

Astral Apostle

- Chapter 193: Aptitude Limit (1) |

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In less than two days, the closest lord from the surrounding cities rushed over and met with the Imperial Hunter Squad to successfully take over Deep Rock City.

With the arrival of the professionals, the hunter team did not stay any longer. After handing it over to the lord, they took the Cloud Spine Dragon's corpse that had already been processed by the craftsmen and set off.

The surviving civilians were very grateful to the Imperial Hunters, who had been accidentally involved in the incident but ended up becoming the saviors of Deep Rock City. Although they had suffered considerable losses, they still gathered some food and gave it to Zhou Jing and the others as rations on the way.

The outline of Deep Rock City was soon left behind. Zhou Jing and the others pulled the Cloud Spine Dragon along the road. Compared to when they came, two more people were on the team.

One was Dorton, whose limbs were broken and tied to a handcart. His thrice-enhanced physique guaranteed that he would not die easily. At this moment, his jaw was still dislocated, and he could not speak. He could only whimper weakly.

The other was Lynen. He had brought simple luggage with him and was wearing a thick burqa. He held a wooden walking stick in his hand and was dressed like a wanderer.

After thinking about it, he finally decided to accept Zhou Jing's invitation. He would end his seclusion and leave with Zhou Jing.

As for his future plans, he did not think far ahead. It was just that after the turmoil of the night, where he had used sorcery to defeat the Mutant Blood Warrior for the first time, he was finally no longer willing to be ordinary and was determined to open the door to a new world.

Lynen did not trust Zhou Jing much, but as Zhou Jing had said, this was the most suitable teammate for him at the moment, so he might as well form a team. He was not someone who liked to take the initiative and thus did not mind moving to live in the

capital. His main goal was to form a team with Zhou Jing and hope that Zhou Jing would protect him in the future to find more nature spirits.

However, Cole and the other hunters were confused, not understanding why Zhou Jing had brought a civilian along.

“Why bring him along? Is there anything special about him?”

At the front of the group, Cole whispered into Zhou Jing’s ear.

Zhou Jing chuckled, “There’s nothing special about it. Didn’t I save him previously? His family was burned down and he plans to move to the capital. We might as well bring him along.”

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Cole accepted the explanation. He didn’t mind protecting a civilian who happened to be passing by. He looked back at Lynen, who was sitting on the cart.

Lynen had a slightly delicate appearance. Because of that, he looked younger than his actual age of 26 or 27 years old. He had thin arms and legs, and his figure was rather frail.

However, his physical fitness improved slightly after fusing with the nature spirit. He was healthier than ordinary adults and comparable to a soldier who had received long-term training.

“I see. I thought you took him in as a hunter’s apprentice... He looks thin and weak, but his stamina is not bad. He has potential.” Cole clicked his tongue, and his burning gaze wandered over Lynen’s body with interest.

Under this gaze, Lynen subconsciously clenched his buttcheeks. He turned his body awkwardly, not daring to look directly at Cole.

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Soon, it was nighttime. The team found an open grassland to camp and started a bonfire.

Usually, hunters would eat and sleep outside, and since they also had to track mutated beasts, they would usually only bring some jerky and dried vegetables as food. This time, they saved Deep Rock City and obtained many ingredients from the commoners. On their way back, they had the time to cook.

A few of them took out the iron pot that the Deep Rock City had given them from their luggage and threw in some vegetables. Then, they used some materials to cut some

useless meat from the Cloud Spine Dragon's body and threw it into the pot to make a stew.

Because there was no seasoning, the taste was not very good. However, the ingredients were of good quality, and the meat of the mutant beast was quite delicious. The mixture was stewed until it turned soft and mushy. When one put it into his mouth and chewed, his teeth could easily bite through the stewed meat, and the gravy with the fragrance of meat would instantly fill one's mouth.

The hunters had an astonishing appetite. They cut a few rounds of meat from the Cloud Spine Dragon and threw them into the pot. It was like a buffet stew pot, with additional dishes that could be self-serviced at any time.

The group ate until they were all around 80% full before they packed their things and went to rest.

Zhou Jing took the initiative to keep watch. When the hunters were all asleep, he woke Lynen up and went to the side to communicate in a low voice, asking about his experience in sorcery cultivation.

According to the incomplete book, there was only one way to perform sorcery: fuse with a nature spirit.

The first step was to attempt to sense the natural elements and enter a state known as "Elemental Vision." Otherwise, it was impossible to fuse with the nature spirit.

The method was recorded in the book. According to the explanation, this could test if a person had the potential to cultivate sorcery.

The main world also had a sorcerer system, but it was different from those "sorcerers" recorded in the incomplete book.

In Zhou Jing's opinion, this spell system in the Mutant World should be more accurately called "Shaman" or "Elemental Sorcerer." They utilized a primitive and special spell form and did not place as much emphasis on the accumulation of knowledge as the main world's spell system. This system was more inclined to the use of mental and psychic powers.

"...Back then, I tried to sense the natural elements according to the contents of the book. I'm the only one who practiced it, but I'm sure you could succeed..."

Lynen lowered his voice, holding a small wooden box filled with blue paste in his hand. He kept using his fingers to draw out a little and smeared it on Zhou Jing's exposed upper body.

The remnants of the sorcery book wrote the method to let ordinary people sense the elements—they required supplementary materials. They could crush a few special herbs and minerals, add water, stir them into an ointment, and then draw special symbols on their bodies. Then, through a meditation-like state of concentration, they could slowly enter the Elemental Vision state.

Only after fusing with the nature spirit would there be no need for such a ritual. One could activate his elemental vision at any time.

Soon, the symbols were drawn. The ointment felt cold on his bare body.

Zhou Jing checked and confirmed that the symbols on his body matched those in the book.

“Empty your mind, imagine a fire. Focus on thinking about it burning. That way, you can get rid of all kinds of distracting thoughts.” Lynen generously imparted his experience.

Zhou Jing did as he was told. He sat on the ground and closed his eyes to meditate.

From time to time, the wind would blow, causing the ointment to feel even colder. However, as time passed, the ointment gradually coagulated and dried, forming a layer akin to dried mud on the body.

However, from start to end, Zhou Jing did not sense any natural elements. The world in his perception had never changed.

“I don’t think it worked. Let’s try again.”

Wiping away the dried salve, Lyn reapplied a fresh coat of the symbols.

Zhou Jing tried twice more, but he still did not succeed.

He raised his hand to refuse Lynen’s offer to do it again, shaking his head.

“There’s no need to continue. It seems that I don’t have the potential.”

After thinking back to the [Secret of Sorcery] achievement that was triggered at that time, he already understood the situation. If he wanted to sense the elements, he would most likely need the aptitude of “Magic” or “Natural Amicability.”

However, his second Astral Realm Apostle, Jason, did not have the aptitude for this. Zhou Jing had a faint premonition, but he decided to give it a try. Unfortunately, there was no miracle.

Although he had the small aptitude enhancement rewards for “Magic” and “Natural Amicability,” the foundation of “Jason” was too low. Their base was not even at the

white tier. He probably would not be able to reach the threshold of cultivation even if he used it all on Jason.

“Don’t be too sad...” Lynen didn’t know what to say. He was afraid that Zhou Jing wouldn’t be able to accept reality and would vent his anger on him.

“It’s alright. It’s not a big deal.”

Zhou Jing dried his body and put on his clothes again. He did not show any disappointment.

This made Lynen heave a sigh of relief. Instead, he was surprised that Zhou Jing was so open-minded and calm.

Zhou Jing was indeed not too disappointed. It would be best if Jason could cultivate sorcery or at least figure out the requirements for the aptitude needed. In the future, if he had the chance to create a new apostle from the Astral Realm, he could make use of this opportunity.

“Besides, Bill might be able to practice sorcery.”

Zhou Jing thought about it and felt that there was a high chance that his other apostle was able to do so.

Bill didn’t have any Magic aptitude, but his Natural Amicability aptitude had reached the Green tier. He was much better than Jason and might be able to enter the Elemental Vision state.

What a pity. He had originally wanted Jason to dual cultivate in magic and martial arts, as well as the profession of “Mutant Blood Warrior” and “Elemental Sorcerer.” It seemed that this apostle could only be a muscular man...

That was fine too. This apostle would focus on physical development. At least, it was a pure route.

Zhou Jing smacked his lips.

He was not discouraged. As long as there was another Eternal Apostle who could become a shaman, he could transform his spellcasting ability into his main body and let his main body walk the path of dual cultivation. There was still hope.

“*This is worth a try...*” Zhou Jing secretly set a new goal.

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Although he had failed to learn sorcery, Zhou Jing did not neglect Lynen. Along the way, he kept asking for his cultivation experience as a deliberate way to get closer to him.

When Lynen realized that Zhou Jing did not have the aptitude for magic, he instead became easier to talk to. He no longer had to worry about Zhou Jing abandoning him after becoming a sorcerer. With less awkwardness in his heart, the two of them got along much more naturally.

The team trekked all the way. The journey was calm and without any twists and turns. Finally, they returned to the capital at noon a few days later.

Everyone traveled faster than the news. When they returned, the news of the chaos in Deep Rock City had yet to reach the capital. No one knew about it, and the capital was tranquil and peaceful.

Zhou Jing and the others immediately looked for Keriber to report this matter, causing the commander to reel in shock. He pulled the few of them to understand the situation in detail before hurriedly leaving the empire's hunter base to report to the empire.

It was not until dusk that Keriber returned to the base. He went straight to Zhou Jing and got straight to the point.

"Jace, get ready. Follow me into the palace to see the king!"

Hearing this, Zhou Jing's eyes flickered.

His identity had finally been noticed by the core power of the Empire, like Bill.

Chapter 194: Appreciation (1)

The palace of the Terra Empire was located in the capital's inner city. It was a group of castles that occupied a large area. The main castle was the most towering and eye-catching, and it served as the administrative core of the King and the Imperial Council's exercise of power. There were four castles around it, each with its own uses. They were connected to each other by bridges.

A high wall separated the palace from the civilians. It was heavily guarded, and outsiders were not allowed to enter.

In the mouths of the people of the capital, this castle was usually called the "Golden Fortress." The meaning of this name was mainly to praise the spirit of the royal family of Tarn. In fact, there was nothing golden about the palace castle at all. Instead, it was blue in color. The outer walls were hung with flags with the Tarn family's emblem and the Empire's mark.

Even after being in the Mutant Beast world for so long, this was the first time Zhou Jing had stepped into the imperial court.

He followed Keriber through the inner city gate, walking along the main road leading to the castle known as the Path of Glory. They arrived at the entrance of the Golden Castle, and with the supervision of the Royal City guards, they temporarily removed their weapons before entering the premises.

The evening had just passed, and night had fallen. The Golden Castle was brightly lit, and the guards who had just changed shifts were patrolling diligently.

The Golden Castle was heavily guarded. In order to prevent supernatural beings from infiltrating, there were many Mutant Blood Warriors guarding the Golden Castle and the royal guards.

Usually, a Mutant Blood Warrior would lead several ordinary guards for a regular patrol team. There were also sentries made up entirely of Mutant Blood Warriors guarding the area.

The Mutant Beast Hunters were not allowed to walk around in the Golden Castle unattended. Zhou Jing and Keriber followed the two teams of royal guards to the Imperial Conference Hall.

This time, it was not an official audience but an emergency meeting. After learning of Keriber's report, King Becky Tarn immediately convened an Imperial Conference to discuss and summoned Zhou Jing, the party concerned, to ask about the details of the chaos in Deep Rock City.

At this moment, as soon as Zhou Jing stepped into the Imperial Conference Hall, he found a few important ministers waiting there. Many of them were familiar faces, and they were all people he had seen when he was using Bill's identity. Among them was Roman.

"Your Majesty, ministers, this is the Imperial Hunter, Jace. He was the one who personally stopped the atrocities of the bandits and prevented the tragedy of Deep Rock City from happening."

Keriber stepped forward and introduced Zhou Jing.

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King Becky and many ministers looked at Zhou Jing in unison. This was the first time they had met, so they could not help but size him up.

Zhou Jing also pretended to sweep his gaze across everyone's faces as though seeing them for the first time.

“You’ve done well.” Becky nodded steadily. “I’m glad to see a hero with a sense of honor and responsibility like you in the team of Imperial Hunters.”

Zhou Jing nodded slightly. His attitude was calm, not excited by the King’s commendation.

This was because Jason was different from Bill. He portrayed a powerful hunter who had experienced hundreds of battles and life and death situations. Being strong and steady was the image he needed to play.

Seeing how calm he was, no one was surprised. All experts had their own temperaments.

Becky didn’t mind and asked about the details of the chaos in Deep Rock City. Zhou Jing recounted the story, only leaving out the existence of Lynen.

After hearing the details, a look of surprise appeared on Becky’s face.

“This group of bandits called the Sons of Mutant Blood have nearly 40 Mutant Blood Warriors. Most of them were killed by you alone?”

Many ministers present also looked at him in suspicion.

They had already heard the report before, and this was what made them question it the most.

Sensing the distrust of many ministers, Keriber spoke up for them and explained.

“Everyone, there’s no need to doubt Jace’s strength. He’s also one of the top elites among the third enhancement hunters. After joining the empire for more than half a year, he has already become one of the top experts among the empire’s hunters. Even against a fourth enhancement hunter, the latter might not necessarily win against him. Most importantly, Jace still has the determination to continue strengthening. I think highly of him. Perhaps he can become another fifth enhancement hunter after me!”

Hearing this, everyone could not help but size up Zhou Jing in surprise again.

It was not easy to obtain Keriber’s high praise. They did not expect Keriber to think so highly of this hunter called Jace.

A Mutant Beast Hunter with determination and potential who might reach the fifth enhancement in the future was someone valued highly by everyone.

Even the leader of the royal guards, Irene Tarn, also looked at him with interest.

“Hehe, you’re really a respected veteran hunter. I hope that your future enhancements will go smoothly and that the Empire will have another fifth enhancement warrior as a pillar of support.” Roman smiled and said some polite words.

“I’ll try my best.” Zhou Jing did not say much.

King Becky waved his hand and did not continue the topic. He instead addressed Zhou Jing solemnly,

“Jace, you’ve done a lot of good. If the Sons of Mutant Blood had succeeded, it would have made the other bandits feel that evil was easy. Fortunately, you foiled their scheme and didn’t let things continue to deteriorate. Otherwise, the success of the Sons of Mutant Blood would have attracted more people to imitate them.”

After speaking, Becky paused. His expression was both angry and helpless as he continued,

“But even if this group of bandits fails, what happened in Deep Rock City will still have a bad impact, triggering more people’s ambitions to do evil. If there’s a first time, there will be a second time. In the future, there might be more newcomers who, after obtaining the power of Mutant Blood, choose to trample on the law...”

Roman agreed at the right time, “Yes, this is just like what happened to Jason in White Plains Town back then. That person had failed to assassinate the lord. Although he died, the impact had already been caused. Later on, the Lord of White Plains Town was kidnapped and killed precisely because someone imitated him... Once such a thing happens, it can’t be salvaged.”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Back then, the assassination attempt in White Plains Town made everyone present resent the man who started this whole affair.

As people with authority, they would never allow their own safety to be threatened. Anyone who dared to disobey this rule was the public enemy of the ruling class and considered a rebel.

Although everyone knew that the Lord of White Plains Town was in the wrong, they still treated Jason as a criminal... If one were to set a precedent of resisting the ruling authority with an assassination, more people would think that there was still such a choice in the future.

These ministers vaguely understood the principle of guarding against the mouths of the masses. Unfortunately, even if they wanted to stop the people from discussing this matter, they could not do so. After all, the degree of development of civilization was

limited, and the royal authority could not control what happened too far away. It was not like high-tech civilizations that could seal everyone's mouths at any time.

It was also because the instigator, Jason, was already dead. Otherwise, they would have long sent out bounties for him all over the country and would not stop until he was dead. They still had not given up on investigating the mysterious murderer who killed the Lord of White Plains Town.

However, what these ministers did not know was that the murderer had already arrived in front of them, but no one recognized him.

Zhou Jing's expression was calm as if he had not heard anything.

"He's talking about Jason, but I'm Jace. What business is it of mine??"

Becky coughed to quiet the crowd before slowly continuing,

"No matter what, the matter in Deep Rock City will spread sooner or later, so I've decided to hold a public execution. I'll judge and execute the leader of the Sons of Mutant Blood in public. I'll let everyone see the outcome of the bandits and the strength of the Imperial Hunters!"

Everyone was not surprised. Before Zhou Jing arrived, they had already discussed this plan.

Since they could not stop the news from spreading, they could only reverse the direction of the rumors and emphasize the fate of the bandits and Jace's heroic image.

At this moment, Becky looked at Zhou Jing and revealed a rare smile. "Jace, you've made a great contribution this time. I'll give you a corresponding reward to thank you for your contribution. Do you have any requests?"

Zhou Jing pretended to think for a moment and said, "I don't have anything to request. I don't care about money. This is the duty of the empire's hunters. Compared to that, I would like to personally execute Dorton."

Hearing this, Becky was a little surprised. He pondered for a few seconds and didn't refuse. "Okay, since you caught the criminal yourself, you'll resolve it."

After saying that, as he looked at Zhou Jing's calm expression, Becky admired him even more.

"You're not bad. I'll keep an eye on you."

Zhou Jing nodded in greeting, putting on a cold front to the end.

After chatting about the matter, the meeting ended. Zhou Jing bade farewell to the King and the others and followed Keriber out of the Golden Castle.

“Now that the king knows that there’s someone like me, in the future, if Jace/Jason stands on the Empire’s side, his path will be easier.”

This time, there were too many people present, so Zhou Jing had no intention of revealing any information about the tribes’ independence plans. Moreover, this was his first time meeting the King, so he did not trust him enough.

Although he did not take the opportunity to cause trouble, he had obtained the King’s appreciation and made an impression. In the future, it would be feasible to find a reason to ask for a meeting, unlike before when he could not establish a connection with the King.

“Now that I’ve found a channel to reveal the conspiracy of the tribe’s independence, I can wait for the opportunity to cause trouble...” Zhou Jing thought to himself.

He had already decided to hedge his bets. Bill would take the Roman faction, while Jason would naturally take the Empire’s side.

Now that the situation was unclear, he could place his bets on both sides. It was safer that way.

Watching Zhou Jing leave, Roman retracted his gaze, his eyes flickering.

A hunter with the potential of reaching five enhancements... Pity. Although it was worth roping such an individual in, such hunters were often determined and difficult to bribe or subdue.

Moreover, his potential was only something that had yet to happen. Perhaps, this person would die suddenly the next time he decided to enhance...

Roman shook his head. For the time being, he didn’t plan on getting too close to Jace.

Although a powerful hunter was important, in his opinion, it was nothing much.

Bill, who was able to develop the Mutant Blood Potion, was more worth roping in. In comparison, a hunter was nothing.

Roman had already formulated a plan. He planned to launch a fierce headhunt when Bill ended the closed development program. He would definitely take this talented pharmacist under his wing.

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A day later, a notice was posted in the capital to publicize the chaos in Deep Rock City.

This news shocked the residents of the capital, causing myriad ripples to spread. Soon, it became the main topic of conversation in the streets.

Because promoting positive influence required a typical example, the empire emphasized Zhou Jing's contributions. They planned to establish the image of a hero and divert the attention of the world from the bandits.

The title of "Savior of Deep Rock City" was certified by the empire and was given to Zhou Jing.

The name "Jace" quickly spread throughout the city, becoming a celebrity among the hunters. It was discussed fervently by the residents of the capital.

As the Empire's notice was sent to other cities, Jace's reputation gradually spread. The incident in Deep Rock City was known by more people, causing a sensation everywhere.

To Zhou Jing, the most direct manifestation was that the Legendary Points awarded by his Life Episode, [Riot in Deep Rock City], kept increasing. Soon, it reached 5 points, which was equivalent to providing an additional 5% of daily income. As his reputation would still increase over time, there was still room for improvement.

Zhou Jing did not care about the publicity of the empire. He busied himself in helping Lynen settle down in the capital, occasionally going to discuss the incomplete sorcery book with Lynn. The rest of the time, he stayed in the Imperial Hunter's Base and waited for the public execution.

He had roughly finished learning all the breathing techniques in the Hunter library. Zhou Jing had already planned to let Jason undergo his fourth enhancement, but he was not in a hurry. This was because Bill had been placed in the workshop for quite a while and was developing a new type of blood potion. He already had some ideas and progress on it.

He planned to let Jason use the new blood potion. The enhancement should be greater than normal blood potions.

Once the research and development were successful, he would be able to enjoy this benefit and become the first "New Era Enhancer"!

Chapter 195: Miraculous Armament and Successful Development (1)

As the rumors of the chaos in Deep Rock City fermented, the capital city produced two voices. One was about praising the Imperial Hunters and the achievements of Jace, the "Savior of Deep Rock City." The other was to denounce the Mutant Blood Warriors. To be precise, it was a collective outbreak of fear for those with extraordinary powers.

Hunters resisted mutant beasts and had a high status in the hearts of the citizens. However, if Mutant Blood Warriors, other than hunters, did evil, the threat they created would not be small. The incident in Deep Rock City was an example, causing many citizens to feel uneasy.

In the past, only the elite warriors of the various tribes were strengthened. They were all experienced warriors who had the spirit of fighting and contributing to the tribe. They were united against the outside world. After the establishment of the Terra Empire, due to the increase in production capacity, changes in the system, and the implementation of the supernatural path, the composition of the people who used the blood potion became complicated. Moreover, there were more choices for the successful ones. This caused the frequency of vicious events to increase after the supernatural system was popularized.

After the establishment of the Terra Empire, they chose to expand the scope of the enhancement using Mutant Bloods and use the population base to produce more experts to protect the country. All of this inevitably loosened the control of the transmission of supernatural powers. Therefore, although the chaos in Deep Rock City was an accident, it seemed to be inevitable for the ordinary people to have a higher level of fear and prejudice against the Mutant Blood Warriors. Even if there was no incident in Deep Rock City, other incidents would have happened over time.

As times changed, people's thoughts and ideas often went from simple to complicated, and this was generally an irreversible process. As the first regime in the world, the Terra Empire had been established for 40 years. It was difficult to predict where the future would lead and what changes would happen to the entire world.

However, the subtle change in the world's perception was only a spark at the moment, and it did not have much impact on the hunters for the time being. Moreover, as a typical example of the empire's propaganda, Jace enjoyed the benefits of his reputation. The people basically were praising him to the high heavens.

Zhou Jing kept a low profile for this period of time. Soon, it was time for the public execution. Since King Becky-Tarn had agreed to his conditions, he invited Zhou Jing to serve as the executioner.

In the central square of the capital, an execution platform had been set up. Dorton's hands were tied, and his hair was disheveled as he knelt in front of the platform. He was wearing rough linen clothes, and his entire body was covered in wounds left behind by whips, cuts, and other interrogation methods.

Becky-Tarn, Roman, and the other ministers of the Empire sat on the stage. There was a circle of guards around the execution platform, blocking the citizens who were approaching to maintain order.

The audience below the stage was filled with the residents of the capital who had come to watch. The crowd was agitated. From time to time, someone would throw a stone at the dying Dorton, accompanied by curses.

“You’re a butcher!”

“Look at his dirty and evil face. He was born bad. He should have been strangled to death by his parents when he was born!”

After the Empire’s announcement, the residents of the capital already knew that the main culprit of the chaos in Deep Rock City was the bandit group “Sons of Mutant Blood.” They hated the leader, Dorton, to the core.

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Dorton lowered his head and remained silent. He did not dodge, allowing the weak stones to hit his tough body.

Becky-Tarn stood up and looked down at the people below the stage. He raised his hand to silence everyone before speaking in a clear voice,

“In order to protect the people from the mutant beasts, we established fortress cities one after another. To this day, we have protected countless people. However, this crazy villain wants to use despicable methods to rob a city that carries the safety of thousands of people for his selfish desires and malice. He even wants to kill a large number of civilians! Under the glorious rule of the Terra Empire and the royal family of Tarn, such an evil act is destined to fail. A thug who trampled on the law and the hearts of the people cannot be forgiven. Today, the Imperial Hunter, Jace, will personally execute him!”

“That’s right! Kill him! Cut off his head!”

The people below the stage responded loudly and shouted in excitement.

Becky-Tarn nodded in satisfaction before turning back to look behind the execution platform. He signaled for the execution to begin.

Receiving the signal, Zhou Jing strode onto the execution platform.

The moment he appeared, it caused a commotion below the stage. The words “Deep Rock City’s Savior” and “Dual Blade Jace” constantly sounded from the masses.

After the Empire's publicity, the process of Zhou Jing defeating Dorton was also revealed. The residents of the capital gradually gave him a new nickname, "Dual Blades."

Some famous Mutant Blood Warriors had different nicknames. For example, Keriber had titles like "Chief Hunter of the Empire" and "Dwarf." The captain of the royal guards, Irene Tarn, had the title of "Royal Blade."

Although the third enhancement hunters were outstanding, they had yet to reach the level of the top combat power and were not conspicuous enough. They were generally not famous in a place like the capital. However, the Deep Rock City incident allowed Jason/Jace to become famous overnight, making him an exception.

Zhou Jing did not stop walking. He came behind Dorton and slowly pulled out the blade, placing it against the back of his neck.

In the eyes of the audience below the stage, Dorton, kneeling on the ground and bending his neck to be beheaded, was ugly and pathetic, while Jace, standing behind Dorton, was covered in light. It was the comparison between the winner and the loser.

Zhou Jing raised his saber.

The square fell silent. Everyone held their breaths as they waited for the bandit leader's head to fall to the ground.

At this moment, Dorton, who had his back to him, suddenly spoke in a low voice. It seemed to be mixed with indescribable madness and laughter.

"Look at their hateful expressions. I'm dead, but did I really lose?"

"A bandit who's justifying an atrocity? You're not worthy."

Zhou Jing was expressionless as he slashed down.

Splat!

Blood sprayed, and the head fell to the ground.

Hua la la ——

The people below the stage cheered excitedly.

"Hero! Hero!"

This form of address made Zhou Jing uncomfortable. However, he kept a straight face and retreated from the execution platform.

Becky-Tarn once again addressed the crowd, emphasizing the inevitable failure of any Mutant Blood Bandits. After warning others not to have such thoughts, he ended the public execution.

Dorton's body was not left where it was. It was collected by the guards and placed on the city wall with his head on a spear as a warning.

After the residents of the royal capital joined in the fun, they vented their emotions and dispersed.

After the crowd dispersed, Zhou Jing was stopped by Irene-Tarn to receive the reward promised by the king.

First, she passed over 5,000 silver coins in a small box.

Other than money, Irene also took out a long saber and handed it to Zhou Jing.

"This is a new weapon developed by the Empire Workshop. This saber is fused with the special parts of several mutant beasts that can ignite. During the swing and collision, it will slowly activate the fire core inside the handle. As the blade gradually warms, the heat is enough to ignite the fire core. The flames produced will be spat out through special grooves along the blade and attach to the specially treated blade. It can be used to slash out a Flame Aura..."

Zhou Jing's eyes widened in surprise.

He wouldn't find this kind of creation strange if he were in the main world. Enchantment, technology, blessings, and a series of other methods could achieve similar effects... However, there had never been any equipment in the Mutant World that used such special abilities.

What kind of principle was this? Could it be related to sorcery?

He carefully sized up this saber. The blade was glowing with a faint red color, like a piece of red crystal with a steel texture. It was quite beautiful. The blade and hilt were larger than ordinary weapons as if there was something stuffed inside.

Zhou Jing could not help but ask curiously, "When did the Empire Workshop develop such a weapon?"

"Not too long ago," Irene explained. "This weapon is called the Miraculous Armament. It hasn't been officially made public and isn't sold to outsiders. Because the production process is extremely difficult, even a master craftsman will find it difficult to replicate a successful product. The requirements for the materials are also quite harsh. As of now, the Imperial Workshop has only created less than ten Miraculous Armament. The king specially instructed me to give this 'Raging Inferno' to you."

So it was confidential technology... It seemed that King Becky appreciated him and specially used this novel thing to rope him in.

Zhou Jing casually waved the Raging Inferno a few times, finding it much heavier than an ordinary long saber.

“Why can this blade breathe fire?”

Irene replied casually, “I’m not a craftsman, so how would I know? In short, I heard that they used a special method to process fire sacs, fire essences, and other materials produced by mutant beasts to make a fire core and put it into the hilt... By the way, the fire core is not unlimited. It’s said that it can spit fire 30 to 50 times at most. These three fire cores are for you to use as backup. After you use them up, you need to request for more from the workshop. You can replace the fire core after you remove the hilt.”

As she spoke, she took out three thin black and red sticks. They were about the size of a palm. These were the fire cores.

After Zhou Jing heard this, he roughly knew that it was an improvement in processing the mutated beasts’ equipment. This fire core was probably similar to solid fuel and had nothing to do with sorcery.

Although he had to “satisfy the pre-requisites” before he could release a fire attack, it was still a new attack method.

If this Miraculous Armament was difficult to create, it seemed like it would not become popular on a large scale in the future. Only powerful hunters would be able to equip it.

“The name sounds nice, but the effect isn’t very strong... Perhaps the technology isn’t mature enough yet.”

Zhou Jing shook his head secretly. He accepted the Raging Inferno as well as the three spare fire cores and decided to change one of his current two sabers.

At this moment, Irene suddenly said, “Jace, are you interested in becoming my subordinate?”

“Oh?” Zhou Jing looked at her in confusion. “Even if I’m not a member of the royal family of Tarn, I can still be a royal guard?”

“Not all the royal guards are royal members. Your strength is not bad, and you meet all of our conditions.”

“This is the King’s will?”

“No, that’s my intention.” Irene raised her eyebrows.

“...What’s going on? Has this female warrior taken a fancy to my muscular body?”

Zhou Jing was surprised but waved his hand in refusal, “I’m still used to being a hunter.”

“Alright, if you ever change your mind, you can come look for me.”

Irene didn’t mind, turning straight to leave.

Zhou Jing watched her leave before opening the interface to check the achievements of killing Dorton.

[First Kill – Mutant Blood Warrior (Third Enhancement)]

[Obtained 1500 Astral Points, awarded 1x [Aptitude Enhancement – Physical Fitness (Small)], x1 [Aptitude Enhancement – Resistance (Small)] x1]

“A small profit.” Zhou Jing was satisfied as he chuckled out loud.

After executing Dorton, Jason had nothing left to do for the time being. It wasn’t time for him to agree to Lynen’s request to find a new nature spirit. He still needed time to prepare. Besides, he wasn’t working for nothing. Helping Lynen obtain the spirit of nature was ultimately a way for his apostle to step into the realm of Sorcery.

Jason was hopeless in this regard, so he could only see if Bill could become a Sorcerer.

At this moment, Bill was still in the closed-door development of the potion. The most important thing now was to wait for the results of Bill’s research.

...

Jason’s fame gradually spread throughout the country. During this time, Bill had been focused on developing the new blood potion.

Because there were too many people and there were no beginner materials for sorcery, when Zhou Jing switched to Bill, he did not try to cultivate sorcery for the time being.

Two months later, in a secret empire workshop.

Dozens of pharmacists surrounded a pharmaceutical table and stared intently at the medicinal liquid in the pot that was slowly undergoing a qualitative transformation.

The moment the potion changed, Zhou Jing, who had personally descended on Bill’s body, took out the potion bottle that he had prepared and poured the potion into it.

He ignored the boiling heat and took a small sip of the potion. He narrowed his eyes, savoring the quality of the potion.

After a while, Zhou Jing turned around and spat out the medicine. Facing everyone's expectant and nervous gazes, he smiled.

"Everyone, the new blood potion has been successfully created!"

Chapter 196: Legal System, New Medicine (1)

In the deep of the night, within the king's bedroom in the Golden Castle.

Becky-Tarn sat up in bed and took out a handkerchief to wipe away the perspiration accumulated from his 'exercise.' After putting on thin pajamas, he poured a glass of wine. He took a sip and carried the glass to the terrace to look down at the capital city under the night sky.

"Your Majesty... is something bothering you?"

On the soft bed, the Queen, who still looked beautiful despite not being young anymore, was naked. She pulled the blanket to cover her chest and looked at Becky's back curiously.

They had been married for many years and knew each other's habits very well. When they were "exercising" just now, she clearly sensed that Becky was distracted and could not perform well... but she did not dare to say it out loud.

(TL Note: Emotional damage)

Becky swirled the wine in his glass before he suddenly said, "Do you remember when the Empire was first established?"

"It's been forty years. I was born not long ago then. How would I know?" The queen shook her head.

"But I remember it very clearly." Becky's tone was reminiscent, "I still remember the enthusiasm of the various tribes when they joined forces. At that time, everyone had a beautiful vision. They hoped to stop internal strife and friction. They wanted to gather the strength of all the tribes and completely resolve the threat of the mutant beasts so that everyone could live in a safer world... I followed my father to participate in the Joint Assembly of Tribes on the eve of the establishment of the empire. I witnessed the Tarn Clan finally becoming the royal family elected by the various tribes. I witnessed my father's coronation ceremony."

The Queen gently said, "It is these experiences that have made you so wise. The Empire has grown stronger under your rule. This proves that the Tarn family is born with the bloodline of a king."

Becky shook his head. "These words are only for outsiders to hear. Tarn is no different from other tribes. It's only the glory and deeds of Raven·Tarn, our ancestor, that have established the revered status of our tribe's blood relatives. In fact, there has never been any royal bloodline."

"Did something happen?" The Queen sounded worried. Usually, Becky wouldn't tell her that.

Becky's tone was low, "I heard some voices, questioning Tarn's legal system."

.....

The queen was shocked, "Who is so bold?"

"Some people who are unwilling to give up are making more and more small moves. We haven't found the source yet."

Without turning around, Becky spoke in a low voice.

"The empire has only been built for a short 40 years, but the hearts of the people have changed. The initial enthusiasm and original intention of establishing a country together are like embers, only leaving behind a tiny flame that can be extinguished at any time. When Father ruled, everything was very stable, but the situation changed when the throne was passed to me. Father had expected this.

He told me that the bond formed from tribal unity was not strong. The throne was the source of chaos. Once everyone felt like they could take turns sitting on the throne, chaos would be born. Therefore, the best choice was for the members of the Tarn to continue the inheritance. It could prevent disputes and prevent the Empire that had been painstakingly created from fighting back to the tribal era... However, the various tribes had deliberately neglected one thing when they elected the Tarn as the royal family. That was, they did not admit that our Tarn could always hold the throne. Some people felt that the throne would rotate, and they would become the royal family."

The queen opened her mouth wide, "Someone wants to take His Majesty's throne?!"

"Perhaps... Even if there isn't someone like that now, it will appear in the future. I was born before the Empire was established, and I can still be barely recognized to succeed the throne. But what about the next generation? The stronger the Empire, the more benefits the royal family will receive from it. Some tribes will be more unwilling to accept it. Sooner or later, there will be people who think they are qualified to covet the throne and fight for the legal system of Tarn."

Becky slapped the railing of the terrace and said firmly, "40 years is still too short. Only by ruling for a long time can we establish the legal system of Tarn! Therefore, in order to stabilize the rule, we have to suppress the development of the tribes and let these

people with disloyal intentions slowly weaken until they lose the ability to divide the empire... I can tolerate the joint rule of the tribes, provided that they further recognize the legal system of Tarn and support the Empire. A country can only have one voice and only one bloodline that is qualified to occupy the throne.

“Only by wiping away the traces of the tribal era can we truly enter the new era of unifying the Empire... The Tarn tribe is not a natural King, so I’ll use a few generations to make the world believe that Tarn possesses the bloodline of a King! What I want to do is to lay the foundation for generations to come!”

Becky’s eyes burned with ambition.

The queen murmured with admiration, “I’m sure Your Majesty can do it.”

But Becky shook his head and suddenly sighed, “It’s difficult... The royal family can gather the resources of the entire country and widen the gap between them and the other tribes. However, those tribes won’t sit back and do nothing. I have to ensure that the advantage of the royal family can’t be shared with them too much, so they won’t be satisfied. In order to protect the interests of their respective tribes, they will definitely steal the resources of the country in places that I can’t see and slowly drain the Empire...”

Becky paused and muttered to himself,

“Therefore, I need more special resources that can’t be easily replicated. I need to be completely in the hands of the royal family so that I can widen the gap between us and the tribe...”

At this moment, there was a flurry of footsteps outside the door, followed by a knock.

“Your Majesty, I have something important to report!” The voice of his trusted guard sounded.

The Queen hurriedly put on her clothes.

Becky returned to the room, put down his glass casually, and said in a low voice, “Come in.”

The door opened, and his trusted guard hurriedly walked in. He bowed and said, “Your Majesty, there’s news from the Empire Workshop that the new blood potion has been successfully made!”

Chapter 197: Legal System, New Medicine (2)

Becky's expression suddenly changed into ecstasy.

The development was really successful?!

He couldn't be bothered to sleep anymore. He hurriedly walked out of the house in his pajamas and urged, "Let's go, we'll go to the workshop now!"

...

In the Empire's Secret Workshop.

In the middle of the night, King Becky rushed over and immediately summoned the people in charge of the workshop to report.

Everyone quickly gathered together.

"Your Majesty, these are the two new blood potions."

The officer in charge of the workshop was overjoyed. He held two boxes and opened them on the table, revealing two potions inside.

"What's the exact effect?" Becky maintained a steady tone, but his heart felt like there was a cat scratching inside, bursting in excitement.

"These two new blood potions were made by Master Bill. He will explain their functions to His Majesty."

The workshop head said respectfully.

The crowd parted to reveal Bill. The upper echelons of the workshop looked at him with respect and admiration.

.....

The development of the new blood potion had actually begun before the founding of the country. At that time, the various tribes were still independently researching it. A few years after the establishment of the Terra Empire, through some interests and methods, the research progress of the various tribes was gathered and developed on this basis. However, in the past 40 years, they had never been able to overcome the technical difficulties and had made almost no progress.

However, ever since Bill joined the R&D team, the stagnant research progress was finally pushed forward. In just a few months, they completed the project that had troubled them for decades. All the craftsmen in the secret workshop were already amazed by Bill.

Although Bill's "professional title" was still that of an expert pharmacist, all the craftsmen had long given him the title of "master" and were extremely respectful.

Of course, Zhou Jing knew very well that most of the credit belonged to his Item Analysis Function. Bill's pharmaceutical skills had not reached such a high level yet. Without this auxiliary function, he would be at a loss like the other craftsmen.

Zhou Jing was personally descending on Bill this time, hence stepped out of the crowd and explained with a smile,

"I'll temporarily name these two new potions the Mutant Blood Potion Version 2 and 3.. The V2 potion greatly increases the success rate of enhancement. Even if I fail, I won't die suddenly, and the damage to the user will be reduced. The V3 potion can allow one to inherit a mutant beast's special abilities, which is stronger than the original Mutant Blood Potion."

Hearing this, Becky could hardly keep a straight face.

At this moment, Zhou Jing added, "However, both potions have flaws. Although the V2 potion is much safer than the original, the effect of each enhancement is much lower. Moreover, the success rate is higher only when you use it for the first three times. If you continue to enhance past that, the failure rate will increase exponentially, and it might even be less safe compared with the original..."

On the other hand, the third type of medicine is the opposite. The enhancement effect will increase, but the failure rate will also increase. Moreover, there can only be one special ability. For example, if you obtained the fire ability of a mutated beast, you can only strengthen the flames in the future, but you can't use the third type of medicine again to obtain other special abilities. Otherwise, there will be a conflict, and you will definitely die."

Through the item analysis function, even without a large number of experimental samples, he basically understood the specific effects of the two new blood potions.

Becky suppressed his elation, his mind racing as he considered the changes the two potions would bring.

Although the enhancement effect of the V2 potion was not as good as the original, it was safe and gentle. If it was popularized, the future hunters would probably focus on the V2 potion and form a group of "new era hunters," replacing the original hunters and becoming the mainstream group.

The V3 Potion would enhance and form the rare "Special Hunter" group, becoming a new source of top combat power.

As for the original Hunters, their strength would be placed between the two.

Almost instantly, Becky made a decision.

—These two new potions had to be controlled by the royal family!

The V2 Potion could only be used by the Imperial Hunters, the Imperial Army, and the Royal Guards. It could not be used on a large scale, especially not by the tribes... because this medicine had the possibility of producing a large number of Mutant Blood Warriors!

There was no need to mention the V3 Potion. It could only be used to nurture experts worthy of the royal family's trust!

Various thoughts passed through his mind. Becky gazed at Bill, and inexplicable emotions flashed in his eyes—surprise, possessiveness, and fear.

In just a few months, he had solved a problem that the Empire had not been able to solve for decades... This Bill was definitely a talent that only appeared once in a hundred years!

He could not be allowed to leave the capital for even half a step. He had to be controlled tightly. He could not even obtain too much freedom... Becky took a deep breath, his emotions fluctuating.

Originally, no craftsman would be treated like this, no matter how talented they were — but the results of Bill's work could almost subvert the hunter ecology and create new models. It was already at the level of a monstrous talent.

If Bill had taken a few years or a dozen years to complete the research on the new blood potion, Becky would not have had the idea of controlling his freedom... But Bill's performance had gone beyond Becky's common sense. It felt inhuman.

With Bill's age and creativity, there was a high chance that he would develop more powerful formulas in the future... If there were no other tribes, Becky would also choose to rope him in with benefits, feelings, honor, and other methods.

However, once the tribe recognized Bill's shocking value, they would definitely fight over this person. Becky did not want the other tribes to come into contact with Bill.

Moreover, roping him in was secondary. What he was most afraid of was that some tribes would use radical means to either kidnap Bill or destroy him if they could not obtain him. They would not leave him to the royal family.

For a moment, Becky thought of many things. He was both happy and worried at the same time.

“Your Majesty, what do you think?”

Realizing that Becky was silent, Zhou Jing probed.

Becky came back to his senses and nodded heavily, "Very good! Master Bill, your creation will rewrite history! The world will praise your great deeds!"

"These are all fine... I'm more concerned about how many rewards there are." Zhou Jing chuckled and rubbed his fingers, ruthlessly grasping the apostle's personality.

"Don't worry, the royal family will definitely not mistreat you!"

Becky had on a solemn expression as he promised.

"Hehe, then I'll slowly look forward to it." Zhou Jing grinned.

Becky pulled himself together and continued to ask about the research and development process before leaving.

Before he left, he asked the guards to guard the workshop and not allow anyone to leave. He said that he wanted to seal off the news.

Everyone was used to it and had no objections.

Zhou Jing could only stay in the secret workshop for the time being.

After dealing with his colleagues who had come to congratulate him, Zhou Jing returned to his room and opened the interface.

After making the new blood potion, a lot of information appeared on the interface.

[Triggered achievement: Mutant Blood Potion Improvement!]

[Received 2,000 Astral Points, 50 Information State Particles, 1x [Aptitude Enhancement – Pharmacology (Medium)!]

[Triggered achievement [Potion Master]!]

[Obtained 1,500 Astral Points, 1x [Aptitude Enhancement – Pharmacology (Small)!]

[You have received a new Life Episode — Founder of the New Mutant Blood Potion!]

[Rating: National Tier]

[+3 Current Legendary Point Count]

Zhou Jing's eyes flickered with excitement.

“The new Mutant Blood Potion will greatly change the Mutant Blood Warrior system in the future. As the potion is implemented, its influence will gradually expand. In that case, the daily benefits will produce enough Information State Particles... Perhaps this time, I won’t have to achieve any life goals before I can steadily gather the conditions to become an Eternal Apostle!”

After being happy for a while, Zhou Jing calmed down and considered his situation.

His pharmacology talent was so outstanding that it must have been further increased in value in the eyes of the royal family.

If he were the higher-ups, he would not allow such a person to run around. He would most likely have to watch over him.

“In order to make me willing to continue developing the potion with all my heart, they won’t use too harsh a method. It’s better to show goodwill and rope me in... I wonder how far the royal family will go.”?Zhou Jing thought to himself.

...

On the other side, somewhere in the Golden Castle.

“You said the King left late at night and made an emergency trip to the secret workshop?”

In the bedroom, Roman was reading at night when he suddenly received a message from his trusted aide. His expression changed slightly.

Could it be that there was a breakthrough in the development of the new blood potion?

This kind of research could easily be measured in years. This time, it had only been a few months...

Is he that fast?

Roman closed the book, and his eyes flickered. He gave a command to his trusted subordinate.

“Get me information. I want to know what happened there.”

Chapter 198: Tied Through Benefits (1)

For a few days, many guards were placed at the secret workshop. The craftsmen were allowed in but not out, so the news was temporarily sealed.

Many craftsmen worked overtime to learn the formula of the new blood potion and began to create it en masse.

Due to the complexity of the formula and the lack of proficiency, even though the craftsmen in the secret workshop were all elites, it was difficult for them to produce the finished product in a short time. They were considered lucky to succeed even once out of ten times. Their current work mainly focused on practicing.

Only Bill, the developer, could steadily produce the new blood potion with the help of the item analysis function.

After a few days of this, King Becky visited the secret workshop again. This time, he brought those experimental subjects who had tested out the new potions.

Four strong men stood in the middle of the room, looking straight ahead as Zhou Jing and the other craftsmen examined their bodies.

On the stretcher beside them lay six weak men. Their faces were pale, and they coughed up blood from time to time.

“I chose ten people from the royal guards to take the V2 Potion. These four are those who succeeded. The six who failed did not die, but they are coughing up blood non-stop and are weak all over.”

Irene, the captain of the guards, came too. She stood beside King Becky and explained the situation.

Zhou Jing nodded to himself... 40% success rate was much higher than the original version.

The original version of the blood potion, when used by ordinary people who had not been trained, only had a success rate of about 4-6%. People had to train hard to have a strong body to increase the success rate, but it was estimated to be no more than 20%. It was only half the success rate of the V2 potion.

The initial strength of his far exceeded that of ordinary people, which was an exception. However, to ordinary people, the original potion was a gamble of life and death. But now, not only was the success rate of the second potion high, but it would also not die if it failed. It was completely two different concepts.

The craftsmen present were all excited. They deeply understood what kind of change the difference between the two would bring.

The only problem was that the enhancement effect of the V2 Potion was much worse than the original.

Zhou Jing pretended to check. From time to time, he would pinch the muscles of the Enhancers, but at the same time, he secretly used the detection function on the successful Enhancers.

[Attributes: Physical Fitness 14, Resistance 11, Perception 7, Spirit 5, Energy 0]

“Their attributes are similar to Ross’ when he first enhanced... However, these Enhancers are soldiers of the Royal Guards. They are well-trained, and their basic attributes are higher than Ross’ clean slate of just 5 basic attributes. Previously, when I used detection on the normal Royal Guards, most of them had 7 points of physical fitness, 6 points of resistance, and 5 points of perception... Therefore, if I calculate it this way, the enhancement effect of the V2 Potion probably increased their attributes by 14 points.”

Zhou Jing came to a conclusion.

Back then, when Ross first underwent his enhancement, his total attributes had increased by 21 points, but the enhancement effect of the V2 Potion should only be two-thirds of the original.

The attributes of the V2 Enhancers were not even comparable to a dumb-dumb like Ross...

However, the main reason for using this was that there was an advantage in safety. In the future, there was a high chance that the original potion could be eliminated. There should be fewer and fewer hunters utilizing the original version, causing the average combat strength of supernatural beings in the future to decrease. This might also meet the needs of the empire... This was the analysis that Zhou Jing came up with.

He then checked on those who had failed the enhancement and found that their attributes had only been slightly weakened. The aftereffects of the failed enhancement resulted in many of their organ functions being damaged. It would probably cause a strong warrior’s body to collapse. He would be so weak that he would not even be at the level of ordinary people and would suffer from illness for a long time.

Although he could slowly recover from his injuries, he could not fully recover his health... However, it was better than dying suddenly.

After gaining a specific understanding of the V2 Mutant blood potion, Zhou Jing memorized it in his heart. He looked around and asked curiously, “Why aren’t there any users of Version 3?”

Irene shook her head in response, “I let five of the royal guards use the V3 Potion. All of them failed and died. I didn’t continue trying.”

“Are they all dead?” Zhou Jing shook his head. It was not surprising that the success rate of the V3 Potion was lower than the original.

Irene paused for a moment, then said in a low voice, “Things were different when they died. Some of them spontaneously combusted, and some of them were electrocuted to a crisp.”

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows.

The original version of the potion was to vomit blood and die. The way those who died from the V3 Potion seemed to be related to the special ability.

According to the principle of the potion’s effect, during the enhancement process, the user would receive additional damage from special abilities, such as internal combustion and electric shock. This was the main reason why the success rate had decreased... In that case, if the user had elemental resistance, wouldn’t it increase the success rate of the V3 Potion?

Zhou Jing immediately perked up.

If the V2 Potion was considered a universal drug and not picky about who the users were, then the V3 Potion was picky about the user and was not suitable for newcomers. It seemed more suitable for the enhanced Mutant Blood Warriors to use. Moreover, it required the user to obtain some elemental resistance characteristics in the previous enhancement. On this basis, the user could choose the V3 Potion with special abilities.

“If he were to give Jason the third type of medicine, it would be best if it was an electric shock ability, followed by the wind element ability...” Zhou Jing thought.

Everyone checked through the enhancers once before recording the results.

Becky looked pleased when the results were read out.

He looked at Bill with a glint in his eye. The way he had been considering for the past few days came to mind, and he no longer hesitated.

“You guys go ahead,” Becky said. “Bill, please stay.”

Many craftsmen tactfully walked out of the house, including the guards.

Only Zhou Jing, King Becky, and Irene, the captain of the guards, were left in the room.

“Your Majesty, what do you need?”

Becky smiled kindly, “Master Bill, your contribution to the empire is extraordinary. I’ve already asked the Empire Workshop to certify you as a master pharmacist and give you

the title of the Empire's Chief Pharmacist on behalf of the royal family. In addition, I've decided to give you five storefronts in the furnace area. You can choose the location. In the future, the Empire Workshop will provide you with materials unconditionally and allow you to do any research you want. Every year, I'll even pay you a high dividend according to the total number of new mutant blood potions produced from the Empire Workshop."

Chapter 199: Tied Through Benefits (2)

Zhou Jing perked up.

These rewards were generous.

Most people in the world pursued nothing more than fame and fortune, and Bill gave others the impression that he was unscrupulous and wanted to pursue profits. Only wealth could move him.

Therefore, the King had put in a lot of effort. The new Mutant Blood Potion was practically a strategic resource to him. The Empire would definitely produce it in large quantities, and the dividends would be given based on the huge output every year. To the Empire, this actually was an unnecessary additional expenditure.

The title of Chief Pharmacist of the Empire was also a huge honor. With witnesses from the officials, Bill would become the official leader of the pharmacists in a single leap.

Giving away shops and providing research materials unconditionally was also very practical.

"Thank you for your generosity, Your Majesty." Zhou Jing pretended to be flattered.

Becky waved his hand and continued, "Also, I've decided to invite you to stay in the Golden Castle. The Royal Guards will protect you at all times. In order to reduce the risk of yourself being harmed, try not to leave the Imperial Circle in the future."

"Stay in the Golden Castle?"

Zhou Jing's heart stirred.

The Golden Castle was the royal palace of the capital. Only the royal family, the ministers of the Empire, and their servants were qualified to stay here. Now that they had invited him to stay here... they were probably trying to keep him under their noses so that they could monitor and control him.

Meanwhile, the Royal Guards would even follow him at all times. This was both protection and surveillance. This was very obvious.

It seemed that the previously mentioned benefits were all for this condition. He had decided to use the carrot and stick method, giving him enough benefits so that he would not be so disgruntled at being put under the control of the Royal Family.

Zhou Jing could understand Becky's thought process, but whether he accepted it or not was another matter.

If it were an ordinary person, there was nothing to hesitate about such good treatment. It was fine to give up some freedom... However, this body was an , and what he pursued was different. Actually, he did not have any worldly desires.

Seeing that Zhou Jing did not speak, Becky took a deep breath and said slowly, "Master Bill, a talent like you will definitely leave your name in history. I wonder if you plan to give yourself a surname and pass down your bloodline?"

Zhou Jing blinked in surprise, "I haven't thought about it... Why did you suddenly mention this?"

Becky's tone was serious as he replied, "Because I want you to marry into the royal family. If you want, any woman of the right age from the Tarn Royal Family can be your wife."

Zhou Jing was stunned.

"Good lord, isn't this the method of marriage between nobles in history?"

Bill was a rootless duckweed. If he became a "royal relative" and became part of the royal family, this would ensure that he supported the royal family and was loyal to the Empire. If he sat in the royal family's position, he would automatically lean towards the Royal Faction, allowing them to successfully recruit him as a talent.

Becky stared intently at Zhou Jing, waiting for his reply. He was confident that this combination of cards he laid out would make Bill scramble to accept his offer.

Even if other tribes came into contact with Bill in the future, it was impossible for anyone to offer a higher price than the royal family!

If he could, he really wanted to lock Bill in the dungeon and teach him a lesson on obedience, treating him like a tool to be used.

Unfortunately, the research and development of potions required a lot of effort. The other party could slack off if he tried to be forceful. It would be difficult to obtain anything from them.

In the future, he still needed Bill to continue to perfect the new potion. Therefore, Becky finally decided to use the method of tying the both of them through benefits to make Bill volunteer his talent.

Not only that, but he also had to spread Bill's achievements and take the initiative to increase Bill's reputation... As the number of Enhancers increased, it was impossible to completely hide the existence of the new blood potion. All Becky could do was ensure that the formula was under control. Other than the workshops in the capital, there would be nowhere else that could make such potions.

At this moment, Zhou Jing opened his mouth and asked curiously, "Any woman of the right age is applicable?"

"Of course." Becky nodded decisively.

"Then..." Zhou Jing couldn't help but turn to look at Irene.

Irene was originally watching the show expressionlessly, but when she saw this, her expression changed, and her fists stiffened.

Becky froze.

He had not expected Bill's taste to be so unique that he would dare to have designs on his guard captain.

To be honest, Irene was indeed charming. Sometimes, he would also have some thoughts that he shouldn't have... But what kind of physical fitness did she have? Trying to do her forcefully would probably turn into a tragic murder case, right?!

Besides, Becky didn't dare force a person who was responsible for protecting him from doing something they did not want to do.

"Ahem, I don't object, but it depends on Irene..." Becky hesitated, then said helplessly, "But I suggest you reconsider."

He was just short of saying it directly — For the sake of your weak body, can you not court death?

Irene paused for a moment before crossing her arms and rejecting him directly, "You have a lot of guts. I don't hate this... but I'm not interested in men."

"Nonsense. You've obviously taken a fancy to Jason, and you probably don't like the fact that Bill's physique is weak, right?"

Zhou Jing cursed inwardly.

Becky coughed and brought them back to the point, "Master Bill, so are you willing to marry into the royal family?"

"...Since you've already asked it like this, if I refuse, wouldn't I die on the spot?"

"Yes, of course!"

Zhou Jing hurriedly replied, as if he was afraid that the King would regret making this offer.

Seeing this, Becky nodded in satisfaction and smiled kindly, "Stay in the workshop for now. When I announce your appointment, I'll send the guards to pick you up and bring you to Golden Castle."

He chatted with Zhou Jing for a while more before leading the guards back.

Zhou Jing pretended to send them to the door before being stopped by the guards. Only then did he slowly walk back to his room.

After closing the door, Zhou Jing's face fell.

"Tsk, this is bad. The royal family wants to completely tie me to their faction."

Chapter 200: Tied Through Benefits (3)

The conditions given by the King were enough to knock out most people, but the goals of his s were different.

Zhou Jing secretly analyzed his possible future situation.

After a normal craftsman completed a project, he could end the closed development session and regain their freedom. However, Bill could forget about having that option. In the future, he would definitely be closely monitored and live under the control of the royal family. Wherever he went, he would be followed by guards. It would be difficult for him to leave the capital.

With his personal freedom limited, he could only become a tool for developing potions for the royal family.

Although he could always take the path of a pharmacist and farm some Astral Realm Points and Information State particles, the benefits would slowly decrease. This was because, with the technology level of the Mutant World, the results of the research and development of potions would ultimately hit the ceiling.

Back then, Bill's goal in learning pharmacology was to quickly become famous, farm Information State Particles, and increase the progress of his Apostles. Now, the results were not a loss. The only problem was that the winds howled around the highest peaks, so with gains naturally came losses.

His freedom being limited was not in his own interests. Bill's value was not only in making potions but also in the possibility of becoming an Eternal Apostle. Therefore, he needed to let Bill learn something that would prove more useful to his main body, such as trying to cultivate sorcery to obtain a new supernatural system.

Trapped in the capital, he would be constantly monitored by others. He would not even be unable to study sorcery, let alone go out and find a natural spirit.

"So I have to think of a way to escape the situation of being controlled by the royal family..."

After thinking about it, Zhou Jing suddenly had a thought.

Why not... just die a heroic death? Transfer his ability to the next ?

He smacked his lips, ruminating over it for a bit, but eventually pushed away this unreliable thought.

Now that Bill had gotten to this point, he was a valuable asset. Right now, because his Life Objectives had not been met, he could not become an Eternal Apostle. It would be a loss if he died so easily.

Moreover, even if he achieved Permanence, Zhou Jing did not want to perform the settlement scores for the time being. This was because it was different from before. He was not in a hurry to clear the level, unlike before.

He was more inclined to farm more Information State Particles to increase his settlement evaluation and let Bill continue to grow. This way, he could choose a better ability when he performed the conversion, saving a lot of resources and earning more.

"Let's use an overboard method to try and solve the problem first... However, I'll agree to the royal family's conditions first. No matter what happens next, at least I'll get this achievement first."

"After this, it seems that I have to take the initiative to contact Roman... This person doesn't know that I know part of his background. Perhaps I can do something to make Roman think that he can use me and use his power in turn..."

Zhou Jing's eyes darted around as his brain worked quickly.

...

A few days later, the royal family announced something that quickly swept through the entire capital.

King Becky-Tarn had conferred upon Bill the title of Chief Apothecary of the Empire. At the same time, he announced that Bill would marry into the royal family!

Due to the closed-off development of the Mutant Blood Potion, Bill's name had disappeared for a few months. Many residents of the capital had already forgotten about this famous "Aphrodisiac Master."

But there were many people who remembered Bill—most of them were his customers who had bought energy potions. In the days when Bill had disappeared, they often missed their former vigor.

As soon as this news spread, the entire capital went into an uproar.

As the news of the new blood potion was still under lockdown, in the eyes of the residents of the capital, this was akin to his aphrodisiac allowing him to rise to the top. It was extremely puzzling, and they could not help but guess at various possibilities.

A person who made aphrodisiacs was actually qualified to be the Chief Pharmacist of the Empire?! Did he make the King experience some otherworldly pleasure?

Furthermore, this person could actually marry into the royal family? Could it be that all the men of the royal family had been castrated and needed Bill to help them stand up again?!

For a moment, all kinds of rumors started spreading.

The rumors all differed in nature, but there was one thing that became the consensus of the residents of the capital...

Bill was truly the epitome of awesomeness!

Chapter 201: Putting a Mistress In A Golden House; Recommendation (1)

Chapter 201 – Putting a Mistress In A Golden House; Recommendation (1)

The next morning...

Tap, tap, tap... Irene personally drove the carriage along the main road into the Golden Castle and stopped at the square in front of the main castle.

The guards clustered around Becky.Tarn. The latter could not help but smile as he watched Bill get out of the carriage.

“Your Majesty.”

Zhou Jing got out of the car and greeted him respectfully.

Becky smiled and nodded, “Master Bill, I personally conferred upon you the Chief Pharmacist of the Empire. In the future, we’ll be family. Don’t treat me like an outsider. Just treat me as an Elder.”

Who would believe you...

Zhou Jing rolled his eyes inwardly but flattered the King on the outside, “His Majesty’s majesty is really admirable. Anyone who sees it can’t help but respect him.”

He did not know if it was a psychological effect of his Eloquence Aptitude, but when he was controlling Bill’s body, his skin was very thick, and he could say any sort of mushy words.

Becky was, however, quite pleased with his flattery and laughed.

“Let’s not talk about this anymore. Today is the day you move into the Golden Castle. I came specially to pick you up.”

Zhou Jing hurriedly put on a touching expression and flattered him with a series of words like “I’m grateful for Your Majesty’s kindness” and “Respecting the wise and virtuous is really the model of a wise ruler.”

A few days ago, he was still sealed in the secret workshop and could not come into contact with the outside world. One day, the achievement of being the Empire’s Chief Pharmacist suddenly appeared on the interface. Only then did Zhou Jing know that the King had already announced this appointment in a hurry.

.....

On the second day after triggering the achievement, he was brought to the Golden Castle by the Royal Guards. Along the way, he was not allowed to leave the carriage and was still unable to come into contact with external information. Zhou Jing had to learn from Irene about the impact of this appointment in the capital.

It was quite strange that the king did not reveal the reason for his appointment... Not only did he want to block the news of the new potion, but he also wanted to give an honorary title to the pharmacist who was developing the project. Those in the know about it would probably be able to guess that there was a breakthrough in the research...

This time, he sealed the information, yet it was not completely sealed.

However, after some consideration, Zhou Jing roughly understood the King's intentions.

The new potion would not be kept a secret forever. In the future, it would definitely be made public to inform the citizens everywhere. The safety of the V2 Potion would subvert the views of ordinary people and arouse the courage of more people to pursue the supernatural route. This would produce a new source of soldiers.

However, the new potion was not popularized and was only produced by the royal family. The other workshops were still using the original medicine. Thus, it was likely that there would be a rule issued soon that the new potion would only be supplied to the direct troops controlled by the Empire and the royal family. It would become an exclusive benefit for the Empire and would no longer be available to the public. This would force those who were tempted to join the army. Not only would the direct forces of the Empire grow stronger step by step, but they could also ensure their control over the new potion.

Therefore, the King had no intention of delaying and directly appointed Bill... At the same time, this move was also made in helplessness. In order to rope him in, the founder's credit could not be hidden. He had to spread the news of Bill's achievements. Otherwise, he might incur Bill's displeasure. If he did not even obtain the title rights of developing a new potion, would he not just end up slacking off instead?

So Becky hurried to announce the appointment, to show Bill the benefits he had promised before he had seriously followed through.

Although this would cause Bill to receive the attention of the other tribes, after the appointment, Becky had Bill brought to the Golden Castle immediately. If he did not interact with the outside world easily, he would not interact with the other tribes. In Becky's opinion, this was enough to solve the problem.

"It's as though he's taking mistress and putting her in a golden house."

Zhou Jing cursed inwardly.

Although the royal family planned to put him under house arrest, the reward for being appointed as the (Empire's Chief Pharmacist] was considerable. He was awarded 2,000 Astral Points and 30 Information State Particles.

Currently, Bill's Apostle's constant progress has reached 96/120. He was only one step away from reaching the minimum requirement to achieve Permanence.

80 points were obtained from the two achievements of [Mutant Blood Potion Improvement) and (The Empire's Chief Pharmacist). The other 16 points were gotten

through the daily benefits after he made a name for himself as an Aphrodisiac Master, bringing many blessings to the men of the capital.

Now that his freedom was limited, his Life Objectives would not be easy to achieve. Zhou Jing was currently looking forward to the dissemination of the new potion. It would have a huge impact and produce more Information State particles that would count towards his evaluation progress.

While he was distracted, Becky.Tarn turned around and waved for two tall and burly men to step out of the crowd.

“These two are the royal guards, Hudd and Lake. They have undergone three enhancements, each in charge of leading a four-man team. Their members are at least single enhanced Mutant Blood Warriors. I specially transferred them to protect you in the future.”

Zhou Jing looked at the two of them.

Hudd looked honest, calm, and down to earth.

Lake’s face was cold and unsmiling.

Got it... One unhappy, one brainless, a classic combination.

The security had been upgraded again, and so had the surveillance level. It was not enough to put him under house arrest in the Golden Castle. But he also had to let ten Mutant Blood Warriors act as his bodyguards. How extravagant. Did they have to follow him to the toilet as well?

Zhou Jing was speechless. He could only continue to flatter Becky and thank him for “valuing” him so much.

Becky.Tarn quickly brushed aside the subject, smiled, and waved again.

This time, a dozen young women walked up from behind him.

“They’re all blood descendants of the Tarn Royal Family. Come, meet Master Bill.”
Becky chuckled.

“Master, you’re so young! He looks so friendly!”

The dozen or so young women of the royal family greeted each other. They looked at Zhou Jing with curiosity, shyness, scrutiny, and admiration. They whispered to each other and discussed softly, giggling from time to time.

Chapter 202: Putting a Mistress In A Golden House; Recommendation (2)

Zhou Jing's eyes twitched.

Good lord, the King had brought all the suitable women in the family here. This was a blind date on the spot.

The best way to tie up interests was through marriage. From the looks of it, the King wished that he could immediately meet a woman and get engaged on the spot... If possible, it was best to go against the laws of nature, consummating the marriage on the spot and giving birth to a child the next day.

Although the king had the right to specify the marriage partner, he decided to treat a talent like Bill specially. Bill could choose the person he wanted to marry on his own. Otherwise, it would not be good if Bill did not like the target since he could not easily retract the order as the King.

Of course, Becky still wanted to influence the process. He pulled a beautiful young woman out of the crowd as he smiled, "This is my daughter, Shuni-Tarn."

"H-hello, Master Bill..."

Shuni was young, about fifteen or sixteen years old. She looked shy and did not dare to look at Bill. It was obvious that she knew what her father was planning.

"Beautiful Princess, your appearance is as pure and beautiful as the bright moon." Zhou Jing spoke in a tone as if he was reciting a poem. He spoke shamelessly for the King to see.

"Th-Thank you for your praise. You're also very handsome." Shuni suppressed her shyness and replied in a low voice. They praised each other and lied through their teeth.

Zhou Jing returned a polite smile and did not continue the conversation. Instead, he suddenly turned to look at Becky, who was smiling like a matchmaker aunt and changed the topic.

"Your Majesty, I have an idea about the new potion."

Becky actually wanted the two of them to continue communicating, but seeing that Bill was still not used to it, he thought it was a pity. He could only think of a way to nurture his daughter's relationship with Bill later.

He waved his hand to signal the women of the royal family to retreat as he entered the castle with Zhou Jing. He then asked curiously, "What are you thinking of?"

Zhou Jing's tone was serious,

"The V2 Potion has already proven its effect, but no one has succeeded in using the V3 Potion yet. I need someone who has succeeded in the V3 Potion to be able to observe the effect of the potion. The principle of the V3 Potion is different, and it's very difficult for ordinary people to withstand it, so I suggest letting the Mutant Blood Warriors take it directly."

Becky groaned, showing a troubled expression.

Unlike ordinary soldiers, the Mutant Blood Warriors from the Royal Family were even rarer. They were all accumulated over the years.

Even as a King, he could not easily force them to bet their lives on enhancing themselves. He had to respect their wishes.

Moreover, the failure rate of the V3 Potion was so high. If all the Royal Mutant Blood Guards died from it, but there was still no successful case, wouldn't it be a huge loss? Wouldn't it weaken the power of the royal family for no reason?

Seeing that the king was silent, Zhou Jing could guess his concerns. His eyes flashed as he suggested,

"There's no need to force others. We can directly choose from the people who have taken the initiative to apply for enhancement. We can tell them the risks of the V3 Potion and let them decide if they want to take the risk to use it... Someone will agree, right?"

"Not necessarily." Becky shook his head, not optimistic about this suggestion.

In his opinion, the stronger one was, the more they valued their life. No one would dare to test a new blood potion that had not succeeded and risk their lives.

"There's no harm in trying... and the range can be opened up. Compared to the Royal Guards, the number of Imperial Hunters is much higher. There might be people inside who dare to test it out. In addition, this is also a way to test loyalty. It's normal that they're unwilling to use it, but those who are willing to use it must be reliable people who are loyal to the empire." Zhou Jing pretended to be fair and advised the King.

Becky pinched his chin, a little convinced at this idea.

Zhou Jing struck while the iron was hot and added more of his thoughts,

“What I need to pay the most attention to are those second and third enhancement hunters. This is because they still have the potential and possibility to continue enhancing. They are the most suitable targets to use the V3 Potions. In my opinion, they are more important than those at the fifth enhancement.

“I’m not belittling the five-time Enhancers like Guard Captain Irene, but from the looks of it, their current strength is already fixed. They don’t have any potential anymore, and there’s basically no possibility of them continuing to enhance themselves. Therefore, they can’t take the V3 Potion... In the future, the strongest combat power of the empire will definitely come from the current batch of second and third-time Enhancers. They still have room for improvement.”

Hearing this, Becky nodded slowly, feeling that what he said made sense.

With the same five enhancements, those with special abilities would naturally be stronger.

After thinking for a while, Becky decided to adopt it. He agreed to the plan, “You have a point. I’ll get someone to see which Imperial Hunters are applying for enhancement now... But we have to choose reliable targets. Make sure they don’t run away after the enhancement.”

At this moment, Irene, who was following them, suddenly spoke.

“Your Majesty, I have a suitable candidate.”

“Who?”

Becky was curious.

“It’s Jace, the one who saved Deep Rock City previously. Last time, Keriber thought very highly of him and mentioned that he still had the determination to continue enhancing. He might be willing to use the V3 Potion.” Irene recommended. It was obvious she had a good impression of Jace.

Becky immediately thought of this “Deep Rock City Savior.”

He had extraordinary potential and had even contributed greatly to the empire... Such a hunter was trustworthy.

His eyes lit up as he nodded in agreement.

“Yes, I even gave him a Miraculous Armament. Jace is a very good candidate... Let the workshop ask him if he’s willing. If he succeeds, we’ll focus on nurturing him. Master Bill, I’ll have to trouble you to make the potion when the time comes.”

“This is naturally my responsibility.”

Zhou Jing grinned, his teeth flashing white.

...

Meanwhile, in a certain room in the Golden Castle.

Roman leaned against the window, overlooking the view of the square at the entrance to the castle keep.

He could not help but frown when he saw Bill and the King chatting happily. His expression was sour.

“The King is going all out. He even wants to tie Bill up by marriage... This is going to be troublesome.”

The new blood potion had not been made public yet, but through the king’s unusual appointment and the bits and pieces of feedback from the intelligence network, Roman could guess what had happened.

He had long formulated a way to rope Bill in, but plans could not keep up with changes. When he saw the price the Royal Family offered, his heart could not help but thump.

In his expectations, it should have taken Bill a few years to produce results. During this period, he could not always stay in the secret workshop and focus on development. There would always be a chance for contact.

However, Roman did not expect Bill to complete the research and development of the potion so quickly. This kind of amazing talent as an apothecary that only appeared once in a hundred years made the royal family go all out to rope him in.

In his analysis, Bill was a profit-seeker. The royal family’s offer was too high. It was difficult for others to exceed this price, and it practically cut off the path for others to rope Bill in.

How could a normal person refuse a good benefit of tying themselves to the royal family? Roman felt that it was unlikely for Bill to rely on others again... There was no reason for him to give up such a huge benefit and risk offending the royal family just to accept a higher price from others.

Moreover, the royal family had also placed Bill under house arrest in the Golden Castle. It was difficult for outsiders to come into contact with him, let alone use forceful methods.

“For the King to give such a price, it seems that he has noticed the movements of the tribe...”

Roman’s eyes flickered.

Even if they valued Bill, the King’s series of roping in was rather urgent. He must have sensed the existence of a competitor. Otherwise, why would he be so anxious?

With that in mind, Roman became even more determined to recruit Bill.

Such a century-old genius could not be controlled by the royal family.

Moreover, the royal family would definitely treat the new blood potion as a strategic resource. Only by breaking the monopoly could they continue to compete with the royal family.

Compared to simply obtaining the formula, having Bill, who could continuously improve the formula, was the best solution.

“It’s impossible for me to bid higher than the royal family... It seems that I have to find Bill’s other desires. I must use something that the royal family doesn’t have to move him...”

Roman’s eyes changed as he looked down at his palm.

A fire snake ignited in the air and wrapped around his fingers. The flames illuminated his unpredictable face.

Chapter 203: This Is Called Seduction (1)

The King had arranged a room for Bill in the main castle. He had even specially built an apothecary table and had someone move a full set of pharmacology tools from the workshop to serve as Bill’s exclusive workstation.

In the future, Bill wouldn’t even need to go to the workshop to clock in for work. He would just do research in the Golden Castle and get someone to transport the materials from the workshop.

Seeing that the King was so determined to keep his “mistress,” Zhou Jing could only temporarily accept the arrangements and settle down.

For the next two days, he carefully walked around the Golden Castle with Hudd and Lake’s guards. He quietly recorded the details of the terrain into the interface.

In addition, after learning that he, the “Chief Pharmacist,” had moved in, many royal blood relatives and court officials came to visit in succession these few days with the intention of making friends.

Zhou Jing did not reject anyone and happily got to know many people. Before the visitors left, he even gave everyone an energy potion as a gift.

Most of the people pretended to be shy as they accepted the gifts happily. There were even some who secretly asked if they could help their friends get more.

On this day, Zhou Jing was walking his dog and training his eagle under the escort of the guards as usual. He looked like a rich playboy. When he walked down a corridor, he met Roman, who was also taking a walk. The two of them seemed to have met by chance.

“What a coincidence, Master Bill,” Roman greeted with a smile. “Do you remember me?”

“Haha, Minister Roman, of course I remember. The last time we met was a few months ago. We had a good chat. I’ve been wanting to meet you again to chat.” Zhou Jing took the initiative to show his goodwill.

Sensing Zhou Jing’s enthusiasm, Roman was a little surprised.

The two of them had only met once before, and it had been a few months since then. He had thought that Bill had been so busy that he had forgotten about him. He had not expected to make such an impression on the other party.

Could it be that his personal charm was so outstanding that Bill felt that he hit it off with himself?

.....

Roman was delighted. He felt that he had made a good start. He put on an intimate tone as he replied,

“It’s the same for me. When I saw you at that time, I felt a sense of familiarity. Two days ago, I heard that you were staying in Golden Castle and wanted to visit you. However, I had some matters to attend to and had just finished dealing with them. I was about to look for you when I bumped into you on the way...”

Zhou Jing understood Roman’s intention to befriend him. He smiled in his heart and responded kindly on the surface.

He knew part of Roman's background and knew that Roman had most likely come to contact him to probe and rope him in. He held the higher ground this time around and could use Roman's actions to seduce Roman to aid him instead.

The two of them stopped in the corridor to chat. They had their own thoughts and wanted to get close to each other. This time, it was a two-way street.

Brainless and Unhappy did not even try to avoid suspicion. They stood around with their backs facing the two of them. They seemed to be guarding the area, but they were actually listening to their conversation.

Roman tried his best to show off his knowledge, chatting happily with Bill.

Under Zhou Jing's deliberate enthusiasm, he felt that he had become closer to Bill this time.

"I thought that you would achieve something sooner or later, but I didn't expect it to be so soon. The King has appointed you as the Chief Pharmacist and even invited you to stay in the Golden Castle. I heard he even wanted his daughter to marry you. Such appreciation is really amazing. I haven't congratulated you yet. In the future, you will be a big shot in the Empire."

Hearing this, Zhou Jing's heart skipped a beat. He did not show any joy. Instead, he looked a little melancholic.

"That's right. I didn't expect the King to think so "highly" of me. Sigh, I'm only grateful."

He deliberately emphasized certain words.

Others did not think much of it and only took it as a literal meaning. However, Roman had been paying attention to the change in Zhou Jing's expression and could not help but be slightly stunned.

"This emotional reaction... Bill seemed to be unwilling to receive the treatment that ordinary people wanted?"

"The Royal Family's offer did not move Bill? Could it be that although Bill was a profit-seeking person, he valued freedom more and sensed the true goal of the house arrest, so he could not like the benefits the royalty gave?"

"Could it be that I really have a chance?!"

Roman's eyes lit up.

He could not be blamed for thinking so much. With the guards listening in, he felt that even if Bill was dissatisfied, he did not dare to express it openly. He felt that he could only analyze Bill's true thoughts from his minute details.

Roman suppressed the restlessness in his heart and continued to smile.

"That's right. The King is really especially generous to you. He took care of all your needs in the future. He doesn't lack wealth or power, allowing you to live comfortably and not lack anything. He's not like us who have to worry about all kinds of matters every day."

Zhou Jing rolled his eyes and suddenly changed the topic. He asked, "Minister Roman, what do you think of wealth and authority?"

Roman was stunned by the question and did not understand what Zhou Jing meant. He deliberated and said, "It's all about the control of resources... What a person can use and command is their wealth and authority."

Zhou Jing nodded, then shook his head,

"You're right, but not entirely right. In my opinion, power is the greatest wealth and authority. Or rather, only by having power can you protect your own wealth and authority."

Roman raised his eyebrows. The two guard captains, Hudd and Lake, had also turned around and looked at Zhou Jing strangely.

At this moment, before anyone could speak, Zhou Jing continued with a sigh.

"Don't think that I just like money and pursue wealth. In my heart, I have always had a dream, and that is to obtain extraordinary power like the Mutant Blood Warriors. I always thought of having a powerful body like them and being able to do all kinds of magical things... This is also the original intention of my research on the Mutant Blood Potion."

Chapter 204: This Is Called Seduction (2)

Chapter 204 – This Is Called Seduction (2)

"Unfortunately, I don't have the guts to drink the mutant blood potion I made. Even if there's only a small chance of failure, I don't dare to take the risk... Perhaps

extraordinary power will never be fated with a coward like me. Sigh, maybe I'm too greedy. How can there be a way in this world to obtain power without risking my life?"

"You're wrong... there really is a way."

Roman's eyes flashed as he stared at Zhou Jing.

When he spoke just now, Zhou Jing's face was full of yearning, and his eyes were filled with the brilliance of his dreams. However, after he finished speaking, he seemed to feel that he was dreaming. He was afraid that he would be laughed at, so his expression became embarrassed... His acting skills were quite good.

Seeing this, Roman started to think.

It turned out that Bill's pursuit was not only worldly interests but actually a person who craved power and authority... Roman was not surprised. There were too many people in the world who wanted power but did not dare to take risks.

To most people, this was just a pipe dream. It was no different from fantasizing about a windfall.

However, Bill was different. Even if he did not dare to take the risk of obtaining power, he could allow more people to obtain power and make contributions that far exceeded his own desires.

He didn't have to gamble his life like a Mutant Blood Warrior to obtain extraordinary power. Roman understood this — he was such an example himself. He had mastered a power called sorcery. This was a secret he had hidden for many years.

"It seems like this bargaining chip might move Bill?"

Roman's heart surged as he felt that he had obtained key information.

He did not doubt that this was a deliberate test by Bill. There was no way Bill would not know that he had mastered the power of sorcery and naturally could not test him with words.

His mind raced. After thinking about it, Roman calmed down and did not plan to use this bargaining chip to rope in Bill for the time being

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The power of sorcery was his personal secret and could not be easily revealed. At the moment, he was not sure if Bill was worth revealing his secret.

In addition, who knew if Bill was just joking? He might not be moved by this bargaining chip. Moreover, even if he was moved, he might rather settle for the current situation out of doubt, fear, and so on, and not dare to offend the royal family. Wouldn't that be a waste for him to lay down all his cards then?

Most of all, Roman wasn't sure if Bill was the bait that the King put out to lure out the members of the court who had privately tried to rope Bill in, thereby determining which of them couldn't be trusted and were disloyal.

However, his vigilance was only a habit. Roman was inclined to believe Bill, and he was quite satisfied with the gains from this probing contact.

In this wave, he found at least two ways to get Bill on his side.

Firstly, Bill advocated freedom and rejected being placed under house arrest. He might be dissatisfied with the King's arrangements. Secondly, Bill yearned for power but did not want to take the risk of obtaining it...

By seizing these two needs and solving Bill's problem, he might be able to take advantage of the situation and take away this leek trapped in the ground by the royal family!

Roman's mind raced, but he did not show it on his face. He suppressed the excitement in his heart and continued chatting with Zhou Jing. After idly chatting a bit more, Roman found an excuse to leave in a hurry.

Now that he had a direction, he rushed back to think of a new way to rope him in.

On the other side, Zhou Jing bid farewell to him with a smile. As he watched Roman leave quickly, the corners of his mouth could not help but curl up.

He could tell that Roman had received the message he had deliberately released. The big fish had taken the bait.

He knew that Roman was secretly going against the royal family. He was aware Roman was someone who leaned towards the other faction, but Roman was not clear about this.

Therefore, in Roman's opinion, it was impossible for Bill to seek his help. He would not suspect that Zhou Jing had deliberately revealed this information.

The speaker had the intention, while the listener developed the meaning. Due to the different information, they each wielded, Roman could accurately receive the meaning he wanted to release. Therefore, he was not afraid that the listening guards would understand the nuance behind it. These guards did not know that the two of them had completed a key message transmission under their noses.

Zhou Jing did this to give Roman a chance to win him over. He wanted Roman to feel that there was still a chance to “subdue” him.

With such external help, he would have a better chance of escaping the royal family’s house arrest.

In addition, with Lynen as an example, Zhou Jing suspected that Roman was also a sorcerer and was several tiers stronger than Lynen.

If he could learn more secrets about sorcery from Roman, it would naturally be more reliable than just having Lynen. “If he’s cautious enough, he won’t come to me for a showdown without a few months of investigation, probing, and confirmation... Looks like I’ll have to wait and see when Roman takes further action...”

Zhou Jing narrowed his eyes at this thought.

After talking to Roman, everything was calm and did not attract any attention. The personal guards only treated it as a normal social interaction.

Two days later, the King summoned Bill and said that he had taken his suggestion to select enhancers from the Imperial Hunters to try the V3 Potion. In the end, there were three of them who were willing to give it a try, so he asked him to take a look at those hunters.

When Zhou Jing arrived in the living room, he saw three hunters standing in the middle of the room. One of them was the second apostle, Jason.

“Master Bill, you’re here.”

King Becky was also in the room. As soon as he saw Bill arrive, he put away the dignified expression he wore and greeted him with a smile.

“Your Majesty, Commander Irene.” Zhou Jing greeted the two of them politely.

Becky waved his hand dismissively,

“There’s no need to be so polite. Let’s get down to business. They’re willing to use the new potion, but because it’s their first time, they’re worried that something might happen, so they want to ask you for your advice. By the way, let me introduce you. This

Is...”

Chapter 205: This Is Called Seduction (3)

Chapter 205 – This Is Called Seduction (3)

Becky introduced the Hunters. Other than Jace, the other two Hunters had only been enhanced twice, so they weren't too familiar with each other.

When it reached Jace's turn, Becky stopped and smiled, "I won't introduce him. You should be familiar with him."

"Yes, Jace and I are old friends."

Zhou Jing was not surprised. Many people knew this, and the King must have investigated it as well. He grinned at Jason and pretended to be polite.

"It's been a long time. How have you been?"

"Not too bad." Jason's words were short. There were usually very few emotional reactions in the placement mode.

Zhou Jing then turned to the other two as well before loudly speaking, "Do you know the effect of the new potion? It can give you the special abilities of mutant beasts, but the failure rate is higher than the original. Are you sure it's okay?"

Jason was the first to answer, his face expressionless, "No problem."

The other two also immediately expressed their stance.

Zhou Jing nodded and solemnly continued,

"Alright, because this potion is relatively special, I need to know what kind of blood potion you've taken before. According to your previous enhancements, I'll screen out a special ability that suits you and customize

it."

With that, Zhou Jing got someone to bring a pen and paper and asked the three of them to write down the past blood potion enhancements.

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Although he knew Jason's enhancement route, he wasn't just putting on an act. He still had some integrity and did not intend to fool the other two hunters.

Soon, Zhou Jing received three pieces of paper. He took a look and put them away.

At this moment, Zhou Jing thought of something and turned to look at King Becky, "Your Majesty, will we be surveilling them as they enhance?"

Becky grunted. He did not deny it.

On the one hand, he wanted the pharmacist to observe the enhancement process of the V3 Potion. On the other hand, he was afraid that the hunter would run away after obtaining the new potion... The original potion did not matter, but he was worried that news of the new potion would leak.

Zhou Jing shook his head, "I suggest that we don't do this. It's best to let them enhance themselves according to their own habits. This will provide some form of help, no matter how meager. If a person who's used to undergoing enhancement alone is suddenly surrounded, the mental pressure might affect the success rate."

"There's such a thing? Why haven't I heard of it?" Becky frowned, skeptical.

"I developed the potions. Trust me, no one knows the new potions better than me."

Zhou Jing spread his hands confidently.

Becky hesitated for a moment before agreeing, "Okay, I'll listen to you."

Hearing this, Zhou Jing heaved a sigh of relief.

He had almost forgotten about this. If Jason failed and died while being seen by others, he would not be able to continue being an Imperial Hunter. Thus, he had to carry out the plan of enhancing himself in private.

Of course, it was still a little risky. Even if Jason died quietly, there would be a certain period of time before he could be reformed again. It would make the king wonder if he had taken the new potion and fled.

If it really happened, it would probably be difficult to explain. Perhaps he could use the "Heaven and Earth Great Shift" martial art and let Jason acknowledge Roman as his big brother instead. Bill could then hug the thigh of the royal family and change the target of his two-timing... After going through so many times of Astral Travel, Zhou Jing had become more and more proficient and understood what it meant to be flexible.

(TL Note: It's a martial arts skill from Jin Yong's novel, *The Heavenly Sword and Dragon Slaying Sabre*.)

After instructing the three hunters, Zhou Jing ended the meeting.

Right now, they only had the intention to enhance themselves, but they did not want to do so immediately. There was a need for them to take some time to adjust their states... Only when someone felt that they were ready would they then apply to use the potion.

The guards sent them out of the Golden Castle. As Zhou Jing watched this scene, he thought to himself.

“I can’t let Jason enhance himself during the placement mode. If he doesn’t do it well, he might die. It’s better to wait until I switch to the in the next cycle. I’ll apply for enhancement after I project myself into Jason’s body.”

Chapter 206: Fourth Enhancement, 100,000 Volt (1)

Chapter 206 – Fourth Enhancement, 100,000 Volt (1)

Half a month later, at the Imperial Hunter Base.

Every day, there would be hunters with nowhere to vent their energy gathered in the tavern to drink and brag about their hunting achievements. It was boisterous as usual.

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At this moment, in the lively tavern, Jason was wiping the blade of his Raging Inferno in the crowd. He was silent and seemed to be incongruous with the atmosphere.

The other hunters were used to it. After spending more than half a year together, the hunters in the base were already familiar with his style. They knew that he usually did not speak during lively occasions.

In the placement mode, Jason usually did not take the initiative to speak. However, even when he spoke, he was concise.

At this moment, Jason stopped wiping his blade. His calm eyes suddenly lit up.

Without a sound, he exited the placement mode when Zhou Jing projected his consciousness to the .

“I’ve finally switched over.”

Zhou Jing twisted his neck, and a powerful feeling filled his entire body, making him sigh in relief.

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This kind of fierce man was the right one! It was not something that Bill, that little chick, could compare to.

He used Bill to make the V3 Potion in the Golden Castle, then patiently waited for his cooldown to end. When he traveled again, he chose to switch to the apostle. This time, he chose to project himself on Jason.

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This time, he switched so that he could prepare to take the new potion to undergo his fourth enhancement. If nothing went wrong, he planned to switch back to Bill next time and wait for Roman's reply before personally coming out to communicate with the other party. He had to do this delicate communication work himself in order to grasp the right attitude.

Zhou Jing did not delay. He immediately stood up and left the tavern, heading straight for the workshop on the base.

Bill had already made the V3 potion that belonged to Jason and handed it to the workshop. They were just waiting for him to apply for it.

The other two test subjects in the same batch had not yet taken the new potion. They were still adjusting their states, and the King did not rush them either.

Zhou Jing applied at the workshop at noon. In the afternoon, the V3 Potion was sent to him by a specialized messenger. The efficiency was not low at all.

It was a bottle of fluorescent silver-blue potion, like a ball of liquid lightning.

"The Aurora Dragon Potion is ranked at the top of all the fatal mutant beasts that can discharge electricity. It's one of the current three formulas for the Electric Type V3 Potion..."

Zhou Jing played with the potion happily.

The mutant blood potion was personally made by his apostle, so he had full control over the quality.

At this moment, the bottle of V3 Mutant Blood Potion in his hand was of the highest quality. Bill had made a total of six finished products before he could produce this bottle which was of strong effect. He had spent the resources of the government, so it was suitable for him to pursue the ultimate blood potion strength. In any case, the King was rich and powerful, so it was a waste not to use this opportunity.

Zhou Jing put away the potion and did not delay. He brought Ross out of the base, going to a deserted place to perform his enhancement.

Because Bill had spoken up, the King took the suggestion and decided to respect everyone's enhancement habits, giving the hunters a certain amount of trust. This was

also mainly because the formula was difficult to analyze in reverse, so when Zhou Jing left the base despite receiving the potion, he was not stopped.

The sun gradually set, and the starry sky hung in the sky.

After trekking all night, Zhou Jing arrived at the forest where he had enhanced himself last

time.

He checked around to make sure that no one was following him before letting Ross guard him. He took out the V3 Potion and drank it without hesitation.

The texture was numbing. He felt as if he had swallowed a charged version of chili water, almost making him choke.

“It’s time to test my luck! I’m so handsome, I should be able to increase the success rate by 10%.”

Zhou Jing wiped his lips and threw the empty bottle away before trying to psych himself up.

He was already very familiar with the process of enhancing through the mutant blood. He sat obediently under a tree and waited patiently for the potion to take effect.

Not long after, an electric current was born in his body, becoming more and more intense.

Soon, it was as if his entire body was electrocuted, and a charred smell filled the air.

Sizzle

Zhou Jing found breathing difficult, and his eyes involuntarily rolled backward. He felt as if all his organs had been electrocuted.

The pain this time was much more intense than the previous times.

Under the double effect of (Intermediate Lightning Resistance) and his Second Order Resistance trait (Elemental Resistance), his body managed to withstand the explosive electric current, preventing the damage from reaching an unbearable level and reducing his chance of dying immediately.

“As expected, the enhancement process of the V3 Potion requires the relevant resistance to resist... Fortunately, I chose the element resistance trait. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have been able to withstand it.”

Zhou Jing gritted his teeth and endured the continuous electric currents rampaging about his body.

Sizzle

The pain sometimes rose to a crescendo, causing his entire body to twitch and making it difficult for him to breathe. Sometimes, the pain would fall to the bottom, causing him to sweat profusely and gasp for breath. The process kept repeating, torturing him to the point of wanting to die. A few times, he was electrocuted until he was in a daze. Large amounts of memories appeared in front of his eyes uncontrollably, like a life lantern replaying his scenes. He would only realize that he was still conscious when he snapped out of his daze.

After suffering for an unknown period of time, Zhou Jing realized that the pain was slowly decreasing. What replaced it was a comfortable numbness accompanied by a pang of intense hunger.

His body, which had lost control, gradually came back under his control. The source of his expanding power now seemed endless.

At the same time, a brand new sense was born, as if an invisible limb had appeared out of thin air.

Zhou Jing subconsciously controlled his new senses and felt a numbing sensation in his chest. It was as if a rat was rushing around in his body, looking for an exit.

As luck would have it, he instinctively raised his hand.

Whoosh!

In the next moment, a fork of lightning shot out and hit the ground a distance away from him.

Crackle! A pile of dried leaves was instantly ignited.

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“It was a success!” Zhou Jing was overjoyed.

Great, he could finally shoot something now!

He impatiently opened the interface to see his new attributes.

(Jason:Wood – Eternal Apostle]

(Supernatural Power System — [Mutant Blood Warrior), Tier increased]

[Mutant Blood Warrior: Fourth Enhancement (Aurora Dragon)]

[Effect: +16 Physical Fitness, +15 Resistance, +10 Perception, +6 Spirit, +15 Energy) (Current Attributes: Physical Fitness 79, Resistance 58, Perception 40 (First Order Max), Spirit 12, Energy 20] (Fourth Enhancement Features: (Power of the Ferocious Dragon II), [High Speed Stance II], (Advanced Lightning Resistance), [Electrical Perception) (Special), (Lightning Release) (Special)]

[Power of the Ferocious Dragon II]

[Effect: Possesses the powerful physique of a dragon species. The strength of its muscles and bones will be further increased, greatly increasing its strength and ability to withstand impact.)

[High Speed Stance II]

[Effect: Your movements have become more agile, your motor neurons are stronger, and your attack, parry, and movement speed are greatly increased.] (Advanced Lightning Resistance)

[Effect: You have a high tolerance for lightning. It is very difficult for you to be affected by electric shocks.]

(Electrical Perception (Special))

[Effect: Your sixth sense has increased slightly, and your senses have become sharper. You can predict danger to a certain extent. At the same time, if you are under an electric shock, your reaction speed and perception will be greatly enhanced.]

[Lightning Release (Special)]

[Effect: Your mutated cells have undergone biological mutation. It can absorb the free energy of the natural world or consume the energy of the body (Physical Fitness) to release lightning. The strength of the electric shock, the consumption of Physical Fitness, the speed of recovery of electricity, and the killing distance depends on the "Energy" attribute.]

"This effect of the potion is pretty strong. Last time, it was an increase of 45 points in total attributes. This time, it's an increase of 62 points!"

Zhou Jing was ecstatic.

The additional attributes were mainly assigned to the Energy attribute. This should be the strengthening characteristic of the V3 Potion.

The total attributes of his four enhancements only differed by 20 to 30 points away from the five-time enhancers like Keriber and Irene. As for the individual attribute of Physical Fitness, he had completely reached the range of a five enhancement user.

That was thanks to his new mastery of more than ten Hunter's Breathing Techniques. The new Hunter's Breathing Techniques he had just learned were all at LV4 Mastery, giving him +5 Physical Fitness, +3 Resistance, and +2 Perception.

During this period of time, Zhou Jing mainly focused on cultivating Hunter's Breath: Forging. This was because after comparing it, he realized that the attributes given by this breathing technique were the highest and the most cost-effective. He was not far from leveling it up once more.

There were many attribute bonuses for his fourth enhancement of the Mutant Blood, but the most helpful characteristic towards combat this time was his special skill (Lightning Release]. With an energy attack method, it directly widened the gap between him and the other Mutant Blood Warriors.

"As we fight, I'll take the time to send a bolt of lightning to paralyze the enemy. I'll take the opportunity when they're paralyzed to cut off their heads and end the battle directly. Wouldn't that be wonderful?"

Zhou Jing was excited as he carefully tested his abilities.

Lightning constantly lit up in the forest, emitting crackling sounds of electricity, causing flames to be ignited in all directions and the trees to sway.

After testing for a while, Zhou Jing roughly understood the effect of (Lightning Release].

The power of the lightning could be controlled, and the consumption of Physical Fitness was different. The greatest power was weaker than ordinary lightning in the natural world, but its strength was still very impressive. It even had additional effects such as high temperatures and explosions... According to the interpretation of the ability, the stronger one's energy attribute, the greater the power of the electric shock.

Because of the enhancement of the (Internal Electric Discharge] characteristic, he already had the ability to store electricity. After this enhancement, he could probably shoot out five max-powered lightning bolts in a row or maintain the maximum intensity for a few seconds. After the stored electricity was exhausted, there would be a gap between each discharge. He had to wait for the electricity to naturally accumulate or squeeze out his Physical Fitness to quickly produce lightning... Zhou Jing had tried it before, and it drained quite a bit of Physical Fitness for each lightning burst released.

If he purely used his lightning attacks to fight, he estimated that he would be exhausted after releasing more than 30 bolts in a battle. The efficiency of energy utilization was

inferior to melee combat, so he could only treat it as a special trump card. It could not replace conventional melee combat.

In addition, the effective range of the electric shock was about 35 to 50 meters. If he aimed further than this, the power would be greatly reduced. It was basically harmless from 80 meters away. In this aspect, it was far inferior to natural lightning.

After some research and experience, Zhou Jing roughly determined that the discharge ability was similar to Esper's power. Its power and distance depended on the strength of the individual, mainly relying on the energy attribute.

Because Jason's energy attribute was only 20, the lethality of [Lightning Release] was not too strong... But if he could continue to increase it, would he become Electro?

"Perhaps it the effect of the V3 Potion is to awaken a person's Esper abilities?"

Zhou Jing could not calm down.

In addition to the long-range electric shock, he also thought of other ways to use his abilities.

For example, it could be attached to the surface of the body or a weapon, allowing his melee combat to have an additional electric shock. Or it could be stimulated with the [Internal Electric Discharge] to strengthen the body, allowing the speed to soar to a new level. He could even use it as a lightning rod in a thunderstorm, then hug the enemy and kill them.

It was even used to stimulate his scalp, make his hair stand on end, and create a hairstyle that spiked so high that it could touch the sky.

After figuring out the limits of his abilities, Zhou Jing stopped his research.

Jason, the Eternal Apostle, had reached the fourth enhancement. This ability entered the library of his main body, making him happy and satisfied.

With his supernatural body and the electric shock ability that was similar to an Esper's, it gave his main body more possibilities.

Seeing that the forest was in a mess from the lightning, Zhou Jing quickly extinguished the flames to prevent the area from turning into a forest fire.

Because he was worried that he would lose control during the enhancement, he only went out after emptying his intestines. At this moment, his stomach was rumbling with hunger.

However, he was prepared and had Ross bring a lot of food.

Ross, who had rather “intelligent eyes,” was waiting at the side. He was carrying kitchenware and bags of ingredients on his back. Under Zhou Jing’s orders, he threw everything in the pot to cook.

Although Ross’s culinary skills were limited to heating food, and he did not even think about the color, fragrance, and taste, Zhou Jing was extremely hungry. He was not picky at all and ate heartily. As long as it was edible, he would stuff it into his mouth.

Not long after, Zhou Jing finished seven to eight servings of food and was about half full.

He sighed comfortably and rubbed his stomach as he pondered.

“Fortunately, I succeeded and didn’t die suddenly. Otherwise, it would have been quite troublesome. Looks like my luck is good...”

“When I go back this time, I can fight Keriber. With my attributes, I should be able to put up a fight against him. I can show the Empire my enhanced combat strength and see how strong my enhancements are compared to a five-time enhancer.”

Chapter 207: Thunderfire (1)

Chapter 207 – Thunderfire (1)

The sky was already bright when he returned to the Imperial Hunter base.

Zhou Jing went straight to the workshop and found the staff on duty. He told them about his successful enhancement and asked them to inform the King.

Then, he rushed to the area where the hunters lived and found Keriber, who had just woken up to exercise, to tell him the news.

“You’ve completed the fourth enhancement?”

Keriber put down the stone block in his hand as he looked at Zhou Jing in surprise.

Zhou Jing nodded, “My luck has always been good.”

“You...”

Keriber’s expression was subtle as he hesitated.

He still remembered that Jace had been an Imperial Hunter for less than a year. When he first joined, he had only been strengthened twice.

He had undergone his third and fourth enhancements in a row in less than a year. In the end, he really succeeded and became the second in line only to the current peak hunters... He seemed too rash!

Very few people would continuously enhance themselves in a short time because the probability of failure also increased. This was especially so as their enhancement level got higher. It was very common for each enhancement to take a few years to prepare.

Back when Keriber had undergone his fourth enhancement, he had trained and prepared for three years before he had the courage to do so.

He did not know what to say to Jace, who did not care about his life at all. He was indeed really lucky to have survived!

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Keriber could only give a thumbs up with mixed feelings, thinking to himself that this brother of his was really a masochist and pervert.

This time, he really understood how insane a person could be.

“I used the new blood potion this time. You know this, right?” Zhou Jing asked.

Keriber composed himself before replying in a serious tone, “I’ve heard from the King. Your success this time means a lot to the entire hunter community.”

Ever since the King decided to use the new potion on the Imperial Hunters, the news blockade had gradually been released. Now, it was just that it had not been announced to the outside world and was only spreading on a small scale. Some of the higher-ups who had access already knew about the new potions.

Keriber was also a little curious about it, “It’s said that the new potion can give special abilities. Let’s see how effective it is.”

Zhou Jing shook his head and smiled, “If you want to see it, fight me personally.”

Keriber was stunned, “You want to spar with me?!”

“How about it? Are you interested in moving your rusty old bones?” Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows.

Keriber also got excited, “Yo, young man, you’re getting arrogant. Looks like you need a lesson from an old hunter like me.”

He was curious about the effect of the V3 Potion, and at the same time, his hands were itching

As the current Fifth Enhancement Hunter at the peak of the Hunter realm, Keriber rarely had the chance to exercise because he could not find an opponent of the same level.

The other hunters would not spar with him, and with his identity as the Chief Hunter of the Empire, it was not suitable for him to take the initiative to spar with his subordinates.

The only opponent of the same level in the capital, Irene, was the captain of the royal guards. She was rarely free and was not a suitable opponent to challenge. Therefore, Keriber often felt empty and lonely, hoping someone could satisfy his desire to fight.

Now that it had been a long time since a rash youth had looked for him to fight, Keriber could be said to have encountered good rain after a long drought. He could only hope that Zhou Jing could withstand a few more strikes and let him enjoy himself.

As if afraid that Zhou Jing would go back on his word, Keriber quickly said, "It's settled then. We can't do it here though. Let's go to the arena to fight!"

"Alright." Zhou Jing nodded and added, "The King is very concerned about the effect of the new potion. I haven't had the chance to tell him yet, so I might as well invite him over to watch the battle. He can see it for myself."

He had already thought about it last night. He would use this reason to let the King watch the battle, show his strength, and brush up on his importance in the King's eyes. After all, his life objective of the (Empire's Chief Hunter) was still counting on the King's word.

"No problem. I'll inform the King now." Keriber immediately set off.

Three hours later, in the arena near the capital.

Not long after King Becky woke up, he received a notification from Keriber. He quickly asked Irene to gather the guards and come to the arena to watch the match.

Bill had also been specially invited over to observe the effects of the new potion. He had been arranged to sit beside the king and was surrounded by teams of guards. The security was quite tight.

In addition, some of the higher-ups of the Imperial Hunters had received the news. Many hunters who had undergone three or four enhancements also came over curiously to watch. The King expressed his tacit approval.

At this moment, Becky was sitting in the arena's stands, looking down at Jason and Keriber, facing each other in the distance. He asked curiously with anticipation, "There's

finally a winner of the V3 Potion. I wonder what the enhancement effect will be... Irene, what do you think will happen if they fight?"

"Keriber will definitely win. It mainly depends on how long Jace can last."

Without thinking, Irene said matter-of-factly.

"No matter what, Keriber has five enhancements. I know his strength very well. Even if the V3 Potion is very effective, the gap brought about by the enhancement level is very difficult to make up for. Moreover, Keriber is an extremely experienced hunter."

Becky trusted Irene's judgment and nodded. "Well, Keriber is the Chief Hunter I personally conferred on, after all. Of course he's powerful."

Irene paused for a moment before adding, "Although it's impossible for Jace to win, we're observing how the V3 Potion affects Jace's enhancement. to see what kind of power Jace can unleash... Even if he's not Keriber's match, as the first hunter in history to inherit the special abilities of a mutant beast, he has extraordinary significance. He's worth nurturing."

Chapter 208: Thunderfire! (2)

Chapter 208 – Thunderfire! (2)

"Of course I understand." Becky waved his hand, then asked curiously, "You seem to always speak up for him?"

Irene coughed lightly, "No, I'm telling the truth."

Becky raised his eyebrows and looked closely at Jace's strong body, masculine features, and determined face. He suddenly understood.

Has she taken a fancy to Jace?"

For a moment, Becky felt a surge of jealousy.

Irene was both his guard and his cousin from the same family. He had watched her grow up. Because of her outstanding talent, Irene had been strictly trained since she was young and nurtured into a warrior of the Royal Family.

As Irene grew stronger step by step and became an existence similar to a "Royal Guardian," she lost her private life. She had a huge responsibility and still did not have a partner until now.

Only the strong would pair up with the strong. Keriber was the only one of the same level, and he was a short old man. Irene looked down on him. As for the others, they could not withstand her strong physique and thus kept a respectful distance from her.

A person's desires had to be vented eventually. It was not a good thing to keep holding it in. Now that a handsome, muscular, and virile Jace had appeared, Becky suddenly felt that it was normal for Irene to have thoughts.

"This Imperial Hunter's strength, potential, and loyalty are all quite outstanding. If something happens between him and Irene, it might not be a bad thing. He might be able to become half a member of the royal family..." Becky's thoughts drifted away.

Bill sat at the side and smiled as he watched. His eyes were like cameras, recording the entire conversation between the two of them.

Zhou Jing and Keriber did not know the subtle changes in the stands. At this moment, they were facing each other in the arena.

"Come, let me see what's so special about the new potion."

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Keriber removed the hexagonal spiked war hammer from his back and rolled his shoulders. He waved for Jason to attack first.

He was used to letting others attack first. As a Fifth Enhancement, he had to have this sort of "noblesse oblige."

If he were to attack first, his opponent would only get smashed with the suppression of Physical Fitness from his five enhancements. It would be difficult for him to display his strength. Keriber had never minded giving the young man room to display his strength.

Seeing that Zhou Jing did not hesitate and directly drew his two blades, Keriber smiled and thought to himself.

"You have to restrain your strength when you fight later. Don't be too excited. If you don't control your strength well, you'll injure Jace..."

However, the moment he had this thought, Zhou Jing suddenly disappeared from his peripheral vision.

A strong sense of danger suddenly surged in his heart.

Keriber's expression changed as he suddenly blocked his side with his hammer. In the next moment, there was a buzzing sound of metal rubbing against each other.

Clang! Clang!

Zhou Jing seemed to have disappeared into thin air and suddenly appeared beside Keriber like a ghost.

The two blades slashed out like lightning, hitting the handle of the hammer. The heavy force made Keriber's wrist tremble.

"What speed!"

Keriber's heart skipped a beat. He barely saw Zhou Jing rushing over.

This was the first time he had seen a hunter with such tremendous speed!

He suppressed the surprise in his heart and turned the handle of the hammer. He wanted to use the head of the hammer to block the two blades and then use a shoulder tackle to send Zhou Jing flying.

However, just as he moved, Zhou Jing's figure suddenly disappeared into the distance. In the blink of an eye, he had pulled away more than ten meters. He was like a bolt of lightning that left only a faint electric mark on his retina.

Before Keriber could react, Zhou Jing turned around and rushed back.

With the help of the momentum generated by covering the distance, the high-speed blade slashed down. The strong wind pressure hit his face like two heavy lightning bolts.

Alarm bells continuously rang in Keriber's head as he raised his hammer to meet it.

Dang!

It was as if a lightning bolt had struck a huge bell!

A huge force erupted, and Keriber's feet sank into the ground, digging out a trench that was several meters long.

The two blades pressed against the handle of the hammer, and the two of them wrestled face to face. "What?!"

Irene and the many hunters watching the battle in the stands suddenly widened their eyes and subconsciously leaned forward.

The Chief Hunter, who had undergone five enhancements, was forced back?!

Little did they know, Keriber was even more shocked than them.

Keriber suddenly raised his head and looked at Zhou Jing in shock.

“Something’s wrong! His physical abilities aren’t that far from mine!

“He might even be stronger!”

“And that speed... I couldn’t even react to it. He even matches me in strength... These aren’t the abilities of a fourth enhancement!

The moment his thoughts sparked, Keriber immediately dispelled the thought of holding back... He suddenly realized that if he did not use all his strength, he might not be able to withstand Jace!

“Hooyah!”

Keriber let out a low roar, and his muscles tensed as he forcefully shook off Zhou Jing.

Zhou Jing did not continue to compete in brute strength. He simply retracted his two blades and smoothly pulled away.

After backing up more than ten meters away, he did not rush forward immediately. He waved his blades as he looked at Keriber, who looked like he was facing a great enemy and chuckled.

“How is it? Have you warmed up?”

“... I underestimated you. Again!”

Keriber’s eyes burned with fighting spirit.

If he had still had the attitude of guiding his juniors just now, he now had the intention of truly treating Zhou Jing as a valuable opponent. He only wanted to fight him.

The corners of Zhou Jing’s mouth curled up. He took a step forward, and his speed erupted, causing the ground to crack!

He seemed to have transformed into a bolt of lightning that flew back and forth in the field, brushing past Keriber time and time again, producing sparks from the collision of weapons.

The sound of metal clashing against each other was heard across the field.

Zhou Jing did not collide with him head-on at all, fully displaying his advantage in speed.

Keriber could not keep up with Zhou Jing. He could only guard his original spot. For a moment, he was helpless and could only passively receive Zhou Jing's high-speed double blades time and again.

Chapter 209: Thunder Fire! (3)

Chapter 209 -Thunder Fire! (3)

Each slash was heavier than the last!

The people in the stands were already stunned. They did not expect Jace to suppress Keriber in such a manner. Only a few people could still capture Zhou Jing's figure. Most people could no longer see his movements clearly. "As it turns out, he was that fierce..."

Becky muttered to himself in a daze.

He had always heard others say how powerful Jace was. But, now that he had seen him with his own eyes, he could finally make a direct comparison of the man himself.

The speed at which Zhou Jing erupted was far faster than before.

The high-level lightning resistance allowed him to completely avoid the side effects of (Internal Electric Discharge). This could already be used as his conventional combat method for a long time.

Moreover, under the enhancement of (Internal Electric Discharge), the (Electrical Perception] brought about by his fourth enhancement was always in an active state. His reaction speed and agility increased further.

At the same time, he also used (Lightning Release] to further stimulate his physical fitness. The consumption of this state was far less than releasing an electric shock attack, but the bonuses for speed and agility were extremely considerate. The effectiveness of this usage far outstripped the energy cost of activating his skill constantly.

After four enhancements, the various characteristics combined and finally produced a qualitative change.

Jason's agility and explosive power route had only truly taken shape at this moment. His speed had increased by more than a tier just from the synergy of his skills!

As a five-time enhancer, Keriber's true attribute that widened the gap between the two of them was his Resistance. Zhou Jing's Resistance was only at 58 points, while Keriber's had reached the limit of Second Order at 80 points. The difference was huge.

However, in terms of Physical Fitness, Jason was actually 5 points higher than Keriber!

Meanwhile, Keriber was not good at speed, and the gap between them widened even more as a result... Therefore, in terms of physical fitness, Zhou Jing was actually stronger than Keriber!

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The only thing he lacked was resistance, but his speed was too fast, making it difficult for Keriber to hit him in the first place.

What was the point of having high resistance if they could not hit him? Keriber could not use his advantage at all!

Therefore, in actual combat, the difference in total attributes was made up for by the suppression of his fighting style. Zhou Jing was confident because this was him patching his flaws through his strengths!

However, Keriber's resistance was not just for show. Although he was quite passive and was in a sorry state, he was almost uninjured and could take quite a beating.

Zhou Jing relied on his speed to take the initiative, and there was no doubt he had the upper hand in the battle. However, every slash was blocked, and he was unable to break through Keriber's defense. He could not even cause actual damage to him.

It was like an extremely hard piece of steel that one could not even leave a slight scratch on.

Keriber had no intention of counterattacking. He just took everything head-on.

"I've been moving at high speed, and with the enhancement of my explosive state, I've consumed a lot of stamina. Meanwhile, he only needs to stand on the spot to block my attacks, which saves him a lot of effort... He wants to exhaust my stamina. As long as he doesn't make any mistakes in blocking, he'll slowly walk towards victory. He might be old, but he's still steady. This is indeed the most suitable method for him."

Zhou Jing quickly analyzed as he ran. He quickly saw through Keriber's plan and calmed down. "Want to fight slowly and steadily? You have to ask if my saber agrees!" He stopped slashing back and forth at high speed and suddenly gave up on his speed advantage. He directly attacked head-on and stuck himself on Keriber.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The two sabers and the war hammer danced up and down, dazzling the eyes and sending sparks flying

“You have no more stamina left?”

Keriber flipped the war hammer, separating it from the blade, and laughed.

His hammer skills were quite proficient, and the cumbersome war hammer behaved quite exquisitely in his hand. The range of every attack and block was very small, but the effect was just right. The short distance of force exerted did not affect his strength at all.

Zhou Jing did not respond. His two blades struck the war hammer again. As Keriber once again borrowed the force to change his saber path, Zhou Jing suddenly threw out a bolt of lightning Crackle!

The silver-blue lightning hit Keriber directly, causing his hair to stand on end.

The blue lightning snake slithered around Keriber’s body, causing his movements to slow.

Swish!

Zhou Jing took this opportunity to stab Keriber in the chest with both blades.

At the critical moment, Keriber’s entire body trembled, and he instantly dispersed the lightning snakes all over his body. He suddenly turned his body and narrowly avoided the two blades.

Although he avoided the front, his breastplate was still cut open by the blade, leaving a bloody mark.

Whoosh!

The blade missed, and the clear sound of a blade cry rang out.

Keriber couldn’t care less about anything else. Before the two blades retracted, he quickly raised his hand and grabbed Zhou Jing’s wrist under his armpit to control his arm. Otherwise, the other party would continue to attack.

“This is the special ability given by the V3 Potion? You can release electricity like some mutant beasts?” Keriber’s eyes widened in surprise.

In his excitement just now, he had almost forgotten that Zhou Jing was no longer a hunter who only knew how to fight hand-to-hand. If not for his astonishing resistance, he would have been paralyzed by the sudden electric shock and died.

The corners of Zhou Jing’s mouth curled up, “My electricity released is comparable to that of mutant beasts!”

With that, he did not hesitate to suddenly erupt with the stored electricity and guide it along the area where his body came into contact with Keriber.

Bzzt pop crackle!!

Lightning flashed, and a few full-power lightning bolts hit Keriber at full blast.

Keriber was covered in electric snakes. He was trembling from the explosion, and his entire body was numb. Black smoke came out of his mouth, and a charred smell filled the air.

Under the series of high-voltage electric shocks, Keriber lost control of his body for a moment. He no longer had the strength to hold Zhou Jing's arm and staggered back uncontrollably.

At this moment, Zhou Jing's eyes flashed with lightning as it went along his arm before attaching itself to his blade, the Raging Inferno.

The high temperature brought about by the lightning instantly ignited the Raging Inferno!

Pak!

It sounded like a lighter wheel being flicked.

With a flash of lightning, the fire core exploded!

Huu...

Raging flames erupted from the hole in the blade like a pillar of fire!

Without another word, Zhou Jing raised his hand and slashed.

Boom!!!

Red and bright blue colors covered the fan-shaped space a few meters in front of Zhou Jing. The ground instantly turned black. The scorching flames were slashed out like a crescent moon, mixed with lightning as it struck Keriber head-on.

Lightning and fire intertwined to become thunder fire. The moment it hit Keriber, a light flashed, and a bomb-like impact reaction occurred!

Boom!

In the next second, Keriber flew out like a cannonball, his back shattering the wall of the arena.

Rumble

Half the wall collapsed, rubble burying Keriber's figure. Zhou Jing was expressionless. There were still subtle electric snakes wrapped around his body. He casually swung his saber to extinguish the flames attached to Raging Inferno. Then, he sheathed his saber and nodded slightly.

"Sorry, I seemed to have gone a little too far."

Chapter 210: Historical Meaning and Promise (1)

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The flames scattered in the air, and the air distorted under the high temperature.

The sound of weapons clashing and hammering disappeared, and the scene fell silent.

Looking at Zhou Jing, bathed in lightning and emitting a powerful aura, everyone in the stands felt their hearts jolt.

(TL Note: Pun intended.)

Everyone had seen Zhou Jing releasing the lightning. This was a new ability that had never been seen in the Mutant Blood Warriors

-proving that the V3 Potion was a huge success.

It could actually suppress a five enhancement in the fourth enhancement stage... What a powerful effect!

Of course, everyone knew that this was related to Jace, who was already very powerful, to begin with.

Only when a powerful potion was combined with a powerful hunter could it demonstrate such effectiveness.

Jace was the perfect user of the V3 Potion!

"Keriber was actually put into such a sorry state. How long has it been since I saw him get beaten up?"

"The commander won't die because of this, right?"

.....

There was no lack of hunters who had undergone four enhancements in the crowd. However, when they saw the combat strength Jace had displayed, their palms started to sweat. They realized that even though they were both at the fourth enhancement, they were far from being Jace's match.

At that moment, the pile of rocks that buried Keriber creaked as gravel rolled down.

Pang!!

The stone pile suddenly exploded!

Amidst the flying stones, Keriber jumped into the air, shooting toward Zhou Jing's direction.

The war hammer was raised above his head, and his entire body was like a spring filled with power. The moment he landed, the war hammer drew an arc and smashed down heavily.

Boom!

The ground shattered!

From the center of the hammerhead, thick cracks extended out from the ground.

However, Zhou Jing, who was originally in his original position, had already disappeared and flashed more than ten meters away.

"I almost hit you." Keriber took a deep breath, his tone regretful.

"You were way off, okay?" Zhou Jing corrected.

At this moment, Keriber was in a sorry state. The leather armor on his body had been shattered by the thunderfire explosion, leaving only some charred armor plates still stuck to his body. His huge muscles were clearly visible, covered in red and black burn marks.

His hair and beard were all singed and curled up. It looked like one could easily pull them all off, but they were still stubbornly stuck to his skin, preventing Keriber's head from turning into a smooth braised egg.

However, this injury was only a superficial wound. Although it was painful and uncomfortable, it was still far from affecting his combat strength... After decades of hunting, he had suffered countless injuries. This small amount of pain could not affect his movements.

Zhou Jing took a closer look before shaking his head, "It seems that such an attack is not enough to severely injure you."

"You really intended to seriously injure me?" Keriber grinned, his action causing bits of burnt beard to fall off.

"If I didn't have such thoughts, how can I even dare to go against you?" Zhou Jing pressed down on the hilt of his saber and casually fiddled with it, but he did not attack again.

With Keriber's resistance that was at the Second Order limit, if he did not be ruthless, his attacks would probably only be able to tickle the former. Therefore, Zhou Jing could rest assured and launch a bold attack.

However, he still had some tricks up his sleeve. At the very least, after the five lightning strikes to Keriber, he did not use the blade to directly slash at Keriber's vital points. While his momentum might not be as astonishing as the Thunderfire Explosion he created, his supersonic slashes were more fatal. There was a high chance that he could cause damage to his limbs and organs.

The impact of his Thunderfire Explosion was very strong, and if it hit an ordinary person, it would have long blasted them into bits. However, to Keriber, it only crossed the threshold of effective damage, and while it caused a certain amount of actual damage far from being serious... This was because Jason's energy attribute was not as high as his physical fitness.

Zhou Jing patted the scabbard, "How is it? Do you still want to fight? I can do this all day."

"... Forget it for now. The King doesn't have time to wait a day." Keriber shook his head to shake off his burnt beard and hair. He touched his smooth head gloomily and suppressed the fighting spirit in his heart. He helplessly continued, "Let's treat it as a draw."

Zhou Jing was not surprised to hear this. He knew that he had taken advantage of the convenience of intelligence and weapons to ambush his old comrade.

Of course, with such an advantage, he would not deliberately ignore it. Knowing how to use all kinds of advantageous factors was a form of combat training.

Now that Keriber had suffered a loss, he would naturally take precautions. If he used Lightning Release and the power of his weapon once more, it would not work as easily as before.

Both of them had their own advantages. If they continued to fight, it was hard to say who would win.

It depended on whether he could rely on his speed advantage to accumulate damage and defeat the thick-skinned Keriber first. Otherwise, his speed would slowly decrease if Keriber continued to sap at his stamina.

If he was careless, Keriber might seize the opportunity to swing his hammer at him. He did not have such high resistance to ignore a frontal hit from that hammer.

Therefore, it would be difficult to determine the winner in less than half a day... After all, this was a spar.

If it were a life and death battle, as long as Zhou Jing killed this old hunter with lightning, there was a high chance that the battle would end.

They unanimously decided not to fight in front of the King for too long. They decided to wrestle more in private in the future to satisfy each other's desire to fight.

Keriber tore off the charred leather armor on his body, not bothering to deal with the burns. With his physique, he would recover in a few days at most. He did not care much about his injuries. This old hunter had fought for his entire life and was open-minded. He would not get angry just because he was injured in a spar. Instead, he was envious of Zhou Jing's ability and praised him endlessly.

"Your electric shock is not bad. It's even stronger than some mutant beasts. If it were any other hunter, they would have been electrocuted in two or three moves. You would have completely subdued them. It seems like this ability will truly widen the gap in combat strength for hunters.