

Martial Arts 201

Chapter 201: Joining the Awakened Association with an Alias?

"In my memory, these four are the most formidable. It's possible that in the three years that have passed, other Awakeners in Anshan City have also grown strong. When the time comes, you may not only face these four people."

Zhang Ren looked at Chen Fan, feeling a sense of powerlessness in his heart.

It wasn't that he didn't want to include himself in the last sentence; after all, a person should have self-awareness.

Forget about encountering any one of them, even if he met just one Entry Force Martial Artist under their command, he could only run as far away as possible.

"Hmm, Uncle Zhang, I understand, I'll be careful."

Chen Fan nodded seriously.

He planned to subtly gather some information about these Awakeners from the chairman once he returned to Anshan City.

Of course, the most important thing was that he could not stop his cultivation.

As long as his strength was sufficient, even if there were more than four C-level Awakeners, so what if someone among them reached B-level?

"By the way, Uncle Zhang, there are still a few military vehicles and two cannons parked at the Chen Family Stronghold. Later, you can take some people to bring them back. However, taking these things out might be too conspicuous, so it's better to keep it confidential for now."

"Hmm, I'll take some people to retrieve them first. It's not too late to bring them out after things settle down."

Zhang Ren nodded.

The two walked out of the house, Zhang Ren headed towards Chen Guodong and the others, while Gu Ze also approached.

"Chen Fan, can we talk?"

Chen Fan smiled and nodded.

It had been two or three days, and Gu Ze must have already made up his mind.

He just didn't know whether he would choose to stay here or join the Awakened Association.

But either way, he would choose to support him.

The two entered the house.

Gu Ze took a deep breath and, looking at Chen Fan, said, "Chen Fan, I've made up my mind. I want to join the Awakened Association."

The last time Chen Fan spoke, he had thought about it seriously.

Although the stronghold was currently peaceful and lacked nothing, it all seemed harmonious.

But this was only temporary.

One upheaval, one beast tide, and everything could be destroyed.

And if he continued to stay here, reaching the Muscle Refining Realm in Martial Arts would already be hard enough. Even if he counted his superpower and doubled his total power, so what?

Uncle Zhang was an Entry Force Martial Artist. According to him, even a Transforming Force Martial Artist armed with heavy weapons dared not claim they could escape unscathed before a high-level fierce beast.

So how about Chen Fan?

His strength was indisputable, being the best in the stronghold, even stronger than Uncle Zhang.

Yet even so, Chen Fan resolutely went to higher places, striving to become even stronger.

What did he have to hesitate about?

"Have you really thought it through?"

Chen Fan stared into his eyes.

"Yes, in the Yan Country, the Awakened Association is undoubtedly the most powerful force, surpassing others in both strength and resources. Even the Jiangnan District Martial Arts Association I was in is just a little brother before such a giant."

"However, that doesn't mean that after you join the Awakened Association, a smooth path awaits you.

You will face not only fierce beasts but also other Awakeners, and even Martial Artists."

"I understand."

Gu Ze nodded.

"I am fully aware."

The atmosphere quieted, and Chen Fan saw the burning determination in his eyes.

"Alright, does Uncle Gu know about your decision?"

"Yes."

Gu Ze nodded, "Chen Fan, the next time you leave the stronghold for Anshan City, please take me with you too."

After all, it was dangerous to travel from here to Anshan City.

He had some self-awareness about his own strength.

"Ahem."

Chen Fan cleared his throat, saying, "Anshan City, well, forget it."

"Hmm?"

Gu Ze was somewhat confused.

Isn't Anshan City the closest place from here? And Chen Fan was also in the Anshan City Martial Arts Branch Association.

"Mainly, I've had some minor conflicts with the Awakeners there. If you join them, it won't be good."

"!"

Gu Ze's body shook.

Then he nodded, saying, "Then let's go to another city."

"Hmm."

Chen Fan thought for a moment, saying, "There is another small city in the south called Wang City. Its strength is not inferior to Anshan City. Of course, you could also choose a mid-sized city."

"Wang City then."

Gu Ze gritted his teeth.

If possible, he still wanted to stay somewhat close to the stronghold.

This way, in case of any danger, he could return as quickly as possible.

"Alright, Wang City it is. I'll take you there later."

"Okay."

Gu Ze was stunned, then feeling grateful, he said, "Thank you, Chen Fan."

After all, Wang City was to the south while Anshan City was to the north. Meaning Chen Fan would be making a significant detour just for him.

Chen Fan waved his hand.

Going to Wang City was not just to send Gu Ze there.

This battle, along with Uncle Zhang's words earlier, made him realize that he knew too little about the Awakeners.

As the saying goes, "Know yourself and know your enemy, and you will never be defeated."

If he wanted to understand the opponents, what could be better than infiltrating their ranks?

That's right, he was considering whether to join the Awakened Association.

After all, the main difference between Awakeners and Martial Artists, besides superpowers, was Spiritual Power.

His spiritual power was so strong that pretending to be an Awakener should not be difficult. Regarding what kind of superpower to claim, he could, like Gu Ze, lie that it was a body-enhancement power.

Once he joined, he could learn about the Awakeners' tactics and even get to purchase them.

Of course, he would need to use a different identity.

After all, no one knew whether the Awakened Association had already gathered the Martial Arts Association's data on him. Even if they hadn't, if the Martial Arts Association found out, it would be embarrassing too.

With a different identity, there were fewer worries. After all, what does capturing Zhou Shuren have to do with me, Lu Xun? Moreover, both the Awakened Association and the Martial Arts Association fought for the Yan Country's sake.

Of course, this led to a problem.

How to change his identity?

His face, fingerprints, and voice were all recorded in the database.

Unless he became someone else, he would surely leave traces.

"Become someone else?"

An idea flashed through Chen Fan's mind.

Yes,

Disguise Technique!

It's said the technique can completely change one's appearance, voice, and even aura. Unless he revealed himself, no one would think he belonged to the Martial Arts Association.

"Hmm... I need to see if the old man has Disguise Techniques. The association doesn't have them yet, but maybe after my permissions are unlocked, they might."

Chen Fan made up his mind, sensing it was feasible.

The two walked out. At the training ground, his father, Uncle Zhang, and the others were nowhere to be seen, likely already gone to retrieve the military vehicles from the Chen Family Stronghold.

Chen Fan looked into the distance.

Should he go to the old man first or find Meng Yu?

Thinking it over, the order didn't seem that important.

Might as well find the old man first.

Inside the bright and spacious room, the old man sat on a chair, reading a book.

Someone behind him kneaded his shoulders.

"A bit harder."

The old man muttered, "So light, I can't feel anything."

"Yes."

The woman behind him quickly responded, applying more pressure.

"Water."

The old man smacked his lips.

A young woman standing nearby quickly brought a bowl of water.

"Ah."

The old man opened his mouth.

The young woman scooped a spoonful, blew on it, and then placed it into his mouth.

Just then, a voice rang out unexpectedly.

"Yo, sir, looks like you're enjoying your days."

"Pfft!"

The old man spat out all the water in his mouth, trembling as he looked ahead. A figure was walking towards him with a smile.

"Brother Chen."

"Brother Chen, you're here."

The two women beamed, their smiles almost overflowing.

"Brother Chen, we've been taking good care of this gentleman these days. Look at his complexion, much better than when he first arrived with no blood color on his face."

The middle-aged woman said hastily.

"Why is this guy here?"

The old man felt bitter.

Still, on his face, he smiled and said, "Little brother, you haven't come these past few days. I thought you had forgotten about me."

"Don't worry, sir, I won't forget you no matter what."

Chen Fan smiled and waved to the two women, "You two can leave. I have some private words to say to the old man."

"Yes, yes."

The two women nodded quickly and left in a hurry.

The old man smiled wryly.

If he could, he would rather Chen Fan forget him.

"Sir, let's be straightforward. You probably already know why I'm here this time."

Chen Fan sat beside him, wearing a harmless smile.

"I- I know."

The old man swallowed, "Every three days, a flawed martial arts technique. Every five days, a complete one. I remember, little brother. You've come for another flawed technique, right? No problem, it's already prepared, right in that cabinet."

He pointed not far away.

Chen Fan glanced at him, feeling strange.

What was going on?

Why was the old man so cooperative?

The old man looked at Chen Fan ingratiatingly.

When he saw his massacre at the Song Family Castle, he knew he was ruthless. Living here these days, he found out about Chen Fan's series of achievements. Any sinister thoughts were gone.

Besides, living here felt like home.

So why cause trouble for himself?

"No rush."

Chen Fan eyed the cabinet, "Do you have any martial arts secret manuals that can change a person's appearance? Preferably complete. If not, flawed will do."

Chapter 202: Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill

"Changing someone's appearance?"

The old man looked at Chen Fan in surprise.

"That's right."

Chen Fan nodded, looking into the old man's eyes.

"Young man, you must have offended someone, haven't you?"

The old man's face showed a look of panic.

After all, who would change their appearance without a good reason? It must be out of necessity.

This kid is so formidable that he has to change his appearance; how terrifying must that person be! If he continues to stay here, can he still be safe?

"Alright, stop overthinking."

Chen Fan rolled his eyes. "Do you have it or not?"

"Yes, yes."

The old man hesitated for a moment, then nodded repeatedly. "I have a, no, a complete secret manual."

"Oh? Complete?" Chen Fan's eyes lit up instantly.

"Yes, complete. It's called the Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill. It's said that if practiced to the Great Success Realm, one can transform into the appearance of anyone in the world. The threshold is high, and the difficulty of practice is also very great. Young man, are you sure you really want this secret manual?"

He swallowed his saliva.

Now, he was in the same boat as Chen Fan.

If Chen Fan provoked strong enemies and his background was discovered, the village might face extinction.

The others could still run away with their intact limbs.

But with his broken leg, he wouldn't be able to get out of bed for at least a hundred days.

Thinking of this, he sighed inwardly, thinking this kid is too troublesome. Why can't he just stay in the village obediently?

"I'll take this one then."

Chen Fan said straightforwardly.

It was unexpectedly easier than he had imagined.

"Ahem."

The old man coughed and said, "Young man, please, please step outside for a moment. Don't peek, okay?"

Chen Fan couldn't help but laugh.

He still cooperated and walked out, although he was genuinely curious about how many complete secret manuals were hidden in the old man's chest.

After a while, the old man's voice came from inside.

Chen Fan walked in and saw two secret manuals on the table, the one on top was the Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill.

He walked over and began to browse through it carefully.

Soon, he understood what the old man meant by a high threshold.

It turns out that this Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill is different from general disguise techniques or street performances. It utilizes the True Qi within the body to change the entire skeletal and muscular structure, causing changes in body shape, appearance, and voice.

It was said that this martial art had only been mastered by one person, known as the Thousand-faced Demon Monarch, who could transform into anyone's appearance, making it impossible to guard against.

After going through the whole secret manual, Chen Fan's gaze turned to the skill bar.

[Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill: Completely Ignorant (0%)]

"Not bad, a good start is half the battle."

Chen Fan was satisfied and put down the secret manual.

Once this martial art is elevated to the Perfection Realm, he wouldn't have to worry about being recognized.

He then pondered about the Awakened Association's assessment method, which he was unsure of, but he could have Gu Ze explore it first.

He then looked at the second book.

[Seventy-Two Acupoint Hand Techniques].

"Acupoints?"

Chen Fan was taken aback, curiously opening the book to read on.

The secret manual stated that the human body has thirty-six major acupoints and seventy-two minor acupoints, totaling one hundred and eight, corresponding to thirty-six routes, seventy-two routes, and one hundred and eight acupoint techniques.

This acupoint technique, although mid-level, was enough to rule the martial world.

The more Chen Fan read, the more delighted he became. This technique seemed quite suitable for him at the moment.

If he encountered an enemy again and needed information, he wouldn't have to threaten with a knife. Immobilizing the opponent or hitting their Laughing or Crying Acupoints would make them wish for death.

After obtaining the information, he could also hit their Death Acupoint.

The only flaw was that this book was incomplete.

"Old man, is there really no complete version of the Seventy-Two Acupoint Hand Techniques?"

He turned around and asked.

"There's really none."

The old man was tearful, "I saw this secret manual when I was a teenager. Now, at over sixty, it's already impressive that I've remembered this much."

"Alright then."

Chen Fan nodded.

In the skill bar, the collection progress for the Seventy-Two Acupoint Hand Techniques was just over thirty percent. To complete it, he needed Level 20 in Basic Finger Technique and to reach the Meridian Refining Realm.

This meant that to unlock this martial art, he still had to practice some finger techniques.

"Level 20, that shouldn't take too long."

He put both secret manuals into his pocket.

The old man watched this scene and cautiously asked, "Young man, you know the complete manual I was supposed to give you on the fifth day, I already gave it to you early, right?"

"Yes."

Chen Fan smiled, "So in two days, you won't have to give me any more."

The old man secretly breathed a sigh of relief, his voice inadvertently getting louder. "Ahem, young man, I heard you have wine, right?"

"You still want to drink?"

Chen Fan looked at him in surprise.

"Ahem,"

The old man blushed. "It's just that I haven't had a drink in a long time. I just want to have a few sips and cultivate my mood."

"If you ask for wine this time, what about next time?"

"I won't, I won't."

The old man waved his hand, speaking righteously, "Young man, do I look like that kind of person?"

"You look exactly like that kind of person."

Chen Fan looked at him.

The old man immediately lowered his head, thinking, did Liu Hong and the others tell on me?

Heaven knows, I swear I never even touched their hands.

"Considering how cooperative you were this time, I'll give you a bottle. But if you do something after drinking, don't say I didn't warn you."

"I won't, I definitely won't."

The old man suppressed his excitement and quickly replied.

In this world, to have a place to stay, wine and meat, and someone to serve you, it was like a divine life.

"Alright, I'll have someone bring it to you later."

Chen Fan said, then suddenly remembered something at the door and turned back, "I hope you keep the Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill a secret. Don't tell anyone."

"Don't worry, young man, I am famous for being tight-lipped." The old man said, smiling obsequiously.

Watching Chen Fan leave, he finally let out a long breath.

"This kid's aura is getting more and more formidable. Did he really cultivate True Qi? Ah, I hope this kid calms down and doesn't make trouble everywhere. I, the old man, have finally settled down."

He sighed inwardly.

Then he began to get anxious.

He wondered when the bottle of wine the kid promised would be delivered. At least it should come before lunch, right?

What if it hadn't arrived by lunchtime? Should he ask someone to remind him?

If he did, would he get beaten up?

But if he didn't ask and the kid reneged, what then?

I, the old man, am very trustworthy after all.

Leaving the old man's place, Chen Fan looked at the blue sky, feeling cheerful.

Not bad, he gained two martial arts secret manuals this time, and they were both very good. Next, it was time to find Meng Yu.

Whether she could help him find space items on Guan Dehua's body was uncertain, but it was worth trying, in case they succeeded.

Regardless of the value of the items inside, just the storage space alone was likely more than one cubic meter.

He turned down two alleys and came to a house.

The door was open, and he saw the scene inside at a glance.

Meng Yu, surprisingly, was practicing Posture Stance.

Their gazes met, and the latter blushed instantly, hurriedly putting away her stance and looking down, as if wanting to find a hole to hide in.

"Sorry, I was going to knock, but the door was open, so I just..." Chen Fan explained.

"It-It's okay."

Meng Yu glanced at Chen Fan awkwardly.

"Ahem, you were practicing Posture Stance?" Chen Fan asked.

"Y-Yes."

Meng Yu stuttered, "I wanted to become stronger, so for the past few days, I've often gone to the practice field to watch others train. I heard that Posture Stance is the most basic, so I paid special attention to their postures and then practiced alone at home. I've been practicing for several days."

"..."

Chen Fan was momentarily speechless.

How to say, Meng Yu's initial intention was good, but maybe she was a bit too shy.

"How about this, I'll go back and talk to Uncle Zhang in a bit. Honestly, your posture just now had quite a few mistakes."

"Ah?"

Meng Yu, like a startled deer, began to stutter, "W-what should I do? Will I go, go into a state of madness?"

"What does that even mean..."

Chen Fan couldn't help but laugh.

"Don't worry, Pile Skill is just a basic skill. It's only been a few days, and even if it's wrong, it can be easily corrected. It's no big deal."

"Really?"

Meng Yu gently patted her chest, looked at Chen Fan, then glanced aside and said, "Chen Fan, it seems you haven't been in the village these past few days? Mainly because I didn't see you at the practice field, so I thought, did you go out?"

"Yes, I went to Anshan City."

"Anshan City!"

Meng Yu's eyes widened instantly.

The expression on her face was somewhat uneasy, yet a bit expectant.

"This time, I didn't get to see your sister, but I did gain something. Do you remember the last time I mentioned the Guan family's Awakener to you?"

"I remember, I remember."

Meng Yu nodded quickly.

"I've killed that guy. The body is in the village."

"R-really?"

Meng Yu's eyes turned red instantly. "Is it that Awakener who could use Mind Control?"

"Yes, it's him. If you want, I can take you to see it."

Chen Fan said, "By the way, I also have something I need your help with. Don't feel pressured. If you can do it, that's great. If not, it's no big deal."

"I'll do my best."

Meng Yu clenched her fists.

Back then in Anshan City, that Guan family's Awakener would come looking for her sister every few days and force her to exhaust her Life Force.

If Chen Fan really killed that guy, it would be a great relief for the sisters!

Chapter 203: Space Items, Opened!

When Chen Fan brought Meng Yu to the place where Guan Dehua's corpse was kept, the latter's eyes immediately filled with tears of excitement.

"It's him! It's really him!"

Meng Yu gritted her teeth and said, "My sister aged so quickly, at least one-third of it was thanks to him."

Speaking, she couldn't control herself and went up to fiercely kick a few times.

Chen Fan stood silently aside.

It was understandable, even if Meng Yu did something even more extreme, it was within reason, only the latter was indeed quite the fragile type.

After quite a while, Meng Yu wiped her tears, turned to look at Chen Fan, and said, "Sorry, I'm..."

"It's okay."

Chen Fan smiled.

"I heard you say earlier that your sister overused her lifespan a lot, one-third thanks to him. What about the other two-thirds? Who caused that?"

"It was three other people, one is the City Lord of Anshan City named Yan Ming, the other two named Fang Yun and Ma Sheng. They are very powerful. One can metalize his entire body, I've heard not even a cannonball could injure him, another controls gravity, he can press people into meat paste."

Meng Yu showed a look of fear, "Even the one surnamed Guan would be polite when he encountered these people."

"I see."

Chen Fan nodded, in this way, except for the unknown superpowered Awakener, the other ones matched up.

Thinking about this, he couldn't help but be curious, "Meng Yu, I've heard that aside from the three you just mentioned, there should be another most powerful C-level Awakener in Anshan City."

"Yes."

Meng Yu frowned slightly, recalling, and said, "His name is He Changshu, quite mysterious, not even my sister or the others see him often."

"So mysterious."

Chen Fan frowned slightly,

"Do you know what his superpower is?"

"I do." Meng Yu answered without hesitation.

"?"

Chen Fan was stunned, looking at Meng Yu in disbelief.

Actually, he just asked casually without great expectations, but the result?

"Actually, actually I didn't know before, it was my sister who told me."

Meng Yu was a bit embarrassed and, without waiting for Chen Fan to ask further, continued, "His superpower is invisibility."

"Invisibility?"

Hearing this, Chen Fan couldn't help but take a deep breath.

No wonder the guy is so hidden, his superpower is invisibility.

"My sister said that his control over his superpower is already very high, even the other Awakeners find it hard to discover him, so the others quite fear him."

Meng Yu showed concern in her eyes, "If you encounter him, be extra cautious."

"Yes, I will."

Chen Fan agreed, thinking, according to Meng Yu, this invisible guy didn't seem to force Meng Yu's sister to foresee?

However, better to treat him as an enemy first.

When it comes to fighting, he must never hold back, or he could easily fail.

"By the way, Chen Fan, before you came, what was the thing you wanted me to help with?" Meng Yu asked somewhat anxiously.

She roughly guessed that Chen Fan wanted to use her superpower.

But these few days, she felt lost again, unable to foresee the future despite all the mental hints.

"It's like this."

Chen Fan looked at Guan Dehua's corpse on the ground, "There should be a space item on him. I'd like you to help me find and identify it, and find out how to activate it. Of course, if your ability can't do it, that's okay."

Actually, from Meng Yu's description, Chen Fan felt that their sisters' abilities were more like omniscience.

Or with deepening control over their superpowers, slowly transitioning from foresight to omniscience.

"If that's the request, I can do it now." Meng Yu's face blossomed into a smile.

"Really?"

Chen Fan's breathing became involuntarily rapid.

This, isn't this too sudden?

Could it be that Meng Yu's use of her superpower is already very proficient?

If so, then perhaps he wouldn't struggle much against those Awakeners.

"You, what are you thinking?"

Meng Yu seemed to have seen through Chen Fan's thoughts, using her hand to brush a strand of hair behind her ear, shyly saying, "I still can't use my superpower as I wish."

"Then?"

Chen Fan was stunned, then thought of a possible answer.

"Your sister told you again?"

"Yes."

Meng Yu nodded, "My sister told me what the space items those Awakeners in Anshan City have, and how to activate them. But years have passed, I don't know if they've changed their space items or altered activation methods, so I can only try."

"I see."

Chen Fan took a deep breath to calm his excited mood.

"Okay, do you remember the item or should I take all his belongings out first?"

"I remember, it's a gold nail clipper." Meng Yu said eagerly.

"A gold nail clipper."

Chen Fan muttered, squatted down, and began to search the corpse.

Meng Yu stared intently.

Being in a post-apocalyptic world, she was used to corpses, especially since this one was of her enemy.

Soon, Chen Fan found a golden nail clipper in the left pocket of the corpse's pants, made entirely of gold and sparkling.

"Found it!"

Meng Yu said happily.

Chen Fan also breathed a sigh of relief; at least for now, Guan Dehua hadn't changed his space item over the years.

He turned to Meng Yu and said:

"Next, do I need to use fingerprint unlock?"

"Yes, his right thumb in the center."

Chen Fan grabbed Guan Dehua's right hand and pressed it.

A screen appeared before him like a phone, a line of text, and a number keypad.

Enter password.

"15934627."

Before Chen Fan could ask, Meng Yu spoke again.

Chen Fan entered it, and the next moment, the scene before him stunned him.

This space was ten times larger than Guan Dexi's space item! Filled with sparkling and varied items, almost taking up half of the space.

Though many were miscellaneous, the most absurd was a bicycle.

"Could this bike have some peculiar property?"

Chen Fan didn't dare to be careless and asked, "Meng Yu, did your sister mention anything unusual in his space item?"

"She didn't."

Meng Yu thought and shook her head.

"My sister told me out of helplessness because even if we knew, we couldn't get the space item from him. I was curious then, so I remember it well."

"I see."

Chen Fan smiled, "Meng Yu, thank you. Without you, even if I knew about his space item, I wouldn't know the password."

"No problem, it's a small effort."

Meng Yu smiled warmly.

Chen Fan changed the password, put the space item in his pocket, and decided to examine the contents slowly later.

Not to mention, just the ten cubic storage space could do many things, paired with Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill, it would be very convenient.

This item must be invaluable.

Mostly scarce, only available at the Awakened Association, probably requiring certain privileges and strength to buy larger storage space items.

"Uncle Zhang hasn't returned yet; let me teach you how to practice Pile Skill."

Chen Fan smiled.

"Ah? You, teaching me?" Meng Yu blushed.

"Yes, come on."

"Okay, okay."

Meng Yu blushed and quickly walked out of the house.

Chen Fan looked back at the corpse.

Now that he had the space item, the corpse could be disposed of casually later.

Time quickly passed to noon, and seeing Chen Fan return, Yin Fang was naturally overjoyed, making a table full of dishes.

At the dining table, she kept putting food into his bowl.

Chen Fan smiled wryly.

Chen Chen happily told Chen Fan that he had started practicing Posture Stance and would soon become a master.

Chen Fan smiled, touched his head, and encouraged him.

Only Chen Guodong was silent, looking worried.

Because he had just gone out, seeing the state of Chen Family Stronghold, his heart was sorrowful and angry.

Chen Family Stronghold, the heart and effort of the entire stronghold's people, truly ruined overnight.

After finishing the meal, chatting with his family for a while, Chen Fan went upstairs.

He needed to handle several martial art techniques, quickly turning them into his combat power, and see what unusual items Guan Dexi's space contained.

Hearing the door close upstairs, Yin Fang looked at Chen Guodong with concern, "Guodong, Xiaofan won't stay long this time?"

"Yes, dad, is brother leaving this afternoon?"

弟弟 Chen Chen looked reluctant.

"It's okay."

Chen Guodong touched his head, looked upstairs, and sighed, "Yes, Old Gu said Xiaofan would leave this afternoon, taking Gu Ze with him."

"Taking Gu Ze?"

Yin Fang looked at him puzzled.

"Yes."

Chen Guodong nodded, his eyes showing reluctance and struggle, soon changing to determination, "Gu Ze also has places he should go, like Xiaofan, they have no future staying here."

Yin Fang listened, half understanding, and nodded.

If Chen Fan leaving meant a better future, she would always agree.

Chapter 204: Gathering Spirit Pill

In the bedroom, Chen Fan sat on a chair and looked at the panel in his mind.

After the previous battle, the originally sparse experience points had skyrocketed to over ten thousand!

Five early-stage Meridian Refining Realm martial artists provided experience points ranging from one thousand to two thousand.

There was also one mid-stage Meridian Refining Realm martial artist, providing over three thousand experience points.

Killing Guan Dehua yielded nearly five thousand experience points!

"No wonder he's an Awakener. Even though his physical condition is comparable to early-stage Meridian Refining Realm martial artists, due to the awakened superpower, the experience points provided are almost catching up to late-stage Meridian Refining Realm martial artists."

Chen Fan thought to himself.

Seventeen thousand experience points.

He turned his gaze towards the skill bar,

[Qianyuan Skill: Great Success (0%), Traits: Blood Nourishing Level 4, Qi Cultivation Level 3, Breath Regulation Level 3, Body Protection Level 1]

Last time, due to insufficient experience points (2560 points), he had to temporarily set it aside. This time, he had enough points.

In addition to that, there were two more Heart Techniques, [Primordial Skill] and [One Breathing Technique].

One fist technique, [Tiger Subduing Fist].

One body technique secret manual, [Gale Step].

Plus, the newly acquired [Disguise and Bone Shrinking Technique], and a Qi Blood Pill Alchemy Technique.

The aforementioned few secret manuals could all be learned directly by consuming experience points.

Besides that, there were three skills in locked status.

[Golden Bell Shield], which seemed to need less than a day to be completed.

[Seventy-Two Acupoint Hand Techniques], the basic finger technique requirements had not been met yet.

[Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill], which required the Golden Bell Shield to be cultivated to the ninth floor to unlock.

"Phew..."

Chen Fan exhaled heavily, feeling that these seventeen thousand experience points seemed to disappear in the blink of an eye.

Not to mention anything else, just the two Heart Techniques alone could consume over ten thousand points.

"I have to prioritize and pace myself."

Chen Fan frowned slightly.

First of all, [Disguise and Bone Shrinking Technique] should be fully leveled up as a priority since he had to take the Awakeners' Association assessment in the afternoon.

Secondly, learning another Heart Technique was necessary to test whether different techniques' True Qi boosting effects could stack.

Fortunately, it didn't require too many experience points, with most of the realm needing to be elevated to slight achievement to get the answer.

Thirdly, the Qi Blood Pill Alchemy Technique also needed to be raised to the perfection realm to see if it could merge to enhance the quality of the pills.

These three have the highest priority.

The remaining experience points could be added as long as they sufficed.

"There's also that guy's space items."

Chen Fan took out the Golden Nail Clipper from his pocket and believed it was better to first inventory the spoils, as among them might be some extraordinary secret manuals even more important than the three martial arts secret manuals.

His thumb pressed onto it, and immediately a spacious space appeared in front of his eyes.

In the next moment, he moved his mind, and all the items inside were taken out and placed on the floor.

"So many miscellaneous items..."

Seeing a large number of lifestyle items inside, Chen Fan was a bit speechless.

But this was understandable, just like the cigarette box he had, where he placed many of his personal belongings.

His eyes scanned from top to bottom, quickly noticing eight or nine small bottles.

"Elixirs?"

He walked over and picked up the nine bottles of elixirs.

These elixirs came in two types: one was the Qi Blood Pill he recognized, with a considerable number being of this type, comprising over half.

He poured some out and found them all to be top-grade Qi Blood Pills!

Using Qi Blood Pills by Awakeners didn't seem hard to understand. After all, it boosted blood vitality and could be used by anyone.

"Seven bottles, about seventy top-grade Qi Blood Pills, with each estimated at eighty thousand potential points; it totals five point six million potential points - not bad."

Chen Fan nodded and looked at the other two bottles.

"Spirit Gathering Pill?"

Seeing the characters on the front of the bottles, Chen Fan wondered if the elixirs inside were related to Spiritual Power.

Boosting Spiritual Power?

Not too likely, as Awakeners typically enhance their Spiritual Power through Visualization Methods.

Restoring Spiritual Power?

This seemed more possible, considering Visualization heavily consumed spirit, akin to how martial artists use elixirs to replenish True Qi.

He poured out one pill.

The elixir was entirely white, the size of a fingernail cover, with a faint fragrance, evoking a peaceful feeling upon smelling.

"How about trying it?"

Chen Fan gauged the elixir's weight, lighter than the adjacent bottle, indicating it had been used before.

He placed the pill in his mouth and swallowed it.

A cooling sensation gradually spread in his mind.

However, before he could savor it longer, the feeling vanished into nothingness.

[After consuming the low-grade Spirit Gathering Pill, potential points increased by one million!]

"!!!!"

Seeing this message in his mind, Chen Fan almost shouted in surprise.

He doubted if he was seeing things and checked multiple times, finally confirming an increase of one million potential points.

"One million..."

Chen Fan took a deep breath.

Top-grade Qi Blood Pills only yield eighty thousand potential points.

Yet a low-grade Concentration Pill, seemingly unimpressive, provided one million potential points.

Does this mean the price of one low-grade Concentration Pill must be at least ten times that of a low-grade Qi Blood Pill?

That would be one million?

He looked at the Spirit Gathering Pill on the table, no wonder there were only two bottles. With ten pills per bottle, one bottle alone was worth ten million! Two bottles, twenty million.

What a concept?

His current contribution points were just around twenty million.

Most crucially, these pills might only be obtainable at the Awakeners' Association, probably unavailable at the Martial Arts Association.

Chen Fan took another deep breath, then consumed the two bottles of Spirit Gathering Pills and the seven bottles of top-grade Qi Blood Pills.

The potential points instantly surged to over twenty-three million!

Chen Fan smiled slightly.

About half of what's needed to clear the fourth meridian.

"There should be some other good items."

He continued searching.

Trying to find traces of secret manuals.

However, at first glance, there were no books.

A bad premonition surfaced in his mind, what if they were all in electronic format?

The key issue was, he hadn't found any trace of phones; during the search of the opponent's body, he couldn't locate any.

"Keep looking, see if there's anything else."

After searching for a long time, still nothing was found.

"Could it be, that guy spent all the money he got from the Awakeners' Association to purchase the protective shield and instant teleportation?"

Chen Fan's mind brought up this thought.

Those two items are indeed excellent for life-saving, no doubt their price wouldn't be cheap, likely more expensive than the two bottles of Spirit Gathering Pills.

Imagine if there were other valuable items, how could he possibly not use them at that time, rather than letting them collect dust in space items?

"It's a pity."

Chen Fan shook his head helplessly.

Looking at the half-room full of lifestyle items in front.

The exquisite craftsmanship suggested they were produced in the city.

Forget it.

At least I have several million potential points and a ten-cubic space item.

Transferring all the items from the cigarette box to the Golden Nail Clipper, Chen Fan considered leaving the cigarette box to his father, but cautioned him against using it in front of outsiders, even Uncle Liu, to avoid unnecessary trouble.

"Next..."

Chen Fan turned his gaze to the skill bar and moved his mind, adding 2560 points of experience,

The True Qi inside his body expanded once again, a strange feeling welled up in his heart.

[Qianyuan Skill: Perfection (Cannot be improved further), Traits: Blood Nourishing Level 5, Qi Cultivation Level 4, Breath Regulation Level 4, Body Protection Level 2, Five Qi Chaoyuan Level 1]

[Five Qi Chaoyuan: Active Skill, upon activation, consumes one thousand True Qi, heals internal injuries, and doubles blood recovery speed for a period; with each skill level up, True Qi consumption decreases by thirty percent, duration doubles]

"Turns out it's a recovery skill."

Chen Fan mumbled.

Consuming one thousand True Qi was quite a lot; if it were early-stage Meridian Refining Realm martial artists, activating this skill might drain all their True Qi.

Of course, those capable of cultivating [Qianyuan Skill] to perfection and unlocking this trait are likely late-stage Meridian Refining Realm martial artists. One thousand True Qi is a lot, but acceptable.

The healing effect should be decent.

However, avoiding injury is still better.

Chen Fan looked at the remaining fifteen thousand experience points.

"Let's start with One Breathing Technique."

He felt the name [One Breathing Technique] was more common than [Primordial Skill], suggesting it might consume fewer experience points, suitable for trial and error.

"Wondering if the effects stack, how wonderful it would be if they did."

Chen Fan took a deep breath and added some experience points.

He saw the proficiency of One Breathing Technique increased by one hundred twenty-eighth.

Without the twenty percent reduction, it should be one hundred sixty points, lower difficulty than entering [Qianyuan Skill].

He added the remaining hundred points.

Immediately, a warm flow coursed through his body, similar to [Qianyuan Skill], likely the same trait.

Chen Fan observed,

[One Breathing Technique: Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Blood Nourishing Level 1]

"As expected..."

Chen Fan couldn't help but laugh.

He guessed if every Heart Technique upon entry enhanced physical attributes.

"Entry requires one hundred twenty-eight points, slight achievement, two hundred fifty-six."

Chen Fan added over two hundred points.

He hadn't prepared himself when feeling the True Qi inside his body expand again, indicating different Heart Techniques' True Qi effects did stack!

He quickly checked the skill bar,

[One Breathing Technique: Slight Achievement (0%), Traits: Blood Nourishing Level 2, Qi Cultivation Level 1]

Similarly had Qi Cultivation traits.

So then,

Chen Fan looked up.

He wanted to see the extra boost behind the True Qi value.

Chapter 205: Traits, True Top Grade!

Realm: Early Stage of Meridian Refining (0/6,000,000)

True Qi: 1395/930 (+50%)

Seeing this, Chen Fan finally felt relieved.

Indeed, the bonus from different Inner Strength can be stacked.

After [Qianyuan Skill] reaches the Perfection Realm, the True Qi bonus is only 40%.

Now it is 50%, the additional 10% naturally comes from [One Breathing Technique].

"It's a pity that I have to save my Experience Points, otherwise, after enhancing One Breathing Technique to the Perfection Realm, I could also enhance Primordial Skill."

Chen Fan shook his head.

He added 512 Experience Points.

A faint warm flow rose again in his body, and the True Qi inside him increased by nearly tenfold.

[One Breathing Technique: Entering the Hall (0%), Traits: Blood Nourishing Level 3, Qi Cultivation Level 2]

"No new Traits were unlocked."

Chen Fan glanced at it.

He could still accept it.

Because if One Breathing Technique also reaches the Perfection Realm, his Primordial True Qi would increase by another 40%.

40%, a nearly half improvement is already very significant.

If he could learn a few more Inner Strength techniques...

The corners of his mouth curled up into a smile, but before he could continue adding, he hesitated.

"Maybe, I should wait a bit."

He thought to himself.

After two verifications, the bonus effect of True Qi can be stacked.

Next, he wanted to see if different Qi Blood Pill Refining Skills could be fused after reaching the Perfection Realm.

If they could, it would be useful to him when he returned to the base in the afternoon.

Secondly, [Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill] also needed some enhancement. It didn't have to reach Perfection, just enough to change his appearance.

After looking at the remaining Experience Points, he had just under 13,000 left. It should be enough to max out Qi Blood Pill Refining Skill.

He focused on the Alchemy skill and added some Experience Points.

The Skill Level of Alchemy increased by 1/150.

"It consumes more than the Alchemy skill bought from the Association."

Chen Fan's heart skipped a beat.

This Alchemy skill seemed to produce better results.

After adding all the remaining hundred-plus Experience Points,

Chen Fan felt that his mind was infused with a lot of information, similar to the previous Alchemy skill, but there were a few surprising differences.

"It can be done this way?"

Chen Fan thought carefully for a moment, with a slightly surprised look on his face.

He guessed that if he followed this method, there was a high probability that the quality of the Elixir would improve.

Returning to his senses, he looked at the Skill Bar,

[Qi Blood Pill Refining Skill (Awakened Association): Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Pill Formation Level 1, Low Grade]

It was the same two Traits.

Chen Fan frowned slightly, feeling a bit strange, and clicked on it.

[Pill Formation: Every Skill Level upgrade increases Pill Formation probability by 25%]

"25%?"

Chen Fan smiled. Indeed, his earlier feeling was correct; the effect had improved.

Although the Traits were the same, the probability was different.

What about the second Trait? Would it improve too?

[Low Grade: 80% probability of producing Low-Grade Elixir, 20% probability of producing Middle Grade or higher]

"This is great."

Chen Fan was overjoyed.

The previous Low Grade Trait had a 90% probability of producing Low-Grade Elixir.

At this Beginner Level, the probability difference would widen as the Skill Level improved.

"No wonder the Awakened Association can easily get Top-grade Qi Blood Pills, their Pill Formula quality is better than that of the Martial Arts Association."

Chen Fan found it laughable.

But this was human nature, and he couldn't blame them.

He added another Experience Point. Although he was mentally prepared, seeing the Skill Level increase by only 1/800 still vexed him.

He had no choice but to add all the remaining Experience Points.

With a flash of understanding, the Alchemy skill underwent a new change.

[Qi Blood Pill Refining Skill (Awakened Association): Small Success (0%), Traits: Pill Formation Level 2, Middle-Lower Grade]

[Middle-Lower Grade: 50% probability of producing Middle Grade, 40% probability of Low Grade, 10% probability of Top Grade or higher]

"As expected."

Chen Fan mumbled to himself.

Compared to the Martial Arts Association's Middle-Lower Grade, this reduced the Low Grade probability by 20%, increasing the Middle Grade probability by 20%.

It was a significant improvement.

And as he predicted, as Skill Level improved, the gap between the two Pill Formulas would widen.

If it reached the Perfection Realm...

Chen Fan licked his lips and this time consumed 1,600 Experience Points to advance the Alchemy skill to Entering the Hall.

[Qi Blood Pill Refining Skill (Awakened Association): Entering the Hall (0%), Traits: Pill Formation Level 3, Middle-Upper Grade]

"Middle-Upper Grade?"

Chen Fan couldn't believe it,

Because theoretically, the Trait should have been Middle Grade.

But it jumped from Middle to Middle-Upper Grade!

So, the specific effects?

Chen Fan looked eagerly.

[Middle-Upper Grade: 50% probability of producing Middle Grade, 50% probability of Top Grade or higher]

"Wow..."

Seeing the details, Chen Fan was thrilled.

This effect outdid the previous skill at its Great Success Realm!

Although the Middle Grade probability dropped by 10%, it didn't matter because the reduction went to the Top Grade probability.

He couldn't wait to enhance it even more.

"If this trend continues, the Perfection Realm Trait might be Top Grade, right?"

Chen Fan's anticipation grew.

Even using up 3,600 Experience Points didn't seem so painful now.

[Qi Blood Pill Refining Skill (Awakened Association): Great Success (0%), Traits: Pill Formation Level 4, Top Grade]

Pill Formation Level 4.

In comparison, the first Alchemy skill's Pill Formation probability was only 80%.

But with this Alchemy skill, Pill Formation probability already reached 100%.

This was just one of the changes.

Chen Fan's gaze fell on the Top Grade Trait.

[Top Grade: 60% probability of producing Top Grade, 40% probability of True Top Grade]

"Here it comes!"

Chen Fan clenched his fists.

40%, almost half.

And no chance of producing Middle Grade anymore.

Don't underestimate a 10% probability; with good luck, it could produce a True Top Grade Elixir, which is worth 20 times more than Middle Grade Qi Blood Pills!

Moreover, this was only the Great Success Realm.

There was still room for improvement.

Chen Fan took a deep breath, looked at the remaining 7,000 Experience Points, and felt confident it would be enough.

Indeed, as expected.

The next improvement required 4,800 Experience Points.

A lot, but Chen Fan thought it was worth it.

Because...

He added all 4799 Experience Points. With a flash of white light in his mind, an epiphany struck him.

[Qi Blood Pill Refining Skill (Awakened Association): Perfection (not upgradeable), Traits: Pill Formation Level 5, Top Grade]

Seeing the Top Grade Trait, Chen Fan swallowed hard.

With an excited heart, he clicked open.

[Top Grade: 70% probability of producing Top Grade, 30% probability of True Top Grade]

"70%!"

Chen Fan looked it over several times.

This meant that if he refined Qi Blood Pills now, seven out of ten pills would be True Top Grade, and the other three would be Top Grade.

In terms of Potential Points, that's 592,000!

Previously, refining a batch usually yielded 320,000 Potential Points.

Nearly double the improvement!

[Detected that two Qi Blood Pill Refining Skills have reached Perfection and can be fused to increase the limit. Fuse?]

A prompt appeared in his mind.

Chen Fan's smile broadened.

He was waiting for this.

Of course, he chose to fuse them.

After clicking yes, the two Qi Blood Pill Refining Skills turned into gold lights and dissolved. Under Chen Fan's gaze, these lights merged.

[Qi Blood Pill: Pinnacle of Attainments (not upgradeable), Traits: Pill Formation Level 6, True Top Grade]

"True Top Grade?"

Seeing this Trait, Chen Fan's heart raced.

But he didn't rush to open it; instead, he checked the Pill Formation Trait first.

[Pill Formation: Every Skill Level upgrade increases Pill Formation probability by 30%]

Confirming his guess, the fused Qi Blood Pill Refining Skill also improved the Pill Formation probability.

It seemed redundant at first glance.

Because at Pill Formation Level 4, the Pill Formation probability was already 120%, surpassing the limit. At Level 6, it reached 180%, far exceeding the limit.

But for beginners, it was excellent news.

Because it reduced the difficulty.

At the Beginner Level, it had a 30% chance of producing successful pills.

At the Small Success Realm, over half succeeded.

At Entering the Hall, the probability was 90%, almost certain.

Meanwhile, the Awakened Association pill formula was only 75% at Entering the Hall, and the Martial Arts Association's formula was lower at 60%.

Each stage's quality traits also improved.

Especially, this True Top Grade.

Chen Fan clicked.

[True Top Grade: 90% probability of producing True Top Grade, 10% probability of Celestial Grade]

"So, True Top Grade isn't the limit; there's Celestial Grade above it?"

Chen Fan was deeply shocked.

Perhaps not even the leader knew this?

No, maybe the entire Jiangnan District Martial Arts Association didn't know.

Awakened Association might know, but very few people would.

Because the probability was so low.

Chen Fan focused on the Trait description.

Only a 10% chance of producing Celestial Grade Qi Blood Pills, no wonder this Trait was called True Top Grade, not Celestial Grade.

"This means this Qi Blood Pill Refining Skill has lots of room for improvement!"

Chapter 206: Honest Words Between Honest People

The method to improve is, of course, to collect more Qi Blood Pill formulas and enhance them to the Perfection Realm, then integrate this alchemy process.

Most likely, the probability of producing a Celestial Grade Qi Blood Pill will increase from ten percent to twenty percent.

By analogy, it may need to reach fifty percent before it can unlock the Celestial Grade Trait.

It goes without saying, this is an extremely difficult task.

First of all, the Martial Arts Association only has one Qi Blood Pill formula.

The Awakened Association might have more, but this one should be the best formula there's.

In other words, the probability of improvement on the second fusion might be less than ten percent, probably just five percent...

Chen Fan scratched his head.

Maybe the old man might have some formulas?

But currently, I'm already a Meridian Refining Martial Artist and consuming a large amount of experience points on fusing Qi Blood Pill formulas seems not quite worth it.

It's better to use it on True Qi Pills.

Thinking of this, Chen Fan took a deep breath, realizing that joining the Awakened Association has become more important.

In the Martial Arts Association, there's probably only one True Qi Pill formula as well.

"Let's talk about it in the afternoon. I'll visit the old man when I open the cover and mention this to him. If he has the formulas, that'd be great."

Chen Fan mused.

Besides, I wonder how many Potential Points can a Celestial Grade Qi Blood Pill provide?

If one Top-grade Qi Blood Pill is equivalent to six or seven Top-grade Qi Blood Pills...

Then one Celestial Grade Qi Blood Pill should be at least equivalent to six or seven Top-grade Qi Blood Pills?

That would be five or six thousand Potential Points, half the amount of a Low-grade Divine Gathering Pill.

"With a ten percent probability, refining a dozen or so furnaces might yield one."

He calmed his mind, his gaze falling on the [Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill].

The next martial art to be addressed.

Seeing his experience points, there's only a little over two thousand.

He couldn't help but sigh.

No matter how many experience points, it's never enough. Seems like it's time to hunt Elite-level Fierce Beasts.

Consuming a fraction of experience points, [Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill]'s skill level increased by one-hundredth of a point.

Initially, he thought he saw it wrong.

After a while, a wry smile appeared on his face.

Can only allocate the remaining experience points.

A peculiar feeling surged in his heart.

Besides this, there was nothing else.

"Seems like this martial art doesn't have the effect of improving physical attributes."

Chen Fan looked,

[Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill: Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Durability Level 1, Trivial Skill]

[Durability: Each level increases the Disguise time by 15 minutes]

[Trivial Skill: Active skill, consumes 100 points of True Qi, can slightly alter appearance and physique]

"Fifteen minutes duration, still a bit short."

Chen Fan frowned slightly. After all, the assessment time of the Awakened Association is unknown. If it exceeds fifteen minutes, it will be awkward.

Fortunately, the remaining experience points are enough to upgrade one level.

As for Trivial Skill,

It's an active skill, not surprising, from the trait description, it can only slightly alter the appearance and physique, and seemingly does not change the voice.

Chen Fan confirmed it again, indeed, there was no mention of the voice, so he had to pay extra attention to this point.

"Continue."

With a thought,

He consumed another 800 points of experience, experiencing the peculiar feeling once more.

[Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill: Slight Achievement (0%), Traits: Durability Level 2, Reincarnation]

[Reincarnation: Active skill, consumes 300 points of True Qi, significantly alters appearance and physique, slightly changes voice]

"Phew..."

Seeing this, Chen Fan breathed a sigh of relief.

Significant alteration, equates to becoming another person, additionally, the voice slightly changes. At this skill level, even those closest to him might not recognize him for a moment if he doesn't speak.

If he could upgrade to the Entering the Hall realm, who knows what traits it would have, perhaps, as described in the secret manual, akin to the Thousand-faced Demon Monarch?

However, imitating someone is no easy task.

No matter how similar the appearance or voice, it's hard to fool those around the person, as everyone has unique habits. No matter how cautious, there will be slip-ups.

The remaining experience points are a little over a thousand.

Just enough to upgrade One Breathing Technique.

After consuming a little over 1000 experience points, One Breathing Technique smoothly upgraded to the Great Success Realm. But what was slightly disappointing was that it still didn't unlock any new traits.

[One Breathing Technique: Great Success (0%), Traits: Blood Nourishing Level 4, Qi Cultivation Level 3]

"Hope new traits will appear upon reaching the Perfection Realm."

Chen Fan shrugged, looking at the panel,

Realm: Early Stage of Meridian Refining (0/6,000,000)

True Qi: 1581/930 (+70%)

Yes, the total amount of True Qi in his body is now close to 1600 points, of which seventy percent is brought by Inner Strength.

"This Primordial True Qi is also very important."

Chen Fan mused.

Now the extra True Qi bonus is less than double. If the subsequent increases reached double, triple, or even tenfold, the differences would be quite significant.

It's a pity that the amount of Primordial True Qi in each martial artist seems to be similar, all increased by opening the meridians.

Perhaps age also has an impact.

The older the martial artist, the weaker the blood, but the more True Qi within the body.

Don't know if besides these two methods, there are any other ways to enhance the Primordial True Qi.

Perhaps, there might be some similar Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures?

At this point, the experience points were all used up, and the enhancement had to pause.

Chen Fan went downstairs, calling Chen Guodong up.

The latter was stunned upon seeing a large pile of living supplies in the bedroom, as in his memory, Chen Fan didn't bring so many things upstairs.

"Dad, let me introduce you to something."

Chen Fan smiled, taking out the cigarette box and explaining it.

Sure enough, the latter's face showed an incredulous look, seeming to say that the world still has such things?

After Chen Fan changed the password and explained its specific usage, Chen Guodong finally accepted it.

"Xiaofan, this thing, so precious, is it really okay for me to have it?"

He looked at Chen Fan, hesitating.

"Don't worry, Dad, I have another one with me."

Hearing this, Chen Guodong breathed a sigh of relief.

"Dad, even in Anshan City, this item is extremely precious, so you must not use it in front of others, understand?"

"Yes, I know."

Chen Guodong nodded seriously.

"Alright, Dad, I should be leaving now. If anything happens in the village, remember to call me."

Seeing that time was not early, Chen Fan glanced at the time.

Guan Dehua's death, destined to not be hidden for long, he must seize this short time to find ways to enhance himself.

"Okay."

Chen Guodong deeply hid his reluctance, just exhorting, "Be very careful, when encountering strong opponents, run first, nothing is more important than your life."

"Hmm, I will."

Chen Fan smiled, heading downstairs.

After saying goodbye to his mother and brother, he first visited the old man, then left the village with Gu Ze.

The latter was taking an afternoon nap.

When woken up, prepared to lose his temper, but upon seeing Chen Fan, his face immediately broke into a fawning smile.

"Little brother, do you need something?"

"Old man, I've come to say goodbye."

"You're leaving?"

Old man looked at Chen Fan in surprise, then the joy gradually turned into sorrow, with red eyes, "Little brother, how is it you are about to leave right after returning? Can't you stay a day or two more, sigh!"

"Your acting is too exaggerated."

Chen Fan glanced at him.

The old man paused, then showed an embarrassed smile.

Chen Fan signaled the people beside to leave first, then said:

"Let's be honest, this time I'm here to ask if you have any alchemy skills, like Qi Blood Pill, True Qi Pill, etc."

"Qi Blood Pill? True Qi Pill?"

The old man frowned.

"No?"

Seeing this, Chen Fan's heart sank.

"This, seems like none..."

The old man smiled wryly, "I remember seeing a few, but after reading a page or two, I gave up, and it's been so long, it's long forgotten."

"I see."

Chen Fan nodded, "You continue to sleep."

After saying, he turned and walked out.

"Hey, little brother, you leaving just like this?"

The old man felt offended.

Good lad, I thought you respected me to specifically say goodbye before leaving.

"What else?"

Chen Fan glanced at him, "Or should I accompany you?"

"No, no need."

The old man quickly shook his head.

Almost had "you better leave" written all over his face.

Chen Fan left, quickly finding Gu Ze.

Gu's father and mother were also present, looking reluctant to let the packed Gu Ze leave.

"Dad, Mom, I'm leaving now."

Gu Ze looked at his parents.

"When you get there, be mild-tempered, try not to offend people." Gu Jianghai exhorted, then looked at Chen Fan.

"Xiaofan, I'm entrusting him to you for the journey."

"Rest assured, Uncle Gu."

Chen Fan watched this, deeply moved.

Soon, the two left the village.

Gu Ze looked back, tightly clenched his fists.

Less than ten minutes, they stood before a grand city.

Compared to Anshan City, this city built on a plain is far larger, even having eight outer villages as protection.

The road, filled with vehicles, bustling with activity.

"This is Wang City?"

Gu Ze looked around, muttering.

Chen Fan nodded, smiling, "Let's enter the city first. Once you pass the assessment, you can explore at your leisure."

"Hmm."

Gu Ze's gaze turned determined at the city gate.

After paying, they entered the city, quickly finding the Awakened Association. Upon mention of Gu Ze's assessment intention, a woman's eyes lit up, eagerly leading him away.

Chen Fan found a place, picked up a magazine, passing time.

Gu Ze passing the assessment should be a sure thing, and by then, he'll know the content of the assessment.

Chapter 207: Wanted, Quasi-S-Class Awakened!

In the association hall, people come and go.

Especially in front of the large screen at the front, many people have gathered, pointing at the content on the screen, whispering to each other.

Chen Fan looked over and immediately showed a surprised expression on his face.

E-level Task One:

Kill ten Gale Wolves, bring back claws and teeth, reward: 15 points.

"Tasks from the Awakened Association? The reward for completing the tasks is points?"

Chen Fan read the description of Task One.

Gale Wolves, mid-level Fierce Beasts, right?

The Martial Arts Association's purchase price, counting the claws, should be one million yuan per head.

Ten Gale Wolves, the purchase price is around 1.5 million yuan.

However, in the Awakened Association, it's only 15 points?

"These points must be very valuable."

Chen Fan thought to himself.

According to the Martial Arts Association's purchase price calculation, one point equals ten thousand yuan?

He was a bit surprised, continuing to look down.

E-level Task Two:

Kill ten Porcupines, bring back tusks and fur, reward: 50 points.

Porcupines are also mid-level Fierce Beasts but far more dangerous than Gale Wolves, so the price is high; the Martial Arts Association's purchase price is close to five million yuan.

Ten Porcupines, that's fifty million yuan.

In the Awakened Association, the task reward is 50 points.

Exactly, one point equals ten thousand yuan.

He immediately took a deep breath, and his gaze fell to the other side,

D-level Task One:

Kill three Violent Bears, bring back bear claws, task completion reward: 1200 points.

The Martial Arts Association's purchase price for a Violent Bear is four million yuan per head, three heads make twelve million yuan.

With 1200 points, it just so happens to be ten thousand yuan per point.

"No wonder it's the Awakened Association."

He felt some emotion in his heart, but more anticipation.

Because, just one thousand points can buy things worth tens of millions of yuan from the outside world. It can be imagined how good those items priced at millions or tens of millions of points in the Awakened Association must be?

He turned his gaze, glancing in the direction where Gu Ze had left.

Shaking his head, he started reading the book in his hand.

As soon as he opened the first page, three blood-red characters suddenly appeared.

"Wanted Notice?"

Chen Fan was caught off guard.

He couldn't help but continue reading.

Quasi-S-Class Awakened.

The first thing that came into view was a gentle smile of a middle-aged man with an elegant demeanor, giving off a warm spring breeze feeling,

But the introduction below made one's skin crawl.

Devourer, Gong Bo, his superpower is absorbing the superpowers of other Awakened, for his own use. So far, he has killed 3 A-level Awakened, 15 B-level Awakened, over a hundred C-level and below Awakened, extremely dangerous!

Anyone who provides effective leads on this person will be rewarded with one million points!

"Devour superpowers!"

Chen Fan was greatly shocked, this is practically a cheat-level superpower.

Both growth speed and potential far surpass other Awakened.

In fact, judging from his record, he has indeed achieved that.

It should be known that A-level Awakened usually hold down large cities, and their one-on-one strength is not much weaker than Beast King-level Fierce Beasts.

As a result, this Devourer killed three in a short period, maybe, just a few years!

It can be imagined how powerful he became after devouring the superpowers of those three A-level Awakened.

"Quasi-S-Class Awakened."

Chen Fan memorized the face of this person firmly in his mind.

Not to claim the reward, but in case one day he had the misfortune of running into him, he could run away fast.

And this was just the first one.

The second person, judging by the picture, was a man with a very large mouth, and what was shocking was that his mouth had two rows of piranha-like sharp teeth.

Ogre, Yu Jianqiao.

His superpower is gluttony, able to convert flesh into his own power, with a violent personality, so far, having killed 2 A-level Awakened, 10 B-level Awakened.

Anyone who provides effective leads on this person will be rewarded with one million points!

"Ogre..."

Chen Fan felt a chill run down his spine.

This guy seemed even more vicious than the first.

The third, and also the last one.

Was actually a woman, fair-skinned and beautiful, but the smile on her face was creepy.

Sacrificer, He Xiaoqin.

Her superpower is sacrificing others to summon demonic creatures from the Abyssal Plane. The more people she sacrifices, the stronger the demons she summons. So far, she has sacrificed one large city, three medium-sized cities, and over twenty small cities.

Anyone who provides effective leads on this person will be rewarded with one million points!

Notice!

In blood-red letters.

If you encounter any of these three, avoid direct conflict! Avoid direct conflict! Avoid direct conflict!

Even A-class Awakened should not act alone!!!

A string of exclamation points made people alarmed and shocked.

Chen Fan took a deep breath.

If he hadn't come here, he wouldn't have known such dangerous characters existed in Yan Country.

The first two can be overlooked; their targets are Awakened individuals, the stronger the better.

The third is different.

Knowing her existence, defenses in large cities will surely be more stringent, and she is likely to target medium and small cities.

"If these three Quasi-S-Class Awakened could fight for the Human Race..."

Thinking of this, Chen Fan shook his head, discarding such naive thoughts, and deeply etched the faces of these three in his memory.

Next came the information of the A-level Awakened, eight in total; he looked at them one by one, although the danger level was much lower compared to the three above, their strength was still formidable, with most being capable of killing Awakened of the same level.

"I remember the president once said, the enemies of our Yan Country are not just Fierce Beasts, and it seems to be true, for example, these demonic beings from the Abyssal Plane."

Chen Fan sighed inwardly, feeling even more insignificant as his strength grew.

Just then, a series of footsteps came toward him.

Chen Fan looked up, and sure enough, it was Gu Ze.

The latter had a slight smile on his face, clearly having passed the Awakener's examination.

"Want to go for a walk?"

Chen Fan closed his book and smiled.

"Yeah."

Gu Ze nodded.

The two of them left the hall and found a quiet place.

"Was it smooth?"

Chen Fan asked.

"Pretty smooth, actually, the examination was very short, passing in just two or three minutes, but I was delayed a bit by some advice from Elder Ding afterward."

Gu Ze looked at Chen Fan.

Sighing inwardly.

From Elder Ding's words, he learned that the so-called Martial Arts Association is simply no match for the Awakened Association, whether in terms of influence, strength, or resources.

His heart felt much sympathy for Chen Fan, but since Chen Fan hadn't awakened any superpowers, there was little he could do to help.

"That's good," Chen Fan nodded, somewhat curious, "What's the examination process of your Awakened Association? Can you tell me if it's convenient?"

"Yeah."

Gu Ze didn't hesitate to say, "It's actually very simple. One is to prove that you have awakened a superpower, and the second is to demonstrate the superpower's effect."

"Prove the awakening of a superpower?" Chen Fan's heart skipped a beat, "How do you prove that?"

"Awakening Stone."

Gu Ze said three words.

"I followed Elder Ding in and came to a stone over a meter high with a palm imprint on it. You place your hand in it, and if the stone vibrates, it proves you've awakened a superpower; if not, you haven't."

As he spoke, he glanced at Chen Fan.

Back then, he wasn't the only one barred from taking the examination.

But ultimately, he was the only one to make the stone vibrate.

Evidently, the Awakened Association had anticipated that some would come to try their luck.

This single step sorted out all non-Awakened individuals.

"Awakening Stone, such a magical thing exists."

Chen Fan remained expressionless, feeling a sense of unease inside.

He had thought it would be enough to just test Spiritual Power and show some skills.

Clearly, he had underestimated it.

"Yes, if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have known such a thing existed," Gu Ze nodded, looking at Chen Fan, "Chen Fan, thank you. If it weren't for you bringing me here, I would still be a frog at the bottom of a well."

"No need for that,"

Chen Fan patted him on the shoulder, "I could only bring you here; the road ahead is yours to walk alone. Remember, be cautious. If you get into trouble, call me. After all, I brought you here, and if something happens to you, I couldn't face Uncle Gu."

"Yeah, I understand."

Gu Ze felt a warmth surge in his heart, though he believed that if he faced trouble, there wasn't much Chen Fan, as a Martial Artist, could do.

But the sentiment was genuine.

"Alright then, you just joined the Awakened Association, you probably have a lot to do, go on, good luck."

Chen Fan smiled at him.

"Yeah, you too." Gu Ze took a deep breath.

Watching Chen Fan's figure disappear into the crowd, he then walked into the association.

Inside, two men approached him with smiles on their faces, "Hey man, you're a new Awakener, right?"

"What do you want?"

Gu Ze looked coldly at the two.

"Hehe, we have a quick way to earn points, want to try?"

"Yeah, it's much faster than completing tasks, and since you're a newbie, we can cover for you the first time."

"No thanks."

Gu Ze walked away without looking back.

In the Awakened Association, there's only one way to earn points, and that's by completing association tasks.

But, points can flow freely.

Thus, two other ways to earn points have emerged. One way is through arena matches, winning points by defeating opponents; the more wins, the more points, and higher appearance fees next time.

The other way is as outsiders, betting on match outcomes to earn points— essentially gambling.

Therefore, Elder Ding specifically warned him not to get involved in such things. Many Awakened had lost all their hard-earned points in this way, ending up destitute, separating from their families, and eventually dying in the wild or turning evil.

Even if your luck is good at first, you'll end up losing it all eventually.

The only winner is the association organizing the arena matches.

These two clearly had their eyes on his hundred initial points.

"Cocky newcomer."

The first person grumbled.

"Isn't it always like this with new ones? As long as we're persistent, he'll bite. Then we'll take him there, and get fifty points." The man on the right chuckled.

Chapter 208: No Reaction?

Chen Fan arrived outside the city, took out the map and looked at it. The nearest place was Stone City, more than four hundred miles away. It was also a small city.

"Let's go there then."

He glanced at Wang City behind him.

After all, Gu Ze had just passed the assessment. His superpower was Strength Enhancement. If he went and said his superpower was Speed Enhancement, it would be too coincidental. Better to go further away.

Of course, whether he could pass was another story.

Chen Fan looked at the attribute panel in his mind and felt that, in a certain sense, he had also awakened a superpower, right?

Whatever.

Whether it's a mule or a horse, let's take it out for a walk.

What if a blind cat meets a dead rat, and he passes? At that time, a lot of resources in the Awakened Association would be waving at him.

If he didn't pass, at most he would waste some time, and he wouldn't have to have any more expectations.

With his pace, he reached Stone City in less than ten minutes.

Stone City, as its name suggests, its walls were built with rocks, extremely solid.

At this moment, Chen Fan had changed his appearance. Unlike the previous handsome and casual look, his face was now ordinary, the kind that would disappear in a crowd in the next second.

After paying the entry fee, Chen Fan followed the crowd and arrived at the door of the Stone City Awakened Association.

After praying inwardly for a while, he stepped inside.

Soon, a well-dressed woman approached, "Sir, may I help you with something?"

"Hello, I'm here to take the Awakened assessment."

The woman's eyes instantly lit up, "Okay, please follow me."

Under the woman's guidance, Chen Fan soon saw a middle-aged man wearing rectangular glasses. The other party looked at Chen Fan a few times suspiciously, then said: "You are really an Awakener? What superpower did you awaken?"

"Speed Enhancement."

Chen Fan blurted out, "I can now increase my speed to the highest level, twice the normal speed."

"A type of physical enhancement?"

The glasses man nodded, then said: "Before the assessment, I must remind you, if you are a martial artist trying to pass off as an Awakener with martial arts, I advise you to leave now while you can."

Otherwise, although we can't do anything to you, making you suffer a bit will be easy."

Chen Fan's heart sank.

Just as he thought.

Martial artists had already tried this before, but most likely, they were all seen through.

However, having come this far, there was no reason to retreat now.

If he was exposed, he could always escape later. Anyway, with his current strength, fully powered, no one in Stone City could catch up to him.

"I truly awakened a superpower." Chen Fan said seriously.

Seeing this, the glasses man nodded, stood up from behind the desk, and said: "Come with me then."

They walked through a corridor to a spacious hall, sparsely populated.

At the entrance, there was a white square stone, over a meter high, with a handprint on the top.

"Place your right hand on it."

The glasses man looked at Chen Fan and said.

Despite being mentally prepared, Chen Fan couldn't help feeling a bit nervous.

Chen Fan slowly walked to the Awakening Stone, raised his right hand, spread his fingers, aimed at the handprint, and pressed down. At this moment, time seemed to slow down tenfold.

"Whether I pass or not, this is the moment."

His heart was in his throat.

A second passed, the Awakening Stone remained still.

Two seconds, still no movement.

"?"

The glasses man's expression suddenly darkened, looking at Chen Fan as if saying, are you kidding me?

Chen Fan sighed inwardly, you can plan, but success is up to the heavens. Can't force it, better to leave now.

At this moment, the Awakening Stone suddenly began to tremble.

"???"

The glasses man's eyes widened instantly, showing an incredulous look.

If one were an Awakener, the Awakening Stone would vibrate the moment the palm touched it. If not an Awakener, no matter how long one touched it, the stone wouldn't move.

But what was happening now?

A delay of one or two seconds before vibrating.

Never seen such a situation before?

Could it be that the Awakening Stone malfunctioned?

"Whew..."

Chen Fan felt a sense of relief.

He thought his plan had failed, but it turned out alright.

Now it seemed he really was an Awakener?

"Take your hand off and try again." The glasses man said.

"Okay."

Chen Fan responded, took his hand away, then placed it back.

The Awakening Stone remained still.

After two seconds, it began to tremble.

"Hiss."

The glasses man gasped.

He made Chen Fan take his hand off again and then put his own hand on the stone.

Almost instantly, the Awakening Stone shook.

"Try again?"

The glasses man looked at Chen Fan, thinking this stone wasn't malfunctioning?

On the third try, it was the same as the previous two times, the Awakening Stone delayed for two seconds and then vibrated.

"What's going on?"

He couldn't figure it out.

Could it be that this person was in a semi-awakened state, causing the Stone to take a certain time to decide?

Chen Fan looked bewildered on the surface but thought inwardly, don't worry about how it vibrates, just confirm that it did. Since it vibrated, he was indeed an Awakener.

It seemed he could see nothing from Chen Fan's face. After making him place his hand on the stone again, the glasses man accepted the reality and said: "You said your superpower was Speed Enhancement, right?"

"Yes."

"Okay, now show me."

He led Chen Fan forward, occasionally glancing at the Awakening Stone.

What happened next was smooth.

Seeing Chen Fan's speed exceed the previous one by a factor of one, the glasses man, despite his doubts, smiled for the first time and said, "Congratulations, you passed the assessment. Now you are a member of our Awakened Association."

"Thank you."

Chen Fan hurriedly said.

With his affirmation, his heart finally rested.

Although there were some minor hiccups midway, everything ended well.

Next, he could exchange resources unavailable in the Martial Arts Association.

"You're welcome. My name is Wen Jian, the branch president of the Stone City Awakened Association. What's your name?"

"Li Ping."

Chen Fan randomly made up an uneventful name.

"Li Ping."

Wen Jian nodded, "Judging by your performance, you just awakened not long ago?"

"Yes, yes."

Chen Fan scratched his head, "I just recently discovered that I might have awakened a superpower, so I thought of trying here."

"I see."

Wen Jian nodded.

Anyway, the Awakening Stone vibrated, and the association wouldn't mind an E-level Awakener.

As for Speed Enhancement, it could be strong, but it was not always strong. Ultimately, it depended on the individual's talent.

Just like Ice Element Superpower.

Many awakened this superpower, but only one reached the level of Ice Emperor.

The procedures were completed in about ten minutes.

Wen Jian handed over the items to Chen Fan and said, "By convention, I need to tell you a few things."

"Please say them, president."

Chen Fan said.

This person's attitude towards him differed greatly from Chairman Sun's.

However, he had no intention of staying here, so he could accept it.

"Firstly, all resources within the association must be purchased with points. One point is equivalent to ten thousand yuan outside, but points cannot be recharged and can only be earned by completing tasks. Tasks include association tasks, individual tasks, and special tasks. You can see them through your phone once logged in, or at the task hall."

"Understood."

Chen Fan nodded, noting it was similar to what he had seen in Wang City.

"The good news is, after you log in, the headquarters will credit 100 points to your account. Since you currently have 100 points, you can only see items worth 100 points or less. In other words, if something costs 101 points, you won't have the right to view or buy it, and the same goes for higher-priced items."

Chen Fan nodded.

This wasn't much of a problem for him.

Besides, he was curious what 100 points, equivalent to one hundred thousand yuan, could buy in the Awakened Association.

"The third point, and the most important, the association won't limit your freedom or make any demands. Whether to idle away or strive forward is up to you.

But I must remind you, the Awakened Association speaks with strength. The competition here is intense. Points can be freely traded, making the competition even tougher. Other Awakeners might try everything to get your points.

In short, be mentally prepared. Now, that's it. If you face any problems later, you can refer to the Awakeners' handbook or ask me if I have time."

After saying these, Wen Jian looked at Chen Fan and left.

"Other Awakeners will do everything to get others' points, indicating the association's atmosphere is less harmonious than the Martial Arts Association's?"

Looking at his departing figure, Chen Fan murmured, it seemed the higher-ups were fostering this environment, raising the strongest Awakeners like breeding Gu.

Moreover, it might relate to their cultivation methods.

Martial artists improve their energy's expression by cultivating techniques, such as realm, cultivation techniques, using predecessors' experiences as reference, naturally forming good relationships with fellow martial artists.

Awakeners, with varied superpowers, mostly walked their own paths.

Even if some had similar powers, would those in the lead share their insights and cards with followers? One must be cautious and guard against potential harm.

"However, this doesn't concern me."

He shook his head, glanced at the room key. Like the Martial Arts Association, passing the assessment granted a local room and a city apartment.

Now, he intended to enter the room and see what he could buy with 100 points.

Estimating that True Qi Pill Formula might be hard to afford.

Cultivation Technique could be anticipated, though.

Chapter 209: Special Items!

Entering the lounge, Chen Fan inspected the room to ensure there were no hidden cameras. A series of clicking sounds followed, and Chen Fan returned to his original appearance.

He exhaled a breath, sat down on the leather sofa, and opened the laptop gifted by the association.

He entered his account and password.

Login successful.

Soon, he received two emails.

Chen Fan opened the first one. It was a congratulatory email welcoming him to the Awakened Association.

"An E-level Awakened, huh?"

He glanced at the suffix next to his name.

The so-called E-level referred to those who had initially mastered their superpowers, possessing the combat ability to kill soldiers armed with small firearms in one-on-one situations.

Above that, D-level Awakened could compete against elite squads with advanced weapons, and they could even annihilate the latter.

C-level Awakened were already beyond the capabilities of special forces, with combat power between High-level Fierce Beasts and Elite-level Fierce Beasts. Several C-level Awakened were enough to guard a small human city.

To advance, one must undertake a promotion task independently.

For example, an E-level Awakened wanting to advance to D-level had to take on a D-level task and complete it alone, with observers in the dark ensuring no cheating. Additionally, if an Awakened demonstrated strength beyond their current level, they could be directly promoted by the association without needing to undertake the promotion task.

Of course, the latter was much more challenging than the former.

In reality, these levels were more of an honorary title, commanding respect and fear, without offering substantial benefits.

Because to gain the right to purchase high-level items, everyone had to unlock them through points.

Chen Fan opened the next email.

Indeed, it was a notification of points being credited, 100 points.

"I wonder what I can buy."

With expectations, Chen Fan clicked the marketplace page, and about a dozen categories appeared before his eyes.

Food, daily necessities, cold weapons, hot weapons, protective gear, cultivation techniques, elixirs, materials, special items, etc.

Though similar to the Martial Arts Association, several categories were new.

Instinctively, Chen Fan opened the food category, not expecting much, but was greatly surprised.

Because it wasn't vegetables, meat, snacks, etc., spanning dozens to hundreds of pages, but rather items he had never heard of before.

Fire Phoenix Fruit, priced at 100 points, slightly increases control over fire elements. Note: First usage is most effective, subsequent uses have diminishing effects until no effect, same applies hereafter.

Ice Crystal Fruit, priced at 100 points, slightly increases control over ice elements.

Wind Spirit Fruit...

"All for enhancing superpowers?"

Shock mingled with disappointment, but Chen Fan's eyes lit up when he saw the last few lines.

White Jade Fruit: Priced at 100 points, slightly enhances Constitution.

Strength Fruit: Priced at 100 points, slightly enhances Power.

Spirit Rabbit Fruit: Priced at 100 points, slightly enhances Agility.

Scrolling down, there was nothing more.

"No Spirit Attribute?"

Below were endless rows of question marks, evidently, his current points were not enough to unlock them.

"As expected of the Awakened Association."

Chen Fan lightly sighed. The three fruits below were not available in the Martial Arts Association.

And undeniably, the further one unlocked, the better the items, possibly including those enhancing spirit and martial artists' Primordial True Qi.

After all, some Awakened had body-enhancing superpowers, and some martial artists also practiced martial arts, so items increasing martial artists' Primordial True Qi wouldn't be surprising.

"Let's check out other sections."

Chen Fan had no intention of spending his 100 points right there.

Daily necessities were quite normal.

Cold weapons, similar to the Martial Arts Association, included alloy weapons of various kinds, not just the usual eighteen types but also uncommon ones like the Judge's Pen and Pen Holder Fork.

The prices were a bit higher compared to martial artists.

With his current permissions, he could only buy weapons up to Tier Two.

Protective gear.

Curiously, Chen Fan clicked on this section.

All were alloy battle armor.

Unfortunately, they were all Tier One.

Priced from 10 points to over 100 points.

Chen Fan found it interesting, as the Martial Arts Association didn't have such items in his memory.

Perhaps because he hadn't reached the Meridian Refining Realm to unlock them?

He clicked the cheapest one, costing 10 points, providing protection against one Mid-level Fierce Beast attack.

"Ten thousand for one time."

Chen Fan winced.

A Mid-level Fierce Beast's purchase price was a few thousand, while this Tier One alloy armor was priced at ten thousand for single-use protection.

A Tier One alloy weapon cost a few thousand to ten thousand.

But one could not deny, its high price was justified by saving lives.

30-point Tier One alloy armor's effectiveness increased to multiple Mid-level Fierce Beast attacks.

50-point Tier One alloy armor could withstand over ten Mid-level Fierce Beast attacks and one High-level Fierce Beast attack, a qualitative leap.

The 100-point armor could resist three High-level Fierce Beast attacks.

And that was it.

Chen Fan squinted, recalling the protective shield that appeared on Guan Dexi when attacked.

His own attack, theoretically, could penetrate Elite-level Fierce Beast defenses, yet Guan Dexi still blocked it.

So then...

No, it was odd; he didn't seem to be wearing alloy armor?

Chen Fan glanced at the screen's pictures. This armor covered the entire body, including a helmet.

"Could it be a special item?"

Chen Fan looked back, contemplated, and decided to continue checking sequentially, as there was still plenty of time.

Cultivation Techniques.

This was the category he was most looking forward to.

Upon clicking, various techniques filled the screen.

From Body Tempering, Muscle Refining, to Entry Force, and even Meridian Refining Techniques!

[Qianyuan Skill]

[Innate Skill]

[One Breathing Technique]

...

And more.

Chen Fan's breathing quickened. This meant he could purchase Meridian Refining Techniques without passing the martial artist assessment.

The prices of Entry Force Martial Arts were comparable to those in the Martial Arts Association.

Wait.

He quickly realized, purchasing resources here seemed to be non-negotiable.

Take the Qianyuan Skill for example, it required 100 points here, while only 80 points in the Martial Arts Association.

"Better first buy all the techniques available from the Martial Arts Association, and come here for those that aren't." Chen Fan thought.

Though the Martial Arts Association was weaker, it undeniably treated its martial artists well.

The Awakened Association likely had no shortage of powerhouses, and even for them, no discounts applied, signifying equal treatment.

He swept his eyes, finding five to six Heart Methods, priced under 100 points, and probably more beyond.

There were also numerous fist and kick martial arts, cheaper than heart methods, priced between 30 to 60 points.

Chen Fan felt an urge to purchase immediately.

"Let's look further down."

He took a deep breath and clicked on the elixir section, where a myriad of elixirs appeared.

One-point Health Pill,

Two-point Top-grade Qi Blood Pill,

Five-point Beauty Pill,

Ten-point Top-grade Qi Blood Pill, Low-grade True Qi Pill,

Twenty-point Middle-grade True Qi Pill,

Thirty-point Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill,

Fifty-point Top-grade True Qi Pill,

Eighty-point Spirit Ginseng Pill,

One hundred-point Top-grade True Qi Pill.

There were twenty to thirty types of elixirs, in addition to numerous pill formulas. Even for the same elixir, there were several formulas.

For example, a 100-point Qi Blood Pill formula had a note: This formula cannot refine Top-grade Qi Blood Pills.

Chen Fan frowned slightly.

Obviously, this formula couldn't be compared to the two kinds he had learned.

If he mastered this Alchemy, the probability of producing Heaven-grade Qi Blood Pills should also increase, right?

After some thought, he dismissed the idea, as Qi Blood Pills currently provided too few Potential Points. He needed to focus on True Qi Pills.

Low-grade True Qi Pill provided 10,000 Potential Points.

One Top-grade True Qi Pill, priced ten times higher, would undoubtedly offer more than ten times the Potential Points, likely surpassing Low-grade Divine Gathering Pills.

"Unfortunately, I don't have enough points."

Chen Fan glanced at the endless rows of question marks below.

The Qi Blood Pill formulas he purchased from the Martial Artist Association were worth 2 million, equating to 200 points.

The association's Qi Blood Pill formula must start at 300 points.

The True Qi Pill formula likely started at 500 points.

Returning to the base to refine all the Qi Blood Pills, he had to undertake some tasks to accumulate points.

Continuing down, materials.

As expected, there wasn't much difference from his imagination, mostly Fierce Beast materials.

Special items.

Chen Fan clicked on it,

Small Space Item: 1 cubic meter storage, priced at 100 points.

Small Protective Talisman: Can withstand one High-level Fierce Beast attack, priced at 100 points.

Small Teleportation Talisman: Can teleport 500 meters, in any direction.

Invisibility Pendant: Grants one minute of invisibility, usable three times, priced at 100 points.

Smoke Bomb: Envelops a kilometer radius in smoke lasting half an hour, priced at 100 points.

...

There were numerous items, extending beyond sight.

Chen Fan looked at these strange items, getting a vague sense that these special items were made by Awakened individuals and sold here?

"Quite something..."

He couldn't help but laugh.

In this section, only your imagination limited what they could create.

Not many items truly interested him; space items were one.

cubic meter cost 100 points, so 10 cubic meters would be 1,000 points?

He shook his head, knowing it would be clear once he had enough points, guessing was futile now.

Having a general understanding of the association's resources, Chen Fan's body emitted a light sound again. He quickly returned to his earlier appearance and, upon opening the door, detected two pairs of eyes looking his way from not far off.

The other party seemed to have been waiting; upon seeing the door open, they approached with a smile.

"Brother, are you new here?"

The tall, thin man leading asked with a smile.

"What do you want?"

Chen Fan frowned slightly.

"Hehe, you must've just browsed through the association's items. How about it? Do you feel there's too many good things that you can't afford?"

"So?"

"We have a quick way to earn points, interested in trying?" The tall, thin man winked.

Chapter 210: What if I Want to Fight in the Ring?

"A quick way to earn points?"

Chen Fan looked skeptical.

There is no such thing as a free lunch. If there were, it would be a trap.

However, he didn't choose to leave immediately, but instead asked curiously, "What way? How fast?"

"Brother, you'll know if you come with us. Don't worry, we won't do anything to you because the place we're going is within the association, specifically, the underground level of the association," said the tall, thin man.

"That's right. Once you get there, you'll understand. There are many people, all awakeners in the association. If you want to leave, no one will stop you," echoed the short, fat man.

Chen Fan furrowed his brows and said, "You two, you're not even telling me what to do, and you want me to leave with you? Isn't that a bit too optimistic?"

"Please step aside, I have other matters to attend to."

"Hey."

The two men exchanged glances. The tall, thin man quickly said, "Okay, brother, actually, it's not a secret. You can ask around the association and you'll find out."

"Yeah, brother, don't rush to leave. Wait until we're done explaining and then refuse if you want."

"Fine, go ahead."

"Brother, what's your name?"

"Li Ping."

"So it's Brother Li." The tall, thin man introduced himself, "I'm Zhang Jun, he's Liao Yue. The two of us haven't been in the association for long..."

"Let's get to the point."

Chen Fan furrowed his brows, showing no interest in what these two men were called, as there would likely be no future connection with the Stone City Awakened Association.

"Alright, alright. Brother Li, you seem to be quite impatient."

Zhang Jun smiled and looked around before saying, "Brother, you just arrived. You might not know this, but the association has a platform for dueling. Awakeners duel each other, but you have to bet points. The winner takes the opponent's points."

"You mean you want me to duel?" Chen Fan was somewhat surprised, but his heart stirred.

He felt that with his current strength, even facing a C-level Awakened wouldn't be daunting. Once he understood the opponent's superpower, defeating them wouldn't be difficult.

In small cities, the strongest would be C-level Awakened. If he went to duel, wouldn't it be a guaranteed way to earn points?

He was just worried about his insufficient 100 points.

Little did he know, Zhang Jun and Liao Yue both laughed after hearing Chen Fan's words.

"Brother Li, do you think we're the type of people who don't know the consequences? You're a newcomer. If we let you duel with others, wouldn't that be hurting you?"

"Exactly, do we look like that type?" Liao Yue also laughed. "Dueling to earn points is fast. If you win consecutively, there are additional rewards. But think about it, anyone confident enough to duel is skilled. For newcomers like us, it's better to forget it."

"Then what do you mean?"

"We mean another method," Liao Yue looked around and lowered his voice, "Betting, have you heard of it?"

"Betting?" Chen Fan's pupils contracted.

"That's right. Three minutes before each duel starts, we can bet on the two participants. If we bet correctly, the points can multiply several times. Once, someone in the association turned 100 points into more than ten times!" Liao Yue said excitedly.

"My highest was tenfold, turning 100 points into 1,000 in less than half a day! Brother Li, isn't that fast?"

"It's much faster than doing tasks."

The two sang in harmony.

"Isn't that just gambling?"

Chen Fan frowned, "Does the association allow this?"

Zhang Jun and Liao Yue smirked meaningfully.

"It's not allowed openly, but everyone knows the deal."

"Rest assured, the association won't bother you because of this."

The two spoke one after the other.

Actually, the biggest beneficiary of this is the local association.

Because they not only get a share of the dueling points but also act as the biggest bookmaker, gaining a profit by adjusting the odds.

The general association initially banned such gambling activities until they found it useless.

Because awakeners in the association would gamble privately, causing deaths. It's better to do it within the association's base.

To truly eliminate such behavior, there's only one way: not permitting free circulation of points. But that would harm the interests of many awakeners.

So, they eventually turned a blind eye, allowing this scheme while boosting the combat abilities of awakeners.

"Is that so?"

Chen Fan hatched a plan.

Despite the previous boasts, it was clear that most participants would end up losing everything. Only the association controlling the odds and a few awakeners would profit greatly.

However, he could capitalize on the fact that they were unaware of his strength to make a big profit!

Then, he could return to the base and buy the True Qi Pill Formula. How wonderful would that be?

"What if I want to duel?"

Chen Fan asked.

The atmosphere instantly turned silent. The two men in front of him widened their eyes, looking like they had seen a ghost.

After a while, Zhang Jun opened his mouth, "Brother Li, are you joking with us? You're a newcomer, dueling would just be gifting points, wouldn't it?"

"Exactly, the minimum requirement for dueling is 50 points, no upper limit. With your 100 points, they'll be gone in the blink of an eye. If you'd bet, you could place five bets with ten points each."

"I just want to try it."

Chen Fan laughed.

"Alright then."

The two men stopped persuading him.

As long as Chen Fan was willing to go, they would receive their commission fee.

As for what happened afterward, they didn't care.

The three walked towards the elevator. After the elevator door opened, they stepped inside.

Zhang Jun pressed the button for the negative first floor, turned, and looked at Chen Fan, "Brother Li, I advise you to think twice. There were newcomers like you who were confident, but ended up losing miserably."

"And wasting 50 points. If you bet ten points each time, you could place five bets."

Chen Fan smiled and asked, "Can I bet if I go up to duel?"

Zhang Jun and Liao Yue exchanged glances.

"Brother Li, you wouldn't...?"

Chen Fan nodded, "That's right. I plan to bet my remaining 50 points on myself winning."

Zhang Jun and Liao Yue fell silent again.

They didn't know where this newcomer's confidence came from.

With a "ding," the elevator door opened, and a strong smell of liquor wafted over.

About thirty meters away from the elevator, there was a platform where two people were fiercely battling. One seemed to have awakened the earth element superpower, as a stone wall occasionally rose from the platform.

The other seemed to have awakened the wind element superpower, constantly launching palm-sized wind blades that hit the opponent's stone wall.

At this moment, there were at least a hundred people around the platform, shouting loudly.

"Go up! What's the point of passive defense? I bet fifty points on you!"

"Don't panic. Du Fei looks fierce, but one is attacking, the other is defending. Whoever uses more spiritual power is clear. When Du Fei runs out of spiritual power, he'll definitely lose!"

"Nonsense! Du Fei hasn't used his full strength yet. You'll see soon."

Most people focused on the battle, but a few noticed Chen Fan and gave meaningful looks.

"Didn't expect a newcomer."

"Is it Zhang Jun and Liao Yue who fooled him?"

"I was also tricked by them initially, lost all my 100 points."

"Then why are you still here?"

"Isn't this fun? Doing tasks is nowhere near as interesting."

After a few words, they turned their heads back.

"Brother Li, you see? Those on the platform are D-level Awakened, very strong," Zhang Jun glanced at Chen Fan, "There's still time to regret."

Chen Fan shook his head and asked, "You haven't answered my question in the elevator yet."

Beside him, Liao Yue said helplessly, "Betting on yourself is allowed, but only betting on your win."

"Understood."

Chen Fan nodded, pleased with the answer.

"How can I get on the platform, then?"

"Come with us. We were going to take you there."

Leading Chen Fan, the two approached a man wearing sunglasses. After whispering to him, the sunglasses man occasionally glanced at Chen Fan, his mouth curving slightly.

Then he walked towards Chen Fan, asking with interest, "Newcomer, are you sure you want to participate in the duel?"

"Yes," Chen Fan nodded, "I heard the minimum bet is 50 points?"

"That's correct."

"Then I'll bet another 50 points on myself winning," Chen Fan said.

"You're quite courageous."

The sunglasses man seemed unsure if he was being complimentary or sarcastic.

New blood joining is always good, even if it's just a rookie.

"Follow me to register your information."

Next to them, Zhang Jun and Liao Yue watched Chen Fan's back, shaking their heads and sighing.

At this point, regretting would be too late for Li Ping.

What a pity.

Reality will teach him a harsh lesson.

"Brother, let's go over there. Maybe another newcomer will come soon?"

"There was only one newcomer today; the next one won't come so quickly." Zhang Jun pointed to the platform, "We just got 50 points. Once this round ends, we'll bet. If we're lucky, we can multiply it several times."

"Okay, but this time you must listen to me, no random bets."

"What are you talking about? When did I ever make a mistake?"

"Nonsense! Last time you lost all the points. If you insist again, we should go separate ways in the future."

"Alright, alright. I'll listen to you."

The two headed towards the platform.

"Li Ping, joining the association today, E-level Awakened, superpower is Speed Enhancement, bet 50 points, and another 50 points to bet on himself winning, correct?" The sunglasses man asked over the computer, without looking up.

"Correct."

Chen Fan nodded.

A hundred points were merely worth a million yuan. Even if he lost all of them, it didn't matter.

Not to mention, the chance of losing was zero.

After transferring points, the sunglasses man turned and handed over a number plate, "When your number is called, step up. If you feel you can't win, you can concede at any time. Don't worry, we're all part of the association, no one will kill."

But if you're unlucky and get injured, don't complain. It's normal. The points from your bet and wager will be automatically credited after the duel if you win."

He glanced at Chen Fan, eyes beneath the sunglasses showing mockery.

"Alright."

Chen Fan took the number plate, number 16.

He looked towards the fiery battle on the platform, anticipation in his eyes.

Ignoring the points aspect, he was eager to test his skills against other awakeners.