

Martial Arts 311

Chapter 311: Want to Fool Me? No Way!

After Sun Wei left, Chen Fan breathed a slight sigh of relief.

At first, he was a bit worried about whether there might be any danger in the process of helping the former open up the meridians.

As it turned out, he was overthinking it. The entire process was as simple as eating or drinking water.

"It should be because my True Essence is more abundant."

He muttered to himself.

As soon as his True Essence appeared in Sun Wei's body, the few strands of True Qi that emerged in the latter's body obediently settled down.

Sun Wei's breakthrough was certainly a good thing, but it was only the beginning of a long journey.

He did not propose to refine True Qi Pills for Sun Wei.

Because even his own stock of True Qi Pills was insufficient, how could he have the mind to spare any for others? Moreover, with Sun Wei's strength, consuming one of his True Qi Pills would be akin to seeking death.

It would be better for him to purchase Low-grade True Qi Pills at the Association in the future.

"As for the Chairman, that's settled."

Chen Fan nodded contentedly. Next, it was time to continue refining elixirs and hunting fierce beasts outside the city.

With a thought, a black box over three meters long and two meters wide appeared on the table in front of him.

Chen Fan took a deep breath, stepped forward, entered the password, and with a crisp sound, the mechanism inside the box opened. With a slight bit of force, he opened the box.

Inside the box,

there lay a two-meter-long battle bow, completely black, with a bowstring as thick as a child's arm.

In a groove next to the battle bow, thirty arrows lay quietly, each over three meters long and as thick as a thigh. The arrows' heads alone were half a meter long and featured several bloodletting grooves, which were quite intimidating.

"This is the Tier Four Alloy Battle Bow."

Chen Fan's hand gently caressed the bow, his eyes revealing a look of intoxication.

According to headquarters' introduction, the power of this Tier Four Alloy Battle Bow was more than ten times that of the Tier Three Alloy Battle Bow. With a single shot, even without using True Qi, it could severely injure or kill an elite-level fierce beast if it hit.

If it struck a commander-level fierce beast, it could also cause significant damage, and if it hit a vital point, it was entirely possible to kill with one shot.

"I really want to go out and test it on a few elite-level fierce beasts."

Chen Fan picked up the battle bow with his left hand and an arrow with his right, eager to give it a try.

After a long while, he reluctantly put the bow and arrow down.

With another thought, a long black box appeared in front of him.

Compared to the previous box, this one was much more slender, less than half a meter wide.

Chen Fan entered the password, opened the box, and saw three entirely red arrows lying quietly inside.

Strange patterns, resembling characters, were engraved on the arrows.

"Are these the Demon-Breaking Arrows?"

Chen Fan picked up an arrow and examined it carefully.

After a long look, he found nothing special beyond the color and the patterns.

"Could it be because I'm not an Awakener?"

He muttered to himself.

Chairman Chang had mentioned that Demon-Breaking Weapons could not only destroy defensive special items but also suppress Awakeners significantly.

"I hope I never have to use these three arrows."

He shook his head, put the Demon-Breaking Arrow back, and closed the box.

After storing the weapons back into his space items, he looked at the fully packed internal space and smiled wryly.

Originally, he thought ten cubic meters would be enough.

But before he knew it, it had been filled with all kinds of items.

Looking at the herbs that took up almost half the space, Chen Fan felt a sort of blissful trouble.

Perhaps it was time to save up some points and buy a space item with a larger space.

"Next, I should go refine some elixirs. Relying on sitting and meditating to increase True Essence is too slow."

Chen Fan sighed, just about to head to the alchemy room when the phone in his pocket suddenly vibrated.

He was stunned for a moment, then realized it must be the Awakened Association calling.

He took it out and saw that it was indeed so.

"Hello?"

Chen Fan changed his voice.

"Chairman."

Hua Jun's voice came from the phone, "Chairman, aren't you at the Association?"

"Do I have to report to you wherever I go?" Chen Fan retorted.

"No, no, that's not what I meant." Hua Jun was startled and quickly said, "I have something to report to you. I went to the office, but you weren't there, so..."

"Alright, get to the point." Chen Fan interrupted him.

"Yes, Chairman." Hua Jun quickly said, "Chairman, the two tasks you assigned to me have both been completed."

"Oh?"

Chen Fan was a bit surprised, "Even the second one? No troublemakers?"

"None."

Hua Jun laughed, "Everyone was willing to cooperate with your work, no objections. Nearly fifty percent of the land in Anshan City has been reclaimed."

"You did well on that."

Chen Fan nodded.

"Hehe, Chairman, you're too kind. It was just some trivial matters." Hua Jun laughed, then tentatively asked, "Chairman, are we really going to give the reclaimed land to people from outside the city to live on?"

"Why, you think I'm joking?"

"No, no." Hua Jun laughed, "I just wanted to confirm. Chairman, you're truly high-minded and noble."

"Alright, spare me the flattery," Chen Fan frowned, "Tomorrow, first relocate the people from the two villages outside the city as quickly as possible. Also, have the Awakeners from the Association go to the surrounding villages and have them prepare for relocation."

Upon hearing this, Hua Jun's mouth opened wide.

Even the people from the surrounding villages were to migrate?

But this time, he didn't express any objections and quickly agreed, "Yes, Chairman, I'll send people from the Association to inform the surrounding villages. But this might not be as simple as we think. Those people might not easily believe us and may not agree to come."

"Show them your strength and explain your intentions. If they still don't want to come, then forget it."

Chen Fan said.

You can't convince those who are meant to perish even with good words. If they really didn't want to come, he couldn't beg them.

Besides, even if he moved everyone from the villages within a hundred-mile radius to the city, it would still be a drop in the bucket.

Frankly speaking, he didn't even know if he could hold this city.

"Understood."

Hua Jun responded, then asked:

"Chairman, is there anything else you need?"

"That's it for now. Report to me anytime if there's a situation."

"Yes, Chairman."

Hua Jun hung up the phone.

Rubbing his temples.

Transferring everyone from the two villages outside the city was no small task.

Luckily, the toughest part was done. The rest was just routine.

"The Chairman really wants to save people by doing this."

He murmured.

He initially thought the Chairman was trying to seek benefits as an excuse.

Turns out, it wasn't true.

However, by doing this, the Chairman was effectively cancelling the living threshold, making it easy for people from farther away to come. Then how would Anshan City cope?

"Whatever, just follow the Chairman's instructions."

He shook his head.

At the same time, in a row of villas on the north side of the mountain top.

Many people were gathered together, cursing Chen Fan and Hua Jun.

But everyone present knew all they could do was rant. No matter how dissatisfied or resentful they were, they still signed and put their fingerprints obediently, didn't they?

In the post-apocalyptic world, the one with the biggest fist had the final say.

And upstairs, in a bedroom, Yan Hao sat on the bed, holding a phone, a look of struggle in his eyes.

But soon, he gritted his teeth and dialed a number from his contacts.

"Buzz, buzz, buzz..."

The sound of the call connecting echoed in the stuffy bedroom, adding to the oppressive atmosphere.

Yan Hao was extremely nervous.

He could even hear his own heartbeat clearly.

About ten seconds later, the call was answered, and a rough voice sounded, "Hello? Who is this?"

Yan Hao took a deep breath, trying to make his voice sound calm.

"Brother Xie, it's me."

"You are?"

The person on the other end seemed to be trying to recall.

"I'm Yan Hao."

Yan Hao said.

"Yan Hao? Yan Hao? Yan Hao! You're Yan Hao?!!!"

The voice on the other end was suddenly filled with gnashing teeth.

As if he could tear Yan Hao into pieces.

"It's me, Brother Xie."

Yan Hao clenched his fist and said.

If it weren't absolutely necessary, he wouldn't make this call.

But today's events were something he couldn't swallow.

If that was the case, then they would all perish together!

No, perhaps, his Yan family could still have a foothold, at least better than their current situation.

"Well, well, Yan Hao."

Xie Ming said through gritted teeth, "Your good brother, along with Fang Yun's group, blinded one of my eyes and drove us out of Anshan City. For three years, do you know how I've been living these past three years!"

Now, you still dare to call me. What, do you think driving us out wasn't enough, you want to completely annihilate us, is that it?

Then come! I'm right here waiting for you. Anyone who's afraid is a coward!!"

The tone was very strong, as if he were truly fearless.

But if you listened carefully, you'd notice he didn't mention where he was waiting, evidently showing that even after three years, he was still scared.

Yan Hao took a deep breath, his voice choked as he said, "Brother Xie, my brother, they're already, already dead."

"What!"

Xie Ming nearly jumped, "What did you say? Say it again."

"My brother, Brother Fang, and Brother Ma, they're all dead."

Tears flowed uncontrollably from Yan Hao's eyes.

"Hahaha! Hahaha!"

Laughter erupted from the other end of the call.

Xie Ming pounded his leg and said, "Good! Good! Yan Hao, your brother and his group deserved to die long ago! Tell me, how did they die? Were they killed by fierce beasts or other Awakeners?"

"Brother Xie, the deceased are to be honored. Even if my brother and the others wronged you in the past, they're dead now. Shouldn't the past grudges be written off?" Yan Hao said, grief-stricken.

"Written off? Utter nonsense!"

Xie Ming cursed, "He drove me out of Anshan City, threw me into homelessness, and I suffered greatly. My children were killed by fierce beasts. Now, you say they're dead and expect these hatreds to disappear? Is that possible? No, no wait."

He suddenly realized something, his face changed, he said, "If your brother and the others were truly dead, why would you tell me this? I know, your brother isn't dead, is he?"

Yan Hao, you brothers haven't changed a bit, always so sneaky and deceitful. You called me to set a trap, didn't you? Attract me over and ambush me?

Well, dream on! I, Xie Ming, am not that easily fooled!"

With that, he hung up the phone.

"???"

Listening to the busy signal on the phone, Yan Hao was stunned.

Chapter 312: Opportunity Knocks But Once (Subscribe Please)

"Is he fucking sick?"

Yan Hao cursed under his breath.

If my brother and the others were here, would they wait until now to find trouble? Would they resort to such underhanded methods?

Besides, who curses their own kin?

This Xie Ming, has he lost his mind?

He glanced at the phone screen, hesitated for a long time, and finally dialed the number. The reason was simple. Apart from these few people, he had no other help.

The main thing was, he didn't think the other party could resist the deal he was about to propose.

"Ring, ring, ring..."

The call was disconnected after just two rings.

Unconvinced, Yan Hao dialed again.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is currently busy. Please try again later."

Yan Hao cursed again.

This guy actually blocked him?

"A bunch of cowards, no wonder my brother kicked you all out." Yan Hao was fuming.

But he couldn't swallow his anger just like that. He took a second phone out of his space items, entered the number, and dialed again.

The phone rang a few times and was answered.

The same rough voice.

"Hello? Who is it?"

"It's me, Brother Xie."

"You again? Yan, what the hell do you want now?"

Xie Ming cursed, "You think I'm stupid? You put out fake news and expect me to believe it? Keep dreaming, fuck off!"

After cursing, he hung up the phone and blocked this number too.

As if expecting this, Yan Hao took out a third phone and continued dialing the number.

"Shit!"

On the other end, Xie Ming was about to lose it.

"Yan, what's your deal? Are you that bored? Fine, you have plenty of phones, I'll just turn mine off, let's see you..."

"Brother Xie, I have a deal I want to discuss with you."

Despite the cursing, Yan Hao forced a smile.

"What did you say?"

Xie Ming's cursing stopped, "You have a deal to discuss with me?"

"Yes, Brother Xie. Give me a minute. If you're not interested after I'm done, I promise I won't bother you again."

"Alright, you said it. I'll give you one minute. If you keep calling after that, don't blame me for being rude!" Xie Ming threatened.

"Yes, Brother Xie, let me talk."

"Hurry up, I have training to do." Xie Ming said impatiently.

Had he known this would happen, he would have changed his number long ago.

"Brother Xie, what I told you before is true. My brother and the others are really dead, killed by a knife-wielding Martial Artist."

Yan Hao paused.

He expected the other party to be shocked and ask for details. Instead, there was no response.

Actually, Xie Ming's expression was calm, he even wanted to laugh.

This Yan Ming, he's quite the storyteller, isn't he?

A group of C-level Awakened killed by a Martial Artist with a knife?

Why not say they accidentally tripped and died?

"Brother Xie, I know you don't believe me, but it's true. If you don't believe me, you can search for my brother's name in the Awakened Association. You'll see the truth."

Hearing this, Xie Ming's heart skipped a beat.

He thought it was improbable, likely Yan Hao was lying. But checking wouldn't hurt.

He quickly typed Yan Ming's name, and a page of information appeared. The originally colored profile picture turned gray.

"!!!"

Xie Ming's eyes widened in shock, "He's really dead?"

"Brother Xie, at this point, do you still think I'm lying to you?"

Yan Hao said.

Xie Ming didn't respond, he looked at the bottom of the profile.

The information was familiar, but the last sentence left him stunned.

It said he was killed by an unknown swordsman in Anshan City.

This matched what Yan Hao had said.

"Really dead?"

Xie Ming's mind went blank.

This was information from the main Association. He doubted Yan Ming had the means to hack it, let alone just to deceive him.

"Yes, not just my brother, but Brother Fang, Brother Ma, and Chairman Gao are all dead."

"Hold on a second."

Xie Ming's excitement was palpable as he rapidly typed in the names.

Sure enough, each profile picture was black, and the last sentence was the same.

"All dead? All dead!"

Xie Ming shouted excitedly.

It was this group that expelled them years ago.

He dreamed of returning to Anshan City to avenge himself on them.

But now, they were all dead, killed by an unknown swordsman. Although he didn't get his revenge personally, this outcome was still very satisfying.

Serves them right, divine retribution!

"Yan Hao, I was actually planning to come for you soon, but your brother and the others died ahead of time, lucky them. But the rest of your Yan family are still there, right? Calling me for this news wasn't smart." Xie Ming said sinisterly.

Even though Yan Ming and the others were dead.

He still suspected a trap.

After all, this was a Yan family member. They all knew about his conflict with Yan Ming, not to mention Yan Hao was Yan Ming's brother.

What was this guy up to?

"Brother Xie, you're right, I shouldn't have told you this, but I had no choice. You were bound to find out anyway, right?"

"That's true."

Xie Ming nodded, "And? I don't believe it's that simple."

"And also, our Yan family has been backed into a corner."

Yan Hao gritted his teeth.

"My brother and Chairman Gao haven't even had their bones buried, and we don't even know the killer. The Association's Hua Jun found someone to be the new chairman. That guy, as soon as he took office, couldn't wait to target our families, buying our lands at low prices under the guise of resettling people outside the city. Hmph, do they take us for fools?"

Brother Xie, I called you to tell you that there are no C-level Awakened in Anshan City anymore. If you come back, you can take over the position of City Lord or Chairman of the Association."

On the other end, Xie Ming was deeply intrigued.

After they were expelled, they struggled to find a small city to settle in.

Despite having a place to live, they were constantly marginalized, even as C-level Awakened.

If what Yan Hao said was true, coming back now meant taking over an entire city. Isn't that a hundred times better than living under someone else's roof?

But still, he remained cautious and sneered, "Yan Hao, do you think I'm stupid? Why should I believe you?"

"Brother Xie, I swear if there's a single lie in what I said, may I die a horrible death!"

Yan Hao's voice was firm.

"You're pretty ruthless."

Xie Ming snorted, "Even if you're telling the truth, aren't you worried I'll come back and be unkind to you? Remember, you were part of the group that drove us out."

"Afraid, of course I'm afraid."

Yan Hao gritted his teeth, "But more than fear, I hate Hua Jun and his people. When my brother was alive, they groveled before us, but as soon as he died, they became arrogant. Scumbags!"

"Hmph."

Xie Ming sneered, "Do you think you're any better? Your brother forced us out, don't you remember that?"

"Brother Xie, I admit we were wrong, but my brother is dead. The past doesn't matter anymore, does it?"

Yan Hao humbled himself, "Anshan City is now defenseless. If you don't seize this opportunity, it will be too late once the new guy gains a foothold. Brother Xie, don't miss this chance!"

"Well..."

Xie Ming hesitated.

His heart raced.

What Yan Hao said made sense, but it was a risky move that could cost him his life.

"Are you sure there are no C-level Awakened in the city?"

"Well, maybe the new chairman is a C-level Awakened. But he's alone, Brother Xie. You're a C-level Awakened now, get one more and you can handle him. Kill him, and the whole city is yours."

"Just him?"

"Just him. Brother Xie, if you don't believe me, check Anshan City in the Association. You'll see."

"That's true."

Xie Ming's eyes narrowed.

It was a small effort. If true, it was a golden opportunity.

Realizing the other party's interest, Yan Hao pressed on, "Brother Xie, if you agree, come to the city quickly. Meet me, and let's plan together. As long as that chairman and Hua Jun's Awakened are dead, I'm content. Then, do what you want with us. We won't complain."

"You sure are willing to risk a lot."

Xie Ming chuckled, "Don't worry, if things are as you say, our past grudges will be gone. Your Yan family will still have a place in Anshan City."

"Good, good. Thank you, Brother Xie. Let's settle this, hurry and gather your people. The sooner you come, the better. Don't miss this chance!"

"Understood. Once I gather my men, I'll contact you. If Anshan City falls into my hands, you won't be mistreated."

Xie Ming hung up and sneered, "I won't mistreat you. I'd skin you alive! I want to destroy every one of you! However, if Anshan City is indeed as you say, it's a rare chance. Secure the city first, then deal with them."

With that in mind, he quickly dialed his comrades.

Chapter 313: We Better Not Wade into This Messy Situation

In less than ten minutes, the room that originally only had Xie Ming was now filled with four more people, three men and one woman.

The four found places to sit. One of them asked in confusion, "Big brother, what is it? You sounded so urgent on the phone, making us drop everything and come here immediately?"

"Yeah, big brother, when you called me, I was just about to eat. I'm still starving right now."

"Fatty, all you know is eating!"

Each of them spoke one after another.

"What do you mean all I know is eating? Don't talk nonsense."

The slightly chubby man retorted with a look of defiance, "You all know my superpower. The more I eat, the stronger I get. So, how can I get stronger without eating?"

"..."

Everyone looked at each other with complex expressions after hearing this.

Indeed, among them, this chubby guy was one of the strongest. The key is, his superpower was just too enviable.

As long as he eats, he can get stronger. The process of eating was also the process of continually enhancing his superpower. The better the food, the faster his strength increases. It was simply defying the heavens.

"Alright, I'll have someone bring some food in right now."

As Xie Ming spoke, he took out his phone and talked for a while.

Soon, someone wheeled in a cart full of food and drinks. The sight of it made even the others swallow their saliva.

"Let's eat and talk at the same time."

Xie Ming said with a smile.

"Alright, big brother, since you said so, I won't hold back."

The chubby guy lunged at the food as if he hadn't eaten for days.

The others looked at him and couldn't help but laugh and shake their heads.

Xie Ming sat down on a sofa, looked at the people in front of him, and sighed, "Of the people who left Anshan City back then, only a few of us are left now."

Everyone's actions stopped as soon as Xie Ming's words fell.

Even the chubby guy, who was happily eating a roast lamb leg, stopped and looked at Xie Ming dumbfoundedly, "Big, big brother, why did you suddenly bring this up?"

"Yes, big brother, it's been almost three years now, hasn't it?"

"Almost three years."

Everyone fell silent once again.

This was a past they did not want to recall.

Three years ago, they lost everything, became like stray dogs, and were driven out of Anshan City. During that journey, many of their relatives and friends died.

Even later, when they found a place to settle, they lost many more people in conflicts with other forces.

Back then, they were over ten D-level Awakened, but now, only a few of them remained.

"Someone just called me. Do you know who it was?"

"Who?"

"Who?"

"Yan Hao." Xie Ming uttered two words.

"Yan Hao?"

"Yan Hao? That Yan Ming's brother?"

"No wonder, no wonder the name sounded familiar to me. Big brother, why did that guy call you? We've already been driven out, and they still won't let us go?"

"Let's fight them!"

"Calm down, everyone, listen to me."

Xie Ming waved his hand, his only remaining right eye sweeping across the crowd, "From his words, I learned something incredible. Yan Ming is dead."

"!!!"

The room fell silent in an instant.

Everyone looked at each other with disbelief.

"Big, big brother, what did you say? Yan Ming is dead?"

"Yes."

Xie Ming turned around, brought the computer over, and placed it in front of everyone, "At first, I didn't believe it either, thinking it might be a trap set by Yan Hao. Until I saw this..."

Everyone instinctively looked at the computer screen.

The moment they saw it, their eyes almost popped out of their sockets.

"Yan Ming is really dead?"

"He's really dead?"

"Died at the hands of a Martial Artist?"

"Is it true?"

Everyone spoke one after another, desperately hoping it was true but also afraid it was just an empty joy.

Nobody knew Yan Ming's strength better than they did.

A few years back, when they were still D-level Awakened, Yan Ming had already become a C-level Awakened.

Now, out of the five of them, three were C-level Awakened, yet they still didn't dare to go to Anshan City to trouble Yan Ming.

How could such a formidable guy die so unceremoniously?

"No need to doubt its authenticity," Xie Ming said, "This is information from the main association. You can take out your phones and check yourself."

"Let me see."

"I'll check too."

Everyone immediately took out their phones, and soon, the sound of gasps filled the room.

Yan Ming was really dead!

"Not only him, but Fang Yun, Ma Sheng, and Gao Jinming are also dead."

Xie Ming said.

Everyone quickly entered other names.

Sure enough, their profile pictures without exception had turned black and white, with descriptions matching that of Yan Ming.

"All of them are dead?"

Everyone was stunned.

Soon, they were filled with immense joy.

A great joy from the sky!

After being driven out for a year or two, in their dreams, they killed these people countless times, knowing clearly that after Yan Ming became City Lord, his power only grew more terrifying. This year or two, they had deeply buried the past.

But that didn't mean they had let go of their hatred!

"Cry if you want to. We are all in the same boat here; no need to hide your feelings."

Xie Ming said with a smile, wiping the corners of his moist eyes.

Everyone started to cry.

"It's great! I never thought I'd be able to take revenge in my lifetime. Turns out, karma truly exists."

"Yes, this nameless swordsman is really a great person. If I ever meet him, I must thank him properly."

"Don't be silly. He could kill even Yan Ming and his people. If he meets us, our fate would likely be the same."

"That's true. Anyway, Yan Ming and his cohorts are dead; this is fantastic news. We must celebrate properly!"

"Absolutely!"

"But wait, let's not rush to celebrate."

Xie Ming interrupted, "This time, I called you all here not just to tell you this good news. There's another important matter I want to discuss with you."

"An important matter?"

"Big brother, go ahead."

Everyone sat up straight, showing they were all ears.

"I just told you, I learned this information from Yan Hao. Do you know why he would tell me this?"

"Right, why would Yan Hao, that guy, not fear we would go back to Anshan City for revenge?"

"There must be a reason; it forced him to do so."

"Exactly."

Xie Ming glanced at the man who spoke and raised his thumbs, "As expected of Third Brother, you saw the issue immediately. Yan Hao would rather we go back to Anshan City because, after Gao Jinming's death, Vice-President Hua Jun appointed a new president.

This new president seemed ruthless. On his first day, he took away the lands owned by the Yan Family and several other families. Think about it, if you were Yan Hao, could you swallow that?"

Everyone shook their heads.

They didn't need to think because they had experienced this kind of fall from grace firsthand.

"So, big brother, what does Yan Hao want?"

"He disclosed Anshan City's secrets to me because he wants to use us to kill the new president and Vice-President Hua Jun, so as to vent his anger. He even said that Anshan City would be under our control afterward. What do you all think?"

"Hmph, does he think he can dictate who controls Anshan City? He should check himself before making such claims." A bearded man sneered.

"That's right. He wants to use us as his tool? He's dreaming. We'll kill him as soon as we return to Anshan City, then deal with the new president." The man called Third Brother had a cold smile on his face.

"So, everyone feels this is an opportunity?" Xie Ming's eyes brightened.

"Big brother, such a golden opportunity, what is there to hesitate about?" The bearded man slapped his thigh, "There are five of us, and three are C-level Awakened. Anshan City? Even if the new president is C-level, it's just one person. Hua Jun's combat power is mediocre at best. He's already the top among the weak. The others are even less worth mentioning. Why should we fear?"

"That's right. Let's seize this opportunity to return. If the new guy is wise, we'll spare him. If not, we'll kill him. Then both the City Lord's Mansion and the Awakened Association will be under our control. Isn't that a hundred times better than here?"

"I agree, let's return to Anshan City!" The chubby man shouted.

"Big brother, I have no objections either." The only woman nodded.

"Great!"

Xie Ming slapped the table.

He had been waiting for these words.

Better be the head of a chicken than the tail of a phoenix. Moreover, the place they were in was just a small town.

In Anshan City, they could live like kings.

"Big brother, do you know the name of the new president of the Anshan City Awakened Association? And his superpower? We should prepare in advance." Third Brother asked.

"Who cares? How could one person be a match for the five of us?"

"Exactly." The chubby man mumbled through his mouthful of food.

"Let me check."

Xie Ming searched for the Anshan City Branch and clicked in. Instantly, hundreds of lines of information appeared on the screen.

Everyone who joined the Anshan City Branch had a record.

Of course, specific levels and superpower information could be hidden at the individual's choice, but most people didn't do this.

After all, the title of a C-level Awakened could deter many.

And if someone reached B-level, they would wish the whole world knew.

Xie Ming looked at the top, "It seems the name is, Li Ping."

"Li Ping? What an average name." The bearded man muttered, "As the name suggests, this guy probably isn't very capable."

"Li Ping?"

Third Brother's pupils contracted sharply, exclaiming, "Big brother, is his superpower Speed Enhancement?"

"Yes, Speed Enhancement?"

Xie Ming glanced, then asked in surprise, "Third Brother, how do you know? Do you know him?"

Third Brother showed an extremely unpleasant smile, "Big brother, I think we'd better leave Anshan City alone. This Li Ping is not to be trifled with."

Chapter 314: Is Du Hao Coming?

Inside the room, an oppressive silence prevailed as everyone's gaze was fixed on the third brother.

"Third Brother, what do you mean by that? We can't handle the murky waters of Anshan City? Is this Li Ping really that hard to deal with?" the woman asked.

Although Xie Ming and the others didn't speak, their eyes conveyed the same meaning.

"It seems you don't know much about this Li Ping."

The third brother wiped the cold sweat from his forehead and said, "Big Brother, could you please give me the computer? I'll show you a video that will explain everything."

Xie Ming handed over the computer with some doubt.

The third brother tapped away on the keyboard for a while, found a video, and clicked the play button.

The video was less than a minute long, but they spent a full half hour watching it, their backs drenched in cold sweat.

They were somewhat familiar with the other person in the video, even though they hadn't had direct dealings with him. His awakened superpower was explosive, making him one of the fiercest C-level Awakened in combat.

If they were in that situation, would they have survived that kind of indiscriminate explosion?

But Li Ping did.

He not only survived but also killed the other person in seconds.

This guy, is he really a C-level Awakened?

"Third Brother, good thing you know about this person. Otherwise, if we went to trouble him, it would be seeking our own death," the bearded man said, his face flushed red with embarrassment.

With that guy's abnormal defense capabilities shown in the video, whether they could even hurt him was still a question.

But the other person could kill any one of them with just a point of his finger.

How could they fight?

"Big Brother, I also think Third Brother is right," the woman said with a pale face, "I think we shouldn't stir up trouble in Anshan City. Let's just stay here quietly; it's not too bad."

"That's right, Big Brother," the fat man reacted and said through gritted teeth, "I think that Yan Hao clearly had ill intentions. He must know how tough Li Ping is to deal with, and he deliberately wants us to fight with Li Ping so he can benefit from our mutual destruction!"

Upon hearing this, Xie Ming's eyes instantly turned cold.

Damn it, he knew this wasn't so simple.

So, this was the trap?

He clenched his fist until it crackled and said, "I'll go to Anshan City and kill that bastard!"

"Big Brother, I'll go with you!" The bearded man said, "That boy dared to plot against us; how bold. Does he think we're easy to bully? If I don't beat him until he cries, I'll take his surname!"

"Wait, Big Brother." The third brother extended his hand to stop them and said, "I think, maybe we can turn the tables on him."

"Turn the tables?"

"What do you mean?"

Xie Ming and the others were stunned.

"Big Brother, think about it. Yan Hao plotted against us, wanting us to fight Li Ping, which is indeed hateful. But now that we've seen through his scheme, if we turn the tables on him and expose his plot to Li Ping, what do you think will happen?"

Xie Ming and the others widened their eyes, as if saying, can we really do that?

"What, what would happen?" Xie Ming instinctively asked.

"Third Brother, what exactly are you trying to say?"

"Just say it all at once, don't keep us guessing," the bearded man and the others were getting impatient.

"Big Brother, if I guess correctly, Anshan City is currently in need of manpower. If we seize this opportunity, we might be able to gain a foothold in Anshan City, with a status not much lower than Fang Yun, Ma Sheng, and others."

"Explain more clearly." Xie Ming swallowed hard.

He seemed to understand a bit.

"Big Brother, look," the third brother pointed to the computer screen, "Anshan City, with hundreds of Awakened, has only two C-level Awakened. One of them is Hua Jun, whose combat power is just so-so. Anshan City is a small city, but only two C-level Awakened? Does that make sense?"

"No, it doesn't." The fat man nodded.

"Exactly, even a small city should have at least four or five C-level Awakened, right? Otherwise, how would they deal with any sudden events, let alone a beast tide? Two C-level Awakened can't defend the city.

And we have three C-level Awakened here. If we go directly to join them, normally people fear being overshadowed and may reject us, but now we have an opportunity before us, thanks to Yan Hao,"

The third brother sneered and said, "This guy should consider himself lucky he hasn't been kicked out. Instead, he doesn't know what's good for him and tries to stir up trouble. We'll turn the tables on him, record his plot, and at the right time, present concrete evidence to Li Ping. Our request for asylum would most likely be accepted. Big Brother, what do you think?"

Speechless, Xie Ming just kept giving him a thumbs up.

Brilliant, truly brilliant!

Being plotted against, all he thought about was killing the perpetrator to vent his anger.

The third brother, however, could use the situation to find a better way out for everyone.

No doubt, if they go there and do well, their future status in Anshan City could rival Fang Yun and Ma Sheng's.

Much better than their current treatment by tenfold, no?

And Chairman Li, he's also a strong figure, definitely not weaker than Yan Ming. Following him would be an honor.

"Three of us, if, I mean, if by chance," the fat man hesitated, "we do all this, and Chairman Li doesn't want to accept us, what do we do then?"

Suddenly, the air grew still.

"Ahem."

The third brother coughed twice and said, "Then we can only accept our fate."

Even if they could defeat Li Ping, it would come at a high cost, making it not worthwhile.

"Big Brother, I've said all I needed to say. The decision is yours."

Upon hearing this, everyone turned their gaze to Xie Ming.

Xie Ming took a deep breath and said, "Let's do as Third Brother suggests."

"But Big Brother..." the bearded man hesitated to speak.

If they end up being snubbed, it would be embarrassing.

"Let's give it a try." Xie Ming said, "Even if we get rejected in the end, we won't lose anything, maybe just some time and effort. But if we succeed and Chairman Li accepts us, our future will be much better than here."

The third brother nodded and said, "Big Brother is right, just do our best and accept the outcome."

After exchanging glances, the other three also made up their minds.

"Alright, since Big Brother has decided, let's do it. Tomorrow morning, we'll go to Anshan City, get that guy's words, and tie him up, bringing him directly in front of Chairman Li."

"Hmph, Yan really dares to trick us, he's living on borrowed time."

"Tomorrow, we'll make him pay for his actions!"

...

In the alchemy room, Chen Fan consumed the newly produced two furnaces of True Qi Pills.

He glanced at the time; it was already past six in the morning.

"I didn't realize time flew by so fast," Chen Fan sighed.

He had spent the whole night refining True Qi Pills, 32 furnaces in a span of eight hours.

The potential points had increased from the initial 1.5 billion up to 4.6 billion.

Realm: True Essence Realm·First Realm (+)

True Essence: 1764/210 (+74%)

The Primordial True Essence had also risen from the previous 138 points to 210 points.

This significant improvement came through the method of circulating True Essence.

But now, the effect of this method was no longer as prominent; it required half an hour of meditation to gain half a point of Primordial True Essence, unlike at the beginning when circulating True Essence once or twice would increase a point.

Meanwhile, half an hour of alchemy could yield two furnaces of True Qi Pills, nearly two billion potential points.

"4.6 billion potential points, I wonder if they can elevate my realm to the Second Realm of True Essence. Even if not, the True Essence within me is substantially increased. Alright, let's enhance first, then go hunting," Chen Fan decided, clicking the plus sign.

One billion potential points disappeared instantly.

True Essence: 1781/212.1 (+740%)

Primordial True Essence rose by 2.1 points, with a total True Essence increase of nearly 20 points.

Bear in mind, 20 points of True Essence equals 2000 points of True Qi.

"I wonder what the potential points requirement will be for the next upgrade," Chen Fan clicked tentatively.

"Do you want to consume one billion potential points to increase Primordial True Essence by 1%?"

"Still one billion potential points?"

Surprised, Chen Fan's face broke into a smile.

That was good news.

Because each 1% increment was based on the previous total, meaning with each addition, subsequent increments would be higher.

However, reaching 100% True Essence would require nearly 120,000 points of True Essence, and each 1% increase in Primordial True Essence would take several points.

Chen Fan sighed, having a high True Qi value brought its own troubles, and achieving the formation of the Martial Arts True Pill would be several times if not hundreds of times more difficult for him.

Who knows what quality Martial Arts True Pill he'd eventually form.

Middle Three Grades?

Top Three Grades?

Or perhaps even First Grade Martial Arts True Pill?

"Whatever, keep going," he decided, clicking yes.

The True Essence within him expanded once again.

In this manner, potential points continued to be consumed one billion at a time.

After the final click, less than thirty million potential points remained.

Chen Fan looked at the panel,

Realm: True Essence Realm·First Realm (2.4%) (+)

True Essence: 2779.4/330.8 (+740%)

Primordial True Essence had reached 330.8 points.

His total True Essence had exceeded 2700 points, more than doubling.

points of True Essence equaled 270,000 points of True Qi, enough to perform the fifth strike of Windward Slash with ease.

However, his cultivation progress was just at 2.4%.

"The road ahead is long," Chen Fan smiled wryly.

Just then, his phone on the table suddenly rang.

"Is it Hua Jun?" Chen Fan frowned, thinking it might be about today's relocation; it seemed reasonable for him to call. But such a trivial matter, did it really need his attention?

"Wait, it's the other phone ringing."

Chen Fan moved swiftly, picking up the vibrating phone, seeing the name on it: Meng Yu.

His expression turned serious.

Because this call might be from Meng Xue, indicating she has important intel to report.

"Is Du Hao the one coming?"

Chen Fan's eyes flashed with killing intent as he answered the call.

Chapter 315: A Permanent Solution

"Chen Fan, it's me."

On the other end of the phone, Meng Xue's weak voice sounded.

"Are you alright?"

Chen Fan asked anxiously.

"It's just that using my ability just now made me a bit weak, you don't need to worry about it."

Meng Xue coughed twice.

"Sister."

Beside her, Meng Yu's worried voice came through.

"It's okay."

Meng Xue's voice came through, "Chen Fan, Du Hao and his men are coming. In two hours, they will enter Anshan City, you must not let them into the city."

"Oh?"

Chen Fan's expression changed, "Why?"

"This time, there are four of them. Leading them is Du Hao, which I'm sure I don't need to elaborate further.

Two of them are B-level Awakened. The one dressed in white has the Thunder superpower. His moves are extremely powerful, you must be careful. It's best to kill him first, so he doesn't have a chance to strike. The other one, dressed in blue, is also someone you need to be wary of because, compared to the Thunder Awakened, his superpower is even more troublesome."

"What's his superpower?"

"Phantom."

Meng Xue stated directly: "He can make his body become intangible, unable to be hit. So your saber technique might work on others, but not necessarily on him.

If you want to kill him, you must strike at the moment he attacks you, because at that moment, his body transitions from phantom to solid."

"I see."

Chen Fan nodded.

If Meng Xue hadn't reminded him, he might really have slashed directly, only to have it easily deflected, wasting tens of thousands of True Qi.

However, from what Meng Xue said, that guy seems to only be immune to physical attacks, right?

If he's in phantom state and got hit by my Spirit Secret Techniques, he should die, right?

"Meng Xue, I remember you said there are four of them. Who's the fourth one?"

"The fourth one, dressed in black, and physically the weakest, he is only a C-level Awakened. His combat power is average, but among the four, he poses the greatest threat to you."

Meng Xue coughed violently twice.

"His superpower is tracking. He can track the owner of a scent left at the scene. Your disguise might fool others, but not him.

In my perception yesterday, you went hunting early this morning. Du Hao successfully led his men into Anshan City. They arrived at the site of the battle from two days ago. That man used his superpower and found traces of you at the Martial Arts Association and the Awakened Association."

Chen Fan was startled upon hearing this, quickly asking, "What happened then?"

"They went to the Martial Arts Association, called everyone out, and couldn't find your trace, so they started interrogating people there. Your friends, to keep your secret, were mostly killed. The remaining ones couldn't withstand the torture and had to reveal your whereabouts. Beyond that, I don't know because my spiritual power could only do so much yesterday."

"Today, I used my superpower again to see the outcome of your fight with them. But a warning struck my heart, and my intuition told me that continuing would drain my life force. So I could only check their superpowers and tell you what I found. I'm really sorry, Chen Fan. This is the best I can do."

After speaking, Meng Xue coughed twice more.

"No, Meng Xue, you've done more than enough."

Chen Fan hurriedly said, "You've told me the most important information, isn't that enough? Rest assured, I won't let those people into the city. Also, tomorrow, I'll get the Celestial God Fruit for you. Just hold on one more day."

"Thank you, Chen Fan."

Meng Xue was a little stunned and said softly.

"It's nothing, take good care of yourself."

"Okay."

Meng Xue nodded and after Chen Fan hung up, she put down her phone.

"Sister, drink some water."

Meng Yu carefully handed over a bowl of water.

Meng Xue took a couple of sips, waved her hand, and smiled, "Don't worry, I'm fine."

"Sister, you've been looking more and more haggard these days."

Meng Yu's eyes reddened.

"Don't worry, sister will be fine. Once Chen Fan brings back the Celestial God Fruit tomorrow, everything will be okay."

Meng Xue reached out her withered hand, touching her sister's face.

Her gaze turned to the doorway.

They were two B-level Awakened. Could Chen Fan win?

No, he must win.

Chen Fan hung up the phone, lost in thought.

Meng Xue's advice was good. B-level Awakened shouldn't be underestimated, especially those with the Thunder superpower. After all, one of the three S-Class Awakened in Yan Country controls Thunder.

Currently, his True Essence was at 2700 points, equivalent to 270,000 True Qi, allowing him to use the fifth strike of Windward Slash, multiplying the saber technique's power fifty times.

But he could only strike once.

If this strike hit the guy who could phantomize, it would be a waste.

As for the one with the phantom ability, he felt it wouldn't be too hard to handle, as long as he used his Spirit Secret Techniques.

The problem was Du Hao.

The more techniques he used, the more he revealed, making it easier for the enemy to guess his identity.

"This Du character is really troublesome."

Chen Fan clenched his fist.

If he didn't kill the real Du Hao, he'd never be able to kill him for good.

Even if he killed his clone and his men this time, next time, Du Hao would bring stronger people.

Persistent as a leech, even if it doesn't bite, it's irritating.

"I must find a way to resolve this trouble."

Chen Fan said, walking towards the door.

Since the enemy was arriving in just over an hour.

He would intercept them halfway and think of a plan.

Meanwhile, in Jiulong City.

In a lavish hall, a round table was set, filled with gourmet food, resembling a feast rather than breakfast.

A few figures gathered around the table, all with smiles on their faces.

"Brother Du, this is my good friend, Ye Cheng." In a white outfit, Zou Xuan pointed to a spirited-looking man beside him, "Brother Ye, this is Brother Du I spoke of."

"I've long heard of Brother Du's name, famous far and wide. It's an honor to finally meet you."

Ye Cheng clasped his hands and smiled.

"Hahaha."

Du Hao laughed twice, "Brother Ye is too kind. Whatever name I have, it's thanks to the brothers in the city giving me face."

"Brother Du is too modest."

"Not at all."

"Alright, if we keep this up, the day might end with us still seated here."

Zou Xuan said helplessly.

"True, let's eat and chat."

Du Hao gestured.

"Well, let's not be polite then."

The other three exchanged smiles.

As expected of Brother Du, even breakfast was this extravagant.

After eating most of the food, Du Hao wiped his mouth with a napkin and looked at Ye Cheng, "Brother Ye, once we reach Anshan City, we rely on you. That guy has caused me so much trouble, you have to find him for me."

"Rest assured, Brother Du."

Ye Cheng smiled, "Before coming, Brother Zou already informed me. Whether it's been two or three days or even ten to fifteen, I can track his scent. Even if he runs to the ends of the earth, finding him is just a matter of time."

"Good!"

Du Hao was delighted, "Brother Ye, if you help me find him, I'll fulfill any request you have."

Ye Cheng's eyes lit up, quickly saying, "Brother Du is too kind. It's just a small effort."

Du Hao nodded with a smile, then turned to Zou Xuan and the other, "Once we find him, I'll rely on you both for the aftermath."

"Brother Du, don't worry. Though his body strength isn't low and he can withstand Gravity Cannon attacks, he's still just a C-level Awakened. His superpower is no match for my Thunderbolt."

Zou Xuan's eyes showed disdain.

His Thunder superpower was Supreme Yang and Firm, extremely powerful, capable of penetrating a Commander-level Fierce Beast's body at close range. Elite-level Fierce Beasts were mere fodder.

"Indeed, according to Brother Du, the saber technique he uses should be Windward Slash, an extremely profound technique. Its most powerful strike can allegedly sever a top Commander-level Fierce Beast from a hundred meters away."

"Brother Jiang is right. That is indeed Windward Slash. Judging by the size of the Sword Qi, he can only use the first strike, but he can do it twice."

Du Hao recalled, still somewhat shaken.

"Being able to perform the first strike twice is impressive."

Jiang Miao said, "This saber technique is unlike others, requiring high perception from the cultivator. Many in the association attempted to master it but failed, wasting much time. That he can use the first strike and do it twice is no simple feat, but..."

He changed his tone, showing arrogance, "Even if he could use the second, third, or even fifth strike, he couldn't harm me."

"Good!"

Du Hao slapped the table, "Brother Jiang, impressive!"

Zou Xuan's mouth twitched.

Thinking, you speak as if you could take it head-on, but you avoided it with your phantom ability.

Even so, he had to admit, against Jiang Miao's phantom state, even he had no solution.

"Three of you."

Du Hao's gaze swept across their faces, "Since that's the case, let's not delay and head to Anshan City immediately!"

Chapter 316: What is Li Ping thinking?

Not long after Chen Fan left, Anshan City gradually became restless.

People from the two camps outside the city gathered in a dozen or so streams, heading towards the city gate.

Last night, they all received a notification from the Village Chief that early the next morning, no one was to go hunting or stay at home; everyone had to head to the city gate because the Awakeners from the city had something important to announce.

Those who disobey would bear the consequences.

Who dared to defy the orders of the Awakeners in the city? In fact, many people stayed up all night and showed up with big dark circles under their eyes.

"Brother, what's going on? What do the Awakeners want to announce?" a voice came from the crowd.

"Who knows? We'll find out when we get there."

"I asked our Village Chief last night. He didn't know either. He just said he was told to notify everyone, and if anyone didn't know, he would be held responsible."

"Heavens, could it be something significant?"

"It does seem like there's been some major occurrence in the city recently," a man muttered to himself.

"What kind of major occurrence?"

Hearing this, many people crowded around.

The man was startled by the attention and quickly waved his hand. "Nothing, nothing, I was just talking nonsense."

"Come on, brother, you obviously know something if you spoke up about it," someone insisted.

"Exactly, we are all in the same boat, heading to the city gate. What's there to hide?"

"Brother, please, just tell us. If you ever need help, I'm here for you."

"Yeah, brother, just spill it. We promise we won't spread it around."

Many around them made earnest pledges.

After all, nothing like this had ever happened before where everyone was summoned to gather at the city gate early in the morning.

"Alright then, we're all brothers," the man said after some thought. "But what I'm about to say is hearsay. I can't guarantee its truth, but whatever you hear, keep it down. Otherwise, it might cause unnecessary trouble."

"Sure, brother, just say it. We promise to keep quiet."

The man first looked around, then lowered his voice and said, "I heard that something has happened to the City Lord and the others."

"What! The City Lo—"

An exclamation was suddenly cut short as a large hand covered the speaker's mouth.

Even though the others managed to stay composed, they widened their eyes in disbelief.

Someone asked shakily, "Brother, when you say something happened to the City Lord, do you mean...?"

"Yes," the man nodded and sighed lightly. "Just what you're thinking."

"This?"

Everyone exchanged glances.

Just what they were thinking?

Could it be that the City Lord and the others had died?

Wasn't the City Lord an incredibly powerful figure? Who could possibly have the ability to kill him?

Even during past Beast Tides, it was the City Lord and his people who had repelled them!

"Brother, what really happened? Can you explain a bit more clearly?"

"Yeah, how did something happen to the City Lord and the others? What exactly happened?"

"Brother, your words are leaving me in suspense."

The crowd pressed him, their faces filled with curiosity.

"I don't know much detail, and I didn't dare to ask around too much," the man shook his head. "I've told you all I know. If you ask more, I won't have answers. If something bad happens in the future, we'll have to rely on our luck."

His words only made the surrounding people feel even more uneasy.

Lin Hui and others from the Martial Arts Association were also in the crowd.

Unlike the fear and anxiety around them, their faces showed more confusion.

"Brother Lin, what's happened? Why were we summoned to the city gate so early?"

"Yes, Brother Lin, what's the Awakeners' Association planning?"

"Does the President have any news?"

"I asked about it,"

Lin Hui shook his head gravely. "The President said he didn't know what's going on. Everyone outside the city received the notice, but there's been no word from within the city."

"What, the President means only those of us outside the city were ordered to gather here?"

"That's correct,"

Lin Hui nodded.

At that, the faces of the Martial Arts Association members turned grim.

Most of them were Martial Artists in the Muscle Refining and Body Tempering Realms and did not have the right to live inside the city.

The Awakeners' Association notifying only those outside the city, could it be, they had some bad intentions?

Maybe they wanted to get rid of them for affecting the city's appearance?

But was that necessary? They had lived outside for years, diligently and without causing trouble.

Moreover, they were part of the Martial Arts Association. Even if the Awakeners' Association despised them, they shouldn't go too far out of respect for the Martial Arts Association, right?

Lin Hui looked towards the city gate, where a dense crowd had already gathered, buzzing with discussions.

"If it's fortune, it's not disaster; if it's disaster, it's inevitable,"

he sighed inwardly.

For he knew more than those around him.

For example, the news of Yan Ming's death.

To avoid causing panic, he hadn't shared this information with the others.

But receiving the notice to gather the next morning at the city gate caused him great concern.

Could it be that the Awakeners' Association thought the culprit who killed Yan Ming and the others was hidden among them? And they wanted to gather everyone to find the culprit?

The types of superpowers the Awakeners possessed were many and varied, and such methods were not out of the realm of possibility.

He sighed, hoping this matter would be resolved quickly without involving civilians.

Inside the city, people also noticed the commotion outside, gathering in small groups to discuss in low voices.

"What's going on outside? I took a look and saw a huge crowd!"

"I saw it too, a dense mass of people! It's like everyone outside the city has come!"

"Yes, they've blocked the city gate. We can't even get close to it, let alone leave the city. Those people are really troublesome!"

"Exactly, they're like leeches, living outside. Look at the filthy road out there. Every time I pass, I have to hold my nose and clutch my wallet tightly for fear of being robbed."

"Really? Are those people outside that bad?"

"Yes, lots of thieves and scammers. There's even daylight robbery. Not just women, even men don't dare to go alone."

"I don't know why the City Lord allows those people to live outside. If it were up to me, I'd have driven them away long ago."

"Exactly."

"President, what these people are saying is just too much," Xu Jie said, clenching his fists.

He had wandered through many places before arriving at Anshan City, initially living outside, and only after reaching the Entry Force Realm did he get the right to live inside the city.

Life in the outside camps couldn't compare with the city, but it wasn't as bad as some people claimed.

The most frustrating part was that many who held such strong prejudices had themselves once lived outside the city.

Sun Wei shook his head and said, "This is human nature, amplified by the apocalypse. Pay them no mind."

"The President is right," Gao Shan nodded in agreement, then looked puzzled. "I wonder what the Awakeners' Association plans to do by gathering all the people from outside the city?"

"Indeed,"

Tu Yue added curiously, "President, do you know why?"

The others looked over as well.

Sun Wei shook his head, "I don't know much about it. But I do know one piece of news."

"What news?"

"After Gao Jinming went missing, the Awakeners' Association appointed a new Awakener as their President."

"A new President!"

Xu Jie and the others exchanged glances.

The Awakeners' Association moved quickly!

But it made sense. A country couldn't go a day without a ruler, and neither could an association go without a president.

"President, what's the background of their new President?"

"I'm not sure. All I know is that he's quite formidable, and many C-level Awakeners are afraid of him."

"Is he that powerful?"

"I hope he's not too overbearing. Otherwise, our Martial Arts Association will have a tough time."

"Yes, indeed." Tu Yue suddenly thought of something and widened her eyes. "President, could it be that today's events are related to the new President of the Awakeners' Association?"

"Tu Yue, are you suggesting the new President organized the early morning gathering at the city gate?"

"Exactly," Tu Yue looked at the others, "As the saying goes, new officials often burn three fires. Maybe he wants to show off and exercise his authority in front of everyone."

Hearing this, Gao Shan and the others nodded.

It wasn't impossible; in fact, it seemed quite likely.

Their eyes showed traces of disdain at the thought.

For the President of the Awakeners' Association to be so concerned with such a show of power before ordinary people seemed ridiculous.

Sun Wei, however, furrowed his brow.

He felt that things were not so simple.

If the other party wanted to assert dominance, why not come to him, the President of the Martial Arts Association's branch? Why gather a crowd of ordinary people?

What exactly was Li Ping planning?

Chapter 317: It's a Good Thing

In the blink of an eye, a quarter of an hour was about to pass.

Under the city tower, it was overcrowded; not even a single bird, let alone a fly, could hope to fly through.

The nearly thirty-meter high city wall caused many to strain their necks until stiff.

Even so, there were still people who glanced upwards occasionally, hoping to see when the main figures would appear.

Suddenly, the noisy clamor vanished instantly.

Because atop the city gate, at some unknown point, a few figures appeared, standing conspicuously among the uniformed guards surrounding them.

"It's the Awakeners!"

Someone said.

Whoosh.

Groups of people knelt down in swathes, within less than three seconds, four to fifty thousand people knelt on the ground, their eyes staring at the earth below, not daring to make a sound.

Even children as young as three or four did the same.

The several D-level Awakeners on the city wall exchanged glances, pride gleaming in their eyes.

In the eyes of ordinary people, they were gods!

The leading figure was none other than Hua Jun.

Looking at the tens of thousands kneeling down, he felt a sense of light-headedness.

This was the Awakener, holding the power of life and death over ordinary people. It's no exaggeration to say, even if he were to kill hundreds or thousands in front of them now, the rest wouldn't dare to do anything about it.

However, when the image of a stern figure flashed through his mind, a chill went down his spine, and he had a foreboding feeling that if he did that, Chairman Li would never let him off.

"Ahem."

Li Ping cleared his throat and said, "Rise, all of you."

The crowd below was stunned.

It seemed like they hadn't heard clearly, or perhaps they had, but did not dare to rise.

"Are you deaf? The Chairman asks you to get up!"

An Awakener shouted loudly from behind.

His voice spread throughout the area, and only then did the crowd stand up trembling, eyes full of dread, looking at the few on the city wall.

"Today we've gathered you here to announce something, something great for you," Hua Jun said.

The people below looked at each other, faces filled with suspicion.

Their feelings towards Awakeners consisted mostly of fear; they did not expect any benefits from them. As long as those Awakeners in the city didn't trouble them, they would be grateful.

Something great from the Chairman to them might not necessarily be a great thing.

"Before we begin, remember one person, our Awakened Association's Chairman Li, got it?"

There was a brief silence before scattered voices echoed.

"Got it, Chairman Li."

"Chairman Li."

"Even if you haven't remembered, you will from now on." Hua Jun's gaze swept over everyone.

Under his gaze, everyone, regardless of age or gender, was trembling, including Lin Hui and others.

"Alright, now I'll say the main matter, listen carefully. From now on, all of you no longer need to live outside the city."

"What! No need to live outside the city?"

"If we don't live outside, where do we live?"

"Is the Chairman going to drive us away?"

Upon hearing this, it felt like the sky was falling for the crowd.

Many among them had exhausted their savings to establish themselves in the outside settlements.

Yet now, the Awakeners in the city, with just one word, were turning everything they had into nothing, stripping them of their foothold, and what awaited them next was self-evident.

Even so, they dared not complain, instead pleading incessantly, and a large number knelt down again, continually kowtowing towards the walls.

Some guards atop the wall were inwardly pleased.

They had long disliked these outsiders who frequently entered the city.

Driving these refugees away would make their work much easier.

Several D-level Awakeners were puzzled.

What's going on?

Why isn't the Chairman saying the end part?

Hua Jun looked at the crowd kneeling again, his lips tightly shut.

Yes, he did it on purpose.

People don't cherish things they obtain easily; if he were to simply tell them, they might feel grateful but not overly so.

So, he intended to plunge them into despair before lifting them to the heights, ensuring they would never forget the Chairman's benevolence till their dying days.

Though the Chairman didn't specifically instruct this, as his subordinate, he had to consider it.

"Please, Chairman, allow us to stay?"

"We'll do anything as long as you don't drive us away."

"Chairman, if we leave here, we'll be homeless and doomed. Please, have mercy on us."

Wails echoed to the heavens, heart-wrenching and tear-inducing.

"That's enough."

Feeling the time was right, Hua Jun signaled an Awakener beside him.

"Quiet!"

As the man spoke, his voice drowned out everyone at the scene.

In a flash, silence fell, nobody daring to make a sound, looking pleadingly at the figure on the wall.

"I haven't finished speaking. Why are you all crying?"

Hua Jun said in displeasure.

"Indeed, from today, you can no longer live outside the city, but there is more to the sentence."

"More to the sentence?"

Thousands looked at each other in confusion.

"Yes, the rest is, after I finish this statement, all of you should pack up and move into the city."

As his words fell, those inside the city, the guards on the wall, and the outsiders below were stunned, time seemed to freeze.

"Indeed, you heard correctly, and I am not joking with you."

Hua Jun continued, "Honestly, you wouldn't be qualified to move to the city. Don't believe me? Ask people from other cities what price they must pay to move inside.

But our Chairman Li is compassionate and can't bear to see you suffer outside. He's willing to let you move into the city for free. This is why I gathered you here, understood?"

Not a sound came from below.

They couldn't believe such good fortune would fall upon them.

Just then, someone gathered the courage and asked, "Chairman, is it true? Can we really move in for free?"

"Do you think I need to deceive you?" Hua Jun sneered.

He scanned the crowd and said, "I will say it one last time; soon, someone will come to guide you. Everyone, regardless of age or gender, can move into Anshan City without paying anything,

because this is Chairman Li's gift to you. If anyone refuses, it's voluntary, but once inside, everyone must follow the rules, otherwise, face the consequences!"

With that, Hua Jun turned and disappeared from sight.

"You heard it, go pack up."

"Remember to thank Chairman Li properly, or you wouldn't have this chance."

"Go on, quickly."

Several D-level Awakeners gave brief instructions and left the wall.

However, the crowd remained in shock.

They couldn't believe it was true; that they could actually move into the city?

Is this a trick?

Impossible, these were Awakeners after all, and many witnessed it.

Is it a trap?

With the Awakeners' power, why would they need such methods to harm them?

Was it truly Chairman Li's generosity, letting them move into the city?

"Thank you, Chairman Li! Thank you, Chairman Li!"

Someone realized and began to kowtow and shout.

Others followed suit, desperately kowtowing.

Inside the city, the safety level alone was ten times better than outside!

Not to mention living conditions.

They had worked hard outside, risking their lives hunting to save enough money, hoping for qualification to live inside the city.

But now, Chairman Li was giving them city residence en masse for free, how could they not be grateful?

Tens of thousands shouted Chairman Li's name, the voices persisting endlessly.

Even Lin Hui's eyes were filled with tears.

Of course, not everyone thought that way.

Many inside the city were stunned, minds blank.

Those refugees outside could also move in? And without any cost?

Impossible, impossible!

Outside, hidden in the dark, a few people were stunned.

"Brother,"

Bearded man turned wide-eyed, asked, "Am I dreaming? Or hallucinating? Li Ping is letting outsiders move inside?"

"I heard it too." The woman swallowed nervously as she listened to the tsunami-like chanting ahead. "These are ordinary people; even martial artists don't matter much. Why move them inside without charge?"

"Indeed, and for free." The fat man bit into some beast meat.

"I have no idea either."

Xie Ming's face showed confusion.

Not to mention anything else, letting so many outsiders in for free, how would the insiders react? Did Chairman Li consider this?

Moreover, there's no need! Ordinary people dying outside, what's the big deal?

Only Third Brother was excited, "Brother, Chairman Li doing this is immensely beneficial for us!"

Chapter 318: Who is the Prey?

"A great opportunity?"

"That's right!"

The Third Brother's body was trembling as he pointed to the tens of thousands of people ahead and said, "These ordinary people, if it were any other Awakened, they'd be grateful just to let them stay

outside the city, but that Chairman Li is willing to let them move into the city, and for free! What does that tell you?"

"What does it tell us?"

Xie Ming asked instinctively.

"It shows that Chairman Li isn't as hard to deal with as we thought. In fact, he's someone who has compassion for the weak."

"Compassion?"

"Yes," the Third Brother looked towards the city wall, his eyes filled with passion, and said, "I always feel that the biggest difference between humans and Fierce Beasts is empathy. We humans always maintain sympathy and compassion for the weak. No matter how strong a person is, if they lose their empathy, even if they become invincible, they are no longer human; they're just beasts wearing human skin."

The rest of them fell silent all of a sudden.

Because they realized that their experiences over the years seemed to have made them lose their empathy.

When they saw those ordinary people die under the claws of the Fierce Beasts, they felt no emotional ripple at all, and even felt like laughing a bit.

See, that's the fate of the weak. Blame themselves for being too weak. Just think, if they were strong enough, would they still get killed?

In the recent past, it was just a moment ago.

When they heard what Hua Jun said, they doubted the sanity of the people in the Anshan City Association.

Why be kind to these ordinary people? What's in it for them?

But the Third Brother's words reminded them of something.

Ten years ago, they were no different from those ordinary people, running around day and night for a living.

They were just a bit luckier, waking up to superpowers and becoming Awakened.

Xie Ming took a deep breath and said, "Third Brother, you're right. Over the years, it seems like I've forgotten my roots."

He let out a bitter laugh and said, "Looking at those ordinary people is like looking at ants, but actually, they are just like us; they are people."

"Yes, yes."

The three bearded men blushed as well.

The Third Brother smiled and said, "It's okay, big brother, it's not too late. Besides, this makes allying with Chairman Li perhaps the best choice for us."

The few of them exchanged glances and nodded heavily.

That's right. Chairman Li took such good care of ordinary people that if they could prove their loyalty, he surely wouldn't treat them poorly.

"Big brother, there's no time to lose. Let's call Yan Hao and tell him we've arrived," the bearded man said impatiently.

"That's right. He sold the land for a fair price, but he's still not satisfied and wants to use us against Chairman Li. He's really ungrateful. If that's the case, don't blame us for being ruthless."

"Hmph, he's brought this on himself."

"Shh."

Xie Ming took out his phone and made a gesture for silence.

The rest immediately got the message and went silent.

Xie Ming found Yan Ming's number and dialed it. It only rang once before being picked up.

"Hello? Brother Xie, are you here already?"

Yan Hao's urgent voice came through.

"Yes."

Xie Ming said in a low voice, "I'm right outside the city. Where are you?"

"I'm still at my usual spot. If you don't remember, I can come out to get you," Yan Hao said.

"No need, my memory's not that bad."

"Good, good."

Yan Hao seemed extremely excited, nodding vigorously like a pecking chick. "Brother Xie, be careful coming up. Don't let anyone see you, or it could easily leak. When you reach the gate, send me a message, and I'll meet you there."

"Alright."

A cold smile appeared at the corner of Xie Ming's mouth.

"I'll hang up now. We'll talk more when we meet."

"Okay, okay."

Xie Ming hung up the phone.

"Big brother, how did it go?" the woman asked.

"He'll wait for us at his place. Is the recording equipment ready?"

The Third Brother made an OK gesture.

"Good, let's get in there right away. Avoiding people is crucial, or all our efforts will be in vain."

"Understood."

Soon, they arrived at Yan Hao's villa and successfully reunited.

They went up to the second floor and sat down in the room.

"Yan Hao, long time no see. You've been doing well these past few years?"

Xie Ming sized him up with a half-smile.

The bearded men also looked at him with amusement.

Yan Hao felt uncomfortable under their scrutiny, hurriedly stood up, and poured them some tea, saying, "It's been a long time, Brother Xie. You look more spirited than before."

"Really? I should thank your good brother for that, right?"

Xie Ming snorted with a cold laugh.

Thinking of Yan Ming, who blinded him in one eye, and now this guy trying to play both sides for his own gain, he wanted to kill him on the spot.

"Brother Xie, that's all in the past. My brother is already dead. Let's not talk about those things, okay?" Yan Hao said awkwardly.

"Alright."

Xie Ming glanced at him, then said, "Let's talk business."

"Yes!"

Yan Ming perked up immediately and stood by the window, pulling back the curtain and pointing to the people with luggage on the street outside. "Brother Xie, you saw when you came, right? That Li, trying to be a good person, using our land to house those outside city scum. He's quite the heart-winner."

Little did he know, his words sparked rage in the eyes of those behind him.

"Brother Xie,"

Yan Hao turned around, full of resentment, "As long as we kill that Li and Hua Jun and his accomplices, Anshan City will be yours to command! Even if you turn against me afterward, I won't regret it!"

"Brother Yan seems genuinely angry."

Xie Ming toyed with his teacup and said, "Fine, since we're here, we naturally want to lend Brother Yan a hand. Otherwise, wouldn't it be a wasted trip?"

"Big brother is right."

"Brother Yan's family's downfall is understandable."

"Just wondering, how does Brother Yan plan to deal with Chairman Li and his henchmen?" The Third Brother smiled.

Everyone exchanged glances, saying everything without a word.

"I'll explain right now. If you think there are areas for improvement, feel free to suggest, and we'll figure it out together."

"Alright."

Xie Ming agreed readily.

Yan Hao paced around as he spoke, "If we charge in directly, we might get injured. It's unnecessary because they are out in the open while we are in the dark. We can completely break them down one by one."

"Oh, how do we do that?"

"I'll contact Hua Jun and lure them here. Brother Xie, you guys will ambush them. When I excuse myself, that's your signal to strike. Hua Jun may be a C-level Awakened, but he's not strong. The remaining three or four are D-level, so you can kill them easily."

"After killing them, we'll head to the Awakened Association and take out that Li! Even if he's formidable, how can he handle all of us?"

Brother Xie, what do you think of my plan? Is there anything that needs adjusting?" Yan Hao grinned obsequiously.

He had spent a long time crafting this plan and thought it was excellent.

"Brilliant."

Xie Ming gave a thumbs-up and said, "Hua Jun probably never dreamt there'd be an ambush waiting for him here. I just have one question—are you sure you can lure him?"

"Don't worry about that, Brother Xie."

Yan Hao said smugly, "I have the confidence to lure them here. What happens afterward depends on your performance."

Hearing this, Xie Ming looked at the Third Brother.

The latter nodded.

He initially planned to capture Yan Hao after recording, but now it seemed better to wait for Hua Jun to be tricked first.

"Okay."

Xie Ming slapped his thigh and said, "Brother Yan, if you can lure them here, we'll take them down without any leaks."

"After killing Hua Jun and the others, we'll go to the Awakened Association together and settle the score with Li."

"Awesome!"

Yan Hao was ecstatic; he could hardly wait to rush to the Awakened Association.

"By the way, Brother Xie, I have one small request. If it's possible, I'd be very grateful."

"Go ahead, as long as it's within our ability, we'll do it," Xie Ming smiled, thinking it was just an empty promise that wouldn't cost them anything but would lower Yan Hao's guard.

"That Li and Hua Jun, I hope you can leave one of them alive, because if they die so easily, it's too cheap for them."

Yan Ming said through gritted teeth.

The group exchanged glances, inwardly finding it laughable.

Yan Ming really thought highly of them!

Just speaking of leaving someone alive was bold.

If he'd watched any videos of Chairman Li, he wouldn't have said that, or maybe he would've, since he wasn't the one doing it.

"Brother Xie, I know it's difficult, so if it can be done, great, if not, it's okay," Yan Hao hurriedly said, fearing any dissatisfaction or that they wouldn't cooperate.

"Brother Yan, we'll do our best."

Xie Ming said reluctantly.

"Okay, okay."

Yan Hao smiled, "Once they're dead, Anshan City will be Brother Xie's territory. Let me congratulate you in advance."

"Let's not get ahead of ourselves,"

The Third Brother waved his hand, "Get Hua Jun to come first. We don't want to fight two C-level Awakened and many D-level at the same time."

"Okay, okay, I'll call Hua Jun now. Don't worry, he'll come,"

Yan Hao said proudly.

He imagined Hua Jun kneeling, bruised and swollen, begging for mercy.

Xie Ming and his companions also laughed.

Yan Hao really was like a clown.

Laugh now, he'll be crying soon enough.

Chapter 319: What's the Matter, Don't Dare to Lay a Hand on Me?

On the desolate plain, several figures sped along swiftly.

It was none other than the four who rushed over from Jiulong City: Du Hao and his group.

Two B-level Awakened were at the forefront, and about twenty to thirty meters behind them were Du Hao and Ye Cheng.

"Brother Du, it's half an hour until we reach Anshan City."

Zou Xuan glanced backward and said.

"Good."

An insidious glint flashed in Du Hao's eyes.

As long as they entered Anshan City and found the other party's scent,

even if that guy ran to the ends of the earth, he would not let him go!

"Brother Du, I'm really sorry."

Ye Cheng chuckled bitterly: "It's all because of my limited strength, dragging everyone down. Otherwise, we would have reached Anshan City by now."

"Brother Ye, why say such things? A little more time won't matter. Besides, you need to conserve your strength so you can find that guy's trace once we get there." Du Hao said with a smile.

"Don't worry, Brother Du, as long as we reach our destination, I'll definitely be able to find that guy." Ye Cheng replied with a smile.

"Haha, let's move."

Just as the word "move" left Du Hao's mouth, a black shadow, fast as lightning, shot toward them from afar.

"Who's there!"

Zou Xuan and Jiang Miao immediately sensed the commotion.

However, the black shadow was already within a hundred meters. Then, leaping up fiercely, it raised its hands high overhead. The dark blade in its hands glinted brightly in the sunlight.

Next, a massive white sword qi about twenty-five meters long appeared abruptly, roaring down with earth-shattering force at one of them.

The sword qi cut through the air, producing a series of explosive sounds.

"Not good!"

The moment the tremendous white sword qi appeared, Jiang Miao reacted swiftly, using his superpower and space items to instantly teleport over a hundred meters away.

Du Hao and Ye Cheng also reacted quickly, teleporting a hundred meters away the second they saw the sword qi.

Zou Xuan also wanted to teleport.

But he shockingly found that the time and space around him seemed locked by this strike, leaving no room for evasion!

He tried to use instant teleportation items to escape but was horrified to find they were ineffective!

Cold sweat instantly dripped from his forehead.

"How... how can this be?"

His mind went blank. The strike came too fast, giving him no time to prepare.

"Boom!"

A thunderous noise erupted.

The enormous sword qi descended, striking his body heavily.

A protective barrier of white light emerged—it was his Guardian Talisman in effect.

But the next moment, the talisman shattered!

The huge sword qi fell, grinding Zou Xuan completely to dust.

"Boom!!!"

A deafening blast echoed, this time even louder than before, as the sword qi crashed into the ground, shaking the entire area violently, raising clouds of dust and debris.

The remaining three were utterly stunned.

What did they just witness?

An enormous sword qi over twenty meters long? Almost as tall as a ten-story building?

What on earth was that?

Even the mightiest of Commander-level Fierce Beasts couldn't do this.

"Oh no! Zou Xuan, he..."

Jiang Miao's face changed dramatically, as he seemed to see Zou Xuan being struck by the sword qi, directly vanishing into thin air...

"No, impossible, that's impossible."

He muttered to himself.

Zou Xuan, like him, was a B-level Awakened. Each B-level Awakened had a Guardian Talisman bought at a high price, capable of withstanding even a top-level Commander-level Fierce Beast's attack.

So how could Zou Xuan die? It must be a mistake, everything he saw must be an illusion.

He strained to see through the dust as it slowly settled.

A figure slowly emerged.

But it wasn't Zou Xuan.

"It's you!"

From a hundred meters away, Du Hao saw the figure stepping out of the dust, his face going ashen with fear.

Because the man holding the knife was none other than Chen Fan!

"That's right, it's me."

The muscular man disguised as Chen Fan grinned coldly, looking at Du Hao: "You've been looking for me, right? So, I'm here. Surprised? Unexpected? Delighted?"

"You!"

Du Hao was almost breathless with anger at hearing Chen Fan's words.

This bastard was as arrogant as ever!

Last time, he had humbled himself, but the other party showed no appreciation and killed his clone with one strike. And now, this guy dared to ambush him on the road again. Hmph, this time he had brought two B-level Awakened with him.

Wait!

Suddenly, his face turned pale. Just now, one of the B-level Awakened seemed to be hit by the sword qi...

He looked wide-eyed at the ground where Zou Xuan stood.

The ground where Zou Xuan had been was now a crater more than ten meters deep and three to four meters wide, with smooth walls.

Yet there was no sign of Zou Xuan.

"Are you looking for the guy from earlier?"

Chen Fan toyed with the knife in his hand, "Don't bother, he's already dead."

"Bullshit!"

Du Hao burst out cursing without thinking: "Brother Zou is a B-level Awakened. You think you can kill him?"

"Then you can try calling his name, or give him a call, and see if anyone answers." Chen Fan shrugged.

"Brother Zou? Brother Zou? Zou Xuan? Where are you? If you can hear me, respond."

Du Hao started calling Zou Xuan's name.

Seconds passed, then many seconds more. In a hundred-meter radius, only Du Hao's voice echoed.

Du Hao's face turned deathly pale, and cold sweat broke out on his back, making his voice tremble.

"Brother Du, stop calling."

At this moment, Jiang Miao's voice rang out, "This guy is stronger than last time."

Du Hao's voice and breath halted.

Indeed, so much time had passed, and he was coming to terms with the situation.

The sword qi just now, over twenty meters long, if he remembered correctly, could only be from the Fifth Strike of Windward Slash, capable of such size and power.

But last time, this guy could only use the First Strike.

Just two days had passed, yet his power had improved so drastically?

Or was he hiding his strength last time?

A fear like no other closed in from all sides, choking him.

Beside him, Ye Cheng, who had been planning to find traces of Chen Fan from the scene, was now trembling and paralyzed with fear, having clearly seen Zou Xuan turned to dust by the descending sword qi!

That was a B-level Awakened! One of the top fighters at Jiulong City!

Yet he was instantly killed by the man wielding that knife!

How could they fight against such power?

There was no way to fight!

"I should never have agreed to Zou Xuan, I should never have met with Du Hao, I should never have followed them to Anshan City. It's over. It's all over!"

He howled inwardly.

"Brother Du, don't worry."

Jiang Miao's voice echoed again, "Whether he was hiding his strength before or advanced recently, with me here, he's dead meat."

"Right, right, exactly!"

Du Hao snapped back to reality.

He remembered that Jiang Miao's superpower was Phantom, allowing him to be immune to any physical attack.

No matter if this guy could unleash the Fifth Strike of Windward Slash, what good would it do if he couldn't hit?

"Ha ha ha ha."

With this thought, he laughed out loud.

"I admit your appearance was unexpected, and even if Zou Xuan died to your sword, it doesn't change your fate today of certain death!"

"Is that so?"

Chen Fan glanced at Jiang Miao nearby, then back at Du Hao, "If I were you, I'd be more concerned about my own safety now. Even a B-level Awakened couldn't withstand my strike. Do you think you can?"

Du Hao froze, a flicker of fear in his eyes.

This guy, could he really use that strike multiple times?

Back in their first encounter, including him, who would have thought this guy could unleash back-to-back strikes? Yet he did.

But so what?

He smiled faintly and said, "Did you think I came in person this time? Haha, think again. This standing here is just another clone. Kill me, it matters not. But you, you die for real."

"Is that so? Just him?"

Chen Fan pointed his blade at Jiang Miao.

"He's not enough?"

Jiang Miao sneered.

His body returned to solid form, having dispelled the Phantom state for it drained Spiritual Power. Nevertheless, he felt sure his power could evade any attack in the flash of a moment by going Phantom.

A cold gleam flashed in Chen Fan's eyes.

He truly wanted to kill him with one finger.

But with Du Hao's clone watching nearby, this move might expose his identity.

He couldn't kill him yet, for Chen had a plan to find Du Hao's real body.

"Alright, take your shot. Show me how you'll kill me." He said slowly.

"?"

Jiang Miao felt a sudden foreboding at those words.

This guy, who attacked Zou Xuan first, was now asking Jiang to strike first. Why?

Did he know who Jiang was?

Or had he figured out his superpower and, confident of countering, awaited Jiang's move?

Jiang hesitated, unsure.

The atmosphere fell silent, tense.

A second passed.

Ten seconds passed.

In the blink of an eye, a minute was up.

"What's wrong?"

Chen Fan asked, "Afraid to make a move?"

"Brother Jiang!"

Du Hao shouted, glaring at Jiang Miao, silently questioning why he hadn't yet attacked!

Chapter 320: You Actually Begged Him for Mercy?

"Brother Du, this guy is strange."

Jiang Miao whispered.

"?"

Du Hao's face showed a trace of astonishment.

"What do you mean?"

"Brother Du, haven't you felt that this guy seems to know we are coming, so he ambushed here right away?"

Jiang Miao's gaze was fixed on Chen Fan not far away.

He had just thought of this.

Upon hearing this, Du Hao's face changed drastically.

It seems to be true?

This morning's decision to go to Anshan City, apart from a few of them, almost no one else knew.

Yet this guy appeared halfway and launched an attack unexpectedly, directly killing Zou Xuan!

Could it be that someone leaked the information?

He glanced at Jiang Miao and then at Ye Cheng, who was like a limp rag, feeling their possibility was small, and Zou Xuan was even less likely.

So, is there a traitor among my people?

But is this really possible? The ones I arranged to be close to me are all my trusted aides. What would be their reason to betray me?

Could there be another possibility,

This guy is from near Anshan City, and after killing me last time, knowing I will come, has been ambushing on the only way from Jiulong City to Anshan City.

"I say, have you finished discussing yet?"

Chen Fan frowned and urged, "You came this time to seek revenge, right? I am here in front of you, why are you hesitating? Didn't I kill your companions before?"

"You!"

Du Hao's eyes showed anger, looking at Jiang Miao, "Brother Jiang, no matter what strange things are involved, just disable this guy, and we can get any information from him."

Ye Cheng behind him also swallowed hard, looking at Jiang Miao.

That's right, at this moment, his, and Du Hao's safety, more accurately his safety, all depended on Jiang Miao.

If Jiang Miao wins, he naturally can escape danger.

If Jiang Miao loses, the fierce-looking man before him would definitely not spare him.

"Brother Du is right."

After hesitating for a moment, Jiang Miao nodded, "Since that's the case, I'll make a move."

"Hmm, I leave this guy to Brother Jiang."

Du Hao nodded.

Jiang Miao then looked at Chen Fan.

He had a premonition that the opponent had already seen his flaw, that in his Phantom state, he could immune to any physical attack, but at the moment he strikes, his body would change from Phantom to physical. In other words, the moment he strikes is also the best moment for others to attack him.

"So, this guy is confident in his speed, thinking he can attack me at the moment I strike?"

He took a deep breath.

To be honest, the difficulty of this task really exceeded his expectations.

But he had no retreat; even if it's difficult, he had to grit his teeth and go through it. Of course, in his view, this task is difficult but not impossible.

With a flick of his right hand, there was a "swish" sound, and a green long sword, over a meter long, appeared in his right hand.

"..."

Chen Fan squinted.

Martial Artist?

Or, this guy is also an Awakener and has cultivated a lot of Martial Arts Techniques?

This surprised him a bit, but it made sense, as not all Awakeners have combat-type Superpowers.

However, being a B-level Awakener, even if the Superpower is average, his combat power wouldn't be weak.

"Be careful."

Jiang Miao said, holding the long sword and pounced towards Chen Fan.

In the next moment, a jaw-dropping scene happened.

In midair, Jiang Miao's figure suddenly split into two, then two into four, four into eight, and finally, into sixteen figures attacking Chen Fan from all directions.

"Amazing!"

Ye Cheng's jaw almost dropped to the ground in surprise.

He had heard that Jiulong City's Jiang Miao had cultivated a Body Technique called Flying Shadow Divine Skill, nearly perfect in Realm, able to create fifteen false forms.

These false forms, from clothing to actions, even the emitted aura, were identical without any difference.

Unless the opponent distinguishes the real body to resist, he'd surely die. But to distinguish the real body was easier said than done.

This Body Technique seemed customized for Jiang Miao, giving him an undefeated position.

Du Hao's eyes glinted with excitement.

He gave a fierce look at Chen Fan, as if seeing the latter's death on the spot.

In the arena, their distance was less than thirty meters.

"All the auras are identical?"

Chen Fan showed a trace of astonishment.

He thought using Celestial Response, he could easily distinguish the real body, but it didn't work.

"He's panicking!"

Jiang Miao felt overjoyed.

He initially perceived this guy as weird and troublesome; thus, if he moved, he'd strike with full force.

Just now, his opponent showed surprise in his eyes.

Clearly indicating he had no countermeasure for his move.

"To be sure, I'll send you to death."

He concentrated the remaining three to four hundred drops of True Essence on the sword tip and aimed at a crucial point on Chen Fan's body, ruthlessly stabbing.

More than a dozen false forms mirrored this.

Targeting his eyes, temples, heart, etc.

At this moment, time seemed to slow tenfold.

Jiang Miao watched the sword tip inch closer to Chen Fan's neck, finally stabbing through.

"Ding!"

A crisp sound.

Not the expected sensation of piercing flesh, but as if striking a bronze bell, his hand went numb.

Then, a wave of True Essence, larger than his, surged from the collision point, roaring towards him.

Like being hit by a truck head-on, Jiang Miao's figure was sent flying.

"Crack!"

In midair, his long sword shattered into countless pieces.

"No good!"

Jiang Miao was shocked, trying to release the sword hilt.

But it was too late.

A massive amount of True Essence instantly invaded his arm, rushing towards his body.

Even a True Essence Realm Martial Artist's meridian couldn't bear such massive True Essence, exploding instantly, shredding half of his right arm, revealing bloody white bones.

Countless True Essence further invaded his body.

"Crack! Crack!"

Amid the continuous sound of bones breaking, Jiang Miao sprayed blood like a fountain.

"Thud!"

A heavy thud.

He fell heavily, lying limp like mud.

His head raised, eyes filled with terror, about to say something when a large foot came down, crushing his head.

Instantly, the scene fell into dead silence.

Chen Fan looked at the headless corpse underfoot.

He guessed what the opponent wanted to say.

Golden Bell Shield.

Yes, though he couldn't distinguish the real body, due to cultivating the Golden Bell Shield, he could counter all attacks.

The 9th Floor Golden Bell Shield's Rebound trait, once activated, could rebound 40% of one's own True Essence damage during close combat.

His True Essence almost reached 3000 points now, 40% equals 1200 points, equal to 120,000 True Qi.

If a Meridian Refining Realm Martial Artist faced this, he'd surely die. Even a True Essence Realm Martial Artist wouldn't fare well.

Moreover, the opponent had almost exhausted his True Essence to deal with him.

To avoid unnecessary trouble and prevent him from revealing his Martial Arts too early, it was best to kill him immediately.

Du Hao and Ye Cheng at that moment were petrified, staring at the corpse at Chen Fan's feet, mouths wide in shock.

Jiang Miao, dead?

Was his head crushed right before their eyes?

That was a B-level Awakener! With so many false forms, they couldn't distinguish the real one.

How could he tell?

"Du Hao, I killed the two guys you brought. Any other tricks up your sleeve?" Chen Fan's voice rang, face showing a playful smile.

"You!"

Du Hao's eyes showed deep fear.

Yes,

He brought two B-level Awakeners today for his revenge plan.

Not solely against Chen Fan, but also to ensure obtaining the Celestial God Fruit smoothly, without unexpected events.

Yet, even before reaching Anshan City, the two experts died one after another, and absurdly, Zou Xuan hadn't got a single chance to strike...

Jiang Miao was even more ridiculous.

Saying no matter if the opponent could use the Fifth Strike of Windward Slash couldn't harm him.

In reality, it cost him his life.

Now only he and Ye Cheng remained, the latter had next to no combat power, making him the strongest among them.

On the other side, Ye Cheng trembled like a leaf.

He didn't expect his last hope to shatter like that.

Du Hao's superpower was Clone; as long as his real body survived, he was immortal.

But he was different.

If he died, he indeed died.

In the next moment, he knelt, ignoring Du Hao's presence, desperately kowtowing to Chen Fan, "Please, sir, I was just passing by. We have no grudge. Spare me. I beg you."

Chen Fan was stunned, then looked teasingly at Du Hao.

Du Hao reacted, furious, shouting, "Ye Cheng! What are you doing? Do you know who he is? Begging him?"