

Full Time 511

Chapter 511: Movie Emperor_3

"Some were literally scared to death. It was as if they were cornered by something terrifying, trying to claw a path through concrete walls. Their fingers were worn raw, and bloodstains covered the walls. Then, they were simply scared to death."

"Others were found huddled together, clawing and biting at each other, literally tearing out each other's tracheas..."

Chen Gu realized, "Psychological terror!"

Aviloya paused, then said, "Back then, a special task force was formed to investigate this matter—essentially, to destroy all evidence, cover up the truth, and prevent a scandal from breaking out."

"After we noticed Wei Jiangqi's anomaly, we conducted a thorough investigation. Even though Wei Jiangqi never admitted to anything during the interrogations, we believe he was the only successful test subject from that horrific experiment."

Chen Gu was not surprised; or rather, he was mentally prepared. Aviloya wouldn't bring up this matter without reason.

He took a deep breath and asked, "So, you're saying Wei Jiangqi has lived for over a thousand years?"

Aviloya replied, "We have no idea how he managed to do that." She then added, "There's something else you need to know. Those mad experimenters were able to gain the politician's trust because they had found a special brain, one that could even be described as a 'pure brain organism.'"

"That thing was discovered inside a crashed spaceship. It was originally a small exploration vessel. In that era, many small teams, upon securing investment, would purchase such a ship. They would then bravely navigate the vast Star Sea, hoping to chance upon resource planets in unknown locations."

"A few lucky ones succeeded, but most disappeared into the complex interstellar environment."

"This particular ship encountered something unknown. All its electronic devices were rendered completely useless, and the crew members were annihilated, leaving only dark, human-shaped imprints in the wreckage."

"But an atypical brain survived. How they managed to subdue this terrifying brain is now beyond our knowledge."

"It's even hard to say whether this brain was human, because the crew had also brought a pet dog, a pair of pet lizards, and a tank of ornamental fish on board."

Finally, Aviloya said, "That's all I know. The investigation team responsible for eradicating all traces back then supposedly just sealed off the base and didn't deal with the brain. This was because the vault containing the brain was embedded with a massive bomb, theoretically impossible to disarm."

"It's been over a thousand years. By rights, that brain should have died long ago, but you still need to be careful."

「...」

Because Aviloya had pointed out Tianluo Star, Chen Gu ultimately decided to personally station himself there.

When the preservation vault door opened, he had already caught a glimpse of the brain from the shadows.

In that instant, he was seventy percent certain the brain was still alive.

Wei Jiangqi was clearly aware that this thing wouldn't die, which is why, for over a thousand years, he had never come to "disturb" it. Wei Jiangqi knew the vault's code; theoretically, he could have taken it at any time. So why wait until now? Probably because he previously felt he lacked the strength to protect it.

But now, things were different.

Inside the vault, unopened for a thousand years, Chen Gu maintained a somewhat flippant exterior, but inwardly, he was on high alert!

His primary vigilance was not directed at Wei Jiangqi, but at the brain beside him.

Wei Jiangqi seemed struck by Chen Gu's "killing the soul" remark and curled his lip unhappily; Chen Gu managing to find this place had genuinely surprised him.

But he paid Chen Gu no further mind. After all, no matter how many people came today, they were destined to become mere test subjects, just like those motorcycle thugs Big Bear brought.

He turned to the crown-like brain, his eyes revealing a peculiar emotion—a silent, tender, and unfathomably deep affection, as he said, "I'm back."

The brain, which was beside Chen Gu and within his reach, had been utterly still ever since the vault door opened. But at Wei Jiangqi's words, it suddenly "came to life," showing great excitement.

Its black, slender threads, like strands of hair or tentacles, all suddenly billowed upwards!

This movement startled everyone, including Big Bear, because the black, slender threads had filled the entire vault in an instant!

They hadn't appeared to possess such volume before. The current scene sent a shiver of scalp-numbing danger through them—the situation had instantly transformed. Moments ago, Chen Gu could have taken the brain at any time; now, the brain could trap him at any moment.

Wei Jiangqi revealed a rare smile and said gently to the brain, "I know you've waited long and arduously, so you're in a terrible mood. However, the little guy beside you is still useful to me. I need his Bureau of Mystic Security identity to play a game with an important figure. Don't kill him."

The black, slender threads surrounding Chen Gu quietly drifted back a little, yet they still twitched twice, as if conveying some message.

Chapter 512: Movie Emperor_4

Wei Jiangqi, who was very familiar with it, immediately put on an indulgent yet helpless expression. He spread his hands, nodded, and said, "Okay, okay, I'll ensure he behaves and won't anger you."

The black lines rippled once again, and Wei Jiangqi began to explain again, "I know, I know, I'm back now, aren't I? It's tough out there for me too, you know."

The ripples in the black threads suddenly intensified, and a slight change crossed Wei Jiangqi's face as he said, "I don't want to rely on you for everything. I know you have the ability, but... I still want to try it on my own. Yes, it was a bit slow, but I still succeeded...."

The members of the Special Action Team, hidden in the shadows, felt a growing sense of foreboding. Chu Zheng couldn't help but ask over the channel, "What's this charlatan rambling on about?"

Marcus let out a long sigh and said, "We're really out of luck this time—the brain is obviously very powerful. Chen Gu was reckless this time, teleporting himself there, practically delivering himself to their doorstep.... It looks like we're not going to be able to get away either."

As Wei Jiangqi started towards the vault, Chen Gu did something that stunned everyone: he reached out to grab the brain!

Cold sneers touched the lips of Wei Jiangqi's followers and the bear. What a foolhardy guy. If the Prophet hadn't spoken on your behalf, would that demon have spared you? And now you're provoking it yourself? Even the Prophet can't save you now!

But Chen Gu easily grabbed the crown-like brain in his hand and yanked it down from the top of the metallic cylinder!

The black threads that had filled the entire vault immediately lost their strength and hung limply.

"Don't!" Wei Jiangqi cried out in shock, his face contorted with unbearable pain. He didn't dare take another step forward, instead extending his hands towards Chen Gu, terrified he might make another rash move.

Chen Gu then raised the brain high overhead, his palm seemingly exerting force, as if a powerful expert was about to crush this demonic brain!

Wei Jiangqi pleaded again, "Don't—"

A mocking expression appeared on Chen Gu's face. "I don't believe it! A brain that's been in such a closed environment without sustenance for over a thousand years could have much strength left! It's lucky to be alive. It probably used all its strength just to lift those black threads earlier."

The bond between Wei Jiangqi and the brain was extremely close. Even after more than a thousand years, Wei Jiangqi's simple words, "I'm back," were enough for the brain to immediately understand its cue. It raised a multitude of black threads in a bluff.

Then Wei Jiangqi constantly implied through his words how powerful the brain was, and the brain cooperated with subtle actions, deceiving Marcus, the bear, and everyone else.

But Chen Gu was not fooled.

Just as Chen Gu had said, there was certainly an element of gambling involved; however, in reality, Chen Gu was confident. Wei Jiangqi's performance, which seemed flawless to outsiders like Marcus, had plenty of tells to an "Oscar-winning actor" like Chen Gu.

So, why would Wei Jiangqi "perform"? Clearly, it was because of the brain beside him.

That Chen Gu had managed to track him here was already beyond Wei Jiangqi's expectations. Chen Gu then appearing next to the brain first via Quantum Teleportation completely upended his plan.

Chen Gu could say, without undue modesty, that he had seized the initiative and derailed Wei Jiangqi's entire plan.

Faced with Chen Gu's aggressive approach, Wei Jiangqi remained silent. As Chen Gu held the brain, he suddenly felt something crawling along the hand holding it.

Chen Gu turned to look and saw a pitch-black force extending from the brain along his arm.

Wherever this black force touched his arm, blisters, scales, and sharp bone spurs erupted from his skin!

Marcus's panicked voice crackled over the channel, "Chen, throw that thing away! You're mutating! You're mutating!"

Chapter 513: One Sword

In everyone's mind, except for Wei Jiangqi's, this brain was naturally referred to as a "monster" because it looked utterly bizarre. Moreover, it was pitch black and covered in numerous slender tentacles, involuntarily making one associate it with a "Mutant."

Now, the thing had indeed shown its true colors—it could trigger mutations!

Chen Gu felt various crazy, evil, and extreme thoughts continuously surge within his mind; this was indeed a harbinger of mutation!

Standing before Chen Gu, Wei Jiangqi wore an expression of despair, yet his tone was still mocking as he said, "Foolish fellow, you've completely enraged it."

"Its power is indeed far from its peak, but dealing with riffraff like you is still an effortless task for it."

"You've offended it, and it will not forgive you. You will definitely be thoroughly mutated and then devoured—becoming a part of it."

"You're right. It has slumbered for a thousand years; now it's very weak, very hungry, and desperately needs your energy to replenish itself."

Chen Gu, however, tilted his head and looked at him, thinking admiringly: Prophet Wei Jiangqi, a true thespian of the soul, our undercover ally!

Wei Jiangqi was still acting, and Great Actor Chen saw through this feigned bravado at a glance.

Wei Jiangqi still didn't understand. He had, in fact, already given himself away—he was immensely pleased with his own performance and stubbornly stuck to it. He thought Chen Gu was just "calling his bluff," assuming his gun wasn't loaded. In reality, Chen Gu had made his own assessment.

So, he continued his act, only to be seen through by Chen Gu once more.

Chen Gu had been on the verge of throwing away the brain and decisively severing his own supposedly "mutated" arm.

Based on this realization, he quickly worked backward and discovered another flaw: those crazy, evil, and extreme thoughts surging in his mind weren't actually his own.

The Endless Realm's method of tempting beings toward corruption and mutation relied on exploiting the target's own psyche. Simply put, its agents infinitely amplified the terrifying thoughts the target already harbored.

These thoughts were usually hidden deep within the target's mind, genuinely belonging to them.

But many of the thoughts that had surfaced in Chen Gu's mind were, in fact, not his own—they had clearly been forcefully implanted.

Such potent spiritual power, Chen Gu inwardly marveled, even though he had seen through the ruse.

His spiritual power was exceptionally strong because he was a Brain Domain Hacker. After consuming the protosilicon deposits from the Longheads, his spiritual power had surged further, despite the unfortunate side effect of "clogging the drains." Even other Fifth Energy Level Brain Domain Hackers couldn't match his spiritual power.

Yet, Wei Jiangqi had managed to affect even this immense spiritual power in an instant, influencing his senses without him realizing it.

This made Chen Gu even more cautious because Wei Jiangqi had, so far, only influenced his perception and hadn't launched a direct spiritual power attack.

Clearly, this brain was far too important to Wei Jiangqi. Whenever matters concerned this brain, Wei Jiangqi handled them with extreme care.

If Wei Jiangqi were to launch a direct spiritual power attack, Chen Gu might retaliate in a desperate struggle, potentially damaging the brain in the process.

But if Wei Jiangqi realizes he truly can't deceive me, he'll probably resort to a desperate, all-out spiritual power assault,

Chen Gu mused. Whether I can withstand it... it's hard to say.

Unless absolutely necessary, no one wanted a mutually destructive outcome; he certainly didn't, and Wei Jiangqi likely felt the same.

"I don't believe it!" Chen Gu suddenly declared. "I don't believe I'll mutate!"

He clutched the brain tightly, like a stubborn, reckless youth, ignoring the urgent persuasion from others in the communication channel.

He couldn't even determine if these urgent voices were a result of Wei Jiangqi manipulating the perceptions of Marcus and the others, or if Wei Jiangqi was only controlling his own senses, making him merely *think* he "heard" them.

"Don't you know I have a nickname at the Bureau of Mystic Security? They call me the 'Mutation Fuse'! Whenever I'm present at a promotion ceremony, no mutation has ever occurred!"

"I, Chen Gu, am mutation-immune!"

The Great Actor triumphantly held the black "crown" aloft, loudly proclaiming his immunity.

Bragging? Who couldn't do that?

As for the moniker "Mutation Fuse," that was, of course, something he'd just made up.

Yet, as soon as he said it, the members of the special operations team lurking in the shadows—especially Gong Shuxu, who had been holding back but was, in fact, already prepared for action—carefully recalled past events. Huh, it actually seems to be true. Whenever this kid was present, even if the Endless Realm invaded, there ultimately wasn't any significant damage. There had been failures in job investitures and promotions, sure, but actual mutations? It seemed there really hadn't been any. "Mutation Fuse"? Quite fitting, actually.

Wei Jiangqi was stunned for a moment, momentarily unable to react. "Mutation Fuse"? What the heck is that? This kid doesn't play by the rules! Isn't mutation the greatest fear of every professional? Why is he so calm?

Wei Jiangqi regained his composure, a sinister smile spreading across his face. Simultaneously, all the mutation-related aberrations Chen Gu had been perceiving vanished.

He looked at his arm again; everything was normal.

But Chen Gu remained cautious, saying, "You know I'm a 'Radiation Missionary,' right? If I sense anything is off, I'll immediately use this brain as raw material. Let's test it out, shall we? See if this special brain creates an especially big and beautiful firework display when it explodes!"

Chapter 514: One Sword_2

Wei Jiangqi dared not act rashly anymore.

He indeed had the idea of using his spiritual power to take control of Chen Gu's perception once again and then sneak in undetected.

"Put down that brain," Wei Jiangqi said, "I swear by my faith that I will ensure the safety of you and your companions as you depart!"

"Otherwise..." Wei Jiangqi spoke as his thought flashed through his mind. Powerful spiritual tendrils, having solidified, wrapped around the other members of the special ops team hiding in the shadows, lifting them all into the air!

Gong Shuxu snorted angrily. How could a grand master of the Sixth Energy Level be insulted so lightly! He clearly felt the spiritual tendrils that had become tangible rolling towards his neck. Behind him, another two tendrils snuck silently along the ground beneath his feet. Indeed, this was the setup to handle a master of the Sixth Energy Level—two more tendrils than for the other team members.

However, when he tried to resist, he caught nothing but air, and the two tendrils behind him also disappeared. Then, a spiritual tendril, having wrapped around his ankle without him noticing, suddenly lifted him upside down!

A massive surge of spiritual power then flowed in, severing the neural connections throughout his body!

Gong Shuxu was a Psychological Spy who had spent his lifetime engaging in 'deception' and 'misdirection.' But today, in this battle, he had been completely misled and outsmarted, resulting in a particularly stifling defeat.

Gong Shuxu, suspended upside down, saw that the other team members were all hanging by their necks, while only he was inverted.

Was this the special treatment for the Sixth Energy Level?

What shocked him even more was that he, a distinguished master of the Sixth Energy Level, was utterly powerless under Wei Jiangqi's control. Although his underestimation of the enemy played a part, even if he had been fully prepared and fought Wei Jiangqi with all his might, the outcome would likely still have been a bitter defeat.

When did this guy get so strong?

Wei Jiangqi had caused tremendous casualties to the Bureau of Mystic Security's special services when he was captured, but at that time, the strength he demonstrated was at most on the Fourth Energy Level.

Chen Gu held the Crown Brain high. After some boasting, he saw that all his backup had been captured. A wave of dread washed over him, especially when he saw Gong Shuxu hanging upside-down.

His previous judgment had been spot on: Wei Jiangqi, hiding in the Confederation's prison, must have been plotting something. Now that he was out, he possessed terrifying power, probably on par with the Eighth Energy Level. Chen Gu felt a pang of regret; he shouldn't have personally come to oversee Tian Luo Star...

Wei Jiangqi, keenly catching the astonishment flickering in Chen Gu's eyes, solemnly said, "I mean what I say. Give me the brain, and I will let you leave."

He reached out his hand toward Chen Gu.

Would Chen Gu dare to hand it over? Of course not.

He was calculating various ideas in his mind when Wei Jiangqi firmly said, "You have only three seconds to think!

"I am well aware that if you could show up here, there must be military backup. Don't think about stalling for time!"

Chen Gu pressed hard into the void, and a virtual button materialized. He retorted fiercely, "You guessed right! As soon as your retrieval ship landed, a second-level fleet followed and has sealed off this planet's outer space!

"The moment I press this button, it will signify the failure of our mission, and the fleet's flagship will promptly use a planet-destroying caliber weapon to bombard our coordinates!"

Wei Jiangqi sneered, "No, you won't.

"Everyone's afraid of death. We haven't reached that point yet, so don't think you can bluff me."

Chen Gu nodded. "Indeed, it hasn't come to that yet. I don't want to die, nor do I want my companions to perish. But I don't trust you!"

Wei Jiangqi pointed to his followers. "You can ask them. A vow I make upon my faith will not be broken."

His followers quickly nodded, fervently assuring Chen Gu that the Prophet's faith was pure and steadfast, among other such praises.

No matter what, time had been delayed, far exceeding three seconds.

But Chen Gu still didn't know whether the 'support' he was hoping for would arrive.

The military satellites in the sky were continually scanning. Once the magnetic levitation armored vehicle convoy rendezvoused with the Bear and confirmed Wei Jiangqi was on Tian Luo Star, they transmitted the information back.

The headquarters would certainly send reinforcements, but interstellar travel takes time. And whether the backup specialists could subdue Wei Jiangqi... now seemed very doubtful.

"You can leave first." Wei Jiangqi knew he couldn't drag this out any longer; the more time they wasted, the more disadvantageous it was for him.

"I'll keep these hostages. After you reach a place you consider safe, put down the brain. After I retrieve the brain, I will release these hostages."

"No," Chen Gu immediately refused. "If I accept such terms, how could I face everyone afterward?"

Would I be seen as a coward who runs away alone, abandoning his comrades?

He still tried to stall for time. This time, a strong tide of spiritual power swiftly surged from Wei Jiangqi. "My patience has run out, thief—meet your demise!"

"Wait a second!" Chen Gu, holding the Crown Brain high, raised one hand. But Wei Jiangqi was indeed ready to attack. Great Actor Chen suddenly felt as if he was standing alone in front of a tsunami's towering wave.

The wave of the opponent's spiritual power could engulf him with a single sweep.

Chen Gu inwardly cursed Wei Jiangqi for playing dirty, while quickly positioning the Crown Brain in front of him. As expected, the tsunami-like spiritual power vanished instantly.

Chapter 515: One Sword_3

But it had transformed into a vast "sea," surrounding him from all sides.

Chen Gu snorted coldly and flicked a finger gently on the brain crown.

POP—

The brain crown wobbled, and Wei Jiangqi screamed skyward, his whole body tensed. Then he glared fiercely at Chen Gu. His spiritual power split into three strands, swirling and converging into a massive storm that charged straight toward Chen Gu, tearing through the metallic floor and tossing aside all obstacles in its path.

Chen Gu still nonchalantly held the brain crown before him as a shield!

But this time, the enormous spiritual power didn't pause for a moment. It crashed into the brain crown instantly. That dark, special brain slowly became transparent within the spiritual power storm and then shattered completely...

Chen Gu was stunned. Then, a heroic burst of energy rose from the depths of his heart, spiraling upward like a dragon ascending to the heavens.

With a loud laugh, he thought it was just as well it was destroyed. With that thing around, not only did Wei Jiangqi have to hold back, but I was also constrained.

Since it's destroyed, we might as well have a thorough and exhilarating battle!

Chen Gu's body surged with the deep blue energy ripples of the Quantum Wizard, and in his eyes, special blue lights intertwined, forming two tiny whirlpools!

He opened his hands wide. Veins and tendons bulged on his fingers as if he were exerting all his strength, grasping at something.

The terrifying spiritual power storm suddenly paused for a moment.

Chen Gu, using Entanglement Control, forcefully locked down the spiritual storm for an instant.

But immediately after, Entanglement Control completely failed. Chen Gu's hands, as if clutching a rapidly spinning drill, were instantly drenched in fresh blood!

However, that brief moment was all he needed. He had already activated Quantum Teleportation and arrived beside Gong Shuxu. Switching to Isabella Wu's memories, he unleashed the skills of the Brain Domain Hacker, releasing over a dozen spiritual power tentacles that all whipped at the restraints binding Gong Shuxu's ankles.

Silently, the spiritual power binding Gong Shuxu collapsed, and the Sixth Energy Level Psychological Spy crashed heavily to the ground.

Chen Gu said, "Save the others first!"

Gong Shuxu nodded and rushed toward Chu Zheng.

The old man still prioritized the interests of the Bureau of Mystic Security above all else. If Chen Gu dies here, I at least have to rescue the other multi-class character.

Chen Gu was once again submerged by Wei Jiangqi's ocean of spiritual power.

The most terrifying aspect of spiritual power attacks was Wei Jiangqi's ability to manipulate them at will. For instance, from within this spiritual power ocean, countless blades, spears, swords, and polearms rose, all slamming toward Chen Gu simultaneously.

Yet, as these spiritual power attacks swooped in, they all missed!

Wei Jiangqi was taken aback. Chen Gu hadn't used the powers of the Quantum Wizard—an eventuality Wei Jiangqi had prepared for. If Chen Gu were to use Quantum Teleportation, Wei Jiangqi would instantly use his powerful spiritual energy to vibrate the void, severing certain mystical connections. This would guarantee Chen Gu would be ejected from the mysterious space, coughing up blood.

But this time, Chen Gu had transformed into an ethereal gas!

The spiritual power-condensed weapons passed through the gas. They even briefly lost track of Chen Gu, who had blended seamlessly with the surrounding air.

Multistate Special Agent!

Wei Jiangqi was somewhat surprised as well. Chen Gu had successively used several class abilities. An ordinary person facing such an adversary would already be confused and floundering.

But Wei Jiangqi had emerged from this very laboratory. He wouldn't be truly surprised by any situation, no matter how contrary to common sense.

He still managed to say calmly, "What's the use of all these flashy skills? The final outcome will depend on true strength.

"You're far too weak compared to me. There can be no other outcome."

He slowly spread his spiritual power, quickly engulfing the entire space. Even if Chen Gu were hiding in the air, the slightest movement would allow Wei Jiangqi to instantly detect him and unleash a devastating strike.

Yet the surrounding air remained perfectly still.

Wei Jiangqi sneered. "Not moving? Think you can stall me? Dream on!"

He turned and walked toward Gong Shuxu and the others. Gong Shuxu had already rescued several people and was preparing to lead them all in an escape.

Suddenly, a spiritual power gate slammed down before them.

Wei Jiangqi advanced step by step, closely monitoring the surrounding air. As he passed one of his followers, the man immediately bowed and stepped aside.

As Wei Jiangqi brushed past, the follower suddenly attacked. His movements were as stiff as a corpse, the blade in his hand thrusting with eerie speed toward Wei Jiangqi's ribs.

Just as the blade's tip pierced his skin, Wei Jiangqi reacted. A powerful wave of spiritual power crashed out, sending the follower flying.

And that wasn't all. An even more immense spiritual power surged forth, completely enveloping the follower.

"How cunning! To think you hid inside someone's body!"

Chen Gu, in his gaseous state, had entered the follower's body with the man's breath and then taken complete control of him.

However, this was a forced physical control, so the follower's movements appeared somewhat rigid.

Chen Gu had executed this maneuver immediately after turning gaseous. That was why Wei Jiangqi, despite meticulously scrutinizing the surrounding air, couldn't find any trace of him.

This delay created by Chen Gu allowed Gong Shuxu to rescue everyone and lead them in an initial escape.

The immense spiritual power enveloped the follower's body, layer by layer... Then, from within that spiritual power, faint blue energy ripples flashed, and the follower completely disappeared.

Chapter 516: One Sword_4

"Dream on!" Wei Jiangqi bellowed, his spiritual power surging dramatically. The void responded, and a rigid body fell from thin air, crashing solidly to the ground.

However, Wei Jiangqi inwardly exclaimed, Something's not right!

The body was merely one of his followers; the elusive Chen Gu had already disappeared.

Looking closer, he saw that the ground where the follower had been was now riddled with cracks, from which water trails were rapidly seeping downward.

Wei Jiangqi swore inwardly. This kid is too cunning!

His immense spiritual power immediately pursued Chen Gu down those cracks, but to his surprise, Chen Gu suddenly transformed from a liquid state into a special "ionized state"!

The spiritual power rushed in headlong, and instantly, a paralyzing sensation akin to an electrical shock traveled up Wei Jiangqi's body through his spiritual power.

He shuddered involuntarily. Although this kind of damage is inconsequential to me, it's utterly disgusting!

Dealing with Chen Gu—more precisely, ever since this youngster had appeared, all his actions had made Wei Jiangqi exceptionally uncomfortable.

But that was the extent of it. The truly significant loss the Prophet had suffered was shattering the Crown Brain with his own hands.

However, with the situation continually unfolding like this, even the Prophet's temper was explosive.

This guy was like a cockroach. He probably wouldn't cause any substantial harm, but he was utterly disgusting.

Wei Jiangqi took a deep breath, suppressed the irritation in his heart, and forced himself to become even more composed.

"There won't be any more tricks from you, Chen Gu. Everything about you will end now!" he declared. His spiritual power seeped downward like seawater. It closed in from all directions, squeezing, inevitably intending to force Chen Gu out of the ground fissures.

Just then, footsteps echoed from the tunnel through which Gong Shuxu and the others had fled.

Wei Jiangqi chuckled. "Well now, kid, you haven't entirely failed at life if someone's still willing to come back and fight alongside you. A pity, though. That person is just a fool, returning only to die with you."

Suddenly sensing something, he swiftly turned around—only to see a sword!

A massive war sword that had once slaughtered countless beings, it naturally exuded a terrifying aura of slaughter.

The blade was polished and bright, acting like a mirror, allowing Wei Jiangqi to see his own reflection upon it.

This time, he was truly taken aback.

The colossal war sword was held in an exceedingly beautiful hand, with fair skin, even joints, and slender fingers.

That hand, which seemed like a work of art, now wielded one of the most famous weapons in the Star Sea. Moreover, it approached his face with a momentum that appeared slow yet was extremely fast, seemingly gentle but utterly unstoppable.

Chen Gu was also surprised. He knew that once the Director-General learned of Wei Jiangqi's appearance, reinforcements would surely be sent. However, he had never imagined the agency would take Wei Jiangqi so seriously that the Director-General herself would personally rush over!

Since the Valkyrie of the Ninth Power Level had arrived, Great Actor Chen swiftly slid out from the cracks. He then transformed into his strongest metallic defensive state, standing far behind and vociferously cheering on the Director-General.

His choice of the metallic form was, of course, out of caution.

This was a clash between two top-tier powerhouses; if things went awry, even the aftershocks would be more than he could handle.

In front of Wei Jiangqi, his spiritual power transformed into innumerable tough strands. Layer upon layer, they twined around the massive war sword.

Yet the war sword remained unstoppable, slicing through these strands, advancing relentlessly, invincibly!

SCHLICK—

The war sword pierced Wei Jiangqi's body. Then, a massive force instantly shattered Wei Jiangqi's entire form. His body, like the Crown Brain before, burst forth with a bright glow from the inside out, as if it had become transparent.

Thereafter, his body completely shattered, breaking down into several large chunks. These chunks subsequently disintegrated, finally becoming a sky full of fluttering, burning ashes!

Chapter 517: Rise to the Heavens in a Single Step

The Valkyrie had excellent control. Her sword strike only executed Wei Jiangqi, with no residual power leaking out. Chen Gu, standing dozens of meters away, didn't feel even the slightest energy wave.

Aviloya retracted her hand, and the massive war sword returned to float behind her.

Inside the corridor, a large number of high Energy Level special agents rushed out quickly, effortlessly capturing the remaining followers, including the one called Bear.

Chen Gu let out a long sigh of relief; Gong Shuxu and the others also ran back. Chu Zheng was the least anxious. Upon entering, she rushed straight to Chen Gu. Reaching him, she pounced, hugging him tightly. She opened her mouth, but felt a sob choke her words, and then she burst into loud sobs.

Chen Gu held her, gently patting her back. "It's okay, it's okay. I'm fine, see?"

Aviloya watched this scene, her expression exceedingly complex. Today's young women are still too naive. If you knew what this audacious little thief once did to me, would you still trust him like this?

However, this time, Chen Gu had chosen to hold off Wei Jiangqi himself, winning Gong Shuxu and the others a chance to escape. For this, Aviloya felt a rare flicker of approval for him in her heart.

Therefore, she didn't mock him directly but silently turned her head away, pretending not to see.

People in dangerous professions, such as police officers, soldiers, and special agents, value this kind of "life-and-death camaraderie" the most.

Many colleagues might initially clash, even resorting to curses and fists. However, they eventually tolerate each other's various flaws because of this camaraderie—the kind where they stick together in perilous times, never abandoning one another.

It earns everyone's recognition precisely because it's easy to talk about but incredibly difficult to achieve.

And there was one more thing Aviloya hadn't mentioned: her previous sword strike had gauged Wei Jiangqi's true strength to be close to the Eighth Energy Level!

Chen Gu, a Fourth Energy Level, had managed to contend with an Eighth Energy Level opponent for several rounds by leveraging his multi-class traits. Although he was constantly in a sorry state, like a chased rabbit, he had, after all, "wounded" Wei Jiangqi.

This first demonstrated Chen Gu's extraordinary nature and secondly highlighted the vast potential of multi-class characters.

But she kept these two points to herself, for no other reason than her unwillingness to praise the little thief; she couldn't bear to see him looking smug.

Gong Shuxu also stood in the distance, giving Chen Gu a slight nod, his eyes unavoidably carrying a hint of apology. He had still chosen to remain loyal to the Bureau of Mystic Security and his duties, escorting Chu Zheng away at the crucial moment rather than staying with Chen Gu to face life and death together.

Chen Gu responded with a smile, not blaming him. Instead, he considered it a choice made for the greater good.

Following that, the clean-up crew came in. Aviloya specifically ordered, "These followers are all Wei Jiangqi's die-hard loyalists. Don't waste time with brief interrogations. If they refuse to disclose the whereabouts of the Nebula Bomb, read their memories directly."

"Yes!"

Although this was a complete victory, the greatest threat—the Nebula Bomb—had not yet been retrieved, and a heavy weight still pressed on everyone's heart.

With the clean-up crew managing the scene, Aviloya did not linger. She was busy with many matters and returned to headquarters immediately after a brief update on the research base situation.

Soon, results from the other three teams arrived, all of them good news. As expected, they had discovered arrangements Wei Jiangqi had made decades in advance at those locations.

At one location, a massive underground warehouse was destroyed, and a vast cache of war resources stockpiled by the heretics was seized.

Another location housed hundreds of secretly raised orphans, all possessing the potential to become Professionals, or more precisely, spiritual ability users!

Spiritual ability users are essentially a type of Professional. However, they advance based on their own "talent" rather than generators. Furthermore, as their abilities are more flexible and self-directed, it's impossible to accurately define their specific profession.

After these reports arrived, the "interrogations" of the followers also yielded results. However, this outcome made everyone extremely uneasy!

The Nebula Bomb had actually fallen into Boles's hands, and Boles was even preparing to attack a military factory!

Now that Wei Jiangqi was dead, the rewards he had promised Boles could not be fulfilled. But Boles didn't know this; he would likely proceed with his plans.

This seemed like a good thing; the military could potentially ambush Boles. However, this was easier said than done. The factory was where the military produced warship mainframes; it was enormous, and its facilities were costly. If it became an ambush site, the losses would be immeasurable.

It could even jeopardize the military's fleet construction plans.

And Boles, holding the Nebula Bomb, might detonate it on the spot if driven to desperation... That would be a catastrophe.

Headquarters quickly devised a plan: to impersonate Wei Jiangqi and continue to communicate with Boles.

This task, as expected, once again fell to the special operations team. Only this time, Aviloya assigned them someone with formidable spiritual power to impersonate Wei Jiangqi—an Eighth Energy Level Brain Domain Hacker.

Chen Gu finally breathed a sigh of relief. A true powerhouse is finally in charge! For this mission, I can finally rely on a strong backer and just coast along, right? Every time, it's me, a mere Fourth Energy Level, having to fight for my life. It always feels like the Bureau of Mystic Security is exploiting me like child labor.

Chapter 518: Rise to the Heavens in a Single Step_2

...

In the chilly underground chamber, the lighting flickered due to an insufficient power supply, occasionally accompanied by the SIZZLING sound of a short circuit.

Suddenly, from an old-model incubator in the chamber, there was a SPLASH, followed by a BEEP as the indicator light on top turned green. Someone opened the door from the inside and sat up.

He slowly wiped off the viscous fluid from his head and face, revealing a "plain and unremarkable" visage—one that would be impossible to find again if thrown into a crowd.

But his eyes were extraordinarily complex, nothing like those of a newly cultivated life form.

If Chen Gu had been there, he probably would have recognized him from those eyes immediately: Wei Jiangqi!

The secret to his millennia-long survival lay right here.

All of a sudden, pain and struggle contorted the new Wei Jiangqi's face. With a scream, he fell back heavily into the incubator, viscous fluid splattering everywhere.

He struggled and roared incessantly inside the incubator, occasionally clutching his head and ramming it against the tank, as if fighting against something.

After several hours, he finally quieted down and lay motionless in the slime.

On the back of his left hand, a black tattoo gradually appeared. It resembled an octopus, but also... a black crown, with fine tentacles growing underneath it!

Then, Wei Jiangqi sat up again, though his movements were uncoordinated, and his left hand was completely disobedient.

He let out a sinister laugh, looking at his left hand. After so many years, you're still the same—too controlling.

I dared to return because I am certain I can restrain you.

Yes, yes, you're still the strongest Cerebral, but we've fallen to such a state. You should stop being capricious. When others are around, you need to cooperate with me. I'm the man; you have to give me some face.

I didn't want to end up like this either. It's not that I'm dumb, but who could have expected someone in this world capable of holding multiple professions? Heh heh heh, quite amusing!

But this is also good. I've long felt those fools in True Knowledge Sin have issues with their brains—more often a hindrance than a help. Now, we can start afresh.

Don't worry. My thousand-plus years of planning weren't limited to just True Knowledge Sin.

He prattled on like a husband with little sway at home, appeasing his temperamental and petulant little wife.

Then, he crawled out of the incubator. The facilities in the underground chamber, though old, were comprehensive. He turned on the shower, planning to wash himself, but after several attempts, he found it was broken.

Left with no choice, the grand Prophet had to boil his own water. After washing himself, he found some clothes to change into. Fortunately, the clothes were made of advanced materials and still looked new despite their age.

Then, he pushed open the door and walked out. Darkness lay beyond, with tunnels crisscrossing the area. He hadn't gone far before a few ragged individuals armed with modified weapons stopped him. "Hey, new guy, right? This is Ba Hu's territory. If you want to survive here, pay your taxes obediently!"

Wei Jiangqi grinned. Suddenly, a white mist appeared in the eyes of the gang members. They were then mind-controlled and obediently followed behind him.

He emerged from the underground. Following his memory, he found an exit he had arranged long ago and kicked away the rocks blocking it, allowing light from above to shine through.

Taking a deep breath, he stepped out. The exit was conveniently located under a large tree.

If Chen Gu had been there, he would have immediately recognized this place as the "Great Tree Globe," not far from a fiery-red primordial ancient tree.

Wei Jiangqi quickly entered "God's Poison," found a vendor dealing in identities, and bought a new one. He then connected to the interstellar quantum network and expertly navigated to a pitifully under-visited forum. Using an account named "Zero Creation," he posted a message: The Purification Operation is about to begin!

Soon, in every corner of Star Sea, throughout the great Star Nations and even some minor ones, different individuals received a message. They immediately dropped everything, logged into the forum, and saw the post.

Excitement and ecstasy filled each person's mind.

Under that post, one reply after another quickly appeared:

Agent 7 in position.

Agent 11 in position.

Agent 2 in position!

...

Shrouded in black clothes, Boles stood atop a mountain peak, surveying the massive factory nestled in the valley below.

It was his target for this operation.

Although he harbored doubts about the "compensation" Wei Jiangqi offered, his collaborations with Wei Jiangqi had always been trustworthy, so Boles still held some anticipation.

However, it was ultimately too risky, making it difficult for him to decide whether to proceed or not.

After watching for a while, he quietly turned and walked down the slope. His body began to transform into countless small black bugs, which then scurried into the surrounding woodland with a RUSTLE.

All of this was recorded by a military satellite in space and transmitted back to a secret room in the factory where Chen Gu and the others were sitting.

"This traitor has indeed shown up!" someone from the military gritted their teeth.

Chen Gu stroked his chin, asking, "Such a massive swarm of Mutants... where has Boles been hiding them?"

Chapter 519: Rise to the Heavens in a Single Step_3

"How did he return to the Confederation?"

Even Chen Gu's dimensional space prison couldn't contain such a vast swarm of insects.

No one could answer him. Chen Gu had only raised the question, not expecting an answer.

Suddenly, his phone rang. It was Bai Yunpeng. "How's it going?"

"It's a bit tricky. We've called him several times using Wei Jiangqi's number, but he isn't picking up. I don't know if he sensed something beforehand or has some other plan."

Bai Yunpeng said, "I trust you with this, but you must be extra careful this time!"

After ending the call with Marshal Bai, a military colonel approached and asked, "Shall we send someone to test the pollution level at the site of Boles's appearance?"

Chen Gu looked towards a mature, elegant woman nearby. She wore a high-end, tailored business suit—black with light gray pinstripes—and her hair, luscious as a cloud, emanated a healthy, glossy black.

Ever since Chen Gu first saw her, it seemed she always had a colored pencil for drawing in her hand.

Of many colors, changing constantly.

This woman, codenamed Rainbow, had only revealed this codename—not her real name—whether in the information provided by the Bureau of Mystic Security or in her self-introduction upon arrival.

She was the person Aviloya had sent to "play" the role of Wei Jiangqi: an Eighth Energy Level Brain Domain Hacker!

Since her arrival, the whole team had naturally sought her opinion on any crucial decision, as they were doing now.

And Rainbow never shied away from giving her advice. If her opinion was sought, and she had thoughts on the matter, she would state them plainly.

For a powerhouse of her caliber, being overly humble or polite would only unsettle the others.

Rainbow twirled the bright yellow pencil in her hand and gently shook her head. "There's no need. This opponent is too cryptic; he may have left some kind of sensor where he appeared. Going there rashly could alert him."

The colonel didn't insist. Then, Rainbow suddenly glanced at Chen Gu. "Come with me."

Chen Gu was very reluctant. If he had once hoped for an Eighth Energy Level expert to take charge, allowing him to slack off and coast through this mission easily, that fantasy... had actually come true after Rainbow arrived! But the problem was, the protector a mouse sought should ideally be a powerful mouse spirit, not a cat. Rainbow and he were both Brain Domain Hackers. Ever since she arrived, Chen Gu felt as if she "saw through" everything about him; he couldn't hide any of his thoughts from her. Combined with the crushing pressure from someone of the same profession but a vastly higher Energy Level, Great Actor Chen now found himself actively avoiding Rainbow, only to be singled out by her in person.

"Uh..." Chen Gu, reluctant to move, asked, "Is there something you need?"

"Just follow me," Rainbow said, turning and walking away. The pencil twirling in her fingers had already changed to a brownish-yellow.

Chen Gu had always suspected these pencil colors actually represented Rainbow's "mood." Since her rank was higher and her fists stronger, he had no choice but to obey.

Chen Gu felt somewhat uneasy. He always had the feeling that this Eighth Energy Level Brain Domain Hacker was secretly observing him.

She didn't need to use her eyes; at their level, simply focusing her attention on a target would allow her to easily learn anything she wanted to know. Chen Gu was also a Brain Domain Hacker. Although his

Energy Level was far beneath hers, some of his instincts were remarkably accurate. With the enhancement from his Mind Belief, he was convinced his intuition was correct.

Rainbow led him away from the factory without uttering a word. But soon, Chen Gu sensed something was amiss.

Just moments ago in the factory, Rainbow had rejected the colonel's suggestion. Yet now, she was clearly leading him to track Boles!

"Your Excellency..." he began, but Rainbow preempted him. "To deal with Boles, only we Brain Domain Hackers can act. Any other type of practitioner present would only be a burden."

She didn't elaborate on why it had to be Brain Domain Hackers, or why other practitioners would merely be a burden.

But her words were spoken with such conviction that they inspired innate trust. Chen Gu felt no doubt, nodding seriously. "I will follow your lead."

Rainbow kept twirling her colored pencil, which created colorful rings of light. She sketched in the empty air with it, relying on these sketches to find their tracking route.

Together, they traversed mountain ranges, crossed several large rivers, and saw through the misdirection Boles had laid in a bustling city. Finally, in a vast, desolate wasteland, they found Boles.

An Eighth Energy Level expert versus the Mutant Insect Race!

A heart-stopping battle unfolded. During this fight, Chen Gu was shocked to discover that Boles had evolved a powerful brainwave ability. It could influence thoughts and induce corruption, directly affecting the mind, much like those entities in the Endless Realm!

Indeed, only Brain Domain Hackers could withstand such an insidious attack that struck from within.

Fortunately, his reliable backer, Rainbow, managed to suppress Boles throughout the fight. Chen Gu didn't drag her down either. With Combat Rooster by his side, he tenaciously held back the immense mutant insect swarm, preventing them from overwhelming Rainbow.

Chen Gu also figured out where Boles was hiding these insect swarms. He had evolved dimensional abilities, solidifying a special spatial channel within himself. With a summons, a vast horde of insects would come pouring out.

Chapter 520: Rise to the Heavens in a Single Step_4

At the critical moment, Boles attempted to detonate the nebula bomb and perish with his adversaries. However, the abilities of the Brain Domain Hacker once again came into play. Rainbow forcibly intercepted all of Boles's consciousness, preventing his commands from traveling from his brain to his body. She ultimately seized the initiative, killed Boles, and retrieved the nebula bomb.

After this battle, Chen Gu received a commendation from the agency, and his relationship with the military, especially with Marshal Bai Yunpeng, became increasingly close.

In the following decade or so, he smoothly and steadily rose through the ranks, ultimately becoming a Radiation Missionary of the Ninth Power Level.

Furthermore, he pursued multiple professions, making him far more powerful than common single-profession practitioners. By this time, even the Principal and Aviloya were no match for him.

In the battle where humanity fought against the Alien Insect Race, the Confederation was ambushed by the Star State, causing the fleet to suffer significant losses. The military's Ninth Power Level expert, in an effort to turn the tide, also sustained serious injuries.

Enraged, the Principal stormed into the Star State to exact revenge but unexpectedly fell into a joint ambush by Ninth Power Level experts from the Star State and the Freedom Alliance. After a great battle, he went missing, his fate unknown.

At the Confederation's juncture of life and death, Chen Gu stepped forward. He fought off a siege by three Ninth Power Level adversaries from the Star State and the Freedom Alliance. In that very battle, he killed two Ninth Power Level figures from the Star State on the spot.

Following this, he led a fleet in a desperate counterattack, completely shattering the offensive wave of the Alien Insect Race.

For a time, he achieved unrivaled prominence. After another decade, he ultimately penetrated the great mystery and ascended to the unprecedented Tenth Energy Level.

On the day he reached the Tenth Energy Level, he went alone into the Endless Realm and slew an Evil God.

From then on, even the Council of Elders obeyed him without question. All humankind was willing to launch a grand counteroffensive against the Insect Race under his leadership.

Only the Star State was still somewhat reluctant and hesitant, but they also did not dare to openly defy him.

Chen Gu reached an apex of power unprecedented in human history. At this level, whatever he desired, he could attain. Whatever he wished to do was unstoppable.

When he was younger, he had once "fantasized" about Aviloya. By this time, even though Aviloya was a distinguished Ninth Power Level, if he wished it, even the Valkyrie would have to obediently serve him in bed.

The once "unattainable" Eighth Energy Level Brain Domain Hacker, Rainbow, went without saying—with just a thought, this elegantly noble woman could become his plaything.

The inflation of power sparked the inflation of desire. All manner of wicked thoughts tumbled through his mind, and a voice seemed to be incessantly telling him: You can have everything you desire; you can do whatever you please.

But at the moment when his desires swelled to their peak, Chen Gu suddenly awoke. How did I become like this?!

This isn't the real me.

What am I really like?

He strained to remember—Ossosa, the gorilla, Zhao Ji, Chen Jixian, Chen Zili, Chen Qingyu, Marcus, Gong Shuxu, Charles, Qing Ruyan...

All these characters slowly emerged in his mind, and then, quite embarrassingly, he concluded: Turns out I'm just a coward who dares to dream but not to commit!

Before his eyes, the sudden surge of power dispersed like passing clouds, completely fading away. In a daze, he slowly discerned his surroundings: he stood at the entrance of a factory. Outside was a long, straight road that seemed to extend endlessly to the horizon.

And Rainbow held a colorful pencil in her hand, looking at him with a half-smiling expression.

"You really did harbor inappropriate thoughts about Aviloya and me."

Chen Gu felt incredibly wronged. "I haven't done anything! Even if you created this highly realistic psychic illusion with the abilities of an Eighth Energy Level Brain Domain Hacker, I have stayed true to myself and have not fallen!"

Yet Rainbow raised an eyebrow and insisted, "It's there."

"Although it was well-hidden, I still found it."