

Astral Apostle

- Chapter 65: Sudden Attack (3) |

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“This time, two Claw Rending Bears came at once. It’s going to be very dangerous. It’s best to separate them and restrain one before we attack the other and kill it. Otherwise, we won’t be able to stop them.”

The rest of the hunters nodded.

Although the lord said that they should try their best to stall for time, the ideal outcome was naturally to kill the mutant beasts and remove the threat. They could retreat in safety if there was nothing more they could do.

Weber sheathed his dagger and looked around at the crowd.

“We have to split into two teams. One team will be in charge of restraining and the other team will be in charge of attacking. The restraining team will be under a lot of pressure. They have to ensure that the Claw Rending Bear they restrain will not affect the battlefield of the main team... Therefore, I have to know your respective enhancement directions before I can deploy you in a team.”

The hunters present basically knew each other well, but they still told him their directions of enhancement.

Soon, it was Zhou Jing’s turn. Everyone looked over when they saw a new face.

Some of the hunters who were not in the tavern were seeing Zhou Jing for the first time. They had been curious since just now.

Barong directly introduced, “His name is Jason·Wood. He’s someone that I managed to discover. He just received an enhancement yesterday, and the potion he took was the Lightning Strike Leopard.”

“A newcomer who just finished enhancement yesterday?”

Weber frowned for a bit before he relaxed. He said to Zhou Jing in a deep voice, “Then join the main attack team. During the battle, pay attention to your surroundings. You

don't have to worry about anything else. You just need to wander around alone and not affect the other hunters' teamwork. Just find an opportunity to cause damage."

After saying that, he ignored Zhou Jing and continued to talk to everyone about tactics.

Because Zhou Jing was a newcomer who had just been enhanced, Weber was worried that he would be unstable, so he did not dare to give him too many responsibilities. He wanted Zhou Jing's position to be marginalized to prevent any mistakes from affecting more people.

This was human nature. Zhou Jing had no objections. He also planned to follow the arrangements and participate in the hunt in this manner.

In addition, he had yet to tell anyone about Ross's successful enhancement. As such, he did not let Ross participate.

Although his follower had some attributes, his combat skills were useless. If he participated in the hunt now, he would most likely become a snack for the mutated beasts.

He would rather have Ross stay close to the battlefield and wait for an opportunity.

"Speaking of which, I can take a look at the standard of someone in his Second Enhancement..."

Zhou Jing's eyes flickered. Because he had just conversed with Weber, he could spend 10 Astral Points to check the other party's attributes.

With some simple commands, Weber's attributes popped up on the interface.

[Attributes: Physical Fitness 32, Resistance 29, Perception 15, Spirit 7, Energy 0]

"The attributes of the second enhancement are still higher compared to mine..."

Zhou Jing nodded to himself, having a clearer understanding of his own level.

His current attributes happened to be in between one and two enhancements. He had surpassed the former, but he had not reached the latter. However, there wasn't much of a difference between him and a Second Enhancer.

If they were to actually fight, he would not be crushed by the sheer difference in attributes. It mainly depended on the operation.

Soon, the hunters divided into teams. The main team consisted of eight people and four people. Weber took over the most stressful task of restraining one of the beasts, while Zhou Jing, Barong, and Weiss were in the main team.

On the other side, Lord Lutt had also finished gathering his troops. He nodded at everyone before solemnly speaking out.

“White Plains Town will depend on everyone!”

Weber nodded and waved to the hunters as he commanded.

“Let’s go!”

...

Before long, the 12 hunters left, and the army of the town was also mobilized under the lead of the officer.

At this moment, only Lord Lutt and some guards were left at the city gate. They did not go to the battlefield.

Lutt watched the two troops leave before walking back to town.

When they passed by the city gate, a figure walked down the stairs of the city wall. It was the man with the buzz-cut who had been watching from the city wall.

Seeing this, Lutt waved his hand and told the Mutant Blood Warrior guards beside him to walk away, so they would not eavesdrop on their conversation.

The man with the buzz cut came forward and spoke in a stiff and strange Northern dialect. He said calmly, “You’re really unlucky. Two Claw Rending Bears, I reckon you’ll lose half of your hunters.”

Lutt looked around and saw that the guards were far away before he frowned at the man.

“The hunters might not be able to solve the problem this time. You need to do it.”

The man with the buzz cut shook his head, his expression indifferent. “That’s not in my job description.”

Lord Lutt rolled his eyes and said in a low voice, “But it’s not in your best interests for the town’s protection to be damaged, would it?”

“That has nothing to do with me. I only listen to the orders of my superiors. My mission is to make transactions with you and keep you safe. Other than that, as long as your town isn’t really attacked, nothing else has anything to do with me.”

The man with the buzz cut remained expressionless.

“How many things do you take from me every year? Now that I’m in trouble, you still won’t help? With your abilities, it would be easy to deal with two Claw Rending Bears, right?!” Lord Lutt’s remained dissatisfied.

The buzz-cut man’s tone was calm as he slowly spoke.

“Don’t push your luck. We’ll talk about it when your town is really attacked. Our cooperation isn’t doesn’t include solving such a small problem... As I said, I’ll only follow orders.”

With that, the buzz-cut man turned around and left.

Lutt watched him go, his expression unreadable.

Chapter 66: Hunt and Thunder Strike (1)

The hunter team left White Plains Town and followed a guide to the meeting point. In the evening, they arrived at the target location, beside a sentry post.

This place was a rolling plain with no cover. According to the sentry’s prediction of the trajectory for the operation, the two Claw Rending Bears would arrive soon.

Under Weber’s orders, many hunters began to check their equipment and prepare for battle. Everyone knew that this was a fierce battle, and the atmosphere was tense.

Zhou Jing was silently wiping his long saber while thinking about how to snatch a kill.

At this moment, Barong suddenly came to his side and instructed him again.

“Jason, you lack experience. Pay attention to our actions. Just work with the team from the side.”

“I’m aware.”

Zhou Jing nodded and glanced at his teammates.

In the main attack team he was in, Barong and three others were in charge of pulling the front. The other five were the damage output team. He and Weiss were both free roamers, meant to move around to deal damage.

On the restraining team, Weber’s facial muscles were tense, and he had a serious expression as if he was facing a great enemy. He silently sharpened his knife. As the tallest person present, he took the initiative to take on the most difficult mission, fully implementing the spirit of greater responsibility with greater ability.

Zhou Jing thought to himself.

“The last time I fought the white spider beast, Barong led a group of ordinary hunters to ambush it with a trap. This time, my teammates are all extraordinary mutant hunters, but I have no choice but to fight head-on. I wonder what will happen...”

Suddenly, a roar came from afar.

“Aooooo —”

Everyone’s expressions tightened as they looked in the direction of the voice.

On the top of a small hill in the distance, two black Claw Rending Bearss were running towards them with large strides. The ground was even trembling from the impact of their charge.

The Claw Rending Bears were five meters tall and covered in thick black fur. Its two bear paws were disproportionately large, and its claws were extremely long, shining like steel.

There were still some burns and wounds on their bodies. These were the injuries left behind when they broke through the trap defense line set up by the town’s sentries. However, all the wounds looked light. The pits, spikes, flames, and other traps that were enough to severely injure most mutated beasts left only some superficial wounds on the thick-skinned Claw Rending Bears.

Although their fur was weak to fire, with the Slashing Claw Bear’s weight, as long as it rolled a few times on the ground, the flames would be extinguished.

“Drink the potions!”

Weber ordered in a deep voice. He took out two bottles of hunter’s potion and drank them all.

All the hunters moved almost at the same time as they drank the potions and empty bottles landed on the meadow.

Zhou Jing also drank a bottle of Hunter’s Potion. He could vaguely feel that he seemed to have gotten a little lighter.

However, before he could think further, Weber had already taken off the giant sword on his back. He held it with both hands and roared out loud.

“Go!”

As soon as he finished speaking, Weber rushed out first, followed by his three teammates.

“The one on the left is ours!” Barong also took out his battle ax. With a roar, he charged forward.

Zhou Jing took a deep breath, grabbed the heavy saber on his back, and ran with the team.

In the next moment, more than ten hunters collided with the two Claw Rending Bears!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

In an instant, human figures filled the sky.

The few people who were fighting head-on were sent flying by the Claw Rending Bears in an instant and landed on the meadow. However, they quickly got up and continued attacking.

The huge force from their collision also stopped the momentum of the two Claw Rending Bears.

“Roar!” The bears roared in anger and swung their claws, bringing with them a powerful wind pressure that flattened the weeds around them.

Weber’s giant blade and Barong’s battle ax slashed out, each catching the claw attacks of different bears.

Clang! Clang!

Sparks flew as claws bounced off the weapons.

The terrifying recoil sent the two of them flying. Barong was sent rolling along the ground, dredging up a trench as he shot backward.

Although Weber was not in such a sorry state, the giant blade was also raised high by the recoil, causing him to take more than ten steps back. His weapon almost fell from his hand.

Ignoring the numbness in his arm, Weber shouted.

“Separate them!”

He led the restraining team and pulled the attention of one of the bears away from the battlefield. Meanwhile, the main team pulled in another direction to attract the aggro of the other Claw Rending Bear.

After several tries, everyone finally separated the two and turned the area into two battlefields.

Although the Claw Rending Bear had a powerful body, it was still a beast. The hunters understood its habits, so everyone could think of ways to pull the aggro.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Every claw of the Claw Rending Bear was powerful and heavy. It not only swept up a whistling wind with each move but even moved agilely. From time to time, it would also roll agilely, far more powerful than the White Spider Monster in the past.

However, in Zhou Jing's field of vision, his insight brought about by his combat intuition was used again. He predicted and observed every move of the Claw Rending Bear.

With his supernatural body strengthened by the mutant blood, his movements could completely keep up with the battle. Although the Claw Rending Bear's attacks were fierce, he dodged them with ease.

Although the current battle was more dangerous, to the current Zhou Jing, it was far easier than when he faced the White Spider.

However, the hunters were in a dangerous situation. The bear's huge claws swept out continuously, creating ravines in the ground with loud bangs.

The hunters could only transform into rolling masters and only had time to attack once or twice when they were dodging.

On the other hand, the restraining team was even more tragic. Weber had forcefully taken on the Claw Rending Bears and was also beaten until he could only roll around on the ground. His face was covered in dust, and there was no room for him to attack at all. He could only stall for time and hope that the main attack team could open up the situation.

Zhou Jing followed the main attack team and surrounded one of the Claw Rending bears. From time to time, he would use his heavy saber to smash into its body, causing the thick fur to ripple, but the damage dealt was limited.

Chapter 67: Hunt and Thunder Strike (2)

He observed his teammates' actions. Most of them had a tacit understanding. They advanced and retreated accordingly, constantly pulling and cooperating, leaving more wounds on the bear.

While his teammates were covering for him, Weiss kept circling around the back and poking at the Bear's back door. He had really grasped the essence of the skill "Chrysanthemum is the Body's Weakness¹" and displayed his personal tactical style of popping the balls. Wherever the spear pointed only led to the balls.

However, there was no one on Zhou Jing's side to cooperate with him, so he could only wander around alone to find an opportunity.

The moment they exchanged blows, he had spent 10 Astral Realm Points to check the attributes of the Claw Rending Bear.

[Attributes: Physical Fitness 38, Resistance 40 (Level 1 Max), Perception 7, Spirit 8, Energy 0]

"38 points of physical fitness must be related to strength... And its resistance is higher than his physical fitness. So 40 points is the limit of the first level of attributes."

Zhou Jing observed the battle situation and quickly analyzed it in his mind.

The Claw Rending Bear's attributes were even stronger than Weber's, who had already undergone his Second Enhancement. Barong and the other two could only barely hold it back with their combined strength. They were already bleeding from their mouths and noses, which showed how difficult it was for them to resist such a huge beast in terms of strength. Every time they attacked, they suffered a backlash, and their internal injuries slowly worsened.

Zhou Jing also realized that perhaps because he was a newcomer, the other hunters did not cooperate with him, which left him out.

However, it also indirectly created a situation where his other teammates were able to withstand more pressure while he had ample space to attack.

Although this might not have been the hunters' intention, Zhou Jing was still excited.

"I can't waste these conditions..."

Zhou Jing's eyes flickered, but his mind surprisingly became calmer.

He did not rush forward immediately. Instead, he maintained his current speed and followed the team's pace to attack. He silently observed and recorded the Claw Rending Bear's combat habits.

It was as if he was learning a subject on his own. He quickly estimated his agility and the bear's attack reaction, assessing it against his own Physical Fitness to see if he could compete against it.

While he was focused on observing, the hunters were shouting nonstop at each other.

“Don’t stand on its left. It’s used to attacking that position!”

“Hit its feet and hind leg joints and slow it down!”

The hunter in charge of damage kept attacking, but his weapon could barely cut through the tough fur, leaving only some shallow cuts. At most, it could only break the balance of the Claw Rending Bear, allowing him to share the pressure with Barong and the others.

Because the bear was completely covered in tough fur, they would have to hit its vitals to inflict any sort of serious damage. However, its vital points were not as obvious as the White Spider, so it was not as easy to deal with compared to the spider.

Many hunters consciously attacked its vital points, but so long as the Claw Rending Bears tilted its body slightly, it could avoid the attacks aimed at its vital points and reduce its damage.

“Eyes, ear holes, crotch...”

Zhou Jing silently counted the vital parts. His gaze wandered around the Splitting Claw Bear’s body before finally locking onto its eyes.

“Five meters tall... If I jump up with all my might, I should be able to stab its eyes. But, I’ll become a target in midair and won’t be able to dodge its next counterattack. So, it’s best if I can climb onto this bear’s body... It requires very agile movements. The Lightning Strike Leopard Potion mainly enhances my agility and explosive power... I can do this!”

Zhou Jing took a deep breath, his excitement for battle reigniting.

In the next moment, his mind emptied, and his distracting thoughts dissipated. He became extremely focused.

The Claw Rending Bear in his line of sight seemed to have lost its flesh, blood, and fur. It was as if only its skeleton was left, revealing the most fundamental trajectory of the bear.

I see it!

Zhou Jing’s eyes turned cold. He threw away the heavy saber and pulled out the long saber at his waist. He switched to his left hand and stepped down hard on the soles of his feet, his speed suddenly increasing.

Whoosh!

Like a green bolt of lightning, he suddenly broke apart from the team and quickly approached the Claw Rending Bear from the side.

“Roar!” The Splitting Claw Bear noticed it and roared as it swung its huge palm down.

Zhou Jing made an emergency turn as he charged, narrowly avoiding the sharp claws.

Peng!

The bear paw left a deep palm print on the ground.

The moment his body brushed past the bear’s paw, Zhou Jing’s right hand suddenly reached out, grabbed the thick fur on the bear’s arm, and pulled hard on it.

The power contained in his body exploded at this moment. He leaped up and jumped onto the Splitting Claw Bear’s arm. His right hand kept pulling against the thick fur to allow him to jump up along the arm of the Splitting Claw Bear like an agile gecko.

“Do you want to die?! Come down!”

The expressions of the hunters changed. They did not expect the newbie to suddenly charge forward, and they hurriedly tried to stop him.

They knew that they could climb up the Split-Clawed Bear’s body, but no one did so. This required greater agility without mistakes. Otherwise, they would lose the chance to dodge. As long as the Claw Rending Bear slapped them with its other hand or rolled on the ground, they could finish off the hunter who climbed up.

Barong’s expression changed, and he cursed inwardly. He hadn’t expected Jason to still be reckless after he had instructed him several times.

In his opinion, he was just asking to die.

The Claw Rending Bear, at this moment, sensed that something was crawling on its body, and its other paw slapped Zhou Jing, who was on its arm as if it was swatting a fly.

The strong bear’s paw enlarged infinitely in his vision while he was still hanging in midair.

Zhou Jing suddenly held his breath as if he had locked his strength in his body.

A spark of lightning flashed through his eyes!

[Thunder Strike]!

An electrifying stimulation instantly spread throughout his entire body, and his strong body suddenly produced an even stronger explosive force.

Peng!

The bear paw hit the arm, but it missed its target.

At the critical moment, Zhou Jing stepped on the Claw Rending Bear's arm and leaped into the air, passing through the range of the bear's attack.

Chapter 68: Hunt and Thunder Strike (3)

In midair, his line of sight was level with the Claw Rending Bear.

One man and one beast. The moment their eyes met...

A cold light gleamed in their eyes.

Psssh!

His long saber stabbed into the left eye of the Claw Rending Bear, and blood gushed out!

“Aooooo —”

The bear let out an earth-shattering howl. Ignoring the other hunters who seized the opportunity to try and shave its leg, it attacked Zhou Jing with both its paws.

At this moment, the long saber was still deeply embedded in the bear's eye. Zhou Jing's body hung in the air, his hands holding the hilt as he suddenly used the blade as a pivot to swing up.

Peng!

The bear's paws collided in midair, causing even the air to tremble, but it was a lonely slap.

Zhou Jing had narrowly dodged it. His explosive power and astonishing agility allowed him to safely land on the bear's head instead!

At this moment, his posture had already changed to holding the saber in a backhanded manner. He suddenly pulled it out!

Psssh!

The long saber was out, and the Claw Rending Bear's eye turned into a hole, spraying out blood.

Zhou Jing's expression did not change as he stabbed at the bear's intact right eye. Then, he quickly drew his saber and kicked the back of the bear's neck with both feet, sending himself flying backward.

Peng!

The moment he shot off, the bear hit its head where Zhou Jing was originally standing. The violent wind made Zhou Jing's eyelids hurt.

Falling from the air, Zhou Jing broke his fall by tapping on the ground with both feet. With a light roll, he quickly stood up and looked up at the Claw Rending Bear.

The physically blinded bear was roaring in pain, dizzy from its own slap. It held its head and rolled around like a top, sweeping its paws crazily at the empty space, forcing all the hunters back.

"Got it!"

Only then did Zhou Jing exhale the air in his lungs. His tightly shut pores opened, and sweat quickly seeped out, wetting his armor.

After exiting the [Thunder Strike] state, a wave of soreness swept through his entire body, and his stamina was greatly exhausted.

The series of dangerous actions only took a few seconds. Zhou Jing squeezed out his strengthened stamina from the mutant blood and combined it with his combat intuition before he narrowly managed to blind the Claw Rending Bear.

Many hunters looked at the now violent Claw Rending Bear and couldn't help but turn to look at Zhou Jing in surprise and excitement.

"Good kid! You're amazing!"

"Well done!"

Zhou Jing's series of actions were as smooth as flowing water. He directly severely injured the Claw Rending Bear under a tightrope situation, causing many hunters to be drenched in sweat.

Many hunters thought that if they did not care about their lives, they might be able to do the same. However, the success rate was extremely low, and they could not make every judgment and action so accurately. Any mistake would result in death.

They thought that the newbie hunter was good and a reliable teammate!

Apart from shock, everyone was overjoyed and instantly excited.

A Claw Rending Bear that had lost its vision was much easier to deal with than before!

This risky operation by Jason Wood had directly freed them from their deadlock. Their main attack team's duty was to kill one of them as quickly as possible!

Everyone could not be bothered to exclaim in surprise. They seized this opportunity to attack again and take its life while it was injured.

Barong gasped in surprise, his heart surging with shock.

He had guessed that Zhou Jing's strengthening effect was very good, but it still exceeded his expectations.

He did not expect Jason to be so sharp with his first actual combat performance.

He was just like Will at that time. This combat talent was also very rare... Could this also be the talent of the Wood family?

Without thinking too much, Barong quickly returned to his post and followed everyone to attack the blinded Claw Rending Bear.

The pressure on everyone was greatly reduced. They cooperated with each other and left more wounds on the bear. Soon, there were bloodstains everywhere on the ground.

In the distance, Weber, who was struggling to restrain the other bear, also discovered the stellar results of the main attack team. He immediately perked up and tried his best to hold back the energy of the other bear to prevent the two mutated beasts from converging once more.

Not long after, the blinded bear was riddled with wounds. Without its sight, it couldn't accurately dodge the attacks aimed at its vitals, and its injuries got progressively worse.

Weiss got what he wanted. The spear was stained with blood, and this particular Claw Rending Bear was destined to never be able to experience Father's Day.

As its injuries worsened, its movements gradually slowed down, and more of its flaws appeared.

Zhou Jing, having recovered a little after a short rest, seized an opportunity and called over two hunters to help. With his previous achievements, his teammates were quite willing to cooperate with him this time.

He stepped on the weapons of his two teammates and used the force of their swing to suddenly jump up. He pounced directly onto the head of the blinded bear before stabbing his blade deeply into its shattered eye socket.

Puchi!

The blade pierced the bear's brain.

Zhou Jing twisted his wrist as though he could feel the sensation of his brain tissue being minced through the blade.

He then withdrew his saber, bringing out a mess of blood and brain matter.

The Claw Rending Bears instantly froze, and its huge body finally fell.

Boom!!!

The ground shook.

This bear was now dead.

Zhou Jing rolled to the ground and got up lightly. He looked at the corpse of the Claw Rending Bear, clenching his fists in excitement.

Good job, ?KS1?successful!

“Good job! We killed this monster!”

The hunters perked up in excitement.

However, before they could cheer, Weber, who was restraining the team in the distance, spat out a mouthful of blood before shouting out.

“Don't just stand there, kill the other one too!”

According to his original plan, one party would restrain while another party would attack. After killing one of them, Weber had estimated that the hunters would be in a bad state and should retreat.

With the bear's rough skin and thick flesh, Weber thought that it would take a long time for the attacking team to have any results, but he did not expect the novice hunter to be so fierce. He immediately broke apart the deadlock in the situation and helped the attacking team quickly get rid of one bear.

After all, Zhou Jing was a newbie, so Weber did not have much hope for him. He did not expect such a pleasant surprise.

Because of Zhou Jing, most of the hunters' stamina was still well preserved, and their injuries were not serious.

The results were remarkable!

Weber immediately realized that the situation was quite favorable. While secretly marveling at Zhou Jing's ability, he immediately adjusted his tactics.

There was no need to retreat. He would kill the other Claw Rending Bear here and completely resolve this threat!

Chapter 69: Roping In (1)

Upon hearing Weber's command, the attack team immediately turned around to help Weber and the other three deal with the other Claw Rending Bear.

After dealing with the pressure of the first bear, there was no suspense in surrounding and killing the second Claw Rending Bear. They cooperated skillfully and exhausted it to death with their rich experience.

This time, Zhou Jing did not take the risk to charge forward. Instead, he cooperated with the other hunters and fought steadily. In the end, they only paid the price of two seriously injured hunters to take down the other bear.

Boom!!!

The battered second Claw Rending Bear fell, and the ground shook.

The hills that served as the battlefield were filled with gullies dug out by the Claw Rending Bear. The hunters were also covered in dust and mud and more or less stained with blood.

When they saw their prey dead, the hunters stopped moving. Their tense nerves relaxed, exhaustion surged like a tide, and they instantly collapsed all over the ground.

"Phew... Finally killed these two stupid bears. My hands are almost worn out."

"Damn, they were so strong. They almost broke my back."

Everyone gasped roughly as they spoke.

The most tired were always the strength-type Hunters who fought head-on. Almost everyone belonging to that category was injured.

Barong sat on the ground, his hands and feet trembling. The blood he had spat out earlier had coagulated on his beard, forming dark red knots.

Fighting against high-risk mutated beasts was still too much for him.

Zhou Jing only needed to move around and deal damage and did not need to tank any damage. Thus, he only had light injuries from scraping against the bear at times. In comparison, he was in the best condition.

He walked over to Barong's side and couldn't help but scratch that shiny bald head. He smiled and asked, "How is it? Are you alright?"

"Don't touch my head. I won't die anyway."

Barong slapped Zhou Jing's hand away.

Then, he looked up at Zhou Jing, his eyes shining with gratification and admiration.

"Your performance was beyond my expectations. It's all thanks to you that no one died... Two Claw Rending Bears... If you hadn't quickly injured one of them, we might have lost three or four people."

"It's my duty." Zhou Jing waved his hand.

"It seems that I underestimated you when I told you not to take any risks. Your strength has far exceeded mine."

"I thought I could do it, so I just acted on it," Zhou Jing replied in a deep voice without explaining much.

Barong smiled before he earnestly spoke, "However, I still have to remind you that if you don't have enough confidence in the future, don't take the risk like you did today. Otherwise, once you form this habit, you'll be doomed if you make a mistake one day."

"I'll remember that."

Zhou Jing nodded.

Barong could be considered his guide, so they were naturally close. Although neither of them mentioned any position of teacher or apprentice, they actually had a similar relationship. Compared to others, Barong was sincerely thinking for him.

Although he might not necessarily follow Barong's instructions, he would never ignore them.

In this hunt, Zhou Jing had roughly figured out the limits of his strengthened body. He understood his combat strength and re-examined the actual effects of his current attributes.

At this moment, many hunters got up and surrounded the two prey as if they were thinking about how to deal with them.

When Barong saw this, he gestured in the direction of the hunters before saying to Zhou Jing, "You've contributed a lot this time, so you should have the right to prioritize the spoils of war. Go over and discuss it with them. At the same time, get to know your new comrades. In the future, you'll be an official Mutant Beast Hunter, and you'll have to fight alongside them."

"Alright, I'll go then."

Zhou Jing nodded and turned to walk towards the hunters gathered not far away.

Looking at Zhou Jing's back, Barong suddenly stopped him.

"Jason!"

"Huh?" Zhou Jing stopped and turned around in confusion.

Only to see Barong give a thumbs up as he grinned. "Hahaha, you will definitely become an outstanding hunter in the future!"

Hearing this, Zhou Jing smiled and nodded in greeting before continuing forward.

Behind him, Barong laughed silently, feeling a sense of accomplishment.

He had brought and taught the correct person.

Jason-Wood would perhaps be the best hunter he would ever have the chance to teach in his life.

Zhou Jing walked to his prey. When the hunters gathered there saw him coming, they immediately pulled him to their side. Their attitude now was much more enthusiastic than before.

Previously, he was just a newbie hunter, so no one paid much attention to him. However, when they saw Zhou Jing's combat strength in this hunt, everyone realized that he was not a simple newbie. He seemed very powerful, so they immediately took him seriously.

To Mutant Beast Hunters, their strength, courage, and hunting results would be respected.

Weber was also in the crowd. He immediately faced Zhou Jing and nodded. "Jason, you've contributed a lot this time. Without you, our situation would have been very troublesome. You can choose the spoils of war first."

Hearing his energetic voice, Zhou Jing couldn't help but size up Weber.

This person led the restraining team and endured much more pressure, but his injuries were much lighter than Barong and the others. The body brought about by the second enhancement made Weber's endurance and recovery ability superior to all the first enhancement hunters here.

Zhou Jing did not decline his goodwill as well. He looked at the corpses of the two prey as he asked curiously, "How are the spoils of war usually divided?"

Weiss immediately perked up and jumped out.

"Oh right, you doesn't know the rules yet. Let me explain to him... For such a group hunting operation, we will usually discuss the treatment plan according to our contributions. After all, there are too many materials that can be obtained from such a large prey. It's impossible to give them all to one person. Usually, everyone will decide on the parts that they want and decide on the requirements first before sending them to the workshop."

Chapter 70: Roping In (2)

"Then I understand." Zhou Jing understood.

At this moment, Weber interrupted, "Their claws are good materials for making weapons, and the fur is also suitable for making better leather armor. These two are the most valuable."

"Of course, if you choose a bear paw to bring home to eat, we have no objections," Weiss teased.

Zhou Jing couldn't help but glance at him.

He felt that if Weiss were to choose the spoils instead, he would go for the bear whip and bring it home to nourish his body...

(TL Note: Bear whip refers to the p*nis of the bear.)

After all, if he did not have any passion, how did he master such a well-trained crotch plucking technique?

Zhou Jing shook his head and thought about Weber's suggestion instead.

The Claw Rending Bear's claws were indeed tough. Even after fighting head-on with everyone for so long, it only had a few small chips on the surface of the claws. The thick fur and skin had very strong impact resistance characteristics, and they were all very good materials as well. The equipment created would definitely be much better than the ordinary equipment he currently had.

"Alright then. I want to use its sharp claws to forge two blades for myself. I'll also use its fur to make a set of armor."

Zhou Jing stated his requirements.

As for the blood potion, there would be a quota given by the workshop, so there was no need to specially distribute it. It mainly depended on how many blood potions the workshop could make with the two Claw Rending Bears.

He had just finished his first enhancement, so he did not plan to enhance himself again for the time being. Although this was one of the "life objectives" needed to clear the stage, he felt that he needed to be steady.

Furthermore, he still owed Barong a debt. He felt that it was better to pay it back first.

Hearing this, everyone nodded. This request was very reasonable. The materials for the two Splitting Claw Bears were completely enough.

Everyone immediately looked at Weber. According to his contributions, Weber's choice of spoils would definitely be before the others.

"I don't need the materials. Just give me an extra portion of income when you sell them."

Weber waved his hand, speaking in a serious tone.

Then, he turned to look at Zhou Jing and said in a deep voice, "Jason·Wood... Your strength is not bad. It's hard to believe that you just completed your enhancement. If there are any hunting opportunities in the future, I'll consider calling you along."

After the battle just now, Weber realized that Zhou Jing was more powerful than an ordinary hunter. He no longer planned to treat him as a newcomer.

In the entire White Plains Town, there were only three second enhancement hunters. Every additional reliable character was good news for Weber. He did not hesitate to send out an invitation to Zhou Jing—seeking reliable teammates was also very important to hunters.

Hearing this, the others also responded one after another, indicating that if they encountered an opportunity in the future, they would also call Zhou Jing to hunt together.

Zhou Jing responded to all of them positively and did not refuse a single one.

Knowing that he was recognized by the hunters in White Plains Town, he integrated in to the circle of hunters and made everyone remember him.

Not long after, everyone finished up with the distribution of the spoils and arranged for Weiss to run the errand of informing the soldiers at the back that there was no need to continue setting up traps. At the same time, he was to call over more manpower to help transport the prey back to the city.

Zhou Jing also went to the side to rest. Only then did he have the time to open the interface and look at the flashing notifications.

[Triggered achievement: First Kill of Mutant Beast – High Risk!]

[Obtained 1,000 Astral Points, [Aptitude Enhancement – Physical Fitness (Small)] x1, [Aptitude Enhancement – Resistance (Small)] x1, [Attribute Enhancement – Physical Fitness (Slight)] x1

[Life Objective [Hunting High Risk Mutant Beasts] has been completed.]

[Acquired 30 Information State Particles]

[Current Apostle Permanence Progress: 30/110]

When the previous apostle killed the white spider monster, he triggered the achievement of obtaining the first kill of a dangerous mutant beast. As for the first kill of a high-risk mutant beast, he naturally had achievements as well. The reward was even more than what he got for the former achievement.

Zhou Jing took a look and stored the rewards for increasing his aptitude and attributes in the Achievement Warehouse. There was no need to use them now.

In order not to waste them, he thought about it and felt that it was best to completely confirm that an apostle could clear the stage first or that the apostle template was extremely valuable before using the achievement reward.

He felt that the accumulated achievements and rewards would be more useful if used in this manner.

Speaking of clearing the level, this time, his “Kill-Stealing” had completed one of his “life objectives.” The 30 Information State Particles he obtained had advanced the progress towards clearing the stage.

“This means that every time I complete a life objective, I should be able to obtain Information State particles. But, is the reward for all life objectives enough to reach the passing standard, or is it not certain?” Zhou Jing was puzzled about this.

According to the interpretation, the Information State Particle was a resource that could only be obtained when the affected the current plane.

He had yet to obtain such resources from his daily activities and achievements, so he was not sure what level he had to reach to produce such resources.

The most important way to obtain it was to complete the “life objective.”

...

Not long after, the army of White Plains Town rushed over with tools. With the help of the hunters, they slowly dragged the two extremely heavy corpses.

It was already late at night when the hunters met the two mutated beasts in the evening and transported their prey back to White Plains Town.

Lord Lutt welcomed them at the city gate. When he saw everyone return, he immediately came forward.

“Thank you for your hard work. On behalf of White Plains Town, I thank everyone for your efforts!”

Weber shook his head. “There’s no need to be polite. Let the workshop’s people deal with the prey first... I’m afraid such a huge corpse can’t be stuffed through the city gate.”

“Of course. I’ve already given the orders.”

Lord Lutt waved his hand and got the hunter workshop staff, who had been waiting at the side, to start working. They dealt with the carcass of the Claw Rending Bears on the spot.

After doing this, Lutt turned around and secretly sized up the state of the hunters. When he realized that no one had died, his eyes flashed with surprise.

Chapter 71: Roping In (3)

No one died? Did this hunt go so smoothly this time?

Lutt was a little puzzled, but mostly he was pleasantly surprised. Either way, it was good that none of the hunters perished.

Seeing that the hunters were in a good state, he rolled his eyes and immediately came out with a plan.

“Everyone resolved the threat for the town, so it’s worth celebrating. It’s night time, and you haven’t eaten because of the hunt. I want to hold a banquet to entertain everyone and discuss the remuneration. Does everyone have time?”

Even after hearing this, the hunters’ expressions did not change.

Every time there was an emergency expedition against mutated beasts for the town, the lord would always hold a banquet to entertain them and build a good relationship with them after the hunt. Everyone was used to it.

“I plan to go back and recuperate. I won’t be attending the banquet.”

“I’m hungry. Let’s go eat.”

“The lord invited me, so it would be inappropriate not to go, haha.”

Everyone had their own ideas. In the end, six hunters accepted Lutt’s invitation.

Zhou Jing was not familiar with the situation in White Plains Town, so he naturally did not refuse.

Weber and Weiss also accepted the invitation, but Barong didn’t go. He said that he wanted to go back and recuperate.

The group followed Lord Lutt and soon arrived at the lord’s long house in the center of the city.

The residence of the Lord of White Plains Town was a small four-story castle. Everyone came to the banquet hall on the first floor and sat down at the long table.

While waiting for the dishes to be served, Lutt chatted with everyone. He roughly understood the hunting process and learned about the contribution of Zhou Jing, a newcomer.

Lutt picked up his glass and smiled in greeting. “So our town has a new mutant beast hunter. Jason, thank you for fighting for White Plains Town.”

Zhou Jing was not used to such an occasion and chose to only casually reply, "That is my duty."

Lord Lutt took a sip of wine and asked curiously, "Speaking of which, I've never heard of your surname, Wood. I wonder which tribe you're related to?"

Zhou Jing's expression was calm.

As expected, he knew that a true blood relative of the tribe would definitely ask this question. This time, he had met someone who knew the ropes...

According to the aristocrats in the early days of this world, this was their way of doing things. Lutt wanted to see if he was a true "noble."

However, Zhou Jing was very calm. "I didn't know that as a mutant beast hunter, my background has to be investigated. Does being Mutant Beast Hunter also depends on one's background?"

For an aristocrat, the more he explained, the easier it would be for him to make mistakes. It would be difficult to convince others no matter what, so he had long made up his mind not to explain anything... As long as he had the identity of a hunter and the credit for slaying the beast, no one would object if he did not want to say it.

Lord Lutt was taken aback, but he quickly laughed it off and changed the subject.

"No, I was just curious."

He could tell that Zhou Jing did not want to talk about it. Although he was curious, he could not force a hunter who had just fought the mutant beasts for the town to speak, so he did not ask further.

Soon, the servants served the food. The hunters were also hungry, and thus everyone turned their attention to the food, wolfing it down.

Lord Lutt ate slowly as he discussed the remuneration with Weber and settled on the amount.

In addition to submitting the processing payment for the hunter workshop, as the lord, he would also provide an additional 100 Terra silver coins for each hunter.

After calculating, the lord gave out 1,200 silver coins, which was a huge sum.

However, Zhou Jing secretly curled his lips... Wool could only be naturally found on sheep. Since the lord had the right to collect taxes, whatever money the hunters took and spent in the town would, in the end, still flow back to the lord. Thus, he had the confidence to be generous.

Still, at least he was willing to pay and was not too stingy. After spending a short time together, Zhou Jing's impression of Lord Lutt was not bad.

There was not much nightlife in this world. The town had a curfew at night, so the dinner was very simple. The hunters were also more pragmatic. After eating, they bade farewell and left.

Zhou Jing was also about to leave, but Lord Lutt stopped him.

"Jason, there's something I want to talk to you about."

"What is it?" Zhou Jing turned around curiously.

Lord Lutt said slowly, "I heard from them just now that you are a freelance hunter trained by Barong. Do you plan to stay in White Plains Town for a long time or return back to Frostwood Village?"

"That depends on the situation. In short, I'll just move around this area," Zhou Jing replied ambiguously.

"I hope you can stay in White Plains Town. With your skills, you won't have much chance to showcase them in Frostwood Village."

"Is that so?" Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows. "Frostwood Village is also under your rule, but you don't seem to care?"

"It's not that I don't care. As a lord, I have the responsibility to protect Frostwood Village... But White Plains Town has a larger population and is more important. I have to allocate my limited manpower to secure the town first."

Lord Lutt explained. He paused, finally revealing his true intentions.

"Actually, I also want to hire you as my personal guard."

Chapter 72: New Breathing Technique (1)

"Hire me as a guard?"

Zhou Jing's heart skipped a beat. He now knew why Lutt only wanted him to stay.

The lord must have asked the other hunters in the past, but they did not agree. Now that he realized that he was a newbie, he came to ask him the same question.

It probably wasn't because of his achievements. All the new hunters from White Plains Town probably got the same invitation.

Zhou Jing rolled his eyes and did not immediately refuse. Instead, he asked, "Does being your guard mean that I don't have to hunt mutated beasts?"

"The duty of a guard is mainly to protect my personal safety." Lutt nodded and smiled. He did not say it directly, but the meaning was almost implied.

Zhou Jing was curious. "I saw that you already have some guards by your side. But in White Plains Town, you don't seem to encounter any danger. Why do you need more guards?"

"The threat of the mutant beasts is directed at everyone in the city, but some of the threats are only aimed at me. Because I'm the lord, some people who oppose me might plot for my life. Moreover, the world has changed. Some mutant warriors have power, but they want to commit evil. Being a lord is not safe." Lutt shook his head.

"I see..." Zhou Jing was deep in thought. "Then what kind of remuneration can you offer me?"

Lutt perked up.

His invitation to the new hunter was merely just because he wanted to give it a try. In the past, many hunters refused him out of a hunter's sense of honor without waiting for him to mention the reward.

Seeing Zhou Jing ask about the remuneration, Lutt felt that there was a chance.

"80 Terra silver coins every 10 days. The price of various potions will be provided."

That's all?

Zhou Jing inwardly shook his head.

80 per every day would only amount to 240 per month. The income of the mutant beast hunters might not be lower than this. As long as they hunted more beasts in a month, they could easily surpass this value.

However, on second thought, there was almost no risk in getting this pay. It was basically free, and there was no need to risk their lives to hunt. Some Mutant Blood Warriors who did not dare to be hunters were more willing to earn this stable money.

However... Zhou Jing was not too interested in the money he could get from the Mutant World.

This place was barren. Even if one had money, the things they could buy were limited.

A lord in a remote area did not seem to be able to take out any rare resources... Even if he could, he would not use them as remuneration.

“Forget it. I want to be a hunter more.”

Zhou Jing shook his head. He was just asking about the market rate out of curiosity. After all, the “life objective” of his apostle was to be a Mutant Beast Hunter, so he naturally would not change his profession easily.

“... Alright.” Lutt took a deep breath and forced a smile. “My invitation always stands. You can come to me one day when you change your mind.”

I'm afraid there won't be such a day...

Zhou Jing did not say anything. After bidding farewell to Lutt, he left the lord's residence.

All the hunters left. Lutt dismissed all the attendants and paced the banquet hall, where he was alone.

At this moment, a figure turned out from behind another door. It was the buzz-cut man from earlier.

Lutt looked over. “You heard what was said, didn't you?”

The buzz-cut man nodded calmly. He had been hiding behind this door the entire time.

Lutt was used to the buzz-cut man's magical performance. He did not ask how he had managed to hide from the senses of a group of hunters and how he had been able to clearly hear their conversation from so far away. He merely chuckled.

“Looks like you guessed wrong. None of the hunters were killed.”

“I heard the situation. That new hunter named Jason who took a risk and quickly took care of one of them. He was lucky.”

The buzz-cut man's tone was calm.

Lutt rubbed his chin and suddenly said, “What do you think of this Jason? I heard from the other hunters that he seems to be a genius. He just became a hunter and his strength is comparable to a Second Enhancer...”

“He has some skills, but that's all. He's no different from other hunters.”

The man with the buzz cut didn't care at all.

...

Zhou Jing returned to the hotel to rest for the night. The next morning, the remuneration for the hunt was delivered.

One portion was the amount from the mutant beasts that were submitted to the workshop, and the other was the reward promised by the lord. In total, he obtained 220 Terra silver coins.

The total price of the workshop's recovery of the mutant beast corpses was fixed, and they would not increase the payment just because there were more people participating. The money each person received from the beasts was limited, but it was still a rather generous reward.

Zhou Jing suddenly became much richer. He immediately returned the money he owed Barong.

He then dragged Barong to the workshop and transferred the share of the mutant blood potion that he had just obtained to Barong to make up for his debt.

This time, after killing two Claw Rending Bears, the workshop gave each hunter who participated two chances to exchange for the Mutant Blood Potion. Zhou Jing still had one chance left after returning the potion he owed Barong.

However, the workshop did not have much stock of blood potions at the moment, so he did not redeem them.

However, Barong seemed to have an idea.

"You want to reserve a Claw Rending Bear Potion? Aren't you not planning to enhance yourself a second time?"

The person in charge of the workshop looked at Barong in surprise.

Barong scratched his head and laughed. "The direction of enhancement through the Claw Rending Bear suits me very well. Even if I don't want to strengthen it a second time, it's good to prepare a potion that suits me in advance. If I change my mind one day, I won't have to look for potions everywhere."

"That's true." The workshop manager nodded.

Zhou Jing stood at the side and asked curiously, "By the way, how many sets of blood potions can these two Claw Rending Bears make?"

“That depends on the situation.” The workshop manager counted with his fingers and analyzed, “I’ve already seen your requirements as well. After deducting the materials needed to make the equipment you want, the remaining materials should be enough to make five to eight sets of blood potions.”

Chapter 73: New Breathing Technique (2)

The production is passable... Zhou Jing nodded.

The 12 hunters participated in the hunt, but the hunters always practiced the rule of only taking what they needed. If they did not need the Claw Rending Bear Potion, they would not exchange it. The remaining potions that no one wanted would become the workshop’s inventory.

“By the way, I haven’t congratulated you on becoming an official hunter.” The workshop manager smiled.

“Thanks.”

Zhou Jing nodded and asked, “How long will it take for this batch of equipment to be produced?”

“The two long sabers you want are relatively simple. They can be made in 20 days, but the leather armor is more troublesome. The fur of the Claw Rending Bear has to be treated with special treatment, so it might take a little longer, probably two to three months. Come and get it then.”

“That’s quite a long time.”

Zhou Jing scratched the corner of his eyebrows. He was used to the rapid production in the interstellar era and was not used to such a long time.

Barong patted his shoulder. “It just so happens that you’ve finished off a high-risk mutant beast and are now an official hunter, so I don’t think you need to hunt anymore in the short time. You’ll need a new round of practice and getting used to your body. When you return to the village, I’ll teach you another breathing technique. With your learning speed, you should be able to master it in about three months.”

He was already used to Jason·Wood’s abnormal learning speed. However, he realized that it was actually quite exciting once he accepted such a setting.

“Sounds good.” Zhou Jing nodded.

Since he had already embarked on the path of Mutant Blood Enhancement, he felt that he needed to replenish his skills and think of a way to increase the success rate of the second enhancement.

At this moment, Barong suddenly smiled and said, "By the way, I spoke to Weiss yesterday. He told me he plans to visit Frostwood Village and teach you the breathing technique he has mastered. You'll be able to learn two breathing techniques at the same time."

Zhou Jing was stopped short for a moment before he realized the implications.

"Didn't you say that too many breathing techniques are useless?"

"I did say that... but you're different."

Barong laughed.

Because of Zhou Jing's strange learning speed, Barong was no longer prepared to hold on to his common sense. He felt that letting Zhou Jing learn more breathing techniques might not be bad.

He only knew two breathing techniques himself, so he privately invited Weiss to teach him new breathing techniques.

"Weiss' breathing technique is different from mine. His breathing technique can increase speed and agility, which is just right for your enhancement direction."

"... Thanks."

Seeing that Barong was so considerate of him and had even secretly found him a new teacher, Zhou Jing was a little moved.

What a dedicated mentor.

In his mind, he silently began to calculate. Because of the rewards from [Achieving Transcendence] and [First Kill of Mutant Beast: High Risk], he had more than 2,400 Astral Points, which gave him much more leeway.

If he trained one breathing technique to Level 4 Mastery, he would need to spend 700 points, which meant 1,400 points for two. His Astral Points bank would definitely be enough. Moreover, there was also the daily income from every placement he did.

It would take about three months to reach this level, which was about three to four days in the main world.

The first step of the blood enhancement had been taken. Now, he only needed to achieve his second blood enhancement to complete the remaining two Life Objectives. The route was clear, and this bit of development time could be invested.

...

After receiving the reward and setting a time to collect the goods with the workshop, Zhou Jing and Barong did not continue to stay in White Plains Town. They went to the tavern to find Weiss and left the town for Frostwood Village.

Weiss did not mind spending some time living in the village to teach Zhou Jing the breathing technique.

On the one hand, he was not a stationed hunter. He could usually move around freely in the surroundings and stay anywhere.

He also felt that Zhou Jing had a promising future and wanted to befriend him. He was not stingy with the breathing technique he had mastered.

At the same time, Weiss also wanted to see if Barong was lying when he said that Zhou Jing could master a set of breathing techniques in a few months... If not, he would be able to win 200 silver coins from Barong.

1

In any case, Weiss felt that he would definitely win. Since someone was doing charity for him, it would be a waste not to come.

The few of them trudged back to Frostwood Village.

Smoke curled up from the village. Free from the noise of the town, it was quite peaceful.

When they arrived at the entrance of the village, they saw a little kid squatting by the side of the road unhappily, poking at feces with a branch. It was Reiner.

Reiner turned around and saw Zhou Jing and the others. He immediately said angrily, "You're finally back. This is too much. You even lied to a child!"

Zhou Jing's face twitched when he heard this.

It was already a few days ago, but he's still brooding over it. Was this guy always so vengeful?

But Reiner saw Weiss in the crowd and was suddenly pleasantly surprised.

"Uncle Weiss!"

“Hahaha, it’s Little Reiner. Come over and let Uncle hug you.”

Weiss chuckled and bent down to pick up the pouncing Reiner. He threw him into the air a few times.

He had a good relationship with Barong and had come to Frostwood Village a few times in the past. Naturally, he knew some of the villagers.

This was especially true for Reiner. Every time, he would pester him with questions. Weiss, a chatterbox, would not reject anyone. He would always happily talk all sorts of nonsense to the child.

Perhaps Reiner’s yearning for the outside world was because of Weiss.

With Weiss around, Reiner ignored Zhou Jing and giggled happily.

Seeing this, Zhou Jing secretly sighed at Barong’s wisdom.

They should have invited Weiss over earlier so that he would not be pestered by Reiner...

After teasing Reiner for a while, everyone went to look for the village chief.

The village chief also welcomed Weiss’s arrival. Griff and the other hunters also came over to meet Weiss when they heard of his arrival.

After all, everyone knew each other. After chatting for a while, they helped Weiss solve his problem of a lack of residence.

Chapter 74: New Breathing Technique (3)

After settling all his basic needs, Barong immediately pulled Zhou Jing and Weiss to the training ground and got straight to the point.

“The [Hunter’s Breath: Forging] that you’ve learned is only used to train your Physical Fitness. The breathing technique that Weiss and I are about to teach you is specially used for combat. You’ll have stronger abilities when facing enemies.”

Barong faced Zhou Jing in the training ground and demonstrated another hunter’s breathing technique that he had mastered.

He suddenly took a deep breath, and all the muscles in his body seemed to have expanded. His muscles twisted like a living snake.

[Hunter's Breath: Force]!

Barong jumped forward, leaped into the air, and punched down.

Peng!

Earth and rocks flew everywhere, forming a small pit on the ground.

Barong slowly exhaled, and his bulging muscles returned to normal. Moreover, he explained, "My breathing technique can temporarily increase my strength—be it fighting against mutated beasts or increasing my destructive power at critical moments."

Ah, this is the "Berserk" buff... Zhou Jing nodded.

Seeing this, Weiss also moved his body, eager to showcase.

"His breathing technique is usually used to fight against mutated beasts head-on, while my breathing technique increases speed and agility. As long as you're agile enough, the mutated beasts won't be able to hit you. You can find an opportunity to injure them then."

As soon as he finished speaking, Weiss took a long breath and made a whistling sound.

[Hunter's Breath: Swift]!

He ran at an astonishing speed. As he ran, he made a series of skillful dodging movements. He seemed quite agile and at ease.

Weiss's eyes suddenly moved, and he had a teasing thought. He ran around Barong, occasionally poking Barong's bald head with his finger.

"Go and show off all you want, but don't touch my head!"

Barong's eyelids twitched as he tried to raise his hand to grab Weiss.

However, Weiss dodged nimbly again and again. He followed Barong like a phantom and teased his bald head from behind.

At this moment, Weiss suddenly changed directions and ran towards Zhou Jing, wanting to use the same trick to let Zhou Jing experience his flexibility and agility.

However, just as he stretched out his hand, Zhou Jing had already captured his movements. His reaction was as sharp as lightning.

Zhou Jing nimbly dodged Weiss's hand. At the same time, he bent down, crawled under Weiss's armpit, and hugged his waist.

“Huh?” Weiss was shocked. He immediately deflated and tried to break free.

“Scram!”

Zhou Jing chuckled and did not hesitate to perform another suplex on Weiss.

Plop!

Weiss fell flat on his face, covered in dirt.

Barong laughed out loud in schadenfreude.

Weiss spat out a mouthful of sand and sat up, thinking he had miscalculated this time.

He would not have tried to tease him if he had known that Zhou Jing’s strength would be astonishing after his enhancement.

Weiss coughed to hide his embarrassment.

“Anyway, this is the effect of my breathing technique. It makes your movements faster... Although you caught it, there’s no problem with the breathing technique itself. In fact, the more agile you are, the better the effect of the breathing technique.”

“I can tell.”

Zhou Jing held back his laughter and nodded.

Weiss was faster than usual. This breathing technique was quite suitable for himself, whose enhancement path was based on high agility and explosive power. It was no wonder Barong had especially pulled Weiss along to teach him this breathing technique.

The two of them demonstrated for a while and did not say anything superfluous. They began to guide him on the two breathing techniques.

Zhou Jing quickly memorized it, and relevant information immediately popped up on the interface.

[Learning [Hunter’s Breath: Force]]

[One of the hunter’s breathing techniques, temporarily increasing strength.]

[Skill Level: Lv 0 (Apprentice)]

[Minimum Cost for Accelerated Learning: 100 Astral Points]

[Learning [Hunter’s Breath: Swift]]

[One of the hunter's breathing techniques, temporarily increasing agility.]

[Skill Level: Lv 0 (Apprentice)]

[Minimum Cost for Accelerated Learning: 100 Astral Points]

The cost of learning two breathing techniques was the same as [Hunter's Breath: Forging].

Zhou Jing did not hesitate and immediately activated his Accelerated Learning. He decided to follow their advice and master two breathing techniques during this period of time.

Chapter 75: Appointment and Bottleneck (1)

[The projection has ended.]

[Actual time of stay: 12 days]

[Current resource collection: 514 Astral Points]

[Experience log has been recorded, and relevant exploration results have been entered into the Records.]

[Cooldown till next Astral Projection: 16 hours in main body]

The projection time was over. Zhou Jing returned to the preparatory space, and the interface information appeared.

"Yo, there are quite a lot of Astral Points this time." Zhou Jing took a look at the statistics and realized that it was from killing the high-risk mutated beast.

In addition, his 's synchronization rate had already reached 64%. The moment it exceeded 50%, the rate of his return settlement was increased proportionally to his synchronization rate.

A synchronization rate above 50% was an additional bonus. Thus, the rewards rate of the , Jason·Wood, was 114%—which was 14% more than before.

His results were quite fruitful. Not only did his apostle obtain supernatural powers, but it also entered the circle of hunters and took a solid step forward.

He planned to use a few days like before to let Jason·Wood develop and master the two new sets of Hunter's Breathing Technique. Then, he could start preparing for the second blood enhancement.

"This situation is great."

Zhou Jing was secretly happy.

He closed the settlement panel and entered the settings interface.

[Subject: Jason·Wood]

[Maximum synchronization rate: 64% (Third Stage)]

[Reward Limit: Astral Points 940/4000, Information State Rewards 0/40]

He was already familiar with the process and quickly set up the placement plan. He continued the conservative route of focusing on cultivation and left the preparatory space.

Buzz—

His consciousness trembled and returned to his body.

When Zhou Jing opened his eyes, he saw that it was already dawn outside the window.

He sat up and opened the interface to take a look at his attributes. He suddenly realized that his Spirit attribute had increased by 1 point, reaching 8 points.

Over the past few days, he had already confirmed that constantly traveling would temper his main body's mental strength. Every time he returned, he felt that his mind was clear, and he seemed to be more energetic. It was only today that he had accumulated enough to officially increase his own attributes.

"If I can continue to grow, can my mental attributes accumulate to the transcendent level? Or is it because my basic mental strength is not high enough, so it can still increase?" Zhou Jing pondered.

From the looks of it, he seemed to be more suitable for some mental-type superpowers... However, he had no choice in the type of superpower he could obtain at the moment.

Zhou Jing had already traveled a few times and was familiar with it. He sorted out his gains this time and got up to wash up. After eating a simple breakfast, he followed his own plan to train his body and obtain more relevant information.

Every time he returned for the past few days, he would devote his time to training and learning. It was very urgent. On the contrary, most of the time in the Mutant World was more relaxing for him.

After training from early morning to noon, Zhou Jing casually made lunch. After a meal, he was about to continue studying when his phone suddenly rang.

An unknown number called in.

Zhou Jing turned to look at his phone. After it rang three times, he picked it up unhurriedly and answered the call.

“Hello, who is this?”

“Hello, is this Mr. Zhou Jing?”

A soft female voice came from the phone.

A voice he had never heard before... Zhou Jing’s eyeballs rolled as he thought quickly.

“That’s me. Who are you?”

“My name is Cheng Li, and I’m a staff member of the Interstellar Immigration Bureau’s West Sea City Branch. We’ve already received your immigration information. Now, we’re calling to confirm and make an appointment for a visit... Is it convenient for you to video call us now?”

“Oh, sure.”

Zhou Jing remembered that when he came out of his house, he had filled in the application form for forced immigration and confirmed this quota. According to the regulations, the Immigration Bureau naturally had to visit.

He switched to video call mode, and a virtual screen immediately popped up on his phone, showing a woman. It was Cheng Li who was talking to him.

She looked to be in his thirties and was quite charming. She had a polite smile on her face and was wearing the Immigration Bureau’s uniform, sitting at her desk.

Through the screen, Cheng Li carefully sized up Zhou Jing as if confirming if it was him. After two seconds, she spoke up.

“Mr. Zhou Jing, it’s a pleasure to meet you. Before you board the immigration spacecraft, I’ll be in charge of contacting you. I’ll now tell you the pending procedures for the immigration procedures. I hope you can take note of it.”

“Okay, go ahead,” Zhou Jing replied casually.

Cheng Li nodded and smiled in a gentle tone. “First of all, we need to confirm the immigration information for ourselves.”

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows. “If I didn’t declare it, would it not count?”

“Of course it doesn’t count. We have to make sure that the applicant is familiar with the meaning of immigration and that he hasn’t been deceived, coerced, bewitched, or instigated in any way. We have to make sure that the applicant doesn’t have any objections. We have always adhered to the principle of consent. The applicant must voluntarily declare and personally confirm this. We will record it.”

Zhou Jing smiled. “We’ve already been forced to migrate. Is that still considered volunteering?”

Cheng Li’s smile did not change. “Yes, this is a rule. Forced immigration must be voluntary.”

“Alright, I wasn’t forced, and I know the meaning of immigration. Continue.” Zhou Jing shook his head and laughed, feeling that it was ironic.

“Alright.” Cheng Li nodded and smiled. “After we complete the video confirmation, we need to make an appointment for a face-to-face family visit. The goal of the visit is to understand your specific situation. I will ask you some questions about your family, studies, childhood, and so on, including your views on your hometown, immigration, and society. I hope you will take it seriously.”

Chapter 76: Appointment and Bottleneck (1)

Zhou Jing nodded casually.

He had seen the workflow of the Immigration Bureau on the Internet and knew that this was a necessary process. It was mainly the Immigration Bureau’s evaluation of immigrants in two aspects.

One was to do a psychological analysis of the immigration target to check if there was any mental illness or anti-social personality and evaluate their potential danger.

This was because every time there was forced immigration, there would always be a large number of “psychopaths” who wanted to escape their forced immigration status by pretending to be crazy.

However, in reality, the evaluation results had nothing to do with immigration. It only affected the strictness of supervision and management of that individual...

If they were pretending to be crazy after a thorough investigation, they would be locked in a small dark room the moment they boarded the spaceship.

If the individual was really crazy, then they would stay in an asylum on a new planet after sleeping in the life-support cabin.

If they had anti-social personality, they could choose to spend their time alone on the immigrant spacecraft. After landing, they could receive further corrective education. Thoughtful, right?

In short, the main message from the Immigration Bureau was—Want to make a fuss? Even if you make a fuss, you have to go!

Of course, there would occasionally be people who took things too hard and committed suicide.

As long as it was confirmed that he was really dead, the forced immigration quota would be re-selected and handed to someone else... Anyway, to the Immigration Bureau, it was only a matter of changing people. As long as there was a population, there was no lack of choices. As long as someone went, it was fine. This was fair to everyone.

Actually, a long time ago, it was very easy to recruit interstellar immigrants. There was no such thing as people trying to scam their way into not migrating. The public almost fought to be the first to be recruited—many didn't have the chance to go to other planets even if they volunteered at that point.

However, after so many years of the era of interstellar development, many things changed. One interstellar migration after another made this matter no longer new. Many people's mentality also changed. Compared to traveling to an unfamiliar planet, most people wanted to stay on a colonized planet that had already been developed. So, there were fewer people willing to take the initiative to migrate to interstellar space.

Choosing immigrants for a colonial planet was often easily recruited in the earlier stages as most were voluntary immigrants. Later on, there would gradually be vacancies, and they would have to carry out forced immigration.

There were many records of such news events online.

The other thing to evaluate was the value and ability of the immigration target. It was divided into several levels, which were related to the treatment after immigration. It was equivalent to undergoing an interview.

Zhou Jing had read the information and knew the process very well. He nodded and said, "Alright, let's set a time."

"Alright, will you be free in five days? I'll bring the staff to visit."

"Five days later... Sure. It's best if it's in the early afternoon." Zhou Jing looked at the date and agreed.

"Alright, let's talk about the further procedures in person. There will be some documents for you as well... See you then."

Cheng Li hung up with a polite smile.

Zhou Jing pursed his lips before he threw the phone aside.

He could feel that while this Cheng Li's voice sounded gentle, her attitude was businesslike.

However, this was also normal. She was merely doing her job. Since every person in the Bureau needed to induct and interview dozens of forced immigrants, he could not expect them to pay much attention.

Zhou Jing recorded the visit time in five days on his schedule. Then, he threw this matter to the back of his mind and continued with his own tasks.

...

...

Mutant Beast World.

In the forest, a group of hunters was quietly advancing. From time to time, they would squat down to check the surroundings for traces of their target.

"Did you find anything?"

Barong gestured at Griff, who was squatting on the ground.

Griff shook his head. "We haven't found the whereabouts of that group of Subterraneans yet."

Weiss leaned on his spear and complained, "We've been wandering the forest for two days and haven't found anything. Do you even know the location of the Subterraneans' lair?"

As he spoke, he turned to look at Zhou Jing.

Zhou Jing was standing at the side. He was wearing a grayish-black bear leather armor with two long sabers at his waist and a heavy iron saber on his back.

Seeing Weiss look at him, Zhou Jing waved his hand. "Don't look at me. I've been in Frostwood Village for half a year, but I've never seen the Subterraneans."

This group of people was made up of the hunters of Frostwood Village, as well as ten White Plains soldiers among them. They were searching for the whereabouts of the Subterraneans in the Black-Clothed Forest.

After Zhou Jing became a Mutant Beast Hunter, another three months had passed. This had lived in Frostwood Village for half a year.

During this period, Zhou Jing had also trained [Hunter's Breath: Force] and [Hunter's Breath: Swift] to Lv. 4 Mastery for both.

Seeing Zhou Jing mature, Barong gradually felt that the time was ripe. Therefore, he finally gathered some men and decided to lead a hunt against the Subterraneans to complete Zhou Jing's revenge.

Not only were there the local village hunters like Griff, Zhou Jing, and Barong, but they also especially pulled Weiss along.

For this period of time, Weiss lived in Frostwood Village and taught Zhou Jing the breathing technique. He understood that Barong was not fooling him, and his worldview was also broken by Zhou Jing's learning speed, leaving him muddle-headed for a few days.

He had also lost 200 Terra silver coins. It was painful to lose to Barong.

Initially, Weiss did not want to participate in the extermination of the Subterraneans' lair, but Barong said that as long as he participated in the hunt, he would return the 200 Terra silver coins to him.

Weiss had scoffed at this.

—You take my money and tell me you'll pay me with it? Isn't that gaining something without risking anything of yours?

Hmph, do you really think I agreed for the money!?

The Subterraneans and I were irreconcilable from the start!

Other than Weiss, who was stubborn and weak-kneed, there was finally some response from the Lord of White Plains Town.

Perhaps because Zhou Jing had resolved the threat of the mutant beasts last time, Lutt finally sent ten soldiers over to help Barong and the others destroy the Subterraneans' lair. At this moment, they were also on the team.

Hearing Weiss's complaint, Barong shook his head and said, "We only know that their lair is nearby, but we don't know the exact location. That group of Subterranean raiders is wandering everywhere, so it's not easy to follow them."

"Okay, okay," Weiss said helplessly.

Everyone gathered to discuss how to locate the Subterraneans, but Zhou Jing did not participate.

He was not particularly good at tracking. He mainly trained in direct combat power and had not yet managed to branch out to this aspect.

Zhou Jing quietly opened the interface and took a look. In addition to the two new sets of breathing techniques, the original [Hunter's Breath: Forging] had also increased by one level in the past three months, but there was still no movement from the [Weapon Mastery: Blade Technique]. It was still stuck at Level 4.

Moreover, he felt that even if he activated the Accelerated Learning, the efficiency of practicing his saber techniques was much lower than before. It seemed that he had touched the limit of his aptitude and was stuck at a bottleneck.

When one's skills reached a certain level, and their aptitude could not keep up, their cultivation speed would greatly decrease, and they would encounter a bottleneck.

His [Blade Technique] aptitude was green, and he had been practicing it slowly since he reached Lv. 4—this sort of skill aptitude had a significant impact on the efficiency of upgrading skills. It could even be said to determine the upper limit of his level.

Zhou Jing had a vague feeling that with this apostle's talent in blade techniques, he could at most raise his [Weapon Mastery – Blade Technique] to Lv.5 or Lv.6. He was afraid that he would not be able to improve further.

It was common for people to grow exponentially at first, but no improvement for decades. They would walk in circles. Humans had limits, so there were very few geniuses or masters who could leave their names behind.

"If I want to resolve this, I can use the achievement reward to increase my apostle's aptitude... But there's no need for that now. Currently, I have enough level-four saber techniques. It doesn't feel worth it to use the achievement reward just to increase this skill."

Zhou Jing calculated in his heart before carefully looking at his current attributes.

[Hunter's Breath: Forging]

[Current Level: Lv 5 – (Instinct)]

[Effect: Physical Fitness +3, Resistance +2]

[[Hunter's Breath: Strength]]

[Current Level: Lv 4 – (Master)]

[Effect: Physical Fitness +1]

[Hunter's Breath: Swift]

[Current Level: Lv 4 – (Master)]

[Effect: Physical Fitness +1]

[Attributes: Physical Fitness 14, Resistance 12, Perception 10, Spirit 5, Energy 0]

The two new Hunter's Breathing Techniques were mainly used for combat. While there wasn't much of an increase, the upgrade would significantly increase the effects when used, and it could also unleash the combat power of his extraordinary physique.

As he was thinking, Ross's location suddenly flashed in his mind. The location that he had sent out to secretly search for the Subterraneans had returned to the vicinity.

Zhou Jing's eyes flickered.

"You guys can search here. I'll take a look at the side."

Chapter 77: Revenge Mechanism (1)

Hearing this, no one had any objections. They only instructed Zhou Jing not to go too far. No one was worried that something would happen to Zhou Jing if he got separated.

Zhou Jing left the team and walked in the forest for a while before stopping in a seemingly empty forest. He glanced around before saying, "Come out."

As soon as he finished speaking, a figure quietly turned out from behind the tree. It was Ross, who was trailing silently behind him.

Zhou Jing walked up and pressed on his shoulder. He read his follower's experience log and quickly received a large number of images.

In the past three months, Ross had finally mastered some combat skills and obtained the Weapon Mastery of daggers, short knives, and other weapons. He had also learned how to forge iron.

Although he was still at the Apprentice level, with Ross' enhanced physical fitness, he could still be put to good use.

However, Zhou Jing had never told anyone that Ross had been enhanced by the mutant blood. Without revealing his strength, Ross remained the "man in the background" in the eyes of all the other villagers.

Because Ross' enhancement direction leaned towards stealth, he could move silently in the forest without being detected. Zhou Jing had Ross move around the periphery of the crusade team and secretly search for targets without anyone knowing. At this moment, he had gained some information.

Ross had discovered the Subterraneans plundering the forest, but the other party did not sense him, so he quietly retreated and returned to report.

Zhou Jing looked at Ross, speechless.

"You've already found their raiding party. Why didn't you follow them and find out where their lair is instead of coming back and reporting? By the time we go over, their raiding party will have long left that position, right?"

Ross: (o _ O)

"... Alright, blame me for not making things clear to you."

Zhou Jing held his forehead.

Although Ross had some combat strength, his follower was still as stupid as ever. He would not be able to handle orders that were slightly more complicated, nor would he be able to adapt to the situation. He was the very definition of a rigid character.

Zhou Jing shook his head and gave a new order.

"Find the Subterraneans. Squat down and don't let them find you. Wait for me to go over."

With his ability to sense the positioning of Ross in his mind, his follower was very suitable to be a marker for finding the way. It was because of this ability that he felt that Ross could be used as a scout or guide to bring along to suppress the Subterraneans.

Hearing this, Ross turned around and left without another word, quickly disappearing into the forest.

Zhou Jing walked around before returning to the team.

“What have you got?” Barong looked over.

“Nothing at the moment.” Zhou Jing shook his head.

Everyone did not think much of it. After investigating the vicinity, they continued on their way.

Although Zhou Jing did not say it directly, he secretly led the way. He repeatedly suggested that the team change their direction and secretly move towards Ross’s location.

No one had any objections to Zhou Jing’s suggestion. After all, there were no clues at the moment, so they could go anywhere.

Not long after, everyone arrived near Ross’s location. They finally found the traces left behind by the Subterraneans in the forest and were overjoyed.

In front of him was a mess of footprints. It could be seen that there were many people leading all the way into the deep forest.

Barong squatted down and pinched a handful of soil from the footprint with his finger.

“The footprints are still relatively new. The Subterraneans’ raid team passed by here not long ago.”

Weiss perked up. “So, should we tail them or go up and capture a few alive to lead the way?”

Barong pondered for a moment before turning to look at Zhou Jing. “What do you think?”

“Let’s go up and capture them.”

Zhou Jing did not hesitate.

There were a lot of Hunters in their group. Without Ross’s enhancement, they would be easily discovered if they tried to trail behind.

Moreover, he had limited time during each projection. He would save as much as he could.

Hearing this, Barong did not object. He waved his hand and led the team to chase after the tracks.

...

As everyone ran forward, the footprints left behind by the Subterraneans grew increasingly fresher.

Soon, the figures of the Subterraneans appeared in the forest ahead. At a glance, dozens of them could already be seen.

At this moment, the Subterraneans also heard the commotion behind them. They let out an urgent whistle the moment they looked back. As soon as they saw the hunting team, they started shouting and took out their bows to shoot.

A rain of arrows flew over!

“Kill!”

When enemies encounter each other, their eyes would naturally turn red. Barong roared angrily and raised his battle-ax to block his front. He rushed out like a bull.

The arrow hit the surface of the ax, deflecting in all directions and adding to the general chaos.

Zhou Jing kicked his legs and rushed out like a cheetah. He suddenly pulled out the two blades at his waist, and his eyes quickly moved to lock onto the arrows that were a threat to him. He easily slashed them down in midair, and not a single arrow hit his body.

His current physical fitness and saber techniques were enough to match his combat instincts and block all the arrows.

Tang! Tang! Tang!

The lights produced by his blades were like a barrier, preventing the arrow rain from entering.

He rushed forward and quickly closed the distance. The terrified expression of the Subterraneans magnified rapidly in his vision.

Zhou Jing dragged his two blades and plunged into the group of Subterraneans.

Shuashuashua—

The blade scattered like a tornado.

In an instant, broken limbs filled the sky!

Zhou Jing's movements were swift, shuttling through the crowd like a phantom. The hasty attacks of the Subterraneans posed no threat to him. In his eyes, they were as slow as snails.

The two blades were precise and cold. There was almost no need to block. He directly attacked before the Subterraneans could. Just as the other party was about to attack, he cut open the other party's neck, arms, or waist.

Shuashuashua—

Wherever his blade passed, the Subterraneans fell to the ground as if they were culled grass.

Occasionally, their weapons would collide. However, Zhou Jing's dual blades—with their immense strength—shattered the Subterraneans' weapons.

After three months, Hunter's Workshop had finally finished making his equipment. The double blades that Zhou Jing was using now were made of an alloy that was formed from the Claw Rending Bears' claws. They were tougher than ordinary standard weapons, not to mention the Subterraneans' crudely made equipment.

Chapter 78: Revenge Mechanism (2)

The bear's leather armor with a fur collar on its body had inherited the characteristics of the Claw Rending Bear. It provided him with superior defensive capabilities, making it difficult for ordinary thrusts and slashes to pierce through.

Zhou Jing stirred up a storm in the group of Subterraneans, killing to his heart's content and shattering the other party's formation.

As he casually cut off the throat of one of the Subterraneans, the interface suddenly flashed at this moment.

[Will·Wood (Apostle Serial #001) died primarily from ambush.]

[Completed revenge against the culprits]

[The evaluation of this has increased slightly.]

[You can inherit a certain ability of Will·Wood at no cost... Assessing, no uninherited abilities currently available.]

[Triggered achievement: Revenge must be sought!]

[Milestone [Avenger] Progress: 1/5]

“Huh?” Zhou Jing was slightly stunned.

Revenge must be sought?? He could not find this in the achievement list. It seemed to be a hidden achievement. This was the first time he had triggered such an event.

That meant that the Subterraneans were the ones who killed Will·Wood.

It seemed that there was a special reward for avenging the previous ...

Hooomph!

At this moment, a bone spear stabbed at him.

Zhou Jing quickly came back to his senses, raising his left blade to cut off the arm of the enemy holding the spear. Then, he stabbed forward with his right blade, piercing through the enemy’s eye socket and straight through the back of its head.

He picked up the enemy’s body and threw him to the side, smashing a Subterranean who was approaching him. The red and white juices from the corpse’s head splattered all over the ground.

Zhou Jing composed himself and did not continue to check the interface. He focused on dealing with the enemy in front of him. At this moment, Barong and the others also charged in.

The Subterraneans already could not hold Zhou Jing back. Thus, when Barong, Weiss, and the others joined the battle, they instantly crushed the Subterraneans.

The ten soldiers from White Plains Town formed a simple battle formation. Although they were not as overwhelming as the three Mutant Beast Hunters, they made steady progress and killed all the approaching Subterraneans like a meat grinder.

In just a few minutes, the battle was over. Dozens of Subterraneans were left lying on the ground.

Only a few Subterraneans were still intact and alive. They were tied up—their faces filled with fear as they screamed.

Barong looked at the corpses on the ground and felt like he had vented his anger. He turned to Griff and said, “Go and interrogate the survivors and get them to take us to their nest.”

Griff nodded and did as he was told. Although they didn’t understand the language, they had interacted with the Subterraneans before. Nonverbal communication was enough

for them to communicate. Furthermore, they could speak with their blades, so they weren't worried that the Subterraneans wouldn't understand what they were saying.

The hunters of Frostwood Village were not merciful to the Subterraneans. They couldn't let down their dead companions.

Zhou Jing did not participate in the interrogation. Instead, he wiped his long blade as he shook his head secretly.

The Subterraneans that he had found quite troublesome in the past were now easily dealt with. He might have even been able to solo all of them if given enough time. It was a complete crushing defeat.

Although it was quite enjoyable to torture noobs, Zhou Jing did not feel a sense of excitement from doing this.

Although he was gradually getting used to killing, he was not too interested in it. What he liked was to fight back and forth and engage in intense battles with powerful enemies. The latter made him more excited.

"There's no point in bullying noobs... Looks like I have a bit of the berserker genes."

Zhou Jing smacked his lips and opened the interface to carefully look at what he had just triggered.

After exploring for a while, he confirmed that there was a "revenge mechanism" in the system.

When an apostle died to someone, he could use the subsequent system to take revenge. By killing the murderer, this mechanism would be triggered, and he would receive a special reward.

Firstly, it could increase the evaluation of the current Apostles of the Astral Realm, be it through death or clearance settlements.

The second was to obtain a new "free inheritance slot" like the death settlement and obtain a certain ability of the dead .

Because the current Jason·Wood had inherited all of Will·Wood's abilities, it did not take effect this time.

The third was to trigger a special achievement. [Revenge must be sought] was a repetitive achievement. Every time he completed his revenge for an apostle from an Astral Realm, he would trigger it.

The rewards were uncertain. Different amounts of rewards would be given based on the strength of the dead Apostle and the capabilities of the murderer.

This time, he only gave 500 Astral Points for the achievement of [Revenge must be sought], which was probably because Will-Wood had yet to become a supernatural being, and the enemy was only an ordinary Subterranean.

In addition, every time he completed [Revenge must be sought], he would accumulate the progress of the milestone [Avenger]. After completing it five times, he would be able to trigger this milestone.

This was the first time Zhou Jing had triggered a milestone. It was a special type of achievement. He had to complete the relevant actions many times before he could truly trigger it. The rewards were naturally more generous than ordinary achievements.

“In this case, if every dies an unnatural death, this achievement can be quickly triggered...”

Zhou Jing thought for a while before shaking his head and laughing.

Although it was a tempting proposition, he had no intention of deliberately sending himself to death. He felt that the time cost was not worth it.

He was not denying himself the opportunity either. He felt that he would have many chances to die in the future.

“There’s no need to force it. Just slowly accumulate it.”

Zhou Jing shook his head and consoled himself.

At this moment, everyone’s interrogation of the Subterraneans had also ended. After killing two more people, the remaining Subterraneans finally learned to cooperate.

“Let’s go,” Barong said to Zhou Jing.

After hearing this, Zhou Jing put away his blade and followed.

...

Following the Subterraneans who led the way, the group carefully advanced.

Everyone did not completely trust the enemy and kept an eye out, afraid that they would be led into a trap.

They maintained their caution all the way until they arrived at the entrance of the Subterraneans’ nest.

The entrance was situated in a hole hidden behind the tree vines. It was very well hidden, and if one did not look carefully, it was easy to ignore it.

Everyone hid in the trees not far away, covering their figures and looking into the distant hole.

They had already searched the vicinity and quietly dealt with the few Subterraneans sentries near the entrance of the nest.

Barong turned around and stroked his beard as he pondered. "We don't know how many people and traps there are in the Subterraneans' nest. If we rush in rashly, we might encounter danger."

"Good point." Weiss nodded. "Then you should take the lead."

Everyone silently turned to look at him.

"What are you looking at? I'm just here to help. You're not going to let me be the first to rush in, are you?"

On the other side, Griff thought for a moment before suggesting, "Why don't we light a fire and force the Subterraneans out?"

"That's worth a try." Barong nodded.

Everyone quickly prepared a large pile of dry firewood and started smoking the hole.

Zhou Jing did not have any objections. He did not intend to teach everyone how to protect the environment and prevent mountain fires.

Flames lit up in the hole, and there were sounds of chaos inside.

Soon, countless Subterraneans surged out. At a glance, there were no less than a hundred of them. They were tall, short, fat, and thin, all holding weapons.

The people hiding around were about to attack them when...

"Aooooo —"

At this moment, a strange beast's roar suddenly came from the hole.

Chapter 79: Emblem (1)

There were mutant beasts in the Subterraneans' lair?

Everyone was stunned and quickly stopped what they were doing to observe the situation.

The roars became louder and louder. Soon, three mutated beasts of the same species crawled out of the nest.

These three mutated beasts looked like giant lizards with dense brown scales all over their bodies. Their necks resembled snakes, and they crawled on all fours. Two of their front limbs had wings attached, but they were rather shriveled, and they did not look like they could fly.

Its most prominent characteristic was its head which was similar to a dragon's. It also had two extremely long canine teeth on its upper jaw.

“This is... a Violent Tooth Dragon?”

Zhou Jing's eyes flickered as he thought of the mutated beasts that Barong had introduced him to. One of them matched what he was seeing.

There were many types of mutated beasts—wolves, bears, birds, and so on. Among them, the dragon race boasted the highest strength on average, and there was a branch of the dragon race called the drakes, which were often stronger than normal mutant beasts as well.

However, the Violent Tooth Dragon was an exception. Although it was part of the drake species, its strength was classified as the “Shame of the Dragon Race.” It was only a low-risk mutant beast.

Although it looked ferocious on the surface, it was actually just for show. It was only around slightly more than two meters long and was only as tall as one's chest when it lay on the ground.

Violent Tooth Dragons were also one of the few mutant beasts that could be tamed.

At this moment, the necks of the three Violent Tooth Dragons were wrapped in bone chains, and they were being dragged by a few Subterraneans. There was a simple saddle tied to their backs, and they were clearly domesticated.

Barong's eyes narrowed.

He did not expect this group of Subterraneans to rear mutant beasts... Although they were just an only low-risk beast, they were still mutant beasts. He had to give them some credit.

Three Violent Tooth Dragons and hundreds of armed Subterraneans...

Barong turned to look at everyone with a questioning gaze. His meaning was obvious — in this situation, should we attack or not?

Zhou Jing returned a look.

It's just three low-risk mutant beasts. The three of us can split them and get rid of them quickly. If the two of you can't do it, I can take care of them alone.

*Since we're already here, let's f*ck them up!*

Seeing this, Barong took a deep breath and no longer hesitated. He held his ax and rushed out.

“Go!”

The group immediately rushed out of the grass and attacked the group of Subterraneans who had just crawled out of their nest like headless flies.

After being attacked in a hurry, the Subterraneans did not have the time to organize a counterattack. They could only fight for themselves.

Some people drew their bows and shot arrows at Zhou Jing and the others. Some people held bone spears and shouted as they charged forward.

Zhou Jing took the lead and casually blocked the arrows. He dragged the blades around, leaving behind afterimages as he brushed past the Subterraneans without looking back.

Behind him, the few Subterraneans froze in the middle of raising their weapons. Blood spurted out their necks as they fell to the ground.

Seeing this scene, three Subterraneans immediately mounted their Violent Tooth Dragons and rode their mounts to battle.

These three had better equipment than the others. While the others were all wearing tattered clothes, these three people at least had simple armor and held shields and sabers in their hands. They were the riders who had tamed the Violent Tooth Dragon.

One of the Subterraneans locked onto Zhou Jing and charged forward.

The beast charged head-on, emitting a ferocious aura.

Zhou Jing did not dodge. He merely held his two blades in front of him and faced the Violent Tooth Dragon.

As he breathed, his muscles suddenly bulged, and a powerful force erupted.

[Hunter's Breath: Force]!

Clang!

His figure collided with the Violent Tooth Dragon, and dust flew everywhere!

The huge impact forced the Violent Tooth Dragon to stop its crawling charge. Two broken fangs flew into the sky.

The Subterranean rider was almost thrown off by the force of the counter.

Before he could stabilize himself, Zhou Jing had already flipped over and landed on the Violent Tooth Dragon's back.

The Subterranean rider only had time to raise his shield.

Crack!

The shield instantly exploded.

The Subterranean rider was sent flying for more than ten meters before he crashed to the ground and died.

Mutant Blood Warriors were already akin to humanoid beasts. Their strength was far beyond what ordinary people could withstand. Even barehanded, they were still lethal.

At this moment, the Violent Tooth Dragon struggled violently, trying to shake Zhou Jing off.

However, Zhou Jing walked on it as if he was walking on flat ground. As the Violent Tooth Dragon swayed, he adjusted his center of gravity. He raised his two blades, stabbed them into the Violent Tooth Dragon's neck, and slashed.

Puchi!

The dragon's long neck fell heavily to the ground, leaving only a huge wound on its body. In the center was the cross-section of its cervical vertebrae.

The Violent Tooth Dragon fell to the ground, blood gushing out like a fountain.

It only took a few seconds to finish off a Violent Tooth Dragon. Compared to his previous self, this kind of low-risk beast with low defense and average speed wasn't a challenge to Zhou Jing.

In the three months since he became a Mutant Beast Hunter, he had spent most of his time cultivating. Occasionally, he would go to White Plains Town to interact with other hunters. He had also been invited to participate in a few simple hunting missions and

had hunted a few low-risk mutant beasts with other hunters. He had sufficient experience in dealing with mutant beasts.

Zhou Jing turned around and saw that the other Violent Toothed Dragon that had just passed him suddenly turned towards him.

He put away his two blades before taking off the heavy steel saber on his back. He held it with both hands before holding his breath.

In the next moment, an electrifying feeling exploded in his body.

[Thunder Strike]!

Zhou Jing's eyes flashed as he suddenly swung and threw out the heavy saber in his hand.

The moment he attacked, an explosive force erupted!

Wuwuwu—

The wind rushed as the heavy saber spun and shot out, smashing into the body of the second Violent Tooth Dragon.

Chapter 80: Emblem (2)

Peng!

His heavy blade instantly caved in. Many bones were broken, and even one of its front claws was twisted beyond recognition.

The Violent Tooth Dragon fell to the ground and struggled in pain, but it could not stand up.

The Subterranean rider on his back also rolled to the ground. Before he could get up, Zhou Jing rushed and smashed half of the rider's head with his knee. He was now well and truly dead.

Seeing that the Violent Tooth Dragon was still struggling, Zhou Jing picked up the heavy saber and smashed its head like cracking a walnut, finishing the job.

“Two down, one to go...”

He turned his head and saw Barong and Weiss stop the last dragon from charging the soldiers.

Barong used the flat part of his ax to receive the attack head on. He took a few steps back, but he also forced the Violent Tooth Dragon to stop.

Weiss took the opportunity to launch a surprise attack. He stabbed the rider on his back to death with a spear and plucked the Violent Tooth Dragon's "crown jewels" with a backhand. His movements were quite proficient and practiced.

The two of them worked together and crippled the combat strength of a Violent Tooth Dragon easily.

The Violent Tooth Dragon did not possess strength, speed, or even average defense. It was not difficult to deal with them.

There was no suspense in the following battle. Zhou Jing and the other two dealt with the hundreds of Subterraneans like bulldozers, quickly finishing them off.

Physical enhancement-type supernatural powers often had long stamina and considerable combat endurance. If one did not have an expert of the same level, they would have to pay a heavy price just to kill them with numbers.

Zhou Jing silently estimated that with his level, it would not be a problem for him to fight the Subterraneans alone. If he were given some time, he would be able to kill them all himself.

Furthermore, there were helpers this time—Barong and Weiss, as well as more than ten people on the team.

If they wanted to cause trouble for them, the Subterraneans had to double.

After the battle, only one soldier was unlucky. He was shot in the head by the Subterraneans. The others only suffered some light injuries.

Everyone cleared the battlefield, stabbing the Subterraneans that were still breathing.

Following this, they organized their men to search the lair and brought out a pile of supplies from the Subterraneans' inventory.

Although the goal of this trip was to rout the enemy, they would not pass up on the opportunity to still earn some loot.

After emptying the nest, everyone threw the corpses into the nest one by one before burning the entire nest.

The dancing flames shone on everyone's faces as they silently watched the nest burn.

“This group of Subterraneans has threatened the surroundings of Frostwood Village for too long. Today, we’ve finally resolved it... Brothers, we’ve avenged you.”

Griff exhaled and quietly mourned the hunters who had once died at the hands of the Subterraneans.

Barong patted Zhou Jing’s shoulder and sighed. “We’ve also avenged your brother.”

“... That’s right.”

Zhou Jing came back to his senses and nodded.

This group of Subterraneans had launched a despicable sneak attack and killed his last apostle. Today, the debt has been settled. After taking a breather, he felt much better.

He was mainly looking at the interface to calculate his gains. Two achievements had been triggered in the battle. They were [Subterranean Killer] and [First Kill of Mutant Beast – Low Risk].

[Subterranean Killer]’s trigger condition was to kill 50 Subterraneans, and it awarded him 1,000 Astral Points.

The [First Kill of Mutant Beast — Low Risk] was much more ridiculous. It only gave 200 Astral Points and no other rewards.

However, he did obtain new milestone information.

[Milestone [True·Mutant Beast Hunter] Progress: 3/5]

[Condition: Successfully trigger the first kill achievement of various risk categories of mutant beasts.]

[Reward: 8,000 Astral Points, 50 Information State Particles, [Aptitude Enhancement – Comprehensive (Medium)] x1, [Support Function Upgrade] x2. When an takes on a mutant beast race form, they can obtain a certain attribute bonus.]

There were a total of five first kills for all levels of mutant beasts. He had completed the low-risk, medium-risk, and high-risk missions. He had to first kill a fatal-risk mutant beast as well as the King of Mutant Beasts. Then, he could unlock this milestone.

However... to fight the Mutant Beast King...

Good lord, is this milestone for a Mutant Beast Hunter or a ‘Mutant’ Beast Hunter?

“Even that Eighth Enhancement Lei Wen was killed by the Beast King. How will I be able complete this milestone?”

Zhou Jing wanted to scratch his head. Although the reward was good, the conditions were quite harsh.

Compared to the Astral Points reward, he was more interested in the [Support Function Upgrade]. This thing was very useful.

The effects of the Support Functions were mostly limited, but they could be upgraded and strengthened.

For example, the [Follower Function] used by the current Jason-Wood only had one empty slot for an apprentice follower. After leveling up, there was an 80% chance that a new empty slot would be added, or the follower would be upgraded to a higher tier.

It was the same for the other Support Functions.

The last effect of this milestone was more special.

The race and appearance of the s seemed to be able to be customized. Although he had never tried it before, he reckoned that it was also possible to mold them into the mutant beast race. As for those s who were of the Mutant Beast race, they could obtain bonuses... The effect of the milestone here was quite strange.

Zhou Jing secretly clicked his tongue.

There was no need to mold the into the form of a beast.

If he really chose to do so, he didn't want to live the life of a beast.

Anyway, he didn't have any fetishes in this aspect.

Seeing that Zhou Jing was a little distracted, Barong thought that he was agitated after completing his revenge and was sad for his brother, so he did not disturb him.

At this moment, Weiss rummaged through the spoils and found a battle ax from the Subterraneans' inventory.

"Hey, Barong, did you drop this ax?"

"Yes, it's mine!"

Barong was delighted and quickly took it. This was a weapon that he had lost half a year ago when he was ambushed by the Subterraneans. He finally caught sight of it once more.

Everyone immediately became interested and joined in to count the spoils of war.

When they were moving the items, they were too focused to check all the items carefully.

Many of the supplies in the Subterraneans' inventory were looted. They looked quite fragmented, like a pile of junk.

Moreover, it had been left there for too long, and the nest was not very hygienic. If one did not look carefully, they would not be able to tell what sort of item that was.

"Yo, there's a lot of money in this box."

"It's probably from plundering some caravan. The Subterraneans won't be able to spend it even if they take the money."

"There are still some books here. Is it useful for them to snatch these? Can they understand our words?"

Everyone excitedly counted their spoils of war.

At this moment, Griff took out a dusty metal badge from a large pile of fragments. He wiped it slightly and exclaimed.

"What emblem is this?"

Everyone looked in the direction of the voice. They sized up the pattern on the badge and shook their heads.

"Neither have I seen it before."

"It's quite pretty."

"It should be the coat of arms of some small tribe, right? Perhaps there are people from this tribe in the caravan that the Subterraneans plundered."

"Speaking of which, this thing is quite exquisite. It was carved so exquisitely on metal. I wonder which craftsman made it."

Hearing everyone's conversation, Zhou Jing subconsciously glanced around.

However, the moment he saw the item, he could no longer tear his gaze away.

Zhou Jing's pupils constricted as his heart surged.

The pattern of this badge... he recognized it.

It was the national emblem of one of the countries in his main world!

