

Martial Arts 341

Chapter 341: Then head to Anshan City!

"Yes, Brother Du Hao is always so cautious, but he never expected to be outsmarted by his own clone."

"Brother Du Hao was still too careless. If he had been more thorough with his checks, this tragedy could have been avoided."

"It's too late to say anything now. The urgent task at hand is to find out where Du Hao's clone went. If we can figure that out, it will become much easier to identify the person who tampered with the clone."

"Brother Xiang, let's send someone to investigate immediately."

"No need," Xiang Long shook his head, slowly closing his eyes and then opening them quickly. His eyes were filled with murderous intent. "Du Hao's clone left twice, and both times it went to Anshan City."

"What, Anshan City?"

"Anshan City?"

Everyone exchanged puzzled glances.

"It seems to be a small city," Zhang Yan frowned and said.

"A small city?"

"A small city? What was Brother Du Hao's clone doing in such a small city?"

Everyone was even more puzzled after hearing this.

There's no need to think about it; compared to Anshan City, Jiulong City is a hundred, even a thousand times better.

Why did Du Hao leave the perfectly fine Jiulong City to go to such a desolate place?

Moreover, from what the City Lord is saying, Du Hao sent his clone to Anshan City twice?

This?

"I don't know either what Du Hao was doing in Anshan City."

Facing the puzzled looks of everyone, Xiang Long shook his head and said, "According to the information we gathered, the first time, Du Hao's clone supposedly died in Anshan City. Not only him, but the city's previous lord, a man named Yan Ming, and several C-level Awakened by his side all died."

"What!"

Everyone was shocked.

"Brother Xiang, you mean, the one who killed those C-level Awakened in Anshan City is the same person who tampered with Brother Du Hao's clone?"

"That's right."

Xiang Long nodded to a nearby person, who immediately handed over a portrait.

Upon opening it, it depicted a fierce-looking man.

"Who is this?"

"This is the culprit's likeness drawn by an artist at Du Hao's request after he got back," Xiang Long said as he stared at the portrait.

"The culprit? Could it be!" Zhang Yan reacted first, eyes wide open, "He's the one who tampered with Brother Du Hao's clone, ultimately poisoning Brother Du Hao to death?"

"What? It's him!"

"That bastard dared to kill Brother Du Hao's clone the first time, and the second time, he went directly for Brother Du Hao!"

"Brother Xiang, there's no need to say more. Let's head to Anshan City immediately. Even if we have to dig three feet deep, we must find this guy and kill him to avenge Brother Du Hao!"

But Xiang Long shook his head and said, "This matter is not as simple as you think."

"It's not as simple as we think?"

"Brother Xiang, what do you mean?"

The excited crowd fell silent immediately.

"Do you know who else Du Hao took with him the second time?"

Everyone shook their heads.

"He took Zou Xuan, Jiang Miao, and a C-level Awakened specializing in tracking. However, until now, only he has returned. The other three are still missing."

As his words fell, the people in the secret room felt as if they were struck by lightning and stood stunned in place.

Zou Xuan?

Jiang Miao?

They also went with him?

But only Brother Du Hao came back!

Could it be that Zou Xuan and the others are dead?

But they are B-level Awakened! Zou Xuan's superpower is Thunderbolt, remarkably similar to the Thunder Emperor, one of the three S-Class Awakened in Yan Country.

Moreover, the Thunder Attribute superpower is supreme yang and firm, far more powerful than other elements. Therefore, even if he just stepped into B-level, his combat prowess is not to be underestimated.

Jiang Miao's superpower is Phantom. Although perhaps not as lethal as the former, in terms of self-preservation, it is undoubtedly among the top superpowers.

Yet, these two were also killed?

No, that's impossible, right?

"Nothing is impossible."

It seemed Xiang Long had read their thoughts. He said, "According to the information we received, Yan Ming and the others were killed by a martial artist using a saber. I initially thought the same, but I had a question. Even if that martial artist was strong, it should be difficult to kill Jiang Miao.

Until just now, after seeing what happened here, I suddenly understood. That guy may not only be a martial artist; he could also be an Awakener with some mental manipulation abilities."

The crowd looked bewildered.

Zhang Yan nodded and was the first to agree, "Brother Xiang is right. The fact that he could control Brother Du Hao's clone without Du Hao noticing suggests his spiritual power is far superior to Du Hao's.

And Jiang Miao, due to his Phantom ability, could avoid all physical attacks but would be defenseless against spiritual attacks. This is probably why he died at that person's hands."

At this point, everyone reacted and collectively took a deep breath.

This killer, is actually, this formidable?

Not only is his saber technique formidable, but he can also perform spiritual attacks, including mind control!

If any of them were to face such a person one-on-one, could they possibly kill him?

"Hmph, so what if it's like that!" A voice sounded, "Daring to lay hands on someone from Jiulong City, especially Brother Du Hao, is equivalent to opposing our entire Jiulong City!"

"Exactly! Brother Xiang, no matter how powerful this guy is, even if he can kill two B-level Awakened, we have nearly ten B-level Awakened here, not counting you, Brother Xiang. No matter how strong, he can't possibly be a match for all of us."

"Brother Xiang, give the order. We'll set off for Anshan City at dawn. Even if we have to dig three feet deep, we'll find him and kill him!"

Several figures stepped forward, exuding immense pressure.

Clearly, these were the B-level Awakened from Jiulong City, many of whom were stronger than Zou Xuan and Jiang Miao.

Xiang Long, pleased by their words, nodded and said, "You're right. No matter how strong that guy is, he will surely die for daring to kill my brother. Besides,"

Xiang Long sneered, showing disdain in his eyes, "He's not as strong as I thought."

"?"

Everyone was puzzled.

Someone asked instinctively, "Brother Xiang, what do you mean?"

"Think about it."

Xiang Long glanced at Du Hao's body, "If that person isn't afraid of Jiulong City, wouldn't he have killed Brother Du Hao's clone on the spot?"

"Yes, since he has the power to kill Zou Xuan and the others, killing Brother Du would have been effortless."

"That guy did do that the first time, which provoked Brother Du's revenge. He probably knew that killing Brother Du's clone again would not only bring no benefit but also lead to greater trouble."

"Exactly."

Xiang Long nodded, "He knew that merely killing the clone would prompt Brother Du to ask for my help, leading to greater retaliation, possibly even the entire Jiulong City's B-level Awakened mobilizing."

So, he didn't do that but tampered with the clone, poisoning him to kill and cover his tracks, hoping to end the matter unnoticed. Doesn't this explain everything?"

Xiang Long sneered.

"Brother Xiang is right," a middle-aged man on the left laughed, "He thought he could act unnoticed, but we saw through his plans entirely."

"Exactly, no matter how much he calculated, he never expected we would have someone capable of completely unveiling what happened."

"Now, all his cards are exposed to us."

"Brother Xiang, there's no time to waste. Let's head to Anshan City tomorrow morning and kill that guy!"

"But," Zhang Yan frowned, "Even if that guy might be hiding in Anshan City, he will be hard to find. If we make a big fuss, it will alert him, and he might flee far away, making it hard to catch him again."

"This..."

The crowd suddenly felt deflated.

Indeed, they were in the open, while the enemy was hidden.

Moreover, given his strength, any disturbance in Anshan City would likely be noticed by him first.

"Then let's not alert him."

A flash of cold light passed through Xiang Long's eyes. He said, "I am eighty to ninety percent sure that he is hiding in Anshan City, with the remaining ten to twenty percent possibility of being in a nearby city. To find his hiding spot, we must not alert him.

For now, let's investigate in secret, focusing on any suspicious events that happened in Anshan City after the City Lord's death, especially anything involving saber skills, mind control, and spiritual attacks. The more these traits overlap, the more suspicious the person is."

"Understood!"

Everyone nodded.

Brother Xiang indeed had sharp insight.

If someone matched the above three traits, then undoubtedly, that person was the culprit.

Even matching two of the traits was enough to put someone under heavy suspicion, and if that person was strong, the likelihood increased again!

"Zhang Yan, you are meticulous. I'm entrusting you with this task. If you find the person, inform me immediately."

Xiang Long looked at Zhang Yan.

"Yes!"

Zhang Yan nodded quickly, "Brother Xiang, don't worry. I will be careful and not alert the opponent. Once I get any news, I will inform you immediately."

"Good, I will await your good news."

Xiang Long said, lowering his gaze. He extended his hand to gently close Du Hao's wide-open eyes.

"Du Hao, rest assured, Brother will not let you die in vain. The one who killed you, even if they flee to the ends of the earth, I will never let them go! You, rest in peace."

Chapter 342: Top-level Inner Strength, Vajra Lion's Roar

Everything was silent.

In the Alchemy Room, Anshan City.

Chen Fan had his eyes open, seemingly looking ahead, but in reality, his attention was focused on the panel.

Realm: True Essence Realm·First Realm (5.02%) (+)

True Qi: 5822.08/330.8 (+1660%)

After spending over a hundred thousand experience points, the Skill Level of more than ten Advanced Heart Methods had all been elevated to the Perfection Realm.

Among them, a small part unlocked Qi Cultivation Traits, which could increase True Qi by an additional ten percent per level.

Most of them, however, unlocked Nourishing Essence Traits, which could increase True Qi by an additional twenty percent per level.

So now, the extra bonus to True Qi had increased from about eight times at the beginning to sixteen times now.

Looking at nearly 6000 points of True Essence Attribute, Chen Fan revealed a faint smile.

Over 5000 True Essence equated to 500,000 points of True Qi.

This means he could shoot five Hundredfold Sun-Shooting Arrows at once, an arrow that consumes 100,000 points of True Qi.

Even if he encountered powerful Commander-level Fierce Beasts, he wouldn't need to worry about killing them with a single arrow. If one arrow didn't work, then he would simply shoot another, and if that didn't work, a third arrow would follow, greatly enhancing his margin for error.

The key point was that this was only the beginning.

The Skill Bar still had ten or twenty Advanced Heart Methods left unlearned, not to mention several Top-level Heart Methods like [Vajra Lion's Roar], [Purple Mist Divine Skill], and [Divine Illumination Scripture].

These three were complete Inner Power Heart Methods and were the only three top-level heart methods in the Awakened Association Mall.

Chen Fan's gaze revealed a strong sense of anticipation.

Vajra Lion's Roar, under a roar, could travel several miles like lightning, causing the enemy to tremble with fear and die with blood flowing from all orifices. Even without the roar, a single word uttered could strike fear into the heart.

This seemingly sound-related martial art was indeed deeply connected to Inner Power.

To unleash a fearful roar that travels several miles, deep Inner Strength was an absolute necessity, or else it would be futile.

The second, Purple Mist Divine Skill.

This Inner Power method was described in detail.

If cultivated to the Small Success Realm, it could dissolve the opponent's True Qi.

Reaching the Entering the Hall stage, one would not fear any Acupoint Cutting techniques.

At the Great Success Realm, it could counter all cold attribute attacks.

Upon reaching the Perfection Realm, it could form a layer of True Qi Shield on the body surface, with astonishing defensive power.

This was what shocked Chen Fan, and what made him look forward to it even more.

The Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill was still some time away from unlocking, but he had to depart to seize the Celestial God Fruit by tomorrow morning.

This Purple Mist Divine Skill could provide the necessary defense.

Moreover, its ability to counter cold attribute attacks was highly important.

Because in the future, if he encountered those with Ice Element or Dark Element Superpowers, he could stand undefeated.

"Not bad."

Chen Fan nodded in satisfaction.

Purple Mist Divine Skill greatly increased his survival ability.

Vajra Lion's Roar gave him a powerful area attack.

In the event of a Beast Tide, falling into the center of the beast horde, one roar could kill Fierce Beasts within several miles, a scene simply stunning to imagine.

Besides that, there was also another top-level Inner Power Heart Method, Divine Illumination Scripture.

This Inner Power method had extremely strong healing effects!

Critically, this Inner Power could not only heal himself but even save others!

According to the description, as long as the person was not completely dead, even if there was just a breath left, using the Divine Illumination Scripture could pull them back from the brink of death.

If experience points were lacking, the importance of this Inner Power would at least rank second among these three, putting Vajra Lion's Roar on hold.

But now that there are plenty of experience points, there's no need to worry about which one to learn first.

"Let's continue improving Advanced Heart Methods."

Chen Fan muttered to himself. After all, those three top-level Inner Powers would surely be maxed out, and there was no need to rush them immediately.

Time ticked away.

It was uncertain how long had passed before Chen Fan's eyes gleamed, and he looked towards the Skill Bar, or rather, a newly unlocked Trait.

[Dao Qi Convergence: When attacked by the opponent's True Qi, absorb ten percent of it and convert it to your own True Qi. For each skill level increased, the absorption rate increases by ten percent]

"Finally."

Chen Fan clenched his fist.

It wasn't easy, counting both the basic inner powers he had previously maxed out, he had maxed out nearly thirty Inner Powers to finally unlock a trait that absorbed the opponent's True Qi and converted it into his own.

However, this trait was only at Level 1 and would be challenging to further enhance as the [Heart Planting Technique] had already reached the Perfection Realm.

"Luckily, Marriage Robe Divine Skill can be unlocked."

Chen Fan clicked, and several lines of information emerged.

[Marriage Robe Divine Skill met completion conditions]

[Completion conditions: 1. 1000 points of True Essence within body, 2. Jade Planting Technique at Perfection]

[Completion time: two days, is completion accepted?]

"Two days are acceptable,"

Chen Fan murmured, gazing at the three top-level Inner Powers. According to their descriptions, none seemed to possess the ability to convert the opponent's True Qi into one's own.

Purple Mist Divine Skill appeared to have something similar, but it neutralized True Qi rather than converting it for self-use.

Hence, there was no hesitation.

He clicked 'Yes'.

Once Marriage Robe Divine Skill was unlocked, he would proceed to purchase the Undying Seal Technique and complete it.

However, another trait was still missing, one that converts the opponent's True Qi into his own vitality.

With these two traits, and the Perfection Realm's Soul Shifting Technique, he could certainly complete the Undying Seal Technique.

Moreover, if Perfection Realm's Soul Shifting Technique were replaced with Perfection Realm's Divine Control Skill, completion speed would further increase.

Similarly, using Perfection Realm's Marriage Robe Divine Skill to replace Perfection Realm's Jade Planting Technique would also speed things up.

"I hope to unlock this trait next."

Chen Fan mused, still with about ten Advanced Heart Methods left, the probability was fairly high.

About halfway through adding skill points, he finally unlocked the trait he had been longing for.

[Blood Transfusion: Absorb ten percent of True Qi attacks and convert it to one's own vitality, healing wounds. For each skill level increased, conversion rate increases by ten percent]

"Not bad."

Chen Fan's eyes lit up.

With this, all conditions to complete the Undying Seal Technique were met.

However, he didn't rush to complete the Undying Seal Technique right away.

Firstly, the Undying Seal Technique's price was 10,000 points. He needed to visit other branches of the Awakened Association to gather that many points.

Secondly, honing his skills wouldn't waste time.

He had almost unlocked every potential trait from the Advanced Heart Methods.

Those incomplete top-level heart methods, such as [Nine Yang Divine Skill] and [Bone Changing], had all met completion conditions.

He planned to elevate these top-level Inner Powers to the Perfection Realm before unlocking any Supreme Martial Arts; the efficiency would be higher.

After spending another seventy to seventy thousand experience points, twenty to thirty Advanced Heart Methods were elevated to the Perfection Realm, making Chen Fan's True Essence even more profound.

"Next, it's time for these three top-level Inner Powers."

Chen Fan subconsciously licked his lips.

After some thought, he decided to start with the Purple Mist Divine Skill.

Just at the Beginner Level, it consumed 1600 experience points.

[Purple Mist Divine Skill: Initial Glimpse (0%), Trait: Gathering Essence 1st Level]

[Gathering Essence: For each skill level increased, True Qi is enhanced by thirty percent of the Primordial True Qi]

"Thirty percent, indeed top-level Inner Power."

Chen Fan was delighted.

Assuming the Perfection Realm, this heart method could provide an additional 1.5 times bonus to True Qi.

He had ten more top-level Inner Powers like this!

Doing the math, that's fifteen times!

"Fifteen times..."

Chen Fan glanced at the panel. His current True Qi bonus was about twenty-five times.

While joyful, there was a hint of melancholy in his heart.

Once all these heart methods were learned, increasing the bonus percentage further would be challenging later on.

"Forget it, those are concerns for much later."

Chen Fan shook his head and focused all the remaining experience points at once.

After spending nearly fifty thousand points, the Purple Mist Divine Skill finally reached the Perfection Realm.

The initial traits matched the description, so Chen Fan merely glanced over them before focusing on the Perfection Trait.

[Purple Qi Body Protection: Enhances True Qi Body Protection, equal to an additional threefold physical defense. When activated, consumes 10,000 True Qi per second, increasing defense tenfold during activation.]

"Tenfold defense!"

Chen Fan's eyes widened.

Currently, with the Golden Bell Shield and his self-created martial skills activated, his physical defense was about tenfold.

The Purple Mist Divine Skill could increase it by an additional ten times.

No! Actually, he saw the previous description indicating thirteen times!

The passive effect and the active effect of Purple Qi Body Protection could stack.

"That means, I can increase physical defense by twenty-three times at full capacity." Chen Fan glanced at his Physical Attribute, 14,000.

Twenty-three times meant 322,000 points.

According to the Awakened Association's classification, Commander-level Fierce Beasts had a consistent body strength of over 100,000 points.

So, his defensive ability would be comparable to High-level Commander Fierce Beasts.

"Excellent." Chen Fan nodded in satisfaction.

As for activating Purple Qi Body Protection consuming 10,000 True Qi per second, it might be a lot for others, but he had abundance of True Qi.

Now, he was even more eager to unlock [Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill] tomorrow.

Because if this Inner Power reached its highest realm, his enhanced body strength could surpass a million points, comparable to Beast King-level Fierce Beasts.

"The remaining two top-level Inner Powers, Divine Illumination Scripture and Vajra Lion's Roar, let's start with Vajra Lion's Roar."

Chapter 343: One Million Points of Inner Strength!

After consuming more than fifty thousand Experience Points again, the Skill Level of Vajra Lion's Roar also reached Perfection Realm.

There are only two Traits.

One is Gathering Essence, at Level 5, and the other is Vajra Lion's Roar, unlocked at Great Success Realm, only at Level 2.

[Vajra Lion's Roar: Active Skill, consumes a certain amount of True Qi, emits a roar similar to a lion's roar. For each level the skill increases, the power doubles.

Consumes one thousand points of True Qi, with an attack range of one hundred meters, the power decreases with distance, the same below.

Consumes ten thousand points of True Qi, with an attack range of five hundred meters.

Consumes one hundred thousand points of True Qi, with an attack range of two thousand meters.

Consumes one million points of True Qi, with an attack range of five thousand meters]

Chen Fan read through it, and finally his gaze fell on the last line of the introduction.

That means, the maximum attack distance of this martial art is five kilometers, and it consumes an astonishing one million points of True Qi.

Chen Fan looked at the panel,

Now, even if he could perform this furthest attack, the True Essence within him would be almost depleted.

"Unless it's absolutely necessary, I shouldn't easily use this move."

Chen Fan smiled bitterly, looking upwards.

Consuming one hundred thousand points of True Qi, with an attack range of two thousand meters.

This seems more realistic.

An attack range of two kilometers, which is approximately four li, is quite good, and the consumption of True Qi is only one hundred thousand points.

Moreover, because this Trait is at Level 2, the power can be doubled again based on the original power.

Of course, even so, wanting to use one roar to kill a Commander-level Fierce Beast is probably unrealistic, after all, this is a group attack Active Skill.

"Now, there's only the Divine Illumination Scripture left."

Chen Fan looked at the Skill Bar.

To his surprise, raising this Inner Strength to Perfection Realm consumed a whopping one hundred thousand Experience Points.

Two Traits.

The first Trait is Gathering Essence, nothing much to say about it.

The other one is called Eternal Life.

The effect is just as described, not only greatly enhancing the healing effect of True Qi but also using True Qi to heal others' injuries. No matter how severe the injury, as long as the person is not dead, they can be saved.

Of course, the consumption of True Qi is also astonishing.

"Hoo."

At this point, Chen Fan finally let out a breath.

On the panel, all the Heart Methods that could be learned were already learned, the remaining ones were in the process of being completed, which would take from one to three days.

He looked at the panel,

Realm: True Essence Realm·First Realm (11.3%) (+)

True Essence: 13099.7/330.8 (+3860%)

True Qi additional bonus, nearly 40 times!

The True Essence within his body went from over three thousand points initially to over thirteen thousand points!

That equals more than 1.3 million True Qi points.

The Sun Arrow with a hundredfold power, he could shoot thirteen arrows in a row.

The Windward Slash with fiftyfold power, he could execute eight or nine times.

Even Vajra Lion's Roar, he could use its ultimate power once, and still have a significant amount of True Qi left.

Don't forget, there is also the rebound of the Golden Bell Shield.

Once activated, even if it can only rebound 40%, its power is equivalent to an attack consuming four to five hundred thousand points of True Qi!

"It feels like I've become much stronger."

Chen Fan's lips curled into a smile.

This is just the benefit from the increase in the True Qi additional bonus ratio.

When he refines True Qi Pills overnight, raising his Primordial True Qi, what level would his total True Essence reach?

Chen Fan held back his excitement, looking at the Experience Points, after learning numerous Inner Power Heart Methods, more than 1.2 million Experience Points were reduced by nearly half, with about 700,000 left.

He immediately felt a bit troubled.

By tomorrow afternoon, he could unlock two Supreme Martial Arts.

Thinking about it, the top-level Heart Methods generally required tens of thousands or more Experience Points, while a Supreme Martial Art would require hundreds of thousands of Experience Points?

Saving these 700,000 Experience Points for tomorrow would be ideal.

But here's the problem.

Who knows what dangers he might encounter when he goes to seize the Celestial God Fruit tomorrow morning?

As the saying goes, better safe than sorry.

Rather than letting these 700,000 Experience Points sit idle on the panel, it's better to use them now, to enhance his strength.

As for how to enhance, it's quite simple.

On the Skill Bar, there are still many fist and kick martial arts and some body technique martial arts that haven't been learned.

Among the four basic attributes, the Agility Attribute is the lowest, just over ten thousand points.

Thinking of this, Chen Fan made a decision.

Experience Points can be earned again, and there are plenty of Fierce Beasts in those ruined cities.

But if greed leads to unnecessary dangers, it would be regrettable at that time.

"Then I'll start with the Body Technique Secret Manual."

Chen Fan searched around.

There are about thirty body technique martial arts, fewer than the Inner Power Heart Methods.

Most of them are second-rate lightweight skills.

There are five or six first-rate lightweight skills.

As for top-level lightweight skills, there are only three complete ones: [Stepping on Snow Without Traces], [Smoke and Clouds Mysterious Step], and [Wave-Riding Step].

"A bit few, but still okay."

Chen Fan muttered.

The usual rule, start with the lower-level lightweight skills, upgrade all first-rate lightweight skills to Perfection Realm, and then complete those fragmented top-level lightweight skills.

Time passed bit by bit.

The trait of enhancing the Agility Attribute also increased from 100 points per level initially to 300 points per level.

Nearly twenty second-rate lightweight skills, plus six or seven first-rate lightweight skills, increased Chen Fan's Agility Attribute from 11,400 points to 32,500 points.

Chen Fan glanced at the Experience Points and breathed a sigh of relief.

The 700,000 Experience Points had about 600,000 points left, consuming less than 100,000 points for over twenty lightweight skills, incomparable to the Experience Points consumed by Inner Strength.

The reason is simple.

Firstly, the Experience Points required for Inner Strength are generally the highest among various cultivation techniques.

Secondly, the bonus from Basic Body Technique also invisibly reduced a lot of difficulty.

"Only three top-level lightweight skills left."

Chen Fan's gaze fell on the last three.

Wave-Riding Step is a body technique secret manual focusing on dodging and evasion; the user follows a specific order and moves according to the positions of trigrams, making it impossible for opponents to predict, extraordinarily subtle.

Stepping on Snow Without Traces is also an exceptional lightweight skill, emphasizing stealth, allowing the user to approach opponents silently and leave without a trace.

Smoke and Clouds Mysterious Step excels in long-distance pursuit, conserving inner strength, and also has good evasion effects.

These three top-level lightweight skills each have their focus, mastering all would leave almost no weaknesses.

So there's no need to hesitate, just max them out.

The three together consumed 100,000 Experience Points.

The Agility Attribute increased by nearly 10,000 points.

His current Agility Attribute has reached 45,000 points! It is now the highest among the four basic attributes, except for Spiritual Power.

Besides, many Active Skills have been unlocked.

Chen Fan checked them carefully, after activation, the increase is generally two to three times, and the True Qi consumption is insignificant to him.

The only drawback is that these Active Skills cannot be used simultaneously and can only increase Agility Attribute.

"Previously, I could enhance my speed fivefold at full power, now it's eightfold?"

Chen Fan frowned, not much of an increase.

Fortunately, his Agility Attribute is now remarkably different; when facing a Commander-level Fierce Beast again, the opponent probably wouldn't even see his shadow.

"With 500,000 Experience Points left, let's use them to enhance fist and kick martial arts."

Chen Fan took a look, the number of fist and kick martial arts is overwhelming, including fist techniques, palm techniques, finger techniques, leg techniques, etc., more than a hundred in total, with about ten top-level fist and kick martial arts.

"Start with second-rate fist and kick martial arts."

Chen Fan muttered.

What he needs now is a large amount of basic attributes—Constitution, Power, Agility, and so on.

Even first-rate fist and kick martial arts don't catch his eye, given the top-level fist and kick martial arts, who would care about the Active Skills unlocked from first-rate martial arts?

The same applies to Supreme Martial Arts and top-level martial arts.

It's just that he hasn't bought those fist and kick martial arts yet.

"Learning all these fist and kick martial arts should also enhance the body." Chen Fan thought.

Currently, each enhancement requires just one billion Potential Points.

No big deal at all.

Even later, if it increases to ten billion or a hundred billion, it's worth it because each enhancement gives a boost of ten to twenty thousand points, and if it's True Qi Attribute, the increase is even more astonishing.

Half an hour passed swiftly.

Although the Experience Points required for enhancing fist and kick martial arts are not high like Inner Strength, the sheer quantity makes up for it.

Even if each requires three to four thousand points to reach Perfection, a hundred of them would still cost three to four hundred thousand, not to mention the Experience Points required for each first-rate one is at least seven to eight thousand.

Soon, the 600,000 Experience Points on the panel were exhausted.

And there were still a few first-rate fist and kick martial arts left, the top-level fist and kick martial arts untouched.

"Finally finished."

Chen Fan let out a breath.

The enhancement felt great, but the process was tedious, almost becoming a burden.

He eagerly looked at the panel,

Realm: True Essence Realm·First Realm (11.3%) (+)

True Essence: 13099.7/330.8 (+3860%)

Level: 29 (0/100 million)

Constitution: 48,900

Power: 65,200

Agility: 50,600

Spirit: 269,300

Potential Points: 30 million

Experience Points: 2600

Both Potential Points and Experience Points were almost exhausted.

And Constitution, Power, Agility, the three basic attributes, now appeared much more balanced.

"Let's leave it at this, refine some elixirs, and enhance the strength as much as possible." Chen Fan murmured.

Being careful never fails, and more strength means more confidence.

Chapter 344: Testing

Unconsciously, the night passed by.

Accompanied by three crisp sounds, the True Qi Pills in the three pill furnaces were also declared completed.

Chen Fan opened the lid of the furnace, and instantly, a rich elixir incense filled the entire alchemy room.

"It's about right, let's stop here for now."

He murmured to himself, looking at the clock on the wall.

Seven forty.

According to Meng Xue's prediction, at around eight twenty, the twelve Celestial God Fruits on that Celestial God Tree would be fully ripe and ready to be picked.

If he missed the timing, it was very likely that the nearby fierce beasts would take them, or some awakeners would snatch them.

The latter situation seemed less likely because not everyone had Meng Xue's information, knowing the location of the Celestial God Tree and the ripening time of the fruits.

But in the Great Thousand World, nothing is impossible. If others also had some special means and had known about the existence of that Celestial God Tree, they could have been waiting for the fruits to fully ripen too.

So, he preferred to go earlier, even if it meant waiting at the scene.

However, before setting off, there was one important thing to do.

Chen Fan took advantage of the heat and swallowed all three furnaces of freshly refined True Qi Pills.

On the panel, potential points soared from the previous twenty or thirty million to four billion.

He slowly raised his gaze, and it fell on the plus sign behind the realm box.

With a thought.

One billion potential points were invested.

Immediately, a dozen drops of True Essence were added to his body.

True Essence: 13230.7/334.1 (+3860%)

The Primordial True Essence had increased from 330 points to 334 points.

With only a 4-point increase, the total True Essence gained nearly 20 points.

Chen Fan glanced at the remaining potential points, which could still be used 40 times.

337.5, 340.8, 344.2...

With each consumption of a billion potential points, the Primordial True Essence would grow by a few points. As time went on, the added points increased more and more.

When the last billion potential points were consumed, his Primordial True Essence had reached 497.2 points, a 50% increase from the initial 330 points!

Realm: True Essence Realm·First Realm (17.1%) (+)

True Essence: 19687.2/497.2 (+3860%)

"Close to 20,000 points of True Essence."

Seeing this, a smile appeared on Chen Fan's lips.

Two million points of True Qi were enough for him to use the Sun-Shooting Arrow with a hundredfold power twenty times.

"So many Inner Power Heart Methods have not been learned in vain."

His Primordial True Essence was already close to 500 points. Consuming a billion potential points could increase True Essence by 5 to 6 points. The same amount of potential points' consumption previously only resulted in half the growth it did now.

It's imaginable that as the Primordial True Essence increased, clicking the plus sign could boost the total True Essence by more than ten points!

"It feels like advancing to the Second Realm of True Essence is within reach."

Chen Fan's lips curved slightly, and a gleam of light flashed in his eyes.

It was time to set off.

Anshan City in the early morning was bustling with activity.

Chen Fan climbed to the highest point, looking at the vast mountains behind, and squinted his eyes.

Compared to the wilderness, the deep mountains were more dangerous.

Because there were not only countless fierce beasts but also all kinds of mutated plants, which from some aspects, were even more dangerous than fierce beasts.

He silently put on his mask, and with a few leaps, he entered the deep mountains.

Just upon entering, a putrid smell assailed his nostrils, and it looked as if he had stepped into another world.

Giant trees rose from the ground, generally over ten meters tall. It would take five or six people hand in hand to barely encircle the trunks. The tree tops resembled canopies, and the leaves obscured the sky, allowing only an occasional ray of sunlight to filter through the gaps between the leaves.

With the faint sunlight, one could see a thick layer of fallen leaves covering the ground, and various crawling insects moved about from time to time.

In the distance, there were many unnamed plants with different colors.

Chen Fan identified the direction and headed toward his destination.

Not far ahead, a fiery red figure suddenly fell from the tree in front.

It was a venomous snake over two meters long!

It moved extremely fast, like a flash of lightning, with its mouth wide open, aiming at Chen Fan's neck.

But in the next instant, as if it hit an invisible wall of air, it exploded into a mist of blood.

Chen Fan seemed unaware of this incident and continued on his way.

Along the way, fierce beasts continuously launched unexpected assaults on Chen Fan from various angles.

Some disguised as fallen leaves.

Some were plate-sized venomous spiders.

Some were strange birds with wings spanning nearly three meters.

And even the vines on the ground looked no different from ordinary ones, but upon sensing Chen Fan's approach, they came alive and attacked him swiftly.

Without exception, all were shattered by the Golden Bell Shield.

Yet, despite this, various attacks still emerged incessantly.

Fierce beasts below the commander level lacked intelligence. To them, Chen Fan, who suddenly appeared, was merely prey.

The deep mountains were indeed much more dangerous than the wilderness.

Chen Fan sighed in his heart.

The fierce beasts encountered along the way were mid to high-level fierce beasts, but they hid so well using the terrain that even a Meridian Refining Martial Artist would fall into their trap if not careful, let alone ordinary people.

If he moved forward, encountering elite-level fierce beasts would be within reason.

Or even commander-level fierce beasts.

However, he was much stronger than he was yesterday. Even if he encountered a commander-level beast now, it would only take one arrow.

A few minutes later.

Chen Fan stood at the treetop, gazing into the distance.

Chapter 345: Testing _2

"Could that be the Celestial God Tree?"

He widened his eyes.

In the mid-mountain position ahead, unlike the continuous journey where giant trees lined up one after another, there was only one solitary tree within a radius of dozens of meters.

Yes, there weren't any other trees around, not even a blade of wild grass; it was completely an open field.

Hanging on the giant tree's branches were red, lantern-like, oval-shaped fruits.

Each one was as big as a cantaloupe.

"That should be the Celestial God Fruit, right?"

Chen Fan muttered to himself.

As soon as he finished speaking, he flashed forward and appeared on the edge of the open ground surrounding the Celestial God Tree.

The tree was nearly thirty meters tall, about as high as a ten-story building, with a trunk diameter of nearly ten meters. Its branches and leaves spread out, perfectly covering the ground below in a radius of several hundred meters.

It must be said, at first glance, it looked quite normal.

However, all this was just a disguise.

As long as one entered its attack range, which was the open ground, they would immediately be attacked.

Chen Fan thought for a moment and stepped forward.

One step, two steps, just as he was about to take the third step, with his left foot about to touch the ground,

"Whoosh!"

A tree root as thick as a grown man's small arm burst from the ground where Chen Fan's left foot was about to land! With a fierce momentum, it aimed to pierce Chen Fan's left foot, seemingly wanting to pierce right through his body.

Chen Fan did not dodge nor make a move.

"Bang!"

The moment of impact, the tree root directly broke into several pieces, scattering on the ground. The remaining half quickly retracted into the ground, and strangely, the hole from which it emerged disappeared.

Chen Fan's face showed a thoughtful expression.

Then, he continued forward.

After all, there were still about twenty minutes left before the fruit fully matured.

With ample time, instead of idling, it would be better to figure out its attack methods, making the harvesting more efficient when the fruit matured.

After taking two steps forward, another tree root as thick as a small arm burst from the ground, aiming for his foot.

But the result was no different from the first.

A smile appeared at the corner of Chen Fan's mouth as he continued forward.

"Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!"

Suddenly, several tree roots burst from the ground, attacking Chen Fan's body from all directions. Compared to the previous two roots, their speed had doubled!

"Bang, bang, bang!"

Several dull collision sounds rang out, as these roots fragmented into pieces.

"Same attack method, but the number increased and the speed quickened."

Chen Fan recalled the previous attacks.

If an ordinary Elite-Level Fierce Beast were to face this, whether it could dodge would be uncertain.

He continued forward.

"Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!"

More than ten tree roots burst from the ground!

Compared to before, this time they were even faster!

And the thickness increased from small-arm-sized to arm-sized.

Unfortunately, the results were no different from before.

Not only did these roots fail to harm him, they were shattered by the True Essence within him, the remaining parts retreated back underground.

"This attack could probably kill a high-level Elite-Level Fierce Beast."

Chen Fan muttered a bit to himself and continued forward.

One step, two steps, three steps...

A dozen steps, with the distance of dozens of meters mostly covered, still no movement from the Celestial God Tree.

As he took the next step,

"Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh! Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh! Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!"

Hundreds of tree roots as thick as thighs burst from the ground at the same time, with a sinister red tip on each root.

This time their speed was two to three times faster than before, almost reaching him instantly, aiming for his chest, back, head, arms, thighs, feet, etc.

"Dang, dang, dang!"

A series of impact sounds emitted sparks!

To Chen Fan's surprise, these hundreds of tree roots were quite tenacious. After hitting the Golden Bell Shield, they were only repelled, not shattered.

And the moment they were repelled, they would come back again.

Like living creatures.

Chen Fan immediately activated the Rebound active skill.

A flash of white light passed over his body.

"Snap!"

Dozens of cracking sounds.

Dozens of roots directly shattered into several pieces.

But the next moment, the broken parts grew out again, viciously stabbing back.

"Hmph."

A cold smile appeared at the corner of Chen Fan's mouth.

Want to play a war of attrition with him?

He would accompany until the end, let's see whose consumption is faster, his True Essence or the roots of the Celestial God Tree.

"Dang, dang, dang!"

Hundreds of roots swung densely, wildly like a demon dance.

Chen Fan was immovable like a rock, letting the waves (roots) hit him.

After about a minute, the hundreds of roots simultaneously retracted underground, the broken parts disappearing from the open ground.

As if everything that happened just now was an illusion.

"Is it over?"

Chen Fan looked around.

It must be said, the tree cleaned up pretty well.

It made one suspect whether it had intelligence like a Commander-Level Fierce Beast.

"It seems quite likely."

Chen Fan considered.

The previous attack would certainly be fatal for the toughest Elite-Level Fierce Beast.

But its destructive power had not reached a Commander-Level Fierce Beast.

At least, he hadn't exerted his full power.

"Could the tree still have excess power?"

Chen Fan looked at the Celestial God Tree.

It seemed very possible.

With time still on his side, he continued forward.

Twenty meters, fifteen meters, ten meters...

Approaching the tree, there was no sign of abnormality.

Everything appeared calm.

"Something is not right."

Chen Fan squinted.

This thing must be planning a big move.

Step-by-step, he reached the trunk, yet he still hadn't been attacked.

Chen Fan raised his head, his eyes falling on the closest Celestial God Fruit.

It appeared to be ripening, glowing red and emitting a sweet fragrance that made him want to get closer.

"Something's off."

Chen Fan's pupils shrank.

The fragrance seemed problematic, capable of affecting one's spirit.

"That's it."

Chen Fan smiled.

According to Meng Xue, picking the Celestial God Fruit wasn't easy.

The Celestial God Tree could use the fruit as a medium to affect one's spirit, and even cause hallucinations, during which it would launch a sneak attack.

Only those with strong spiritual power could avoid falling into the trap.

"So, is it planning to strike when I pick the fruit?"

Chen Fan pondered.

If he guessed correctly, this attack's intensity would be the strongest yet.

Not picking it would avoid all this, but he was here for the fruit.

Considering how the tree cleaned the battlefield earlier, it was clear that it had intelligence.

This was an open scheme.

"To be safe, let's keep the suspense for now."

Chen Fan paused.

He was confident in his spiritual power, that he wouldn't easily fall into the illusion. Even if he did, unleashing his full power, with defense comparable to a high-level Commander-Level Fierce Beast, the tree might not be able to do much against him.

His concern was,

There was still some time before the fruit matured.

If he moved hastily, and the Celestial God Tree couldn't deal with him, it might resort to tricks.

For instance, delaying the fruit's maturity or destroying it.

At first thought, it sounded outlandish.

A tree thinking this much? It wasn't human.

But on further thought, wasn't the fruit a bait to attract prey?

If the prey was too strong, wouldn't the hunter halt their losses?

Therefore, to be cautious, Chen Fan decided not to reveal this yet, he moved back to the edge of the open ground and checked the time: fifteen minutes left.

"Fifteen minutes."

Chen Fan looked around.

Hopefully, no one would come and disrupt.

Chapter 346: I'm Afraid it's a Commander-level Fierce Beast

At the same time, in a mountain forest dozens of miles away.

A stout man with a round face and a long knife on his back was bending down, picking fruits from a vine.

The fruits were only the size of a thumbnail, entirely yellow, and emitted a faint fragrance.

The stout man's actions were very gentle, as though treating his lover. He carefully picked each yellow fruit and slowly placed them in the box in his left hand.

Beside him were three more people, two men and one woman.

One of the man and woman held swords and knives, standing back to back and vigilantly examining their surroundings.

The three seemed to be in their early thirties.

The other person appeared to be older due to his graying temples, but upon closer inspection, his face too seemed to be in his thirties or forties.

Unlike the other two, this man's gaze was directed far away.

If Chen Fan were here, he would be shocked to discover that the direction in which this man was looking was precisely Chen Fan's current location!

After a while, the stout man picked the last fruit, carefully placed it in the box, then gently closed it. Only then did he take a deep breath and smiled at his companions:

"Finally done. Not too many, not too few, a total of twenty Yellow Flower Fruits."

Upon hearing this, the vigilant man and woman exchanged glances and simultaneously breathed a sigh of relief. The woman's face showed joy as she said:

"One Yellow Flower Fruit can boost True Qi for a month. Twenty of them mean twenty months of True Qi!"

The other three exchanged glances upon hearing this and burst into laughter.

"Yanzi, there's nothing wrong with your calculation,"

the stout man said with a smile, "But these fruits, like other types of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, are most effective upon first consumption, and their effects diminish with subsequent uses."

"Correct,"

another man chuckled, "Using all these Yellow Flower Fruits on one person would be a waste. We should each take two, and we'll hand the rest over to the headquarters for Contribution Points. What do you think, President?"

As these words fell, the three turned their gaze toward the man with gray temples.

Shen Si smiled faintly and said, "At this point, consuming more Yellow Flower Fruits doesn't help me. You each take three, and the rest will be handed over to the headquarters."

The three exchanged glances, joy evident on their faces.

"Yes, President!"

"President, you are always so good to us."

"Indeed, President, without you, we couldn't have found this place, let alone got even one, never mind twenty!"

"Exactly, President, you are indeed our Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association's cornerstone. Your Emperor's Qi Observation Skill is refined to perfection. Over the years, more than eighty percent of the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures at headquarters were discovered by you."

The three of them praised in turn, words of admiration overflowing.

"You guys, it's this time, and you're still saying these things," Shen Si bitterly smiled.

"President, we're just stating facts." Zhao Yan blinked.

Shen Si lightly coughed and said, "Indeed, most of the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures at headquarters were found by me. But collecting them wasn't solely my effort. For instance, the twenty Yellow Flower Fruits just now were picked by you."

"President, you flatter us," the stout man said with a smile, "Your power is in the True Essence Realm, while we are only at Late Stage of Meridian Refining. You could collect them without us."

"Exactly, President, thanks to you leading us around these days, our harvest has far exceeded that from hunting Fierce Beasts."

"All thanks to the Emperor's Qi Observation Skill."

The group complimented him again.

Shen Si couldn't help but chuckle.

Indeed, he was the only one at headquarters who had successfully cultivated the Emperor's Qi Observation Skill.

The skill enabled him to identify locations of various Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures. The stronger the aura, the more precious they were.

Using this skill, he led his team through mountains, collecting countless treasures.

Of course, it wasn't always smooth sailing, as the more precious the treasures, the stronger the surrounding Fierce Beasts. Many times, he chose to retreat despite the treasures being within grasp.

To outsiders, it seemed simple, with some top-level treasures eluding him but plenty of second-grade ones accumulated over time, strengthening him.

In reality, it wasn't so ideal.

Not because the Emperor's Qi Observation Skill wasn't superb.

But because he cultivated a remnant and protective version, not complete, even if successful, it fell short compared to the full version.

For instance, he lacked the strongest predictive aspect, and overuse of the skill could damage his Primordial Qi and even shorten his lifespan.

This explained why he was graying despite being only forty years old.

Hence, each time he led a team out, upon return, he needed a month or two of recuperation before the next action.

Thinking this, he couldn't help but sigh inwardly.

If only his Emperor's Qi Observation Skill were complete.

Unfortunately, even the Awakened Association didn't have the complete version after all these years.

"President, we've collected all treasures here. What next?" The stout man licked his lips, full of anticipation.

The other two shared the same eagerness.

Shen Si turned his head, looking in the direction of Chen Fan.

He frowned, a look of struggle on his face.

Actually, he had noticed something ten days ago, sensing the emergence of treasure there.

But one concern was the aura there was incredibly strong!

This was naturally good since it indicated significant treasures, but also bad as strong Fierce Beasts would certainly arrive.

Thus, he hesitated.

"President, are Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures emerging there?" Zhao Yan asked perceptively.

"Yes."

Shen Si nodded, then turned toward the west, saying, "Let's go in that direction. There are treasures there too."

The three looked westward.

Then glanced in the direction Shen Si had been looking.

"President,"

The stout man couldn't help but say, "Are there treasures in the south as well?"

"Yes."

Shen Si glanced at him, then looked at the other two, saying, "The treasures there are extraordinary. If these Yellow Flower Fruits feel like fireflies' glow to me, then over there feels like a burning candle."

Upon hearing this, the three unconsciously swallowed.

Good heavens, the difference was immense, wasn't it?

How could the faint glow of fireflies compare to a burning candle?

However, they weren't impulsive, understanding deeply the principle of greater rewards being accompanied by greater risks.

"President," Zhao Yan softly asked, "Do you sense powerful Fierce Beasts guarding there?"

The President's Emperor's Qi Observation Skill could not only find treasures but also sense beasts' auras.

It helped them avoid much trouble.

"Not yet."

Shen Si sensed again, shaking his head.

Not even human auras were present.

"President."

The stout man hesitated momentarily, then spoke, "Since there's no beast's aura yet, why don't we go take a look? See what kind of treasure it is.

If we can get it, we'll do so; if not, we'll abandon it. We're just wasting some time either way. If it's feasible, we'll seize the opportunity."

"Yes, President, I think Liu Yong is right. Let's go and have a look, act accordingly." The other person smiled.

Shen Si showed interest.

True, it made sense.

First, the aura there was extraordinary, stronger than the previous treasures, sparking his curiosity and desire.

Second, no surrounding beast aura might imply they hadn't discovered it yet.

If so, it was an opportune moment.

"Alright, let's check it out. Be cautious," he said.

"Yes, President, we'll be careful."

"Rest assured, President, we'll act sensibly if encountering fierce beasts."

"Yes, President, we've followed your words all along." Zhao Yan smiled.

Shen Si smiled too, "Good, let's check it out then."

With that, he darted away like an arrow.

The three quickly followed.

Strangely, as they passed through, mid to high-level Fierce Beasts fled in all directions as if escaping for their lives.

Meanwhile, in another direction.

A group of six also looked towards Chen Fan's location.

Among them, half wielded weapons, the other half were bare-handed, looking peculiar.

"Is that where the Celestial God Tree is?"

The leader murmured.

"Yes, I checked a few days ago. In about ten minutes, it should mature."

"Twelve Celestial God Fruits, enough for us all. Even if not consumed, one can still sell for 50,000 points."

"We should stay vigilant, though. Even one Celestial God Fruit could attract many elite-level Fierce Beasts."

"Ha ha, among six of us, Brother Tang and Brother Pei are B-level Awakened. The rest of us are C-level Awakened. No matter how many elite-level Fierce Beasts come, the outcome is the same." Someone said dismissively.

"Let's hope it's not Commander-level Fierce Beasts though. After all, it's twelve Celestial God Fruits." Someone's words brought a sudden quietness to the atmosphere.

Chapter 347: You Have No Objections to Leaving, Do You?

The Celestial God Fruit is crucial for Elite-level Fierce Beasts, and it also has significant effects for Commander-level Fierce Beasts.

They might not care much for only one or two fruits.

But several, even more than ten, that's a different story.

Just like the two B-level Awakeners present, they were drawn here too, weren't they?

"Hmph," a cold snort broke the peace. A burly man with his sturdy chest exposed grunted, "Here we are, yet hesitating? Besides, what if one or two Commander-level Fierce Beasts show up?"

"That's true."

The leader, Tang Qiang, also curled his lips, "Even if there are two Commander-level Fierce Beasts, Brother Pei and I can hold them off. Meanwhile, picking the Celestial God Fruit is your task. Can you handle it?"

The remaining four C-level Awakeners exchanged glances.

"Brother Tang, don't worry. If we can't manage this little thing, we'd be better off smashing ourselves with a piece of tofu."

"Indeed, if two Commander-level Fierce Beasts come, leave the task of picking the Celestial God Fruit to us."

The few busily assured.

Putting themselves in Tang Qiang's shoes, they'd also not want to drag a bunch of burdens behind.

Of course, picking the Celestial God Fruit is not easy; even approaching it carries significant risks. Thus, they are fully prepared this time.

"Hmm."

Tang Qiang nodded in satisfaction, thinking this is the worst-case scenario. How often do such coincidences happen in the world?

If a Commander-level Fierce Beast shows up, he and Pei Yong together might even be able to kill it and bring back more materials.

"Let's go. It will only be a few minutes before that batch of Celestial God Fruits matures."

"Yes."

The few answered eagerly, eyes filled with excitement.

For the Celestial God Fruit, they traveled all the way from Jiangnan City.

Of course, even getting one would make the trip worthwhile.

Besides, with two B-level Awakeners present, there's bound to be a harvest this time.

...

"Someone is approaching this place?"

Chen Fan's ears twitched, his gaze shifted westward.

In the mountain forest, several figures moved quickly towards here.

Chen Fan frowned instantly.

The situation he least wanted to happen is still unfolding; though he didn't know how they discovered this place, pondering it now is meaningless.

With a thought, he directly activated Celestial Response, the distance isn't far.

"Four auras in total, three weaker ones, the strongest one leading," he murmured to himself.

Even the strongest one poses no threat to him.

"Hope they know better when they arrive."

Chen Fan shook his head.

He is determined to obtain all twelve Celestial God Fruits, giving up even one is out of the question.

Just when he was thinking about this, those figures had already arrived, a group of four.

"It's the Celestial God Tree!"

Someone shouted excitedly.

"President! It's the Celestial God Tree! The Celestial God Tree!" the round-faced burly man cried out with joy, "God, there's actually a Celestial God Tree here!"

"One, two, three, four... ten, eleven, twelve! Twelve Celestial God Fruits!"

Another excited voice echoed.

Among the four, only Shen Si remained silent.

Actually, Shen Si was also ecstatic inside.

No wonder, no wonder the aura here was so strong before, it turns out the Celestial God Fruit is about to mature.

And not just one or two, but twelve!

"President, we are rich!" The round-faced burly man turned around, voice trembling.

Spiritual Power is crucial for Awakeners.

It's also essential for Martial Artists.

Martial Artists have strong willpower, but it is limited beyond ordinary people, requiring the cultivation of Spiritual Power magic techniques, which is highly difficult.

Consuming a Celestial God Fruit can cause a surge in Spiritual Power, leading to much more effective cultivation.

"Don't get too excited just yet..."

Shen Si started to speak but suddenly stopped.

His eyes widened, staring at a figure in the distance.

Zhao Yan and the other two followed his gaze and were also stunned.

Chen Fan stood quietly not far away, observing them calmly, pondering their origins.

Judging by their weapons, they seemed to be Martial Artists?

Those appearing here should belong to the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, right?

However, there's a slight chance they might be from another sub-district, though unlikely.

Even if it were the President Shi Tao from the Martial Arts Association coming, Chen Fan would not surrender these Celestial God Fruits.

Shen Si and his party quietly scrutinized this oddly dressed man.

He wore a mask.

Held? A bow and arrow?

A Martial Artist? Or an Awakener?

"Has he just arrived, or was he here all along?"

Zhao Yan asked quietly, looking uneasy.

If this strange man was here all along, did he see all their previous actions?

"I don't, not sure." The round-faced burly wiped the cold sweat off his forehead, "Probably, just arrived?"

"I didn't notice at first, and then the President saw him, so I saw him too," another of the group said awkwardly.

Shen Si, wide-eyed, looked as though he had seen a ghost.

On the way here, fearing an encounter with powerful Fierce Beasts, he constantly sensed the aura of this place.

Chapter 348: You Should Have No Objections to Leaving, Right? _2

There are no Fierce Beasts, and no people.

But in the end, when he arrived, he found a person standing there!

"Did I overlook something, or was he always here, and I just couldn't perceive him?" Shen Si broke out in a cold sweat.

His intuition told him that the latter possibility was more likely.

Because in the forest, danger lurks everywhere; how could he dare to be careless?

But if that's true, the result is even more terrifying. Who on earth could make him unable to perceive their presence?

"Leave here within one minute."

At that moment, a cold voice sounded from beneath the mask.

As the words fell, Zhao Yan and the two others were stunned.

They seemed to be unable to react.

"I don't like saying the same thing twice."

Chen Fan frowned, his tone becoming more impatient.

Zhao Yan and the other two exchanged glances, a surge of anger rising simultaneously in their hearts.

"Friend, you want us to leave here within one minute? On what basis?"

The round-faced hunk stared fixedly at Chen Fan, gripping the knife handle tightly with his right hand.

"Yes, the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures belong to the capable, it's not like we're having a meal where it goes first come, first served. What's more, you may not have arrived much earlier than us?" Another man spoke up, unwilling to be outdone.

Although they couldn't gauge this person's background, with such great benefits right in front of them, if they chose to give up without even trying, they would regret it for the rest of their lives.

"You already said the reason, didn't you?"

Chen Fan looked at the man who spoke last and said, "The Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures belong to the capable. I am stronger than you all, so naturally, I get these Celestial God Fruits, right?"

"You're stronger than us?"

The man scoffed upon hearing this.

Long-range shooters are indeed troublesome from afar, but right now, the twin knives are so close, and they outnumber him.

If a fight breaks out, which side has the advantage? Isn't it obvious?

"Ahem."

At that moment, a soft cough interrupted his words.

Shen Si smiled slightly and said, "Friend, we are from the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association. May I know who you are?"

Just now, he used the Emperor's Qi Observation Skill to perceive again.

He was shocked by the result.

Because in his perception, there were only Zhao Yan and the other two, excluding himself.

No fourth person!

In reality?

This masked person stood right in front of him, visible at a glance.

Honestly, it's the first time he encountered such a situation...

For this situation to occur, there are only two explanations.

One is that this person's Spiritual Power far exceeds his, hence making him impossible to perceive.

Another is that he cultivated Martial Arts or awakened relevant Superpowers to hide his aura.

Either explanation proves that this person is not to be trifled with. Despite their numbers, if conflict erupts, the outcome is unpredictable.

But regardless, he is still the vice chairman of the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association and one of the few True Essence Realm Martial Artists in the headquarters. To retreat just because of one sentence from the other party is too unreasonable, isn't it?

The main thing is, there are twelve Celestial God Fruits right in front of them!

"Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association people?"

Chen Fan raised an eyebrow.

So they really are from the Martial Arts Association?

"Indeed."

Shen Si saw an opportunity, his smile grew even wider, "I am Shen Si, vice chairman of the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association. If you don't believe me, you can call anyone nearby to verify."

"I see."

Chen Fan replied calmly, "But what does that have to do with me?"

"You!"

The round-faced hunk and others were furious hearing this.

The chairman is just good-tempered, and this guy really thinks he is something?

"Ahem."

Shen Si hurriedly coughed, signaling the others to keep quiet.

Seeing this, despite their anger, the round-faced hunk and others reluctantly complied, but their looks directed at Chen Fan were filled with defiance.

"Friend, it seems you also came here for the Celestial God Fruit, so you should know how difficult it is to deal with the Celestial God Tree, right?"

Shen Si smiled, "Not to mention Elite-level Fierce Beasts, even Commander-level Fierce Beasts risk death and injury. It seems these Celestial God Fruits are about to mature. If you recklessly try to harvest them later, it will be extremely dangerous. How about cooperating? Don't rush to refuse, just hear me out."

"The cooperation method is simple, one person distracts the Celestial God Tree's firepower, while the other takes advantage to harvest the Celestial God Fruit. We alternate after each harvest, how about it?"

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yan and the two others exchanged looks.

Alternate after each harvest.

That means, out of twelve Celestial God Fruits, they would only get half?

That's too unfair, isn't it?

"You still don't understand what I mean, do you?"

Chen Fan sighed lightly.

Honestly, if it weren't for them being from the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, he would have already acted by now.

After all, he also belongs to the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association and has received considerable help from the association.

But recognizing these people was impossible.

"Friend."

Shen Si's face changed instantly, carrying a threatening tone: "Splitting half of the Celestial God Fruit is the biggest concession we can make. You see, there are four of us against one of you, right?"

Just as Chen Fan was about to respond, he suddenly frowned and looked eastward.

Several figures were speeding towards them.

"More people are coming!"

Zhao Yan's eyes widened in shock.

They found this place thanks to the chairman's Emperor's Qi Observation Skill.

Surprisingly, others are already here, and now even more people are coming!

"Damn!"

The round-faced hunk and another, facial expressions darkened.

Originally, they thought they could harvest many Celestial God Fruits, but now it seems doubtful if each would get one.

In a blink, several figures from the east appeared before Chen Fan and the others.

"Someone arrived first? Interesting."

The burly Pei Yong surveyed the two groups, his gaze landing on Shen Si, the corners of his mouth lifted with a teasing tone, "Yo, isn't this Chairman Shen? What a coincidence?"

"Indeed."

Tang Qiang revealed a hint of surprise in his eyes, then glanced at the Celestial God Tree, "Chairman Shen, you wouldn't be here for these Celestial God Fruits, would you?"

With a swoosh, everyone's gaze fell on Shen Si.

Shen Si reluctantly smiled, "You guessed right, we are indeed here for the Celestial God Fruits."

After speaking, he nervously licked his lips.

He knew both speakers, renowned among the B-level Awakeners of Jiangnan City Awakened Association, each with a record of killing ordinary Commander-level Fierce Beasts.

In comparison, he was far inferior, only capable of fleeing from Commander-level Fierce Beasts.

Moreover, in recent years, relations between the Awakened Association and Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association have been tense, nearly openly conflicting.

At this critical moment, encountering these people rendered Shen Si extremely depressed.

Behind him, the previously defiant round-faced hunk and two others now felt deflated.

After all, the chairman is a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, even he treats them respectfully. What can these Late Stage of Meridian Refining Martial Artists count for?

Sigh.

It seems today they are entirely out of luck with these Celestial God Fruits.

"Chairman Shen certainly speaks frankly, good."

Pei Yong nodded, "Then I'll be straight too. We want all these Celestial God Fruits. If you have no objection, lead your people away. How about it, Chairman Shen?"

Chapter 349: Strong Demon Ape

The field was silent, and everyone's eyes were focused on Shen Si.

Pei Yong and Tang Qiang, these two B-level Awakened individuals, both had expressions that seemed to show a mocking smile.

The four C-level Awakened behind them all showed varying degrees of disdain in their eyes.

The three Meridian Refining Realm Martial Artists, led by Zhao Yan, were looking at the ground with flushed faces, wishing they could find a crack to crawl into.

If they had known they would encounter these people, they wouldn't have come here in the first place.

Chen Fan, on the side, watched quietly.

If he guessed correctly, after chasing away these few Martial Artists, the Awakened group would come to drive him away next.

Shen Si's face turned blue and then white.

As the Vice President of the headquarters, being persuaded to retreat with just a few words was indeed extremely embarrassing.

Moreover, on this Celestial God Tree in front of him, there were twelve Celestial God Fruits!

Missing out on them, he felt truly unwilling.

"Brother Pei, as they say, finders keepers. We discovered this Celestial God Tree even earlier than you, didn't we?"

He forced a smile and continued, "You know, picking Celestial God Fruits isn't easy. Why don't we cooperate on this?"

Zhao Yan and the three others raised their heads in surprise upon hearing this.

Cooperate?

Can it work?

Pei Yong's smile disappeared instantly, and his face visibly turned cold.

"Chairman Shen, it seems I've been too polite to you, leading to unrealistic fantasies. Given this situation, let me make things clear."

"Chairman Shen, you need to leave with your people immediately. Otherwise, I won't be polite to you."

As the words fell, the atmosphere around them turned tense instantly.

Beside them, Tang Qiang displayed a glimpse of contempt in his eyes.

If Shi Tao, the President of the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, were here, they might indeed be cautious and agree to cooperate.

But who is this Shen to deserve any respect?

Shen Si felt his face burning.

In terms of numbers, the other side had the advantage.

As for high-end combat power, he'd struggle against either Pei Yong or Tang Qiang, let alone facing both at once.

With the situation so clear, he had no choice but to give up.

Taking a complex look at the soon-to-be-ripened Celestial God Fruits, Shen Si took a deep breath, pressed his unwillingness down, and nodded lightly, "Fine, I'll take my people and leave."

"That's the right choice."

Pei Yong's smile reappeared.

"Chairman Shen, if you'd said that earlier, there wouldn't have been all this trouble," Tang Qiang said with a playful smile.

"Exactly, you've wasted everyone's time."

"Chairman Shen, have a nice trip. We won't see you off."

"Be careful on your way back, haha."

The C-level Awakened behind them also sneered.

"Let's go."

Shen Si said softly.

In some ways, this was expected; he'd had to give up in similar situations before.

Zhao Yan and the others hung their heads, looking dispirited.

But someone glanced at Chen Fan in the distance.

Instantly, Pei Yong and the others turned their gaze to Chen Fan.

"Friend, don't think I was only talking to Chairman Shen and his men just now."

Pei Yong said mockingly.

The person in front of them dressed strangely, and was holding a Bow in his left hand.

Someone using a bow nowadays? That was rare.

But he didn't take Shen Si and the others from the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association seriously, let alone this lone person.

"You want me to leave?"

Chen Fan asked.

"What do you think?"

Pei Yong countered, looking at him like an idiot.

"Friend, Brother Pei doesn't like to repeat himself. If you know what's good for you, you'd better leave quickly."

"Indeed, just like them."

Someone gestured toward Shen Si's group.

Upon hearing this, Shen Si and his team halted their steps and turned slightly.

They also knew that this person would surely be chased away like them.

How to put this, they just wanted to be sure.

"Is that so? What a coincidence."

Chen Fan chuckled, "I also want you guys to leave."

"?"

Suddenly, the atmosphere turned quiet.

Shen Si and his group were stunned, looking at Chen Fan in a daze.

Did this guy with a bow just say?

He wanted Pei Yong and his people to leave?

What a joke!

They were from the Awakened Association of Jiangnan City! They were six people against one; what gave this guy the confidence?

The Awakened individuals were also stunned.

Almost wondering if their ears were playing tricks.

"What did you just say? Say it again?" Pei Yong responded, looking at him in disbelief.

"I said, all the Celestial God Fruits here belong to me. You can leave now." Chen Fan slowed down his speech and said clearly.

"Boom!"

Shen Si and his group were dumbfounded, staring at Chen Fan as a huge wave surged in their minds!

Was this guy seeking death? Did he not know who these people were? Even if he didn't, their previous conversation should have made it clear!

Even they chose to give up wisely.

What made him think he could stand his ground?

"Kid, do you know who you're talking to?" a C-level Awakened shouted angrily, "We are from Jiangnan City Awakened Association, and Brother Pei and Brother Tang are genuine B-level Martial Artists who have killed Commander-level Fierce Beasts. Do you even know what that means? And yet you dare speak such nonsense?"

"Stop wasting time on him; let's just kill him."

"Indeed, if he won't take the polite way out, there's no need to be courteous."

As the situation grew tense, a frantic voice suddenly rang out.

"Wait! Don't act rashly!"

Surprisingly, Shen Si, who had been planning to leave, raised his hands anxiously, waving them in front of himself.

"Everyone, calm down, let's talk this out."

"Talk about what?"

"Exactly, we've given him the opportunity, but he's not taking it. Instead, he's being arrogant."

"This is all a misunderstanding."

Shen Si sighed and turned to Chen Fan, "Friend, they are indeed from Jiangnan City Awakened Association, especially Brother Pei and Brother Tang, who are formidable B-level Awakened. It's not wise to oppose them.

I understand you value these Celestial God Fruits a lot, but some things should be let go. Don't throw your life away for something within sight but out of reach."

Chen Fan looked at him in surprise.

He had been ready to act; once the other side attacked, he would retaliate fiercely.

Not that he loved killing, but the advantages were too significant to miss. Once a fight started, there could be no holding back; there would be no survivors.

Unexpectedly, Chairman Shen spoke up for him, indicating he was a decent person.

"Friend," seeing Chen Fan looking at him, Shen Si continued, "Let's leave together."

Chen Fan shook his head.

"Chairman Shen, I appreciate your kindness, but these Celestial God Fruits are extremely important to me. Today, I won't give them up to anyone."

"..."

Shen Si was stunned.

Zhao Yan and the others were equally astonished, at a loss for words.

Should they call him persistent or foolish?

Chairman Shen had spoken extensively, even risking offending these people, but it was all in vain.

"Good, good, good."

Pei Yong laughed out of frustration, clapping his hands, "It's been a long time since I met someone so interesting."

"Indeed, quite interesting."

Beside him, Tang Qiang nodded, looking at Chen Fan as if he were already dead.

"Since you insist on seeking death, then I shall..."

Just then, the ground shook suddenly.

"What's happening!"

Someone exclaimed.

The ground trembled again.

"Look over there!"

Someone pointed to the north.

Everyone followed the direction, seeing two giant ape-like beasts approaching rapidly.

The towering trees, several meters in height, seemed like toys before the apes, breaking into halves with a slight touch. Their massive claws swept down, felling large patches of trees. Their huge steps turned several trees into powder.

Everywhere they went, dust flew, and countless flying beasts fled to the sky as if running for their lives.

"It's the Strong Demon Apes!"

Shen Si's face changed drastically, turning pale as he recognized the scene, exclaiming, "It's not just one, it's two!"

"What, two Strong Demon Apes!"

"Two Strong Demon Apes?"

"How can this be?"

The C-level Awakened panicked, watching the two twenty-something meter-tall Strong Demon Apes stride forward.

Strong Demon Apes, Commander-level Fierce Beasts.

Their skin was incredibly tough, unscathed even by large-caliber shells. Only critical hits on vital spots such as the head could kill them, even missiles had trouble.

Their strength surpassed their defense, capable of lifting nearly a hundred tons and throwing objects like missiles to destroy walls easily.

Most terrifyingly, being Commander-level Fierce Beasts, they possessed human-like intelligence, flexible bodies similar to humans and could even wield weapons!

Not exaggerating, the Furious Barbaric Bull King, another Commander-level Fierce Beast, would be toyed to death by these Strong Demon Apes.

Encountering one was bad enough; now, there were two!

Chapter 350: Scheming

Several C-level Awakened, their hearts sinking halfway, looked at Pei Yong and the others whose faces had also turned quite grim.

They had considered the possibility that the twelve Celestial God Fruits might attract Commander-level Fierce Beasts before coming and had prepared themselves for the possibility of encountering more than one.

What they hadn't expected was for things to take the worst possible turn right from the start—two Commander-level Fierce Beasts showing up at once.

According to the Awakened Association's classification of Commander-level Fierce Beasts, Strong Demon Ape fell under the ordinary Commander-level category, mainly because of its similar height.

However, since it could use both arms, wield weapons, or throw projectiles, its combat strength far exceeded other Commander-level Fierce Beasts of the same rank.

If the Strong Demon Ape underwent further growth, with its fur turning from white to black and its body size increasing dramatically, it would reach the Beast King level.

"What are you afraid of?"

Noticing the fear in the eyes of the people behind him, Pei Yong snorted coldly and said, "It's just two Strong Demon Apes. With me and Brother Tang here, they can't harm a single hair on your heads."

"That's right."

Tang Qiang followed up, "Just like we agreed before, we'll keep these two Commander-level Fierce Beasts occupied while you pick the Celestial God Fruits."

"Yes!"

Upon hearing this, the four C-level Awakened relaxed significantly.

"Brother Pei..." Suddenly, one of them pointed at Shen Si and the others nearby.

Both Pei Yong and Tang Qiang squinted their eyes.

Yes, how had they forgotten about these people?

Among them, the only one with some ability was Shen Si.

In their eyes, Shen Si's strength was just so-so; however, compared to their own C-level subordinates, Shen Si was quite formidable.

The last thing they wanted was to risk their lives intercepting these two Commander-level Fierce Beasts, only for Shen Si to reap all the benefits.

Thinking of this, Pei Yong cast an inquiring glance at Tang Qiang.

Tang Qiang frowned and shook his head.

For the moment, he couldn't think of any good solution either.

Should the two of them hold off the beasts?

Although they had the advantage in numbers, there was a strong chance that Shen Si would end up with the most Celestial God Fruits.

Should they not hold off the beasts?

These two Commander-level Fierce Beasts were no joke; one slip and they could be in serious danger themselves.

As for driving Shen Si away at this point, that was even more impossible. Anyone could see it was a prime opportunity to fish in troubled waters; no one would willingly give up now.

Shen Si indeed had this in mind.

Initially, upon seeing two Commander-level Fierce Beasts appear, his face went pale, and he instinctively wanted to lead his group away.

After all, staying too long could cost them their lives.

But then he reconsidered—wasn't this a golden opportunity?

If it weren't for these two Commander-level Fierce Beasts showing up, he would have had to leave obediently, as Pei Yong and the others wouldn't allow him to stay.

But now, with these two Commander-level Fierce Beasts around, Pei Yong and Tang Qiang wouldn't have the extra energy to watch him.

Taking advantage of this, he might be able to snatch one or two Celestial God Fruits.

With this thought, he signaled to Zhao Yan and the others, took out his phone, and beckoned them over to look.

Slowly, a line of text appeared.

"If a fight breaks out later, go as far as you can. Don't worry about me."

After typing this, Shen Si looked at the three of them.

They exchanged glances and then nodded.

They understood that staying would only distract their leader, serving no other purpose.

"Be careful, Chairman," Zhao Yan whispered.

Neither the Awakened in front of them nor the two Commander-level Fierce Beasts were easy to deal with.

Shen Si nodded lightly.

He knew it was dangerous, but where else would the rewards come from without danger?

Besides, he had made some preparations; it wouldn't be that easy for an accident to happen.

Compared to them, Chen Fan felt much calmer inside.

Watching the two Commander-level Fierce Beasts coming closer and closer, he slightly curled his lips.

Two ordinary-level Commander-level Fierce Beasts?

Perfect timing.

He wanted to test the power of his upgraded Flaming Arrow and Sun-Shooting Arrow.

However, with some time left before the Celestial God Fruit ripened, he wasn't in a rush to act. There may still be changes to come.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

Amidst a series of rumbling noises, the two Strong Demon Apes reached a distance of two or three hundred meters from the group.

Their white furred bodies, rock-like frames, and two giant arms that could touch the ground even while standing.

Their pairs of red-hot eyes locked onto them, clearly, they had noticed Chen Fan and the others long ago.

But unlike common Fierce Beasts, they didn't attack immediately; instead, they stood still, in a standoff.

The situation was somewhat tense.

"What are they doing?" one of the C-level Awakened couldn't help but ask.

"They must be strategizing since we have the advantage in numbers," someone next to him speculated. "Commander-level Fierce Beasts have wisdom, especially those from the ape family; their intelligence isn't far from ours."

"If that's the case, dragging this out wouldn't be good for us. If they call in some Elite-level Fierce Beasts, we'd be doomed."

"Don't say that, really, if that happens, we'd definitely be in trouble."

Hearing this, Pei Yong also felt a twinge of anxiety.