

## Battlefield 301

Chapter 301: Formless Combat (Purple), Master of Arms (Purple)\_2

"Impressive."

Qin Tian's lips slightly curved. Unlike other Talents, the [Formless Martial Arts] doesn't offer attribute or numerical boosts, but its impact on combat strength is equally significant.

From now on, he was not only a genius in swordsmanship but also an all-rounder in martial arts.

Besides the two Talents mentioned above, there was another Talent that was quite interesting.

This was a green Talent, called [Weapon Blessing], which could temporarily enhance the quality of weapons.

Qin Tian invested 200,000 Evolution Points into this Talent, successfully evolving it to purple.

[Name] Master of Arms (Purple)

[Type] Active Talent

[Introduction] You possess a peculiar ability to break any weapon's limits, temporarily manifesting or permanently enhancing its potential performance.

1. [Divine Weapon Blessing] (Temporary Enhancement): Uses the power of the Master of Arms to strengthen a weapon, temporarily boosting its basic properties by 50% and temporarily awakening one or more of the four enchanting powers: Sharpness, Blood Sucking, Demon Breaking, and Overload.

2. [Spirit Awakening] (Permanent Enhancement): Continuously uses the power of the Master of Arms to nurture weapons, permanently boosting their basic properties by 200%-300%, permanently awakening all four enchanting powers, and having a certain chance to awaken a weapon's spirituality, thereby granting it special abilities.

"Whoa, this Talent is awesome too~"

An excited gleam appeared in Qin Tian's eyes.

A temporary enhancement could boost weapon attributes and awaken one to four enchanting powers for himself and his surrounding teammates.

A permanent enhancement not only boosts attributes permanently and awakens all enchanting powers but also facilitates the awakening of a weapon's spirituality.

You know, the [Soul of the Gun God] Talent allows firearms to awaken the gun spirit and spirituality, and now with [Master of Arms], the path to the Shadowstrike Sniper Rifle's spirituality awakening seems even smoother.

Of course, the Black Frost Blade also greatly benefits, whether in terms of attribute enhancement or the awakening of the four enchanting powers, representing a qualitative leap for a cold weapon.

Swoosh

Black Frost and Shadowstrike appeared in his left and right hands as the power of the Master of Arms slowly flowed into them.

Swoosh—

The Black Frost and Shadowstrike simultaneously appeared in his hands with the power of the Master of Arms slowly flowing in like a gentle stream.

The blade of the Black Frost began to emit a dark blue halo, as if moonlight flowed across the metal surface, forming intricate ice crystal patterns at the blade's edge that flickered slightly with each breath, as if inhaling and exhaling Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi.

Qin Tian could feel that this battle sword was undergoing a slow yet profound transformation—its material was reconfiguring, and the edged molecular structure was becoming denser, but true evolution would take time to settle.

The response in Shadowstrike was equally noticeable.

The grooves on the gun's body pulsed like veins, the barrel warmed slightly, and faint mechanical restructuring sounds came from within. These changes appeared and disappeared intermittently, clearly not yet fully stable.

Most amazing was that Qin Tian could vaguely sense a slight "yearning" from the firearm—a sign of spirituality beginning to bud.

"It looks like it will need over a week of nurturing to complete the final evolution..."

Qin Tian gently caressed the two weapons, able to clearly sense the state of their "growth."

The cold aura of the Black Frost Blade became more contained, while the spirit wave of Shadowstrike's gun spirit ebbed and flowed like an infant's heartbeat.

This change was subtle but indeed happening.

He focused his mind and activated [Divine Weapon Blessing].

Hum—

The Black Frost Blade was instantly covered with a layer of blood-red flowing light, the cold aura at its edge surged threefold; meanwhile, a mass of blue energy coalesced at the muzzle of Shadowstrike, the barrel warming when the bullets were chambered.

This was the effect of the temporary enhancement, astonishing yet merely an appetizer compared to the imminent permanent evolution.

"Interesting."

Qin Tian's lips slightly curved, the feeling of nurturing made him filled with anticipation.

He could almost see what these two weapons would look like in a brand-new form in his hands a week later.

Apart from these three Talents, the remaining Talents were temporarily stored in the recycle bin. Perhaps one of them might play a huge role in some unnoticed future scenario.

...

One day later

The spaceship arrived at Hundred Springs Star

The first space base of the 27th Army on Hundred Springs Star floated in the deep Star Sea, like a giant diamond. Its superalloy armor reflected a cold light under the starlight.

Three layers of ring-shaped defensive belts surrounded the base, each densely packed with pulse laser cannons and ion torpedo launch silos, forming impenetrable barriers, always vigilant against potential threats in the cosmos.

Within the base, various battleships were stationed, exuding authority.

The "Canglan-class" battleship quietly docked; its massive body resembled a moving fortress, its photon sails spread like a giant whale's fin, exuding a powerful aura. A "Xuanjia-class" cruiser parked beside it, mechanical arms unfalteringly resupplying its ammunition, silver-white warheads lined up in its delivery tubes, like a poised sword blade, braced for action.

Also, "Falcon-class" small warships were neatly arranged, and the mini-cruise missiles mounted under their wings were as sharp as wasp stingers, ready to launch.

These warships combined with the majestic base painted a picture of power and authority, demonstrating the sheer strength of the 27th Army in the Li Yue Star Zone.

Through the porthole, Qin Tian observed the space base, a hint of contemplation rising in his heart.

For this operation against the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves, the 27th Army only dispatched fifteen Shadow Blade destroyers as main forces, led by six formidable figures including Luo Sen, but given the 27th Army's prowess, even without High Tier Spiritualists participating, just these ships at the first base were enough to eradicate the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves.

In the face of such a mighty Space Fleet, a Tier Seven and two Tier Six Spiritualists were simply insufficient.

Inside the space base, Qin Tian transferred to a small spacecraft, finally landing smoothly at the ground port.

The hatch opened, and they filed out one by one.

Following them, the Blood Demon was escorted off by two guards clad in heavy mecha, with specially designed metal shackles tightly locking his wrists, ankles, and neck.

The surface of the shackles was covered with dark red runes that subtly squirmed as if alive, emitting a faint halo, with each flicker inhibiting any surging Spiritual Energy within him, leaving him too weak to even lift a finger.

The lower half of his face was concealed by an almost black steel mask, the edges of which adhered to his skin, shiny with rigid metallic luster, revealing only tightly shut eyes and a tuft of disheveled black hair on his forehead.

Possibly due to the suppressive power of the runes, he was in a deep slumber, his body limp against the guard without any sign of struggle.

"Qin Tian, I will personally escort the Blood Demon to the secret base, waiting for the Dongfang Family to handover," Luo Sen said to Qin Tian with a smile, "You can explore Hundred Springs Star for a few days; Yan Qing will arrive soon, and you can bill all expenses to me."

"Yes, thank you, sir!"

Qin Tian saluted.

After being cooped up in the spaceship for over a month, he longed to return to land for a proper rest.

Arriving on a strange, fascinating planet, naturally, he wanted to experience the local customs and practices.

Qin Tian first researched the situation on Hundred Springs Star.

The ecological environment of Hundred Springs Star was extremely unique, rich in mineral and crystal resources underground, varied in types and astonishingly abundant, some of which were key materials for manufacturing high-end weapons and energy equipment, holding immense strategic value throughout the Li Yue Star Zone.

However, the planet's climate was exceedingly harsh, with daytime surface temperatures soaring to seventy or eighty degrees Celsius and ultraviolet intensity far exceeding human tolerance, plunging to tens of degrees below zero during nightfall. Such dramatic temperature fluctuations rendered ordinary structures incapable of withstanding.

Additionally, the occasional global magnetic storms disrupted the normal functioning of electronic devices, making this place unsuitable for prolonged human habitation.

Therefore, the planet was mainly under the control of the 27th Army, with only military bases and resource extraction zones established, and cities built in some relatively stable areas. Robust protective shields encased city perimeters, shielding them from extreme weather and magnetic storms.

Yet, this planet had its uniqueness—its pervasive hot springs.

These hot springs varied in size and shape, some being ordinary hot springs with warm water that alleviates fatigue, while others being Spiritual Springs which, deeply rooted underground, continuously absorbed the surrounding minerals and the energy within crystals. The spring water was rich in Spiritual Energy, making it an excellent place for Spiritualists to cultivate. Many Spiritualists would specifically apply to come to Hundred Springs Star just to cultivate in the Spiritual Springs and enhance their strength.

"Spiritual Springs~"

Qin Tian stroked his chin, a glint of insight flickering in his eyes.

Chapter 302: Spiritual Spring, Allen

Springshine City

This city is nestled in one of the relatively mild valleys of Spring Source Star, surrounded by dozens of natural hot springs. The city's buildings are arranged around these spring vents, and at night, the steam from the hot springs mingles with the lights, casting a warm golden glow.

The "Boiling Spring Tavern" is bustling, filled with the crisp clinking of glasses and the boisterous laughter of patrons.

Jingle jingle

The clear sound of wind chimes echoed in the tavern as the door opened, and many eyes involuntarily turned toward the entrance—three distinct figures were crossing the threshold.

The most striking was a towering presence over three meters tall, his broad brown-gray travel cloak nearly bursting at the seams from his massive frame. As he ducked through the doorframe, the wooden

beams groaned under the strain. A rugged face, as rough as stone, could be glimpsed under the cloak's shadow, and his large, calloused hands hung by his sides, making it easy to imagine him crushing steel with his bare hands.

The man in the middle was tall and lean, his black trench coat outlining a sharp silhouette. His face was stern, and a sheathed black knife hung from his waist.

The woman at the end seemed ordinary, wrapped in a simple, elegant pale-blue robe with a sheer white veil covering her face. However, her eyes, exposed beneath the veil, were as enchanting as an autumn pool, carrying a soul-stirring magic with every glance they cast.

Even in plain attire, her graceful figure attracted many gazes as she walked—her slender waist swayed naturally with her steps, each one seeming to walk on the edge of a heart, tempting people to lift the veil for a glimpse of her true face.

The three stood at the entrance, took a look around, and then found an empty booth to sit. Even though the booth was shielded by screens, many couldn't help but secretly observe this peculiar trio.

Qin Tian activated the electronic menu at the table and said with a smile:

"Take a look, order whatever you want to eat or drink, someone else is paying."

The Poisonous Widow lightly tapped her finger, selecting two special cocktails and a snack.

Xiong, on the other hand, was not polite. Hearing Qin Tian say to order freely, he promptly ordered every single dish on the menu.

But after all, this was a tavern, not a restaurant, so there were only about twenty dishes in total. In no time, the drinks and food were all served at their table.

Qin Tian raised a cocktail named "Blue Enchantress," first looking at Xiong, and said:

"Da Xiong, you've worked hard during this time, eat your fill tonight."

Then he turned to the Black Widow, smiled, and said:

"And wish you a rebirth, a new Chapter in life."

"Thank you... boss!"

The Poisonous Widow clinked glasses gently with Qin Tian, the crimson drink swaying within the glass, reflecting her soul-stirring eyes.

She lifted her veil, her red lips brushing the rim of the glass as the liquid slid into her mouth, leaving a sweet fruit aroma and a hint of spicy aftertaste, akin to her complex emotions at that moment.

Once, she was trapped in the mire of the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves, her hands stained with blood, her soul soaked in darkness.

But today, she sat in a warm tavern, faced with a brand-new future.

"This drink, to freedom," she said softly, her voice carrying a barely detectable tremor.

Xiong tore at a roasted, fragrant animal leg, the grease dripping along his beard, and he echoed through his chewing, "To freedom!"

Qin Tian smiled slightly, a gentle light flickering in his eyes: "And to our new journey."

The Poisonous Widow gazed at the rippling liquid in her glass, in a daze, as if seeing her past self—the woman struggling to survive in the dark, now finally emerging into a moment of rebirth.

From today onward, she was no longer "The Poisonous Widow" of the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves, but a free person with a new identity and a new life.

She raised her head and downed the remaining drink, a smile of relief tugging at her red lips.

The cocktail tasted good, with a faint fruity aroma. Qin Tian sipped it, listening to the conversations around him.

This "Boiling Spring Tavern" was one of the liveliest taverns in Springshine City, frequented by many Spiritualists and off-duty officers seeking leisure. From the idle chats of these patrons, one could glean some valuable information.

In a corner of the tavern, the conversation between two men caught his attention.

"Springshine City is still too backward, not much in terms of entertainment, it's either drinking or soaking in hot springs every day, really boring."

"That's not the main thing, there's no women here, every day it's just me handling things myself, driving me insane."

"Haha, that chick over there looks pretty nice, why don't you try hitting on her?"

"Forget it, look at the giant next to her, you can tell just from his size that he's a tough guy, I'm not going to make a fool of myself."

"Not bad, it seems you haven't had too much to drink."

"Hey, we came too late, all the surface Spiritual Springs have been scavenged, and the underground ones are either hidden deep or guarded by high-tier Mining Beasts. Just the two of us, unless we get incredibly lucky, otherwise... Forget it, I think we should just head home."

"Let's wait a couple more days, I feel there's still a glimmer of hope."

"Oh, you mean..."

"Yes, I'm talking about that kid with the bounty from the Black Cloud Commerce Association."

"I've heard, it's not right what Black Cloud Commerce Association did; sold him the location of the Spiritual Spring, then reneged on the payout and even tried to detain him, totally without integrity."

"Well, this is Spring Source Star, management is lax, and the 27th Army doesn't bother with such things. Look at how those big Mercenary Corps and associations operate, killing over disagreements, and in the end, nobody pursues them."

"Be that as it may, are you planning to find that kid and get the underground Spiritual Spring information from him? But didn't he already sell his intelligence to the Black Cloud Commerce Association, just without getting paid."

"I think that's just a smokescreen by the Black Cloud Commerce Association. If they truly had complete intelligence, why would they offer a bounty of millions to find that kid."

"Hmm, that makes sense~"

"I've heard that the kid's companion is seriously injured, and he's surely trying all sorts of ways to save their life. If we can find him, maybe we can get a share of the pie too."

"Alright, then we should keep a closer eye on our surroundings recently, I'll take another look at the bounty to deepen my impression."

On the holographic display, the picture of a young man slowly emerged. He wore a brown cowboy hat, under which a pair of bright amber eyes shone, seemingly filled with sunlight. His slightly curly chestnut bangs hung casually over his brows, adding a bit of boyish charm. In the photo, he was grinning, flashing a set of neat white teeth, his smile so bright it felt like it could dispel all gloom, making people unable to resist smiling along.

The photo showed a very ordinary name—Allen

In the booth, Qin Tian downed his drink, a faint smile playing on his lips.

Chapter 303: Black Cloud Commerce Association, Trap

After being full of food and drink, Qin Tian and the others left the tavern.

The night in Spring Glory City was very cold, with temperatures below minus ten degrees, but for a Spiritualist, such chill was nothing.

"Boss, I've heard the hot spring here is quite nice. Shall we experience it?"

The Poisonous Widow's eyes sparkled, her cheeks tinged with a slightly intoxicating blush.

Heh, this woman still has some naughty ideas.

Qin Tian suddenly stopped, looking at the dark alley in front, he said with a mild smile:

"Deal with these flies around us, perhaps I can give it a thought."

Upon hearing this, both the Poisonous Widow and Xiong instantly became alert, scanning their surroundings warily.

Swish swish swish—

Seven shadowy figures flashed by like phantoms, instantly blocking all exits of the alley. They were entirely covered in pitch-black specially designed combat suits, metallic masks with no expression hid their faces, revealing only their cold eyes.

The air suddenly froze.

The leading man held a chain entwined with dark red patterns, each link engraved with ancient binding runes, producing a faint hum with his movement.

The other six took advantageous positions, two wielded high-frequency blades, three held Spiritual Energy pulse guns, and one wore specially made metal gloves with scarlet Energy Crystal Stone embedded at the knuckles.

"Just arrived on the first day and someone's targeting me. Whose people are they?"

Qin Tian's eyes were deep; there were not many individuals or forces that held grudges against him, the Blood Demon Cult and those Evil God Followers were the deepest involved.

"Leave two alive." Qin Tian issued a command via soul transmission to Xiong and Poisonous Widow.

Almost at the same moment, the seven assassins struck suddenly!

The chain-man flicked his wrist, the dark red chain shot out like a living creature, splitting into dozens of blood-red streaks in the air, instantly entangled Xiong's limbs. The binding runes lit up with scarlet light, truly suppressing Xiong's terrifying power temporarily!

"Roar—!" Xiong roared in fury, his muscles bulging, the chain creaked under tension, but he couldn't break free for a moment.

The other six took the opportunity to launch their attack.

Two assassins wielding high-frequency blades moved straight for the Poisonous Widow, their blades slicing the air, leaving fine cracks; the other three raised their Spiritual Energy pulse guns, aiming the ghostly blue Energy Bullets at Qin Tian; the last glove-wearing assassin launched a side attack, the scarlet Crystal Stone exploded in dazzling light, his fist aimed at Qin Tian's back!

The Poisonous Widow snorted coldly, raising her delicate hand: "Poison Mist·Thousand Threads!"

Instantly, countless purple threads burst from her fingertips, weaving into a massive poisonous net in the air.

The two knife-wielding assassins entered the poison mist's range, their movements abruptly slowed, strange purple spots surfaced rapidly on their skin; the Energy Bullets fired by the three gunmen traveled through the poison mist, corroding smaller and smaller, ultimately dissipating before Qin Tian; the glove assassin retreated, screaming, his metal gloves began to melt, the liquid metal dripping onto the ground, leaving charred pits!

Just as the battle was about to reach a fever pitch—

"Bang!"

A figure rushed in from the alley entrance like a cannonball, punching two gun-wielding assassins, causing them to vomit blood and fly backward!

He landed steadily, chestnut hair blowing in the night wind, it was the young man from the daytime holographic projection—Allen.

Though his cowboy hat was missing now, his amber-colored eyes were still exceptionally bright even in the dark.

"Hurry up!" Allen shouted to Qin Tian and the others, "They're from Black Cloud Commerce Association."

The chain-man observed the situation, speaking coldly: "Allen, as expected, you've still appeared."

Before he could finish, Xiong finally broke the chain, his massive fist roaring in the wind, smashing towards the chain-man.

The chain-man's expression changed slightly, hurriedly crossing his arms to block, activating the runes on the chain, attempting to bind Xiong's actions again.

However, Xiong's immense strength far exceeded his expectations—

"Boom!"

The punch shattered his defenses, the chain breaking inch by inch, the runes extinguishing one after another. The terrifying impact directly blasted him away like a ragdoll, crashing through the brick wall behind.

Bricks crumbled, dust scattered, the chain-man's body embedded deeply into the wall, buried completely by collapsed debris,

Allen seized the chance to rush to Qin Tian's side, speaking rapidly: "Black Cloud Commerce Association is capturing people everywhere for the mines, searching for underground Spiritual Springs, you three have been targeted, follow me quickly, their troops are coming soon."

At this moment, Xiong and the Poisonous Widow turned to Qin Tian.

Actually, given their strength, dealing with these people in front of them is just a few moves, as for this suddenly appearing young man's intentions, it's still unclear whether they're good or bad, so they're waiting for Qin Tian to make a decision.

Qin Tian glanced at Allen, nodded:

"Alright, lead the way!"

"Follow me."

Allen vaulted the wall and sprinted into the distance, Qin Tian and the others closely following him, the six black clothed Men on site could only watch as they disappeared into the darkness, not daring to give chase.

Clatter clatter

The chain-man crawled out from the rubble, his clothes torn, his mask shattered, revealing a sinister face.

"Spit."

The chain-man spat out a mouthful of blood, then quickly opened his communicator, saying swiftly:

"I failed here, but I've found Allen."

...

Arriving at an unoccupied area in the southeastern corner of the city

Allen stopped, looking at Qin Tian, he said:

"It's safe here, hide for a while, find a way to leave Spring Glory City early tomorrow morning, I have things to do, won't accompany you."

Chapter 304: Black Cloud Commerce Association, Trap (2)

After saying this, Allen was about to leave.

At this moment, Qin Tian suddenly spoke:

"You're going to rescue your companions, right, Allen."

Allen stopped in his tracks and turned to look at Qin Tian. Under the moonlight, his auburn hair tips gently swayed, and a hint of surprise flashed in his eyes: "You know me? Did you also see that bounty?"

"Yes." Qin Tian nodded slightly, a playful glint in his eyes, "A bounty of over tens of millions, that number is indeed tempting."

Unexpectedly, Allen didn't show a hint of vigilance but rather earnestly advised: "The Black Cloud Commerce Association has never been trustworthy. Even if you catch me, they'll likely find an excuse to renege."

He paused, adding, "Many people have ended up losing their lives for easily trusting the Black Cloud Commerce Association."

The Poisonous Widow couldn't help lifting an eyebrow, her red lips slightly pursed. This young man's reaction was indeed strange—he was warning potential captors like an old friend rather than being wary.

Qin Tian smiled slightly: "You're right, I never deal with those who are dishonest. Not to mention, with the recent confrontation, I'm already at odds with the Black Cloud Commerce Association."

Upon hearing this, Allen's tense shoulders noticeably relaxed. He scratched his head, revealing a signature sunny smile: "That's good. I still have to rescue my companions. If all goes well, maybe we'll meet again."

After saying this, he was about to leave.

"Wait." Qin Tian suddenly called out, "How are you planning to rescue your companions?"

Allen paused, remained silent for a moment, then replied in a low voice: "Originally... I planned to trade with other merchants for some healing herbs."

His fingers unconsciously rubbed the hem of his clothes, "But now the bounty from the Black Cloud Commerce Association has made it impossible for me to move..."

Under the moonlight, the young man's upright figure appeared somewhat desolate. He took a deep breath, his voice filled with determination: "If there's really no other way, then I'll have to resort to stealing."

He said it lightly, yet it seemed to take all his strength. From a young age, Allen never thought he would one day go against his moral principles, to steal others' belongings. But at this moment, thinking of his gravely injured companion awaiting his rescue, his eyes became resolute once again.

"I can help you."

Qin Tian spoke up: "My ability is related to healing."

Upon hearing this, Allen's eyes immediately lit up with surprise:

"Really? You're not lying to me?"

Qin Tian smiled and cast a wisp of the Power of Life onto Allen.

Feeling the gentle energy flowing within his body, Allen shuddered as days of fatigue and hidden injuries rapidly dissipated under the nourishment of this energy.

He wasn't lying to me; he really can heal injuries.

Allen grabbed Qin Tian's hand, his voice slightly trembling with urgency:

"My companions are seriously injured, please save them."

"No problem, you helped me earlier; now it's my turn to help you. It's only fair, but..."

Qin Tian raised an eyebrow, "Aren't you worried that this might be a setup between me and the Black Cloud Commerce Association to trap you?"

"Not worried."

Allen replied firmly, "I trust my judgment."

It's not just judgment; he also trusts his choice and luck.

From childhood, Allen noticed that his luck was always exceptionally good. At the age of seven, playing in an abandoned mining area, he accidentally fell into a deep well but unexpectedly discovered a rare ore vein, saving his life and reviving the entire mine; at twelve, he saved a heavily injured old man in the slums, never expecting him to be a retired Spiritualist who not only healed Allen's congenital deficiencies but also guided him to awaken his Spiritual Energy talent, starting his path as a Spiritualist; at fifteen, he accidentally ingested a highly poisonous fruit, struggled between life and death for three days, not only surviving but also unexpectedly awakening a bloodline dormant for generations.

Since then, good luck has accompanied him. Most of the time, everything went smoothly; occasionally encountering setbacks and difficulties, but the final outcome was always good.

Just like as his father often said: "As long as you give your all and follow your heart, the God of Luck will always favor you."

Upon seeing Qin Tian and his companions under attack from the Black Cloud Commerce Association, his first instinct was to save them.

And now, he was also willing to trust Qin Tian and believe in his luck.

Seeing the determination in Allen's eyes, Qin Tian nodded:

"Alright, then lead the way as fast as you can, I can keep up."

"Mm!"

Allen took a deep breath, and a pale green glow suddenly emanated from around him. His toes lightly left the ground, his entire body seemed to be lifted by an invisible wind spirit, floating gently in the air. The night breeze swirled happily around him, gradually forming a rotating air current gently enveloping his body.

In the next second, his figure suddenly blurred—not as an explosive burst of acceleration but as if blown apart like a dandelion by the wind, naturally merging into the night breeze.

His auburn strands extended in the airflow, clothes fluttering, his whole being seemingly becoming part of the wind, gliding forward at an incredible speed, carving a beautiful cyan trail in the moonlight.

After flying for several hundred meters, Allen couldn't help but look back. Seeing this, he held his breath—Qin Tian's back revealed a pair of massive black wings, spanning four or five meters wide, shimmering with a metallic luster under the moonlight.

More astonishingly, he was effortlessly carrying the giant man and the woman in each hand, as if holding two feathers lightly.

What shocked Allen the most was Qin Tian's flying method—each flap of the black wings carried a mysterious rhythm, as if he wasn't fighting against the air, but resonating with the entire night sky. Though the movements seemed slow and graceful, the speed was startlingly fast, perfectly keeping pace with him.

"Focus." Qin Tian's voice suddenly echoed beside him, startling Allen, almost disrupting his wind flow.

Allen quickly gathered his thoughts, intensifying the green glow around him.

He no longer intentionally controlled his speed but completely opened his mind, allowing himself to fully merge into the flow of the night wind.

At this moment, he truly seemed to become the invisible wind, his speed suddenly increasing, yet swifter and more agile than before.

Crossing the city's boundaries, Allen stopped near a remote mountain in the city's outskirts.

His form landed softly like a falling leaf, the green glow around him gradually dissipating.

Looking back, Qin Tian and his companions had silently landed beside him, the black wings elegantly folding, finally dispersing into specks of black light in the night.

"Is it here?"

Qin Tian surveyed the desolate mountain beneath them, a curious glint in his eyes.

"It's here."

Allen nodded and said:

"My companions are hidden in a cave below, I'll take you there."

With that, Allen set off to lead the way.

At that moment, the sharp sound of clothing slicing through the wind emerged from the surrounding shadows, twenty figures materialized like phantoms emerging from the ground, instantly forming an impenetrable encirclement.

As moonlight was obscured by clouds, the foremost figure stepped forward half a pace, a violent spiritual energy wave spread like a tsunami, causing the air to tremble slightly.

This individual stood over two meters tall, muscles tightly knotted like rocks, arms exposed with crisscrossing scars, the most prominent being a knife scar stretching from the brow to the jaw, reminiscent of being torn by a beast's claws. His hair was a dull crimson, standing erect like steel needles, his eyes fixed on Allen, gleaming with a predatory ferocity.

The most striking aspect was the giant axe slung across his back—the axe blade was half a person high, with edges flowing a magma-like dark red glow, the handle wrapped in black beast leather.

"Allen, you finally returned."

The red-haired man grinned coldly: "This time, let's see where you can run!"

After saying that, he looked at the three behind Allen, his gaze pausing on Xiong's massive body momentarily, then glanced at the Poisonous Widow, licking his lips with a greedy look, entirely ignoring Qin Tian.

Good-looking and young, most likely just a pretty face.

Once Allen is captured, this guy will be dealt with first.

In this life, he hates good-looking people the most.

Chapter 305: One Slash—Sever

Under the moonlight, twenty or so figures surrounded Qin Tian and his companions, the atmosphere was tense and heavy, ready to explode at any moment.

Allen clenched his fists, his eyes fixed on the red-haired brute, squeezing his words through gritted teeth:

"Where are Luo Xiu and Vivian?"

"Those two~"

The corner of the red-haired brute's mouth curved into a cold arc: "Naturally, they were taken away by the guild to interrogate the whereabouts of the underground spiritual spring. Allen, you should thank us, if the guild hadn't found this place, I'm afraid your companions would have become corpses long before you returned."

Hearing this, Allen's fists clenched with a cracking sound, his eyes burning with murderous intent.

In order to extract the location of the underground spiritual spring, even if the Black Cloud Commerce Association temporarily maintained Luo Xiu and Vivian's injuries, the subsequent methods would undoubtedly be cruel.

"Allen, come back with me obediently, maybe your companions can suffer less." The red-haired brute said casually.

Allen did not respond, only staring coldly at the red-haired brute, winds swirling around him, and on his exposed palms appeared blue scales, with nails becoming long and sharp like dragon claws.

Seeing this, the red-haired brute snorted coldly:

"Stubborn fool, attack!"

As soon as the red-haired brute's words fell, the twenty or so figures lunged forward like hungry wolves, the flickering of blades under the moonlight instantly shattered the night's silence.

The red-haired brute hoisted the giant axe from his back and charged at Allen first, the axe slicing through the air with a whistling sound, as if it would cleave the very air, its momentum ferocious.

The edge of the massive axe blade shimmered with a molten red glow, clearly infused with a considerable amount of spiritual energy, the power astonishing.

Allen dared not face it head-on, his figure flickered, dodging to the side like a specter, the wind at his feet kicking up fine sand and gravel.

His speed was astounding, leaving afterimages under the moonlight, at the same time reaching out with his blue-scaled dragon claw, aiming at the red-haired brute's wrist.

Three others quickly closed in, one wielding a sword, another holding a spear, and the other swinging dual hammers, coordinating seamlessly to cut off Allen's retreat.

Their skills were not weak, their moves ruthless, clearly seasoned fighters.

But Allen, relying on extreme speed, wove between the four, each swing of the dragon claw accompanied by a sound of slicing through air, sharp nails leaving deep marks on their weapons, forcing them to proceed with utmost caution.

On the other side, the remaining black-clothed men attacked Xiong, The Poisonous Widow, and Qin Tian.

Xiong roared, muscles bulging, the black robe over his body burst apart, revealing his half-beastman features.

He neither dodged nor flinched, taking a blow head-on, retaliating with a punch that sent the black-clothed man flying like a cut kite, crashing into a distant rock, lifeless.

Xiong's fists carried immense force, unstoppable, each punch able to lay out an enemy, leaving no one daring to approach.

The Poisonous Widow seemed elegant yet deadly, her movements ghostly, fingertips flicking out wisps of faint purple poison gas.

The poison gas appeared weak, but its toxicity was exceptionally potent. A black-clothed man accidentally inhaled a trace, his face turning purple as he clutched his throat, collapsing to the ground, convulsing briefly before falling silent.

This scene filled the other black-clothed men with dread, they held their breath, cautiously avoiding the area around The Poisonous Widow, their attacks becoming hesitant.

After the first exchange, several were severely injured or even killed.

What!

Upon witnessing the skirmish beside him, the red-haired brute's expression changed.

It should be known, to capture this slippery Allen, the guild dispatched him along with three other Tier Five experts, and seven Tier Four, the rest all at least Tier Three.

With such an arrangement, even if Allen were more cunning, he couldn't escape their net.

But unexpectedly, when Allen fell into their well-laid trap, three new faces appeared by his side.

And the man and woman in action, their abilities were certainly above Tier Five.

"Again like this..."

The red-haired brute gritted his teeth, Allen was like the favored child of the goddess of fortune, always escaping their clutches with bizarre twists.

This time, what seemed like an infallible setup sprouted unexpected variables again.

No, this time, he must not escape.

The red-haired brute's gaze turned sinister, Allen was too abnormal, so much so that he and the guild seniors felt a degree of fear. If they couldn't eliminate Allen this time, who knew how much trouble he'd cause for the guild in the future.

Thinking to this point, the red-haired brute glanced sideways, the giant man and woman were powerful, but that black-haired boy remained inactive, seemingly being protected by the two.

In this light, this young man seemed to be the core of the three, and his combat strength must not be high. If they could take him down, it would force the giant man and woman out of the fight, allowing them to focus on dealing with Allen.

With this thought, the red-haired brute shook off Allen's entanglement, charging at Qin Tian.

"Watch out!!!"

Seeing this, Allen was appalled, wanting to intercept the red-haired brute but was tied down by those around him, unable to break free.

Seeing the red-haired brute change targets, the remaining black-clothed men immediately drew formation tightly, enclosing Xiong and The Poisonous Widow in an impenetrable web of blade and spear, clearly determined not to let the two approach Qin Tian.

Yet to their surprise, neither seemed inclined to aid him, in fact, the bewitching woman's face bore a mocking smile.

The red-haired brute's speed was faster than expected, the giant axe dragging afterimages as it cleaved through the night wind, the vortex of spiritual energy on the axe edge caused the air to whimper, the brute himself charging like an uncontrollable battering ram at Qin Tian, his fierce momentum seemed to almost shatter the surrounding moonlight.

Upon seeing this, Qin Tian slightly raised an eyebrow, the corner of his mouth curling into a cold arc.

Do they think of me as an easy target?

You sure know how to pick your opponent~

Perfect, I'll use you to test my swordsmanship after my formless exercise.

At the moment Qin Tian grasped the hilt, spiritual energy surged through his right arm like a tidal wave, bones emanating a deep dragon's roar, cold light emerged on the Black Frost, energizing all four enchantment powers, a domineering Sword Intent erupted abruptly.

In an instant, everyone present felt as if their skin was being scraped by countless thin blades, exposed flesh welling with fine beads of blood, as if the whole person was tossed into a rotating wheel of purgatory, even breathing carried a painful tearing sensation.

At this moment, it seemed like all the lights in the world were drawn into that unsheathed long blade.

Boom!

The moment the Thunder Saber was unsheathed, it was not the clear cry of a dragon, but an ear-splitting thunderclap.

The ghostly purple lightning crawled along the blade like a living thing, instantly surged to several lengths of thunder light, where the Sword Qi passed, the air was torn into twisted ripples, even the moonlight was shattered into pieces.

The red-haired brute's pupils contracted acutely, before the giant axe even reached midway, it was nailed in place by the terrifying pressure within the thunder light, squeezing out a terrified hiss from his throat.

But everything was too late—Qin Tian's blade was faster than the limits of human sight, everyone only saw a brilliant thunder light pouring like a galaxy, with a domineering force that incinerated everything, flashing past the red-haired brute's waist.

There was no earth-shattering clash, only the charred smell of flesh instantly carbonized diffusing in the wind.

The red-haired brute remained in the axe-swinging posture, frozen in place, the spirit energy vortex on the axe edge collapsed abruptly.

In the next moment, his upper body suddenly slanted leftward, blood mixed with viscera poured down like a waterfall, splattering onto the ground, forming a bubbling blood pit.

Not until the upper half fell heavily did he manage a half-muffled whimper from his throat, his remaining eyes dead-locked on the still sparking Thunder Saber in Qin Tian's hand, filled with fear everlasting unto death.

The thunder light slowly receded, Qin Tian stood with his saber downcast, the lightning on the blade dripping blood beads onto the ground, scorching smoking holes.

He lightly blew off the nonexistent bloodstains on the blade, his gaze sweeping over the stunned black-clothed men, the smile on his lips colder than the moonlight.

#### Chapter 306: Axe of the Spiritual Artifact, Following the Clues

The silence was deathly in the arena, broken only by the crackling of the residual electric current on the Thunder Saber.

The black-clothed men were first frozen in place, their eyes wide and round, staring intently at the split body of the red-haired brute, as if they hadn't yet recovered from the shocking scene just witnessed.

A few seconds later, someone began to let out a stifled whimper, and fear spread like a plague among the black-clothed men, their weapons starting to tremble uncontrollably.

Who could have thought, the most skilled red-haired brute, a Tier Five Six Star powerhouse, would be slain with a single strike.

Shock was nearly pouring out of Allen's face, his eyes wide open, mouth slightly parted into an 'O' shape, the surrounding swirling wind abruptly halted.

He had already guessed Qin Tian might be concealing his strength, but never imagined it to be so terrifying to this degree—the Thunder Saber just now was swift beyond visual limits, its sharp Sword Qi even scraping his cheek painfully.

If it had been him in the brute's position, he knew clearly he would have had no chance of survival, cold sweat instantly broke out on his back.

On the other side, Xiong let out a deep grunt, wiping the blood and grime from his rough hand off his face, revealing beast eyes devoid of any ripple; Poisonous Widow's fingers danced gently with the Poisonous Silk, her alluring eyes filled with a sense of inevitability.

After all, even the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves were nearly exterminated by Qin Tian alone; this group of riff-raff before them didn't even count as an appetizer.

Qin Tian raised his palm slightly, and the brute's giant axe suddenly lifted off the ground, tracing an arc of blood to land in his hand.

He assessed the axe, swinging it lightly twice, the heavy blade cleaving the air, producing a sharp wind-breaking sound, moonlight reflected off its surface danced across his face.

"This axe is indeed a Spiritual Artifact, not bad." His lips curved slightly, his fingertips gently touching the axe blade.

Instantly, a stream of pale gold Spiritual Energy flowed from his fingertips into the axe, the previously dim blood-colored patterns suddenly lit up, snaking across the blade like living blood vessels, the sharp aura on the edge exceeding its former strength by several degrees.

Divine Weapon Blessing!

"Da Xiong, catch."

Qin Tian flicked his wrist, sending the giant axe flying with a whistle of wind.

Xiong thrust out his fan-sized hand, securely grasping the axe handle in his palm—the half man-height axe blade appeared clumsy in the hands of the brute, yet seemed perfectly suited when in Xiong's giant grip, his rough skin melded with the cold metal, exuding a wild harmony.

Xiong lowered his gaze to the giant axe in his palm, fingers massaging the warm axe body, suddenly feeling a surge of violent power channeled from his palm, roaring within to resonate wonderfully with his own half-beastman blood.

He gripped the handle tightly, a series of crisp crackles emitted from the bones, the muscles on his arms bulging up, even thicker than before. The blood-colored patterns on the axe blade and the beast tattoos around his neck lit up simultaneously, a low beast roar seemed to echo through the air.

Xiong raised his head, the tense face accustomed to battle suddenly beamed with a simple smile: "This axe... good!"

Before the words finished, he swung the giant axe in a sweeping arc, a blood-colored air wave whistled out, severing three still dumbfounded black-clothed men at the waist.

Blood droplets splattered onto the axe blade, instantly absorbed by the blood-colored patterns, making the axe's glow even more intense.

"The rest is up to you."

Qin Tian sheathed his saber, the collision between the hilt and the scabbard emitted a crisp 'click', he stood under the moonlight with arms crossed, a faint smile hanging at his lips, watching the slaughter unfold as if it were entertainment.

Boom!

Xiong, like a whirlwind enveloped with a blood mist, surged into the crowd, the half man-height giant axe so light in his hand yet bringing a mountain-cleaving momentum.

No flashy moves, only the most direct hack, cut, sweep—whenever the axe descended, Spirit Shields shattered like paper; during horizontal slashes, several were severed at waist, their innards mixed with blood, splattering into a crimson mess; during vertical chops, the crack of shattered bones synchronized with screams.

Each step he took caused slight tremors on the ground, muscles surging like forged iron, beast eyes burning with a blood-thirsty gleam, a living blood Demon God crawling out from Purgatory, none dared face its fury.

Meanwhile, Poisonous Widow in the rear transformed into a nimble phantom, jade hands raising gently, silver Poisonous Silk spread like nets.

These Poisonous Silks, seemingly thin yet incredibly tough, ensnaring ankles to trip and topple black-clothed men, contacting skin to blacken with scorch marks instantly. She, like an elegant yet deadly lady spider, precisely blocked all escape paths, while occasionally flicked poison darts from fingertips directly targeting vital spots, quietly dropping black-clothed men attempting sneak attacks, crafting a perfect toxic barricade for Xiong.

On the other side, Allen also truly engaged.

With the brute gone, facing three attackers, he moved like a blue lightning across the battlefield.

Despite opponents including two Tier Five and a Tier Four Spiritualist, he relied on dragon scale-covered arms to endure strikes, sharp dragon claws ripping through air, each swing slicing Spirit Shields with precision.

When his dragon claw landed on the shoulder armor of the spear-wielding Tier Five powerhouse, sparks flew, alloy armor ripped along with flesh, a bone-deep wound gushing blood over half his body.

Thud—Squish—

Xiong's axe howl meant the end of a life each time. Under bloody pressure, the black-clothed men's mental defenses crumbled inch by inch, some threw down weapons begging for mercy, only to be split by the axe; others madly rushed to the perimeter yet got ensnared by Poisonous Widow's silk, convulsing into black corpses.

Chapter 307: Axe of the Spiritual Artifact, Following the Trail (Part 2)

Desperation washed over the consciousness of the survivors like a tidal wave, making even their cries hoarse.

At this moment, the long-haired man besieging Allen saw his companions falling one after another from the corner of his eye, gritting his teeth audibly.

He knew clearly that continuing on would lead only to a dead end, and only by escaping would there be a chance at survival.

Ding!

The Tier Five spear wielder once again thrust his spear towards Allen's chest, the dragon claw precisely blocking the spear tip, sparking a string of fiery sparks.

Ordinarily, it should be the moment for the long-haired man to slash at Allen's vulnerability, yet he suddenly spun around, his feet exploding with Spiritual Energy, and like an arrow released from its bowstring, he charged into the darkness, his figure merging into the distant shadows within a split second, leaving only a faint cyan afterimage.

What!

The spear-wielding warrior was first stunned, his spear attack slowing by half a beat, then a furious roar shook the air loudly: "Liu Yi, you coward!"

The remaining black-clothed men saw this, and their already fragile psychological defenses completely shattered. If even the Tier Five warrior fled in battle, how could these small fry resist?

Someone's legs gave way, collapsing to the ground, having lost even the strength to flee, only deathly silence and hopeless despair remained in their eyes.

Allen seized the opportunity, moving forward, his dragon claw cutting through the spear wielder's throat like a blade, scorching blood spraying onto his face. He wiped the blood from his face, his blue-gold vertical pupils coldly scanning the last Tier Four black-clothed man, his speed suddenly increased, the force of the dragon claw tearing apart the opponent's protective Spiritual Energy, leaving five deep bone-revealing claw marks across his chest, before swiftly plunging another claw through the man's heart.

Splash~

As the last black-clothed man was beheaded by Xiong, this supposedly foolproof ambush by the Black Cloud Commerce Association officially came to an end.

At the same time, in a place unnoticed by anyone, the Soul Power remaining from the dead Spiritualists was quietly absorbed by the Netherworld Ghost Cave on Qin Tian's chest.

"Boss, one got away."

Poisonous Widow glanced at Allen, stepped in front of Qin Tian, and said quietly.

Allen walked over at this time, the dragon scales on his body slowly receding, somewhat apologetically saying:

"Sorry, I didn't expect him to abandon his companions and flee."

In his understanding, companions are more important than life itself, relying on each other in battles, even in death, they should die together.

And the behavior of that long-haired man was utterly despicable—clearly he was still cooperating in the siege a moment ago, yet turned around to survive by abandoning his companions without a care, tossing aside even the most basic of morals and courage.

"No worries, with him fleeing, we can trace back to find the Black Cloud Commerce Association, and also..."

Qin Tian looked at Allen, a smile appearing on his lips: "Your companion."

If he truly intended to kill all just now, even a sudden fast escape by the long-haired man wouldn't be out of his reach.

Yet he watched the long-haired man escape with a clear purpose.

He had already marked the long-haired man with a Hunting Mark, next he just needed to follow the mark to find the Black Cloud Commerce Association.

Upon hearing this, Allen's eyes suddenly brightened.

"Allen, after this battle, we are even."

Qin Tian suddenly turned serious, saying: "But next, if you want me to help rescue your companion, we'll need to make a trade."

"What trade!" Allen asked urgently.

"The Black Cloud Commerce Association offered a reward for you because of the whereabouts of the underground Spiritual Spring, while I... have the same desire." Qin Tian admitted frankly.

"No problem!"

Allen agreed without hesitation; initially, he had intended to sell the location of the underground Spiritual Spring to the Black Cloud Commerce Association to make money and purchase a spaceship for their team.

For him, the underground Spiritual Spring wasn't important, he had too many ways to obtain Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures or other opportunities.

A European Emperor is just that confident.

"Good! The deal is established!"

Qin Tian nodded, the underground Spiritual Spring could aid cultivation and enhance Spiritual Ability Level, his only shortcoming at the moment being Spiritual Energy.

Talent, Cultivation Technique, Martial Techniques, Spiritual Artifacts, Summoned Beast—all reaching the maximum, but his Spiritual Ability Level remained stuck at Tier Four eight-star, severely limiting his potential power.

He hoped this time to leverage the power of the Spring to breakthrough to Tier Five.

"Then let's set out quickly."

Allen urged eagerly, suddenly remembering something, he asked:

"By the way, I still don't know your name."

Qin Tian laughed lightly, "I am Qin Tian, probably a bit older than you."

"Then I'll call you Brother Qin Tian."

Allen turned to look at Xiong and Poisonous Widow, Qin Tian introduced them, "Xiong, Scarlett."

Scarlett...

Poisonous Widow's fingers suddenly paused, the silvery Poisonous Silk almost entwining her own skin.

That name, like an old coin, sealed in dust for years, suddenly pulled from the deep recesses of memory by someone, the familiar syllables making her heart anticipate slightly.

Since being labeled "Poisonous Widow," the images on wanted posters had changed several times over, long since forgotten was the fragrant rose-scented name she once had.

At this moment, called out so frankly by Qin Tian, she looked at her fingers stained with countless poisons, suddenly feeling as though the icy cold outer shell was quietly melting, a fleeting distraction crossing her eyes that even she didn't notice, and the curve of her lips conveying a mixture of indescribable complexities.

Xiong seemed indifferent, letting out a deep grunt as greeting, his giant axe slammed to the ground, making rubble bounce wildly, evidently still savoring the thrill of the fierce battle just now.

Chapter 308: Axe of the Spiritual Artifact, Following the Trail (Part 3)

"Brother Xiong, Miss Scarlett."

Allen greeted politely, then hurriedly urged:

"Brother Qin Tian, let's set off quickly."

"Alright!"

Qin Tian nodded, his eyes gazing into the distance.

.....

On the outskirts of Quanhui City, the secret base of the Black Cloud Commerce Association is located within an abandoned mining tunnel. The humid air is mixed with mineral dust and the smell of rust. The oil lamp on the stone wall flickers intermittently, casting distorted shadows.

Bam!

Liu Yi slammed open the heavy iron door. The collision between the door plank and the stone wall produced a deafening noise. He staggered into the council hall, almost collapsing as his knees weakened. His sweat-soaked hair clung to his pale cheeks, and his ragged breathing sounded like a broken bellows: "President! President!"

"The president is not here. There are clues near the underground Spiritual Spring, and the president personally led a team to investigate."

The man on the redwood chair slowly raised his eyes, revealing a noticeable dent in his left chest beneath his black outfit. Speaking strained the wound on his mouth, causing him to clench his jaw in pain.

This was the chained man, Xie Fei, who was severely injured by a punch from Xiong. His face was now pale as paper. He gently massaged his chest with his right hand, while the chains on his wrist dangled, producing a muffled clatter on the stone floor.

"Liu Yi, weren't you with Wolfgang and the others trying to capture Allen? Where are they?" Xie Fei's voice was hoarse as if scraped by sandpaper, weakened by his injuries.

"Dead, all dead!" Liu Yi clenched his fists fiercely, his nails deeply embedded in his palms, with beads of blood seeping through his fingers. His pupils widened in terror, reflecting the bloody scene he had just witnessed. Beneath the thick layer of unfathomable fear, there was a trace of survivor's relief and unspeakable dread.

"What! Dead!" Xie Fei stood abruptly, the pain in his chest wounds intensified, but he was oblivious. The chain in his palm stretched taut, "How is this possible? You, Wolfgang, Zhang Yao - three Tier Five, seven Tier Four, all the rest are Tier Three elites - so many people, and you didn't capture Allen? Now there's only you left to come back?"

Liu Yi's throat convulsed violently, his voice trembling: "If it were only Allen, it would have been easy. But this time he was accompanied by three experts, especially that young man... In one slash, he cut Wolfgang in half!"

Three experts? Xie Fei's pupils contracted suddenly, causing the chains to clink loudly against his palm: "Is it two men and one woman? One of the men as tall as a tower?"

"Yes, yes! That's them!" Liu Yi nodded repeatedly, urgently asking, "You've encountered them too?"

"My injury is from that giant," Xie Fei's face turned livid, his fingertips pressing against the dent on his chest, where the bones still ached faintly.

"The giant isn't the most terrifying one," Liu Yi's voice shook like a candle in the wind, "That young man's saber... those who haven't seen it with their own eyes can never imagine just how terrifying it is."

"No, this must be reported to the president immediately!" Xie Fei raised his hand to dial the phone, but at that moment a piercing scream suddenly echoed from deep within the base, followed by the dull sound of bones shattering.

Bam!

The heavy iron door was blasted open with tremendous force, crashing against the stone wall, sending debris flying. Moonlight poured through the gap in the broken door, outlining the silhouettes of four figures ever clearer—Qin Tian, wielding the Thunder Saber, led at the front. Xiong, carrying a giant axe, followed closely behind, Allen's dragon claw still stained with blood, and Scarlett's fingertips, with Poisonous Silk, glistened under the lamplight.

Behind them, members of the Black Cloud Commerce Association lay strewn across the ground, the stench of blood wafted into the hall with the breeze.

"Black Cloud Commerce Association is indeed deeply hidden." Qin Tian's voice resounded calmly, like ice dropped into boiling oil, instantly breaking the deathly silence in the hall.

Xie Fei and Liu Yi turned simultaneously, upon seeing the figure wielding the Thunder Saber, Liu Yi's face instantaneously turned ashen white as paper. It was as if an invisible hand clenched his throat; he retreated three steps before crashing into the stone wall.

Xie Fei stared at Xiong's imposing frame, suddenly his chest ached severely, a hint of terror flashed in his eyes.

Chapter 309: Mining Beast, Metal Sensing

"Where are Luo Xiu and Vivian?"

Allen stepped forward, the blood droplets on his dragon claw slowly dripping down the sharp tip, each drop splattering on the ground to form tiny blood flowers. His voice was as cold as ice, and the bloodlust in his eyes was almost tangible.

"Allen, don't act rashly."

Xie Fei keenly detected the undisguised killing intent in Allen's eyes, his heart tightening as he hurriedly tried to dissuade him: "The president took both of them down to the mines to identify the Spiritual Spring. Think about it, if something happened to the two of us, the president would never spare your companions."

Down to the mines? Damn it!

Allen gritted his teeth hard, his heart instantly filled with anxiety and anger.

Luo Xiu was notoriously bad with directions, so there was no way he could remember the route to the underground Spiritual Spring.

Moreover, with his straight and stubborn nature, even if he did remember, he would never yield to the Black Cloud Commerce Association.

And Vivian was only keeping watch at the entrance of the mine, equally unaware of the route inside.

The Black Cloud Commerce Association captured them but couldn't get the information they wanted... Allen dared not think further; the mere thought of how those people might treat Luo Xiu and Vivian made him furious.

"Brother Qin Tian, we need to hurry and go to the mines to find my companions!" Allen urged anxiously, his voice carrying a barely noticeable tremor.

"Don't rush yet." Qin Tian raised his hand to rest on Allen's shoulder, speaking gravely, "The underground mines are complex; even if we go now, can you guarantee you'll find them quickly?"

Allen was taken aback, then deflated — he indeed had no confidence.

Qin Tian continued, "First, take me to the place they were last held; I have a way to pinpoint their location."

"Alright!" Allen, as if grabbing a lifeline while drowning, quickly turned to look at Xie Fei and Liu Yi, barking sharply, "Lead the way! Where were Luo Xiu and Vivian held?"

Xie Fei gave Qin Tian a deep look, one that hid both inquiry and apprehension, but he finally relented, "Follow me."

He pushed open a secret door disguised as a wall behind him, revealing a dark and damp cage area.

Dozens of iron bars were neatly arranged, each exuding a cold chill, yet at this moment, they were empty — all the captives had been taken by the Black Cloud Commerce Association to explore the mines.

But after Luo Xiu and Vivian were captured, they became worthless; probably, they had already turned into a pile of bones.

"The two of them were held here at the time." Xie Fei pointed to one of the cages.

Allen's gaze swept over the cramped cage, with traces of blood on the ground that hadn't dried yet, casting a dark red in the dim light, and the air was filled with a faint smell of blood and rust.

An uncontrollable anger erupted like a volcano in his chest at that moment; he clenched his fists tightly, his knuckles whitening from the force, wishing he could twist Xie Fei and Liu Yi's necks right then.

Qin Tian, however, remained exceptionally calm; he crouched down, his nose slightly twitching as wisps of faint breath flowed into his nose from all directions.

The scent in the cage was mixed, but only two were distinctly recognizable — they belonged to Luo Xiu and Vivian, filled with a strong smell of blood, one even vaguely mingled with a faint trace similar to Allen's scent.

Qin Tian slowly stood up, glancing at Xie Fei and Liu Yi, he said lightly, "I have a lead now, but wait for me a minute."

As soon as the words fell, a sudden silver flash enveloped him, and he vanished into the light and shadow as if merging with them.

What?

Xie Fei and Liu Yi's pupils shrank abruptly, their faces full of shock.

Spatial Ability! He actually possesses Spatial Ability!

Allen was even more stunned into silence; the abilities Qin Tian displayed each time left him in awe — Brother Qin Tian is truly amazingly versatile!

In just a few moments, Qin Tian's figure reappeared swiftly, as if he had never left.

"Allen, pinpoint the position of the mines you visited on the map before."

Qin Tian opened the satellite map of Hundred Springs Star; Allen glanced at it, then enlarged the map and pointed at a location.

"Here."

"Alright."

Qin Tian nodded, waving his hand; a void gate rippling before them slowly opened up, leading into another space shrouded in darkness.

"Let's go."

Qin Tian stepped in first, followed by Xiong, Poisonous Widow, and Allen.

As the last person stepped in, the void gate quietly closed, leaving Xie Fei and Liu Yi stunned in place.

"No, this person is too terrifying." Xie Fei first regained his senses, speaking with a heavy face,

"We must immediately notify the president to be on guard against him. Liu Yi, you've fought him; do you think he has Tier Six strength?"

Liu Yi frowned, recalling for a moment, then hesitantly said, "His Sword Technique is terrifying, but his actual strength probably hasn't reached Tier Six."

Hearing this, Xie Fei visibly breathed a sigh of relief. The president was a Tier Six Powerhouse; as long as the opponent hadn't reached Tier Six, it would be hard to truly threaten the president.

But...

"That sudden disappearance earlier, I have a feeling something isn't quite right." Xie Fei's eyes narrowed slightly, suddenly thinking of something, his face changed abruptly, and he turned to run toward the Black Cloud Commerce Association's warehouse.

Liu Yi's heart skipped a beat, and he quickly followed.

The warehouse doors were pushed open forcefully, and upon seeing the scene inside, Xie Fei felt a surge of blood rush to his head, his vision spinning, nearly collapsing on the spot.

The warehouse, once packed to the brim, was now completely empty!

The minerals and Energy Crystal Stones they had gathered through various means, along with the resources brought specifically for the branch establishment on Hundred Springs Star, were all gone without a trace.

#### Chapter 310: Mining Beast, Metal Sense (2)

"This... How is this possible?!" Liu Yi's eyes widened, his heart pounding wildly, and his voice trembled. If the chairman found out that all the resources they painstakingly prepared had been completely taken, as the two present, they would undoubtedly bear the brunt of his anger, with unimaginable consequences!

"Xie Fei, should we... should we inform the chairman?" Liu Yi's voice was as dry as sandpaper scraping.

Xie Fei remained silent for a long time, his face alternating between green and white. Finally, as if drained of all strength, he said dejectedly, "Inform him. This matter can't be hidden. If we tell the chairman now, maybe he can take back the items from them."

"Yes, yes, yes!" Liu Yi nodded hurriedly, clumsily pulling out the communicator, his fingers trembling slightly from tension, just about to dial the chairman's number.

But at that moment, he suddenly felt a warm sensation in his nose, something flowing down his nostrils.

Instinctively, he wiped it with his hand, only to find it was a smear of black-red blood!

Blood? Why would I have a nosebleed?

Liu Yi was stunned, instinctively turning to look at Xie Fei, only to find that Xie Fei was also bleeding from the nose. Not only that, but black blood was oozing from his eyes, ears, and mouth corners, making him look particularly terrifying, like an evil ghost crawling out of hell.

"Xie... Xie Fei..." Liu Yi wanted to ask, but found his throat clogged, making even speaking exceedingly difficult.

He clasped his hands tightly around his throat, his face turning from red to purple at a speed visible to the naked eye, his legs weakened, and he fell straight to the ground, lifeless.

Meanwhile, Xie Fei also collapsed at the same time, his body convulsing a few times before going still.

The warehouse instantly fell into a deathly silence, except for an inconspicuous vine in the corner, quietly absorbing the faint poison gas permeating the air, with a barely noticeable sheen flashing over its leaves.

...

A silver light exploded suddenly, and several figures stumbled out from behind the humming void gate, as if pulled by invisible hands.

The moist cold air, mixed with the smell of metal rust, rushed toward them. Allen widened his eyes sharply, his Adam's apple rolling as he swallowed his amazement—in just the blink of an eye, they had traversed from the blood-scented secret base of the Black Cloud Commerce Association to the depths of an underground mine, dozens of kilometers away.

Xiong's thick fingers immediately grasped the giant axe, the beast patterns on the axe's handle faintly visible in the dark, his pupils glinting green. The night vision capability unique to beast eyes allowed him to easily penetrate the surrounding environment, his nostrils twitching to catch unfamiliar scents.

"So dark."

The Poisonous Widow instinctively widened her eyes but could only see the impenetrable darkness. The chilly sensation at her fingertips made her involuntarily tense her spine.

"Put this on."

Qin Tian took out night vision goggles and handed them to the Poisonous Widow, raising an eyebrow slightly as his peripheral vision swept past the two beside him—Allen's eyes glowed with a faint blue

light, Xiong's beast eyes shone like cold stars in the dark. Both wore calm expressions, clearly already accustomed to the pitch black.

The green fluorescence of the night vision goggles dispelled the darkness. The Poisonous Widow exhaled a long breath, her gaze sweeping over the crisscrossed traces on the rock walls on either side: "These mines... were all manually excavated?"

"Not necessarily." Qin Tian bent down, pinched a piece of ore fragment, feeling the cool, hard texture at his fingertips,

"The underground of Baiquan Star is laced with countless mineral veins, yet the manually mined parts account for less than one percent."

He paused, his gaze scanning the winding passage ahead, "Most of the tunnels you see are the work of mining beasts."

"Mining beasts?"

"The spirit beasts accompanying the mineral deposits." Qin Tian straightened up, his tone calm yet carrying a hint of hardly noticeable seriousness, "They feed on ore and protect the veins with their blood and flesh. To take resources from here, you'll have to get past them first."

Humanity slaughtering mining beasts to plunder resources, this was stark naked aggression.

But such is the law of the jungle in the cosmos, where the weak are the prey of the strong is the truth.

If the Empire stopped expanding, the wolves encircling it would sooner or later tear the Empire apart.

Of course, the Empire does not just slaughter. If the natives are strong and their civilization advanced, the Empire also tends to cooperate rather than invade—Elf Star is the best example of this.

The Poisonous Widow mused over the edge of the night vision goggles, deep in thought, when Qin Tian's brow twitched, his finger pointing towards the depths of the passageway: "How lucky, a mining beast is coming our way."

The three instantly tensed up, assuming defensive stances. Allen's dragon claws glowed, the Poisonous Widow's fingertips seeping with pale purple venom, and Xiong dragging the giant axe across the ground, the metallic scraping noise especially harsh in the silence.

Shasha—

A faint sound came from ahead, like someone dragging chains while crawling, or metal scraping against rock walls.

As the sound approached, a massive outline slowly rose at the passage's end.

It resembled a metallic sandworm, its over ten-meter-long body glimmering with a cold, hard silvery-gray sheen, as if forged from tempered steel, its ghostly green eyes lighting up in the dark, its open maw revealing two rows of sawtooth-like fangs, each like a poisoned steel spike.

Ho—

The mining beast growled lowly, arching its body, and in the next second charged like a cannonball, the wind it stirred up sweeping up the ore fragments on the ground.

"Come!" Xiong roared, the giant axe trailing afterimages as it charged forward, the crimson axe light tearing through the darkness, heavily striking the mining beast's head!

Ding—!

The piercing sound of metal clashing echoed in the tunnel, sparks flying over half a meter high.

Allen gasped in surprise—he had seen Xiong massacre Spiritualists like slicing vegetables, yet the terrifying axe only left a white mark on the head of this mining beast!

Xiong was shaken back a couple of steps, his wrist numb but he grinned wildly, battle intent blazing in his eyes like wildfire.

Qin Tian raised his hand, a golden light shot towards the giant axe; the next moment the axe blade suddenly lit up, dense runes flowing across its surface—the temporary enhancement of the Divine Weapon blessing awakened the dual enchantment powers of sharpness and blood sucking instantly.

Roar!

The mining beast roared in fury, opening its bloody maw to bite at Xiong's head.

Xiong's arms bulged with veins, black spiritual energy winding around the axe body like ink, borrowing momentum to chop down fiercely!

Crack!

This time, the axe blade sunk more than an inch into the mining beast's head, web-like cracks spreading from the wound.

The mining beast thrashed its head madly in pain, its thick tail whipping towards Xiong's waist with a wind-breaking sound.

Xiong yanked out the giant axe, the black light suddenly soared, the axe blade sweeping across like a full moon.

Squelch!

The mining beast's tail broke with a snap, the severed half crashing to the ground like a heavy lead block, producing a dull metallic clatter. Dark brown viscous blood seeped from the break, carrying a strong sulfur smell.

Qin Tian's eyes flashed with a hint of surprise—this was the first time he'd seen Xiong use spiritual energy.

In the past, sheer brute force had made him nearly unmatched, but now with the boost of spiritual energy, even ordinary Tier Five powerhouses would likely meet their end on the spot.

The mining beast sensed the threat of death, a sliver of fear flickering in its ghostly green eyes; despite the agony of its severed tail, it turned to flee towards the depths of the tunnel.

Its massive body twisted, scraping a piercing metallic sound in the narrow passage.

How could Xiong give it a chance? He exerted force with his feet, shadowing it closely, black spiritual energy frenziedly wrapping around the giant axe, the axe blade sparkling with terrifying black light.

"Where do you think you're going!"

The first axe strike, carrying a whistling gust, chopped towards the mining beast's nape, the axe blade blessed by spiritual energy penetrating like bamboo spitting, embedding deep into the mining beast's tough body. The mining beast let out a plaintive wail, nearly stumbling and falling.

Xiong twisted his wrist, yanking out the giant axe, immediately followed by a second horizontal sweep, precisely striking the junction of the mining beast's head and neck.

Crash!

The sound of breaking bones was clearly heard, the mining beast's head dropped with a sound, rolling to the ground with a dull thud. The headless body staggered, then collapsed with a deafening crash, completely motionless.

Xiong panted heavily, looking at the corpse of the mining beast on the ground, resting the giant axe on his shoulder, grinning broadly.

Qin Tian gave Xiong a thumbs-up, then stepped forward, gently touching the mining beast's corpse.

One green and one blue light ball flew into his body.

[Name] Metal Sensing (Green)

[Type] Passive

[Introduction] You are able to sense the metals around you, the larger the metal reserves and the higher the quality, the stronger your sensing will be.

...

[Name] Gold Devouring Hardening (Blue)

[Type] Active

[Introduction] Capable of directly devouring contacted metals, converting them into fine essence particles. These particles can quickly merge with various body parts, forming a tough protective layer, significantly enhancing defense power.

"These two talents..."

Qin Tian's eyes lit up, intrigued.