

Paradise 1681

Chapter 1681: First Display Of Ferocity

As soon as Scarlet Fox attacked, he entirely disrupted the initial balance of the battlefield.

Both parties began the next stage of battle proper.

With regards to this stage, Lin Huang felt there would be no real suspense to it.

After all, there were three upper-rank Lords in the Raiders' group. What was more, one of these was Nine Snake, who was a powerhouse nearing the level of an ultimate-rank Lord.

However, Lin Huang still continued to watch the battle with great interest.

On the Raiders' side, after Scarlet Fox's attack, Nine Snake remained expressionless and silent throughout.

Silver remained where he was. He did not have any intention of taking a hand.

Scarlet Fox rubbed his nose and had no choice but to step forward.

After all, he was the one who had intervened earlier, not Silver or Nine Snake.

On the Bug Tribe's side, the middle-rank lord-level Bug Queen that was the core of the Divine Magic Winged Bug felt slightly relieved when it saw Scarlet Fox standing out there on his own.

When it saw him attacking earlier, its biggest concern was that a war would fully break out, and the three upper-rank Lords would attack together.

Fortunately, such a situation had not happened.

Seeing Scarlet Fox coming forward, it immediately controlled the Divine Magic Winged Bug to shrink it down to a smaller size.

"My apologies, I was curious. I was wondering if I could experience for myself how powerful your bug formation really is." Scarlet Fox's tone remained polite.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug said nothing; instead, it immediately made its move.

Its one hundred and eight pairs of scale-covered wings vibrated at high speed. Countless blade-like rays rained down like a storm, deluging the entire area in an instant. They filled the sky as far as the eye could see, and all of them surged toward the lone figure of Scarlet Fox.

Although Nine Snake and the rest were standing not far behind Scarlet Fox, the Divine Magic Winged Bug still did not dare to include them in its attack. It only dared to target Scarlet Fox alone.

It knew very well that if it dared to attack anyone other than Scarlet Fox, it would definitely be met by combined suppression from the three upper-rank Lords.

It was not even sure if it could defeat Scarlet Fox, so of course, it was unwilling to face the combined forces of all three Lords.

Scarlet Fox watched as the blade-like rays that filled the whole sky headed toward him. Remaining utterly calm, his figure moved continuously, forming tens of thousands of shadows in the air. For a while, the spectators had some difficulty differentiating which figure was real and which was false.

“This fellow is definitely something.” Lin Huang was also staring at Scarlet Fox’s display of movement skill.

This was a lord-level movement skill that clearly combined shadow rule and illusion rule.

Cultivators who had weaker God’s soul strength than Scarlet Fox were entirely unable to counter movements like this because there was no way at all to differentiate the real from the false.

On the outer perimeter of the battlefield between the two combatants, the eyes of the six middle-rank Lords in the Raiders’ team widened at this point. On the Bug Tribe’s side, the ten lower-rank Lords who were the core of the mutated bugs looked completely dumbfounded as well.

The truth was when one’s movement skill had reached this level, the shadows were not totally illusory—they were clones that could be made tangible. Not only that, Lin Huang could tell that Scarlet Fox was probably even able to switch his own position with that of the shadows as he pleased.

This set of movement skills was so subtle and exquisite that even Lin Huang felt a slight urge to learn it.

In a little while, Scarlet Fox’s figure and the tens of thousands of shadows were completely swallowed up by the massive torrent of blade-like rays.

Any of the spectators watching with Divine Telekinesis could clearly see that the illusory figures were rapidly destroyed by the attacking blade-like rays. However, many more illusory figures consolidated to take their place.

Eventually, when all the blade-like rays had faded, Scarlet Fox’s figure was still standing where it had been all along as if it had not moved at all from the beginning until the end.

“This round at least has some sort of standard to it. Thumbs up for you,” Lin Huang commented, smiling.

Naturally, he had clearly seen that Scarlet Fox did actually move, switching his position with the shadows at least ten times. However, in the end, he had gone back to his initial position on purpose.

It was just that he had performed all of this with extreme subtlety. If not for the fact that Lin Huang possessed a more powerful God’s soul than Scarlet Fox, it would have been hard for him to notice this.

Since the first round of attack had failed, the Divine Magic Winged Bug launched a second assault without hesitation.

It did not know what kind of rules its opponent had mastered or what kind of abilities Scarlet Fox possessed. Therefore, it chose to attack first to subdue him and not give him a chance to attack.

The one hundred and eight pairs of scale-covered wings on the Divine Magic Winged Bug’s back mutated abruptly, spawning countless tentacles which surged toward Scarlet Fox like a tsunami.

However, on the other side of the battlefield, Scarlet Fox’s hair swiftly grew out at a speed that was visible to the naked eye. In an instant, it had already reached his waist.

As Lin Huang watched in shock, Scarlet Fox's chest began to expand like an inflating balloon, and the lines of his facial features began to soften...

One by one, fiery red, furry tails rapidly sprouted from his coccyx—nine in total.

“What’s happening?!” Lin Huang’s expression was full of shock.

This was a scenario he had obviously not anticipated at all.

Lin Huang was not the only one—on their side, the Bug Tribe was rather stunned as well.

Even on the Raiders’ side, the eyes of the six middle-rank Lords widened too. Clearly, it was their first time seeing this as well.

Some of them might have heard about Scarlet Fox’s abilities and were aware that he could change gender whenever he wished. However, this was the first time they were seeing it with their very own eyes.

Even Nine Snake, who had been calm all this while, had a faint, startled expression flash through his eyes upon seeing Scarlet Fox in a female body.

The only one who remained unmoved was Silver, the mechanoid.

To him, gender was quite obviously something completely immaterial.

After the transformation, it was very evident that Scarlet Fox’s aura was no longer the same. It was much more ferocious now.

Her nine tails transformed into nine bright red flames. They increased dramatically in size in the face of the opposition and attacked the tsunami of tentacles surging toward her.

This time, she did not dodge the attack at all, meeting it head-on instead.

Lin Huang kept his gaze intently on Scarlet Fox. “This fellow’s character seems to have changed as well after the transformation. Is that a different personality?”

It was not just Scarlet Fox’s aura that had changed. Even his style of fighting and his demeanor were completely different from before.

Previously, he had always given the impression that he was indolent, unable to rouse up much enthusiasm to do anything. His style of fighting had also always seemed to concentrate on frontal attacks.

However, right now, he was very clearly on the warpath and full of energy. His current style of fighting was full of animosity as if he had swallowed dynamite—eager to fight tens of thousands of rounds to vent his internal rage.

After observing him for quite a while, Lin Huang was almost certain that this was Scarlet Fox’s second personality on display.

“His personality changed after he transformed... I wonder if he would display more personalities and fighting styles if he transformed into other appearances...”

When Lin Huang was delving into this issue, someone from the Raider's camp was thinking about matters outside the battlefield.

'Lord Rose is so lucky...'

On the battlefield, the clash between both parties swiftly produced an outcome.

Scarlet Fox was obviously more powerful. She attacked continuously with her nine tails, inexorably vanquishing the tsunami-like wave of tentacles and subduing her opponents by direct confrontation.

Not only that, her figure continuously flickered from point to point as she approached the Divine Magic Winged Bug, attempting to fight it at close range.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug's one hundred and eight pairs of wings finally displayed their ferocity as well.

One by one, the pairs of wings began to transform into different Dao Weapons for attack, control, and defense...

The single mutated bug abruptly transformed into a team formed from hundreds of mutated bugs...

Even Lin Huang's eyes lit up as he observed how it utilized its abilities. He rapidly began thinking about how he could construct a similar fighting style.

Chapter 1682: This Bug Formation Is Quite Powerful

Clearly, everyone present did not expect the Divine Magic Winged Bug to suddenly display such a move.

Everyone knew that its wings could transform into various forms. However, nobody knew that they could transform into Dao Weapons, let alone that they could possess the abilities of those Dao Weapons.

Twelve of the wings turned into massive bells. As they rang loudly, circle upon circle of formless ripples began spreading out.

Scarlet Fox's rapidly approaching figure was dozens of times slower now as if he had suddenly fallen into mud.

Another forty-eight of the Divine Magic Winged Bug's wings transformed into sabers, spears, swords, and halberds, seizing the opportunity to attack Scarlet Fox.

When Scarlet Fox saw this, his form immediately altered again.

This time, he transformed into a muscled strongman standing more than two point five meters in height. His build was even wider than that of the short, burly bald man.

At the same time that his transformation completed, his body immediately turned a bronze color, its surface entirely covered with Odyl. Inexorably, he faced down this wave of attack.

Lin Huang particularly noticed that the Divine Magic Winged Bug's attacks did not leave any wounds on Scarlet Fox's body at all.

‘A transformation like this probably isn’t a rule power; it’s his Goldfinger’s ability,’ Lin Huang rapidly conjectured as he watched Scarlet Fox laughing arrogantly at the Divine Magic Winged Bug. ‘What’s the principle behind his Goldfinger’s function? It likely isn’t as simple as being able to transform when he sees someone. Could it be that after he kills someone, he’s able to transform into that person and gain all of their abilities...

‘His personality seemed to have changed again after this transformation... So the price for using his Goldfinger is that he gains a personality each time he obtains a new transformation privilege?’

In his heart, Lin Huang silently speculated about this.

‘If gaining split personalities isn’t the cost of utilization, then this Goldfinger’s abilities can probably be considered extremely powerful.’

After his transformation into the muscular strongman, Scarlet Fox’s fighting style had clearly become increasingly crazed.

He began making his way closer to the Divine Magic Winged Bug, disregarding everything else. Snarling and roaring as if he had lost his mind, he ignored all his opponent’s attacks.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug possessed considerable combat experience. Immediately, it changed its battle strategy.

Its wings transformed into more massive bells to restrict its opponent’s movements.

On another front, its initial attack weapons also instantly transformed into spiritual attack Dao Weapons. They transformed into ghost heads.

The dozens of ghost heads simultaneously uttered piercing shrieks, spreading circle after circle of God’s soul attacks.

Not only was it hard for Scarlet Fox to move forward, but there was an excruciating stabbing pain in his head. He felt as if his God’s soul was being bitten by tens of thousands of ghosts.

This time, Nine Snake finally could not stand it any longer and took a hand.

His tongue darted out like an electric arc and coiled around Scarlet Fox’s waist, dragging him out of the battlefield.

“Rest for a while.”

Seeing that the heavily-muscled Scarlet Fox was still holding his head in pain, Nine Snake immediately gave an order and signaled to Silver—who was standing beside him—with his eyes.

Naturally, Silver did not dare to refuse. He turned into a silver ray of light and closed in on the Divine Magic Winged Bug.

Despite noticing that it suddenly had a different opponent, the Divine Magic Winged Bug remained calm.

The battle with Scarlet Fox earlier had clearly boosted its confidence.

It used the same technique from just now on Silver.

Although Silver's movements did slow down considerably, the God's soul attack did not seem to work on him at all.

When the Divine Magic Winged Bug saw this, the ghost heads instantly turned into Buddha statues.

The Buddha statues were striking wooden fish—percussion instruments made from hollow blocks of wood— while chanting scriptures.

For a while, there was chanting in the air accompanied by the percussion sounds of the wooden fish and the ringing of bells.

Lin Huang felt as if he had been transported into a temple. The only thing lacking was a stick of burning incense.

This technique involving Buddha statues was still a God's soul attack; it merely used a different method to do so.

However, apart from his body being slightly dented, Silver remained unaffected by the God's soul attack.

Only then did the Divine Magic Winged Bug realize that its opponent's God's soul might be anomalous, making it immune to God's soul attacks.

Without hesitation, it decisively changed methods.

One by one, the Buddha statues transformed into sabers, spears, swords, and halberds again, as well as a comprehensive variety of other weapons.

It only did this so it could test which kind of weapon would be most effective on its opponent.

However, all the weapons comparable to expert-grade Dao Weapons could only cause light scratches less than one centimeter deep when they struck Silver's body.

Silver was even able to repair those light scratches instantly. They did not remain on his body for any longer than one second at most.

"A powerful mechanical species with dual defense capabilities..." Lin Huang fell into deep thought as he stared at Silver.

He was considering how he would respond if he encountered an opponent like this, and he could not use force to break their defenses.

Silver was practically immune to God's soul attacks because he was a purely mechanical being that did not have a God's soul at all.

His consciousness was stored in a mechanical tinder somewhere within his body.

Naturally, God's soul attacks would not work on him in the least.

If one wanted to kill Silver with God's soul attacks, one had to possess a God's soul so powerful that it could break into the tinder within his body and erase his consciousness by force.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug's God's soul had obviously not reached such a level yet.

Even Lin Huang was not really sure if he himself could do that. After all, the other party was an upper-rank Lord.

Silver was clearly top-notch in terms of physical defenses.

Purely mechanical beings were top-notch in physical defense capabilities even if these abilities were transplanted into the universe.

Not only did they have powerful defense capabilities, but they were also immensely strong. They were by no means inferior to many ferocious combat cultivator-type beasts from the ancient epoch, even.

To kill an individual with such powerful physical defense capabilities, the best method was still subjugation via might. Either one mastered Dao seal power that was much stronger than that of the other party, or else one could use Dao Weapons that surpassed the opponent's physical strength.

However, the Divine Magic Winged Bug clearly possessed neither of these.

Lin Huang even envisioned putting himself in the Divine Magic Winged Bug shoes for a moment and imagined himself fighting, using the Divine Magic Winged Bug's current level of abilities. He ran a simulation in his head and realized it would still be difficult to breach his opponent's defenses, despite being a sword cultivator with powerful attack ability.

"Now that's quite difficult." Lin Huang glanced at the Divine Magic Winged Bug with a touch of sympathy.

Any attack methods that the Divine Magic Winged Bug could use had been completely suppressed by Silver.

Apart from control-type skills that were still effective, spiritual and physical attacks had very little effect.

Just when Lin Huang thought the Divine Magic Winged Bug had exhausted its bag of tricks, an unusual change abruptly occurred on the battlefield.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug let out a shriek, and the ten mutated bugs not far behind moved almost simultaneously. One by one, they began to integrate with the Divine Magic Winged Bug's bug formation.

As the mutated bugs integrated one by one, the Divine Magic Winged Bug's aura began to skyrocket extremely quickly.

Its aura—initially early upper-rank lord-level—soon rose to peak upper-rank lord-level at a speed that could be seen with the naked eye.

"This bug formation is quite powerful."

Lin Huang could not help raising his brows when he saw what was happening. When the bug formation was fully integrated, the strength of the Divine Magic Winged Bug's aura was only a step away from that of a Lord.

Nine Snake had preserved his calm all along, but when he saw the Divine Magic Winged Bug's transformation, a grave expression flashed through his eyes.

The bug formation's elevation in power was enough to make him feel threatened.

Chapter 1683: The Formidable Nine Snake

After the Divine Magic Winged Bug had integrated with the remaining ten mutated bugs, its abilities were boosted significantly.

Due to the vibrations from the giant bells that the Bug's wings had transformed into, Silver seemed as if he had fallen into a bog. He could barely move forward and was practically a target now.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug seized the opportunity without hesitation. It charged at Silver again after transforming its remaining wings into all manner of weapons such as sabers, spears, swords, and halberds.

This round, the attacks were clearly much more powerful than before. Almost all of the Dao Weapons that the wings had transformed into left deep wounds on Silver's body.

Silver could do nothing except to protect his vital body parts and attempt to retreat out of the area that was under the giant bells' control.

However, the wounds on his body were increasing significantly almost every second.

One, ten, one hundred, one thousand...

Very soon, there was an obvious decline in how swiftly his wounds recovered.

Silver, who had almost entirely subdued the Divine Magic Winged Bug earlier, was now the one being subdued completely. He did not have the strength to fight back at all.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug was aware that it would be very difficult to kill Silver, but it was trying its best to drain the Ody within his body.

Nine Snake, who had been observing the battle all along from not too far away, hesitated for a moment before finally deciding to take a hand.

He hesitated because he knew that Silver had yet to use his trump card. Nine Snake was deliberating on whether Silver might still have a chance to turn the tables. However, after a moment of consideration, he decided to attack anyway. This was because he felt that under such circumstances, it meant little if Silver used his trump card and won the battle. It would be better for him to save his strength to fight Lin Huang later.

After all, their biggest enemy was not the Bug Tribe in front of them, but Lin Huang, who was somewhere watching secretly.

A shadow suddenly sprang out from behind Nine Snake. It turned into a dark ray of light that wound around Silver's body, then swiftly pulled him back.

Nine Snake could not help frowning slightly when he sensed the massive resistance that came from the giant bells.

He had originally brought the entire team of Raiders here to forcefully subdue the Bug Tribe and display the Raiders' might in front of Lin Huang.

He had never expected that matters would escalate to this point.

Scarlet Fox and Silver had been defeated one after the other. He had no option but to take the initiative to rescue them.

He had intended to punish the Bug Tribe as a warning to his enemy, but his plan had backfired, and he was now being laughed at.

After pulling Silver back to the Raiders' camp with his snake tail, Nine Snake turned a cold-eyed gaze toward the Divine Magic Winged Bug, whose aura strength was now not that much weaker than his own.

Naturally, he was confident that he could defeat his opponent. However, if he were going to fight, then he had to win the battle decisively and in style.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug did not take the initiative to attack him. The Bug Queen in the core had a fearful expression on its face. Naturally, it knew that this leader with the vertical pupils was the most powerful of the nine intruders.

The Bug Queen had known this after watching Nine Snake save his teammate earlier. Although it had fortified itself to this extent at present, the dozens of massive bells still did not seem to decrease Nine Snake's speed by much.

"To be honest, even I find it quite admirable that all of you have managed to get to this level." Nine Snake took a step forward. The aura around his whole body began to skyrocket. "But let's end this nonsense now."

As soon as he finished speaking, a giant shadow suddenly appeared above his head.

It was a giant snake monster.

Black scales covered its entire body, which was wreathed in black mist. A pair of solid gold snake eyes with vertical pupils stared fixedly at the Divine Magic Winged Bug.

An instant later, the black snake tail lashed out like a long whip that also resembled a full moon scimitar, attacking the Divine Magic Winged Bug.

The arc-shaped black ray was extremely fast, reaching the Divine Magic Winged Bug almost at once.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug was completely unable to dodge the attack. It could only try its best to transform its wings into massive shields to block the front of its body.

Almost at the same time that all these layers of shields consolidated, the arc-shaped black ray collided with them.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug felt a burst of immense power the second the collision happened. Its entire body was sent flying back, completely out of control. It then crashed hard into the hive.

The attack dented a large crater at least three meters in diameter on the hive. Even the entire Ten Thousand Bug Maze shook slightly, emitting a dull rumble.

Deep in the hive, even Lin Huang clearly sensed the tremor.

“Truly worthy of a being who’s almost an ultimate-rank Lord.” Lin Huang’s Divine Telekinesis traversed the void, allowing him to clearly see that practically all the Divine Magic Winged Bug’s wings that had reverted to their original form had faint cracks on them.

He could also distinctly sense that the Divine Magic Winged Bug’s aura had slumped significantly.

However, what he could not see was that the bodies of many True God fighters in the bug formation had instantly ruptured from the impact of the earlier attack. A small number of Bug Tribe Heavenly Gods also died at the same time.

Nine Snake could be considered to have held almost nothing back in this attack. The strength of the assault had obviously exceeded what the bug formation could sustain in terms of force.

This impact, which was over the limits of what the bug formation could sustain, automatically spread through the inner sections of the formation, killing many Bug Tribe fighters.

However, Nine Snake did not seem to be fully satisfied with the result of this attack.

He could not help frowning slightly when he saw that the bug formation had not been destroyed by the assault and that the Divine Magic Winged Bug’s aura had only decreased slightly.

“I’d like to see how many more hits you can take!”

Nine Snake attacked again as soon as he finished speaking.

The giant python shadow over his head locked onto the Divine Magic Winged Bug as its target, and the inky-black snake tail lashed through the air again.

This time, the Divine Magic Winged Bug did not dare delay its response to the attack. It flapped all one hundred and eight pairs of wings suddenly and swiftly moved.

It had witnessed how powerful Nine Snake was and did not dare meet the attack head-on.

However, right at that moment, the black snake tail abruptly split into countless snake heads, hurtling like a giant net toward the Divine Magic Winged Bug to try and encompass it.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug speeded up to its limits to try and escape. However, the snake heads frenziedly divided over and over again until, at last, they enveloped the Bug’s body entirely.

Its one hundred and eight pairs of wings turned into sharp blades, slicing at the snake heads that had divided multiple times. Sparks flew as the blades sliced down, leaving no trace behind at all.

Currently, the Divine Magic Winged Bug had been reduced to a bird in a cage.

However, the cage kept on getting smaller. The snake heads continued shrinking; in the end, everything was swallowed up entirely.

Right at that moment, the Ten Thousand Bug Maze suddenly began to shake.

Lin Huang thought the Bug Tribe had more tricks up its sleeve and wanted to mount a rescue. However, he soon sensed a wave of immense dimensional power.

“They’re trying to escape?!” Lin Huang was stunned for a moment but realized why an instant later.

This move seemed ruthless, but it was actually a wise one.

They were no match for their opponent; the entire hive would fall into enemy hands if the battle dragged on. Naturally, the best choice was to sacrifice a proverbial pawn to save the queen.

Before the Divine Winged Magic Bug was completely annihilated, they would seize the opportunity to escape!

The hive immediately tore open a space rift and headed straight for the deep reaches of the heavens. Clearly, they had made escape preparations much earlier.

However, fleeing was not going to be as easy as it seemed.

Before Nine Snake stepped in to fight, he had communicated with Scarlet Fox and Silver through voice transmission, telling them to watch the hive. He wanted to prevent it from escaping.

He had crossed paths with the Bug Tribe in the universe numerous times and had seen them playing similar tricks many times over.

Since Scarlet Fox and Silver had lost their battles, naturally, they did not dare neglect Nine Snake's order. On the surface, it looked as if they were fully concentrating on watching the battle. In reality, they had never stopped covertly observing the hive with Divine Telekinesis.

As soon as the hive made the slightest move, both of them noticed and intercepted it immediately.

As the two upper-rank Lords joined forces, the space rift that the hive had torn open was instantly obliterated.

Half the hive that had initially made it through the rift into space was sent rebounding right back. The escape plan was considered a total failure!

Chapter 1684: Ding, The Fighters Have Been Credited To Your Account!

Watching as the hive was intercepted, Lin Huang, who had been hiding deep within it, was relieved.

He had genuinely been worried earlier that the hive would flee, which would be the equivalent of him failing to keep his appointment with Nine Snake's team. The crux of the matter was that they might make trouble for Death Sickle if they were stood up.

This was what Lin Huang did not wish to see happen at all.

Naturally, he did not know that as a grade-7 organization, Death Sickle was protected by Royal in this great world. If the matter was not a direct conflict, Royal would expel the Raiders if they were to take action against Death Sickle.

Lin Huang had cut ties with Death Sickle in name by faking his death previously.

The conflict between him and the Raiders could be said to have little connection with Death Sickle.

That was why Scarlet Fox and the rest had mounted guard at Death Sickle, but they had not forced Buried Heaven's group to hand Lin Huang over to them.

If not for Lin Huang contacting Buried Heaven of his own volition and Scarlet Fox finding out, the Raiders might have needed to take a great many more twists and turns to find him.

Deep in the hive, Lin Huang had been observing the changes in the outside world through Divine Telekinesis. However, he was unable to probe the state of things inside the hive.

Now that their escape plan had failed, the Queen Mothers in the Ten Thousand Bug Maze were in despair.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug's bug formation outside had amassed practically all the forces of the entire hive.

Currently, only the old and the weak, the Queen Mothers, a small number of young Bug Queens, and many unhatched eggs remained in the hive.

The Divine Magic Winged Bug's defeat in battle was the equivalent of the entire hive's defeat.

If they wanted the hive's legacy to live on, their only recourse was to escape.

However, that solution was now a dead end.

The space tunnel that the hive opened up had now been destroyed by Scarlet Fox and Silver.

It was no longer just the two upper-rank Lords—even the short, burly, bald man and the other five middle-rank Lords were watching the hive now. They were standing guard in case of any unexpected moves.

Escape was definitely not possible now.

Not too far off, the Divine Magic Winged Bug had been taken captive by Nine Snake. However, it was still resisting stubbornly.

Any discerning person could tell that it would not be able to last long.

The bug formation itself was a method that gained its immense strength through putting pressure on the participants in the bug formation. The more powerful the bug formation, the heavier the burden on the host in the core.

In one respect, all of the bug beasts that participated in the bug formation would have constant pressure applied to the Divine Power, God's soul, god rules, sequence powers, and even Ody within their bodies.

On the other hand, the longer the bug formation lasted, the more the damage inflicted on the God's soul and the physical body of the host in the core.

As a result, the formation could only be sustained for a limited amount of time.

Now that it was imprisoned by the snake tail, the Divine Magic Winged Bug could not even dodge anymore.

It could do nothing except forcefully resist the snake tail's continuous shrinking and strangling.

However, each time it resisted, this would result in the death of many bug beasts in the bug formation. This was caused by the Odyl shockwaves that were beyond what the bug formation could bear.

This also resulted in a decline of the Divine Magic Winged Bug's ability.

The middle-rank lord-level Bug Queen controlling the core was coming under more and more pressure.

A scant few moments after being imprisoned by the snake tail, the entire bug formation was already at the point of collapse and could fall apart at any time.

Nine Snake remained expressionless from beginning to end. As far as he was concerned, he was merely defeating a bunch of hillbilly bug beasts. It was no cause for happiness.

From the very beginning, he had not taken these bug beasts seriously.

If not for Scarlet Fox and Silver's consecutive defeats, he would not have wished to take a hand at all.

Lin Huang watched Nine Snake's one-sided subjugation of the Divine Magic Winged Bug from faraway. He had already begun counting down to the moment when he would show himself.

After all, there were eleven lord-level bug beasts in the Divine Magic Winged Bug's bug formation. Among them were at least ten Supreme God rank-5 Bug Queens. Lin Huang even suspected that the middle-rank lord-level Bug Queen might be Pseudo Pure Spirit rank-5.5.

He was not about to let Nine Snake have these creatures.

Ever since Xiao Hei had released authorization, card fragments no longer dropped whenever Lin Huang killed monsters. As long as he agreed, Xiao Hei could consolidate complete Monster Cards right away.

As far as Lin Huang was concerned, the eleven Bug Tribe Lords were already his. Naturally, he was not about to let Nine Snake kill them.

However, Nine Snake did not know what Lin Huang was thinking. He only wanted to dispose of the Divine Magic Winged Bug as soon as possible, then kill Lin Huang and bring his body back to the universe. That would signal the successful completion of his mission this time as an investigator who had arrived in this great world.

After his snake tail imprisoned the Divine Magic Winged Bug, he began using it to violently strangle the Bug.

He could even distinctly sense that the Divine Magic Winged Bug's bug formation was weakening drastically.

Practically within the time it took for a few breaths, it plummeted to initial-stage upper-rank lord-level.

In another few more breaths, the Divine Magic Winged Bug's combat strength nosedived significantly again, dropping to middle-rank lord-level.

Almost at the same time, the bug formation rapidly began to collapse.

Nine Snake felt a slight frisson of happiness. 'It's finally going to end!'

Once the bug formation was crushed, it would be much easier for him to kill this horde of bug beasts.

However, blood-red lightning bolts abruptly lit up the sky. They filled the heavens; in almost an instant, they had reached the area where he was.

Shock flashed through Nine Snake's eyes. Simultaneously he abandoned the bug beasts and beat a frantic retreat.

A second later, the area where he was standing was deluged by endless blood-red lightning bolts.

Scarlet Fox, Silver, and the others stared at the blood-red lightning bolts with utterly shocked expressions.

They could distinctly sense how terrifying the lightning bolts were. If those lightning bolts were to swallow them up, there might not even be dregs remaining.

More terrifying was the fact that from start to finish, they had not even seen where this attack originated from.

Even Nine Snake was frowning hard. He had spread his Divine Telekinesis earlier but had not found anything at all.

His gaze finally landed on the hive.

There was no powerful aura within the periphery of the dozens of surrounding star zones. In that case, the individual who had attacked was most likely in the hive that was right in front of them.

As to whether it was Lin Huang hiding in the hive or other beings within it, he was not very sure yet.

However, an instant later, he sensed that the auras of the bug beasts which formed the bug formation were rapidly being obliterated.

Nine Snake swiftly came to a conclusion and his gaze grew even keener as he stared at the hive.

"Lin Huang, are you brave enough to come out and face me in battle?"

His voice rumbled like thunder and spread toward the hive.

Scarlet Fox and the rest looked utterly confused.

"It was Lin Huang who attacked?!"

Currently, Lin Huang was indulging in the joy of having obtained the bug beasts' cards.

After using a dimensional secret technique and his Divine Telekinesis flying daggers to kill all the bug beasts that formed the Divine Magic Winged Bug, he had Xiao Hei consolidate eleven complete Bug Tribe Lord Monster Cards.

As he had expected, of the eleven Bug Queens, the ten lower-rank Lords were Supreme God rank-5, and the middle-rank Lord was Pseudo Pure Spirit rank-5.5.

He was thrilled to have obtained eleven Bug Tribe fighters out of the blue—ones he could immediately utilize, even.

When he heard Nine Snake's deliberately provoking comment, he was not angry at all.

“The show that all of you put on was even more interesting than what I had imagined. I was so engrossed in watching that I didn’t really have the heart to interrupt things.” At the same time that this voice was heard, Lin Huang’s figure slowly materialized outside the hive. With a faint smile, he looked at Nine Snake and his team.

Chapter 1685: Lin Huang Versus Nine Snake

Nine Snake did not display any delight when he saw Lin Huang reveal himself.

He could not help frowning slightly either when he realized that he could not read this young man in front of him.

He was unable to sense how powerful Lin Huang’s aura was, but his instincts told him that the young man before him was extremely dangerous.

Scarlet Fox and Silver, who were nearby, had similar reactions. However, they could not sense things as distinctly as Nine Snake; they were only able to get a vague sense of the threat emanating from Lin Huang.

Under normal circumstances, powerhouses who had elevated to lord-level usually had very acute preternatural senses.

For a while, the three upper-rank Lords fell silent, quickly trying to think of a plan.

Perhaps because the disparity in their abilities was too great, the short, burly, bald man and the remaining five middle-rank Lords did not sense the danger. They even thought that Lin Huang’s aura was less powerful than their own..

Seeing that Nine Snake and the other two remained silent, the few middle-rank Lords assumed they wanted them to test Lin Huang’s abilities.

The short, burly, bald man who had full confidence in his defense capabilities took the lead and spoke first, “So you’re Lin Huang?”

“That’s right, I’m Lin Huang.” Lin Huang turned his head to look at the short, burly, bald man, smiling. He continued after that, “Your defense capabilities aren’t bad. I want them!”

The moment he finished speaking, a blood-red arc pierced right through the short, burly, bald man’s forehead, leaving a hole that was as big as two fingers.

Everyone else present could distinctly sense that the short, burly, bald man’s life force seemed to have been instantly snuffed out.

His face still retained its arrogant expression, but he had already become a corpse. It was obvious that he had utterly failed to defend himself against Lin Huang’s attack.

Upon seeing the short, burly, bald man’s sudden demise, practically everyone present felt their hair stand on end.

The three upper-rank Lords, including Nine Snake, were no exception.

Although they could not consider themselves close with the short, burly, bald man, they knew that he was a formidable combat cultivator. Among the Raiders' middle-rank Lords, his defense capabilities were in the top three ranks.

Scarlet Fox and Silver were secretly making some assessments. At their current upper-rank lord-level combat strength, it would be very difficult to kill the short, burly, bald man in a direct confrontation, much less kill him instantly.

Nine Snake also had a general idea of the abilities of the current team that he had brought with him. He knew that at his present level of ability, it would not be difficult for him to subdue the short, burly, bald man, but killing him would take some effort. Although he could kill him instantly like Lin Huang had, it would require the use of some trump card techniques.

He had to admit that the attack Lin Huang had used to kill the short, burly, bald man was no less powerful than if he himself used a trump card. He did not even have enough confidence to pull off a move like that.

However, he did not know whether Lin Huang had merely launched an offhand attack or if he had used a trump card to intentionally intimidate them.

Only Lin Huang himself knew that his attack earlier had been an offhand one.

His God Weapon flying dagger was inherently already a supreme-grade Dao Weapon. Even if he were to encounter ultimate-rank Lords, he could easily breach his opponents' defenses without utilizing any defensive techniques at all.

The short, burly, bald man, on the other hand, only had the physique of an upper-rank Lord at most. Even with maximum compounding of defense techniques, at best, he would still only achieve peak upper-rank lord-level strength. Naturally, Lin Huang's God Weapon flying dagger had easily impaled him.

Furthermore, Lin Huang had compounded two Dao seals onto the flying dagger in this attack.

However, any single one of Lin Huang's Dao seals was different from everyone else's because it was constructed from millions of Dao tattoos.

Compounding two such Dao seals was comparable to the Odylic Force released by two million Dao tattoos simultaneously.

Moreover, under normal circumstances, even an ultimate-rank Lord possessing over a thousand Dao seals would have less than two million Dao tattoos in total, even if they were all added up.

On top of that, Lin Huang's Divine Telekinesis was ultimate-rank lord-level in terms of strength, so even though he had not unleashed his full power, it was a legitimate ultimate-rank lord-level attack.

It was no wonder that the short, burly, bald man had been killed instantly.

The short, burly, bald man being killed instantly was a scene so shocking to everyone that nobody dared to stop Lin Huang when he collected his victim's Goldfinger and corpse.

Lin Huang calmly put away the man's Goldfinger and his corpse. Only then did he turn his gaze to everyone else present.

However, no matter where he looked, practically everyone kept their heads down and did not dare to meet his eyes.

Nine Snake was the only one who stared at Lin Huang, his expression betraying mixed emotions.

Initially, he had thought that coming to a great world in a corner of nowhere and apprehending a local brat would be an easily accomplished task.

After all, according to the information Royal had provided on this great world, there were only three middle-rank Lords here.

He had not anticipated that his target would have hidden his abilities so well.

‘The information Royal gave us has caused us a great deal of trouble...’

Nine Snake cursed secretly in his heart, then rapidly began thinking of a counter-strategy.

What he did not know was there was actually no error in the information Royal had given.

In the great world under Royal’s jurisdiction, every powerhouse who elevated to become a Lord would be registered and reported to the relevant authorities as soon as the staff in the great world found out about it. Royal’s headquarters would then enter the information on the Lord and file it on record.

The issue was that Lin Huang had only elevated to become a Lord three days ago and had not displayed his abilities since his advancement.

Therefore, Royal had no idea that he had elevated to lord-level. Naturally, this information was also not on record.

Nine Snake made up his mind immediately after only a few moments of consideration.

His voice transmission spread to the remaining Raiders. “Don’t be scared by him. He may have used a special technique to attack just now, so his subsequent attacks might not be as strong. His defense capabilities might not be that powerful either. Let’s attack together! I’ll be responsible for dealing with him; the rest of you find opportunities to deal some lateral damage!”

What Nine Snake did not know was that Lin Huang—whose Divine Telekinesis was significantly more powerful—had intercepted the voice transmission loud and clear.

However, Lin Huang’s expression did not change outwardly at all. He continued smiling faintly.

He calmly observed the figure of the giant python above Nine Snake’s head as it abruptly grew a second and third snake head. Immediately after that, more snake heads began sprouting one after the other.

Within a blink of an eye, a massive nine-headed python had fully consolidated.

The strength of its aura was infinitely close to that of an ultimate-rank Lord.

The instant the giant nine-headed python finished consolidating, Nine Snake initiated an attack without hesitation.

This time, he held nothing back at all, utilizing an ultimate move with the strongest attack power.

The giant nine-headed python's heads opened their mouths at practically the same time. Black electric arcs rapidly consolidated in their maws.

The next second, nine black shock waves shot forward almost simultaneously at maximum speed. Practically an instant later, they were right in front of Lin Huang and were about to swallow him up.

However, Lin Huang extended a finger into the void and a mirror so black it could swallow up everything consolidated, blocking the shock waves like a massive wall.

He could not help but sigh faintly when he saw the nine shock waves being swallowed up by the Mirror. "Why do all of them like releasing shock waves as soon as they attack?"

As soon as he finished speaking, nine blood-red shock waves shot out from the Mirror, aiming straight at the giant nine-headed python above Nine Snake's head...

Chapter 1686: Annihilated En Masse

The nine blood-red shock waves shot through the void like lightning, more than several times faster than the shock waves Nine Snake had released.

Lin Huang secretly added two Dao seals to this round of deflection.

The blood-red shock waves immediately shot through the void. Before Nine Snake could even fully react, they had struck the shadow above his head.

The next instant, the giant nine-headed python's nine heads exploded almost all at once. Immediately after that, the shadow swiftly disintegrated, transforming into countless black points of light and fading away.

Below, Nine Snake abruptly spat out a mouthful of blood.

Although Lin Huang had not directly attacked Nine Snake's actual person this round, Nine Snake had still suffered a backlash.

Nine Snake's technique was powered by his God's soul and had integrated Divine Power, Odylic Force, and Dao seal power.

Since his technique had been shattered by violence, naturally, his God's soul was impacted.

Fortunately, he managed to withdraw his Divine Power in time, so he only suffered the aftermath of the impact.

However, in order for the giant nine-headed python to absorb Lin Huang's attack, he had drained an immense amount of the Divine Power and Odylic Force within his body.

Almost one-third of the Divine Power and Odylic Force within him was stripped away by the attack.

He had no choice either because by the time he could respond, the nine shock waves were already practically in his face. There was no way he could evade them at all, so he was forced to take the brunt of the attack head-on.

If he did not do that, his God's soul would have been instantly annihilated.

Nine Snake thought that Lin Huang must surely have seen through the nature of this technique, which explained why he had not attacked Nine Snake's physical body, instead launching an assault on the giant nine-headed python above his head.

However, the truth was that Lin Huang had not made a study of Nine Snake's technique at all.

The Mirror's deflection angle could be adjusted as necessary to attack whatever target he wanted. However, he had not bothered to make any adjustments.

The giant nine-headed python was massive and obviously a target that would be easier to hit.

Moreover, crushing an energy being like this would definitely drain a great deal of his opponent's Divine Power and Odylic Force. This was something one would know even without even needing to study the technique.

The first clash between both of them began abruptly and ended just as abruptly.

Scarlet Fox and the others watched, dumbfounded.

As upper-rank Lords, Scarlet Fox and Silver could distinctly sense the giant nine-headed python's terrifying aura, which was already almost as powerful as that of an ultimate-level Lord.

An off-hand attack could easily kill any powerhouse at the scene, let alone if all nine heads were to attack at the same time.

As for the handful of middle-rank Lords, although they did not have such a clear perception of Nine Snake's technique, they were still able to sense how terrifying it was when the giant nine-headed python spat out its shock waves. The aftermath alone made the hearts of all six quail.

Initially, almost everyone present thought there was a ninety percent chance that as soon as Nine Snake attacked, Lin Huang—who was opposite him—would die.

After all, the attack was already as powerful as that of an ultimate-rank Lord.

However, they had never expected the actual situation to turn things upside down.

Not only had Lin Huang suffered no harm, but he had also confounded Nine Snake's attack immediately.

The rest of the Raiders initially thought they might individually have a chance to bag Lin Huang as a trophy if Nine Snake's attack did not kill him.

However, after witnessing what happened, the eight of them felt cold chills running through them.

Even Silver, the mechanoid, displayed fear.

His silver physical body turned dark red at a speed discernible to the naked eye.

This physical state was a reaction that would automatically be triggered whenever Silver sensed life-threatening danger. It would temporarily raise his physical constitution by a level.

Under normal circumstances, Scarlet Fox would certainly not have been able to restrain himself from asking questions if he saw Silver changing color like this.

However, he was entirely in no mood to do so right now.

He had already begun rapidly plotting an escape plan.

All of them would certainly die if they fought someone that even Nine Snake could not defeat. Their only chance of survival was to seize the opportunity and flee.

Lin Huang did not even look at Scarlet Fox and the others.

Right now, among the nine of them, Nine Snake's ability was the only one that drew his attention, albeit reluctantly.

As for the rest, he would not even need to use a second God Weapon flying dagger to kill them.

"If you hadn't used that move earlier, perhaps you might have been able to last a little longer." Lin Huang smiled at Nine Snake.

Nine Snake said nothing, but his expression was indescribable.

He had certainly not expected things to turn out this way.

"Since you attacked first earlier, it's my turn now." As soon as Lin Huang finished speaking, countless electric arcs shot out of his sleeves like blood-red lightning bolts that filled the heavens as far as the eye could see.

Nine Snake's pupils contracted slightly when he saw this.

However, the blood-red electric arcs suddenly disappeared.

A second later, Nine Snake saw the blood-red electric arcs covering the entire area densely, fully three hundred and sixty degrees without a single gap...

Things looked entirely different from where Scarlet Fox and the others were standing.

They only saw the electric arcs shoot out and cover the distance almost instantly, forming a blood-red sphere of light around Nine Snake to completely envelope him...

This was a new technique that Lin Huang had devised after seeing how the Divine Magic Winged Bug used its wings.

He integrated teleportation into the Divine Telekinesis flying daggers' use.

The moment the millions of Divine Telekinesis flying daggers shot out, Lin Huang teleported them to surround Nine Snake, then envelop him entirely.

In less than the time it took for three breaths, Scarlet Fox and the rest sensed that Nine Snake's life force had been completely obliterated.

Scarlet Fox did not need to think at all. Without hesitation, he hid behind Silver in a flash and summoned a dimensional portal.

However, the instant he called up the portal, he saw a red beam of light in his peripheral vision. Immediately after that, everything went black, and he completely lost consciousness.

Only then did Lin Huang's gaze shift from the area surrounded by the lightning bolts. He then turned his head to look at where Scarlet Fox and the others were.

The seven people left alive were still in shock. They only reacted when Scarlet Fox made his move; all of them immediately chose to flee.

All Lin Huang did was glance over, and a red electric arc flashed across the distance, killing the six of them instantly.

"Eh?"

Suddenly, Lin Huang raised his eyebrows.

Out of the seven Raiders, one of them was surprisingly not killed at once.

The Divine Telekinesis flying dagger had not gone completely through his body. It had merely left a wound.

This individual was Silver, whose body was now dark red. He looked like a metallic being entirely covered by rust.

However, this form was the state in which his defenses were at their most powerful.

This peak mode would only be triggered when his subconscious sensed lethal threats.

His original physical constitution was already at peak upper-rank lord-level. Now that he had practically elevated a full level, his constitution was comparable to that of a peak ultimate-rank Lord.

This was why Lin Huang's Divine Telekinesis flying dagger had not been able to completely breach Silver's defenses.

However, Lin Huang knew that this mode could not be sustained for long.

With a touch of interest, he looked across the distance at the fleeing Silver. He manipulated more Divine Telekinesis flying daggers to attack Silver for a second time, then a third time, and a fourth...

When the flying daggers attacked Silver for the eleventh time, they finally impaled his body all the way through.

It was not that his defenses had been breached; instead, the Divine Power and Odylic Force within his body had been totally drained. He no longer had the strength to maintain this mode.

In the end, all nine Raiders were wiped out en masse after being subjugated by Lin Huang's show of force. Only after a glance at Silver— who eventually toppled to the ground—did Lin Huang turn around unhurriedly. He looked in the direction of the colossal edifice behind him—the Ten Thousand Bug Maze!

Chapter 1687: Royal Supervisor

Lin Huang's face was expressionless as he faced the colossal edifice in front of him.

He remained where he was, wondering how to deal with this batch of Bug Tribe monsters.

Suddenly, a spatial fluctuation began spreading out.

Lin Huang immediately turned his head to look in the direction of the spatial fluctuation and was instantly on guard.

He had not requested for any assistance.

Therefore, anyone who showed up now might well be the Raiders' reinforcements.

A figure slowly stepped out of the Dimensional Whirlpool.

It was a fairly well-dressed man who was even wearing a top hat. He looked to be in his early twenties, handsome in appearance and possessed of rather extraordinary charisma.

Although the other did not release his aura, Lin Huang's pupils contracted involuntarily the instant he saw the newcomer. He immediately went into a state of combat readiness.

He could sense that the person in front of him was an ultimate-rank Lord.

"Don't worry, Lin Huang. I don't belong to the group that you've just disposed of." The man removed his hat, revealing neatly slicked-back hair, and gave Lin Huang a faint nod.

"Let me introduce my humble self. I am Liu Fu, Rank-S Royalty. I'm also the Supervisor for this investigation."

"Supervisor?" It was the first time Lin Huang had heard of such a position.

Although he was Royalty as well—a Rank-A member even—he knew almost nothing about Royal's internal organizational structure.

Liu Fu had obviously read Lin Huang's file and knew that he had had practically no contact with other Royal members. As a result, his knowledge of Royal was very limited. Patiently, Liu Fu proceeded to explain.

"You probably know that this great world is Royal's affiliate territory. Organizations from the outside world have to submit an application to Royal for entry, and they are only allowed to enter if we approve.

"However, if the applicant's ability exceeds the highest combat strength of our affiliate territory's local population, our assessment will be extra strict. The applicant needs to have sufficiently legitimate reasons, or we'll completely deny them entry.

"However, what many outsiders don't know is that if the applicant's ability exceeds the highest combat strength of our affiliate territory's local population and their application is approved, Royal will secretly arrange for a Supervisor to observe the applicant's every move.

"In Royal's internal department, a Supervisor isn't a position—it's a mission codename.

"Any time Royal is in need of a Supervisor, they will publish the mission. Whoever accepts the mission will be the Supervisor of the mission in question.

"Of course, there are requirements that must be met when one accepts a Supervisor's mission. The Supervisor's ability must be more powerful than that of the applicant seeking entry. If there are many applicants, the Supervisor must possess the ability to keep all of the applicants under control.

“When this group of Raiders applied for entry, I happened to see the Supervisor’s mission and accepted it, so I became the Supervisor for this matter.”

Lin Huang more or less understood what Liu Fu was saying. The Supervisor would be the one who kept the investigators’ movements under surveillance to prevent them from behaving as they pleased in Royal’s affiliate world.

“You’re here now because I’ve stirred up trouble by killing the Raiders’ investigators?” Lin Huang asked, his gaze fixed on Liu Fu.

“You’re over-thinking matters.” When he heard this, Liu Fu shook his head, smiling. “It’s very common for investigators to die during the course of their investigations. Royal won’t make trouble for its members just because of an outsider.

“However, if the Raiders demand an explanation from us, we might just send them the video showing the entire process of you killing all those nine investigators. After all, the Raiders are a top organization in the universe; we can’t refuse to give them an explanation.”

Lin Huang’s expression altered slightly at this point. He did not wish to be targeted by Raiders in the universe who were even more powerful.

He had now killed a peak upper-rank lord-level powerhouse like Nine Snake.

If the Raiders saw the video, the next time they would send at least an ultimate-rank Lord to kill him. They might even send a supreme powerhouse above lord-level.

When Liu Fu noticed Lin Huang’s change of expression, he continued.

“You don’t have to worry about that. Even if we do send the video, as long as you hide in this world, the Raiders can’t do anything to you.

“This is because the most powerful combat strength of the local population in this world is only that of a middle-rank Lord. The highest rank that Royal will allow into this world is an upper-rank lord-level powerhouse. Anyone more powerful than that is barred from entry. Even if they do send more investigators, it should be no problem at all; your current ability is sufficient for you to protect yourself.”

“I can’t hide like a coward in this great world forever.” Lin Huang shook his head when he heard this.

To become more powerful, he would have to leave this great world.

“You’ve made your presence known just to tell me this?” Lin Huang fell silent for a moment, then abruptly asked Liu Fu, “Or is there something else?”

“Actually, all members of Royal are under Royal’s protection. Even if Rank-A members offend lord-level powerhouses, Royal will still protect them. However, if they offend powerhouses above lord-level, Royal will hand over this member without hesitation. That’s because it isn’t worth offending a powerhouse above lord-level for the sake of a Rank-A member.

“However, Royal will protect a Rank-S member with everything they have, even if that member offends a dao-level powerhouse above lord-level...”

Liu Fu paused at this point and smiled, looking at Lin Huang.

Lin Huang locked eyes with Liu Fu for a moment. Seeing that Liu Fu did not continue, he could not help but ask, "How does one become a Rank-S member?!"

"It's very simple. As long as you possess Rank-S potential and talent, you're eligible." Liu Fu smiled and continued, "To be more specific, you only need to kill an upper-rank Lord by using lower-rank lord-level combat strength. That will be sufficient."

"So I can be upgraded to Rank-S, then?" Lin Huang felt slightly more at ease at this point.

Although he usually disliked being dependant on any organization, based on the current situation, Royal was undoubtedly his best refuge.

"What do you want?" Lin Huang calmed down very quickly, then looked at Liu Fu.

He knew that Liu Fu had to have some sort of motive for disclosing so much information to him.

"I can recommend that you be upgraded to Rank-S. What's more, your chances of successfully being upgraded are very high," Liu Fu smiled as he spoke, "What I want is simple. When the time comes, just write my name in the referral column, and that will be enough.

"When a member is upgraded to Rank-S or when there's a new Rank-S member, the referrer gains a handsome reward."

"There aren't any other requirements?" Lin Huang was quite surprised.

"No." Liu Fu shook his head with a smile. "I'm a mere half step away from breaking through to lord-level. There isn't anything I want from a junior just yet.

"I'm recommending you be upgraded because you do indeed possess the ability. For one, I happen to be able to do a good deed. For another, the reward I'll obtain from recommending that you be upgraded to Rank-S might just increase my chances of a breakthrough by that much."

"I understand. Thank you, senior." Once Lin Huang realized that the other was not imposing any further demands on him, he relaxed his guard slightly.

Liu Fu left after they had chatted a little.

Lin Huang only turned around after seeing Liu Fu off and focused his attention back on the hive in front of him.

Chapter 1688: Die Once

Lin Huang hovered before the Ten Thousand Bug Maze. In contrast to the massive hive, he was as tiny as a particle of dust.

However, he was not afraid at all in the face of this colossal edifice.

Instead, he was very sure that the many Bug Tribe beasts in the hive ought to be filled with respect for him at the moment.

For a while, he did not do anything at all. He was thinking of how to deal with the hive and the remaining bug beasts within it.

He had no sympathy at all for the Bug Tribe.

This was because the tribe destroyed every place they went to. They would frenziedly plunder various resources in the great world to strengthen their Tribe. After exhausting all the available resources, they would migrate to the next world in a carefree manner, leaving the dead world behind. They would then repeat the same process as before.

They did this to such an extent that the ancient legends of many Tribes even called the Bug Tribe a bug plague. In essence, they regarded the Bug Tribe as a type of calamity.

It did not matter what kind of sci-fi work Lin Huang had seen on Earth in his past life, the games he had played, or the knowledge he had obtained from being in contact with the gravel world later on. They all contributed to his distaste for the Bug Tribe.

His first thought was to kill all of the hives in the Ten Thousand Bug Maze.

However, he soon encountered a problem.

The material that the hive was made from could obstruct all sorts of energy transmission to a great extent. This not only included Divine Power and Odyl, but it also included the transmission of God's soul power and Divine Telekinesis.

Therefore, he could not control his telekinetic flying daggers so that they would penetrate through the hive and kill his enemies.

It was also a problem locating the Bug Tribe Queen Mothers in such a massive hive.

If he wanted to kill the Queen Mothers in the hive, he could only do it the hard way, which was to go deep into the hive and hunt for them one by one within the hive passages. This would definitely be an extremely time-consuming process.

Naturally, there was another way, which was to destroy everything, hive and all.

If the hive was crushed into smithereens, the Queen Mothers in the hive would not be able to escape, much less the rest of the bug beasts.

However, Lin Huang still had some reservations about that.

He really wanted to preserve the Ten Thousand Bug Maze. After all, he had his own Bug Tribe army. Furthermore, since the several Queen Mothers were creating more and more Bug Tribe armies, his original hive would be at full capacity soon.

The Ten Thousand Bug Maze in front of him was massive enough for the Queen Mothers under his control to use for a very long time.

Even if he obtained more Queen Mothers in the future, it should still be sufficient for their use.

Right as Lin Huang was at a loss, a tremor shook the hive, and a voice came from it.

“Senior, we’re willing to surrender.”

“Eh?” Lin Huang was rather surprised. He had not expected that the Bug Tribe would choose to compromise.

What he did not know was that after he had killed Nine Snake, the group of Queen Mothers in the hive had actually been discussing what to do next.

All of the top-ranking elite fighters in the entire hive had been killed in action.

The highest combat strength left in the hive was a lower-rank lord-level Queen Mother, a group of heavenly god-level Bug Queens, and around a dozen heavenly god-level Queen Mothers. The rest were old, weak, or infirm.

They knew very well that even if all of their remaining comrades were to go into battle, as far as this human male was concerned, he might very well be able to kill them all off with a single attack.

Resisting was futile. It would only increase their chances of dying.

What about escape?

They had already seen what had happened to Scarlet Fox and the rest. After observing and learning from the others’ mistakes, they knew very well that running away would only hasten their deaths.

Therefore, after the discussion, the Bug Tribe finally made a decision—they would surrender!

This was because only surrender would guarantee them a chance of survival so their Tribe would be able to continue its legacy.

Lin Huang narrowed his eyes slightly and pondered for a long time after hearing the Bug Tribe’s offer of surrender.

He definitely intended to accept their offer. After all, this would mean that he would be able to obtain a perfectly intact Ten Thousand Bug Maze.

He was now considering how he should deal with this group of Bug Tribe beasts after accepting their surrender.

A moment later, he finally nodded in agreement.

“Very well, I accept your surrender. Come into my Kingdom first, then.”

The hive fell silent for a brief while, but it did not take them long to agree to this.

Lin Huang opened up his Kingdom, enfolding the dead bodies of the Raider team into it along with the Ten Thousand Bug Maze.

From any outsiders’ point of view, Lin Huang had probably done this so he could have better control over the hive.

However, the truth was that he did not want Liu Fu to see what would happen next, even though he had no idea whether or not the man was still covertly watching his actions.

“Come out now, all Queen Mothers and Bug Queens rank-5 and above.” Lin Huang’s voice drifted above the hive after he saw that it had entered the Kingdom in his body. “I don’t wish to see anyone left behind.”

Not long after he spoke, the bug beasts began crawling out of the hive one by one.

Leading them was the lord-level Queen Mother.

Its upper body was almost the same as a human. Even to human aesthetic senses, it was definitely an enchantingly beautiful woman. However, although the faults of its armor covered most of the area below its waist, its striped abdomen characteristic of the Bug Tribe was still visible.

There were a dozen over Queen Mothers who followed their leader out. All of them were in half-human, half-bug form.

This was not what they looked like in reality. Instead, knowing that Lin Huang was human, they had intentionally taken on this form.

There was also a group of fairly powerful rank-5 Bug Queens who came out of the hive together with the Queen Mothers.

These were the Queen Mothers’ bug guardians. However, the highest combat strength in their midst was only a half-step Lord; most of them were only high-level Heavenly Gods.

In actual fact, the abilities of this group of bug guardians were already considered powerful in the great world. However, they were nothing compared to Lin Huang.

After that, the early intermediate-stage Heavenly God Bug Queens, as well as the Bug Queens and Queen Mothers that were not yet heavenly god-level, came out of the hive one by one as well.

Lin Huang was actually a little shocked to see how many of them there were.

There were over forty Supreme God rank-5 Queen Mothers alone. There was one lower-rank Lord and fourteen Heavenly Gods, while the remaining thirty-one were not yet heavenly god-level. The youngest of them all appeared to have been born very recently; it was only a first-rank True God.

There were even more rank-5 Bug Queens—over three hundred of them.

However, most of them had yet to achieve heavenly god-level. Apart from the Queen Mothers’ group of bug guardians, the heavenly god-level Bug Queens had basically been killed on the battlefield earlier.

There were close to four hundred rank-5 bug beasts in total.

This was the number of the old, the weak, and the infirm that remained after the defeat just now.

Lin Huang could almost imagine how powerful this Bug Tribe had been before the battle earlier.

He felt rather glad that his unintentional action had resolved a massive threat to the great world.

Lin Huang observed the rank-5 bug beasts standing before him with their heads lowered. His eyes narrowed slightly, and his mouth twitched up in a faint smile.

He had already decided how he was going to subdue these bug beasts.

“If all of you wish to submit to me... then you should die once first...”

Hundreds of blood-red arcs shot out as the Bug Tribe beasts all displayed shocked expressions. The arcs pierced through the heads of all the Queen Mothers and Bug Queens present.

Lin Huang glanced at the hive, aware that all the other bug beasts in the hive were watching what was happening.

He casually gathered up the bug carcasses scattered all over the ground and put them away in his storage space. He then crushed the cards that Xiao Hei had just consolidated.

Close to four hundred Queen Mothers and Bug Queens suddenly reappeared, as if the group of newly slain Queen Mothers and Bug Queens had been resurrected.

Chapter 1689: Returning to the Human World

After gaining control over the Queen Mothers and Bug Queens, Lin Huang let them all go. He had them lead him into the core of the hive, where he then assumed control over it and had Xiao Hei turn the core into a card.

If he had not subdued this group of Queen Mothers and Bug Queens, he might have needed to spend several months just to find the core.

However, to save Origin Energy, Lin Huang did not ask Xiao Hei to produce a simulation of the entire hive. Instead, he turned the hive's core into a card and assumed control of the core itself.

After all, as long as he controlled the core, it would be equivalent to controlling the entire hive.

When he had finished with these matters, Lin Huang had Xiao Hei transfer the contract relationships of all the Queen Mothers and Bug Queens to the hive's core, except for that of the lower-rank lord-level Queen Mother.

This way, they would no longer occupy his summoning quota.

Although Xiao Hei had entirely abolished the limit on Lin Huang's number of summoning cards, the more bug beasts he summoned, the greater the burden on Xiao Hei's functions.

Transferring the contract relationship to the hive meant less pressure on Xiao Hei.

Furthermore, at present, Lin Huang found it almost unnecessary to summon beasts below lord-level anymore.

The reason he had killed those Queen Mothers and Bug Queens, then turned them into Monster Cards, was only so he could assume total control of the entire hive.

After all, each Queen Mother and Bug Queen had a definite influence in the hive—they each had their own supporters. The more powerful their abilities and the higher their rank, the more influence they had in the hive.

If Lin Huang did not have complete authority over the hive and any of the Queen Mothers' combat strength elevated to lord-level, or any of the Bug Queens elevated to Pure Spirit, it would affect his control.

Therefore, he decided to turn all of them into Monster Cards to put an end to this risk once and for all.

Not only that, after transferring the contracts of multiple rank-5 bug beasts and the hive's core, Lin Huang had the Queen Mothers decree that all the other bug beasts in the hive must establish a new contract with the hive's core within the next few days.

This would ensure that he would have control of all the bug beasts in the entire hive. There would be no chances for betrayal at all.

After completing all these matters, Lin Huang put away his Kingdom and let the hive out.

Standing before the colossal hive, he considered for a while. In the end, he decided not to conquer the other hives once and for all.

According to the memories Shasha (the lower-rank Lord Queen Mother) had shared with him, apart from the Ten Thousand Bug Maze, there were still three super hives in the great world.

The Queen Mothers of two of these hives were Shasha's twin sisters. Both were half-step Lords.

The last hive had Queen Mothers that were peak heavenly god-level twins. They were Shasha's two daughters.

These three super hives all had lord-level bug guardians protecting them.

In scale, those hives were as massive as the Ten Thousand Bug Maze.

Lin Huang thought it over once more but still abandoned the idea of trying to capture Shasha's family in the end.

First of all, he had little interest in half-step lord-level Queen Mothers, much less the twins who were only heavenly god-level.

Naturally, if the twins elevated to become Lords, he did not mind making a trip to establish a contract with the two of them.

Secondly, Shasha had taken the initiative to surrender, so he had been able to swiftly establish a contract and assume control of the hive.

If the Queen Mothers of the three other hives refused to surrender regardless, then he would have no choice but to destroy them together with their hives at that point.

If he wished to keep the entire bug horde intact, he would need to spend a couple of months playing hide-and-seek with the Queen Mothers in the hive.

After settling the matter of the hive, Lin Huang summoned the Gate of All Realms and stepped directly through it.

This time, he did not return to the Ricky Star but to the human world.

He emerged right away in the Demon Eye Star Zone in the human world.

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The Demon Eye Star Zone was so named because this super star zone made up of hundreds of star zones of various sizes had the biggest Abyssal rift in the human world.

From afar, the entire super star zone looked like a gigantic closed eye.

Furthermore, this dangerous area was also an exceptionally flourishing location, second only to the core zone of the human world.

Lin Huang was planning to establish a branch of the Sword Alliance in this region.

This was because land in the core zone was scarce and expensive, and practically every star zone was already occupied by major organizations.

Although he was powerful, he could not bring himself to occupy someone else's territory by force.

However, the Demon Eye Star Zone was different. Criminal elements and good people mingled; danger and opportunities coexisted. Practically every day, organizations were destroyed, and new organizations were built up.

The most flourishing star zone in the Demon Eye Star Zone was called Heaven Island.

In this star zone, the three most prosperous and bustling planets had been respectively established by three grade-7 organizations—Daluo Temple, Leiyin Temple, and Sanctuary.

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On the surface, these planets appeared to be the territory of the three Saints. In reality, the seven sects had also established branches on these three planets.

In a flash, Lin Huang appeared on the Eastern Cruise Planet in Heaven Island.

This was Leiyin Temple's territory. Temples could be seen everywhere.

There were not just humans on this planet, but many other Tribe members as well. Lin Huang also sensed the aura of many Protoss.

This proved that humans were still very tolerant.

They did not display hatred or hostility toward other Tribes.

Lin Huang strolled around for a bit before he found a hotel where he could stay.

In the hotel room, he let Sword1 and the others out from his Kingdom.

"Lord Swordmaster, has the crisis been resolved?"

Sword1 asked as soon as he saw Lin Huang.

"Yes, it has." Lin Huang nodded while smiling.

However, Sword1 and the team still looked somewhat gloomy.

The Sword Servants knew very well that with their current abilities, they could not help their swordmaster. In fact, they were even beginning to slow him down.

Lin Huang could tell what his Sword Servants were thinking and patted Sword1's shoulder. "All of you have actually helped me a great deal. What's more, there are many matters later on that I'll need your help with."

Lin Huang then brought up the matter of establishing a branch of the Sword Alliance. After that, he held a discussion with the entire group of Sword Servants until nighttime, setting out the preliminary plans for the formation of another Sword Alliance.

For one, he wanted to found a Sword Alliance in the great world to complete Great Heaven's dying wish. For another, he wanted to set up a bigger territory so the people in the gravel world could better establish themselves.

Although the gravel world was currently in Lin Huang's Kingdom and resources were much more abundant than before, there was still a definite disparity when compared with the great world.

Lin Huang also hoped that more talented geniuses would emerge from the gravel world.

This was because as far as he was concerned, the more powerhouses produced in his Kingdom, the more powerful his Godly Right would become. Even if these powerhouses left his Kingdom, they would still essentially be his people. As they became more powerful, it would still result in a reciprocal effect for his Kingdom.

Lin Huang was anxious to train up more Lords from his Kingdom.

He had even considered using Combat Strength Upgrade Cards to elevate Sword1 and the rest directly to Lords. However, Xiao Hei had vetoed his suggestion at once.

Cards like the Combat Strength Upgrade Card and the Advance Card could only be used on Monster Cards.

After pondering for a moment, in the end, Lin Huang gave up on the idea of converting Sword1 and the rest into card monsters.

If he converted them into card monsters, their contract relationship with Lin Huang's Kingdom would be automatically be dissolved. In other words, even if he elevated them to Lords, it would not strengthen his Kingdom at all. Therefore, it would be useless to convert them into card monsters.

For another, Lin Huang certainly could not bring himself to kill Sword1 and the rest, even if doing so would merely translate them into another form of existence.

Chapter 1690: Three Goldfingers

After seeing his Sword Servants off, Lin Huang set up barriers in the hotel before he began making an inventory of the spoils he had obtained from his earlier battle.

First on the list were the nine bodies of the Raiders' investigators. There were three upper-rank Lords and six middle-rank Lords. Unfortunately, Cunning Rabbit was not among them.

It was not clear whether his identity as a spy had been exposed and he was afraid of retribution from the Club, or for some other reason, but Cunning Rabbit had not come to the great world with Nine Snake and the other investigators this time.

However, Lin Huang had committed his codename to memory.

If not for this spy, the Raiders might not have taken notice of Lin Huang for a very long time.

Now that the Raiders' team of nine investigators had been completely wiped out, the Raiders' headquarters in the universe would certainly have made note of Lin Huang's name, even if he was under Royal's protection.

Lin Huang had initially intended to stay under the radar as long as he could and try to develop himself further while trying his best to avoid being noticed by the Raiders.

After all, there were many powerhouses among the Raiders and no lack of terrifying entities above Lord-level.

Even though Lin Huang possessed the abilities of an ultimate-rank Lord, he was still afraid of this organization.

After removing the equipment and storage rings from the nine corpses, Lin Huang checked through the bodies carefully, then extracted the Kingdoms from all of them.

Only after doing all this did he begin to examine the Goldfingers he had managed to plunder.

Regretfully, out of the nine, only three possessed Goldfingers.

The reason was that only three of them were travelers.

Nine Snake, the most powerful of them all, was not a traveler. Instead, like Virtuoso's Primordium, he was a reincarnated being.

As for the rest, they were reincarnated beings and regenerated beings.

Even Silver, the upper-rank Lord, was a mechanoid.

Respectively, the three Goldfingers came from the short, burly, bald man, the white-robed Priest, and the plump man who was the most powerful damage dealer.

The short, burly, bald man's Goldfinger was a drop of golden liquid.

He had named it Pure Golden Blood.

As for its effects, it integrated blood from various sources, extracting the body's energy from within the blood itself to strengthen his physical body.

The more types of blood integrated, and the higher the rank and level, the more effectively the physical body could be strengthened.

For Lin Huang, this was actually quite useful.

Currently, his physical body was his weakest aspect.

Although he had refined Black Mountain's Goldfinger, the Tiny Golden Man, his current physical strength was only upper-rank lord-level.

After understanding the information on the Pure Golden Blood, Lin Huang did not take long to come up with how he subsequently wished to operate it and utilize it.

The second Goldfinger came from the white-robed Priest.

His Goldfinger was a golden particle of light which he had named the Holy Light.

The sense that the Goldfinger gave off to Lin Huang was one of nothingness.

He observed it with Divine Telekinesis for a while and realized that it was actually a photon.

He did not know what mysterious changes had occurred to transform it into a Goldfinger.

This Goldfinger's function was also very extreme.

The photon could convert all kinds of energy into the form of light, which would then give them the properties of light. This included Divine Power, Odyl, and even Abyssal energy... the Goldfinger could absorb and convert them all.

It could be considered a highly unconventional Goldfinger.

Lin Huang felt that this Goldfinger was an extremely simplified version of the Eternity Fire within him.

Practically all of this Goldfinger's functions could be fulfilled by the Eternity Fire.

As far as Lin Huang was concerned, it was of no use to him at all.

After setting the Holy Light aside, Lin Huang looked at the third Goldfinger—the one from the plump Lord.

This Goldfinger was a metal hammer the size of a human palm.

It was dark purple and covered with sigils.

Lin Huang casually picked it up and checked it out with his God's soul. He could not keep the hint of a smile from showing on his face.

"This is good stuff!"

Despite having plundered so many Goldfingers from the Raiders, this was the first time he had given an evaluation like this.

Although the Goldfinger was shaped like a hammer, it was not a weapon.

Its function was to generate random critical hits.

However, this Goldfinger was actually not very useful in the initial stages of utilization.

In the first stage, its effect could range from 0 to 10 times the damage.

The critical index might very well randomly appear as 0, 0.1, 0.01, 0.001... any of these were possible.

In other words, not only would the Goldfinger not generate a critical hit, but it would also weaken or even nullify the user's attack. It could weaken the strike to one-hundredth or one-thousandth of its regular damage or even reduce the damage to absolute zero.

Furthermore, the smaller the index, the higher the probability of this happening.

Therefore, at this stage, the Goldfinger was a massive resource sink.

When it got to the second stage, its effect would increase—it would now range from 1 to 20 times the damage.

At this stage, the Goldfinger would finally stop being such a massive resource sink.

The plump Lord had cultivated this Goldfinger to stage three.

Its current effect was 2 to 30 times the damage.

In other words, critical hits of at least two times the damage would be generated in each attack, with the maximum effect being thirty times the damage.

That was why the plump Lord's ability to deal damage was the most powerful among the six middle-rank Raider Lords.

Having this Goldfinger in his possession completely dispelled Lin Huang's initial disappointment at only being able to obtain three Goldfingers.

This Goldfinger had only boosted the plump Lord's close-range damage-dealing abilities by just a little.

However, with Lin Huang, it was an entirely different story.

Each of his hundreds upon millions of Divine Telekinesis flying daggers would be boosted with critical hits.

Hundreds upon millions of Divine Telekinesis flying daggers all attacking en masse—just the thought of it was terrifying.

Most importantly, this Goldfinger still possessed space for continued upgrades.

All he had to do was to refine more Goldfingers.

This also piqued Lin Huang's interest in hunting Raiders.

Setting the two other Goldfingers aside, Lin Huang immediately began refining the hammer-shaped Goldfinger.

With the Goldfinger's cooperation, he completed the refining process in less than ten minutes.

Lin Huang then turned his attention to the drop of Pure Golden Blood and rapidly refined this second Goldfinger as well.

As for the "Holy Light", he gave the matter some thought and ultimately decided to feed it to the "Critical Hit Hammer".

After all, this item was too extreme. If he gave it to Lin Xin, it might cause her cultivation path to deviate.

After the Critical Hit Hammer integrated with the “Holy Light”, it immediately went into deep sleep mode.

Lin Huang had not anticipated this at all. If nothing else, the critical hit effect he wanted could not be achieved while the Critical Hit Hammer was in deep sleep. He had no choice but to wait for it to finish digesting.

He then checked on the status of the drop of Pure Golden Blood in his body and discovered that it did not clash with the Tiny Golden Man. Not only that, it was rapidly strengthening his physical body.

Not very long later, Lin Huang’s initial ordinary upper-rank lord-level physical strength elevated all the way to peak upper-rank lord-level.

However, it stopped at upper-rank lord-level and refused to elevate any further.

Lin Huang raised his eyebrows lightly. This was entirely within the realm of his expectations.

After all, the short, burly, bald man’s physical strength had only been peak upper-rank lord-level before receiving a complete boost.

Furthermore, Lin Huang had already decided on how to elevate his physical strength after this.