

Seeking Fortune and Avoiding Evil in the Cultivation World #Chapter 21: Advancement to the Refining Flesh Realm - Read Seeking Fortune and Avoiding Evil in the Cultivation World Chapter 21: Advancement to the Refining Flesh Realm

Chapter 21 - 21: Advancement to the Refining Flesh Realm

"There should be quite a bit of silver here."

Jiang Fan entered the room and began to scour for treasures inside.

Having made it here with great difficulty, he naturally couldn't leave empty-handed.

After searching for only a moment, he found one hundred and twenty silver taels inside.

This made him feel extremely excited, as it was an unprecedented fortune.

"These Dragon King Gang people really do have money."

"Exactly how much wealth have they extorted from the people?"

"Whatever these guys take, I will take it all back."

Jiang Fan felt entirely invigorated.

Although in these years the Jiang Family had also paid a lot of monthly salaries to the Dragon King Gang, altogether it definitely couldn't amount to as much as one hundred and twenty taels.

Now he considered himself as having completely taken everything back from the Dragon King Gang.

It's equivalent to making up for all previous losses.

With so much silver, he would be able to live for a longer time without needing such hard work every day.

Furthermore, with this silver, he could go to Tonghe County to buy various poisons.

By that time, Su Weiwei would also have some means of self-preservation.

He absolutely wouldn't let today's events happen again.

Whoosh!

Thinking of this, Jiang Fan realized there weren't any more treasures here, so he didn't plan to stay. He quickly left the house under cover of darkness.

The other people in the Fish Cage were still in their rooms drinking and chatting, paying no mind to Luo Chang and others' situation.

This was very normal.

After all, everyone has their own matters; who would care about someone else's affairs?

In no time, Jiang Fan rushed along swiftly, leaving the Fish Cage and returning to Osmanthus Village.

Seeing himself completely out of danger, he finally heaved a sigh of relief.

Suddenly, a message echoed from deep within his consciousness: "You took the initiative to attack and poisoned Luo Chang's gang, preventing disaster, crossed an assassination calamity early, and received an Eighth-Grade Opportunity and two hundred Luck Points."

Another Eighth-Grade Opportunity?

Feeling this information, Jiang Fan was instantly delighted. The previous two Eighth-Grade Opportunities had brought great benefits, making his cultivation advance rapidly.

Now that there's another Eighth-Grade Opportunity, who knows how much help it will bring?

He gently moved, clicking on this glowing point in his consciousness.

Boom~~

Instantly, a message spread: "Five days later, at 11:45 AM, ten miles southeast of Osmanthus Village dock, drop a fishing net and wait quietly to obtain the Eighth-Grade Opportunity."

Five days until I can obtain that Eighth-Grade Opportunity?

Receiving this message, Jiang Fan felt very satisfied. For this Eighth-Grade Opportunity, he didn't need it immediately. As long as he was sure to get it, that was completely sufficient.

"Right, now I've received two hundred Luck Points."

"Does that mean the Soaring Snake Technique can be upgraded again?"

Thinking of this, Jiang Fan's heart was moved, and he opened the virtual panel on his body.

[Name: Jiang Fan]

[Life Chart: Great Blessings Equal to Heaven, attribute: escaping great disaster, surely followed by great fortune]

[Lifespan: 60]

[Luck Points: 350]

[Cultivation Technique: Soaring Snake Technique (Incomplete), First Layer+]

[Skills: Fishing (Beginner)+]

[Disguise Technique: Beginner+][Cao's Poison Scripture: Beginner+]

[Realm: Skin Tempering Realm (80%)]

Clearly, due to gaining a large number of Luck Points, his cultivation technique and skills could all be upgraded.

However, since witnessing the village people's tragic state and the ruthless tyranny of the Dragon King Gang, he knew that rushing to improve all skills wasn't necessary; his strength was the most crucial.

Having strong power was vital to safeguarding his own safety.

Otherwise, it was just being an ant at risk of being killed at any moment.

"Enhancing the Soaring Snake Technique requires one hundred seventy Luck Points."

"Originally it required two hundred Luck Points."

"But due to intense cultivation over these days, plus Su Weiwei's help."

"Only one hundred seventy Luck Points are needed now."

Without hesitation, Jiang Fan immediately enhanced his Soaring Snake Technique.

Boom~~

In the next second, mysterious energy surged out from the depths of his consciousness, swiftly permeating every corner of his being, seemingly providing unprecedented enhancement to his entire body.

He sensed the skin all over his body was tempered to the extreme, becoming as tough as cowhide, without any imperfections, truly flawless.

Once the skin was completely tempered, the mysterious energy further infiltrated every muscle inside, dramatically strengthening each one, boosting the power simultaneously.

Vaguely, Jiang Fan seemed to be in an enlightened state, with his body automatically operating the Soaring Snake Breathing Technique.

The whole person seemed to transform into the Divine Beast Soaring Snake, with every pore devouring mysterious substances between heaven and earth.

Centered on his body, a vast mist formed.

He seemed to be the Soaring Snake hiding deep within the mist, roaming the world.

Thankfully, it was late at night, with no one around.

Otherwise, this phenomenon would surely be noticed by others.

After just a few minutes, this enhancement concluded completely.

"Refining Flesh Realm, now I am a Martial Artist of Refining Flesh Realm."

Jiang Fan clenched his fist, finding his muscles bulging and gaining eight abdominal muscles.

The entire body seemed sculpted, having undergone intense tempering.

Every inch of muscle was saturated with explosive power.

He sensed his strength had increased to eight hundred pounds.

Compared to before, it was unknown how much more formidable he had become.

If struck with a punch, the impact alone would be enough to kill a cow.

While Skin Tempering enhances a martial artist's resistance, Refining Flesh boosts pure combat power, causing a significant surge in strength.

Among the Dragon King Gang, a Martial Artist of Refining Flesh Realm was already considered elite, akin to a prized fighter.

Martial Artists reaching this level were quite rare.

Of course, since he trained with top martial arts techniques, the strength gains were naturally more substantial than other martial artists.

"Now that I'm at this level, it seems my five senses compared to before have more than doubled."

Jiang Fan was deeply amazed.

Honestly, compared to other martial artists, the increase in strength wasn't exaggerated, still within a reasonable scope.

But the enhancement of the five senses was truly astonishing.

His sense of smell, hearing, and dynamic vision seemed to reach a non-human grade.

Why did he outclass his peers in combat despite lacking any martial arts?

It was precisely due to extraordinary five senses.

Such heightened five senses were like innate combat talents to other martial artists.

Like a beast with instinctive fighting intuition.

Others' every move seemed slow as snails in his eyes.

In this way, even if he didn't know any martial techniques, he could easily defeat enemies.

It's fair to say, this is the terrifying effect brought by the Soaring Snake Technique, unmatched by other martial arts.

Chapter 22 - 22 Mastery Level Poison Technique

Thinking of this, Jiang Fan once again opened the virtual panel on his body.

[Name: Jiang Fan]

[Life Chart: Great Blessings Equal to Heaven, Attribute: Survive great peril, and thereafter receive blessings]

[Lifespan: 70]

[Luck Points: 180]

[Cultivation Technique: Soaring Snake Technique (Incomplete), Second Layer]

[Skills: Fishing (Beginner)+]

[Disguise Technique: Beginner+][Cao's Poison Scripture: Beginner+]

[Realm: Refining Flesh Realm (20%)]

"So it took just 170 luck points to advance from the Skin Tempering Realm to the Refining Flesh Realm?"

"The intensive cultivation of these days has truly paid off, saving me a full thirty luck points."

"Moreover, advancing to the Refining Flesh Realm, my lifespan has actually increased. Now, my natural lifespan has extended to seventy years, equivalent to an increase of ten years."

"To further advance to the Strong Sinew Realm, it would probably require at least three hundred luck points."

"In a short time, it seems unlikely to gather so many luck points."

"If that's the case, perhaps improving the Disguise Technique and Cao's Poison Scripture might be an option."

Jiang Fan rubbed his chin.

To be honest, after this experience, he realized the power of the Disguise Technique and Cao's Poison Scripture.

The Disguise Technique can conceal his true identity.

Mastering the Poison Technique also allows him to wield formidable combat power, achieving victory over the strong with the weak.

Especially for his wife Su Weiwei, if Su Weiwei mastered numerous poisons, she wouldn't fear even when facing the people of the Dragon King Gang.

Once the poisonous mist is released, even martial artists can be poisoned to death, akin to ordinary people wielding a gun. Women and children too could then slay Zhang Fei and Lu Bu.

Thinking of this, he didn't hesitate to continue consuming luck points to improve his Disguise Technique and Cao's Poison Scripture abilities.

First, Jiang Fan spent ten luck points to bring the Disguise Technique to the Skilled level, then expended one hundred luck points to elevate Cao's Poison Scripture to the Mastery level.

After all, deceiving ordinary people with the Disguise Technique is enough for him; he doesn't need it to be too strong for now.

But Poison Technique is different, almost matching martial strength, so naturally the stronger, the better.

Rumble~~

In an instant, Jiang Fan sensed a mysterious stream surging from the depths of his consciousness, enhancing his comprehension to some extent. At this moment, his understanding of the Disguise Technique and Cao's Poison Scripture had deepened.

Previously incomprehensible content was now understood thoroughly.

It felt like having studied for twenty years.

This kind of feeling was incredibly wondrous.

[Name: Jiang Fan]

[Life Chart: Great Blessings Equal to Heaven, Attribute: Survive great peril, and thereafter receive blessings]

[Lifespan: 70]

[Luck Points: 70]

[Cultivation Technique: Soaring Snake Technique (Incomplete), Second Layer]

[Skills: Fishing (Beginner)+]

[Disguise Technique: Skilled][Cao's Poison Scripture: Mastery]

[Realm: Refining Flesh Realm (20%)]

Seeing the information change on the virtual panel, Jiang Fan felt quite satisfied.

"The Disguise Technique can't be improved any further?"

"Has it reached the current Martial Arts Realm limit?"

Jiang Fan rubbed his chin.

He originally thought he could improve the Disguise Technique's realm, but now it seems it's not as simple as he imagined.

Because the level of the Disguise Technique is closely related to the level of the Martial Arts Realm.

In some sense, this Disguise Technique is not merely a makeup skill but a Martial Arts Technique.

Through cultivating the Disguise Technique, one can manipulate the changes in their skin, muscles, and bones, resulting in significant alterations in appearance and body shape.

It is said that if the Disguise Technique is cultivated to the Perfection level, one can freely shrink and enlarge their body size, and alter their appearance to various forms. Its mysteries are endless.

Since he is merely in the Refining Flesh Realm, he can only achieve the level of manipulating facial muscles.

So, cultivating to the Skilled level is the limit for the current realm.

Even with sufficient luck points, further improvement is not possible.

However, a Skilled level Disguise Technique allows him to easily change his appearance to resemble others.

Even the neighbors and villagers wouldn't be able to recognize his original appearance unless they closely scrutinized him.

This level of Disguise Technique is already more than sufficient for roaming the Jianghu.

"Cao's Poison Scripture, on the other hand, can still be improved."

"Unfortunately, I have no luck points left."

Jiang Fan raised an eyebrow.

Undoubtedly, upon reaching the Mastery level, he felt his understanding of poison techniques was on par with someone who had studied Cao's Poison Scripture for twenty years.

Regarding various poisons, he had complete knowledge.

He also mastered the properties of various poisons and could mix poisons at will, creating formidable toxins.

Like a famous poison master in the Jianghu.

He even mastered some poisoning techniques.

To be honest, he increasingly thought that the deceased elder was extraordinary, having mastered poison techniques to such an extent. The other party was surely a renowned figure in the Jianghu.

"If that's the case, it might be worthwhile to visit Tonghe County."

"After all, the food at home seems to be running out."

Jiang Fan initially thought the food at home could last two or three weeks, but he underestimated the appetite one develops after becoming a martial artist, equivalent to two or three grown men.

Now, as a Refining Flesh Realm martial artist, he likely requires even more food.

Thus, the current food at home is far from sufficient, and a trip to Tonghe County to buy more is necessary.

Although he pondered his plans for the next few days, Jiang Fan didn't stop heading home.

Soon enough, Jiang Fan was back home.

Of course, under the cover of night, the villagers did not notice his whereabouts.

And Su Weiwei was also at home, anxiously awaiting his return, occasionally peering out the window, deeply worried.

"Husband."

Seeing Jiang Fan's returning figure, Su Weiwei was instantly overjoyed, and the stone in her heart seemed to settle.

She was very worried about something happening to her husband.

Now, seeing her husband safely returned, she finally felt at ease.

If something really happened to Jiang Fan, she couldn't imagine how she would live afterward.

"Love me."

Su Weiwei looked at Jiang Fan with fiery eyes. She did not intend to ask what he had just done. Knowing too much wouldn't benefit her.

Now, she just wanted to wholly merge with this man, indistinguishable from each other.

Hearing these words, any man would find it hard to resist.

Jiang Fan stepped forward, lifted Su Weiwei in his arms, and carried her into the bedroom.

In an instant, the lights in the house went out, the bed swayed, and springtime filled the air, seemingly a night to remember.

Outside, insects chirped noisily, creating an extra tranquil atmosphere.

It exuded a rare sense of serenity and warmth.

As if all anxieties were kept out of this house.

This place was the warmest harbor for the two of them.

Chapter 23 - 23: The Murderer is the Flower Thief Cao Jun

Noon on the second day, Fish Cage.

No one initially noticed the deaths of Luo Chang and others. After all, it was common to revel all night and sleep until noon the next day.

However, since Luo Chang and others had not gotten up for a long time, someone from the Dragon King Gang went to check.

What they saw were corpses scattered everywhere, and the room was filled with a foul stench.

This was an unprecedented murder case.

Even the governmental constables of Tonghe County were alarmed, and the whole yard was temporarily cordoned off.

"Who, who indeed killed my son?"

Luo Zheng, elder of the Dragon King Gang, was furious beyond measure. Seeing his son dead, he was filled with overwhelming hatred, wishing to find the murderer and tear them to pieces.

Even though Luo Chang often acted recklessly and caused trouble.

But after all, he was his only son, born late in life.

Now, he died for no apparent reason.

The anger in his heart was imaginable.

"If I'm not mistaken, the one who killed your son should be the flower thief Cao Jun."

At this moment, Feng Hao, the county captain of Tonghe County, walked over, striding powerfully, radiating a formidable aura.

All the members of the Dragon King Gang around bowed their heads, not daring to meet his gaze, filled with reverence.

They naturally acted arrogant towards the fishermen, often throwing their weight around.

But when facing a bigshot like Feng Hao, they dared not offend him rashly.

Otherwise, even the Dragon King Gang could land in big trouble.

An ordinary murder case would not be able to attract Feng Hao.

But this matter is related to the flower thief Cao Jun, making it entirely different.

After all, Cao Jun had always been the target he was tracking, unexpectedly finding a trace here.

"Flower thief Cao Jun?"

"Lord Feng, how did you know the murderer is Cao Jun?"

Upon hearing this, Luo Zheng, elder of the Dragon King Gang, was shocked. He naturally had heard of this wanted criminal.

It's said this person ravaged the martial world for decades, and countless noble families' women were victimized by him.

Once, even the court issued a bounty, determined to pursue and kill Cao Jun.

They even set a heaven and earth net.

Unfortunately, after so many years, Cao Jun still remains at large.

The court is helpless against this guy, reflecting his ferocity and strength.

"Very simple, your son, along with these people, died from the infamous Three Centipedes and Five Toads Smoke."

"This is Cao Jun's exclusive toxic smoke, coming from Cao's Poison Scripture."

"Apart from Cao Jun, no one else possesses it."

"Once inhaled, people almost die instantly, unable even to call for help."

Feng Hao straightforwardly stated.

"But why would such a notorious figure come to kill my son?"

Luo Zheng, elder of the Dragon King Gang, was utterly baffled.

After all, his son was just an ordinary person, impossible to offend such a big entity.

"There's no reason; it's pure misfortune."

"Cao Jun despises, apart from government officials, fellow flower thieves."

"It's said your son has a bad reputation, fond of snatching young women?"

Feng Hao calmly said.

"Rumors, mere rumors."

"But this guy is a flower thief and still hates other flower thieves?"

Luo Zheng naturally knew the truth but refused to admit it, after all, with his son dead, he didn't want his reputation to worsen.

"Whether rumor or fact, Cao Jun indeed targeted your son."

"As a flower thief, naturally he hates other flower thieves."

"For someone like Cao Jun, he detests competitors the most."

"If flower thieves were everywhere, it would be easy for them to target women Cao Jun had his eyes on?"

"So once Cao Jun discovers other flower thieves, he will surely kill mercilessly."

"Over the years, flower thieves dying at Cao Jun's hands aren't few."

Feng Hao sneered coldly.

Though Cao Jun was indeed a calamity, he did, to some extent, help the court with some flower thieves, even avenging some victims.

Of course, this wasn't Cao Jun's intention.

"This."

Upon hearing this, Luo Zheng fell silent.

If true, indeed it was an unexpected calamity, a disaster without reason.

"Initially, I thought Cao Jun, ambushed and heavily injured, hid in Yunmeng Lake, was surely dead."

"Who would have thought this old scoundrel has such a large lifespan, still coming out to commit crimes."

Feng Hao said helplessly.

Originally wanting credit for this, even if unable to kill Cao Jun, he could find his corpse.

Thus, he could claim the merit.

Unexpectedly, not only was Cao Jun not dead, but he still went out to commit crimes.

Undoubtedly, this was a provocation against the court, boldly telling the court that despite the ambush, he, Cao Jun, was still alive and active.

Indeed, surviving as a flower thief for decades requires skill, making it hard to kill him easily.

"If you seek revenge, go find Cao Jun."

"But knowing his character, he's probably run off somewhere unknown."

Feng Hao said gravely.

Having checked the house, he found no clues.

Clearly, that guy is too cautious, fleeing immediately after committing a crime.

Giving them no chance to find this old ghost.

"Revenge? How to avenge?"

"That's Cao Jun; who can kill him."

Upon hearing this, Luo Zheng was desperate, trembling all over.

If just an ordinary person, he would seek revenge, even willing to kill the opponent's entire family.

But what faces him is the flower thief Cao Jun, infamous.

Countless martial heroes died at his hands.

If he indeed finds Cao Jun, he might die in his hands first.

Besides, Cao Jun wouldn't care about him.

Among Cao Jun's many enemies, he doesn't rank at all.

Rather than finding Cao Jun for revenge, might as well have another child.

This is the cruelty of this world.

On the surface, as a Dragon King Gang elder, he can oppress the common people, high in rank and power.

Yet before true powerhouses, he is like an ant.

If encountered, he too would die without burial.

Despairing to the point of not even considering revenge, accepting his fate.

He regretted it deeply.

If he knew earlier about Cao Jun's cruelty, specializing in killing flower thieves, he wouldn't have allowed his son to act recklessly.

Now, it's too late for regrets.

"Then pray, pray that we can find Cao Jun again."

Feng Hao shook his head, also feeling helpless.

He's seen countless victims like this.

Used to it long ago.

Nowadays, the case-solving rate is below twenty percent.

Especially when martial artists commit crimes, they run elsewhere after killing, unable to be caught.

As governmental constables of a county, it's impossible to travel for cases.

So often, they leave it unattended, accepting the victim's misfortune.

Chapter 24 - 24: Villains Are Counteracted by Greater Villains

At this moment, Osmanthus Village, Jiang Family.

"Husband, your body seems to be growing stronger."

Su Weiwei's face blushed, her beautiful eyes like water, appearing incredibly alluring and attractive, making one drool.

She lay quietly in Jiang Fan's arms, her fair small hand gently caressing Jiang Fan's abs.

Now she felt this man's body was simply sculpted, appearing incredibly perfect.

Especially the skin, smooth without any scars, like silk.

Sufficient to make all the women in the world jealous.

This also made herself a bit reluctant to let go.

"Yes, my martial arts cultivation has progressed slightly, I am now a Martial Artist in the Refining Flesh Realm."

Jiang Fan smiled slightly, hugging this beauty.

He also felt the physique of the beauty in his arms was also very special.

Originally, he thought as his strength grew, perhaps Su Weiwei wouldn't be able to withstand it.

But Su Weiwei wasn't like that, instead, she was gradually adapting, seemingly her physique was also strengthening.

It's truly incredible.

"My strength has actually grown stronger?"

Su Weiwei was instantly delighted.

She knew what a Martial Artist in the Refining Flesh Realm represented. Even in the Dragon King Gang, it surely counts as elite, fully capable of becoming a major leader, commanding dozens of subordinates.

With this level of martial arts strength, one could even become a governmental constable in Tonghe County and get a public position.

Even if not working as a fisherman, there were other things to do, there would be a place in the world.

"Yeah, so my appetite has also increased."

"Today, perhaps I need to make a trip to Tonghe County to buy more food."

Jiang Fan said.

"Alright."

"I'll hide at home, waiting for you to come back."

Upon hearing this, Su Weiwei nodded. Although she knew that going to Tonghe County might involve danger, it couldn't be helped, as in this world, doing anything involves risk.

But now her husband was a Martial Artist in the Refining Flesh Realm. If it's just buying food, there shouldn't be any problems.

"Oh, I have something for you."

"This is a special poison named 'Three Centipedes and Five Toads Smoke.'

"Once released, it can fill an entire room quickly, and is colorless and tasteless."

"Even if martial artists smell such poison smoke, they would die from the poison."

"So if you encounter something like what happened last time, with no way to avoid it, use this poison."

"This poison can completely eliminate all thugs."

"Of course, before releasing 'Three Centipedes and Five Toads Smoke,' you should first take the antidote."

"This way, the 'Three Centipedes and Five Toads Smoke' won't harm you."

Jiang Fan took out a bottle of antidote and a stick of poison smoke from the side.

He carefully explained the usage.

This was his method of self-protection for Su Weiwei, capable of providing the greatest protection.

"Is there really something like this in the world?"

Su Weiwei's eyes brightened instantly, seeming more and more excited.

If she mastered the method of releasing this poison, she wouldn't need to worry about encountering thugs, fully capable of protecting herself.

After a moment of tenderness, Jiang Fan had dressed, taken the silver taels, and left the house.

Just after leaving the house, he saw many Osmanthus Village villagers gathered together, each with a spirited expression, as if something significant had happened.

"What's happening? Why so excited?"

Jiang Fan approached, curiously asking.

"Xiaojiang, something big happened with the Dragon King Gang."

"Do you know the Dragon King Gang's Luo Chang who came to our Osmanthus Village last time?"

"He's that depraved demon."

"It's said this morning he was killed by the Flower Thief Cao Jun."

Song Fugui said with spirited eyebrows.

There's a saying, good news doesn't go beyond doors, bad news spreads far and wide.

Although in this era, the rate of news transmission is very slow, news about the Dragon King Gang's misfortune spreads rapidly across the fishing village households.

Because many fishermen wanted to see the Dragon King Gang's misfortune.

"Killed by the Flower Thief Cao Jun?"

"How do you know it was the Flower Thief who did it?"

Upon hearing this, Jiang Fan's expression was odd. Even though he was the one who took down Luo Chang, it seemed someone helped him take the fall.

But it was indeed a good thing.

At least it wouldn't implicate him.

"Do you even need to ask? Tonghe County's County Captain Feng Hao brought a big group of governmental constables over and searched inside and out, and discovered it was the Flower Thief Cao Jun, the evidence is conclusive."

A villager said as a matter of fact.

"Yeah, Luo Chang's father Luo Zheng, that Dragon King Gang Elder, turned pale upon hearing the murderer was the Flower Thief Cao Jun, didn't dare say harsh words, could only admit defeat."

"Hehe, that Luo Zheng can only bully us fishermen, but meeting a real rogue on the Jianghu, he's scared like a quail, don't think he's anything impressive."

"No way, you don't know how terribly Luo Chang died, bleeding from seven orifices. If Luo Zheng also showed up at the scene, he might have been killed together, where would he dare seek revenge, better to just have another child."

"It's said not only Luo Chang died."

"Even a dozen of Luo Chang's henchmen died with him."

"Guo Mazi wanted to curry favor, followed along, and died too."

"Deserved death, all accomplices of tyranny."

"Yeah, evil people have their nemeses, we should be grateful to that Flower Thief Cao Jun."

Numerous villagers discussed fervently, each incredibly ecstatic.

Because after Luo Chang died, life in Osmanthus Village might get better.

Even if it didn't get better, seeing such a villain being taken down was very satisfying.

"Flower Thief Cao Jun? Cao's Poison Scripture?"

"Could it be that the old man who died before was Cao Jun?"

"Last night, I used the 'Three Centipedes and Five Toads Smoke,' a unique poison smoke recorded in Cao's Poison Scripture."

"Perhaps because of this, the County Captain mistook it as Cao Jun."

Jiang Fan's eyes flickered.

He felt he already understood the entire sequence of events.

To some extent, he's been lucky, seemingly every action blessed by destiny.

Even for the events last night, someone was found to take the fall for him.

Clearing all his suspicion.

Probably neither the Dragon King Gang nor Tonghe County's governmental constables would ever know the murderer was just an ordinary villager from Osmanthus Village, it was beyond their imagination.

After all, who would think of his connection with Luo Chang?

He did have a minor conflict with Luo Chang.

But among the adjacent fishing villages, there were too many who had conflicts with Luo Chang.

He was just an insignificant one.

Thinking of this, Jiang Fan relaxed completely, feeling utterly safe.

He didn't continue chatting with the villagers, but found a chance, quickly leaving, heading toward Tonghe County.

Chapter 25 - 25: A Surge in Refugees, Rising Grain Prices

This time, Jiang Fan's journey to Tonghe County was twice as fast as before.

Due to advancing to the Refining Flesh Realm, not only did his strength surge, but his speed also skyrocketed.

When running, it was like a swift horse.

So it wasn't long before he arrived at Tonghe County.

Of course, before that, Jiang Fan used the Disguise Technique to change his appearance.

Originally he was a seventeen or eighteen-year-old young man, but by altering the state of his facial muscles, he became a middle-aged man in his thirties or forties, looking well-weathered.

This way, even if he met villagers from Osmanthus Village, they couldn't recognize him.

"Hmm? Why are there so many more people in Tonghe County?"

Jiang Fan quickly noticed that the line of people at the gate of Tonghe County had increased significantly compared to before.

And many seemed to be outsiders.

Each of them covered in dust, faces sallow and lean.

He quietly moved forward to gather information.

"It seems that the number of refugees from the North is increasing and they are flooding into our Tonghe County."

"It's no wonder, given that the Red Eyebrow Army is getting stronger. It's said this rebel army has attacked and taken over a dozen cities recently, now commanding tens of thousands of troops."

"Really? If that's the case, won't the Court be at risk of being overthrown?"

"That can't happen. The Court is so powerful. How can a mere rebel army overthrow it?"

"That's right. Once the Court's army arrives, the mere Red Eyebrow Army will surely be obliterated."

"The problem is, when will the Court's army arrive?"

"Exactly. By the time they might arrive, our Tonghe County could be conquered by the Red Eyebrow Army, and then we'd be executed."

"Bah, don't say such unlucky things."

Many people were also worried.

Although life in Tonghe County is quite tough, at least it's very safe.

Once the Red Eyebrow Army arrives, chaos and conflict will erupt, and no one knows how many would die.

At least for the people at the bottom, it would definitely be a devastating disaster.

"The Red Eyebrow Army?"

Jiang Fan didn't expect to find out such critical information upon arriving at Tonghe County; the so-called Red Eyebrow Army is a rebel force composed of numerous bandits and Green Forest Heroes coming together.

Their eyebrows are dyed red, hence called the Red Eyebrow Army.

Since their uprising, they have been rapidly expanding with the potential to sweep across the nation.

They have already conquered more than a dozen cities consecutively.

This has also put the Court in a desperate situation.

Once the Red Eyebrow Army reaches the vicinity of Tonghe County, it will undoubtedly bring a bloodbath.

Osmanthus Village cannot remain untouched.

Though the Red Eyebrow Army is a rebel force, being originated from bandits, their methods are quite ruthless.

Moreover, they are very greedy.

Wherever they go, it's like locusts sweeping through, leaving nothing behind.

Of course, what's more important now isn't the Red Eyebrow Army, but the massive influx of refugees from the North.

After all, the Red Eyebrow Army cannot reach here immediately.

But the arrival of these refugees is very real.

These refugees have no jobs and are hungry. For food, they might do anything.

Undoubtedly, this period will see a very poor security environment.

It's possible these refugees might turn to banditry, plundering everywhere.

"Sure enough, grain prices have risen by ten percent."

After arriving in Tonghe County, Jiang Fan immediately went to purchase food and found that compared to last time, grain prices had increased by ten percent with a trend of continuous rise.

If a significant number of refugees arrive in Tonghe County, or if the Red Eyebrow Army attacks, prices could rise several times, which is quite normal.

Furthermore, even with money, it might not be possible to buy grain.

So he also needed to hasten his food purchases, exchanging his silver taels into food.

This way, even if grain prices soar, it wouldn't matter to him.

"The food can initially be transported to a cave on a small hill near Osmanthus Village."

"Then at night, bring the food back home."

"After several trips, at least one or two years' worth of food can be stored."

Jiang Fan's eyes glittered, contemplating his food transport plan.

He originally considered hiring carriages or donkeys to transport food, but the commotion would be too great.

At that time, who knows if his identity would be exposed.

So, he decided to work a little harder himself and make several trips.

This way, it would at least remain confidential.

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In the next three or four days, Jiang Fan frequently traveled between Tonghe County and Osmanthus Village.

He spent most of his silver taels on buying food.

During the day, he first transported the food to the hill near Osmanthus Village.

Then at night, he moved the food back home, storing it in the cellar.

After several days of effort, he finally managed to store a substantial amount of food.

At least it could satisfy over a year's food needs.

Since he acted very cautiously and used the Disguise Technique to change his appearance, he didn't expose any trace or attract the attention of any wrongdoers, everything went very smoothly.

However, this is quite normal.

For ordinary people, more than a hundred silver taels is indeed a lot, like an astronomical figure.

But for the hundreds of thousands of people in Tonghe County, it's quite insignificant.

This amount of grain doesn't really count for much, naturally not causing much attention.

Plus, with his cautious approach, those who might notice are basically nonexistent.

"Husband, you actually bought back so much food?!"

"Can we possibly finish all this food?"

But for Su Weiwei, she was stunned. In her life, it was the first time seeing so much food at home. It was simply too overwhelming.

She couldn't imagine when they would be able to finish it all.

Furthermore, Jiang Fan didn't just buy rice, but also a lot of cured meat, vegetables, soybeans, salt, pork fat, and so on.

In short, all sorts of food, everything was available.

"Trouble may arise in this period."

"So preparations must be made in advance."

"With this food, we won't need to frequently go to Tonghe County in the future."

Jiang Fan explained.

"That's true, the road to Tonghe County is indeed too dangerous."

"Even though nothing happened to you previously, it's impossible not to get wet while frequently walking beside a river."

"It's better to go less often to Tonghe County."

Su Weiwei couldn't help but nod.

In fact, every time Jiang Fan went to Tonghe County, she was worried, afraid something unexpected might happen to her husband, and now reducing trips to Tonghe County is indeed a good thing.

"Don't worry, we will be fine."

"We'll surely live well."

Jiang Fan embraced Su Weiwei, feeling more longing for strength in his heart, as in this chaotic world, only power could protect him and ensure his safety.

"Husband."

Su Weiwei raised her head, her beautiful eyes ardently watching Jiang Fan, filled with endless charm.

Seeing this, Jiang Fan couldn't control himself, holding Su Weiwei, entering the bedroom.

Instantly, it became full of spring spirit, the bed swaying.