

Golden 831

Chapter 832 Vajra (Part 1)

"Who?! Who are you?"

Zhuang Rui had just woken up from his sleep when he saw a figure in front of him. His scalp tingled, and his heart pounded so hard it almost jumped out of his throat.

However, Zhuang Rui had experienced a lot in the past few years. As he uttered the question, he grabbed the javelin beside him with his right hand and used it to support his body as he stood up against the rock wall.

To be honest, Zhuang Rui was terrified. His legs were so weak that he probably wouldn't have been able to stand up if he hadn't been leaning against the rock wall next to the cave.

Zhuang Rui's overreaction startled the dark figure in front of him. In this world, people can be frightened to death by being frightened by others. Zhuang Rui was surprised to see the dark figure, and the dark figure was probably afraid to see Zhuang Rui.

Upon seeing the sleeping Zhuang Rui stand up, the dark figure immediately retreated in panic, forgetting that behind it lay a pit three meters deep.

"Awooo... Awooo!"

The figure that fell into the deep pit immediately let out a miserable scream.

"Sir, who are you?"

Zhuang Rui had seen it clearly just now. The figure was more than two meters tall when it retreated. Although he couldn't see the face clearly, the figure was extremely burly. He was probably no match for the figure.

To avoid any misunderstandings caused by language barriers, Zhuang Rui quickly greeted the mysterious person who had fallen into the pit in English again.

"Aww, aww..."

However, the only response Zhuang Rui received from the pit was a shout, followed by a large hand covered in black hair clinging to the edge of the pit, and a large head also emerged.

"This... damn it, it's a ghost!"

By the sparse starlight, Zhuang Rui could vaguely make out the shape of the head. He was immediately terrified, and his screams were even louder than those of the guy in the pit.

To be honest, its head was rather shabby; its two eyes bulged outwards, as big as a newborn baby's fist, and its upturned nose revealed two dark nostrils. A tuft of fine hair also topped its head.

Calling it a person is a bit of a stretch. At least Zhuang Rui had never seen a person with such big eyes and a head. Seeing such a thing in the middle of the night, it would be abnormal for Zhuang Rui not to call it a ghost.

Seemingly startled by Zhuang Rui's voice, the hairy hand on the edge of the pit immediately withdrew. It seems that the creature in the pit was also wary and afraid of Zhuang Rui.

"Hey... I'm telling you, don't come up here..."

Zhuang Rui wanted to take advantage of the moment the creature fell into the pit and kill it with a javelin, but he was unsure of himself. What if he failed to kill it and angered it? With his small frame, he seemed a bit outmatched in a hand-to-hand combat with it.

After thinking it over, Zhuang Rui decided to win people over with virtue. In his haste, he suddenly remembered the spiritual energy in his eyes and quickly released it out of his body, letting it travel over the big guy in the pit.

This trick worked perfectly. The creature that had been growling incessantly in the pit immediately stopped, with only some nasal sounds coming out, indicating that it was enjoying Zhuang Rui's spiritual energy.

"Damn it, I'm so stupid. Why didn't I use my spiritual energy to lure that shark back then? Otherwise, I might be riding a shark away from this godforsaken place right now..."

Seeing that the spiritual energy was effective, Zhuang Rui had such a thought, but when he thought about it, it felt a bit absurd. The ocean is so big, what if the shark doesn't cooperate and gets lost halfway through? Wouldn't he be devastated?

With spiritual energy as a powerful weapon, Zhuang Rui felt much more at ease. However, he still couldn't feel at ease until he figured out exactly what the other party was.

After calming the creature in the pit, Zhuang Rui scrambled into the cave, used a javelin to pry up the still-burnt branches, and blew on them.

With caves, one can find shelter from the wind and rain, and also store fire.

Preserving a fire is actually quite simple. Just cover the burning firewood with a layer of damp leaves and firewood, and the fire will keep smoking. The smoke contains heat, which will dry the semi-damp combustibles at the bottom, and then use the residual heat to bake the top layer.

Repeat this process, and the flame will remain lit. Of course, if you don't want the flame to go out, you need to add some semi-wet combustible material every seven or eight hours.

When you need to use it, simply lift up the semi-damp flammable material, cover it with some dry, withered leaves, and blow on the fire.

Zhuang Rui had already learned this trick when he was around ten years old. Back then, he and Liu Chuan skipped school to catch sparrows. They didn't dare take them home, so they roasted and ate them in the harvested fields. After eating them, they would throw some random wet leaves on top of them.

The next day, Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan found that the fire was still burning. Zhuang Rui, who was a good kid at the time, looked up the principle behind it and naturally mastered the technique of preserving the fire.

"Hey, you, what guy?"

After skillfully lighting the fire, Zhuang Rui, emboldened, tried shouting at the guy in the pit. However, it was clear that the guy didn't understand Zhuang Rui's words and didn't react after Zhuang Rui shouted.

Zhuang Rui scratched his head, picked up a handful of dry grass that he had placed under his buttocks, lit it, and piled it at the entrance of the cave. Then, he mustered up his courage and looked into the cave. Perhaps due to the angle, Zhuang Rui still only saw a dark shadow.

This troubled Zhuang Rui a bit. Although spiritual energy can see through things, it is ineffective against living beings because once it comes into contact with a living being, it will enter the body. So, if he wants to see this guy clearly, he has to bring him up.

The guy in the pit seemed a little afraid of firelight. When he saw the light above, he covered his head with his two hairy arms. He looked exactly like a habitual offender who was frequently in and out of jail.

Even Zhuang Rui, who was under immense mental stress, couldn't help but laugh. The danger level of the creatures in the pit immediately dropped in his mind.

After thinking it over, Zhuang Rui decided to take a conciliatory approach. Several streams of spiritual energy overflowed from his eyes and seeped into the dark, large creature in the pit.

Seemingly sensing the spiritual energy entering its body, the creature in the pit stirred, removed its hands from its head, and looked around as if searching for the source of the spiritual energy. When it raised its head, its eyes met Zhuang Rui's.

"Gorilla! A gorilla!"

Zhuang Rui saw it clearly now; it was a gorilla, but this gorilla was many times larger than any he had seen on TV or in zoos.

He didn't have time to think too much at the moment; his priority was to prevent the other party from becoming hostile towards him. When he saw the gorilla looking at him, Zhuang Rui continuously channeled his spiritual energy into its body.

It is said that gorillas are the most intelligent and closest to humans. Sure enough, after a moment of confusion in his eyes, the big guy immediately stared at Zhuang Rui, as if he sensed that the comfortable feeling came from the hairless creature above him.

"Awooo... Awooo!"

The feeling of having his body cleansed by spiritual energy was so comfortable that the gorilla in the pit couldn't help but open his arms and pound his chest.

However, the narrowness of the pit prevented the gorilla from fully opening its arms. With one long arm reaching over the pit and a little effort, the massive body climbed out.

It must have been afraid of the firelight at the cave entrance. After climbing out of the trap, the gorilla retreated in the opposite direction from the cave entrance, going back more than 10 meters until it half-hidden its body in the darkness before stopping.

"Good heavens! Is this...is this a gorilla? Could King Kong really exist?"

After the gorilla climbed up, Zhuang Rui saw its full size, which made him gasp in astonishment. The size of this guy was... truly breathtaking.

Zhuang Rui is 1.82 meters tall, which is already considered quite tall, but in front of this gorilla, he looks like a child.

Even with its back bent and hands hanging by its sides, the gorilla was still a head taller than Zhuang Rui. If it stood up straight, it would probably be at least 2.5 meters tall.

The King Kong that Zhuang Rui mentioned is the name of a globally popular American movie. The protagonist of the movie is named King Kong, a giant gorilla that is tens of meters tall.

Of course, in terms of size, this one is still far from the King Kong in the movie special effects; otherwise, with Zhuang Rui's trap, it probably wouldn't even be able to sink one foot in.

"This must be the kind of gorilla the teacher mentioned..."

Looking at the huge creature standing more than 10 meters away, Zhuang Rui suddenly remembered a type of gorilla that his mentor had mentioned in his class on the history of human evolution.

It is a very rare species of gorilla, with only about 30 to 40 individuals currently identified in the world. It originates from the tropical rainforests of Africa and has an extremely high intelligence, almost comparable to that of humans.

That gorilla weighs over 200 kilograms, is over 2 meters tall, and has arms that are about 4 meters long when outstretched. It has a fiery temper, and since the movie was released, people have habitually called this gorilla from the African rainforest King Kong.

The one in front of him was almost exactly the same as the one his teacher had described. Recalling his teacher's description of the fiery temperament of this kind of gorilla, Zhuang Rui quickly used his spiritual energy to soothe the big guy.

The gorilla seemed to crave spiritual energy more than it feared the firelight. It slowly lowered its arms and moved closer to Zhuang Rui, making Zhuang Rui a little nervous for a moment.

"Aww... Ughhhh!"

Dude, what did you say?

The gorilla made strange noises and shouted at Zhuang Rui. Poor Zhuang Rui had never studied gorilla language and could only communicate with it in Chinese.

However, Zhuang Rui could tell that the gorilla meant him no harm, which emboldened him, and he slowly walked up to the gorilla.

"You...me, are friends!"

After saying this, Zhuang Rui pounded his chest with both hands. He remembered that gorillas used this gesture to express happiness and anger.

Chapter 833 Vajra (Part Two)

A British female zoologist once spent decades observing gorillas in the African forests, learning the meanings behind their body language and roars. Her subsequent television program, which aired, caused a sensation in the global scientific community.

Zhuang Rui had watched the show before, but he watched it for entertainment. He only remembered the scene where the gorilla pounded its chest with its fists. Now he couldn't help but imitate it.

To avoid any misunderstanding from the giant in front of him, Zhuang Rui quickly infused the gorilla with some spiritual energy after expressing the gorilla's joyful gesture.

"Awooo... Awooo!"

The gorilla, nourished by the spiritual energy, was instantly overjoyed, stretching out its long arms and pounding its chest.

Upon hearing this roar, Zhuang Rui was almost certain that the sounds he had heard a few nights ago were coming from this big guy.

The gorilla's chest-pounding movements were much more standardized than Zhuang Rui's, and it seemed unafraid of pain, pounding its chest with a "thump thump" sound. Zhuang Rui's expression kept changing as he watched. If it were pounding on him, wouldn't that be the death of him?

Fortunately, the gorilla didn't have the habit of punching people in the chest. After roaring to the sky for a while, it quieted down and looked at its hairless companion with its intelligent eyes.

The gorilla's eyes held curiosity and a hint of friendliness, but no anger, which reassured Zhuang Rui. He reached out and gently touched the gorilla's long arms.

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The gorilla seemed a little confused by Zhuang Rui's behavior, and copied Zhuang Rui's actions, touching his smooth arm, which made Zhuang Rui both amused and exasperated.

"Dude, you're not female, are you?"

Zhuang Rui suddenly remembered that during scientific expeditions to Shennongjia in China, there was a legend about male and female wild men fighting over mates. If this gorilla was female, he might end up getting himself into trouble.

Zhuang Rui cautiously glanced down at the gorilla's crotch and then relaxed. He figured the guy wouldn't have any ulterior motives about his gender; they were both men.

"My name is Zhuang Rui..."

"Awooo... Awooo..."

The second conversation clearly failed again. The two talked past each other and neither understood the other's meaning, which made Zhuang Rui frown. He wanted to give the other a name.

Although the names Zhuang Rui gave his pets weren't very good, this big guy had a ready-made name: King Kong from the movies, which perfectly matched the image.

"I... Zhuang Rui! You... King Kong, King Kong!"

After Zhuang Rui channeled a burst of spiritual energy into the gorilla's head, he relentlessly began teaching it. Whenever the gorilla reacted when he called out "King Kong," Zhuang Rui would immediately give it spiritual energy.

After a few back and forths, it didn't take long before Zhuang Rui called out "Jin Gang" again, and everyone immediately reacted.

"King Kong!" "Awooo!" "King Kong!" "Awooo!"

Zhuang Rui had been cooped up for over a week and was almost sick with boredom. Now that he had someone to talk to, he was immediately excited. Meanwhile, Jin Gang, who wasn't very intelligent and seemed to be all alone, was having a great time playing with Zhuang Rui.

Zhuang Rui chattered incessantly with King Kong, like a chatterbox. This big guy wasn't as irritable as the legends said; he actually listened with great interest, occasionally letting out a roar, which greatly pleased Zhuang Rui. Even his bulging eyes and upturned nostrils seemed to look better now.

Before he knew it, the night had passed. Zhuang Rui felt no fatigue at all; on the contrary, he was full of energy.

The non-stop talking throughout the night helped him release the pent-up frustration in his heart, and even if he couldn't leave the deserted island in the short term, life didn't seem so lonely anymore.

"Awooo... Awooo!"

As dawn broke, King Kong suddenly stood up from the ground, leaped up, and began climbing the mountain.

"King Kong, come back, come back!"

Seeing Jin Gang about to leave, Zhuang Rui grew anxious, but no matter how much he called out, Jin Gang didn't turn around and instantly disappeared from Zhuang Rui's sight.

"What if King Kong doesn't come back?"

Zhuang Rui felt a little anxious. After spending the night together, he had almost placed King Kong on the same level as White Lion, which was also why he felt so lonely.

After staring blankly at the spot where King Kong had disappeared for a long while, Zhuang Rui finally turned around. He still had a lot of work to do today, and he couldn't just stand there waiting for it, could he?

After burning all night, the fire in the cave had been completely extinguished, except for the embers that Zhuang Rui had deliberately preserved. Only wisps of smoke rose from the embers. Zhuang Rui took a shovel and shoveled away the ashes on the ground.

After working for more than two hours, the cave became clean. Apart from some traces of fire and smoke on the rock walls, the foul smell of the badger was completely gone.

Looking at his new home, Zhuang Rui wasn't very happy. During the few hours he had been working, King Kong hadn't shown up, which made Zhuang Rui wonder if the big guy would just stop coming altogether.

Clutching the dry branches and leaves he had collected, Zhuang Rui spread them out at the very back of the cave. This would be his home from now on. Lying on the soft bed of leaves, Zhuang Rui wanted to catch up on the sleep he had missed the night before.

"Awooo... Awooo..."

Just as Zhuang Rui closed his eyes, King Kong's roar suddenly came from outside the cave, which made Zhuang Rui overjoyed. He immediately jumped up and rushed out.

"Jin Gang, you scared me half to death! I thought you weren't coming back..." Zhuang Rui said with a hint of sourness in his voice.

"Aww..."

Jin Gang couldn't understand what Zhuang Rui was saying. He stepped over the trap Zhuang Rui had dug and threw a bloody, mangled thing on the ground.

"This...this is a goat?"

Zhuang Rui was stunned for a moment. It was indeed the goat he had seen by the stream yesterday. Zhuang Rui had originally planned to go hunting with a javelin this morning, but he didn't expect that King Kong would bring one over.

Moreover, the goat looked terrible, with half of its body covered in blood, most likely because it was picked up by King Kong and slammed to its death.

"Awooo..."

King Kong didn't care what Zhuang Rui was thinking. He grabbed the goat's two hind legs with his long arms and tore them apart with force.

Standing nearby, Zhuang Rui heard a "ripping" sound. The goat's internal organs, mixed with blood, were poured all over him. The stench was so strong that Zhuang Rui almost couldn't breathe.

King Kong, however, was very excited. After throwing the goat, which had been split in two, onto the ground, he pounded his chest hard, as if to show Zhuang Rui how brave he was.

"Damn it, I've been cleaning all morning..."

Zhuang Rui stared blankly at the bloodstains and internal organs on his body and in the cave, feeling like crying but having no tears. He was still conscious, but what about the bloodstains in the cave? Did he have to carry a pot and fetch water back and forth to wash them off?

"Aww..."

King Kong seemed dissatisfied with Zhuang Rui's reaction. Shouldn't he at least give him some spiritual energy as a reward? So, the guy picked up half a sheep's body with a disgruntled expression and started biting into the fresh meat with his big mouth.

"Holy crap, aren't gorillas supposed to be herbivores? This guy's even more ferocious than me..."

King Kong's actions startled Zhuang Rui awake. He watched as it tore off a large chunk of flesh, still attached to the bone, with teeth even better than the white lion's.

"Awooo..."

Jin Gang doesn't hold grudges. Seeing that Zhuang Rui wasn't eating, he quickly grabbed the other half of the mutton from the ground, handed it to Zhuang Rui, and demonstrated by taking a bite of the mutton in his hand, as if teaching Zhuang Rui how to eat meat.

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Zhuang Rui was speechless. He muttered something he didn't understand, took the mutton, looked at its bloody appearance, but couldn't bring himself to eat it.

"King Kong, don't eat anymore, I'll cook something delicious for you..."

Zhuang Rui snatched the meat from Jin Gang's mouth, grabbed half a piece of mutton in one hand, and ran towards the stream.

King Kong wasn't angry that Zhuang Rui had taken away his food. Instead, he followed Zhuang Rui with some curiosity and watched as he threw away the internal organs, washed them clean, and took them back outside the cave.

Zhuang Rui ran down to the foot of the mountain and collected a lot of firewood. What was funniest was that Jin Gang followed him and carried down a large pile of firewood. This made Zhuang Rui very happy, and he rewarded Jin Gang with several streams of spiritual energy.

Zhuang Rui was worried about how he could dismantle the houses by himself, but with Jin Gang, this studious comrade, around, he could probably take those wooden houses apart in a day.

Using the small knife at the end of the javelin, Zhuang Rui peeled off the sheepskin, which had already become two pieces, and set it aside. He estimated that the sheepskin would be able to replace his briefs before today, since the thing inside was almost exposed to the air.

After working for more than half an hour, Zhuang Rui finally put two halves of lamb on the fire to roast. Jin Gang was a little confused and tilted his head, staring at the lamb on the fire. However, a few minutes later, when the aroma wafted out, Jin Gang's expression became somewhat uneasy.

"We'll have to wait a little longer..."

Zhuang Rui smiled at the scratching King Kong, soothed him with his spiritual energy, and then focused his attention back on the roasted whole lamb.

After waiting for more than half an hour, the entire lamb was roasted to a golden brown. Zhuang Rui took it down and placed it in a ventilated place to cool for a while before handing one to Jin Gang.

Jin Gang, who had been waiting impatiently, grabbed a piece of mutton and stuffed it into his mouth. Zhuang Rui's appearance wasn't much better. He hadn't tasted meat for almost 10 days. Even without any seasoning, Zhuang Rui ate with his mouth full of oil.

However, Zhuang Rui's appetite and eating speed were clearly no match for King Kong. After King Kong finished half of the roasted lamb, Zhuang Rui had only taken a few bites of the lamb.

After finishing his own portion, King Kong stared longingly at the half roasted lamb in Zhuang Rui's hand. His innocent gaze made Zhuang Rui have no choice but to give King Kong a large portion of it.

"Take a bath, go take a bath..."

Covered in greasy blood, Zhuang Rui felt extremely uncomfortable. After lunch, he dragged Jin Gang towards the beach.

Lunch was provided by Jin Gang, and Zhuang Rui also wanted to show off his skills by having a whole fish feast for dinner.

Chapter 834 Vajra (Part 3)

Zhuang Rui hadn't expected that King Kong, such a large creature, would be afraid of water. When Zhuang Rui went into the pool to bait the fish, King Kong simply hid to the side and slapped the fish Zhuang Rui had baited up dead.

"It smells so good, so delicious..."

Zhuang Rui scraped some coarse salt from the salt-drying area. Although the taste wasn't great, it was salty at least, which made Zhuang Rui, who hadn't eaten salt in a long time, so excited that he almost bit his tongue off.

"Is this guy covered in hair because he's salt deficient?"

Zhuang Rui looked at King Kong beside him, who was imitating him eating, and thought with ill intent, "This gorilla's learning ability is really strong. As long as I do something once, it can learn it almost perfectly."

"Awooo! Whoosh...whoosh..."

After finishing his own fish, Jin Gang looked at Zhuang Rui and unceremoniously took away the three or four grilled fish next to Zhuang Rui.

King Kong wasn't just eating for free. While Zhuang Rui was grilling fish, it somehow brought out a bundle of sugarcane, gave Zhuang Rui half of it in a very stylish manner, and even demonstrated to Zhuang Rui how to eat sugarcane.

"Pfft pfft..."

Watching King Kong open its big mouth and spit out sugarcane residue in an exaggerated way, Zhuang Rui couldn't help but laugh. After spending a lot of time with King Kong, he felt that King Kong was like a five or six-year-old child, which was very cute. If you praised it a few times, it would make this big guy happy for a long time.

"Pfft! Pfft!"

Zhuang Rui imitated King Kong, spitting out sugarcane residue, which made King Kong extremely happy. He grinned and chuckled, occasionally punching his chest with his fist.

After his initial excitement, Jin Gang looked at the sugarcane beside him, hesitated for a moment, then separated several more stalks and gently placed them next to Zhuang Rui.

King Kong's actions touched Zhuang Rui. In nature, animals are always very protective of their food, especially the more intelligent the animal.

The fact that King Kong can behave this way means that he no longer sees himself as one of his own kind, but as his closest companion.

However, King Kong was quite excited when eating fish. Perhaps because he was afraid of water, he had never eaten fish before. Zhuang Rui had prepared seven or eight sea fish weighing more than 10 kilograms each, and most of them ended up in King Kong's stomach.

"King Kong, come down and take a bath..."

These past two days, Zhuang Rui has found it unbearable to smell King Kong's stench. He guesses the guy has never had a bath since birth. Zhuang Rui stands in the shallow part of the pool and waves to King Kong.

"Waaah..."

King Kong's large head bobbed back and forth, its two long arms flailing wildly, and its body kept retreating, as if expressing its fear of water.

"Don't be afraid, see, it's alright..."

Zhuang Rui scooped up water and splashed it at Jin Gang, getting the big guy all over his head and face. Jin Gang was so frightened that he used his hands and feet to run away more than ten meters away.

Perhaps sensing that the water wouldn't harm him, Jin Gang stealthily returned, looking at the clear water and Zhuang Rui swimming in it, and hesitated for a moment.

Perhaps it was because of that time he held his breath underwater, but Zhuang Rui found that he could now easily hold his breath underwater for seven or eight minutes. Seeing that Jin Gang wasn't coming over, Zhuang Rui dove to the bottom of the water and never resurfaced.

A minute passed, and King Kong just peeked out tentatively, without reacting.

Three minutes passed, and King Kong started to get anxious. He grabbed a stick and poked around in the water, but he still didn't dare to go in.

Five minutes passed, and King Kong started yelling anxiously, and tried to stick one leg out of the water.

Gorillas are among the most studious animals, and King Kong was no exception. Seeing that Zhuang Rui hadn't surfaced for a while, King Kong finally dipped one leg into the pool, then jerked it back up as if electrocuted.

Perhaps it was the cool pool water that made King Kong feel comfortable, because the group carefully put their feet in again, and slowly slid their whole bodies into the water, imitating Zhuang Rui's movements, and started splashing around in the water.

"King Kong, well done!" Zhuang Rui saw it clearly from underwater, surfaced to catch his breath, and gave King Kong a thumbs up.

The pool was only a little over a meter deep in the shallowest part. After struggling in the water for most of the day, King Kong learned to swim. Moreover, due to its animal nature, it was much more agile in the water than Zhuang Rui.

Zhuang Rui was incredibly envious of this instinct. He had been able to swim since he was a child, but now he had only mastered the doggy paddle and backstroke. Look at Jin Gang, he could even do the butterfly stroke with his arms outstretched, and he was self-taught.

However, this caused harm to the fish in the pond. The gluttonous King Kong caught almost all the slightly larger fish. Fortunately, the pond was connected to the sea, and fish continued to swim in.

For the next two days, King Kong simply refused to go back and dragged Zhuang Rui to stay by the pond. Of course, it was responsible for catching fish, while Zhuang Rui was responsible for barbecuing, and smoke rose from the fire all day long.

Zhuang Rui has nothing else to offer but plenty of time. He was happy to see his new friend, so he played with King Kong.

Over the course of a few days, Zhuang Rui and King Kong grew closer. Although the big guy looked fierce, he was very thoughtful. To make Zhuang Rui sleep more comfortable, he even brought a bundle of dry sugarcane branches for Zhuang Rui to use as a mat.

Moreover, the two sides are working together more and more smoothly. King Kong can understand Zhuang Rui's simple language perfectly. Unfortunately, King Kong cannot speak. Even so, it has relieved Zhuang Rui of a lot of loneliness.

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In the past few days, in addition to grilling fish for King Kong, Zhuang Rui has also sped up the cleaning of the wooden house.

There are advantages to being a big-bellied man. In the following days, Zhuang Rui made great progress in the archaeological work on the wooden house, because he had a demolition worker by his side.

In five or six days, the entire village was cleared down to just one wooden house; the rest were all ruins. However, Zhuang Rui didn't waste any of the wood; it was all used as barbecue material.

From more than a dozen wooden huts, a large number of household items and weapons and armor were unearthed, including rusty spears, exquisitely crafted short axes, and various styles of knight's swords. These items all had a medieval foreign style and could not have been made by the local natives.

The wooden bowls inside also solved Zhuang Rui's practical problem. Holding the wooden bowls and drinking the fish soup made Zhuang Rui feel that he was still living in modern society and had not regressed to the era of apes.

The most useful item was the saw, which was still usable despite being a bit rusty. This gave Zhuang Rui hope of leaving the isolated island. After excavating all the wooden houses, Zhuang Rui planned to build a dugout raft.

In the excavated wooden houses, Zhuang Rui discovered eight more bodies, all of whom died in a fight. It seemed to be an internal conflict. Whether everyone on the island perished together, Zhuang Rui did not know.

However, these clues were enough for Zhuang Rui to further investigate and confirm that this was indeed a place where pirates had lived. But why the pirates chose this isolated island as their lair was a mystery to Zhuang Rui.

Because this isolated island is covered with reefs, it is extremely difficult to enter and exit. One wrong move could result in the destruction of the ship and loss of life. However, Zhuang Rui did not find the answer from the excavation of the ruins.

Zhuang Rui didn't dwell on what exactly happened hundreds of years ago for long. Instead, he discovered many things that he could use, which made him very happy.

Clothes... naturally, there are none left, and even if there were, they would have long since rotted away.

However, Zhuang Rui actually found a pair of calfskin boots, which were in excellent condition except for some fading. Zhuang Rui put his feet in them and tried them on. Although they were a little tight, they were a hundred times more comfortable than the shoes he had made.

Zhuang Rui didn't care that these were antiques from hundreds of years ago; he put them on directly. Now, Zhuang Rui was wearing a cowboy hat, a piece of tanned goatskin around his waist, and leather boots. His body was tanned dark by the sun. If he painted some color on his face, he would look like a Native American.

In addition, Zhuang Rui also found a pair of gold-threaded gloves in a wooden box in the ruins. The workmanship was extremely exquisite. Although it had been hundreds of years, it was still as good as new. Zhuang Rui was reluctant to wear it and carefully put it in the cave.

"King Kong... be gentle, be gentler..."

With just one last wooden house left, the entire village was cleared out. King Kong's demolition methods were extremely brutal; he simply pushed the wooden house down with his fan-like palms. Anyway, with his thick skin and tough flesh, he wasn't afraid of being hit by the wood.

On the first day, Zhuang Rui was stunned by King Kong's violent demolition. If King Kong were to be used for demolition in China, he would be able to take on a hundred people at once, without anyone stopping him.

"Awooo..."

After pushing the wooden house, King Kong excitedly bent his right arm and struck a pose, making Zhuang Rui laugh. This was a pose that Zhuang Rui had taught King Kong, and now when King Kong was excited, he would alternate between pounding his chest and striking a pose.

"Alright, go gather firewood. I'll grill some meat for you tonight..."

Zhuang Rui chuckled and patted King Kong's neck. Earlier that morning, King Kong, who had grown tired of fish, caught a goat. King Kong's diet was varied, including both plants and animals, but these past few

days, Zhuang Rui had spoiled him, making him picky about food. He no longer wanted to eat raw meat except for cooked food.

Although King Kong was intelligent, he still couldn't learn how to use fire to roast animals. After his fur was roasted a few times, the guy refused to do the roasting work anymore.

"Hehe..." Having understood Zhuang Rui's words, Jin Gang happily turned around to gather firewood, which had been their routine for the past few days.

Zhuang Rui then began searching through the last wooden house.

He had a feeling that these people came to this deserted island with some secret, but after searching the entire village, Zhuang Rui found nothing about the pirates' treasure except for the pair of gold-threaded gloves.

"Huh?"

Zhuang Rui picked up a folded piece of leather from the ground, unfolded it, and found that there seemed to be some lines drawn on it.

Chapter 835 The Tomb

"What's this?"

Looking at the leather, Zhuang Rui was somewhat taken aback. It was covered in lines, not like a map, but more like a child's scribbles, crooked and messy.

However, Zhuang Rui is an antique collector and knows that things are different in foreign countries and ancient China. In ancient China, people mostly recorded things on bamboo slips to preserve records, and later they developed to use cloth and paper.

However, in other countries, records of important events are mostly made on specially tanned leather, with ink applied to them. Events recorded in this way tend to be preserved for longer periods.

However, tanning leather that can be written on requires sheepskin, which is the origin of the legend of the sheepskin scroll. In addition, some special processes are required, so things that are not very important are generally not recorded on the leather.

In other words, the leather in Zhuang Rui's hand must have a secret. However, looking at the graffiti-like artwork, Zhuang Rui could only shake his head and sigh, realizing that he was not capable of deciphering it.

One thing Zhuang Rui was certain of was that this leather was definitely not a map, because it was covered in lines; it would be more accurate to call it a maze map.

After refolding the leather, Zhuang Rui returned to the cave and kept the leather and the gold-threaded glove together.

To prevent small animals from causing trouble in the cave, Zhuang Rui dug a shallow pit inside and then placed a 40-50 pound stone on top of it. This way, apart from Zhuang Rui and King Kong, animals like badgers couldn't move the stone.

"Ho ho!"

Just as Zhuang Rui finished tidying up, Jin Gang finished his work. To save trouble, he simply picked a small tree and carried it back, eating the tender leaves on the tree as he walked, which made Zhuang Rui both laugh and cry.

Helpless, Zhuang Rui could only pick up some dry branches nearby and bring them back to the cave to make a barbecue.

Although it was only seasoned with salt, Jin Gang ate with gusto, his mouth drooling. He kept flexing his shoulders to show Zhuang Rui his muscles, his comical appearance making Zhuang Rui chuckle. Zhuang Rui's laughter echoed from the foot of the mountain.

Zhuang Rui used the iron pot he found in the wooden house to cook a pot of mutton soup. However, the mutton smell was too strong, and Zhuang Rui didn't drink a drop. On the other hand, Jingang drank it with relish and finished the whole pot of soup.

After lunch, Zhuang Rui took out a knight's sword from the cave, which had been polished by the stream and was now shining brightly again. He looked at King Kong and said, "King Kong, take me for a walk?"

For nearly half a month, Zhuang Rui had been tidying up the wooden village and hadn't had time to explore the lush mountain forest in front of him. Now that the work of tidying up the wooden houses was coming to an end, Zhuang Rui had some ideas.

"Aww!"

King Kong was puzzled, looking at Zhuang Rui with his big eyes full of questions. He really couldn't understand what the word "turn around" meant.

Zhuang Rui stood up, pointed to the high mountain in front of him, and said, "Let's go up the mountain... let's go play on the mountain, take me to see where you live..."

Although Zhuang Rui felt that his relationship with King Kong was already very close, what puzzled him was that King Kong would climb the mountain every day and stay there for a while. After coming down the mountain, he was always in a low mood and it would take Zhuang Rui a long time to cheer him up.

This discovery piqued Zhuang Rui's curiosity. Rather than wanting to explore the extinct volcano, he wanted to unravel the mystery in his heart.

"Ho ho!"

This time, King Kong understood, especially the word "play," which it completely grasped. Seeing Zhuang Rui about to go up the mountain, King Kong jumped up excitedly.

"Hey...hey, buddy, can we slow down a bit?"

Seeing Jin Gang running and scrambling up the mountain, Zhuang Rui immediately shouted anxiously from behind.

It's not that Zhuang Rui couldn't keep up with Jin Gang's movements, but Zhuang Rui's vitals were only covered by two pieces of sheepskin. He wasn't as thick-skinned as Jin Gang. If he tried to climb the mountain like Jin Gang, he would definitely be covered in cuts and bruises from the thorny bushes.

On another note, Zhuang Rui now cherishes his boots. He usually ties them up with shoelaces and hangs them around his neck, only wearing them when searching the cabin.

If you were to run up the mountain, these boots would probably be completely worn out after just one round trip.

"Huh?"

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui's shout, Jin Gang stopped and turned to look at Zhuang Rui.

"Slow down, walk slowly..."

Zhuang Rui taught this word to King Kong many times. Although the big guy could understand it, he was naturally impatient. However, seeing that Zhuang Rui couldn't walk very fast, he could only slow down and follow behind Zhuang Rui leisurely.

This mountain is not actually very high, but its slope is very steep, probably because the volcanic eruption lasted for a long time and covered a very large area.

After hundreds of millions of years of evolution, the cooled volcanic rock surface has become soil suitable for plant life, and the mountain is covered with various trees, including many tall trees that are more than ten meters high.

Upon entering the forest, Zhuang Rui immediately felt a refreshing coolness.

The lush trees blocked out the sunlight, and there were more animals. There were goats and badgers that Zhuang Rui had seen before, as well as some chameleons that were difficult to spot while perched

in the trees. If Zhuang Rui hadn't had such good eyesight, he really wouldn't have been able to spot them.

"Awooo!"

Once inside the forest, King Kong seemed to have returned to its territory. First, it pounded its chest and let out a long howl. Then, it didn't forget to strike a pose as Zhuang Rui had taught it, which made Zhuang Rui hide to the side and chuckle.

"Hehe..."

King Kong swiftly climbed a tree, its figure disappearing into the leaves in no time. Zhuang Rui, below, couldn't see what it was doing and could only slowly ascend, his nerves on edge, wary of a venomous snake attack.

Most islands have snakes, which are natural enemies of seabirds. They are relatively rare at the foot of the mountains, but after entering the forest, Zhuang Rui found at least two snakes with colorful markings. He didn't know if they were venomous.

"Awooo!" King Kong leaped down from the tree, clutching a handful of cherry-sized, black fruits in his hand. He stuffed some into his mouth while handing a handful to Zhuang Rui.

What is this?

Zhuang Rui had never seen this thing before, but seeing how happily Jin Gang was eating it, he picked one up and put it in his mouth. Instantly, a sour and astringent taste reached his taste buds. "Ptooeey!" Zhuang Rui quickly spat it out.

"Ho ho!"

Seeing Zhuang Rui spit out the fruit, King Kong was a little unhappy. He grabbed a handful of fruit, stuffed it into his mouth, chewed it vigorously, and kept making famous hand gestures to Zhuang Rui, indicating that the fruit was delicious.

Unable to refuse such hospitality, and besides, the sourness could quench his thirst, Zhuang Rui followed Jin Gang's example, grabbing five or six fruits and chewing them.

At first, it tasted a bit sour, but as the flesh was chewed up, Zhuang Rui felt his mouth was full of sweetness. This taste was very unique. Zhuang Rui, who had eaten hundreds of kinds of fruit, had never encountered it before.

After finishing the dozen or so fruits in his hand, Zhuang Rui looked at King Kong; these things were really delicious.

"Hmph!"

King Kong was very happy to see that Zhuang Rui had listened to him. After humming a few times, he gave Zhuang Rui the remaining fruit in his hand and hopped ahead to lead the way up the mountain.

After passing through this mountain forest, the terrain became slightly higher, and the mountains were mostly covered with shrubs, with very few tall plants.

The mountain surface has many caves. When passing through these caves, some startled small animals would occasionally emerge from them, and King Kong would excitedly chase and play with them for a while. It didn't want to eat these things; it just found them fun.

After walking for nearly an hour, Zhuang Rui realized that he had only climbed halfway up the mountain, and apart from some seabirds and small animals, there were no secrets on the mountain that Zhuang Rui wanted to know.

"King Kong, where did you used to sleep at night?" Zhuang Rui pulled King Kong aside and gestured as if he were sleeping.

"oh oh!"

King Kong pointed forward with his arm, the excitement he had felt while climbing the mountain vanished instantly, replaced by a hint of sadness in his eyes.

After walking for another ten minutes or so, Zhuang Rui saw Jin Gang standing in front of a rock, suddenly stopping in his tracks. He was a little surprised and asked, "Jin Gang, what's wrong?"

Jin Gang did not answer Zhuang Rui's question. Instead, he stood by the rock and pushed it forcefully. The rock, which seemed to be rooted in the ground, slowly began to move, revealing an opening behind it.

"Damn, what's that smell...?"

As soon as Zhuang Rui approached the cave entrance, he was forced to back away by a putrid stench.

King Kong didn't enter the cave; he just stood at the entrance, letting out a mournful cry. Zhuang Rui could see clearly that tears were sliding down King Kong's face.

"This...this is the gorillas' graveyard?"

The smell in the cave was so unbearable that Zhuang Rui simply used his spiritual energy to look inside. What he saw shocked him: the cave, which was thirty or forty meters deep, contained the skeletons of dozens of gorillas of various sizes.

The closer the skeleton is to the inside of the cave, the smaller it is and the more decayed it is, revealing the stark white bones. As the order changes, the size of the gorilla increases.

The two outermost ones are almost as good as King Kong, and their bodies are not badly decayed, their fur is still intact, so they must have been dead for a short time.

These two should be King Kong's parents. Judging from the size of the gorillas in the cave, King Kong's size may be due to mutations caused by mating and changes in the living environment.

Zhuang Rui now understands that King Kong runs up the mountain every day, perhaps to remember his parents, and that in his generation, he has become the only gorilla on this deserted island.

"King Kong, come on, let's go play in the mountains..."

Seeing King Kong's sad appearance, Zhuang Rui couldn't bear it. He quickly used his spiritual energy to nourish King Kong and then spoke to divert its attention.

Chapter 836 The Pirate's Treasure (Part 1)

Zhuang Rui's trick usually worked well, but it failed this time. Jin Gang, who had only been whimpering, suddenly sat down on the ground, pounding his chest and crying loudly, beating his feet like a little child.

"Damn it, I'm even upset now..."

Seeing Jin Gang's condition, Zhuang Rui was overcome with grief. He had been stranded on this deserted island for almost a month. Judging by the time, his wife should have already given birth. Thinking of his family, Zhuang Rui burst into tears.

Although their motivations differed, both were longing for their loved ones. The two primates sat on the ground and burst into tears.

After a long while, King Kong was the first to stop his grief. He stood up and moved the large rock back. On this island, no one but him could move the rock and disturb his family.

However, Zhuang Rui couldn't hold back his tears. Thinking that he might never see his mother, wife, and children again in this life, and would have to stay on the deserted island as a wild man, Zhuang Rui couldn't stop his tears from falling down his face, which left Jin Gang a little at a loss.

"Ho ho!"

Jin Gang pulled Zhuang Rui with his hand, raised his arms, made a few gestures, and then pointed to the mountain, as if to tell Zhuang Rui that there were fun things there.

Suppressing his grief, Zhuang Rui stood up. He couldn't think about this; if he did, he wouldn't be able to go on living. He was already very lucky to have survived the ocean waves.

Seeing that Zhuang Rui had stopped crying, Jin Gang was overjoyed and shouted excitedly. He took the lead and ran up the mountain, turning back to signal Zhuang Rui to follow.

To be honest, Zhuang Rui had lost all interest in sightseeing at this point, and there was no need to continue exploring this extinct volcano. He was only following behind King Kong because he didn't want to upset this big guy whose intelligence was only that of a five or six-year-old child.

After walking for more than ten minutes, they were not far from the top of the mountain. About seven or eight meters in front of Zhuang Rui, a dark cave entrance appeared.

The cave entrance wasn't very large, only about a meter square. However, Zhuang Rui glanced at it with his spiritual energy and found that the cave was extremely deep, so deep that even with his spiritual energy detection range of 500 meters, he couldn't see the end.

Although the cave was pitch black, it did not prevent Zhuang Rui from probing with his spiritual energy.

The cave floor was uneven and initially seemed a bit narrow, but the further you went in, the wider the cave became. At a depth of two or three hundred meters, it was already more than ten meters high, and many branches branched out, leading in all directions, like a maze.

Inside the cave, there is a stream, and many stalactites with strange shapes grow on the cave ceiling. If this were to appear in China, it would definitely become an excellent tourist destination after development.

However, during the process of releasing spiritual energy, Zhuang Rui felt that the released spiritual energy was constantly decreasing, which made him a little strange, so he quickly withdrew the spiritual energy.

"Could that sheepskin be a map of the cave?"

Zhuang Rui, having withdrawn his spiritual energy, was still pondering the winding terrain inside the cave when suddenly a thought struck him. He remembered the piece of leather he had found in the wooden house; the messy lines on it bore a striking resemblance to the complex network of lines in the cave.

The more Zhuang Rui thought about it, the more it seemed likely. The leather had no markings, only winding lines, which were very likely a map of the cave.

This discovery excited Zhuang Rui. Pirate treasure is an irresistible temptation for anyone in the world. For hundreds of years, countless people have excavated on famous pirate islands in an attempt to uncover the mysteriously disappeared treasures of those famous pirates.

Although Zhuang Rui was not short of money, he would not complain about having too much. Even though money was useless on this deserted island, Zhuang Rui was still so excited about his discovery that he wanted to run into the cave as soon as possible.

For others, entering this cave is like entering a maze, especially since it's pitch black inside. Even if you use a torch as a marker, you might not be able to find your way back when you turn around.

But none of this is a problem for Zhuang Rui. Even if he goes out of the spiritual energy's field of vision, Zhuang Rui has a way to get out, and he can also find the fastest way to the depths of the cave.

"Awooo!"

Jin Gang didn't know what Zhuang Rui was doing, but when he saw Zhuang Rui trying to crawl into the cave, he jumped to the cave entrance and waved his arms to stop Zhuang Rui from going in.

"King Kong, what's wrong?"

Zhuang Rui found it a bit strange. He had just used his spiritual energy to check the cave, and there didn't seem to be any danger inside. The most likely scenario was that he would get lost inside, but that was not a problem for him at all.

"Hehe..."

King Kong looked a little anxious. He picked up a fist-sized rock from the ground, then glanced furtively into the cave before swinging his long arm and smashing it into the cave.

The stone struck the rock wall with a dull thud, but what followed left Zhuang Rui speechless, as the once quiet cave began to boil with the sound of the stone.

From the cave entrance, one could see a large number of dark shadows suddenly appear inside the cave, flying around and covering the entire cave. Some of the shadows even flew outside the cave entrance.

"Holy crap, a bat?!"

Zhuang Rui now understood why the spiritual energy had inexplicably decreased; it had all been absorbed into the bodies of these bats. The bats hanging upside down from the cave ceiling hadn't initially caught his attention; he'd mistaken them for protruding rocks.

Looking at the dense, dark shadows inside the cave, Zhuang Rui couldn't help but feel a chill run down his spine. Although bats feed on mosquitoes, vampire bats do exist in the world, and this is not a legend, but a real creature.

Zhuang Rui didn't know if the bats in the cave were vampire bats. If they were, it would cause great trouble for his cave exploration.

Bats naturally prefer the night, and the sunlight outside immediately makes them scream, a very unpleasant sound.

However, King Kong, who was waiting outside the cave, was very excited. Before the bats could fly back, he swung his hand and slapped them down one by one.

King Kong's arms possessed the strength of a thousand pounds; the bats he struck were instantly reduced to a bloody mess, clearly beyond saving.

What King Kong did next made Zhuang Rui feel disgusted. King Kong grabbed a bat on the ground with his palm and stuffed it into his mouth. Red blood dripped down King Kong's big mouth.

"Awooo..."

Seven or eight bats wouldn't even be enough to fill a gap in Zhuang Rui's teeth, but this guy hadn't forgotten Zhuang Rui. He actually saved the last one and put it right in front of Zhuang Rui's mouth.

"Go away, I'm not eating this..."

Upon seeing the bat that resembled a rat, Zhuang Rui quickly pushed King Kong's hand away, but snatched the bat away instead, wanting to see if it was a vampire bat.

Zhuang Rui learned in biology class that vampire bats are not very big, with the largest not exceeding 9 centimeters in length, and their tails, which are not exposed, are mainly dark brown in color.

Vampire bats are easily recognizable by their appearance. They have a fleshy pad with a "U"-shaped groove at the top of their nose, triangular ear tips, long and sharp canines, and well-developed, slightly triangular, and sharp upper incisors that can pierce the protruding parts of other animals to feed on them.

"Thank goodness, it wasn't a vampire bat..."

After carefully examining the dead bat, Zhuang Rui felt relieved. It was a common big-eared bat that feeds on mosquitoes and insects and would not attack humans.

However, the swarms of bats in the cave were also a headache for Zhuang Rui. He was completely naked, and if he were accidentally scratched by these bats, he could very well contract a virus.

Using fire and smoke to drive them away? That's simply not realistic. This cave must be at least 500 meters deep. How much firewood would that require?

Moreover, he didn't know if the cave had another exit. If he finished his work and there was still air circulation in other places, wouldn't Zhuang Rui be devastated?

"King Kong, how about we go inside and have some fun?"

After thinking for a long time, Zhuang Rui still couldn't come up with a solution, so he immediately set his sights on King Kong. This guy has thick skin and flesh, so the bats shouldn't be able to do anything to him, right?

"Ho ho!"

King Kong's reaction was somewhat unexpected by Zhuang Rui. The guy shook his head repeatedly and put his hands behind his head, looking terrified of the cave.

Zhuang Rui didn't know that when King Kong was young, he mischievously ran into a cave, but was chased out by countless bats, which almost blinded him.

From then on, King Kong only dared to throw stones at the cave entrance and catch a few bats to eat to vent his anger. He would never dare to let it enter the cave again, even if it were beaten to death.

Zhuang Rui was somewhat unwilling. That map made him itchy to go inside and take a look; he probably wouldn't be able to sleep peacefully at night.

Seeing Zhuang Rui pacing back and forth at the cave entrance, Jin Gang's eyes darted around. He grabbed Zhuang Rui, pointed to the cave, and then pointed towards it.

"Can we get in from other places too?"

Having spent so much time with King Kong, Zhuang Rui's understanding of gorilla body language is definitely no less than that of a scientist who has studied gorillas for decades.

"Ho ho!" King Kong nodded repeatedly.

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's go..."

The cave did indeed extend upwards, and there might even be an entrance at the top of the mountain. Zhuang Rui excitedly followed Jin Gang up the mountain.

The gentle slope of five or six hundred meters was climbed in just over ten minutes. The mountaintop was very open, about three or four hundred square meters in size, and still had traces of the volcano, with a depression four or five meters deep, where nothing grew.

King Kong did not stop at the top of the mountain, but ran to the other side and ran down for only two or three minutes, at most a hundred or two meters, before stopping in front of a rock wall covered with vines.

"Hey, is this your hideout?"

Zhuang Rui saw that King Kong had parted the vines to reveal a cave entrance, and he couldn't help but laugh. He had already used his spiritual energy to check the cave, and there were many sugarcane stalks inside. King Kong must have lived here before he met him.

The cave appeared to be only a dozen meters deep, but Zhuang Rui used his spiritual energy to discover that behind the innermost rock in the cave, there was actually a hole about fifty or sixty centimeters in diameter.

Behind the hole, the scene was exactly the same as what was seen on the other side of the mountain: a winding, labyrinthine mountain maze.

Zhuang Rui wasn't in a hurry to check the situation inside the maze, but instead followed King Kong into the cave.

Fortunately, there was no unpleasant smell like that of a badger. The cave was very dry, and there was a small crack where the hole was blocked, allowing for excellent air circulation.

"King Kong, push that rock aside, I need to go in..."

Zhuang Rui released his spiritual energy and glanced around two or three hundred meters from the cave entrance. He didn't see any decrease in spiritual energy, which meant that there were no living organisms inside the cave.

"Awooo!"

Jin Gang gestured wildly with his arms, seemingly reluctant to let Zhuang Rui in, and stayed by the stone without making a move.

"King Kong, it's okay, I'll be right back out. Hmm... I'll grill some meat for you when I come out..."

Upon hearing about the roasted meat, King Kong's mouth watered. He immediately pounded his chest, moved the huge rock weighing four or five hundred pounds outwards, and revealed the cave entrance.

"King Kong, wait for me here, I'll be out in a bit..."

The hole was too small. Zhuang Rui could squeeze in without any problem, but King Kong couldn't. Fearing that King Kong would feel uncomfortable in the dark, Zhuang Rui simply left it outside and went in by himself.

The cave path on this side is the exact opposite of the upward path on the other side; instead, it leads downwards. After walking for about ten meters, the space opens up, and a series of caves appear in Zhuang Rui's spiritual energy.

Which way should we go?

After going a hundred meters deeper, Zhuang Rui stopped. He was now in a large cavern more than ten meters high. In the center of the cavern was a small pool of water, and the sound of dripping water was very clear in the empty cave.

"Damn it, could it be some kind of thousand-year-old stalactite?"

Zhuang Rui recalled stories from martial arts novels, where many heroes were forced into desperate situations by their enemies, then obtained a thousand-year-old stalactite to greatly enhance their power and avenge themselves.

Shaking his head at his own pointless thoughts, Zhuang Rui looked up and saw a stalactite as thick as a child's arm hanging from the top of the cave. If spotlights were installed here, it would definitely be an excellent tourist attraction.

There were six forks in the road around the cave, and Zhuang Rui hesitated, unsure which fork to take.

"Let's check again with our spiritual energy, make sure we don't crawl into the bat nest..."

Zhuang Rui calmed himself down, stood in the cave, and released his spiritual energy. Apart from the path he had come from, he planned to use his spiritual energy to check out the other forks in the road.

"This one doesn't work, this one isn't either, damn it, this one leads to the bat nest..."

Zhuang Rui looked at three forks in the road. One was blocked by rocks after about 200 meters, another led to the mountaintop above, and the third was probably on the other side of the mountain.

"What...what is this?"

When Zhuang Rui's gaze fell on the fourth fork in the road, he froze, and his eyes seemed to flash with golden light—or rather, he saw a ball of golden light!

Chapter 837 The Pirate's Treasure (Part Two)

"Found it...found it..."

Although he already suspected that this deserted island was where the pirates hid their treasure, Zhuang Rui was still overjoyed. The search for pirate treasure had been a pursuit for countless people for centuries, and he never expected to find one himself today.

The golden light that the spiritual energy touched came from a mountain of gold coins. The gold coins, each the size of a coin, were piled up on the ground like trash. Next to them were various currencies and jewelry.

These objects were all brimming with spiritual energy. As Zhuang Rui's spiritual energy entered them, he was immediately enveloped by a warm feeling, which was very comforting.

"About 300 meters, no problem..."

Zhuang Rui estimated the distance between his location and the treasure to be about three or four hundred meters. Although the route was winding, it was nothing to Zhuang Rui, who could see in the dark.

After carefully examining the cave he was in and memorizing it, Zhuang Rui entered the fourth fork in the road and headed towards the treasure's hiding place along the winding path.

"Awooo! Awooo!"

Suddenly, a sound like thunder came from afar.

"***, this is way too outrageous..."

The enormous sound waves, like ocean waves, crashed against Zhuang Rui's eardrums, making him sway precariously. It wasn't that King Kong had a loud voice; it was just that the echo in the cave was too loud.

Moreover, the sound came so suddenly that Zhuang Rui was completely unprepared, like someone who was sleeping being struck in the ear with a gong.

Four or five minutes passed before the echoes in the cave gradually subsided. Zhuang Rui knew that King Kong was probably getting impatient waiting outside, and since the cave entrance was too small for it to squeeze in, it had started roaring in frustration.

Once Zhuang Rui felt the buzzing in his head stop, he quickly covered his ears and called out, word by word, in the direction from which he had come: "Jin... Gang... I... will... be... out... in... a... while!"

That's the downside of being in a cave; even the slightest sound is amplified infinitely, like someone is shouting into your ear through a megaphone.

After shouting, Zhuang Rui used his spiritual energy to look back and saw that King Kong was indeed sticking its big head into the hole and looking around. However, because of its large size, it couldn't squeeze in no matter what it did, and the guy was so anxious that it kept howling.

Zhuang Rui used his spiritual energy to circle around the Vajra body, and the big guys heard Zhuang Rui's reply. Finally, they quieted down, pulled their heads back, and lay sprawled on the ground, actually falling asleep comfortably.

Unbeknownst to Zhuang Rui, his conversation with King Kong had thrown the bat nest on the other side of the mountain into complete chaos, causing countless bats to stir as the enormous echo disrupted their sonic systems.

Thousands upon thousands of bats fell to the ground with a "plop, plop" sound, like dumplings being dropped into a pot. Many more flew around aimlessly like headless flies, and it was unknown how many bats crashed into the walls and died unjustly.

Fortunately, although the two sides of the mountain are connected, the roads are extremely complicated and winding, so the swarm of bats did not manage to get to this side. Otherwise, Zhuang Rui might have been driven out of the cave by these local bullies, just like when Jin Gang was a child.

Of course, Zhuang Rui didn't care whether the bat lived or died. After comforting King Kong, he continued walking towards the place where the treasure was hidden.

Because the roads inside the mountain were rugged and uneven, with some protruding rocks that stuck to the ground like sharp thorns, Zhuang Rui was not moving fast; he was practically walking on his feet.

After walking for nearly half an hour, Zhuang Rui was still more than 100 meters away from the place where the treasure was hidden.

The terrain is now much more complex in the area where Zhuang Rui is located. There's a fork in the road almost every few steps. If Zhuang Rui couldn't see through the rock walls, he would probably have gotten lost deep inside the mountain long ago. →

"Smack!"

A crisp sound reached Zhuang Rui's ears from beneath his feet, causing him to stop in his tracks. Looking down, he saw what appeared to be a stone, emitting a soft white light.

"Damn, it's a dead man's bone..."

After Zhuang Rui bent down and picked it up, he realized that it was actually a human bone. No wonder it felt so light when he kicked it.

After looking around, Zhuang Rui found several more bones on the road not far ahead. The bones were scattered, and Zhuang Rui guessed that they had been destroyed by animals that had accidentally crawled into the mountain.

"Huh? A parchment scroll!"

Beside the skull, Zhuang Rui unexpectedly discovered another parchment scroll. Its craftsmanship was exactly the same as the one he had found in the wooden house earlier, and it was also decorated with intricate patterns.

Zhuang Rui gathered his spiritual energy and stood still to examine the sheepskin. After a while, his brows furrowed slightly.

The map of the mountainside should show where I entered. The first hundred meters were correct, but after that, it became chaotic and disorganized, and it wasn't the path I had taken at all.

"Dude, you're out of luck, you got a fake image..."

Even without thinking, it's obvious that the person who died here must have been trapped inside and starved to death. The only thing this guy didn't know was that he was only a little over a hundred meters away from what he was looking for.

Zhuang Rui folded the map and stuffed it into his boot. He had no choice; he couldn't exactly put it in his crotch, could he? It was the only place on his body where he could put things.

After this little incident on the road, Zhuang Rui walked for about twenty more minutes before finally entering a side path that was only a little over two meters high and a meter wide. The treasure was hidden about five or six meters ahead.

However, in front of Zhuang Rui, there was a pile of rubble, completely blocking the road ahead.

Zhuang Rui used his spiritual energy to take a look. The pile of rubble extended three or four meters inward, and behind the rubble was the secret chamber where the treasure was hidden.

Despite being called a secret room, it was actually just a natural cave with its path blocked. Hundreds of years ago, the pirates who roamed the seas did not seem to have mastered the technology of explosives.

"Damn it, foreigners just lack creativity, and pirates are still an uncultured group..."

Looking at the pile of stones, Zhuang Rui was both amused and exasperated. These Westerners have such a short history and lack of knowledge. They should at least have some skill in setting up a secret room. They just used broken stones to block the way.

If the Chinese were to do this, it would be a trap-filled scheme, full of pitfalls, and guaranteed to kill as many people as possible.

If an Egyptian guy were to take on this job, the walls would definitely be covered in mysterious patterns, cursing any treasure hunters who come after him to die—either they'd kill them or scare them to death.

But that was all the pirates of the 16th and 17th centuries could do; they couldn't handle anything more advanced.

Anyway, Zhuang Rui had plenty of strength and wasn't afraid of hard work. He immediately started moving stones one by one, and threw the stones he moved into the cave outside, otherwise they would block his own way.

This busy work lasted four or five hours. When Zhuang Rui moved a stone, he saw a dazzling light, not something he sensed with his spiritual energy, but something he actually saw with his own eyes.

"This...this is a luminous pearl!"

Zhuang Rui rubbed his eyes hard. Ordinary jewelry, no matter how precious, can only shine when light is reflected. Only luminous pearls can glow in the dark, which has been scientifically proven.

Looking through the crack that had been opened, three beads, each the size of a baby's fist, were placed in three different positions on the protruding rock wall of the secret chamber, radiating a soft white, green, and yellow light.

The three different colors of light shone on the gold and jewels on the ground, enveloping the entire secret room in a dazzling glow, giving Zhuang Rui an unreal feeling. This scene seemed to have only been seen in movies.

"Damn, pirates are fucking rich..."

After Zhuang Rui clearly saw several luminous pearls, he became excited and hurriedly threw the remaining stones out one by one.

It is important to know that in ancient China, luminous pearls were known by various names such as "Sui Zhu," "Xuan Zhu," "Chui Ji," and "Ming Yue Zhu." However, most of the luminous pearls that have been discovered are actually just ordinary "fluorite," which requires light to make it glow.

True luminous pearls are those that can be clearly seen by the human eye in the dark. They are extremely rare. Throughout China's five-thousand-year history, luminous pearls have always been the most mysterious, rare, and precious treasures, and were generally the private property of the imperial court.

The luminous pearl was originally extracted from minerals, but its distribution on Earth is extremely rare and mining is very difficult. In ancient Greece and Rome, some emperors inlaid it in palaces or wore it on their crowns, using it as a national treasure to promote and praise it.

A luminous pearl with high luminescence intensity allows people to clearly see the text on printed materials from half a foot away in the dark. A luminous pearl that can achieve this effect is truly a rare treasure.

The old woman from the late Qing Dynasty had a precious luminous pearl in her mouth after she died. Sun Dianying once described it as follows: "This pearl is divided into two pieces, and when put together, it is a sphere. When separated, it is transparent and without light, but when put together, it emits a cold green light that can illuminate hair within a hundred paces at night."

In an attempt to exonerate himself, Sun Dianying gave the luminous pearl to Soong Mei-ling, who then set it into her shoe. It later ended up in private hands and was not discovered and recovered by the state until 1964.

In 1997, at a London jewel auction, a luminous pearl with a diameter of twelve centimeters was sold for \$65 million to an unknown millionaire.

These luminous pearls are no less large than the one that was auctioned, and may even be larger. If they were to appear on the market, I'm afraid all the world's richest people would be tempted by them.

So, putting everything else aside, Zhuang Rui would have made the trip worthwhile even if he had just taken these few luminous pearls with him.

Chapter 838 The Pirate's Treasure (Part 3)

After a great deal of effort, Zhuang Rui finally cleared the passage. If it were someone else, it would have taken at least one or two days.

With a mix of excitement and apprehension, Zhuang Rui stepped softly into the treasure room, as if even the slightest movement would cause the treasures to be lost.

Zhuang Rui's actions can be understood as the respect for history shown by an antique collector and archaeology student. People can learn from history to understand the rise and fall of dynasties, and through these treasures left over from hundreds of years ago, they can also get a glimpse of the social structure at that time.

However, Zhuang Rui's respect lasted only a few seconds before his attention was completely drawn to the gold in the secret room. Looking at all this gold, it would be truly strange if someone still had time to reminisce about history.

This natural cave is about fifteen or sixteen square meters in size, roughly the size of a bedroom, and the walls around it clearly show signs of having been carved.

In the very center of the secret room, there was a mountain of gold and silver coins, covering an area of about six or seven square meters, reaching Zhuang Rui's chest in height.

The piles of gold and silver alone, like small mountains, occupied almost half of the secret room.

In one corner of the cave, there were two boxes, one large and one small. The larger box was decayed in many places, and the jewelry inside had rolled onto the ground, emitting a shimmering, precious glow.

The smaller boxes, however, were made of pure sheet metal and wrapped in deerskin. They looked brand new, without any damage, except for the lock on them, which was covered in rust.

"Damn, I'd better be careful..."

Influenced by the movies *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Zhuang Rui was about to leap into the pile of gold when he suddenly remembered the curse the pirates in the film suffered. He immediately stopped; he didn't want to turn into a skeleton every night and lose his appetite.

To be honest, Zhuang Rui didn't believe that he was cursed to become a skeleton.

However, there are still many things in this world that science cannot explain, such as the people who died inside the ancient Egyptian pyramids, for whom a reasonable explanation still cannot be given.

There's also the Miao Gu, a legendary myth that has been circulating in the Miao region of China for a long time. It's said to be incredibly powerful, capable of planting controlled worms inside the human body. Zhuang Rui shudders at the thought.

Taking a deep breath, Zhuang Rui calmed himself down. He prepared to use his spiritual energy to carefully examine these objects to see if there was anything strange about them.

The two boxes could be examined slowly. Zhuang Rui's attention was first drawn to the gold coins. He wanted to see if there was anything else underneath them.

"This...this is a golden anchor?!"

When Zhuang Rui's gaze pierced through the mountain of gold coins, he froze, because he discovered that a gold anchor, about the size of an ordinary ship anchor, was lying quietly at the very bottom of the gold coins.

"Klaus's Treasure!!!"

After a brief silence, Zhuang Rui erupted like a volcano, lunging towards the small mountain of gold coins. He used both hands to push the coins aside, his target being the gold anchor at the bottom.

Although Zhuang Rui was not very knowledgeable about foreign history, piracy was an unavoidable topic in the development of many countries, and pirate stories were very interesting, so Zhuang Rui had a considerable understanding of the history of piracy.

To understand this golden anchor, we must go back to the 14th century. In the latter half of the 14th century, piracy was rampant in Northern Europe, with countless "unscrupulous" pirates going about their own business. Almost all of them came from the ports of Northern Europe.

At that time, a savage pirate crew familiar with the sea was enough to make any ship traveling on the ocean flee in terror. Along the coast of Northern Europe, almost no merchant ship that resisted was spared their forgiveness.

At that time, under the strong expansionist desires of Queen Margrethe of Denmark, countless Norwegians and Swedes died tragically. As a result, the residents of Stockholm had no choice but to turn to pirates to resist the Danish invasion.

In support of the Swedish port city, the Duke of Mecklenburg issued a proclamation in the name of the King of Sweden: "All those who engage in piracy, robbery, theft, and arson in rebellion against the Kingdom of Denmark and the Kingdom of Norway, but who at the same time provide assistance to Stockholm, may obtain a license in Wismar and Rostock."

This effectively legalized piracy. The issued licenses enabled many pirate captains from the north to cross the border and provide essential food to the besieged and starving residents of Stockholm, thus creating what the pirates called the "food brothers" alliance.

After the battle, armed with this "legitimate document," the pirates not only plundered Danish ships but also began to plunder every ship engaged in trade at sea. The participants of the "Grain Brothers" even began to develop their organization into a "nation."

The Klaus that Zhuang Rui mentioned is actually named Klaus Stoltbeck, one of the most daring pirates in the "Food Brothers" alliance.

Klaus was born in Wismar, Germany. He commanded fifty ships for many years to plunder in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. To some, he was a fearsome sea wolf, but to others, he was the "Robin Hood of the Sea." He plundered the rich and then gave the loot to the poor.

As the pirate ships of the "Grain Brothers" became increasingly brazen in the North Sea, King Richard II of England and Queen Margrethe of Denmark decided to unite in order to combat piracy and fight against the enemy together.

In the summer of 1401, while Krauss was sailing against the wind in a zigzag pattern on his usual seas, he was ambushed by English ships. After a fierce naval battle, the pirates suffered a crushing defeat.

In this battle, 73 pirates, including Klaus Stoltbeckl, were imprisoned, and 40 pirates were killed. Subsequently, the pirate captain was sent back to his homeland of Germany for trial, where he was sentenced to beheading.

One day in October 1401, after being arrested, Klaus and his 73 pirate brothers were taken to Glasbrook.

As the noose was about to be placed around their necks, the pirate leader made a deal with the Hamburg councilor: he promised to offer a beautiful gold anchor chain, as beautiful as a garland, countless gold coins, and a gold church bell tower roof to Hamburg in exchange for the pirates' surrender.

However, the officials flatly rejected this request, and 73 pirates were beheaded. Their bloody heads were then displayed in rows on wooden stakes.

The Hamburg councilors were convinced that they would find Stoltbeck's treasure by any means necessary, but they were wrong. To this day, all of the German pirate captain's property remains missing.

Of course, only the location of the treasure is unknown, but the contents of the treasure that Klaus possesses have already spread throughout the world.

The most authentic legend is that, in order to transport as much of the stolen gold and silver treasure as possible, Klaus specifically captured a blacksmith and melted down a large amount of gold to cast a gold anchor chain, which he then hid inside the mast.

With the deaths of Klaus and his pirate brothers, the whereabouts of his treasure have remained unknown for over six centuries, and it has yet to be found. The famous story of the golden anchor continues to circulate.

Therefore, after seeing the golden anchor, Zhuang Rui immediately guessed who the owner of this pirate treasure was.

Upon seeing the golden anchor, Zhuang Rui went berserk. He no longer cared about the legendary curse and charged straight at the gold coins.

For nearly seven hundred years, countless people have searched for this treasure but have never seen it. Unexpectedly, it has appeared on this deserted island.

Countless gold coins flew through the air and then fell to the ground with a crisp sound. Zhuang Rui no longer cared about those things; his hands were already gripping the golden anchor.

"Get out here!"

With both hands exerting force, Zhuang Rui pulled the enormous golden anchor out of the mountain of gold coins, bit by bit.

"My God, how did they get them in here?"

Looking at the golden anchor, which was the same size as any other ship, Zhuang Rui was filled with astonishment. With the strength of his arms, which weighed hundreds of kilograms, he could only pull but not lift the anchor, whose chain was made of gold.

After chuckling and touching the golden anchor for a while, Zhuang Rui finally turned his attention elsewhere. In truth, the golden anchor was less valuable than a luminous pearl on the wall.

However, since this thing is a legendary object, in the words of the antique trade, it has a clear provenance. It is a work of art and cannot be simply measured by the value of gold. That is why Zhuang Rui took a different view of it.

After leaving the pile of gold coins, Zhuang Rui walked up to the two boxes. However, the large box was so rotten that it fell apart as soon as Zhuang Rui touched it, and countless pearls rolled out.

"Damn it, how am I supposed to walk like this?" Zhuang Rui realized his mistake; wasn't he just asking for trouble?

Most of the items inside were pearl and gemstone necklaces. Due to their age, many had lost their luster. Zhuang Rui glanced at them briefly in the large, broken box and lost interest.

"Since we've come all this way, let's grab something as a souvenir..."

Zhuang Rui found a gold necklace about the thickness of a chopstick inside. At the pendant of the necklace was a skull about the size of a thumb, made of pure gold. It looked quite mysterious. Zhuang Rui reluctantly took it out and hung it around his neck.

Chapter 839 Spiritual Qi Advancement

After examining the large chest, Zhuang Rui turned his gaze to the smaller deerskin chest, and easily twisted open the completely rotten iron lock with his fingers.

"Crack!"

With the sound of the iron lock hitting the ground, Zhuang Rui opened the box lid, and a bright light suddenly came into his view.

"Holy crap, what... what is this thing?"

Zhuang Rui habitually closed his eyes, and when he opened them again, his eyes were wide open, and he refused to look away.

This is a skull the same size as a real human skull. The only difference is that the entire skull is almost completely transparent, and you can clearly see the box on the other side from the skull.

With Zhuang Rui's eye for antiques and jade, he could tell at a glance that it must have been carved from a single piece of crystal.

The skull's jawbone is neatly set with two rows of teeth, the eyes are adorned with round crystals, and the nasal bone is made of three crystals. The proportions of the facial features are exactly the same as those of modern people.

"Crystal Skull!"

Zhuang Rui was filled with shock, a shock far greater than when he used the golden anchor to investigate the origin of the treasure, because the legend of the crystal skull was many times more mysterious than the pirate's treasure.

The most famous legend about the crystal skulls is the explanation in "The Mystery of the Crystal Skulls". Legend has it that there are 52 crystal skulls in total. The Maya have 13, and the others are scattered in sacred places all over the world, including many other indigenous tribes in the Americas, as well as tribes such as the Aborigines of the United States and Australia.

The book states that the mandibles of 12 of these skulls are movable, known as the "singing skulls," and that they contain a wealth of knowledge, a gift from extraterrestrials to Earth from the Sirius constellation.

Among the Native Americans, an ancient legend tells of thirteen crystal skulls that could speak and sing. These skulls held secrets about human origins and death, capable of unlocking the mysteries of life in the universe.

Pirate treasures are limited to humans, but the crystal skull involves mystical theories. Looking at this thing, Zhuang Rui dared not rashly use his spiritual energy to investigate it.

This crystal skull is so exquisitely crafted; the carving is something that couldn't have been achieved centuries ago.

In Zhuang Rui's opinion, the junction of the teeth and jaw of the crystal skull would be very difficult to make even with modern machines. Perhaps that is why it is said that this thing was made by aliens?

Zhuang Rui carefully lifted the crystal skull out of the box with both hands. Under the reflection of the luminous pearl, the entire skull became ethereal and exceptionally bright. Zhuang Rui knew that only crystals of extremely high purity could achieve such an effect.

Leaving aside the artistic value of this crystal skull, the almost completely transparent crystal itself is a priceless treasure.

High-purity white crystals, which are colorless, will reflect the same brilliance regardless of the color they are placed against. Therefore, the price of top-quality white crystals is many times higher than that of colored crystals.

The skull in Zhuang Rui's hand emitted completely different glows when placed under different colored luminous pearls, with iridescent light surrounding the entire secret chamber.

Zhuang Rui suddenly felt a momentary daze. In that instant, he felt as if the thing had come to life, and its empty pupils seemed to radiate a wise gaze.

As if drawn by something, the spiritual energy in Zhuang Rui's eyes involuntarily overflowed for the first time, completely enveloping the crystal skull.

As a wisp of spiritual energy seeped into the crystal skull, an indescribable feeling returned to Zhuang Rui's mind.

The feeling was like a baby in the womb, warm and cozy all over, no longer needing to breathe through his mouth and nose. Zhuang Rui felt as if he were surrounded by something, unable to move at all, but very comfortable, and he didn't want to break this feeling.

This feeling was somewhat similar to the power of faith that Zhuang Rui encountered in ***, but it was much greater and purer. Zhuang Rui's originally golden spiritual energy gradually deepened in color as it merged with the crystal spiritual energy.

The invisible and colorless spiritual energy connected Zhuang Rui with the skull, and the spiritual energy in Zhuang Rui's eyes was constantly increasing in both quantity and quality.

Time passed second by second, and Zhuang Rui seemed to have lost all intuition, simply holding the crystal skull in his hands, standing there dumbly.

King Kong's roar echoed through the cave again, but this time, he received no response from Zhuang Rui. Enraged, King Kong began to pick up stones and repeatedly smash them against the cave entrance.

Zhuang Rui was unaware of all this; he was simply immersed in that wonderful feeling, his entire body floating as if in a dream, his eyes automatically overflowing with spiritual energy that traveled all over his body, soothing his already strong physique.

...

A dark night passed, and as the sun rose over the sea, Zhuang Rui suddenly "woke up" because he saw the sun, the sun radiating intense light, slowly rising from the sea surface.

Then, Zhuang Rui "saw" countless bats in the cave. Countless bats hung upside down in the cave, which was frightening to behold. However, this time, when Zhuang Rui's spiritual energy passed through, he did not feel that the amount of spiritual energy had decreased.

Turning his gaze back, Zhuang Rui "saw" the Vajra in the cave. The Vajra, somewhat listless, had blood on both hands and was hugging a large rock, repeatedly banging it against the hole he had crawled through.

"King Kong, stop smashing it!"

Seeing King Kong's miserable state, Zhuang Rui felt sorry for him. This big guy must have thought he had been injured and was in a hurry to enter the mountain.

King Kong, who was in the midst of a berserk rage, suddenly stopped. It seemed to have heard Zhuang Rui's voice and looked around in confusion.

Zhuang Rui, inside the secret chamber, was also taken aback. How could Vajra hear what he was saying in his mind? Wasn't this the telepathy among the Five Supernatural Powers?

"King Kong, are you hungry? Do you want some barbecue?"

Zhuang Rui tried saying it in his mind, but to his surprise, he immediately "saw" Jin Gang nodding his big head repeatedly, pounding his chest, and making a very aggrieved expression.

"Holy crap, it really works?"

Zhuang Rui was surprised that Jin Gang could actually hear him, and muttered to himself.

However, this sentence was obviously a bit profound. King Kong scratched his big head and looked around in confusion. He was a little puzzled as to why he could hear the voice but not see Zhuang Rui.

"King Kong, go catch a goat, we'll roast it later..."

After his initial excitement, Zhuang Rui was now a little hungry. Judging from the rising sun outside the mountain, he realized he had probably been standing there like an idiot all night.

However, Zhuang Rui did not feel tired at all. Instead, he was full of energy. Even if Zhuang Rui were to wrestle with King Kong, he probably wouldn't be afraid.

"Awooo!"

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui's words, Jin Gang excitedly pounded his shoulders and then bent his arm in a pose, completely unconcerned about the blood flowing from his hands.

"Wait, let me treat you..."

King Kong wasn't afraid of pain, but Zhuang Rui felt sorry for him. He quickly released a large ball of spiritual energy and enveloped King Kong's hands. When the purple-gold spiritual energy flowed into King Kong's hands, the wounds from the stone immediately began to heal at a speed visible to the naked eye.

"Huh?"

Zhuang Rui suddenly realized a problem: his spiritual energy had just come into contact with the Vajra body, but why hadn't it penetrated into it?

Could it be...? Zhuang Rui quickly conducted an experiment, and the result filled him with ecstasy. The spiritual energy that would normally seep into a living organism upon contact had now changed.

It seems that spiritual energy will only seep into the other person's body if Zhuang Rui wants it to; otherwise, the other person will not feel anything upon contact.

"Damn, this isn't like you can just look at whoever you want, however you want, or not?"

Suddenly, a filthy thought popped into Zhuang Rui's mind. It's no wonder, because Zhuang Rui usually can't pay attention to these things due to the nature of spiritual energy, but now... it seems a little different.

Now Zhuang Rui was certain that his spiritual energy had indeed changed after coming into contact with the crystal skull. In addition to its color evolving from golden yellow to purplish gold, it also gained the ability to have a mental dialogue with the crystal skull, and its control over it had become more flexible.

"Calm down, calm down, I'm a good guy... Well, it's okay to glance at it occasionally..."

After seeing the Vajra leave, Zhuang Rui's gaze sharpened as he looked out of the mountain. He wanted to test whether the spiritual energy, which had now turned into a purplish-gold color, could extend its detection range even further.

Before this, Zhuang Rui could release spiritual energy up to a distance of about 500 meters, but when he saw the cave where the Vajra was, Zhuang Rui knew that the detection range of spiritual energy had increased.

The invisible spiritual energy penetrated the mountain and gradually spread into the distance. The tomb of the Vajra ancestor, the forest from which he came, the cave where he lived, and the ruined village all passed by Zhuang Rui's eyes.

Coconut groves, sandy beaches, salt flats, and a pool of water connecting to the sea all came into view for Zhuang Rui. However, when he entered the sea about three or four hundred meters away, Zhuang Rui finally felt exhausted and his vision became blurry.

Even so, Zhuang Rui was overjoyed. He knew that the cave where he lived was seven or eight kilometers away from the sea, and given his current location, the range of his spiritual energy was probably over 10 kilometers.

"Honey, it's a real treasure! Damn, maybe it really was made by aliens..."

Looking at the crystal skull in his hand, Zhuang Rui felt that the thing was incredibly cute. However, when he released his spiritual energy into it again, he no longer felt the same as before. He could only find a misty cloud of spiritual energy inside.

Chapter 840 Hope

"Let's leave here first..."

Zhuang Rui "saw" King Kong chasing goats in the mountains and stopped his experiment with spiritual energy. However, when he looked at the treasure room, which was worth at least several billion US dollars, Zhuang Rui was stunned.

Because he didn't know what he should bring with him. Gold coins? That's useless. A gold anchor? It seems he can't lift it himself, so Zhuang Rui went up and lifted it again.

"Huh?"

Zhuang Rui was surprised to find that the golden anchor, which he had felt was as heavy as a thousand pounds, was lifted up by Zhuang Rui with one hand. Could it be that his spiritual energy had evolved and his physical fitness had been enhanced at the same time?

However, since he could carry it, Zhuang Rui naturally wanted to take it with him. In case he was able to leave the island in the future, the golden anchor in his hand alone would be enough to cause a sensation among archaeologists and explorers all over the world.

Zhuang Rui first put the golden anchor aside and started picking through the treasures in the secret room. He couldn't leave empty-handed; he wanted to take as much as he could.

On this deserted island, it's more worthwhile to find some practical items. Zhuang Rui rummaged through the mountain of gold artifacts and found several gold bowls and wine vessels, which had a distinct Persian style.

It must be said that Klaus's pirate business was quite large. Even silverware was rarely seen in the secret room. The pearls scattered on the ground were all carefully selected. Some of them were black pearls with a glossy black color, which could be called priceless treasures.

The sheer number of gold coins piled on the ground left Zhuang Rui speechless. In addition to gold coins minted by Persia, England, Greece, and other countries, there were even Chinese gold ingots and copper coins, encompassing almost all the currencies of economically developed countries at that time, which broadened Zhuang Rui's horizons.

Of course, Zhuang Rui would never let go of those three luminous pearls. If he could really escape this calamity, he could put the luminous pearls at home and save on electricity bills at night.

As for the claim that the luminous pearl contains radiation, Zhuang Rui didn't care at all, because he had used his spiritual energy to investigate and found that the luminous pearl contained a faint spiritual energy, which was only beneficial to the human body and would not cause any harm.

Zhuang Rui took a luminous pearl from the hole in the wall, examined it for a while, and then walked towards the deerskin box. The box wasn't big; Zhuang Rui planned to put all the good stuff inside and carry it out later.

"Hmm? There's something else in the box?"

After Zhuang Rui took out the crystal skull, he didn't pay much attention to the box. When he was putting away the luminous pearl, he noticed a golden object in the box and took it out without thinking.

"Damn it, Klaus kidnapped the King of Egypt?"

Zhuang Rui initially thought it was a piece of gold jewelry and didn't pay much attention to it, but now that it's been taken out of the box, he can't help but stare at it in disbelief.

This is a gold mask made of gold leaf, not the kind of mask that is simply pasted on the face to expose the mouth and nose. It would be more appropriate to call it a face mask.

The mask features hair combed back, with each strand clearly visible, a high nose bridge, and two extremely precious Sri Lankan rubies inlaid around the eyes. At first glance, it resembles a lifelike human face.

Judging from the style of the mask, Zhuang Rui could tell at a glance that it was definitely unearthed from the tomb of an Egyptian pharaoh, but he couldn't determine which pharaoh it was.

It's important to know that Egypt had more than 30 pharaoh dynasties. Although most of the tombs have been discovered, many have been looted over time, and the exact contents of those tombs are perhaps only known to the tomb raiders.

Of course, the most famous pharaoh's tomb is the Golden Tomb, the tomb of Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun, which is also the only pharaoh's tomb that has remained intact for more than three thousand years.

The discovery of the golden tombs became the most thorough shock and mockery of modern humanity by ancient civilization. The pure gold masks, coffins made of pure gold, thrones carved from pure gold and inlaid with gemstones, pure gold reliefs covering the walls of the tombs, and the perfectly preserved mummy under the golden masks... all of these things amazed humanity.

British archaeologist Howard Carter once said: "Tutankhamun's only outstanding achievement in his life was that he died and was buried."

This statement is very insightful. A pharaoh who was unknown during his lifetime has astonished the world after his death, all thanks to his tomb.

If a pharaoh who died at the age of 19 could have such treasures in his tomb, one can only imagine what kind of rare and precious treasures the tombs of pharaohs who reigned for longer periods of time would contain.

Putting aside everything else, the exquisite craftsmanship of the golden mask in Zhuang Rui's hand is in no way inferior to, and perhaps even surpasses, the golden mask found in the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun's mummy.

Holding the golden mask, Zhuang Rui sighed inwardly. Besides China's 5,000-year-old splendid civilization, there are many other countries with a long history that is no less than China's. It is hard to imagine that people thousands of years ago could make such an exquisite mask.

How these items were stolen from the pharaoh's tomb, and from which pharaoh's tomb, is completely impossible to verify. However, one thing is certain: these items must have been looted by Klaus from the sea.

Zhuang Rui carefully placed the mask back next to the crystal skull, then picked out twenty or thirty gold coins from the pile.

These gold coins were exquisitely crafted. For example, on one side of British gold coins, there was English text and a soaring eagle, while the other side featured the portrait of their king, a bearded man.

The other gold coins also feature designs mainly of animal and human portraits, all of which are exquisitely crafted and demonstrate the advanced minting technology of the time.

Despite the passage of hundreds of years, these gold coins still look brand new and incredibly lifelike.

Don't be fooled by the fact that gold is the least valuable thing in this secret room. These gold coins cannot be simply measured in gold. They are also considered antiques, and if they were auctioned off, a single one could fetch tens of thousands of dollars.

Of course, only a very small amount should be taken out. If Zhuang Rui were to take out all the gold coins in the secret room, even the most precious items would become as common as cabbages.

After thoroughly ransacking the entire secret room, Zhuang Rui packed everything he considered valuable into a deerskin box. This box, only fifty or sixty centimeters square, was worth at least a billion US dollars.

After Zhuang Rui carefully placed the three luminous pearls into the box, the secret room became pitch black. Zhuang Rui, holding the box in one hand and the golden anchor in the other, left the secret room.

"Ho ho!"

King Kong, who had been waiting anxiously at the entrance to the mountain, jumped up excitedly with both arms raised when he saw Zhuang Rui come out. However, when he saw the golden anchor that Zhuang Rui was carrying, he immediately snatched it away.

"Damn, he's stronger than me..."

Seeing King Kong holding the golden anchor like a toy, Zhuang Rui couldn't help but gasp. According to Zhuang Rui's estimate, this thing weighed at least three or four hundred pounds.

"Alright, King Kong, whatever you do, don't touch this box..."

Zhuang Rui gave Jin Gang a few special instructions. Despite his large size, Jin Gang was just a child who was curious about everything. However, Jin Gang would listen to whatever Zhuang Rui said.

Time passed day by day, and half a month had gone by in the blink of an eye. If Zhuang Rui hadn't been researching the mystery of the Klaus Treasure, he would have felt that the days were even more difficult.

After leaving the treasure location, Zhuang Rui compared the two treasure maps and discovered that the one he obtained inside the mountain was completely different from the road inside the mountain; both maps were fake.

Based on this, Zhuang Rui made a bold deduction: more than six centuries ago, Klaus led a group of pirates to bury the treasures he had plundered throughout his life on this deserted island, and made more than one map.

To protect his wealth, Klaus left a few men on the island, none of whom were involved in hiding the treasure. He also left no ships behind to prevent his men from stealing the treasure.

However, Klaus did not expect that when he returned to the sea, he would be captured and hanged.

The pirates who remained on the island must have waited a long time, but Klaus never returned. They knew things had changed, probably due to infighting over the treasure.

However, the pirate who ultimately obtained the treasure map also died inside the mountain. The two fake maps suggest that Klaus didn't really trust his men who remained on the island.

Of course, these are just deductions made by Zhuang Rui based on various clues. Archaeology is like solving a case; it's about grasping the smallest clues and reasoning layer by layer.

After completing his archaeological research on the island, Zhuang Rui found himself with nothing to do. His longing for his family grew stronger day by day. He often dreamed of his mother and wife, and would wake up in tears.

Zhuang Rui had considered saving himself and escaping the deserted island. He had tried to build a canoe. The method was quite simple: cut a large tree in half, sharpen both ends, and then hollow out the middle of the wood.

After spending a whole week and damaging one of Zhuang Rui's precious saws, the canoe was finally completed. The completion of the canoe gave Zhuang Rui hope of leaving the deserted island.

Tragically, Zhuang Rui's canoe capsized the first time he went into the water, before he had even experienced any wind or waves.

After another week of arduous training, Zhuang Rui mastered the skills of paddling a canoe. However, as he was paddling his canoe to explore a 50-kilometer radius around the island, a sudden storm arose at sea, and a large wave separated him from the canoe.

Zhuang Rui went through countless hardships to return to the sea, but the dugout canoe he had painstakingly built disappeared into the ocean.

After this incident, Zhuang Rui finally understood that the stories of indigenous people driving canoes in the sea in movies were pure bullshit. Relying on these things to leave the island was absolutely a pipe dream.

Feeling somewhat desperate, Zhuang Rui simply stopped thinking about leaving the island. Apart from standing on the mountaintop every day to observe whether any ships were passing by, he spent the rest of his time hunting and fishing.

Time flies. It's been two months since Zhuang Rui last stayed on the island. Luckily, he has a watch, so he doesn't have to carve lines on the stone wall like Robinson Crusoe to keep track of time.

However, Zhuang Rui would still carve some of his observations and experiences on the stone wall of the cave where he lived each day, as a way of leaving them for those who were destined to find them.

In addition, when Zhuang Rui was extremely bored, he went back and forth to the pirate's treasure room several times, bringing out a large number of gold coins and putting them in the cave where he slept, which satisfied Zhuang Rui's wicked hobby.

Zhuang Rui is now tanned dark, holding a spear and a broadsword. He even made his own bow and arrow, intending to shoot a few birds to roast and eat, but his skills are so bad that he has never succeeded.

If an outsider were to come to this island now, they would definitely think that Zhuang Rui is a local native.

Swimming became Zhuang Rui's main activity to pass the time. Zhuang Rui discovered that after advancing his spiritual energy, although it could not help him leave the isolated island, it did increase the time he could hold his breath.

When Zhuang Rui encountered a storm while paddling his famous canoe out to sea, he might never have been able to return to the island if he hadn't held his breath and submerged to the bottom of the sea.

Zhuang Rui can now stay underwater for half an hour at a time. During this time, he has swum almost all over the waters around the island, covering more than ten nautical miles. He has even managed to find quite a few high-quality pearls from the seabed in the shallow waters.

Zhuang Rui originally planned to go and take a look at the shipwreck site, but the pressure on the seabed was too high. Most of the shipwrecks were in the water at a depth of 60 or 70 meters. Zhuang Rui did not have gravity equipment and it would be difficult to dive that deep with his bare hands, so he had to give up in the end.

"King Kong, faster, swim faster..."

Zhuang Rui and Jin Gang were having a swimming competition, which was their daily routine.

"Haha, King Kong, I got ashore first, you lost..." Zhuang Rui was the first to step onto the beach, and he looked back at King Kong and laughed.

"Awooo!"

Jin Gang was somewhat unconvinced and pounded his chest hard, indicating that he wanted to go again with Zhuang Rui.

"Come on then..."

"Caw! Caw caw!"

Zhuang Rui was bored anyway, and just as he was about to go back into the water, he suddenly heard a clear eagle cry from the distant horizon.

There are eagles on this island, but they are not very big, at most like a rooster, and they definitely cannot make such a penetrating sound.

Zhuang Rui looked up at the sky and saw a dark shadow swooping down from the sky towards the beach at the speed of an arrow.

"Golden Feather! It's Golden Feather!"

Hearing the familiar cry and watching the dark shadow on the horizon grow larger, Zhuang Rui was overwhelmed with emotion. His knees buckled, and he involuntarily knelt in the seawater that had submerged his feet.

"I can go home now..."

Zhuang Rui covered his face with his hands, and the tears that welled up slid through his fingers into the seawater.