

Genius 1971

Chapter 1971 Small Gains

If not for this, when Qin Fang discovered the hunter, he would have just needed to fire a distant silent shot. Though it might not guarantee a kill, the success rate would still be over eighty percent.

Qin Fang's shooting skills now are not at the intermediate or advanced level as before; he had long since advanced them to the master level...

If back then Qin Fang's gunmanship was on par with Bloody-handed Demon Tu San, now he could easily crush Tu San!

Of course, having exceptional gunmanship is a significant advantage for Qin Fang, but when facing powerful masters, especially the top experts from Devil's Island, the effect might not be as great.

These hunters have crawled slowly out of piles of corpses, each bearing countless lives and blood on their shoulders...

These people are experts in using cold weapons, and none of them are weak with firearms either, mastering them adeptly long ago.

"Damn guy... where did he get his gun?"

The hunter was running swiftly ahead, but his mood was quite low, as he could always sense the presence of that "tail" behind him.

This trialist is very strong, potentially stronger than most trialists. Although he is a certain threat to him, it's not too serious. He was confident he could kill this trialist.

But just when he was about to succeed, the trialist suddenly pulled out a gun, and it had bullets...

From what he knew about this gun, it would have been impossible to evade a guard squad's security checks... unless someone in the guard squad was playing favorites!

However, discussing this is pointless now; after the trial, there will naturally be someone to hold the guard squad accountable.

Right now, he is most concerned about how to escape this trialist's pursuit... which is what's making him feel the most frustrated.

"Can't let him continue..."

The hunter was frustrated, and Qin Fang was equally frustrated. He took out the gun for self-preservation. While the trial is important, engaging in a fair one-on-one duel when one's life is at stake is foolish...

However, when he drew the gun, the opponent immediately retreated. While the crisis was averted, his opponent didn't dare to continue the fight.

Even though firearms pose a certain threat to grandmaster-level experts, it isn't a significant one, strictly speaking.

Like earlier, even with Qin Fang's gunmanship at such close range, the hunter could evade comfortably, which speaks volumes.

However, to err is human, and horses stumble too...

The hunter can dodge bullets, but not every time. Whenever he fails, his life will be in danger!

Qin Fang's strength is formidable, although his current realm is slightly lower, his prowess is not much weaker...

If he gets shot, even if it's not a critical hit, the bleeding and pain could affect his actions.

In a duel between masters, even a small error could determine victory or defeat, let alone such an obvious injury... which is almost fatal!

The hunter felt quite frustrated and cowardly at the moment, but there was nothing he could do about it—Qin Fang had a gun!

"No way, I have to come up with a solution..."

However, this hunter clearly did not plan to give up like this. The "tail" behind him made him uncomfortable and impossible to shake off, and he didn't want to be dragged to death.

Poof~~~

Before he thought of a good solution, a sword light suddenly flashed from the woods beside him, directly targeting his vital area.

This sword came very fast, as if it had been waiting here, attacking almost the moment he arrived, reaching extreme speeds.

"What a fast sword!"

The hunter's brow furrowed slightly, involuntarily admiring it, but his reaction was quicker. With a swift flick, he held up his short sword to block the incoming thrust fiercely.

Clang!!!

A clear collision sound followed as he swiftly retreated.

The opponent's sword move was abruptly halted, as if someone had caught them by the throat, freezing the movement.

However, the hunter didn't fare much better. The sword's speed was extremely fast and its strength significant. Although he dual-wielded to block it, he was blasted away by the force...

The hunter's strength was formidable. Even being sent flying, he twisted in mid-air, flipping twice to land steadily on the ground...

Yet, he was not left unscathed!

His right hand was slightly numb but otherwise fine, but his left hand was bloodied from wrist to arm...

"How is it? Did that feel good this time..."

The person who attacked had a faint smile on their face as they spoke.

This person was, of course, Qin Fang!

He had been following the hunter, but after roughly determining the hunter's movement pattern, he quickly maneuvered from another direction.

He then hid here, waiting for the hunter to arrive deliberately...

Almost as soon as the hunter came here, before spotting Qin Fang, Qin Fang launched the most ferocious attack.

Like they say, with plans laid beforehand, it's hard for the unprepared to not suffer...

The earlier blow nearly used Qin Fang's full strength, and the results were evident.

Although he didn't manage to kill the hunter with one strike, he almost crippled one of his arms... His sword technique carried a strong shock force; blocking was possible, but the tremor embedded in the short sword was what almost destroyed the hunter's hand!

Chapter 1972 Bitter Struggle! Kill!

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The Hunter gazed at Qin Fang with a gloomy expression, his eyes shining with a sinister light. Yet, he seemed completely unconcerned about the injury on his hand, allowing the blood to continuously flow.

This look was extremely venomous, giving Qin Fang a feeling of being targeted by a Viper...

"Such a cold aura..."

The most crucial point was that Qin Fang felt the aura of this person was undergoing a drastic transformation, as if the whole person was metamorphosing.

"Is this... a Cultivation Technique of the Demon Sect?"

This was obviously an effect caused by a peculiar Inner Strength technique. Qin Fang couldn't help but mutter to himself, "No, this is a Heretic Dao secret technique!"

But soon, Qin Fang dismissed his earlier guess and made a different judgment.

Although the Cultivation Techniques of the Demon Sect were also quite strange and significantly different from the Righteous Path's Righteous Aura, they were generally more conventional.

However, the aura of the Hunter in front of him was extremely eerie and quite venomous, not a normal pattern at all...

This person was also cultivating Inner Strength not from the Righteous Path or the Demon Sect, so it must be a heretical secret technique. That's why Qin Fang felt this way!

As this cold aura gradually intensified, the wound on the Hunter's arm seemed to improve as well; the blood stopped flowing, the wound sealed by itself, and even... started scabbing rapidly!

"I want you dead!"

With the wound no longer bleeding, the Hunter's expression became more sinister. He looked at Qin Fang with venomous eyes and said word by word.

"Hmph... I'm afraid you lack the capability!"

Qin Fang sneered slightly, then moved subtly, and instantly vanished into the air again...

Due to this strange transformation of the Hunter, even knowing there was an injury, a great opening in hand, Qin Fang still remained highly vigilant against him.

This chilling aura was very sinister. Qin Fang had a nagging feeling that this heretical secret technique might have other unknown functionalities, so he dared not act recklessly.

Hiding once again, his aura completely concealed, he cautiously watched the Hunter who had become so different.

Unlike before, this time the Hunter did not choose to leave. Instead, he stood there, holding a short sword, staring coldly ahead... precisely where Qin Fang had stood before vanishing.

He didn't move, not even a bit!

His entire being was like a wax figure, standing there motionless...

"What's he trying to do?"

Qin Fang found it extremely strange. The Hunter's behavior was so puzzling that even he couldn't comprehend it.

"To respond to change without change?"

Such a change was quite enigmatic, and after mulling it over, this seemed to be the only plausible explanation Qin Fang could come up with.

However, Qin Fang felt that things might not be so simple; the Hunter must have other unknown means.

"Should I stealthily approach and strike?"

The enemy was right ahead, and the opponent was unaware of his position. If he could infiltrate near the Hunter, there was a considerable chance to take him down.

But doing so also came with significant risks... This Hunter's strength was formidable, significantly surpassing Qin Fang's.

And now, after employing such an unknown heretical secret technique, Qin Fang felt he became even more dangerous!

Whoosh~~

At this moment, while Qin Fang was unsure whether to make a move or continue waiting for an opportunity, the previously motionless Hunter suddenly moved.

Just as the Hunter slightly raised his arm, a flash of silver light passed by, followed by the sharp sound of a blade cutting through the air.

At the same time, Qin Fang's eyes involuntarily contracted as a black spot in his field of vision kept zooming in and getting closer...

It was the Hunter's short sword!

As the distance closed in, Qin Fang immediately identified what the black spot was – it was the short sword from the Hunter's hand!

"Such speed!"

Qin Fang couldn't help but exclaim, as the speed of this short sword was extremely fast, almost to the extreme. Even though the distance between them wasn't short, the short sword's speed was so fast that Qin Fang couldn't evade it in time.

The speed of the flying short sword was too fast, and its trajectory was incredibly precise. It was evident the other side used some secret technique to pinpoint Qin Fang's hiding place.

This strike wasn't a random attack; it was a very insidious and sudden blow!

Qin Fang, who had concealed himself, thought the opponent couldn't locate him, not expecting the Hunter to turn the tables directly!

This move immediately plunged Qin Fang into great danger!

"Bring it on!"

However, although evasion was impossible, Qin Fang remained unfazed. With a cold shout, he slightly raised the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword in his hand, blocking the path of the short sword in an instant!

BAM!!!

An extremely clear and melodious collision sound resonated, so pleasant and rhythmic, akin to being played by a musical instrument.

Qin Fang's block was quite stable, and with a strategic reserve, he intended to forcibly withstand this blow.

Chapter 1973 - Fierce Battle! Kill! (Part 2)

His vision was astonishing; he directly blocked the swiftly approaching short sword without even retreating a single step.

Instead, the short sword, after striking Qin Fang's Flowing Shadow Divine Sword, was forcibly bounced back... The Hunter moved, grabbing the short sword back into his hand.

But... things weren't going very well for Qin Fang!

"Hiss~~"

Qin Fang couldn't help but take a sharp breath, as he heard a continuous tearing sound of fabric ripping... both sleeves of Qin Fang's arms were nearly entirely shattered.

Not only that, but Qin Fang's two arms weren't in good shape either... they were bloody, with many veins on his arms having burst!

"Such powerful strength!"

Just from this single strike, Qin Fang suffered substantial losses. As he swallowed a few Blood Replenishing Pills, he couldn't help but sigh.

What seemed like a surefire success unexpectedly had some unforeseen circumstances. He blocked the short sword, but it carried a strange spiral energy aura.

Qin Fang managed to fend off the impact of the short sword, but the spiral energy aura followed through and struck the meridians of Qin Fang's arms... causing such injuries!

Almost simultaneously as Qin Fang's sneak attack succeeded in nearly crippling one arm of the Hunter,

a moment later, Qin Fang found himself played by his opponent with a move that returned the favor, and both his hands were caught.

Of course, the opponent possessed heretical secret techniques that could temporarily heal his injuries, but Qin Fang was no weakling either. After a few more Blood Replenishing Pills, his Life Points were quickly restored to full health.

Though Qin Fang's arms were still bloody, the wounds had actually fully healed, hidden only by the bloodstains that had previously flowed!

"You have angered me..."

Suffering such a loss, Qin Fang was also stirred into a fierce rage, and his gaze towards the Hunter became much sharper.

"Come on! Let's fight to the death... see who laughs last!"

With those words, an extremely powerful aura surged from Qin Fang, almost rivaling the opponent's Grandmaster Mid-Stage aura.

"Kill!"

The Hunter's response wasn't much chatter, just this one word, and then he swiftly charged towards Qin Fang.

"Kill!"

Qin Fang wasn't one to show weakness either, responding as his Flowing Shadow Divine Sword turned into a stream of light, valiantly meeting the Hunter.

Ding ding ding ding~~~

The two instantly clashed, their short sword and divine sword fiercely colliding, creating another series of impact sounds.

The sound was quite crisp yet very brief, with each meeting being fleeting, and quickly clashing back together!

In just over ten seconds, their swords collided dozens of times, with several clashes happening almost every second!

Fast!

Very fast!

Extremely fast!

It seemed words were insufficient to describe the situation, apart from the swirling of blades and swords and two rapidly intersecting figures, dazzling the observer!

Qin Fang's strength was relatively weaker, but he wielded a Divine Weapon. The Hunter was stronger, and though his short sword was not ordinary, it was considerably weaker than the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword.

This Hunter was also hard to deal with, and after suffering an initial loss, he immediately adjusted his attacking rhythm and style.

Thus, by leveraging strengths to cover weaknesses... turning it into a stalemate in a short period. They fought intensely, yet neither could do much to the other for the time being.

Pfft~~

Crash!!

Both had some advantages and evident disadvantages, mostly maintaining a balance, but their respective advantages were clear.

Soon, though this balance wasn't broken, the sharp blades each held began leaving marks on the other.

The Flowing Shadow Divine Sword left a wound on the Hunter's belly, while the short sword slashed Qin Fang's back...

Both were soon colored, though they both avoided vital areas, injuries were inevitable, and their clothes quickly dyed red with blood!

"Kill!"

"Die!!"

Yet, neither chose to retreat. The Hunter would not fall back, nor would Qin Fang; both exploded with their maximum strength, choosing to persist with the most resilient approach.

This was a hard-fought battle!

A battle that one could say was equally matched!

Wounds on both increased, as did the blood flow, and in a blink, aside from their faces, almost every part of both was injured!

"Come! Fight..."

"Kill!"

Yet, both were genuinely engorged with rage, no longer caring what might happen in the end. Their sole thought now was... to eliminate the opponent!

Qin Fang's True Qi fluctuated intensely, and the bottleneck of the Master Level Peak also fluctuated, faintly showing signs of loosening.

It was something Qin Fang had discovered earlier, but at this point in battle, he couldn't afford to care about it anymore...

Having such an evenly matched opponent is indeed one of life's great joys!

Chapter 1974 - Bitter Struggle! Slaying! (Part 3)

Especially, when both of them had completely disregarded life and death, they unleashed all they had learned throughout their lives in a battle so exhilarating that everything else was almost forgotten!

Of course, compared to his opponent gritting his teeth and holding on with sheer determination, Qin Fang continuously consumed Blood Replenishing Pills to make up for the loss caused by his bleeding...

Indeed, Qin Fang cheated!

But he had no other choice...

Compared to this Hunter who could rely on willpower to hold on, Qin Fang couldn't do the same. His life was finite. Once the bleeding exceeded his Life Points, even without a fatal wound, Qin Fang would still die because his Life Points would drop to zero!

So, he needed to continuously consume Blood Replenishing Pills. Although his wounds kept increasing and blood kept flowing, his Life Points remained at a relatively safe number!

Unless this Hunter chopped off his head with a single sword stroke or pierced his heart, it's really hard to threaten Qin Fang's life!

More injuries, more bleeding meant nothing compared to Qin Fang's continuous blood replenishment with the Blood Replenishing Pills.

At most, Qin Fang felt pain all over his body, severe pain all over...

However, by now, the pain had stimulated his body to the point of numbness, completely ignoring the newly added pain.

So even these pains no longer posed a threat to Qin Fang, making it impossible for him to care anymore.

Bang!!

Tap...

Their battle was so fierce that they had lost all sense of themselves! But eventually, everything had to come to an end.

The end of this battle was truly cemented by such an unexpected sound...

Splurt~~

Almost at the same instant this sound came, the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword in Qin Fang's hand, with an exceptionally fierce posture, viciously stabbed into the Hunter's heart!

The longsword was incredibly sharp, and its length was sufficient, going straight in from the front chest and coming out from the back, piercing right through this Hunter!

"Ugh..."

Only then did the Hunter let out an unusual sound, and the whole person paused, staring at the longsword stabbed into his heart.

It was this sword that had left dozens or hundreds of wounds on his body, nearly draining half of his body's blood, and yet he hadn't made a single sound...

But it was this sword that announced the end of this fierce battle... because his dagger had been cut off by it!

Even though he had been extremely, extremely cautious, he still couldn't avoid the tragedy's arrival... Once the dagger was broken, there was no way to fend off the strong attacks that followed from Qin Fang.

"I am not willing!"

This was the only thing the Hunter wanted to say at this moment, and it was also the last words of his life.

He uttered it with almost all his strength, and then the light in his eyes gradually vanished, turning dim.

So far, his life had reached its end!

Even though he possessed some very strange heretic secret techniques that could help him suppress his injuries and enhance his perception.

Ultimately, he couldn't defy fate... still died at Qin Fang's hands!

No way, it wasn't that he wasn't strong enough, but that he wasn't as heaven-defying as Qin Fang!

"Phew~~~"

Witnessing the fall of this expert with his own eyes, only then did Qin Fang let out a gentle sigh of relief. His body slightly gave way, and he could no longer stand, collapsing directly.

As soon as he paused, a extremely intense pain surged, almost unbearable, making him want to let out a piercingly sharp scream to vent.

"It seems that it's better to do less of this kind of thing in the future..."

Sitting on the ground to rest, Qin Fang's Life Points had fully recovered, and the wounds on his body were mostly healed, no longer bleeding.

However, the pain on his body wouldn't disappear because of this; instead, it became increasingly intense...

In particular, the pain in certain areas, during the fierce battle, was not very intense due to his whole body being tense, but now that he paused, this feeling became even more pronounced.

Just sitting here, Qin Fang felt like he didn't even have the strength to stand up... all his strength was being used to endure this inhuman pain.

If it weren't for this, Qin Fang wouldn't have made such a lament!

But...

"It wasn't completely fruitless after all; it seems I made the right choice this time!"

Besides the pain, Qin Fang also felt very gratified.

Before the fight started, Qin Fang's exchanges with this Hunter indeed benefited him greatly, even loosening the bottleneck of his Master Level Peak.

It was precisely because of this that Qin Fang decisively chose to go all out against his opponent!

The Hunter was undoubtedly extraordinarily formidable, more so than ordinary martial artists of the same level, but against Qin Fang, he didn't have much advantage. His combat skills were always anticipated by Qin Fang, leaving him unable to succeed...

Without these formidable advantages, he only had the strength of a Grandmaster Mid-Stage martial artist. Although still much stronger than Qin Fang, it wasn't enough to be overwhelming!

At this point, Qin Fang also had a large number of Blood Replenishing Pills and the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword in hand to offset his shortcomings, which not only shortened the gap between them but even gradually expanded his own advantage!

Until Qin Fang's Flowing Shadow Divine Sword sliced through the opponent's dagger, this advantage finally truly exploded, killing the opponent in one fell swoop!

Killing this Hunter was certainly gratifying, but what truly brought immense joy to Qin Fang was another reason!

"It seems that it won't take long before I can truly step into the Grandmaster Level..."

Because Qin Fang discovered that his bottleneck had unconsciously been shattered, he just needed to forcefully consolidate it to officially enter the realm of Grandmaster Level!

Chapter 1975 - A Discordant Little Clique!

...

"What a pity, nothing was left behind..."

This Hunter was killed by Qin Fang just like that, but when Qin Fang searched his body, he frustratingly found that nothing was left.

Perhaps because of the special environment of Devil's Island, these Hunters did not have much freedom, not even many personal belongings, thus there was naturally nothing to leave behind.

If it weren't for Qin Fang's Flowing Shadow Divine Sword being too sharp, perhaps the dagger in the Hunter's hand would have remained, but now... it's just waste iron broken into two pieces.

As for anything else... perhaps it's just this Hunter's heretic Dao secret technique that Qin Fang could barely find interesting.

However, Qin Fang wasn't very interested in such heretic Dao secret techniques...

There's a reward, but there must be a cost... Qin Fang could hardly believe that there was no special cost to such heretic Dao secret techniques.

For example, Lin Shinan's wife, Shadow, could achieve such powerful cultivation in such a short time because she almost gave up her life!

Originally she could have lived healthily for seventy or eighty years, but after cultivating this heretic Dao secret technique, her lifespan shortened significantly, and now, just over thirty, she has almost given up half her life...

Qin Fang guessed that this Hunter was the same. If this heretic Dao secret technique had no side effects at all, he could have used it early on, instead of only after he was heavily injured.

Moreover, since he used this heretic Dao secret technique, his whole person seemed to change... becoming more bizarre and ferocious!

"Fortunately... I won!"

Recollecting the danger earlier, Qin Fang couldn't help but take a sharp breath.

If he hadn't persevered, the one to fall might have been him...

"Hmm?"

At this moment, Qin Fang's mind slightly moved, immediately sensing something, and almost without hesitation, he pulled with one hand and threw the Hunter's body into the Props Box, then his whole person also vanished abruptly...

"This place is not suitable for a long stay..."

Just now, he had a fierce battle with the Hunter in this piece of the Primitive Forest, the area was not small, but the disturbance just now was also not small.

Generally speaking, when a Hunter faces a Trialist, it's overwhelming, even if they encounter resistance, it won't last long.

However, the battle just now lasted quite a long time, whether Trialists or Hunters can imagine that it must be a tough Trialist they encountered.

Although Hunters have delineated their own territory, generally won't enter others' territory, if they encounter such a situation, they will be flexible.

Hunters are not afraid of any Trialist, even if some individually strong monsters are the same, but they are somewhat afraid of many Trialists ganging up on their own.

Being killed by a strong Trialist is merely a problem with the Hunter's own capability, deserving to be killed and eliminated, death is just as it is.

But if it's not an issue of the Trialist's own strength, rather they encountered multiple Trialists ganging up, it somewhat ruins the rules of Devil's Island.

Although there is no rule against Trialists teaming up, as this increases survival chances... but Hunters are quite wary of this.

So, once they encounter such a situation, Hunters don't mind teaming up, team against team...

The reason Qin Fang reacted this way is that after fiercely battling the Hunter for so long, he was mistaken by other Hunters for being ganged up on, leading other Hunters to come to support.

"Luckily I ran fast!"

The fastest running Hunter quickly entered Qin Fang's mini-map monitoring range. Qin Fang, although avoiding him from another direction, couldn't help but sigh.

This fastest-arriving Hunter, not only speedy, but his strength is terrifyingly high, having reached Master Level Peak...

This Hunter is one of those Qin Fang met earlier, also the strongest one. Qin Fang had already turned around and fled upon seeing him before. Now he just killed one Hunter, if spotted by this one, Qin Fang would truly be in tears!

"No, I can't stay in this place any longer, I must find a place to hide first..."

In such a Primitive Forest, Qin Fang's actions were restricted, the Traceless Snow Stepping Technique, though marvelous, was hindered by dense trees.

A Grandmaster Mid-Stage Hunter almost left Qin Fang with no chance to fight back, and this was the weakest among Hunters.

If faced with a stronger Hunter, Qin Fang could only helplessly flee far away. If really targeted, it's indeed a big problem.

"Grandmaster Level..."

Qin Fang quickly left, avoiding the supporting Hunter from afar, heading deeper into the forest.

His goal has been achieved, the bottleneck breakthrough at Grandmaster Level has completely shattered, and his strength has long surpassed Grandmaster Level, at this moment, even though there's a last bit to breach in the Realm, he's considered to have stepped into Grandmaster Level!

Chapter 1976 The Discordant Small Group!_2

At the very least, Qin Fang could be considered to have one foot in the Grandmaster Level...

What he needed to do now was quickly find a hidden place to cultivate, and consolidate until he truly advanced to the Grandmaster Level, which would be a true completion of his goal.

Qin Fang's pace was quite fast; although the Traceless Snow Stepping Technique couldn't be fully utilized, his explosive power and agility were extremely impressive, making his speed astounding in such a forest.

Of course, this forest harbored quite a few Hunters lurking around, each with terrifying strength. Although Qin Fang was in a hurry, he was also being very cautious, keeping an eye out for them.

Unknowingly, the sky gradually darkened, and night quietly fell, enveloping the entire forest in darkness.

This was unlike a city; there were no bright lights, only a pitch-black forest, trees, and a clear, bright starry sky overhead.

"I don't know if on such a night, those Hunters will continue to follow and hunt..."

At this moment, Qin Fang was resting on the trunk of a big tree, hidden within the dense branches and leaves. He took out a steaming baozi from the Props Box and nibbled on it while keeping alert to the surroundings.

Even though it was nighttime, and the surroundings were quiet with only the sounds of birds, insects, and small beasts, besides being a bit dark, it seemed exceptionally peaceful and harmonious.

However, Qin Fang knew full well that the more peaceful the environment, the more it hid intense killing intent...

These Hunters were clearly residents of Devil's Island, with their own dwellings, and were very familiar with the environment here.

On such a seemingly tranquil night, if those Hunters had temporarily returned to their dwellings, everything would be fine.

But if some Hunters hadn't returned and were instead lurking in the dim forest, or even wandering around... this would be quite troublesome.

After a whole day of hunting, the number of Trialists must have decreased, but in such a large forest, each Trialist was no weakling, so not many would be unfortunate enough to encounter the Hunters!

Out of about a hundred and thirty Trialists, at most only twenty or so were eliminated, leaving most still alive... This ratio was already quite high, even if a few more were gone, it was still quite limited.

"A whole month... and this is just the first day!"

Recalling the events of the day, Qin Fang couldn't help but shake his head.

When they arrived, there were about a hundred and sixty or seventy Trialists, but after just one day of the Devil's Trial, the number sharply dropped by one-third.

There were still many days to endure in this Devil's Trial, and who knew how long he could last...

"No, I must seize the time to cultivate! Every bit of strength gained means a greater chance of survival!"

Even Qin Fang didn't dare say he could definitely survive here. Although he had already imagined the Devil's Trial to be extremely difficult, the reality was far more perilous than he had imagined.

With this in mind, Qin Fang realized staying in place wasn't a great idea. Even knowing the forest was full of dangers, it was temporarily safe but not suitable for him to cultivate and consolidate his cultivation.

Leaving here and finding a secluded spot was what Qin Fang needed to do most at this moment...

"Huh..."

Suddenly, Qin Fang felt something, his gaze unconsciously shifted in a certain direction, and he furrowed his brows slightly, muttering, "Trialists?"

In that direction, about fifty or sixty meters away, a few people were walking through the forest. They weren't coming directly towards Qin Fang, but they were getting quite close!

A few people traveling together didn't seem like the habit of Hunters, so it was very likely a small group of Trialists.

Although these Trialists knew very well that forming small groups might make them targets for concentrated attacks by the Hunters,

they had no choice; the Hunters were too powerful, and none of them could face them one-on-one.

Instead of waiting for death, forming a small group for action meant they had a fighting chance when facing Hunters.

Not hoping to defeat the Hunters, but at least to temporarily protect themselves...

"But... wandering the forest so late at night?"

Qin Fang could understand these Trialists forming a group, for survival alone, but running around in the forest on such a night seemed strange.

"Let's go take a look..."

However, after a moment's hesitation, Qin Fang decided it was better to go and have a look.

Such a small group was formed primarily to guard against Hunters but also inadvertently attracted the Hunters' animosity.

Following such a small group could easily get the attention of Hunters, but as they say, the most dangerous places are also the safest. Following them might even be safer.

With this thought, Qin Fang set his direction towards the small group, approaching without directly alerting them, instead observing from the sidelines.

Chapter 1977 Discordant Little Group!_3

This is a small group composed of five people, four men and one woman, mostly foreigners, with only one looking like an Asian.

However, it's hard to define, after all, Asians are spread all over the world... even if this person is of Asian descent, they might not necessarily be Asian!

"Grandmaster Mid-Stage!"

The strength of these few seems not very strong, none of them have reached the Grandmaster-level tier, they all seem to be missing that crucial step.

However, what truly surprised Qin Fang is that among these five, the one who appears quite burly and has a bit of a big fool aura—the black man—is actually at Grandmaster Mid-Stage...

It was Qin Fang who determined this using his Scouting Skill, but the strength this black man shows is only at Master Level Peak.

"He's hiding his strength? Why?"

Qin Fang almost immediately focused his attention on this somewhat silly-looking black man, not only was his immensely powerful strength hidden, but he also put on an honest facade, not even holding the leadership within this small group, which instead was in the hands of the only woman in the group.

"Such a combination..."

Looking at such a combination, Qin Fang felt incredibly strange too, always sensing something off, yet couldn't quite figure it out immediately.

"Let me observe a bit more..."

Hesitating for a moment, Qin Fang decided to hide on the side and take a look, as this combination of a small group coming here so late at night surely wasn't for tourism or any barbecue activities, there had to be a purpose.

"Who's there?"

Suddenly, the woman in this small group halted her steps, her eyes became incredibly sharp, and in a cold voice, she shouted towards Qin Fang's direction.

"Hmm? Discovered me?"

Qin Fang was slightly stunned, not expecting to be discovered by this woman whose strength seemed not very strong, despite his efforts to conceal himself so covertly.

This point genuinely surprised Qin Fang a lot.

But he monitored around with the mini-map, and within a radius of seventy to eighty meters, besides this small group, there was only him, Qin Fang.

If this woman discovered something, it must have been Qin Fang accidentally leaving a flaw just now.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh~~

Almost following the woman's command, the other members of this small group immediately moved towards Qin Fang's direction to encircle him.

Though their coordination still seemed somewhat rusty, still being a temporarily thrown-together team, it already looked quite decent, obviously, they've had quite a few team actions before.

"Don't attack! I'm just passing through..."

With the situation like this, Qin Fang knew he couldn't avoid it anymore. Rather than inexplicably fighting this small group, it was slightly better to take the initiative and stand out.

"Trialist?"

Seeing Qin Fang emerge from the darkness, his clothes tore in many spots, with obvious injuries as well, this woman couldn't help but mutter doubtfully.

Qin Fang's appearance seemed quite miserable, all ragged, like escaping from a refugee camp, clearly not a Hunter's attire.

"Sofia..."

Others also noticed Qin Fang's attire, seeming quite pitiful, but they remained vigilant, that black man couldn't help but turn back to call out to the woman.

Though this woman's strength might not be the strongest, she seemed to have become the center of this group, with decision-making power falling into her hands.

"What... what do you want?"

Qin Fang glanced strangely at the blonde woman named Sofia and the strongest black man.

Although Qin Fang wasn't sure if there was any special relationship between these two, he could tell that these trialists bore ill intentions towards him, especially the black man!

However, Qin Fang wasn't intending to act like a great hero here, avoiding revealing too much about himself, so his eyes were shrinking, and his voice began to tremble.

"Kill..."

While Qin Fang observed these people, Sofia was observing Qin Fang as well, seeing Qin Fang's expression, she almost without hesitation ordered.

The underground world is cruel. Those who fear death don't live long... especially on Devil's Island, it's basically impossible to make it to the end.

The longer one survives in the underground world, the more disdain one has for those fearing death.

Even Qin Fang ignored this point, noticing a flash of disdain in Sofia's eyes, only then did Qin Fang realize.

But it's too late for regrets now, Qin Fang secretly began circulating his power, preparing to fight against these trialists.

The other three could be ignored, but for the black man hiding most of his strength, Qin Fang dared not underestimate.

"Wait..."

Just as these individuals, grinning sinisterly, were about to encircle and kill Qin Fang, Sofia suddenly called out.

"Never mind, let him be!"

When the others looked surprised, Sofia's voice came again, she seemed to have worked something out, abruptly changing her mind.

"Sofia..."

This sudden change left the others a bit dissatisfied.

Though they formed this group temporarily and let Sofia lead them, it didn't mean they would definitely follow her orders.

"If you wish for the plan to fail, go ahead and kill him..."

Yet their dissatisfaction was instantly overturned by Sofia's simple words.

Just now, everyone bore looks of discontent, but now... their eyes towards Qin Fang softened considerably.

Chapter 1978 The Mysterious Man in Black Robes!

...

"Take him, immediately him!"

Sofia didn't say much, just gave a simple command.

"Kid, if you want to live, you'd better behave yourself..."

The few people immediately surrounded Qin Fang in the middle, threatening him.

"Don't make a move... I'll go with you!"

Qin Fang was even more puzzled. It was clear that this small group had some special purpose, and it seemed likely they intended to use him as a scapegoat.

However, Qin Fang didn't intend to fall out with them until he figured out their real purpose, so he obediently followed them.

It seemed they were also afraid Qin Fang might escape, so they guarded him in the middle, with someone defending each side, making escape impossible.

This was normal, given Qin Fang's displayed strength, just short of Grandmaster Level. Even though he was comparable to several of them, he completely lacked the strength to kill any of them, making escape impossible...

However, they might never have thought that Qin Fang hadn't planned on escaping at all, and even willingly joined their small group.

"Brothers, where are we going? It's late, maybe we should find a place to rest, just in case we run into Hunters..."

Seeing that none of them were talking and just advancing in a certain direction, Qin Fang was completely confused and hesitated before cautiously suggesting.

His words made sense. Who knew if there were still Hunters in this forest? If they encountered any, given the team's strength, none might escape.

"Shut up..."

Unfortunately, the response Qin Fang received was a few cold glares and a low, cold shout, as if they were very displeased with his inquiry.

Seeing he couldn't get any information, Qin Fang stopped asking and quietly continued following the group onward.

Meanwhile, Qin Fang's eyes carefully scanned the surrounding environment, using some special markings to locate his current position.

"This seems to be... heading towards that mountain!"

Though Qin Fang didn't have a map of Devil's Island, he could roughly judge, "Just that, the position seems a bit off..."

At the moment, the six of them were indeed heading towards the central mountain of Devil's Island, but not in a straight direction, rather more to one side.

There was nothing unusual about this. Visually, the mountain was ahead, but how much deviation there actually was, they were completely unaware.

Just from their demeanor, they seemed to have firmly determined a specific position, not changing direction at all, remaining consistent.

"Hide!"

Just as Qin Fang was baffled, Sofia suddenly called out softly ahead.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh~~~

Immediately, the five of them turned into several shadows, quickly taking cover behind nearby trees or dense canopies.

"If you don't want to die, hide quickly..."

Qin Fang was still standing there, startled, when Sofia's nearly exasperated voice reached his ears.

"Huh?"

This greatly surprised Qin Fang, giving a deep look at this mysterious woman, but his own actions were swift as he immediately burrowed into a nearby bush to hide.

At the same time, Qin Fang's mini-map activated, scouting the surrounding movements. Within at least seventy to eighty meters, there was nothing particularly unusual.

"Hunter?"

But soon, Qin Fang's expression changed as, almost immediately after he went into hiding, a movement trajectory appeared on his mini-map.

Clearly, they encountered a Hunter wandering in the forest, although not overwhelmingly strong, it was still a Late Grandmaster Level, capable of easily killing their entire group.

However, this Hunter was not coming towards them, merely passing through...

Of course, had they proceeded earlier, although they wouldn't have bumped directly into the Hunter, there was a great chance of being detected.

Qin Fang's expression shift wasn't due to fear of the Hunter's appearance but because Sofia managed to detect the danger ahead even before his advanced monitoring system did.

"Is it an innate intuition? Or carrying some instrument?"

Facing such a situation, Qin Fang couldn't help pondering.

A Late Grandmaster Level expert was formidable, but if Qin Fang wanted to escape, he could still flee easily, possibly even outrunning a Grandmaster Peak Strongman!

"Phew~~~ Alright, come out now!"

It was at this strange moment that the Hunter's figure vanished from the mini-map, and Sofia's voice reached his ears, indicating the all-clear!

Hearing Sofia's call, the group emerged from the shadows, the big black man especially looking towards Qin Fang, seemingly worried he might use the chaos to escape.

However, seeing Qin Fang also emerging, although his face revealed nothing, his eyes showed a hint of relief.

Chapter 1979 The Mysterious Black-Robed Man! (Part 2)

When Qin Fang sensed someone caring about him, he didn't feel flattered at all. Instead, he suppressed a trace of killing intent in his heart.

Although these people almost harbor no goodwill towards him, the hostility from the big black man is the most intense.

Sometimes Qin Fang notices that the killing intent radiating from him is directed entirely at Qin Fang... such inexplicable hostility is puzzling to Qin Fang since he doesn't recall having any enmity with a black man!

Of course, it's not entirely absent. At least in the Shadow Viper group that died at his hands, one of them was black...

However, Qin Fang is currently using another face, completely unrelated to Qin Fang's original face. Even if there was indeed a grudge, it shouldn't be possible to recognize him!

Apart from this, Qin Fang couldn't think of any other reasons that made sense...

"Whatever! If he really dares to make a move against me, then it's his bad luck!"

Qin Fang isn't one to love nitpicking. Since he still needs to conceal himself now, he decided to hide even more thoroughly, completely ignoring the big black man.

The blonde beauty Sofia seems to really possess some special abilities. Walking through the forest on such a gloomy and dark night, she managed to avoid hunters or exceptionally strong trialists, or some hidden dangers in the forest several times...

Along the way, although the forest was filled with threats, mysteriously, Qin Fang and the others managed to walk through without a scratch, and they could see they were not far from the mountain.

"Everyone take a break, we're heading into the mountain soon!"

Once they reached the foot of the mountain, Sofia called it out, then sat down to rest herself, with that towering mountain right behind her.

Calling it a mountain, it actually doesn't count as one, just about four or five hundred meters high.

But, seeing it from afar and now standing at the foot of it, the disparity is obvious, instantly making the mountain feel incredibly tall!

The others did not waste words, each sat down to rest, drinking water, eating food... but one thing is certain, none chose to make a campfire.

Everyone in the Underground World is an expert; it's impossible to make such a rookie mistake... If they really lit a fire here, they would probably be caught quickly!

The water came from ordinary streams, with some slow-flowing creeks in the forest. The water quality is quite good, clean, and sweet!

After all, here is an island, surrounded by the sea, seawater can't be drunk, and these streams are the only fresh water available; otherwise, the people on the island wouldn't be able to survive.

Food was also self-solved, hunting some beasts in the forest and eating them raw... this is something Qin Fang is uncomfortable watching, but it's a helpless situation, given that he alone possesses the miraculous Props Box, enabling him to bring various items to Devil's Island, which others can't!

But, surviving on Devil's Island for a month, one has to live this way... for Qin Fang, it feels more like a vacation!

Of course, Qin Fang wouldn't follow their example; he merely pretended not to be hungry, refraining from eating... munching on Baozi would undoubtedly cause trouble!

Luckily for him, these people already harbor ill intentions against Qin Fang, so they don't care whether he eats or not or bother talking to him, which is a relief for Qin Fang!

"Alright, that's about enough, let's go!"

After around ten minutes, Sofia was the first to stand, uttering a simple phrase, then turned to head towards the mountain.

Others, including Qin Fang, quietly tidied up their belongings and followed Sofia up the mountain.

At this point, Qin Fang was still thoroughly puzzled, not knowing what these people intended to do... but at this stage, he had no choice but to grit his teeth and carry on.

This mountain is the most conspicuous spot on Devil's Island and offers the best view, making it practically the destination for all trialists.

Regardless of the reason, heading towards this mountain is the main intention of all trialists currently.

Perhaps because it's only the first day of the Devil's Trial and hunters are roaming in the forest, the trialists don't dare to advance too quickly; ironically, there are fewer people on the mountain, making it much safer.

Of course, some poisonous insects and beasts aren't lacking, but Sofia seems to be able to foresee crises, every time acting in advance, dissipating these threats.

Qin Fang is indifferent to this as he's the only one in this small group who doesn't need to take action; nobody trusts him, denying him the chance to leave the team.

Qin Fang remains quite relaxed, as if all this has nothing to do with him and he doesn't bother to compete over it; he'd rather these people carry him on a sedan chair.

"We're here..."

However, Qin Fang's leisurely life didn't last long; as soon as they reached a small valley on the mountain, Sofia's cool voice could be heard, announcing the end of Qin Fang's leisure.

At that moment, Qin Fang noticed Sofia holding an unusually shaped object in her hand, seemingly a mysterious electronic device, its surface faintly glowing.

Chapter 1980 The Mysterious Man in Black Robes! (3)

"A detector?"

This is an unknown type of detector, which theoretically shouldn't be usable on Devil's Island, as all signals here are completely blocked.

However, it seems to be continuously working, which is rather strange.

"That place is just down there..."

Yet, Qin Fang's attention quickly shifted with Sofia's words; she pointed to a small pool in the valley.

"Is there a problem with this pool?"

Even Qin Fang couldn't help but be surprised; he didn't expect this.

Despite his grandmaster-level Thousand Skills, which covered a range of mechanisms and formations, he couldn't detect any issues with this small pool.

It wasn't just Qin Fang who was doubtful; the expressions of the others were also peculiar, with a strange light flickering in their eyes.

"Hmph..."

Sofia paid them no mind, merely sneered, and her graceful body leapt into the pool, disappearing in the blink of an eye.

"You go..."

The others glanced at each other before focusing their gaze on Qin Fang, surrounding him with ill intent and shouted fiercely.

"Don't make a move, don't make a move, I'll go!"

Despite appearing frightened of them taking action, Qin Fang was actually eager to dive in and uncover the secrets the pool held.

Speaking thus, Qin Fang also leapt into the water, diving downward.

Though the surface of this pool wasn't large, its depth was adequate. Qin Fang felt a chill upon entry, yet soon discovered something peculiar.

"There really is a problem..."

While Qin Fang's Swimming Skill hadn't reached grandmaster level, it was close enough that he faced little adversity underwater, even if it wasn't as smooth as on land.

At a depth of about two to three meters below the surface, a graceful woman was pushing something against a rock wall, revealing a dark entrance.

Upon entering the water, Qin Fang witnessed the woman crawling into the entrance...

Without hesitation, Qin Fang swam toward the hole, as if all secrets were about to be unveiled.

The entrance was small, and the water channel wasn't long, so Qin Fang quickly swam through, to his surprise finding himself in a place resembling a sewer.

Pffft~~

Before Qin Fang could react, a piercing sound of something cutting through the air reached him.

Hidden weapons!

A shadow passed over Qin Fang's mind, knowing he'd been ambushed.

The hidden weapons came quickly and moved swiftly; even for an expert like Qin Fang, dodging them was a struggle.

Of course, Qin Fang's current strength wasn't at the grandmaster-level tier but at the master level peak, hence... he opted for small-range evasion.

He dodged several hidden weapons aimed at his vital spots but still got hit on his shoulder and arm.

"You..."

Hit by hidden weapons and feeling the numbness at the wound, Qin Fang realized he'd been caught, and the weapons were poisoned.

"Poisoned!"

Pointing at the mastermind behind the attack, Qin Fang uttered a word in horror before his eyes rolled back and he collapsed.

Qin Fang fell, his wound visibly darkening, oozing black poisonous blood; he was clearly heavily poisoned... and that's when someone ran over, pulled Qin Fang's body out of the water, and tossed it aside.

"What's going on here?"

Of course, Qin Fang genuinely hadn't been caught; with Little Dragon protecting him, even though the poison on the hidden weapons was potent, it wasn't enough to take him down.

He was merely pretending to gather more information about what was truly happening!

Qin Fang "passed out," his eyes shut, yet he was very much alert, using the small map to examine his surroundings.

This place resembled a sewer; it was a bit eerie but had lighting fixtures... The area above seemed to be some sort of building, given the obvious signs of human construction.

That wasn't the focus, though. The focus was... standing not far from Qin Fang, aside from the blonde beauty Sofia who'd entered first, was a man clad in a black robe, and Sofia appeared to know him!

"Master Level Peak!"

What surprised Qin Fang more was this black-robed man's strength, which had reached the master level peak, almost stepping into the Great Grandmaster level.

With such strength, taking him out didn't require much effort; it would be as easy as squashing him like a bug...

"Not right, his strength seems off!"

But quickly, Qin Fang noticed something unusual.

The black-robed man's realm indeed was at the master level peak, almost entering the Great Grandmaster level, yet his strength... was clearly lacking, even inferior to that of the burly black man!

"Who exactly is this man?"

Having spotted the flaw in the black-robed man's strength, Qin Fang understood why he used hidden weapons rather than directly attacking him.

Still, Qin Fang's mind was puzzled with a big question mark...

"He should be from Devil's Island!"

Such formidable yet strange strength, such special attire, clearly not from previous trialists arriving on the island; they must be someone from Devil's Island, otherwise, how else could they discover such a hidden place!