

Martial Arts 411

Chapter 411: How is it Gu Ze?

Wang Ru had a nagging feeling.

It shouldn't be like this, right?

Such a good opportunity, and those guys haven't made any moves?

"Sis, don't you know Fang Liang by now? He's timid and cautious. I saw their people during the day, asking around for information." A man said with a laugh.

"They're really gathering intelligence?"

The person beside him sneered, "It's just Anshan City, a tiny place. What's there to find out?"

"Exactly. What's the use of gathering so much intel? If you ask me, we should just get it done! Like us, we'll have a night's harvest that could equal a month's worth. And them? By the time we finish the mission, they might just be getting started."

"Hahaha, at that time, Lord Bishop's face would be quite a sight."

Wang Ru nodded upon hearing this.

Given her understanding of Fang Liang, he was indeed that kind of person.

Thinking of this, she let out a cold laugh. This guy was overly cautious and missed out on fleeting opportunities.

Once too many people died, and those Awakeners in the city got suspicious, it wouldn't be as easy to act as it was now.

However, to be on the safe side, she still reminded everyone, "We still need to be cautious moving forward. Don't leave any traces, and also closely monitor what Fang Liang and his group are up to."

"Understood," several people replied.

...

Morning quickly arrived.

In the Chen Family Fortress, the atmosphere was somewhat melancholic.

Because today, most of the people in the village were going to follow the Awakeners to Anshan City. A small number of people, unwilling to leave, chose to stay behind.

But everyone knew, although it's just over a hundred miles to Anshan City,

this departure might be a final farewell.

"Old Lin, why don't you come with us?" In the crowd, a middle-aged man looked at his friend in front of him, tears welling up.

"No," the other shook his head with a smile, "It's nice here. I don't want to deal with the hassle."

"But what if a Beast Tide breaks out someday..."

The middle-aged man quickly stopped himself.

"Don't worry, if that day really comes, I'll accept it."

"Sigh, you really don't want to come with us? Brother Chen and the others won't harm us."

Such conversations were happening in other places too.

Some people wavered and hurriedly went back to pack their things.

Some people were determined. No matter how others persuaded them, they insisted on staying.

Meng Yu was also among the crowd, carrying her luggage, her eyes welling up as she watched the scene.

She knew very well that the real Beast Tide would soon break out. It was no joke. Even a place like Anshan City was like a lone boat in the vast ocean, at risk of being obliterated at any time. Let alone a small place like Chen Family Fortress, which would shatter upon impact.

And the fate of those staying behind was predictable.

At that moment, a hand gripped her arm.

"Sister?"

Meng Yu turned around and saw Meng Xue.

The latter's condition had improved quite a bit compared to before; her eyes were no longer so cloudy.

Meng Xue shook her head at Meng Yu and sighed.

If she could, she also wanted to bring everyone along.

But the reality was, she didn't even know if she could survive the upcoming Beast Tide.

Meng Yu bit her lip. Suddenly, she thought of something and began searching the crowd, but did not find that figure.

She was a bit anxious, wondering if Chen Fan hadn't come.

Actually, Chen Fan was already there, mingling in the crowd.

He had only changed his appearance, so no one recognized him.

"They must be on their way by now."

Chen Fan scanned the crowd, finally focusing on the hundred or so people who chose to stay.

He had felt a bit soft-hearted, so he'd left some contingency plans.

If these people still insisted on staying then, he wouldn't interfere further.

Not far away, Chen Guodong and his group were also bidding farewell to some people.

Two off-road vehicles sped towards them.

Awakeners?

The Chen Family Fortress instantly fell silent; even the children didn't make a sound.

The two vehicles stopped at the gate, and a young man, who looked a bit familiar, jumped down. The people widened their eyes, especially Gu Jianghai.

Because this young man was his son, Gu Ze!

"Xiaozhe? Is that you?"

Gu Jianghai could hardly believe his eyes, that he and his son were meeting under such circumstances.

Chen Guodong, Liu Yong, and the Wei Brothers were also stunned.

"Dad, Mom,"

Gu Ze walked up with a smile, grabbing their hands, "I heard our village people were moving into Anshan City, so I told the association and came to pick you up."

"Xiaozhe, are you now...?" Chen Guodong asked in surprise.

"Yes, Uncle Chen, I'm now with the Anshan City Awakened Association," Gu Ze said with a smile.

Upon hearing this, the crowd began to murmur among themselves.

Many faces were filled with disbelief. Among them, quite a few knew Gu Ze, or at least had seen him around.

It turns out he was an Awakener!

And he's with the Anshan City Awakened Association?

"Uncle Chen, is everything ready?" Gu Ze asked respectfully.

He had been doing pretty well in the association, where everyone took good care of him, especially during hunts.

He knew it was because he knew the president and had his support.

The president had single-handedly killed eight B-level Awakeners the previous night, earning the admiration and reverence of everyone in the association.

He felt the same.

And he had Chen Fan to thank for making that connection.

"We're ready to go any time," Chen Guodong said with a satisfied smile.

"Good. Let's set off early. Arranging for everyone in Anshan City will take some time," Gu Ze said, noticing the empty-handed people in the back rows. "Uncle Chen, those people aren't coming with us?"

Chen Guodong turned to look, sighing as he nodded.

Gu Ze frowned.

The group turned pale, unable to meet his gaze.

After all, he was now an Awakener.

Gu Ze hesitated momentarily before saying, "I know what you're worried about. You think there's no such thing as a free lunch and that such good fortune can't be real."

All I can say is, it's all true. The president won't and doesn't need to lie to you. Plus, I'm in Anshan City and know everything. I sincerely advise you to follow the larger group to Anshan City. You can stay if you still don't want to leave."

The crowd stirred.

Clearly, many of the hundred-plus people were wavering.

Those already packed and ready to leave felt more confident. They had someone in the Awakened Association!

What was there to be afraid of?

Gu Ze wouldn't harm his family, would he?

"I want to go!" someone blurted, "I want to go with everyone to Anshan City."

"Me too!"

"Me too!"

"I'll go pack right now!"

In an instant, over a hundred people ran towards their homes like wild horses, afraid they'd fall behind.

Seeing this, Chen Fan smiled.

Gu Ze walked to the off-road vehicle and spoke politely to those inside, "Brother Xie, please wait a little. We'll leave when everyone is ready."

"Hahaha, Xiaogu, don't worry."

Xie Ming waved his hand dismissively, "We have plenty of time."

"Yes, Younger Brother Gu, this is your village. Make sure no one gets left behind," the others said politely.

Gu Ze nodded repeatedly.

About ten minutes later, the hundred-plus people returned, panting heavily and carrying lots of luggage. Some were so frantic they dropped their clothes.

A few more minutes passed, and everyone was ready.

Gu Ze surveyed the group and coughed, "On the way to Anshan City, there are Fierce Beasts. Everyone, stay quiet to avoid attracting them. If we encounter any, don't worry. With Brother Xie and the others here, even Elite-level Fierce Beasts will die. I'll say more after we get to Anshan City."

The crowd buzzed with conversation.

Elite-level Fierce Beasts?

That was even more formidable than High-level Fierce Beasts!

No doubt, the Awakeners were formidable!

Gu Ze looked at Chen Guodong, "Uncle Chen, shall we set off?"

"Alright."

Chen Guodong turned, "Young men at the front and back, elders, women, and children in the middle. Let's go."

The crowd began moving slowly.

First came the trucks carrying the elders, women, and children.

Chen Guodong and his group stayed at the back, closing the gates gently after confirming no one else was behind.

"We're really leaving now," Liu Yong said, eyes red.

He hadn't spent much time at the Chen Family Fortress, but it was the first time he felt the beauty of life.

Now, they had to leave, and they might never get another chance to return.

"Yes, parting is hard," Gu Jianghai nodded.

"Dad, don't worry," Gu Ze smiled, "Once you reach Anshan City, you'll see how good life is there."

The crowd was stunned, then smiled.

Yes, Anshan City was a real city. Most of them had never even gone there.

As they moved, many turned to look back, eyes filled with reluctance.

Some even shed tears, waving goodbye to the Chen Family Fortress from afar.

Chapter 412: One Side of the Story

Baijiang City.

The city wall is a thousand meters high, with countless giant cannons perched on it, the black barrels instilling fear in anyone who sees them.

Clearly, this is a super large city, named after the great river outside its walls.

The mutation ten years ago made the creatures in the water even more terrifying than those on land. The ocean became a forbidden zone, and even ordinary rivers now hide deadly dangers.

However, Baijiang City is a super large city, stationed with Yan Country's top Awakeners. Strong experts are as numerous as the clouds, so there are almost no traces of Fierce Beasts in the river. Even some ordinary people dare to approach.

Inside the city, in a meeting room of the Awakened Association.

Several people were seated around a conference table, each holding a file with the words "Anshan City" vaguely visible on the cover.

In the northern seat, a middle-aged man was quietly drinking tea from a cup.

A few minutes later, everyone gradually put down their files, their faces showing signs of amazement.

"Is that Li Ping from the Anshan City Awakened Association really that powerful? He single-handedly killed eight B-level Awakeners from Jiulong City?" someone questioned with a frown.

"Theoretically, mastering the Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill combined with the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill could indeed achieve this," a woman nodded.

"Can an Awakener from a small city actually train to have the Vajra Indestructible Body? Moreover, each layer of the Dragon Elephant Wisdom Skill is twice as hard as the previous one. Even in our Awakened Association, very few have learned this Martial Art."

"But that's what the report says. Even if you gave the Anshan City Awakened Association ten lives, they wouldn't dare to joke about this, right?"

They exchanged glances, finally turning their eyes to the middle-aged man in the north.

"Have you all finished reading?"

Ji Huan put down his teacup and smiled slightly at them.

"Yes."

They all nodded.

"President, what about the authenticity of this matter?"

"The authenticity should not be a problem," Ji Huan said. "What do you think should be done about this matter? Should it be treated as if nothing happened, or should we send someone to investigate it?"

As he finished speaking, everyone present fell into thought.

"President."

The only woman among them, Liu Mei, frowned and said, "I think we should send someone to investigate. At first glance, the whole thing seems unrelated to Li Ping, but the people from Jiulong City still found him due to some details."

Maybe, those details are real, and it was Li Ping who killed the previous City Lord of Anshan City. They were simply outmatched and got killed when they came to confront him."

"I agree with Wang Jing."

A man wearing gold-rimmed glasses glanced at the woman and said, "The more seamless his actions, the more suspicious they seem."

"Nonsense."

A burly man in a shirt said, "Zhang Min, what you said is unreasonable. The people from Jiulong City invaded, injuring our association members. Does Li Ping have a fault in defending himself? If it were you, would you lower your guard and willingly be captured?

Moreover, he reported it promptly. Is that wrong? If he had reported it a day or two late, would you still say he had a guilty conscience?"

"Hao Wanshan, that's not what I meant. Don't twist my words," said the gold-rimmed man discontentedly. "I just think he is hiding something."

"In what aspect specifically?" Ji Huan asked.

"I'm not very sure," the gold-rimmed man frowned. "This report is entirely one-sided from Li Ping and the others. If we want to figure out the whole story, we need to ask the people from Jiulong City."

"Indeed," Wang Jing looked at the document in her hand. "According to Li Ping's account, the people from Jiulong City divided into two groups after arriving in Anshan City. One group went to the Awakened Association and was completely wiped out. The other group, led by Xiang Long, went to the Martial Arts Association. If we can contact him, we might understand the whole story."

Ji Huan shook his head and said, "There's no time."

"No time?"

Everyone was taken aback.

Did it mean that the other group also died at the hands of Li Ping?

If so, Li Ping would indeed be suspicious.

"What I just showed you were the materials submitted by the Anshan City Awakened Association. There is also a video sent by the Anshan City Martial Arts Association."

"Martial Arts Association?"

Quickly, a video played on the screen.

After watching it, everyone's face showed deep shock.

"So, President," Wang Jing said with wide eyes, "Xiang Long and his group were all killed by Shi Tao?"

"Yes."

Ji Huan nodded, "He sent this video to us last night. The bodies of those people should arrive by this afternoon."

The meeting room fell silent.

Everyone seemed somewhat disgruntled.

Xiang Long and his people, after all, were members of the Awakened Association. If they had done something wrong, it should have been handled by the headquarters.

But anyone with discernment could see that Shi Tao was not at fault. Even if they wanted to nitpick, they had no justifiable reason.

"The members of the Martial Arts Association are becoming more and more dismissive of us in the Awakened Association," a man sighed.

"Forget it. What Xiang Long and his people did was indeed wrong. They probably didn't expect to encounter Shi Tao."

"The key is, they underestimated Shi Tao's strength and brought about their own destruction."

"Exactly."

Everyone nodded.

Deep down, they all had some level of apprehension towards the President of the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association.

"President, given the situation, there's no way to verify the truth anymore, is there?"

The gold-rimmed man's frown deepened.

"Zhang Min, enough already,"

The burly man said dissatisfiedly, "I think what Li Ping did was reasonable. The people from Jiulong City were aggressive. He had no choice but to kill them. And after the act, he reported it immediately. President, I think we should let this matter rest."

"I agree. We shouldn't jump to conclusions based on suspicions." Another man spoke up, "No matter how you look at it, Li Ping has done nothing wrong. Besides, aren't there already enough cases of Awakeners killing each other out there?"

The atmosphere went silent.

Indeed, Awakeners often fought each other to seize various Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures.

Even if they wanted to control such matters, they could not manage all of them. The final rule was just not to fight inside the city or challenge the headquarters' authority.

The people from Jiulong City had actually overstepped by acting within the Awakened Association.

"Let's vote. The usual rules, minority obeys majority."

Ji Huan said, "Raise your hand if you think this matter should be closed."

The burly man and another person immediately raised their hands.

Then Ji Huan himself also raised his hand.

The gold-rimmed man and Wang Jing exchanged helpless glances.

If they had known the President's choice, they wouldn't have argued at all.

"With three votes to two, this matter is closed."

Ji Huan said, putting down his hand.

"Agreed."

Wang Jing and the others responded. The other two looked somewhat smug.

"Now let's move on to the next topic."

Ji Huan glanced at everyone and said, "How about recruiting Li Ping into the headquarters and making him a Hunter? You all know, we've recently had considerable losses among Hunters."

As he finished speaking, the conference room fell silent.

Even the burly men looked shocked.

Indeed, large cities are safe. Even ordinary people need not worry about Fierce Beast attacks. However, this doesn't mean there are no dangers. In some ways, it is even more dangerous than outer cities.

Fierce Beasts don't hide among the populace, but humans can.

Many A-level, even S-class fugitives, reside in large or super large cities.

They are adept at hiding their presence, powerful, and possess various peculiar items. Especially anti-Awakener Demon-Breaking Weapons, sometimes even Demon Breakers.

Ordinary Awakeners face them with greatly reduced strength, sometimes losing their combat power in an instant!

Only Awakeners proficient in Martial Arts can face Demon-Breaking Weapons and fight against them.

In short, Hunters are the elite among Awakeners.

However, recruiting Li Ping into the Hunter Organization—isn't that too reckless?

"President, I am against this," Wang Jing said first, "We don't even know if he had anything to do with the death of Anshan City's previous City Lord. Bringing him into the headquarters is too risky. Who knows if he could become the next fugitive?"

"Exactly, President, this matter needs careful consideration,"

The gold-rimmed man said worriedly.

After all, the majority of fugitives used to be members of the Awakened Association!

"What about you two?"

Ji Huan looked at the other two.

"President,"

Another man spoke, "I also think recruiting him rashly is too risky. However, him joining the Hunter Organization isn't entirely out of the question. Besides completing the necessary Hunter assessments, he must also undergo our investigation to prove he's unrelated to Anshan City's past events."

"Is that necessary?"

Only the burly man scoffed, "I think letting him join the Hunter Organization is fine. With proper training, he might become an excellent Hunter."

"Then let's vote again. Raise your hand if you disagree with his recruitment,"

The gold-rimmed man said, raising his hand,

Wang Jing quickly followed.

The other man hesitated but raised his hand too.

Three to two.

"President, the result is clear," said the gold-rimmed man.

Ji Huan smiled and said, "Alright, then this matter is closed."

"Well, if there's nothing else, we'll leave."

As he spoke, the others disappeared from the conference room one by one.

Only Ji Huan remained.

He looked at Li Ping's file on the table, hesitated, but closed it.

Indeed, although the man's strength is decent, he is an unstable factor. Besides, headquarters have plenty of talents stronger and more gifted than him.

Let this be a minor incident.

Chapter 413: The Entire Village Disappeared?

It was past four in the afternoon when the people from the Chen Family Fortress arrived in front of Anshan City.

Looking at the city wall that soared thirty meters high, Chen Guodong and the others were completely stunned.

Is this Anshan City?

It's so magnificent!

Even comparing Chen Family Fortress or Song Family Castle to it, they are no match at all.

"Follow the order later, enter the city one by one, do not rush," Gu Ze said.

The registration was fast, and soon, the vanguard led several Awakeners into the city.

Looking at the surrounding high-rise buildings standing close together, everyone's eyes were filled with awe.

"Heh heh heh, is it your first time here?" An Awakener asked with a chuckle.

Everyone was startled and nodded subconsciously at the Awakeners in front of them.

These are Awakeners!

And they are being so friendly to us?

In fact, it wasn't just the people from the Chen Family Fortress; the bystanders around were also shocked.

In the past, whenever they came in, the Awakeners here had always looked unapproachable, and even when they spoke, it was in a cold manner.

"Actually, after a while, you'll get used to it," the Awakener chuckled.

He usually wouldn't bother explaining to ordinary people.

But the people from the Chen Family Fortress were different; they belonged to Gu Ze's stronghold. Gu Ze's relationship with the Chairman was extraordinary. Having a good relationship with Gu Ze could bring unspeakable benefits.

"No no, this place is much better than our Chen Family Fortress," a man quickly said.

"Yeah, look at these roads, the skyscrapers, and the restaurants. It feels like we're back in a big city from ten years ago all of a sudden."

"Right, and that city wall, it's as tall as a dozen floors! Forget about high-level Fierce Beasts, it could even block elite-level Fierce Beasts, right?"

"Of course,"

The leading Awakener said with a hint of pride, "Forget about elite-level Fierce Beasts; even when a Beast Tide erupts, the wall can hold them off."

"Beast Tide!"

Everyone was shocked.

They had vivid memories of the Beast Tide.

In a little while, the group was led to rows of houses.

"These are the places you will live from now on. Go take a look inside."

Everyone's eyes lit up when they saw this.

The furnishings inside were a bit simple, but the space was ample.

The most important point was, these were houses inside Anshan City. Ten years ago, many of them wouldn't have been able to afford such a house.

"Is this our home from now on?"

Someone asked in disbelief.

The others were dumbfounded at the question.

Yes, is this really their home from now on?

It felt like a dream.

"Of course, it's your home,"

The Awakener smiled, "Thank our Chairman. Not only you, but many others like you have been brought into the city and settled down by the Chairman."

"Yes, honestly, there are quite a lot of people from the Chen Family Fortress this time. Some small strongholds only have a few dozen to a hundred people."

"Big brother," one person plucked up the courage to ask, "why does the Chairman do this?"

"Yes, such a good place, letting us stay for free, if we hadn't seen it with our own eyes, we wouldn't believe it."

"Why?"

The Awakener smiled and said, "Because our Chairman is a good person."

"Good? A good person?"

Everyone was stunned.

"Yes, after you stay for a while, you will understand,"

The Awakener said, "We need to go pick up the next group. You guys get acquainted with the environment."

Saying that, he and his companions quickly left, leaving the group staring at each other.

As the evening gradually set in, the people from the Chen Family Fortress also entered the city.

Chen Fan followed in the crowd and watched his father and others enter the residential building.

He finally breathed a sigh of relief.

It's finally over.

To ensure everything went smoothly, he hadn't gone hunting the entire day and stayed with the group.

"However, we can't let our guard down; the real test is just beginning."

Chen Fan looked into the distance.

He felt that, whether it was because his Spiritual Power had grown stronger or other reasons, the day the Beast Tide would erupt seemed to be drawing nearer.

When that day comes, can Anshan City hold? And if it does, for how many days?

"We'll have to take it one step at a time."

He sighed lightly.

"Let's go back,"

"Yes, it's finally over. This is Younger Brother Gu's stronghold; we need to take extra care,"

"Hahaha, we don't need to intervene; Younger Brother Gu will handle it."

"That's true, but if there's any help needed, we should be proactive. Maybe it will attract the Chairman's attention."

With that, they all smiled knowingly.

At this moment, a series of urgent footsteps sounded.

A few people ran over, and then, with a thud, knelt in front of them.

Just as he was about to leave, Chen Fan stopped in his tracks when he saw this scene.

"What are you doing?"

The leading Awakener frowned and asked.

"Awakener Sir, my parents have gone missing. Please, help me find them, please!"

The little boy finished speaking and started kowtowing.

Behind him, a few adults and one or two children also started kowtowing.

"Your parents are missing?"

The Awakener exchanged a glance with his companions.

He thought, your parents are missing, what does that have to do with me?

"Yes, Awakener Sir, not only my parents, but many people who came with us are also missing."

The little boy wiped his tears.

"What?"

The Awakeners were shocked by this news.

"Little guy, what did you just say? Many people from your stronghold are missing?"

"Yes, Awakener Sir, Uncle Gao, Uncle Qin, Aunt Zhao, they are all missing. I saw them yesterday, today they are all gone."

The little boy cried uncontrollably.

The few adults behind him exchanged glances and gathered the courage to speak.

"Awakener Sir, we are people from Gao Family Stronghold, dozens of miles away. We just moved in yesterday, but early this morning, the people from our stronghold disappeared like they vanished into thin air. Except for us, everyone else is missing."

"At first, we thought everyone went out for some reason. We waited and waited, but as time passed, there was still no sign of them."

"Awakener Sir, please help us."

After they finished speaking, they continued kowtowing non-stop.

They had summoned up a lot of courage to come over and ask for help.

"The whole stronghold is missing?"

The Awakeners frowned upon hearing this.

Is it real?

They had been here for years and had never encountered such a situation.

"Alright, we know about this. Once we find out the details, we will get back to you."

The leading Awakener said.

"Awakener Sir, please, you must find out what happened as soon as possible,"

A woman pleaded.

So many people disappearing overnight made everyone's skin crawl.

Moreover, though she was fine today, could she be sure about tomorrow?

"Are you teaching me how to do my job?"

The Awakener's tone suddenly turned cold.

"No, no,"

The woman was so frightened that she wished she could bury her head in the ground.

"We know about it. Go back and wait for the reply."

Saying that, the Awakeners walked away, discussing quietly among themselves.

"Brother Dai, this is strange, isn't it? The whole stronghold disappearing overnight, it sounds like a supernatural event."

"Who cares?"

The leading Awakener said indifferently, "So some people went missing? Anshan City has no shortage of people now."

"That's true. Forget it, let's talk about it later. After a busy day, we deserve a drink,"

Kneeling on the ground, the few people finally dared to raise their heads after a long while. They looked at each other, faces filled with fear.

Wait for a reply?

When will they get a reply?

Also, the Awakeners didn't even ask their names or addresses. How would they inform them if they found something?

Honestly, they regretted coming here.

If they had known this would happen, wouldn't it have been better to stay in the stronghold?

"What should we do? Do we still go back to that place tonight? What if we disappear like the others?" the little boy asked, shivering.

"Where else can we go? Don't worry, maybe we are overthinking it. Maybe they are playing a prank on us. Maybe they will show up when we go back."

"Really, is it really like that?"

"Probably?"

They comforted each other.

At that moment, a series of footsteps approached, and an ordinary-looking man stood before them.

"I heard you say the people from your stronghold went missing just now?"

"Who are you?"

They looked up at the stern-faced man, feeling a chill down their spines.

So scary, this person.

"Li Ping,"

Chen Fan said, having now assumed Li Ping's appearance.

"Li, Li Ping?"

They had heard this name before.

Then their eyes widened, mouths agape.

"Are, are you the Chairman of the Awakeners Association, Chairman Li?"

"Yes,"

Chen Fan nodded.

"!"

They were completely stunned.

Never in their wildest dreams did they expect that the legendary figure would stand right before them at this moment.

"Get up and tell me what happened."

"Yes, yes,"

They grasped at this lifeline like drowning people clutching at a straw.

They didn't know for sure whether this person really was Chairman Li, but since he said so, he likely wasn't lying.

More importantly, they had no other choice.

Chapter 414: Can You Really Get Away?

"Big sister, it's already dark. How about we start now?"

"Yes, big sister, Fang Liang and his people might have already started. We can't let them get ahead of us."

"Yesterday, we only managed to get two thousand people. If we act tonight, the number might double!"

In the room, a few black-robed figures were rubbing their palms with eager anticipation.

They had tasted success the night before, and throughout the day, they were restless, waiting for night to fall.

"No rush."

Wang Ru glanced at the darkening sky outside, though tempted, she rejected the idea, saying, "Haste makes waste. If we act too early and those Awakened sense us, it would be bad. Let's wait until it gets as late as yesterday before we act."

The black-robed figures exchanged glances and reluctantly agreed.

Looking at the time, it was just past six, still three or four hours before midnight.

"Did anyone notice anything today?" Wang Ru looked over at them and asked.

"Well..."

They exchanged glances again.

One of them spoke up, "Big sister, today, several more groups arrived in Anshan City."

"More groups came?"

Wang Ru frowned.

The news didn't seem noteworthy.

The others felt the same since the city was already overcrowded.

"Big sister, one of the groups looked quite healthy. I think they would be good targets for tonight," a black-robed figure said, licking his lips as if he were salivating.

"Looked quite healthy?"

"Really? Which village are they from? How many are there?"

Others hurriedly asked.

The person showed a satisfied expression, "About four to five hundred people? People from other villages look malnourished and weak, but this group is different. Especially the young adults, they seem like Martial Artists, holding weapons and looking strong and powerful. Even the children and elderly look well-nourished and not like they are starving."

He continued, "I only took a distant look and didn't dare get too close, fearing discovery. But I know where they're staying. Big sister, let's target them tonight."

Hearing this, everyone felt tempted.

A strong person, whether the energy in their flesh and blood or the quality of their soul, surely surpassed that of a weak person.

Especially Martial Artists, the sustenance one Martial Artist could provide might equal several ordinary people!

Wang Ru's heart was also delighted.

Indeed, targeting Anshan City's original inhabitants would be more suitable.

But she also feared alarming others, so she chose to target outsiders.

When the time is right, they could go after the original inhabitants.

Now, since an appetizer presented itself, how could they let it go?

Just as she was about to agree, an unfamiliar male voice suddenly came from outside.

"Seems I found the right place."

Everyone inside was startled, their eyes nearly popping out of their sockets.

There was someone outside?

Wang Ru placed a finger to her lips, signaling for silence.

The room was pitch dark and deathly silent, as if nobody were there.

A look of relief flashed across their faces,

Thankfully, they never had the habit of lighting lamps. Otherwise, they would have been exposed.

Perhaps the voice was a figment of their imagination? Or maybe the person was talking to someone else.

But the next moment, the voice sounded again.

"What? You think not making a sound means I don't know you're in there?"

Wang Ru and the others exchanged worried glances, their hearts pounding with shock.

That person outside was coming for them?

How could this be?

A sigh came from outside.

"Alright then, if you don't want to come out, I'll just come in and find you."

With those words, footsteps approached.

"Tap, tap."

The footsteps got closer and closer.

An overwhelming sense of suffocation filled the room.

"Big sister, what do we do?"

A black-robed figure asked in a panic.

Without a doubt, the person outside was there for them!

But they had believed their traces were well hidden. How could they be found?

Now wasn't the time to think about that because in a few seconds, that person would reach the door!

Fight or flee?

The others also showed fear in their eyes, a growing urge to retreat visible.

At first, it seemed there was only one person outside.

But who could say there weren't more around? Perhaps a net had been cast, leaving no escape.

"Retreat first!"

Wang Ru decisively said.

Since they had been discovered, it meant the place was no longer safe.

They might as well retreat to another location first.

They exchanged glances and began chanting.

In an instant, the few people inside the room vanished from their original spot.

They reappeared in a room several kilometers away.

"You escaped quite fast."

The person outside muttered to himself, "But do you really think you can escape?"

In a small house in the eastern part of the city,

"Huff..."

The few people who had teleported there breathed a collective sigh of relief.

"How strange, who the heck is that guy? How did he find us?" asked a trembling black-robed figure,
"Could it be one of you who left some traces?"

"What are you saying? What do you mean we left traces? The one who left traces must be you!"

"Exactly, Zhang, don't slander us and shift the blame. I think this time, it's probably your fault we were exposed."

"Nonsense! I used to stay in mid-sized cities and was never discovered!"

"Hmph, the past is the past. Now is now. Just because you weren't found then doesn't mean you won't be now."

"Enough!"

Seeing them argue, Wang Ru shouted, "Shut up, all of you!"

They immediately bowed their heads obediently.

Still, their eyes showed mutual displeasure.

"Is this the time for internal conflict? Do you not want to complete the task?"

Wang Ru's voice was icy, "It's not necessarily our fault that he found us. Perhaps, someone deliberately leaked our location."

"Deliberately leaked?"

Their eyes widened, realizing something.

"Big sister, you mean, could it be Fang Liang who sold us out?"

"No way, we're all from the same cult?"

"What if? That guy has had issues with us for a long time. Maybe he sold us out to the Awakened here, using a borrowed knife to kill us."

"Bastard! If I ever see them, I'll kill them!"

They cursed through gritted teeth.

This reaction relieved Wang Ru slightly.

Her intention was indeed to divert blame toward Fang Liang. The situation was uncertain, and internal conflicts would only worsen things.

"Big sister, should we continue tonight's operation?"

A black-robed figure asked, realizing something.

"Of course."

Wang Ru didn't hesitate, "What happened was just a small incident. If we're careful, it should be fine."

"Big sister is right. Even if that guy found us, didn't we escape right under his nose?"

"Exactly, if he has the skill, let him chase us again?" a black-robed figure said smugly.

"Do you really want me to chase you?"

At this moment, a familiar voice sounded outside again.

Wang Ru and the others felt their hearts drop to their stomachs.

The voice!

It was the same guy from before!

He, he came again!

"Go!"

Wang Ru gritted her teeth, reciting the incantation once more.

They disappeared from the room again.

"Gone again?"

Chen Fan's lips curled up, showing no urgency or anger.

Compared to last time, he had gained some more insights.

"Run. Let's see where you can go."

In the northern part of the city,

In an empty room, a few black-robed figures appeared.

Compared to before, their faces were paler.

Except for Wang Ru, the others were weaker than the typical C-level Awakened, and the repeated teleportations consumed a lot of energy.

Even Wang Ru herself wasn't feeling well.

"What's with that guy?"

After a brief rest, a black-robed figure asked in a trembling voice, "How did he keep up with us? Has he marked us?"

"No, that can't be?"

A companion tried to stay calm, "We've never met him, don't even know what he looks like. How could he have marked us?"

"Yeah, but how did he keep up? What if he's on his way here right now?"

That thought made the room fall silent.

Including Wang Ru, everyone's heart was in their throat, ears straining to catch any sounds from outside.

Minute by minute passed.

"It seems he didn't follow us this time?"

Someone cautiously asked.

"Seems so."

"Huff," The former smug black-robed figure heaved a sigh of relief, slumping to the ground, "I think he didn't follow us this time."

"I guess..."

A companion started to speak when the voice sounded from outside again.

"Sorry, did I disappoint you again?"

The one on the ground jumped up instantly, his face turning ashen.

The others were the same.

Once might be a coincidence, but twice or three times?

Even a fool would realize, no matter how many times they teleported, the result would be the same!

Chapter 415: Li Ping, You're Too Bullying!

Their eyes all fell on Wang Ru.

If they could get into the city, their stronghold was almost gone. Even if they had one, could they escape the one tracking them outside?

Suspenseful!

Given this, there were only two paths to take.

One, give up completely and flee from Anshan City. Though it was night and fierce beasts roamed the wild, even for them, there was a risk to their lives. However, they should still have no problem returning to the secret base.

Two, confront the guy outside!

But this brought up another issue.

Could they really win?

The guy outside seemed to be alone, but he dared to follow them. He had to be confident in his own strength.

Not to mention, who knew if there were others hidden in the shadows?

Wang Ru took a deep breath.

Constantly hiding wasn't an option.

It would be better to figure out what was going on. If things turned unfavorable, they could escape, and by then, the guy outside probably wouldn't catch up.

"Why did you stop running?"

The voice from outside seemed surprised.

However, to the black-robed figures inside, this question was a blatant provocation.

"Who are you!? Why are you following us!" someone asked in anger.

"Who am I?"

Chen Fan replied with a question, "Then who are you?"

"We are from another place. We heard you could stay here without paying, so we came to live here."

Another voice spoke, filled with dissatisfaction, "Friend, you've been following us from the start, like a leech. Isn't that a bit rude?"

Chen Fan laughed when he heard this and looked at the room, "I let you stay here without spending a dime. Isn't that polite enough?"

"You let us stay here?"

"What do you mean?"

"Could it be!"

Wang Ru and the rest exchanged glances, all thinking the same thing.

The person outside, could he be, could he be the chairman of the Awakened Association here?

Thinking of this, they were scared out of their wits.

They had never considered that their actions would eventually alert the local Awakened Association.

But they didn't expect it would happen so soon, and not just anybody, but the strongest member of the association himself!

"No, it can't be..."

Several black-robed figures trembled.

If the chairman of the Awakened Association was here, would the other awokeneds be far behind?

They were surrounded!

"B-big sister, maybe we should escape?"

"Yes, big sister, as the saying goes, a wise man knows when to retreat for the bigger picture."

"We can inform Lord Bishop about this. He wouldn't blame us."

Everyone chimed in with their thoughts.

"Shut up!"

Wang Ru glared at them fiercely. So what if he was the association's chairman?

In a one-on-one fight, she didn't fear him at all.

But if they left without understanding how they were discovered, they wouldn't be able to explain it to Lord Bishop.

"So it's Chairman Li," she said, "Chairman Li, your noble character truly commands our respect. However, we came here to live without ill intent. Why chase us, Chairman Li? If you don't welcome us, we'll leave early tomorrow."

"No ill intent? But I distinctly heard you planning to harm the citizens of my city, to absorb their flesh and souls as nourishment. I ask you, if that doesn't count as ill intent, then what does?"

The room fell into dead silence.

The black-robed figures' faces filled with despair.

Evidently, Chairman Li had long discovered their presence and had been eavesdropping.

And yet, they were completely unaware and full of unjustified confidence.

"Chairman Li, you must have misheard,"

Wang Ru's heart skipped a beat, but she stood firm and denied: "When did we ever say such things?"

"Ha ha ha."

Chen Fan smiled dismissively and asked, "I think I heard you mention a name, Fang Liang. Is he your companion? Has he also come here this time?"

At this, the black-robed figures were speechless.

"Chairman Li, I don't understand what you're saying. If you don't welcome us, we'll leave now. I hope you won't chase after us this time."

After Wang Ru finished speaking, she gave a signal to the others.

They couldn't stay here any longer.

They chanted a spell, and their figures vanished from the spot.

They reappeared in the wilderness.

The moon was bright and stars sparse, shadows moving around them.

"Great, we finally escaped."

Someone wiped the cold sweat off their forehead and said weakly.

"Yes, this time, he won't chase us again, right?"

"Don't say that. Your mouth seems cursed. The last two times..."

The voice trailed off.

Because not far away, a figure was quietly watching them.

"How is this possible?"

They stared wide-eyed, like they had seen a ghost.

"Who are you!"

Wang Ru's voice now carried fear.

Was this man the legendary Chairman Li?

How did he follow them?

"Haven't you already figured out who I am?"

Chen Fan's voice was calm.

"Li, Li Ping!"

Wang Ru's voice sharpened.

"Thump!"

"Thump!"

The black-robed people behind, shaking in fear, fell to the ground.

Is he a devil?

Why could he track them wherever they went?

"Li Ping! You're pushing us too far!"

Wang Ru looked around, her fear turning into anger.

In Anshan City, she had feared Li Ping wouldn't be alone, accompanied by other C-level awokeneds.

If surrounded, the consequences would be unimaginable.

But now, it seemed this guy was alone.

She could deal with that.

If she killed him, no one would know what happened today, and they could move freely in Anshan City afterward.

"Roar!"

Around them, fierce beasts roared one after another.

Friendly beasts had sensed their presence and were coming.

The black-robed figures showed panic.

It was a case of wolves in front, tigers behind.

"Tell me, how many are left in the city?"

Chen Fan asked.

After leaving the city, he could have stayed hidden and followed them to their lair to eliminate them all.

However, if another incident in the city happened, it would be bad.

So, first clearing out the city's threats and then attacking their base wasn't too late.

Hearing this, the black-robed figures grew angry.

This guy was too arrogant.

"You go ahead; I'll hold him off."

Wang Ru said, holding a black ball. Shadows flew out rapidly from it towards Chen Fan.

The others nodded at each other and quickly fled.

It was just a C-level awakener. Big sister could handle it.

And now, it's night with more beasts gathering. Staying would be a burden.

But before they got far, they heard a scream.

They saw Wang Ru on the ground, with a hole in her chest, bleeding profusely.

The black ball in her hand had also rolled away.

"Crack!"

A crispy sound, the ball crushed underfoot.

"The sacred artifact!"

Wang Ru felt heartbroken, using her last bit of strength to look at the man before her.

Her full-force attack couldn't even pierce his skin.

But his ordinary punch chilled her to the bone.

He must be more than a C-level awakened.

"Like a mantis trying to stop a chariot, overestimating yourself."

Chen Fan looked at her coldly, then turned his gaze to the distant figures.

"Run!"

Someone shouted and fled with all their might.

Others too, even running in different directions.

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

Several thudding sounds.

More black-robed figures fell, their chests all pierced.

"Don't, don't kill me."

The remaining man collapsed on the ground, terrified.

"Chairman Li, I know my mistake, please, let me go."

Regret filled the man's heart.

Knowing how terrifying the chairman was, he wouldn't dare come close.

"How many are left in the city?"

Chen Fan asked coldly.

"Five, no, six."

"How many exactly?"

"Six, six. Including Fang Liang, six. I forgot him initially, so I said five." The man quickly explained, fearing he'd be killed next.

"Six huh."

Chen Fan nodded slightly.

That aligned with his senses.

He noticed some unfamiliar presences, similar to C-level awokeneds, in the city yesterday.

But he was searching for Jiulong City's group and didn't think they'd be threats.

Clearly, he miscalculated.

The cultists also infiltrated, killing many.

"A single flaw can cause defeat."

Trying to make the city safer led to their deaths. I didn't intend harm, but they died because of me.

Chen Fan felt deep remorse.

He reached out towards the man's head.

"You said you wouldn't kill me!" The man feared, then lost consciousness, giving all intel on Fang Liang and others.

"Bang!"

The black-robed man's head exploded, his body fell back.

"Fang Liang, huh?"

Chen Fan gazed towards Anshan City.

Chapter 416: I Know You're Anxious, But Don't Rush

"Achoo!"

Fang Liang sneezed, touched his nose, and suddenly had a bad premonition, though he couldn't say what it was.

At this moment, besides him, there were a few other black-robed men in the room, discussing in low voices.

"This afternoon, I ran into one of Wang Ru's subordinates. It looks like they had quite the haul last night; he had a huge smile on his face."

"I ran into them too. Hmph, his eyes were practically in the sky. It's just fishing in troubled waters. Who wouldn't know how to do that?"

"Exactly, why don't we act tonight as well?"

"But what if we alert that Chairman Li? What if he really is an A-level Awakener? Even Lord Bishop would have to run if he encountered him."

"Maybe it's just a rumor? Who knows if that bunch of Awakeners is just spreading tales to intimidate others."

The air suddenly grew quiet.

The five people either looked at the table or at other places.

At this moment, someone turned around, looked at Fang Liang, and tentatively asked, "Brother Fang, why don't we act tonight and give it a try?"

"Give it a try?"

Fang Liang repeated these words, frowning slightly.

"Yeah, Brother Fang, look, a whole day has passed, and there's been no movement in Anshan City. Clearly, the Awakeners here are still in the dark. They don't know, so how would Chairman Li know?"

"Ah Xin is right, Brother Fang. I think we can give it a try. If anything goes wrong, we can just pull back immediately."

"Exactly. Watching Wang Ru's group succeed so easily is harder to bear than death."

"Brother Fang, let's try it too?"

Everyone chimed in.

Fang Liang was actually tempted too.

But he was a person with a plan and principles.

If he didn't execute the plan he made, what was the point of making it?

"Wait a few more days."

He took out a pack of cigarettes from his pocket, pulled one out, lit it, and said slowly, "I know you're anxious, but don't be. Didn't we already discuss our strategies long ago?

No matter how much Wang Ru's group does, it's just preparing a wedding garment for us. In a few days, if there's still no movement in Anshan City, we'll deal with Wang Ru and kill them, then continue with our mission."

The others looked at each other, somewhat unwilling inwardly.

They couldn't just waste all that time, could they?

Besides, if Wang Ru's group was discovered, it would only make it harder for them in the future.

"Brother Fang, can we wait while we work on our mission?" a man couldn't help but say.

Everyone else nodded in agreement.

Fang Liang quietly glanced at him and said, "Are you teaching me how to do things?"

"No, not at all."

The man quickly lowered his head in fear.

"You all are still too young to understand the dangers."

Fang Liang shook his head. "We are currently in Anshan City, one wrong move and we'll fall into an abyss. We must clearly understand the situation before we make a move. Let Wang Ru's people test the waters for us. What's the rush?"

He blew out a smoke ring. "As time goes on, more people will only move in. These people aren't going anywhere."

"Brother Fang is right. Once these people move in, even if we try to chase them away, they won't leave."

"Right, we have plenty of time. As hunters, we should have some patience."

"Let Wang Ru's group have their moment. Hmph, they won't be here around for long."

The group said bitterly.

"Creak," a light sound.

The door was pushed open.

"?"

The faces of the people inside the house changed instantly, eyes turning to the door.

A strange man was standing at the door, his gaze meeting theirs.

"Hm, you're all here."

Chen Fan closed the door and walked in.

The group inside was at a loss. After exchanging glances, their eyes fell on Fang Liang.

Could this person be a friend of Brother Fang?

Otherwise, how would he know they were gathered here and act so familiarly, coming in and finding a chair to sit on?

However, Fang Liang was also confused.

He didn't know this person at all, right?

And the scariest part was, he didn't know when this person had arrived!

"Who are you?"

His entire body bristled with tension, eyes squinting into slits, staring intently at Chen Fan.

"Li Ping."

Chen Fan said honestly.

"Li Ping?"

The room fell silent at first, then erupted in exclamations.

"What, you're Li Ping!"

"The chairman of the Anshan City Awakened Association!"

Everyone was shocked beyond belief.

"It's me."

Chen Fan nodded quietly.

The people inside felt the world spinning.

What was going on?

They had just mentioned this person, and now he appeared in front of them?

Could this really be happening?

No, this wasn't the time for jokes!

If this person really was the chairman of the Awakened Association, then they were exposed, and if they didn't leave, they wouldn't be able to!

"Don't rush to leave."

At this moment, Chen Fan smiled, "I have a gift for you, don't be scared."

The few people stopped as if bewitched.

The next moment, a person suddenly appeared on the ground.

With long black hair, it was a woman, and there was a blood hole the size of a bowl in her chest; her heart was long gone.

"Wang Ru!"

"It's Wang Ru!"

In an instant, the few people in the room paled, almost screaming the roof off.

They had just seen her a few days ago.

But now, she was a corpse lying on the ground.

"Gulp."

Fang Liang swallowed hard.

His legs started trembling uncontrollably.

He knew it. He knew this operation wouldn't be as easy as imagined.

Therefore, he was very cautious and planned to use Wang Ru's group as pawns to test the situation.

But he never thought changes would come so quickly!

After just one night, Wang Ru was dead, and this Chairman Li was sitting in front of them!

"I have no other intentions with this gift. I just want to tell you that escaping is useless. When I found these people, they were also running, but in the end, even after escaping Anshan City, they still died by my hand. So it's best not to think about running. Just answer a few questions for me. Of course,"

Chen Fan smiled, "you can choose not to believe me and try to run."

Arrogant!

Fang Liang and the others all had the same thought in their minds.

This person was too arrogant!

First, he walked in as if no one was around, then threw a corpse on the ground, and now speaking like this, clearly, he didn't care about them at all.

But just letting him keep them here, waiting to be slaughtered like lambs?

A black-robed man's lips started to move.

Suddenly, a gust of wind swept through.

"Bang!"

A muffled sound, the black-robed man had a blood hole in his chest, eyes wide as he fell.

Yet Chen Fan remained seated, not moving a bit.

The remaining few had a look of deep fear in their eyes.

What speed was this?

They didn't even have time to chant a spell!

"I said, running is useless. Anyone else not convinced can try again." Chen Fan's expression was calm as if he had just done something trivial.

The atmosphere in the room grew eerily silent.

Even Fang Liang felt a sense of despair rising.

Fight? They couldn't win.

Escape? They couldn't escape.

After a long silence, Fang Liang sighed deeply, "Chairman Li, we admit defeat. But can you tell us how you found Wang Ru's group?"

He wasn't curious about how this man found him.

After all, Wang Ru's corpse was right there; obviously, she gave them up before dying.

"Nothing in Anshan City escapes my eyes."

Chen Fan looked at him.

"Is that so?"

Fang Liang gave a bitter smile.

It seemed Anshan City wasn't as lax as it appeared. In reality, many eyes were watching every move within it.

No wonder this man acted so quickly.

"Chairman Li,"

He hesitated, then decided to plead, "although we are part of the Black Demon Sect like Wang Ru, we bear no ill will towards Anshan City."

"Really?" Chen Fan's face showed a meaningful smile.

"Chairman Li, I'm not lying to you."

Fang Liang quickly said, "We arrived with Wang Ru yesterday. Last night, they started taking action, targeting people in the city. But we're different. Up till now, we haven't harmed a single ordinary person."

"Yes, Chairman Li, we can swear we haven't harmed anyone!"

"Chairman Li, please believe us!"

The rest of them pleaded desperately.

If only they had known, they wouldn't have come!

Indeed, there's no such thing as a free lunch. Anshan City might have looked like a place full of easy targets, but it actually hid the most terrifying dangers for them.

"Do you take me for a fool?"

Chen Fan's smile disappeared, "You didn't act immediately just because you wanted to understand the city's situation first, nothing more. If I hadn't come today, you would have started targeting the city's people in a few days, right?"

As soon as he finished speaking, the few people were so scared they collapsed to the ground, their faces pale, unable to utter a word.

Clearly, this man might have been here listening to everything they said.

"Chairman Li,"

Fang Liang gritted his teeth, "Don't kill us. Spare our lives. It will be beneficial for both you and Anshan City."

Chapter 417: Archbishop

"Useful to me?"

Hearing this, Chen Fan smiled and asked, "In what way?"

A few black-robed men looked at Fang Liang with puzzled expressions.

Indeed, even they didn't think that sparing their lives would be of any use to him.

However, if Fang Liang could persuade the other side, that would be the best outcome.

Fang Liang wiped the cold sweat from his forehead and said, "Chairman Li, you are right. We indeed planned to understand the situation first before taking action against the people in the city, but as I just said, there is a premise - understanding the situation."

He cautiously lifted his head, glanced at Chen Fan, and continued, "Chairman Li, there are rumors in Anshan City that you killed eight B-level Awakeners by yourself. Your strength, I'm afraid, has already reached A-level, right?"

"What are you trying to say?" Chen Fan neither confirmed nor denied.

"I mean, after witnessing your strength, we have changed our minds. As long as you let us go back, we will definitely persuade Lord Bishop to abandon the idea of attacking Anshan City. Moreover, we will also warn other Dark Forces,

so from now on, Anshan City will no longer have to worry about attacks from Dark Forces. Chairman Li, you can also focus more on improving your own strength. Isn't this beneficial for both you and Anshan City?"

Fang Liang had a fawning look on his face.

"Yes, yes, Chairman Li, if you let us go back, we will persuade Lord Bishop to give up the idea of attacking Anshan City."

"Chairman Li, please, give us a chance? We will not let you down."

"Chairman Li, give us a chance."

The others also chimed in.

Meanwhile, they admired Fang Liang's cleverness.

Truly impressive, he could come up with this kind of reason, and on careful thought, it made some sense.

"Interesting."

A slight smile appeared on Chen Fan's lips.

"It's good that you find it interesting, Chairman Li." Fang Liang breathed a slight sigh of relief.

But the next sentence from Chen Fan made his heart sink to the bottom.

"But what if I don't need it?"

Chen Fan sneered.

Fang Liang and the others' faces changed drastically, and their backs were instantly soaked with sweat.

"Chairman, Chairman Li."

Fang Liang gritted his teeth, knowing they were at a life-and-death juncture.

Since good words were useless, he could only talk tough, or they would surely die.

"Do you know what will happen if you kill us today?"

"Oh?"

A look of surprise flashed in Chen Fan's eyes, "Seduction failed? Now you want to threaten me?"

"If Chairman Li thinks what I'm about to say is a threat, so be it."

Fang Liang's voice was low, "Chairman Li, you are an A-level Awakener. I can't deny your strength is indeed very strong. Even our Lord Bishop wouldn't dare to confront you personally, but our Black Demon Sect's strength far exceeds your imagination."

"Really, go on."

Chen Fan nodded.

He was actually in no hurry to act because he wanted to learn more about the Black Demon Sect from them.

"The Black Demon Sect has one Sect Leader, five Archbishops, and twelve Bishops. The Sect Leader's strength can rival any one of the three S-Class Awakeners in Yan Country. Each of the five Archbishops is capable of confronting an A-level Awakener. As for the Bishops,

their strength is slightly weaker, comparable to B-level Awakeners, but far stronger than average B-level Awakeners."

"So, the Black Demon Sect has one S-Class Awakener, five A-level Awakeners, and twelve B-level Awakeners?" Chen Fan asked.

"That's right."

Fang Liang straightened his spine, "As the saying goes, 'Two fists cannot defeat four hands.' Even if Chairman Li, you are very strong, able to fight one of our Archbishops to a draw. But if two Archbishops come with their men, can you still defend this city?"

Chen Fan smiled and asked, "So your point is, if I kill you here, it will alarm more than two Archbishops of your Black Demon Sect? Isn't that placing too much importance on yourself?"

"I'm not placing too much importance on myself. It's just a matter of time."

Fang Liang's voice was calm, "Our Black Demon Sect's strength among the many Dark Forces is not the strongest. If we don't count our Sect Leader, we wouldn't be able to match the defense of a large city.

With such strength, it's more than enough to deal with a medium-sized city, let alone a small city. To put it bluntly, if Anshan City has only you, a mere A-level Awakener, guarding it, it's only a matter of time before it gets targeted."

Chen Fan had to admit, hearing this, that it was true.

After all, Anshan City was on the outermost edge, making it the easiest target due to its geographical location.

Also, with so many people living here, if he were part of the Evil Cult, he'd be tempted too.

Seeing this, Fang Liang's hope was reignited.

"Chairman Li, to be frank, if that day comes, our strength alone cannot influence the situation, but there is one thing we can help with."

"What is it?"

"Reporting information."

Fang Liang spat out the words.

"If that day truly comes, we will definitely get the news in advance. By then, we will surely notify you promptly, Chairman Li, so you can prepare early."

Hearing this, the other black-robed men were startled.

Wouldn't this be betraying the sect?

Then again, unsure if their lives would be spared, what loyalty could they think of?

They all quickly agreed.

"If you do this and get discovered, your end will be tragic, won't it?" Chen Fan chuckled and asked.

Fang Liang shivered and said, "As long as Chairman Li is willing to let us go, we are willing to take this risk and cooperate with you.

Of course, the best way is for Chairman Li to quickly leave for those large or super-large cities. There, even our Sect Leader wouldn't dare to act rashly."

"I appreciate your good intentions, but thinking of the innocent blood on your hands, this cooperation is not worth it."

Chen Fan sighed softly and shook his head.

"!"

Upon hearing this, Fang Liang and the others' eyes widened like saucers.

So, after all that talk, he still refused to spare them?

"Chairman Li!"

Veins bulged on Fang Liang's forehead, "If you kill us, you will regret it!"

"Chairman Li!"

The others also pleaded.

Some, steeling their hearts, began chanting spells.

If they were going to die anyway, might as well try fighting, hoping for a chance to survive.

Unfortunately, Chen Fan did not give them this chance.

With a swift movement, his fingers tapped each of them.

In the next moment, except for Fang Liang, the rest fell with ashen faces, dead.

They had all been struck at their Death Acupoints and died instantly.

Fang Liang was astonished. He thought he was dead for sure, yet he was still alive.

Could it be...

Excitement flashed in his eyes.

Was the person before him intending to cooperate? But to prevent leakage, he first disposed of those beside him?

As expected of an A-level Awakener, so meticulous in thought!

Chen Fan glanced at him, vaguely guessing his thoughts and found it amusing.

"Tell me, where is your hideout? What's the defense like?"

Fang Liang immediately woke up and recounted everything he knew.

Chen Fan showed no emotion outwardly but felt a bit disappointed inside.

Only one Bishop?

Kinda lacking.

He killed these cultists to protect the innocent from their hands and to obtain their Black Balls.

Destroying one could provide considerable Experience Points.

Like the ones he had destroyed before, each giving over a hundred thousand points.

The black ball that woman had provided a whopping three hundred thousand.

If it were the level of a Bishop, wouldn't it be over a million? At least enough to max out a Supreme Martial Arts.

"Besides him?"

Chen Fan continued asking, "No other Bishop information? Or Archbishops?"

"Archbishop!"

Fang Liang was shocked.

Was this person indeed intending to seek out the Archbishops?

"Chairman Li, although you are an A-level Awakener, Archbishops are not as easy to deal with as you think."

He hurriedly said, even using a respectful tone.

"Really?"

Chen Fan didn't say more and continued, "Do you know where they are hiding?"

Fang Liang smiled bitterly and shook his head repeatedly.

"Chairman Li, you overestimate me. As just a sect member, I don't even know Bishop's information, let alone the big figures like Archbishops. Plus, the sect has rules – positions of Archbishops and Bishops are kept secret from each other."

"So, even your Bishop doesn't know other Bishops' locations?" Chen Fan frowned.

"Yes, in theory, but they likely have some hidden means of contact."

Fang Liang said with a hopeful smile.

He had told all he knew.

Now, wouldn't the person before him let him go?

"Do you have any black balls? Where are they?"

"Chairman Li, do you mean the Holy Balls?"

"Yes, let me see."

Fang Liang hesitated for a moment but then took out several black balls from his space items, explaining, "Chairman Li, these holy, black, black balls are empty. We haven't harmed the people in the city."

Chen Fan nodded and took the black balls, crushing them one by one.

Several notification sounds rang in his mind.

"!"

Fang Liang turned pale and was stupefied.

Chapter 418: He Dares to Come Back?

Looking at the shattered pieces on the ground, Fang Liang felt an impending sense of doom.

Because with these things gone, he had no way to explain himself to Lord Bishop when he returned!

Could it be that this Chairman Li before him never intended to cooperate with him, and it was all just wishful thinking on his part?

"Li, Chairman Li, please, let, let me go."

His voice trembled.

At this point, even if Li Ping spared him, he couldn't go back to the Black Demon Sect.

He would even be hunted down by the members of the sect.

Yet he still didn't want to die, even if it meant becoming a fugitive.

Chen Fan glanced at him and then, like lightning, touched his body with a fingertip.

"Thud!"

Fang Liang's body fell backward.

His eyes were full of resentment.

"Let you go? Did you spare the ordinary people you killed when they begged you like this?"

Chen Fan sneered.

In the end, these people brought their doom upon themselves.

Of all places, why did they have to come to Anshan City?

Of course, these two groups were just small fry, commanded by a bishop. If the bishop wasn't eliminated, in a few days more ignorant cultists would come.

"A bishop, huh?"

Chen Fan's eyes gleamed with killing intent.

Dare to target Anshan City?

No matter if you're a bishop or an archbishop, if you target Anshan City, you will die.

Moreover, with some luck, he might even find out the whereabouts of other bishops from them.

After all, who would complain about having more experience points?

However, he did not rush to leave; instead, he took out his phone and dialed Hua Jun's number.

"Ch-Chairman!"

Hua Jun was very surprised. As far as he could remember, this seemed to be the first time the chairman had called him.

"Black Demon Sect members have infiltrated the city."

"What?"

Hua Jun was shocked.

He had heard of this organization long ago, but they had always operated outside the city. Both sides had never interfered with each other.

But now, they had actually sent people into the city to cause trouble?

It must have been when the chairman was taking in ordinary people, and they managed to sneak in. How despicable!

"Chairman!"

He was about to say more, but Chen Fan interrupted him, "I have taken care of it. I will send you the location later. Clean up the bodies and handle the aftermath."

"Yes, Chairman. This was my negligence. I'm so sorry. I didn't even know there were Black Demon Sect members in the city."

Hua Jun wiped his cold sweat furiously.

Such an important matter, and he was the last to know.

"It's not entirely your fault. I also made a mistake by being careless, causing many people to suffer."

Chen Fan sighed lightly. "In the future, Anshan City must tighten vigilance. If there is a significant population disappearance, report to me immediately."

"Yes, Chairman."

Hua Jun nodded hurriedly.

"Alright, I have other matters to attend to."

Chen Fan finished and hung up the phone.

...

A hundred miles away, at the Black Demon Sect's secret base, the lights were dim.

In a hidden chamber.

The red-robed bishop sat on a meditation mat, cultivating.

Although their power came from the Black Demon's bestowal, they still needed to cultivate diligently to continually enhance their strength.

Otherwise, they would easily be surpassed by others.

At that moment, the black ball beside him suddenly glowed red, seeming eerie.

The red-robed bishop sensed something and opened his eyes.

He took a deep breath, feeling a bit nervous, and then slowly placed his palm on it.

The black ball suddenly dimmed, and the glowing mass floated into the air, transforming into a screen-like object.

On the screen appeared a figure in yellow robes, their face shrouded in dark shadows.

"I greet Archbishop Mo."

The red-robed man kneeled and said respectfully.

"Mm."

Yellow-robed Archbishop Mo Ning responded, "Bishop Yang, how is the progress this month?"

Yang Yi swallowed, cautiously replied, "Archbishop, we are still about thirty thousand short of the hundred thousand target."

"What?"

Yellow-robed Archbishop's tone turned cold, "Still about thirty thousand short? Do you know how many days are left until the end of the month?"

"S-Slightly less than seven days."

Yang Yi quickly replied.

This demeanor was a far cry from the formidable presence he usually displayed before his subordinates.

"Archbishop, there was an unexpected incident this month..." He began to explain but was cut off.

"I don't want excuses. I want to know if you can meet the target."

The yellow-robed archbishop's voice was icy, "If you fail, you know the consequences."

Yang Yi shivered violently and quickly said:

"I understand, Archbishop. But please rest assured, seven days is enough to gather the remaining thirty thousand, and if all goes well, we might even exceed the target."

"Is that so?"

The yellow-robed archbishop's tone was full of skepticism.

"Archbishop, my subordinates have successfully infiltrated Anshan City, which has nearly two hundred thousand people. Seven days are definitely enough."

"Anshan City?"

The yellow-robed archbishop pondered for a moment, "That's a small city, right? Your people managed to get in?"

Yang Yi looked troubled.

Truth be told, he didn't want to mention it unless absolutely necessary.

Because the resources were limited, the more people involved, the less there would be to divide.

Moreover, more people increased the risk of exposure.

"Mm?"

The yellow-robed archbishop snorted coldly, displeased.

Yang Yi had no choice but to reply honestly, "Archbishop, a new chairman has recently arrived in Anshan City. Because of his presence, outsiders can enter the city without any cost. My two groups of men got in because of this."

"Is that so?"

The yellow-robed archbishop was a bit surprised.

This was a city?

What was that Awakened Association chairman doing?

"I dare not deceive you, Archbishop."

Yang Yi hastened to add.

"Explain further."

"Yes."

Yang Yi then disclosed all he knew about Anshan City.

"I see."

The yellow-robed archbishop nodded thoughtfully, then asked, "How long have your people been inside?"

"Today is the second day, but they have already acted and will do so again tonight."

Yang Yi replied.

"What are the results?"

"Very good results; Wang Ru's team alone accomplished about two thousand in one night. They estimated that tonight they could double that to four thousand. In seven days, they would reach nearly thirty thousand. Plus, I sent two groups this time."

Yang Yi had a smile on his face.

He was delighted with the news received from Wang Ru earlier that morning.

"Over two thousand? Not bad."

The yellow-robed archbishop's tone softened.

Then he asked:

"What about the other group you sent?"

"Well."

Yang Yi frowned slightly, "I haven't received any news from them yet. But since Wang Ru's progress is good, Fang Liang's shouldn't be that bad. They might inform me once they meet their target."

"It's still better to confirm."

The yellow-robed archbishop cautioned, "Even though we're in the shadows, and the enemy is in the light, we must not be careless."

"Understood. I will inquire shortly." Yang Yi responded promptly.

"Mm."

The yellow-robed archbishop continued, "Bishop Yang, if you are the first to meet your goal this month, I will report your achievements to the sect leader. The church will fulfill any request you make."

"Yes!"

Yang Yi's face showed excitement.

He knew there was some exaggeration in those words.

But there would definitely be substantial rewards, such as a significant power boost.

In time, he might become the sixth archbishop of the Black Demon Sect.

"This is a rare opportunity, grasp it well, and I'll await your good news."

The yellow-robed archbishop's figure gradually dimmed, and the image in the air vanished as if it had never appeared.

"Whew..."

Yang Yi looked at the black ball beside him and let out a long breath.

As expected of an archbishop, even through the screen, he could still feel the overwhelming pressure.

"I will definitely complete the task this month. But, according to the pattern, it will only get harder in the future..."

Thinking about it, Yang Yi sighed.

Lord Black Demon's appetite was growing larger.

Initially, the church's target was one thousand people per month.

Then it became three thousand, ten thousand, and now thirty thousand. Now, it has directly risen to one hundred thousand!

At this rate, two hundred thousand a month might soon be required.

Where can so many people come from?

If it were not absolutely necessary, he would not target cities, as one mistake could bring disaster.

"Forget it. There's no use thinking about it now. I should contact Fang Liang and check his progress."

"Knock, knock."

Just then, a knock came from the door.

"What is it?"

Yang Yi asked.

"Reporting to Lord Bishop, Fang Liang has returned."

"What did you say?"

Yang Yi was stunned.

Fang Liang has returned?

At this time, shouldn't he be in Anshan City? Why return to the secret base?

"Lord Bishop, Fang Liang is back, waiting in the hall."

"He came back alone?"

"Yes, just him alone."

Yang Yi's furrowed brow slightly relaxed.

But he was still very dissatisfied.

Because having one more person in Anshan City would have helped complete the church's task sooner.

But this guy actually ran back on his own.

"Hmph, I hope your explanation satisfies me, or I will make sure you remember."

Anger flashed in Yang Yi's eyes as he walked toward the door.

Chapter 419: You Are Not Fang Liang!

Chen Fan stood in the hall, surveying his surroundings.

Of course, at this moment, he had already disguised himself as Fang Liang. This way, he could smoothly infiltrate the opponent's secret base and also meet the leader here.

In a way, it was using the opponent's methods against them.

At this moment, many people in black robes were standing around the hall, gathered in groups of two or three, whispering to each other as they watched him.

"Isn't Fang Liang supposed to be in Anshan City? Why did he suddenly come back today? If I remember correctly, he just left yesterday, didn't he? It hasn't even been two days."

"Yeah, they went together in a group, but why is he the only one back tonight? Could it be that something bad happened? Did the entire team get wiped out?"

"Doesn't look like it though? He seems to be in a good mood. If the entire team was wiped out, he wouldn't be showing this expression, right?"

"Could it be that the mission is already completed?"

As soon as this was said, the atmosphere instantly became quiet, and many people in black robes looked incredulous.

No way?

The mission is already completed?

This quickly!

"Impossible, right? That was an army of ten thousand!"

"I think it's likely. Look at him, so casual and relaxed. If the mission wasn't completed, how dare he come back alone and with this attitude?" someone said sourly.

"Hmph, what's so great about that? He was just lucky. If we were sent there, we could have completed it too."

"Yeah, look at him, acting so smug."

Everyone was envious, jealous, and resentful.

"I'll go and ask him."

One of the black-robed men said, smiling as he walked up.

"Brother Fang, back so soon? Mission completed?"

He spoke while subtly observing Chen Fan's reaction.

"Whether it's completed or not, what does it have to do with you?"

Chen Fan glanced at him.

He had heard all their conversations. Judging from the content, the relationships between everyone here weren't all that good.

The most important thing was, there was no need to speak kindly to a man who was about to die.

"You!"

The other party was furious, his face alternating between red and white.

"Fang Liang, Lu Yuan was just showing concern for you. Do you need to be this angry?" Another black-robed man stepped up and stood beside Lu Yuan.

"Yes, if you had completed the mission early, we would be happy for you." Another person walked up.

The others in the hall also pricked up their ears at this moment.

To be honest, they didn't want Fang Liang to have completed the mission so soon.

However, if Fang Liang really had completed it early, it would prove that Anshan City was indeed a treasure land, and they would go next.

"Heh."

Chen Fan sneered, not bothering to waste words with these people.

The three of them exchanged glances and walked away angrily.

"This Fang Liang is so arrogant! He better pray he doesn't fall into my hands one day, or I'll make sure he pays dearly!" Lu Yuan said through gritted teeth.

"Unlikely."

The man beside him looked serious. "Judging by his behavior, he must have completed the mission ahead of time. When Lord Bishop comes and hears this, he'll definitely reward him."

"Yeah, it might widen the gap between us and him even more."

"What's there to be afraid of?" Lu Yuan snorted, "He went to Anshan City, can't we? When Lord Bishop arrives, we'll volunteer. If he doesn't approve, we can secretly take people there ourselves."

"Let's do it!"

The eyes of the two others lit up.

"You're dreaming."

Chen Fan smiled faintly.

It's just that, you won't have the chance.

"Tap, tap."

Footsteps echoed.

In an instant, the people who had been discussing in the hall fell silent, standing solemnly.

Chen Fan looked in the direction of the sound,

a man wearing a red robe, holding a staff, was slowly walking towards them.

"It seems that this person is the Bishop."

Chen Fan thought.

Yang Yi frowned.

He felt that Fang Liang seemed off today.

In fact, it wasn't just him, the others had also noticed it.

Everyone else had their hands in front, slightly bowing, their eyes on the floor.

But this one had his hands behind his back, head held high.

"Is he just being arrogant because he finished his task early?"

Everyone was practically exploding with jealousy.

Yang Yi was infuriated by the sight.

This Fang Liang, returned without his order, fine.

But now seeing him, still acting so superior, who gave him this courage? Hmm?

"Fine, this bishop will see what next you have to say."

Suppressing his anger, Yang Yi said in a frosty tone, "Fang Liang, why did you return alone? Where are the others?"

"They're all dead."

Chen Fan said with a smile.

"!"

His words were like tossing a boulder into a calm lake, causing instant uproar.

All the black-robed men were stunned.

Wait, this isn't right?

They thought Fang Liang had returned early because he had completed the mission and, as the team leader, came back to report while the others continued their activities in Anshan City.

But now you suddenly say they are all dead?

Are you kidding?

Yang Yi's expression wasn't great either.

Fortunately, he quickly composed himself, his gaze sharp, the temperature seemingly dropped several degrees,

"Fang Liang, what did you just say? All who went with you are dead? Then how did you come back?"

Lu Yuan and the others exchanged looks, their faces showing schadenfreude.

"How did I come back?"

Chen Fan smiled, looked at his feet, then raised his head, "How else, I walked back, of course."

As soon as he finished, the atmosphere in the hall turned tense.

Because anyone with eyes could see that something was wrong!

"What's up with Fang Liang today? Did he get possessed? Or is he just itching for a fight? Daring to speak to Lord Bishop like that?"

"Could he be possessed?"

"Does he have guts to return early? Even if he completed his task, he shouldn't be this arrogant, right?"

"You!"

Yang Yi showed an angry expression.

Since he became bishop, no subordinate had ever dared to speak to him in such a tone!

"Fang Liang, I'll give you one last chance to explain what happened. If you still resist, don't blame me for being harsh."

"Are you planning to fight me now?"

Chen Fan sighed, "Why don't you ask how the mission went instead?"

Everyone was stunned. They looked at one another, unsure of what he was up to.

Yang Yi was also taken aback.

He stared at Chen Fan, wondering if this guy finished his mission too early and got carried away?

He should think about who gave him the intel and sent him on this mission.

"Fine."

He chuckled coldly, "Then let me ask you, how did your task go?"

Speaking this, he made up his mind, even if the task was completed, no reward would be given, punishment instead, to establish authority.

"The mission hasn't even started."

Chen Fan shook his head.

"???"

Everyone dropped their jaws, almost questioning reality.

No?

The mission hasn't started, how dare you come back?

And when the team is dead!

This is suicidal!

Lu Yuan and the others couldn't hold back their laughter.

Hahaha, Fang Liang is dead meat, and it will be very gruesome!

Previously, Peng Song failed and was executed by Lord Bishop, and Fang Liang played a key role in it.

He must not have imagined retribution would come so swiftly.

However, some sensed something was off.

Because any sane person would escape than face certain death.

But he came back, boldly.

Is he crazy, fearless?

Or confident, thinking Bishop can't harm him?

"The mission hasn't started?"

Yang Yi felt his lungs would explode from rage.

He stared hard at Chen Fan, "Fang Liang, do you know what you're saying?"

"Of course I know."

Chen Fan nodded.

"Fine."

Yang Yi was so enraged that he laughed, "If you know what you're saying, you must also know that your mission failed, right?"

"Indeed, it failed."

Chen Fan nodded again.

"Good you admitted."

Yang Yi looked at everyone, "You all heard him? A failed mission, you know the consequences."

"No need, Lord Bishop."

"Indeed, Lord Bishop, Fang Liang not only failed but disrespected you, he must be made an example of!"

"Exactly! Sacrifice him to Lord Black Demon!"

Everyone shouted.

Yang Yi raised his staff, signaling silence.

He then showed a sinister smile, staring at Chen Fan, "Fang Liang, you heard them, so prepare to die now."

"No need for that."

Chen Fan shook his head, looking calm, "Fang Liang is already dead."

"What?"

Yang Yi was shocked.

In the next moment, an unforgettable scene unfolded.

With a cracking sound, Fang Liang's body suddenly grew taller, and his face changed.

In a blink of an eye, no, he had transformed into a different person.

"You're not Fang Liang! Who are you really!"

Yang Yi yelled, his face showing panic.

Chapter 420: One Look

Seeing this scene, the other black-robed men in the hall were so shocked that they couldn't utter a word, each of them standing frozen like stones.

This person in front of them—isn't he supposed to be Fang Liang?

But his appearance before clearly was Fang Liang!

"Could it be some kind of disguise technique?"

Someone had this thought flash through their mind.

Or perhaps some other means?

But if the person before them wasn't Fang Liang, then who was he? And where was the real Fang Liang?

"Who am I?"

Chen Fan smiled slightly and asked, "I thought you sent people to infiltrate my territory and already knew my appearance. Seems I overestimated you."

"Infiltrate your territory? You, are you!" Yang Yi suddenly realized, his eyes showing disbelief, "You are the new chairman of the Anshan City Awakened Association?"

"What, he is that chairman?"

"He is the chairman of the Anshan City Awakened Association?"

"No, it can't be?"

Upon hearing the bishop's words, the brains of many black-robed men went blank.

"Indeed, I am the chairman of the Anshan City Awakened Association, Li Ping."

Chen Fan nodded.

The air went completely silent.

It was as if time stood still at this moment.

Because no one present had ever imagined that the chairman of the distinguished Awakened Association would appear right in front of them!

No one knew how long it had been before Yang Yi's voice broke the silence.

"So it was Chairman Li who honored us with his presence. I never expected that the distinguished chairman of an Awakened Association would sneak into our Black Demon Sect's secret base using such dishonorable means."

As he spoke, he sensed the atmosphere outside.

To his surprise, apart from the presence of those Fierce Beasts, there were no other human presences.

He took a closer look at Chen Fan in front of him, thinking to himself, could it be that this guy came alone tonight?

"Dishonorable means?"

Chen Fan chuckled and said, "It's just using your own methods against you."

"Using our own methods against us, huh."

Yang Yi let out a cold laugh, harboring a sliver of hope in his heart, "Chairman Li, you must have found this place thanks to Fang Liang's guidance, right? But this traitor must have been killed by you after betraying the church, right?"

Chen Fan glanced at him and said, "Not just that."

"What do you mean?"

Yang Yi's face changed slightly.

Could it be that Fang Liang also sold out Wang Ru and the others?

"I've dealt with another group as well. The leader was a woman, I believe her name was Wang Ru?"
Chen Fan's lips curled slightly.

Sure enough, as his words fell, Yang Yi's face changed dramatically, and his eyes almost burst into flames.

Fang Liang, you beast!

"Wang Ru and the others, did something happen to them too?"

The black-robed men were dumbfounded, and whispers began to fill the room.

"It must have been Fang Liang who sold them out."

"How despicable, getting caught himself and dragging others down with him."

"Don't misunderstand."

Chen Fan smiled and said, "I found Wang Ru first, and through her men, I found Fang Liang and the others, so you should be blaming Wang Ru, not Fang Liang."

Yang Yi's eyes burned with even more fury, his gaze seemed to say, Do you think you're funny?

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

Seeing that the other party couldn't take a joke, Chen Fan sighed lightly and said, "I came here with two purposes."

He extended his index finger, "The first purpose is to send you all to your deaths."

"What!"

Instantly, the hall was filled with exclamations of shock.

"Secondly," Chen Fan's gaze swept over them, finally landing on Yang Yi.

But before he could continue, he was interrupted.

"There is no second purpose."

Yang Yi sneered, "Because the first goal, you cannot accomplish."

"Is that so?"

Chen Fan withdrew his hand and looked at him calmly, "How so?"

"How so? Hahahahaha."

Yang Yi laughed loudly, "What of it if you're the chairman of the Anshan City Awakened Association? Li Ping, I really don't know where you get the confidence to believe that with the mere strength of a C-level Awakened, you can storm in here alone, stand before me, and boast about killing everyone present."

"What, he came alone?"

"No way, he dared to come here alone?"

"Ha, a path to heaven he does not tread, but hell has no gate, and he comes knocking."

The black-robed men each showed expressions of glee.

They were indeed surprised by Chen Fan's appearance.

Because they feared that the other party did not come alone, but brought a group with him, possibly including Awakened from other cities.

But hearing the bishop's words, it seems this guy actually came alone?

How dare he?

One must know that their own bishop's strength could rival that of a B-level Awakened. To say it without exaggeration, without powerful external aid, even if several C-level Awakened from Anshan City came together, they might not be able to take down their bishop, let alone just one person.

"Really?"

Chen Fan patiently listened to the end, then revealed a meaningful smile, "You're right, but have you considered that what you can think of, I can think of too?"

"What do you mean?"

Yang Yi's smile froze, and an ominous feeling welled up within him.

"I mean, knowing that my strength might not be on par with yours, would someone be foolish enough to deliver themselves to death's door?" Chen Fan asked.

Yang Yi was suddenly stunned.

Indeed, anyone else wouldn't take such a risk.

Someone who could become the chairman of the Awakened Association wouldn't fail to understand?

But this guy still did it. What does that indicate?

"Could it be, you're not a C-level Awakened?" He widened his eyes in disbelief and asked.

"What? He's not a C-level Awakened?"

Upon hearing this, the black-robed men all turned to look at Chen Fan, their eyes uniformly filled with terror.

Not a C-level Awakened?

Could he be B-level?

"B-level?"

Chen Fan smiled cryptically.

"What if, I'm not even B-level?"

"Impossible!"

Yang Yi roared, "If you're not B-level, then are you A-level? Chairman Li, don't flatter yourself into thinking you're smart while considering everyone else a fool. If you were an A-level Awakened, you wouldn't be staying in a small city like Anshan but in a major city."

"If you don't believe, why are you so agitated?"

Chen Fan shrugged, "Or are you scared?"

"Ridiculous! Afraid of you?"

Yang Yi laughed.

In fact, even his subordinates could see that he was bluffing.

However, they were no better off now.

Rationality told them that this guy with the surname Li, daring to come alone, must be at least B-level in strength.

If so, they couldn't be sure what would happen to the bishop, but they, the minions, wouldn't stand a chance.

If the other was A-level, then today, even the bishop would be in grave danger.

Although in their eyes, the possibility was nearly zero.

"Scared or not, that's irrelevant."

Chen Fan said indifferently, "I need to know the whereabouts of other members of your church from your mouth."

"Ridiculous."

Yang Yi sneered and scoffed, "Do you think I'll tell you?"

"You will tell me."

Chen Fan's lips curled slightly, his eyes glowing.

Suddenly, Yang Yi's hair stood on end, as he tried to avert his gaze.

But it was too late.

The next moment, his eyes went dull, and he stood motionless like a puppet.

"Easier than I thought."

Chen Fan thought to himself.

After cultivating part of the Sun Observation Technique, his Spiritual Power had surged from nearly 300,000 points to a million.

Therefore, it only took a single glance to control the other's mind.

If his Spiritual Power hadn't reached over a million, just stayed at 300,000, it probably wouldn't have been so easy.

"What's wrong with the bishop?"

Someone sensed that something was wrong and asked with trembling fear.

"Seems like, nothing's changed?"

"Yes, he looks the same as before."

Everyone looked at each other in confusion.

The next moment, Chen Fan's gaze swept over them.

In an instant, the minds of over a dozen black-robed men on the scene were also controlled, each standing there dazed and motionless.

"Take out the black balls from your bodies."

Chen Fan ordered.

To his surprise, over a dozen black-robed men showed confused expressions.

Chen Fan frowned slightly, "Take out the Sacred Artifacts from your bodies."

This indeed worked.

A crowd of black-robed men took out the black balls from their bodies one after another.

Chen Fan smashed them one by one. In just a moment, his experience points increased by over a million!

"This trip wasn't in vain."

Chen Fan smiled contentedly.

Immediately after, over a dozen streams of Sword Qi shot out from his fingers, piercing through the hearts of the black-robed men.

The intense pain snapped them awake in an instant.

Each of them widened their eyes, their faces filled with confusion and agony.

Then, they plunged into boundless darkness.

Chen Fan retracted his gaze and looked at the red-robed bishop before him, saying, "Speak, where are the other secret bases of your church?"

Yang Yi did not respond or move, as if he hadn't heard anything.

"What's happening?"

Chen Fan's eyes slightly narrowed.

The Soul Shifting Technique failed?

But it didn't seem like it?

Based on the situation, the other party's mind had already been controlled by him. He should answer honestly whatever was asked?

"Could it be that my question was wrong, and there are no secret bases?"

Chen Fan thought back to the previous events, considering the possibility and then changed his question.

"Tell me where the other people from your church are hiding."

"Heh heh heh."

At this moment, a chilling laugh echoed through the hall.

"Interesting little fellow, trying to use Soul Technique on my Celestial Demon Sect members."

The speaker was none other than Yang Yi before him.

But the voice was not his, it was a woman's voice, extremely sharp, sending chills down one's spine at the slightest listen.

"Who are you?"

Chen Fan's face turned serious, fully alert, ready to activate Vajra Indestructible Body at the slightest sign of danger.