

Genius 1321

Chapter 1321 Skill: Alchemy

In the early days of humanity, alchemy was exaggerated to be almost omnipotent, overstating its effects, never truly achieving the touted impact. Over time, belief waned, leading to its eventual decline.

In fact, alchemy is indeed a very magical skill, much like how many chemical experiments seem so magical to many.

The alchemy from Ancient Babylon can be considered the most complex peak period in human history, and the alchemy recorded on this stone tablet is particularly important, even though these carvings were made long after the fall of Ancient Babylon...

However, Qin Fang's Scouting Skill has already concluded that the content engraved on this stone tablet is actually a legacy of Ancient Babylonian alchemy.

Moreover, this alchemy system is a comprehensive integration of various types of alchemy, forming a relatively complete collection...

If that were all, Qin Fang naturally wouldn't care, because alchemy has long been proven unscientific, no matter how much research or in-depth exploration, no special surprises are likely to occur.

In Qin Fang's view, this kind of Western alchemy is akin to some of the techniques in Dragon Country's Thousand Skills, bearing similarities.

The specific differences, however, require practical comparison to determine.

But...

Is there anyone in this world who can still practice alchemy?

The answer is essentially no, almost no one can perform alchemy practically, lacking even the courage to attempt it!

Because alchemy has long been deemed unscientific and impossible to succeed, naturally, no one would invest effort in researching something so unprofitable.

Yet, the content recorded on this stone tablet is different, perhaps still unscientific compared to others, but for Qin Fang, this alchemy is an invaluable treasure.

Others can't handle it, firstly due to being unable to decipher the meanings of the engravings, secondly because mastering alchemy is nearly impossible.

But Qin Fang does not face these obstacles; he has already discerned that these engravings pertain to alchemy, thus eliminating the first issue.

The reason Qin Fang is determined to acquire this stone tablet is to learn the alchemy inscribed upon it...

The Master-Level Detective Skills have indicated that this alchemy is similar to the prescription for the Heart Nourishing Pill Qin Fang obtained earlier, and once it's in Qin Fang's possession, it can become a new skill at any time!

Alchemy Skill!

Once this alchemy becomes a skill, those unscientific, improbable things become scientific and possible...

Because Qin Fang's Skill System is inherently an existence akin to a BUG; anyone looking for scientific justification to explain it would likely fail, even unto death.

"It's you again..."

Originally, two people were already causing trouble for him, and Yamamoto was furious, wishing to send his lackeys to wipe out these families immediately.

Yet unexpectedly, his old nemesis Qin Fang suddenly jumped out and directly raised the previous auction price sharply.

"Four million!"

Yamamoto's relationship with Qin Fang is very unfriendly, he wishes to eliminate Qin Fang as soon as possible, previously even causing trouble for Qin Fang during the auction of the Ruyao Brush Washer.

That Ruyao Brush Washer was bought by Yamamoto at a high price, which indeed made him play the fool, but Qin Fang's words at the bottom of the pit immediately labeled him with the nickname "half-wit," becoming the main reason for his hatred toward Qin Fang.

Yamamoto was upset, and naturally, he acted without stinginess, immediately raising the auction price to a new level.

"Six million!"

Qin Fang, however, remained unperturbed, directly increasing on Yamamoto's basis by another two million, aiming to crush him with an overwhelming advantage.

With the previous Ruyao Brush Washer, Qin Fang could have contested it, but ultimately chose to forgo it, not out of fear of Yamamoto but because there was no need.

Now things are different; even if the opponent is Yamamoto or one of the Young Masters from the Ten Great Families, Qin Fang won't be courteous about it; he must acquire this stone tablet.

Qin Fang must have it, and it costs only some money, something he currently has in abundance compared to other things.

Despite Qin Fang's income steadily increasing, there have been very few occasions to spend money, leaving him with surplus funds, making it quite satisfying to splurge now.

Qin Fang is just a little worried whether Yamamoto will continue to compete with him until the end...

"You..."

Seeing Qin Fang raising the bid so generously, Yamamoto, though harboring enmity, was greatly provoked.

Looking at Qin Fang's seemingly young face, wearing a faint smile, almost showing no emotion, as if there were no emotional fluctuations.

Yamamoto was in a rage, wishing he could immediately strike down Qin Fang to find solace.

The more furious he became, the more emotionally charged the moment was, everyone's eyes fixed on him, as if watching to see if he would continue the bid.

Chapter 1322 Skill: Alchemy_2

"You're ruthless, I'm done..."

To everyone's surprise, Yamamoto, who bore deep hatred toward Qin Fang, opted to give up this time and stopped competing with him.

Having dealt with the Ruyao Brush Washer incident, Yamamoto was wary of Qin Fang tricking him once more. Six million was already a hefty sum, and the price of this slab clearly didn't justify such an amount; whoever bought it at that price would take a loss...

He had already been fooled once, how could he fall for it again?

Yamamoto thought briefly and suspected Qin Fang was baiting him once more. If Yamamoto raised the bid, he feared Qin Fang would immediately back off, leaving him swindled again.

This was not something Yamamoto wanted to see. The money he spent was from the Yamaguchi Group Hong Kong Branch's liquid funds, normally reserved for emergencies; the portion he could use was limited, roughly just over ten million...

Just acquiring the Ruyao Brush Washer had already set Yamamoto back three million. If the slab sold for seven million, Yamamoto would have spent ten million alone.

Generally, spending ten million, the purchased items might not be worth the auction price, but they wouldn't fall far short...

The issue was Yamamoto had misused the Yamaguchi Group Hong Kong Branch's funds to buy two items that weren't highly valuable antiques. If this came to light, Japan might send people to hassle him.

Acknowledging this, Yamamoto chose not to prolong the matter with Qin Fang, decisively opting out, which incidentally aided Qin Fang.

"Tsk tsk... Spent six million on it..."

Seeing Qin Fang's seemingly shocked expression, Yamamoto felt vindicated, certain Qin Fang intended to abandon as soon as he raised the bid.

By prematurely withdrawing, Yamamoto caught Qin Fang off guard, making him freeze in place, thus indulging Yamamoto's smugness. He opened his mouth, about to utter some scornful words to counter Qin Fang's earlier derisive remarks...

"Thanks!"

Yamamoto was about to speak, but Qin Fang cheerfully expressed gratitude to him.

He seemed impatiently awaiting the moment, hurrying to the auction counter to swipe his card, pay, and collect the item; securing it quickly was the right move.

Without the item in hand, Qin Fang felt anxious.

As the auction concluded, Qin Fang promptly went to pay and pick up his purchase.

This turn of events left everyone present momentarily stunned, but they soon realized they'd all been duped by Qin Fang.

To be precise, the slab Qin Fang bought was undeniably valuable, at least to Qin Fang, it was a rare treasure.

That's why Qin Fang spent so lavishly at the auction. He never intended to let it go, even if Yamamoto kept raising the price; Qin Fang might persist all the way.

Ultimately, Yamamoto outsmarted himself, thinking Qin Fang aimed to trap him again, and withdrew midway, allowing Qin Fang to acquire the treasure for six million.

Although the auction's estimated value was around three to four million, six million was a generous bid, but the price could've been higher...

Ignoring everyone's thoughts and reactions, Qin Fang swiftly headed to the auction desk, paid the fees, disregarding all other charges, swiped his card to finalize the transaction...

And as he finished, the auction staff delivered the slab.

Despite calling it delivered, the slab wasn't very large, around sixty by forty centimeters, intricately carved with complex designs, some of which were utterly incomprehensible.

"Tsk tsk... This is the real treasure..."

Who knew, this slab wasn't valuable due to age or famous artist creation...

It's precisely the designs that were its essence, what mattered most to Qin Fang!

After the slab was cautiously placed, Qin Fang approached slowly, extending his hand to gently stroke the slightly cold stone surface.

"Acquired rare skill: Alchemy!"

As Qin Fang's hand touched the ancient slab, a voice echoed in his mind.

He checked the skill panel, revealing a new skill in the skill bar... Alchemy.

A rare skill, indeed exceedingly uncommon.

"Alchemy, rare skill, enables certain special items to possess magical properties!"

"Note: Using Alchemy requires consuming Vitality Points, and the success rate improves with skill level advancement."

The Alchemy description was simple, just two lines, almost cryptic, leaving Qin Fang slightly perturbed.

Too simplistic, offering little substantial information.

The only seemingly useful part was the note... "Using Alchemy requires consuming Vitality Points."

The Vitality Points metric just appeared right alongside Qin Fang gaining Alchemy. It's akin to Physical Strength Points and Energy Points, forming part of the human construct.

Similar to what's seen in games, Qin Fang wasn't surprised.

While brief, these lines revealed Alchemy's essentials, like "magical properties."

Unaware before, Qin Fang wouldn't understand this phrase's meaning.

Now, however, Qin Fang grasped what "magical properties" entailed.

In Qin Fang's Props Box, a certain item always stayed in his possession, never discarded, though its usefulness waned, chances to utilize it dwindled.

That was Qin Fang's first Rare Item... Thug's Brick!

Accidentally obtained, the Brick was Qin Fang's initial handy weapon, despite its poor durability discouraging frequent use, fearing depletion would render it completely useless, turning it into a major loss.

Qin Fang's Repair Skill could mend these items, yet its unpredictable success rate left Qin Fang vexed; failure dropped proficiency naturally, reducing the already limited durability maximum, a genuine disappointment.

The Brick's significance to Qin Fang extended beyond its handiness; it boasted remarkable features.

Previously assumed intrinsic, Qin Fang discovered other Bricks lacked the "Dizziness" effect, exclusive to the Rare Brick in his possession.

Now fully comprehending, Qin Fang realized the rare and mystical nature of this Brick lay in possessing magical properties beyond ordinary Bricks.

Suggesting, perhaps, this Rare Brick arose from a regular Brick, transformed via Alchemy by an Alchemist.

A regular Brick gaining magical properties naturally became extraordinary, hence, equipped with wondrous effects.

"Rich, I'm truly wealthy now..."

Understanding these realities brought Qin Fang immense joy; the newly gained skill seemed overwhelmingly potent.

Chapter 1323 Blue and White Porcelain

Acquiring the alchemy skill was undoubtedly a cause for great joy for Qin Fang, even more so than the mere six million auction price, considering it a real profit.

For such a rare skill, Qin Fang would surely spend six million, sixty million, or six billion without hesitation.

Unfortunately, such skills are incredibly rare, something that can only be chanced upon.

If it weren't for the coincidence of Qin Fang's scouting skill advancing to the Grandmaster level, he wouldn't have been able to uncover the secrets hidden on the stone slab, and thus could not have acquired this precious alchemy skill.

Qin Fang did not linger much, merely inspected it perfunctorily and then asked the auction staff to help package the stone slab, ready to take it away after the auction ended.

Once the skill was acquired, the stone slab's existence had served its purpose. Qin Fang deemed it insignificant enough that even if it got accidentally damaged, he wouldn't care much.

The patterns on it are not something ordinary people can understand; worldwide, there might be fewer than one or two who could, since such ancient patterns have long vanished into history.

If Qin Fang didn't have the scouting skill, he also wouldn't be able to comprehend the content on it either...

In fact, the information on this slab holds no significance for anyone besides Qin Fang, since even if they translated its patterns entirely, it would be just ordinary alchemy.

Even now, alchemy hasn't been completely eradicated; some still believe in its existence and continue its research... yet no one has succeeded!

But Qin Fang is different because his version of alchemy is a special skill, recognized by the system, thus verifying its authenticity as true alchemy!

Of course, Qin Fang estimates that the initial success rate of alchemy will not be high, and the items produced through alchemy might not have extraordinary effects.

But Qin Fang didn't mind; if not successful once, he would try twice, thrice, ten times, a hundred times... succeeding once is enough for him to profit.

The alchemy skill consumes Vitality Points, which can gradually accumulate daily, unlike the Duplication Skill, which demands excessively; it's relatively easier to enhance.

Anyway, Qin Fang has ample time and can take it slow, undoubtedly crafting one or two useful items eventually...

After finishing matters here, Qin Fang no longer found it necessary to stay and immediately returned to the auction venue to witness the ensuing auctions.

"How was it?"

As Qin Fang sat down, people around him curiously watched him, clearly hoping to uncover some unknown secrets from him.

Mostly because Qin Fang had shown a strong interest in that slab from the start and went to settle payment and check the item immediately upon winning it, his eager demeanor was very apparent, naturally sparking curiosity among friends.

"What do you mean 'how was it'? The item is fine; it's a decent antique..."

Of course, Qin Fang would never reveal the alchemy detail; the slab indeed was an antique with over a thousand years of history.

Even excluding the alchemy, it might not be worth six million, but it wasn't entirely worthless either; perhaps he could even resell it to collectors fond of such artifacts.

Nonetheless, even without buyers, Qin Fang could keep it for his own collection...

"You're really not forthcoming, not even honest with us..."

Kong Er immediately criticized bluntly, absolutely refusing to believe the slab bore no special aspect.

"How am I not forthcoming? I just like the patterns on it; there's really nothing more!"

Yet Qin Fang firmly stuck to his account; certain details were not meant to be shared, unaffected by Kong Er's disdain or call to confess the truth.

"If you won't tell, then forget it..."

Fortunately, Kong Er and the others didn't persist, merely voiced brief disapproval and then turned their attention back to the ongoing auction.

During Qin Fang's brief absence, several excellent items were auctioned; now came the auction's grand finale.

"Next up is an extremely rare treasure..."

Three finale items were previously unreleased in any detail; only starting prices were disclosed, which said little.

Maybe due to such veiled hints, many people's interest was piqued, attracting numerous top-class tycoons.

As the auctioneer's words slipped, a trolley was wheeled out, covered by a red cloth, concealing the item inside.

"That is... Yuan Dynasty blue and white porcelain!"

The auctioneer carefully walked up to the small cart, then grabbed the red cloth and gave it a swift pull, immediately revealing the auction item inside.

It was a piece of blue and white porcelain from the Yuan Dynasty!

And it looked to be an excellent piece of blue and white porcelain!

Wow~~

Seeing this auction item, a wave of astonishment swept through the venue, obviously shocked by the exquisitely crafted blue and white porcelain in front of them.

Yuan Dynasty blue and white porcelain is considered a marvel in porcelain history, also synonymous with classicism, and very few of these exist today, so each piece of Yuan Dynasty blue and white porcelain commands a high price.

Although Qin Fang wasn't particularly knowledgeable in this area, he had heard that a few years ago, on Hong Kong Island, a piece of Yuan Dynasty blue and white porcelain was auctioned... the Guiguzi Descends the Mountain painting, and it once broke the record for the auction price of blue and white porcelain, surpassing the billion-dollar mark.

Although there might be suspicions of price inflation and hype, there is no doubt that this Yuan Dynasty blue and white porcelain is definitely a top-grade piece within porcelain artifacts, and calling it priceless is no exaggeration.

The piece of blue and white porcelain in front of them was not as large as the Guiguzi Descends the Mountain painting but was still considered a fine piece, and it surely wouldn't come cheap either.

However, many of the wealthy individuals present didn't mind, all possessing the prowess to bid, and as long as they took a liking to this porcelain, they would spare no expense to obtain it.

This type of blue and white porcelain is extremely rare, and each piece is extremely precious. Collecting such fine porcelain is something many porcelain collectors dream of.

When the amount of money one has reaches a certain level, more money is just numbers, but these treasures passed down by forebears are few in number, so many wealthy individuals would prefer to have a few more of these treasures to pass on to their descendants than to merely pass down some notes.

Qin Fang wasn't particularly interested in porcelain, mainly due to a lack of research, and with this blue and white porcelain destined to fetch a sky-high price at auction, throwing his hat in would only mean giving away money for nothing.

Though he had money now, he wasn't going to waste it recklessly...

"This is really nice..."

However, Qu Yuancheng seemed to be very interested in this blue and white porcelain, admiring it while muttering incessantly, apparently wanting to buy it.

"If you like it, then bid on it, big brother, so you won't regret missing it if you never see it again..."

Qin Fang jokingly urged Qu Yuancheng to bid for this blue and white porcelain with a hearty laugh.

"Exactly, big brother, if you like it, bid on it! If you don't have enough money, you can ask our sister-in-law to chip in with her private savings..."

Tang Feifei, sitting next to Qin Fang, said playfully, clearly teasing the couple.

Primarily because she had been accompanied by Chen Qi all these days, and their relationship was as close as sisters, so this kind of teasing was harmless.

"You cheeky girl..."

Chen Qi was stunned by Tang Feifei's sudden teasing and couldn't help but retort, then laughed and joked around with Tang Feifei.

"Alright then! Since even you're saying so, I want it..."

Qu Yuancheng was obviously tempted, though he knew that this porcelain would fetch a sky-high price once auctioned, which was why he hesitated.

But now, with Qin Fang and Tang Feifei egging him on and Chen Qi laughing along, he thought for a moment and made up his mind to participate in the bidding.

Qu Yuancheng, although not involved in the management of the Qu family's business, holds a significant share, and the annual dividends are a considerable amount.

Besides, as a famous barrister on Hong Kong Island, his income was quite substantial. Perhaps he didn't have a colossal amount of money, but he could surely come up with two or three billion Hong Kong dollars.

This blue and white porcelain might fetch a ridiculous price, but since the porcelain is relatively small, it shouldn't reach the level of the Guiguzi Descends the Mountain painting.

So, Qu Yuancheng was confident he could handle it and it wouldn't be unbearably painful...

"If you really don't have enough, I can pitch in a little too..."

Qin Fang jokingly added, with a faint smile flickering in his eyes.

It seemed that Qin Fang wasn't particularly interested in this auction, but in fact, his gaze kept occasionally appraising this Yuan Dynasty blue and white porcelain.

The porcelain was indeed an authentic piece, and a rather rare premium one at that, which was beyond doubt, but this porcelain was presented in a brocade box when unveiled.

This brocade box wasn't the kind used in modern packaging but was passed down from ancient times. Judging by its appearance, this brocade box seemed to be made of wood, with some age to it, and its archaic charm indicated that the brocade box itself was also quite valuable...

Chapter 1324: Mechanism Box!!

If it were just a simple piece of Blue and White Porcelain, although it's quite precious and rare, it wouldn't catch Qin Fang's eye. However, with this Brocade Box, it's a completely different story.

Or rather, in the eyes of others, the value of the Blue and White Porcelain far exceeds that of this Brocade Box.

But in Qin Fang's view, the result is exactly the opposite.

Initially, he wasn't particularly interested in this Blue and White Porcelain; he merely used his Scouting Skill to verify its authenticity.

When he confirmed the porcelain was genuine, he didn't give it much further attention.

Yet, coincidentally at that moment, he unexpectedly used his Scouting Skill on the box holding the porcelain, mainly because he found the material of the Brocade Box to be quite exceptional, wondering if it might be made of Golden Nanmu wood.

Golden Nanmu is an extremely rare type of wood, also one of the most precious, reserved for the Imperial Family in ancient times.

Of course, while that's the saying, in reality, there were still a few items made of Golden Nanmu among the people, ranging from furniture like tables and chairs to jewelry boxes, and even some more extravagant items like coffins made of Golden Nanmu... which was thanks to the characteristic of Golden Nanmu that can preserve for a millennium without decay.

In a sense, this indirectly demonstrated the value of Golden Nanmu wood.

However, as Golden Nanmu gradually got completely harvested, no new Golden Nanmu exists in the world today, leaving only those traditionally handed down from ancient times.

This is why Golden Nanmu has become increasingly valuable and its price has become quite high. The remaining stock is extremely limited, making it difficult for many people to obtain even one or two Golden Nanmu items.

Qin Fang was the same. The Brocade Box seemed likely to be made of Golden Nanmu, capturing a bit of his interest...

If it truly was made of Golden Nanmu, Qin Fang planned to ask Qu Yuancheng for it once he purchased the porcelain.

Given his relationship with Qu Yuancheng, as long as Qin Fang asked, Qu Yuancheng would never refuse.

The reason why Qin Fang wanted the Golden Nanmu Brocade Box was not for his own collection, but because of the wood's millennium preservation trait. He wanted to store items that are difficult to preserve, for example... the Peerless Elixir Golden Dragon Saliva from a puppet person!

The Golden Dragon Saliva can retain its spiritual essence when it remains with the puppet person, but once it leaves the puppet's body, its spiritual energy dissipates quite rapidly.

Qin Fang had tried to store it in a Jade Vial, which slightly slowed the dissipation, but still resulted in considerable loss of potency.

The longer it's stored, the faster it evaporates. In perhaps no more than a couple of weeks, the medicinal properties would completely evaporate, turning it into an ordinary, useless liquid.

This was quite frustrating for Qin Fang!

Fortunately, the time in his Props Box was almost still, ensuring the Golden Dragon Saliva wouldn't evaporate while stored inside, but once taken out, there was no stopping it.

However, the box made of Golden Nanmu was different. It was considered the best container, next only to vessels made of Thousand-Year Cold Jade or Warm Jade.

The effects of the Golden Dragon Saliva are incredibly miraculous, and although its effect is domineering, it's undoubtedly a life-saving weapon when necessary... as seen with Tang Cheng's incident.

If Tang Cheng had taken the Golden Dragon Saliva beforehand, although it couldn't completely neutralize the sorcery, at least those poisonous insects wouldn't have harmed him.

Hence, Qin Fang considered extracting some Golden Dragon Saliva and storing it separately for easy access when needed, without having to retrieve it from the puppet person on the spot...

This idea was naturally excellent, so Qin Fang had been looking out for it for a long time, but items made of Golden Nanmu were simply too scarce, so he had yet to find one.

This plan thus had to be delayed until now, until he saw the Brocade Box and noted its material, that Qin Fang cared to determine if it was truly made of Golden Nanmu.

After such careful observation, along with the aid of his Scouting Skill, Qin Fang was left utterly shocked by the result.

"Mechanism Box?"

Qin Fang was also puzzled.

The material of this Brocade Box was indeed nanmu, but not the Golden Nanmu he desired, leaving him slightly disappointed. However, when the scouting result of the box emerged, Qin Fang was again slightly taken aback.

Because this box was not an ordinary Brocade Box; its name was actually... "Mechanism Box."

Qin Fang had heard of mechanism boxes before, so he had some impression of them, but such things were extremely rare and he had never seen one before.

In fact, let's put it this way: in this world, there are not many people who have truly seen a mechanism box. Even those masters who have dealt with antiques all their lives may not have seen a mechanism box.

A mechanism box, as the name implies, is a box that is installed with a mechanism.

This type of object originally came from the carpenter patriarch Lu Ban, who was the first to create a mechanism box, and then the method of making such boxes was passed down to his apprentices and descendants.

Lu Ban was actually one of the patriarchs of the Thousand Gate, so those who truly crafted mechanism boxes must be people from the Thousand Gate... mastering mechanical techniques.

Mechanical techniques are considered a kind of Thousand Skills, an incredibly magical craft.

Unfortunately, the Thousand Gate is very secretive, and whether this magical skill has been passed down is something even Qin Fang doesn't know. However, every Thousand Gate expert who masters mechanical techniques is absolutely respected wherever they go.

As for the reason, well, those who know already know, and those who don't know simply don't need to know.

The crafting process of mechanism boxes is actually considered one of the more complex items within mechanical techniques. Don't be fooled by its potentially small size; its complexity is by no means less than that of those large-scale mechanical techniques.

The crafting of such mechanism boxes is mostly intended for storing some extremely important items, and the method of opening them is very complex. In fact, only a few individuals know how to open them; otherwise, even if you try to forcibly dismantle it, you won't be able to open it.

The mechanism box in front of him had existed for a long time, even longer than this Yuan Dynasty blue and white porcelain, and it should have been made in the late Song Dynasty.

Qin Fang had just carefully observed it; this should be a very intricately crafted third-level mechanism box. It wasn't the top-tier within the mechanism box family but not the simplest either.

There are five types of mechanism boxes: one-turn, two-turn, three-turn, six-turn, and nine-turn. The complexity of the crafting is determined by the number of turns, with the one-turn being the simplest and the nine-turn being the hardest!

The three-turn mechanism box Qin Fang had was somewhere in the middle, with a difficulty level that was relatively moderate...

A mechanism box is used for storing items, so the more precise the mechanism box is used, the more important the items inside are obviously.

The three-turn mechanism box Qin Fang saw surely contained something very precious, thinking of this, Qin Fang couldn't help but frown.

Three turns meant that this mechanism box had three layers. Now, one layer of this mechanism box had already been opened, and whether or not the other two layers had been opened was unclear to Qin Fang. However, from the appearance of this box, it seemed there were no signs of it being discovered...

Using a three-turn mechanism box to store a piece of Yuan Dynasty blue and white porcelain was something, in ancient times, that seemed a bit excessive.

Blue and white porcelain is indeed very precious, but that is in relation to today's standards. In ancient times, it might not have been so noteworthy. Even the finest blue and white porcelain might have been just a regular display in a wealthy home.

But this three-turn mechanism box was different. Besides the complexity of its crafting, its mere purpose was enough to rule out many possibilities.

The opening method of mechanism boxes is very complex. The more complex the mechanism box is, the higher the difficulty of opening it is, and for something like the nine-turn mechanism box, it's almost impossible for anyone besides the creator to open it, because the methods to open it were so complicated that they couldn't slowly try them out.

The difficulty of opening this three-turn mechanism box, although far less than that of a nine-turn mechanism box, is still something that most people can't open.

Even Thousand Gate experts who understand mechanical techniques may not necessarily have the confidence to open it...

In ancient times, the Thousand Gate surely had its most prosperous period, with countless experts within the door, but now it has clearly declined a lot.

Historical reasons have led to the loss of many exquisite skills of the Thousand Gate, and many Thousand Gate experts are unable to break through to the level that many great grandmasters reached back then.

Let alone surpassing the achievements of their predecessors, even catching up is almost impossible...

Just like in ancient times, there were many "god-like" great grandmasters such as Lu Ban, Guiguzi, Huang Shigong... each of whom was unimaginably formidable.

But now, apart from some so-called "brick experts," there are no impressive figures worth mentioning.

"Could it be that the items inside haven't been discovered?"

The Thousand Gate is still powerful, but it is far from being comparable to back then, and since the ancestor Lu Ban's passing, there haven't been any particularly impressive creations in mechanical techniques.

Looking at this three-turn mechanism box which had one layer opened, but still had two layers unopened, Qin Fang couldn't help but wonder about the contents kept inside.

Blue and white porcelain, though precious, was only placed in the first and easiest-to-open layer of the three-turn mechanism box, likely to serve as a decoy. The other two layers were surely meant for storing even more precious items...

Chapter 1325: Want to run? It's not that easy!!

The blue and white porcelain might be very valuable, but Qin Fang isn't too concerned about it. Mainly because he doesn't have much interest in collecting...

But if the agency box still has two layers that haven't been opened, then the items inside must be even more precious, which makes Qin Fang unable to resist feeling intrigued.

This agency box is made of nanmu wood. Although it's not the extremely valuable golden silk nanmu, it has been passed down for hundreds of years. Apart from some marks of age, the box shows no damage or signs of decay...

This is one of the properties of nanmu wood, I suppose.

So the items inside the agency box could very likely not have decayed either. If the box hasn't been opened, perhaps the items are still inside.

"More valuable than the blue and white porcelain..."

Qin Fang couldn't help but mutter to himself, and his gaze towards the box changed slightly.

"One billion!"

While Qin Fang was musing over the agency box, the auction for the blue and white porcelain had already started, and the price was skyrocketing.

Qu Yuancheng's furious roar had pushed the price to one billion Hong Kong dollars...

This price almost rivals the Guiguzi Descends the Mountain painting back in the day, but the size difference between the two pieces of blue and white porcelain is quite evident.

Although the price of porcelain isn't judged by size, under the same quality, bigger jars are harder to preserve, thus making their existence rarer and naturally more valuable.

The blue and white porcelain here was stored in such a brocade box, simply sealing the box could prevent any damage even if buried underground.

So when the auction price for this blue and white porcelain rose to one billion, even Qin Fang was a bit stunned, not expecting Qu Yuancheng to be so aggressive.

"One billion and fifty million..."

But even at this price, Qu Yuancheng still couldn't secure it, as others were competing with him...

Who could it be?

Qin Fang's old antagonist! Yamamoto, who had been thwarted twice by Qin Fang!

"This guy just won't go away..."

Seeing Yamamoto's annoying demeanor, Qin Fang couldn't help but curl his lips, verbally despising him a bit.

Previously, when Yamamoto caused trouble for Qin Fang, he ended up wasting a lot of money because of Qin Fang's schemes, and then Qin Fang fooled him once more.

Unexpectedly, the guy hasn't stopped, and this time went even further, spending over a billion without letting go.

"Does he really have that much money?"

Qin Fang couldn't help but wonder, since it seems impossible for someone in charge of a Yamaguchi Group division to have this level of disposable funds.

So Qin Fang was somewhat surprised!

"Huh..."

But upon closer examination, Qin Fang noticed Yamamoto's mood was off. Specifically, when he was speaking to one of his subordinates, there was something peculiar about his tone.

"Agency box..."

Qin Fang understood Japanese and could speak it fluently, though he rarely used it.

But now it came in handy, as he observed Yamamoto's lip movements and noticed him mentioning this term while speaking.

"Could he be here for the agency box?"

The reason Qin Fang supported Qu Yuancheng in bidding for the blue and white porcelain was none other than for the agency box. But now, with Yamamoto inadvertently mentioning this keyword, how could Qin Fang not be anxious?

Agency boxes are rare, many treasure appraisers might not recognize them, let alone ordinary people... So Qin Fang speculated that the number of people at the scene who truly knew about the agency box didn't exceed three.

Unexpectedly, aside from Qin Fang himself, one of these three people turned out to be Yamamoto, further raising Qin Fang's concerns.

The Thousand Gate is vast and highly secretive, with a mysterious heritage. Nowadays, Thousand Gate's people aren't limited to living within Dragon Country, but can be found worldwide.

For example, the Thousand Gate Chess Elder spends most of his time on Hong Kong Island...

And many old masters might reside in Singapore, Europe, or the United States... Of course, some might be living in Japan.

These are uncertain matters, hence the inheritors of the Thousand Gate may not be few in number.

The Yamaguchi Group is Japan's largest syndicate and the largest in Asia, with tens of thousands of members, making it an exceedingly large organization.

With such numbers and formidable strength, it naturally gathers intelligence far better than typical societies, leading Qin Fang to ponder that the agency box matter might have come to Yamaguchi Group's attention.

Perhaps there are Thousand Gates Acolytes within the Yamaguchi Group, or they obtained the information from Thousand Gates Acolytes... In any case, it's because of the knowledge about the agency box that the Yamaguchi Group wants to acquire it.

But whatever the case may be, these things are disadvantageous to Qin Fang.

Because of Yamamoto's presence, Qu Yuancheng's bidding became increasingly challenging, and Qin Fang's chances of acquiring the agency box dwindled further.

Chapter 1326: Want to Run? Not That Easy!!_2

"One hundred and ten million!"

The auction had reached this point, and Qu Yuancheng was genuinely fired up. It was inevitable that he was feeling a bit riled, seemingly planning to stand his ground against Yamamoto.

Since he was already prepared to pay a substantial amount, an extra ten or twenty million didn't mean much to Qu Yuancheng, so he wouldn't give up easily.

"One hundred and fifteen million!"

But Yamamoto was obviously just as determined, although his real motives might seem the same as Qu Yuancheng's, they were actually different.

He had no reason to give up, so he continued to bid aggressively. The money didn't come from the Yamaguchi Group Hong Kong Branch's account, hence Yamamoto was quite willing to spend it.

But the more it went on like this, the more furious Qu Yuancheng became, with resentment growing stronger in his heart.

"One hundred and twen..."

Just as Qu Yuancheng almost wanted to place a new bid, planning to thoroughly suppress Yamamoto, Qin Fang suddenly tugged at his sleeve and murmured softly.

"Big brother, let him have it..."

Qin Fang's suggestion for Qu Yuancheng to withdraw from the bidding truly caught a few people around them off guard.

"Let him have it?"

Qu Yuancheng was taken aback, looking at Qin Fang somewhat puzzled, as if waiting for him to give a reasonable explanation. After all, at this point, it was no longer just about the auction; it felt more like a display of wealth between two people. Whoever backed down would lose face seriously.

"Just trust me and give up!"

Qin Fang shook his head without explaining much, but spoke with absolute certainty.

"Alright..."

Qu Yuancheng paused for a moment, then helplessly nodded, gesturing to the auctioneer that he was withdrawing...

Finally, the Blue and White Porcelain sold for a high price of 115 million. Over there, seeing that Qu Yuancheng had stepped back, Yamamoto also visibly relaxed.

A person like Yamamoto was nothing more than scum!

After struggling to win, it was only because of Qin Fang's advice that Qu Yuancheng reluctantly gave up; otherwise, he would have insisted till the end.

Yamamoto had no sense of gratitude; instead, he threw a provocative glance in Qin Fang's and others' direction, his arrogant posture almost like a proud swan, which was quite ironic paired with Yamamoto's short stature...

"That bastard..."

But his demeanor indeed sparked an already slightly frustrated Qu Yuancheng's anger, making even a gentlemanly lawyer like him feel the urge to rush over and beat Yamamoto up.

"No need to stoop to his level..."

However, Qin Fang, standing beside, held Qu Yuancheng back, not giving him the chance.

Seeing that his purpose had been achieved, and completing his mission for this trip, Yamamoto didn't seem to plan on waiting for the next items any longer. He left with a group to pay and collect his goods.

It's clear how much he valued that puzzle box... even though others believed what was essential was the Blue and White Porcelain inside...

Not only acquiring these two treasures at a high price, but for the sake of safety, Qin Fang noticed that besides the elder looking like an appraiser, Yamamoto brought four bodyguards into the venue this time.

Now that he was leaving to pay for his goods, all those bodyguards followed him, leaving that area empty.

The more Qin Fang noticed Yamamoto's impatience, the more tightly his brow furrowed, not even paying attention to the next item on auction.

Yamamoto's actions were quick; he paid, collected his goods swiftly, and immediately, under the protection of a few people, left for the outside of the auction house.

Looking at his posture, it seemed he didn't even want to linger for a moment more, revealing how important that puzzle box was to him at the moment...

Just as leaving the auction venue, Yamamoto looked over arrogantly in Qin Fang's direction, saw that Qin Fang was watching him, proudly jerked his head, and strode away in high spirits.

"You guys continue, don't wait for me..."

Seeing Yamamoto and the others leave, Qin Fang found no reason to stay either. However, without saying much, he left the auction house quickly after a simple explanation.

Everyone exchanged confused glances, not understanding what Qin Fang intended to do. Only Tang Feifei vaguely guessed something, though a bit worried, didn't express it since she had absolute confidence in Qin Fang.

Ignoring what the others were thinking, Qin Fang quickly exited the venue, heading outside, seemingly intending to chase after Yamamoto.

In fact, that was indeed his plan, to chase after Yamamoto.

"Can't buy it, but can't I just steal it?"

Watching the figures disappearing into the distance, Qin Fang smiled faintly, spoke sarcastically.

Black on black!

This was definitely the type of task the gang members loved the most!

Not long ago, Qin Fang had even assisted Elder Long in completing a similar operation of black-on-black.

The Yamaguchi Group, being the biggest organization in Asia, hadn't done this just once or twice; usually, they were the ones overpowering others.

The reason for not turning on the Yamaguchi Group was mainly due to their immense power, instilling fear. The larger organizations were extremely wary of the Yamaguchi Group.

In contrast, a passerby like Qin Fang wasn't too concerned about them. Even if the black-on-black was successful, the Yamaguchi Group couldn't do much against them...

Yamamoto seemed particularly intent on that puzzle box, it seemed he wouldn't spare any cost to acquire it, especially against someone like Qu Yuancheng, who belonged to a prestigious family, he showed no signs of backing down.

Qin Fang saw through this, pondered a bit, then advised Qu Yuancheng to give up the bidding since continuing would only inflate the auction price to an unreasonably high level.

Instead, it was better to directly let Yamamoto win, forcing him to spend over a hundred million, then intercept mid-way to seize the still warm puzzle box. This would leave Yamamoto with nothing.

Yamamoto moved quickly, almost immediately after stepping out, he got into a car and left, as if the longer he lingered the more danger he faced.

The danger was indeed there, like Qin Fang... or some wealthy individuals also coveting the Blue and White Porcelain!

But a real move in the auction house was out of the question, definitely choosing a more secluded place to make a move.

Watching the vehicles drive off into the distance, Qin Fang boarded a taxi, chasing after Yamamoto and his group.

Although slightly lagging, Qin Fang wasn't in a rush. Instead, he seemed relaxed, resting as if gearing up for a big fight ahead.

Qin Fang wasn't worried about losing Yamamoto. He had already gathered intel on the Yamaguchi Group from Elder Long while planning to deal with Tu San. It turned out useful sooner than expected.

Looking at the road Yamamoto's car was on, combined with some intel Qin Fang had, he guessed Yamamoto's destination.

Knowing the destination meant he wasn't worried about losing Yamamoto, he could even find the place himself.

"Think you can run? Not that easy..."

Knowing the location, gazing at the car in front, Qin Fang appeared quite at ease; the one truly needing to worry should be Yamamoto.

Chapter 1327: Ninja Miyamoto!

The needed items have been acquired, Yamamoto is in a very good mood.

However, for the sake of safety, Yamamoto did not linger at the auction house but chose to leave immediately, worried that someone might target him.

Unlike the other guests who know nothing about the final three items at the auction, Yamamoto knows about one crucial treasure that does not need to be obtained.

This is an order from the Japan headquarters, and Japan specially collected a large fund for this treasure.

It was for this reason that, when competing with Qu Yuancheng, Yamamoto was so confident.

This item is one that the Japan headquarters must acquire, willing to pay an astronomical auction price for it, naturally not caring who the competitors are.

This is the mechanical box he obtained, while the blue and white porcelain was just along the way.

Yamamoto isn't very clear on how the Japan headquarters knew of the mechanical box's existence, but seeing how they knew about this auction item in advance, they must have had their eye on it for some time.

Qin Fang could recognize the mechanical box mainly because of his reconnaissance skills, and also because he is associated with the Thousand Gate.

But this does not mean that no one else can recognize the box as a mechanical box, as the heir of Thousand Gate's Mechanical Techniques, for example, would certainly be able to recognize it...

Other Thousand Gate experts, perhaps having seen it or read related ancient texts, could also identify this extremely rare treasure.

Although Japan is not Dragon Country, nearly a thousand years ago in the Tang dynasty, Japan, as a vassal state of Dragon Country, came many times to pay respect, contributed numerous treasures, and received various rare items, possibly including mechanical boxes...

Of course, if Qin Fang knew about this, he might inevitably have some thoughts about it.

Besides this, there was another reason prompting Yamamoto to quickly leave the auction house, and that is...

"Mr. Miyamoto has arrived? That's great..."

Upon hearing this good news, Yamamoto immediately expanded with joy, seeming very happy, his previously suppressed emotions fully released.

Having repeatedly been oppressed and faced by Qin Fang, Yamamoto held a grudge, but unfortunately, several attempts ended in crushing defeat, greatly embarrassing Yamamoto.

Thus, he tried every possible way to regain his pride, hiring experts was a relatively simple yet very direct approach.

The one called Miyamoto is an expert he invited back from Japan, especially due to Qin Fang's overwhelming strength.

Miyamoto may not have the fame of Karate Kyokushin-ryu grandmaster Kyokushin Genichi, but in terms of ability, Kyokushin Genichi couldn't even lace Miyamoto's shoes.

Although many Japanese praise Karate as national arts, in reality, its performance aspect far exceeds practical combat, the true martial art said to be Japan's best is... Ninjutsu.

This Ninjutsu, evolved from Dragon Country's martial arts and Thousand Skills, is admired by Japanese experts as a supreme art and has become a symbol of Japanese mastery.

Those who practice martial arts, although fewer practice Ninjutsu than Karate, in terms of strength, a Ninjutsu expert at the same level far surpasses a Karate expert...

Ninjutsu experts, also called ninjas, are a unique profession of Japan, no other country has such a career.

Almost all of Japan's top-ranked experts are born ninjas, only a few are different, which illustrates the power of ninjas.

Moreover, in the underground world, the number of Ninjutsu experts is considerable, particularly in the Assassin's Alliance, as ninjas are naturally skilled in assassination.

The reason Yamamoto invited Miyamoto was because Miyamoto is an expert, and also a Ninjutsu expert—a ninja infinitely close to the Upper Ninja level Middle Level Ninja.

A Master-level Ninja can be promoted to Upper Ninja, so one who is infinitely close to Upper Ninja is also infinitely close to grandmaster-level...

Yamamoto decided to have Miyamoto invited because, although his fighting strength may appear slightly weaker than Kyokushin-ryu Grandmaster Kyokushin Genichi, in terms of assassination, Kyokushin Genichi can't even compete with Miyamoto's little finger.

If the two are engaged in a life-or-death fight, Miyamoto could kill Kyokushin Genichi as easily as killing a chicken...

Last time with Qin Fang, Kyokushin Genichi was quickly defeated by Qin Fang, disgracing Yamamoto, this time it is not about a fair duel, it's an assassination... naturally, this quasi-master level ninja Miyamoto is far superior to master level Kyokushin Genichi.

This news of Miyamoto's arrival is why Yamamoto was particularly thrilled...

Along the way, Qin Fang was vigorously pursuing, but this road was not the right place for action, so he waited until Yamamoto brought the items into a luxury villa before quietly following.

This is a luxurious villa, located in Hong Kong Island's Repulse Bay, definitely an expensive mansion, but this villa is not listed under Yamaguchi Group, rather, it is privately owned by Yamamoto.

Don't be fooled by the private location here; the defense surrounding it is very advanced, almost comparable to the Number 36 Villa where Han Long used to live.

However, those responsible for surveillance here, besides the usual servants of the villa, include some henchmen from the Yamaguchi Group, which is weaker than Han Long's mercenaries during his time here...

Moreover, there are no terrifying criminals like the Bloody Demon Tu San here, so for Qin Fang, this is quite good news.

The night is hazy, a crescent moon hangs in the sky, emitting a faint silver light, slightly illuminating the ground, although not very clear, it allows for barely distinguishing the route.

Qin Fang didn't care about this, found a suitable breakthrough point, and quietly infiltrated this villa...

Of course, before entering the villa, Qin Fang specially changed his outfit and his face. After making these preparations, Qin Fang proceeded to enter.

...

Inside the villa.

"Mr. Miyamoto, welcome to Hong Kong Island..."

As soon as Yamamoto nearly walked in, he saw Miyamoto sitting properly in the living room and immediately rushed over, taking the initiative to greet him.

In Japan, ninja training is extremely grueling and difficult, but their status is relatively high, not only in the past, but also now.

Hence, seeing this solemnly seated Miyamoto, Yamamoto appeared very humble and courteous, vastly different from the arrogance and domineering attitude he showed to outsiders.

This is understandable; the Yakuza always bullied the weak and feared the strong. When facing someone more powerful, they acted docile beyond measure.

Especially for a ninja like Miyamoto, Yamamoto dared not be remotely disrespectful, not because he feared Miyamoto would turn against him, as he had the backing of both the Yamaguchi Group and the large Yamamoto family, not something an ordinary ninja like Miyamoto could casually challenge.

Even so, Yamamoto remained courteous towards Miyamoto, clearly worried that Miyamoto might not be very committed to the task at hand.

"Hello, Mr. Yamamoto..."

Miyamoto was a man in his thirties, seemingly a bit thin in build, but the sharp gleam emanating from his long, narrow eyes made Yamamoto's heart tremble.

Miyamoto was not only a martial artist but also reputedly an assassin, with not an insignificant number falling at his hands; truly an expert with blood-stained hands...

Though Yamamoto was involved in the underworld and accustomed to all sorts of bloody battles, compared to superficial cuts, Miyamoto's ninja assassination art seemed extraordinarily strange and powerful.

Many people, after being killed by ninjas, might die without ever knowing what happened to them?

This is precisely the terror inherent in ninja assassination art...

"Please wait for a moment, Mr. Miyamoto, I will be right back..."

Yamamoto originally couldn't wait to explain to Miyamoto about Qin Fang's identity, background, strength, and other aspects, but suddenly recalled that he was holding an expensive mechanical box, quickly swallowed his words, and aimed to store this item first.

Though the blue and white porcelain was indeed precious, it paled in comparison to the mechanical box, and Yamamoto was pretty clear about the priorities here.

"Who is it?"

But just then, Miyamoto, who was about to answer, suddenly changed his expression, and called out sharply.

This was spoken in Japanese, but Qin Fang, hidden in the shadows, could understand it, also couldn't help but feel slightly surprised.

"Hmm? Been detected?"

Hearing Miyamoto's loud exclamation, Qin Fang, hidden in the shadow, was momentarily taken aback, evidently surprised at Miyamoto's keen perception.

After swiftly scanning the small map, he discovered that besides Yamamoto and Miyamoto, and himself hidden, there was no one else in this living room, making Qin Fang realize he might have been inadvertently perceived by Miyamoto.

"So, there's another expert here..."

Qin Fang wasn't particularly nervous about being discovered by Miyamoto; he merely pondered briefly but made no rash moves, staying quietly in the corner, completely still.

He neither chose to leave quickly nor risked taking sudden action but maintained his stealth position, not caring whether Miyamoto had indeed sensed his hideout!

Chapter 1328: Stealth vs Ninjutsu! Completely Victorious!

...

It's not that Qin Fang is somewhat afraid of Miyamoto, this ninja, it's mainly that he doesn't want to suddenly make a move and accidentally damage that contraption box, which wouldn't be ideal.

Moreover, Yamamoto is a rather vigilant person, almost immediately after Miyamoto spoke up, the gun was already in his hand, and the bodyguards beside him also pulled out their guns one after another, all watching the large villa's living room with extreme caution...

From the way they positioned themselves, it seemed like as soon as Qin Fang showed himself even slightly, he would be riddled with bullets instantly!

This is definitely not a joke!

At such a close range, with so many guns pointed at him, even a master like Qin Fang wouldn't dare to confidently say he could avoid them.

Qin Fang's defense level hasn't yet reached the point where he can ignore bullets, especially at this close range, where he has to be extra cautious and defensive.

Qin Fang was slightly surprised by Miyamoto's strong perception, especially since he was extraordinarily stealthy when entering.

But unexpectedly, even so, Miyamoto managed to sense something and immediately reacted, which gave Qin Fang quite a scare...

Nonetheless, that was all there was to it. Qin Fang immediately restrained his breath, lurking motionlessly in the shadows, as if he had completely vanished, with all traces completely dissipated.

However, Miyamoto clearly wouldn't just shout a simple warning and be done with it. He vaguely felt a certain threat, so he quickly made a swift move, disappearing in an incredibly eerie manner.

Ninjutsu!

Yamamoto, upon witnessing such a scene, immediately understood that Miyamoto was using Japan's most proud ninjutsu, which is even more of a source of pride for them than karate.

Seeing Miyamoto disappear into thin air, Yamamoto, surprised, also tried to find some clues, hoping he could uncover Miyamoto's whereabouts.

But...

Yamamoto's attempts clearly failed.

No matter how carefully he looked around, he couldn't find a trace, as if Miyamoto had vanished into thin air and was no longer in the room.

Yet in his heart, he had a feeling that Miyamoto should still be in the room, but he just couldn't find him...

"Idiot..."

Qin Fang lurked in the darkness, his stealth skill already activated, with an efficacy that was no less impressive than Japan's ninjutsu, and even stronger.

If it were a Grandmaster-level ninja, an Upper Ninja, perhaps their ninjutsu would be stronger than Qin Fang's, mainly because Qin Fang hadn't crossed that threshold yet. But Miyamoto clearly hadn't reached that level, naturally making him much weaker than Qin Fang.

Yamamoto couldn't find Miyamoto's whereabouts due to his lack of vision and understanding of ninjutsu... but from Qin Fang's perspective, it was a completely different situation.

Miyamoto's ninjutsu was decent, but his skills were far from perfected. Qin Fang could sharply track Miyamoto's movements without even using his scouting skill's mini-map function...

If he looked at the mini-map, Miyamoto would be completely exposed in front of Qin Fang...

And the mini-map function of the scouting skill was Qin Fang's greatest reliance when facing Japan's most elusive ninja, rendering their proud ninjutsu utterly insignificant in front of him...

Upon seeing Miyamoto, Qin Fang naturally didn't bother to move, watching Miyamoto perform like he was watching a fool, and gave a simple evaluation.

"Nani?"

Before long, the disappeared Miyamoto slowly reappeared, not very far from his original location, but judging from his previous movement trail, this person was extremely cautious.

Once he revealed himself, Yamamoto and the others were dumbfounded, also full of admiration; this was akin to a stealth technique, truly amazing.

However, Miyamoto's mind harbored a different feeling, his face showing a rather peculiar expression, his eyes darting around as if still searching for something.

Miyamoto was quite surprised, carefully sensing his surroundings, seemingly unable to find that previous feeling, almost as if his earlier judgment had been mistaken.

Everything around seemed exceptionally calm, apart from a few people present, he couldn't sense anything unusual, leaving Miyamoto quite puzzled.

"Could it be that person was hiding outside earlier?"

Miyamoto's mind couldn't help but entertain such a thought, catching a hint of unease earlier, especially sensing a threatening presence, surely indicating someone nearby.

Yet now, there seemed to be nothing, as though that person didn't exist... of course, possibly that person fled far away after his shout.

"Mr. Miyamoto, truly a master of ninjutsu, much respect..."

But Yamamoto and the others were unaware of what was on Miyamoto's mind, thinking that he was merely trying to demonstrate his skills to Yamamoto. After all, since Yamamoto hired him at a high price, he had to prove his worth somehow...

If not, if Yamamoto believed he had no real skills, Miyamoto would lose a lot of face.

"Not at all..."

Even though Miyamoto was quite annoyed inside, he didn't show it and continued a polite conversation with Yamamoto...

At the same time, he kept sensing any surrounding movements. Only when he was sure there was nothing unusual did he slightly relax.

Whether the other side had left or his own judgment was wrong, at least he didn't mess up in front of Yamamoto... This result already satisfied him greatly.

"Mr. Miyamoto, please excuse me for a moment..."

After another polite exchange, Yamamoto clearly did not forget the main business. He immediately signaled to one of his trusted followers while apologizing to Miyamoto and preparing to have the mechanism box sent off for safekeeping.

"Please..."

Of course, Miyamoto wouldn't mind. Seeing Yamamoto's nervous expression, he knew that the brocade box or its contents were extremely important.

For something so crucial, it would naturally be safest to store it quickly. Holding it constantly was quite unsafe indeed...

So Miyamoto didn't stop him, showing openness and even proactively covering Yamamoto's departure route...

If it weren't for the fact that they weren't very familiar (and Yamamoto wouldn't possibly want him following to such secretive places... like the location of the safe), he might have insisted on following closely.

Miyamoto's discernment made Yamamoto quite satisfied.

The status of ninjas is very high, which leads many ninjas to have an exceptional level of pride, sometimes surpassing even the head of a Yamaguchi Group division.

Moreover, these people are exceptionally powerful, and their methods are extremely ruthless. Ordinary people would not dare to easily offend such ninjas...

Otherwise, given the way they act, it wouldn't be surprising if they suddenly disappear one day, leaving no place to argue their cases.

Once Yamamoto left, Qin Fang naturally wouldn't continue to stay. Hidden quietly in the corner, he started moving slowly.

Even though Miyamoto covered the main route, it wasn't entirely impassable... A slight detour could easily bypass it.

After all, Miyamoto was quite confident in his own abilities. Unless a ninja far stronger than him was involved, it would be hard for them not to be noticed.

It's just that Miyamoto probably never expected that a Dragon Country person would possess such an extraordinary stealth skill.

Qin Fang was unwilling to alert Miyamoto prematurely and alarm him, so his top priority was to stealthily retrieve the mechanism box.

Thus, Qin Fang proceeded very cautiously, moving as slowly as possible in the direction where Yamamoto disappeared...

His movements were extremely gentle and careful, with virtually no anomalies whatsoever.

Even though Miyamoto's perception was quite good, he did not detect any abnormalities. Qin Fang, having not anticipated a ninja's presence on Yamamoto's side last time, had shown slight oversight.

Now, with Qin Fang taking precautions, he naturally revealed no holes. So even this quasi grandmaster-level expert and future Upper Ninja Miyamoto didn't notice Qin Fang's movements at all.

Miyamoto stood there, looking particularly tense, his eyes like a hawk, continuously scanning back and forth, while his body was completely relaxed, sensing the changes in his surroundings.

Although his body was relaxed, his mind was intensely focused, ready to react with the utmost speed to any slight disturbance.

This is the most fundamental reaction of a martial artist and their basic skills.

A martial artist's prowess relies not only on strength, speed, agility, and personal defense capabilities but also on External School's body refinement techniques and Inner Sect's True Qi and Inner Breath, all which are important references.

However, a keen sense, rapid reaction, and precise judgment are hallmarks of a formidable martial artist.

Miyamoto's perception is quite sharp, his judgment appears accurate, and his reaction speed is incredibly quick. Combined with the highly strange art of Ninjutsu, encountering such a tricky ninja could cause great trouble even for a skilled expert...

Ninjutsu VS Stealth!

Without a doubt, under the same level, Qin Fang had a complete victory!

At least when Miyamoto used Ninjutsu, Qin Fang could detect his presence and even clearly understand the trajectory of his movements.

But when Qin Fang used the Stealth Skill, Miyamoto couldn't feel a thing, and Qin Fang could pass right by him without him noticing any anomaly.

Thus, the strengths and weaknesses of Ninjutsu and Stealth were clearly evident...

Chapter 1329: Black on Black!!

...

Although Miyamoto was extremely diligent, he seemed eager to show off in front of his new master. After all, if something went wrong on the first day, it would be hard to explain.

But unfortunately...

All his efforts were destined to be futile because they could not stop Qin Fang's path forward.

His body was still in stealth mode, moving very cautiously, and until Qin Fang disappeared behind that door, Miyamoto still hadn't noticed anything unusual.

After dodging Miyamoto, Qin Fang's speed increased significantly, quickly chasing in the direction Yamamoto had gone.

While the area of the villa was not small, it couldn't escape Qin Fang's mini-map exploration. Especially in this villa, no matter where Yamamoto hid, it was impossible to escape Qin Fang's tracking.

Because his figure would always appear on Qin Fang's mini-map, Qin Fang could even clearly see how many people were around him.

Yamamoto obviously wanted to send this mechanism box to the safe; keeping it outside was too unsafe. Even though this was the Yamaguchi Group's territory, it was safer to keep it in the safe if someone wanted to steal it.

Qin Fang moved quickly and soon arrived outside the room where Yamamoto was. At this moment, Yamamoto was no longer there; he had entered that room.

Instead, the four King Kongs who were with him to protect him stayed behind, guarding the room's entrance to prevent anyone from entering.

"Four people, simpler than expected..."

Looking at the four bodyguards leaning against the door, their individual combat capabilities were quite good. They should be considered the strongest support around Yamamoto.

And the four bodyguards were all carrying guns, posing a significant threat. In this relatively narrow corridor, if all four of them attacked simultaneously, even a master like Qin Fang might not be able to dodge their bullets!

But now Qin Fang didn't care. Looking at the way these four were positioned, Qin Fang made a decision quickly, while also feeling a bit fortunate in his heart.

Qin Fang cautiously approached the four men, the corridor lights were bright, flickering with a layer of silver light, illuminating the area and nearby.

Under such lighting, Qin Fang's stealth skill became even more mysterious, almost leaving no trace, just like in the living room before.

Of course, the brighter and more glaring the light, the more suitable it was for skills like ninjutsu and stealth, as the refraction, reflection, and scattering of light greatly aided these skills.

Just like Qin Fang using his stealth skill now, if the light were darker, he might not have been so smooth... At least he wouldn't dare to approach so slowly.

The four bodyguards were still quite diligent, standing at the door, watching the surroundings with a vigilant expression, not daring to relax in the slightest.

However...

Is just being vigilant useful?

Obviously not!

Facing a master like Qin Fang, there was already a significant gap in strength, not to mention Qin Fang had such a powerful stealth skill in hand, making him invincible.

Poof, poof, poof~~

Before these bodyguards could react, they heard a series of such strange sounds coming from behind, like something hitting the ground.

But just as they heard the sound, they quickly blacked out, not even able to utter a cry or a scream before they fell limply to the ground.

Within just two or three seconds, the four bodyguards successively fell to Qin Fang's tricks, all collapsing to the ground.

Qin Fang didn't kill them, he merely knocked them out.

Having settled these troublesome guys, Qin Fang didn't hesitate any further. Time was of the essence; if Yamamoto's people discovered this disturbance, Qin Fang would have to settle this matter quickly.

The longer the delay, the more likely Qin Fang would be exposed. Yamamoto had arranged many people in this villa to protect it, and although Qin Fang didn't care about these people, if he got hold of the mechanism box, he needed to be very careful.

The mechanism box was an extremely rare treasure.

It not only preserved the contents from decaying for a millennium but also provided excellent protection for the items inside. Unless opened properly, any attempt to destroy the mechanism box from the outside would end in failure...

Since this was a third-level mechanism box, if it was forcibly cracked from the outside, the props box would undergo some unexpected changes, destroying the contents on the spot.

This design was unique to mechanism box locks, and the principle behind it couldn't really be explained; it was the wonder of mechanical techniques, even difficult for science to explain...

Qin Fang did not linger; he almost immediately opened the door and slipped into the room because Yamamoto was already very close.

Upon entering the room, Qin Fang immediately felt a stark difference from the outside, as if this room was specially set up for the safe.

Chapter 1330: Black on Black!!_2

At this moment, Yamamoto was facing the safe, seemingly operating something, his back turned towards Qin Fang...

"Baka! Who let you in here?"

Yamamoto was about to close the alloy door of the safe when he immediately sensed someone pushing open the door and entering, which instantly enraged him, prompting him to roar.

Earlier, he had repeatedly stressed that no one was allowed to enter this room, not even the four bodyguards, otherwise they would face extremely harsh punishment.

Since he was busy here, he hadn't paid much attention to the appearance of Qin Fang.

Though Qin Fang's current face was merely reminiscent of an impressionable middle-aged uncle, he didn't resemble anyone Yamamoto recognized.

Had Yamamoto turned his head suddenly at this moment, he would surely have noticed something unusual about Qin Fang, but for now, he only berated without even turning around.

"Mr. Yamamoto, your demeanor is quite something..."

Yet, upon hearing Yamamoto's words, Qin Fang couldn't help but chuckle, slowly walking toward Yamamoto while teasingly speaking with a chuckle.

As soon as Qin Fang spoke, Yamamoto, who was busy over there, was slightly stunned, and his body couldn't help but tremble violently as if he had been shocked.

Now Yamamoto couldn't continue to have his back turned to Qin Fang; this sudden appearance truly startled him, and with unclear intentions, made Yamamoto's heart cast a shadow of discomfort.

"Nani? Who are you?"

Yamamoto was stunned; he had never seen Qin Fang before. In fact, he could recognize the appearance of almost every underling in the villa.

But this face seemed incredibly unfamiliar, as if he had never had the slightest impression, which was what surprised Yamamoto.

"How on earth did he get in?"

A question arose in Yamamoto's heart, but he couldn't find an accurate answer.

The security system of this villa was very strong, making it impossible for ordinary people to even get close, let alone infiltrate it.

Moreover, entering the villa, one had to guard against the surrounding underlings, all of whom were armed with guns, creating a formidable deterrent.

Yet, Yamamoto hadn't heard any unusual sounds, and no underling came to report anything, everything seemed normal, and no one had noticed Qin Fang's presence.

In the living room was the ninja expert Miyamoto overseeing, with such acute senses, it should be hard for anyone to approach him without being discovered.

And at the gate, there were four bodyguards escorting, each carefully selected and each equipped with weapons, four guarding a gate was utterly secure.

But the issue was that even under such layers of protection, this suddenly appearing enemy managed to stride in here unperturbed, making it exceptionally strange.

"Who I am is not important; what matters is why I came today... You better be honest and hand over the item, and perhaps I might let you live!"

Facing Yamamoto's questioning, Qin Fang's face remained remarkably composed.

Even though there were specific cameras in the room of this safe, Qin Fang was not concerned at all, as nothing about his attire, appearance, or even voice was real.

Even if the Yamaguchi Group tried to trace back later, it had nothing to do with Qin Fang because whether this person existed or not was questionable.

"Baka..."

Upon hearing this, Yamamoto realized things had gone awry, understanding very well why Qin Fang had come, and his face turned completely green.

Apparently, besides that mechanism box, nothing else could catch Qin Fang's attention.

That mechanism box was specifically requested by the Japan Headquarters, with no expense spared to acquire it.

After much effort, he had purchased the blue and white porcelain and the mechanism box at a high price from Qu Yuancheng's birthday offering, although he expected someone might target him, he didn't expect it to happen so fast!

But was Yamamoto someone who would easily admit defeat?

Apparently not!

Amid such chaos, Yamamoto was relatively resolute, immediately stretching out his arm to close the safe.

This safe was incredibly formidable, one of the world's safest safes, although not as secure as the one Qin Fang had stolen from Li Rui, its security was beyond question!

Generally, once closed, without the safe's code, keys, etc., it was impossible to open... What Yamamoto needed now was time; as long as he endured this, not only could he save himself, but also keep the mechanism box inside safe...

This way, he would have an account with the Japan Headquarters!

Otherwise, if the mechanism box was stolen, it would be disastrous, the headquarters wouldn't let him off, even if he had a divine background.

"Courting death..."

Seeing Yamamoto's move, Qin Fang's expression instantly changed, his tone becoming exceedingly sharp, unable to help roaring.

Although Qin Fang had reservations about the safety of this safe, and didn't care whether he could open it, Yamamoto's headstrong stance on the brink of death made Qin Fang quite unsatisfied...

To put it unkindly, this was sheer ingratitude...

Yamamoto was quick, yet Qin Fang was even quicker, almost at an extreme pace. One moment he was seen walking slowly, but the instant Yamamoto was closing the safe, a hand abruptly extended, forcibly holding back the nearly closed safe.

"Baka..."

Yamamoto was instantly furious, but the problem was that even exerting all his strength, he couldn't budge the arm at all, still steadfastly blocking the way.

Qin Fang couldn't be bothered with him, his arm slightly vibrating, Yamamoto's frail body was instantly flung aside as if being thrown.

The safe's door swung wide open, everything was exposed before Qin Fang without reservation.

The contents inside weren't much, yet everything was extremely important; however, Qin Fang brushed past them, heading straight for the true target of his mission, the mechanism box.

"Sorry, but this item is mine now..."

Without encountering any obstruction, Qin Fang successfully retrieved the third-level mechanism box, as for the little Japanese on that side, they could cry by themselves.

Spending over a hundred million to purchase it from an auction, but before it even warmed their hands, it ended up in Qin Fang's, this was definitely losing both the wife and the troop.

Qin Fang couldn't care less about what Yamamoto thought now, he specifically came for this mechanism box, and there's no reason to hold back, otherwise, wouldn't he return empty-handed?

This was clearly not the result Qin Fang needed...

What he needed was to take the mechanism box away!

As for the fate Yamamoto would face, Qin Fang didn't care whether he lived or died...

"Baka..."

Seeing the mechanism box fall into Qin Fang's hands, Yamamoto was infuriated, screaming at the top of his lungs, his whole being charging at Qin Fang in a suicidal attack.

He had no choice now; if the item was taken by Qin Fang, Yamamoto couldn't account to headquarters,

Claiming poor performance was a minor error, understanding the people back at headquarters, Yamamoto knew his life might be on the line...