

I Pick Up Talents on the Interstellar Battlefield #Chapter 41: Turning Their Own Tricks Against Them - Read I Pick Up Talents on the Interstellar Battlefield Chapter 41: Turning Their Own Tricks Against Them

Chapter 41: Chapter 41: Turning Their Own Tricks Against Them

Not long after

A fighter jet pierced through the sky and landed smoothly on the open ground before the mountain cave.

Tat-tat-tat

A group of people disembarked from the jet, led by a young, handsome man in white, wearing a golden medal on his chest.

"Who is Qin Tian?"

Su Yunyi looked at the few people in front of the cave, asking in a gentle tone.

"I am Qin Tian."

Qin Tian stepped forward, his gaze glancing over Su Yunyi's face, feeling a ripple in his heart.

It was him, the offspring of the Golden Clan.

"I am Su Yunyi, the commander of this operation."

Su Yunyi stretched out his hand, a smile on his lips, his voice like a spring breeze, making people feel good about him.

"Hello, officer."

Qin Tian shook Su Yunyi's hand, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes. He hadn't expected this descendant of the Golden Clan to be so gentle and polite.

Judge actions, not intentions

Whether this manner was genuine or a deliberate facade, Qin Tian's first impression of Su Yunyi was quite good.

"Qin Tian, earlier you reported that you found the missing special ops personnel and that you also killed a Poisonous Snake-man."

Su Yunyi released his grip and asked: "I want to ask again, is your report accurate?"

"I am certain."

Qin Tian nodded, pointing to the two unconscious people behind him:

"These two are Xue Lin and Wang Tiancheng, members of the missing Celestial Wind Squad."

Hearing this, the assistant quickly searched through the Celestial Wind Squad's files and matched them with the faces. Within seconds, the match was confirmed, and he nodded towards Su Yunyi.

Su Yunyi's brow relaxed, asking again: "Where is the Poisonous Snake-man now?"

Honestly, he still couldn't believe that this uniquely positioned soldier before him had killed a Poisonous Snake-man.

On the way here, he reviewed Qin Tian's file.

To his amazement, Qin Tian was actually a Cloned Soldier and had only been out of the pod for less than a month.

A month-old Cloned Soldier single-handedly killed a Tier Four Poisonous Snake-man.

It sounded like a fantasy.

"The Poisonous Snake-man is deep inside the cave, I can lead you there." Qin Tian said.

"Okay, then I'll trouble you."

Su Yunyi first had his assistant escort the unconscious Xue Lin and Wang Tiancheng onto the jet, then, led by Qin Tian, the group proceeded along the winding tunnel.

Along the way, they saw numerous corpses of Snake-men, all with a single blow piercing the back of the head.

Everyone felt a chill.

If one or two Snake-men had died that way, it could be called luck.

But dozens all like this could only be attributed to genuine ability.

Terrifying assassination skills.

Beside him, Xiao Yunlong, already awakened by Qin Tian, couldn't help but ask:

"Qin Tian, did you kill all these Snake-men?"

"Yes."

Qin Tian nodded and added, "Don't forget my Cultivation Technique, 'Shadow Thunder Prison Technique'."

'Shadow Thunder Prison Technique'

That was the technique he cultivated

Su Yunyi's eyes moved, being a Light Element Spiritualist, he had done quite a bit of research on Dark Element techniques that seemed to counteract them.

"Shadow Thunder Prison Technique" was a Bronze Level Technique, primarily focusing on the Dual Elements of Thunder and Darkness.

This technique emphasizes the destructive power of Thunder and the stealth attributes of Darkness.

Move like a shadow, strike like thunder

However, Su Yunyi found one thing strange.

The records show Qin Tian registered as a Spiritualist only a few days ago, enjoying exclusive policies for Clones.

In other words, Qin Tian had cultivated "Shadow Thunder Prison Technique" for at most a few days, perhaps without even forming a Star Acupoint.

With such a foundation, how did he manage to take down dozens of Snake-men without anyone noticing?

Despite his curiosity, Su Yunyi didn't ask further.

Everyone has secrets

As long as the secrets are not related to oneself, it's best not to dig too deep.

About ten minutes later, they arrived at the Middle of Cold Pond.

Stalactites hung upside down, collecting water droplets that fell into the cold pond.

A blood-stained cross stood beside the cold pond, with a headless Snake-man lying in front, scales gleaming like diamonds.

Not far away, two bodies lay on the ground, and one was especially tragic — an empty skull connected to the lower body, hard to imagine the suffering endured before death.

The man beside him had a slightly better end, a grim wound on the neck, a severed left hand, and one eye gouged out, leaving a dark red hole.

"It's him!"

Qin Dadi, Xiao Yunlong, and Liu Zhaozhao recognized the bearded man, shocked to their core.

Despite past grievances, they didn't like the bearded man, but seeing him in this tragic and heroic state left them feeling distressed.

"His name was Lin Chao, and his name was Dai Jun."

Qin Tian described everything he saw.

After listening, everyone stood solemnly, and the more emotional ones had tears in their eyes.

Su Yunyi stood by the two, with a touch of sadness in his gaze:

"They were true Royal Soldiers, battle heroes, everyone..."

Su Yunyi raised his voice, took a deep breath, and shouted:

"Salute!!!"

Swoosh!

Everyone present immediately stood at attention, performing the most standard Royal salute to honor the heroes.

...

The jet returned

After returning to the base, Qin Tian and the Earth Dragon Team were immediately taken to the medical department for a physical examination.

While Xue Lin and Wang Tiancheng were taken to the interrogation room, presided over by Su Yunyi.

Milky white light shone upon them, their twisted limbs restored quickly.

"Thank you, Young Master Su."

Xue Lin said softly, evidently knowing Su Yunyi,

"Xue Lin, Wang Tiancheng, you two are veterans and should be well aware of the Royal military law."

Su Yunyi spoke slowly: "Tell everything you know; I will petition for you to redeem yourselves by merit."

Ever since they woke, Xue Lin and Wang Tiancheng knew there was no hiding their surrender to the Snake-men.

Resisting was futile.

The Military Department had too many interrogation experts, even the toughest could not withstand their professional "interrogations."

Moreover, they felt overwhelming shame and pain for surrendering to the Beastman and betraying their comrades.

Therefore, when Su Yunyi offered a chance for them to redeem themselves, Xue Lin and Wang Tiancheng immediately told everything they knew.

"Hujian Grand Canyon, these Snake-men are quite ambitious."

Su Yunyi squinted his eyes. Several special ops teams went missing recently, and it's likely there were other defectors like Xue Lin and Wang Tiancheng.

If so, why not use this to their advantage?

A bold idea quickly took shape in his mind.

Su Yunyi's lips curled up; maybe this time, he could directly earn enough military merits to complete the academy assessment.

Chapter 42: Chapter 42: Luring the Snake Out of Its Den

Hujian Grand Canyon

The Snake-man Priest suddenly opened his eyes, a hint of joy flickering in the yellow, narrow snake pupils.

He shook his tail, quickly arriving at the entrance of a cave, and said respectfully to the cave:

"Great Elder, I discovered many humans loitering outside the canyon, including the bait we released."

"Prince Egger's plan has succeeded!"

Rustle rustle

Inside the cave, subtle sounds of friction against the ground could be heard.

Soon, a Snake-man with a somewhat aged appearance emerged.

"How many are there approximately?"

The Snake-man Grand Elder slowly asked, with a hint of hoarseness in his voice.

"Just the ones I saw number over 200, all wearing the Human Empire's Special Forces uniform."

The Snake-man Priest said excitedly, "This means all 200 of them are Spiritualists, Superpower Users; if we can consume them, our Azure Snake Tribe will make a great contribution."

"Only 200, far from a great contribution."

The Snake-man Grand Elder calmly said that according to Prince Egger's expectation, this time they plan to use those rebel Imperial personnel to attract more special forces teams, then consume them batch by batch.

Part of them will be brought back to the tribe to fully exploit their knowledge and experience.

Another part will be sent back to the Empire to act as undercover agents, periodically conveying intelligence to the tribe.

"Great Elder, Great Elder!"

At this moment, another Snake-man Priest hurriedly ran over, excitedly saying:

"I saw many more human Special Forces soldiers, at least over 100, they've already entered the canyon."

More?

The Snake-man Grand Elder was startled in his heart, different Snake-man Priests were responsible for different areas, sharing the Snake Spirit's vision for nearly spotless exploration of the situation outside the canyon.

Now, outside the canyon, hundreds of human Special Forces soldiers have appeared in two areas.

This situation is progressing even smoother than he anticipated.

"Great Elder!"

"Great Elder!"

In just a few minutes, seven or eight Snake-man Priests gathered before the Snake-man Grand Elder, reporting what they saw.

So many have been drawn here!

The Snake-man Grand Elder was shocked by the numbers reported by the priests, he didn't expect the Human Military Department to send such a grand-scale deployment, over a thousand Extraordinary troops.

This number already far exceeds the Qinglin Tribe's limit of what they can handle.

"Great Elder, should we withdraw from the canyon?" one Snake-man Priest cautiously asked.

"Withdraw what!"

The Snake-man Grand Elder sternly shouted, "We cannot handle it, but aren't there other Snake-man tribes?"

"If we can consume all of these Extraordinaries, it would be a severe blow to humans."

"I need to personally report this to General Kui Ling, inform other tribesmen to hide themselves well, absolutely not be discovered by the humans."

"Yes!"

The Snake-man Priests replied in unison.

The Snake-man Grand Elder entered the cave and took out a Seven-Colored Sea Conch, he infused Spiritual Energy into it, and when the conch emitted a bright light, quickly spoke about his findings in snake language, requesting aid from other Snake-man tribes.

"Good!"

A deep voice echoed from within the conch.

The Snake-man Grand Elder was overjoyed, a fiery flash appearing in his snake pupils.

This time, the Qinglin Tribe is bound to make great achievements.

If they can gain General Kui Ling's favor and come into the Royal Family's view, then the Qinglin Tribe would truly soar.

...

The sky darkens

Thousands of Imperial soldiers dressed in Special Forces uniforms entered the Grand Canyon, but in this spectacular and vast canyon, the entry of thousands was like water drops falling into the ocean, disappearing without a trace.

The steep cliffs, deep chasms, and intersecting stone paths resemble a massive and complex web, quickly absorbing them.

Below the canyon, dozens of giant Burrowing Snakes broke through the ground, transporting the elite warriors of several Snake-man tribes.

"Great Elder, warriors from several tribes have arrived."

The Snake-man Priest said excitedly, "They've sent over twenty thousand Snake-man Warriors, including ten Tier Fives, two Tier Six Powerhouses, plus our Azure Snake Tribe elite, consuming this group of humans is a piece of cake."

"Hm."

The Snake-man Grand Elder's lips curved upward; General Kui Ling values this operation highly, sending thousands of elite Snake-man warriors, including twelve Tier Fives and above.

Given this, the battle must be fought impressively.

Hiss hiss hiss

Small snakes rested within the grass and crevices in the stones, secretly watching every move of the human soldiers.

The Snake-man Priest learned about the distribution of the human soldiers through shared vision and reported it to the Great Elder, assisting in drawing a simple battle map.

Soon, a map marked with many red dots was born.

The Snake-man Grand Elder quickly transmitted orders down, and the major Snake-man tribes began to act, spreading a web, swearing to capture all the humans in one sweep.

...

Dark wind night, fierce winds stirred within the canyon

The human soldiers continued searching within the canyon; they wore multi-functional helmets, carried rifles and various cold weapons. Strangely, during the search, not a single person spoke to their companions, the entire process was carried out in silence.

However, this detail was not noticed by the small snakes hidden in various corners.

A squad stood in front of a cave entrance, turning on their flashlights to make the cave as bright as day.

Nonetheless, they didn't notice, behind them several shadows slowly approached.

The subtle sound of scales scraping against the ground was masked by the whistling wind in the canyon.

Thud thud~

Thud thud~

Sharp blades pierced through their hearts, hot blood splattering on the Snake-man's face.

Hiss~

A snake tongue licked the blood, the Snake-man's face showing a cruel satisfaction.

Da da da~~

Intense gunfire shattered the silence within the canyon

Snake-man elites launched an all-out assault, encircling and annihilating human soldiers within the canyon.

For a time, gunfire, explosions, and screams continuously resounded

The small snakes dotted around communicated real-time occurrences to the Snake-man Priest.

On the map, red dots gradually erased.

The Snake-man Priest's smile grew increasingly bright, as if seeing achievements beckoning.

"Something's not right."

At this moment, a stern older voice interrupted.

The Snake-man Priest turned, confronting a distinctly grave face.

The Snake-man Grand Elder stared intently at the map, murmuring:

"Too smooth, everything is too smooth."

"Great Elder, isn't being smooth good?"

The Snake-man Priest couldn't help but ask: "Our warriors outnumber them many times over, and we have the advantage of familiar terrain. I find this smoothness quite normal."

The Snake-man Grand Elder stood at the edge of a cliff, overlooking the entire canyon. An inexplicable sense of crisis lingered in his heart, growing stronger.

"A Bu, you underestimate the human Spiritualists, they..."

Before he finished speaking, suddenly, a sharp whistling sounded from the distant sky, orange flames illuminated the sky.

The Snake-man Grand Elder turned to look, and instantly his pupils contracted, his body going cold.

Those are missiles!

Hundreds and thousands of missiles!

Chapter 43: Chapter 43: Hunt Hour

Whoosh whoosh whoosh~~

The missiles trailed long flames like a meteor shower, flying toward the canyon. The sonic booms from their flight sounded like continuous thunder, exploding in the air.

At the instant the missiles arrived over the canyon, time seemed to freeze for a moment, followed by an earth-shattering roar.

In an instant, flames shot up to the sky, and fireballs produced by the explosion illuminated the dark canyon like blazing suns.

Flames, thick smoke, and dust enveloped the canyon, with the sounds of explosions, rocks shattering, and landslides intertwining to form a deafening symphony of destruction.

The Snake-man Grand Elder stood dumbfounded on the cliff, his body ice-cold.

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

He closed his eyes in despair, filled with remorse.

"How dare the humans!!!"

The Snake-man Priest next to him widened his eyes in shock and anger, "Aren't they even concerned about their own Spiritualists?"

"Such ruthless humans, even colder than our Snake Race!" Another Snake-man Priest trembled with rage.

The Snake-man Grand Elder clenched his fists, speaking in a low and hoarse voice:

"They are not Spiritualists."

"Not Spiritualists?"

The Snake-man Priests couldn't believe it, "But they are clearly wearing special forces uniforms, so could it be..."

Suddenly, a terrifying suspicion surfaced in their minds.

Yeah, who said that those wearing special forces uniforms must be Spiritualists?

Is it possible that they are all...

"They are Clones!"

The Grand Elder's voice held a tremor of anger, "They're all Clones, bait thrown at us."

Upon realizing the truth, the Snake-man Priests were struck as if by lightning.

With just a group of Clones, humans managed to trap all the elites of the Qinglin Tribe and tens of thousands of warriors from the Snake-man tribe here.

In this process, the humans only sacrificed some worthless Clones and missiles, yet they destroyed the foundation and future of multiple Snake-man tribes.

Pfft~~~

One Snake-man Priest couldn't accept this truth, his Qi and Blood surged, and he spat out a large mouthful of blood.

"Grand Elder, what should we do now?" The Snake-man Priest's lips trembled, his thoughts tangled in chaos.

"First... save our kin."

The Snake-man Grand Elder gritted his teeth, realizing that the most rational decision now would be to leave immediately without delay.

But he couldn't abandon the younger folk of his tribe; some of the children he had watched grow up, some even shared close blood ties with him.

People say the Snake Race is cold-blooded,

but for the Snake-men, they can ignore everything else, except for their bloodline and tribe, which are etched in their very bones, impossible to forsake.

"Alright!"

At this moment, the Snake-man Grand Elder's words were like an imperial decree, giving direction to the panicked and helpless priests.

The priests quickly sprang into action, trying everything to locate their tribe members.

Unfortunately, under several rounds of missile bombings, the small snakes used as their eyes and ears suffered heavy casualties, and the remaining few fled in terror, hard to enter a shared vision.

Therefore, they could only search certain areas based on previous combat arrangements to find traces of their kin.

Meanwhile

"Bastards, bastards!"

Looking at the scene before them, akin to a natural disaster, the Red Snake Tribe High Priest trembled with rage, his hatred for the Qinglin Tribe Great Elder reaching its peak.

If it hadn't been for the Qinglin Tribe, how could they have fallen into this trap?

Having lost so many elite warriors, the Red Snake Tribe was ruined, with no chance of recovery in the future.

And all of this was brought upon them by the Qinglin Tribe.

"High Priest, what should we do?" A Snake-man Warrior asked in panic.

"Retreat, retreat immediately!"

The Red Snake High Priest gritted his teeth, decisively making a decision.

"Sssss~"

The Red Snake High Priest released his Spiritual Power, sending out a call.

Quickly, a gigantic Burrowing Snake burst out of the ground, crawling in front of the High Priest.

"Go!"

The Red Snake High Priest jumped onto the back of the Burrowing Snake, his gaze filled with venom as he stared in one direction.

At this moment, his hatred for the Qinglin Tribe far surpassed that for humans. Upon returning, he was determined to unite all the Snake-man tribes involved this time, to massacre the Qinglin Tribe completely, leaving no one alive!

Several Snake-man tribes responded, some went to rescue their kin, others left immediately.

...

Inside the high-altitude warplane, everyone peered through the windows at the canyon below, ablaze.

"With this round of bombing, those snake bastards are almost wiped out."

Xiao Yunlong, pressed against Qin Tian, chuckled, "You all think, with such a smooth operation this time, should our Earth Dragon Team be the main contributor?"

"If we hadn't captured Xue Lin and Wang Tiancheng, there wouldn't be this brilliant strategy to lure them out."

"It was Qin Tian who caught them, don't try to take credit for yourself." Liu Zhaozhao said speechlessly.

"Indeed it was Qin Tian who caught them!"

Xiao Yunlong replied confidently, "But I also contributed. If I hadn't suggested resting on the spot, Qin Tian might not have overheard their conversation."

Liu Zhaozhao chuckled, "You're really shameless."

Xiao Yunlong clasped his hands, "Thanks for the compliment."

Qin Dadi watched the scene before him with a smile, knowing this was a way for his teammates to relieve tension before the battle.

During the earlier bombing, seven or eight tenths of the Snake-men should have died, but surely some survived, tough ones at that.

They were scattered across the vast canyon, missiles couldn't precisely lock onto their locations, so only special forces teams could deal with them.

This was a task with immense difficulty and danger, but if completed, the military points gained would be substantial.

To be honest, Qin Dadi wasn't keen on participating. He, Xiao Yunlong, and Liu Zhaozhao had already accumulated enough Military Points to exchange for the Superpower Enhancement Potion and Bloodline Potion; they just needed to wait for the war to end peacefully.

Unfortunately, this was an order from the Military Department, and the Earth Dragon Team was on the participant list.

Military orders are absolute, they had no choice but to comply.

"Captain, don't worry."

At this moment, a voice whispered in his ear.

Qin Dadi came back to his senses, seeing an unusually calm face.

Qin Tian placed the Shadowstrike across his lap, feeling the momentary weightlessness as the aircraft descended, and slowly said:

"Trust me, I will bring everyone back safely."

Looking into Qin Tian's calm yet confident eyes, Qin Dadi nodded solemnly, a faint smile lifting the corners of his mouth.

"I've always believed in you."

"I believe in you too." Xiao Yunlong draped his arm around Qin Tian's shoulders.

"Me too."

Liu Zhaozhao's bright eyes sparkled.

In these past ten-plus days, they had gone through so much together.

In their eyes, Qin Tian was a meticulous, cautious, strong, and extremely reliable teammate. With him there, the Earth Dragon Team felt like they had a stabilizing anchor amidst turbulent seas.

No matter how fierce the storms outside, they remained fearless.

Whoosh~~~

The aircraft hovered in mid-air, about dozens of meters above the mountain top below, as the cabin opened and a rope dropped straight down.

Qin Tian slung the Shadowstrike behind him, grasped the rope with one hand, and in front of his teammates' eyes, leaped into the void.

The fierce wind hit his face, making his clothes flutter fiercely.

Qin Tian's deep gaze peered at the ground below, a slight curve forming on his lips.

The night is my stage

The hunting moment has arrived!

Chapter 44: Chapter 44: Human Radar

Clap~Clap~Clap~

After the Earth Dragon Team landed steadily, they immediately formed an arrowhead formation.

Qin Dadi stood at the forefront, Xiao Yunlong and Liu Zhaozhao guarded the flanks, while Qin Tian took the center, acting as the team's brain.

"Qin Tian, head that way."

After Qin Tian exhibited his exceptional perception ability, Qin Dadi decisively transferred command, taking on just the role of a meat shield.

Qin Tian slightly lowered his eyes, concentrating his consciousness.

Within a radius of two kilometers, streams of information such as sound, smell, and heat sources flowed into his brain, eventually forming a radar hotspot map.

"This way."

Qin Tian pointed in a direction, from which came the sound of snake scales rubbing on the ground, indicating movement of snake-men.

"Move out!"

The Earth Dragon Team said nothing further and ran in the direction Qin Tian pointed. The sky was too dark, and the terrain was complex. Even with the help of multifunctional helmets, they still had to constantly mind their footing for safety, resulting in a slow pace.

Halfway there, Qin Tian suddenly shouted:

"Stop!"

The group immediately halted, nerves taut.

"What's going on, Qin Tian?" Xiao Yunlong asked in a low voice.

Qin Tian took down the Shadowstrike from his back, mounted it among some large stones, and hid the gun muzzle stealthily between the crevices, aiming forward, moving slowly:

"He's right ahead."

Ahead?

Qin Dadi, Liu Zhaozhao, and Xiao Yunlong immediately looked forward. With the infrared assistance of the multifunctional helmets, they could see grass, broken wood, and stones, but not a snake-man.

"Qin Tian, are you certain?" Xiao Yunlong asked doubtfully.

Qin Tian nodded lightly: "I'm certain."

The snake-man ahead covered its heat signature perfectly by adjusting body temperature, a technique that could evade the helmet's infrared detection but not his naked-eye observation.

In the field of vision, a snake-man was crawling towards them almost in a prone position, moving cautiously. Its blue-black scales blended into the night color, and the sound of scales rubbing the ground was masked by the howling wind.

The snake-man thought he was moving silently and seamlessly. Little did he know, under Qin Tian's formidable night vision, every action was laid bare.

Buzz~

The three major runes on the Shadowstrike Rune Spear activated, the trigger pulled, and a special bullet was fired from the muzzle, hitting the snake-man right between the eyes.

Bang~~

The Tier Three Snake-man Warrior had his head blown off by Qin Tian with a single shot.

For the Shadowstrike, unless it's a Beast Spirit Warrior of powerful bloodline, anything below Tier Four dies without exception.

Above Tier Four, you could still gamble with the Burning Embers Critical Strike.

Yesterday's Tier Four Poisonous Snake-man was the best proof.

Bang~~

The head exploded, red and white scattered all over the ground.

The Earth Dragon Team blinked, only at this moment did they notice the snake-man through the night vision goggles.

"Hiss, that was close."

Xiao Yunlong gasped, both shocked and scared.

If not for Qin Tian, the snake-man might have crept right up to their faces without them noticing.

"How did this snake-man evade infrared detection?" Liu Zhaozhao asked, puzzled.

She had previously fought Shadow Cats and Spirit Cats, but it was her first time facing snake-men, unfamiliar with their talents and abilities.

Qin Tian explained:

"It's an ability to control body temperature. More powerful snake-men can alter their body temperature to blend in with the surroundings, evading infrared detection."

Had it not been for absorbing the Thermosense Control talent, he couldn't have imagined that snake-men had such a trick.

After killing the snake-man, two balls of talent light flew towards him. Unfortunately, these two light balls didn't displace the standing of Thermosense Control and Body of Ten Thousand Poisons.

However, the evolution points gained from the kill brought pleasant surprise to Qin Tian.

points

Looks like it was a higher-level Tier Three Snake-man.

Not bad, a good start!

Qin Tian slightly curled his lips. At that moment, his ears moved, catching the sounds of fighting from afar.

"Let's head this way."

Qin Tian pointed southward, and the Earth Dragon Team set off immediately.

Not long after, Qin Dadi and the others also heard the sounds of fighting ahead.

Ding ding ding~~

Battle swords clashed in the air, sparks flying.

A towering snake-man wielded a longsword, engaged in combat with three humans. Judging from their spiritual pressure and performance, they were all Tier Three Spiritualists. However, the snake-man's power was clearly superior to the other three, holding its own against them.

"Should we step in?" Xiao Yunlong looked to Qin Tian.

Qin Tian pondered for a moment, then shook his head.

"Let's observe the situation first."

Times have changed.

This was a grand hunting feast against snake-men.

Every team was trying their best to find and kill escaped snake-men to earn more Military Points.

Intervening without reason while the allies were holding their ground would be akin to kill-stealing in a game and would undoubtedly cause dissatisfaction or even disputes.

Ding ding ding~~

The clash of weapons continued, and the battle grew more intense.

Just as the snake-man swung his blade to block an incoming longsword, he suddenly felt something slap on his back.

As bystanders, the Earth Dragon Team clearly saw what had just happened.

Just then, a book-sized black door silently appeared behind the snake-man. A hand reached out from the Black Gate, placing a white substance on the snake-man's back, followed by the hand swiftly retracting back into the gate as it closed.

When the hand reached out, the three Spiritualists, who had been attacking the snake-man, immediately retreated in unison. In the next moment, a sticky bomb on the snake-man's back exploded violently.

Boom!

A flash of fire and a powerful explosion blew the snake-man into the air, scales cracking, blood spraying, accompanied by a chilling scream.

"Holy crap, this superpower is so insidious; who could defend against that."

Xiao Yunlong exclaimed, mouth agape, then quickly added:

"If I had this superpower, I'd definitely be a legendary thief by now."

Qin Dadi calmly stated: "This superpower can only be used as support. And there's still the issue of range to consider; it's not as great as you think."

Indeed~

Qin Tian nodded silently, agreeing with Qin Dadi's assessment.

If it weren't for the snake-man being occupied by the other three Spiritualists, it surely would have detected the Black Gate as it opened and reacted accordingly.

This superpower is not suited for direct combat.

But Xiao Yunlong wasn't entirely wrong, either; without range limitations, it would indeed be hard to defend against in theft.

Qin Tian turned his head, looking toward a large tree two kilometers away. Using thermal detection, the Superpower User was concealed among the lush foliage, perfectly hidden, motionless, impossible to spot with naked eyes, quite...

Suddenly, Qin Tian's pupils contracted.

In his view, a face covered in scales suddenly appeared behind the Superpower User, its yellow snake eyes flashing with malice, but its attention was completely focused on the battlefield, unaware of Qin Tian's presence.

Even from two kilometers away, Qin Tian had been keeping an eye on the battlefield below. Under the failure of thermal detection, he hadn't spotted this snake-man either.

Not good!

Qin Tian quickly set up his gun, aiming sharply at the snake-man and pulling the trigger fiercely.

Almost at the same time

Splat~

Bang~

The steel saber pierced the back of the Superpower User, while the bullet blasted the snake-man's head apart.

"Qin Tian, what were you..."

The Earth Dragon Team looked at Qin Tian, a questioning gleam in their eyes.

Qin Tian slowly lowered his gun, shaking his head.

Chapter 45: Chapter 45: New Talent—Black Gate

"That Superpower User is dead."

Qin Tian's voice was very soft. The night was quite friendly to certain Beastmen, like Shadow Cats, Shadow Felids, and the current Snake-men.

The Superpower User had hidden very well, hardly detectable by the naked eye, but the heat he emitted was like a bright beacon in the night to the Snake-men.

Conversely, the majority of the special operations forces didn't have night vision, and the infrared detection equipment they wore was significantly less effective against the Snake-men.

In terms of visibility, the human side was clearly at a disadvantage, outmaneuvered while exposed.

The big operation to lure the snakes out of their den tonight might not go as smoothly as anticipated.

"Dead?"

Xiao Yunlong and the others' expressions changed slightly. Who could have thought that the Superpower User, who had just dealt a crucial blow to the Snake-man, would suddenly fall?

Although they didn't know each other, they were all Special Forces Soldiers of the Empire, and the news of a comrade's death still brought a tinge of heaviness.

Ding ding ding~~

The battle below was nearing its conclusion.

After being hit by a surprise bomb attack, the Snake-man was seriously injured and could no longer withstand the onslaught of three Spiritualists, his Steel Saber growing heavier with each swing, wounds increasing.

The Snake-man knew that if this continued, he wouldn't escape death, so he immediately made a decision.

"Ha~~~"

The Snake-man opened his mouth, spurting out a dense green poison gas that spread in all directions.

The terror of snake venom was known to all.

The three Spiritualists quickly dodged, holding their breaths, fearing even the slightest contact with the gas.

Seeing this, the Snake-man decisively identified the weakest direction and used his snake tail to frantically flee.

As he fled, he desperately squeezed the toxins in his venom pouch, constantly releasing poison gas, forcing the three Spiritualists not to get close.

Seeing the catch about to slip away, the three Spiritualists became both anxious and angry, yet they dared not recklessly pursue due to the snake venom.

Just when they thought the Snake-man would escape, suddenly, his tail exploded, severing in two.

"Ah~~"

A horrendous scream, sharp and intense, as the Snake-man rolled in agony.

"There's a sniper!"

The three Spiritualists were startled and immediately looked back.

On a mountain wall, four figures stood side by side, their appearances blurred by the night, but the gesture of one slowly lowering a gun was clearly captured by them.

"That brother is quite decent,"

one of the crew-cut men chuckled. Judging from the break in the tail, if the shot had aimed for the heart or head, it could have been a fatal hit.

But the sniper only shot the snake tail, then retracted the gun, indicating no intention of stealing the kill.

"Not bad, we should get acquainted later; he did help us out."

The three quickly advanced and chopped off the Snake-man's head with a blade while it gazed in terror and despair.

This scene was captured by the recorder on their chests. After the war, it would be evaluated by the battlefield Sky Eye, eventually granting military merit points to the combatants.

Swish swish swish~

The three moved like agile monkeys, treading the cliff face, quickly arriving before the Earth Dragon Team.

"Brothers, we are the Baofeng Squad from Unit 158, thanks for earlier,"

Captain Huang Siwei said with a smile.

The Earth Dragon Team exchanged glances, their expressions somewhat complex.

The reaction from the Earth Dragon Team puzzled Huang Siwei and the others, who were about to speak, when Qin Tian spoke up.

"Your comrade has fallen."

What!

Huang Siwei and the other two were shocked, immediately calling out:

"Xu the Third, Xu the Third, do you copy?"

Their teammates' voices never came through the combat headset, slowly sinking their hearts to rock bottom.

"Where is he?" Huang Siwei's voice carried a tremor.

Qin Tian pointed to a distant tree and said, "Under that tree."

Huang Siwei and the others immediately dashed over, with the Earth Dragon Team following behind.

Soon, the group found the tree.

Two bodies lay beneath it.

One with a knife in the back, face down,

the other a Snake-man, its head blown apart, a mess of flesh and blood.

"Xu the Third, Xu the Third!!"

Huang Siwei hugged his comrade tightly, calling his name, his voice raspy and broken by overwhelming grief.

Two teammates stood aside, biting their lips, their bodies trembling slightly as tears streamed uncontrollably.

Qin Tian lowered his gaze, feeling exceptionally heavy-hearted.

This scene reminded him again of Dai Jun and Lin Chao, comrades and brothers who had died tragically before him; only soldiers might understand such pain and despair.

Dai Jun could have survived, living with a prosthetic and artificial eye, and, if acknowledged by the Empire, recovering through Life Spirit Liquid and other Treasure Materials.

However, Lin Chao's death shattered his psychological defenses, and he blamed himself for Lin Chao's death.

Thus, at that moment, the only thing he wanted was to die with his brothers.

Xiao Yunlong, Qin Dadi, and Liu Zhaozhao had red eyes, having experienced similar scenes, and the sacrifice of their former comrade Huang Xun remains a scar on their hearts to this day.

"My condolences."

Qin Dadi said, his voice low.

Upon hearing this, the few men couldn't hold back and broke into loud sobs.

"Xu the Third, we said we'd go home together!"

"Bastard, I don't allow it, who said you could leave first?"

The cries were like beasts' wails, filled with endless pain and despair, echoing through the empty night, tugging at everyone's hearts.

Qin Tian stood silently to the side, his senses heightened, becoming a human radar to scan the surroundings, ready in case any Snake-men tried to take advantage.

A few minutes later, their sobbing slowly subsided.

Huang Siwei laid his comrade's body flat under the tree, stood up, faced Qin Tian, and bowed while choking up:

"Thank you, brother."

From the wounds, Huang Siwei could deduce the situation then.

The Snake-man ambushed Xu Yang from behind, stabbing him in the back, after which the sniper shot the Snake-man's head.

Without this sniper, the Snake-man would have joined the one before, presenting a risk of their whole squad being wiped out.

It could be said that this sniper avenged Xu Yang and saved their entire team.

Qin Tian silently accepted the bow, feeling it inappropriate to say anything polite at this moment.

"Brother, which unit are you from?" Huang Siwei asked.

Qin Tian: "319 Legion, Earth Dragon Team."

"319 Legion, Earth Dragon Team."

Huang Siwei repeated, solemnly, "Alright, I'll remember it. If we return alive, I'll definitely treat you all to a drink."

"Mm, take care!"

Qin Tian nodded.

Huang Siwei took a deep breath, waved his hand, his tone filled with resolve and a murderous intent:

"Let's go, kill the Snake-men, avenge Xu the Third!"

The two teammates beside him gripped their Battle Swords tightly, their eyes brimming with a killing aura.

The three nodded to the Earth Dragon Team, then chose a direction and continued forward, soon disappearing into the boundless night.

On the battlefield, they could only temporarily leave their comrades' remains; after the war, they would take Xu Yang home.

"Let's go too," Qin Dadi said.

"Alright!"

As the three turned around, Qin Tian lightly touched Xu Yang's body with his foot, prompting a blue orb to fly out and into his chest.

[Name]Black Gate (Blue)

[Type]Active Talent

[Introduction]Open the Black Gate to connect two spaces.

Chapter 46: Chapter 46: Hidden Dragon List, Explosion Talent

Black Gate

This is the shortest introduction among all of Qin Tian's talents.

However, in terms of practicality, the Black Gate is not at all inferior to the Spatial Bag.

In just a minute, Qin Tian had already thought of several uses for the Black Gate, all of which were quite insidious, especially when combined with the Body of Ten Thousand Poisons, making it absolutely impossible for enemies to guard against.

Huh, why does it feel like the style is getting off track?

"What are you thinking about?"

Xiao Yunlong slapped Qin Tian on the shoulder, bringing him back to reality.

"Nothing much."

Qin Tian shook his head and perked up his ears to listen to the surroundings.

The Snake-men could shield themselves from his heat sensing

but they definitely couldn't shield the friction sounds during their movement, nor the special scent they carried

As long as he stayed focused, no Snake-man could approach them silently.

"Hold on, there seems to be a movement over there."

Qin Tian paused, turned his head to one side, and he heard a very faint rustling sound, which was the sound of a Snake-man swaying its tail, the scales rubbing against the ground.

"Be careful."

Qin Dadi made a gesture, and the group assumed their formation, preparing to move closer.

But just then, two bright balls of light, one white and one green, suddenly rose from the distant sky, dazzlingly bright, arcing through the sky with long trailing flames before colliding fiercely together.

Boom!!!

Like a thunderclap

A ring-shaped shockwave spread outward from the center of the white and green light balls, stirring up layers of air waves.

At that instant, the entire grand canyon shook, the wind howled, boulders rolled down, and cracks appeared in the mountain walls.

Qin Tian raised his arm to shield his eyes, taking two steps back from the wind, his face trembling, a wave of fear in his heart.

Just the aftermath of the clash had such terrifying destructive power

"A mere Silver Beast Bloodline dares to provoke us?"

A calm yet domineering voice came from the sky.

That voice...

Qin Tian stared at the white light ball above his head, Su Yunyi, indeed it was him.

In front of the soldiers, Su Yunyi's tone was gentle and courteous, like a warm spring breeze.

But at this moment, Su Yunyi, facing the Beastman strong, displayed the elegance and majesty of the Golden Clan.

Whoosh~ whoosh~ whoosh~

Several light balls rapidly ascended, heading toward the white light ball.

"Heh, a Tier Five and Tier Six Snake-man teaming up, do you think being numerous makes a difference?"

"Just right, I'll take you all out in one go."

Su Yunyi's light laughter spread throughout the canyon.

The next moment, a blazing white light tore through the night, a hundred-meter-long Golden Giant Sword descended from the sky, with a long trailing light, like the sword of judgment from a deity.

The air was instantly torn, emitting a sharp whistling, the runes around the giant sword flickering, an ancient and mysterious power wave causing the earth to tremble, the space rippling like a serene lake hit by a massive stone.

On the ground, the warriors and Snake-men, who were in a fierce battle, were stunned by this phenomenon.

"Is this the strength of a high-tier Spiritualist?"

Qin Tian's gaze was shocked, his heart in turmoil, unable to calm down for a long time.

"Slash!"

A clear and forceful voice pierced through layers of air, echoing through the sky.

With this shout, the hundred-meter-long Golden Giant Sword sliced through the air in an unmatched arc, sweeping toward the Snake-man strong.

The several Snake-men channeled all their Spiritual Energy in front of them, and in an instant, light burst forth, like several suns of different colors hanging in the sky.

But in front of the giant sword, all was illusory.

The massive light ball was cleaved open by a single sword, its blinding brilliance exploding instantly, so bright it was impossible to keep one's eyes open, followed by a deafening roar, like the chaotic thunder at the creation of heaven and earth, the rolling sound waves spreading around like a tidal wave.

In the area spanning several miles, sand flew and rocks danced, trees were uprooted, swept into the gale, flying everywhere like kites with cut strings, the hard rocks easily crushed like fragile cookies, turning into fine stone powder in the sky.

The Earth Dragon Team was far from the battlefield, but even so, they were blown back step by step by the fierce wind, their soles rubbing against the ground, emitting sharp squeaking sounds.

"Are the Snake-men dead?"

Liu Zhaozhao widened her beautiful eyes and couldn't help but ask.

"Definitely dead."

Xiao Yunlong pronounced, "I checked Su Yunyi's profile yesterday; he's a student at the Royal Military Academy and ranked 83 on the Hidden Dragon List."

"Rank 83 on the Hidden Dragon List!"

Qin Dadi and Liu Zhaozhao shuddered.

The Hidden Dragon List is a combat power ranking for those under 35 years old in the Empire, and everyone on it is a genius of their generation.

And for Su Yunyi to break into the top hundred among all the Golden Bloodline and Nine Great Holy Blood Descendants, ranking 83, shows how terrifying his talent and strength are.

"In the face of such a genius, silver-blooded serpentkin of the same tier are no different from ants."

Xiao Yunlong's eyes sparkled, "Only the Beastman Royal Family is worthy of competing with Su Yunyi."

Qin Tian gazed into the sky, within his view, several indistinct shadows were rapidly falling.

"The high-tier Snake-men are dead, leave no remaining Snake-men."

Su Yunyi's calm voice echoed through the canyon, with no fluctuation in tone, as if what happened was just a trivial matter.

As his words fell, the human side's morale soared, like a caged tiger unleashed, their fighting spirit high.

In contrast, the Snake-men were in panic, filled with despair inside.

"So powerful."

Xiao Yunlong couldn't help but marvel, "Rank 83 on the Hidden Dragon List is so strong, how terrifying must those Holy Blood traits in the top ten be."

Holy Blood~

Qin Tian's eyes flickered, the Golden Clan was already a top noble family of the Galaxy Empire, yet above the Golden Clan were the Nine Great Holy Blood Clans.

They are the actual controllers of the Empire, the ones stirring the clouds.

The Royal Family is one of the Nine Great Holy Blood Clans.

"Don't think too much, the Holy Blood is too far away from us, for now let's focus on completing the mission."

Qin Dadi said.

"Mm."

The night curtain fell heavily, like a thick black cloth, silently covering the canyon.

Blood gushed freely, soaking every inch of land, the scent of death pervaded, rolling, cloaking this dark canyon in an extremely cruel veil.

The dawn appeared, when the first ray of sunlight broke through the clouds and came to earth, the battle to draw out the Snakes finally came to an end.

Puff~

A giant snake head was cut off with a knife, the petrified hand locking the Snake-man slowly loosened.

The command to rest in place came through the combat headset

"Phew, it's finally over."

Xiao Yunlong sat down heavily, his leg muscles twitching slightly.

Under Qin Tian's phenomenal perception, they had killed many Snake-men this night, with high efficiency.

When encountering strong Snake-men, Qin Tian took charge of sniping.

The slightly weaker Snake-men were handled by the three of them, with Qin Tian providing remote support.

The Snake-men that survived missile bombardment were no less than Tier Two, making them quite challenging to handle, yet correspondingly, once killed, the Military Merit Points awarded were considerable.

It's over~

Qin Tian lowered his Shadowstrike, his tense nerves relaxing.

This night, a total of 14 Snake-man Warriors, both Tier Two and Tier Three, perished under his gun; after this battle, his Evolution Points officially broke the 20K mark, reaching 22456 points.

Additionally, while searching the Snake-men, he found a new talent on the body of a fallen Special Forces Soldier.

[Name]Explosion (Green)

[Type]Active Talent

[Introduction]Imbue an object's with Explosive Power, which can be detonated at will under the host's control.

Chapter 47: Chapter 47: Talent Fusion, Barbaric Dominator Body

Explosion, this talent is quite interesting.

It's similar to a mutant ability called "Card Emperor" in the Marvel universe.

It infuses explosive power into objects; the larger the object, the longer the charge time, and consequently, the greater the explosive power.

Card Emperor uses playing cards as conventional weapons, with fast charging and flexible use.

However, this method isn't suitable for the world Qin Tian is in.

The reason is simple: the empowerment process, no matter how short, requires time, and during battle with Spiritualists, any momentary pause becomes a fatal flaw.

In direct combat, [Explosion] is not very useful; it might even be inferior to a Laser Gun.

However, once [Explosion] is combined with [Spatial Bag], [Black Gate], and [Shadow Jump], the possibilities become vast.

"Take a sip of water, and have a rest,"

Xiao Yunlong handed a bottle of water to Qin Tian, who rarely showed signs of fatigue in his eyes.

"Thank you."

Qin Tian took the bottle and gulped down a mouthful, slightly alleviating the tension in his throbbing temples.

All night long, he remained highly alert, constantly monitoring the surrounding odors, sounds, and heat sources, not daring to relax for a moment.

Additionally, using the Shadowstrike Rune Spear required consuming Spiritual Energy, and facing those troublesome Snake-men also required using [Burning Embers Critical Strike], accelerating the consumption of physical strength, mental energy, and Spiritual Energy.

By the latter part of the night, he dared not fire easily, leaving most of the encounters with Snake-men to Xiao Yunlong and the other two, while he supported with the Xiaolong Rifle, using Shadowstrike for a fatal blow when necessary.

But this way, every member of the Earth Dragon Team got a chance to show their prowess, and the military merit points calculated after the battle wouldn't be too unbalanced.

Whirl, whirl

The sound of rotor blades churning the air came from the sky.

An armed helicopter hovered over the Earth Dragon Team, letting down a rope.

A few people grabbed the rope to climb up, sat down quickly inside the cabin, and returned to the base with the craft.

Meanwhile, a 10,000-strong army entered the canyon, cleaning up the battlefield.

.....

Back at base, Qin Tian took a hot shower, then lay comfortably on the bed, calculating the gains from the past two days.

First, in terms of talents, he gained four new talents: [Poisonous Snake Body] (Purple), [Black Gate] (Blue), [Thermosense Control] (Green), and [Explosion] (Green).

[Poisonous Snake Body] is the highest level, and it's the first purple talent he acquired.

[Black Gate], [Thermosense Control], and [Explosion] also have very practical functions in specific scenarios, enriching his combat methods.

Secondly, through the cave battle and the canyon battle, he managed to kill dozens of Snake-men, ranging from Tier One to Tier Four, which surged his Evolution Points to over 20,000.

Lastly, he spent over 5,000 Evolution Points enhancing [Burning Embers Critical Strike], increasing panel values, and to some extent, raised his combat power ceiling.

Counting them one by one, he currently has a total of 15 Talent Light Spheres.

Purple: Poisonous Snake Body

Blue: Steel Bones and Iron Flesh, Shadowbone Physique, Spatial Bag, Burning Embers Critical Strike, Shadow Jump, Purple Thunder Bloodline, Master of Snake Spirits, Black Gate

Green: Absolute Gunmastery, Quick Recovery, Danger Perception, Sword Heart Clarity, Thermal Source Control, Explosion

Over a dozen light spheres of different colors floated within the Sea of Souls, some deep and some shallow, creating a dizzying effect at first glance.

"Several years later, there should be hundreds of Talent Light Spheres here."

Qin Tian boldly speculated, but to be honest, hundreds of Talent Light Spheres might be a bit too many; he might even forget what talents he has later on.

If talents could be fused, that would be perfect.

Suddenly, an idea popped into his mind.

Qin Tian touched his chin, tentatively muttering to himself:

"System, can talents be fused?"

A few seconds later, there was no response.

Qin Tian thought for a while and decided to try a different approach. He controlled the [Quick Recovery] light sphere to approach [Steel Bones and Iron Flesh], and at the moment the two light spheres touched, a system prompt suddenly appeared.

"Do you want to fuse [Quick Recovery] and [Steel Bones and Iron Flesh]? System hint: Talent fusion is uncertain. Please handle with caution. Once fused, it is irreversible."

It really can be done!

Qin Tian's eyes lit up, and he immediately sat up.

Fusion is a skill; if the units chosen for fusion are well-selected, they can produce an effect greater than 1+1. If poorly selected, it could result in instant death.

So, if you decide to fuse talents, you must choose talents with high relevance and compatibility.

Among these 15 talents, Qin Tian felt only three were suitable for fusion.

[Steel Bones and Iron Flesh], [Quick Recovery], [Danger Perception]

These three talents are all body-related and strongly linked.

For instance, [Steel Bones and Iron Flesh] not only enhances the host's strength and defense but also to some extent boosts body recovery, overlapping with [Quick Recovery].

Thinking of this, Qin Tian did not hesitate and directly manipulated the three light spheres to touch each other.

"Do you want to fuse the three talents [Steel Bones and Iron Flesh], [Quick Recovery], [Danger Perception]? System hint: Talent fusion is uncertain. Please handle with caution. Once fused, it is irreversible."

Once again, the system text appeared on the panel.

"Confirm fusion!"

With Qin Tian's command, the one blue and two green light spheres began slowly approaching, continuously converging towards the center, with the color at the junction deepening.

These few seconds seemed incredibly long to Qin Tian, and a person usually so calm could not help but sweat on his forehead.

When the edges of the three light spheres fully overlapped, forming a brand-new deep blue light sphere, he finally exhaled deeply.

[Name] Barbaric Battle Body (Blue)

[Type] Passive Talent

[Introduction] Awaken bloodline of Ancient Barbarian Race, body resembles a beast of the wilderness, possesses incredible strength, tenacity, recovery ability, and danger perception, entering a berserk state when injured, pain sensation decreases, strength increases.

Mysterious power flowed within his body, refining every part of his body. His bones, muscles, and veins became more resilient, and various senses such as vision, hearing, and smell were elevated.

Qin Tian stood up, stretched his body, with his bones making a crisp explosive sound.

Evolving from Steel Bones and Iron Flesh to Barbaric Battle Body, changing from light blue to dark blue.

The new talent retained the advantages of the three talents, achieving an effect greater than 1+1+1, significantly boosting his physical strength.

However, after successfully fusing the three talents, Qin Tian was not satisfied and decided to strike while the iron is hot, leveling up the talent one more level.

The Talent Light Sphere of Barbaric Battle Body was deep blue, and if enough Evolution Points were invested, it could evolve into the next stage, purple.

Currently, the total Evolution Points amount to 22,456.

With a sweeping gesture, Qin Tian directly invested 10,000 Evolution Points to enhance the Barbaric Battle Body.

The Talent Light Sphere quivered slightly, the color deepening at a speed visible to the naked eye, but unfortunately, it still didn't break through the threshold.

Qin Tian gritted his teeth and invested another 10,000 Evolution Points.

With 20,000 Evolution Points invested, the deep blue [Barbaric Battle Body] finally completed its final evolution.

[Name] Barbaric Dominator Body (Purple)

[Type] Passive Talent

[Introduction] Complete awakening of Ancient Barbarian Race bloodline, physique comparable to fierce beasts, astonishing life force, possess incredible wild intuition, +50% resistance to all negative states; activates bloodline power to enter "Overlord Body" state, instantly clears all negative states, rapidly enhances combat power, up to 150% maximum.

Chapter 48: Chapter 48: Military Merit Points Explosion

Crack, crack, crack~~

The bones in Qin Tian's entire body suddenly erupted with a series of explosive sounds akin to firecrackers. His muscle fibers twisted and expanded wildly like dragons and snakes. The veins on his skin surface bulged, resembling numerous thick tree roots twisting and spreading under his skin.

His already muscular physique swelled visibly, bursting the short sleeves he wore. Each muscle was as sharp and defined as if cast in molten iron, glistening with a bronzed, cold-hard luster under the indoor lights.

More astonishingly, his skin gradually became covered with a layer of dark golden ancient patterns, akin to the scales of a barbaric fierce beast, imbued with mysterious dominance.

His blood surged like rivers and streams, his heartbeat thundered like war drums, and each pulse caused the tables and chairs in the room to tremble slightly.

When he suddenly opened his eyes, it was as if a fierce flame burned deep in his pupils. The oppressive aura emanating from him seemed to stagnate the very air.

A few minutes later~

Swoosh~~

Qin Tian exhaled a long breath, and his body quickly shrank back to his originally well-proportioned and muscular form, as if deflated. The dark golden patterns on his skin gradually faded, eventually disappearing altogether.

Qin Tian slowly stood up, the immense power within him surged like raging rivers, with the abundant Blood Qi dispersing and raising the room's temperature by a few degrees.

He felt like a humanoid wilderness beast, reborn, with a mysterious force wandering through his bloodline. Once activated, it would instantly enter a peculiar state.

Overlord Body!

Combat strength can immediately increase, reaching a maximum of 150%.

Comparable to a weakened version of a Super Saiyan.

But it's important to know that in real combat, boosting one's strength by 1.5 times is already terrifying.

A previously evenly matched duel would instantly shift to a crushing advantage for one side.

"These twenty thousand Evolution Points were well spent~"

Qin Tian's lips curled slightly. The transformation of the body is always the most direct and addictive experience. He felt he could now spar with ordinary Tier Three Extraordinary beings using just his body and swordsmanship.

There's no denying that the Purple Talent is truly formidable, whether it's the [Poisonous Snake Body] or the [Barbaric Dominator Body], both greatly enhance his combat capability.

The only pity is that obtaining a Purple Talent is extremely challenging.

Purple Talents are equivalent to the Silver Bloodline Level, and their possessors are all elite talents, rarely seen even in everyday encounters, let alone hunted and stripped of their talents.

And to elevate a Blue Talent to Purple, a considerable amount of Evolution Points must be spent.

The 20,000 plus Evolution Points he had earned through hard work barely elevated the deep Blue [Barbaric Battle Body] to a light Purple [Barbaric Dominator Body]. It's evident that raising a light Blue Talent to Purple would require no less than 50,000 Evolution Points or more.

After the awakening of the Barbaric Dominator Body, the fatigue of battling all night was swept away. Qin Tian picked up the fragments of his burst clothing to deal with them, took a bath, and then entered a state of Spiritual Cultivation.

Spiritual Cultivation requires perseverance and must not be neglected even for a single day.

.....

The next day, the Earth Dragon Team was dining in the mess hall, surrounded by discussions about the battle in Hujian Grand Canyon.

This was a highly remarkable "lure the snake out of its hole" case.

The commander took advantage of intelligence gaps, sending clones disguised as special ops personnel as bait, attracting tens of thousands of elite warriors from the Snake-man tribe.

As soon as the Snake-men showed their heads, the Military Department immediately ordered the missile units to conduct precise bombing using the locator on the clones as coordinates.

Nearly ninety percent of the Snake-men perished in that wave of missile strikes.

The remaining Snake-men remnants were also completely wiped out by the special ops teams sent out afterward.

Not only that, but several Tier Five and Tier Six Snake-man experts were slain by Su Yunyi.

It was the most spectacular and glorious victory in the past month, dealing a heavy blow to the arrogance of the Beastmen and also famously enhancing Su Yunyi's reputation as a commander, adding a significant achievement to his resume.

"If it weren't for Qin Tian capturing Xue Lin and Wang Tiancheng and discovering the Snake-men conspiracy in advance, there wouldn't have been such a great victory yesterday."

Xiao Yunlong took a big bite of chicken leg and muttered softly, "Everyone's praising Su Yunyi, but who knows the biggest contributor should be our Qin Tian."

"Watch your words!"

Qin Dadi glared at Xiao Yunlong sternly and said:

"The Golden Clan's members are not for us to talk about flippantly. Su Yunyi is the one who made the plan, and he's the one who killed the Tier Six Snake-men, so it's only natural for the honor to go to him."

"Moreover, it's better if no one knows about Qin Tian's contribution. Su Yunyi can withstand the Beastmen's retaliation, but can Qin Tian?"

Qin Tian took a sip of his drink, fully agreeing with Qin Dadi's perspective at heart.

As the saying goes, 'The tree that stands out in the forest is sure to be blown down by the wind.'

With his current strength, standing out too much wouldn't be wise.

Keeping a low profile for development is the way to go.

"I... was just casually saying."

Xiao Yunlong realized his mistake, mumbled, and continued chewing on his chicken leg.

"Qin Tian, do you feel any sense of imbalance?" Liu Zhaozhao asked upfront.

"Not at all," replied Qin Tian, shaking his head. "I've already obtained what I wanted."

Twenty thousand Evolution Points, two Purple Talents, two Blue Talents, two Green Talents

These are what he gained within the recent two days.

Compared to other people's recognition and praise, he values tangible results more.

"That's a great mindset."

Qin Dadi said with a face full of comfort, "Qin Tian, rest assured. The Empire has the most authoritative, the fairest, and the most intelligent system for evaluating Military Merit Points. No one's contribution will go unrecognized. I estimate that you'll receive the Military Merit Points by tonight, and they'll surely satisfy you."

"Mm,"

Qin Tian nodded.

The core of the Military Merit evaluation system is an ultra-large intelligent brain called the "Eye of the Battlefield."

During combat, everyone's performance will be captured by the battlefield recorder on their chest and transmitted to the intelligent brain in real-time.

After the war ends, the intelligent brain, combined with all video footage and documents submitted by the Military Department, will provide the most unbiased Military Merit Points reward to combat personnel.

No one, no commander, can influence the evaluations and judgments of the intelligent brain.

This military merit system weakens the power and influence of high-ranking military officials to some extent, while also making lower and mid-level soldiers more trusting and devotedly fighting for the Empire.

As the often-repeated slogan within the army goes:

The Empire will never let down any hero fighting for it.

Beep, beep, beep

On their way back to the dormitory, their smart wristbands vibrated and rang simultaneously, catching everyone's attention at once.

"When all the wristbands are ringing, it means..."

Xiao Yunlong's eyes lit up as he quickly opened his smart wristband to see a new message on the Military Department's app.

"Look, the Military Merit Points have been issued." Xiao Yunlong shouted in excitement.

So fast!

As expected of a large intelligent brain

Filled with anticipation, Qin Tian opened the app, and when he saw the numbers, the corners of his mouth couldn't help but curl up.

At this moment, Xiao Yunlong sneakily glanced at Qin Tian's smart wristband.

Wait, did I see that wrong?

Xiao Yunlong blinked forcefully and fixed his gaze.

The next moment, his eyes widened sharply, and he had to exert all his strength to suppress the urge to shout, forcing the words through clenched teeth:

"Damn, 70,000 Military Merits."

Chapter 49: Chapter 49: Suggestions and Decisions

How much?

Seventy thousand?

Hearing the number Xiao Yunlong reported, Qin Dadi and Liu Zhaozhao's mouths dropped open in disbelief.

They thought getting two thousand military merit points was something to rejoice about.

Who could have imagined that Qin Tian actually earned seventy thousand military merit points.

Seventy thousand, a number they never even dared to dream of.

"Is it really seventy thousand?" Qin Dadi's voice was somewhat dry.

"It really is!"

Xiao Yunlong nodded emphatically, his eyes almost overflowing with envy.

If he had 70,000 military merit points, he could casually exchange them for some heavenly materials and earthly treasures or high-level weapons, sell them off, and retire comfortably.

Qin Tian also didn't expect that he could obtain 72,000 military merit points this time.

However, the details clearly noted that 60,000 of these 72,000 military merit points came from killing the Poisonous Snake-man.

The Poisonous Snake-man is a very special type of beastman.

They are not born with their bloodline but are developed into their snake-man physique through prolonged and continuous exposure to toxins.

Every snake-man tribe selects talented youths from within the tribe to undergo the Poisonous training from an early age.

The training process has an extremely high mortality rate, with only a handful succeeding in the end.

But once successful, the tribe with the Poisonous Snake-man immediately gains the attention of the royal family, receiving a tilt in resources.

In the eyes of the Empire, the danger posed by Tier Four Poisonous Snake-man is higher than that of Tier Six Silver Beast Bloodline.

After all, finding a Spiritualist to match a Tier Six Silver Beast Bloodline is not difficult, but those who can deal with the poisons are too few.

Even Tier Seven and Tier Eight Spiritualists are powerless against large-scale poison spreads.

Thus, after slaying a Poisonous Snake-man, the intelligence rewarded Qin Tian with quite a generous amount of military merit points.

"Qin Tian, you're the boss now!"

Xiao Yunlong leaned close to Qin Tian, lowering his voice in excitement, "With 72,000 military merit points, the range of choices is very broad. I strongly suggest you exchange them for a Bronze Level Bloodline Potion; it will greatly enhance your cultivation speed."

Qin Tian, who has the Purple Thunder Bloodline, is not interested in acquired bloodline potions, but he still nodded in agreement and said:

"Hmm, I'll consider it."

"Besides the Bloodline Potion, you could also consider the Spirit Essence Pill, a consumable elixir that can accelerate your spirit energy absorption efficiency."

"The Dragon Blood Potion is also good; it can comprehensively enhance your physical qualities."

"Or you could try a Bronze Level Blade Technique, the 'Thunderbolt Saber' is at Black Iron level, and you've fully mastered it. Now you can challenge a higher-level blade technique."

"Hey, Fist Technique could work too, you already have blade techniques and body techniques, but you're missing a Fist Technique. If your battle sword isn't at hand, you can still use Fist Technique to fight."

"Actually, learning a magic spell would be good too, having many skills doesn't weigh you down. How about a large-scale Thunder Magic spell?"

"..."

Xiao Yunlong kept chirping in a low voice, seemingly more excited than Qin Tian himself.

Qin Tian listened carefully to Xiao Yunlong's suggestions, keeping them in mind. He's a total newbie in spiritual cultivation and knew nothing about Spirit Essence Pills, Dragon Blood Potions, and other cultivation resources Xiao Yunlong mentioned.

Xiao Yunlong's recommendations could help him use the military merit points more accurately.

"That's all for now. You should think more by yourself, and if there's anything you don't understand, feel free to ask me." Xiao Yunlong put his arm around Qin Tian's shoulder, softly reminding, "And also, don't let others know you have so many military merit points. Let me tell you, there are many sneaky people in the military."

Xiao Yunlong had seen and heard many tragic stories.

Some people, acting out of friendship or trust, exchange their military merit points for supplies to lend to a comrade, only to be blacklisted later, and even lawsuits end unresolved.

Such things happen too often, and no matter how many times the Military Department issued orders, these incidents couldn't be avoided.

Xiao Yunlong believed neither he, Qin Dadi, nor Liu Zhaozhao would have negative thoughts about Qin Tian's military merit points, but when they part ways in the future, he hoped Qin Tian wouldn't be deceived by others.

"Yes, rest assured, I'll be careful," Qin Tian earnestly replied.

"That's good."

Xiao Yunlong looked around stealthily, relieved to see no one paying attention, finally relaxing a bit.

It was only then he remembered that he himself had also earned a considerable amount of military merit points, and his face broke into a grin.

"Hehe, I was just hoping to gather enough for a Black Iron Level Bloodline Potion this time, but not only did I get the potion, I can also exchange for two Black Iron Level martial techniques."

"It's all thanks to Qin Tian~"

Qin Dadi remarked with deep feelings, "If not for Qin Tian, the three of us might have been sacrificed long ago, with none of these current gains."

Everyone knew that getting so many military merit points this time was mainly due to the uncovering of an informant and the thwarting of the snake-man's plot.

Throughout the whole event, it was Qin Tian who took the lead; they hadn't even exerted effort before being knocked out by snake poison.

As for the later canyon battle, although they teamed up to kill several snake-men, it was still Qin Tian who played the most critical role in holding the position.

Now, not only have they gathered enough bloodline potions and superpower enhancement potions that they wanted in advance, but they can also exchange for resources beyond their expectations.

With these resources, their lives post-retirement will be smoother.

The phrase "thank you" had been said many times.

Saying it again would seem distant.

However, each member of the Earth Dragon Team would never forget Qin Tian's contributions, and some things would always be remembered in their hearts.

"After going back, everyone should carefully think about how to use these military merit points and not rush into a decision."

Walking to the bottom of the dormitory building, Qin Dadi specifically reminded them.

After speaking, he looked at Qin Tian, "Qin Tian, if you encounter anything uncertain, feel free to discuss with me. Though I'm not a spiritualist, I'm relatively knowledgeable and can provide some advice on certain things."

"Alright, thank you, Captain."

Qin Tian nodded with a smile.

As he experiences more with the Earth Dragon Team, he slowly took off his cold mask and was willing to show some emotional expression.

And this was something that made the other members of the Earth Dragon Team very pleased.

Whether or not someone is sincere is actually easy to tell.

Everyone could clearly feel that Qin Tian was increasingly merging into the group, showing more of himself to them.

"Alright then, everyone, head back inside."

Qin Dadi laughed.

After returning to his room, Qin Tian opened the Military Department's online mall and studied each section thoroughly.

Elixirs, weapons, armor, treasure materials, cultivation techniques, martial techniques, firearms...

The numerous categories dazzled him.

But this process also filled in his knowledge bit by bit, learning about the characteristics and functions of different treasures, providing direction for the upcoming selection.

This research took an entire day.

By evening, after detailed research and discussions with teammates, Qin Tian finally clarified how he would use these more than 70,000 military merit points.

Chapter 50: Chapter 50: Spirit Essence Pill, Black Frost Blade, Magic, Secret Manual

In terms of using Military Merit Points, Qin Tian has already made his decision.

First is cultivation resources. Following Xiao Yunlong's advice, Qin Tian exchanged for two hundred Spirit Essence Pills.

The Spirit Essence Pill is a supportive elixir. While it doesn't directly increase Spiritual Energy, it significantly enhances the efficiency of the Spiritualist's cultivation, allowing them to absorb more Spiritual Ability Factors in the same amount of time.

Compared to those elixirs that directly increase Spiritual Energy, Spirit Essence Pills are more gentle and do not shake one's foundation, making them the first choice for most Spiritualists' cultivation.

However, Spirit Essence Pills are not cheap, costing 100 Military Merit Points each.

Qin Tian spent twenty thousand Military Merit Points to exchange for two hundred Spirit Essence Pills, which, taken once a day during cultivation, would last for more than half a year.

The second is weaponry.

Weaponry is extremely important to Spiritualists.

If two similarly powered Spiritualists are pitted against each other, the side with the superior weapon will undoubtedly have a clear advantage.

Weapons are the partners of Spiritualists and require time to hone and adapt to.

Frequently changing weapons is not advisable.

Therefore, Qin Tian plans to accomplish this in one go, directly exchanging for a treasure saber that can be used in high-tier battles.

After careful research, he finally chose a famous saber –

Black Frost

From the images and videos, "Black Frost" has an overall ancient yet sharp design, with a blade length of over three feet. Under the light, its body is dark and deep, appearing to engulf all light, with intricate black patterns etched on it resembling flowing frost.

When "Black Frost" is drawn from its sheath, its blade gleams with a cold light, like a bolt of black lightning. Even across the screen, one can feel an icy chill hitting their face.

Black Frost is forged from high-grade ebony and various Spirit Golds, known for its hardness and sharpness, and also has excellent Spiritual Energy conductivity, capable of supporting a Tier Six Spiritualist in battle.

Black Frost comes from the renowned Jewel Studio, with about 50 Black Frost blades entering the market annually, priced at 20,000 Military Merit Points on the Military Department's online store.

Spirit Essence Pills plus Black Frost saber consumed a total of forty thousand Military Merit Points.

For the third part, Qin Tian focused on martial techniques and magic.

Due to the special talent management regulations for Clones, he received a Bronze Level Technique "Shadow Thunder Prison Technique," a Black Iron Level Swordsmanship "Thunderbolt Saber," and a fragment from "Ninefold Thunder Flash" for free.

From the combat power system perspective, he is currently missing a fist technique.

To distinguish from the rapid and violent traits of "Thunderbolt Saber," he exchanged for a dark element fist technique "Bone-Eroding Hand."

This is a sinister Black Iron Level fist technique, where the punches carry a corrosive power of darkness. At its peak, it can erode a living person into water.

Moreover, Bone-Eroding Hand can synergize with Qin Tian's poison ability, becoming even more insidious and deadly, leaving no defenses.

In fact, with his current reserve of Military Merit Points, it's enough to exchange for Bronze Level Martial Techniques.

But since his spiritual cultivation has just begun, and his internal Spiritual Energy is sparse, even the Black Iron Martial Techniques can only be cultivated to the first one or two moves. Bronze Level Techniques are even only capable of being read, not trained, so he does not consider them temporarily.

Besides the fist technique, he also exchanged for a spell and a meditation technique.

The spell is called "Shadow Touch," Black Iron Level. The caster manipulates the power of darkness, condensing dark tendrils to bind the enemy, eroded by the power of darkness, affecting their actions and Spiritual Energy operation.

Initially, he didn't consider Spiritual Ability Magic, given that his talent, cultivation technique, and martial techniques are related to Spirit Warriors, with a future focus on melee combat as the primary means.

Later, it was Xiao Yunlong who recommended "Shadow Touch" to him.

After reading the introduction of "Shadow Touch," Qin Tian felt that this spell was quite suitable for him.

Especially during stealth, [Shadow Jump] paired with Shadow Touch can silently eliminate some sentries and minor soldiers, and during direct confrontation, Shadow Touch might also have unexpected effects.

Furthermore, "Shadow Touch" is part of a series of spells, with further options like Bronze Level "Dark Binding Technique" and Silver Level "Night's Imprisonment," similar to "Ninefold Thunder Flash," with great potential.

Thus, he decisively spent 1200 Military Merit Points to exchange for "Shadow Touch."

Mind Meditation Technique is a non-conventional type of cultivation technique, focusing solely on the cultivation of Spiritual Power.

His numerous talents, like [Burning Embers Critical Strike], [Black Gate], [Spatial Bag], [Explosion], all consume both Physical Strength and Spiritual Power when activated, and the use of Spiritual Martial Techniques and magic also requires participation of Spiritual Power.

Currently, his physique is exceptionally robust, but his feeble Spiritual Energy and Spiritual Power have become the main shortcomings limiting his combat power.

"Shadow Thunder Prison Technique" is a cultivation technique suitable for Martial Artists, focusing on improving physique and Spiritual Energy.

To ensure his Spiritual Power doesn't lag behind, he needed a meditation technique to enhance Spiritual Power.

The meditation technique he chose is called "Frost Meditation Technique."

It involves contemplating snowy landscapes in his mind, simultaneously enhancing Spiritual Power and keeping the mind cool and composed, which fits his needs well.

Besides the spell and meditation technique, he also exchanged for two meticulously explained video courses.

"Combat Mastery" Li Dong Edition

"Swordsmanship Mastery" Zhang Haichao Edition

The instructors for these courses are both Tier Six Spiritualists, with excellent online reviews, one explaining close combat, and the other swordsmanship.

The video courses consist of dozens of Chapters, where the two instructors use personal demonstrations, student assistance, and video analysis to explain combat and swordsmanship in meticulous detail, from basics to advanced levels.

Currently, Qin Tian's weakest area is the basics. Although he has [Sword Heart Clarity] and excellent talent in Sword Dao, his cultivation time is too short, and there are few experts around him, making his progress very limited lately.

As for unarmed combat, he is merely at a beginner level.

These two video courses can rapidly enhance his theoretical knowledge, and combined with daily training and actual combat, his combat and swordsmanship skills will definitely improve by leaps and bounds.

Each course is valued at 1500 Military Merit Points, more expensive than "Shadow Touch," but Qin Tian believes it's worth it.

From the perspective of enhancing combat skills, "Combat Mastery" and "Swordsmanship Mastery" are more important than "Shadow Touch."

Spirit Essence Pills, 200 pieces, 20,000 Military Merit Points

Black Frost, 20,000 Military Merit Points

"Bone-Eroding Hand," 1000 Military Merit Points

"Shadow Touch," 1200 Military Merit Points

"Frost Meditation Technique," 2100 Military Merit Points

"Combat Mastery," and "Swordsmanship Mastery," totaling 3000 Military Merit Points

Besides this, Qin Tian also exchanged 500 Military Merit Points for 500 Shadowstrike Special Bullets.

Total: 47800 Military Merit Points, leaving 24200 Military Merit Points remaining.

As for the remaining Military Merit Points, Qin Tian plans to hold off for the time being.

Currently, the materials he can exchange for, aside from knowledge-based goods like cultivation techniques and martial techniques, all come from the local inventory of Alpha 7 Star.

On this war-torn planet, resources are not abundant, and the available types for exchange are relatively limited.

Qin Tian plans to wait until he reaches a new star, where he will tap into the local Military Department store to exchange for what suits him better.