

## High Martial 161

Chapter 161: Little Brother, I Was Wrong

[Cloud-piercing Arrow Technique]

Chen Fan flipped to the first page, his eyes immediately filled with joy.

It turns out, this Cloud-piercing Arrow Technique also requires True Qi to use. After mastering it, the arrows shot can pierce clouds and shatter stones.

After quickly reading through it, he looked at the Skill Bar.

Indeed, it requires the Realm to reach Meridian Refining to unlock. Besides that, there is also a requirement for Basic Archery to be at Level 10.

His current Basic Archery level far surpasses Level 10, so there's naturally no need to worry.

Satisfied, he put the two martial arts manuals in his bag and looked at the old man, saying, "Grandpa, this time our cooperation was pleasant. If you need my help again in the future, just let me know."

"Hmm."

The old man responded absentmindedly, his eyes dull and lifeless.

Chen Fan's heart skipped a beat; he wondered if the old man had lost the will to live after hearing this news.

If you really think about it, he only has himself to blame.

If he hadn't been blinded by greed and sold fake cultivation techniques to harm others, he should be with his family in Anshan City, enjoying his twilight years. Instead, he's living in such conditions with a broken leg.

As for all the rights and wrongs, Chen Fan didn't want to think too much about it. The outcome was already decided, and it was too late to say anything.

Undoubtedly, the old man's current importance to him couldn't be overstated.

In the association, a cultivation technique for Entry Force Martial Artists is worth more than a hundred thousand contribution points. For a technique that uses True Qi, wouldn't it be worth several hundred thousand?

But here with the old man, it only costs a few dozen dollars.

He could even use this method to earn contribution points from other martial artists in the association.

"Grandpa, try to look on the bright side," Chen Fan said. "Maybe they are doing well now. You don't have to worry about them. However, with your broken leg, living here would be very inconvenient. Why don't..."

"It's fine, I'm doing well," the old man waved his hand. "Little brother, you go ahead. I just want to be alone and quiet."

"Alright then."

Chen Fan sighed lightly, walked to the door, and closed it behind him.

Not far away, numerous pairs of eyes were watching this place. Among them, two or three looked over at Chen Fan and quickly turned their heads away, looking elsewhere.

Chen Fan frowned slightly and walked in the direction he had come from.

Inside the room, the old man sighed, tears of regret streaming down his cheeks.

If he had known it would end like this, he wouldn't have harmed others for petty gains.

Now, his family's whereabouts are unknown, and he can barely feed himself.

He had just met this little brother and made some money, but the money hadn't even warmed his hand before it was snatched away by those heartless bastards!

They not only took his money but also broke his leg!

Beasts!

How is he supposed to live as a lonely old man with a broken leg now?

He might as well end it and save himself from suffering.

The old man glanced at the kitchen knife on the side, feeling a chill on his neck.

At that moment, the door was violently kicked open with a bang.

"Who is it!"

The old man was instantly furious.

"Your grandpa, it's me!"

Three strong men stood at the door, led by a man with a face full of hostility and a vicious expression.

"Oh, it's Prince Wang."

The old man shrank his neck, deep bitterness flashing in his eyes.

This was the group that had barged in last night, forcing him to hand over the two to three hundred yuan he had earned during the day.

What a joke!

That money was hard-earned; how could he willingly give it to these slum bullies?

So he used his shameless tricks, making a scene and attracting a crowd to watch.

But those tricks only worked on honest people, and were completely useless against these guys.

Seeing he wasn't cooperative, they broke his leg and warned that if he didn't obey, they'd break the other one too.

He had no choice but to hand over the money.

But he never expected they would come back again!

What do they want now?

"Old man, I just saw your old client come by again. How much money did he give you this time?"

Wang Li smiled wickedly.

"Yes, old man, I heard that sucker was rich. He didn't even bat an eyelid spending 300 yuan at your stall. This time it should be more, right?"

"Old man, you should remember last night's lesson. Don't refuse a toast only to drink a forfeit."

The two henchmen behind him chimed in threateningly.

Truth be told, if no one had informed them, they wouldn't have known that this old swindler had suddenly come into a lot of money.

They couldn't let such a fat sheep go untouched, could they?

The old man felt miserable.

"This time, I really didn't get any money. If you don't believe me, I can swear on it. If I..."

"Enough."

The burly man with a tattooed tiger on his arm sneered, "You should go ask around. Who doesn't know that you're a chronic liar? If what you say is true, pigs can fly."

"No, this time I'm telling the truth."

The old man was almost in tears.

"Really?"

The tattooed man stepped forward, his gaze falling on a small box on the table.

"Old man, I remember that wasn't there last night, was it? Still saying nothing was sent to you?"

"No, that is..."

Before the old man could explain,

the man opened the box, saw the contents, spat in disgust, and cursed, "What garbage is this?"

With that, he threw the whole box to the ground, stomping it to pieces.

"You!"

The old man's eyes nearly popped out in anger.

"What? Want to fight me?" The strong man laughed. "Fine, I knew it. Without some lessons, you won't behave."

"Zhang Kun, go easy, don't kill him,"

another strong man chuckled.

"What's the worry? If he dies, we can just search him for the money."

"No, he's our money tree. If you kill him, how will we get money from that guy next time."

"That's true."

Zhang Kun suddenly saw the point.

He then took a step closer to the old man.

"No, no, please spare me,"

the old man was terrified, tears and snot running down his face. "This time I'm telling the truth, I have no money. How about this, next time that little brother comes, I'll have him bring money. Hundreds, no, a thousand if you want."

He regretted it deeply.

Dying is easy; actually dying is hard!

If he had known these scums wouldn't leave him alone, he wouldn't have let the little brother leave so easily and would have asked him to bring an Entry Force Martial Artist to deal with them!

He couldn't produce many complete secret manuals, but there were plenty of incomplete ones!

"Is that so? Then hand over this time's money. Cooperate nicely, and avoid more suffering."

"No, I really have nothing," the old man pleaded.

"He really has nothing."

At this moment, a voice sounded from behind them.

The smiles on the three men's faces froze; they turned to see a masked man standing at the door,

it was the same man as before.

At that moment, a wave of fear surged in their hearts.

Hadn't he already left?

How did he appear here again?

When did he come back, unnoticed?

"Little brother!"

The old man was overjoyed, tears of excitement welling up in his eyes.

"Weren't you just asking for money from him? How much do you want? I have it,"

Chen Fan calmly looked at the three men and asked.

"Bro, brother,"

the once fierce Wang Li now wore a flattering smile, trying to appear friendly, "This is a misunderstanding, just a misunderstanding."

"Yes, we were just joking with him, nothing more."

"Brother, don't be angry. We'll even return the money we took before."

They hadn't expected anyone would stick up for this old swindler. And this relationship seemed to be just a simple transaction between a customer and a vendor, right?

It didn't make sense at all.

"Return the money?"

The old man was furious, "You punched and kicked me last night, broke my leg, and you think returning the money will settle it?"



"Little brother, break their legs for me! Give me my revenge!"

"Brother,"

Wang Li's eyes showed a hint of ruthlessness, "It's said that forgiving people is better than seeking revenge. We return the money, and this will be over. If you want to break our legs, you're dreaming."

"Right, no matter how strong you are, so what? There are three of us. If you push us too far, we'll fight to the death, and no one will survive."

With that, the other two drew daggers.

"You think you deserve to fight to the death with me?"

Chen Fan sneered. Moving as quick as lightning, a flash of white blade light streaked through the air. The three men simultaneously clutched their throats and fell.

"Ah! Murder!"

Screams erupted outside.

People who had been watching the commotion saw Wang Li and the other two, who were lively moments ago, now lying in a pool of blood. Terrified, they all ran off. In the blink of an eye, the entire corridor was empty. Everyone shut their doors tightly, trembling indoors.

"Li, little brother, you, you..."

Even the old man was stunned by Chen Fan's actions and promptly pleaded,

"Little brother, I was wrong. I admit it. Most of the cultivation techniques I sold you were fake, but there were some real ones, like those two books just now, both genuine. For the sake of our good cooperation, spare my old life, please."

## Chapter 162: Double Reversal

Chen Fan saw this scene and secretly laughed.

He thought the old man had resigned himself to death; there's an old saying, "There's no greater sorrow than a dead heart." If that were the case, he wouldn't have had any good solutions.

Turns out, this old man still wants to live.

"Little brother..."

The old man's plea for mercy continued.

"Enough."

Chen Fan frowned and said impatiently, "Considering you kept your promise this time, I won't hold past grievances against you. But if you pull that trick again, don't blame me for being ruthless."

"It won't happen, it won't happen."

The old man felt a sense of relief as if he'd had a brush with death, looking at the three corpses on the ground with lingering fear.

He just wanted Chen Fan to break these three men's legs to vent his anger. Who would have thought this young brother would be so ruthless and directly took their lives?

But, to be fair, these three beasts deserved it. They relied on their physical strength to collect protection fees in the shantytown and did more evil deeds like bullying men and women and acting recklessly. Each of their hands was stained with several lives.

Just...

"Hey? Little brother?"

The old man glanced at Chen Fan turning around and asked in a panic, "Are you leaving already?"

"What else?"

Chen Fan looked back at him, "I've solved your problem. Why stay here? You're not thinking of having me clean up this mess, are you?"

"Not that, little brother."

The old man looked troubled.

"These three could act so boldly here because they had backing. Most of the protection money they collected went to those people. If you killed them, it won't be long before this news reaches their superiors. And then..."

"What?"

Chen Fan's voice turned cold, "You want me to take care of their superiors too?"

"No, no."

The old man trembled, tearfully saying, "I don't have that kind of guts. I'm saying, little brother, why not complete the good deed and take me in?"

You see, I live here alone, destitute, without anyone to rely on. I don't have enough to eat, and my leg is broken. Just getting up to go to the bathroom is a hassle."

"This old man."

Chen Fan felt speechless.

When he left earlier, he wanted to ask if the old man wanted to come with him? The stronghold was vast, finding someone to take care of the old man wouldn't cost much.

Considering the secret manuals he could obtain, it was definitely worth it.

But the old man said he wanted to be left alone.

Now, things have flipped completely.

He looked at the old man and asked, "Weren't you afraid of me earlier? Aren't you worried that coming with me could be worse than staying here?"

"How could that be?"

The old man smiled fawningly, "Little brother, you clearly distinguish right from wrong. How could you do such a thing? Besides, I won't come empty-handed."

"Oh?"

Chen Fan's lips curled slightly, "So how won't you come empty-handed?"

"Every seven days, I'll give you a genuine secret manual fragment."

The old man wore an extremely pained expression.

"Fragment?"

Chen Fan sneered, "A week for a full manual wouldn't be too much."

"Little brother, I want to too."

The old man cried out, "You know, I left in a hurry back then and didn't have time to bring much. Later, hiding here and there, I lost many ancient texts. The two I kept cost me a lot of effort."

"Heh."

Chen Fan chuckled.

He's dealt with this old man several times; others' words may be nine truths and one lie, but this guy's are nine lies and one truth.

"Alright then, every three days I want a secret manual fragment, every five days a complete one. If you agree, I'll take you to the stronghold. If not, then forget it."

"Five days, this this..."

The old man anxiously said, "Little brother, I really don't have that many ancient texts!"

"So, you don't agree?"

Chen Fan turned to leave.

"Hey, hey, hey."

The old man cried, "Alright, alright, little brother, I agree. But I must say, I don't have many complete manuals and won't be able to keep up with five days forever."

"We'll talk about that when the time comes."

Chen Fan coolly replied.

In any case, he'll first extract all the knowledge from this old man.

"Alright, alright."

The old man finally felt relieved.

He didn't want to leave unless utterly desperate.

And desperate times were now.

Rather than wait here for trouble from Wang Li's superiors, it's better to leave while he can. Following this young brother is the best choice.

Firstly, he has what Chen Fan wants. Secondly, Chen Fan is reasonable and can be trusted.

"Little brother, come help me pack. Don't worry, I don't have much to take, won't take long."

The old man said cheerfully.

Chen Fan reluctantly walked over to help him stand up.

After about five or six minutes of fussing, the old man packed what he wanted to take into a one-meter-long box, looking extremely secretive.

Chen Fan squinted his eyes. If there were any complete manuals, the odds are they're in this box.

Of course, it's also possible the old man's brain contains some secrets, so it's better to pretend not to know for now.

Because the old man couldn't walk, Chen Fan had to carry him out of Song Family Castle.

As they left, Chen Fan expected the old man to have some sentimental thoughts, but that proved wrong.

There wasn't the slightest sentiment; instead, he urged Chen Fan to hurry up.

Only when Song Family Castle disappeared from view did the old man breathe a sigh of relief and then asked, "By the way, little brother, I haven't asked, where do you live?"

"Chen Family Fortress."

Chen Fan answered succinctly.

"Chen Family Fortress?"

The old man was first glad.

Nowadays, a place called "Fortress" may not be as good as Song Family Castle but should be much better than common small strongholds.

Then he searched his memory and furrowed his brow. "I haven't heard of any fortress nearby with that name. There's a Chen Family Stronghold, though."

"Yes, it used to be Chen Family Stronghold, now it's called Chen Family Fortress." Chen Fan replied.

"Now it's called Chen Family Fortress?" The old man was puzzled.

"Look ahead."

Chen Fan pointed forward.

The old man squinted and saw a stronghold in the distance, large enough to house a thousand people.

The walls stood four or five meters high and looked very sturdy. Staying inside, they shouldn't worry about attacks from Fierce Beasts.

His heart lifted with joy but soon became anxious. "Little brother, such a large place must be hard to get into, right?"

"Indeed,"

Chen Fan chuckled, "It requires a complete manual as entry fee."

"This this..."

The old man pleaded, "We agreed earlier, didn't we? Three days for a fragment, five days for a complete manual."

"Just kidding, don't worry, plenty of empty houses inside, we can spare one for you."

While speaking, Chen Fan reached the fortress gate.



The old man swallowed nervously as the gate slowly descended, feeling extremely tense.

If this place couldn't accept him, he's doomed.

With the gate down, the old man saw a crowd of people in front, scaring him out of his wits.

What's going on?

Why so many people?

"Xiaofan, you're back."

"Brother Fan!"

"No troubles on the way, right?"

The voices of Chen Guodong and others echoed.

They had hurried over when they heard the bell, a couple of kilometers away.

After all, Chen Fan went to Anshan City, over a hundred miles away, fraught with dangers.

"No problem, everything went smoothly."

Chen Fan smiled, gently setting down the old man.

All eyes turned to him.

"Hey?"

Liu Yong pointed at the old man, "Aren't you...? That old con man?"

"Ah, that's why you look familiar. It is him!" Gao Yang and others chimed in.

"Xiaofan, what's the deal? Weren't you going to Anshan City? Why bring this old man here? Isn't he from Song Family Castle?"

"Exactly."

Everyone puzzled over it.

The old man also looked at Chen Fan in shock.

What did he just hear?

Anshan City?

Did Chen Fan go to Anshan City?

No way! Didn't he say he'd send an elder from the fortress?

From Song Family Castle to Anshan City is filled with mid-level Fierce Beasts and dangers, he barely made it successfully himself.

"Hmm, it's quite simple actually..."

Chen Fan explained what happened in the shantytown and said some good things about the old man. After all, since the old man would stay here, it's best if he gets along well with everyone or it might become a problem.

Of course, if the old man didn't behave, he'd definitely show him some force.

"So that's how it is. Seems we didn't recognize value before." Liu Yong and others were enlightened, looking at the old man's leg with more sympathy.

"Indeed."

The old man gratefully glanced at Chen Fan for hiding his previous deceit.

Chen Guodong stepped forward, smiling at the old man, "Sir, welcome to Chen Family Fortress. You're one of us now, don't worry, I'll have someone check your leg and help you recover."

"Yes, we have plenty to eat. If you need anything, just ask."

"Those bastards did treat an old man terribly, what beasts!"

"Times have changed, and people's hearts aren't what they used to be."

Hearing this, the old man felt warmth he hadn't felt in a while.

Chapter 163: Does He Hold a High Position in the Village?

In a clean and tidy room.

An elderly man lay on the bed, with his right leg immobilized by a splint.

"Sir, have you had enough to eat? If not, I can get you another bowl."

Beside the bed, a woman in her forties held a bowl in one hand and a spoon in the other, her face full of warmth as she asked.

Next to her stood a young woman, also smiling.

The old man burped contentedly, nodded and said, "I'm full, but a bit thirsty."

The young woman quickly picked up a bowl of water, blew on it to cool the heat, and brought it to his mouth.

"Gulp gulp."

The old man drank the water in several big gulps. The young woman thoughtfully used a handkerchief to wipe the moisture from the corner of his mouth.

"Sir, Dr. Liu said that it takes a hundred days to heal bones and tendons. During these hundred days, if you need anything, just tell us directly, there's no need to be polite."

The older woman said with a laugh.

"Really?"

The old man's eyes lit up, "I can ask for anything?"

The two women immediately sensed some hidden meaning in his words.

"Ahem."

The young woman coughed, embarrassed, "Sir, Brother Chen told us before he left, if you have any bad ideas, we should tell him directly, and he would come and have a talk with you personally."

The old man shivered and said, "Forget it then, I don't have anything to discuss with him right now."

After speaking, he looked around.

He had to admit, the living conditions here were much better than at Song Family Castle.

The room was clean and tidy, the food was abundant, and there were people to serve him. If he had known he would receive such good treatment here, he would have come earlier.

"By the way, who exactly is that young fellow?"

He couldn't help but ask.

Along the way, everyone treated that young man with deep respect.

As a seasoned person who had met countless people, he could tell that respect was genuine and not feigned.

Consequently, people treated him with kindness as well.

So, he was really curious about the young man's status in the village.

"You mean Brother Chen?"

"Yes."

The old man nodded, "I see everyone obeying him. Does he have a high status in the village?"

The two women laughed at his words.

"What's so funny? Did I say something wrong?"

The old man felt a little uncomfortable.

"Sir, Brother Chen in our Chen Family Fortress, is like this."

The young woman gave a thumbs up.

"The boss?"

The old man's mouth dropped open, filled with disbelief.

"If you understand it that way, it's not wrong." The young woman couldn't help but laugh.

"Thanks to Brother Chen, we were saved from Zhao Da and his people's clutches. If not for him, who knows if we'd be here talking to you now."

The older woman sighed with emotion.

"What exactly happened?"

The old man felt like a thousand ants were crawling in his heart.

He cautiously looked outside, then lowered his voice, "Tell me about it. Don't worry, if I have one virtue, it's a tight mouth, I won't tell anyone."

"There's nothing secret about it, everyone in the village knows."

The older woman smiled and recounted the previous events.

After listening, the old man took a deep breath, almost having his eyes pop out.

Well, he thought he was the clever one all along, but he was the one fooled.

He always thought he was taking great advantage, only to now realize that the young man had been pretending all along.

Recalling what people said when he arrived.

This young man clearly was the Entry Force Martial Artist he heard about; the one going to Anshan City wasn't his elder!

My goodness, such a young Entry Force Martial Artist, how terrifyingly talented could he be?

No wonder he knew that the manuals he got from me were incomplete, yet he was always eager to have them.

With such high talent, he must have gained some insights from those incomplete manuals.

Got careless!

The old man smacked his right thigh and immediately grimaced in pain.

"Sir, are you okay?"

The young woman panicked.

"Don't think too much, it's just a broken leg; a bit of rest and it will heal."

"No, I'm fine."

The old man waved his hand and said, "Alright, you can leave now. I'd like to be alone for a while."

The two women exchanged glances and nodded.

"Okay, Sir, we'll go for now. If you need anything, just call us."

"Mm."

The old man responded, feeling complex emotions.

After a long while, he smiled bitterly and comforted himself, "At least it proves that I still have sharp eyes for people, picking the most capable one here right away."

"Yes, exactly!"

Thinking this, he couldn't help but show some pride on his face.

"With this young man as my backer, who in the village would dare to bully me in the future!"

...

At the same moment.

On the martial arts practice field, everyone was sweating profusely.

In the room next to the warehouse.



"I didn't expect that in just three or four years, the Martial Arts Association would progress so quickly and produce so many Meridian Refining Martial Artists?"

Zhang Ren said in surprise.

"Yes, the President said that above the Meridian Refining Realm, there's the True Essence Realm. Besides the President, there are two others who are True Essence Realm Martial Artists."

Chen Fan nodded, trying to sound him out, "Uncle Zhang, are you a member of the Martial Arts Association too?"

"Yes."

Zhang Ren smiled bitterly, "When I joined the branch, the president was also Sun Wei, but at that time, the association only had two or three Meridian Refining Martial Artists, and the branch had none. So at that time, not just others at the branch but even I was somewhat skeptical about this realm."

Chen Fan listened and couldn't help recalling what Zhang Ren had told him; indeed, the latter mentioned that there were rumors of Martial Artists who could cultivate True Qi within their bodies.

So, it seemed true that the Martial Arts Association had grown quite rapidly over the years.

If given enough time, it might not be worse than the Awakened Association?

"Xiaofan, you just mentioned that now there are only seven or eight Entry Force Martial Artists in the branch, including you?"

Zhang Ren frowned.

"Mm, that's what the president said. Excluding him and Lin Hui, there are only six including me."

Chen Fan said.

"Hiss..."

Zhang Ren took a sharp breath.

"I remember four years ago, when I joined the Martial Arts Association, there were over thirty Entry Force Martial Artists."

"Over thirty?"

Chen Fan was shocked.

"Yes, at that time, I was just a Mingjin Martial Artist, at the bottom among the Entry Force Martial Artists in the branch. Just the powerful Martial Artists alone exceeded five. Even later, when I was being chased and saved by your father and the others, the number of Entry Force Martial Artists was still above twenty."

"Chased?"

A thought arose in Chen Fan's mind, "Uncle Zhang, you weren't chased by the people of Hongchang Trading Company, were you?"

"!"

Zhang Ren looked at Chen Fan in shock, "How did you know?"

He was worried that his matter would bring trouble to the people in the village, so he never mentioned a word about it.

How did Chen Fan know about it?

"No."

Chen Fan couldn't help but laugh, "I guessed it, Uncle Zhang. The president warned me earlier to be wary of people from Hongchang Trading Company. Those who have the ability to chase down Entry Force Martial Artists would either be Awakeners or other Entry Force Martial Artists, right?"

"That's right."

Zhang Ren was silent for a moment, "It seems that the conflict between Hongchang Trading Company and the branch is getting more intense."

"When I was still in the branch, people kept leaving to join Hongchang Trading Company. Soon, their number of Entry Force Martial Artists matched ours. Then, every so often, conflicts broke out in the wild until one time..."

Pain filled his eyes, "A friend and I went hunting Mid-level Fierce Beasts and were targeted. My friend was shot in the head by several sniper rifle bullets and died on the spot. Although I wasn't hit in a vital spot, I was seriously injured, running for my life. The rest you know."

"So that's how it was."

Chen Fan was moved, realizing they must have thought Uncle Zhang was dead and didn't pursue him further.

Uncle Zhang's fate wasn't sealed.

"Uncle Zhang, do you remember the names of the people who chased you?"

Zhang Ren paused, then understood what Chen Fan meant, his heart warmed, and he shook his head, "Forget it, it's all in the past. Moreover, Hongchang Trading Company is backed by several Awakeners. Even the President is hesitant to provoke those folks."

"Uncle Zhang, some things aren't avoided just because we wish to."

Chen Fan said helplessly, "Besides, the conflict between Hongchang Trading Company and the branch has intensified. Originally thirty Entry Force Martial Artists, plus those who joined in recent years, now only six are left. Most died at the hands of Hongchang Trading Company. By joining the branch, I've aligned against them. Someone even tried to tail me when I returned."

"What!"

Zhang Ren quickly asked, "And what happened? Are you alright?"

"I shook them off, but I'll encounter them again next time in Anshan City."

Chen Fan shrugged, "So Uncle Zhang, now you understand, avoiding them won't stop them."

Zhang Ren looked troubled.

He hadn't mentioned the Martial Arts Association to Chen Fan to avoid dragging him into trouble.

But unexpectedly, Chen Fan still got involved.

So the enemies he would face included not only Fierce Beasts but also the subordinates of Awakeners, and possibly the Awakeners themselves.

Very dangerous indeed.

"So Uncle Zhang, what's the name of the person who caused you such suffering?"

Chen Fan asked.

Since he was set against Hongchang Trading Company.

He'd gladly help Zhang Ren deal with those enemies.

Chapter 164: Traits, Shadowless!

Seeing the serious expression on Chen Fan's face, Zhang Ren felt a surge of emotion.

He recalled, "There were quite a few people back then, most of whom I didn't know. However, the leader, I still remember his name and appearance."

"Who is it?"

"Lu Yang."

Zhang Ren spat out two words.

"So it's him."

Chen Fan narrowed his eyes.

Isn't it that guy who was leading?

At that time, he acted so arrogant and even threatened me, saying I'd regret it later.

Well, the next time I meet him, I'll settle both old and new scores.

"Xiaofan, even though that's the case, you shouldn't act rashly against him."

Zhang Ren said worriedly, "If you attack others, it's fine. But attacking him will definitely alert the Awakeners behind him. No matter their intentions, they won't just sit idly by."

"Hmm, don't worry Uncle Zhang, I won't act recklessly."

Chen Fan smiled; Uncle Zhang's advice was indeed reasonable.

That Lu Yang is just an Entry Force Martial Artist, getting rid of him is no big deal.

But if I do that, I will have to be prepared to face C-level, maybe even several C-level Awakeners.

By then, hiding in the Anshan City Branch will be of no use.

So, I must gather more resources and enhance my power.

That being said,

the next moment,

he took out a small bottle and poured out a Top-grade Qi Blood Pill.

"This, what is this?"

Zhang Ren's eyes widened instantly, and he cried out in surprise.

The pill in front of him was round and smooth, deep red in color, emitting a unique fragrance.

Top-grade Qi Blood Pill!

"Uncle Zhang, this is for you."

Chen Fan smiled.

He had two secret manuals with him, namely [Qianyuan Skill] and [Cloud-piercing Arrow Technique].

But these two martial arts require reaching the Meridian Refining Realm to cultivate, even he himself hasn't met the requirements, let alone Zhang Ren.

So they'll have to wait.

"No way."

Zhang Ren waved his hand and said, "This pill is too precious, you need it more than me."

"Uncle Zhang, take it. It's just one pill."

Chen Fan smiled.

In fact, this pill was bought at a discounted price.

At present, he indeed urgently needs resources, so he's sorry he can only give Uncle Zhang one pill.

However, once his Realm improves, Top-grade Qi Blood Pills will be like Low-grade ones now, insignificant.

By then, he'll give Uncle Zhang several bottles of Top-grade Qi Blood Pills as compensation.

"Okay, alright."

Seeing Chen Fan persist, Zhang Ren had no choice but to accept it.

...

At the eastern training ground, Gu Ze was practicing his saber technique.

He felt the saber technique suited him more, simple and brutal to use.

"Gu Ze, do you have a moment?"

At this moment, a voice sounded.

Gu Ze turned around, and saw Chen Fan standing not far away, smiling at him.

"Yes."

He sheathed his saber and walked over.

"Shall we take a walk?"

Chen Fan asked.

Gu Ze was stunned for a moment, then he nodded.

"I went to Anshan City this morning."

Chen Fan said as he walked.



"I know."

Gu Ze looked at him and then said, "It won't be long before I can go there by myself."

"I also joined the Martial Arts Association."

Gu Ze was puzzled, he didn't quite understand what the Martial Arts Association was, but soon he said, "It won't be long before I can join the Martial Arts Association too."

"No,"

Chen Fan turned, looking at him seriously, "Compared to the Martial Arts Association, I want you to join the Awakened Association."

"Awakened Association?"

Gu Ze frowned, "You mean I should go to Anshan City?"

"Not necessarily Anshan City, it could be another city."

Chen Fan narrowed his eyes, "I understand your desire to stay here and protect your family, but you must realize that the Fierce Beasts are far more powerful than we imagine. Your growth here is too slow.

Yes, you can protect everyone well now, but what if one day the Fierce Beasts attack us again?

At that time, even Anshan City could be destroyed in an instant, let alone our small village."

Gu Ze didn't speak.

"This time, when I visited the Martial Arts Association, do you know what the biggest impression was?"

Chen Fan turned to him and asked.

"What was it?"

Gu Ze asked instinctively.

"Resources."

Chen Fan said, "The resources provided by the association are far beyond what our small village or even a city can offer. The Awakened Association is even more powerful than the Martial Arts Association. Only by going there can you grow faster and protect your family better, because the destruction of the nest would mean everything is gone. You understand this, right?"

"So, you're here to persuade me to join the Awakened Association?"

Gu Ze took a deep breath.

"It's just a suggestion,"

Chen Fan looked at him, "A suggestion from a friend."

Gu Ze was silent for a long time, then finally said, "I understand. I'll go back and think about it."

"Hmm."

Chen Fan nodded, saying no more.

He had said what he needed to say; if Gu Ze still wanted to stay in the village, he wouldn't say anything else.

Everyone has their own choice to make.

And joining the Awakened Association isn't necessarily a golden path.

It also means facing more difficult foes, even treachery from within.

As for Meng Yu, her abilities are special.

He planned to save Meng Xue first, then let the sisters decide for themselves.

...

Throughout the night, Chen Fan practiced the Basic Fist Technique with Zhang Ren.

Currently, his physical attributes far exceeded Zhang Ren's, so he had to restrain his strength during their exchanges.

Because of this, his skill level in the Basic Fist Technique increased a bit slower.

After a whole night of practice, it only increased by three levels.

[Basic Fist Technique: lv12 (5%), Traits: Powerful Level 12, Strengthening the Body Level 10, swift Level 8, Firm Strength Level 6, Spiritual Level 4]

No new traits were unlocked.

But this was within his expectations.

"To improve quickly, I need either actual combat or to spar with stronger people."

Chen Fan sighed.

Entry Force Martial Artists are unimpressive in front of him; he needs to find those Meridian Refining Martial Artists.

As for Basic Archery, it's easier.

Once the bow arrives from the head office, the Basic Archery skill level will improve significantly.

At that time, practicing [Cloud-piercing Arrow Technique] will be much easier.

"Let's see the effect of the Top-grade Qi Blood Pill, then start the cultivation technique, and finally breakthrough the realm."

Chen Fan took out four bottles of Qi Blood Pills from space items,

excluding the one given to Zhang Ren, 35 pills remained.

"I wonder how many potential points a Top-grade Qi Blood Pill provides."

With anticipation, he placed a pill in his mouth and swallowed.

Soon, a massive heat dispersed, as if a fire was burning in his abdomen.

"Is the medicinal power too strong?"

Chen Fan wondered.

At that moment, the immense medicinal power seemed to evaporate in his body instantly, disappearing without a trace.

A line of information appeared in his mind.

[Potential Points +12000 points]

Chen Fan's face immediately showed joy.

He initially thought that if the Top-grade Qi Blood Pill provided ten thousand potential points, it would be great.

Unexpectedly, it reached twelve thousand points!

This means that the same amount of money used to buy Top-grade Qi Blood Pills yields a 1.5 times better enhancement compared to Middle-grade Qi Blood Pills!

No wonder they're in such high demand.

Chen Fan took the remaining Top-grade Qi Blood Pills, one after the other.

After they all converted, he looked at the panel,

Potential Points: 526152 (200 points/day)

Experience Points: 1325

520,000 potential points, the most he's ever accumulated.

Chen Fan smiled, it's enough to break through to Transforming Force.

Further breakthrough might be challenging, only achievable after hunting High-level Fierce Beasts and acquiring enough Top-grade Qi Blood Pills.

"Let's improve the cultivation technique first."

He looked at the Skill Bar,

Two Meridian Refining martial arts, plus Golden Bell Shield, three total, will be set aside for now,

Remaining are, [Soul-Annihilating Finger], [Moon Observation Technique], [Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training], [Shadowless Swift Blade], [Thunderous Blade Technique].

Chen Fan frowned.

He originally thought 1300 experience points were plenty; now it doesn't seem enough.

"Prioritize Moon Observation Technique."

He thought.

He must face the Awakeners from Anshan City.

The higher the spiritual power, the stronger the spiritual defense, when facing that Guan Family Awakener, if their only method is mind control, then they'll be out of luck, only death awaits them.

If enough experience points remain afterward, he'll enhance Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training and Soul-Annihilating Finger.

As for the two saber techniques, thanks to the Basic Saber Technique level, they shouldn't consume too many experience points. It's time to max them out.

He focused, using 1 experience point on Shadowless Swift Blade,

A subtle warm flow emerged,

[Shadowless Swift Blade: Initial Glimpse (0%), Trait: Powerful Level 1]

"A three-point power increase, huh?"

Chen Fan glanced, feeling pleased since it cost only 1 experience point.

He then used 2 experience points,

A memory surfaced in his mind,

[Shadowless Swift Blade: Slight Achievement (0%), Traits: Powerful Level 2, Shadowless Level 1]

[Shadowless: Skill level increases by one, blade speed increases by fifty percent, effective with Shadowless Swift Blade.]

"Fifty percent increase?"

If maxed out to Perfection Realm, it would provide a two-fold blade speed increase.

He checked Basic Saber Technique.

The Level 15 Fierce Assault trait provides a 45% blade speed increase per level, totaling 4.5 times.

In comparison, Shadowless Swift Blade's speed is slower by half.

This confirms that Basic Martial Arts and Advanced Martial Arts don't have absolute strengths and weaknesses, it's relative.

"Let's see if new traits unlock next."

Chen Fan muttered, this time using 3 experience points to raise skill level, but no new traits unlocked.

He then used 4 experience points, reaching Great Success, still no new traits.

"Only two traits, maybe?"

Chen Fan suddenly felt uneasy.

Chapter 165: New Skill Level?

"No, it should be impossible."

Chen Fan shook his head repeatedly, driving this ominous thought out of his mind.

Even if he reached the Perfection Realm, without unlocking new traits,

he wouldn't lose out,

because, having consumed less than 20 Experience Points in total, he had increased his Strength Attribute by 15 points, which was quite a gain.



Gazing at the [Shadowless Swift Blade], after consuming 5 more Experience Points, a strange feeling arose within him.

[Shadowless Swift Blade: Perfection (cannot be improved), Traits: Powerful Level 5, Shadowless Level 4, Fast Blade Unsheathing Level 1]

Chen Fan immediately breathed a sigh of relief, looking at it again,

[Fast Blade Unsheathing: Active Skill, after activation, consumes a small amount of Power, increases the speed of the next blade strike by 100%. Each level increases Power consumption and blade speed by an additional multiple, effective only when using the Shadowless Swift Blade]

[Detection: Basic Saber Technique has reached the corresponding level. Can increase the limit of Shadowless Swift Blade without consuming Experience Points. Do you wish to upgrade?]

As Chen Fan wanted to see what would happen, information appeared in his mind.

He was stunned at first, but after reading this, his face immediately showed excitement,

"It seems my previous guess was correct. Once the Basic Martial Arts reached a certain level, it indeed could increase the skill level limit of Advanced Martial Arts. Perfection is not the end."

Chen Fan's eyes were full of anticipation.

What would be beyond the Perfection Realm?

His gaze fell on that last line of information,

Since it doesn't need Experience Points to increase the Martial Arts limit, why hesitate?

Chen Fan instantly chose yes.

The next moment, he felt a rush of new memories flooding his mind.

Compared to the previous Shadowless Swift Blade, this move was even more intricate.

After digesting this memory, he looked at the skill bar,

[Shadowless Swift Blade: Pinnacle of Attainments (cannot be improved), Traits: Powerful Level 6, Shadowless Level 5, Fast Blade Unsheathing Level 2]

"Pinnacle of Attainments?"

Chen Fan suddenly realized, so this was the skill level after the Perfection Realm.

He looked further and surprisingly found the skill level was maxed out instantly.

He looked back, yes, the levels of the three traits had all increased by one.

"Not bad."

He smiled faintly.

The most noticeable change was that the Strength Attribute originally increased by 15 points, now by 18 points.

Shadowless now meant the blade speed was 2.5 times faster.

And upon activation, Fast Blade Unsheathing increased the blade speed by 200%, making it three times faster.

"I wonder if this speed is calculated independently, or if it enjoys the boost from the Shadowless trait?"

Chen Fan mused.

If calculated independently, the effect was so-so since using the Basic Saber Technique already gave him four to five times the blade speed.

If it could stack with the Shadowless trait, that would be terrifying.

"Why not test it out?"

Chen Fan had a sudden idea.

He stood up, picked up the dagger from the side.

Took a deep breath, and with a brush sound, swung the blade.

"Indeed slower than when I use the Basic Saber Technique."

Chen Fan thought to himself.

The next moment, he activated Fast Blade Unsheathing in his mind and swung the blade.

A flash of white light zipped by, and a whooshing sound filled the air.

Chen Fan's eyes suddenly brightened.

Such speed!

He activated it again, swung the blade,

This time, the speed was still fast, but significantly slower than the second strike, and the air sound was not as intense as before.

Chen Fan smiled.

When activating Fast Blade Unsheathing with the Shadowless Swift Blade, its traits stack.

If activated with the Basic Saber Technique, it doesn't benefit from either Shadowless or Fast Blade Unsheathing traits.

"Not bad."

He nodded in satisfaction.

The Level 5 Shadowless trait, 2.5 times the blade speed when activating Fast Blade Unsheathing, reaches 7.5 times!!!

Even faster by 60-70% compared to the Basic Saber Technique.

So, for close-combat engagements, there was no need to revert to using the Basic Saber Technique.

"Let's call this perfect Martial Arts level High-level Martial Arts."

Chen Fan nodded.

This classification is based on development, not cultivation difficulty.

It's possible that the Meridian Refining Realm Martial Arts' skill level limit is Perfection, but its cultivation difficulty might not be less than his defined High-level Martial Arts.

Just that in terms of development, these Martial Arts still count as Advanced Martial Arts.

"By the way, there's another Advanced Blade Technique. I wonder if it can also be upgraded to High-level Martial Arts."

Chen Fan's gaze landed on [Thunderous Blade Technique].

He tried adding a point of Experience, the skill level increased by 50%.

Chen Fan immediately gave up the idea of increasing its limit.

After consuming another point, a faint warm current arose.

[Thunderous Blade Technique: Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Strengthen Body and Health Level 1]

"No wonder the reaction was slightly stronger this time."

Chen Fan mumbled.

It turned out to be an increase of 4 points in Constitution and Strength.

Still quite good.

The second time, after consuming 5 points of Experience, a strange feeling arose, and evidently, a new trait was unlocked.

[Thunderous Blade Technique: Slight Achievement (0%), Traits: Strengthen Body and Health Level 2, Rapid Lightning Level 1]

[Rapid Lightning: Each level increases blade speed by 60%, effective only when using Thunderous Blade Technique]

"So it also increases blade speed, faster by one level than Shadowless."

Chen Fan glanced at the Shadowless Swift Blade, considering whether it seemed more suitable to use Thunderous Blade Technique?

Maybe not necessarily.

After all, Shadowless Swift Blade excels in the combination of traits. Whether it's Shadowless or Fast Blade Unsheathing, taken individually, they aren't much, but combined, they are different.

Unless Thunderous Blade Technique can unlock traits that significantly boost blade speed in the future, the former still had the advantage.

The third time consumed 10 Experience Points.

No new traits appeared.

Chen Fan added another point of Experience, this time increasing by 5%.

Meaning, it would take 20 Experience Points to reach 100%.

"This blade technique consumes quite a lot of Experience Points."

Chen Fan felt a bit pained.

But having come this far, giving up midway was impossible.

After consuming another 19 Experience Points, another new trait was unlocked.

[Thunderous Blade Technique: Great Success (0%), Traits: Strengthen Body and Health Level 4, Rapid Lightning Level 3, Thunderbolt Level 1]

[Thunderbolt: Active Skill, after activation, continuously consumes part of the Power, increasing blade power by 100%, each level increases blade power by an additional multiple, effective only when using Thunderous Blade Technique]

Chen Fan squinted his eyes slightly.

It's for increasing blade power?

At the next level, the power upon activation would be threefold the original.

It seems significant, but compared to the Basic Saber Technique, it's about the same?

For Basic Saber Technique, the Level 12 Fierce Slash trait is a 3.6 times blade power, without consuming Power.

"What a pity."

Chen Fan sighed lightly, if the skill level could increase to Pinnacle of Attainments, it would indeed be stronger than the Basic Saber Technique.

Or perhaps removing the last line of text would work too.

Of course, that's just wishful thinking, as removing it would mean stacking with Basic Saber Technique, resulting in immense power!

"Just one step away from the Perfection Realm."

Chen Fan had a hunch that this time might unlock a new trait again.

After consuming 30 Experience Points, as expected, a unique feeling arose in his heart.

[Thunderous Blade Technique: Perfection (0%), Traits: Strengthen Body and Health Level 5, Rapid Lightning Level 4, Thunderbolt Level 2, Lightning and Thunder Level 1]

Chen Fan's pupils shrank as he saw the name, knowing this trait was no simple matter.

Undoubtedly, it contained the essence of this blade technique!

[Lightning and Thunder: Active Skill, after activation, consumes a large amount of Spiritual Power and Power, during its duration, the blade speed and power increase by an additional multiple. When striking the opponent, there's a 30% chance to cause paralysis. Each level increases blade speed and power, and paralysis probability, effective only when using Thunderous Blade Technique]

"Impressive."

Chen Fan couldn't help but say.

Based on the experience from the Shadowless Swift Blade, the increased blade speed and power from Lightning and Thunder can stack with the previous Rapid Lightning and Thunderbolt traits.

In other words, after activating Lightning and Thunder, the blade speed reaches 4.8 times.

As for power, theoretically, it's sixfold.



However, it's hard for most to achieve because activating Lightning and Thunder requires consuming a large amount of Power, and activating the Thunderbolt trait also continuously consumes Power. Hence, practitioners can hardly execute several 6x power blade techniques without exhausting their Power.

Fortunately, this problem doesn't apply to him.

And that's not all, there's a 30% chance to paralyze the opponent.

One must know, in high-level confrontations, victory is often decided in an instant, and even a single trigger of paralysis is enough to determine the outcome.

The only downside was no further signal for raising skill level limits.

"Ugh,"

Chen Fan shook his head.

If it could ascend to the Pinnacle of Attainments, the Thunderbolt Saber Technique would be even more formidable.

Glancing at the attribute panel,

Constitution: 1239

Strength: 1355

Experience Points: 1243

Spending fewer than 100 Experience Points yielded substantial gains.

At least now, in close combat, he had many additional methods at his disposal.

"It's time to upgrade the Moon Observation Technique."

Chen Fan glanced at the skill bar.

[Moon Observation Technique: Slight Achievement (0%), Traits: Concentration Level 2, meditation Level 2, Conservation Level 1]

Last time, he consumed 100 Experience Points, upgrading the Moon Observation Technique from beginner level to Slight Achievement,

So this time, without any surprises,

Chen Fan added one Experience Point,

As the skill level increased by a thousandth, it stopped.

"As expected."

Chen Fan smiled faintly. Does this mean that today, there's hope to elevate the Moon Observation Technique to the Perfection Realm?

If counting the subsequent five enhancements and a realm breakthrough,

his Spiritual Power would reach an astonishing level?

Even if the few C-level Awakeners from Anshan City came over, they wouldn't stand a chance, would they?

## Chapter 166: Traits, Invulnerable

Chen Fan thought about this, then did not hesitate and added 199 points of experience.

The spiritual power in his mind instantly increased by one fold, and an unprecedented sense of fulfillment surged through his heart.

He closed his eyes, and everything in the room appeared vividly in his mind.

[Moon Observation Technique: Entering the Hall (0%), Traits: Concentration Level 3, Meditation Level 3, Saving Level 2]

Nothing new was unlocked, which was expected by Chen Fan, thus he wasn't surprised.

"According to Meng Yu, reaching the Entering the Hall level allows one to visualize all the phases of the moon and maintain them for some time. Visualizing the transition from new moon to full moon and back repeatedly is considered Great Success."

He pondered for a moment and tried to visualize the process of the moon phases in his mind.

The process went smoothly, and he didn't feel tired even after several minutes.

"It must be because my spiritual power is too high, not only does it have the effect of Great Success, but what can be achieved with the Perfection Realm of Moon Observation Technique, I might be able to do now, and..."

His gaze fell on the skill bar.

The proficiency of Moon Observation Technique increased by about one percent.

At this rate, 500 minutes, which is about 8 hours, will be enough to elevate the proficiency to Great Success Realm.

It's worth noting that C-level Awakeners take years to elevate Moon Observation Technique to Great Success Realm.

"Let's continue."

This time, he consumed 400 experience points, feeling the surge of spiritual power in his mind once again, along with a peculiar sensation.

Chen Fan was delighted. Without a doubt, he had unlocked a new trait.

[Moon Observation Technique: Great Success (0%), Traits: Concentration Level 4, Meditation Level 4, Saving Level 3, Inference Level 1]

"Inference?"

Chen Fan scratched his head, what kind of trait is this?

But when he saw it clearly, his face revealed a look of shock.

[Inference: Each level up reduces the experience needed to elevate Martial Arts Realm by ten percent]

He was stunned for a moment before reacting.

Insight?

Enhancing spiritual power also improves one's insight?

Thinking carefully, it might make sense; after all, people with high spiritual power can focus better, making them learn faster than average individuals.

Therefore,

Elevating Moon Observation Technique to Great Success Realm increases one's insight, reducing training time for others.

For himself, it reduces the required experience points.

Chen Fan glanced at the remaining 643 experience points, wondering if he could max out Moon Observation Technique.

He tried adding a bit, only to see the proficiency increase by 0.138%.

"Just as expected."

Chen Fan nodded.

Following previous patterns, elevating from Great Success to Perfection requires doubling the experience points, 800 points.

With the Inference trait reducing it by ten percent, 720 points would suffice.

Unfortunately, it's still a lot less.

Should he give up?

Chen Fan frowned.

Bear in mind that elevating to Perfection is a doubled enhancement, and after further amplification, the values differ significantly.

Suddenly, he thought of something, closing his eyes, he visualized the moon phases change in his mind just like before.

Five minutes passed, he stopped visualizing and checked,

Moon Observation Technique proficiency increased from 0.138% to 1.128%, nearly one percent.

"About the same as before."

Chen Fan breathed a sigh of relief.

It seems the doubled spiritual power balanced out the doubled difficulty.

Still around eight hours.

"Since it doesn't affect me now, why not stay up all night visualizing the moon phases and elevate Moon Observation Technique to Perfection before enhancing."

"About the 600-plus remaining experience points..."

Chen Fan thought about it, planning to use them on Soul-Annihilating Finger.

As for Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training, wait for now. If there's surplus later, or it's not possible to continue, then add them to Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training.

Otherwise, using the vast spiritual power only for defense would be a waste.

Time ticked away.

1.138%

1.148%

1.158%

Moon Observation Technique's proficiency climbed like an ant.

Reaching fifty percent, Chen Fan felt considerable pressure, sweat dripping from his forehead.

But he persisted.

At sixty percent, a needle-like sensation appeared in his mind, with pain growing with each visualization.

"Phew, I think I overestimated myself."

Chen Fan opened his eyes, exhaling deeply. In that case, use meditation for recovery.

He sat crossed-legged on the bed, placing his hands on his thighs palms up, and mentally activated the meditation skill.

Instantly, the spiritual power in his mind recovered rapidly.

After all, it's a Level 4 meditation skill, recovering forty percent of spiritual power per hour, refilling in two and a half hours.

In a blink, it was dawn.

Voices could be heard downstairs.

Chen Fan rose from the bed, went downstairs for a breakfast, and advised his family not to disturb him before returning upstairs to continue visualizing.

At around seven in the morning, Moon Observation Technique finally reached Perfection.

[Moon Observation Technique: Perfection (cannot be elevated), Traits: Concentration Level 5, Meditation Level 5, Saving Level 4, Inference Level 2]

"No Perfection trait?"

He was a bit surprised and confirmed again.

Ultimately, he had to accept reality.

However, Level 2 Inference can save twenty percent of experience points, which is still exceedingly powerful.

The more he progresses, the more experience he saves.

"Not only no Perfection trait, but no unlocked proficiency level ceiling either."

Chen Fan thought.

Maybe spirit martial arts are different from regular martial arts?

For the time being, he had no clues and after some fruitless thinking, he looked at Soul-Annihilating Finger.



He added a bit of experience points,

The proficiency increased by 4.1%.

"So it originally needed 30 points to reach beginner level, now 24 points are enough."

Chen Fan smiled, adding 23 points of experience.

The spiritual power in his mind increased again, but compared to Moon Observation Technique, it's much smaller.

[Soul-Annihilating Finger: Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Gathering Spirit Level 1]

[Gathering Spirit: Each level increases spiritual power by thirty percent]

"No wonder, it's only thirty percent."

Chen Fan realized,

The gap is indeed significant, it's more than double.

But Soul-Annihilating Finger is a spiritual attack type, which is understandable.

After another 48 points of experience, the spiritual power increased further, and a memory surfaced in his mind.

[Soul-Annihilating Finger: Slight Achievement (0%), Traits: Gathering Spirit Level 2, Soul-Annihilating Finger Level 1]

[Soul-Annihilating Finger: Active skill, upon activation, consumes spiritual power. The targeted person takes equal value of spiritual damage. The more spiritual power consumed, the larger the attack range. Each level increases damage by thirty percent]

"Damage equal to spiritual power consumed?"

Chen Fan was thrilled.

It appears this active skill's consumption of spiritual value is entirely controlled by oneself.

It could use ten percent, or a hundred percent.

The more used, the bigger the range.

"Awakeners should have similar spiritual skills, depending on their awakened superpowers."

Chen Fan thought.

It seems Soul-Annihilating Finger's maximum potential could be over twice as much, but where does it stand among Awakeners?

Another point is,

This trait seems to be the essence,

The earlier it's unlocked, the greater the improvement, but does it mean no more traits later?

Unfortunately, it appears so.

After consuming 96 points, then 192 points of experience,

[Soul-Annihilating Finger: Great Success (0%), Traits: Gathering Spirit Level 4, Soul-Annihilating Finger Level 3]

"Hiss..."

Chen Fan took a deep breath.

Following the pattern, Perfection requires 480 points, with twenty percent off, totaling 384 points.

Remaining experience points, 282, not enough?

For a long while, he had a helpless smile.

Would Perfection unlock new traits?

Right now, there's just an unanswered question.

The remaining 282 points,

Certainly can't be kept, as unlike Potential Points, experience should be used up as soon as possible.

"Then let's elevate Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training."

He was quite curious about these body refining techniques.

After consuming a bit of experience, Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training proficiency increased by 6.25%.

Then, after adding another 15 experience points, Chen Fan felt a gentle warmth surge within him, significantly strengthening his constitution.

Moreover, his skin and muscles felt more solid, and his head seemed to be harder.

The whole process lasted about five seconds.

Chen Fan curiously checked,

[Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training: Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Imposing Build Level 1, Invulnerable Level 1]

"Two traits?"

Chen Fan was delighted, and these were new traits.

[Imposing Build: Each level increases constitutional attribute by ten points permanently]

[Invulnerable: Each level increases whole-body physical defense by thirty percent]

"Ten points of constitutional attribute!"

Chen Fan couldn't help but exclaim, it's the largest increase among the many martial arts he practiced.

The second trait, Invulnerable.

Chen Fan couldn't help feeling his arms and legs, noting the skin felt much tougher, gleaming slightly.

This just entry-level, the amplification reaches 1.5 times at Perfection.

Meaning, with 1200 constitution points, his defense matches a martial artist with 2400 constitution points!

"What kind of concept is this, should match high-level fierce beasts?"

Chen Fan thought.

Of course, he had no idea of using his body to withstand machine gun fire.

More as a backup, if caught off guard and hit by machine gun bullets, suffering injuries but avoiding fatal ones.

"Let's continue elevating."

Chen Fan had a premonition,

This martial art should unlock more powerful traits later.

After all, it encompasses thirteen martial arts.

Chapter 167: Spiritual Power Breaks 10,000 Points!

After consuming 32 experience points,

the previous feeling came again.

Chen Fan carefully experienced it, but no new traits appeared.

He took a deep breath and added another 64 experience points.

Only 170 experience points remained, estimating that pushing [Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training] to the Great Success Realm might be the limit.

Fortunately, a new trait appeared at this time.

[Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training: Entering the Hall (0%), Traits: Imposing Build Level 3, Invulnerable Level 3, Breaking Bricks and Shattering Stones Level 1]

[Breaking Bricks and Shattering Stones: Active Skill, activates to continuously consume power, increasing strength by 30%. Each level increase boosts strength by an additional 30%]

"This trait is quite good, isn't it?"

Chen Fan's face showed a trace of happiness.

How long has it been since I unlocked a skill with a boosting state?

A 30% increase in strength, if it reaches Level 3, would be close to doubling it.

Moreover, the most crucial point is,

after activating this trait, it seems to be able to stack with other martial arts.

Because in the skill description, there is no remark that it only works when using this martial art.

This means that after activating the Far and Wide trait from Level 8 Fist, and then activating Breaking Bricks and Shattering Stones, the theoretical increase could reach up to 4 times, just like Shadowless Swift Blade.

"No, it might not be certain."

Chen Fan thought of something.

The two traits of Shadowless Swift Blade can stack because they are from the same martial art and use the same Shadowless Swift Blade technique, similar to Thunderous Blade Technique.

But Far and Wide and Breaking Bricks and Shattering Stones belong to different martial arts, one being a fist technique and the other body refinement.

Perhaps they can be used together, but the final increase in strength may not be 4 times, rather 3 times.

"I should go and verify this at the branch office sometime."

he thought to himself.

If it is 4 times, that would be even better.

If it is 3 times, it would still be acceptable, mainly to have a clear understanding of his own strength to avoid any unforeseen accidents.

Meanwhile,

the skill bar of Golden Bell Shield also changed.

One condition that was previously filled is now missing.

But it still needs to reach the Meridian Refining Realm to complete it.

He looked at Golden Bell Shield, anticipating this martial art even more.

Even the prerequisite martial art is so powerful, how could this one be any worse?

As for the final [Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill], it must be even more formidable.

After consuming another 128 experience points,

[Thirteen Grand Protectors' Cross Training: Great Success (0%), Traits: Imposing Build Level 4, Invulnerable Level 4, Breaking Bricks and Shattering Stones Level 2]

"What a pity."

Chen Fan looked at the last bit of experience points and shook his head.

[Soul-Annihilating Finger], and this one, are both one realm away from perfection.

No other choice, but to wait until next time.

As the martial arts progression halted, Chen Fan looked at the attribute panel,

Realm: Dark Power

Level: 20 (0/37300)

Constitution: 1279

Power: 1355

Agility: 1043



Spirit: 10208

Potential Points: 526352 (200 points/1 day)

Experience Points: 42

It could be seen that the Spirit Attribute value had reached an astounding 10,000 points!

Almost ten times the other attributes.

Chen Fan's mouth slightly lifted.

Such a high Spirit Attribute should be enough to counter a spiritual attack from a C-level Awakened, right?

On the other hand,

if he were to use such a high Spirit Attribute with Soul-Annihilating Finger,

its power would be sufficient to instantly kill a C-level Awakened, wouldn't it?

Moreover, this is just the improvement of his martial arts.

Chen Fan's gaze fell on the skill bar,

[Potential Points-37300]

...

[Potential Points-206400]

Still five enhancements,

Click breakthrough!

With a "crack," the bottleneck inside him broke,

as if a swift river of heat surged from his heart,

a few seconds later, the breakthrough ended, and the heat flow within him quickly vanished.

Chen Fan took a deep breath, adapting to the changes brought by this breakthrough.

With a significant increase in constitution, his sense of smell, hearing, and vision were more than twice as strong, and his strength spread throughout his body rather than just the upper half, as it did in the Dark Power Realm.

"So this is the Transforming Force."

Chen Fan clenched his fists and murmured.

No,

His original strength had already far exceeded that of an ordinary powerful Martial Artist.

Now, the gap is even greater.

After a while, he looked at the attribute panel with an excited heart,

Realm: Transforming Force

Level: 25 (0/350,000)

Constitution: 2958.41

Power: 3134.19

Agility: 2412.52

Spirit: 23611.72

Potential Points: 2352 (500 points/1 day)

Experience Points: 42

His constitution was close to 3,000 points,

which means he could carry a 30,000-pound weight. Even a high-level fierce beast could be carried on his shoulders and walked away.

Power of 3100 points means that his full punch has the power equivalent to 31,000 pounds, or 15 tons.

A single punch would be enough to turn a brick into powder, breaking through a 50 cm thick reinforced concrete wall.

With 2400 points of agility,

he could jump to a height of 120 meters, equivalent to forty floors!

When sprinting at full speed, his speed could reach up to 1440 meters per second!

Far surpassing high-level fierce beasts, even exceeding most elite-level fierce beasts.

As for the Spirit Attribute, it had reached an astonishing 20,000 points!

Even Chen Fan himself gasped.

With such a high Spirit Attribute,

perhaps even a B-level Awakened might not be at this level?

The enhancement was enormous, but the potential points needed for the next enhancement had reached 350,000 points.

Considering that each top-grade Qi Blood Pill provides 12,000 points, just leveling up once would require 30 pills.

Equivalent to 600,000 in money!

This is just for one level. At this rate, it would take millions of potential points to reach Levels 28 and 29.

The money required would also be in the millions.

Considering the price of one or two thousand per mid-level fierce beast, it would take hundreds of them.

"It seems that hunting more advanced fierce beasts is still necessary."

Chen Fan let out a long breath.

High-level fierce beasts,

elite-level fierce beasts,

and even, commander-level!

He looked at the back of the realm, and unsurprisingly, there was a plus sign. Clicking it,

three lines of information emerged,

[Breakthrough Threshold: Any one of the constitution, power, agility attributes reaches 1000 points, threshold value attained]

[The average value of the three attributes, constitution, power, agility, exceeds 800 points, body enhancement level reaches 28, breakthrough success rate is 100%, current breakthrough probability, 78%]

[Attempt Breakthrough?]

"Huh, 28 levels would do?"

Chen Fan noticed the first line with some surprise.

However, for him, this is a good thing.

The earlier he breaks through to the Meridian Refining Realm, the greater the benefits of enhancing his body.

After checking again and confirming that nothing was missed, Chen Fan retracted his gaze.

He looked at his arms, thinking that a bow with a draw weight of 5000 pounds might not meet his requirements at all?

But it should be more than enough to kill high-level fierce beasts.

After saving enough money, he could get a bow with a stronger draw weight.

"Let's continue sparring with Uncle Zhang to refine basic martial arts."

Chen Fan had just stood up when he heard a burst of phone ringing.

For a moment, he thought he was hearing things. It was only after a while that he realized.

"It's the President."

Seeing the name on the phone screen, Chen Fan's face showed excitement.

Could it be?

He quickly answered the phone, "Hello, President?"

"It's me, Brother Chen."

Sun Wei's laughter came from the phone, "It seems you guessed the reason I'm calling."

Chen Fan chuckled and asked expectantly, "President, does this mean the headquarters has sent the bow and arrows?"

"That's right."

Sun Wei laughed, "The headquarters valued your information very much and immediately sent over what you needed from the nearby Qing City, and also..."

His voice suddenly paused.

Chen Fan waited for a while, unable to help but ask, "And what?"

"And, there's quite a pleasant surprise. I won't say it over the phone. You'll know when you get here. All I can say is the headquarters holds you in high regard."

Sun Wei kept it a mystery.

"Alright then."

Chen Fan couldn't help but laugh.

Fortunately, the headquarters' speed exceeded his expectations.

He had thought it would arrive this afternoon or tomorrow.

"President, I'll head over now."

"Alright, be safe on the way,"

Sun Wei advised before hanging up the phone.

"President,"

a voice sounded from behind,

"Is the person you were talking to on the phone our branch's newly joined Entry Force Martial Artist?"

The speaker was a burly man, over six feet tall, with his chest exposed, revealing two solid pectoral muscles, and a ten-centimeter scar on the left one, looking quite alarming.

It wasn't just him; there were five other people around, some standing, some sitting on the sofa.

Among them was also a woman, about five and a half feet tall, with tanned skin, bulging muscles on her arms, and a body full of explosive power, like a female leopard.

Hearing the burly man's words, the five people all looked over with different expressions.

"Yes."

Sun Wei turned around and smiled, "I was about to introduce him. He joined just yesterday, and you weren't here then, otherwise, you'd already know each other."

"What's his strength? If he's a Mingjin Martial Artist, then forget it."

A man leaning against the wall with crossed arms said expressionlessly.

"Fan Sui, what do you mean by that?"



The woman on the sofa immediately expressed her dissatisfaction, "Who wasn't an Entry Force Martial Artist to start with? Besides, you only stepped into the Dark Power Realm just a year ago, right?"

Fan Sui frowned, about to speak, when a middle-aged man with a kind face intervened,

"Alright, both of you, enough. Fan Sui, Tu Yue is right, everyone started as an Entry Force Martial Artist, even powerful Martial Artists, the same,"

He then looked at Tu Yue, "Tu Yue, you know Fan Sui's temperament. He is just concerned that the newcomer might hold us back during hunts."

"Hmph."

Fan Sui snorted.

"Ahem,"

Sun Wei cleared his throat and glanced at Fan Sui,

"You don't need to worry about the realm because the martial artist who joined is a Dark Power Martial Artist."

Upon hearing this, everyone, including Tu Yue, sighed in relief.

The depths of the wilderness were filled with danger; having additional strength meant greater assurance.

With a weaker strength, it could indeed be troublesome, possibly dragging them into peril.

"By the way, he's seventeen."

As his words fell, the whole room plunged into dead silence.

Chapter 168: That Guy is Back Again!

"President, what did you just say?"

The burly man who had asked the question earlier looked at Sun Wei in shock,

"A Dark Power Martial Artist, seventeen years old?"

Not just him, Fan Sui, Tu Yue, and the others all had expressions of disbelief.

The people present were generally over thirty years old.

Some were even over forty.

They just looked young because their physical fitness far exceeded that of ordinary people.

Sun Wei glanced at the people present, smiled, and said, "You didn't hear wrong. A Dark Power Martial Artist, seventeen years old."

"Hiss..."

In an instant, the sound of gasping filled the hall.

They looked at each other,

They knew the president's character very well. He wouldn't talk nonsense or say unrealistic things.

However, this news was really hard to believe.

Never mind a seventeen-year-old Dark Power Martial Artist. Even a twenty-seven-year-old one already seemed terrifyingly talented in their eyes.

"I know you don't believe me, but I have personally verified that person's strength. He is indeed a Dark Power Martial Artist."

Sun Wei smiled even more, "Speaking of which, I was also shocked at the time because he was really too young. If you still don't believe me, you can ask those two."

As he spoke, he pointed to two youthful and beautiful girls behind the counter.

They looked over,

"Yes, yes."

One short-haired girl, holding her face, her eyes filled with stars, said, "The president is right. That person is really young, very handsome, very polite, with a nice voice and a great smile."

"..."

Xu Jie and the others had black lines on their faces and couldn't help but look at the other long-haired girl.

The latter's face flushed slightly and said, "That person is quite young, two or three years younger than us."

"..."

Now, they couldn't say anything anymore.

The president had verified the strength, and Xiaogao and the others had seen the person.

There was no reason for these three to deceive them.

So, is it true that he's a seventeen-year-old Dark Power Martial Artist?

If it were true, could the branch office recruit such a genius?

"By the way," the long-haired girl suddenly thought of something and said hurriedly, "That person seems to be a Martial Artist who uses a bow."

"A Martial Artist who uses a bow?"

"A bow?"

As soon as these words were spoken, the few people looked as though they had discovered a new continent.

Martial Artists who use knives and swords are common, but those who use bows are rare.

"President?" Xu Jie asked curiously, "Is this newcomer really a bow user?"

"Yes,"

Sun Wei nodded, "Indeed, he uses a bow, and for his newcomer reward, he also chose a bow and arrow."

"This..." they looked at each other.

Isn't this newcomer a bit silly?

Could a bow and arrow's power and range compare to that of a machine gun?

Sun Wei coughed; he hadn't mentioned that Chen Fan had refused the 40mm machine gun.

"Alright, I already informed him over the phone to come over. It won't be long before you all can meet him, and then you can directly ask him any questions,

also, since everyone will be part of the same branch office going forward, we need to work together, and help each other out. Although Brother Chen is very talented, he is still young. When we go into the depths of the wilderness to hunt for high-level fierce beasts, all of you will need to take good care of him."

They exchanged glances; the rest was fine.

Only this method of using a bow and arrow for combat seemed a bit... questionable? They seriously doubted that when hunting, this newcomer would even have the chance to make a move.

Tu Yue was the first to support, smiling, "President, don't worry, it's rare for our team to have a new member joining. We'll definitely take good care of him. Besides, according to Xiaoli, this newcomer is quite a handsome guy?"

"Tu Yue, you don't mean to act like an old cow eating young grass, do you?" a voice quipped.

"Get lost." Tu Yue threw a pillow over, her eyebrows raised, "A dog's mouth can't spit out ivory!"

"Hehehe."

That person caught the pillow, laughing even more happily.

"Alright, Mu Zhiwei, stop interrupting. I think the president is right."

The middle-aged man who had mediated earlier nodded, "If this little brother is truly a seventeen-year-old Dark Power Martial Artist, his potential is far beyond ours. Entering the main office in the future is practically certain. We must pay attention. As for why he chose the bow, he must have his reasons. It's his choice, we shouldn't interfere."

"That's true."

Someone nodded in agreement.

"Taking care of him? No problem."

Xu Jie rubbed his hands together, his face filled with anticipation, "I really hope to meet him soon and have a spar. Let's see if he's as incredible as the president says."

"You'll need to go easy on him then."

Sun Wei found it both funny and exasperating.

"Don't worry, President, I know what I'm doing." Xu Jie waved his hand.

Meanwhile, Fan Sui's face still showed some reluctance.

So what if he's a seventeen-year-old Dark Power Martial Artist? He's still a newcomer, using cold weapons...

When fighting high-level fierce beasts, they themselves were treading on thin ice. One misstep and they could lose their lives, let alone having to take care of a newcomer.

Such a bother.

...

An hour later, near the two camps in Anshan City, there was another commotion.

A masked man, holding a bow in his left hand and dragging a small mountain of prey with his right, walked slowly towards them.

"It's him again!"

The crowd broke into a buzz.

"If I remember correctly, this same time yesterday, he came with so many Mid-level Fierce Beasts, didn't he?"

"Yes, and today he brought even more prey, at least twice as much as yesterday!"

"My goodness, so many Mid-level Fierce Beasts, they could sell for hundreds of thousands, right?"

"Quite easily over several hundred thousand."

"He's really amazing."

Jealousy nearly overflowed from the eyes of the crowd.

For most of them, even hunting one Low-level Fierce Beast was a difficult task. Encountering a Mid-level Fierce Beast meant certain death.

Yet this person in front of them hunted Mid-level Fierce Beasts as easily as picking something out of his pocket.

Comparing oneself to others was truly infuriating.

The figure in the crowd was, of course, Chen Fan.

Having come this far, he decided to hunt thirty or forty Mid-level Fierce Beasts while he was at it. The money was secondary; the main goal was experience points.

His intuition told him that once he reached the Meridian Refining Realm, the cultivation technique would require far more experience points, so he couldn't miss any opportunity to accumulate them.

Just like this time, the experience points had skyrocketed to 3000.

However, doing this would undoubtedly attract more attention from the merchant organization.

But so what?

He glanced towards the camp on the right and quickly spotted Lin Hui, nodding at him.

Lin Hui was still in shock.

He had expected Chen Fan to come today but hadn't thought he'd be as unique and unconventional as yesterday.

Seeing Chen Fan look his way, he quickly led people to meet him.

"Brother Lin..."

Chen Fan had just greeted.



Lin Hui waved his hand, lowered his voice, and said, "There are many eyes here. Let's talk inside the camp."

Several people surrounded Chen Fan as they moved forward.

Seeing the amount of prey, which was double that of last time, Lin Hui didn't know what to say.

For years, among all the Entry Force Martial Artists in Anshan City, he was the only one who could achieve this.

Besides those few Awakeners in the city, no one else could create such a scene.

Once inside the camp, Lin Hui quickly tallied the results and walked over, "Brother Chen, it totals 725,688 yuan, which I'll convert into contribution points and credit to your branch office account."

"Thanks, Brother Lin."

Chen Fan smiled.

"What's the trouble with that?"

Lin Hui smiled, "In fact, we should be thanking you. Your prey almost matches what our branch office normally gets in a month."

"Yes, yes, Brother Chen, you are truly impressive."

"I've never seen anyone as fierce as you."

Others also gave their thumbs up.

After all, the more prey, the more work and income for them.

Chen Fan smiled, "Brother Lin, then I'll leave it at that. The president has something to discuss with me, so I'll head to the association first."

"Go on, go on."

Lin Hui urged him.

Upon exiting the camp, though he no longer had prey with him, Chen Fan was easily recognized.

Without looking around, he took out his membership card and smoothly entered the city, soon arriving at the branch office entrance.

As soon as he entered, a woman approached him, nervously looking at the mask on his face, and asked, "Excuse me, are you Mr. Chen?"

Chen Fan nodded.

"Great," the woman smiled, "The president told me to wait here for you and to bring you to him as soon as you arrived."

"Thank you."

Chen Fan said.

"No, no trouble at all." The woman seemed flattered.

Taking the elevator to the second floor, the woman led Chen Fan to the president's office, knocked on the door,

"Come in."

Sun Wei's voice came from inside.

When the door opened and he saw Chen Fan, Sun Wei immediately stood up from his chair, his face lit up with a smile. First, he nodded to the woman, then quickly walked over, "Brother Chen, you're here at last. How was the journey, no trouble?"

"No trouble."

Chen Fan smiled embarrassedly, "I shot some fierce beasts on the way, so I was delayed a bit. Sorry to keep you waiting."

"Shot some fierce beasts?"

Sun Wei was stunned, then his smile grew even wider, giving Chen Fan a thumbs up, "Well done. The more fierce beasts we kill, the fewer humans die. Actually, to be honest, fierce beasts are not our only enemy."

"Huh?"

Chen Fan's face showed surprise, "Not just fierce beasts? President, do we have other enemies within Yan Country?"

"Yes,"

Sun Wei nodded, and after a moment of silence, he patted Chen Fan's shoulder, "You'll know once you reach the Meridian Refining Realm. For now, it's too early for this.";

By the way, the bow and arrow sent by the headquarters have arrived. Let's go; I'll show you and introduce you to the other Entry Force Martial Artists in our branch office. They are all eager to meet you."

"I see."

Chen Fan responded.

But inwardly, he felt uneasy.

So, within Yan Country, apart from fierce beasts, there's a third faction?

Why had Uncle Zhang never mentioned it, and why had no one in the camp ever spoken about it?

Chapter 169: I must not hide it, I was born with divine strength

Chen Fan's arrival caused such a commotion that it naturally alarmed the people of Hongchang Trading Company.

At this moment, in the trading company's main hall, there were as many as twenty or thirty Entry Force Martial Artists gathered, some sitting, some standing, creating a very lively atmosphere.

"That guy is acting so ostentatiously, it's clear he doesn't put our trading company in his eyes." A martial artist slapped the table.

"That's right, it's one thing if he doesn't join the Martial Arts Association. But joining and acting like this, it's obvious he's opposing us. We must teach him a lesson."

"Teach him a lesson? I think we should kill a chicken to warn the monkeys, telling those idle Entry Force Martial Artists in the city that if they don't join our trading company, it's fine. But if they dare to join the branch, then they should be prepared to die in the wild!"

"Speaking of which, didn't someone among us cause trouble for that guy yesterday? What was the result?"

A yin-yang voice questioned.

In an instant, the atmosphere in the room became silent.

Almost everyone, including Lu Yang, who was in the main seat, looked in the same direction.

Jiang Xiong and the two others immediately looked embarrassed and uneasy.

"It was those two trackers who pointed us in the wrong direction," one of them said.

"That's right, it's all their fault. Otherwise, that guy would have already been killed by us."

"Is that so?"

Not far away, a giant man nearly 1.9 meters tall, with arms as thick as an average person's thighs, spoke in a booming voice, "Then why did I hear from those two that it was you who couldn't catch up and then blamed them?"

"Yes, we're all working for the trading company. If you mess up, it's not right to blame others, is it?"

Seeing this, the others in the room showed schadenfreude expressions.

Wherever there are people, there are disputes, and even more so in a trading company.

This giant man, named Huang Hanquan, was also a Transforming Force Martial Artist and had always had a poor relationship with Jiang Xiong. Using this opportunity to slander the latter in front of Lu Yang was only natural.

They were happy to watch the drama unfold.

"Huang,"

Jiang Xiong raised his eyelids and said coldly, "You can talk nonsense about food, but not about people. If you think we are lying, feel free to bring those two here and confront us face to face."

"Alright, you said it."

Huang Hanquan sneered. He couldn't miss this chance.

"Enough."

At this moment, Lu Yang frowned and said, "What's the point of arguing about the past? Moreover, the other party is now in Anshan City, and if nothing unexpected happens, he will leave this afternoon..."

"Brother Lu,"

Jiang Xiong immediately said, "He was lucky last time. This time I will personally watch him leave, and I guarantee there will be no accidents."

"Unlikely,"

Huang Hanquan sneered and looked at Lu Yang, "Brother Lu, I think it would be more reliable to let our few brothers handle this."

The people behind him immediately echoed his sentiment.

The other few Transforming Force Martial Artists glanced at each other and remained silent. After all, it was obvious that Huang Hanquan and Jiang Xiong were at odds. If they stepped out to take on this task, they might end up offending both, which wasn't worth it. It was better to watch.

"Huang, don't push it too far."

Jiang Xiong could no longer suppress his anger. With a bit of force in his right hand, the chair's armrest shattered.

"Who are you trying to scare?"

Huang Hanquan said indifferently, "If it weren't for your incompetence, would that guy still be standing here today? And still being sent by you? By tomorrow, he might appear before everyone again."

"Exactly, Jiang Xiong, I think it's better if you watch from the side. We'll handle this to be safer."

"Enough."

Lu Yang felt a headache coming on.

As the apparent leader of the trading company, it seemed glorious to outsiders, and it often was, but there were constant conflicts to mediate, and it was exhausting.

"Since you both have ideas about this, why don't you handle it together?"

Lu Yang frowned.

"In any case, I just want results. If that guy shows up in front of me tomorrow, you few can leave the trading company. We don't keep useless people."

"Yes."

Huang Hanquan smirked.

Jiang Xiong looked a bit upset.

After all, yesterday's failure had reduced Lu Yang's trust in him, so he was assigned to act with Huang.

Thinking of this, he clenched his fists tightly.

The Martial Arts Association, is it?

One day, I'll kill all those Entry Force Martial Artists in there!

...

Martial Arts Association, Anshan City Branch.

In an entirely white secret chamber, there was a black combination box, about two meters long and one meter high.

Following Sun Wei's instructions, Chen Fan placed his thumb on it and used facial recognition to open the box.

Seeing the contents, he took a deep breath.

Inside were two bows separated by foam, each with a quiver full of arrows.

He turned to Sun Wei.



The latter nodded with a smile, "Yes, this is the surprise I mentioned on the phone.

The headquarters, knowing your request, not only sent you a 5000-pound bow but also an extra 10,000-pound bow for your future use."

"Ten...ten thousand pounds..."

Chen Fan was thrilled.

He had been sighing that a 5000-pound bow might not show his strength, but now there was a 10,000-pound bow, which was like a dream come true.

"Yeah, that's why I said the headquarters values you highly. Just this 10,000-pound bow alone is worth far more than a 40-millimeter machine gun."

Sun Wei marveled.

The headquarters was clearly afraid of losing such a genius to the trading company, thus sparing no expense.

If Chen Fan continued to excel, the resources invested in him might only increase!

"Chairman, may I take a look?"

Chen Fan said as he first picked up the slightly smaller longbow, which was heavy, at least one to two thousand pounds.

The bowstring was also very thick, almost as wide as a child's arm.

He picked up an arrow, which was more like a javelin, weighing nearly two pounds with a palm-length, gleaming arrowhead.

"Chairman, what about these arrowheads?"

"They are made of Tier Two alloy, capable of easily piercing the armor of high-level Fierce Beasts."

Sun Wei smiled.

Chen Fan took another deep breath.

Which meant each arrow was a high-level armor-piercing arrow!

He gently placed the bow and arrows down and reached for the second bow.

"Brother Chen, wait!"

Sun Wei cried out in shock.

"What's wrong, Chairman?" Chen Fan looked at him, puzzled.

"Brother Chen, this second bow has a 10,000-pound draw weight. Just the bow itself weighs over 3,000 pounds. Given your current strength, it's very dangerous to try to lift it with one hand."

Worried, Sun Wei said,

Picking it up was the basic requirement; to use it, one had to draw it.

Even a Transforming Force martial artist like him found it difficult to draw a 5000-pound bow without using Inner Strength.

If he used his Inner Strength, it would still be a dream to draw a 10,000-pound bow!

How could Chen Fan, in the Dark Power Realm, possibly manage it?

Chen Fan chuckled.

He thought it was something serious.

"Chairman, to be honest, I possess innate divine strength."

"Innate divine strength?" Sun Wei was stunned, then watched in disbelief as Chen Fan lifted the 10,000-pound bow with one hand.

With a loud "boom,"

Sun Wei felt his worldview shattering.

The most shocking part was that Chen Fan even weighed it in his hand.

"It does seem to be over 3000 pounds." Chen Fan remarked.

The bowstring and body were nearly twice as thick as the previous bow.

The arrows were over four pounds each, with massive arrowheads!

"A 10,000-pound bow paired with these arrows..."

Chen Fan licked his lips, eager to test it on some high-level Fierce Beasts right now.

Considering the bow's 200-pound draw weight, its potential to pierce 150 centimeters of steel within 100 meters seemed plausible.

And with the kinetic energy's reduction, these high-level armor-piercing arrows could also penetrate 10 centimeters of steel within 1000 meters, right?

Most likely.

At 30 millimeters, only a 1000-meter range gun could break through 38 millimeters of steel.

The Eight-Ox Crossbow reached 1500 meters range; a 10,000-pound bow could at least hit 2000 meters, equal to a 30-millimeter gun.

More importantly, the closer the distance, the higher the initial speed and power of the 10,000-pound bow!

Without hesitation, Chen Fan swapped his quiver for one with 20 arrows, each weighing four pounds.

He then placed the 5000-pound bow back in the box.

"!!!"

Seeing this, Sun Wei was completely stunned.

After a while, he gasped, "Brother Chen, you, you?"

He looked at the 5000-pound bow.

Believing in Chen Fan's innate strength, Sun Wei knew lifting and drawing were different tasks. Could Chen Fan truly manage a 10,000-pound bow?

Chen Fan smiled.

"Chairman, I mentioned my innate strength; the 10,000-pound bow is perfect, the 5000 could be too light."

"Brother Chen, you're not joking?"

Sun Wei's seriousness surfaced, "Using that bow requires proof of your strength; without it, you can't take it."

Chapter 170: Is This Really a Newcomer?

Sun Wei is not idle and bored, but rather upholding a sense of responsibility towards Chen Fan.

Or to put it another way, it's not just about Chen Fan; as the president of the branch office, he cares about the safety of every member.

Especially in the current situation.

The headquarters, with good intentions, sent an extra bow with a drawing weight of ten thousand pounds. If he lets Chen Fan leave with this bow and something goes wrong, what would he do?

Even if the headquarters doesn't pursue the matter, he'd be haunted by guilt for the rest of his life.

"President, you want to see me draw this bow, right?" Chen Fan asked with a smile.

"Correct."

Sun Wei's face remained serious, "Unless you can do it, I won't let you take this bow out of the branch office."

"Alright then."

Chen Fan was a bit helpless but also moved, understanding that the president's intentions were good.

"This place is too small, we need a bigger space, and ordinary targets won't do; it's best to use some thick steel plates."

Sun Wei was stunned for a moment, then said:

"Steel plates? The branch office has plenty, of various thicknesses. As for the space, the basement will work, it has a 500-meter range."

"Alright, President, let's get started then."

Chen Fan smiled.

Internally, he was filled with anticipation.

Firstly, he wanted to see the true power of the bow with a ten thousand pound drawing weight.

Secondly, practicing Basic Archery with this bow would surely enhance his speed dramatically.

"Okay."

Seeing Chen Fan's confidence, Sun Wei began to waver internally.

Could this young man really do it?

But to achieve that would require at least being a martial artist in the Meridian Refining Realm, right?

Isn't he only at the Dark Power level?

...

Time rewinds two or three minutes.

Several Entry Force martial artists stepped out of their respective training rooms and into the lounge opposite the elevator.

"Tu Yue, has the newcomer arrived?"

Xu Jie asked curiously, his eyes filled with eager anticipation.

Not only him, but the others were equally curious.

After all, a seventeen-year-old Dark Power martial artist who uses a bow and arrow is very rare.

"Yes."

Tu Yue waved her phone screen and said, "The president messaged me a few minutes ago saying the newcomer is here, and to gather everyone here to meet him shortly."

"That was quick."



Xu Jie rubbed his hands together and said, "I'll go up and shake his hand later, maybe test him a bit."

"Xu Jie, you're such a troublemaker, aren't you?"

"I think it's a good idea, let's try it, hahaha."

Someone nearby, enjoying the spectacle, chimed in.

"Xu Jie, don't go overboard," Tu Yue frowned and said, "Even if the newcomer is a Dark Power martial artist, he probably just broke through recently; you've been in that realm for two or three years, it's bullying."

"Relax, I won't use too much power." Xu Jie waved his hand.

As they were still talking, the door to a nearby chamber opened and two figures walked out, one after the other.

Their gazes instantly intersected.

Then, Xu Jie and the other five all opened their mouths wide.

Even though the president had told them beforehand, and they had mentally prepared themselves, seeing it with their own eyes still left them shocked.

This newcomer is really young!

Chen Fan's eyes also swept over the faces of the six people, thinking these must be the companions the president was introducing to him.

Sun Wei suddenly woke up and brought Chen Fan over in front of them, saying, "Everyone, this is the new Dark Power martial artist who joined the branch, Chen Fan."

The six looked at Chen Fan with varying expressions in their eyes.

A flicker of surprise flashed in Tu Yue's eyes as she extended her hand, saying, "Chen Fan, I'm Tu Yue, a Dark Power martial artist. You can call me Sister Yue. Welcome to our group."

"Uh..."

Chen Fan hesitated for a moment, then smiled and extended his hand to shake hers.

Tu Yue retrieved her hand with a smile.

"Chen Fan, I'm Gao Shan, a powerful martial artist. You can call me Brother Gao or Uncle Gao."

A middle-aged man smiled as he extended his hand.

Chen Fan quickly shook his hand, realizing this was the only powerful martial artist in the branch besides the president.

"I'm Zhao Xuewen, and he's Zhao Xuewu. We're brothers and both Dark Power martial artists." Two men who looked very similar also extended their hands.

"Chen Fan, I'm Xu Jie, a Dark Power martial artist. You can call me Brother Jie." Xu Jie extended his hand with a smile.

Next to him, Tu Yue suddenly coughed and glared.

Xu Jie's smile froze briefly as he reluctantly shook Chen Fan's hand.

"Fan Sui."

The last man, who had a stern face, simply said his name, hands in pockets, ignoring the others' nonverbal cues to shake hands.

"Chen Fan, Fan Sui is always like that, even with us," Tu Yue said with a smile.

"Yes, yes, don't mind him, Chen Fan," Gao Shan added.

"I won't."

Chen Fan smiled; he genuinely didn't mind.

After all, he might only have brief interactions with these people, and possibly soon part ways.

Sun Wei coughed and said, "Well, everyone has met. I hope we can stick together and support each other from now on."

"Of course."

"Definitely."

"Chen Fan, you're seventeen and already a Dark Power martial artist. That's really impressive."

"Indeed, at seventeen, we weren't even Arrow Warriors yet."

Aside from Fan Sui, Xu Jie, Gao Shan, and the others cooperated well, showing a friendly attitude.

"Huh?"

Tu Yue's gaze fell on the bow in Chen Fan's hand, curious, "Chen Fan, the bow you're holding looks quite unusual?"

Hearing this, the others' eyes were also drawn to it.

The bow's limbs were almost as thick as an adult's arm, weren't they?

Someone caught a glimpse of the quiver on Chen Fan's back and gasped.

Goodness, are those arrows?

Javelins maybe?

No, they're even thicker than javelins!

What kind of bow and arrow is this?

"Chen Fan, could you tell us the drawing weight of your bow? If it's not convenient, you don't have to."  
Gao Shan couldn't hold back his curiosity.

"No problem."

Chen Fan smiled, "This bow is from the headquarters; it has a drawing weight of ten thousand pounds."

"How much?"

Xu Jie exclaimed.

"Ten thousand pounds."

Chen Fan repeated.

Instantly, all six stood dumbfounded, minds buzzing.

A ten thousand pound drawing weight bow?

Did they hear it wrong?

Was the newcomer exaggerating?

Ten years ago, they would've thought such a bow only existed in ancient legends.

Now, they believed it existed, but not that a mere Dark Power martial artist had the strength to use it.

"Pr-President?"

Zhao Xuewen stared wide-eyed at Sun Wei, seemingly asking if his words were true.

"Correct."

Sun Wei nodded, "A ten thousand pound drawing weight bow, delivered from headquarters this morning."

Silence fell.

They looked at each other, minds blank.

"Chen, Chen Fan," Tu Yue stammered, "Can you draw this bow?"

She couldn't believe it, but Chen Fan had the bow equipped; it couldn't be just for show, right?

The others also stared intently at Chen Fan.

A ten thousand pound drawing weight bow?

Can an Entry Force martial artist even do that?

Even a powerful martial artist might fail!

Chen Fan laughed helplessly, "I'm just about to test it in the basement with the president."

They looked at Sun Wei, who reluctantly nodded.



He hoped Chen Fan could draw it, but common sense told him it was unrealistic.

"President, can we come along?"

"Yes, let's go watch."

"President?"

Sun Wei looked at Chen Fan, who didn't mind.

Thus, Sun Wei led the way with Chen Fan following, and Xu Jie and the others trailing behind.

"Do you think Chen Fan can really draw it?" Tu Yue asked nervously. As a Dark Power martial artist, drawing even a three thousand pound bow was her limit.

"No way, a ten thousand pound bow? Even Brother Gao can't do that."

Gao Shan resolutely shook his head as the others looked at him.

"Then where does he get his confidence?" Xu Jie wondered.

"Newcomers are always like this," Fan Sui said.

Soon, they reached the basement.

Under Sun Wei's arrangement, personnel from the branch stood aside as two thick steel plates were placed against the wall, with a target on the first plate.

Chen Fan stood five hundred meters away, planted his feet, took an arrow from the quiver, nocked it, and placed the bow in front of him. His right hand slowly pulled back.

Behind him, Sun Wei and the others held their breath, their widened eyes like bronze bells.

"Creak, creak..."

The stretching of the bow made a sound in the air.

Its shape changed from a crescent to a half-moon, gradually increasing.

"!!!"

Sun Wei and the others' breathing quickened. Could it be, could it really be!

They felt their hearts leap to their throats.

They watched as the half-moon shape turned into a convex moon, then a full moon!

The entire process took less than a second!

Importantly, it was smooth like flowing water, without any stagnation.

Then.

"Boom!"

An explosion.

Almost instantly, "Wham," the arrow pierced the target, deeply embedding itself into the steel plate with half its shaft, and its tail vibrated intensely, emitting a constant buzzing noise.

As the buzzing ceased, the basement remained deathly quiet.

Apart from Chen Fan, everyone's minds echoed the same phrase.

He pulled it! He really pulled it! He actually pulled it!!!

Chen Fan didn't mind the surroundings, eagerly checking his Skill Bar.

He wanted to see,

With just this one shot,

How much Basic Archery skill level had increased?