

Ability 231

Chapter 231: It's Him, Everything Is Because of Him!_2

Lin Beichen instantly understood the situation of the scene in front of him.

The three young men in firefighter suits were obviously firefighters, and the three masked individuals were elderly residents from the building. The firefighters were concerned about their physical condition, so they provided them with masks.

At the same time he saw the six people.

The three firefighters also saw him. Although their condition was slightly better than the three residents, they were just ordinary people who had inhaled a lot of thick smoke and experienced the recent explosion. Their consciousness was somewhat unclear, and their vision was blurry, especially since they were surrounded by thick smoke.

What they saw was a thin figure coming through the sea of fire, becoming clearer through the smoke, walking towards them.

"Help... help, we're here!"

"Is it the team here?"

"Great, we're saved now!"

"..."

The three firefighters' faces, red and blackened by the flames, instantly changed from despair and resignation to excitement and joy, waving their hands non-stop to signal their location.

As Lin Beichen walked closer, the firefighters saw clearly that he was not wearing any protective gear, just a T-shirt and jeans, with a calm expression, walking through the fierce flames as if he were taking a stroll.

"What...??"

The three firefighters were astonished.

Was this a resident trapped in the fire, or a colleague here to rescue them?

They assumed it was the former.

After all...

No firefighter would enter a fire scene without any protective gear, it wouldn't make sense or be in line with regulations.

And, most importantly...

They didn't recognize the silhouette.

At this point, one of the firefighters hoarsely asked, "Hey, are you a resident here, trapped as well?"

"No, I'm here to get you out."

As he spoke, Lin Beichen emerged from the smoke.

Now the three firefighters saw clearly that Lin Beichen was carrying an oxygen tank, without any mask on his head.

Even more astonishing to them was...

As he moved, the raging fire around him seemed to avoid him, as if he had some kind of fireproof shield over him.

His white T-shirt remained spotless, incredibly clean despite the environment.

"How is this possible?!"

The three firefighters were dumbstruck, utterly shocked, unable to believe what they were seeing; it was too bizarre.

They even subconsciously wondered if they were seeing a ghost.

But this thought only appeared in their minds for an instant, the next moment they dismissed it as absurd.

There's no such thing as ghosts!

They couldn't figure out how Lin Beichen achieved this.

While they were overthinking...

Lin Beichen had already arrived in front of them and shared his oxygen tank with the three firefighters, then glanced at the three residents and asked, "Do you have the strength to walk on your own?"

"Yes, yes."

"I can manage."

"..."

The three residents tried to stand, but having been in the high-temperature environment for a long time and mentally exhausted, they were utterly drained, unable to get up despite multiple attempts.

Lin Beichen quickly waved his hand, saying, "Alright, save your strength."

Then he looked at the three firefighters and instructed, "In a moment, you three will support them."

The three firefighters nodded.

They had just finished taking turns with the oxygen tank and their spirits were significantly restored.

Then, one of the firefighters asked, "Brother, which fire department are you from?"

Although they couldn't explain what they had just seen, it didn't prevent them from acknowledging that Lin Beichen was here to rescue them. Since they didn't recognize him, they naturally wouldn't assume he was an unknown colleague from their own fire department, leaving one possibility—

The fire is too severe.

Other fire departments must have come to assist.

Before he could finish his sentence, another firefighter looking behind Lin Beichen asked puzzledly, "Brother, why haven't your teammates arrived, did you walk too fast and they lost direction, this is very dangerous."

"I'm not from any fire department."

Lin Beichen shook his head denying, then continued, "I also don't have any teammates, I came alone."

"???"

Everyone was stunned by these words.

Not a firefighter?

No teammates?

They couldn't understand why someone who wasn't a firefighter would enter the fire scene, nor how he would conduct the rescue without teammates.

But before they could think further.

Seeing the firefighters recovered, Lin Beichen said without wasting time, "Alright, support the three residents and follow closely behind me, don't fall behind."

With that, he stood up and headed downstairs.

The fire was getting bigger, staying inside any longer meant more danger.

Lin Beichen wasn't afraid but he worried about protecting these six people. If he couldn't protect them well, some of them might get injured, so the sooner they left, the better.

Watching Lin Beichen's back.

The three firefighters looked at each other, then nodded.

Although they had many unanswered questions about Lin Beichen, it didn't affect their judgment. He could walk effortlessly from the first floor to the fifth floor alone, indicating his extraordinary ability, so following him was surely the right choice.

The three quickly divided tasks, each supporting a resident, then hurried to catch up with Lin Beichen.

Like this.

Under Lin Beichen's lead, the squad re-entered the area shrouded in thick smoke, traversing through the blazing fire.

Before reaching the fourth floor.

Those following Lin Beichen noticed...

The temperature seemed to be continuously decreasing, despite being surrounded by flames; it felt cooler than the corner where they had hidden earlier.

Moreover...

Just like they had seen before, the flames hadn't shown any sign of approaching them but seemed to avoid them, as if they were also protected by the fireproof shield.

Except for the suffocating thick smoke, they even felt dazed, thinking these weren't true flames but some special effect.

Of course, the reason for these feelings was entirely due to Lin Beichen.

After days of cultivation, although Lin Beichen couldn't release Fire Element externally, his control over it had improved significantly.

Although he couldn't control the fire in the whole building, controlling a small area was still easy for him.

He controlled the Fire Element to avoid himself and the surrounding area.

However, he couldn't control the smoke with Fire Element, so except for himself, others still felt the suffocating effects of the smoke.

"How could this be?!"

The six were stunned; it was indeed a miracle for them.

Without much thought.

Soon, they fixed their gaze on Lin Beichen's back.

All the changes happened because of his appearance!

After he appeared...

Strange phenomena frequently occurred!

"It's him, it must be him!"

The six couldn't understand the principles behind it but instinctively knew he was the source. They had countless questions but knew this wasn't the right time or place.

Not only should they not distract Lin Beichen, but speaking too much would also mean inhaling more smoke.

"Wait till we're safely outside to ask!"

Chapter 232: Turning Despair into Hope, the Young Hero!

With this thought in mind, the six people suppressed all the doubts in their hearts and said nothing. They just followed Lin Beichen steadily, feeling quite relieved as they headed downstairs.

Soon, at the halfway point of the third floor.

A commotion of footsteps emerged from the crackling sound of burning flames, mixed with voices communicating.

"Speed up. At this rate, we're going to be too late."

"It is a bit too slow. From now on, even if we have to take more risks, we must pick up the pace, otherwise, I worry that even if the third team was unscathed from the recent explosion, now..."

"I agree. We'll be more careful, but we shouldn't have any problems."

"..."

Undoubtedly, the footsteps and voices belonged to the first and second teams who had followed them into the fire scene.

They were groping their way forward through the thick smoke and intense fire, struggling to make it here.

Lin Beichen and his team did not stop and looked downstairs, only to see six people in firefighting suits carefully making their way up while looking around cautiously.

"First team, second team!"

"You all came in too?"

"..."

The firefighters of the third team recognized them at once.

Hearing this, the firefighters of the first and second teams looked up and saw Lin Beichen leading the third team's firefighters and three residents quickly coming downstairs.

"Lin Beichen?!"

The firefighters of the first and second teams exclaimed in unison.

They never expected to see Lin Beichen here in such a way. To them, Lin Beichen was highly likely already consumed by the flames, yet he appeared before them, having reached the fifth floor ahead of them and even rescuing people.

How did he do it?

Not wearing a protective suit, alone, and still faster than six people!?

And...

At this moment, the firefighters of the first and second teams noticed the six people behind Lin Beichen.

The three residents were all wearing masks, making it impossible to see their expressions.

But...

The joyful smiles on the faces of the third team's firefighters were fully displayed, even emanating a sense of ease, with no trace of panic or anxiety about them.

How could this be?

How could this be their state?

The firefighters of the first and second teams knew they were well-trained, but in such a dire situation, they didn't think they could remain so calm as if they were in the same position.

On the side, Lin Beichen's expression was extremely helpless, thinking to himself, "Why did so many more people come in? Didn't I say it wasn't necessary? Now my workload has increased for no reason."

Before anyone else could say anything.

He immediately said to the firefighters of the first and second teams, "Don't come over here, stay where you are, be careful not to get hit by anything. I will bring everyone over to you, and we'll leave together."

Although Lin Beichen was helpless, he wasn't so helpless as to watch so many people possibly perish in the fire. Offering them a helping hand was just a small extra task for him.

Soon, led by Lin Beichen, the third team's firefighters joined the first and second teams between the third and fourth floors' staircase.

In an instant, the firefighters of the first and second teams felt the same as the third team.

The surrounding heat wasn't as intense, and in comparison to the high temperatures, it even felt a bit cool.

Moreover...

The flames around them seemed to be moving away from their area.

"This...?!"

The firefighters of the first and second teams looked stunned, just as the third team had when they first sensed this phenomenon.

They couldn't help but look at each other through their masks.

Four eyes met.

Their eyes were filled with disbelief.

"Don't overthink it."

At this moment, one of the firefighters from the third team spoke up, "Any questions can wait until we're out of here."

He saw them shudder, understanding their confusion, and decided to prevent causing unnecessary trouble for Lin Beichen and the others by giving a heads-up in advance.

The firefighters of the first and second teams looked at the expressions of the third team through their masks, seeing the "I understand how you feel" expressions on their faces, and firmly nodded back at them.

They didn't think much further and followed Lin Beichen out of the fire scene.

Meanwhile, outside the fire scene.

The water streams from the two fire engines visibly shrank considerably, and under such water pressure, the already hard-to-contain fire showed signs of getting out of control. The flames hadn't fully erupted yet, but the increasingly thick black smoke was a clear warning.

The expressions on the faces of the onlooking residents were not too optimistic.

"They've been in there for so long without any news."

"That young guy who went in first... he didn't look like he knew what he was doing, did he? Who goes into a fire scene without any protective gear? It's sheer madness!"

"I guess those two groups of firefighters who went in after him are probably going to handle that young guy before they get to the fifth floor."

"The fire seems uncontrollable. If they don't come out soon, I doubt anyone will make it out alive."

"I don't understand how the fire department could let such a young guy into the fire scene. It's incomprehensible, really. It's like they're making it harder for themselves and playing with the lives of the people."

"..."

Their discussions were not suppressed and were clearly heard by the firefighters inside the cordon.

Chapter 233: Escape from Desperation, The Young Hero!_2

The firefighters looked at the overwhelming flames in front of them and instinctively turned their gaze towards their captain, their eyes complex with confusion, doubt, and resentment, among other emotions.

Not having received a direct phone call from their superior leader, they thought the surrounding residents' comments weren't without reason.

Of course, it wasn't just them who had heard the surrounding residents' discussions.

Captain Li Bin also heard everything clearly. Feeling the weight of the two heavy bags that Lin Beichen had entrusted to him, his heart felt equally heavy.

Immense pressure!

Li Bin, a veteran firefighter for many years, could analyze the current fire situation better than anyone and understand its impending development.

"If this continues, we're going to face big trouble!"

At this moment, Li Bin no longer expected the teams he sent out to rescue Team Three and the trapped residents, but only hoped they could return safely to avoid further casualties.

As for Lin Beichen...

He had never held any expectations for him from the beginning, and now it was no different.

Li Bin took out the radio.

Just as he was about to contact Team One and Team Two to have them evacuate the fire scene and abandon the rescue.

Suddenly!

A series of explosions blasted out.

"Boom—!!"

"Bang—!!"

"... "

Flames erupted from different windows.

Another chain of explosions occurred!

The firefighters' reports immediately came from all directions.

"Captain, the fire is out of control!"

"Captain, the water in the fire truck is almost running out!"

"... "

Simultaneously with their reporting.

The crowd also erupted in chaos.

"Oh my god, another explosion!"

"What's going on? Another gas tank? It doesn't seem possible there are this many gas tanks exploding!"

"We're doomed, this explosion feels even more dangerous than the previous one, is everything over now?"

"I hope those firefighters are okay."

"I don't mean to sound pessimistic, but explosions from the first to the sixth floor, it's nearly impossible to get out from inside, right?"

"Didn't the firefighters say the fire is uncontrollable? If the fire keeps growing, even if people inside aren't killed by the explosions, they probably won't make it out?"

"If the fire can't be controlled, will it spread to nearby buildings, even endanger the entire community?"

"... "

The more they talked, the more anxious they became.

Even though nothing had happened yet...

They already seemed to see their homes burning down.

Li Bin was not affected by the surrounding chaos. Though he felt extremely anxious and uneasy, his mind was clear. He knew clearly that it wasn't a gas tank explosion, but naturally occurring explosions due to the intense heat of the fire.

And such explosions were not the end, but just the beginning!

There would be more to come!

"This is bad!"

Li Bin thought inwardly, then quickly started to direct the other firefighters to work, quickly implementing countermeasures.

After making all the arrangements.

He immediately shouted into the radio, "Team One, Team Two, evacuate immediately, respond if you hear!"

"... "

Silence.

No response from the radio.

Li Bin's heart sank, an even stronger feeling of foreboding than before swept over him.

"Team One, Team Two, can you hear me?!"

"Respond if you hear!"

"... "

His shouts became more urgent and his voice more anxious.

Paired with the increasingly uncontrollable fire...

It made everyone feel particularly anxious and chaotic.

He shouted for half a minute.

With each shout, his heart sank a little deeper.

Just as his heart was about to hit rock bottom, he vaguely heard a voice from within the fire scene.

"One... Two... Hear... Answer!!"

The voice was recognizable as his, yet mixed heavily with static noise.

Upon hearing that, Li Bin instantly looked up at the stairway entrance but found the flames surging, with no visible movement.

Immediately, he scanned the other people and found that they were still discussing endlessly, with no one looking toward the stairway entrance.

As if...

What he heard was just his own auditory hallucination.

"Impossible, absolutely impossible!"

Li Bin believed his mental strength was solid and didn't think he would have hallucinations due to excessive pressure. He trusted what he heard.

Moreover...

Given the current situation, he could only believe what he heard.

Without hesitation.

Li Bin continued shouting into the radio, his voice unleashed.

"One... Two, hear... Please answer!"

"Team One, Team Two... Please answer!"

"... "

His voice became increasingly clear, emanating from the fiery stairwell entrance, and permeated through the crackling sound of burning flames, gradually reaching everyone's ears.

"Someone is coming out from inside?!"

This thought spontaneously emerged in everyone's mind, and simultaneously, they all focused on the stairway entrance, their eyes filled with hope, eagerly looking forward to seeing everyone come out from that place.

"... "

Silence.

For a moment, no one spoke.

Everyone concentrated on the stairway entrance. Soon, they were surprised to see many shadows suddenly appear in the blazing yellow light of the fire.

The shadows, distorted by the high temperature, appeared as vertical lines with indistinct contours.

"It's humans!"

"Many people!"

No one was foolish; shadows moving from the fire scene could only be human silhouettes and nothing else.

They didn't dare to blink, fearing missing something.

Under their watchful eyes.

Soon, the distorted shadows became more solid, and their shapes clearer, unmistakably showing human figures.

All of them showed expressions of "I knew it," but within seconds, their ecstatic looks froze, replaced by shock in their eyes.

At the stairway entrance.

Lin Beichen emerged first from the fiery barrier, wearing a smile as refreshing as a spring breeze and looking spotless.

Following him.

One by one, the firefighters and the three trapped residents squeezed out one after another.

Those who walked out from the fire scene appeared relaxed, as if casually strolling out to throw away some trash from their building.

For a moment, the scene fell into deeper silence.

Of course, such silence lasted only for an instant.

The next moment, more heated discussions than ever broke out.

"Is it an illusion? How come those coming out from the fire don't look like they came from a fire scene at all?"

"No way, compared to those firefighters emerging from the fire, why is this young guy coming out first completely free of dust?"

"If I'm not mistaken, did everyone who went into the fire come out? No one left behind?"

"So many people came out without anyone dying, and judging by their looks, none of them were injured?! This is truly remarkable!"

"... "

They freely expressed their thoughts.

But the firefighters within the safety perimeter had strict discipline; they couldn't casually speak out, although their thoughts were no less numerous than those of the onlookers.

Among them...

The one with the most active mind was Captain Li Bin.

Li Bin looked in disbelief at the scene before him. In his view, given such flames, it would already be miraculous if Team One and Team Two could make it out. Yet, everyone came out, including the trapped residents, and they all looked in excellent condition, as if they hadn't just gone through a massive fire!

"This... "

Li Bin's gaze couldn't help but lock onto Lin Beichen walking towards him again. Though he hadn't asked yet, somehow, he felt that all of this was because of him.

"How did he manage this?!"

Chapter 234: Senior Officials Intervene!

Not only was Li Bin, who wasn't at the fire scene, puzzled about how Lin Beichen managed it, even the people walking out of the fire scene behind Lin Beichen didn't know.

At this moment, although they had come out of the fire scene, their eyes still hadn't left Lin Beichen.

The expressions on their faces were very exaggerated, full of shock and incredulity, and their eyes were filled with disbelief.

The firefighters from groups one, two, and three and the trapped residents didn't have a smooth escape from the fire scene. The series of explosions just now had affected them.

Or, to be more precise.

Had directly impacted them.

Seeing the raging flames surging towards them, they even felt that they would be devoured by the flames in the next second.

But unexpectedly...

The surging flames had already rushed in front of them, and at this moment, a golden light flashed past, and the flames seemed to hit a copper wall and iron wall, directly passing over their heads.

Only then were they completely unharmed!

They didn't understand what had happened, but as before, they knew this must be because of Lin Beichen.

"Who on earth is he?"

"What exactly are his abilities?"

"..."

A series of questions had been echoing in their minds from the fire scene till now, and they couldn't hold it in any longer.

Just when they were about to ask Lin Beichen.

Li Bin's voice rang out.

"You all are okay... that's really great!"

Speaking, Li Bin had already walked up to Lin Beichen and the others. He first glanced excitedly and joyfully around at his team members and the rescued residents, and finally turned his gaze to Lin Beichen, his eyes complex.

Lin Beichen, however, didn't have too many thoughts.

Having felt the Fire Element in the fire scene and rescued the people...

He had achieved all his goals before entering the fire scene.

He didn't want to stay here any longer, there was no need to. He was ready to take his stuff and go back to school to pack for his trip to the Divine Light Country tomorrow.

"Captain, where did you put my stuff?"

"In the car."

Li Bin saw that Lin Beichen wanted to leave, so he didn't hold back anymore and quickly asked, "Hello, I want to ask..."

"Hey, hey, hey, what are you doing, didn't you see the caution tape? You can't go inside anymore."

A warning voice interrupted his question.

Instantly!

Everyone looked in the direction of the voice.

They saw five people, wearing sharp suits, and it was clear from a glance that they had an extraordinary aura. At this moment, they were being stopped by firefighters within the caution tape.

"Why are there more people trying to break through the caution tape?"

Li Bin and the other firefighters were all very puzzled.

In the past, during fire rescues, it wasn't common for people to inadvertently break through the caution tape. It wasn't often, and among ten outings, it might not even happen once, let alone having it happen several times during a single rescue operation.

However, they were all confused.

Lin Beichen, on the other hand, knew clearly what was going on. Seeing the attire of the people who arrived, he already knew their identity—

They must be agents from the Safety Bureau!

And the actions of these men in black suits confirmed his guess.

The two men in sharp suits out of the five directly pushed aside the two firefighters blocking their way, then the remaining three men stepped over the caution tape, placing their hands inside their suit jackets, seemingly reaching for something.

At first glance...

It was like they were going to draw guns and start shooting, just like in the movies.

The onlooking residents were startled, thinking they were encountering some criminals. They instinctively took a few steps back. In their eyes, these people were scarier than the raging flames.

"Who are these people? Why do they look so fierce!"

"What's going on, is someone causing trouble?"

"Aren't these people here to cause problems? Are they blind or what, can't they see they're facing firefighters?"

"..."

The firefighters were originally puzzled and confused by the actions of the five men, not understanding what they were doing, and they were stunned.

Hearing the discussions around them, they immediately snapped out of it.

Li Bin no longer cared about asking Lin Beichen anything. He frowned, stepped forward quickly, and shouted, "Who are you, and how dare you forcibly break through the caution tape?!"

"Captain Li, right?"

The leading man in the black suit had already taken his hand out from his suit jacket, holding a credential. He walked up to Li Bin and then opened it.

"I am an agent from the Safety Bureau."

The man in the black suit revealed his identity in a voice that only he and Li Bin could hear, and then continued, "We will take over and handle the situation here. It has little to do with your fire brigade. You just need to deal with the fire on-site. Of course, if you have any doubts about my identity, you can verify the credential yourself."

As expected!

The identities of these five men were indeed agents from the Safety Bureau.

After Song Xiangdong hung up the phone, he was very aware of the impact of each of Lin Beichen's actions, so he immediately ordered nearby Safety Bureau agents to go to the scene, handle it, and control any potentially shocking information from leaking.

"Safety Bureau??"

Li Bin was dumbfounded. He didn't even suspect the authenticity of the credential.

Chapter 235: Senior Officials Intervene!_2

In the Great Xia, you have to know that the Safety Bureau represents the most mysterious and powerful department. Anyone daring to impersonate this bureau is simply looking for trouble.

Who would dare pretend to be an agent of the Safety Bureau in front of a fire scene?

Clearly...

There was nothing happening at the scene!

Li Bin couldn't think of anyone who would engage in such a risky impersonation with no benefits, so he concluded that these must be real Safety Bureau agents.

"But it was just a big fire..."

"And nobody was injured or killed."

"How could this alarm the Safety Bureau?"

Li Bin was completely confused. The series of strange events made him feel dazed.

The agent ignored Li Bin, who was standing there like he was being punished, and instead walked straight to Lin Beichen. A somewhat stiff smile appeared on his face as he said, "Lin Beichen, we are here on orders from Director Song to handle the aftermath. Director Song instructed that you return to school immediately and don't have to answer or deal with any questions."

"Okay."

Lin Beichen smiled and nodded. He was happy to explain things if someone would understand, but it seemed like explaining would be pointless. freewebnovel.com

There was nothing more to say.

Lin Beichen walked straight to the car that Li Bin had just pointed to, took out his bags, and walked toward the police line.

"Hey?!"

The firefighters instinctively wanted to stop Lin Beichen.

Li Bin knew the identities of the Safety Bureau agents, but they didn't.

They were still puzzled about what the Safety Bureau agent had said to their captain to get such a big reaction without explaining anything, and now Lin Beichen was leaving.

How could that be?

They didn't want to detain him as a suspect; they had too many questions to ask Lin Beichen and too many thanks left unsaid.

If he just left...

Who would they say all those things to?

Just as the firefighters were about to step forward to stop Lin Beichen,

Li Bin spoke first before the Safety Bureau agent could: "Let him leave."

Li Bin finally understood why the Safety Bureau was involved when he saw this attitude towards Lin Beichen.

It was all because of him!

Because of Lin Beichen!

Li Bin looked at Lin Beichen with complex emotions, watching him carry his things and disappear at the edge of his vision.

The onlookers were getting more curious and talkative.

"What's going on? Why did that young man leave?"

"It seems that the young man is a hero who saved people. They just let him go?"

"What's happening? The firefighters seemed like they had a lot to say to that young man but said nothing instead and let him leave?"

"..."

They didn't understand.

Neither did the onlookers nor the firefighters. They could see their captain, like them, with a lot of unspoken questions, yet he let the young man go just like that.

"Captain..."

"Quiet!"

Li Bin shouted, offering no further explanation.

Since Lin Beichen entered the fire scene, everything had been peculiar. Now with the Safety Bureau involved, he knew it was probably related to sensitive information, and the less they knew, the better.

Li Bin didn't want his team talking too much, so he immediately ordered, "Our responsibility is just this fire. Don't overthink the rest. Any questions we can discuss later!"

"..."

Li Bin was usually not this firm.

At this moment, hearing him speak this way,

The firefighters exchanged glances, realizing their captain meant business.

No one dared to say more.

They all focused on controlling the fire.

But they couldn't help thinking about that young figure surrounded by flames.

Meanwhile, Lin Beichen walked away from the burning building and quickly hailed a car back to school.

In the Imperial Capital, drivers were known for their enthusiasm and hospitality, making sure conversations flowed.

"Young man,"

The driver, seeing Lin Beichen silent, struck up a conversation, "I heard from other drivers that there was a big fire where you got on. Did you see it?"

"Yes."

Lin Beichen nodded, thinking he not only saw it but was also in it.

Of course, he wouldn't tell the driver about any of that.

"Really? I heard the fire was fierce, was it?"

"Yes."

"I heard there were explosions, very scary!"

"It was alright."

"Hey, your destination is Imperial Capital University. Are you going to visit the campus?"

"No, I am a student there."

"What?! You study at Imperial Capital University? No wonder you looked different as soon as you got in. How do you usually study? Any tips for me? My kid just started kindergarten, and I want to prepare him early to get into Imperial Capital University."

"..."

Lin Beichen initially responded casually, but with the driver's relentless questions, he soon lost even the desire to feign interest.

If he could choose...

He would rather go back and forth ten times to the fire scene than stay in this taxi.

Fortunately, they soon reached Imperial Capital University.

The driver, still unsatisfied with the lack of conversation, said, "You seem nice, can I get your contact info..."

"Bang—!"

He was cut off by the sound of the door closing.

Lin Beichen didn't want to stay a second longer. He quickly took his belongings and headed straight for his dorm to pack his bags.

Just as he was almost done,

His three roommates returned from class.

Han Yuan looked at the big suitcase, clicked his tongue, and said, "Ready to head to Divine Light Country already?"

"Yes."

Lin Beichen nodded.

Han Yuan was about to say something sarcastic but suddenly remembered something, and his expression changed dramatically, turning a bit ingratiating. He smiled and said, "Beichen brother, I've read online that the white chocolate called 'White Lover' in Divine Light Country is delicious. And the cherry blossom jelly, matcha snacks, they're all great. Can you... bring some back for me... hehe."

"Bring what back?"

Lin Beichen rolled his eyes internally, clearly getting the hint but feigned ignorance.

Han Yuan knew Lin Beichen was teasing him but continued to smile foolishly.

Then Liang Dong waved his hand and said, "Beichen, don't bring those things back. Avoid special product supermarkets."

The memory of their last trip to Moon River to buy specialties seemed like yesterday.

He was still traumatized.

Hearing Liang Dong,

Wu You was also reminded of that unpleasant experience and nodded quickly in agreement, "Indeed, you can buy anything online now; there's no need, really."

"Why not?"

Han Yuan looked at Liang Dong and Wu You in distress, "How can you not understand? What Beichen brings back can't be fake. You know nothing."

"Oh, I see, that's what you meant."

Lin Beichen pretended to understand.

Han Yuan nodded eagerly, looking expectantly at Lin Beichen.

Lin Beichen shrugged helplessly and laughed, "Our room is usually democratic. Majority rules, and since Liang and Wu both said no, we'll follow the majority."

Han Yuan: "..."

Chapter 236: The Entire School Mobilizes, Line Up to Welcome!

The next day, early morning.

Lin Beichen, carrying a bag and pulling a suitcase, arrived at the designated meeting point.

He arrived a bit early.

At this moment, other than the principal Hao Jianhua and two teachers, no one else had arrived.

Hao Jianhua looked at Lin Beichen and said with a smile, "Lin Beichen, you came quite early."

"Couldn't sleep."

Lin Beichen chuckled.

He was telling the truth.

The thought of going to Jingli Mountain and experiencing the world's largest active volcano excited him. The possibility that he might find an opportunity to break through to the Third Realm of the Fire Element had him feeling incredibly thrilled and excited.

As a result...

He had insomnia!

For someone like him who usually falls asleep immediately, this was a rare occurrence.

"So happy?"

Hao Jianhua didn't really know why Lin Beichen couldn't sleep. He thought it was because of the trip to Divine Light Country and the academic exchange, combined, that kept him awake.

"Of course."

"Then you should perform well during the academic exchange."

Hao Jianhua patted Lin Beichen on the shoulder.

The reason for breaking tradition and bringing a freshman like Lin Beichen wasn't solely because of his close relationship with the security bureau. While that certainly played a part, it was mainly because of Lin Beichen's own merit — the first person in the history of Great Xia's college entrance exam. He believed in Lin Beichen's abilities and thought he could contribute to the academic exchange.

Moreover...

The most important reason was that Shenzhao University was very interested in Lin Beichen. They mentioned him frequently, nearly directly naming him to participate in the academic exchange.

"??"

Lin Beichen was puzzled upon hearing this. According to Han Yuan and others, he was just going to be a bystander. How did it turn into him needing to contribute? He hadn't attended many classes; what could he exchange academically?

He considered telling the principal the truth but thought if he did, he might not be allowed to go.

That wouldn't do!

Lin Beichen could technically go alone, but it would be a complete waste of time, and he couldn't wait any longer.

Lin Beichen forced a smile, nodded, and said, "No problem, Principal."

"Haha, good."

"..."

As they chatted, others participating in the academic exchange began arriving one after another.

Soon, everyone was present.

Hao Jianhua counted the number of people, confirmed it was correct, signaled for everyone to board the bus to the airport. They arrived at the airport and successfully completed boarding without any mishaps.

Once the time arrived, the plane took off.

The Imperial Capital is very close to Hengban County, where Shenzhao University is located. The flight lasted less than two hours, even shorter than many domestic flights.

As the plane landed smoothly, Hao Jianhua led the participants to retrieve their luggage from the carousel and headed towards the exit.

Divine Light Country's local customs were unique. Unlike other countries where exits were straightforward, the airport exit here required an identity check and a scan of carried luggage, similar to entering.

Hao Jianhua's group queued for the inspection.

One by one, they passed smoothly.

Until...

It was Lin Beichen's turn.

Lin Beichen placed his suitcase on the screening machine, watching it go along the conveyor belt into the scanner. He inserted his ticket into the check-in slot and walked through the metal detector frame.

Just then, the expressions on the faces of the Divine Light Country airport staff behind the computers changed, their eyes brightened as if discovering something novel.

They exchanged quick glances, then swiftly got up and approached Lin Beichen before he retrieved his luggage from the conveyor belt.

"Hello, sir."

Standard Divine Light Country bow.

One of the staff, smiling, said, "Please show your identification documents."

"What's happening?"

A teacher's voice was heard.

This teacher was from Imperial Capital University's Divine Light Language department, brought along as a translator.

Hao Jianhua and others gathered around, faces filled with confusion, looking at the staff blocking Lin Beichen.

Facing so many people immediately...

The staff showed no sign of panic, calmly looking at the teacher who had spoken, and said, "Nothing special, just a minor code anomaly during ticket inspection. We need to verify this gentleman's identification again."

"I see..."

No one had worked at an airport before, so they didn't understand the process. Hearing this explanation, they didn't think much of it.

Even Lin Beichen himself didn't think much of it.

He handed over his identification to the staff.

The staff quickly returned to their computer with Lin Beichen's ID, not operating the computer but instead stealthily took a photo of the ID with a phone, closely observing it, then exchanged subtle nods with each other.

Soon after...

The staff who had taken Lin Beichen's ID handed it back to him, apologizing, "Sir, everything has been verified, no issues. We apologize for the inconvenience and for wasting your valuable time."

Chapter 237: The Entire School Mobilizes to Line Up and Welcome!_2

"It's fine."

Lin Beichen smiled and shook his head, then put away his identification documents, picked up his luggage, and left with Hao Jianhua and the others.

The airport staff watched them leave. Once they disappeared from sight, one of them pulled out a phone and quickly dialed a number: "The target has appeared."

Naturally, Lin Beichen and his group couldn't see their actions.

Under Hao Jianhua's leadership, they arrived at their lodging hotel, settled in, and then gathered in Hao Jianhua's room.

Hao Jianhua said, "This afternoon, we will start our academic exchange at Shenzhao University. It will last for three days. This afternoon..."

He looked at the students, including Lin Beichen, and after scanning them briefly, he continued, "It will be up to you to perform well. The next two days won't have much to do with you; mainly, it will be us professors facilitating the exchange with Shenzhao University."

This was the itinerary.

Hao Jianhua was actually explaining this to Lin Beichen and the other students because the teachers had participated in several academic exchanges and were very familiar with the procedures.

"Got it."

Everyone nodded in understanding.

Seeing this, Hao Jianhua said, "Alright then, go back to your rooms to tidy up and prepare. After dinner, we'll head to Shenzhao University together."

"Okay!"

Everyone got up and walked out.

Lin Beichen intentionally walked slowly and soon found himself lagging behind.

Hao Jianhua noticed Lin Beichen's dawdling and awkward gait, and since everyone else had left except for him, he knew there must be something up.

"Lin Beichen, why are you still here? Do you need something?"

Hao Jianhua asked directly, not beating around the bush.

Lin Beichen was thinking of asking something. Upon hearing Hao Jianhua's question, he felt relieved and said, "Yes, Principal. I do have a small matter I want to consult with you."

"I had a feeling there was something up with you."

Hao Jianhua laughed heartily, then impatiently said, "Alright, just spit it out."

"It's like this, Principal."

Lin Beichen scratched his head shyly. "According to the schedule you mentioned, we don't have much to do in the next two days. I was wondering, could I perhaps go out and explore?"

"Go out and explore?"

Hao Jianhua was momentarily stunned, then seemed to think of something and said, "You want to go to Jingli Mountain?"

If not for Shenzhao University and Jingli Mountain, Hengban County would be a godforsaken place in the Divine Light Country.

Lin Beichen was going to Shenzhao University in the afternoon.

The only remaining place worth visiting...

... was Jingli Mountain.

Lin Beichen nodded and said, "Yes, I heard Jingli Mountain is stunningly beautiful. Since we're here, it would be a pity not to visit."

"Alright then..."

Hao Jianhua was about to agree since he also thought it would be a pity not to visit Jingli Mountain as Lin Beichen said.

But...

At that moment, he remembered how Lin Beichen always caused various incidents when he took leave to go out. He was worried that Lin Beichen might stir up some trouble in the Divine Light Country.

After all...

In the Great Xia, there was the security bureau to rely on.

But if something happened in the Divine Light Country...

It would be disastrous!

"Lin Beichen, are you sure you just want to enjoy the scenery and have a casual stroll?"

"Absolutely."

Lin Beichen instantly understood Hao Jianhua's worry. He wouldn't dare reveal his true intentions now; otherwise, he might not be allowed to go.

Seeing his firm response, Hao Jianhua felt a bit more at ease. After considering it further, he thought Lin Beichen was quite sensible and wouldn't lose control. So, he nodded and said, "Alright, I agree."

Although he agreed, he couldn't help but advise, "Although Jingli Mountain hasn't erupted in years, it doesn't mean it won't. It's the world's largest active volcano, so be very careful."

"Yes, I understand, Principal."

Lin Beichen nodded repeatedly. As long as he could go, he'd agree to anything.

After chatting a bit more...

Lin Beichen left Hao Jianhua's room, went back to his own room to refresh himself, then joined the group for lunch before heading to Shenzhao University.

The hotel was very close to Shenzhao University.

It was only about a ten-minute drive.

When Hao Jianhua and his group arrived at Shenzhao University...

At the entrance of Shenzhao University...

Compared to the grand and historically rich entrance of the Imperial Capital University, Shenzhao University's entrance had a distinctly Shenzhao and wind-like feel.

It didn't exhibit much cultural depth, but it evoked a strong sense of cultural identity.

A strong cultural identity for their own country!

The entrance wasn't grand but it had elegance.

At this moment, there were about ten people standing under the entrance.

The leading man appeared older than Hao Jianhua, with white hair but still energetic. He was dressed in traditional Shenzhao clothing and wore wooden clogs.

This man was none other than the principal of Shenzhao University, Nohara Hikofu.

Next to Nohara Hikofu were teachers from Shenzhao University, warmly dressed in traditional Shenzhao attire, hands crossed in front.

Upon seeing Hao Jianhua get off the bus, Nohara Hikofu quickly stepped forward to greet his long-time friend: "Principal Hao, welcome, welcome. Sorry for not receiving you from afar. I apologize."

He spoke in Great Xia dialect.

After so many years of academic exchange and his love for Great Xia culture, he had become a Great Xia expert.

"Principal Nohara, you said we didn't need these formalities anymore. We're all old friends; these ceremonies feel out of place."

Hao Jianhua smiled, hugged Nohara Hikofu, and started making small talk.

During their chat...

The teachers and students from Imperial Capital University got off the bus one by one.

At this point, Nohara Hikofu's gaze naturally swept across the students behind Hao Jianhua, finally landing on Lin Beichen. His eyes were filled with admiration.

"Hello, Lin Beichen."

Nohara Hikofu approached proactively.

Lin Beichen was taken aback, not expecting the principal of Shenzhao University to talk to him. However, he quickly reacted, shaking his hand humbly and smiling.

"Principal Nohara, hello."

"I've long heard of Lin Beichen's exceptional talent. I've only seen you in the news before. Now meeting you in person, I see... it's true. Your presence is even more remarkable than what's described online!"

Nohara Hikofu generously praised Lin Beichen. He felt a unique aura emanating from him.

Hao Jianhua stood aside, letting Nohara Hikofu praise Lin Beichen.

For Imperial Capital University...

Having a student like Lin Beichen, admired by an international university principal, was a significant compliment, wasn't it?

He thoroughly enjoyed this moment.

Seeing Lin Beichen getting embarrassed from the praise, Hao Jianhua couldn't help but smile and shake his head. He stepped in and said, "Alright, Principal Nohara, if you keep praising him, it'll be nightfall soon. Let's get to business."

"Yes, yes."

Nohara Hikofu nodded quickly, laughing, "I was so thrilled to see Lin Beichen that I almost forgot our main agenda."

Then he gestured towards the entrance and said, "Please, please, let this old man lead the way."

Chapter 238: Imperial University's Lin Beichen, Shining Radiantly!

Under the leadership of Nohara Hikofu, Hao Jianhua and his group quickly arrived at the large lecture hall used for academic exchanges.

At this moment, in the large lecture hall,

hundreds of seats were filled with students and teachers from Shenzhao University.

Not a single seat was vacant!

Seeing Nohara Hikofu and Hao Jianhua's group enter,

they all started to clap.

"Clap clap—!"

The applause thundered, as if it were going to lift the roof off the lecture hall.

Hao Jianhua and the teachers from Imperial Capital University were already accustomed to this; they experienced it every time they came to Shenzhao University annually.

But...

Lin Beichen and his fellow students had never experienced this before. They were immediately startled by the thunderous applause, and they instinctively looked at each other, eyes revealing surprise, completely not expecting to be so warmly welcomed.

However, they didn't have much time to think about it.

Hao Jianhua was already directing them to take their seats.

Once everyone was seated, the academic exchange seminar officially began.

The issues discussed in the seminar were not complex, but very profound.

It's simple to get a basic understanding of these issues, but deeply researching and fully comprehending them is very difficult.

Of course, this is why these issues are subjects of discussion.

Students from Shenzhao University and Imperial Capital University shared their insights freely, creating a scene of evenly matched exchange.

Both sides were strong!

This made the atmosphere extremely high-spirited, with everyone marveling at the brilliant discussions.

Until...

Lin Beichen began to participate in the exchange.

Whether it was students from Shenzhao University or Imperial Capital University, Lin Beichen initially couldn't understand their discussions on these issues, being a complete outsider without any prior study.

However, as both sides continued to exchange views, offering more and more content,

with the help of his Heaven-Defying Comprehension, he quickly grasped it.

He understood what they were discussing and the essence of the issues.

"I think..."

Every time Lin Beichen spoke, his words felt like a revelation.

Enlightening everyone!

Every time he finished speaking,

there was always a moment of deathly silence, until Nohara Hikofu and the other principals and teachers from Shenzhao University broke the silence with applause, followed by thunderous, prolonged clapping.

What Lin Beichen said not only made the exchange more exciting but also provided absolute insights into resolving these issues.

So, after the academic exchange concluded in the afternoon,

Nohara Hikofu, when bidding farewell to Hao Jianhua and his group, specifically stopped them at the school gate to talk to Lin Beichen, his eyes filled with admiration and wonder.

"Lin Beichen, your ideas can be described as ingenious and incredible. In just a few words, you could point out the essence of the issues, which is of immense international significance!"

Nohara Hikofu couldn't help but give a thumbs up, then turned his gaze to Hao Jianhua, his admiration turning to envy, and said sincerely, "Principal Hao, I truly envy your Imperial Capital University for having such talent as Lin Beichen. It is truly Imperial Capital University's good fortune. With Lin Beichen, it's possible Imperial Capital University might surpass Huaqing University."

"Principal Nohara, you flatter us."

Hao Jianhua laughed heartily and modestly, but his expression and body language showed his pride and satisfaction.

He was almost floating with joy!

Seeing the crescent moon already hanging in the sky, knowing it was late, Hao Jianhua didn't say much more and took his leave, "Principal Nohara, we shall be leaving now. See you tomorrow."

"See you tomorrow."

Nohara Hikofu, not knowing that Lin Beichen wouldn't be coming the next day, thought he would see him again and courteously bowed farewell.

Hao Jianhua waved and then led his group into the car.

On the way back to the hotel,

Hao Jianhua could no longer contain his joy in the car and praised, "Lin Beichen, your performance today was truly amazing!"

In previous years, during academic exchanges, although the outcomes were often evenly matched, since it was their home ground, the aura was always slightly lacking.

Of course, this couldn't be helped.

Unless they could completely overshadow Shenzhao University...

Just like today!

Lin Beichen single-handedly earned back the pride long suppressed for Imperial Capital University!

He was over the moon!

One of the senior sisters who came along nodded, saying sweetly, "Yes, Junior Beichen, when you mentioned that point, I was completely stunned, never having considered looking at the issue from that angle."

"Indeed, it was brilliant. I even want to open up your skull to see what's inside your head!"

"Hahaha, exactly."

"..."

Other students echoed their agreement.

The teachers, although silent, their expressions revealed that they felt the same way as the students.

Lin Beichen, being praised repeatedly, was not new to this, so he maintained his composure and smiled, "It was just a flash of inspiration, and I thought of many things and spoke. I didn't expect such an effect."

Chapter 239: Imperial University's Lin Beichen, Shining Radiantly!_2

Hearing his carefree explanation.

Everyone in the car couldn't help but roll their eyes at him.

Just like that, amidst laughter and jokes...

The group arrived at the hotel and returned to their respective rooms.

Lin Beichen had just showered and came out, seeing his phone screen lighting up constantly, he walked over and picked up his phone for a glimpse.

It's a message from the dorm group chat.

——[F4 Boy Band]——

Han Yuan: "@Lin Beichen, bro, my dear brother, did you go to Jingli Mountain?"

Liang Dong: "Is Jingli Mountain really as beautiful as the photos online show?"

Wu You: "To add, Dong bro was looking at this photo [Jingli Mountain].JPG."

Han Yuan: "@Lin Beichen!"

Han Yuan: "@Lin Beichen!"

Han Yuan: "Where are you? At this time, you can't possibly still be engaged in academic exchanges, right?"

Han Yuan: "Oh, can't say for sure, after all it's Divine Light Country, 'teachers' are plenty, having some academic exchanges is quite normal, @Lin Beichen, take care of yourself, don't wear yourself out, today's young people... tch tch tch."

Han Yuan: "No way, still not replying, this isn't like old Lin at all, could he really be engaging in 'academic exchange'?! Damn, this is too... too enviable!"

"..."

Lin Beichen glanced through the messages from his roommates, shook his head with a bitter smile, and then replied: "@Han Yuan, you've completely tarnished my honor, if you keep talking like this, I'll sue you for defamation."

Almost a second reply!

Han Yuan's message appeared in the dorm group: "Yo, all done, so fast."

Lin Beichen: "..."

Lin Beichen: "Wait for my lawyer's letter!"

Wu You: "Speaking of, old Lin, did you go to Jingli Mountain for a look?"

Lin Beichen: "Not yet, just arrived in Hengban County this morning, had academic exchanges in the afternoon, mostly student exchanges, just got back to the hotel and showered, haven't had time at all, but starting tomorrow till the day after, it's mostly teacher's exchanges, I've requested permission from the principal to go out, can visit Jingli Mountain tomorrow."

After sending the message, Lin Beichen looked into the distance through the window.

The hotel he was staying at was the tallest building in Hengban County, and his floor was near the top, providing a broad view.

In the vast darkness.

A giant outline faintly appeared at the far end of his sight.

He took a photo of the outline with his phone and sent it to the dorm group.

Lin Beichen: "This is the place I'm visiting tomorrow, Jingli Mountain."

Han Yuan: "Looks pretty far, take lots of small videos and send them in the group, we all love to watch."

Liang Dong: "For once Han Yuan is right, love to watch!"

Wu You: "Indeed, many scenes in the anime I'm following use Jingli Mountain as a model for their maps, I want to compare with reality to see if they're seriously creating."

"..."

Lin Beichen chatted with his roommates until nearly midnight, knowing he had to get up early tomorrow for Jingli Mountain, potentially gaining some insights, he decided to conserve his energy and went to sleep.

Slept until morning.

The next day, Lin Beichen woke up and took a look outside the window.

Not sure if he woke up too early or the weather was bad.

It's gray outside, looking like it's about to rain.

He got up and walked to the window, opened it.

"Whoosh——"

A gust of wind blew through.

The wind carried a damp soil smell.

"Looks like it's going to rain."

Lin Beichen's expression showed some helplessness, if he were researching Thunder Skill, he'd be delighted to see such weather.

But now...

He's researching Fire Element at Jingli Mountain.

Water and fire oppose each other.

This might badly affect the research on Fire Element.

"Still have to take a look."

Lin Beichen didn't want to cancel the trip before even reaching Jingli Mountain, it might just differ from his expectations?

Besides...

Even if there is an impact.

There's always tomorrow.

Visiting one more day isn't wrong.

Thinking so, he packed up quickly and left the hotel.

There were many taxis waiting for passengers outside the hotel.

Lin Beichen directly got into the nearest one.

Soon, the taxi left the hotel entrance.

Just as it exited the hotel premises.

A man wearing Divine Light Country's popular attire emerged from one side of the hotel.

His expression calm and his gaze sinister, he looked in the direction of the departing taxi, then took out his phone and dialed a number: "Leader, the target just got into a taxi, I heard his destination is Jingli Mountain."

He spoke in fluent Atlantis language.

Whatever was said on the other end of the phone.

The man nodded, hung up, and also got into a taxi.

"Sir, where to?"

"Jingli Mountain."

...

Meanwhile.

Sitting in the taxi, Lin Beichen had no idea he was being tracked but knew he had caught the attention of the taxi driver.

Drivers in Divine Light Country generally don't chat with passengers, preferring to keep quiet and maintain a calm atmosphere.

But this taxi driver seemed an exception.

Talkative...

If Lin Beichen didn't hear him speaking in Divine Light language, he would almost think he was in an Imperial Capital taxi.

Such a chatterbox!

"Young man, let me tell you, Jingli Mountain is at its best for viewing now, you came at the right time."

"However, Jingli Mountain might have a lot of people at this time, getting a pure scenic photo might be tricky."

"But the weather's not good today, maybe fewer people than usual."

"..."

It's obvious the driver was very proud of his hometown having a spot like Jingli Mountain, never failing to mention it.

Though Lin Beichen could understand what he was saying, he pretended not to get it, just nodding and smiling while looking around aimlessly.

He saw...

The sky, expected to clear up gradually, became more overcast, even appearing as if a thin layer of dark clouds hovered overhead.

Slender rain streaks occasionally hit the car windows.

"Looks like this rain is coming down soon."

Lin Beichen closely observed the dark clouds, the more he observed, the more he felt they would gather over the Jingli Mountain area.

Feeling quite unlucky today, he stopped watching the weather and began to look elsewhere to shift his focus.

However, this shift of focus led him to...

The taxi meter.

"?????"

Lin Beichen was dumbfounded.

The meter was ticking faster than his heartbeat!

"No way..."

"This is outrageous!"

Lin Beichen had heard of the high taxi fares in Divine Light Country before coming, but didn't expect it to be this expensive.

"Could this be an illegal cab?"

Such thoughts crossed his mind.

Once such thoughts emerged, they were hard to dismiss until reaching the destination—foot of Jingli Mountain, he asked for an official receipt on getting off, the driver issued it straightforwardly, everything conformed to regulations without any flaws, making him drop those suspicions and only think...

Taxi fares in Divine Light Country are really unaffordable!

Lin Beichen looked at the receipt in his hand, thinking about the money he just spent, ached in his heart, and his hand tightened around the receipt.

However, he did not forget his purpose here.

Soon, he put the taxi incident behind him, looked ahead, and couldn't help but exclaim in his heart:
"This is Jingli Mountain!"

Chapter 240: Identity Exposed, Pursued for a Thousand Miles!

In front of Lin Beichen was an endless range of mountains, with a towering main peak standing out in the middle, which was Jingli Mountain, the largest active volcano in the world.

And speaking of an active volcano...

However, the overall temperature of the mountain range seemed quite low.

Clearly, the mountain body near the summit was covered in white snow, with lush trees sparsely spreading from the foot to the snow-covered peak.

At this moment, the sky above Jingli Mountain was shrouded in gray clouds.

The area around Jingli Mountain was foggy; if not for the dampness felt, anyone would mistake it for smog, with visibility becoming increasingly clearer as raindrops fell from the sky.

Despite it being a rainy day, there were numerous tourists in the vast Jingli Mountain, tourists with different skin colors, speaking various languages, coming from countries all over the world.

"This is Jingli Mountain, it's so beautiful!"

"Oh my god, it's hard to imagine such enormous energy beneath this mountain."

"I heard experts say that Jingli Mountain has been getting more active over the past decades; it's predicted that it might erupt within the next ten years."

"Does that mean... This beautiful scenery is truly a once in a lifetime sight? Soon, this place will become history."

"Come on, take more photos for me. Didn't you just buy the latest high-end camera? Don't just shoot Jingli Mountain, take some of me too."

"..."

Lin Beichen walked among the crowd, completely ignoring the tourists' conversations, fully immersed in the sensation of the fire elements.

In fact, even before he got out of the taxi, as soon as he entered the area of Jingli Mountain, Lin Beichen felt fire elements much more intense than anywhere he had been before, and it wasn't just twice but significantly more intense.

Several times more!

Now, he was walking up Jingli Mountain toward the summit.

During this time...

He discovered many things.

The higher the altitude, the more intense the fire elements became; in other words, the closer to the volcanic crater at the summit of Jingli Mountain, the denser the fire elements were.

And...

As the rain intensified, the concentration of fire elements in the same area rapidly decreased.

"So..."

"The fire elements in the active volcano are indeed more concentrated."

"And this rainy weather does indeed affect the density of the fire elements."

Lin Beichen suddenly figured out many previously uncertain issues, and he also felt a huge sense of relief.

The reason was simple...

He sorted out the biggest issue he had before leaving the hotel.

"Rain will indeed affect this fire element cultivation trip."

"But..."

"The impact is not significant!"

At this moment, the rain continued to fall, heavier than before but still not too heavy, more like a steady drizzle.

Lin Beichen looked at the increasingly thick and dark clouds above the summit, only hoping that it wouldn't turn into a torrential downpour, which would truly interfere with his fire element cultivation.

"Hopefully everything goes smoothly from here on."

With that hope in mind.

Lin Beichen continued climbing up. After about an hour of walking, he reached halfway up the mountain.

It was still restrained.

If it weren't for the large number of tourists all the way, he could reach this point in minutes with his full strength.

At that moment, Lin Beichen felt someone pat his shoulder, and then heard a voice saying, "Excuse me, sir, sorry to bother you, but may I ask if you could help us take a photo?"

Standard Atlantean language.

Lin Beichen turned around and saw a foreign couple with blonde hair and blue eyes, looking to be in their thirties, with kind expressions and slightly apologetic smiles, seemingly regretful for disturbing him.

Lin Beichen glanced at the camera the man was holding, smiled, and nodded, "Sure, no problem."

Helping out while traveling wasn't an issue.

Moreover...

It's quite common to be asked to take photos at tourist spots.

Without much thought, he agreed.

Lin Beichen took the camera, looked at the couple posing, and pressed the shutter, then handed the camera back to the man.

"Thank you, thank you very much."

"You're welcome."

Lin Beichen waved with a smile and continued walking up the mountain.

Behind him.

The couple continued their loving playfulness, but upon closer observation, it was not hard to notice that their eyes never left Lin Beichen's back.

Until...

Lin Beichen completely disappeared at the edge of their sight.

They abruptly stopped their actions, the happy smiles instantly wiped off their faces, and their previously kind expressions turned extremely cold and indifferent.

At this moment, the two looked nothing like a couple, more like strangers, and even worse than strangers.

Compared to the two people Lin Beichen just saw...

It was like they had completely changed!

Then the man spoke coldly, "Target confirmed without error."

The woman didn't speak, just nodded to indicate agreement, and quickly started sending messages on her phone.

Indeed, the couple was part of the same group as the man who reported by phone at the hotel.

They had received the man's report by phone...