

The Lord 181

Chapter 181: Pity for the Weak

After spending a lot of effort, Zhao Fu and the 29 Goblins found a village about 10 kilometers away from the historical remnant. It was a Man Clan village – the Man Clan was a clan during the Spring and Autumn Period, and it was filled with uncivilized, barbaric people who idolized strength.

This village was only a Basic Village and had around 300 people. Both the men and women were quite tall and well-built, and they looked like good fighters.

Even though this village had 300 people, it posed no threat to Zhao Fu and his Goblins, as the Man people's cultivation was only around Stage 0-3 to 0-4, while everyone on Zhao Fu's side was at least at Stage 1.

Because there were Minotaurs in Gloomy Jungle as well, Zhao Fu didn't worry too much about running out of Ancient Power orbs. In order to protect this place well, he had given each of his Goblins an Ancient Power orb. Now, all of his Goblins were covered with muscles and as sturdy as oxen.

In terms of strength, most of his Goblins had already reached Stage 1-5; soon, they would see the advantage higher Stage soldiers held over lower Stage soldiers.

Zhao Fu didn't use stealth as he walked out with his Goblins. Instead, they gave off a dense killing intent. When the Man people saw Zhao Fu and his Goblins, the Man people started to become wary, and their soldiers gathered at the entrance of the village.

Perhaps it was because they realized Zhao Fu's group was quite powerful, but a big man with a fierce-looking face stepped forwards and started yelling. He seemed to be telling Zhao Fu to piss off or face the consequences.

Zhao Fu could not understand their language, nor did he have any special feelings for these minority clans. In history, whenever minority clans attacked China, they would kill, plunder, destroy, and rape, committing countless evils.

"Kill everyone who resists!" Zhao Fu said as calmly looked at the village ahead. Even though his voice was quite soft, it was filled with killing intent.

"Yes, Lord!" The Goblins heeded his orders and rushed at the Man Clan village. The villagers had already aimed their bows at Zhao Fu's party, and when the Goblins started to rush at them, the arrows were released at the Goblins.

The Hobgoblins slashed out with their swords, releasing numerous sword lights and sending the arrows flying away. The Blue-Red Goblins also released iceballs and fireballs and sent them towards the village.

The Goblins charged into the village like ferocious tigers rushing into a herd of sheep – this was the outcome of Stage 1 soldiers fighting against Stage 0 soldiers. If the Stage 0 soldiers had decent equipment, they could use numbers to fight against superior soldiers. However, how could this normal

village defend against Goblins who were many times stronger than them? It was a completely one-sided massacre.

The wooden walls of the village were like bubbles in front of the Goblins. A Hobgoblin swung his sword and completely obliterated a section of the wall, sending wood flying.

The Man people were quite fierce and tough. There were men and women holding all sorts of weapons, but they were completely outclassed. These Hobgoblins were even more powerful than normal Stage 1 soldiers, and they enjoyed killing. They savagely smiled as they rushed up with their swords.

Ten minutes later, the battle had ended quite quickly. Zhao Fu lowered his head and said to the three Flower Spirits, "If you don't want to look, then just hide inside my clothes."

The three Flower Spirits nodded – they didn't dare to look at such a bloody scene, so they ducked within Zhao Fu's clothes. Following this, Zhao Fu walked into the village, stepping over corpse after corpse. Fresh blood had sprayed everywhere, and the scene was incredibly gory.

After stepping over numerous bodies, Zhao Fu arrived at the Village Hall. There were 20 or so Man people remaining, and their faces were pale as their bodies trembled. In just an instant, the 300 or so villagers had been reduced to just 20.

Around them were bloodied but savagely-smiling Goblins, and they looked like terrifying demons. They hadn't killed to their heart's content yet, and they stared at the people who surrendered. Because Zhao Fu had only ordered them to kill those who resisted, they didn't dare to kill those who had surrendered.

Zhao Fu was very calm about this because he had experienced such things many times before. He went to the Village Hall and prepared to go in to conquer the village.

At this moment, within the group of surrendered people, a woman holding a baby suddenly ran and knelt before Zhao Fu, sobbing as she said, "Lord, please spare my child!"

Zhao Fu stopped walking, but because of his cloak, no one could see his expression. Seeing this, one of the Goblins thought that Zhao Fu was going to blame him for not keeping the captives in check, so he quickly stepped up and raised his sword, preparing to kill the mother and son.

Seeing this, the mother hugged her child in her arms and desperately kowtowed as she wept and pleaded, "Lord, please spare my child!"

At that moment, the Goblin's sword descended and was about to slay the mother and son.

"Stop," Zhao Fu said, his voice soft from beneath his cloak.

The Goblin immediately stopped and looked quite afraid as he said, "Lord, it was my fault for this; please punish me."

"No need; step down for now. And you, get up. I won't kill you or your son," Zhao Fu said before walking into the Village Hall.

The Goblin let out a sigh of relief, and the woman emotionally took the child in her arms back into the crowd. The other captives all gradually felt less fearful and anxious.

Even though they spoke the Man language, because they had surrendered to Zhao Fu, their intentions were automatically translated, so they could understand each other. Even though Zhao Fu did not possess any favorable feelings towards these minority clans, he would not act inhumanely. These surrendered people were now his subjects, and he would treat them equally and fairly.

It was just that he had felt slightly moved when he saw that woman pleading for mercy. Some of it was because she reminded him of his mother when he was younger, and some of it was pity for the weak. The Man people were incredibly fierce people, but if they were defeated, they could only obediently kneel on the ground and beg for mercy. This stimulated an even greater desire within Zhao Fu to become stronger so that he would never fall into such a situation.

Zhao Fu went to the Village Hall and was slightly surprised to find that the village was a Blue grade Village. He chose to conquer it and [Relocate] it, obtaining 100 Achievement Points.

For some reason, he had been obtaining quite a lot of Achievement Points, and the Great Qin Town had been obtaining a lot of EXP recently. He would often receive notifications that his subordinates had taken down villages. What's more, he had also received 1,000 Achievement Points when he had killed Gu Feng.

Now, Zhao Fu had 2,800 Achievement Points, and he was 200 Achievement Points away from becoming a First-Ranked Baron. However, a high status didn't mean anything right now because he couldn't leave East Green.

Zhao Fu thought about it and decided to divert most of the Achievement Points in the future to Bai Qi. That way, he could continue to open up paths to the outside world, buy properties, and create new restaurants.

Even though he was stuck here for now, someone had to do those things. Time was money, and each region had massive profit-earning opportunities. They couldn't let go of such opportunities just because he was stuck here.

However, this small decision shook all of Great Qin.

Chapter 182: Comrade

Zhao Fu, who was right now in an unidentified location, had diverted most of the Achievement Points in the future to Bai Qi – this simple notification showed that Zhao Fu was alive.

This allowed all of Great Qin's subjects to finally relax and let out a sigh of relief. At the same time, they were all happy that Zhao Fu was safe because Zhao Fu was the master of Great Qin, and he everything to Great Qin.

Very soon, the upper-level members of Great Qin gathered together and discussed this matter. They understood why Zhao Fu had diverted most of the Achievement Points to Bai Qi – to carry out his biggest goal right now. Bai Qi continuously opened up regions to the north, and he had already created paths to six regions in the north. They were now only one region away from entering the territory of Vietnam.

Because Bai Qi's status was too low, he hadn't been able to buy any properties or open any restaurants. However, the Merchant Alliance had entered each of these regions, bringing massive profits to Great Qin.

Unfortunately, most of these profits had been consumed by the war to buy medicinal pills, skills, and other consumables. All of those things required a great amount of money to support.

Even though they spent so much money, the effects were astounding. In the past 20 or so days, Great Qin had gained more than 70,000 subjects, and this figure was nearly at 80,000. Moreover, the surrounding 300-kilometer radius area was officially under the control of Great Qin.

This speed was many times greater than before, and most of the Generals had broken through to Stage 1 and had started to train their own Unique Military Professions. What's more, some of the soldiers had even broken through to Stage 1.

This was because Bai Qi had not only bought healing and strength-boosting pills but also a large amount of high-grade medicinal pills that could greatly boost one's cultivation speed to use as rewards.

When it came to rewards, there was anything that the soldiers could want. These rewards stimulated the soldiers' battle spirit and greatly lifted Great Qin's morale.

As it was written in the ancient Odes of Qin:

How can you say that you have no clothes? I will share my robes with you.

The king is raising his forces, and I will prepare my lance and spear to fight the enemy with you!

How can you say that you have no clothes? I will share my underclothes with you.

The king is raising his forces, and I will prepare my spear and halberd to take the field with you!

How can you say that you have no clothes? I will share my lower garments with you.

_The king is raising his forces, and I will prepare my__armor and weapons and march along with you!_

This was what Bai Qi envisioned for Great Qin's soldiers. Equipment, skills, cultivation, and professions were all quite important, but the most important thing was fighting spirit. Bai Qi wanted to create an army for Zhao Fu that could conquer and kill all enemies.

Currently, Great Qin's main medicinal pills were Little Spirit Pills. They were still growing the Hundred Origin Grass, so they couldn't mass-produce the Hundred Origin Pills yet.

Even though the countless battles had caused Great Qin to rapidly develop, an oppressive atmosphere seemed to hang over all of Great Qin. On the streets, everyone seemed quite hurried, and they all had serious expressions on their faces.

This was because everyone had something that he or she was rushing to do, and everyone barely had any time. It was as if no one had the time to chat for a few minutes. Even though the population of Great Qin had increased, the things that had to be done had also increased. They were short on hands for everything, and Great Qin constantly operated at a very fast pace because it was growing at an extreme rate.

When news of Zhao Fu's survival reached Great Qin, it was as if a sliver of light had pierced through a dark haze!

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Elsewhere, Zhao Fu conquered the village and chose to [Relocate] it, gaining EXP and a Man Tear. These Man Tears had similar effects to Xianbei Tears, and after looking at it, Zhao Fu put it away.

Following this, Zhao Fu took the City Creation Stone and the surrendered Man people to the Rolan Historical Remnant.

After returning, Zhao Fu looked around and chose a place to put down the City Creation Stone. A wave of blue light spread out as the village appeared. This village was called Lone Mountain Village, and Zhao Fu registered it as a subsidiary of the Great Qin Town.

At the same time, Zhao Fu chose one of the Man people to be the Village Chief. Because this village was a Blue grade village and it had bonus stats from being a subsidiary of the Great Qin Town, it could spawn six to seven people per day. In a month or so, the village would be at the same population as before.

Zhao Fu left 300 sets of equipment with them – this equipment was not from Gu Feng but from himself. They were pieces of Blue grade equipment forged from Bronze Concentrate.

Zhao Fu called over the new Man Village Chief, who was an elderly man. Because most of the young and able men had been killed by the Goblins and the remaining ones were not very useful, he had chosen this elderly man, who had some management experience, to be the Village Chief.

Zhao Fu told him to build some defenses using the historical remnant around them after they had more people, and he also told him about some things that he had to be wary about. Zhao Fu wasn't sure when he would return here, so he made sure that the village would be prepared against all sorts of dangers.

At the same time, Zhao Fu ordered all of his Goblins to remain here to defend the historical remnant with the Man people. The benefits they could gain from this historical remnant were massive, and Zhao Fu hadn't explored Gloomy Jungle that much. This meant that the true value of Gloomy Jungle was far greater than what he had seen at the surface level, so he didn't want anything to happen to this place.

After taking care of these matters, Zhao Fu and the three Flower Spirits headed towards Ninesun City.

One day later at noon, Zhao Fu was walking along a small path. There were not many clouds in the blue sky, and the wind blew gently against his face.

The three Flower Spirits were sitting on Zhao Fu's shoulder, and each of them was hugging a Black Forest Fruit as the three Flower Spirits happily ate them. Zhao Fu looked down at his map as he walked along.

He felt that he was somewhat lost and had strayed from the direction of Ninesun City. As such, he found a high place and looked around to try to find out where he was.

It was currently noon, and Zhao Fu was quite hungry. He decided to catch some wild game to eat when suddenly a dark figure rushed at him from the grass.

Zhao Fu's pupils contracted, and he punched out vigorously. Even though Zhao Fu's strength had been suppressed by the azure energy, after recovering, his strength was nearly at Stage 2. If he was at the peak of his strength, he would be close to even Stage 3.

The black figure was sent flying, but surprisingly, it seemed to be fine. It once again leaped at Zhao Fu, surprising him. This black figure was incredibly fast, and it came before Zhao Fu in an instant.

This time, Zhao Fu clenched his fist even tighter, causing his bones to crack as he punched out with even more strength, knocking this black figure back 10 or so meters.

Only then did Zhao Fu see the black figure clearly. It was a 7 or 8-year-old boy who had long hair and was wearing beastskin. His appearance was quite terrifying: his pupils were completely black, and his teeth were incredibly sharp. His body was also covered with scales, and he crawled like a wild beast on the ground as he glared at Zhao Fu.

Even though his opponent was a child, he had attacked Zhao Fu first and was giving off killing intent. However, Zhao Fu despised the look that the child had in his eyes: the child was viewing him as food!

Chapter 183: Sin Devil

"You're seeking death!" Zhao Fu's figure blurred and instantly disappeared. The three Flower Spirits, who were sitting on Zhao Fu's shoulders, flew up in shock, and Zhao Fu's body reappeared ten or so meters away as he punched the boy again.

Bang!!

The boy rolled on the ground to avoid Zhao Fu's punch, which had left a crater in the ground.

Following this, the boy jumped up from the ground and sprang towards Zhao Fu. He opened his mouth, revealing his sharp teeth as he tried to bite Zhao Fu like a savage wolf.

Zhao Fu took a step backward and twisted his body as he brought his knee upwards, slamming into the boy's abdomen. A muffled sound rang out as the boy was sent sprawling backward, and he coughed up a mouthful of blood.

Even though he had coughed up blood, the boy didn't look very injured. Rather, Zhao Fu's attack had enraged him, and he gnashed his teeth as he roared like an animal.

In the next second, the boy turned into a black blur and rushed at Zhao Fu. He raised a claw-like hand, sweeping it towards Zhao Fu as it left behind five icy glints.

"Hmph!" Zhao Fu coldly harrumphed as he suddenly stretched out his hand, grabbing onto the boy's wrist. He twisted, and a cracking sound sounded out as he broke the boy's wrist.

The boy's expression became extremely savage, and he madly charged at Zhao Fu, biting towards his throat. In response, Zhao Fu grabbed the boy's broken wrist and lifted upwards, bringing his body into the air. Immediately afterward, Zhao Fu slammed him down onto the ground.

Boom!!

The boy's body smashed into the ground. The impact caused the ground to crack, forming a two-meter wide crater.

Within the crater, the boy was bleeding from all over his body, but he was still glaring at Zhao Fu ferociously.

Zhao Fu could tell from the boy's gaze that he still viewed him as food. Out of indignance, he decided not to use the Sky Demon Sword to immediately kill this boy.

"You still want to kill me?" Zhao Fu was furious – this was the first time he had encountered someone who wanted to eat him. This feeling felt terrible, and he raised his foot and kicked the boy.

However, the boy twisted his body, avoiding Zhao Fu's foot. However, in the next moment, Zhao Fu brought back his foot and kicked with the other one, sending the boy several meters away.

"Roarr!!!" the boy roared like a beast as he tried to stand up.

Bang!

Before he could stand up, Zhao Fu once again appeared at his side and sent him flying with another kick.

"Roarr!!!!" The boy was completely infuriated, and a black aura erupted from his body. This aura looked incredibly evil, and it seemed to be filled with sin.

The boy gave off a terrifying aura as he rushed at Zhao Fu, using his good hand to grab Zhao Fu.

Zhao Fu unleashed his black King's Power from his body. However, this blackness was different compared to the boy's aura: it was one filled with dignity, majesty, and domineeringness. Looking at the boy charging at him, Zhao Fu tightly clenched his fist as he punched out towards the boy's hand.

"Arghhhh!!!" another pitiful cry sounded out as the boy was once again blasted backward. That arm now hung powerlessly by his side – it had been broken by Zhao Fu in one punch.

By now, the boy knew that he definitely wasn't able to beat Zhao Fu, so he decided to run away. However, his gaze said that he decided to retreat so that he could eat Zhao Fu another day.

Zhao Fu felt even more indignant and once again stepped forwards, sending the boy flying with a kick.

By now, the boy had one broken wrist and one broken arm, and he was unable to run like a beast anymore. He could only stand on his feet, but as soon as he did this, Zhao Fu hit him with a roundhouse kick, breaking both of his legs.

Despite being unable to use all four of his limbs, the boy still hatefully glared at Zhao Fu as he lay on the ground.

Zhao Fu walked over with a cold gaze and walked to his side, slowly clenching his fist. A large amount of King's Power gathered within his fist, causing it to glow with a dark light, and it gave off terrifying energy ripples.

Boom!!!

Zhao Fu's punch slammed down onto the boy's chest, resulting in dull explosion. The ground caved in, and the boy coughed up a mouthful of blood, several of his ribs breaking.

Only then did Zhao Fu let out a breath. He decided to stop venting his indignance against this person; it was better to just kill this person immediately. Even though the enemy was a child, Zhao Fu had no other choice, as this boy was quite dangerous. Zhao Fu wasn't a weak and emotional person, and he grabbed the boy's neck, raising him up.

Zhao Fu wanted to break the boy's neck and end his life. How could he spare this fellow when he had wanted to eat him?

The boy's bones seemed to have all been broken by Zhao Fu, and the boy seemed like a pile of sludge. Facing Zhao Fu's eyes, which were filled with killing intent, a slight change appeared in the boy's eyes.

It was a trace of fear and terror. In the end, the boy revealed an expression that said that he wanted to live on; he didn't want to die. It was a look of pleading!

However, Zhao Fu had already decided on killing him. He started to tighten his hand, preparing to snap the boy's neck.

Suddenly, Zhao Fu detected some strange movement within his King's Ring. This caused him to stop and send his mind into the ring, feeling quite confused. Following this, he took an item out.

More precisely speaking, it was an equipment set.

It was the Kill Equipment Set that reacted strangely. It gave off waves of bloody light as if it wanted to make the boy its master, surprising Zhao Fu. It was the first time that he had seen equipment choose a master for itself.

In order to make sure of this, Zhao Fu placed the boy on the ground and placed the Kill Equipment Set on the boy's body. The Kill Equipment Set gave off an even stronger bloody light as if was expressing its joy. This allowed Zhao Fu to confirm that the Kill Equipment Set had indeed chosen its master.

However, Zhao Fu hesitated. He had been set on killing this boy, but it seemed that the Kill Equipment Set liked this boy very much to the point of even choosing him. This meant that there was definitely something special about the boy.

Finally, after thinking for a while, Zhao Fu decided not to kill the boy to see why he was special. From the boy's black pupils, sharp teeth, and scales, he definitely wasn't a normal human.

Zhao Fu took out an expensive healing pill and fed it to the boy. Under the immense medicinal strength of the pill, the boy's broken bones started to mend, and he started to recover from his injuries.

The boy had fallen unconscious, but the Kill Equipment Set that Zhao Fu had placed on his body gave off waves of bloody light, slowly healing the boy and seeming incredibly loyal and protective, making Zhao Fu feel quite speechless.

"Zhao, why aren't you killing him? The aura he gives off is so despicable; I dislike it even more than a demon's aura!" the three Flower Spirits said meters away with an expression of contempt, unwilling to even come close.

Chapter 184: Ancient Kings and Emperors

“Dislike it even more than a demon’s aura?” Zhao Fu thought back to the evil and sinful aura that the boy had given off before and looked at the boy, waiting for him to wake up.

The Sky Demon was quite displeased when it heard the three Flower Spirits’ words because it was a Sky Demon. As such, it coldly harrumphed, frightening the three Flower Spirits.

Only after Zhao Fu repeatedly reassured them that they were safe did the three Flower Spirits calm down, returning to Zhao Fu’s side.

Time gradually passed, and soon, the sky had darkened. A bright moon hung in the sky, and Zhao Fu lit a bonfire as he roasted a few rabbits.

The three Flower Spirits were nestled in Zhao Fu’s clothes and had fallen asleep a while ago. Zhao Fu sat beside the bonfire and was about to start eating a rabbit when he found that the boy had woken up.

This fellow had recovered quite quickly. He had seemed gravely injured before, but now, he seemed more or less fine. This was because of the healing pill Zhao Fu had given him, the Kill Equipment Set, and his own constitution.

After waking up, the boy wanted to escape, but he noticed Zhao Fu’s gaze on him. As such, he immediately crawled onto his hands and feet and pressed his head against the ground, looking like a beast showing its submission.

Zhao Fu received a system announcement that the boy had surrendered to him and decided to look at his stats:

Name: None

Grade: SSS

Title: None

Profession: None

Achievement Points: Commoner (0/200)

Race: Human (Sin Devil)

Age: 8 (500)

Loyalty: 60

Stats: Strength: 10, Intelligence: 10, Constitution: 10. Agility: 10

Cultivation: Stage 0

Cultivation Technique: None

Skills: None

Equipment: Beastskin

This boy had no name, but what greatly shocked Zhao Fu was that he was actually SSS grade. What's more, apart from Human as his race, there was 'Sin Devil' in brackets.

"What are Sin Devils?" Zhao Fu wasn't sure what sort of creature or race they were. All he was certain of was that they were quite powerful, especially in terms of lifespan. After all, this boy's lifespan was a whole 500 years.

Even dynasties usually didn't last that long, and this was his base lifespan. When he became stronger, his lifespan would increase as well.

In terms of this, even Zhao Fu's Level 9 Royal Bloodline couldn't compare to the boy's bloodline. After all, Zhao Fu's Royal Bloodline didn't increase his lifespan at all; it only increased his power. Perhaps that was why the ancient kings and emperors never lived for too long.

Rumble...

Suddenly, the boy's stomach started to rumble, cutting off Zhao Fu's thoughts. Zhao Fu smiled and gestured towards the rabbits, saying, "You can eat!"

Even though the boy couldn't understand what Zhao Fu was saying, because of the system's interpretation of Zhao Fu's thoughts and intentions, he could understand the general meaning that Zhao Fu was trying to convey.

He grabbed a roasted rabbit and didn't even care if it was still hot or not, and he started to eat it on the ground like a beast. Zhao Fu guessed that the boy had never lived with other humans before and didn't know how to act like a Human or know any languages. He was more or less a real beast.

Zhao Fu couldn't guess his background, but he could imagine his experiences. This boy had most likely lived like a beast since he was born.

"Sit up and eat; from today onwards, you're a human!" Zhao Fu said as he looked at the boy devouring the rabbit on the ground.

Hearing this, the boy raised his head and looked quite confused. He wasn't quite sure what Zhao Fu's words meant. Zhao Fu patiently explained to him what he wanted, after which the boy imitated how Zhao Fu sat and sat up uncomfortably, and he started to use his hands to eat.

Following this, the remaining roasted rabbits all entered the boy's stomach. After eating his fill, his gaze fell on the Kill Equipment Set, and he picked it up. He seemed to like it very much.

"Wawuu... Wawuu..."

The boy didn't know how to speak, but the meaning behind his noises was that he liked this thing very much.

Since the Kill Equipment Set had been shameless enough to choose a master by itself and the boy liked it so much, Zhao Fu could only nod his head and say, "It's yours from now on!"

The boy excitedly hugged the Kill Equipment Set as he rolled around on the ground happily.

Zhao Fu wanted to take in this little boy; just his SSS grade alone was something that Zhao Fu couldn't resist, let alone the Sin Devil bloodline. However, Zhao Fu first wanted to teach this boy how to act as a human.

Because of the affinity between him and the Kill Equipment Set and the fact that he had no name, Zhao Fu decided to name him Little Sha. [TLN: Kill in Chinese is 'Sha']

Because the boy didn't care much for a name and didn't have any opinions, he accepted this name, and he even seemed quite happy about it. Following this, Zhao Fu started to teach him the basics of being a human.

Early the next morning, the air was quite fresh, and the sun had only just risen. Dew glistened on the green grass as Zhao Fu and Little Sha continued on their journey.

The three Flower Spirits continued to be carefree and without worries, joyfully flying around Zhao Fu. Little Sha was given a bath at night and had some of Zhao Fu's clothes on. They had also wrapped some cloth around the Kill Equipment Set, which Little Sha now carried on his back.

Because Zhao Fu's clothes were too big for Little Sha, they were more or less tied to him, which looked quite strange. Even though his appearance was still quite terrifying, he now seemed more like a human than a beast.

Little Sha's learning abilities were quite astounding; he had already learned how to walk. He no longer ran on his hands and feet like a beast.

Of course, he wasn't fully used to walking on his feet, and he looked like a toddler as he swayed side to side and followed Zhao Fu.

In order to cater to Little Sha, Zhao Fu didn't walk too fast so he could keep up.

At this moment, Zhao Fu discovered ten or so animals by a creek that looked like donkeys, and they had gray fur and white manes.

Seeing this, Zhao Fu was quite relieved – they had finally found some sort of mount. He had been walking the entire time, which was not only slow but also tiring.

Zhao Fu told Little Sha to wait by the side as he took out two ropes and made them into lassos. He stealthily snuck over and found that these creatures were called Graystone Beasts.

Using his Assassin profession, Zhao Fu was able to easily reach the Graystone Beasts without the herd noticing him.

At that moment, Zhao Fu threw the two lassos and easily caught two Graystone Beasts. The other Graystone Beasts were given a big fright and immediately ran away, but the two that were lassoed were firmly held onto by Zhao Fu. After getting closer, he used Taming on them to subdue them.

Riding on the Graystone Beasts, Zhao Fu found that their speed was decent. He rode on one and put the other in his Spirit Pet Ring, a ring especially for storing living creatures, while Little Sha continued to practice walking.

If he knew that things would have turned out like this, he would have brought Little Black. With Little Black's speed, he would have been able to reach the Ninesun City in two weeks. Zhao Fu decided that he would definitely bring Little Black along with him in the future.

Following this, Zhao Fu rode on the Graystone Beast and passed through a small valley when ten evil-looking bandits holding large sabers suddenly jumped out and stopped him.

Chapter 185: Historical Figure

Seeing this, Zhao Fu was actually pleasantly surprised. He had been looking for a village, and these people had delivered themselves to him.

"Boy, if you get down here and hand over all of your valuables, your granddaddy will spare your life," one of the bandits said as he pointed his saber at Zhao Fu and laughed arrogantly.

The other bandits savagely looked at Zhao Fu and also laughed. Putting aside whether the boy had any valuables on him, just the Graystone Beast alone was enough for a big feast of meat for them.

"Hahaha!" Hearing these bandits' words and seeing how much they underestimated him, Zhao Fu couldn't help but laugh.

Hearing Zhao Fu's laugh, the bandits were enraged, and the leader yelled, "Brothers, kill him!"

Following this, the bandits rushed up, brandishing their large sabers.

Zhao Fu continued to sit on the Graystone Beast, not showing any intent to act. However, an unremarkable small figure shot out from behind him.

When they saw that the one rushing at them was an 8-year-old boy, the bandits couldn't help but laugh. Charging at them like this was simply seeking death. They weren't merciful people, and they swung their sabers at Little Sha.

Suddenly, a bloody light flashed in Little Sha's hand as a blood-colored dagger appeared within it. He bent forwards and avoided a saber before going forwards and slashing out with his dagger, leaving a bloody light through the air.

Chi!

Little Sha passed by a bandit, and his incredibly sharp dagger slashed across a bandit's abdomen. Even upon death, the bandit couldn't believe that he had been killed by such a little boy.

Soon, Little Sha arrived before another bandit. He jumped and slashed with his dagger, chopping off the bandit's head.

The dagger that Little Sha was currently holding was one of the pieces of the Kill Equipment Set. The Kill Equipment set had originally been a ring, a cloak, and a hidden blade. However, Zhao Fu found that Assassins could use any type of weapon, and the 12 Equipment Sets could change their forms based on what their masters wanted. This was what Little Sha had done by making his hidden blade a dagger.

From this, Zhao Fu realized that perhaps the previous Equipment Sets hadn't fully acknowledged their masters, which was why they hadn't obtained the full Legacy and full control over the Equipment Sets.

Because the Kill Equipment Set had chosen Little Sha and they had an extremely high affinity, Little Sha was able to display the full might of the Equipment Set. There seemed to be countless skills and techniques within Little Sha's mind, and his body gave off a boundless killing intent. Every motion he executed was like that of a seasoned Assassin's.

In just a few minutes, the battle had ended. The bandits had all died quite pitifully, as most of their bodies had been dismembered.

After all of this had concluded, Little Sha walked back to Zhao Fu's side and went back to his toddler-walking mode.

"Lord, please spare me!"

Zhao Fu smiled as he looked at the bandit kneeling on the ground and begging for mercy. This was the one who had initially yelled at Zhao Fu, and he was only alive because Zhao Fu had told Little Sha to keep one person alive.

"Get up; I won't kill you. Take me to your village!" Zhao Fu said as he lightly smiled.

When he heard this and remembered how powerful the tiny child was, the bandit felt that Zhao Fu was incredibly unfathomable.

If he brought such a powerful person back, the rest of the village would definitely be met with disaster. However, the bandit simply wanted to preserve his own life and disregarded the safety of everyone else.

"Of course, of course, I'll take you there," the bandit agreed very quickly and barely even hesitated. He stood up with a smile and started to flatter Zhao Fu.

Zhao Fu ignored him and used the lasso he had used to capture the Greystone Beasts to bound the bandit, and he had him lead the way.

The bandit could only awkwardly nod and lead the way with Zhao Fu holding onto the rope binding him. Behind them, the boy walked along, seeming to not know how to walk properly.

"How many people are in your village?" Zhao Fu wanted some information. If the enemy had thousands of people, they would be able to overwhelm him with sheer numbers. If he went to attack them, it would be too shameful to turn tail and run when he saw their numbers.

"Lord, we have 400 brothers, and our leader is Niu Li," the bandit said without holding anything back. He told Zhao Fu everything to preserve his life.

Zhao Fu nodded and asked, "Does your village have a teleportation channel or any Scholars who can build teleportation channels?"

"Err, no, those aren't very useful to us," the bandit answered honestly, but he didn't understand why Zhao Fu would ask such a thing.

Zhao Fu inwardly sighed. Finding villages with teleportation channels was indeed quite difficult, and Zhao Fu didn't quite feel like going to the bandit village anymore. After all, going there might be useless, and even if he killed all of the bandits, all he would get was a City Creation Stone for his efforts. By now, City Creation Stones weren't very tempting to Zhao Fu.

"System announcement! The Great Qin Town has levelled up into an Intermediate Town."

"System announcement! A historical figure sleeping within Great Qin's Legacy has awakened."

The sudden system announcements surprised Zhao Fu – he hadn't expected the Great Qin Town to level up in such a short amount of time. It seemed that he had gained a lot of EXP in his battle at Heavenstone City, and adding on Great Qin's rapid attacks on the surrounding villages, the Great Qin Town had been able to level up quickly.

Zhao Fu also wondered who that new historical figure would be. He couldn't check here, so he could only wait until he returned to Great Qin.

"Hurry and chase! Don't let them escape!"

Just as Zhao Fu was about to release this bandit and give up on going to the bandit village, a shout sounded from ahead.

There were ten or so cavalymen chasing a horse-drawn carriage. The person driving the horse-drawn carriage seemed to be incredibly frantic, and he vigorously whipped the horses, trying to escape the cavalymen. However, the ten or so cavalymen remained right behind them.

Finally, the cavalymen caught up to the horse-drawn carriage and surrounded it. The cavalryman at the lead coldly laughed and said, "Big Miss Liu, you won't be able to escape this time. I suggest that you surrender, or don't blame us for being rude."

A beautiful woman in white walked out from within the carriage and said angrily, "We've already handed Mountain Willow Town to you; why won't you spare our family?"

"This is the order of the new Mayor. Bring them all back!" the cavalryman at the lead said loudly with a cold expression.

Following this, a few of the cavalymen dismounted and walked towards the carriage. The woman in white tried to resist, but she was quickly subdued. The men also brought out an elderly woman and a 5 or 6-year-old boy from within the carriage.

Not too far away, Zhao Fu watched all of this happen and asked the bandit, "Mountain Willow Town?"

The bandit immediately did his best to curry favour with Zhao Fu and replied, "Lord, Mountain Willow Town is the largest faction in the surrounding 100-kilometer radius area. It should have teleportation channels."

Chapter 186: Evil Power

When he heard this, Zhao Fu was delighted. Since Mountain Willow Town was a Town, it definitely had a teleportation channel.

By now, the beautiful woman in white had been caught by two of the cavalymen and was desperately struggling, but she was unable to free herself at all. Even if she could escape, because her little brother and elderly grandma had also been caught, she would only be able to leave by herself.

However, she knew the consequences of being caught. She would be locked up by Zhang Hong until he had steadied his position. After that, he would cut the weeds and eliminate the roots. Not only her, but her little brother and grandma would both die!

Suddenly, the woman in white saw a strange group of three people in the distance, and she yelled with a trace of hope, "Save us! Please save us!"

The bandit smirked and thought, " _Who the hell would save you?_ "

Zhao Fu didn't do anything for now and started thinking about the costs and benefits. If it was a normal robbery or something like that, Zhao Fu might have intervened; even though he wouldn't obtain anything, he wouldn't lose anything. However, this matter was related to whether or not he could quickly return to Great Qin.

If he acted and offended the Town, it would be impossible for him to use its teleportation channel. What's more, he would be dragged into a big mess. On the other hand, the only benefit was some words of thanks.

At this moment, the captain of the cavalymen also noticed Zhao Fu and his party and coldly harrumphed as he said, "Hmph, piss off if you don't want to die! This is Mountain Willow Town's matters, so it's best you don't stick your nose in."

Zhao Fu frowned.

When he saw that Zhao Fu wasn't moving and seemed to be ignoring him, the captain became enraged. He nodded at five of the cavalymen, signaling them to kill Zhao Fu and his party. To him, these outsiders were just three ruffians, while they were part of the largest faction in the surrounding 100-kilometer radius area. It was only natural that they acted in such an unbridled manner.

The five cavalymen mounted their warhorses and drew their swords as they charged at Zhao Fu.

Seeing this, the bandit hid behind Zhao Fu. He didn't have much to fear because these cavalymen's cultivation level was only slightly higher than his, and they didn't have anything special about them. His group of bandits had been completely wiped out by the little monster behind Zhao Fu alone, and they hadn't even been able to retaliate!

As such, the bandit wasn't too worried, as the outcome was set. It was just that he was afraid of getting a lot of blood on him, so he had retreated behind Zhao Fu.

Very soon, the five cavalymen and their warhorses reached Zhao Fu.

The bandit turned and looked at Little Sha and gulped, expecting him to start massacring again. However, when the five cavalymen arrived, Little Sha only revealed a ferocious expression but didn't attack, surprising the bandit.

Shing!

The sound of a sword's hum rang out as a five or six meter long black arc of light flashed out, instantly cutting the necks of the five cavalymen. A large amount of blood spurted out, and they were instantly covered with an evil power.

In the next second, the five cavalymen were quickly reduced to dry corpses. Even their warhorses neighed as their fleshly essence was also devoured.

The bandit was given a big fright and retreated a few steps away from Zhao Fu. He now knew that he had guessed correctly – Zhao Fu was indeed the more terrifying one.

Seeing this, the woman in white felt was delighted and yelled, "Young sir, if you're willing to save us, I will gift Mountain Willow Town to you!"

Hearing this, Zhao Fu turned and calmly glanced at her.

When he saw his subordinates being killed, the captain became incredibly furious and rushed at Zhao Fu with his remaining cavalymen. However, in just another few attacks, their blood flew as they were also killed. The captain, who had the highest cultivation, was only at Stage 0-8. How could he be a match for Zhao Fu?

After killing all of the cavalymen, Zhao Fu rode his Graystone Beast towards the woman in white.

The boy by the woman's side was quite afraid when he saw the black-cloaked man, Zhao Fu, coming towards them. The elderly woman put her arm around the boy and was quite wary towards Zhao Fu after seeing him kill those people without hesitating. She could feel that the person coming over was quite terrifying, and the servant who had driven the horse carriage stood beside the woman in white to protect her.

"Do you remember what you said before?" Zhao Fu came before the woman in white and looked at her as he spoke calmly.

The woman recovered from her shock and fixed up her attire, regaining the airs of a lady from an aristocratic household. She performed a slight curtsy to Zhao Fu before saying, "Thank you, young sir, for saving us. I was speaking the truth, but young sir needs to first kill Zhang Hong before I can give Mountain Willow Town to you."

Now that the situation had become like this, there was no going back. Zhao Fu thought about the requirements to upgrade to a City, which was that he needed to control three Towns. Raising his own Villages to Towns would clearly take more time and effort than directly conquering one. This was why Zhao Fu was so interested.

"Let's go! We'll leave this place for now."

Following this, Zhao Fu led the party away from that place and went to a large tree to rest. Zhao Fu said to the woman in white, "Tell me everything you know and don't hide anything from me!"

The woman in white told Zhao Fu everything that he wanted to hear.

The woman was named Liu Subai, and she was the daughter of the original Mayor of Mountain Willow Town, Liu Ming. A month ago, Liu Ming suddenly died, and Liu Subai should have succeeded her father as the Mayor. However, the position was taken by Zhang Hong.

Zhang Hong was the strongest person in Mountain Willow Town, and he controlled a large portion of Mountain Willow Town's military forces. He held great authority within Mountain Willow Town. Liu Ming had always been quite wary of Zhang Hong, but she had never gotten rid of him. In fact, Liu Subai even suspected that Liu Ming's sudden death was related to Zhang Hong.

Even though Zhang Hong took over Mountain Willow Town and became the Mayor, his position wasn't very steady, as most of the residents supported the Liu family.

Even though Zhang Hong controlled a large part of the military, he didn't dare to clash against most of the residents and the other portion of the military. As such, he wanted to become Liu Bai's husband to solidify his position and officially take over, making Mountain Willow Town his.

Liu Subai had found an opportunity to escape, but she had been discovered and chased after. This was how she had met Zhao Fu.

She also told Zhao Fu the specifics about the town itself: Mountain Willow Town was a Silver grade Town and had around 23,000 residents. They had roughly 4,000 soldiers; however, most of their equipment was still White grade, while only some elites had Blue grade equipment. Most of the soldiers' cultivation was also around Stage 0-4 to 0-6.

As for Zhang Hong, his cultivation was at Stage 2, and he used a sword that was most likely Gold grade. At the same time, he had multiple pieces of Silver grade equipment as well.

After listening to the woman, Zhao Fu started to think. This information was very detailed and useful. Luckily, Mountain Willow Town wasn't an impenetrable iron board, and it was possible to use Liu Subai to kill Zhang Hong!

Chapter 187: Today You Will Die

Liu Subai spoke in great detail, and the emotions she revealed on her face weren't fake either. However, despite this, Zhao Fu was still unwilling to completely trust her. After all, who could completely trust a person he or she had just met?

"Do you want to take revenge? I can help you, but you have to pay a small price!" After saying this, Zhao Fu took out four Life-and-Death Contracts. Unless he held all of their lives in his hand, it would be impossible for him to fully trust them.

Liu Subai and the others' expressions became grim when they saw the four Life-and-Death Contracts. After all, who would be happy putting his or her life into someone else's hands?

Liu Subai thought for a moment before resolving herself and saying, "I can agree to forming the contract with you, but please spare my grandma, little brother, and servant. I don't want them to be threatened and controlled."

Zhao Fu thought about it and decided that controlling her was enough, so he nodded and agreed.

When the contract turned into countless motes of light and entered Liu Subai's body, Zhao Fu decided to start his plan. He first needed soldiers and the residents who supported the Liu family in order to contend with Zhang Hong.

Zhao Fu looked towards the bound bandit and a trace of a smile appeared on his face. A few hours later, Zhao Fu rode on his Graystone Beast with the bandit leading the way and Little Sha, who was still learning how to walk, walking behind.

They finally reached a fairly chaotic village. Everything was strewn everywhere without any sense of order, and everyone went about his or her own matters.

When the bandit appeared at the entrance bound by a rope, the other bandits inside all came over. Some were quite shocked and some hoped to see a good show, but all of them brought their weapons to the entrance of the village and looked at the three strange people in front of them.

"Deng Ke! Didn't you take ten or so brothers out to do some robbing? Why've you returned like this?" one of the bandits who knew Zhao Fu's captive asked as he laughed.

Deng Ke, the bandit who had led Zhao Fu here, looked quite awkward. However, he thought about it and also laughed as he replied, "I brought an esteemed lord here to Sole Wolf Village! This lord needs people to work for him, so I urge you all to submit to him!"

Deng Ke knew how powerful Zhao Fu was, and he was certain that he would take down this village. If he didn't curry favor now, when would he have the opportunity? Not only would he be able to keep his life, but he might also be given a minor official role in the future. Deng Ke's words surprised the rest of the bandits, and they immediately became serious. They weren't stupid, and they all looked at Zhao Fu riding on the Graystone Beast.

"What? You traitorous thing, your elder's going to slaughter you!" A ferocious-looking big man walked to the entrance of the village. He was the Chief of Sole Wolf Village, and he yelled furiously when he heard Deng Ke's words.

When he saw how frightening the Bandit Chief looked, Deng Ke was quite fearful. Normally, he would always give in and retreat, but with Zhao Fu's support, he no longer had to fear him. Just as he was about to retort, Zhao Fu said calmly, "I'm here to take over Sole Wolf Village. It's not too late for you to surrender; I don't want to commit a massacre!"

"Hahahaha..." the Bandit Chief laughed uproariously when he heard Zhao Fu. There were only three of them, yet he dared to say such a thing. Following this, he ordered, "Fire the arrows! Kill these people for me."

Swish, swish, swish...

60 bandit Archers obeyed and released their arrows. Facing these arrows, Zhao Fu raised his right hand, and just as the countless arrows were about to hit him, a black shield with dragon inscriptions expanded out, covering the two meters around Zhao Fu and knocking away all of the arrows. Following this, an aura that was stronger than even that of a Stage 2 expert's erupted out from Zhao Fu, covering everyone nearby.

Immediately, everyone was given a big fright. They had never witnessed Stage 2 power before, as the strongest one among them, the Bandit Chief, was only at Stage 1.

“You will die today. Anyone else who wants to die can also continue attacking!” Zhao Fu drew the Sky Demon Sword and pointed it at the Bandit Chief. All of the other bandits started to hesitate – they were bandits and didn’t have very high Loyalty. When they saw how powerful Zhao Fu was, they knew that they couldn’t defeat him, so they didn’t want to just throw their lives away.

The Bandit Chief was completely infuriated and he roared, “Anyone who doesn’t obey my orders will be drawn and quartered! There are only three of them and 400 of us; what are you all afraid of?”

The bandits couldn’t help but agree, and just as they were about to start attacking Zhao Fu...

A small and unremarkable figure darted into the crowd of bandits. A chain of pained cries sounded out as a bloody light swept around, causing blood to fly in the air. In just an instant, 20 or so people had died.

This instantly shocked all of the bandits. The figure returned to Zhao Fu’s side, and they realized that it was that unremarkable-looking boy. Deng Ke, who was hiding behind Zhao Fu, laughed in a pleased manner as he thought to himself, “_Now you all know how terrifying that little monster is!_” “I said that anyone who wants to die can continue attacking. Do you really think that I don’t have the power to slaughter your entire village?” Zhao Fu’s cold gaze swept around, his words carrying a dense killing intent, causing all of the bandits’ hearts to feel a chill.

“Hurry and attack! Archers, fire...” the Bandit Chief started panicking and yelled a chain of orders. However, under Zhao Fu’s cold gaze, not a single bandit dared to move. They already knew how this would end, so they no longer followed the Bandit Chief’s orders.

Seeing this, the Band Chief was filled with rage. He had no other choice but to rush at Zhao Fu with his spear.

The Bandit Chief’s actions were incredibly quick and violent, and he reached Zhao Fu in an instant. He gripped his spear and thrust forwards, sending the spear tearing through the air at Zhao Fu.

At that moment, Zhao Fu casually waved the sword in his hand, knocking the spear away. This left the confident Bandit Chief completely dumbfounded.

Following this, Zhao Fu immediately slashed out the other way, and a black sword light flashed as the Bandit Chief’s head flew off his neck, killing him instantly. This Bandit Chief’s cultivation was only at Stage 1, so how could he hope to defeat Zhao Fu?

As soon as the Bandit Chief died, the other bandits immediately threw their weapons to the ground and knelt as they pleaded for their lives, apologizing for offending Zhao Fu before.

Deng Ke walked out with a big smile. This was exactly what he had expected!

Following this, Zhao Fu took over Sole Wolf Village. Liu Subai and her party, who were waiting a distance away from the village under Zhao Fu’s orders, were brought in. After finding out that Zhao Fu had taken over this village so quickly, they were completely flabbergasted.

Chapter 188: Who In The World?

After conquering the bandit village, Zhao Fu gave out 400 sets of Silver grade equipment. These were all from Gu Feng's spatial ring.

All of the bandits and Liu Subai were shocked as they watched Zhao Fu pass out the Silver grade equipment. Even Mountain Willow Town didn't have so many sets of Silver grade equipment. In fact, even those in the upper levels of Mountain Willow Town only had one piece of Silver grade equipment, and the Bandit Chief of this village only had one Silver grade piece of equipment, which was the spear.

"_Who in the world is this person?_" Zhao Fu started to seem more and more mysterious to those around him. None of them could guess just what sort of status he had, though no one dared to directly ask because that would simply be seeking death. All of them completely and utterly feared Zhao Fu now.

Zhao Fu had many reasons for giving these bandits Silver grade equipment. He had far fewer people than Mountain Willow Town, and because the bandits had lower cultivation as well, they were at a great disadvantage. Giving them Silver grade equipment not only increased their battle power but also increased their battle spirit.

However, when he saw how undisciplined and idle these bandits seemed, Zhao Fu decided to give them proper battle training.

.....

Within Mountain Willow Town, a hawk-nosed man frowned and asked one of his subordinates, "What's going on? Where are the Liu family's people?"

The subordinate respectfully lowered his head as he replied, "When we went, we only found the dry corpses of ten of our people; they seemed to have been attacked by some demonic creature. However, we didn't find the Liu family's people!"

"Hmph! They must have escaped!" Zhang Hong coldly harrumphed as he said angrily.

The subordinate nodded as he replied, "It's possible that they escaped, but it's also possible that they were attacked by the demonic creature, though we didn't find their corpses. Nevertheless, because they have an elderly woman and a young boy, it's impossible for them to survive for long in the wilderness. They'll either be killed by bandits or eaten by wild beasts. Right now, we should be focusing on how to placate the townspeople."

Zhang Hong thought for a moment before saying, "I know. You can go!"

Following this, the subordinate respectfully retreated.

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Back at Zhao Fu's side, Zhao Fu started to teach the bandits how to work together in battle. After a few days of intense training, the bandits started to seem a bit like soldiers.

Following this, Zhao Fu took the 400 bandits, as well as Liu Subai, and started carrying out the plan.

A few hours later, Zhao Fu and his soldiers arrived at a hill and looked at Mountain Willow Town in the distance. The town was quite big, and it occupied ten or so square kilometers. It also had six-meter tall walls. If Zhao Fu attacked this town directly with his 400 bandits, it would be impossible to conquer this town.

Because Liu Subai had told Zhao Fu a lot of information about Mountain Willow Town, he decided to lie in wait here to wait for someone.

Even though most of the soldiers had already surrendered to Zhang Hong, there was still a small faction that was unwilling. They continued to support the Liu family, and Zhang Hong treated these people quite poorly.

He would give them the most tiring and difficult jobs to them, such as patrolling the outermost boundaries of Mountain Willow Town. The patrolling region was quite large, so those on patrol had to check the surrounding five-kilometer radius area of Mountain Willow Town. There were also many soldiers stationed on the town walls and below the walls.

Mountain Willow Town's strict defenses comprised of three lines. The first was the soldiers patrolling the outermost region; the second was the area around the town walls; and the final one was the soldiers on the town walls.

Perhaps it was because Zhang Hong didn't trust the soldiers he put on the first line of defense, but the second and third lines of defense were comprised of mainly elites and his most trusted troops. He absolutely wouldn't let anything happen to shake his rule.

Soon, a group of roughly 200 soldiers started to walk towards where Zhao Fu and his soldiers were.

At that moment, one of the soldiers said in displeasure, "Zhang Hong's too much; he even made us patrol the outer region. Before, we were Mayor Liu's trusted aides and the elites among elites. Who would have thought we would fall into such a situation? All of our good equipment was taken as well, and we have to work tirelessly every day and suffer harsh conditions!"

Another soldier also said angrily, "That's right! Zhang Hong doesn't treat us as soldiers of Mountain Willow Town; he just wants us to die as soon as possible without him doing anything himself. Whenever I see how arrogant Zhang Hong's people are, I feel goddamn angry! Sometimes I even wonder if Mayor Liu's death had to do with Zhang Hong."

"Alright, enough! Now that Zhang Hong is the new Mayor and it's said that he's going to marry Big Miss Liu, Mountain Willow Town will soon belong to Zhang Hong. Let's not complain; even though we're tired, we're still protecting Mountain Willow Town," a middle-aged man, the captain of this team, said as he sighed.

The other soldiers couldn't accept this, but after thinking about it, all they could do was sigh.

"Careful! There are people ahead," the middle-aged captain suddenly shouted, surprising the soldiers.

Following this, people started to walk out and surrounded the 200 soldiers. Seeing the people around them and the sparkling silver equipment on them, the soldiers' pupils contracted as they nervously looked about them. They were in grave danger!

“Who are you? Do you know that we’re Mountain Willow Town’s people?” the middle-aged captain shouted as he looked around seriously, feeling quite confused. Where had such a powerful group of people come from?

“Uncle Sun!” a familiar voice filled with joy said.

Sun Xiaowei was that middle-aged captain, and he turned and saw that it was Liu Subai. He asked in surprise, “Big Miss Liu, shouldn’t you be at home? Why are you here? Who are they?”

Sun Xiaowei looked at the enemies around them, and he found that Liu Subai had come together with them.

“It’s like this, Uncle Sun. We were kept under house arrest by Zhang Hong and escaped with great difficulty. I suspect that my father’s death was caused by Zhang Hong, and this sir here is going to help me take back Mountain Willow Town!”

After seeing someone she knew, Liu Subai was quite excited and started explaining everything to him before introducing Zhao Fu to him.

After hearing Liu Subai say these things, everyone looked over at the mysterious black-cloaked figure.

Sun Xiaowei could tell with a glance that this person wasn’t ordinary, and he was quite wary towards him. He then looked back at Liu Subai and asked, “Big Miss Liu, is what you said really the truth?”

Liu Subai nodded earnestly and told him everything that had happened.

After hearing what Liu Subai had to say, the soldiers who were still loyal to the Liu family became completely infuriated, and they were more or less certain that it was Zhang Hong who had caused Mayor Liu’s death. Adding on how Zhang Hong had treated them, they quickly decided to join Zhao Fu’s party.

Chapter 189: Darker and Darker

After accepting these 200 new soldiers, Zhao Fu’s force expanded to 600 soldiers.

At first, Sun Xiaowei didn’t believe that Zhao Fu and his people could help Liu Subai take back Mountain Willow Town. However, there was no other choice. Zhao Fu was their only hope, and if they didn’t struggle, Mountain Willow Town would definitely fall into Zhang Hong’s hands. Not much time had yet passed, so most of the residents were still loyal to the Liu family. However, once enough time passed and most of the residents became loyal to Zhang Hong, it would be impossible to take back Mountain Willow Town.

At the same time, Zhao Fu explained his plan to them, which increased the confidence in him, and they all agreed with his plan.

Apart from this team, there were two other patrol teams. However, there were people who Zhang Hong had planted within those teams, so they needed to be weeded out first.

The three teams patrolled different regions, and because Zhao Fu saw that it was getting late, Sun Xiaowei suggested splitting into two groups to gather the other teams.

Sun Xiaowei would lead one group to bring in the other team and kill Zhang Hong's spies, while Zhao Fu would take care of the other team.

Zhao Fu approved, and they split up to find the other two teams.

.....

Over at Mountain Willow Town, ten arrogant soldiers swaggered about at the front with a group of discouraged and sighing soldiers behind them. "Hurry it up! This captain wants to go back quickly to cuddle with my darling!" the man at the lead turned and yelled in displeasure at the group behind him.

A trace of anger appeared in the eyes of the soldiers behind him because the ten people in front relied on Zhang Hong's position to treat them extremely disrespectfully. They ordered the other soldiers about while they did nothing, and even though the other soldiers were quite angry, they held down their anger.

Suddenly, figures rushed out from the side and surrounded them. The patrol team was quite surprised, and the man at the lead looked around in panic as he yelled, "We're from Mountain Willow Town; piss off if you know what's good for you!"

"Hmph, of course we know you're from Mountain Willow Town," a female's voice said, and everyone looked over and saw Liu Subai. The ten or so people at the front stared in surprise, while those at the back said joyfully, "Big Miss Liu, why are you here?"

Liu Subai came out and said everything that she had said to Sun Xiaowei.

The ten soldiers at the front who were loyal to Zhang Hong yelled, "Big Miss Liu has been muddled by other people; Mayor Zhang wouldn't do such a thing. Hurry! You all stop these people, and we'll go back to report this matter to Mayor Zhang."

These ten people felt that the situation was getting worse, so they wanted the others to stop Zhao Fu's soldiers so that they could escape. However, no one was willing to follow their orders.

"Alright! Big Miss, we're willing to help you retake Mountain Willow Town. We all received Mayor Liu's good graces back then." The soldiers only thought about it for a couple seconds before making a decision. Hearing their words, the ten or so people at the front started to panic and immediately tried to escape. However, they were immediately surrounded by the bandits and killed in just a few moments. But, they kept one alive.

After joining up with this team, Zhao Fu's team and Sun Xiaowei's team once again joined together. Because every patrol team had roughly 200 soldiers, Zhao Fu's force had now expanded to 1,000 soldiers.

By now, the sky had darkened, and stars started to appear in the night sky. However, tonight was a moonless night.

Following this, Zhao Fu started to discuss his strategy with the captains. The soldiers who had been killed before would be replaced by the bandits, and they would enter Mountain Willow Town in waves under the cover of night.

This wouldn't be too difficult with the soldiers they had kept alive who were loyal to Zhang Hong. The captains followed Zhao Fu's plans and took their soldiers back to rest and recover.

Right now, Mountain Willow Town was like how it had always been, but the gears of change had already started to turn.

Outside Mountain Willow Town, Zhao Fu told his soldiers to rest and conserve their strength while they waited for a good opportunity. Time gradually passed, and it became darker and darker. Soon, it was midnight, and Mountain Willow Town completely fell silent as if the entire town had fallen asleep.

The wind blew, bringing with it clouds that covered the faint stars, causing the lighting to become even dimmer. The time had come, and within Mountain Willow Town, Sun Xiaowei and the other soldiers started to move. They put on their equipment and went to one of the town walls. He told the rest of the soldiers to hide while he took a few soldiers and walked towards the town wall. The soldiers standing guard were quite surprised when they saw Sun Xiaowei and immediately stopped the group, saying, "Sun Xiaowei, why are you here at such a late hour?"

Sun Xiaowei smiled, seeming to be currying favor as he said, "Brother Li, I've thought about it recently, and I can't take this sort of treatment anymore. I'd like to submit to Mayor Zhang, but because I was too stubborn before, I'm afraid that Mayor Zhang won't accept me. I know that Mayor Zhang values brother Li greatly, so I was hoping that brother Li could help me out."

Following this, Sun Xiaowei took out a sack filled with gold coins and handed it to the soldier. Seeing this, the soldier became ecstatic – Sun Xiaowei was quite capable, but he was incredibly stubborn and refused to pay allegiance to Zhang Hong. If he helped Sun Xiaowei submit to Zhang Hong, he would be heavily rewarded.

"No problem! I'll definitely say a few good words for you to Mayor Zhang," the soldiers said while smiling. However, in the next moment, he felt a chill in his heart as his hairs stood on end.

Chi!

A sharp dagger pierced through his chest, and the soldier revealed an expression of shock, unable to work out why Sun Xiaowei would suddenly kill him.

The soldiers behind Sun Xiaowei rushed up and caught the other soldiers standing guard by surprise and killed them. They dragged the corpses to a dark corner, and the hidden soldiers all rushed out, killing the rest of the soldiers standing guard.

After taking control, Sun Xiaowei lit three torches on the town wall, signaling that he had succeeded, and he ordered for the town gates to be opened. Time was of the essence, and Zhao Fu immediately took the rest of his force to join with Sun Xiaowei. Then, Zhao Fu's 1,000 soldiers went to storm the Mayor's residence. However, as the current Mayor, Zhang Hong had already received word as to what had happened. Even though he was startled when he woke up, he immediately started yelling orders.

Mountain Willow Town, which had previously been sleeping, suddenly came awake and burst into chaos as a large number of soldiers gathered at the Mayor's residence.

Zhao Fu noticed this and gave orders to Sun Xiaowei.

Immediately, loud gongs and drums accompanied by yells sounded out, "Zhang Hong killed Mayor Liu and wanted to kill Old Lady Liu and sully Big Miss Liu. He even wasn't willing to let Young Master Liu off. Big Miss Liu is leading people to take back Mountain Willow Town; please help us get rid of that evil bandit, Zhang Hong!"

Chapter 190: Malicious Ghost Soulstealing

Since ancient times, he who held the support of the people held the world. Popular support could be said to be one of the most important things to a ruler.

Zhang Hong's 3,500 soldiers were all quite experienced, and because Zhao Fu only had 1,000 soldiers, they would have to each face three enemies. Zhao Fu was at a clear disadvantage, so he hoped to use the residents to restrict Zhang Hong.

At the same time, he had poured a bucket of dirty water over Zhang Hong. In actuality, Zhao Fu had no idea if Liu Ming's death really had to do with Zhang Hong, but he still did his best to paint Zhang Hong as despicable, unforgivable scum.

Only that way could he incite the crowds against Zhang Hong and help his forces overthrow him!

The clamoring in Mountain Willow Village woke up many people, and when they heard these yells, the residents came out. When they saw Liu Subai crying and how devastated she was, they immediately became furious and joined Zhao Fu's forces.

More and more people joined Zhao Fu's forces, and they rushed towards the Mayor's residence, seeming completely unstoppable. Very soon, the two sides clashed.

On one side, Zhang Hong controlled most of the military and a small portion of the residents, while Zhao Fu's side had a smaller force of 1,000 soldiers and bandits. However, he had the majority of the residents supporting them.

"Who are you?" Zhang Hong asked as he glared at the black-cloaked figure beside Liu Subai.

He knew that in the few days after Liu Subai had escaped, it was impossible for her to gather so many people to attack Mountain Willow Town. All of this must have been done by the black-cloaked figure beside her, as everyone seemed to follow his orders. However, despite being at Mountain Willow Town for so long, Zhang Hong had never heard of this person before.

"Who I am isn't important! I heard that a tyrant appeared in Mountain Willow Town, scum who tries to kill even the elderly and the young. My heart was filled with indignance, so I decided to help Big Miss Liu take back Mountain Willow Town and get rid of you, you villain!"

Zhao Fu did his best to seem as righteous as possible to gain the support of the residents, and he made Zhang Hong seem as wicked as possible.

“Hmph!” Zhang Hong coldly harrumphed – he didn’t believe Zhao Fu at all. What idiot would waste so much time and effort without asking for any rewards? Zhang Hong realized that Zhao Fu’s goal was most likely Mountain Willow Village as well.

“Ah, Gou Sheng! Hurry and come over here! Stop helping Zhang Hong commit evil crimes. You won’t have a good end following him!”

Just as Zhang Hong was about to say something, an elderly voice sounded out. Indeed, Zhao Fu’s side was pulling out the emotional cards.

When comparing residents and soldiers, soldiers would obviously be more powerful. After all, soldiers had professions, equipment, skills, battle experience, and buffs. As such, soldiers were normally much more powerful than residents.

Because of this, Zhao Fu chose to play on the soldiers’ emotions. The people who Zhang Hong’s soldiers were facing were the townspeople, who included their families and friends. It would be impossible for them to attack and kill those people.

Many soldiers’ hearts started to be shaken, and they seemed to want to join Zhao Fu’s side!

“That’s right! Old Li’s son, don’t continue committing evils over there!”

“Big brother, come to this side; don’t continue following those sorts of people!”

“Darling! Come to this side!”

Zhao Fu’s side used all sorts of tactics. Facing the shouts of so many family members and friends, many of the soldiers looked like they were going to join Zhao Fu.

Seeing this, Zhang Hong became completely infuriated and exploded out with his Stage 2 cultivator’s aura, causing it to weigh down on everyone as he yelled, “I’ll see who dares to go over!”

This massive aura caused many of the soldiers who had wanted to join Zhao Fu’s side to freeze. Zhang Hong was indeed the strongest person in Mountain Willow Town to be able to suppress the scene with just his aura alone.

Under Zhang Hong’s immense aura, many people started to feel nervous, and they revealed expressions of terror. They felt that Zhang Hong was undefeatable, and Zhao Fu’s side’s morale started to plummet.

At this moment, an aura that was no less weaker than Zhang Hong’s, and even somewhat stronger, burst forth, colliding with Zhang Hong’s aura.

“Don’t worry everyone; I will kill this Zhang Hong!”

Everyone’s gaze fell on the black-cloaked figure, and a wave of cheers sounded out. It was as if they were looking at a majestic hero.

Sun Xiaowei let out a breath of relief. He hadn’t expected Zhao Fu to be so strong to the point that he could even contend with their strongest expert.

Zhang Hong looked over at Zhao Fu and released an ominous killing intent. His body disappeared like a bolt of lightning and shot towards Zhao Fu. He knew that if he didn’t get rid of Zhao Fu, it would be

impossible to fully control the situation. Zhao Fu had realized the same thing, and he drew his sword to meet Zhang Hong.

Following this, Zhang Hong and Zhao Fu engaged in a massive battle, and their forces also clashed together. Even though many of Zhang Hong's soldiers had joined Zhao Fu's side, there were still many who were loyal to Zhang Hong, resulting in an intense battle.

Zhang Hong's sword shot out a dark and cold sword light towards Zhao Fu's throat, which Zhao Fu evaded by ducking to the side. Immediately following this, Zhang Hong swept his sword to the side, forcing Zhao Fu to block with his sword.

Zhang Hong then suddenly spun and lashed out with a kick, sending his leg through the air with a 'whoosh.' In response, Zhao Fu clenched his other fist and punched with all of his strength.

Bang!

The sound of the air exploding rang out as Zhao Fu and Zhang Hong each took two steps back. Zhao Fu hadn't expected Zhang Hong to be so powerful, nor had Zhang Hong expected Zhao Fu to be so strong. He was the strongest within the surrounding 100-kilometer radius area, and he hadn't expected someone who could rival him to suddenly appear.

Both of their expressions started to become serious, and they soon started to clash again. Zhao Fu's sword fiercely slashed towards Zhang Hong, who dodged to the side and flicked his sword upwards. This sinister strike slashed upwards towards Zhao Fu's chin, and Zhao Fu quickly retreated, barely avoiding it.

Suddenly, Zhang Hong stepped forwards, and his sword gave off a large amount of gray light as it stabbed towards Zhao Fu's chest.

In response, Zhao Fu coldly harrumphed and unleashed Sky Demon Slash!

A sharp black sword qi slashed out and collided with Zhang Hong's sword, resulting in another explosion. Sword light scattered everywhere, releasing terrifying shockwaves and making it so that no one dared to step too close.

"Malicious Ghost Soulstealing!"

After exchanging many blows, Zhang Hong realized that he was at a disadvantage, and he could only explode out with his strongest attack. His body erupted with a sinister gray aura, and he slashed out as an ashen-faced, malicious-looking ghost appeared and shot towards Zhao Fu like a blur.

Zhao Fu slowly raised the Sky Demon Sword and gathered its demonic qi, unleashing Sky Demon's Feast.

The image of a savage demon soon rushed out to meet the malicious ghost!

Chi!

The image of the demon slashed the malicious ghost into pieces with a single attack, and Zhang Hong coughed up a mouthful of blood. Zhao Fu caught this opportunity and ran forwards, turning into a blurry shadow as he stabbed his sword through Zhang Hong's chest. He then rotated it, destroying Zhang Hong's internal organs and finally killing him.

As soon as Zhang Hong died, his subordinates lost their battle spirit, and the situation turned to Zhao Fu's side's favor, resulting in his victory.