

Ice Age 1061

Chapter 1061: What I say goes

Li Tianyang's eyes turned bloodshot as he struggled to lift his head, glaring deathly at Zhang Yi.

"Absolute nonsense! Who are you to decide what's true?"

Zhang Yi stared back at him with an arrogant expression. "Exactly, what I say goes!"

Li Tianyang trembled with rage, knowing that nothing he said now would matter.

Driven to desperation, he decided to strike first and reached for the gun at his waist. Zhang Yi made no move to stop him.

Just as Li Tianyang aimed the barrel at him, Zhang Yi pulled the trigger first.

The bullet pierced straight through Li Tianyang's head, leaving a beautiful red dot right between his eyebrows.

The air grew exceptionally still.

The officers from the East Sea Region turned deathly pale, unable to believe that Zhang Yi had actually killed their operations minister without hesitation!

Zhang Yi holstered his gun and spread his hands innocently toward the surrounding crowd.

"Everyone here clearly saw what happened. I had no intention of killing him—he attacked first. I was simply defending myself."

No one around dared utter a single word in response.

If he dared kill Li Tianyang, he certainly wouldn't hesitate to eliminate anyone else who spoke out of turn.

Xuanwu's spirit form floated over to Zhang Yi's side and said coldly, "You've really outdone yourself this time! Better think carefully about how you'll explain this to both regions."

Zhang Yi tilted his head and replied meaningfully to Xuanwu, "After you became an Epsilon superhuman, did you still handle things with such caution?"

Xuanwu thought for a moment, then suddenly laughed. "Don't joke around. Since then, everything I do has been right."

"Haha..."

"Hahaha..."

The two of them suddenly burst into laughter together.

They were absolutely right—from now on, whatever Zhang Yi did would be considered correct.

He was already an Epsilon. The Huaxu Kingdom needed his power, and Zhu Zheng from the Jiangnan Region wouldn't blame him for deliberately concealing his strength—instead, he would try even harder to curry favor with him. *rANObE\$*

As for the East Sea Region, their anger could be smoothed over as long as the Jiangnan Region paid sufficient compensation.

Because the Jiangnan Region now had its own Epsilon.

And the corpse lying on the ground was already of little concern to anyone.

The position of operations minister was just that—a position, not a person.

With Li Tianyang dead, there would be a Ma Tianyang or Niu Tianyang to take his place.

Xuanwu submerged underwater, while Zhang Yi had the Jiangnan Region personnel brought over.

There was no way he would follow Xuanwu back to the East Sea Region.

After all, he had thoroughly played the East Sea Region this time, and going there would only invite more trouble.

Zhang Yi couldn't be bothered to argue with them.

He had already decided that after returning to the Jiangnan Region, he would dump this mess on Zhu Zheng to handle.

He had originally been wondering how to explain to Zhu Zheng that he had secretly taken the Divine Source and let the Jiangnan Region personnel go to their deaths.

Now it was perfect—Zhu Zheng had also sent Jingwei to spy on him, which provided the perfect excuse.

Anyway, he no longer needed to worry about Zhu Zheng turning against him. Instead, Zhu Zheng would have to be even more careful about keeping him happy.

This was the law of survival in the apocalypse.

As long as you were strong enough, you would always be right.

The Jiangnan Region personnel were gathered together, many of them wounded, including Situ Xin who had fainted.

But the others had learned the truth that Zhang Yi had become an Epsilon superhuman.

Their eyes were filled with both envy and awe when they looked at him.

Yet remembering how Zhang Yi had tricked them also filled their hearts with resentment.

Zhang Yi paid no attention to any of that.

Once Xuanwu reached the Huaxu Kingdom's border, Zhang Yi had him surface, then chose to take a ship back with everyone.

Xuanwu couldn't afford to turn against Zhang Yi at this point either, so he obediently escorted Zhang Yi and the others out.

Zhang Yi opened his Dimensional Gate and took out a massive icebreaker ship, then directed everyone to board.

Deng Shentong and the others boarded one after another, taking all the wounded with them.

"Well then, goodbye, everyone!"

Zhang Yi smiled cheerfully as he bid farewell to Xuanwu and the others.

Among the Four Spirits, only Xuanwu was in decent condition—both Qinglong and Zhuque were severely injured and unable to see them off.

But if those two had actually been here, they probably would have been gnashing their teeth at Zhang Yi.

Xuanwu shrugged indifferently. "Actually, it's better if we don't meet again. When two Epsilons encounter each other, I don't think it's a good thing."

Zhang Yi nodded, thinking of the black-armored strange man in the massive abyss on Star Island, his heart still trembling with fear.

"You're right about that."

After bidding farewell to Xuanwu, the giant sea turtle swam toward the East Sea Region.

Zhang Yi directed the soldiers on board to pilot the icebreaker ship toward Tianhai City.

They would go to Tianhai City first, then take the Blizzard City Express Train back to Blizzard City.

Everyone's attitude toward Zhang Yi had grown increasingly respectful.

If during the journey here they had been angered by Zhang Yi's laziness,

now the vast majority of them genuinely revered Zhang Yi from the bottom of their hearts.

Some might feel that Zhang Yi's schemes had caused too many casualties from both regions, including their comrades.

But most people would only acknowledge Zhang Yi's strength.

Because the strong were always right in whatever they did, and they didn't need to explain themselves to weaker individuals.

Most people who had survived this long after the apocalypse understood this principle.

However, Deng Shentong and Linghu Feixue might not fully accept Zhang Yi's methods in their hearts.

After having the wounded settled, Zhang Yi stood alone on the deck, leaning against the railing as he gazed at the blue icy sea.

Deng Shentong and Linghu Feixue approached him.

Deng Shentong wore a helpless expression, while Linghu Feixue's delicate eyebrows were furrowed with clear dissatisfaction.

"Hey, Old Zhang!"

Deng Shentong raised his hand to greet Zhang Yi.

"Never thought you'd be the final winner this time! Really surprising. But since you'd already become an Epsilon, why didn't you tell us? That would have reduced our casualties."

Zhang Yi replied calmly, "If I had told you, would you have been able to act so convincingly?"

Deng Shentong rubbed his forehead and shook his head helplessly.

Since Zhang Yi had saved his life, he couldn't really say much.

Linghu Feixue wasn't as easygoing.

She walked right up to Zhang Yi, lifting her head to stare directly into his eyes. Her ice-blue gaze was incredibly sharp, mixed with intense anger:

"We were comrades! Not enemies. At least when we're on a mission together, I hope you'll consider our survival!"

Hearing this, Zhang Yi said nothing, simply turning his gaze toward the vast ocean.

The salty, cold sea wind blew against his combat suit, making it cling more tightly to his skin.

"Actually, none of that matters."

He suddenly uttered this seemingly random statement, then walked off on his own, saying nothing more to Linghu Feixue or Deng Shentong.

Because he couldn't be bothered to explain.

Everyone could blame him for this matter, and Zhang Yi didn't see any problem with that.

Because they were thinking from their own perspectives.

But Zhang Yi didn't need to explain himself to them either, because he was thinking from his own perspective.

So this conflict had no right or wrong, nor any correct answer.

It was simply a matter of different standpoints.

Then everyone would have to rely on their own abilities.

Chapter 1062: Bo Bingge

Zhang Yi didn't care what others thought about this matter.

When he decided to obtain the Divine Source alone and set traps to lure the East Sea Region and Columbus Ocean fleet into his scheme, he knew this would be the outcome.

Anyway, he had already gotten everything he wanted.

He found Jingwei and asked her to hand over Hua Hua and Lele to him.

Jingwei immediately released Hua Hua and Lele from her shadow space.

The captured Totoro was currently under full anesthesia, tongue lolling out, lying dazedly on Lele's back, looking quite ridiculous.

Zhang Yi didn't say much more, calling Hua Hua and Lele to leave with him.

Jingwei watched Zhang Yi's back and suddenly called out, "Zhang Yi!"

Zhang Yi turned back, "How many times have I told you, use code names during work!"

"Code Name Zhang."

Zhang Yi: "..."

"Um..." Jingwei hesitated for a moment, then lowered her head and said, "It's not work hours anymore."

"Oh, that's true. So what did you want to talk to me about?"

Zhang Yi looked at her calmly as he asked.

Jingwei secretly clenched her small fists, then mustered up her courage and said to Zhang Yi:

"I... can I follow you?"

Zhang Yi's eyes showed a look of astonishment.

"You want to follow me? Are you joking, aren't you Zhu Zheng's person?"

Jingwei explained, "I'm just an experiment. And my purpose for existing is only to help Zhu Yu achieve perfection."

"My ability needs to attach to others to exist. For me, you are my best choice."

A look of understanding appeared on Zhang Yi's face.

If Zhu Yu was Yuan Kongye's duplicate, then her abilities were likely the same as Yuan Kongye's.

The reason Jingwei could quickly become a captain-level superhuman was also because she used Ice Soul.

During her time interacting with Zhang Yi, she gradually learned the truth about Ice Soul.

Thus she understood that sooner or later, she would be sacrificed for Zhu Yu's "perfection."

So she wanted to find an escape route for herself.

Zhang Yi suddenly laughed.

"But why should I take you in? Your strength means nothing to me, I possess your ability too, and mine is better than yours."

"Most importantly, I can't confirm whether you're sufficiently loyal."

"That is the most critical thing for me!"

Jingwei opened her mouth, but could only mention her one advantage.

"My shadow can contain living beings."

Zhang Yi thought for a moment, then smiled.

He didn't give Jingwei any answer, simply turned and walked away calmly.

The conditions Jingwei offered weren't enough for him to accept this woman.

Jingwei watched Zhang Yi's departing figure with a sense of loss.

After a while, one superhuman after another wearing black combat suits emerged from the shadows behind her.

They were all members of the Night Crow Squad, but unlike Jingwei, they weren't recipients of Yuan Kongye's cells.

They were recipients of Jingwei's cells.

Therefore, these people all possessed shadow abilities.

However, as recipients, they couldn't possess the ability's full characteristics—they could only be considered degraded versions of Jingwei.

But as shadows, attaching to each captain-level superhuman during operations to monitor their actions was completely sufficient.

"Captain, we should report the situation here to the commander now."

One Night Crow said in an icy tone.

Jingwei raised her head, resuming her usual cold expression.

She placed her right fist over her chest and declared:

"Now, gather all intelligence!"

...

Jiangnan Region, Blizzard City.

Zhu Zheng finished reading the intelligence transmitted by the Night Crow Squad and sat in his chair, falling into prolonged silence.

Beside him, a little figure only slightly over one meter tall stood behind the chair, holding a pink rabbit doll in her arms, looking up at him with an innocent expression. RANÔBES

Zhu Zheng slowly lowered his head, glanced at the adorable little girl, then suddenly let out a long sigh.

He stroked Zhu Yu's smooth hair, then slowly stood up and walked to the window.

Today in Blizzard City, the snow was still falling heavily, with every building's roof piled high with snow.

The cold wind howled, as if this snow would never stop, freezing the entire land.

"My whole life has been like walking on thin ice. Do you think I can reach the other shore?"

Zhu Yu didn't understand what Zhu Zheng meant by these words, tilting her head curiously and blinking her cute big eyes.

Lan Xincheng watched Zhu Zheng from the side, opening his mouth but unsure what to say.

Because the intelligence they received today was simply too unbelievable.

Coupled with recent events that had caused Zhu Zheng's plans to fail repeatedly, he seemed to have aged several years.

"I calculated everything carefully, yet I still miscalculated Zhang Yi. He's more capable than I imagined, which should be a good thing."

"But when he returns, he'll definitely confront me about this. Well, I need to prepare how to deal with him."

Zhu Zheng raised his right hand, thought for a moment, then said to Lan Xincheng:

"Prepare all the supplies in the warehouse. Keep what we need, and prepare the rest for Zhang Yi."

"He's an Epsilon-level now, with many subordinates around him. He'll need increasingly more supplies from now on, and he'll still need these things."

"Also, supply him with weapons and equipment openly. Even if he might not use them, our offering shows sincerity."

"Oh, that friend of his surnamed Xu likes to come to Blizzard City to spend, right? Note which technicians he prefers and reserve them for him from now on."

...

Zhu Zheng arranged many things, all as tokens of his sincerity to Zhang Yi.

As for Zhang Yi scheming against the Jiangnan Region and secretly taking the Divine Source, Zhu Zheng had no intention of discussing it in detail with Zhang Yi.

How could they discuss it? Discuss what?

Now he could only cling tightly to Zhang Yi's support and keep him properly in the Jiangnan Region to help him.

Otherwise, if Zhang Yi became unhappy, he could just leave.

Throughout the Huaxu Kingdom's Six Major Regions, who wouldn't compete to have an Epsilon-level superhuman?

Lan Xincheng carefully noted down all of Zhu Zheng's instructions.

By the end, even he began to feel somewhat shaken, because what Zhu Zheng was giving Zhang Yi was truly excessive.

"Commander Zhu... isn't this a bit too much? Zhang Yi is originally a superhuman of the Jiangnan Region, your subordinate. But by doing this, won't it seem like we..."

Lan Xincheng swallowed the second half of his sentence.

Zhu Zheng glanced back at him and finished the sentence for him: "Seem like we're currying favor with Zhang Yi, right?"

Lan Xincheng remained silent.

Zhu Zheng sighed softly.

"One year! It's been one year since the apocalypse began. Our Jiangnan Region is located in the Huaxu Kingdom's most prosperous area, we've been too comfortable for too long, and in terms of combat power, we rank among the lowest nationally."

"But haven't we encountered enough incidents during this past year?"

"These are no longer the old times. High-level superhumans will become increasingly important. So far, we still don't have a single Epsilon-level superhuman."

"So we must properly retain Zhang Yi!"

Zhu Zheng gazed into the distance. Blizzard City's tall reinforced concrete walls appeared so solid that even large-caliber artillery would struggle to breach them.

Yet, they couldn't even stop one Delta-level spatial superhuman.

Chapter 1063: Abnormal Awakeners

Zhang Yi's ship arrived at Tianhai City, docking at Chaoyu Harbor.

This trip hadn't been away for long, and Tianhai City remained exactly as before.

Chen Jingguan brought people to welcome Zhang Yi and his group.

Zhang Yi said to Chen Jingguan, "Arrange vehicles to take them to Xiaomiaoshan Subway Station."

Chen Jingguan paused briefly, then nodded and had people arrange transportation for their departure.

He had originally thought these were important figures from the Jiangnan Region, and that Zhang Yi would definitely need to entertain them properly.

Unexpectedly, they were just passing through.

Deng Shentong walked over and asked Zhang Yi, "Aren't you coming back with us?"

Hearing this, Zhang Yi smiled contemptuously.

"If I go back now, I'm afraid many people wouldn't be able to sleep, right?"

"Better forget it. You go back first and properly explain the situation here to the higher-ups. I'll naturally come over in a while."

Even if Zhu Zheng didn't summon him, Zhang Yi would still go.

He still needed to have a good talk with Old Zhu about sending Jingwei to secretly monitor him!

Deng Shentong nodded thoughtfully, reached out and patted Zhang Yi's shoulder, looking at him sincerely as he said:

"Zhang Yi, you've saved me more than once. No matter what decisions you make, I'll always stand by your side!"

Zhang Yi raised an eyebrow slightly and smiled playfully, "Can you represent the Deng Family?"

Deng Shentong was momentarily stunned, then laughed, "Probably, yes."

Zhang Yi's thoughts churned rapidly.

You cunning Deng Shentong, it seems you still haven't given up on competing for power in Blizzard City.

He probably thought Zhang Yi might fall out with Zhu Zheng, so he hurried over to win Zhang Yi over, making it convenient for their Deng Family to rise to power later.

If others didn't understand the strength of Epsilon level, how could he not understand?

Basically, in today's Blizzard City, whoever could gain Zhang Yi's support would become the dominant force.

"Ah, I'll remember that."

Zhang Yi only responded lightly.

Deng Shentong's bright eyes flickered with unusual light.

He thought to himself: Zhang Yi today is different from before, our Deng Family must strengthen our relationship with him, and absolutely must not become enemies. P A NÓBES

Chen Jingguan arranged for people to take everyone to the subway station. Zhang Yi couldn't be bothered to go along, he just wanted to go home and rest properly.

After a major battle ended, what could be more intoxicating than returning home, enjoying a warm and comfortable house, drinking a hot coffee personally brewed by Yang Siya, and then lying on Zhou Ke'er's lap pillow?

Just as he was about to leave, Zhang Yi spotted several familiar faces among the Chaoyu Harbor guard team.

A man with a crew cut, relatively neat beard, resolute expression, and dark skin.

And two other men with similar bronze skin tones.

They were precisely the fishermen he had brought back from Rockflow Island—Lu Dahai, Rong Lei, and Yu Gang.

After bringing that group back initially, to prevent them from forming cliques, Zhang Yi had them separated and placed in three different bases.

Lu Dahai and his two companions were assigned to Chen Jingguan's place.

He just hadn't expected them to rise up so quickly, becoming members of the guard team.

But thinking about it carefully, it made sense.

Tianhai City's population was sparse. After several battles, there were now less than twenty thousand survivors remaining.

It was one of the cities with the smallest populations in the entire Jiangnan Region.

The various major bases also lacked young adults.

Lu Dahai and his two companions were strong and powerful, and they were bold and willing to fight, so it was indeed easy for them to stand out.

Zhang Yi smiled slightly and waved toward them, "Come over here."

Lu Dahai and his two companions had been eagerly watching Zhang Yi.

By now, they certainly understood that Zhang Yi was the true ruler of Tianhai City, and even their Dawn Rain Base leader was just Zhang Yi's subordinate.

The moment they saw Zhang Yi calling them, the three excitedly ran over.

"Mr. Zhang!"

Lu Dahai bowed respectfully. Toward Zhang Yi, his heart was still filled with awe and gratitude.

After all, it was Zhang Yi who had brought them back from that desperate place Rockflow Island, saving their lives.

Zhang Yi pulled out a pack of cigarettes from his Dimensional Space—his preferred Jinling Twelve Beauties brand.

He rarely smoked normally, but after the apocalypse, he occasionally smoked one.

He distributed cigarettes to all three of them, and after lighting one for himself, he simply tossed the remaining half pack to Lu Dahai.

This action made all three men's eyes light up.

Cigarettes had become extremely scarce resources after the apocalypse!

After all, besides the regional headquarters still producing tobacco for high-ranking officials, this stuff was out of stock in the outside world, becoming increasingly rare.

"How have things been at Dawn Rain Base recently? Getting used to it?"

Zhang Yi asked casually while smoking.

Lu Dahai hurriedly replied, "It's been great! Our lives here are much better, incomparably better than when we were on Rockflow Island!"

Zhang Yi nodded, "Since you think it's good, then work hard. I usually don't like to interfere with the affairs of the three major bases. What kind of life you want to live depends on your own efforts."

After saying this, Zhang Yi didn't wait for Lu Dahai's response and walked off on his own.

Chatting with them was just a momentary whim. After all, they were people he had brought back with great difficulty, so he naturally had some expectations for them.

Zhang Yi opened his Dimensional Gate, preparing to leave.

Just at that moment, Lu Dahai and his two brothers looked at each other, hesitated for a moment, then suddenly shouted:

"Mr... Mr. Zhang! Please wait... wait a moment!"

Lu Dahai was so excited he could barely speak, his face turning red with effort.

Zhang Yi turned back curiously, "Hmm? Is there something?"

Lu Dahai scratched his head, carefully looked around, then walked up to Zhang Yi and said somewhat excitedly:

"Mr. Zhang, I... I've also awakened an ability!"

Zhang Yi raised an eyebrow, "You awakened too? How did it happen?"

Lu Dahai said, "It was just one day while working, I suddenly awakened."

Now Zhang Yi found this rather strange.

Based on his experience, awakening abilities was very difficult.

For example, himself, and also Yang Xinxin—they had all undergone life-and-death trials before awakening.

There were a few exceptions, but they had awakened with the help of rare items.

Like Yang Siya and Zhou Ke'er.

But Lu Dahai actually said he suddenly awakened?

"Explain in detail."

Zhang Yi crossed his arms, looking at Lu Dahai with curiosity.

Lu Dahai recounted the process of his awakening.

That day, he was wearing cold-weather gear, unloading boxes of sea fish from fishing boats at the harbor.

Then suddenly, he lifted his head, and the world before his eyes turned completely white. Then his blood started feeling strange, as if suddenly turning into magma, and after a while turning into ice.

Like this, alternating hot and cold sensations ran wildly through his body.

He fainted at that time, and when he woke up, he discovered his body had undergone marvelous changes.

Chapter 1064: Surprise

Zhang Yi listened carefully, not missing a single word.

Lu Dahai's mutation process was the first he had heard of that was completely different from others.

This might be a new path of mutation.

"Let me see your current ability," Zhang Yi said to Lu Dahai.

Lu Dahai rolled up his sleeve and spread open his palm.

With a slight exertion of force, his skin tone instantly turned a dark greenish color like seaweed. A layer of fine scales grew on his fingers and claws, and even webbing similar to a frog's appeared between his five fingers.

"Clang!"

A reverse-growing bone blade suddenly shot out from his forearm, cold and menacing!

Zhang Yi murmured, "Beastman type, marine species. An ability indeed very suitable for you!"

He looked at Lu Dahai and suddenly smiled. "Does anyone else know about this?"

Lu Dahai swallowed hard. "This matter caught the attention of the higher-ups at the time. Boss Chen also knows."

Zhang Yi thought for a moment, then pointed at him. "You three, come back with me!"

Lu Dahai's heart swelled with joy. Being able to get closer to Zhang Yi meant they would have a better chance to develop in Tianhai City in the future!

"Yes, Mr. Zhang!"

"But we need to report to Boss Chen first."

Zhang Yi scoffed dismissively and casually called over a guard soldier. "Later, you tell Chen Jingguan that I'm taking these three with me."

The guard soldier hurriedly nodded. "Yes, Mr. Zhang!"

Zhang Yi directly opened the Dimensional Gate right in front of them. Then, he stepped inside with Hua Hua and Lele.

The three Lu brothers looked at each other and quickly followed.

Stepping through the Dimensional Gate, the next instant, they appeared several kilometers away.

Although they had seen this miraculous method before, they were still greatly amazed by it.

Not long after, Zhang Yi brought them to the long-unseen shelter.

Zhang Yi's return naturally prompted a welcome from the entire household.

However, seeing the three awkward, restrained, and obsequious-looking fellows following Zhang Yi, everyone was still a bit curious.

Zhou Ke'er pointed at them and asked, "Aren't they... those fishermen from the island?"

The three Lu brothers hurried over, bowing and scraping in greeting.

Zhang Yi smiled. "You three go rest in the side room for a while. Siya, go pour them some hot water and bring some fruit platters and pastries for them to eat."

Yang Siya nodded with a smile, then elegantly gestured for them to sit for a while in the side room.

The three Lu brothers nodded repeatedly and then walked into the small room used for receiving guests.

Once inside the room, the three of them sat down on the sofa.

Through the huge floor-to-ceiling window, they could still see the beautiful yet icy snowy world outside.

The three of them felt unbearably hot and quickly took off their heavy winter coats.

"This is truly how people should live!" Lu Dahai couldn't help but sigh.

The three of them were extremely careful, only daring to sit on the very edge of the sofa, afraid they might dirty something in Zhang Yi's home.

Rong Lei and Yu Gang also said, "If we could follow Mr. Zhang, that would be just too good!"

Lu Dahai's gaze turned serious.

"What kind of person is Mr. Zhang? He's practically a deity! Wanting to stay by his side, how could it be that simple?"

For them, the current Zhang Yi was indeed like a deity.

His power was so great it exceeded their imagination.

"That's true," Rong Lei nodded. He also felt that being able to enter Zhang Yi's home was already an immense blessing.

As for following Zhang Yi, he didn't even dare to think about it.

Yu Gang, however, said, "But, Brother Lu, you are a superhuman now. It's not impossible for you to have a chance to serve Mr. Zhang."

Lu Dahai took a deep breath and shook his head. "I know my own situation. The gap between me and Mr. Zhang is too vast."

He rubbed his rough hands and said gravely, "I only hope that with my ability, I can make Mr. Zhang take another look at me. Just a casual word from him could make our lives in Tianhai City much better."

As soon as his words fell, the sound of a door opening came from outside.

Yang Siya brought in hot tea, fruit platters, and pastries. Smiling at the three, she said, "Wait here for a little while. Zhang Yi will come see you soon."

The three of them stared at the hot tea and food she placed on the table, their eyes practically glued to it.

Even if they wanted to be reserved, they couldn't tear their eyes away.

After all, for them, being able to eat protein blocks or eat fish until full on a regular day was already quite difficult.

When did they ever get to eat pastries and fruit?

Yang Siya smiled. "Don't be shy, just help yourselves. If it's not enough, I'll go get more!"

She also understood what these three were thinking inside.

However, these things were indeed nothing much for the shelter.

Not to mention that Zhang Yi's own Dimensional Space held a massive stockpile of food.

Even after the Apocalypse, Zhang Yi hadn't forgotten to have Fatty Xu and Old You search large supermarkets.

Those supermarkets and malls buried by the snow were very rich in supplies, all of which they had collected.

The shelter nowadays simply didn't lack conventional supplies.

As for fruits and such, they were grown in their own backyard vegetable garden.

The three Lu brothers stammered their thanks to Yang Siya.

Once Yang Siya left the room and closed the door, the three of them could no longer control themselves. They pounced over, stuffing the food into their mouths.

In the living room.

Zhang Yi returned home with Hua Hua and Lele, and everyone was very happy.

However, the women's attention was completely captured by the anesthetized Totoro.

There was no helping it. That creature was just too adorable, especially when immobile, looking exactly like those oversized plush toys sold in supermarkets.

"Brother Zhang Yi, what exactly is this? Is it a gift you brought back for us?"

Yang Xinxin hugged Totoro, stars practically shining in her eyes.

Totoro clearly wasn't very comfortable with these overly enthusiastic women and kept making threatening whimpers.

"Woo... woo..."

But right now, it was weak and listless. These sounds held no threat at all.

The effects of Compound 3 would last a week. Plus, Zhang Yi had injected it with an anesthetic. During this time, it basically had no ability to move.

Zhang Yi took a sip of hot coffee and smiled. "It's a creature I captured on Star Island. I brought it back to study."

Zhang Yi looked at Zhou Ke'er. "Ke'er, later, extract a blood sample from it to see what kind of creature it really is."

Totoro could survive on Star Island, which was covered in toxic miasma, and it had a special reaction to the source sprites. This made Zhang Yi very curious about it.

He always felt this creature had something unusual about it.

Zhou Ke'er nodded. "Mhm, okay!"

Yang Xinxin reluctantly let go and then came to Zhang Yi, affectionately hugging his arm.

"Brother, this time on Star Island, you must have given them a huge surprise, right?"

Chapter 1065: A Gift for Everyone

No one else knew about Zhang Yi's promotion to Epsilon-level, but the people at home did.

If it weren't for that, how could the people at home feel at ease letting Zhang Yi go to a place like Star Island to take risks, taking only Hua Hua and Lele with him?

Thinking about everyone's reaction after he revealed the truth, Zhang Yi couldn't help but reveal a playful smile on his face.

"Of course! The expressions on everyone's faces at that time were just too amusing!"

However, Old You said with some worry:

"But doing this also means you've offended all the factions around the Eastern Sea."

No one willingly accepts being made a fool of.

From beginning to end, they had been fighting desperately for something that didn't even exist, and in the end, many of them really paid with their lives.

The major nations around the Eastern Sea all suffered losses of troops and generals, after all, this time they had sent out the most elite superhumans from their countries.

To say they don't hate Zhang Yi would be absolutely impossible.

"It doesn't matter, let them hate me!"

Zhang Yi put down his coffee cup and said with a smile.

"After all, when I was being a nice guy before, not many people were grateful to me for it either."

In the apocalypse, as long as you are strong enough, no matter how vicious and evil you are, there will always be people who fear and respect you, coming to curry your favor.

Now, Zhang Yi has become an Epsilon-level superhuman, who would dare to come and provoke him?

Fatty Xu excitedly slapped his thigh, flattery as he said, "Boss is already an Epsilon-level superhuman now! Looking across the whole world, he's a top-tier powerhouse! Let's see who dares to mess with us in the future!"

Zhang Yi looked at Old You and Fatty Xu.

"You can't put it that way. My personal strength alone can't solve all problems."

"How are you two doing now?"

Zhang Yi went to Star Island and obtained two portions of Divine Source.

It was a very miraculous substance, a pure energy body. When you touch it, you understand its function—[Life Dimension Evolution].

He used one portion himself and left one for Hua Hua.

The remaining fragments of Divine Source were left for the other people at home.

Although he didn't know if it would be effective, he still wanted to see if this thing could help superhumans below the Delta level evolve.

Old You and Fatty Xu exchanged a glance, and the two of them said to Zhang Yi in unison with a smile:

"Zhang Yi (Boss), we succeeded!"

Zhang Yi's eyes immediately lit up.

He was right. Since Divine Source could help Delta-level superhumans break through bottlenecks, it naturally could also help lower-tier superhumans break through.

And the required dosage was far less than what was needed for the breakthroughs of Hua Hua, Liang Yue, and the others.

"So, that means you two can now feel the power of Co-Devour, right?"

Zhang Yi confirmed.

The two nodded, indicating that they have now also been promoted to Delta-level superhumans.

Their abilities have undergone a qualitative transformation.

"But, maybe due to limited talent, we're still far behind compared to you guys!"

Old You scratched his head honestly, saying somewhat sheepishly.

Actually, when using the Divine Source, he felt very guilty inside, thinking that as a middle-aged uncle in his forties with not great talent, he was still wasting Zhang Yi's resources.

Fatty Xu, however, was shameless, wearing a proud expression:

"Anyway, we're now Delta-level superhumans too. It sounds pretty impressive when mentioned! Hehe, won't disgrace you, boss."

Zhang Yi leaned back on the sofa and raised an eyebrow.

He never expected Old You and Fatty Xu to become incredibly powerful in the future.

It's just that with their strength improved, if the shelter encounters any trouble in the future, they can always play a bigger role.

Yang Siya and Zhou Haimei were over in the kitchen. They had received the news of Zhang Yi's return early and had already prepared the ingredients in advance.

Now they started cooking, planning to prepare a lavish feast.

Listening to Zhang Yi and the others chatting, the two women exchanged a smile.

Now, one of them is a cooking-type superhuman, and the other is purely the family's housekeeper, providing services for everyone.

They won't go to the battlefield to fight, nor do they have the opportunity to participate in combat.

But like this, with the men fighting outside and them managing the household, this feeling is something they greatly enjoy.

Yang Xinxin and Lu Keran pestered Zhang Yi, asking him to tell the story of what happened on Star Island.

Zhang Yi smiled faintly, "That's a long story! We'll chat slowly during dinner later. Oh, right, Keran, I prepared a gift for you!"

Lu Keran's eyes lit up, "A gift for me?"

Zhang Yi stood up from the sofa and then went outside the shelter.

He opened his Dimensional Space. Two massive warships slowly emerged from within the Dimensional Space and then parked in the shelter's huge front courtyard.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Zhang Yi said to Lu Keran with a smile, "This is the material I promised you. I got it from the Colombian Navy. It should be the world's most advanced warship currently. I think it's enough for you to use."

Lu Keran's eyes almost turned into hundred-watt light bulbs.

"This is... amazing, simply amazing! Thank you, brother! Brother, you're the best to me!"

Lu Keran was so happy her delicate little face flushed bright red. She threw her arms around Zhang Yi and then gave his face a hard kiss!

Yang Xinxin's eyes widened, Zhou Ke'er covered her mouth, and Liang Yue coughed lightly, her expression slightly unnatural.

No one expected Lu Keran to be so bold as to kiss Zhang Yi right in front of everyone.

But everyone also knew that Lu Keran, with her mechanical brain, couldn't help herself upon seeing such excellent industrial materials.

However... whether she had other feelings for Zhang Yi in her heart, everyone had their own ideas.

A girl in the bloom of youth, with her first awakening of love, easily falls for an outstanding man.

Coupled with the female psychology of admiring strength, liking Zhang Yi is a very natural thing.

It's just that Lu Keran is relatively shy and doesn't dare to say it out loud directly.

Seeming to sense that her action had caused everyone's strange looks, Lu Keran's face turned even redder. She lowered her head and whispered, "I... I was just too excited. Thank you, brother!"

Zhang Yi touched his face.

Although it was quite cold outside, the girl's lips were 36 degrees.

"When has big brother ever failed to do what he promised you? Take it. I'm also looking forward to your mecha."

Lu Keran nodded vigorously, "Don't worry, brother! Keran's work progress is getting faster and faster now!"

She clenched her small fist. For the ability [Divine Machinery Operation], she trained every day and was becoming more and more proficient in using it.

Zhang Yi looked at Old You, "Old You, I'll trouble you with the cutting and moving of the materials."

Old You laughed heartily, "What's there to say? Of course, leave it to me!"

Chapter 1066: The Method to Increase Strength

The two most advanced warships in the world were just left in front of the Shelter.

Zhang Yi had everyone return inside the rooms.

Zhou Ke'er, Yang Xinxin, and Liang Yue saw that everyone else had received gifts. While they didn't say anything out loud, they were feeling a little unhappy inside.

Even Hua Hua had received a precious reward like the Divine Source.

They were definitely feeling a sense of imbalance.

Zhang Yi, of course, wouldn't favor one over the others. The people in the Shelter were now like family to him.

To maintain the harmony of a small family, fairness must be upheld.

He said, "Actually, I prepared a gift for everyone this time I came back. And it's a very valuable kind of gift!"

These words instantly made everyone curious.

Even Yang Siya put down the kitchen knife in her hand, looking at Zhang Yi with an expectant face.

Zhang Yi said, "Besides the Divine Source, the island also has accompanying energy substances. Although this substance cannot help people break through genetic limitations, it is the purest energy and can increase a person's power."

After saying this, he reached out and took out one transparent jar after another from his Dimensional Space.

Inside the jars, one source sprite after another was sealed.

After landing on the island, Zhang Yi, with the advantage of being a first mover, certainly couldn't be unaware of the existence of a substance like source sprites.

So, while hunting other superhumans, he also collected quite a few along the way.

With the hunting dog Lele around, finding these little things wasn't difficult for him.

"This thing, after absorbing it, can make you stronger. I will distribute them according to each person's abilities."

Zhang Yi briefly explained how to use the source sprites and then distributed them to everyone.

Even Lele got a portion.

It excitedly picked up the source sprite in its mouth, hopping and jumping around the room, almost breaking through the ceiling.

Liang Yue, Yang Xinxin, and Zhou Ke'er received the largest portions.

Others received slightly less.

As soon as they got the source sprites, everyone could sense that tremor from the depths of their souls.

It was the most fundamental energy of life. When they got the source sprites, it was like a starving person getting food, producing the most instinctive impulse to absorb it.

"This... this thing must be very precious, right?"

Liang Yue swallowed her saliva. She had received the largest number of source sprites.

Zhang Yi said lightly, "It's alright. It's just something that made those squad leader-level superhumans fight each other to the point of bloodshed on the island. For superhumans with an ability index above 9000, its effect becomes increasingly worse. For me and Hua Hua, they are almost useless."

"But for you all, they should still be quite effective."

Zhang Yi spoke very casually, but everyone understood just how precious these source sprites were!

"Zhang Yi, thank you!"

Liang Yue thanked Zhang Yi sincerely.

Zhang Yi spread his hands, "Don't just say thank you, you have to do thankful things too! You all need to become stronger. That way, no matter what changes we encounter in the future, we will have enough power to deal with them."

Zhang Yi held great expectations for the people in his home.

Old You and Fatty Xu are now Delta-level superhumans.

Whether they can fight or not, at least they can still play some role if something happens.

As for Liang Yue, Zhang Yi had deep expectations for her.

A martial arts master like her, after gaining powerful strength, would absolutely be Zhang Yi's right-hand man.

If he hadn't been worried that her strength might become too great and surpass his own, Zhang Yi would have given her that Divine Source to use back then.

Yang Xinxin's ability is rule-based, extremely abnormal, with a very large room for growth. The key is she is frighteningly intelligent, an important strategist for Zhang Yi.

And Zhou Ke'er's medical ability is also very important.

A profession like a doctor is often something you don't want to deal with in daily life, but can save your life at critical moments!

Of course, she must be strengthened desperately.

Yang Siya received fewer rewards, but that was only relative to others.

She is Zhang Yi's quartermaster, which is very important, just that the importance level is slightly lower.

As for Aunt Zhou Haimei...

She is not a superhuman, and usually doesn't lack anything.

Besides having ample living supplies, on the spiritual level, Old You has also taken care of her perfectly, so Zhang Yi doesn't need to worry.

So Zhang Yi went over to Old You and said to him,

"Aunt Zhou usually takes care of everyone, which isn't easy. But since she's not a superhuman, I don't have anything extra to give her."

"Don't reward her openly, but reward her with some things secretly!"

Old You immediately understood, his old face actually showing an embarrassed smile.

He nodded vigorously, "Hehe, okay, I understand!"

Zhou Haimei, not far away, couldn't help but blush upon hearing this.

After Old You absorbed the Divine Source fragment, his originally robust physique had now become even stronger.

Looking at the happy expressions on everyone's faces at home, a wave of warmth also surged in Zhang Yi's heart.

People outside are unreliable. Whether it's Zhu Zheng or Deng Shentong, even Baili Changqing, they could all have disagreements with Zhang Yi over interests.

After a series of events during this period, Zhang Yi had come to understand many things.

He definitely needed to have his own power.

It didn't need to be particularly strong, but at least he wouldn't be fighting alone when he needed companions.

At the very least, the people at home wouldn't hold him back.

"Zhang Yi, what's the deal with those few people in the room?"

Out of curiosity, Zhou Ke'er asked Zhang Yi why he had brought Lu Dahai and the other two back.

Zhang Yi didn't hide it either, directly telling everyone the reason he brought them back.

"Lu Dahai has now mutated, and he hasn't experienced the things we experienced before. I think this is worth researching. So I brought him back to observe."

Zhang Yi crossed his hands, paused slightly, then his tone became a bit deeper.

"And, I think Chen Jingguan's position should also be changed."

Upon hearing this, everyone couldn't help but start thinking.

Yang Xinxin smiled slightly, looking at Zhang Yi and said, "His strength is no longer sufficient to support a massive base, right, brother?"

Zhang Yi nodded.

"That's exactly it."

"Tianhai City's coastal defense is very important. In the future, the threats we face will mainly come from the sea."

"Continuing to have a Gamma-level superhuman guard it makes me uneasy. So, I want to promote a batch of new people to higher positions."

After this operation, the various countries around the Eastern Sea, including the Colombian Navy, would absolutely hate Zhang Yi to the bone.

The possibility of them coming for revenge cannot be ruled out.

Even the people from the East Sea Region cannot be completely trusted.

"This guy Lu Dahai has courage and is also smart. If he gains just a little more strength, I think he might be worth cultivating."

Chapter 1067: Lu Dahai's Abilities

Lu Dahai had already demonstrated astonishing wisdom and courage while at sea.

Using his own methods, he turned the situation around against all odds and defeated the stowaways alliance on the ship.

Once someone like that gained power, becoming a leader in their own right would be absolutely no problem.

Zhang Yi appreciated him. If he truly had the capability, he could definitely be promoted.

Fatty Xu, his arms wrapped around his plump belly, spoke with a serious expression:

"But is this guy reliable?"

Zhang Yi countered, "Are you talking about his loyalty?"

Fatty Xu nodded. "Exactly. Hearing what you said, I think this guy is pretty ruthless. Doesn't seem easy to control."

Zhang Yi smiled. "Fools are the ones hard to control! He's a very smart man, so whether he's loyal or not becomes unimportant."

He held no expectations for so-called human nature.

Loyalty was merely dedication offered to secure the greatest benefit.

As long as the price for betrayal was high enough, loyalty became utterly worthless.

"He's not a fool. So, as long as my strength remains overwhelmingly superior, his loyalty will persist."

Among the major bases in Tianhai City, which one hadn't Zhang Yi subdued by force?

Back then, they were all eagerly trying to destroy Zhang Yi's Shelter. Yet now, weren't they all behaving obediently?

Hearing this, Fatty Xu "hehe"-ed and scratched his head. "Boss, you're still the smart one. You always have a unique perspective on things!"

Zhang Yi shot him an exasperated glance.

"You're a Delta-level superhuman now too. Should I give you a base to manage?"

Fatty Xu, hearing this, broke out in a cold sweat on his face, shaking his head repeatedly.

"Absolutely not! I'm not cut out for that material. Management and all that is a real hassle. How can it compare to now, having food and drink, and playing video games every day?"

Zhang Yi let out a long sigh.

Sometimes, he really envied Fatty Xu a bit, living carefree and without worries.

"And when you have free time, you can go to Blizzard City for a massage, right?"

Zhang Yi teased.

Fatty Xu embarrassedly stole glances at the others.

The women in the house all chuckled quietly at this. Although they didn't say anything, they inwardly looked down on Fatty Xu's behavior somewhat.

Fatty Xu mumbled, "I... I also do that for cultivation, to temper my willpower..."

His voice grew smaller and smaller. Zhang Yi didn't expose him.

They were all men. Some things were best left understood without saying. You couldn't really blame Fatty Xu for this.

"If you ever truly find a girl you like, bring her back. They'll let her go for my sake. I can even have an independent house built for you then!"

Zhang Yi didn't mind Fatty Xu finding true love outside.

It's just that they would definitely have to separate households then. After all, Zhang Yi was somewhat particular about cleanliness in that regard.

Unlike Old You and Aunt Zhou, who had a significant age gap with Zhang Yi, living together didn't feel awkward.

Fatty Xu, upon hearing this, immediately sat upright on the sofa, adopting a serious expression:

"No, Boss! I figured it out long ago. I won't get a girlfriend! Anyway, it's this kind of era now. No one's pressuring me to get married, and I don't need to consider having kids. Why should I tie myself down to just one?" RĀNŌBÈS

He raised a finger, speaking with the air of someone experienced:

"When you have a girlfriend, you can only have one girlfriend."

"But if you don't have a girlfriend, you can have countless girlfriends!"

Fatty Xu's eloquent but twisted logic left everyone dumbfounded.

Zhang Yi nodded. "Logical. That's about right."

After being hurt by Xu Lili back then, Fatty Xu had basically given up all illusions about love. He was quite open-minded now. It was enough to occasionally go to Blizzard City to experience life.

The kitchen was still preparing the feast. Zhang Yi thought that Lu Dahai and the other two had already been waiting for a long time. Keeping them waiting further would seem impolite.

In the past, it might have been fine. But now, he was a gentleman with status and position. He still had to put on an act in front of his subordinates.

He stood up, letting the others study the wonders of the source sprites themselves, and went to talk with Lu Dahai and his two companions.

Zhang Yi pushed the door open and entered the room. The three of them were wolfing down the food on the table, swallowing everything in a very disheveled manner. Their bodies and beards were covered in food scraps, looking utterly like beggars.

Zhang Yi smiled. The three became somewhat embarrassed, hurriedly standing up to greet him.

"Mr. Zhang! Tha... thank you for your hospitality!"

Zhang Yi gestured for them to sit down. "It's fine. Sit and talk."

Then he asked Yang Siya to bring over more food.

The three of them squeezed onto one sofa, their expressions very stiff and reserved, yet also filled with intense anticipation.

If Lu Dahai weren't so old, he might have wanted to kneel down and say to Zhang Yi: Mr. Zhang, I heard you have no sons. I'd like to support you in your old age.

Zhang Yi looked at the three before him and calmly asked, "Only Lu Dahai has awakened an ability?"

Rong Lei and Yu Gang nodded, their eyes carrying a hint of regret.

They hadn't awakened any abilities, which meant they couldn't have much of a future at Dawn Rain Base.

Zhang Yi nodded, then opened his Dimensional Gate and took out the corpse of a superhuman.

This superhuman was a member of the New Rohan superhuman team, probably a disciple of that so-called Spider Demon. His superhuman ability index wasn't high, only a little over 5000.

However, out of habit from cleaning battlefields, Zhang Yi had still collected him.

Zhang Yi placed this person's corpse in front of Lu Dahai and said to him, "Try putting your hand on his head."

Seeing the corpse, Lu Dahai didn't understand why Zhang Yi wanted him to do this.

But he obediently complied.

As his right hand rested on the corpse's head, Zhang Yi's eyes were also intently watching his reaction.

Suddenly, Lu Dahai's eyes widened. A surge of heat rapidly flowed along his arm into his body.

It was an indescribable feeling. In an instant, his body was filled with power, as if something was surging through his blood vessels.

The powerful strength dissipated most of the fatigue he felt.

A look of satisfaction appeared in Zhang Yi's eyes.

"Your luck is good."

Lu Dahai indeed possessed talent above the Delta level, which meant he had value worth cultivating.

After absorbing the origin from that corpse, Lu Dahai felt completely refreshed and comfortable.

He naturally understood this was a gift from Zhang Yi.

The sensible Lu Dahai immediately knelt before Zhang Yi, his head hitting the floor with a "thump!"

"Thank you, Mr. Zhang, for promoting me! From now on, I, Lu Dahai, will dedicate my liver and brains to the ground, serving you with utmost loyalty!"

Lu Dahai was a smart man. He knew he had to seize this opportunity Zhang Yi gave him. This could be the start of his turnaround!

Zhang Yi smiled slightly. In this man, he vaguely saw a shadow of his own former self, the one who was overly cautious and meticulous.

"Just keep it clear in your own mind. Follow me well from now on, and I won't treat you poorly."

Chapter 1068: The Era of Great Mutation

Zhang Yi reached out and pulled Lu Dahai to his feet.

"You're all filthy, go take a bath first. We'll talk about other things after you're clean!"

Zhang Yi led the three of them to the bathroom in the back, then tossed them a set of clean new clothes.

The three of them walked into the bathroom that was over fifty square meters, took a long-awaited, thoroughly satisfying hot shower, and then changed into the brand-new clothes.

Yu Gang and Rong Lei said excitedly to Lu Dahai, "Big brother, we're going to make it big from now on!"

"Following Mr. Zhang, we'll be able to walk sideways across the entire Tianhai City in the future!"

Lu Dahai looked at his two naive brothers. Although he felt joy in his heart, he didn't show too much excitement on his face.

"Mr. Zhang promoted us because I'm a superhuman now, I have that value. But if we don't perform well in the future, he can replace us with others at any time."

"So, we have to work even harder from now on, to show Mr. Zhang our capabilities!"

He took a deep breath and looked up at the bright ceiling.

"I have to consider whether this is my only chance in this lifetime to change my fate!"

Rong Lei and Yu Gang nodded deeply in agreement.

Outside, Zhang Yi called Zhou Ke'er over and said to her, "Later, draw some blood from those guys and run some tests. Check their physical condition, see if the other two have the potential to become superhumans."

Hearing this, Zhou Ke'er understood what Zhang Yi intended.

"You want to see their potential? But currently, we don't have such advanced technical means."

Zhou Ke'er spread her hands helplessly.

Although she was highly skilled in medicine and had considerable research in biology, she wasn't very proficient in the study of the superhuman field.

After all, research into this emerging science often required large organizations to pool their resources for investigation.

"Draw some blood first to check, I'll go ask Deng Shentong in Blizzard City later," Zhang Yi said.

Lu Dahai's potential was definitely above Delta level, with an extremely small probability of being above Epsilon.

Although it was a small chance, for someone Zhang Yi decided to use, he had to have them completely under his control.

Only in this way could he avoid being betrayed in the future.

After Lu Dahai and the other two finished washing up and changed into new clothes, their years of exposure to wind and sun had left their skin dark, a condition difficult to change. They just looked a bit cleaner than when they first arrived at the shelter. ſ

Zhang Yi took them to have blood drawn for testing and undergo simple physical fitness tests.

The three of them didn't dare question anything and obediently complied with everything Zhang Yi asked.

Afterward, Zhang Yi said, "Don't go back to Dawn Rain Base for now. Later, I'll take you to stay at Qingpu Base for a while."

He did this to protect them.

Chen Jingguan's strength was insufficient, and he had always harbored a strong sense of crisis.

Now that Zhang Yi brought Lu Dahai back to the shelter, Chen Jingguan would inevitably become suspicious.

If Lu Dahai and the other two were sent back at this time, it couldn't be ruled out that Chen Jingguan might kill them.

Lu Dahai and the other two naturally obeyed all of Zhang Yi's arrangements.

By this time, the meal at home was almost ready.

Sitting in the living room, Lu Dahai and the other two could smell the enticing aroma wafting over, making their minds wander and their hearts yearn.

Zhang Yi planned to have this meal with his family. Bringing the three of them along would be somewhat awkward.

So, he had Yang Siya and Zhou Haimei set aside a portion of the food and deliver it to the small room for them to eat separately.

The three of them were overjoyed. Today's meal was the most delicious feast they had eaten since the Apocalypse began.

Zhang Yi, meanwhile, sat at the dining table with his family, happily beginning the feast.

Hua Hua and Lele each had their own food bowls.

However, Hua Hua sat at the table eating with Zhang Yi, while Lele only had the right to squat beside the table to eat.

At the dinner table, Zhang Yi told them about what happened on Star Island.

He skimmed over most of the events, but when mentioning the black-armored strange man they encountered later, Zhang Yi elaborated a bit more.

"Everything was within my plans, except for that guy. He was a huge surprise."

Hearing Zhang Yi's account, Yang Xinxin couldn't help but frown slightly.

"This is very strange," she explained to everyone. "There are two conditions for the emergence of powerful superhumans. First, they must possess sufficiently high innate talent themselves. Second, they must obtain enough resources to grow."

"Therefore, this world is not lacking in superhumans with talent, but it is extremely lacking in powerful superhumans."

"Countless people with talent have died in the cold Apocalypse before they could even demonstrate their abilities."

"Up to now, although the exact number of Epsilon-level superhumans existing in Huaxu Kingdom is unknown, estimates put it in the single digits. The Columbus Ocean nation possesses the most advanced biological technology, yet they only successfully cultivated one Cadillus in their fleet."

She voiced her doubts, "Then, that black-armored strange man possesses astonishing combat power exceeding 20,000 points! Star Island is such a weak nation and has experienced a large-scale biological extinction event. How could such an existence appear there?"

Zhang Yi said, "I've considered that question too. The only explanation is that the Divine Source might have some abilities we don't know about."

Yang Xinxin nodded, "Perhaps. But for you, brother, isn't the Divine Source just a key? Relying solely on the Divine Source shouldn't be enough to give someone such powerful strength, right?"

Zhang Yi smiled wryly and spread his hands, "I'm not clear about that! Anyway, the ones who should really be troubled by this are the East Sea Region and the Columbus Ocean Fleet."

Yang Xinxin lowered her head and murmured, "This world holds too many secrets. The appearance of the Divine Source is one huge mystery. The black-armored strange man you mentioned might be another huge mystery."

"I always feel that sooner or later, we will have no choice but to face all of this."

Zhang Yi raised an eyebrow, "Maybe it's just a coincidence? Is it that serious?"

He particularly hated troublesome matters.

But Yang Xinxin said to Zhang Yi very seriously, "Brother, if a person has no long-term worries, they will have immediate troubles. Nowadays, we must consider every possibility."

"After all—the Apocalypse is just the beginning, and it's far from over."

Yang Xinxin's words reminded everyone.

The global ice age was only the beginning of the calamity. A year had passed, and nothing had developed in a positive direction.

Instead, many indescribable disasters had appeared in this world.

In the face of these unknown things, humanity seemed so insignificant.

Only by being extremely cautious, striving to become stronger, and learning more about the unknown could one survive in the Apocalypse.

Zhang Yi poked the rice in his bowl with his chopsticks and said slowly,

"In that case, those guys in Blizzard City can still be of some use. They must possess a lot of information we don't know about."

Chapter 1069: Subtle Changes

After finishing the meal, Zhang Yi returned to his room to rest. Yang Xinxin, Zhou Ke'er, and the others came to Zhang Yi's room. Everyone took off their shoes and socks and sat in a circle on the rug.

The main purpose was to report to Zhang Yi about some recent movements in Tianhai City.

Zhang Yi was usually quite lazy and couldn't be bothered to handle affairs of the other bases.

However, Yang Xinxin and the others couldn't stay idle.

Since they were usually at home, in order to demonstrate their abilities, they helped Zhang Yi manage the three major bases.

Zhang Yi didn't interfere with these matters either, letting them handle things as long as they didn't meddle too much.

After all, the Shelter didn't need them to provide any resources.

However, after hearing Yang Xinxin's words, even Zhang Yi couldn't help but sit up straight, sighing repeatedly.

It turned out that during this period, not only was Zhang Yi working hard, but everyone else was also striving with all their might to improve and survive.

After solving the basic survival problems, the three major bases were all trying hard to restore order and improve living conditions.

"Over at Qingpu Base, because of Li Jian's presence, their agriculture has developed very quickly. They have already established a huge underground farm and can produce crops periodically."

"These crops can already meet the basic needs of Qingpu Base."

Hearing the name Li Jian, Zhang Yi rubbed his chin.

"Old Li... that's a name I haven't heard in a long time."

An ability that once seemed not very useful in Zhang Yi's eyes had unexpectedly played a significant role now.

He couldn't help but think that if he could help him enhance his ability, perhaps in the future, this guy alone could solve the food crisis for many people.

After all, Zhang Yi had quite a few seeds in his possession.

The land was still fertile, it was just frozen a few meters underground.

The issue of sunlight could also be solved using ultraviolet lamps.

"Although he isn't a combat-type superhuman, his ability has a somewhat top-tier flavor among life-support types."

Zhang Yi's current feeling was a bit strange, quite like playing a post-apocalyptic base-building game, with Li Jian being that cheat code that can provide crops.

However, he didn't have that much inclination to care about the lives of over ten thousand people in the entire Tianhai City.

Once he started getting involved, he wouldn't be able to extricate himself later; he wouldn't go looking for trouble.

"Let them decide how they want to develop over there; we won't interfere. But... occasionally calling Li Jian over to help raise some flowers and farm the land isn't bad either."

Zhang Yi said with a smile.

Yang Siya was wearing a pink set of pajamas, sitting on the floor with her legs crossed, her fair and tender little feet slightly curled. She nodded happily and said:

"I think so too. Having some flowers and plants at home adds a nice touch to the scenery."

"And eating canned food every day, if we could get some fresh vegetables, that would be really great!"

Zhang Yi said to Yang Xinxin, "Xinxin, I'll leave this matter to you to arrange."

"Perfect timing, I'll go over to their place soon to take a look around. To prevent them from stirring up any trouble."

After resting, Zhang Yi went to the living room and found Lele, who was lying on the floor resting.

He reached out and tugged the dog's ear, smiling as he said, "Hey, time to go back!"

Lele quickly stood up, "Woof!"

Zhang Yi asked, "Do you want to go back, or stay here?"

Although Lele's combat ability was relatively average, it possessed an extremely keen sense of smell, making it very suitable for reconnaissance on the battlefield.

Considering this point, Zhang Yi still hoped to keep it at home.

However, even if it didn't want to stay at the Shelter, Zhang Yi could still borrow it every time he went out.

But having both a cat and a dog at home just felt more fun.

Yet Lele said with unwavering determination, "Boss, I still want to go back. My master is still waiting for me at home!"

Although the living conditions at Zhang Yi's place were good, a dog's loyalty to its master wouldn't change because of these things.

Zhang Yi felt quite emotional; this was also why he liked cats and dogs.

More often than not, they were more trustworthy than people.

"Alright then, I'll send you back right now!"

Zhang Yi called over the three Lu brothers, then called for Lele to come along, planning to make a trip to Qingpu Base.

Firstly, to hand the three men over to Xing Tian's care, and secondly, to see how their development was going.

Opening the Dimensional Gate, it didn't take long for them to traverse over a hundred kilometers, arriving at Qingpu Base located in the northwest direction of Tianhai City.

Most of the furnaces in this huge steel mill had already shut down by now.

After all, the resources that could be used as fuel were pretty much burned up.

The furnaces that were still burning were basically used for heating.

When Zhang Yi and the others arrived at Qingpu Base, Lele immediately excitedly lifted its head and barked twice, "Woof! Woof!"

The people at Qingpu Base saw Zhang Yi and the others and hurried over eagerly.

"Mr. Zhang!"

"Quick, go notify the boss, Mr. Zhang is here!"

Zhang Yi strode into Qingpu Base. Compared to the last time he came, there had been significant changes here.

There wasn't much accumulated snow inside the factory buildings, and there was only a thin layer on the ground. It was clear that it was carefully swept every day.

The workers inside wore thick clothes, moving between various factory buildings in an orderly manner.

"Has this kid Xing Tian learned about business management now?"

Zhang Yi couldn't help but feel a bit surprised.

Not long after, Xing Tian hurried over with a few people.

"Old Zhang, you're back! Welcome, welcome!"

Xing Tian shouted to the people around, "Warmly welcome the leader's inspection, everyone applaud!"

The workers around were very honest and simple, using the old way of receiving higher-ups, clapping vigorously to welcome Zhang Yi.

Zhang Yi smiled and shook his head.

"I'm returning Lele to you. It made quite a contribution during this operation."

Lele ran up to Xing Tian, affectionately rubbing against his head.

Xing Tian patted the dog's head somewhat reproachfully, "Useless thing, you didn't even know how to seize such a good opportunity. If you followed Old Zhang, wouldn't you be eating and drinking the good stuff every day in the future?"

Lele made a cooing, coquettish-like whimper in its mouth.

"Really, what can I do with you."

Although Xing Tian said this, he was actually very happy inside, which could be seen from the expression on his face.

Zhang Yi asked, "Old Xing, you've been managing things quite well recently! Did you have some expert guidance?"

Note: Xing Tian, originally named Xing Weinan.

Xing Tian laughed, "Really, nothing can escape your eyes. That's right, I do have an expert here."

He turned to look at his side.

A somewhat short man walked over. He was wrapped in thick clothes and also wore a scarf over his face.

When he walked up to Zhang Yi, he took off the scarf and smiled:

"Mr. Zhang, long time no see!"

Seeing him, Zhang Yi immediately understood everything.

"Ma Wenzheng! So it's you!"

Chapter 1070: Preventing Problems Before They Arise

Zhang Yi brought back many people from Rockflow Island.

Most of those people were wealthy merchants, officials on vacation to Rockflow Island, or fishermen like Lu Dahai.

In normal society, most of them would be considered elite talents.

For example, Ma Wenzheng was once a top-tier, highly successful major entrepreneur.

Having such a person manage a factory with thousands of people was indeed well within his capabilities.

Xing Tian said to Zhang Yi, "Thanks to the people you brought us back then, they are managing the factory extremely well now. Much better than when I was in charge!"

Xing Tian was also a rough-and-tumble guy, completely clueless about enterprise management.

However, his greatest strength was self-awareness; he knew what he couldn't do and understood the need to hire professional talent.

Zhang Yi nodded. "Let's go, show me how things look here now!"

Xing Tian and Ma Wenzheng led Zhang Yi on a casual walk through the factory.

Just this brief look left Zhang Yi quite surprised.

Now, all the factory buildings were being utilized.

The steelmaking equipment was still operating, producing various tools.

There were also workshops responsible for making cold-weather gear, such as clothes and hats.

Saying 'making' was a bit of a stretch; it was more about repurposing clothes scavenged from the surroundings.

Some clothes were stripped from corpses, others were found in other warehouses or shopping malls.

Additionally, there were dedicated water supply workshops and crop processing workshops.

Everything here had clearly evolved into a miniature society.

Zhang Yi watched, nodding continuously.

"I heard Li Jian is in charge of managing the food production here?"

He asked.

Xing Tian replied, "Li Jian is our Agricultural Workshop Director now, haha! He's truly an impressive figure. With him, our food supply issues are all resolved!"

Zhang Yi nodded. He originally wanted to go see the agricultural production area, but upon further thought, he realized he didn't have much to ask Li Jian specifically, so he dismissed the idea.

In the end, as long as the people here could live self-sufficiently, that was the best outcome.

After a simple tour, Zhang Yi was very satisfied with the overall operation of Qingpu Base.

However, he still called Xing Tian aside to give him a few words of advice.

"Qingpu Base is doing very well now, but there's something I have to say."

"Old Xing, you should be clear about your own capabilities. Be careful of subordinates trying to overshadow the master."

Xing Tian was momentarily stunned. "Overshadow what master?"

Zhang Yi: "..."

He explained helplessly, "I mean, be careful that the people under you don't surpass you in ability and eventually take your position."

"In the past, when times were tough, people were willing to rally around you. But now that life is getting back on track, people will develop greater ambitions."

"You have quite a few talented people around you. Their abilities in a conventional society exceed yours. You need to be careful about being usurped."

After listening, Xing Tian nodded thoughtfully, his expression turning serious.

"Yeah, what you say makes a lot of sense. Now that we have Ma Wenzheng and the others, I rarely get involved in the factory's daily affairs anymore. I thought that made things easier."

"But if this continues long-term, I might really end up as a figurehead. Ah, Zhang Yi, you're so smart! Why didn't I think of that!"

He slapped his forehead, his eyes suddenly gleaming.

Zhang Yi shrugged. "That's precisely why I've never wanted to manage your three major bases."

Self-awareness is a precious quality.

Zhang Yi was cautious and meticulous, but he didn't possess the talent for managing large organizations.

Even if he could manage it, he disliked the mental drain, the daily time spent dealing with trivial matters, and playing power games with subordinates.

So, he just wanted to manage his own little domain well; that was enough.

Xing Tian was even less capable than him. Looking at the situation, him becoming a figurehead was practically a foregone conclusion.

That's why Zhang Yi gave him this slight hint.

Xing Tian hesitated for a moment, then asked Zhang Yi, "But, Ma Wenzheng and the others are really capable. They manage the base in perfect order. I can't just kick them out, can I?"

Zhang Yi said calmly, "It's simple. The base shouldn't be dominated by one person. Train one or two other people, let them compete with each other, gradually weakening Ma Wenzheng's individual influence."

"And hold regular meetings with the people in the base to assert your authority. After all, your combat power is a fact they can't ignore; they can't cause too much trouble."

Xing Tian listened, nodding repeatedly. "Good, good, good! I'll do exactly as you say! In the next few days, I'll have Ma Wenzheng take a few days off first, then get others to do his work."

Zhang Yi nodded.

"Do that for now. However, Ma Wenzheng is definitely very popular now. If you remove him, it might cause discontent among the people below."

"If trouble arises then, or if the replacements you find are incompetent, you step in, deal with those few people, and then properly appease Ma Wenzheng, letting him resume work."

Xing Tian kept nodding as he listened, carefully memorizing everything Zhang Yi said.

"That's about all I can tell you. If you can't manage well yourself, I don't have any other good solutions. It depends on how much you can grasp on your own."

Zhang Yi had said before that he generally wouldn't interfere with the operations of the three major bases.

If Xing Tian couldn't manage Qingpu Base well himself, then he would eventually be replaced by someone else.

When that time came, Zhang Yi wouldn't stand up to defend Xing Tian.

He only needed someone to maintain the base's normal operation. Who that person was didn't matter to Zhang Yi.

After discussing this, Zhang Yi brought up the matter of Lu Dahai and his two brothers.

They were to stay at Qingpu Base for a while. Xing Tian didn't need to pay them special attention; they could work alongside ordinary laborers.

Also, he should observe any changes in Lu Dahai.

After handling the basic situation in Tianhai City, Zhang Yi returned home.

He opened his Dimensional Space and took out the corpse of the deceased Soul Reaper.

"Although he was a madman, his power was genuinely at the Epsilon-level. How strong must his origin energy be?"

Zhang Yi placed his right hand on the corpse's head. Soon, a vast surge of power flowed into his body.

The sensation was incredibly wonderful, like shedding all impurities, allowing oneself to undergo a transformation.

Just as he suspected, the origin energy contained within the living-dead Soul Reaper, though somewhat damaged, was ultimately still origin energy at the Epsilon-level.

Similar to Yuan Kongye's back then.

This power gave Zhang Yi's strength another boost.

However, by his estimation, even after fully absorbing this power, it would only increase his superhuman ability index by about 1000 points.

This wasn't far from Zhang Yi's initial estimate.

But there was also a frustrating reality.

From now on, absorbing superhumans below the Epsilon-level would hardly provide Zhang Yi with any significant improvement.

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Deng Shentong and the others returned to Blizzard City.

Zhu Zheng had received the casualty report early and was fairly satisfied with the outcome of this operation.

After all, for the entire Jiangnan Region, only one squad captain-level superhuman, Lilong, had died in battle.

Next, the only thing left to settle was Zhang Yi.

Jingwei arrived at the Commander's Office in the Operations Center to report the mission details to Zhu Zheng.

After listening, Zhu Zheng slightly furrowed his brows and asked somewhat nervously,

"Zhang Yi... what was his attitude like? I mean, his attitude towards me."

Jingwei remained silent for a moment before replying, "He was very displeased about you arranging for me to monitor him."

Hearing this, Zhu Zheng let out a long sigh, his worries deepening.

"Then he didn't do anything to you?"

Jingwei answered, "He knew I was someone you sent. He didn't do anything to me. He just had me stay by his side and forbade me from reporting any intelligence from the island to you while we were on Star Island."

Jingwei lowered her head slightly. "Commander Zhu, this was a failure in my duties."

Zhu Zheng waved his hand. "Enough, this matter isn't your fault. After all, even I was outmaneuvered by him."

As he said this, a faint smile suddenly appeared at the corner of his mouth.

"But the fact that he didn't kill you is a good thing! It means there's still room for discussion."

Jingwei remained silent.

Zhu Zheng didn't seem overly concerned about her life or death.

She didn't tell Zhu Zheng that Zhang Yi had injected her with Truth Serum and that she had already revealed all of Blizzard City's plans to him.

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