

Martial Arts 481

Chapter 481: Hidden Among Us?

On the field, nearly a hundred people looked at each other, the atmosphere had an indescribable strangeness.

Time was ticking away.

Just when everyone was about to lose patience, the deep voice of the Liang Family Ancestor sounded.

"Is there anyone from the Bai Family among you?"

"Someone from the Bai Family?"

Many people showed puzzled expressions on their faces.

After all, many of the people present were Awakeners who had a rough understanding of the noble families, but they didn't know who belonged to which family.

Many descendants of noble families exchanged glances, and their eyes simultaneously fell on Bai Xuan.

The latter was, at this moment, utterly bewildered.

He was a bit unclear about the situation.

Until the gaze of the Liang Family Ancestor also followed.

Bai Xuan shivered immediately, feeling as if he was in an icehouse, his body turned cold.

"Did that one who came back specifically to find someone from the Bai Family?"

"What exactly is going on?"

Murmurs arose.

Everyone looked at each other, no one knew what the Liang Family Ancestor was up to.

Some people frowned slightly, thinking to themselves, could it be that the person who just robbed the Cyan Dragon Fruit was from the Bai Family?

That seems unlikely, right?

The Bai Family only sent Bai Xuan here this time, didn't they?

Of course, it wasn't impossible for the Bai Family to send someone else covertly.

"Boy, are you from the Bai Family?" The Liang Family Ancestor's tone was filled with anger.

"Y-Yes."

Bai Xuan was so scared that his face turned pale, he had no idea where he had offended this elder.

"Good."

The Liang Family Ancestor narrowed his eyes, already having murderous intent: "Speak, was the person who just stole from me from the Bai Family?"

"What!"

The Liang Family Ancestor's words were like a giant rock thrown into a calm lake, causing an uproar.

"The person who just stole the Cyan Dragon Fruit was from the Bai Family?"

"Impossible, isn't it? The Bai Family only sent Bai Xuan this time."

"Ridiculous, who knows how many people the Bai Family actually sent?"

"But how does the elder know that the person was from the Bai Family? Could he be mistaken?"

"So what if he's mistaken? It has nothing to do with us anyway, we might as well watch the commotion."

For a moment, there were those who were shocked, those who were confused, and those who gossiped.

Bai Xuan, the person involved, naturally felt immense pressure.

Although the Bai Family wasn't a third-rate noble family and had a few Celestial Realm Martial Artists, they weren't afraid of a mere Liang Family.

But this didn't mean that he wasn't afraid of the Liang Family, especially not the Liang Family Ancestor in front of him.

If he was killed here, even if his family sought justice for him, what good would it do him? Could it bring him back to life?

Therefore, he shook his head and waved his hand, "Elder Liang, what do you mean by this? The junior doesn't understand."

"You don't understand? Humph!"

The Liang Family Ancestor snorted coldly, and thousands of strands of Sword Qi behind him trembled and buzzed.

"At this point, you still argue with me? The person used Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill!"

"What! Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill!"

"The person used Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill? No wonder! No wonder I saw a golden figure in a blur!"

Many people present showed enlightened expressions.

In the entire Yan Country, there were only a few families that had a complete version of the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill.

And the Bai Family was the most famous among them.

"No wonder, no wonder this old guy returned. So it's possible the Bai Family stole the Cyan Dragon Fruit."

Someone thought silently.

Just don't know if it was one of the Bai Family Ancestors...

If it was, that was indeed quite unscrupulous.

"Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill?"

Bai Xuan was stunned for a moment, then his eyes widened.

"That's right, Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill, humph!"

The Liang Family Ancestor's chest burned with rage, "It was my momentary lapse that allowed his vile scheme to succeed, otherwise, could a mere Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill block my Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect?"

Then he stared at Bai Xuan fiercely, "Speak, who else from the Bai Family has come this time?"

"Elder Liang, the junior really doesn't know what you're talking about?"

Bai Xuan looked aggrieved and a bit annoyed.

He was already frustrated enough to have come on a futile errand.

This Liang Family Ancestor, unable to keep his own things from being stolen, was now blaming him.

Moreover, he was also disparaging the Bai Family's Martial Arts.

Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill could not block Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect?

Humph, he couldn't block it himself, but that didn't mean his elders couldn't.

"Elder, the Bai Family sent only me this time, no one else. If you think anyone who can use Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill is from the Bai Family, then I really have nothing to say."

"You!"

Indeed, hearing this, the Liang Family Ancestor was furious, "Boy, who gave you the courage to talk to me like this? Do you believe I can end your life with a single strand of Sword Qi?"

The atmosphere instantly became tense.

Some people frowned, feeling more displeased with the Liang Family Ancestor.

Others, on the other hand, were eager to see the Liang Family Ancestor kill Bai Xuan with a strand of Sword Qi and see how things unfold.

At this moment, a voice spoke.

"Elder Liang, I think it's not that simple."

Han Yan said.

"Oh?"

The Liang Family Ancestor looked at him, the killing intent in his eyes subsiding a bit.

He realized that he had been somewhat blinded by anger earlier.

The person did use Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill, he couldn't be mistaken, but as the Bai Family lad said, does anyone who uses Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill necessarily belong to the Bai Family?

But how could someone of his stature admit his mistake in front of a group of youngsters?

Fortunately, there was a Han Family lad to back him up.

"Elder Liang, Brother Bai's character can be trusted. If he said the Bai Family only sent him this time, then that's the truth."

Hearing this, Bai Xuan cast a grateful glance.

Han Yan nodded at him slightly and continued, "Moreover, Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill is a Supreme Martial Art, not an exceedingly rare one. Even my Han Family has part of it. It's difficult to gather it all yet it's not impossible."

"Hmm."

The Liang Family Ancestor's expression softened considerably, "You have a point, but."

He scanned the present crowd, "That person was among you; does anyone know his identity?"

"Among us?"

Everyone looked at each other.

They didn't even know what the person looked like; how could they identify him?

"You."

The Liang Family Ancestor pointed to a group of people in the northeast direction, "That person was with you."

The group pointed at broke out in cold sweat.

"Elder Liang, I didn't pay attention to those around me. Even now, I don't know most of the people here." One person said nervously.

"Yes, Elder Liang, our attention was on you earlier, we didn't notice anyone around us."

"Elder Liang, that person was so fast. If not for your mention, we wouldn't even know they used Vajra Indestructible Body."

Others also chimed in.

"Useless lot!"

The Liang Family Ancestor roared in anger.

He had not seen the person's face either, as they were too fast, allowing him only a glimpse of their back.

"Damn it!"

The Liang Family Ancestor's beard quivered with rage.

If it weren't for the fact that he was low on True Essence and had exhausted himself using the Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect technique, would he have failed to catch that thief?

He hoped to glean some clues from this group, but it was all for naught.

"Bai lad, I'll ask you one last time, do you truly not know that person's identity?"

He asked with reluctance.

Bai Xuan vigorously shook his head.

Others found it amusing.

How could even the Liang Family Ancestor be so foolish as to think Bai Xuan would reveal anything even if he knew?

If it was them, they wouldn't reveal anything either.

"Never mind!"

He sighed deeply, then leaped away. From afar, an angry roar echoed.

"Shameless thief! I swear to the heavens, one day I will catch you, peel your skin, and tear your bones to vent my heart's hatred!"

The voice gradually faded, and calm was restored.

Bai Xuan finally breathed a sigh of relief, realizing he was drenched in sweat, as if he had taken a bath.

Even when facing his family's ancestors, he was full of trepidation, let alone facing an elder from another family, one who clearly had murderous intentions.

Fortunately, it was all over, but he was also filled with anger.

"The Liang Family Ancestor, thinking he can act as he pleases because of his strength? Hmph, once I return, I'll definitely report today's events to my elders!"

"Let's go, we should head back too." Someone suggested, "It's a shame, we got nothing out of this."

"Who says so? We wasted an entire day."

"Not entirely, we got to see a good show, didn't we?"

Everyone was momentarily taken aback, then smiled knowingly.

It indeed was a good show.

Not obtaining the Cyan Dragon Fruit was bad news, but the good news was neither did the Liang Family Ancestor.

Looking at it that way, it wasn't so hard to accept.

Also, after returning, they had a good story to tell.

An elder, a Mid-stage Celestial Realm Martial Artist, almost got the object he wanted but had it stolen, and he didn't even know who did it!

One can imagine how the various powers of Yan Country would view the once Sword Saint of the Liang Country.

Chapter 482: Take It

Chen Fan ran thousands of kilometers before finally slowing down and expanding the range of his Celestial Response to the maximum.

Countless breaths appeared around him.

Some were human, others belonged to fierce beasts.

"It seems like they didn't follow."

Chen Fan carefully sensed his surroundings but didn't dare to lower his guard. He continued to move forward, walking another hundred kilometers before slowing down to sense the breaths again.

After repeating this process several times, he finally dared to stop.

On one hand, he couldn't sense the breath of the Liang Family Ancestor.

On the other hand, his True Essence within was running low.

After all, whether it was the previous consumption of activating the Vajra Indestructible Body or the subsequent desperate escape, the speed at which his True Qi was consumed was akin to a rocket launch.

"I should have shaken them off."

Chen Fan nodded.

When the opponent manipulated Sword Qi to chase him, their speed was slightly slower than his. Just that he didn't dare to be careless, so after shaking off the opponent, he maintained his speed.

His Vajra Indestructible Body truly couldn't withstand the opponent's Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect. Being able to block two to three thousand Sword Qi was probably his limit.

Once his Golden Body was broken, he would indeed be close to death.

"Lucky I'm more skillful."

Thinking of this, Chen Fan let out a long sigh of relief, a smile appearing on his face.

The plan was risky but fortunately, it came through successfully without any danger.

He carefully took out a palm-sized Cyan Dragon Fruit from his Spatial Ring, a faint fragrance wafting out.

"This is the Cyan Dragon Fruit worth a million points."

Chen Fan examined it for a moment, feeling slightly uneasy.

One fruit, a million points.

Sell it?

The idea was immediately killed by Chen Fan.

Such a valuable item, even if sold by the Awakened Association, would still be extremely rare, of course, not impossible to buy but requiring one to queue.

A month? Three months? Even years are possible!

Better consume it himself and convert it to power.

"A Celestial God Fruit can increase one to two thousand points of Spirit Attribute, priced at fifty thousand points. I wonder how much Physical Attribute this Cyan Dragon Fruit can increase."

Chen Fan thought to himself and took a bite.

The flesh broke apart, juice splashing out with a taste somewhat similar to a tomato, a blend of sour and sweet.

[Consumed Cyan Dragon Fruit, Physical Attribute increased by 2000 points]

Information flashed in his mind.

"Just one bite of the fruit increases Physical Attribute by 2000 points?"

Chen Fan felt a surge of joy.

Looking at the Cyan Dragon Fruit in his hand.

The bite only took a little over one tenth, meaning if he consumes the entire fruit, his Physical Attribute could increase by nearly 20,000 points!

His current Physical Attribute is just shy of 70,000 points, a close to 30% increase!

"With such effects, no wonder even Celestial Realm Martial Artists are tempted."

Chen Fan sighed.

This time, only the Liang Family Ancestor appeared, probably because for Celestial Realm Martial Artists, consuming too many of such treasures weakens their effects.

Better to be generous, letting juniors fight over them.

In quick succession, Chen Fan consumed the entire Cyan Dragon Fruit feeling warmth across his body as if he had just soaked in a hot spring.

His Physical Attribute rose from nearly 70,000 points to 90,000 points.

"Not bad."

Chen Fan was very satisfied.

Enhanced Physical Attribute meant increased defensive power when activating Vajra Indestructible Body.

And it wasn't just a slight increase.

However, facing the Liang Family Ancestor head-on would still be challenging. The ten thousand Sword Qi flying from the opponent, blocking half would be considered fortunate.

"To face these Noble Family Ancestors head-on, merely unlocking Undying Golden Body isn't enough. My Realm needs enhancement, at least to True Essence Realm Second Realm."

Chen Fan spoke while retrieving various Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures from his Spatial Ring.

All these were snatched from Song Gang and the Feng Country people.

Although they were far less valuable than the Cyan Dragon Fruit, they still provided thousands or hundreds of attribute points upon consumption cumulatively significant.

Information flashed in his mind.

The three attributes occasionally jumped.

After several minutes, Chen Fan wiped his mouth, still yearning for more.

Indeed, these Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures tasted quite good akin to enjoying a fruit salad, but they were too few.

Next, he focused on his attribute panel.

Realm: True Essence Realm·First Realm (63.2%) (+)

True Essence: 75948.4/1804.75 (+4110%)

Level: 29 (0/1 billion)

Physical: 91,900

Power: 208,200

Agility: 61,600

Spirit: 1,363,300

Potential Points: 5 million

Experience Points: 12 million

True Essence attribute was unchanged from the morning.

However, Physical, Power, and Agility attributes had increased by varying degrees.

The greatest increase was naturally in Physical Attribute, nearly 25,000 points.

Power and Agility attributes increased by around 5,000 points.

Not significant but equivalent to mastering a Supreme Martial Art.

Spirit Attribute witnessed no changes.

Potential Points remained unchanged, likely the same for the next two days as he would be busy integrating the exotic True Qi within.

Though these exotic True Qi currently posed no major threat, keeping them within was akin to a ticking bomb likely to explode if left too long.

Finally, Experience Points had reached 12 million!

"12 million..."

Chen Fan took a deep breath.

For the first time, he amassed such substantial Experience Points capable of advancing several Supreme Martial Arts to Perfection Realm.

Or, upgrade one or two Supreme Martial Arts.

Chen Fan looked further down.

Many martial arts were in completion.

By tomorrow noon, Nine Provinces Archery could be unlocked.

This martial art's priority was undoubtedly high.

To deal with flying high-altitude enemies, normal tactics were useless; even Heaven-Burning Arrow Technique might be ineffective.

Another priority was Undying Golden Body.

Its top priority was undisputed.

This martial art was Supreme, the only complete Supreme Martial Art in his possession.

Upgrading to Perfection Realm, although not guaranteed to match those Noble Family Ancestors, would ensure they couldn't easily harm him.

Emperor's Qi Observation Skill required another three to four days.

"Wait patiently and focus on overcoming the immediate challenge first."

Chen Fan murmured.

He then checked his phone, noting it was already afternoon, and Meng Xue hadn't sent any message.

"Seems like I'll have to wait until evening to receive her hint."

Chen Fan wasn't surprised.

The future can change; even minor influences can create drastic changes.

Thus, a longer wait was acceptable.

"Hope my killing of Bloodthirsty Ants does bring some future changes."

Chen Fan sighed.

Under normal circumstances, he would seek fierce beasts for combat, earning some points.

But the Cyan Dragon Fruit's consumption left his True Essence depleted. By the time he fully recovers, it would already be late.

Better to return to the city and fuse the exotic True Qi.

With this in mind, he headed towards Anshan City.

Cautious, he occasionally activated Celestial Response to guard against the Liang Family Ancestor possibly seeking him out.

Indeed, at this moment, the Liang Family Ancestor hadn't given up, searching everywhere. Finding nothing, he reluctantly returned.

After over an hour, Chen Fan finally reached the gates of Anshan City.

Seeing the crowd queueing to enter the city, a morning figure flashed in his mind.

Yes, it was Wang Lingling driven out by him yesterday. But not giving up, she had disguised and mixed into the entrance crowd.

Chen Fan frowned slightly.

Uncertain if she had truthfully reported her strength.

Not necessarily only her among those sneaking into the city, so no need to find her urgently now.

Wait for Hua Jun to deliver the list at night before dealing with it.

As dusk fell, the bustling Anshan City quieted down.

Hua Jun, holding a list, stood outside the chairman's office door, knocked.

"Come in."

A voice echoed from inside.

"Creak."

Hua Jun opened the door, walked in carefully closing it, respectfully saying, "Chairman, there were twelve hundred new entries today, similar to previous days. Among them were three Awakeners, two of D-level, one C-level, and over a hundred Martial Artists. The highest being Transforming Force, with three more. Their information is here, for your review."

He placed the materials on the table.

"Hmm."

Chen Fan nodded, not immediately checking, instead saying, "Chairman Hua, remember the promise I made to you?"

"Promise to me?"

Hua Jun was startled before breathing rapidly.

He certainly remembered.

The chairman promised to give him a Celestial God Fruit.

Now that the chairman mentioned it, could it be?

"Take it."

Chen Fan finished speaking, and a Celestial God Fruit appeared on the table.

This was scavenged from Feng Country people, only one left. With many consumed already, further consumption's effect would be negligible.

Perfect, he had promised Hua Jun, saving him a trip to a big city for points purchase.

"Chairman, I..."

Hua Jun's body trembled in reluctant desires.

A fruit worth fifty thousand points, even if bought, would be a heavy expenditure.

"Take it without so many words!" Chen Fan frowned displeased.

Hua Jun hurriedly took the Celestial God Fruit, lips trembling, unsure how to express his gratitude.

"Work for me, and I won't mistreat you."

Chen Fan glanced at him, calmly said.

"Yes! Yes!"

Tears filled Hua Jun's eyes.

Indeed, while the previous chairman ate the meat, not a drop of soup was shared.

Unlike Chairman Li, who casually gifted a treasure worth fifty thousand points!

Chapter 483: Can I touch it?

Chen Fan noticed the other's expression and felt a bit smug.

To make your subordinates work hard, relying purely on strength definitely won't work. You must wield both kindness and severity.

Of course, the prerequisite for all this is strength.

Otherwise, your kindness will be seen as flattery, and not only will it not be appreciated, but they will also think you're a pushover and become increasingly demanding.

Chen Fan cleared his throat and woke up Hua Jun.

"Anything else?"

"Yes, yes."

Hua Jun nodded repeatedly, then stammered, "Actually, it's not a big deal. But I thought you should know about it."

"Oh? What is it?"

Chen Fan picked up the list and asked casually.

"It's about the Martial Arts Association."

"Martial Arts Association?"

Chen Fan raised his head in curiosity and asked, "What's up with the Martial Arts Association?"

Could it be that during his absence, there was a conflict between the Martial Arts Association and the Awakened Association?

But that seemed unlikely.

He knew Sun Wei's character well; he was relatively low-key and wouldn't actively seek trouble with the Awakened Association.

"Chairman, here's the thing: a lot of people have come to the city recently, and the Martial Arts Association took the opportunity to recruit many members. Their strength has increased significantly. Of course, even with this increase, they're still not our match, but I'm worried..."

Hua Jun's brows furrowed in concern.

"I'm worried that if this continues, their strength will keep growing until they can rival our Awakened Association. After all, their number of members is constantly increasing, while ours, barring any surprises, will only grow so much. Even if we can increase our numbers, it won't be by much."

"Is that so?"

Chen Fan was taken aback.

He hadn't expected Hua Jun to bring this up. Internally, he had mixed feelings; given that the Beast Tide was going to break out in two days, it seemed trivial to worry about this now.

However, standing from Hua Jun's perspective, it was understandable. He was also concerned for the Awakened Association and was loyal to him.

"Yes, Chairman. Do you think we should take some measures to suppress them?"

Hua Jun asked in a low voice.

As a competent subordinate, he had already thought of several solutions upon discovering the problem.

For example, secretly supporting some individuals to divide the Martial Arts Association.

Doing so would not only keep the Awakened Association's involvement hidden but also bring long-term benefits.

"No need."

Chen Fan shook his head and sighed, "Chairman Hua, you need to broaden your perspective."

"Broaden my perspective?"

Hua Jun looked confused.

"Whether it's the Martial Arts Association or the Awakened Association, we're all fighting for the Human Race, aren't we?"

"Yes, yes."

Hua Jun blushed.

This was for the greater good, nothing more to say.

"Isn't that it? If the Martial Arts Association grows stronger, it will actually help reduce the pressure on us to defend Anshan City, won't it?"

"But..."

Hua Jun hesitated before saying, "But, our association's power will be divided."

Chen Fan sighed, "Chairman Hua, do you really lack so much confidence in our Awakened Association? Is our strength the only one that can't grow, while theirs can?"

Upon hearing this, Hua Jun's eyes lit up.

Right, could the Awakeners like themselves have slower growth compared to those martial artists?

After all, anyone can become a martial artist, but awakeners are born.

"Chairman, I understand your point." Hua Jun quickly responded.

"Good, as long as you understand."

Chen Fan nodded, "Let the Martial Arts Association be. As long as they don't disturb the city's peace, there's no need to interfere."

"Yes, Chairman."

"Alright, if there's nothing else, you may leave."

"Yes, Chairman."

Hua Jun bowed and carefully closed the door behind him as he left.

"My perspective is still too narrow."

He nodded to himself.

He was only concerned about the branch office's gains and losses.

The Chairman, on the other hand, was thinking about the entire city and even the entire Human Race.

Moreover, his concerns were unnecessary, given the Chairman's immense strength. Even if the Martial Arts Association had more members and became stronger, what difference would it make?

"Chairman!"

"Chairman!"

As Hua Jun walked, people along the way greeted him enthusiastically.

Hua Jun smiled and nodded at each of them.

After he had passed, the awakened ones gathered in small groups, whispering.

"What happened? The Chairman seems to be in a good mood tonight?"

"Not just good, very good. I've known him for so long, and I've never seen him so cheerful."

"Me too. Did his wife give birth?"

"I remember she gave birth two years ago, right?"

"You fool, can't they have a second child? If not a second, then a third!"

"Chairman Hua?"

Xie Ming and his group approached, seeing Hua Jun looking bright and radiant, and they were taken aback.

"Brother Xie, just got back?"

Hua Jun greeted with a big smile.

"Yes, just finished a mission," someone said.

"Chairman Hua, did something good happen in the association?" a woman asked cautiously.

As soon as she spoke, the atmosphere quieted down, and dozens of eyes turned to Hua Jun.

"Why do you ask?"

Hua Jun asked curiously.

The woman chuckled helplessly, "Chairman Hua, you're practically glowing with happiness. We might be blind if we couldn't see it."

"Yeah, Chairman Hua, you probably didn't notice, but you've been walking like a gust of wind."

"Chairman Hua, what's the good news? If it's convenient, share it with us so we can all be happy for you."

"We'd love to know."

Many chimed in eagerly.

They were all itching with curiosity.

"Hahaha, is it that obvious?"

Hua Jun laughed, slightly embarrassed. He glanced around and nodded, "Alright, since you all asked, I can't keep it from you. However, don't regret it later."

"We won't."

"Absolutely not!"

"Chairman, please hurry up and tell us! We're dying of suspense here."

Everyone urged him.

If it were anyone else being so hesitant, they would have smacked him already.

"Alright, I'll tell you."

Hua Jun's eyes gleamed with pride.

"Actually, it's not something that happened in the association, but to me personally. Remember a few days ago, the Chairman said he would give me a Celestial God Fruit."

"What!"

At those words, everyone understood and gawked at him as if struck by a Body-Stabilizing Technique.

Could it be?

"That's right."

Hua Jun smiled and nodded, "I just reported to the Chairman, and after I finished, he gave me a Celestial God Fruit. That's why I'm so happy."

"Look, here it is."

He seemed worried they might not believe him, so he took out the newly acquired Celestial God Fruit from his space item.

The room fell silent, followed by the sound of people swallowing.

Although Xie Ming and others didn't drool, their eyes bulged out, nearly falling from their sockets.

They had never seen a Celestial God Fruit in person, only in pictures on forums.

The fruit's appearance and color matched what they had seen online.

Clearly, it was an authentic Celestial God Fruit.

Most importantly, Hua Jun said it was personally given by Chairman Li. Would Chairman Li give out a fake?

"Chairman Hua," a man stammered, drooling, "can I... can I touch it? Just once, just once. I mostly want to post it on the forum to show off a bit."

In other times, everyone would've laughed at this.

But not now; many shared the same thought.

After all, a Celestial God Fruit worth 50,000 points? Could they ever afford it in their lifetime?

"Hahaha,"

Hua Jun laughed and said, "Sure, but just one touch. No more."

"Yes, Chairman!"

The man stepped forward, trembling as he reached out, and then shivered as if electrocuted.

"Chairman, may I touch it as well?"

"Chairman, I want to take a photo and post it on social media."

"Chairman, you've let him touch it, so let us too. Be fair, right?"

"Yes, Chairman, please."

They all pleaded eagerly.

"Next time,"

Hua Jun said with a smile, putting the Celestial God Fruit back into his space item.

He wasn't foolish, knowing the risk of it being stolen if too many people touched it.

Sure enough, the crowd quieted, filled with dejection.

"Alright, no need to look at me like that. Besides, what's the point of just touching it? If you're determined, get one yourself, and you can touch it or even eat it."

Hua Jun said in a fatherly tone.

"Chairman Hua, it's easy for you to say." Even Xie Ming lamented sourly, "This is a Celestial God Fruit worth 50,000 points, not just a few thousand points."

"Exactly. In our entire lives, we might not even earn 50,000 points."

"We might earn it, but buying one is unlikely, given other expenses also require points."

Chapter 484: Do Good Deeds Without Asking About the Future

Even the few C-level Awakened inside the association said so, not to mention the others.

For a moment, the association was filled with cries of sorrow, quite miserable indeed.

"You all, really, have you forgotten how this Celestial God Fruit came about?"

Hua Jun smiled.

"How did it come about?"

Everyone was first stunned, then their eyes lit up one by one.

Right, this Celestial God Fruit was bestowed upon Chairman Hua by the Chairman!

"Remember now?"

Hua Jun smiled again and continued, "Don't say it's you all, even I couldn't afford this Celestial God Fruit, but the Chairman could. Not only could he afford it, he could give it away without blinking an eye."

"You wouldn't believe, earlier in the Chairman's office, when he put the Celestial God Fruit on the table and told me to take it away, I was stunned, thinking I was dreaming."

Everyone looked at each other, thinking if it were them, they'd be just as stunned.

To give an analogy, it was like ten years ago when they were earning three thousand a month, suddenly one day being called into the boss's office and having millions of cash put in front of them, telling them to take it.

"Chairman Hua, what happened then?"

Someone asked.

"After that, the Chairman's voice sounded a bit impatient, urging me to take the Celestial God Fruit away quickly and leave if there's nothing else."

Hua Jun laughed wryly.

He wasn't lying because that was indeed what happened.

"Chairman Li even urged you to take it?"

"Oh my god, this is a treasure worth 50,000 points."

"Chairman Li is really wealthy! I bet he doesn't even care about a single Celestial God Fruit."

"Of course, Chairman Li is an A-level Awakened. He can easily earn hundreds of thousands of points on a trip!"

"Really, A-level Awakened can make that much money?"

"No kidding! There are very few A-level Awakened in Yan Country. Making lots of points is to be expected."

Everyone discussed, their tones filled with envy.

"Actually, it's not just me, you all have this opportunity too."

Suddenly, Hua Jun said.

The surroundings went quiet, the silence was palpable.

Seeing the shock in everyone's eyes, Hua Jun said seriously, "Yes, you heard correctly. It's not just me; every one of you here has such a chance, as long as you sincerely work for the Chairman."

"Sincerely work for the Chairman?"

Everyone mumbled these words.

"Think about it, why did I get the Chairman's gift? Isn't it because I have always been working for him? I just happen to be very close to the Chairman, I see him every day, so I was the first to get his recognition."

Hua Jun looked at Xie Ming and others, "Brother Xie, honestly, you all have made significant contributions to the association, and the Chairman has seen and remembered them. Actually, I benefited from your contributions."

"No, no."

Xie Ming felt both excited and fearful, waving his hands repeatedly, "Brother Hua, you exaggerated. Our contributions to the association can't compare to yours. Actually, we benefited from you."

"Yes, yes, Chairman Hua, please don't say that. What we did were small tasks; they can't compare to your overall planning."

Xie Ming's entourage chimed in.

But their hearts were indeed delighted.

Although Hua Jun hadn't said it explicitly, he had hinted quite obviously.

As long as they keep working sincerely, won't they also get the Chairman's rewards someday?

Even if the reward isn't as precious as the Celestial God Fruit, getting something worth one or two thousand points would make them very happy.

"Haha."

Hua Jun smiled at them but didn't continue the topic.

After all, he wasn't the Chairman, he couldn't promise much, or it would be overstepping his bounds. If he were the Chairman and learned of the news, he wouldn't be happy.

Next, he looked at everyone present again.

"You all too, your contributions to the association recently have been noted by the Chairman. Keep working sincerely, and the Chairman won't mistreat everyone."

"Yes, Chairman Hua!"

Everyone responded with excitement, their eyes shining.

Actually, they knew that Hua Jun was drawing a pie for them.

Like Xie Ming and those few C-level Awakened, getting Chairman Li's attention and rewards was possible, but for them, these ordinary D-level and even E-level Awakened, could they have such an opportunity?

But people always have wishful thinking.

What if?

What if Chairman Li was in a good mood one day and rewarded them with something?

After all, they hadn't heard of any other Chairman being generous enough to give away a treasure worth 50,000 points to a subordinate.

Seeing this, Hua Jun nodded secretly.

The goal had been achieved, it was getting late, and he should go back to consume the Celestial God Fruit to enhance his Spiritual Power.

Keeping such a treasure unused is a waste, after all.

"Alright, let's end here today. Everyone go back and continue their cultivation."

Hua Jun coughed, "Recently, you've seen the movements of the Martial Arts Association. If you don't work hard, you might get overtaken."

After this, he nodded to Xie Ming and the others and walked forward.

"Let's head back too."

Xie Ming and his group followed suit.

After walking a distance, someone from the group whispered, "Big brother, if we work sincerely, one day, will we also get Chairman Li's reward?"

"Fifth Brother, what are you talking about?" Second Brother said loudly, "Haven't we always been working sincerely?"

"No, no, Second Brother, I misspoke," Fifth Brother flushed with embarrassment, quickly clarified, "What I meant was, if we continue to work sincerely, will we also get Chairman Li's reward someday?"

The atmosphere quieted down, and everyone's gaze naturally shifted to Xie Ming.

He looked ahead and said calmly, "Do good deeds, never ask about the outcome."

"Huh?"

Fifth Brother's mouth dropped open.

"It means don't think about random things, just focus on work, the Chairman will notice." Third Brother glanced at him.

"Oh."

Fifth Brother closed his mouth and didn't say more.

Xie Ming's eyes squinted slightly.

Despite looking calm, he was actually drooling with envy.

But he understood better that if something is destined for you, it won't escape eventually, if not, no amount of begging will help; it might even displease the Chairman.

Maintaining sincerely might win fortune's favor someday.

...

Meanwhile, in Flame Emperor City.

As one of the three super-large cities, Flame Emperor City stood tall with skyscrapers and colorful lights that made the city look like daytime.

Such bright lights naturally attracted many flying Fierce Beasts.

However, many strong individuals were stationed in the high-rise buildings, and any flying Fierce Beast attempting to attack would be killed immediately without causing panic.

At this moment, a luxury car stopped in front of a skyscraper, the door opened, and a young man walked out.

He looked somewhat disheveled, his expression very displeased.

"Young Master Bai Xuan."

A middle-aged man in a suit immediately approached with a few others, cautiously.

Obviously, everyone could see that this Bai Family young master was in a bad mood, and if they accidentally offended him, their lives might be in danger.

Bai Xuan glanced at them with furrowed brows, "Where's my dad?"

"President Bai is in the study, reading."

"Take me there."

"Yes, Young Master Bai Xuan."

The middle-aged man hurried to lead the way.

In the hall, a pair of cheongsam-clad women stood on each side, with curvy figures and pretty faces, greeting Bai Xuan. If it were anyone else, they'd be charmed and unable to move.

Bai Xuan frowned and didn't bother looking at them.

Following the middle-aged man, he entered a dedicated elevator, and the latter pressed the button for the 32nd floor.

This Baihao Building belonged to the Bai Family. It had thirty-six floors, and starting from the thirtieth floor, only core family members were allowed entry.

"Ding dong."

With a light sound, the elevator door slowly opened.

The two walked to a door.

"Knock, knock, knock."

The middle-aged man knocked, "President Bai, Young Master Bai Xuan is here."

"Let him in."

A strong voice sounded from inside.

"Yes."

The middle-aged man turned and smiled at Bai Xuan.

He nodded and pushed the door open.

The room's luxurious decorations were fit for past emperors.

Bai Xuan walked straight to the study door, knocked first, then opened it and entered.

"Back already?"

A middle-aged man with a square face and thick eyebrows put down his book and asked with a smile, "Was the trip not smooth?"

"Not just unsmooth, it was completely unsmooth!"

Bai Xuan said, sitting heavily on the sofa and grabbing the teapot beside him, pouring tea into his mouth.

"You kid, are you a cow? Drinking tea like that?"

The middle-aged man laughed and scolded, his eyes filled with affection.

He had many sons, but the most promising one was this one before him.

In his early twenties, Bai Xuan was already in the Second Realm of True Essence, and had cultivated Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill to the Great Success. He was favored by several old ancestors of the family.

"I've long told you, opportunities aren't easy to seize, yet you didn't believe me. Now you know, right? Didn't get the Cyan Dragon Fruit?"

He smiled, "If you really want it, I could ask the family to get one for you within a week."

"Dad, it's not what you think."

Bai Xuan put down the teapot angrily, "It's not that I couldn't compete with others, someone just didn't follow the rules and didn't even give me a chance."

"What do you mean?"

The middle-aged man was puzzled.

Chapter 485: Are There Any Experts Left?

"Isn't it that old ancestor of the Liang Family!"

Bai Xuan gritted his teeth and said.

"Originally, even if we couldn't grab the Cyan Dragon Fruit this time, we could still get a guaranteed two or three hundred thousand points."

"However, that person suddenly appeared out of nowhere, directly changing the situation on the scene, ruining all my plans."

"That alone was bad enough."

"Who could have thought that after he left, he would return to question me personally? The condescending tone he used made me feel more and more infuriated on my way back!"

"What? The Liang Family Ancestor? You mean the Sword Saint of Liang Country?"

Bai Zhenyang was taken aback.

"That old monster who's lived for hundreds of years would actually step in personally for a Cyan Dragon Fruit?"

"Impossible, right?"

"Who else could it be?"

Bai Xuan curled his lips.

"It's really him."

Bai Zhenyang muttered.

No wonder Xuan'er is so angry this time. If I were in his place, I'd be just as frustrated.

After all, even if I were on the scene, I wouldn't be able to fight someone of the Old Ancestor level.

"Xuan'er, tell me the whole story from the beginning."

Bai Xuan started recounting everything like pouring beans from a bamboo tube.

When he mentioned the appearance of the Bai Family Ancestor, Bai Zhenyang kept nodding and muttered to himself: "It's said that the Liang Family Ancestor's Sword Dao has reached a refined level, only one step away from Man and Sword as One."

Forget the Elite-level Fierce Beasts, even Commander-level Fierce Beasts can't get within ten steps of him before his True Essence is exhausted."

Bai Xuan continued his narration.

When he spoke of the Liang Family Ancestor's Sword Qi being blocked by the Dragon Rhinoceros, Bai Zhenyang laughed out loud.

"That Liang Family Ancestor is overestimating himself. Even the most ordinary Beast King-level Fierce Beast can withstand a missile attack due to its strong body. How could he think a casual Sword Qi would kill it?"

But the next moment, his laughter stopped abruptly, and a look of awe appeared in his eyes.

"Ten Thousand Swords Attack? No wonder it's a secret technique of Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect. It might even hurt a Beast Emperor-level Fierce Beast. It's said that Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect has a final move called All Swords Return to One, which is even more terrifying."

"Dad."

Hearing this, Bai Xuan couldn't help asking: "Is Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect really that strong?"

"Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect is the highest realm of Swordsmanship. Once unleashed, ten thousand swords obey like servants before their master; its power is indeed not to be underestimated."

"Then how do our Bai Family's Ancestors compare to him?"

"Hmph."

A look of contempt flashed in Bai Zhenyang's eyes as he said: "How can a mere Liang Family Ancestor compare to our Bai Family's Ancestors? Why has our Bai Family maintained its place in Yan Country until now?"

Look at the Liang Family, which is already a third-rate Noble Family. Once the Liang Family Ancestor's lifespan ends, they might not even keep that third-rate status."

Hearing this, Bai Xuan's eyes lit up.

"By the way, what happened afterward?"

Bai Zhenyang looked over, "Did that Cyan Dragon Fruit fall into the Liang Family Ancestor's hands?"

After all, the Liang Family Ancestor's strength was evident, and if it had been him on the scene, he'd have had no choice but to accept it too.

"That Cyan Dragon Fruit did not fall into the Liang Family Ancestor's hands."

Bai Xuan shook his head.

"What?"

Bai Zhenyang was stunned and almost thought he had heard wrong.

"Could it be there was another Celestial Realm expert present at the time?"

"I'm not sure if that person was a Celestial Realm Martial Artist or not."

Bai Xuan scratched his head, "But that person's strength was definitely formidable, especially their speed. Even the Liang Family Ancestor couldn't catch up to them, let alone us."

"So?"

Bai Zhenyang's mouth opened slightly.

"Hmm, the Cyan Dragon Fruit was snatched right before the Liang Family Ancestor's eyes."

Bai Xuan felt a little pleased.

"This..."

Bai Zhenyang didn't know what to say for a moment.

Based on Bai Xuan's account, he deduced that the person who snatched the Cyan Dragon Fruit was definitely a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, perhaps only at the Early Stage of the Celestial Realm. In a direct confrontation, they were no match for the Liang Family Ancestor, so they resorted to sneak attacks.

Of course, the matter wasn't so simple.

The Liang Family Ancestor had lived for hundreds of years and surely wasn't completely off guard.

"That person had some extraordinary skills in hiding their presence, didn't they?"

Bai Zhenyang thought to himself. The opponent must have suppressed their aura to the True Essence Realm, evading the Liang Family Ancestor's perception.

When the Cyan Dragon Fruit ripened, they struck boldly.

Such courage and tactics were not common.

"Xuan'er, did that person leave any clues?" Bai Zhenyang asked curiously.

"There are."

Bai Xuan nodded.

"What clues?"

Bai Zhenyang's spirit perked up.

In fact, when he asked that question, he didn't have much hope. According to Bai Xuan, they hadn't even seen what the other person looked like.

Bai Xuan licked his lips, and his eyes carried a look of expectation as he said, "Dad, that person also used the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill."

After saying that, he stared intently at the other's eyes.

He was indeed hoping inside, hoping that person was a member of their Bai Family.

After all, there weren't many people in the world who had the complete Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill.

If the person who took the Cyan Dragon Fruit was indeed from his Bai Family, then his Bai Family would be the ultimate winner.

"What!"

Bai Zhenyang's mouth opened wide, eyes filled with disbelief.

"You said that person also used the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill?"

"Yes."

Bai Xuan blinked, "Dad, was that person not sent by our Bai Family?"

Bai Zhenyang was stunned, then shook his head: "Of course not. Very few in our Bai Family knew about this. Besides, the only person sent was you."

"I see."

Bai Xuan smiled wryly; he seemed to have imagined too much.

"By the way, didn't you say you couldn't clearly see that person's figure? How can you be sure they used the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill?" Bai Zhenyang asked.

"Don't mention it, it just makes me want to kill the Liang Family Ancestor."

Bai Xuan got angry instantly and said:

"It was the Liang Family Ancestor who said that himself. After the person took the Cyan Dragon Fruit and ran, the Liang Family Ancestor chased after but didn't catch up. When we were leaving, he came back, asking if there were any Bai Family members there. Then he found me and started threatening me, even attempted to kill me..."

Bai Xuan recounted the incident in detail, adding some embellishments,

He returned with the primary goal of having the family back him up to vent his anger.

Sure enough, after hearing the whole story, even Bai Zhenyang was furious, saying:

"Xuan'er, that old bastard didn't harm you, did he?"

"No, but I felt he really had the intent to kill me. If there weren't so many people present, who knows what he would have done," Bai Xuan whispered.

"The old thief went too far!"

Upon hearing this, Bai Zhenyang slammed his desk, and with a loud bang, the entire desk turned to dust.

"Dad, don't be mad. I'm fine, it was just a false alarm."

Bai Xuan was overjoyed but said this modestly.

"Not be mad? How could I not be mad?"

Bai Zhenyang slowly stood up from his chair, looking through the floor-to-ceiling window towards the direction of the Liang Family, saying:

"Did that old thief think our Bai Family is easily bullied? With so many people watching, if our Bai Family swallows this anger, then other families would dare to follow suit, not putting our Bai Family in their eyes."

"Dad, what do you plan to do?"

"Hmm."

Bai Zhenyang nodded and said: "Later, I will inform some Ancestors in the family to show the Liang Family a lesson."

Bai Xuan was overjoyed and quickly expressed his gratitude.

Bai Zhenyang waved his hand and said: "Alright, Xuan'er, you don't need to be so polite between us, father and son."

This time, it really isn't your fault. The Liang Family Ancestor has lived for hundreds of years but shamelessly competes with you youngsters for an opportunity. Hmph, if this gets out, he won't be afraid of being laughed at."

"Exactly, exactly."

Bai Xuan smiled and agreed: "The funniest part is, midway through, someone intercepted and got away with the cooked duck."

"Hmm."

Bai Zhenyang also smiled and nodded.

He could imagine the Liang Family Ancestor's look at that time.

Even now, the other party must be furious, right?

"Later, I will report this to the family and also try to get a Cyan Dragon Fruit for you."

"Thank you, Dad!"

Bai Xuan's smile was almost to the point of beaming.

The Bai Family indeed had a large estate, but there were many children in the family, so the competition was fierce.

"By the way, Dad, there's one more thing."

Bai Xuan suddenly spoke as if he had remembered something.

"What's the matter?"

"While we were waiting, we heard a werewolf's scream."

Bai Xuan said with an odd expression.

"A werewolf's scream?"

Bai Zhenyang frowned.

"Could it be someone from the Revival Association?"

"Probably."

Bai Xuan said: "The person who fought that werewolf should have been an awakener with Flame Superpower. That werewolf was burned alive."

"Hmm, I see. You go and rest."

Bai Xuan nodded, stood up, and walked out. After closing the study door, he smirked with satisfaction.

So what about the Liang Family Ancestor?

In this world, it's not only your Liang Family that has Celestial Realm Martial Artists?

In the study, Bai Zhenyang showed a thoughtful expression.

Awakeners who could transform into werewolves were rare but not unheard of.

More likely, there were quite a few people from Feng Country with remnants of werewolf blood in their veins. The lower tier ones would only transform under the full moon, losing their sanity and attacking all living things nearby.

The higher tiers could control their transformation freely.

"I hope it's someone from the Revival Association?"

He sneered: "If that's the case, then this matter won't end so easily. Over the years, those from the Awakened Association have become increasingly arrogant, forgetting who truly rules this land. Let them fight, the Revival Association, and the Awakened Association people. The fiercer their conflict, the better!"

As he said this, a ruthless glint flashed in his eyes.

Chapter 486: Alive, must see the person; Dead, must see the body

At the same time, in an elegant courtyard.

Accompanied by a rush of footsteps, a middle-aged man arrived outside the house, anxiously knocking on the wooden door, he said urgently, "Brother, something's wrong!"

After a few seconds, a voice came from inside.

"Second Brother, you're not young anymore. What's the matter that has you so panicked?"

"Brother, something happened to Third Brother."

The person outside said rapidly.

"What!"

A surprised exclamation rang out from inside the house.

A fierce wind arose.

In the next second, someone inside opened the wooden door, and a man dressed in a black robe appeared.

"Second Brother, what did you just say? Something happened to Third Brother?"

"Yes, Brother!"

Song Wu said, glancing around even though this was the Song Family's forbidden area where few would dare enter.

"Brother, let's go inside and discuss."

"Alright."

The man in the black robe nodded, and after Song Wu entered, he again scanned the surroundings to make sure no one was eavesdropping before closing the door and turning around with a serious face, he asked, "Second Brother, you're not joking with me, are you?"

"Brother, do I look like someone who would joke about this?"

Song Wu was as anxious as an ant on a hot pan, "Just now, I got word that there was a big fire in the rainforest, with a werewolf seemingly burned to death."

"What?"

The man in the black robe was shocked and quickly asked, "Rainforest? Which rainforest?"

"Which rainforest do you think? Of course, the one Third Brother went to."

Song Wu stamped the ground fiercely.

"This time, Third Brother went with John from the Revival Association to fight for the Cyan Dragon Fruit, didn't he? John carries werewolf blood. When I heard this news, I had a bad feeling.

No matter the outcome, with Third Brother's character, if he couldn't return immediately, he would definitely call me to explain the situation. But by nightfall, there was still no news."

"And then?"

The man in the black robe's face looked grim.

This afternoon while cultivating, he suddenly felt uneasy.

He didn't think much of it, assuming it was because he'd been cultivating for too long. After drinking some Calming Tea, he felt much better.

But now with Second Brother's news, could it be?

"Then, then..."

Song Wu's voice was almost choking with tears, "Then I tried calling Third Brother's phone over and over, but no one answered. I then tried calling John's phone, but likewise, no one picked up. Brother, the situation is dire!"

"Don't panic, don't panic."

The man in the black robe reached out to pat his shoulder, "No matter what, Third Brother is a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, only one step away from the Celestial Human Realm. Without those old monsters reappearing, there are very few people in the world who could kill him."

"That's true, Brother, but what if the one making the move is from the Awakened Association?"

Song Wu said.

As soon as these words fell, the man in the black robe's face turned even grimmer.

Yes, Noble Families and the Awakened Association have been fighting openly and covertly for years.

To give an example, in recent years, the Awakened Association has been trying to obtain complete Supreme Martial Arts from these Noble Families.

But these Noble Families are not foolish.

The Awakeners, with their naturally awakened superpowers, possess combat power comparable to Beast Emperor Level Fierce Beasts. If they also got complete Supreme Martial Arts, it would be disastrous!

In the future, would there still be a place in Yan Country for these Noble Families to survive?

The same goes for Supreme Martial Arts, and especially Divine Demon Martial Arts, which is utterly impossible.

Hence, it's often seen that some Awakeners attack members of Noble Families and use special methods to extract their martial arts into their minds.

Even if those Awakeners are later hunted by the Awakened Association and deemed traitors, who knows if they might still have secret ties with the Association?

And now, with Third Brother missing, is it possible it was the Awakened Association that made the move?

Second Brother mentioned a werewolf burned to death, suspected to have been killed by a Flame Superpower Awakener.

If that werewolf was John, then Third Brother is likely to be in grave danger too.

Critically, this incident's repercussions might only be beginning!

John had a high status in the Revival Association, and those Feng Country People are unexpectedly united. Once they learn of this, they might direct their anger at the Song Family.

Then, all the Song Family's efforts over the years would be in vain, and they'd have to pay a heavy price to appease the other side's fury.

Plus, the family's few elders wouldn't let him off easily.

"Don't, don't panic."

The man in the black robe's voice was trembling, "Maybe it's not as bad as we think. Maybe Third Brother was just busy and couldn't answer your call. Let me try calling him."

"Alright, Brother, give it a try. Hopefully, someone answers."

Song Wu said, swallowing hard.

Actually, there was another piece of news he hadn't mentioned.

But if Third Brother were alive, there would still be room to maneuver in this matter.

No matter what, he hoped Song Gang was still alive.

The man in the black robe took out his phone, found Song Gang's number in the contacts, and dialed.

"Beep, beep, beep..."

As the sound of the phone echoed, time passed minute by minute until the call ended automatically with no one answering.

At this moment, the atmosphere in the room was extremely silent.

Song Wu looked at his brother, not daring to speak.

The latter gritted his teeth and dialed again.

Unfortunately, the second call ended the same way as the first: Automatically disconnected due to no one answering.

Unwilling to give up, the man in the black robe started dialing for the third time, the fourth time...

Finally, Song Wu couldn't bear to watch anymore and spoke up, "Brother, no one is answering. No matter how many times you call, it's probably useless."

The man in the black robe froze, his left hand clenched tightly into a fist, murmuring, "Impossible, how could something happen to Third Brother? This can't be happening."

"Brother, I also hope nothing happened to Third Brother, only that some other reason is preventing him from answering our calls. But, the worst-case scenario needs to be prepared for. We must plan for the worst."

Song Wu forced a bitter smile.

"Brother, actually, there is another piece of bad news I haven't had time to tell you."

The man in the black robe twitched a few times and said, "Speak."

"Someone saw around the fire, a group of Feng Country People's corpses."

"Feng Country People's corpses!"

The man in the black robe's eyes widened.

"Yes."

Song Wu forced a bitter smile, "Around a dozen, some were John's followers."

"How could it be..."

The man in the black robe stumbled back two steps, his eyes fixed without moving.

Third Brother's life or death is unknown, his biggest concern was that the burned werewolf was John, because if so, the Revival Association would definitely bring trouble to the Song Family.

Moreover, John's combat prowess was even higher than Third Brother's.

If something happened to him, then Third Brother is most likely in grave danger too, otherwise, it wouldn't be possible that none of the calls were answered.

"Brother..."

Song Wu said bitterly, "Maybe it's not as bad as we think. The werewolf burned to death might not be John, but someone else. Third Brother might also be safe, just unable to contact us for some reason.

However, I think we need to prepare now. If, I'm saying if, Third Brother and John indeed met with trouble, then the subsequent impact could be quite serious."

His voice was filled with worry, "Many people know this news, and now all major families probably know it too. There's a chance some of them might discreetly convey this news to the Revival Association just to see our Song Family suffer."

With every word, the man in the black robe's face became grimmer.

After listening, he sighed deeply and nodded, "You're right. No matter the situation, we must plan for the worst."

"Yes, Brother, that's why I came running as soon as I got the news."

Song Wu sighed.

The Song Family was powerful, but as the saying goes, fame attracts trouble. Who knows how many eyes were watching them? Finding an opportunity and stepping on them even if there's no grievance.

"Don't worry, for now, everything is just speculation. Even if the Revival Association comes knocking, we can stall them."

The man in the black robe said.

"But paper can't hold fire."

Song Wu said, "Given their nature, they might set a deadline. If we can't provide a satisfactory explanation within that time, the consequences..."

"Then give them a satisfactory explanation."

Anger flared in the man in the black robe's eyes, "Whoever dared to strike against our Song Family, even if they flee to the ends of the earth, I, Song Tian, will bring them back, flay them, take their bones apart, and make them experience 81 different kinds of tortures!

Send my orders, Law Enforcement Hall fully mobilized, find out what exactly happened. Third Brother and his companions, alive or dead, must be found!"

"Yes! Brother!"

Song Wu responded urgently.

Law Enforcement Hall contained the strongest forces in the family apart from a few elders, and only generations of Patriarchs could command them.

The Song Family had been established for over a thousand years, and the Law Enforcement Hall had been fully mobilized less than twice.

This showed just how serious the situation was this time.

"Hope this time it's just a false alarm, otherwise, even if we find the culprits, with the shameless demeanor of the Revival Association members, they will surely ruthlessly shake down the Song Family, and the Song Family will still have to smile and offer it up."

Song Wu sighed inwardly.

Chapter 487: Arresting Someone? Who?

Anshan City, Awakened Association, in the chairman's office.

"That Hua Jun is quite good."

Chen Fan murmured to himself.

The discussions outside earlier naturally did not escape his ears.

He agreed with the comments made.

If someone in the association performs well, he would not be stingy with rewards.

Of course, if someone harbors ill intentions and commits a wrongdoing, he would not be merciful.

"I wonder if that woman has been honest."

Chen Fan picked up the form on the table and roughly browsed through it.

Upon seeing the last page, his face suddenly darkened.

In the martial artist section, the highest realm was just Dark Power Martial Artist.

Clearly, the woman had once again falsified her realm, trying to muddle through.

"Second time."

Chen Fan frowned.

It seems this person still does not take me seriously?

Since that's the case, he can only give her a lesson.

If there's a third time, he wouldn't mind taking action directly to kill her.

The next moment, he concentrated and sensed that aura.

However, he didn't rush to take action immediately but continued sensing to confirm there were no other stragglers before nodding.

"Let's go then, after returning, I'll fuse the exotic true essence in my body."

Just as Chen Fan was about to get up, his phone suddenly vibrated.

"Could it be?"

Chen Fan's pupils dilated slightly and he took out his phone; the caller was Meng Yu.

Clearly, Meng Xue used Meng Yu's phone case to make the call.

Chen Fan looked at the phone and felt somewhat nervous.

"If it's a blessing, it's not a curse; if it's a curse, there's no avoiding it."

Thinking this, Chen Fan took a deep breath and answered the call.

"Chen Fan, sorry for only calling now."

Meng Xue apologized.

"It's fine."

Chen Fan shook his head, paused for a moment, and asked, "How's the situation?"

"Effective."

Meng Xue smiled slightly.

"!"

At her words, Chen Fan's body shook and he hurriedly asked, "Really? How's it exactly?"

"The time of the beast tide hasn't changed, and the fierce beasts attacking Anshan City are almost the same, except for the absence of bloodthirsty ants."

Meng Xue said seriously, "So, the casualties in the city have reduced by tens of thousands, they mostly died under the Vajra rat swarm and Flaming Flame Eagle."

"Good, that's good."

Chen Fan breathed a sigh of relief.

Although the city's casualties were still significant, didn't they see hope earlier?

Since they had exterminated the bloodthirsty ants, there wouldn't be any bloodthirsty ants in the beast tide two days later.

Similarly, if the Vajra rats and Flaming Flame Eagles were also eliminated, the casualties in the city would surely be reduced to a minimal level.

"Yes, seeing hope is better than anything."

Meng Xue sighed deeply.

In fact, during her precognition, her heart was also incredibly uneasy.

If nothing had changed in the future, she wouldn't know how to report to Chen Fan.

Fortunately, heaven rewards those who work hard; efforts had paid off.

"Mm, I'll head to Rat City early tomorrow to kill the Vajra Rats lurking underground, if progress is smooth, I'll shoot the Flaming Flame Eagles in the afternoon."

Chen Fan said, glancing at the skill bar.

Only more than ten hours left and Nine Provinces Archery could be unlocked.

With the experience points he had accumulated, leveling this cultivation technique to perfection realm was a piece of cake.

"Chen Fan, don't take it lightly."

Meng Xue hurriedly reminded him, "The water in Rat City is deep, almost all the residents are desperados. Even if you don't target them intentionally, they likely wouldn't be friendly towards you."

"Don't worry, Meng Xue, I have it all in mind."

Chen Fan smiled.

How could he not understand this? Unfortunately, he had no choice.

If he didn't go, would he just watch the ordinary people in the city suffer massacre?

Meng Xue sighed.

"By the way, Chen Fan, do you remember telling me to keep an eye out for cultists and strong outsiders infiltrating the city?"

"Right."

Chen Fan nodded.

His nightly celestial response to check the city situation could eliminate ninety percent of the danger, but there would still be omissions, like those adept at hiding their aura.

With Meng Xue's divination added, it would almost be foolproof.

Of course, nothing is absolute, maybe even with both methods, there'd still be leaks. From another perspective, those able to escape both methods likely have deep and unfathomable real strength. Directly confronting them may not guarantee victory, he may even be at risk.

Meng Xue's voice sounded,

"My spiritual power is limited, mainly used for precognizing the beast tide, so I only forecasted tomorrow. Among those entering the city, there are no cultists, but some are quite special."

"In what way?" Chen Fan asked.

"They are from noble families."

"Noble families?"

Chen Fan's expression tensed.

Without a doubt, noble families wouldn't care about this Anshan City he held.

So, were they just passing by, or?

"Yes, it seems they are from the Qin Family, here specifically to catch someone."

"Catch someone? Who?"

"A woman named Wang Lingling. One of the young men demanded her to hand over something, she didn't admit it, then several people behind the youth started attacking, Wang Lingling wasn't a match and was soon captured, her legs were cut off, and the Qin Family group left with her."

"So that's how it is."

Chen Fan nodded.

That explains why noble family members showed up in this tiny Anshan City.

However, for some reason, upon hearing Wang Lingling's name, he thought of the woman in the city hiding her strength.

Could it be her?

"Do you know what she stole?"

Chen Fan was a bit curious.

"I tried to divine it but suddenly felt a sense of crisis."

Meng Xue smiled bitterly, "If I meditate for a night and restore full spiritual power, I might be able to divine it."

"No, right now Anshan City is in critical danger, your precognition ability shouldn't be used randomly on this matter."

Chen Fan shook his head.

If his trip to Rat City goes smoothly, for safety's sake, he should have Meng Xue precognize to guard against any changes.

Another point, there are things a gentleman should do and things he shouldn't.

If those noble families provoke him without reason, he'd make them pay tenfold or even a hundredfold cost.

But if the noble families don't provoke him, he wouldn't waste energy to offend them, even if he doesn't like these noble families.

As for that woman Wang Lingling, stealing from the Qin Family is her business with them, he didn't want to get involved.

"Mm."

Meng Xue nodded, "I will."

"Mm, that's it for now, contact me if there's anything."

Ending the call, Chen Fan's mouth revealed a smile.

He had to admit, Meng Xue brought good news, improving his mood significantly.

"Should I go see that person?"

Chen Fan stood up and thought, wondering if that person is the Meng Xue mentioned Wang Lingling, if so, it's a bit pitiful.

Though he had no good sentiments towards those noble families anyway.

...

In a residential building in the city.

Wang Lingling hid under the covers, staring at the parchment in front of her without blinking.

After a while, she yawned, feeling a wave of drowsiness.

Being a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, even if she didn't sleep for several days, she could remain energetic.

But after just half an hour of looking at the parchment, she was drowsy.

"Am I too stupid? No, no, no. The Qin Family has studied it for thousands of years without any success, looking at it for a few days without finding anything is normal."

Wang Lingling murmured.

Instantly, she felt much better.

"Forget it, I'll stop studying it today; the object is in my possession anyway, I can study it anytime."

Wang Lingling's lips curled up.

She glanced at the time, it was past seven in the evening.

"Yesterday, before seven, that person named Li had already come to my door. Now it's past seven and he hasn't come, so he probably won't come. Humph, I'm still the smarter one."

Just as she was feeling complacent, there was a sudden urgent knock on the door.

The smile on Wang Lingling's face froze, and her heart started beating wildly.

No, it can't be?

There can't be such a coincidence?

"Open the door, I know you're inside."

A familiar male voice sounded.

"How, how can this be?"

Wang Lingling was completely dumbfounded.

Although she had only heard this voice once, her impression was unforgettable; it was the chairman of Anshan City Awakened Association, Li Ping.

"You should know why I'm here."

The voice outside sounded again, "I'll count to three. If you haven't opened the door by then, face the consequences."

"Three."

"Two."

"Creak!"

The door opened, a middle-aged woman cautiously looked at Chen Fan in front of her, "Big brother, why are you looking for me at this late hour? Please don't harm me, I'll shout."

Chen Fan glanced at her, "Enough, stop pretending in front of me. You should know why I'm here. This is the second time,

I was going to teach you a lesson, but I'm in a good mood tonight. Let's go, if there's a third time, I'll really take action."

Seeing this, Wang Lingling knew there was no point in continuing the pretense.

She bit her lip and unwillingly asked, "Chairman Li, where did I show a flaw that made you find me so easily twice?"

"Where did you show a flaw, huh."

Chen Fan sneered, "What, planning to come a third time? Wang Lingling, you really don't take me seriously, do you?"

Chapter 488: We Will Definitely Find It

When Chen Fan suddenly called out her real name, Wang Lingling's eyes briefly revealed a hint of panic, no matter how hard she tried to remain calm.

Could it be that this remote area is also within the Qin Family's sphere of influence?

The Li Ping before her is a henchman of the Qin Family, deliberately probing her?

"Stay calm, stay calm."

Wang Lingling warned herself internally, the more urgent the situation, the less she could afford to leave hastily. Otherwise, she might truly be unable to leave.

"Wang Lingling? Chairman Li, what do you mean by that? Are you trying to say that my name is Wang Lingling? Impossible, my name is clearly Liu Jing."

"Is that so."

Chen Fan gave a noncommittal smile.

"Yes, Chairman Li, I admit that I did conceal my power, but my name, I really did not."

"I remember the last time, you weren't called Liu Jing either."

Chen Fan suddenly said.

Wang Lingling was momentarily speechless, then after a while, she said, "Alright, actually Liu Jing isn't my real name either. My actual name is Liu Lu, truly Chairman Li, this time I'm not lying."

"Actually, your name makes no difference to me."

Chen Fan suddenly said.

"Wha...what do you mean."

Wang Lingling was stunned, realizing she couldn't see through the person in front of her.

"The Qin Family has been hunting down a woman named Wang Lingling because she stole a very important item from them. If you are her..."

Chen Fan glanced at her.

At this moment, the latter's face was pale, her body trembling slightly.

Anyone with keen eyes could tell there was something wrong with her.

"I wouldn't do anything to you."

Upon hearing this, Wang Lingling shivered, and asked with a trembling voice, "Wh...why."

She seemed to realize her slight loss of composure and tried to use her previous tone to say, "Chairman Li, if...if I were the Wang Lingling you're talking about, since you've already found out my identity, why don't you?"

"Because it's none of my concern."

Chen Fan replied calmly.

"I feel indifferent to noble families. If they don't bother me, I won't seek trouble with them, much less try to appease them."

"I... I see."

Wang Lingling felt relieved but remained cautious.

What if the person before her was a hypocrite who pretended to be friendly but stabbed her in the back when she was unguarded?

She's seen such things happen many times.

"Fortunately, I'm not that Wang Lingling." She patted her chest, pretending to have narrowly escaped danger.

"It doesn't matter if you're not." Chen Fan said, "You can leave now, I can act as if nothing happened. But if you conceal your realm again and come back, I won't be so lenient."

If the person dared to sneak back in tomorrow, she would definitely not be here when he returned at night.

Because the Qin Family would have already come to take her away.

It goes without saying that the returned Wang Lingling would suffer inhuman torture.

"Forget it, I'll give her a warning. Whether she believes it or not is up to her." Chen Fan thought to himself and then spoke again:

"Here's some advice, if you are really Wang Lingling, you'd better leave this place and run as far as possible."

"Wh...why?"

Wang Lingling couldn't help but ask.

Could the Qin Family be coming tomorrow?

Or did this person already inform the Qin Family of her whereabouts? If that's the case, why come here and act like nothing happened, wouldn't that be better?

"No reason." Chen Fan glanced at her, "You should leave."

Wang Lingling was silent for a moment, then nodded.

She walked outside the house, kept watching Chen Fan, retreating step by step. When she was at a safe distance, she turned and headed far away.

"Still worried I'd attack?"

Chen Fan sneered.

If he wanted to act, she wouldn't even have the chance to react.

"With the matters here settled, I should resume my cultivation."

His figure flashed and disappeared into the night.

Leaving Anshan City, Wang Lingling sprinted, frequently changing direction midway to avoid any ambush or pursuit.

But along the way, unexpectedly, it was unusually quiet.

Aside from some fierce beast pursuit, she did not encounter anyone.

"Could it be that I'm overthinking?"

Wang Lingling slowed down, her brows furrowed.

While in Anshan City, she felt her acting was flawless, but the more she thought about it on her journey, the more terrified she became.

It was likely that Chairman Li already suspected she was Wang Lingling.

Otherwise, why say that piece of advice in the end?

But after finding out, he didn't stop her and let her leave freely?

"It's likely that Chairman Li doesn't know what I stole from the Qin Family?" Wang Lingling thought.

Yes, the Qin Family wouldn't publicize the loss of Divine Demon Martial Arts because it would be detrimental to them.

And she, for her own survival, wouldn't leak it either.

"If he knew I stole a Divine Demon-level Martial Art from the Qin Family, he wouldn't let me go easily. Even if he let me leave, he'd surely make me leave behind the Longevity Technique."

Wang Lingling felt relieved.

That's right, Chairman Li indeed seemed like a decent person.

Knowing she had valuable items, he didn't harbor any ill intentions.

Other people might not necessarily do the same.

"To be cautious, I can't stay here. I'll go somewhere else."

Wang Lingling turned back to glance in the direction of Anshan City, then continued onward.

...

Time returned to half an hour ago.

Rong City.

Located less than five hundred miles from Anshan City, it was a medium-sized city.

Within the City Lord's Mansion, the Rong City Lord hunched his back, looking at the few people before him.

If outsiders saw this scene, they might be shocked.

"Done with your part, you may leave now. Without my instructions, don't let anyone in."

From the main seat, an old man said.

"Yes, of course, if you need anything later, just say it without hesitation." The Rong City Lord said, seeing impatience on the other's face, hurriedly ended his words and obediently retreated.

After closing the door, he wiped the sweat from his forehead and took a deep breath.

Although he was the City Lord of Rong City and a B-level Awakened, with various hidden cards, he wasn't afraid of an A-level Awakened.

But the few inside were different, they were from the Qin Family!

The Qin Family, a first-tier family in Yan Country! There was a place for them even in the Elder Council.

This kind of great family could easily kill him.

However, if he established good relations with them, the benefits were immense.

Inside, everyone's gaze first fell on the speaking elder from earlier, then secretly glanced at another elder.

The latter wore a white robe and had long whiskers, exuding an air of serene elegance.

Qin Zihao's eyes showed deep anticipation.

With Fifth Grandfather here, he could surely find the whereabouts of the sheepskin scroll, recover the Longevity Technique, and relieve his father's punishment by the family.

As for himself, he'd face significant punishment, but with a good performance later, his treatment would still be the same as before.

"Alright, let's discuss the main matter."

The elder in the main seat said, "After searching all day, have you found anything?"

"Reporting to Third Uncle, nothing has changed on my side."

"Same here."

"Mine too."

A few middle-aged men each gave their input.

"Really found nothing or are you intentionally saying so?"

The elder glanced at them.

The few were immediately terrified and hurriedly denied.

"Third Uncle, even if you gave us ten guts, we wouldn't dare do such things."

"Exactly, Third Uncle, we are eager to recover it before anything unexpected happens."

"A bunch of useless people."

The elder glared at them, "What's the point of you all? Can't even handle such a small matter."

The few were incensed.

This Longevity Technique wasn't lost by them; it should be blamed on Qin Jiming and his son.

"Third Uncle, this matter is our fault, has nothing to do with Second Brother." Qin Jiming quickly said.

"Indeed, blame us, Third Uncle." Qin Zihao quickly added.

"Enough."

The elder in white robe slowly spoke, "It's only normal not to find anything. After all, I am here now."

"Fifth Brother, we're counting on you for this matter." The elder's tone softened.

"Fifth Uncle, I'm deeply regretful, let me offer my respects." Qin Jiming said, tearing up, and knelt completely.

Beside him, Qin Zihao quickly did the same.

"Get up. I'm doing this not for you, but for the family's sake, remember?"

"Yes, yes."

The two replied while standing up.

The white-robed elder closed his eyes, his fingers constantly moving.

Everyone inside held their breath, not daring to make a sound.

As time passed by, the white-robed elder suddenly opened his eyes, pointing north, "Within five hundred miles north, there will be results."

Everyone inside was overjoyed upon hearing this.

"Thank you, Third Uncle!"

"Thank you, Third Grandfather!"

Qin Jiming and his son knelt again.

The others joined them in expressing gratitude.

"You all may leave now."

The white-robed elder waved his hand.

The others left together.

"Fifth Brother, are you alright? Here are some Gathering Spirit Pills, take a few quickly."

The old man beside him said while placing a bottle of elixirs on the table.

"I'm fine, it's just that my spiritual power is somewhat depleted."

The white-robed elder poured out a few pills, swallowed them, and after digesting the medicinal power, replied, "It's indeed Divine Demon-level Martial Arts, even if it's from our Qin Family, I wouldn't dare to divine it too clearly, fearing the consequences."

"It's alright, just knowing the direction is good enough, no need to pinpoint the exact location. Even our Celestial Human Realm ancestor in the clan wouldn't casually use Emperor's Qi Observation Skill for divining whereabouts of unmanifested Divine Demon-level Martial Arts." The elder beside said.

"Fortunately, we managed to pinpoint the general direction this time, very risky but safe." Fifth Brother chuckled.

He was confident in his divination; telling them to search within five hundred miles north tomorrow would surely yield results.

Chapter 489: Beast Taming Technique

"Rat City."

The next morning, Chen Fan looked at the town before him.

The walls were crumbling, desolate and dilapidated, looking no different from other ruined cities in the wilderness.

Suddenly, an odd noise reached his ears.

Chen Fan gazed over and saw a shadow deep in the alley, gnawing on a human leg.

The shadow had a huge mouth, its teeth the size of a human palm, stained with blood and bits of flesh.

The shadow wasn't human but a black rat beast standing over a meter tall, standing on its hind legs like a person.

It hadn't noticed someone observing it from a distance, continuing to enjoy its meal.

Chen Fan frowned, pointed his finger, and a streak of sword qi flew out, instantly piercing through the black rat's head. It didn't even have time to cry out before collapsing to the ground.

As it fell, the scene deeper in the alley came into view.

In the corner, over a dozen skeletons lay scattered, skulls randomly strewn on the ground; some hollow eyes still staring, sending a chill down one's spine.

Without lingering, Chen Fan headed for the nearest underground entrance.

"Sing a little tune, good brothers forever, three stars in the sky, prosperity through the seasons, five treasures, six sixes in harmony..."

This was the sound of people shouting while playing a game coming from a house far away.

"Hahaha, Third Brother, you lost again, drink up!"

Laughter erupted.

"Again!"

A disgruntled voice rang out, "I refuse to believe it, do I always have to lose?"

The shouting and cheering continued.

Chen Fan's gaze lingered for a moment before shifting to a nearby house.

He felt there were many people inside, but the atmosphere was frighteningly quiet.

"I've heard these ruthless people kill the men, elders, and children of nearby villages after raiding them, then imprison the women here. It seems the people in that house must be their captives."

Chen Fan sighed quietly.

These people are hard to save.

It would be easy for him to kill those few thugs now.

But what then?

What about the hostages? If they are not taken away, they'll still face death.

But taking them is no easy feat. Anshan City is over a thousand kilometers from here.

Moreover, his primary mission this time was to clear the Vajra Rat Swarm, not to eliminate the criminals here and rescue the hostages.

"Better not complicate matters for now."

After some thought, Chen Fan made a decision.

His movements were light, and he deliberately concealed his presence so well that even a True Essence Realm Martial Artist would have difficulty detecting him.

Thus, he progressed smoothly to the entrance.

This was a metro entrance; deep inside, it was pitch black, with occasional rustling sounds.

Chen Fan descended the stairs, his light footsteps echoing. Suddenly, the pitch black below was filled with dozens of blood-red eyes fixed on him.

The owners of these eyes were mid-level fierce beasts like the black-haired rat encountered before, their bodies covered in black fur, with sharp teeth and pointed mouths.

The next moment, twenty to thirty black-haired rats swarmed toward him.

Some even ran along the walls.

"Whizz whizz whizz whizz!"

Chen Fan pointed his finger repeatedly, dozens of sword qi streaking through the heads of the black-haired rats.

In the blink of an eye, dozens of black-haired rats were lying in a pool of blood, their bodies twitching.

Chen Fan frowned slightly; they were only mid-level fierce beasts. Even if he killed them, it wouldn't add much to his experience points, and the progress in basic boxing and kicking skills was minimal.

But, as they say, little by little.

If he used Protective True Qi to shock these black-haired rats to death, the experience points for basic martial arts would be negligible.

After walking a short distance, another dozen blood-red eyes appeared from the shadows.

Chen Fan killed them one by one with sword qi.

Time ticked by, and the number of black-haired rats encountered gradually increased.

Moreover, some were two to three meters tall, with speed and strength several times that of average rats.

Of course, for Chen Fan, it still just took a single sword qi.

Soon, the area was littered with black-haired rat corpses.

"What are you doing?"

Suddenly, an angry voice rang out.

Dozens of meters away, a tall, lanky man in tattered clothes glared hatefully at Chen Fan.

"Who are you?"

Chen Fan frowned.

"Why did you kill my children!"

The man didn't seem to hear him, his eyes blazing with rage.

"Your children?"

Chen Fan was taken aback, glancing at the corpse-strewn floor, then smirked, "Are you saying these rats are your children?"

"What do you know?"

The man seemed deeply hurt, "They are beasts, but more reliable than humans. They will never betray me! But humans, on the other hand, will laugh and talk with you one moment, then kick you aside without hesitation when danger comes."

"Forget it, you wouldn't understand. Since you killed my children, I'll kill you to avenge them!"

With that, the man put two fingers in his mouth and whistled. Instantly, a massive black-haired rat, five to six meters long and over three meters tall, appeared out of nowhere.

Its eyes, like red lanterns, shone brightly in the dark underground tunnel.

"Go, my dear child, tear his body and feast on his flesh!"

The man laughed hysterically.

The massive black-haired rat bared its fangs and charged at Chen Fan.

But just as it took one step, a sword qi struck, causing its head to explode, scattering red and white matter all over.

"Boom!"

With a loud crash, the headless giant rat collapsed, completely lifeless.

The tall, lanky man behind him was like a choked chicken, unable to make a sound.

He stared dumbly at the body, struggling to comprehend how his hard-won elite black-haired rat died just like that.

"How did you control it?"

Chen Fan asked curiously.

The Soul Shifting Technique he tried on fierce beasts had no effect.

But the man could summon an elite black-haired rat with a whistle, and it obeyed him implicitly.

Could it be a unique technique?

"You think I'll tell you? Dream on!"

The man turned to run.

Two streaks of sword qi flew out, breaking both his legs, causing him to crash to the ground.

This seemed to bring him to his senses.

"W-What do you want?"

He turned, his face filled with terror as he looked at Chen Fan, "I warn you, I'm with the Double Dragon Association. If you hurt me, our members won't let you off!"

"Really?"

Chen Fan walked forward step by step, a smile on his face, "I'd like to see how they won't let me off."

He indeed didn't plan to complicate things this time.

But if someone provoked him, he wasn't in a good mood to tolerate it.

One kills one, two kill two.

Just like this obviously unstable guy here, if he stayed put, it wouldn't have been a problem.

"Our association leader can command Commander-level fierce beasts. If you dare kill me, believe it or not, you won't walk out of here today?"

the man gritted his teeth.

"Really."

Chen Fan nodded slightly. No wonder the Awakened Association's attempts at eradication failed; it turned out the fierce beasts and criminals here were of the same ilk.

"It seems it's not just the Vajra Rat Swarm to eliminate, but also the Double Dragon Association."

Chen Fan thought and commanded, "Tell me the technique you used to control these fierce beasts."

"Dream on!"

The man retorted immediately.

"I knew you'd say that."

Chen Fan's eyes flashed, and he immediately controlled the man's mind.

Soon, he got what he wanted.

[Beast Taming Technique (12%): Completely Ignorant]

Apparently, this technique, called the Beast Taming Technique, was how the man controlled the fierce beasts.

Unlike boxing and weapon martial arts, this technique was quite unconventional, much like a dark art.

Chen Fan noticed there was no prompt for completing it in his mind.

"This means I don't currently meet the conditions to unlock this technique."

Chen Fan muttered but wasn't surprised; after all, he had never dabbled in such unconventional methods before.

"Let's treat it as an unexpected gain. If I can collect it all later, great; if not, it's no big deal. Moreover..."

Chen Fan had concerns about whether controlled fierce beasts could also be controlled by Commander-level or Beast King-level fierce beasts.

He wasn't worried about these fierce beasts turning on him but feared they might attack others.

He shook his head, killed the man with a sword qi, and continued forward.

After a brief moment of peace, more black-haired rats surged from all around.

Additionally, people nearby heard the commotion.

Seeing the floor littered with black-haired rat corpses, many had puzzled looks on their faces.

Although these were mid to high-level fierce beasts, their numbers were daunting, posing a life-threatening danger even to them if pursued.

But what did the person who killed these black-haired rats intend to do?

Soon, Chen Fan's path was blocked by a few fierce-looking men wielding weapons, with his retreat cut off.

"Masked guy, you're not from Rat City, are you? If you were, I'd remember your face."

The man ahead spoke with a hostile tone, "Take off your mask and let us see."

"Yeah, take off the mask, or we won't be polite."

"Could this guy be from the Awakened Association, sent here to investigate?"

"That's easy; just kill him like the others, chop his body, and feed it to the rats!"

They laughed loudly.

Outside, they would avoid anyone from the Awakened Association. But here, it was their turf.

Chapter 490: Let Him Go?

"I am indeed not from Rat City."

As Chen Fan finished speaking, the tension in the air instantly heightened.

"But I am also not from the Awakened Association."

"You say you're not from the Awakened Association, so we're just supposed to believe you?" a burly man sneered. "Do you know that those who secretly sneak in here say the same thing when we catch them."

"Kid, how did you get in, and what are you planning to do here? I advise you to tell the truth, or else we have a hundred ways to make you talk."

"What are you waiting for? Speak up! Didn't you hear me?"

Chen Fan frowned.

He didn't want to make things more complicated, but unfortunately, the people here didn't think the same way.

Moreover, it was clear from a glance that these people were hard to communicate with.

Instead of wasting words, it was better to cut to the chase since every one of these people had blood on their hands. Killing them was just a way to rid the world of pests.

The next moment, he threw a punch.

"What!"

Caught off guard, they watched a massive golden fist seal rush towards them.

"Argh!"

Their screams pierced the air as their bodies burst into blood mist.

Over a dozen people behind them were stunned, and before they could react, they were hit by another fist seal and died on the spot.

Chen Fan continued to walk forward as if nothing had happened.

As he went deeper, the space around him became more spacious.

The number of black-haired rats also increased from dozens to hundreds, now becoming countless and endless.

In addition, there were some golden figures among them.

Vajra Rats.

These were mutant versions of black-haired rats, covered with a layer of golden armor after mutation, and their combat power was several times that of black-haired rats, at the same high-level fierce beast status.

"Good."

Chen Fan smiled slightly.

This was more interesting; getting rid of them group by group would take forever.

However, the noise was too much and it would easily attract attention.

As a matter of fact, it did.

The underground disturbances were easy to transmit, and with Chen Fan making such a big move, it was hard not to get noticed.

"What's going on? Is it an earthquake? But there's never been an earthquake in Rat City all these years." Someone opened their eyes with suspicion.

"What exactly is going on? Could it be that someone from outside snuck in and got discovered, hence the fight?"

Someone turned pale.

If that was the case, the intruder must be quite powerful to reach here without being discovered.

"Another clueless fool came in?" Deeper inside, someone sneered with disdain.

Unnoticed, the entire Rat City became lively.

Deep underground, Chen Fan continued his unbeaten hunt of the fierce beasts.

The experience points on the panel increased rapidly.

Eleven million,

Twelve million,

Thirteen million...

The level of Basic Boxing and Kicking also improved by one or two levels.

"With good luck, today's experience points would reach twenty million."

Chen Fan nodded to himself.

With so much experience, even the undying golden body would be satisfied.

"Hmm?"

Suddenly, he sensed something, glanced southeast, and continued killing the waves of fierce beasts as if nothing had happened.

"Did he notice me?"

In the southeastern corner, a figure broke out in cold sweat.

Despite being extremely careful in concealing his presence, he still couldn't escape the opponent's detection?

"Even if discovered, it doesn't matter. He's surrounded and will eventually run out of True Essence. Let's see how long he can last."

Time passed, and the black-haired rats seemed endless. Elite Vajra Rats began to appear as well.

People kept gathering.

"Who is that guy? Has anyone here seen him before?" Someone looked at Chen Fan, who wore a mask, and asked in confusion.

"Never seen him."

"Neither have I."

"He's definitely not from Rat City; no one here likes to wear masks. Only cowards hide their faces."

These words got a lot of agreement from the crowd.

Indeed, they never feared being identified while looting outside. What if they were recognized? Didn't we beat back the Awakened Association's teams multiple times? They don't dare come anymore.

"So, he's from outside?"

"Most likely. Damn, what were the people on the surface doing? Didn't notice someone coming all the way here?"

"Don't worry, he's trapped now." Someone said with glee.

In an open fight on the surface, they wouldn't be a match for the Awakener squad.

Thus, they always fought underground.

The underground tunnels were like a maze where intruders easily got lost.

For them, familiar with the area, navigating even with closed eyes was easy.

Besides, the underground space housed over a hundred thousand black-haired rats and thousands of Vajra Rats.

They used these beasts to deplete the Awakeners' spiritual power and special items before making a move themselves.

The masked guy didn't seem to be an Awakener, but a martial artist.

Regardless, the tactic was the same.

Once his True Essence was almost depleted, he would meet his end.

The black-haired rats kept attacking, but people started noticing something unusual.

It had been half a day, and the person hadn't shown any signs of exhaustion, as if his True Essence was boundless.

"Don't worry."

Someone said, "He's definitely on his last legs, soon to collapse."

"Right, even veteran Awakeners fell eventually. We just need to wait."

"But..." Someone hesitated.

He wanted to say that it was just one person; was there any need to fear him?

But he held his tongue.

With time, the black-haired rats decreased visibly until none were left.

"What's going on?"

The surrounding people were dumbfounded.

So many black-haired rats, all gone?

"Do you think he's a Celestial Realm Martial Artist?" someone suddenly suggested.

"Celestial, Celestial Realm Martial Artist! No, can't be?"

Everyone was shocked.

Only noble families had Celestial Realm Martial Artists. Why would one come here? What's to gain?

"Elder Jin, what do we do? Stop him or let him leave?"

"Let him leave? No, what if he's scouting for the Awakened Association?"

"Shut up, listen to Elder Jin."

Everyone looked at an old man.

He seemed kind, but those who knew him stayed away.

This Elder Jin, known for his cruelty, loved peeling his opponents' skin slowly, making them die from dual physical and mental torture, earning him the nickname Golden Skin.

He fled to Rat City because his atrocities made him a wanted A-level criminal in Yan Country.

Rat City's criminals were notorious, but most were nothing compared to him.

"Let him leave?"

Elder Jin smiled, "It would be impolite to not 'properly entertain' our guest, wouldn't it?"

Everyone shivered.

It was obvious what kind of 'entertainment' he meant.

Still, why did that guy have to come here of all places?

Chen Fan stretched; he had cleared the black-haired rats in this area and was ready to move on.

"Clap, clap, clap."

Applause echoed as an old man with a radiant face approached.

"Your strength is impressive, friend. But isn't it a bit rude to come here unannounced?"

It was Elder Jin speaking.

As he appeared, figures descended like raindrops.

Within seconds, over a hundred people surrounded Chen Fan, all on high alert.

They had seen Chen Fan kill tens of thousands of black-haired rats and thousands of Vajra Rats barehanded.

Few among them could do the same, so they refrained from underestimating him.

Still, they thought he was probably at his limit. If a fight broke out, he would surely lose.

"Sigh."

Chen Fan sighed, expecting them to come out.

He glanced around, finally fixing his gaze on the old man and said, "Rude? Maybe, but even if I had notified you, would you have let me in?"

"Who knows? Maybe if you had told us first, we might have agreed. Right, everyone?" The old man laughed.

"Right, hahahaha."

The crowd laughed uproariously.

"Pity you didn't," Elder Jin sighed, his face turning cold, "So, are you ready to pay the price?"