

The Good 491

Chapter 491: Temple of the Sun (5)

Shen Yanxiao felt it as she fell. She lost her vision for a brief moment due to that glaring light. The sudden descend took her by surprise, but she managed to cast a singular curse on herself in a hurry for a soft landing.

Shen Yanxiao landed on the ground slowly, and her sight recovered gradually.

She gasped in astonishment when eyes feasted on the sight in front of her.

It was no longer the desolated Graveyard of the Sun in front of her. Shen Yanxiao had somehow ended up at a vast palace where its entire ground was paved with pure white dolomite. There were golden murals carved into the white walls that surrounded the palace.

Twelve golden pillars stood in a row by the sides of the hall to support the ceiling. At the end of the room, a throne made of golden stones sat on top of a seven-story white jade staircase that was inlaid with moonstones and simmered with dots of silvery light.

A huge golden sculpture of the sun ran across the wall behind the throne.

One could feel a sense of holiness throughout the palace.

A small, gray flower had grown on the edge of the throne in that empty room.

“The Skeleton Flower!” Shen Yanxiao’s eyes sparkled when she was that gray flower.

She did not expect that the Skeleton Flower she had been searching for had grown in a completely sealed palace!

“Xiu, what is this place?” Shen Yanxiao hurried toward the Skeleton Flower and picked up the precious flower with great care. Shen Yanxiao had many questions as she looked at the solemn but magnificent palace.

“This is the main hall of the Temple of the Sun.” Xiu’s cold voice sounded confused, as well. He had not expected that they would be able to get into the Temple of the Sun, and an intact main hall no less!

“The main hall? Wasn’t the Temple of the Sun destroyed in the battle? But there’s no sight of a fight here.” Shen Yanxiao looked around the palace, but she had failed to detect any entrance or exit in the hall. She could not even find a window, let alone a door. It looked like it was an enclosed space without any access to outside.

“How did we end up here?” She remembered that she was still at the Graveyard of the Sun just moments ago.

Did that light bring them there?

Xiu did not give Shen Yanxiao an immediate answer as he had to ponder the possibilities.

"I sensed the God of the Sun's aura in that light. However, he was long gone. Legend mentioned that the demons had destroyed the Temple of the Sun, but it seems like that's where we are now. We must have missed something." Xiu paused for a moment before he continued.

"Perhaps the God of the Sun activated the magical array in the main hall before he perished. You were standing in the main hall of the Temple of the Sun. The light from sunrise is the purest of all. Maybe it triggered the magical array, and then it took you to the real main hall."

"Wait, if that's the case, wouldn't everyone spot the main hall easily? Someone must have found this by now if the magical array is triggered daily." Somehow, Shen Yanxiao felt that Xiu's words did not make complete sense.

If the sunlight could trigger the magical array, the demons would have noticed it the day after the infamous battle.

Xiu kept silent for a moment before he had an answer for Shen Yanxiao.

"Other than the sunlight, one more thing is required to trigger the magical array."

"What is it?" Shen Yanxiao asked.

"Godhood."

Chapter 492: Temple of the Sun (6)

"Godhood?" Shen Yanxiao had never heard that word before. She did not believe that something so impressive would be found in her.

"The gods are divided into different levels based on their strength. The average gods do not possess Godhood. Only those with ranking had Godhood. There are four ranks of gods—the low-ranking gods, the mid-ranking gods, the high-ranking gods, and the ruling god. Gods from these different ranks have different numbers of Godhood, and the God of the Sun was a high-ranking god with seven Godhoods. Only a god with Godhood could trigger the magical array that he had set up," Xiu explained.

"Xiu, are you a god?" After a long moment of silence, Shen Yanxiao finally found the courage to ask the question that weighed in her mind.

Shen Yanxiao had never had a clear idea about Xiu's identity. She only knew that he was very powerful, and the Vermillion Bird had mentioned that Xiu could be part of the god race. The God of the Sun had set up the magical array so that only a god with Godhood could trigger it. All the evidence pointed to the possibility that Xiu was a god.

Was Xiu a god that had survived that ancient battle?

Unfortunately, Xiu did not give her a reply.

"Alright, let's move on to another question. How do we get out?" Since Xiu did not like to discuss his identity, Shen Yanxiao was smart enough to drop the issue.

Walls surrounded them in that palace; there was not even a chimney. Who would know where the God of the Sun had decided to seal the main hall?

She had obtained the Skeleton flow, but how would they get out of there?

“We’ll have to break through the magical array.” Xiu’s answer utterly astounded Shen Yanxiao.

They would have to break through a magical barrier that a superior god had set up?

...

Shen Yanxiao knew that it was almost an impossible mission to do that.

“That would be a problem.” Shen Yanxiao was depressed. She had tried to reach the Vermillion Bird, but their spiritual link was gone. Did the magical array have the ability to isolate one’s mental connection?

“That is not entirely impossible. It has been tens of millions of years, so the strength in that magical array would have greatly weakened. If I can recover a little more of my strength, I can give it a go.” Xiu was less troubled about their situation.

Shen Yanxiao’s face brightened when she heard his words.

She would usually look despaired whenever Xiu mentioned that he needed to recover his strength. However, she had all three ingredients then so Xiu could finally put them together and regain his power with the dark elements that the plants would produce!

Shen Yanxiao was glad that she had brought the Flames Grass and the Moling Plant with her.

She took all plants from her interspatial ring. There was just one problem...

She had all the items, but how was she supposed to cultivate them?

There was no soil within their reach.

“You can use your magical power and battle aura as a growth medium to plant them for now.” Xiu’s answer came at perfect timing to solve Shen Yanxiao’s problem.

Shen Yanxiao immediately put all the three plants in her hands and wrapped them in her battle aura.

The three plants quickly exhibited new vitality as barely-visible gray steam rose from the plants.

It had worked!

Shen Yanxiao was pleased. “Xiu, how long do you need before you can break through the magical array?” she casually asked.

“Two to three months.”

Once again, Shen Yanxiao was speechless. A gulp of blood surged in her throat in a moment of frustration. She felt as if she had fallen from paradise!

Two to three months!

The competition between academies in the Longxuan Empire would commence in just two months!

Chapter 493: The Bitter Life (1)

Shen Yanxiao boiled with anger. At that rate, even if they could break free from that place, the tournament between the academies in the Longxuan Empire would have begun by then.

She would not have the chance to win when she could not even participate in that tournament. If she were not the champion, she would not be able to obtain a territory in the Forsaken Land. Without that, she would not be able to fulfill Xiu's grand plan of breeding demons, and that would mean Xiu's cultivation would slow down. Finally, it would mean that she would not be able to undo the Seven Star Moon Seal any time soon!

That was enough cause for a fit of rage.

"Xiu, could you do it quicker?" Shen Yanxiao wanted to burst into tears. She had made plans, and that magical array would screw things up for her. She was almost free from that incomprehensible seal, but who would have thought that they would meet with another hurdle at that critical juncture?

Good heavens, it was not the time for jokes!

"I will try my best." Xiu did not give her a guarantee that he would be able to do that.

Shen Yanxiao looked up to the ceiling with speechlessness.

At that moment, her mood was more bitter than the bitter gourd. However, what was done could not be undone. She would just have to focus on cultivating those three plants with her batter aura and magical power. She hoped that Xiu would be able to shorten that time to less than two months. Otherwise, she would have to kiss that territory goodbye.

Shen Yanxiao felt awful. Little did she know that there were other people in a tighter spot than she was in.

The Vermilion Bird hovered above the Graveyard of the Sun, and he was stupefied. He was on the verge of losing his mind as he looked at the piles of rocks with no living soul in sight.

"Shen Yanxiao! You godforsaken woman! Where the hell are you? Come out!!" The Vermilion Bird was out of his wits. They were there in search of something, so how did he lose his master?

The contract between a magical beast and their master was permanent, and nothing could sever the mental link between them. Unless she was no longer in the Brilliance Continent, the Vermilion Bird should be able to sense her mental energy even if she was buried thousands of meters underground.

However, the Vermilion Bird could not even sense Shan Yanxiao, let alone to contact her. It was something that a magical beast would feel if they were in a different continent than their master, or if their master died.

Shen Yanxiao and Vermilion Bird had only parted for less than half a day. Even if she were to fly, she would not have been able to drift away from the Brilliance Continent.

The second possibility alarmed the usually heartless Vermilion Bird.

His master was shameless and audacious, but she was still his master, nonetheless. How could he stand to lose her? What the hell had happened?

The Vermillion Bird could no longer follow Shen Yanxiao's previous order for him to stay a 'low-profile.' He extended his arms, and two colossal fire dragons flew out of his hands. The two dragons obeyed the Vermillion Bird's instructions and flew high above the Graveyard of the Sun. Their potent fire elements cause tremors in the area. Both light and dark elements that had already existed there reacted strongly to the fire elements.

The three elements were intertwined, causing a large-scale earthquake that spread across the Graveyard of the Sun.

A hundred meters underground, some men in black robes were sorting out some papers in a cellar. The next moment, the quakes disturbed them.

"What is going on?"

"Someone has broken into the Graveyard of the Sun!"

Chapter 494: The Bitter Life (2)

"What kind of gatekeeper is Brother Nine? How could he let people into the Graveyard of the Sun? I knew it; he hasn't been in the right frame of mind these past few years. How could he fail in such a simple task?"

"Alright, now is not the time for nonsense. We are at a critical juncture for our experiment, so we can't afford mistakes. Go and see if someone had broken in. Take care of them, and make it fast. Don't cause delays to our progress." An old man in a black robe, who seemed to have a higher position, interrupted the other's discussion.

"Yes." The others shut their mouths immediately. Three of them followed the old man's instructions and headed toward the staircase that led to the overground.

When they got there, they were struck dumb by what they saw.

More than a dozen fire dragons hovered above them. The three elements had fused, and it generated a mighty blast of waves in the air. The three new arrivals almost suffered internal injuries from that blast.

"Where did all those fire elements come from?"

The three of them shook as they stood frozen in that spot. Fortunately, they regained their sense quick enough to summon their battle aura and magical cover to shield themselves from the subsequent blasts.

They raised their heads toward the sky, and they saw a small, fire-red figure that stood amidst the fire dragons.

The three black-robed men were speechless as they stared at the Vermilion Bird in the air. Who could tell them where did that brat come from? How could he stand in the air motionlessly?

"Who is this little punk?" One of the men asked in confusion.

"Are you sure it's a who?" The other person asked as he watched the Vermilion Bird summon another two fire dragons. His eyes, concealed under his hood, widened in surprise.

"Then, what is that?"

“A magical beast... A mythical beast, no less...”

“Why would a mythical beast come here?”

The three men wanted to cry. They were there to deal with the intruder. How could they know it was a mythical beast?

Why would such a legendary entity be in a desert that was in the middle of nowhere?

The three of them looked at each other and saw the frustration in each other’s eyes.

How could they win that fight?

That miserable Shen Yanxiao had no idea that she had unknowingly caused the Vermillion Bird to be so upset that it acted out in a fit of rage. He thought that his merciless master had deceived him, and that invited a tragic situation for the group of people in the cellar.

The fact that Shen Yanxiao was also in trouble of her own did not diminish that at all.

Eventually, a month passed.

The trip of friends at the Saint Laurent Academy was still waiting for their friend to come back. They had so many questions for her.

However, they were not too worried as she had once been away for an entire month also.

Days continued to pass until it was only a week before the inter-academy tournament would begin.

The trio of friends had finally begun to feel uneasy about their friend’s absence.

“Why isn’t Xiaoxiao back yet? The tryouts for our academy is about to begin. She’ll miss the tryouts for the Archer Division and the Herbalist Division!” Yan Yu said with a long face as he sat in the lounge behind the casino.

The divisions at the Saint Laurent Academy would hold tryouts for the tournaments before it started., Each division would select their most-qualified student to represent them and the academy in the tournament.

The tryouts were irrespective of grades. Any students who had the confidence to win were welcomed to try their luck. The teachers would select the best student to participate in the tournament.

Qi Xia, Yan Yu, and Yang Xi would join the tryouts as well, but they were not worried about their competition. They were anxious to know whether their world-traveling friend could make it back to the academy in time for the tryouts.

Chapter 495: The Bitter Life (3)

While the trio of friends was worried about Shen Yanxiao, Xie Yun, Ye Qing, and Yun Qi were even more concerned about her!

Shen Yanxiao had approached them to ask for a leave of absences. Ye Qing and Yun Qi respected her wishes and granted her request immediately. Xie Yun tried to stop her but had failed.

The tryouts were about to begin, and there was still no sign of Shen Yanxiao. The three mentors were anxious for her return.

Xie Yun had long acknowledged the talents that Shen Yanxiao had in her. With her skills, he was confident that Shen Yanxiao would soon be able to defeat Meng Yiheng, the top student in the Archer's Division.

He did not mind it when the lad had requested for some time off now and then. However, how could he be missing during such a critical time?

Xie Yun, who had been filled with anticipation, spent his days in anxiety in the Archer Division. The lad had such good talent as an archer, how could he not respect that?

Even though he was depressed, Xie Yun thanked the lucky stars that they still had Meng Yiheng in the Archer's Division.

The Herbalist Division was in a worse position compared to the Archer's Division.

They used to have Shangguan Xiao, their previous top student, but he had been completely deprived of the ability to be an herbalist after he competed with Shen Yanxiao. He had gone to the Blue Moon Dynasty in search of a solution to his recovery. He would not be back at the academy for another three to five years.

The division did not only lose Shangguan Xiao but the head of that division, Pu Lisi, had gone with him as well. The entire Herbalist Division was without a leader. Their other students were not as skillful as Shen Yanxiao and Shangguan Xiao. They would only serve as an advantage for their competitors even if they qualified for the tournament.

Luo De could go to Ye Qing's room every day to complain about their tragic situation.

Ye Qing had always been calm and gentle, but he had grown concerned when he was Luo De's tearful grievances.

He was not worried about the Herbalist Division's reputation, but the safety of Shen Yanxiao. He had not seen his student for so long, so he was concerned about her.

The Archer Division had Meng Yiheng. The Herbalist Division was in a worse situation, but they could still choose a candidate from the rest of their students.

Things were even worse for Yun Qi!

It had been years since the Warlock Division had recruited any student, and Yun Qi only had one student, Shen Yanxiao. He had no other candidate to send to the tournament in place of Shen Yanxiao. Yun Qi could only sit in the Warlock Division's library and weep over her absence.

Yun Qi sat in the library quietly and waited eagerly as he stared at the door.

Xie Yun needed Shen Yanxiao because he treasured her talents, and Luo De wanted Shen Yanxiao to restore the Herbalist Division's glory.

However, for Yun Qi, Shen Yanxiao was the only representative of the warlock profession. He needed her to participate in the tournament as a warlock.

The warlocks would only have a glimmer of hope if Shen Yanxiao could get a headstart in the tournament between the academies in the Longxuan Empire.

Yun Qi was convinced that his student would be able to bring the warlock profession back to its peak so that the people in the Brilliance Continent could accept them again.

However, it seemed like that hope had vanished. Yun Qi's mind was troubled.

Did the gods not want to set the warlocks free?

Would they snatch the warlocks' last sliver of hope away from them?

"My dear, where are you?"

Chapter 496: The Fourth Layer of Seal (1)

In the Temple of the Sun's main hall, Shen Yanxiao sat on the ground with her legs crossed, and she held the Moling Plant, Flames Grass, and Skeleton Flower in her hands.

The ceiling of the main hall had a light crystal, which made it difficult for her to know if it was day or night.

Shen Yanxiao did not know how long she had been here. Besides getting a bite or two from the food in her interspatial, she kept the same posture even in her sleep to consistently channel her battle aura and magical power to the three plants.

The constant irrigation exhausted her battle aura and magical power. Thankfully, she had dual training in battle aura and magical power, so she could still switch between the two. Otherwise, she would have collapsed already.

She had been vexed and agitated about her situation, but when she realized that no negative emotion could better the situation, she was at ease.

She cultivated the plants every day, and nothing interrupted her actions. She would watch the wisps of dark aura as it surged into her and felt it as Xiu consumed them. She had turned indifferent to everything else.

Shen Yanxiao had run out of food for days, and she had been filling her stomach with potions. If she were extra hungry, she would devour some precious medicinal ingredients that she had in her interspatial ring. They did not taste good, but they kept her alive.

If she could rely on her battle aura and magical power, she would not have felt hungry. However, she used them all on the three plants so that Xiu could recover his strength as soon as possible.

She switched between the battle aura and the magical power repeatedly if one were depleted.

She was exhausted. Fortunately, there was a silver lining in all that.

As battle aura and magical power ran out, they would be enhanced further. Her battle aura and magical power had become so much purer even though her levels could not be elevated until the next seal was undone.

Shen Yanxiao closed her eyes; her mind had never been so peaceful.

She could feel the battle aura through her meridian vessels as it poured into the three plants from her hand. She could almost sense its speed as every wisp of battle aura flowed through her meridian vessels.

“Xiaoxiao.” Shen Yanxiao heard a detached voice in her mind.

Shen Yanxiao opened her. It was the first time she heard her name in Xiu’s voice. It felt...

It was hard to describe how it felt.

“What is it?” Shen Yanxiao asked calmly. She had nearly lost her mind when he called her in the first few days. Thankfully, she had learned to keep her temper in check.

It was as if that irritable element in her temper had been worn down by the quietness and the ordinary.

“Done.”

“What?” For a moment, Shen Yanxiao failed to understand the significance of his word.

“My strength has recovered by a large margin. I can break through the magic array now.”

Shen Yanxiao blinked, but she was dumbstruck.

The next second, she jumped up from the ground and stuffed the three plants into her interspatial ring.

“Finally!” To hell with calmness! Shen Yanxiao was so happy she could weep over the news of imminent liberation.

“But, there is something else I need to ask you.”

“What?” Shen Yanxiao pretended to wipe her imaginary tears of sadness. She was glad; she no longer had to eat medicinal herbs like a bunny.

“There are ample light elements in the Temple of the Sun’s main hall. It will be easier to undo the Seven Star Moon Seal here, and I have enough strength to do that now. Do you want me to undo the seal here?” Xiu provided his view rationally.

“Undo the next level of the seal?” Shen Yanxiao hesitated. The Seven Star Moon Seal had always been her biggest headache. Everything she had done so far was to undo the seal.

Chapter 497: The Fourth Layer of Seal (2)

There were only four more layers of the seven seals to be undone. With one layer undone, only three remained to be unlocked. Naturally, Shen Yanxiao was intrigued about that.

Anyways, she had been stuck there for so long. What was one day more?

“Very well. Let’s undo the seal now.” Shen Yanxiao sat on the ground with her legs crossed. She waited for the painful sensation that always came when they undid a seal.

However, just as she prepared herself, darkness enveloped her vision, and she lost consciousness.

Xiu, the being in Shen Yanxiao's mind, had knocked Shen Yanxiao out again.

The host would always feel an enormous amount of pain as they undid a layer of the Seven Star Moon Seal. One would barely feel it with the first layer, but it would only grow with each layer. When they undid the second layer of the seal, the pain had exceeded Shen Yanxiao's threshold. So, Xiu preferred her unconscious while he undid the next level so that she would not inflict any harm unto herself to counteract the pain.

The pain would not torture her if she were asleep. Shen Yanxiao did not know he had planned that for her.

Shen Yanxiao slept for a long time, and she only woke up gradually.

Her entire body was in pain as if she was in pieces. Her head buzzed, and amid all those horrible feelings, she noticed something awfully comfortable in her body.

The battle aura and magical power in her body were more active than usual.

Shen Yanxiao stood up and lowered her head to look at her soaked clothes, and then her mouth twitched.

The same thing happened again. Last time, she had passed out when Xiu undid the third layer of the seal. It was no different then.

When she woke up, she realized that she was drenched in sweat. She could only imagine how much pain she must have been in when she passed out.

However, she had not felt any pain at all, so that was convenient!

She stretched like a cat, and then she checked her battle aura and magical power; they were more profound than before.

It was unfortunate that she did not have the Aura Stone there. Otherwise, she would be eager to test and see if she had reached the advanced level in her profession.

After all, she was already at the peak of the intermediate level, and she had been there for quite some time. Since she had accumulated so much battle aura and magical power, perhaps she could experience a rapid advance.

"Are you ready?" She heard Xiu's voice.

"Yes, I am." She knew Xiu referred to the magic array.

"This might hurt a little." Xiu cautioned her.

Shen Yanxiao nodded. During their fight with the Phoenixes, Xiu's appearance had overwhelmed her with pain. However, she was prepared for that.

Fortunately, the pain that she anticipated did not appear. She felt a minor sting, but it was nothing like what she had felt last time.

Soon, Shen Yanxiao felt air swarmed out from her chest. The faint mist formed a human shape that looked as if it enveloped the petite Shen Yanxiao.

It was like Xiu embraced her in his arms.

The human-shaped mist floated Shen Yanxiao into the air.

A series of tremors rocked the quiet hall, and the strong pillars shook. Shen Yanxiao took a deep breath and closed her eyes. She would leave everything to Xiu.

The wind blew past her ears as Shen Yanxiao felt a strong force pull her upward.

She closed her eyes tightly, a reaction due to the momentum. A moment later, everything returned to normal. Shen Yanxiao felt her feet on the ground, and she immediately opened her eyes. A glaring light spilled over her as she looked at the clear blue sky with white clouds.

“Finally, I am out!”

Chapter 498: The Fourth Layer of Seal (3)

Few people could empathize with Shen Yanxiao at that moment.

Shen Yanxiao had been in an enclosed environment, so she had no idea how many days and nights had passed. She swallowed so many medicinal herbs that she lost track of the number. She had forgotten about time as she went through innumerable trials and hardships. Finally, she could feel the sun again.

Before she could wipe away her bitter tears, she noticed something off about the Graveyard of the Sun.

When the magical array teleported her to the main hall, the Graveyard of the Sun was a desolate place with rubbles everywhere.

However, the rubbles seemed charred, a clear indication that someone had set fire on them. She looked around and noticed that all the rocks around the entire Graveyard of the Sun were in similar condition.

Before Shen Yanxiao could conclude her findings, she heard the Vermilion Bird through their spiritual link.

“You are back! You are back! It is you!” The Vermilion Bird’s voice carried thrill and... fury.

Shen Yanxiao had abandoned her mythical beast without a word and vanished without a trace. He could not contact her at all. She imagined that the arrogant little bird must have gone ballistic during that period.

As a matter of fact...

She did not want to go. She wanted to stay...

“Well, I am back.” Thousands of words were condensed into the simplest reply.

“How dare you come back!!!” Even if it were only the spiritual link, the Vermilion Bird’s indignation was evident.

If it were not for the fact that the Vermilion Bird was not with her then, Shen Yanxiao supposed that the proud little bird would have burned her into ashes.

"It's a long story. Where are you? I have got the flower. We can go now." Shen Yanxiao felt that she was not at fault; she was not in control of what had happened.

Vermilion Bird was speechless.

"Well, I am sorry. I didn't mean it. It won't happen again." Shen Yanxiao felt Vermilion Bird's anger. Even though she did not choose to do that, it was still partly her fault. No master should leave the Vermilion Bird in the Graveyard of the Sun.

That was the first time that Shen Yanxiao had apologized to the Vermilion Bird.

She knew why the Vermilion Bird was furious. The link between a magical beast and the master was a permanent one. Only the death of one party could have led to something that devastating.

The Vermilion Bird's anger stemmed from his fear for her life and safety.

"Hmm! I will not forgive you so easily! Never!" The Vermilion Bird snorted and mumbled, but he did not feel the same.

"But, since you are so sincere, I will not make a fuss about it."

Shen Yanxiao chuckled. The Vermilion Bird was a textbook example of how one's bark was worse than one's bite.

"I am enjoying a little show here. Do you want to watch?" The Vermilion Bird suddenly proposed.

A... show?!

Shen Yanxiao was speechless. The Vermilion Bird was a mythical beast, was it appropriate for it to be so nosy?

"Where?" Shen Yanxiao sighed to herself. She decided to get that gossipy little bird before she had to hurry back to the Saint Laurent Academy.

She prayed that the inter-academy tournament had not started yet!

"The village that we passed by on our way here. Hurry up! You will miss the finale if you are late." Vermilion Bird urged her.

That village?

Shen Yanxiao raised her eyebrows. She drank a bottle of speed potion and dashed toward the entrance to the Graveyard of the Sun.

Soon, she made her way back to that odd village. The scene that she saw had stunned her.

That once quiet and simple village was beyond all recognition!

Chapter 499: Massacre in the Village (1)

The ground was charred. The houses were destroyed, and the glow of fire flared everywhere in the village.

All the peace and quiet had vanished into smoke. The pungent smell of blood floated in the air.

Shen Yanxiao had a hard time picturing that miserable place as that simple and unadorned small village that she had seen before. As per the Vermilion Bird's instruction, Shen Yanxiao headed toward his location.

On her way, she saw the dead bodies of many villagers. Those lifeless corpses were on the ground that was tainted red with blood.

Shen Yanxiao had met many of those villagers. She could still remember the man whose body was laid by a wall. That man had generously stuffed two hot steamed buns into her hands.

She could still see the villager's innocent and honest smiles, but unfortunately, they would never wake up again.

Shen Yanxiao's eyebrows knitted. She had known that the village was rather odd. However, she did not feel any aversion toward its villagers.

She had seen too many dark sides of the world, which was why she would cherish any positive influence in her life.

A rare thing would always be more precious.

Shen Yanxiao's heart was heavy. She would only know what had happened to the small village once she met-up with the Vermilion Bird.

Soon, Shen Yanxiao found the Vermilion Bird behind a shabby thatched cottage.

The little mythical beast was crouched by a wall, as he stared at something with excitement.

Shen Yanxiao walked toward him. The little Phoenix on the Vermilion Bird's head immediately noticed her presence, and it began to flap its small wings happily.

The Vermilion Bird turned around to Shen Yanxiao and snorted quietly with arrogance. Then, he flexed his white, delicate fingers and signaled for her to go to him.

Shen Yanxiao made her way toward the Vermilion Bird with a frown. She followed the Vermilion Bird's line of sight.

Uncle Nine stood not far from them, and he looked like he was covered with wounds. He breathed heavily, and the crutch in his hand could barely support him.

A teenager, about 13 or 14 years of age, stood right in front of him. He looked exceptionally pretty and charming. One could even say that he would grow up to be a breathtakingly beautiful man.

Unfortunately, the handsome lad had no expression on his face. There was no trace of emotion in his cold eyes. He stood in front of Uncle Nine, and his hands hung by his side. His fingers were covered in blood that dripped onto the two corpses by his feet.

The two corpses were once villagers there. Their chests were pierced through, and their hearts had been ripped through their chest; it looked like they were in the young man's hands.

In her former life, Shen Yanxiao had encountered many world-class assassins. When those people took out their targets, they had no expressions on her faces. However, she would always pay attention to their eyes. People said that the eyes were the window to one's soul. It was easy to detect emotional turmoils in one's eyes. Even the best assassins did not lack feelings. Yet, that handsome young man looked as though a layer of ice had covered his eyes' depth.

"Who is that little devil?" Shen Yanxiao had not met anyone that ruthless. He seemed to be the same age as the owner of the body she was in. It was hard to imagine someone that young could be that violent.

Chapter 500: Massacre in the Village (2)

Vermilion Bird replied, "I don't know. The day you went missing..."

After Shen Yanxiao had disappeared, the Vermilion Bird wreaked havoc on the entire Graveyard of the Sun with dragons of fire. He still could not find Shen Yanxiao. He was unwilling to give up, so the Vermilion Bird wandered around the Graveyard of the Sun.

He had searched for Shen Yanxiao for a month to no avail. When he was about to head to the God Realm and ask the Sage for help, the Vermillion Bird detected a strange aura in the Graveyard of the Sun.

The handsome teenager had come out of nowhere and went straight for the small village near the Graveyard of the Sun.

Vermilion Bird wanted to capture that young man so that he could ask about the Graveyard of the Sun and Shen Yanxiao's disappearance. However, as the Vermilion Bird followed the young man back to the small village, he had witnessed something bizarre.

That young man went on a killing spree as soon as he stepped foot into that small village. He had killed every villager who crossed his path.

He did not give anyone the chance to speak, and he did not leave anyone in his path alive.

He pressed on forward, and more bodies covered the ground he walked. In merely half a day, he had killed countless villagers.

Those villagers did stand a chance when the young man attacked them. They were slaughtered like lambs.

That was until Uncle Nine showed up. He had managed to stop the young man's massacre.

"That old man is an impressive character, and there is something very odd about that young man. I can sense a demon's aura in him. That's unbelievable." The Vermilion Bird told Shen Yanxiao what had gone down during the past few days.

"The demon race?" Shen Yanxiao was surprised. The demon race should have been extinct for thousands of years.

“Not only the demon race, but I also noticed that he had attacked those villagers with methods from the dragon race. He always aimed for their hearts; it was simple and cruel. He ripped their hearts out just like a dragon would.” The only reason that the Vermilion Bird had stayed was to observe that strange young man.

“How long have they been fighting like this?” Shen Yanxiao was in no mood to care about the kid. She was more concerned about the four mercenaries that Uncle Nine had rescued. It looked as if the young man intended to kill everyone in that village. He might find those four mercenaries if he continued with his killing spree.

“Nearly half a month,” the Vermilion Bird said.

While the two of them conversed, Uncle Nine suddenly vomited blood. He looked at the detached young man with sadness as he leaned on his crutch.

“Xiao Feng... why have you become like this?” Uncle Nine said with pain in his heart.

The young man, Xiao Feng, glared at Uncle Nine indifferently, but he gave him no reply. He stepped toward Uncle Nine bit by bit as he wanted to get rid of that old man.

Uncle Nine closed his eyes as if he felt grief and remorse. He had struggled arduously for the past several days, and he felt as if his life had faded away. He was not a match for that young man, so he could only wait for doom.

“Should we save him or not?” Shen Yanxiao squinted her eyes. She saw the handsome young man walking toward Uncle Nine. He lifted his hand, and his fingers transformed into claws. He lunged forward as if he wanted to pierce into Uncle Nine’s chest. Shen Yanxiao made up her mind and kicked the Vermilion Bird out into the open.

“Argh!” The Vermilion Bird, who was absorbed in the drama, did not know why someone had kicked him. He flew into the air and toward that beautiful young man who was about to strike Uncle Nine.