

The Lord 141

Chapter 141: Strange Illness

“How about it? Do you want to come with me?” Zhao Fu looked at the three-person group hug as he asked.

They thought about it, and because they didn't want to be separated, they all nodded. They then ran over to the fainted little beggar and woke him up.

The first thing the little beggar did when he woke up was scream in terror. He instinctively struggled and tried to run away – it was clear how afraid he was of Zhao Fu.

However, when he realized that his older siblings were gathered around him, he was able to gradually calm down.

Afterwards, they told him about submitting to Zhao Fu, and the little beggar nodded, expressing that he was willing to go with them. However, the little beggar's terror towards Zhao Fu did not decrease at all, and he did not dare to look up at the mysterious and terrifying black-cloaked figure.

Following this, Zhao Fu asked them a few questions and learned some more about them. They were not blood siblings. Instead, they were orphans who had relied on each other for survival.

The sickly girl was called Tuoba Qing, the boy twin was called Wu Ling, the girl twin was called Wu Qing, and the little beggar was called Yue Zhongchang.

Because they had submitted to Zhao Fu as their Lord, Zhao Fu could now look at their stats and grades.

What shocked Zhao Fu was that Tuoba Qing was SSS grade, while Wu Ling, Wu Qing, and Yue Zhongchang were A grade. He wasn't surprised that the three younger ones were A grade, but Tuoba Qing, the sickly girl, was actually SSS grade.

Apart from historical heroes like Bai Qi and Wang Jian, this was the first indigenous resident of the Heaven Awaken World that Zhao Fu had met who was SSS grade. Usually, such people were City Lords, which was why Zhao Fu was so dumbfounded.

The population size of main cities was massive, but there were very few people who were S grade or above. And yet, no one had discovered that Tuoba Qing was SSS grade – even someone who was S grade would be very important to the city, let alone someone who was SSS grade. If the government knew about her, they would have definitely taken her and nurtured her greatly.

What's more, when Origins spawned S grade people, there would be a sign, such as a flash of golden light. With her SSS grade, it should have been impossible for Tuoba Qing to be living in poverty.

“Could this be a trap? Or is there a bigger story behind all of this?” With Zhao Fu's wary nature, he couldn't help but consider this because it was simply too surprising that Tuoba Qing was in this situation while being SSS grade.

“Wait...” Zhao Fu realized that it was possible that Tuoba Qing had not been discovered to be SSS grade because she had not been spawned but born normally.

Even though the Heaven Awaken World had Origins and Dens that could spawn people and animals, the indigenous residents of the Heaven Awaken World could still give birth to children themselves, though players could not do so yet.

People who were born in the Heaven Awaken World didn't have any special signs when they were born, and they required a Lord to personally check their grade. It was unlikely for high-grade people to be born in such poor conditions, so the City Lord most likely didn't pay much attention to those areas.

Zhao Fu asked Tuoba Qing about this and confirmed that she was not spawned from an Origin. This allowed Zhao Fu to relax and he couldn't help but feel overjoyed.

Obtaining this SSS grade girl was purely out of sheer luck. However, Zhao Fu still couldn't work out why she was so powerful. The only clue was that there were a few question marks next to her race.

“Let's go!” Zhao Fu said as he looked at the four of them.

The four of them silently walked at Zhao Fu's side. Tuoba Qing no longer seemed as strong, and her face paled even more as she walked unsteadily. Wu Qing supported her as she walked, and seeing how sickly she looked, Zhao Fu couldn't imagine how she had unleashed so much power before.

Seeing this, Zhao Fu gave her a bottle of special healing pills and said, “Take them; they're good for your body.”

Tuoba Qing accepted the bottle, and not just her, but the other three people's attitudes towards Zhao Fu also became more gentle.

Zhao Fu had bought these special healing pills at a high price from a main city, and they contained many precious medicinal ingredients. After taking one, Tuoba Qing's complexion immediately became somewhat ruddier.

Following this, Zhao Fu took the four of them to a clothes shop and said, “All of you, pick some clothes for yourselves.”

Because the four of them were orphans, they survived each day with great difficulty. Eating until they were full was already a luxury, and because it was the first time they had come to such a place, they felt quite apprehensive.

Hearing Zhao Fu's words, their gazes were filled with delight, and they looked at the nice-looking clothes around them. However, their gazes all fell on Tuoba Qing – whenever they made a decision, it was always with Tuoba Qing as the leader.

Tuoba Qing nodded weakly, and only then did the three others happily run around and pick clothes. Seeing how happy her younger siblings seemed, a trace of a smile appeared on Tuoba Qing's face, and she turned to look at Zhao Fu and said weakly, “Thank you!”

Zhao Fu looked at her and replied calmly, “No need to thank me.”

At this moment, Wu Qing brought a few clothes over and said excitedly, "Big sister Qing, I've picked out a few clothes for both of us. Let's go try them out!"

Tuoba Qing shook her head and lightly smiled, saying, "It's okay, just pick a few for me."

"Eh?" Wu Qing said unhappily, "Don't be like this; I've picked them out already, so let's just go and try them on!"

In the end, Tuoba Qing was unable to refuse Wu Qing, and she was dragged by Wu Qing into a changing room. After the two of them changed and appeared before Zhao Fu again, they looked like completely different people.

Tuoba Qing was wearing a white dress, and with her pale complexion and graceful demeanor, she looked like a young miss from a big family. She looked mild, sensible, and weak, making one want to protect her.

Wu Qing was wearing a light green dress that made her look more elegant. Her young face gave off a fresh and clean feeling, and Zhao Fu inadvertently glanced at her chest, making her blush.

After Zhao Fu paid for their clothes, they left the clothing store, and he was about to take them back to the Great Qin Town. Suddenly, Yue Zhongchang's stomach started growling, so Zhao Fu took them to a restaurant. After eating their fill, they finally returned to the Great Qin Town.

Only then did the four of them find out Zhao Fu's true identity, greatly shocking them. The first thing Zhao Fu did was tell Li Si to make arrangements for places for them to stay, while Zhao Fu took Tuoba Qing to Zhang Baishu, the Apothecary, to see what sort of illness she had.

The healing pills that Zhao Fu had given her could treat her injuries, but they could not rid her of her illness. She seemed to have a strange illness, and he learned that around this time every year, she would become incredibly weak and sometimes feel as if she was being burned by fire.

Of course, Zhao Fu did not know much about illnesses, so he took her to Zhang Baishu.

Chapter 142: Refining Spirit Medicine

After carefully examining Tuoba Qing, Zhang Baishu cupped his hands as he said respectfully, "Your Majesty, this isn't an illness but something caused by this young lady's special constitution?"

"Oh?" Zhao Fu said in surprise as he asked, "Can you tell what sort of constitution she has?"

Zhang Baishu shook his head and replied, "Your Majesty, this young lady's constitution is simply too special, and I'm unable to determine anything about it. However, I know the causes of some of her symptoms and some methods for handling them."

Zhao Fu was slightly disappointed, as he thought that Zhang Baishu would know what her strange constitution was. However, it was good enough that he knew what to do about it, so Zhao Fu asked him about what could be done.

Zhang Baishu explained, "This young lady is like this because she will go through a transformation every year, which requires sustenance from a large amount of Blood-Refining Spirit Medicine. Without Blood-Refining Spirit Medicines, this young lady will be wracked with pain and weakness, but if she has Blood-Refining Spirit Medicines to help her complete the transformation, there will be no problems."

After hearing Zhang Baishu's explanation, Zhao Fu understood. He asked what Blood-Refining Spirit Medicines were, and Zhang Baishu explained that they were blood-type spirit medicines, such as Blood Ginseng, Blood Reishi Mushroom, Blood Fleeceflower Root, etc. They could help transform one's blood and even refine one's blood.

Zhao Fu currently did not have any Blood-Refining Spirit Medicines, so he ordered his people to go to the main cities to buy some.

Lying on a bed, Tuoba Qing felt quite apologetic as she looked at Zhao Fu. She had not done anything for him, yet she had already brought him so much trouble. When she heard Zhang Baishu's explanation of Blood Refining Spirit Medicines, she felt that they were definitely more expensive than normal spirit medicines, which were already quite expensive. What's more, the amount that she needed was great, so it would be an astronomical sum.

Tuoba Qing didn't want to cause Zhao Fu so much trouble, nor did she want him to give her so much for nothing in return. Because she had no way of repaying him, she said weakly, "Your Majesty, it's fine; I'll be alright after enduring it, so there's no need to waste so much medicine on me!"

Zhao Fu lightly smiled and gave her a reassuring look.

After returning to the Great Qin Town, Zhao Fu no longer wore his black cloak, reducing the feeling of mysteriousness and iciness that had been around him and making him seem more approachable and gentle.

Zhao Fu said, "Don't worry! To me, those Blood-Refining Spirit Medicine aren't much, and since you've joined me, I'll take responsibility for you."

Tuoba Qing felt quite moved. Even though she acted like she was mature, she was still a 17-year-old girl and weak inside. She had suffered a lot of coldness and cruelty since she was young, things that she should not have endured at such an age.

Hearing Zhao Fu's promise to her, she felt quite touched and decided to treat Zhao Fu sincerely from now on.

Seeing Tuoba Qing tear up, Zhao Fu couldn't help but pat her head. He somewhat saw himself in her – after his mother had passed away, he had survived in pain by himself.

Tuoba Qing blushed, feeling quite embarrassed. Zhao Fu realized that he had been a bit rude, and an awkward look appeared on his face as he withdrew his hand. After his people returned with the medicine, he ordered them to prepare the Blood-Refining Spirit Medicines in the way Zhang Baishu had instructed and to feed it to Tuoba Qing.

After drinking a bowl of the medicinal soup, Tuoba Qing's face became ruddier and did not look as pained. It seemed that Zhang Baishu's methods were quite effective, and seeing this, Zhao Fu told Tuoba Qing to lie down and rest.

Following this, Zhao Fu left the Apothecary Shop and went to the Black Forest Horse Den. Right now, Little Black and Little Grey were playing around while Little White was lazily lying on one side watching the other two play. When the three animals saw that Zhou Fu had arrived, they all looked incredibly delighted – recently, Zhao Fu hadn't spent much time with them.

Zhao Fu came over and rubbed their heads with his hand before taking out the Horse Jade Soul. He chose to use it, and it let out a brilliant jade light before flying out of his hand and turning into a majestic large horse. It loudly whinnied before leaping towards the horse statue floating above the Den and entering it.

At that moment, the Black Forest Horse Den started to change. No matter if it was the horse statue or the round stage on the ground, they both acquired a jade sheen and looked like they were made of pure jade.

At the same time, Zhao Fu found that the Black Forests Horses' strength, which was around Stage 0-3 to 0-5, had risen to Stage 0-5 to 0-7. This was quite a big change, and if Zhao Fu had more Jade Horse Souls, he would be able to raise the average Black Forest Horse's strength to Stage 1.

Stage 1 soldiers with Stage 1 warhorses wasn't as simple as just 1+1. They would be able to face off or even overpower a normal Stage 2 soldier and could suppress normal Cavalry.

Zhao Fu was quite satisfied with the Horse Jade Soul's effects, and he couldn't help but wonder how Leng Wu had obtained it. He decided to head to Red Plum Plains, and because of the matter with Tuoba Qing, he had delayed his original plans and had not yet bought properties at the other two main cities. As such, he started to take care of those matters.

At this moment, Bai Qi was leading 5,000 soldiers and 3,000 Skeletons to explore the region outside of the Great Qin Town. They were slowly advancing when some of the scouts had discovered an Advanced Village ahead.

Zhao Fu had handed military matters completely to Bai Qi, and because Bai Qi had the ability to take down Advanced Villages, Zhao Fu normally did not take part in such matters anymore. After all, it was Bai Qi who had taught Zhao Fu most of his military tactics.

After carefully advancing for a while, Bai Qi reached his destination. The Advanced Village was different than the ones they had found before – it was not a normal Human Village or an Outlander Village but an Ancient Fallen Clan Village.

The village and its villagers looked like a minority group, and they looked quite rough and wore colorful clothing. The style was quite different compared to the clothes that people normally expected ancient people to wear.

This was an Advanced Village of the Xianbei Clan!

The Xianbei Clan was a clan that had appeared quite early on, and it was subjugated by the Xiongnu people in the beginning. However, as the Xiongnu Clan fell, the Xianbei Clan started to rise in power, and it truly shined in the Wei, Jin, and the Southern and Northern Dynasties. They created many states but started to go into decline due to a dramatic integration policy. Instead of making the country easier to govern, it shattered its governing power, and the Xianbei Clan disappeared into history.

Chapter 143: Xianbei

Most of these people's bodies were fairly tall and sturdy, and they all looked quite arrogant and obstinate. They were filled with a primal sense that was in stark contrast with the Confucian teachings that were promulgated in China.

While Bai Qi was observing them, he found out the strengths and weaknesses of the village. In terms of strength, their fighting power was slightly greater than that of a normal person's, and they would be very good soldiers in battlefields. However, those who worshipped fighting power would often be impulsive and reckless.

Bai Qi could also tell some evident weaknesses. Not only were their defenses quite lacking, but their management was also chaotic.

There were roughly 9,000 or so villagers in Xianbei Village, yet it would be no problem for Bai Qi and his 5,000 soldiers and 3,000 Skeletons to destroy them. The key consideration was reducing his casualties while maximizing his gains, which would be population. Bai Qi knew that the main purpose of the exploration teams, apart from searching for resources, was to increase the population, so Bai Qi would always operate according to Zhao Fu's principles.

However, Bai Qi was often quicker and more efficient than Zhao Fu, and he already had a plan. Most of the minority clans in history were nomadic clans – they did not do much farming, and they instead bred livestock. However, this was different in the Heaven Awaken World, as they still had livestock but started to do some farming.

This had to do with the geography of the land. If they were in a plains biome, the Xianbei people would have mainly focused on breeding livestock and moving from place to place. However, because they were in a forest, they were unable to breed and move around large numbers of cattle and sheep.

However, they still had a lot of livestock: there were roughly 2,000 cattle, 4,000 deer, and 5,000 sheep. Bai Qi planned to take advantage of this.

This time, Bai Qi had with him five Generals. He sent a chain of orders down and waited until it was dark.

The Xianbei people carried about their business as usual and did not notice anything strange. Time gradually passed, and soon, the sun descended behind a mountain. When the sunset cast a golden light on the village, it made the place seem even more exotic.

The Chief here was a coarse and violent fellow. He was quite strong, and within a clan that valued strength, the strongest would always be the leader, regardless of his or her management skills.

This man was called Lou Ruo, and he was a very strong and domineering man. His personality was quite cruel, and he executed people who committed even the slightest wrongs. Moreover, he liked to use cruel methods to torture people.

From a modern perspective, he would be an evil dictator, but there were still many people who submitted to him because in this world, the strong could do anything that they wanted. These people were not bound by morals or ethics, and they were quite similar to Orcs and Goblins.

It was now dinnertime, and the Xianbei people mainly ate meat for their diet with some other foods as sub-parts of their diet. They cooked whole pots of delicious meat, and because Bai Qi's soldiers couldn't light any fires so that they wouldn't give themselves away, they only ate some dried food.

Time continued to pass, and soon, it was midnight. Now that it was quite dark and most people had fallen asleep, it was time to carry out their plan!

First were the 3,000 Skeletons. No matter if it was in the east or the west, animals were sensitive towards monsters, and they would be terrified of them.

Xianbei Village's livestock were in the northern part of the village, and when a large number of Skeletons drew close, the cattle and sheep started to become restless. The aura of death became denser and denser, causing the cattle and sheep to fearfully moo and bleat, and they started to charge at the fences around them.

At this moment, some people realized that something was off, and when they saw a large number of Skeletons approaching from the north, they yelled, "Enemy attack! Enemy attack! Enemy attack!"

Countless Xianbei people were woken up from their sleep, but by now, the 3,000 Skeletons, who were led by the 10 King's Undead Cavalrymen, had already reached the northern side of the village. Luckily, the Skeletons summoned by the King's Undead Cavalry were not much weaker than when they were alive, or it would have taken them much longer to arrive.

Because the Xianbei people relied on their livestock for most of their food, the livestock area was heavily guarded.

As the 10 King's Undead Cavalrymen brought the 3,000 Skeletons charging over, even though the Xianbei people didn't understand why there were so many Undead attacking their village, they still ran out to meet them in battle.

Riding atop their large skeleton horses, the King's Undead Cavalry charged, forcefully tearing open up a gap in the wooden fences. Following this, a countless number of Skeletons flooded in from the gap, and many Xianbei soldiers ran over to stop them.

At this moment, the Chief of the Xianbei Village, Lou Ruo, sat up from his bed, and there were a few naked women lying beside him. He coarsely pushed them away, and hearing the sounds of fighting from the northern area of the village, he put on his clothes and walked out.

At this moment, someone came to report, "Chief, there are around 3,000 Skeletons attacking us from the north. The situation is quite dire, and they're much more powerful than normal Skeletons."

Lou Ruo frowned, and a look of fury on his face appeared as he prepared to go and see what was going on.

"Roarrrr!!!" the King's Undead Cavalry unleashed massive roars. The livestock, which were already going mad with fear, seemed to completely lose control. They broke through the fences and started to run in terror.

Some rushed towards buildings, while others rushed towards people. As the livestock started to go mad, Xianbei Village descended into chaos.

The livestock were future food for the village, and they could not be lost. Seeing this, Lou Ruo yelled, "Hurry and control the livestock!!"

Bai Qi had chosen to attack the livestock area to cause chaos.

Now, the Xianbei people had to split their forces between defending the Skeletons and controlling the crazed livestock. Sheep and deer were not too difficult to subdue, but crazed cattle were not easy to bring under control. If someone was rammed by a cow running at full speed, even if the person didn't die, he or she would be heavily injured.

And yet, this was only the beginning of Bai Qi's plan!

Very soon, Doke and the other Generals led 4,000 soldiers to attack the eastern side of the village. Xianbei Village was already in extreme chaos, and they were spread incredibly thin. This attack was like a sharp blade that stabbed into the village, and it was incredibly difficult to defend against.

Hearing about this new attack, Lou Ruo had to order his people to disregard the livestock and face the new enemies. Soon, the two sides clashed and started to battle.

Suddenly, a group of 800 armored Cavalrymen charged in from the western side of the village with unstoppable momentum, coming behind Lou Ruo without being stopped at all.

The Cavalry was led by 100 Cavalrymen wielding longswords – they were abnormally powerful, and their swords gave off rays of sword light. Combined together, those 100 soldiers seemed like a massive godly sword that could shred iron like dirt, and they stabbed into the rear of Lou Ruo's army. They were Bai Qi's Unique Military Profession, the Iron Eagle Elite Soldiers. ~~~~

Chapter 144: Clothed Divine General

The Cavalry charged through, pinching the Xianbei army from behind. With the chaos from the livestock and the difference in morale, stats, and equipment, the Xianbei army was destined to lose.

Seeing the devastated state of the village, Lou Ruo furiously hacked a few soldiers who were rushing at him to death. His fighting power was indeed quite powerful, and Doke gripped his spear, preparing to engage him in battle.

Bai Qi was wearing a set of white clothes and had a blood-red sword at his side. He rode on a large Black Forest Horse and calmly looked at the battle. There was slaughter everywhere, and even though the Xianbei soldiers were quite courageous, they were unable to fight back at all, and some even started to run away in desperation.

In the end, Bai Qi's gaze fell on Lou Ruo, and when he saw that Doke was going to start fighting him, Bai Qi said, "Doke, fall back."

The battle had more or less been decided, and in order to preserve as many soldiers as possible, he had to finish this battle as quickly as possible. As such, Bai Qi decided to personally act.

Bai Qi drew the Seven Murders Sword at his side and lightly tapped his warhorse with his feet. Upon doing this, the warhorse shot forwards like a black blur.

Lou Ruo could tell that Bai Qi was the Commander here – if he was able to kill him, it would be possible for him to save the village. As such, he loudly roared and raised his large saber as he rushed at Bai Qi.

However, he had overestimated himself and underestimated Bai Qi. How could he be a match for Bai Qi, who had Stage 1 cultivation and now had the Seven Murders Sword? The instant that they clashed, the battle was decided.

A blood-colored sword light flashed as a head flew into the air. Riding on his tall warhorse, Bai Qi sped past Lou Ruo in an instant – Lou Ruo had not been able to receive even a single strike from Bai Qi.

After killing Lou Ruo, the light that the blood-red star in the sky gave off became slightly denser.

By now, Bai Qi had reached the center of the battlefield. Seeing the chaos, fighting, and blood around him, he slowly raised the Seven Murders Sword in his hand as he yelled softly, “Soldier Aura Formation!”

All of the Great Qin soldiers’ bodies released blood-red, somewhat metallic-looking auras that gathered towards Bai Qi.

“Skreeeeee!” Suddenly, a bird’s cry that seemed to be able to pierce through rocks and metals and shake the sky sounded out in the surrounding 10-kilometer radius area.

A massive blood-red eagle appeared in the sky. Its gaze was incredibly sharp, and its claws glinted with a cold light. The massive icy and bloodthirsty aura that it gave off seemed to be able to flip mountains and overturn seas and suppress everything!

The Xianbei soldiers had lost their will to fight after Lou Ruo had died, and facing this terrifying aura, their courage and fighting spirit were completely shattered. They immediately threw down their weapons and knelt on the ground, choosing to surrender.

Bai Qi, wearing his white clothes, rode on his Black Forest Horse in the midst of the blood and corpses. The remaining Xianbei people all kneeled around him, and adding on the massive blood-red eagle flying above him, Bai Qi looked like a god who had descended from the heavens.

From then onwards, the legend of a white-clothed divine general started to spread!

After the Xianbei people surrendered, the situation was pacified quite quickly.

Doke quickly went through the numbers and reported, “Commander Bai, because we were able to conclude the battle and gain control of the situation quite quickly, we’ve subdued 7,356 Xianbei people. Most of the livestock ran off, but there are still about 20% remaining. We’ve also obtained 360,000 silver coins, and we did not suffer many losses: 68 people received light injuries, 3 people received heavy injuries, and no one died. The Skeletons fought the main force of the Xianbei people, and we lost about 500 of them.

Hearing Doke’s report, Bai Qi nodded. His battle tactics were quick, simple, and violent, but the disadvantage was that they also caused many casualties.

Because the Great Qin soldiers were superior in terms of equipment, cultivation, stats, and battle tactics, there were no casualties this time, while only 500 Skeletons were lost. This was not a big deal because they were summoned by the King’s Undead Cavalry from corpses, and their numbers could be replaced using the Xianbei people’s corpses.

The outcome of the battle satisfied Bai Qi. As such, he wasn't stingy, and he split the money amongst the soldiers and slaughtered some cattle and sheep to have a great feast to celebrate their victory.

Following this, Bai Qi went to the Barracks and found that there were three Profession Change Stone Steles:

[Xianbei Soldier]: E- grade Military, Description: Soldiers of the Xianbei Clan, Effect: Receives skill [Xianbei Saber Technique].

[Xianbei Archer]: E- grade Military, Description: Archers of the Xianbei Clan, Effect: Receives skill [Xianbei Archery Technique].

[Xianbei Shieldbearer]: E- grade Military, Description: Shieldbearers of the Xianbei Clan, Effect: Receives skill [Shieldbearing].

There was nothing special about these military professions, and they were only slightly weaker than Great Qin's basic soldiers. However, they were slightly better than the military professions from the legacies of smaller families.

Following this, Bai Qi went to the Village Hall. There was a silver cube floating in the air, and it was a Silver grade City Heart. Bai Qi put his hand on it and just as he was about to conquer it, he received a chain of system announcements.

"Would you like to conquer the Ancient Fallen Clan – Xianbei Village?"

"System announcement! Your faction is part of the Chinese Clan and has unlocked Nation Fate. Conquering this village will bring many benefits!"

"1. Great Qin's Fate will fuse with a trace of Xianbei's Fate!"

"2. The more Xianbei's Fate is fused, the more favorable the Xianbei Clan will be towards your people. They may no longer see you as enemies and even fully submit."

"3. You will obtain the Xianbei Tear, which can be fused into items or used to summon people from the Xianbei Clan."

Bai Qi was quite surprised that there were so many benefits from conquering this village. As such, he chose to conquer it and [Relocate] it. Following this, the basic structures of Xianbei Village disappeared as the other structures were all destroyed.

Finally, the cube in the air slowly floated into Bai Qi's hand, and a tear-shaped item also descended – this was most likely the Xianbei Tear.

Zhao Fu, who was busy opening restaurants, also received some system announcements.

"Congratulations, your subordinate Bai Qi has conquered an Ancient Fallen Village – Xianbei. Great Qin's Fate has fused with a trace of Xianbei's Fate!"

"Congratulations, your subordinate Bai Qi has conquered an Advanced Xianbei Village. With the King's Ring's bonus, you have obtained 400 Achievement Points!"

“Congratulations, your subordinate Bai Qi has relocated an Advanced Xianbei Village. With the King’s Ring’s bonus, the Great Qin Town has obtained 41,000 EXP!”

“Xianbei?” When he heard these system announcements, he was quite shocked, but he also felt quite delighted. Conquering Ancient Fallen Villages could increase his Fate, and he had also obtained 400 Achievement Points and 41,000 EXP. He was now one-fifth of the way to leveling up to an Intermediate Town.

Chapter 145: Xianbei Tear

After receiving so much EXP after conquering this Advanced Village, the Great Qin Town would most likely level up after conquering a few more of them. However, it was a pity that Advanced Villages were quite rare, and finding a single one was already quite lucky. Most of the villages that they found were Basic Villages, then Intermediate Villages, and finally Advanced Villages.

As for Towns, even if every region was as big as an entire province in the real world, there would be less than 160 Towns in a region.

After going through all of the system announcements in his mind, Zhao Fu focused his mind on taking care of the restaurants again.

Back at Xianbei Village, Bai Qi looked up at the tear-like object descending from the sky, the Xianbei Tear. He caught it and looked at its description with a curious expression on his face.

[Xianbei Tear]: The heavens pitied the Ancient Fallen Clans, allowing them to appear in the Heaven Awaken World. This is their final chance, and it is their final fate. Now that their village has been conquered, their fates have been decided. Because Xianbei Village was conquered, it means that its fate has been fused or devoured, and the item created, the Xianbei Tear, symbolizes the grief of the clan.

Effect: Can be fused into items or can summon people. 100 Xianbei Tears can fuse into a Gold grade item or summon an S grade Xianbei person; 1,000 Xianbei Tears can fuse into a Legendary grade item or summon an SS grade person; 10,000 Xianbei Tears can fuse into an Epic grade item or can summon an SSS grade Xianbei person. Xianbei tears cannot fuse any further than 10,000 Xianbei Tears.

After looking at the Xianbei Tear’s information, Bai Qi put it in his spatial ring and decided to give it to Zhao Fu when he returned. He felt that Xianbei Tears weren’t very useful – after all, they had to conquer 100 Xianbei Villages before they could even fuse a Gold grade item or summon an S grade person.

This showed that Xianbei Tears weren’t very valuable. Just those 100 villages alone would be worth tens of times more than those 100 Xianbei Tears.

It was only the Epic grade item or SSS grade person that was somewhat attractive, but they required too many Xianbei Tears – 10,000 in total. That meant that they needed to conquer 10,000 Xianbei Villages.

This would be incredibly difficult, and it was simply impossible at this point in time. As such, Bai Qi decided that the Xianbei Tears wouldn’t be very useful, as it would be incredibly difficult to gather them and would only be useful at later stages.

The greatest gains this time were the 7,000 or so people. Zhao Fu had told Bai Qi about the Qin Resistance Alliance, which was quite dangerous, especially the School of Vertical and Horizontal. As someone who had lived during the period of the Hundred Schools of Thought, Bai Qi knew how terrifying those people were.

The current generation of the Vertical branch had shown its intent, and it was unknown if the Horizontal branch condoned this behavior. Now, Great Qin had to rapidly develop to face any future threats.

After taking a short rest, Bai Qi brought the 7,000 captives back to the Great Qin Town. After all, with so many captives, it would be difficult for them to do any more exploring.

After taking care of the matters in Red Plum Plains, Zhao Fu returned to the Great Qin Town at the end of the day.

The second day, Zhao Fu went to the Apothecary Shop and saw that after a day of resting, Tuoba Qing had completely recovered. Her complexion was ruddy and did not look weak or sickly at all. The Blood-Refining Spirit Medicines she had taken yesterday had been very effective.

However, this was only temporarily. If she lacked spirit medicines, her body would become weak again. However, with Zhao Fu looking after her now, there was not much to worry about.

Right now, Tuoba Qing had been reunited with Wu Ling, Wu Qing, and Yue Zhongchang, all of whom were incredibly happy that Tuoba Qing had recovered.

Seeing Zhao Fu walk in, they all felt incredibly grateful and somewhat awkwardly paid their respects to him. Now that they were living in Great Qin, they had to learn the rules of etiquette. Because they weren't used to it, their movements seemed quite awkward.

Seeing the four of them, Zhao Fu lightly smiled and nodded as he said, "Come with me!"

The four youths had no idea why Zhao Fu had come to find them, so they could only curiously follow behind Zhao Fu. They went through a teleportation channel, leaving the Great Qin Town, and arrived elsewhere.

There were many Ratfolk standing guard here, and it was the first time that the youths had seen so many Ratfolk, making them quite nervous. After all, Humans and Outlanders were normally quite antagonistic towards each other, so they couldn't help but feel a bit apprehensive upon seeing so many Ratfolk.

However, when they saw how respectful the Ratfolk were towards Zhao Fu, they slowly grew less scared of them. Following this, the four of them went with Zhao Fu to a large hall. There was nothing within it except a stone stele.

"Place your hands on it and see if you can change your profession," Zhao Fu said.

The four youths nodded and placed their hands on the stone stele, following which their bodies flashed with light.

Seeing this, Zhao Fu felt quite excited – from the beginning, Zhao Fu had wanted to develop them as Assassins. After all, they were agile and quite suited to this profession, so he decided to bring them to see if they could receive the acknowledgment of the stone stele.

Since they had received the acknowledgment of the Assassin Profession Change Stone Stele, they had the potential to become Assassins. As for the trial to kill Underworld Demons, Zhao Fu decided to have them wait for a while. Their cultivations were quite low, and it would be quite difficult for them to kill the Underworld Demons.

As such, Zhao Fu did not allow them to go on, but he was quite confident in their strength and potential. This was especially so for Tuoba Qing.

Following this, Zhao Fu took out the remaining seven Assassin equipment sets. They were all equipment sets that would become more powerful as their owners became more powerful, and Zhao Fu, with his Assassin Lord's Ring, would be able to draw more power from them. Thus, he wanted to find owners for them as soon as possible.

Zhao Fu briefly explained the uses and effects of the Assassin equipment sets, and from how valuable the equipment sets were, the four youths could tell how much Zhao Fu valued them. They were incredibly excited and grateful, and all of them had their own thoughts. For example, Wu Ling silently vowed that when he became strong, he would definitely repay Zhao Fu.

Tuoba Qing's heart felt quite warm, and she felt that she would never be able to repay Zhao Fu in her lifetime.

As for Wu Qing, she thought that perhaps that it was because Zhao Fu wanted her body that he was treating her so well.

As for Yue Zhongchang, he would do whatever Zhao Fu told him to do. The shadow that Zhao Fu had left in his young heart was simply too terrifying.

After placing those seven equipment sets in front of the youths, they all closed their eyes and used their hearts to sense them, choosing one that was suitable for them. In the end, they chose the Void Equipment Set, Light Equipment Set, Blood Equipment Set, and Terror Equipment Set.

Chapter 146: Blood Equipment Set

Wu Ling chose the Void Equipment Set, which gave him Void Power. Void Power nullified most attacks and could cause his body to vanish, which would allow him to carry out dangerous assassinations.

Wu Qing chose the Light Equipment Set, which had some Light element skills. One would think that Light element skills did not suit an Assassin, but they could be used to bend light, reflect light, and scatter light, aiding one's assassination skills, and it could even be used for healing.

Yue Zhongchang chose the Terror Equipment Set, which had a mental-type legacy, and its skills were used to strike fear into enemies during the day and terror at night, making it so that they could not sleep. This would slowly torture and torment the enemy, making it easier to assassinate them.

Tuoba Qing, who Zhao Fu valued the most, chose the Blood Equipment Set, which gave the owner a type of Blood Power. It could use one's blood to recover and kill, and as long as some of one's blood remained, one would always be in a half-unkillable state. It was quite an exceptional power.

In the end, out of the 12 Assassin equipment sets, only the War, Kill, and Battle Equipment Sets were left. They were all as powerful as the Blood Equipment Set, so it would most likely be more difficult to find suitable owners for them.

However, this was already quite good: 9 of the Assassin equipment sets now had owners, and Tuoba Qing had chosen the powerful Blood Equipment Set. Zhao Fu eagerly anticipated her growth – after all, she was SSS grade like Bai Qi and had outstanding potential.

Following this, Zhao Fu took the four of them back to the Great Qin Town and told them to get used to their new powers while raising their cultivation. When he had any spare S grade Orbs, he would give them to Wu Ling, Wu Qing, and Yue Zhongchang.

Following this, Bai Qi and the exploration team returned to the Great Qin Town, and he reported the matter about Xianbei Village to Zhao Fu.

Hearing this, Zhao Fu was quite delighted – with these 7,000 captives, Great Qin’s overall population was now a bit more than 46,000, and they were slowly growing to a size that could rival a main city.

At the same time, Bai Qi handed the Xianbei Tear to Zhao Fu, and after looking at the Xianbei Tear, Zhao Fu also felt that it was not very useful and put it inside his King’s Ring.

At this moment, Li Si brought a few Xianbei elders and beautiful young women into the room. He paid his respects to Zhao Fu before saying, “Your Majesty, these people requested to see you.”

Zhao Fu nodded and looked towards the elders and the beautiful young women.

At this moment, the group of people kneeled down and spoke in a language that Zhao Fu could not understand. However, because they had submitted to him, he could understand their intent.

Their words were along the lines of, “_Respected Majesty, we have completely submitted to you and will live under your glorious light in the future. We would like to present our most beautiful women to serve you; please accept them._”

Zhao Fu understood that most minority clans would offer their most beautiful women to those who conquered them. After all, they lived in a world where the strong devoured the weak, and their traditions and culture were different to those of the modern day.

Zhao Fu wanted to refuse because he already had a few female attendants, and he did not want too many people trying to serve him. However, when the elders saw Zhao Fu hesitate and frown, their faces paled – in their eyes, if Zhao Fu did not accept, it would mean that the Xianbei people’s lives would be tough from now on.

Li Si could understand what Zhao Fu was thinking, so he advised him, “Your Majesty, it’s best that you accept them to put the Xianbei people at ease.”

Zhao Fu thought about it and nodded to show that he accepted the Xianbei women. Smiles broke out on the Xianbei elders’ faces, and the Xianbei group left with Li Si.

Following this, Zhao Fu continued to talk with Bai Qi. Bai Qi would continue to lead the army and explore outside of Great Qin’s territory, while Zhao Fu would go to Battle City, as the restaurant and Merchant Alliance had formally opened.

The restaurant's business was very good, and it did as well as the one in Holy Light City.

Just as the restaurant opened, the various factions in Little Valley started to become wary, and they were particularly worried because the restaurant was opened by an unknown faction. They sent people to find information about the restaurant, but they were unable to find anything.

Most players were incredibly jealous of the restaurant's success, but because their status wasn't high enough, they could only watch. Soon, as time passed, they would also be able to raise their statuses to Baron.

Soon, Zhao Fu's advantage of being a Baron would no longer be an advantage, as most people would soon become Barons. However, being able to open up a path to another region every three days was already quite good, and Zhao Fu was currently the only one who could do such a thing.

Moreover, in terms of businesses, his greatest advantage was not the restaurants but the Merchant Alliance.

Recently, many people had seen quite a few new and interesting things being sold on the streets. They were all things that the region did not have, which attracted not only many indigenous residents but also players as well.

Now, the Merchant Alliance was starting to become a massive profit-generator by buying and selling goods.

For example, Zhao Fu would sell his Black Forest Fruits at Little Valley, and many people were incredibly curious upon seeing them and would ask, "Shop owner, what is this fruit? What does it taste like?"

The person in charge of selling the Black Forest Fruits replied, "These are Black Forest Fruits from the Forest of Horrors; you can't find them anywhere in Little Valley."

Just the rarity of this fruit caused many people to buy it. They knew that the Forest of Horrors was a neighboring region, and it was the first time that they had seen something from another region. Could it be that someone had passed the boundary? Everyone was quite surprised.

The person in charge of selling the Black Forest Fruits laughed and said that he was only responsible for selling the fruits and did not know anything else. Because he didn't know, people didn't continue to ask. They looked at the Black Forest Fruits and asked, "Shop owner, how much are these Black Forest Fruits? I want two to try."

The person picked up two Black Forest Fruits and handed them to the person, saying, "Two copper coins for one. Since it's our first day, I'll give you a discount of three copper coins."

"What?"

Everyone felt incredibly shocked. Because of how rare this fruit was, they thought that it would be exorbitantly priced. However, it was only two copper coins for one – all of them had expected at least 10 or so copper coins.

Zhao Fu did not charge high prices for these normal goods. Instead, he decided to earn a small profit on each one but sell a massive amount of them. Because of how plentiful they were in the Forest of

Horrors, he did not have to worry about running out of stock, so he decided to generate profit by selling a lot of them.

In the Forest of Horrors, they could buy three Black Forest Fruits for one copper coin, so selling one for two copper coins in Little Valley already increased their profits by many times.

Chapter 147: Sword Genius

That was only one of the various businesses run by the Merchant Alliance. Apart from selling specialty foods from each region, it also sold clothes, medicinal grasses, and other materials from different regions.

If the establishment of restaurants caused the various factions to start feeling wary, the establishment of the Merchant Alliance made them feel an extremely grave sense of danger, as the Merchant Alliance's profits would be massive. It wasn't just the various factions that placed their attention on it, but even the system's governmental factions took it seriously.

Countless gazes fell on the Drizzle Merchant Alliance, but it ignored all of these gazes and continued to make money in a low-profile way. It didn't show any signs of danger and acted merely as a businessperson. It even gave the various factions some discounts.

This surprised and delighted the factions. With the Merchant Alliance bringing them benefits, they no longer felt as tense about the Merchant Alliance, and the relationship between the Merchant alliance and the various factions became more amicable. This was exactly what Zhao Fu had wanted. After all, a businessperson had to show that he or she was harmless and would be beneficial to everyone in order to do well.

However, the various factions couldn't help but try to guess who the Drizzle Merchant Alliance belonged to, but they were unable to find any information, nor could they make any precise guesses. They just had to accept that the mysterious Merchant Alliance couldn't be offended and was best kept on good terms.

Zhao Fu was quite pleased with the Drizzle Merchant Alliance. It now spanned the Forest of Horrors, Little Valley, Hundred Bamboo, and Red Plum Plains. In order to fool others, he set the headquarters of the Drizzle Merchant Alliance at Little Valley, while the true headquarters was at the Great Qin Town.

Now, the Merchant Alliance and restaurants in each region earned a bit more than 7,000 gold coins per day. 7,000 gold coins did not seem like much, but the four regions added up to over 28,000 gold coins per day, which was 280 million copper coins or \$2.8 billion in the real world. And that was only for one day.

As Zhao Fu opened up more and more regions, the profits would be greater and greater. With so much money, Zhao Fu bought all of the energy crystals in all of the main cities, spending 10,000 gold coins to buy 1,000 energy crystals.

Zhao Fu had kept the God-Refining Plan in his heart this entire time, and even though he now had the energy crystals required, he still couldn't carry out the plan because he was still lacking a few important things. Zhao Fu still hadn't finished preparing some matters and finding some things, so even though he

had the energy crystals, he couldn't carry out the plan just yet. He would only be able to start it after finding the thing that he needed.

After checking on the Merchant Alliance, Zhao Fu went to Battle City and went to the Arena to see Ge Nia.

Zhao Fu found that Ge Nia had become one of the most prominent fighters in Battle City. Now, anyone who had not heard of Sword Demon was definitely not from Battle City.

Every time Ge Nia fought, the Arena was completely packed, with most of the people there to watch him fight. It was clear how popular he was.

These people liked Ge Nia because they liked to watch him execute people with a cultivation level above his, and they were completely astonished by his superb sword skills. They were also completely stunned by his talent, going through Stage 0 to Stage 0-4 in just a short period of time.

Both the player factions and governmental factions set their eyes on him, and they extended many generous offers to persuade him to join them. However, they were all refused.

Countless people started to investigate Ge Nia. They wanted to know his true identity, where he came from, and what faction he belonged to, but they couldn't find anything. The only thing that they knew was that he was brought by a mysterious, black-cloaked figure to the Arena one bright morning, which started his legend.

After 50 or so battles, not a single person had been able to force Ge Nia to take off his cloak, and no one had seen the true appearance of Sword Demon.

This made Ge Nia even more mysterious, and there was even a rumor that no one knew what Sword Demon looked like, as those who had ever seen his appearance had all died!

Zhao Fu couldn't help but smile when he heard those rumors. He went to the big man in charge of registrations, and by now, he had found out that the man was called Zheng Li. Zhao Fu walked over and said, "Brother Zheng! How have you been recently?"

Hearing that voice, Zheng Li turned and saw that it was Zhao Fu, making him feel quite delighted. He smiled as he replied, "So it's brother Zhao! Here, please take a seat. Sword Demon will be fighting next."

Zheng Li gave Zhao Fu a VIP seat in the Arena, and Zheng Li's attitude towards Zhao Fu was extremely good. This was because to everyone else, everyone thought that Zheng Li had discovered Sword Demon. As Ge Nia's status rose in the Arena, so did Zheng Li's.

Only Zheng Li knew that it was because he had been lucky. He had luckily been in charge of registrations that day, and Zhao Fu had insisted that Ge Nia compete. Otherwise, he really wouldn't have discovered Ge Nia, a sword genius.

Zhao Fu sat down – he had come specifically to see Ge Nia's progress. Following this, Ge Nia walked onto the stage, still wearing his black cloak, but his aura was colder and more powerful.

As he walked into the Arena, countless people cheered his name, making the scene seem incredibly lively.

What surprised Zhao Fu was Ge Nia's opponent. It was a large, burly man who was wearing clothes made of beast fur and had a large beard. It seemed that he was a Xiongnu person.

"Those from the minority clans can enter the system's main cities? Or was this person captured and brought here?"

The man piqued Zhao Fu's interest. Historically, the Xiongnu people had some enmity with Great Qin, and it could be said that they were a powerful enemy. As such, Zhao Fu asked Zheng Li about the appearance of the minority clans in the system's main cities.

It turned out that in order to increase the number of people in the Arenas, the City Lord of Battle City had allowed the Ancient Fallen Clans, or minority clans, and Outlanders to enter the city.

It seemed that governmental policies really did wildly differ from region to region. Player factions were usually weaker than minority clans and Outlanders, but with the system's main cities supporting player factions and trading with them, player factions were able to become much more powerful. This included purchasing good equipment, recovery items, and support items. However, since player factions did not have this advantage in Battle City, they were in quite a precarious situation.

Zhao Fu turned his attention to the fight. Facing Ge Nia, the Xiongnu person felt an indescribable sense of contempt, and he raised the scimitar in his hand and rushed towards Ge Nia, seeming incredibly ferocious. Ge Nia knew that the person in front of him was a Xiongnu person, and he did not hold back either.

The battle concluded very quickly. In just an instant, the Xiongnu person fell to the ground and Ge Nia left the stage amidst wild cheering. Zhao Fu could tell that Ge Nia had improved incredibly quickly here, so he told him to remain here. After chatting with him for a bit, Zhao Fu returned to the Great Qin Town.

The next day, a new Void Beast spawned, so Zhao Fu decided to open up a fourth path, which was to the final region around the Forest of Horrors, East Green.

Chapter 148: Eternal Night

The process of opening up a new region was the same as before, and soon, Zhao Fu arrived at East Green. The rocks on the ground were covered with lush, green moss, and there were few trees but many creeks here. There would sometimes be fog in the air, making the place seem quite dreamlike and beautiful.

East Green had four main cities, which were Southlight City, Heavenstone City, Ninesun City, and Seemwater City.

Just like before, Zhao Fu went around the main cities and found that the specialty good here was a type of freshwater fish. These fish were found in most of East Green's creeks, and they looked like normal grass carps but slightly smaller. Their meat tasted incredibly delicious and tender, and they were loved by many people.

After looking at the goods in the main cities, Zhao Fu went about his business of buying properties and opening restaurants. He went to each of the four main cities and found that there were fewer players in Heavenstone City than the three other cities, but he could not figure out why.

After buying properties, Zhao Fu hired some people to start renovations and to make preparations for the grand openings. After taking care of these things, Zhao Fu started to send out his Intelligence Department, Eternal Night, and planted people in each of the main cities.

The one who was most excited about this was undoubtedly Liu Mei, as Zhao Fu normally restricted her greatly. Guo Binglin, Wang Ergou, and the other high-ranking members of the Intelligence Department could use teleportation channels at their discretion, but Zhao Fu restricted Liu Mei in this matter. Because of this, she always seemed unhappy when she saw him.

Now that Zhao Fu was no longer restricting her, she could finally use teleportation channels as she wished and go to the main cities whenever she wanted to supervise the operatives. As such, she was incredibly happy.

However, Zhao Fu reminded her that he would restrict her again if she didn't take her job seriously or made trouble for him.

In response, Liu Mei acted incredibly obediently and continuously praised Zhao Fu.

Beside her, even Wang Ergou couldn't help blush with shame, wondering where the domineering and boorish Third Mistress went – she was now better at flattery than even him.

Eternal Night established a small part of itself in each main city, with around 10 or so people per main city. In order to conceal their identities, Zhao Fu ordered them not to come into contact with any of the other Great Qin subjects in the main cities. They were to focus on collecting intelligence for now, as there were not yet any assassination targets.

Following this, Zhao Fu took out the Heaven Awaken World map and started to look at it seriously. Now that he had opened up paths north, south, east, and west of the Forest of Horrors, he needed to do some more planning and strategizing.

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In Holy Light City, Jiang Feng walked into Jiang Rou's clothing shop and looked at her doing the accounts. He said with a caring expression, "Lil Rou, just leave the accounts to other people. You have a lot on your plate, so don't tire yourself out."

Jiang Rou stopped and looked up at Jiang Feng with a slight frown. She knew that her big brother would not come to find her if he didn't need something from her. She knew that he was only pretending to care about her, so she calmly asked, "Big brother, what have you come to find me for?"

Because Jiang Rou didn't appreciate his fake attitude, Jiang Feng looked quite awkward as he said, "It's not much. I just wanted to ask how the clothing shop was going."

"It's doing quite well! It's already somewhat famous, and many members of upper-society have started to order clothing tailored from here. We're earning about 50 gold coins per day," Jiang Rou replied curtly.

Hearing this, Jiang Feng was quite delighted and said, “Lil Rou, you should know that the Jiang family and Zhou family’s relationship has become quite strained, and putting aside why, the Zhou family seems to have obtained a nation’s legacy.

“The Jiang family’s in quite a dangerous spot – I heard that Zhao Xin hasn’t come to see you in a while, and I wanted to buy 500 Blue grade equipment sets for the Jiang family’s elites. Please talk to Zhao Xin about this!”

Jiang Rou could tell what her big brother wanted – he wanted to push her towards Zhao Xin to use Zhao Xin’s power to develop the Jiang family and defend against the Zhou family. He wanted something to happen between her and Zhao Xin while also obtaining some benefits.

Equipment sets consisted of a weapon and a set of armor, so 500 equipment sets meant 1,000 pieces of Blue grade equipment. Right now, a single piece of Blue grade equipment cost around 300-500 silver coins.

1,000 pieces of Blue grade equipment would be at least 300,000 silver coins, and even the Jiang family would be pained to spend such an amount. What’s more, this was the absolute lowest price, so they wanted her to personally talk to Zhao Xin.

“I’m not doing it!” Jiang Rou said somewhat coldly after finally hearing what Jiang Feng wanted. She was angry that the Jiang family wanted to use her as a tool, but she also didn’t want Zhao Fu to think of her as a woman who was just trying to use him.

Jiang Feng didn’t panic when Jiang Rou refused, and he started to use all kinds of matters, like their family, their parents, and the Zhou family, to persuade her.

In the end, Jiang Rou could only agree. Hearing this, a smile appeared on Jiang Feng’s face as he turned and left. Jiang Rou lowered her head, silently wiping away a few tears.

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“What is it, Jiang Rou?” Zhao Fu lightly smiled as he sat opposite Jiang Rou, who looked apologetic.

“Zhao Xin, I... would like... to buy some equipment!” Jiang Rou said with great difficulty.

Zhao Fu smiled and didn’t mind, and he nodded as he replied, “Sure! How many do you want?”

She looked up at Zhao Fu and breathed in deeply as she asked, “I want to buy 500 Blue grade equipment sets; can you give me a discount on them?”

“Haha!” Seeing how uncomfortable and tense Jiang Rou looked, Zhao Fu realized what this was about and couldn’t help but laugh, and he said, “Of course, I’ll give you 40% off.”

Jiang Rou let out a sigh of relief and felt incredibly grateful and ashamed – Zhao Xin treated her so well, yet she had the audacity to ask him for a favor. She soon started to tear up.

Zhao Fu asked with a concerned expression on his face, “What’s wrong?”

Jiang Rou fought back the tears and shook her head, indicating that it was fine.

Zhao Fu felt that something was off, but he was not in a position to ask. At this moment, a soldier came to report that there were matters for him to take care of, so he apologized to Jiang Rou and said his farewells.

“Thank you so much!” Jiang Rou suddenly said with her head lowered.

Zhao Fu stopped walking and said, “No need to thank me; we’re friends. I’ll do my best to help you, and you don’t need to feel like you owe me anything. Perhaps I’ll need your help in the future!”

Those words completely undid the knot in Jiang Rou’s heart. She hoped that one day, she would be able to help Zhao Fu in return, and she lifted her head and beautifully smiled.

Zhao Fu was able to relax when he saw that Jiang Rou felt better. He cared about Jiang Rou, as she was his first friend, so it was only normal that he would help her.

Chapter 149: Inauspicious Item

After talking to Jiang Rou, Zhao Fu returned to the Great Qin Town and continued taking care of unfinished matters.

At the same time, he decided that Great Qin would develop northwards because his plan was to leave China and use Vietnam as a stepping stone.

Even though Vietnam was a smaller country than China, it was still a country, and seizing it would take some preparation. Zhao Fu planned to open a path in that direction first before developing his forces in that direction.

East Green’s four restaurants had all opened, and these things no longer required Zhao Fu to look over them himself.

He also received some good news: the underground exploration teams had discovered a Skeleton General. This Skeleton General was just as powerful as the first one, but Zhao Fu’s soldiers had become much stronger. Li Wen had combined the two exploration teams together, and at the cost of a few light injuries, they had successfully killed the Skeleton General.

The Skeleton General dropped five items. The first item was its armor, which Zhao Fu gave to Li Wen as a reward. The Skeleton General’s sword was called the Flowing Cloud Sword, and it had the same stats as Bai Qi’s original Star Slashing Sword. Zhao Fu gave this new sword to Wang Jian.

Next was a General Soul, and now that Zhao Fu knew how powerful a General Armament was, he could no longer bear to use General Souls to strengthen pieces of equipment. He decided that he would keep them until he had 10 so that he could fuse them into a General Armament.

The next item was a Skeleton General Profession Change Stone, and Zhao Fu gave it to a Ratfolk called Carnegie to use. Now, Zhao Fu had 11 Generals.

The final item was quite interesting. It was a jade flute that was white-colored and felt cold to the touch. Because it had been contaminated with Undead aura for a long period of time, the aura it gave off was quite strange and eerie, and it felt like an inauspicious item.

[Deathcry Flute]: A strange flute that will make any song played seem sad and will make one subconsciously shed tears. The person who plays the flute will attract ghosts to him or her.

The fifth item was indeed an inauspicious item. If it appeared in the real world, it would give many people a big scare – after all, anyone who played this flute would attract ghosts to him or herself, which sounded quite horrifying.

However, in the Heaven Awaken World, with Zhao Fu's current strength, he did not fear ghosts. As such, he put the jade flute to his lips and lightly blew.

As a note sounded out, Zhao Fu felt a chill at the back of his neck as if a cold breeze had blown past. He looked up and the scene fell silent, and something strange started to happen.

A few illusory figures slowly appeared, and they were both male and female. They looked quite blurry, so their features could not be seen. The clothes they wore were quite normal, and their feet were floating a few centimeters off the ground.

Zhao Fu looked at them and found that they were just some normal ghosts. These ghosts were quite weak, and a casual attack could cause them to dissipate. In fact, they did not even dare to come within 10 meters of Zhao Fu. This was because just the power of the Fate around Zhao Fu was enough to kill them.

Zhao Fu was surprised that blowing just a single note was enough to attract a few normal ghosts. If one played an entire piece on it, just what would be attracted?

The Deathcry Flute seemed to be quite powerful, so Zhao Fu put it inside his King's Ring. He then looked at the ghosts around him and casually waved his hand. A formless wave of energy rippled out like a breeze, immediately scattering the ghosts.

Most of the important things had been taken care of, so he went back to his room to cultivation. He had risen to Stage 1 not too long ago, but he hadn't advanced much since then. However, not too long after he started cultivating, he was interrupted.

Guo Binglin knelt on the ground with a serious look on his face and reported something to Zhao Fu. Hearing what he had to say, Zhao Fu's eyes glinted coldly before putting on his black cloak and leaving the room, going with Guo Binglin to Heavenstone City.

There were many people gathered in front of a restaurant. Some were sighing, while others were rejoicing at the owner's misfortune. This restaurant was the one that Zhao Fu had opened.

Zhao Fu walked in and saw a chaotic and disorderly scene. All of the tables and chairs had been smashed, and what made him furious was that there were 20 or so corpses on the ground.

These corpses belonged to the waitresses, the managers, and the chefs. All of the people associated with the restaurant had been ruthlessly murdered.

The ground and walls were stained with their blood, and their bodies lay on the ground in different positions. However, the same expression of fear was engraved on their faces. Zhao Fu knew all of these faces, and now, they were all in front of him, dead.

Zhao Fu became filled with rage, and his eyes became cold as his hands tightened into fists and asked, "What happened?"

Beside him, Guo Binglin could feel Zhao Fu's anger, and his heart trembled. He cupped his hands respectfully before saying, "Your Majesty, this is what happened. Not too long after the restaurant was opened, Heavenstone City's Young Lord came here quite drunk with a few servants. He directly said that he was reserving the entire restaurant and ordered the manager to kick everyone out.

"Because of his status, the manager could only apologize to each of the customers already dining here and ask them to leave. The Young Lord then demanded all of the dishes to be served to him, which the manager did, carefully attending to him.

"However, the Young Lord said that he didn't like the wine here, so the manager went to some other restaurants and spent a lot of money to purchase the wine that he liked. In the end, the Young Lord became more and more difficult as he became drunker, and he even ordered the waitresses to perform sexual favors for him.

"The manager felt quite troubled, as we only hired these women to be waitresses, so he did his best to explain to the Young Lord that this demand was simply impossible. However, the Young Lord did not care, and he tried to force himself on some of the waitresses. A few of them were unwilling, and they injured him while struggling.

"The Young Lord flew into a fit of rage, and he ordered his guards to kill everyone in the restaurant and for the restaurant to be smashed. He was then brought back to the City Lord's residence by his lackeys because of how drunk he was."

Now, Zhao Fu realized why there were so few players in Heavenstone City. With such an overbearing, violent, unreasonable, and bloodthirsty trash doing as he pleased, who would want to stay here? Something that one put his or her blood, sweat, and tears into could be destroyed by him on a whim.

Even though Zhao Fu was enraged, his mind was quite clear. He immediately realized something and said coldly, "Order all of Great Qin's people to leave Heavenstone City immediately!"

Guo Binglin complied and quickly left to disseminate the order.

Very soon, everyone who belonged to Great Qin left Heavenstone City and returned to the Great Qin Town. Not too long after they had left, a group of guards came to seal up the restaurant and to confiscate all of Zhao Fu's properties.

If it wasn't for Zhao Fu's quick thinking, it was possible that not a single one of his subjects in Heavenstone City would have remained alive.

"System announcement! You have been listed as a wanted criminal by Heavenstone City."

"System announcement! Your position in Heavenstone City has been exposed. Please leave quickly."

It seemed that the Young Lord was not taking any risks, and he was trying to get rid of any future troubles, causing Zhao Fu to gnash his teeth in anger. He had never felt so furious before.

Chapter 150: S level Fugitive

Even though he was furious, Zhao Fu knew that he couldn't stay here for long. He had already become a wanted criminal, so he would not be able to use Heavenstone City's teleportation channels. As such, all he could do was quickly walk towards the city gates.

However, he soon caught the attention of a 10-man patrol squad. Facing those 10 city guards, Zhao Fu's expression did not change as he quickly walked into an alleyway.

The city guards thought that Zhao Fu's cultivation was only Stage 1, so they were incredibly confident. A single Stage 1 city guard would be able to take him down, let alone 10 of them. As such, they did not notify anyone, and they followed Zhao Fu into the alleyway.

At that moment, Zhao Fu stopped walking and turned to look at the city guards, a cold smile appearing on his face.

"Li Wu! You're wanted in Heavenstone City, and you won't be able to escape. If you surrender now, we'll leave your corpse intact. Don't blame us – you can only blame yourself for offending the Young Master." the captain of the patrol squad said confidently and somewhat mockingly to Zhao Fu.

'Li Wu' was the name that Zhao Fu had used to purchase properties. He was cautious by nature, and because he knew how much power the government had in main cities, he never used his real name to purchase properties.

Hearing their words, Zhao Fu's gaze became incredibly cold. His people had treated the Young Lord courteously and had continuously made concessions, but they had been killed in the end. What's more, they had blamed Zhao Fu and his people. As such, Zhao Fu did not reply and immediately attacked – at this moment, he simply wanted to kill. Black traces of King's Power rose from his body, and he leaned forwards before kicking off the ground, leaping towards the city guards like an arrow shooting out of a bow.

"So fast!" The city guards were completely dumbfounded, and before they realized what was happening, Zhao Fu had appeared in front of them. He stretched out his fingers, forming a hand-knife as black light covered it.

Chi!

Zhao Fu's hand-knife pierced through a city guard's chest, and blood flowed out of that city guard's mouth as a look of surprise appeared on his face. He had never thought that he would be killed so easily.

In the next second, Zhao Fu's body once again disappeared.

Bang! Bang!

Two heavy sounds rang out as two city guards flew away, smashing against the walls on either side of the alleyway. Their chests were completely caved in, and it seemed that they would not be able to live for long.

The remaining city guards were quite fearful and realized that they were actually the prey, not the hunters.

“Hurry and leave! Let’s report this to the City Lord!”

When the captain saw that three city guards had died in an instant, he realized that they were unable to fight against Zhao Fu, so he immediately gave the order to retreat.

At the same time, the city guards were extremely confused – when had players become so powerful? Normally, they relied on their strength to look down on players, but now, it seemed that they had unexpectedly kicked an iron board.

They wanted to leave, but Zhao Fu was not willing to let them go. The fury in his heart exploded out, and he darted back and forth within the squad of city guards like a black shadow.

Bang!

Zhao Fu’s fist smashed into a city guard’s chest, causing him to collapse as his body flew backwards.

Chi!

Zhao Fu whirled around and slashed out with his hand, and a city guard’s head flew off his neck, causing blood to spurt from his neck.

This was a completely one-sided massacre. Perhaps these city guards could act high and mighty in front of normal players with their Stage 1 cultivation, but with Zhao Fu’s different powers and high-grade equipment, he had long since started to disregard Stage 1 city guards.

After Zhao Fu dashed around in the squad of city guards for a few moments, there was only one city guard left. The other city guards lay on the ground in all sorts of positions, looking extremely pitiful, and the alleyway was dyed red with blood.

This final city guard tightly gripped his sword with both hands, but his body was trembling. His eyes stared at Zhao Fu, and because he knew that he couldn’t escape, he could only go all-out.

Zhao Fu disappeared before his eyes in an instant, and the city guard cried out in fear. He savagely slashed forwards with his sword, but the black blur easily dodged around it and appeared before him.

In that instant, a hand grabbed onto his head and lifted him up.

Bang!

Without any hesitation, Zhao Fu simply tightened his grip and crushed the city guard’s head. It exploded like a watermelon, causing blood and bits of brain to fly everywhere.

Zhao Fu continued to stand still, his hands covered with blood. It was the first time that Zhao Fu had felt killing to be so happy and carefree, and this started to change Zhao Fu’s personality.

Of course, Zhao Fu knew that he could not stay here, so he quickly left towards the city gates.

Soon, a soldierly-looking middle-aged man brought a large group of city guards to the alleyway. When he saw the gory scene, he was incredibly infuriated.

The middle-aged man was called Yue Linping, and he was one of Heavenstone City’s three Great Generals. He was in charge of all of the city guards in the city.

Before, he hadn't paid much mind to this matter, as it was just a hedonistic young master offending some weak players. In order to not make any trouble for Heavenstone City, it was necessary to get rid of the people who the Young Lord had offended.

Yue Linping had wanted to deal with this player like all of the other players in the past: by getting rid of him quickly and without too much fuss. However, he never would have thought that he would continuously receive messages that his city guards had been killed while he was within the city!

As such, he brought people and came here immediately. Only after seeing the scene did he find that the situation was not as simple as he had expected. His Stage 1 city guards had been massacred without being able to resist at all.

It seemed that the Young Lord had angered someone who could not be offended. The City Lord simply spoiled his son too much, and the Qian family's people were incredibly vile characters, stirring up the Young Lord each time. If this went on, Heavenstone City would be destroyed.

However, there was no turning back now. Yue Linping suppressed the flames of fury in his heart as he turned and said, "Immediately list Li Wu as an S level fugitive!"

The city guards beside him were quite surprised. They knew that S level fugitives were all powerful enemies who could threaten the existence of main cities, so they were quite shocked to hear that a weak player would be listed as an S level fugitive. They all asked in disbelief, "Sir, are you sure about this?"

Yue Linping nodded seriously and said, "For him to kill city guards so easily, his strength is not inferior to mine. Hurry and report this matter to the City Lord and give the order for the city gates to be closed – we can't afford to let him escape, or the consequences will be unimaginable!"

Hearing this order, some city guards went to report to the City Lord, while Yue Linping and the remaining city guards chased in the direction that Zhao Fu had left in.

By now, Zhao Fu had already reached the southern city gates of Heavenstone City. He stood in the midst of a large crowd, suppressing his aura to not stand out.

He was about 10 or so meters away from the city gates when the city guards standing at the city gate took out their sabers and said in a loud voice, "Close the city gates! No one is to enter or exit!"

This gave Zhao Fu a big shock. He was still in Heavenstone City, and if the city gates were closed, it was more likely than not that he would die. Putting aside the 100,000 Stage 1 city guards, just the City Lord alone would be enough to take him down. He had to quickly escape from here.