

The Boss Behind The Game

Chapter 161: This Place Was Rather Scary

Looking at the little sapling not far away, the heart of the Hydra King skipped a beat.

He felt that he had experienced a fright.

Due to his untamed curiosity, he transformed into a small snake this time before he entered the Mansion of the Dead. However, the moment he entered, he was flabbergasted to find the place that was previously turned into ruins to be restored.

In order to satisfy his curiosity, he went further in, discovering a small sapling rooted at the entrance of Tong Gua's Casting Workshop.

How could he not know this sapling? It was the Rock Ghost King.

However, who knew that the dignified Ghost King would be fed by urine...

He couldn't believe it. The one who peed on the overlord of the Northern Zone was Beiqi's strongest Ghost King, Tong Gua.

Tong Gua? The Rock Ghost King? New forces?

The Hydra King felt as if something was hidden from him.

Why did both Tong Gua and the Rock Ghost King appear to be living in the Mansion of the Dead? Was there any secret between them and this new force?

Besides, judging from Tong Gua's behavior, he seemed to have been here for quite some time.

Then he thought of the compromise between the Rock Ghost King and the new force last time.

Am I the only one who doesn't know what's going on? Are they planning something?

That very moment, the Hydra King assumed that the Rock Ghost King who had also snuck into the Mansion of the Dead, was the secret partner of this new force.

Thinking of this, the Hydra King panicked a little.

Since Tong Gua and the Rock Ghost King are staying here in secret, why have I not heard any news? Am I also one of the targets in their plan to be wiped out?

As he thought of this, this little snake hiding in the crack of the stone was even more terrified.

Fuck, both of us are Ghost Kings! Did I offend either of them? Should there be any under table business or secret planning, you guys should count me in! Now you guys are making me panic!

Then, the Hydra King suddenly noticed that the Rock Ghost King started to move, with his roots pulled up from the ground, he sneakily etched toward His Excellency's palace.

Seeing this, the Hydra King followed quietly from behind, keeping a safe distance to prevent himself from being exposed.

This very moment, the Rock Ghost King was on the verge of collapsing. The only thought that supported him to stay here was to take a look at His Excellency's palace.

After knowing that Tong Gua was here, he felt that it was impossible for him to control this secret force. He might even be murdered by Tong Gua because he knew too much.

As he was getting closer to His Excellency's palace, the Rock Ghost King suddenly stopped. His roots pierced into the ground and posed as a small sapling again.

The Hydra King who was not far away immediately withdrew into the gap in the floor upon seeing this. He revealed only his little head and watched quietly.

Feeling the breath wafting from a short distance away, the Rock Ghost King felt his heart thumping hard again. He then slowly twisted his body and looked at the source of the breath.

However, when he saw the scene at a distance, his eyes widened.

Not far off on the resurrection point of the Mansion of the Dead, Hu He was holding his chin while squatting on the ground, carefully observing the corpse of Hiderigami. At the same time, he was thinking about how to refine the corpse.

Now that he did not dare to come out of the safe zone, he could only put his hopes on refining Hiderigami for revenge. He studied it very attentively, taking out ancient books from time to time to compare.

Both the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King in the distance were dumbfounded.

From the aura of the red body, they were sure that it was definitely Hiderigami. Even though its soul had dissipated, the energy fluctuations released from the flesh of a Ghost Emperor Elite could still be sensed.

Hu He was pointing and prodding Hiderigami's body, occasionally kicking it angrily with his feet. The Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King who witnessed the scene were so shocked by what they were seeing.

This place is too scary!

The same thought appeared in the minds of the two Ghost Kings at the same time, who had both snuck in for investigation.

The number one Ghost King in Beiqi, Tong Gua, had already frightened them, but now even an old corpse that the King of Beiqi himself might not have been able to defeat appeared. This could scare them to death.

Having been in the Land of Beiqi for so many years, they knew about Hiderigami.

They knew that there was a very powerful old corpse in the Burial Grounds. Although this old corpse was a huge threat, the King of Beiqi never took the initiative of offending it.

To the King of Beiqi, this old corpse had cultivated and reached the Ghost Emperor Realm for a long time. Although it was seriously injured, the King of Beiqi might not be able to defeat it either.

So, to the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King, the terror brought by Hiderigami was not any lesser than that of the King of Beiqi.

Nevertheless, the scene before them was too exciting. The soul of Hiderigami was stripped, but its physical body was still being toyed with.

Secret force! Secret force indeed.

The Rock Ghost King was horrified as he knew that he had uncovered too many secrets. He kept looking around, fearing that he would be discovered and then murdered.

The new force in the Mansion of the Dead was far beyond their imagination.

The Rock Ghost King finally understood.

This new force dared to invade the Northern Zone for logging even after he had given several warnings, because they had a strong background and were fearless.

Since the corpse of Hiderigami appeared here, the Rock Ghost King had another doubt.

Who killed Hiderigami?!

Could it be the guy who lived in His Excellency's palace now? Would he be the deceased King of Beiqi?

The Rock Ghost King was suddenly afraid to enter. It was too scary. He was scared that his soul would be sucked out and his corpse puppetized if he did.

Moreover, he had encountered both Tong Gua and Hiderigami as soon as he entered the Mansion of the Dead. Were there other presences there that were more intimidating than them in the mansion? This was something he was not sure of.

Looking at His Excellency's palace again, the Rock Ghost King quietly pulled his roots out of the ground. He immediately galloped out of the Mansion of the Dead.

This place was not for him. He might lose his life at anytime.

After running for a few steps, the Rock Ghost King halted again.

Staring at the little head that appeared out of the crack in the floor, cold sweat dripped from his head.

Similarly, the Hydra King also realized that he was exposed, staring at the Rock Ghost King with a look of horror on his face.

The two great Ghost Kings exchanged glances for a while, and a thought appeared in their minds at the same time.

"It's over for me! I've been discovered! Will he shout for the guards? Will he kill me?"

The two great Ghost Kings continued staring at each other. Both of them thought that the other was part of this secret force of Beiqi. Now that they were found sneaking in, they would most probably be murdered.

After gazing at each other for about five minutes, the Rock Ghost King suddenly howled. His body expanded in a flash and reverted into his original form.

The Hydra King also stretched his body and expanded continuously, transforming into a huge hydra form in the blink of an eye.

After locking gazes for one last time, the two stood up together and fled, one toward the North Rocks and the other toward the Ascension Zone.

"Run! Run! Otherwise, you will be murdered."

It was the only thought that occupied the minds of the two great Ghost Kings.

Hu He, who was at the resurrection point stood up ignorantly, looking at the open space where the two great Ghost Kings had appeared. He was stunned.

Was it just an illusion?

Chapter 162: The Drought Zombie And The Wood Spiritmaster (Two In One)

After the previous undercover infiltration, both the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King felt that they had perhaps discovered a massive hidden secret.

For a few days after that incident, they simply ignored the players, no matter how much they irked and annoyed them. They finally found out how jaw-droppingly terrifying and formidable their power was. Besides that, when they realized that the King of Beiqi might still be alive, they shuddered violently in fear and trepidation.

Meanwhile, in the inner chamber of the Mansion of the Dead, Bei Li was holding a minuscule shred of Hiderigami's flesh and examining it thoroughly with an intent look on her face.

After Hu He had gone offline, she covertly pilfered this little shred of his flesh through her personal channel. She wanted to slice it up and study it in great detail.

However, Bei Li merely acquired a microscopic morsel of flesh from Hiderigami's inner organs. Hence, its disappearance would be too insignificant and unnoticeable to raise any suspicions from Hu He.

According to Bei Li's theory, the skill that Hiderigami used to enhance and strengthen his physical body would be greatly helpful to the current players who were of the warrior class. If she could research it and construct some skill set paths, she could then create a new class advancement template for the warrior class.

After all, the warriors could currently only advance into Rune Masters. As a Rune Master relied on unarmed combat and did not actually wield any sharp weapons, many players who wanted to fight aggressively with swords and daggers were quite disappointed and displeased playing as a warrior.

The warriors wanted to advance and be stronger, but they also wanted to battle with sharp weapons. However, if they chose to advance into a Rune Master, it would simply be a miserable and permanent farewell to weapon-wielding combat. This had made many players feel greatly disgruntled. Hence, they fervently discussed it in the forums and suggested to the officials to improve the class or create another new warrior character for them to advance into.

Needless to say, Lu Wu had heard their pleas and swiftly took action. The possibility of the birth of a new character class this time would completely depend on that little morsel of Hiderigami's flesh.

After Bei Li carefully studied it for an hour, a globule of blood-red light emerged before her eyes. As she raised her head to look at it, a contented smile peered from her face.

“Wu, it's done!”

As she uttered that phrase excitedly, she naturally placed her hand on her waist and beamed with a proud expression, seemingly asking for someone to shower her with compliments.

As someone that possessed an artifact, Lu Wu was unfortunately very unskilled. When he heard of Bei Li's stupendous achievement, he instantly yelled a verbal representation of a thumbs-up gesture, to commend and cheer for her.

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The events from the new year were still ongoing, so the players were still diligently farming in the Land of Beiqi to gather the hidden red envelopes and outfit fragments.

Suddenly, two game messages popped up on the screen for everyone:

[Server Announcement: A new character class, Drought Zombie, for warrior class advancement is revealed.]

[Server Announcement: A new character class, Wood Spiritmaster, for mage class advancement is revealed.]

When they saw the new class advancement notification in the top left corner on the screen, many players instantly opened it.

When they entered the new class demonstration scene, they saw a new warrior character standing menacingly in the middle, with a proud expression and his arms crossed in front of his chest. His skin was completely crimson red, and he was extremely burly.

Then, a menu suddenly appeared:

[Class Introduction]

[Drought Zombie]: The Drought Zombie had abandoned his divine soul and proceeded to combine his spirit and body. It was because he wanted to train and enhance his

physical body to prove his Sacred Cause and gain an immortal body. When he succeeded in the end, no attacks or powers could harm him at all.

[Class Specialty]: Possesses a durable and sturdy body. Players can develop the class by learning the blood cultivation skill branches. In the end, players can manipulate blood after completing class development.

Weapons Compatibility: All warrior class weapons can be wielded.

Class Advancement Requirements: Reach Level 30 in the warrior character class.

After the menu disappeared, three berserkers emerged specifically to demonstrate the character's skills to the players.

In the blink of an eye, they lunged at the Drought Zombie for a vicious attack.

“Blood Qi Shield!”

The Drought Zombie, who was standing in the center, set his legs apart. With a swift movement, a mist of Blood Qi surged from every pore of his body, gradually staining his menacing eyes in a deep hue of crimson red.

When the three berserkers approached him, they unsheathed their large swords and slashed at the Drought Zombie's body.

Even though his body was endlessly assaulted by the sharp blades, not even a hint of a scar had appeared on the Drought Zombie's body. Instead, the Blood Qi surrounding him swelled with each attack, as a red number that indicated health loss appeared on each berserker's head.

A skill description menu suddenly popped up again:

[Blood Qi Shield]: Manipulate the blood in the body to form a protective barrier. Each attack will cause damage to the attacker instead. The skill lasts for one minute, while the cooldown time is ten minutes.

After the menu disappeared again, the Drought Zombie bared his bloody fangs and struck at the enemies with a swift swipe of his arm. Instantly, a huge Blood Qi claw formed in the air and powerfully slashed at the three berserkers, causing them to fumble backward.

Then the Drought Zombie waved his arms consecutively, unleashing an onslaught of bloody claws that materialized in mid-air at the three berserkers, destroying them into clouds of black mist.

[Blood Assassination]: Attach the power of Blood Qi onto the arm to unleash attacks imbued with Blood Qi (both ranged and close-combat). Each attack will consume 2% of the total blood volume (the higher the total blood volume, the stronger the attacks are.)

After the three berserkers perished, a vague silhouette promptly appeared near the Drought Zombie. It was none other than a mage character who was wielding a wooden staff.

“Poisonous Mist!”

“Yin Corrosion!”

The mage unleashed two attacks at the Drought Zombie. However, the Drought Zombie did not release the Blood Qi in his arms to retaliate. Instead, he stood unmovingly in the Poisonous Mist and Yin Corrosion fog without taking any damage.

[Zombie Body (Passive)]: The ability allows the body to be highly resistant to Negative States such as poison or zombie energies. (Passive ability may develop and become stronger as the level increases.)

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After the Drought Zombie demonstration had ended, the scene did not disappear. Instead, another new figure emerged onto the screen.

The figure was clad in pale, emerald green robes, as gorgeous butterflies and bees mesmerizingly fluttered around him. The scene was so vivid and invigorating, the players could almost sniff the gentle aroma wafting in the air through the computer monitor.

[Wood Spiritmaster]: A caster that has entered the path of wood spirits, thus unlocking the ability to communicate with mother nature.

Class Specialty: A support type and manipulator character that specializes in healing and wood-type abilities.

Weapons Compatibility: Magic staff.

Class Advancement Requirements: Reach Level 30 in the mage character class.

[Basic Skills]: Gift of Nature, Light of Wood Spirits, Summon Forest Demon, Vine Jail, Gift of Life

[Gift of Nature Level 1 (Passive)]: Every Wood Spiritmaster is a messenger of mother nature and receives a gift of nature by recovering four health points each second.

[Light of Wood Spirits Level 1]: Gather the power of wood spirits to heal one target. The amount of healing depends on the skill level.

[Summon Forest Demon]: Temporarily imbue spirits into plants (flowers, grass, or tree-type plants), to summon a forest demon into battle. The power of the skill depends on the levels of the plants used (it would be harder to imbue spirits into stronger plants.) It can also be used to increase the growth rate of plants.

[Vine Jail]: Mark a targeted opponent as an enemy of nature and cause the surrounding plants to automatically wrap around it (can be used to immobilize enemies in plantless zones by first sowing some seeds and instantly growing them into plants.)

[Gift of Life]: Unleash all the power of the wood spirits in one explosive skill. This will cause the user to lose 10% of his health every second, while releasing a huge amount of healing in a wide area (the skill will automatically deactivate when the user's health is below 10%.)

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The sudden reveal of two new character classes simultaneously caused the players in the forum to be completely thunderstruck.

The starry-eyed players stared intently as each scene of the skill demonstration was unveiled.

Peppa_Boar: "Finally a destructive tank is here. This Drought Zombie seems like it's stronger than the Rune Master. Not only is it great at both defensive and offensive skills, it even has abilities that inflict Negative States. I feel that the character class will be great at single combat, especially against mages."

Invincible_Loneliness: "It uses blood cultivation, right? It seems to have some similarities to my character class. Nice, nice!"

Xueli_The_Strongest: "Finally, we have a tank and cleric now. Why does the Wood Spiritmaster look like the little ladies from the Wood Spirit Clan? But, it seems to be much stronger."

Assassin_Creed: "The Wood Spiritmaster must be a character class that is geared to assist its teammates. Especially its healing abilities, it's a must-have in team battles. Just look at the little dog from the Myth Guild, their teamwork is impeccable."

Dancing_Battleaxe: "I really want to advance into a Drought Zombie, but I'm a little scared that the class advancement requirements are too terrifying. (scared emoji)"

Broke_Trash: "Great, I kept delaying my class advancement into a Five Elements Warlock because I'm too bad at aiming and I'm afraid of missing my skills in battles."

Now that they have been released, I can now convert into a Wood Spiritmaster. Yummy!”

Crayon_Shinchan: “The officials finally give players with terrible aim like us some candy. Both of the character classes don’t need to aim much, with one resisting damage and one with healing abilities. Both are brainless characters. (laughing emoji) I know the players who are going to advance into these two classes are gonna insult me now. Come, I’m waiting! (laughing emoji)”

Roaring_Thunder: “Can anyone expose Crayon_Shinchan’s address? I’m going to send a crate of bombs as a gift. (laughing emoji)”

Murder_In_The_Wind: “Why don’t the assassins like us have a second class advancement? Are the officials trying to make us mad? (slamming table emoji)”

Expired_Cracker: “Right, what about us? I’ll give the officials a day to contemplate it, can they please think about the assassins’ feelings, too? By hook or by crook, you have to introduce a second class advancement for us tomorrow! (slamming table emoji)”

Assassins_Alliance: “Come, everybody. Let’s create a top post to protest for the assassin players! Let the officials see our loud voices and show that we are not afraid of the useless officials’ intimidation and discrimination! (slamming table emoji)”

Ye_Xueer_is_the_Cutest: “Even though I’ve already advanced into a Cursed Apostle, why can’t assassin players like us have a second class advancement? I’m so mad! (bomb emoji)”

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Lu Wu felt very displeased and helpless when he saw the players’ ardent discussion in the forum.

After all, this was not really a game, and everything in it was based on reality.

One of the character classes was based on the warrior template created by researching Hiderigami’s physical state, while the other was formulated by studying the talent ability of the Wood Spirit Clan. After Bei Li had improved and tweaked them, both of them would have permanent and linearly-growing character templates.

As for the assassin class, Lu Wu still did not possess a complete development system to create a second class advancement template.

Hence, he sincerely wished to create it, but he did not have the means.

Thus, he accidentally deleted the top forum post of the assassin players’ passionate protest.

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In the Arctic Abyss in Beiqi.

A piercingly cold winter gale was billowing ferociously across the land, as heavy snow was falling gracefully yet menacingly from the dark, gloomy sky.

Murphy and Little Pomelo who had arrived there felt as though they had entered another realm in the Land of Beiqi, since the surrounding landscape and atmosphere had undergone a massive transformation.

The temperature there was so freezingly cold, they could feel the glacial numbness in their bones, even after lowering their physical senses.

The two of them heeded Tong Gua's instructions and spent an entire day to travel from the Mansion of the Dead to that ice land, without the help of a transport array. Luckily, they had purchased some winter outfits from the shop. Otherwise, the subzero temperature would inflict a myriad of Negative States and gradually reduce their health, preventing them from venturing too deep into that desolate area.

The chance of survival in this bleak landscape was almost nil, they did not see any hint of a living being or even a plant on their treacherous journey there.

When they remembered that Tong Gua claimed that some leftover members of a defeated group that had lost their power were hiding in the Arctic Abyss, they increasingly felt doubtful about that possibility.

However, they continued on, venturing deeper into the area as they trekked carefully on the thick, winter snow. A single misstep would send one falling into a bottomless pit.

Since they were both assassins, they used Shadow Step to walk on the thick layer of snow. Even though they could not hide their tracks perfectly, they could at least prevent themselves from falling in.

"Murphy, I think that we will freeze to death if we continue forward. If there really is a defeated group here, I honestly feel that they would've frozen to death ages ago," Little Pomelo's cheeks were flushed red from the biting cold, while her lips were purplish and trembling violently.

"Keep at it. If we really died, we can just recover and come back again," nagged Murphy, as he felt the bone-numbing coldness of Little Pomelo infecting him.

"Okay!"

Hence, the two of them began trudging ahead, again.

The Arctic Abyss was truly an abyss. After only taking a few steps, red numbers that indicated a loss of health appeared on their foreheads, despite the protective gear they were wearing.

Both of them felt greatly dejected, as they knew that their health would not last long enough for them to venture deeper, before they would have to turn back and return home.

As they were preparing to turn around and leave the area, a sudden burst of screaming noises echoed from afar.

The sounds seemed distant and were distorted by the blowing gale. Thus, both of them could not clearly discern it.

After stopping and listening closely, they were certain that a sound was indeed echoing from that direction. Hence, they exchanged a quick glance with each other, and swiftly marched with hurried footsteps toward the source of the noise.

As the sound became increasingly clear, they gradually slowed their pace as they carefully approached the location of the noise.

When they could visibly identify the source of the noise, they were both momentarily dumbfounded by what the scene that unfolded upon their eyes.

A group of young boys that was about 7 or 8 years old, with sapphire blue hair and crystal-like eyes, were fighting amongst themselves on the snowy ground.

It was an intense clash, with everyone fiercely punching and kicking one another violently, while wearing a vicious expression on their faces.

Something else also piqued their curiosity. The place was absolutely freezing, but the group of young boys seemed to be unbothered by the biting cold. They were only dressed in thin clothes as they moved around on the thick layer of snow bare-footed.

After a moment of consideration, both of them activated the explanation mode as they stared at the group of young boys:

[Name: Ice Blue]

[Background: Ice Snow Clan (Descendants of the Divine Clan)]: They are the descendants of the Divine Clan from the ancient times of Beiqi, and possess the ability to manipulate ice.

Ability Analysis: Ghost Commander Level.

When they saw the analysis menu, a look of utter disbelief appeared on Murphy and Little Pomelo's faces.

Then, they promptly diverted their gaze toward the children before them.

The menu revealed that all of them were, in fact, powerful beings of the Ghost Commander level. One of them was larger than the rest, and was clearly half-way toward becoming a Ghost General.

"They're so strong! We can't defeat any of them at all!" Little Pomelo exclaimed in a quiet whisper.

"We must not attract their attention, we mustn't," Murphy replied as he furiously nodded in agreement.

Suddenly, the children on the snowy ground stopped fighting each other. In the blink of an eye, all of them vanished, and reappeared right behind Murphy and Little Pomelo!

Both of them instantly broke into a cold sweat, shuddering violently in unspeakable fear.

"Who are you?" the larger child asked them as he inquisitively stared at them.

"We are... we are the descendants of Beiqi," Little Pomelo uttered meekly.

"Descendants of Beiqi? Are we from the same clan? But, why do you two look so different?" the boy asked again.

When they heard his question, both of them could not help but think about the analysis menu, which explained that the Ice Snow Clan was the descendant of Beiqi's Divine Clan.

"Then, why are you all fighting?" Little Pomelo plucked up the courage and asked them in return.

"Do we need a reason to fight? We just feel like fighting," the larger boy said, before thrusting his arm and ruthlessly slapping another boy, flinging him a distance away.

The boy who was slapped instantly disappeared when he landed on the ground, before immediately reappearing beside the larger boy and forcefully punching his face.

"Bang!"

Suddenly, a violent fight broke out again. The atmosphere was thrown into utter chaos, as the group of children began ferociously attacking each other.

Both Little Pomelo and Murphy were rendered speechless by the events that unfolded.

Chapter 163 – Ice Snow Clan

Murphy and Little Pomelo were evidently flustered as they watched the Ice Snow Clan's boys ruthlessly attack each other again.

"It seems that the culture of the people here is a bit rough," Murphy said in astonishment.

Little Pomelo nodded unconsciously, agreeing with his words.

However, since they had discovered the Ice Snow Clan, they did not plan to leave empty-handed. They waited patiently for their bloody fistfight to end, so that they could ask them about the Cursed Clan and find out if they have any information about them.

Alas, the rowdy battle lasted exactly half an hour. If it were not for their healing potions, the two of them would have collapsed and perished in the freezing temperature.

After finishing their scuffle, the group of young boys appeared in front of them again.

"Foreigners, I will bring you to meet our Ice Elder, follow us," the taller child said, acting like a leader.

"Thud!"

Suddenly, a swift kick whipped across the air and kicked the tall boy sprawling on the ground.

"I think we should bring them to the Snow Elder instead..."

Before the attacker could finish speaking, he was instantly pinned onto the snowy ground by another boy, who unleashed a barrage of punches at the former's face, yelling...

"Ice Elder! Ice Elder!"

Another person behind him grabbed the puncher's head and began crushing its skull, screaming...

"Snow Elder! Snow Elder!"

Both Murphy and Little Pomelo were extremely flabbergasted and could not utter a word.

Yet again, a noisy scuffle broke out between them.

The scene of them endlessly thrashing and pummeling each other over minor verbal disputes completely amazed and confounded Murphy and Little Pomelo.

Even though the young boys from the Ice Snow Clan did not unleash their element manipulation abilities, the pure strength from their bare fists was terrifyingly powerful. Resounding thumps reverberated through the air as they jabbed and slammed at one another with monstrous force. At a glance, they did not seem to be playing. Rather, the fight was so intense that they seemed to be out for blood.

The brawl went on for another half an hour. After they felt that they had had enough, they stopped attacking each other and appeared in front of Murphy and Little Pomelo again.

However, Murphy hastily made a suggestion before any of them could open their mouths.

“My fellow clansmen, we will see the Ice Elder first. Then, we will meet the Snow Elder after that. Is that alright?”

Murphy had to take the lead. Otherwise, the Ice Snow Clan’s boys would quarrel and strike each other again.

“Alright,” some of the young boys seemed slightly disappointed.

With the boys leading ahead, the two of them began venturing deeper into the Arctic Abyss.

However, the subzero temperature plummeted drastically as they continued their journey into the freezing abyss. Only when they saw the blurry visage of the Ice Snow Palace in a distance away, they could let out a sigh of relief.

They had been constantly using their healing potions to replenish their health throughout the perilous journey. Otherwise, their health would dip at lightning speed, and they would lose their lives in less than a minute in the freezing cold.

When they arrived at the main gate of the Ice Snow Palace, the leader raised his hand and made a swift swiping movement. Instantly, the appearance of the palace gate became distorted and blurred, as the surrounding air rumbled ferociously as though it was gushing water. Then, suddenly, the facade of the Ice Snow Palace was ripped apart, as though it was a painting, before displaying the real image behind the mirage. It was a small village on an ice tower that was built with ice blocks.

Undoubtedly, both of them were noticeably dumbfounded at the scene that unfolded upon them, with their eyes and mouth wide open. So, the majestic castle is just an illusion, while the little village in there is the true base. But, it’s a bleak icy landscape with no life to be found, who are they actually hiding from?

The group of boys quickly led them to an igloo. When they reached the place, the leader raised his leg and ruthlessly kicked the door open, shouting, "Ice Elder, are you here?"

"Thump!"

Ice shards fluttered in the air as the ice door was shattered by his powerful kick.

With that rowdy commotion, the two old men with snow-white hair in the house turned around and stared at the entrance.

"Eh? Snow Elder, you're here as well. We were planning to kick the door of your house for a visit later," the leader was brazen and announced it honestly, as he scratched his head in frustration.

The white-haired man who was addressed as the Snow Elder simply replied with a chuckle, before exchanging a glance with the Ice Elder and asking, "Should we punish them?"

"Yes!"

In a flash, Snow Elder leaped up and hauled the leader away, as he violently assaulted every inch of the boy's face until he wailed and begged for mercy.

After a merciless bout of beating, he flung the boy from his house. He was thoroughly injured and barely alive, as he lay limp on the cold floor.

When the other boys saw it, they immediately became frightened and took a step backward in trepidation.

"Foreigners? How did you manage to enter this place?" the Ice Elder stared at Murphy and Little Pomelo with a piercing gaze.

As they had just witnessed the Ice Elder's brutal violence, both of them hastily pointed at the group of young boys.

"I'm going to beat all of you to death. Are you boys brainless pigs!? Why did you bring foreigners in?" warned the Ice Elder as he extended his hand and created a long ice staff.

When the young boys saw what was happening, they instantly turned around and fled, as the Ice Elder chased behind them, brandishing his ice staff and berating them incessantly.

"Ice Elder, they are our fellow classmen. They're not foreigners, that's what they told us," the Ice Snow Clan boys shouted in return as they fumbled about, avoiding the old man's attacks.

“Do you believe everything they said? You morons, can’t you see that they look different from us?” Ice Elder waved his staff more threateningly, irked by their flimsy explanation.

Soon, every one of the boys was lying on the ground, heavily injured from the old man’s merciless beating. Only then, the old man stopped hitting them and ambled toward Murphy and Little Pomelo.

Both of them were absolutely terrified and could not help but stumble a step backward.

“Foreigners, this is the forbidden land of the Ice Snow Clan. However, since you were brought in by the kids, I shall let this pass. I won’t punish you for trespassing on our forbidden grounds, so you should quickly leave!”

Despite feeling quite terrified, Murphy bit the bullet and opened his mouth, “Ice Elder, we’re here to see you.”

“Me? Why?” the Ice Elder was visibly surprised.

“We’re actually trying to find the group of people from the Cursed Clan that escaped into the Arctic Abyss many years ago. Ice Elder, do you perhaps know where they are?”

“The Cursed Clan? Hmm, I seem to remember something about it,” the Ice Elder stroked his beard as he squinted his eyes and fell into deep contemplation.

“Oh! I remember it now, I think they are there!” a contented smile suddenly appeared on the Ice Elder’s face.

Murphy and Little Pomelo seemed overjoyed by his positive reply, too.

“Since you’ve entered this place, I might as well bring you somewhere. Follow me.”

Murphy and Little Pomelo were sincerely grateful and touched when they saw how reasonable and understanding the Ice Elder was. Even though the people here seem rough and violent, they appear to be quite amicable, after all.

Hence, they followed the elders to the back of the village.

When they reached a cliff at the edge of the village, the Snow Elder pointed at the countless frozen statues erected on the icy cliff.

“It should be them.”

Murphy and Little Pomelo raised their head and peered ahead, realizing that each frozen statue contained a living being that was trapped within it. When the artifact analyzed the frozen statues that were pointed at by the Snow Elder, a data menu promptly appeared:

[Zhou Sheng (Cursed Clan Elder)]:

Cause of Death: Trespassing on the forbidden grounds of the Ice Snow Clan. Thus, the person was forever imprisoned on the Ice Snow Cliff.

[Zhou Gan (Cursed Clan Elder)]:

Cause of Death: Trespassing on the forbidden grounds of the Ice Snow Clan. Thus, the person was forever imprisoned on the Ice Snow Cliff.

[Zhou Jin (Cursed Clan Elder)]:

Cause of Death: Trespassing on the forbidden grounds of the Ice Snow Clan. Thus, the person was forever imprisoned on the Ice Snow Cliff.

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They were completely thunderstruck when they saw the cause of death analysis notifications, as they had just presumed that the Ice Snow Clan's people were friendly and amiable.

However, they felt even more dejected when they realized that everyone from the Cursed Clan had perished. What about the Prajñā Scarification, are we really left with no choice but to go to Naraka Realm?

Grief and hopelessness overwhelmed both of them, as their knees gave away.

However, a voice suddenly sounded from above, "Old Bing, Old Xue, who allowed you to bring foreigners here?"

Completely frightened, the Ice Elder and the Snow Elder's expressions instantly darkened when they heard the menacing voice.

"Boss, listen to our explanation. This has nothing to do with us!"

"I won't listen, I don't care."

A pure white figure suddenly leaped from the summit of the Ice Snow Cliff and landed before them. In the blink of an eye, the silhouette sucked both the Ice Elder and the Snow Elder onto his palms, before ruthlessly crushing their skulls against the icy ground.

"So, it's my fault that you brought foreigners in, acted foolishly, and disobeyed the rules? Are the rules that I set as the clan leader too difficult to adhere to?"

Murphy and Little Pomelo were absolutely tongue-tied as they watched the two old men, who seemed extremely vicious previously, helplessly shielding their head from the barrage of punches.

That is the true image of brutal violence!

Chapter 164: Out For A Stroll

After cold-bloodedly and viciously pummeling both of the elders, the white glimmer from the silhouette's body dissipated, revealing the true identity of the person cloaked behind the blinding glow.

Both Murphy and Little Pomelo were stupefied when they saw the person's appearance.

The person who was called the boss by the two elders was actually a young child that was about 7 or 8 years old. His eyes were brimmed with arrogance and pride, as he stared condescendingly at others with an almighty expression.

A notification instantly appeared before the two of them:

[Frozen (Middle-stage Ghost Emperor)]

Character Information: A descendant of ancient Beiqi's Divine Clan, the clan leader of the Ice Snow Clan, and the strongest general under the first King of Beiqi's command.

Ability Information: Early stage of Ice Laws control.

(Officials' reminder: Must not be angered.)

When they saw the message, Murphy and Little Pomelo's expression instantly turned ashen pale, as they trembled violently in paralyzing fear.

According to their previous knowledge, other than the Demonic Gods whose abilities were not defined, the strongest beings in the world were the Sea King and Tong Gua.

However, they were exceedingly powerful beings that were at the Ghost King level. It seemed incredulous and unbelievable that a young child hiding in this ice realm could attain such an immense power at the Ghost King level.

After massaging his hands for a quick while, Frozen placed his hands behind his back and stared at the two elders with heavily-wounded faces, saying, "Tell me. How did they enter here?"

“Boss, they were brought in by the boys. It’s really not our fault,” the Snow Elder hurriedly explained, afraid that he would be brutally beaten again.

“That’s true, Old Xue is right. The kids led them in, it seems that they’re looking for the Cursed Clan,” the Ice Elder raised his finger and pointed at the frozen statues on the ice cliff.

Frozen raised his head and took a brief glance at the frozen statues in the direction that was pointed at by the Ice Elder, before shifting his eyes onto Murphy and Little Pomelo.

“Who told both of you that the Cursed Clan was in the Arctic Abyss?”

“Tong Gua!” the two of them revealed his identity without a hint of hesitation.

“Who’s Tong Gua?” Frozen was momentarily dumbfounded, as he had never heard this name before. However, it seemed that the person was very familiar with the Arctic Abyss.

“Tong Gua is a Big Goose!” Murphy instantly replied.

“No, he’s a Celestial Crane. Apparently, he’s even rumored to be Beiqi’s strongest Ghost King!” Little Pomelo hastily added as well.

“Celestial Crane? The strongest Ghost King?”

Frozen was confused and in utter disbelief.

From what I know, the strongest Ghost King in the Land of Beiqi is supposed to be me. How did this Tong Gua appear out of nowhere?

“This Tong Gua is the strongest Ghost King in Beiqi? Then, who’s the current King of Beiqi?” Frozen asked again.

“The current King of Beiqi is none other than Lu Yan, your village’s network...” Little Pomelo’s words trailed off. She stopped herself from complaining as she was afraid of being hit by him.

“What!” Frozen exclaimed, as his expression changed drastically.

“Where did the initial King of Beiqi go?” Frozen asked in a hurry, feeling as though his chest would explode.

In the beginning, he obeyed the first King of Beiqi’s command to hide in the Arctic Abyss for a few hundred thousand years. However, he was utterly shocked when he heard about the first King of Beiqi’s deposition. Didn’t we waste all that time of our lives here if His Majesty’s gone now?

Frozen's expression immediately darkened when he had an unpleasant epiphany.

"How can that useless Lu Yan become the King of Beiqi? I'm going to kill him now. If the previous king is gone, the next king should be me, as I'm the true descendant of the Beiqi's Divine Clan!"

"By the way, is the Guardian Spirit of Beiqi still there?" Frozen seemed to have remembered something and quickly asked.

"Spirit Guardian?"

Murphy and Little Pomelo were stunned for a moment, before suddenly recollecting that Tong Gua's Analysis Menu seemed to have mentioned that he was the incarnation of Beiqi's Spirit Guardian.

"Clan leader, it seems that the Spirit Guardian is Tong Gua!"

When he heard their reply, Frozen clenched his hands tightly into fists.

"Tong Gua, right? Seeing that he's not dead yet, it's great! I just have to kill him again."

The discussion about the Spirit Guardian reminded Frozen about the ancestral holy book called the Way of Fate that the Ice Snow Clan worshipped.

In the past, the holy book was stolen by Beiqi's Guardian Spirit. However, it had to pay a hefty price for the theft, and was ruthlessly slain by the Ice Snow Clan. Much to his dismay, however, the Guardian Spirit was not actually killed in that incident. Instead, it had simply changed its name and assumed a new identity.

"Splendid!"

"Lu Yan and Tong Gua, both of them must die!" a menacing grin peered on Frozen's face as he made the roaring announcement.

After knowing that the first King of Beiqi had perished, Frozen felt that no one could suppress him anymore. It's time for the Ice Snow Clan to reign supreme across the Land of Beiqi now.

Murphy and Little Pomelo were tongue-tied as they watched Frozen's gleeful expression. They did not have the heart to tell him that Lu Yan had disappeared.

"I'm so glad. Both of you, what kind of rewards do you wish for?" with his hands behind his back, he stared at the two of them and haughtily asked.

“It’s fine, we don’t need any. Now that the Prajñā Scarification is gone, we will take our leave now,” Murphy waved his hand with an extremely disappointed expression, as though all hopes were lost.

“Forget about that stupid Prajñā Scarification. Do you think I, as a descendant of the Divine Clan, can’t give you any amazing things?” Frozen rolled up his sleeves, seeming as though he was ready to strike at someone.

“That’s right, the people from the Ice Snow Clan have everything. We even have a holy book that can help one attain divinity!” the two elders yelled boastfully from aside.

“A holy book that helps one attain divinity? Where is it?” both of them asked immediately with bright, expectant eyes.

When he heard their enthusiastic reply, the initially conceited Frozen stopped laughing in embarrassment and let out an awkward cough.

“Ahem, ahem! The holy book is our clan’s precious treasure, of course, I can’t just give it to you. However, I’ll give you something in exchange.”

“Then, we want the Prajñā Scarification!” the two of them seemed extremely miserable again.

“What rubbish is Prajñā Scarification, what is that even exactly?” Frozen asked in annoyance.

“It’s the strongest skill of the Cursed Clan and the assassin character. No one in this entire server knows how to use the skill at all,” Murphy spoke bluntly.

“Cursed Clan’s strongest skill? Server?” Frozen was slightly befuddled by their incredulous answer.

“Aren’t the Shadows the most powerful assassin clan in Beiqi? How did it become the Cursed Clan from Naraka?”

“Shadow Clan?” Murphy and Little Pomelo were evidently confused, as they had never heard of the name or anyone from Beiqi mention it before.

After a moment of contemplation, Frozen spoke again.

“If you want to learn the strongest assassin’s skill, I can teach it to you. However, it’s not from the Cursed Clan.”

“Is it from the Shadow Clan?” Little Pomelo asked unconsciously.

“Correct!”

“Is it more powerful than Prajñā Scarification?”

“I have no idea what Prajñā Scarification is at all. Is it really that powerful?” Frozen began to feel restless, as the two people before him seemed to be very dense and slow-witted.

“Of course it is. It’s one of the ultimate skills from the Naraka Realm. If you can master it, you have the power to destroy anyone you want.”

“Isn’t it just some useless skill from Naraka...”

Frozen suddenly stopped speaking, silently swallowing the mocking words that he was about to utter.

When he heard about the Naraka Realm and ultimate skill, Frozen already realized how formidable and devastating that attack was.

The Naraka Realm was a massive cultivation system in the underworld, and its ultimate skills were notorious for their destructive powers. It was impossible for him to not know about them.

“Don’t you think it’s very strong?”

“It’s just... just okay,” Frozen awkwardly forced a smile on his face.

“However, even the strongest Naraka Realm skill is just a spell. That assassination method cannot compare with the Shadow Clan’s,” Frozen added stubbornly.

“Really?”

“Of course, it’s real. The Shadow Clan has even slaughtered gods... their assassination methods are truly unrivaled.”

“Then, did they really manage to slaughter the gods?” Murphy and Little Pomelo asked, as their hearts were wavered by his boastful talk.

“No!”

“Whatever. Clan leader, you can just spare us some soul coins if you have some. Otherwise, forget it. We’ll just return empty-handed.”

Murphy and Little Pomelo waved their hand in frustration, as they prepared to leave that forsaken place.

“Stand still!”

Frozen's pride was severely shattered when he thought that he could not give Murphy and Little Pomelo a satisfactory reward.

Nevertheless, he adamantly insisted, "Even though the Shadow Clan failed to assassinate the gods, we still heavily injured them. This type of power is surely much stronger than those from Naraka Realm. In terms of assassination techniques, our skills are far stronger than them. If you don't believe me, I'll show you now!"

After saying so, Frozen waved his hand forward, as droplets of ice crystals materialized and fluttered in the air, forming a moving image before them.

In the image, a row of men clad entirely in black was challenging a red-haired man that was hovering in the air.

The man was veiled in a cloud of thick red mist and every time he moved his arms, the suns and stars in the sky would shift their position. With each fluid movement, the sky would alternate incessantly between night and day.

Despite the man's daunting capability, the group of men dressed in onyx black did not flinch or cower in fear. Instead, they endlessly lunged toward the man, trying to attack him.

However, their methods were extremely peculiar.

There were clearly dozens of them there, but they suddenly merged into one person. In a flash, dozens of them emerged from the single silhouette again.

Every time the red-haired man unleashed an attack, the dark figures would shift and swap places with one another. Their techniques were strangely evil and completely untouchable, like a series of flowing shadows. The skill was so extraordinary and perplexing that the opponent could not seem to successfully attack them at all.

Ultimately, the red-haired man finally became so infuriated, the entire sky was stained completely in crimson red as the bright-red sun rose from the horizon. Under its intense glare, the world was bathed in its flaming sunlight and the masked men were finally incinerated by its scorching rays, turning into a pile of cinders.

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"How is that, is the assassination method good enough for you?" Frozen asked with a smug expression.

"We want to learn!" Murphy and Little Pomelo replied passionately, their bright eyes overflowing with gusto.

“Haha, look. I told you that our Ice Snow Clan has innumerable treasures. How can we not have something that can satisfy you?” Frozen raised his hand and waved, forming a dark light orb that was glimmering faintly in his palm.

“Take this, it’s a legacy of the Shadow Clan. However, our clan’s inheritance is not an easy challenge. Those without the Shadow Clan’s gifted talent would find it extremely difficult to understand its complexity. However, both of you can slowly have a go at it. Perhaps, you can discover a hint of its profound assassination technique.”

After he handed the black light orb to Murphy and Little Pomelo, Frozen hovered into the air and made a roaring declaration.

“From today onward, our Ice Snow Clan shall be set free from our contract of eternal isolation. Under my command, every one of us shall leave this place today and return to the Land of Beiqi!”

All the clansmen on the ground rushed out from their ice houses, and fervently kneeled down to worship their clan leader, Frozen.

After they had finished lauding him, the entire Ice Snow Clan immediately packed up their possessions and hastily gathered up at a designated location.

When they saw the preparations for the exodus had completed, Frozen and the two elders emerged in front of the thousands of clansmen.

“Clan leader, what lies in the outside world?”

“Clan leader, is the outside world as exciting as here?”

“Clan leader...”

When they saw that Frozen had appeared, the clansmen started to ask these questions with great curiosity, as they had never ventured out before.

Then, Frozen raised his hand, signaling everyone to stop, as the crowd immediately submerged into obedient silence.

“The reason we are leaving the Arctic Abyss, is for me to reclaim the throne as the King of Beiqi. Hence, we are at the brink of an all-out war, and all of us will be fighting endlessly to our deaths.”

Hearing that, the sea of people chattered noisily among themselves, with a strangely ecstatic expression on each of their faces.

“Fighting is great, I like fighting the most!”

"It's simply great news, we're going to fight all day, every day. The outside world is actually so exciting!"

"The people living in the outside world are so blessed that they can fight all the time. Let's quickly make a move and join them!"

"I'm so jealous of the people in the outside world because they can fight to their hearts' content. We can finally go out and have some fun with them, I'm so happy!"

Frozen could not help but smirk when he saw the people's faces brimming with joy.

With a swift wave of his hand, he commanded, "Exit the borders!"

Immediately, a swarm of thousands of people from the Ice Snow Clan ardently dashed toward the Land of Beiqi, with Frozen leading them.

When they reached the edge of the Arctic Abyss, Frozen suddenly stopped, causing the clansmen behind him to follow suit as well.

His expression gradually turned unnatural and awkward, when he noticed a silhouette standing not far away from them.

A white-haired man was chuckling heartily as he watched them nearby.

"Hey... aren't you Little Feng? Why are you here? Are you itching for a beating, since it seems like you're trying to disobey me and leave?"

"Your... your Majesty!" Frozen shouted with an embarrassed expression.

"I heard that you wanted to become the King of Beiqi?" the white-haired man asked again.

"There's no... no such thing. I... I'm merely bringing my clansmen out for a stroll. We're going to return now," Frozen hastily explained.

At that moment, an intense hatred bubbled inside Frozen, as he wanted desperately to strangle both Murphy and Little Pomelo to death. How dare they trick me! I even gave them a present, yet they still deceived me. The world is a dark and dangerous place because of humans' evilness indeed! I hate them to my bone!

"Really... just out for a stroll?"

"We're really just out for a stroll," Frozen adamantly repeated.

"Why is everyone carrying their personal belongings for a stroll?" the white-haired old man asked again with a chuckle.

Instantly, Frozen turned around and discovered that all the clansmen were carrying large and small bags of their possessions, as if they were preparing to travel far.

“Your... your Majesty...” Frozen gave up, despondent and helpless. He felt that he could not find another excuse to keep up the lie any longer.

“Hurry back now! If you leave without my orders again, I will break your leg in half!” the white-haired old man growled fiercely at him.

“Yes, yes, yes!”

When he realized what was happening, Frozen hastily beckoned his clansmen to return with a wave.

Thus, the Ice Snow Clan that was preparing to conquer the Land of Beiqi, miserably plodded back to the Arctic Abyss once again.