

## Genius 2021

Chapter 2021 An Unexpected Windfall!

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Qin Fang just chose to back away earlier, not because he was afraid of the Indian A-San, but because he discovered the "Strange Fish" lurking on the edge of the Underground Dark River.

Originally, Qin Fang was pondering that there might be some dangers around the Crouching Tiger Grass, but when he actually came over, there weren't even any decent traps or mechanisms. This made Qin Fang feel extremely strange.

It was precisely because of this oddity that Qin Fang carefully and repeatedly used his Scouting Skill around the Crouching Tiger Grass, finally discovering this lurking "Strange Fish."

This was an unknown Strange Fish, looking like a hybrid between some kind of fish and serpent, but it might really be a unique creature.

However, Qin Fang noticed that this Strange Fish was even more vicious than ordinary monsters, and its teeth were venomous.

As for how potent the venom was, Qin Fang wasn't familiar, but being cautious never hurts, so Qin Fang decided to observe a bit longer.

Coincidentally, this Indian A-San arrogantly forced Qin Fang away, so Qin Fang went along with it, and withdrew swiftly...

Possibly, the Indian A-San thought Qin Fang was afraid of him, and with the Crouching Tiger Grass right in front of him, excitement and thrill took over, causing him to forget his own caution.

He lost even the basic vigilance, which led to him being caught by the Strange Fish...

"Even if he doesn't die, he probably won't have an easy time..."

Qin Fang hid in the shadows, looking at the unfortunate Indian A-San, and couldn't help but mutter.

However, at this time, Qin Fang didn't intend to act, even though the Indian A-San reached out and could almost pick the Crouching Tiger Grass; he still chose to wait.

It's well understood that although the Indian A-San was bitten by the Strange Fish, with blood flowing endlessly from the wound, and even some black blood visible upon closer inspection.

But this Indian A-San is nevertheless a Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert, and a master of bizarre yoga cultivation. As one of the longest-standing extraordinary skills, yoga isn't as frail as imagined; Qin Fang felt that this Indian A-San must have some skills.

Not to mention, seeing the black blood flowing out, if it were an ordinary person, they would have died of poisoning long ago, yet this Indian A-San was still alive...

Not only alive, but seemingly doing well; the venom didn't seem to have a catastrophic effect on him.

Splash~~~

The Indian A-San was also ruthless when he realized he was hit. He immediately reacted, grabbing the Strange Fish's head, then forcefully yanked it, tearing the fish's head from its slender body...

However, the Strange Fish was cruel enough; its sharp teeth clung tightly to the Indian A-San's thigh, biting firmly without letting go.

Even with its head torn off, it didn't release its mouth, directly taking a chunk of the Indian A-San's thigh meat...

"Hiss~~~"

Such a scene, even Qin Fang, couldn't help but shiver as he watched. That chunk of meat was sizable, almost exposing the pale leg bone beneath.

The Indian A-San was ruthless himself, surprised by losing such a large piece of meat, an extreme challenge for him; his dark face instantly turned deadly pale.

Bean-sized sweat droplets were dripping profusely, and blood from the thigh wound flowed uncontrollably, as if it cost nothing.

If the bleeding wasn't stopped soon, even without poisoning, he might die from blood loss...

Yet, the Indian A-San didn't even grunt, just reached for a small bottle, poured out some medicinal powder, and applied it on the wound.

Qin Fang was shocked that this unknown medicinal powder worked remarkably well, quickly stopping such heavy bleeding.

Of course, the meat chunk was completely torn away and couldn't be replaced. The Indian A-San's leg then bore a significant scar...

As for the venom the Strange Fish released, it seemed not to have a significant effect on the Indian A-San. Before fully stopping the bleeding, the blood flow from A-San had returned to deep red, suggesting he had strong toxic resistance.

However, Qin Fang didn't find it surprising, as the world is vast and full of wonders. If he could resist poison, others might have the same capability.

Moreover, these Indian A-Sans are not to be trifled with. Many of them enjoy nearby vipers and being bitten by venomous snakes like cobras is not unusual.

Such people are quite ruthless, their blood having long developed antibodies against toxins. Maybe not immune to all, but mild poisons might not really harm them.

Perhaps this Indian A-San is one of those people as well!

"Ah, there are indeed many fierce people in the Underground World..."

Witnessing such a scene, Qin Fang couldn't help but lament.

In the Underground World, mixing to such a level, almost none are harmless. Maybe not noticeable in ordinary times, but in such moments, none is a pushover!

Dealing with the Strange Fish, the Indian A-San was seriously injured, his elemental energy harmed, combined with the leg wound, his strength was considerably impaired.

Chapter 2022 An Unexpected Windfall! (Part 2)

If before his fight with Qin Fang, this Indian A-San could still hold a significant advantage, then now it's quite uncertain.

Perhaps this Indian A-San also fears that prolonged delays could attract other trialists to come and compete, so he ignores his injuries and immediately reaches out to pick that stalk of Crouching Tiger Grass.

"Should I make a move?"

Seeing the actions of this Indian A-San, Qin Fang hesitated somewhat, as judging by the way this Indian A-San was picking, it was clear he didn't know how to gather herbs properly.

With his rough method, even if he picks the Crouching Tiger Grass, the medicinal properties would be reduced by as much as twenty to thirty percent...

The mere thought of such a loss made Qin Fang feel distressed, as losing several percent of the herb's efficacy would also mean a discount in the refining of the Tiger's Roar Pill.

If Qin Fang himself were to pick it and then refine the Tiger's Roar Pill, he would only need two or three months to advance to Grandmaster Mid-Stage. But with a reduced efficacy, it might take five months, half a year... or possibly even longer.

This discount is not static; after multiple processes, it could expand even further...

This is why Qin Fang hesitated, unable to watch the Crouching Tiger Grass's efficacy go to waste like this.

In his mind, this stalk of Crouching Tiger Grass had been his since he discovered it. The Tiger's Roar Pill was rightfully his, but if someone messes it up, even if it ends up in his hands, the loss would break his heart.

"Just wait a little longer..."

However, while watching the actions of that Indian A-San, Qin Fang suddenly felt a sense of alarm, vaguely sensing something was wrong.

Though Qin Fang couldn't quite discern what was amiss, he felt that making a hasty move might not be effective, so he stifled his impulse and decided to wait for further developments!

As the Indian A-San's hand approached the Crouching Tiger Grass, Qin Fang's heart was in a twist, eyes showing complexity with his heart racing, blood rushing to his head...

Yet, Qin Fang suppressed his impulse, waiting for developments, because the unease in his heart grew stronger as if something was about to erupt.

"What's that?"

Right at this critical moment, Qin Fang noticed something unusual, his eyes shifting from the Indian A-San and the Crouching Tiger Grass to the Underground Dark River beneath the Indian A-San's feet.

Whoosh~~

Almost as Qin Fang was about to use his Scouting Skill, a shadow surged out from the Underground Dark River, swiftly charging at the Indian A-San.

Bang~~

But this Indian A-San seemed to have anticipated something, his arm suddenly elongating slightly, striking the shadow's head ruthlessly.

Like a ripe watermelon bursting, the shadow's large head exploded into fragments, scattering everywhere.

As for the long, thin body, naturally, it limped from mid-air, falling into the Underground Dark River, seemingly without affecting the Indian A-San.

But this was just the beginning...

With the fall of this strange fish's corpse, the Underground Dark River below was no longer calm; the water became turbulent, as if undergoing a transformation.

Such changes were clear not only to Qin Fang but even more so to the Indian A-San, even causing him to momentarily forget about picking the Crouching Tiger Grass.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh~~~

While both were waiting for changes in the Underground Dark River, it suddenly became violently turbulent, and in an instant, several shadows flew out from it, all charging towards the Indian A-San.

And this was just the beginning. With the flight of these shadows, more continued to emerge, all being those savage and merciless strange fish.

Bang, bang, bang~~~

The Indian A-San, a fierce individual, faced such a situation with due caution, his hands, legs, and body seemingly turning into lethal weapons, continuously killing the attacking strange fish.

As the strange fish were continuously slain, the surrounding smell of blood grew stronger... even Qin Fang, watching from the sidelines, couldn't help but frown.

Yet the more this happened, the stranger the fish seemed, coming in an unending stream, with the number charging not decreasing but rather increasingly growing.

If previously only three to five came at a time, now directly over a dozen broke through, a dark mass all savagely heading towards the Indian A-San.

"Ah~~"

Even for a Grandmaster-level expert who is powerful, it's tough to fend off multiple attackers at once, especially facing such numerous, fierce, and death-defying strange fish, rendering one powerless.

If they're caught unprepared, they might get hit, and this Indian A-San was no exception.

Finally, one strange fish broke through his defenses, biting harshly on his arm, causing him to let out a scream.

Chapter 2023 An Unexpected Windfall!\_3

A moment of distraction gave the other strange fish an opportunity, more strange fish lunged forward, and in the blink of an eye, submerged the Indian A-San completely.

"Hiss~~~~ so many!!"

Seeing this mass of dark, frenzied strange fish pouncing on the Indian A-San, even Qin Fang, as an outsider, couldn't help but gasp.

There were so many strange fish that they completely submerged a person, so much so that Qin Fang could hardly find any spot on this Indian A-San that wasn't bitten by the strange fish.

The scene was incredibly brutal, considering this Indian A-San was a Grandmaster Mid-Stage expert. Even wounded, he was not someone to be easily trifled with.

Yet, facing this onslaught of countless strange fish, his Grandmaster-level strength was utterly useless.

Puchi puchi~~~

Just hearing such eerie sounds, under the siege of these strange fish, this Indian A-San, despite his Grandmaster Mid-Stage power, was torn to shreds.

Not only to shreds, there was nothing left behind, as he was completely devoured by these strange fish... even the earlier strange fish's strength had vanished!

Qin Fang felt immensely fortunate that he hadn't recklessly intervened out of sympathy, otherwise, it wouldn't just be this Indian A-San who suffered, but himself as well!

"Thank goodness, thank goodness..."

It was indeed Qin Fang's luck that saved him; although he had more life-saving skills than the Indian A-San, facing such a swarm of strange fish, Qin Fang felt that he might not have escaped unscathed either.

Poor Indian A-San, perhaps his yoga was superb, effective against human experts, but against these fearless, low-intelligence strange fish, it was useless, leading to his death, with even his flesh devoured by the fish.

After tearing apart this Indian A-San, the strange fish seemed satisfied, sluggishly moving back into the underground dark river.

As for the Crouching Tiger Grass, it stood quietly as before. The Indian A-San almost picked it, but was distracted by these strange fish, failing in the attempt.

Only after seeing it did Qin Fang relax significantly, his tense heart finally easing.

"Let's wait a bit..."

Though the strange fish had vanished and the Indian A-San was eliminated, Qin Fang hadn't detected any other trialists for the time being, so the Crouching Tiger Grass was temporarily safe.

However, Qin Fang was in no rush to pick it...

The precedent set by Indian A-San lingered; he didn't want to be the next unlucky guy surrounded and killed by strange fish...

These strange fish lived in this underground dark river, and didn't even appear on Qin Fang's small map, making it a troublesome situation for him.

To detect their movements, unless the strange fish revealed themselves, Qin Fang could only use the scouting skill repeatedly on this small stretch of underground dark river for confirmation.

This was a time-consuming and laborious effort, not a wise choice...

Qin Fang speculated that the strange fish swarmed the Indian A-San likely because they were attracted by the scent of blood.

Earlier, Qin Fang closely observed, perhaps the first strange fish intended to sneak attack the Indian A-San, but after it was killed, the scent of blood began to spread.

Not only from the dead strange fish but also from the Indian A-San himself, agitating the strange fish lurking in the underground dark river.

They gathered because of this... the Indian A-San, relying on his strength and seeking revenge for the prior setback, slaughtered the strange fish madly.

But the more he fought, the thicker the blood scent grew, attracting more strange fish, becoming the fuse for his downfall!

"This is truly a failed attempt at pretentiousness turned into disaster..."

The Indian A-San died with no remains, and Qin Fang couldn't help but comment while looking at the spot. This guy had been showing off to Qin Fang before, yet before Qin Fang could even retaliate, he was killed...

With the man already dead, there was no point in dwelling on it, so Qin Fang focused on the underground dark river, continuously using his scouting skill.

In this manner, Qin Fang chose to wait while his mini-map monitored the surroundings, preventing any sudden appearance of other trialists.

Fortunately, such an event didn't occur, and after waiting for more than ten minutes, Qin Fang finally felt calm.

"Time to act!"

Only then did Qin Fang confirm that the strange fish had indeed left, and the Crouching Tiger Grass was temporarily safe.

Perhaps the strange fish would wander back soon, but Qin Fang couldn't afford to worry about that; he just needed a brief moment.

With a swift movement, Qin Fang reached the Crouching Tiger Grass and prepared countermeasures against any strange fish sneak attacks.

Primarily, Qin Fang was here for the Crouching Tiger Grass. His hand swiftly grabbed it, activating the Herb Gathering Technique, and the Crouching Tiger Grass was instantly picked, becoming a stream of light disappearing into Qin Fang's Props Box.

"Finally got it..."

With the Crouching Tiger Grass in hand, Qin Fang's smile grew bright, and he became light and cheerful.

Acquiring this Crouching Tiger Grass wasn't easy, full of twists and turns. The Indian A-San almost succeeded, but unexpectedly, it ended up in Qin Fang's hands.

One could only say that the Indian A-San had terrible luck, taking the blame for Qin Fang and losing his life, while the benefits and advantages were picked up by Qin Fang for free...

Chapter 2024 - A Big Fat Sheep!

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"Time to go... there's still plenty of good stuff waiting for me!"

Having stowed away the Crouching Tiger Grass, Qin Fang saw no reason to linger here any longer. That Indian A-San died too miserably, leaving no remains, naturally leaving nothing behind. So Qin Fang had nothing to benefit from.

Thus, Qin Fang chose a direction and began walking down the passageway... There's a total of three days, and it's only just begun. Qin Fang had already spent quite a bit of time on this single Crouching Tiger Grass and was not keen on wasting anymore.

Perhaps before entering the maze inside this mountain belly, Qin Fang already knew there were various treasures hidden within, yet he wouldn't pay special attention to them.

After all, Qin Fang already had plenty of good items on hand and didn't care much for ordinary treasures... But now, it's different.

Discovering the Crouching Tiger Grass, and having put in quite an effort to obtain it, this made Qin Fang extremely excited and happy inside...

"Superb Spiritual Medicine is probably unlikely, but there are likely quite a few rare herbs!"

Qin Fang muttered silently to himself.

Spiritual Medicine, whether it be for Eastern or Western masters, is an incredibly precious treasure, though their understanding and usage differ somewhat.

However, the existence of Spiritual Medicine is quite scarce, with almost every plant being strictly controlled, rarely seen outside.

Devil's Island is the same, filled with masters and offering quite a good cultivation environment, perhaps the island also contains Spiritual Medicine.

But such precious treasures are surely carefully protected, surrounded by horrifyingly powerful masters.

Placed inside this maze for trialists to pick?

Just thinking about it, you know it's impossible!

Spiritual Medicine, only living Spiritual Medicine is most precious, continuously releasing Spiritual Energy, producing potent Spiritual Liquid.

If the Spiritual Medicine is dead, then it's just a one-time Spiritual Medicine; whether consumed directly or used in alchemy, it can still provide the greatest effect, but it's a one-off transaction. Once consumed or used, it's gone...

This is the reason why Qin Fang is certain there can't be Spiritual Medicine inside this maze... If trialists found Spiritual Medicine, they would absolutely risk their lives to pick it.

These trialists can only stay on the island for about a month, and inside the maze, only three days. Exceeding this limit requires departure.

No matter the benefit of Spiritual Medicine, if there's no time to interact with it, it's meaningless... In that case, it would be better to pick it and take it off Devil's Island, then find a way to consume or refine it, bringing the maximum benefits.

The masters on Devil's Island would never allow such things to happen, so Spiritual Medicine shouldn't be growing in this maze.

Qin Fang doesn't expect to find Spiritual Medicine here. Its scarcity and value are too high; getting it would be more trouble for him.

With so many masters on the island, Great Grandmaster levels are as common as dogs. For a mere Grandmaster-level skilled fighter, he truly lacks the strength to resist.

Even if you add in his dad Qin Tiannan, also a Great Grandmaster-level, it's like throwing a stone into the ocean, barely causing a ripple!

Without Spiritual Medicine, Qin Fang isn't too concerned; he already has the Peerless Elixir Golden Dragon Saliva and living Spiritual Medicine Lingyuan Grass... With these, Qin Fang's interest in other Spiritual Medicines is, indeed, quite low.

However, Qin Fang's interest in other rare herbs is exceedingly high. He has several recipes, but due to lacking these rare herbs as materials, they're left on the shelf.

Though Qin Fang has arranged for people to search all over for these rare herbs, even if their quantity is much more than Spiritual Medicine, they are still incredibly scarce.

Coming across even one plant is luck beyond measure... Let alone finding several at once, or even worrying about the types.

"It's such a rare opportunity, I can't be too polite..."

This maze has given Qin Fang a golden opportunity, with many rare herbs indeed growing inside.

Though it's riddled with various dangers, Qin Fang confidently believes he'll make it through. As long as he can grab these rare herbs, even facing a mountain of knives or a sea of flames, Qin Fang is determined to push forward.

For a moment, Qin Fang had nothing to say as he continued traveling down the passageway, naturally riddled with thorns and endless traps.

Gradually, Qin Fang even noticed some poisonous insects and fierce beasts also living here, equally posing considerable threats.

"There's someone..."

Suddenly, Qin Fang's mini-map showed a person, quite close, about seven or eight meters away.

The reason for the proximity without detection was due to two thick stone walls separating them...

Though they were parallel and close, neither knew the other was nearby... However, Qin Fang could certainly detect the presence from the mini-map.

"A Modified Human..."

Chapter 2025 - A Big Fat Sheep! (Part 2)

However, the real reason Qin Fang noticed this person was that he turned out to be a Modified Human, a master from America.

Before the official start of the trial, while waiting on that Little Island, Qin Fang had already gotten into a conflict with those few guys due to the relationship between Lin Shinan and his wife, Shadow.

Among them, the Modified Human from America made Qin Fang quite curious... Compared to other masters who all rely on arduous training or slaughter to slowly build terrifying strength, these Modified Humans rely in part on technological modifications to gain great power.

This is a quick but dehumanizing path... At least Qin Fang himself finds it somewhat unacceptable.

But the issue is, America seems quite enthusiastic about it and has indeed created quite a number of Modified Humans, gradually making a name in the Underground World.

Of course, the power of Modified Humans comes too easily, but it's also at a high cost, one thing is for sure... They are basically short-lived, and don't live long!

This flaw is quite fatal!

Thus, America has been continually researching this aspect, creating various nutritional liquids to enhance the vitality of these Modified Humans.

And Qin Fang heard from Lin Shinan that America seems to have discovered certain herbs that can effectively boost vitality... Among them, the Spiritual Liquid refined from Spiritual Medicine is the most effective!

Of course, Spiritual Medicine is too rare, and Spiritual Liquid is also too precious; with so many Modified Humans, even a couple of Spiritual Medicines' refined Spiritual Liquid isn't enough to distribute.

Thus, these Americans settled for second best by using slightly inferior herbs to refine nutritional liquids that enhance vitality.

"This is such a waste..."

And almost after knowing the intentions of these Americans, Qin Fang had furiously cursed, these rare herbs look like treasures, yet are merely used to enhance the vitality of these monstrous beings which is simply a heinous waste!

If it were just like this, Qin Fang would merely be very dissatisfied with these Americans, very disdainful of these Modified Humans, but wouldn't do much.

But the problem is, Qin Fang found some issues with this American Modified Human!

"On his hands..."

With Qin Fang's Scouting Skill, he conducted reconnaissance through the small map on this Modified Human, and soon the results were fed back, causing Qin Fang's heart to slightly tremble.

"Damn, this guy's luck is really extraordinary..."

Qin Fang already considered himself quite lucky; having been here for just two or three hours, he found a piece of Crouching Tiger Grass.

But unexpectedly, this American Modified Human, who was very close to him, had even better luck than Qin Fang...

Not only did he manage to get his hands on a rare herb similar to Crouching Tiger Grass, but he even acquired the Luminous Pearl that every Trialist strives to find.

This means that if this guy didn't want to continue searching for treasures, he just needed to find a safe corner to squat, survive until the three-day limit ends, and he could safely leave this Mountain Maze!

"Heh heh, if I hadn't discovered it, I might have let it pass... After all, out of sight, out of mind... But since I've discovered it, then... I won't let it go!"

But despite how good the luck of this Modified Human was, a strange smile appeared on Qin Fang's face, his expression cunning, obviously plotting something.

"Hurry and find a path to chase him, can't let him escape..."

Qin Fang dared not delay for even a moment, immediately started running, constantly expanding the small map's coverage as much as possible.

Though the small map covered a good range, it was still a bit too small compared to the enormous maze.

Therefore, Qin Fang needed to open up a larger map to find the path the other person had taken through the maze.

This is much like opening a map in a network game; being inside, one naturally can't view the whole scenario.

But if a flat map of the maze were made, Qin Fang could easily find the quickest route to catch up with that Modified Human.

Though lacking some necessary items, relying on yourself is better than relying on others, so Qin Fang planned to create this flat map himself.

Qin Fang's memory is quite remarkable, and combined with his own equipment that's almost unbeatable, the Props Box has almost everything.

He directly took out a computer and, according to Qin Fang's route, quickly drew a map of the area's terrain...

As Qin Fang continued to expand the map's scope, the terrain map gradually became connected, slowly forming a small-scale flat map.

This map is only a flat map of this small area; for the entire maze, it's just a small corner that doesn't affect the overall situation much.

Nevertheless, for Qin Fang, it was already a pretty good start.

Maps are drawn gradually, can't be done in one go; each place can have a map of the region drawn, which slowly accumulates to gradually expand the entire maze's flat map.

Chapter 2026 - A Big Fat Sheep!

Qin Fang believed that as long as he had enough time, he could even map out the entire maze...

If it really came to that, this maze would pose no threat to Qin Fang, and he could even pinpoint the locations of traps and mechanisms within it.

Of course, Qin Fang had no interest in doing something that would benefit future generations... Those who could make it to Devil's Island were not innocent; they were almost all villains from the Underground World.

Qin Fang felt no obligation to consider these people; in fact, he would be happy to see as many of them die as possible!

"This path is doable..."

Qin Fang's efforts were not in vain. After spending nearly half an hour, he managed to connect the path they were following with the path he took on this maze's map...

This meant that Qin Fang could now pursue the American Modified Human, whose whereabouts were already unknown at the moment.

"A rare herb and a Luminous Pearl... Opportunities like this are quite rare! Especially since there's been no sign of a third person along the way..."

Having found the path, the smile on Qin Fang's face grew brighter, and he quickly pursued along this route.

During Qin Fang's previous pathfinding, he hadn't encountered a third person, indicating that there were no other trialists in this area for the time being.

There was no helping it; the mountain's size was quite large, so the maze within its belly was also enormous. With only nineteen trialists scattered throughout the maze, it's understandable that they wouldn't cross paths often.

However, such non-encounters weren't inevitable; the trialists were surely constantly searching for treasures or Luminous Pearls.

The chances of running into each other while moving were relatively high...

After all, as traps and mechanisms were disarmed by experts, reducing the danger, the competition for treasures and Luminous Pearls would become fiercer, inevitably leading to chaotic battles upon encounters.

Just like that American Modified Human, Qin Fang didn't know if he had already fought someone for the herb and Luminous Pearl...

At least in getting the Crouching Tiger Grass, Qin Fang had a fierce conflict with A-San from India, but Qin Fang was more skilled and managed to outwit A-San without a direct fight, effortlessly seizing the Crouching Tiger Grass...

As for that A-San from India, he naturally became an unfortunate loser!

If Qin Fang could do this, others surely could too, perhaps even more ruthlessly...

"It seems this American's strength is quite formidable..."

However, after Qin Fang followed the path the Modified Human had taken, he couldn't help but mutter because all the traps and mechanisms along the way had been triggered, yet they didn't seem to have harmed the Modified Human...

Of course, Qin Fang didn't find any blood or bodies along the path but did discover a place similar to where Crouching Tiger Grass grew.

Clearly, this was likely the location where the rare herb the Modified Human obtained grew...

"No, I need to hurry up!"

Qin Fang hadn't found any other notable locations, like where a Luminous Pearl might be hidden, but by now, he couldn't see the Modified Human's location anymore, making Qin Fang a bit anxious.

Earlier, he had thoroughly explored the area he traversed in search of the path but didn't encounter a third person.

Meanwhile, the direction the American took was the opposite of Qin Fang's; there were no people in this direction, so the chances of encountering someone in the other direction were significantly higher.

"Two items... I can't just let someone else benefit from them for nothing!"

Precisely because of this, Qin Fang grew even more anxious... After all, it was not easy to find such a Fat Sheep, and yet it might be snatched by someone else; that would make him feel like spitting blood!

"Dammit, not this bad luck..."

However, the more you fear something, the more likely it is to happen.

The American Modified Human cleared the path for Qin Fang, allowing Qin Fang to go full speed in pursuit, but after nearly an hour, when Qin Fang once again spotted the American, he also found traces of a third person.

And coincidentally, the Modified Human and the third person were moving toward each other. Based on Qin Fang's understanding of the map, they were going to collide in just a minute or two.

But Qin Fang would need at least three to five minutes to catch up with the American Modified Human...

Of course, by then, it wouldn't matter.

Even if Qin Fang caught up with the American, the third trialist would immediately encounter both him and the American.

"Looks like I'll have to play the 'mantis stalks the cicada' game again..."

After hesitating for a moment, Qin Fang decided to slow down and let these two trialists fight it out first. Once they both suffered, Qin Fang would jump in and pick up the spoils!

Not long ago, Qin Fang had just scored big by picking up a bargain; of course, he hoped he could snag another one...

But will it really be like that?

Two minutes passed quickly, and the two trialists soon met...

"Oh crap... this is ridiculous!"

However, the outcome of the encounter between the two trialists made Qin Fang feel an urge to cough up blood!

Why did Qin Fang feel this way?

"These two guys are actually together... unbelievable!"

Although Qin Fang didn't approach directly, he checked the two trialists' movements on the mini-map and was shocked to find that after their encounter, they instantly unified under the same banner.

This alignment made Qin Fang want to spit blood and immediately realize that these two were on the same team... Instead of fighting, they had actually formed a small alliance!

Chapter 2027 Quasi-Spirit Beast!

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Such a result is truly frustrating, leaving Qin Fang speechless.

He initially planned to take advantage again, but things didn't go according to his expected script at all.

In fact, the plot took a dramatic turn... so much so that Qin Fang felt like spitting several liters of blood!

"Give up?"

These two trialists were teamed up, both having strong abilities, and both were Grandmaster-level experts and Modified Humans.

If it were one-on-one, Qin Fang was confident he could take down any opponent, even if they were Modified Humans, without changing the outcome.

But now that the two were together, it wasn't so simple... Qin Fang could kill one, but the other Modified Human would certainly inflict serious harm on him.

This was beyond dispute...

Qin Fang's strength was indeed slightly superior to these trialists, but not to an absurd extent.

Moreover, these Modified Humans had been enhanced in certain ways, turning them into monstrous figures neither fully human nor ghost, likely as ferocious and fearless as the Strange Fish encountered before...

These were precisely the opponents Qin Fang least wanted to face; he'd rather fight powerful Martial Arts Experts than deal with these reckless maniacs!

Thus, Qin Fang felt a bit hesitant in his heart, pondering whether to give up chasing this "Fat Sheep."

Fat Sheep are common, but staying alive is more important... He could continue searching for medicine and Luminous Pearls, but the odds of suffering losses trying to take down these two Modified Humans were as high as seventy or eighty percent.

"Unwilling..."

Yet, truly giving up on this Fat Sheep was something Qin Fang found hard to swallow, especially since such a chance to acquire medicines and a Luminous Pearl at once might only come now.

As for the latter half of the trials, perhaps many other trialists would already possess treasures and Luminous Pearls, but the competition would be more brutal then, with the field further complicated.

Perhaps now Qin Fang only needed to face two trialists, but later it could be three to six...

"No, let's follow and see..."

After hesitating for a moment, Qin Fang decided it wasn't time to give up yet and secretly followed along the path.

"A head-on fight likely won't succeed, but a Sneak Attack... might have a chance!"

This was Qin Fang's current thinking, and indeed the only way to resolve this troublesome situation.

For now, everything was still within Qin Fang's expectations, but whether future developments would again take a turn only heaven knew.

Qin Fang moved quickly, and he wasn't far from the two Modified Humans. After they met, exchanged a few words, they continued in one direction.

Of course, they weren't heading towards Qin Fang; that "Fat Sheep" had already acquired two items in this direction and had no reason to turn back.

The other Modified Human was still empty-handed, and it seemed they planned to join forces to seize more treasure or Luminous Pearls...

The Mountain Maze was massive, with paths intricately intertwined, sometimes connected, sometimes dead-ended.

To find a complete path required relentless exploration of each route...

After all, Qin Fang could utilize his Scouting Skill's mini-map advantage to gradually uncover the nearby maze, but others lacked such capability.

In other words, Qin Fang could know in advance which path led through and which was a dead end...

Cautiously following the two Modified Humans, Qin Fang slowly probed ahead, with the map expanding continuously.

However, at this large map, besides him and the two Modified Humans, it seemed there were no signs of a fourth person...

This relieved Qin Fang somewhat, as he wasn't yet wanting other trialists to become involved.

"If only those two would split up!"

Looking at the pathways on the map, Qin Fang couldn't help muttering, though he knew it would be difficult to achieve.

Diverting those two Modified Humans wasn't easy... they were quite cunning figures themselves.

Following behind them for over half an hour, Qin Fang still hadn't been noticed by them.

With those two clearing the traps and mechanisms ahead, it allowed Qin Fang to walk smoothly, without worrying about accidentally falling into traps.

The traps in this maze were mostly set based on the arts of the Thousand Gate. Those knowledgeable in these arts could pass easily without triggering any trap.

But these two Modified Humans from America were different, relying solely on their strong bodies and ferocious strength to force their way through.

Chapter 2028 Quasi-Spirit Beast! (Part 2)

The advantage of using force is that Qin Fang can easily follow them without needing to make a move himself... this significantly reduces the chances of being exposed.

"Hmm..."

As he walked, a slight anomaly suddenly appeared on Qin Fang's mini-map, which surprised him a bit, but then a look of delight crossed his face as he muttered to himself, "Here's the opportunity..."

At this moment, the two modified humans had reached a point in the maze where two strange diverging paths appeared in front of them...

In such a maze, this was a common occurrence, but these two paths had their own peculiarities.

The corridor suddenly narrowed significantly, and each path could only accommodate one person passing through smoothly. If two were to proceed, they would have to go one after the other.

"Hehe, let's see which one you'll choose?"

Qin Fang silently trailed behind them, waiting for these two modified humans to make a choice.

Qin Fang didn't care about their choice, because whichever path they chose, it was advantageous to him.

Either they each choose a different path... that way, it would be as if the two were acting separately.

One-on-one, Qin Fang wasn't afraid of either of these two modified humans. He would definitely take this opportunity to deal with this "fat sheep" first.

Or they both choose one path, proceeding one after another... thus, Qin Fang could follow and then launch a sneak attack, using the most ferocious moves to take out one modified human first.

Eliminate one, and only one remains... and due to the positions, Qin Fang would confront the one in the front directly, and this modified human wouldn't be able to intercept or ambush Qin Fang...

As long as no one ambushes Qin Fang while he's sneak attacking, the scales of victory would tilt in his favor!

Of course, the two trialists could choose to retreat without choosing either path... however, this would waste an hour or two of their time.

Qin Fang believed that these two modified humans wouldn't make such a choice... they wouldn't waste time in this manner.

Moreover, these two narrow passages are likely designed by the maze, potentially hiding treasures deep within.

Qin Fang could think of this, and there's no reason the modified humans couldn't.

"I don't believe you won't be tempted this time..."

Qin Fang smiled as he watched the two modified humans, waiting for them to make their final decision while he also began to make some preparations.

Modified humans are different from ordinary flesh and blood, especially since Qin Fang had followed them enough to gain some understanding of their bodies.

One of the modified humans is a beastman who probably has the genes of a fierce beast, possessing immense strength and incredible speed.

If Qin Fang's estimation was correct, this beastman is currently in a normal state and might unleash beastly transformations when facing danger, becoming a violent fierce beast, with its strength increasing tremendously in an instant.

The other appears to be a metal transformed person similar to Wolverine, with terrifying defensive capabilities. The strong crossbow bolts from traps couldn't penetrate his body, only piercing his skin at most...

At the same time, his attack power is formidable, seemingly armed with extremely sharp, sturdy, and lethal weapons on his wrists, capable of penetrating even the hardest stone walls with one strike!

"I wonder how it compares to my Flowing Shadow Divine Sword..."

Even Qin Fang couldn't help but murmur to himself, indicating how ferocious this weapon is, but these two modified humans indeed made Qin Fang feel immense pressure.

"They split up..."

At this moment, the two modified humans seemed to have made a decision, each choosing a separate path to proceed.

This outcome was exactly what Qin Fang hoped for, and now his dream had finally come true, making him extremely pleased...

Perhaps these two modified humans were overly confident in their skills and daring, after having dismantled so many traps, they chose to walk separate paths...

In Qin Fang's estimation, the likelihood of something good being in such narrow paths is very high, but the associated risks are also significant.

If the two were to look out for each other, the risks might be reduced, but with just one person, the risks increased significantly.

Of course, in a corridor so narrow, neither could maneuver well, so if danger struck, having two wouldn't necessarily be better than one.

Perhaps this was the reasoning behind the two modified humans' decision to take separate paths.

"Fat sheep, let's see how you escape this time?"

Qin Fang didn't care about what the modified humans were thinking. Seeing them each proceed down a path and move slowly forward, a bright smile appeared on Qin Fang's face, and he cheerfully pursued the "fat sheep."

Chapter 2029 Quasi-Spirit Beast! (Part 3)

Another modified human is actually slightly weaker than this "fat sheep" that Qin Fang is pursuing, only at the Grandmaster-level Initial Stage.

Such an opponent might seem easier for Qin Fang to kill... But in reality, this seemingly weaker modified human is actually the strongest, because he is a beastman!

Beastmen can use beast transformation skills, completely transforming into fierce beasts, with their power surging significantly, possibly advancing from the Grandmaster-level Initial Stage to the Master Level Late-Stage.

In such a narrow passage, Qin Fang's movement technique is difficult to execute, and his advantage becomes somewhat suppressed...

While beastmen are also suppressed, their ferocious attacks can deal tremendous damage to Qin Fang... Qin Fang can certainly kill them, but the cost might be substantial.

Moreover, this beastman doesn't carry any treasures, as the rare herb and the Luminous Pearl are all on the "Wolverine".

If Qin Fang decides to hunt down the beastman, it would indeed be a case of missing the forest for the trees...

Killing enemies is not Qin Fang's current aim; he only desires to collect more treasures and leave this labyrinth safely in three days!

Following this "fat sheep," Qin Fang also entered the passageway, stealthily moving deeper into the tunnel, tracing the steps of the "fat sheep."

However, while Qin Fang disappeared into the depths of this narrow tunnel, the beastman who chose another passage also leisurely emerged from there and entered the same tunnel as Qin Fang...

In other words, the three are now walking the same path.

Originally, the two modified humans were moving together, with Qin Fang following them... Now it has turned into two modified humans walking in sequence, and Qin Fang is sandwiched between them!

This situation is clearly quite unfavorable for Qin Fang... If these two modified humans execute a direct "sandwich attack," Qin Fang would be flanked, facing imminent danger!

Yet, Qin Fang at this moment is evidently unaware of the impending crisis, still fixated on the "cicada" ahead, like a mantis stalking.

The three maintain a certain distance, advancing slowly into the depths of the passageway, but Qin Fang's gaze remains focused on the "fat sheep" ahead, while the beastman behind, due to the distance, goes unnoticed...

"Oh... He stopped!"

After an uncertain period of time, the "fat sheep" ahead suddenly ceased its movement, catching Qin Fang's attention immediately.

Having followed these two modified humans for so long, Qin Fang is acutely aware of their style; mechanisms or traps are ignored entirely, only treasures or Luminous Pearls garner their notice.

Naturally, fierce beasts like strange fish would also cause them to remain vigilant...

The "fat sheep" stopping implies that something must have been discovered ahead.

"Treasures? Luminous Pearls? Or some fierce beast?"

Various possibilities swiftly cross Qin Fang's mind, prompting cautious advancement towards the front.

To maximize his combat prowess, Qin Fang intends to launch a sneak attack on the modified human, avoiding any attention.

"Damn..."

But as Qin Fang gradually approaches the front, he begins to understand why this modified human stopped, prompting him to curse involuntarily.

"Is this... a spiritual beast?"

Not only is the modified human stunned, but Qin Fang is also incredulous, swallowing nervously, muttering cautiously to himself.

Not far from the modified human, in the passageway, appears a snake-like creature, not overly large, but emanating an incredibly powerful aura.

Qin Fang even suspects that his Snow Fox Ferret, on the verge of advancing to the Spirit Beast Level, doesn't possess such an aura...

Of course, while formidable, it pales in comparison to the mysterious Divine Beast, Little Dragon.

"No, it's a quasi-spirit beast... about to advance!"

Qin Fang's scouting skill soon reveals the reconnaissance results, causing a slight chill and a hint of excitement in his heart.

If it were a true spiritual beast, then it would be akin to a Great Grandmaster-level expert, potentially even more formidable.

Facing such a spiritual beast, both Qin Fang and the modified human are helpless, avoiding provoking it is best; otherwise, death is certain...

However, this creature before them isn't a complete spiritual beast, only that it's crossed the initial threshold, yet hasn't fully advanced.

This is somewhat similar to Qin Fang's previous state... akin to advancing, but due to insufficient absorbed energy, it remains stuck there; only with later consolidation does true advancement occur!

"This is a treasure! Really an unparalleled treasure..."

Faced with the quasi-spirit beast, Qin Fang's eyes gleam green...

Among everything encountered on Devil's Island, this quasi-spirit beast stands as the first to truly make Qin Fang covetous.

Other things like Netherworld Blood Pool and Netherworld Ghost Lotus remain far from maturity, thus fail to catch Qin Fang's interest.

This quasi-spirit beast, however, truly captivates Qin Fang... It's a higher realm than Little Mink, mere days from becoming a powerful spiritual beast!

"Just need to harvest its inner core, Little Mink would surely advance into a true spiritual beast..." Qin Fang calls out in his mind!

Chapter 2030 - Three-eyed Viper

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It was precisely because of this thought that Qin Fang looked at this quasi-spirit beast with such an eerie gaze, showing greed for the first time.

"Deep Sea Three-Eyed Krait..."

Based on the scouting skill results, Qin Fang learned the name of this serpent-like quasi-spirit beast in front of him, but he couldn't help but frown slightly.

"Venomous serpent of the ocean..."

This is a venomous serpent from the deep sea. Upon careful observation, one can see a third eye on its forehead, truly deserving of the name "Three-Eyed."

The deep sea has always been off-limits to humans; even with the current technological advancements, humanity has yet to fully explore it.

At most, they would dispatch deep-sea submarines for reconnaissance, but only for rough scientific exploration or to search for minerals and the like.

However, humans still know very little about the creatures of the deep sea...

Although there have been documentaries about deep-sea creatures on television, compared to the vast ocean, that is just a mere glimpse, far from true understanding of the deep sea.

Naturally, Qin Fang felt the same way; he was completely in the dark about the deep sea...

Just like the Deep Sea Three-Eyed Krait before him, Qin Fang had neither seen nor even heard of it before.

Especially since this serpent is not only immensely powerful, reaching the quasi-spirit beast level, but also quite unique with its three eyes.

Moreover, the venom of this serpent is extraordinarily potent, even more so than the mutated Snow Fox Ferret... estimated to be much stronger than the world's top ten poisons!

"It's said that the most venomous serpents in the world come from the oceans; this truly proves that right..."

Qin Fang muttered to himself, as the venom of this Three-Eyed Krait indeed exceeded his expectations... Just based on this alone, the Three-Eyed Krait could easily dominate its territory.

In fact, the strength of this Three-Eyed Krait far surpasses typical fierce beasts, with most of its foot already stepping into the spirit beast level, only a little more time needed for complete progression.

Such a formidable quasi-spirit beast is definitely one to make people feel despair...

"What exactly is it guarding?"

However, Qin Fang did not fear this Three-Eyed Krait; instead, he was quite excited and increasingly intrigued by the treasure it may be hiding.

"Could it be a spiritual medicine?"

In such a narrow passage, being guarded by such a terrifyingly powerful, venomous Three-Eyed Krait does convince Qin Fang that there might be a spiritual medicine inside.

Even if he previously suspected there wasn't a spiritual medicine, his thoughts were now wavering... with such a fierce guardian, perhaps it's even safer than being guarded by an ordinary Great Grandmaster level expert.

"Even if it's not a spiritual medicine, it must be a very rare treasure..."

While he couldn't be certain that the stronger the guardian beast, the better the treasure, because fierce beasts have their own choices, they choose things closest to them.

But one thing is certain, the Three-Eyed Krait, this quasi-spirit beast before him, is highly likely guarding a spiritual medicine.

With its current strength, just consuming the spiritual medicine, or even some of its juice, would be enough for it to solidify its power and progress to become a spirit beast.

Of course, Devil's Island probably wouldn't want a Three-Eyed Krait to consume a spiritual medicine, at least not a mature one.

Spirit beasts or quasi-spirit beasts perceive spiritual medicine maturity more clearly than humans; they know when it will ripen and will wait patiently.

Such as grabbing and rushing things along, with their wisdom, is clearly not something they'll do, knowing that premature action significantly reduces the benefits.

But no matter how it turns out, concerning the Three-Eyed Krait before him, Qin Fang really doesn't have a better choice...

First, it's blocking Qin Fang's path forward; it's rather tough to turn back now, especially in such a narrow passage. Even though Qin Fang has qinggong techniques, in terms of speed, he cannot compete with the Three-Eyed Krait.

Second, this is a quasi-spirit beast, with an already formed "inner core" ... this is the hallmark of becoming a powerful spirit beast.

Although the Three-Eyed Krait has not fully progressed, this inner core has already taken form, at least a "pseudo-elixir," only needing sufficient energy absorption to fully become a real core.

The inner core is akin to the dantian of human martial artists, gathering the spirit beast's essence, it's the source of energy essence... nearly equates to more than half of the spirit beast's power, even reaching three-fourths.

The Three-Eyed Krait before him is a quasi-spirit beast, and although its inner core is a pseudo-elixir, it has amassed considerable energy, possibly half of all its energy.

Such a massive energy, if consumed by the Snow Fox Ferret, along with those Lingyuan Fruits Qin Fang has, there's absolute certainty it could advance the Snow Fox Ferret into a spirit beast.

Naturally, coming to Devil's Island made it inconvenient to bring Little Mink, so Qin Fang left it with Monk Wukong and others, mainly to support Qin Zi.