

Genius 1961

Chapter 1961 - A Gift of Medicine

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Whether it's due to Qin Fang's presence or both sides not wanting a life-and-death battle before the Devil's Trial, ultimately, a fight did not break out.

However, Lin Shinan and the trio have certainly formed a grudge, and it's unlikely things will end well in the upcoming Devil's Trial.

Of course, it was also evident from the faces of the three Japanese that, while they were somewhat apprehensive of Qin Fang, they also held significant hostility towards him.

As for any hidden motives or secrets involved, Qin Fang, as an outsider, didn't want to get too involved.

He wasn't afraid of these three guys now, and once he got to Devil's Island, he would fear them even less. Killing them would be all too easy.

Thus, this little farce came to an end. Seeing no advantage to gain, the three Japanese returned to their rooms.

"Brother Fang, I really need to thank you this time, or else... sigh, I don't know what the outcome would have been!"

Lin Shinan went into his room and chatted with Shadow for a moment, then came to Qin Fang, expressing his deep gratitude.

"It was just a lift of the hand!"

Qin Fang smiled, speaking indifferently, as he was involuntarily drawn into the situation and didn't really want to deal with it.

"By the way, brother, do you understand medical arts?"

Lin Shinan smiled, then asked with some doubt and uncertainty. Clearly, he had a conversation with Shadow, and the cool woman had noticed something, leading him to ask Qin Fang.

"A little bit!"

Qin Fang nodded, answering, but didn't fully explain.

"Did you notice Shadow's problem?"

Seeing Qin Fang's answer, Lin Shinan's eyes widened with surprise mixed with expectation. After hesitating, he still asked.

"That's right!"

Qin Fang nodded, "If I'm not mistaken, she's caused bodily defects by cultivating a technique that advances quickly... she's already quite ill, and if she isn't treated soon, I'm afraid she won't last much longer!"

"Hiss~~"

Upon hearing this, Lin Shinan's eyes widened in disbelief. Clearly, Qin Fang was accurate in his assessment, pinpointing the issue precisely.

In truth, Qin Fang was being somewhat polite; the woman was indeed strong, but her power wasn't derived from sheer effort; she achieved it through self-destructive means.

Although her strength reached a high level, comparable to a grandmaster-level expert, her body was unable to bear the burden.

This is a common problem among heretic dao practitioners: they attain great power too fast and too easily, without the ability to control it.

In the short term, it may not be noticeable, but over time, various problems arise... Shadow falls into this category.

"Sigh, it's all my fault for harming her..."

Noticing Qin Fang had discerned the issue, Lin Shinan decided not to hide it anymore, sighing deeply with regret etched on his face.

Clearly, this is the story of a passionate woman making sacrifices for her man...

Simply put, Shadow fell in love with Lin Shinan, yet an unbridgeable gap existed due to their identities. To be with Lin Shinan, Shadow utilized a highly taboo technique to rapidly enhance her strength.

Thus, once her strength was sufficient, Shadow joined Lin Shinan's mercenary group, becoming his true "helpmeet."

Unfortunately, happy circumstances didn't last long. With Shadow constantly engaging in battles, her hidden internal injuries became more evident, and her physical condition worsened, nearing a point where she could no longer sustain herself.

To prolong her life, Lin Shinan searched everywhere for life-saving spiritual medicine, and Shadow began adjusting her emotions, growing colder to avoid emotional upheaval.

"So you're here this time to..."

Qin Fang listened quietly, feeling sympathetic towards this tragic pair; finally united after much hardship, yet about to be separated again.

But Qin Fang was equally surprised that this couple was not seeking life-saving Spiritual Medicine or methods, but came to participate in the Devil's Trial.

This is a trial with a mortality rate as high as seventy percent. Even with Lin Shinan's strength, it's not certain he can escape unscathed, let alone with Shadow as a burden.

Devil's Island is too dangerous; Shadow's body simply cannot support her in battle, with a basic mortality rate of over ninety percent...

And on Devil's Island, trying to survive oneself while also protecting another person is almost an impossible task!

"Devil's Island is indeed very dangerous, even known as synonymous with death... However, we have a reason that we must come! Due to the high number of deaths, bodies piled like mountains on this island, thus giving rise to a rare fungus called the Corpse Mushroom! And to heal the wounds on Shadow, this Corpse Mushroom is the best medicinal material..."

Lin Shinan explained to Qin Fang with a bitter smile. Their purpose this time is different from others; it's simply not for the trial, but to seek medicine.

"I see!"

Qin Fang nodded, and with Lin Shinan's explanation, he understood.

The Corpse Mushroom, also known as the Ghost-Faced Mushroom, is a very rare fungus and also a very rare medicinal material. It is indeed an important remedy for treating the physical injuries caused by such Heretic Dao tactics.

Even if Lin Shinan didn't mention it, Qin Fang would have told Lin Shinan this point, but then again, Lin Shinan had clearly received guidance from a master, so Qin Fang didn't mention it.

Corpse Mushrooms are very rare because they only appear in places with a large gathering of death energy and aren't very easy to find...

In times of chaos or war, Corpse Mushrooms are generally easier to find. Back then, there were too many bodies, and the death energy was very heavy, naturally making it easy for Corpse Mushrooms to grow, such as in places like Mass Burial Mounds, where they could be easily found.

But now is a time of peace; although the Underground World is still very chaotic, it's only on a small scale. Many people die, but the bodies are immediately dealt with, making it difficult to recreate the scene where bodies are everywhere, and the death energy isn't heavy enough, naturally making it difficult for Corpse Mushrooms to grow.

The Lin Shinan couple searched the world for Corpse Mushrooms, but couldn't find even a trace... Until the Devil's Trial was about to begin, they suddenly realized that Devil's Island is probably the only place in the world where Corpse Mushrooms would exist, as the bodies here are never dealt with, just thrown there!

So, the Lin Shinan couple braved such risks and both applied to participate in this Devil's Trial... Sure enough, the risks are very high, but as long as they find and consume Corpse Mushrooms, their chances of survival on Devil's Island would significantly improve.

Of course, the couple is also determined to face death; if they don't find Corpse Mushrooms or if one of them falls on the island, the other wouldn't have the heart to live on!

"This couple is truly deeply emotional..."

Looking at the rough Lin Shinan before him, Qin Fang couldn't help but praise him, not expecting him to have such deep emotions.

"Well, I have an elixir here that you can give your sister-in-law... Although it's unlikely to completely heal her hidden ailments, it should allow her to exert her full strength without worrying about her physical condition!"

Qin Fang hesitated for a moment but still took out a black elixir from the Props Box and handed it to Lin Shinan.

"This is..."

Lin Shinan was slightly stunned, looking surprised at the black elixir in front of him, with his eyes showing deep shock.

He wasn't sure what the name of the elixir was, but as soon as it was taken out, it had a tempting medicinal fragrance. Just a simple whiff made him feel refreshed, and his spirits were lifted.

Without a doubt, this elixir was certainly not ordinary! It's likely the legendary miraculous elixir...

"This is the Cultivating Yuan Pill! It can strengthen the foundation and vital essence for your sister-in-law..."

This time, Qin Fang was generous, even willing to offer such a high-level Cultivating Yuan Pill to others.

Qin Fang had only refined eight Cultivating Yuan Pills altogether, and four of them were used by Qin Fang and his companions, with another four as spares, always cherished by Qin Fang. He hadn't given them even to Qin Zi or Hattori Sanzo...

Of course, the reason for not giving them was firstly because Qin Zi's strength wasn't from cultivation, so the effects of taking the Cultivating Yuan Pill wouldn't be significant. As long as Qin Fang obtained a higher level Ninja Token, Qin Zi could be upgraded.

Hattori Sanzo was too old, his potential had already been fully squeezed, and it was impossible for him to make any progress in this lifetime. Taking the Cultivating Yuan Pill could slightly smooth out his body, but the effects were not obvious, practically equivalent to a waste.

Because of this, Qin Fang simply didn't waste the Cultivating Yuan Pill on them.

But this time, upon encountering Lin Shinan and Shadow, this tragic couple, Qin Fang's compassion was stirred, and though the two sides weren't too familiar, Qin Fang still took out a Cultivating Yuan Pill.

"This... This..."

Looking at the Cultivating Yuan Pill in front of him, and then at Qin Fang, Lin Shinan's expression was quite complex, seemingly wanting to refuse but with great reluctance.

Consuming this elixir would greatly improve Shadow's health, giving them better chances of survival in the Devil's Trial.

With a bit of luck, if they found the Corpse Mushroom and cured the old injuries in Shadow, that would be even better... But Lin Shinan was a bit hesitant. After all, he wasn't too familiar with Qin Fang, so suddenly receiving such a great gift from him was overwhelming!

Chapter 1962 - An Unexpected Joy

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Primarily, Qin Fang and Lin Shinan just met, barely familiar, yet such a precious gift was given, it's too sudden...

So sudden that Lin Shinan didn't know how to react, his mind turned to mush...

"Hurry up and take it! This elixir can't be left out for too long once it's taken out, or its potency will greatly diminish!"

Qin Fang chuckled, knowing what Lin Shinan was pondering, but he didn't mind, and forcefully placed the Cultivating Yuan Pill in Lin Shinan's hand, offering a simple reminder.

Although the Cultivating Yuan Pill is not completely a spiritual medicine, it's not far off, as it contains substantial spiritual energy.

Typically, it must be sealed in a jade bottle, otherwise, its potency will dissipate, especially when exposed to air.

"Then... I'll accept it!"

Upon hearing Qin Fang's words, Lin Shinan stopped hesitating; the pill was already in his hand, so he accepted it cautiously.

"Brother Fang..."

With the elixir in hand, Lin Shinan seemed ready to say something, but once the words were at his lips, he hesitated.

"No need for pleasantries, hurry and take the elixir to your wife..."

Qin Fang smiled and waved his hand, speaking casually.

Although he had blocked the Japanese and other small fry earlier, Shadow indeed fought with the Polar Bear and American Strongman. At this moment, while it seemed calm, her body probably wasn't comfortable, and it's better to take the Cultivating Yuan Pill soon.

Completely curing isn't likely, but it should at least alleviate the weakness and pain...

"I'll go right away, I'll go..."

Lin Shinan promptly realized and hurriedly agreed, rushing to take the Cultivating Yuan Pill to Shadow.

Qin Fang remained in place, enjoying the sea breeze and summer sunshine, feeling rather carefree.

Of course, inside, his thoughts were numerous.

Handing Lin Shinan a Cultivating Yuan Pill, Qin Fang indeed felt moved by the couple's deep affection, but he also had other motives.

For instance, Qin Fang could establish friendly relations with Lin Shinan's mercenary group; as Lin Shinan is the group leader, this gesture is necessary.

The reason for this is Qin Fang wants to have some surveillance in the Mercenary Alliance because he has a significant grudge with one of its leaders, Hand of the Demon, and naturally needs some precautions...

If one were to be completely ignorant of the Mercenary Alliance's information, that would be unfavorable, as Hand of the Demon is a major mercenary group with many mercenaries under its banner, even sending a few to harass Qin Fang's family or friends would cause trouble.

Though Qin Fang doesn't fear the Hand of the Demon Mercenary Corps, he doesn't want his loved ones to be affected because of him.

To perhaps gain some information, having a mercenary group serve as eyes and ears, although not constantly monitoring Hand of the Demon, should still inform Qin Fang of slight major movements.

Moreover, more friends mean more opportunities, and this also allows Qin Fang to make a good friend—Lin Shinan isn't the type to be ungrateful.

Of course, befriending Lin Shinan is just a pretext; the main goal isn't solely about this.

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"Is this... an elixir?"

When Lin Shinan brought the Cultivating Yuan Pill gifted by Qin Fang to Shadow, she was incredibly surprised. Holding the pill and smelling its clear fragrance, she couldn't help but ask.

Shadow comes from a prominent martial family; although this family has declined, she knows much about martial artists.

Otherwise, how could she, an ordinary girl, acquire such an arcane skill? Let alone elevate her power to such a high level in a short period.

Elixirs have always been gems cherished by martial artists, nearly as esteemed as martial arts manuscripts, and some precious elixirs are valued even more than secret manuals.

"Indeed! Brother Fang said this elixir is called the Cultivating Yuan Pill, and it has the effects of strengthening one's foundation and cleansing one's essence..."

Lin Shinan honed his skills over time, knowing some things about martial arts, but not much.

He knows that elixirs are treasured assets for martial artists, but has no idea which ones are more precious...

However, Qin Fang had already briefly explained the effects of the Cultivating Yuan Pill, so he simply relayed this to Shadow.

"What? Cultivating Yuan Pill..."

However, Shadow knows quite a bit about this. Upon hearing the name of the Cultivating Yuan Pill, she couldn't help but gasp in surprise, almost dropping the pill in excitement.

Luckily, she reacted quickly, clutching the pill tightly and averting a crisis.

Her reaction didn't escape Lin Shinan's notice, who now saw this pill in a different light.

"What's wrong? Is there a problem with this pill?"

However, his line of thought was slightly off track.

"What are you thinking?"

Shadow, being straightforward, lightly tapped Lin Shinan's forehead, playfully scolding, "Although I've never seen a Cultivating Yuan Pill, just the aroma tells me this pill is absolutely extraordinary."

"Moreover, Cultivating Yuan Pill is one of the most precious elixirs among martial artists, almost only second to the legendary Spiritual Medicine..."

In this respect, Shadow's insight was clearly superior to Lin Shinan's.

"No problem, no problem..."

Lin Shinan didn't mind. Upon hearing that the pill was fine, he couldn't help but smile broadly, "Shadow, go ahead and take it. Once you do, your health will improve!"

"You fool!"

Shadow couldn't help but cast him a sidelong glance, but she said no more, swallowing the Cultivating Yuan Pill.

As Qin Fang said, the Cultivating Yuan Pill has the effect of strengthening vitality, purifying and invigorating the body. Shadow's poor health was because her life energy was severely depleted, leaving her fatigued—a nearly incurable condition.

To cure Shadow's ailment, life essence must be replenished, and the Corpse Mushroom is undoubtedly the best remedy!

The Corpse Mushroom grows amidst corpses, surrounded by decaying death energy, yet it thrives by absorbing the lingering life force of the deceased.

Shadow's situation lacked this kind of life energy; while the Cultivating Yuan Pill can replenish it a bit, it can't achieve the desired effect. Only the Corpse Mushroom is the optimal medicine.

Of course, if the Cultivating Yuan Pill can continuously stack effects, consuming several might also achieve the effect, but... this is clearly impossible.

Only the first Cultivating Yuan Pill has the best effect; later doses have minimal effects, nearly negligible, making additional consumption useless.

Moreover, the Cultivating Yuan Pill is so precious that Qin Fang himself doesn't have much stock; giving one is fine, but he wouldn't part with several more.

After taking the pill, Shadow immediately sat in a meditative position to absorb its effects. A surge of potent medicinal energy began to work, releasing a powerful life essence from the pill, quickly restoring Shadow's health.

Shadow's previously pale complexion gradually regained some color, making her look exceptionally beautiful and captivating.

Lin Shinan carefully guarded her side, watching Shadow's transformation intently. He could feel her change, which improved his mood significantly, his eyes showing joy and evident happiness.

This absorption process was quite lengthy, taking most of the night. Shadow's vitality had been overdrawn too much, and she had many old ailments. Although the pill was strong, it needed time to slowly rejuvenate her body, spending a substantial part of the night.

Once the pill's energy was fully absorbed, Shadow's health improved greatly, with all traces of her prior illness completely vanishing, making her look healthy and as if she never had a life-threatening ailment.

This transformation filled Lin Shinan with immense joy, his rough disposition making him tear up with excitement.

"Shinan, this Cultivating Yuan Pill is an extremely rare treasure. Mr. Fang just gave it to us, and my heart is really..."

Having washed away the black, bloodstained grime, Shadow nestled in Lin Shinan's embrace, unable to help mentioning this matter.

"I will never forget Mr. Fang's kindness..."

Lin Shinan agreed wholeheartedly. Though their acquaintance was brief, not only had Qin Fang helped him at a crucial moment, but had also gifted such a precious pill. Lin Shinan was not someone to forget such kindness easily.

"Yes! Mr. Fang has shown great kindness to our couple. If we ever get the chance, we must repay him well..."

Shadow wholeheartedly agreed; she was sensible and understood the importance of gratitude and principles clearly.

Moreover, there was something she kept to herself without voicing.

Qin Fang himself was very strong, and having a pill like the Cultivating Yuan Pill indicated his background must be extraordinary.

Though she and Lin Shinan had considerable abilities, and a mercenary group, they were far weaker compared to disciples of major sects like Qin Fang.

The mercenary life is perilous, constantly facing the threat of losing one's life. If they were alone, it might be bearable, but she wished to continue her married life with Lin Shinan, naturally seeking a safety net.

"If we could join Mr. Fang's sect, perhaps... it's a good way out!"

Perhaps even Qin Fang hadn't realized that his act of saving lives and making friends had led Shadow to think of more possibilities!

Chapter 1963 - Heading to Devil's Island!

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The next day, just like yesterday, Qin Fang leisurely enjoyed the sea breeze, basking in the sun, feeling completely at ease.

Before the Devil's Trial officially begins, there are only one or two days where you can relax like this. Once you enter Devil's Island, such days will be nothing but a luxury.

The Japanese and the other two also got up quite early, but they only gave Qin Fang a vicious glare before heading out together.

As for what they were up to, Qin Fang had no idea.

"Good morning, Brother Fang..."

After getting up, Lin Shinan proactively approached Qin Fang, enthusiastically greeting him in a manner that seemed as if they were old friends.

"Why are you up so early? Not spending more time with your wife?"

Looking at Lin Shinan, Qin Fang jokingly teased, which made Lin Shinan's eyes widen, but he just chuckled in response.

"Let's not talk about that... Those guys just went out?"

Lin Shinan waved his hand, clearly not wanting to discuss marital affairs, and pointed in the direction of where the three guys stayed, asking.

"Yeah, they just left not too long ago..."

Qin Fang nodded but was still curious enough to ask, "Do you have a grudge with them?"

Judging by the behavior of these three, if they didn't have some kind of enmity with Lin Shinan, there seemed to be no reason for them to cause such targeted trouble.

"I'm not too sure about the other two, but I know that Japanese guy is a mercenary from the Iron Wall Legion... and the Iron Wall Legion is our biggest competitor. He's here to sabotage us!"

Lin Shinan shook his head and briefly explained the situation to Qin Fang.

"I see!"

Qin Fang nodded, as it indeed seemed that the Japanese guy was causing the issue. Whether the Polar Bear and the American Strongman were in cahoots remained to be seen, but the Japanese guy was definitely problematic.

With Lin Shinan's explanation, everything seemed to make sense to Qin Fang now.

"So what do you plan to do?"

Qin Fang casually asked. Since the Japanese guy was here for trouble, he surely wouldn't let things go easily and might seek opportunities to strike. Waiting passively wasn't an option; they needed a plan.

"Opportunity! Once we're on Devil's Island... heh heh!"

Although Lin Shinan seemed rough and boisterous, the fact that he managed to secure a place in the perilous underground world indicated he wasn't a completely brainless brute.

Now that they understood the Japanese guy's objective, it remained uncertain how many adversaries there might be. Clearly, Lin Shinan intended to keep an eye on this.

Shadow's health improved significantly, which not only increased the couple's chances of survival on Devil's Island but also gave them more confidence in dealing with enemies.

At crucial moments, this might even yield unexpected results...

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"Assemble!"

Qin Fang's leisurely days officially ended with this command, as the ship to take them to Devil's Island had arrived, and it was time for Qin Fang and his group to set off.

All the experts participating in this Devil's Trial gathered at the small island's dock, before boarding the ship to leave for Devil's Island.

"Let's hope we all make it out alive..."

"Let's hope we all make it out alive..."

When leaving the villa, Lin Shinan and Shadow were already waiting there, seemingly just for Qin Fang.

Lin Shinan sincerely expressed his wishes to Qin Fang, while Qin Fang returned the sentiment with a warm smile.

Qin Fang wasn't entirely sure if Lin Shinan and Shadow would survive, given the numerous unknown dangers on Devil's Island. Even with their considerable strengths, survival wasn't guaranteed.

Strength is one thing, but luck is equally important...

"Brother, I know you're a remarkable person! So, if my wife and I manage to leave Devil's Island alive, I'd like to come find you... I hope you can take us in!"

However, Lin Shinan's next words left Qin Fang slightly stunned, as it was quite unexpected.

"You can't be joking, right?"

Qin Fang was taken aback, looking at Lin Shinan and then at Shadow. Their eyes were full of sincerity, with no hint of joking.

"Are you saying you don't want us?"

Lin Shinan's expression was somewhat helpless, and he laughed bitterly.

The couple had already determined that Qin Fang must be someone with a significant background, and such a person usually doesn't lack followers.

Don't be fooled by the fact that the couple both possess strength equivalent to Grandmaster Level, Qin Fang may not lack such subordinates... After all, anyone who can produce a Cultivating Yuan Pill has an incredibly terrifying background.

"How could that be? Welcome, welcome... I am a hundred, a thousand, ten thousand welcomes! I'm just afraid you'll think my temple is too small!"

To be able to accept such two subordinates, Qin Fang had never dared to think about it before, but since Lin Shinan had made such a statement, how could Qin Fang be unwilling?

He indeed has Cultivating Yuan Pills, but he made them with materials he found himself. In this respect, he holds an absolute advantage over ordinary Thousand-Year Sects.

But this is his advantage, yet it hasn't been fully realized. He has quite a few subordinates, but very few possess the strength like Lin Shinan and his wife.

Ji Xiang and others are his friends, brothers, not subordinates, naturally they don't count.

Hattori Sanzo counts as one, Qin Zi counts as one, others like Brother Da and others have average strength, they don't count as true experts.

"Hahaha... As long as you agree! We couple are committed to you..."

Hearing Qin Fang say so, the couple of Lin Shinan breathed a sigh of relief and immediately expressed with a smile, seeming afraid that Qin Fang might change his mind.

"Well then, I'll leave you a contact method. If you two successfully leave Devil's Island, you can contact me! I am sincerely awaiting your arrival..."

Qin Fang was straightforward, giving Brother Da's contact information to Lin Shinan. He had other matters at the moment, making direct contact inconvenient...

Of course, that is under the premise that the couple can leave Devil's Island alive, considering their chances of survival are even lower than others.

Devil's Island itself is dangerous, Shadow needs to find Corpse Mushroom to save lives, and there are still many enemies lurking... truly crisis-ridden.

Qin Fang was willing to take care of them, but what he had to do was far more domineering than Lin Shinan's couple, directly smuggling from Devil's Island... an event that has never occurred in all the years of Devil's Island, would definitely be sensational news if exposed.

Qin Fang himself was about to be exposed, so he couldn't also look out for Lin Shinan's couple...

"Let's go, go over together..."

Having left the contact information, the three of them headed towards the gathering point together.

"Nuclear submarine... what a substantial gesture!"

It was shocking to see, even though they never anticipated more than a regular ship greeting them, but unexpectedly it was a nuclear submarine, and its model clearly showed it's definitely world-class.

"The energy of the Underground World is immense, beyond imagination..."

Lin Shinan couldn't help but exclaim, having mingled in the Underground World for a longer time, naturally knowing more.

Although the Underground World doesn't belong to any nation, its energy is immense, almost comparable to any powerful country, sometimes even surpassing it.

It is a world where strength reigns supreme, without laws or justice, and the only rule is... whoever has the might has the right!

To acquire more discourse power, the Underground World commands formidable armed force, and the nuclear submarine before them is just one aspect, other entities like fighter jets, nuclear weapons, aircraft carriers, etc., might exist but have not been exposed!

"Brother Nan, Sister Shadow, good luck to you!"

Due to the Trialist tokens, Qin Fang as the "privileged group" and Lin Shinan and others as the genuine Trialists were divided into two parts.

Qin Fang had no choice but to bid farewell to Lin Shinan's couple. Before leaving, he expressed his sentiments.

"Thank you for your kind words! And good luck to you too!"

The couple of Lin Shinan also wished, acknowledging Qin Fang's confidence, something they lacked, hoping Qin Fang's prophecy turns true!

Once aboard the nuclear submarine, Qin Fang and the other trialists ventured underwater, with the submarine traversing the ocean, each trialist cramped in narrow cabins, enduring an interminable darkness, unaware of their location or destination.

Time was the only way to ascertain the length of their expedition, as no one informed them of any other details.

This cautious measure of the Underground World has kept Devil's Island's location enigmatic to this day, despite people ascending every three years. The concealment tactic of the Underground World contributed largely to its secrecy.

Some brought navigation devices or tools, yet the nuclear submarine's internal jamming system rendered them useless.

Even the jamming system has a counteroffensive capability, not only blocking signals but also destroying or damaging these devices...

"Indeed in that direction, huh!"

Of course, other trialists might drift unknowingly, oblivious, but not Qin Fang.

Though Qin Fang was also cramped together with other trialists in cabins, he had ways to determine the navigational direction, and even the submarine's route was crystal clear to him.

These crucial pieces of information were essential for him to extract Qin Tiannan from Devil's Island, hence he couldn't overlook it...

Chapter 1964 - Bloody! Devil's Trial First Stage!

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The nuclear submarine had been navigating the depths of the sea for nearly a week, causing many trialists to become a bit impatient, with many of them feeling restless.

However, these trialists could only endure, as those who caused trouble had already become the example to deter the others...

The Underground World never lacks skilled individuals, especially in the Devil's Trial, where experts are everywhere. To manage these fierce individuals, naturally, even more formidable masters are dispatched.

At least Qin Fang discovered that the leader of the masters responsible for escorting this batch of trialists had reached the Level 8 Grandmaster level...

Among this group of trialists with Qin Fang, there were indeed some with monstrous talent, with a few even at the Grandmaster mid-stage, and countless at the Grandmaster-level Initial Stage.

But in the face of a Level 8 Grandmaster, they were still just the pitiable "chicken"!

From this, Qin Fang somewhat understood his father whom he hadn't seen in nearly twenty years... In such an extraordinary place, surviving was already quite difficult; escaping was even more of a luxury!

The restlessness of the trialists was thus easily suppressed, and everyone calmed down. Even if there was some dissatisfaction in their hearts, they dared not rebel again.

The Devil's Trial was already a trial of nine deaths and one life, with at least a thirty percent survival rate. But if one died even before reaching Devil's Island, it would indeed be unjust.

The disturbance was thus quelled, and the chamber became dead silent again, with everyone waiting obediently... awaiting the submarine's arrival at the island.

"Hiss~~~ It's truly a perilous place!"

Qin Fang had always been quiet, as if everything outside had nothing to do with him, but in reality, he was always paying attention to the movements on the sea.

One day, the nuclear submarine sailed into an area of swirling whirlpools and rocky beaches, causing him to sigh involuntarily.

Why?

Because... it was not far from Devil's Island!

Rumor has it that Devil's Island is located at the center of a perilous region in the deep ocean, surrounded by treacherous areas where ships can hardly approach.

The whirlpools, rapids, and the scattered reefs before him were enough to indicate that this place was filled with danger, and a slight mistake could lead to burial beneath the sea.

However, the submarine forcibly rushed through the rapids, weaving through the forest of standing reefs, navigating for nearly half an hour before passing through the reef forest into a relatively calm sea...

"Finally... arrived!"

At this moment, Qin Fang couldn't help but sigh lightly, for the nuclear submarine was surfacing.

The ocean here, although much quieter, was even deadlier, with unsuspected fierce marine beasts dwelling in it...

Such as Godzilla, giant squid, giant great white shark, ferocious man-eating fish, and so on. Falling into the sea would surely be fatal!

The presence of the reef forest meant that no ships could sail in, and swimming across this forest was a fantasy; entering the sea would lead to being devoured by these beasts...

"Perhaps, that's the reason why Devil's Island has never been discovered so far!"

Understanding this, Qin Fang couldn't help but sigh, although he thought that Devil's Island couldn't be that simple.

Half an hour later, the nuclear submarine finally surfaced, stopping at a bay. About a few hundred meters away, a black island stood erect.

This island seemed quite grand and majestic, the entire island appearing in a strange black color, just looking at it made one feel oppressive.

"Whew~~~ This is Devil's Island!"

Looking at the island in the distance, Qin Fang also exhaled lightly, for his father, missing for nearly twenty years, lived on this island.

"Everyone, get your trial tokens ready... From the moment you disembark, the Devil's Trial officially begins!"

The guard captain who killed the "chicken" was instructing them before Qin Fang and the others disembarked, also explaining some important matters.

"The requirement for the trial is simple! That is... to board the ship alive again in one month!"

Of course, the trial requirement had to be stated.

"Hiss~~~"

But as soon as the requirement was spoken, many couldn't help but gasp.

A month was quite a long time, especially on an island supposedly filled with dangers, almost considered a dead land...

"Alright, all of you get off the ship!"

However, the guard captain didn't give the trialists a chance to talk nonsense, immediately leading the guards to forcibly drive all the trialists onto the small boat.

Thereafter, they closed the hatch again and then quickly submerged, disappearing directly from the place... leaving the trialists looking at each other dumbfounded!

"There's something wrong with this sea; row to the island immediately, or else... no one will survive!"

As soon as Qin Fang stepped onto the small boat, he quickly beckoned to the others on board, and he himself swiftly moved the paddles to row toward the island several hundred meters away.

Others might not know, but during the time the submarine surfaced and drove people away, many sea monsters in this area had already started to take action.

These creatures were swimming towards the gathering place of the small boats, making it obvious that nothing good was about to happen...

Thinking about what might happen next, even someone as strong as Qin Fang couldn't help but shiver; it was truly too terrifying.

That's why he warned the others on the boat to leave quickly, or else they might all end up at the bottom of the sea... and with no remains left.

"Quick! Quick! Quick!!"

Not only did Qin Fang give such a warning, but there were others among the trialists who knew some secrets. Out of more than one hundred trialists, with four to five people per boat, there were only about twenty or thirty boats, but at least seven or eight boats, like Qin Fang's, were rowing rapidly towards Devil's Island several hundred meters away...

And almost right after they had rowed four or fifty meters away, a gigantic tentacle suddenly surged from the seabed to the surface.

Splash~~

The thick tentacle was bulkier than a grown man's waist, rising high and then slamming down hard.

Unluckily, as a few trialists were fighting for control on one particular small boat, the tentacle slammed down with force.

Bang~~~

With a loud crash, that small boat was shattered into pieces by the tentacle, and one unfortunate trialist was directly crushed into a pulp...

The other three, although not hit directly, also fell into the sea...

"Ah~~ Ah~~~ Ah~~"

Before they could swim to shore, they let out cries of agony, then were dragged into the ocean.

A mass of crimson blood spread from beneath the sea... occasionally a few scraps of clothing could be seen, but not even half a bone was found!

Silence!

The surroundings fell into sudden silence!

This kind of scene came so unexpectedly for many, even for such strong individuals, that they couldn't help but be dumbstruck.

"Quick! Quick! Quick!"

Yet there were exceptions, like Qin Fang's boat and others, not hesitating at all, but pulling together swiftly to paddle with all their might, the small boats shooting towards the island like arrows leaving a bow.

"Move quickly! Move quickly..."

The trialists who snapped out of it no longer dared to dawdle, growing agitated and furiously paddling toward the island.

Several hundred meters was by no means far, yet indeed not close, and with deadly creatures in the sea, lingering on the water surface led only to death.

Only by reaching Devil's Island could they escape from the immediate danger...

Splash~~

Once again, water splashed as a massive great white shark leaped from the water, smashing headlong into a small boat and instantly shattering it into pieces.

"Ahhh~~~"

There were no surprises; anyone falling into the sea was doomed, save for a few screams and crimson blood, soon disappearing entirely...

All boats rushed toward the island at high speed, as every trialist temporarily set aside any conflicts between them, focusing all efforts on paddling, hoping to land as soon as possible.

However, danger loomed close, and the slaughter continued...

Time and again, ocean beasts burst forth from the water, taking down one boat after another, claiming one life after another...

Even Qin Fang's boat, despite starting early, faced attacks due to the broad expanse of sea...

Fortunately, Qin Fang noticed in time, steering the boat to narrowly dodge the sea creature's attack, thus preserving everyone's lives.

"That was close!"

Narrowly avoiding the attack, even Qin Fang couldn't help but utter a sigh.

If their boat had been struck, everyone else would be doomed, though Qin Fang could save himself, it might expose some hidden resources.

Unsure if their actions were being monitored, Qin Fang believed it prudent to conceal his abilities as much as possible.

Especially the main reliance this time, Little Dragon, which he could not afford to reveal under any circumstances...

Thankfully, there was only this one crisis, and a few skilled individuals helped out. Despite not being professionals, they managed to survive the few hundred-meter distance relatively quickly...

This was perhaps the first level of the Devil's Trial. Qin Fang and the others successfully passed, yet among over a hundred trialists, six boats were sunk, casualties were nearly thirty, with a loss of twenty percent!

Chapter 1965 - Danger Lurks Everywhere!

...

"Phew~~~ Finally got out!"

When the trialists successfully set foot on land, almost everyone couldn't help but utter such a sigh, while looking with lingering fear at the seemingly calm sea before them.

But everyone knows that beneath this calm sea surface, there is an extremely intense killing intent hidden...

"It's not safe here either..."

Without waiting for thanks from the accompanying trialists, Qin Fang quickly dove into the depths of this black little island, because he realized that staying by the shore wasn't too safe either.

Although his small map didn't monitor any dangerous killing intent, a sense of danger inexplicably emerged in his heart.

And when Qin Fang moved, some other trialists also left the shore and headed towards the depths of the little island.

"Is this the legendary Devil's Island?"

Walking on such a strange island, the stones underfoot all exhibit a peculiar black color, and it's likely that the name Devil's Island has some connection with this.

However, while the stones and ground are black, the various trees on the island are growing quite vigorously. Apart from the slightly eerie color, it is lush and verdant.

There are even trees that have grown for hundreds or thousands of years, and some have existed for even longer... This place is like a primitive forest.

"Go to that mountain..."

The entire island is covered by dense forest, and it seems like there's nothing special, seemingly just an island in the depths of the ocean where few people set foot.

Yet, this is Devil's Island, known as the world's most mysterious island, far more mysterious than Bermuda...

The entire Devil's Island has only a mountain peak in the center, not particularly high, but enough to overlook the whole island.

There are certainly people on this Devil's Island, but on such a vast island, seeking these people, going to that mountain is the best choice.

Because only there can have the widest view...

The mountain looks close, but the long-standing tale of running to a distant mountain proves it's definitely not near, and Qin Fang knows that for sure.

Qin Fang is definitely a man of action; once he determined the direction, he quickly traversed the forest, feeling quite frustrated at not having learned the Shaolin's Reed Crossing River Technique, where running over treetops would make the speed astonishingly fast.

Though his Traceless Snow Stepping Technique is not at all inferior to Shaolin's Reed Crossing River Technique, each has its own applicable scenarios.

In this dense primitive forest, the small and nimble movement technique of Traceless Snow Stepping Technique couldn't be fully utilized; at least, the speed wasn't attainable.

However, this didn't affect Qin Fang's plan. With the Traceless Snow Stepping Technique, he relied on his own agility to respond swiftly while navigating through the forest.

The speed was quite fast, his whole being transformed into a black shadow, darting up and down, left and right through the forest, only slightly slower than running in a straight line.

But clearly, the forest wasn't so peaceful; hidden dangers were pervasive...

Swoosh~~

Qin Fang's speed was exceptionally fast, his legs exploding with terrifying strength, continuously exerting force to maintain high speed.

Yet dangers also came simultaneously; with a very subtle movement, Qin Fang seemed to have triggered some mechanism, and a black shadow swiftly sped towards Qin Fang.

The speed was extremely fast, and considering Qin Fang's own speed, the incoming black shadow was even faster to an extreme.

"Hmm?"

Such a scene was immediately noticed by Qin Fang, who lightly expressed surprise and slightly furrowed his brows.

However, Qin Fang was a decisive person, twitching his arm as the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword suddenly appeared in his hand, gently crossing in front of his chest, while a wild surge of sword qi erupted...

Bang~~~

A faint sound echoed as the black shadow fiercely collided with Qin Fang's Flowing Shadow Divine Sword... The sword remained unmoved, but the black shadow was instantly split in two.

However, the distance was really too close; even so, those split shadows still posed a threat to Qin Fang...

At that moment, Qin Fang's wild sword qi came in handy, immediately transforming into a convulsive force, like two invisible big hands gently pushing against the split shadows...

The split shadows flew outward almost grazing Qin Fang's shoulders, then fiercely crashed into the trunks of two large trees behind Qin Fang.

The large trees, which required three or four people to encircle with arms, were immediately struck, creating a circular hole... with a depth reaching thirty to forty centimeters...

This was because these trees had lived too long and their trunks were very sturdy, otherwise they might have been completely pierced through, and smaller trees would definitely result in a chilling sensation.

"Such strong force!"

Looking at those two holes, Qin Fang couldn't help but show a look of amazement.

What had just been shot at him wasn't any sort of arrow, just an ordinary piece of wood sharpened at one end, yet it possessed power surpassing that of a normal crossbow bolt!

"Even a grandmaster-level expert might not escape severe injury or even death..."

The force was extremely powerful and the speed was at its peak, making such a sudden shot incredibly lethal.

Even the physical strength of a grandmaster-level expert is indeed formidable, but still, it cannot contend with the power of a bullet... and the power of that sharp piece of wood just now was in no way inferior to a bullet!

"As expected, this island is not simple at all..."

This crisis, although resolved by Qin Fang, still invigorated him. He meticulously used his scouting skill to check his surroundings, which compelled him to sigh in amazement.

Qin Fang indeed triggered a mechanism earlier, but he was lucky that it was only one mechanism...

Scanning the surroundings with scouting skill, Qin Fang identified at least ten different types of mechanisms, two of which were compound mechanisms...

If all had been triggered, even with Qin Fang's formidable strength, he might have fallen... at the very least, he would have been seriously injured.

Of course, as long as the injuries weren't fatal, Qin Fang could save himself; his props box had no shortage of Blood Replenishing Pills.

For this Devil's Trial, Qin Fang specifically prepared a sufficient stock of Blood Replenishing Pills for backup...

"Looks like I really need to be more careful!"

This crisis served as a warning to Qin Fang about the potential dangers ahead, and he dared not charge forward recklessly anymore.

Such mechanisms at this level don't account for much to a true expert, as with careful identification they can usually be handled easily.

But if one acts rashly like Qin Fang, the risk of being hit or even killed is quite high...

Qin Fang did not act recklessly again and instead cautiously moved towards the depths of the forest.

Suddenly, he somewhat understood the words of the guard captain: the trial's requirement was simply to survive on this island for a month.

That patch of sea had already claimed thirty lives, and these mechanisms might bring down quite a few as well...

BOOM~~

As if in response to Qin Fang's thoughts, a loud explosion erupted from somewhere in the forest, seemingly caused by an unfortunate trialist setting off a hidden bomb within the forest.

The trialists didn't carry any bombs; at most, they received some daggers when they disembarked, cold weapons of sorts.

Not a single gun or bullet was left for the trialists...

Of course, this setup was part of the trial's requirements, already established as a public rule that every trialist needed to abide by.

However, since the rules were public, naturally, people would find ways to bend them. Qin Fang, for example, directly smuggled treasures in his props box, a special case, while others might carry non-metallic guns, bullets, etc., to trick the guards into bringing them onto the island.

This method carried inherent risks and couldn't accommodate many; everyone was extremely cautious, using them solely as a last-resort trump card that no one would use lightly.

Even so, bombs were absolutely prohibited from being brought in, as they could threaten the safety of submarines, deemed as absolute contraband.

For items like guns and bullets, perhaps the guard squad might turn a blind eye if discovered, but explosives... once discovered, there would be no mercy!

"Seems like I'll have to be even more careful!"

The explosion served as a reminder to all trialists that the mechanisms on this island were far more troublesome than they had imagined.

What Qin Fang encountered was child's play; traps designed with firearms posed the real lurking dangers.

Rat-a-tat-tat~~~

Almost shortly after the explosion, another side reported a series of gunshots, unmasked in their sound, audible even from a great distance.

Besides, there would be other easily overlooked threats, equally as dangerous as guns, bullets, and explosives.

For instance...

Whoosh~~

Qin Fang tilted his head slightly, and with a slash of the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword in his hand, he split a grayish figure into two parts.

It was an ordinarily-shaped long, slender snake, without flashy colors, but that particularly conspicuous triangular snake head clearly suggested it was a highly venomous viper...

"Even vipers are taking a part... Tsk, tsk! I truly don't know how many more traps and dangers are lurking on this island..."

Gazing at the already bisected corpse of the viper, he couldn't help but mutter to himself.

Chapter 1966 - Hunter!

...

Clearly, on this island, in this piece of primitive forest, apart from the man-made traps laid out, poisonous vipers and fierce beasts are not lacking at all.

In fact, the threat from these vipers and fierce beasts might be even greater than those potential traps...

At least, this seemingly ordinary viper, which almost blends with the color of the surrounding trees, was completely unnoticed by Qin Fang before it actually struck.

"I'm not afraid of vipers, just worried about other things..."

Looking at the viper's corpse, Qin Fang couldn't help but mutter to himself.

With Little Dragon by his side, he's immune to various poisons, not fearing them at all... but this only applies to extremely poisonous creatures. In the case of other beasts, it may not be as effective.

Little Dragon is Qin Fang's trump card, the most crucial reliance for rescuing his father Qin Tiannan, but clearly, now isn't the time to strike...

"Whatever, let's get to that mountain first!"

However, Qin Fang is not the type to give up easily.

This Devil's Trial has just begun, lasting for a whole month, and it's definitely fraught with danger throughout. Even if you want to hide, you can't escape.

In the history of the Devil's Trial, there has never been a shortage of trialists who wanted to rely on their wit to survive through it... but the result is, no trialist has ever passed the one-month trial by hiding in one place.

At least one thing is sure, trialists need food, and when they disembarked, they hadn't prepared any provisions at all.

If they want to survive, they can only explore this mysterious and dangerous Devil's Island, searching for food in the primitive forest...

Even an expert at the Grandmaster level could last only a little over ten days without any food... but a month's time is too long, forcing them to venture out for food.

But once they are out, danger also follows...

Qin Fang didn't dwell on these thoughts; he is different from other trialists, as he doesn't need to deliberately hunt for food since he has ample food in his Props Box.

Not only does he have enough delicacies to support his meals for a month, but there are also over a thousand Baozi, which can no longer satisfy Qin Fang's healing needs, yet they're enough to support ten or twenty people without much trouble.

"Their life or death is none of my business..."

But it's clear that Qin Fang isn't concerned about the survival of others, not even for Lin Shinan and Shadow.

He knows the couple has successfully landed on Devil's Island, without being eaten by the beasts in the sea, but at this moment, he has no idea where this couple is located.

After entering this primitive forest, almost all trialists were scattered, with only a very few remaining together.

At this time, no trialist is worth trusting!

For food, for water, or even just to save their own lives, they would sell out their fellow trialists without hesitation...

Not trusting those around him, Qin Fang naturally had no intention of interacting with these trialists, so he quietly headed towards the distant mountain alone.

Moreover, Qin Fang clearly understands that there must be quite a few people with similar thoughts as his, so the ultimate path might just be on that mountain.

Qin Fang advanced cautiously, slower than before, yet still faster than the average trialist...

He possesses such a heaven-defying skill as Reconnaissance, which allows him to carefully observe and identify threats, making it not so easy for him to fall into traps!

Avoiding the lurking dangers and traps in the forest, bypassing a few ferocious beasts, Qin Fang's progress was relatively easy.

However, such ease obviously wouldn't last for long.

"Someone's here!"

When Qin Fang entered a glade, his heart suddenly tightened, and he quietly leaned against the trunk of a massive tree, disappearing without a trace, as if he had never appeared.

The reason being, he discovered someone approaching him, getting closer and closer. Without knowing the person's identity, Qin Fang didn't want to have any interaction with them.

"Grandmaster level..."

As this figure drew near, Qin Fang could easily assess his strength and found he had reached the Grandmaster level... with very profound skills!

"Not much weaker than Miyamoto Musashi..."

As Qin Fang noticed the extremely terrifying aura on this person, he couldn't help but mutter under his breath.

This person's strength was too terrifying. Although he hadn't reached the Master Level Peak, he wasn't much weaker in terms of skill.

"I distinctly felt someone here?"

The newcomer also seemed puzzled, carefully checking around Qin Fang's hiding place but finding nothing, muttering in confusion.

"Luckily, the mini-map spotted it early, otherwise..."

Qin Fang felt fortunate himself; if he had been a moment later, whether he could survive would be a big question mark.

This expert is clearly not a trialist and is most likely a person from Devil's Island...

These people are certainly not benevolent; it is said that they specialize in hunting trialists. They even have a name... Hunters!

To confront them head-on is almost impossible because these Hunters typically have a strength that surpasses the trialists by one or even several levels.

Encountering these Hunters, escaping is the only option. Only those with real skill and capability might have a chance to escape from the Hunters' hands alive.

Of course, there are also some fierce individuals who not only manage to evade the Hunters' pursuit but can even turn the tables and find a way to take down the Hunters.

Such incidents have occurred more than once or twice in the history of the Devil's Trial. At the very least, in every Devil's Trial, there are unlucky Hunters who are instead hunted by the trialists...

Of course, this often involves methods that aren't entirely above board... the possibility of malicious schemes is much higher.

Ssss~~

However, this Hunter in front of him clearly did not plan to let things go. Although there was clearly no one around, he felt as if he were being watched by someone.

Such a situation is extremely rare. Most trialists don't bring anything with them. When they encounter him, they definitely stay far away, hardly ever staying around...

But right now, this Hunter felt as if a pair of eyes were fixed on him, seemingly not too far away...

This actually angered the Hunter a lot. With a stroke in the air from his longsword, a terrifying sword qi surged out, spouting right from the tip of his sword.

Thump, thump, thump~~~

The sword qi was sharp and pervasive. With just a casual swing, several nearby trees were cut in half on the spot... even the giant trees that required several people to hug couldn't escape!

This demonstrates how fierce the Hunter's attack power was, something that Qin Fang thought he couldn't achieve for the time being...

"What a relief!"

Watching the trialist's receding figure, Qin Fang couldn't help but exhale a long breath of relief.

The Hunter had cut down numerous trees, clearing this part of the forest, yet still failed to find Qin Fang.

"This Wood Release Technique is somewhat useful..."

The skill of the Five Elements Escape Technique is a legendary Thousand Doors secret technique. It was later leaked, allowing the Japs to benefit greatly, something that infuriated Qin Fang.

However, this Wood Release Technique also had some special uses or methods, allowing a person to hide within the branches of a large tree.

The Hunter wouldn't believe that Qin Fang would hide there, no matter how much he pondered... but the Wood Release Technique allowed Qin Fang to have such an ability.

The Hunter left, but he gave Qin Fang a warning.

His combat strength could match that of a master-level peak expert!

"Just how many secrets is Devil's Island hiding?"

Qin Fang was a bit puzzled. He knew there were many experts stationed on the island, but didn't expect one to emerge so quickly, with his identity completely exposed!

"Well, being cautious can't be wrong..."

Qin Fang quickly left from other direction after coming out from the tree's branch, as if the Hunter might turn back at any moment.

And in fact...

Almost as soon as Qin Fang left, the Hunter really did appear... if Qin Fang hadn't left earlier, he might have been in a bad spot.

However, those few minutes were a life-saving line, and had Qin Fang hesitated a little, he would have just lifted the Wood Release effect and might have been skinned alive...

"Ah~~~"

Qin Fang managed to avoid it, but not everyone was so lucky,

It seemed the presence of a large number of trialists on the island had triggered the collective action of the Hunters, and it wasn't long before someone fell victim.

The victim's agonized screams clearly showed his death was unwilling and helpless...

"Hunters!"

Qin Fang softly chewed on these words, then quickly left, looking for new places to eat and have fun.

The word 'Hunter' was deeply etched in Qin Fang's mind, constantly reminding him to stay vigilant.

But at the same time, Qin Fang quickly put the idea of Hunters aside and ventured deeper into the forest, while the sword hanging over his head finally started to stir...

Excitement?

Thrill? Or perhaps some other sensation.

Even Qin Fang couldn't fully understand it. He wasn't too concerned with these feelings right now, as his focus was on other objectives!

Chapter 1967 He's Here!

...

The Devil's Trial is extremely dangerous. From the moment these trialists left that submarine, the killing intent accompanied each of them.

The fierce sea beasts were just the appetizer; the real danger began once the trialists set foot on Devil's Island...

The forest is filled with various traps, and the slightest mistake could cost them their lives... Besides, the true threat comes from those formidable hunters!

"Hunters... I wonder if I will encounter him!"

Thinking of these hunters, Qin Fang couldn't help but think of his father, Qin Tiannan, whom he hadn't seen in twenty years, and he wondered if he might have the chance to meet him.

"According to what Tu San said, a few years ago, he was already a Grandmaster Peak Strongman. Who knows what level his strength has reached now..."

Qin Fang learned about Qin Tiannan's news from the Bloody Demon Tu San.

Back then, Tu San was rescued by Qin Tiannan, and his strength was already at the Grandmaster Level Peak. Now, after all these years, who knows if he has crossed that threshold into a higher level.

"Level 8 Grandmaster Level..."

Thinking about this, even Qin Fang couldn't help but tremble a bit.

Although he is confident that he will reach this level one day, for someone with such a short cultivation period, even if his advancement speed is fast, it still seems a distant goal.

After all, he hasn't even crossed into the Grandmaster Level yet and requires significant accumulation to achieve that leap.

"If he really comes to hunt me down..."

Of course, Qin Fang thought so not because he was boasting about having a Great Grandmaster Level father, but because he feared they would meet in such a manner.

If a Level 8 Grandmaster expert came after him, he would likely be killed instantly, similar to when Chu Tianji took down Tang Mingyuan.

A father and son meeting after twenty years, only to end up fighting to the death before recognition, is more tragic than any earthly tragedy...

"Sigh, let's hope such a thing doesn't really happen..."

This was just a fleeting thought in Qin Fang's mind, and the likelihood of such an event occurring shouldn't be too high.

Judging from a survival rate of around thirty percent for trialists, the number of hunters shouldn't be too many, and their strength also wouldn't vastly exceed that of the trialists.

Hunters at the Grandmaster-level Tier might be the best candidates. If they reached Level 8 Grandmaster Level and hunted trialists, then the remaining hundred or so trialists would be wiped out in less than a month...

With a thirty percent survival rate, there are approximately one hundred and fifty to sixty trialists this time, meaning nearly forty might survive.

After the first stage's cleansing, about one hundred and thirty are left...

Calculating further, around eighty more would be taken out over the month, about two-thirds of the remaining number.

On average, this means about three people would be taken out every day...

"Three people... tsk tsk, just now several might have died, right?"

Even Qin Fang couldn't help but complain a little.

The trialists aren't fools; just having landed on Devil's Island and not fully adapted to the bloody and brutal Devil's Trial, it's understandable for the death toll to be slightly higher.

Once trialists adapt, the death rate would quickly drop, and it wouldn't be impossible for days to go by without a single death.

"If my estimation is correct, the formidable hunters should appear in the latter part of the month..."

Qin Fang didn't rush into action; instead, he thought carefully and made a simple analysis.

This trial doesn't hold significant meaning for him, so he doesn't place much emphasis on it. However, he must find the whereabouts of his father, Qin Tiannan, during this month.

Originally, he planned to go to the mountain, using the advantage of visibility to scout Devil's Island's layout, making it easier to find Qin Tiannan.

But now it seems that this plan is clearly unworkable.

Almost all trialists had the same thought, so the hunters would undoubtedly patrol this route for ambush...

Knowing the enemy is waiting on this path, yet still going up to die would be insane.

Of course, there are some exceptions.

For instance...

"Since the expert hunters only appear later, if the hunters suffer massive casualties early on, perhaps this process will be accelerated!"

This is Qin Fang's current plan, which can be described as quite a crazy strategy.

However, although the plan is crazy, Qin Fang finds it very challenging... He even feels that this is the true core of the Devil's Trial.

"Maybe I really can break through to Grandmaster Level here..."

Understanding this, Qin Fang wasn't in a hurry to find his father Qin Tiannan. After all, Devil's Island is massive, and Qin Fang isn't familiar with the terrain. Even if he tries deliberately to search, there's no guarantee he can find him.

It would be better to take this opportunity to train himself, truly enhance his strength, cross that barrier, and officially advance to Grandmaster Level.

Not only does he overcome the most arduous hurdle, but he also has more substantial resources to find his father Qin Tiannan...

On this island, ordinary hunters possess Grandmaster Level strength, and there are certainly more terrifying experts stationed here. What Qin Fang wants to do is absolutely insane, and if his strength is just a bit lacking, he's highly likely to fail completely.

If he fails completely on this brutal Devil's Island, the outcome is predictable... Not only will he, Qin Fang, not survive, but even his father Qin Tiannan might not survive!

...

Deep within Devil's Island, a middle-aged man sitting cross-legged on a simple wooden bed suddenly opened his eyes.

A captivating glint shot from his eyes as he gazed at a tall mountain in the distance. His facial expression didn't show much change; he just muttered to himself, "He's here..."

A moment later, the man took out a pocket watch from within his coat, gently opened the watch cover, and perhaps because it's been so many years, no music came out, and even the watch's hands no longer moved, but this man still cherished it dearly.

The reason is simple; it contains a photo—in it, a young woman!

It's just that this pocket watch already has many years of history, and this once young woman is clearly no longer young.

"Qing'er, are you well?"

As he caressed the photo, the man's eyes revealed deep tenderness, speaking sentimentally, "He's here... I know, our child is here!"

If Qin Fang were here, he would surely recognize who the young woman in the photo is, none other than his mother Qin Qing.

Thus, the man's identity comes with a logical conclusion!

"I must go... Can't let him get into trouble!"

The middle-aged man gazed sentimentally at the photo for a while, then immediately got off the bed, expressing with a firm gaze.

Then, he walked out of the wooden house and stealthily slipped into the dense forest in front, quickly disappearing without a trace.

It's just that he perhaps didn't notice that as he left, another person walked out from a different wooden house, watching his departing back with a sinister gaze, then chuckled coldly, also quickly darting into the forest.

Judging from the background and speed at which both disappeared, these two men are definitely top-notch experts, very terrifying indeed...

But judging from the latter's expression, the relationship between the two is not necessarily harmonious!

...

Qin Fang naturally had no idea that as soon as he set foot on Devil's Island, his father seemed to sense his arrival, and hurriedly came searching for him.

But even if he knew, it wouldn't help; in such a dense primitive forest, the chances of them meeting are really quite low.

Even these hunters are merely wandering in the primitive forest, only attacking when they come across unfortunate trialists, rather than specifically targeting any particular trialist.

Having made up his mind to conduct a good trial, overcoming his limitations, Qin Fang deftly dodged the many lethal traps in the primitive forest while seeking out those trialists or hunters.

Hunters are Qin Fang's targets, naturally his main search objective...

However, the hunters are too strong, and Qin Fang would immediately evade them.

Opponents also need to be carefully chosen; given Qin Fang's current strength, Grandmaster Mid-Stage Experts are most suitable, while Late Grandmasters could easily defeat him soundly.

Don't be fooled by him having killed Grandmaster Peak Strongman before; that was a sneak attack, an ambush... It doesn't count as a genuine kill.

Nor is his defeat of Quasi-Late-Grandmaster Level Experts to be taken lightly; that too was due to the opponent underestimating him, and Qin Fang catching him by surprise. In a face-to-face confrontation, the odds of Qin Fang being killed are quite high.

This time, the hunters Qin Fang faces on Devil's Island can be said to be first-rate experts, far surpassing outside experts untouched by intense battles.

To put it bluntly, for opponents of the same level, these hunters can even instantly kill those outside experts...

Those able to survive on Devil's Island, no one is a weakling; all have lived through battles of blood and fire, each is skilled in sneak attacks and counterattacks, and are extremely ruthless and fearless...

In this regard, Qin Fang choosing Grandmaster Mid-Stage hunters is already a very risky choice, with fierce competition. If he aims higher, he's almost certainly doomed!

Chapter 1968 Hunting the Hunter!

...

Of course, in this primitive forest, the number of hunters is not very high, making them quite troublesome to find.

And wanting to find a suitable hunter is even more difficult, requiring a considerable amount of thought...

At least several times along the way, Qin Fang almost bumped into hunters, each time deliberately avoiding them, but it also scared him into a cold sweat.

Among these hunters, the strongest one has reached the Master Level Peak, almost half a step into the Grandmaster Realm.

And the weakest one has cultivation at Master Level Late-Stage, clearly exceeding what Qin Fang can handle.

"Is there no weaker one?"

Continuously avoiding several hunters, Qin Fang felt a bit frustrated and couldn't help but murmur, finding a suitable opponent is really difficult.

"Or, choose a trialist?"

Unable to find a suitable hunter, Qin Fang's mood was somewhat low, considering the option of settling for trialists.

These trialists are almost all experts from the Underground World.

Those who can reach Grandmaster Level or Quasi-Grandmaster Level are not weak, all having emerged from death and slaughter.

Although they may not reach the level of hunters on Devil's Island, they are definitely formidable figures... like the three guys who had conflicts with Qin Fang; none of them are good characters.

"Maybe I can help out Lin Shinan and his wife..."

Thinking of those three, Qin Fang naturally also thought of Lin Shinan and his wife.

These two are not here for the trial, but to find Corpse Mushrooms...

But the problem is, Corpse Mushrooms must exist in a place with heavy corpse air, which is like the Mass Burial Mound on this island.

To reach such a location, apart from being killed and left behind, it's quite a hassle to find them, not to mention the terrifying hunters roaming nearby.

Anyway, Qin Fang and this couple have interacted, if he can lend a hand, he wouldn't mind doing so.

After all, he has already given away a Cultivating Yuan Pill. If Shadow and Lin Shinan were to die, it would be a real waste of that pill.

Qin Fang is not afraid of wasting the pill, it's just that this couple has promised to join him, and he doesn't want to waste such good talent.

That's why he had this thought...

Of course, this is merely a thought.

Lin Shinan and his wife indeed survived the first stage, Qin Fang saw it then but left quickly without greeting them.

But now, almost all trialists have entered this primitive forest, within such a large area, it's difficult to even encounter other trialists, let alone run into Lin Shinan and his wife.

"Oh, someone..."

As Qin Fang was lost in his thoughts, he suddenly noticed something, hurriedly hiding and guessing in his mind, "Trialist? Hunter?"

"Grandmaster Mid-Stage... Hunter!"

But soon, Qin Fang had an answer. Appearing within his mini-map monitoring range was precisely such a hunter.

"It's him..."

Such a discovery made Qin Fang's heart reveal a bit of joy, finally finding a suitable opponent.

"Wait, he seems to be chasing a target..."

However, Qin Fang quickly found that this hunter did not seem to be coming for him, but was chasing a certain target, flashing past Qin Fang with no intention of stopping.

"Follow and see!"

Since the target has been chosen, Qin Fang didn't want to give up easily. No matter the hunter's purpose, Qin Fang had no intention to let him leave just like that.

"Maybe, I can play the mantis stalking the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind..."

Finding a suitable opponent is quite difficult, and it's a shame to miss this opportunity when he finally met one.

Thus, Qin Fang didn't think much, immediately following the direction where the opponent disappeared, quickly chasing after...

The mini-map function was completely opened, continuously tracking the opponent's trail, chasing all the way down.

These hunters seem to have their own territories, not interfering with each other, at least during Qin Fang's pursuit, apart from the hunter in front, he did not discover a second hunter...

This made Qin Fang very pleased, at least when pursuing the opponent, he didn't need to worry about suddenly encountering a stronger psychopath.

"Oh?"

However, Qin Fang's excitement was a bit premature, he suddenly couldn't help but be surprised.

"Come out~~"

Before Qin Fang could hide, a cold voice reached his ears, and the hunter Qin Fang had been pursuing turned his gun straight at Qin Fang.

"The trialist in front seems quite cunning..."

At this time, Qin Fang only noticed that the trialist tracked by this hunter had already disappeared without a trace, seemingly using some special technique that had caused the hunter to lose track.

This was within Qin Fang's expectations, as every trialist wanting to survive in such an environment must have some means of self-preservation.

The beasts in the sea during the first stage are a gap of innate strength that cannot be fought against. Even those as strong as the Great Grandmaster Level have an extremely low chance of survival in such an environment.

However, upon entering the dense forest, although this primitive forest is still very foreign to each trialist, they can quickly adapt and utilize their specific skills to avoid various crises and slaughters!

Only trialists like Qin Fang, who deliberately seek out hunters, remain very rare...

Indeed, they are rare!

But not the only one...

Almost every Devil's Trial has some heaven-defying experts who turn to hunting the trialists, and there have even been instances where Great Grandmaster Level hunters were killed by trialists!

Qin Fang probably didn't know that there are certain unwritten rules on Devil's Island, such as when a trialist like Qin Fang reverse hunts hunters, if encountered, the hunters will fight back with full force, even immediately giving up the targets they were initially pursuing...

The reason this hunter gave up on the trialist in front was not only because that person was too cunning but mainly due to Qin Fang's emergence.

"Won't come out?"

The hunter stood among a section of dense forest, his face cold without much expression change, but his eyes were filled with vigilance.

As for Qin Fang, although he was already close to this hunter, he did not act but quietly waited for an opportunity.

The opponent had indeed noticed his existence, but Qin Fang wouldn't foolishly walk out to face the opponent directly.

In the Underground World, strength speaks...

What is strength?

Only those who survive are strong!

As for the dead... they are nothing!

The opponent's strength is indeed greater than his. Qin Fang was very clear about this, having not a shred of confidence in confronting him directly...

"Then it seems I have to force you to come out!"

Though Qin Fang hadn't appeared, this hunter hadn't left, rather showing a disdainful mocking smile, then revealing a flashing cold short sword in his hand.

Although he spoke in English, from his appearance, he seemed to come from an Eastern country... possibly from Dragon Country, Japan, Korean, or even Anlang, Old Thai, Indonesian Monkey, and other places.

Pff~~

Without waiting for Qin Fang to initiate, the hunter already moved first, his short sword transforming into a silver streak, launching a sneak attack at the surrounding trees.

Silver light shimmered, Sword Qi spanned across!

This hunter, whose strength reached Grandmaster Mid-Stage, was indeed formidable, his attack immediately made Qin Fang feel a fierce killing intent.

Don't underestimate his strength; though not a top-notch expert, the burst of killing intent still made Qin Fang feel a bit chill.

"This is a very formidable opponent..."

Feeling the sharp and terrifying Sword Qi, Qin Fang couldn't help but evaluate thus.

However, Qin Fang did not become nervous, afraid, or terrified because of this; instead, he became more excited.

Quietly exiting the Wood Release Technique, using a large tree as cover, Qin Fang stealthily hid aside...

A Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert's attacks are extremely sharp, far stronger than the Quasi-Late-Grandmaster Level expert from Sakata Shrine that Qin Fang previously killed.

If these two were to meet, Qin Fang was fully confident that this hunter could easily kill the one from Sakata Shrine.

Qin Fang initially struck the vital point during the Sneak Attack on his opponent; that's how he succeeded, whereas this current opponent could definitely achieve frontal kill... without the slightest bit of suspense!

"Huh?"

After a round of attack ended, quite a few surrounding trees fell, but there was still no trace of Qin Fang, and even that kind of aura seemed to vanish completely.

"Could I have sensed wrongly?"

This result made even the hunter begin to doubt his senses a bit; with such a sharp offensive, generally, there should not be the slightest bit of movementlessness.

But now, the reality is exactly that, seemingly without stirring up any waves, as though there was no second person here at all.

"Impossible! He must be around..."

But soon, the hunter negated this possibility.

As a hunter on Devil's Island, they possess some special abilities, with senses far exceeding normal martial artists.

The reason he knew someone was watching him was that he found that throughout his journey, someone had been spying on him...

He had always been the one spying on others, yet never expected a day where he'd be spied upon!

Realizing this, he knew someone was already targeting him... hunters cannot spy on him; this area is his territory, so it could only be a trialist targeting him.

Chapter 1969 A Small Gain!

...

"Impressive indeed..."

At this moment, Qin Fang was lurking nearby, his entire body crouched in the shadow of a tree, practically invisible to the naked eye.

However, this did not hinder Qin Fang from observing his opponent's movements, showing significant caution towards this Hunter.

Holding a short sword that gleamed with a cold light, the Hunter's hawk-like sharp eyes continuously scanned the surroundings, and his senses were fully alert, searching for Qin Fang's whereabouts.

Facing such a formidable adversary, even Qin Fang dared not make a reckless move... Though this person was of the same rank as someone from Sakata Shrine, his strength was several levels higher, and even the slightest movement would absolutely be detected!

"Come out, I know you're there..."

The Hunter called out lightly as he gradually moved toward the places where someone might be hiding...

Though his steps seemed casual, they brimmed with intense vigilance and killing intent...

His body appeared very relaxed as if unguarded, but his slightly stiff shoulders betrayed his true emotions!

Sensing the Hunter's mindset, Qin Fang certainly wouldn't fall for it, remaining quietly still, almost to the point of pausing his breath, making himself seem completely non-existent.

"Did I really get it wrong?"

The Hunter searched for a long time but was unable to find the enemy's whereabouts, also furrowing his brows and feeling a bit puzzled by his own judgment.

After carefully checking again, he was almost right in front of Qin Fang, but still found nothing.

"Perhaps the person detected me early and slipped away..."

Although even he didn't really believe this reason, since he couldn't find the target, he could only convince himself with this explanation.

"I've wasted enough time, time to move on..."

Unable to find the enemy, the Hunter shook his head lightly, preparing to continue hunting the Trialists.

At such a moment, the Hunter appeared no different from an ordinary person, experiencing a moment of relaxation and lowering his guard, revealing an opening.

"A good opportunity..."

Spotting this flaw, Qin Fang's eyes immediately lit up, feeling a bit thrilled, and he swiftly launched his attack.

The Flowing Shadow Divine Sword in his hand thrust out rapidly, at a speed reaching the extreme, the blade seemingly tearing through the void, striking towards the Hunter like lightning.

At this moment, the two were very close, and Qin Fang's timing was impeccable, leaving the opponent almost no room to evade.

Clang~~

Just when Qin Fang thought he would certainly succeed, the Hunter's short sword slightly twisted, stabbing back at an incredible angle.

It clashed violently against the blade of Qin Fang's Flowing Shadow Divine Sword, instantly sparking a burst of sparks...

"What immense strength!"

The impact caused Qin Fang's arm to tremble slightly, almost losing control of his grip, demonstrating the tremendous power behind it.

However, Qin Fang's reaction was very quick, and his wrist strength was equally astonishing, quickly regaining hold of the sword hilt, preventing it from flying out.

Yet, this clash completely wasted Qin Fang's long-awaited assassination opportunity... At this moment, his sword tip was only a few centimeters away from the Hunter's body.

"Finally couldn't hold back, could you?"

The Hunter's successful defense not only resolved his crisis but also forced Qin Fang to reveal himself, a slight mocking expression appearing on his face.

Clearly, all his preceding actions were a well-devised trap, intentionally exposing a flaw to lure Qin Fang out.

"Indeed, the Hunters on Devil's Island are not easy to deal with..."

Qin Fang cautiously watched the man opposite, filled with wariness, his eyes slightly narrowing.

The Hunter before him was an extremely formidable opponent in both strength and cunning... Although slightly weaker than other Hunters Qin Fang had encountered, the threat felt greater.

"Even if I'm exposed, so what?"

Looking at the Hunter in the distance, Qin Fang sneered, "I can emerge, and I can also hide again..."

"That, I'm afraid, is not up to you!"

However, the Hunter clearly didn't intend to give Qin Fang the chance to hide again, sneering, and with a light step, instantly crossed four or five meters, his short sword flashing like lightning towards Qin Fang's vital points.

"Do you think this can stop me?"

Qin Fang, however, sneered, and with a sudden powerful push off his feet, it seemed as if he had springs underneath, leaping fiercely into the air.

Whiz~~

The short sword slashed past, silver light flashing, the fierce Sword Qi slashing through, piercing a hole in the trunk of a large tree behind Qin Fang.

But as for Qin Fang, he soared into the air, flying past above the fierce Sword Qi, avoiding it without a scratch.

Chapter 1970 A Small Gain

But Qin Fang is not the kind of soft persimmon that can be easily bullied. At the moment, the Hunter is right under his feet; why wouldn't he strike?

The Flowing Shadow Divine Sword in his hand drew a mark in the void, and a Sword Qi shot out from the sword's edge, aimed at the Hunter below.

Though there wasn't much gravitational acceleration advantage, his height indeed made it perfect for striking, with almost a two-meter radius within Qin Fang's Sword Qi coverage.

Sizzle~~

However, the Hunter was not surprised at all; it seemed he anticipated Qin Fang's dodge and even foresaw Qin Fang's counterattack.

Not only was he not sluggish, but he also suddenly stepped back, and the short sword in his hand swiftly danced, instantly forming a silver curtain in front of him.

Thud thud thud thud~~~

When Qin Fang's Sword Qi collided with this silver curtain, it immediately emitted such a dull sound but stubbornly failed to break through.

"It's my turn..."

The sneak attack didn't achieve the desired effect. Qin Fang's move was exhausted and couldn't threaten the Hunter anymore.

Instead, the Hunter sneered, lightly tapped his feet, and taking advantage of Qin Fang's disadvantage of having no support point while in the air, he launched a fierce attack.

Sizzle~~

This time, the Hunter unleashed his strongest attack, with the terrifying True Qi of the Grandmaster Mid-Stage stirred up completely, and the formidable aura came surging, causing Qin Fang to feel his breath stagnate...

"Damn this level suppression..."

Qin Fang could only helplessly curse at it; this was really too exasperating.

"Want to kill me? Maybe in your next life..."

But Qin Fang was clearly not the type to sit around waiting to die. Staring at the Hunter coming closer, Qin Fang's other free hand suddenly held a black gun barrel, already locked onto the Hunter.

"Hmm?"

The Hunter was slightly startled, immediately sensing danger; it seemed he hadn't expected Qin Fang would have acquired a gun besides his sword.

Feeling this intense killing intent, as a Hunter, he naturally knew Qin Fang's gun certainly contained bullets... if he continued the attack, indeed he could hit Qin Fang, but he himself wouldn't survive.

"Damn..."

The Hunter cursed, his body slightly moved, and his steps dodged at a very strange angle.

Swoosh~~

And almost at the same time he dodged, a bullet brushed past his cheek, shot into the ground beside him, instantly splashing debris.

The Hunter managed to dodge Qin Fang's bullet but essentially gave up on striking Qin Fang.

"Fuck!"

However, Qin Fang did not strike again, and when the Hunter turned back, he found Qin Fang had vanished once again.

The feeling was the same as at the beginning; he knew Qin Fang was surely hiding somewhere nearby, but he couldn't find Qin Fang's exact location.

The Hunter could only angrily curse, wishing he could tear Qin Fang apart, but couldn't do anything to him!

"Don't let me catch you!"

Considering the gun in Qin Fang's hand, though he was much stronger than Qin Fang, if Qin Fang were to fire stealthily, he might not dodge every time. The Hunter also cursed with hatred and then quickly dived into the dense forest, disappearing without a trace.

"Do you think you can escape?"

But Qin Fang would certainly not let the Hunter escape so easily. Finding such an opponent wasn't easy, and if he escaped, where would he find another?

"So fast..."

The Grandmaster Mid-Stage Hunter, in a Primitive Forest he was familiar with, indeed moved at an incredible speed, seemingly ignoring those traps and snares.

Even Qin Fang had to admire this Hunter...

Perhaps these traps were all set up by him, making him deeply familiar with the layout, hence fearless of those traps.

Other experts wanting to hunt the Hunter might need to beware of sneak attacks from those traps, whereas the Hunter might be deliberately attracting Qin Fang to chase him down.

But perhaps he never expected that Qin Fang's Mini-map Function had already recorded his entire path, and Qin Fang was quickly pursuing him along that route...

"Heh heh, you've dug your own grave..."

Qin Fang quickly pursued the Hunter in front, maintaining a certain distance, ensuring that he wouldn't be lost, yet preventing the Hunter from catching him off guard...

The main goal was to keep the Hunter feeling a constant prickling sensation on his back, ensuring he wouldn't easily stop to confront Qin Fang!

In fact, Qin Fang had several chances to shoot the Hunter dead... but he didn't do so.

The Hunter was the first opponent Qin Fang chose on Devil's Island and a significant one...

He wished to use his own strength to defeat and kill him honorably, leveraging the immense pressure to break through that bottleneck and officially advance to the Grandmaster realm.