

Martial Arts 331

Chapter 331: Let Me See What You're Capable Of

As the words fell, the scene became silent, and everyone's eyes fell on a high-rise building a hundred meters away, or rather, on the figure on the building.

"Is it him?"

"It's actually that guy!"

The faces of the young people showed expressions of surprise.

The one who appeared in front of them was the masked guy with a bow and arrow who had previously slaughtered those high-level Fierce Beasts on the periphery.

Thus, after a brief shock, several people began to speak excitedly.

"What does it matter to you whether we tackle this Commander-level Fierce Beast?"

"Exactly, do we have to inform you in advance about what we do or don't do?"

"It's as if you were the one who killed this Commander-level Fierce Beast."

"I did kill it."

Chen Fan said calmly.

"?"

The atmosphere became silent again, and the few looked at each other, stunned.

Did they hear it wrong?

This guy actually said that it was he who killed the Furious Barbaric Bull King?

"Hahaha."

Someone laughed wildly, "Friend, do you think we are fools? This is a Commander-level Fierce Beast. You can kill it?"

"Exactly, when we came here earlier, it was clear to us that you were hunting those high-level Fierce Beasts. How can you have the courage to say that you killed this Commander-level Fierce Beast?"

"Enough, we don't have time to argue with you. We didn't bother you earlier, so don't bother us now, or you'll regret it."

"Really?"

Chen Fan laughed.

"Watch out!"

Yuan Yang, who had been silently watching, sensed a wave of crisis.

He quickly stepped forward and loudly said, "Friend, these young ones are still youthful and speak impulsively. Please don't take their words to heart."

"No problem."

Chen Fan nodded and said concisely, "If you leave now, I can pretend nothing happened."

"Leave here, why..."

"Shut up!"

Yuan Yang turned around and glared at the speaker fiercely, then smiled and said, "Alright, we will leave right away."

"Uncle Yuan?"

"Uncle Yuan!"

Several people found it hard to accept.

It's just one person, and there are so many of us!

Besides, that guy obviously looks like someone who tries to make things mysterious. Otherwise, why wear a mask all the time?

They are all C-level Awakeners with various superpowers, and there's Uncle Yuan, a B-level Awakener. If a fight breaks out, they could easily teach the opponent a lesson, right?

Do they have to be so cowardly?

Yuan Yang gave them a fierce look.

These youngsters are too young!

Even though the other party has only one person and knows the situation is unfavorable, he still dares to show up. What does this imply?

One, the other party is bluffing.

Two, the other party has absolute strength and is not afraid of them.

He considered the second possibility more likely because he could assert with great confidence that those Elite-level Fierce Beasts outside were killed by this person.

It's just a Commander-level Fierce Beast's corpse, after all. Letting it go is not a big deal.

"Alright, have you all forgotten what I told you before leaving the city? No matter what happens, you must follow my orders."

"Yes."

Seeing this, everyone had to lower their heads in submission, though some still gave Chen Fan provocative looks, as if to say, "You're lucky Uncle Yuan stopped us, or we would have taught you a lesson."

Several people turned to leave.

Suddenly, Yuan Yang turned and hesitantly asked, "Friend, I'm curious. How did you manage to kill this Commander-level Fierce Beast? Oh, you don't have to say if it's inconvenient for you. I'm just curious, with no other intentions."

As the words fell, everyone else stopped walking and turned around to look at Chen Fan.

"With an arrow."

Chen Fan said simply.

"With an arrow?"

Yuan Yang frowned.

He recalled the wounds on the Furious Barbaric Bull King.

He couldn't connect those explosive wounds with an arrow at all.

"With an arrow? It looked more like a bomb did that."

"Exactly, telling lies with open eyes, treating us like fools."

"If you ask me, he's just bluffing. We don't need to fear him at all."

But in the next moment, everyone, including Yuan Yang, widened their eyes as if witnessing an impossible sight.

On the high-rise building.

Chen Fan was holding a huge head in one hand, with blood-red eyes and two bull horns on its forehead pointing skyward!

It was the head of the Furious Barbaric Bull King!

At this moment, everyone seemed to hear their own heartbeat.

What did they see?

That masked guy was holding the head of the Furious Barbaric Bull King!

This is the most valuable material on the Furious Barbaric Bull King!

Did this guy get it by chance?

How could that be!

No one here is a fool; who, after killing the Furious Barbaric Bull King, would leave behind its valuable materials? Otherwise, the risk would be for nothing!

It's almost impossible for someone to pick up such a valuable "leftover"!

So, is this Commander-level Fierce Beast really killed by the person in front of them?

Yuan Yang's face was also filled with shock.

The next second, the head of the Furious Barbaric Bull King disappeared.

It was as if everything that had just happened was an illusion.

"Now, do you believe it?"

Chen Fan's voice came, "If you still don't believe it, then come and test me, and let's see what you're capable of."

Yet the crowd bowed their heads, not daring to meet his gaze.

What a joke; they are young but not foolish.

The ability to produce the head of the Furious Barbaric Bull King is enough to say everything!

"Friend, please stop joking."

Yuan Yang hurriedly smiled, "With the head of the Furious Barbaric Bull King in your hands, how could we not believe?"

"Right, brother, we were too rash just now. We shouldn't have doubted you."

"Brother, we apologize."

"Sorry."

"Sorry."

A group of young people quickly apologized, their attitude completely different from before.

"Alright, then leave now."

Chen Fan turned his head back.

"Friend, please wait a moment!"

Yuan Yang quickly reached out his hand.

"What, is there anything else?"

Chen Fan frowned, his tone a bit displeased.

Because of them, he had already wasted one or two minutes.

"Friend, could you leave your contact information?"

Yuan Yang showed a respectful look and said, "I am Yuan Yang from the White Cloud City Awakened Association. I came here this time with juniors from the association to gain some experience. Unexpectedly, we met you. I must say, your strength is very strong. Even in White Cloud City, you are among the top experts. If you are willing to leave a contact, we might have opportunities for cooperation in the future."

White Cloud City has many experts, but ones who can single-handedly kill Commander-level Fierce Beasts are rare.

Such top-level experts are always welcome.

"Experience?"

Chen Fan did not answer but asked back, "You said you came here specifically to gain experience?"

"Yes."

Yuan Yang truthfully replied, "The Fierce Beasts here are fewer compared to other abandoned cities, and there is only one Commander-level Fierce Beast, which is relatively weak. Therefore, it's a good place for daily training, although there are other places, but they are much more dangerous."

Chen Fan's eyes lit up.

Such a place is a treasure land for him.

He could gain a large number of points, massive experience points, and improve his Basic Archery level.

If his Basic Archery level improved to the point it slowed down, he could switch to using his fists and kicks to kill Fierce Beasts, improving his Basic Boxing and Kicking.

This abandoned city only had high-level Fierce Beasts left, which might last for one or two days before he slaughtered them all.

After that, finding other similar places would be difficult, even with Celestial Response; it would be a matter of luck and effort.

If he could get more information about similar places from this person, it would save him a lot of trouble.

"Giving you my contact information is not impossible."

Yuan Yang immediately said, "Whatever your requests, as long as they are not excessive, we can agree."

"I want more information about places like this city."

Chen Fan said.

"I see."

Yuan Yang understood Chen Fan's intention.

It seems that he wants to hunt Fierce Beasts in other abandoned cities as well.

This is naturally beneficial to Yan Country.

Frankly, this city information is no big secret. Fierce Beasts cannot be completely eradicated. You might clear out all the Commander-level and Elite-level Fierce Beasts now, but new ones will occupy it in two months or so.

"Alright."

Yuan Yang agreed with a smile, "I can fulfill this request. If there are any future opportunities for cooperation, we will contact you, and we hope you will oblige. The rewards will not disappoint you."

"Okay."

Chen Fan nodded.

Anyway, it was just giving his contact information, not agreeing to any cooperation.

He sent over his Martial Arts Association contact information.

Yuan Yang then sent the coordinates of several abandoned cities and the distribution of Fierce Beast forces within them.

"Brother Chen, it's best not to go to the furthest abandoned city alone. There are several Commander-level Fierce Beasts there, one of which is top-tier among Commander-level Fierce Beasts."

Yuan Yang pointed to the last line, indicating a place called Qinzhou.

Ten years ago, it was a second-tier city with a population of nearly ten million, convenient transportation, and an airport. After ten years, it was overrun by Fierce Beasts, even Awakeners dared not venture there easily.

"Thanks, Brother Yuan, I will be careful."

Chen Fan did not deliberately hide his identity. His unique gear and weapons would make it easy for them to identify him anyway.

He glanced at the screen.

There are six cities in total, even the least populous one has two or three times the number of Fierce Beasts compared to this city, including two Commander-level Fierce Beasts.

The other cities have even more Fierce Beasts, with the quantity and quality of Commander-level Fierce Beasts being significantly higher.

Going further might even lead to encounters with Beast King-level Fierce Beasts, aside from which there could also be some strange races.

Chapter 332: The Martial Arts Association Has This Kind of Genius?

"Brother Chen, if you have any other questions, feel free to ask. If I know the answer, I'll tell you everything I know."

Yuan Yang said with a warm smile.

He looked Chen Fan up and down, his curiosity growing stronger.

Which Awakened Association does this Brother Chen belong to?

But among the many Awakened Associations, he hadn't heard of any B-level or above Awakener whose weapon is a bow and arrow?

Could he be a C-level Awakener?

Got to go back and check.

"No more questions for now. If I have any in the future, I'll call you, Brother Yuan."

"Sure, sure."

Yuan Yang nodded repeatedly, glanced around, and said, "Since that's the case, we won't disturb you any longer. If you have any questions in the future, feel free to contact us."

"Alright, then let's part ways here."

"Let's part ways."

The two exchanged a smile.

"Let's go."

Yuan Yang glanced at the people behind him and started walking away.

Since there were no Elite-level Fierce Beasts here, they had no reason to stay.

People couldn't help but glance at Chen Fan before hurriedly following Yuan Yang.

After leaving the city, someone couldn't help but ask out of curiosity, "Uncle Yuan, who exactly is that person?"

"Yeah, Uncle Yuan, where is he really from? Is it close to here?"

"I don't really know either."

Yuan Yang shook his head with a wry smile and said, "I just know his surname is Chen and he gave me his phone number. Apart from that, I know nothing else."

To put it bluntly, he felt that the surname given might even be fake...

"A phone number? Uncle Yuan, can we take a look?"

A few people crowded over.

"Alright, but don't use it to call him for no reason, okay?" Yuan Yang warned.

Given the other party's strength, he was certainly stronger.

Calling recklessly might bring trouble.

"It's a phone number."

"So this is that person's contact?"

"Hmm? Why does this number look a lot like a Martial Arts Association phone number?" someone suddenly said.

"What!"

Everyone was stunned.

"Xiao Hai, you mean it's a Martial Arts Association phone number?"

Yuan Yang was shocked.

"Yes."

The young man called Xiao Hai scratched his head and said hesitantly but confidently, "The first four digits are Martial Arts Association contact numbers, and it looks like this should be a Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association number."

"Hiss."

Everyone gasped audibly.

Zhao Hai even mentioned "Jiangnan Sub-district," so he was probably right.

So, the person surnamed Chen might not be an Awakener but a Martial Artist?

A Martial Artist capable of single-handedly killing a Commander-level Fierce Beast?

It's hard for everyone to accept, including Yuan Yang.

It's not that Martial Artists matching Commander-level Fierce Beasts don't exist, but they are extremely rare, and most are leaders in associations.

Take the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, for example. The president Shi Tao is definitely one, with his Five-Thunder Transformation Hand reaching perfection, neutralizing most attacks, including most Awakeners' superpowers.

Others exist but total no more than three.

Chen, never heard that the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association has such a person?

"Right, I could make a call and find out, couldn't I?"

An idea flashed in Yuan Yang's mind.

If he didn't find out, he'd be restless.

He quickly dialed a number.

"Hello?"

A woman's voice answered, "Yuan Yang, aren't you out leading a group? Did you encounter danger?"

"No, President," Yuan Yang laughed. "Something happened on the way. I would like to ask you to help me check on someone."

"Help you check on someone?"

Wu Yu frowned, "Go on, who is it?"

"A Martial Artist in the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, uses a bow and arrow, surname Chen." Yuan Yang rattled off all the information he knew and added that it was super urgent.

Wu Yu frowned at checking on a Martial Artist?

And it's super urgent?

But, one, her relationship with Yuan Yang wasn't bad, and two, it's just checking on a Martial Artist. Even the whole Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association's information could be easily accessed.

So she didn't ask much and quickly sent out a message.

She soon received a reply.

"Got it."

Wu Yu looked at the screen showing Chen Fan's profile, "There is a Martial Artist surnamed Chen, called Chen Fan, uses a bow and arrow, Martial Realm, Meridian Refining Realm, what's wrong?"

"Chen Fan?"

Yuan Yang was stunned.

Really surnamed Chen? Not lying?

But something's wrong?

A Martial Artist who can single-handedly kill a Commander-level Fierce Beast is only in the Meridian Refining Realm?

Is that possible?

"President, can you check if there are others in their association who use bows and arrows as weapons?"

"Others who use bows and arrows?" Wu Yu frowned and checked, then shook her head, "No, there's only this one."

"Only this one?"

Yuan Yang murmured, "It can't be? Is he from another Martial Arts Association? The numbers don't match, and the surname is the same, strange."

"Yuan Yang, what's going on? What are you looking for?"

Wu Yu asked.

"President, here's what happened."

Yuan Yang described the entire incident without reservation.

When hearing that Chen Fan took out the head of the Furious Barbaric Bull King, the Vice President of White Cloud City Awakened Association showed shock.

"You mean, the person who killed the Furious Barbaric Bull King is this Chen Fan right in front of me?"

"President, I, I'm not sure."

Yuan Yang smiled wryly.

"The other details fit, but the Martial Realm is too unbelievable."

General Meridian Refining Realm Martial Artists struggle with Elite-level Fierce Beasts. If they encounter the top-tier Elite-level, they can only run.

To possess the strength to kill a Commander-level Fierce Beast, the realm must be at least True Essence Realm, possibly the second or third realm of True Essence.

So, how could someone who kills a Commander-level Fierce Beast be just in the Meridian Refining Realm? The aura he emitted wasn't what a Meridian Refining Martial Artist should have."

Yuan Yang was puzzled.

Wu Yu's nimble fingers lightly tapped the table, "Could it be that he actually is a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, but his profile shows Meridian Refining Realm?"

"Huh?"

Yuan Yang was speechless.

"Is that possible?"

"Why not."

Wu Yu calmly said, "Their association has assessments for Martial Artists. Only after passing the assessments does the profile's realm get updated. This Chen Fan must've been a True Essence Realm Martial Artist for a while but hasn't taken the assessment."

"The President makes sense. No wonder I've never heard of such a person in the Jiangnan Sub-district."

Yuan Yang nodded, took a deep breath, "Unbelievable, President, I heard you say this Brother Chen is only seventeen, right? Already a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, similar to Ling Yu?"

"Yes, I heard Ling Yu is also a martial genius with natural eight meridians connected, struggling with meridian opening at the Meridian Refining Realm, while he has already formed the Elixir Field and Sea of Qi, stepping into the True Essence Realm. However,"

Wu Yu changed her tone, "If the masked person you described is really him, he might be stronger than Ling Yu."

"Right."

Yuan Yang agreed.

Ling Yu was known for his strength, but never heard of him killing a Commander-level Fierce Beast solo.

Chen Fan did.

Yuan Yang personally saw it.

"President, it seems that soon the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association will have another Shi Tao."

He said complexly.

In recent years, relations between Awakened Associations and Martial Arts Associations became tenser, especially the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, known for its 'thorniness'.

"Indeed, it's good for Yan Country too. We must recognize the value of the Martial Arts path."

"Yes."

Yuan Yang nodded.

"President, I'll take them to other ruins to check out. I'll brief you in detail when I return."

"Okay."

The call ended.

Yuan Yang breathed deeply.

"Uncle Yuan, how was it? Is he really from the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association?"

"Is he really a Martial Artist?"

"Not an Awakener?"

The young people asked eagerly.

"Yes, he's from the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association."

Yuan Yang smiled and nodded, "I won't disclose the name, but guess his age?"

"Guess his age?"

"Sounds like thirty?"

"Thirty and that strong, at least thirty-five!"

"Forty maybe?"

"Forty?"

Yuan Yang glanced at the person showing four fingers, "His age is close to most of yours, seventeen, not yet eighteen."

"What!"

Everyone was shocked.

Seventeen?

Seventeen and able to solo kill a Commander-level Fierce Beast?

A joke!

Hundreds of miles away in a medium-sized city, White Cloud City.

In her office, Wu Yu looked at the portrait on the computer screen, showing immense curiosity.

Could there truly be such a genius?

Or did Yuan Yang make a mistake?

She wasn't familiar with President Shi Tao, but had a connection with Vice President Chang Fei.

Considering this, it's better to call and inquire.

Chapter 333: Poison in the Teal

Jiulong City.

A heavily guarded underground base.

Inside a secret chamber.

Du Hao walked back and forth with his hands behind his back.

"Strange, that guy just let my clone go like that? Last time, he wasn't so easy to talk to."

He muttered to himself, "Could it be that he's genuinely afraid, worried that I'd bring people over for revenge again, so he did this?"

It's not impossible.

Because behind him stands the entire Jiulong City!

And he also knew that this guy most likely lived around Anshan City, perhaps even within Anshan City!

"Hmph!"

Thinking of this, a cold smile appeared on his face.

Do you think that by letting my clone go this time, we can just write off our past grudges?

Wishful thinking!

Last time, you killed my kin, and I haven't avenged that yet. If I let you off so easily, won't others in Jiulong City think they can mess with my clone too?

"You can only blame yourself for not cherishing the chance I gave you the first time."

Du Hao grinned wickedly, took out his phone, found the pinned number, Xiang Long, the City Lord of Jiulong City.

"I can only ask Brother Xiang to step in. Otherwise, it won't be so easy to kill that guy."

With a determined look, Du Hao dialed the number.

"Ring, ring, ring..."

The phone gave a busy signal.

"Sorry, the user you are calling is busy. Please try again later."

Du Hao's face changed at that.

What a coincidence? Could it be that Brother Xiang is in seclusion or out hunting with a team?

These two possibilities are indeed quite significant.

"Let's try again."

Unwilling to give up, he hung up and dialed again.

The result was the same as before.

After a few more attempts with no difference, Du Hao could only set down his phone, thinking that he could try calling again later or hope that Brother Xiang would return the call after seeing his missed calls.

Hopefully, there won't be too long of a wait.

Tomorrow is the day the Celestial God Fruit ripens.

To Brother Xiang, a dozen Celestial God Fruits might not be too precious; with some time, he could easily get them. But to Du Hao, they were extremely important.

If he missed the precious time tomorrow and went the day after, it might already be too late.

"It's all that bastard's fault. If it weren't for his interference, I would already know the location of the Celestial God Tree by now."

Thinking about it made Du Hao incredibly angry.

Suddenly, he sensed something and muttered to himself, "The clone is at the door already? The timing seems about right. Just to be safe, I should check if that guy did anything to my clone."

Though he said that, he wasn't really convinced. Even if the other did something, he'd detect it immediately.

Above, a figure identical to Du Hao walked forward.

"Brother Du!"

"Brother Du!"

The guards greeted him respectfully.

"Hm."

The clone of Du Hao nodded slightly and came to an alloy door, scanned his retina, and checked his fingerprint. Only then did the metal door slowly open.

After repeating this process three times, he finally reached the elevator doors.

Taking the elevator down and passing another check, he eventually arrived at the secret chamber, standing straight in front of the real Du Hao, looking forward with a dazed expression.

Du Hao carefully examined him, touching here and there, finding nothing unusual.

He also opened the Spatial Ring on his clone's hand and saw nothing unusual inside either.

"Seems like I was overthinking. If he really did something to my clone, how could I not detect it at all?"

Du Hao shook his head with a smile.

He glanced at his phone, seeing that Brother Xiang hadn't called back yet, probably because he hadn't checked his phone.

Forget it, rather than waiting anxiously, he might as well do his own things. He might receive the call soon.

"Sit down, meditate, and cultivate."

He spat out a few words.

The clone, as if receiving a command, walked straight to a cushion and sat down, cultivating Spiritual Power.

Du Hao nodded.

With his current strength, the clone he condensed could follow some simple instructions like traveling or fighting, but not independently. He had to split some of his mind to remotely control it.

It's said that if his strength reached B-level or even A-level, he could not only conjure multiple clones, each with its own thoughts.

However, given his current circumstances, that opportunity would likely never come in his lifetime.

"I should cultivate too."

He sat back down on his cushion, closed his eyes, and meditated.

A minute passed,

Two minutes passed,

Before long, he felt increasingly restless.

No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't continue meditating.

He couldn't help but open his eyes, picking up a cup of tea beside him and taking a couple of sips, only to find it empty.

"Clone, brew me a cup of Calming Tea."

He set down the cup and closed his eyes, giving the order.

The clone immediately opened his eyes, a strange light flashing in them.

He rose slowly, picked up some Anshan Tea, and put it into the cup, all while a small packet slipped into his hand unnoticed.

"Gurgle."

Hot water poured into the cup, releasing a fragrant aroma.

Without expression, the clone brought the freshly brewed tea over, took the empty cup from the floor, and placed it on the table.

After doing all this, he silently returned to his cushion and continued cultivating.

About half an hour passed, and Du Hao's brows gradually furrowed.

Time ticked by, and beads of sweat appeared on his previously smooth forehead.

After a minute or two, he had to open his eyes and exhale deeply.

"Cultivation is becoming more and more difficult. I remember when I started; a couple of sips of Calming Tea could keep me focused for almost half a day. Now, I can barely last an hour."

His gaze fell on the Calming Tea the clone had just brewed.

Indeed a good thing. But as the saying goes, all medicines have some poison, even elixirs.

However, he had no other choice. His cultivation speed was already slower than others. Without ample resources, how could he catch up?

He reached out, picked up the cup, and lifted the lid, a refreshing fragrance immediately calming his spirit.

After blowing on it lightly, he took a few sips before setting it down slowly.

But as soon as the cup was placed down, a sharp pain surged from his organs, almost tearing his whole body apart.

"What's happening?"

Du Hao's face drastically changed.

He felt a burning sensation rising up his throat.

Then, with a splash, he vomited a large mouthful of black blood!

"This!"

Du Hao was utterly shocked.

What the hell is going on?

He had drunk countless cups of Calming Tea without ever encountering such a situation.

This black blood, and the excruciating internal pain?

Could it be poisoned tea!

The thought flashed in his mind.

But still, if the Calming Tea was the problem, why had he never encountered this before?

Moreover, in this heavily guarded place, it was impossible for anyone, even a fly, to get in and poison his tea.

Where exactly went wrong?

"Splurt!"

Du Hao spewed out another mouthful of blood.

This time, with bits and pieces of his organs mixed in.

He tried to get up and press the button to call for help, but to his despair, his body wouldn't obey him.

Fortunately, he had a clone.

"Quick, call for help."

He turned to his clone with all his remaining strength.

Hearing this, the clone immediately stood up and pressed the button.

A piercing alarm broke the silence.

"What's going on?"

"That sound! Damn, something happened to Lord Du Hao!"

"Quick! Quick!"

Outside the secret chamber, hurried footsteps converged from all directions. Faces filled with worry and urgency.

In their memory, Lord Du Hao had never pressed that button.

But today, he did. What did it mean? It was clear as day.

However, within the secret chamber, Du Hao was already bleeding from his seven orifices, his vision gradually fading.

"Am I... dying?"

He thought to himself.

He felt the pain in his body slowly lessening, which seemed good, but reason told him it was terrible.

The only good news was the clone had pressed the alarm, and help would arrive soon.

"No, wait."

Suddenly, his eyes fixed on the clone.

He remembered. He had asked the clone to brew the Calming Tea, meaning the poisoned Anshan Tea he drank was brewed by his clone.

Why?

Why?

His once dimmed eyes suddenly widened.

In theory, anyone might betray him, except his clone.

For the clone was him, and he was the clone.

If he died, the clone wouldn't survive either.

So why, why would the clone poison his Calming Tea? Why!

"Could it be, could it be him..."

Chen Fan's image floated into Du Hao's mind.

Earlier, his clone had passed out for a minute or two. In that brief moment, could that guy have done something to his clone, leading to this scene?

"How, how could, splurt!"

Both fearful and resentful, Du Hao vomited another mouthful of black blood and collapsed backward.

And as he fell, the clone beside him also dropped to the ground, lifeless.

Chapter 334: The Inside Story

Jiangnan City, Martial Arts Association Underground Base.

Inside the Alchemy Room.

An elder with a head full of white hair was refining pills.

Not far away, a few elders were gathered together, watching the alchemy furnace while whispering.

Chang Fei was also in the Alchemy Room.

But he seemed like an invisible person.

He didn't mind, his eyes focused on the alchemy furnace, filled with anticipation and unease.

Ever since the association got the pill formula from Brother Chen, Elder Sun, Elder Tang, and the others had been relentlessly studying it, describing their efforts as working day and night would not be an exaggeration.

Now, two days had passed, and he had no idea how far Elder Sun and the others had gotten in their research.

"Boom!"

At that moment, a dull sound came from the alchemy furnace.

"Is the pill done?"

Chang Fei jumped up from his chair.

Elder Sun nodded and slowly walked to the alchemy furnace, opening the lid.

A wave of fragrant elixir scent wafted out.

"What a strong fragrance!"

Elder Tang exclaimed.

"That's right, this must be the batch with the strongest fragrance out of all the True Qi Pills we've refined these past two days!"

"Doesn't that mean?"

The others started to breathe faster simultaneously.

To date, their best performance was refining seven True Qi Pills, of which four were Top-grade True Qi Pills!

A few days ago, this was almost impossible.

But after personally watching that instructional video, they knew that four Top-grade True Qi Pills in a batch might be their limit, but it was by no means the limit of this pill formula.

And just then, Elder Sun had already taken the steaming elixirs out of the furnace.

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, eight finished pills!" Elder Luo couldn't believe his eyes.

"Eight True Qi Pills! Oh my god, just one short of nine!"

"Yes, the success rate of this pill formula is ninety percent, and eight True Qi Pills is eighty percent success rate!"

"Not just that!"

Elder Tang excitedly said, "Of these eight True Qi Pills, five are Top-grade True Qi Pills! Five of them!"

"Five!"

"Let me see."

Elder Luo and the others widened their eyes and seriously counted each pill.

"It really is five Top-grade True Qi Pills!"

"Oh my god, not only is this batch the largest number of finished True Qi Pills, but it also has the most Top-grade True Qi Pills."

"Indeed, Elder Sun is the best among us."

"That's right."

The elders all gave Elder Sun a thumbs up.

"No, it's everyone's credit."

Elder Sun waved his hand with a bitter smile, "If it weren't for everyone working together these past two days, how could I have done this so quickly on my own?

Moreover, this is still not enough to satisfy us, knowing that this pill formula can produce up to nine Top-grade True Qi Pills."

"Indeed."

The elders nodded in agreement.

"Elder Sun, considering you and the others reaching this stage in just a few days, it's already quite impressive."

Seeing this, Chang Fei smiled and walked forward, "Just think, producing eight finished True Qi Pills in one batch, something we couldn't even dream of a few days ago. And to have five of them being Top-grade True Qi Pills, it's extraordinary. If the chairman knew, even he'd give a thumbs up."

The elders laughed heartily at these words.

"Young man Chang Fei, you sure know how to talk," Elder Tang said with satisfaction.

"Indeed, this young man Chang Fei's words are something else; he could talk a dead man to life."

"Elder Luo, you flatter me."

Chang Fei chuckled, "I was just stating the truth, wasn't I?"

"Hahaha."

The group laughed even more joyfully.

The laughter lasted for several seconds.

"Chang Fei, speaking of which, we really have you to thank this time." Elder Sun stroked his beard, smiling kindly, "If it weren't for you bringing this pill formula, we would never have thought that True Qi Pills could be refined like this."

"Yes, when I first saw the pill formula, I thought it was a fake. How could anyone refine pills like this? In fact, my skill was just too low to understand its brilliance."

"Who wouldn't think that? Even now, we still haven't fully figured it out."

They all sighed.

"Right, Chang Fei," an elder suddenly remembered something and asked, "Why haven't you brought Brother Chen who wrote this pill formula to the headquarters?"

The words immediately aroused the resonance of the others.

"Yeah, such talent being wasted in a small place like Anshan City, which is on the outskirts of Yan Country. If Fierce Beasts break out, Anshan City will be the first to suffer. You should bring him here quickly."

"Elder Qin is right, bring him here sooner so that we can discuss with him."

Only Elder Tang and Elder Luo remained silent, knowing the inside story. It wasn't that Chang Fei didn't want to, but that young man didn't want to.

Chang Fei sighed, "Elder Sun, you don't know, I've tried to persuade Brother Chen three times, and all three times he refused. Even the third time, when the chairman himself couldn't convince him."

"What? Even Shi Tao couldn't convince him?"

The elders were all stunned.

Shi Tao?

President of the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association!

Isn't that young man part of their association? How could he refuse the President? And it wasn't even a bad thing.

"Refused three times? If that's the case, a fourth attempt?"

"Exactly, maybe the fourth time he'd agree."

"Chang Fei, if you can't persuade him, let us try. We can talk to him," Elder Sun suggested.

"I'm afraid that's not possible."

Chang Fei's smile grew bitter.

If that incident hadn't happened, Brother Chen might still come to the headquarters. But because the chairman was determined to protect Ling Yu, even refusing to show up, it was impossible.

Maybe someday Brother Chen would come to the headquarters, but it would definitely not be good news.

"Why is it not possible? Chang Fei, don't make conclusions before trying," an elder said, annoyed.

"Just give us his contact information, and we will talk to him," another elder insisted.

"Really, it's not possible."

Chang Fei sighed heavily, "Elder Sun, there are some things you don't know. Even if I give you his contact information, you won't be able to persuade him. It might even backfire."

"Backfire?"

The elders looked at each other, puzzled.

"Inside story? What inside story?"

"Come on, tell us."

They urged, eager to have Chen Fan at the headquarters.

"Well..."

Chang Fei hesitated, wondering if he should tell them what had happened.

Just then, his phone vibrated.

He took out his phone and saw the caller ID, his expression turned surprised.

Wu Yu?

Chairman Wu?

Why would she be calling him?

"Elder Sun, I'm sorry, I have to take this call." He apologized.

"Go ahead, but come back after the call," Elder Sun reminded him.

"I will."

Chang Fei smiled wryly.

Was he that kind of person?

Also, telling them what had happened might be more persuasive than he could be.

He stepped into the nearby lounge and closed the glass door, then answered the call.

"Chairman Wu?"

"It's me, Chairman Chang," Wu Yu said with a smile, "Surprised I'm calling?"

"A bit."

Sitting down, Chang Fei smiled, "It's been two or three months since we last talked. How have you been in White Cloud City?"

"Yes, it has been two or three months." Wu Yu nodded, then changed the subject, "Chairman Chang, your Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association has been doing well lately?"

"Not too bad. Why do you ask?" Chang Fei was puzzled.

"Haha, do you have a martial artist named Chen Fan who uses a bow?"

"!"

Chang Fei was taken aback.

Why did she mention Brother Chen?

Did Brother Chen offend her? But it didn't sound like it.

"Chairman Wu, you're right," Chang Fei quickly calmed down, maintaining a steady voice, "We do have a martial artist named Chen Fan who uses a bow. Why?"

"Haha, then congratulations, Chairman Chang," Wu Yu said with a smile, "Your Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association has gained another True Essence Realm martial artist."

"True, True Essence Realm?"

Chang Fei was stunned, then quickly understood.

From the last incident, he knew Chen Fan's true strength. Even if he wasn't in the True Essence Realm, he wasn't far off.

The key question was, how did Wu Yu in White Cloud City know this?

"Yes, doesn't Chairman Chang know?" Wu Yu sounded surprised.

"No, I wasn't aware." Chang Fei played along, "I thought Chen Fan was still in the Meridian Refining Realm."

"Really? That's strange." Wu Yu sounded puzzled, "Just now, our association members saw him use a bow to kill a Commander-level Fierce Beast and about forty or fifty Elite-level Fierce Beasts."

"What!"

Chang Fei's voice rose several decibels.

"Chairman Wu, what did you say? Chen Fan killed a Commander-level Fierce Beast!"

"That's right." Wu Yu smiled, "Our members saw him pull out the head of a Frenzied Bull King from his space items. There's no question he killed it. By the way, Brother Chen gave us his contact information. The prefix indicates it's from your Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association. Should I send it to you for confirmation?"

Chapter 335: I'm Afraid One Day, You Won't Be Able to Stop Me from Growing Up

"Okay, okay, thank you very much, Chairman Wu." Chang Fei nodded repeatedly like a pecking chick, his heart pounding wildly.

Could it be true?

Brother Chen, he actually killed a Furious Barbaric Bull King, all by himself?

The Furious Barbaric Bull King, although a relatively ordinary Commander-level Fierce Beast, is still a Commander-level Fierce Beast!

If it were him, it would definitely be impossible.

Just then, a message from Wu Yu came through.

It wasn't much, just a string of phone numbers.

Chang Fei opened his contact list and found Chen Fan's number. When he compared the two, he stood there as if struck by lightning.

Because the two numbers were identical!

On the other end, Wu Yu sensed something and her expression grew serious.

Could it be that they are indeed the same person?

"Chairman Chang?"

She had to call several times before bringing Chang Fei out of his shock.

"Chairman Chang, it seems that the one who killed the Furious Barbaric Bull King is indeed your association's Chen Fan."

Wu Yu took a deep breath and said slowly.

"Chairman Wu,"

Chang Fei swallowed hard, "Where did your people see Brother Chen, and what was he wearing at the time?"

Even now, he still couldn't believe it.

"In Anxi City."

Wu Yu blurted out, "He was wearing a mask on his face, holding a black longbow, and using arrows so long that they were almost as thick as an adult's small arm..."

She relayed all the details that Yuan Yang had previously mentioned to her.

Chang Fei gasped.

In fact, when Wu Yu mentioned that the archer was wearing a mask, he had already deduced that it was Chen Fan.

Because he knew Chen Fan had a habit of hunting with a mask on, and also used a bow and arrow...

How could there be so many coincidences in the world?

Moreover, even the phone numbers were identical.

"It really is Brother Chen."

He let out a long sigh.

His heart was filled with mixed feelings.

"It should be him," Wu Yu said with a smile. "Chairman Chang, I remember that your association has a very young True Essence Realm Martial Artist named Ling Yu. Now you also have Chen Fan. The future of your Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association is limitless, isn't it?"

"Chairman Wu, you flatter us." Chang Fei felt like he had a bitter pill to swallow.

Originally, this should have been great news for the association and for them personally. After all, competition leads to progress.

The problem is that these two people seem to have an irreconcilable relationship.

"Chairman Wu, thank you for informing me. Otherwise, I really wouldn't have known that Chen Fan has already become a True Essence Realm Martial Artist and could even single-handedly kill dozens of Elite-level Fierce Beasts, including a Commander-level one." Chang Fei said with a sigh.

"Hehe, I also found out by chance and came to inquire with you. It turns out it really is the case. If your President learns this news, he will surely be pleased, right?"

"Yes, indeed."

Chang Fei forced a laugh.

"Let's leave it at that for now, Chairman Chang. If you have time in the future, we should meet up for tea." Wu Yu said with a smile.

"Sure, sure. Thanks again for the news, Chairman Wu. Otherwise, I'd still be in the dark about Brother Chen." Chang Fei said, and only after hanging up the phone did he let out a deep breath.

This isn't good...

Chen Fan's strength has already reached such a level?

If it were Ling Yu, could he single-handedly kill a Commander-level Fierce Beast? Probably not, right?

In that case, doesn't it mean that Brother Chen's strength likely already surpasses Ling Yu?

He clearly remembered that when Chen Fan joined the association, he was still a powerful Martial Artist who had killed many High-level Fierce Beasts, causing quite a stir within the association.

But in such a short time, Chen Fan has become a True Essence Realm Martial Artist capable of single-handedly killing Commander-level Fierce Beasts.

With such terrifying growth, he could easily surpass the President in the future.

"No, I must inform the President immediately!"

Thinking of this, Chang Fei quickly dialed Shi Tao's number.

As soon as the call was connected, before the other side could speak, he impatiently said, "President, something big has happened!"

"What big event?"

Shi Tao, who had been calm, now showed a change in expression upon hearing his tone.

"President, Brother Chen can now single-handedly kill Commander-level Fierce Beasts. I think you should quickly have Ling Yu apologize to him."

"What!"

Shi Tao exclaimed in shock, which caught Ling Yu, who was meditating nearby, off guard.

"Yes, President, you didn't hear wrong, and I'm not making this up. It's absolutely true."

Chang Fei spoke rapidly, recounting how Wu Yu had approached him.

"President, whether it's his attire, weapon, surname, or contact details, the person who appeared in Anxi City must be Brother Chen. Do you remember what Brother Chen said a couple of days ago?"

Shi Tao's pupils contracted slightly.

"President, to be blunt, if Brother Chen comes to us now, would Ling Yu be able to contend with him? Rather than letting things become rigid, it's better for Ling Yu to sincerely apologize now. Brother Chen shouldn't make things too difficult for him, which would be good for everyone."

"Chang Fei, I understand your point, but this matter has nothing to do with Ling Yu." Shi Tao said.

"..."

Chang Fei was stunned for a moment, then smiled bitterly and said, "President, I don't even believe that, let alone Brother Chen. Honestly, I've always wanted to tell you that you protect Ling Yu too much.

Like this time, everyone can see there's an issue, but you're still favoring him.

President, take my advice: have Ling Yu apologize quickly while there's still time. Otherwise, when that day comes..."

"Don't worry."

Shi Tao cut him off, "If it really comes to that, I will ensure neither of them gets hurt."

"President, you misunderstand me."

Chang Fei shook his head.

"Misunderstand you?"

Shi Tao seemed puzzled.

"Yes, President. What I fear is that at Brother Chen's current growth rate, when he comes to the headquarters one day, even you may not be his opponent."

"What!"

Shi Tao's pupils widened, his eyes full of disbelief.

"President, think about it. When Brother Chen first joined us, what was his strength? What is his strength now? Honestly, I'm starting to suspect he might be an Awakener, or his martial arts talent surpasses our understanding."

Chang Fei smiled bitterly, "If Brother Chen comes now, it might be better. What I fear is him continuing to cultivate for a while and then coming over. Like I said, by then, even you won't be able to contend with him, and Ling Yu..."

He didn't continue.

Because it was obvious to everyone that the Xiao Hong incident was closely related to Ling Yu.

And at that time, would Chen Fan let it slide? Probably not.

He would consider it charitable if Chen Fan merely crippled Ling Yu.

Silence filled the air.

Shi Tao squinted his eyes.

After a moment, he said, "Okay, I'll consider what you said. Is there anything else?"

"There's one more thing."

Chang Fei replied, "Elder Sun and his team have made progress. They just refined a batch of True Qi Pills today, with eight complete pills, five of which are Top-grade True Qi Pills."

"Oh?"

Shi Tao's eyes lit up, "That's excellent news."

"Yes, Elder Sun and his team are still working. I believe it won't be long before they can refine more Top-grade True Qi Pills."

"I trust Elder Sun and his team's capabilities. Very good."

Shi Tao smiled, "Chang Fei, please continue to assist them. If you face any difficulties, let me know."

"I will."

Chang Fei nodded, hesitated for a moment, and said, "President, please seriously consider the first thing I mentioned."

"Hmm."

Shi Tao responded.

After hanging up, Chang Fei scratched his head.

He felt the President only agreed verbally but did not take it to heart.

"Master, was that a call from Uncle Chang?"

Ling Yu asked curiously as he saw Shi Tao put away his phone.

"Yes."

Shi Tao smiled, "Didn't you always feel there weren't sufficient Top-grade True Qi Pills? Elder Sun and his team have made progress and can now produce five Top-grade True Qi Pills in a batch."

"Really!"

Ling Yu was overjoyed.

"Would Master deceive you?"

Shi Tao smiled, "Now, are you pleased?"

"Yes, but Master," Ling Yu scratched his head and smiled honestly, "I think the Top-grade True Qi Pills should be prioritized for you. Once you break through to the Celestial Human Realm, our Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association will become the strongest among Yan Country's five Martial Arts Associations. Maybe you can unite the five into one, and Yan Country will have only one Martial Arts Association."

"Unite the five into one, huh?"

Bright light flashed in Shi Tao's eyes.

That was indeed one of his goals. The other was to eliminate the Fierce Beasts and restore the Human Race's glory.

"Don't worry, there will be enough Top-grade True Qi Pills for me. You need to work hard too, okay?"

He couldn't help but pat Ling Yu's head.

How could he bear to make such a considerate disciple apologize?

Perhaps, Chen Fan's growth rate is indeed fast.

But to surpass him, who is about to enter the Celestial Human Realm?

That's not realistic.

Chapter 336: Unlock, Hundredfold Sun-Shooting Arrow!

The sunset glow sprinkled onto the earth.

The sound of the bowstring rang out, and several high-level fierce beasts fell under the arrowhead, their crimson blood oozing from the wounds and soon dyeing the ground red.

At this moment, a line of information appeared in his mind.

[Detected that Basic Archery has reached Level 90, the maximum skill level of the Sun-Shooting Arrow Technique can be upgraded to the Pinnacle of Attainments. Do you want to upgrade?]

"It's finally time for the Sun-Shooting Arrow Technique."

Chen Fan exhaled a breath.

In the morning, Basic Archery had already reached Level 80, and at that time, he received the upgrade notification for the Flaming Arrow Technique.

Of course, he clicked "Yes".

The Flaming Arrow Technique reached the Pinnacle of Attainments, and the Level 2 Flaming Arrow trait consumed 60,000 points of True Qi, with the power roughly equivalent to 60 times that of a normal arrow.

Actually, this was already quite an impressive boost. At least now, if he had to deal with the Furious Barbaric Bull King, he could severely injure it with one arrow.

However, he was not satisfied.

After all, the Hundredfold Sun-Shooting Arrow trait of the Sun-Shooting Arrow Technique had not yet been unlocked.

Moreover, he had another Divine Arrow Technique, so he continued hunting high-level fierce beasts.

He initially thought it wouldn't take long to unlock the Level 2 Sun-Shooting Arrow, but it wasn't until dusk that he finally met the conditions.

With a thought, Chen Fan selected "Yes".

Soon, the skill level of the Sun-Shooting Arrow Technique upgraded from Perfection Realm to Pinnacle of Attainments.

The Sun-Shooting Arrow trait also upgraded to Level 2.

Level 2 Sun-Shooting Arrow required 100,000 points of True Qi, and the arrow's power reached a hundredfold!

"Not easy at all."

Chen Fan sighed softly.

The difficulty of raising the level of Basic Archery had increased from taking half an hour per level initially to an hour per level.

Later on, it might even take two or even three hours per level.

He set his eyes on the Sun-Shooting Arrow Technique.

If the Sun-Shooting Arrow Technique were to be upgraded by another level, wouldn't its power reach a thousandfold?

A thousandfold power, what a terrifying arrow that would be.

Of course, the True Qi consumption would reach a million points!

His current True Essence was only about 3,000 points, equivalent to 30,000 points of True Qi, so even if he unlocked the thousandfold power of the Sun-Shooting Arrow, he couldn't use it.

But then again,

for him, raising his True Essence from 3,000 points to 10,000 points was only a matter of time, because as long as he had enough Potential Points, he could achieve it.

However, raising the skill level cap of the Sun-Shooting Arrow Technique from the Pinnacle of Attainments to the Astonishingly Shocking would be very challenging.

"I can only take it step by step."

Chen Fan shook his head slightly.

He had information on several locations similar to the city in front of him, which meant he had several leveling places. If he was careful, nothing would go wrong.

Then, he set his eyes on the third archery technique, the Divine Arrow Technique.

The skill level of this technique was still at the Perfection Realm.

It seemed that only by raising the level of Basic Archery a bit more could he raise the skill level cap of this technique.

There was also the Meteor Arrow Technique.

This was the first archery technique he had obtained. Surprisingly, despite the high level of Basic Archery, the skill level of the Meteor Arrow Technique was still at Perfection.

Apparently, not all cultivation techniques could be infinitely upgraded like Basic Martial Arts.

Every advanced technique had its upper limit. Perhaps techniques like Sun-Shooting Arrow Technique or Flaming Arrow Technique might not have realms beyond the Pinnacle of Attainments. The Pinnacle of Attainments might be their limit.

"Roar!"

"Roar!"

At this moment, the roars of beasts all around became even more intense.

"It seems it's time to leave."

In one day, Chen Fan had slaughtered almost all the high-level fierce beasts in the city, and his Experience Points were nearly 1,200,000.

After glancing around, he put the bow and arrow in his hand into his space items, and soon, he approached the body of the Furious Barbaric Bull King, dragging it towards Anshan City.

The aura of the Commander-level fierce beast gradually dissipated.

The fierce beasts attracted by the scent of blood rushed into the city in hordes, feasting on the corpses of the fierce beasts on the ground.

Chen Fan's journey was much smoother than expected.

When the surrounding fierce beasts smelled the aura of the Furious Barbaric Bull King from afar, they fled in fear.

Even the elite-level fierce beasts behaved the same.

Thus, in less than twenty minutes, the outline of Anshan City appeared before his eyes.

"Almost there."

Chen Fan loosened up his aching wrist; the Commander-level fierce beast was simply too large, making it difficult to bring back.

But just leaving it there would be too wasteful.

Little did he know, the people outside and the guards on the city walls were terrified, their faces pale, legs shaking.

What was that?

A fierce beast?

No, there couldn't be such a huge fierce beast.

Some of them had experienced a few beast tides and seen quite a few elite-level fierce beasts, but the shadow in the distance was at least as tall as a ten-story building, almost level with the city walls. How could this be an elite-level fierce beast?

"Quick, notify the Awakeners!" someone on the city wall said in panic.

"Could it be a beast tide outbreak?"

"No, that can't be."

"Look at the front! It looks like a person!" someone with sharp eyes saw Chen Fan.

As the others looked in that direction, their eyes widened in shock.

What did they see?

A person with a mask, holding a dozen ropes in his right hand, was walking towards them.

With every step he took, the huge figure behind him moved forward, giving the illusion of a fierce beast attacking the city.

But it wasn't!

Someone was dragging this giant beast!

Everyone's minds went blank, their mouths agape, unable to speak.

The whole world seemed to quiet at this moment, leaving only the sound of the Furious Barbaric Bull King's body dragging on the ground.

Some people outside the city, seeing the masked person, felt a strange sense of familiarity.

"What, what is that!"

The Awakeners who rushed to the city wall were stunned.

"Is that a Commander-level fierce beast? He brought back a Commander-level fierce beast!" someone exclaimed.

"What! A Commander-level fierce beast!"

"Yes." Someone next to him swallowed hard and said, "Although it's headless and missing four legs, from its size, it is definitely a Commander-level fierce beast. Likely, it's the Furious Barbaric Bull King!"

"The Furious Barbaric Bull King!"

All the Awakeners took a deep breath and focused on the masked figure.

To drag a dozens-of-tons heavy Furious Barbaric Bull King, his power was undoubtedly formidable.

However, what puzzled them was how the masked guy managed to get hold of this Commander-level fierce beast's body.

Could it be that he was the one who killed it?

When did such a person appear in Anshan City?

Or maybe this person was just passing through Anshan City and just looking for a place to stay for the night?

"President!"

"President!"

"Lord Hua!"

A respectful voice suddenly rang out on the city wall.

Hua Jun slightly nodded, came to his position from the morning, and looked out with a shocked expression in his eyes.

Behind him stood the new members, including Xie Ming.

Unsurprisingly, their faces were filled with shock.

"Brother Hua, is, is that the corpse of a Commander-level fierce beast?"

Xie Ming swallowed hard, his voice trembling.

"It should be the Furious Barbaric Bull King, one of the most ordinary among the Commander-level fierce beasts."

"Even if it's the most ordinary, it's still a Commander-level fierce beast. A single Commander-level fierce beast could destroy our Anshan City."

"Exactly."

Gao Shan and the others were terrified.

They had just moved their families here, thinking their future in Anshan City was bright. Who knew such a powerful figure would suddenly appear?

If this man could bring a Commander-level fierce beast, it was highly likely he was the one who killed it!

Such a powerful person could occupy Anshan City effortlessly.

"Hmm."

Hua Jun's face was extremely serious as he said, "For now, don't act rashly. Maybe he's just passing by and looking for a nearby place to spend the night. But if he does come to our guild, we should humble ourselves as much as possible. Do not offend him."

"Understood."

Xie Ming and others nodded.

They weren't fools and knew how to handle the situation.

"Brother Hua, I think we should inform the president about this as soon as possible." Xie Ming said quietly.

"Yes." Hua Jun nodded. The severity of this situation was beyond everyone's expectation and not something a vice president could handle alone. He had to inform the president as soon as possible.

However, even after notifying the president, he didn't have much confidence.

In his opinion, although the president was strong and killing elite-level fierce beasts was child's play, even the strongest elite-level fierce beast had no chance against a Commander-level fierce beast, like a child facing an adult, completely powerless.

In other words, even the president was not in the same league as the masked figure in the distance.

But what they didn't see was a different group of people arriving at another part of the city wall, their expressions mixed.

They were none other than Sun Wei, Gao Shan, and others from the Martial Arts Branch.

Hearing about a huge fierce beast approaching Anshan City, they rushed over immediately and soon saw the familiar figure.

"President?"

Xu Jie's mouth dropped as he looked at the forefront, "Am I seeing things? That person is, Brother Chen, right?"

"It, it seems so?"

Sun Wei said, not daring to believe his eyes.

Instinct told him that the masked person was Chen Fan. If he had a bow in his hand, it would be even more evident.

But what about the giant beast behind him?

Such a massive size was definitely not an elite-level, at least a Commander-level!

Brother Chen, did he kill a Commander-level fierce beast?

Could this be true?

Chapter 337: Bad News, He is from the Martial Arts Association

Sun Wei was like this.

Xu Jie, Gao Shan, and others were also like this.

Watching what seemed to be true, but not daring to be sure in their hearts.

After all, what if?

What if someone also likes to wear a mask? And that person wasn't holding a bow and arrow?

The giant beast behind him was a Commander-level Fierce Beast! To kill a Commander-level Fierce Beast single-handedly! It wasn't that they looked down on Chen Fan, but even in the headquarters, there weren't many who possessed such strength.

Under the various gazes of the people in Anshan City, Chen Fan stopped outside the two camps.

Looking far and wide.

The originally crowded camps outside were now half empty, those remaining were holding large bags, many of them were so frightened they collapsed to the ground, faces pale.

The city wall was full of silhouettes.

Among them, there were many familiar faces, more or less on guard.

"It seems the commotion I caused was quite big."

Chen Fan thought to himself,

He turned to look at the corpse of the Frenzied Bull King, such a large Fierce Beast, the city gate probably couldn't accommodate it.

Fortunately, the Martial Arts Association had some land in the outer camp, so they could place the Frenzied Bull King there for slow processing. This way, there was no need to worry about exposing his identity, it would happen naturally.

The next second, he calmly took out his phone under the gaze of thousands.

"???

Everyone was stunned.

Making a phone call?

Who is he calling? Someone in Anshan City? Or?

Just then, a phone vibrating sound came from somewhere.

In an instant, all eyes of the Awakeners fell in the direction of Sun Wei and others.

A few people instantly felt a wave of pressure, also puzzled, why were these people looking at their group?

Could it be, there were words on their faces?

"Chair... Chairman?"

Tu Yue sensed something, stammering, "Is it, is it your phone that's ringing?"

"?"

Sun Wei was stunned.

"Chairman, it seems, it seems it's really your phone ringing." Xu Jie pointed to the pocket on the latter's trousers.

He seemed to understand why the people around were looking at their side.

"Is it, is it my phone ringing?"

Sun Wei felt a wave of pressure.

He glanced in the direction of Hua Jun and others, quietly took out his phone, thinking that this call could have come earlier or later, but it had to come at this time.

He was going to hang up immediately, but seeing that the caller was Chen Fan, he answered the call, softly saying: "Hello, Brother Chen, what's up?"

"Chairman," Chen Fan looked at Sun Wei on the city wall, extremely cautious, and laughed, "You're on the city wall now, right? And Xu Jie and the others are there too, right?"

"Yes, how do you know?" Sun Wei was stunned, "You're here too?"

He said, looking around, puzzled: "But I'm on the city wall, how come I don't see you?"

"I'm outside the city."

"Outside the city?" Sun Wei instinctively looked up, his gaze met with Chen Fan who was holding the phone.

"Boom," he felt as if his brain was hit by a bell, buzzing non-stop.

Beside him, Xu Jie and others seemed to realize what was happening too.

Looking at the dumbstruck Sun Wei, then at the figure looking this way.

One thought flashed through their minds simultaneously.

That person, could it really be Brother Chen?

At the same time, Hua Jun and others also gradually realized something.

Could it be that the person outside is from the Martial Arts Association?

A Martial Artist capable of killing a Commander-level Fierce Beast single-handedly, even in the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, there weren't many, right?

Why would such a person appear here?

Could it be that the Martial Arts Association, seizing the moment when Yan Ming and others perished, wanted to send someone to occupy Anshan City?

"Gulp."

Sun Wei swallowed, stammering: "Brother Chen, I, I wasn't mistaken, the person outside dragging the corpse of a Commander-level Fierce Beast, is you?"

"!!!!"

Xu Jie and others instantly held their breath.

"Haha, of course it's me." Chen Fan laughed, "Chairman, you didn't recognize me?"

He waved his hand as he spoke.

"Brother Chen, it's really you!" Sun Wei didn't know what to say from excitement.

"Yes, Chairman, this Commander-level Fierce Beast is a bit large, I want to place it at the acquisition site first, is that okay?"

Chen Fan said with a smile.

"Sure, sure, of course, Brother Chen, wait for me, I'll come over right away!"

After hanging up, under the questioning eyes of Xu Jie and others, Sun Wei nodded repeatedly, joyfully saying: "That's right, it's Brother Chen, it's Brother Chen, let's go over now, go."

Saying that, he jumped down, stomping on the city wall a few times, soon landing safely, heading towards where Chen Fan was.

Xu Jie and others exchanged a glance, hurriedly followed without a word.

"Brother Chen!"

Sun Wei approached quickly, looked at Chen Fan, then at the body of the Commander-level Fierce Beast behind him, with a face full of shock.

"Brother Chen."

"Brother Chen."

Xu Jie, Gao Shan, and others also came one after another.

Seeing this Commander-level Fierce Beast, they gasped.

This giant beast, even from a distance, gave a sense of oppression. Up close, this momentum made them not dare to breathe.

It's hard to imagine how Brother Chen managed to kill such a giant.

If it were them, a single slap from this giant beast would probably turn them into a mist of blood.

Chen Fan nodded to them with a smile and said, "Let's talk inside the camp."

"Okay, okay." Sun Wei and others quickly nodded.

Indeed, there were too many people here, better to talk inside the camp.

On the city wall, witnessing this scene, Hua Jun and others looked extremely grim.

They never thought that the masked strongman was actually from the Martial Arts Association!

"This situation doesn't seem good," Xie Ming smiled bitterly.

"Yes, a Martial Artist. He is actually a Martial Artist."

"A Martial Artist capable of killing a Commander-level Fierce Beast, even in the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, there aren't many, right?"

"Would such a powerful figure be interested in a small city like Anshan City?"

The atmosphere quieted down.

Intuition told them, that a strongman of this level shouldn't be interested in a small city.

But just in case, what if he was?

In recent years, the Awakened Association and the Martial Arts Association haven't been getting along well, especially in Anshan City.

In the past, when Yan Ming and others were around, they suppressed the Martial Arts Branch in the city tightly. Now that Yan Ming and others had just had an accident, a strongman from the Martial Arts Association showed up.

This timing is indeed intriguing, isn't it?

Hua Jun frowned.

Having a powerful figure capable of killing a Commander-level Fierce Beast in Anshan City should be a great thing. If a Beast Tide erupts, this person would be like a stabilizing force.

But the bad news is, this person is from the Martial Arts Association, right?

If he established himself in Anshan City, would they have good days ahead? If the members of the Awakened Association wanted to stay, they would probably have to listen to him in the future.

"Let's go back first, wait for the Chairman to return, and we'll inform him about this and see his decision." He sighed deeply and walked down the city wall.

Xie Ming and others exchanged a look, feeling a bit helpless.

Although they believed that Chairman Li's strength was impressive.

But compared to this Martial Artist, there's still a significant gap, right?

Sigh.

They thought that joining Anshan City now would be like offering help in time of need, but it seems they underestimated this.

...

Inside the camp.

After hearing the news, many from the Martial Arts Association came and, seeing the gigantic corpse of the Frenzied Bull King, their mouths gaped wide enough to swallow a basket of eggs.

This is a Commander-level Fierce Beast?

It's too big, isn't it?

Just imagine, if this Commander-level Fierce Beast were alive, the thirty-meter-high seemingly indestructible city wall of Anshan City, would it not be a matter of a few slaps to break through?

"Brother Chen is too strong? How did he manage to kill this Commander-level Fierce Beast?" someone couldn't help but ask.

"I don't know, but the wounds here look like they were caused by explosions."

"Looks like it, did he use a bomb?"

"A bomb? Are you kidding? This is a Commander-level Fierce Beast! Even grenade launchers can't do much to it, it would take at least a missile."

"Alright, stop arguing, even if we knew how Brother Chen killed it, what then? We struggle to kill a high-level Fierce Beast, let alone a Commander-level Fierce Beast."

"Quite right."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Inside, listening to Chen Fan's recount, Sun Wei and others felt their emotions fluctuating like a roller coaster.

Although Chen Fan spoke lightly, for them, they couldn't even break through the outer high-level Fierce Beast group, let alone deal with the elite-level Fierce Beasts inside, and the Commander-level Fierce Beast.

"Brother Chen, your strength is getting stronger and stronger, I, Xu Jie, truly admire you." Xu Jie gave a thumbs up and said repeatedly.

"Yes, to kill a Commander-level Fierce Beast single-handedly, even the headquarters doesn't have many who can do that, right?"

"Even if there are, they are at the President's level. The key is, Brother Chen is so young, I think, surpassing the President in strength in the future is not a dream."

"Hahaha."

Everyone laughed, their words heartfelt.

Sun Wei also laughed but had a trace of worry between his brows.

Because he remembered clearly, Chen Fan once said he would go to the headquarters one day to seek justice.

And the President was determined to favor Ling Yu. If Xiao Hong's incident was really his doing alone, and had nothing to do with Ling Yu, that would be best. If not, knowing Brother Chen's temper, he would definitely confront Ling Yu, and the President would not sit idly by.

Then, a battle would be inevitable!

"Sigh, unfortunately, apart from praying in my heart, I can't help with anything. I hope that incident really has nothing to do with Ling Yu. Otherwise, whether Brother Chen or Chairman Shi gets hurt, it will be a loss for the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association."

Sun Wei sighed in his heart.

Chapter 338: There's One More Thing

The night was pitch black, so dark that one couldn't see their own hand.

Outside Anshan City, it was dead silent, as if the Ferocious Beasts that usually roamed had disappeared into thin air.

The courtyard was filled with a strong scent of blood.

Chen Fan held a black dagger in his hand, his entire body drenched in blood, looking like a blood-soaked figure.

Of course, this was not his blood.

The body of the Furious Barbaric Bull King had been fully dismembered, with chunks of meat piled up like a small mountain.

Sun Wei and the others watched, swallowing hard.

"Chairman,"

Chen Fan turned to Sun Wei with a smile, "Let's leave this beast meat here for now. I'll move it in a couple of days. Chairman, I'd appreciate it if you could have someone look after it in the meantime."

The flesh of a Commander-level Fierce Beast would tempt even True Essence Realm Martial Artists.

Leaving such valuable meat here was like placing a large sum of money in a bustling market, hard to avoid making others envious.

Currently, he had one or two space items, but he couldn't unlock them. He planned to get the Celestial God Fruit the next day for Meng Xue to consume, in order to learn the method to unlock them from her.

Fortunately, he was confident that no one would dare target him, at least not in Anshan City.

"It's no trouble at all."

Sun Wei quickly laughed, "Brother Chen, don't worry. I will personally stay here to watch over it."

Chen Fan was slightly taken aback but then nodded, "Alright, Chairman, you're welcome to take some meat for yourself too. It should be quite beneficial."

"I... I can take some to eat?" Sun Wei was stunned.

Even Xu Jie and the others beside him looked incredibly shocked.

This was the flesh of a Commander-level Fierce Beast! It was immeasurably more potent than that of an Elite-level Fierce Beast.

"Of course."

Seeing Sun Wei's hesitation, Chen Fan quickly added, "It's just a few pieces of Commander-level Fierce Beast meat. Not only you, but Brother Gao and the others can have some too if they want."

He smiled at Gao Shan and the others as he spoke.

There was indeed a huge amount of this beef, dozens of tons. Giving Sun Wei and his group hundreds or even thousands of pounds wouldn't matter to him.

Of course, he needed to be aware of it.

Taking without permission wouldn't fly with him. If he found out, he wouldn't be so agreeable.

"Brother Chen..." Gao Shan and the others were about to speak, but Chen Fan waved his hand, "Alright, no need for extra chatter. It's getting late, everyone should rest early. I need to go do some alchemy."

"Alright, alright."

The group nodded quickly and watched Chen Fan disappear into the night.

After a while, Gao Shan turned to the others, moved, "Brother Chen is too good to us."

"Yeah," Tu Yue's eyes reddened, "This is Commander-level Fierce Beast meat."

"To be blunt, we wouldn't even get a taste of Elite-level Fierce Beast meat."

"Right, Chairman, we should stay here with you for the next few days, we wouldn't feel at ease otherwise."

Sun Wei glanced over everyone's faces and smiled, "Alright, let's stay here for the next few days. We've been in the base for so long, it's good to change the environment."

"Hahaha."

Everyone laughed.

By now, Chen Fan was back at the base, had taken a shower, and used True Qi to evaporate the blood smell from his body, finally letting out a long sigh.

Everything was finally done.

He had initially intended to hand over the task of dismantling the Furious Barbaric Bull King to Sun Wei and the others, but thinking about their weapons, they probably couldn't even cut through the skin of a Commander-level Fierce Beast.

He wasn't comfortable letting them use his dagger either.

In the end, he had to do it himself.

The beef he had cut was meant for his own and his companions' consumption.

"After picking the Celestial God Fruit tomorrow morning, I will return to the stronghold and tell my father about the migration plans," Chen Fan thought to himself.

In any case, a small city was far better than an outdoor stronghold. Similarly, a medium city was much safer than a small city.

However, medium cities weren't easily accessible.

With his current strength, going to a large city like Jiangnan City wasn't difficult, but it wouldn't be the same for his companions.

Moreover, he didn't want to reveal his family's identity unless absolutely necessary to prevent enemies from targeting them.

"Buzz buzz."

At this moment, his phone vibrated in his pocket.

Chen Fan took out his phone and saw a message from Hua Jun.

There were also several missed calls.

All from Hua Jun.

"Alright then."

He put his phone away. After all, he was still the chairman of the Anshan City Awakened Association.

He couldn't ignore it.

"Let's go meet the new awakeners and make some arrangements before returning to study the Heart Method."

He sent a message back, then pocketed his phone and headed outside.

On the other side, in the Awakened Association chairman's office.

Xie Ming and the others paced back and forth like ants on a hot pan.

Hua Jun sat in his chair, frowning at his phone.

It had been two hours since he returned from the city walls, making several calls to the chairman during that time.

But the chairman hadn't responded at all.

This filled him with worry. Could something have happened to the chairman at this critical moment?

If that were the case, his strength wouldn't be enough to manage the newly joined Xie Ming and the others.

At that moment, his phone suddenly vibrated.

The unexpected sensation made everyone in the room pause and look over with anticipation.

"It's the chairman!"

Hua Jun's eyes widened, "The chairman said he'll be here soon."

"Really?"

Xie Ming and others exclaimed in unison.

"Absolutely."

Hua Jun showed them the screen, "Look, the message just came from the chairman. It seems he was too busy earlier and just now got free."

Seeing the message, everyone's hearts finally settled.

Like Hua Jun, they had been worried something had happened to Chairman Li, but they were relieved to have been wrong.

Yet, they were still a little nervous.

Soon, they were about to meet the chairman.

"Tap, tap."

Steady and powerful footsteps echoed in the hallway.

"Click!"

The door was pushed open from the outside, and a figure appeared. Plain-looking, with an ever-icy expression.

"Chairman!"

Hua Jun sprang from his chair, his face plastered with a sycophantic smile, "Chairman, you're finally here. Please, sit here."

"Ch-Chairman!"

Xie Ming hesitated but quickly greeted as well.

Seeing this, the others followed suit.

"Hmm."

Chen Fan glanced at Xie Ming and the others, then walked over and sat in the office chair.

"These must be the new members of the association?"

"Yes, Chairman."

Hua Jun quickly introduced them.

Each named person looked at Chen Fan ingratiatingly, thinking, this Chairman Li was just as aloof as he appeared in videos, giving an unapproachable vibe,

though it was understandable since strong people are always like this.

"Hmm."

After listening to the introductions, Chen Fan nodded slightly and addressed Xie Ming and the others, "Welcome to the Anshan City Awakened Association, and good job on today's task."

"Oh, it was nothing."

Xie Ming said humbly, "It was just a small effort; the chairman is too kind."

"Yes, Chairman, you were already very lenient with Yan Hao, but he mistook your kindness for weakness. Such a person deserved to die."

"Exactly, Chairman, if there is anything you need us to do, just say the word. Even if it's going through fire and water, we won't hesitate!"

Everyone chimed in, pledging their loyalty.

"Good."

Chen Fan nodded in satisfaction, "I have a task for you right now."

Xie Ming and the others exchanged glances, elated.

"Chairman, just give the order."

"You must have heard the situation in Anshan City from Chairman Hua. Currently, people are migrating into the city, but many in the surrounding strongholds haven't."

"You mean you want us to bring the people from the smaller strongholds outside, into the city?" The man with the stubble-eyed widened.

"Hmm."

Chen Fan looked approvingly at him before turning to Hua Jun, "Chairman Hua, I asked you to notify the surrounding strongholds, did you?"

"Yes, Chairman."

Hua Jun answered honestly, "Most people can't believe such good fortune and remain skeptical, but they fear offending us and dare not challenge our arrangement. So, relocating them shouldn't be difficult."

Chen Fan nodded.

That was to be expected. Take the Chen Family Stronghold; the strongest, Uncle Zhang, was merely an Entry Force Martial Artist.

Most strongholds might not even have Entry Force Martial Artists.

Compared to Awakeners, they were pitifully weak.

"Okay, then I'll trouble you, Xie Ming, to escort those people into the city over the next few days."

"Yes! Chairman!"

Xie Ming and the others agreed without hesitation.

They were eager to work for Chairman Li.

Besides, this task was simple compared to fighting Fierce Beasts, right?

"Alright, let's leave it at that. If you have any questions, contact me, though I might be too busy to respond promptly." Chen Fan said as he prepared to leave.

"Chairman, one more thing."

Hua Jun's face paled as he quickly added.

Chapter 339: Unlocking, Emperor's Qi Observation Skill

"Anything else?"

Chen Fan looked at him curiously.

"Y-Yes."

Hua Jun nodded.

The previously smiling faces of Xie Ming and others immediately grew stiff, a touch of uneasiness creeping onto their brows.

"Since that's the case, let's hear it."

"Yes, President, it's like this, this evening..." Hua Jun detailed the events he had witnessed that evening.

"President, that person is now in Anshan City, very likely within the Martial Arts Branch. This situation is quite unfavorable for our Awakened Association."

His voice was filled with worry.

"Oh?"

Chen Fan found it amusing internally, but kept a calm exterior. "How so?"

"President, you might not know."

Hua Jun licked his lips. "When the former president was around, along with the City Lord's Mansion, they suppressed the Martial Artist Association in the city a lot, leading to bad relations. Now that Yan Ming and others are dead, and this strong warrior has come to the Martial Arts Association, if that warrior wants to seize Anshan City, our situation will be dire."

"Exactly, President."

Xie Ming glanced at Chen Fan and whispered, "That person's strength is terrifying. Even a Commander-level Fierce Beast is no match for him. To contend with him, we need at least a B-level Awakened."

After saying this, everyone, including himself, held their breath and focused on Chen Fan.

Obviously, they wanted to gauge Chen Fan's reaction to measure his true strength.

Chen Fan smiled and said, "Are you worried that this mysterious warrior will come after you?"

"More or less."

Hua Jun lightly coughed.

"Don't worry."

Chen Fan's gaze swept over them. "If that person really does act against you, I won't stand idly by. If he touches a hair on your head, I will make him pay tenfold."

Hearing this, everyone widened their eyes.

First, they were shocked, then they trembled with excitement.

This statement from the president indicated that he didn't fear that Martial Artist from the Martial Arts Association at all!

In other words, the president might already be a B-level Awakened!

"Yes, President!" Xie Ming was the first to respond, cupping his hands. "President, rest assured, we will handle what you instructed us to do. We won't let you down!"

"That's right, President, we will give it our all!"

Hua Jun also said joyfully.

He could tell from Chen Fan's expression that the latter wasn't lying but was sincere.

"I didn't expect the president's strength to be so formidable. I didn't misjudge him."

Hua Jun felt a burst of joy and relief in his heart.

Luckily,

he had decisively extended an olive branch to this person earlier.

Otherwise, the consequences would have been unimaginable!

Chen Fan saw this and internally chuckled.

He wasn't boasting because the warrior Hua Jun and the others were worried about was him.

So, how could he create trouble for himself? The talk of retaliation was out of the question.

"Besides this, is there anything else?"

"No, President." Hua Jun quickly smiled and replied.

"Good. If there's anything important, notify me."

Chen Fan nodded, stood up, and walked out of the room.

Inside, Hua Jun and the others exchanged glances filled with hope for the future.

Leaving the Awakened Association, Chen Fan reverted to his original appearance and returned to the Alchemy Room of the Martial Arts Association.

"It's finally done."

He showed a helpless smile.

Next, it was time to enhance himself.

He looked at the panel, with 1.25 million Experience Points, the most he'd ever accumulated.

His gaze moved down,

[Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill], [Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill], both were being completed, and by tomorrow afternoon, they would be unlocked.

[Celestial Response Technique], [Soul Shifting Technique] had long reached Perfection Realm, but he lacked points to purchase the more advanced [Emperor's Qi Observation Skill] and [Divine Control Skill].

Fortunately, he had enough now.

In one day, he had killed many Elite-level Fierce Beasts and one Commander-level Fierce Beast.

To avoid suspicion, he didn't take out the Frenzied Bull materials at the Awakened Association but produced materials from over a dozen other types of Elite-level Fierce Beasts he had previously hunted.

In total, he had earned over 25,000 points.

Chen Fan logged into the mall and added [Emperor's Qi Observation Skill], [Divine Control Skill] to his shopping list, spending 8000 points.

These two martial arts were essential buys since they could be completed immediately.

With remaining points,

he scrolled to the top-level Heart Method section.

The last time, he had mostly bought Ordinary Level and High-level Heart Methods, selectively buying top-level ones due to their high cost.

For example, [Bright Jade Skill], [Bone Changing], [Nine Yang Divine Skill], were all incomplete Heart Methods.

Supreme Martial Arts like [Undying Seal Technique] and [Wisdom Scripture of All Methods] were even pricier, starting at 10,000 points each.

So, Chen Fan planned to exchange for the remaining top-level Heart Methods first, mastering them before purchasing Supreme Martial Arts like [Undying Seal Technique].

Sharpening the axe won't delay the work. Mastering various top-level Heart Methods would speed up unlocking those Supreme Martial Arts considerably.

As for the points needed for exchanges and the experience points for upgrades, with his control over several ruin cities, it wasn't a problem.

After adding numerous top-level martial arts to his list and finding some points left, Chen Fan smiled and clicked to purchase.

Soon, the association sent an email.

Chen Fan opened his inbox and reviewed it.

The Skill Bar now had more than ten new martial arts.

Meanwhile, several lines of information appeared.

[Detected that Emperor's Qi Observation Skill meets completion requirements.]

[Completion conditions: 1, Spiritual Power over 100,000 points, 2, Celestial Response Technique Perfection Realm]

[Completion time: 7 days]

[Complete?]

Below were more lines,

[Detected that Divine Control Skill meets completion requirements.]

[Completion conditions: 1, Spiritual Power over 50,000 points, 2, Soul Shifting Technique Perfection Realm]

[Completion time: 3 days]

[Complete?]

"The difficulty of Emperor's Qi Observation Skill seems greater than Divine Control Skill."

Chen Fan thought, surprised it needed a week, while Divine Control Skill only took three days.

But once unlocked, they would significantly benefit him.

Because Emperor's Qi Observation Skill can see through an enemy's weaknesses, which is fantastic news for someone skilled in archery. Even without arrows, using a blade or fists would have the same effect.

Additionally, this martial art can predict luck and misfortune, similar to Meng Xue's superpower.

Of course, there might be certain conditions for use, but mastering it is better than not. More skills are always beneficial.

His gaze swept over many top-level Heart Methods, and some were ready for completion.

But typically, they needed a long time, usually over ten days.

He could first cultivate dozens of High-level Heart Methods to Perfection Realm, then complete these top-level Heart Methods, reducing the time significantly.

"Let's start with the High-level Heart Methods."

Chen Fan looked at Frost Technique.

This was a High-level Heart Method; last time, he only reached the beginner level, expecting an additional 20% True Qi boost but only got 10%.

Though disappointing, reaching Perfection Realm would still offer a 50% boost, quite substantial.

After consuming over 10,000 experience points, Frost Technique finally reached Perfection Realm.

The extra True Essence increased from 740% to 780%.

Chen Fan glanced at the unlocked traits, shaking his head slightly.

It didn't unlock a trait to convert opponent's True Essence into his own.

Luckily, dozens more High-level Heart Methods awaited cultivation.

He was confident that similar traits would unlock eventually.

...

Meanwhile.

In the secret chamber of Jiulong City.

Gazing at the identical corpses on the ground, a middle-aged man showed a look of grief.

He approached step by step, squatted down, and hugged the corpse with a blackened face. Tears fell like broken kites, hitting the floor one by one.

Behind him, the onlookers had wet eyes.

"My fault, it's all my fault."

Xiang Long stared at Du Hao's pain-contorted face and eyes wide open like a dead fish, speaking with guilt. "At noon, Du Hao called me several times, but I was in seclusion and didn't answer immediately. Now, this farewell is forever."

"Brother Xiang, you can't blame yourself for this." Someone sobbed, "You couldn't have known this would happen to Brother Du Hao. If you could turn back time and foresee this, you'd have answered immediately."

"Yes, Brother Xiang, everyone in Jiulong City knows how good you were to Brother Du Hao! His death was too sudden. Even if we were beaten to death, we wouldn't have expected him to die here in this secret chamber."

"Exactly. This chamber is heavily guarded. A mosquito couldn't get in, let alone a person. But how did Du Hao get poisoned? Who could sneak in unnoticed and poison the tea, killing Brother Du Hao?"

The room fell silent.

"No matter who."

Xiang Long suddenly looked up, his eyes fixed ahead, speaking through gritted teeth, "No matter who killed Brother Du Hao, I, Xiang Long, swear to make them regret ever being born into this world!"

Chapter 340: Too Cruel

As Xiang Long's voice fell, the room plunged into a brief silence, quickly followed by a chorus of agreement.

"Brother Xiang is right. That person dared to target Brother Du. Clearly, they don't take our Jiulong City seriously. Without Brother Du's sacrifices, we wouldn't be where we are today."

"That's right. We must find out who killed Brother Du and then skin and dismember him to bring peace to Brother Du's spirit in the afterlife."

"That's all well and good, but the issue is, how did the killer manage to poison the tea without anyone noticing?"

Someone interjected.

Instantly, the room fell silent.

Yes, that had always been the perplexing part for them.

Besides confusion, they also felt a bit of fear.

Because if someone could poison Du Hao without them noticing, couldn't the same be done to any one of them?

If they didn't find out who it was, they would never be at peace.

"Don't worry."

Xiang Long's pupils contracted slightly, his voice icy as he said, "I've already had someone inform Wan Qinghua. Soon, we will know what happened."

Hearing this name, most people were confused, but a few understood immediately.

Wan Qinghua wasn't as strong as a C-level Awakened, but his superpower was quite unique.

He could trace back events that had happened at any place within a certain timeframe and convert them into images to play back.

Currently, his power could trace events up to 12 hours back, and Du Hao's time of death was far less than 12 hours ago.

Suddenly, urgent footsteps approached from afar.

A short man in his thirties quickly passed through the crowd and entered the secret room.

His gaze fell upon the corpse that Xiang Long was holding, and his face turned pale instantly.

"City, City Lord."

He then looked at Xiang Long, his voice filled with anxiety.

"You should know why I called you here, right?" Xiang Long glanced at him.

"Yes, City Lord, don't worry. I will do my utmost to find out what happened."

With that, he gritted his teeth, and the spiritual power in his mind began to whirl rapidly. At the same time, an image appeared on the wall of the secret room!

Xiang Long and the others turned to look at it.

In the image, there was only one figure in the secret room—Du Hao.

"Brother Du's incident happened about seven or eight hours ago. Before that, he was indeed in the secret room cultivating," someone said.

Everyone nodded in agreement.

"No," a heavy voice sounded. It was a tall man, "Why is Brother Du alone in the secret room? Where's his clone?"

As soon as these words were spoken, the room became noisy.

Indeed, there were two corpses in the secret room now.

"Relax, just keep watching."

Xiang Long spoke up.

Everyone nodded.

The image continued, but it seemed so still that it made people drowsy.

"Speed it up."

"Yes, City Lord."

Wan Qinghua responded, and the image sped up accordingly.

Of course, this speed was nothing to the people present.

No one knew how long had passed when Du Hao, who had kept his eyes tightly shut, suddenly opened them and started speaking.

Without needing to be told, Wan Qinghua replayed the segment and increased the volume.

"Damn it, what is that guy trying to do?"

Du Hao's urgent voice sounded, "Could he be trying to do something to my clone? Damn it!"

"?"

Everyone exchanged looks and then turned their gazes simultaneously to Xiang Long.

Frowning, Xiang Long said, "Continue."

The image continued. After two or three minutes, Du Hao closed his eyes again.

The image returned to its former tranquility.

A few minutes later, Du Hao stood up once more, pacing the secret room while talking to himself.

His words were just more of the same doubts.

On the one hand, he suspected that someone had tampered with his clone. On the other hand, he affirmed that it was impossible for anyone to tamper with his clone.

As the saying goes, "the onlooker sees more of the game." The people watching this scene vaguely understood something.

The heavy voice spoke again, "Brother Xiang, it seems the truth is coming to light."

"Oh?"

Xiang Long also turned to look at him, "How so?"

Zhang Yan said in a deep voice, "Though I don't know what happened in the two or three minutes when Brother Du suddenly opened his eyes, there is no doubt that his clone was tampered with. If I'm not mistaken, the one who poisoned him was his clone."

"What!"

Though everyone was already on guard, hearing Zhang Yan say that Du Hao was poisoned by his clone still made them open their mouths in shock.

"Brother Zhang, that can't be right, can it? How could Brother Du's clone poison his true self?"

"Yes, the one most loyal to Brother Du is his clone."

"I think so too. If Brother Du's real body dies, the clone should go with him. Besides, who could control his clone besides Brother Du himself?"

"I know, it seems unbelievable."

Zhang Yan's eyes swept over the crowd, "But what if Brother Du's clone was controlled by someone else? In that case, such actions wouldn't be surprising, right?"

As soon as he finished speaking, the room fell silent.

Indeed, it was possible.

After all, there were many Awakened with mind control, spiritual control, or puppet manipulation abilities. Controlling a clone wasn't difficult.

But if that was the case, then another problem arose.

If his clone was controlled by someone else, wouldn't Du Hao have noticed at all?

"Continue," Xiang Long spoke once more.

In the image, Du Hao took out his phone.

Xiang Long clenched his fists.

If he had noticed Du Hao's call at that time, would this scene have happened?

Zhang Yan and the others behind him also remained silent.

In the image, Du Hao made several calls but received no answer. He put the phone away, and then the door of the secret room opened. Another Du Hao walked in.

"Here we go!"

Everyone was instantly invigorated, eyes wide open, watching the scene closely, not daring to miss a single detail.

The Du Hao in the image looked very cautious. He carefully examined his clone, and after a while, he smiled.

"?"

Everyone was puzzled.

Had he finished checking? Confirmed there was no issue?

But it made sense. No one knew better than Du Hao whether there was something wrong with his clone.

Zhang Yan frowned.

No issue?

That shouldn't be right?

In his theory, if the clone had a problem, everything that happened made sense.

If there was no problem, how was the poison administered?

Was someone really powerful enough to do that?

No way!

An idea flashed across his mind.

There was another possibility, which was that Du Hao couldn't find the problem with his clone!

In the image, Du Hao sat on a mat. After a while, he opened his eyes and took a couple of sips of tea before speaking.

In an instant, the room's atmosphere became extremely tense.

Everyone's eyes were fixated on the clone.

The clone picked up the teacup, walked to the side, emptied the dregs, and then tore open a packet of Calming Tea, pouring the leaves inside.

So far, everything seemed normal.

Some even sighed in relief, but just then, a small white packet appeared in the clone's hand.

"What's that!"

"Poison?"

"The clone really did the poisoning!!!!"

At that moment, the room was filled with exclamations.

Even Xiang Long couldn't help but open his mouth wide.

Wan Qinghua quickly paused the image, waiting nervously.

After a moment, Xiang Long's voice was ice-cold, "Continue."

At this point, the result was pretty clear.

Du Hao's real body must have been poisoned by the tea prepared by his clone.

However, some things are hard to believe without seeing them with one's own eyes.

The image continued,

Du Hao's clone opened the packet, emptied the powder into the teacup.

The next moment, the packet vanished as if nothing had happened. The clone took the cup to Du Hao, placed it down, and returned to its place to meditate.

"..."

Everyone felt a chill down their spine.

They looked at Du Hao's corpse and then at the fallen clone.

The result was now obvious.

Du Hao didn't know that the Calming Tea in front of him had been poisoned.

Actually, if it were any of them, they would never have thought their clone would be the one to kill them.

The following scenes were as they expected.

Du Hao drank the tea and soon died from poisoning.

His actions before his death confirmed their suspicions.

The remaining scenes showed a large group rushing in, witnessing the horror, many turning pale, some even collapsing to the ground.

Then they received word and came.

"Brother Li Yan, your earlier guess was correct. Brother Du Hao indeed died at the hands of his clone," someone sighed, "The mastermind is truly vicious. Knowing that normal methods wouldn't work on Brother Du Hao, they devised this plan. So ruthless."