

## Chapter 7137

The aging Captain Sato,

Under the influence of psychological suggestion, he willingly stripped naked and walked to the bow deck in full view of everyone.

The research vessel was venturing deeper into the strait into the night,

And the temperature was dropping lower and lower.

Although the captain was frozen, turning purple and stiff,

He still stood there hunched over like a wretched, almost sinister statue.

Seeing that he was about to die of hypothermia in the cold wind,

Brovnen ordered Matsushita Heikichi to carry him back.

When the captain was brought back, he was already stiff,

But fortunately, he was still breathing.

Once his temperature goes up, he wouldn't die.

Brovnen found him annoying and simply had him thrown back into his cabin to rest.

Then he called Matsushita Heikichi over and asked,

"How many days will it take to reach Antarctica?"

Matsushita Heikichi respectfully replied,

"About three and a half more days."

Brovnen said coldly, "Find a way to reduce it to three days."

"I don't have that much time to waste at sea."

"Yes, sir!"

Matsushita Heikichi agreed without hesitation.

The research vessel's original voyage and prescribed speed had a safety margin,

So, the speed could be increased.

Reducing three and a half days to two days was basically impossible,

But reducing it to three days was not a problem.

So, the ship immediately went full speed ahead, heading towards Antarctica.

At this time, on the Antarctic continent, Charlie was driving a snowmobile,

He carried three people towards a gentle hill south of the Nordic research station.

The magnificent Antarctic aurora had already appeared,

And Charlie planned to go up the hill to get a closer look at the aurora.

Upon reaching the hilltop, he swallowed a Qi-Nourishing Pill,

Intending to once again circulate the earliest set of hand seals to exchange his spiritual energy with the mysterious entity within his body.

The remaining five pills were a safety net he set for himself.

He needed to ensure he always had five pills on hand for unforeseen circumstances.

This time, the Four Directions Treasure Canopy again imparted sixteen hand seals to Charlie through the aurora,

Bringing the total number of Great Sun Tathagata hand seals to eighty.

These eighty Great Sun Tathagata hand seals significantly improved the overall efficiency of spiritual energy acquisition.

After returning to the research station, Charlie planned to enter seclusion for a period of time,

Accumulating enough spiritual energy before exchanging for the remaining hand seals.

Once in seclusion, time seemed to cease to exist.

A few days passed in the blink of an eye.

Three days later, the Japanese research vessel docked at the edge of the Antarctic continent.

Its docking point was approximately two hundred kilometers from where the Nordic Iliad had previously anchored.

The Japanese research team was already waiting there.

Similar to the process on the Iliad,

They would first deliver supplies before completing the personnel exchange.

Brown, visiting Antarctica for the first time,

He was amazed to witness the aurora borealis in the long, dark night.

Seeing this desolate continent reinforced his belief in a story he'd heard over a century ago.

Perhaps the gate to ascension truly lay in this endless wilderness.

However, he underestimated the sheer size of Antarctica.

Its coastline alone stretched 20,000 kilometers,

And its interior extended thousands of kilometers.

Searching for relics in such a place would be virtually impossible.

For a moment, he didn't even know where to begin.

Not knowing where to start, he decided to focus on what was in front of him.

The research team members became his ideal henchmen.

He subtly manipulated everyone,

And since he happened to find one among the remaining team members fluent in Chinese,

He kept him and Matsushita Heikichi as his two henchmen.

Originally, the research team that had come with the ship was tasked with replacing the remaining members and then returning to Japan.

These people had spent half a year in Antarctica and were all extremely homesick,

Especially since the journey home would take more than a month.

However, Brovnen had no intention of letting them leave,

Not even those who had already worked and lived in Antarctica for a summer were now preparing to return home for rest.

This was because, to him, these research team members were like slaves.

He had easily gained control of everyone,

And from now on, they would be completely obedient to him,

Becoming his helpers and laborers in exploring Antarctica.

Even more valuable was that these research team members were the most knowledgeable about Antarctica.

With them serving him, his plans would be much more efficient,

So losing even one would be a huge loss.

Since the ship was to remain, he might as well keep everyone there.

He needed more lackeys to obey his orders,

So he could become a local tyrant in this vast, frigid Antarctic land.

On the other hand, he couldn't let the research vessel leave Antarctica.

Otherwise, if he needed to leave before winter arrived and couldn't find a ship capable of breaking through the ice and traversing the formidable Roaring Forties,

Wouldn't that be awkward?

So, he called over Matsushita Heikichi and asked him,

“How long can this ship stay here at most?”