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“Sir, we are just here to do some business, nothing too big.”

Chen Hao immediately received Zhen Ji’s signal for help. Hence, he smiled and stood up as he answered the guy’s question.

The Hunter looked at him coldly.

“Who the f*ck are you?! I am talking to this pretty lady here. Is this any of your business?” the Hunter scolded Chen Hao as he looked at him in an angry and arrogant manner.

When Chen Hao heard this, he frowned as the expression on his face changed dramatically.

Slam!

The next second, Chen Hao made his move.

Chen Hao sent the Hunter flying with his punch.

When they saw this, the rest of the Hunters stood up as they drew their knives and looked angrily at Chen Hao.

They did not expect Chen Hao to make his move so abruptly and directly. Moreover, they did not expect him to be that powerful.

“They are no ordinary people. They definitely have a purpose for coming here,” said another Hunter.

“Get him!” With that, this group of Hunters rushed toward Chen Hao and his group.

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Chen Hao did not feel the slightest bit anxious as he struck out his palm.

A huge shock wave was generated as the Hunters were flipped onto their backs.

“Let’s go!” After these Hunters were struck to the ground, Chen Hao immediately dragged Lei Lie and Zhen Ji as they left the restaurant. They were in such a rush that they did not have time to pay their bill.

After they left the restaurant, Chen Hao and his entourage got into the car immediately and left.

They had already vanished without a trace by the time the Hunters regained their senses and rushed out.

“Damn it! These three people are definitely up to something! We have to notify the leader immediately!” the person leading them quickly ordered the other Hunters.

They were in hot soup this time as their identities were completely exposed.

Gasp! Lei Lie panted as he sat in the car.

He was frightened out of his wits this time as he did not expect Chen Hao to fight back directly.

“Mr. Chen, you are so amazing! You managed to flip them on their backs! It’s basically one man against ten thousand!” Lei Lie did not forget to praise Chen Hao amidst his shock.

“Can you keep a cool head next time?”

At the moment, Chen Hao glared at Lei Lie angrily.

Lei Lie had been just too anxious just now.

“Erm...” Lei Lie looked embarrassed.

“Chen Hao, what should we do now? That group of people have definitely made us their targets!”

Zhen Ji did not blame Lei Lie at all; instead she looked at Chen Hao and asked this question.

It seemed that they had alerted the enemies to their presence. Hence, they had definitely caught the attention of the Hunter Association. Soon, trouble would come knocking.

“Don’t worry. They do not know our true identities yet. Moreover, they are still in the dark about us, yet we know everything about them. Hence, we still have a slight advantage over this situation,” said Chen Hao calmly.

In Chen Hao’s opinion, the leader of the Hunter Association would not expend so much energy and human resources to deal with them because their main goal was the Evil Blood Token.

At the moment, on the other side...

Inside a tent within the campsite.

The cloaked man that Chen Hao saw yesterday was sitting inside the tent.

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There were a few Hunters standing in front of him.

“Sir, today we met 3 strange people in a restaurant. One of them has extraordinary powers. It seems that he isn’t any ordinary man.” one of the Hunters reported to the.

After the cloaked man heard this, he rose to his feet immediately.

“In your opinion, who do you think they are?” asked the cloaked man as he looked at the Hunters.

“To answer your question, I think they are here for the Evil Blood Token,” the Hunter immediately answered the question.

“Okay! Please be on your guard next time. The moment you see these three people again, I want you to report back. If they try to stop you all, just eliminate them immediately.” The cloaked man looked at these Hunters as he gave out his orders.

“Yes, sir!” said the Hunters in unison. Then, they left the tent one at a time.

That night, Chen Hao and his group found a flat area to set up their tent.

The three of them set up their tent. Then, they sat in front of a bonfire.

“Mr. Chen, why do we have to camp outside? Why can’t we stay in a hotel?” Lei Lie looked at Chen

Hao doubtfully and asked.

Chen Hao lifted his head to look at him.

“That is because the Hunters are definitely looking for us right now. Hence, we would be easily exposed if we were to stay in a hotel.” Chen Hao looked at Lei Lie as he briefly explained the situation.

When he heard Chen Hao’s explanation, Lei Lie instantly understood.

Indeed, the entire Hunter Association was mobilized. The Hunters’ shadows could be seen everywhere. Hence, it was definitely dangerous for them to stay in a hotel where they would be easily discovered.

After a while, Lei Lie stood up.

“Mr. Chen, I am going to ease myself.”

After notifying Chen Hao, Lei Lie walked toward the bushes.

After all, they were camping outdoors. Hence, they had no choice but to settle their ‘business’ outside.

“Chen Hao, we will have a bloody battle to the end with the Hunter Association this time!”

At the moment, Zhen Ji looked at Chen Hao and reminded him.

Naturally, Chen Hao knew this as he nodded his

head with understanding.

“Yes. I understand what you mean. However, we have no choice. We cannot allow the Hunter Association to get their hands on the Evil Blood Token. Otherwise, the entire world will descend into chaos!”

Chen Hao looked at Zhen Ji as he expressed his heartfelt words.

The Evil Blood Token could control all the spirits in the world. If that happened, all the humans in the world would be completely subdued by the spirits. By then, everything would come to an end.

“By the way, Zhen Ji, are you at the Soul Stage now?” Chen Hao asked Zhen Ji again.

After Zhen Ji heard this, she nodded her head.

“That’s right! Right now, I am currently at the peak of the late stage of Immortality. I really wish to go even further. However, I do not have any idea how.”

When Zhen Ji said this, a sad, helpless expression flashed across her face.

It was hard to improve a Cultivator’s strength. Zhen Ji did not have Chen Hao’s talents and capabilities, hence she could only rely on her own stroke of luck to improve.

However, this matter had been going on for several months already. She really felt depressed that she had not achieved any breakthrough in her

cultivation.

“Don’t worry. I will definitely help you to come up with a solution.”

Chen Hao smiled as he consoled her.

Zhen Ji nodded her head obediently. Naturally, she believed in Chen Hao. She believed that he would be able to take her to the next level.

“Argh!”

At that moment, a shrill scream was heard.

This scream was none other than Lei Lie who had gone into the bushes to relieve himself.

When he heard Lei Lie screams, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji immediately stood up vigilantly as they ran into the bushes.

“Lei Lie, what’s wrong?!” Chen Hao shouted as he rushed toward him.

After he dashed into the bushes, he noticed that Lei Lie did not have his pants on, and he had collapsed onto the floor. He was trembling from head to toe.

Chen Hao and Zhen Ji scanned their surroundings, but they did not notice anything abnormal.

“It’s terrifying! Mr. Chen, it’s so scary!”

Lei Lie’s voice trembled as he looked at Chen Hao with a face full of fear.

“What’s so scary about it? What did you see?” asked Chen Hao as he frowned and looked at Lei Lie.

“There is nothing around you. Lei Lie, what did you see?” Zhen Ji asked Lei Lie with a surprised expression on her face.

If Lei Lie had seen a spirit, then Chen Hao and Zhen Ji would be able to sense it, but they did not. Hence, what Lei Lie saw was definitely not a spirit.

“I-I don’t know. J-Just now, I was standing there relieving myself when I suddenly felt a cold gust behind me. F-Following that...”

Lei Lie talked about it in a fearful manner. However, he still wasn’t able to tell them what he saw in the end.

“What happened next?” asked Chen Hao with a solemn expression.

“N-Next, I raised my head to take a look, and I saw a pair of red eyes staring at me. It really was terrifying!”

Following that, Lei Lie told them what he had seen.

After they heard Lei Lie’s explanation, Chen Hao

and Zhen Ji immediately raised their head to look.

They did not see anything that looked like what Lei Lie had described just now. Other than a crescent moon, nothing was out of place.

“There is nothing here. Maybe you were mistaken because you were just too tired?” Chen Hao looked at Lei Lie doubtfully and asked.

Lei Lie shook his head vigorously.

“Mr. Chen, Miss Zhen, I am sure I saw those eyes. I am not lying! There really was a pair of red eyes there,” Lei Lie insisted with a determined expression and tone as he fixed his gaze upon both of them.

When they heard Lei Lie’s determined explanation, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji felt that he wasn’t joking. Moreover, Lei Lie was scared out of his wits, hence that meant he really did encounter something terrible.

“Ok! Don’t worry. I am here, so nothing will happen to you. Please wear your pants.”

Chen Hao chose to believe Lei Lie as he reached out his hands and gave him a pat on his shoulder. Then, he motioned for Lei Lie to wear his pants properly.

When he heard Chen Hao’s reminder, only then did Lei Lie react.

Lei Lie glanced at his lower body. Then, he looked at Chen Hao and Zhen Ji.

Lei Lie immediately blushed furiously as he felt extremely embarrassed.

Lei Lie put on his pants quickly.

“Ok! Let’s get out of here first. Later when you feel like going to the loo, I will accompany you.”

After Lei Lie’s pants were on, Chen Hao continued to console him.

He knew that Lei Lie must have been frightened out of his wits. Hence, Chen Hao could only console him this way. At least, he could distract Lei Lie from those memories.

However, Lei Lie still felt afraid. He could not forget that pair of blood-red eyes just now as it still dwelled within his memories.

With that, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji brought Lei Lie back to the tent.

Chen Hao handed him a glass of warm beer.

“Come! Take a drink to calm yourself down,” said Chen Hao to Lei Lie in a considerate manner.

After all, Lei Lie was still so young. He barely graduated from university. As such, he did not have much experience in this, yet he still chose to follow him on this adventure. Hence, Chen Hao was concerned about his wellbeing.

“Thanks, Mr. Chen!” Lei Lie thanked Chen Hao as he took the glass from him.

His hands still shook when he took the glass from Chen Hao.

Chen Hao could not rest at ease when he saw Lei Lie's demeanor. Hence, he decided to have a look around. He wanted to get to the bottom of this.

However, pitch darkness shrouded them. Hence, he could not see anything clearly at all.

After he had a sip of warm beer, the color finally returned to Lei Lie's cheeks as he stopped trembling. He finally calmed down.

"Lei Lie, how do you feel? Do you feel better?" asked Chen Hao out of concern.

Lei Lie nodded his head.

"I-I feel much better."

Chen Hao finally felt relieved when he heard Lei Lie's words.

However, the words were barely out of his mouth when Lei Lie's eyes went wide as he stared straight at something behind Chen Hao and Zhen Ji.

When Chen Hao and Zhen Ji saw the change in Lei Lie's expression, they could instantly feel that something was wrong.

Both of them felt the presence of a different type of aura at the same time.

"Mr. Chen, Miss Zhen, watch out!" Lei Lie shouted

a warning to Chen Hao and Zhen Ji.

Chen Hao and Zhen Ji reacted swiftly as they quickly dodged to the side, not forgetting to drag Lei Lie with them as well.

Rustle!

The moment the three of them dodged to the side, a black figure jumped into view as it stamped out the bonfire.

In that instant, their surroundings were plunged into darkness.

“Mr. Chen, that’s it! That’s the thing I saw just now!” said Lei Lie immediately to the both of them.

At the moment, a pair of red eyes was seen within the pitch darkness. It was staring directly at the three of them.

“What is that?” Zhen Ji frowned as she asked.

Lei Lie shook his head.

“In a moment, we shall spread out. Don’t stand together, as it will make the target look larger. Zhen Ji, get me the flashlights from the bag in a minute.”

Chen Hao immediately came up with a countermeasure as he ordered Zhen Ji to act.

“Ok! I understand!” Zhen Ji immediately answered.

“Lei Lie, hide yourself. I will deal with this guy myself.”

Chen Hao looked at Lei Lie as he yelled out his orders.

Lei Lie quickly nodded his head like how a chicken pecked the ground for rice.

Of course he wouldn't stay in his original spot and fight! He was on the verge of being spooked to death. It would be better for him to hide himself than to cause trouble to Chen Hao or be a burden to him.

With that, the three of them spread out.

On the other hand, those red eyes directed its attention toward Chen Hao.

Seeing as the pair of red colored eyes was approaching him at a high speed, Chen Hao quickly dodged its attack as the pair of red eyes ran into the empty space where he had stood.

“Zhen Ji! Quickly turn on the flashlight!” Chen Hao yelled at Zhen Ji.

“Ok!” Zhen Ji yelled back.

With that, the flashlight was turned on.

Zhen Ji immediately directed the flashlight toward the pair of red eyes as she threw another flashlight to Chen Hao.

Chen Hao grabbed the flashlight and turned it on.

After they had their light source, they could finally make out what that thing was. It turned out to be a wild boar with glistening tusks and plenty of sharp spines sticking out from its body. It looked extremely ferocious.

When Chen Hao and the two of them saw this, they were surprised as they did not expect that to see a wild boar here.

The wild boar was a very aggressive beast. It seemed hungry as it treated Chen Hao and the other two people as its prey. That was why it attacked them just now.

At the moment, the wild boar was dashing madly toward Zhen Ji.

“Zhen Ji, be careful! Turn off your flashlight!”
Chen Hao reminded Zhen Ji.



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“Don’t come here! I will deal with it!” Chen Hao shouted at Zhen Ji and Lei Lie.

The wild boar was only inches away from him the moment the words left his mouth.

The tusks of the wild boar were very sharp as it opened its jaws and rushed toward Tang Yin in an attempt to bite him.

If he was bitten by a wild boar, he was afraid that he would be crippled, if not dead.

Naturally, Chen Hao would not give this wild boar an opportunity.

Chen Hao quickly rolled to the side as the Star Abyss Sword appeared in his hands.

Although the Star Abyss Sword was used against spirits, it was a good weapon as well.

The wild boar was big in size, and it looked ferocious. However, its movements weren’t that agile. As such, it crashed into a huge tree as it rushed toward Tang Yin.

Slam!

The huge tree shuddered as countless leaves fell.

Chen Hao was waiting for a good opportunity, for he knew that the time for him to act was finally here.

“Take this!”

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Chen Hao leapt into the air as he rushed toward the wild boar directly.

He stabbed it with the Star Abyss Sword.

“Die!” Chen Hao bellowed as he slashed the wild boar’s body open with his Star Abyss Sword.

A huge gash appeared as fresh blood began to gush out.

Roar!

The wild boar roared in pain as its cries echoed throughout the entire forest.

The originally peaceful night seemed to have become a horrifying one.

Following that, the wild boar couldn’t move at all as it collapsed onto the ground and died.

Chen Hao had killed the massive wild boar with one strike. This was just too easy for him.

“Whew!”

Lei Lie finally came out from behind the tree after he noticed that Chen Hao had killed the wild boar.

Lei Lie took deep breaths as he walked. He was finally able to relax as this wild boar was finally dead.

Lei Lie and Zhen Ji walked toward Chen Hao as they eyed the wild boar in front of them.

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“Damn! This wild boar is massive!”

Lei Lie couldn't help but exclaim. He had never seen such a massive wild boar before.

Never mind Lei Lie, even Chen Hao and Zhen Ji had never seen such a massive wild boar in their lives before.

“It so happens that wild boar's meat is not too bad. It seems that our dinner is settled.”

Chen Hao smiled as he reminded Lei Lie and Zhen Ji.

With that, Chen Hao cut out a huge chunk of meat from the wild boar's body with his Star Abyss Sword.

The meat of the wild boar was fresh and delicious, and coincidentally the three of them had not had their dinner yet.

Although they were in a relatively dangerous situation just now, this wild boar seemed to have brought them their dinner.

The wild boar had walked right up and delivered itself onto their plates.

Following that, Chen Hao started the bonfire again as he grilled the wild boar meat that he had carved out on top of the bonfire.

“Wow! This is the first time I have eaten a wild boar!” Lei Lie exclaimed as he looked at the wild boar meat in front of him; he couldn't help but

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swallow his saliva. He could imagine those heavenly flavors in his mouth already.

“Lei Lie, have you heard of the Cultivators before?”

At the moment, Chen Hao looked at Lei Lie and asked him this question as he found it amusing.

“Cultivators? What is that?”

Lei Lie asked out of curiosity when he heard Chen Hao’s words.

Chen Hao couldn’t help but roll his eyes at him.

“They are not a thing. It is a form of occupation. A Cultivator’s job is to subdue spirits and ghosts,” explained Chen Hao helplessly to Lei Lie.

In that instant, Lei Lie finally understood.

“You mean they are like the exorcists that we see on television, right?” Lei Lie asked Chen Hao.

“Well. That’s close enough. Well, Miss Zhen and I are Cultivators!”

Chen Hao nodded his head and answered Lei Lie’s question. Then, he told him about his and Zhen Ji’s background.

After all, Lei Lie was part of their team now. Hence, it would be good to let him know a few things.

Moreover, Chen Hao had a bold idea, and that was

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to turn Lei Lie into a Cultivator as well.

As long as Lei Lie was able to become a Cultivator, at least he wouldn't have to be afraid of certain things. He could face them alone. If not, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji would have to protect him for the rest of his life!

Of course, that was an unrealistic and impossible task!

“What?! You guys... Mr. Chen, Miss Zhen, you guys are Cultivators?!”

When Lei Lie heard this, he suddenly exclaimed in shock as his eyes widened.

Chen Hao and Zhen Ji exchanged glances as they smiled knowingly. Then, they both nodded their heads at the same time.

“That's right! We are Cultivators. So, what do you think? Do you have any intention of becoming one?” Chen Hao looked at Lei Lie and suggested again.

“Really? I can become a Cultivator as well?”

When Lei Lie heard this, he looked at Chen Hao and Zhen Ji excitedly. He did not expect that he would have the opportunity to become a real Cultivator. It was awesome!

He had always seen Chen Hao in action, and thought that he was very powerful. Hence, he wanted to become like Chen Hao. That way, Chen Hao did not have to protect him all the time. He

could protect himself!

“Of course you can. Miss Zhen and I can teach you. We can help you become a Cultivator!” said Chen Hao as he smiled at Lei Lie.

“That’s awesome! Mr. Chen, I am willing to become a Cultivator!”

When Lei Lie heard his words, he looked at Chen Hao excitedly and spoke his mind.

“Yes. From now onward, I am Master Chen to you. I will teach you how to become a Cultivator!” said Chen Hao as he looked at Lei Lie with a smile.

This meant that Chen Hao had accepted Lei Lie as his apprentice.

“Master Chen!”

Lei Lie was a sensible person, as he immediately changed the way he addressed Chen Hao. Then, he knelt on the floor and prepared to bow to him.

Chen Hao quickly stopped him as he pulled him up.

“You little brat! I can’t believe that you believe in this tradition. We don’t have that kind of tradition here. You don’t have to kneel down in front of me; I am not worthy of it,” Chen Hao reminded him.

When he heard Chen Hao’s words, Lei Lie scratched his head in embarrassment. He felt that he was still living in ancient times.

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“It’s done. The wild boar’s meat is cooked. We can tuck in!” Chen Hao reminded them.

With that, the three of them immediately started eating the meat of the wild boar.

“Mmm! This meat is delicious indeed! I have never tasted such a delicious piece of meat before. It is even better than ordinary pork!”

Lei Lie took a bite. In that instant, he couldn’t resist exclaiming how good it was.

He had to admit that the meat of a wild boar was extremely delicious. Its texture and flavor was similar to that of an ordinary pig. However, it tasted many times better.

“By the way, Lei Lie, can you take a knife and slice out a portion of the wild boar’s meat? Then, I want you to wrap it up properly in a bag. We will bring it along as our meal for the next day and the day after tomorrow.” Chen Hao suggested to Lei Lie.

The wild boar was massive. Actually if they were to sell it, they really did not know how much they could get for it.

Chen Hao wanted to take away all the meat. However, since it was too much for them to carry, he could only bring along a small portion. The remaining portion was left behind for the animals in the forest to deal with. In a way, he was feeding them.

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The three of them returned to the tent only after night had fallen and all was silent.

They arranged to sleep together in one tent to keep themselves safe.

This way, the three of them had each other's backs if any dangerous incident occurred.

But that night, everything was still and nothing happened.

Early the next morning, they woke up from their slumber.

Chen Hao went out of the tent as soon as he woke up, and he saw many animals, mostly eagles and vultures, gnawing at the boar carcass which was left nearby.

After a glance, Chen Hao didn't pay too much attention to the sight.

At nine o'clock in the morning, the three of them packed everything they had and headed further into the jungle.

According to the map given by Mr. Fan, they had to walk past Phosphorus Rock Mountain. That was the second part of the journey that they had to take.

Phosphorus Rock Mountain was very wide, the end seemingly nowhere to be seen.

Added with the fact that they had no idea about the dangers that they might face along the way,

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they could only keep alert and proceed with caution.

Not only did they have to be aware of the animals and plants in the forest, they had to watch out for the Hunters, who had already entered Phosphorus Rock Mountain, as well. Hence, Chen Hao and the rest were surrounded by unknown dangers.

After taking a two-hour journey, they arrived at a stream, where the three stopped to take a break and replenish their water.

“Chen Hao, how long do we have to continue walking?” Zhen Ji sat on a rock and asked while looking at Chen Hao.

Chen Hao only shook his head. “I don’t know. It’s not stated on the map given by Mr. Fan. It only indicates that we have to pass Phosphorus Rock Mountain.”

Chen Hao was not clear about the width of Phosphorus Rock Mountain, which he didn’t even search for information on. The only thing that they could do was walk past Phosphorus Rock Mountain according to the map given by Mr. Fan.

Swish!

Just then, an arrow darted before their eyes.

Immediately, they looked at the direction where the arrow was shot from only to see a few men in black with crossbows in their hands standing on the other side of the stream.

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“Oh no! It’s the Hunters!” Chen Hao immediately warned when he saw them.

As his words left his lips, he quickly grabbed Zhen Ji and Lei Lie and left the place without further ado.

On the other hand, the group of Hunters kept firing at the three of them. Arrows flew in all directions at once.

Fortunately, Chen Hao and the two had realized the situation and they swiftly hid in the forest; only then were they able to escape from the attack from the Hunters.

“Damn. How unlucky we are to meet these people here!” Lei Lie grumbled helplessly.

“There are only three of us, but the Hunters are divided into many small groups. That’s why it’s easy for us to bump into them!” Chen Hao chuckled drily and explained to Lei Lie.

They waited until things had died down. After making sure that the Hunters weren’t on their tails, Chen Hao and the other two put their minds at rest.

They let out a sigh of relief and continued their journey.

However, they didn’t dare to continue walking near the stream. They chose to take the path through the forest instead.

It wasn’t easy to be discovered if they took the

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path through the forest. Moreover, it would be easier for them to escape even if they were caught, while it was a different case in a wide open space like by the stream. They would be easily discovered and had no place to hide from the opponents' attacks.

After about half an hour, they found a house in the forest.

"Hey, Master Chen, look! There is a house!" Lei Lie looked at Chen Hao and Zhen Ji and exclaimed in surprise.

The two of them immediately fixed their gaze on the house.

Astonishment was written all over their faces. They didn't expect someone would actually live in the middle of the forest. It was such a surprise for them.

"Let's go and have a look! Perhaps we can ask for directions!" Chen Hao suggested after a moment of hesitation.

As he said that, they quickly went toward the house.

Nevertheless, after just a few steps forward, they were forced to retreat and hide among the greenery again.

This was because they saw a few Hunters arrive at the front door of the house before they could and rush into the house.

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“Ah!” A horrible scream could be heard as soon as the Hunters broke into the house.

When they heard the scream, Chen Hao and the two looked at each other.

They knew that the Hunters—those beasts—had started laying their hands on this family, probably with the intent to kill.

“Chen Hao, let’s help that family. These Hunters are too cruel for words!” Zhen Ji couldn’t hold back her anger anymore and suggested to Chen Hao at once.

Chen Hao nodded his head after listening to her suggestion.

“Lei Lie, you hide there and don’t move. Wait until we’re finished with them, then only you come to us!” Chen Hao reminded Lei Lie before moving.

Of course, Lei Lie was very obedient to Chen Hao’s orders and didn’t dare to move a muscle while hiding in the woods.

Chen Hao and Zhen Ji then hurriedly dashed toward the house at the speed of light.

Just as they arrived at the door, they saw a couple lying on the floor, bright red blood flowing from their lifeless bodies all over the floor.

Looking at such a scene, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji were completely struck with anger. These Hunters had no humanity at all. They were no better than beasts.

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“Damn beasts!” Zhen Ji couldn’t hold back her anger and cursed.

“Ah! Help!” At this time, a scream of a young girl rang out, sounding extremely desperate.

Zhen Ji and Chen Hao immediately responded to the situation and dashed into the room.

Swish! Chen Hao went in, drew his Star Abyss Sword and slashed at the throats of the Hunters without hesitation while Zhen Ji rushed right into the room, where she saw a Hunter doing unpleasant things to a young girl whose clothes were in rags.

Zhen Ji was burning with fury to see that and she went straight forward to stab the Hunter in the back with a sword. She then reached her hand out to grab his hair and pulled him away from the girl’s body before flinging him hard on the ground.

Zhen Ji was a Cultivator after all; there was no doubt that her power was greater than those Hunters, so she was strong enough to lift the Hunter up easily.

Swish! Zhen Ji’s blade cut through his throat without any hesitation.

The Hunter was dead instantaneously.

Within just a minute, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji had already killed all the Hunters in the house.

After finishing them off, Zhen Ji went over to the young girl, who was shivering all over from severe

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shock, and sat beside her.

Zhen Ji reached out and gently touched the girl's shoulder.

The moment the hand brushed against her shoulder, the girl started to scream uncontrollably and moved backward instinctively.

“Don't worry! We're here to save you. You're fine now!” Zhen Ji quickly held onto the girl and pulled her into an embrace to comfort her.

After being reassured by Zhen Ji, the girl gradually calmed down. She then began to cry in Zhen Ji's arms, the whole house echoing with her sobs.



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Listening to the girl's sobbing, Zhen Ji's heart clenched painfully. Meanwhile, after just a glance, Chen Hao shook his head helplessly and walked out.

He then gestured to Lei Lie, who was standing nearby.

Upon seeing the gesture, Lei Lie immediately dashed to the entrance swiftly.

When he saw such a macabre scene, however, he couldn't stomach it, and he rushed out at once and vomited violently. After all, this was his first time seeing a dead body in person, and it truly terrified him.

Chen Hao didn't blame him as he knew that this was his first time seeing such a scene, so this reaction was very normal. When he got used to it, he would do better. After all, he would have to face such situations in future, so it'd be better to get him used to it earlier.

After a long while, when Lei Lie had gradually gotten used to it, Chen Hao then had him help to clean up the bodies with him. They cleaned the girl's parents' bodies separately and buried them.

"Mr. Chen... these people are not human!" Lei Lie thundered in rage, standing at the entrance.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao stood there without saying a word, his expression as solemn as could be.

Those Hunters were truly ruthless to commit such unspeakable brutality.

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At this moment, Lei Lie resolved to work hard and become a Cultivator.

At this time, Chen Hao stepped forward, and two souls appeared before him.

“Sir, Madam, I know you died at the hands of these people. Go in peace for I’ll punish them severely on your behalf and ensure that they’ll never have the chance to be reincarnated!” Chen Hao declared all righteousness while staring at the two souls.

Yes, these two souls were the girl’s parents’ souls. After they had died, their souls left their bodies and appeared before Chen Hao.

Upon hearing his words, they didn’t say anything. Then, they vanished before his eyes.

Chen Hao gave that solemn promise because he didn’t want the girl’s parents to become vicious ghosts; he wanted them to go in peace.

Then, Chen Hao drew his Star Abyss Sword before reciting a mantra, “Soul Devouring Technique!” The mantra he recited was known as Soul Devouring Technique.

Soul Devouring Technique was a technique that Chen Hao uses in dealing with souls in particular. It functioned to obliterate the souls of the evil, reducing them to a puff of smoke so that they could never be reincarnated. Thus, it was used as a punishment.

Chen Hao rarely used this technique, but today, he

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must use it. He wanted to punish those Hunters who had died. Even if they had died, he wouldn't allow them to have peace. Instead, they must be punished severely; only then will justice be served for the girl's dead parents.

Once he recited it, the souls of those Hunters would all be absorbed and turned into a ball of white light.

“Obliterate!”

Chen Hao swung the Star Abyss Sword in his hand forcefully, shattering the ball of light. When the ball of light was shattered, it meant that the souls of those Hunters had been obliterated, vanishing in a puff of smoke. At the very least, they had been punished severely.

Lei Lie, who was standing at the back, saw everything Chen Hao did clearly, and he found it truly miraculous. He was extremely moved and resolved to become a Cultivator as powerful as him.

After finishing up everything, Chen Hao went back into the house.

At this time, the girl had finally calmed down, but she was too calm. She said nothing at all, looking as though she had been completely traumatized by terror.

“Chen Hao, please help her,” Zhen Ji begged, looking at Chen Hao.

Upon hearing that, Chen Hao naturally understood

her meaning.

“Are you sure you want me to do that?” he asked, staring at her.

Zhen Ji subconsciously glanced at the girl in her arms and shut her eyes for a moment. Then, she nodded again.

“I’m sure. I don’t want her to live in anguish and despair,” she said seriously, her gaze fixed on him. She wanted to help this girl.

“Alright, I’ll do as you say.” Chen Hao chose to listen to her suggestion.

Lei Lie, who was standing at the side, wore an expression of curiosity and suspicion for he couldn’t understand what they were talking about at all.

After saying that, Chen Hao walked over to the girl, reached out a hand, and placed it on the girl’s forehead.

With a light tap, a beam of light appeared on the girl’s forehead. Immediately after that, the light started to swirl around the girl’s head, its speed increasing until it finally vanished.

“Master Chen, what... what’s the meaning of this?” Lei Lie asked in puzzlement.

“He was erasing her memories so that she’ll utterly forget everything that had happened today. She’s now a completely brand new person,” Zhen Ji explained.

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Astonishment bloomed on Lei Lie's face when he heard that. He never thought that such a thing as erasing memories existed.

"However, this method will shorten the girl's lifespan. As to how much her lifespan is shortened, that's something we'll never know," Zhen Ji continued explaining.

In everything, there were pros and cons; they were mutually opposite. Although Chen Hao erased this bitter memory for the girl, the girl's lifespan was thus shortened. Everything came with a corresponding price.

However, this was a good thing. The girl would be able to continue living without having to live in pain.

After a while, the girl woke up. When she awakened, she stared at Zhen Ji and the others.

"You... who are you all?" the girl asked in bewilderment, staring at them.

"You fainted earlier. We saved you," Zhen Ji explained, smiling knowingly at the girl.

"Huh? Really? But I don't remember anything at all," the girl exclaimed, incredulity written all over her face. She didn't remember anything at all as she had lost all her memories.

Zhen Ji was relieved. "I'm glad you're fine. What's your name?" she then asked, smiling at the girl.

The girl's brows furrowed, and she fell into deep

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contemplation. After thinking for a long time, she still couldn't recall her name.

She then shook her head slightly.

"I don't know what my name is either. Why can't I remember anything?" the girl lamented, looking at them, frustration etched on her face.

Chen Hao looked at Zhen Ji; they knew that this was what happened when one had lost their memories.

"Do you not remember this place?" Zhen Ji asked the girl again.


The girl shook her head again.

"No, I have no recollection of it at all."

The girl answered right away without any hesitation at all, making it apparent that she had truly forgotten everything in the past, even her own name.

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It seemed that erasing memories was very powerful indeed.

“Lei Lie, go and look if there’s a book or something that can prove her identity,” Chen Hao said to Lei Lie, who was standing behind him.

“Sure, Master Chen!” Lei Lie nodded at once.

After saying that, he started searching the entire house. After searching for a while, he finally found something that can prove the girl’s identity and name.

That something was a book. The girl’s name was written on the book cover.

Her name was Yu Xin.

Lei Lie handed the book to Chen Hao.

“Master Chen, her name is Yu Xin,” Lei Lie said.

Chen Hao took the book and handed it to the girl.

“Your name is Yu Xin,” he remarked, looking at the girl.

The girl took the book, a lost expression on her face. She had no recollection at all.

“But I really can’t remember anything. I have no recollection at all!” Yu Xin said in frustration, shaking her head incessantly.

“It’s fine. You’ll remember one day,” Zhen Ji quickly soothed her.

“Who are you all?” the girl looked at them and asked, curious.

“We’re... we’re your friends. You might not remember us, but no matter, since we remember you.” Chen Hao quickly adapted to the situation and made up an excuse to convince her.

After listening to his explanation, Yu Xin didn’t doubt him but resolutely chose to trust him. She was now a piece of blank paper, so she naturally didn’t know anything. The only thing she could do was trust the people and things before her eyes. Plus, if Chen Hao and the others were evil people, they wouldn’t have saved her.

“Yu Xin, are you willing to live with us in future?” Chen Hao asked, his gaze pinned on Yu Xin.

When Yu Xin heard that, she froze, but she then nodded enthusiastically. “Yes! I’ve lost my memories and can’t remember anything. I don’t know anyone other than you guys.”

Chen Hao and the others were relieved upon hearing her reply. All was fine as long as Yu Xin was willing to go with them because they would then be able to take good care of her.

“Okay, let’s pack some things from here. Then, let’s leave this place,” Chen Hao suggested, looking at Zhen Ji and the others.

After all, this place wasn't all that safe. Since those few Hunters could find this place, the other Hunters could definitely find this place as well. So, they had to leave as soon as possible.

Very soon, after packing up, Chen Hao and the others left the place.

Chen Hao didn't tell Yu Xin about her parents. Since she had already lost her memories, she shouldn't be subjected to such pain again. It would be better if she knew nothing about this. Otherwise, all that he did would be in vain.

After leaving the house, Chen Hao and the others headed toward the forest again.

At this moment, at the Hunters' base, in the tent...

"Sir, we've lost contact with the seventh team!" A Hunter walked into the tent and reported this to the cloaked man, the leader of the Hunters, who was sitting in the tent.

"What? How many members are there in the seventh team?" the cloaked man asked at once in a terse voice when he heard that.

"There are six members in total, but we've lost contact with all of them," the hunter replied.

The cloaked man's face darkened considerably. He sensed that something was truly amiss about this. When six men, who were alive and well, had all suddenly lost contact, something must have

happened to them.

“What is the seventh group’s last known location?” The cloaked man continued asking.

“Near the valley below the mountains.”

“Convey my orders to get ready to set out for the valley at once. You must find the seventh group, be it alive or dead!” the cloaked man commanded.

“Understood,” the Hunter answered immediately.

Only, they didn’t know that these six people had already died at the hands of Chen Hao and Zhen Ji. If they were to find out about it, the leader of the Hunters would surely blow his top. Nonetheless, this was the ending they deserved for they committed such brutality; they fully deserved to die.

Very quickly, after about an hour later, the Hunters who went in search of them returned to the base, bringing with them six bodies.

The seventh team was precisely the team that Chen Hao and the others killed.

“Sir! Sir, it’s bad!” a Hunter exclaimed loudly, rushing into the cloaked man’s tent.

“What happened? Stop acting so panicked. It’s humiliating!” the cloaked man roared in fury, glaring at the Hunter before him.

“Sir, our men who went out in search of the seventh group are back. They... they brought back the bodies of the six members of the seventh team. All six members of the seventh team are dead!” the hunter reported to the cloaked man, terror etched on his face.

“What?” The cloaked man was enraged when he heard that.

After saying that, the cloaked man got up and strode out swiftly. Upon stepping out, he saw the six bodies on the ground, each of them with a slash of blood on their throats. When he saw this, his expression turned as cold as ice, and he clenched his fists tightly.

“How dare they? Who did this?” the cloaked man bellowed in fury.

It was a huge deal since his six of his subordinates had been killed at one go.

“Sir, we’ve checked each of their wounds, and their throats were all slit. Also, the marks are very unique. They don’t seem to have been caused by an ordinary knife.” a Hunter in red reported this to the cloaked man.

Hunter Association differentiated their ranks by three colors; black represented the most ordinary Hunter, red represented a mid-rank Hunter, and purple represented a high-rank Hunter.

The strength of each Hunter differed according to

his rank, which meant that Hunters in purple were the strongest.

Of course, the most powerful man in the Hunter Association was still the cloaked man. After all, he was the leader of Hunter Association.

However, no one knew how terrifyingly strong the leader of the Hunter Association was, nor did they know his real name or information; he was very mysterious.

“Looks like the person who did this is no ordinary person,” the cloaked man said, his eyes narrowed.

“Sir, the fifth team reported that they discovered the three people from yesterday nearby the creek, but when they saw our Hunters, they made their escape at once.” At this time, a Hunter in black walked up and reported this to the cloaked man.

When the cloaked man heard this, he had an idea of what had happened. If he wasn't wrong, the six members of the seventh team died by the hands of those three people.



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“Convey my orders that everyone should be armed. Send out the purple Hunters to search for those three people. When they are found, kill them at once!” the cloaked man ordered in a thundering voice after a brief pause.

“Yes, sir!” All the Hunters present lifted their hands in response.

At this moment, Chen Hao and the others didn't know about the situation nor did they know that danger was fast approaching.

When dusk came, they stopped and chose to set up a temporary camp under a huge tree. They built a bonfire and roasted yesterday's leftover wild boar.

Lei Lie sat beside Yu Xin and chatted with her.

Meanwhile, Zhen Ji sat beside Chen Hao. A discussion was suddenly sparked.

“Zhen Ji, I have an idea,” Chen Hao blurted at this moment, looking at Zhen Ji.

Zhen Ji looked at him curiously. It was as though she could guess what he was about to say.

“Are you going to say that I should take Yu Xin in and train her to be a Cultivator?” Zhen Ji asked before he could express his idea.

Chen Hao was momentarily stunned. He never thought that she could guess what he was thinking.

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“Yes. That’s exactly my idea. Since I’ve erased all her memories, that actually helps since she can now easily learn how to become a Cultivator,” he looked at her and said seriously.

“Yes, you’re right. In fact, I have the same idea. After all, I can’t allow you to be the one only who has an apprentice. I want a female apprentice, too!” Zhen Ji agreed to his idea.

“Alright, it’s decided, then. I’ll talk to Yu Xin.”

Since both of them had reached a consensus, it was now not a problem at all. Next, they only needed to talk to Yu Xin. As to whether she would agree, that was her right. However, Chen Hao was sure that she would certainly agree.

After the discussion, Chen Hao called Yu Xin to come and sit beside him.

Yu Xin obediently sat beside him.

“Mr. Chen, is anything the matter?” Yu Xin asked, smiling at him.

“Yup. Yu Xin, I have something to tell you and to seek your opinion,” Chen Hao replied, smiling at her as well.

“Alright. What is it, Mr. Chen? As long as I can do it, I’ll do it to the best of my ability,” Yu Xin agreed immediately, not at all guarded, trusting Chen Hao fully.

“Yu Xin, do you want to know what Miss Zhen and I do?” Chen Hao then asked Yu Xin.

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Upon hearing that, a curious expression flashed across Yu Xin's face. Actually, she had never given any thought to that. If Chen Hao hadn't asked her that, she wouldn't have asked about it. But since he had asked her, her curiosity was piqued, and she wanted to know what it was that Chen Hao and Zhen Ji did.

After all, humans were naturally curious.

"Mr. Chen, what is it that the two of you do?" Yu Xin asked, beaming at Chen Hao.

"We're Cultivators," Chen Hao replied, telling her about their identities bluntly.

"Cultivators? What kind of job is that?" Yu Xin asked in astonishment when she heard that as she had never heard of such a profession.

"In this world, humans are not the ones only here; ghosts exist as well. Our job as Cultivators is to uphold justice for the world." After that, Chen Hao explained everything about his identity to her.

After hearing all that, Yu Xin found it truly incredible. She had never dreamt that such an astounding identity existed, not to mention the fact that humans could interact with ghosts.

"Then... then, Lei Lie..." Yu Xin suddenly thought of Lei Lie, and after glancing at him, asked Chen Hao about him.

"Ha ha, Lei Lie has only recently joined us, and he's my apprentice. The reason I'm telling you all this is that I want you to become a Cultivator as

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well and be Miss Zhen's apprentice." Chen Hao told her his intention point-blank without hiding anything from her.

"If you don't want that, it's fine. We're just seeking your opinion."

Chen Hao would never coerce Yu Xin. Rather, the decision lay in her hands.

"Mr. Chen, it was you guys who saved me, so I'm willing to join you all. I'm also willing to be Miss Zhen's apprentice and to become an excellent Cultivator!" Yu Xin looked at him and declared resolutely after a brief pause, choosing to agree immediately.

"Alright. But Yu Xin, I have to tell you this. After you have started on this path, there is no turning back; you need to continue walking this path. Also, you'll encounter various types of ghosts, so you'll need to conquer your fear of ghosts," Chen Hao warned.

"Don't worry, Mr. Chen. I'll definitely do my best. Plus, you and Miss Zhen are here, so I believe I can surely do it well!" Yu Xin looked at him and replied confidently.

"That's good. Okay, it's time for you to go and officially acknowledge Miss Zhen as your master," Chen Hao remarked, smiling at her.

After saying that, the two of them got up.

Yu Xin walked over to Zhen Ji.

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“Miss Zhen... No, Master Zhen. From now onward, you’re Master Zhen to me. I’m willing to learn how to become a Cultivator from you.” Yu Xin looked at Zhen Ji and expressed her willingness.

Upon hearing this, a satisfied smile bloomed on Zhen Ji’s face at that instance. The smile on her face was as bright as day because she now finally had her own female apprentice.

Seeing this, Lei Lie, who was at the side, was overjoyed as well. He was happy on behalf of Yu Xin because she would then become one of them and become a Cultivator, too.

“Ah, good, good!” Zhen Ji replied in elation.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this moment, a few dark figures flashed out swiftly from the surrounding forest.

In an instance, Chen Hao and the others had their guard up, and they stood back to back.

“They’re Hunters!” Zhen Ji reminded Chen Hao and the others.

Chen Hao frowned deeply as he never thought that the Hunters would be able to find them so quickly.

“Zhen Ji, protect Lei Lie and Yu Xin. I’ll handle these people. If there’s an opportunity, leave first,” Chen Hao ordered.

“Okay. Be careful on your own, then.” Zhen Ji

didn't object but consented immediately.

After that, Chen Hao drew his Star Abyss Sword.

"Sir, it's that weapon, no doubt!" a Hunter in purple exclaimed at this moment upon seeing the Star Abyss Sword in Chen Hao's hand.

That was because the members of the seventh team all died from the Star Abyss Sword in Chen Hao's hand. At a single glance, he could tell that the mark was left by the Star Abyss Sword.



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“Surprisingly, the Hunter Association is still stalking me,” Chen Hao said, looking at those Hunters in purple coldly.

“Humph! Kid, you’ve killed so many members of the Hunter Association, and you must pay in blood!” the leader of the Hunters in purple roared, brandishing the sword in his hand at Chen Hao.

Just after he had said that, the few Hunters in purple swiftly rushed Chen Hao in an attempt to attack him.

These Hunters in purple were different from those in black. Their strength was evidently much greater than those in black, and their speed was also a few times swifter.

Chen Hao knew that the leader of the Hunters must be enraged, thus he ordered these Hunters in purple to hunt and kill them.

In total, there were five Hunters in purple, and they attacked him from different directions.

They didn’t target Zhen Ji and the others; they only directed their attacks at Chen Hao. They came from different directions and used different attack tactics; they looked immensely powerful, but to Chen Hao, they were nothing to be concerned about.

“Billowing Dust!”

Chen Hao abruptly planted himself and spun in a full circle. In a flash, there was a billow of dust, its force so great that the five Hunters in purple were

forced back.

Astonishment was written on the faces of all five Hunters in purple.

“A Cultivator!” the five of them exclaimed at the same time.

They had never thought that Chen Hao was a Cultivator; no wonder he was this powerful.

“Well, since you’ve found it out, then don’t dream of leaving here alive!” Chen Hao snorted, sneering.

After saying that, he lunged forward. With just a single step forward, an afterimage was left where he was standing.

Hiss!

With a slash, blood spurted into the air at once.

Yes, with just a strike, the sword pierced the chest of one of the Hunters in purple, effectively killing him in that instance.

The remaining four Hunters in purple were also shocked. However, they didn’t choose to retreat; rather, they once again attacked Chen Hao.

A Hunter’s principle was to never retreat. No matter how strong an opponent they encountered, they would never back down until they died in battle.

In this sense, they were honorable; at least,

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Hunters were not cowards who were afraid of death.

But precisely because of this, the members of Hunter Association lost all their humanity and became cold-blooded animals.

For instance, the seventh team of Hunters which Chen Hao and the others encountered that afternoon. They had no humanity to speak of. Someone who had even a speck of humanity would never have committed such brutality.

Swoosh!

In that instance, glints from the slashing swords filled the entire forest.

Within just a few minutes, several dead bodies lay scattered on the ground.

Yes, they were the bodies of the five Hunters in purple.

They were no match for Chen Hao, so they were all killed by him.

After dealing with those five Hunters in purple, Chen Hao hung their bodies and even wrote four words on the tree with their blood—"They deserved to die!"

After writing those four words, he then left with Zhen Ji and the others.

"Chen Hao, isn't it time for us to hide our tracks? Otherwise, Hunters will always catch up to us,"

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Zhen Ji suggested just then, looking at Chen Hao.

“Yup, you’re right. We should indeed think of a way to hide our tracks.” Chen Hao expressed his agreement with her suggestion.

It would indeed be bad to be besieged by Hunters all the time. They needed to shake off this extremely troublesome Hunter Association. Otherwise, they wouldn’t be able to get far, and they would also need to keep up their guards at all times.

At this moment, Chen Hao came to a halt and scrutinized the map given to him by Mr. Fan.

“Here. Let’s go to this place. Here, we can go around Phosphorous Rock Mountain. The only thing is that it’ll take some time. Also, there’s a town here, so we can replenish ourselves here,” Chen Hao suggested, pointing at a town on the map.

“Sure, we’ll go with whatever you say.” Zhen Ji had no objection toward his suggestion and promptly agreed.

After the conversation, the four of them changed routes at once and headed to the town on the map. That town was called Wuxing Town, whose name was derived from none other than its geography.

After walking overnight, Chen Hao and the others finally arrived at the entrance to Wuxing Town.

They then walked right into the town. It wasn’t a

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deserted town. On the contrary, there were plenty of people milling about, and the atmosphere was very lively; it was just like a bazaar.

“Come and see! There’ll be a black market auction of a crystal skull today. Everyone can go and have a look!” a young man proclaimed loudly just then. In no time, the proclamation caught everyone’s attention.

Chen Hao and the others were intrigued as well. They never dreamt that they would be a black market in Wuxing Town.

“Let’s go and take a look as well!” Lei Lie suggested then, feeling quite curious about this.

“Sure, let’s go and take a look, then!” Chen Hao didn’t refuse him but agreed at once. After all, he, too, wanted to go and see what was being auctioned.

Promptly, Chen Hao and the others arrived at a relatively huge space after following the crowd. This was Wuxing Town’s black market.

There were all sorts of things for auction in the black market, even guns and ammunition. It was truly shocking.

Chen Hao and the others found a spot to stand in.

A man wearing a cap and a fur coat then stepped out onto the stage.

“Hello, everyone. I’m the manager of the black market. My name is Gu Ming.” The man wearing

the fur coat introduced himself to the crowd below.

“Welcome to today’s black market auction! Let me tell you, today’s item for auction is not any ordinary item. It’ll definitely be an eye-opener. Perhaps many of you had already heard of this, but I still want to tell you that this item is unique in the entire world. It’s a rare treasure!” Gu Ming exclaimed excitedly.

The crowd below was also extremely excited after hearing that, and many people cheered.

“Alright, let’s all bear witness to it now!”

Someone, bring the item onto the stage!” Gu Ming then ordered.

A man brought a box onto the stage and handed it over to Gu Ming.

Gu Ming placed the box in his palm, then opened it and showed the item inside to everyone.

“Everyone, please take a look. This is today’s item for auction—a crystal skull!” Gu Ming introduced in a booming voice, looking down at the crowd below.



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After saying that, Gu Ming took the crystal skull out of the box.

“Wow!”

In a flash, the crowd below got keyed up.

The crystal skull was incredibly dazzling, sparkling and glittering brightly, giving people an extraordinary feeling.

When Chen Hao and the others saw the crystal skull, they were astonished as well. They never thought that they would see such a great treasure in a remote place like this.

“The crystal skull’s starting price is four million, and each bid is a minimum of a million. The bidding starts now!”

With Gu Ming’s pronouncement, the auction officially began.

“Five million!” At this time, a man quickly raised his hand and hollered.

“Six million!” another man cried out immediately after, increasing its price by another million.

These people were really spending money like it grew on trees as they were shouting at an increment of a million without any hesitation.

“Seven million! All of you aren’t allowed to compete with me!” A bespectacled man stood up

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and shouted in an ear-splitting voice, looking as though he was bound to win.

Who would listen to him, however, at such a time? After all, the purpose of bidding was to compete and see who could pay the highest price and obtain the item in the end.

“Get lost! I offer eight million!” a plump man lambasted, glaring at the bespectacled man, raising the price by another million.

Soon, the price of the crystal skull had exceeded ten million. The crowd was truly insane.

“Woah, these people are insane. They’re acting as though money is nothing. Why would they spend so much money to buy a skull?” Lei Lie exclaimed in surprise, astonishment written all over his face.

“Ha ha, we’ll never understand the world of the wealthy,” Chen Hao commented, chuckling.

Chen Hao wasn’t at all interested in this. He wasn’t dumb enough to spend millions to buy a crystal skull. Even if one had money, this wasn’t the way to fritter it away.

In the end, the crystal skull was bought by the bespectacled man at a staggering price of 15 million.

“Congratulations, sir. You’ve successfully bought this crystal skull at an astounding price of 15 million!” Gu Ming flattered the bespectacled man.

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In that instance, the bespectacled man enjoyed the gazes of adulation and envy directed at him, feeling as proud and smug as could be; this was the outcome the wealthy craved.

“Let’s go. There’s nothing interesting to see here,” Chen Hao said to Lei Lie and the others when the auction was over.

The four of them then left the black market together.

After leaving the black market, they then continued strolling around the town.

Before long, the bespectacled man who bought the crystal skull appeared before Chen Hao and the others.

“Master Chen, isn’t that the man who bought the crystal skull?” Lei Lie quickly reminded Chen Hao.

Sure enough, it was indeed the bespectacled man.

The man was walking at a very brisk pace, seemingly very apprehensive as though he was afraid that people would recognize or notice him.

“Come, let’s follow him and see what’s happening,” Chen Hao blurted at once, having smelled something fishy. Then, he tailed him along with Lei Lie and the others.

Very quickly, Chen Hao and the others followed

the bespectacled man to a house.

The bespectacled man glanced around before entering the house, not forgetting to close the door.

“You guys wait for me here. I’ll go and take a look!”

After Chen Hao had said that, he then leaped, landing right on the roof. Flattening himself against the roof, he looked in the direction of the courtyard, and he saw the bespectacled man standing in the courtyard talking with the man in the fur coat, who was at the auction earlier, Gu Ming. They seemed to be discussing something.

Then, in the next instance, something that shocked Chen Hao happened.

Gu Ming took a dagger out of his clothes and plunged it into the chest of the bespectacled man. All at once, the bespectacled man collapsed in a pool of blood and breathed his last breath. When he died, his eyes were wide open, not having peace even in death.

After killing the bespectacled man, Gu Ming wiped the dagger with a cloth that he carried with him before keeping it back into his clothes.

Then, he called out in the direction of the house, and two men came out.

“Dispose of the body,” Gu Ming ordered the two

men.

The two men promptly nodded, then carried the bespectacled man's body out and placed it into a gunny sack.

Chen Hao saw all this with his own eyes. He never dreamt that the boss of the black market, Gu Ming, would be so ruthless.

This was exactly an act of 'biting the hand that feeds you'; first, he took payment from him but refused to give him what he bought, then he even killed him. This was just too inhumane.

At this moment, Chen Hao thought, *what's wrong with the world? Why are people so inhumane now? Having gotten the payment is all good and well, but you should have at least given him what he bought and spared his life. Why did you have to go to such extremes and commit such a heinous crime?*

However, Chen Hao felt thankful. Fortunately, he didn't choose to bid in the auction earlier. Otherwise, he might have been the one who died.

After that, Chen Hao got down from the roof and returned to Zhen Ji and the others.

"What did you see?" Zhen Ji asked him, curious.

"The bespectacled man is dead," Chen Hao said bluntly.

"D... dead? What happened?" Lei Lie asked,

bewilderment written all over his face.

“He was killed by the boss of the black market, Gu Ming!” Chen Hao explained. Then, he told them everything that he had seen earlier.

Lei Lie and the others were shocked to the core after hearing that. They couldn’t believe that the boss of the black market was such an evil person.

“Then, he must have killed a lot of people. Everyone who bought something from his auctions would have been killed!” Zhen Ji reacted quickly and thought of this.

Chen Hao nodded as well. “Yes, that’s very likely. These people are murdering for money!” Chen Hao declared firmly.

“They’re truly despicable!” Lei Lie condemned furiously.

However, Chen Hao and the others couldn’t do anything. They couldn’t save the bespectacled man; even Chen Hao could only look on as he died at the hands of Gu Ming.

“Alright, we need to leave quickly. This isn’t a place to tarry in!” Chen Hao said to Zhen Ji and the others after some time had passed.

From the looks of it now, Wuxing Town wasn’t a good place. There was much insidiousness here, so it was best to leave quickly.

After that, the four of them turned and left.

However, the sky had already begun to darken. Without any other recourse, Chen Hao and the others could only find an inn to stay for the night.

The inns in Wuxing Town were different from those out there; they all resembled traditional inns from the olden days.

Chen Hao and the others then found an unremarkable inn to stay the night.



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“Sir, lodging for four, please. We want two rooms,” Chen Hao said to the innkeeper upon entering the inn.

The innkeeper glanced at them and asked, “Where are you guys from?”

When Chen Hao and the others heard his question, they were momentarily taken aback.

“Er... we came here for a visit. We’re from Qixia City,” Chen Hao replied, smiling faintly.

Upon hearing that, the innkeeper nodded and didn’t ask further.

“Here, these are the keys to your rooms. They are the last two rooms at the end of the corridor on the second floor,” the innkeeper said to Chen Hao.

“Okay. Thank you, sir!” Chen Hao took the keys and thanked him.

The four of them then headed to the second floor.

When they reached the second floor, they walked to the last two rooms at the end of the corridor. One room was to be shared by Zhen Ji and Yu Xin, while the other was to be shared by Chen Hao and Lei Lie; naturally, the males and females had separate rooms.

After entering the room, Chen Hao locked the door.

“Master Chen, did you notice that everyone in this town looks at outsiders differently? The way the

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innkeeper looked at us earlier was suspicious,” Lei Lie said to Chen Hao.

“Yes, I’ve realized that, too. The innkeeper must be up to no good, so we need to be a lot more careful. Tonight, you sleep first; I’ll keep watch. Then, we switch.” Chen Hao had also noticed the problem he mentioned, so he quickly suggested a countermeasure.

“Sure!” Naturally, Lei Lie had no objections as it was for the sake of his life.

Knock, knock. Just then, someone knocked on their door.

“Who is it?” Chen Hao asked, immediately on guard.

“It’s me, the innkeeper. I brought some water for you.” The innkeeper’s voice echoed outside the door.

Chen Hao and Lei Lie simultaneously exchanged a glance upon hearing that.

Then, Chen Hao gave Lei Lie a look, thereupon the latter understood at once and he walked over to the door to open it.

When the door was opened, the innkeeper came in bearing a teapot and placed it on the table. He smiled at them when he entered the room.

“Sir, you’re so thoughtful to bring us some hot water!” Lei Lie feigned a smile at the innkeeper and thanked him.

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“Hehe, it’s nothing. Hospitality demands it. Oh yes, it’s best not to go out at night; it isn’t safe outside at nightfall. Do stay in the room,” the innkeeper then advised Chen Hao and Lei Lie.

When they heard that, they immediately exchanged a glance, both appearing confused at the same time. They didn’t know what the innkeeper meant by that.

“Sir—”

“Very well, sir, we got it. Thank you for the reminder!” Lei Lie was just about to ask why, but Chen Hao cut him off.

“Nah, it’s nothing. If you need anything, just holler for me from the door.” The innkeeper nodded, then left the room.

After seeing that the innkeeper had gone back down, Chen Hao finally closed the door in relief.

“Master Chen, why did you do that?” Lei Lie asked Chen Hao in puzzlement once the door was shut.

“Lei Lie, next time, don’t be so straightforward. There are some things you just shouldn’t ask,” Chen Hao reminded him.

Lei Lie understood and nodded, saying, “Alright, Master Chen, I understand.”

“Anyway, Master Chen, what do you think of the innkeeper? Is he an evil person?” Lei Lie asked him once again. He just couldn’t shake off the feeling that there was something fishy about the

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innkeeper, but he couldn't tell what it was, and this made him feel restless.

"I don't know either, but I think there is something wrong with the innkeeper. There must be some secret because I saw his gaze darting around the room as though he was searching for something," Chen Hao said while shaking his head slightly.

He felt that there must be something wrong with the innkeeper, especially since he advised them not to go out at night, claiming that it wasn't safe out there.

Although it seemed like a reminder out of concern and kindness, it actually sounded as though it was a distinctive foretoken.

The more he advised them to stay in, the more it intrigued Chen Hao and Lei Lie, piquing their curiosity.

Nonetheless, they would probably only discover the truth when night came.

"Come, let's go over to Miss Zhen's room for a visit!" Chen Hao then suggested to Lei Lie.

After saying that, they both carefully opened the door. Then, they walked over to Zhen Ji's room on the opposite side.

Knock, knock. Chen Hao knocked on the door of Zhen Ji and Yu Xin's room.

"Who is it?" Sure enough, Zhen Ji's reaction was similar to his, her voice carrying a trace of

vigilance.

“It’s me, Chen Hao,” Chen Hao answered at once.

A few seconds later, Zhen Ji opened the door.

“What is it?” she asked, looking at Chen Hao and Lei Lie.

“Let’s talk inside.”

Chen Hao didn’t say anything out there and just led Lei Lie into the room. Upon entering, they saw Yu Xin sitting on the bed while watching television.

“Did something happen?” Zhen Ji knew that Chen Hao must have something to say, so she cut to the chase.

“Lei Lie and I both think that there’s something fishy about the innkeeper, so you two should pack up later and go sleep in our room; leave this room empty,” Chen Hao suggested, his gaze pinned on them.

“You mean, to use this room as bait and see what tricks the innkeeper has up his sleeve, yes?” Zhen Ji was very smart, and she immediately understood what he meant to do.

“That’s right!” Chen Hao nodded firmly.

“Okay, we’ll do as you say. After we’ve packed and washed up, we’ll go over to your room,” Zhen Ji agreed without any objection.

After talking to them, Chen Hao and Lei Lie went

back to their room.

About 10 minutes later, Zhen Ji and Yu Xin came over to Chen Hao's room.

The four of them would be sleeping in one room as it would be safer that way.

After all, if the ladies were to stay in a room all by themselves, it would be quite a risk. If the innkeeper was truly an evil person and had untoward intentions toward them, they would be doomed.

Although Zhen Ji was a Cultivator and had considerable strength, the innkeeper might use some unusual tricks to subjugate them.

"Alright, you two ladies can sleep on the bed. Lei Lie and I will sleep by the table, and we'll take turns to keep guard at night. If there's any movement, we'll inform you immediately," Chen Hao said to Zhen Ji and Yu Xin.

After saying that, Chen Hao and Lei Lie both sat at the table while Zhen Ji and Yu Xin went to sleep on the bed.

Tonight was destined to be a sleepless night.

Until the middle of the night, the entire place was quiet and still, not a whisper of movement to be heard. There wasn't even a single sound, giving people a sense of foreboding.

Thud. Thud. Thud. At this time, footsteps echoed outside the door.

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When Chen Hao and Lei Lie heard the footsteps, they immediately went on alert.



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The next second, a figure appeared at the peephole.

In that instant, Chen Hao's eyes went wide.

That was right. The figure at the peephole was none other than the innkeeper himself.

At the moment, the innkeeper was standing in front of the entrance of the room that Zhen Ji was originally staying in.

Chen Hao could see it clearly through the peephole.

He could see the innkeeper taking out a long stick-like thing that looked like a joss stick. Then, he lit it. Following that, he placed it at the entrance of the door as he allowed the smoke to enter the room.

After he was done, he turned around and walked toward the entrance of Chen Hao's room.

When Chen Hao saw this, he immediately retreated.

"What's wrong?" asked the three of them in a whisper. They had not fallen asleep yet. Hence, they were surprised when they saw Chen Hao's reaction.

Chen Hao reached out his hand and placed it on his mouth, indicating that they should be silent.

Following that, Chen Hao picked up a towel and covered his nose and mouth.

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When they saw this, they immediately understood the situation as they took out some stuff to cover their nose and mouth.

Chen Hao did not forget to open up the windows as well.

At the moment, tendrils of white smoke could be seen snaking their way into the room through the crack below the door of the room. In that instant, the entire room was filled with white smoke.

It seemed that everything was within their expectations. There was definitely something fishy about the innkeeper.

It seemed that he had an ulterior motive for doing this in the middle of the night to them.

Luckily, they noticed it earlier. Hence, they were able to come up with countermeasures.

If it was someone else, he or she would be unconscious by now.

Chen Hao walked to the door and looked at the situation outside through the peephole. He noticed that the innkeeper had left.

Chen Hao was puzzled as he thought to himself, *Why did the innkeeper do that and leave immediately? Didn't he have other things to do?*

Suddenly, he seemed to recall something as he quickly walked toward the bed and lay down on it.

After that, he immediately released his soul from

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his body.

In that instant, Chen Hao became unconscious. When Lei Lie saw this, his eyes widened.

Just as he was about to get up and check on Chen Hao, he was stopped by Zhen Ji.

Zhen Ji reached out her hand and motioned for him to stop moving around.

Lei Lie became quiet after he saw Zhen Ji's gesture as he returned back to his original position.

At the moment, Chen Hao's soul was separated from his body as it assumed a spirit form and passed through the walls of the room. He wanted to see what the innkeeper was up to.

After Chen Hao left the room, he floated around the inn and began his investigation.

At the moment, he saw the innkeeper bringing two men inside. They headed directly to Zhen Ji's room.

Chen Hao followed behind them. They did not see nor notice Chen Hao's existence. They could only see Chen Hao if he made himself visible.

"Mr. Bao, those two women are staying in this room. I have already used some sleeping gas so that they would not be able to wake up," said the innkeeper to the muscular guy. There was an evil expression on his face.

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“Not bad! Good job!” said the guy who was known as Mr. Bao as he nodded his head with satisfaction.

With that, the innkeeper took out a key and opened Zhen Ji’s room.

The moment he opened it, the three of them walked inside directly.

However, the moment they entered, they were dumbfounded.

That was because the room was completely empty. Not a soul could be seen.

“Where are they?” Mr. Bao was surprised.

“Huh? How could they have disappeared? This is impossible! They were clearly in the room just now!” exclaimed the innkeeper as he looked surprised. He could not believe the scene in front of him.

“What the f*ck?! Are you trying to pull my leg?!”

Mr. Bao was extremely pissed as he grabbed the innkeeper’s collar and bellowed angrily.

“Mr. Bao! Mr. Bao, how would I dare to pull your leg? They were indeed here just now!” explained the innkeeper quickly.

Slam!

At the moment, a gust of wind bellowed. The next moment, Mr. Bao flew away.

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In that instant, the innkeeper and the other guy were scared out of their wits. They did not know what happened as they only saw Mr. Bao flying away without a reason at all.

Chen Hao rushed forward and grabbed his neck.

Crush!

He squeezed his neck hard. In that instant, he had crushed Mr. Bao's neck.

Chen Hao would never show mercy to a guy like him. Anybody who dared to have any bad intention toward the two women would only end up with one consequence, and that was death!

Seeing as Mr. Bao had died, the innkeeper and the other guy immediately panicked as they quickly rushed out the door.

How could Chen Hao let them off the hook that easily? Hence, he rushed after them.

Slam!

With one kick, Chen Hao managed to send the innkeeper and the other guy flying.

The other guy was kicked to death by Chen Hao on the spot.

The innkeeper was the only person left. He collapsed onto the floor in terror as he wetted his pants out of fright.

Following that, the innkeeper immediately knelt

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on the floor and started begging for mercy. He cried and begged. It was a ridiculous sight.

The next second, Chen Hao revealed himself.

“I knew that there was something fishy about you! Tell me, what are you guys planning to do?” Chen Hao appeared in front of the innkeeper and asked him coldly.

When he saw Chen Hao’s sudden appearance, his eyes widened.

Following that, his vision went dark as he fainted.

After all, Chen Hao was in his spirit form now. Hence, it would be terrifying if he were to appear suddenly.

Chen Hao smirked when he saw that the boss had fainted.

However, Chen Hao did not plan on letting him off the hook that easily; instead he picked him up and tied him to the chair. Then, he locked the doors of the inn so that nobody would discover this situation.

As for Mr. Bao’s body, Chen Hao had gotten rid of it already.

After he settled everything here, only then did Chen Hao return to his room and enter his physical body again.

After he returned to his physical body, he got up immediately.

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Lei Lie nearly jumped in fright when he saw Chen Hao getting up from the bed suddenly.

“Master Chen, what happened to you just now? Why did you pass out suddenly?” Lei Lie asked in bewilderment.

When Chen Hao heard this, he was stunned. Then, he briefly explained the situation.

“Don’t worry. You will know everything in the future.”

When he heard Chen Hao’s explanation, Lei Lie was utterly confused. He did not understand what Chen Hao meant at all.

However, since he wasn’t willing to explain further, Lei Lie had no choice but to let Chen Hao explain it all to him next time. He knew that Chen Hao had his reason for not telling him about it now.

“Let’s go. I think the coast is clear. Let’s go out and take a look,” said Chen Hao to them afterward.

With that, Chen Hao opened the doors of the room and walked out as he headed downstairs directly.



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After they came downstairs, the three of them noticed that the innkeeper was tied to the chair. Moreover, he had his head hung low as he remained unresponsive.

“Master Chen, w-what’s wrong with him?” asked Lei Lie in surprise.

“Haha! He just fainted out of fright!” explained Chen Hao as he smiled.

Following that Chen Hao brought a glass of water and splashed it onto the innkeeper’s face.

“Argh! A ghost! A ghost!”

After he was splashed awake, the innkeeper yelled in that instant. He looked terrified.

Slap!

In order to calm him down, Chen Hao slapped him directly on the face.

The innkeeper finally calmed down after he was slapped by Chen Hao. He stared blankly at Chen Hao and the other 3 people.

“W-Who are you guys?” asked the innkeeper as he fixed his eyes upon Chen Hao and his group.

In that instant, he suddenly recalled the scene he saw a few moments ago and Chen Hao, who had turned into a spirit.

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The innkeeper wasn't able to recognize that Chen Hao was the spirit as Chen Hao's appearance in spirit form was quite different from his own appearance.

However, it was better that way. At least, he wouldn't be noticed by the innkeeper.

"Sir, what is your relationship with Mr. Bao?"

Chen Hao did not want to beat around the bush with the innkeeper as he fixed his gaze upon him and asked.

When he heard Chen Hao's question, the innkeeper lowered his head in that instant and did not dare to say anything.

"What's the matter? Are you trying to be defiant? Fine, no matter. I have a hundred ways to make you talk. I can give you a taste of what it means to be tortured," said Chen Hao as he snorted when he saw the innkeeper's attitude.

He wasn't afraid that the innkeeper would not spill the beans; instead the innkeeper's attitude got him excited as he could finally try to force out a confession from this guy using that method.

With that, Chen Hao immediately took out his Star Abyss Sword.

The innkeeper was terrified the moment Chen Hao took out his Star Abyss Sword. He couldn't help but gulp.

“I’ll talk! I’ll talk!”

The innkeeper immediately chose to cooperate.

“Mr. Bao and I have a form of collaboration with each other. This inn actually belongs to him, and I am just a manager here. As long as an outsider stays in this inn, I am supposed to notify him. Then, after you guys went to sleep, he wanted me to use the sleeping gas to make you guys fall into a deeper sleep. That way, you guys will be under his control when you all wake up. By then, Mr. Bao can extort some money from you all.”

The innkeeper told them the entire story honestly.

After they heard his story, they finally understood that this was an illegal inn. It was built in order to scam other people’s money.

However, Mr. Bao and the innkeeper never imagined that they would meet Chen Hao and his entourage, which would become their stumbling block. In addition to that, Mr. Bao had met a terrible end.

“How many times did you commit this act in the past?”

At the moment, Lei Lie stepped forward angrily and glared at the innkeeper as he asked that question.

“Erm... Three times in total, because not many people come to this place,” the innkeeper

immediately answered.

“And we are the third victims?!” asked Lei Lie again.

“Erm, not exactly. You guys are the fourth,” said the innkeeper as he reached out his fingers carefully and gestured.

Slap! The words were barely out of his mouth when Lei Lie gave the innkeeper a slap on his head.

In that instant, the innkeeper did not dare to make a sound.

“Wow!” Lei Lie exclaimed after he slapped the innkeeper.

“What’s the matter?” Chen Hao looked at Lei Lie and asked in surprise.

“Master Chen, it’s true that it feels awesome to slap a person’s head!” Lei Lie exclaimed as he looked at Chen Hao excitedly.

When Chen Hao and the three of them heard this, they immediately rolled their eyes.

They thought that Lei Lie was really annoying and funny at the same time.

“Can you be more ambitious?!” Chen Hao cast him a glance and criticized him.

“Hehe!”

Lei Lie scratched the back of his head as he chuckled.

“Master Chen, what should we do with him? Should we eliminate him?” asked Lei Lie as he looked at Chen Hao. At the same time, he made a slicing motion across his neck.

Everybody knew the meaning behind his gesture. That meant that he intended to slit his throat.

“Please don’t! I already realized my mistakes. So please, I begged the both of you not to kill me!”

When he saw this, the innkeeper started to panic as he quickly begged Chen Hao and Lei Lie for mercy.

He was only trying to make a living. How could he have expected that he would lose his life because of it?

Hence, when he heard Lei Lie’s words to Chen Hao, he started to be afraid. Naturally, he did not want to die!

“Forget about it. It’s not like he is an evil person to the core. We can just teach him a lesson and let him off the hook,” said Chen Hao lightly as he looked at the innkeeper.

To be honest, Chen Hao wasn’t an unreasonable person.

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After all, the innkeeper only did that as he was trying to make a living.

Now that he had gotten his just deserves, he believed that the innkeeper would never attempt to do anything like that ever again. Hence, Chen Hao chose to let him off the hook.

The most important thing was, Mr. Bao was already dead. Hence, nobody would be able to collaborate with the innkeeper anymore in the future.

When the innkeeper heard that Chen Hao was letting him off the hook. He felt extremely delighted for he knew that his life was saved for now. As long as he was able to save his own life, it was enough for him.

“Thank you sir! Thank you! I will never do it again.”

The innkeeper looked at Chen Hao and thanked him profusely.

“Let me warn you that if you dare to do anything like that again in the future, don’t blame me for what happens to you next. If that happens, I will send you to meet Mr. Bao. Do you understand?” Chen Hao did not forget to fix his gaze on the innkeeper as he warned him again.

“Yes. I understand, and I am well aware of it. I will never do anything like that ever again. I will just manage this inn properly.”

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How could the innkeeper not obey Chen Hao's orders? Hence, he immediately nodded his head and agreed.

"Ok then. Lei Lie, let's pack up and set off early on our journey."

Following that, Chen Hao looked at the three people and suggested.

For now, Wuxing Town did not seem like a good place to be in at all. It might even harbor some other nasty surprises. Hence, Chen Hao decided to leave as soon as possible.

Lei Lie and the other two people did not have any opinion after hearing Chen Hao's suggestion.

10 minutes later, Chen Hao and the other three people had packed their bags. Then, they left the inn.

However, they did not untie the innkeeper when they left. Instead, they dragged him to the door and left him there. Naturally, he would be discovered by someone the next day, and they would untie him.

After they left the inn, they continued on their journey.

There was still one hour before dawn, hence the town was shrouded in silence. Not a single soul was seen anywhere. Only the streetlights shone at the moment.

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“Master Chen, do you think that the innkeeper will hire some men to exact his revenge upon us?” asked Lei Lie worriedly as he looked at Chen Hao.

Chen Hao glanced at him.

“I don’t think so. Even if he does that, we shouldn’t be afraid. If he dares to provoke me, I will make sure he will never return alive.” Chen Hao said calmly. He did not look too concerned about the situation.

According to Chen Hao’s belief, he felt that the innkeeper would not dare to provoke him. After all, he had given the innkeeper too many frights.

“By the way, Master Chen, how did the innkeeper end up tied to the chair?” Lei Lie seemed to recall something as he quickly asked Chen Hao.

“Do you really want to know?” Chen Hao looked at him and asked out of amusement.

Lei Lie immediately nodded his head.

“I will tell you next time. For now, you are not at that stage yet.”

However, Chen Hao did not tell Lei Lie the reason directly. After all, Lei Lie’s learning wasn’t at that level yet. Hence, it would be best to wait till next time to tell him about it.

“Ok then...” answered Lei Lie with some disappointment.

“Don’t be sad. You just can’t experience it with the

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level that you are at right now. In the future, you will be able to experience it.” Chen Hao smiled at Lei Lie as he consoled him.

When he heard Chen Hao’s consolation, Lei Lie nodded his head again. He knew that Chen Hao was willing to teach him.

The four of them continued on their journey as the sky gradually brightened.

“Master Chen, let’s find a place to take a break first. We didn’t get much rest the entire night,” Lei Lie looked at Chen Hao and suggested at the moment.

Last night, all four of them did not get any sleep. Moreover, they got up early this morning to set out on their journey.

Hence, Lei Lie felt tired not long after they set out.

When he heard Lei Lie’s words, Chen Hao turned around and looked at Zhen Ji and Zhou Nuo.

“Lei Lie is right. Chen Hao, let’s take a break first. Anyway, we have already left Wuxing Town, so I don’t think those guys would be able to catch up to us,” Zhen Ji explained it to Chen Hao. She was tired as well.

Although Zhen Ji and Chen Hao were in the True God stage, she would still feel tired as she was still mortal, unlike Chen Hao. After all, he was already in the Emperor Stage, hence he was immune to fatigue. Moreover, he was able to maintain his alertness at a constant level.

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“Ok! Let’s stop and take a rest then.”

Naturally, Chen Hao did not have any opinion against it. Hence, he agreed immediately.

Lei Lie heaved a sigh of relief when Chen Hao agreed to it. He thought that Chen Hao would refuse his suggestion.

Following that, all four of them sat down under a huge boulder.

There was a huge space beneath this rock, and it was shrouded in complete darkness. You could not see anything inside.

“Oh my god! It reeks here. What kind of place is this?! What is that smell?!”

When four of them arrived at the entrance of the cave, Lei Lie covered his mouth and nose as he frowned and said.

In that instant, a foul and pungent smell wafted into their nostrils.

They had to admit that it was really unpleasant. They really wanted to vomit the moment the smell hit their nostrils.

Rumble! Rumble!

At the moment, the sound of thunder could be heard rumbling across the sky.

In that instant, the entire sky turned dark.

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“I’ll be damned! It looks like a thunderstorm is coming!” exclaimed Lei Lie as he looked at the sky.

It was just one issue after another.

Life was just so difficult!

Following that, a flash of purple lightning streaked across the sky. It was indeed a dazzling display.

When they saw this, the four of them knew there was no way there would be able to venture outside. Hence, they had no choice but to hide out in this cave for a while and wait this thunderstorm out.

“Never mind. Let’s just make do with what we have here. Let’s just hide here and wait out this thunderstorm. We can continue on our journey after this thunderstorm,” said Chen Hao as he looked at the three of them.

Naturally, they did not have any opinion.

After all, a storm was brewing outside, and it was dangerous. Hence, they could only take shelter in this cave.

With that, all four of them sat down.

Zhen Ji held Yu Xin’s hand as they sat down beside the stone wall. Then, they leaned against each other and closed their eyes to rest.

Chen Hao and Lei Lie sat on each side of the stone wall and rested as well.

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However, having said that, if it weren't for this cave, all four of them would have to battle the storm outside. By then, they would be soaked thoroughly.

Soon, all four of them entered into a relaxed state of sleep.

Listening to the rain and thunder outside, they felt incredibly comfortable and relaxed, as if all their troubles had been washed away.

However, the good times did not last long as they had a penchant to attract the unexpected.

After a while, something gleamed within the inky darkness of the cave. It looked like a pair of eyes.

The gleaming object closed in on them. Its final form was revealed when it reached the entrance.

A flash of lightning streaked across the sky. In that instant, it illuminated the entire cave. It turned out that it was a huge python!

However, Lei Lie, who was sitting in the innermost of the cave, did not notice anything fishy as he was sleeping soundly.

Moreover, Chen Hao and the rest of them who were sitting close to the entrance did not notice the presence of the python as well.

At the moment, the python raised its meaty body as it slinked across Lei Lie's shoulders.

Lei Lie couldn't help but feel itchy as the python

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crawled all over his body.

“Oh my god! Who is that?! Stop rubbing me, let me sleep for a little while longer!”

Lei Lie closed his eyes tightly and said impatiently. He did not forget to stretch out his hand to pat his shoulders.

Gah!

The moment Lei Lie’s hand touched the python’s body, his eyes sprang wide open.

That was because he felt a rough and furry feeling. In that instant, he quickly reacted.

The next second, Lei Lie turned his head slowly to look behind him.

If he did not take a look, he wouldn’t know about it. However, the moment he turned to look, he jumped in fright.

“What the f*ck?!”

Lei Lie screamed in fright as he rolled forward.

Chen Hao and the rest of them were woken up by Lei Lie’s screams.

“Lei Lie, what’s wrong?” asked Chen Hao as he quickly looked at Lei Lie in bewilderment.

“Bear... Python... A big python!”

Lei Lie pointed at the python inside the cave as he

said in a trembling voice.

When he heard this, Chen Hao and the rest of them immediately looked inside the cave.

True enough, a huge python was staring straight at them.

When they saw the python, Zhen Ji and Yu Xin stood up immediately.

“Don’t move!” When Chen Hao saw this, he immediately warned them.

When they heard Chen Hao’s words, the three of them stood in their original spot and did not dare to move a single inch.

“I want you guys to back off slowly. Don’t rush!” Following that, Chen Hao ordered the three of them.

Zhen Ji followed Chen Hao’s words as she slowly backed off cautiously. She was taking small steps at the moment, and she did not dare to breathe at all.

However, at the moment, the python had fixed its attention on Chen Hao.



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Roar!

The next second, the giant python roared at Chen Hao before striking and launching itself at Chen Hao.

Chen Hao immediately dodged, escaping the python's attack.

“You three! Find a place to hide! Quick!” Taking this opportunity, Chen Hao shouted at the three of them. They immediately responded and found a tree to hide behind.

After all, the giant python could only attack one person, so Chen Hao would deal with it.

The giant python didn't manage to land a hit on Chen Hao the first time, but it didn't mean that it would give up. It immediately turned around and rushed toward Chen Hao again.

The python's huge body glided on the ground, sending tremors through the earth.

Rushing right toward Chen Hao, the python raised its tail and swung it at Chen Hao's head. If it hit its mark, Chen Hao would have knocked out cold on the spot even if he wasn't killed by this attack from the giant python.

However, Chen Hao would not allow the giant python to succeed.

He quickly drew his Star Abyss Sword.

Swish!

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The blade bit into the flesh of the giant python in one move.

Roar!

The python lifted its head and gave a heart-wrenching roar of anguish.

In an instant, blood spilled all over the ground, and the giant python fell into a pool of its own blood on the ground.

“You beast! Do you think you can kill me that easily?” Chen Hao glared at the giant python and roared angrily.

With that, Chen Hao jumped up and stabbed the giant python's body with the Star Abyss Sword.

The giant python's body shook violently before falling to the ground into a lifeless heap.

Chen Hao had used only two moves to kill the giant python, plain and simple.

“Alright! Everything is fine now!” Chen Hao shouted after killing the giant python.

Zhen Ji and the rest then came out from behind the tree and walked toward the giant python's carcass.

“This python is humungous!” Lei Lie couldn't help but exclaim.

It was the first time they saw such a huge python. It was twice as big as the bear they'd seen before.

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Zhen Ji also said immediately, “Just like the porcupine we met before! Are the animals of a different breed? Their bodies seem larger!”

“The genes of these animals probably have changed to some extent due to the red phosphorus!” said Chen Hao.

“Well, on the bright side, this beast has also brought us food. I heard that snake meat is really delicious. I've never eaten it before!” Lei Lie then looked at the snake on the ground and said.

“You only know how to eat. If it wasn't for me, I'm afraid you would have been eaten by this python!” Chen Hao looked at Lei Lie and chided.

“Well, Master Chen, since you're here, I'm sure you won't let anything happen to me!” Lei Lie also quickly responded while grinning at Chen Hao.

He knew he didn't have Chen Hao's capabilities. If he did, he would have taken the initiative to deal with the giant python.

“All right, stop flattering me. Go and pick up the python. I'll make a fire and grill it. After that, we'll continue our journey.” Chen Hao ordered Lei Lie impatiently.

Lei Lie immediately went to the dead python, bent down, and picked it up.

Soon, Chen Hao had made a fire and they grilled the python meat on it.

“Master Chen, I told you that this cave must not

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be as it seems because it's so smelly. As expected, a python was living in it!"

They must have had disturbed the python's slumber, causing the python to come out and inspect the cause.

But in the end, the python was still killed by Chen Hao and became the food in their mouths.

This was the food chain and cruel reality as the matters of life and death were destined.

It was bad luck for this python to meet Chen Hao and his gang.

About half an hour later, the snake meat was finally cooked, giving off a delicious aroma.

Grilled snake meat was not a common food; even the people in the city couldn't have a taste of it.

But this time, the four of them were lucky because the meat was enough for the four of them.

After they were done slicing the meat, the four of them sat at the cave entrance and began to enjoy themselves. Soon, their stomachs were finally full.

In all honesty, the snake meat was really delicious.

Burp! Lei Lie let out a long burp.

"I'm so full! I've never eaten such tasty snake meat in my life! This is the first time in my life and

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it's so delicious!" Lei Lie sighed with a content expression.

Snake meat was not something that ordinary people could eat as they wished because there were laws against it.

However, it was totally different here because no one would care about what they ate. Therefore, they could really enjoy themselves.

After eating, the four of them cleaned up briskly and set off again.

The weather had calmed down and there was no lightning nor thunder. Life was restored to the whole forest, and there were even many birds chirping.

On the way, Zhen Ji looked at Chen Hao curiously and asked, "Chen Hao, have we already passed Phosphorus Rock Mountain?"

As soon as Chen Hao heard that, he immediately took out his own map to check it.

After looking at the map for a while, Chen Hao said, "Almost. A few more kilometers and we'll be able to bypass this mountain."

After all, Phosphorus Rock Mountain was a very vast area, and they'd been walking non-stop since yesterday. Although they had already walked a long distance, there were still a few kilometers to go before they had gone around the entire Phosphorus Rock Mountain.

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Zhen Ji was a little worried and asked Chen Hao, "Do you think the Hunters will catch up with us?"

Chen Hao immediately shook his head.

He slightly frowned and said, "I don't think so. They certainly don't know that we have changed routes and have almost left Phosphorus Rock Mountain, but it is very likely that they are already out of this area, which is what worries me most."

That was the one problem that worried Chen Hao the most. If the Hunters had gotten out of Phosphorus Rock Mountain before them, this meant that their way would always be blocked by Hunters.

On the contrary, if they were the one to leave Phosphorus Rock Mountain earlier than the people from The Hunter Association, then they could take the lead and be on the offense instead.

Zhen Ji also immediately understood Chen Hao's worries, and she quickly looked at the rest and reminded, "Then we have to hurry up. We must not let the Hunters beat us, or we will be at a disadvantage!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Several kilometers was not too long. It took only two hours for the four of them to finish the journey.

When they exited the woods, the four of them took a look behind them and knew that they had left Phosphorus Rock Mountain, for behind them loomed a mountain of red phosphorus.

“We’re finally out of Phosphorus Rock Mountain!” Lei Lie immediately exclaimed.

Whoosh! However, as soon as Lei Lie’s voice fell, a dozen black shadows leaped down from the surrounding stone walls, immediately surrounding Chen Hao and the gang.

Indeed, these people were members of the Hunter Association.

Seeing this, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji’s expressions changed. They didn’t expect their fears to actually come true.

*F*ck Murphy’s law! What we worry about the most always happens.*

Sure enough, the Hunter Association had left Phosphorus Rock Mountain before them. These people had even laid an ambush, waiting for them to take the bait.

“Freeze!” A Hunter in purple came out of the crowd and pointed at Chen Hao, barking his warning.

Following that, more than a dozen Hunters aimed

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their bows and crossbows at the four of them.

Chen Hao and the rest dared not move a single muscle. After all, in the face of more than a dozen bows and crossbows, any sudden movement would cause arrows to be sent flying toward their bodies.

It was no use even if Chen Hao was more powerful than them. After all, Lei Lie and Yu Xin were still here. He must also think of them, and not just his own safety.

“Come and tie them up for me!” Then, the Hunter in purple gave his orders.

Upon hearing the command, several Hunters in black came forward and took out ropes to bind Chen Hao and his friends’ hands.

“Let’s go! Take them back to the camp to meet the leader!” the Hunter in purple barked his orders again after securing them. Then, they left with the four captives.

Soon—after ten minutes—they arrived at a huge campsite, which was the new base camp of the Hunter Association.

The Hunter clad in purple took them directly to the tent where their leader was.

“Report! Sir, we have caught the four men and have brought them back. We await your decision outside the tent,” the Hunter in purple reported to the cloaked man in the tent.

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Hearing the news, the cloaked man's expression changed immediately and he ordered, "Bring them in!"

With that, the Hunter in purple went out to bring Chen Hao and his friends in.

After they were brought in, the four of them stood in front of the cloaked man.

The cloaked man stared at the four of them and asked, "Are you the ones who caused us so much trouble?"

"You must be the leader of the Hunter Association," Chen Hao did not reply to the cloaked man's question, instead he simply uttered this statement.

Hearing Chen Hao's words, the cloaked man immediately fixed his eyes on Chen Hao.

The two of them then stared at each other, neither wanting to back down.

In that instant, Chen Hao and the cloaked man both exuded their own powerful aura.

After feeling Chen Hao's powerful aura, the cloaked man was slightly surprised. He didn't expect Chen Hao's aura to be powerful enough to rival his. In addition to that, it was not in the least bit weak, which showed that Chen Hao was no ordinary person.

However, all the people around them were oppressed—nearly suffocated—by the sheer

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power that radiated off Chen Hao and the cloaked man.

Then, the cloaked man took the lead to restrain himself. He looked at Chen Hao with interest and stated, "You sure are a different one!"

"Hah. I'm alright," Chen Hao chuckled nonchalantly and replied, his face calm.

"What is the purpose of your coming here?" the cloaked man asked Chen Hao again.

"Would you believe me if I said we were just here on a vacation?" Chen Hao replied, unwilling to back down.

"Hahahaha!" The cloaked man immediately broke into a guffaw when he heard Chen Hao's reply.

"Vacation? How stupid do you think I am? You think I can't see what's special about you? You must have come for the Malevolent Demon Tribe," the cloaked man snorted and stated Chen Hao's real intention without a hint of hesitation.

With that, the cloaked man raised his hand and snapped his fingers. Then, the Hunter in purple from just now came in with a book as well as a map and handed them to the cloaked man .

Looking at this, the expression on Chen Hao and his friends' faces hardened. They knew that they could no longer keep their secret; they had been completely discovered.

"What? Are you still going to play dumb? You are

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here to look for the Malevolent Demon Tribe!” the cloaked man stared at Chen Hao and said coldly.

“Now that you have found that out, I have nothing else to say. What do you want?” Chen Hao directly asked the cloaked man; he knew there was no point in hiding it any longer.

Honestly, this place was not a problem for Chen Hao; he could easily kill these people. However, Chen Hao had to take Lei Lie and Yu Xin into consideration, and so he didn’t strike an offence.

“I know you can understand this map, which is why I hope you will cooperate with us to help me find the Malevolent Demon Tribe. Perhaps then, I’ll spare your lives. It’s a win-win situation!” the cloaked man immediately proposed to Chen Hao.

“What if I don’t agree?” Chen Hao replied coldly.

“Don’t agree? Oh, did you think you had a choice to bargain with me?” The cloaked man sneered, thereafter a few Hunters armed with bows and crossbows came in and aimed at the four of them.

Chen Hao knew that the cloaked man was trying to force him into the deal with brute strength and weaponry.

“Okay, I can work with you, but your people can’t have any ideas about us, *and* you have to give us all our things back!” Chen Hao agreed and said after a pause.

“No problem. As long as you are willing to

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cooperate, then we won't harm a single hair on your heads!" the cloaked man also readily agreed.

Later, the cloaked man had Chen Hao's equipment and things returned to them.

In fact, Chen Hao's map was the most important thing.

The map that Mr. Fan had given Chen Hao was the key to finding the way to the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe, and Chen Hao was the only one who could understand it.

After some cleaning up, the four of them set out with dozens of Hunters.

"Master Chen, what should we do now? Are we really going to lead them to the Malevolent Demon Tribe?" Lei Lie asked Chen Hao in a low voice along the way.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Don't panic and let's observe the situation first. You three find a chance to escape, while I deal with them!” Chen Hao looked at Zhen Ji and the other two while giving the instruction.

Zhen Ji, Yu Xin, and Lei Lie all nodded their heads.

“Chen Hao, the leader of the Hunters seems strong. You have to watch out for him!” Zhen Ji reminded Chen Hao again.

Chen Hao realized that as well. From the confrontation between himself and the cloaked man previously, he noticed that the cloaked man was strong and was probably a difficult person to deal with. However, this did not mean that Chen Hao didn't have the ability to fight against him.

“Alright. Don't worry; I'll be on my guard!” Chen Hao looked at Zhen Ji and nodded in agreement.

The cloaked man was after the Malevolent Demon Tribe. Chen Hao would never allow the cloaked man to achieve his goal, let alone allow the Hunter Association to gain the power of controlling spirits.

Soon, Chen Hao and the rest followed the people from the Hunter Association to the edge of a canyon.

There was only a wooden bridge across the canyon, which looked very dangerous with its brittle and shaky structure.

However, Chen Hao and the gang had no other choice. This was the only way for them to reach Extreme Yin Land, and it was the path that they must take.

They stood at the head of the bridge and fixed their gaze on the mountain peak opposite them.

“The distance of the canyon is at least 100 meters. Not only that, with the breeze, it’s not an easy task to cross the bridge!” Chen Hao immediately remarked.

“So? Chen Hao, what are you worried about?” Zhen Ji looked at Chen Hao and asked curiously after listening to his words.

“It should not be an easy task for us to cross this wooden bridge!” Chen Hao said firmly with a serious expression.

Just then, the cloaked man came to them, flanked by a few Hunters dressed in purple.

“Why did you guys stop?” the cloaked man stared at Chen Hao and the other three and asked.

“It’s not that easy for us to cross this bridge. I’m afraid that something dangerous may happen if we cross it recklessly,” Chen Hao looked at the cloaked man and said.

“Ha! Cut that nonsense. I don’t care if it’s dangerous. I know that you must have a plan to cross it!” the cloaked man didn’t pay attention to

Chen Hao's concern and sneered.

Listening to the cloaked man's reply, Chen Hao had no choice. "Alright then. We'll take the lead. You guys follow us carefully!" Chen Hao reminded indifferently.

After saying that, he moved to take the first step.

But before he could do so, the cloaked man came and blocked Chen Hao.

"What do you want?" Chen Hao frowned at once and asked coldly when he saw the cloaked man blocking his path.

"You can't walk in front of us. Who knows if you guys will play any dirty tricks!" the cloaked man said.

Chen Hao's anger churned inside him after listening to that. He really wanted to kill the cloaked man and his men on the spot.

If it weren't for the many Hunters guarding the cloaked man, Chen Hao would never compromise and cooperate with them.

"Fine. Then you shall let your men take the lead and we will walk in the middle," Chen Hao said helplessly while making a gesture to signal the Hunters to take the lead.

Looking at Chen Hao's action, the cloaked man showed a satisfied expression and quickly

glanced at the Hunters in purple who were following behind him.

A few Hunters immediately got the hint and directly walked toward the wooden bridge at the head of the troop.

Chen Hao and the gang followed after those hunters, while the cloaked man and the rest of his men walked behind Chen Hao and the gang, besieging them in the middle of the troop.

While walking on the wooden bridge, Chen Hao's instincts tingled and the bad feeling in his heart got stronger and stronger. He thought that something must be wrong with this wooden bridge.

It wouldn't be so simple for them to find Extreme Yin Land, not to mention that it was too obvious and too easy to reach the place if it was connected by a single wooden bridge across the canyon.

"Chen Hao, are you okay? You don't look good," Zhen Ji noticed the change in Chen Hao's expression and asked concernedly.

"I'm afraid that we won't be able to cross this bridge as easy as this. I have a bad feeling!" Chen Hao explained seriously with a gloomy face.

Upon listening to his reply, Zhen Ji immediately took a look around the canyon, but she didn't notice anything wrong.

“Do you think that you have thought too much into it?” Zhen Ji asked with doubt.

“No, I didn’t think too much. I simply have a bad feeling!” Chen Hao shook his head at once and denied.

Boom!

As soon as the words left his lips, they could hear a thundering sound echoing in the canyon.

In an instant, everyone turned to look at the left side of the canyon where the sound came from.

The whole canyon was plunged in darkness, so they couldn’t see what was actually going on. Furthermore, the sky had turned extremely dark, heavy clouds shrouding the sky. It was an ominous sign.

Meanwhile, everyone was stunned to see what happened next.

A huge group of insects swarmed fiercely from the left side of the canyon and rushed directly toward them.

“What the f*ck are those?!” someone shouted in shock.

No one knew the answer, but they knew those must be something dangerous.

“Hurry!” Chen Hao immediately noticed the

danger and induced the three of them. As he said that, he led Zhen Ji, Yu Xin and Lei Lie in a forward sprint.

However, how would things go as smoothly as they wished? Several Hunters in purple in front of them were immediately killed by the rocks falling from the mountain peak, which directly blocked the way of Chen Hao and the gang.

“F*ck! Master Chen, the way is blocked! What should we do?” Lei Lie saw that and asked Chen Hao in surprise.

At this moment, both the front and back way were blocked by rocks. Chen Hao and the gang had no way to retreat.

There was no way for them to go forward or backward. They were forced to face the huge swarm of insects.

Chen Hao turned and looked behind him.

The Hunters had raised their crossbows and started attacking the insects.

But how was it possible to kill all these insects with just crossbows? It was just a waste of effort.

“Ah!” Following that were horrible screams, the miserable howls resounding in the canyon.

A few Hunters were surrounded by the insects.

Within just a few seconds, all of those Hunters turned into skeletons, picked clean to reveal white bone.

Looking at the scene, everyone was frozen in astonishment.

“Lei Lie, take out the clothes in your bag!”
Something sparked in Chen Hao’s mind at once and he quickly turned to Lei Lie.

Listening to that, Lei Lie immediately reacted to Chen Hao’s command and took a shirt out of his bag and gave it to Chen Hao.

Then, Chen Hao took out a lighter from his own pocket and lit the clothes.

Chen Hao was doing this as he remembered that insects were afraid of fire.

“Follow me!” Chen Hao shouted at Lei Lie and the other two.

After that, four of them went forward, with Chen Hao waving the shirt which he had lighted.

As expected, it was useful. The insects did not dare to get close to Chen Hao and his gang. Instead, all of them flew to the hunters.

When the cloaked man saw Chen Hao’s action, he immediately came to his senses and quickly ordered his men to light some torches or clothes.

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Crack! The crunching sound of something snapping could be heard.

The wooden bridge broke!

Immediately, everyone fell into the depths of the canyon.

The entire canyon was filled with shrill screams, and it echoed through the walls of the canyon for quite some time before it finally dispersed.

At that moment, Chen Hao and the others splashed into the canyon river after falling from the bridge.

Fortunately, they avoided death as the base of the canyon was a river.

However, the river water was freezing cold.

Chen Hao instantly started searching for Zhen Ji and the others before swimming over to get all three of them.

When he found Lei Lie, the latter had already lost consciousness; it seemed like he fainted from shock.

After struggling to navigate in the water, Chen Hao, Zhen Ji, and Yu Xin finally dragged Lei Lie up on the riverbank together.

Then, all four of them lay on the riverbank.

After catching his breath, Chen Hao finally came back to his senses.

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“Quick, we can’t just rest here like this. We must find a way to leave and get to a safe place to warm ourselves up!” Chen Hao reminded Zhen Ji and Yu Xin.

Getting soaked in the cold river water had made their body temperature decrease rapidly. If they didn’t act quickly, then their bodies might go into a state of hypothermia, which would be a huge problem by then.

Then, Chen Hao lifted Lei Lie before leaving the riverbank with Zhen Ji and Yu Xin.

When they finally reached open grounds, Chen Hao laid Lei Lie down.

“You guys wait here; I’ll go find some wood!” Chen Hao ordered them to stay put before trotting toward the jungle.

He returned with a pile of branches in no time, thereafter he started a fire with it.

“Take off your clothes and let them dry; you’ll catch a cold if you still wear those!” Chen Hao advised Zhen Ji and Yu Xin.

Both of them didn’t make any comments because they didn’t care less; it wasn’t the time to be embarrassed as staying alive was more of a priority.

The girls accepted Chen Hao’s suggestion. They then took their clothes off and let it dry by the fire.

After that, Chen Hao took two extra pieces of

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clothes from Lei Lie's backpack and handed it over to Zhen Ji and Yu Xin.

After all, girls should be taken care of at all times.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao also noticed that Yu Xin's figure wasn't bad at all compared to Zhen Ji's.

But then again, he really couldn't bother too much.

Their clothes finally dried after half an hour, and the three of them hurried to change back into their clothing.

"What's wrong with Lei Lie?" Yu Xin asked Chen Hao after glancing at Lei Lie.

"He must have fainted from shock just now; he'll be fine!" Chen Hao explained.

Earlier, he had felt Lei Lie's pulse, and everything was normal, hence he concluded that the latter passed out due to shock.

Zhen Ji and Yu Xin were at ease after hearing Chen Hao's explanations.

The three of them were sitting there quietly when Zhen Ji exclaimed, "You were right, Chen Hao! Something was definitely wrong with that wooden bridge!"

"I knew something wasn't right from the start. Look, Extreme Yin Land wasn't an easy place to find in the first place, so how could there be a harmless wooden bridge right in the middle of the canyon?" Chen Hao told the two of them.

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“But what was that, though? It was so scary!” Yu Xin asked, feeling scared too.

Chen Hao and Zhen Ji shook their heads because they had no idea as well.

“I’m not sure, but I do know that those were man-eating insects. You guys remember how those Hunters were eaten until only bones were left in an instant?” Chen Hao recalled.

Zhen Ji and Yu Xin felt goosebumps rise on their skin when they remembered what Chen Hao mentioned.

They had to say that what happened just now was truly horrifying.

Watching a living person turned into a skeleton in a blink of an eye was too much to handle.

Luckily, they were out of danger now.

At this moment, Lei Lie finally woke up.

“Lei Lie, you’re awake?” Chen Hao immediately asked when he saw Lei Lie regaining consciousness.

“Master Chen... Miss Zhen... A-A-Are we dead?” Lei Lie asked as he stared at Chen Hao and Zhen Ji anxiously.

Slap! Chen Hao smacked Lei Lie on the back of his head, annoyed.

“What are you yapping about? We are all fine! You

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better sober up right now!” Chen Hao stared at Lei Lie and spoke to him word by word.

At that, Lei Lie immediately became clearheaded.

“Master Chen, thank God! Thank God we are all fine!” Lei Lie exclaimed and hugged Chen Hao when he realized that they were all safe and sound.

Lei Lie was almost scared to death just now. Falling from great heights had caused him to faint, as he had thought that death was coming for him. Therefore, he was overjoyed when he found out that he was still alive.

“Can you man up? Why are you acting like such a girl? Even Yu Xin has more courage than you!” Chen Hao dissed Lei Lie.

Zhen Ji’s disciple, Yu Xin, didn’t even look affected. There were no signs of fear on her face; she seemed pretty calm and collected.

When compared, the contrast between her and Lei Lie was apparent.

“Erm...” Lei Lie looked awkward and embarrassed after being teased by Chen Hao, while Yu Xin and Zhen Ji giggled at the side.

“By the way, Master Chen, why did that wooden bridge break just now?” Lei Lie asked Chen Hao curiously.

“It became unstable when too many people were on it. Moreover, both ends of the bridge were

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broken after getting smashed by stones!” Chen Hao explained to Lei Lie.

“Either way, we were very lucky that the bridge broke because if it didn’t, and we got stuck there, we will end up as the insects’ food!” Chen Hao pointed out.

It was true; Chen Hao and the others had no other way to escape at that moment.

If the wooden bridge didn’t break, what they had to face were those scary man-eating insects. It was likely that they were going to end up with only bones, just like the Hunters.

“So what should we do next?” Lei Lie continued asking.

“We’ll rest for a while before continuing our journey. I’m sure that there are other routes to get around this place!” Chen Hao suggested.

Everyone agreed with Chen Hao’s suggestion since they usually followed his commands anyway.

After all, they were only safe because they followed Chen Hao around.

After half an hour’s break, Chen Hao and the others started their journey again.

On the bright side, they finally got away from the Hunter Association.


The way they looked at it, they probably wouldn’t


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run into any more difficulties later on.

Meanwhile, none of them knew what happened to the cloaked man.

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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The ground along the way was flat; their journey went smoothly, and they didn't run into any danger.

Unknowingly, the four of them had already walked quite a distance. They had already gone past the peaks of the mountain and reached the other end of the peak.

Seeing that the sky was getting darker, Chen Hao and the others started searching for a place to rest.

Right then, a sudden flash of light caught their attention.

"Look, Master Chen! There's a house there!" Lei Lie, who had sharp eyes, immediately exclaimed upon spotting the light source.

Looking toward the direction of the light, Chen Hao and the others also spotted the house. There were even chains of smoke rising from the location.

Chen Hao and the others were surprised because they didn't expect to see people still staying so deep in the jungle; it was unbelievable.

They started heading down the valley toward the house without thinking too much.

By the time they reached the place, it was already pitch dark.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Submitted Successfully

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Chen Hao stood at the entrance and knocked on the wooden door.

After a short while, the wooden door was opened.

Immediately, an old man appeared in front of Chen Hao and the others.

“Mister, could you please let us stay for the night?” Chen Hao asked the old man with a polite smile.

The old man gave Chen Hao a look before glancing at Zhen Ji and Yu Xin, who stood behind Chen Hao.

Then, the older man nodded gently. “Sure, come on in!”

Chen Hao and the others followed the older man into the house right after, not forgetting to close the door well.

The four of them were quite relieved as they had been worried that the older man would reject them.

They gathered in the living room after entering the house.

“Please sit.” The old man invited them to sit down after bringing out a few chairs.

The four then proceeded to sit down.

“Thank you so much, mister!” Chen Hao thanked the old man profusely while smiling.

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Zhen Ji and the others started thanking the old man as well when they saw Chen Hao expressing his gratitude.

“All of you probably haven’t eaten anything, right?” the old man asked casually, without replying to their expressions of gratitude.

Chen Hao and the others nodded awkwardly upon hearing the old man’s question.

They were all obviously starving after having gone a whole day without food.

After that, the old man came back with some food and drinks.

“I don’t have much except for these, so you all will have to work with this for now,” the old man said as he placed the food on the table.

“It’s okay, mister. We are very grateful for the food you’re serving us,” Chen Hao immediately assured him.

Who were they even kidding? It was great that the old man was even willing to offer them food. How could they be picky about it?

Chen Hao and the others started eating in no time.

When one was hungry, everything tasted good.

After gobbling everything up, Chen Hao and the others were finally full.

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“*Burp!*” Behaving the same way he did, Lei Lie let out a long burp after he finished eating.

“Why are you staying here alone, mister?” At this time, Chen Hao questioned the old man.

The old man was plaiting something with bamboo at the side.

“I grew up here since I was a kid,” the old man answered Chen Hao’s question nonchalantly.

“Mister, how should we address you?” Chen Hao continued probing.

“My surname is Bai,” the old man told them his last name.

“Hello, Mister Bai. My name is Chen Hao. Thank you so much for offering us shelter tonight!” Chen Hao immediately greeted Mister Bai and expressed his gratitude.

“What are you all doing here?” Mister Bai asked before glancing at all of them.

Chen Hao and the others were taken aback by Mister Bai’s sudden question.

“Haha! We came here for a trip, but we ended up getting lost halfway, Mister Bai,” Chen Hao explained.

“A trip? Do you all think that I’m stupid?” Mister Bai questioned out loud before looking at Chen Hao knowingly.

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Chen Hao and the others were stunned; they didn't expect Mister Bai to notice that something was wrong.

"Mister Bai, you're saying that..." While looking at Mister Bai, Chen Hao pretended not to understand his question.

"Young man, I've already lived for more than half a century. You can't possibly fool me. You all aren't here for fun; in fact, you're here to look for the Malevolent Demon Tribe territory, am I right?" Mister Bai went straight to the point and exposed Chen Hao and the others' true reason for coming to this place.

Gasp!

The expression of Chen Hao and the others changed; they were completely taken aback.

"Mister Bai, h-how did you know?" Chen Hao asked curiously.

Although Mister Bai knew the real reason why they came, Chen Hao didn't feel any form of hostility from him.

"Haha! Well, this isn't a tourist spot. Everyone who comes here only has one purpose, which is to find the Malevolent Demon Tribe territory," Mister Bai explained straightforwardly.

Chen Hao and the others were stunned; they didn't expect Mister Bai to be so observant.

"Since you've found out, then I won't deny it

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anymore. That's right, we are here in search of the Malevolent Demon Tribe territory!" Chen Hao admitted as he didn't bother hiding it anymore.

There wasn't any use hiding or denying any further since Mister Bai had already seen right through them.

"Young man, the Malevolent Demon Tribe territory isn't any place for ordinary people. I'd advise against it," Mister Bai reminded them.

After hearing Mister Bai's advice, Chen Hao and the others were slightly surprised.

"Mister Bai, why would you say so?" Chen Hao questioned.

"Well, before all of you, many came in search of the Malevolent Demon Tribe territory, but none of them made it out alive. I'm just telling you all for your own good. You all should leave tomorrow morning." Mister Bai was indifferent as he continued convincing them against it.

"We are not like the others, Mister Bai. We came here bearing the responsibility of saving the world!" Chen Hao tried explaining to Mister Bai.

"Hahaha!" Mister Bai burst into mocking laughter when he heard Chen Hao.

"Young man, don't even bother talking about any of your responsibilities! Those from before said the same, but at what cost? They all died here anyway," Mister Bai dismissed Chen Hao without thinking twice.

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From what Mister Bai said, it seemed like he had met many of these sorts before. He might even be involved with their deaths.

After all, it was quite weird that an old man lived alone deep in this forest.

“Mister Bai, do you know where the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe is located?” Chen Hao paused before asking Mister Bai.

Mister Bai's head shot up when he heard Chen Hao's question.

They looked into each other's eyes for a brief moment before Mister Bai spoke up, “I'm sorry, I do not know where the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe is!”

Chen Hao didn't question Mister Bai any further after that. However, he could see that Mister Bai definitely knew the location of the Malevolent Demon Tribe's territory, and that he was just unwilling to disclose the information.



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“Thank you for the heads up, Mister Bai. However, this is a vital mission for us, so we have to get to the Malevolent Demon Tribe territory. After staying here at yours for tonight, we will take our leave tomorrow morning,” Chen Hao expressed his gratitude toward Mister Bai again.

Mister Bai’s face twitched a little when he heard him.

Later on, Chen Hao and the others only fell asleep after midnight.

To be safe, Chen Hao took up the night watch, allowing Lei Lie and the others to get some shut-eye.

Fortunately, the night was peaceful, and nothing happened.

The next morning, the four of them woke up early, and Chen Hao walked toward the door to open it.

However, Chen Hao jumped in shock the moment he opened the door.

He was met by Mister Bai, staring at him intently at the entrance.

“Mister Bai?” Chen Hao greeted in shock. He didn’t expect Mister Bai to be standing right in front of their door.

“I just want to reconfirm if you all really want to go to the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe? Do you really have to go?” Mister Bai stared at Chen Hao and asked seriously.

Chen Hao was stunned before he snapped back from his daze, then he nodded with determination and replied, "Yes, Mister Bai. We must go!"

"Fine. I can bring you all over if you insist so. However, everything else will depend on your luck," Mister Bai told Chen Hao.

Chen Hao was surprised when he heard Mister Bai.

He didn't expect Mister Bai to change his attitude so quickly. After all, he was still against them trying to find the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe just last night, but here he was offering to bring them there personally.

Just like what Chen Hao had predicted, Mister Bai knew where the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe was located.

It seemed like Mister Bai was connected to the deaths of those previous adventurers as well.

"All of you should hurry up and start packing now. Time waits for no man!" Mister Bai reminded Chen Hao before leaving.

As Chen Hao looked at Mister Bai's retreating figure, he ordered Lei Lie and the others to hurry up without hesitation.

Right after, the four of them followed Mister Bai back into the woods.

It was quiet during the journey as none of them conversed with each other.

“Mister Bai, what made you change your mind?” Chen Hao took the initiative to ask Mister Bai, trying to break the ice between them.

“Because you all are different from those people!” Mister Bai’s answer to Chen Hao’s question was plain and simple.

“Those people? What do you mean by that, Mister Bai?” Chen Hao was curious.

“Well, most who came searching for the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe weren’t good people. They were either graverobbers or people filled with greed; it was impossible for those people to reach the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe, so they all died here,” Mister Bai said matter-of-factly as if all that had happened wasn’t new to him.

“How did they die, Mister Bai?” Chen Hao probed curiously.

“I murdered them!” Mister Bai came clean and said.

Chen Hao’s face changed in a flush; he didn’t expect Mister Bai to be so straightforward.

“Fear not, I won’t harm any of you because you all are different from the rest. You have my trust!” Mister Bai hurriedly explained himself when he noticed Chen Hao’s facial expression.

To be honest, Chen Hao couldn’t help but be worried as he didn’t know the truth to Mister Bai’s words. At this point, all they could do was to act

according to the situation.

If Mister Bai were actually plotting something against them, Chen Hao wouldn't hesitate to kill him.

Time passed by quickly, and in the blink of an eye, they had already traveled for almost an hour.

Mister Bai led Chen Hao and the others to an enormous pinnacle.

"Where is this?" Chen Hao glanced at their surroundings before asking.

"This is the entrance to Extreme Yin Land. You all can only find the actual Malevolent Demon Tribe territory once you all enter Extreme Yin Land. However, entering Extreme Yin Land isn't as easy as it sounds. If your mind isn't strong enough, you might even get swallowed up by the evil spirits and get trapped in there forever!" Mister Bai pointed out.

Chen Hao then took the map Mr. Shen gave him and compared it to the place that Mister Bai brought them to. It seemed like Mister Bai wasn't lying.

"When will Extreme Yin Land be activated?" Chen Hao asked Mister Bai.

"There are still three more days before the midterm. Extreme Yin Land will only be activated after three days, and it stays open for three days only as well. If you all don't get out before it closes, all of you will be trapped inside until the

next Extreme Yin Land activation!” Mister Bai continued giving them information about Extreme Yin Land.

“Are there any other ways for us to enter?” Chen Hao probed.

Chen Hao felt that there should be more ways that they could use to enter Extreme Yin Land.

“Young man, don’t get too impatient!” Mister Bai reminded Chen Hao, thereafter he offered, “Since we were fated to meet, I can help open up the gates to Extreme Yin Land for you in advance. However, only three of you can enter while another one needs to stay here.”

Chen Hao was delighted when he heard Mister Bai.

“Maximum of three people and a minimum of two people can enter Extreme Yin Land, so it’s either a duo or trio.”

Chen Hao glanced at Zhen Ji and the others upon hearing the conditions.

“Chen Hao, why don’t you enter with Lei Lie? I’ll stay outside with Yu Xin then!” Zhen Ji suggested before Chen Hao could say anything.

“Mister Bai, does it work if I enter with Lei Lie, then both of the girls enter after us? Can we enter separately?” Chen Hao glanced at Mister Bai and asked.

Mister Bai shook his head. “No!”

Since Mister Bai refused Chen Hao's request, the latter couldn't do anything else.

"Master Chen, why don't you enter with Miss Zhen? I can wait with Yu Xin outside?" Lei Lie suggested suddenly.

After all, Zhen Ji was also a Cultivator like Chen Hao. They would stand a higher chance to locate the territory if it were the both of them.

"No way. It's too dangerous for you and Yu Xin to stay outside. You should go with Chen Hao while we wait outside. After all, I'm capable of protecting Yu Xin." Zhen Ji was against Lei Lie's suggestion.

"Listen to Miss Zhen. Let's go!"

Chen Hao stopped trying to argue and chose to follow through Zhen Ji's suggestion.

Besides, Chen Hao was worried about leaving Lei Lie and Yu Xin outside as both of them wouldn't stand a chance if they were to get into any risky situations.



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“Alright!” Lei Lie agreed and nodded.

“Mister Bai, we’ve made up our mind. The two of us will go in as a pair! Please open the gates for us!” Chen Hao informed Mister Bai after deciding.

Mister Bai didn’t say anything. Instead, he started making his way toward the biggest stone pillar among the stonehenge.

Retrieving a small blade from his pocket, Mister Bai gave himself a small cut before pressing his blood on a ghost eye pattern on the pillar.

Immediately, the stone pillar started trembling as the surrounding pillars lit up with dim blue lights.

Within the next second, a dimmed blue tunnel appeared in front of Chen Hao and the others.

“This is the entrance to Extreme Yin Land. You guys can now enter. But remember, you must come back within six days, or you’ll never be able to leave anymore!” Mister Bai couldn’t help but remind Chen Hao and Lei Lie again.

“Don’t worry, Mister Bai. We’ll be sure to get back before time runs out. I’ll leave the two of them under your care now. Thank you!” Chen Hao nodded with determination before speaking to Mister Bai.

“No problem!” Mister Bai nodded in assurance.

Then, Chen Hao entered the tunnel along with Lei Lie.

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After they entered the tunnel, it immediately disappeared. The stonehedge returned back to its original state as if nothing had ever happened.

Zhen Ji and Yu Xin were in disbelief as they witnessed the magical scene.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao and Lei Lie continued their journey to Extreme Yin Land. The journey was as if they were walking in a tunnel.

Lei Lie kept close to Chen Hao, with both his hands grabbing onto the latter's shirt.

"You have to protect me, Master Chen!" Lei Lie whispered into Chen Hao's ear.

"Didn't you say that you aren't afraid of ghosts?" Chen Hao mocked him.

"Erm... Those were horror movies. It's different now; no one knows what would happen here!" Lei Lie explained cowardly.

After all, what happened on screen was different from reality.

Chen Hao didn't say anything because he, too, understood how Lei Lie felt. After all, it was customary for anyone to act this way during their first time, and they just had to get used to it.

They finally got out of the tunnel after walking for around ten minutes.

The both of them stood in front of a massive stele after getting out of the tunnel.

A few words were engraved on the stone stele.

“Extreme Yin Land!”

There was a road behind the stele that led to the heart of Extreme Yin Land where all kinds of spirits gathered.

“Prepare yourself, Lei Lie. We are going to start our journey for real now. I want you to make some mental preparation, and remember to not scream no matter what!” Chen Hao reminded Lei Lie seriously before they continued their journey.

He didn’t want Lei Lie to disturb the spirits in Extreme Yin Land since they didn’t need any more trouble.

“I’m ready now, Master Chen!” Lei Lie took a deep breath before informing Chen Hao.

Chen Hao nodded before walking to the center of Extreme Yin Land along with Lei Lie.

The eerily gloomy surrounding filled with dense Yin energy made the atmosphere threatening. Chen Hao and Lei Lie felt as if the cold air was attempting to pierce through their bodies.

This was one of the reasons why no one could enter Extreme Yin Land alone.

Once a person entered Extreme Yin Land, they would be corrupted by Yin energy until their death. Furthermore, their spirit would remain in Extreme Yin Land forever.

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In a short time, they crossed a bridge and saw a city-like place in front of them.

This was Extreme Yin Land's 'City of Spirits'.

The 'City of Spirits' was a place where all sorts of spirits gathered, just like a market back in the days.

There were many businessmen and vendors in this place.

In short, Extreme Yin Land was the world of the dead.

Just when Chen Hao and Lei Lie reached the entrance of the town, they were blocked by a man in a black robe.

The man in the black robe was pale and had ice blue eyes.

"The both of you do not belong here. Please leave immediately!" the man in the black robe announced while glaring at them.

"Who are you?" Chen Hao asked the man in a black robe.

"I'm Specter, the messenger for Extreme Yin Land!" the man in the black robe introduced himself.

Chen Hao and Lei Lie were stunned when they heard him. They'd never expected that the messenger of Yin actually existed. After all, they only saw those in the movies and were always

sceptical about their presence.

“Mr. Messenger, we are just passing by Extreme Yin Land, and I hope that you can help us out!” Chen Hao tried to negotiate politely with Specter.

After all, they were in another person’s territory, so they needed to be polite.

If they were somewhere else, Chen Hao wouldn’t have wasted his time explaining himself, and he would have already attacked.

“You need a permit to go through this place. I can’t let you pass if you don’t have a permit!” Specter denied them coldly.

“A permit? Where can I get a permit?” Chen Hao wondered.

Specter pointed toward a tower that was illuminated with dull blue light.

“There. If you guys can pass the trials, you can get a permit!” Specter briefed them.

Chen Hao and Lei Lie caught on immediately. It seemed like getting into Extreme Yin Land wasn’t as easy as they thought it would be.

“Alright, thank you!” Chen Hao thanked Specter.

Then, he started heading toward the tower along with Lei Lie.

Since they needed a permit, the only choice was for them to obtain it by passing the trials. If not,

then they wouldn't be able to enter Extreme Yin Land at all.

Chen Hao didn't want to offend anyone here. After all, he just wanted to pass through Extreme Yin Land. It would be a hassle if they got into trouble here.

A wise man once said, "The less problem, the better." If it was something that could be solved without using force, it was better not to use it at all.

When they reached the tower, they found out that the door to the tower was locked shut. However, dim blue light was still coming out from the inside of the tower.

Chen Hao walked forward and was about to knock on the door when it automatically opened up.

"Come on in!" A cold voice could be heard from the inside of the tower.

Chen Hao entered the tower immediately upon hearing the man.

However, before Lei Lie could even take a step forward, the door slammed shut, locking him out from entering the tower.

"H-Hey, Master Chen! W-What's going on?!" Lei Lie yelled in a panic.

"Only one can enter at a time!" The cold voice from the inside of the tower could be heard again.

Upon hearing that, Lei Lie and Chen Hao finally understood the current situation.

As such, Lei Lie had no choice but to sit on the staircase outside of the tower to wait for Chen Hao.



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A man in gray robe with a head of white hair appeared in front of Chen Hao.

“You are not only a human being, but you are a spirit as well,” the man in a gray robe said after he sized Chen Hao up.

When Chen Hao heard this, he was surprised as he didn't expect this person to see through him.

“You are?” Chen Hao asked doubtfully.

“I'm the psychic ghost messenger, Taban, and I'm responsible for dealing with the outsiders. Therefore, I can tell your origins as well,” Taban explained as he looked at Chen Hao.

“Nice to meet you, sir. My name is Chen Hao, and you are right. I'm a spirit and a human at the same time. However, my true identity is that of a Soul Cultivator!” Chen Hao greeted Taban and revealed his true identity; he had no intention of hiding it.

“No wonder you have so much Soul Spirit and Vital Spirit within your body, but your Soul Spirit is way too chaotic. If this continues, it might put your life in danger!” Taban looked at Chen Hao and reminded him kindly.

In reality, Chen Hao knew what Taban was referring to—it was the Star Abyss Sword he was carrying.

“Sir, I came here to obtain the permit.”

Following that, Chen Hao told Taban the purpose of his visit.

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Thereafter, a smile appeared on Taban's face.

"I know the reason why you want a permit. You want to go to the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe, isn't that right?" Taban asked as he turned toward Chen Hao again.

"That's right!" Chen Hao denied nothing and instantly nodded.

"However, do you know that in order to get there, you have to pass my test? You can only obtain the permit if you manage to pass my test," Taban explained as he continued to look at Chen Hao.

"I know, and that's why I'm here to take the test," Chen Hao said with determination.

"Okay! In that case, are you ready for the test?" Taban asked Chen Hao for confirmation.

"I'm ready. Bring it on!" Chen Hao answered without hesitation.

Instantly, Chen Hao's surroundings turned pitch black, and Taban disappeared before his very eyes.

Some might find a dark surrounding where they couldn't even see their own hands unbearable.

However, Chen Hao wasn't an ordinary person; he calmly stood in his original spot without moving.

Ping! The next second, a stone gate appeared in front of Chen Hao.

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“This will be your first test.” Taban’s voice rang out from the darkness.

When Chen Hao heard Taban, he walked toward the stone gate.

He was met with a shocking scene the moment he pushed the stone gate open.

The scene contained snippets of various people killing each other from ancient times till the present moment.

Chen Hao was puzzled when he saw this scene.

“Since ancient times, mankind had been waging a never-ending series of wars, and it had always been followed by endless killing and countless deaths. Now, I am going to give you three choices. You can either choose to let all the wicked people die; resurrect the righteous men; or you can choose to leave it all to fate!” Taban’s voice could be heard as he explained the rules of this test.

When Chen Hao listened to this, he fell into deep thought.

Although it seemed like an easy test, it actually wasn’t. This was to test a person’s humanity.

In fact, these three choices weren’t that bad at all. However, Chen Hao didn’t know which one was the right choice, and he didn’t wish to fail his first test.

After he pondered about it for a moment, Chen Hao finally came up with an answer.

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“I choose to leave it up to fate!” Chen Hao chose the third option, which was to leave everything in fate’s hands.

“Oh? And why would you choose this? This is unexpected!” Taban asked in surprise after hearing his answer.

“Our lives and deaths are not determined by ourselves or by other people because it’s all up to fate. If death comes knocking, we can’t stop it. The only thing we can do is to wait quietly for fate’s final verdict. I have no intention to alter another person’s fate because I don’t have the right to do so. Though wicked people are despicable, and I really wish to kill them immediately, I believe that they will get what they deserve in the end, and their end has been determined. Therefore, I don’t wish to change anything,” Chen Hao explained the reason behind his choice to Taban.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

A series of applause could be heard from his surroundings the moment he ended his speech.

“Not bad! Not bad! You are different, indeed! Congratulations, you have passed your first test!” Taban’s compliment could be heard from his surroundings.

Soon, the dark surrounding returned to normal, and Taban appeared before Chen Hao once again.

Chen Hao was surprised; he didn’t expect his

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answer to actually be correct.

“A person’s life or death is not up to his or herself, nor others. You are right, and it seems like you are no murderer!” Taban looked at Chen Hao with a satisfied smile as he praised him.

“Thank you for your compliment, sir,” Chen Hao thanked Taban politely.

“Alright! Are you ready? We are entering the next stage!” Taban reminded Chen Hao again.

“Okay! I am ready!” Chen Hao immediately answered.

Whoosh!

With that, Chen Hao’s surroundings changed once again.

This time, a screen appeared in front of Chen Hao, and it was playing a scene.

It was playing out the life of a person from birth till death.

“This is the life of a human. What’s your opinion on it?” Taban questioned Chen Hao.

When Chen Hao saw this scene, he felt that this test was testing his understanding of life itself.

What’s life anyway? What should a person’s life be like?

“Sir, have you experienced the life of a human

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before?” After a slight pause, Chen Hao asked Taban, who was lurking in the shadows.

“I’ve experienced it before. However, I don’t wish to experience it again,” Taban replied immediately.

When Chen Hao heard Taban’s answer, he felt a great sense of regret.

If Chen Hao’s prediction was accurate, Taban must have lived an excruciating life. Hence, that was why Taban didn’t want to experience it all over again.

At this moment, Chen Hao closed his eyes.

In that instant, various scenes flashed across Chen Hao’s mind.

The scenes consisted of his experience growing up.

Although Chen Hao had a tough time growing up, at least he was doing well now.

At the end of the day, isn’t life itself a mixture of joy, sorrow, parting, and reunion? A thought flashed across Chen Hao’s mind.

The next second, Chen Hao opened his eyes abruptly.

“I understand. Life is an endless cycle of reincarnation, and every human being is different. From the moment we were born till the day we die, it’s actually a process. Only by experiencing this kind of process can humans improve

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themselves. Then and only then, would they be able to survive longer.”



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“Pain, happiness, wealth, family... All these are just parts of a person’s life. Everyone is the master of their own destiny. Therefore, life is a reincarnation by itself. Sir, I don’t know what you have experienced in the past. However, I do know that life is not always bleak and sorrowful. There is bound to be a silver lining. Only then can humans improve themselves instead of complaining about all the injustice they suffered,” Chen Hao told Taban his philosophy.

Perhaps, in the beginning, Chen Hao could not understand the meaning behind this test.

However, Chen Hao finally discovered and understood the meaning behind it.

This test wasn’t merely a test of his understanding of life; it was so that he could help Taban with his problems as well.

Moreover, the scenes played on the screen in front of him were all about Taban’s life as a human being.

Everyone should enjoy the pleasures that life had to offer while they could. Moreover, one should allow joy, sorrow, parting, and reunion to come and go naturally.

Ping! With that, everything returned to normal.

Taban then appeared before Chen Hao once again.

“For centuries, I’ve waited for someone who could help me solve my internal problems, and now it

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has finally been resolved! You are right! This is how humans continue their progress—by the process of constant reincarnation.

Congratulations! You've passed the second test!" Taban said as he looked at Chen Hao with a smile before he announced the final result.

When Chen Hao heard that he had passed the test, he felt delighted.

"However, your life is different. You've grown by gaining and losing certain things in life, but you should prepare yourself as certain things and certain people will eventually leave you one day," Taban reminded Chen Hao again.

Chen Hao was shocked when he heard Taban's words. Needless to say, he understood the meaning behind Taban's words; the latter seemed to have already seen his future.

However, Chen Hao didn't ask about the details.

He didn't wish to know about the future because his fate was in his own hands. Therefore, there was no reason for him to change it deliberately.

Because with every move a person made, it would result in a ripple effect in a person's destiny.

"Yes. I understand, sir," Chen Hao said as he looked at Taban and nodded.

"Okay! Let's enter the third stage of the test then," Taban said as he looked at Chen Hao.

With that, he waved his hands before Chen Hao

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could answer. In an instant, the scene changed once again.

At the moment, a figure appeared in front of Chen Hao.

The figure approached him slowly, and once it got close, only then did Chen Hao see its actual appearance.

Chen Hao was startled when he saw the figure's true identity.

The person in front of him was none other than Zhen Ji!

Zhen Ji walked toward Chen Hao, thereafter she looked at him with a smile.

"Chen Hao!" Zhen Ji called out to Chen Hao in a gentle voice.

"Zhen Ji! W-Why are you here?" Chen Hao asked in surprise, puzzled at the moment.

"Chen Hao, let's stay in Extreme Yin Land together, alright?" Zhen Ji looked at Chen Hao and suggested.

"What? Stay here? Why? Why do we have to stay here?" Chen Hao asked Zhen Ji in confusion.

"Don't you want to be with me?" Zhen Ji's expression darkened in that instant as she stared at Chen Hao.

Just as Chen Hao was about to answer her, he

paused.

Then, he suddenly regained his senses. He knew everything was just superficial, and this was a mere delusion. The Zhen Ji in front of him wasn't a real person; instead, she was just an illusion.

"No. I won't stay here! Because all these are nothing but illusions!" After pausing for a moment, Chen Hao lifted his head and fixed his gaze upon the fake Zhen Ji as he uttered those words.

With that, Chen Hao used his strong willpower to break the illusion. In that instant, everything returned to normal.

Taban was extremely surprised; he hadn't expected Chen Hao's willpower to be that strong.

"You're really powerful. I've never seen anybody with willpower as strong as yours in my life!" Taban praised Chen Hao again as he looked at him.

"Thank you for the compliment, sir. This stage is a test of my willpower, right?" Chen Hao questioned Taban in amusement.

When Taban heard this, he smiled and nodded without denial. "You're right! I'm indeed testing your willpower! To my surprise, your performance was way beyond my expectations. You broke the illusion spell easily and managed to pass this test!" Taban looked at Chen Hao as he spoke one word at a time.

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Apart from Chen Hao himself, Taban was also surprised that Chen Hao actually passed this stage. He didn't expect Chen Hao to break the illusion spell in such a short time to pass the test. It was extremely remarkable.

"Sir, how many stages are there in total?" Chen Hao asked as he looked at Taban.

He wanted to know how many stages were in this test since Taban didn't inform him.

"There are five stages in total, and you've passed three stages consecutively. Therefore, there are only two stages left. However, the last two stages are the crucial part of the test; they are also the most difficult. So, do prepare yourself for it!"

Taban answered Chen Hao before kindly reminding Chen Hao again.

"Don't worry, sir. I'm prepared. I'll definitely pass these tests," Chen Hao said with confidence.

"Great! Let's proceed to the fourth stage then," Taban said as he nodded. Then, the surroundings changed once more.

This time, a table was placed in front of Chen Hao.

There was a pen and paper on the table along with three boxes.

Chen Hao walked toward the table to inspect it.

He then noticed that three names were written on top of the three boxes, and they were none other

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than Lei Lie, Zhen Ji, and Yu Xin.

“Chen Hao, you have to choose one of these four people to lose his or her life. Only by doing so can you obtain the key to open the doors to the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe.” Taban’s voice came from the surroundings.

“Erm...” When Chen Hao heard this, he was instantly dumbfounded.

He didn’t know how to make a choice because he wasn’t willing to choose any of them.

“Do I really have to choose to sacrifice a person before obtaining the key to open the doors to the Malevolent Demon Tribe’s territory?” Chen Hao frowned as he asked Taban in a loud voice.

“That’s right! This is the condition!” Taban didn’t hesitate as he answered with determination.

Chen Hao finally understood why Taban said the last two stages were difficult; this was the reason.

“Chen Hao, make up your mind. You have no choice but to make a decision. Don’t you want to obtain the key to open the doors to the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe?” Taban continued prompting Chen Hao by using the key to the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe as a reward.

When Chen Hao heard him, he instantly understood.

Chen Hao realized that he didn’t have to choose

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between these three people.

“I understand, sir. I choose myself!” Chen Hao answered loudly.

After Chen Hao answered, without a single doubt at that, he took up the pen to write his name on the paper.



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Ping! Just as Chen Hao thought he was about to die, the surroundings returned to its normal state.

“Congratulations! Chen Hao, you’ve passed the fourth test!” Taban said with a smile as he walked toward Chen Hao.

When Chen Hao heard this, he opened his eyes.

“I-I passed?” Chen Hao asked in bewilderment.

“That’s right! You’ve passed!” Taban nodded without a single doubt.

“How? Did I pass because I sacrifice myself?” Chen Hao asked in confusion.

“No. This test wasn’t a test to see whether you’d sacrifice yourself; instead, it’s used to test whether you’d abandon your friends because of temptation and desire. It seems that you’re not that kind of person. Hence, you’ve passed the test!” Taban explained as he looked at Chen Hao.

Chen Hao only came to understand after Taban’s explanation.

If he had made a choice just now, he would fail no matter who he chose.

“One more thing. If you actually made a choice just now, the person you chose would die! Therefore, you managed to protect all three of them.” Following that, Taban reminded Chen Hao again.

Chen Hao was shocked, and his eyes widened.

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In that instant, fear started creeping into Chen Hao's heart. He was glad he didn't choose anyone, or else that someone would be gone by now.

"Alright. Chen Hao, you're the strongest and kindest person I've seen so far. The next stage is the last part of your test. Are you ready for it?" Taban asked as he looked at Chen Hao.

"Yes, bring it on!" Chen Hao inhaled deeply before answering.

With that, Taban brought Chen Hao to a bamboo forest in the blink of an eye.

"What's this?" Chen Hao looked at Taban in confusion and asked because he didn't understand why he was brought to a bamboo forest.

"This is known as the Soul Bamboo. You can only pass this test if you manage to strike down the Soul Bamboo," Taban explained to Chen Hao.

When he heard this, Chen Hao was surprised as he felt that he could easily break the bamboo.

"Isn't that easy?" Chen Hao asked with confidence.

"Haha! You can try it for yourself and see!" Taban gestured with a faint smile.

When Chen Hao heard this, he walked toward the Soul Bamboo and stood in front of it.

He then took a deep breath before wielding his

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hand on the Soul Bamboo with all his might.

Wham! Chen Hao's hand struck the Soul Bamboo heavily. However, it remained motionless.

When Chen Hao saw this, he was caught by surprise. He didn't expect to not be able to crush this Soul Bamboo into pieces.

"So what do you think? Is it difficult?" Taban asked Chen Hao with an amused expression.

Chen Hao knew why Taban would calmly allow him to try. It was because the Soul Bamboo couldn't be broken that easily.

"Chen Hao, every Soul Bamboo has its own hidden meaning. As long as you understand their meaning and philosophy, you can break them. It's all up to your fate now." Taban gave him a hint.

Upon hearing that, Chen Hao understood the hidden meaning in Taban's hint.

"Then, what should I do to understand the meaning behind the Soul Bamboo?" Chen Hao asked Taban for a method to break the Soul Bamboo.

"Place your hand upon the Soul Bamboo and feel it with your heart. It'll naturally transfer its thoughts to you. Remember, use your heart to feel it, and don't allow it to lead you astray," Taban explained patiently.

At that, Chen Hao followed Taban's explanation as he placed his hand upon the Soul Bamboo.

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In that instant, the Soul Bamboo emitted a light blue beam, and it illuminated Chen Hao's palm.

In the next second, Chen Hao was teleported into a white space.

There was an old man within that space.

The old man was sitting cross-legged on the floor, and there was a game of Go in front of him.

Chen Hao was stunned as he approached the old man and stood in front of him.

"O'Young one! You're here! Come, take a seat!" Before Chen Hao could open his mouth, the old man ordered Chen Hao to sit down.

When Chen Hao heard this, he immediately sat down.

"Come! How about playing a game of Go with me?" the old man suggested after Chen Hao sat down.

When Chen Hao heard this, he didn't have any opinion on it. Hence, he nodded in agreement. "Of course. It's my honor to play a game of Go with you."

When the older man heard Chen Hao's words, he grinned without commenting further.

In that instant, the board was wiped clean.

"After you, sir," Chen Hao said respectfully.

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The old man smiled, but he didn't reach out his hand to make his move.

The next second, a magical scene happened.

The stones moved and flew out of the bowl by itself before landing on the board.

Chen Hao felt extremely surprised when he saw this.

It was Chen Hao's turn, and so he gently picked up a black colored stone from the bowl and placed it on the board.

In fact, Chen Hao had some experience playing the game of Go, and though he wasn't good at it, he knew a thing or two about it.

Soon, they were placing stones one after another.

However, not long after that, Chen Hao lost the game.

"O' Young one, you shouldn't be impetuous. You should try to understand the philosophy behind this game of Go," said the old man to Chen Hao.

There was an unspoken meaning behind his words.

Chen Hao knew that he had to understand the meaning behind it, and it seemed that he had to start from this game of Go.

With that, they started the second round of the game of Go.

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However, in this second game, Chen Hao managed to perform better than his first game.

Chen Hao was basically playing defense throughout the first game; he was led around in circles and had no chance to fight back.

During the second round, he changed as he no longer defended himself actively against the old man. Instead, he chose to go on the offensive against his opponent.

Nevertheless, Chen Hao still lost in the end.

“O’Young one, you’ve improved in this match, and you are just a step away from victory,” the elderly man reminded Chen Hao.

Following that, the third match began.

Chen Hao launched an offensive attack against his opponent the moment the game started; he didn’t give the old man any chances to attack him.

He would not allow the old man to lead him by the nose anymore. Instead, he was the one doing that.

Sure enough, after the previous two matches, Chen Hao’s skills improved by leaps and bounds. It was totally different from the last two games, which even Chen Hao himself was surprised.

After a fierce battle, Chen Hao finally won the game.

“O’ Young one, congratulations on your

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successful understanding. You can go back now!” the elderly man told Chen Hao directly.

Upon hearing that, Chen Hao looked at him in surprise.

But before Chen Hao had time to ask for the reason why, he was immediately teleported outside.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

After returning to reality, Chen Hao felt refreshed as he had gained additional insight, one that he could only understand upon his return.

Following that, Chen Hao raised his hand once again.

He was going to use his hand as if it was a knife.

Thwack! He hit the Soul Bamboo with a knife-hand strike.

In that instant, Chen Hao chopped off the Soul Bamboo.

He made it!

Chen Hao was incredibly moved.

He finally understood the meaning behind this Soul Bamboo. It was that in everything with everything we do, we must do it in sequence, and we shouldn't seek instant gratification. This was the meaning behind the Soul Bamboo.

This was also why Chen Hao improved quickly as he progressed further in the game of Go with that old man.

“Congratulations, Chen Hao! You manage to break your first Soul Bamboo!” Taban stood behind him as he congratulated Chen Hao with a smile.

Chen Hao smiled as well, thereafter he walked over to the next Soul Bamboo.

With the exact movement, he reached out his

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hand to place it on the second Soul Bamboo.

In that instant, Chen Hao's subconscious was teleported into another space again.

Unlike the previous area, this space contained a lot of beautiful, ever-changing scenes.

At the moment, another old man appeared in front of Chen Hao.

"O' Young one, do you know what these scenes represent?" the older man asked as he looked at Chen Hao with a gentle and kind smile on his face.

When Chen Hao heard this, he was instantly stunned.

"May I know how to address you, sir?"

Chen Hao didn't rush to answer his question; instead, he asked the old man a question.

"Haha! I am a psychic priest," the elderly man answered with a smile.

"Nice to meet you, sir. The scenes before me kept changing; I can only make out that it represents the four seasons, namely spring, summer, autumn, and winter," Chen Hao addressed the psychic priest respectfully before answering his question.

The psychic priest nodded in satisfaction upon hearing this.

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“You’re right. It represents the four seasons. However, it represents other things as well. You have to calm down and feel it with your heart,” the psychic priest instructed Chen Hao.

Chen Hao nodded to indicate his understanding. Then, he calmed himself down and felt the ever changing scenes with his heart.

After a while, Chen Hao finally opened his eyes.

“I understand, sir. These scenes not only represent the four seasons, but they also represent the different stages in a human’s life. Spring represents the birth of a person, which is similar to how a new shoot grows; summer represents the experiences a person encounters while growing up. Just like the scorching summer heat, it shows that a person will encounter some difficulties and sufferings in life; autumn represents the harvest season where a person has achieved a happy life; winter represents the end of a person’s life as he looks back into the past,” Chen Hao revealed his insights.

Clap! Clap! Clap! The psychic priest started clapping after he heard Chen Hao’s explanation.

“Not bad, O’ Young one. You’re really one of a kind. You’re indeed different from the rest of the people as you are able to understand the meaning behind it. Bravo! The four seasons are indeed the representation of the life of a human.”

“Alright! O’ Young one. You have understood the meaning behind it. You can go back now,” the psychic priest said as he ordered Chen Hao to go

back.

With that, Chen Hao's consciousness was teleported back to reality.

Chen Hao immediately raised his hand to perform a knife-hand strike on the Soul Bamboo.

Thwack! The Soul Bamboo was broken instantly.

Through the second Soul Bamboo, Chen Hao understood the meaning of life.

He understood that a person's life was like the four seasons and was subjected to seasonal changes. However, each and every person had to experience the four stages of life, and that was birth, aging, sickness, and death. The only thing that could be done was to experience life itself and not to do anything that could alter our destiny.

Taban smiled with satisfaction and joy when he saw Chen Hao breaking the second Soul Bamboo.

That was because Chen Hao indeed didn't disappoint him.

Following that, Chen Hao immediately placed his hand on the third Soul Bamboo.

Instantly, his consciousness was teleported into a new space.

After his consciousness was teleported into the third Soul Bamboo, he saw a person that looked exactly like him before his very eyes.

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As such, Chen Hao was amazed at the moment.

“Who are you?” Chen Hao asked doubtfully.

“I am you!” The other party smiled as he looked at Chen Hao.

“You are me? Then, who am I?” Chen Hao asked again.

“You are me, and I am you. We’re both the same person. The only difference is that we have different thoughts,” the other party answered Chen Hao in a meaningful way.

“What do you mean by different thoughts?” Chen Hao asked out of confusion.

“Haha! To be more accurate, I am your other-self—your dark self—which is also commonly known as your Inner Demon,” the other party explained with a light smile.

Chen Hao finally came to the realization that the doppelganger was his Inner Demon.

He also realized that the third Soul Bamboo was pitting him against his Inner Demon, and that he could only understand the meaning behind the Soul Bamboo after defeating his own Inner Demon.

“Chen Hao, why didn’t you sacrifice Lei Lie to obtain the key to open the doors to the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe? Are you dumb or something?! How could you waste such a good opportunity?!” The Inner Demon stared at Chen

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Hao angrily with a dark expression.

Chen Hao fixed his gaze upon his Inner Demon.

“I will not sacrifice my friends!” Chen Hao immediately rebuked his Inner Demon.

“Fool!” When the Inner Demon heard Chen Hao’s words, he cursed Chen Hao.

“Do you understand what you are doing? How could you waste such a great opportunity? You’re nothing but a fool!” his Inner Demon glared at him as he continued to curse.

“Shut up! You are merely my Inner Demon; you can’t control my thoughts and my decisions!” Chen Hao retorted angrily as he couldn’t tolerate his Inner Demon anymore.

“Hahahaha!” His Inner Demon laughed heartily when he heard Chen Hao’s retort.

In that instant, the surrounding darkness was filled with his Inner Demon’s laughter. The ear-splitting laugh was as sinister as it could be.

“Is that so? If I gobble you up, you will be under my control forever!” the Inner Demon said while turning evil and sinister with his gaze fixated on Chen Hao.

The moment he finished his sentence, a weapon appeared in the Inner Demon’s hand.

“The Star Abyss Sword!” Chen Hao was shocked when he saw it.

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That was right! The weapon in the Inner Demon's hand was none other than his own sword—the Star Abyss Sword

Chen Hao never expected that his Inner Demon would be able to control the Star Abyss Sword.

“Chen Hao, since you are that dumb, don't blame me for doing this to you! I'll annihilate you completely and occupy both your mind and body!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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At this time, his Inner Demon also began to have a headache so severe that he kneeled onto the ground in excruciating pain.

The Inner Demon held his head with his hands and asked in pain, “*Argh!*W-What did you just do?”

“You’re just a puppet. You’ll never be able to defeat me. Don’t forget that the true ability I possess is much stronger than yours!” Chen Hao stared at his Inner Demon coldly.

As soon as he threw down those words, he stretched out his hand to strangle his Inner Demon.

“Begone!” Chen Hao yelled angrily while gripping tighter. Before long, he wiped out his Inner Demon.

The moment his Inner Demon disappeared, Chen Hao’s consciousness immediately returned to his body before coming back to reality.

With that, Chen Hao had passed the third Soul Bamboo smoothly.

Snap! With a wave of his hand, Chen Hao broke the third Soul Bamboo in front of him into two.

At this time, Taban, who had been behind him, came forward and said with a smile as he fixed his gaze on him, “Congratulations, Chen Hao, you have successfully defeated your Inner Demon!”

Hearing this, Chen Hao was slightly taken aback.

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“Sir, you knew?” Chen Hao looked at Taban in surprise and asked.

“Yes, I know all the meanings behind these Soul Bamboos, and I’m also aware of what you will encounter in each of them. The purpose of the third bamboo was to let you face your Inner Demon. If you can't defeat your Inner Demon, then it will take over you. Then, your true consciousness will be hidden deep in your heart forever while your Inner Demon replaces you! However, you’ve truly lived up to my expectations; you finally defeated your Inner Demon!” Taban looked at Chen Hao with satisfaction and praised him.

Hearing that, Chen Hao nodded understandingly in response.

“The Inner Demon is merely an inner puppet that everyone has. However, only a few can truly defeat their Inner Demon. I’ve met many who wanted to defeat their Inner Demon, but in the end they were all taken over and possessed by it, turning into a puppet’s puppet. Chen Hao, you are the only person I truly admire and acknowledge!” Taban stared at Chen Hao solemnly and said.

“Sir, thank you for your compliments. I’ll go on to accept the test of the next Soul Bamboo now!” Chen Hao thanked Taban before walking toward the fourth Soul Bamboo.

“Wait a minute!” At this time, Taban called out to him.

Halting, Chen Hao turned his head to look at

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Taban and asked, “Sir, what’s the matter?”

Looking at Chen Hao, Taban made a shocking announcement, “You don’t have to go on anymore. You’ve passed the test!”

Hearing this startling news, Chen Hao looked at Taban in surprise.

With a wave of Taban’s hand, Chen Hao was brought back to the tower.

“Sir, what is the meaning of this?” Chen Hao asked, puzzled.

“Chen Hao, you are the best Soul Cultivator I’ve ever seen. You are definitely qualified to go to the Malevolent Demon Tribe. I believe that you have an extraordinary calling. I will give you the key to the door to the Malevolent Demon Tribe territory, but whether you can get what you want depends on your own luck,” Taban looked at him and said.

Hearing this, Chen Hao felt pleasantly surprised and excited. It had never crossed his mind that he would pass the test like this. Finally, Taban was willing to give him the key to open the door to the Malevolent Demon Tribe’s territory.

Soon, Taban brought over a rectangular wooden box and handed it to Chen Hao.

“Take this. The key to open the door to the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe is inside,” Taban explained casually.

Afterward, Chen Hao took the box and opened it.

As expected, there was an iron key with a Malevolent Demon rune on it.

“Thank you, sir!” Chen Hao immediately thanked him.

“You don’t need to thank me because you deserve it. However, Chen Hao, I want to give you another heartfelt advice. The Malevolent Demon Tribe is the spiritual clan that rules all souls. Thus, they are not easily persuaded. You must be prepared to face every challenge and endure all pain because your true test will only start the moment you arrive there!” Taban kindly advised him again.


“Alright, I understand. I will keep that in mind!” Chen Hao responded respectfully.

“Okay, you should go now. The permit is already on your waist!” Taban waved his hand to him and said.

Hearing this, Chen Hao immediately looked at his waist and was surprised to see that there was indeed a permit hung on his waist.

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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After Chen Hao walked out, he saw Lei Lie sleeping against the wall.

Then, he kneeled down and gently patted Lei Lie's face to wake him up.

"Lei Lie, wake up! Why are you asleep?" he shouted at Lei Lie.

All of a sudden, Lei Lie woke up and stared at him in surprise.

"Master Chen, you finally came out! I have been waiting for you for ages!" Lei Lie said while looking at him excitedly.

"For ages? But I only went in for half an hour!" Chen Hao responded in surprise.

"For real! I'm not lying, Master Chen! You have really been in there for a long time," Lei Lie looked at him solemnly and said in all seriousness.

Chen Hao was puzzled, thereupon a thought appeared in his mind.

Could it be that the time in the tower was completely different from the time outside, just like that phrase 'one day in Heaven is the equivalent of one year on Earth'?

This is really intriguing!

"Whatever it is, I've obtained the permit. Let's go!"

Chen Hao didn't care anymore. Since they finally got the permit now, they should enter Extreme Yin

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Land's City of Spirits as soon as possible.

Not longer after that, the two came to the entrance of the town again.

This time, Chen Hao handed the permit he was holding to the messenger of Extreme Yin Land.

After seeing his permit, the messenger let them enter the City of Spirits.

Soon after, the two successfully entered the City of Spirits.

At this time, Lei Lie looked at him curiously and asked, "Master Chen, what happened to you in the tower just now?"

Hearing this, Chen Hao glanced over at him.

"I went through some trials and tests!" He only gave a brief response.

Although his response sounded perfunctory, it was the truth. Indeed, he had experienced many valuable encounters and learned many essential principles of life.

The most important thing was that he finally got the key to open the doors to the Malevolent Demon Tribe territory.

"Huh?"

Hearing this, Lei Lie looked confused; he could not understand the meaning behind Chen Hao's words at all.

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Then, Chen Hao leaned in and whispered into his ear, “Let me tell you some good news. I got the key to open the door to the Malevolent Demon Tribe territory!”

Of course, he had to share the good news with him.

Hearing the good news, Lei Lie became excited immediately.

“Really?!” Lei Lie exclaimed.

“Shh!” Chen Hao quickly made a silencing gesture toward him.

“Be quiet! Are you trying to let everyone know about this?” Chen Hao glared at Lei Lie and scolded.

Following this, Lei Lie quickly calmed down and clapped his hand over his mouth.

Before long, the two had already arrived in the City of Spirits.

They were met with spirits wandering all over the town.

However, it didn't seem to be any different from the cities on the outside. These spirits all had their own ways of life; they just looked different from normal humans.

At this moment, several spirit soldiers came in front of them on their spirit horses.

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In no time, they were surrounded by the spirit soldiers.

“You two! Come with us!” one of the spirit soldiers commanded coldly.

Hearing the spirit soldier’s words, Chen Hao and Lei Lie looked at each other.

However, they both had no idea what to do and could only leave with these spirit soldiers.

Soon thereafter, the spirit soldiers took them to a palace in the City of Spirits.

In the palace sat a spirit clad in armor.

This spirit was the leader of the entire City of Spirits—Kite God.

The spirit soldiers escorted them to the palace and reported to Kite God, who was seated on the throne arrogantly, “Your Majesty, we caught these two men, who do not belong in the City of Spirits, walking around town!”

Hearing this, Kite God immediately stood up and fixed his gaze on Chen Hao.

“You are special!” Kite God said to him.

“Who are you?” Chen Hao asked Kite God with a calm expression.

“Hahaha, me? You don't even know who I am, and yet you dare to come here?” Kite God burst into laughter.

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“This is the king of the City of Spirits, Kite God!”
The spirit soldier, who was on the sides,
immediately introduced him to them.

Only then did Chen Hao and Lei Lie know that
there was also a king in this City of Spirits.

“We’re just passing by Extreme Yin Land. We’re
not here to cause trouble!” In order not to provoke
Kite God, Chen Hao chose to explain himself.

It’s sort of funny that I’m reasoning with spirits...

“Passing by? Tell me, where are you going?”
Feeling suspicious, Kite God asked him fiercely.

“We plan to visit the Malevolent Demon Tribe!”
Chen Hao didn’t bother hiding his intentions;
instead, he stated his purpose immediately.

Kite God’s expression became gloomy when he
heard Chen Hao’s purpose.

“How dare you visit the Malevolent Demon Tribe?!
Anyone who breaks into the territory of the
Malevolent Demon Tribe will suffer badly. It is
ridiculous that you two are planning to go there by
yourselves!” Kite God stared at Chen Hao and
snorted mockingly.

“Hehe, you said it yourself! I am no ordinary man;
of course I have the guts to go!” Chen Hao
retorted with a smile on his face.

“Brat, do you have a death wish? How dare you
talk back to me?!” Kite God yelled before
transforming into a black wind and charged

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toward Chen Hao.

In the blink of an eye, Kite God appeared in front of Chen Hao; the space between them was only a few centimeters. Then, he stared at Chen Hao coldly.

“Aren’t you afraid of dying?” Kite God stared at Chen Hao and asked.

“Ha! I wouldn’t be here if I was afraid of death. Death is nothing to me!” Chen Hao said with a sneer.

After that, he immediately detached his soul from his body, thereafter he turned into a spirit and appeared in front of Kite God.

“I didn’t expect you to be a half-human and half-spirit Soul Cultivator. How surprising!” Seeing Chen Hao, Kite God was astounded.

Pure human Soul Cultivators weren’t the only Soul Cultivators in the world; there were also half-human and half-spirit Soul Cultivators like Chen Hao.

In fact, half-human and half-spirit Soul Cultivators were much stronger than pure human Soul Cultivators. Moreover, they had many different abilities that could not be possessed by a pure human Soul Cultivator.

“Guards! Release them!” Soon after that, Kite God gave an order to the spirit soldier on the side.

With that, the spirit soldiers released Chen Hao

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and Lei Lie.

Chen Hao then immediately returned to his body.

At this moment, Lei Lie was looking at Chen Hao with his eyes wide open; he finally realized why the innkeeper was suddenly tied up, and why Chen Hao suddenly lost consciousness that day. It turned out that Chen Hao's soul left his own body!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

“I wish to speak to them in private!”

At this moment, Kite God gave another command to the spirit soldiers.

Hearing this, the spirit soldiers retreated one after another and left the palace.

After the spirit soldiers left, Kite God quickly invited Chen Hao and Lei Lie to sit down.

Looking at Chen Hao, Kite God asked, “How should I address you?”

“You can call me Chen Hao!” Chen Hao immediately told him his name.

Then, Kite God looked at Lei Lie, who was behind him.

“My name is Lei Lie!” Lei Lie also replied quickly.

“Mr. Chen and Mr. Lei, please don’t take it to heart if I had in any way offended you just now!” Kite God looked at them with a smile and apologized.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao and Lei Lie were at a loss as to why Kite God had such a significant change in his attitude.

Chen Hao didn’t want to waste time here with Kite God, so he skipped the small talk and said straightforwardly, “Your Majesty, we just want to pass by the City of Spirits. Please let us go; we have more important things to do!”

Every minute they stayed here was a minute

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wasted. This meant that they would attain the Malevolent Demon Tribe's rune even later.

"Of course, of course. I know this. But before that, I have a request!" Kite God said quickly.

"What request?" Chen Hao asked.

"I hope that when you two come back from the Malevolent Demon Tribe's territory, you'll bring back with you a piece of the Malevolent Demon Tribe Jade!" Looking at Chen Hao, Kite God proposed and then took out a piece of paper from his armor and handed it to him.

Chen Hao took a look at the paper, and on it was a painting of the Malevolent Demon Tribe Jade mentioned by Kite God just now.

"Why do you want this Malevolent Demon Tribe Jade?" Chen Hao asked suspiciously.

"Uhm... Mr. Chen, I can't tell you this for now, but I'll tell you when you bring it back!" Kite God didn't tell Chen Hao the reason straight away, but instead pleaded with him.

Hearing this, Chen Hao stopped asking questions.

"Alright, I'll fulfill your request." Chen Hao didn't bother refusing; he wanted to leave this place quickly.

"Great! Thank you, Mr. Chen. I'll ask my men to escort you out!" After that, Kite God immediately smiled and said to the two.

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With that, Kite God summoned a few spirit soldiers to escort Chen Hao and Lei Lie out.

Under the escort of the spirit soldiers, Chen Hao and the two successfully left the City of Spirits and eventually entered the Deserted Sea.

They had to pass by the Deserted Sea on the way to the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe.

This was a vast and remote sea.

At the end of the Deserted Sea was the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe.

However, it was challenging to navigate through the Deserted Sea.

“Can we get through this place without a boat?” Chen Hao immediately looked at the spirit soldier behind him and asked.

“I’m not sure. We have never gone through here, so we don’t know how to get past this place. This is as far as we can bring you; the rest is up to the both of you,” the spirit soldier immediately said to them.

Soon thereafter, the spirit soldiers rode away quickly on their spirit horses.

Seeing the spirit soldiers disappearing out of sight, Chen Hao and Lei Lie felt somewhat lost.

“Master Chen, what shall we do now?” Lei Lie looked at Chen Hao and asked.

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Chen Hao was also at a loss. They were so close to reaching the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe, yet there was a vast sea blocking their way.

There aren't any boats around. Are we actually supposed to swim over?

That was impossible; there was no way they could swim across the Deserted Sea.

“Impossible! There must be a way for us to pass through here. We just don't know how yet!” Chen Hao refused to believe that swimming across was the only way.

With that, Chen Hao immediately began to search his surroundings for ways to cross the sea.

However, after searching for a long time, they didn't manage to find anything; they could only sit on the coast and watch, quietly waiting for a miracle to happen.

“Master Chen, do you think a ship will pass by soon?” Lei Lie was lying on the ground while looking up at the sky as he asked Chen Hao.

“I believe in miracles!” Chen Hao responded with a simple statement.

Rumble! Before long, a loud sound came from the sea.

Hearing the sound, Chen Hao and Lei Lie both got up to take a look.

Right away, they noticed that the water on the

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surface of the sea began to surge constantly like boiling water.

In an instant, the two looked at each other.

“What did I just say? A miracle is happening!” Chen Hao looked at Lei Lie excitedly and exclaimed.

Sure enough, Chen Hao was right—a miracle happened.

Following that, the two immediately got up to their feet and rushed over to the beach.

At this time, a passage had appeared on the sea.

Without any hesitation, Chen Hao immediately walked over and went directly into the passage.

The entire passage was formed with seawater. The ground was very soft, and it felt like they were walking on cushions.

“Master Chen, this is really amazing!” Lei Lie said to Chen Hao with a surprised look. He was truly amazed as he had never seen such a magical occurrence.

He had only seen something like this in movies, thus it had never crossed his mind that one day he would be able to see all this in person. It was just too unbelievable.

Then, the two walked forward all the way through the passage.

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They kept on walking and walking. After walking for about ten minutes, the two finally saw the end of the passage.

At the end of the Deserted Sea was an open land.

This land was the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe. So far, apart from the two, only the seven former Spirit Detectors had found it.

Shortly after, Chen Hao and Lei Lie walked out of the passage and stood onshore.

What they saw next was the passage behind them disappearing from sight.

On their left was a stele engraved with three words—Malevolent Demon Tribe.

Also, there was a huge stone statue in front of them.

This huge stone statue was the statue of the previous leader of the Malevolent Demon Tribe, and its existence itself was a symbol of supreme existence.

“Master Chen, we really found it!” Lei Lie said to Chen Hao in surprise, unable to believe everything in front of his eyes.

They finally found the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe.

Soon, Chen Hao walked forward along with Lei Lie.

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The two stood in front of the big stone gate entrance when they arrived.

Then, Chen Hao took out the key he got from Taban from his shirt pocket to open the doors to the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe.

He inserted the key into the lock and—

Rumble! In an instant, the door began to shake.

After a few seconds, the door to the territory of the Malevolent Demon Tribe opened.

The statues of the Malevolent Demon Tribe's members standing in place were the first thing that greeted the two of them, and it seemed like these statues had been deliberately made and placed here.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

At this moment, countless crossbow arrows were instantly shot out from inside.

“Be careful!” Chen Hao shouted aloud, then pushed Lei Lie aside.

The two of them hid on both sides of the door as they saw countless crossbow arrows continuously shooting out of the door.

If Chen Hao hadn't reacted quickly, they would have been shot and killed by the crossbow arrows.