I Can Track Everything

I Can Track Everything #Chapter 31 - Read I Can Track Everything Chapter 31 Chapter 31: Leaving Home for Cultivation

"Brother Chen, don't you find it weird that such a massive ganoderma can be found in that stone gap in Little Dragon Mountain? According to my father, if one were to sell a ganoderma of this size at the capital, one can buy the Zhang family several times over."

Zhang Ji was getting more and more excited as he talked, his face full of surprise, as if he never knew how good his luck was.

Chen Chen suppressed his desire to beat him and replied, "Indeed. But if you were to give me such a precious thing..."

"Brother Chen, were it not for your inspiration, how could I have found such a treasure? You definitely deserve one. Also, no price from the ganoderma is worth our brotherhood."

Zhang Ji's smile vanished; there was only seriousness left.

Chen Chen felt somewhat helpless in this turn of events. He suspected that if he were to sell Zhang Ji one day, Zhang Ji would still count money for him.

1

He even felt somewhat sorry.

He was ultimately something of a sympathetic person.

Thinking of this, he talked to Zhang Ji seriously.

"Brother, don't do dangerous things like jumping from a cliff. There is no need for that."

Zhang Ji's head dropped at those words. He sighed and responded, "I understand. I have only a tiny fraction of your qualifications, and that some means of practice are possible for Brother Chen, but not me. Unwise imitation would not render any good..."

Chen Chen had no words. This dude suddenly became self-abased.

"Let's talk about that later. Our current priority is our trip to cultivation. We are leaving Shichuan county in a few days, so some preparation is clearly needed."

1

"Agreed, I will follow all instructions coming from Brother Chen."

Afterwards, the two entered the hall to discuss the trip to Jizhou.

. . .

Several days later, a calm day arrived.

Over the course of these last few days, news of a fairy in the Chen family spread across the entirety of Shichuan County.

Additionally, the Zhang and Chen's of the county had made an alliance, calming the chaos-ridden county immediately.

Everybody gave their highest respect to this newly risen family.

After all, fairies were beyond horse bandits.

It's rumored that the Zhao's, with all of their might, were crushed with almost no resistance in front of the Chen's fairy, vanishing without a hint.

2

But beyond the masses' knowledge, it was on this day, on the road outside Shichuan county, that several well-prepared wagons were about to depart.

"Father, mother, no need to worry about me. With some more cultivation, I can fly back home whenever and wherever I please," Chen Chen spoke proudly to his parents, who were seeing him off.

Today was the day he and Zhang Ji departed for Jizhou City.

"Xiao Chen, take good care of yourself outside." Qin Rou's face was full of worries. Of course, all mothers worry for their traveling sons.

"Are you not assured by my methods of doing things? Do take good care of Lao Hei. He may be up to some changes, but don't be frightened by it."

1

Chen Chen gave Chen Shan and Qin Rou much relief with his light mood and his cheerful face.

On the other hand, Zhang Ji was crying with father as if it was their last encounter.

Nearly a quarter of an hour later, Zhang Ji finally returned to the group.

The team consisted of three wagons: one filled with goods needed for the trip and two empty ones.

1

In addition, there are three grooms and two bodyguards; that brought the group to a total of 7 people.

3

"Brother Chen, let's go. I wonder if I can even make my trip back."

Zhang Ji's eyes were red from crying. He rode on the horse, face full of anxiety due to the impending long trip.

Chen Chen smiled but didn't speak. Given Zhang Ji's luck, he very much suspected that even if he couldn't return, this lad surely would.

After everybody was on the horse, Chen Chen sent his parents good-bye.

"Father, mother, I will be going. Take good care of yourselves when at home!"

"Bye! Maybe you can even bring back a wife."

"Haha! We may even bring back a fairy," Chen Chen responded with a laugh. As he prepared to steer his horse for departure, Mrs. Zhang suddenly spoke to him.

"Mister Chen, my son Ji has a track record of being dull. He may need special attention and assistance from you, so please help him. Thank you very much."

Zhang Ji's face flushed upon hearing this. In his opinion, when far from Chen Chen, he was a clever man that could remember anything that passed by his eyes. How was he "dull," according to his mother's words?

How was he associated with "dull" in any way?

"Mrs. Zhang, please be assured. Zhang Ji is my brother, and I will certainly take care of him," Chen Chen promised in a smile.

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After the long pre-departure talks, Chen Chen and Zhang Ji finally left Shichuan County, on their way leading to Jizhou.

Upon departing Shichuan County, Chen Chen began humming music.

This outside world was indeed much different from Shichuan County. With the high skies and wide seas, countless treasures and opportunities awaited him

In his heart, these expectations overwhelmed any anxiety due to his departure.

He longed to pick up some ultimate good and jump dozens of levels in cultivation.

2

"Brother Chen, why would you take two empty wagons? Will we meet anybody?"

After some time walking, Zhang Ji finally asked the question in his heart.

Chen Chen responded, "We will pass by many places on the way, so we clearly need to buy things."

"So that's why," Zhang Ji muttered, considering the answer.

At this time, Chen Chen's face suddenly turned away. He then jumped down from the horse and into the roadside grass cluster. Soon, he returned with an unknown piece of grass, which he placed in an empty wagon.

1

The two empty wagons were indeed left for goods. But instead of buying goods and keeping them in the wagons, he wanted to keep the scarce items he found using the system.

The trip from Shichuan County to Jizhou was several thousand kilometers long—-how many precious goods would they encounter on the way there?

Were it not due to his concerns about being too obvious, Chen Chen would have brought a whole motorcade with him.

"Congratulations to the inhibitor for tracking one hundred items using the System; the tracking distance will increase by 5 meters, for a total of 20 meters."

After putting the grass into the wagon, the System's reminders come into his mind.

Chen Chen's smile turned extra bright when he heard this.

While the range had only increased by 5 meters, the practical search area nearly doubled.

2

With a lucky star such as Zhang Ji with him, Chen Chen suspected that average-value treasures weren't even worth the space in the carriage.

"Brother Chen, what is the grass?" Zhang Ji asked curiously.

"This is a special detoxifying grass, which can counteract all toxins," Chen Chen explained as he got back on his horse.

"Brother Chen, do you know much about medical theory?" Zhang Ji questioned him, very much bewildered.

Medical theory was something that required inheritance. While he had spent the last several days mostly understanding Chen Chen's family history, no mention of his parents' knowledge on medical theory was on his radar.

"Medical theory?"

Chen Chen was briefly stunned by this.

He actually knew no medical theory; the function of this detoxifying grass was given to him by the System.

He could just enter a pharmacy and ask the System for medication for a certain disease.

If the required medications were in the pharmacy, the System could definitely search for and find it.

On that note, he may as well be a witch doctor!

But he didn't know if the system could arrange prescriptions and track multiple targets at the same time.

"Medical theory... I know a bit of it."

After some thinking, Chen Chen finally responded with self-esteem.

Zhang Ji's eyes were filled with the standard worship he withheld for Chen Chen alone. He praised him, "I didn't expect Brother Chen to have spare time studying medical theory while practicing so hard. Brother Chen is most definitely a genius of the era!"

1

As Zhang Ji's praises towards Chen Chen continued, Chen Chen's thoughts began to wander.

If he could become a legendary doctor in the pharmacy just by using the tracking system, what would happen if he went elsewhere?

1

For instance, in the kitchen, he would know which kinds of food to match with each other, in order to maximize a meal's nutritional value.

If he went to the tailor's, he would know which kinds of clothes to match, in order to make a person look his or her best.

Also, at the brothel, he would know which girl matched the customer best, in terms of length, depth and so on...

3

"Bah! What kind of nonsense am I thinking about."

Chen Chen shuddered, and pulled himself back from the wild flights of fancy.

However, he had made up his mind. Once he made it to certain places, he would trial the system to see if it really could work out in such a way.

•••

"A rock containing jade +1."

"A fruit with strong toxins +1."

"Soil with ethereality +1."

"Tree roots containing the ground essence +1."

• • •

Half a day later, Chen Chen and his companions had traveled a hundred miles, stopping at a courier station. By then, one of the two carriages which was previously empty, was now half-filled.

The carriage was filled with a wild disarray of items that Chen Chen had come across.

The look in the stablemen's eyes changed as they looked over at Chen Chen; it was as though they were looking at a psycho.

The stablemen could understand loading the carriage with herbs and fruits, however, what was his problem with digging up soil and tossing it into the carriage?

And there was also that rock, which was at least a few dozen kilograms in weight. Did he think that the horse wasn't exhausted enough already?

Despite their doubts, they did not raise any questions. After all, Chen Chen was an immortal, he might have his reasons for which they could not comprehend.

Zhang Ji did give out any questions either, but for every item that Chen Chen retrieved, he mused for a great period. Eventually, he would appear as if he had been enlightened, but no one had a clue what he was really thinking about.

3

By the time they entered the station, it was already eight or nine o'clock at night.

"Is there anyone who harbors ill will in this station?"

Chen Chen asked as he stood at the center of the station lobby.

It was too exhausting to try and guard against each other; it was more reliable to ask the system for the answer.

"There isn't." The system replied.

Chen Chen looked at Zhang Ji upon hearing the answer, and replied, "We can get a peaceful sleep tonight."

"Erm, do we need someone to do the vigil?" Zhang Ji doubted.

"No need, while I am here, nothing unexpected can happen."

1

"Alright..." Zhang Ji agreed with reluctance.

Honestly speaking, he was still on high alert inside.

The first of August was the day of which the Tianyun Clan would hold an open selection for apprentices. All the youngsters of the Ji State who yearned for the path of immortality would be heading for Ji State City, and those who had enough confidence and money to travel the long journey were mostly the sons of wealthy families.

Thus, these rich youngsters naturally became the best targets of the robbers and thieves.

Also, along with the robbers and thieves, a group of apparently decent people would come out of hiding in July to play the role of thieves and robbers to plunder the travelers. To avoid vengeance, most of the victimized rich young men would be killed as the crimes were swept under the rug.

As such, the rich youngsters from big cities would often travel in groups, and the number of guards they kept in company could easily reach the hundreds.

However, for someone like Zhang Ji who traveled from a small county town, it was extremely precarious. There weren't even a handful of people throughout the entire county who had the intention of pursuing cultivation.

If Zhang Ji hadn't received the token from the Tianyun Clan beforehand, which promised his enrollment in the Tianyun Clan once he arrived in the Ji State, there would be no way he would take such a risk.

• • •

Easing his thoughts, Zhang Ji gazed toward Chen Chen, and he was filled with a sense of security.

"Luckily you are here, Brother Chen. You have rescued me twice previously, and I can't be sure how many more times you would need to save my life. Haih, Zhang Ji owes you his whole life, Brother Chen."

Shaking his head, Zhang Ji returned to his own room. They had to rise in the wee hours to carry on with their journey, meaning it was time to get some shut-eye.

• • •

In comparison to Zhang Ji's anxious mood, Chen Chen kept very relaxed. Upon returning to the room arranged by the station, he gingerly held out a pink little morning glory.

He had previously dug out the little morning glory at the roadside. It looked completely identical to an ordinary morning glory, and was even more battered with some damage at its branch.

2

However, it was this very ordinary-looking little morning glory that had been verified by the system as 'a morning glory that had been given consciousness'.

1

"Even a morning glory has its own consciousness, what a wondrous world."

After making some rueful remarks, Chen Chen retrieved the 'jade-containing rock' from his sachet which he had prepared beforehand.

Next, he grabbed a dagger that he had previously obtained from the treasury, and used it to carve the rock. Before long, he had carved a big hole on the surface of the rock, revealing a patch of emerald.

1

In Chen Chen's previous life, rocks like the 'jade-containing rock' could be sold at prices of at least ten million; it was something so rare that the chance of him seeing one was practically zero.

However, as far as Chen Chen could see right now, he wasn't missing much.

Ever since he began cultivation, he had become downright utilitarian, and had lost interest in ostentatious jewelry.

After digging the hole, Chen Chen retrieved the handful of soil from his sachet.

It was the "ethereality-containing soil".

1

After filling the hole on the rock with soil, Chen Chen planted the morning glory inside. Next, he watered it with a little 'ethereality-containing water'.

After he finished watering, the morning glory began recovering its vitality at a visible speed.

1

"Interesting!"

Rather than jewelry, Chen Chen was more attracted to weird things like the morning glory.

"Little morning glory, do you understand the words that I say?"

Chen Chen asked the little morning glory.

The little morning glory did not respond.

As he spoke to the morning glory in the middle of the night, Chen Chen began feeling like an idiot. If it had been in his previous life, he would have been taken to the mental asylum.

However, right at that moment, the little morning glory swayed unnoticeably.

Suddenly, Chen Chen's eyes lit up like a beacon. It was important to note that he had shut all the doors and windows before carrying out such queer, foolish things.

Such meant that it couldn't be the wind.

How did the flower move?

It went without saying that it had moved by itself!

"Whoa, what the heck? Interesting, very interesting, move once more for me!" Chen Chen said, and gently caressed the little morning glory.

Moments later, the little morning glory moved again in a hardly discernible fashion. Before Chen Chen could continue marveling, the little morning glory's branch had bent, and the flower turned to another direction, facing away from Chen Chen, as if it was shy.

Chen Chen was at a loss for words upon witnessing such a scene.

"I'm fine with a pig becoming humanized, but a morning glory could do it too?"

Chen Chen was flabbergasted.

After another round of observation, he couldn't help but say, "Little morning glory, I'll call you Little Flower from now. Once I get to the Tianyun Clan, follow me to go for cultivation."

He wasn't certain if the little morning glory had understood what he said, but it took a turn in another direction moments later, now facing Chen Chen.

Chen Chen flashed a smile of satisfaction upon Little Flower's little turn. Shortly after, he continued scraping the rock. Before long, the crude jade was sculpted into the shape of a vase.

After carving the rock, Chen Chen cleaned the ground, and placed the little morning glory on the headboard of his bed.

Right as he became prepared to get a night of peaceful rest, out of nowhere, the hectic galloping of horses sounded on the boulevard outside the station.

Chapter 33: A Journey Packed with Hardships and Perils

Chen Chen let out a little scowl. Moments later, he heard the boisterous commotion of a group of people rushing in from the lobby of the station.

"Around thirty people, most likely some rich youngster's squadron."

With his sharp senses, Chen Chen estimated the number of newcomers flooding into the station by his sharp hearing.

However, he still didn't bother to care much about the situation. Closing his eyes, he began to rest.

Honestly speaking, with the status of cultivation that he had, he wouldn't grow weary even if he were to stay awake for three days and nights in a row.

. . .

Unknowingly, the night had progressed to its late hours.

Chen Chen's ears picked up a baffling ruckus from the next room over.

It was a rhythmic echo of bed pegs bumping into the wall.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The station was constructed of wood, which had terrible soundproofing. Along with that fact, due to Chen Chen's acute senses, his ears caught the sound with absolute clarity.

Chen Chen had been a human for two lifetimes, and there was no way he couldn't tell what the sound meant. Even so, he did not bother to fuss about it either.

In this magical world of cultivation, there weren't many ways to entertain oneself. When people had free time on their hands, they made babies. It was completely normal.

"After all the hustle and bustle from the previous day, it still didn't slip their minds to miss out on the act, I'm speechless."

After grumbling a little with displeasure, Chen Chen stuffed his ears, and carried on resting with his eyes closed.

• • •

An hour later.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At this point, Chen Chen was on the verge of a meltdown. The uncanny sound had started an hour ago and was still continuing loud and proud. Upon his rough estimation, it could've been around 2,000 times!

"Could it be some sort of celestial beings? How else would he be so vigorous!"

Chen Chen marveled inside. With the given frequency, he could be worth tens of millions if he was taken to the White Horse Club.

Just what kind of extraordinary macho was he!

"Urgh!"

Right at that moment, the queer sound finally stopped, and it was replaced by a bellow.

Upon hearing the echo, Chen Chen heaved a sigh of relief.

It was finally over!

However, upon intent listening, the sound appeared rather unusual. It appeared that the bellow wasn't one that was filled with excitement, but agony.

"What happened? The macho guy's not feeling well? Did he run into a devil who feeds on the essence of men to nourish herself?"

1

Chen Chen became doubtful as he got down from the bed discreetly due to his vigilance. Furtively and soundlessly, he opened the door to his room, and turned up at the doorstep of the neighboring room.

The interior was illuminated by a dim, faint light.

However, Chen Chen's vision was extremely excellent. Through the narrow seam of the window, he saw what was going on inside.

It was the scene of an entirely naked woman with a willowy, alluring body, dressing herself up.

The shape of her body could only be depicted with one sentence.

"Protruding on the front and curvy at the back, overall a spectacular sight."

It took just one look and Chen Chen already felt his blood boiling and surging through his veins.

"D*mn it, demonic woman!"

Chen Chen cursed inside, and yet he couldn't help but begin looking again.

However, right at that moment, the woman turned around slightly, revealing the furry tail on her buttocks.

Upon catching sight of the tail, Chen Chen felt as if he had been doused with cold water while his heart turned chilly.

2

"Oh my freaking God, she really is a demon!"

1

"System, is there any demon in the nearest twenty meters?"

"Yes, there is a fox demon eight meters in front of you. Other than that, ten meters ahead on the left, there is an immature little morning glory demon."

Upon receiving the system's confirmation, Chen Chen broke out into a cold sweat along his forehead. Hastily, he returned to his own room cautiously and lied down on his bed, pretending as though nothing had happened.

"System, is there anyone in the nearby twenty meters who can fight that fox demon?"

"No, there isn't."

The mere three words made Chen Chen's heart freeze even colder. Obviously, that fox demon was more powerful than he was.

"I'll leave as soon as the sky out there lights up, this is freaking dangerous!"

Chen Chen cursed inside. He wasn't worried about running into robbers or bandits, and yet he had stumbled upon a demon, probably even a man-eating one.

Who could tolerate such a situation?

After fretting for about an hour or so, dim light gradually appeared outside. Without a word, Chen Chen got up and woke Zhang Ji, as well as several other companions.

"The road is long, we have to make the best use of our time and complete the journey. The sun has just brightened up, and the weather isn't hot yet, we should get started right away."

Chen Chen told his colleagues with a solemn expression. Shortly after, he grabbed the little morning glory and scurried for the carriage.

At this point, the rest of the group was still groggy, and nobody was fully awake. The stablemen looked very reluctant, but he was following the instructions of an immortal, so no one had the courage to raise any objections.

Chen Chen did not bother about the group's situation. After placing the little morning glory into the carriage, he hopped onto the back of the horse.

"Brother Chen, shouldn't we get some food first before we take off?" Zhang Ji hesitated.

"No, we shouldn't. We should leave right now." Zhang Ji uttered with firm resolution.

3

He had a feeling that if they delayed any longer, they would turn into somebody else's food, let alone find any food for themselves.

If he hadn't been afraid of alarming the enemy, he would have fled for his life last night.

"Alright, we'll do everything as Brother Chen commands."

Zhang Ji did not think much about the orders. He got up and mounted the horse, then summoned the stablemen to tidy up the horses, getting ready to set off.

At that moment, there were a few dozen horses tied to the stable, each of which were precious gallant horses. Obviously, they belonged to the group of people who entered the station last night.

The cart driver casted an envious look at the horses as he boarded the carriage, then he began driving forward.

Da! Da! Da!

The sound of thudding hooves echoed throughout the area, the three horse carriages carrying the seven men scurried from the station as if they were running from a disaster.

After traveling for several tens of miles, when the sun nearly reached the edge of the sky, Chen Chen finally called the squad to a halt.

"Alright, that's about it for now, let's all get some rest."

Seeing Chen Chen rushing all the way without even getting down from the horse to pick up soil and rocks, Zhang Ji could fathom what had occurred. With a somber look, he asked, "Brother Chen, the gang of people that we heard last night, were they thieves? Did they have their eyes on us already?"

"Not thieves, but there's a demon among them." Chen Chen replied.

Upon hearing the word 'demon', the faces of the three stablemen and the two bodyguards became doused with shock. Immediately, they switched from a breathless, panting state into an energetic, high-spirited state.

"Young Lord Chen, I think we can go even faster."

"Right, we've only covered a short distance, it's not a big deal, is it? Young Lord Chen, let us carry on with our journey."

2

"The vicinity is filled with large mountains and old woods, I feel like there might be monsters lurking around. We'll rest once we get away from this place."

"...Fine." Chen Chen shot a glance at each of the group members, speechless.

Moments ago, each person was looking as if they could die if he forced them to carry on, but right now, they seemed even more sprightly than he was...

The demon was indeed extraordinarily menacing.

However, their sustained speed had lowered quite a bit. After all, it was the horses that were doing the walking for them, and they had at most sustained some jolting.

Despite having fled several tens of miles from the station, Chen Chen still felt uneasy.

Ever since he undertook cultivation, he felt that he could dominate ordinary mankind, and that the journey this time would certainly be a smooth-sailing one. After seeing the demon however, he finally realized the hardships involved in such a journey.

Apart from guarding against evildoers, the group had to guard against demons and monsters.

At this point, it freaking felt like the Journey to the West. As the only member of the squad who possessed some power, Chen Chen had to play the role of Sun Wukong.

1

"Brother Chen, demons aren't very common, it's not like we'll surely come across them on our way, you don't have to be so worried."

Along the way, Zhang Ji couldn't help but try to comfort Chen Chen, as he saw the solemn, dismal look on his face.

Chen Chen took a look at the dense forest nearby, and replied softly, "We might not come across them, but what if we really do, and I'm no match for them?"

"Erm! In that case, I will ensure Brother Chen's safety at the cost of my own life!" Zhang Ji's face turned flushed red as he began to get agitated.

Upon hearing Zhang Ji's answer, Chen Chen shot a glance back. When he noticed the look that Chen Chen responded with, Zhang Ji shriveled.

He had a very clear notion about whether Chen Chen needed his protection.

A few moments of silence later, Chen Chen replied with a sigh, "Alas, brother, we shouldn't pin our hopes on luck, which is indefinite and intangible."

2

However, as he thought it through, he felt that such words weren't very suitable to be said to Zhang Ji. Zhang Ji had always depended upon his luck when he was outside! Zhang Ji could depend on luck, but he still couldn't.

As he sensed the dense, rich air of ethereality in the forest nearby, Chen Chen suddenly swerved his horse in the opposite direction and began heading straight for the mountains.

"Wait for me here for a moment."

"Brother Chen, where are you going!" Zhang Ji followed him from behind subconsciously.

Moments later, the two of them stopped at the foot of the mountain.

"Brother Chen, what did you come here for?" Zhang Ji asked.

Chen Chen waved his hand but did not say a word. Instead, he closed his eyes.

"System, I'm going to utilize the chance of ten-thousand-meter-searching. Look around for anything that can be used to curb demonic beings."

A distance of ten thousand meters did not sound like a great one, but its actual coverage was in fact, considerably massive, which accounted for a good 314 square kilometers.

4

The area being searched was situated deep in the mountains, and no one had an idea of how many bizarre, unique things there could be in the surrounding 300 over square kilometers.

"Searching has begun..."

"Three thousand meters behind on the left, there is a lost fragment of a magical treasure, which can resist demons and evil."

"Five thousand meters straight ahead, six meters underground, there is a piece of Dragon-taming Wood."

"Eight thousand meters to the Northwest, in the cavern, there is a book on the Classic of Demon Atonement."

1

. . .

Moments later, twenty targets had turned up in Chen Chen's mind.

3

Chapter 34: Expired Elixirs, Just Make Do with Them

Seeing the twenty prompts pop up in his head, Chen Chen felt instantly reassured, and his stern, somber expression began to loosen up as well.

"Brother, I feel that there are some great things around here, do you dare to go venture with me?"

Chen Chen looked at Zhang Ji with a smile. He was only afraid that they would find nothing after the search, which would be really awkward. Fortunately, things like that didn't happen.

"Of course I do!" Zhang Ji agreed decisively, looking determined.

He would not bear a grudge if he were to venture through the raging fire and surf the high tides for Chen Chen, let alone going on a treasure hunt with him.

"Alright! Follow me then!"

After he spoke, Chen Chen set off on his horse in a certain direction, while Zhang Ji followed closely behind.

After notifying the rest of the squad, the two of them vanished into a forest.

Moments later.

Chen Chen came upon a bush, and without saying a word, he began digging earthward with the iron shovel that he prepared in advance. After digging a meter deep, he finally saw the so-called 'fragment of a treasure.'

"Brother Chen, is this the treasure that you were talking about?" Zhang Ji asked in amazement as he looked at the rusty tip of a sword that Chen Chen held in his hand.

"Yes, I have sensed the ethereality of this thing from afar. This is something extraordinary!"

Chen Chen wore a solemn expression, but deep within, he was lacking confidence. The thing in his hand was no different from iron waste, and it gave no response after he tried to instill it with ethereality.

Was this thing really capable of resisting demons and evil?

Despite his doubts, he had to pretend as if he had found a valuable treasure to astonish Zhang Ji, who was watching at the side.

"Let's go, we'll move on to the next destination."

After storing away the fragment, Chen Chen hurried to the next target with Zhang Ji. This time, they traveled for half an hour before arriving at the location.

Right when Chen Chen was about to start digging blindly, Zhang Ji grabbed the shovel from his hand.

"Brother Chen, leave rough labor like this to me!"

Upon hearing Zhang Ji's words, Chen Chen did not refuse. In a serious manner, he then replied, "Brother, we have to dig six meters deep this time!"

When he heard "six meters", the look on Zhang Ji's face turned awkward. He then handed the shovel back to Chen Chen.

He was only an ordinary man, it could take him an entire day to dig six meters down.

"Brother Chen, I'm kinda useless, right?"

As he watched Chen Chen digging the earth up like a marmot, Zhang Ji asked in a selfcondemnation.

1

Very soon, Chen Chen's voice came through from under the ground.

"Zhang Ji, you'll surely be able to help me once you embark on the path of cultivation! Besides, I won't be calling you brother anymore, it's too alienating. You should also stop calling me Brother Chen, just call me Chen Chen instead."

1

"Chen Chen..." Zhang Ji mumbled under his breath, but shook his head immediately.

How could he address his big brother directly by his name! It would be a sign of disrespect!

1

After brooding for a moment, Zhang Ji shouted towards Chen Chen's hole, "Brother Chen, if you find it alienating, how about I call you big brother from now?"

"As you please!"

As Chen Chen finished his sentence, he climbed up from the pit. By this time, he had become completely covered in soil, no longer looking as chivalrous as he previously did. However, there was a one-meter-long piece of wood in his hand, which was giving off a dim glow.

"Brother Chen... big brother, what kind of treasure is that?" Zhang Ji asked curiously.

Compared to the last rusty piece of iron that he dug up, this piece of wood obviously seemed more like a treasure as it glowed, unlike ordinary wood.

Chen Chen instantly became thrilled as he looked at the Dragon-taming Wood in his hand. This particular piece of wood was a real treasure of cultivation. Apart from the fruit he had swallowed at the Black Wind Cliff, this piece of Dragon-taming Wood was probably the most valuable item that he had come across thus far.

"This is called Dragon-taming Wood, it is a world treasure that was nurtured by the dragon veins' essence under the ground. If any powerful immortals come across this, they would want to seize it for their own use."

1

Chen Chen introduced the artifact. However, it was the system that had provided him with information about the Dragon-taming Wood. Although he didn't quite understand, he knew it was simply phenomenal.

"Big brother, you are telling me about this valuable treasure, but aren't you afraid that I'm going to tell somebody about it?"

When he finished listening to the introduction, the look on Zhang Ji's face grew very complicated.

Upon hearing Zhang Ji's response, Chen Chen tapped him on the shoulder and said, "We are brothers, we have to trust each other."

"Big brother! You'll be my big brother forever!"

"Alright, cut the silly talk, follow me to the next location."

• • •

Just like that, three hours had passed.

Chen Chen and Zhang Ji arrived at the final location.

It was a cavern, an extremely deep and quiet one. From its outward appearance alone, one wouldn't be able to discern the trails of activity left by others in the past.

However, Chen Chen caught sight of a few vague words written on the green mosses on the stone walls of the cavern.

"Withered Spring Paradise Cavern".

Obviously, it used to be an immortal's cavern, but something had happened and it was eventually forsaken.

Based on just the looks alone, it could have been derelict for several thousand years. If Chen Chen hadn't found it, the paradise cavern might have lain in waste till the end of time.

"Big brother, your sense of ethereality is so sharp that you could sense the treasure from so far away, are all immortals as amazing as you are?"

Having witnessed Chen Chen's prowess, Zhang Ji grew even more envious of him.

When would he ever acquire a skill that would enable him to hunt for treasures anywhere?

Upon hearing Zhang Ji's remarks, Chen Chen smiled sheepishly and responded, "Not necessarily, it's only because some kind of talent has been activated within me after I began cultivation, which makes me particularly sensitive to the vibrations of treasures. However, there's no need for you to be discouraged. Once you embark on the path of cultivation, you will probably acquire some unique talents as well."

Could there really be no special talents at all? If there really weren't any, Chen Chen would still fabricate a talent to give to him.

Zhang Ji followed Chen Chen into the cavern with a face full of anticipation.

The interior of the cavern had become taken over by vines and tendrils by now, and its past history was nowhere to be seen.

When they arrived at the location pinpointed by the system, Chen Chen finally managed to make out the contours of some stone chambers in the surroundings.

On the wall beside the stone chamber was a half-decomposed bookshelf, on which quite a lot of books were placed. Some of the books had fallen to the ground and were covered by green mosses.

"Zhang Ji, search around, and see if there are any useful books."

This stone chamber contained nearly up to a hundred books, so Chen Chen did not hesitate to ask for Zhang Ji's help.

The books scattered around may not have been essential to the former owner of the cavern, but as far as cultivation newbies like him were concerned, they were filled with extremely valuable knowledge.

"Sure! Big brother!" Seeing that he had finally come in handy, Zhang Ji immediately began flipping through the books discreetly.

• • •

"Big brother, it's a collection of low-grade elixir prescriptions, do you need it?"

"Yes, take it!"

"What about the Gengjin Sword Techniques?"

"Yes!"

"The Transformation of Heavenly Water into Rain?"

1

"Yes!"

"The Romantic Records of Lingluo Fairy?"

"... Forget it, just take them all."

3

Finally, after searching through many books, Chen Chen found the 'Classic of Demon Atonement' that he was looking for at long last, and instantly lost interest in searching through the other books.

2

Honestly speaking, each of the books were very precious in their own right. It didn't matter that there were nearly a hundred of them, he was a man of cultivation after all, would he not be able to memorize them?

1

"Alright." As Zhang Ji spoke, he removed the robe that he was wearing and packed up all the books.

Right at that moment, his gaze fell upon a spot on the bookshelf.

"Big brother, come here and have a look. What is this?"

Chen Chen followed his gaze, and came upon an exquisite wooden box on the topmost of the bookshelf. Even after the baptism of time, it showed no signs of decomposition apart from a little dust.

1

"That's some good stuff."

A thought flashed across Chen Chen's mind. He took a slight leap and retrieved the wooden box.

He then opened it and found two elixirs the size of longans. Even until this day, they emitted a dense, rich air of ethereality.

"System, what is the most valuable item in the nearest twenty meters? Yourself excluded!"

"Host, there are two expired Foundation-building Elixirs. Although they can no longer perform their original functions, ordinary people and cultivators at the stage of qi training can enhance their status of cultivation marginally by consuming them."

2

"Tsk, doesn't matter if it's expired, I don't mind." Upon hearing the system's explanation, Chen Chen took one of the elixirs and swallowed it down into his stomach.

In an instant, an extremely dense surge of ethereality swept through all his limbs and bones.

"Big brother, what is this? What if it's poisonous?" Zhang Ji questioned in stupefaction.

"It's some expired food, just make do with it!" Chen Chen replied. Before Zhang Ji could respond, he stuffed the other one into Zhang Ji's mouth.

• • •

In the meantime, back on the path, a few dozen riders who rode tall, robust horses had besieged the carriages where they were parked.

As for Zhang Ji's three drivers and the two bodyguards, they were trembling in fear in the middle of the crowd.

"We finally caught up with you! I'm asking you, did you kill our young master!" The rider in the lead questioned in a fierce voice, his eyes filled with a murderous gleam.

1

The young master that they were in charge of guarding had died a sudden death. If they couldn't even find the murderer, how were they supposed to report their mission?

Previously, Chen Chen's squad left in haste, moments before sunrise. As far as the following group could see, the carriages on the path were the most suspicious of all.

Following the suspicion, they took the time to chase after the carriages all the way down to the mountains, and only just managed to catch up.

Chapter 35: No More Time Playing with You Guys

"Phew!"

Chen Chen let out a deep breath; he noticed a much greater abundance of ethereality within his body.

After a moment of pause, he took out his hand. At the tip of his finger, a flame appeared, which was more than twice as big as the little flame he once had.

"I should have reached Qi training level 2 or 3. Seems like drugs are more effective for cultivation." Chen Chen thought to himself as he stared at the flame.

1

At that moment, Zhang Ji became filled with excitement as he felt changes occurring deep within his body.

Noticing Zhang Ji's excitement build, Chen Chen smiled and said, "How about now? Are you in Qi training level 1?"

"I don't know, but I can feel air moving within my body, and I can even control the direction in which it moves! It's so magical!"

1

Zhang Ji responded with a mumble, his face filled with excitement.

He had long dreamt of embarking on the journey of cultivation. However, now that his dream had been made true, he was by no means mentally prepared for it.

"That is qi training level one. Come here, I will teach you a pyrokinesis craft."

2

"Uh... good, thanks brother!"

...

The two walked and chatted, with books on their backs. Pyrokinesis craft was indeed simple; a few kilometers in, Zhang Ji could manipulate small flames on his fingertips.

Even though, his flames still went out after a short moment.

"Brother, I have limited ethereality in my body, and pyrokinesis can only last me so long. If I am in a real fight, I think I could only use it seven or eight times."

"That's good enough. With further cultivation, you will have more ethereality."

Chen Chen comforted Zhang Ji's worries.

While Zhang Ji had qualifications for cultivating immortality, he was still far from a Primeval Ethereal Entity.

As a result, he was inferior in terms of the regeneration speed of ethereality compared to Chen Chen.

At that moment, Chen Chen remembered that as long as a source of ethereality was present nearby, he could keep the fire burning when using pyrokinesis.

"Brother, I heard from someone in the Tianyun Clan that certain crafts must be used to enter the qi training phase. What about us..."

1

"Those from the Tianyun Clan are regular people. We aren't regular people, so we aren't following their instructions."

2

"…"

Half an hour later, the two finally made it to the avenue, where they were greeted by the scene of their wagons being sieged.

Zhang Ji's face immediately turned dark upon seeing the scene; without speaking any words, he dashed towards the wagon.

"Who are you?"

Even in front of dozens of knights on horses, Zhang Ji was not swayed by fear.

"Sir, you are finally back, they wrongfully accused us of murder!"

"Yes, sir, please do us justice!"

The several grooms and bodyguards' faces were already swollen from being beaten, and were tied next to the wagons. Upon seeing Zhang Ji, they began to cry as if they caught sight of their parents.

As soon as he noticed Zhang Ji, the leading knight uttered with fury, "You are leading them? Let me ask you, how did you kill our gentleman!"

1

The leading knight's face is malicious. He instantly pulled out his sword and aimed it at Zhang Ji.

Seeing the leading knight's actions Zhang Ji's face turned dull. He then quickly uttered, "I don't even know who your gentleman is, how did I kill him?"

"If you ask me, who can I ask? If you didn't kill him, why would you leave so early?"

"Today, either you will explain things to us well, or have us take your heads away for our explanation!"

At that moment, Zhang Ji subconsciously looked towards Chen Chen, who had just walked by his side.

Chen Chen was in no rush; he placed his book into the wagon, but left his other bags on his back.

Glimpsing at a white luxury wagon far away, Chen Chen then said in a plain tone, "How did your gentleman die?"

Chen Chen's words left the leading knight completely infuriated. He then yelled in fury, "He was chopped into meat sauce!"

1

"Hence why you didn't see it happen. Your gentleman died from being drained of primordial essence by a monster."

Chen Chen said as he watched the white luxury wagon in the distance; he was still unknowing if the vixen was inside.

But now, with a much improved status of cultivation and twenty items specifically for countering monsters inside his bag, he was much more confident than he was last night.

"Monster? These subordinates of yours have repeated this theory hundreds of times, but the monster is nowhere to be seen in the post! I think this may very well be just your excuse!"

The leading knight's face became flushed from impatience.

The gentleman that he was supposed to protect is currently dead; if he couldn't find the murderer, how would he be able to complete his mission?

He had already decided, regardless of the reason for the gentleman's death, that he needed to hold Chen Chen's group accountable.

After all, nobody could possibly know about what was happening inside the deep forest.

"Where's the monster? Did your gentleman meet a lady half-way through the trip?" Chen Chen uttered.

Upon hearing the question, each of the knights turned towards the faraway luxury wagon out of subconsciousness; many even tried to distance themselves from it.

1

The wagon was the gentleman's wagon, and the gentleman indeed purchased a lady. The lady that he purchased was so enchanting that she was not let go of, even after the gentleman's death.

Why? Because their master is a lusty person, and by giving a fine lady to the master, the knights could possibly receive reduced punishment.

However, the youth ahead claimed that the lady is a monster?

Upon thinking of the fact that they may have carried a monster along the way, many of the knights began to feel their bodies shake.

"Bawl... I was all cold and alone for so long; after so much suffering, I finally found a person for me, and he was killed shortly after! Now I am being accused of being a monster!"

2

"Why am I so unlucky? My loved one, I should have died with you..."

Sad cries echoed out of the luxury wagon.

The loud words seemed to be especially enchanting. At that moment, each of the knights present seemed to become embarrassed by their former thoughts. They each began staring at Chen Chen angrily.

"How dare you accuse the mistress!"

"How could you do that!"

At that moment, the knights began pointing fingers at Chen Chen; many were already preparing to fight him with real knives and swords.

Suddenly, an inexplicable, imposing manner begun to spread out in all directions from Chen Chen.

"Why would I need to lie to you, mortals?"

"Fairy!"

3

The leading knight's facial expressions change abruptly; even his horse retreated a few steps.

Being a member of a major household, he would not just kneel down to beg for mercy.

"Haha, we have some imposing momentum here. But such momentum does not necessarily come from fairies; it can also come from monsters."

The echoes from the luxury wagon grew extra charming with no transition—-the sadness was gone for good.

Each of the knights could sense the change in tone as they all began to retreat in fright.

A moment of silence later, the lady in the wagon spoke up again.

"Huh, I was intending to spend some more time with you, but, well, here I am with a practitioner. The primordial essence from a practitioner would be much greater than that trash's last night."

2

"I am longing to taste it now, so no more fun with you guys."

Seconds later, an evil wind blew from all directions. All of a sudden, each of the knights' horses began screaming and falling to the ground one by one, their mouths spitting white bubbles.