

Astral Apostle

Chapter 26: As Though Reborn

Back in the main world.

The sky was bright—another morning in Xihai City.

His eldest brother pushed open the door and skillfully put on his tie, preparing to go to work. Behind him, the sleepy second brother walked out of the same room with a yawn.

There were only four rooms in the house, one for his parents, one for Zhou Jing, and two for his three younger brothers and sisters.

The two of them did not disturb Zhou Jing, who had just received the grievous news last night. They got

their youngest brother to sleep with his parents and a spare bed for the two brothers to squeeze in.

Just like countless other youths in the interstellar era, they had separated from their family early on to forge their own paths. However, they received a short message from their father yesterday. They found out that their family had been selected for forced immigration. They rushed back hurriedly and fought hard to ensure that this quota would not fall on their heads.

It wasn't easy for them to develop their own career and trajectory in the country, so they didn't want to migrate.

On the other hand, the third son, Zhou Jing, had just graduated and had yet to start working. No one was more suitable than him to take on the immigration quota.

Even though they were brothers, they still had to draw a line on official matters.

Therefore, after Zhou Jing returned to his room yesterday, his eldest and second brother talked with their parents for the entire night.

They discussed adopting a calm attitude and dissecting the pros and cons for him. They thought about how to persuade Zhou Jing to accept this arrangement, but the outcome of the discussion was actually not very optimistic.

Because they had also suddenly learned of the grievous news yesterday, no one was mentally prepared for it. It was difficult to control their emotions, and their tone probably caused Zhou Jing to hate the idea. It would be difficult to persuade him later.

The eldest brother put on his coat and gold-framed glasses. He looked at Zhou Jing's tightly shut door and hesitated for a moment before speaking in realization.

"I don't think he's been out all night?"

The second Brother was stunned. "Now that you mention it, that seems to be the case."

"His room has been too quiet since last night..."

They looked at each other and were about to knock on the door.

At that moment, the door opened.

Zhou Jing walked out with a calm expression. He glanced at the two of them and said casually, "Getting ready to go out?"

Big Brother was stunned by Zhou Jing's calm tone and replied in a helpless tone.

"Uh, yeah... Are you awake?"

"Good observation."

Zhou Jing rolled his eyes and pried the two of them away, moving to the kitchen to get a glass of water.

The eldest Brother and Second Brother exchanged a surprised look.

What's going on? This situation isn't right...

They had discussed last night that Thirddie would be angry, not calm. It was as if nothing had happened yesterday.

"Are you... alright?"

The Eldest Brother probed.

"What can happen to me? I'll still be fine even if you're fired." Zhou Jing took a sip of water and said casually.

"What are you even talking about... Cough, regarding forced immigration..."

“Alright, you don’t have to worry about this anymore.” Zhou Jing interrupted them and waved his hand.

Did this mean that Third Brother has accepted it?

The two of them were delighted but also surprised.

It had only been a night, and Thirdie had already completed his psychological construction? Did he really just accept this so readily?

But then again... Third Brother was usually quite rational. If he was given one night, he would probably understand that this was the best plan.

Second Brother said with relief, “Third Brother, it’s great that you think this way. Don’t resist being an interstellar immigrant. This is already the eleventh batch of immigrants on that planet, so I reckon all the facilities have been perfected. The government’s benefits for immigrants are good, and better days are coming for you soon.

“Anyway, you don’t have a career yet, so you won’t have to worry about anything if you stay for a few years! And you can also help me get a scholarship. It’s a win-win situation!”

Zhou Jing glanced at him and only lightly commented, “Your speech is very nice, but don’t bring it up again.”

Second Brother looked embarrassed.

Big Brother sized up Zhou Jing from the side and suddenly had a strange feeling.

Why does the thirdie feel suddenly different?

In the past, he used to be a gentle person, but after one night, he seemed to have changed...

Zhou Jing glanced around. Seeing that there was no one else in the living room, he asked nonchalantly.

“Where’s Zhou Wei’an, is he awake yet?”

His two brothers were stunned. They hadn’t expected Zhou Jing to address their father by his full name.

... Although they did this in private, Thirdie had always been a cultured and polite person. This was not like him.

“He shouldn’t be up yet...”

Hearing that, Zhou Jing pointed at Zhou Wei'an's bedroom, "Go call him, I have something to tell him."

"Why don't you..."

"Hmm?"

The second Brother was terrified and obediently ran to call the door.

He didn't dare to provoke Zhou Jing right now for fear that Zhou Jing would fall out with him.

After a while, Zhou Wei'an and Zhao Jing walked out of the room. They found Zhou Jing sitting in the living room, with his eldest brother and second brother standing awkwardly at the side.

Seeing Zhou Jing's calm expression, both of them were a little stunned.

"About yesterday..." Zhou Wei'an opened his mouth, about to say something.

However, Zhou Jing didn't give him a chance and went straight to the point.

"I can accept the forced immigration quota, but I have some conditions."

Zhou Wei'an was stunned, and the words he had prepared to say to persuade his son were suddenly stuck in his throat.

He did not expect Zhou Jing's attitude to change 180 degrees after one night.

"...Tell me."

"After I accept this slot, we both will owe each other nothing from now on. I'll move out as well. From today on, don't bother me."

Zhou Jing's expression was calm as he made up his mind.

Sometimes, people would be blinded by the identity of their "family" and beautify their image—until they realized that they were too different from what they had originally imagined.

One's love for their children was never an obligation, nor was it a given. There were six children in his family. It was impossible for him to not be biased when it came to sharing things.

He understood his family's decision, and he was indeed the most suitable person from a logical point of view. But all of that was meaningless now.

For every day that passed without a conclusion to this matter, there would be an endless debate. His family would definitely come to bother him from time to time. He did not want to waste time arguing with his family about this matter. Right now, he only wanted to focus all his energy on researching his astral traveling.

He could only focus on exploring this sudden ability by going out and living alone.

Since he had a way to resolve the forced migration, he would take on the quota and resolve their problem. In the future, they would not owe each other anything.

Zhou Jing had thought it through. There were still two months left before the migration ship set sail. Before that, he could become a Super, and he would be exempted from the forced migration. This was still his goal for now... not for his family, but for himself.

In any case, his family's original intentions were just to push the quota to him. After he accepted it, no matter what method he used to solve this problem, it would have nothing to do with them anymore.

They were already prepared to never see him again, so his path in the future had nothing to do with them.

At this point, it was alright, even if he did not have any kin!

Looking at Zhou Jing, who was totally different from before, Zhou Wei'an couldn't help but feel uncomfortable.

After a moment of hesitation, he spoke out once again, "If you need any financial compensation, I—"

"No need. Keep your money."

Zhou Jing remained impassive.

He needed money to rent a house outside. Although he did not have a job, he still had some savings over the years.

Initially, he wanted to save up for the tuition fees for higher education institutes, but it was no longer necessary now.

Zhou Jing suddenly became so cold. The

others were not used to it, but they could not criticize this change. After all, they had made a choice first.

Zhou Wei'an hesitated for a few more seconds before he coughed and said: "There is one thing that I'm afraid you've forgotten. The migration ship will board in two months,

and during this period, you will have to complete the process of reporting your personal information.”

“I’m aware.”

Zhou Jing had checked up on the migration information last night.

There were a series of procedures for mandatory migration, such as filling in reports, immigration bureau interviews, physical examinations, and so on. Before the boarding date of the migration spaceship, the parties involved had to complete these procedures, and it was ineffective if others did so on their behalf.

The immigration bureau would confirm the quota and record it into the database after the chosen family member filled in a report. It was only then that the immigration candidate was confirmed.

Seeing Zhou Wei’an hesitance, Zhou Jing thought for a moment and understood the other party’s concerns.

“If you’re worried, I can submit the report first before moving out.” He only threw down this sentence indifferently.

“... That works too.” Zhou Wei’an had nothing left to fault.

Zhou Jing did not delay. He took out his phone and computer, logged into the immigration bureau’s website, and recorded his identity. It took him about twenty minutes to complete the report.

When the image of “Applicant Successful” appeared on the screen, Zhou Jing turned the computer to show it to Zhou Wei’an.

“Is that enough?”

Zhou Wei’an nodded silently.

“That’s good.” Zhou Jing stood up and returned to his room.

A short while after, he came back out with his backpack and suitcase.

After returning from his astral travel, he had packed his luggage.

There wasn’t much to bring. A laptop, a few clothes, a few books, and a couple of posters that had been pulled down from the wall.

Zhou Wei’an and the others were stunned at his sudden packing.

“Are you leaving now? Have you found a house? Where are you staying?” Zhao Jing couldn't help but ask.

“There'll always be a place to stay.”

Zhou Jing walked to the door, thought for a moment before continuing,

“My home address is still set here. I can't change it, so I can only report here. So, when the immigration bureau makes a visit, I'll come back. Other than that, we'll have nothing to do with each other.”

Zhou Wei'an and the others stared blankly at his heartless remark.

Finally, Zhou Jing took one last glance at the familiar house before turning around and walking away.

The closing of the main door obscured his family's last view of his departing back.

Sometimes, a person's change takes a lifetime, and sometimes, it only takes an instant.

He suddenly felt that the things he cared about in the past were not worth it.

Since he had made a decision, he would not stop.

In the room, only Zhou Wei'an and the others were left looking at each other in stunned silence.

This swift and decisive style... was completely different from the Zhou Jing they knew.

None of them had ever seen this side of him before.

This was the first time they realized that Zhou Jing's refined and gentle character could actually turn into such a resolute and heartless one.

The group was utterly confused at this point.

They more or less knew that it was their fault, but they didn't think people could change so much in one night...

With his backpack slung over his shoulders, he dragged the luggage as he walked out of the building.

The warm morning sun shone on his shoulders.

Zhou Jing took a deep breath and let it fill his chest. For some reason, he felt a numbing sensation come from within his heart.

It was as if he had thrown away his last remaining restraint and was now looking forward to the future.

It was as if his life had only truly begun today!

Chapter 27: Current Objectives; Target Attributes (1)

No matter which colonial planet it was, houses were easy to find in this era.

Due to the incentive provided through the fertility welfare funds, the population of the various colonial planets had been growing rapidly. As a result, every country on the planet would have to constantly be constructing new buildings.

In the early stages of interstellar development, there was an increase in resources and the development of society. An ideological shift led to a decrease in the birth rate. To provide population resources for interstellar expansion, the Interstellar Joint Government adjusted many systems to adapt to the environment.

For example, they supervised the implementation of a fertility welfare system for various countries and planets. They no longer played with various concepts and tax cuts but gave real money to give birth to children. As long as a family gave birth to a child, they could get money every month. This money was enough for a family to simply leech off in this era.

The core principle of this system was very simple—giving birth was very profitable. After all, most of the jobs used automatons. If one wanted to enjoy life even without work, one could contribute through children.

Every family unit had three welfare quotas for children. At the most, they could receive three sets of fertility benefits at the same time. When the child reached adulthood, the benefits would halt. However, this would also cause the quota to be freed.

Thus, if a family could give birth to another child during this period, they could continue to receive fertility welfare benefits. The Interstellar Joint Government used this system to continuously stimulate the population and encourage a family to give birth a few more times. Therefore, many families chose to have multiple children.

Whenever their first three children neared adulthood, they would give birth to three new ones to maintain the fertility benefits for the next ten-odd years. This ensured a constant income. For example, Zhou Jing's family was currently going through the second round of welfare benefits.

In the beginning, the traditional view of the mother planet era meant that many of them were not used to the need for manpower for interstellar expansion. In the end, the

Interstellar Joint Government chose to use stable interests to drive the growth of the population.

Establishing a family out of utilitarianism was also one of the reasons why the concept of family in the interstellar era gradually faded. It was already the norm in this era, and it was in line with the needs of the population of the various countries' interstellar exploration.

The rich resources brought about by interstellar expansion caused the economies of various countries to rapidly increase. Coupled with the improvement in productivity, money was abundant. A portion of it was enough to support many similar high-welfare systems.

Furthermore, in order to prevent a monopoly, each colonial planet was jointly managed by multiple countries. The territories of each country were not limited to a single planet but instead distributed across various planets.

For example, in the Silver Wind Planet that Zhou Jing lived on, the Interstellar Joint Government had divided the planet into 14 sectors for 14 different countries to develop and manage. Three of them were members of the "Seven Countries of the Summit," which were the Scarlet Nation that they belonged to, as well as the United States of Weiss and the Silver Star Federation.

The Silver Wind Planet had received 25 large-scale migrations in total. So far, it had been developed for 216 years, and all the facilities were perfect. Therefore, despite only having left in the morning, Zhou Jing found a relatively suitable rental house by the afternoon.

The house was not big, but the furniture was tidy. There was water and electricity, and the rent was 700 Nassaus a month.

The Interstellar Joint Government had long since introduced a common currency as the benchmark. The unit was known as Nassau, and the exchange rate was higher than the currency of all the member countries. After many years of promoting it, it had become the main source of daily payment currency in more than a hundred colonial planets.

Zhou Jing had a total of 3720 Nassaus in savings. Taking into account his daily living expenses, renting for two months was no problem. It was enough to support his plan.

He did not see the landlord during the whole process of renting the house. The landlord had long since given full authority to the intermediary company, and everything was transferred by mechanical hands. The efficiency was impressive.

He paid on the same day and checked in with his bag.

"I guess I'll be living here for the next two months."

Zhou Jing put down his things and looked around the room. He had mixed feelings. As much as he looked forward to it, he could not help but sigh.

He shelved his complicated feelings and went to the mall to buy his necessities as well as food. When he returned, he tidied up the house briefly before pulling all the curtains closed and sitting in front of the computer.

Zhou Jing spent some time on the Internet and searched for some policies related to the support given to Supers towards forced immigration. He made a preliminary plan.

“Because of the existence of the interface, becoming a Super is no longer impossible. However, the prerequisite is for the to be able to clear the mission...”

Zhou Jing tapped his fingers on the virtual keyboard and thought.

Only the apostles who completed missions would be able to convert their superpowers into his body.

He'd already changed the name of the world he'd traveled through the last time to “Mutant World” in the interface's archives. The serial number was still labeled as 001. It was the only astral realm currently recorded in the archives.

He still didn't know how to discover new astral realms, so he planned to leave that for later and solve what he could solve first.

To become a Super in the Mutant World, I have to make the consume the Mutant Blood Potion as soon as possible. There are only two months left before this batch of immigrant spaceships depart.

Zhou Jing calculated the time in his heart.

Becoming a Super was only meaningful if he could do so before the immigrant spaceship set off since he could avoid being forced to emigrate. Otherwise, if he got on the spaceship, they wouldn't turn around to send him back.

He did not intend to live under the same roof as his family anymore. After accepting the forced immigration quota, they would not owe each other anything and would walk their own paths in the future.

However, interstellar migration was still a big matter, and he still had to consider it... Zhou Jing felt that he had to take the initiative whether to move or not. That way, he would choose rather than be forced to do so.

“Before the immigrant spaceship takes off, I need at least one to complete the mission. That way, I'll get the powers and have a right to choose whether to board or not.”

Chapter 28: Current Objectives; Target Attributes (2)

Zhou Jing knocked on the table as he confirmed his current objective.

Two months seemed like an ample amount of time, but he was not 100% confident... After all, he had only traveled once, and he hadn't successfully cleared all the Life Objectives before.

In addition, he was also concerned about one thing—according to immigration procedures, people who were forced to immigrate had to undergo physical examinations, including a Supers Reaction detection test.

The Supers Reaction detection test could check if an individual developed superpowers. This was a method used by the Interstellar Joint Government to register superhumans. Self-awakening superhumans would have a difficult time hiding amongst people, but the government had an easier time managing them.

Before they boarded the ship, they would be tested to see if there were any hidden Supers.

This detection technique was not very advanced. In fact, it only analyzed the body measurements of the subject and compared them with the physical standards of ordinary people.

Most superpowers would change the external characteristics of the user, such as physical fitness, mental strength, energy reactions, and so on. It was difficult to hide all of such characteristics.

As long as there was a deviation in some indicators, they could determine if this person had superpowers or a "Supers Reaction" through the error value.

Once it was confirmed that the examinee had an obvious reaction... further tests would be done to determine the existence of a superpower.

Occasionally, there would be misinformation, which would result in an in-depth physical examination... a very thorough one.

However, there was a limitation to the Supers Reaction detection technology—they could only detect whether a person was a Super, not what abilities that person had. Therefore, the person needed to show their abilities manually.

Thus, Supers who possessed a compound ability or multiple abilities could usually pass the test after displaying one ability while keeping the other abilities hidden.

There were quite a number of such examples. Many of the players from the Super League who had their files public were like this. They took advantage of the situation legally. As long as they did not act too arrogantly, everyone would turn a blind eye to it as it was already socially acceptable.

The interface of the Astral Travel panel was too special. Zhou Jing thought it was impossible to detect through such basic detection testing.

In short, he still had to obtain the system of the Mutant Blood Warrior and disguise himself as an ordinary physical strengthener.

“Okay. I have two months—sixty days...”

Zhou Jing looked at the electronic calendar thoughtfully.

Because of the different environments of the various colonial planets, there were local calendars suitable for the residents to use. However, the Interstellar Joint Government also set up a “Universal Civilization Calendar” to calculate the date for the entire civilization.

According to this calendar, the current date of the main world was General Calendar Year 2351, July 18th.

“The migration spaceship will depart on September 19th. This is the deadline for me to complete my plan...”

Zhou Jing’s eyes flickered as he pondered.

Of course, if he had to say it, there was a more direct method, which was simply to rebel.

However, he decided to forget about it. Even Supers were still part of society. Those Rank 7 Supers who could easily cause the sky and earth to collapse were also willing to receive the support of various countries, not to mention a young sprout like him.

“In the end, I still have to abide by the law.”

Zhou Jing muttered to himself.

It was impossible to just float from place to place forever.

He wanted to become a Super, not a wanted criminal who would be chased around by the law-enforcement officers. He didn’t want to end up crying behind steel bars.

Astral projection is already very exciting. I don’t want my life to be in chaotic every day. I’d better not lead a life with too much excitement...

“I’ll become a Super first and be exempted from immigration... I’ll leave the future for the future...”

After deciding on his route of action, Zhou Jing was clear on what he needed to do next.

After turning off the computer, Zhou Jing summoned the interface and looked at it with interest.

“Speaking of which, the attributes of my main body are actually like this...”

When summoning the interface in the main world, some functions could still be used, such as checking the Astral Realm files, the [List], and [Records Illustration].

Most importantly, the attributes and abilities of his main body could be reflected in the template format of the Apostles. From this, he could understand his own situation.

[Attributes: Physical Fitness 4, Resistance 5, Perception 5, Spirit 7, Energy 0]

[Aptitude: Combat – [Blue], Spirit – [Green], Physical Fitness – [Green]...]

[Talent: Battle Intuition (Sharp instincts for combat)]

[Skill: None]

Supernatural Power System: None

“So this is what my interface data is like?”

Zhou Jing was very interested.

Everyone had their own areas of expertise and weakness. People often find it difficult to understand themselves and often waste time on the wrong path.

The attribute format on the interface showed a person’s talent in what aspect, which was helpful in solving this problem. Zhou Jing estimated that anyone’s situation could be displayed in this format, his main body included.

“If a normal person’s standard is around five, my body is not athletic and is slightly weaker than a normal person’s, but my spirit is higher than a normal person’s.”

Zhou Jing was deep in thought. When he thought about how his memory improved after he returned, he vaguely felt that the time when he was an Apostle in the Astral Realm was akin to a process of training his mental strength and spirit.

“No wonder I didn’t feel confused when I returned. It seems that every time I project my consciousness, my mind is slowly improving.”

Zhou Jing narrowed his eyes and committed this speculation to memory.

Looking down, his own aptitude seemed to be quite good. It was at least much better than his carrier Will-Wood.

Chapter 29: Current Objectives; Target Attributes (3)

He roughly analyzed the significance of the different colors of the various endowments. Gray was aptitudes that he was not gifted at, white was considered normal, and green was slightly gifted.

The blue represented outstanding talent.

Purple represented genius-like talent.

“The aptitude of my main body is mainly green and white. Only the aptitude for battle has reached blue...”

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows slightly.

If blue is already so fierce, then won't purple make pigs fly?

In terms of talent, he also had a talent that was related to combat, [Battle Intuition].

“Looks like my guess was right. I do have talent in combat...”

Zhou Jing was inexplicably excited.

However, he immediately thought of a new problem.

These are my original body's talents, but when I use Will-Wood's body, it can still take effect... So my original body's talent can still be displayed to a certain extent in the even without being displayed?

“Hmm, I will be using different carriers when I descend to different Astral Realms, but they are still controlled by my thoughts. My combat awareness is rooted in my own experience and memories, and it is unaffected...”

“On the other hand, the 's talent does not seem to transfer on my body. I don't have the [Agility] talent anymore. So, my main body cannot be replaced. It is the core of the Astral Travel ability.”

Zhou Jing analyzed and felt that his conjecture was somewhat reliable.

After a good analysis of his skills, he couldn't help but recall the skills that Will-Wood had. Although they weren't displayed in his main body's skill column, he still remembered many of the skills, such as the usage of daggers, hunting knives, and the words of the Terra Empire language. However, he only remembered what he had learned and used in his Apostle, not the entire broad spectrum of the skill.

For example, when he spoke, he could no longer automatically understand the meaning of his words in the Terra Empire language as he did when he descended. He could only remember the words he had said when he was Will Wood. He had to link the spoken language back to his own language for inference, which was similar to learning the language normally.

As for the technique of mastering weapons, although he could remember it in his head, his body did not have any muscle memory. It was as if he had never practiced it before.

Zhou Jing's eyes lit up at this discovery.

"Even if the 's skills haven't been transferred to my original body, the relevant knowledge and memories don't disappear. If I remember it, it will stay in my mind. I won't lose it by switching bodies.

"So, even if you don't clear the life objectives, you can let your main body learn from scratch. And with experience, it will be easier to train..."

However, while this was indeed the case, due to the difference in the flow of time between the two worlds, the s had more time to train. Using an apostle to clear the level to obtain abilities and skills was the most cost-effective.

Still, his main body was also given the opportunity to cultivate.

He couldn't learn a system like the Blood Mutant Warriors, which required external strengthening, on his own. However, he could learn some knowledge-type superpowers, even if they were not transferred to his main body, to become a Super.

"There's another way. In the future, I can focus on knowledge-related superpowers..."

Zhou Jing remembered this discovery and, at the same time, thought of a new trick.

"I can take advantage of this loophole. I can use a carrier to speed up some knowledge-based abilities. When I return to my original body or use the next apostle, this knowledge will not disappear from my mind, even if the skills aren't displayed.

"Like... If I were to truly learn all the words of the Terra Empire, then even if my main body can't analyze the words, I can still grasp this language..."

Zhou Jing was ecstatic at the thought.

He felt great about gradually figuring out the mechanism of astral travel!

Between these mechanisms, there seemed to be many tricks to be discovered!

Zhou Jing could not stop shaking from excitement.

It was past five in the afternoon, and the 12-hour cooldown for his astral traveling was over.

“Let’s go and take a look. I wonder how my is doing.”

Suppressing his interest in researching the functions further, Zhou Jing closed his eyes and sent his consciousness into the starry space... Now, it was time to move to the projection space.

Chapter 30: Settling Debts; Inheritance (1)

Buzz—

His vision shifted, and his consciousness once again entered the starry space.

In the background, the huge LED panel floated in the galaxy.

The moment Zhou Jing entered, a waterfall of information appeared on the interface. Before he could react, he was caught off guard.

[Will·Wood’s placement has ended]

[You may view the Placement benefits report (Automatically Expanded)]

[Placement Duration: 3 days (Astral Time)]

[Reward: +9 Astral Points]

[Accumulated Rewards: 9 / 2,000 Astral Points]

[Ability Growth: None]

[Trigger Achievement: [First Death (Unique)]]

[Placement Rating: None]

[Will·Wood (Serial #001) is dead]

[Do you want to check the death playback?]

“What the heck, why did he die?!”

Zhou Jing was a little stunned.

That’s unexpected... Let’s see what happened first.

He immediately activated the death playback. An image popped up on the interface.

Inside a little wooden cabin.

Will·Wood was lying on the bed. His face was green and purple, evidently deeply poisoned. His eyes are closed, and he is in a severe coma. The arrow wounds on his body are already oozing pus and festering.

Beside the bed, an old man dressed in a strange attire was jumping around. His dance was strange, and he was mumbling as he jumped, as if he was holding some kind of ritual.

The old man’s wrinkled face was smeared with oil paint, and there were two feathers stuck on his head. He wore a robe woven from black feathers, which made Zhou Jing involuntarily think of the witches and priests of primitive religions.

There was another familiar face watching from inside the house. It was Griff, looking worried and anxious.

After doing some dance rituals to pray to some unknown god, the old man stopped. He was sweating profusely, and his hands were clenched into fists against his forehead as if he was praying.

After about ten seconds, the old man stepped back and turned to Griff. “I’ve prayed for him for three consecutive days. I’ve done my best. The gods will try to redeem him.”

“I don’t believe in your God.” Griff was dissatisfied. “Why didn’t you give him the medicine that you gave to Captain Barong and the rest?!”

“The medicine has been used up.” The old man shook his head. “He has been poisoned too deeply. The only thing I can do is to clean the wound and release the poisoned blood to treat him. The rest will depend on the will of the gods.”

“How is that possible! We went into the mountains to help you pick so many medicinal herbs, how could it be used up so easily?!”

“But it is what it is. There’s no time to prepare more medicine at the last minute.” The old man lowered his eyes and said with a benevolent expression, “But it doesn’t matter. I’ve already sincerely prayed so he can receive gods blessings. If he still dies, it means that his life is over. No medicine can save him either!”

Without waiting for a response, the old man picked up his walking stick and staggered out of the house.

Only Griff stayed behind to take care of him.

Day turned into night. Will·Wood ultimately didn’t make it through and stopped breathing on a cold night.

Griff took the body to the village cemetery and buried it, accompanied by the silent circle of hunters.

The tombstone with the name “Will·Wood” engraved on it quietly stood over a mound of sand that covered his pale face.

[Death Replay Over]

The video ended, and Zhou Jing came back to his senses.

So that was how he died... He didn’t survive the poison and succumbed to his injuries in the end.

Before he returned, the carrier was already half-dead. It was not surprising that it did not survive.

“I guess the s don’t just suddenly recover when my consciousness leaves this realm... Before I return, I should try my best not to put the s in danger. Otherwise, they might die in the process.”

Zhou Jing frowned as he thought out loud.

If he had access to the medical skills of the main world, he probably wouldn’t die... However, there was no point in saying this. Although he had guessed that the medical skills of the Mutant World might be very backward, he didn’t expect that they would actually use this sort of dancing ritual to treat patients.

This isn’t even a problem with the medical procedures. Are you trying to scam me?

The most ridiculous thing was that such a doctor was qualified to practice medicine in the village.

How have the villagers not stabbed him to death with pitchforks?!

A quack is harmful!

Zhou Jing was furious.

However, what he was most angry about now was the group of Subterranean scum.

Becoming friends with the hunters and being able to go to Frostwood Village to gather intelligence was great, so why did it become like this...

If not for that Subterraneans sneak attack, this would not have been poisoned or dead.

“Subterraneans, huh? I’ll settle the debts sooner or later.”

Zhou Jing made a mental note.

After sorting out his emotions, Zhou Jing looked at the interface. The death of Will·Wood had temporarily disrupted his plans. He now had to see what to do next.

At this moment, following the death playback, an interface popped up.

[Death Settlement of Will·Wood (Serial #001)]

[Total Survival Time: 9 days]

[Synchronization Rate: 32%]

[Strength: Mortal]

[Total Astral Points gained: 1,477]

[Total Information State Particles obtained: 0]

[Legendary Points: 0]

[Career evaluation: Early death]

[Evaluation Reward: None]

[Free inheritance Slot: x3 [Random], x2 [Specified]]

“There’s still the death settlement? It really counts the gains from an ’s career.”

Zhou Jing looked at it carefully and started thinking.

It seemed like there were a lot of calculations involved during each Astral Realm travel.

There was a small settlement every time he returned, which would calculate the gains from his astral travel.

Every time an apostle's time ended, the system would calculate the total gains of the during the period of operation.

The death settlement was the total statistics of an 's career. It showed the results of an apostle.

"If I'm right, there will be a reward if I manage to complete any of the mission objectives."

Chapter 31: Settling Debts; Inheritance (2)

There might be four different settlement patterns... Return of travel, Placement, Death, Clearance. Two minor settlements and two major ones.

Zhou Jing pondered silently and roughly understood the process.

The death settlement would reward him based on his career evaluation. This time, he was unlucky and caught off guard, so there was no reward.

However, the [Free Inheritance Slot] function surprised Zhou Jing.

This would let him transfer some abilities from the dead apostle to the next one!

Even though he could use his astral points to choose the abilities of other s from the Records Illustration and pass them on to new s. He could use this for free!

The higher the death rating, the more [Free Inheritance Slots] provided. This meant that the next apostle would have more of the abilities and skills of his predecessors.

"That's good stuff!" Zhou Jing laughed out loud.

Previously, he was worried that after the apostles from the astral world died, he would have to relearn everything. Now, it seemed like he could pass them down from generation to generation.

Even if he could not convert the abilities to his main body, it would greatly increase his chances of clearing the missions!

Most importantly, his training results would not be wasted. Even if he died, it would be passed down from generation to generation. This could continue until an apostle cleared the mission, whereby it would be transferred to his main body.

That was too great of a hack!

Zhou Jing's spirits lifted, and he hurriedly studied the process carefully.

He discovered that the free inheritance slots were divided into two categories: [Random] and [Specified]. As the name suggested, one randomly selected abilities, and the other allowed one to specifically inherit certain abilities.

The evaluation this time gave a total of five free inheritance slots. Will-Wood only had four skills, which was more than enough.

However, the inherited abilities among the s would be inevitably influenced by the new carrier's own aptitude. If their abilities were incompatible with the new model template, their corresponding skill levels would also decrease.

However, that was only something that had to be considered when one's ability had reached a high enough level. Will-Wood's four skills were all very low level, far from being able to compete with one's aptitude... There were also benefits to being a noob!

[Free inheritance slot used up]

[Inherited total 4 skills: Lv2 [Terra Empire Language-Northern Dialect], Lv1 [Weapon Mastery – Hunting Blade], Lv1 [Weapon Mastery – Dagger], Lv1 [Wilderness Survival].]

[The next Astral Realm Apostle template created will inherit the above-mentioned skills.]

“Wonderful!”

Zhou Jing heaved a sigh of relief.

Although these few abilities were nothing much, they were significant to him right now... As long as a new one could inherit the important abilities of their predecessors, his previous hard work would not be wasted.

At this moment, he suddenly remembered that he still had a few unused Aptitude and Attribute enhancement rewards.

A quick check showed that the rewards were still in the warehouse. The death of his did not affect the accumulated rewards.

Other than certain special achievements that could only be used by those who triggered it, most of the achievement rewards were universal and could be used on other s.

Zhou Jing had a flash of inspiration and quickly thought of a plan:

In that case, maybe I can save the reward obtained for triggering achievements. If I meet an apostle from the astral world worth investing in, I can activate it all at once and use it to stack the effect until it becomes a big boss!

Hmm, it seemed like this operation was feasible... marvelous. He had found another loophole!

It was a pity that the reward for improving one's aptitude and attributes could only be used by apostles from the astral world and could not be used by his main body. Otherwise, he would also want to experience what it felt like to become a genius overnight.

"This is not bad. Increasing the apostles' aptitude will also increase the chances of clearing the missions."

Zhou Jing shook his head as if to rid his greediness. At this moment, he noticed an additional achievement in the warehouse.

In Will·Wood's placement report, a "Unique Achievement" was triggered after his first death was achieved and became an "inheritance."

[Triggered Achievement: [First Death (Unique)]

[Unlocked Mode Support Function Column]

[Received [Support Function] x 4]

[Received [Character Rank System (Up to Lv10)]

[Received [Item Analysis] function]

[Received [Follower Function]]

[Received [Pet Function]]

"Support function..."

Zhou Jing took a look at the explanation and was instantly invigorated, his face beaming with joy.

In the stats file of the , there was now a supplementary function column. The number of empty slots depended on the rarity of the template.

When he was modeling for the Apostle, he could equip them with auxiliary functions in the empty slots to use when performing astral travel. However, different auxiliary functions required a different number of Astral Points to equip.

There were many auxiliary functions, and they were to provide the s some special advantages.

According to Zhou Jing's simple understanding...

Isn't this just Pay-To-Win? And, I can even choose a "VIP privilege" for the s?!

*D*mn, this is a little fierce!*

"Still, I can already reconstruct and create apostles from the astral world, so it wouldn't be strange to include more information..."

Zhou Jing calmed himself down and muttered to himself.

Judging from the effects, the content of these four auxiliary functions was like a basic "external modification tool." It felt like it would be an initial benefit like rapid language analysis—helpful but not too exaggerated.

If an were equipped with an auxiliary function, it would be much more convenient to wander and grow.

Furthermore, he had saved up some Astral Points. He had enough "dough" now. The next time he created an , he could try out the paid function of modeling an Apostle—using these resources to create a new with higher potential would give him a smoother start.

When I think about the benefits... I guess Will·Wood died a worthy death!

If his did not die, he would not be able to unlock the auxiliary functions and create a new and better template.

Since he had a two-month deadline, it was lucky that Will·Wood "left" early. He did not need to spend too much time on this mediocre template and would take fewer detours. From the results, it seemed like a good thing?

"Wonderful, a wonderful death..."

Zhou Jing was no longer depressed.

Not only did he not lose anything, he even felt that he had gained from it.

Will·Wood, your sacrifice will be remembered by the organization!

He was secretly excited at the thought that the next time he created a new model, he wouldn't have to suffer like last time.

Furthermore, the time between the Mutant World and the main world was moving forward together. The events and connections from the previous time would not disappear.

Since he had already uncovered the map region of Frostwood Village, Zhou Jing decided to fix his position here next time so that it wouldn't randomly appear in dangerous places.

Will·Wood was dead, but the impact he had left on the hunters remained. He might be able to use that to continue his dealings with Barong and Griff...

He even felt that the path to glory for his next apostle would be much easier... Zhou Jing clenched his fist excitedly.

However, Will·Wood's corpse hadn't turned cold yet, so it would take time for him to create a new template and head down once more.

Zhou Jing looked at the remark on the interface, which read: "Temporarily no usable s" and "Time until creation of new model: 1 day".

"I'll wait for a day. I can sort out the current astral travel mechanisms as well... I'll also consider how the new apostle should act."

Zhou Jing's eyes flickered as a plan began to take shape in his mind.

Chapter 32: New Apostle (1)

The next day, Zhou Jing spent the entire day in his rented apartment. He familiarized himself with the process of astral travel and came up with a clear concept.

He divided the current known processes into four stages according to the sequence of processes — template modeling, projection, cooldown, and death.

Template modeling was the process of customizing the next by using the free inheritance slots or consuming the Astral Points.

During projection, he would send his consciousness to the apostle of the astral world and personally walk the realm. He had the assistance of Accelerated Learning, triggering achievements, and other rewards.

During the cooldown period, his consciousness would return to the main body and wait for the astral realm projection to cool down before he could travel again. During this period, the s would move automatically using the Placement mode.

The projection and cooldown phases were interwoven as the main segment.

Time passed in both the main world and the astral world. However, due to the difference in the flow of time, one passed more quickly than the other.

Therefore, he could regulate the time spent by his main body during each projection by directly controlling the s.

Because his main body was also passing time while traveling, he chose not to spend too much time on his projections. Zhou Jing felt that it was enough if he used his sleep time to perform Astral Traveling.

Combining the projecting and placement together would extend the life of an apostle from the astral world, allowing them to move around in the realm for a longer period of time.

And when his died, he would enter the final stage of death settlement, obtaining a free inheritance slot.

He would inherit part of the apostle's training achievements to the next apostle for free. Then, he would return to the initial stage of template modeling and resume this process.

"As for clearing the missions, I haven't achieved it yet, so I don't know what form it will take. I'll have to look at it in the future... According to the information I received, it should be similar to the death settlement. However, I don't need to create new people. I can still continue controlling the s that cleared the mission."

Zhou Jing's eyes flickered as he sorted out the general situation.

He looked at the time. A total of 24 hours had passed, and the new Mode had been refreshed.

He let out a sigh of relief and prepared himself for the journey.

"Enter!"

...

Buzz—

His consciousness entered the preparation space. It was still the same galaxy, with the LED panel floating quietly in the middle.

Zhou Jing looked up and saw the contents on the interface.

[A new Model has been created (Serial #002)]

[Current Interface – Trait Profile]

[Name: Jason·Moore (Can be changed)]

[Race Appearance: Terran (Changeable)]

[Identity: NIL]

[Personality: Determined]

[Style: Martial]

[Alignment: Neutral]

[Pursuit: Power]

[Synchronized Difficulty Rating: Easy]

[Life Objective: Become a veteran [Mutant Beast Hunter], obtain at least two strengthenings as a [Mutant Blood Warrior]. Kill a high-risk mutant beast.]

[Apostle Permanence Standards: 0 / 110]

[Current Interface – Ability Profile]

[Attributes: Physical Fitness 3 (Level 1), Resistance 4 (Level 1), Perception 5 (Level 1), Spirit 6 (Level 1), Energy 0 (Level 0)]

[Endowment: Physical Fitness – [Green], Resistance – [Light Green], Blade Technique – [Light Green]... (Expand detailed list)]

[Talent: x1 [Spare Slot]]

[Free Attribute Points: 5]

[Supernatural Power System: x1 [Spare Slot]]

[Skills: Lv2 [Terra Empire Language-Northern Dialect], Lv1 [Weapon Mastery – Hunting Blade], Lv1 [Weapon Mastery – Dagger], Lv1 [Wilderness Survival].]

[Support Function: x1 [Spare Slot]]

[Rarity Rating: Commoner]

[Full Interface Free Reset Count: 0]

[Selective Parameters Reset Count: 2]

Zhou Jing's eyes gleamed as he looked through the template parameters carefully.

Clearing the realm with this second template was 30 points higher than the previous one. The difficulty of completing the life objectives was obviously greater but still within an acceptable range.

“Speaking of which, why does this template not seem to have any talent?”

Zhou Jing noticed this.

He opened the Book of Records. Currently, the Talent Category only consisted of Will·Wood's [Agility]. To pass this talent to the new template required 500 astral points.

Currently, he had a total of 1,477 Astral Points. 500 points were a lot. Zhou Jing simply gave the first designated reset opportunity to his talent.

[Current Template Properties are being reset... Reset complete. Here are the new parameters.]

[You have received talent [Tenacity] (Reduces the impact of an injury on movement)]

“Looks like this is suitable for a tough battle... If I had this talent when I was ambushed by the Subterraneans, I could probably escape on my own without Baron's help.”

Zhou Jing analyzed the effect. After thinking for a while, he threw the second specific parameter reset to Aptitude.

[Current Template Properties are being reset... Reset complete. Here are the new parameters.]

[Resistance: [Light Green] → [Green], Blade Technique: [Light Green] → [Green]. Other results remain unchanged.]

“All the values have increased this time. My luck isn’t too bad.”

Zhou Jing was delighted.

Physical Fitness, Resistance, Blade Technique... Green, they were all green!

This time, three of them were green in color. This made the current apostle’s aptitude better than the previous one.

After using two free reset opportunities offered, Zhou Jing took a look and realized that he could still continue resetting after spending astral points.

However, the specified reset required 200 points each time, and an overall reset required 1,000 points each time. Furthermore, the cost would progressively increase, so he currently had no intention of resetting.

Now that he had the astral point stock in his hands, he could further take a step in modeling the Apostle template. He was now prepared to test the extent of customization.

“Let me see what it’s like to spend money to create a character.”

Zhou Jing rubbed his hands in glee.

With a few tweaks, a message popped up on the interface:

[To improve the four parameters of the model template (Attributes, Talent, Aptitude, and Skills), Astral Points can be converted into free allocation points in the ratio of 100:1.]

