

# The Sacred Ruins

## Chapter 36: A Hole in the Yard

Mockery was written all over Yellow Ox's grinning face. He took pride in the compliments it received for posting pictures with a few witty comments it came up with. Seeing how easy it was to be crowded around with people gaping in awe, Yellow Ox was loftier than ever.

Zhou Quan, on the other hand, still could not recover from the aftermath of the humiliation Yellow Ox had inflicted on him.

"One will never know whether the person hiding behind the screen is a human, a cow, or just an unearthly being!"

These were the last words Zhou Quan left in the comment section below those humiliating pictures of himself. Each word carried profound resentment and discontentment. Together, they poignantly told his own tale of sorrow.

"What a painful insight!"

Someone replied with such remark to his comment, and this almost made Zhou Quan burst into tears. He felt touched by finally being understood by someone else.

However, he then realized that the name of the person who left this message was "Mr. Yellow Ox".

"Puff!"

Zhou Quan could stand this no longer. Flame belched from his mouth as an involuntary act out of anger. This endless string of relentless ridicule from a cow was just too much for him to bear.

Zhou Quan was fulminating with anger.

It was a comment made by Yellow Ox, so naturally, it gained a lot of popularity very soon. A horde of people followed up and commented under the same thread, promoting the exchange of ridicule between Zhou Quan and Yellow Ox to a top comment soon after.

"Shameful! How shameful!" Zhou Quan tossed back his head as he howled in fury.

Chu Feng was taken aback. "I noticed that the flame projecting from your mouth seemed to have become stronger. Do you feel that your power has increased ever so slightly?" Chu Feng asked.

A respectable area of the earth around them had been melted and became a lagoon of molten lava. The bloody lava simmered and bubbled as it gave off a pungent smell of molten brimstone.

Zhou Quan had single-handedly founded a lava tarn in the depths of this mountain!

Yellow Ox nodded. It agreed with Chu Feng's exclamation.

How did this become a thing? Chu Feng was quite speechless. The flame came out of Zhou Quan's mouth seemed to have greatly improved after he threw a tantrum.

Yellow Ox wrote on the ground. It admitted that as a member of the clan of Demon Ox, Zhou Quan's actual strength was proportional to the degree of fury he was at. The more provoked and irritated he was, the more of his strength could be unleashed.

"Can this be consolidated?" Chu Feng asked.

"Yes, but with a bit more provocation," Yellow Ox responded.

More provocation? Chu Feng was afraid that Zhou Quan would be driven completely mad after this.

Yellow Ox did not seem to mind at all. There was nothing for the calf to care for in the first place. It closed the gap between itself and the furious madman then sat cross-legged beside him, impersonating him in a comical sense. Yellow Ox's blatant ridicule exacerbated Zhou Quan's anger, making the blue veins in his neck show through his skin.

Then, Yellow Ox prodded Zhou Quan and signalled for him to have a look at the view counts of those photos of him.

"Eight million!?" Zhou Quan cried an unearthly cry. "Are you f\*cking kidding me? It has only been minutes after it became the top story, yet it's already approaching the ten million mark?!"

This really proved to be an effective stimulation. For a moment, his mouth became only one of many exit points for flames to bulge out. His eyes, his ears and even his nostrils were seen forming a blazing sphere of blinding flames.

"Ah..."

Zhou Quan shouted, venting out the profound anger within his heart.

After a long time, this outcry of emotion started to settle. The mountain, on the other hand, had experienced a not-so-pleasant change of appearance. The once verdant forest was now a barren wasteland. Rocks and boulders have become liquid lava, then reformed to become gobbets of blackened igneous rocks.

Chu Feng strode past Zhou Quan then patted him on his shoulder, telling him that it was time to go.

“You’ve done an exceptional job, buddy. Keep up the good work!” Chu Feng told Zhou Quan that his strength had been greatly enhanced.

Yellow Ox also sauntered towards them with a visceral smile. It was infrequent to see that there was not a single hint of despise on its face.

Having left the primitive mountains behind, the frequent chilling roars of beasts also started to fade away. There were no more sights of giant birds of prey soaring in the heaven above, and the air suffused the forest had also become clearer without the miasma of smogs.

The world seemed to have become quieter all of a sudden.

The trio’s homeward trek suddenly halted with Yellow Ox cocking its ears for a sound in the distance. It glared at the forest ahead.

“Stop!”

Chu Feng’s instinct also made him aware of the change of atmosphere in the air. His expression slightly shifted as he hastily took ahold of Zhou Quan’s collar and pulled him aside. They hid behind a sizeable boulder

“What’s wrong?” Zhou Quan was inattentively engrossed in thoughts as he aimlessly walked alongside the other two. Chu Feng’s sudden jerk awoke him with a start, making him rather bemused and clueless of the situation.

“There’s danger ahead. I need you to stay hidden here!” Chu Feng enjoined. He stared at the dense woodland ahead as his eyes gleamed with an aggressive glitter.

Zhou Quan begun to realize the danger of the situation. He grew nervous because the solemn expression on Chu Feng’s appearance was telling him that the opponent would be a formidable one.

“I will go and help you!” Although he was still fearful, he did not want to quail and watch as his mate fought and died.

“No. Your presence will only distract me from my target, so stay here and don’t move a muscle,” Chu Feng urged.

Before his voice even died away, Chu Feng had already vanished into the void. His superhuman speed allowed him to travel at an extraordinary velocity, and covering a few hundred meters was only a matter of seconds.

He joined the battlefield without the company of Yellow Ox.

A glint of coldness thrilled through his eyes. He stalled his pace as he stealthily strolled forward on the forest's dampened soil. He lurked in the forest like a leopard, examining every inch around him for potential hidings of his targets.

He then noticed a quite sizeable group of people who had been armed to their teeth, scattering around in the forest. They were guarding the path to which his homeward trek would lead. They had seized all vantage points in hope to ambush him.

They had all trained their guns on the path. The black muzzles of those firearms were hollow and cold. These were the weapons that could claim his life with a pull of finger.

"They've come!

Chu Feng's blood ran cold. It was expected yet still surprising to see his assassins willingly follow the instructions laid out on a note he absent-mindedly left on the door. They even formed such a sizeable formation to ambush him.

It was a group of at least ten people. All were armed with the best weapons. All the guns were high-calibre. They could easily knock off a person's arm or leg with only a single shot.

Thanks to Demon Ox Boxing Style, Chu Feng's instinct for danger had become ever so sharp. He could feel the murderous intent that had suffused the air from miles away. Otherwise, if he had unknowingly stepped into this organized ambush unprepared, it would certainly mean the end of him.

At this very moment, he felt that the best thing he had yielded from practicing the boxing style was the sharp instinct that he had consequently developed. It enabled him to perceive danger in advance and make proper adjustments accordingly.

The armed men were no ordinaries either. They stayed hidden in the grass, motionless as a statue. Their stiff bodies were as if modelled in clay or carved from wood, and their eyes were also biting cold. Clearly, this was a group of trained assassins with merciless characteristics.

"Rocket launcher? You really have thought highly of me, haven't you?"

He could clearly see the frosty glitters of metals that gleamed on a powerful rocket launcher. He knew that if he had been hit by that, it would basically mean the end of him.

He continued lurking in the darkness behind the enemy's line. He thoroughly scouted the area to get a clear picture of the state of the enemy.

They were a team equipped with advanced firearms. There were forty-two of them in total. Apart from high-calibre automatic rifles, they had also brought a dozen of rocket launchers. Their shells could even penetrate the armor of a heavy tank.

Firearms like this could bombard a mutant into a million pieces, let alone an ordinary person.

"They must have used up all they've had." Chu Feng sighed.

He also noticed the presence of two mutants in the group. Both of them had arms cast with gold. Chu Feng conjectured that perhaps they both possessed a similar power and ability because of their similar looks.

Having cut this group of assassins down to size, the murderous desire on Chu Feng's mind started to grow unchecked. He was certain that this must have been the doing of that woman who had intercepted his call. Her intention was clear, and that was to make sure he would be dead.

One after another, this succession of attacks would have long turned him into a gelid corpse after much humiliation had been done to him.

"I will make sure to take care every single one of your despicable pawns as they come. I will make you fear me then kneel in front of my feet!" Chu Feng mumbled.

Then, he set off for his retaliating operation.

He made a circuitous route around the mountain and reached the back of the enemy's ambush. Like a skilful assassin, he only needed to raise and land his fist on the neck of two camping snipers before he put them into a comatose state.

Chu Feng silently glanced through the woods. He looked unfeeling and callous.

Only in a matter of seconds, he had managed to put down twenty-one targets in fluent succession. The entire process was silent and unnoticed.

However, everything suddenly took a left turn when he was going for his twenty-second target. To his surprise, he turned around at the second before his death was destined. He looked extremely vigilant, and his pupils were glowing with a gleaming golden shine.

Mutant!

This heavily armed elite soldier equipped with some of the most advanced firearms was actually a mutant in disguise. He perceived danger in that very last moment.

“You...” He was taken aback by Chu Feng’s ability to creep up to him without him noticing.

“Boom!”

Chu Feng hurled both of his fists at him. He was in a rush to put him down.

At the same time, the golden glow in the mutant’s eyes instantly spread through his body. A layer of golden scales wrapped his body and his face. The scales were as thickly dotted as stalks in a field of flax.

He was an utter monster!

The speed of his reaction matched the speed of Chu Feng’s action. He dodged both of Chu Feng’s fatal blow to his neck area and also the black dagger that was going to pierce through his entrails. However, the time did not allow him to also shun away from the blow of Chu Feng’s left fist. It was a deadly punch right onto his chest.

With a blaring boom, the mutant was sent into the air, but the scales that were dotted throughout his body prevented him from being instantly killed by Chu Feng’s deadly blow.

“The target is here!” His roar awoke the entire forest with a start.

Offense is the best defense. This was the decision Chu Feng made at once. With a nimble bound, Chu Feng dove down for the mutant like a venture thrusting for its prey.

Suddenly, deafening gunshots resounded in the woods. They fired in unison in the direction where he stood. A glow of fire soon perished all grasses and woods in the area around him.

At the same time, Chu Feng had also caught up with his target.

With a blaring boom and a blinding glow, his fist landed on his target with great precision and maximal power. The air around both of his fists exploded like a thunderous barrage, daunting and horrifying.

Boom!

Before the mutant even reached the ground, Chu Feng had already sunken his formidable fists into the firm scales on the mutant’s back; but, however rigid and stiff the scales might prove to be as an additional layer of armor, they were still incapable of deflecting all the force that Chu Feng had managed to strike with.

The mutant gave a grunt as his bones were snapped into pieces. However, his ability to defend was admittedly stronger than the other mutants from earlier encounters. Chu

Feng's deadly strikes did not seem to have incapacitated him instantly. The mutant rolled about on the dirt track after landing on the ground, then with a spring and a leap, he got to his feet and attempted to run for his life.

Puff!

Almost at the same time, Chu Feng's black dagger also glanced through the air like a black lightning striking by. Although the mutant managed to promptly react to the flying dagger with a nimble dodge, he was still caught on the cutting edge of the black dagger.

He managed to prevent the dagger from piercing through his vital parts, but his arm still turned bloody as a result. The blade of the dagger was so keen-edged that his entire left arm was almost completely disjointed from the rest of his body. It was left dangling at his shoulder with only fibers of lean muscles preventing the arm from completely falling off.

For the mutant, this was a severe mutilation. He shrieked and cried. He screwed his face into an expression of extreme agony. The pain had even caused the golden scales to fade in glitter and color.

Pong!

Chu Feng wasted no time. With a full swing of his leg, Chu Feng calcitrated the mutant on his head. The formidable force that Chu Feng delivered sent the mutant into the air. He then crashed into a giant boulder before his body eventually turned lifeless.

Chu Feng evaporated into thin air from where he stood at the very next second.

Bullets were fired like droplets of rain. They lambasted the boulders and trees in the area where Chu Feng was standing.

For a moment, flames roared as bullets fiercely pounced on the boulders' rocky surface. Some were even pulverized after a fearsome fireball broke into these formidable rocks. Many towering trees tumbled down, sending withered leaves littering around their plummeted trunks.

Someone was using rocket launchers to bombard this place!

Chu Feng arched his back. Like a dormant torvosaurus, he threaded through a network of tracks and paths, weaving in and out of sight, nimbly maneuvering himself across the jungle. He swiftly flashed while adroitly dodging bullets left and right. In the process, he managed to take down another three opponents.

"He's over there! Bomb him!" someone roared.

Boom!

All of a sudden, the forest had become a dreary scene from hell haunted by conflagration. The team of assassins were attempting to suppress Chu Feng with their intensive firepower. Trees and grasses had all been engulfed by the blazing fire as a result, turning the once verdant forest to a scorching piece of barren land.

The rocket launchers were too powerful!

In the distance, Zhou Quan was dumbstruck. He was utterly petrified by the imbalance of equipment between Chu Feng and his opponent. Hundreds of devastating rockets and thousands of lethal bullets were fired each second, and they were all aimed at just one person equipped with nothing but a sharp-edged dagger.

Pong!

One of the hilltops in the area where the battle was fought had been completely flattened by the crude and brutal bombardment.

Admittedly, Zhou Quan had experienced too much today for his own good. From being one of the savage and the wild to experiencing face-to-face with a daunting string of thrilling monsters to now witnessing an all-out war between a team of super soldiers and a Kung Fu master, Zhou Quan was literally shaking in his boots.

“Hurry up! Let’s go help Chu Feng!” Zhou Quan shouted at Demon Ox.

Yellow Ox was calm and composed, telling him that it was not time yet.

In the forest, patches of scorched earth emerged as the ravages of this war. The potent rockets that were aimlessly fired easily crumpled the trees and bushes like sweeping up dead leaves.

However, they still could not kill their target. Terrified screeches and shrill cries were heard one after another. Gradually, the firepower from the assassins dwindled. Then, soon after, all sounds became muted.

Obviously, all members of the firing squad had been taken out!

“Where do you think you’re going!” Chu Feng bellowed. Chu Feng traversed hundreds of meters in seconds before he caught up with three of his opponents who were trying to escape for their lives.

All three were mutants, and all three seemed to possess the same power. All of their palms were glowing with a faint golden brilliance.

Suddenly, the golden glow dramatically expanded in the size of its coverage to the rest of their body. In a fraction of a second, all three had been shrouded with a layer of golden scales.



Chu Feng now realized that, this time, four mutants had been deployed for his assassination, two of whom were in the guise of an ordinary soldier. Only moments earlier, he had taken one of them out already.

Their scales could deflect some of the most potent high-caliber bullets, and they also served as an effective defense against almost all weapons.

However, in face Chu Feng, they were all seized with terror. Even they could not stand the firepower of a crude bombardment of rockets and bullets, but to their surprise and also to their demise, Chu Feng had stood his ground and survived through their waves of shooting barrage.

Chu Feng's clothes was only somewhat tattered, but his body was left unharmed and uninjured.

Pong!

One of the mutants suddenly pulled the trigger in hope to take his opponent by surprise. Unfortunately, to his disappointment, the bullets only glanced by the remnant shadow of the fast-moving Chu Feng. At the next second, Chu Feng suddenly re-emerged in the air behind the bemused mutant and landed his fist on his shabby skull. The mutant fell on a state of coma as the blow dealt its impact on him. Even though the scales did serve as an effective layer of defense, the mutant still couldn't stand the power of the blow and the force it delivered. The wounded man spat out a mouthful of blood before fainting.

This sent the other two mutants into a state of crippling depression. They qualified as some of the most formidable mutants amongst the others, but even so, they still seemed to be unable to withstand even a single blow when they teamed up against this young man!

In fact, Chu Feng was quite shocked too. He had put forth all his power, but it was only enough to knock them out. If an equally forceful punch had been delivered to a slightly weaker mutant, his fist would have well penetrated his opponent's skull.

"Charge!"

The rest of the two put up a desperate fight.

In the woods, strong wind billowed as the two scaly golden mutants waged a life-and-death struggle against Chu Feng.

Unfortunately, the struggle was proven futile in the end. Both of the two were easily taken out by Chu Feng. While helplessly writhing around on the scorched earth, the two soon went into a state of coma.

Soon after, Zhou Quan came lolling towards Chu Feng. Seeing the perished woodland in conjunction with the mutilated bodies that were lifelessly lying on the scorched earth, Zhou Quan's face turned pale as a sheet. "Did you kill them all?" he asked.

"How can I be that cruel? I didn't kill any of them." The words were said as if by the way.

Zhou Quan vented out a sigh of relief, but soon he realized a more headache-inducing problem. Who are these people? And why is there such a sizeable crowd of strangers wanting Chu Feng to die? Moreover, how are they going to deal with all these bodies that still had a breath of life?

But what Chu Feng then said made Zhou Quan shudder in fear

"Come and help me dispose of these bodies and send them to the depths of the primitive mountains," Chu Feng called Yellow Ox and Zhou Quan.

"All of them?" Zhou Quan was at a loss; he didn't know whether to laugh or to cry.

"Or do you think I'm going to let them come kill me again next time?" Chu Feng had already found quite a number of vines and rattans to bundle the bodies up.

The forest restored its peace.

However, the depth of the primitive mountains was still resounding with the roars of beasts and the whistles of birds.

"What about these stuff?" Zhou Quan pointed to the rocket launchers left behind.

"Hide them here for now. They will come in real handy in the future," Chu Feng responded. Zhou Quan could see a flicker of a murderous intent wavering in Chu Feng's eyes.

Finally, they resumed their homeward journey. Zhou Quan was feeling faint and disorientated after this full day of epic adventure, so they decided to drop him off at his town first.

"Stay at home and recover from any illness or discomfort for the next few days. Don't go anywhere. Especially don't come look for me!" Chu Feng urged him.

Zhou Quan nodded his head like a rattle-drum. He really wanted some down time to recover from today's provocation.

At night, Chu Feng was quietly reading. His communicator rang a few times, but he chose to ignore the calls.

After reading, he took out a map then laid it out. It was a copy of the map he found on Zuo Jun.

He carefully studied it, then he called Yellow Ox, "Let's venture into the mountains together tomorrow. I will get you fruits there!"

Not long after, the communicator rang again. The caller had been the same person. She had been ringing up since the night fell.

Chu Feng did feel quite drowsy. He wanted his night to be undisturbed, so he picked up the call.

"Chu Feng!" A woman's voice came through.

"Yes, it's me."

Having heard Chu Feng's response, the woman was disappointed and fearful at the same time. Her disappointment came from the confirmation that Chu Feng was still well and sound while she feared the possible fate of her deployment to which she had lost all means of communication.

Losing all forty-two men plus a few additional mutants was a considerable loss to the company. She didn't want to bear the responsibility nor the blame.

"What's wrong?" Chu Feng asked.

"Have you seen anyone coming to your house yet? Have the injured mutants been picked up?" The woman tried to remain composed to the best of her ability.

"Yes, I did see dozens of people falling out of the sky and landing in my front yard with bodies saturated in blood. Their injuries made them look almost as good as dead..."

"What did you say?!" The woman's voice had significantly increased in pitch. "Why are they injured again?!"

"Like I've said so many times, there is a hole in the yard."

## Chapter 37: Searching

The light-complexioned face of the woman turned frosty as her exquisite hands turned black and blue from her clenching fists. Her breath delivered a murderous intent through the communicator, signalling her profound hatred towards that unworthy on the other end of the line.

A ball of fire burned in her chest; at the moment, she had no way to deal with it. In particular, that typical frivolous attitude of Chu Feng exacerbated her anger to such a degree that she could feel every fiber of her muscle was driving her to go down to the foot of Taihang Mountains and kill him with her own hands.

She tried to maintain a cold and indifferent attitude in her voice as she spoke, "I need you to ensure their safety!"

"Who on earth are you actually? I don't find it fun to be posted with all these monsters from you all day long. They really gave me heart attacks when they showed up." Chu Feng really kicked up a stink about the woman's doing. He even went so far as to ask, "Are you a witch?"

Pong!

The woman hung up the call without a scruple. Her face had turned from young and pretty to ashen and livid.

"Who is actually helping him?!"

She stood by her bedroom's window; glaring into the night sky, she frowned. This succession of failures had made her heart palpitate, but at the same time, there was an unspeakable feeling of worry and concern within her.

Seven mutants and a team of crack troops had disappeared along with all the weapons at this point. To her and to the company, this was a significant loss.

If someone had to be held accountable for this, it would definitely be her.

Last time in her analysis, she had eliminated the possibility of Chu Feng's involvement in the disappearance of all the mutants. She had learnt from a test result done on Chu Feng's hair that his gene determined that it was impossible for him to mutate. He was just another man bordering on the mundane.

"Or is he being helped by someone? Am I also being watched by him?" she mumbled in a qualm.

Under the grand chandelier, the woman paced back and forth in the room. She then suddenly smashed the glass goblet in her hand with a splat; the red wine within splattered.

It couldn't be Lin Naoi. She had eliminated this possibility last time as well.

Thinking attentively, the woman felt very much unease and unnerved.

To her, Chu Feng was only a boor living with a family of hillbillies. She had promised her client that it would be an easy job to dispose of him.

She had even thought of many ways for him to die so that his death would only look like an unfortunate accident than a malicious murder.

But now, everything seemed to have been out of control. Her operation had proven to be a failure at the cost of half a dozen of mutants and a team of elite soldiers.

Were they still alive? She would never know!

She suddenly felt ever so regretful and fearful in this moment. She could tell that ahead of her, there was a bottomless abyss. The more she persisted, the deeper she would eventually find herself sunken in.

“I will not take it lying down. I will make sure that you’re dead!”

The woman had rosy lips and pretty white teeth, but her gorgeous face had turned rather cold, gloomed by an evident look of murderous intent. She was a disquieted woman.

In the end, she took out her own communicator and rang up a man named Mu.

“Mu... I need your help...”

The night had been especially pleasant for Chu Feng. He slept sound and well. He awoke feeling rested and refreshed, but his instinct was telling him that it must have been a totally different night for that woman. Even if the call had not caused her to feel frightened, she must have at least felt distressed to a certain degree.

No-one would enjoy an ease of mind when their loss was so significant.

Bathing in the morning glow of the rising sun, Chu Feng carried out his usual breathing exercise routine. Warmth ran with his blood through the veins in his body, making him feel as if his whole body had been purified.

Having eaten a rich and sumptuous breakfast, Chu Feng asked Yellow Ox to tag along and venture into the depths of the mountains again. Today, he would follow the guide provided by the map in searching for the magical fruit that would render him many times stronger.

Having arrived at the mountains, Chu Feng went to check on that pile of firearms at first. He then picked one of them and fired a round to test. He needed to ensure that when the time came, he could rely on its firepower to gain an edge over his opponents.

Boom!

On the hills in the distance, a glow of fire erupted. It was accompanied by a mumble of blaring sounds as the hill fell and the earth split. Acres of ancient trees tumbled down, swirling up a miasma of smogs over in the distance.

“Not bad. The power seemed pretty good. I’m just not sure if this would be enough to shoot Silver Wing out of the sky,” Chu Feng murmured.

There was still an uncertainty in how Chu Feng would match up against Silver Wing when a battle between them broke out. Judging by the fact that he could easily take down seven mutants, fighting against one shouldn’t be overly complicated.

Having thoroughly learnt how the rocket launchers functioned, Chu Feng hid them properly underground.

The positions marked on the map all belonged to the pre-existent mountains before the upheavals took place. None of them were in the primitive mountains.

Chu Feng and Yellow Ox had a plain sailing. It was not long before they reached their first destination. This was a verdant peak of an average-height mountain.

At the summit, there were a few old pine trees and a few blue stones.

There were letters assigned to this position. It said: Picked.

Chu Feng made a bold conjecture that this would most likely be the site where a strange fruit had once grown. “Picked” just meant that the fruit had been picked by someone else. However, Chu Feng still wanted to stop by to see if there were any further discoveries he could make.

Meanwhile, Yellow Ox seemed to have gravitated towards a rather strange-looking plant.

Chu Feng noticed it too. The plant was gleaming with an appetizing color in a shade of green. Chu Feng could tell that there was an air of vigorous life-essence wrapping around this otherwise ordinary-looking plant.

Observing up close, they realized it was only a plantain. This was a very common subspecies of grass that could literally be found throughout countryside.

However, this particular one had many stripes and veins stretching across its oval-shaped leaves. Had it borne fruit before?

“This one is definitely different. It has much thicker leaves in comparison to an average plantain. These leaves looked as if they had been carved out of a green jade,” Chu Feng said.

Unfortunately, despite the evident presence of a stem that supported Chu Feng's conjecture that the grass had once been a fruit-bearer, the fruits had already been plucked. The effect of the fruit would forever remain unknown to them.

"Puff!"

Just as Chu Feng was in a muse, contemplating the quality of this particular plant, Yellow Ox bit the grass's stalk in two, and swallowed it whole.

"Demon Ox!" Chu Feng had blown a fuse.

Yellow Ox turned around and looked at Chu Feng in bewilderment. Its expression suggested its profound bafflement.

"Goddamn it! What a reckless waste of God's good gifts! Why did you eat it?!" Chu Feng glared at the calf in fury. Even the expedition team from Deity Biomedical Group had not destroyed its stalk, but instead preserved it to experiment on the possibility of new fruits growing in the future. He could tell their particular interest in the plant by the degree of meticulousness in the way they marked its position on the map.

He had a similar scheme too. He had planned to check on the plant in a few days and see what it could yield.

Yellow Ox showed an innocent look. It simply wrote a few words: "Only a mutated grass. Bear fruit once only."

Chu Feng was in a daze for quite a long time before he recovered. "What a pity." He sighed.

Yellow Ox cracked up.

"What's funny?" Chu Feng glared at the calf.

This time, Yellow Ox wrote a few more words on the ground, divulging a secret.

"The world is changing. Perished rootstocks are waiting to be resurrected."

"Resurrected? What do you mean? They had lived before?" Chu Feng asked.

"It's an opportunity once in a thousand years." These was the last thing Yellow Ox wrote on the ground, then it would not say another word.

Chu Feng could still vaguely remember that Yellow Ox had once admitted that it came to this world in order to be sanctified. What an ambitious scheme!

"What does the rootstock have to do with its scheme?" Chu Feng questioned.

There seemed to be an even grander secret hidden in the world outside. This was what rendered all the monsters residing deep within the primitive mountains eager to rush outside.

Chu Feng dug out what was left from the plantain. If it was no longer capable of bearing fruit, there was no need for him to be discreet about it. He wanted to perform anatomy on this strange plant and see what had really induced the change to this plant to occur.

“What!”

To his surprise, he did find something odd on the plant’s root. There were a few grains of odd-looking substance tightly coiled up by a thatch of entangling roots.

The grains looked purple, glittering with a conspicuous glow.

“Are these the cause of mutation?” He grew a bit doubtful.

Yellow Ox also looked in, but he also seemed to be clueless about these purple grains.

“Whatever. I will take it with me then.”

Later on, the duo went to three other different locations separately, but unfortunately, all that were left was an empty stalk of a mutated plant.

But to his surprise, Chu Feng did find a nail-sized grain glittering with a different color on the roots of each of the stalk. Some appeared crimson, while the other looked beryl; they neither looked nor felt the same as the soil surrounding it.

These grains were also coiled up by a thatch of entangling roots. They seemed to possess some sort of essence with them.

Just like this, Chu Feng managed to collect four tiny grains of colored soil, with each bearing a different hue. He wrapped them carefully in a cloth.

“With these grains, my three little seeds will be able to take roots and spread.” Chu Feng was rather excited. He wanted to know what the seeds would grow into.

He was also quite expectant. They were found in a mysterious stone box at the foot of Kunlun Mountains, so no matter what they would become in the end, their origins were undeniably the oddest of all.

Chu Feng unfolded the map. There was still one place left to be discovered. It was also the in the center of the map, labelled with a black skull.

Did this mean that the place was extremely dangerous?



He had heard from various sources that there was indeed a strange tree in Taihang Mountains. It had borne fruit, but the fruit was yet to be ripe. This had prompted mutants from across the globe to partake in this joint effort in search for this legendary tree.

Chu Feng suspected that the place labelled with the black skull would most likely be the position where the tree had grown.

“Many days have passed. Some mutants must have arrived already in hopes of snatching the fruit. Very soon, Taihang Mountains would be a battleground for the fighting experts to challenge each other with brute force,” Chu Feng conjectured.

He resumed his journey, and Yellow Ox followed. He wanted to go and observe how the fights would go; if opportunity allowed, he might even join the fight and claim what he deserved.

On his way there, he noticed the trails left by other mutants. Chu Feng carefully maneuvered his body around the trees and tracks as stealthily as possible.

“How come it could be here?” Chu Feng was taken aback.

The Mountain of White Snake!

This region could qualify as one of the most mystical amongst all.

It was said that a white snake had once been living on this mountain. No-one knew how long it had been living for. However, the air of mystery had always been lingering in these mountains, giving birth to many legends and fables alike.

However, many people would not believe its existence, because the last witness of the snake had died over a decade ago. All the witnesses had made several claims during their lifetimes that the snake they sighted was at least a hundred meters in length.

However, these claims further removed the credibility of the story. The largest serpent known to men was no longer than a few dozens of meters.

“Wait, be careful!” Chu Feng and Yellow Ox hastily shunned aside.

There were a few mutants guarding the entrance to the mountain. In addition, he also saw a familiar face—Zuo Jun.

“That tree must be here!” Chu Feng asserted.

Chapter 38: The Peculiar One

The proximity to the Mountain of White Snake was all scattered with vigilant mutants guarding every passage that lead into the mountain's depth.

The profound diligence with all the mutants posed confirmed the existence of that rumored tree in the mountain's depth. The guards all seemed quite on edge while defending the mountain against any intrusions that could potentially deprive their gain of the fruit borne.

"I will climb up the cliff. I'm sure that will get me around these people," Chu Feng said. Then, he glanced back to see Yellow Ox. "Do you reckon you are able to climb after me?"

Yellow Ox proudly stood on its pair of hind hooves. Its torso was upright and stiffened, then, in an imposing manner, the calf shadow boxed and wrestled, brandishing its agile body. The calf was confirming that it was more than capable.

The two slinked around in the dense forest, covering their trails with the shadow cast by the overgrown crown of the trees above. Finally, they came near a bold cliff, unnoticed. The cliff formed a beetling wall vertical to the ground, but it was not much of a challenge for Chu Feng to clamber up.

Suddenly, Chu Feng halted all his movements and said, "If an average mutant can climb up this cliff, then there is no way that the Deity Biomedical Group would leave this place unguarded. Perhaps this route will prove to be even more dangerous than all of the others."

Chu Feng raised his head and studied the cliff. The cliff was cragged and abrupt. Not even a blade of grass grew on its rocky surface.

"Son of a b\*tch!" Chu Feng noticed something odd.

He could see numerous fractures and cracks sprawling up along the cliff's surface. They were clearly not caused by nature, since there were trails that suggested someone had been deliberately attempting to conceal these fractures with great effort.

"The cliff has been bombarded by rocket launchers!" Chu Feng cried out in alarm.

He could even see patches of bloodstain smearing the rocky surface of this cragged cliff with plots of mauve marks.

This revealed someone's earlier attempt to clamber up the cliff, but clearly, the attempt had ended in a miserable failure and a brutal death.

This must have been someone who had had the similar idea in wishing that the cliff was the way around the mutants' defense, but failed to realize that it was all an ambush set up for them to be cold-bloodedly bombarded by the deadly rockets fired in unison.

Chu Feng and Yellow Ox retreated. Being degraded into a gory mixture of flesh and blood was not necessarily the only outcome if they were determined to climb up the cliff. The two decided that it was not the time yet to beat the grass and alert the snake.

The Mountain of White Snake was quite a sizeable one, so Chu Feng was convinced that there must be a loophole in the defense that could allow him and Yellow Ox to bypass and sneak in. The Deity Biomedical Group simply did not have the manpower to cover and block every entrance into this vast mountain range.

On his way to find this alternative route, Chu Feng saw tens of hundreds of mutants who were also in hiding and looking for ways to enter. The Mountain of White Snake had become a whirlpool of danger and violence. Tension was rapidly reaching a breaking point.

The earth had been stained with many patches of dried blood. There were also broken horns and fragmented scales littering under the bushes. These were once the body parts of many mutants that were now only left to become decomposing piles of despicable dirt.

Fights had broken out that resulted in severe casualties. This was only the beginning, and no-one could predict how fierce and severe the fights would evolve into once the legendary fruit became ripe and mature. Chu Feng vented out a sigh as he realized how much of a difficulty it would be for him to snatch the fruit and rise above the rest amidst all the strafes and slaughters between the mutants and the armed soldiers.

As expected, Chu Feng did find an opening through which he could infiltrate the enemy's defense and enter the mountain unnoticed. Having successfully penetrated that iron wall of defense, Chu Feng had to stay even more careful while blindly navigating on the meandering tracks carved out in between the dense woods.

A shelf of land extended from an escarpment of the mountain. It was an area of the clearing sparsely populated with colossal trees that had been living since the ancient times. The slope of the ground there grew gradual, juxtaposing greatly with the precipitous woody lands around it. There were also many other mutants heading towards the area.

Chu Feng and Yellow Ox joined the others and arrived at the region too. There were a few maidenhair trees which had grown for at least hundreds, if not thousands, of years. Decrepit barks were peeling off from the ancient trunks, exposing its inner layers that were equally pristine. The trunk was a perfect embodiment of age and authority, with an awe-inspiring thickness that required multiple adults to encircle it over.

“Wolves?” Chu Feng was taken aback.

He could sense a peculiar smell. It was the smell typical of a savage beast. With his extraordinary eyesight, he saw, in the distance, a pack of wild wolves, brandishing their cutting fangs and putting up an evident display of their inherent ferocity.

Were they guarding here to compete for the fruit?

There was one amongst them which stood out as particularly strange. Its fangs were of uncanny sharpness, protruding outwards from its bloody mouth. Its torso had the size of a grown yak; but all in all, what struck Chu Feng as the most peculiar was the fact that the furs under which its skin was layered were not furs in an ordinary sense, but instead they had calcified and formed a layer of impenetrable stone-like feature.

This beast was a Stone Wolf!

Clearly, this was the yield of a mutation like that on a human being!

The Stone Wolf, however, was dwarfed in size when compared to one of its companions. There was another wolf who had the size of a house. Its body gleamed with a metallic glister as if its body was made of bronze. It opened its bloody mouth, revealing the horrific inside of its cavity. The fangs, too, had a bronze color and a metallic texture.

“Metal Wolf?” Chu Feng was astounded.

Both wolves had mutated to an otherworldly being. Both might have consumed a mystical fruit of some sorts which then caused them to evolve and improve in power and ability.

The two had lead an entire pack of fearsome wolves to guard the region. Clearly, they were also waiting for the fruit to become mature.

Chu Feng made his way to another position to catch a clearer sight of that legendary tree. Earlier, it had been hiding behind a maidenhair tree outside his line of sight.

It was a pine tree, and just like the legend said, it was rather short and small. It only measured around a meter in height, and judging by the fresh bark of its trunk, the tree had not lived its life for more than two years. However, it had somehow mutated, and this mutation rendered its leaves glittering with a lively hint of green.

The pine tree was growing luxuriantly. The presence of an air of extraordinary vitality was evident around it. Standing far in the distance, Chu Feng could still tell that the tree was leading off a fairly good life.

A pine cone was cultivating amidst the verdant crown of this exuberating tree. Layers of seeds formed sheets of rugged layers within it.

The pine cone itself was half green and half golden. The green was light and soft, while the golden luster had a pleasant purplish hue, glittering and dazzling.

A pine tree of this size should not bear any fruits; however, the mutated pine tree had broken all norms: its body was gleaming with a verdant hue, and its pines had grown larger than a grown man's fist.

Upon anyone's first sighting, they would know that this tree was a kind of its own.

The pine was yet to split to reveal its turgid inside, but a delightful and alluring aroma of such intensity had already started suffusing the air to warn all those who were lurking nearby to peel their spying eyes and stay mindful for the development of the fruit.

All the mutants who had come here uninvited had all stayed alerted and vigilant. No-one dared to boldly commit a regrettable action, fearing that any inattentive behaviors might result in their tragic death. Even the wolves were patient, silently lurking in the proximity, poised for a fight.

"Are those bodies?"

Chu Feng was bewildered. He saw dead bodies piling up between the bushes not far in the distance. Many of them belonged to the once powerful mutants, and some belonged to the ferocious beasts who had been prowling nearby.

Their bodies shared a universal trait of displaying a purplish blackness. This suggested that their deaths were not caused by brutal combats, but by insidious poison.

"Be careful. It seems to be the case that anyone who stand within a ten-meter distance away from the tree would be instantly killed by incorrigible poison. Look at those bodies. Those are the product of this insidious poison."

"The Deity Biomedical Group had discovered this place long before us; however, the expedition team they sent out had all been killed by this same poison. But those bastards did not disclose any of these to the outside, so people still would come and unknowingly die here."

"Yes, I heard about that too. There had been numerous attempts made by some of their rival companies who sent out men to snatch the fruit long before its maturity. But, unsurprisingly and, as you guessed it, all died a horrible death."

"Let's go, man. It's not safe here. Let's just wait this out and see how things will turn out after the fruit becomes mature."

They were whispers in the darkness under the shadows of the bushes. Everyone seemed to have reached a consensus that although Deity Biomedical Group seemed to have relaxed their vigilance in guarding the defense line along the outer boundary of the mountain, this could as well be trap set by them to lure the unknowing and the unaware to their demise.

The whispers in the bushes faded as more and more mutants started leaving in fear of a potential tragic death.

“Do you think we should just go for it? Take the fruit and run?” Chu Feng asked Yellow Ox.

Yellow Ox shook its head, but its eyes were pleadingly fixated on that pine cone in the distance. Clearly, the cone was as much of an attraction to it as anything else that were edible, but there was something holding it back from its ardent urge.

“Taking before maturity, the fruit will melt.” Yellow Ox wrote on the ground.

This made Chu Feng resign from his risky plan.

At the same time, he also agreed with the words that were whispered between those mutants. The Deity Biomedical Group must have prepared something to be used as their trump card if needed. With all the toiling preparation works done up to this stage, it was unlikely for them to drop their guard in the last second.

Chu Feng stood in the dark alongside the eager Yellow Ox for quite some time before suddenly, a light thumping noise sounded in the distance. Some of the boulders and sand had been pushed aside, revealing an inconspicuous crack on the ground. There were someone peeking out through the fissure!

Someone was hiding underground?!

Chu Feng was astounded. He was afraid that the entire mountain might have perhaps been hollowed up by the Deity Biomedical Group, and everything was indeed within their control.

“Hurry up! Let’s leave this place.” Chu Feng had been shuddering in fear since the moment he landed foot in this mountain. Now, it seemed like the perfect time for him to exit from this place where one was apt to get into trouble.

Yellow Ox had always been wary and aware of its surroundings. It felt threatened too.

The two quickly scurried off in the homeward direction in silence.

“It’s too difficult to acquire the fruit, but I will at least take some of that dirt away with me!”

This was the minimum goal Chu Feng set for himself.

He expected that the soil that had been cultivating this mutated tree could perhaps prove to be more valuable than the fruit.

While all the mutants had set their eyes onto the wondrous fruit, few would solicit for the customary soil underneath. This was an opportunity for Chu Feng, and it was also a safer task to commit.

Chu Feng lingered in the mountain then transferred all the rocket launchers he had captured earlier to separate locations in the proximity of the Mountain of White Snake, burying them deep underground.

“If the plan goes smoothly, this will be my get-away route. Then, if anyone dares to chase after me, I will greet all of them with these rocket launchers!”

Born and raised in the area, perhaps no-one knew their way around the mountains here better than Chu Feng did. Chu Feng attentively drew out a route on a map on his mind for escape. Then, in Yellow Ox’s company, they embarked upon their homeward journey.

On their way home, the two passed by the very spot where Chu Feng encountered Yellow Ox for the first time. It was here where Zhou Quan hastily swallowed the scarlet fruit without scruple, which, in turn, granted him the power to project flaming blaze that could melt stones and gold.

Yellow Ox, on the other hand, only managed to snatch a few leaves from the grassy plant and disgorge the rootstock in the end.

“Found it!”

Chu Feng was pleasantly surprised as he suddenly caught sight of that very rootstock lying at the same spot. There were still no signs of withering even weeks after getting discarded, thanks to that nail-sized chunk of dirt that had entangled something glittering within.

So far, he had collected five special samples of soil that Chu Feng was hoping to grant life to the seeds he had planted.

Chu Feng spread his newly acquired fertilizer with each seed being reburied with a minute chunk of the special dirt.

In the end, he was still left with another two chunks of the dirt, but he was worried that an overdose of these powerful dirt might prove to be fatal for his seeds. Sometimes, going beyond the limit could be as bad as falling short.

“Tsi Wang Mu and Fairy of Ninth Heaven! How I wish that that I can see you sprouting in action right now!” Chu Feng murmured.

Chu Feng fetched a stone box. He planned to use it to store the two chunks of dirt he had been left with.

This was the box he acquired at the foot of Kunlun Mountains. The three seeds were found in there.

The box was three-inch-tall with a perfect cubic shape, but after revealing its inside, one could tell that its capacity was rather limited. Accommodating three shrivelled seeds had already proven to be much of a stretch to its ability, let alone storing chunks of dirt that were significantly greater in volume than the box’s interior.

Chu Feng withdrew his trusty old dagger, planning to thin the walls of the box so that its holding capacity could extend a bit more. Chu Feng had planned to use it as a storage to hold any more special dirt he would find in the future.

As expected, the cutting blade of the dagger cut clean through the stone as though it were mud. The stone that formed the unnecessarily thick wall of the box was minced to bits and pieces of powdery fragments, allowing the box’s interior to extend for quite a bit.

Dong!

Suddenly, Chu Feng could feel a force of immense resistance stopping him from twitching the cutting blade of his black dagger any further. The blade had reached the edge of the stone box, but it suddenly became impossible to cut through.

Chu Feng was taken aback by the loud metallic clonk that sounded. He carefully examined this wondrous box while his blade continued digging. The amount of resistance the tip of his blade received made him realize how firm this box had suddenly become. Even his blade could do no damnification to it at all.

Having blown away the chips of the stone’s powder, he drew the box closer to his eyes. He caught a vague sight of some etched patterns on the inside of the wall. This prompted him to question: was this whole thing a man-made artefact or just a naturally-formed wonder?

Before long, he realized that this was the true face of this box. The stones he just chipped away had been, in fact, stuffed into this compact box by its original designer. No wonder he could remove them that easily.

Yellow Ox came closer. It looked at the stone box, then fixated on the stone fragments on the ground. To Chu Feng’s surprise, the look on its face seemed ever so solemn.



It lowered its head then held the stone box in its hooves, thoroughly examining its composition. It then started nibbling at the pulverized pieces of the dug-out stones, thoughtfully tasting it in its mouth.

Suddenly, its expression took a shift!

The calf hurriedly scribbled a line of words on the ground.

At the same time, Chu Feng's communicator rang a shrilling ring. The voice of Lin Naoi sounded as he picked it up. Her words were simple and plain: "I will be at Taihang Mountains tomorrow."

Just then, the exclamation, "You old witch", almost slipped out of his babbling mouth as an instinct; but luckily, it was stopped in time. To his surprise, it not that same woman this time

### Chapter 39: The Great Sensation

Lin Naoi was sharp and concise. Her voice was flat and insipid, and her tone was distant.

Chu Feng placidly answered, inviting her over for dinner.

Lin Naoi paused for a split second before replying with a simple "okay". She then abruptly hung up her call without further conversation.

Chu Feng was taken aback by the abruptness. He still wanted to address a few things on the phone, but regrettably, the call had ended before he could say a word.

He wanted to bring up the woman. He wanted to know who she was. He wanted to get all his answers from Lin Naoi, and he also wanted to talk to her about the recent morass of events happening around him lately. However, the call just ended before he could address any of these. He did not call back either.

If they were to meet on the next day, he might as well leave all his queries then.

"What the..."

Chu Feng saw the line of words Yellow Ox had jotted down. He was taken aback.

"Rare soil. Mingled with secret blood."

The sentence was short and concise, but it prompted Chu Feng to raise many questions. "Isn't it just a chunk of messy stones?" he thought. "Where does this 'rare soil' come from?"

And blood? Blood of what creature?

Chu Feng was baffled. Curiosity compelled him to question Yellow Ox closely.

Yellow Ox explained that the fragmented stones were originally soils mixed with blood, but the essence of the sacred blood died off in the end, leaving the soil to condense to a mere chunk of stone and merge together with the rest of the stone box.

“So the blood belonged to a sacred creature?” Chu Feng tried to make a detailed inquiry to make sense of these all.

Yellow Ox told him that the so-called sacred blood belonged to a mystical and elusive creature full of power and skills. However, no-one could have guessed how powerful or how skilful the creature actually was.

Having learnt this, Chu Feng picked up a nib of the shattered stones, pulverizing them into a pile of fine powders using his unique boxing style. He then tasted the fine particles with his own mouth.

“Puff!”

Chu Feng spat out that pinch of powder without a second of hesitation. He tasted no blood, for all there were was an insufferable taste of bitterness that was overpowering enough to instantly numb his tongue.

However, Yellow Ox seemed to be lost in a daze. It did not care about Chu Feng’s struggle with the bitter taste at all. It fixated on the stone box that was held in its front hooves, reluctant to divert its attention away from it.

“Wake up!” Chu Feng waved his hands in front of Yellow Ox.

The calf was finally able to collect itself. It clouted and hammered the stone box with its front hooves, as if it were looking for certain things. In its eyes, the box contained something far beyond its ordinary appearance.

All in all, the box had once contained the blood of a sacred creature. This itself could mean something truly awe-inspiring.

Boom!

At last, Yellow Ox put to use of its Demon Ox Boxing Style and drew its powerful hooves onto the stone box with an explosive force. The box was sent to the air before it penetrated through the yard wall, leaving a gaping hole on the concrete wall.

“What on earth are you doing?!” Chu Feng flamed in fury.

With a passive sort of smile that reflected its guilty conscience, the calf followed Chu Feng out of the yard to check on the stone box.

The box came out safe and sound. Not even a scratch and dent had been inflicted on it.

Yellow Ox was not satisfied. With a cheeky grin on its face, the calf thumped and pounded its front hooves on the stone box with a fierce force. The calf seemed to refuse to stop without at least denting the stone box.

However, the continual pounding seemed to have done nothing to the box itself.

Yellow Ox bared its bovine teeth in agony. The beating on the box seemed to have inflicted more damage to the formidable ox than to the box. This was also the first time that Chu Feng had ever seen Yellow Ox suffering from a miserable loss.

“You deserve it!” Chu Feng mocked.

Yellow Ox refused to accept its loss as final. The calf asserted that the box must have been rigged with some sort of hidden mechanism. All in all, it had once been in the possession of a sacred creature, so perhaps there were secrets left with it.

Chu Feng’s mouth was slightly open, subtly jerking at one corner. He wanted to tell him that the secrets were the seeds, but he held it back. Chu Feng did not want this calf to seize his beloved seeds as its own possession as a result.

But clearly, he had underestimated Yellow Ox.

Having failed to discover anything noteworthy from the box, the calf suddenly came to the realization of the very existence of those three seeds.

Then, at the blink of an eye, Yellow Ox disappeared in sight and ran into the yard where the parterre was located.

“Oh crap!” Chu Feng lost no time and chased after the calf.

As expected, the extraordinary intelligence of this calf granted it the ability to link the box to the seeds Chu Feng had discovered. It was guarding the parterre while carefully scrutinizing every detail of it by the time Chu Feng had reached the yard. The look on its face showed how eager he wanted to get rid of all the pesky weeds that had been shamelessly robbing the valuable resource for the sprouting seeds.

“Stop! Don’t mess with my parterre. I kept the weeds there to cover up the secrets so that seeds, once they sprout, won’t stand out,” Chu Feng exclaimed.

Yellow Ox nodded its head as a form of agreement. A vigilant look instantly emerged on its face. It pointed at him, warning him to stand away from the parterre so that the seeds would not be somehow spoiled by accident.

Chu Feng was rendered utterly speechless by the calf's set of demeanors.

At the start, it was the arrogant calf who refused to accept the usefulness of the seeds. When he first planted them, it was full of heartless mockery from the calf. Now, as it started to realize the potential of them, the bastard lost no time in usurping his ownership of these seeds.

"Whatever comes out will be mine." Yellow Ox wrote on the ground.

"Get the f\*ck off!" Chu Feng pulled aside the calf, warning it not to mess around with his seeds.

But the calf had never been a sensible being. It took Chu Feng's words amiss, bellowing as it tried to object. It gave Chu Feng a warning as well, claiming that if it was not allowed to own the seeds, it would eat them whole someday in the future.

Tranquillity befell as the night had arrived. Glittering stars spotted the nightly sky; moonlights that were pure as water were trickling down the stream of its gleaming beam, laminating the night with its soft light.

Under the soothing moonlight, there was Chu Feng practicing his boxing style, still as assiduously as ever. There had never been a day passing by without him devoting hours of his waking time to the consolidation of his newly acquired martial skills.

Before long, a whole set of the positions was done. Chu Feng paced back to his room and turned on his communicator. A variety of news reports about the war of mutants that had broken out in Taihang Mountains filled the headlines. As millions of others who shared the same platform, Chu Feng was equally interested in the progress of that brutal war.

"Top executives from the Deity Biomedical Group have set out on their journey to Taihang Mountains. They are expected to arrive tomorrow."

Following this catchy headline of a breaking news, a piece of article went on with a lengthy analysis, but in summary, the whole detailed analysis laid out in an assertive tone, claiming that the wondrous fruit had become something the group had already had. It would be a guaranteed success for this powerful company.

If this were the case, who would even dare to dream about getting it?

Some additional articles also reported that the very existence of Silver Wing in the company meant that even when the deadliest firearms were to be deployed, it would serve as nothing in obstructing the company's advance.

There was also news reporting that the number of mutants existing in the world had drastically increased lately. By conservative estimate, there were at least a million mutants roaming wild.

Amongst them, some of the world's most proficient fighters were emerging in large numbers.

Apart from the four superpowers who had always been standing on the tip of the pyramid, a new list had been created to rank mutants with regards to their combat gains from one to one hundred. These one hundred mutants were entitled as the "deadliest beings in the world". The whole world had turned to become a grander version of Mount Olympus.

Chu Feng carefully went through the list, but only ten people were listed. Because the number of mutants had become a truly overwhelming figure, it was understandable that a thorough statistic was yet to be counted. The list only contained those who were well-known to the public and generally received as proficient fighters.

One of the included mutants could morph into a six-meter golden giant in possession of an otherworldly power. His skin was impenetrable and bullet-proof.

Someone even taunted that he could easily defeat Silver Wing and the other three combined.

The giant himself even delivered a challenge to Kong Kim.

"He is much stronger than Zuo Jun," Chu Feng remarked. Although both could easily gain the horrific body of a mutated giant, the man appeared on the report was evidently more powerful.

Then, there was another report that caught Chu Feng's attention.

"Bodhi Genes claims: go big or go home. Kong Kim will join the battle!"

This was perhaps the most sensational news on the internet so far. The enlistment of Kong Kim could mean an all-out war between the two business magnates. Would the fruit be proven worthy of their deadly clashes? Would everything then evolve into another world-ending war that could potentially reshuffle the order of the entire society? These were the questions that no-one could answer.

Chu Feng continued to browse through the overwhelming sea of news reports. Many conjectured that the fruit in Taihang Mountains could prompt at least thousands of mutants to hurry to the battle, fighting for the fruit.

All in all, it was all because that fruit was too much of an enticing attraction!

Plants, especially trees, could bear fruits that empower an ordinary man to become as strong as Silver Wing, Kong Kim, Fire Spirit, and White Tiger.

Some of the mutants wanted a second chance to unlock more powers in themselves in hope that they would replace the giant four in their positions.

“Wake up, people!” Someone tried to throw a damp over people’s over-optimism about the fruit. “Do you really think that by simply eating a fruit, you will become the overlord of this society? How ridiculous!”

“The fruit only served as a supplement to their already-existent power. Its usefulness was ever so slight. Anyone who would think that eating fruits will grant them power are just fools!”

At the same time, a video recording of Silver Wing battling against a team of mutants was uploaded to the internet. Almost instantly, a heat of debate was sparked.

In the video, there was a young man with a head of silver hair. The hair hung down to his waist while a stream of metallic glitter trickled down. Even his pupils were gleaming a silver shine. The man was the embodiment of a celestial deity. Every pore on his body screamed divinity and holiness.

The video recorded a battle scene. A group of ten mutants challenged him, but all ended up in a gruesome death. The battle finished almost at the blink of an eye with Silver Wing simply wavering his arm, looking all effortless and uncomplicated.

“He’s so hot!” Many female internet users screamed out in admiration.

Especially as the video proceeded towards the end, a mutant who was holding a pair of golden blades did not seem to be willing to reconcile to his failure. He wavered his blades, daringly dashing towards Silver Wing. The cutting bladed landed on the shoulder of Silver Wing, but it was instantly snapped in half and rendered useless.

The video ended on this scene.

The video quickly went viral with millions expressing their astonishment as well as admiration for Silver Wing’s godly power. Many also cheered in joy, wishing for more of the similar contents to be released.

Silver Wing had a perfect appearance. His handsomeness was agreed by everyone. His elegant demeanor and graceful bearing granted him a celestial character and an angelic trait, making him all the more mysterious and all the more fearsome.

It had only been one night before Silver Wing became the subject of everyone's topic. His appearance, his demeanors, and his jaws-dropping power had all proven to be splendid and remarkable. In the eyes of many young ladies, he was a perfect man.

A look of great solemnness emerged on Chu Feng's face. He felt pressured, and he also realized that he needed to improve.

"He seemed to have mastered a rather strange boxing style. Has there been a master of some sort recruited by the Deity Biomedical Group teaching him that?" Chu Feng raised a doubt.

On the following day, Lin Naoi timely arrived. She called him, letting him know that someone would pick him up.

#### Chapter 40: Rage and Madness

To the far east above the horizon, the bloody sun rose then gradually swelled and inflated. The crimson red was then soon replaced by a golden luminescence that penetrated through the morning clouds and shone above the dense morning woods.

The orchid farm was inundated under a misty fog. The blazing rays of the ascending sun soon granted the fog a wheel of colors, turning the farm into a heavenly spot.

The time was still early, but Lin Naoi had already timely arrived.

Chu Feng was notified of her arrival.

Bathing in the warmth of the golden sun, Chu Feng stood in the yard, attentively devoting himself to the practice of the special breathing exercise. It had become a routine that he had never failed to follow.

A stream of strange feeling surge upwards from the bottom of his feet to the tip of his heart. It was a pleasant feeling of warmth. He felt as if he were standing in a greenhouse and bathing in a hot bath at the same time. He felt like his body had been covered with a trickling layer of strange substance that then ran deep into his heart and his organs.

This was a feeling that he felt both familiar and strange at the same time.

He recalled his experience in Kunlun Mountains: when the special tree on the summit of that bronze mountain rose into a full blossom, some petals withered off and drifted into

his hand. It was a similar feeling of warmth in which he found an unspeakable pleasure. Lately, that feeling seemed to have had a resurgence, but it came back in a much greater magnitude.

It was an unparalleled comfort that he felt. From the top of his head to the bottom of his feet, he felt as if his body had been luxuriating in this stream of warmth of unparalleled pleasure. The warmth gave him strength, vigor, and vitality.

He finally opened his eyes. The scene before his eyes was a wondrous one. His skin seemed to have been inundated by a fine gauze gleaming with a golden glitter. The gauze was light and delicate, bestowing Chu Feng with a godly appearance.

It was this ravelling layer of golden mist that granted him the warmth that he felt fervently attached to.

The breathing exercise was done, and now he could finally see clearly the substance hovering above his skin. The golden gauze slowly dissipated, but it was not wasted to the air; instead, all seemed to have permeated his skin and seeped into his body.

Chu Feng felt different. He raised his head and stared into the mountains far in the distance. He could see the seeds of the pines, and the plumpness of the fruits on the trees in the mountains. He could even see a jumping squirrel actively moving around in search for its breakfast.

This was a superhuman eyesight!

At the same time, he could also hear the buzzing wings of a flying bee in the distance. He could even perceive the moment when the bees chose to land on the petals of a blooming flower.

Chu Feng felt like a prisoner finally breaking loose of his confinement, breathing the fresh air in the outside for the very first time. Chu Feng was now a man with good sight and an exquisite sense of hearing. All his senses became sharper than ever. A new world had been unlocked for him.

Yellow Ox was in the yard, practicing the special breathing exercise alongside the strong man himself. It saw the strange yet wondrous glow exuding from Chu Feng's body, which looked astonishing and peculiar.

Chu Feng was not bothered by Yellow Ox's presence. He tried to probe into himself in an attempt to have a better understanding of that strange feeling of warmth within him.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, Chu Feng disappeared from the location where he stood, leaving there all but a shadowy spectre of himself. Chu Feng was dashing out of the yard into the orchid



farm. His speed had improved twofold and, by a rough estimate, this hundred-meter sprint only took him a bit over one second.

In terms of strength, what Chu Feng saw in himself was an even greater improvement.

His power had been tremendously enhanced!

The special breathing exercise had demonstrated its tremendous benefits to Chu Feng's improvement of his body constitution.

Strength, speed, and sense, along with many other aspects had greatly improved. This was an evolutionary step in which he had achieved, and now, he had become ever so fearsome and awe-inspiring to all who claimed him their enemy.

"What's the story behind this breathing exercise?" Chu Feng asked Yellow Ox.

However, Yellow Ox would rather conceal the secret than to truthfully inform Chu Feng with an answer.

It did, however, hint him with a few words: "Pollen. Catalyst."

The calf conjectured that Chu Feng's rapid improvement should be thanks to the petals he received back when he was still an ordinary man.

According to Yellow Ox, the breathing exercise itself, though it might prove to be greatly handy when a trained fighter wanted to improve his skill, needed the assistance of a "catalyst".

Having eaten his breakfast, Chu Feng was greeted by a woman sent out by Lin Naoi to pick him up.

It was a young lady whose nose was spotted with freckles, but she was still young and pretty nevertheless. In comparison to the others whom he had received from the company, she was perhaps the most hospitable person amongst them all.

She came in a black car that looked rather decorous and stately, and it was of a hefty size too. A thick layer of steel plate formed the body of the car. Clearly, this was the latest technology invented by the almighty company.

It was a bullet-proof car with a look that could easily stand out from the crowd. Being all showy and particular had always been the consistent style for the Deity Biomedical Group. Even an average deployment was sent out with an excellent set of equipment.

"Please board our car, Mr. Chu." The young lady opened the door for him. "At your service, sir."

Chu Feng was lost in a daze because of something that had been bothering him ever since Lin Naoi made a call to him.

“Sir?” The young lady wore a warm and friendly smile, calling him gently on the side.

“Oh, I’m sorry. I was just a bit carried away by something I only just remembered. Do you mind heading back to your mistress and tell her that there is an urgent matter that I need to deal with right now? I will join her for lunch by noon,” Chu Feng said to the lady.

The young lady seemed to be at a loss about what to do. “But... but Miss Lin has asked me to make sure that you are picked up.”

Chu Feng hesitated for a moment, but he eventually shook his head, refusing to board the car with her. He assured her that he would arrive for their appointment timely and soundly.

The young lady was in the midst of her feelings of impotence. She wanted to ring up Lin Naoi, but after a while of pondering, she decided to head back first for now, since she knew that her mistress must have been swamped by all sorts of hustling business. Bothering her now would do her no good.

“I hope that it was just me being overly prudent.” Chu Feng watched as the black car drove into the distance.

“Yellow Ox, mind the house!”

Chu Feng set off on his journey to the appointment minutes later. He trudged on a circuitous track hidden in the shadow of the woods of a forest. He did not use the highroad, but his speed allowed him to travel at quite a nimble pace. The briskness in his steps granted him the speed on par with that of the car.

In fact, the high road system had all been impaired ever since the upheavals that wrought the sizeable havoc across the world. Many sections of the road had been disjointed, leaving the drivers to adopt the rugged dirt track beside the damaged paved road. It made travelling by cars hardly a feasible option for many of the commuters on the road.

Chu Feng paced at a speed that he deemed appropriate. His superhuman stamina allowed him to travel at such a great speed for long distance without even a hint of tiredness.

The road became even harder to drive on after half a dozen of miles. The black car slowed down as it laboriously pushed forward.

Suddenly, a deafening rumble sounded in the distance, shattering the dreadful silence in the region. It was an unimaginable scene to behold, but Chu Feng was watching as

the black car that had been leading the way in the distance ahead of him was bombarded with an accurate rocket.

The walloping force coupled with the horrifying sound of the explosion sent the entire car flying. Despite that it was a bullet-proof military-grade vehicle, the sheer power of the bombarding rockets rendered it completely ruined.

Boom!

The black car landed on its top with sparks and smogs discharging at once. The car was now only a pitiful wreckage.

In the distance stood the target of this heartless operation himself, watching as he stood in shock. His face turned ghastly pale. The worst that could be expected happened right in front of him; he anticipated death, but he never foresaw this scene of cold-blooded murder on one's comrade.

"How vicious! How venomous!" Chu Feng furiously cursed with a murderous look. He was lamenting for that young lady who deserved better. He felt guilty too. He became the complicit in the lady's death for failing to save her even as he had foreseen this happening.

Even so, he still could not believe how frenzied and crazed that woman had become. She was nothing but a mad dog, a damnable witch who deserved to be burnt alive!

Then, the firing squad fired another two rounds of bullets and rockets, dooming the lady and the car to their ultimate demise.

The blaring noise of the car's deafening explosion resounded in Chu Feng's ears. He looked calm and composed, but within him, there brewed a storm on the cold horizon of his heart: a storm that promised nothing but winds to level the mightiest of trees to the soil.

"I must kill you!"

The rain was promised, and the wind was unleashed, and there would no more sunshine and roses within his murderous heart.

However, at the same time, he also realized that this might perhaps be a desperate move that the woman had taken as a last resort. She feared that the truth might come to light, and that she would be righteously punished, so she wanted to do away with all those who had witnessed her crime.

"This woman is Lin Naoi's cat's-paw. She knows that I haven't told her about anything that had happened, so she wants me dead before I get to see her."

Chu Feng could tell that his enemy had become desperate. She was now a cornered dog in a dead-end street who would turn and bite at any moment.

Chu Feng's blood ran cold in his veins. He wanted to seek his revenge, even if that meant he would need to kill without reason. He could not bear the thought that some of his enemies would escape scot free.

He felt that his bottomline had been crossed, so now there was no turning back.

In a mansion at the county town.

A man and a woman cuddled together, caressing each other while sipping wine from their delicate goblets. The man laid back leisurely and carefree, but the woman seemed a bit nervous, looking expectant of something.

"Hello? How is everything going?" the woman dialled on her communicator.

"That man is dead. He has become a pile of ash along with the car. Pity him... but I don't think I've seen anyone who matches the description of that "master-hand" whom you'd believed to have been helping him all this time, so our team is still waiting for him to show himself."

This report made the woman even more uneasy.

"Stay focused... Kill him on sight!" Her voice wavered terribly.

"Roger!"

The call ended.

"It's all going to be alright, Wan Qing. What an easy task it is for them to accomplish. Don't panic. Sit," the man calmly said as he took another sip of wine.

The man had a charming countenance. He looked like a gentleman of scholarly bearing. His behavior was gentle and courteous, and his voice was the epitome of grace and charms.

"You always put things that easy, Mu. But what I've done was taboo to say the least. What if Lin Naoi learns about..." Wan Qing's face turned pale.

"Don't worry. Let her know it, so what? Her family isn't the only one in charge of Deity. The family of Mu is also an indispensable part of this empire. Furthermore, you are her best friend and her right hand. In just a few weeks, your sister will be married to her uncle, so what's there to be worried about? Even if she knows it, what will she do? I don't think that even a word of accusation will come out of that timid mouth of hers," the man lightly said.

“Speaking of this, I think I have to remind you that all began because I wanted to help you out. But do you think you can take us out of this sticky situation now?” Wan Qing asked.

“Take it easy, my girl. No one will ever learn about this. Those underlings from Bodhi Genes are clashing with our men in the area where that bratty kid lives, so some accidental casualties of the innocent are expected... We can then blame Bodhi Genes for that kid’s death,” the young man calmly said.

Then, he shook his head. “In fact, I never wanted to kill him. All I want is to teach him a lesson, then we will see how Lin Naoi will react to this. Your dogged resolution to kill him was certainly something I have never expected...”

“How would I know what exactly was on your mind? I heard that you had assigned your men to stir up some troubles for him. Then, I learnt about the past relationship between him and our Lin Naoi, so I decided to lend you a helping hand... but who would have thought that such a simple intent would evolve to such a morass of troublesome business.” Wan Qing was ever so regretful.

One step wrong, everything is wrong. She was bogged down deeper and deeper into the quagmire of troubles, and now she could see no way out of it.

“He is just a shrimp. From what I’ve learnt, there is hardly any chance that he could maintain a meaningful relationship with our Naoi, so I really don’t want any new problems to crop up unexpectedly all thanks to his existence.”

The young man was muted by the woman’s words. “What is done is done. You’ve already killed him, so let it be. What we can do is only to make the best of a bad bargain. So, let’s leave out the mistake uncorrected and make the best out of it.” The man paused as he took another sip of his wine. “But what about the ‘master-hand’? Killing him will resolve this matter once and for all.” A confident smile emerged on the man’s palish face.

“Killing him? Should I remind you that all those I’ve sent forth to kill him were the best of the best, but without any exception, all went missing. So far, I still could not trace their whereabouts, so I can safely say, they all must have met their demise.” Wan Qing frowned, looking ever so worried.

“Unless he is as good as Kong Kim, otherwise, there stands no chance for him to single-handedly deal with all those people we’ve sent in. They will come back one day, trust me.” The man maintained his great composure, still smiling warmly.

“Hope all is well.”

“Don’t worry, my dear. All will be well.”

Silent like a leopard, Chu Feng nimbly darted through the woods. He could feel the level of danger rising minute by minute. This place felt like an open pocket, open just for him to get ambushed.

By instinct, Chu Feng could tell that a deadly ambush had been set up in the proximity of the area. To him, things seemed to have evolved beyond just another assassination attempt. Their target today was not just the car alone, but also someone else.

“You thought that Chu Feng was someone not worthy of your time, didn’t you? You think he is a weakling, or ‘a despicable ordinary’, so you say. You think the man behind him is the muscle behind the brain, so alright, I think it’s time for me to show myself,” Chu Feng viciously said.

Pong!

Soon, he found his first hidden target with his powerful senses. He quietly approached him from behind, then like a strike of lightning, the black blade of his dagger pierced through the air and slit the throat of that oblivious man.

The cruelty of the bloody scene culminated seconds before the man’s death. With only the last bits of consciousness, he turned around in shock and terror. The bloody scene culminated as the dead man turned around in shock and terror, looking at his killer in the eyes before ultimately tumbling into a pool of his own blood.

“I will kill you all. I will kill my way to the county town then back. You asked for a game, so I will give you the game. No one leaves before the game ends.” Chu Feng coldly cursed, “So, let’s lose no time and let the game begin!”