

Genius 861

Chapter 861 - Blasting Shangguan Tianling_2

This was also a critical point in the human body, especially for martial artists. If the Inner Breath and Palm Energy were released, it would directly injure the kidneys and lung lobes... At the same time, it would also shake the internal organs, and if things went wrong, it could lead to a mishap in the Inner Breath. At that time, without Shangguan Tianling launching a second move, Qin Fang would have suffered backlash from his own Inner Breath, and he would have disabled himself.

"Hmph!"

But facing such an onslaught from Shangguan Tianling, Qin Fang did not choose to retreat. Instead, he twisted his arm, forcefully using his elbow to block Shangguan Tianling's Palm Energy.

Bang~~~

In an instant, the two exchanged blows, and Shangguan Tianling's Palm Energy collided with Qin Fang's arm, emitting a muffled sound.

A fierce look appeared on Shangguan Tianling's face, and he scorned in his heart, thinking, "What an idiot! If you had thrown a punch, I might have worried that you had Hidden Weapons again. Could there possibly be Hidden Weapons in your elbow?"

Such a thought was of course very reasonable. This arm had already concealed a Military Spike before, and it was bent naturally, so it was impossible to hide anything else.

Without Hidden Weapons to surprise him, Shangguan Tianling certainly did not take Qin Fang seriously. His Palm Energy surged wildly, and such a terrifying force was enough to break Qin Fang's arm... With the loss of an arm, Qin Fang's combat power would have drastically decreased.

However...

Very soon, Shangguan Tianling's expression changed dramatically, turning extremely ugly, as if he had just lost a dear father, because... his palm strike had not gained the slightest advantage.

The violent Palm Energy hit Qin Fang's arm, but Qin Fang did not fly backward like in the previous two instances. Instead, he did not move at all, as if such force was nothing more than a tickle to him.

"This..."

Shangguan Tianling truly could not believe what was happening.

He knew his own strength all too well, and he had also exerted his full power in that palm strike, but the outcome was on an entirely different level from the last time.

Why was this the case?

Shangguan Tianling's mind was filled with doubts, and his thoughts were all question marks.

But he didn't have much time to think about these, since his attack had ended, and Qin Fang had immediately started to counterattack, with a massive fist coming straight at him.

Not far away, Lei Peng was also surprised, vaguely feeling that something was not right. His uncle Shangguan Tianling seemed to have become as weak as a septuagenarian, that Palm Energy so light, seemingly without any force...

While Shangguan Tianling felt that his Palm Energy was threatening, Lei Peng, an onlooker, thought it was powerless. If it weren't for knowing that the two were engaged in a life-and-death struggle, anyone completely unfamiliar with them would definitely think they were faking the fight...

Filled with doubts, but Lei Peng also couldn't question his uncle, especially since Shangguan Tianling had just been tricked by Qin Fang. He initially thought that Shangguan Tianling had become more cautious.

Overall, even though Qin Fang had a bit of an indestructible "Xiao Qiang" quality, there was no way he could stand up against Shangguan Tianling in terms of strength!

But... he quickly felt his worldview turned upside down because Qin Fang's counterattack immediately showed its effectiveness!

Qin Fang's fist came straight for him with astonishing momentum and horrifying force, almost going all out, even reaching twelve points of combat power.

Shangguan Tianling was a Grandmaster-level Expert, with much stronger combat sense than Qin Fang. With a slight movement of his body, he turned his hand into a fist, trying to land a Heavy Strike on Qin Fang.

But Qin Fang, as if he had activated a speed hack, moved even faster than Shangguan Tianling. Before Shangguan Tianling could intercept, the fist had already heavily hit Shangguan Tianling's nose...

Bang~~

Blood burst forth!

This time it was no longer Qin Fang's blood. Grandmaster-level Shangguan Tianling received such a heavy punch on the nose, immediately spouting nosebleeds. At the same time, the strong punch caused Shangguan Tianling to stagger, taking several quick steps backward, almost falling on his bottom.

"How is this possible?"

Both Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling were unbelievably shocked, because Qin Fang had achieved what seemed nearly impossible!

A Grandmaster-level expert such as Shangguan Tianling was actually beaten to a bloody nose by Qin Fang, who was not a Grandmaster level?

If this were to spread, probably the entire Dragon Country Martial World would think it's a joke...

But the fact was just that, Qin Fang's fist and Shangguan Tianling's still streaming nosebleed were the best proof, and even Qin Fang's fist was stained with Shangguan Tianling's blood!

"I got hit?"

When Qin Fang's heavy fist landed squarely on his nose, the instant pain nearly dumbfounded Shangguan Tianling.

It wasn't that he'd never been hit by anyone: within the Heavenly Pool Sect, Shangguan Tianling's strength was not outstanding. There were at least ten experts stronger than him. Basically, whenever he went up against these people, he'd often come out injured.

But those were injuries caused by peers of the same level, whereas this time... he was actually hit by a non-Grandmaster-level expert!

If the previous time Qin Fang had plotted against him with a sneak attack, then this time it was a plain and simple beat down...

Why did this happen?

Shangguan Tianling racked his brain but couldn't understand how this had transpired.

"Uncle... seems slower!"

It was Lei Peng in the distance who vaguely noticed something amiss—that Shangguan Tianling's speed and reactions were much slower than before, not at all like a Grandmaster-level expert. Even the dodge from that punch, Lei Peng himself would have been quicker than Shangguan Tianling...

But clearly, Shangguan Tianling could not figure out the root of the problem, his heart already filled with humiliation and rage, focus only on harboring animosity towards Qin Fang.

Getting up from the ground, he wiped away a streak of nosebleed. The deep crimson stain was so glaring, even more so than the blood that flowed from the palm pierced by the military spike earlier.

"I will kill you! Tear you to a thousand pieces!"

He uttered every word with a pause, his aura growing incrementally as his entire being seemed to become even more dangerous.

"That's exactly what I want to say to you..."

But Qin Fang was not a bit worried; on the contrary, his face showed deep disdain as he strongly retorted, his body moving slightly and swiftly advancing towards Shangguan Tianling once more.

Qin Fang's speed was still as fast, seeming unchanged and without significant increase. Shangguan Tianling, already burning with rage, met the attack head-on. He refused to believe that he, a Grandmaster-level expert, could possibly be defeated by a non-Grandmaster nobody...

"Even slower..."

But as he moved to counter-attack, feeling good about himself, Lei Peng's frown deepened from a distance. Shangguan Tianling's reactions, his speed, everything had slowed down, this time even more so than before!

Bang~~

Before Lei Peng could comment, Qin Fang and Shangguan Tianling collided once again, their bodies slamming into each other with a contest of sheer strength. Subsequently, one of them ultimately couldn't withstand it and was blasted away...

But this time, it wasn't Qin Fang; it was unmistakably Shangguan Tianling!

He was actually sent flying by Qin Fang...

Shangguan Tianling was stunned, bewildered... completely flabbergasted!

Yet Qin Fang didn't leave him much time to ponder. He moved quickly, covering the distance over which Shangguan Tianling flew in the blink of an eye. With a slight leap, he took a higher position and viciously kicked down. The terrifying force exploded out in an instant, and Shangguan Tianling, already without any support, was fiercely slammed to the ground by Qin Fang's kick. Even his head was ruthlessly stepped on under Qin Fang's foot...

Shangguan Tianling was utterly crushed by Qin Fang...

Chapter 862 - Killing the Grandmaster Level Shangguan Tianling

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Shangguan Tianling was stunned...

Lei Peng was stunned...

Only Qin Fang had a radiant smile on his face, looking down on Shangguan Tianling whom he was stepping on with an air of superiority.

The once haughty and domineering, self-important grandmaster-level expert Shangguan Tianling, was ruthlessly crushed by Qin Fang, not only bowing his lofty head but even getting trampled under Qin Fang's foot.

This was not just a simple defeat, it was utter humiliation, a ruthless humiliation that almost completely stripped Shangguan Tianling of all his dignity!

If someone could have snapped a picture of this scene, it was estimated that Shangguan Tianling, even if he had survived and walked away from here today, would have no face left to live in this world, for all his dignity had been mercilessly ripped away by Qin Fang.

"I will kill you... wu wu wu!"

Being stepped on by Qin Fang was the greatest humiliation Shangguan Tianling had ever suffered since birth, an unprecedented humiliation. His hatred for Qin Fang had surpassed many things, and the only obsession in his heart was to kill Qin Fang.

But his roar was met with Qin Fang's foot viciously stomping on his mouth, forcibly muffling his roar inside it. This humiliation was even more direct.

"Sorry, you no longer have that chance... Shangguan Tianling, I hope you won't be so arrogant in your next life... Young master here will send you to reincarnation today!"

Clearly, Qin Fang had no intention of ending things that easily. Shangguan Tianling had repeatedly tried to put him in a life-threatening situation, and Qin Fang was never one to show mercy to such an enemy.

In the midst of speaking, Qin Fang lifted his leg high and then mercilessly slammed it down towards Shangguan Tianling's chest.

This strike was absolutely powerful and thunderous, clearly meant to kill.

Shangguan Tianling showed a look of fear and almost instinctively wanted to dodge, but his body was as if all bones had been broken, without the strength to even move, let alone the fact that a previous fierce kick from Qin Fang had already seriously injured him...

Having lost his grandmaster-level strength, Shangguan Tianling had become a lamb waiting to be slaughtered. All his previous arrogance and disdain for everything had turned into a joke. He didn't even have the strength to flee and could only watch helplessly as Qin Fang's leg fell down on him...

Death was so close to him for the first time!

Even when he had his epiphany during a brush with death in the past, it was not as impactful as this time...

Dodging was no longer possible; facing Qin Fang's offensive, his only option was to close his eyes and wait for death!

"Stop!"

However, the scene was not only about Shangguan Tianling; there was also Lei Peng, whose strength was not much less than Qin Fang's. He was Shangguan Tianling's nephew by marriage and another assassin who attempted to kill Qin Fang.

Lei Peng had already noticed something was wrong with his uncle Shangguan Tianling, but by the time he fully realized the extent of the issue, it was already too late. Qin Fang had swiftly overpowered Shangguan Tianling and even inflicted severe injuries...

But, Lei Peng could not just sit by and let Shangguan Tianling be killed by Qin Fang, and immediately charged towards Qin Fang's direction; he had to rescue Shangguan Tianling.

Whether it was because Shangguan Tianling was his uncle or for his own sake, he could not just watch as Shangguan Tianling was killed by Qin Fang.

Shangguan Tianling's fate was tied to his chance to quickly break through to the grandmaster level, as well as his own survival. Once Shangguan Tianling died, with his strength, he definitely couldn't defeat Qin Fang, and might even be killed by Qin Fang...

So, watching Qin Fang attempting to kill Shangguan Tianling, Lei Peng could not care less and charged at Qin Fang with a fierce momentum, using the Lei Family's most ferocious move, the Explosive Bear Strike!

The Explosive Bear Strike was nothing new to Qin Fang; after all, he had taken Lei Laohu's Explosive Bear Strike head-on before and ended up completely unharmed...

However, at this moment, Qin Fang had to admit that Lei Peng indeed deserved to be the strongest of the Seven Tigers of the Lei Family. The Explosive Bear Strike he wielded was clearly much stronger than Lei Laohu's.

When Qin Fang had withstood Lei Laohu's Explosive Bear Strike before, he had lost over thirty Life Points, and Lei Peng's strike was even more potent, dangerous enough to threaten Qin Fang's life...

But...

How could Qin Fang have forgotten Lei Peng's presence?

Just as his leg was coming down, Lei Peng brazenly made a move, directly attacking Qin Fang's vital spot, assuming that if Qin Fang dared drop his leg, he could critically injure, or even kill Qin Fang... even though his Explosive Bear Strike was far weaker than the two palms Shangguan Tianling had used previously!

Qin Fang was able to use the Move Flowers and Join the Trees tactic while fighting Shangguan Tianling because he had employed a little trick, using Shangguan Tianling's underestimation of him to narrowly escape danger twice...

But Lei Peng's attack was not aimed at killing him; it was mainly to save Shangguan Tianling, and Lei Peng might even have the intention of fleeing immediately after rescuing him.

After all the planning and the painful price Qin Fang had paid, how could he possibly let the uncle and nephew escape? Wouldn't that render all his efforts in vain?

Chapter 863 - Killing Grandmaster Level Shangguan Tianling_2

This kind of foolish act is something no one would be willing to do, and Qin Fang was even less willing to do it.

"I've been waiting for you..."

Just as Lei Peng was about to close in on him, Qin Fang's body suddenly twisted, tilting to one side as if he was about to fall. Yet it was precisely this movement that allowed him to narrowly dodge Lei Peng's Explosive Bear Strike...

Lei Peng had calculated countless possibilities but likely never considered that Qin Fang had already experienced the Explosive Bear Strike. When he knew he had to take action against the Lei Family, he had specifically researched a counter move against the Explosive Bear Strike...

However, during their fight, Lei Peng didn't use the Explosive Bear Strike but instead used the Tianchi Secret Technique, rendering Qin Fang's trump card useless.

But he had never expected it to come into play at such a moment... and it played a significant role at that!

Having dodged Lei Peng's Explosive Bear Strike, Qin Fang swiftly stood up straight again, and suddenly, a black Military Spike appeared in his hand, which had been empty before, aimed at Lei Peng, who was still unguarded and in shock!

Phew~~

Blood burst forth!

The Military Spike seamlessly penetrated Lei Peng's ribs, burying itself to the hilt and piercing through Lei Peng's lung... Bright red blood spurted out crazily as if it cost nothing!

Qin Fang quickly withdrew and retreated, of course pulling out the Military Spike with him, which caused the bleeding to be even more fierce!

"You... you... you're so ruthless!"

Lei Peng let out a miserable cry while his eyes filled with disbelief. He had not anticipated at all that Qin Fang's earlier move, which had seemed aimed at killing Shangguan Tianling, was actually a ploy against him, Lei Peng.

Unfortunately, by the time he realized this, it was already too late. Qin Fang's move was vicious and precise. Although it wasn't fatal in one blow, Lei Peng knew very well that even if Qin Fang didn't stop him now and let him go to the hospital for emergency treatment, it was already too late; he would definitely die from excessive blood loss!

In fact, judging by his condition, he probably couldn't hold on much longer!

"It's not that I'm ruthless! If anyone is to blame, it's yourselves..."

Watching the light fade from Lei Peng's eyes, Qin Fang's facial expression remained calm. This wasn't his first time killing someone, so he wasn't going to have any adverse reaction. Moreover, this uncle and nephew pair had plotted against him with the intent to take his life, so Qin Fang was even less likely to let them go.

A retreating tiger returns to the mountain, only to become a future problem!

Qin Fang would never allow such an event to take place.

Lei Peng is dead!

He died right before Qin Fang's eyes, and although he felt his death was extremely suffocating, it was an indisputable fact now.

Shangguan Tianling watched his nephew Lei Peng being schemed against by Qin Fang and slowly die, his eyes filled with shock and terror...

The uncle and nephew had envisioned various outcomes from the start of their plot against Qin Fang, but they never anticipated this one, yet it had indeed happened.

Lei Peng was dead, dying right before his eyes, and he... couldn't even move a muscle, facing a Qin Fang who was nearly at his peak strength and without any power to fight back.

In his current state, with a sharp, still-dripping Military Spike in his hand, even a child could kill him, let alone Qin Fang.

Kneel and beg Qin Fang for mercy?

Shangguan Tianling shook his head with a look of helplessness in his eyes.

Similarly, he knew that Qin Fang would never let him go; kneeling to beg would be futile. Soon his heart calmed down, accepting death as the only path left to him, a fate sealed from the moment Qin Fang took him down.

Now that even his nephew Lei Peng had been killed by Qin Fang, his chances of survival were even slimmer.

"How did you manage to do it?"

However, a significant question still lingered in his heart. He simply couldn't fathom how he, a Grandmaster-level Expert, could have become so vulnerable?

If he hadn't felt it before, when Qin Fang landed the explosive hit, he knew. His strength had weakened, his speed had dropped, and even his reflexes were far inferior to his normal state.

"Do you remember how your palm was pierced by my Military Spike?"

Shangguan Tianling was undoubtedly doomed, and Qin Fang saw no need to conceal the truth any longer. Instead of letting him descend to Hell with questions unanswered, it was better to clear his confusion before sending him on his way.

Upon hearing Qin Fang's words, Shangguan Tianling was slightly taken aback, his gaze still filled with doubt, not understanding what Qin Fang meant.

"The Military Spike was poisoned!"

Qin Fang had not expected that such a hint wouldn't prompt Shangguan Tianling to figure out the reason, so he decided to just tell him directly.

"Poisoned?"

Shangguan Tianling's gaze contracted slightly, and then he exclaimed in surprise and even horror, "Are you from the Tang Sect?"

"The Tang Sect?"

This time it was Qin Fang who was stunned. He was familiar with the name Tang Sect, as many martial arts novels mentioned such a sect.

However, Qin Fang had been to Xishu Province and interacted with some local sects there. There was no Shu Middle Tang Sect in Xishu Province, so he thought that such a sect was purely a fabrication by novelists.

But now, hearing Shangguan Tianling speak of it, it seemed that the sect really existed and was related to poison...

"I should have thought of it, should have seen it coming..."

Shangguan Tianling didn't notice the change in Qin Fang's tone, and he seemed to lose his mental support, muttering to himself.

"I'm not from the Tang Sect!"

At that moment, Qin Fang shook his head and stated.

Of course, he wasn't from the Tang Sect; he had just learned of their real existence. Although this made no difference to Shangguan Tianling's fate, since Qin Fang intended to let him die with understanding, there was no need for secrecy...

Sure enough, Shangguan Tianling, who had already resigned to his fate, suddenly opened his eyes wide in shock upon hearing this...

But very soon, a very eerie smile spread across his face, and he even laughed happily!

"You're not from the Tang Sect! You're not from the Tang Sect! Hahaha... Mr. Qin, I will be waiting for you down below... The Heavenly Pool Sect will avenge me, and the Tang Sect will come for you too... Hahaha!"

Shangguan Tianling seemed to have gone berserk, bursting into loud, uncontrollable laughter, and though he knew he was undoubtedly going to die, he seemed to take great pleasure in envisioning Qin Fang's demise, laughing heartily and merrily...

Pu~~

However, at the height of his excitement, Qin Fang's bloodied Military Spike brutally pierced Shangguan Tianling's heart, plunging deep...

Bright crimson blood spurted out. Shangguan Tianling's chest was rapidly covered with bloodstains. His eyes blanked out instantly, and his body twitched slightly, before finally everything went still...

Shangguan Tianling was dead!

And he had died at the hands of Qin Fang!

However, his death was different from Lei Peng's. Lei Peng died filled with frustration and suffocation, but Shangguan Tianling died with a smiling face, a bright smile... that scene was indeed particularly eerie.

After dealing with these two men, Qin Fang finally took a long breath of relief. The whole process was truly fraught with danger, but ultimately he, Qin Fang, was the victor.

"Heavenly Pool Sect... Tang Sect... "

Relieved, Qin Fang still couldn't help but ponder the words Shangguan Tianling had said before dying.

The Heavenly Pool Sect seeking revenge for Shangguan Tianling was understandable for Qin Fang. After all, Shangguan Tianling was of the Heavenly Pool Sect. The Shangguan Family was a powerful clan within the sect, and it would be impossible to overlook the death of a clan member who was a Grandmaster-level Expert.

But what truly puzzled Qin Fang was why Shangguan Tianling warned him that the mysterious and unpredictable Tang Sect would also come after him, not to meet amicably, but to avenge Shangguan Tianling...

"Could it be... the connection with the poison?"

Recalling Shangguan Tianling's reactions, it seemed the crux of the problem must be related to the poison!

Chapter 864 - Stepping into Level 5.....

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Qin Fang didn't dwell too much on this question because the information he had was too limited thus far, and baseless speculation was meaningless.

What's more...

After he killed Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling, he finally received the substantial amount of experience points from both of them, and a series of notifications continuously rang in his mind, causing his head to buzz.

Of course, Qin Fang would hope for such notifications to never stop, day or night, as the experience points given by these two were quite substantial.

"Congratulations on killing the humanoid NPC Lei Peng (LV5), you have gained 1600 experience points."

Lei Peng was a Level 5 Peak Expert, and Qin Fang had fought him unarmed; thus, the experience gained was essentially maxed out at 1600 points, double that of Chen Liang who was Level 4 and previously killed by Qin Fang.

Such a figure, compared with the experience Qin Fang normally obtained, was indeed a very significant gain, but compared with the experience he now required to level up, it wasn't that much—it didn't even reach ten percent.

However, Qin Fang wasn't concerned about this; after all, experience points accumulated slowly. It wasn't easy to reach the sky in one step, not to mention that as the levels increased, the speed of leveling up was bound to slow down. If he needed the same amount of experience points as required to go from Level 1 to Level 2, Qin Fang could have leveled up hundreds of times by now...

What truly excited Qin Fang and thrilled him was the rich reward he received from killing Shangguan Tianling...

"Congratulations on killing the humanoid NPC Shangguan Tianling (LV6), you have gained 16000 experience points."

"Since you killed Shangguan Tianling (LV6), two levels above you, you gain 2x experience points."

Each of these two prompts was nearly enough to make Qin Fang's heart race with excitement—those numbers for experience were staggeringly high.

Killing a Grandmaster-level Expert like Shangguan Tianling indeed yielded a considerable reward, providing a total of 32000 experience points just for this one kill.

This sum of experience points, furthermore, was earned while Qin Fang himself was at Level 4. Overcoming a two-level gap and killing someone with much greater strength than himself, Shangguan Tianling, the experience gained was enough to propel him straight past Level 4.

As the saying goes, no pain, no gain.

Tonight, indeed, Qin Fang had paid a significant price. Originally, he could have hidden in the shadows and taken out Lei Peng and his nephew with a sniper rifle.

But if he did so, the loss in experience points would have been too great. Even if the experience gain was halved, killing Lei Peng would only yield 800 points, and killing the Grandmaster-level Shangguan Tianling, without the bonus for a higher level kill and halving the experience would leave only 8000 points.

So, the final gain of experience points would have been 8800, whereas now, by fighting in close combat, Qin Fang had acquired 33600 points—a nearly fourfold difference in experience points gained afterward.

An additional 25000 points, roughly the amount needed to level up from Level 4 to Level 5.

Moreover, calculating the experience as quadrupling with each level, the extra points earned could help Qin Fang jump from one fourth of Level 5 directly past half, accelerating his push towards Level 6 Grandmaster. This was the real reason Qin Fang took such a big risk to engage directly.

Without reaching Level 6 Grandmaster, there wasn't much significance in Qin Fang flaunting his strength among Level 5 experts—it really wasn't meaningful to bully these young experts.

Moreover, by killing Shangguan Tianling, Qin Fang had offended the Heavenly Pool Sect. He didn't know how many experts there were in the Heavenly Pool Sect, but he was certain there was no shortage of experts above Grandmaster level. The weaker Qin Fang's strength, the greater the danger would be in the future...

To live as safely as possible, Qin Fang needed to go all out for experience points, even if doing so was extremely dangerous.

"Your experience points have reached the maximum value; your level will automatically increase..."

"Character level increased to Level 5, all your attributes +5..."

"System Reward: One Skill Book."

"Props Box automatically upgraded; the number of usable slots increased to 48."

After the experience points notification was complete, Qin Fang's experience bar was instantly filled to the brim, and the system automatically upgraded. Qin Fang finally entered the long-awaited Level 5 after several months of anticipation.

"Finally, Level 5..."

When this notification appeared, Qin Fang immediately felt an extreme sense of refreshment and relief wash over his body.

There was only a one-level difference between Level 4 and Level 5, but for any martial artist, it represented a significant threshold. Even for Qin Fang, it was an important threshold to cross.

Although Qin Fang's cultivation at Level 4 was already invincible below Grandmaster Level, because of his lower level, Level 5 experts still held a considerable level suppression over him. Thus, whenever Qin Fang sparred with these Level 5 experts, there was always a certain amount of restriction and impact on him, even though he had minimized it as much as possible.

Now, Qin Fang was finally free from such level suppression and could fully unleash his abilities in combat. Moreover, just stepping into Level 5 meant he was almost directly at the Peak of Level 5. The strength he could truly explode with was comparable to a Level 6 Grandmaster-level fighter...

Even if he still wasn't a match for Grandmaster-level experts, it definitely wouldn't be as difficult as before, where he was nearly helpless...

Of course, this was just how Qin Fang felt. Whether he could truly unleash that kind of strength still depended on the actual opponent and performance in the moment.

All Attributes +5, this was the standard attribute increase necessary for an upgrade. Qin Fang's life points, defense, strength, agility, and so on all received a significant boost once again.

Especially the increase in life points and defense, it was like adding another layer of protection to Qin Fang, making his life even more secure.

In the recent battle with Shangguan Tianling, Qin Fang had indeed been beaten quite miserably, but the rewards were equally substantial. The effect of taking those palm strikes turned out to be even more beneficial than being mobbed by hundreds of people, allowing his proficiency in the Strong Body Technique to rush past Beginner Level and enter the Intermediate tier, and even surpass it by a small margin—raising his life points by as much as 14.

Qin Fang currently had an All Attributes +25 bonus, which meant he could add 25 points to his life points, and with his basic life points being 10, his total life points reached 49.

Although this number still wasn't very high, attacks like Lei Laohu's Explosive Bear Strike no longer posed any threat to Qin Fang, and even Lei Peng would be unlikely to deplete all his life points.

Not only did his proficiency in Strong Body Technique see a significant increase, but the proficiency in Tough Skin Technique—a derivative skill of Strong Body Technique—also just breached 80%, and wasn't far from reaching Intermediate level.

This skill required taking hits to level up; the more Qin Fang got hit, the more his proficiency increased. However, Qin Fang was typically the one doing the hitting, so genuine opportunities to be hit weren't that abundant.

He wasn't so shameless as to gather a group to hit him without fighting back—that wouldn't be increasing proficiency, that would be masochism. He wasn't that twisted.

Moreover, ordinary fists couldn't pose much threat to him, yielding pitiful proficiency gains. It took the attacking power of Level 4 and 5 experts to significantly hasten Qin Fang's proficiency improvement.

Naturally, being punched by Grandmaster-level fighters like Shangguan Tianling was another excellent way to boost proficiency, though the process was far too dangerous and painful; a slight mishap could cost Qin Fang his life.

Upon reaching Level 5, the number of slots in Qin Fang's Props Box increased once again, reaching an impressive 48 slots. With this, Qin Fang could carry many things with him and didn't need to hide them away, which was both troublesome and risky...

Qin Fang was soon to embark on his assassin journey, and carrying various weapons was naturally essential. The efficacy of the Props Box would reveal itself, as not even the most advanced security devices would be able to detect the weapons Qin Fang carried, making murder and sneak attacks much easier.

"Skill Book..."

While Qin Fang was happy about all of the above, they were mostly within expectations. However, what he looked forward to and cared about the most were the skill books granted with each level up.

The gifted skill books could be good or bad, and sometimes they duplicated existing skills, ending up only serving to add some proficiency.

Qin Fang had reached a bottleneck with skills he had learned through comprehension and hadn't been able to develop new skills on his own for a long time. This frustrated and left him feeling helpless, as the system's patterns were difficult to fully grasp.

Sometimes you desperately hope to develop a new skill, but after much effort, you end up empty-handed. Other times, when you least expect it, you suddenly receive a notification of a new skill comprehension...

That said, such occurrences happened more frequently when Qin Fang was at a lower level, as everything was just starting, and he had nothing—making skill learning convenient. Now that Qin Fang already possessed a significant number of skills, and many of the common skills were covered, hoping to learn more on his own was even harder.

This was, of course, only one of the reasons why Qin Fang valued level-up skill gifts; however, it was far from the primary reason... What truly made Qin Fang care was that the skills granted upon level-up could be exceedingly rare special skills, or even unique ones!

In other words, each level-up skill gift was almost the sole source of special skills Qin Fang knew of...

Chapter 865 - The Frustrating Skill: Copy

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Qin Fang's current skills were mostly self-taught, some were rewards from completing the mission system, and others he acquired from slaying monsters...

These skills included ordinary skills, rare skills, but special skills had only one source—the level-up rewards.

Although the skills rewarded upon leveling up might not always be very good, without a doubt, Qin Fang valued the skill books given by the system the most, as they mostly did not disappoint him.

Upon reaching Level 1, he received a scouting skill, which benefitted him greatly from the start and continued to be one of the most frequently used and important skills, even now.

Upon reaching Level 2, he was awarded the Body Strengthening Technique, which was a very nice rare skill that helped him increase his life points faster. Although he had just stepped into intermediate Body Strengthening Technique, it had already added 14 life points for him. If he could make it to advanced, it would add a full 30 life points... For every 10% increase in proficiency at the intermediate level, 2 life points were added.

Level 3 was the most frustrating for Qin Fang because the skill book given by the system turned out to be the riding skill he had already mastered. In the end, he could only use it to improve its proficiency slightly, which wasn't very effective and even made Qin Fang somewhat depressed for a while.

However, Qin Fang quickly reached Level 4, and this time he was gifted a very rare and special skill—Metamorphosis.

He didn't use this skill very often because it allowed one to change a person's appearance and features. When dealing with his women or friends, he couldn't exactly use someone else's appearance.

Yet, the power of this skill also made Qin Fang very happy. He was tasked with the ultimate mission of the King of Assassins; the people he had killed before were done by taking advantage of the properties of Metamorphosis, transforming himself into the target's relatives, friends, or companions...

In essence, it was versatile and unpredictable, perhaps impenetrable even by a fly within the enemy's inner circle, but they would hardly guard against an attack from their closest and most trusted ones.

Moreover, it was the best method for setting someone up, although Qin Fang had not used it against anyone... But who knows when it might come in handy one day.

Four level-ups, four skill books awarded. Three good and one bad, this rate was quite favorable. Therefore, after Qin Fang reached Level 5, he could temporarily set aside the other rewards and simply glance over them, but the skill book was the one he looked forward to the most.

With a slight intention, the skill book, glowing with a faint yellow halo, appeared out of thin air in Qin Fang's hand, still in a chaotic, unidentified state, with no one knowing what kind of skill book it was.

Taking a deep breath, Qin Fang finally used his scouting skill to identify the skill book, watching as the faint yellow glow slowly dissipated, revealing the true form of the skill book.

Duplication!

These were the only two words on the pages.

But the moment these two words appeared, Qin Fang couldn't help but feel a tremor of excitement in his heart, knowing that such a skill was bound to be awesome just from its name.

When Qin Fang was bored, he occasionally visited Qidian Chinese to read novels. He had seen some novels about superpowers and, although sometimes he scoffed at them, they were quite good for passing the time.

Duplication as a superpower was not unheard of. Every story where the protagonist acquired this ability turned awe-inspiring: out of money—it was just a swipe away; out of women—another swipe brought a pile...

But of course, Qin Fang didn't think the Duplication Skill he acquired would be so amazing. He had to admit that many of his skills were pretty overpowered, but almost all of them showed their formidable strength after slowly increasing proficiency. At beginner level, they were at most slightly stronger than an average person.

Not dwelling too much on irrelevant matters, Qin Fang immediately slapped the skill book, and it turned into a ray of yellow light that disappeared into his body. He then opened his skill panel to start understanding the usage of the Duplication Skill.

"As expected..."

After a brief look at the skill description, Qin Fang's mindset was indeed one of vindication.

The Duplication Skill wasn't about creating something out of nothing; it required specific materials and methods, and of course, there was a necessary cost.

For Qin Fang, materials were a secondary concern, but what surprised him the most about the necessary and most significant cost for duplication was—Justice Points.

This skill seemed to have a lot in common with the Stealing Skill, which he rarely used. Stealing dealt a blow to one's character, and this duplication damaged his character just the same...

Qin Fang's current Justice Points were not very high. He had helped some people and gained sparse Justice Points. Because of the Ring of Justice he possessed, even if his Justice Points turned negative, meaning his Evil Points were high, he would still be regarded as belonging to the Neutral Camp.

But this Duplication Skill has a slight difference from the Stealing Skill, which is that the Stealing Skill can be used even when Justice Points are negative... However, the Duplication Skill can only be used when Justice Points are positive, and every use of it reduces Justice Points by 5.

Although the Proficiency of the Duplication Skill only needs 100 uses to be achieved, it would cost Qin Fang a loss of 500 Justice Points. Calculating at a rate of gaining 10 Justice Points for saving a person, Qin Fang would need to save at least 50 people to reach that level.

Chicken ribs?

Of course, it's not that bad.

Despite the high requirements of this skill, its effect is indeed quite formidable, while not as mystical as legend would have it, it's still pretty good.

In theory, the Duplication Skill can copy any object, provided that identical materials are available, of course...

For example, to copy currency, one first needs the same paper, ink, security threads, and so on, and then by consuming 5 Life Points, one can duplicate an identical banknote.

Indeed, it's identical, without a single difference; even the most advanced currency detectors can't find any flaws, and the verification result would surely be that of a genuine bill...

Of course, there's a precondition, which is that all necessary materials for duplication must be fully prepared!

Fortunately, before the duplication, the system will prompt what materials are needed; as long as these are gathered, there won't be any problems...

There are naturally still limitations, determined by the skill's Proficiency. Currently, the Duplication Skill is at Beginner Level with 0% Proficiency—basically, there are only a few things that can be duplicated since the weight of the duplicable object is restricted between 0 to 10 grams.

The weight of a new 100 RMB banknote is approximately 1.15 grams; although Qin Fang can duplicate multiple notes at once, he can only do eight or nine at most, amounting to just eight or nine hundred RMB. Even if exchanged for Euro, the total would just be about ten thousand RMB.

However, compared to the deduction of 5 Justice Points each time, Qin Fang definitely wouldn't be willing to waste Justice Points like this! He can earn money slowly, but Justice Points are much harder to accumulate.

Of course, with the improvement of Proficiency, the weight of the duplicable object will correspondingly increase... basically, for every 20% increase in Proficiency, the weight limit for the duplicable object increases by 20 grams, with each 20% Proficiency achieving a growth.

That is to say, when Qin Fang upgrades the Duplication Skill from Beginner to Intermediate Level, the weight of the object he can duplicate would only rise to 110 grams, which doesn't seem like much in terms of weight range.

And there's another very important point, which is that the duplicated items do not exist indefinitely; objects duplicated with the Beginner Duplication Skill have a minimum retention time of 1 hour and a maximum of 10 hours, also determined by every 10% in Proficiency.

If it exceeds this time range, the duplicated item will automatically disappear...

After carefully reading through all the details of this skill, Qin Fang's face revealed a somewhat strange smile, because the skill was indeed amazing, but it was also incredibly tricky...

Not only was it a pitfall for himself, but it was also a big weapon for tricking others!

As for how exactly to use this skill to trick people, Qin Fang currently had no use for it, as the Proficiency was too low, and he could barely duplicate anything...

But wanting to quickly improve the Proficiency of this skill was not possible either, because Qin Fang's Justice Points were too low. If it weren't for the Ring of Justice Qin Fang wore on his hand, his title "Man of Justice" would have been automatically revoked long ago since his Justice Points were already negative, and quite significantly so...

There was no helping it; Qin Fang did have quite a few lives on his hands!

Those who died by Qin Fang's hand, although one could argue they deserved it, being either full of evil deeds or plotting to kill Qin Fang, it included some who were from the Neutral Camp, such as Lei Peng and his uncle Shangguan Tianling... Killing these two immediately attributed 200 Evil Points onto Qin Fang.

It not only instantly wiped out the Justice Points he had earned from eliminating harm for the people but also burdened him with a significant debt...

At the same time, Qin Fang also lacked Justice Points to enhance the Duplication Skill!

Reluctantly, the time when this skill could be of use also had to be postponed...

"Seems like I should do something after I get back to Ninghai..."

Seeing such a good skill in hand but only able to salivate over it without any practical use, how could Qin Fang not be anxious?

Yet earning Justice Points is not an easy task at all; one must truly contribute to be recognized by the system, this is the only way to obtain Justice Points... It might even be impossible to earn them through the efforts of others.

Chapter 866 - Massive War Spoils

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Despite the fact that this skill was really quite tricky, Qin Fang couldn't deny that it was a very good special skill, and it might even become a major weapon for him in the future.

At the initial stage of the skill, it wasn't very useful, but as it gradually improved, it became more and more terrifying... Especially when Qin Fang analyzed the skill's strengths and weaknesses in great detail, he made a bit of an unexpected discovery.

What was this unexpected discovery?

After the emergence of the Duplication Skill, the original Major Branch Skill—Repair, which had always existed on its own, automatically moved next to the Duplication Skill, and the two skills spontaneously generated a combined skill—Restoration.

Repair and Duplication were both very mysterious skills that didn't have a fixed form. However, the Restoration Skill was a little more definite in its use, which is the combined effects of repairing and duplicating...

For example, if an object is damaged or missing a part, simply using the Repair Skill could at best patch up the damaged area and return it to its pre-damaged state, provided that all parts of the object are complete. If an item is missing a part, what is absent remains absent, and it could not be restored to its original condition.

The same principle applies to Duplication. The object that is being copied will come out exactly the same as its reference model, without any differences.

But the Restoration Skill is relatively more impressive. It can restore the object that needs repairing to its original state, even if it is missing a part; it can use the same material to make it whole again.

Moreover, the items created through the Restoration Skill do not disappear due to time constraints but continue to exist...

The Restoration Skill is the result of combining two skills, and it does not have upgrade conditions. What really matters is the Proficiency of both Repair and Duplication skills.

As long as the Proficiency of both Repair and Duplication skills increases, the Proficiency of the Restoration Skill will naturally also increase...

In theory, the ultimate realm of the Restoration Skill could repair Earth... restoring it to its most pristine natural state.

Of course, that's just in theory. Qin Fang shouldn't count on it in his lifetime, unless he could actually live forever and survive for tens of thousands of years, then maybe he might have a glimmer of hope.

After closing the skills panel, although these skills were all very impressive, they weren't very useful to Qin Fang at the moment. In fact, before he appraised this Skill Book, what he had hoped for the most was a movement technique, which he was currently lacking.

As a martial artist, both moves and Inner Strength are essential, meaning both attack and defense are necessary, but at the same time, movement technique is also an extremely important component.

Qin Fang was a disciple of Master Cai and practiced Xingyi Fist. When it came to moves, there was nothing to criticize; with the genuine teachings of Master Cai, he was showing signs of surpassing his teacher.

However, the movement technique was a significant weakness for Qin Fang. Without good movement techniques, even with his +25 Agility, fighting against a Grandmaster-level Expert like Shangguan Tianling was still very difficult, and it was nearly impossible to dodge Grandmaster-level attacks...

But movement technique secrets are hard to come by. Even in the Martial World, they are scarce resources. Respected Martial Arts Clans may seem glorious on the surface, but in reality, they don't have any decent movement techniques. Only the large sects with long traditions, like the Heavenly Pool Sect where Shangguan Tianling belonged, have movement technique secrets to pass down...

It's also because movement technique secrets are so hard to find that every martial artist is very eager to obtain them. Even a very poor movement technique secret could cause many martial arts experts to be envious, including some at the Master and Grandmaster level...

...

"There isn't much time left, better clean up the loot and leave..."

Glancing at the time, it had been a significant while since Li Yuerong had fled. If she had managed to break free and call the police, they would probably be arriving soon.

Though Lei Peng and his uncle were suspects in a kidnapping case, now that they were dead here, if Qin Fang were caught red-handed, it would be impossible to clear his name.

Although Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling were dead, their bodies still shimmered with a glow that only Qin Fang could see, indicating that they had dropped some items.

Not everyone Qin Fang killed dropped items. At least, when he had killed so many mercenaries from the Remnant Wolf Mercenary Corps a few days before, he didn't get any drops at all, and all his loot was stripped from the bodies of those mercenaries...

But Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling had not disappointed Qin Fang, as they had indeed dropped a few items.

Lei Peng was at the same level as Qin Fang, having reached Level 5 Peak strength. Even the Golden Crested Snake that Qin Fang had first shot dead with a gun, if you disregarded the serpent's ability to spit venom, might not necessarily have been a match for Lei Peng...

So Lei Peng was kind of a mini BOSS himself, and Qin Fang really hoped he would drop something worthwhile; otherwise, it would be a waste of his reputation as the top member of the third generation of the Lei Family.

"Pick up!"

Qin Fang quickly approached Lei Peng's corpse and chose to pick up. Now that his Props Box had been upgraded, he had double the slots available for use, amounting to a total of 48 slots, which allowed him to store even more items.

"You've obtained 5 Replenishing Qi Pills."

"You've obtained 3 Blood Replenishing Pills."

"You've obtained 1 bottle of Berserk Potion."

The items weren't numerous, just three in total.

However, Qin Fang was utterly bewildered by these three items because, as far as he had seen before, he always thought they couldn't possibly exist.

Replenishing Qi Pills were an elixir that could refill one's Inner Breath. With just one pill and a bit of rest, one could completely restore their inner strength.

Blood Replenishing Pills were essentially health potions from video games, naturally used to restore Life Points. They were similar to Qin Fang's Superior Soup Dumplings, except that the Blood Replenishing Pills were much stronger, instantly adding +20 Life Points...

Berserk Potions were an extremely rare concoction. Upon ingestion, one could instantly become berserk, tripling their strength for a duration of 10 minutes. (Note: This potion's effects can't be removed with items.)

However, after 10 minutes, the user would enter a weakened state, their defenses would drop to zero, and they'd suffer double damage from any attacks... essentially, it was a drug that could harm the enemy but also inflict significant self-damage.

If the enemy managed to survive those ten minutes, then the user would become as defenseless as a lamb to the slaughter, especially since neither the berserk state nor the weakened state could be removed with special items.

Qin Fang, who killed people and monsters for loot, seemed to be obtaining this kind of potion for the first time. It wasn't that he had never had potions before; he'd been given three vials of Raging Potion while completing a mission, which seemed to be a sibling of the Berserk Potion by name, yet their effects were entirely different.

But it was indeed the first time for Qin Fang to acquire three types of potions at once...

However, Qin Fang's ability to adapt was not bad at all. He had now advanced to Level 5, his attributes had significantly improved, and the enemies he faced were becoming increasingly stronger. Qin Fang could feel that the System was gradually adjusting... As his level rose, certain items would have to gradually exit the stage, and inevitably better items would come into play.

"Ah, what a pity..."

Qin Fang felt somewhat dismayed in his heart, as the items dropped were finished potions. If he had obtained the recipes, it would have been perfect; then he could find the ingredients and craft them himself using his Pharmacopeia.

Of course, Qin Fang could also guess that Lei Peng was indeed from the Lei Family. If the Lei Family had the recipes for these elixirs, they would've become much stronger already and wouldn't still be just a Martial Arts Clan, lagging far behind the legacy of the great sects that had been around for hundreds or thousands of years.

"Shangguan Tianling, I hope you don't disappoint me..."

Having dealt with Lei Peng, Shangguan Tianling was next on Qin Fang's list to take special care of. If Lei Peng was considered a small Level 5 boss, then Shangguan Tianling, a Level 6 Grandmaster, was definitely the big boss.

Even the small boss Lei Peng had yielded three great items for Qin Fang, so it stood to reason that Shangguan Tianling, as a big boss, shouldn't be too stingy either.

Shangguan Tianling came from the great sect of the Heavenly Pool Sect and was also a core member of high status within the sect. It was likely that he carried quite a few treasures. Now that he was dead, according to the rules of item drops, it was very possible that some extremely valuable items could drop...

"Pick up!"

With great anticipation, Qin Fang used the pick-up function on Shangguan Tianling's body and immediately several items appeared in his Props Box, along with the System's notifications.

"You've obtained Treasure Map Fragment (Three)."

"You've obtained a Rare Item: Celestial Silkworm Golden Armor."

"You've obtained a recipe: Blood Replenishing Pill."

Just like Lei Peng, Shangguan Tianling also dropped three items that went straight into Qin Fang's Props Box.

"Damn, this luck is really fucking good... I get whatever I think of!"

After hearing these three notifications, Qin Fang was momentarily stunned and then extremely excitedly roared out loud, truly overwhelmed with excitement.

He had just been longing for recipes instead of finished potions, and Shangguan Tianling immediately dropped a recipe for him.

And coincidentally, it was the recipe for Blood Replenishing Pills... It truly was like getting whatever he wished for, which was why Qin Fang was so exhilarated.

Although Qin Fang was still puzzled about how a Grandmaster Level Fighter like Shangguan Tianling could drop a recipe, considering that even Lei Peng could drop potions, it wasn't too strange for Shangguan Tianling to drop a recipe.

Of course, Qin Fang might not have realized that Shangguan Tianling had earlier used an elixir to stop bleeding, which was actually the Blood Replenishing Pill itself... only it was given a different name in Qin Fang's system.

Chapter 867 - All are treasures...

...

Actually, recently, Qin Fang had been somewhat dissatisfied with Baozi's healing abilities.

His opponents were either the Remnant Wolf Mercenary Corps wielding guns or Martial Arts Experts like Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling. Even with Qin Fang's defensive power, the damage inflicted was considerable.

The healing ability of the Superior Soup Dumplings was merely +3 Life Points. Considering the speed at which his health was depleted, often by twenty or thirty points, it was indeed like trying to extinguish a fire with a cup of water.

If there was just a little bit of breathing room, Qin Fang could barely accept it. But what he feared most was facing a Grandmaster-level Martial Artist like Shangguan Tianling, whose fists and palms could blast away at least 30+ of his Life Points. With Baozi's healing pace, it just couldn't keep up, and a slight oversight might spell the end for Qin Fang.

However, the appearance of the Blood Replenishing Pill was incredibly timely, replenishing +20 Life Points. Despite a 1.5-second delay in the medicine's effect, it was much faster than the Superior Soup Dumplings, providing an instant boost of 20 points to his life.

When he picked up the Blood Replenishing Pill from Lei Peng, Qin Fang had considered these few precious pills as lifesavers that should not be used unless absolutely necessary...

But unexpectedly, his luck had been quite good. Soon after finding the Blood Replenishing Pill, he looted items from Shangguan Tianling, which even included the recipe.

With the recipe in hand, Qin Fang could now search for the necessary ingredients to concoct it himself... Although a quick glance revealed that most of the ingredients were common, only a few might be a bit troublesome. But for Qin Fang, this wasn't too difficult to handle.

The Blood Replenishing Pill was a secret elixir of the Heavenly Pool Sect, very difficult to concoct because of the slightly higher requirements for the medicinal herbs. In this era, many herbs are cultivated artificially, and their medicinal properties are not comparable to those of wild ones...

And since wild medicinal herbs are extremely scarce, it indirectly means that the Heavenly Pool Sect also has a limited supply of them. Coupled with a certain failure rate in alchemy, the scarcity of the Blood Replenishing Pill is understandable. Even within the Heavenly Pool Sect, they are highly valued by Grandmaster-level and Grandmaster-level Experts.

The rarer and more precious such elixirs are, the more sought-after they become in the Martial World. No one would sell them for money because real martial artists are not in need of cash. They require very rare resources such as Cultivation Techniques, secret skills, medicinal ingredients, and so on...

One very important reason for the enduring prosperity of the Heavenly Pool Sect, aside from a succession of disciples, is the existence of the Blood Replenishing Pill. Its efficacy is incredibly potent. For Qin Fang, it's a common elixir for replenishing Life Points, but for other Martial Artists, it's as precious as a life-saving Golden Core.

It was for this reason that the Heavenly Pool Sect valued the production of elixirs, considering it a vital safeguard for the sect's prosperity...

"Heavenly Pool Sect... it seems I'll soon uproot your very foundation!"

With the recipe for the Blood Replenishing Pill acquired, the troublesome issue of medicinal ingredients for the Heavenly Pool Sect was, for Qin Fang, the easiest problem to solve.

The quality, age, and medicinal properties of the herbs... these were the aspects most concerned by the Heavenly Pool Sect. However, Qin Fang directly extracted the essence from the very root of the medicine, completely disregarding these external factors. Even if he used artificially cultivated herbs for concoction, the effect was not inferior to that of wild herbs, at most it would only require a few times more materials!

With this biggest problem solved, there weren't any other issues. Qin Fang could even mass-produce these Blood Replenishing Pills and sell them in the Martial World. He guessed the people of the Heavenly Pool Sect would be infuriated to the point of spitting blood. If he really did so, he would indeed be undermining the foundation of the Heavenly Pool Sect!

Of course, Qin Fang had no intention of doing that for the time being. His feud with Shangguan Tianling was a personal matter. If the Heavenly Pool Sect didn't come looking for trouble, Qin Fang was too lazy to bother with them. After all, he was just one man. It was hard enough to fight Shangguan Tianling, let alone take on the Heavenly Pool Sect at a disadvantage.

Moreover, Qin Fang was just about to upgrade his healing medicine. He wouldn't be able to spare much for sale even if he concocted it himself.

For now, the Blood Replenishing Pill recipe was set aside. Stored in the Props Box, it was invisible and untouched to others. The Heavenly Pool Sect probably couldn't imagine that Qin Fang had gotten hold of their most precious treasure — the loss of elixirs could be remedied by more training, but if someone obtained their recipe, it would be a catastrophe.

"Celestial Silkworm Golden Armor..."

Qin Fang then examined the second item looted from Shangguan Tianling, which was the Celestial Silkworm Golden Armor.

The Celestial Silkworm was an extremely rare spiritual creature, only found in frigid ice fields and Snow Mountain summits. Changbai Tianchi, controlled by the Heavenly Pool Sect, happened to be one of the habitats for the Celestial Silkworm.

The silk spun by the Celestial Silkworm was exceptionally soft, yet extremely tough, nearly impossible to cut with ordinary blades unless it was a Divine Weapon.

It was because of these properties that some ancient sects would weave inner armors from Celestial Silkworm silk to protect their vital body parts. The Celestial Silkworm Golden Armor in front of him was just such an item.

Clearly, this was not something Shangguan Tianling wore on his person; otherwise, with such protection, Qin Fang wouldn't have been able to fatally stab Shangguan Tianling with a Military Spike.

As for how it got there, Qin Fang didn't need to delve into it. The System was just too unpredictable, just like the reason Lei Peng had three different drugs explode on him at once—breaking your head wouldn't help you figure out why.

Anyway, now that the item was in Qin Fang's possession, it was his spoils of war. Who cared how it got there?

This was a silvery-white inner armor with some gold threading at the connections, which was a specially made thread that had fused with the celestial silkworm silk, making it very difficult to break.

The size of the inner armor was about right for an adult's build, resembling a relatively small vest that could protect the torso's vital organs.

But that wasn't important. What Qin Fang truly valued was the attribute of the Celestial Silkworm Golden Armor after appraisal—Defense +10.

Undoubtedly, this was an excellent defensive item, and it was wearable too. Qin Fang immediately put it on without any reservations.

+10 defense points essentially meant an increase of 10 life points for Qin Fang. Coupled with the +8 defense from his Tough Skin Technique, it was like turning his bird gun into a cannon.

Of course, this +10 defense was not all-encompassing; it only applied to the areas covered by the Celestial Silkworm Golden Armor. Outside that range, Qin Fang's protection would still be his own +8 defense... That was a limitation, after all!

Even so, Qin Fang was still very happy about it. If it came down to it, the head was undoubtedly the most critical part. If his head were to be blown to bits, Qin Fang would be straight-up dead—blood replenishing would be of no use...

Besides the head, the throat, heart, adjacent organs, and Dantian were also Qin Fang's vulnerabilities. Serious damage to these areas could easily lead to his demise.

There was no need to mention the throat; Qin Fang might not compare to those Grandmaster-level experts, but with his powerful consciousness, sharp perception, and premonition of danger, such critical areas like the throat would be hard for someone to target successfully.

The Dantian was the same; it was the foundation of a martial artist. Unless the opponent was far stronger than him, leaving him completely unable to resist, perhaps then they could destroy his Dantian. Anyone else would find it difficult, even Grandmaster-level experts like Shangguan Tianling didn't have much hope—after all, Qin Fang wasn't an easy target to bully.

Thus, the organs protected by the Celestial Silkworm Golden Armor were unquestionably the parts Qin Fang needed to look after the most. Now, this armor had alleviated some of his worries.

+10 defense points, compared to the twenty to thirty damage points a Grandmaster-level expert could inflict, might not seem like much of a difference, but for preserving Qin Fang's life, the effect was quite significant.

As long as Qin Fang didn't die, he could instantly replenish his blood and brace himself. Thus, facing Grandmaster-level experts, he was more confident...

As soon as the Celestial Silkworm Golden Armor was donned, it immediately transformed into a form-fitting undershirt, its appearance no longer conspicuous, looking just like any normal piece of clothing.

"A treasure map?"

The Blood Replenishing Pill and the Celestial Silkworm Golden Armor were fantastic finds, and when Qin Fang turned his attention to the third item, his face couldn't help but show a bit of puzzlement—it was indeed a treasure map.

And it was a fragment at that...

The fragment in Qin Fang's hand was "Fragment No. 3," which meant that there were at least "Fragment No. 1" and "Fragment No. 2." Whether there were fragments four, five, six, seven, was unknown.

Qin Fang briefly inspected the treasure map and couldn't make heads or tails of it. There were no textual hints, and the depicted contents were a mess; he surmised that he would need to collect all the fragments to reveal the treasure's location...

As for the value of this treasure map, Qin Fang wasn't too sure.

But one thing was certain: the treasure definitely existed, otherwise the System wouldn't bother creating this treasure map.

Creating something out of nothing was never something the Mysterious System did.

"Time to withdraw..."

Measuring the time, Qin Fang knew he couldn't linger any longer, or he would truly end up caught by the police.

Looking at the two corpses on the ground, Qin Fang hesitated for a moment, then immediately stowed the bodies in his Props Box. Since he had plenty of spare slots, he would temporarily store them and deal with the bodies later...

Chapter 868 - Sending You Down for a Family Reunion

...

"Right, where is Shangguan Hao?"

After collecting the bodies of Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling, Qin Fang finally had time to look around and suddenly remembered that there should be a Shangguan Hao here, but now there wasn't a trace of him.

This situation was quite strange and even somewhat beyond Qin Fang's expectations.

Shangguan Hao was the first one to discover Qin Fang's appearance, or rather, Shangguan Hao was the first one Qin Fang dealt with, and he had sealed Shangguan Hao's heart meridian with a Silver Needle. The kid definitely wasn't dead yet, but he should have been lying on the ground, crying out in pain...

But somehow, Qin Fang couldn't recall exactly when he had stopped hearing Shangguan Hao's screams... It might have been when Qin Fang was fighting with Shangguan Tianling, or maybe when Qin Fang killed both nephew and uncle, Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling. In any case, Shangguan Hao had disappeared!

Qin Fang's eyebrows immediately furrowed; this was clearly not good news and, in fact, it was quite bad news.

Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling, this uncle-nephew duo, had lured Qin Fang into this trap, betting that once Qin Fang arrived, he wouldn't be able to leave alive. Therefore, other than the uncle and nephew, there were only Li Yuerong and Shangguan Hao present... They hadn't brought anyone else, seemingly to keep a low profile.

This was understandable; Qin Fang was the Tang Family's son-in-law. Although the Lei Family and the Heavenly Pool Sect were ancient martial families and major sects, they still fell under the jurisdiction of the state and had to abide by the law.

Once news of Qin Fang's murder leaked out, and the Tang Family decided to pursue the matter, there are no walls in the world that wind won't penetrate. Who could guarantee that the people they brought wouldn't reveal what happened? If they were found out, the Tang Family would definitely deal harshly with them...

That was Qin Fang's speculation. Of course, he was one of the reasons, and Shangguan Tianling was also concerned about weakening his own reputation.

If Qin Fang were to be killed, then clearly Li Yuerong also wouldn't have a chance to survive, turning this incident into an unresolved case. It's likely that they would even fabricate a suicide pact between Qin Fang and Li Yuerong...

But as the saying goes, man proposes, God disposes. Qin Fang survived, while those two ended up dead. For the same reason, Qin Fang was also worried about the Lei Family and the Heavenly Pool Sect causing him trouble. Therefore, handling Shangguan Hao properly was crucial—even if not killing him, he must at least remain under Qin Fang's control to ensure safety.

Yet unexpectedly, Shangguan Hao had vanished, and Qin Fang couldn't help feeling depressed...

"Forget it, take one step at a time!"

Qin Fang could only helplessly shake his head. In the dead of night, without knowing when Shangguan Hao had left, finding him was like looking for a needle in a haystack; it seemed pointless to even try...

Having abandoned the idea of pursuit, Qin Fang immediately made his way swiftly down the mountain. Even if the police really showed up, Qin Fang could easily slip away.

The bodies were still in his Prop Box, and if the police arrived, they would at most find a few puddles of blood. As for the bodies, they were definitely not going to be found, not as long as Qin Fang didn't dispose of them.

Qin Fang sprinted down the mountain at a remarkably fast speed. Although he wasn't proficient in lightness skills nor did he possess any secretive movement techniques, a +25 Agility fully unleashed was something even a superhuman sprinter would envy...

It's a pity, though, that there is an unwritten rule among Martial World people: Inner Sect experts are forbidden from participating in sports.

Although it's unclear who set this rule, it really does make sense.

An Inner Sect expert can infuse their Inner Breath into various parts of their body, enhancing their strength and speed...

If these individuals participated in sports, those with great strength could easily break the world weightlifting records with ease; those with great speed could easily win many sprinting championships... Indeed, in many sports, Inner Sect experts could easily break world records.

There's a saying that fits this well: the flower that you diligently plant may not bloom, but a willow stick planted without intention may grow into a shade tree... And today, Qin had stumbled onto just such a situation.

Qin was worried about bumping into the police on his way up, so he opted for a shortcut that he had discovered on his way up the mountain—specifically, it was the fastest route out of Xiangshan Forest Park, where the towering walls meant nothing to him.

It was all in the interest of saving trouble and avoiding complications, and he took this shortcut, only to coincidentally encounter someone he knew... and it was none other than Shangguan Hao.

"Rongrong, just give in to me..."

And the first sentence that Qin Fang heard was unexpectedly this. At first, Qin Fang didn't catch it clearly, only recognizing that it was Shangguan Hao's voice. After a moment's thought, he understood what Shangguan Hao was saying.

It seemed that there was another person besides Shangguan Hao... Although Shangguan Hao was perverted, he wouldn't be so bored as to talk to himself alone in the forest at night, and this other person turned out to be Li Yuerong, who had supposedly already escaped.

Hadn't she gone to call the police yet?

Such a thought suddenly crossed Qin Fang's mind.

He had advised Li Yuerong to leave early for the very reason that he feared Shangguan Tianling and his uncle would use her as a hostage, which would surely make him hesitate.

But it was clear that Shangguan Tianling and his uncle were very confident, totally disregarding Qin Fang, believing they could take him down, which was why they let Li Yuerong leave alone without pursuing her.

By now, Qin Fang had vaguely guessed that after his encounter with Shangguan Tianling, Lei Peng must have unbound Shangguan Hao, not because they were letting Li Yuerong go, but rather they had sent Shangguan Hao to deal with her.

As for Qin Fang, Lei Peng, and Shangguan Tianling, Shangguan Hao was a mediocrity, yet Li Yuerong was just an ordinary, frail woman. As useless as Shangguan Hao was, being a Level 3 pseudo Martial Artist made him far stronger than Li Yuerong. With him there, Li Yuerong could not even dream of escaping.

The battle between Qin Fang and Shangguan Tianling actually did not last long. The actual fighting time summed up to only about ten to twenty minutes, and that included the time it took Qin Fang to collect the spoils of war.

Though not very high, Incense Burner Peak stood over five hundred meters above sea level. Just running from the top to the bottom took at least a dozen minutes, and that wasn't even a straight line, so naturally it took a bit longer.

Shangguan Hao's pursuit of Li Yuerong meant she could not easily escape, more likely being chased and herded along, forced to flee aimlessly...

Furthermore, Shangguan Hao was quite a cruel character. He feared Qin Fang, true, but with Shangguan Tianling's backing, he didn't believe Qin Fang could survive, so he wasn't worried about any retaliation.

Plus, he had harbored inappropriate thoughts about Li Yuerong for a while. Now given such a perfect opportunity, he was naturally not going to let it pass, pressing her relentlessly and trapping her in a dead-end at the park...

"Shangguan Hao, even in death, I won't let you succeed..."

Indeed, just as Qin Fang had approached, he heard Li Yuerong suddenly utter these words, apparently driven to desperation and ready to end it all.

Qin Fang inwardly cursed, quickly making his way toward the source of the sound.

He had gone through so much effort and even risked his life to save Li Yuerong. If she were to die now, wouldn't all his efforts have been in vain?

Of course, he had indeed made a handsome profit by eliminating Lei Peng and Shangguan Tianling, but that did not erase the true purpose of his coming here.

When Qin Fang unexpectedly found them, he saw that Li Yuerong's clothes had been torn to shreds; her sweater was ripped, revealing patches of tender skin and the edges of a light blue bra... Clearly, Shangguan Hao had been chasing her while tearing at her clothes, employing this "herding" tactic to force her into this predicament.

At that moment, Li Yuerong's clothes were much damaged, her hair disheveled with sweat sticking on her pale face, looking quite miserable as she headed to crash against the wall nearby, seemingly intent on seeking death...

"Wanting to die? Not a chance..."

Shangguan Hao, when facing Qin Fang, was nothing but a weakling, hardly worth a laugh. But faced with a frail woman like Li Yuerong, he became as dominant and oppressive as King Kong himself.

Qin Fang had just appeared and hadn't yet had a chance to save her, partly due to the distance between them, but how could Shangguan Hao, after having her 'free to roam for so long', let her just die like this?

Shangguan Hao suddenly leaped forward, reaching out to grab Li Yuerong's clothes... His speed was naturally faster than Li Yuerong's, and just as her head was about to hit the wall, he grabbed the clothing and yanked fiercely...

Rip~~

Li Yuerong's modest background meant her clothes were neither expensive nor of high quality. Shangguan Hao, being somewhat skilled in martial arts, also had considerable strength. With his ulterior motives, his grip not only pulled Li Yuerong back but also ripped her upper clothes completely off, with only fragments left hanging...

Qin Fang even saw a piece of light blue bra cup in the torn cloth held in Shangguan Hao's hand... a half of the bra had been ripped off!

"Ah!"

The sudden loss of her clothes made Li Yuerong instinctively scream, her hands desperately covering her essential parts...

This was a purely instinctive reaction, typical for a normal girl encountering such an incident, especially for an inexperienced one like her.

"Heh heh... such white skin! Why cover up? I've seen it all already... and not only that, I'm going to personally enjoy touching it soon..."

Seeing Li Yuerong's skin as white as jade, Shangguan Hao's eyes turned completely green with desire, having longed for this beauty for a while.

Last time he had managed to capture her, he hadn't had the chance to savor her taste before being caught by Qin Fang and forced to deal with those ugly women for two or three days...

He admitted his tastes were sometimes quite extreme, but those women were indeed too much even for him, and had it not been for fear of Qin Fang killing him, he would not have endured it for so long!

But no matter what, today his father Shangguan Tianling had killed Qin Fang, which had avenged him, making the endurance of those two or three intolerable days worthwhile...

This beauty before him was a rare gem, devouring her would indeed be worth it...

Chapter 870 - Sending You Down for a Family Reunion_3

Shangguan Hao had a lecherous smirk on his face as he inched closer to the bare-chested Li Yuerong, his heart pounding inside him like a deer in a chase, almost as if he was ready to pounce at any moment... It was at this time that Li Yuerong's face, which had been a portrait of panic and distress, suddenly showed

a look of surprise, and then it transformed into a delighted expression. A smile bloomed like a flower on her face, mingled with a touch of shyness.

"What? What's happening? Has she come to her senses?"

Shangguan Hao was momentarily stunned, his mind a bit foggy, and he muttered to himself, because such behavior from Li Yuerong was just too abnormal, or rather, a bit eerie...

"No, something's not right..."

Although Shangguan Hao was perverted, he wasn't completely stupid; he quickly sensed a very off vibe and violently turned his head to look behind him.

In that instant, Shangguan Hao's entire body went rigid, and his eyes bulged!

Qin Fang!

How could this be? How did he appear here?

A person who had no business being there was actually behind him, with a faint smile hanging on his face, quietly watching him.

A man who should have died at the hands of his father, Shangguan Tianling, was still alive!

So...

"Where's my dad? And cousin Lei Peng..."

Shangguan Hao immediately thought of something utterly impossible, a very bad premonition...

"Shangguan Hao, you little bastard never change, still eating shit like a dog..."

Qin Fang walked towards Shangguan Hao with leisurely steps, his gait steady and showing no signs of injury.

But this made the dreadful premonition in Shangguan Hao's heart grow even stronger...

He knew very well how much his father, Shangguan Tianling, and his cousin Lei Peng despised Qin Fang, wishing to kill him immediately with no chance of compromise.

Tonight, they had captured Li Yuerong and set a trap to lure Qin Fang over in order to kill him!

But now, Qin Fang was still alive, while his father Shangguan Tianling and cousin Lei Peng were nowhere to be seen... and judging by Qin Fang's demeanor, it seemed he might also be harboring ill-intent toward him.

"You... you... don't come any closer!"

Shangguan Hao was frightened; even though he didn't believe that his father, a Grandmaster Level Fighter, could die at Qin Fang's hands, he was instinctively terrified of Qin Fang.

"You dare to harm my people, and you think I wouldn't come over?"

Qin Fang scoffed, his face full of scorn as he moved even closer.

His approach was tactical; although he seemed to be moving towards Shangguan Hao, he was actually closing in on Li Yuerong. Qin Fang was wary of Shangguan Hao's potentially desperate actions, using Li Yuerong as leverage... So, he was preemptively preventing that, ensuring that once he was within a certain range, he could protect Li Yuerong faster than Shangguan Hao could reach her.

However, he didn't notice Li Yuerong's face showing even more shyness when he uttered that phrase, particularly the words "my people."

Qin Fang's attention was focused on Shangguan Hao, and his words were simply spoken without much thought—he wasn't really paying attention to how they were received.

Gululu~~

Upon hearing Qin Fang's words, Shangguan Hao's heart trembled even more, and he subconsciously swallowed hard. It was true that his lust for Li Yuerong was never sated, but competing with Qin Fang for a woman was absolutely beyond his courage.

"If you dare touch me, my father won't let you get away with it!"

As Qin Fang's footsteps drew nearer, Shangguan Hao retreated subconsciously. Behind him was Li Yuerong, now almost within the range that Qin Fang had estimated. But at that moment, Shangguan Hao was truly scared and resorted to invoking his father's powerful name for protection.

In his mind, the only reason Qin Fang was still alive must be due to some sort of agreement with his father, or perhaps a life-saving bribe. With the mention of his father, Shangguan Hao believed Qin Fang wouldn't dare do anything to him.

"Hahaha..."

Hearing Shangguan Hao's words, Qin Fang couldn't help but burst into laughter, "Shangguan Hao, you're nothing but a powerless second-generation rich kid. Can't you develop a bit on your own without relying on your father?"

"Hmph..."

Seeing that Qin Fang had halted, Shangguan Hao thought his heavy wager had actually worked and immediately let out a cold snort of dissatisfaction.

Of course, he didn't dare be too belligerent towards Qin Fang. This minor retort was the extent of his bravado.

"Idiot! You actually think I'm afraid of your father?"

Qin Fang was speechless at this idiotic display, unsure if it was just Shangguan Hao being simplistic or if he was a genuine fool, not yet noticing anything amiss.

"Since you miss your father so much, I'll send you down to reunite with your family..."

From Shangguan Hao's words and actions, it was clear that keeping him around would be troublesome. Qin Fang had initially planned to turn him into an idiot or something along those lines, but now it seemed he needed to reconsider his plan.

"What!"

Qin Fang spoke casually, but his words struck Shangguan Hao with an immense force, leaving him virtually stupefied in an instant.

He hadn't ruled out this possibility, but his father was a Grandmaster Level Fighter while Qin Fang clearly hadn't reached that level and couldn't be his father Shangguan Tianling's match...

Yet now, Qin Fang was still alive, his father's whereabouts unknown, and with Qin Fang's statement... the dreadful premonition in his heart suddenly magnified considerably.

"Impossible! It can't be possible..."

Although Shangguan Hao wasn't strong himself, coming from the Heavenly Pool Sect, he was well aware of the Martial World's common knowledge. His face turned ashen, and his head shook vigorously, as if it were a rattle drum, shaking relentlessly...