

Martial Arts 241

Chapter 241: Sorry, No Time

According to Chen Fan's guess, the True Qi Pill Formula within the Martial Arts Association couldn't be too good, but it surely wouldn't be too bad either.

However, the price still gave him a little shock.

The True Qi Pill Formula in the Association, there was only one, priced at eight million contribution points. According to the description, this alchemy has been improved by the alchemy masters within the Association. If the skill level is raised to the Perfection Realm, the probability of refining a Top-grade True Qi Pill can exceed twenty percent.

"Twenty percent." Chen Fan stroked his chin.

It was indeed better than the one bought from the Awakened Association for 500 points.

That formula, even if the skill level is raised to the Perfection Realm, only has a probability of about ten percent to refine a Top-grade True Qi Pill.

It is estimated that the Martial Arts Association also referred to this formula from the Awakened Association, added some other improvements, and finally doubled the probability of the Top-grade True Qi Pill.

"I wonder, if I raise both formulas to the Perfection Realm and fuse them, what effect would it have? Hopefully, the effect will be good."

Chen Fan thought secretly.

If the effect is not significant, it doesn't matter.

Because in his hand, he still has two more formulas.

One can refine a Top-grade True Qi Pill, and the other, a Heaven-grade True Qi Pill!

He added this formula to the shopping list. Eight million, with a 20% discount, originally 20 million contribution points, now 13.6 million points left.

Chen Fan clicked on the herbs, finding the True Qi Pill section.

He saw that the price of one set of True Qi Pill herbs was 200,000 contribution points.

Chen Fan took a deep breath. This price was ten times higher than the price of one set of Qi Blood Pill herbs?

Although this is the case, if one can refine True Qi Pills, the speed to recoup the cost for an alchemist is actually faster.

Because a single low-grade Qi Blood Pill sells for only a thousand yuan. If one can refine a furnace of low-grade Qi Blood Pills, it only sells for ten thousand compared to a cost of twenty thousand, only recouping half of the cost.

But low-grade True Qi Pills are different.

A single low-grade True Qi Pill, the price is one hundred thousand yuan, a whole furnace of low-grade True Qi Pills is one million, the cost is only two hundred thousand, a fivefold profit.

Of course, this is all theoretical.

Chen Fan has a premonition that the pill formation probability of True Qi Pill might not be as high as Qi Blood Pill.

Entry level and Small Success skill levels can recoup the cost but may not earn much profit.

"One set of herbs is 200,000, with the 20% discount, that's 160,000. That means, I can currently buy 85 sets."

Chen Fan calculated in his mind.

sets of herbs, which is 850 True Qi Pills.

If in the next two days, I raise the skill level of the formulas to Perfection Realm and fuse them, there is a high probability that the refined pills will be Middle Grade and above.

Even with one Middle-grade True Qi Pill calculated at 300,000 potential points, 850 pills would provide 2.5 billion potential points.

"It still doesn't seem to be enough."

Chen Fan frowned slightly.

This many potential points, definitely enough to pass the Chong Meridian, the Dai Meridian might be challenging.

Let alone the two meridians after that.

He clenched his fist, more determined to go hunting tomorrow.

If he doesn't do this, experience points and potential points will both be lacking.

After tidying up the Alchemy Room, he then walked out.

It's time to go and collect the Cloud Jade Fruit.

When I come back, I will record a tutorial video, send the formulas over, and then use the remaining time to improve the Basic Martial Arts.

Thinking of this, Chen Fan felt a bit troubled.

In the base, including the president, they are all Entry Force Martial Artists, there's simply no Meridian Refining Realm sparring partner to be found...

He sighed inwardly. When going downstairs, he didn't encounter anyone.

Leaving the Association, the sky had already completely darkened.

Chen Fan found a secluded place, a faint sound rang out. The next moment, an ordinary-looking man walked out from the shadows.

The Awakened Association was situated halfway up the mountain.

Chen Fan walked along the road and soon arrived at the entrance of the Association.

He looked up at the hall inside, where people were walking back and forth, thinking if those C-level Awakeners who imprisoned Meng Yu's sister were here.

"When my strength becomes stronger, I'll go up and rescue Meng Xue."

This thought flashed in his mind, and then he stepped into the hall.

As footsteps sounded, some awakened ones in the hall instinctively turned their gaze.

It was something completely normal.

But when they saw Chen Fan's appearance, each one seemed like they were struck by lightning, stunned and mouth agape.

This bizarre movement gradually attracted more and more attention.

"Li? Li Ping!" Someone couldn't help pointing at Chen Fan, exclaiming.

"He's Li Ping? The one who killed a C-level Awakener one-on-one?"

"Yes, it seems to be him."

"Why would he come here?"

For a while, discussions continued.

Everyone's expressions were of surprise, doubt, and fear.

Chen Fan frowned.

Just from the snippets of conversation around him, he already guessed what was going on.

It must be that his video of fighting someone at the Stone City Association had spread out.

He shook his head, ignored it all, and walked toward the front desk.

The two women at the counter also clearly recognized Chen Fan's identity, visibly nervous.

"Hello, I'm here to collect an item."

Chen Fan said coldly.

"Yes, sir, please present your collection number." One of the women said, trembling.

However, there was a hint of admiration in her eyes.

Because the person in front of them was not only a C-level Awakener but also a very powerful C-level Awakener.

Unbeknownst to them, the awakened ones at the back sighed in relief.

"Oh, he's here to pick something up? He scared me." Someone patted his chest, looking spooked.

"What? Did you think he came specifically to challenge you?"

"Don't talk nonsense." The previous person shrank his neck and said, "Even if I were a C-level Awakener, I wouldn't dare spar with him."

"Indeed, in that match, this guy instantly killed his opponent!"

"I heard he used a martial technique, Soul-Annihilating Finger, which is a martial artist's cultivation technique. Honestly, I never thought a martial artist's technique could be so powerful to instantly kill an Awakener."

"That's superficial. I heard it was a Spirit Secret Technique, which is extremely rare. Although everyone can learn it, the difficulty is significant, no less than mastering another superpower!"

"Is that so? He's indeed impressive!"

Everyone was discussing Chen Fan, one sentence after another.

"Mr. Li, here are your items. Please check them." The woman said with a smile.

"Thank you, you're very helpful."

Chen Fan verified briefly and put the items away in his spatial ring.

This action made everyone around him respect him even more.

Because if one had average strength, they wouldn't dare to so openly reveal their spatial items.

At this moment, in one of the offices on the second floor, two adult men were watching this scene through a surveillance camera.

Not far, a man with a hunched back stood with a flattering expression.

Clearly, as soon as Chen Fan was recognized, someone reported this news.

"Changshu, what do you think of this person's strength?" The man on the leather sofa asked with a smile, glancing at the thin man next to him.

He Changshu shook his head.

The man chuckled, with a trace of dread in his eyes, "From his previous match, his strength is impressive. Not only his speed but his physical strength rivals that of an average Elite-level Fierce Beast. And what is truly formidable is his spiritual power."

He Changshu's pupils shrank slightly.

"Did you see it?"

The man looked back at Chen Fan. "That guy Yang Hu, although content with the status quo and indulging in pleasures, his spiritual power surpasses that of an average C-level Awakener. Yet, he was instantly killed by this Li Ping. What do you think his spiritual power level is? If it were us, we might not be able to withstand it either."

"Then let's not confront directly." He Changshu said calmly.

The man was stunned for a moment, then laughed heartily.

Indeed, if it were Changshu, this Li Ping might not even have a chance to strike.

"He probably knows he can't stay in Stone City, so he came to us. His strength is decent; he could be useful." The man said, eyes glinting.

Chen Fan walked out of the hall through the crowd.

At this moment, a rush of footsteps sounded behind him.

The man who was on the second floor just now hurried over, raising his hand and shouting, "Mr. Li Ping, please wait."

Chen Fan stopped and turned around, looking at the man in front of him in confusion.

"Mr. Li Ping, our president would like to invite you to a private room for a discussion." The man said with a flattering smile.

Chen Fan couldn't help but recall the last time at the Stone City Association.

He frowned immediately, "Sorry, no time."

("What?!"

The man was taken aback and quickly said, "Mr. Li Ping, please don't hurry to refuse. Hear me out. The president said he has a deal worth hundreds of thousands of points to discuss with you. Please, do consider."

"A deal worth hundreds of thousands of points?"

Chen Fan furrowed his brows.

"Yes, such a deal. Mr. Li Ping, the president is waiting for you in the private room." The man said with a smile.

Deeply admiring the president's foresight.

He directly guessed this person would refuse, so he prepared further persuasion tactics.

Nevertheless,

things still did not go as planned.

"Sorry, no time."

Chen Fan left behind a sentence and turned away.

"Mr. Li..."

The man stood there, dumbfounded.

In the hall, the awakened ones witnessing this scene were also stunned.

This Li Ping really was just like in the video, with a stinky temper like a rock in a pit latrine.

That was the president's invitation!

A deal worth hundreds of thousands of points!

Don't you want to hear it out before deciding?

Chapter 242: The Amazing Effects of Cloud Jade Fruit

Watching Chen Fan leave without turning his head, the man returned to the president's office on the second floor with a sullen face and recounted the events in detail.

"You didn't tell him that I have a business deal worth hundreds of thousands of points to discuss with him?" the middle-aged man squinted his eyes and asked.

"I did."

The man hurriedly said, "I told him immediately, but he didn't even consider it for a second before rejecting it."

"President."

He glanced cautiously at the middle-aged man and said aggrievedly, "I really tried my best, but that Li Ping, he's so stubborn. President, if you don't believe me, you can ask anyone. Many people saw it at the time."

The atmosphere in the room fell silent.

The middle-aged man's face grew dark.

After a moment, he spoke, "Understood, you may leave."

"Yes, yes."

The man hurriedly bowed and backed out, not forgetting to close the door softly behind him.

"This Li Ping really has a bad temper," Gao Jinming said coldly, "No wonder he made such a big mess in Stone City."

"Do you want me to teach him a lesson?" He Changshu asked from the side.

Gao Jinming frowned, then quickly waved his hand, saying,

"Forget it, ignore him. He's just a freak."

The branch secretly manipulating the arena matches in the C-level Awakened ranks is no secret. Anyone with eyes can see what happened in Stone City.

Clearly, it was a mutually beneficial situation, but Li Ping insisted on acting like a pure and noble lotus, as if he were the only sober person in a drunken crowd.

If that's not a freak, then what is?

And this time, the fact that the guy showed up here was probably just a coincidence, to pick up a package, and he might leave by tomorrow.

"By the way,"

He suddenly remembered something and asked, "Has Guan Dehua not returned yet?"

"No."

He Changshu shook his head.

"Not only him, but the several Martial Artists who went with him haven't returned either."

"That's odd."

Gao Jinming got up from his chair and walked to the floor-to-ceiling window, looking down at the scene below, "If I remember correctly, they should have set off at dawn, right? It's already nighttime, and they still haven't returned?"

"Could it be that something happened?" He Changshu's face showed a trace of seriousness.

"That's unlikely."

Gao Jinming instinctively denied.

Guan Dehua's strength was not considered strong among them.

But he had several loyal Meridian Refining Martial Artists protecting him, and his superpower was quite unique. Plus, he had two or three special items on him.

Even if he did encounter danger, escaping shouldn't be a big problem.

Unless he was simultaneously besieged by several C-level Awakened.

"I don't think it's very likely either."

He Changshu nodded, frowning slightly, "But if something really happened to him, it could significantly affect our plan three days from now."

"Hmm."

Gao Jinming snorted.

In three days, the Celestial God Fruits will mature.

This time, there will be more than ten of them.

According to the association's calculation, each Celestial God Fruit is worth fifty thousand points, ten fruits are worth half a million points!

However, these fruits are not easy to pick.

First of all, the Celestial God Tree is located deep in the wilderness, with many Fierce Beasts around. Even elite-level Fierce Beasts are not uncommon. The closer you get to the Celestial God Tree, the more elite-level Fierce Beasts there are, because the Celestial God Fruit is a treasure for Awakeners to enhance their Spiritual Power. It also has a unique allure for those powerful elite-level Fierce Beasts.

So, to pick the fruits, one must first deal with the Fierce Beasts.

Secondly, the Celestial God Tree is not an ordinary tree. It has mutated, making the tree itself incredibly hard, and it can launch attacks from underground using its roots with incredible speed, catching even C-level Awakeners off guard.

In the early years after the mutation, many people or beasts were fooled, getting within a hundred meters of the Celestial God Tree, being pierced by its roots, and having their Essence Blood absorbed as nutrients for the tree.

Later, whether people or beasts, learned their lesson.

Upon seeing such a tree from afar, they would keep their distance.

Thus, the Celestial God Tree produced the Celestial God Fruits to attract people or beasts.

Getting close to the fruit is just the first step; picking the fruit is the real challenge because the tree can influence the person's spirit through the fruit, making it difficult to succeed.

And it's not just the Celestial God Fruit; other types of fruits have similar characteristics.

So, at this moment, the harvester faces attacks from both the Fierce Beasts and the Celestial God Tree itself.

The latter attack is unavoidable, unless you choose to give up.

The former can be diverted using people.

This is where Guan Dehua comes in, or more specifically, the Meridian Refining Martial Artists he controls.

They can be used as cannon fodder to attract the elite-level Fierce Beasts' attacks. During this chance, they can quickly pick the fruit and use Instant Teleportation Items to escape.

Therefore, if something happens to Guan Dehua, who will distract the elite-level Fierce Beasts' attention three days later, giving them precious time?

He initially wanted to recruit Chen Fan for this purpose, but unfortunately, the latter didn't buy it.

"How about this."

Gao Jinming quickly came up with a countermeasure, "If he hasn't returned by noon tomorrow, I'll ask Meng Xue to find out where he went."

"That's the only option."

He Changshu nodded.

Perhaps they were overthinking it.

...

Chen Fan returned to the previous shadowy spot, confirming that no one was tailing him, and restored his appearance.

He stretched his muscles and recalled the events when he left the Awakened Association, a cold laugh escaping his heart.

A business deal worth hundreds of thousands of points?

Even if it were true, with the selfishness of those C-level Awakeners in Anshan City, how much benefit would drop into his lap in the end?

If he wasn't careful, he might even end up being their cannon fodder.

Besides, what he lacked more than Potential Points was Experience Points.

Back in the lounge, Chen Fan opened the package, revealing a white box with a lock and an instruction manual.

Chen Fan didn't rush to open the box but read the manual first.

It stated that the password box had a self-destruct program, where if the password was entered incorrectly three times, its contents would be destroyed.

Additionally, the manual warned that for those without True Qi in their body, only one-eighth of the fruit should be consumed. A smaller amount might not be effective, while a larger amount would significantly increase the risk.

"So, a Cloud Jade Fruit can be consumed by up to eight people?"

Chen Fan concluded.

He entered the password from the email and opened the box.

A fist-sized yellow fruit lay quietly inside, looking like a cross between an apple and a pear.

A faint fragrance wafted out.

"This is the Cloud Jade Fruit, capable of enhancing a Martial Artist's True Qi."

Chen Fan swallowed his saliva.

Twenty thousand points!

Even an elite-level Fierce Beast had a purchase price of just over ten million from the Martial Arts Association, equivalent to a thousand points from the Awakened Association.

This fruit would surpass twenty ordinary elite-level Fierce Beasts in value!

"I wonder how much True Qi it can increase."

Chen Fan took out the fruit and bit into it.

Juice burst from the pulp, filling his mouth with sweetness.

Chen Fan's eyes lit up; the fruit's taste was unexpectedly good.

At that moment, he felt the True Qi in his meridians begin to change.

First, a few strands appeared, then it coalesced into one, and soon there were several, then over a dozen.

Chen Fan's eyes widened with excitement.

Just after this one bite, his True Qi increased by more than ten strands—over a hundred points of True Qi?

Even after deducting the extra Heart Method bonuses, the increase in Primordial True Qi was still significant.

Realizing this, he took several more bites, and within seconds, the entire fruit was finished, leaving only the core.

The True Qi within him continued to increase.

Nearly a minute later, the surge finally calmed down.

[Primordial True Qi increased by 56 points]

[Primordial True Qi increased by 49 points]

[Primordial True Qi increased by 65 points]

...

A series of messages appeared in his mind.

Chen Fan calculated the increase and found that his Primordial True Qi had gone up by nearly a thousand points!

With a verification mindset, he turned to the panel,

True Qi: 4584/3056 (+50%)

Sure enough, his total Primordial True Qi had jumped from 2140 points to 3056 points, nearly a thousand

in one go.

Total True Qi had reached 4500 points.

"I didn't expect a single fruit to increase so much True Qi, and it's Primordial True Qi, almost like upgrading an entire meridian. Twenty thousand points really were worth it."

Chen Fan was exhilarated.

If he had more points now, he would undoubtedly purchase more immediately.

Of course, this kind of fruit, like others, had diminishing returns.

The first fruit had the most potent effect. After that, each subsequent one would have reduced 效

until it became entirely ineffective.

For now, though, that wasn't Chen Fan's concern. Even if the second fruit had only half the effect, giving him 500 points of Primordial True Qi, he would still consider it worth it.

A third and fourth fruit yielding 250 points and 125 points respectively would still be acceptable

Since, theoretically, as long as he learned enough Heart Methods, the additional True Qi percentage would be high.

So, even a hundred points of Primordial True Qi could convert into a thousand True Qi points!

"Time to record the alchemy video. Once I send the email, I'll continue training Basic Martial Arts."

He stored the package inside one of his Space Items and headed outside.

Without a sparring partner, practicing body techniques was easier, while improving fist and foot techniques was slower. But there were alternative methods.

He had found that practicing fist and foot techniques under heavy load significantly sped up his improvement in Basic Martial Arts. Although the progress wasn't as fast as actual combat, it was still a good approach.

More importantly, he had two opportunities left to use the gravity training room.

This, combined with the training, should considerably speed up his Basic Martial Arts progress.

Chapter 243: Elite-level Fierce Beast!

Early the next morning, Chen Fan strapped on his quiver, holding his bow and arrow, preparing to hunt Fierce Beasts.

Just as he opened the door, he saw Xu Jie and the others standing not far away, occasionally glancing in his direction.

When the door opened and Chen Fan walked out dressed like this, they were all taken aback before quickly coming over in a friendly manner.

"Brother Chen, are you heading out?"

"Yes."

Chen Fan smiled slightly.

"Going out so early, Brother Chen, you're really diligent." As the words dropped, they looked at each other with embarrassed expressions.

"Is something the matter?" Chen Fan somewhat guessed.

Immediately, they looked awkward, their eyes finally turning to the only female in their group.

"Why are you all looking at me?"

Tu Yue was speechless inside, but with Chen Fan also looking over, she could only bite the bullet and say, "Yes, Brother Chen, the president said if we brought the materials, you could help us refine top-grade Qi Blood Pills, right?"

"That's correct. Have you prepared the materials?" Chen Fan asked with a smile.

"Yes, Brother Chen. According to your terms, one bottle of top-grade Qi Blood Pills is worth a million, which equals fifty portions of materials. In a rush, we currently have a hundred portions and would like to ask Brother Chen to help us refine two batches today." Xu Jie quickly said.

"Yes, yes, more materials are on the way, around five hundred portions, and we'd appreciate your help afterward."

The others smiled and chimed in, though they felt a pinch deep down.

Five hundred portions of Qi Blood Pill materials!

At two thousand per portion, that's ten million! Even at a discounted rate from the association, it's nine million contribution points.

If it weren't for their numbers, they couldn't have gathered them.

However!

Many seek the opportunity to spend that kind of money, especially martial artists in small cities.

"Alright."

Chen Fan agreed readily.

They exchanged looks and breathed a sigh of relief.

This was expected, considering it was Chen Fan who proposed this arrangement, so refusal was unlikely.

"Brother Chen, we didn't know you were hunting. We'll bring the materials once you return." Gao Shan suggested.

"Yes, yes."

"Brother Chen, please be safe."

"Watch out for the association, especially Qin Ye. They haven't returned yet, but you might run into them."

Sun Wei didn't mention Chen Fan's breakthrough, so they were unaware.

"No need for that."

Chen Fan shook his head and reached into his pocket, pulling out two bottles.

"Is this?"

"Top-grade Qi Blood Pills?"

They exclaimed simultaneously.

"Yes."

Chen Fan smiled slightly. "These two bottles contain top-grade Qi Blood Pills, ten per bottle. You can check them if you're unsure."

"No, no need. Brother Chen, don't say that; we trust you."

"Yes, we trust you. Why would Brother Chen deceive us?"

"No need to check, we believe you."

They assured him.

"Alright." Chen Fan smiled and handed the two bottles to Gao Shan, "Brother Gao, I'll collect the hundred portions when I return."

"Alright, and with the five hundred portions this afternoon, we'll give them all to you." Gao Shan responded quickly.

"Okay. I'll be off now." Chen Fan waved and headed for the elevator.

Xu Jie and the others watched Chen Fan descend before turning their gaze to the bottles in Gao Shan's hand.

"Brother Gao," Xu Jie's voice trembled, "Should we open and check?"

"Yes, these are top-grade Qi Blood Pills!" Zhao Xuewen swallowed hard.

"Hold off a bit."

Gao Shan smiled wryly, "Don't forget the president's share. We can divide them after meeting him."

"Right, I forgot."

"Let's find the president."

...

"This deal turned out to be better than I expected."

Chen Fan thought as he walked out of the branch office.

A hundred portions of materials were enough to refine a thousand top-grade Qi Blood Pills.

Taking twenty for Xu Jie's group was quite profitable.

Still, it wasn't exploiting them.

Because the market price for top-grade Qi Blood Pills was set.

"Once I learn to refine True Qi Pills, I might do this too."

He smiled.

This way, he wouldn't worry about contribution points.

Materials from hunting Fierce Beasts could be sold to the Awakened Association for higher-tier items.

Exiting the gate, he paused by two camps, focusing on one.

It's time to deal with Lu Yang from the trading company.

Reverting his gaze, he kept walking.

As his figure disappeared, murmurs arose among the people.

"Him again! Didn't expect he'd dare go out."

"Hmph, reckless. If not for their president's timely arrival last time, he'd be dead!"

"Go, let's tell Brother Lu."

Several figures quickly melted into the crowd.

In the wilderness, Chen Fan trekked alone. After a short distance, he heard wind rushing.

Turning around, he saw a Gale Wolf King.

Its speed quickly closed the distance to five hundred meters.

The next second, it was almost upon Chen Fan.

However, its movements seemed like a slow-motion movie to Chen Fan.

Composedly, he drew his bow and fired. With a burst of sound, the Gale Wolf King fell, blood gushing from a large head wound, staining the ground.

[Killed High-level Fierce Beast, gained 350 experience points]

Seeing the message, Chen Fan shook his head.

When he was an Entry Force Martial Artist, killing high-level beasts to earn hundreds of points gave him exhilarating joy.

Now, he felt nothing, even thinking it too little.

Reaching the fallen Gale Wolf King, he used the alloy battle saber to extract valuable materials, storing them in space items.

Though less valuable as a whole, it was convenient.

Done, he ventured further.

Encountering several High-level Fierce Beasts, he dispatched them effortlessly with arrows.

Collecting materials, Chen Fan wondered why he only found high-level beasts.

Where were the Elite-level Fierce Beasts?

Hoping to find them by chance wasn't effective.

"Time to use Celestial Response Technique."

Level 1 Celestial Response had a five-kilometer radius, consuming 1000 points of spiritual power per second.

With nearly 200,000 spiritual power, he could maintain it over three minutes.

He was eager to see its effects.

Chen Fan took a deep breath and activated Celestial Response.

points evaporated instantly, his remaining spiritual power rapidly diminishing.

Within moments, his mind was flooded with images from a five-kilometer radius.

A fascinating feeling.

Contrary to expectations, Celestial Response didn't grant omniscient sight but an intuitive perception of aura.

For instance, three kilometers west, several familiar auras probably belonged to Iron Armor Rhinoceroses.

To the south, a much stronger aura moved quickly towards them.

Suddenly, the familiar auras scattered, heading in different directions, while a strong and weak aura combined, then the weaker one disappeared.

"Check it out."

Chen Fan's eyes opened, heading west rapidly.

Soon, he saw a three-to-four-meter-long Gray-spotted Snake devouring an Iron Armor Rhinoceros.

As he approached, the snake raised its upper body, hissed in warning.

Responding was an arrow pinning it down, its body convulsing until it ceased moving.

"Despite its troublesome material extraction, it offers hundreds of experience points." Chen Fan smiled.

Much of his joy came from Celestial Response's effectiveness.

The familiar auras proving his guess right.

Additionally, aura strength indicated combat prowess.

This meant he could detect and evade dangerous enemies.

Activating Celestial Response again, he sensed a high-level threat four kilometers north.

Five kilometers seemed short but workable as he moved while sensing around.

Numerous Middle and High-level Fierce Beasts passed within range.

Several times, he sensed incoming threats proving true.

After three-to-four minutes, his spiritual power halved from 200,000 points, he frowned.

Was he not deep enough or were Elite-level beasts scarce, making them hard to find?

Suddenly, he trembled, looking ahead.

Five kilometers away, two overlapping auras caught his attention.

One familiar, likely a Violent Bear.

The other significantly stronger.

Within seconds, the Violent Bear's aura vanished.

The strong aura remained still.

"An Elite-level Fierce Beast!"

Chen Fan breathed heavily.

If correct, the Violent Bear was chased by a powerful Elite-level beast, slain swiftly.

"Excellent."

Chen Fan's eyes narrowed, gripping his battle bow tightly.

Finally found an Elite-level Fierce Beast, not easy indeed.

He moved like lightning, disappearing swiftly.

Chapter 244: Life Force is Very Tenacious

On the wasteland, a savage beast resembling an ape, standing seven to eight meters tall, pressed down hard on the prey's torso with a four to five-meter-long arm.

Its other giant hand, the size of a millstone, gripped the prey's head, repeatedly smashing it against the ground.

"Thump!"

"Thump!"

"Thump!"

With each impact sound, the ground trembled violently.

The ape-like fierce beast was covered in filthy, unruly fur, especially its face, where the hair fluttered in the wind, resembling a lion's mane.

Underneath the fur was muscles as large as rocks, connected to each other.

The creature it had pinned down was a Violent Bear.

That's right, the high-level fierce beast that made many Entry Force Martial Artists fear and avoid it, the Violent Bear.

But now, this four to five-meter tall Violent Bear seemed like a toy in front of the ape-like fierce beast, without a shred of resistance.

At first, when its head was being slammed into the ground, it struggled fiercely, letting out threatening roars, but after two or three hits, its movements slowed down, then it stopped moving altogether.

Its head had completely burst open, blood and brain matter splattering everywhere.

The ape-like fierce beast sensed that the prey in its hand had gone silent, and a human-like look of disdain appeared on its face.

It seemed to think that this guy couldn't withstand much before dying.

"Bang bang!"

It released the Violent Bear's head, raised both arms, pounded its chest, and issued guttural sounds as if celebrating its victory.

Every move it made appeared human-like.

In fact, fierce beasts that evolved to the elite level possessed a certain level of intelligence, roughly equivalent to a four or five-year-old human child.

When they reach the commander level, it's a qualitative change.

"Crunch!"

A crisp sound was heard.

A leg of the Violent Bear was effortlessly torn off, blood spurted from the wound like a fountain.

The ape-like fierce beast's face showed a human-like smile, then its mouth opened, revealing a blood-red maw, and its steel-like teeth bit into the leg.

"Crunch! Crunch!"

Several crisp sounds.

The flesh and bone fragments were swallowed together.

In three or four seconds, the entire leg of the prey had been devoured.

At that moment, it sniffed the air and looked up to see a figure a thousand meters away.

The figure was none other than Chen Fan.

"Lion Ape."

Chen Fan squinted, instantly recognizing the far-off giant.

The Lion Ape, named for its lion-like facial appearance.

This is an ordinary-level elite fierce beast, possessing great power; one swat could destroy a three-story building made of reinforced concrete.

Moreover, it had incredible jumping ability, leaping up to a hundred meters high, easily clearing the walls of a small city.

The Lion Ape, seeing only a small figure, showed a slight contempt in its eyes, tore off another leg from the Violent Bear, brought it to its mouth, and bit down.

Just then, a black flash arrived in an instant.

"Squelch!"

A crisp sound.

An arrow as thick as two fingers shot directly into the Lion Ape's left eye, blood splattered instantly, and soon most of the arrow penetrated through.

"Roar!"

With a roar of pain, the Lion Ape dropped the food in its hand and grabbed the arrow, yanking it out with tremendous force.

Blood gushed out like a bursting dam.

Yet, the intense pain sparked its inherent savagery, it glared at the distant figure with its remaining blood-red eye.

"Roar!"

It sprinted toward Chen Fan at blazing speed.

Every step it took caused the ground to cave in.

Then, with a sudden force on its legs, the ground caved nearly half a meter, and its body soared a hundred meters high, aiming to crush Chen Fan like a meteor.

"Truly worthy of an elite-level fierce beast, its life force is incredibly strong."

But Chen Fan remained calm, and just as it was about to strike, his figure flickered and appeared several hundred meters away.

"Boom!"

A loud explosion.

The spot where Chen Fan originally stood turned into a pit four to five meters wide and almost two meters deep!

Countless sand and gravel burst out like shrapnel from a grenade, scattering in all directions.

Dust clouds surged.

"Roar!"

The Lion Ape inspected the pit but found nothing, and let out an enraged roar.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh!"

Three piercing sounds came from behind it.

The Lion Ape didn't have time to turn around before three arrows shot into the back of its head and burst out its face.

One arrow even came out of its eye socket, shattering the eyeball.

The Lion Ape's body swayed a few times like a drunkard, and seconds later, it collapsed to the ground.

"Hoo."

Chen Fan exhaled.

The bow in his hand seemed to be somewhat weak.

It was almost impossible to kill an elite-level fierce beast with a single arrow unless he used True Qi.

Luckily, the process wasn't as difficult as imagined.

If one arrow wasn't enough, three would suffice, and if three weren't enough, then ten.

"Experience Points, 9000?"

Chen Fan glanced at the updated information in his mind, somewhat surprised.

He initially thought three or four thousand points would be good, but it turned out to be as high as 9000 points! Higher than the C-level Awakened he encountered last time.

"If it were Yang Hu here, he might not be able to kill this creature one-on-one."

Chen Fan murmured.

Despite handling it so effortlessly, it was partly because his speed far outmatched the Lion Ape's, and also his long reach.

To attack the Lion Ape, he could do so from a thousand meters away; the Lion Ape would find it much harder to reach him.

Yang Hu, no doubt, his superpower was strong, but it wouldn't be effective until within a hundred meters of the opponent, basically just scratching them.

He would need to use Protective Talismans and a Teleportation Item for a chance to kill it.

Three to four thousand experience points correspond to a mid-stage Meridian Refining Martial Artist, and generally, those wouldn't have the strength for one-on-one encounters with such a giant.

Chen Fan walked towards the Lion Ape's corpse.

To be safe, he activated Celestial Response earlier and found no trace of the Lion Ape's presence.

Undoubtedly, the opponent was dead beyond revival.

As he got closer, he truly sensed the sheer size of the creature.

Describing it as a small mountain would not be exaggerated.

"If I bring this back to the Martial Arts Association, it should be worth over ten million Contribution Points, and if taken to the Awakened Association, it'd yield a thousand points as well."

He took out his alloy battle saber from his waist, intending to slice off valuable materials from the creature, but found it hard to cut.

"Damn."

Chen Fan sweated.

He forgot that his alloy battle saber was only Tier Two.

Cutting high-level fierce beasts was easy, but slicing elite-level fierce beasts posed a challenge.

"Do I have to drag this big guy back?"

Chen Fan frowned.

It wasn't impossible.

But primarily, this trip aimed to earn experience points.

Going back and forth would waste a lot of time.

"Right, if I coat the blade with True Qi and use Saber Qi to slice, would it be easier?"

The thought sprang up in Chen Fan's mind.

He gripped the saber hilt, transmitted his True Qi through the meridians to his arm, then into the blade.

He slashed the Lion Ape's body, instantly creating a wound.

Before this, the Tier Two alloy battle saber only left a white mark on the skin.

"Could Saber Qi have a sharp effect? If using more True Qi, would the results be better?"

Chen Fan immediately pumped a hundred units of True Qi.

The alloy battle saber transformed into a divine weapon, effortlessly slicing off one of the Lion Ape's claws.

Chen Fan smiled.

He was about to cut off the other three claws when.

A sense of danger surged from deep within him.

"From above!"

Chen Fan looked up.

A giant black shadow was diving down!

A bird-like savage beast!

"Black Feathered Eagle?"

Chen Fan squinted.

This creature was also an ordinary-level elite fierce beast, its strength average, but its speed exceptional; being able to fly made it the toughest among ordinary elite fierce beasts!

It easily spotted ground prey from high above and could escape to the sky if necessary.

"Screech!"

The Black Feathered Eagle let out a sharp cry.

Its wings flapped, whipping up a fierce wind, heading straight for Chen Fan.

Its claws spread wide.

It appeared to want to catch both Chen Fan and the Lion Ape's corpse.

"Courting death!"

Chen Fan's mouth curled into a cold smile.

He pulled an arrow from the quiver and set it on the bowstring.

True Qi surged from within, enveloping the arrow, making it glow brightly.

While aware an arrow to the critical spot wouldn't instantly kill the Black Feathered Eagle, just like the Lion Ape.

This arrow, however, wasn't ordinary; it was the Cloud-Piercing Stone-Shattering Arrow, charged with 3000 True Qi!

The distance between them was less than three hundred meters.

A fierce wind raged on the ground, sand and rocks flying, nearly blinding one's vision.

Suddenly!

An air-ripping sound erupted, the arrow, empowered by True Qi, cut through the air, reaching the Black Feathered Eagle instantly.

"Boom!"

A huge explosion.

The arrow, only as thick as two fingers, blew open a gaping wound on the Black Feathered Eagle's abdomen, then shot skyward.

The Black Feathered Eagle let out an agonizing scream and plummeted to the ground like a broken kite.

Chapter 245: Experience Points, 50,000!

"Bang!"

A loud noise, accompanied by the sound of bones breaking and muscles tearing.

The Black Feathered Eagle that was just flying in the sky, arrogant and overbearing, now fell to the ground like a puddle of mud, motionless.

Chen Fan walked over, looked at the alarming blood hole in its abdomen, and took a deep breath.

If this arrow had been used to deal with the Lion Ape just now.

It would probably also have been killed instantly.

Of course, as a cost, his body's True Qi evaporated by 3000 points directly, leaving him with just over 1000 points from the original 4500.

Glancing at his Experience Points, they increased by nearly 10,000 points, slightly higher than the Lion Ape.

"I need to clean this up quickly, the smell of blood here will soon attract Elite-level Fierce Beasts, just like this Black Feathered Eagle."

Chen Fan thought to himself.

Suddenly, a flash of insight hit him.

That's not right, isn't he here to hunt Elite-level Fierce Beasts this time?

Since he can attract them here, why should he go through the trouble of finding them one by one?

One comes, he kills one.

Two come, he kills two.

In this way, his Experience Points should skyrocket.

Of course, to be safe, he still had to stay away from the "site."

In case too many Elite-level Fierce Beasts get attracted or a really tough adversary appears, he could retreat in time.

Quickly cutting out the valuable materials from the two Elite-level Fierce Beasts, Chen Fan ran a thousand meters away, while recovering his True Qi and waiting.

Soon, Fierce Beasts were attracted by the smell of blood and came over.

Mostly high-level Fierce Beasts, some even noticed Chen Fan, however, the allure of the two Elite-level Fierce Beasts nearby was too strong.

"They really think I'm invisible."

Chen Fan laughed out of anger.

He didn't leave those two Elite-level Fierce Beasts for these high-level Fierce Beasts to enjoy.

Immediately, one arrow at a time, he sent the four or five high-level Fierce Beasts coming over to meet King Yan.

"Not bad, Experience Points increased by almost 3000."

He looked at the panel.

In the distance, besides the two Elite-level Fierce Beasts' corpses, there were also several high-level Fierce Beasts.

"It shouldn't lure any big shots, right?"

Chen Fan thought to himself.

He felt that with his current strength, he could even kill the elite among Elite-level Fierce Beasts.

But if faced with a Commander-level adversary...

He wasn't so sure.

Time passed second by second, and several more high-level Fierce Beasts were attracted nearby.

Just as Chen Fan was about to make his move, those high-level Fierce Beasts seemed to sense something, like startled birds, they scattered and fled quickly.

"Big shots are coming!"

Chen Fan quickly activated Celestial Response, and sure enough, a presence from the north was approaching at incredible speed.

Judging by the intensity of the presence, it was stronger than the previous two Elite-level Fierce Beasts.

Soon, a red Fierce Beast, standing seven to eight meters tall and nearly ten meters long, appeared before Chen Fan, bringing with it an aura of ferocity.

"Fire Scaly Pig?"

Chen Fan was taken aback.

Fire Scaly Pig, named due to its body being covered in red scale armor, which from afar appears like a large mass of flames.

However, its scale armor is not just seemingly fire-like, as even if hit directly by a 150-millimeter howitzer shell, this creature can remain unscathed.

This terrifying defense makes it one of the top beings among the top-tier Elite-level Fierce Beasts.

The Fire Scaly Pig also smelled the hidden Chen Fan far away.

But it wasn't bothered because there were two Elite-level Fierce Beasts nearby and many high-level Fierce Beasts.

It didn't ponder why these prey were placed together; it only thought that if it could consume all of them, its strength would significantly increase.

So, after glancing at Chen Fan, it sprinted to the Lion Ape and began feasting.

"Indeed, a simple-minded, strong-limbed creature."

Chen Fan laughed and cried simultaneously.

Any person would know something is off here.

Of course, knowing something is off is one thing, but being able to resist temptation and remain indifferent is another.

He licked his lips and took out an Arrow from the Quiver.

After the earlier breath regulation, his True Qi had fully recovered.

However, whether the Cloud-Piercing Stone-Shattering Arrow could kill the opponent with one shot, Chen Fan wasn't sure.

He aimed the arrowhead at the Fire Scaly Pig's and released the bowstring.

"Whoosh!"

At a distance of a thousand meters, the shot arrived almost instantly.

"Clang!"

A crisp sound.

The arrowhead collided with the scale armor, sparking flames.

Yet, the next moment, the sound of the arrowhead piercing flesh echoed.

Spiral True Qi crazily tore at the Fire Scaly Pig's flesh, eventually, carrying the arrowhead, it penetrated out, leaving a blood hole the size of a large bowl.

Blood flowed continuously.

The Fire Scaly Pig let out a miserable cry.

The cry was filled with fear, seemingly unable to believe its proud scale armor was penetrated.

But more of it was anger.

It turned its head, staring fiercely at Chen Fan with blood-red eyes,

then, with a speed that didn't match its size, it charged at Chen Fan.

Nearly three hundred tons of weight combined with a speed approaching fifteen hundred meters per second.

Even if there were a dozen-story reinforced concrete building ahead, it would be shattered.

"Indeed, the top-tier Elite-level Fierce Beast."

Chen Fan sighed.

With a large bowl-sized blood hole in its belly, it could still act like the injuries were nothing.

He didn't plan to confront it head-on; with a flash, he moved to the side and shot three arrows aimed at its eyes and nose, vital spots.

Because he suspected that without True Qi's aid, arrows aimed elsewhere might not even break the scale armor.

"Swish! Swish!"

Two crisp sounds echoed.

One arrow exploded one of its eyes, and the other arrow pierced through its nose.

The third arrow hit the scale armor and bounced off.

The Fire Scaly Pig gasped for breath; though only a few seconds had passed, because of the previous sprint, it had lost more than half of its blood, causing its body to stagger.

Yet, fueled by rage, it charged at Chen Fan again.

Chen Fan looked at his bow and arrows and chuckled bitterly.

Those two arrows, despite hitting vital spots, didn't have much effect.

Looks like afterward, he needs to buy a stronger bow, and of course, increase his True Qi as much as possible, otherwise, he'd be very awkward like now.

Luckily, after dodging two attacks, the Fire Scaly Pig finally collapsed from excessive blood loss.

But it was not dead yet.

Chen Fan took a deep breath, gathered all the remaining True Qi in his body onto the blade, rushed in front of the creature, and slashed at its neck.

"Swish!"

Blood splattered everywhere.

Almost splattered all over Chen Fan.

The more critical the moment, the less he should relax and be careless.

He quickly activated Celestial Response and after sensing no Elite-level Fierce Beasts approaching, he breathed a sigh of relief.

"Finally dealt with this guy."

Chen Fan said, glancing at the panel.

Then, his face showed excitement.

Because the Experience Points increased by nearly 30,000!

Including the previous two Elite-level Fierce Beasts and some high-level ones, it totaled nearly 50,000!

"Though this creature was tough to deal with, it couldn't be denied, the Experience Points given are indeed many, and the points should be high too, at least 3,000."

Chen Fan's face showed a smile.

He needed to handle this quickly, or another Elite-level Fierce Beast might come.

But this hunting method was excellent; he could stay here until dark without any accidents.

Meanwhile, tens of kilometers away in a small camp, the ground was littered with corpses.

Among them were adults, the elderly, and even children. Strangely, all of them had their eyes gouged out, their hollow eye sockets made one shiver.

In the center of the clearing stood several men in black robes.

One of them, holding a black ball, had strands of black energy floating from the surrounding corpses into the ball.

Simultaneously, the corpses on the ground became emaciated.

After a while, the corpses on the ground turned to dust, scattering with the wind.

"Not bad."

The man holding the black ball said with a smile, "This time the death energy absorbed is a lot, if we keep working hard, it won't be long before the four generals under Lord Black Demon descend here, and then, Lord Black Demon's arrival will not be far behind."

The other four looked at each other, showing excitement.

"But," the man frowned and said, "These ordinary people, their strength is still too weak. In half a month, we sacrificed five or six camps, only filling half of the black ball. If we could absorb the death energy of some strong individuals, that would be great."

Upon hearing this, the other four looked troubled.

Although they all had combat power comparable to C-level Awakened, once their whereabouts were exposed, B-level or even A-level Awakened would immediately come to hunt them down!

Therefore, unless absolutely necessary, they didn't want to go to places with too many people. Camps with one or two hundred or تھیں three hundred people were the most suitable places.

"Brother Peng, I think this matter still needs careful planning."

"Yes, if necessary, we can target a camp with one or two thousand people next time. But if we do that, we must leave here quickly."

"Yes, everyone needs to work harder. The more we bring back, the more we can improve our own strength."

Peng Song said, suddenly his face changed, the black ball in his hand started emitting red light.

"What's wrong, Brother Peng?" the group quickly asked.

"There's a large amount of death energy nearby," Peng Song said excitedly, "the closer we get, the stronger the black ball reacts. I've never felt it react this intensely before. Quick, follow me."

Saying this, he rushed out quickly.

"A large amount of death energy?"

The group looked at each other.

If that's the case, then the feedback they get will be more.

No reason to hesitate, quickly follow and check it out.

Chapter 246: Think You Can Escape? Can You?

A minute passed,

Five minutes passed,

Nearly ten minutes passed.

Since the appearance of the Fire Scaly Pig until now, not to mention Elite-level Fierce Beasts, there hadn't even been a single High-level Fierce Beast.

"What's going on?"

Chen Fan furrowed his brows.

Could it be that there are no Elite-level Fierce Beasts nearby?

That possibility couldn't be ruled out. Counting the Fire Scaly Pig from earlier, there had already been three Elite-level Fierce Beasts.

But surely High-level Fierce Beasts should be around, right? He had seen several before, but they had all been scared away by the Fire Scaly Pig.

Thinking of this, a flash of insight crossed Chen Fan's mind.

Could the Fire Scaly Pig's aura be so terrifying that it scared away all the Fierce Beasts around?

"There's a good chance of that happening."

Chen Fan slapped his thigh.

If that's the case, then he needs to consider whether to change his location.

Thinking of this, he checked around, and within a five-kilometer radius, there weren't any signs of Fierce Beasts.

Just then, several auras suddenly intruded.

"Fierce Beasts coming?"

Chen Fan's eyes showed a hint of joy.

And five of them at once?

"No, something's not right!"

Suddenly, his expression changed slightly.

These auras were fundamentally different from those of Fierce Beasts.

"Could it be people?"

He furrowed his brows and looked toward the direction where the five auras were coming.

Even though this was a deserted wilderness with Elite-level Fierce Beasts appearing, it couldn't be ruled out that high-skill adventurers or Martial Artists like him could venture this far.

Seeing the mountain of Fierce Beast corpses not far away, would those adventurers resist the temptation?

"The worst-case scenario has happened."

Chen Fan sighed lightly.

Fortunately, he had already mentally prepared for this, first trying to persuade them nicely. If they didn't appreciate it, he would have to take action.

And indeed, those auras belonged to Peng Song and his group.

They hurried all the way from the village without stopping.

A distance of four or five kilometers was just a matter of a few breaths.

Soon, they arrived in front of the pile of Fierce Beast corpses, each of them looking up at the mountain of materials, their excitement making their bodies tremble.

"My God, so many Fierce Beast corpses! That's a Fire Scaly Pig! My God? It's a Fire Scaly Pig!" exclaimed a black-robed man whose eyes nearly popped out of his sockets.

"Not just a Fire Scaly Pig, there's also a Lion Ape, and a Black Feathered Eagle!"

"Three, three Elite-level Fierce Beasts!"

"And over ten High-level Fierce Beasts!"

After speaking, they looked at each other, unsure of what to say.

Peng Song, at the front, had a look of intense desire in his eyes.

These Fierce Beasts seemed to have died not too long ago, their bodies still fresh.

Can't say more, just the blood and flesh provided by the three Elite-level Fierce Beasts would equal the several villages they sacrificed earlier.

Not to mention, there were over ten High-level Fierce Beasts too.

He doubted whether the black ball in his hand could absorb all of these. If not, he'd have to make another trip.

"Brother Peng," a black-robed person behind him asked doubtfully, "how come all these Fierce Beast corpses are piled up here? Could it be intentional?"

"You're right."

Suddenly, a voice sounded from behind them.

"Who?"

They were shocked and turned around hurriedly.

They saw a person holding a Longbow with a long knife at his waist, wearing an Evil Ghost Mask, appearing in front of them.

"I killed these Fierce Beasts and piled their corpses here to attract more of them."

Chen Fan finished and scrutinized the group.

He felt an uncomfortable sensation from these few people.

Clad in black robes with gloomy expressions, the leader holding a black ball.

They didn't look like good people.

"You killed them?"

Upon hearing this, they looked at each other.

Somewhat doubtful.

Three Elite-level Fierce Beasts! And the Fire Scaly Pig was the toughest among them.

Even if they all teamed up, killing it would be questionable.

Then out came someone claiming he had killed them.

"Yes."

Chen Fan nodded briefly, "Whether you believe me or not, the fact is these prey are my trophies. You should leave."

They looked at each other again and finally focused their gaze on Peng Song.

Peng Song's mouth curved into a mocking smile as he looked at Chen Fan and said, "Friend, do you think seeing us today means you'll leave here alive?"

With those words, the others also reacted, revealing sinister smiles.

"What do you mean?"

Chen Fan's brows furrowed, "Are you planning to kill me?"

"Indeed."

Peng Song laughed, "Honestly, we didn't notice you nearby initially. You could have lived, but you fatefully showed yourself, making us feel obligated to kill you."

He signaled to two people beside him.

The two immediately launched themselves like arrows, rushing at Chen Fan from left and right.

"Martial Artists?"

Chen Fan's eyes showed a trace of surprise.

Without responding, the two reached Chen Fan swiftly, launching strikes at his head and chest with explosive force.

Shockingly, their fists and feet carried a lot of black aura.

Chen Fan's figure flashed, reappearing hundreds of meters away.

"What?"

The two were stunned upon finding their enemy's sudden disappearance.

The next moment.

"Thud!"

There was a crisp sound.

One of them was pierced by an arrow, being sent flying in the air.

"?"

The shot person stared at the blood hole in his chest with an incredulous expression, seemingly confused.

"Thud!"

Another sound echoed, and the other person met the same fate as his companion.

Everything happened in the blink of an eye, leaving the remaining three black-robed men unresponsive.

"Speak, who are you?"

Chen Fan stood at a distance, his arrow aimed at the leader.

Those black auras from their bodies left an uncomfortable feeling.

The three looked at each other.

"Kill him."

Peng Song commanded again.

His companions nodded, one of them darting forward like an arrow, targeting Chen Fan.

His body surface unknowingly appearing covered in black aura.

The other one gazed fixedly at Chen Fan, chanting some sort of spell.

Chen Fan, not far away, suddenly felt his body sinking, immobilized.

And at that moment, the other black-robed man reached him, a dagger appearing in his hand, shrouded in dense black aura.

With joy in his eyes, he shouted:

"Die!"

Chen Fan sneered subtly, dodging the inevitable strike.

Meanwhile, the chanting black-robed man nearby spat out a mouthful of blood, his aura quickly waning, looking stunned.

How could it be!

His Imprisonment Technique should have controlled even top-level C-level Awakened for a second or two.

Previously, they relied on this move to ambush many pursuers.

Yet, it didn't even immobilize this guy for half a second?

"Boom!"

A loud bang.

The dagger-wielding black-robed man was kicked by Chen Fan, exploding mid-air.

Chen Fan stared at the remaining two, "You give me an odd feeling, not like Awakened or Martial Artists. Who are you? And what's that black ball in your hand?"

Peng Song and his companion glanced at each other, fear flashing deep in their eyes.

Even a fool could see, they had hit a hard target.

In mere seconds, most of his companions had died, only two left, one losing combat capability.

"Brother Peng, you should go, leave me."

The blood-spitting black-robed man whispered.

"But?" Peng Song hesitated.

"Go!"

Hurried, the injured man said, "If you die here, our efforts will be wasted!"

"Fine!"

Peng Song nodded, staring at Chen Fan as if to etch his face into his memory.

Next second, he vanished, leaving only a wisp of black smoke.

"Hahaha!"

The injured man laughed joyfully.

It's just death?

He had that resolve since joining the Black Demon Sect.

He always wished to return to Lord Black Demon's embrace.

And their sacrifice wouldn't be in vain. Once Brother Peng brought the news back, sect leaders would surely handle this guy!

Then he would learn what it means to live or die!

"Running? Can you escape?"

Chen Fan activated Celestial Response to its maximum, sensing 20 kilometers radius.

Mental power rapidly depleting at almost 9000 points per second.

In that instant, he sensed dozens of auras!

Mostly familiar ones, High-level Fierce Beasts, a few Elite ones.

Other unfamiliar auras likely unseen Fierce Beasts.

In the southeast, seven to eight kilometers away, an aura quickly fled.

"Got you."

Chen Fan smiled and shot southeast like a rocket.

"Fool."

The injured man grinned smugly.

Catch Brother Peng?

Daydreaming!

He might use this chance to escape too.

He thought and took out a black elixir, consuming it, then ran in the opposite direction.

Chapter 247: Experience Points, Over 300,000?

"Who the hell is that guy!"

After using a transfer spell, Peng Song's face was pale.

But more than that, he was more concerned about Chen Fan's identity.

From their earlier conversation, it was clear the other party didn't know their identities. Of course, just in case, they chose to kill and silence him to avoid exposing their tracks.

But reality is stark compared to ideals.

Not only did they fail to kill and silence him or hide their tracks, they also lost their comrades' lives. If others in the sect found out when they returned, they would surely be ridiculed.

"That masked man, I'll remember you!"

He gritted his teeth and said, "When I go back, next time, I'll take your life!"

"No need for next time, this time will do."

A voice suddenly sounded ahead.

The masked man blocked his way.

"You?"

Peng Song stopped abruptly, his expression as if he had seen a ghost.

How is this possible?

He used the transfer technique to instantly teleport seven or eight kilometers away! It's even better than those C-level Awakener's teleportation items.

But the technique burns essence blood as a cost, and cannot be used unless absolutely necessary.

But how could this guy still keep up? How did he know which direction I fled?

"Who, who are you? How did you find me?"

He asked with difficulty.

"Who are you guys?"

Chen Fan countered.

"Hmph, dream on if you want to know my identity!" Peng Song sneered, eyes fixed on Chen Fan.

Although he didn't know how Chen Fan found him, he could keep using it and didn't believe Chen Fan could keep up.

"Soul Capture."

Bright light flashed in Chen Fan's eyes.

Peng Song only felt the world spinning, and suddenly lost consciousness, standing blankly.

"Phew..."

Chen Fan let out a breath.

While talking to his opponent, he had directly upgraded the [Soul Shifting Technique] to Perfection Realm, costing over ten thousand experience points.

One of its core traits is Soul Capture, directly controlling the opponent's mind through eye contact.

The greater the difference in spiritual power, the longer the control lasts.

Judging from what happened just now, it worked very well indeed.

He stepped forward and found the black ball in the opponent's hand had disappeared.

"He probably hid it in some space item."

Chen Fan muttered, "No rush, let's take him back first."

Grabbing the opponent's shoulder, he winded and darted to the injured man's side.

"Thump."

The man saw the mask on Chen Fan's face and was so terrified that he fell to the ground, extremely frightened.

This guy, returned?

Yes, he probably didn't catch up with Brother Peng, so he chased after me.

Well, I was ready to die anyway, as long as...

Again a "thump" sound as someone was thrown to the ground.

He instinctively looked, being struck by astonishment.

"Brother Peng? You, aren't you?"

His mouth opened wide, wide enough to swallow a basket of eggs.

Yet the latter lay on the ground, eyes rolled back, oblivious.

"Brother Peng, Brother Peng, what's wrong? Brother Peng!"

"Alright, stop shouting."

Chen Fan glanced impatiently, "He is under my control, can't you see?"

"Under your control?"

The injured man was stunned.

Looking at Peng Song's state, he swallowed hard.

It seems, indeed so.

Brother Peng's current state resembled those they had controlled before.

"You?"

In the next moment, he felt enveloped by a deathly aura and lost consciousness completely.

"Annoying." Chen Fan withdrew his finger.

Since he had caught this Peng, the other guy had no further use and could be killed directly with Soul-Annihilating Finger.

"What's your name?"

He looked at the man lying on the ground.

"Peng Song."

The man answered honestly.

"Who are you people? Why are you here? What was that black ball you had just now?"

Chen Fan bombarded him with questions.

"We are from the Black Demon Sect. We sensed a lot of death energy here, so we came. The black ball in my hand can absorb the energy of dead beings."

Peng Song said, word by word.

Although not very fluent, it was understandable.

"Black Demon Sect?"

Chen Fan frowned.

He felt like he had seen this name somewhere.

Yes, a couple of days ago, while attending the Awakened Association test with Gu Ze, he absentmindedly flipped through a booklet.

There were many wanted notices on the first page.

One of them was about a guy nicknamed Sacrificer who founded this Black Demon Sect, right?

"Why do you collect these things?" Chen Fan asked.

"We bring the energy back to Lord Bishop, who grants us power to become stronger," Peng Song said.

"Granting you power to become stronger?" Chen Fan asked, "Is that the only use? No other purposes?"

"Yes, according to Lord Bishop, the more energy we collect, the more likely we can summon Lord Black Demon's followers, or even one day directly bring Lord Black Demon here."

Chen Fan realized.

Summoning creatures from Alternate Space to here might be Black Demon Sect's real goal.

Giving these people extraordinary power was like offering them a temptation, making them eagerly sacrifice others.

In other words, the power of these people came from that so-called Lord Black Demon.

No wonder he felt they were strange.

Understanding this, Chen Fan's face turned grim.

So, these people's hands had already reached here? This place is only four or five hundred miles from Anshan City and Chen Family Fortress.

If he didn't run into this group today, who knows if one day they wouldn't attack his fortress?

"Where's the black ball you were holding? Get it out."

"Yes."

Peng Song, like a puppet, obeyed Chen Fan's command.

With a wipe on a ring, a black ball appeared in his hand.

Chen Fan took it instantly. The moment it touched his palm, an icy cold sensation surged, and a bloodthirsty intent arose from his heart.

He snorted coldly.

Immediately, the sensations vanished.

Suddenly, some lines of information appeared in his mind.

[Collection Magic Ball discovered, large amounts of death energy found]

[Due to significant energy attribute differences, currently unable to absorb this energy]

[Destroying the Collection Magic Ball grants 320,000 experience points. Note, upon destruction, the death energy will also dissipate]

Chen Fan's eyes widened.

His gaze landed on the third line of information.

This thing was called Collection Magic Ball? Never mind that, the important thing was, destroying it would immediately grant him 320,000 experience points.

320,000 points!

Previously, after much effort, he had earned less than 50,000 experience points.

Yet by simply destroying this thing, he could get 320,000 points!

Of course, looking at the three lines of information, this seemed like a last resort, an action to be taken only if necessary.

According to the first line, this death energy could indeed be useful for him, probably convertible into massive potential points.

But then the second sentence came.

Energy attribute difference.

Obviously, the absorbed death energy was one of many energy types, similar to True Qi.

But for him, cultivating True Qi, he couldn't absorb this energy.

After all, one belongs to the living, the other to the dead.

Maybe one day there would be a way, as the information used the term "temporarily," indicating some method to convert this energy could exist.

Who knows when that would be.

Converting to experience points was simple; destroy it. It was like getting experience from killing prey.

"Better to choose experience points." Chen Fan thought.

As the saying goes, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. Especially in the apocalypse, converting resources into personal strength as quickly as possible was paramount.

"Crack!"

The Collection Magic Ball shattered, scattering into countless fragments.

[Experience points +320,000]

Seeing this notification in his mind, Chen Fan's face showed satisfaction.

320,000 points, enough to max out over twenty Inner Strength Heart Methods.

Using it on martial arts would yield even more.

Then, his gaze focused back on Peng Song, "Do you have any more black balls on you?"

Peng Song shook his head, "Each team carries only one. We return after collecting enough energy."

"I see."

Chen Fan nodded, then asked, "Do you know where the others are now?"

Even if not, destroying Collection Magic Balls for experience points was enough.

He would not show mercy to these devilish sacrificers.

If he did, one day these people might target his family.

"No clue."

Peng Song shook his head, "Each team acts alone, returning after collecting enough energy, then departing again."

"Oh?"

Chen Fan's eyes brightened, instinctively wanting to ask their lair's location but changed to ask, "How's the defense at your base? What's the strength of the strongest?"

"There's a bishop, a B-level Awakener, favored by the Sect Leader, said to be very strong."

"B-level."

Chen Fan took a deep breath.

Surely that Celestial Demon granted him some power? His strength probably surpasses ordinary B-level Awakeners.

Nothing is ever simple.

After enough questioning, Chen Fan nodded, feeling the time was right.

He'd gotten what he wanted, so keeping this guy was pointless.

"But wait, maybe there's some use."

Chen Fan pondered, a bold idea popping into his head.

Chapter 248: The One Who Will Kill You

[Soul Shifting Technique: Perfection (cannot be upgraded), Traits: Soul Capture Level 4, Soul Shifting Level 2]

[Soul Capture: Active Skill, upon activation, consumes a small amount of spiritual power to confuse the enemy. The greater the difference in spiritual power between the two parties, the higher the success rate. When the difference exceeds twice, the success rate reaches 100%. Each level upgrade doubles the duration.]

[Soul Shifting: Active Skill, upon activation, consumes a certain amount of spiritual power to control the opponent's mind, making them a puppet of the caster. The greater the difference in spiritual power between the two parties, the longer the control lasts. If the difference exceeds tenfold, it can permanently alter the opponent's mind. Each level upgrade doubles the effect.]

The Soul Shifting Technique at the Perfection Realm has unlocked only two traits, both related to mind control.

The former can only control for a short time, but the latter can completely alter a person's mind, similar to Guan Dehua's mind control.

The description of Soul Shifting also includes an additional note.

If the difference in spiritual power between the two parties exceeds tenfold, it can permanently alter the opponent's mind!

Chen Fan looked at the person before him.

Without a doubt, this person had committed unforgivable sins, even dismembering him would be merciful.

But the more detestable one was still the Black Demon Sect behind him.

Therefore, he planned to make this guy his insider and infiltrate him into the Black Demon Sect.

First, let him provide the whereabouts of other small teams sent by the sect.

Once his strength was sufficient, he would storm into their lair and wipe them out in one go.

It would both eliminate a plague for the people and yield a large amount of experience points.

"Look into my eyes."

Peng Song, upon hearing this, raised his head in a daze and met Chen Fan's gaze.

Time ticked by, second by second.

Until Chen Fan snapped his fingers.

Peng Song's body trembled, his previously bewildered eyes clearing up.

He looked around first, frowning, seemingly confused about the situation.

But when his gaze fell on a nearby corpse, his pupils widened in shock.

"Still don't understand the situation before you?"

A cold voice echoed.

"If you don't honestly confess who you are, that person will be your fate." Chen Fan said slowly.

"You!"

Peng Song's memories flooded back as he saw Chen Fan.

He remembered.

At that time, he had encountered this masked man while with a few companions, intending to kill him to silence him, but ended up getting counterattacked.

Helpless, he had to abandon his companions and flee, but who would have thought he'd still be hunted down.

"Speak, who exactly are you people." Chen Fan pressed again.

"Humph!"

Peng Song snorted coldly, hatred surging in his heart.

"Dream on if you want to know our identity!"

With that, he burned his Essence Blood again and vanished on the spot.

Did the Soul Shifting fail?

Chen Fan smiled faintly.

Impossible.

The Soul Shifting Technique could completely alter a person's mind, making them his puppet.

But doing so would make the person's behavior change too drastically, surely arousing suspicion.

In such a case, it would be a small matter if this pawn died; if those people traced back to him, it would be awkward.

Therefore, he only made minor adjustments in the opponent's mind.

One, he was not allowed to kill. If the thought of killing appeared in his mind, he would suffer from splitting headaches.

Two, if he gained information about the whereabouts of other small teams from the Black Demon Sect, he would immediately report it to Chen Fan.

Lastly, if anyone detected something wrong and tried to trace back to Chen Fan through him, he would immediately commit suicide.

In this way, the risk of exposure was minimized.

Otherwise, all this effort would be wasted.

"Still about 350,000 experience points left, time to head back." Chen Fan smiled.

Once back, he could fully cultivate the techniques he had.

Not only that, he could also purchase secret manuals like [Emperor's Qi Observation Skill] and [Undying Seal Technique] for further enhancement.

He could also merge the pill formula for True Qi Pills.

With all this done, his strength would soar to a new height.

Rescuing Sister Meng Yu would be a piece of cake.

"Right." A thought flashed through his mind.

If he rescued Sister Meng Yu, tracking down these evil cultists would become much easier.

He was just worried about whether Sister Meng Yu, in her current state, could carry out these tasks.

If not, then so be it.

With a swift movement, he headed towards Anshan City.

After sprinting hundreds of miles, the outline of Anshan City finally appeared.

Just as he planned to enter the city straightforwardly, he recalled the spies watching him when he left the city gate in the morning.

"Forget it, let's deal with that Lu guy first." Chen Fan thought.

The people from the business firm were like a toad sitting on one's foot—annoying though not biting.

Finishing them off early would save trouble and avenge Uncle Zhang.

As for acting so boldly in broad daylight, would it be too reckless?

No need to worry, for he could change his appearance and shrink his bones.

Storing his weapon in his space items, with a series of cracking sounds, Chen Fan transformed into a tall and sturdy man, about 6'2", and headed towards the stronghold's walls.

At that moment, in the back hall of the business firm.

Four or five figures sat on chairs, discussing something.

Lu Yang was among them, frowning, looking extremely troubled.

"What a pity." A man on the right side angrily slapped his chair and said, "We've waited for almost two days, and that masked guy finally came out, but we couldn't get through to Qin Ye. What the hell is this?"

"Yeah, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Who knows how long it'll be before the next chance."

"Qin Ye seems to have left Anshan City, right? With Lord Guan." When these words were spoken, the room fell silent immediately.

"Yeah, I heard they left early in the morning, creating quite a commotion. By now, it should've been a day and a half, why aren't they back yet?"

"Brother Lu, do you know what happened?" All eyes turned towards Lu Yang.

"How would I know?" Lu Yang shook his head.

Honestly, if it weren't for the spy informing him that the masked person from the Martial Arts Association had come out, he wouldn't have wanted to contact Qin Ye.

Because last time, after Sun Wei's interference, Qin Ye failed to succeed and vented all his anger on him upon return.

He complained that the Awakeners had invested so many resources into the business firm, yet they couldn't handle one person. What use were they?

If this happened again, he would lose his position as the manager and be demoted to a caravan leader, delivering goods—a tough job with no perks.

The few exchanged glances and continued their curses.

"It's all that masked bastard's fault, why isn't he dead yet?"

"Yeah, we almost got him last time. If it weren't for Sun Wei intervening, that kid would have been dead meat."

"Don't worry, that guy won't live long."

"Tap, tap."

Footsteps echoed.

"Who's there?"

Everyone exclaimed, looking towards the door.

A burly man with a gleaming long knife appeared in the doorway.

"Who... who are you?" Lu Yang frowned.

He felt a strange familiarity with the man before him but was certain they had never met.

Chen Fan remained silent, glaring coldly as if looking at a dead man.

"Audacious!" A man sprang up, drew a long knife from his waist, and said fiercely, "Didn't you hear Brother Lu asking you? Are you deaf or dumb?"

"Speak, who are you, and how did you find this place?"

"Speak up!" The others drew their weapons, fixing their gazes on Chen Fan.

In their eyes, though his arrival was strange, their attention had been on their conversation. Not noticing someone approaching was understandable.

Fortunately, they outnumbered him, and this was their territory. Why fear one person?

"The one to take your lives." Chen Fan sneered.

"What arrogance!"

"Courting death!"

The rest charged at Chen Fan in fury.

Chen Fan stood still, swinging his long knife several times. Several one-meter-long white sword qis roared in various directions.

"Splat!"

"Splat!"

From a few meters away, martial artists were bisected by the sword qi, blood gushing like a fountain, filling the back hall with a bloody stench.

With a thud, Lu Yang, who was sitting, collapsed to the ground, trembling, "A... A Meridian Refining Martial Artist?"

"Correct." Chen Fan approached him with his knife, "But no prize."

"Don't... don't kill me!" Lu Yang was scared senseless, unable even to stand, let alone escape.

"We don't know each other," Lu Yang begged, "I don't think I've wronged you. Please, spare me. I'll give you whatever you want."

He dared not speak loudly, knowing this man could kill him with one strike.

Even if his cries drew outside attention, they'd be useless. Better to cooperate in hope for survival.

"Did nothing wrong to me?"

Chen Fan sneered and struck his chest with a palm.

"Gah!"

Lu Yang spat blood, his face white as a sheet, eyes wide with shock.

He thought he was dead, yet still lived.

A deep sense of unease filled his heart.

"W... What do you want?" he asked in terror.

"You'll see soon." said Chen Fan, knocking him out with another palm strike.

Chapter 249: Surprises Keep Coming

Chen Fan carried the unconscious Lu Yang and sped towards Chen Family Fortress.

He wanted to kill the other party, it wasn't much harder than crushing an ant.

However, the grudge against this guy wasn't just his own, it also involved Uncle Zhang.

Therefore, bringing this guy back to let Uncle Zhang finish him off was also a way to repay past kindnesses.

Besides, encountering members of the Black Demon Sect earlier had made him uneasy. The dangers faced by human settlements in the wild came not only from Fierce Beasts—humans, compared to Fierce Beasts, were even more dangerous.

He felt the need to go back and make some preparations.

Soon, he arrived outside Chen Family Fortress.

Not wanting to cause too much commotion, he decided to quietly jump over the wall, just like last time, and gave Zhang Ren a call.

In no time, Zhang Ren pushed open the door and came in, his face beaming with a smile: "Xiaofan, why are you back so soon this time?"

Chen Fan smiled slightly and pointed to the figure on the ground, "Uncle Zhang, this time I brought someone back for you."

"Brought someone back?"

Zhang Ren's face showed surprise.

He looked at the figure on the ground, walked up, and his pupils suddenly dilated, "It's him!"

"Xiaofan, you?"

He looked at Chen Fan, his mouth agape.

"It's him, right?"

Chen Fan asked with a smile.

"Yes, it's him."

Zhang Ren took a deep breath, staring at Lu Yang on the ground.

This face, he would never forget, even till death.

If not for the help of Chen Guodong and the others in the past, he would have died in the mouth of a Fierce Beast long ago.

And now, the culprit who caused his downfall was actually lying right in front of him?

"Xiaofan?"

After a brief burst of excitement, Zhang Ren's eyes showed deep worry.

"Uncle Zhang, I know what you're worried about." Chen Fan waved his hand, "You're afraid that bringing him here will alarm those Awakeners in Anshan City, right?"

"Yes."

Zhang Ren sighed softly.

"Don't worry, Uncle Zhang. They don't even know who I am, there's no way they can find this place."

Chen Fan smiled slightly.

Secretly, he thought, even if they did know, there was nothing to worry about.

Now, he had the power to instantly kill any C-level Awakener, but even if several C-level Awakeners teamed up, it might pose a risk.

Once back home, he planned to learn the Golden Bell Shield to significantly enhance his survivability, eliminating the fear of facing multiple C-level Awakeners simultaneously.

"Alright."

Zhang Ren breathed a slight sigh of relief.

He was still a bit uneasy.

He believed that since Chen Fan said so, he must have covered his tracks well, but those Awakeners had means beyond ordinary people's imagination. If they found out it was Chen Fan, it would be very dangerous.

Unfortunately, with his current strength, he couldn't help Chen Fan much.

"Wake up, wake up."

Chen Fan walked over to Lu Yang and kicked him lightly.

Lu Yang gradually regained consciousness and saw Chen Fan as soon as he opened his eyes.

"?"

He frowned.

Something wasn't right. He remembered that when he passed out, there was a fierce-faced man in front of him.

Why was he seeing a robust young man around seventeen or eighteen years old now?

"What, you don't recognize me?"

Chen Fan's mouth curled into a slight smile, mimicking the earlier man's voice as he spoke.

"You, you!"

Lu Yang's face looked like he had seen a ghost.

"You, you were that person before? Who exactly are you!"

He truly didn't know how he had offended this person.

The person had not only killed those around him but also severely injured and brought him here. What on earth was this guy planning?

"You don't remember?"

Chen Fan smiled, then put on his mask.

With a "boom!",

Lu Yang's mind buzzed violently.

He understood. He understood everything.

This young man was the masked guy he had mentioned before.

And this guy was already a Meridian Refining Martial Artist. A young Meridian Refining Martial Artist at his age—who would believe it if word got out?

"You brought me here just to humiliate me, didn't you?"

Lu Yang gave a self-mocking laugh.

By this point, he had given up any hope.

"If that's the case, congratulations, you've achieved your goal. If you're a real man, give me a quick death."

Chen Fan looked at Zhang Ren.

Upon hearing this, Lu Yang finally noticed there was another person in the room.

A man in his thirties or forties, standing a bit oddly, seemingly with a lame leg.

"You?"

He frowned, feeling an inexplicable sense of familiarity with this person.

But he couldn't remember where he had seen him before.

"Can't recall?"

Zhang Ren sighed, "Not surprising, you've harmed so many people; how could you remember every single one?"

Upon hearing this, a sullen look appeared on Lu Yang's face.

But still, he stubbornly said, "Hmph, I've fallen into your hands. Kill me or chop me up, do as you please."

"Xiaofan, give me the knife." Chen Fan handed over the knife.

Lu Yang immediately shrunk back, using his hands and feet to crawl backward.

A flash of the knife.

Lu Yang clutched his neck and fell into a pool of blood, soon suffocating to death.

Zhang Ren wiped the blood off the blade, sheathed it, and handed it back to Chen Fan.

"Xiaofan, thank you."

"Uncle Zhang, you don't need to be so formal." Chen Fan took the knife, then asked, "Uncle Zhang, isn't this letting him off too easily?"

"It's all in the past."

Zhang Ren shook his head, looking out the window, "If it weren't for him, I wouldn't have come here and met everyone. I've already killed him and avenged this grudge; people should always look forward."

He finished, giving Chen Fan a smile.

"Right."

Chen Fan nodded.

One had to admit, Uncle Zhang was indeed carefree.

"By the way, Uncle Zhang, I brought you something else this time."

"Something else?"

Zhang Ren's mouth gaped wide.

Honestly, he was already satisfied with avenging his enemy with his own hands.

"It's this."

Chen Fan took out a Spatial Ring, the special reward he had received from the association.

With a space of only one cubic meter, it was of little use to him.

"This is!"

Zhang Ren's breathing became rapid.

"A space item?"

"Yes."

Chen Fan smiled, "There are also two items inside that I've prepared for you."

"More?"

Zhang Ren was completely stunned.

Another surprise?

Not to mention, just the Spatial Ring itself was something he could only dream about when he was in Anshan City.

You couldn't buy this kind of thing with money alone. Moreover, he couldn't even gather such a huge amount of money all at once.

Yet now, Chen Fan had just given him one for free.

And there were more surprises inside?

"Xiaofan, I..." His lips trembled, not knowing what to say.

"Uncle Zhang, do you think I'd take back something I've given?" Chen Fan asked.

"..."

Zhang Ren, overwhelmed with emotion, could only reach out and accept it.

As soon as his fingers touched it, a vision appeared before his eyes.

A white space of one cubic meter, with nothing but two bottles of elixir inside.

With a thought, the two bottles of elixir appeared in his hands.

"This?" Zhang Ren looked at Chen Fan in shock.

Chen Fan chuckled.

Uncle Zhang learned quickly, huh?

"Uncle Zhang, that's how the Spatial Ring works. You can try putting these two bottles back in."

"Let me see."

Zhang Ren nodded, and with a thought, the two bottles of elixir returned to the Spatial Ring.

"So, this is a space item?"

He took a deep breath.

So magical.

Chen Fan couldn't help but laugh, but thinking back to his own initial experience with such items, he too was amazed.

"By the way, Xiaofan, what are those two elixirs?" Zhang Ren suddenly thought of something and quickly asked.

"Top-grade Qi Blood Pills."

Chen Fan blurted out.

"Top-grade Qi Blood Pills? Top-grade Qi Blood Pills!!!"

Zhang Ren's voice rose sharply, his eyes nearly popping out of their sockets.

"Yes, Uncle Zhang, you didn't mishear, and I didn't misspeak. Those two bottles are indeed top-grade Qi Blood Pills. If you don't believe me, you can open one and try it." Chen Fan smiled.

He was fulfilling his promise from the past.

Zhang Ren, half believing and half doubting, opened one bottle of pills, poured one out, and inhaled deeply, astonished by its rich aroma.

This scent was several times stronger than that of a top-grade Qi Blood Pill.

Could it really be a top-grade Qi Blood Pill?

If it was truly a top-grade Qi Blood Pill, one pill alone would be valuable. But here, he had two whole bottles, a total of twenty pills of top-grade Qi Blood Pills?

How much money would it take to buy them?

No, it might not be possible to buy them even with money?

"Xiaofan, where did you get these top-grade Qi Blood Pills?" He swallowed hard.

Afraid to consume them,

Not for fear of poisoning, but because they were too precious.

"Uncle Zhang, don't overthink it. These top-grade Qi Blood Pills are hard for others to get, but for me, making them is easy."

"Make, make? You're an alchemist?" Zhang Ren was completely stunned.

"Yes, I learned alchemy at the association." Chen Fan smiled.

Zhang Ren was left speechless.

Tears welled up in his eyes.

As he had always believed, the vast world beyond was the place Chen Fan should go.

Keeping him in a small fort would only ruin his future.

"Uncle Zhang, give it a try." Chen Fan smiled.

"Alright."

Zhang Ren put the top-grade Qi Blood Pill into his mouth and swallowed.

Immediately, his qi and blood surged and flowed continuously.

"This!"

Zhang Ren was both surprised and delighted.

The medicinal power of this top-grade Qi Blood Pill was several times stronger than that of a top-grade Qi Blood Pill! Moreover, it was extremely pure!

He had a hunch that if he consumed both bottles of top-grade Qi Blood Pills, he could possibly break through to the Transforming Force!

No!

He might not even need both bottles; one might be enough.

"Xiaofan, you..." Two lines of tears streamed down Zhang Ren's face.

Men don't weep easily; it's just that their hearts aren't touched deeply enough.

Back then, he had trained Chen Fan to ensure his own survival.

A drop of water's grace had returned as a spring of gratitude from Chen Fan.

Chapter 250: Divine Arrow Technique

"Uncle Zhang, there's no need to be so polite."

Chen Fan waved his hand.

He gave these to Zhang Ren, not for his gratitude.

Moreover, he had a plan in mind.

That was to wait until Zhang Ren reached the Transforming Force stage, and then he would spend money to buy a Cloud Jade Fruit that could enhance a martial artist's Primordial True Qi for him. With him providing protection, there shouldn't be any danger.

By then, Uncle Zhang would truly be a Meridian Refining Martial Artist.

As for his family, he planned to do the same.

He didn't expect his father and brother to have great combat power after becoming Meridian Refining Martial Artists. As long as they had the ability to escape in danger, that was enough.

Zhang Ren swallowed the words he was about to say.

At this moment, words were so pale; only actions could prove everything.

After a while, Chen Fan returned home.

Chen Guodong also received the news from Zhang Ren and hurried back.

Seeing that Chen Fan was safe, he breathed a sigh of relief and immediately asked, "Xiaofan, what about Xiaozhe?"

"He has already passed the assessment and become a member of the Awakened Association." Chen Fan smiled.

Since only family was present, he didn't hide anything.

"That's good."

Chen Guodong immediately showed a smile.

These two days, Gu Jianghai and his wife hadn't had a good night's sleep.

Getting this news, they would surely be happy.

"Dad, Mom, Xiaochen, this time I've brought two bottles of Top-grade Qi Blood Pills for you. After taking them, they can speed up your cultivation progress."

As Chen Fan spoke, he placed two bottles of elixirs on the table.

"Top-grade Qi Blood Pills?" Chen Chen exclaimed, "Brother, what are Top-grade Qi Blood Pills?"

"Silly kid," Yin Fang patted his head and said, "Of course, they're good stuff."

"Xiaofan, these Top-grade Qi Blood Pills must be expensive, right?" Chen Guodong had heard of Qi Blood Pills and reflexively said, "Xiaofan, you should keep them for yourself. We stay in the stronghold, unlike you, working hard outside."

"Yes, Xiaofan, keep these two bottles for yourself." Yin Fang also chimed in.

"Don't worry, Dad, Mom, I don't need these anymore." Chen Fan smiled. His parents' reaction was within his expectations.

He opened one bottle, took out one pill, and said, "For you now, a whole Top-grade Qi Blood Pill is still too much. You can cut it into five or six parts and take one part at a time,

wait until the medicinal power is almost digested, and then take another part. This way, combining with your usual cultivation, your realm will improve much faster."

Hearing the words 'realm improvement,' Chen Guodong's eyes flashed with a fiery light.

"Mom, you can also take some from time to time; it's good for strengthening the body and health. Don't worry about running out, I have plenty of these." Chen Fan looked at Yin Fang and said.

"Okay, okay." Yin Fang hesitated for a moment before nodding.

"Alright then, I'll go rest upstairs for a while." Chen Fan smiled. He planned to send a bottle to Meng Yu before leaving and tell her that their reunion was just a couple of days away.

Watching Chen Fan walk up the stairs, the three of them looked at the two bottles of elixirs on the table.

So, this time Xiaofan came back just to bring these for them?

Back in his bedroom, Chen Fan stretched his body, then sat down on the sofa, and looked at the panel.

Experience Points: 358,000

He smiled slightly.

Let's start with the Celestial Response Technique. Last time, the experience points were only enough to upgrade this Spirit Secret Manual to the Great Success Realm, just a bit short.

With a thought.

6,400 experience points vanished, and his spiritual power in his mind surged again.

"It seems that no Perfect Traits were unlocked."

Chen Fan sighed softly.

Besides the enhancement of his spiritual power, no other sensations came.

[Celestial Response Technique: Perfection (Cannot be upgraded), Traits: Gathering Spirit Level 5, Celestial Response Level 4]

The Level 5 Gathering Spirit trait boosted his Spirit Attribute by 1.5 times.

The Level 4 Celestial Response was different.

The perception range expanded from 20 kilometers at Level 3 to a 40-kilometer radius!

This meant that if he was in Anshan City, he could almost sense the situation in the surrounding area.

However, the consumption of spiritual power also became immensely terrifying.

Level 1 Celestial Response consumes 1,000 spiritual points per second, Level 2 consumes 3,000 points, Level 3 consumes 9,000 points, and Level 4 consumes 27,000 points.

"It's still acceptable."

Chen Fan muttered.

A 40-kilometer perception range was quite scary.

Just then, a piece of information emerged in his mind.

"Could it be?"

Chen Fan's eyes showed a hint of delight.

[Detection of Celestial Response Technique at Perfection, capable of advancement to the next realm, upgrade now?]

"It really is!"

Chen Fan clenched his fist.

Could it be that his spiritual power was high enough to trigger the requirement?

Since that's the case, what's there to hesitate about? Naturally, continue to upgrade.

Clicking yes.

The spiritual power in his mind surged again, and not only that, but a strange feeling also welled up in his heart.

Chen Fan's eyes lit up.

It seemed like a new trait was unlocked?

A moment later, the skill bar of Celestial Response Technique changed again.

[Celestial Response Technique: Pinnacle of Attainments (Cannot be upgraded), Traits: Gathering Spirit Level 6, Celestial Response Level 5, Spiritual Imprint Level 1]

"Spiritual Imprint?"

Chen Fan curiously looked over.

[Spiritual Imprint: Active Skill, when activated, it leaves an imprint on the target's Divine Soul, allowing one to sense the target's aura within a thousand miles; the greater the difference in spiritual power, the higher the success rate. Each level upgrade increases the sensing range tenfold]

"So it's a marking skill."

Chen Fan suddenly understood.

It can be used for tracking or protection.

For instance, leaving a spiritual imprint on family members to sense their safety through their aura's strength and weakness.

Unlike Celestial Response, which requires constant activation and spiritual power consumption,

this Spiritual Imprint only requires spiritual power during imprinting and acts more like a passive skill,

and the range is much larger than Celestial Response.

A thousand miles, five hundred kilometers, he could sense his family's condition in Chen Family Fortress even from a medium-sized city.

If the skill level increases, the sensing range extends to ten thousand miles! He could still sense from Jiangnan City without a problem.

Of course, everything has two sides.

Its drawback is that it requires marking each target one at a time, so it can only be used on a few people.

Besides Celestial Response, which was now at Level 5,

he could perceive up to 80 kilometers! Essentially, if he was in Anshan City, he could monitor everything happening in Chen Family Stronghold.

The spiritual power consumption was predictably high, consuming 81,000 points per second!

With nearly 300,000 spiritual points, he could barely sustain it for four seconds.

"This should be foolproof."

Chen Fan exhaled.

If any danger threatened Chen Family Fortress, he could detect it immediately and respond promptly.

Moreover, there was another piece of good news.

Chen Fan's attention shifted to the [Emperor's Qi Observation Skill].

[Emperor's Qi Observation Skill (Incomplete): Completely Ignorant (0%)]

[Current Collection: 16%]

[Completion Conditions: 1. Spiritual Power reaches 10,000 points 2. Celestial Response Technique Perfection]

[Conditions met. Completion time: 2 days. Complete now?]

Seeing the last line of information, Chen Fan scratched his head.

He had already overachieved both conditions, yet it would still take two days to complete.

This meant if Celestial Response Technique was only at Perfection, it might take four or five days, even a week to complete.

"Take it slowly."

Chen Fan shook his head and clicked yes.

Another Spirit Secret Technique, the Soul Shifting Technique, also reached Perfection.

He speculated that the completion of the Soul Shifting Technique might be one of the conditions for upgrading the Undying Seal Technique, along with learning the Marriage Robe Divine Skill.

Completing the Marriage Robe Divine Skill required learning various Inner Power Heart Methods to unlock the trait of absorbing enemy's True Qi.

A grand edifice begins on the ground.

"I need to learn Archery; it's my main attack method. Heart Methods are also essential, affecting my True Qi amount and attack power. If the True Qi is insufficient, even with a killing technique, it won't be used often.

Golden Bell Shield is a must, too, as it enhances survival ability. Reaching the 9th Floor of Golden Bell Shield completes Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill, and Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill follows a similar path. Therefore, learning Ten Thousand Palm Divine Skill and Thousand Forms Divine Skill today is crucial for early unlocking.

Then, learning one or two Fist and Kick Martial Arts for emergencies. Currently, I'm prioritizing Potential Points for meridian opening and body enhancement, so attribute points can be added gradually. Lastly, learning Windward Slash would address my close-combat shortfall."

Chen Fan nodded, feeling ready.

He checked the skill bar.

Compared to other Weapon Martial Arts, Archery Martial Arts were indeed scarce. Even at the Awakened Association, there were only three Arrow Technique Secret Manuals.

[Sun-Shooting Arrow Technique], an arrow technique known for its incredible speed and power, allegedly capable of shooting down the sun.

Chen Fan thought this was likely an exaggeration.

However, based on the description, its secret techniques should be stronger than his current Cloud-piercing Arrow Technique.

It seemed worth practicing.

His powerful arrows consuming 3,000 points of True Qi could only severely injure a Fire Scaly Pig.

Facing Commander Level, they might not break through their defense.

The second one, [Flaming Arrow Technique], was unique, turning a martial artist's True Qi into Fire Attribute True Qi, enhancing arrow power greatly.

But based on the description, it required a high amount of True Qi, making it difficult to use even if learned by most martial artists.

Exceptionally, if a martial artist already had Fire Attribute True Qi, it would be highly advantageous.

[Divine Arrow Technique], the third and final one,

was special for adding spiritual power to arrows, dealing damage to both the enemy's body and Divine Soul, causing double torment.

"Unexpectedly, another Spiritual Attack." Chen Fan was somewhat surprised.

The Soul-Annihilating Finger, compared to this, had too short an attack range.

With only three Arrow Technique Secret Manuals, Chen Fan naturally intended to learn them all.

Starting with the [Sun-Shooting Arrow Technique] seemed like a good idea.