ill intentions looked around the place, it wouldn’t take them long to figure out that the person lying in the medical cabin isn’t Jin Wanhao, so they would realize that there was a high possibility that the real Jin Wanhao was still alive as a young adult or a child. This would bring me endless trouble.

“I couldn’t just watch everything end up in other people’s hands. It wouldn’t matter whether they would end up in the hands of the monster civilization or the mega corporations. I couldn’t let either of them have any of my stuff.

“I had to solve the crisis in the lair and snatch all of my data and secrets in the lab before anyone opened it.

“The problem was, I’m too weak. Even though my physical constitution and cultivation potential are far better than those of a normal boy and I can use amazing skills like Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash if I’m really driven into a corner, you saw what happens to me if I’m forced to use it.

“In this state, it was impossible for me to use my own strength to fight against the fierce monsters and rich corporations.”

When Meng Chao heard this, he finally understood what had happened. “And coincidentally, you ran into me. You then decided to use me to achieve your goals?”

“Big Brother Chao, don’t say that I wanted to use you, that sounds horrible. Our goals were the same, since we both were trying to save the lair. That’s why you should say that we were helping each other and fighting side by side!” A’Ji smiled wanly.

"I intended to return to the secret lab and snatch Hell's Blood and the other important and expensive cultivation resources in the secret lab while you exposed Red Brows Su Lun's true colors in Mutual Gold Coliseum and attracted everyone, as well as the Vortex's, attention. Then, I'd destroy a lot of the evidence so that people would think that Jin Wanhao was really dead.

"I didn't expect that the Vortex's goal would have been this place from the start. I ran into it by sheer chance, and both of you caught up to me like shadows. I fought against the Vortex, and both of you ended up benefiting from it. In the end, the Hell's Blood that Saber Jin Wanhao gathered and created through massive effort helped you!"

A'Ji looked gloomy.

Every part of his face screamed that his heart was bleeding for his loss.

It was just as A'Ji said, the entire mess was built upon all sorts of coincidences, and they benefited because of a series of mistakes. It was truly due to pure coincidence that this happened.

If the Vortex learned about why its scheme failed, it might cough up blood and would not be able to rest in peace.

"So, Big Sis Ya, did you find anything strange in his words?" Meng Chao whispered.

"No," Lu Siya said. "He even mentioned such a shocking secret, so I don't think this boy still has anything to hide."

She smiled and suddenly reached out to pinch A'Ji's face.

A red mark instantly appeared on A'Ji's face, and he was in so much pain that tears sprung up in his eyes. He struggled and said, "What are you doing?!"

"It's nothing. It's just that you chased me out of the lair last time, and I had to leave dejectedly. I never dreamed that there would come a day when I could pinch the legendary Underground Emperor's face." Lu Siya pinched him again, and A'Ji screeched. Then, she grinned and said, "The feeling's not bad."

"Um..." Meng Chao found himself speechless.

He knew that Lu Siya was quite petty.

When they were investigating the case of Blessed Paradise's murderous pets, they did not say anything to Saber Jin Wanhao before entering. They rashly went into the lair to catch their suspect and caused a major ruckus.

Even though Meng Chao had informed Shen Yupeng beforehand, and Shen Yupeng obtained Jin Wanhao's permission, Lu Siya did not know about it, so when she left the lair, she looked quite miserable.

Ever since the Queen Bee made her debut, this was one of the few shameful memories that she had.

Right now, Jin Wanhao was gone and had become A'Ji, which left him in the petty hands of Lu Siya...

Meng Chao cleared his throat and stood between Lu Siya and A'Ji.

“Say, Big Sis Ya, we still haven’t asked the most important question!”

Meng Chao took A’Ji down and removed all the chains and shackles. He also injected a high-calorie nutritional fluid into him and took out some medical ointment, which he smeared evenly on his arms so that they would not suffer from necrosis and have to be amputated.

They had already recovered almost entirely in the medical cabin, so they were not afraid of A’Ji, because they were going to fight together if he tried anything.

“If it’s really as you said, then you never did anything inhumane, and I have no reason to treat you as my enemy.” Meng Chao stared at the X-shaped eye on A’Ji’s chest. “But you must tell us what the thing that appeared in the bubbles of the Vortex’s carcass is, and what is the meaning behind the tattoo on your chest?”

A’Ji instinctively tried to cover the tattoo on his chest, but he soon realized that no matter how he tried, he could not cover it.

He sighed like an old man and lowered his hand.

“I don’t know what those bubbles were either,” A’Ji said. “Before this, I’ve never seen a life form as bizarre as the Vortex.”

“But you recognized the figure that was formed by the bubbles, right?” Meng Chao said. “I noticed that when you saw the figure in the bubbles, your expression and demeanor changed completely. Who is that girl, and why did she call you her big brother?”

A’Ji sucked in a deep breath. A pained expression appeared on his face, and he mumbled, “I don’t know. I really don’t. Based on the fragmented memories I have of Saber Jin Wanhao’s life, he did have a younger sister, but she’s already dead. She died decades ago.”

## **Chapter 626: Mystery of the Apocalypse**

Meng Chao and Lu Siya looked at each other.

Meng Chao thought about it, then asked tentatively, “Is your sister’s death related to the tattoo on your chest?”

A’Ji cast a profound glance at Meng Chao, then retorted. “Why do you think it’s related? It seems like you’ve been very bothered by the tattoo on my chest from the start.”

Meng Chao found himself momentarily stunned. He then gave a perfunctory answer. “I just think that this tattoo is really unique and gives off an enigmatic, bone-chilling feeling, so I was just asking.”

“You’re right.” A’Ji lowered his head and looked at the X-shaped eye on his chest. His fingertips trembled. He wanted to touch it, but did not dare to.

Pain appeared on his face, along with fear. He mumbled, “Honestly, this isn’t a tattoo, but a curse. It’s a curse that appeared because of my blood!”

Meng Chao’s pupils narrowed. He asked, “What do you mean? You didn’t receive this tattoo from someone?”

“No.”

A’Ji’s gaze became unfocused, as if he was looking at a spot so far away that no one could possibly measure the distance. It seemed like he was immersed in a fragmented, bloody memory and could not remove himself from it.

After a long time, he mumbled, “After I became young again, the brain cells storing my memories must have withered and died. The brand new brain cells contained a lot of vitality, but I lost many of the memories about what happened during the past few decades, so much so that I only remember the things that left the deepest impressions on Saber Jin Wanhao, along with important coordinates, passwords, martial arts, and other information.

“And these memories are like pearls from a shattered pearl necklace. Each pearl is spread out and spinning madly in my brain. They’re all confusing, and I can’t make sense of them.

“I feel like I woke up in an underground cave the end of which cannot be seen. All I can see is just the water in the cave forming mottled and swaying reflections on the cave’s wall.

“Slowly, I reconnected all my memory fragments together.

“The first thing I did after I left the secret lab was use every method at my disposal to search for information from all parties. I wanted to know just what happened to Dragon City and ‘me’ during the past half a century or so. I also wanted to know about the world I was in and how it turned from the normal and peaceful city on Earth to this.

“Unfortunately, it didn’t matter whether it were the stories from the media, TV, internet, or the grapevine, all of them were not detailed and clashed with the fragmented memories in my head.

“After the Survival Committee was formed, the mega corporations led the citizens to counterattack. They expanded their territory and marched forward boldly. This period of history was recorded clearly.

“The creators of the mega corporations are hailed as heroes, guardians, and Deity Realm elites. Everyone knows about them.

“Even three-year-old children know about how the nine great mega corporations rescued our civilization from the depths of danger and allowed us to rise back to power and conquer the Other World.

“But before the Survival Committee formed was the time when Dragon City had just transmigrated. The zombie virus ran amok, and societal order was gone. The entire city was a bloody place where only the law of the jungle was observed. Very few talked about this period of history. And even if they did, they only did it briefly. They were very vague.

“It’s like an ugly and deformed scar. Even if it still hurts under the scab, as long as we don’t look at it and even cover it up with concealer, we can pretend that it doesn’t exist.”

Meng Chao and Lu Siya were silent.

The first ten years when Dragon City had just transmigrated were ten years that they could not bear to look back upon.

When they had just transmigrated to the Other World, the elites who once protected Dragon City while on Earth faced death fearlessly one after another so that Dragon City could survive the shocking and mysterious viruses from the Other World. In the end, all of them lost their lives within a few short years.

Because of their sacrifice, countless Dragon City citizens were able to live through the disaster that was transmigration.

However, as the elites from Earth died and the old order crumbled, Dragon City soon entered a period of societal upheaval and lawlessness. It was basically the end of the world.

Due to the threats from viruses, zombies, and the lack of resources, no one knew whether they could survive till tomorrow or even the next second.

For a packet of compressed biscuits that was long past its due date or water recycled from urine, hundreds of people instantly turned into raving monsters. They tore at each other's flesh, ate each other's bones, and dug out each other's organs.

In the end, no one cared about the compressed biscuits.

The warm flesh and blood was much tastier than compressed biscuits.

When some of the humans awakened to all sorts of supernatural abilities due to the stimulation of the viruses in the Other World, they occupied territories and proclaimed themselves the rulers of those areas. They formed tribes and gangs, and some form of order finally returned.

But this order was not formed by using the laws and morals from 21st century Earth as a basis. These rules did not treat everyone as equals.

Instead, they regressed to the time before Christ, to the time of slavery. They might even be said to have returned to the time of primitive societies that was far older than the era of slavery and where humans still acted like savages.

Those who awakened to supernatural abilities were the powerful, and the powerful could do whatever they wanted to the weak.

The evil nature of these "things" were something that even if all the Apocalyptic Beasts from Monster Mountain Range gathered together and wreaked their brains for ten days and ten nights, none of them would be able to come up with such acts.

That period of time was the most shameful period of time since Dragon City transmigrated.

It was so bad that when the Survival Committee was formed and humans gradually brought back the old order and started acting like civilized, moral people again, everyone unanimously decided to forget about this shameful history.

Even though the people who committed those heinous crimes during the bloody era were not the humans who built the Survival Committee and ruled over the current Dragon City, at the end of the day, they were still humans.

If they were too set upon the details of the bloody era, they would make the people of the current era aware that humans were no different from monsters.

No, there were plenty of times when the creatures hidden under human skin were far more terrifying than Apocalyptic Beasts.

After all, monsters would only kill when they were hungry or their territories were infringed upon.

But humans needed no reason to kill.

“Looks like you have an idea about what Dragon City was like before the Survival Committee was built.”

A’Ji was immersed in Saber Jin Wanhao’s memories, and his tone was completely different from how he usually sounded as the boy from Leprosy Village. It was hoarse and deep, as if it came from a hole that led straight to the center of the planet. “Then, you must know how spirit energy martial arts came to be, right?”

Meng Chao pondered over this for a while, then said, “Based on what the government told us, the first spirit energy martial art was something Battle God Lei Zongchao accidentally understood when he had an epiphany.

“There are still plenty of the formulae, force execution methods, and spirit meridian circulation systems created by Lei Zongchao from when he first created spirit energy martial arts in the museums of Dragon City.”

A’Ji cackled like a crow and asked, “Do you believe what the government said?”

Meng Chao shook his head. “I believed in it fully in the past, but now, I don’t quite believe it. Spirit energy martial arts, or rather, the entire spirit energy cultivation system is profound and covers a lot of areas. Even with the use of countless superhumans’ wisdom, all we understand of it is still the tip of the iceberg. So no matter how talented Lei Zongchao is, it’s impossible for him to have thought of such a... huge, profound, and terrifying entity!”

“That’s right. The spirit energy martial arts created at the start weren’t created by Lei Zongchao alone. In fact, he wasn’t even the creator of the spirit energy martial arts. He was just a research subject.”

A’Ji stopped talking for a while, as if he had made his final decision. He hissed, “Lei Zongchao, my sister, and I were all unwilling research subjects to test out spirit energy martial arts!”

“What?!”

Meng Chao’s heart raced.

The progress for the Mystery of Supernatural Entities increased by 1%, and reached 72%!

Even Lu Siya held her breath.

Clearly, she had never heard of this matter from Sky Pillar Corporation, Lu family, and her grandfather, who was one of the ten supreme elites who created the Survival Committee.

“Based on what I saw from Saber Jin Wanhao’s fragmented memories, the first ten years after Dragon City transmigrated to the Other World was the bloodiest and most chaotic ten years ever since it came here. Order collapsed, and all morals were lost. Humans regressed into monsters, or rather, humans

have always been monsters, it's just that this nature was sealed by the morals and laws on Earth. We used them to conceal our true nature.

"After transmigration, we were just beaten back to our original form," A'Ji murmured. "But as the brutal law of the jungle eliminated the weak, new order and forces of power slowly took shape. Of course, that was a really distorted form of order, and the forces of power were really terrifying as well.

"Among them, the strongest force of power was known as Blood Alliance!"

Meng Chao and Lu Siya looked at each other at a loss.

There were plenty of gangs created decades ago that were still alive after they changed their image.

Sky Pillar, Universe, Heaven, Soaring Dragon, Thundercloud. Anyone could find these mega corporations' roots in the gangs created during the first apocalypse.

Gangs like Golden Tooth, Black Bone, and Poison Scorpion did not even bother to change their names and were practically living fossils.

However, Meng Chao and Lu Siya had never heard of Blood Alliance before.

"Today, Blood Alliance is long gone, vanished without a trace. The Survival Committee intentionally locked down the information and wrote it out of history books, so few people have ever heard of the name," A'Ji said. "But based on Saber Jin Wanhao's memories, Blood Alliance was the strongest force and the very first one to rise to power in Dragon City during the apocalypse.

"The original gangs of the mega corporations and the gangs in the lair had either not been formed at that time, or submitted to the might of Blood Alliance. They could only hide and tremble in fear before it.

"And Blood Alliance was able to rise to power and dominate over Dragon City because it occupied the ancient ruins under the center of Dragon City!"

Meng Chao and Lu Siya gasped.

Everyone knew that there was a ruin left by an ancient civilization under Dragon City.

Right then, the Supernatural Tower, which was seen as the spirit and symbol of strength of Dragon City, stood above those ancient ruins.

To a certain degree, the Supernatural Tower was a huge lab researching the ancient ruins.

Most of the spirit energy martial arts, runic symbol technology, and biochemical technology that the current Dragon Citizens were in control of came from underground. They just modified it a little after they received enlightenment from the ancient civilization.

Who would have known that Dragon Citizens had discovered those ancient ruins in the early stages of their transmigration and began exploring them.

## **Chapter 627: Blood Alliance**

"When Dragon City just transmigrated to the Other World, it went through a vicious geographic change.



“A lot of towering mountains suddenly appeared at the borders of Dragon City and tore the skyscrapers that originally stood on flat land to shreds.

“Plenty of areas in Dragon City that suddenly sank, forming really complicated underground mazes. There were also cracks that were so deep that they might as well lead straight to hell,” A’Ji said tirelessly.

“A strange fog containing mysterious energy gushed out of those cracks, causing many areas in Dragon City to have such low visibility that nothing could be seen. They turned into chaotic battlefields where all information was cut off, and we couldn’t even communicate with the people inside.

“When other Earthlings accidentally entered those places, they were either infected by the ancient viruses that had just dethawed and were reactivated, thus turning into unrecognizable monsters, or were eaten by monsters and digested in their bellies.

“In truth, Dragon City was treated as an important place for military affairs, various industries, and scientific research while it was on Earth.

“Back then, Earth was in turmoil, and a world war could start at any moment. In fact, we even considered the risk of a full on nuclear war.

“Dragon City had always had a large military base underground. There was an armory down there, along with industrial facilities. There was also a shocking number of trained soldiers stationed there. All of these were prepared for the possibility of a new era after a nuclear war when we would have to rebuild our home on wastelands filled with radiation.

“If the disaster Dragon City encountered was as simple as running into zombie viruses after we transmigrated, we could get rid of all the zombies with the army in just a few months. After all, they’re slow, and their flesh is rotting away. We wouldn’t even need to waste a single bullet and could use our tanks to squash them into pulp. Then, Dragon City wouldn’t have descended into a bloody era when order collapsed and humanity was lost.

“The problem was, the things that gushed out of the ancient ruins were one hundred times more terrifying than just zombies. They were even more horrifying than the monsters, superbeasts, and abnormal beasts that we face today, too. They were legitimate demonic creatures!

“Since most of the army in Dragon City was stationed underground, when Dragon City transmigrated and the terrain changed, the seal over the ancient ruins was released, and the army was the first to be affected. It was attacked by the ancient virus and the demonic creatures.

“Saber Jin Wanhao didn’t know what exactly happened.

“But based on the bits of clues left, he had his guesses. The army had fought to the death against the ancient demonic creatures under Dragon City. They fought until the last soldier lost his final drop of blood, and it was only then that they managed to control the ancient power and ensure that Dragon City wouldn’t be destroyed overnight the first year after it transmigrated.

“But once the army ran out of ammunition and was destroyed, the last bit of strength maintaining order was gone, and the lawless apocalypse officially descended among us!”

Meng Chao felt his heart race as he listened.

A'Ji's words answered many of the questions that had been bothering him for a long time.

He had been a core member of Blue Home for some time and had joined quite a number of activities to reminisce about the good old days on Earth.

One of the important segments of such activities was to admire the powerful military strength of Dragon City's origin country.

Apparently, the country which had birthed Dragon City had top-tier military back on Earth.

The so-called steel army was only used as a slogan to motivate people in the current Dragon City, but when they were on the beautiful planet known as Earth, it was an undeniable truth.

And Dragon City was one of the most important military bases in the country. Logically speaking, they should have had a lot of trained soldiers when they just transmigrated.

Up to this date, Dragon Citizens could also still use the armories and weapons factories that came with them from Earth.

These armories had everything, and they were kept in perfect condition until this date. But where were all the trained soldiers who could use these weapons?

The government mentioned that the trained soldiers of the old age died fighting against the zombie virus and during the battle when Red Dragon River raged in the early days of their transmigration.

But Meng Chao was skeptical about that.

During the early days of Dragon City's transmigration, the zombie virus had yet to mutate. At that time, even if Earthlings were infected and turned into zombies, they were the most low-grade zombies. It was just like A'Ji said, they were slow creatures with rotting flesh, weak joints, and no intelligence whatsoever.

Even if a normal citizen swung his lawnmower, they could still easily win against a horde of zombies.

How could trained soldiers die against such things?

"Ancient demonic creatures, huh?" Meng Chao mumbled.

Ever since he saved the transmigration experts in Noble Descent Hotel, he gained the chance to get in-depth knowledge about controllable transmigration technology.

It was one of the many projects in the ancient ruins research center, which was built above the ancient ruins.

The transmigration experts had once come up with a crazy theory.

They believed that Dragon City transmigrated to the Other World because there was a transmigration engine located deep beneath Dragon City.

This engine could shift between a physical state and a state of pure energy without losing any components. It could also move through high dimensional space and launch a city—the crystallization of a civilization—to the other side of the galaxy.

In other words, Dragon City was a galactic spaceship left by the ancient civilization.

The Other World was also a huge mothership of the ancient civilization. In fact, the entire planet could be considered its base.

Meng Chao did not know how believable this hypothesis was.

But based on his previous life's memories, the creatures of the Other World were not normal carbon-based life-forms born naturally in nature. There were elves who could live for thousands of years, fire demons who could move freely in magma, dwarves who lived in backwards societies but could create amazing weapons and had bodies that made no scientific sense whatsoever.

The Other World, perhaps even Earth, might have been enlightened before by some really advanced ancient civilization. The impact from it lasted until this day, and this was an undeniable truth.

Then, it was not difficult to imagine that the ancient civilization would station ancient demonic creatures as guards, who could wake up even after being sealed for billions of years.

The martyrs must have fought fiercely against the ancient demonic creatures to protect Dragon City. How shocking and soul-stirring were those battles, and how great of a price did they pay?

Meng Chao clenched his fists and sucked in a deep breath to use the cold air to cool his burning blood. "Continue. What happened next?"

"No one knows whether it was because the ancient virus got in contact with fresh air for too long and began to slowly weaken or whether the trained army killed all the people who had turned into demonic creatures after they were infected by the ancient virus, but in any case, the ancient ruins calmed down once more, and the level of danger from those bottomless cracks reduced drastically," A'Ji said.

"But there were people who were infected by zombie viruses after they were attacked by zombies outside. They might have reduced the enemy to bloody ribbons and were still alive, but everyone knew they were about to turn into zombies.

"There were also people who were reduced to outcasts who had to live in endless fear because they angered an entire community or offended someone they shouldn't have when they were fighting for food or clear water.

"There were even people who heard a strange voice when they were dreaming at night. They saw distorted runic symbols and bizarre pictures, causing them to be unable to hold back their curiosity toward the cracks and have an uncontrollable urge to go in. Everyone called this sort of situation the Ancient Ruins' Summon.

"All those who hear the Ancient Ruins' Summon acted like they were hypnotized. Their minds became occupied by the ruins, and they did whatever it took to go and explore the cracks.

"In time, the people who had nowhere to go, the people who were being hunted, and the people who heard the Ancient Ruins' Summon all went deep underground to explore the ruins.

“Even though the traps and blockades around the ancient ruins had been destroyed or removed by the army and the infected and fatality rate of the ancient virus had decreased by leaps and bounds, exploring the enigmatic, forbidden area was still really dangerous.

“From Saber Jin Wanhao’s memories, I can see that the ancient ruins is divided into different areas.

“Some of the areas are complicated and so dark that they can even absorb all forms of light. Humans can only rely on their hearing and sense of touch to go forward. It’s very easy to get trapped in there and end up as a skeleton or dust.

“Some of the areas are primitive caves. Numerous runic symbols are carved on their walls. At first glance, they’re not dangerous at all, but each runic symbol contains really profound and unfathomable secrets. They can easily suck a person’s soul inside, and there were actually some people who became mentally incapacitated after looking at the runic symbols. They wouldn’t eat, drink, or sleep. They just insisted on examining them until they died of hunger and turned into skeletons.

“There are also areas with balls of energy that look like will-o’-the-wisps. Some of the lucky people can touch these energy balls and absorb the surging spirit energy into their bodies, which instantly turns them into first-class fighters. But most people were unlucky souls who assimilated with the energy balls and were instantly reduced to ashes. They, too, became swaying will-o’-the-wisps.

“Certain areas look normal. All they have are two tunnels that appear the same. But when the explorers go inside, they disappear instantly. After three-to-five minutes, they reappear. However, the young adults who were around thirty come out as old people with wrinkly skin. According to them, they had been running for decades in a tunnel without end!

“There are even areas that swallow up explorers. They only reappear after around thirty years, but they look just as they did when they disappeared. According to them, they had only stayed for a short time in the ancient ruins, but during that time, they felt as if they had been transported to the end of the galaxy, where they witnessed a mighty battle!

“In any case, most of the explorers who went deep into the ancient ruins died untimely deaths.

“But a small portion of the people who survived managed to master what is known as supernatural power to different degrees.

“They were the first batch of superhumans.

“Unfortunately, most of these superhumans weren’t good people.

“If we tried to explain what happened to them with modern life science theories, it would be that their brains were severely affected by the magnetic fields in the ancient ruins when they were exploring the place. They also saw all sorts of profound and nameless things, causing their mental strength indexes to collapse, and they became lunatics with twisted minds.

“They had spirit energy in their bodies, but they didn’t have the corresponding spirit energy magnetic fields to restrain them, and they didn’t have any secret techniques to refine their minds and will. They couldn’t control their power and turned into its slaves.

“At that time, the world outside had already turned into a lawless, bloody place that obeyed the rules of the jungle.

“The people who obtained supernatural powers from the ancient ruins naturally became the kings at the top of the food chain.

“When others saw how these people flaunted their strength and used all sorts of unbelievable powers, they heard from the grapevine that this strength came from the ancient ruins, so they wanted to enter the cracks to explore the place as well.

“After all, no matter how dangerous the ancient ruins were, there was a chance that they would survive, and if they did, they would gain supernatural powers.

“Their lives were worthless, anyway. Entering the underground and risking their lives was better than killing each other or waiting to be killed outside.

“But the first batch of people who entered the ancient ruins and got lucky would, of course, not let others touch the ancient ruins so easily.

“To monopolize the right to explore and develop the ancient ruins, the first batch of explorers who left the ancient ruins alive formed a large and evil organization. They named it Blood Alliance!”

#### **Chapter 628: Birth of the Battle God**

Meng Chao and Lu Siya exchanged a glance.

Neither of them expected that the Dragon City before the Survival Committee was created would have had such a secret.

So, this was how the ancient ruins was discovered.

“There are two main reasons behind why Blood Alliance was created,” A’Ji continued. “First, it’s to work together to stop all other people from touching the ancient ruins and ensure that there will be no superhumans aside from those belonging to Blood Alliance. This would help Blood Alliance in its quest to take full control of Dragon City in the apocalypse, and from there, they could create a brand new civilization with Blood Alliance members at its center.

“Second, and most importantly, Blood Alliance could capture a lot of innocent citizens to either tempt or coerce them into carrying out new exploration attempts in the ancient ruins.

“Most of the innocent citizens didn’t end up well. It’s just like I said, they either died untimely deaths or turned into monstrous existences because they ran into some mysterious power that humans couldn’t withstand in the depths of the ruins.

“There were only a few lucky ones who obtained supernatural power.

“But they were alone and had no weapons. How could they fight against the Blood Alliance members who were waiting for them? Even if they had gained great power and could control fire and water or had super fast regeneration abilities, the moment they left the ancient ruins, they were captured by the armed Blood Alliance members.

“Then, the Blood Alliance members would filter out the new superhumans.

“If they shared the same interests as them, they would have to go through a series of tests. They had to slaughter a large number of innocent citizens, which was called the Blood Oath and was the proof of allegiance for robbers of ancient times. With this method, the leaders could twist the new people’s personalities and destroy their humanity. After the ceremony, the new superhumans naturally become new members of Blood Alliance.

“But there were a few who retained their humanity after they lived through the dangers of the ancient ruins and awakened to supernatural abilities. They did not want to kill innocent people and didn’t manage to pass Blood Alliance’s test. Some of them were believed to be too wild and untameable and too resistant, so they were dangerous to the alliance.

“Such people were sent into the ancient ruins once more. They had to carry out more and more dangerous explorations or stay locked in research labs where they had to withstand torture worse than death.

“I remember that my sister— No, Saber Jin Wanhao’s sister, Lei Zongchao, and I belonged to the second group.”

A’Ji’s eyelids began twitching viciously.

A fine layer of cold sweat appeared on his forehead.

He did not notice that he was trembling slightly, as if he was immersed in a nightmare that he could not forget even if he was torn to shreds.

“I’ve already forgotten what sort of terrifying torture Saber Jin Wanhao went through in Blood Alliance’s lab,” A’Ji said airily. “All I have are fragmented memories. I only remember blurry bits and pieces.

“When it came to the research regarding the ancient ruins, Blood Alliance used innocent lives brazenly, so their research progress was very fast.

“They found that some people have really strong immunity and adaptability to the ancient viruses in the ruins and the zombie virus that was common in the Other World. Even if they were infected by around eighteen viruses, they didn’t die. They still retained their human form and mind. At most, they went through small changes, such as their eye turning silver or their teeth becoming much sharper.

“Some people were very suited to the environment in the ancient ruins. When others touched the will-o’-the-wisps, they burst into flames, but when these lucky souls could absorb the will-o’-the-wisps and turn them into spirit energy to be stored in their bodies.

“Others’ souls were sucked into the profound and unfathomable runic symbols on the wall, so they forgot about eating and drinking for days and nights until they died. But some lucky few were enlightened after they entered a meditative state and thought about the runic symbols as they stared at them. They just needed to meditate for a few hours, or at most one day and night, and they got to understand amazing skills from the ancient civilization.

“Others were torn to shreds by demonic creatures infected by the ancient viruses while exploring the complicated underground maze, but these lucky souls could slaughter their way out of a sea of corpses.

They also unlocked new spirit energy martial arts in their battle, and their fighting strength just kept on increasing.

“Naturally, Blood Alliance wanted to figure out why those lucky people were special.

“Just what was it that made these lucky people different from normal people?

“Jin Wanhao’s sister, Lei Zongchao, and I were among those lucky people.

“Heh. ‘Lucky people’. These words are so ironic. When we managed to escape from the ancient ruins by sheer chance, what awaited us wasn’t a bright future, but Blood Alliance’s lab. We had to face the chilling experiment machines and pain so great that we felt like we were being cut to pieces.

“Sometimes, the people from Blood Alliance made multiple wounds on our bodies to test the gene medicine they created and how fast we would heal.

“Sometimes, they locked us up with demonic creatures infected by the ancient viruses so that we would help them explore brand new ways to fight against them.

“Sometimes, they forced us to practice those mysterious and unidentified runic symbols so that we would create really dangerous spirit energy magnetic fields in our bodies.

“There were plenty of other things, too, but I... I can’t remember...”

Thick veins appeared on A’Ji’s head.

They were like raging aquatic dragons that bound his head tightly, and his skull made cracking sounds as he remembered great pain.

“That’s enough.” Meng Chao quickly went forward. Two spirit tattoos appeared on his palms, and he used gentle spirit energy fluctuations to calm down A’Ji’s violently twitching brain.

“If you can’t remember them, it’s fine. There are some things that are better left forgotten,” Meng Chao comforted him.

He believed that what A’Ji told him was the truth, because he and A’Ji went through the same thing. To a certain degree, both of them were “reborn”.

When he had just returned to the past, he could not remember most of the details about Dragon City’s struggles and destruction in his previous life.

That included how he lived his entire life as a Ghost Assassin while he was filled with hate and rage.

The self-defense system of the human brain automatically blocked those painful and unbearable memories, and up to this day, he still could not remember them fully.

There were plenty of things that were best forgotten forever.

If he remembered them completely, his mind might get burned to a crisp.

A’Ji should be going through the same thing.

His brain belonged to a proper nine-year-old child.

If all the pain Saber Jin Wanhao went through surged into this young brain, his brain cells might die right away.

The gears in Meng Chao's mind worked quickly, and he understood why Saber Jin Wanhao gained a brand new personality known as A'Ji after he regained his youth.

Because being Saber Jin Wanhao was just too painful and full of suffering.

If he were Saber Jin Wanhao, he would have to face the reality that his sister and he were captured by Blood Alliance and forced to enter the ancient ruins to explore the place, but even after they faced great danger and lived, they didn't have an easy time. They were turned into research subjects and subjected to endless torture."

But as a bystander, what he had to face was only "Saber Jin Wanhao and his sister were captured by Blood Alliance."

These two types of pain were on completely different levels.

A'Ji instinctively removed himself from being Saber Jin Wanhao. When he mentioned his sister, he also referred to her as Jin Wanhao's sister, because he wanted to distance himself from the pain.

When Meng Chao realized this, he sighed and said, "You don't have to focus on the details. Why don't you tell us what happened next?"

"Then..." A'Ji's eyes roved about, and he was finally able to stop trembling. "Many people were tortured to death by Blood Alliance, but a small number managed to live through the repeated cycle of exploration attempts and inhumane experiments. Not only did they not die, they also obtained greater power.

"I was not the strongest among those people.

"Lei Zongchao's immunity toward the ancient virus and the viruses of the Other World, resistance toward crystal radiation, absorbability of spirit energy, comprehensive ability of the ancient runic symbols, and instincts during critical moments were all ten times better than mine.

"I might be loath to accept it, but I have to admit that he's a natural born martial arts genius. No, he's a legend of martial arts!

"But no matter how strong he was, there was someone even stronger than he was, and that was Jin Wanhao's sister."

"It's the girl who appeared from the Vortex's bubbles after it died?" Meng Chao asked.

"That's right. It's her. It has been decades since I saw her, but she's still the same as back then. I could recognize her right away..."

A'Ji focused his mind and continued, "Lei Zongchao, my sister, and I were the iron triangle among the research subjects as the strongest people. We were, thus, forced to venture deeper into the ancient ruins, where we ran into plenty of dangerous situations and had to save one another.



“When we returned to the lab, we had to go through the most brutal of tortures. We held each other’s hands tightly and sensed each other’s heartbeats and body temperature. When our blood fused together, we had the courage to continue living.

“We were in distress together, and we stuck together through life and death. Hmph, so it was only par for the course that our affections for each other grew!”

“Hang on.” Meng Chao raised a hand. “Why do I feel that when you mentioned your relationship with your sister and Lei Zongchao growing tighter, you became exasperated. Your expression is also saying that the treasure you were taking care of was taken away by some uncouth lout?”

“Does it?” A’Ji’s expression was a little stiff. After being silent for a while, he said in slight embarrassment and anger, “I just didn’t expect that during those hellish times, Lei Zongchao would actually be in the mood to... date my sister! He stole her away from me!”

“Um...” Meng Chao understood now.

Even though A’Ji was only nine years old right now, the real Saber Jin Wanhao had gone through his seventieth birthday not too long ago.

If he were to perform some calculations, half a century ago, when he, his sister, and Lei Zongchao were in Blood Alliance’s hands, he would have been even younger than Meng Chao. He should have been around sixteen.

That was the time when children were full of life and vigor.

In an environment where they constantly faced the threat of death, humans had stronger emotions, and the desire to reproduce would also become very strong.

Lei Zongchao falling in love with Jin Wanhao’s sister was something bound to happen.

## **Chapter 629: Fall of Blood Alliance**

Meng Chao squashed down his burning curiosity and said, “Let’s talk about the private lives of the supreme fighters of the older generation later on, when we have time. What happened later? How did your— How did Jin Wanhao’s sister die?”

“We were naturally not satisfied with being controlled by Blood Alliance and living lives worse than death. It was especially so when my sister, Lei Zongchao, and I became much stronger from the numerous times we explored the ancient ruins. It’s how we gradually gained the chance to overthrow Blood Alliance,” A’Ji said.

“But the time was not right. We needed to keep our claws retracted, because the members of Blood Alliance also noticed that we were getting stronger and becoming less manageable. They injected all sorts of tranquilizers and poisons that had delayed effects. We had to take the antidote regularly because of it. They also placed all sorts of shackles and time bombs on our bodies to make sure that we didn’t do anything rash.

“We noticed that we needed someone to help us before we could overturn Blood Alliance’s evil rule.

“Such people soon appeared.

“They were the ancestors of the nine great mega corporations. They were the other gangs created when Dragon City was going through the apocalypse.

“It’s really ironic that at that time, when Dragon City had just entered the lawless, bloody era, all the gangs were products of the strong preying on the weak. They relied on absolute strength and carried out brutal regimes. None of the gangs were any better than Blood Alliance.

“But as Blood Alliance’s tentacles stretched to all of Dragon City, most of the gangs that relied on brutality to rule over their territories were abandoned or destroyed by Blood Alliance.

“The reason for that was simple. If the law of the jungle was the only law, then why should anyone submit to these gangs when they were as violent as Blood Alliance but not as strong? Why should they quietly withstand being exploited and oppressed?

“Subjecting to Blood Alliance and tolerating their exploitation and oppression was better, wasn’t it?

“No matter how brutal Blood Alliance was, at least it had absolute strength and could help its people survive the threats of zombies and monsters. They could also snatch valuable food and water from other gangs!

“Aside from Blood Alliance, the other gangs who were able to survive in the harsh environment used a gentler approach to rule, were kinder to their people, and had all sorts of crucial technology. They were the relatively ‘civilized’ gangs.

“These gangs sensed that as Earthlings gradually gained their footing in the Other World and the zombie virus and ancient virus stopped being a deadly threat, spirit energy martial arts and runic symbol technology would become a general thing, so many people would have the ability to fight monsters and other creatures of the Other World. The lawless apocalypse would not last for long, and the light of civilization would once again shine on everyone’s heads.

“Laws, morals, and order were all abstract things, but plenty of survivors called out for such things, and whoever answered their call obtained support. They were the ones who could gain stronger power than the one provided by the ancient ruins and could turn into the rulers of Dragon City in the future.

“These relatively gentle and kind gangs sensed what was vital in their era and seized it firmly in their hands.

“On the surface, they were respectful to Blood Alliance. They did everything Blood Alliance asked them to do, and they even begged for mercy from them.

“Blood Alliance placed their main focus on researching the ancient ruins, so they needed other gangs to help them manage the large Dragon City as well as gather all sorts of resources scattered all over the place and solve small problems like the zombies. So, they were deceived by the gang’s seemingly tame disguise and didn’t kill these gangs as soon as possible.

“In secret, an anti-Blood Alliance group was slowly taking shape, and they extended their claws into every corner of Dragon City without Blood Alliance noticing it. Their claws touched the hearts of the citizens who were oppressed by Blood Alliance.

““The ancient ruins and supernatural abilities belong to all Dragon Citizens!”

“Defeat Blood Alliance and build a new Dragon City where everyone is equal!

“When Blood Alliance believed that they could do whatever they wanted with supernatural abilities and suppress the people forever, these two slogans spread like a bushfire throughout the city.

“Finally, when the sparks burned in every citizen’s heart, war broke out.

“It wasn’t a war against zombies or against monsters. It was a civil war between transmigrators.

“One side was Blood Alliance, and the other side was all the people aside from Blood Alliance.

“In the beginning of the war, Blood Alliance used its matchless supernatural abilities to defeat everyone effortlessly. No one was a match against the superhumans. They were really arrogant and believed that they could effortlessly suppress the suicidal bunch of ragtag soldiers.

“But they did not expect that the main battle was just a feint used to divert their attention.

“While they were outside massacring their enemies, the suicide squad of the anti-Blood Alliance group snuck into the headquarters that Blood Alliance had built on top of the ancient ruins and released me, my sister, Lei Zongchao, and the other research subjects.

“In truth, the special agents of the anti-Blood Alliance group had already infiltrated the ranks of Blood Alliance and contacted us. They were waiting for the perfect chance to remove our restraints so that we could work with them from within to deliver a fatal blow to Blood Alliance.

“Once we joined the war, the situation changed 180 degrees, just as everyone expected.

“My sister, Lei Zongchao, and I turned into killing machines more terrifying than Blood Alliance, and we instantly destroyed Blood Alliance’s advantage when it came to high-end battle power.

“There were also some superhumans who had awakened to supernatural abilities after being infected by the zombie virus in the anti-Blood Alliance group, but their fighting strength was slightly weaker than that of the Blood Alliance members. However, they had an advantage in numbers and the support of all the citizens. They could lead the citizens to open the armories and arm themselves to the teeth to fight to the death against Blood Alliance.

“It was a dark, bloody battle.

“All the citizens were united against a common enemy, and Blood Alliance lost.

“But the creators of Blood Alliance turned into injured, raging beasts when they were forced into a corner and descended into frenzy, thus becoming even more dangerous.

“During their last counterattack, they injured me—they heavily injured Jin Wanhao’s sister. She fell into Red Dragon River and was, in an instant, swallowed up by the raging waters.”

Meng Chao could not hold back a gasp.

His mind raced, and he asked tentatively, “So, you think that your sister is dead? Have you tried looking for her body?”

“No.” With a grave face, A’Ji shook his head and explained, “At that time, Red Dragon River had just stopped overflowing, so it was larger than it is now. The runoff volume and speed of the river were much greater as well. It was the epitome of a raging river. There were also plenty of fierce aquatic monsters swimming in it. They could snap even the armored speedboats in half in just one bite.

“Even Blood Alliance treated the banks of Red Dragon River as a forbidden zone and would not readily step into that place.

“Even fully armed superhumans would often disappear at the banks of Red Dragon River and never be found again.

“My sister risked her life during the battle and suffered more than ten fatal wounds. She had already drained her spirit energy a long time ago and, at that time, was draining her own life to fight.

“She fell into Red Dragon River in that state, so there was no way she could have survived.

“At that time, I was fighting in another area. I didn’t receive the news about my sister falling into the river immediately, but Lei Zongchao was with her. He watched her being swallowed by the red river without being able to do anything.

“This triggered Lei Zongchao, and he went through an unimaginable change. He gained powers that were akin to that of deities, and in one breath, he killed seven Blood Alliance core members who caused my sister’s death. He even blasted Blood Alliance’s leader’s head with just one punch.

“After the leader died, Blood Alliance’s members did not have anyone to guide them, and they crumbled and fell apart.

“Lei Zongchao’s shocking war achievements gained him the title of Battle God. After that event, he became the strongest in Dragon City. He deserved it, just as he deserved to be respected.”

Meng Chao and Lu Siya sighed simultaneously when they heard this.

They did not expect that Dragon City went through such a terrifying and soul-stirring moment during the blood era half a century ago.

But there were still plenty of suspicious points that only Meng Chao knew about in the story.

Such as the X-shaped eye. What the heck was that?

If the X-shaped eye was the emblem of Blood Alliance, how did it appear in a notebook his mother used when she was young, why did it appear in the Demonic Abyss Eye’s dying memories, and why did it appear on the back of his sister’s hand when she turned into the Dark Witch?

If he deduced things according to chronological events, Blood Alliance should have been destroyed when his mother was young. The underground medical facility she worked in should have had nothing to do with Blood Alliance!

Meng Chao pointed at A’Ji’s chest and voiced his question. “Is this Blood Alliance’s emblem?”

“Yes, but also no,” A’Ji said. “Blood Alliance did use this X-shaped eye as its emblem, but it isn’t something someone in Blood Alliance plucked out of his mind. Instead, it appeared on some of the ancient ruins explorers.”

Meng Chao was slightly surprised. “What do you mean?”

A’Ji thought about it for a long time before saying, “I don’t know how to explain it either. In Saber Jin Wanhao’s fragmented memories, some of the explorers who went into the ancient ruins went through terrifying, unbelievable, and dangerous explorations, but didn’t die. Then, some of these people gained this tattoo.

“It’s strange since none of us remembered ever getting this tattoo. It never hurt or itched, and it thing just appeared on us out of the blue.

“The explorers with this X-shaped eye had a higher chance of running into all sorts of strange dangers, but also had an easier time surviving those dangers. If they continued, they ran into greater and stranger dangers at a more regular pace.

“It was as if some mysterious power had sealed us at the entrance of hell. It didn’t let us live nor die, but made us go through endless torture.

“That’s why I said that the X-shaped eye isn’t a tattoo, but a curse!”

### **Chapter 630: Rearing Gu**

“Curse...” Meng Chao then remembered his sister. At that time, her hair burned with violet flames, making her look really avant-garde, arrogant, and cool. Her temperament had also changed drastically.

He shuddered.

“So, that means that only those who encounter life-threatening dangers in the ancient ruins and live through it get cursed?” Meng Chao asked anxiously. He wanted for his sister to avoid getting cursed.

A’Ji thought about it and shook his head. “Not necessarily. There were plenty of Blood Alliance’s core members who explored the ancient ruins multiple times. They ran into dangers that were as dangerous as ours, but not all of them got the X-shaped eye.

“Blood Alliance, of course, wanted to research the secrets of the X-shaped eye. After all, while this tattoo symbolized endless dangers, it also symbolized mysterious power.

“Those with the X-shaped eye would usually awaken to more supernatural abilities and get better comprehension, regenerative abilities, as well as experience other improvements. As long as they didn’t die, they even had the chance to break the limits of their lives.

“The problem is, no matter how much Blood Alliance researched the X-shaped eyes, they just couldn’t find a pattern to them.

“Sometimes, they would send an exploration group of more than one hundred people into the ancient ruins without caring about the costs. Those people would run into all sorts of horrifying dangers, and the group would be nearly entirely wiped out. Only one to two members would remain alive.

“These survivors might be people with both strength and wit, but they just wouldn’t get the X-shaped eye.

“Yet at other times, when normal people who had no power whatsoever were sent into the ancient ruins as cannon fodder or control groups, they managed to survive through sheer luck, and for some reason, the X-shaped eye appeared on them.

“It seemed like the curse didn’t appear depending on the explorers’ performance in the ancient ruins. It also depended on their physical constitution, cellular activity, strength of will, adaptability, and even luck. It’s related to all sorts of odd variables.

“Also, there’s something really strange. When the ancient ruins had just been opened to us, the chances of the curse appearing were much higher. At that time, three-four people in a group of ten who went through a high-risk exploration would get the X-shaped eye.

“But as more people gained the X-shaped eye, the number of new cursed people grew smaller.

“When Blood Alliance completely occupied the ancient ruins, they sent groups of one hundred explorers to explore the ancient ruins, just as I mentioned, but at times, not a single person would gain the X-shaped eye.

“The experts in Blood Alliance analyzed this phenomenon and came up with the conclusion that there might be a limit to the total number of X-shaped eyes. This thing is like the sign of the chosen heirs of the ancient civilization. When the ancient civilization discovered an explorer with a certain degree of potential to inherit its full legacy, it would place this sign on the explorer.

“And this ‘potential’ wasn’t just purely based on strength and intellect.

“The current strength and intellect Earthlings possess is nothing according to the standards of the ancient civilization. It’s just like how humans perceive the strongest ant and weakest ant. There’s no difference among them to us.

“If a human really found some suitable ants to inherit our civilization, we’d naturally use another set of standards and measurements.

“And when there is a sufficient number of heirs who have the sign and are slotted to go through whatever test it is they have in mind, the ancient civilization would not release anymore signs. It’s only when one of the X-shaped eye owners dies, which means that they didn’t pass the test, a new curse would appear.”

“I see.”

Meng Chao nodded. It was only at that moment that he understood how his sister had obtained the X-shaped eye. One of the owners must have died, and she inherited their curse. Thus, she became the heir of the ancient civilization, or rather, examinee.

Based on how his sister turned into the Dark Witch and ransacked the Other World, the ancient civilization was really terrifying!

“So, both Saber Jin Wanhao and Battle God Lei Zongchao got the X-shaped eye?” Meng Chao stared at A’Ji’s chest with great interest. “Which other supreme fighters in Dragon City also have this X-shaped eye?”

“Lei Zongchao does have it, but I don’t know about the others,” A’Ji answered honestly. “In the past, the comrades who explored the ruins with Jin Wanhao and Lei Zongchao either died during the battle against Blood Alliance or the perilous battles over the next few decades. If they were owners of the X-shaped eye, their curses would have transferred to a generation of new people.

“Also, this tattoo is really strange. It’s usually hidden deep within our blood and only appears when we’re angry, our spirit energy goes out of control, or when we make our vitality magnetic fields fluctuate at maximum capacity. If the X-shaped eye owners want to hide them, everyone would have a hard time discovering them.

“As for me, I couldn’t integrate Saber Jin Wanhao’s great power into this young, nine-year-old body after I regained my youth. My vitality magnetic field often went out of control, so the X-shaped eye has appeared on its own.

“After training for some time, I’ll be able to control this new body fully, and it should become hidden.”

“I see...” Meng Chao nodded pensively. He noticed A’ji’s underlying meaning. “What’s wrong? Do the X-shaped eye owners not want others to know about their identities?”

A’Ji hesitated for a moment, but in the end, he still nodded and explained. “Yes. First, it’s because the X-shaped eye means mysterious dangers and power. It represents the ancient civilization’s legacy, and it was also the core research subject of Blood Alliance, which is why it was even used as its emblem.

“In the past, Blood Alliance did all sorts of mad, evil acts under the X-shaped eye flag. They incited anger among all the people, which turned the X-shaped eye into the symbol of blood, murder, and evil.

“Many Blood Alliance members were not cursed, but they liked to get a tattoo of the X-shaped eye. As time went by, all the people with the X-shaped eye tattoo were identified as evil, brutal people. Everyone condemned those with this tattoo during the late stages of the apocalypse decades ago.

“Second, and most importantly, the people with the X-shaped eye liked killing each other and hunting down other cursed people.”

“Killing each other?” Meng Chao was shocked. “What do you mean by that?”

“Didn’t I tell you just now? Blood Alliance’s experts believed that the X-shaped eye was a sign that the ancient civilization used to mark its examinees. As long as you completed the test, you would inherit all of the ancient civilization’s power,” A’Ji said with a strange expression. “But have you ever wondered what the test is?”

Meng Chao pondered over this for a while, then said, “Continue exploring the ancient ruins?”

“I don’t think so.” A’Ji shook his head slowly. “Plenty of people have explored the ancient ruins, but not all of the explorers got the X-shaped eye. Today, the Supernatural Tower even has a ruins research center underneath. Countless powerful warriors and an astronomical amount of resources are placed

into the ruins exploration project, but you've never heard about more X-shaped eye owners who are stronger than the ones in the past, much less passing the test and obtaining the full ancient legacy.

"So, some of the X-shaped eye owners thought for a long time, and they gained a sudden, wild idea. Could this test be treating us as Gu [1] and wanting us to do something like a battle royale?"

Meng Chao was a little taken aback. "Treating you as Gu?"

"That's right. You have quite a number of monster controllers in Agricultural University's monster controller course that are skilled in rearing and controlling insect-type monsters, right? They also use a similar method as Gu venom practitioners to choose the strongest monster in the lair's monster coliseums.

"They trap all the vermin or monsters in a small space, not give them enough food, and make them kill each other from hunger. They kill each other and rip each other's guts out. Blood flows in rivers, and in the end, the only survivor is the strongest of them all!" A'Ji said.

"So, some of the X-shaped eye owners believe that if they kill all the other X-shaped eye owners and they're the only ones left, they will be considered to have passed the test. Then, they will inherit the ancient ruins' secrets and strength. After that, they will surpass human limits and literally become an ancient deity!"

"T-That's ridiculous!" Meng Chao felt his skin crawl once he heard this. After thinking about it for a while, he said, "Wait, didn't you just say that there is a fixed number of X-shaped eye owners, and when one of them dies, a new curse will fall on another person? If that's the case, there's no way they can finish all of them!"

"What I'm saying is that when an owner dies, a new curse MIGHT appear, not that it will DEFINITELY appear," A'Ji said. "Besides, this was just Blood Alliance's guess. Perhaps the number of X-shaped eye owners has been shrinking slowly over the past half a century and is now half or even one-third of the original number.

"You must understand, there are plenty of X-shaped eye owners who experienced hell in the ancient ruins and saw countless unidentified things that humans cannot bear. Even if they left the ancient ruins with their bodies intact, their minds have long been distorted to the point that they're no longer human. Their train of thought and moral limits are completely different from those of normal people.

"Even if there is a one in a trillion chance that they can obtain all the treasures in the ancient ruins, these people will do everything to get it, and they won't care about the cost."

Meng Chao gulped.

Now, he was even more reluctant to have his sister join this dangerous "Gu Rearing" project.

"Are all the X-shaped eye owners this crazy?" Meng Chao asked tentatively.

"Of course not. Only a handful of X-shaped eye owners believe in this Gu rearing theory. The problem is, as long as this small group of people launch a war, the other X-shaped eye owners will have no other choice but to fight," A'Ji said. "Think about it. If two X-shaped eye owners discover each other's identity,



how would they know if the other isn't a lunatic who believes in the Gu rearing theory and doesn't want to kill them?

"You must understand that the X-shaped eye owners usually have stronger power and more mysterious skills compared to normal superhumans. If they don't do something to kill the other first, they might die at any moment!"

Meng Chao found his words to be true after he thought about it.

The human mind was unpredictable.

And the battle between humans was usually much more brutal than the battles between humans and zombies or humans and monsters.

"Fortunately, that's something that happened decades ago," A'Ji said. "Over the past few years, either the number of X-shaped eye owners has really been dwindling, or everyone has learned their lesson and now knows how to hide their identities.

"In any case, the number of times this tattoo appeared in Dragon City has reduced. Most of the information related to the X-shaped eye has been covered up or monopolized by various forces of power. It has been a long time since I've heard of any shocking, secret battles between X-shaped eye owners.

"Of course, as people who are cursed by the ancient civilization, they have to be on guard at all times.

"Once Saber Jin Wanhao noticed that he was getting weaker, he immediately made the decision to flee underground. After I regained my youth, I cast aside my past self without hesitation. One of the reasons was for me to hide from the gangs and mega corporations. The other more important reason was for me to avoid the other X-shaped eye owners. If they find out that I've gained this form, they would jump out from their dark corners and kill me!"