

Ability 221

Chapter 221: Re-evaluation! _3

A moment later, a rumbling sound came from the sky.

The sound grew louder and louder, approaching from afar.

In the sky, several small black dots grew larger, and as they approached, the leaders of the Security Bureau saw clearly that they were armed helicopters from the bureau, swiftly flying over the city and finally landing steadily on the helipad.

"Wow—"

The cabin doors opened in unison.

The leaders of the Security Bureau saw Lin Beichen and five agents disembark from the helicopters immediately.

They quickly went to meet them.

The five agents saluted quickly, "Leaders!"

"You've been through a lot."

Song Xiangdong patted their shoulders, showing comfort and encouragement.

Then he turned his gaze towards Lin Beichen, staring for a long time before a bright smile appeared on his face. He nodded and said, "Student Lin Beichen, you have made a huge contribution this time."

"Director Song, is there any reward?"

Lin Beichen felt the atmosphere was a bit serious and jokingly said.

Song Xiangdong laughed, "What reward do you want?"

"I haven't thought about it. I'll let you know when I have."

Lin Beichen casually said; he hadn't really thought about rewards.

At this moment, the leaders of the Security Bureau spoke one after another.

"Student Lin Beichen, think carefully. This time we must reward you!"

"You truly became a hero this time."

"Student Lin Beichen, the chain reaction caused by your action this time is unimaginable, and you made great contributions to Great Xia."

"..."

Hearing them say this.

Lin Beichen was a bit dumbfounded. In his opinion, what he did was indeed quite amazing from a sensory perspective, but in terms of results, it was just rescuing five agents and coincidentally blowing up that base.

Was it really that significant?

Lin Beichen didn't understand more of the situation and wasn't good at responding, so he just smiled and nodded as a response.

Song Xiangdong broke the awkwardness, "Alright, this is not the place to talk."

After saying that, he quickly made some arrangements, asking the five agents to go rest first. It wouldn't be too late to report after they had a rest.

Then he and the other leaders led Lin Beichen towards the lounge.

On the way, Song Xiangdong asked, "Student Lin Beichen, how did you manage to save yourself and five agents in such a massive explosion?"

Even though some time had passed since witnessing that scene, his tone still carried a hint of amazement.

The other leaders also looked over, waiting for his answer. They had pondered this question for a long time and wanted to know the answer.

Lin Beichen did not keep it a secret and said truthfully, "I used the enclosures of those big iron lumps in the arsenal to offset part of the explosive shockwave, then..."

At this point, he stretched out his hand.

Immediately!

A golden light flickered in his hand.

He continued, "I used it to create a shield that blocked the explosive shockwave."

Song Xiangdong had seen this golden light during the previous rating test, but at that time it was not so dazzling, and he did not feel anything like the current sensation.

Such a sharp brilliance!

"This, this feels different than before."

"Director Song, your feeling is really accurate."

Lin Beichen smiled and nodded, "It was precisely because of this transformation that I wanted to come for another rating test."

As he spoke, his eyes flashed as he thought of something and added, "Speaking of which, being able to save five agents this time was truly due to the progress in my cultivation."

Song Xiangdong and the other leaders of the Security Bureau looked at each other, their eyes full of shock. They couldn't understand what kind of cultivation method Lin Beichen had and couldn't grasp the concept each time he mentioned progress in cultivation.

But this time...

They clearly felt it.

Great progress!

At this moment, Song Xiangdong suggested, "Student Lin Beichen, how about going for a rating test first?"

Chapter 222: Shocking Rating, Double Thunder Tribulation!

"Okay."

Lin Beichen agreed without a second thought. He had rested enough on his way back and there was no point in resting further. It was better to use the time for rating tests.

This rescue mission...

gave him a clearer understanding of his strength at the Third Realm of Gold Element and made him even more eager to see how his rating would improve.

Song Xiangdong immediately took Lin Beichen to the rating test site and arranged for all the equipment to be prepared.

When they arrived at the rating test site,

everything was ready.

Song Xiangdong looked around and smiled, "Lin Beichen, you've been here many times, just go ahead as usual."

"Haha, sure."

Lin Beichen had no other thoughts and planned to test in the same order as last time.

He walked straight into the small enclosed space that was completely empty.

Outside the enclosure, the leaders of the security agency watched Lin Beichen without blinking. After witnessing the entire rescue mission from Lin Beichen's perspective, they, like Lin Beichen, wanted to know how much he had improved.

Soon, they saw Lin Beichen's hand glow with golden light, then he swung his hand forward sharply.

In an instant!

The golden arc they had seen many times on the screen appeared in the air.

Fleeting!

The security agency leaders watched the golden arc disappear in front of them, instinctively looking at the display screen outside the enclosure.

The numbers on the display screen kept jumping until they finally settled on a value.

"846?"

The security agency leaders showed expressions of surprise, feeling very unexpected.

What kind of improvement is this?

Why did the value decrease instead of increase?

Having witnessed Lin Beichen's abilities through the screen, they all thought the displayed value this time would be very high, at least higher than the initial test value of 900, but it's not the case.

Lin Beichen walked out of the enclosure, glanced at the number on the display screen, and did not show any surprise or shock on his face.

When he tested Thunder Skill last time, he had the Thunder Tribulation Sword and had been advancing the Third Realm of Thunder Skill for many days, which resulted in a value of 900.

But he had only just entered the Third Realm of Gold Element a few days ago and had no enhancing objects...

He's already very satisfied with such a value at present.

Lin Beichen did not waste time, after seeing the value, he immediately walked into the next test enclosure.

Reflex...

Spiritual Power...

...

It was the familiar series of tests until he reached the last test - Physical Strength.

"Finally, the Physical Strength test."

Kong Hui murmured.

The other leaders of the security agency, like him, watched Lin Beichen who was already lying on the testing instrument, eyes full of anticipation.

Not to mention how Lin Beichen protected five agents in such a big explosion, just the fact that he was virtually unharmed in that explosion made them unanimously believe his physical strength must be terrifyingly high.

"Physical Strength test begins!"

The mechanical voice sounded inside and outside the test enclosure.

The instrument, similar to a CT scanner, started to operate.

Lin Beichen immediately released the Gold Element, forming a barrier between himself and the detecting instrument.

Golden light flickered...

It swallowed the red scan light from the instrument completely.

The security agency leaders' eyes lit up. They clearly remembered that Lin Beichen had just told them how he protected himself and five agents during the explosion.

It was this golden light!

The same color, the same brilliance!

Unlike the previous tests which took about half an hour to complete, this time the instrument took more than half an hour, longer than the combined time of the previous two tests!

The detection time of the instrument adjusts automatically based on the strength of the detected object.

It has a basic detection time, meaning, regardless of the actual strength of the detected object, the test takes half an hour.

If the strength of the detected object is great, more precise detection ensues, increasing the time based on the half-hour baseline.

In other words, a test completed within half an hour does not confirm the strength of the detected object without looking at the data.

But a test exceeding half an hour...

The strength of the detected object must be extraordinary, and the more time it exceeds, the stronger it is!

The security agency leaders naturally understood the operating mechanism of the instrument. As they saw the test finally stop, their expectations grew as they turned to the display screen outside the enclosure.

"589?!"

The security agency leaders saw the number on the display screen change and finally display the result, looking dumbfounded.

High!

This value is extremely high!

They had believed Lin Beichen's physical strength was formidable, but didn't expect it to be this strong!

This means Lin Beichen's body is no longer just comparable to steel but is solid steel!

Moreover...

Not just ordinary thin steel.

It is similar to the robust steel plate used to make safes, which is two to three centimeters thick.

The security agency leaders now more clearly understood how Lin Beichen remained unscathed in such a massive explosion.

It would be hard for such physical strength to get injured!

Chapter 223: Shocking Rating, Double Thunder Tribulation!_2

At this moment, Lin Beichen walked out of the testing compartment, glanced at the values displayed on the screen, and did not ask Song Xiangdong what they represented like he did before.

Previously, he had asked because he had no concept of these numbers, nor did he have an accurate understanding of his body's strength.

But now, after experiencing the explosion firsthand...

He had a very clear understanding of his body's strength, naturally he wasn't very concerned about the meaning of the numbers displayed on the screen.

He just wanted to know his rating result now.

"This time the rating should have quite a significant upgrade, right?"

Lin Beichen pondered silently in his heart.

At this moment, Song Xiangdong came to his senses, walked to Lin Beichen's side, and asked, "Lin Beichen, your body's strength has reached such a level, is it still related to your cultivation of ancient martial arts?"

"It is related."

Lin Beichen thought for a moment, and then he added, "It has a great relationship."

If it were not for ancient martial arts, he might not have comprehended the Gold Element, and he wouldn't have broken through the Third Realm of the Gold Element so quickly.

To trace back to the source, the Gold Element is the first part of the key to unlock the cultivation of the Gold Element, while ancient martial arts is the lock handle, the crucial turning part of the key.

Both are indispensable and key elements!

Song Xiangdong nodded and did not ask anything further, because he believed that Lin Beichen would definitely answer truthfully, but the key is, he wouldn't understand.

He thought it was enough to know that Lin Beichen's body strength had a significant connection to ancient martial arts.

Let people continue to cultivate ancient martial arts!

As they talked, a mechanical prompt sounded in the testing area.

"Based on archived rating analysis, this comprehensive evaluation rates: C-level!"

Just C-level?

Lin Beichen felt somewhat surprised; he initially thought it would at least be B-level.

The leaders of the security bureau were also surprised; they knew how difficult it was to ascend a rating; ascending each level is like a qualitative leap.

They initially thought it would be a D++ rating.

Song Xiangdong noticed Lin Beichen's slight disappointment and said, "Lin Beichen, don't underestimate the significance of ascending one rating level..."

He explained the meaning represented by ascending one rating level.

While they were talking.

A leader from the security bureau approached Lin Beichen with a laptop and said, "Lin Beichen, the file needs to be updated with some information. Take a look."

"Okay."

Lin Beichen took the laptop and browsed through the file information.

Just like last time, two places were updated.

The test result updated the body strength to 589, noting at the end: still the strength of pure steel.

And naturally, the other update was the comprehensive rating, C-level!

After confirming the information was correct.

Lin Beichen easily clicked upload.

Instantly, identical message alerts popped up once more in the network systems of various police departments.

[Rating database updated: Cultivator, rating: C-level!]

The police were all dumbfounded.

"Another cultivator?!"

In less than a month, they had seen three database updates related to it.

To know, in general...

It's really rare for the rating information in the database to change; it won't be updated for ten to twenty years.

"Isn't this updating too frequently?"

Updating files three times in a month is unprecedented.

This is the first time!

What's more, what surprised them was...

In just one month, this file titled 'Cultivator' had its rating updated from D-level to C-level!

Purely changing from a bird gun to a cannon!

"Which research institute is researching this so-called 'cultivator', investing so heavily to enable such significant improvement in one month?"

As they felt curious about the 'cultivator' and the research institute studying it...

Lin Beichen had already returned to school. He didn't head to his dorm first but went straight to the abandoned gymnasium, intending to carefully analyze the feeling he experienced during the explosion and see if he had comprehended the Fire Element.

Recently, Lin Beichen had been outside, and the gymnasium hadn't opened.

This led to the students who were usually observing it to stop coming.

Li Shiting, Cui Dapeng, and Bai Yan initially came to check if the gymnasium had opened whenever they had free time. After reaching out to Lin Beichen and learning it wouldn't open for now, they stopped coming and awaited his further notice.

At this moment, the area around the gymnasium was extremely quiet.

Not a single person's shadow could be seen.

It was vastly different from the scene more than a week ago.

Lin Beichen was happy to have the peace without anyone disturbing him. Once inside the gymnasium, he immediately began to recall the feeling he experienced during the explosion.

Suddenly!

Lin Beichen felt his heart start to race; he sensed a surge of energy filling his heart.

This energy was fiery red.

Hot, bright.

Exactly the same as what he had felt during the explosion!

"Fire Element?!"

Lin Beichen had the answer in his heart, but he did not immediately confirm it; instead, he tried to gather the sensed energy into his hands.

Instantly!

Lin Beichen's hands visibly turned red.

This red was not the red of blood congestion but like a red-hot iron, bright with a tinge of orange-yellow.

Upon closer listening, one could hear faint crackling sounds.

Like the sound of flames burning the air.

"It's really the Fire Element!"

Lin Beichen was ecstatic.

Though he had anticipated that the sensation he previously felt was the comprehension of the Fire Element, it was still hard to contain his excitement upon fully confirming it.

"Compared to the Electric Element and the Gold Element, the comprehension of the Fire Element is so sudden."

Lin Beichen looked at his hand; this clearly had already reached the Second Realm of the Electric Element and Gold Element—Reverse Truth Realm level.

In other words, it had directly skipped the First Realm—Visualization Realm.

Why is this?

He thought briefly and concluded it was highly related to his comprehension of the Electric Element and Gold Element.

Due to some inexplicable connection between the elements, he naturally comprehended the Fire Element with the explosion as the catalyst after understanding the Electric Element and Gold Element.

At this moment.

The familiar feeling struck again.

It was suppressive, intimidating, a deep stir in the soul!

"Thunder Tribulation!"

Lin Beichen instantly understood.

Instantly!

A thick purple-white lightning came into his view.

Through the gymnasium door's glass, he saw the lightning strike directly to the steps outside the gymnasium door.

"Bang—!"

In an instant, the already cracked steps shattered dramatically.

Shards and dirt flew.

With a crackling sound, even the glass on the gymnasium door shattered.

"..."

Seconds later, silence fell.

Inside the gymnasium, stones and dirt had bounced in, with broken glass pieces everywhere. Outside, the steps were pitch black, as if smeared with ink, with two or three steps half-broken, looking even more desolate.

At this moment, Lin Beichen was excited, yet puzzled.

A thunder tribulation descending meant he truly had made a breakthrough in cultivation.

Excited about the breakthrough.

But puzzled over which realm he had reached with the Fire Element this time.

Was it the First Realm of the Fire Element?

Or...

Based on past experience, was it the Second Realm of the Fire Element?

"Is the cultivation of the Fire Element distinct from other elements, having a separate enhancement standard?"

Lin Beichen's eyes reflected a thoughtful look, but the next moment, the expression in his eyes was replaced by astonishment.

The sensation he had just experienced hadn't fully faded.

At this moment, it resurged!

Lin Beichen was dumbfounded.

Thunder tribulation...

Double strike?

Chapter 224: Tempering the Heart, Shocking News!

"Crack—!!"

The sound of tearing fabric exploded.

It seemed like a copy-paste effect.

Another thick flash of purple-white lightning!

The imprint from the bolt in the previously clear sky had not yet fully dissipated before another one followed immediately, adding a fresh mark in the sky.

Although the trajectories in the sky were different, the impact point was nearly identical.

Still on the steps in front of the sports hall.

"Bang—!!"

With a loud explosion, the scene just witnessed played out again.

Dirt and rocks flew everywhere.

However, unlike before, this time the glass over the sports hall door did not shatter.

Soon, the surroundings fell silent again.

The steps outside the door were now completely destroyed.

At this moment, Lin Beichen had a bright and cheerful smile on his face, oblivious to everything around him.

When the second bolt of lightning struck, he suddenly understood what had puzzled him earlier.

This two-consecutive Thunder Tribulation marked the instant Fire Element's advancement to the Second Realm—Reverse Truth Realm.

And the reason it directly skipped the First Realm was roughly what he had thought earlier.

"The advancement of the Fire Element is like that of the Gold Element and Thunder Element. If so, does that mean the next step is to forge the Fire Element into the Third Realm as quickly as possible through tempering?"

Lin Beichen unconsciously touched his heart.

Unlike tempering the liver and lungs before, the heart was more intolerant, and its importance to the human body went without saying.

A slight mistake...

It could really be life-threatening!

This time, he planned to temper it gradually and steadily.

"But first, I have to sense the Fire Element in the world before tempering."

Lin Beichen immersed his mind in his surroundings.

Instantly!

The Fire Element appeared.

The Fire Element between heaven and earth was even hotter, brighter, and more violent.

This discovery further solidified his plan for tempering.

Lin Beichen began absorbing the Fire Element from the world.

He stopped after just gathering a small amount and moved it towards his heart, then started tempering.

"Boom——!!"

For a moment, Lin Beichen seemed to hear the violent roar of flames reaching a certain intensity, coming from his body, more accurately, from his heart.

At the same time.

He felt as if his heart was thrown into a fire.

Blazing Flame scorching his heart!

The saying goes, "The ten fingers are connected to the heart." When a fingernail is split or a finger is broken, the pain can feel like it's piercing the heart, making it unbearable.

Not to mention right now, the pain was directly on his heart.

The pain was so intense there were no words to describe it.

"Ah!!"

With a cry of pain.

Lin Beichen clutched his chest and collapsed to the floor, sweat instantly soaking his clothes, his entire body turned red, and a layer of blood color surfaced on his clean white skin, with wisps of white smoke rising from his body, dissipating into the air.

He looked...

Like a steamed crab that had been placed into a steamer.

However, this sudden situation came and went quickly.

The entire process lasted only a few seconds.

"Phew—"

Lin Beichen took a deep breath, showing no signs of fright on his face.

He could clearly feel that the amount of Fire Element used for tempering just now had caused no harm to his heart.

It was simply a very painful process.

"Not even close to my limit of endurance, this tempering intensity can still be increased."

In cultivation, Lin Beichen was strict with himself.

He had high standards.

It was precisely because of this, coupled with his extraordinary perception, that he was able to progress so smoothly on the path of immortality.

Advancing rapidly.

After resting for a few minutes, Lin Beichen felt significantly recovered and, without wasting time, began absorbing more of the Fire Element from heaven and earth, accumulating a larger amount than before, then proceeded to temper his heart.

"Ah!"

The cries of pain echoed once more!

Even though Lin Beichen had mentally prepared himself fully for the hellish pain before starting the tempering, the feeling of Blazing Flame scorching his heart overwhelmed him beyond his ability to stay silent.

Just then.

Many students came running into the gym from outside.

"Are you alright?"

"Hey? Isn't this Lin Beichen?"

"Lin Beichen, are you hurt by the thunder?"

"Oh my god, why is his body so red!"

"..."

These students were free at the time, loafing around on campus when they saw the bolts of lightning split from the clear sky for no apparent reason, and out of curiosity, followed the rough location of the strikes to investigate.

When they arrived around the gym and saw the devastating scene, especially the large scorched area where the steps used to be, they immediately concluded the two bolts of lightning struck here.

They flocked to the gates of the gym from all sides.

Before they got the chance to discuss why two bolts of lightning appeared in a clear sky and struck here, they heard cries of pain coming from inside the gym.

That's why they rushed in hurriedly.

As someone in the crowd shouted, "Don't just stand there! Quick, call the school doctor!"

The shout snapped the onlooking students back to their senses.

Several students thought even the school doctor might be of no help and had already taken out their phones, ready to call for emergency help from a hospital.

Chapter 225: Tempering the Heart, Shocking News!_2

But before they could take any action.

Lin Beichen's voice rang out.

"No need, no need, I'm fine."

At this moment, all the various pains from tempering his heart had already faded. Apart from his skin being flushed red and taking a while to return to normal, Lin Beichen looked as if nothing had happened.

Feeling the puzzled and astonished glances of the surrounding students, Lin Beichen knew that there's no way he could explain it clearly to them.

It would be a waste of breath.

It was better to prove he was fine by his actions.

He smiled and nodded at the students around him, expressing his gratitude for their kindness, and then he left the gymnasium directly.

Leaving behind a crowd of people staring blankly as he gradually disappeared from their sight.

"Is he really okay?"

The students recalled the way Lin Beichen looked when he left, his posture straight, his steps steady and strong, he didn't look like he was in trouble at all.

But what was that state he was just in?

They didn't understand.

At the same time, the forum of Imperial Capital University was filled with posts about the two mysterious lightning strikes on a sunny day.

[Another sunny day thunderbolt, the last time I saw such a strange scene was at the beginning of the school year when a lightning bolt knocked out power in the teaching building!]

[What's going on, is our Imperial Capital University so prone to getting struck by lightning? Even on a sunny day, it doesn't spare our school, and this time there were two lightning bolts, striking fiercely!]

[I was just in class, and suddenly there were two crashes of thunder, you tell me if that's scary or not!]

[...]

Thunder on a clear day is not a common phenomenon.

And yet, in the span of over a month, it happened twice, and the second time there were two lightning strikes in quick succession, which was truly bizarre.

However, these posts just expressed confusion and surprise, not making much of an impact.

The excitement died down after a while.

Just as this incident was about to be old news on the forum,

The students who had gone to the gym posted a few updates that brought the topic back to the forefront.

[This time, the two lightning strikes hit the front of Lin Beichen's gym, turning the steps of the gym into rubble.]

[Live photo of the gym entrance.JPG!]

[...]

"Oh my God, such a huge charred area, the lightning really struck the entrance of the gym!"

"The power of this lightning is really something, it turned the steps into this, tsk tsk tsk."

"..."

Students continued building on these newly posted threads.

Quickly, one comment grabbed everyone's attention.

"Didn't Lin Beichen say in an interview that he was researching Thunder Skills and cultivating immortality? Could it be that he summoned the lightning? LMAO.JPG"

It was evident that this comment was made in jest, and the replies were also filled with humor, poking fun at the idea.

"You know what, I actually think your idea is kinda interesting."

"Bro, I'm with you on that one."

"..."

No one took it seriously.

However, mentioning Lin Beichen reminded those students who were at the gym about his earlier state, and they started sharing.

"Lin Beichen was in the gym at that time, his body was flushed red and drenched, looking quite terrifying."

"I had just arrived outside the gym and heard screams. When I went in, I saw Lin Beichen collapsed on the ground, shivering."

"To add to what the person above said, that's indeed what happened, but after we gathered around, Lin Beichen walked away as if nothing had happened."

"..."

They shared this information.

Everyone started to speculate various theories.

Some said Lin Beichen was using the opportunity of the lightning strike to create some hype for himself.

Others suspected that the lightning strikes might really have something to do with Lin Beichen. After all, two strikes hitting the exact same spot on a sunny day was too much of a coincidence, but no one could say for sure what the connection was.

Yet no one seriously considered the cultivation theory.

The idea of cultivating and the unexplained double lightning strikes in the same place...

If you had to choose between the two possibilities,

Anyone would undoubtedly choose the latter.

In ordinary people's minds, cultivation was just too far-fetched!

...

Evening, dormitory 207.

The three roommates of Han Yuan returned from their classes to find Lin Beichen sitting at his desk, intently looking at the computer.

Han Yuan teased, "Well, well, if it isn't Lin Beichen, our rare guest."

"..."

Lin Beichen turned his head and shot him a glance, said nothing, and then went back to looking at his computer. He had long become immune to Han Yuan's sarcastic remarks.

Seeing that Lin Beichen ignored him, Han Yuan couldn't help but roll his eyes: "You disappear without a word, and when you come back, you don't say anything to anyone."

As he spoke, he waved his phone at Lin Beichen.

The screen displayed the Imperial Capital University's forum.

"If it weren't for the forum, we wouldn't even know you had come back."

At this, Han Yuan swiftly changed his tone and asked quickly, "Where have you been these past few days? And what's this about the gym and two lightning strikes? Did you actually see them hit the gym entrance? Does it really have something to do with you?"

He was like a classic gossip monger!

Initially, Lin Beichen felt a bit guilty towards his roommates upon hearing Han Yuan's mention of them, but after this barrage of questions, he felt no guilt and simply ignored them.

Sure enough!

Wu You and Liang Dong weren't particularly interested in the issues Han Yuan pointed out about Lin Beichen, nor were they curious about those questions.

Liang Dong was more concerned and asked, "Beichen, is your body okay?"

Lin Beichen smiled, "I'm fine."

"That's good to hear."

Liang Dong sat down and started organizing his things.

Seeing himself being ignored, Han Yuan was furious, and without any regard for courtesy, he went up behind Lin Beichen and gave him a playful arm lock around the neck.

"You little rascal, daring to ignore me, I'll... Haha haha ha!"

Before Han Yuan could finish, Lin Beichen countered by tickling his sides, breaking free from the hold.

Knowing his weak spot had been discovered, Han Yuan dared not act up again.

Sitting at his own desk, Wu You was drawn to their playful banter. When he turned around, he spotted the screen of Lin Beichen's computer.

The screen showed all the active volcanoes in Great Xia.

And...

All the tabs at the top of the page were also related to volcanoes.

Wu You asked quizzically, "Hey, Beichen, why are you searching for volcanoes? Are you planning to go to a volcano?"

"Yes, that's right."

Lin Beichen had been thinking on his way back from the gym about where the Fire Element in heaven and earth would be more abundant. While tempering his heart in the gym, he realized that the Fire Element in the air was too sparse.

For now, when he had just started cultivating the Fire Element, it might barely suffice.

But as cultivation deepened and the heart tempering became more intense,

The sparse Fire Element in the air wouldn't cut it.

After thinking it through, he recalled the time he felt the Fire Element during the base explosion. He speculated that near volcanoes, especially around the caldera, the Fire Element should be exceptionally abundant.

Of course, he wasn't sure if his speculation was correct, but it seemed likely.

He planned to go near a volcano to feel and confirm it.

Han Yuan looked at Lin Beichen with a mixture of envy and resentment, "Watching you run off to have fun every day, especially with the counselor's permission, do you know how much it pains your brothers here?"

"I don't know."

"How about you ask the counselor to let me tag along next time, and I'll explain it to you on the way?"

"No need."

Lin Beichen flatly rejected Han Yuan.

Just then, Liang Dong thought of something and smiled, "Beichen, if you want to go to a volcano... I have some good news for you."

Chapter 226: Setting Out on Divine Expedition, Turning the Tide with Sheer Strength!

Good news?

Upon hearing Liang Dong's words, Wu You and Han Yuan paused for a moment, then their faces showed a look of realization, they nodded their heads knowingly.

"It really is good news."

"What good news?"

If it were only Han Yuan talking about this, Lin Beichen might not be very interested, but since all three of his roommates were saying the same thing, he became a bit curious.

"It's..."

"Hey hey hey, hold on."

Han Yuan quickly stepped forward and covered Liang Dong's mouth to prevent him from spilling the good news, then he turned to Lin Beichen and said, "If you want to know the good news, you need to promise me one condition."

"Then I won't listen."

Lin Beichen had already found a way to deal with Han Yuan; he just used his talent for ending conversations abruptly to stop the dialogue.

Han Yuan got anxious; he hadn't even mentioned the condition yet, what was going on?!

However, before he could speak.

Wu You smiled and revealed the good news: "When you went out two days ago, the list of those going to Shenzhao University in the Divine Light Country for academic exchange this year was published, and your name is on it."

Every year around this time, Imperial Capital University would go to Shenzhao University in the Divine Light Country for academic exchange, it has become almost a tradition.

This was an important event for both schools.

Even Lin Beichen, who usually didn't care about outside matters and only focused on cultivation, knew about this.

"My name is on the list?"

Lin Beichen looked surprised.

The configuration for the yearly academic exchange had always been fixed: the principal would take a few teachers, along with the excellent students from the second and third years.

He had never heard of any year taking a freshman along.

The three roommates nodded.

Liang Dong laughed, "At first, we thought we were seeing things, so we checked the list several times, and indeed, it was you."

Han Yuan wore an envious, jealous, and somewhat acid expression, "If you weren't the number one in the history of the college entrance exams, with all your family information dug up, I'd believe you were the principal's illegitimate child. You never attend classes, always ask for leave to go out, yet the school doesn't hold it against you and even takes you to Divine Light Country for academic exchange, I really..."

He couldn't continue, feeling that further talk would just make him die of envy.

By now, Lin Beichen was pretty certain that he was going to Divine Light Country for academic exchange and thought to himself this was indeed good news for him.

It's well-known that Divine Light Country has the world's largest active volcano – Jingli Mountain.

This Jingli Mountain is located in Hengban County, where Shenzhao University is.

If he were to go for academic exchange...

He would definitely have a chance to visit Jingli Mountain.

To confirm whether his speculations were correct, the world's largest active volcano would certainly be the most authoritative.

If he couldn't sense a denser concentration of fire elements at the world's largest active volcano, then there was no need to mention other active volcanoes.

"Where can I see the list?"

Lin Beichen had only heard about the academic exchange, but understanding where to check the list was beyond him.

Liang Dong, at the neighboring desk, operated on his computer for a while and then brought up a page.

The entire page displayed just an announcement.

First, the list of personnel for academic exchange to Divine Light Country was announced, listing a dozen names, with Lin Beichen's name at the end.

Below the series of names were instructions for the upcoming academic research trip, advising everyone to prepare their passports and personal belongings, and so on.

Confirming the list himself and seeing his name on it, Lin Beichen was now entirely sure he was going to Divine Light Country.

Leaving on the 8th?

There were still five days left.

Lin Beichen didn't want to waste time. He quickly arranged his schedule for the upcoming days: starting from tomorrow, he would continue cultivating until the day before departure, then buy some things and pack up.

The next day.

Lin Beichen arrived at the gymnasium.

On his way back to the dormitory yesterday, he had already reported the gymnasium's issues to the logistics department.

To be fair, the logistics department of Imperial Capital University responds quickly.

Even for an abandoned gymnasium...

Today, the gymnasium's main door had been replaced with glass, the steps in front had been repaired, and they were covered with boards to prevent anyone from stepping on the cement, dirtying their shoes, and damaging the still-drying steps.

At the moment, quite a few people were gathered outside the gymnasium.

It had completely returned to the state of being surrounded by spectators as it was some time ago.

This was all thanks to the discussions on the Imperial Capital University forum yesterday, informing students that Lin Beichen had returned to the gymnasium with something new worth observing.

"Lin Beichen looks quite normal today."

"Yes, yesterday his whole body was red, no idea what was going on."

"Do you think the same thing will happen again today?"

"..."

The murmurs of discussion continued outside the gymnasium.

Lin Beichen ignored it all, focusing solely on his cultivation.

Absorbing the fire elements in nature!

With yesterday's experience, Lin Beichen could now precisely control the amount of fire elements to temper his heart.

Soon, the fire elements were fully gathered.

Without the slightest hesitation.

Directly began tempering!

"Boom—!"

The sound of flames exploding seemed to come from his heart once again.

This time, Lin Beichen didn't cry out in pain; with the tempering of the previous day, he was now well-prepared both mentally and physically.

Chapter 227: Setting Off to Divine Radiance, Striving to Stabilize the Chaos!_2

But, the pain could be endured without screaming out, although the body's physical reaction couldn't be suppressed.

Lin Beichen's entire body trembled, and he was instantly drenched in sweat.

The most obvious sign...

Was naturally his skin, which turned a flushed red color.

At this moment, the onlookers around the gymnasium erupted in uproar.

"Hey, hey, look quickly, Lin Beichen's skin instantly turned red!"

"It was exactly the same yesterday, identical situation!"

"..."

The crowd watched Lin Beichen inside the gymnasium with surprised expressions, suddenly realizing that the two lightning strikes in the clear sky yesterday might really have had nothing to do with Lin Beichen.

After all...

Lin Beichen's current state was an exact replica of his state yesterday.

But there wasn't a peal of thunder in the clear sky right now.

"But how did Lin Beichen turn his skin to such a color instantly?"

Someone in the crowd muttered.

Everyone present was puzzled over this question, sparking a new round of discussion. Some said Lin Beichen was ill, others said he had prepared for the crowd by taking some kind of medication.

The explanations were wildly speculative.

And such discussions played out every day as Lin Beichen trained, right up until the day before he was set to leave for an academic exchange in the Divine Light Country.

Following his plan, Lin Beichen did not go to the gymnasium to train but instead went shopping at a shopping center near Imperial Capital University.

"They say that fruits in Divine Light Country are extremely expensive, so I have to buy some."

"Their cuisine is also bland, I can't go without Lao Gan Ma."

"..."

Soon, he was done with his shopping.

Lin Beichen paid at the checkout and walked out of the supermarket carrying several large bags. Just as he was about to hail a cab back to school to pack, he suddenly stopped, looking towards the northwest with astonishment and confusion.

"The fire elements in the air over there..."

After these days of training, Lin Beichen had firmly established himself in the Second Realm of Fire Element.

He had made great progress!

His perception of the Fire Element had also increased tremendously.

He sensed that the concentration of fire elements in the northwest was higher than the surrounding areas, significantly higher.

Although it hadn't reached an extremely dense level, it was at least several times higher than what he had perceived during his recent training sessions.

"What's going on?"

Lin Beichen was very curious, as this was the first time he had encountered such a situation.

Suddenly, he thought of his Thunder Tribulation Sword, or more precisely, the Thunderstruck Wood used to make it.

He thought, "Could it be a natural treasure similar to Thunderstruck Wood, which has a significant effect on the Fire Element?"

Lin Beichen's eyes lit up with excitement. He no longer hurried back to school, and instead, he immediately turned and ran towards the northwest.

At the same time, three kilometers northwest of the shopping center.

An old residential building with six floors was engulfed in flames. Black smoke billowed from the windows between the second and fifth floors, and red-orange flames were spreading from the second and fifth floors to the first and sixth floors.

The entire building was on fire!

The flames were raging!

Because this old building housed many elderly residents who were not very mobile, many were trapped inside since they couldn't escape in time.

"Help, help!"

"Cough, cough, help!"

"..."

Weak cries for help could be heard amid the thick smoke.

Meanwhile, the area below was crowded with onlookers.

"What do we do now!"

"It's over, it's over."

"How could the fire grow so big!"

"Where are the firefighters?"

"It's not that the firefighters are slow, the fire spread too fast!"

"..."

Voices of anxiety rose and fell.

The onlookers were anxious; after all, everyone knew each other in this old community.

However, despite their anxiety, there was nothing they could do.

They could only be anxious.

Fortunately, at this time, the sound of fire engine sirens grew closer.

Two fire trucks arrived, screaming, and stopped beneath the burning building.

Their doors opened in unison.

One after another, firefighters jumped out of the trucks.

The fire chief, Li Bin, seeing the severity of the fire, immediately started giving orders, "Set up a perimeter, use high-pressure hoses to extinguish the fire, quickly rescue the people!"

Following his command.

The firefighters, already well-coordinated, didn't need specific instructions and immediately sprang into action.

The perimeter was quickly set up.

The onlookers were kept outside.

At the same time, two high-pressure hoses began spraying, their powerful streams arcing through the air to hit the largest flames on the upper floors.

Meanwhile, more than a dozen firefighters, fully masked, charged into the inferno without hesitation.

"Alright, alright, the firefighters are here!"

"I hope everyone is safe."

"Two fire trucks are here, they should be able to control the fire, right?"

"..."

Seeing the arrival of the fire brigade, the crowd of onlookers felt somewhat relieved.

As they watched.

The streams from the high-pressure hoses quickly brought the blaze under control and started to shrink the flames.

One by one, the residents trapped in the fire were rescued by the firefighters.

Everything was moving in a positive direction.

"Captain, all the residents below the fourth floor have been rescued. Based on our information, there are no residents at home on the sixth floor at this time, which means only the ones on the fifth floor remain trapped. There have been no fatalities reported for now, most of the rescued residents are conscious, although a few have inhaled too much smoke and are semi-conscious, they've been sent for emergency treatment. The fire on the upper floors has been reduced by half."

A firefighter reported the status to Li Bin.

Hearing this, Li Bin let out a long breath. When he first arrived at the scene and saw the fierce fire, his heart sank, fearing the rescue effort would be very challenging, but it turned out to be surprisingly smooth.

"How many people are roughly trapped on the fifth floor?"

"Based on the cries for help, we estimate there are two. However, since the fifth floor is the last to be rescued, we can't rule out that someone might have inhaled too much smoke and become unconscious, unable to call for help."

"Which teams are on the fifth floor?"

The fire team was divided into groups, each consisting of two to three people, to facilitate rescue operations.

"Three teams."

"Bang——!!!!"

At this moment, a loud explosion rang out.

In the next instant.

A series of explosions followed.

With these blasts, flames burst forth from the windows, as if someone inside was using a flamethrower.

The fire, just about to be suppressed, suddenly surged back.

In fact, it became even fiercer than before!

"Oh my god, what's happening?!"

"Why is there another explosion?!"

"Could someone's gas tank have exploded?"

"..."

The onlookers were thrown into a panic.

All their discussions reached Li Bin's ears.

Already troubled, Li Bin's face grew even grimmer. As he arrived on the scene, he had already assessed the situation in this old community.

This neighborhood had completed a natural gas retrofit several years ago.

So, he hadn't considered the possibility of gas tanks during the rescue.

And...

They hadn't discovered any gas tanks during the previous rescues.

That made him overlook this possibility.

But now, with the explosions and hearing the residents' discussions.

He remembered that many of the elderly residents in this old community were used to using gas tanks instead of natural gas, making it highly likely that they continued to use gas tanks!

Li Bin felt a deep sense of guilt for not considering this possibility earlier.

While the rescue efforts would have proceeded regardless, the strategy might have been different, taking into account the risks to better control the operation.

However, as an experienced firefighter.

He did not lose his composure.

Just as he was about to give new instructions.

The bad news came.

"Captain, something's wrong!!"

Chapter 228: Alarming the Superiors, Hero Strikes Alone!

"What's the matter???"

Li Bin's heart skipped a beat, a terrible premonition rising within him.

The firefighter quickly reported, "We can't reach Team Three."

When firefighters enter a fire scene, they all carry walkie-talkies, which allow them to communicate with each other and with the outside world amidst the dense smoke and raging flames.

They could contact Team Three just now, but after the explosion, there's no response...

Li Bin's heart sank further; he didn't dare to think more about it.

At the same time, two firefighters ran over, one jumping down from the fire truck.

Watching them run towards him, Li Bin felt his heart sink with each of their steps.

The firefighter who jumped from the fire truck reached him first, reporting, "Captain, the fire's intensity is far beyond our expectations. I'm worried the water supply in the fire truck won't be enough. There are no hydrants nearby. To restock water, we need to go to the old neighborhood gate—I saw a hydrant there. Should we send one truck to hold the line while the other goes for a refill?"

After this report.

The other firefighter immediately added, "Captain, the time we estimated for this rescue operation is exceeded, and our oxygen supply is running low."

It never rains but it pours.

Li Bin felt all the adverse factors converging at once, seeing the fire engulfing the entire building. His heart sank to the bottom.

The ferocious flames had swallowed both the first and sixth floors.

Now the whole building was on fire.

At every window...

Thick smoke was billowing out from both the apartments and the hallways, with occasional bursts of bright red flames shooting out.

It's daunting!

Li Bin felt completely overwhelmed.

Earlier, he hadn't panicked because he believed that even an explosion in the fire scene might not necessarily harm the firefighters.

But now, the inability to contact Team Three clearly indicated the severity of the situation.

And there were so many more adverse factors.

Without two fire trucks tackling this inferno simultaneously, the fire would certainly get out of control. One truck alone couldn't handle it. If one truck braved holding the fire while the other refilled water, the building might be completely burnt down by the time water was restocked.

Despite his turmoil, Li Bin's mind remained clear.

He knew they were not only racing against time but to save people, they needed to control the fire with two trucks' water supply, and rescue those still trapped before the remaining oxygen ran out.

He had to make a judgment.

Were the firefighters from Team Three and the two remaining residents awaiting rescue already dead from the explosion? In other words, did sending people into the fire scene still matter?

Were they still alive?

Who should be sent?

...

Numerous questions flooded Li Bin's mind. He knew the value of time but looking at the roaring fire and his team of living firefighters before him, he found it hard to make a decision.

At this moment.

A firefighter shouted, "Hey, hey, this area is cordoned off. Can't you see? You can't come in!"

Many eyes were drawn to the scene involuntarily, only to see a young man carrying large bags, already stepping over the cordon, stopped by two firefighters.

This young man was none other than Lin Beichen, who came searching for "heavenly treasures."

Even before getting close, he had seen the smoke billowing into the sky and understood what was happening.

No heavenly treasures, just a fire!

Nevertheless, keen to understand the fire element better and explore its various characteristics,

he didn't return to school but came here instead.

Lin Beichen wanted to enter the fire scene to closely experience the fire element.

After these recent days of cultivation, he was already quite familiar with the fire element.

Even if he hadn't cultivated or understood the fire element, he was confident enough to believe this fire wouldn't pose any threat to him.

Entering the fire scene seemed completely safe!

And besides...

Aside from cultivation, he could also save people.

How great!

As the saying goes, saving a life is more meritorious than building a seven-story pagoda.

Perhaps this would aid his future cultivation!

Though he thought so, he still didn't know how to get into the fire scene past the cordon.

The firefighters' conversation was loud and clear, due to the raging fire's noise.

He caught every word.

Analyzing the situation, seeing the hesitation of fire chief Li Bin,

he knew his chance to enter the fire scene had come.

"I know, I saw it."

Lin Beichen nodded, then stated his intention, "I'm here to help. I can go into the fire and rescue people."

Li Bin initially ignored this, assuming it was just a bystander wanting a closer look at the fire scene. This wasn't uncommon before and happened often.

But hearing these words made his heart skip a beat, looking over involuntarily.

"This..."

Seeing Lin Beichen looking like a student, Li Bin shook his head in disappointment, dismissing what he had just heard from his mind.

Chapter 229: Disturbing the Higher-ups, The Lone Hero Marches!_2

Lin Beichen had been keeping his attention on Li Bin. Seeing Li Bin looking over, he quickly waved his hand, "Captain, Captain!"

"..."

Li Bin completely ignored him.

After the commotion caused by Lin Beichen just now, Li Bin had already made his decision—to rescue, must rescue, even if there was only a one percent chance that someone alive was trapped upstairs, he could not let go of that slightest possibility!

At this moment, he was meticulously arranging the rescue plan.

Seeing this, Lin Beichen suddenly realized that these people were not from the safety bureau, so indeed there was no reason for them to believe him.

However, this did not trouble him.

Since these firefighters were not from the safety bureau, he would let someone from the safety bureau make them believe him.

As he retracted the foot that had stepped across the cordon, Lin Beichen took out his phone and dialed Song Xiangdong.

Soon, the call connected.

Song Xiangdong's hearty laughter came through, "Lin Beichen, what can I do for you?"

"Director Song, I really need to trouble you for something."

Lin Beichen quickly explained the situation and stated what he needed Song Xiangdong to do.

The two firefighters who had stopped Lin Beichen didn't walk far. Listening to Lin Beichen's quick talk on the phone, they couldn't help glancing at each other and smiling silently, shaking their heads.

They both thought he was putting on a show.

What director, what calling to notify the fire headquarters to rescue people...

This is absurd, isn't it?

The two firefighters began to speculate what Lin Beichen would do next, probably pretend the phone signal was poor, and move farther away as if looking for a signal, until finally escaping from the scene?

Meanwhile.

Lin Beichen had already finished speaking.

There was a brief silence on the other end of the phone, then an answer, "Alright, Lin Beichen, I'll contact them for you."

Thinking of how Lin Beichen survived the huge explosion in Snake Eye Province unscathed and considering his physical strength in the rating test.,

Song Xiangdong had no reason to worry about Lin Beichen facing danger in a fire, moreover, it would be beneficial for his cultivation and he could also save lives.

It was a win-win situation, why not go for it?

He couldn't find a reason to refuse.

After hanging up the phone, Song Xiangdong immediately contacted the director of the fire headquarters, knowing that time meant life right now. He directly issued the order for the director to inform the on-site fire captain to let Lin Beichen into the fire scene to rescue people.

When Li Bin received the call from his immediate superior, he had just finished arranging the rescue plan and was ready for action.

"Xiao Li."

"Leader."

Li Bin was extremely surprised at this point, not understanding why the leader, whom he rarely saw, suddenly called him.

Could the fire situation here have already reached the ears of the superior?

Li Bin felt it was unlikely.

Since there hadn't been any fatalities here, logically it wasn't enough to draw such high attention.

What could it be then?

Before he could think further.

The leader on the other end spoke, "I know you are at the fire scene. I'm calling to inform you that there's someone named Lin Beichen on-site. Let him go in to fight the fire, and make him the focal point, fully cooperating with him."

Li Bin was dumbfounded.

Lin Beichen?

He went over the names of all firefighters in his team but had no impression of anyone named that.

Could the leader have received information about this place...

Sent a professional here to guide and carry out the rescue work?

Li Bin felt that was the only possibility, so he nodded and replied, "Yes, leader, I understand."

After saying that, he hung up.

Li Bin looked around, before he could loudly inquire about who Lin Beichen was, he saw the guy who had caught his attention earlier waving at him.

"Are you looking for me?"

After finishing his call with Song Xiangdong, Lin Beichen had been watching Li Bin. Seeing Li Bin pick up the phone and then look up for someone, Lin Beichen knew Song Xiangdong had arranged everything.

He added, "I am Lin Beichen."

On hearing this, Li Bin was thoroughly confused, staring blankly at him. He is Lin Beichen?

Regarding Lin Beichen being the one mentioned in the leader's call, Li Bin didn't doubt it, as the timing was impeccable. He hadn't uttered a word yet, but Lin Beichen knew he was looking for someone and had also stated the name correctly.

To say he is not...

Doesn't make sense!

He just hadn't expected the leader to ask him to fully cooperate with someone so young who looked like a student.

The two firefighters in front of Lin Beichen nearly couldn't hold back their laughter, thinking: Reporting a name? Even if you were named Lin Nancheng, Lin Xicheng, or Lin Dongcheng, what difference does it make? Can you really go in to fight the fire?

At this moment.

Captain Li Bin's voice rang out beside them, "Lin Beichen, right? Come over here."

"??"

The expression on the two firefighters froze instantly, were they hearing this right?

They instinctively turned to look at Li Bin, only to see him nod and indicate clearance.

The two firefighters were completely stunned.

They watched Lin Beichen step over the cordon and walk towards Li Bin, with only one thought in their minds—

This is truly unnerving!

Li Bin scrutinized Lin Beichen and couldn't help but reconfirm, "You are indeed Lin Beichen, the one who will enter the fire scene for rescue?"

"Yes."

Lin Beichen nodded with a smile, then handed over the bags in his hands to Li Bin, "Captain, mind holding onto these for me? I'll take them when I come out."

"..."

Seeing him remain so casual and not at all tense in front of such a massive fire, Li Bin involuntarily glanced at the packages in his hands.

Inside were fruits, snacks...

It looked more like he was preparing for a picnic.

Li Bin was left speechless; was this guy really here to rescue people from the fire? Could he actually manage it?

Even though the call came from his direct superior.

A huge question mark formed in his head.

However, he knew time waited for no one.

There was no time to thoroughly investigate anymore.

"This is a fire-fighting suit, this is a heat-resistant suit, this is fireproof clothing..."

Li Bin quickly took out various firefighter gear.

Seeing this, Lin Beichen waved his hand and took out an oxygen tank from the assortment, "Captain, I don't need any of those. I'll just take the oxygen tank."

Actually, even the oxygen tank was unnecessary for him.

Though, he considered the need to save trapped personnel inside. If there were survivors after such a long blaze, they might need oxygen.

Taking the oxygen tank as a contingency plan!

Li Bin had no idea what to think about Lin Beichen anymore, not following any conventional rules. Who goes into such a fire scene without proper gear? This was like lighting up a lantern in a dung pit, seeking death?

"No, Lin Beichen..."

"It's alright, Captain, believe me."

"..."

Li Bin thought, how am I supposed to believe you?

He trusted his own judgment more than Lin Beichen!

Planning to proceed with his organized rescue plan while also ensuring his crew would keep an eye on Lin Beichen inside the fire scene.

After all, his direct superior had personally appointed him...

Letting him just march to his death wouldn't look good.

"Groups one and two, when you go inside, follow the original rescue plan while keeping Lin Beichen protected..."

"Captain, no need for others to go in, I can do it alone."

Lin Beichen interrupted Li Bin. He knew the fire scene posed no danger to him, but it would be immensely hazardous to ordinary people, even equipped firefighters.

With that, Lin Beichen shouldered the oxygen tank and walked towards the fire scene.

"Hey..."

Li Bin wanted to say something but, recalling the leader's command to cooperate fully with Lin Beichen, he couldn't think of what to say.

He ended up just watching alongside everyone else.

The flames raged high, black smoke billowed, Lin Beichen's figure solitary, like a lone walker running against the tide.

Soon, he stepped into the flames, his outline distorted by the heat waves.

In the blink of an eye, he vanished within the raging fire.

It was as if...

He had been swallowed by the flames!

Chapter 230: It's Him, Everything is Because of Him!

"Captain, should we..."

The firefighters from Team One and Team Two were ready to go, looking anxiously at Lin Beichen who had rushed into the fire scene. They were just waiting for Li Bin's order to immediately rush in and catch up with Lin Beichen.

Li Bin nodded and said, "You guys, hurry up and follow him."

Lives are at stake!

At this moment, he didn't give a second thought to orders from his direct superior and immediately issued the command.

However, at this moment...

"Boom—!!"

With a huge explosion sound, the entrance to the hallway in the residential building was blocked tightly by a pile of falling debris.

The debris was ablaze with furious flames.

This made the firefighters from Team One and Team Two, who had responded quickly to Li Bin's command, instantly stop their sprint.

Before they could say anything...

Li Bin's voice rang out, "Quickly control the fire at the entrance first!"

He was speaking to the direction of the fire truck.

Suddenly!

A thick water column sprayed towards the entrance, and in the blink of an eye, the fire at the entrance was controlled.

The firefighters from Team One and Team Two seized the opportunity and rushed in one after another.

Inside and outside the hallway were like two different worlds.

Outside the hallway, the weather was clear, the sunshine was bright, the flowers and trees were lush, presenting a beautiful scene.

Inside the hallway, thick smoke billowed, and the blazing flames dyed everything in sight a bright yellowish red, as if they had crossed into an apocalyptic world.

"The situation is worse than what we saw from outside!"

The firefighters carefully and cautiously moved forward, searching for the stairway to go upstairs.

Each step carried great risk.

Burning pieces of wood and various kinds of debris kept falling down.

If they couldn't avoid them and got hit, whoever got hit would surely be injured!

To get injured in such circumstances...

Basically meant death!

Fortunately, the six firefighters were experienced and coordinated, and they reached the second floor without any mishaps. However, looking at the vast sea of flames without any other silhouette, they couldn't help but wonder.

Where did Lin Beichen go?

Why couldn't they see him?

The firefighters thought their coordinated speed should be much faster than Lin Beichen groping alone in the sea of fire, and significantly faster.

Although they were delayed a bit while coming in, they should have caught up with him by now.

But until now...

There was only one way up, and they didn't take a wrong path, but they couldn't see anyone.

This puzzled them greatly.

Did he really have the ability to advance faster than their six-man coordinated speed?

Or...

Did he get lost in the dense black smoke and went the wrong way?

The firefighters considered the former possibility very small, but they didn't hope for the latter, because getting lost in the fire meant...

It goes without saying!

They wanted to contact Lin Beichen, but then remembered that Lin Beichen entered with just an oxygen tank and nothing else, making contact impossible.

"We can only go to the fifth floor first!"

The firefighters believed that everything could be determined on the fifth floor.

They could determine if their teammate and trapped residents were still alive and needed rescue.

They could determine if Lin Beichen was indeed ahead of them.

At this moment, Lin Beichen, whom they were thinking about, was about to reach the fifth floor.

Lin Beichen had now comprehended the Fire Element and had a body strength tougher than pure steel. Walking through the fire scene was no different from walking in an ordinary hallway.

"The greater the fire, the more intense the Fire Element in the world, and the more apparent the fiery attribute within the Fire Element becomes."

All along the way, Lin Beichen had been understanding the Fire Element and exploring its characteristics. Although he didn't gain much, he indeed had a clearer understanding of the Fire Element compared to before.

This made him look forward to his next trip to the Divine Light Country even more.

Perhaps...

He could directly attain enlightenment of the Fire Element's Third Realm?

Based on his experience transitioning from the Second Realm to the Third Realm with the Electric Element and Gold Element, continuous training can only push strength closer to the Third Realm, but can't achieve the Third Realm.

To reach the Third Realm...

Apart from strength, an opportunity is needed!

Lin Beichen believed that going to Jingli Mountain in Divine Light Country was the chance for elevating to the Fire Element's Third Realm.

At this moment.

A faint conversation floated from afar.

"If this continues... cough cough cough... I fear we might really meet our end here."

"I'm, I'm not willing to die in this fire scene, cough cough, I'm really not willing."

"The captain shouldn't give up on us, but we probably can't wait for the rescue."

"We're just short of rescuing three trapped people. If we could get them out in time, we might not find ourselves in such a desperate situation."

"..."

Upon hearing this, Lin Beichen's eyes lit up. Without thinking, he knew it must be the trapped firefighters and residents calling for help.

They were all alive!

Lin Beichen felt happy inside; at least, the two goals he had before entering the fire scene were about to be achieved.

He followed the sound.

Soon, he saw in the vast sea of flames a corner where the fire wasn't as intense compared to the surroundings.

In the corner sat six people, three of them wearing heavy firefighter uniforms but without helmets, revealing young men in their twenties. The other three were elderly men wearing tank tops and shorts, each with a protective mask against smoke on their heads.