



THE DARK KING

BOOK 06

Ancient Xi

EPUB CREATION BY LISA HAYES

The Dark King

(黑暗王者)

by

Ancient Xi

(古羲)

Synopsis

Disaster outbreaks which ends the civilization we know.

Sleeping in the cold storage for three hundred years Dudian wakes up into a new “world”.

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English Translation by MadSnail @ [WuxiaNation](#)

Translation Edits by CursedReader, MrMartinke, spiritsong, Green Tea, Incendairy @ [WuxiaNation](#)

ePub conversion by Lisa Hayes @ [Hasseno Blog](#)

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Chapter 501

Aisha kept nodding her head in a well-behaved and obedient manner: “No servants... You have to wash your own clothes, cook your own food. It would be very difficult for me to understand this style of life. But sister, please talk to me anytime if you feel bitter. I as your younger sister will help you any way I can. After all, we are sisters!”

“No need for a sweet-talk.” The girl wearing the purple tang suit said: “Be straightforward and tell me what you want to say.”

Aisha smiled: “I just came to tell you that someone had given the secret combat arts of the Dragon clan to an outsider. Now this person was caught by me and I brought back the scroll!”

The elder sister replied: “I’ve already congratulated you.”

Aisha shook her head: “Sister, would you like to know who was the person caught by me? Would you like to know her identity?”

The elder sister looked at Aisha: “What do you mean?”

Aisha grinned: “Nothing. I just wanted to say that the person caught by me is someone you really ought to know. Nine years ago when you ran out of inner wall and went to outer wall you had met him. I don’t know whether you still remember him but you had sent him to orphanage and gave your own handkerchief to him!”

The girl wearing the purple tang suit tried to remember the occasion.

She remembered the rainy night that happened nine years ago. She couldn't withstand the pressure of the family so she wanted to get out. She had went to outer wall to aimlessly wander around. She met a boy with pale skin who wore strange clothes. The boy was aimlessly walking in the dark street.

She took the initiative to talk to the kid back then. She knew that the ordinary people would be hurt by the rain so she had taken him to the orphanage to get a roof over his head. She had tried to talk to the boy but he was speaking strange words that were alien to her.

The boy had left deep impression on her because of that.

However...

“Why do you know about that?” The elder sister coldly stared at Aisha.

“He told me.” Aisha continued: “It was a coincidence but this time God saw the injustice that was happening to me and had decided to help me. I met this man by chance and saw your handkerchief! The person remembered your favor and kept the handkerchief on him through all those years. He was dreaming of meeting you once more. Silly kid!”

Elder sister was perplexed.

Aisha grinned as she saw her elder sister: “I think that boy should be interrogated by now. I don’t have any idea how the elders will deal with him. Dragon worms should be reasonable choice! Poor boy! He has been keeping the handkerchief for so many years and looking forward to meet you. But at the end he will be tortured alive to death!”

Aisha shook her head and sighed.

The girl wearing the purple tang suit slowly said: “Do you think that I will come forward to plead for his life from elders because you said so?”

Aisha’s eyebrows wrinkled because of elder sister’s reply.

“I have already fallen to that trick of yours twice.” The girl wearing the purple tang suit continued: “Get lose if you have nothing to say. Otherwise...” “She didn’t continue to talk but the killing intent exploded from her body. It was as if thousands of swords had enveloped the square.

Aisha’s face turned gloomy as she bit her lips. She clenched her fists: “You are a cold-blooded monster!”

“Get lost!”

The giant sword began to tremble as it seemed that the cloth

which was wrapping it would fall away any moment.

Aisha clenched the giant spear as she stared at her elder sister's back. She stamped on ground and flew away.

The sword stopped trembling after Aisha left. The clothing that was wrapping it was a bit loose but it once again tightly wrapped the sword.

Whoosh!

Aisha's figure was like a blur as she moved along the mountain road and reached the foot of the mountain.

A man whose complexion was very white was standing at the foot of the mountain. His eyebrows were white too which seemed very weird. The only thing that showed that he was from noble descent was his golden pupils. He faintly smiled as he looked at Aisha: "Is she angry?"

Aisha looked at him in anger.

The man didn't care as he continued to ask: "Did you make sure that no flaws were left?"

Aisha smiled as if she wasn't angry a moment ago: "Of course! This time she will have to pay the price for everything that she has taken away from me! I will get back all of it!"

“Good.” The man replied.

“There was a little flaw but the wreath that the boy had woven was ruined. It’s good that it won’t fall into eyes of the elders.” Aisha replied. Everyone knew that she loved green color while her elder sister liked purple.

Although it was a slight flaw but she didn’t want to leave tails and leads that would come back to her. This occurrence will benefit only her so she had to calculate everything perfectly!

“Very good, no flaws ...” The man laughed.

Aisha snorted: “I don’t have the status which she has. If there is a little flaw then I will be beyond redemption!”

The man smiled: “Don’t belittle yourself, you aren’t worse than her. You could have done better if the resources for saint were given to you.”

“There is no need to mention that.” Aisha proudly ordered: “Let’s go. It’s time to finish this!”

The man smiled and nodded.

...

“Get in!”

The blonde youth was standing behind Dean.

Dean was pushed into a dark cell. He looked around as he felt the bloody odor floating in the air and the taste of human excrement.

A bit of light squeezed into the room from the door.

“Be honest kid.” The blonde looked at Dean: “Tell me who was the one that gave you the secret combat arts of the Dragon clan!”

Dean closed his eyes as he ignored the youth.

The blonde youth was holding his nose as he left the cell. He ordered the guards to look after the room.

Dean slowly opened his eyes after they left. His face was gloomy. It seems that he had to wait for the trial to be held by the Dragon Clan. The problem was that he had to find a way to get the dragon clan’s pity in case he was sentenced to death. He had to make sure that he would be useful to them in terms of value.

“Legendary magic marks, Abbey, techniques...” Dean’s eyes lit up. He didn’t have anything but it didn’t mean that he couldn’t fabricate out something. As long as he caught Dragon clan’s attention then they will try to verify the information. It would get him time...and time was all that he needed!

He would seize any chance to get out even if he had to expose his ability to fly!

Chapter 502

Dragon Clan's Conference Hall.

There was a round table in the middle of the dark hall. There were chairs behind the table. The bottomless darkness was dormant behind the table as if it was a monster's nest. At the top there was a huge throne. It didn't look like a chair but more like a bed. The edges of the throne had black barbs which gave the impression of large eyes with eyelashes.

In this spacious throne lay a graceful figure. The body of the young woman was covered in a scarlet red robe. The robe was engraved with black flowers and the gown was extremely long. It went down through the throne into the darkness.

The woman looked like in her early twenties as her skin was delicate and white. However she had the charm of a mature woman. Her eyes were half-closed. She calmly looked at the place. It seemed as if nothing could interfere the truth from her sight. She seemed to have the capability to see through all things, right or wrong.

An old woman stood by the dragon throne.

Different people sat on the chairs by the table. Their bodies were hidden in the darkness but the contours of their figures could be seen. Some of the seemed young like six or seven year old kids. Some of them were tall and burly. Some of them had thin bodies and were like pool of mud which laid on the table.

“Ladies and gentlemen.” A stalwart figure sitting on the right side of the dragon throne spoke out. The man’s elbows were pressing onto the table while his fingers were crossed. His golden eyes swept over everyone: “The secret combat arts of the dragon clan were stolen. The investigation has been finished and the saint ‘Aisha’ is deemed to be the one who had presented the arts to her friend from the outer wall. We have recovered the secret combat arts. Now we have to come to a decision on how to punish Aisha. We will follow the old rules and come to a decision by vote.”

“Ha Ha!” A girl who was less than a half a meter tall laughed: “Patriarch, saint Aisha is your daughter. She has committed such a grave sin. How do you think we should act?”

“I have already said that she was no longer my daughter since Aisha became the saint of the clan. She carries hope and responsibilities of the Dragon clan. You guys have the right to correct me if I am wrong.”

The girl continued: “Blood is always thicker than water! Although you say so but listening to you it seems that you want to sway from punishing her. Fortunately, the combat arts didn’t fall into hands of the other two families. It would be like lighting up the torch and burning the hard work and effort of our ancestors!”

Patriarch indifferently said as he coldly looked at the young girl: “My proposal is to imprison her and make sure that she stays and reflects on her actions for three years.”

“Patriarch, isn’t that punishment unreasonable?” A young figure shook his head as he smiled: “The saint is responsible for the task! Who will guard the giant wall from the threats if she is imprisoned?”

The little girl grinned: “Patriarch is going easy on his own baby daughter. It’s not a punishment but lets say much like a protection! The dragon worms won’t get close to her in prison! It’s not that we are imprisoning her but giving her three years to enjoy in bliss!”

Patriarch indifferently continued: “I have called you for discussion. If you have any ideas then let us hear it. If not then we will go with mine. We will vote and the idea that gets the most votes will be realized! Do I have to repeat the rules?”

“Patriarch why are we in hurry to come up with ideas for punishment?” A figure yawned as he spoke from darkness: “Shouldn’t we speak about so-called evidences before talking about the punishment? Everyone knows that what has been done is a taboo and saint should know of such thing. Personally, I find it funny and stupid and don’t believe that she has done something like that.”

The little girl looked at the figure: “What do you want to say? Are you questioning the investigation abilities of Dragon clan? Do you want to say that someone has tried to frame our saint? Who would have such a big courage?”

“The one who will gain...” The figure slowly said.

The little girl turned to look at Patriarch: “Please tell us about the evidences or it will take an eternity to come to a decision.”

The patriarch was silent for a moment before turning towards the old woman by the dragon throne: “Larina, explain.”

“Yes.” The old woman nodded and looked at the woman sitting on the dragon throne. She stepped forward and whispered: “We found Miss Aisha’s smell on the scrolls! In addition the reaction of the kid confirmed that it was miss Aisha.”

She paused for a moment: “We have sent people from the Dragon Guard to investigate the identity of the youth. He is a man sent by the Monastery to the outer wall as a pawn. The guards had searched his residence and found a handkerchief! ” She took out a handkerchief and put it on table.

It was a handkerchief for a small child. There were purple flowers engraved on them.

“Ha Ha!” The little girl couldn’t help but laugh as she looked at the handkerchief.

All the others looked at the handkerchief. They knew that it was not forged!

“Miss Hailey had taken people to arrest the youth when Miss Aisha appeared on top of the giant wall. We checked for her smell

and confirmed it. It seems Miss Aisha was going to meet the youth but miss Hailey had taken the first step and arrested the man.” Old woman slowly said.

“The guards stationed in the building said that Miss Aisha appeared when the combat arts were stolen.” The old woman whispered: “Miss Aisha is the most suspected one and she can’t shirk away.”

“Have you questioned saint about this matter?” A tall old man looked at her.

The little girl asked: “Would she admit if they did ask?”

Old woman whispered: “We have asked. She said she didn’t steal the combat arts. She said she was on the giant wall because Miss Hailey had told her. She had gone to the building because she was told that the secret combat arts were stolen. As for the handkerchief... She said that she left it there nine years ago when she secretly sneaked into outer wall.”

“It’s clear that...” The little girl continued: “No one would admit such accusations!”

The tall old man didn’t seem to care about little girl’s words. He looked at the old woman: “Did she provide evidence?”

The old woman shook her head: “No.”

“Saint has always lived alone and in my opinion it would be very hard for her to provide evidence under these circumstances.” The previous figure continued: “However saint has said that Miss Hailey had asked for to go there. At the end if the saint was punished the one to profit the most would be Miss Hailey. It’s without a doubt that Miss Hailey has planned this play from the beginning!”

Chapter 503

“I can not agree with this.” The man who was lying on the table slowly sat up and spoke in a hoarse tone: “Have we steeped so low to the level of conspiracy theories? If it is so then let me add possibilities.. I suspect that Sky clan or the Rock clan had sent people to infiltrate us and plan the whole thing for us to punish the Saint. Maybe it was princess Hailey... What about evidence?”

“Oh..” The little girl grinned: “There is evidence and its without a doubt!”

The thin old man looked at her: “The issue is related to the Saint of Dragon Clan! How come your attitude is so light and lax? Why are you so eager to deal with her highness?”

“Whimsical nonsense...” The little girl looked at him: “We can sit here and argue for long time which doesn’t mate any sense. We can investigate once more too.”

“Everyone should note that down.” The thin old man replied.

“There is no need.” Patriarch slowly said: “Evidence is conclusive. There is no need to question it. You were called to discuss the way to deal with Aisha. We are not here to explore or discuss whether the evidence is credible.”

“Patriarch!” The thin old man couldn’t help but shout out.

Patriarch waved his hand to interrupt him. He glanced at everyone: “I’m listening to you all...”

The little girl said in a deep tone: “In my opinion we have to follow the clan rules. There is no prestige to them if they are broken for the sake of exclusive few.”

“Hmpf!” The ‘muddy’ man said and laid back on the table.

...

Outside the conference room of the Dragon clan.

Two slender figures almost of the same height stood side by side. One of them had a giant sword while the other had a giant spear. It was Aisha and the girl wearing the purple tang suit.

“Father and elders are discussing the issue at hand.” Aisha smiled as she looked at the other girl: “My lovely sister, can you guess how elders will dispose of you? You know, this issue is the theft of the core skills of the Dragon clan. I think they will just cut off your limbs and throw you into the prison for hundred years in accordance with the clan rules!”

The girl wearing the purple tang suit looked at the door and ignored Aisha.

“Oh, I almost forgot.” Aisha smiled: “Sister is the saint! How could elders imprison you and make sure that we are safe from the

creatures in wasteland?”

A light breeze blew and the tang suit girl's hair slightly floated. But she didn't respond.

Aisha narrowed her eyes: “But if saint's identity... is taken from the sister... I wonder what would happen...” Aisha's eyes lit up.

The girl wearing the purple tang suit whispered: “Do you want to get the identity of 'saint' so badly?”

Aisha saw that she finally responded: “It is what I deserve! You were lucky to win father's love! Otherwise...”

“Love? Are you talking about that heartless man?” The girl wearing the tang suit slowly turned her head and looked at Aisha who had somewhat similar face: “I was born awakened! It's not luck!”

Aisha's face turned gloomy the moment she heard the girl talk: “You were born with that state! Isn't that called luck? Did you even work hard or put effort into it? You didn't!”

Aisha snorted as she continued: “I'm much different than you! I may not have your luck but I put up lots of effort! I awakened through hard work while you didn't do anything! You are just lucky!”

The girl wearing the purple tang suit smiled: “There is a word we

use a lot – ‘genius’. Mortals and plebs like you can never understand it!”

“You!” Aisha’s face turned red in anger and she clenched her fists. But after a moment the fury on her face faded as she whispered: “That may be right my dear elder sister. But I’m going to catch up with you!”

Aisha turned to look up at sky: “By the way, 80% of the elders will support me. They will propose an option for you and that is...”

...

“We need a new saint!” A tall and burly middle-aged man who had barb looking things raised from his shoulders said: “Miss Aisha is a saint and we can’t directly dispose her. However she has done a taboo! I suggest that Miss Aisha resigns from her duty and Miss Hailey takes over.”

“Fine.” The little girl nodded: “She as a saint had to set an example but she had repeatedly committed offense! She shall be dismissed!”

“I second it!”

Seven or eight people raised their hands.

The rest of people looked at patriarch to see his reaction.

The patriarch's face turned ugly: "No chance! Right now Sky and Rock clan's are checking our move! Moreover we have to give a reasonable explanation for the change of saint!"

"Yes," the thin old man added: "Besides, saint must have awakened his/her blood power! Miss Hailey is still young and I'm afraid with that power she wouldn't be able to protect the perimeter of wasteland! "

The burly middle-aged man looked at him: "Miss Hailey seems to have awakened her blood power as far as I know. She is a pioneer too. Although she isn't as powerful as miss Aisha but she has enough strength to be the guard of the wasteland!"

"When did princess Hailey awakened her blood power?"

"How can it be!"

"How come we aren't aware of it?"

The thin old man and the rest were shocked as they heard the news.

"The identity of the saint have always belonged to the one with strength." The little girl laughed: "It's true that Miss Hailey's qualifications aren't up to par. But she didn't get the resources or support of the clan but have achieved today's status! It is a fact that she has done it through hard work! In comparison Miss Aisha had

natural awakening! In my opinion we should let them fight! But Miss Aisha can't use the secret arts of the Dragon Clan. They should have a contest where they will use only ordinary combat arts. If Princess Hailey can withstand ten rounds then she wins. What do you think?"

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“Ten rounds? Isn’t that a bit difficult?” the figure beneath Patriarch said: “Princess Hailey is also a pioneer. If she has awakened her blood power then she is already at par with the saint. It would be very hard for saint to beat her under ten rounds.”

“True,” the thin old man spoke out: “Saint has practiced the combat arts of the Dragon King and its has been pressed deep into her bone. It would be very awkward for her to fight if you limit the skill set. 30 rounds seem reasonable to me!”

“Yes.” A person whose body was hidden in the darkness said: “Ten rounds isn’t fair. 30 rounds seem reasonable!”

The little girl laughed: “Miss Aisha has been saint and fought in the wasteland for many years. Her skills are already different than ordinary pioneers. Why should she serve as a saint if she can’t beat princess Hailey in 10 rounds?”

Someone else said: “10 rounds is more than enough for a life and death match! 30 rounds sounds more like a contest for endurance!”

“Endurance is one of the keys to victory! If Miss Hailey’s endurance is weak then she can’t serve as a saint!”

“Ridiculous! We aren’t here for dragging the battle for endurance but for quick duel!”

“As long as you agree.”

“You...”

People sitting by the round table argued with each other.

“Shut up!” Patriarch who was silent shouted and his voice overshadowed the hall. Everyone stopped to look at Patriarch.

“10 rounds is 10 rounds.” Patriarch said in an indifferent tone: “If Aisha can’t beat Hailey in 10 rounds then she will lose her status as Saint!”

“Patriarch, this” the thin old man and others looked at patriarch.

Patriarch slowly shook his head: “Aisha will continue to serve as saint if Hailey loses. If Hailey wins then we will think about the replacement problem.”

“Agreed!” the little girl smiled.

everyone agreed after patriarch intervened.

“Dragon mother, what do you think?” Patriarch turned his head to looked at the lady lying on the dragon throne.

Everyone turned to look at the dragon throne where the elegant and graceful figure was lying.

The woman was lazily leaning against the soft side of the throne. There was no trace of change on her expression as she heard the patriarch's inquiry. Her eyes moved as her sight passed by all. Subconsciously all of the attendees lowered their eyes as no one dared to directly look at her.

"You are patriarch. You should decide." The woman slowly retracted her eyes: "Since most of the elders agree with this then implement it. Both sisters should be impatient by now because of waiting. Call them in."

The little girl and others were relieved when they saw that the dragon mother didn't intervene.

There was a trace of disappointment on the thin old man's eyes.

"Let them come in." The patriarch looked at the darkness.

A breeze passed from the darkness.

After a moment the door to the conference hall was opened and two girls walked in step by step.

Their appearance was somewhat similar. One of them was Aisha

who Dean knew and the other one was the girl wearing the purple tan suit.

Both of them had similar height and wore similar clothes. However one was colored purple while the other was green.

The expression on face of the girl wearing the purple tang suit was cold. It seemed that she was somewhat similar with the conference hall.

‘Aisha’ standing by her had a smile on her face.

“Hailey greets Dragon mother, patriarch and elders!” The girl wearing the green tang suit known to Dean as “Aisha” said. Dean would be stunned if he was in the conference hall.

“Aisha greets Dragon mother and patriarch.” The girl wearing the purple tang suit nodded towards the dragon mother and patriarch. She didn’t look at elders as her identity as saint was third to only dragon mother and patriarch in the clan. Actually these elders had to take initiative to greet her if they met Aisha. It was part of her identity as saint and it was also part of the rules.

Dragon mother slightly nodded as her lips curved into a smile.

“You are here.” Patriarch looked at his daughters. There was a complex look in his eyes as he calmly said: “Aisha, the evidence shows that you were involved in the loss of secret combat arts! Do you plead guilty?”

Aisha calmly replied: “I don’t recognize the evidence.”

Patriarch was perplexed.

“Do not recognize?” the burly middle-aged man said: “The evidence is conclusive and you don’t recognize it?”

Aisha indifferently said: “No matter what kind of evidence you have if I haven’t done something then I will never recognize it! However it doesn’t matter whether I do recognize or not. You have asked us to come over so you should have already made the judgement. Pronounce it!”

The little girl gently smiled: “Your highness, your words make us look like villains. The evidence is evidence. You should pay the price when you do something wrong!”

Aisha’s (the girl wearing the purple tang suit) eyes narrowed as she looked at the little girl and slowly said: “What price you want me to pay?”

The little girl felt as if she wouldn’t be able to hide the secrets in her heart. Her face turned unnatural as she said: “Your highness, the verdict was decided after everyone discussed the issue. It’s too late if you want to... ”

“No need.” Aisha directly interrupted her.

Thin old man and others shook their heads as they sighed.

Patriarch whispered: “Twelve elders and I have unanimously decided for you and Hailey to fight. You are prohibited from using the skills of Dragon King! If you can beat Hailey in ten rounds then you will keep your post as a saint! If you will lose then you will lose your status and identity and Hailey will replace you as a temporary saint. You will have time to reflect. Do you have any objections?”

Everyone’s eyes were directed at Aisha.

Aisha’s expression didn’t change but she was silent.

“Aisha if you have an objection then you can speak out.” The patriarch spoke as he saw that Aisha was silent for a long time.

Aisha slowly said: “I have ... no objections.”

There was a trace of joy in Hailey’s eyes who was wearing the green tang suit. She clenched the giant spear with her fingers.

“But ... ” Aisha spoke out.

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Everyone's eyes concentrated on her after she used the word "but".

The dragon mother quietly watched her.

"But what?" Hailey couldn't help but ask.

Aisha indifferently said: "I give up."

Silence was dormant in the conference hall.

Everyone was stunned as they looked at Aisha. It was her only chance and she gave up?

Many speculations run wild in their minds. Was the condition too harsh? Did she think that she couldn't beat Hailey in ten rounds so she gave up? It seemed that there was only one reasonable explanation.

Dragon mother took a deep look at Aisha then recovered her eyes. A smile curled up on her face.

"Since you want this title so much then I'll give it to you." The girl wearing the purple tang suit (Aisha) looked at her sister Hailey.

Hailey was startled.

She had prepared for this battle for long. She had actually simulated the fight in her mind many times over. She had prepared lots of shady moves...But... Aisha gave up!

“She knows that she can’t beat me in ten rounds so she gave up! She didn’t want to lose face in front of everyone!” Hailey speculated.

“I have a request.” Aisha looked at patriarch then at dragon mother who was lying on the dragon throne.

Patriarch deeply looked at her: “What is the request?”

Aisha looked at him: “The boy that was arrested was just implicated in the issue and is innocent. I want to keep his life.” She said in a serious tone.

The little girl and others knew that it was a false alarm so they didn’t care much about her request.

They didn’t care about the life of the boy as he was nobody from nowhere(outer wall). They didn’t care whether the boy was dead or alive. However it seems that Aisha was set on making sure that he stays alive.

No one dared to go against Aisha who showed such a tough attitude.

No one was willing to anger her.

“I’ll go out if there is nothing else.” Aisha said.

Patriarch said in a calm tone: “From today on Hailey is temporary saint as you have given up on fight. From now on you will be moving from the Saint Peak and you will surrender your identity as saint! You will no longer be allowed to enter the Dragon King’s Hall!”

Aisha nodded and opened her palm. There was a platinum token in it. There was a picture of a black dragon engraved on its back. She put it on table: “Dragon mother, patriarch, I’ll go now.” She didn’t look at other as she turned to leave. Her slender figure faded away in the darkness.

Everyone looked at each other in the conference hall.

No one had expected to Aisha to give up the identity of saint so easily. It was a very lofty status with big rights!

“Princess Hailey, you are the saint of our clan from now on. I hope you can replace miss Aisha and keep guard of the wasteland!” Little girl took the initiative to break the silence.

Hailey looked at the token on table. It was the thing that she had dreamed of for so many years. Now, she would be able to get it! She had paid too much for this. She had made countless fantasies about the status of saint!

However, she felt strange as everything was in front of her. It seemed that... she wasn't excited because her sister had given up!

Her eyes lit up as she slowly reached out and picked the token. The strange thoughts and feeling faded away as the excitement took over her heart.

She didn't care as she had won!

At the end, she got the thing that belonged to her!

...

On top of the Saint Peak!

Aisha packed her things and left the high-rise building. Actually she didn't have many items and she didn't care about valuables at all.

“Dear sister.” As Aisha was going out from the door a pretty figure walked into the square. Hailey was smiling as she looked at the bag in Aisha's hand. She laughed: “My dear sister. You better get everything away right now or I'll just break them and throw them away! You wouldn't be able to get anything later on!”

Aisha indifferently said: “You have already broken what had to be broken. There is nothing left. ”

“Sister, are you still thinking about that pet of yours?” Hailey grinned: “Blame it not me. It was barking at me and I had to teach it manners!”

“Your tastes in beasts will improve as a saint. Good luck with that!” Aisha lightly said. (she is referring to the monsters in wasteland)

Hailey smiled: “You should just go back if you think I’m not good enough! Well, I always thought that my sister is more intelligent than she looks to be. You knew that I have awakened my blood power and was worried that you wouldn’t be able to win in 10 rounds. So you just simply gave up and didn’t lose face! Moreover you said beautiful words such as ‘giving it to me’. You are indeed my sister!”

Aisha looked at her: “1 round is enough to win you!”

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Hailey was stunned at Aisha's word. She laughed out loud: "A round? Do you mean that you can beat me in a move? ...Haha... sister, do you really think that anyone will believe you? Why didn't you dare to take the challenge if you had such skills? Why did you abstain? It's because of your fear of failure. You have been flying in the sky for long and far off from the ground. The taste of loss must feel bitter..."

"Alright." Aisha indifferently said: "You are right. I'm scared."

Hailey was frozen for a moment when she saw her sister admit the loss. She had already perceived her sister as a lofty person who won't bow in front of anyone. She was puzzled but quickly reacted. Hailey grinned as her white teeth were shown: "Oh sis. I won't laugh at you..After all..."

"I listened to you out of courtesy." Aisha interrupted her words as if an elder person was teaching a younger generation.

Hailey expression turned gloomy.

Aisha continued: "I didn't accept the challenge because I feared that I won't be able to control my strength and kill you on spot. In that case... no one would be able to replace me as a saint."

Hailey was startled but still smiled: "Oh sister. I really want to see you ability after you talked that way! Don't forget that I am also a pioneer! Although my constitution is still inferior to your

but it won't be so easy to beat me! Its just too unrealistic! ”

Hailey sneered: “I have yet to learn the secret skills of the Dragon King but because of that all my life I practiced common fighting arts. I've grasped them in full! What about you sister? You were only focused on the secret arts of Dragon King. Did you forget already? Elders clearly set the rule and said that they prohibited the use of secret arts of Dragon King!”

“It's true that you would be far better than me if you relied on those secret arts!”

“Moreover, you have been relying on those skills for so long that you would instinctively use one of those skills and lose to me! However, if we rely on common combat arts then you don't have a chance even though your experience is much richer than mine!”

Hailey's lips curled up: “Elders had decided for ten rounds to make it sure that the battle was foolproof! In fact you can't beat me even in 20 or 30 rounds! But I prayed for us to fight! I wanted everyone to see my strength. I have put so much effort in silence for so many years! I wanted to use you as a stepping stone in my ascension!”

Aisha quietly looked at Hailey.

Hailey chuckled: “Unfortunately for me you are way too clever. You ain't a fool! But you won't be so lucky the next time!”

“I told you, you are misunderstanding everything.” Aisha tried to correct her sister.

Hailey laughed: “Oh.. I won’t be pulled down by you! Sister, don’t forget that you can’t go on for long time on your own! You lost to me because of that! Do you know why elders support me instead of you? Because you are too lofty and disdain them!”

“No one likes to grovel to others! Elders have long been tired of looking at your lofty face. But I am different. I crawled out from the bottom and I don’t care about the stains. I’m good as long as I’m successful! I had nothing but I promised that that they would get their ‘face’ when I become the saint!”

“You are way too proud! Way to silly! ”

Hailey smiled as she stared at Aisha: “What did you do for clan? How many things have you done for the clan? But at the end, who cares?”

“In this world, no one would say thanks unless you give them something!”

“No one cares about the overall good that you think you do. They only want to see the individual results that they get.”

“You may have put painstaking efforts for the good of all, but what about the people that matters? You have criticized the people that matters for the sake of everyone. Who cares?”

“As a result, the elders have seen you as only a tool because they were aware of your importance! But I am different. They will get the sweet words that they want to hear from me. I have changed the whole scene!”

Aisha was silent.

Hailey couldn't help but smile as she saw her sister stay speechless. She said all of this to make a heavy blow to her arrogant sister! She wanted Aisha to lose her confidence. She wanted Aisha lose faith and confidence in clan and elders. This way Aisha would never think about getting back her position as a saint!

She wasn't afraid.

Hailey never missed a chance. Even if there was a small probability of crisis she would grab that chance to get what she wanted.

It was because of this cautious, step by step, moves that she was able to go from nothing to sainthood. She was able to climb to the highest position possible at this point. Entire family was under her control except patriarch and dragon mother.

Moreover, as the saint of the clan she was would be dragon mother one day!

She would be the new dragon mother as long as she kept her identity. She just had to wait for patriarch and dragon mother to pass away. Afterwards she would become the supreme power in the dragon clan. She would be able to veto the proposals and decisions of the elders. She would be the real decision maker!

“Sister, I will bother you to continue to guard the wasteland until I learn the secret arts of the Dragon King.” Hailey grinned from ear to ear. Anyone that looked at her right now would think that she is just a naïve teenager if they didn’t hear her previous claims.

Aisha sighed: “It seems that you are really grown up.”

Hailey laughed: “My sister was standing at the peak so she couldn’t see my growth.”

“True.” Aisha nodded and smiled: “You take time studying the secret arts of the Dragon King. They are a bit difficult to learn. You can ask dragon mother if you don’t understand anything. Until then I’ll stay in guard in your stead.”

Hailey froze up for a moment when she saw her sister smile. She looked at Aisha’s eyes: “Sister, are you smiling to cover the pain in your hear?” There was concern in her tone and expression but the words were full of malicious intent.

“Pain?” Aisha smiled.

Hailey continued: “It seems to me that you were very concerned

about the identity of saint. You have lost it now so you should feel very desperate, don't you? The thing is that despair and pain was given to me by you in an early age. I'm giving all of it back to you now."

"Desperate? Pain?" Aisha smiled: "You are wrong. It's most happy moment of my life as I'm freed of responsibilities. "

"Sister, you aren't good with words. Always trying to look brave, cold and so on." Hailey smiled: "Don't you know that a woman is the most beautiful when she is soft and weak looking?"

"Weak?" Aisha softly said: "All the women in the giant wall can be weak but not me!"

Hailey looked at her sister. She went through her memories but couldn't find a time when her sister had shown such a real smile.

Chapter 507

Aisha still held onto her calm appearance as she looked at Hailey and slowly said: “You have grown up and now you are able to bear the burden of being a saint. I have already accomplished the task that mother entrusted me. From now on you are on your own. However don’t ever try to provoke me as I won’t be merciful to you anymore.”

Hailey reacted in a tone full of ridicule: “The task that mother entrusted? That woman died long ago! What has she entrusted you with? Being merciful to me? I would be the merciful one after I learn the Dragon Ki...”

Smack~~

A crisp sound of a slap echoed out.

Hailey’s speech was interrupted and she was frozen on spot.

A clear print of a slender palm and five fingers appeared on her delicate cheek.

Aisha slowly took back her hand and said in a cold tone: “Don’t ever speak bad about mother again!”

Hailey looked at Aisha in an incredible manner. Since small age she had repeatedly made Aisha’s life a hell but was never hit or beaten by her. Moreover the unacceptable part was that she

couldn't even react!

Is it because of the secret combat arts of the Dragon King?

Anger surged and burst out from her heart as Hailey clenched her fists. Her body slightly trembled: “D-do you dare to hit me? Why is it that you can call father ‘that man’ but I can’t call her ‘that woman’? She gave you all the best to you but nothing to me. You were born with the awakened blood power but I didn’t even get anything!”

“I had nothing since birth! I was called ‘witch’, why? Why did all that happen to me? It’s because I didn’t have the awakened blood power!”

Aisha coldly looked at Hailey: “You should find those people and get account from them why they call you so! But never call my mother as that woman. It’s the last time that I’m giving you a warning! If I hear you say that word again... I will kill you!” A strong killing intent burst out from Aisha’s body when she said the last sentence.

Hailey suddenly woke up as she felt the killing intent. She knew that this time her sister wasn’t joking but...really meant it!

She bowed her head as she bit her lips. Hailey felt humiliated and couldn’t wait to study the secret combat arts of the Dragon King.

“Do you know how mother died?” Aisha looked at Hailey.

Hailey had never seen her mother so she couldn't even recall her appearance. All that she knew was that her mother had died soon after giving birth to her.

“Of course you don't know.” Aisha continued: “Because mother was the wife of the patriarch and no one dares to mention the cause of her death! Do you know why they refer to you as ‘witch’? Because you were born the day mother died!”

Hailey was stunned.

Her birthday ... is mother's...

Could it be that.....

“It was because of dystocia. It wasn't a dystocia that an ordinary woman faced. The situation was urgent and she couldn't be healed.” Aisha coldly looked at her: “The priests said that they could only save one! And that damned heartless man choose to protect you!”

Hailey was hit like a lightning as she stood on spot.

“That man is always with you on your birthdays.” There was a trace of moist on Aisha's eyes: “Why do you think I never attended your birthday? Because who would accompany our dead mother? That man was afraid that you would know about the situation when you grow up so he buried mother and prohibited others from

visiting the tomb! His purpose was to let other to forget about this matter!”

“However ...I’ll remember my mother even if everyone forgets about her! I’ll always remember her!”

Hailey mind was blank as she stared at Aisha.

“It was mother who entrusted you to me before death and asked me to take care of you.” Aisha continued: “Why do you think that I would fall to the same small tricks again and again for so many years? You took away everything that I cherished! I let them go. But only the identity of saint I kept. Do you know why I stick to it?”

Hailey looked at her in a confused manner.

“Because you are weak!” Aisha looked at her eyes: “Because you are soo weak that if you were saint then it would bring nothing but harm to you! You never believed me. I told you many times but you never believed me. You always thought that I’m afraid of losing this identity... Do you know why I went to the outer wall nine years ago? It was because my patience was at the limit! ”

“I never wanted to be a saint!”

“All my childhood was spend in the dojo. The first thing that I did was to wake up every day and practice. Practice and read... The secret arts... ” Aisha looked at Hailey as if she was mocking her:

“You said that you have mastered all the ordinary combat arts. I mastered them when I was 7 years old. They were engraved deep in my marrows by then!”

Hailey’s pupils contradicted.

Seven years old? Master ordinary combat arts...

How could it be!

Hailey was full aware about the difficulty of ordinary combat arts. She had learned all of them and was proficient in them by the age of 13. It took her 2 more years to make sure that she acts on instinct...and could be considered as a master.

Seven years old ... What kind of costs Aisha had paid to do such a feat?

Aisha looked at Hailey dull expression and slowly said: “You can be regarded as a qualified pioneer as you have awakened the blood power. You can barely step into the wasteland. I have completed the task that mother had entrusted me. I will no longer obey the obligations that I have promised to her.”

Aisha took her bag and passed by Hailey.

Hailey’s mind was blank as she was processing everything that she heard from her sister. She came back to her senses as she heard the footsteps from behind her: “Why didn’t tell me these things

before if it all was truth?”

Aisha’s voice echoed out: “Because I hoped that you will have a good childhood.”

By the time last word echoed Aisha’s figure disappeared from Hailey’s sight.

Chapter 508 - Third Degree Of Awakening

Deep under the mountains of the Dragon Clan.

The lights of the burning fire illuminated the walls of the natural cave-like lair. The hot air filled the place. Viscous silk-like liquid slowly penetrated through the bumpy rocks and flowed into the huge fire pool at the bottom of the cave.

Lava bubbles erupted from the brightly colored magma pool at constant rate and released more heat into the air.

At the moment, a white figure was in the middle of the magma pool. Her body was soaked within the ever-flowing magma. It was the dragon mother that was sitting on dragon throne in the conference hall.

Her body was soaked in the magma as if she was swimming in a spring water. Her neck, white jade like scapula were over the pool. Interestingly, her delicate skin didn't suffer from the magma. White fog arose as the magma constantly got in touch with her body.

The old woman, Larina, was standing by the blood red magma pool. She was still wearing the plain robes. A lot of sweat had emerged all over her wrinkled face. Her clothes were wet but because of the hot air they dried very easily.

Larina looked at the dragon mother and whispered: "Miss, choosing a new saint is a big event. Why did you agree to their

proposal? All those elders have chosen to side with the second princess. It was a loss to dragon clan. I'm afraid that there is hidden nuances that we aren't aware. Although Her Highness Aisha has always been disobedient but she would never make such a thing which would hurt the clan."

Dragon mother's eyes were closed as she replied: "It's not important what the truth is. It is important that many elders supported the second princess and it was time to her to become a saint."

Larina couldn't help but say: "But, you have absolute power. It doesn't matter how many people could support him if you refused. Moreover, second princess is very young. Her talents are far less than Her Highness Aisha's. Hailey may have awakened the blood power but it should be very short time. I'm afraid it would be difficult for her to guard the wasteland. Saint carries an important task!"

"So, Hailey must master the secret combat arts of the Dragon King as soon as possible. She will represent us in the contest against the saints of Sky and Rock clans." Dragon Mother calmly said.

Larina smiled: "I'm afraid it would be very difficult for second princess to comprehend the secret combat arts of the Dragon King even in a year with her qualifications... The tricks that she use will be useless in a combat..."

Larina didn't continue on because it was clear what she was referring to.

The cave was silent once more.

Dragon mother slowly opened her eyes after a long time. The thing is her pupils were ice white instead of the usual blood amber color that Dragon clan members had.

“The frequency has increased in the last two years...” Dragon mother’s eyes were concentrated on Larina’s body but she wasn’t looking at her: “The Kingdom of God will have a new round of selection...”

It was clear that she wasn’t answering to Larina’s previous statement.

Larina’s pupils shrank when she heard dragon mother talk. Her eyes trembled: “It will start again? Miss, do you mean that you were the one...that replaced Hailey with Aisha?!”

Dragon mother’s eyes concentrated on Larina’s body once more. Larina felt the endless pressure that was focusing on her. Dragon mother softly said: “Aisha is the most talented person born in our Dragon clan for the last hundred years. She has just turned nineteen but has had third degree of awakening. She is much faster than I was back then. Perhaps, she has the chance to complete seven awakenings and break through the cage!”

Larina’s face turned pale: “Third degree of awakening?! Did Her Highness Aisha awakened the blood power for third time?”

Dragon mother slowly said: “I would have removed Aisha from saint post even without Hailey. She is the hope of our Dragon clan! She can’t be hurt out there. Do you understand me?”

Larina blankly looked at her as ideas popped up in her mind. Her body trembled as she looked at dragon mother: “The awakening of princess Hailey... is it...”

Dragon mother looked deep into her eyes.

Larina felt as if a mountain was pressuring down her shoulders.

“Recently, it has very difficult to suppress my disease...” Dragon mother slowly bent her head and looked at the magma pool. She whispered: “You have to take care of her... She is dragon clan’s future...”

Larina was shocked: “Your disease? How could that be? The temperature in here is enough to melt the steel!”

Dragon mother shook her head as her body slowly went into the magma pool.

...

In the dark cell.

It's been a day that Dean was caught and imprisoned in the cell. His stomach was growling because of hunger. Dean thought that better his constitution got, the more resistant he would be to hunger. However it was all contrary to his assumption. The better his constitution got the more he wanted to eat. Unless he would go into deep sleep like a snake so that his stomach and all body functions stopped.

That way he could supply energy to his body for long time.

However, his body needed more energy once he did intense exercise. As a result the food in his stomach would be digested and energy would be squeezed out for his actions.

The most disappointing thing was that his demand for energy and heat was much higher than an average person!

He was curled up like an insect in the corner of the cell. He did his best to make tremors in his muscles to warm up his body. But because of this physical action he got more hungry!

“Am I going to be starved to death in here?” Dean couldn't help but ponder. There was anger and strong killing intent in his heart.

Squeak~~

Dean suddenly heard the door open.

He was overjoyed as he tried to look up. But his body was curled

for long time so his body had become stiff.

“Greetings, Her Royal Highness!”

“Greetings, Saint!”

“Saint, why did you come here?”

The voices of guards echoed out from outside.

Chapter 509 - The Path To The Future

“Saint?” Dean was slightly startled: “Is it Aisha’s elder sister?”

A faint fragrance floated in the dark cell as Dean pondered. A slender figure of a wonderful girl entered the cell. She was carrying a giant sword.

Dean was surprised the moment he saw her face: “It’s you!”

Aisha was surprised to see Dean who was curled up in corner. Her memories were very clear. She recognized the teenager because she had met him in an extraordinary situation. She was impressed by him. Aisha didn’t think that the teenager framed by his sister would be the boy who she saw when hunting the splitter.

Dean was also surprised as he didn’t expect the girl wearing the purple tang suit who was hunting the splitter to be standing in front of him. He got answers to many questions that he was doubtful about.

Aisha had told him that her elder sister could hunt a monster up to level 100. The girl wearing the purple tang suit was able to beat splitter too. Although splitter had given birth and was hurt but it was a legendary monster!

There was a different of heaven and earth between the same level ordinary and legendary monsters. In short, a level 20 legendary monster would be able to hunt down and kill a monster that was much higher than it. In that sense, an adult splitter which was

level 68 monster was in no way inferior to level 100 ordinary monster!

It was obvious that she was the bad sister that Aisha was referring to.

“Are you Hailey?” Dean asked.

Aisha was stunned but shook her head as she understood what has happened: “I’m Aisha. My sister’s name is Hailey. She has impersonated me when she contacted you.”

“Aisha!” Dean was startled: “No wonder she wasn’t worried about my confessions. I will be using the name ‘Aisha’... She had planned about every detail...”

The mystery and doubt in his heart was resolved. Hailey had seen his handkerchief and recognized that it belonged to her elder sister. She had posed as Aisha to use Dean. In the first meeting, Hailey tried to bring him into the inner wall. Obviously, if he had agreed back then he would be sent to a banned area of the Dragon Clan!

The dragon clan would arrest him if he went into such an area. After the investigations all the fingers would point to Aisha.

However he had refused the invitations.

It seems that Hailey had seen through his suspicions. So she

didn't invite him into the clan but instead tried to 'confess' her feelings and provide God's marrow to him.

The main thing was that she had won his goodwill by trying to help. The third time when they met she had given her the secret combat arts of the clan. The fourth time was used to arrest him and frame Aisha!

Dean saw through the whole conspiracy. Hailey had used him to smear her elder sister!

He looked up at Aisha: "Were you the one who gave me the... handkerchief?"

Aisha looked at Dean's eyes as she heard the question. She was convinced that it was the little boy from the years ago who she took to the orphanage. Although there were people with pure black eyes and hair but they were rarity. Most of the plebs had brown hair and brown eyes.

"Are you the kid who was walking in the rainy night?" Aisha still asked even though she was convinced.

Dean was perplexed as she looked at the girl who looked a year or two older than himself. He decided to carefully ask few questions: "Do you remember that night?"

He had asked the same question to Hailey but she had replied that she didn't remember.

Hailey's answer was reasonable as eight or nine years had passed and it was normal for her to have forgotten the night.

“It was very dark and it heavily rained.” Aisha knew that Dean's questioned her because of her sister's tricks. He seemed to want to confirm her identity. She recalled the night: “You were wearing strange clothes as you walked in the street. Your face was very pale as if you didn't have blood in it. I knew that rain was very lethal for ordinary people so took you to the orphanage...”

Dean was convinced when she said 'wearing strange clothes'.

His eyes lit up for a moment but the next second cold chill penetrated his body from his feet.

Aisha stepped forward when she saw Dean's face turn white: “What's wrong? Are you uncomfortable? Your temperature looks very low...”

“Sorry ... ” Dean didn't answer her question but instead clenched his fists: “I have hurt you... I...”

He rarely blamed himself. But this instance he felt extreme guilt. The feeling had twisted his heart as if strangling him.

He always carried the handkerchief with himself in hope that he would pay her kindness back in case if he meet the girl in future. Instead of repaying her he had harmed the girl!

He was aware that the root of the deception was Hailey's planning but he was the one who was caught in trap!

He felt angry and regretted not to listening to his own intuition back then!

Aisha was slightly startled as she didn't think that the teenager would blame himself for the situation. She softly said: "I'm sorry for involving you in this situation. Hailey wouldn't do such a thing if I dealt with her long ago. It was me who had implicated you in this mess..."

Dean's head was looking down as he slightly shook his head. He spoke in a hoarse tone: "I wouldn't get caught in her trap if I was a bit more sensitive. I brought myself to this situation and harmed you...I had to be careful..."

Aisha felt that teenager was much stubborn that she had imagined. She said in a soft tone: "It's alright. You believed her because you thought that she is me. You weren't prepared."

Dean listened to her comforting words. However, he knew that his intuition had ringed the alarm for several times. He didn't listen to his intuition but his subjective feelings. There was pain and hatred in his heart. The subject of hatred wasn't Hailey but himself.

"It's easy to deal with good people. I would rather kill bad ones instead of letting them go! But... how am I going to treat people

who are familiar with me, my friends, loved ones... Can I live with suspicion? Should I kill rather than letting them go? But If I don't... Then there will be ones who will disguise as my loved one, friend and so on to stab me when I'm not aware."

He pondered about everything. He remembered Kroen who had betrayed him, he thought of Jenny's father who had framed him and thought of Hailey's camouflage... Would he encounter all these if he was an ordinary person?

The problem was that he wouldn't be able to return to an ordinary life at this point. How could he step back? He had to face his own fears and solve out his problems with the problems that he would face!

If the person at the peak was destined to go through such a lonely and desperate road...then... did he have any other choice?

Chapter 510 - Dragon Guard

Aisha bit her lips and slowly said when she saw Dean bow down his head: “You don’t have to blame yourself for all this. Hailey has just used you. It would be very strange if you were aware of her plans. Actually, thanks to you I was able to let go of saint’s identity. I will be free like everyone else.”

Dean was startled as he looked up at her.

“I was born with awakened blood power. There were high expectations from me since early age. I’ve been through harsh training from the early days... ” Aisha faintly smiled as she recalled the old days: “Training day after day... I trained, studies, fought... I was like a puppet meant for destruction. Finally, the shackles on me were taken off. Its all thanks to you!”

Dean saw that her gaze was very serious.

He didn’t expect the girl to have such a monotonous life style.

“It’s very good for me but...” Aisha looked at Dean with a trace of apology in her eyes: “I’m very sorry for you as you were involved in this situation. You almost lost your life.”

Dean shook his head: “I’m used to such stuff.”

He remembered that when he was admitted to scavenger school he was taken to physical examination for hunters. However He

almost had lost his life back then because of two hunters who chatted with each other.

Jenny's father, Rudolph, had framed him because Dean loved her daughter.

This time he almost died because of the competition between Aisha and Hailey.

It was very funny. However he knew that it was the true face of the world. There was nothing funny but he was too weak.

The weak aren't masters of their own life.

It's true for hunters and for ordinary people.

A diligent worker may be sacked and replaced just because a relative of his/her boss joins a company.

A good soldier may lost his life because of officer.

The so-called idea of 'Heavens rule over anything and I can't live by my rules.' ...

The 'heavens' refer to the notion that overlooks the mortals. Why would heavens are blind to countless injustices and suffering of weak? The real 'heavens' were nothing but those emperors of the ancient who stood at the apex!

One person who could determine the life and death of all!

Aisha was silent for a moment: “It will be hard on you from now on. I will talk to patriarch to let you go back to your original life if you can survive...”

From now on!? Dean’s heart began to strongly beat: “Do you mean...the dragon clan won’t kill me?”

“I have asked patriarch so he will keep your life. But according to my understanding of him, he will send you to be part of the dragon guard to protect the wasteland.”

Dean was amused because of her straightforward words. However he was glad to be left alive even if he was going to be used as a cannon fodder in dragon guard! He knew that the job wasn’t a good one because of Aisha’s tone. He asked: “What is the relationship of the dragon clan with the wasteland?”

Aisha didn’t think that Dean would know about the existence of ‘wasteland’. However she thought of Hailey and came to understand how Dean was aware of wasteland. She nodded: “The responsibility of the pioneers from the Dragon clan is to sweep clean the outer edge of the wasteland. It’s similar to hunters of the outer area. However the monsters in wasteland are much stronger and the mortality rate is higher.”

No wonder the place was called wasteland. Moreover it was normal for the dragon clan to send him off. He thought that he

would be killed when he was caught. After all, no sane person would let he go as he was aware of the secret combat arts of the clan. It was equal to leaking the combat arts on their own! He didn't care much about being sent to wasteland or anywhere else!

“Fortunately ... I can live.” Dean was secretly glad.

Aisha continued: “Don't worry way too much. Although its hard but its not that difficult to survive as long as you are careful. The clan will provide you god's marrow and combat arts so that you can reach the minimum standards of the dragon clan.”

Dean nodded but wasn't happy. God's marrow was nothing in the eyes of the Dragon clan. He would use them to enhance his combat power and be able to survive the wasteland.

“What is your magic mark?” Aisha asked.

Dean looked at her and was about to lie. Aisha saw the subtle change on his face and understood that she had asked something that she shouldn't have. She changed her question: “Is it a rare level magic marks? If not, I can give you good rare level magic marks. I can provide you with them to improve your strength. You are involved in all these because of me...”

Dean knew her intention but he shook his head: “I would be dead if you didn't get involved. It's the second time that you saved me.”

Aisha shook her head: “You wouldn't have faced this risk if I

wasn't involved.”

Dean looked at her deeply. He knew that the girl wanted to help him but it would be very difficult to pay her off later on. After this incident he learned that without strength he wouldn't be able to help but harm others!

“Do you want to replace your magic marks?” Aisha continued: “I have ‘Dragon Steel’, ‘Swallower’, ‘Black weaver’ and ‘Silicone Rock’. They are relatively strong rare magic marks.”

Dean shook his head. He could see that Aisha wanted to help him but her expression was too flat and it seemed that she didn't get along with others: “It's alright. I'm used to my own magic marks and if I suddenly replaced them then it could harm me.”

He wanted to say that he would repay in the future if he found opportunity but he swallowed his own words.

“Alright.” Aisha nodded: “If you are used to your own magic marks then stick to it.”

Dean nodded.

Aisha didn't say anything anymore but turned and left the cell.

Dean slowly recovered his eyes. He against gained hope. However, he thought of something else. Aisha's identity as saint had been replaced by Hailey. It meant that Hailey was the new

Saint! Would Hailey continue to frame him in the future? Will he be able to survive in the dragon clan?

He thought that Hailey wouldn't stop at it. He had long chats with Hailey as they had sat on top of high-rise buildings. Although Hailey had cheated him from start to end but she didn't lie all along.

Moreover, Hailey had told him that Aisha didn't have friends...

Although he was in a cell and didn't have any knowledge about the Dragon Clan. But he was able to judge from Aisha's words and expressions. He had concluded that she was like a lone wolf.

It seemed like a useless message but Dean knew that it was an extremely dangerous message!

If Aisha didn't have any friends then the relationship between him and Aisha would be taken as 'friendship' from Hailey's perspective.

She won't continue to deal with Aisha unless she has softened.

However, Dean knew that she had strong hatred towards her elder sister!

He didn't think that Hailey will be satisfied just by pulling down Aisha from her post.

“It seems that I’ll be facing some big troubles ...” Dean turned gloomy. He hadn’t stayed in Dragon clan for long but he knew that he had to find a way to leave as soon as possible and produce the new invention. He would have enough power with the new invention!

But he would need at least 3 to 5 months for the production of the new invention.

Would Dragon Clan let him do as he wishes because of his current sensitive identity?

It was obvious that they won’t.

He wrinkled his brows as he thought about the possibilities.

About half a day after Aisha left the door opened once more.

Dean was thinking about his own plans but he recovered himself the moment cell’s door opened. He saw that a figure had come in. It was the blonde youth that had hunted him down with Hailey.

Cyrus looked at the dark cell and ordered the guard: “Open the door.”

Dean slowly stood up.

“Come with me. Elder wants to see you.” Cyrus frowned. He quickly talked and closed his mouth. He wasn’t using his nose to breathe too. He was disgusted by the smell of the cell.

Dean’s eyes lit up as he followed after Cyrus.

They went out of the cell and walked along a concave valley. The valley was surrounded by strange flowers and grasses. They were poisonous.

Cyrus was walking quickly.

Dean was walking at the same pace as Cyrus but was secretly observing the surroundings. Although he may not use this information in the future but there was nothing wrong with extra knowledge.

It didn’t take long for them to reach a mountain peak. The place had a huge square.

They went into the castle on the square. There were giant stone sculptures in the square. It seemed that they were the ancestors of the Dragon Clan.

There were guards from the dragon clan wearing standard armor outside the castle. Although no one was around but they still stood tall.

Cyrus and Dean came to the main hall of the castle. The place

looked like a huge church but there were no chairs or anything. At the end of the hall there was a throne made out of bronze. A brawny man sat on throne. His upper body was covered with armor. He had muscular arms and shoulders.

He was wearing a brown loose pants and metal boots.

The most striking thing was that two spikes were raised out of his spine. One was short while the other was long. They seemed like lizards...

Dean saw that the heat emitted from the man's body was extremely wild. It was like a mass of burning fireball.

However, in comparison to Aisha the man seemed much weaker.

Moreover Aisha's heat was restrained. It was like the heat flowed around her body through the veins. It was hard to detect her exact strength but it was clear to Dean that she was several times stronger than this person.

“He is also a pioneer level expert...” Dean's eyes lit up. The dragon clan was really powerful. He could casually met a person who had terrifying strength. Moreover, he listened to the blonde youth's words. It seemed that the man wasn't patriarch but only an elder.

“Elder Harley, this is the person caught by the dragon clan...” Cyrus said in a respectful tone.

The man on the throne lifted up his head and his red eyes concentrated on Dean's body. He said in a rough and hoarse tone: "Go back.."

"Yes." Cyrus nodded and left. He didn't want to wait for another moment in front the monster.

Harley looked at Dean after Cyrus left: "Come over."

Dean felt hostility in Harley's tone. Does it mean that Hailey's revenge began so soon? Is this elder somehow related to Hailey? He slowly stepped forward.

Harley snorted as he saw Dean walk slowly: "Black haired boy, do you know how much trouble you have caused to Miss Aisha?"

Dean was relieved when he heard Harley question. It seemed that this person wasn't related to Hailey.

Harley growled: "Her Highness Aisha had guarded the wasteland for so many years. She almost died and had become a ration for monsters for so many times! She had done this for the family since childhood. She had paid with her life and freedom! It all happened because of you! Damned kid! You were the reason why she was replaced only by a little girl!"

Dean was shocked.

He had chatted with Aisha but didn't expect that her life was so hard!

No wonder she didn't care but was happy because of losing the identity of saint!

Chapter 511 - Report

“An ignorant kid from the outer all who dares to peek at our secret combat arts... Ridiculous! The people from the outer wall wouldn't be able to even understand the combat arts. Do you even dare to learn them?” Harley felt disgusted as he looked at Dean: “It would have been long since you were sent as a ration to dragon worms if not for Her Highness Aisha...”

Dean was silent.

He chose not to argue with the elder because he thought it to be meaningless to argue with a person who he wouldn't ever see again.

“Her Highness came forward to save you...So use this opportunity to live well!” Harley eyes were like flames that overlooked Dean who was standing on red carpet: “I have called to tell you that you are now part of our Dragon clan! From now on you want be able to leave Dragon clan's territory. Never, ever! Otherwise, death without investigation!”

Dean frowned as he looked at the elder: “Never?”

“Of course!” Harley didn't think that the boy would dare to question him: “IT won't be only you that would die in case you dare to leak our secret combat arts. Everyone related to you will die! Your loved ones, friends and anyone who was distantly related to you!”

Dean didn't care about Harley's threat: "Why I can't leave the territory since I am member of the dragon clan?"

Harley raised his eyebrows as he didn't think that the kid would use his own words to question himself. His eyes were cold as he slightly sneered: "Normal members of the clan can leave. But you are from outer wall. Do you think it will be so easy to leave the territory? Actually you can simply leave the time when you have raised enough meritorious service. We will naturally give you back your freedom. I will admit that you will be a true dragon if you accomplish the feats!"

"But ..." Harley looked into Dean's eyes and spoke in a tone with full of ridicule: "It's just simply nonsense for you to raise enough meritorious service you're your ability!"

"How much meritorious service? How do I accomplish that?" Dean asked as he ignored Harley's sarcasm.

Harley laughed as he saw Dean wasn't planning to give up: "Not so much. Just ten thousand points. As a member of the dragon guard you will have chance to get rewards on each trips. Different tasks have different values. They won't only get you your freedom back but they will give you the chance to get combat arts, armor and as well as weapons!"

"Weapons?" Dean thought about a possibility. Maybe the dragon clan referred to the weapons from the old era. Is it possible that the legacy weapons of the dragon clan would be from old era?

Rifles? Tanks? cannons?

He decided that tanks and artillery couldn't exist but rifles and other types of firearms were possible. Tanks had to be used by diesel and computer systems. If Dragon clan could repair the tanks and master the technology behind them then they would have already stepped to the apex of the giant wall!

"I know, thank you." Dean nodded as he pondered.

Harley felt a bit weird. The little devil wasn't similar to most people. He tried to humiliate the kid with words but it seems the kid wasn't even thinking about that. Moreover Dean's appearance was very calm.

"Does this kid have the same mind as the witch?" Harley pondered for a moment. He narrowed his eyes as he looked at Dean.

"Kid!" Harley's voice echoed as he stared at Dean.

Dean frowned as he felt the slight change in Harley's attitude.

"Your life was saved by Her Highness Aisha. You better never forget it!" Harley slowly said.

Dean nodded his head as he looked at Harley.

Harley recovered his eyes: “Moreover, Her Highness helped you not once but twice!”

“Twice?” Dean was perplexed. He looked at Harley. Did he refer back to the childhood?

“The second time was saving your from me.” Harley quickly dispelled the guesses that were going through Dean’s mind: “Her Highness Aisha asked me to take care of you or I would have send you for the hardest task as a Dragon Guard. In our slang we call that task ‘dead men.’”

Dean was startled.

It seems that it wasn’t just Hailey but whole dragon clan that was against him. It won’t be that easy to survive!

It seems that even the people on Aisha’s faction were against him.

Hailey had used him to frame Aisha. So the people who support Aisha would take this matter into account. They would naturally hope that Dean had disappeared for good!

Aisha’s face emerged in his mind. Unspeakable feelings passed through his mind as he thought about the girl. It seems Aisha was aware and considered this point and deliberately asked Hailey to make it ‘easy’ for Dean. The girl has saved him once more. The third time!

“If you can survive then its best for you to remember the favor of Her Highness Aisha!” Harley continued: “Otherwise, I won’t let go of you! Of course, I won’t care if you die half the way and I think this probability is quite high! Her Highness Aisha has asked me to take care of you but nobody knows what is going to happen outside the giant wall... Maybe you will even meet a legendary monster and end up as its food... Everything depends on your luck.”

Dean was silent.

“You have half a month! We will provide you with God’s marrow and rare magic marks so that you can break into primary limitless level. You should consider it as a self-protection.” Harley continued in an indifferent tone: “Your first trip will be after half a month. I will refer you to a team and an easy task will be given. If you can’t complete this task and die outside the giant wall... Then I can’t do anything. ”

“I know, thank you.” Dean earnestly replied.

“Well!” Harley waved his hand: “Norwich take him to report to 7th team.”

Chapter 512 - Rookie

“Yes, elder.”

A shadow suddenly appeared within the hall. It was a thin youth with pale complexion but handsome face. He looked at Dean: “Follow me.”

Dean nodded his head. He was surprised because he hadn't detected Norwich who seemed to be in the hall all along. Moreover, Dean looked at the youth. He couldn't detect any heat from the man's body. It was as if he was a corpse.

“His blood is...ice cold.” Dean's eyes lit up as he followed behind the youth. However he was vigilant. He understood that he couldn't rely too much on his thermal vision. There were some monsters or special magic marks that could avoid his perception.

They left the mountain after leaving the hall. They reached another mountain which was not far from the earlier one. There was a gorgeous castle at the foot of the mountain. More than dozen figures were in the castle and exuded different level of heat.

Some of them seemed to be ordinary people. Dean speculated that either they were servants or had special magic marks that could reduce their body heat.

They walked uphill. Neither Norwich nor Dean tried to open a conversation along the way. They reached a residential building when Norwich said: “Come after me.”

Dean followed behind him. They walked towards the mountain top. There were buildings on different parts of the mountain. Some had beautiful gardens while some had yards for picnic and tea.

Norwich stopped by a residential building in the middle of the mountain. He stopped outside the fence and shouted: "Ian!"

Dean stood behind Norwich as he looked at the residential building. There were five figures exuding heat inside the building. One was very strong almost as hot as Cyrus's body heat level. The three others were slightly less weaker. The weakest one was at Francis's level.

None responded to Norwich's shout as all of them were either sitting or standing in their original positions.

Squeak~~ The door opened.

A youth whose hair was white opened the door. He had an indifferent expression on his face but his eyes were way too gloomy.

Dean knew that the man had magic marks which were perfect for camouflage

Ian was startled as he saw Dean behind Norwich. He frowned: "What happened?"

Norwich smiled: “Your team lacks a member. He is called Dean. The newest member of your squad! ”

Ian frowned as he looked up and down at Dean: “Is he from dragon clan? What has he done before? He seems very weak.”

Norwich smiled: “Dean is just a senior hunter. Before the next mission he will be provided with resources to reach the primary limitless level and be able to keep up with your team.”

“Senior hunter?” Ian looked at Dean in a dumb manner.

“What did you say? Just a senior hunter?” A burly man with dark skin color rushed out of the building. He looked at Norwich: “Have we done anything wrong to you guys? A few days ago you brought a rookie and now we have another one. What do you think 7th team is? Are we here to bring in rookies?”

Norwich smiled: “It’s an order by elder.”

“You!” The black man stared at him.

Norwich said: “Ian elder has given you guys two new rookies so the next task will be to organge wasteland. So, don’t complain about anything.” Norwich left as soon as he finished talking.

Ian and the other man froze up for a moment. Their eyes fell

onto Dean's body. They sighed.

“Dean, come in.” Ian looked at Dean.

Dean went into the building.

The place was extremely spacious but the room was in chaotic state. There were pastry, leftovers of peeled fruits and so on on the ground. The air wasn't fresh. There were few people sitting on the sofa in the living room. Their feet were on the table while there was a lazy and gloomy expression on their faces.

Dean had seen this gloomy feeling before in the faces of hunters. Such a temperament developed after people fought life and death battle for long time.

“We have a new member called Dean.” Ian pointed to Dean as he entered the living room. He sat down on an empty sofa.

The others looked up at Dean but they didn't stand up to greet him.

One of the few who looked at Dean was the person which emitted the weakest heat. It was a blonde youth with a scar on his face. He was looking at Dean with curiosity in his eyes. It seemed as if he had found his companion.

The other was a slender woman who examined Dean in silence.

“Another rookie?” A youth who was lazily leaning against the sofa said.

The previous black man said in an angry tone: “Elders intention is to make the 7th team become a team of rookies! We have seven people with these two new rookies but it seems we will be nannies!”

Ian slightly silent.

The woman spoke in an indifferent tone as she looked at Dean: “I think elder decided that we are not up to par to implement tasks in the red wasteland after we lost people there! So he has sent two rookies to let us perform tasks in the orange wasteland. I think they are taking into account that we have to cultivate the rookies!”

The room turned silent after her words.

Ian shook his head after he sighed: “Anyway, the risk of tasks in the orange wasteland isn’t low. Nobody should take it lightly! We can get thousands of points for completing tasks in the orange wasteland!”

The blonde youth with a scar on his face asked in a curious tone: “What points are you talking about?”

The woman looked up at him and spoke in a cold tone: “We have lost our captain who was the strongest team member...”

Chapter 513 - Dragon Guard

The blonde man stayed silent.

“Are you the captain now? What do you mean by red and orange wasteland? Is there difference in the degree of danger?” Dean asked.

Ian looked at him: “Yes, The red wasteland is very dangerous. Even the pioneers would die in the red wasteland if they wander alone or are careless.”

Dean eyes lit up: “Was the former captain a pioneer?”

The eyes of the people in room turned to focus on Dean’s body after his question.

Ian looked at Dean: “No, he was an advanced limitless like us. But he had mastered secret combat arts so he was able to stand on his own against pioneers.”

Dean didn’t expect that the secret combat arts of the dragon clan were so strong. It seems the former captain has mastered one of the secret combat arts but was able to disdain the level of power. However it was ironic that not the weaker but the strongest was dead after the team’s visit to red wasteland.

Dean didn’t continue to inquire about the death of the late captain. He had just joined the team and didn’t want to touch their

pain.

He asked: “Is it possible to get thousands of meritorious points? How long does it take for us to take a mission? How long do we rest between consecutive missions?”

Ian looked at Dean. He felt as if the new rookie was calm in comparison to the blonde youth. It was undoubtedly an advantage outside the giant wall. He knew that both of the new rookies were weak and he felt upset. But he knew that they were sent by the elders and complains were useless. Ian was worried that those useless complains would produce gap in the team.

He didn't want to have problems within the team. The team had to act like one as they completed a mission. They would inevitable face bad situation if there was misunderstandings between the team members.

“We will be given a main task in each mission. There would be additional tasks too. It's up to us if which additional tasks we select. However most of the time we aren't willing to get many additional tasks as each second in the wasteland means one step closer to death. No one can predict what will happen the next second in the wasteland. So usually, we just complete the main task.” Ian replied.

“How long does it take to complete a mission?” Dean repeated his question.

Ian vaguely guessed Dean's intentions: “We will get a month of

rest after the completion of the mission. If a member of the team dies then we will get more than month of rest time as we will have to fill the spots with new members.”

Dean slightly wrinkled his eyebrows: “Does it mean that the casualty rate is high during the implementation of the mission?”

“Boy... are you so afraid of death that you are asking so many questions?” the previous burly man asked.

Dean didn't care about the man but just stared at Ian.

Ian saw that Dean was waiting for his reply: “Yes, the casualty rate is very high. Coming back safely is good luck... Its very common to lose members...”

Dean nodded: “What happens if we don't complete the main task? How many points do we get for completing a task in red wasteland?”

“If we can't finish the main task then the same amount of points will be deducted from us. If we reach 3000 negative points then our identity as the member of the dragon clan will be cancelled and we will be sent to red wasteland as a part of Dragon Guard.” Ian continued: “The main tasks for the red wasteland range from 3000 to 5000 points. You can get even tens of thousands of points if you can complete additional tasks. However it is impossible! No one has ever done it. Doing an additional task in red wasteland means DEATH!”

“Dragon guard?” Dean was surprised.

“Although the dragon guard follows the Saint as they protect the red wasteland but the death rate is very very high!” Ian continued: “In the last two hundred years less than three people were able to retire from the dragon guard.”

Dean understood why Harley referred to Dragon guard as dead man.

“It seems we can’t pick the missions. Only the people from above can send us to carry out tasks in red wasteland.” Dean looked at Ian.

“Of course.” Ian shrugged his shoulders: “Why would they give us the right to choose?”

Dean nodded as he secretly calculated in his mind: “About two months of time including the rest... I will need at least two years to get 10000 points for my freedom!”

Two years wasn’t a long time frame for an ordinary 18 year old teenager.

However it was undoubtedly long time for Dean. A deadly long time!

He will be encountering the followers and supporters of Aisha and Hailey for the next two years and it would be impossible for

him to live through every trick. Moreover, if he can continue to accumulate points for the next two years then Hailey will be interested in killing him as a possible strong follower of Aisha.

“I must think of a way to secretly leave this place and finish my new invention.” Dean’s eyes lit up.

Thinking about obtaining meritorious service points through honest ways was a joke that could cost his own life.

“There is an empty room so you will live there.” Ian looked at Dean: “Your resources will be given soon so make sure to upgrade and enhance your abilities within half a month. If you feel so we can help with your practice.”

Dean knew that Ian was thinking about the team. It seems Ian was worried that an advance from senior hunter to primary limitless will be a bit problematic for a rookie and Dean wouldn’t be able to grasp his strength properly.

“I will do it on my own.” Dean wasn’t planning to expose his magic marks abilities. Moreover, he was worried that because of the sudden advance to primary limitless level he wouldn’t be able to control his strength and kill someone.

In addition, after the breakthrough he was going to get a new ability. Sometime the new ability could be grasped at will while at other times he had to try out many things before understanding what his new ability is.

Chapter 514 - Verification

Soon two servants brought a box full of vials. There were God's marrows meant for Dean. In addition there were 8 finger long transparent tubes. All of them had parasitic soul worms.

The shape of parasitic soul worms were different from each others. Some had green and soft bodies and looked like caterpillars; some were darker with tentacles similar to a snail; some looked like iron with silver body color.

Dean checked them. All of them were rare parasitic soul worms.

"It's all for you. Use these resources to enhance the strength of your magic marks." Ian gave the box to Dean: "Absorb them as soon as possible. By the way, you have to earn your resources in the future."

Dean nodded. Although as an elder of 9th region of the dark church or a master of the Temple he could collect 8 rare parasitic soul worms but the time it would take wouldn't be as early as this case. But God's marrow was something that he had to spend a lot of effort to get.

His new invention was going to give him enough power for self-protect but it didn't matter much if his own physical strength was too low. There were many powerful people in the inner wall and he could be secretly assassinated by others. That's why it didn't matter if he invented and manufactured a missile or a nuclear reactor. He had to have enough physical strength too.

Pioneers were in a non-human level and he was aware that he would be killed even before having the chance to use his weapon.

Dean took the box and returned back to the room assigned to him by Ian. The room was full of dust and debris all over the place. There were spider webs in the corners. He cleaned bed as he was too lazy to make sure that the room was tidy and hygienic. Nevertheless, he wasn't aware how long he was going to stay in this room.

Dean opened the box and took God's marrow. He opened the bottle and gently sniffed it. There was no smell and it give the same vibe as the one which was given to him by Hailey.

He pondered for a moment and decided to try something else before using it. He didn't know the number of people who could have 'intervened' with the God's marrow before it got to him. So it was possible that someone could mix a bit of poison to God's marrow to harm Dean. He would face an inevitable death if he directly injected the God's marrow into his body.

Dean remembered the blonde youth and his eyes lit up.

At night.

Dean knocked the door of the room where 'Eugene' the blonde youth lived.

The door opened. Eugene looked at Dean in a surprised manner: “You!?! Haven’t you slept?”

Dean smiled: “No. I wanted to chat with you.”

Eugene was stunned but there was a smile on his face: “Yeah. I’m bored too.” He completely opened the door.

Dean went into the room and observed it. There was no decorations and the room was in a state almost the same as his room. Dean glanced at Eugene: “They told that you are a rookie like me? Are you a primary limitless?”

Eugene laughed as he sat back on his bed: “Yes. I have just become a primary limitless..It’s bad luck that we were send over, isn’t it?”

Dean smiled: “Are you nervous?”

“I’m alright.” Eugene shrugged his shoulders: “We only live once...”

Dean smiled: “We still have to live well even though we live once.”

“That’s it.” Eugene smiled.

Dean took out two bottle of God’s marrow and a syringe and

handed them to Eugene: “These were sent to me today. I have way too many so I want to gift these two to you. I hope it would be helpful in enhancing your strength a bit.”

“To me?” There was a trace of surprise in Eugene’s eyes as he looked at Dean.

“I’m also a rookie like you. Most probably you have heard as my luck is much worse than yours. I’m still a senior hunter and we will be going to mission in half a month. It’s going to be very dangerous and others are way too strong. I’m going to break through the primary limitless level but while we implement the mission the others may not take care of us. We have to look after each other...”

Eugene understood that Dean was trying to win over his friendship so as not to die during the mission. He laughed: “We are all teammates! We must take care of each other. I can’t take this... Friends don’t take payments.”

“Since its about friendship then you must accept it or I will be hurt.” Dean stuffed the small bottles into Eugene’s hands.

Eugene no longer shirked back but took the bottles of the God’s marrow. They wouldn’t not be enough to enhance his strength a lot as the number of the vials were too small. However, he understood the way Dean wanted to interact with him. From a hunter’s perspective God’s marrow was a very precious thing. A bottle or two could soar up the physical strength of a senior hunter.

Eugene didn't go on to explain the details to Dean but put the God's marrow onto the table by his bed: "I'll accept them since you insist. I hope that both of us will take care of each other in the future."

Dean smiled as he looked at the God's marrows: "Aren't you going to absorb them now? I have heard that the longer you keep them the lower its effects are."

"I'll use them before going to bed." Eugene laughed.

Dean no longer tried to persuade so as not to draw Eugene's attention. He chatted with him for a bit more and tried to exchange information. Afterwards, he found a reason to go back.

Dean's pupils shrank as soon as he left Eugene's room. The heat map of the surrounding place was visualized in his eyes.

He didn't have to turn back to observe Eugene through the thermal vision.

Eugene sat back on his bed and reached out towards the God's marrow. He held the bottles in his hand and looked for a moment. The next instant, Dean was startled.

Eugene used his other hand to pull out the drawer of the table and put the bottles into the drawer.

“Why he didn’t use them?” Dean’s eyebrows wrinkled up. He understood that Eugene wasn’t a simple person.

He returned back to his room to think about other ways to verify the God’s marrows.

Two days passed in the blink of an eye.

Dean observed Eugene for the last two days. He knew that Eugene didn’t use them. Moreover, the next morning he had asked the effect of the God’s marrows from Eugene. Eugene had answered that ‘the effect was very good.’

Chapter 515 - Reckless Slaughter

Dean lost two bottles of God's marrow and couldn't get any results from this test. On the night of the third day under the disguise of strolling around he came to the foot of the mountain. He tried to find animals relying on his thermal vision.

Dean was able to catch a little animal which was similar to a pangolin. He injected the God's marrow that he had prepared in advance.

Previous time he didn't want to test God's marrow on animals because the results may not be able to reflect the characteristics of God's marrow perfectly. After all, human and animal body structures were different. God's marrow was in sense a medicine. There were some special reactions that couldn't be verified if the medicine was tested on animals.

Dean picked up the little animal and was about to take it back to shelter after the injection was over.

However, the animal struggled up in an instant. It's eyes turned reddish while blood stains began to emerge from its scales. In an instant the docile animal had become a bloodthirsty monster.

Dean was startled as he let loose the animal. He didn't think that God's marrow would be effective so fast.

Hiss~ The little animal crouched down the moment it landed and jumped at Dean.

Dean's body flashed and escaped the animal's attack. The next moment animal's body turned stiff and it stopped moving. It fell to the ground as its claws tried to desperately buckle the ground.

In about 7 or 8 seconds its body rolled and stopped moving at all. Blood began to flow out from its eyes, mouth, ears and others parts of the body. It was dead.

Dean's face turned gloomy. He had deliberately used only one drop of God's marrow and mixed it with water before injecting it to the animal's body. Dean knew that injected whole bottle of God's marrow would not be wise. However, even a drop was enough to kill the animal.

"God's marrow is toxic ..." Dean felt all the hair on his body stand ereft. He felt tempted when he gave two bottles of God's marrow to Eugene. He had regretted it after giving those bottle to Eugene. However, it seems the God's marrow was really problematic!

Of course, there was a small possibility. The body structure of the animal wasn't suited and couldn't bear the effects of the God's marrow even though he had used only a drop!

After a moment, Dean bent over and dig a pit. He buried the animal in it.

He went back to their home. Dean's face was calm as usual but his heart was gloomy.

If the God's marrow was toxic then it meant that the enemies within the Dragon clan couldn't wait to deal with him!

Outside the giant wall was very dangerous place, especially the wasteland. They knew that there was a 'possibility' that Dean may die outside. However it seems those people were interested in changing that 'possibility' into 'reality' as soon as possible.

“Those who planned to frame me must know that with my current identity I can't investigate and know which faction is behind this move. I won't know for sure whether it's the people who support Aisha or Hailey. But, I wouldn't go for such a stupid move if I were Hailey. My presence is an important piece for her in this game!” Dean whispered.

“Most probably it's the people who support Aisha that wanted me to die as soon as possible. They hope that I won't 'lag' her behind if I am dead.”

Anger burst out in his heart as he pondered about the issue.

He understood how these people solved problems. If not for his past encounters in prison, dark church and other places Dean knew that he wouldn't be so vigilant.

He would be dead if he wasn't vigilant!

“It seems that it will be very hard to survive in the dragon clan...

” Dean pondered. He greeted Eugene with a smile and went into his own room. He closed the door and the smile on his face disappeared. He looked at the box with the God’s marrows. He knew that he couldn’t use them any longer.

However, it meant that he wouldn’t be able to use God’s marrows to enhance his own strength!

“I have to rely on parasitic soul worms ...” He looked at the finger long 8 tubes that had parasitic soul worms. The problem was that parasitic soul worms couldn’t be fostered for long. The soul worms were dynamic when they were given to him. But right now they were lazily lying in the tubes.

But the good thing was that he could use the blood of the soul worms to enhance both his magic marks and his own strength.

The problem was that this approach was too wasteful. It was very difficult to find rare monsters let alone kill them!

However, he couldn’t think another way. He had to enhance his own strength before going to wasteland.

The probability of his safety in the wasteland would be higher if he enhanced his own strength.

Dean came to sit on bed. He took one of the soul worms. He recognized the soul worm. It was the soul worm used by the Linda who he had killed. The soul worm would bring its user ability to

control the blood and immunity to certain toxins.

He took a syringe and filled it with the soul worm's blood and began to absorb it.

“The God's marrow is problematic so the only solution is to use parasitic soul worms for now...even though it's a waste.” Dean's mind was in peace as he absorbed the blood of the parasitic soul worms. He knew that if they had problems too then he would be dead for sure.

It didn't take long for him to finish the absorption of the first parasitic soul worm's blood. He continued to absorb the second one.

He was at bottleneck as a senior hunter when he was captured by the Dragon clan. After the absorption of the first parasitic soul worm he reached the state where he had to advance to primary limitless. Dean planned to inject blood of the other 7 soul worms to enhance his magic marks.

...

He used another 6 soul worms and injected them to the magic marks on his chest. However the deified magic mark was still as dark as ink. It's shape hadn't changed much.

Dean wryly smiled as he had expected this situation. He had realized this situation when he had advanced from intermediate

hunter to senior hunter level. The deified legendary magic marks needed more soul worms in quality and quantity for the next evolution. It seems that 8 rare parasitic soul worms would be enough for him to reach the primary limitless level. However, for his magic marks to evolve it wouldn't be enough.

However, it was hard to get rare parasitic soul worms.

“It seems that it will be very hard to become a primary limitless in the foreseeable future in the Dragon clan...” Dean pondered. This time the resources were given for free but he had to rely on his points to exchange for them in the future.

However this exchange system meant that he will have to rely on Dragon clan for long time. It was kind of an enslavement meant for the workers of the clan. If he followed this system then he would never be able to get out of the cycle.

Dean touched the magic marks on his chest and put on his clothes. Most probably he would be the first senior hunter to go to wasteland for mission in the history of the dragon clan.

His eyes lit up as he looked at the box.

The next day.

At dawn.

Ian, Ruby and Rosemarie were training in the field near the

house. Eugene was watching them spar.

Dean woke up and ate his breakfast. Afterwards he came over to the training field to say 'hi' to the team.

Ian stopped boxing with Ruby and looked at Dean: "Do you wanna spar?"

"Not yet. I haven't finished absorbing the God's marrow. I will as soon as I reach the primary limitless level." Dean shrugged his shoulders: "I'll go around to stroll a bit."

Ruby grinned: "Kiddo, you should learn from Eugene. The more you are abused by fighting against a stronger person the more you will grow. Ain't it?"

"I am not a sadist." Dean went away.

Ruby laughed but didn't notice that Dean didn't mean 'masochist' but 'sadist'. (there is a Chinese word play in here)

He was away from the training field but he could still hear the voices of Ruby and Ian who were sparring. He came to the mountains and checked that no one was around. He removed one bottle of the God's marrow and threw it to ground. The place was grassy and it wasn't fully concealed. The bottle of God's marrow didn't seem conspicuous but as if was left behind by someone.

In short time, Dean left God's marrows all over the mountain.

Along the way he met members of the dragon clan. However neither him nor the other side took the initiative to greet as they didn't know each other.

He returned back to the residence. He took few God's marrows that were left in the room and began to wander in the other mountains.

“I can't find who was aiming to harm me. So I hope no one will blame for what I do right now.” A trace of coldness flashed past his eyes. As the saying goes it was wrong to own a debt and don't pay back. However he couldn't find the creditors so he had to make sure that those creditors take the initiative to find him.

The unlucky people in this game would be the greedy ones that would pick up the God's marrows and use them.

He knew that those people were innocent but he had to decisive and solve out his own problem: “If you want to blame then blame the higher ups of the Dragon clan...”

Dean's face was calm as he leisurely walked back to the training field. At the moment Eugene was sparring with the woman called Rosemary. Eugene was sweating a lot while the Rosemary was as cold as an iceberg.

Dean sat on the side and looked at them.

As a bystander he was able to see the difference between the combat arts of the two. Eugene's actions were too large in range and he wasted physical strength. However, Rosemary would directly attack without any extra moves.

Dean knew that he couldn't see all those gaps if he only looked at Eugene. The contrast was visible because of the Rosemary's swift and decisive actions.

He knew this kind of perception was result of the contrast that both of them were showing while in a spar.

“Light needs darkness... Darkness needs light to cover it...” Dean thought about Holy Church and the Dark Church of the outer wall. The Monastery used this simple trick to fool everyone. The understanding of truth was different because of the contrasting organizations.

However, no matter what which organization you joined the ultimate power behind the scenes belonged to Pope and the Monastery.

“What are you thinking?” Ian sat by him while he drank a glass of water.

Dean smiled: “They are very powerful.”

“Are they?” Ian looked at Rosemary and Eugene: “Are you talking about Rosemary? She is just playing around. I asked her to

accompany Eugene in spars. You will have to practice too. After all, the reaction of your body and consciousness wouldn't match after the absorption of the God's marrow. It will be very wrong to directly face monsters in this state."

Dean slightly nodded.

Another day passed.

Dean was counting days. On the fifth day he heard the news from Ian's mouth. Two members from the 13th team were poisoned and sent to infirmary. The team wouldn't be able to go to mission because they would need new members.

The other teams were aware of the matter because the news rapidly spread within the mountain.

Ruby, Rosemary and others strangely looked at each other when they heard news from Ian.

How could someone get poisoned in the mountains? The only possibility was food poisoning but how could that be?

If it wasn't food poisoning then who would be so bold to deliberately poison members of the dragon clan?

Chapter 516 - Hook

“Are they poisoned?” Eugene asked as he looked at the crowd.

“Damn. This has happened once more.” There was a trace of anger on Ruby’s face: “They are playing a very simple game this despicable people!”

Ian frowned: “Don’t casually come to a conclusion as the things haven’t been investigated clearly. Moreover, its better not to leave the residence alone at this point.”

Eugene looked at Ian: “Is it possible that they were poisoned by the teammates?”

Ian asked “What do you mean?”

Eugene continued: “It would be very difficult for an outsider to succeed in poisoning two people... Maybe the other members of the team were dissatisfied with those two men. Isn’t it an easy way to kick them out?”

Ian, Ruby and others looked at Eugene. They guessed what he was referring too.

Ian slightly shook his head: “You don’t have to worry about a situation where members of the same team would poison another. Because the ones who will fill the position would be rookies. So to say its much better to go out to mission with people who you know

and used to rather than with rookies. In short, no one would damage their own wings.”

Eugene was relieved: “I hope so.”

Ian didn't respond to him but looked at Dean: “Don't go out but train within the shelter.”

Dean nodded.

The next day.

The news of another poisoning spread out again.

The members of the dragon clan and the guards who lived in the mountains became more cautious. No one was walking alone anymore.

...

The day of the departure was imminent.

A group of people came to the outside the house of the 7th team. The group was led by a dwarf who was about one meter tall. The man seemed weak but he was carrying a giant axe which was two meters long. It was like a flag which plugged out from his spine. He had a domineering aura around him.

Norwich who had previously brought Dean was next to the dwarf. He stepped forward and shouted: "Ian."

Ian and others were in the living room and enjoying their lunch. Ian was long aware of the movement outside their house. His eyebrows wrinkled when he heard Norwich's voice. He knew that something bad was going to happen.

"You guys eat." Ian said and went to open the door.

Ian's face changed when he saw the dwarf besides Norwich. He bowed as he spoke in respectful tone: "Greetings Deacon Tan."

The dwarf said: "Tell the guy called Dean to get out now."

Ian nodded and went into the living room. He called Dean who was eating to come out.

Dean had already sensed the aggressive group outside the house. He knew that he had released the bait and the big fish was caught in the hook. He got up and came to the door. Dean's eyes fell on Norwich then the dwarf by him. The heat exuding from dwarf's body was much stronger than Ian's.

"Are you Dean?" The man looked at Dean: "Are you the one who have been poisoning the members of other teams? You have committed a big crime and you will be going back with me to get your punishment!"

Ian who was standing next to Dean froze up. Eugene and others who were in the room were stunned too.

Was their team member who caused the uproar?

Dean smiled: “Deacon Tan, I’m innocent as it seems there is no evidence.”

“Evidence?” The man said in a cold tone: “I’ll tell you about evidence in the prison!”

Dean’s eyes narrowed: “So it means you don’t have evidence. Since there is no evidence how come you are trying to arrest me?”

“Stop uttering nonsense! Do you want me to personally take you out?” Deacon Tan was angry.

Dean raised his eyebrows and looked at Norwich.

Norwich felt frustrated because of Dean’s stare. He felt that Deacon’s attitude was stupid and thought so he had contradicted himself at the first moment. He was planning to continue to watch the play but it seems the situation would turn into a big trouble. He whispered: “Deacon Tan, Dean is part of our Dragon Palace. You can’t take him away if you don’t have evidence.”

Deacon Tan was surprised. He turned his head to look at Norwich: “Is elder Harley protecting him?”

Norwich sneered: “It has nothing to do with elder Harley. It’s the rules of our Dragon Palace.”

Deacon Tan looked at Dean: “So you want evidence! I’ll give you evidence! You are a senior hunter so the clan gave you resources for you to enhance your strength. But you poisoned the God’s marrows and scattered them around the mountain! People picked them up and used them! That’s why they are poisoned.”

Everyone turned to look at Dean. No one thought that the boy could scheme something like that.

Dean smiled in a helpless manner: “Deacon Tan you have wronged me! You just said that I have added poison to the God’s marrows and scattered around the mountains. Does it mean that I hate all the people in the mountains? I have just joined the dragon clan and I’m not familiar even with my own team let alone the others in the vicinity!”

“Besides, God’s marrow is very precious. Why would I do such a thing to harm people? I’m not gaining anything out of it, am I?”

Deacon Tan was startled and his face turned ugly. He suddenly realized that the evidence that he was talking about was only known to him! He couldn’t tell the truth so his logic didn’t follow up!

He wasn’t planning to argue with Dean but directly take him away. He was going to beat the shit out of Dean. It was the simplest

and most effective way in his perspective. However, he didn't expect that elder Harley would protect Dean. Didn't that fool know that how much this Dean was troubling Her Highness Aisha?

Ian and the rest secretly nodded in their heart. Indeed no one would do such a thing. Unless Dean was a madman.

However, Ian was in contact with Dean in the last many days. So he knew that Dean was a normal man but it seems he have offended someone!

It was very common for such a thing to occur so it wasn't very surprising.

Deacon Tan's eyes turned gloomy as he saw the others look at him for more explanation. However he couldn't go on and tell everything about Dean's identity. This matter implicated the previous saint her Highness Aisha! If he spoke then the rumors would spread out. Moreover, he knew that he couldn't speak about the toxin in the God's marrows. He knew that Dean's smell was on bottles and it confirmed that the God's marrows belonged to Dean.

But ... the smell could be added later on too. It was a weak proof as anyone could add Dean's smell as long as they got a piece of his cloth!

He looked at Dean as his eyes lit up: "Ok, where are the God's marrows that were given to you? Can you bring them?"

Dean shrugged his shoulders: “I have absorbed it all.”

Deacon Tan snorted: “Finished? Do you mean that you are already at primary limitless level?”

Dean understood the intention behind Deacon Tan’s words so he calmly said: “Yes.

“Very good.” Deacon Tan looked at Norwich: “If he is really at primary limitless level then it proves that he has absorbed all the God’s marrows. If he is not then I’ll take him back to investigate the matter. Do you have anything to say?”

Chapter 517 - Mysterious Footprints

Norwich hesitated for a moment but looked at up Dean. He saw that there was a calm expression on Dean's face so Norwich nodded: "Alright, no problem."

"Good!" Deacon Tan looked at Dean: "Now, it's time to test your strength. Are you ready?"

Dean smiled: "How are you planning to test?"

Deacon Tan sneered. He called out: "Mace, come out and test him."

Mace who was called, nodded and came out from the group. He looked at Dean: "I am a primary limitless. Punch and I'll check your strength."

Dean slightly nodded and walked down the steps.

Ruby, Eugene and others came out from the house too. They were concerned about the test.

Dean slowly clenched his fingers into a fist.

"Come on." Mace stood in a defensive posture.

Whoosh~

Dean's fist swept out.

His fist punched Mace's arm. Mace was overwhelmed as he stepped back two or three steps before coming to a stop. The part of his arm where Dean's fist had connected was faintly red.

Deacon Tan was puzzled as he looked at the sight.

Mace felt that Dean's strength was at the same level as a veteran primary limitless.

"Is that alright?" Dean looked at the Deacon.

Deacon Tan looked at Mace "how do you feel?"

Mace bowed: "He is a strong match."

Deacon Tan looked at him with doubts. It didn't take long that he thought about some magic marks which could increase the strength of the human body.

"Strength is first part. We will test speed and reaction." Deacon Tan looked at Mace: "Mace check him."

"Yes." Mace nodded.

“You will run from here to the hillside. We will see who arrives first.” Deacon Tan pointed towards the direction: “Get ready.”

Dean and Mace stood at the designated starting line.

Both of them rushed out at the same time when Deacon Tan shouted them to begin.

Dean felt the wind whistle past by his face. His vision was always concentrated on side. He didn't want to lose himself and get rid of his opponent. Dean was interested in limiting his strength.

Both of them arrived at almost the same time.

Deacon Tan's face turned extremely ugly. He knew that there were magic marks which could increase strength and speed. But there were very rare magic marks which could increase both of them at the same time.

“What about reaction?” Dean ran back and asked Deacon Tan.

Deacon Tan took a deep look at Dean and said: “No need.”

Dean immediately replied: “Does it mean that I'm not a suspect anymore?”

Deacon Tan's mouth twitched. He clenched his fists and turned to leave while taking big steps.

Norwich smiled as he looked at Deacon Tan's angry departure. He waved at Dean, Ian and others and left too.

There was a smile on Dean's face but his eyes were cold. He knew that Deacon Tan was the one who poisoned the God's marrow. Even if Deacon Tan wasn't the one to poison then he had relationship with the culprits.

"Little Dean, it seems you have offended people." Ian said to Dean.

Dean nodded: "It seems."

Ruby patted his shoulder: "Don't worry about anything. No one can force the guilt upon you as long as you are innocent. Don't be afraid even if you have offended few people."

Dean didn't expect the rugged man to try to comfort himself. He smiled: "Yeah"

"It is what it is!" Ruby loudly said.

Ian smiled: "You should have said that earlier."

Ruby scratched his head in response: "That man was here..."

Everyone laughed and returned back to their normal state. The

deadline was approaching so even Luna and Martin who interacted with them very little had come out to training field for practice.

...

Norwich came over early in the morning to inform them about the mission and tasks.

“Listen to me carefully. This time your mission site will be in orange wasteland.” Norwich read the scroll: “The main task upon you is to kill the “silencer” that has been haunting the area no 3 of orange wasteland. You will be rewarded 700 points and 60% will belong to the person who will kill the monster! In addition, there will be three tasks. I’ll pass the first and second tasks as there is no need to talk about them. The third additional task requires you to find clues or the real body of the monster that has left mysterious footprints in the area no3 of the orange wasteland. The rewards will range from 500 to 3000 points. In case the real body of the monster that left the mysterious footprints is found then the reward will be 3000 points.”

Ian, Ruby and others were stunned.

Rosemary who was silent most of the time asked: “Why is the reward for the 3rd task more than the main task? What is this mysterious footprint?”

Norwich shrugged his shoulders: “A group who was on a mission on area no 3 in the orange wasteland found the tracks related to the unknown origin. However, there was no footprints recorded in

the atlas of made by the Monster Institute. Most probably a new species has evolved and its possible that this new life form has come from the depth of the wasteland.”

“Does not it mean that area no 3 of orange wasteland is much dangerous after this thing has appeared?” Ruby couldn’t help but ask.

Norwich said: “It’s hard to say. It is a possibility. It is unlikely that this monster has come from the depths of the wasteland so you don’t have to be worried about anything. But being cautious won’t hurt.”

Ian and others looked at each other.

Eugene asked in a curious manner: “Why there is no need to state the first and second addition tasks?”

Chapter 518 - Relics

Norwich smiled as he looked at Eugene: “You will have to ask your captain.” He handed the scroll to Ian: “These is the pattern of the mysterious footprint and records of the task. I think there is no need to talk about the rest of the rules.”

“Yes.” Ian took the scroll. He opened it after Norwich left.

Rube, Eugene, Luna and others looked into the scroll. Dean saw a ‘Y’ shaped footprint. The front parts of the footprint were forked. The rear part of the foot seemed shorter and was meant to control the balance.

The front part of the paws were about seventy centimeters long while the rear part of the foot was thirty centimeters long. The total length of the feet was about 1.1 meters which was equal to half the length of a normal human. The width of the foot was about 6 centimeters while the feet had gone 3 centimeters deep into the ground.

“Martin, what do you think about the footprint?” Ian looked at Martin.

Martin stared at the pattern for a moment: “I have never seen but from the type of its claw it seems like a crawling type monster. Most probably it’s a cold-blooded monster that likes to live in damp places like marshes...”

Eugene was curious: “Why a crawling monster? Isn’t that a

claw?”

Martin’s brows wrinkled as he looked at the ignorant rookie. He was impatient and they had to implement the task. So he was too lazy to care about Eugene. He said in a cold tone: “If you think about the measures then its an upright type monster if not a crawling one. However, its height and size should be very large. Otherwise the footprints won’t be so shallow.”

Eugene nodded as he understood what Martin meant.

Ian stared at the footprints for a while then put away the scroll. He looked at the group: “Time is pressing and we have to make sure that are equipment are ready for us to start. Remember to make sure that supplies that you take are without a flaw. If we can find the mysterious footprints then the additional task could be completed. However it may take a long time and our supplies won’t be able to provide us with enough nutrition.”

“Yes.”

All of them went back to their rooms to wear their equipment.

Dean and Eugene had received the basic equipment. It was a dark black armor which was made of metal and plastic. It was firmly wrapped around their bodies. There were small sparkling crystals embedded on wrist, collar, knees and other places.

Dean had seen Hailey use a similar crystal. This meteorite was

able to isolate the high-intensity radiation for great extent.

In addition to basic armor both of them received basic weapons. Dean had reported his occupation as an archer so he had received a bow. The bow was silver in color and was very sharp at both ends. Bow string was colored dark red which seemed to be taken from some animal.

Although all of it were basic weapons but all of them were very powerful.

They were given a black backpack for their supplies. It was made out of some material which was waterproof. There were twelve food boxes and two bottles of pure water.

Dean calculated that the supplies was enough for a primary limitless to eat and drink for twelve days. They could maintain themselves with this food for half a month if they saved a bit on daily basis.

Dean didn't care too much about food. After all, he had spent 3 years to train as a scavenger. He knew how to find food and water outside the wall. However, hunters, limitless and pioneers didn't "waste" their time to learn such things. They would normally use their time to enhance their strengths and learn combat arts. It would make sure that they would complete their tasks faster.

Moreover, if it was about survival... no matter how you struggled it didn't matter a lot if you met a strong monster.

Everyone was ready.

Dean saw Ruby carry a huge luggage. IT was full of water and food. The amount of food and water Ruby was carrying was comparable to the sum of the food all of them had.

Dean understood that Ian was planning to stay outside the giant wall for a long time. However, if all the team members carried too much food then they would slow down. So instead they were making a team work.

The primary responsibility of Ruby was to keep food and water while the other were going to fight.

It made team more efficient.

All of them met outside to leave the dragon clan.

Ian brought horses trained by the dragon clan and they began to ride towards the giant wall.

“Captain, how long are we going to stay outside the giant wall? When are we going to come back?” Eugene asked Ian.

Ian replied: “The reward of the main task is 700 points. If we can't complete the main task then we will be deducted 700 points. Almost 100 points a person!”

“100 reward points isn’t much! We are implementing such a dangerous task and will get 100 points per person! The ones in the upper echelon are too stingy!” Eugene complained.

Ian turned to look at him: “100 reward points is pretty good and can be exchanged for a lot of things.”

Eugene looked at the dagger at Ian’s waist: “What about your knife?”

Ian smiled: “This one is called “bloodsucker”. It was made out of front teeth of a level 52 monster. I paid like 850 reward points for it.”

“That much?” Eugene asked in a staggered tone: “What’s so special about that knife? Can it cut through iron as if slicing the butter? My knife would be able to do that too.”

Ruby turned towards him and rolled his eyes when he saw Eugene act so ignorant: “Your knife won’t be able to cut through any monster that is above level 50! The skin and scales of those monsters are much sturdier than iron! A claw attack from such a monster would be more than enough to break that knife of yours! Do you understand what I mean?”

Eugene was stunned at his words and almost choked.

Dean was riding at the back. Eugene was a rookie like him too but it seemed as if... Eugene had never been outside the giant wall and

didn't understand how the battles happen.

“Yes, captain.” Eugene asked another question out of curiosity: “Why didn't Norwich tell us about first and second task?”

Ian didn't even turn his head: “Those two tasks are permanent tasks and never change. The first one is to find relics! Or find location and coordinates of those relics! It would be enough to get great contributions!”

“The second task is to collect a plant called ‘dragon grass’. It is the favorite meal of the dragon worm so each dragon grass can be exchanged for ten reward points.”

Eugene was surprised: “What are relics? Are they monuments? Are they in the ruins?”

Ian said: “Of course not! The ruins have been scrapped and even the broken copper have been taken away. However, there are relics which are hidden underground or in some mountains which are not damaged by the rain or corrosion.”

Chapter 519 - To The Wasteland

Dean remembered the news that he had seen on television when he heard Ian's words. At the early stage the governments all around the world built shelters. The young women and children were migrating over to take refuge. In addition to women and children they took in intellectuals, scientists, professors and other celebrities.

A lot of ordinary people made ruckus because of this sort of selection. Some of them guided the public opinion to accuse governments of unfair actions. Many people formed mobs that began to loot and create a lot of trouble. However armed police and military directly suppressed them by killing them.

The laws of various countries had changed back then. Some of them were as ruthless as making sure that those mobs are killed on spot without giving them a chance for maneuver.

“The relics ... Are they referring to those shelters?” Dean's eyes lit up. He remembered that some tv stations had broadcasted news about the locations of those shelters. The exposed shelters were destroyed. He calculated that very few shelters would be able to survive the disaster.

Dean wasn't aware what had happened at the end. But after waking up he saw that the world his father had described had come to be as is. Otherwise, the sky wouldn't be shrouded by nuclear dust. Even the rain contained nuclear radiation! He had slept for three hundred years but he wasn't aware when the disaster had happened after he went into sleep.

But he had seen the ruins outside the giant wall and it seemed that disaster didn't happen far after he went into the sleep.

The nuclear dust hadn't cleared after a long period of time and the environment was bad. It showed how many nuclear bombs had exploded!

“If the disaster was triggered by nuclear bombs then the ones who hid in the shelters should be able to escape death.” Dean's thoughts drifted away: “But staying in the shelter means death in the long run. Exiting the shelter means that the people would face the ‘new world’ made up after the nuclear bombs. It wouldn't be suitable for survival. Even after so many years the radiation is still so strong even if we think about Earth's self-healing eco system. The nuclear radiation outside the giant wall is enough to kill an ordinary adult even after centuries.”

“However, if those people were able to survive then the civilization hasn't come to an end back then!”

Dean thought of the giant wall. In a sense, the giant wall itself was a shelter. He had seen shelters on TV so it could be said that it was a giant defensive barrier!

He didn't know whether the giant wall was built by the world government or by the survivors of the disaster.

However, the first additional task from the Dragon Clan showed how important the ‘relics’ from the old civilization were to them!

“There has to be enough interest for the clan to take action.” Dean knew that if the Dragon clan hadn’t taste the ‘sweetness’ of the relics then they wouldn’t issue such an additional task!

He had an impulse about finding a shelter and checking the place.

Eugene asked in a curious manner: “What about the rewards for finding these relics?”

Ian nodded: “The rewards are very high but probability of completion is very small. It’s like betting on horned beasts in a fight. Don’t have much expectation! If you can meet and find one then we will be lucky! However, is you plan to look for them then I think you won’t find anything even if you checked the wasteland for a year without a stop! Moreover, surviving is another big problem!”

Eugene laughed: “Its all about luck then.”

“Luck is very critical but not everyone has it.” Rosemary continued: “However, strength is controllable and more reliable!”

Ian said: “Get ready we are almost at the giant wall!”

Luna chuckled: “We can save physical strength by talking less too! Blondie you should follow Dean and learn few things from him!”

Eugene wryly smiled: “It sounds so weird so please don’t call me blondie.”

“But I like calling you blondie.” Luna laughed.

Eugene’s eyes lit up as he looked at her.

Luna smiled: “Elder sister will play with you if you can come back alive.”

Eugene was excited: “I’ll make sure to remind your words.”

It didn’t take long before they reached the giant wall.

Dragon clan’s territory was located in a remote place. Moreover, the horses were fast so they reached the giant wall in less than half an hour.

The smiles disappeared and faded away from their faces as they looked at the giant wall.

There was a passage similar to the one in the outer wall. There were two warriors wearing the badge of the Dragon clan by the passage.

Ian was the first to dismount from the horse. He took out his medal: “We are 7th team from the Dragon Clan! We are going for a mission, please open the gate.”

The warriors check the medals of Dean and rest. They confirmed the medals and opened the gates.

Ian took the lead.

Martin, Ruby, Rosemary and others followed after him.

They passed through the long dark corridor and came to the other side of the passage.

Dean was surprised to find that there were guards from the Dragon clan on the other side of the passage. There were about four people in duty who were wearing camouflage clothing that made them almost invisible.

Ian greeted those four guards and chatted with them for small time. Afterwards, he led Dean and others into the wilderness.

Chapter 520 - Recon

Dean looked back at the giant wall. According to his calculations they were at the western side of the giant wall. If he walked straight to the left side then he was going to reach outer wall area. At the intersection of the western and northern side of the giant wall he would be able to find Sergei.

“I have to think about a way to get in touch with Sergei when I get back.” Dean’s eyes lit up. He wanted to continue to work on his new invention. He wouldn’t be able to work in 9th region of the Dark Church so he had to establish a base outside the giant wall. Although he wouldn’t be able to have the technology that he had inside the wall but he had experience and he could solve this problem out.

Moreover, he was ready to build a secret experimental factory in the slums. Because he needed a secret place to manufacture the invention if it was to be produced. However, at this point giant wall was more suitable than slums. He didn’t have to be concerned about environmental pollution or attracting the eyes of the others.

“Dean, keep up with us. Your ability is thermal vision so don’t forget to remind us if you find a monster.” Ian and Martin were leading the team with dignified expression on their faces. They knew that after they left the giant wall they were facing danger at every moment. They could encounter a very powerful monster even in the vicinity of the giant wall.

Dean nodded and walked in the middle of the team. He narrowed his eyes as he used thermal vision to observe the surroundings.

The members of the team shared the knowledge about their abilities with each other during the 15 days of the preparation. They knew that they had to cooperate with each other while they tried to implement the mission outside the giant wall. Dean reported his thermal vision ability and Ian positioned Dean in an auxiliary role. Eugene was able to harden his skin so his role was to fight and defend. Others were given tasks according to their abilities too.

“About four miles away at 3 o’clock direction... Four monsters, seems to be variant skeletons.” Dean reported as they walked.

Ian asked in a low tone: “How strong they are?”

“Level 25 to 30.” Dean replied.

“Eugene, go and kill them.” Ian ordered.

Eugene was stunned: “Why?”

Ian looked back at him: “What why?”

Eugene scratched his head when he saw the crowd look at him: “Why should I go alone? We are relying on Dean’s thermal vision but he could be wrong about the judgement of the monster’s level.”

“Less talking! Go!” Martin spoke in a cold tone: “We will support you if there is something wrong.”

“But ...” Eugene was reluctant.

Ian frowned: “Eugene before we get into area 3 of the orange wasteland we have to do our best to save our strength and stamina. You can practice now with those low level monsters. If you are worried then you can go with Dean!”

Eugene hesitated for a moment but then took out his sword and rushed out.

Dean quietly watched but didn't follow Eugene. As Ian had said he had to save stamina too. At the end of the day he could only rely on his own strength outside the giant wall.

Dean and others maintained a normal speed. It didn't take long for them to meet Eugene. His sword was back in its sheath. However there were blood stains all over the place. The corpses of the variant skeletons were on the ground. One of them had its forehead cut off while the other had its arms sliced before being killed.

They continued on.

Eugene returned back to his position in the team in silence.

After a while.

“Blondie, I know what you are thinking about... ” Luna leaned towards Eugene and laughed: “You don’t have to worry about wasting your stamina by cleaning the ‘obstacles’. We will protect you. That’s why we are called a team.”

Eugene smiled as he looked back at her: “I know.”

Luna continued: “We won’t abandon anyone. We aren’t willing to do even so because of the personal interests. The upper echelon will deduct 10% of the rewards points for every member that dies in the field. So don’t worry about anything.”

“Is there such a provision?” Eugene was surprised: “It seems the ones in the top consider quite a lot of things.”

“Of course, Although there were no such rules in the beginning but after a few accidents they came up with the new rules.” Luna chuckled.

Dean reported several location where the monsters were hidden while Eugene and Luna conversed.

Ian didn’t call Eugene to kill the monsters as they were away from their path and their levels were below 30.

Dean memorized the path and made a map in his mind while he observed the surrounding places. He knew that in case Ian or the others died they had to return so he was preparing a route back to

the giant wall if such a circumstance rose up in the future.

Dean was able to see incomplete or collapsed urban constructions as they went into the depth of the wilderness. The vines and moss had covered supermarkets and tall buildings. The asphalt roads were broken while the cars covered in vegetation were in the middle of the road. The street lights were eroded by dust and moss.

There were footprints on the black snow in front of them.

The black snow melted faster but thick snow remained in many places.

“We have to go another 80 or so kilometers to reach the orange wasteland.” Ian looked at Luna: “Do you smell any large or dangerous monsters?”

Luna shook her head: “There is no damage so none at this point.”

Ian nodded and turned towards Dean: “Report to me once you are aware of any movement. Alright?”

Dean nodded and looked at Luna. Luna was a tracking expert but her role was a bit different. Her ability laid in luring the enemy by secrete a special smell or urine. This smell was able to lure advanced monsters as they would mistake this smell with the taste of their favorite food.

Luna would know that a high level monster is around once that

smell is destroyed or damaged.

Of course, it was one of Luna's abilities. Her physical strength was far better than anyone on the same level. In addition she was extremely sensitive to sense of smell.

“Let's take a break now to rest a bit. We will enter the wasteland afterwards.” Ian spoke up.

Everyone stopped as soon as Ian talked.

Ruby put the large luggage down and unlocked it. He took out food, water and gave them to the team. The priority was to eat food from Ruby so that the food and water in their backpacks would be used as final supply.

Although they had eaten the meal before leaving the giant wall but they had consumed a lot of energy because of intense combat readiness and were a bit hungry.

It didn't take long for them to finish eating and drinking. They had 5 minutes to rest before and after the meal.

Dean and Luna used their abilities to help the team to avoid monsters and waste unnecessary energy on the way. After all, the monsters they began to encounter were more than level 30 and occasionally they would meet monsters ranging from level 40 to 45. Except Martin and Ian the others wouldn't be able to face such high level monsters. So they were doing their best to stay away

from them. The risk of injury was something that they couldn't take into account as they had yet to enter the orange wasteland.

Chapter 521 - Tragic Death

Luna raised her head when they were about 35 miles away from the orange wasteland.

Everyone stopped at the same time when she halted her movement. Ian turned towards Luna and whispered: “What?”

“Blood...” Luna gently sniffed the air. She wrinkled her eyebrows: “It floats from ten o’clock. It seems that it is human blood.”

“Human blood?” The members of the team asked.

Eugene whispered: “Is there any team in front of us?”

“It’s possible.” Ian thought a bit and asked Luna: “Can you identify the smell of the monster?”

“There is a taste of wet stench.. It should be left by the monster.” Luna replied.

Ian pondered for a moment: “We will check it out.”

All of them looked at each other. No one objected or complained so they quietly went towards the place where Luna referred to.

Dean used his thermal vision to carefully observe the surrounding places. There were small rats and small monsters in the ruins but he couldn't detect heat of any high-level monster.

They reached the place Luna was talking about in ten minutes. The team had reached a wide square which was surrounded by several collapsed buildings. The windows of the buildings were broken while the concrete had faded too.

The source of the bloody smell was coming from the open space on the square. They confirmed that the environment was secure so they quietly reached the source of the smell. Dean saw a corpse of a youth wearing the basic dragon clan armor. The youth's head was missing above the eyes. The brain was scattered on the ground while there was a huge wound on his chest.

Everyone's face changed as they looked at the corpse.

Dean frowned as he looked at the wounds on the youth's body. It seems that the youth was killed about 20 minutes ago. He quickly looked around and saw few sharp claw marks on the ground. Several cars that were covered with moss were over. Some of them had hit the walls by the square and left fresh tire marks.

Martin squatted down and tore apart the name plate on the youth's arm. His face changed as he whispered: "It's Tommy from the 5th team.""

Ruby was surprised: "Tommy? How could he die in here? We are not even in wasteland!"

Ian looked at the corpse then turned around. He was wary as he whispered: “Monster should have followed him from wasteland and caught up with him in here. That’s why Tommy was killed in here.”

Luna looked at Dean: “What do you see?”

“Nothing.” Dean responded.

Luna looked at Ian: “We shouldn’t stay in here for long. We have to leave immediately.”

Ian nodded as he looked at the corpse on the ground. He sighed: “Rosemary burn Tommy’s corpse so that its not left to those dirty monsters.”

“Yes.” Rosemary took out a small bottle of oil from her pocket and was about to ignite it when Dean quickly intervened: “Don’t.”

The other looked at him.

Dean continued: “He died not so long ago. It means that the monsters isn’t far away. If the monster is a cold-blooded one then the fire will stimulate it and attract its attention.”

“There are 7 of us in here. We can cope with the monster even if it appears and at the same time avenge Tommy! What are you

afraid of?” Ruby was angered.

Eugene added: “Dean is being rational in here. Although we can deal with that monster but we will be spending energy for such thing. Is it worth it?”

Rosemary wanted to speak but Ian raised his hand to stop her. He added: “Dean is right. We can’t stay here for long.”

Martin and others were startled as they heard Ian’s words. They looked around and Rosemary put away the small bottle of the oil. The team left the place.

Soon after the team left two dark red lights slowly emerged from the collapsed building.

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“The monster kill Tommy but didn’t eat him. Most probably it killed Tommy to vent its anger.” Martin whispered as he looked at Ian but everyone else heard his words too.

Ian nodded: “Generally, the high level monsters are territorial and won’t leave their territory that easy. It is a terrifying thing that the monster has chased Tommy to catch up with him in here.”

“Yes.” Martin narrowed his eyes: “It has to be a monster that hunts other monsters for food. So its territory is there where there is enough food.”

“I hope we won’t meet it.” Ian looked at Dean: “Fortunately, you responded quickly or else we would be facing unnecessary trouble.”

Dean smiled as he saw Ian praise him. He had noticed that the battle hadn’t last long when they entered the square. It showed that the monster which killed Tommy had absolute strength over him. So it was very unusual for the monster to allow Tommy to ran out of the wasteland. Dean could only think of one possibility. The monster was using Tommy as a bait to catch something else.

Maybe the monster chased Tommy so that he could flee back to his own territory and the monster could sweep clean Tommy’s nest.

If the monster acted so then it meant that it had a very high wisdom!

The only advantage humanity had over monsters was wisdom. So when the monsters were able to overcome that advantage then the humanity would have any capital to confront monsters.

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It didn't take long for them to reach the wasteland.

Dean and Eugene wouldn't know that they were facing wasteland if not for Ian. The deserted place was no different than the area outside the giant wall. There were desolate ruins all over the place. Moreover there were no boundaries or signs that showed they were entering the wasteland.

“There is a layer of worm powder in here. The more advanced the monster is the more afraid it will be of the smell of the worm powder. They won't pass this place.” Ian explained to Dean and Eugene.

Dean had heard about the worm powder previously. He gently sniffed to smell the strange taste floating in the air. At first it was a bit smelly but after a while he slowly felt the fragrance. After a while he got comfortable with the smell.

Suddenly, Dean felt coldness in his left shoulder. It was as if the icy blood on his left arm was flowing gently.

Chapter 522 - Cytoplasmic Monkey

“Why don’t we carry worm powder since the high level monsters are afraid of it? Wouldn’t it help us avoid those monsters?” Eugene asked in curious tone.

“Wait until we get out of here...” Ian continued: “We will be moving at full speed into the wasteland.” Ian winked at Martin and both of them began to rush out at full speed to lead the team.

Dean eyes lit up as he followed after them.

He had noticed that there were lots of heat sources in the vicinity of the worm powder’s smell.

“Luna and Dean, immediately report to us if there is something wrong.” Ian added.

Luna and Dean nodded as they ran in the middle of the team while Ruby, Rosemary and Eugene were at the back protecting Dean and Luna from the threats that may attack them from the behind.

“There is a monster at 11 o’clock.”

“There are monsters at ten o’clock.”

Dean constantly reported Ian monsters that they were going to encounter on their path. He didn't report the others that were in other directions.

In the blink of an eye they run for 7 or 8 minutes into the wasteland. They occasionally met high level monsters but choose to take detours. However, because of worm powder they didn't meet high level monsters.

Ian and Martin gradually reduced their running speed. They were in dangerous zone and they had to keep their bodies at the best state. The problem was that they were losing a lot of stamina because of running at high speeds.

Ian responded to Eugene's previous question after they reduced their speed: "Worm powder works well with high level monsters but it tempts ordinary monsters. Usually, there would be large number of ordinary monsters gathered at the border line. The thing is when I say ordinary monsters I don't mean level 7 or 8 monsters that live close to the giant wall but ordinary level monsters from the wasteland."

Eugene froze up: "So why don't we make traps using the worm powder to bait those monsters and sweep the area clean? Wouldn't it be much more speedier when cleaning out the area?"

Ian nodded: "The idea is a good one. Actually many people have thought about it but it can't be implemented. Its very difficult to create traps to kill monsters that are above level 30. Lots of materials will be needed and those have to be transported from the giant wall. A lot of risk has to be taken into account to accomplish

this. Dean is an archer and should be clear about making traps, aren't you?"

Dean conferred with Ian: "Yes, the traps are mainly for monsters on level 10 or so. The resources needed for much advanced monsters is unbelievably high."

The point of traps was using the surrounding environment to deal with the monsters. In the wilderness the best you could do was to dig a pit or throw a boulder. The effect of those traps would be close to nothing for monsters that were level 30 or higher. This is why the archer career was less popular with senior hunters. At the limitless level, because of the environment and the high level monsters that they faced the archer career wasn't popular either. As an archer the person couldn't go for a single combat neither have the ability to become the core of the team.

Glenn was an archer when she was a primary hunter but she chose the path of an assassin later on.

With the addition of the magic marks of the black weaver she was able to lead her team to survive in the wilderness much easier. As an assassin she was able to kill monsters that would be much more powerful than herself.

Dean as a traditional archer was still using a bow and arrow. He was at a disadvantage just from the perspective of weapons. The higher the physical strength of the archer was the higher the requirements on the bow was. The problem was not how good his vision was or how well his strength was, the problem was the penetrative strength of the arrows!

At the limitless level the accuracy was already a basic requirement for the archer.

The penetrative strength of the arrow depended on the bow.

Dean had his own ways to deal with monsters above level 30 as a traditional archer. However he didn't want to expose these methods in front of Ian and others.

Ian continued: "In addition the worm powder is a high end product. Even the deacon level personnel of the clan can't touch worm powder let alone ordinary members of the dragon clan like us."

Eugene staggered: "This thing should be very precious. Isn't it waste to spill it in the border?"

Ian rolled his eyes: "Do you think its waste to use resources on protection of the giant wall?"

Eugene understood that the worm powder was a boundary on its own. It was like an invisible giant wall that blocked the high level monsters. That was why it wasn't extravagant to use these much of the worm powder.

"Captain why don't we go back and get a bit of worm powder?" Eugene said: "It should be alright as long as its smell isn't leaked. We can take it out and use a trump card in case we encounter a

high level monster!”

“No use...” Ian shook his head: “Although the high-level monsters are disgusted by the smell of the worm powder but it doesn’t mean that it is enough to stop them! Otherwise those high level monsters wouldn’t occasionally sneak out from the wasteland. It would be very difficult to dispel a high level monsters desire to hunt if we encounter it. Lets put it this way, we hate dirty places with feces and excrement. But what if there is a gold there? Would we hate the place and stay away if we know there is a treasure? We will fight back the nauseous feeling to pick out the gold!”

Eugene wryly smiled: “It seems there is no way.”

“We have an architect in here! Do you think that the others are fools? Do you think that you are the only one who can come up with solutions?” Martin said in a cold tone.

Eugene slightly smiled but kept silent.

“One of the marks that I had put is gone.” Luna suddenly said.

Ian and Martin stopped and turned to look at her. Ian asked: “Which one?”

“20 miles or so, 11 o’clock. In front of us.” Luna shook her head: “It may be washed away by the rain or falling stones. I had left the mark when we were implementing the task last time. So its been

almost half a year...”

Ian replied: “Your marks can’t be washed away that easily.”

Luna asked: “Do we take a detour?”

Ian pondered for a while and looked around. He could see the outline of the dark green mountains after the ruins of the city. The place was misty.

“The ‘silencer’ is a rare level monster.” Ian frowned: “Its auditory sensitive but can also drill and hide under the ground. According to the atlas it likes to live in soft and damp areas. It likes to eat rotten things including rotting plants and leaves. But its favorite meal is rotten flesh and blood.”

“We are at area no 3 of the orange wasteland. The place is moist which means that silencer is lurking somewhere after the ruins of the city.”

Martin nodded: “It will be very difficult for us to find it so we will go the old way. We will let it come out to find us. Everyone be ready to fight at any moment.”

Ian nodded and glanced at a tall building near them. He climbed to the top using the vines over the surface of the building. He climbed to the roof and looked around. He shouted: “We will be going to the west where the mist is heaviest.”

He came back and took the lead.

Dean and Luna followed his lead as they were responsible for reconnaissance.

Along the way they took detours to avoid advanced monsters. Occasionally they met undeads or lower level monster which Ian directly beheaded.

Dean understood why there have been so many monsters outside the giant wall. Pioneers were responsible for killing high level monsters. Limitless only killed monsters that were in the mission. They ignored the rest of the monsters because they didn't want to unnecessarily use their stamina.

These monsters survived and bred more and more.

“Hey!” Dean pointed towards a monster as they passed through the corner of a street. Ian looked at the monsters appearance and laughed: “It's a rare cytoplasmic monkey! We are lucky!”

All of them smiled as they could get parasitic soul worm of a rare monster. It could be exchanged in the dragon clan from 200 to 1000 reward points depending on the value of the worm.

“Eugene, Dean! Which one of you is going to get it?” Ian laughed: “You gotta be quick not to let go of it.”

Eugene was fast in response: “I will go.” He raised his sword and

rushed out.

A cytoplasmic monkey at growth period was a monster at level between 18 to 25. It had a humanoid body and several heads. Each of those heads were stained with mucus and light yellow liquid flew out. It's claws looked like tree branches but were very sharp. Its body was very crooked and looked scary.

A mature cytoplasmic monkey would reach level 57 and can easily kill an advanced limitless. However for the cytoplasmic monkey in front of them to reach that level it had to transform at least twice.

Hiss~~ The cytoplasmic monkey roared as it saw Eugene rush at it. Its abdomen crack open and vicious teeth were shown. It jumped out to meet Eugene.

Eugene was flexible as he easily escaped the attacks of the cytoplasmic monkey. He used his sword to cut the monster's body as he passed it. Yellow blood splashed out and spluttered onto Eugene's armor.

Eugene stopped and turned back to stab once more. The next shot pierced the monsters body and Eugene flicked his arm. The wound expanded and the monster's body leaned forward because of imbalance.

At the same time Eugene used his sword to cut off heads of the monster.

The battle ended fast. After all, Eugene was a primary limitless and he could cope with monsters at level 40. Although the cytoplasmic monkey was a rare monster but it was less than level 30. The difference of 10 levels of strength showed the difference in fight.

Eugene removed the parasitic soul worm and put it into the finger long tube that he took out from the backpack.

Eugene laughed as he joined the team: “That little things was very flexible.”

Ian smiled: “Let’s go the blood of the monster will lead others to here.” They quickly left the street.

The body of the cytoplasmic monkey trembled slightly after the team left the street. It seemed as if something was dragging its body into the dark alley. Afterwards, chewing sounds echoed from the alley.

Dean and other met a lot of monsters after killing the cytoplasmic monkey. The largest number of monsters were undeads. Occasionally they would meet flying monsters. These monsters would hover and fly at high altitudes and dive down to grab an undead or monster to fly back and disappear in the distance.

It was getting dark.

Ian stopped their movement and they went to find a basement which was very dusty and full of cobwebs in the ruins. There were dry and sticky slurries in the basement. They seemed to be feces and saliva left by a monster.

However, it meant that the monster have left this place for a long time.

“Clean your armors.” Ian took vines and grass from the roadside and cleaned the blood from his armor.

Eugene, Rosemary, Martin and others silently cleaned their armors. They knew that the bloodstains may lead monsters to them.

“We have reached the edge of the city. The mountain is in front of us.” Ian talked as he wiped his armor: “Tomorrow, we will go to that mountain. It should be the most humid place in this area. The silencer must be lurking there. We will take a break now and the real battle will start tomorrow.”

Chapter 523 - Pecker

The night was very silent.

Ian arranged Ruby and Dean to stay on duty while the others could take good rest during the night to restore their stamina and be at best state to deal with the battle that was upcoming.

“Signal me if a monster gets close to us.” Ruby looked at Dean.

Dean nodded slightly but didn't talk. Both of them were sitting at opposite sides of the basement. Their attention was concentrated on the movement outside the basement.

They didn't ignite fire in the basement to prevent the heat that could attract monsters to their location.

The cold wind flew from the vents of the basement. Eugene, Ian and others were wrapped in clothes and leaning against the wall as they slept. All of them held onto their weapons. It seemed as if they could wake up to face a battle at any time.

Dean maintained thermal vision at all times. It wasn't just about the movement of monsters outside the basement but he was concerned about physical state of Ian and others. He was watching their blood flow and heart beats.

“I have to find a way to sneak out to find Sergei by the completion of the task...” Dean's eyes lit up as he secretly made

calculations and plans.

The night was silent and long...

Sometimes low roars of the beasts echoed from outside. The muscles of Dean and Ruby would tighten every time they heard sounds. They would relax after the sounds disappeared and faded away.

The sun rays began to penetrate the darkness which meant dawn was coming.

Ruby immediately woke up Ian and others as he saw the sky brighten. They woke up, ate breakfast and packed their things. Luna and Dean checked the movement outside the basement and confirmed that there was no monster that stayed in the vicinity. The team quietly climbed out of the basement and came to stop in the street.

“Let’s go.” Ian took the lead.

The members of the team took out their weapons and followed after him.

They saw a pool of fresh blood along the way in addition to monster bones. Dean recalled the roars he heard last night. It appears the fight was here.

Few undeads were walking in the silent and desolate street. They

turned towards the team as soon as they heard sounds. Their numb faces turned hideous and vicious as the undeads rushed towards the team.

“Little Dean, you are responsible for cleaning these undeads. Eugene has to save his stamina as he will be coping with the ‘silencer’.” Ian said.

Dean nodded. He grabbed and pulled off a long white bone from the ground which belonged to an unknown monster. He rushed out towards the undeads and used the newly acquired bone spear to pierce through the heads of the undeads. Because of the disparity in strength Dean was able to quickly end the battle without much fuzz.

Dean kept the bone spear after killing the undeads. He wasn't planning to waste arrows against the monsters that were less than level 10. Although the arrows could be collected and reused but the sharpness of the tip of the arrows would wear out.

Dean killed undeads as well as a mouse like monster which was size of a wolf along the way.

“It's really strange for these undeads to be alive where so many high-level monster live...” Eugene whispered.

No one answered to Eugene. Ian and others were alert as they observed the surrounding environment despite Luna and Dean who were already doing the reconnaissance.

Dean heard Eugene's statement. He remembered the undead powder given to hunters in the outer wall. It was enough to cover the human smell and avoid the attack of monsters. It seemed that only small portion of the monsters would attack undeads. The rest of the monsters were indifferent towards the undeads.

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They reached the edge of the city in the blink of an eye.

The road leading to the front of the mountain was bumpy and full of pits. There were many large pits which seemed like footprints and claws marks.

Ian narrowed his eyes: "We are entering the mountain. The 'silencer' has excellent auditory sensitive abilities. All of you wrap your shoes as it can hear even the slightest movement. Moreover, control your breath according to the 'shallow-deep breathing method'."

Ian took out fabric from his backpack and bent over to wrap the allow boots.

Shallow-deep breathing method was a very common breathing technique used for camouflage means. It was able to prevent monsters with excellent auditory senses from tracking the humans.

Dean and others were finished by the time Ian was ready. They adjusted their breathing to Ian's as they quietly went into the mountain.

Dean saw a lot of heat sources lurking in the deep grasses around the foothill of the mountain. The heat exuded from their bodies wasn't big. It seems that they were around level 13 to 18 monsters and weren't a threat to the team.

Nevertheless, Dean gestured and signaled Ian about the monsters.

Ian nodded and continued.

The wet mist of the morning had covered the mountains. The team disappeared inside the fog as they entered the foothills.

They quietly went forward.

Suddenly, Luna's face changed. She quickly raised her hand and made a signal.

Argh~~

At the same time as she signaled the team a black giant shadow jumped out from the grass that was covered with mist. It was rushing towards the crowd.

Ian and Martin responded rapidly as they were the ones to go against the giant shadow.

Eugene almost shouted out loud in fear. His face turned pale as he instinctively retreated back of the team to get sense of security.

Ian's sword hit the giant shadow but he staggered and went backwards for to steps. Ian almost fell down.

Martin was the one to cover Ian. He was using double dagger as he blocked the giant shadow and repulsed it. He didn't rush to battle as he waited for the team to adjust to the situation.

Rosemary and Ruby were quick to respond. Ruby threw the huge luggage from his back and pulled out his axe.

Dean saw the appearance of the giant shadow. It had a humanoid shape. The monster had bulging muscles in its chest. Its head looked similar to an eagle's but it didn't have eyes. The lower body of the monster looked like a thick snake tail. It had two human arms stretching out from the sides. Spurs which looked like sharp blades grew out from its arms.

"It's a pecker!" Ian's face changed: "The 'silencer' is in the vicinity!"

Chapter 524 - Retreat

Everyone's face changed as they nervously glanced around after they heard Ian's words.

Everyone had read information from the atlas about the 'silencer'. It was a regional monster. However it had monsters that followed silencer in its territory. These followers guarded the main monsters because of their similar habits. The 'pecker' in front of them was the guardian of the 'silencer'!

Pecker was also a rare monster like silencer and was comparable in strength to it. The pecker would willingly become a guardian of silencer because of their habitat. The silencer would use a corrosive acid so decay the prey and eat..

The peckers like to eat rotten monsters because of their tasty 'smell'. In addition to their eating similarities, the silencer had excellent hearing while pecker had super hunting ability. They were natural partners in hunt so they acted as guardians of each other.

Martin licked his lips and whispered: "Ian you stay on look and don't let the silencer attack us. Rosemary and Eugene help to to kill the pecker. Dean stay in the back and support us with arrows when you see a chance!"

Eugene acted nervous when he heard his name called.

Rosemary said “yes” without hesitation and stepped out from the team to stand by Martin. She was holding onto her sword with single hand as she coordinated with Martin.

Dean took out his bow and aimed at pecker to support them at any time.

Argh~~

Pecker was repulsed by Ian. Its lower body twisted and it sprang towards Martin and Rosemary.

Martin growled. His skin became red and his body bulged up. He stamped against the pecker.

Martin’s ability was to increase his strength and regenerate at high speed. His strength enhancement made him comparable to advanced level limitless and his regenerative ability made him almost immortal.

Martin shouted as he stabbed his dagger towards the pecker. It crossed with the blade like bone spur on pecker’s arm.

Pecker growled as it lifted the other arm to attack hi head.

Rosemary didn’t give chance to the pecker. She leaped up and stabbed her sword towards the armpit of the monster. She was planning to cut off its arm.

Pecker moved its arm downwards and blocked her sword attack. It swung its other arm while it tried to close and wrap Martin.

Dean was aiming at the pecker's head. But he couldn't find a weakness. The head of the pecker was smooth and covered in black shell. It had no eyes or nose. Its mouth was hidden under the black shell. It was almost impossible to directly shoot into its mouth unless Dean stood under the pecker.

Dean didn't shoot the arrow but choose to wait for the opportunity.

According to the atlas and the size and height of the pecker it was a mature monster. The range of the monster was around level 46 to 52.

“Eugene, stupid! What are you waiting for?!” Ian who was standing in guard couldn't help but shout out when he saw Eugene stay immobile.

“I don't dare to move against it!”

Anger in Ian's heart gushed out as he heard Eugene. He narrowed his eyes: “Bastard! Do you think that we can stay alive if an accident happens?”

Ian knew that silencer might be waiting at ambush right now. So he was very anxious.

Eugene replied in a bitter tone: “The pecker is above level 50! Even advanced limitless won’t necessarily kill it! I’m just at primary level! Are you sending me to my death? Moreover, I’ll just hinder Martin and Rosemary!”

Ian’s hands shivered in anger as he saw Eugene ‘counsel’ him. Eugene was very obedient and his performance was good before. But Ian didn’t expect that Eugene would be troublesome at the moment of the crisis.

Ian clenched his teeth and turned to Ruby: “Help them!”

Ruby glanced at Eugene in anger. He held his axe and rushed towards the battle scene.

Dean frowned when he heard the conversation between Eugene and Ian. He narrowed his eyes as he used his thermal vision to check Eugene. The youth’s heartbeat was very gentle. It meant that Eugene was very calm and wasn’t panicking as it was shown on his face. It meant that Eugene was doing it intentionally and on purpose!

Dean narrowed his eyes as he thought of a possibility.

It seems as if Eugene was aware of Dean’s looks. He turned back and their eyes met. There was a faint smile on Eugene’s face and his eyes were cold.

Bang~~

Pecker swept its tail and hit Ruby on chest and inverted it to catch Luna.

Ruby's face turned red as he roared and rushed up once more.

Dean understood that Ruby was excellent on strength but his magic marks weren't meant for combat. Ruby was able to absorb leaves and other non-toxic plants as a food to maintain his vitality for long. In addition, he could store nutrients in his body and consume them when energy was needed. He had an ability similar to a cold-blooded snake that went into hibernation which could store food for months.

Ruby was the king of the team if it was about endurance or consumption of energy!

However, he was slightly weak in terms of combat.

Pecker twisted its body. Its arms wavered and the team couldn't figure out what it was going to do. However, it was aiming at Martin. Pecker had induced and realized that the most threatening opponent was Martin in the group that was attacking it.

Martin clenched his teeth and kept waving the daggers to block the blade like bones of the pecker. Sparks sprayed out because of the friction. If the daggers were cast out of ordinary steel then they would have been broken long time ago.

Whoosh!

Rosemary made a very strange posture and rushed out. The fine sword stabbed and poked into the pecker's arm.

There were no scales on pecker's body. It's skin was similar to a human's but had a gray tone to it. Rosemary's sharp sword pierced its skin and she pulled it back. Bright red blood spewed out.

Ian's eyes lit up as he saw Rosemary to be successful: "Martin try to contain it for the poison attack!"

Martin saw the wound on pecker's arm. He was relieved for a moment. Martin kept attacking again and again to firmly contain the monster. The so-called containment meant that Martin had to protect himself while not letting the monster to get a chance to attack others!

Chapter 525 - Killed

Whoosh!

Pecker screamed and its body wriggled up. It approached Martin like a shadow and waved its sturdy arms towards him.

Martin's eyes narrowed as he used the dagger to parry with the monster. However he felt a pain in his chest and saw bloodstains. Martin retreated back while all the muscles in his body tightened. He felt the chill of death hovering over his head.

Ian saw that Martin was unable to cope up with pecker so he shout: "Rosemary trap it with chain!"

Rosemary took out a black iron chain out nowhere and swept it out. Her hands and feet contracted into a strange position as she dumped the chain over the pecker's head. She shouted to Ruby: "Seize the other end!"

Ruby clenched his teeth and rushed forward to grab the other end of the chain. The iron chain wrapped around the neck of the pecker. Ruby pressed his feet to the ground while all the veins in his body popped up.

Dean saw an opportunity and released the string of the bow.

Whoosh!

Arrow whistled through the air and hit the head of the pecker.

Bang~ The tip of the arrow burst out as the lead poured down pecker's head like water. It flew down the head of the pecker smoothly but couldn't penetrate the black shell covering its head.

Dean's eyebrows wrinkled up as the black shell armor that was covering the pecker's head was beyond his expectations in terms of toughness.

Dean grabbed another arrow and waited for the next opportunity.

Pecker roared up as it wasn't going to wait neither for Dean or others to attack it freely. Its body twisted and its arms grabbed the chain from both ends. Rosemary and Ruby who were pulling the chain from both ends felt imbalance. Suddenly they were being driven towards the monster and almost staggered and fell down.

Martin didn't forego the opportunity as he used the dagger to rush up towards the pecker.

Argh~~

Pecker growled, let go of the chain and waved its arms towards the Martin.

Martin's face slightly changed. In an instant he had to maneuver from being an attacker to defender. He used the dagger to block the pecker.

Bang~

Pecker's fist contacted the blade of the dagger. The blade turned slightly concave and it seemed it will broke any moment. Martin's body bent down and he almost knelt down because of the force generated by the impact.

Ian and others who were watching the battle were taking aghast. They didn't expect the pecker to be so violent and powerful. Ian clenched his teeth. There was fear and nervousness in his heart as his eyes looked around the grasses. Unfortunately, his line of sight was blocked and he couldn't confirm the location 'silencer' was hidden.

The situation would be terrifying if the 'silencer' attack at this moment!

Ian was about to announce the retreat when he saw Ruby loudly roar. There was a trace of purple color on Ruby's dark skin. His whole body bulged up. The blood veins all over his body popped up as if earthworms were crawling under his skin.

Ian shouted: "Nooo~~"

Ruby grabbed his giant ax and stabbed towards pecker.

Dean's eyes narrowed as he was about to shoot the second arrow. However he saw the terrifying heat being emitted from Ruby's body so he came to stop. Right now, the heat emitted from Ruby's body was much stronger than Ian or Martin.

Pecker also felt the danger. It raised its arm to block the ax!

Whoosh!

Pecker scream as it waved its arm.

Puff~ Dark red blood sprayed out from pecker's body. Pecker was stunned for a moment as it turned to look and see that its arm was... gone.

It's arm fell down to the ground and rolled into the withered weeds.

Martin and Rosemary rushed over as they weren't going to lose the opportunity.

Pecker reacted instantly. Its body twisted and it was able to avoid Martin. However Rosemary was able use her sword to pierce the pecker's body. Although the trace of wound was very light but the blood of the pecker boiled and corroded at a rate visible to the eye.

Whoosh!

The second arrow was shot.

Arrow whistled through the air and reached the ultimate speed that the bow could provide.

Puff~ The arrow pierced the wounded arm of the pecker at an extremely tricky angle.

Pecker screamed as it repulsed Martin who was rushing towards it. At the same time its body twisted and turned towards the deep grasses. It was planning to escape.

“Do you want to leave now?” Rosemary’s eye flashed as she grabbed the chain and swung it. The chain wrapped around the broken arm of the pecker.

Ruby clutched tightly the chain and pulled back the pecker as strong as he could.

Pecker’s body was pulled back. Martin stabbed his dagger through its spine. The dagger’s tip pierced out from pecker’s chest. The blood began to spew out.

Martin kicked pecker’s spine and pulled back the dagger. He was trying to prevent the monster to attack it as a last measure.

Pecker’s body twisted as it tried to break free from the chain.

However its stamina was exhausted and slowly it fell to the ground. Pecker's body stopped moving but its snake tail was unconsciously swinging around.

Martin and others took big breath when they saw the monster finally get killed.

Ian turned to Dean and Luna: "Pay attention to the surrounding environment!"

Martin and others who were previously fighting the monster suddenly got their body muscles tightened. They clenched their weapons and walked back to the team. All of them were nervously looking around as they were expecting the silencer to come out at any time.

The wind was swaying the grass. Rustling sounds echoed from all around. It seemed that many monsters were hidden inside the grasses.

They stood as is. The pecker's tail gradually stopped moving. Luna gently sniffed the air and whispered: "Captain, the silencer isn't in here. Actually, there is no monster around here."

"I don't see anything either." Dean added.

Ian nodded: "Collect the parasitic soul worm of the pecker and we will move towards the caves where the silencer may reside."

“Yes.” Rosemary replied. She pulled out a dagger from her legging and came forward to get the parasitic soul worm of the pecker.

Martin leaned towards Ruby: “Are you alright?”

Ruby’s face had turned pale and he was sweating a lot: “It’s nothing.”

Dean noticed Ruby’s hands tremble and shake: “What happened?”

Ian whispered: “Ruby can use his ability in the battle too. He can quickly digest and absorb the food restored in his body in short-term to explode with strength. However this move takes a very big toll on his body so he can’t use it regularly.”

Dean understood and looked at Eugene.

At the same time Ian, Luna and others also looked at Eugene.

Eugene said in a bitter tone: “Captain, I didn’t retreat on purpose ...”

Ian looked at him: “Do you want all of us get killed?”

Eugene rapidly replied: “Why would I? I won’t be able to survive if an accident happened with you all.”

“You know that you have done wrong!” Martin sharply looked at Eugene: “If you do this the next time... I’ll slaughter you first even if I’m unable to kill the monster!”

Eugene wryly smiled: “I won’t.”

Ian looked at him but didn’t continue to talk about the topic. He saw that Rosemary had taken the parasitic soul worm of the pecker: “Get ready! The closest cave should belong to the silencer!”

Ian patted Dean’s shoulder: “Awesome job! Accurate shooting!”

Dean nodded but sighed in his heart. The bow was good but string wasn’t of good quality. That’s why the bow couldn’t reflect his strength! It was no wonder why dragon clan exchanged reward points for advanced weapons.

Chapter 526 - Mist

“Martin, are you alright?” Luna walked close to Martin and looked at his wound.

Martin shook his head: “Don’t worry. The wound has been treated and there is no infection.”

“Good..Very good.” Luna was relieved as she looked at his wound.

Ian and others adjusted their positions: “Let’s go.” Ian took the lead.

Martin, Rosemary and others followed.

Dean looked at Eugene. There was a trace of coldness in Dean’s eyes. He was ready to kill and get rid of Eugene in the next possible opportunity that would arise. Dean was planning to torture Eugene and get information about the people that had sent Eugene after him.

The mist was covering the mountain and the air was humid. There was a touch of rotten smell floating in the air.

Ian was the first to enter the deep mist. His magic marks were able to control the temperature. He was like a precise human thermometer. Of course, it was one of his abilities.

“Strange.” Martin said after they climbed for two hundred meters or so.

Ian turned to look at him: “What’s wrong?”

Martin whispered as he looked at the grass: “Haven’t you guys noticed that the density of the mist is a bit too high? It’s black snow season now and the temperatures are low. Moreover, there is no sun today so there shouldn’t be that much of dew on the grasses.”

All of them noticed that the grasses in the surroundings were covered with dewdrops. It was as if rain had washed them. However, they had been near the mountain since yesterday and there was no sign of rain. Moreover, the road wasn’t wet either.

Ian frowned as he pondered about the issue. He had years of experience and intuition told him that there has to be a creature responsible for this. However, they couldn’t retreat at this point. The pecker was beheaded by them and the silencer should be somewhere around. It would be very difficult to find silencer if the monster decided to leave this place. It meant that they will have to spend extra time to find the monster. Such a journey meant very high risk.

Ian thought for a moment and made up his mind: “Be very careful! If we encounter something abnormal then we will retreat!”

Everyone nodded.

Dean and Luna were covered by the team. However, Dean didn't dare to relax even for a moment. They were in the wasteland and even pioneers were in danger in this place. He had wings that could be used to save his life at the worst situation. But it didn't mean that he was guaranteed to be saved from some powerful monster.

"I smell it." Luna whispered after they climbed for another few hundred meters. She gently sniffed and raised her hand to point towards a high slope: "The silencer is there. In front."

Ian looked back at her: "Are you sure?"

"Yes." Luna nodded: "The smell of the silencer was recorded in the atlas. I feel its smell very close to us. It is silencer!"

Ian was relieved. He didn't expect that their luck would be so good and they would find silencer the day they arrived in wasteland. However, they were going to have a bitter fight so the team had to be ready. He whispered: "Get ready for the battle! Ruby leave the food in here. We need you to be mobile."

Ruby nodded and put down the huge luggage from his back. He stuffed it in a crack near two trees and fixed the luggage.

"Let's go!" Ian whispered.

IT didn't take long for them to leave the forest. They saw that flat place which had a huge rock in front of it. There was a steep cliff by its side. However there was a dark cave in the intersection of cliff and rock. Even Dean with his ordinary sense of smell could feel the stenchy smell floating from the cave. There was another smell mixed with the stench that made them nauseous.

Ian saw the cave and whispered: "The torches!"

Ruby took out several torches from his backpack. He lit them, handed to Ian, Martin and Eugene. Dean, Rosemary and Luna had night vision ability so he didn't gave them any torches.

Ian also had night vision ability. He grabbed the torch and threw it into the cave.

Whoosh!

The fire lit the surrounding in the cave. The torch tumbled and rolled in the cave. The light lit the edges of the cave. Everyone was able to see the disgusting scene. The walls of the cave were covered with rotten flesh and blood.

A strong stench was emitted from the walls of the cave. The torches rolled around and disappeared.

The team dispersed around as they were waiting for the enemy to come out. They were ready to fight at any moment.

Time passed second by second.

There was no movement in the cave even after ten minutes.

Ian frowned. Isn't silencer disturbed?

He glanced around. Ian picked a stone and got closer to the entrance of the cave. He threw the stone inside. A muffled sound was issued as the stone hit the walls of the rock.

Ian retreated back as he vigilantly stared at the cave.

There was no response from the cave after they waited for four or five minutes.

Doubts arose in Ian's heart because of the strange scene.

Martin, Rosemary and Luna looked at each other as they were concerned too. They didn't want to enter the cave as the danger would greatly increase in here. The silencer was more familiar with its own nest. Moreover, the environment inside the cave was small and wasn't good to conduct team operation. They could show the whole strength of the team outside the cave.

However, the silencer didn't respond!

Unless, it was not in the nest!

Everyone thought about this possibility. Ian whispered: “It seems that it is not in the cave. We will go inside and get ready for an ambush. However, be careful as silencer could be hiding inside and ready to ambush us!”

Although it was less likely to silencer to have such wisdom and act so but they had to prepared for such an occasion.

Everyone nodded and followed after Ian as they approached the cave.

Luna hold her nose tightly as they get near the cave. Her face had turned green and it seemed as if she was choked. Keen sense of smell was playing against her right now.

Dean looked around but couldn't detect any heat reaction from the cave. But the silencer was a cold-blooded monster and it was possible that his thermal vision couldn't detect it.

Dean saw two silver scales about 4 or 5 meters away from the entrance of the cave. The scales had liquid all over it which exuded pungent smell.

Dean was startled. The silencer didn't have such scales. Does it mean that another monster is in the cave?

Chapter 527 - Gloomy Nest

Dean remembered the pecker which acted as guarding to silencer. He whispered: “Be careful as there may be a creature with intelligence hidden in the cave.”

Ian and others were frightened because of Dean’s words. Ian turned towards Dean: “Do you see anything?”

Dean shook his head but pointed towards the scales: “These scales don’t belong to silencer. It indicated that there may be another monster in here which has tempted us to enter. I speculate that it has some level of intelligence.”

Ian walked to the location Dean’s fingers were directed at. He saw the scales and frowned. Ian whispered: “Be careful!”

Eugene laughed: “Come on! It’s just a piece of scales. It may belong to the monster dragged back by the silencer. Monsters with intelligence? Trying to tempt us? Oh!”

Martin didn’t care much about Eugene. He turned towards Ian: “Dean’s words make sense, let’s be careful!”

Ian nodded. He was holding to his sword then in addition he took out a dagger. Ian was walking slowly in front.

Eugene raised his eyebrows slightly when he saw no one take his

words into account. He chuckled as he knew that he had lost the trust of team in the last battle. However, he didn't care as he leisurely walked behind the team.

A faint breeze came from the depth of the cave. It brought along strong pungent smell with it. Dean and others frowned because they were also stimulated by the smell. Luna had long blocked her nose. She was trying to breath as less as possible because her superior sense of smell had become her Achilles' heel at this moment.

The walls of the cave were full of viscous liquid, wet feces and other things. The place was extremely filthy. After walking for another 100 meters they saw scattered bones of monsters, fur, flesh and blood. Ian squatted down and checked the bite marks: "It's the lair of the silencer!"

Everyone nodded as their hearts had become cold.

Ian continued to lead the way.

The cave was curvy and bent downwards.

All the team members were nervous and breathed slowly as they were aware that silencer may attack at any moment. Moreover, they weren't clear if there is another monster existed in the cave beside silencer.

Dean wanted to ignite torches and full the cave with the smoke to

force out the monster. However, he took Eugene and other factors into account so he held back the proposal.

In the blink of an eye the team had walked another four or five hundred meters deep into the cave. The walls of the cave had become unusually smooth.

They saw bitten bodies of few undeads when they were more than four hundred meters in depth. Some of the undeads had their heads left the others some of their upper bodies. They were trying to crawl and issued low voices like insects. It was a terrifying sight.

Ian killed all those undeads in anger.

“Hey!” Ian’s eyes narrowed as he raised his hand and gestured the team to stop. Luna, Dean and others quickly stopped. Their palms flowed with cold sweat.

Ian took few steps and checked the scene. His face was pale in horror and he almost screamed out: “It’s a bloodgiver!”

Martin’s face turned ugly and his heart shrank in fear. Bloodgiver was a rare monster on the same level was silencer and pecker. They would be facing an unpredictable and bitter battle if they face silencer and bloodgiver at the same time!

Ian added: “and it’s dead!”

“Dead? Martin was shocked.

Luna and Ruby were perplexed.

Dean's dark vision was more sensitive in comparison to others. He had long seen that there was huge wound on the chest of the bloodgiver. It's blood had been drying by the wound to cure it.

Ian swallowed his saliva and got closer to the bloodgiver. He pierced its body with his sword. The monster's body slightly trembled.

Ian pierced bloodgiver which was lying down.

He looked pale as he gasped. It seems the corpse of the bloodgiver was rigid but it had died long time ago.

Ian face turned ugly. Was there an in-fight between monsters?

He hesitated for a moment: "Ruby, check out if its parasitic soul worm still there."

Ian was looking around as he didn't want to be caught by a hidden danger. Ruby exclaimed after few moments: "The parasitic soul worm is still in its body." He raised the small glass tube and imprisoned centipede like soul worm. The worm was struggling inside the tube. It wanted to crush the transparent glass wall that it was imprisoned in.

The parasitic soul worms of monsters generally will die in between half an hour to three hours if they couldn't find a new host. Apparently, bloodgiver was killed more than three hours ago. However, its body structure was special and different. It was the main reason why the parasitic soul worm was able to survive.

Ian whispered: "Be careful! It's way too unusual in here!"

Ruby put away the parasitic soul worm in excitement. He held his axe and followed after Ian.

The team faced a corner after hundred meters or so. A slight voice was echoing from the other side of the corner. It seemed as if the sound of a friction.

Ian's eyes narrowed as he gestured a warning signal with his hand. He held his sword and sneak past the corner.

Whoosh!

He rushed out as soon as he reached corner. He would be able to raid and fight any moment that way.

However, Ian was frozen on spot as soon as he jumped out of the corner.

A monster was lying on the ground. It's lower body was similar to a spider's body. The monster's upper body reminded him of a hound. It had hideous fangs and a head of a dog. It's ears were odd.

They weren't drooping on both sides of the head but were fan-shaped and unfolded. They were more like a helmet that protected the head.

“Si ... Silencer?” Ian was stunned.

Martin and Ruby who kept up with Ian were also stunned when they saw the scene.

Silencer was weakly lying on the ground. It's spider like lower body had a big hole. It's intestines and other inner organs were on the ground. Several of its legs and feet were broken from the joints. The most terrifying thing was that its chin was gone. Only a row of teeth on its upper jaw were there. IT couldn't bow its neck.

Dean was startled when he saw many fatal injuries on the monster's body. He felt a chilly sensation from the cave. He couldn't help but turn to look back at the exit of the cave.

Ian recovered his sense and rushed up. He waved his sword and cut off the monster's head.

He stepped back as he saw the blood spray around. He was relieved as he turned back to Ruby: “Collect the parasitic soul worm!”

“Ah.” Ruby's eyes lit up as he ran towards the monster.

Ian cleaned the blood off his sword.

Luna smiled as she walked past: “It seems it’s our lucky day! We didn’t fight any monster but were able to get parasitic soul worms of bloodgiver and the silencer! It is a bargain!”

Chapter 528 - Den Within A Den

“We have been through so many tasks but its the first time that we have gone through so smoothly.” Ruby laughed.

“It ain’t that simple.” Martin squatted down and carefully looked at the corpse of the silencer. He frowned and whispered: “All of them are the fatal blows to the weakest points of the silencer. I can guarantee that it wasn’t caused by the bloodgiver.”

Ian looked at Martin: “What you mean?”

Martin used his dagger to check the jaw wound of the silencer: “These two main wounds... The tentacles of the bloodgiver can’t cause them. Moreover, in addition to the two main wounds the rest of the body is intact.”

Ian’s eyes narrowed: “Do you mean ...”

“Yes.” Martin slowly got up. His eyes were gloomy as he looked at the crowd: “If my guess is right then these two monsters were killed by another creature. It was a battle where one side overwhelmed the other two in strength. It means that silencer didn’t even have the chance to fight back.”

Luna, Ruby and others were stunned.

Rosemary’s eyes opened wide: “Do you mean that there are other monsters in this nest?”

Martin shook his head as he looked back at her: “I’m not sure if that monster is still in here. But I’m sure that it was a much more higher level monster!”

Luna whispered in shock: “Higher level? To kill the silencer with an overwhelming force and not to be detected by the silencer... Is it... a high level monster from the red wasteland?”

Martin didn’t reply back to her but looked at Ian in gloomy manner.

Ian acted without hesitation: “Get the parasitic soul worm. We are leaving this place!”

Ruby didn’t dare to delay for a moment. He quickly took out the parasitic soul worm of the silencer. The soul worm looked similar to a small spider. Ruby put it inside the small tube but the soul worm was still struggling inside it.

He tightened the cap of the tube.

Boom~~~

A loud noise echoed from outside the cave. At the same time the ground slightly trembled.

Everyone’s face turned pale.

Ian looked at the exit of the cave. His face was pale and ugly.

Boom~~

Another loud sound echoed out. It seemed as if a giant was walking and approaching its nest.

Dean's face was gloomy as he felt the ground under his feet tremble. He could imagine how big the monster was to have such an impact. Although the size of the monster didn't determine its strength but most of the time it would be a high level monster.

"Is that thing is back?" Ruby's black face was almost white. A terrifying profile of the monster had emerged in his mind when he felt the tremble of the ground.

Ian hesitated for a moment but then ordered: "We will run into the den! We will hide in the inner most place!"

There was no doubt that their team didn't have even the slightest chance to survive if that new monster was able to kill the silencer. They would go through some bitter struggle if they face silencer face to face let alone a monster that could kill the silencer in two moves. Their team couldn't face such a monster but only hide!

In addition, their task was complete and they had collected the parasitic soul worm of the silencer. Right now their main issue was to survive and get back to the giant wall well and alive!

The team followed after Ian's order without a doubt or rejection. They rushed to the deeper parts of the cave.

Eugene took a glance at Dean then followed after the team so that he didn't fall out.

Dean looked back at the direction of the cave's exit. The walls were too thick so his thermal vision couldn't penetrate through and see the heat emitted by the monster.

He was feeling depressed as he didn't expect to encounter such a situation in his first mission in the wasteland.

Dean followed after them too. However, his instincts told him that it was not a good idea to get into deeper parts. But sometimes listening to ideas of the others was a better solution.

As they moved into the depth of the cave they saw corpses, bones, feces and blood of many monsters. It seemed that the monster wasn't worried about hygiene at all.

Boom~~ Boom~

The sound of the footsteps and roars gradually seemed distant but they still could clearly feel and hear them.

Ian suddenly stopped after they ran for few hundred meters.

The team looked up and saw that there was no way out. It was a dead end. They had reached the deepest part of the silencer's den.

“Damn it!” Ian was angry as he punched the rock wall.

Boom~ The trembling of the ground meant that the monster was slowly approaching them. A rock on the ground slightly trembled and fell into the sand. It was as if it was squeezed into the cave.

“Is it aware of our existence?” Ruby said in a trembling tone.

They had reached to the deepest part of the cave. It seemed as if the monster was aware of their existence or there wouldn't be a reason for it to come to the deepest part of the cave.

Ian and the rest were worried. It would be very difficult to escape if that thing came up to their location. At least they would have to pay a very high price!

Their mood was so heavy that they couldn't even breathe.

Dean also understood that they were facing a crisis. His heartbeat was rapid because of the agitation. He suppressed the anxious feeling and calmed down. His eyes scanned around.

“Ah?” Dean suddenly detected a weak source of heat from the ground.

He thought of a possibility: “There is another den! There is another nest under our feet. Dig down!”

“what?”

Ian and others were confused.

“Dig down if you don’t want to die! There is second nest under our feet!”

Ian recovered when he saw the urgent look expressed on Dean’s face. Although it was too late to think about the reason why Dean said so but he couldn’t find an alternative solution: “Listen to Little Dean! Act quickly!”

They removed the small pickaxes from their backpacks. They were made out of special alloys so their handle weren’t wooden. It was easy for them to use their force to dig the soil as fast as they could.

Dean explained as the team dig out the soil: “It’s deep so I don’t think its the nest of the silencer. My thermal vision detected a weak heat source so if I’m not wrong it has to be heat emitted from the eggs!”

“There is a head source?” Ian and others’ eyes lit up when they heard Dean’s words.

In less than half a minute they dug out a giant pit. The soil under

Ruby's feet trembled and the place collapsed down. The members of the team fell down too.

They touched ground after seven or eight meters of free fall. No one of them were worried about the pain so they quickly stood up and looked around in vigilance.

Their hands had touched mucus like things on the ground. It felt more like glue like substance.

Dean looked up and saw countless white eggs in the dark nest. Most of them were covered and wrapped in sticky filament. All of those eggs had a heat source which seemed as if a heart was beating inside them.

Dean was relieved. It seems his guess was right and it was the true nest of the silencer or some other monster.

Ian also reacted quickly. Ruby re-ignited two torches and lift them high up. The light of the torches shined down the place and the others were able to the white eggs.

Chapter 529 - Incident

“There is another nest in here.” Ian looked around at the white oval eggs.

Ruby swallowed his saliva: “It should be the eggs of the silencer, isn’t it? So it means... silencer cubs will hatch out...”

The eyes of Luna, Rosemary and others lit up with greed. If these were the eggs of the silencer then it meant that there would be lots of rare level monster cubs. They could kill them easily at the growth period and get their parasitic soul worms. Moreover, there seemed to be dozens of eggs.

Boom~

The ground trembled and a violent roar echoed from the cave. Their thoughts were brought back to reality from the fantasies that they were indulged in. They had to react to the situation when they heard another angry roar. The last one was extremely loud.

The nest slightly trembled while the last roar echoed. Rocks began to fall from the walls of the cave.

Ian and others looked up to see that dust was falling down from the hole that they have dug. It seemed as if the place was going to collapse at any moment.

“Rapidly search for an exit.” Ian rushed away.

Dean slightly shook his head: “It’s of no use. There is no way out. It is an enclosed place.”

Ruby and Luna who were about to act look at Dean in fear.

Dean wryly smiled: “There is no wind or breeze passing in this nest. Captain, haven’t you felt it yet? The temperature is very high in this place. Its much higher than the surface. If my guess is right then the environment in this nest is made so that the eggs could hatch. I think the silencer have completely closed this nest. We will have to dig out even if we find a passage to go out. Moreover, that passage will connect back the cave above.”

Everyone began to feel the abnormal temperature within the nest after they listened to Dean’s words.

Luna couldn’t help but ask: “So what are we going to do? Are we going to die in here? Are we going to wait until that thing gets into this nest and finds us in here?”

Ian clenched his teeth: “As of now, the best option is to set up a trap and wait for the battle. Afterwards, we will rush out as we get an opportunity. Ruby and Eugene, both of you look for an exit.”

Ruby and Eugene nodded. They walked around the white eggs holding torches. However, both of them returned soon. Ruby reported: “There is no way out. The place is covered in rock wall.”

The last trace of hope which team had was lost. But they were prepared for such a situation.

Ian and Martin continued to make the trap. They have brought special materials which had toxins and poison mixed into them. There were black colored arrows and others small materials that were used to make traps. The trap was made under the hole.

It didn't take long for them to finish the trap.

Ian took a deep breath and retreat to hide near a white egg: "Get ready for an ambush."

Everyone silently moved to different locations

Martin whispered after some time: "There is no trace of movement from above."

Ian was startled. He remembered that the movement from the cave had stopped after the last roar. Did that thing gave up on killing them?

Luna whispered: "Maybe its body is stuck in the cave and it can't move."

"It 's possible." Ian recalled the previous roar and then shook his head: "It's still in the cave. It hasn't left."

Everyone was aware that if the monster had left then the footsteps had to echo from away. However, the monster seemed to have stopped in place. It was obvious that it was sitting back and waiting.

Eugene was squatting down in a place: “The place is too hot! If it can’t come in then maybe we should go up?”

Ian frowned: “Whisper! Try not to attract that monster’s attention. If it is hungry then the monster will lose patience. As a result it will leave. No need for rash actions.”

Eugene shrugged his shoulders.

Everyone came out from their hideouts after a while as the movement sounds hasn’t echoed for a while. They took out water from their backpacks and took sips.

“Are we going to wait?” Ruby asked.

Ian nodded: “We will wait until it leaves.”

No one said or proposed anything when they saw there was no other reasonable way out. They found a clean place to sit and rest. The nest was very dirty. The ground was covered with sticky things. It looked like the mucus secreted from monster’s body and mixed with some kind of excrement. The place was muddy and have a pungent smell.

Moreover, the smell was intensified by the hot air.

Luna was tightly covering her nose. Her face was pale and it seemed as if she was going to lose consciousness at any moment.

Ian, Martin and others were worried as they saw that her situation wasn't good. Ian gave fan to Luna: "Drink some water."

Luna weakly nodded and took water from her backpack. However, her body began to sweat after a while.

Martin frowned: "We can't go on like this. The smell is very strong. At least, we should let Luna to get close to the hole."

Ian looked at Luna who seemed to faint at any moment now. He hesitated for a moment then nodded his head.

They helped Luna to get out of the hole.

Luna's head was outside the hole as she took big breathes of 'fresh' air.

Dean was glad that he had replaced the magic marks of the juranzhi at the right time. Sensitivity to smell was a very good ability but its weaknesses were obvious too. Luna wasn't a lady from noble family so she wasn't hypocritical about the situation. However, the smell was unpleasant. It wasn't matter of tolerance but the way her body reacted to the smell.

For example, some people would vomit when smelling such taste.

The smell was the most intensive sensory stimulant. It was normal for person to faint if an their nerves got stimulated excessively.

“Scatter around.” Ian whispered.

They went away to quietly wait.

The place was silent. There where white eggs only.

An hour, two hours.... In the blind of an eye 10 hours passed but there was still no sounds of movement from above.

However, they still couldn't act rashly. It was possible that the monster had falled asleep.

...

...

In the blink of an eye 5 days passed.

Their faces were bad as they sat in the nest. Although everyone was accustomed and adapted to the hot and smell environment in

the cave after 5 days but they didn't think that they had to wait for so long!

According to the initial proposition, the monster had to leave in less than a day.

However, they had to yet hear sounds of movement in the last 5 days.

“Temperature is way too high and our food is almost gone bad.” Rosemary sipped a bit water and looked at Ian: “We will starve to death if we continue to stay in here.”

They were waiting so they didn't consume stamina. However, their basic daily needs were high. Their food was sealed in waterproof packages but it couldn't withstand high temperatures.

Ian didn't reply back.

Rosemary understood that Ian didn't have a plan. She sighed and turned to look at Ruby. Ruby had hidden the large luggage full with water and food before they entered the cave. The food and water they had on their backpacks was just enough for half a month. They wouldn't starve to death after half a month but their reactions would slow down a lot.

“It can't go on like this.” Dean looked at the crowd sitting around the cave. He whispered: “IF that monster fell asleep and goes on to sleep for another half a month...We just can't hold on for so long.”

“What do you suggest?” Martin narrowed his eyes. He appreciate Dean because of his good performance. However, he was feeling irritated after being in this nest for the last five days.

Dean turned to look at Eugene who was sitting by the white egg: “I think we need to send someone to check the cave to see if the monster is asleep or left. Maybe, we can quietly leave if that thing is asleep.”

Chapter 530 - Furious Eugene

“Check the place?”

“Who will go to check? Who would be willing to go up?”

Ian, Martin and others frowned.

Eugene felt that Dean was looking at him. His face changed as he spoke in a cold tone: “Why are you looking at me after the making the talk?”

“I propose you to go up and check the situation.” Dean said in a straightforward manner.

Eugene almost choked: “You came up with the idea so why don’t you volunteer? Why do you propose my name?”

Dean replied in a calm manner: “Previous time you backed off from the battle. It is your chance to make up for it and get back your status in the team. You are good at combat. Moreover, you are skillful and flexible. Why do you think I would propose your name? It is all about the current situation! Everyone within the team has to contribute to the overall good of the team, isn’t it?”

Eugene’s face turned red in fury but his eyes were cold. He glanced at Ian, Martin and others. He saw that no one was planning to speak out so they were waiting for the outcome of the conversation.

“If you want to propose my name because of my skills then I’m proposing you because of the same qualities. Your perception is good. You can see that the monster has left or sleeping without getting close to it.” Eugene clenched his fists and said in a cold tone. He didn’t want to talk about flexibility or agility as Martin and Ian were the strongest in the team. If he wanted to sway the decision of the team he had to base in argument on perception.

As a result, he couldn’t go against the strongest in the team or else he was going to lose their support.

Dean calmly replied: “My perception is limited to detection of the heat source of the body. That monster can quietly get close to silencer and kill it. It means that it is a cold blooded monster and my skills are useless against it.”

“You!” Eugene looked at him and spoke in an angry voice: “Are you still keeping a grudge against me because I intervened when you tried to play with the little girl from the last time?”

Dean was startled.

Ian, Martin and others reacted to his sentence.

Dean reacted without losing a moment. He knew that Eugene was trying to hit under the belt.

“Do you remember the face of that little girl?” Dean got up and

stared at Eugene in anger. Eugene and others were shocked. They thought Dean was going to attack him. Dean continued: “Are you even human?! The girl was half of your height. At best she was seven or eight years old! You make me puke! I admit that looking at you doesn’t please my eyes. However, right now I’m considering the options according to the situation we are in.”

Eugene was stunned as he looked at Dean who was making a role like a professional artist. He casually made up a thing and tried to attack Dean. If he didn’t know that he was lying then he would even believe in Dean’s performance.

He was surprised. Moreover, Eugene noticed the disgust in eyes of Ian, Rosemary and others.

Eugene thought that Dean will try to deny the statement and they will go on to argue. In such a condition, defense would always lose as there was no condition to prove himself. However, Dean outplayed him.

Ruthless!

Eugene clenched his fists as he stared at Dean.

Dean also looked at him in angry manner. His chest was violently going up and down as if he was pressing down his anger.

“I agree.” Rosemary said: “Eugene didn’t participate in the last battle. The monster hasn’t moved for so long so I think it is asleep

and there is no danger.”

Eugene almost vomited blood when he heard Rosemary’s words. No danger? Why don’t you go then?

Martin deeply looked at Dean then turned towards Eugene: “I also agree that waiting is not an option. Since we have to send a person up then the most suitable one is Eugene.”

Eugene almost choked to death. What the hell? Suitable?

Ian looked at Eugene: “You will have to go up as it is a unilateral decision. We will support you in time if there is a danger.”

“Yes” Ruby intervened: “There is nothing to fear. As Little Dean said most probably that monster is asleep. You will check it from a distance. So what are you afraid of?”

Eugene clenched his teeth: “Afraid of? Then why don’t you go?”

Ruby rolled his eyes: “Do I look like someone who can run fast?”

Eugene almost fainted on spot. He looked at the team and knew that he was going to be the lamb sent to be slaughtered. These people would never send Dean or Ruby to check out the situation. Ruby was an old member and they had feelings towards him. Dean was indispensable to the team because of his perceptive abilities. However, he was a fighter, a combatant. Martin and Ian were also fighters and they were more important than him.

His face turned normal as Eugene stared at Dean: “The observation time is finished. Since you want to die then I will fulfill your wish!”

Dean’s eyes lit up when he heard Eugene talk.

Ian immediately said when he heard Eugene: “Eugene, don’t act on impulse!”

“What do you mean he wants to die?” Martin narrowed his eyes as he looked at Eugene.

Ruby and Rosemary also looked at Eugene. They were not trying to help Dean but they hated Eugene.

“Oh ...” Eugene’s mouth twitched when he saw the team’s reaction. He put a wry smile on his face and said in a soft manner: “Ian, Martin and others... It’s best for you guys not to intervene as this problem is between me and him!”

Ian frowned: “I don’t care about the personal issue but infighting isn’t allowed during the implementation of the task!”

Eugene laughed: “You are right! I have to carry out my mission!”

“Your mission?”

Eugene slowly pulled out his sword: “You better don’t meddle in this. Otherwise, you won’t survive even if you go back! This kid has provoked Her Royal Highness Hailey. I was sent to observe and see if he has changed. But if he wants to die then I will fulfill his wish!”

Chapter 531 - Get Rid Off

“Her Royal Highness Hailey?” Ian and others were stunned. They were surprised to find out that Eugene was working for a big patron, the sister of the Saint!

Ian quickly reacted but was startled the next moment. He looked at Dean and pondered for a moment. Anyone who can provoke Her Royal Highness Hailey and stay alive is not a simple person...

Dean’s eyes lit up as he heard Eugene’s words. He thought that someone from Aisha’s faction had sent an assassin to kill him. But the situation was otherwise. After all, there were many opportunities to kill him. Especially before the battle with the pecker. But Eugene didn’t act during that time. It seems Hailey had sent him to observe Dean and get more information. She still wanted to use Dean as a pawn in the game.

“She is still playing those games even though she got the identity of the Saint ...” Dean’s eyes narrowed as killing intent burst out from his heart. He looked at Ian and others because he understood what passed in their minds: “Captain, this is a personal issue. I hope you guys won’t get involved. If he dies we can say that he was killed by a monster when we go back.”

Ian, Martin and others were perplexed when they saw the murderous look on Dean’s face. They knew that they won’t be able to stop the battle. Ian was aware that Dean was afraid that they would act because Eugene made it known that Her Royal Highness Hailey was his backer. But, why would they do such a stupid

move?

They could speculate that the power backing Dean wasn't trivial either if he was able to offend Hailey and stay alive. They didn't want to provoke neither of these two big mountains. Their personal choice would be for both Dean and Eugene to die in here.

However, they were worried that the fight between Dean and Eugene may alert the monster which could be in a sleep.

Ian whispered: "Why don't you guys wait for that thing to leave? We will all be dead if you disturb it."

Eugene snorted: "No need. I don't need to go through extravagant moves to deal with him." His body began to bulge up as soon as he finished talking. Faint golden scales began to appear on lower sides of his cheeks. He was using full power of his magic marks.

Ian's face changed when he saw Eugene's transformation. He didn't have thermal vision but he was sensitive to heat. He felt that the heat exuded from Eugene's body change significantly. In a sudden, it appeared that Eugene had powered up. A normal person would have been dead long ago if they had the same temperature as Eugene at the moment.

Dean was much clear about the situation than others. He could see that Eugene's body was rapidly exuding large amounts of heat. In an instant, the heat exuded from Eugene's body had increased several times. Eugene had reached a level where even Martin

wasn't on his level. It seemed that Eugene had almost reached the level of pioneers.

Dean wasn't surprised but he was relieved. At least, Hailey wasn't as frantic as to send a pioneer to observe him. If he faced a pioneer then he didn't have much of a chance in the battle.

But as he thought about it even the Dragon Clan had rare number of pioneers. Moreover, most of those pioneers worked in high-level positions. They would never agree to observe a pawn.

Martin saw the change on Ian's face and turned to look at him.

Ian winked back at him. Martin was startled as fear was expressed in his eyes. He began to look at Eugene as he quietly clenched his sword. He knew that if Eugene killed Dean then he won't let others get out from this place alive. Luna and others saw the non-verbal communication between Ian and Martin. They were on alert too.

The atmosphere become intense and murderous in a moment.

White eggs gently beated up. They were like eyes that quietly watched the insider battle between the newcomers.

Eugene smiled: "You have thermal vision and you are aware of the situation! Your tone was way too overpowering moments ago. I assume you were saying that they should inform that i was killed by a monster... I will give you one more chance. Pledge your

allegiance to Her Royal Highness Hailey and go back with me to see her.”

Dean’s face slowly turned to an ugly shape. A little bead of cold sweat flowed down his face. He looked at Eugene: “I have pledged my allegiance to Saint! She won’t let go of you if you hurt me!”

Eugene laughed: “I thought you vowed to kill me! Why did you change your mind so fast?” He slowly began to walk towards Dean.

Dean slowly took few steps back as he pulled his bow and an arrow. He aimed and made the first shot while retreating back to create distance.

Eugene snorted as his footsteps turned quick. He was like a shadow as he avoided the arrow. There were white eggs all around the place. The nest was crowded and wasn’t a good place for an archer to show his abilities. It was one of the reasons why Eugene looked at disdain towards his enemy.

“Kiddo, its your end!” Eugene raised his dagger and rushed towards Dean.

The ugly contour on Dean’s face disappeared. His face turned calm and a trace of faint smile was visible. Eugene’s heart jumped up as the feeling of danger emerged in his heart.

Bang~

Dean punched out.

His fist hit Eugene's chest. Eugene's armor couldn't withstand the shock. Faint sounds of bones cracking echoed out. Eugene's body lost balance because of the impact so he stepped backwards. The sword attack lost its strength but Eugene's posture didn't change a bit. Dean swayed towards the side to escape the sword attack.

Eugene took three steps backwards and jumped away. He opened the distance between him and Dean for more than ten meters.

Eugene's face had turned ugly as he felt furious. It was simply a shame for a swordsman to take the initiative and run away from a direct battle with an archer!

But he wasn't pondering about this at all. He was angry because he was fooled by Dean once again!

Dean recovered his attack posture. He was standing tall as he held to his bow and arrow and aimed at Eugene.

Eugene didn't dare to act rashly when he saw the arrow pointed at him. He could deal with the arrow and then close the gap. He knew that it was the best choice at the moment. Eugene had seen Dean's performance while fighting the pecker. Dean was good at tricks which meant that Dean had used a lot of time to work on archery. It was a proof for Eugene that Dean's close-combat ability would be weak.

Both of them were confronting each other. Time seemed to stop as they looked at each other in silence. The situation was in stalemate and both of them were unaware of anything as they focused on each other. In the blink of an eye two or three minutes passed without neither side taking an action.

Eugene lightly breathed to calm down. There was slight pain from his chest once in a while but he used his magic marks to muster the strength towards the chest. Otherwise the wound would get worse.

Being punched by Dean wasn't not all about wound. Eugene was able to determine Dean's strength. There was a gap in strength in between them but that gap wasn't big!

Moreover, Eugene was aware that this gap could be made for by using martial arts and tactics.

Fortunately, the environment was to his advantage. The small space would force Dean to face Eugene in a direct combat.

Eugene turned angry once more as he pondered about everything! He was cheated once more!

Dean wasn't planning to shoot an arrow! He was just wearing off Eugene's stamina by having this stalemate. Eugene had to keep his body state at best condition because of the confrontation.

“Damn it!” Eugene cursed in his heart. He dashed forward to

break the stalemate. The more time passed the more he was suffering because of his injury!

Dean's released the string of bow the moment he saw Eugene move.

Whoosh~

Eugene raised his sword and block the arrow.

Dean was tightly staring at Eugene's reaction. He pulled the string and released the second arrow.

Bang~

The moment Eugene's sword swung and blocked the first arrow, second was shot.

Eugene was like a fish in the water. He escaped from Dean's second arrow and slashed at Dean.

Dean saw Eugene's sword move. He though of Secret Combat arts of the Dragon clan!

Dean's body bent over to avoid the sword attack while he kicked towards Eugene's crotch.

Eugene's face changed as he hurried back once more. He jumped back for few steps and looked at Dean in anger: "Despicable! Do you only know those fishy moves?"

"Does the job." Dean indifferently replied.

Eugene's face was full of anger but his heart was calm. He was trying to make Dean think that he was angry: "Too bad kiddo! I have seen through your strength! I have to admit that you are strong and almost on par with me. But you are a dead man! Your bow and arrows are meant for primary limitless! You can't release them at full strength but I have my sword!"

Dean narrowed his eyes: "I have sword too."

"where?"

"Your hands."

Eugene smiled in fury: "I will give it to you then!" He growled and rushed out. He sprinted in a straight line and stabbed forward.

The sword began to slightly jitter as Eugene stabbed forward. It was a skill used to confuse the opponent's vision and judgement.

Dean's eyes narrowed to the extreme as his eyes concentrated on the attack. He was still at a senior hunter level and he knew that he could fight against monsters on level 40 to 45. It meant that he had the strength of a veteran primary limitless. He was lacking a

lot in strength in comparison to Eugene because of the disparity in their levels of strength. However, he felt like his blood was boiling and his heart desired this battle!

Whoosh

The moment the sword reached him, Dean took few steps back and avoided the attack.

“Don’t escape!” Eugene grinned as he caught up: “Don’t you want the sword? I’m going to give it to you!”

Dean body jumped for seven or eight meters as he twisted on air. He fell down on Eugene’s previous position.

Ian, Martin and others who saw this were shocked. They didn’t knew that two ‘rookie’ were hidden dragons. Eugene had already surprised them. But Dean’s reaction and speed seemed more rapid and sensitive!

Whoosh~

Eugene’s sword was again aimed at Dean.

Dean’s body crawled down. His posture was extremely strange and unlike something that human would do. However, Dean was acting on instincts. His body refused to move otherwise. There was only battle in his mind and two words that went back and forth. Avoid and Attack!

He was looking for flaws in Eugene's attacks!

His body avoided the attack once again. Eugene's movements and the sword's trajectory were analyzed in his brain. He didn't think about anything but acted on instincts. There was a wonderful feeling in his heart. There was excitement and bloodthirstiness! He felt like he was a hunter looking at his prey.

Whoosh~

Dean's body moved and escaped Eugene's attack by a breath.

Rapid~ His body moved as the scene in front of him rapidly changed. The magic marks in his chest began to gently twist and pass a wonderful feeling.

"Are you going to avoid my attacks?!" Eugene was scared in his heart. Firstly, he felt that as if his speed had slowed down. Later on he saw that it was Dean's speed that got faster. Was Dean going through a growth during a battle? It was impossible! An idea emerged in his heart which resulted in fear! Eugene growled to pretend that he was angry.

Dean jumped out the moment Eugene roared. Dean didn't think that his body would rush out.

Eugene was excited in joy when he saw Dean rush at himself. He slashed his sword using the most destructive style of the dragon

clan – ‘Dragon Blade’.

This style would make the sword to bring out 200% of the power but the disadvantage of the move was that it didn't have many curves or techniques to it.

Dean's eyes narrowed as his body twisted in a weird manner. It seemed as if he had additional invisible hands and feet that helped him move that way. The moment sword passed by him Dean's palm reached out!

His nails stretched out as he grabbed Eugene's wrist. The nails penetrated through the flesh and blood began to ooze out.

“Off!” Dean roared.

Puff~

Eugene's palm was torn out from his wrist!

Chapter 532 - Unidentified Eggs

Eugene's eyes narrowed as his face turned ugly. He tried to use his left hand to grab his right wrist to stop the overflow of blood.

Dean grabbed onto broken wrist of Eugene as if it was the hilt of the sword and took the opportunity to retreat and increase the distance with Eugene.

He wanted to get free breath from the intense battle.

He coldly stared at Eugene as he held onto the sword's hand and pulled off Eugene's broken hand. He threw the hand onto the ground which was full of mucus. He didn't previously attack Eugene because it was Eugene's broken hand which was holding the handle of the sword.

Ian and others had cold sweat drip down their bodies as they watched the life and death battle. They knew that they would have lost or even killed if any of them fought against Eugene or Dean.

Eugene's face turned ugly as he tightly held his right wrist with his left hand to stop the bleeding. He clenched his teeth to bear the violent pain that surged because of losing his right hand. However, the fear in his heart made him forget about the torn hand. An icy feeling burst out in his heart. He saw Dean break through his expectations again and again during this battle. Eugene was best at using his sword with his right hand. Right now, he didn't have neither the right hand nor the sword. He had no chance to win against Dean with the set of basic standard armor that he was

wearing at the moment.

Failure meant death! He would lose everything including family, and loves ones!

Dean coldly looked at Eugene. He swiftly rushed forward as he stabbed out the sword.

Eugene was focused on Dean's body. He loosened his right hand the moment Dean moved. He had no palm on his right arm but both his arms were up in a defensive posture.

Whoosh~

The distance of ten meters were overcome in milliseconds. Dean's sword pierced Eugene's chest. Eugene capture Dean's wrist that was holding onto the sword. He saw that Dean didn't use any skills during the stab. However, he had learned about 8 skills that were meant to grab or seize the opponent with empty-hands. Eugene knew that he had chance to reverse the situation as long as he got back his weapon. Although his left hand wasn't as flexible as his right hand but it was still good because of long-term training.

Eugene was planning to invite Ian and others into the battle if Dean gave him a chance to breath. Unfortunately, Dean's attack came fast. As a result, he couldn't turn towards the others as he would be distracted.

Whoosh~

There was joy in Eugene's eyes when he grabbed Dean's wrist.

"It's over." Dean whispered.

Eugene was about to press onto Dean's wrist to break it apart.

However, Dean raised his other hand. He had a dagger in it.

Puff~~

Dagger flashed past and blood sprayed out!

Eugene felt an electric shock pass by his body. He was horrified as he let go of Dean's wrist to touch back his neck. The hot liquid began to flow down his fingers.

His heart turned bitter as boundless fear emerged out.

Eugene tried to open his mouth. He was ready to let go off his dignity to beg Dean to let him live. He wanted to live! But he saw Dean take back the sword and look at him without any emotion in his eyes. It was as if Dean was watching an ant!

Bang~ Eugene's body fell down.

Dean watched Eugene for a moment and confirmed that he was

dead. Then he turned slowly and looked at the crowd. His vision could cover 270 degrees so he was able to see Ian, Martin and others wink at each other without turning around. Nevertheless, he turned and spoke: “We can’t stay here for long! We must leave as soon as possible. I hope you guys will tell that we encountered a monster attack and Eugene was killed during the battle.”

Ian and others exchanged glances. Ian deeply looked at Dean and nodded: “We will.”

The battle didn’t take too long and Dean wasn’t injured. Ian thought that Dean hadn’t consumed too much stamina. Eugene was dead and was working for Her Highness Hailey. They thought that Dean would kill them to hide the matter. But now, Dean’s words indicated that he wasn’t planning to act so. Neither Ian nor other didn’t dare to attack Dean. After all, they saw that Dean was too strong. They would kill Dean if five of them attacked together. But there would be casualties and the price would be too heavy! In short, it wasn’t worth it.

“When are you going to leave?” Martin asked.

Dean calmly replied: “I will take a small break to recover my strength. By the way, if our battle was caught by the monster then we will be dead.”

Ian and Martin’s eyebrows wrinkled up. They hesitated for a moment but then gave up on their intention to attack Dean. They didn’t know if Dean was just giving an excuse to them to restore his stamina but he had acted way too generous. They couldn’t find a reason to oppose him so they were tangled.

Dean pierced the sword onto ground and removed his backpack to take food and water. He ate and drank while thinking about the previous battle. He remembered the excitement that he felt. His intuition and instincts told him that pioneers were dangerous but he could go to war with Eugene.

He felt as if he was some kind of a predator from the jungle going after his meal.

“There was something that I felt missing during the battle...” Dean whispered to himself. Although he felt fun during the battle but he always felt as if his body was lacking something. He felt awkward as if his body wasn’t flexible enough. Perhaps, he would have felt more natural if he had few more hands and feet.

The image of splitter emerged in his mind as he pondered about the issue. The long limbs that looked like razors and blades. The body which twisted and swayed like a seagrass. His eyes lit up as he understood that the magic marks were integrating the abilities of the splitter into his body. It was genetics at work! Activation of magic marks didn’t just bring strength but evolved the body. They changed the body.

It meant that the abilities of the monsters could be inherited. So, the battle styles of the monsters could be passed through genes too!

More Dean thought about the battle more he decided that it would be much more fun if he more hands and feet to take the same posture as splitter.

The idea of 'fun' was about being happy but it was kind of a feeling that was delivered to his heart from his brain. For example, when his brain reacted that he was hungry then he ate. In other words, his body had demand for more limbs!

“The parasitic soul worms lived in the body of the splitter since birth. They had completely integrated with the fighting style of the splitter...and they had passed this to me...” Dean raised his eyebrows. He can't have so many extra limbs like a splitter. It would just make him look abnormal in human circle. Even well-known heroes of the inner wall like Aisha couldn't have such inhuman body.

He checked his hand and gently twisted it. His wrist was twisted within a strange angle. He was slightly startled. In the past, Dean didn't know that he could use his hands this way to move his body. But his body reacted on instinct when he faced crisis.

“My body can't turn to look like a splitter but it moved with similar posture like splitter. My body is changing... The thing is I'm not just transforming because of the magic marks but magic marks are gradually transforming to integrate properties of splitter to my body...” Dean pondered.

Ian and others saw Dean twist his wrist and arm. They had seen his arm twist into a position that normally would end up being broken.

“Hey!” A voice broke their thoughts.

All of them looked towards Rosemary who was standing in front of broken egg and pointing inside it: “What is this? It’s not...”

Ian was doubtful as he stepped forward. He secretly was on guard against Dean. However, he was surprised when he looked at the insides of the egg. His eyes narrowed as he sucked in cold breath: “Are they the eggs of the silencer?”

Chapter 533 - Hidden

All of them were startled when they heard Ian's words.

Martin, Ruby and others leaned over.

Dean saw that one of the white eggs was affected by the previous battle. It was broken and fluid was flowing out. The color of the fluid was turbid and it was viscous.

A small animal was wrapped in mucus inside the white egg. It was the size of a small human baby. However, it looked very weird as it seemed to be mixture of many beasts. Overall, it looked like a lizard. It had long tail but there were about 8 three-legged calves on its abdomen. There were two bone spurs raising from its spine. There was a small hall in the middle of those spurs. It seemed the monster was using those to breathe.

Its head was triangular and looked similar to a snake's head but much larger. In addition, its body was covered in translucent scales.

Dean's eyes narrowed as he was aware that this creature's body shape was different from silencer's body. Although they saw a silencer in its mature stage which was totally different from its larval stage but there were way too many differences. Moreover, he had seen the larval and cub stage forms of the silencer on the atlas. It was totally different from this little creature.

Martin's face changed as he slowly whispered: "It's not silencer..."

We have strayed into the nest of another monster.”

“Another monster?” Ruby was startled.

An unknown premonition rushed into Ian’s heart as he listened to Martin and stared at the small monster within the white egg. He saw the tail of the curled creature gently move for an instant. It seemed as if it was illusion but he was aware that it moved. He raised his hand and gestured the rest to move back: “It’s alive.”

Dean stepped back as he also saw it. He kept his distance with Ian and others to avoid being attacked by them.

Luna’s eyes lit up: “This creature isn’t recorded in the atlas. Most probably its a new variation! We can get great rewards if we take it back!”

The others were moved by her words.

Martin whispered: “The problem is that we have to figure out why there is a nest of another monster underneath the silencer’s nest!? These are not eggs of pecker or bloodgiver unless...”

Ian’s face slightly changed: “Unless, it is another monster’s nest...”

Martin nodded: “Yes. Don’t forget the big guy sleeping above us. If I’m not wrong the that guy had hunted silencer and bloodgiver as a food for its children. Most probably, pecker was fortunate and

lucky enough to escape to the foot of the mountain where it met us...”

Ruby, Luna and Rosemary didn't take his words into heart.

Luna looked at him: “Do you mean to say that the big guy sleeping above us is more terrifying than silencer?”

Martin's face was gloomy as he stayed silent.

Ruby retorted: “If it is as you say...Then why is it sleep above but not here? Why would it sleep and let us inside its nest?”

“I'm not sure about that, I can't figure it out.” Martin frowned.

Ian pondered: “There may be another possibility. Another monster had dig a nest under the silencer's nest. It would protect its nest via silencer and prevent other monster to hunt its eggs.”

Martin and others were surprised.

“Maybe.” Martin nodded.

Ruby added: “If it is so then it means that monster will come here again. Could we wait for it and kill it when it comes down? Afterwards, we can chisel the passage out through the trajectory that it came in.”

“We won’t have to travel from above if that’s true.” Rosemary replied.

Dean saw that he was sidelined so he added: “Not necessarily.”

“Well?” Ian and others looked at him in wary.

Dean asked: “Why would silencer make its nest above another monster’s nest? How could another monster sneak under silencer?”

“This” Ruby wanted to refute Dean but couldn’t find a reasonable answer.

Luna added: “Perhaps, silencer was aware of this but it was killed before it could dig deeper.”

“Well, it’s possible.” Ian nodded.

Dean frowned. Luna’s argument didn’t have loophole so he couldn’t refute. But he couldn’t agree with her in his heart. He felt that some kind of information was missing and that was the key.

Martin looked at Ian: “Let’s take this little creature and get back to the giant wall.”

Ian nodded and looked at Ruby: “Eat our supplies.”

“No problem.” Ruby take out his backpack and began to eat everything. He had eaten a lot before the task but everything was consumed in the battle against the pecker.

The sounds of Ruby chewing food echoed in the hot cave.

Ian and others stood and observed the little monster.

Dean was on the other side as he observed the place to check for the missing information. Suddenly, he saw an egg in depth of the nest by the other eggs. It was different from the others.

He took few steps forward and bent over on instinct. He saw that there was a hole on the side of the egg and it was empty. There was no mucus no monster! Totally empty!

His face turned cold as he shouted in hurry: “Be careful! There is...” He couldn’t finish his thoughts as screams interrupted him.

Chapter 534 - Depart

Dean continued: "Previously, Luna was about 10 meters away from you all while I was about 15 meters away from you. So why didn't it attack me? It has observed the fight between me and Eugene so it has decided the risk of attacking Luna who was closer to you to be much lower than me. It had picked Luna which means that it's not an ordinary monster. I has wisdom!"

"The only way to get revenge for Luna is to burn this den and force the monster out. However, we will lose all the eggs and the flame will disturb the monster above us. In this case, none of us will leave in one piece!"

Ian and others were startled by Dean's argument. They couldn't argue back or retort his statement as it clearly described the situation.

Rosemary and Ian were concerned about this problem but Dean's statement ringed the bells of alarm. They understood the seriousness of the situation.

Martin stood in silence as he looked at Ian. He knew that Dean's speech had changed everything. He whispered: "We will leave but we shall take Luna's body with us so that it doesn't become food for this beast!"

Ian and Rosemary were relieved when they saw Martin had changed his mind. Ian nodded: "Ruby, get a storage bag from the backpack and put Luna's body in it.. We will leave afterwards."

Ruby nodded as he took out a storage bag from the backpack and moved towards the previous hatched egg that was ten meters away. He seemed nervous as he felt as if the monster will attack from the darkness any moment.

Hah~ Ruby was shocked to the core when he felt something grab from his shoulder.

He turned to see Martin who spoke in an indifferent manner: "I'll accompany you."

Ruby reluctantly smiled but in his heart cursed: "You freaking bastard! Do you want to scare me to death?"

Soon, both of them reached the location of the broken egg. Ruby handed the torch to Martin and removed the gloves from inside. He wore them and was ready to get the small monster inside.

Martin spoke to urge him: "Hurry up!"

Ruby swallowed his saliva and bent a bit lower towards the crack. He looked around but was surprised to see that there was nothing inside but the liquid. The sleeping small monster had disappeared!

How could it be?

Ruby was horrified as he said to Martin: "Bring torch down."

Martin was startled the moment he saw the strange expression on Ruby's face. He immediately moved the torch towards the cracked egg: "IT's not here! How?"

Dean, Ian and Rosemary's hearts jumped up in nervousness when they heard Martin's words. They rushed out without hesitation.

Dean looked inside the egg to see that the previous little monster that they saw within the cracker egg was gone. He felt a very bad feeling burst out in his heart.

Rosemary whispered as she blankly looked at the cracked egg: "Is it possible that the monster could act dead even just after birth?"

Ian was startled as his face turned pale: "I'm afraid its sibling had taken the opportunity to take it out when we were... Does it mean that it deliberately had attacked Luna to attract our attention away from the cracked egg?"

Ruby was shocked: "But how could a premature monster could learn to play dead...."

Dean checked the ground near the cracked egg. He saw the vague traces which showed something was slipped over the ground to the rocky wall. His face changed slightly as he looked at the wall of the cave.

Rosemary quickly said: "If all of the eggs hatch then I'm afraid..."

Ian understood what she meant: "Let's go, we will leave right now!"

Martin glanced at the eggs in the den: "Are we going to scourge them or destroy them before we leave?"

Ian replied: "We won't get anything even if we report to the family.."

Martin added: "Family will send a pioneer to solve out the matter if we report to them... But the problem is that the monsters hatch out before the arrival of the pioneers will be a big problem to the teams that would perform tasks in the future. The possibility of encountering them will be great and more dangerous..."

Dean looked at him and didn't expect the Martin to put away his greed and think so far ahead.

The thing was that the dragon clan would get the whiff of these monsters once they began to cause destruction after growth. So they would send pioneers to clean them up whether they inform them now or not. But the biggest lost would be to the teams that come out to perform tasks.

"I do agree with MArtin" Ian patted on Martin's shoulder: "The potential of these monsters is limitless. Most probably it is a new kind of monster. I think clan would give us great rewards if we inform them. It would be the reward equal to tens of tasks... We can take this opportunity to get rid of unending tasks..."

Martin nodded as he stood in silence: "I know."

Ian no longer delayed: "Let's depart."

Dean looked up the hole that was at least 20 meters high: "Who can up that high?"

It was a height which was more than the jumping limit of an ordinary limitless.

Rosemary said: "I will." Her body slightly shake as the sounds of bones echoed out. She took a mantis like position and made a jump. She was able to directly reach out and pass the hole.

She quickly tossed down rope after she climbed up.

Dean acted fast as he jumped and grabbed the rope to climb up.

Ian and Martin were startled but understood why Dean acted so. Their faces changed but they couldn't stop Dean from climbing up.

Ian and Martin were silent as they moved up the rope.

Ruby was the last as he swallowed his saliva and grabbed from the rope to climb up.

Chapter 535 - Departure

Dean continued: “Previously, Luna was about 10 meters away from you all while I was about 15 meters away from you. So why didn’t it attack me? It has observed the fight between me and Eugene so it has decided the risk of attacking Luna who was closer to you to be much lower than me. It had picked Luna which means that it’s not an ordinary monster. I has wisdom!”

“The only way to get revenge for Luna is to burn this den and force the monster out. However, we will lose all the eggs and the flame will disturb the monster above us. In this case, none of us will leave in one piece!”

Ian and others were startled by Dean’s argument. They couldn’t argue back or retort his statement as it clearly described the situation.

Rosemary and Ian were concerned about this problem but Dean’s statement ringed the bells of alarm. They understood the seriousness of the situation.

Martin stood in silence as he looked at Ian. He knew that Dean’s speech had changed everything. He whispered: “We will leave but we shall take Luna’s body with us so that it doesn’t become food for this beast!”

Ian and Rosemary were relieved when they saw Martin had changed his mind. Ian nodded: “Ruby, get a storage bag from the backpack and put Luna’s body in it.. We will leave afterwards.”

Ruby nodded as he took out a storage bag from the backpack and moved towards the previous hatched egg that was ten meters away. He seemed nervous as he felt as if the monster will attack from the darkness any moment.

Hah~ Ruby was shocked to the core when he felt something grab from his shoulder.

He turned to see Martin who spoke in an indifferent manner: “I’ll accompany you.”

Ruby reluctantly smiled but in his heart cursed: “You freaking bastard! Do you want to scare me to death?”

Soon, both of them reached the location of the broken egg. Ruby handed the torch to Martin and removed the gloves from inside. He wore them and was ready to get the small monster inside.

Martin spoke to urge him: “Hurry up!”

Ruby swallowed his saliva and bent a bit lower towards the crack. He looked around but was surprised to see that there was nothing inside but the liquid. The sleeping small monster had disappeared!

How could it be?

Ruby was horrified as he said to Martin: “Bring torch down.”

Martin was startled the moment he saw the strange expression on Ruby's face. He immediately moved the torch towards the cracked egg: "IT's not here! How?"

Dean, Ian and Rosemary's hearts jumped up in nervousness when they heard Martin's words. They rushed out without hesitation.

Dean looked inside the egg to see that the previous little monster that they saw within the cracker egg was gone. He felt a very bad feeling burst out in his heart.

Rosemary whispered as she blankly looked at the cracked egg: "Is it possible that the monster could act dead even just after birth?"

Ian was startled as his face turned pale: "I'm afraid its sibling had taken the opportunity to take it out when we were... Does it mean that it deliberately had attacked Luna to attract our attention away from the cracked egg?"

Ruby was shocked: "But how could a premature monster could learn to play dead...."

Dean checked the ground near the cracked egg. He saw the vague traces which showed something was slipped over the ground to the rocky wall. His face changed slightly as he looked at the wall of the cave.

Rosemary quickly said: "If all of the eggs hatch then I'm afraid..."

Ian understood what she meant: “Let’s go, we will leave right now!”

Martin glanced at the eggs in the den: “Are we going to scourge them or destroy them before we leave?”

Ian replied: “We won’t get anything even if we report to the family..”

Martin added: “Family will send a pioneer to solve out the matter if we report to them... But the problem is that the monsters hatch out before the arrival of the pioneers will be a big problem to the teams that would perform tasks in the future. The possibility of encountering them will be great and more dangerous...”

Dean looked at him and didn’t expect the Martin to put away his greed and think so far ahead.

The thing was that the dragon clan would get the whiff of these monsters once they began to cause destruction after growth. So they would send pioneers to clean them up whether they inform them now or not. But the biggest lost would be to the teams that come out to perform tasks.

“I do agree with MArtin” Ian patted on Martin’s shoulder: “The potential of these monsters is limitless. Most probably it is a new kind of monster. I think clan would give us great rewards if we inform them. It would be the reward equal to tens of tasks... We can take this opportunity to get rid of unending tasks...”

Martin nodded as he stood in silence: “I know.”

Ian no longer delayed: “Let’s depart.”

Dean looked up the hole that was at least 20 meters high: “Who can up that high?”

It was a height which was more than the jumping limit of an ordinary limitless.

Rosemary said: “I will.” Her body slightly shake as the sounds of bones echoed out. She took a mantis like position and made a jump. She was able to directly reach out and pass the hole.

She quickly tossed down rope after she climbed up.

Dean acted fast as he jumped and grabbed the rope to climb up.

Ian and Martin were startled but understood why Dean acted so. Their faces changed but they couldn’t stop Dean from climbing up.

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Chapter 536

“Come on,” Ian squatted on the edge of the hole, urging for him to come.

Without speaking, Ruby grabbed the ropes as he went up and the other held the torch, his feet rubbing up the ropes and struggling to climb up. Suddenly, a wind from who-knows-where came in and blew away the torch.

Ruby’s heart gushed a glimmer of fear, could not help but turned around and look around in the gloomy darkness, it seemed to him that things will suddenly spring out.

Thinking of bad thing, with his throat slightly rolling, without hesitation, he grabbed the rope with one hand and quickly climbed.

He climbed halfway, and suddenly a ‘whiz’ sounded.

Ruby’s pupil shrank, looking aghast, but saw an arrow shot straight from above the hole, wipe from the torch side, driven by the erratic flow of air, Zheng Xiang soon, the arrow seems to hit the metal above, issued a sharp ring.

“It’s behind you !!” Ian hurriedly shouted: “Come on!”

Ruby’s face turned pale and could not look back, even with the torch in his hand, quickly grabbed the ropes with both hands and

quickly climbed. Rushing to the hole above, and when he held Ian's palm, his heart was slightly relieved, but suddenly, he felt something on his feet, and he suddenly sank.

“No -” Ruby's heart panicked and quickly lifted another pedal to go.

Whoosh!

Another arrow swept past.

Clank, and his body suddenly took off, Ian pulled him to the hole above, and he was a little gloomy, had a dark face scared with cold sweat, sitting near the hole. He turned to the dark hole. At the bottom, there was darkness. The fallen torch was extinguished like a feeble flame, and it seemed that there was a shadow passing by from the flames before it went out.

Ruby swallowed saliva, just to pass with the death of God, he turned around and looked aside, but saw Dudian slowly bow to the back, obviously, the previous two arrows are from Dudian's hand.

He did not think there was a gap before the moment Dudian will help, heart fever, grateful authentic: “Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

“Nothing.” Dudian glanced around, and said: “Here isn't safe, this thing is likely to climb out to chase, we will leave as soon as possible.”

Ian seeing Ruby, nodded and said:” Yes, apply the upper body of the dead powder, be careful not to startle the big guy outside. ” Martin looked at Dudian, with the eyes of the convergence of a few enemies, and removed the backpack to cover the smell of the corpse powder painted, and other people are disguised finished, lunch first in front.

Along the way back to the channel, people walked quietly; the bones of the ground lightly stepped over did not make the slightest noise.

As the distance from the cave became closer and closer, people became more and more nervous, even Dudian also inevitably lost some breath, he took the second step, and once the monster was alerted, rushed to the outside of the cave, all red. Out of the cave, he can fly away with wings, although this will expose his ability to Ian and others, but whether or not they can survive is a problem, and it is impending, too carefree.

The cave was dark and humid, in addition to rancid and bloody odor, but there was also a strange smell, a bit like rot soaked corpse smell, with the previous hole below the smell in the nest somewhat similar, but there were some differences .

A few people had a bad sense of smell, but all smelled the smell of this cave, and the expression of some dignified, that big guy that is not far away.

Dudian’s muscles were tense and ready to flee.

Ian gave Martin a wink, signaling that the thing is probably right in front of the corner. Martin was also aware that the smell here was so strong that he felt irritating and could feel the distance between the two, leaving his heart tense and clenched his arms and his footsteps lightly dropped, but he did not send a hint of sound.

He dared to reveal his eyes and look out of the corner.

Dudian, Ian, and Raby suddenly felt Martin's body become a little stiff, can not help but mind, ready to strain.

After a while, Martin slowly retracted his head and gave a soft voice to everyone before he bowed down and leaned forward.

Dudian eyes flash, tighten the breath, gently behind. Suddenly when he saw something behind the corner, he suddenly knew the reason for Martin's slight stiffness. He saw a huge horrific shadow crawling on the ground after a corner exit corner like a lizard and poisonous scorpion. Road bifurcated tail, the whole body wrapped in silver scales, huge, but the body slender, just to be able to accommodate into this cave, the body covered with strange limbs on both sides, like spider legs, but also like a small centipede, there Long and short.

Dudian saw this thing in the moment, they feel a terrible feeling, but let him really shocked that he only looks like this monster, there is a record in the monster encyclopedia, is one of the eight legendary monsters!

This is a super magic monster!!

In contrast to the splitters of the ultimate attack type, the Vultures are good at lurking and are among the top lurking monsters, in a way more daunting than the rulers, even more than the sharks Monster, it may also be attacked by it to kill, and even some of the top top man in the human, but also escape its claws.

Ian and Ruby, face aghast, they also recognize the identity of this monster, never imagined that in this orange barren area, actually encounter a century-old legend Monster!

Ian eyes flashed a trace of greed, but soon covered by fear, he smoothed his breath, his body muscles grew tight. In the presence of the monster in front of him, his meagre prowess was of little to note.

Suddenly he regretted that he had known that this big guy was the legendary monster who would rather starve to death in his den and would not want to come out. Only now has been halfway, it can only bite the bullet and continue to go. He can only pray that this hunting monster was asleep and will not be awakened by them.

“This looks like a mature hunter who hunts at sixty-four to sixty-seven.” Dudian glanced at the form of this hunting monster, the legend of the monster in the monster encyclopedia is relatively simple, only the mature stage. And the morphological portrayal of the whole body phase, he suddenly noticed that the silver scales of this hunting monster were similar in shape to the silver scales seen earlier in the cave.

In addition, the shark's upper triangular head was also familiar. It was very similar to the hatred horror monster in the nest, except that the triangular arc on its head was slightly inwardly recessed so that the triangle on the head was clearly defined, like a spiky extension.

Dudian, settled, suddenly understand, can not help but look a little ugly, it is clear that this entire caves are its territory, listening to the wind and the blood odor, most of them are caught it back the food! The nest eggs in the nest, it is born under the hatcher pups. Only, the previous photographer met with its shape difference, resulting in a time they did not think of it.

After all, the monsters will degenerate at every stage, and some monsters will even degenerate to the extent that they have no similarities with the previous one.

Dudian kind of back to the initial feeling of terror when he was snapped back to the nest, his eyes slowly moved to the front of the cave, not far behind in this hunting film is the exit of the cave, just rushed out, with wings, it was entirely possible to escape!

“Almost!” He moved cautiously forward.

Kaka!

Suddenly, a soft sounded from behind issued.

Dudian's pupil suddenly shrink, although did not look back, but the moment of sight to see the source of the sound, from Ruby's feet.

