

## Martial Arts 401

Chapter 401: Dragon Elephant Power

"I wonder what new traits will be unlocked next."

Chen Fan pondered silently.

He invested another ten thousand Experience Points, and the Skill Level of Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill increased by a quarter.

This was somewhat surprising to him.

Under normal circumstances, the Experience Points consumed this time should be twice that of the previous time, which is thirty-two thousand points.

But it actually required forty thousand?

"Forget it."

He shook his head. Different cultivation techniques require different amounts of Experience Points, and in any case, he still had nearly three million Experience Points left, so he wasn't worried about maxing it out.

He added the remaining thirty thousand Experience Points.

A familiar warm current flowed through his body, and then it was gone.

"Looks like there's no new trait unlocked this time."

Chen Fan looked at the Skill Bar.

Just as he anticipated.

No new traits appeared.

However, to be safe, he clicked on the Round Ruyi trait and upgraded Blessing Power from Level 1 to Level 2.

He breathed a sigh of relief.

Not unlocking new traits wasn't an issue; this passive trait was already strong enough.

After consuming eighty thousand Experience Points, the Skill Level of Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill increased again.

[Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill: Entering the Hall (0%), Traits: Unbreakable Level 3, Round Ruyi]

Still no new traits.

Chen Fan frowned slightly.

Could it be that only upon reaching the Perfection Realm can the third trait be unlocked?

This time, he invested a full sixteen thousand Experience Points.

A flash of inspiration crossed his mind, clearly indicating a new trait had been unlocked.

Chen Fan was immediately thrilled and quickly looked at the Skill Bar.

[Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill: Great Success (0%), Traits: Unbreakable Level 4, Round Ruyi, Vajra Indestructible Body Level 1]

"Vajra Indestructible Body?"

Chen Fan's breath quickened, and he was somewhat in disbelief.

He was not surprised by this trait; after all, it was the essence of this martial art.

Only, he was a bit surprised that it could be unlocked at the Great Success Realm.

"Vajra Indestructible Body..."

Chen Fan muttered to himself, nervously clicking on it.

[Vajra Indestructible Body: When not activated, it increases defense tenfold, and resistance to poison and the elements of water and fire tenfold. When activated, it consumes one hundred thousand True Qi per second, forming a layer of Golden Armor covering the entire body, simultaneously enhancing defense and resistance a hundredfold, and increasing strength and agility tenfold. Each level up of the skill reduces True Qi consumption by 10% per second]

"My heavens..."

Chen Fan gasped in amazement.

In the unactivated state, it increases defense tenfold?

What does that mean?

Even in his current state, with all his trump cards revealed, his physical defense was only slightly over tenfold.

And this tenfold defense wasn't just referring to physical defense but also tenfold spiritual defense!

The passive effect of Vajra Indestructible Body alone was this powerful.

This doesn't even include the passive effect of enhanced resistance!

With his constitution attribute reaching fifty to sixty thousand points, his resistance to poison was already at a terrifying level, and now this ability increased it tenfold more!

He didn't even dare to contemplate further.

The key is that these two were just the enhancements from the unactivated state of this trait.

When activated, it directly provides hundredfold defense, resistance to poison, and the elements of water and fire, along with tenfold increase in strength and agility!

Chen Fan looked at his attributes— with sixty thousand points in strength, activating Vajra Indestructible Body would push it to six hundred thousand points!

Simply relying on this physical strength without any True Qi was enough to punch through a Commander-level Fierce Beast, right?

However, the True Qi consumption rate of Vajra Indestructible Body was also extremely terrifying.

One hundred thousand True Qi per second.

Even with his current True Essence reaching twenty thousand, equating to two million True Qi, he could only maintain this skill for twenty seconds.

Moreover, there was another slightly unfortunate aspect.

Chen Fan's gaze fell on the last line of the trait description.

Each level up of the skill reduces True Qi consumption by 10% per second.

In other words, levelling up Vajra Indestructible Body does not enhance defense, resistance, or other attributes; it only reduces consumption and prolongs the skill's duration.

"Hundredfold defense is already incredible."

Chen Fan muttered.

It's important to note that the total defensive capability still depends on basic attributes, or rather, basic attributes are the foundation of everything.

The higher the physical and spiritual attributes, the greater the enhancement from Vajra Indestructible Body.

He may not be able to improve the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill further, but he can continue to enhance his basic attributes.

"There's one last skill level remaining. I wonder if it can unlock a fourth trait."

After consuming three hundred and twenty thousand Experience Points, the Skill Level of Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill reached Perfection.

However, to his disappointment, it did not unlock a fourth trait.

[Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill: Perfection (non-upgradable), Traits: Unbreakable Level 5, Round Ruyi, Vajra Indestructible Body Level 2]

Chen Fan nodded in satisfaction; the improvement this martial art brought was still significant.

In total, a fifteen thousand point boost to basic attributes, a 50% damage increase, and a tenfold boost to defense and resistance.

All these didn't even require activation to be effective.

Once activated, it grants hundredfold physical and spiritual dual defense, equating to the defensive effect of five million points in constitution attribute. Even a Commander-level Fierce Beast's full-strength strike would feel like a scratch, and it could probably withstand a full-strength strike from a Beast King-level Fierce Beast.

Additionally, this martial art does not fear Acupoint Cutting or martial arts that absorb power, nor does it have any Cultivation Gate, making it almost perfect.

In a fight against someone who activated Vajra Indestructible Body, one either overpowers the opponent in combat strength or waits for their transformation duration to expire; otherwise, defeat is inevitable.

"No wonder it's called Supreme Martial Arts. Even mastering just this one is enough to dominate Yan Country."

Chen Fan sighed.

His anticipation for mastering the next Supreme Martial Art grew stronger.

[Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill: Completely Ignorant (0%)]

This martial art has thirteen levels in total.

With every level trained, it adds the Power of One Dragon and One Elephant. By the tenth level, one acquires the Power of Thirteen Dragons and Thirteen Elephants!

Considering the Power of One Elephant as twelve thousand five hundred pounds, the Power of Thirteen Elephants is one hundred sixty-two thousand five hundred pounds, the Power of One Dragon being one hundred twenty-five thousand pounds, and the Power of Thirteen Dragons being one million six hundred twenty-five thousand pounds, it totals one million seven hundred eighty-seven thousand five hundred pounds!

Converting this into strength attribute, it's nearly one hundred eighty thousand points!

This is three times Chen Fan's current strength attribute!

In other words, merely mastering this martial art would boost his strength attribute several times over!

Such a boost is unparalleled by any previous martial arts, even among the Supreme Martial Arts.

Of course, nothing is perfect; such a significant boost to the strength attribute also has its shortcomings.

Difficulty!

According to the description, the first level alone was enough to block ninety percent of people.

If a person with extraordinary talent successfully trains the first level, training the second level would require double the time, with each subsequent level being twice as difficult as the previous one, all the way to the thirteenth level.

To give an example, if someone could train the first level in one year, they would need two years for the second level, four years for the third level, eight years for the fourth level, sixteen years for the fifth level, and thirty-two years for the sixth level—by then, they've only reached half of the thirteen levels.

Beyond this point, training the seventh level would take sixty-four years, the eighth level, an entire hundred twenty-eight years. To train the thirteenth level, one would need over a thousand years!

What concept is this? An ordinary person's lifespan barely surpasses a century; even for a True Essence Martial Artist, it's only two to three hundred years.

Therefore, the difficulty essentially dooms it to be untrainable unless an extremely rare prodigy, appearing once in ten thousand, even a hundred thousand years, could master the first level in a month or even a few days, thus making it more likely to reach the thirteenth level.

"Fortunately, I don't need that much time."

A smile appeared on Chen Fan's lips.

He glanced at his Experience Points, still approximately two million four hundred thousand left. It should be enough to max out this martial art.

Even if not, it would be sufficient.

Chen Fan invested ten thousand Experience Points.

Instantly, a surge of power coursed through his body, strength increasing.

"So fast?"

Chen Fan was a bit startled and looked at it.

[Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill: First Level (12.5%), Trait: Dragon Elephant Power Level 1]

[Dragon Elephant Power: Each level up enhances strength attribute by thirteen thousand seven hundred fifty points]

"No wonder, the first level only required ten thousand Experience Points."

Chen Fan realized, then took a deep breath.

This should be just the beginning.

He spent another ten thousand Experience Points, and Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill reached the second level.

The increased strength attribute reached over twenty thousand points.

The third level.

The fourth level.

The fifth level.

The Experience Points on the panel rapidly depleted.

The sixth level consumed over two hundred fifty thousand Experience Points.

[Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill: Sixth Level (12.5%), Trait: Dragon Elephant Power Level 6]

Level 6 Dragon Elephant Power enhanced strength attribute by eighty-two thousand five hundred points, directly doubling it.

"To reach the seventh level, it requires six hundred forty thousand Experience Points; even with Moon Observation Technique's 20% Experience Points reduction, it still needs five hundred thousand. The eighth level would need a million, and the ninth level, two million!"

Chen Fan glanced at the remaining Experience Points, which were still around two million.

But at this rate, even the ninth level wouldn't be achievable.

The key point is, the Experience Points consumed continue to double, but the enhancements remain the same, meaning the cost-effectiveness is reduced.

This inevitably felt a little unfair.

Chen Fan pondered seriously for a moment, then changed his initial plan.

Improving the levels of Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill could be temporarily set aside.

Chapter 402: I've Already Let You Go

This two million experience points might be better used on the Sun Observation Technique, mainly for three reasons.

One reason is that the improvement in the Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill is already quite good.

Before cultivating the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill, his strength attribute was only 65,200.

With the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill perfected, the strength attribute increased to 70,200 points.

And after mastering the sixth floor of the Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill, the strength attribute increased another 80,000 points, totaling 150,000 points.

It seems just that way, but what if the Vajra Indestructible Body is activated and he gets ten times power amplification?

The power would rival that of average Beast King-level Fierce Beasts.

Further improvement of the Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill still offers substantial augmentation, but it requires an immense amount of experience points.

This is the second reason, and the most important one.

The eighth floor alone requires a million experience points.

The ninth floor, two million experience points.

The tenth floor needs four million; even with a 20% experience points reduction, it requires 3.2 million points. He must slaughter a city of Fierce Beasts to raise one floor.

Don't forget, there are still three more floors after the tenth.

Following this trend, the eleventh floor would require eight million experience points, the twelfth floor sixteen million, and the final floor thirty-two million!

So many experience points could be used to learn numerous other supreme martial arts.

Just thinking about it makes Chen Fan feel pain.

Since that's the case, it's better to spend the two million experience points on the Sun Observation Technique first to enhance spiritual power.

If luck is on his side, it might unlock traits reduction just like when learning the Moon Observation Technique.

Then he could go back and improve the Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill, saving a lot of experience points.

"Let's cultivate the Sun Observation Technique then."

Chen Fan nodded.

As the only supreme martial art he currently has, he also wants to see how much experience points are needed to cultivate it to perfection.

But before that, he has one more thing to do.

Moments later, the Golden Bell Shield reached the twelfth floor.

Although the traits are quite good, they are still not comparable to the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill.

"Detected the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill is perfected, the Golden Bell Shield reached twelfth floor, can supplement Undying Golden Body."

"Time required, ten days, supplement now?"

At that moment, a few messages appeared in his mind.

Chen Fan's face showed joy.

The reason he prioritized purchasing the Undying Golden Body was indeed for this moment.

No more hesitating, of course he chose yes.

"Undying Golden Body supplement in progress, countdown ten days..."

Chen Fan looked at the Sun Observation Technique.

As usual, he tested the waters and added ten thousand experience points.

The proficiency of the Sun Observation Technique rose a little over a tenth.

"Just for getting started, it requires ten thousand experience points?"

Chen Fan mumbled, seeing it this way, cultivating it to the perfection realm would require at least over a million experience points.

Not sure if the remaining two million experience points can improve this martial art to perfection.

After adding the remaining seventy thousand experience points, Chen Fan felt a sense of swelling in his mind, perceiving the movements of the wind and grass more clearly.

[Sun Observation Technique: Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Divine Comprehension Level 1, Meditation Level 1, Peace Level 1]

Three traits were unlocked.

Chen Fan clicked each one.

[Divine Comprehension: Each skill level increases spiritual power by one and a half times]

[Meditation: Active skill, upon activation, enters meditation state, restoring 15% spiritual power per hour, skill level increases spiritual power recovery speed by 15%]

[Peace: Each skill level reduces all spiritual power consumption by 6%]

"These three traits..."

Chen Fan touched his chin, they indeed have a similar effect to the Moon Observation Technique?

The difference is that the traits of the Sun Observation Technique are more powerful.

Moreover, the appearance of the Peace trait to save spiritual power came early.

Although it's just a little early, if it reaches perfection realm, it can save 30% of spiritual power consumption.

Whereas the saving trait of the Moon Observation Technique, even at perfection, only saves 20%.

"Continue."

This time Chen Fan added 160,000 experience points, and the spiritual power surged again!

Simultaneously, a peculiar sensation rose in his heart.

"Could it be?"

Chen Fan was a bit excited, hurriedly looked at it,

[Sun Observation Technique: Slight Achievement (0%), Traits: Divine Comprehension Level 2, Meditation Level 2, Peace Level 2, Warmth Level 1]

[Warmth: Attacks carry slight light attribute damage, doubles resistance against Dark Element, skill level doubles the effects of all traits]

"Carries light attribute damage?"

It's the first time Chen Fan has seen such a trait.

But it's easy to understand, like True Qi, some people have attributeless True Qi, some have Frost True Qi.

The sun is the most vigorous and yang object, exposing oneself to it over a long period would naturally influence one, and attacks carrying light attribute makes sense.

Also, the martial art description says that upon reaching the perfection realm, even a glance would have the same deterrent effect as the blazing sun.

Warmth is just the beginning.

"Too bad, it's not reducing experience points consumption."

Chen Fan sighed and chose to continue adding points.

Consumed 320,000 experience points.

The Sun Observation Technique raised from the Small Success realm to Entering the Hall, but no new traits were unlocked.

Chen Fan took a deep breath.

Is there really no trait to reduce experience points?

Couldn't be, right?

This time, he consumed 640,000 experience points!

Adding the previous three consumptions, the remaining experience points are now less than 1 million.

At that moment, a flash of insight came to his mind.

[Sun Observation Technique: Great Success (0%), Traits: Divine Comprehension Level 4, Meditation Level 4, Peace Level 4, Warmth Level 2, Inference Level 1]

"It's here!"

Chen Fan's eyes brightened, eagerly clicked to check.

[Inference: Skill reduces the experience points needed to raise skill proficiency by 20% per level, the trait is unique and cannot stack with similar traits]

"Cannot stack with similar traits?"

Chen Fan's heart sank.

Does this mean the Inference's effect conflicts with the Moon Observation Technique's trait, Similar Understanding?

"Let's give it a try."

His gaze fell upon the Sun Observation Technique, added ten thousand experience points.

The proficiency increased by about seven thousandths.

Clearly, the two traits cannot stack. If they could stack, a 40% reduction of experience points would make the proficiency rate rise over 1%.

"What a pity."

Chen Fan smiled bitterly.

Of course, how could there be such a good thing?

If they could stack, with the Sun Observation Technique perfected, two levels of Inference, plus two levels of Similar Understanding, the reduction ratio could reach a staggering 60%!

That's too terrifying.

Fortunately, not stacking, the maximum reduction is 40%, still doubled from before.

"Just lacking a bit more."

Chen Fan looked at the remaining experience points.

Then lifted his head, gazing towards Anshan City.

It's time to return and face the people of Jiulong City.

Most likely, the City Lord of Jiulong City has come as well, at the Awakened Association, waiting.

"Sigh,"

Thinking of this, he sighed, "Clearly I've already spared you, why insist on seeking death?"

...

Anshan City, Awakened Association.

There were quite a few people in the hall.

Awakeners who had come back from outside recently. They entered chatting and laughing, but soon after, stood aside, scared to make a sound.

No one knew what was happening, nor dared to ask.

Even Chairman Hua stood like a lamb to be slaughtered; it's best they behave wisely.

"Brother Li, it's only ten minutes left until the agreed time, that guy wouldn't be toying with us, right?"

Zuo Hong took out his phone, checked, and spoke coldly.

"He wouldn't dare!"

Wu Fei roared, "If he dares to toy with us, I'll chase him down to the ends of the earth, make him suffer the agony of wishing to live but unable to, wishing to die but unable to!"

"Wu Fei is right. If he runs, it only shows a guilty conscience. Brother Du Hao was murdered by him!"

"Yes, a mere B-level Awakened, despite some skills, he can't possibly contend with the whole Jiulong City, can he? If he runs, we'll kill his people first!"

"!!!!"

Everyone present was utterly shocked.

Really?

They didn't even know what was going on and might be killed?

Hua Jun's heart equally filled with fear and anxiety, though his face didn't show much.

"Chairman, did you really provoke Jiulong City's people?"

He lamented inwardly.

"By the way, why haven't we heard from the City Lord yet?" Someone suddenly asked.

The hall fell silent.

"Right."

Someone echoed, "How long have we been here, the City Lord has been at the Martial Arts Association the same amount of time. With so much time passed, the City Lord should have had some results, right? Could he be waiting for someone just like us?"

Everyone exchanged glances.

It couldn't be ruled out.

Because Anshan City was only so big.

The Awakened Association wasn't far from the Martial Arts Association; if there was a battle at the Martial Arts Association, they'd sense it immediately.

However, there was no movement, meaning no battle had erupted.

"Brother Li, should we send someone to check? Or call them?" Zuo Hong asked.

He had a suspicion.

If the City Lord was waiting just like them, it wouldn't make sense for him not to send someone to ask. If not, a call would do.

Li Yan's discomfort grew.

Rationality said there's the City Lord, what could happen over there?

But intuition said something felt off.

"I'll call and check."

Then he took out his phone and dialed Xiang Long's number.

Chapter 403: Is it possible that I am an A-level Awakened?

The others nodded upon hearing this.

However, as time passed, they started to feel that something was off.

At the same time, Li Yan's expression became increasingly grim.

"Brother Li, what's wrong? Is no one answering?" Zuo Hong quickly asked.

"Yes."

Li Yan nodded, and the call automatically hung up with a beep.

"How can this be?"

Everyone exchanged perplexed looks.

Could it be that something happened?

But how is that possible? Even if the person from the Martial Arts Association is the real culprit, with the City Lord leading personally, what could go wrong?

Li Yan didn't hesitate and dialed again.

This time, like before, there was no answer, and after a minute or two, the call automatically hung up.

"This?"

In an instant, everyone realized something was definitely wrong.

After all, at such a crucial moment, how could the City Lord not have his phone with him?

Li Yan dialed two consecutive calls, but no one answered.

Either the City Lord is too busy to notice, or something has happened that prevents him from answering immediately?

"Brother Li, why don't we send two people to the Martial Arts Association to check it out?" someone suggested.

The moment the words were spoken, everyone immediately agreed.

"Yes, Brother Li, the Martial Arts Association is not far from here, it will only take a few seconds to get there."

"Didn't Li Ping say two hours? There's still about ten minutes left. We can go check on the City Lord and be back in time."

"Yes, yes."

"Alright."

Li Ping nodded in agreement.

This sort of situation rarely occurred before.

"You two go check it out, but be careful. It's better to be safe than sorry."

"Understood."

The two people he looked at nodded.

Just as they were about to leave, footsteps suddenly echoed from the entrance.

A man with a plain appearance appeared outside at some point, walking step by step towards the hall.

"President?"

"President!"

"It's the President!"

The long-suppressed Awakeners of Anshan City displayed expressions of extreme excitement, like people dying of thirst in a desert discovering a freshwater lake.

"President!"

The huge burden on Hua Jun's heart finally lifted.

He was genuinely afraid that if the President didn't return within two hours, his life would most likely be forfeited.

"Li Ping?"

This commotion naturally drew Li Yan and the others' attention.

"So he's Li Ping?"

"That's right, I've seen his video, it's definitely him."

"Seems like he kept his word. He said two hours, and it's indeed two hours, even arriving a few minutes early."

"So, he isn't the one who killed Brother Du?" someone doubted.

A person beside him snorted, "That's not necessarily true. He might be confident in his acting skills, thinking he can fool us."

The atmosphere in the hall suddenly became silent.

Chen Fan's gaze initially swept past the few people in front of him, landing on Hua Jun. He saw Hua Jun's pale face, blood-stained lips and clothes, and his killing intent intensified.

Then, he scanned the room again, confirming no one else was injured, before focusing on Li Yan and the others.

"You guys are the ones who injured my people?"

Li Yan and the others were stunned, seemingly not expecting Chen Fan to speak to them in such a tone.

"President..."

Hua Jun was startled and quickly reminded, "President, they are from Jiulong City, all of them B-level Awakened."

Upon hearing this, the previously excited Awakeners of Anshan City were now terrified.

B, B-level Awakened?

All of them?

This is terrifying!

"I know."

Chen Fan glanced at him and said, "So what if they're from Jiulong City? If they injured you, they must pay the price."

"President..."

Hua Jun was moved to tears.

The others were equally envious.

They wondered if the President would seek justice for them as well if they were injured.

"Li Ping!"

Wu Fei was furious upon hearing this, but Li Yan interrupted him.

Li Yan stared at Chen Fan with an insincere smile, "Li Ping, you're not a C-level Awakened, are you? You've killed Du Hao, Yan Ming, and the others, right?"

Upon hearing this, Wu Fei and the others slowly began to understand as well.

Yes, this Li Ping seemed normal enough over the phone.

But from the moment he showed up, he acted arrogantly.

Anyone with some discernment could see that their people from Jiulong City had an overwhelming advantage. Anyone smart would tread cautiously, yet Li Ping did not.

Either he believed in his own strength and underestimated everyone else.

Or he was trying to maintain face in front of his subordinates, regardless of the consequences.

If it were the former, it's more likely that he is the killer of Du Hao, possibly him!

If the latter, well, he would soon learn the consequence of pretending to be something he is not!

"Du Hao, Yan Ming, I've said this more than once, I don't even know them. Saying I killed them is utter nonsense."

Chen Fan frowned, clearly annoyed.

"So you're admitting you're not a C-level Awakened but a B-level?" Li Yan's tone intensified.

Instantly, Wu Fei and the others became wary of Chen Fan.

Meanwhile, Hua Jun and the others were shocked and worried.

The fact that their President was a B-level Awakened was good news since small cities rarely had a B-level Awakened in command.

But the bad news was, the other side had all B-level Awakened as well, eight against one. So what if the President was B-level?

"So what if I am? So what if I'm not?"

Chen Fan retorted.

"So what if you are?"

Li Yan sneered, "If you are, why haven't you gone for certification and still hold the title of a C-level Awakened? Hiding your true strength, you must have something to hide. Perhaps you killed someone and don't want to draw suspicion, right?"

"Brother Li is right. Any normal Awakened would be eager to complete the upgrade tasks to increase their level and enter higher circles. You're an exception, Li Ping. Don't tell me you just broke through and haven't had time to take the upgrade task."

"Li Ping, confess, you are the murderer of Du Hao and the others!"

"Li Ping, stop hoping for luck. If you are the killer, there's no way you'll fool us today!"

They all exclaimed.

In an instant, they all forgot about checking the Martial Arts Association.

"So, just based on this, you think I'm the one who killed your people?" Chen Fan raised an eyebrow.

"Have you ever thought that I might be neither a C-level nor a B-level?"

"What do you mean?"

"You are neither C-level nor B-level? Are you saying you're an A-level Awakened?" Zuo Hong exclaimed with wide eyes.

"That's correct."

Chen Fan nodded, "In fact, I am an A-level Awakened."

In an instant, the hall fell silent.

Everyone's eyes widened in disbelief.

"The President...he...he's an A-level Awakened?"

Hua Jun's voice trembled.

Is this real?

An A-level Awakened? That's a powerhouse who could dominate a large city!

The other members of the association were equally shocked.

As for Li Yan and his group, their eyes filled with fear.

A-level?

This guy is an A-level Awakened?

You've got to be kidding! How could such a small city's Awakened Association have an A-level leader?

They wouldn't even dream of it!

"Nonsense!"

Li Yan was the first to react, shouting angrily, "Li Ping, do you take us for children? A-level Awakened? Why don't you claim to be S-level?"

"You don't believe me?"

Disappointment flashed in Chen Fan's eyes.

"Of course not!"

"Li Ping, do you think we're idiots? If you're an A-level Awakened, then we'd all be A-level!"

"This guy is obsessed with overblowing himself. If we don't teach him a lesson, he won't tell the truth."

The members of the Anshan City Awakened Association realized this and bowed their heads.

Yes, just thinking about it, you know it's impossible.

The President must be bluffing to scare them off. Unfortunately, these people are not easily deceived.

"Believe it or not."

Chen Fan smirked.

He had no time to waste debating.

He voiced it to show some people in the future and to win the unwavering loyalty of his subordinates.

"Enough, Li Ping. Stop changing the subject. Concealing your strength is just one of your mistakes."

Li Ping coldly said, "We've watched your combat videos countless times. Your superpower is Speed Enhancement, but you've also practiced various Martial Arts, right?"

"So what?"

Chen Fan asked calmly.

"You're skilled in close combat, using a dagger, essentially a saber. Yan Ming and the others died by a saber, and shortly after their incident, you appeared at the Anshan City Awakened Association, also using a saber. How could there be such a coincidence? Can you guarantee their deaths have nothing to do with you?"

Li Ping glared at Chen Fan, questioning him.

Any slight change in Chen Fan's expression, he was confident he could detect.

Not just him, everyone in the hall watched Chen Fan.

"Laughable."

Chen Fan's expression remained composed, "Their deaths have nothing to do with me, Li Ping. Many people use sabers. Besides, I excel at Palm Techniques more than Saber Techniques."

"Palm Techniques?"

"Palm Techniques?"

Everyone looked at each other in confusion.

Even Li Yan was baffled, asking incredulously, "You excel at Palm Techniques?"

"Correct."

Chen Fan frowned, seemingly unwilling to elaborate, "I've answered your questions. Now, isn't it your turn to answer mine?"

"Not yet."

Li Yan narrowed his eyes, "Whether you're better at Saber or Palm Techniques is irrelevant because knowing you can use a saber is enough. In other words, your explanation doesn't clear your suspicion, and if I recall, you also know a Spiritual-type technique called Soul-Annihilating Finger, right?"

"What, are you going to say someone died by my Soul-Annihilating Finger?"

Chen Fan asked.

"There were two B-level Awakened who came with Brother Du Hao. One of them had a power that could negate any physical attack but had no defense against spiritual attacks. A single mistake could be fatal.

And Brother Du Hao's death is linked to a spiritual technique. Li Ping, you likely know more than just one Soul-Annihilating Finger, don't you?"

Li Yan pressed on, "Dare you release your spiritual guard and let us see for ourselves?"

Chapter 404: Now, Only You Are Left

"Let down your mental guard and let you investigate?"

Chen Fan almost laughed when he heard this.

Letting himself be willingly controlled by someone else? What kind of absurd statement was that?

"Li Ping, this is the best way to prove your innocence."

Li Yan shook his head and said, "I know you don't trust us and worry that we might do something underhanded, which is understandable.

But you're overthinking it. First, we will question you right here, and everyone else can see whether any tricks are done. Afterward, you can ask anyone and find out the truth.

Second, given our status, do you think we would do something like this to you? You're overthinking it. I, Li Yan, am putting my words here today. If what you say is indeed unrelated to a series of events, we will not only not harm you but also apologize to you. Not just you, but also your subordinate."

Hua Jun shivered and couldn't help but remind, "Chairman, please reconsider."

"Yes, Chairman, please reconsider."

"Chairman."

The others echoed along.

It was clear to everyone with discerning eyes that these people might not be trustworthy.

If these people did something in front of everyone, with their strength, there would be nothing anyone could do.

And as for whether the Chairman would be the same person after awakening—who knows.

"Everyone, shut up!" Wu Fei shouted, silencing the room instantly.

"Li Ping, I advise you to follow Brother Li's instructions honestly. It won't take much of your time and is good for everyone."

"Exactly, Li Ping. If you don't agree, it shows you have something to hide."

A few people agreed.

Among them were awakeners skilled in mind control.

However, since their spiritual power was not vastly different, with mental defenses up, causing momentary disorientation was about the best they could do. Making someone reveal their innermost secrets would be nearly impossible.

Of course, it would be much easier for an awakener of Hua Jun's level, depending on whether they wanted to bother with it.

"I have something to hide just because I don't agree?"

Chen Fan laughed.

"Isn't it? If you haven't done anything wrong, why delay? I think it was you who killed Du Hao and the others!"

"Brother Li, since this guy refuses to drink a toast but chooses to drink a forfeit, we'll show him what's what before making him tell the truth."

"Exactly, he chose this path, so he has no one to blame."

There was a flash of menace in their eyes, indicating they were ready to act.

Or rather, this was their intention from the start. They wouldn't willingly lower their guard and let someone control their mind.

Seeing this, Chen Fan felt a surge of joy in his heart, but he sighed outwardly and said, "Do you really want to push this to the edge?"

"It's not us pushing, but you."

Li Yan looked at Chen Fan and said, "If you cooperate honestly, it will only take a few minutes to solve the issue. If you don't, we'll have to use some unconventional methods."

With his words, the awakeners from Anshan City cursed them in their minds for their shamelessness.

Talking about being forced, they were clearly bullying the fewer with the more.

Unfortunately, most of them weren't even C-level awakeners. In this situation, they could only stand by, doing nothing and risking their lives.

"Alright."

Chen Fan sighed deeply, scanning the people around him, "You all should leave first."

"???"

Not only the awakeners from Anshan City but also Li Yan and his group were stunned.

"You came to fight me, right?"

Chen Fan looked at Li Yan, "What use are these people staying here?"

Li Yan and the others exchanged glances, hardly believing what they heard from Chen Fan.

"Chairman!"

"Chairman!"

The awakeners from Anshan City were in tears.

Even in this situation, the Chairman was still thinking about their safety? The Chairman himself was in the most dangerous position!

"Hahaha."

Li Yan laughed a few times, sweeping a cold glance over the crowd, and said, "Of course, but Li Ping, have you really thought this through? I'm warning you, once the fight starts, even if you regret it later, it will be too late."

The eyes of Wu Fei and the others were also filled with amusement.

"That's exactly what I want to tell you."

Chen Fan's face was calm, "Originally, after you injured my people, I didn't plan to do anything to you. As long as you apologized and compensated them adequately, this matter would have ended here.

But you have not only failed to recognize your mistake but also escalated it further by trying to make me accept your mind control. Nobody, not any awakener, could accept that. If you want to fight, then come. But if something happens, there's no use regretting it later."

"Hmph! Arrogant!"

Wu Fei and the others snorted coldly.

If the Chen Fan in front of them was indeed the killer of Zou Xuan and the others, his strength was undeniable.

But the problem was, their strength wasn't weaker than Zou Xuan's, perhaps even stronger, and they had a numerical advantage.

If they were to be intimidated, could they still be called awakeners?

"Everyone, leave, stay far away, and don't come near without my order."

"Chairman!"

"Chairman..."

The crowd wept, their faces filled with reluctance.

Because, this might be their last time seeing the Chairman.

But they also knew that staying would only be a hindrance.

"Chairman, be careful!"

Hua Jun wiped his tears and said with red eyes.

Chen Fan waved his hand, signaling him to lead the people away.

The footsteps grew distant, and soon, the area within a few hundred meters was empty.

"Chairman Li, now that everyone has left, can we begin?" Wu Fei jeered.

Everyone around him was on high alert.

Although they outnumbered their opponent, being careless could still lead to death.

"Sure. To show my gratitude, I will let you make the first move," Chen Fan nodded.

"Courting death!"

As soon as the words fell, a brawny man roared, his clothes bursting apart, transforming into a small giant three to four meters tall, with muscles bulging like rocks.

In an instant, he was in front of Chen Fan, swinging a huge fist, a meter in size, towards his chest.

The violent wind almost made it impossible for anyone to keep their eyes open.

"Clang!"

A crisp sound echoed through the hall, making everyone's scalp tingle, and goosebumps rise.

The small giant looked at his fist, then at the small figure in front of him covered in golden light, with a look of astonishment.

"What is this?"

His question was answered by an incredibly fast golden iron fist.

"Bang!"

With a loud noise, the giant's massive head exploded like a watermelon, spreading red and white matter everywhere.

Chen Fan's figure didn't stop, and he appeared right in front of Li Yan.

Without any flourish, he threw a punch!

"What!"

Everything happened so quickly and unexpectedly.

Li Yan had no time to react before he was hit by the punch.

"Crack!"

With a crisp sound, the protective shield that could withstand three top-level commander-level beast attacks shattered, turning into specks of white light, dispersing in the air.

Then, with a bang!

Li Yan turned into a mist of blood.

It was only now that the remaining six awakeners finally reacted.

"Attack! Quick, attack!"

"All together! Everyone!"

With those words, countless superpowers were launched towards Chen Fan, hitting him in an instant.

"We hit him! We hit him!"

"Great!"

They were elated.

This guy's attack power was terrifying!

Even the gigantic Xing Yong was killed with a single punch. How could they fare?

Li Yan earlier was proof enough.

However, their sacrifice was worth it, buying them time to retaliate.

"Something's wrong!"

At this moment, a startled voice rang out.

A golden figure, moving like lightning, charged into the crowd.

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

Two screams were abruptly cut off.

Obviously two more awakeners were directly annihilated.

"How, how could this be?"

Zuo Hong was completely stunned.

He had seen clearly that everyone's superpowers had hit.

So many superpowers hitting at once, even a top-level commander-level beast would fall, right?

But how come this guy seemed totally unharmed?

At that moment, he felt a chill down his spine. Looking up, he met eyes with Chen Fan.

"No..."

Before he could finish his word, he exploded.

Meanwhile, the person next to him was also smacked to death.

"That's six."

Chen Fan muttered.

Activating his Vajra Indestructible Body consumed too much True Qi. Even with his current True Essence, he couldn't afford to delay and went for a quick victory.

"Monster! Monster!"

Seeing this, Wu Fei was scared stupid, standing there, motionless, in stark contrast to his arrogant demeanor earlier.

"Run!"

Another person shouted, running away as fast as he could.

They had focused their attack and couldn't scratch him.

But he could casually kill any of them with one punch. How could they fight? They couldn't!

But just then, a gust of wind blew behind him.

The next moment, he exploded on the spot, without even making it to the door.

"Now, it seems only you are left."

Chen Fan turned and strode towards the terrified Wu Fei.

Chapter 405: Can the President Win?

"No, please don't kill me!"

Seeing Chen Fan walking towards him, Wu Fei was so scared that his face turned pale. Plop, he knelt on the ground, begging with snot and tears:

"I know I was wrong, I'm willing to apologize to you and make amends, please, don't kill me, don't kill me."

After speaking, he banged his head on the floor, creating a deep dent.

"Enough."

Chen Fan frowned, and at the same time, the golden aura around him gradually faded, revealing his original appearance.

Wu Fei looked up and froze at this sight, but just for a moment, he quickly lowered his head again, fearing his thoughts might be discovered.

Indeed, as soon as he saw Chen Fan retract his Vajra Indestructable Body, he had the impulse to strike suddenly. If successful, he could survive.

Soon, he dismissed this unrealistic idea because this man was an A-level Awakened!

The number of trump cards he had must be beyond his imagination, and who knows if he did it intentionally?

He couldn't take the gamble.

"Chairman Li, it was a misunderstanding, really, we meant no harm."

"Hurting me, and trying to control my Spirit, and you call that no harm?" Chen Fan sneered.

Even a child wouldn't be fooled like this, right?

"Chairman Li, I admit, hurting you was my fault, I admit that. But the Spirit Control thing has nothing to do with me!"

Wu Fei glanced around, looking for Li Yan's figure.

The next moment, he suddenly realized.

Li Yan had already been burst by a punch from this man...

Not just Li Ping, all eight members except him were dead, killed instantly with no remains.

Thinking of this, Wu Fei swallowed hard and cautiously said, "Chairman Li, we made a mistake. Your hands are clean in the death of Du Hao and the others. The real killer is someone else,

Chairman Li, if you let me go back, I will explain this to the City Lord, I assure you, we will never come to trouble you again."

"Really?"

Chen Fan squinted his eyes.

He was curious why the Jiulong City Lord hadn't shown up.

It seemed the other side didn't act personally, only sent these few. It made sense; eight B-level Awakened could sweep a small city.

"Yes, yes," Wu Fei showed a hint of joy, "Chairman Li, if you don't trust me, I can swear an oath. If I, Wu Fei, speak one false word, may I be struck by lightning and die miserably."

After speaking, he put up his palm, nervously watching Chen Fan.

Actually, upon knowing Chen Fan was an A-level Awakened, his revengeful thoughts completely vanished.

Because even if it was him, no matter if it was the City Lord, there was no chance of winning; the gap between A-level and B-level Awakened was too vast.

Even if Du Hao and the others were killed by him, so what?

Would they risk their lives for Du Hao?

Chen Fan shook his head and said, "It's not that I didn't give you chances, even warning you. Unfortunately, you didn't take it to heart. In this world, every medicine exists, except regret medicine."

As he finished speaking, golden light appeared again, like he was armoring himself.

"Li!"

The sound abruptly stopped.

Wu Fei turned into a mist of blood, vanishing into thin air.

"Why indulge?"

Chen Fan sighed.

Looking toward the hall's entrance, he wondered what the Jiulong City Lord would do upon knowing his men were killed.

Would he fight to the end, sending more people or stronger ones?

Should he just let it go?

"No."

Thinking this, Chen Fan lightly shook his head.

Too passive, better find time to visit Jiulong City and finish off that guy.

He had given chances, but they didn't cherish it; don't blame him for being ruthless.

In the Awakened hall, hundreds of meters away, many Awakeners gathered, worriedly looking towards the hall.

"Do you think the Chairman will be okay?"

"No problem, if the Chairman dared to stay, it shows he was confident to win."

"Yes, the Chairman is so strong, he will surely win."

"But there are eight opponents, all B-level Awakened?" someone said, and the atmosphere quieted again.

Those who thought Chen Fan would win now hesitated to refute.

True, no matter how strong, the Chairman was just one person.

The opponents were eight B-level Awakened.

How could he fight that?

No need to think, the fight is impossible.

"Chairman Hua," someone with red eyes looked at Hua Jun, "Can the Chairman really win?"

In an instant, dozens of eyes turned to Hua Jun.

Hua Jun showed a bitter smile.

Does this question even need to be asked?

Of course, he can't win!

Unless.

Hua Jun recalled when Chen Fan said he was an A-level Awakened.

Yes, unless the Chairman is an A-level Awakened, then he could beat so many B-level Awakened.

But is it possible?

He himself didn't believe it.

"I think the Chairman might really win?"

Just then, a voice sounded.

"Brother Xie? You?"

Hua Jun turned around, looking at the dusty Xie Ming.

"I just got back, heard about this." Xie Ming nodded, looking towards the hall, "Though my time with the Chairman was short, I feel he's very reliable.

Didn't you say he willingly stayed behind, calmly letting you leave? I believe the Chairman was confident."

"Brother Xie, is it true?"

Someone asked cautiously.

"Brother Xie, can the Chairman really beat them?"

"I can't guarantee it, but it's likely."

Xie Ming continued, "Think about it, the Chairman knew Jiulong City's men awaited him. He had to be prepared for what might happen. Yet, he came back, which says something."

This made everyone, including Hua Jun, brighten up.

Yes!

Even if they could foresee danger, wouldn't the Chairman?

He still came back, likely not just worrying for their safety but also confident in his strength?

"Brother Xie is right; perhaps the Chairman is really an A-level Awakened?"

"Yes, when the Chairman said so, he wasn't joking at all!"

"True, the Chairman must be an A-level Awakened, that's why he wasn't afraid of them and dared to stay and fight."

Everyone spoke eagerly, eyes shining.

Yet the atmosphere remained heavy.

Clearly, not many believed this.

Understandably, if the Chairman were an A-level Awakened, he could dominate any large city, never choose a small position in Anshan City as the Awakened Association chairman.

"Let's hope Brother Xie is right."

Hua Jun sighed internally.

Just then, a figure walked out of the hall, somewhat familiar.

"Who is that?"

Hua Jun's eyes widened.

"Someone's out!"

"What? Someone's out!"

"Really! Someone's out, is it? The Chairman?"

"Yes, it's the Chairman! It is!"

In an instant, everyone trembled excitedly, rushing over.

Indeed, it's the Chairman!

The Chairman walked out, unharmed!

"Chairman!"

Hua Jun was first to rush over, checking anxiously, "Chairman, are you okay?"

Silence fell.

Everyone held their breath.

"How could I have any trouble?"

Chen Fan glanced at them, speaking indifferently.

Hua Jun froze, surprise in his eyes.

"Chairman, what about Jiulong City's people?"

Xie Ming glanced into the hall, asked nervously.

"Dead."

Chen Fan slowly uttered two words.

"Dead? Dead?"

The site filled with gasps.

Is it true?

Eight people? Eight B-level Awakened, all dead?

Killed by the Chairman?

"Dead."

Chen Fan nodded, "You saw earlier, they tried to control my Spirit, impossible. Rejected, they got angry and attacked me. Given that, I couldn't hold back, had to kill them, sigh."

He sighed lightly, expression showing some helplessness.

Everyone exchanged glances.

Hard to believe what they heard.

But, given the time passed and those people not appearing, it confirmed the issue.

"The Chairman is right."

Xie Ming reacted first, agreeing, "Those people, relying on numbers, made unreasonable demands. Who would accept? The Chairman acted in self-defense, even higher authorities can't blame it."

"Yes."

Hua Jun nodded repeatedly, teeth gritted, "Those people were too arrogant, acting in broad daylight in the Awakened Association. If the Chairman weren't strong, we'd have suffered horribly."

"Exactly, that group deserved their fate, deserved death!" Everyone angrily echoed.

Chapter 406: Unknown Powerhouse?

In the Awakening Association hall.

Everyone looked at the enormous headless corpse on the ground, and took a sharp breath.

The muscles were like rock, with fists the size of half a human. It was obvious what the result would be if a punch landed on them.

What puzzled them was that there was only this corpse and bloodstains everywhere in the hall. Where were the other seven people?

According to the President, weren't all eight people from Jiulong City supposed to be killed?

"Don't bother looking," Chen Fan glanced at them and said calmly, "the bloodstains on the ground are them."

"What! The bloodstains are them!"

"What the...!?"

Upon hearing this, everyone widened their eyes and showed disbelief on their faces.

Hua Jun and Xie Ming exchanged glances, both feeling a chill climb up their hearts.

But thinking about it, if the President's strength wasn't enough to handle them, the President's fate might have been even worse.

Besides, they brought this upon themselves, so there's no sympathy.

"I'm sorry, Hua Jun, you got involved this time."

Chen Fan said.

Everyone turned their gaze towards him.

Hua Jun, feeling flattered, quickly shook his head and said, "The President is too kind, it was just a minor injury, unlike the President..."

Chen Fan raised his hand to interrupt him, "Enough, stop flattering. There's no need. I saw the pain you went through, and in a few days, I'll give you a Celestial God Fruit as compensation."

"Celestial—Celestial God Fruit!"

Not only Hua Jun, but also Xie Ming and others, were all stunned, their eyes showing eagerness.

Although many of them didn't have the privilege to buy the Celestial God Fruit, the name was very familiar.

After consuming it, it could greatly enhance spiritual power, even enabling someone to jump from D-level to C-level Awakened.

It's very expensive, priced at 50,000 points for one piece!

Even Hua Jun wouldn't dare to buy such a thing.

"Pres—President, this—this is too expensive, I can't accept it." He reacted and quickly declined.

"I said accept it, then take it. Why so much nonsense?"

Chen Fan's tone became firm, resuming his usual demeanor as a superior.

"Yes, yes."

Hua Jun chuckled bitterly, feeling both astonished and touched, and of course, delighted.

The President seemed unapproachable and cold, but he was actually a very good person.

If it were another place's President, they might give some compensation, but a Celestial God Fruit? That's not something an ordinary person can give.

The others were even more envious at this moment.

If only they had been injured too, how nice would that be? They could also get a Celestial God Fruit now.

Chen Fan glanced at the others and nodded silently.

He's doing this to win people's hearts.

At first glance, 50,000 points could buy an Unparalleled Technique, it seemed a bit of a loss.

On closer look, the constraint in mastering Supreme Martial Arts wasn't the lack of points but the insufficient experience points.

Any Supreme Martial Arts requires about a million experience points to reach Perfection Realm, Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill needs no less than tens of millions.

In this view, 50,000 points were precious but not so much.

"That's it for today, clean up here. Take the corpse and burn it."

"Yes, President!"

Everyone replied in unison.

"By the way, President, I forgot to say something."

At this moment, Hua Jun suddenly thought of something, his face changing.

Chen Fan paused and turned, "What is it?"

"President, I heard from these people that they weren't the only ones who came from Jiulong City this time, there was another group!"

"What?"

Hearing this, Chen Fan's face changed slightly, "You mean there's another group in Anshan City? Who are they? Where are they now?"

"They said the other group was led by the Jiulong City Lord, after entering the city, they split up and went to the Martial Arts Association."

Hua Jun hurriedly said.

"Led by Jiulong City Lord? Went to the Martial Arts Association?"

Chen Fan said with surprise.

He originally thought the Jiulong City Lord didn't come this time. He planned to find a suitable opportunity to eliminate him. It turned out he came, and to his greater surprise, he went to the Anshan City Martial Arts Association?

He knew the Anshan City Martial Arts Association was much weaker compared to the Awakening Association.

"President, I'm not clear either, Jiulong City Lord took people to the Martial Arts Association for what. Actually, I learned about it from their conversation," Hua Jun recalled, "It seemed something happened at that time."

"Something happened?"

"Yes."

Hua Jun nodded, "These people were waiting for your return. As they waited, they felt something was wrong because it had been almost two hours and they hadn't received any message from the other side."

"And then?"

"Then, that guy named Li—though not you, President," Hua Jun smiled bitterly at Chen Fan and continued, "He called the Jiulong City Lord several times but no one answered."

"Called several times and no one answered?"

Chen Fan frowned, "Could it be something happened?"

"They thought so and were about to send someone to check when you arrived and the subsequent events followed."

Hua Jun said.

Chen Fan squinted his eyes, feeling something strange.

He was very familiar with the people in the Martial Arts Association, like Sun Wei and others, they weren't the opponents of these people, he wasn't in the city at the time, no one could handle them.

How could they be out of touch?

Did the other group leave first? Thinking about it, it wasn't possible.

"Let's use Celestial Response. If they are still in the Martial Arts Association, they won't escape my perception."

With that thought, he activated Celestial Response.

The next moment, a strong presence emerged within his perception, like a full moon in the dark night, overshadowing all other presences in the city.

"What is this?"

Chen Fan was greatly shocked.

At the same time, in the Martial Arts Association, Shi Tao, who was instructing people in martial arts, suddenly sensed something and looked towards the Awakening Association.

"What's wrong, President?"

Sun Wei asked with confusion.

"Nothing."

Shi Tao shook his head, but his face showed unprecedented seriousness.

Someone was sensing his presence?

Who?

When he tried to perceive further, the feeling suddenly disappeared.

His tightly furrowed brows slightly relaxed, he pointed in the direction he looked and asked, "Is that the Awakening Association's direction?"

Sun Wei and others followed his direction and thought a bit before nodding.

"Yes, President, that is the Awakening Association's direction."

"What's wrong, President? Could it be?"

Sun Wei's face changed.

Since the Jiulong City Lord's group was killed, he had been on edge, concerned that their companions might cause trouble.

After two hours of calm, suddenly things seem to stir again?

"Don't worry."

Shi Tao comforted, "With me here, nothing will happen."

"Hmm."

Everyone nodded repeatedly.

They believed the President had such strength.

"President, it's already late, Brother Chen hasn't returned yet, should we call him? Ask if he encountered any danger, and also to give him a heads-up?" Sun Wei asked cautiously.

"Okay."

Shi Tao nodded.

"Thank you."

"Not a problem, not at all."

Sun Wei waved his hand.

This wasn't troublesome at all.

On the other side, Chen Fan also stopped the Celestial Response, showing a serious expression.

Apart from the strong presence he first sensed, he didn't feel any other strong presences.

This was beyond his expectation.

According to Hua Jun, the Jiulong City Lord's group was in the Martial Arts Association. If not there, they should be in Anshan City, right?

Yet, he didn't sense their presence anywhere in Anshan City, only a presence not weaker than his, located in the Anshan City Martial Arts Association.

Many familiar presences were nearby, like Sun Wei, Xu Jie, and Gao Shan.

"Who is that person?"

Chen Fan was puzzled.

Hua Jun and others dared not speak or move, fearing to disturb the President's thoughts.

But then, a phone vibration broke the silence.

Hua Jun quickly looked around to see who it was, but realized the sound was right in front of him.

"Okay, everyone disperse. Hua Jun, report today's events to me later after organizing them."

Chen Fan said.

The phone vibration in his pocket hinted at what had happened.

He had a suspicion about the strong individual's identity within the association.

As for the Jiulong City Lord's group, they were probably gone.

Since that's the case, he could report this without delay, procrastination would only arouse suspicion.

"Yes!"

Hua Jun nodded heavily.

"Okay."

Chen Fan acknowledged with a nod, then in the next moment, his figure vanished from everyone's sight.

"The President is truly strong!"

Someone suddenly said.

"Yes, eight B-level Awakened couldn't beat him."

"The President must be an A-level Awakened!"

After these words, the atmosphere became quiet again.

Everyone watched Chen Fan leave with eyes full of admiration.

Hua Jun felt fortunate.

Inviting him as President was a wise choice!

Chapter 407: Does the President Still Think It's a Misunderstanding?

"President, Brother Chen is probably busy right now and doesn't have time to answer the phone." In the Martial Arts Association, Sun Wei hung up the phone, an awkward smile appearing on his face.

"It's okay."

Shi Tao waved his hand indifferently and said, "Let's wait for him to come back then."

"Yes, yes." Sun Wei quickly nodded, and Xu Jie and others beside him echoed.

"Yes, it's getting late, Brother Chen should be back around this time."

"At most half an hour, it's always been like this."

"Maybe he'll be back soon."

At this moment, Sun Wei's phone vibrated.

"He's calling!"

Sun Wei was both surprised and delighted. He looked at the caller ID on his phone, then looked at Shi Tao in front of him and said, "President, Brother Chen is calling."

"Then answer it, say whatever you need to say." Shi Tao nodded slightly, a small ripple disturbing the calm in his heart.

This time, he came to talk properly with Chen Fan, hoping to put the past behind them.

Now that Chen Fan was about to come back, he wondered what kind of outcome their discussion would result in.

On the other side, Sun Wei had already answered the phone. Before Chen Fan had a chance to ask, he excitedly said, "Brother Chen, the President is here!"

"The President?"

Chen Fan's tone was surprised.

He had guessed that the strong presence in the Martial Arts Association might be someone from the headquarters, but he did not expect it to be the President, Shi Tao.

"Yes!"

Sun Wei nodded like a pecking chicken. "Brother Chen, you have no idea, something big happened in our association today. If it wasn't for the President arriving in time, the consequences would have been unimaginable!"

After those words, everyone present looked at each other, still showing lingering fear.

Indeed, Anshan City was just a small city, and their Anshan City Martial Arts Association's overall strength was at the bottom compared to other small city martial arts associations.

And then suddenly a large group of B-level Awakeners showed up!

Such a force would be something even the Martial Artists of Jiulong City would avoid offending.

"What happened?"

Chen Fan asked urgently.

But he immediately understood.

No wonder he couldn't sense the aura of that group; they had been killed, and the person who killed them was the President himself.

"It went like this..."

Sun Wei briefly summarized the situation.

Of course, he didn't mention that the mysterious person they were looking for was Chen Fan, given the number of people present.

"Brother Chen."

Sun Wei sighed and said with a wry smile, "To be honest, if it wasn't for the President, our Anshan City Martial Arts Association might not even exist today."

After saying that, he glanced at Shi Tao.

To be honest, he had felt some dissatisfaction with Shi Tao's previous actions, especially the way he had insisted on shielding a disciple and warning Xiao Hong. As the president of the association, fairness and justice were the most basic principles. How could he not consider others' feelings?

But after today's events, coupled with a few hours of interaction, he couldn't help but be impressed by Shi Tao's demeanor.

Moreover, the President had personally come this time, showing plenty of sincerity.

He sincerely hoped Chen Fan could clear up any misunderstandings with Shi Tao and join forces for the future of the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association.

"I understand."

Chen Fan nodded. "I'll be there soon, we can talk when I get back."

"Alright, Brother Chen, take care." Sun Wei quickly said. After hanging up the phone, he smiled and told Shi Tao, "President, Brother Chen is on his way back. He'll be here soon."

"No rush."

Shi Tao nodded.

"So it really is the President..."

Chen Fan slowly put down his phone and exhaled.

This was totally unexpected.

This person didn't stay at headquarters but traveled over a thousand kilometers to find him at the Anshan City Martial Arts Association. It must have been about Ling Yu.

Thinking of this, Chen Fan frowned.

He didn't know what made the President change his mind from waiting for him directly.

Perhaps it was to make him give up and treat the matter as if it never happened, but that was absolutely impossible.

However, it was undeniable.

If he had not arrived in time today, Sun Wei, Xu Jie, and the others might have faced disaster. The entire Anshan City Martial Arts Association could have been destroyed.

Although he could seek revenge afterward, those who had died would be gone forever.

Chen Fan sighed lightly and shook his head. He wasn't ungrateful.

Fine, considering this, he could make some concessions, but letting go of the matter entirely was impossible.

Before long, Chen Fan stepped into the Martial Arts Association.

"Brother Chen!"

"Brother Chen, the President is waiting for you inside."

Many martial artists greeted him when they saw him.

At this moment, Sun Wei and others, escorting a middle-aged man, approached.

In the next instant, their gazes met.

Chen Fan calmly observed the man with a physique like an iron tower before him, who exuded an aura that seemed unfathomable.

Shi Tao also observed Chen Fan. Though his figure was strong and his face still had some youthful features, his entire temperament was extremely steady. Even under his gaze, Chen Fan seemed perfectly at ease.

Not simple, not simple at all.

"Indeed, Chang Fei and the others were right, his strength has grown tremendously in just a few days."

Shi Tao sighed inwardly.

"Brother Chen," Sun Wei coughed and extended his hand toward Shi Tao, "this is the President from headquarters. You know him."

"President."

Chen Fan was the first to speak, greeting him.

Shi Tao smiled slightly, "Shall we talk?"

With these words, the atmosphere in the hall instantly became extremely quiet.

Most people looked at them with envy in their eyes.

When would they also be able to gain such importance from headquarters, causing such a distinguished figure like the President to travel thousands of kilometers to see them?

Only a few who knew the inside story, like Sun Wei and Xu Jie, were extremely anxious.

The President had already done this much; would Brother Chen still refuse? Even if he agreed, would the upcoming discussion resolve their misunderstandings? Would it end in hostility?

"Alright."

Chen Fan agreed without hesitation.

After all, blessings don't come alone, but troubles don't come singly.

Shi Tao smiled and nodded.

Soon, Sun Wei found a meeting room, gave Chen Fan a look, and then closed the door.

"Everyone disperse."

Looking at the crowd around, he coughed and said.

"Chairman, you won't be eavesdropping yourself, right?" Xu Jie blinked.

"What nonsense! Am I that kind of person?"

Sun Wei glared at him and then shooed away the crowd like a flock of chicks.

Before leaving, he reluctantly looked back and then slowly turned around, sighing.

He hoped this conversation would have a good outcome.

Inside the meeting room.

Shi Tao gestured with his hand, "Have a seat."

"Alright."

Chen Fan sat across from him, the atmosphere a bit awkward.

Fortunately, Shi Tao quickly broke the silence, laughing and saying, "You must be wondering why I suddenly came from headquarters."

"It is a bit strange."

Chen Fan answered honestly.

"Actually, I didn't expect it either."

Shi Tao's eyes were complicated, "I was originally planning to train Ling Yu and wait for the day you came to headquarters. I wanted Ling Yu to defeat you, and then I would step in to resolve the misunderstanding between you. But your strength has progressed too quickly, and Ling Yu is probably not, no, definitely not your opponent anymore.

Because I heard about some of your recent activities from Chang Fei and Shen Si. Your Archery skills are indeed formidable, even I am ashamed in comparison."

Chen Fan nodded.

No wonder this person would suddenly come; he had received reminders from others in the association.

Thinking about it, it made sense.

However, hearing the compliment, he felt no joy. Instead, he looked into the other's eyes and asked, "Does the President still believe that what happened that day was a misunderstanding?"

"Of course it was a misunderstanding."

Shi Tao responded without thinking. "I've already learned the specifics from Ling Yu. He did mention you to Xiao Hong but had no other intentions. Xiao Hong, however, had ill intentions toward you.

Perhaps he wanted to take you to a place and detain you to refine Elixirs for him, or maybe he saw it as an opportunity to curry favor with Ling Yu.

But he overlooked one thing, your strength, which greatly surpassed his. When you captured him, to save his life, he deliberately accused Ling Yu. Chen Fan, I know you might not be satisfied with this explanation, but this is the truth."

Chen Fan didn't speak.

The meeting room fell into a dead silence.

After a long while, Chen Fan finally sighed and said, "If you're here today just to tell me this, then you can leave now.

Whether or not Ling Yu was involved is not for me to say, not for you to say, only if he admits it himself. If he says it has nothing to do with him, I'm willing to apologize. If he says he orchestrated it, then I'm sorry.

But in light of today's events where you saved Chairman Sun and the others, I can promise that on that day, I won't take his life, but I will cripple his martial arts. Because everyone must pay for their actions, even if he's a headquarters genius, even if he's your direct disciple."

#### Chapter 408: The Man Who Lived for a Thousand Years

After listening to Chen Fan's words, Shi Tao's face remained expressionless and he asked, "Chen Fan, do you know who you will face on the day you arrive at the headquarters?"

"Of course, I know."

Chen Fan gazed at him, "When that day comes, as Ling Yu's master, you definitely won't stand by and do nothing, right?"

"Yes."

Shi Tao sighed, "I know you want to use the Soul-Searching Martial Arts to make Ling Yu tell the truth, but you should also know that those who are affected by the Soul-Searching Technique suffer permanent mental trauma. Although some Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures might compensate,

they can't measure the damage to one's perception and future achievements. Moreover, you want to cripple him. Whether it's public or private, I can't let you do that."

"Then there's nothing more to discuss."

Chen Fan shook his head, "In any case, not killing him is already my greatest concession. Perhaps Xiao Hong wasn't acting under his orders, but it was because of him that this series of events happened. He only has himself to blame."

"..."

Shi Tao was at a loss for words.

Ling Yu knew about this matter, and that blame also falls on him.

If it wasn't for him informing Ling Yu, how would Ling Yu have known?

But precisely because of this, he couldn't just watch Ling Yu get into trouble.

"Is there really no room for negotiation?"

Shi Tao softened his tone, "Is there no other way besides crippling Ling Yu that would make you drop this matter? For example, obtaining some Supreme Martial Arts manuals? A Supreme Martial Arts manual? Or perhaps Elder Wang's guidance?"

"Elder Wang's guidance?"

Chen Fan frowned.

His intuition told him this person might be extraordinary.

"Your strength is quite profound. You indeed have reached the point where you should know certain things."

Shi Tao paused before, after sensing a moment, continuing, "In the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, I'm not actually the strongest. The strongest one is Elder Wang."

"How powerful is he?"

Chen Fan asked curiously.

"Is living for a thousand years considered powerful?"

Shi Tao countered.

"Lived for a thousand years?"

Shock appeared in Chen Fan's eyes.

"I reacted the same way when I first met this person."

A subtle smile crossed Shi Tao's face.

To be honest, from just now till now, Chen Fan's composed demeanor had left him somewhat bewildered.

It appears that, after all, he's still a regular person.

At least, when it comes to emotions.

"I know you are curious about this person's identity. I can also tell you some things; even more, if you promise to let this issue go."

"Then I'd rather not hear it."

Chen Fan decisively shook his head.

After all, with increasing strength, there were always things that he would eventually find out.

Of course, if there's such a powerful person in the headquarters, it might affect him somewhat.

Shi Tao chuckled, as if he had anticipated it, and continued, "Elder Wang is a survivor from the last Heaven and Earth Tribulation."

"!"

Chen Fan's eyes widened.

This was the second time he had heard the term Heaven and Earth Tribulation.

The first time was in a few cryptic words from an old man.

"It seems you've already heard of the Heaven and Earth Tribulation."

Shi Tao's eyes revealed a hint of surprise, then nodded, "It's not a secret; many in the Awakened Association know about it, and some people in the Martial Arts Association also know."

"What is the Heaven and Earth Tribulation?"

Chen Fan asked.

"It's hard to explain with just a few words, and even Elder Wang doesn't know much. Simply put, one day, spiritual qi appeared between heaven and earth. Both humans and animals, birds, and even plants could absorb this spiritual qi and become stronger."

"In Elder Wang's time, there were demon ghosts. At the same time, some masters wandered the world, eliminating demons and guarding the way. Later, for some unknown reasons, the spiritual qi gradually dissipated. Those masters, despite their great powers, would eventually face death." Shi Tao sighed.

It was unclear whether he lamented those masters' destinies or felt sorrow for his own future.

"But this Elder Wang lived for a thousand years." Chen Fan remarked.

"Yes, Elder Wang's strength is formidable, and his cultivation technique is also quite special."

"What cultivation technique?" Although Chen Fan had some guesses, he asked deliberately.

"Sacred Heart Technique."

Shi Tao glanced at him, "A Supreme-level Technique."

"Sacred Heart Technique."

Chen Fan muttered the name.

This technique, even in its complete form, couldn't be cultivated to the highest realm without Phoenix Blood enhancement, making a thousand years' lifespan unrealistic.

So, had Elder Wang slain a phoenix and consumed its blood?

"Yes, besides Elder Wang, there are others who have survived through different methods. For instance, some ancient sects from a thousand years ago found Grotto Heaven Blessed Lands. The rate at which spiritual qi dissipates inside these lands is far slower than the outside world, allowing them to live till now. Even those born inside could cultivate, and some centuries-old legends were often their doing."

Chen Fan's heart was shaken by this revelation.

"So, there are quite a few of these people?"

"Indeed, but most of them don't bother with worldly affairs or don't care about what's happening in Yan Country. They hope for more spiritual qi between heaven and earth to advance further in Martial Arts. Even hiding in Grotto Heaven Blessed Lands, they will face death eventually."

"Yes."

Chen Fan nodded.

"So, Elder Wang is an exception; he cares about Yan Country's current situation?"

"Correct."

Respect glinted in Shi Tao's eyes, "The Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association's creation is thanks to Elder Wang. My achievements are also due to him, but Elder Wang's kind are still exceedingly rare. You will understand in time. Oh,"

Suddenly recalling something, he added, "Although those who survived a thousand years mostly focus on cultivation in Grotto Heaven Blessed Lands, that doesn't mean their disciples do the same."

"Many of their disciples or relatives chose to re-enter the world, spread across three super cities, impacting Yan Country's geopolitical situation. Even the Awakened Association treats them with courtesy. If you encounter them, you'd best avoid conflict."

At this, a deep sense of dread filled Shi Tao's eyes.

Even he dared not provoke them, else even Elder Wang might struggle to protect him.

"I understand, thank you for the reminder, President." Chen Fan took a deep breath.

The situation in Yan Country seemed far more complex than it appeared?

If characters from a thousand years ago still existed, could there be ones from two thousand, three thousand years ago, or even beings that had lived for tens of thousands of years, observing from the shadows?

This thought sent chills down his spine.

"After this conversation, our relationship should have eased somewhat, right?"

Shi Tao smiled, "I know you still have many doubts. If you wish, I can arrange for you to meet Elder Wang. I'm sure he'd love to meet you too. If you agree, this matter ends here, deal?"

Chen Fan fell silent.

The condition offered was indeed tempting.

Everyone had curiosity, him included, especially regarding issues tied to a millennium ago.

But he was a man of principles.

Once he decided on something, he wouldn't abandon it midway.

"Sorry, President, I can't agree. Thank you for sharing these secrets with me. However, Ling Yu must better be uninvolved in this matter, or I will definitely cripple him."

Shi Tao's expression grew cold, "Aren't you worried that to prevent this, I might attack you right now?"

"I believe, judging by your character, you wouldn't do that."

Chen Fan shook his head calmly.

Shi Tao was stunned, then laughed loudly, "You're right. I wouldn't do something like that."

After speaking, the atmosphere grew quiet.

Chen Fan watched him calmly.

To be precise, that was just one reason.

The second, and most crucial, reason was his confidence in his own strength.

He chose not to go to the headquarters now because he wanted to wait, grow stronger, and then deal with Ling Yu.

Of course, he sought revenge against Ling Yu only, unrelated to others. Even if Shi Tao intercepted him, he wouldn't resort to extreme measures; at most, he'd incapacitate him temporarily.

Doing so naturally required enough strength.

Shi Tao seemed to understand Chen Fan's thoughts and sighed, "Chen Fan, you know, our attitudes are similar. Once we decide on something, we won't give up until it's done. Fine, since you've made your decision, I'll be waiting for you at the headquarters."

No matter the outcome, I look forward to our battle."

"I don't look forward to it."

Chen Fan spoke frankly.

In fact, he found it troublesome.

"Haha."

Shi Tao chuckled, stood up, "Then that's it. It's getting late; I should head back."

Without waiting for Chen Fan to respond, he pushed the door open and left.

Chen Fan stood in the meeting room, watching him leave, sighing inwardly.

To be honest, this President was indeed an admirable person. If not for Ling Yu, they might have been good friends?

"Elder Wang..."

His eyes squinted slightly.

He had a premonition that soon, he'd meet Elder Wang.

What would it be like then?

Chapter 409: It's Simply Nonsense!

"President!"

"President!"

The people guarding the hall, upon seeing Shi Tao stride in, all showed expressions of respect.

"Hmm."

Shi Tao nodded and said, "It's getting late. You all should head back."

"President, you?"

Sun Wei felt a sense of unease growing within him.

This conversation may not have yielded any good results...

"Don't worry about it."

Shi Tao waved his hand and smiled, "It's late, I should go back as well. As for the matter with Jiulong City, don't worry, I will report it to the Awakened Association. There won't be any issues."

"President!"

Sun Wei's eyes were filled with deep reluctance.

If not for the President, he would have been long dead.

Moreover, earlier the President had taken the time to use a Cloud Jade Fruit to open several of his meridians.

"President, it's already late, why don't you wait until tomorrow morning to return to the headquarters?" Xu Jie quickly suggested.

"Yes, President, going back now is too dangerous. Who knows how many Fierce Beasts are wandering outside. There's safety in numbers, President, please stay for the night."

"President..."

The people were all reluctant to part?

Shi Tao shook his head and walked straight out.

Everyone quickly chased after him, only to find that he had already vanished from sight.

"The President has left..."

Someone said, and immediately, tears welled up in everyone's eyes.

Yes, the President had just left, and who knows if they would have the chance to meet again. If they did, when would that be?

At that moment, footsteps were heard from behind.

"Brother Chen?"

"Brother Chen!"

"It's Brother Chen!"

Everyone turned around.

"Brother Chen, the President?" Sun Wei asked with worry on his face.

"Don't worry, with the President's strength, getting back to Jiangnan City won't be very dangerous." Chen Fan reassured.

After all, around those large cities, Fierce Beasts were rarely seen.

Of course, if you went out at night, that's hard to say.

"I see."

Sun Wei and the others exchanged glances, slightly relieved.

If Brother Chen said so, the President should be fine.

"Brother Chen, then?" Sun Wei hesitated, clearly wanting to ask about the result of the conversation between the two.

Chen Fan shook his head.

"!"

Sun Wei and the others instantly turned pale.

"Relax, things aren't as bad as you think."

Chen Fan smiled wryly.

He scanned the group, contemplating something, and then decided it wasn't necessary to say anything. After all, the people of Jiulong City were dead, and if there were any troubles, it was between the Awakened Association and his other identity.

As for compensation, he would make more high-quality elixirs.

"President, let's leave it at that. I'll go and get busy now."

"Alright, alright."

Sun Wei hurriedly replied.

Despite a lot of questions still lingering in his mind.

"Everyone disperse, those who need to rest should rest, those who need to cultivate should cultivate."

"Yes, President."

Upon hearing this, people began to leave in groups of threes and twos.

Soon, only Sun Wei, Xu Jie, and a few others remained.

"President?"

Xu Jie whispered, "Brother Chen still doesn't want to give up investigating that matter, does he?"

"Probably."

Sun Wei sighed.

The few of them exchanged glances, looking perplexed.

Brother Chen was truly stubborn... Even the President himself couldn't dissuade him.

"Who knows what the outcome will be?"

"Yes, with Brother Chen like this, it must be difficult for the President too, right?"

"Indeed, but I still hope one day Brother Chen can harshly humiliate Ling Yu!"

"Easier said than done? Don't forget, the President protects his own fiercely. He wouldn't just watch his disciple get beaten up. Even if Brother Chen could defeat Ling Yu, it would be hard to do anything to him."

Listening to this, everyone sighed in unison.

The night was getting deeper.

Around nine, ten o'clock, the streets were deserted, and most of the houses were in darkness.

After a long day, many people were already in bed, drifting into dreams.

Occasionally, whispering could be heard from inside the houses.

"Wife, I never thought we'd one day live in such a big city and such a large house."

A middle-aged man lay on the bed, looking at the ceiling, smiling.

"Yes, I never thought so either."

A woman's voice replied, "When those Awakeners came to us, I thought they were lying. What if they got angry if we didn't agree? So we packed our things and came, who knew everything would be true."

"Yes."

The man murmured, "I heard it was all because of the President. His orders allowed us ordinary people to live here without spending a penny, something that would have been unimaginable before. Back then, just reaching here alive was uncertain."

"Exactly." The woman sighed in relief.

On the way here, she didn't know how many times they were attacked by Fierce Beasts.

In fact, most of the time she didn't even realize they were under attack.

It was always the Awakeners who eliminated the threats, only then did they become aware of what had happened.

"Wife, how should we thank the kind President?" The man turned to his wife.

"How should we thank the kind President?" The woman was stumped.

She felt that as ordinary people, they simply had no way to repay him.

Because they felt like people from two different worlds.

"Hehehe."

At that moment, sudden laughter broke the silence of the room.

By the faint moonlight, they saw a figure in black standing in the room, cloaked entirely in a large robe, revealing only his lips.

The woman clung tightly to her husband.

The man was also terrified, trembling, "Who... who are you? Why are you in our home? Get out! Now! Or I'll call for help!"

"Go ahead," the figure in black chuckled, "Call as loud as you want, no one will come to save you."

"What do you want?"

The man realized something and screamed.

"Help! Help!"

"Someone, help us! Please!"

The couple's desperate cries echoed through the still night. Logically, this volume should have woken many people.

But strangely, there was no response from outside.

Their shouts gradually weakened, realizing something was amiss.

"No strength left?"

The black-clad figure's mouth twitched into a mocking smile, "Keep calling, you were shouting so loudly just now. Shall I give you a moment to rest and then you can shout again?"

"What do you want?"

The man pleaded, "Please, don't hurt us. We'll do anything you want."

"Yes, sir, please, don't kill us. We've just moved here and don't understand the rules. If we did something wrong, you have such a big heart, please forgive us. If not, we'll move out first thing tomorrow, okay?"

The woman was already in tears.

She suspected this person was one of the city's original inhabitants.

These old residents had clearly resented newcomers. Had it not been for the Awakeners maintaining order, conflicts would have already erupted.

But she never expected them to come seek trouble at night, and in such a bizarre manner.

"No, no, no."

The black-clad figure flashed a grin with gleaming white teeth, "If you didn't move here, how would we have this great opportunity? So many prey, lambs to the slaughter, hard to find outside, you know?"

"What do you want? Someone, help us!"

"Is there anyone who can come save us!"

The couple clung to each other, screaming desperately.

The man seemed to savor the scene, his smile growing.

A moment later, he smacked his lips and muttered, "No, I can't waste too much time. If I don't meet tonight's target, Sister Ru will punish me."

With that thought, a shiver ran through his body. A smaller than before black ball appeared in his hand.

At the same time, he chanted something.

From the black ball, dozens of tendrils emerged, stabbing towards the couple. They tried to fend off with pillows and blankets but to no avail. The tendrils pierced through them and then their bodies.

Soon, their bodies were drained, leaving no traces, just some scattered clothes on the bed.

"Nineteenth, twentieth."

The black-clad figure contentedly put the black ball away and took the clothes into his space items.

After checking carefully, confirming nothing was left behind, he vanished.

Elsewhere, several others in black were repeating the same act.

In silence, some people disappeared.

In the shadows, a group of men gathered, one whispering.

"This Zhang Ru is out of control!"

The leading man's face was grim, "Lord Bishop said to observe for a few days and understand the situation before acting. She's treating his words like air? Besides,"

The man's eyes showed fear, "Li Ping might not be as simple as we thought. Even if Lord Bishop came, he might not be a match. Perhaps, we shouldn't have come to Anshan City."

#### Chapter 410: Killing Three Birds with One Arrow

Hearing the man's words, the few people around him showed extremely shocked expressions.

In their hearts, Lord Bishop's strength was unfathomable. Unless the Awakeners from large cities personally took action, even the strong from medium-sized cities might not necessarily be able to do anything to him.

But in front of them, this Anshan City was just a small city, and yet there was someone here who couldn't be defeated by Lord Bishop?

Impossible, right?

Fang Liang scanned the faces of the people around him and sighed, "It's understandable that you don't know. This matter happened suddenly, and I spent quite a bit to get this information from the Awakeners here."

"Brother Fang, what news is it?"

Someone asked tentatively.

"Just a few hours ago, a group of strong Awakeners from Jiulong City arrived here."

"What!"

They all looked at each other in astonishment.

Jiulong City?

That was a medium-sized city where the top people are all B-level Awakeners, whom they could only look up to.

Could it be that this group?

"That's right."

Fang Liang took a deep breath and said, "There are eight of them, all without exception, B-level Awakeners."

The few people felt a sense of suffocation, cold sweat streaming down their foreheads.

No way?

Eight B-level Awakeners came to Anshan City?

They seemed to understand why Fang Liang said Wang Ru's group was too impulsive. With eight B-level Awakeners here in Anshan City, how dare they kill? They must have a death wish.

Fang Liang glanced at them, guessing what they were thinking, and said, "Don't worry, they are all dead."

"Phew..."

Everyone let out a sigh of relief in unison.

They're all dead? If only you'd said that earlier...

The next second, their eyes almost popped out of their sockets.

Those eyes seemed to say, Brother Fang, you're not joking, are you? Eight B-level Awakeners, such a strong group, who has the ability to kill them?

"Sigh."

Fang Liang sighed and said, "You may not believe it when I say it, and neither did I at first, but it's quite possible. Many people in the Awakened Association witnessed it. The one who killed the group of Awakeners from Jiulong City was none other than the president of the Awakened Association here, Li Ping."

"Wha!"

Someone quickly covered their mouth, afraid of alerting others and then lowered their voice,

"Brother Fang, you're not joking, right? The president of the Awakened Association here is that powerful?"

"Yes, Brother Fang, we're talking about eight B-level Awakeners! Even Lord Bishop would avoid them; surrounded, he would be dead for sure."

"Could it be a self-directed act by the Awakeners here to scare us?" someone asked.

After all, Anshan City is chaotic now, and exaggerating their president's strength could intimidate others.

"That's not ruled out."

Fang Liang frowned, "But it's unlikely, because the demeanor of the person I saw didn't seem like acting. Moreover, others are saying the same thing."

They fell silent immediately,

The good news was that the group of strong awakeners from Jiulong City was dead.

The bad news was that a stronger one was stationed here.

"Brother Fang, what do you think we should do next?" a man asked bitterly, "If this news is true, going back empty-handed will be hard to explain to Lord Bishop."

"Yes, Brother Fang, Wang Ru's group has already started taking action tonight; should we also take action? We can't go back empty-handed."

"But what if we alarm that one?" someone said nervously, "He killed eight B-level Awakeners by himself, killing us would be no harder than squashing an ant."

"As long as we are careful, he shouldn't be able to find us, right? Moreover, Brother Fang said it's only a possibility, whether it's true or not is uncertain."

They all voiced their opinions one after another, obviously, most of them were reluctant to give up.

Fang Liang also fell into a deep dilemma.

To be honest, this was indeed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

But that president, his strength was too strong, perhaps an A-level Awakener. If he was alerted, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Withdraw?

He knew Lord Bishop's character very well; on the surface, he appeared magnanimous, but in reality, he was very narrow-minded. If they didn't meet expectations and went back, future days wouldn't be good.

Not just Lord Bishop, others would also make sarcastic remarks to their faces or behind their backs.

The key point is, Wang Ru's group was also in Anshan City, killing crazily.

In this case, wouldn't it highlight their cowardice and incompetence even more?

Fang Liang took a deep breath and said slowly, "Alright, let's not act rashly and see how things develop."

"Brother Fang means? Let Wang Ru's group scout the way for us?" someone got the hint and asked.

"Yes."

Fang Liang nodded, "I don't know whether the rumor about the Awakened Association is true or not, but if it's false, that's best. If it's true and someone gets caught, it won't be us."

"Brother Fang, but if the rumor is true, and that Li Ping doesn't catch them?"

"Yes, Brother Fang, then the gap between us and Wang Ru will widen, and it will be hard to explain to Lord Bishop?"

"What are you afraid of?"

A glint of ruthlessness flashed in Fang Liang's eyes, "If that happens, we kill them and take their sacred artifacts. Their credit will be ours."

They were stunned for a moment, then immediately became excited.

Brilliant!

This way, even if there's danger, it won't befall them, and they still get the benefits without much effort.

"Brother Fang, you're truly brilliant!"

"Yes, we just need to be clean and don't get caught."

"I'm too dumb. I don't know when I'll be as smart as Brother Fang."

Listening to their flattery, Fang Liang's smile grew wider.

He had long disliked Wang Ru. Why not take this opportunity to eliminate him, gain benefits, and avoid risks?

It's killing three birds with one stone!

The next day, at dawn.

In a small room, several people in black robes sat around a table.

A woman's voice rang out, "Zhao Jin hasn't returned yet?"

The other black-robed people looked at each other upon hearing this.

"Not yet."

"He should be back soon, any minute now."

"The sky's getting brighter; if he doesn't return soon, there will be risks of exposure."

As the words fell, ripples appeared in the air, and a black-robed man appeared inside the room.

Everyone immediately sighed in relief.

"Zhao Jin, you're here. Big Sister was just asking for you," a black-robed man joked.

"Sorry for worrying you, Big Sister."

Zhao Jin apologized.

"It's good that you returned in time."

Wang Ru glanced at him and pointed to an empty seat by the table, "Sit down and report the results of last night's mission."

"I killed 223," a middle-aged man said proudly, holding a smaller black ball in his hand, filled with dense dark energy.

"Well done."

Wang Ru nodded in satisfaction.

In the past, it took several days of searching for them to get such results together. Now, one person accomplished it in one night.

"Brother Qin is as strong as ever. I only killed 201."

Another voice rang out.

"I killed 197."

"I killed 225."

Finally, all eyes were on the last person, the one who had arrived last.

The person smiled slightly, holding a black ball in his hand.

The density of the dark energy inside was more than double that of the others.

"I killed exactly 300. If it weren't for dawn, I could've killed more."

He smacked his lips, looking unsatisfied.

The others were a bit displeased but couldn't do anything about it.

After all, the dense energy in the black ball spoke for itself.

"Very good."

Wang Ru nodded approvingly.

Including her 300+ kills, the six of them nearly reached 2,000!

2,000 in one night; such efficiency, she dared only dream of.

Scanning the others, she said, "Everyone did well. Rest now, and be energized for tonight. Once we gather 10,000, Lord Bishop will reward us handsomely."

Hearing this, the eyes of the other five sparkled with excitement.

10,000 didn't seem too difficult. Once achieved, they would become stronger!

"Big Sister."

A man asked worriedly, "With over a thousand people disappearing overnight, won't this alert the Awakeners?"

Evidently, his words made the others just as concerned.

"They will be alerted."

Wang Ru said unhurriedly, "But no need to be overly worried. As long as we leave no traces, even if the Awakeners find something suspicious, so what? Even if we encounter them, with our strength, they can't do anything to us. Worst case, we blend back in later."

"That's true. Those Awakeners are in the open, we're in the shadows. Finding us won't be easy."

"Even if they do, so what? Haven't killed C-level Awakeners in a while. Let's kill any who cross our way!"

"Exactly. Tigers don't show their might; they think we're sick cats?"

They spoke boldly, disregarding the Awakeners entirely.

"By the way, what's the situation with Fang Liang's group?"

Wang Ru asked curiously.

"Any of you encounter them last night?"

"No encounter on my end."

"Same here."

"Me neither."

They all shook their heads in unison.

"No one encountered them?" Wang Ru looked surprised.