

Dawn of a New Era #Chapter 101: Divine Marrow - Read Dawn of a New Era Chapter 101: Divine Marrow

Chapter 101: Chapter 101: Divine Marrow

Time rewinds to half a day earlier.

After the welcome party ended, Chen Shouyi politely declined the Bureau Chief's suggestion to host a luncheon in his honor. He didn't stay long and quickly left the branch office.

He was not used to socializing with middle-aged people around the table with drinks.

As for interpersonal relationships, do Martial Artists really need such things?

As long as they are sufficient, it's fine.

...

"The fare is one hundred and fifty!"

After paying, Chen Shouyi got out of the taxi.

In front of him was an imposing and majestic five-story building. Past the grand granite steps, two rows of four armed soldiers stood at the entrance.

Silently announcing that idle people should stay away.

"Jiangnan Province Martial Arts Branch."

Chen Shouyi looked up at the seven large gilded characters under the national emblem.

This was the place.

He ascended the steps, and two soldiers immediately stretched out their hands to stop him: "Please present your credentials."

Chen Shouyi took out his Martial Artist Certificate and handed it over.

One of the soldiers carefully checked it, saluted, and immediately allowed him to pass.

Upon entering the hall, he found that there were indeed quite a few Martial Artists inside. A quick glance revealed about thirty to forty people, many of whom were looking at a large TV wall on the right side, which displayed dense information about exploration tasks in other worlds.

"Fog-level Exploration Task 1: Explore within five kilometers around the spatial passage numbered 42324 behind the spatial passage in Qinggang Town, Hangshan City, Jinqing District. Assess the danger level and map the terrain. Task requirements: Able to draw simple maps, able to describe exploration experiences in plain and simple language. Task reward: 1.5 million; 100 Martial Artist merit points."

"Fog-level Exploration Task 2: Explore within three kilometers around the spatial passage numbered 34434 behind the spatial passage in Xiaofeng Street, Celestial Transformation City, Ningzhou District. Assess the surrounding danger level and map the terrain. Task requirements: Able to draw simple maps, able to describe exploration experiences in basic language. 1.5 million; 100 Martial Artist merit points."

...

Fog represents the unknown.

Undoubtedly, these tasks are all about exploring the unknown conditions behind these passages.

There were numerous tasks listed, just a single page on the TV wall contained fifty tasks, and it refreshed approximately once a minute. Chen Shouyi watched for a while, and the task information flipped through six pages, with the final task numbered 300, but this was clearly not the final count.

He had even seen the spatial passage numbered 54223 that he discovered in Dongning City among the tasks, and no one had completed the exploration task for it yet.

This was just in Jiangnan Province. If considering the whole country, it might multiply by a hundred.

Looking at the spatial passage number for Dongning City, it was apparent how many spatial passages there were nationwide and how many still remained hidden in some corner, undiscovered.

"If I take on the task for the passage in Dongning City, wouldn't it be easy to earn 1.5 million and those 100 merit points, especially since those 100 merit points can not only be exchanged for money at a ratio of one point to ten thousand, but also allow you to purchase some precious items only after reaching a certain merit point level?"

After watching for a while, Chen Shouyi withdrew his gaze.

After inquiring at the service desk, he took the elevator to the third floor, where a beautiful staff member in a form-fitting OL outfit quickly came to greet him.

"Sir, may I ask what services you need?"

"I want to apply for an Explorer's Certificate!"

"Please hand me your Martial Artist Certificate and wait a moment."

Chen Shouyi nodded and sat down on the sofa nearby.

The efficiency here was evidently very high. Within a few minutes, the pretty staff member returned with the certificate and a thick tome:

"This is your certificate and the Explorer's Survival Manual. With this certificate, you can freely enter and exit spatial passages. The book's back has the URL for the Explorer's website, your account is the Martial Artist ID, and the initial password is: 123456, please change it promptly. Through this website, you can accept exploration tasks online.

Additionally, here is a lecture certificate for the 'Basic Intelligence Collection in Other Worlds' short-term crash course offered by the Jiangnan Martial Arts Academy!"

"Thank you!" Chen Shouyi said as he took the lecture certificate and glanced at it.

"You're welcome, it's our duty to serve you!"

They really had thought of everything, preparing everything for him.

Indeed, compared to those formally trained students of the Martial Arts Academy, as a self-taught Martial Artist, he lacked more than just martial skills in other areas.

...

"Chen Shouyi, what a coincidence." Just as Chen Shouyi walked downstairs, someone called out to him.

Turning around, he saw it was a young man, appearing to be twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old, named Wan Shaochun, who was a fellow Martial Artist from the same batch as him.

In the list of Martial Artists who passed back then, Chen Shouyi was ranked first, and he was second.

In that combat assessment, he was decisive and ruthless.

While Chen Shouyi deliberately avoided the Barbarian women and children during his kills, Wan Shaochun had no such scruples. In terms of the number of Barbarians killed, he had the most, leaving a deep impression on Chen Shouyi.

"Yes, are you here to apply for an Explorer's Certificate too?" Chen Shouyi asked, raising the certificate in his hand.

"No, I'm here to take on tasks, see if I can find others to collaborate with. Online contacts aren't really reassuring." Wan Shaochun's usually somber face managed a slight smile. It was his first task, and naturally, he felt nervous. He came here to find an experienced Martial Artist for collaboration.

"That's true!"

"Wanna team up?" Wan Shaochun invited him.

Though the other one is also a rookie, his strength far surpasses ordinary Martial Artists. Being from the same batch, there's a sense of trust compared to strangers.

For a moment, Chen Shouyi was indeed tempted. He couldn't even draw a map; it seemed impossible to complete the exploration task in Dongning City in the short term. Collaborating with others could certainly provide some valuable experience.

But he reconsidered and declined; there were just too many secrets he had.

Chen Shouyi's main purpose for getting the Explorer's Certificate was not so much to explore other worlds, but rather to find a secluded place for training, with Shell Lady naturally accompanying him, ruling out any possibility of collaboration.

Chen Shouyi shook his head and refused, "Really sorry, I don't have any plans for exploration in the short term."

"That's a pity." Wan Shaochun expressed, slightly disappointed.

They exchanged a few more pleasantries before parting ways.

...

After having lunch outside, Chen Shouyi went straight home.

Once the elevator doors opened, he saw a stranger pacing at his door.

His gaze sharpened immediately, "Who are you?"

"Don't misunderstand, are you Mr. Chen Shouyi? I am an employee of the Special Items Logistics Company, and your ordered goods have arrived." For some reason, as the other looked over, he felt a sudden tightening in his chest and quickly spoke out.

With that, he took a small package and a document from his bag.

Once suspicion abated, Chen Shouyi apologized, "Sorry, I've been a bit jumpy. Thank you for waiting."

"No problem, no problem! Our company policy mandates that these special items must be personally delivered to your hands. Please sign here." The man sighed in relief, offering a strained smile.

Chen Shouyi glanced through the document and signed it.

After watching him leave, Chen Shouyi opened the door to his house.

His parents and sister hadn't returned yet, evidently still looking for a suitable shop.

He walked into his bedroom and tore open the package.

Inside was an exquisite wooden box, and when he opened it, a thick glass bottle, sealed with brown wax and the size of a thumb, lay quietly in the sponge.

He picked up the glass bottle and peered inside, noticing a faint glow seeping out.

"So this is the Divine Marrow!"

Chapter 102: Chapter 102: Effect

Chen Shouyi's heart started pounding.

This is Divine Marrow, although it's just spinal fluid and it's been degraded more than a little bit, but it's still divine spinal fluid.

From now on, his intelligence would basically depend on it.

...

He put the glass bottle aside, picked up a small dosage guide, and read it carefully.

He found that taking it was simple, just dilute it with warm water and drink it.

The human body has an extremely astounding absorption effect on this substance; as soon as it is swallowed, the body absorbs it frantically.

Chen Shouyi put down the instructions, and felt somewhat impatient.

He picked up the thermos, and poured out a small half cup of hot water.

The water was boiled yesterday, now it was only at fifty or sixty degrees Celsius, slightly warm to the touch. To be safe, he patiently waited for a few minutes until the cup felt neither warm nor hot before picking up the small glass bottle containing the Divine Marrow.

The bottle had thick walls, resembling a perfume bottle. He peeled off the sealing wax on the surface, then pinched the cork with his index and thumb and pulled gently.

With a muffled "pop" sound, a difficult-to-describe scent spread from the mouth of the bottle.

It felt slightly oppressive.

It was like the low pressure before a summer thunderstorm, making his chest feel blocked, uncomfortable.

But slowly, he felt a strange hunger emerging within.

He had only just been to a buffet for lunch, no way he wasn't full.

However, the more he smelled this scent, the hungrier he felt, his stomach started to churn, it was simply unbelievable.

Naturally, it was the most powerful, mysterious and terrifying supernatural creature from another world.

He didn't dare to hesitate, immediately poured the Divine Marrow into the cup.

The liquid was slightly viscous, emitting a faint glow; as the scent spread, the hunger within him suddenly became more intense, his eyes even turned somewhat green.

Thankfully, he was still rational enough to control this hunger.

He vigorously shook the bottle to empty the remaining liquid, then carefully took the cup and rinsed the bottle several times until not a drop was wasted, before putting down the glass bottle.

He picked up the cup, hesitated slightly, then drank it all down in one go.

The warm fluid swiftly slid down his throat to his stomach.

Chen Shouyi smacked his lips.

The taste was odd, not exactly pleasant.

Chen Shouyi quickly moved to the bed, lying down on his back.

He thought the effects would take a long time, but unexpectedly, only a few seconds later, his body was overwhelmed by a strong sense of fulfillment and joy.

His scalp tingled like electricity, his body felt like it was floating on clouds, light and airy.

But this sensation only lasted a few seconds, before disappearing as abruptly as it arrived.

When he regained his composure, he couldn't help but feel a sense of emptiness.

Was it over?

He had just laid down!

He continued lying for a while, finding no further unusual sensations in his body, then opened his attribute panel.

His intelligence had directly increased by 0.4 points to 13, but agility, strength, and constitution had not grown at all.

While delighted, he also felt slightly disappointed.

This substance was of extremely high grade, he could feel his body's endless craving for it; not just one vial, but even five or six, the body might not be satisfied.

Crucially, the dosage was simply too little for him.

Fortunate that his intelligence increased this much; he was already satisfied.

He stood up, preparing to test his intelligence.

He glanced around.

Then, picked up the Explorer's Survival Manual that had been gifted in the morning, opened to the first page, Chapter One:

"How to Navigate in Other Worlds"

He read through the first page at reading speed.

Then quickly closed his eyes, recalling the content he had just read.

After half a minute, he opened his eyes, picked up the book again to compare with his memory, finding that his recall was not quite photographic, but he remembered the gist of the content.

He put the book aside:

"What a pity it's so expensive; after spending a million on Divine Marrow, his savings were down to just fifty thousand. Looks like it's time to make money."

He took out the short-term crash course ticket for 'Basic Intelligence Gathering in Other Worlds,' glanced at it, and saw there was no date, clearly indicating the class could be attended at any time.

"I'll go visit Jiangnan Martial Arts Academy tomorrow."

...

"Giant, what are you eating?" As soon as Chen Shouyi released the Shell Lady, she began sniffing like crazy, eyes suspiciously darting side to side.

"I didn't eat anything!"

"You're lying, you must be eating something good, I can smell it." Her nose was keener than a dog's, sniffing until she found the cup.

The next moment, she picked up a cup four or five times her size and tilted it towards her mouth.

What immense strength!

The glass cup had a few drops of water remaining, and she poured them all into her mouth, shaking the cup in dissatisfaction.

Soon, she was staggering, like a drunk, unable to stand steady.

Alarmed, Chen Shouyi snatched the cup back from her hands.

"Give it to me, it's mine." The Shell Lady said loudly, tugging at Chen Shouyi's coat with a silly smile, seeming a bit dazed, walking unsteadily.

"It kind of tastes like 'Yaqiao' flowers," she mumbled.

'Yaqiao' flowers!

Chen Shouyi's mind stirred, suddenly remembering it was the flower the Shell Lady had spoken of that nurtured her.

Uh, later she ate it.

Could it be this flower had similar effects?

This was Divine Marrow, although its nature was degraded, yet still extraordinary.

If this flower had similar effects, then it certainly was no simple matter.

And the island behind the spatial passage of Dongning, where the Yaqiao flower grows, probably isn't just an ordinary island. Regardless of the exploration task's completion, he must visit again.

Seconds later, when the Shell Lady regained clarity, Chen Shouyi promptly asked, "Did you just say that Yaqiao flowers also taste like this?"

Shell Lady nodded, contemplated, then shook her head vigorously.

Looking at her puzzled expression, Chen Shouyi grumbled, "Do you mean yes or no?"

"A little bit." Shell Lady tilted her head, thought for a moment then said, "Yaqiao flowers are sweet, this isn't tasty, Yaqiao flowers are the best thing I've ever eaten."

Yet, you just drank it so avidly.

"You're the smartest, think again, apart from the taste, what else is the same?" Chen Shouyi coaxed gently,

"It's a feeling, hard to express," Shell Lady said.

"Think again!"

Shell Lady thought a while longer, then grew impatient, "I don't want to, I don't want to, I want to watch Prepared!"

Such a hot temper, damn it.

Thinking back to how obedient Shell Lady used to be, anything he said was done without protest, now she acted like the boss.

No longer afraid of him at all.

Seeing it was useless to question her, Chen Shouyi helplessly gave up.

He opened the computer, put on cartoons for her, then scooped up the Shell Lady, putting her on the bed.

Surely, she'll be nearsighted!

Chapter 103: Chapter 103: Surprise

The next day, early in the morning, Chen Shouyi returned from sword practice at the Haunted House.

As he walked into his house, he noticed an extra person inside.

"Shou Yi, why are you just coming back? She's been waiting for you for a long time," Mrs. Chen complained.

Bai Xiaoling quickly stood up, a bit embarrassed, and said, "Auntie, it's okay, I haven't been waiting long. I'm the one causing trouble for you."

Today, she wasn't wearing her police uniform. Instead, she wore a black-and-white business attire, making her look like a city office worker.

"What brings you here?" Chen Shouyi asked, puzzled.

"Hello, Advisor Chen, I am your dedicated liaison officer from now on. Today is my first day at work," Bai Xiaoling said cautiously.

So that's it, Chen Shouyi remembered. The director did mention yesterday that they would appoint a dedicated liaison officer, though he didn't expect it to be someone familiar.

He wasn't embarrassed since they hadn't met that many times.

"Sorry, I need to wash my face first, we can talk more later."

"It's okay, please go ahead."

Chen Shouyi placed his sword in the bedroom and was just entering the bathroom when his sister sneaked in with a conspiratorial look on her face.

"Brother, do you have a mistress now?"

"What mistress? That's so crude. She's a liaison officer from the police substation, and she's a police officer," Chen Shouyi said as he washed his face.

"Why did they pick such a pretty liaison officer with a face sharp like a vixen?" Chen Xingyue grumbled.

"How would I know? Kid, don't randomly speculate!"

Chen Xingyue pouted, "As if you're much older than me. You're only two years older."

"I could run while you were still nursing!" Chen Shouyi hung the towel on the rack and said lightly.

Chen Xingyue's face froze, just as she was about to retort, Mrs. Chen called from outside, "Xing Yue, we're leaving, we still have to check the shop today."

...

After his parents and sister left, the atmosphere became somewhat awkward.

"Have a seat, make yourself comfortable!" Chen Shouyi sat on the sofa, motioning with his hand.

Bai Xiaoling adjusted her skirt and sat down, her long legs clad in thin, flesh-colored stockings pressed tightly together.

"Sorry, I thought a liaison officer just makes phone calls? But from what you're saying, it seems different?" Chen Shouyi asked, puzzled. Her presence was more like an assistant or secretary.

"Advisor Chen, it used to be just that, but now with mobile communications down and contact limited, unless a safety advisor happens to be at home, it's hard to reach anyone except through landlines. Once a major event occurs..."

This is the fallout from the mysterious forces' invasion, causing a severe decline in societal operational efficiency.

Chen Shouyi frowned and interrupted, "I understand! I just hope this won't affect my family life."

"I apologize for the unexpected visit today. In the future, you can treat me as a driver or an invisible person; I won't affect your life in any way," Bai Xiaoling hastily said.

"Do you have a car?" Chen Shouyi keenly noticed her mention of a driver and immediately asked.

"Yes... yes," Bai Xiaoling replied, confused.

"That's great, take me to Jiangnan Martial Arts Academy!"

...

Chen Shouyi sat in the backseat with his eyes closed, while Bai Xiaoling held the steering wheel, carefully watching his profile through the rearview mirror.

Handsome indeed, even his cold and domineering demeanor is charming. It's said that martial artists are incredibly strong. If he really forced himself on her, should she resist?

At this thought, she couldn't keep her legs together.

In reality, it wasn't that Chen Shouyi was incredibly handsome beyond compare; he was just ordinarily handsome, but the martial artist's aura made him feel completely different to Bai Xiaoling.

"What are you thinking about?"

Without realizing when, Chen Shouyi had opened his eyes.

"N-nothing!" Bai Xiaoling quickly looked away, her face flushing with heat.

Oh my, what on earth is this old lady imagining?

He's only seventeen years old.

Chen Shouyi didn't dwell on it, glanced at the time, and asked, "When will we get there?"

"If there's no traffic, about half an hour!"

Having a dedicated driver was great, especially since he didn't have to pay for it, his resistance to the liaison officer lessened significantly.

Chen Shouyi nodded and didn't say more. He took out an "Explorer's Survival Manual" and began flipping through it.

The increase in intelligence not only enhances memory but also boosts thinking speed, logical understanding, and more.

An intelligence of 13 points is in the realm of a top genius.

Especially for knowledge that requires just memory and little understanding, he could flip a page every few seconds. By the time the car arrived at Jiangnan Martial Arts Academy, he had read a third of the 300-page Explorer's Manual.

Chen Shouyi opened the car door and said, "Wait here for me."

"Okay, Advisor Chen!"

As Chen Shouyi walked onto the campus, Bai Xiaoling immediately got out, found a nearby public phone, and called the substation's security information department to report her location.

...

Jiangnan Martial Arts Academy is located in a mountain area, surrounded by peaceful and secluded surroundings. The buildings are well distributed, rising and falling in elevation, filled with parks and trees, making one feel like they've entered a paradise when walking onto the campus.

This didn't feel like a school to Chen Shouyi; rather, it felt like a sect from a TV novel. He saw many students practicing swords in the nearby serene park or sparring with each other.

Any student walking his way looked strong and full of spirit, each having the strength of a Martial Artist Apprentice.

Seeing these students, he felt a slight tinge of regret and envy in his heart.

This is the Martial Arts Academy of his dreams.

If his abilities progressed slower, he might have been one of them next year.

Sigh, his strength advanced too quickly!

...

The campus is vast, covering four to five thousand acres. Despite having a map on his lecture permit, the varied terrain and winding trails still disoriented him.

Chen Shouyi had no choice but to stop a female student, "Excuse me, how do I get to the 'Basic Intelligence Gathering in Other Worlds' short-term intensive course?"

Xiao Peipei glanced at the well-dressed Chen Shouyi, blushing slightly, then shyly said, "It's quite secluded and hard to find; let me take you there!"

"Alright, thank you very much," Chen Shouyi expressed his gratitude.

"You're welcome!"

...

"Are you looking for someone?" Xiao Peipei couldn't help but ask on the way.

"Oh no, I'm here for a class!" Chen Shouyi raised his lecture permit.

"What kind of company do you work for that requires this class? I've heard that those attending are martial artists not from the Martial Arts Academy," Xiao Peipei asked curiously. After all, these courses were mandatory for those from the Martial Arts Academy.

"Do I really not look like a martial artist?" Chen Shouyi asked unhappily.

"Not really. You look younger than me," Xiao Peipei covered her mouth and giggled, thinking Chen Shouyi was boasting.

Chen Shouyi was speechless; his age was always a sore point, and he had been troubled by it for a long time.

The two walked through a forest path and after another ten minutes, they arrived at a quiet little building concealed by trees. Many people were already chatting in the garden in front, indicating class hadn't started yet.

"Thank you for bringing me here," Chen Shouyi thanked her.

Xiao Peipei quickly replied, "You're welcome, I was heading here for class anyway."

...

"Chen Shouyi, I didn't expect to see you here for class too?" Lu Weifeng greeted him with a smile as soon as he saw Chen Shouyi.

A female martial artist, who had joined the academy at the same time, also greeted him, "What a coincidence."

Her name was Song Yingjie, with short hair and a heroic demeanor, making her gender hard to discern at first glance, looking like a handsome young man.

"Yeah, we have to take classes, the martial artist trading network is too expensive. If I don't earn money soon, I'll go broke. By the way, are you both staying in Hedong too?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"I thought about it and decided to move to Hedong; money sure doesn't last," Lu Weifeng replied with a helpless smile.

"I'm a native of Hedong City, so of course, I'm staying here," Song Yingjie said with a smile, "Let's exchange numbers; we should keep in touch."

They didn't bother to lower their voices while talking, and as Xiao Peipei walked a few steps away, she suddenly turned around in surprise and looked at the small building, seeing two people circling around the man she had just brought over, chatting enthusiastically.

Chapter 104: Chapter 104: Emergency Mission

In the classroom, a professor specializing in the study of parallel worlds spoke eloquently on the podium.

"Up to now, human knowledge of parallel worlds remains rather limited. The exploration of these worlds has always been tentative, with most areas still shrouded in mystery.

Of course, there are many reasons for this. On the one hand, the number of martial artists among humans is limited.

With a global population of seven billion, there are only about 200,000 martial artists, averaging one martial artist for every 30,000 people. The number of registered explorers is even fewer, around 50,000.

However, the number of spatial passages big and small discovered globally has exceeded 500,000 and continues to increase. With only 50,000 explorers spreading across 500,000 spatial passages, the severe shortage of explorers means humanity lacks the concentrated power to deeply and meticulously explore.

On the other hand, parallel worlds are also quite dangerous. According to information compiled globally, more than 3,000 intelligent races have been discovered, with barbarians being the largest, most widespread, and least threatening to humans.

Some races, although few in number, pose threats to humans far exceeding those of the barbarians.

In 2005, a supernatural entity named the hill giant briefly invaded Oya Country internationally. Standing at 60 meters tall, a single punch from it—merely the wind generated by the fist—could overturn armored vehicles, and even the armor-piercing bullets of heavy artillery could only wound it, not kill it."

"Was it killed?" a martial artist asked with some curiosity.

"No, it was a wise creature after all. Sensing the unfavorable situation, it naturally retreated back to the parallel world."

The professor picked up his thermos cup, took a sip of water, and continued, "Let's not mention the True God of parallel worlds. These terrifying supernatural entities are still quite enigmatic to humans. But don't worry too much; in world explorations, they typically don't intentionally kill human martial artists."

"Why say so?" Chen Shouyi couldn't help but ask.

He had encountered what seemed to be a divine entity on a train, and the memory still left him uneasy to this day.

"Would you intentionally step on an ant?" the professor countered.

Chen Shouyi pondered thoughtfully.

Indeed, compared to these gods, human martial artists seem extraordinarily insignificant. As entities pursuing mortal beliefs, perhaps from their perspective, Earth creatures and parallel world barbarians are seen equally.

Of course, this doesn't apply universally.

As a child, out of boredom, he had killed many ants, whether crushing them one by one, burning them with a lighter, scalding them with hot water, or soaking them in urine. He could spend an entire day playing.

...

Classes continued from morning till dusk with a total of four teachers coming to teach.

From world overviews to map drawing and basic intelligence analysis, explorers' log format and writing were covered.

At most, there were only twelve martial artists attending, and at least only eight, truly a small class education. Especially for map drawing and explorer log writing, each session had an hour of tutoring time afterward, specifically targeting martial artists who were behind or who arrived late.

For several days in a row, Chen Shouyi attended classes at the Martial Arts Academy daily, while the store at home was finally confirmed and began renovations.

On this day, as he was in class, Bai Xiaoling suddenly rushed to the classroom door, panting heavily.

Chen Shouyi's heart sank. He stood up and walked out of the classroom.

"A task has come up, and your assistance is required," Bai Xiaoling said gravely.

"What's the situation?" Chen Shouyi asked as he walked quickly.

"An incident happened in Gao Mei District at the lower city area, but I don't know the specifics."

Exiting the dense forest, a car was already parked outside. Bai Xiaoling placed a police siren atop the car.

Chen Shouyi swiftly opened the car door and got in, and the car quickly started.

"I need to stop by my house for my weapons!" Chen Shouyi said as he looked at the students rushing by hurriedly outside the window.

"No need, the weapons are already prepared. Before coming, I borrowed a war bow and sword from the school and placed them in the rear compartment. You're a swordsman, correct?"

Chen Shouyi nodded, saying, "That's good!"

Once the car left the campus, it sped like the wind, overtaking vehicles and running countless red lights.

In less than an hour, the car arrived at the entrance of a residential area with a screeching tire noise, coming to a quick stop.

The entire area was already cordoned off by heavily armed special police, each person looking serious, as if facing a formidable foe. Just from what Chen Shouyi could see, there were seven or eight snipers.

What's going on here, with such a large formation?

Seeing this, Chen Shouyi's heart sank as he got out of the car, opened the rear compartment, and took out the sword and war bow along with two quivers.

Just then, the director came over quickly, sweating profusely, saying, "This task has been canceled. It's too dangerous inside, and two security advisors have already been killed. We've requested intervention by a great martial artist."

"What's happening inside?" Chen Shouyi asked as he looked at the residential area.

The director wiped his cold sweat and quickly said:

"A terrifying humanoid creature emerged from one of the spatial passages, moving extremely fast. Firearms have little effect on it."

Chen Shouyi noticed several panicked figures in the windows of the nearby residential buildings, indicating many hadn't evacuated, severely limiting the use of powerful weapons.

This is also the weak point in human defenses: once parallel world organisms enter densely populated areas, things become quite challenging.

Chen Shouyi carried no illusions of powerful strength, charging mindlessly into the residential area.

He knew his strength was indeed superior to ordinary martial artists but not overwhelmingly so and far from the level of a great martial artist.

Soon, another martial artist arrived by car.

This man was a bald-headed middle-aged individual, tall and robust like a small giant, probably standing around two meters.

Getting out of the car, he glanced at the nearby special police and loudly said to the director, "Lao Huang, isn't this another major case?"

"This task is canceled. I've already requested intervention by a great martial artist!" Director Huang shook his head, "Let me introduce you: this is our new security advisor at the precinct, Chen Shouyi, Advisor Chen. This is Wei Xiang, Advisor Wei."

Wei Xiang glanced at Chen Shouyi and nodded indifferently, acknowledging him, evidently not caring much.

Then he turned to Director Huang, "Did you call the city's General Manager to come?"

"Yes, General Manager Cui is already on his way."

Regarding the bald martial artist's indifference, Chen Shouyi smiled without caring and looked towards the residential area, gripping his sword.

Just then, he suddenly noticed a short silhouette dart past like a fleeting shadow at the front of the residential area, quickly hiding behind a large tree.

Chen Shouyi's pupils contracted. He originally thought this invading parallel world organism would be a powerful barbarian but found it wasn't at all.

Standing only around a meter and a half, it was quite petite, with scales densely covering its face, a snake-like tail gently swaying and twisting behind it.

Its mouth hung half-open, revealing a mouthful of bloody fangs, with blood slowly dripping from the corners of its mouth.

At this moment, a pair of deep purple eyes was staring here with a hateful gaze.

The sight sent chills down one's spine.

Finally, the gunfire sounded!

Chapter 105: Chapter 105: Battle of Life and Death

Suddenly, gunshots rang out in rapid succession like popping corn.

However, everyone felt as if their vision blurred, and in the blink of an eye, they completely lost its trace.

"Quick, in the trees," Chen Shouyi immediately reminded, his expression grave.

The speed of this monster from another world was astonishing. If Chen Shouyi hadn't been watching it closely, he wouldn't have caught it.

As the barrels pointed towards the large tree, they found it had already agilely jumped to another tree.

This community was a high-end one, with good landscaping; trees were everywhere, casting vibrant green shadows. It kept leaping and climbing, and in mere breaths, it had approached the crowd.

Its tusks slightly exposed, its face ferocious, staring dead at them.

Clearly, it was quite vengeful, not planning to flee but intending to kill those who attacked it.

At this time, a special police officer, either inexperienced or overly tense, suddenly threw a stun grenade, which produced a shocking bang and blinding flash as it hit the ground.

Chen Shouyi's eyes were briefly dazzled, his ears ringing loudly.

His expression changed drastically, thinking to himself that this was not good.

By the time his vision cleared again, he had already lost sight of the strange creature.

Suddenly, a scream of "Ah" pierced through the air.

Chen Shouyi quickly looked towards the sound, seeing a sniper perched on a wall, his neck ripped halfway through, the horrifying wound exposing a bloody spine.

Ten meters from the corpse, a blurred figure was rapidly crawling and running towards another special police officer, who hadn't reacted yet. Its sharp claws struck like lightning.

The officer's chest was instantly torn apart, his body flung into the air.

Taking advantage of its slight pause, Chen Shouyi quickly drew an arrow and shot, only for it to casually dodge as its body slightly turned.

Its head slightly turned, giving Chen Shouyi a glance.

That venomous gaze sent chills down Chen Shouyi's spine.

He knew he was also targeted.

Though it seemed a long story, only 0.5 seconds passed from the first scream to Chen Shouyi's shot, until the special police finally reacted.

"On the wall, quickly shoot!"

Then, the dense gunfire rang out again, but it was useless; normal people's reaction speed was simply too slow, while this monster was extremely cunning, clearly

understanding the role of firearms. As soon as the guns aimed here, it swiftly jumped down from the wall, disappearing from sight.

A fearful atmosphere began to permeate; everyone was breathing heavily, their expressions solemn. Some young special police officers shook their gun barrels.

Chen Shouyi's expression was serious.

Damn, knowing earlier, he should've left this place of trouble when the mission was canceled; what's the point of sticking around?

Now, he couldn't bring himself to leave.

Seeing lives fall one by one, he couldn't make the decision to turn and walk away in his heart.

The director was sweating profusely in anxiety, pacing like an ant in a hot pot, murmuring to himself.

"There's no time, there's no time; something big is going to happen!"

Wei Xiang's face was equally serious, drawing a giant weapon resembling both a sword and a knife nearly 1.5 meters in length. He slowly approached Chen Shouyi and said in a deep voice, "Nice shot; when the time comes, I'll be the main attack, you distract it."

Hearing this, Chen Shouyi glanced at the other party's body like a small giant. A martial artist of this build clearly had great strength but would undoubtedly lack agility. With a watchful eye on the front, he asked skeptically, "This can kill people; this is no joke; can you handle it?"

Wei Xiang looked at the special police still in combat nearby and said calmly, "I don't know, but I'll give you, a new martial artist, some advice: sometimes people can't escape. Combat between life and death! Isn't that why martial artists exist?"

Chen Shouyi couldn't help but feel respectful upon hearing this; any slight grudges towards the other's attitude dissipated completely.

He knew he absolutely couldn't achieve such things; just a moment ago, he regretted not leaving promptly.

At this moment, screams rang out again. In a corner, a special police officer's skull was directly ripped open by claws and fell to the ground.

Chen Shouyi immediately fired another arrow, but still missed; his archery was far inferior to his swordsmanship, especially against fast-moving targets, likely worse than most martial artists.

"Lao Huang, let them retreat; there's no point for more casualties, let me handle it," Wei Xiang said solemnly.

Director Huang nodded gravely; at this point, he had no choice but to treat a dead horse as if it were alive. He hoped General Manager Cui would arrive soon. If this monster escaped the community, it would undoubtedly be a huge disaster, and countless casualties might follow.

With this thought, he immediately ordered loudly, "Retreat, everyone retreat twenty meters."

Upon hearing Director Huang's order, apart from a few snipers in the distance, all nearby special police officers quickly retreated.

While Wei Xiang, holding the giant blade, stepped inside.

Chen Shouyi's face turned solemn, immediately taking out an arrow and drawing the bow, preparing to cover; although they might have had some friction with each other, they were on the same side against creatures from another world.

Just as he arrived at the entrance, a figure suddenly lunged at Wei Xiang.

Prepared, he shouted, and with a flash of thunder, swung his huge blade at the incoming blurred figure, feeling it swing through air, with no resistance. He advanced instead of retreating, slashing again in a sweeping motion, but once again sliced through air.

The monster swiftly withdrew a few meters, a mocking smile on its lips, circling continuously, and then lunged like a phantom once more.

Both moved incredibly fast, fighting for a dozen rounds; Wei Xiang had already sustained two more wounds, blood continuously dripping from his injuries, with the most severe at the abdomen, cutting a one or two-centimeter-deep gash, nearly slicing open his entire abdomen.

"Damn!"

His heart sank; as soon as his mind wandered, he lost sight of the opponent, realizing something was wrong, an intense gust struck from behind his head.

"It's over!"

He thought, the next moment, "Whoosh," an arrow brushed past his rear skull, even his scalp felt hot, his ears buzzed violently.

At the same time, a figure instantly appeared.

"Cover me!"

The voice was still echoing in his ears as he saw two figures engaged in combat in the distance.

A person and a monster were fighting furiously, the shockwaves of their battle causing surrounding winds to whip up.

He was stunned, but only for a moment before quickly regaining his senses.

"Damn, new martial artists are so freakish now!"

He hurried a few steps forward, picking up the war bow Chen Shouyi had dropped. The bow was light for him, but at this moment fetching his own bow would take too long, so he grabbed a few arrows, sticking them in his pant pocket.

Plucking one, he drew the bow to aim; the arrowhead swayed back and forth, up and down, but he couldn't shoot it out.

...

At this moment, Chen Shouyi felt enormous pressure.

After dozens of rounds, his sword hadn't even touched a hair on the opponent.

It was extremely sensitive to danger, its reaction capability completely doubled his.

Speed was swift, movements were fast like lightning, smooth and fluid, with no hesitation or delay.

If it weren't for its short stature, lack of weapons, and exhibits no combat skills, all due to instinct, bare-handed combat wouldn't last half a second.

But even so, Chen Shouyi felt as if he were a small boat at risk of being capsized at any moment, constantly in danger.

Cold sweat trickled down his face, his breath growing more rapid.

Just then, Wei Xiang finally aimed for ages and shot out an arrow.

Wei Xiang's archery far surpassed Chen Shouyi's by miles.

Especially as the monster split its focus to battle Chen Shouyi, it only sensed danger in time to dodge a fatal chest shot, the arrow swiftly piercing its shoulder. The next moment, its movements inevitably stiffened.

"Good chance!"

Chen Shouyi's eyes narrowed, exerting force with his feet, leaping six or seven meters away, body still airborne as the sword slashed through the air, an invisible blade of energy flashed past.

The monster let out an ear-piercing scream, swiftly retreating but suddenly paused, standing still on the spot.

A thin blood line slowly seeped from its forehead; the body swayed, and in the next moment, collapsed to the ground.

Chapter 106: Chapter 106: Return to Dongning

As Chen Shouyi landed, he deftly took a step forward, his long sword flashing like lightning across the monster's scaly neck. The head instantly detached from the body, and a gush of foul blood sprayed forth.

The atmosphere abruptly turned silent; not a sound was heard.

Everyone stood as if petrified, staring blankly at the headless corpse of the monster, its tail still twitching.

It's over just like that.

The monster was so terrifying that earlier everyone had fallen into despair. Even two security consultants had died, and many special police officers were mentally prepared to sacrifice themselves. Yet in just over ten seconds, it toppled.

It fell so decisively.

Even Wei Xiang, who had just loosed an arrow, paused slightly. Quickly, he strode over and patted Chen Shouyi's shoulder vigorously: "Well done!"

Feeling the immense force from the other person, Chen Shouyi's body softened, nearly sitting down, and he shook his head modestly: "It was really your accurate shot. If it weren't for your arrow hitting the monster, I'm afraid we would all be dead here!"

Wei Xiang paused, then laughed heartily: "Let's stop praising each other."

In truth, he knew in his heart that his archery wasn't truly divine; another martial artist might have done the same. But to hold the monster for such a length of time and remain unharmed was no small feat.

He had been a martial artist for nearly ten years and had met most of the martial artists in Hedong City, but those with such skill were estimated to be fewer than ten.

Chen Shouyi saw Wei Xiang's bloodied abdomen and asked, "Is your wound okay?"

"Just a flesh wound, I'll be fine in a few days!"

Director Huang came to his senses, directed his men to deal with the wounded and the corpse, and quickly walked over to the two, shaking hands, his face a mix of gravity and relief: "Fortunately, we had you two here this time; otherwise, the consequences would have been unimaginable!"

As Chen Shouyi withdrew his hand, his body shook a little, somewhat unsteady.

"Advisor Chen, are you alright?" Director Huang asked with concern.

"It's nothing, just feeling a bit faint!" Chen Shouyi smiled bitterly. During the intense battle, he hadn't felt it, but as his body relaxed afterward, he felt waves of weakness, and his muscles even ached.

Despite his stature, Director Huang hurriedly reached out to support Chen Shouyi.

Seeing this from afar, Bai Xiaoling quickly ran over: "Director, let me take care of it."

"Alright, Xiao Bai, make sure to take good care of Advisor Chen, that's an order." Director Huang said.

"Yes, Director." Bai Xiaoling answered loudly and then half embraced Chen Shouyi.

Such a strong body!

His whole body is solid muscle, and even the smell of his sweat is pleasant...

I wonder if he's too rough; my delicate body can't handle a martial artist's brutality.

Oh no, stop it. You perverted girl, you can't think like this anymore.

Her face blushed more and more, as if emitting steam.

Fortunately, no one noticed her; if they did, they probably thought she was a shy little girl.

At this moment, Director Huang said to Wei Xiang: "Advisor Wei, you'd better go to the hospital to handle your wound; this is a being from another world and could carry germs or viruses. Don't be reckless."

"Alright, Lao Huang, Advisor Chen, I'll head off first." Wei Xiang also stopped pretending, nodded, and said.

With that, he walked toward the car. His liaison seemed ready to help him but was waved off by Wei Xiang.

He opened the car door, waved goodbye to the two, then sat in the back seat, and quickly left.

"Director Huang, I'll be leaving too." Chen Shouyi also bid farewell.

"Alright, take a good rest. Your contributions haven't gone unnoticed. The mission bonus and accolades will be issued at the highest level, check your bank account tomorrow."

For these martial artists, it's best to be straightforward, avoiding bureaucratic subtleties and intricacies.

Chen Shouyi nodded and was about to leave.

Just then, a luxury car with police lights sped in, emitting a piercing screech, causing Chen Shouyi to stop.

A middle-aged man in black with a powerful presence exited the car. He had short hair, stiff and straight like bristles, with a face chiseled like a sculpture. His slanted, deep-set eyes exuded a solemn demeanor.

"General Manager Cui, you're finally here." Director Huang took quick steps to greet him.

Cui Ziweng glanced at the monster's corpse, paused for a moment, then said calmly: "Got caught in a bit of traffic, but it seems you all resolved it yourselves."

"Advisor Chen and Advisor Wei took action together. Advisor Wei got slightly injured and has gone to the hospital. Let me introduce you, this is Advisor Chen, Chen Shouyi. This is General Manager Cui Ziweng from the General Bureau." Director Huang introduced.

"Hello, General Manager Cui!" Chen Shouyi immediately took a few steps forward, refraining from prematurely attempting to shake hands.

"Well done!" Cui Ziweng assessed Chen Shouyi with an up-and-down glance, nodding, "Since there's no problem, I'll be on my way."

"Really sorry for the trouble of you making the trip!"

Director Huang escorted him to his car, courteously opened the car door for him, and only turned around after the car was no longer in sight.

Chen Shouyi watched, feeling envious, what a powerful presence.

This is the influence of a great martial artist, where even the district police substation's director has to be cautious in his approach.

...

Two days later, on the high-speed train heading to Dongning City.

The last mission reward amounted to an impressive 1.5 million and 100 merit points, comparable to an exploratory mission, making his dwindling savings quickly swell again.

If one dares to adventure, earning money is indeed relatively easy for a martial artist, but as far as his true self was concerned, he would rather not earn that money. The previous mission was truly too dangerous, a single mistake, and you could be dying on the spot.

You talk about enjoying the excitement of life-and-death battles, challenging oneself, sorry, he couldn't feel it at all.

The less of this kind of thrill, the better.

...

At this time, he was perusing a book titled "Gods of Another World," which detailed the ranks of gods.

The lowest rank belongs to divine creatures, also known as pseudo-gods.

Through years of faith, these beings gradually developed divinity and began to slowly absorb the power of faith.

However, these creatures, due to different races or talents, have vastly different strengths, with the strong comparable to True Gods and the weak inferior to ordinary supernatural beings.

Next is the demigods. As their divinity strengthens and they accumulate more power of faith, they eventually ignite divine fire, essentially becoming gods, each of them incredibly formidable.

Finally, there are the True Gods...

The entire book dedicates the most space to divine creatures, providing detailed content, whereas about demigods and True Gods, there are only a few pages, using vague terms like generally, it is estimated, possible.

After reading the last page, Chen Shouyi gently closed the book, with a thoughtful expression:

"The mysterious big tree on the Barbarian Island behind the Dongning Spatial Passage is probably a divine creature, and generally such tree-type divine creatures aren't strong in combat."

...

After the train stopped at Dongxing Station, two young people, a man, and a woman, took the seats opposite Chen Shouyi.

Once aboard, they seemed glued to each other, talking non-stop.

Chen Shouyi averted his gaze, staring out the window.

Public displays of affection, how annoying.

Chapter 107: Chapter 107: Entering the Islet

Over an hour later, Chen Shouyi got off the train and entered a taxi.

Chen Shouyi noticed that the martial law in Dongning had ended, and apart from the heightened police presence patrolling the streets, soldiers were no longer visible on the roads.

However, the market was still as desolate as before.

The prolonged power outage led to commercial decline, factory shutdowns, mass unemployment, and significantly affected the economic vitality of Dongning City.

Every pedestrian seemed to carry a somber expression, and beggars were everywhere on the streets, with several plastic bags dancing constantly in the wind, conveying a sense of bleakness.

Chen Shouyi withdrew his gaze and closed his eyes to relax and rejuvenate.

He couldn't help feeling a bit heavy-hearted.

Dongning City was merely a microcosm of the entire nation; except for first and second-tier cities, which maintained abnormal prosperity due to resource siphoning effects, most other regions would likely experience this state for a year or two.

...

He alighted at the hotel he used to stay in, paid the fare, then retrieved his luggage from the taxi's trunk, glanced at the sign "Electricity Available" beside the hotel entrance, and walked inside.

The pretty receptionist at the hotel desk brightened upon seeing Chen Shouyi:

"Young handsome guy, you've finally come over, your package arrived a long time ago."

"Oh, you remember me?" Chen Shouyi said, a bit surprised.

In fact, a month had already passed, and he had given up hope on this package. He chose this hotel mainly because it was closer to the spatial passage.

"Of course, handsome guy, I have a good memory!" The receptionist laughed. "I've been keeping an eye on your package for you."

"Thank you very much. I'll book a single room for two days."

"The room rate is one hundred fifty, deposit one hundred," the receptionist said.

"So cheap?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"Yes, but unfortunately, not many people stay here!" Saying this, the receptionist's chubby face turned a bit melancholic, as her salary had halved, and without her parents' occasional help, she wouldn't survive.

...

Chen Shouyi took the package and entered the room.

Then, he tore open the tape with his hand and opened the package.

Inside, there were seven bundles of arrows, a hundred Speed Arrows, twenty Spin Arrows, and ten Whistle Arrows.

On this trip, he only carried a War Bow and sword, and since he needed many arrows originally intended to buy from Dongning's local melee weapon shop, this had saved him the trouble.

The exploration mission had already been accepted, just waiting for dawn in the other world.

However, before arriving, he had already set the time; looking at his watch, there was about an hour left.

He grabbed his briefcase, exited the hotel, preparing to buy food.

Before long, he arrived at a nearby large supermarket, where goods were plentiful but the sparse crowd of people was pitifully few.

He bought two roast ducks, five pounds of cooked beef, three pounds of sauced pork knuckles, five packs of compressed biscuits, and two large bottles of mineral water.

Thinking it should be enough, given his huge appetite now, it was barely enough for three meals.

Next, he bought a large suitcase from the supermarket.

Back at the hotel, he simply stuffed everything into the suitcase.

Once everything was ready, he didn't linger, heading straight for the wormhole in Dongning City.

...

"Military zone, unauthorized personnel keep out!"

Chen Shouyi took out an exploration certificate, a soldier checked it and immediately allowed him to pass.

Entering the tall walls, where the previous half-finished building stood, now replaced by a giant cylindrical structure about thirty meters in diameter and over twenty meters high, with a large number of cannons and machine guns stationed in posts sealing off the spatial passage tightly.

His documents were checked three times consecutively along the way, thereafter proceeding unobstructed.

Opening a thick iron door, he smoothly arrived at the passage.

Compared to the previous open-air parking lot spatial passage, now the surroundings were fortified with reinforced concrete, so thick that Chen Shouyi reckoned even heavy artillery couldn't easily demolish it.

Gazing at the passage so close by, he took a deep breath and stepped in without hesitation.

With a brief spatial shift.

The familiar sensation welled up from his heart.

His body's innate abilities were fully revived.

He felt that his Wind Control gifted ability unknowingly strengthened significantly.

Fine strands of breeze, like tame spirits, gently surrounded him, his clothes and hair fluttered elegantly.

Unfortunately, this ability only worked in the other world.

If it worked on Earth, he would be someone who arrives on scene bringing his own wind, creating a different level of grandeur.

After playing around for a bit, Chen Shouyi immediately began his duties.

He carried the suitcase, quickly walking towards the beach.

Chen Shouyi discovered that this area seemed to have been initially explored, noticing many new footprints on the ground.

It wasn't surprising, though the military's Martial Artist numbers might be extremely tight, there were plenty of Martial Artist Apprentices. An initial exploration of an unknown spatial passage by a company-level garrison was still undoubtedly within their capabilities.

Several dugout canoes were left alone in the distance, seemingly unused.

However, what troubled Chen Shouyi was clearly it had rained here recently, leaving plenty of rainwater accumulated on the canoes.

What a hassle!

Chen Shouyi untied the canoe's rope, then removed his pants and waded into the seawater, jumping onto the canoe.

Leaving the suitcase on the bow, he planned to first deal with the accumulated water in the canoe.

Initially, he didn't anticipate this situation and didn't bring any handy tools. After considering, he decided to cut one of his large bottles of mineral water in half, and diligently scooped the water out.

After an hour's toil, he finally cleared the accumulated water from the canoe.

Then, he let out the Shell Lady.

The Shell Lady had already awakened and, excited to return to the other world:

"Hurry, hurry!"

As soon as she was freed, she flew off at once, excitedly spiraling around, quickly flying higher and farther.

This was his first time in the other world without restraining the Shell Lady.

"Don't fly too far!" Chen Shouyi shouted, standing up for caution.

Though it evidently didn't affect the ecstatic Shell Lady, she soon became a barely discernible dot, and after a while, even that faded away.

"Really a little rascal!" Chen Shouyi shook his head speechlessly, although his demeanor was rather calm, confident the Shell Lady would return obediently after her flight.

But five minutes later, with still no sign of the Shell Lady returning, his confidence began wavering, and he felt somewhat unsure.

Could she have decided not to return?

Left the large gem inside the backpack untouched?

Could she have really escaped at the chance for freedom?

Ten minutes in, he grew worried, continually peering at the sky, hoping to spot the Shell Lady.

Alas, he was too soft-hearted.

In hindsight, he should have bound her.

After another agonizing ten minutes, he had nearly given up hope, feeling empty as if he had lost something.

"Well, compared to freedom, what do gems really count for? An animation binge can be weaned off too!"

"Oh well, it's better for her to leave, so I won't have to imprison her in a backpack to avoid exposing her, tormenting her."

He consoled himself, yet his face couldn't conceal his disappointment. He mustered his spirits, took the oar, and began to paddle.

Just then, he faintly heard the Shell Lady shouting, a surge of excitement rose in him, he eagerly scanned the sky but found no trace.

"Could it be an illusion in my mind?"

Luckily, the voice soon grew clearer, seemingly coming from behind.

Quickly turning around, he saw a small figure about tens of meters away, clutching a transparent bead as big as her body, laboriously flying towards him, her body rising and falling in mid-air at a snail's pace, nearly falling onto the sea several times before reddening and desperately flying back up.

From afar, she kept shouting: "Whew whew... Giant, I have a gem hidden on the island whew whew, uh-huh... uh-huh... help me retrieve the gem!"

A dozen seconds later, she landed on Chen Shouyi's shoulder, hugging the glass bead tightly, gasping out: "So exhausting!"

Chapter 108: Chapter 108: Godslayer (Part 1)

Looking at the Shell Lady standing on his shoulder, her little face flushed with exhaustion, panting heavily.

Chen Shouyi was instantly filled with rage, almost spitting blood.

I've worried for so long, thinking you ran away for freedom, but it turns out you sneakily went to get the Glass Bead.

Really want to give her a beating, ah!

However, despite having a thousand cuss words in his mind, when looking at the unbound Shell Lady, what came out was:

"I'll get it for you right away!"

Now you're the boss!

Chen Shouyi reluctantly jumped off the boat, walked back to the small island, and under the Shell Lady's guidance, he finally found the treasure box she had secretly buried, a palm-sized shell.

"Is this good enough!" Chen Shouyi picked up the shell, gesturing with it.

"That's fine!" The Shell Lady nodded vigorously.

Then she quickly flew onto Chen Shouyi's shoulder, occasionally glancing at the hand holding the shell, her little face full of vigilance as she said, "Giant, these are all mine, don't you dare take any."

Finally, she added a sentence just to be sure: "I've already counted them!"

Chen Shouyi was speechless, I'd have to be crazy to steal your Glass Bead.

...

Climbing back onto the boat, he picked up the oar.

After all this delay, they could finally set off.

More than four hours later, he set foot on the Barbarians' small island once again.

Just as his foot touched the island, a sudden burst of wind blew across, causing countless leaves in the forest to shake and sway, a suffocating aura spreading, even the sunlight dimmed considerably.

Evidently, just landing on the island had already exposed him.

But times have changed, with his stronger will, last time he was taken aback by such phenomena, almost turning to flee, but now it seemed not that big of a deal.

The Shell Lady on his shoulder was quite still, clutching Chen Shouyi's collar tightly.

Before landing, Chen Shouyi had told her to stay on the boat but she refused, insisting on coming along, in the end, he had no choice but to let her.

He walked around the small island along the beach.

Strangely, he didn't spot a single Barbarian, and even the workshop for making dugout canoes seemed abandoned. More than a month had passed, but the giant log that had been partially carved remained the same, with little progress.

Evidently, after his last massacre, the Barbarian Tribe had completely halted their shipbuilding.

In the shallow waters at another part of the island, he found another beached dugout canoe, filled with accumulated rainwater.

...

Ever since absorbing the seed of this great tree, enhancing various attributes of his body to different degrees and gaining the Wind Control Ability, Chen Shouyi suspected that the illusory World Tree in his mind had a natural suppressive power over plant-like Sub-god creatures, possibly even absorbing their strength.

A seed is like this, let alone the tree itself?

"In otherworldly exploration, encountering a Sub-god creature is rare, and finding a tree-type Sub-god creature is even rarer.

According to what's written, tree-type Sub-god creatures are the weakest among all Sub-god creatures; they're mostly immobile, or lack movement ability. Once, a high-level Explorer with Martial Artist Level strength, tried to annihilate a Divine Giant Tree to uncover the secrets of becoming a god, but the tree was too big, too tough, with incredible defense, he had to give up after chopping for a while."

He hesitated whether to take the risk.

His expression changed, suddenly gritting his teeth, making up his mind.

Damn it, it's just a tree, what to fear?

At worst, retreat if things get out of hand.

Moreover, in the otherworld, he has the Natural Healing ability, usual injuries won't take his life.

...

His feet stepping on the ground covered with fallen leaves felt loose and soft.

Sunlight from above filtered through the overlapping leaves, casting dim and sparse spots on the ground, as soon as he entered the forest, the light quickly dimmed, giving an illusion of approaching nightfall, with a chilly sensation.

This ancient forest on the island, who knows how many millennia it has weathered.

Presumably, shortly after this small island formed, this forest began to grow.

The limited activity of the Barbarians here clearly wasn't enough to alter nature significantly.

Here, immense trees, often grown together, were everywhere.

Trunks three to four meters in diameter weren't uncommon.

Chen Shouyi even saw one giant tree covered in moss, weeds, small trees, and countless vine-like snakes intertwining, resembling a mini-ecosystem. If you didn't look up to see the branches, at first glance it would seem to stand like a cliff before you.

The forest wind grew stronger, raging.

This wind wasn't formed naturally, after all, any natural wind strong enough to penetrate this dense primeval forest was weakened to almost undetectable.

The wind originated internally, like countless tentacles deftly winding around trunks, through leaves, thousands of strands, weaving through the forest, converging here.

Dried leaves on the ground swirled up, dancing wildly ahead, making it nearly impossible for Chen Shouyi to keep his eyes open.

Yet faced with this eerie situation, he felt a sense of relief.

This only implied that the tree, apart from blocking his path, had no better methods against him. If it could move, it might have already uprooted to eliminate him.

At this moment, he couldn't help but regret the oversight in preparation for the trip to this new world; a pair of windswept goggles would have made things much easier now.

Unless the wind was strong enough to blow him away.

Weighing one hundred seventy pounds, to sweep him up required at least a category ten typhoon, but with gravity here being three times that of Earth, it would need a force of at least twelve or thirteen.

Of course, if the tree possessed such power, Chen Shouyi would immediately turn and leave, never entertaining the thought again.

Because even if his power grew ten or hundredfold, as long as his weight didn't increase substantially, a mere gust and he'd be blown away, what use would his plans be then?

...

During this, he attempted to use his innate ability to disperse the bothersome wind.

But as it turned out he was overthinking; his Wind Control Ability, compared to this Divine Giant Tree, was negligible, utterly insignificant.

Chen Shouyi resigned to shielding his eyes, squinting, pressing forward.

On the way, he occasionally saw otherworldly creatures collapsed on the ground, trembling, and even as Chen Shouyi approached, seemed unaware.

"Giant, I'm scared!" The Shell Lady's little face was pale with fear.

"How about you fly back to the boat and wait for me," Chen Shouyi suggested after some thought.

The Shell Lady quickly shook her head vigorously: "There are very fierce, vicious large birds here, they'll eat me!"

No wonder the Shell Lady was reluctant to stay; those large birds were evidently her predators.

"Don't be scared, I'm a Giant, with me here you have nothing to fear," Chen Shouyi comforted.

"Yes, you're a mighty Giant!" Though still afraid, the Shell Lady nodded in agreement, evidently Chen Shouyi's string of victories had given her immense confidence.

As time passed, the wind grew increasingly terrifying, from an original force six-seven typhoon gradually to force eight-nine typhoon.

He shielded his eyes, continuing for about five to six minutes before abruptly halting.

Ahead, a massive clearing appeared, with not a single tree growing within.

Chen Shouyi's heart trembled, realizing something, he quickly looked forward.

The endless gale transformed here into one tornado after another, various sizes, without these tornados being merely ten or so meters tall, it almost resembled an apocalyptic scene.

Through these raging winds, an indescribably massive tree stood hundreds of meters away, its withered and cracked bark exuded an ancient aura, countless gray-black roots sprawled on the ground like dragons.

And under the tree, hundreds of Barbarians, young and old, lay prostrate as if in prayer, creating a solemn, sacred atmosphere that made him inwardly revere them despite not knowing why.

Seek recommendation, ah!

Chapter 109: Chapter 109: Slaying the Gods (Part 2)

Chen Shouyi was startled at the sight and immediately retreated.

He quickly hid behind a large tree, his fingers feeling the rough patterned metal sword hilt, his brows furrowed.

This situation is a bit tricky.

He originally thought that after two slaughters, there would be at most a hundred or so barbarians left on this island, but unexpectedly, it was a dense crowd, with at least three or four hundred.

Compared to the last time he came to the island, all his attributes had improved, except for his physique which only increased by 0.1 point, the rest of the attributes increased by 0.4 to 0.8 points. Among them, agility and strength, which are directly related to combat power, both increased by 0.4 points, each growing by two levels proportionally.

And the remaining attributes, although seemingly unrelated to combat power, are actually complementary.

For instance, intellectual ability, in the fleeting moments of battle, the ability to think and react quickly often makes combat more manageable and effective, allowing control over the whole situation, leading to an immediate increase in combat power; other attributes like perception and will also provide beneficial effects.

It can be said that compared to a month ago, without mentioning the improvement of combat experience and swordsmanship, just his attributes alone have more than doubled his combat power.

As long as he doesn't encounter the barbarian strongman from last time, ordinary barbarians, even when encountered in groups, with his war bow and sword, to him now, it's as easy as slaughtering chickens and fish.

But "a group" refers to small groups of barbarians, not this dense mass; even ants can kill an elephant. No matter how confident he is, he wouldn't dare challenge so many barbarians head-on.

However, thinking about it, these three to four hundred barbarians couldn't possibly all be warriors; among them are women, children, and the elderly. Those who can actually fight are estimated to only be a third, which slightly eased his tense emotions.

His heart gradually calmed down too.

Considering the fear the barbarians showed towards him, Chen Shouyi suddenly felt that he could completely give it a try.

He had fought the barbarians several times, so he had some understanding of the organizational discipline of this barbarian tribe.

These barbarians, unlike human soldiers, lack strict discipline and organization. They endure casualties at a lower rate than one would expect, and once numbers drop more than twenty to thirty percent, they usually rout.

This aligns with the survival principles of a hunting-based tribe.

During hunting, it's impossible for everything to go smoothly; strong, irresistible prey may appear, and if they chose to fight to the death every time, the tribe would naturally perish after a few encounters.

Of course, this can't be generalized; intelligent beings with faith often fear death less than those without.

But by this tribe's usual behavior, obviously, this divine giant tree hasn't inspired a devoted faith among the barbarians.

...

The wind swept around the tree, fiercely blowing toward him, and countless leaves swirled and danced all around.

Chen Shouyi did not act impulsively; he was waiting for the wind to weaken!

Such strong winds not only obstructed his vision but also severely affected the accuracy of his bow and arrows.

This divine giant tree seemed not very intelligent to him.

Like now, knowing that it's useless against enemies, yet still squandering power, it gives off a blustering impression.

The barbarians did not move, praying incessantly under the tree, which Chen Shouyi was quite pleased with.

Time passed slowly, and after half an hour, the wind finally began to weaken; with its strength waning, it obviously couldn't maintain its original intensity, declining from a level eight or nine wind to a five or six. Gradually, even the dry leaves were hardly blown at all.

At this moment, the Shell Lady whispered nervously in his ear!

"Giant, be careful, an evil giant is coming?"

Chen Shouyi stiffened inside; has this divine tree finally run out of patience? He immediately stood up, took out an arrow and quickly glanced outside from the edge of the tree.

Not far over a hundred meters away, a dense group of barbarians was stealthily advancing in a fan shape, holding wooden long spears.

There seemed to be about twenty or so in number.

Just as Chen Shouyi's tension was releasing, the Shell Lady suddenly pointed behind him and whispered in his ear, "There are many, many, evil giants there too."

His expression turned heavy immediately; it seemed he really underestimated the barbarians, as they attempted to surround him.

Luckily, he had the Shell Lady with him, otherwise, he'd really be in trouble this time.

"Listen carefully, which direction hasn't got giants coming for now?" Chen Shouyi asked hastily.

The Shell Lady tilted her head, listened carefully for a while, then quickly pointed in a direction, and Chen Shouyi wasted no time, sprinting swiftly in the direction she indicated.

"Up in the trees, up in the trees, up in the trees."

The Shell Lady suddenly screamed loudly.

Hearing this, Chen Shouyi paused slightly, and the next moment a short spear plunged heavily into the ground before him.

A cold sweat broke out on his back from the shock, then his gaze turned sharp like lightning, instantly locking on the hidden barbarian in a tree ahead, drawing his bowstring swiftly and shooting an arrow into the tree.

The wind kept blowing, making the surrounding air turbulent, interfering with the arrow greatly, but at a distance of thirty-four meters, it barely affected the supersonic arrow.

With a sharp whistle, a heavy body fell to the ground with a dull thud.

...

"There! There! There!" The Shell Lady exclaimed again.

A figure lurked in the grass, creeping towards this direction, and then an arrow flashed like a bolt of lightning, causing the figure to shudder and fall silent.

...

"Behind the tree!"

A barbarian carefully hiding behind the tree preparing to ambush, suddenly saw a flash before his eyes, then a gleam of light whizzed by his throat, his head soared into the sky, blood spraying out.

Seeing Chen Shouyi, with her help, killing three evil giants in succession, the Shell Lady's little face flushed with excitement as if she herself had slain them.

She eagerly kept searching for more evil giants, her eyes sparkling.

Her vision and hearing were far keener than Chen Shouyi's; not a single rustle escaped her ears and eyes.

A few minutes later, Chen Shouyi successfully broke through the barbarians' encirclement.

This time, thanks again to the Shell Lady, or else on this barbarian homeland, he might have been overpowered.

"Well done, there will be a reward when we get back?" Chen Shouyi praised the Shell Lady.

"Is it a really big gem?" The Shell Lady asked excitedly.

"Yes, a really big gem."

Chen Shouyi said, then glanced back, watching a couple of figures flitting through the woods, a hint of coldness on his face as he nocked an arrow on the bowstring.

A barbarian about to throw a short spear found his chest suddenly pierced through by an arrow, collapsing backward with a thud.

After firing two more arrows, striking down two more barbarians, he picked up his long sword and advanced quickly.

Suddenly, he subtly shifted his body, dodging a thrust spear, and simultaneously, with a slash of the sword, the barbarian hiding behind the tree preparing an ambush froze instantly, then fell split in halves diagonally.

As he advanced step by step, with the Shell Lady beside him like a portable mini radar, despite the howling wind to interfere, even from one or two hundred meters away, Chen Shouyi could discern the barbarians' approximate positions, constantly staying outside their encirclement.

The arrows in his five quivers were nearly half depleted.

The thick bloody air permeated the forest, and panic began to spread.

Many barbarians turned and fled at first sight, leaving fewer and fewer behind.

After more than an hour, he returned to the clearing under the divine giant tree, to find all the barbarians had fled, leaving behind a large expanse of crude houses.

No, there's still one left.

Chapter 110: Chapter 110: Godslaying (Part 3)

At this moment, the wind around had died down significantly, now only about level four, far from the spectacular scene of countless tornadoes touching the ground as before.

Even the leaves of the giant tree, green as jade with a faint glow, had become dim and dull.

Its power had clearly dissipated by more than half.

Yet Chen Shouyi did not dare relax in the slightest; he drew an arrow, pulled back the bowstring, and shot at a raised root nearby.

With a "crack," the arrow was bounced away by the root.

It only left a shallow pit about two to three centimeters deep, not even breaking the skin.

What a terrifying defense.

Chen Shouyi took a few more steps forward and shot a few more arrows.

Seeing that the root remained motionless and the wind only picked up a bit, he felt a sense of relief.

He was most afraid of the tree having the ability to move; now seeing this root so still, he felt a weight lift off his heart.

He cautiously walked step by step forward.

Carefully avoiding the massive raised roots.

As he approached, the oppressive atmosphere grew heavier. Fortunately, he had already experienced this many times in the Memory Space, and compared to the full bloom of the tree in the Memory Space, the current aura was much weaker.

He turned his gaze to the lone Barbarian still praying.

This was a decrepit old Barbarian, skin wrinkled and shriveled, with hardly any flesh on his bones. His bare back showed his rib bones clearly.

As Chen Shouyi approached.

The old man, sensing something, shakily stood up, his body wobbling, his muddy eyes staring intently at Chen Shouyi, somewhat creepy.

Chen Shouyi cautiously stepped back slightly, pulling back the bowstring.

"Evil desecrator, slayer of tribesmen, you will be punished..."

Before the words were finished.

With a "crack!" the bowstring made a soft sound, and the next moment an arrow immediately pierced his forehead, the body being flung over a meter away by the kinetic energy of the bow and arrow, crashing heavily to the ground, silent.

He exhaled a breath:

"So much nonsense."

Just then, an anomaly occurred.

A clear yet faint light rose from the densely intertwined ground roots.

In a daze, a faint figure was pulled out from the corpse, screaming, terrified, seemingly cursing in anger or begging for mercy.

Wisps of substance emanated from him, merging into the faint glow of the ground, and in an instant, the figure grew fainter and finally vanished.

The wind suddenly intensified, increasing from level 4 to around 4.5.

At the same time, Chen Shouyi felt a sense of being rejected by the entire world, as if countless tiny voices were cursing and reviling him incessantly.

Yet upon focusing, these voices vanished like an illusion.

Chen Shouyi remained on guard for a while and after half a minute, the wind gradually subsided again.

He suddenly realized he might have been overly cautious.

Tree-type divine creatures are indeed the weakest.

Of course, it can't be said they're weak; if evaluated by energy level, this tree is already terrifying. It stirred up a storm covering the entire island, spanning dozens of square kilometers for nearly two hours—it can't be called weak.

It's just that its attack method is really quite feeble.

Watching the persistent blowing wind, Chen Shouyi suddenly felt he should be even more cautious.

He retreated hundreds of meters, sitting back down in the forest.

He took out a piece of compressed biscuit he carried with him.

Having not eaten for almost eight hours, his stomach was already burning with hunger; he tore open the package, letting the soft breeze blow over him as he slowly chewed.

After eating, he felt even hungrier.

Unfortunately, most of his food was still on the boat, and he only brought a pack with him, so he could only satiate his stomach a bit, better than nothing.

...

He chatted with the Shell Lady while waiting.

Waiting like this for three hours, during which no Barbarian returned.

Feeling the surrounding wind had weakened to only a gentle breeze, he finally decided not to wait any longer.

He stood up, discarding the War Bow.

"It might be very dangerous later. You stay here!" he turned to the Shell Lady on his shoulder and said, with a serious expression.

"Giant, come back quick."

The Shell Lady had long been extremely frightened by the oppressive aura ahead. Upon hearing Chen Shouyi's words, she felt a great relief, quickly flying away and soon drilling into the tree hole of a small tree in the distance.

Chen Shouyi took a deep breath and then walked forward step by step, Long Sword in hand.

This was truly a breathtaking tree, with a trunk diameter around eighteen to nineteen meters thick; if it were felled, it would be as tall as a six-story building.

Unlike the other trees in the forest, covered with moss and weeds on their trunks, this trunk was strikingly clean, with no other plant growing upon it, nor any insects crawling on it.

The bark was full of deep furrows, wide enough in some places for a person to fit in.

Standing before it, one felt incredibly small, instilling a sense of awe.

Chen Shouyi stopped and looked at a root in front of him.

He never considered how to cut down this giant tree; with the Divine Giant Tree's defense and diameter, cutting it with a sword would take a year, and probably wouldn't succeed.

He pinned his hopes on the Book of Knowledge made from the World Tree Heart within him, since it absorbed that seed last time, it should be able to absorb this tree...right?

Success or failure hinged on this; if it had no effect, he would have no choice but to reluctantly walk away and cease targeting this tree.

With that thought, he took a deep breath and placed his hand on the raised root.

Unexpectedly, as soon as his palm's skin made contact with the root, his mind went "boom," instantly blank.

Vaguely, a terrified scream seemed to echo within his soul.

Perhaps a few seconds, perhaps a few minutes later, his consciousness slowly returned.

And the previous scream had vanished without a trace.

He noticed a surge of heat flowing from the contact point of his right hand into his body, filling him with joy.

"It worked! Just as expected."

In this warmth, everything before him turned vivid, colors growing more vibrant, hearing becoming more acute, his sense of smell sharper, and meanwhile, his physical strength rapidly increased.

But regretfully, the heat flow lasted only a dozen seconds, transforming from a torrent into a small stream, and then completely disappearing after another minute.

He stood up, not quite satisfied, as countless air currents gently swirled around him.

He felt slightly light, as if he could soar at any moment.

He eagerly opened the attribute panel.

Strength: 14.3

Agility: 14.0

Constitution: 14.6

Intelligence: 13.8.

Perception: 11.5

Willpower: 12.8

...

"Huh!"

Chen Shouyi suddenly felt strange that his attributes didn't increase by much—back when it was just a seed, his physical attributes increased by 0.3 to 0.4 each, whereas with this Divine Tree, his strength attribute only increased by 0.9.

The weakest, Agility, only increased by 0.6.

A tree compared to a seed, its size is billions or even tens of billions of times larger; even if not increasing to the same proportion, shouldn't each attribute increase by a few points, normally?

Yet it turned out to be just a small increase.

However, seeing his ability to control the atmosphere progress from weak to beginner, he was somewhat comforted.

...

In fact, his thinking was somewhat off.

In any world, everything is always balanced: the mighty prey on everything yet struggle to reproduce, while the weak are preyed upon but are prolific. Not to mention these powerful Divine Creatures, which are generally extremely difficult to reproduce.

This also applies to plants; the seeds it produces, rather than being offspring, are special avatars formed by expending a small part of its energy, originally to probe premonitions of danger. However, unexpectedly, it backfired—the Barbarian Clan Leader died, and even the seed was absorbed by Chen Shouyi.