

Martial Arts 361

Chapter 361: Don't You Need to Think About It Again?

The entrance to the village was deathly silent.

Almost everyone's gaze was fixated on the corpse of the fierce beast on the clearing, their eyes seemingly frozen wide open, unblinking.

A violent bear lay on the ground, completely motionless.

There was a deep wound on its neck, with blood dripping steadily onto the ground along the wound.

The bear was over four meters long from head to tail, nearly five meters, and more than three meters in height, lying on the ground like a medium-sized truck.

High-level Fierce Beast!

The lingering nightmare of everyone present.

The village they once lived in had been razed to the ground by such high-level fierce beasts; friends and relatives died beneath the claws and teeth of these beasts.

Even now, at the mere mention of high-level fierce beasts, they were as fearful as if facing a tiger, for they all knew that even though the village felt safe now and food was ample,

if a high-level fierce beast were to discover this place, a single slap could probably send the five-meter-high wall flying.

Yet, the corpse of such a high-level fierce beast was lying right in front of them.

Many people came to their senses, looking with fear at the three individuals standing behind the violent bear's corpse.

Could they be the rumored Awakeners?

On the watchtower, a few guards' lips trembled, their hands still holding phones.

Clearly, they were the ones who had called Chen Guodong just moments ago.

A minute or two earlier, they had seen three people driving a car towards the village from the wasteland.

The guards immediately became vigilant.

They watched as the car reached outside the village gate, and just as they were about to ask questions, the three individuals, who were still outside the gate, suddenly appeared inside the village!

The guards were stunned.

What happened next was an unforgettable scene.

The leading man stretched out his palm, and a four to five meter long fierce beast crashed heavily onto the clearing with a thud.

This very beast in front of them.

The man then surveyed the surroundings and announced that he was an Awakener from the Anshan City Awakened Association and had come for an important matter, instructing them to notify the village leader immediately.

Upon hearing the word Awakener, the guards nearly fell off the watchtower. Given the man's earlier display, they quickly called Chen Guodong.

Though the call had been hung up, they felt even more uneasy.

This high-level fierce beast was certainly capable of destroying the entire Chen Family Fortress, yet it stood no chance against these three. This was the power of an Awakener?

More and more people emerged from the surrounding houses, though none dared to speak.

"Brother Ren, this village seems a bit different."

At this moment, one of the three Awakeners on the left spoke softly.

"Oh?" the leader replied, "What's different?"

"It looks quite clean."

The man on the left responded without hesitation, "Not just the environment, but the people around here are tidily dressed and look quite healthy."

"Indeed,"

the Awakener on the right nodded, "These people look like ordinary folks, don't they?"

"Hmm."

Ren Hai scanned the surroundings and nodded.

Only now, noticing again, did he recognize that compared to the other villages he had seen, this one was indeed much better.

Regardless of age or gender, everyone appeared spirited.

"Who would have thought, there would be such a place."

While he marveled internally, it was ultimately pointless.

Once the beast tide erupts, a village like this, even a larger one, would be defenseless.

If the people chose to stay here, they would certainly die.

Fortunately, the Chairman had been generous enough to offer them an opportunity to move into Anshan City; hopefully, the village leader would cherish this chance.

Just then, hurried footsteps approached.

Chen Guodong, along with Zhang Ren and others, rushed over from the training ground.

The crowd stirred with excitement.

As if seeing their pillar of strength, their previously anxious eyes became resolute.

"What's that?"

Before they got close, they noticed the corpse of the violent bear on the ground and their eyes widened.

Is this... a high-level fierce beast?

They looked past the bear to the three people behind it.

"These are Awakeners?"

The same thought emerged in everyone's mind simultaneously.

These Awakeners didn't seem any different from ordinary people.

Of course, they only dared to think this to themselves, as the strength of the Awakeners was clear from the high-level fierce beast before them.

Chen Guodong, knowing Chen Fan was watching him, gathered his courage, stepped forward, extended his hand, slightly bowed, and gestured with a smile, "I'm the leader of this village. If you need to discuss anything, shall we move inside?"

Ren Hai and the other two looked slightly surprised.

This village was indeed extraordinary.

The leader of a small village like this being able to speak after meeting them was unlike the previous village leaders who either fainted or were paralyzed with fear.

"Hmph."

The Awakener on the left snorted coldly, dissatisfied with Chen Guodong's mere bow, and asked, "Do you know who we are?"

"I do, I do."

Chen Guodong hastily replied, "You... you are the Awakeners from the Anshan City Awakened Association, my lords."

"You know and yet you're not afraid?"

Zhang Ren and the others' faces changed.

Chen Guodong turned pale, cold sweat rolling down his forehead.

He was indeed afraid; Anshan City was an unattainable place for him. Were its Awakeners simple people?

But he questioned whether he had done anything to antagonize these individuals, as they had no reason to come here looking for trouble, right?

Moreover, if Xiaofan's guess was right, these three should be here to invite them to move to Anshan City, no?

Could Xiaofan be wrong?

"Enough, let's get to the point."

Ren Hai interrupted, speaking calmly, "No need to go inside. We can discuss it here. What I'm about to say is very important, so make sure you listen carefully."

"Yes, yes."

Chen Guodong nodded vigorously.

Zhang Ren and Liu Yong's hearts were in their throats.

They wondered if things were as Xiaofan had said.

"You know Anshan City, right?"

"Of course, of course."

"Do you want to go there?"

"?"

Hearing this, the people around looked bewildered.

Chen Guodong and his group were stunned.

"Actually, it's not impossible for you all to live in Anshan City. The chances are slim, but they exist. However, our Chairman Li is feeling merciful. He's willing to let all of you move into Anshan City without needing to give up anything. Do you want to go?"

When he finished speaking, the area was dead silent.

The villagers froze on the spot, unable to believe their ears.

"There's no need for doubt."

The Awakener on the left smiled wryly, seeing the villagers' expressions, "You heard correctly. You indeed have a chance now, to move into Anshan City without any cost. Everyone knows how good Anshan City is, right?"

"Of course, you can choose not to believe or wonder if there are risks, but I must remind you, there's only one chance. Miss it, and there won't be another." The Awakener on the right said with a seemingly mocking smile.

After listening, many people lowered their heads weakly.

They knew that the first thought that crossed their minds was whether there was a trap in this offer.

A decade ago, everyone knew that nothing falls from the sky. How much more today?

Even if these three were truly Awakeners from Anshan City, how could such a place, much better than Song Family Castle by a factor of ten, offer them a place without any cost?

Impossible, surely?

"Unchanged, even here."

Ren Hai wasn't surprised.

In the previous villages, the responses weren't as good as he expected.

Pretending to leave and then sneaking back allowed them to know that some villagers regarded them as cultists, possibly planning to deliver them to a sacrificial altar rather than Anshan City.

Angry enough to nearly kill, they now saw through it all.

"I'll return this time tomorrow for an answer. You can think it over. If anyone wishes to leave with me, you may. If not, we won't force you."

Ren Hai stepped forward and touched the violent bear's corpse.

The body vanished instantly.

Shouts echoed among the crowd.

Catching each other's eyes, Chen Guodong and Zhang Ren nodded.

In the next moment, Chen Guodong loudly declared, "This Awakener, we are willing to move into Anshan City."

"What?"

Ren Hai and his companions were stunned.

Not just them but the hundreds surrounding them as well.

"You, you agreed?"

Ren Hai stared at Chen Guodong in surprise, "Don't you need more time?"

Everyone looked anxious.

Indeed, shouldn't he think more?

Brother Chen agreed too quickly; what if there's a trap?

Besides, isn't the village life good now, with food and safety?

Chen Guodong smiled and said, "As you said, Awakeners, our village's safety isn't as secure as Anshan City. Given this chance, what's there to consider?"

Chapter 362: No Banquet Lasts Forever

Chen Guodong spoke with a harmless smile on his face.

Usually, he wouldn't dare to agree so easily. After all, there's no such thing as a free lunch. One wrong move and it could lead the entire stronghold to disaster.

But with Chen Fan having given a heads-up beforehand, could he distrust his own son?

At the moment, the Chen Family Stronghold seems decent, with food and drink, and safety assured. But if a Beast Tide breaks out or a few High-level Fierce Beasts are drawn here, destruction could occur in an instant.

Zhang Ren and others also chimed in supportively.

This commotion directly left the people in the stronghold stunned.

Ren Hai exchanged glances with the two by his side, then nodded slightly, showing a look of approval, "You're quite decisive and courageous, it's no wonder you developed the stronghold to this extent. Not bad, not bad. But I have to ask you again, have you really made up your mind? No need to reconsider?"

"No need."

Chen Guodong laughed, "Respected Awakeners, if you wanted to harm us, why would you need to use such roundabout methods?"

"Exactly."

Ren Hai was quite satisfied.

After all, he was a C-level Awakener. Killing an Elite-level Fierce Beast might take some effort, but wiping out a whole stronghold would be easy.

"Alright, tomorrow morning, I'll come to escort you to Anshan City. Once you arrive, trust me, you won't regret this decision."

"That's right."

The Awakener on the left swept his gaze over the crowd and snorted, "If it weren't for our chairman's immense compassion, you people would be left to fend for yourselves here. Now, this rare opportunity is right in front of you. If you miss it, it's gone forever."

When he finished speaking, most of the people's faces still showed skepticism.

"Hmph, why waste so many words on them? It's their own fate. If they don't want to come with us, we can't knock them out and carry them over." The Awakener on the right frowned, speaking with dissatisfaction.

If it weren't for Chairman Li's instructions, we wouldn't bother caring about their lives.

"Tomorrow morning, good, then we'll trouble you respected Awakeners." Chen Guodong hurriedly said.

"No trouble at all, it's just a simple task, besides, it's your own fortunate destiny."

Ren Hai waved his hand, "That's settled then."

After speaking, he leapt and appeared directly on the vehicle.

Simultaneously, the other two also vanished from sight.

Under the complex gazes of everyone, an off-road vehicle swiftly headed into the distance.

The atmosphere in the stronghold first quieted down for a moment, then someone dared to ask, "Brother Chen, should we really listen to them and leave the stronghold to move to Anshan City?"

With someone leading, voices emerged one after another.

"Yes, Brother Chen, is it really such a good offer? Will they allow us to live in Anshan City for free?"

"Impossible. I went to Anshan City before, let alone us ordinary people, even Martial Artists aren't qualified to live there."

"Right, could they have some bad intentions, trying to plot against us?"

"That can't be, Brother Chen also said. With their strength, wanting to kill us is simple. Why would they bother deceiving us?"

"That's uncertain. What if they are from an Evil Cult and they want to capture us alive instead of killing us?"

"This..."

The atmosphere quieted down again, but this time, most people felt even more fearful.

"Everyone should be here, right?"

Chen Guodong looked around.

"Everyone's here."

Liu Yong glanced around, the crowd surrounded them tightly.

"Initially, I planned to gather everyone later to discuss this matter. Since everyone is here now, let's talk it through."

Chen Guodong cleared his throat, "I know what just happened feels unreliable to everyone. After all, where can you find such good fortune in the world?"

"True."

The crowd echoed.

If there truly was such good fortune, they wouldn't have ended up here in the first place.

"But I think there's a significant chance it's true."

Suddenly, the entire place fell silent.

Everyone was wide-eyed, looking at Chen Guodong.

"You also saw their strength; even High-level Fierce Beasts can't harm them in the slightest. Such people, wanting to harm us, could easily do so, right?"

"But, Brother Chen," a man couldn't help but say, "someone just mentioned, what if they want to capture us alive to do hard labor, make us serve them? Wouldn't that explain why they haven't attacked us right away?"

"That's right. We're living well here. Once we arrive there, it's their territory, they can make us do anything." Others also showed worry.

"It seems you still don't understand the power of Awakeners."

Zhang Ren sighed, "If they want to capture us to serve them, they have a hundred ways, even using forceful threats would work. Why use such troublesome methods?"

As soon as these words were spoken, the atmosphere quieted down instantly.

Because the one who spoke was Zhang Ren, the second most powerful person in the stronghold.

Moreover, what he said made a lot of sense.

Chapter 363: No Banquet Lasts Forever _2

With the strength of those people, if someone disobeys when they're asked to go somewhere? Kill them on the spot!

Still don't agree? Kill again! Keep killing until they agree.

This is the sorrow of the weak. From the moment they are targeted, their fate is almost sealed.

"Ahem," Chen Guodong cleared his throat and said, "Everyone, don't think of the worst-case scenario. I guarantee with my reputation that this matter is absolutely true."

Hearing Chen Guodong say this, many people immediately felt a surge of confidence.

The people originally from Chen Family Stronghold naturally needed no further words. They knew Chen Guodong very well over the long period.

As for some of the people from Zhao Family Castle, after spending this period of time together, they also felt that Chen Guodong was a trustworthy person.

But they were still a bit uneasy.

"Brother Chen, tomorrow morning, we will go with them. Can we really live inside Anshan City then?"

"Yes, Brother Chen, that's a place even rich people can't get into. Can we ordinary people really do it?"

"Of course."

Chen Guodong smiled and said, "Like I said, they have no reason to deceive me. Worst case, if they truly deceive us, I can also ensure everyone's safe return."

"Alright! Since Brother Chen says so, we have nothing to hesitate about. Let's go pack up, and follow Brother Chen to Anshan City early tomorrow!"

"That's right! If we can't even trust Brother Chen, who else can we trust?"

"Guodong, we support you, wherever you go, we go!"

"Indeed, wherever Guodong goes, we go!"

Most people had made up their minds.

Anshan City, how many people have tried to get in without success. Most of the people talking here are ordinary people. If they can really live there, it would be the best possible outcome.

Still, there were a few who looked troubled.

No one had anything against Chen Guodong's character.

But were his words too good to be true? If something unexpected happens, could he, even with Zhang Ren and Liu Yong and others, really rescue so many people from those few Awakeners' hands?

Anyone could see that this was impossible.

But if they said this out loud, wouldn't they be going against the flow?

So, they were conflicted.

"If anyone doesn't want to go, we won't force them."

At this moment, Zhang Ren's voice sounded.

"This matter is entirely voluntary."

Seeing everyone's eyes on him, he slowly said, "Those who wish to go, go back and pack up, and leave with us at dawn. Those who don't want to go can stay behind, and we will leave some supplies for those staying. Of course, after that, they will have to fend for themselves."

Upon hearing this, some previously agitated people immediately calmed down.

Yes, if Chen Guodong and the others leave, the stronghold's main force goes with them. Those left would find it hard to live as prosperously as they do now.

But it's not without benefits.

If Chen Guodong and the others don't return, they would be the ones in charge of this substantial stronghold.

Perhaps they could enjoy being the leaders for a while too.

"Brother Chen, is it really like Brother Zhang said, all voluntary?" One person hesitated for a long time and then spoke up.

Chen Guodong looked at the person and nodded, "That's right, those who are willing to go, gather here tomorrow morning. Those who don't want to go can stay at home. Of course, you can also come and see us off."

"Alright, alright."

Hearing this, the person lowered their head.

They looked quite embarrassed, but their heart had made a decision.

Chen Guodong sighed inwardly.

If he could, he would love to take everyone in the stronghold with him.

But having been through so much, he understood better that human hearts are complicated.

Those willing to go with him naturally trust him deeply, but those unwilling may not distrust him; perhaps they just want to wait and see.

If they confirm such a good thing really exists, they would come over, but the problem would also follow. It's over a hundred miles from here to Anshan City, through dangerous zones. Without the protection of Awakeners, could they make it safely? Fearful, and that's not mentioning if people in Anshan City would still let them in by then.

Thinking about this, Chen Guodong sighed again inwardly.

"From a personal standpoint, I still very much hope everyone joins me in moving to Anshan City. But of course, as I said, it's voluntary. I will leave some supplies for those staying. That's it then."

After saying this, he turned and walked back in the direction he had come from.

There's no feast that never ends. He had done what he could, hadn't he?

Zhang Ren and the others glanced at each other and followed him.

They naturally had nothing more to say; Xiaofan had personally come to deliver the news, and the Awakeners from Anshan City had arrived. What more was there to doubt?

Such things couldn't and needn't be told to others.

Soon, the group left, leaving the remaining people looking at each other.

"Gouzi, are we really going to follow Brother Chen to Anshan City?"

"Nonsense, if you can't trust Brother Chen, who can you trust? Have you forgotten what life was like before Brother Chen arrived?"

"Exactly, I believe Brother Chen is our lucky star. Following them, our days will definitely get better."

"Yes, yes, Anshan City, I've heard there are bars and KTVs and even internet cafes there!"

"Really, internet cafes too?"

"Hehe, that's just what I heard. Anyway, it's definitely better than here. No more talking, I'm going to pack up, see you tonight."

"See you tonight."

The crowd dispersed, leaving about a hundred people still standing there, looking conflicted.

They exchanged glances and slowly dispersed in twos and threes.

In their houses, behind closed doors, faint voices were heard.

"Brother, do you think something this good could happen to us?"

"Haha, I don't believe in such luck. Those Awakeners must have some scheme. Even if Brother Chen believes them, I was going to persuade them, but seeing their attitude, I decided not to."

"Sigh, right, why not stay here? We have no worries about food and clothing. Why go through the hassle of moving to Anshan City? What if life there is worse than here?"

"Yes, as a last resort, if such good news indeed arrives, we can go later, right?"

"We should be able to make it in time, right?"

For a moment, the whole stronghold had a somewhat subtle atmosphere.

Chen Fan stood on the roof of his house, listening to all the sounds around him.

There were happy voices, anxious ones, expectant ones, and indifferent ones.

He shook his head.

His heart was relatively calm.

Even without the ensuing Beast Tide, he would have figured out a way to move his family into Anshan City. People seek higher places just like water flows downward; living together, he could arrive quickly if anything happened.

Taking the people from the stronghold along was more like a helping hand.

Those unwilling, he wouldn't force.

After all, even if they moved into Anshan City, who knew how many Beast Tides they could withstand? Even he wasn't sure.

Perhaps people in Anshan City might only survive a bit longer than those left behind.

"With things settled here, it's time to look for Meng Xue."

Chen Fan glanced toward where Meng Xue's sisters lived and vanished in an instant.

Chapter 364: A-level Awakened?

"What's happening outside?"

Meng Xue lay on the bed and glanced outside through the window.

At this moment, she looked even more haggard compared to a few days ago.

"I don't know."

Meng Yu looked outside upon hearing her, then carefully brought over a bowl of porridge, blowing on it to cool it down. "Sister, drink this hot porridge and you'll feel better."

Meng Xue managed a bitter smile. "Just put it down, I'll drink it when I feel hungry later."

Meng Yu shook her head firmly. "Sister, you haven't eaten anything since morning, it's almost noon now. How will you have the strength if you don't eat?"

"Alright then."

Meng Xue felt somewhat helpless, but more so moved.

But after just a few sips, she suddenly vomited.

"Sister!"

Meng Yu was startled, quickly standing up to put the porridge aside and using a cloth to wipe the bedding.

"Sister, you?"

She looked up, her eyes filled with worry.

In the morning, it was the same when she ate.

Now, it's the same.

She couldn't help but recall that when her grandfather was dying, he too would vomit whatever little he ate, and soon passed away.

"It's nothing, Yu, just resting a bit will make me better."

Meng Xue forced a smile, her face pale.

She estimated that she had only a month left to live.

However, a few days ago, she overused her powers, worsening her condition.

But she had to do it.

Because if anything happened to Chen Fan, the entire Chen Family Fortress would face disaster, and even if she were alive, she'd be powerless to help.

"Sister..."

Meng Yu's eyes reddened.

"Alright, you're not a child anymore, don't cry." Meng Xue reached out her frail arm to wipe her sister's tears. "It seems something happened outside just now, go and take a look."

"Okay."

Meng Yu wiped her tears, took a few more worried glances, and then turned to leave.

Just as she stepped out, a burly figure approached.

"Chen Fan?"

Meng Yu's eyes widened in surprise and joy.

"It's me."

Chen Fan smiled at her. "Is your sister inside?"

"Yes, she is."

Meng Yu hurriedly wiped her tears and returned inside excitedly, "Sister, Chen Fan is here."

Chen Fan entered the room, looking at Meng Xue lying on the bed. He frowned, sensing her aura had become even weaker.

"Chen Fan, you... you are here?"

Meng Xue smiled, struggling to sit up from the bed.

"No need to get up, just lie down."

Chen Fan waved his hand and sat down by the table, saying, "Your condition seems to be getting worse."

Meng Xue smiled bitterly, not knowing what to say.

Meng Yu felt both tense and anxious.

She recalled clearly that today was the day the Celestial God Fruit would mature. There would be twelve in total, and her sister said that with six, she would have a 100% chance of awakening again.

But six fruits? If they were purchased from the Awakened Association, it would require 300,000 points! One point's purchasing power equals 10,000 yuan, but 10,000 yuan can't exchange for one point.

Just thinking about it revealed the extent of the risks involved.

"I have brought the six Celestial God Fruits."

As the words fell, the room fell silent, as if a pin could be heard dropping.

Both sisters opened their mouths wide in astonishment.

Chen Fan's right hand moved over the table, and six bright red Celestial God Fruits appeared neatly on the table.

The aroma filled the room.

Meng Xue's inner shock had reached its peak.

Although she had never consumed such fruits, she had seen them before.

They looked exactly like the ones in front of her.

Chen Fan had really accomplished it?

"Are these the Celestial God Fruits?"

Meng Yu showed a face full of shock.

Then she began to count seriously, "One, two, three, four, five, six? Six Celestial God Fruits!!"

The next second, she trembled with joy, turning to Meng Xue with a voice full of excitement, "Sister, six Celestial God Fruits! We're saved! We're saved!"

Tears flowed from her eyes like a river breaking through its banks.

"Yes."

Meng Xue's eyes glistened with tears.

In this world, no one is unafraid of death, including her.

Moreover, she had finally reunited with her sister, and just a few days later, they were supposed to be separated by death again. The thought of it always cut her heart like a knife.

But she had no choice; she knew the location of the Celestial God Fruits, but even in her prime, she would be going to her death.

Much less, she needed more than just one.

At this moment, Chen Fan had promised her that he would get her the six Celestial God Fruits.

Of course, she hoped Chen Fan could do it, but it was not easy; if something happened to Chen Fan, she would be guilty for life.

Yet, it was not even noon, and Chen Fan had arrived with six mature Celestial God Fruits.

"Chen... Chen Fan," she said, trying hard to get out of bed.

"Sister!"

Meng Yu was startled and rushed to support her.

Seeing this, Chen Fan shook his head calmly, "Lie back down, there's no need for gratitude. I promised you to bring the six Celestial God Fruits, so I wouldn't break my word. However, you must understand, it's not for free."

"I know."

Meng Xue nodded quickly, looking at Chen Fan with gratitude, "After awakening again, I will work for you, helping you foresee anything you want to know."

"Do what you can."

Chen Fan glanced at her, "I don't want to see you use up your life quickly again, otherwise, I'd still be the one searching for these Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures for you."

Hearing this, Meng Yu couldn't help but laugh.

Meng Xue also smiled, then apologized, "Sorry, Chen Fan, for making you take such a big risk this time. You didn't get hurt, did you?"

Meng Yu's smile disappeared, and she nervously examined Chen Fan.

"I'm fine."

Chen Fan smiled.

He recalled the furious appearance of the Celestial God Tree.

Of course, he was reasonable.

The bodies of the three commander-level fierce beasts were too large; at most, he took the valuable materials from their bodies and left the rest in place.

He thought about it and moved the bodies of the three commander-level fierce beasts within the attack range of the Celestial God Tree as compensation.

Strictly speaking, the Celestial God Tree still profited, given that it could kill one commander-level fierce beast at most. Three, it never expected it would one day be able to do so, stunned into silence.

"Really, you're not hurt?" Meng Yu asked softly.

"Don't worry."

Chen Fan glanced at her, then extended his hand, and True Essence surged.

Meng Xue's complexion immediately improved, and soon, her face gained a hint of color.

"Sister?"

Meng Yu's eyes widened, seemingly unbelieving of such a miraculous event.

"Chen Fan, this, is this?"

Meng Xue's eyes widened, feeling a surge of strength within, as if she had been reborn.

"I used the Divine Illumination Scripture to restore some primordial qi for you," Chen Fan withdrew his hand, "Unfortunately, it can only treat the symptoms, not the root cause. At most, it can make you feel better for a few days."

"That's enough."

Meng Xue expressed her gratitude, "Chen Fan, thank you for helping me so much."

Chen Fan shook his head and stood up, "That will be all for now. If you have any issues later, feel free to contact me. By the way, I forgot to mention one thing."

The sisters immediately perked up their ears.

"I plan to move everyone in the fortress to Anshan City. Just now, the people in the fortress heard about it. Tomorrow morning, Awakened from Anshan City will arrive to escort everyone. I will be there too, just in case. You should pack your things and leave with everyone tomorrow morning."

"Everyone, moving to Anshan City?"

Meng Yu was astonished.

That's a small city, not a place everyone can go at will, especially considering that many of the fortress residents are elderly or children.

"So that's what it's about."

Meng Xue realized why there was commotion outside earlier.

"Alright, we'll pack and leave with the group tomorrow morning."

"Okay."

Chen Fan nodded and headed for the door.

Meng Yu glanced at her sister, gathered her courage, and dashed out.

"?"

Chen Fan turned around, giving her a curious look.

"Chen... Chen Fan, this time, I really don't know how to thank you."

Meng Yu blushed.

Chen Fan smiled slightly, "No need to be so polite. If it weren't for your sister telling me about this, I wouldn't have gotten the remaining six Celestial God Fruits. Besides, this is mutual benefit, isn't it?"

"Yes, yes."

Meng Yu nodded repeatedly.

"Go back, your sister needs your care."

After speaking, Chen Fan disappeared instantly.

"?"

Meng Yu looked around blankly.

"Silly girl, he's already gone."

Meng Xue came out of the room, amused.

"Gone, gone?"

Meng Yu shrank her neck in embarrassment.

She thought her eyes were playing tricks on her.

"Yes, for him to take twelve Celestial God Fruits at once, his strength must be formidable. Even if it's not as strong as the A-level Awakened in big cities, it shouldn't be far off." Meng Xue sighed.

"A... A-level Awakened?"

Meng Yu's eyes widened.

It's rumored that A-level Awakened have the power to match Beast King-level fierce beasts.

The number of A-level Awakened in the entire association doesn't exceed a hundred.

Chen Fan, has he reached such a level of strength?

Chapter 365: Where Are Those Who Created Supreme Martial Arts?

There was a time when she still remembered Chen Fan leading the Hunting Team to the Song Family Castle, being targeted by bandits, and finding themselves in a perilous situation.

How long has it been? And now Chen Fan?

"Let's go in and talk."

Meng Xue pulled her arm, leading her back inside and closing the door.

On the table, those six Celestial God Fruits were so eye-catching.

"Sister, are these the Celestial God Fruits? They're so beautiful."

Meng Yu couldn't help but walk over, staring at them.

"Yes, these are Celestial God Fruits."

Meng Xue came over, sat down beside the table, her expression complicated.

"Sister, why do you look unhappy?" Meng Yu blinked in confusion. Awakening with these six Celestial God Fruits not only boosted their strength but also extended their lifespans. Wasn't this a great joy?

"Unhappy?"

Meng Xue came back to her senses, forced a smile, and said, "How could I not be happy to spend more time by your side? It's just that I'm still a bit worried inside."

"Sister, you're worried that after we all move into Anshan City, a Beast Tide will break out, right?"

"Yes."

Meng Xue sighed softly, saying, "Anshan City is on the outermost edge, and calling it a medium-sized city's barrier wouldn't be an exaggeration. The same applies to other medium-sized cities. Only large cities and the three super large cities can be considered safe."

Even if Chen Fan can withstand the first wave of the Beast Tide, other cities might not be able to. At that point, vast tracts of land will fall, and Anshan City could very likely become an isolated island. Its fall would only be a matter of time."

After speaking, she sighed again.

Meng Yu also fell silent.

She could imagine the scene that her sister had described.

But soon, a smile appeared on her face, and she said, "Sister, I think we should have faith in Chen Fan. He's a man of his word. Just like this time, he said he would fetch six Celestial God Fruits, and he did, right?"

Now, he's going to lead everyone to Anshan City. He must have confidence that he can lead everyone to fend off the Fierce Beasts and protect the city."

"You might be right."

Meng Xue smiled.

"See?"

Meng Yu's smile became even brighter.

But Meng Xue sighed inwardly. If only Anshan City's location were more inside, even if it were besieged, it could at least coordinate with the surrounding medium to large cities.

But it was too far out.

"We can only take one step at a time."

She thought to herself.

After leaving, Chen Fan didn't immediately go anywhere else, nor did he sell the Commander-level Fierce Beast Materials in his hand or return to Anshan City for Alchemy. Instead, he turned towards the place where the old man who sold Cultivation Techniques lived.

Nowadays, he almost possessed all Martial Arts below Supreme Martial Arts. Even if the old man had something good, he might not think much of it.

But what if?

What if he had one or two Supreme Martial Arts? That would save him a lot of points.

A hundred or two hundred meters away, he was there in no time.

From a distance, he could hear the strong voice of the other party.

"What? The people in the village are moving into Anshan City?"

"Yes, just now an Awakener from Anshan City came and said our village people could move to Anshan City for free. Brother Chen agreed and told us to pack our things and head to Anshan City tomorrow morning. Grandpa, do you think it's reliable?" a middle-aged woman's voice sounded.

"Reliable? Like hell it is!"

The old man cursed, "Those Awakeners in Anshan City are rotten to the core! To them, people like us mean nothing. Hmm, letting us move to Anshan City for free? It's like a weasel wishing a chicken a Happy New Year, no good intentions!"

"Really?"

The middle-aged woman exclaimed in terror, "Then, what should we do? Brother Chen has already said we're leaving tomorrow morning."

"Unbelievable!"

The old man said with pain and regret, "That Chen Guodong, he's still too young. With just a few words from someone, he fell for it. Did he even think for a moment? If there were really such good things, could it fall to him?"

"Yes, I think so too. Grandpa, you have a good relationship with Brother Chen. Could you talk to Brother Chen and persuade him to change his mind?"

"I, I..."

The old man stammered, "I may have a good relationship with that Chen kid, but that doesn't mean I get along with his father."

"Then what?"

The middle-aged woman half-opened her lips, not knowing what to say.

"Ahem."

At that moment, a cough sounded.

"Brother Chen!"

The middle-aged woman immediately widened her eyes.

Another younger woman also stood up from her chair in fear, not knowing where to put her hands and feet.

"Brother Chen?"

The old man's face immediately showed an ingratiating smile, "Why are you here? And without a prior notice."

"You guys go out first."

Chen Fan glanced at the two women.

"Yes."

The two looked at each other as if wanting to say something but obediently left.

Chen Fan looked with interest at the old man's now plump face and sat down heavily on a chair, saying, "You seem to be doing quite well recently, gaining some weight."

"That's because of your good fortune, Brother Chen."

The old man smiled obsequiously.

These past days, he lay in bed without needing to work, having meals served to him, and living a life of ease, almost forgetting about Chen Fan.

Chapter 366: Where Are the People Who Created the Supreme Martial Arts? (Subscribe Please)_2

Now the latter suddenly appeared in front of him...

"Alright, enough with the nonsense. The reason I came to find you today, what is it?" Chen Fan got straight to the point.

"I know, I know."

The old man bobbed his head like a pecking chicken. "I've already prepared for you, young man. It's in the cabinet beside you. Open it and you'll see."

"Really?"

Chen Fan stood up, walked over, and opened the cabinet.

"In the first drawer."

Chen Fan pulled out the first drawer and saw three secret manuals neatly placed inside.

"Young man, these three are the real deal. I saved them just for you. Take a look, are you satisfied?"

The old man said with a smile.

One of these three, the [Nine Yang Divine Skill], was something he considered his greatest treasure.

Though it wasn't complete, but then again, could he come up with a complete one?

Chen Fan's eyes swept over them, and in less than a second, he put the three books back.

The old man was shocked, his voice trembling: "Y-young man, are you unsatisfied or do you think these three are fake? Heaven knows, I wouldn't dare deceive you even if I had the guts of a bear and the heart of a leopard!"

"They are not fake."

Chen Fan said.

"Indeed."

The old man breathed a sigh of relief. "These three are my treasures. I only took them out for you, young man. Anyone else, and they could dream of it!"

"Unfortunately, I already have them."

"What?"

The old man was stunned upon hearing this.

"Young man, you mean to say you already have these three?"

"Yes."

Chen Fan nodded.

"This, this..."

The old man looked embarrassed.

He thought about offering a trade, but felt it would be too much of a loss.

"Do you have any supreme martial arts?"

Chen Fan asked, "Something more formidable than the Nine Yang Divine Skill?"

"More formidable than the Nine Yang Divine Skill?"

The old man widened his eyes, full of disbelief.

"It seems you don't have such a thing."

Seeing this, Chen Fan shook his head.

He wasn't very disappointed, since he hadn't set his expectations high when he came.

"Alright, that's it then. Take good care of your wounds."

Turning around, Chen Fan suddenly thought of something and said, "When I was outside, I heard you mention the Awakener in Anshan City having bad intentions. Actually, that's not the case. It's best you leave with the group early tomorrow. But if you wish to stay, you can, though the ones who stay may not treat you as well."

"I'll leave with the group."

The old man raised his hand in haste.

"You really are something."

Chen Fan looked at him helplessly.

"Young man, w-wait a moment."

Seeing Chen Fan about to leave, the old man hurriedly spoke up.

"What, did you suddenly remember you have a supreme martial art in your hand?" Chen Fan turned around, squinting his eyes.

"Young man, I really don't have a supreme martial art."

The old man gave a bitter smile.

"The best I have now is that Nine Yang Divine Skill, but you don't like it. I don't have any supreme techniques, but I know a place that might have what you're looking for."

"Oh?"

Chen Fan's interest was piqued, and he turned around completely. "Where?"

"Qingfeng Mountain."

The old man uttered three words.

"Qingfeng Mountain?"

Chen Fan frowned, he had no impression of it.

"Yes, Qingfeng Mountain, but it wasn't called that ten years ago. It was a name from hundreds of years ago, no one knows what it's called now."

"Hmm?"

Chen Fan pretended to be angry, "Are you messing with me? You don't even know where it is, and you want me to go?"

"Young man, don't rush, let me finish." The old man hastily waved his hand. "I don't completely know either, but I know a little. That place is within the current Tianshan Mountain Range."

"Tianshan Mountain Range."

Chen Fan smiled. "Do you know how long the Tianshan Mountain Range is and how many peaks it has?"

"I, I know. But young man, that's really all I know, and this information I found in my ancestral books."

The old man sighed. "I remember you asking me before where these secret manuals came from, right?"

"Oh?"

Hearing this, Chen Fan was immediately intrigued. "Are you willing to tell me now, or are you going to make up another lie?"

"Young man, do I seem like that kind of person?"

The old man coughed a few times to hide his embarrassment.

"Young man, stop teasing me."

Actually, until today, he never intended to reveal this matter.

But Chen Fan's disdain for the items he presented filled him with a strong sense of crisis.

He knew he could live this god-like life because of Chen Fan.

If he lost value in Chen Fan's eyes, what awaited him next was anyone's guess.

So, he had to prove his worth.

"Alright, continue."

Chen Fan sat back down.

"Alright."

The old man let out a long breath. "Actually, this matter goes back hundreds of years. My great-grandfather's great-grandfather..."

"Get to the point."

"Yes, yes. An ancestor of mine once went hunting in the mountains and stumbled into a cave. Inside the cave was a narrow path leading deeper inside. Curious, my ancestor followed it and after some distance, found a place filled with ruined palaces. It was desolate, seemingly abandoned for a long time."

"My ancestor, bold as he was, gripped his knife tight and ventured into one of the palaces. It was in shambles and empty. Braving the situation, he looked around other places, finding the same scene until he arrived at a great hall and saw a plaque on the ground with the words 'Divine Martial Sect'."

"Divine Martial Sect?"

Chen Fan slightly frowned, "So, the place your ancestor discovered was an ancient sect named Divine Martial Sect?"

"Young man, you're truly clever."

The old man gave a thumbs-up. "My ancestor thought the same. Although he was petrified, he also realized this might be an opportunity. He searched everywhere, drinking from his gourd when thirsty, eating his dried food when hungry. Meticulous searching finally led him to a place called the Scripture Pavilion where he found many secret manuals."

"Sadly, due to the passage of time, by the time it reached my generation, seven or eight out of ten manuals were lost. Even the remaining ones are mostly incomplete."

Saying this, the old man looked at Chen Fan pitifully as if saying he would give him complete manuals if he had any.

"Really, and then?" Chen Fan asked curiously.

He had long been curious about the origins of these martial arts.

After all, these skills weren't innate. They were created by someone. Who created them? Where did those creators go?

Did they all die?

What about those who created supreme techniques?

For example, the Sacred Heart Technique, the Chaotic Heaven Treasure Mirror, the Divine Demon Body Technique. Even if those creators eventually met their ends, living for hundreds or thousands of years shouldn't be impossible, right?

Where did those people go?

"And then..."

Chapter 367: More Powerful than Supreme Martial Arts

The old man showed a hint of envy on his face.

"Later, my ancestor also found some good things from other palaces, such as elixirs."

"Of course, he didn't dare to take them immediately upon getting his hands on them. In case any of them were poisoned, the consequences would be unimaginable. So, he first gave half an elixir to the family's pet dog. After confirming it was non-toxic, he took it himself."

"While taking the elixirs, he practiced the martial arts recorded in the books. Not many years passed before a top expert emerged in the martial world. For the next two generations, thanks to my ancestor's cultivation and their extraordinary talents, our family gained increasing fame, even alarming the ruling emperor."

"What a pity."

The old man sighed deeply. "No family can prosper forever. Even the strongest dynasty will decline. In less than three hundred years, the family founded by my ancestor fell apart. Nearly ninety percent of the clan members perished in the ensuing chaos. The survivors went into hiding, living low-profile lives."

"In a flash, centuries passed. Despite the devastating calamity that befell our family, the important things were carried away and hidden, in hopes that future generations could revive the family using those martial arts secrets. Unfortunately,"

the old man smiled bitterly. "Unfortunately, each generation was weaker than the last, and the family dwindled until now, where I am the only one left."

Chen Fan nodded.

Had it been anyone else, he might have consoled them with a few words.

But this old man... he let it be.

Besides, his ancestors once dominated the martial world. What was there to be unsatisfied about?

He then asked, "Logically, during your family's golden age, the cultivation techniques they practiced should have been the ones brought from the Divine Martial Sect, right? These techniques should be authentic. How is it that each generation grew weaker? In several hundred years, were there no outstanding individuals among your ancestors?"

"Well, it's quite complicated."

The old man frowned, his face showing a look of reminiscence.

"After the family's decline, my ancestors were all determined to seek revenge. Unfortunately, their talents were mediocre. Even their children were average, and it was an arduous task for them to reach the Small City Realm with those powerful martial arts. Reviving the family's glory was out of the question.

Another hundred years passed. At one point, a genius appeared in the family. Before adulthood, he had already surpassed all the elders in the family, leading to a period of prosperity. Of course, this prosperity was limited to a single city and far from alarming the dynasty.

Regrettably, even that ancestor's martial cultivation was mediocre, only slightly better than the ancestors from a hundred years prior. The frustration in his heart can be imagined. But he made a discovery. At the time, I didn't take it seriously until now, after experiencing ten years of apocalypse and seeing you before me, I suddenly recalled it."

"Oh? What did he discover?"

Chen Fan asked curiously.

"He discovered that not only he, but even the descendants of other prominent families had severely declined in strength. Hundreds of years ago, the strongest in the world could cut rivers with a sword or shatter mountains with a palm strike. By his time, the strongest could only split palaces with a sword or break boulders with a palm."

Chen Fan's pupils contracted sharply.

"And then?"

"After that, the decline continued. Being able to leap across roofs and walls became a mark of a top expert. In recent hundred years, even those experts became scarce. Most self-proclaimed Qi Gong masters were frauds."

"That's precisely why my grandfather and his grandfather treated these inherited secret manuals as worthless papers and burned most of them for warmth. Of the remaining manuals, most are incomplete versions.

When I was young, I, too, harbored a martial arts dream and tried practicing those martial arts many times, all to no avail. This convinced me that they were all fakes."

Chen Fan nodded. "Indeed, it can be cultivated. But since you don't have True Qi within you and your realm is too low, possessing these manuals is pointless."

"I see."

The old man looked relieved. "No wonder I recognized every character in those manuals but got no results from following them. If I start practicing now, would I have a chance to cultivate True Qi?"

Chen Fan looked into his eyes and shook his head.

"..."

The old man sighed deeply and muttered to himself, "Had I practiced more diligently in my youth, perhaps I might have formed True Qi long ago."

"Doubtful."

Chen Fan glanced at him.

"?"

Angry and excited, the old man retorted, "Young man, I know you're formidable, but you don't have to look down on me. Even if I'm less talented, if others can cultivate True Qi in ten or twenty years, surely I can in double that time."

"You misunderstood me."

Chen Fan stood up, walked to the bedside, and looked at the sky. "If not for the worldly change ten years ago, you could have practiced to death, yet True Qi would never form within you."

"What!"

The old man's eyes widened.

Suddenly, realizing something, he asked, "Young man, are you saying True Qi is related to the event ten years ago?"

"It should be." Chen Fan said. "Uncle Zhang told me, ten years ago, even the great experts could only cultivate up to Ming Jin. There were few Dark Power martial artists, let alone Transforming Force.

But now, not only Transforming Force but even Celestial Realm Martial Artists exist."

"Celestial Human Realm? What's that?" the old man asked instinctively.

"Nothing." Chen Fan glanced at him.

"Cough cough." The old man coughed awkwardly, knowing Chen Fan deliberately withheld the information, finding him annoying.

"Actually, your family's rise and fall illustrate it well," Chen Fan murmured. "Your ancestor who revived the family and could split rivers with a sword must have been at least Celestial Human Realm, or even beyond. The subsequent strongest could only break boulders, probably True Essence Realm,

Later, those who could leap over roofs and walls were likely Meridian Refining Realm or Entry Force Martial Artists. In recent hundred years, even Entry Force Martial Artists were rare. Most martial artists were at the Muscle Refining Realm."

"Yes, that's right."

The old man nodded repeatedly.

"As for the Divine Martial Sect your ancestor discovered, it was likely more powerful than the Celestial Human Realm, even beyond it. But,"

Chen Fan frowned, "How could such a powerful sect be abandoned? Where did its people go? What exactly happened?"

"Indeed."

The old man pondered.

Chen Fan locked his brows.

He had a suspicion: Could a similar worldly change have occurred centuries, if not millennia ago?

After the change, with the revival of Spiritual Qi, humans, beasts, even plants broke their limits.

Thus, strong individuals capable of splitting rivers emerged.

But over time, the limits of martial artists gradually lowered.

Until ten years ago...

"Heavenly Calamity!"

The old man suddenly shouted.

"What did you say, Heavenly Calamity?"

Chen Fan looked at him in confusion.

The old man was stunned, face full of confusion, seemingly unaware of why he spoke those words.

Seeing Chen Fan fixated on him, the old man smiled bitterly, "Young man, I don't know why I said that. I vaguely remember seeing those words, possibly in an ancestor's last words, and blurted them out."

Chen Fan watched him for a moment, then slowly looked away.

He could tell the old man wasn't lying.

Heavenly Calamity?

The term matched the current situation.

Did the Divine Martial Sect, such a powerful existence, perish in the calamity? The ruins may have existed for over a millennium and were only discovered centuries ago.

The martial arts passed down now were likely their creation. After all this time, they must have long turned to dust, lost in history's river.

"If possible, it would be worth visiting. Perhaps there are secrets stronger than Supreme Martial Arts." Chen Fan thought, sighing silently.

Even the creators of Supreme Martial Arts couldn't resist time. Would he also face such an end?

"Is it too early to lament this?" he chuckled bitterly. Instead of worrying about that, he should worry about whether Anshan City could withstand the fifth beast tide.

"Anyway, the information you've provided is valuable."

Chen Fan turned to the old man and nodded slightly, "Tianshan Mountain Range, right? I'll visit if I have the chance."

"Good, good," the old man beamed, "If I can be of help, that's wonderful. If there's anything else you want to know, just ask. I'll tell you everything I know."

Chapter 368: 450,000 Points!

After bidding farewell to the old man, Chen Fan walked back home.

Moments later, he shook his head.

Things from hundreds or even thousands of years ago are too distant. Even if there are some similarities with the current situation, it's not something that can be figured out overnight.

"Maybe the upper echelons of Yan Country or those top-level Awakened know some insider information," Chen Fan thought.

The Awakened Association has a lot of martial arts secret manuals, including supreme martial arts. It's even possible that there are martial arts more powerful than supreme martial arts in the store, but they're just not unlocked because he hasn't accumulated enough points yet.

"It's about time to find a place to sell these Fierce Beast materials," he muttered.

The materials of dozens of elite-level Fierce Beasts are worth a lot. The most ordinary elite-level Fierce Beast materials start at a thousand points. The Frenzied Bull, being relatively high-level, is worth at least two or three thousand points per beast, while the top-level ones could fetch five or six thousand.

The prices for commander-level Fierce Beasts are even higher, starting at ten thousand points.

Right now, he has the materials of four commander-level Fierce Beasts: one Furious Barbaric Bull King, which is an ordinary commander level, and two Strong Demon Apes, which are also ordinary commander-level. If each ordinary commander-level is worth ten thousand points, the three together are worth thirty thousand points.

Additionally, there's one high-level commander-level Strong Demon Ape, worth at least twenty to thirty thousand points.

In total, he could exchange them for at least 150,000 points.

That would break his previous record of a little over 50,000 points.

If he were to sell the six Celestial God Fruits he has, each worth 50,000 points, the six would be worth 300,000 points, bringing his total to a staggering 450,000 points.

Of course, he wouldn't do that.

Using such valuable items that can enhance Spiritual Power to exchange for points wouldn't be wise. He'd only consider it if the Celestial God Fruit lost its effect after overconsumption.

While thinking, he had already walked to his doorstep.

Seeing him, his mother and brother, who were in the middle of packing, were overjoyed.

Chen Guodong, having met him before, wasn't too emotional but wore a broad smile.

"Xiaofan, are we safe moving into Anshan City?" his mother Yin Fang asked nervously.

Although she hadn't lived here long, she had already come to see this place as home.

Leaving tomorrow morning felt so sudden.

"Mom, don't worry," Chen Fan comforted her gently. "With me in Anshan City, no one will be able to harm you."

"See, Xiaofan said it himself, what's there to worry about," Chen Guodong said with a smile. "Don't be reluctant to leave here. Anshan City's conditions are far better than here."

"Yes, there's no comparison between this place and Anshan City," Yin Fang nodded. She knew very well that in every aspect, Anshan City surpassed Chen Family Fortress.

She just felt a bit reluctant to leave this place.

There was still time, so Chen Fan didn't rush upstairs. Instead, he helped his family pack, enjoying the rare leisurely moment.

About half an hour later, he went upstairs quietly.

He placed six Celestial God Fruits in front of him.

"I wonder what the effect will be," he murmured, picking up a Celestial God Fruit and taking a bite.

A refreshing fragrance filled his mouth, with a hint of sweetness, somewhat resembling dragon fruit.

As soon as he swallowed, a prompt appeared in his mind.

[Consumed Celestial God Fruit, Spiritual Power increased by 1000 points]

Chen Fan glanced at the prompt and then at the Celestial God Fruit, now with a small bite taken out, still about nine-tenths left.

This meant that consuming the entire Celestial God Fruit would boost his Spiritual Power by 10,000 points.

"No wonder so many people want it, even commander-level Fierce Beasts are after it," Chen Fan nodded.

Taking a look at his stats, even now, his Spiritual Power was around 270,000. A single Celestial God Fruit provided a straight 10,000 points boost.

And that was just one; what if he consumed six?

If he further enhances his body afterward, the increase would be even more terrifying.

However, this also gave him a warning. The first time he consumed a Celestial God Fruit, it resulted in a 10,000 points increase in Spiritual Power, a significant effect. Yet, it didn't attract many A-level Awakened. On one hand, they might be unaware of it. On the other hand, even if they knew, they might not care.

Perhaps their Spiritual Power already ranged from tens of thousands to even hundreds of thousands.

"With these points from the exchange, let's see if I can unlock the Sun Observation Technique. If not, I'll buy the magic technique for enhancing Spiritual Power first," Chen Fan thought.

As the advanced technique of the Moon Observation Technique, the Sun Observation Technique's effectiveness in boosting Spiritual Power shouldn't be any less.

Moreover, it would also reduce the experience points needed to improve the technique, killing two birds with one stone.

Quickly, he finished eating the entire Celestial God Fruit.

His Spiritual Power increased from almost 270,000 to over 280,000 points.

"I wonder about the effect of the second Celestial God Fruit," Chen Fan murmured as he picked up the second Celestial God Fruit and took a bite.

After swallowing, another prompt appeared.

[Consumed Celestial God Fruit, Spiritual Power increased by 800 points]

"Still acceptable?" Chen Fan was a bit elated.

The Celestial God Fruit, like other Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures in the association, had a diminishing marginal effect. The first one had the most substantial effect, and the effect would lessen with each subsequent one.

But from this instance, the effect didn't seem as diminished as he had expected, retaining about eighty percent of its potency.

Chapter 369: 450,000 Points! _2

He quickly ate the second Celestial God Fruit, and his Spiritual Power increased by another 8,000 points.

"The third one."

Chen Fan took a bite with some anticipation.

This time, the experience points only increased by 600, a reduction of 200 points.

"If it continues like this, the fourth one will only add 400 points, the fifth 200, and the sixth... zero? No, no."

He shook his head. It shouldn't be zero; even if it's less effective, there should always be some effect.

Come to think of it, even if a single bite only adds 200 points of Spiritual Power, one fruit would still increase it by 2,000 points. What more could one ask for?

Quickly, the third Celestial God Fruit was consumed.

The fourth one.

As expected, consuming a tenth of it only provided a 400-point increase in Spiritual Power, so the entire fruit provided 4,000 points.

The fifth fruit provided 2,000 points of Spiritual Power.

Together, the total was exactly 30,000 points of Spiritual Power.

Based on the original 270,000 points of Spiritual Power, this was an increase of one-ninth, comparable to the effect of an enhancement session.

"There is only one last one left."

Chen Fan picked up the sixth Celestial God Fruit. After hesitating for a moment, he took a bite.

After all, such a valuable item is best used on oneself.

Additionally, he wanted to see the effect of the sixth fruit after consuming five.

[Consumed Celestial God Fruit, Spiritual Power increased by 100 points.]

A line of information appeared in his mind.

"A hundred points."

Chen Fan nodded, thinking that it was slightly more than he had expected.

If he consumed the entire fruit, it would be a thousand points of Spiritual Power.

He glanced at the panel. Counting this thousand points, he could finally break through the 30,000 Spiritual Power mark.

"If I continue consuming Celestial God Fruits, the increment would probably halve again, so a whole fruit might only increase my Spiritual Power by 500 points, which is too little."

Chen Fan shook his head,

a few days later, once the Emperor's Qi Observation Skill unlocks, if he finds more Celestial God Fruits, he might sell them to the association or give them to his family and friends depending on the situation.

In the blink of an eye, all six Celestial God Fruits were consumed.

Chen Fan licked his lips. Honestly, the taste was quite good.

He wondered how much Meng Xue's Spiritual Power would increase with these six fruits—30,000 points should be a sure thing.

"It's still early until tomorrow. I shouldn't waste time. Let's find a large city, hand over the Fierce Beast materials to the Awakened Association, and then go back to continue refining alchemy."

Chen Fan stood up.

Now is not the time to let down his guard.

As for choosing a large city, it was quite simple.

For someone like Li Ping, who has some reputation among the Awakened in a small city like Anshan City, it wouldn't matter in a medium to large city.

In large cities, there are plenty of A-level Awakened individuals, let alone B-level Awakened ones. A few Commander-level Fierce Beast materials wouldn't be that sensational.

...

Outside the gate of Anshan City, the entire area was filled with people.

Men, women, and even the elderly and children were carrying large bags, pots, and pans.

Even with so many people, the scene was unusually quiet.

No one dared to speak loudly, and even whispered conversations were cautious.

"Everyone, form a line and follow the person in front of you. Don't look around, or only heaven knows what might happen." An Awakener sneered at the city gate.

Yesterday, people from two villages outside the city moved into Anshan City.

The original residents inside the city were not happy about it at all.

They were just too afraid to express their anger.

Now, even those in small villages outside the city could move in. It was clear what the people would think about it.

Even though the association had ordered multiple times not to cause any trouble,

if these outsiders really got separated, the consequences would be obvious.

Everyone nodded repeatedly, feeling nervous yet expectant inside.

Could Chairman Li really allow them to live in Anshan City for free?

Judging by the current situation, it seemed possible.

What if, what if they really could move in?

Not far away, two or three figures slowly approached.

One of them pointed to Anshan City and said, "Brother Li, the city ahead is Anshan City."

"Mm."

Leading them was Li Yan, who had been sent to investigate by the Jiulong City Lord.

Their attire was ordinary, blending in with the refugees queuing at the city gate.

"Let's go, check the situation. Remember, unless absolutely necessary, don't reveal our strength."

"Understood."

The other two answered in unison.

The three continued forward.

As they passed by two camps outside the city, they noticed something unusual.

"There don't seem to be many people in these two camps."

The man on the left spoke with a puzzled tone.

"Indeed, hardly anyone here."

The other person looked around and muttered, "What's going on? How could there be no one here?"

Li Yan also felt puzzled inside.

He looked towards the city gate, where a large number of people were standing—no more than a thousand in total, though.

The two camps nearby could hold a few thousand, maybe even up to twenty thousand.

Where had all these people gone? Could something have happened to them?

At that moment, a person walked out of one of the houses, carrying a large bag.

Li Yan and his companions exchanged glances.

"Brother Li, I'll go and ask what's going on," the man on the left said.

As the man with the bag stepped out of the camp gate, he approached him.

"Hey, brother."

The man with the bag immediately looked wary and instinctively clutched his bag tighter. "What, what do you want? I'm warning you, this is Anshan City. There are Awakened individuals nearby. If you cause trouble, you won't get away with it."

A look of disdain flashed in Zuo Hong's eyes. Anshan City's Awakened? Even if all of them came, he wouldn't be afraid.

But outwardly, he feigned fear and quickly waved his hands. "Brother, you misunderstand. We're not here to cause trouble. We just wanted to ask you about the situation here."

The man looked annoyed and said, "I'm busy. Don't bother me."

He walked past Zuo Hong towards the city gate.

Zuo Hong's face turned dark. Damn it, an ant showing attitude? He must be tired of living!

If it wasn't for fear of alerting others, he would have punched this guy to death right here.

Another Awakener walked up with a smile, precisely blocking his path.

The man instantly became angry. "What do you mean by this? Do you want me to call someone to deal with you?"

He had just come to get something he'd forgotten, and now he encountered these three weirdos. What bad luck.

"Relax, friend."

Wu Fei pretended to reach into his coat. When he pulled his hand out, there was a pack of cigarettes.

"What's this?"

The man's eyes lit up, and his Adam's apple moved.

He had forgotten the last time he had a cigarette.

"Answer a few questions for us, and this pack of cigarettes is yours. Don't worry, we're not asking about anything complicated. We're new here and don't know much. We saw you come out and thought to ask. If you help us, great. If not..."

Before Wu Fei could finish, the man eagerly agreed, "No problem, no problem. If it's about Anshan City, I know it all. You've found the right person."

"Oh, really?"

Wu Fei glanced at Li Yan, who nodded in satisfaction.

"You'll keep your word, right?"

The man scrutinized the three of them. "How about you give me a few cigarettes now, and I'll get the rest after I answer your questions?"

Chapter 370: My House is Quite Big

Wu Fei's eyes showed a touch of contempt. The next moment, he directly stuffed the whole pack of cigarettes into the other party's hand.

A mere pack of cigarettes was nothing to him.

Of course, the pack of cigarettes in his hand wasn't something that could easily be bought on the market.

"I"

The man was first stunned, a little unresponsive.

Then, his eyes widened sharply, and his lips on both sides trembled violently.

Did he really just give himself the whole pack of cigarettes? They hadn't even asked a question yet!

"Now, are you willing to answer our questions?" Zuo Fei asked with a smile.

"Willing! Willing!"

The man nodded his head like a pecking chicken, put down the large bundle he was carrying, and looked at the pack of cigarettes in his hands with great affection, swallowing a big mouthful of saliva.

At this moment, a bold idea popped into his mind.

Seeing how generous this person in front of him was, he must be someone who didn't care much about money. If he seized this opportunity and asked for one or two more packs of cigarettes, it shouldn't be a big problem, right?

"There are too many people and eyes here. Let's go inside and find a place to talk."

Li Yan, who had been silent, suddenly spoke.

"Sure, sure!"

The man said enthusiastically: "Let's go to my house. My place is pretty big. Come on, let's go into the city first, and then..."

"Let's talk in here." Li Yan's mouth curved up, "If I'm not mistaken, you probably have a house in this village too, right?"

The man paused, nodded subconsciously, and said: "Yes, but everything inside has been moved out. It's empty, with not even a chair to sit on."

"No problem."

Li Yan smiled: "We're just here to ask you about some things. It won't take long. We can stand."

"Fine!"

The man hesitated for a moment, then readily agreed.

He thought to himself.

Later, he would find an opportunity to see if he could get one or two more packs of cigarettes from them.

The packaging on these cigarettes was unusual, so they must cost at least a few hundred bucks a pack. Even if he didn't smoke, selling them to buy some supplies for his family would be great.

Little did he know, when Li Yan and the other two exchanged glances, a cold gleam flashed in their eyes.

The group entered the village, took a few turns, and stopped in front of a multi-story building.

"It's just on the second floor. We'll be there in no time." The man, walking in front, turned and said with a smile.

"No need. There's no one else here, right? Let's just pick a house. That one will do."

Li Yan pointed to a room on the left.

"Okay, okay."

The man cheerfully walked inside.

As he said, the place was indeed empty, with nothing inside.

"You three can go ahead and ask. I've been in Anshan City for several years; there's nothing I'm unaware of."

"Good."

Li Yan nodded with a smile and said: "That pack of cigarettes just now was just a little gift. If your answers are satisfactory later, I guarantee you'll get more."

"Great, great. Go ahead and ask, big brothers!" The man couldn't wait.

Wu Fei and Zuo Hong stood by, grinning playfully.

Poor guy, he doesn't even know he's about to die.

"Here's the situation: we came from another place and saw the two villages outside Anshan City were empty. What's going on?"

"So that's it?"

The man laughed, "Big brother, you're asking the right person. The people from our village and the next one have all moved into Anshan City."

"What! They moved into the city?"

"Both villages moved in?"

At these words, Wu Fei and Zuo Hong exclaimed in surprise.

Li Yan's face also showed shock.

"Yes."

The man proudly said: "All the people from the two villages moved into Anshan City just yesterday."

"?"

The three exchanged confused glances.

It was common knowledge that cities were for valuable people.

Even the temporary settlements outside the city were unaffordable for ordinary people.

So what was going on in Anshan City, letting all the people outside move in? Were they all Awakeners? Common sense said that was unlikely.

"I bet you three are wondering why we could move into the city?" The man asked with a smile.

"Indeed, very curious," Li Yan smiled and nodded, "So, please, brother, enlighten us."

"Sure, sure."

The man grinned and then sighed, "Even now, it's hard to believe that we, who could only live outside the city with no hope of ever moving in, could so easily move into Anshan City without paying any price."

"No price at all?" Wu Fei's pupils dilated in disbelief, "You didn't spend a dime to move in?"

"Yes."

The man nodded heavily, "None of us spent a single penny but got a house in the city. Not only us, but those people you saw outside, did any of you big brothers notice them?"

Li Yan and the others recalled the more than a thousand people outside the city gate, some dressed in rags, indistinguishable from beggars.

"We saw them. Who are they?"

"They're from the small villages nearby." The man's face showed a hint of disdain.

Just as the city dwellers looked down on those living in the two camps outside, so did those camp dwellers despise the people from the small villages in the wilderness, including Song Family Castle.

"People from the nearby small villages?" Li Yan paused, then realized something, "They're also moving into Anshan City? They too don't need to pay anything?"

"Big brother, you're sharp. Just a few hints, and you got it all." The man gave a thumbs up.

"?"

Li Yan and Wu Fei exchanged glances again, their faces filled with shock.

What was going on in Anshan City? Was anyone randomly allowed to move in?

"Big brothers, you came at the right time."

The man continued, "Later, if you come with me, just register your info, and you'll be residents of Anshan City."

"Is it really that simple?"

Li Yan found it hard to believe.

"Of course, it's that simple. What did you think?"

The man laughed, "We have someone to thank for this."

At those words, the three men's ears perked up, and they asked in unison, "Who?"

The person making such decisions must be quite influential in Anshan City.

But then there was a problem.

The City Lord of Anshan City was long dead. Someone had witnessed it. The Chairman of the Anshan City Awakened Association went missing and had been presumed dead.

So who was making the decisions?

"It's Chairman Li Ping of the Awakened Association."

The man spoke, his eyes filled with deep gratitude.

"Who?"

"The Chairman of the Awakened Association?"

"Li Ping?"

The three exclaimed again.

Wasn't the Chairman of the Anshan City Awakened Association supposed to be surnamed Gao?

"Yes, Chairman Li."

The man nodded repeatedly, "Chairman Li didn't care about the opposition from the people in the city and let us move in. Even those from far-off small villages were brought safely to the city by Awakeners sent by Chairman Li. He truly is a good person!"

"So that's how it is?"

The three realized.

But deep suspicion immediately arose.

First, who was this Li Ping? From what this man said, he was the Chairman of the Anshan City Awakened Association? So did he take over after something happened to the former Chairman?

That could make sense.

But the second question was, why was he doing this?

Letting so many useless people into the city only increased the burden. It was a thankless task, wasn't it?

"What's the matter, big brothers?"

Seeing their puzzled expressions, the man asked curiously, "Did I say something unclear?"

"No, you were very clear."

Li Yan said, "Do you know why Chairman Li is doing this?"

"Huh?"

The man paused, then scratched his head, "Isn't it obvious? Chairman Li has a kind heart and can't bear to see us suffering outside the city, so he let us move in. Actually, the city still has a lot of empty spaces. I heard that, but don't spread this around. I only tell you, big brothers, because I feel we really hit it off."

Li Yan and the other two felt a twinge of anticipation.

"Don't worry, bro. Do we look like gossipers?" Wu Fei smiled.

"No, no."

The man laughed along, then lowered his voice, "I heard that this Chairman Li was newly appointed. The previous Chairman would rather let those vast empty spaces remain unoccupied than allow the poor people, like us, to move in.

Chairman Li is different. As soon as he arrived, he distributed those empty spaces to us. He truly is a great person! May the heavens bless him with a long life."

Hearing this, Li Yan and the other two inwardly sneered.

A great person?

More likely a hypocrite.

Even if he were truly great, so what? It was still disgusting.

"Oh, and we also have to thank Chairman Hua. Without him, Chairman Li wouldn't have come here to take up the Chairman position."

The man suddenly added.