

High Martial 141

Chapter 141: Traits, Swift Footwork!

The sky gradually darkened, and soon the entire fortress was enveloped in darkness.

Many people had stayed up all night and were exhausted, quickly falling into a deep sleep.

Some people, however, were tossing and turning in bed, unable to sleep.

At this moment, a barely audible sound of footsteps quickly approached and then gradually faded away.

Someone couldn't help but open the door out of curiosity and looked ahead, but found nothing in the darkness, showing a puzzled expression.

They were sure they heard footsteps; could it have been a hallucination?

In reality, it wasn't; a shadow indeed flashed by in the dark night.

This shadow was none other than Chen Fan.

He was carrying two bags weighing over 150 pounds each, and had two more bags on his shoulders, totaling over 600 pounds, running along the inner circle of the wall.

It wasn't just simple running, but purposely trying to minimize the sound of each landing to quickly improve the skill level of [Basic Body Technique].

As a result, practically every lap he ran improved the skill level of Basic Body Technique by about 10%.

After less than ten laps, Chen Fan felt his entire body lighten, indicating that his Basic Body Technique had upgraded.

[Basic Body Technique: lv4 (0%), Light Spirit Level 3, Fluctuating Level 1]

"Fluctuating?"

An expression of surprise appeared in Chen Fan's eyes.

This seemed to be a trait of Basic Step Technique; its effect boosted evasion by 30%.

It made sense for Basic Body Technique to unlock this trait as well.

"If it were a higher-level evasion trait, it would be even better."

He sighed softly.

He continued running.

This time, after one lap, the skill improvement was only a bit over 5%.

About twenty laps later, Basic Body Technique upgraded again.

No new traits appeared this time.

This time, each lap improved the skill level by only 2.5%.

Chen Fan remained enthusiastic.

It was worth noting that when he practiced dodging on the Meihua Stance, his skill improvement was much slower than this.

In the dark night, several shadows gathered together, watching Chen Fan constantly run by, with deep admiration in their eyes.

"No wonder Brother Chen has such skills, it's so late, and he's still practicing alone. Zhao Da and others are not nearly as diligent." He Fei remarked.

"Yeah, carrying four rice bags, weighing at least 600 pounds, six hundred pounds! Even carrying a hundred pounds would be a struggle for me."

"Who wouldn't struggle? And Brother Chen has run dozens of laps by now, right?"

"He's truly a fierce man."

As they spoke, a figure suddenly appeared before them.

"!"

They widened their eyes in shock, almost scared to death.

"Put two more bags on my shoulders."

Chen Fan said.

"Add more?"

Wu Guang was shocked, "Brother Chen, adding more means six bags."

"Yeah, Brother Chen, maybe you should ease up?"

"It's alright, I can handle it."

Chen Fan smiled at them, then turned his back to them, putting down the two bags in his hands and steadied the bags on his shoulders.

After running so many laps, he felt this weight was far from reaching his limit.

Come to think of it, a normal person's Physical Attribute was only 10 points, but his had reached 500 points.

A normal person can carry something weighing 100 pounds, and in a running state, 20 pounds would be about the limit.

Based on this calculation, Chen Fan predicted that with his current attributes, he could easily run with a 1000-pound load.

With mere walking, it might reach 5000 pounds! That means he could walk carrying an Iron Armor Rhinoceros!

Seeing this, the others couldn't argue further, collectively lifting the two 150-pound rice bags and placing them on his shoulders.

"Brother Chen, it's done." Wu Guang said, with a bit of concern in his eyes.

Six bags of rice? That's nine hundred pounds! Can Brother Chen handle it?

"Good, thank you. If you're tired, feel free to rest early." Chen Fan said, picking up the remaining two rice bags and standing up.

"Not tired, not tired."

They quickly replied.

Helping Chen Fan was a rare opportunity for them.

Watching Chen Fan's figure quickly disappear, they praised him again.

Chen Fan started running and indeed felt the pressure.

One lap consumed twice as much energy as before.

However, the skill improvement was also significant.

Originally, it improved by about 2.5% per lap, now it was nearly 4%.

After more than ten laps, Chen Fan began to struggle, and his running speed was noticeably slower.

After another three laps, Chen Fan felt his body lighten again.

[Basic Body Technique: lv6 (0%), Light Spirit Level 6, Fluctuating Level 3]

"No new traits unlocked?"

Chen Fan gasped for breath and glanced.

No need to rush; he would spend the entire night improving Basic Body Technique.

The higher the level of Basic Body Technique, the fewer Experience Points would be needed to max out those Lightweight Skills later.

Putting down the two rice bags, he leaned against the wall to rest for about ten minutes, then resumed running.

This time, each lap only improved the skill level by 2%.

After fifty laps, a strange feeling surged in his heart.

Chen Fan felt a thrill and looked at the skill bar eagerly,

[Basic Body Technique: lv7 (0%), Light Spirit Level 7, Fluctuating Level 4, Opening and Closing Level 1]

[Opening and Closing: Each skill level increases jumping ability by 30%]

"Improving jumping ability?"

Chen Fan was a bit surprised.

Jumping ability is related to agility.

A normal person's vertical jump distance is between 50-60 centimeters, some gifted individuals can reach 80-90 centimeters, but clearly, these gifted individuals have extraordinary agility.

Before his breakthrough, Chen Fan's Agility Attribute was over 100 points, so he could jump up to a five-six meter high lookout tower. Now, with 300 points in Agility Attribute, he could easily jump at least fifteen meters, meaning he could effortlessly leap over Song Family Castle's walls!

Including the boost from Opening and Closing, he could reach 20 meters!

"Maybe I should try running and jumping next?"

He pondered but dismissed the idea.

If he accidentally dropped the bags, it would be awkward.

"Training equipment is still too scarce."

He sighed softly and continued running.

Time passed.

With a faint warm current rising, Basic Body Technique upgraded to Level 9.

[Basic Body Technique: lv9 (0%), Light Spirit Level 9, Fluctuating Level 6, Opening and Closing Level 3]

Chen Fan was drenched in sweat, as if he had walked out of the water.

Two more levels up, now each lap increased the skill level by only 0.5%, meaning it would take 200 laps to upgrade one level.

It was getting late, so he decided to call it a night.

He returned to the villa, showered, and had a hearty meal.

Since reaching Entry Force Realm, his meal intake was more than twice his previous intake, adding over a hundred Potential Points per meal.

Adding up to three hundred points a day wasn't bad at all.

After eating, Chen Fan looked at the skill bar, [Water Floating], and [Grass Soaring], both martial arts seemed similar.

"I'll start with Grass Soaring first."

Chen Fan recalled the scene of his morning encounter with Zhao Da, feeling curious.

First, he added some Experience Points, improving [Grass Soaring] by one-third.

Adding two more points, Chen Fan felt his body lighten, his mind naturally filled with a segment of memory.

He eagerly looked at it,

[Grass Soaring: Initial Glimpse (0%), Trait: Light Body Level 1]

[Light Body: Each skill level permanently increases agility attribute by 5 points]

"Increasing 5 attribute points? Not bad."

Chen Fan nodded, meaning, upgrading to Perfection Realm, agility attribute could increase by 25 points, nearly ten percent.

But only one trait? No other?

He rubbed his eyes and checked again.

Confirming twice, indeed, only one trait.

Chen Fan shook his head and had to add another Experience Point, this time increasing the skill level by 20%.

Consuming 5 Experience Points, he felt lightness again, and then nothing else.

"???"

Chen Fan looked at the skill bar,

[Grass Soaring: Slight Achievement (0%), Trait: Light Body Level 2]

No new traits unlocked.

Chen Fan scratched his head,

This body technique martial art seemed to unlock few traits?

Next, he consumed 10 Experience Points, this time feeling a strange sensation in his heart, finally unlocking a new trait.

[Grass Soaring: Entering the Hall (0%), Traits: Light Body Level 3, Swift Footwork Level 1]

[Swift Footwork: Active Skill, upon activation, continuously consumes a small amount of power, increasing speed by 50%; each skill level additionally increases speed by 10%; cannot be used in combat]

"That's it!"

Chen Fan's eyes lit up.

Zhao Da's sudden speed burst must have used this skill, suggesting his skill level is Entering the Hall?

Improving travel speed? Meaning, in close combat, this skill is unusable?

Chen Fan frowned, expecting an agility attribute boost, which would benefit both long-distance running and close-quarters combat.

Wait.

He noticed something, moving his gaze forward.

"Consuming a small amount of power?"

He was surprised.

Shouldn't it consume the power of Qi and Blood?

Zhao Da, that guy was just a Martial Artist in Muscle Refining Realm, where does he have power to consume?

Chen Fan frowned, then realized something, looking at other martial arts.

Only to find,

Whether it's Tai Chi Fist, Level 8 Fist, or Meteor Arrow Technique, their skill descriptions originally consuming the power of Qi and Blood had changed to consuming power.

The previous skills consuming Spiritual Power remained unchanged.

"So it's true."

Chen Fan realized.

Since becoming a Ming Jin Martial Artist, his internal power of Qi and Blood had transformed into power.

Now, activating these active skills, he no longer worried about falling into a weakened state.

Though this concern was somewhat redundant for him.

"Hmm, the consumption amount has changed too."

Chen Fan's gaze fell on the trait [Spear Decides the Universe]. It originally described consuming a lot of Qi and Blood to unleash the strongest strike.

Now, it described consuming a moderate amount of power.

The improvement remained unchanged.

"Indeed, power is a higher-level energy." Chen Fan thought, if he produced True Qi inside him, these martial arts traits would likely change again.

Tai Chi Fist, Level 8 Fist, these techniques could be used in Body Tempering Realm, Muscle Refining Realm, and Entry Force Realm, and probably beyond Entry Force Realm.

However, Entry Force Realm was likely their period of greatest potency.

Beyond that, they would not match other martial arts for energy utilization.

Chapter 142: Space Items?

Of course, all of this was just his speculation based on what was happening in front of him. To know the specifics, he would need to step into the next major realm.

Chen Fan took a deep breath and his eyes fell back onto the skill bar.

Continue to improve,

This time consuming 20 experience points, the familiar feeling surged again.

[Grass Soaring: Great Success (0%), Traits: Light Body Level 4, Swift Footwork Level 2]

No new traits unlocked.

Chen Fan was mentally prepared.

"There is still the last skill level left. Hopefully, another trait can be unlocked."

After adding 30 experience points, Grass Soaring finally reached the Perfection Realm.

[Grass Soaring: Perfection (no further improvement), Traits: Light Body Level 5, Swift Footwork Level 3, Grass Soaring Level 1]

[Grass Soaring: Active Skill, after activation, continuously consumes a certain amount of power, increasing the base agility attribute by 50%, reducing power consumption by 50% when walking on grass. Each level-up increases the effect by an additional 50%]

Chen Fan's eyes lit up. This was the core trait of this martial art.

Increasing agility attribute by 50%! Whether it's for long-distance or short-distance use, it can be applied.

As a price, the consumption of power would be greater.

However, if on grass, the power consumption reduces by 50%! Doesn't this fit perfectly with the current wilderness environment?

"Not bad, and the total experience points consumed is less than 70 points. There are still over 80 points left, it should be enough to max out Water Floating."

Chen Fan's gaze fell on [Water Floating], adding points.

What surprised him this time was that it only used two points.

He originally thought that Water Floating, this martial art, was not catching up to Grass Soaring. After glancing at the Basic Step Technique, he found that the latter had already upgraded from Level 9 to Level 11 and unlocked a new trait.

[Basic Body Technique: lv11 (13%), Light Spirit Level 11, Fluctuating Level 8, Opening and Closing Level 5, Swift Movement Level 1]

[Swift Movement: Each level-up increases travel speed by 30%, ineffective in combat state]

A travel trait.

Like Swift Footwork, it is ineffective when in combat state.

"Pretty good."

Chen Fan thought.

Compared to Swift Footwork, this is a passive trait, not requiring power consumption.

His gaze fell back on [Water Floating], similarly to the previous Grass Soaring, it also unlocked and only unlocked one trait.

That being Light Body.

"Continue."

This time, Chen Fan invested 4 experience points.

The familiar feeling came again.

[Water Floating: Slight Achievement (25%), Traits: Light Body Level 2]

No new traits unlocked either.

Chen Fan continued adding points.

To his slight disappointment, upgrading to Entering the Hall realm unlocked one trait, which was also Swift Footwork.

Repeated.

Chen Fan felt somewhat speechless, having to console himself.

These two martial arts could be used together. Although the power consumption would be double, but what if? What if an emergency situation arises in the future, they would be useful.

"Estimated that the Great Success realm would not unlock any new traits, the Perfection realm might."

He thought, a bit worried that the traits unlocked at the Perfection realm wouldn't be the same, right?

Shouldn't be.

As the skill level reached Perfection, Chen Fan looked at the skill bar,

[Water Floating: Perfection (no further improvement), Traits: Light Body Level 5, Swift Footwork Level 3, Dragonfly Touching Water Level 1]

[Dragonfly Touching Water: Active Skill, after activation, consumes a certain amount of power. Base agility attribute increases by 50%, reducing power consumption by 50% when walking on water. Each level-up increases the effect by an additional 50%]

"..."

Chen Fan felt a sense of speechlessness.

They look different, but essentially still the same.

The only difference is one applies to grass, and the other to water.

Of course, this doesn't mean they are useless. Using both together can increase agility attribute by 100%, enough to determine the outcome of a battle.

The price would be doubled power consumption.

Looking at the experience points, less than thirty points were left.

Chen Fan yawned. His agility attribute had increased by 50 points overnight. Oh, if including the Basic Body Technique, it's even more. Pretty good.

He stood up and walked to the bedroom upstairs.

The old bedding had been thrown into the basement, replaced with a new set.

Just as he lay down, ready to sleep, his eyes fell on a booklet on the bedside cabinet.

"Is that the bandit leader's diary?"

Since eliminating the bandits last time, he had kept this diary with him, thinking he'd read it sometime.

Yet till now, he hadn't read it.

"Why not take a look now."

He muttered and opened the diary to browse.

After reading a few pages, he roughly understood the bandit's story.

His name was Wu Bin, like most people, roaming the apocalyptic world. Two or three years ago, he settled with his family outside Anshan City.

Though seemingly settled, he still lived in deep water and scorching fire. Occasionally at night, someone would be attacked by fierce beasts, frequent security incidents at the residence, each time he went out hunting, he told his wife and daughter to lock the door and not open it for anyone other than him.

He had enough of such days and vowed to move his family into Anshan City someday.

Chen Fan frowned slightly. Thinking this way, was this guy actually a good man? How did he become the murderous bandit leader?

Continuing, his eyes widened in shock, flipping through several pages.

Chen Fan's eyes slowly narrowed.

No wonder that guy named Guan Dexi wanted to destroy Chen Family Stronghold. It turns out he had ruined his plans.

In the diary, this guy was noticed by someone named Guan Dexi, becoming a thief living by robbery, handing over the stolen money to the latter.

The latter promised that if they worked well, they'd get the chance to enter Anshan City within a year.

Wu Bin was full of energy. He knew being a thief was bad, but this quick money method was too fast, and it allowed him to vent his negative emotions.

But he gradually realized Guan Dexi did not keep his promise. Each time he asked when they could get the qualification, the latter always said, "soon, soon."

Thus, a year passed, two years passed. Many of his former companions died, but he survived, living with his family outside Anshan City, accumulating a lot of money, life improved and he gradually developed the idea of retiring.

However, he soon discovered he couldn't back out, as Guan Dexi didn't allow it, subtly threatening that if he dared quit, his family would die.

Helpless, he could only continue to work for the latter, eventually forming a bandit gang, living by robbery, finally following Guan Dexi to Song Family Castle.

The diary was filled with remorse, pain, and curses.

Chen Fan shook his head as he read.

This guy ultimately became the person he despised. He should have thought of this when he agreed to do such things.

Of course, Guan Dexi was even worse, or rather he was the mastermind behind all these events. Who knows how many died at his hands?

Chen Fan flipped a few more pages. The following content was trivial, filled with many curses towards the other person.

Finding it boring, he was about to close the diary when he suddenly saw a passage.

"Unexpectedly, this guy has an item capable of storing things, damn it, must be given by his family's awakener."

Chen Fan was shocked.

Item capable of storing things?

Isn't this something out of fantasy novels? Exists in reality?

Upon thinking carefully, if there was an awakener with spatial superpowers, it seems possible to use their ability to create a storage item.

Chen Fan became interested immediately, luckily nearing the end, he hurriedly flipped through, slightly worried the diary would end here.

Fortunately, just a false alarm.

The recording continued,

"I found out unintentionally. That time, I gave him money, two to three million, he was in a good mood, opened a cigarette box, clearly empty, but I saw him pull out a cigarette, handed it to me, then pulled out another, put it in his mouth, and closed the box.

I was dumbfounded, couldn't believe it, he proudly flaunted, saying this was a spatial item capable of storing things, only he could use it. Even if I took it, I couldn't.

Seeing my disbelief, he specially demonstrated several times. I watched as he put money from the table into the cigarette box, which was clearly empty. He even handed it to me, told me to try it, if I could figure it out, he'd give me the item. I tried to mimic his actions, but it was just an ordinary cigarette box.

Damn, his proud look, even now it makes me furious. He purposefully showed off in front of me! I really wanted to snatch this good item and ask for the usage method, but I didn't dare. Sigh, if only I had such an item."

Chen Fan was astounded reading this passage.

From the other's words, this was highly likely true.

Guan Dexi probably has a spatial item.

But, to use it, a specific method is needed. Otherwise, it's just an ordinary item.

Chen Fan continued to read.

The next few pages had occasional mentions of the cigarette box, but very little.

Ending at the last page.

Obviously, he couldn't continue recording that day.

Chen Fan took a deep breath, closing the diary.

Unexpectedly, he really gained some valuable information.

One, this matter Guan Dexi wouldn't let others know, as he himself was guilty.

Two, this guy possesses a peculiar cigarette box with storage space. Without this information, even if obtained, it would be treated as junk and thrown away.

Of course, if he wanted to use it, he would have to pry the method out of this guy's mouth.

Chapter 143: Superpower is, Mind Control?

In a flash, a night passed.

The next day, at dawn, a large truck arrived in front of the Chen Family Fortress.

Many people were sitting on the truck, almost all elderly, women, and children, their eyes full of anxiety.

However, when the fortress gate opened and Chen Fan appeared in front of them, everyone completely relaxed.

"Uncle Liu, thank you for your hard work."

Chen Fan smiled at Liu Yong and others holding guns on the truck.

Liu Yong smiled and said, "What's the hard work? All right, everyone get off the truck quickly, we still have to go back to pick up the next batch of people."

Everyone got off the large truck, curiously looking around.

Is this the Zhao Family Castle?

Rumored to be a very safe place.

A group of people obediently lined up, entered the fortress while glancing around and whispering.

"Such high walls! It looks like it must be over four meters high?"

"Yes, not only high but also thick."

"It's not just the walls, this place looks big as well, so many houses, can't even count them."

"Didn't Guodong say this place can accommodate one to two thousand people? And there are farms in the back where we can grow food, even if there are no more prey, we can be self-sufficient."

"Exactly, I heard Guodong said that at the right time, everyone will be allotted a piece of land."

Hearing this, the smiles on everyone's faces became even more bright.

As time passed, the number of people arriving also gradually increased. After a brief period of unease, everyone became excited.

But the people who originally lived within the fortress became increasingly uneasy.

Indeed, Chen Fan treated them really well, but what about these newcomers? What if conflicts break out in the future, Chen Fan would probably side with these people, right?

After all, it's human nature, if it were them, they'd do the same.

Actually, Chen Fan also noticed this.

It can only be said that this kind of thing is inevitable, and both sides need some time to adapt, it can only be done slowly.

The efficiency of the large truck was very high; within a morning, it transported all the people and luggage from the Chen Family Stronghold.

The process was smooth without any accidents.

Of course, this is just the beginning; next comes the allocation of houses.

Fortunately, Wu Guang and the others were very familiar with the entire fortress, under their guidance, it was done in less than two hours.

Chen Fan led his family to the front of the villa.

Looking at the majestic building, everyone was stunned.

Chen Guodong opened his mouth wide, turned to Chen Fan, and said, "Xiaofan, is this, is this where we're going to live next?"

Yin Fang and Chen Chen also looked, their expressions showing they couldn't believe their eyes.

"Yes."

Chen Fan was helpless.

"This, this is too big."

Chen Guodong didn't know what to say.

This kind of big house, not to mention him now, even ten years ago, he couldn't afford to live here.

"Dad, Mom, don't just stand there, go inside and take a look."

Chen Fan laughed, he could already imagine what kind of reactions his parents would have upon entering.

Sure enough, as soon as the three walked in, startled exclamations instantly rang out from inside.

Entering the basement, the three looked as if they lost their souls, sitting on the chairs in the living room, it took a long time for them to come to their senses.

"Xiaofan, am I, am I dreaming?" Yin Fang asked Chen Fan.

Such a big house, with electricity inside, and so many resources in the basement, this scene only appeared in dreams.

"Mom, don't worry, it's not a dream."

Chen Fan answered very assuredly.

"Brother, we, can we really live in such a good house?"

Chen Chen asked apprehensively.

"What's there to worry about," Chen Fan smiled as he patted his head, "there are so many rooms inside, you can choose whichever room you want to live in."

"Xiaofan,"

Chen Guodong hesitated to say something.

"Dad, it's just a house, if we don't live here, who do you think will live here? If no one lives here, wouldn't it be a waste?"

Chen Fan asked.

"True."

Chen Guodong nodded.

He was just a little embarrassed; after all, others live in ordinary houses, while their family would be living in such a big, excellent house.

"Dad, instead of worrying about this, I think you should consider how to ensure that our people from the stronghold can live peacefully with the original residents here."

Chen Guodong paused for a moment, his brows furrowed; if this problem isn't handled well, it could spell endless trouble.

"And the construction of the stronghold; right now, we don't lack manpower. Zhao Da previously had people expand the walls and open up more farmland, which was actually the right move, where they went wrong was not treating people like people.

The Hunting Team can also be supplemented with some manpower, and guards for the stronghold can be arranged."

Chen Fan expressed all his thoughts in one go.

Sure enough, Chen Guodong immediately stopped thinking about the house and instead focused on these matters, his face becoming solemn.

Seeing this, Chen Fan apologized inwardly.

He needed a lot of time for martial arts training and simply didn't have the energy to manage these things, but after yesterday's incident, it should be much easier for his father to manage here.

After a sumptuous lunch, Chen Fan took a short rest, chatted with his mother for a while, and then headed to the training ground.

The training ground here was ten times larger than the open space in front of the warehouse at Chen Family Stronghold, and at that moment there were already some people present, who greeted him enthusiastically upon seeing his arrival.

Chen Fan then found Zhang Ren.

The latter seemed to have just finished cooking and was about to eat. When he saw Chen Fan arriving, he tapped his bowl with the chopsticks and said, "Want a bowl?"

"I've already eaten." Chen Fan chuckled helplessly, and said, "Uncle Zhang, I think you should move in with us."

The latter laughed and shook his head, saying, "No, I'm more used to living next to the warehouse."

"..."

Chen Fan was momentarily speechless.

Zhang Ren chuckled and asked, "How was it yesterday? Any troublemakers?"

"There were about a dozen people."

Chen Fan briefly recounted the events.

Zhang Ren listened, nodding frequently, and then said:

"From what you said, those few people you picked out performed quite well?"

"Yes."

Chen Fan nodded, "So, I think we should let them join our martial arts training. As for the others, no hurry, let's observe their character first and then decide."

"Let's go with your plan."

"By the way, Uncle Zhang, actually something bad happened last night too..."

Chen Fan smiled bitterly and recounted the subsequent events.

"So, someone knew about this?"

Sure enough, after hearing this, Zhang Ren's reaction was very strong.

"Yes, Uncle Zhang, and the situation is deeper than we anticipated."

Chen Fan took out a notebook from his pocket, "I found this diary on that bandit leader. According to the records, Guan Dexi, the deputy captain of Song Family Castle, is actually the mastermind behind these bandits."

He wasn't worried about Zhang Ren knowing about the space items inside.

Firstly, the latter wouldn't have any ulterior motives, and secondly, it might lead to some valuable information.

Zhang Ren's eyes narrowed upon hearing this.

Such things were not secret, but they couldn't be put in the open.

"Uncle Zhang," Chen Fan looked at him, "according to that man, the Guan Family seems to have an unusual status in Anshan City?"

"Indeed unusual."

Zhang Ren said, "There are quite a few Awakeners in Anshan City, but there are only a few C-level Awakeners, and the Guan Family's Awakener is one of them, his superpower is quite special."

Saying this, his expression became grave.

"Quite special?"

Chen Fan asked curiously, "What is it?"

"Mind Control."

Zhang Ren put down his bowl and chopsticks, speaking slowly.

Chen Fan was taken aback.

Mind Control?

This superpower does seem quite special?

"I told you before, it's very difficult for martial artists to contend with Awakeners, no matter which kind, it's always very troublesome, especially those with mind control, more terrifying."

Zhang Ren smiled bitterly, "It's not just me, even more powerful martial artists of Transforming Force, once controlled by such a person, at best, they can't move; at worst, their actions are completely uncontrollable, even suicide is a thought away for the Awakener."

Oh yeah, speaking of this, I remember, there are several martial artists of Entry Force Realm in Anshan City who have been completely controlled by him, obeying him from the bottom of their hearts, the kind that genuinely sacrifices their lives for him."

Chen Fan listened, feeling a chill running down his spine, and couldn't help asking:

"Is it because our spiritual power is too low?"

"Should be."

Zhang Ren nodded, sighing lightly.

Actually, martial artists who can reach Entry Force Realm are all mature and resilient individuals.

But even so, in front of that person, they can't last a moment, utterly crushed.

Chen Fan, however, sighed in relief.

Thinking carefully, apart from the difference in spiritual power, he couldn't find any other suitable reason.

Whether martial artists or ordinary people, compared to Awakeners, it's exceedingly difficult to enhance spiritual power.

However, if that's the case, then he doesn't need to worry too much. Of course, just in case, it's still necessary to quickly elevate Moon Observation Technique to Perfection Realm for the sake of spiritual defense.

"Uncle Zhang,"

He thought of something and asked, "Can this mind control Awakener control fierce beasts?"

Zhang Ren paused, looking at Chen Fan,

"Seems like, he can't."

He carefully recalled, during his time in Anshan City, several events of fierce beasts besieging the city had occurred.

The Awakener was present, but he didn't see him controlling the attacking fierce beasts, instead, he made controlled martial artists defend him.

"I see."

Chen Fan nodded, looks like that person can only control humans?

"Xiaofan, this matter might be quite tricky."

Zhang Ren frowned deeply, saying, "This guy named Guan Dexi should only have the strength of Muscle Refining Realm, eliminating him is not hard, but if the Awakener behind him finds out, it'll be troublesome."

Chapter 144: Did You Foresee It?

"Even if it's troublesome, it still needs to be resolved."

Chen Fan's tone was helpless, "You can't hide the truth forever. In another day or two, that guy will definitely become suspicious and will send someone to investigate here again, or even come himself."

"Come himself?"

Zhang Ren muttered, "If he really comes himself, perhaps it might be a good thing? No, maybe not."

He furrowed his brows.

If the man named Guan came personally, it would be like stepping into a trap. Both he and Chen Fan could easily deal with him.

But the problem is, his activities should remain hidden. If someone discovers he hasn't returned, they'll surely come to Chen Family Fortress to investigate. It's not unlikely that the C-level Awakened might come personally.

At that time, what would happen to the Chen Family Fortress is unimaginable.

"Yes, indeed."

Chen Fan thought of what Zhang Ren was considering and showed a decisive look, "So the best way is to kill him near the Song Family Castle, the sooner the better. As for whether this will attract greater trouble, we can't worry that much now."

Zhang Ren looked troubled.

If they didn't quickly deal with Guan Dexi, the trouble would only grow.

If they quickly dealt with him, then even if the Guan Family's Awakened came, they wouldn't know who killed Guan Dexi.

However, killing someone in the Song Family Castle, especially the captain of the Guard Team, was no easy task.

Chen Fan didn't dwell on this topic and instead asked, "Uncle Zhang, is there any space item for sale in Anshan City?"

"How do you know about this?"

Zhang Ren looked surprised.

Chen Fan pointed to the diary in front of him, "The bandit mentioned it. He said Guan Dexi had something like an empty cigarette box that could store and retrieve items, but such things seem to have a special method of use?"

"Correct."

Zhang Ren recalled, "I've heard of these space items, regardless of their storage size, are extremely precious. Even the smallest, about one cubic meter, can only be acquired by Awakener means and can sell for a million even if it's just one cubic meter."

"A million..."

Chen Fan sighed. Such items were indeed worth the price.

He wondered if the cigarette box Guan Dexi had was one cubic meter.

"Yes, such items are often impossible to buy even with money. And by the specific method, you mean the Space Lock, right?"

"Space Lock?"

Chen Fan was puzzled.

"Yes. Every space item has a Space Lock when manufactured, similar to unlocking a smartphone, requiring a password or fingerprint. This way, other people can't use it even if they find it."

"I see." Chen Fan suddenly understood, thinking it must be something more unique, but it turned out to be quite simple.

Of course, this didn't make setting up such methods easy. He still had great respect for those who could create such space items.

"Are you targeting his space item?" Zhang Ren asked.

Chen Fan smiled.

If the other party hadn't provoked him, no matter how good the item was, he would only admire it.

But if it's an enemy, it was a different story.

"Still, be cautious."

Zhang Ren was not optimistic.

"These external items are not as important as defeating the opponent."

Hearing this, Chen Fan quickly nodded.

If time permitted, he would question the opponent; otherwise, he'd have to grab the item and run.

Just as he was about to say something, he heard footsteps outside.

"Are you looking for Brother Fan? He's inside."

It was Wang Ping's voice.

There was also a burst of laughter.

Chen Fan turned to the door, wondering who was looking for him. Could it be Wu Guang and his gang?

Then, a long-haired figure appeared at the door. It was Meng Yu, her cheeks red, looking at the ground nervously.

Wang Ping gave Chen Fan a knowing look, as if saying, 'Brother Fan, I've brought her here, the rest is up to you.'

"Good job, Brother Fan, truly a role model for us."

"Impressive."

"Go for it, Brother Fan, we support you."

A group of people behind him were making suggestive gestures, their eyes full of mischief.

"Ahem."

Zhang Ren coughed, stood up, and said, "I'm full, you guys chat."

He walked out of the room, giving Meng Yu a glance before leaving, making her lower her head even more.

"Those two youngsters, they indeed have a relationship."

Zhang Ren thought to himself.

He had already noticed their interactions but had said nothing.

It's normal for young people.

Seeing the blushing Meng Yu, Chen Fan quickly invited her in, glanced outside and saw everyone looking their way.

Even Chen Guodong wore a gratified smile.

Xiaofan seems to have really grown up.

Good, very good.

Inside the room.

Chen Fan cleared his throat and asked, "Meng Yu, why did you come to see me suddenly, is there a problem with the Visualization Method cultivation?"

Meng Yu was startled and showed a panicked look, "Chen Fan, remember you told me about being seen with the bandit's mounts with a telescope?"

"Yes, what about it?"

Chen Fan was curious.

"At that time, you told me you were worried they'd know our identities. You went to Song Family Castle to check, but said they didn't know our identities."

"The situation might be different. It's unclear if they knew, but some people definitely did, and not just one person."

Meng Yu's face turned serious, her eyes wide open, unblinking.

"You... how do you know, could it be?" Chen Fan was surprised and excited.

Did Meng Yu foresee the future again in her dreams?

Meng Yu checked the door and gratefully looked at Chen Fan, whispering, "Thanks to your help, I seemed to have entered the Visualization Method, and my spiritual power has significantly enhanced, allowing me to foresee the future actively."

Chen Fan's eyes widened, quickly asking, "What did you see?"

"I saw a man enter a room, announce his identity, then start questioning a woman inside if she spoke about the bandit. The woman denied and begged for mercy."

"My spiritual power is limited, I could only see a few seconds, but it seemed both the man and the woman knew the bandit's mounts were with us. I hurried to tell you."

Meng Yu finished, looking anxious.

The earlier blush faded, her face pale, showing she was either worried about their safety or drained by the foreseeing, or both.

"I see."

Chen Fan pondered, "Did you hear the man's identity?"

"I did."

Meng Yu nodded, "The man called himself Captain Guan. The woman looked terrified when hearing it."

"It's him."

Chen Fan narrowed his eyes.

Who could this Captain Guan be but Guan Dexi?

He explained everything that happened to her.

Meng Yu's eyes widened, a chill running down her spine.

So, people had already come for trouble, and it wasn't just one group?

Chen Fan hadn't told her to avoid worrying her.

Now, an even scarier person was watching them. What should they do?

Chen Fan furrowed his brows in deep thought.

This meant that the woman they missed was the informer? If not mistaken, she was in the room but didn't make a sound, drowned out by others talking.

Did she snitch to Guan Dexi?

But according to Meng Yu, the woman didn't recognize him at first. How did he know then?

There must be unknown details.

Suddenly,

A flash of inspiration struck.

Meng Yu's ability was to foresee, meaning the scenes in her mind were future events.

Realizing this, he quickly asked, "Meng Yu, do you know when the scenes you saw will happen?"

"I do."

Meng Yu nodded, "About half an hour from now, considering the time it took me to come, we have around fifteen minutes."

"Okay."

Chen Fan's eyes gleamed.

Killing Guan Dexi wasn't hard.

With his current strength, he could storm the office, kill him, then escape amidst chaos.

But then, how would he learn the space item's usage, how Guan Dexi knew, or if anyone else knew?

Meng Yu's foresight that Guan Dexi would act alone in fifteen minutes was excellent news.

Foreseeing the future was indeed extraordinary.

"Meng Yu, thanks for the warning, I'll go find him and uncover the truth."

"Are you going to the Song Family Castle?"

Meng Yu was surprised, realizing his plan, and urged, "Be careful, come back safely."

"Yes, don't worry."

Chen Fan stood up, gave some instructions, then dashed outside.

He only had a knife, but it was enough.

If things went well, he could also retrieve the Secret Manual from the old man.

After all, once Guan Dexi was dead, the Song Family Castle would be highly guarded. Best not to go if unnecessary.

Chapter 145: The Mantis Stalks the Cicada, Unaware of the Oriole Behind

An off-road vehicle slowly drove into Song Family Castle under the respectfully watchful eyes of the guards on the city wall.

"Captain Guan came back from Anshan City pretty fast this time, didn't he? If I remember correctly, he only set off yesterday afternoon, and it's just noon now?" someone wondered aloud.

"Heh, heh, heh, do you think Captain Guan is just like us, unworldly?"

"Exactly. For us, going to Anshan City is a big deal and everything seems new, but for Captain Guan, it's as simple as eating and drinking water. Maybe he's already tired of it."

"Sigh, comparing people really is frustrating."

Everyone shook their heads and sighed, full of envy.

Guan Dexi parked the off-road vehicle in the courtyard, pulled out a cigarette box, took out a cigarette, and lit it before taking a puff.

This time, he went back to deal with Wu Bin's family.

After handling things there, next up is here.

In fact, these things could be done by others; he didn't need to do them personally. But each extra person knowing increases the risk slightly. Doing it himself, though tiring, ensures safety.

Besides, he wanted to ask that woman whether she had told anyone else about this matter.

Someone was already waiting outside with a sycophantic smile.

Guan Dexi glanced at him, chuckled twice ambiguously, and said, "Go about your business, there's nothing for you here."

"Yes."

The person showed a trace of disappointment upon hearing this, quickly bowed, and retreated.

After finishing his cigarette, Guan Dexi opened the car door and walked outside.

Someone behind him saw this and looked puzzled, but didn't dare to ask more.

Guan Dexi passed through several streets, finally focusing his gaze on a residential building in front of him.

His mouth curled into a cold smile as he slowly walked up.

After reaching the third floor, he approached a door, extended his hand, and knocked.

"Who is it?"

A woman's slightly fearful voice echoed from inside.

"Guard Team, we have some questions for you."

Guan Dexi's voice rang out.

Chang Juan's body shook; this voice seemed somewhat different?

She looked through the peephole and saw the man before her. He had a friendly smile and wore a Guard Team uniform of a deeper color. She breathed a sigh of relief and opened the door.

"You, who are you?"

"You can call me Captain Guan."

Guan Dexi walked straight in as soon as he finished speaking, casually closing the door behind him. After scanning the room briefly, he asked, "Is it just you in this house?"

Chang Juan nervously nodded, "It's, it's just me, Captain Guan. What brings you here?"

As if still unsure, Guan Dexi walked around the house, opened the doors, and confirmed there was no one before returning to the living room.

Chang Juan's heart raced to her throat.

A sense of ominous foreboding settled in.

"Tell me, whom else did you inform about the bandits?"

Guan Dexi asked with a smile.

"The, the bandits?"

Chang Juan looked at him blankly and asked, "What bandits?"

She tried hard to maintain calm, wanting to seem like she wasn't lying, but her slightly trembling body betrayed her.

"Bang!"

Guan Dexi took the handgun from his waist and placed it on the table.

He didn't expect this woman to play tricks on him; indeed, she was overestimating herself.

"Thump."

Chang Juan immediately knelt on the ground, her face pale, and her fragile body shook like a sieve.

"Captain Guan, please spare me, spare me." She cried, "I learned about it by accident and didn't tell anyone else."

"Nonsense."

Guan Dexi spat the words, "It's come to this, yet you are still dishonest. You didn't tell anyone else? Then why did Wang Xin know about it?"

"W- Wang Xin."

Chang Juan's eyes showed deep fear.

Since her husband and a few others left and didn't return by the next day, nor the days after, she immediately realized they must be in trouble.

Feeling anxious and frightened, yet somewhat joyful.

Because ordinarily, the Yang brothers treated her badly; even minor dissatisfaction from them often led to beatings and scoldings.

If they never returned, wouldn't that mean she could live alone here from now on?

Unexpectedly, soon a person claiming to be her husband's colleague came inquiring about those matters.

She initially feigned ignorance, but the person resorted to violence. After being slapped a few times, she could only choose to comply, revealing everything she heard.

The next morning, that person left.

But she remained highly anxious, fearing that person would return, wanting to leave the house but lacking the courage.

"Captain Guan, h-he forced me."

Crying, Chang Juan told the story.

"So, after that, you didn't tell anyone else about this?"

"No, no."

Chang Juan quickly shook her head, "Captain Guan, except Wang Xin, I didn't mention it to anyone else."

She then fearfully looked at the handgun and pleaded, "Captain Guan, I'm truly not lying. Please spare me. If you spare me, I, I'll do anything."

She mustered courage and cast a seductive glance.

She was confident about her looks, otherwise, Yang Mu wouldn't have married her.

"Anything?" Guan Dexi seemed interested, showing a lustful look in his eyes.

"Hmm!"

Chang Juan bit her lip, looking shy.

The man before her exuded the aura of an authority figure, far exceeding the prowess of Yang Xiaochun and the later Wang Xin; he should indeed be the captain of the Guard Team.

If she could please him, not only could she save her life, but also live better than she does now.

If that's the case, what's there to hold back?

"Really? Then show me what you can do." Guan Dexi smiled meaningfully.

"Here, here?"

Chang Juan raised her head, shyly.

"Where else?"

"O- Okay."

Chang Juan slowly stood up from the ground, her face showing a alluring smile, her delicate body moved closer to him.

"Captain Gu—"

"Crack!"

A crisp sound.

Before Chang Juan could say more, her head was twisted 90 degrees and drooped limply.

With a shove from Guan Dexi, her body fell to the ground with a thud.

"What a thing, to play seduction with me? Don't flatter yourself." He sneered, pulled a handkerchief from his pocket, wiped his hands, and almost tossed it to the ground. After thinking, he tucked it back into his pocket, lit a cigarette, took a deep drag, and slowly blew a smoke ring in front of him.

With this, the people who accidentally knew about these matters were dealt with.

And the loose ends in Anshan City were tidied; everything was progressing as planned.

Who knows if Zhao Da and his gang have acted? It's been just over half a day since he sent someone to inform them, barring unforeseen events, news should arrive tomorrow.

"Wu Bin and his useless bunch really are worthless."

He sighed.

If only they showed some competence, would he need to do this dirty work here?

But picking a stronger group for bandits wouldn't be easy to control; they might turn against him.

So frustrating.

He shook his head and walked to the door, placing his hand on the doorknob and glanced back. In a few days, the stench of decay would alert others, but that had nothing to do with him.

At the moment the door opened, a shimmering dagger silently rested against his neck, its blade emitting a chilling aura.

Guan Dexi's smile instantly froze, fear swept all over him.

Undoubtedly, as long as the masked person before him applied a bit of pressure, his trachea would be severed, leading to suffocation death.

More terrifying was, who was this masked person? Had he been here the whole time? Or arrived later and went unnoticed?

"Get in."

A deep voice commanded, "Don't try anything funny. If you want to test speeds, be my guest."

"Don't, don't be reckless."

Guan Dexi instinctively raised his hands.

Just from the moment the door opened, the opponent managed to place the dagger against his neck silently, showcasing speed far superior to his.

They entered the room with Chen Fan closing the door.

This scene was somewhat reminiscent of earlier events.

"Friend,"

Guan Dexi swallowed, saying, "We should have no grievances between us, right? Let me go, and you can tell me whatever you want."

"Fine."

Chen Fan said directly, "I want the space items in your possession."

"!"

Guan Dexi was shocked. How did this person know he had that item? Who leaked this information?

"Friend, what are you saying?"

He quickly reacted and smiled wryly, "Space items are immensely valuable; how could I possibly have something like that? If you want them, go look for those Awakeners."

"Really?"

Chen Fan smiled, extending his left hand towards Guan Dexi's pocket.

The latter attempted to shrink back, but Chen Fan's right hand exerted a bit of force, and immediately, a cut appeared on his neck, fresh blood oozing.

"First warning. If you try again, you'll die. Got it?"

"I, I understand."

Guan Dexi gritted his teeth, furious, and panic-stricken.

Is this person an Entry Force expert?

Dammit, besides that old man, there's no Entry Force Martial Artist in Song Family Castle! This person's build doesn't match either!

Where did this Entry Force Martial Artist come from?

Why dare target him?

Doesn't he know who's backing him?

Chapter 146: I Promise to Let You Go

Chen Fan's hand reached into the other person's pocket, pulling out the contents piece by piece and placing them on the nearby table.

There were cigarettes, a lighter, a residence permit, car keys, perfume, and other items.

Seeing this, Guan Dexi let out a sigh of relief.

It seems the guy in front of him knows that he has spatial items, but doesn't know which one exactly.

Thinking this, he secretly admired his older brother's wisdom.

Indeed, even among Awakeners, there are all sorts of deceit and treachery, with both sides fighting desperately, this is especially evident between cities.

If one Awakener isn't a match for the other and gets killed, their spatial items become the spoils of war for the killer, helping them grow. The frustration felt by the dead one can be imagined.

Therefore, many Awakeners who own spatial items often get them personally customized, designing them to resemble common objects before purchasing.

In this way, even if they die, unless their opponent finds an Awakener of the Space Element, they'll have to rely on luck.

Of course, particularly powerful or nonchalant Awakeners aren't so cautious and use spatial rings, wearing them on their fingers for convenience.

After his entire body was thoroughly searched, Guan Dexi spoke: "Friend, where do you see any spatial items on me? Where did you get your information?"

"Is that so?"

Chen Fan picked up the cigarette box from the pile of miscellaneous items on the table, staring into the other man's eyes, "Then tell me, what is this?"

Guan Dexi's face turned pale.

However, he still didn't want to admit it, and laughed dryly twice, "Isn't it just a box of cigarettes? If you want it, take it."

Chen Fan opened the cigarette box to find a few cigarettes inside.

"Is that so."

Guan Dexi smiled.

"As long as you let me go, not just this pack, even a hundred or ten thousand packs, I can give them to you."

"I only want this pack."

As he spoke, Chen Fan put the cigarettes into his pocket.

He'd taken just one pack off him.

Even if he found two or three packs, he wouldn't worry; he would take them all.

Guan Dexi's face immediately darkened.

If he didn't understand by now that the guy in front of him came prepared, he might as well find a block of tofu and smash his head against it.

But how did this person know he had it?

Only five people knew about it.

Father, older brother, wife, and the man Wu Bin.

Could it be!

"Was it Wu Bin who told you?"

"Wu Bin? Who's Wu Bin?" questioned Chen Fan, puzzled.

Guan Dexi was taken aback.

Not Wu Bin?

Then who?

"Looks like I hit the mark. This inconspicuous cigarette box is actually a disguised spatial item," continued Chen Fan.

Guan Dexi took a deep breath and stopped dwelling on it. After all, figuring it out wouldn't change much.

"Friend, I admit, you've won, but this item is useless to you because only I can use it."

"How about this: I give you everything inside, and you return the item to me and let me go, what do you say?"

Chen Fan frowned impatiently:

"I've said, I just want this. Tell me how to open it."

"I told you, only I can open this item, it's useless to you," Guan Dexi growled, like a lion on the verge of anger.

The value inside compared to the spatial item is negligible. It took him years of pleading with his brother to get it, he wouldn't just give it away!

Chen Fan grabbed a cloth from the table with his left hand, stuffing it into Guan Dexi's mouth. With a bewildered look from him, Chen Fan's right foot snapped forward like lightning.

"Crack!"

The bone in Guan Dexi's right lower leg shattered instantly, causing him to kneel on one knee, his eyes bloodshot, with veins pulsing on his forehead as if they might burst.

One could imagine, if it weren't for the cloth in his mouth, he would have let out a scream that would shake the entire building.

Chen Fan looked at him,

"I came here solely for the spatial item, I don't want to kill you, but if you force me, I won't hesitate to kill you and run to another place. No matter how powerful your Guan Family is, can they control other places?"

Intense fear filled Guan Dexi's eyes.

This guy was a madman!

"Nod if you understand."

Guan Dexi nodded repeatedly.

"Good, I'll take the cloth out of your mouth in a moment. If you want to scream, go ahead."

Chen Fan then tiredly put away the knife, as holding it up was tiring, knowing if Guan Dexi dared to scream, he would instantly stab him in the heart and leave.

Spatial items could be studied later.

Removing this person was the key goal this time.

As the cloth was removed, Guan Dexi didn't make a sound, burying his resentment deep, pleading, "Friend, can we change the condition? This item is extremely important to me, if lost, my brother won't let me go, and you'll be continuously tracked as well, why bother?"

Compared to before, his attitude improved significantly.

"I'll say it one last time, I just want this item."

Chen Fan sneered, "Don't think I believe your nonsense about only you being able to use it. This item just has a space lock, anyone who knows how can open it."

Guan Dexi remained silent.

This wasn't really a secret.

The real secret was which item was the spatial one.

Clearly, the person in front of him figured it out.

Instinctively, Guan Dexi felt it had to be a problem with Wu Bin, because he trusted the other people, but the reaction when Wu Bin was mentioned didn't seem fake.

"I'll count three, if you still don't speak, I'll break your other leg, then both arms, and I will follow through."

"Three."

Guan Dexi was unmoved.

"Two."

Still unmoved.

Chen Fan couldn't be bothered to wait and raised his leg.

"Wait, wait!"

Guan Dexi quickly said, "I'll talk, I'll talk."

"Should've said so sooner."

Chen Fan frowned.

"If I tell you, will you really let me go?" Guan Dexi asked, staring fixedly at Chen Fan's eyes.

"I said, I only want this item, if you keep babbling, I'll kill you with one stab!"

"I'll talk, I'll talk."

He looked at the cigarette box, "It needs my fingerprint to open, hand it to me, I'll unlock it, and you can take it."

"You're still playing tricks at this point," Chen Fan sneered, "Tell me, where's the fingerprint scanner? Once more, my patience is limited."

"On, on the words 'smoking is harmful to health', above the third and fourth character, 1 centimeter away."

Unwillingly and helplessly he said.

Chen Fan heard and placed his fingers over, instantly a blank interface appeared like a phone screen.

[Fingerprint mismatch, please try again]

Chen Fan dared not try again, fearing it might be like a phone unlock mechanism and freeze after several failed attempts.

Seeing this, a glimmer of disappointment flashed in Guan Dexi's eyes. This item would lock permanently after three failed attempts, unless opened using his fingerprint.

"Which finger?"

"Let, let me do it." he smiled.

Chen Fan stuffed the cloth into his mouth, drew his knife, and five blood-soaked fingers fell to the ground.

"Mmm! Mmm!"

Guan Dexi sweated profusely from the pain.

Ten fingers are connected to the heart!

Chen Fan felt no guilt, knowing this guy indirectly or directly caused many innocent deaths. Even punishment by slicing wouldn't wash away his sins.

Picking up the thumb, Chen Fan placed it, unlocking it instantly.

A one-cubic-meter space appeared before him. Simultaneously, a unique feeling arose, as if his Spiritual Power connected with this space.

The first thing he saw was a sniper rifle lying diagonally.

Chen Fan instantly understood.

No wonder this guy insisted he open it himself, intending to retrieve the gun first and shoot him.

Even with his 500 Constitution Points, a point-blank shot could seriously injure or kill him.

Indeed, in any situation, can't drop one's guard.

Next to the sniper rifle were dozens of cigarette packs, bottles of liquor.

A scattered pile of money, seemingly several thousand.

Some spare clothes, daily necessities.

And five or six small bottles, similar to the ones gotten from Zhao Da.

Chen Fan's eyes brightened, attempting to take it out. Spiritual Power caused a slight fluctuation; the next moment, a small bottle was in his hand.

"?"

Chen Fan was taken aback; it reacted quickly?

He opened the lid, smelling it, a joyful expression appeared.

The smell identified it as middle-grade Qi Blood Pills.

About five bottles remained, likely all middle-grade Qi Blood Pills.

Calculating ten pills per bottle meant 100,000 Potential Points.

Enough to break through to Dark Power Martial Artist, maybe Transforming Force too.

Eyes continued searching.

"No Secret Manual?"

The storage space was cluttered; flipping it out piece by piece was unrealistic at this moment. Would check later.

"Can I change the fingerprint?"

Chen Fan wondered, couldn't always take out half a finger each time opening.

Instinctively, he felt it should be possible, after all, initial fingerprint must have been set somehow.

Finding the setting alteration, truly allowing fingerprint and unlock position change.

Watching this, Guan Dexi turned pale, knowing from this moment, the spatial item and contents no longer belonged to him.

Chen Fan contentedly pocketed the cigarette box.

"Mmm, mmm."

Guan Dexi tried to speak.

Chen Fan removed the cloth from his mouth.

"Friend."

Guan Dexi spoke through pain:

"You took the item, will you honor the agreement and let me go?"

As long as he could leave today, he would pursue and exact tenfold retribution for today's deeds!

A hundredfold return!!!

"Not so fast, I have one more question, answer and you can leave."

Seeing Guan Dexi's distrust, Chen Fan added.

"I promise."

"???"

Guan Dexi's eyes showed intense venom, "Are you playing me?"

Chapter 147: The Spirit Attack Secret Manual, Soul-Annihilating Finger?

Guan Dexi's eyes were bloodshot, staring at Chen Fan.

If looks could kill, Chen Fan would have died a hundred times over.

"If you think I'm playing with you, let me make it clear, it doesn't matter."

Chen Fan shrugged his shoulders, waving the knife in his hand,

"Don't worry, my saber technique is fast, you won't feel any pain."

"No!"

Guan Dexi was almost scared out of his wits.

No pain?

Then was the previous pain all an illusion?

"Friend, please, don't kill me. Whatever questions you have, just ask, I'll tell you everything I know."

He begged bitterly. No one truly wants to die, even if the hope of survival is slim.

"Okay, I'll ask you, that woman, why did you kill her?"

Chen Fan glanced at the corpse on the ground and asked.

"Her?"

Guan Dexi froze, then snorted coldly, "That bitch was sneaking around with other men behind my back, why wouldn't I kill her?"

Chen Fan chuckled, "That's not quite what I heard outside."

Guan Dexi's expression changed instantly.

"I heard you talking about some bandits, I'm curious."

Chen Fan tapped the knife on his face.

"Speak, what's going on?"

"This matter..."

Guan Dexi hesitated for a moment, then he relayed the events.

However, he concealed some crucial information, such as the bandits being his men and him sending someone to inform Zhao Da and others.

But Chen Fan had already figured out the whole story by now.

He sneered and said, "You're pretty ruthless. Wang kindly gave you this information, hoping for a share, and you killed him outright."

Guan Dexi laughed dryly, "The fewer people, the more I get, right?"

The main reason was that keeping that guy around could lead him to suspect that the next bandit raid might be connected to him, making it easier to blackmail him.

"I see."

Chen Fan couldn't be bothered to expose him.

It seemed like everyone who knew about this was either dead by his hand or by Guan Dexi's.

"Friend, I've told you everything you asked, so..."

Guan Dexi licked his face, about to continue when he saw a flash of the knife, and intense pain flooded his body.

He covered his neck desperately, trying to stop the blood flow, shouting but unable to make a sound.

After a few seconds, he fell to the ground with a thud.

In his final moments, boundless regret surged in his heart.

If he had known this would happen, he would've fought to the death from the start. Now, not only did he lose his space items, but he was also tortured and killed.

Chen Fan stood several meters away, expression cold.

He glanced around the living room, shaking his head slightly.

If Yang Xiaochun had acted like nothing happened, would this series of events have even occurred?

He turned, paused for a moment to listen to the outside noise, and only when confirming the corridor was empty did he open the door and leave.

The sunlight shone on him.

Chen Fan sighed lightly.

Hopefully, this matter ends here.

But he couldn't let his guard down; he needed to strengthen himself quickly.

If Guan Dexi's family awakener found out he was the mastermind, they might come for him.

He descended the stairs, stepping out onto the street.

Chen Fan looked around, heading towards the alley where the old man was.

Voices from vendors echoed in the distance, and through the crowd, Chen Fan spotted the old man sitting on his small stool.

On the ground in front of him were more than a dozen secret manuals.

But his stall was deserted, with no one showing interest.

Chen Fan couldn't help but feel a joy in his heart, quickly reminding himself not to get too excited just yet.

The old man seemed like he had no bottom line; who knew if he'd take the previous matter to heart.

"Come and have a look..."

The old man stood up, energetically shouting when he saw Chen Fan, his voice stopping abruptly, eyes filling with joy, "Brother, it's you?"

"Yes, it's me."

Chen Fan responded, hearing murmurs around him.

Things like "that fool is back, what an idiot."

"Brother, you're finally here."

The old man's eyes filled with tears, pointing to the pile of secret manuals in front of him,

"Look at these, all good stuff, just waiting for you to buy them."

"Really?"

Chen Fan said, quickly scanning the pile.

His face turned a bit ugly as he did.

Despite the impressive names of these secret manuals,

they didn't include the Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training or the Golden Bell Shield he mentioned last time.

As for the Spirit Secret Manual, none of these seemed to fit that category either.

"Sir,"

Chen Fan looked up, a bit displeased, "Did you forget what I mentioned last time?"

The old man smiled, "No way. Brother, I saved the good stuff for you!"

He winked at Chen Fan, pulling out three booklets from his chest.

The first cover read "Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training" in messy handwriting.

Chen Fan didn't reach for it immediately, instead asking, "Are these real?"

"Brother, how could you doubt me?"

The old man looked unhappy,

"I kept these just for you; many wanted to see them, but I didn't let them. Didn't you see me always carrying them close?"

Chen Fan thought to himself, probably because no one else bothered.

"Brother, do you want them or not? If not, I'll put them away."

He pretended to put the manuals back.

"Same as usual, let me test them. If they work, I'll buy."

Chen Fan said.

"Alright, but remember, you can only read half."

The old man handed him the three manuals.

Chen Fan started with the first one, browsing through it.

The old man chuckled, "Brother, that Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training is tough. Though once mastered, it makes you invulnerable, the pain isn't for the faint-hearted. I advise just reading."

Seeing Chen Fan silent, he shook his head.

The Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training, a term for thirteen external hard skills, includes Iron Head Skill, Iron Cloth Shirt, Iron Arm Skill, Iron Elbow Skill, etc. Most can't master one, let alone all thirteen.

Meanwhile, Chen Fan finished the first page and glanced at the skill bar, his heart leaping with joy.

This old man was actually serious?

[Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training (Incomplete): Completely Ignorant (0%)]

[Current Collection Progress: 8%]

[Completion Conditions: Physical Attribute 15 points, Realm Body Tempering First Layer]

[Conditions Met, Completes in Three Minutes, Complete?]

"It seems the Iron Cloth Shirt doesn't demand much from martial artists. But indeed, such external hard skills depend more on perseverance and endurance."

Chen Fan clicked "yes."

Three minutes was short enough to finish the other two manuals in the meantime.

Closing the Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training manual, he opened the next one, the Golden Bell Shield.

The old man laughed, "Brother, the Golden Bell Shield isn't ordinary. Unlike the pure external skill Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training, it strengthens both internally and externally, enveloping you in a bell. But, hehe."

"But what?"

Chen Fan, interested, asked.

"You need True Qi to cultivate it."

The old man said meaningfully.

"True Qi?"

Chen Fan was puzzled.

Did this mean he had to reach the next realm to practice this martial art?

"Yes. Brother, I heard martial artists in other cities can cultivate True Qi. If they also learn the Golden Bell Shield, they become truly invulnerable and can even rebound attacks. Too bad they don't have your luck in finding the real deal here."

He looked as if Chen Fan had struck gold.

Chen Fan thought, as if any of these were complete.

If someone tried to practice them, they might waste time or even die.

He flipped two more pages, then checked the skill bar.

[Golden Bell Shield (Incomplete): Completely Ignorant (0%)]

[Current Collection Progress: 20%]

[Completion Conditions: Early Stage of Meridian Refining Realm, Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training Entering the Hall]

[Conditions Not Met]

Chen Fan's pupils constricted.

Meridian Refining Realm?

Was it the stage after Entry Force?

This was just one of the conditions, the other being Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training at Entering the Hall.

In comparison, the latter seemed easier to achieve.

No rush, just use experience points to elevate Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training to Perfection Realm, then practice this.

Going by this trend, could the third manual also be real?

Chen Fan couldn't help but glance at the old man, wondering if he was scared by him last time.

He opened the third manual, Soul-Annihilating Finger.

Chen Fan's mouth twitched, looking at the old man, as if asking if this was the Spirit Secret Manual he mentioned. The name sounded terrifying.

"This is the one I remember."

The old man's mouth twitched,

"Spirit Secret Manuals are rare. Just make do. Besides, the Soul-Annihilating Finger is a spiritual attack manual that also enhances spiritual power. You need sufficient spiritual power to focus it into your finger and attack, right?"

Chen Fan's heart pounded.

If the old man's words were true, he'd gain a spiritual attack method?

Chapter 148: Young Brother, I Beg You

After roughly browsing through the first page, Chen Fan had a preliminary understanding of this martial art.

This martial art gathers one's Spiritual Power at the fingertips to directly attack the enemy's Divine Soul, causing instant death with no visible trace.

But it has its flaws.

Firstly, the range is limited.

Secondly, it requires a high level of Spiritual Power from the user. If one's Spiritual Power is insufficient and they forcefully use it, it can easily turn them into an idiot, and if the opponent's Divine Soul is strong, it could cause a backlash.

But these are not crucial flaws for him.

On the contrary, it gives his immense Spiritual Power another use.

From a certain perspective, a martial artist who learns how to use Spiritual Power can be considered an Awakener.

Chen Fan quickly looked at the Skill Bar, afraid that it might be fake.

[Soul-Annihilating Finger (Incomplete): Completely Ignorant (0%)]

[Current Collection Progress: 14%]

[Completion Requirement: 200 points of Spiritual Power]

[Requirement Met, Completion Time: 10 hours, Complete Now?]

Seeing this, Chen Fan felt relieved.

Not only was the cultivation technique real, but the completion requirements were easily met.

Of course, this ease was relative to him. For most Awakeners, achieving 200 points in Spiritual Attribute is very difficult, let alone for a martial artist.

Chen Fan flipped through a few more pages, the time required was reduced by nearly half, to just over 6 hours.

After clicking "Yes," his gaze rested on this martial art.

He thought to himself, although this martial art is also a Spirit Secret Manual, it should be more focused on killing. In terms of enhancing Spiritual Power, it might not be as good as the Moon Observation Technique.

However, it's still quite good. The more skills one has, the better. If he really encounters an Awakener in the future, a sudden spiritual attack could be quite surprising.

Seeing Chen Fan close the secret manual, the old man chuckled, "Little brother, are you satisfied? These three books are all genuine, you know, I really went all out this time."

"I find them decent. I'll take them back for my elder to review. The price is eighty each, right?"

Said Chen Fan, looking at him warily.

Last time, they had agreed on eighty each.

If the other party raised the price this time, he would definitely not agree. It's not about the money, but about integrity.

"Well..."

The old man rubbed his hands together, "Since you, little brother, are an honest person, I could make it a bit cheaper."

"???"

Chen Fan was stunned, suspecting he had misheard. Was the old man offering to lower the price?

Could it be that the sun was rising in the west?

The next second, he decisively shook his head,

"No need, old man, I think the price is quite fair."

As the saying goes, when things are offered for free, one is either a swindler or a thief.

This old man surely had ulterior motives!

"Little brother, don't, don't rush,"

The old man, uncharacteristically embarrassed, said, "Actually, actually I have a small favor to ask of your elder who is an Entry Force Martial Artist."

Chen Fan squinted his eyes.

"Are you certain it's just a small favor?"

"It really is a small favor."

He quickly added, "I want your elder to go to Anshan City to deliver something for me."

"Go to Anshan City to deliver something?"

Chen Fan frowned, then shook his head, "I'm sorry, old man, my elder is very busy and probably doesn't have time to do this for you."

The old man's idea was quite beautiful, thinking to use a few dozen yuan to get an Entry Force Martial Artist to do something for him.

Besides, whether this matter is really as simple as he said is also a big question mark.

"Little brother, please, help me, it's really not a dangerous task,"

The old man had no choice but to say, "My granddaughter's twentieth birthday is in a few days, I just want to send her a birthday gift; it's really as simple as that."

"Then why don't you go yourself?"

Chen Fan asked.

"This, from Song Family Castle to Anshan City, it's nearly a hundred miles, at my age, I fear I won't make it halfway."

He looked aside, seemingly hiding something.

"I'm sorry, old man, we really can't help you with this matter."

Chen Fan sighed, took out more than two hundred yuan from his pocket, counted out two hundred and forty, and placed it in the old man's hand.

This scene made everyone around envious.

"Little brother, how about this?"

The old man was still reluctant to give up, "If your elder is willing to help, I'm willing to give him a complete secret manual!"

"A complete secret manual?"

Chen Fan's ears pricked up, surprised and curious, "What kind of secret manual?"

"It's a secret manual for cultivating True Qi."

The old man looked around and lowered his voice, "Isn't your elder an Entry Force Martial Artist? Beyond Entry Force is the cultivation of True Qi. If he is willing to help, I'm willing to give him this True Qi cultivation manual, it's absolutely genuine!"

"Are you sure?"

Chen Fan was tempted but remained skeptical.

"If I'm lying to you, let me be struck by lightning and die a horrible death!"

The old man took a vicious oath, deeply emotional.

Chen Fan gazed into his eyes.

"It's really just about delivering a gift?"

"Really."

The old man sighed, "If your elder is willing, I'll give you the item and address afterward. If they accept the gift, great. If not, you can bring the item back, and I'll give you the secret manual."

Chen Fan contemplated.

A complete secret manual, just for doing a favor, didn't seem like a bad deal?

He suspected that the old man had been waiting for him specifically.

"Old man, if it's really as simple as you say, I suppose it's doable. But if my elder finds it's not the case, you may have to pay extra."

"That won't be necessary."

The old man quickly shook his head, "It's really just about delivering a gift."

As he spoke, he carefully took out a small box from his pocket.

To reassure Chen Fan, he opened it, revealing a grasshopper woven from straw and a note.

"Just this?"

Chen Fan blurted out.

"Just this."

The old man smiled.

He closed the lid and instructed, "The address is on the note. Once your elder reaches Anshan City, it's easy to find."

"Alright, but I need some compensation beforehand."

Chen Fan said.

His instinct told him there might be more to it, but the simplicity of the item meant the risk was low.

Such an opportunity was rare; it would be a pity to miss it.

"Fine."

The old man gritted his teeth, "Next time you come, I'll give you another complete martial arts manual. Does that sound fair?"

"Even if it's an incomplete one, I need it."

"Deal!"

The old man agreed.

Complete manuals were scarce, but he had some incomplete ones.

"Then, pleasant cooperation."

Chen Fan smiled slightly.

The next time he came, he would at least get two complete manuals, including one for cultivating True Qi.

It fit perfectly with the saying, "When feeling sleepy, a pillow is just presented."

"Little brother,"

The old man didn't immediately hand over the item but said solemnly, "When you come next time, I will ask you some questions to confirm if your elder went. If he didn't, I won't give the manual."

"Rest assured, old man, my elder is a man of his word. Once he agrees, he won't break his promise."

Chen Fan said.

The elder he referred to was, of course, himself.

He was indeed an Entry Force Martial Artist.

Besides, he needed to go to Anshan City to purchase weapons and elixirs; this was just a minor task.

"Good, little brother, these words put my mind at ease."

The old man finally placed the small box in Chen Fan's hand.

Chen Fan's gaze fell on the dozen or so secret manuals in front of him, "Old man, can I look at these too?"

"Of course, you can look."

The old man hesitated, clearly nervous.

Chen Fan immediately understood but still held a glimmer of hope. Upon inspection, all were fake.

"Old man, that's it then."

He stood up, ready to leave.

"Little brother, make sure to keep the item safe. Best to deliver it to my granddaughter, if not, it's okay."
He sighed.

"Hmm."

Chen Fan indicated that he understood and turned towards the exit.

Only when Chen Fan's figure disappeared from sight did the old man reluctantly retract his gaze and heavily sigh.

...

"Great!"

After hearing Chen Fan's account, Meng Yu said joyfully.

"Yes, that man committed many evils; he deserved to die. But the forces behind him are troublesome. If you have enough Spiritual Power, can you forecast if anyone will come looking for trouble?"

Chen Fan said.

Meng Yu, now able to somewhat use her abilities, was indeed a big help.

He wasn't worried about direct trouble for himself but was concerned about the enemy attacking the village in his absence.

That would be catastrophic.

"Yes, I will."

Meng Yu nodded heavily, curious, "Are the forces behind him very powerful?"

"Yes, his elder brother is an Awakener," Chen Fan paused, "I heard he is a C-level Awakener with the ability of Mind Control."

"C-level Awakener, Mind Control!"

Meng Yu's reaction was intense.

"What's wrong?"

Chen Fan suddenly realized something, "Do you know him?"

Meng Yu's eyes widened with some fear but more hatred.

"Guan Delong, that man, was one of the main conspirators who imprisoned my sister!"

Meng Yu said through gritted teeth.

No wonder Guan Dexi's name sounded familiar; she hadn't thought much of it at the time.

It turned out the two were indeed from the same family!

Chen Fan was silent.

This was unexpected, yet credible.

After all, there were only a few C-level Awakeners in Anshan City.

Only they would have the power to control Meng Yu's sister.

He took a deep breath, looking at the teary-eyed Meng Yu, "You want to rescue your sister, right?"

Meng Yu nodded but then lowered her head.

She knew her sister wasn't a match for them, let alone herself.

As for Chen Fan, though powerful, those people were also strong and had numbers.

"I will help you."

Chen Fan's voice rang out.

Meng Yu looked up, incredulous.

Chen Fan smiled, "I'll help you rescue your sister and reunite you. Trust me, that day won't be far off."

Chapter 149: Basic Saber Technique Traits, Fierceness!

Leaving Meng Yu's residence, recalling her teary gratitude, Chen Fan sighed lightly.

He wasn't acting on impulse, nor was he deliberately saying such words to win Meng Yu over.

Upon learning about her elder sister's plight, he planted a seed in his heart, and now, as an Entry Force Martial Artist, that seed was gradually taking root and sprouting.

Awakeners are strong, and C-level Awakeners possess combat strength comparable to Elite-level Fierce Beasts, with each of their powers being extraordinarily varied and difficult to guard against.

An Entry Force Martial Artist might not be an opponent.

What about after reaching the Meridian Refining Realm following Entry Force?

Still not enough.

What about after Meridian Refining?

As long as one has enough Potential Points, they can continually become stronger.

So what if it's a C-level Awakener?

His goal was to surpass the three top-level Awakeners in Yan Country.

He returned to the training ground.

The others didn't find anything unusual because Chen Fan had been gone for only about an hour.

Zhang Ren came over, having learned what happened, and breathed a slight sigh of relief.

No matter what the future holds, at least the current crisis was averted.

Even if that Guan Family Awakener wanted to find out who was responsible, it wouldn't be easy.

"Uncle Zhang, before sparring in the Blade Technique, there's something I want to ask you."

Chen Fan said.

"Hmm, go ahead."

Zhang Ren nodded calmly.

"Uncle Zhang, I think... I've had a breakthrough."

Chen Fan spoke in an uncertain tone.

This matter,

If he wasn't going to spar with Zhang Ren, there would be no need to mention it.

But once sparring began, his progress would inevitably be revealed sooner or later.

Zhang Ren was momentarily stunned.

"You, what did you say? You had another breakthrough?"

His emotions became somewhat excited.

"Uncle Zhang, I'm not quite sure, it just feels like it might be."

Chen Fan hurriedly said, "This time, it feels like my strength is more than twice what it was before, and moreover..."

He focused his spirit and threw a punch forward.

"Bang!"

The air in front of him erupted with a cracking sound.

The people training outside were startled and looked towards the small hut.

What happened? Did someone set off firecrackers?

However, Wu Guang and a few others in the crowd exchanged glances, finding the sound very familiar.

Inside the hut, Zhang Ren stood as if struck by lightning, frozen in place, mouth agape. After a long moment, he uttered, "Ming Jin?"

He was completely dumbfounded.

Indeed, he was a Dark Power Martial Artist.

But that result came after ten years of effort, not including the time before those ten years!

What about Chen Fan?

Not even a month, right?

This speed was like riding a rocket, and the key was that the breakthrough from the Muscle Refining Realm to Entry Force Martial Artist involved a significant barrier.

In Anshan City, many martial artists in the martial arts hall were stuck at this barrier.

He had originally intended to take the opportunity to explain to Chen Fan, believing that with his comprehension, it shouldn't be difficult to understand.

But unexpectedly, Chen Fan just crossed it in one go...

This wasn't just a genius; it was clearly a monster!

"Uncle Zhang, am I indeed a Mingjin Martial Artist?"

Chen Fan's face showed a trace of excitement.

"Yes, yes indeed."

Zhang Ren nodded, his eyes filled with complex emotions.

The improvement in Chen Fan's strength was naturally a good thing, but at this speed, he would soon surpass even Zhang Ren.

"This kid might break through to Dark Power in a few days, or even to Transforming Force?"

Such thoughts unexpectedly burst into his mind.

However, to oppose the Guan Family Awakener, even a transforming force Martial Artist wouldn't be sufficient.

He sighed lightly and said, "Let's go outside and spar in the blade technique."

"Alright."

Chen Fan nodded quickly.

One held a long spear, the other a long blade, moving with a speed that was too fast for the surrounding spectators to see clearly.

After three to five rounds, Zhang Ren felt something amiss.

This strength didn't seem like that of a newly-turned Mingjin Martial Artist at all?

More like approaching the threshold of a Dark Power Martial Artist?

Previously, even with his movement impediment, he was perfectly comfortable sparring with Chen Fan, but now, the flaws caused by his condition were greatly magnified.

Nevertheless, his smile became even more radiant.

Because he hadn't sparred this heartily in a long time, except for being unable to use Dark Power, he could now unleash his full potential.

"Perhaps it won't be long before our roles are reversed."

He thought to himself.

That's good.

He also wanted to see where the limits of martial arts lie.

On the other side, Chen Fan was thoroughly enjoying himself.

Once he fully engaged, the skill level in the Basic Saber Technique quickly increased, rising from Level 7 to Level 9 in less than half an hour.

[Basic Saber Technique: lv9 (0%), Traits, Powerful Level 9, Fierce Assault Level 9, Fierce Slash Level 6, Deadly Level 3]

Although new traits hadn't been unlocked, the speed was still frighteningly fast.

Time passed swiftly, and before they knew it, the sky had darkened.

"Uncle Zhang, let's stop here?"

Chen Fan said, panting.

The strain on his body when giving his all couldn't compare to before.

"Alright."

Zhang Ren was also drenched in sweat, but he smiled.

"Continue after dinner?"

"Yes, but Uncle Zhang, I want to learn a Palm Technique from you first."

Chen Fan smiled.

The Basic Saber Technique had risen to Level 13, and mastering the Shadowless Swift Blade and Thunderous Blade Technique would save many Potential Points.

The Basic Spear Technique was still alright.

But the Basic Palm Technique wasn't yet adequate.

He had two Palm Techniques under his belt: Splitting Palm and Eight Trigrams Palm.

If he mastered these two Palm Techniques, they would definitely bring numerous attribute points.

"Basic Palm Technique?"

Zhang Ren paused and then nodded, "Alright, come back after dinner, and I'll teach you the Palm Technique."

He was proficient in both Fist and Palm Techniques.

Chen Fan returned his blade to its place, walking back while checking on his Basic Saber Technique.

In the span of one afternoon, the Basic Saber Technique had risen from Level 7 to Level 15, making significant progress, but further advancement was becoming increasingly difficult.

Moreover, it had only unlocked one trait despite so many levels of improvement.

[Basic Saber Technique: lv15 (0%), Traits, Powerful Level 15, Fierce Assault Level 15, Fierce Slash Level 12, Deadly Level 9, Fierceness Level 3]

[Fierceness: Each level increases the intimidation effect by 30%, effective only when using the Basic Saber Technique]

The characteristic of saber techniques, which were fierce, swift, and imposing, could make opponents instinctively fear and hesitate, or even freeze or flee upon engaging.

This Fierceness trait embodied that effect.

But there was a note.

This note further confirmed his previous suspicion.

That Basic Martial Arts and Advanced Martial Arts could not exert effects simultaneously.

It's akin to how the hit and block of Basic Spear Technique is calculated separately from Level 8 Spear Skill's block and hit.

"Finish dinner first, then practice Basic Palm Technique. Once all these martial arts are maxed out, I can break through to Dark Power."

Chen Fan thought.

After dinner, he returned to the training ground.

Many people had already arrived; training over this period had become a habit for many.

Additionally, there were many spectators, and one could say it was one of the few forms of entertainment available.

Some children imitated the adults' moves, looking somewhat comical.

Zhang Ren came over, as usual, not rushing to practice but explaining the differences between Fist and Palm Techniques.

According to him,

Fist Techniques are powerfully forceful, with straightforward and brutal ways of exerting force. Practitioners can break bricks, and punches can strike like hammers or crowbars, hitting the head, ribs, or abdomen with severe impact.

Palm Techniques, on the other hand, are flexible and can transform and grasp, making pushing, hacking, pecking, and hooking convenient. Though slightly weaker than fists, they are effective in attacking vulnerable areas like the neck and chin.

Martial artists generally train in both Fist and Palm Techniques, combining moves such as Palm Hooks with powerful punches, akin to pairing Level 8 Fist Technique with Splitting Palm.

Following this, he began demonstrating basic Palm Technique movements.

As it was the first practice, the skill level of Basic Palm Technique grew slowly.

Chen Fan wasn't in a rush.

He had no intention of heading to Anshan City tomorrow, instead spending a day or two to raise the Basic Martial Arts levels, achieving twice the results with half the effort.

Less than twenty minutes later, a slight warm current surged as the Basic Palm Technique leveled up.

Chen Fan looked at his skill bar,

[Basic Palm Technique: lv1 (0.2%), Trait: Swift Level 1]

It had only one trait.

Chen Fan recalled that increasing the Basic Fist Technique only unlocked one trait initially—Powerful, which enhanced strength.

He continued practicing.

After leveling up again, he sought out Zhang Ren for sparring with Palm Techniques.

The skill level improvement rate increased significantly.

Upon reaching Level 3, a new trait was unlocked.

[Basic Palm Technique: lv3 (0.0%), Traits: Swift Level 3, Strengthen Body Level 1]

Chen Fan stole a glance, thinking that the next unlocked trait could be the Powerful trait.

And indeed, it was as he expected.

In no time at all, the night had passed. Chen Guodong and others returned earlier because they planned to go hunting early the next day. Chen Fan didn't intend to join this time.

With twenty people, and rifles in hand, their strength had exponentially increased. As long as they avoided the danger zones, there was no need to fear encountering a Mid-level Fierce Beast.

Chen Fan glanced at his Basic Palm Technique, now at Level 10.

[Basic Palm Technique: lv10 (0.0%), Traits: Swift Level 10, Strengthen Body Level 8, Powerful Level 6, Spiritual Level 4, Firm Strength Level 1]

He couldn't help but chuckle inwardly.

Because these traits, comparing to those unlocked by Basic Fist Technique, weren't just similar—they were identical.

The only difference was the sequence.

Traits improving agility and attack speed were unlocked first by Palm Technique and later by Fist Technique, with the reverse being true for strength-enhancing traits.

Nonetheless, the boost in basic attributes brought by Level 10 Basic Palm Technique was significant, adding more than twenty points.

Chapter 150: You Are Going to Anshan City?

In the afternoon, on the vast wasteland, a team of twenty to thirty people was slowly advancing. Upon closer inspection, it was the people from Chen Family Fortress.

Everyone in the team wore beaming smiles.

Especially Wu Guang and He Fei at the end of the team.

They hadn't gone hunting for a long time and were naturally anxious.

However, they didn't encounter any danger along the way, and the people of Chen Family Stronghold treated them well. The entire hunting process was light and enjoyable. The most anticipated thing was that they would be able to take some of the prey back as their reward after the hunt.

This was unimaginable when Zhao Da and the others were around.

At the front of the team, Liu Yong glanced at Gu Ze and said with a smile, "This time, Gu Ze's contributions are indispensable for such a great harvest."

"Indeed, he hit that wild bull with an arrow from over two hundred meters away."

"And two desert rabbits, both discovered and shot by him, each killed with one arrow."

"Truly a young hero."

Everyone praised him.

Gu Jianghai couldn't stop smiling but still modestly said, "I'm not as great as you say. It's just luck. Wei Tiangong and the others contributed the most this time."

Upon hearing this, everyone looked at the Wei brothers and nodded in agreement.

Indeed, Gu Ze's archery was excellent, but the Wei brothers' archery skills were not far behind.

The three of them were the main forces in the team.

Wei Tiangong and his brother both smiled and shook their heads upon hearing this.

They had to admit that Gu Ze's performance surprised them.

Indeed, the stronghold had changed significantly during their absence.

However, hearing everyone's praise, Gu Ze was indifferent.

"Compared to that guy, I'm still far behind."

He recalled the scene from a few days ago when he went hunting with Chen Fan.

The latter's hunting skills were effortless, unlike himself, who, even if he hit the prey, couldn't kill it with one arrow and often had to chase it for a while until it bled out.

He needed to work harder.

In the distance, on the watchtower, someone saw the scene through a telescope, their face instantly filled with excitement, and hurriedly rang the bell.

The bell echoed.

Soon, people gathered from all directions, feeling both nervous and expectant.

Many were original members of Chen Family Stronghold. Since the hunting team set out in the morning, they had been on edge because it was the first time Chen Fan didn't go with them. Would the hunting team be okay without him?

"Everyone, don't worry."

The man on the watchtower chuckled and said, "Everyone is safe this time, and we have a good harvest, with several prey!"

"Really? Several prey?"

People couldn't believe it.

"Hehe, you'll see when they arrive."

Another person on the watchtower laughed.

Not long afterwards, the hunting team returned to the stronghold loaded with prey.

The original members of Chen Family Stronghold relaxed immediately. The safe return of the hunting team was already great news.

In contrast, the former members of Zhao Family Castle, upon seeing this scene, showed shock and envy.

Chen Guodong scanned the crowd and took a deep breath.

Now, the stronghold's population was close to a thousand, with over a hundred able-bodied young men, and even more women. If they continued with equal distribution, it would undoubtedly encourage a culture of idleness.

It was time to announce the principle of distribution according to work, ensuring fairness while also boosting everyone's enthusiasm.

In the crowd, Chen Fan quietly stepped back.

Seeing his father returning safely with everyone and a lot of prey, he also smiled.

He could help everyone temporarily but not forever. It was best if they could be self-sufficient.

He returned to the training ground.

Seeing Chen Fan return, Zhang Ren asked, "Did anything happen?"

Chen Fan shook his head.

Zhang Ren smiled and said,

"With the weapons you gave and so many people, they can even retreat safely if they encounter a mid-level Fierce Beast."

"Indeed."

Chen Fan also smiled and then said, "Uncle Zhang, I'm planning to venture into the danger zone tomorrow."

"You want to go to the danger zone?"

Zhang Ren was taken aback.

"Yes, I want to explore, and if convenient, go to Anshan City to see if I can buy some Qi Blood Pills."

Chen Fan explained.

Killing a low-level Fierce Beast didn't bring much money or Experience Points.

To gain more resources, they had to hunt mid-level Fierce Beasts or even high-level Fierce Beasts.

Zhang Ren was silent for a moment, then nodded and said, "You're right. Our stronghold, not to mention compared to Anshan City, is far behind even Song Family Castle. You do need to go out and train."

"But,"

He pondered for a while and said, "In the area between the stronghold and Anshan City, be careful but you should be fine. Further north, though, you must be very careful."

"Uncle Zhang means that going north, I might encounter high-level Fierce Beasts?"

Chen Fan quickly asked.

"Not just high-level Fierce Beasts."

Zhang Ren's eyes showed deep dread, "The beast tides in the past came from that direction. Not only are there high-level Fierce Beasts, but also many elite-level Fierce Beasts. There's even a commander-level Fierce Beast rumored to be lurking there. Even if C-level Awakened ones from Anshan City encountered such a beast, they could only flee."

"Commander-level Fierce Beast..."

Chen Fan took a deep breath.

Such beasts usually stand over ten meters tall, their skin extremely tough, unaffected by large-caliber shells, and their speed incredibly fast. It's not exaggerated to say a commander-level Fierce Beast could destroy a medium-sized city.

"Yes."

Zhang Ren nodded.

"Such beasts mostly lie dormant, but once they appear, the consequences are devastating as they never appear alone and are often accompanied by many elite-level Fierce Beasts. Even high-level Fierce Beasts are just cannon fodder then. But don't worry too much."

He showed a bitter smile, "Such beasts usually ignore small strongholds like ours. Even Anshan City is the same. Medium-sized cities are their targets."

Chen Fan didn't know what to say.

When the lips are gone, the teeth are cold.

If the medium-sized cities fall, the small cities will soon become the targets of Fierce Beasts too. If small cities fall, the strongholds won't fare much better.

"Besides, Anshan City is not like Song Family Castle. It's a mix of forces, so be careful there, especially of Awakened ones. They're moody and some even don't consider us the same race. It's best to stay away from them."

"Yes, Uncle Zhang, I'll be careful."

Chen Fan nodded repeatedly.

In his heart, he thought if Uncle Zhang knew he considered Awakened ones as opponents, what would his reaction be?

...

Time passed quickly.

Late at night, everything was quiet, and his family was already asleep downstairs.

After a bath, Chen Fan sat by the bed. As he was leaving in the morning, he decided to break through his realm tonight and improve his martial arts.

He looked at the attribute panel,

Realm: Ming Jin

Level: 15 (0/3400)

Constitution: 507.54

Power: 549.71

Agility: 396

Spirit: 251.02

Potential Points: 49652 (100 points/1 day)

Experience Points: 85

The two lightweight skill secret manuals plus the basic palm technique increased his Agility Attribute by nearly 80 points.

The Power and Constitution attributes also increased by more than ten points.

Experience Points increased by nearly 70 points due to killing Guan Dexi.

Chen Fan took out a cigarette case from his pocket, which he got from Guan Dexi as a space item. Last night, he counted everything inside, unfortunately finding no secret manuals.

He took out the six bottles of middle-grade Qi Blood Pills.

One bottle was used, leaving a total of 56 middle-grade Qi Blood Pills. After taking them all, the Potential Points reached 161652, making a breakthrough to the Dark Power realm no problem.

Chen Fan looked at the skill bar and, after a moment of thinking, decided to start with palm techniques. Fist and kick martial arts add the most physical attributes. Other martial arts like Iron Cloth Shirt, Soul-Annihilating Finger, and weapon martial arts can wait until he accumulates enough Experience Points tomorrow.

"Let's start with Splitting Palm."

After sparring with Zhang Ren in the morning, his basic palm technique increased to Level 13.

So he only needed one Experience Point to raise Splitting Palm to the beginner level.

As a weak warm current swept through his body, a vague memory surfaced in Chen Fan's mind.

[Splitting Palm: Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Light Spirit Level 1, Spiritual Level 1]

The two traits unlocked surprised Chen Fan a bit.

One increases Agility Attribute, and the other increases attack speed, fitting the style of Splitting Palm, which is fast and flexible.

Chen Fan added another Experience Point, and the Skill Level increased by half.

After another point, the Skill Level reached Small Success Realm, but no new traits were unlocked.

After using three more Experience Points, he felt a strange sensation.

[Splitting Palm: Entering the Hall (0%), Traits: Light Spirit Level 3, Spiritual Level 3, Great Slash and Hang Level 1]

[Great Slash and Hang: For each level the skill increases, Splitting Palm's power increases by an additional 30%]

"Increases palm technique power?"

Chen Fan thought the trait's name perfectly fit Splitting Palm.

If he could raise it to Perfection Realm, the power would nearly double.

After using 15 more Experience Points, Splitting Palm finally reached Perfection Realm.

[Splitting Palm: Perfection (cannot be improved), Traits: Light Spirit Level 5, Spiritual Level 5, Great Slash and Hang Level 3, Rushing Strike Level 1]

"Rushing Strike?"

Chen Fan's eyes lit up.

It was no surprise that this was an active skill, and judging by the name, it must be very powerful.