

The Sacred Ruins

#Chapter 31 - Read The Sacred Ruins Chapter 31

Chapter 31: The Invincible

“I think I’ve gone crazy. Argh...” The woman had turned green about the gills as she continued retching. She deliriously screamed as if she had lost all sanity in mind. She allowed his male partner to help her to her feet, then she frantically ran into the distance.

There was the sound of a babbling stream cackling in the distance. It was where she was heading. Alas! The woman could not brook the “contamination” that sullied her hands. How she wished she could hew her hands with an axe and rid the grime and impurity altogether. She delved her hands into the icy water, compulsorily scrubbing them together in the trickling stream.

The man was of no exception. Wearing a somber look, he tumbled his way to the stream as his retching persisted on the way. He adopted a vigorous manner, similar to the woman, as he tried to cleanse his hands.

Chu Feng stood in the distance, watching as the two struggled. He did not ambush them with a surprise assault though; he felt the need to avoid any physical contacts with them. He wanted them to be thorough in washing themselves, so the fight would only end up bloody and not nasty.

It was conceivable how queasy the two must be feeling right now!

“I think I’m out of my mind! I can’t stand this! What a bastard that cow-like creature was! I will find it and kill that son of a b*tch!” The shrieking shrill of the woman echoed within the darkness of the sky.

“Let’s go! Let’s get our target first!” said the man. He had a handsome face, but the look in his eyes was malicious and insidious. He had had enough; this had been a long night brimming with sufferings. He wanted to take a break as soon as he could after having accomplished his designated mission.

The woman did not act to the man’s demanding words; she still persisted on scrubbing her hands.

Chu Feng did a quick twirl before he vanished into thin air.

The two only arrived at Chu Feng's house after hours had passed. They lingered outside the yard, but at the same time, Chu Feng also pushed open the yard gate and piled out of the yard.

If it had not been for the sake of acquiring some additional information from the two, he would have killed the two when they were still strolling on their way here. At the moment, he pretended to be an ordinary person, putting on a surprised and curious look as he asked them who they were.

"I will not condescend to explain you this, I'll just get straight to the point. Someone doesn't want you to live any longer." The man wore contemptuous look; murder was written all over his face.

"Why? Who wants to kill me?" Chu Feng flung himself in a pose of profound astonishment, hurriedly retreating back.

The night sky was clear and spangled with stars.

The man opened his black wings, slowly ascending to the air. He hovered there, giving forth an odor of power and superiority. It felt as if the land beneath him as well as the creatures who lived on it had been confined and imprisoned under his output of power.

"Now, I will give you a chance to choose a method to die. The first will make you seem as if you have been accidentally electrocuted, and the second being that you've been accidentally caught on fire, so subsequently, your body will be charred into hard coke. Hurry up and choose!"

He coldly urged, blatantly exposing his heartless indifference to others' life. He did not seem to care about the loss of an innocent life. Life or death, to him, seemed to have a negligible impact.

"You are a mutant, but you can only do what you are told. You are just someone else's beck and call. You are worried that if I do not die an accidental death, disturbance might incur. You can easily take someone's life without the remnant of a scruple, but you fear that someone will chastise you for your misconduct, so I want to know who is this man or woman that makes you fear and boggle?" Chu Feng calmly said.

"Do you think you deserve to make me fear or boggle? You're a mere ordinary rotting in some places fairly below the social pecking order. Killing you just means is like swatting another fly to me," the man said in a fairly loathing manner.

He was not in the right frame of mind to argue with Chu Feng. He only wanted to quickly finish off this ordinary in front of him and immediately return home for a soothing bath in a hot spring.

“I don’t want to stay here any longer. Let’s get moving and kill him!” The woman seemed like she was in a more agitated state. She had lost all her patience. “Then, we will go to Qingyang Village to find that cow-like creature, and I will kill that bastard!” The woman gnashed her teeth in anger.

The man committed into action. Wasting no time, he rapidly descended and dove down for Chu Feng.

Pong!

However, in the very next moment, he found himself projected back to the air in an inverted fashion.

Chu Feng firmly stood on his ground. With a single punch of his fist, he fractured many bones at the man’s ribcage. The man’s chest caved in and dented, and his body slanted across in the air then heavily fell on the ground, foaming blood at his mouth.

The man sprawled on the ground, coughing up blood. Astonishment was written all over his face. The force that the punch delivered was terrifying to say the least. He was awed because he could not fathom how an ordinary man’s punch could have penetrated the armor of his mutated body. A single jab of a man almost claimed his life.

The pain of unparalleled acuteness ran through his body, but he quickly recovered. He soared into the sky once again, about to unleash his deadliest ability. He fluttered his wings, gently mopping the blood from the corner of his mouth as he glared at Chu Feng. There was a flicker of malice in his cold eyes and a tone of biting coldness.

“You are not an ordinary. I admit that I’ve misjudged you.”

Then, he opened his mouth, towered over Chu Feng and roared. Chu Feng immediately felt a power that was veiled in mystery dash out from the man’s blustering mouth.

Ripples of sound waves were released, but all were visible. Sound had turned into waves of black billows, one after another, surging outward towards Chu Feng.

Pong!

The towering plants and the formidable boulders had all burst apart from the impact. It was a terrifying scene to behold, and the power that this ability carried was awe-inspiring as well.

The woman stood not far from the blustering man; she could finally set her mind at rest. At the same time, she also retreated in a hurry, for she knew that no-one could stay undefeated with the man lashing out this ultimate ability of his.

In many fights against groups of mutants, this ability allowed him to easily crumple his opponents like sweeping up dead leaves. He had always been triumphant and victorious.

When used against the ordinary, he discovered that he could rout thousands of people in a single breath. It did not distinguish between allies and enemies. Everything that stood in its path was easily defeated.

Chu Feng realized that this fight might prove to be his undoing. The waves seemed to have been all-pervasive; its power could penetrate his body through every opening. It felt as if it was about to tear his body and rupture his skull. A sharp pain pervaded throughout his body.

However, he did not panic. Chu Feng kept his usual composure and tried to use what he had learnt to deflect the damage he was receiving.

Boom!

Chu Feng used the omnipotent Demon Ox Boxing Style. That man's blaring roar was soon submerged under thunderous rumbles; a black yak's bellow echoed as the air condensed to form its silhouette.

Chu Feng suddenly realized that the boxing style was not only a set of fist positions that could allow him to physically harm his opponent, it was also a form of sonic attack, ten times more potent than the bat man's ripples of sound waves.

Puff!

In mid-air, the man seemed as if it had been struck by lightning, plummeting from the sky before hitting his head on the pavement below. Pools of blood were disgorged from within his traumatized body, and the soundwaves were also no more.

He felt a searing pain up his gullet. Streams of blood gushed out of his mouth from within his chest where the pain was the most concentrated. At the same time, blood also oozed from his eyes, nose and mouth. All the seven orifices of his head had been severely injured.

"You..." The woman's face turned pale as a sheet upon seeing the man succumbing to his defeat. She quickly jumped into actions, emitting a devious purple gleam with her palm. A vine then appeared, rapidly elongating towards Chu Feng.

Chu Feng dodged the whipping vine. The plant missed its target, but it landed on the ground instead. Upon impact, it cracked open a green slab of stone with an astounding force.

A tittering sound then followed.

More vines wriggled themselves out from a small hole in the woman's hand, quickly multiplying and spreading their coverage all over the yard. The woman's intention was clear. She wanted to constrain Chu Feng in a claustrophobic space before she could strangle him to death with the help of the vines.

At the same time, the vines also swung and swayed, blasting on the concrete floor and the boulders in the yard. Without exception, everything it whipped was turned to fragmented shatters. It was truly a horrific sight to behold.

Boom!

However, no-one shall understand the power that Chu Feng was in control of. He was no longer the same novice fighter back when he first fought against Zuo Jun. Weeks of practices in the mountains that were all simulative of a real battle had trained him well to be able to fight the two with great facility. Most importantly, his speed was something that neither of the two could even aspire to beat.

Nowadays, for Chu Feng, finishing a hundred-meter sprint was only the matter of a second. Ever since he claimed mastery of the Demon Ox Boxing Style, both his strength and his speed had dramatically increased. His body had gone further and further beyond some of the extreme limits that a human body could allow for.

He was slowly but steadily validating that the so-called sanctification of a mortal was not just another whimsical theory appearing only in the fantasy novels.

Like a ghostly specter, Chu Feng vanished into thin air, then suddenly, he re-emerged in sight then kicked the woman into the air with a blaring boom. The woman had lost all control of her body as she smashed through the yard wall and landed in the orchid farm. Her mouth overflowed with blood; she could no longer get to her feet.

The battle against the two finished within minutes.

Suddenly, he felt a piercing pain at the back of his head. He knew it was his body's warning sign for something deadly, so he leaped aside from where he was standing almost in an instant.

Clonk!

The badly injured man pulled the trigger of his handgun from a near distance. The pitch-black muzzle gleamed a blazing flare; he clearly wanted to kill him with a cheap bullet.

The bullet roared past. It travelled at a great velocity, but Chu Feng could almost see the trajectory of the ringing bullet, so with ease, he moved his head out of its path. It was a near miss.

Clonk! Clonk! Clonk!

The man fired consecutive shots. His eyes were gloomy and cold. His body was badly injured, and his face was smeared with blood. His chest had almost been penetrated by Chu Feng's punch. He had been greatly enfeebled, therefore, he wanted to use the firepower of his semi-auto handgun to retaliate and to cruelly dispose of his target.

However, little did he know that Chu Feng's consistent ardent training had rendered his body excelled not only in speed but also in senses and instinct. This was a power he believed to have been given to him since birth; it was one of the many primitive abilities that had been barred from exploitation. However, now, the ability had been unlocked for him, allowing him to sense danger far in advance.

He could feel numbness or even pain on many parts of his body. The pain served as a timely warning of a forthcoming danger, enabling Chu Feng to escape from harm unscathed.

The pupils of the two mutants constricted. Their faces both turned as pale as sheets. They were frightened by the ability demonstrated by whom they had been informed as an ordinary. They now realized what a lie that had proven to be!

The man was finally out of bullets. Blood was still dripping from the corners of his mouth. He tried to flutter his wings and escape for his life.

Puff!

A black dagger was sent into the air. It flew like a black lightning bolt, piecing through the man's traumatized body. With a plop, the man plummeted again into his demise!

The man was near death. He could no longer get to his feet, let alone escape from Chu Feng's vengeful clutches.

Under the glittering starry sky, a profound silence prevailed over all.

All sounds had become still. Chu Feng was very calm. Clad in the luminance of the stellar sky, it seemed as if his whole body had been gleaming in a godly light. He looked down at the two who were lying on the ground in profound agony.

The two mutants were ever so frightened and astounded. It was beyond their comprehension how this young man named Chu Feng could clobber them without showing a sign of any forms of mutation.

How powerful was he actually?

The two quivered in fear. They felt powerless and desperate. Their lives were in the mercy of this godly presence.

At this moment, Yellow Ox arose from within its room. It looked at the two in bewilderment. If the fight had not been so clamorous, there would be certainly no way for it to come outside.

The woman saw the calf, then the look on her face drastically changed at once. In an instant, she knew that this calf was the arch-criminal of her previous unpleasant encounter. It was this calf that led to her nightmare.

Her urge to vomit finally passed the limits of her endurance. She gagged and retched, quivering as she heaved.

Yellow Ox was baffled at first, then it went wild with rage. Because as it approached the woman, her vomit seemed to have become increasingly severe.

“Do you have no regards for my presence at all?” Yellow Ox bellowed.

With a bang, it stomped on the woman’s head without any scruples. The poor lady showed the whites of her eyes, then immediately, she slipped into a coma.

“Tell me everything you know!” Chu Feng glared at the man who was still awake.

However, his lips were tightly sealed. He was obviously unwilling to divulge anything to Chu Feng who, on the other hand, wanted to inquire closely into the merits of the case. He had the look of someone who would rather die than to submit. The look in his eyes said profound hatred, but there was also a look of dread and scruple.

But in the bottom of his heart, there was a profound sense of fear. For him, Chu Feng legitimately felt like a godly presence.

Bang!

In the end, Chu Feng also gave a stomp on the man’s head, putting him to sleep.

“Watch them!” Chu Feng said. He walked into the orchid farm. Then, in the middle of this tranquil night, he dialed Lin Naoi’s number.

He knew that although Lin Naoi was certainly not the one directly behind the violence, he felt that she was at least more or less related to everything that had happened.

Maybe the implementation of these violence was directed by one of her followers or someone close to her.

First, there was Zuo Jun who came uninvited to humiliate him with tirades of insults, then there came two assassins who wanted to claim his life. “Do you think I’m weak and easily bullied?” Chu Feng blurted out his angry words.

He would not blame Lin Naoi for the series of incidences, because these were not the work of hers. But all in all, he needed to find out the evil backstage director who so desperately wanted him to meet his undoing. Chu Feng would find him and make him pay!

“Whoever you are, don’t let me find you, or I will make you regret being born to this world!” Chu Feng’s eyes turned bitingly cold.

Chapter 32: The Woman

Obediently enduring the suffering inflicted by others was not Chu Feng’s modus operandi.

For him, it was both humiliating and disgraceful to have the way of his own death designed by a third party in advance. Electrocuting or to be charred into hard coke both sounded more shameful than painful.

Had he not mastered his Demon Ox Boxing Style, he would have ended up with a pathetic death.

The call was finally picked up, and a woman’s voice sounded.

Under the clear sky spangled with northern stars, Chu Feng stood in the orchid garden that was both quiet and secluded. His expression suddenly shifted as he realized that on the other end, it was not the voice of Lin Naoi. As all sounds around him were still and hushed, he could vividly tell that the distinctive indifference typically embedded in Lin Naoi’s luscious voice was not there.

Did he dial the wrong number? He lowered his head and meticulously read out the sequence of numbers he had input into his communicator. It was perfectly right.

“I need to speak to Lin Naoi,” he calmly said.

“Chu Feng? The one who lives in Taihang Mountains?” Evidently, the woman on the other end of the line had noticed his name displayed on the communicator where he called and thus ascertained his identity.

“Yes!” Chu Feng answered.

“Do you live in Qingyang Village? It is quite a remote town I admit, but although it is somewhat secluded and isolated from the world outside, I still firmly believe it’s a better place to be than where I am. It can easily surpass our Jiangning City with a little bit of economic boost.” The woman sounded totally inattentive as she spoke.

Chu Feng frowned. What was this woman trying to imply? And who was she? Although the words she said did not sound concerning to the subject at hand at all, he was certain that there was a subtle implication behind these words.

Qingyang Village was only a small town, perching at the foot of Taihang Mountains. In contrast, Jiangning City was a booming metropolis. It was a prosperous city at the height of its power and splendors. It qualified as the center of the regions south of the Yangtze River.

Putting the two side by side could easily display an immeasurably vast difference. The two places were almost worlds apart, so if the woman was still in her perfect sanity, she must have been trying to remind or to imply him of something.

Chu Feng remained unperturbed. He calmly reminded the woman again that he wanted to speak to Lin Naoi.

“Naoi is quite busy recently. There is a lot of business within the interest of Deity Biomedical Group that needs her urgent attention. All of the people who are genuinely close to her would have known this and would try to leave her undisturbed.” The woman’s voice sounded temperate and mild.

Chu Feng was taken aback by the fact that, on the other side, it was a woman who sounded both sharp and intelligent. Despite her temperate tone and the casualness in the way by which she spoke, every word she chose contained an undertone of something deeper. It was then at the listener’s liberty to decide how to translate these words into their true meanings.

Through those mild words, the woman highlighted the position of Lin Naoi while also pointing out the fact that Chu Feng was not within the close circle of Lin Naoi at all, humiliating him as she implied that he qualified as nothing to her. Underneath those temperate words, there was truly a sharp and deprecating meaning.

Chu Feng assumed that this woman must be someone closely affiliated with Lin Naoi, or there would be no way for her to come in possession of Naoi’s communicator.

Chu Feng did not refute the woman’s words, instead he calmly responded by apologizing for the late-night disturbance. Then, he hung up.

He decided to call back at another time. Maybe then, that familiar indifferent voice of his past lover would resound on the other end of the communicator once again.

However, he was also prompted to question who he just spoke to and what connection the woman had with Lin Naoi?

It was hard to pinpoint her age from her voice. It could have been a young maiden in her twenties, or it could have also been a middle-aged woman in her forties.

Chu Feng rung up Lin Naoi's number again an hour later.

This time, an indolent voice of a woman sounded. It was a delightful voice, but it sounded frivolous too. "Why are you calling again?"

It was the same woman as last time.

"You'd better not contact Lin Naoi again. Like I said, she is busy. She can't spare time to talk with you. And finally, let me give you a piece of advice, a man needs to know the boundaries. He needs to have a clear knowledge of who he is and what he is capable of. There is a boundary set for everyone in this world, so sometimes, it's better to know your limit and stay within the lines." This time, the woman became more explicit. A sense of arrogance suffused the tone of her voice.

"You're over-thinking, ma'am. It's just that I need to clarify certain things to her face to face. I have no intents to step beyond whatever the limit you think you've set me within." Chu Feng's voice was still calm.

"There are a lot of things you don't need to get entangled with. They won't end well. Do you understand me? As one of the many grassroots of the society, it's for the best that you can stay earnest and down-to-earth. Qingyang Village is a town good enough for you. It's small and poor, that I know. Isn't this an accurate description of you as well? So stay at where you belong." The woman's voice became indifferent and apathetic. Obviously, she had lost her patience. Her words were no longer along the line of euphemism.

"It seems like we have misunderstood each other..."

"No, there is nothing to be misunderstood. And I will ask you, solemnly, to stay away from Lin Naoi. She has her own lifestyle, and you have yours. Each of you belongs to a distinctive world, so know your limit and conduct yourself within that limit well. If you persist on getting entangled with her, I'm sure you will probably die of some unforeseen accidents before you know it. Maybe you don't understand what I'm saying right now, but soon you will." The woman's voice turned cold.

Chu Feng was struck by a thought upon hearing the woman's words, but he made himself sound inadvertent. "Well, in fact, I really think you are being a bit oversensitive. The reason for me to call Naoi is only that I want her to learn about a strange occurrence."

"Oh? What strange occurrence? You can choose to tell me, and I will pass on your words." The woman sounded a bit surprised.

"A giant bat dropped dead outside the yard of my house. His body was all sodden in blood." He stopped here, patiently waiting for a reaction from the other end.

As expected, the woman immediately reacted in a way that reflected her profound surprise. She jumped off her bed, then all sounds were muted at once.

Only after a while did the woman collect herself and regain her composure. "Is this all you need to talk to me about? How boring!"

"The bat seemed to be severely injured, but despite my kind offering, he still seemed rather unfriendly to me all the time. This kind of attitude seemed quite suggestive of his origin as part of the Deity Group, or at least he is somehow connected to you," Chu Feng calmly said.

Silence prevailed on the other end for a little while before that woman babbled out words in a much softer tone, "Since he is connected to Deity Biomedical Group, can I please ask you to take good care of him on our behalf? Make sure he will stay alive."

Chu Feng's eyes turned cold. This woman knew, or at least she was acquainted with the bat man!

"Why do you make it sound like that the onus is on me to help him. Even though I am absolutely clueless as to how he was injured, he's been a consistently unfriendly man to me. I even start to feel like he is going to kill me."

"You..." The woman's anger was exacerbated. She knew that in order to persuade Chu Feng to help the man, she would need to substitute her patronizing attitude to Chu Feng with a reverent and respectful manner, and this made her furious.

"I warn you. If anything happens to him, I will ensure that you will not die a happy death!" The woman adopted a crisp and menacing tone.

Judging by the woman's assertive manner, he deduced that, to some extent, the man must have been qualified as one of the most proficient fighters in the group. He could assuredly contend that the man was not one of the disposable pawns whom the group was willing to sacrifice.

"His well-being is no concern of mine, really. By my reckoning, the injury on him will possibly claim his life in just a day or two," Chu Feng said this as he had a fleeting glimpse of the two who were still in a state of coma lying in the yard.

"I will send someone to pick him up. I only need you to treat his wounds and cuts if there are any," the woman coldly demanded before abruptly ending the call.

Chu Feng put aside his communicator as a cynical grin lit up his face. He had started to materialize an assumption of the group's actual strength based on the information he had harnessed from the call: It was nothing to be afraid of.

He fetched an iron chain, tightly tied the two together then left them exposed to the nip in the evening air outside in the yard. Having checked that there was no chance for the two to escape, he left for his room and went to bed.

The rest of the night was quiet and undisturbed.

No visitors came until noon on the following day when Chu Feng and Yellow Ox had eaten and drunk to their full content. The visitor ignored all courtesy and etiquette, barging into the yard without the host's permission.

"Are you Chu Feng? Where is he?" It was a middle-aged man in his thirties. A hint of redness mantled over the sunburnt black cheek of his. He had an average build, but his manner was vigorous and imposing. The look in his eyes were overbearing and aggressive.

"I'm Chu Feng. Look there! Is that the man you're after?" Chu Feng signalled for him to look over at a corner on the far-end of the yard walls.

The man saw the two mutants, chained together like a couple of dead pigs. Their clothes were damp in blood, and they were yet to regain their consciousness. The man's imposing manner disappeared to be replaced by a doleful frown upon sighting the state the two were in. His eyes grew cold as he turned to Chu Feng again.

"There's nothing that I'm to be blamed for. As an injured man, he still wanted to put himself in a pose of a cold-blooded murderer who wanted to claim my life at any moment. Driven by fear, I've been left with no choices but to shackle them with the sturdiest chain I could find." Chu Feng shrugged, looking innocent and innocuous.

"Alright. I will take them with me. And you? You died in a fire accident!" The middle-aged man carried a gust of trumpeting wind, charging at Chu Feng briskly before he had hardly finished speaking. He directed his fist to Chu Feng's temple, with an obvious intent to kill him with a deadly blow.

Chu Feng's face turned cold. He stood on his ground, clenched his fists and gritted his teeth. Then, in exasperation, he greeted the man's furious attack with an equally powerful defence.

"Argh..."

The middle-aged man gave out a shrill and screeching cry as his body was flung to the air. His fists were badly mutilated; they were battered to a pulp. His arms were also severely injured, with both of them badly twisted.

"You... you're really not one of the ordinary, are you?" He grunted in anger. "Fire!"

Almost instantly, a team of gunners each equipped with a high-caliber handguns fitted with mufflers suddenly cropped up in the yard beside the two. Their guns were all aimed at Chu Feng, firing at him without any scruples.

However, Chu Feng's superhuman ability to predict and avoid dangers had lent him to shun from the scene of danger. Travelling at a speed near that of the light, with a hop and a skip, he leaped over the yard walls and fled into the orchid farms.

At first, there were only silence and looks of bewilderment on the faces of the gunners, then suddenly, Chu Feng re-emerged behind their back, and without hesitation, he landed his forceful punches on the fragile skulls and spines of these incompetent assassins. After a continual string of thumps and pounces, all of the four gunners were flung into the air before landing on the concrete ground, spewing blood as their eyes stared ahead with a vacant gaze like the eyes of a dead fish.

"You..."

The middle-aged man was astounded. Suddenly, a dazzling light glittered out of his mouth. Like a spider, he launched a string of white silk towards Chu Feng.

Chu Feng easily dodged the thrusting silky string, but the man's body seemed to have bloated quite dramatically. His body quivered and pulsated, then suddenly, many pairs of spider legs grew at the side of his body. They were black and swarthy, but they looked firm and sturdy, glittering a gleaming metallic luster.

He now gained the shape of a giant spider. Threads of silk were spewed from his mouth, travelling at a great velocity directly towards Chu Feng. Those swarthy legs of his incised many deeply engraved imprints on the earth and the soil.

Ongg!

The air vibrated and the giant spider man rushed over. Its legs were stiff and straight as they pierced through the air directly towards Chu Feng's body. They were like the spears of Ares, cutting and incisive.

Clonk!

Unfortunately, the black yak that had emerged at the same time cracked and fractured the metallic legs of the spider with ease. Chu Feng clenched his fist and hurled it onto the spider's chest, penetrating the man's heart. As he then withdrew his fist from within the spider's traumatized body, a gaping hole was left gorily dripping in sizzling blood.

The middle-aged man screeched in pain as he flopped and tumbled. Toppled by the severe injury inflicted on him, the man was left groaning and grunting painfully on the concrete ground.

Chu Feng calmly gazed at them. Then, he chained him up together with the other two.

“Yellow Ox! Dump them into the primitive mountains! Feed them to the beasts,” Chu Feng said.

Yellow Ox turned its back on him, implying that it refused to comply.

“That woman and that man with the bat wing dug up the hole you made last night, so they know your secret and all that,” Chu Feng said.

Chu Feng’s words sent Yellow Ox into a raging fury almost instantly. The rage in its eyes made his blood run cold. It bristled with anger when it heard that its most secretive business had been peeped at and spied on by strangers. It stamped about in a frenzy.

“Don’t be mad at me! They dug up the dirt that you tried to bury your hole with. You can go and interrogate them if you don’t believe me; and think why that woman burst into a continual episode of constant vomit when she saw you?” Chu Feng said.

Oddly enough, Yellow Ox’s face was actually changing color; it turned red then purple. Having its secret unearthed, Yellow Ox became angry from shame.

Finally, with the help of Chu Feng, Yellow Ox chained up the three in a single row then dragged it right into the depth of the mountains without the remnant of a scruple.

After it returned, Chu Feng asked about how the three had ended.

Yellow Ox seemed to have soothed its anger. It covered its own eyes with one of its front hooves then made a few bellows. It meant that the scene in the mountains was so horrifying and cruel that even it could not stand to witness.

Chu Feng was rather speechless at how unjustifiable Yellow Ox’s show of sympathy had proven to be. It was the calf who sent the three into their demise, and now it shed its crocodile tears.

At night, Chu Feng engrossed himself with an interesting book after taking a hot bath.

This time, he did not contact Lin Naoi or that woman.

Soon later, the communicator rang. It was a voluntary call from the woman. He ignored the ringing communicator, refusing to be distracted from the fascination of the book.

A while later, the communicator rang again. He picked it up.

As expected, it was from the same woman. She raised her voice and inquired about the whereabouts of the man she had deployed to receive the injured bat man. She provided

a rather vivid description of the man's usual look then asked him whether or not he had seen a man who matched the description.

"Yes, yes. I did see something. But it was a rather monstrous looking beast that had a half-man, half-spider looks. It descended from heaven to the earth of my yard and nearly dropped to his death," Chu Feng collectedly replied.

3 Invitation Codes for Lucky Fans

"wzPL4F"

"FoaMPH"

"p8imPv"

Chapter 33: The Tender Land

The call suspended in a brief moment of silence.

Moments later, the woman started spewing!

"Do you live in a gaping crater or what? All those who went fell or dropped to either becoming mutilated or severely wounded! What the hell!" she hollered and shrieked like a mad cow or a drunk man consummating an overwhelming feeling.

The woman's clamor was ear-splittingly loud. Chu Feng distanced himself from the receiver but still paid attention to the words she spoke. Finally, he responded in a frivolous manner, "Yeah, yeah. Spot on! Not only do I live inside a crater, I also dig holes deeper into the earth to make space for parterres and farmlands. I've planted vegetables and quite a number of orchids. Those trees grew quite dense in the area, so I won't really blame them for missing this obvious hole on the ground. I'm so sorry that they have had the misfortune to tumble into their demise here."

That woman's breathing became coarser and coarser as Chu Feng's passage of flippant words dragged out. Listening from this side of the communicator, Chu Feng could even vaguely tell that the woman's breast was driven by anger, fluctuating violently.

Chu Feng shovelled aside the communicator away from his ears.

As expected, a tirade of furious rants blasted on the other end of the line.

“I don’t have time to discuss with you about some craters, and I don’t give a DAMN about what you want to plant in there. But listen! I need you to ensure that those people, my people, are perfectly fine, or I will go there and make your life an insufferable hell!”

The woman clamored on the phone. She eventually realized the enormity of her faux pas at once, but she just couldn’t resist the urge to raise her voice and holler at Chu Feng.

Her attitude and manner carried a completely different set of demeanors to her usual mien. She had never been a miffy person. Elegance, grace, poise and honor had always been the her code of conduct, but now, these commendable characters had all parted from her. There was a ball of fire within her that unsettled her heart.

“But, all of them had been somehow badly injured. I don’t think there is much chance for them to live through the infliction of their trauma. Probably, this has been destined to be their undoing. It’s their fate, so what can I do?” Chu Feng asked.

“If you can’t do sh*t, find someone that can! Find a doctor! Send them to the hospital! I don’t care what you can or cannot do, but if you can’t keep them alive, then I will make sure that you will be buried with them!” the woman shouted.

“Why should I?”

“How dare you talk to me like this?” the woman grunted.

Bang!

The woman quickly hung up the communicator, because she realized the impropriety in her demeanors. One could easily expose their weakness and the fatal flaws in their character when one was taken over by emotion. This should not have been her style.

She needed to stay calm and remain in a placid composure. She did not want herself to be learnt by or known to someone as despicable and incompetent as Chu Feng.

Obviously, she had been taken over by emotion, but she could quickly collect herself and cease that temporal upheaval of emotion.

She removed herself from the agitated state of her swinging mood. The raging flame ablaze in her eyes was removed and replaced by a cool glitter that reflected her profound intelligence.

As she knew, because of the close relationships between Chu Feng and Lin Naoi, the attention of some of the top executives from Deity Biomedical Group had been drawn into conducting a series of investigation of Chu Feng’s background and ability. Secretly, they had been experimenting on Chu Feng’s hair that they had collected. The results of

the experiments were almost certain that it would be highly unlikely for him to become a mutant.

“Just a despicable ordinary. He’s got no power himself at all, so who was lending him the helping hand?” the woman mumbled to herself. Then, the name of Lin Naoi called to mind. “Has she become aware of our planned assassination of him?” The woman was taken aback by her own thought.

However, it seemed highly unlikely that Lin Naoi would have devoted herself to others amidst an outbreak of chaos and upheavals. The fact that their relationships had never been a fervent one further disapproved the likelihood of her lending him a helping hand.

“All these mess can also be the devilry of Bodhi Genes. Are they helping him as a way to strike against us?” She frowned upon the thought.

She drew her communicator to her hands then browsed through the list of contacts. Her finger was pondering above a name called Wei Mu, but her hesitation finally ended with her giving up calling the person and turning off the communicator.

Just as she was perturbed, the communicator rang to withdraw her from her muse.

Her face stiffened when she saw the name of the caller. It was Chu Feng. She had been developing an increasingly deeper hatred of him minute by minute. Everything bothersome that had happened recently had all been related to him more or less.

“What do you want?” asked the woman apathetically.

“What do I want? It should be ‘what do you want’? The bat and the spider were both on the verge of death, so for how much longer are you planning to leave them with me for?” Chu Feng asked.

“Let me speak to them!” the woman demanded. Even when situation had developed into a sticky one for her, the slights in her tone still predominated her speech. There was an air of arrogance in her demand which ordered him to let the other three speak to her.

“I’ve said it earlier that all three had fainted, and two of them were in a state of coma. They were too severely wounded, so I reckon there is little chance for them to come back to life ever again. But all in all, I’m still kind of scared of them, so hurry up and let your people take them away!” Chu Feng urged.

The woman paused in a moment of silence. She told Chu Feng that within a day or two, there would be someone coming to pick them up. She urged him to make sure that the three could be taken good care of. She warned him again that if the three died or mutilated, she would make him pay.

After the call, Chu Feng happily went to sleep.

However, the woman, on the other hand, had been lead to a night of insomnia. She was driven a bit furious by the fact that she had failed to settle this issue with an aloof and detached manner, but instead been taken over by agitated emotions.

“No matter who is planning to oppose my resolution to kill him, I will make sure that he will be as good as dead.” The woman had made a determined effort in this ruthless case of assassination.

Morning came again as the sun rose above the horizon. Chu Feng perched in the rising sun, bathing himself with the warm and gentle rays of the morning sun. He devoted himself to the practice of the special breathing exercise day and night, because he knew that this was an important procedure more crucial than the practice of Demon Ox Boxing Style.

Yellow Ox’s demeanors had proven this assumption of his. No matter how indolent the calf was, it had never missed a single morning or night to devote itself to the practice of the breathing exercise.

As to the practice of Demon Ox Boxing Style, the calf could not get any more inattentive and apathetic.

After breakfast, Chu Feng called Yellow Ox, “Let’s go into the mountains!”

“Moo!”

Yellow Ox inscribed a few words on the dirt road, asking what if someone came to pay them a visit while they are not around.

“Their target is me and the missing mutants. If none of them are here, what else can they do?” Chu Feng smiled. He seemed barely worried.

“Well, to save them some extra toilsome works, I think it’d be better off leaving a note for them.”

Chu Feng fetched quite a sizeable piece of paper and scribbled a line of walloping letters on it. Then, he glued it to the front gate.

The message was short and concise: “Because of severe shock due to recent horrific encounters, I have gone sightseeing in the mountains to enjoy a diversion.”

Finally, he roughly mapped a path that lead into the depth of primitive mountains which he would delve into. This would let his visitors know that in case of an urgent matter, he could be found there.

But the truth was that Chu Feng had never planned to let anyone who came walk away alive. If they wanted him to die, they had to pave the path ahead.

Chu Feng felt ever so disgusted and appalled by the way by which that woman spoke and the fact that she had rejected his wish to talk to a past lover. Hatred boiled in him, rendering him eager to extinguish more of her trusted followers, her underlings and her pawns. The dark side of his heart had made him revel in the joy of pummelling his enemies to death.

However, he would not let this undermine his continual effort to improve his skills under an actual combat condition. If they wanted to die a painful death, they would have to look for him first. If he walked into the mountains to steel and harden himself, they would have to follow with no complaints.

On his way to the mountains, Zhou Quan called into his mind.

“Recent experience in the mountains had proven to be a precious opportunity to improve all aspects of myself. Although it is a dangerous place, the experience is invaluable.”

He decided to bring Zhou Quan into the mountains to train alongside with him.

Zhou Quan was a mutant with powers surpassing the level of a normal human being. Steeling and tempering his skills and his power amongst the depth of these mountains should help him unlock his potentials and release the primitive power embedded deeply within him.

“Let’s go find Zhou Quan first.”

For him, with the extraordinary power and speed that he possessed, travelling a hundred li by foot was a task he could easily achieve.

The distance between Qing Yang village and the town in which Zhou Quan lived used to be a mere ten li of travelling, but now, commuting between the two places had become an epic adventure hindered by many primitive mountains that cropped up as the land expanded.

“Hey man, I’m coming for you. Come and see me outside the town. I’ll bring you somewhere fun.” Chu Feng rung up Zhou Quan.

Zhou Quan sounded quite excited. “Thank God! Do you know how sick and tired my life had recently become? Oh man, ain’t you a friend in need! Hurry and come, I will host a dinner party just for you. There we will eat and drink to our heart’s content. Then at night, we can go bathing in a hot spring, or if you want some whores and hookers, there are plenty here too!”

“Enough of this obscenity of yours! How about I will bring you to somewhere even better, that have things more exciting than the places you said. I guarantee that they will make you tremble in frenzy and thrill from inside out,” Chu Feng said.

“What? How come I’ve never heard of this exciting place? Don’t get me wrong, I’m definitely in for some cheap thrills too, but as someone tied to this little town since birth, why have I never discovered a place of such elation?” Zhou Quan sounded doubtful.

“You’ll see in a second. Just wait for me!” Chu Feng laughed.

“Alright! I will come pick you up!” Zhou Quan was quite enthusiastic.

Outside the town.

A silver sedan briskly out of the twisty road of the small town at full pelt. Zhou Quan was rash and too much in haste. He slammed the brakes on when he saw Chu Feng. Kicking open the door on the driver’s side, Zhou Quan hastily jumped out of the car.

“Oh my good-o-man! You have no idea how much I’ve missed you.” Zhou Quan was all fervent and passionate, giving him an ecstatic bear hug without a second of hesitation.

Chu Feng was dumbstruck. Was this the Zhou Quan he used to know?

He was a wiry and sure-footed man now. The chubby look and the bulging belly could be seen no more.

Certainly, the most eye-catching feature belonged to him was that heavily exaggerated slick-back hair style. Every strand of his hair had been combed back, forming a dense and bulky layer of wig in the shape of a dustpan.

Zhou Quan’s new look prompted Chu Feng into a fit of violent laughter.

Vaguely, he could see the pair of horns hiding beneath the dense hair.

No wonder his parents had remarked that he looked like a local ruffian. If this had not qualified as the stereotypical look of a scoundrel, what would?

Chu Feng was conscious of the troubled expression on Zhou Quan’s face. The now skinny man moaned and groaned, moped and sighed, looking ever so woeful. He ran his fingers through the thick mat of hair, looking indignant. The ineffable appearance of this pair of horns really wounded him up.

“Be optimistic, man. At least you’ve lost so much weight.” Chu Feng laughed.

Since his teenage years, Zhou Quan had always been rocking a turgid belly, and his face was also meaty and swollen. His ears were massive too, so as he smiled, he looked very much like Maitreya Buddha.

“Where is Demon Ox?” Zhou Quan asked. “Oh, and I’ve also brought two of my cousins along with me today. They’ve heard about how fun and thrilling the place we’re going will be, so they shamelessly asked to come along with us.”

Chu Feng frowned by this piece of unexpected news.

Recently, he had been quite troubled by the Deity Biomedical Group. He did not want Zhou Quan to get involved as well, so he wanted no-one to see that this ruffian-looking man was in his close company—the reason why he had asked him to meet him outside the town. But now, there seemed to be no other alternatives than to urge these two cousins of Zhou Quan to keep their mouth shut about the activities they were about to commit.

“Demon Ox!” Zhou Quan finally saw Yellow Ox.

The calf was sitting on a bluestone in the distance. Like a man, it perched on the tip of the stone in a cross-legged position. There was a wild fruit in its cupped front hooves, and the calf was munching on it edaciously.

Having heard Zhou Quan call out its name, the calf slowly strolled over. It walked only through its hind hooves and kept its torso upright.

“What the hell!”

In the distance, two young men, who had just disembarked from the car, led out a cry of horror. Their faces turned pale as a sheet. Their bodily reaction made them look like as if they had caught sight of a ghost. They jumped back into the car, ready to escape.

“Why are you guys panicking? Come here!”

It was crucial moment, but Zhou Quan had stayed rather prudent. He called his cousins over, introducing them to the calf with a solemn expression. “You’ve seen many mutants emerging in our town, and even I have this pair of stupid horns on my head. So don’t behave as if you had never seen a mutant before. This calf is also a mutant, but he was a loser who failed the process of mutation, and that caused him to totally look like a cow!”

“Now I see.” The two young men seemed dubious.

Plumes of white smoke puffed from its nostrils, but in the end, it managed to restrain its anger. It stuck out one of its front hooves, sweeping away the excessive hair that covered Zhou Quan’s horny head. It gazed at the horns from left to right, then humped itself with front hooves pressing its stomach, bursting out in a fit of violent laughter.

Zhou Quan turned angry from embarrassment, then angrily exclaimed, "What's so funny, huh? They were just two horns sticking out of my head. All in all, I'm still better than you!"

Yellow Ox inscribed a few words on the ground, it said, "Incomplete form of an ox-head man." Then, it pointed to Zhou Quan.

"F*ck you! How dare you call me an ox-head man? I'm gonna kill you son of a b*tch!" Zhou Quan got heated. He thrust himself onto the calf, trying to subdue it and teach it a lesson.

Chu Feng was speechless. It seemed like the two were born to be the defamer of another man's character. It was an incorrigible disease that the two had to fight whenever they met.

"Go home and look up what an ox-head man is before you call me that. Learn to respect!" Zhou Quan was still making a racket after the two were pulled apart.

Almost immediately, Yellow Ox fished out a communicator from within a huge hop-pocket set around its body. Its front hooves nimbly typed and clicked on the screen of the device, deftly searching the term via the internet. Then, the grin on its bovine face cracked even wider.

Zhou Quan was taken aback by the sight. He had been informed of the calf's obsession with the communicator, thus many people had been frequently disturbed and harassed due to this newly founded interest of the calf; however, personally witnessing its expertise-level of operating skills with the communicator had really struck him dumb.

"What a beast!" Zhou Quan vented out an unearthly cry.

Finally, Zhou Quan sent off his cousins back to the town, then left for the mountains with Chu Feng on his own.

"Excuse me, but why are we walking in the direction where the mountains are? Where is that fun place you're boasting about?" Zhou Quan was dubious.

"The way is right. We're almost there."

"That's good. Oh, and is it really going to be that exciting?" Zhou Quan seemed quite expectant.

"Take it easy and put your trust in me. I guarantee that the experience will be at an unprecedented level of excitement. Rest assured." Chu Feng led the way ahead.

"Oh right, I've heard about it before too. There are many hearsays about the manors and abbeys built by a financial magnate in the depth of Taihang Mountains. Are we

actually going there? Oh, that would be lovely! I heard that the place could lead a befuddled life where we could drink and hook up girls in an all uninhibited manner. Isn't this what they call, 'fiddle while Rome is burning'?! But are you sure that they are still open when the world outside had all turned upside down?"

"Again, rest assured. They're still open," Chu Feng answered.

"Great! The enthralling experience of enjoying female charms in an intimate manner is exactly the type of fun I'm after. Oh, my tender land. Here I come!"

Chapter 34: The Epic Blockbuster

"Was it perfectly happy to be called Yellow Ox?" Zhou Quan was dumbstruck when he learned about how willing the calf was to be assigned with such an unimaginative name. He saw this as rather an insult to him.

He had once named the calf Demon Ox, but his suggestion was soon turned down by the calf, and he was given a cold shoulder as a result. Scorn and despise had been written all over the calf's face when it heard the name. Therefore, it made it all the more unconceivable how this picky bastard eventually chose to settle down on such a mediocre name, and this was what made him feel insulted.

"Moo!"

Yellow Ox bellowed. It raised its head and wore quite an insolent look on its face, as if it was expressing its profound content and claiming the pride it had taken in this name it had chosen.

"Stop being such a snobbish bastard," Zhou Quan ranted.

In his perspective, a name could not get any more unfashionable than "Yellow Ox". "Perhaps," he thought, "this bastard just doesn't know better. It must be the last person in this world who was given such a name and still feel good about it. What an idiot!" Zhou Quan silently cursed.

Yellow Ox cast a side glance at him. It was a look of despise as well as a look of doubt, as if the calf were saying, "Why? What is the problem?"

"You ticket touting scalper, what are you getting all puffed up about? Aren't you known for your competency with that stupid communicator of yours? So, hurry up and look up the meaning of 'Yellow Ox', and see what that will turn out to be!" Zhou Quan taunted.

Driven by his guilty conscience, Chu Feng felt a bit uneasy. "Don't let him fool you. Let's just hurry on our merry way!"

Zhou Quan's taunting words and Chu Feng's flustered look alerted Yellow Ox. It knew the two way too well. It knew that there must have been something sinister, something dishonest about its name, "Yellow Ox". The calf drew its communicator with great decisiveness, then after a while of poking around, the results turned the calf even more muddle-headed.

"What do you think?" Zhou Quan asked while smiling hypocritically.

The calf glanced through the search result, but it seemed rather unimpressed. Mist vaped out from its nostrils as it gnashed its teeth in anger. It gazed at Chu Feng with a deathly stare while its hooves started digging on the ground, stomping and kicking. The calf was on the verge of an outbreak of anger.

Chu Feng stayed calm and clear-headed. He collected himself, stood on his ground, then calmly said, "Those vulgar people on the internet just don't know better. Don't get misled by their ignorance. Let me tell you: 'Yellow Ox', as a name, was a truly extraordinary one. It contained a profound philosophy and a heartfelt meaning. But sadly, it was misinterpreted by people in recent years."

Yellow Ox paused for a moment, but a profound sense of doubt and suspicion still loomed on its mind.

"Delve deeper, then you will see what a 'Yellow Ox' really is." Chu Feng solemnly declared, "What does 'yellow' mean? It is a surrogate to honor and dignity, a representative of luxury and wealth! Only the imperial family could wear the yellow imperial robe to be an acclaimed emperor. Only those who were high and mighty were worthy of the color. Then let's look at the word, 'Ox'. This is such a good term if you think about it. When people exclaim their admiration and awe of something splendid and superb, they would always say: 'Niu!' [1]"

Zhou Quan was all flabbergasted and dumbstruck. He stood there, admiring Chu Feng's ability of preserving a mask of solemnity while feeding complete nonsense to the calf.

At last, Zhou Quan could not help but add, "Yeah, I agree. The term 'Ox' or 'Niu' is so often used when we want to express our admiration for something. For example, 'Niu Cha!'"

Still maintaining that serious look on his face, Chu Feng scolded, "Vulgar!"

Zhou Quan tried to be on the defensive about his vulgarity as he explained away, "How is this even remotely considered vulgar? There are still terms that are way more vulgar than this, alright? Like, 'Niu...'"

Pong!

Yellow Ox kicked with its hind leg. The backward kick sent Zhou Quan into the air. The look on Yellow Ox's face was not kind, as if it were warning him not to be too indiscreet when talking!

Zhou Quan was quite resentful, but there was no chance of success for him to go and reason things out with the calf. His straight talk was greeted with a mean and resentful kick on the back, while the completely gibberish jabbering of Chu Feng was treated with all sunshine and roses. Chu Feng's nonsensical flattery made the calf all jubilant and excited.

"So, when we combine 'yellow' with 'ox', it becomes such an auspicious and benevolent name. Hear my say on this and don't get confused with the misinterpretation concocted by those ignorant people."

"Moo!" Yellow Ox nodded as a form of agreement.

With whom was Zhou Quan going to reason things out? Nobody. He turned his head in frustration, then complained, "Niu Zhi Yi Kou Tian!"

"That is a dollar for the curse bar," Chu Feng remarked. "But he was swearing at you though." Chu Feng turned to Yellow Ox.

What did he mean? Yellow Ox was baffled.

"Nothing. I was only referring to an acre of land that belonged to the family of Niu. It was...it was something I suddenly and randomly recalled...don't mind it, Yellow Ox," Zhou Quan hurriedly tried to explained away, afraid that the calf might go berserk thanks to his witty remark.

The trio progressed further into the depth of the mountains. The winding path was getting increasingly indistinctive from the overgrowth of weeds and bushes. This served as an effective indication that few people had ever trodden this far into the mountains. The scenery around them was getting more and more desolate and out-of-the-way. Zhou Quan turned a bit flustered and alarmed. Where are they? He felt he had been stranded in the middle of nowhere for quite a while now. Everywhere he looked, another mountain of a greater height stood in the way of his line of sight, blocking his vision.

"Roar..."

Suddenly, a blasting roar of a beast pierced through the miasma of smog that enshrouded the forest. It shattered all silence, sending a long whistle across the dense woods. The wind that accompanied the howling roar rustled the leaves, turning the scene to a prelude of something ominous.

A shiver ran down Zhou Quan's back at once, making all his hair stand on their ends.

“Man... are you sure we’re on the right path? I think we’ve mistakenly stepped into a primitive mountain. Let’s hurry up and leave this place!” Zhou Quan looked startled. The look in his eyes spoke of fear and profound anxiety.

“Yes, we’re on the right path. We only need to brace ourselves to venture through this section of the road, then we will get there. Ever heard of Shangri-la, Arcadia or Xanandu? Those were all lands of idyllic beauty, albeit hidden undiscovered from the world outside behind some twisty roads or colossal mountains. They were a world on their own, and so is the one we’re going to,” Chu Feng said with a smile.

“Really? Behind this mountain?” Zhou Quan was taken aback, but soon the dismal look on his unhappy face was replaced by a look of profound enthusiasm. He rubbed his hands in glee as he thought of all the beauty and fun he would be able to indulge himself into. “So you say they’ve been built into a world of its own? Oh, man! It really proves itself to be on par with the level of luxury that a financial magnate would like to claim. The appearance of the primitive mountains after the upheavals has really created a certain mystique about the place, hasn’t it?”

“Yes, indeed!” Chu Feng echoed.

Zhou Quan smiled with a bob of his head. “How exciting!”

Finally, they crossed the boundary and entered the primitive mountains, thus began Zhou Quan’s wonderful journey to this tender land!

“Uh!”

Zhou Quan suddenly staggered and let out a raucous cry as they were walking. He was covered with gooseflesh, and the shock almost startled him to death.

Right ahead, there was a giant bear. Its face was as large as a house. The bear was sticking out his curious head just as Zhou Quan tumbled across an innocent array of small bushes. The sudden emergence of the bear’s face caught Zhou Quan off-guard; it almost knocked into Zhou Quan’s unsuspecting body.

The bear could easily swallow quite a number of adults whole if it opened its bloody mouth.

Zhou Quan was frightened out of his wits and almost wetted his pants in terror. He hastily tumbled back, withdrawing himself behind the back of Yellow Ox and Chu Feng in discomfiture.

Chu Feng chided the bear and ticked it off. The bear was also taken back by the sight of Chu Feng, then in a hurry, it ran off into the depths of the forest. It was all in a fluster as the bear retreated, because for not once had it witnessed the brutal murder of some of the even stronger beasts by this man in the mountains. The bear had intelligence of its

own. It had learnt from its peers' mistakes. It knew that the only way by which it could counter this ferocious man was to run whenever the man appeared.

"It... ran off?" Zhou Quan was astonished and bewildered.

"Nah, it's the bear kept by the abbey, so usually, it's quite friendly to others. It is also quite shy with strangers, and so that's why it ran off when it sees me," Chu Feng calmly explained.

Zhou Quan felt puzzled. What kind of abbey was this? It really was a mysterious little place full of thrillers and conundrums. Although he was somewhat fearful, the cryptic nature of the abbey made him all the more expectant.

"Oh! Sh*t! Ghost!" Before long, Zhou Quan cried an unearthly cry once again.

Inadvertently, Chu Feng raised his head. As he looked up, he caught sight of a thread of white silk with the thickness of a man's thumb. Hanging from it, a spider with the size of a nether millstone dropped down to a distance of less than three feet above his head.

Zhou Quan was terrified, and his limbs were paralyzed by terror. He plopped himself down on the dampened soil, and with all four limbs, he scurried back hastily.

Pong!

Chu Feng did not care a rap. With a swift kick, he sent the spider flying.

Zhou Quan showed the whites of his eyes in terror. His throat felt constricted, so he swallowed hard. Then, he thumped on his chest, feeling a bit suffocated. The shock almost made him slip into a state of coma just then.

"Hey, man... Umm... I don't think we should continue down this road. How about we turn back and head to the town and enjoy our time there? Why do I have this bizarre feeling that I'm watching, or rather acting, in a blockbuster in a prehistoric setting? Look at those monstrous creatures! Why are there so many?"

His breath was rasping in his heaving chest. He found the current situation a bit hard to accept or to believe.

At the same time, he was also awed by how fearless Chu Feng was. How could he dare to stamp on a spider of that enormous size without the blink of an eye?

But before long, Zhou Quan soon found how much of an understatement it was to say that Chu Feng was a daring man!

Because, without a sound, a one-eyed wolf creeped up to them. It was quite a sizeable beast. Its body length was at least ten meters in measurement, and its height was more

than just a few meters. Its fangs were white and sharp, like a cutting knife with unparalleled sharpness.

At the same time, this one-eyed wolf also had a pair of wings. It was a volant beast that was clearly capable of flying!

Zhou Quan cringed in horror, but then he noticed that Chu Feng was quite the opposite of him. Chu Feng made a beeline straight for the beast; calm and composed, he raised his fist to slug the wolf.

Zhou Quan was completely dumbstruck in very next moment.

Chu Feng had the perfect combination of unparalleled agility coupled with an unmatched force. Accompanied by an endless string of thunderous rumble, the one-eyed wolf bellowed in pain when Chu Feng's fist came down on his fleshy body. It retreated one step after another, steadily losing its ground.

"Am I dreaming? What am I watching right now? Have I returned to the prehistoric times of the Earth or am I watching an epic blockbuster?!" Zhou Quan bit his lower lip, ascertaining that this was indeed not a dream.

Zhou Quan was still cringing in terror. The level of terror he was experiencing was unprecedented for him. He wanted to turn tail and run away from this great chaos.

Yellow Ox looked scornfully at Zhou Quan. It then suddenly disappeared, but soon it came back with a three-meter monkey chasing after it. The calf deliberately lured the monkey to the direction where Zhou Quan stood.

"Uh... Help me!"

Zhou Quan cried out in terror. He almost wet his pants just by noticing the sheer size of that giant monkey who was hopping and skipping closer and closer towards him, let alone that mouthful of cutting teeth that the monkey was brandishing as it looked down at Zhou Quan. It almost felt like the monkey had been looking at a vulnerable chick nervously running in profound terror and panic.

The place suddenly became a disorderly mess as Zhou Quan ran for his life while being chased by that furious monkey.

"Roar..."

Just as the saying went, "a baited cat may become as fierce as a lion". The cornered man was desperate, so he finally bit back. A massive column of flame burst out of his mouth. The flame could easily melt stones and gold with its menacing temperature. With a puff, the flame turned a towering old tree into ashes.

The giant monkey was taken aback, hastily retreating as it re-evaluated the power of this opponent.

Zhou Quan's face turned pale. He retreated back as well.

Chu Feng had already finished that one-eyed wolf and joined the battleground against the giant monkey.

"Stay calm. You need to exploit your superhuman power as a mutant to its full potential. Don't be afraid of a monkey!" Chu Feng encouraged.

"Oh, shut up. Where is the abbey? Where is my tender land? And what on earth is this place?" Zhou Quan whimpered in a tearful voice as his body shivered in fear.

"The abbey is not open to everyone. Those who enter must first complete this task, so hurry up and defeat this monkey for us to continue!" Chu Feng solemnly said.

"Ah..." Zhou Quan ululated. He was forced to put up a desperate fight and to risk his life to defy death. He thrust himself to the monkey with a certain degree of ferocity and savagery. He desperately wanted to kill it, and he chose to do that with unadulterated fury.

"Puff..."

Zhou Quan opened his mouth and continuously ejected flames. The raging flames lit up the sky, undulating the entire region under a sea of fire.

Chu Feng and Yellow Ox hurriedly stopped him, afraid that he might end up burning down the whole forest.

Severely burnt and wounded, the giant monkey ran off.

Zhou Quan slumped down on the ground, then he lied down as he panted. His body was dabbled by the profuse amount of sweat which was mostly due to the profound fear and terror he just underwent.

"Hey man, how about we quit this rite of passage to that tender land of mine? Let's just head back, so at least in the end, we will be still alive, or I don't think my heart is going to stand it any longer," Zhou Quan said in a tearful voice.

"Take things as they come, so don't be afraid. See? If you can fight off a giant monkey, as a mutant, nothing else should strike fear in you," Chu Feng comforted him.

"But this is not a place for a human to be in. Look at all those prehistoric animals. I want to head back!" Zhou Quan violently shook his head.

However, neither Chu Feng nor Yellow Ox was willing to head back just yet.

“And right, how did you manage to stay calm and fight off that giant wolf? How did you get so capable in fighting?”

“If you treat the battles against those beasts as an everyday hobby, I’m sure you will also be able to stay poised when facing those beasts,” Chu Feng replied.

Moments later, when Chu Feng fought and killed another giant bird of prey, Zhou Quan finally realized how invincible this brother of his actually was.

“What an epic blockbuster!” Zhou Quan muttered under his breath.

The fight between the bird and Chu Feng was quite a fierce and intense one. They fought on the ground then ascended to the tip of an ancient tree. From there, Chu Feng sprung to his feet and thrust himself onto the soaring bird. He positioned himself on top of the bird’s wing, ascending as the bird was. Meanwhile, he jabbed and slugged the giant bird time after time, eventually beating it to a state of unconsciousness due to blood loss. The bird and man duo slid in mid-air for a few hundred meters before plummeting to the earth below.

Zhou Quan felt that the events that happened today had all taken leave of his senses. It had been so long that he could no longer make sense of anything at all. The unbelievable series of encounters made him totally at a loss.

“Is this... the tender land?”

God knew how long before Zhou Quan finally collected himself. He muttered to himself as he finally came to realize the truth behind this “tender land” he was dreaming of. But admittedly, he could barely stand any of these “tender” torment and affliction any more.

“Ah...”

Zhou Quan felt like he had passed today as if it had been a year!

In the end, Zhou Quan burst into tears. Today’s experience had surely been imprinted into his bones and inscribed into his heartfelt memory.

“Now I understand why people say that ‘the tender land is the tomb of a hero’. Oh! What a painful journey in order to gain this insight! And what an appropriate saying it is!”

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[1] A figurative term to mean superb or bravo in Chinese, which also has the literal meaning of ‘Ox’

Chapter 35: Fame Spread Nationwide

“Ah... Snake! An eight-headed snake! Help!”

“A two-meter silver centipede! Oh my God! It’s chasing me! Help! Chu Feng you bastard. This isn’t even remotely a tender land like you promised! You no-good lying son of a b*tch! What’re you doing? Come and help me kill this f*cking thing!”

“Ah! Here it comes again! A black tiger! Look! Did you see how it crushed a heavy boulder with only its paws? Oh sh*t! Oh sh*t! Ah... I’m exhausted. Demon Ox! Chu Feng! Come and help me!”

Zhou Quan uttered dreary cries and screams, wailing like ghosts and howling like wolves. He ran like a lamaster, wildly sprinting, desperate to live. He fled in disorder, exhausting himself to a state of near collapse. In the end, he looked like an epilepsy patient, foaming at the mouth, with seizures all over his body. His body turned limpy, and his legs were enfeebled by the combination of profound fatigue, terror and shock.

Finally, Chu Feng agreed to end this journey when noon arrived, since all three were feeling quite ravenous.

At the moment when Chu Feng finally called it a day, Zhou Quan almost burst into tears. To know that he could finally wake from this nightmare of endless chasing and running, he was ever so happy.

His voice had long been lost. For the past five hours, Zhou Quan was either busy shouting and wrangling in fear or projecting flames to fight off the offensive predators.

“Oh, man! How much of a bastard you are! You promised me that my heart and lung would quiver in excitement. And yes, I admit that I do have felt my heart quivering, but it was all because I was almost scared sh*tless, you bastard!” Zhou Quan cursed as he panted for breath.

He turned his head, looking regretfully over to the mountains. The range was enshrouded in a miasma of fog and smoke as the string of awe-inspiring roars of the beasts continued. He wanted to go in there no more. Every piece of memory of today’s near-death experience had etched in his collective mind, and all of them were soul-wrenching to say the least.

“Do you know how I managed to beat all those beasts and birds of prey with such ease? Because I steel myself amidst the profound peril that lingered in the depth of these mountains day after day. Weeks of continual training had made me accustomed to the primitive nature here. That’s why I’m fearless and skilful,” Chu Feng comforted him.

“Nah, I shouldn’t be mentioned in the same breath with you. We are not placed in the same category in the first place. Your fist can crash stones and kill beasts and birds of prey. You’ve already proven to be one of them beasts yourself, but I’m not. I’m still a human, so an ordinary weakling like me won’t survive in the mountains,” Zhou Quan shouted.

“You’re a mutant. You can project fire that melt stones and gold. The power you possess is astonishing. Provided that you can master your own power, survival shouldn’t be a problem for you,” Chu Feng said.

He knew that as a mutant, Zhou Quan’s power had much potential that could be unlocked by a continual effort of endless training, and only in so doing could he release the hidden power buried deep underneath.

Moreover, the horns growing on Zhou Quan’s skull could potentially mean that the fruit he had swollen whole had a lot to do with the clan of Demon Ox, so perhaps he was now a member of the clan, and this could well enable him to easily acquire a few positions of the Demon Ox Boxing Style from Yellow Ox. After mastering these positions, he would be well-prepared for the forthcoming brave new world.

Chu Feng was solemn as he spelled out his concerns. One day, the seal of the mountains would prove to be ineffective in barring those beasts behind the boundary of the mountains; when that day arrived, the monstrous beasts who had been residing deep in these mountains would wake from their dormant state and haunt the world outside.

Besides, who would know what other horrific horrors would ensue in the future.

The time prior to hell breaking loose was limited and critical. Only those who were willing to steel themselves with vigor and strength would beat the odds and gain an edge over the others in a daunting world.

Zhou Quan was listlessly slouching beside a boulder as Chu Feng continued his tirade of preaching. The immediate sense of crisis boiling within people across the globe when the series of upheavals first began had started to moderate when the world had seemingly been restored with peace and calm in the recent days. Zhou Quan was of no exception either. But now, his idea had started to shift.

“Yes, brother of mine, I know all the things you’ve done and said today is for my best interest. You were right! I do need to rise up and fight for myself!” Zhou Quan was determined.

In the mountains, two men cuddled with a calf around a flickering bonfire. The meat of the bird of prey had been thoroughly roasted. It shone with a glittering gold; its tantalizing aroma of roast meat also filled the air. The fire hissed and whirred as oil of the bird’s flesh started to drizzle down.

“How would anything even be a close match to the savoriness of this meat? I mean, this just smells bloody marvelous!” Zhou Quan had banished all memory of the sufferings and misery earlier from his mind. Watching as the meat slowly gain an appetizing shiny and golden layer, his desire for this chunk of meat started to slowly grow unchecked. His hunger had become ever so insufferable, especially after that array of hard-fought battles had almost exhausted him to death.

“It’s cooked!”

Chu Feng sprinkled a pinch of table salt in addition to a thin layer of honey on top of the roast. This rendered the meat into a proper cuisine which exuded an even more tempting smell that grew thicker by the minute.

“Moo!”

The three finally began eating. They sunk their fingers into the juicy fibers then dug out a giant chunk from the roast. They gulped and munched on the meat like a mindless zombie or an edacious beast.

All of a sudden, the loud sound of mastication and hard swallowing suffused the air. All three engorged themselves like wolves and tigers.

“Oh god! If this were a musical performance, I’m sure this would well qualify as a ‘tour-de-force’, as what it’s called by the French. The savoriness of the taste, the tenderness of the fiber, the temptation in the smell... oh my, oh my...” Zhou Quan exclaimed in admiration.

Zhou Quan was not exaggerating. Some of the beasts and birds of prey which resided in the mountains did have flesh with exceptional taste and smell once cooked. With only the slightest processing, the meat could then gain an unusual palatable taste. In addition, the sensational smell could also fill the air for quite a long time.

The meat was part of a sizeable talon of the giant bird. The three had nibbled away even the tiniest gobbet of meat left on the bone. Had it not been that they had all completely eaten to their fill, they might have roasted the other talon of the dead bird too.

“I’m so satisfied. This marvelous taste... Oh blimey... I bet this is what a feast in heaven feels like. I will definitely come back here in the future just for these tasty meat!” Zhou Quan was ever so content. He lolled on the ground, petting his bulged belly with a satisfied grin on his face. He seemed to have utterly forgotten about the moment when he was wailing like ghosts and howling like wolves. He had cast the moments of his utter dreary cries and screams behind his back.

Chu Feng and Yellow Ox was munching on a bloody berry. The fruit was so tender that it just melted in their mouths. The taste was sweet and fragrant. Undoubtedly, the berry was a top-grade fruit.

Zhou Quan had a taste of the berry then, at once, started robbing them from Chu Feng's hands. Even when he had eaten to his fill, he still gluttonously stuffed the berries into his mouth. His crammed mouth did not stop him from yelling, saying that from now on, this place had officially become his tender land.

Yellow Ox showed a look of disdain as soon as it heard Zhou Quan's exclamation. It reached into its bag and swooped out a communicator. With a fit of violent poking on the screen, the calf showed Zhou Quan a few photos it had taken earlier.

Zhou Quan turned exasperated from embarrassment almost instantly.

"Demon Ox! How dare you videotape me without my consent? And look what you've taken? There are no video recordings of me fighting off groups of beasts with courage and valor, but instead you filmed all those embarrassing moments. What the hell is wrong with you?!" Zhou Quan was depressed and discontented.

Each photo and video that the calf had taken had a character of its own. Chu Feng burst into a fit of laughter after only a glance.

One photo had Zhou Quan showing the whites of his eyes due to terror and shock. Another one was a video recorded as Zhou Quan covered his head and scurried away like a rat to its hole with tears streaming down his bony cheeks. There was also a photo of Zhou Quan being frightened out of his wits, and his pupils dilated from the dread of the situation.

There were only a few photos, but every single one of them could be called a "classic".

"Wait!" Suddenly, Zhou Quan's expression shifted. "Did you... did you upload these photos onto to the internet!?" Zhou Quan involuntarily cried out.

Yellow Ox loftily stood on a boulder, nodding its head as a form of acknowledgement.

Zhou Quan almost spat out blood because of anger. His photos were now disclosed to millions of people across the globe, and before long, all of these vivid depictions of his most embarrassing moment would go viral across the web.

Zhou Quan was exasperated. "Demon Ox! I'll fight it out with you!"

But Yellow Ox did not seem to have realized the severity of its action. It was rather baffled by Zhou Quan's swing in mood. His irritable temperament made him all the more despicable in Yellow Ox's eyes, so it greeted Zhou Quan with a violent side kick, sending him into the air as it charged at him.

“Demon Ox! You’re such a bully!” Zhou Quan was hopping mad that he was incapable of any actions to avenge for the wrongs Yellow Ox had done to him.

“Don’t worry, man. Everyday, thousands of new photos are uploaded to the internet. Many of them have been simply buried deep in the pile and drew little attention from the public. I reckon you’ll be fine,” Chu Feng comforted.

Chu Feng’s calming words did console him a great deal. He lost his exasperating temper and put his mind at rest.

He edged in on Yellow Ox to catch a glance at the number of the people who had browsed this embarrassing collection of photos, but seeing it caused his blood pressure to skyrocket. A dizziness overcame him, blurring his vision.

Only minutes had passed since the upload, but the number of views had passed millions!

“Demon Ox! I’ll kill you!”

Zhou Quan cried an unearthly cry. He erupted in fury.

“Well, to be honest, this is really quite impressive. I’m afraid that your photos have officially become a viral topic on the internet now,” Chu Feng commented on the side.

“F*ck me! Oh god... What should I do!?” Zhou Quan lowered his face to his hands. He felt ever so helpless and desperate. He had a feeling that soon enough, these photos would be made known to every family and every household across the nation and the globe.

But being known for these particular photos of his was not exactly the type of fame he wished for.

“Demon Ox! Do you see how much trouble you have caused?!” Zhou Quan lunged at the calf then wrestled with it.

Obviously, his skill was no match. The calf easily subdued him.

Zhou Quan took a peep at Yellow Ox’s communicator. Thousands of comments had been written to poke fun at him.

“These pictures are only so-so if you look at them separately, but by putting everything together to make a collection out of them, it really has the potential to be a unique set of emoticons.”

“Yes! Absolutely. I bet that these emoji could stay relevant and viral for at least half a year. You’re right. I need to get them now!”

“What a dumb-dumb. Who would still comb their hair like him these days.”

“Very nice pictures. Thanks for sharing!”

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Zhou Quan snatched the communicator from Yellow Ox’s front hooves. His valor and his fighting capacity suddenly skyrocketed as he converted his anger in words, furiously typing long passages of resentful words to retaliate those who had negatively commented in the comment section below.

Chu Feng seemed quite speechless.

“Where is the administrator? Hurry up and delete these photos!”

Zhou Quan lodged a complaint to the administrator of the website in hopes that these photos could be taken down.

However, the administrator quickly responded: Sorry. We cannot accept your request to take down the photos. 99% of our users have requested to make this the top story of the month, so we will willingly accept their request and stick your story on the top of the home page for the remainder of 30 days.

“Puff!”

Zhou Quan almost gave in and spat out blood. Not only had his request been cold-bloodedly rejected, his embarrassing moments would also top the internet search for a month. “What kind of a f*cking bastard the administrator is!” Zhou Quan shouted abuse.

“Hahaha...” Chu Feng could no longer keep a straight face, so he broke into a fit of giggles.

As for Yellow Ox, the initiator of evil, it was very much enjoying the moment. The calf received an array of compliments from the anonymous users on the internet. Many of the comments were on its side.

“What an ingenious capture of some of the finest moments in human history!”

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Seeing how Yellow Ox was flattered by the compliments of its work, Zhou Quan could not bear it anymore. His anger had reached its boiling point. With his eyes suddenly gaining a murderous look, Zhou Quan smashed the communicator onto a boulder.

Yellow Ox was quick of eyes and deft of hooves. It caught its beloved communicator just before it fell into its demise.

"It's not that bad." Chu Feng thoroughly examined the pictures that had been posted then made such comment.

In this moment of despair, hearing something like this from Chu Feng's mouth felt like he had seen a clear stream of sweet spring trickling across a scorching desert. He found comfort in Chu Feng's words. "Are you saying that these photos may not be as embarrassing as I think they are?" Zhou Quan asked, begging for reassurance.

"Very embarrassing, alright, but there was not a single hint about those monstrous creatures chasing after you were exposed in these photos, therefore, it's not that bad!" Chu Feng replied. Zhou Quan turned his back on him, ignoring him for the moment.

Soon later, Zhou Quan's communicator rang. Someone was calling him.

"Oh, my dear cousin! I've got to admit the adeptness in your skills of posing for pictures! Your genius in this field has really made you the most famous man in the world right now!"

These, of course, were no words of consolation to him. Zhou Quan leapt to his feet, hopping mad that even his close relative was mocking him for his embarrassment. Driven by fury, Zhou Quan was about to smash the communicator in hand, then the realization that it was his own communicator stopped him just in time. All he could do was to curse into the communicator then hung up.

However, another call reached to him soon after. This time, it was his younger cousin. His cousin's loud and braying voice was immediately heard as the call was picked up. "Oh, brother of mine! I would throw myself down at your feet in admiration if I were with you right now! You're a gifted genius!"

"Gifted my as*! F*ck off!" Zhou Quan finally lashed out.

But these were only the beginning of a string of successive calls one after another from his relatives and his friends. All were sending their sarcastic compliment in regard to the photos posted.

Zhou Quan turned off his communicator. His face was purple, and his eyes glared as if they would burst from their sockets. "Argh... Just f*cking kill me!"