

Martial Arts 501

Chapter 501: A Blessing in Disguise?_3

"Uh..."

The one-eyed man opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but nothing came out. With a thud, he collapsed backward to the ground.

"Boss!"

"Boss!"

Everyone around was so shocked that their eyeballs seemed about to burst.

Their Boss Guo, had he really died just like that?

"Spare me, sir, spare me!"

Someone smarter quickly knelt down, knocking his head against the floor, pleading, "Sir, I was forced to join by him. If I dare not listen to him, he would kill me."

"Yes, sir, we were all forced. We were all forced!"

"Sir, please, have mercy on us."

In the blink of an eye, everyone in the room had knelt down, the sound of heads knocking to the ground echoing.

At this moment, they were all full of regret.

Saying the people from the Awakened Association wouldn't come to find them, and if they did, they would target the underlings.

And what happened?

The one who said that, Boss Guo, was the first to be killed.

If they had known, they would have been smarter and slipped away among the crowd.

"Hmph."

Chen Fan let out a cold snort.

Flicking his fingers, dozens of tiny bursts of True Qi flew into the bodies of everyone present.

They thought they were going to die, each screaming hysterically.

But after a while, they realized they were still alive, with nothing unusual happening to their bodies.

Someone, gathering the courage, asked in a low voice, "Sir, what did you just do to us?"

"Not much."

Chen Fan tersely responded, "I just sent some True Qi into your bodies. If you leave me for more than ten kilometers, the True Qi inside you will burst."

"Burst, burst?"

They looked at each other in dismay.

Was it the kind of burst they imagined?

"Yes, just what you imagined."

Chen Fan nodded.

"Sir, please, help us. We don't want to die."

Terrified, they knocked their heads and begged again.

In their hearts, they cursed the one-eyed man's ancestors from eighteen generations.

"Shut up!"

Chen Fan frowned.

Instantly, the room fell silent.

"It's simple if you want to live," Chen Fan's gaze swept over them, "bring me those who are imprisoned. Not one less. If even one is missing, don't blame me for being unkind."

"Bring those imprisoned here?"

Hearing Chen Fan's request, they looked at each other.

"What, don't understand?" Chen Fan's voice turned cold.

"Understood, understood, sir. We'll do it right away." They quickly responded.

Bringing those captured here?

A piece of cake.

But, would he actually keep his word afterward?

Would they be free from the True Qi after bringing the captives?

"Listen carefully."

Chen Fan's gaze swept over them, "The captives from all over Rat City, not just those you have captured."

"What! Captives from all over Rat City?"

"This, this."

Their faces immediately turned sour.

"Sir, it's not that we don't want to, but it's not that simple," someone complained, "Our Wild Wolf Gang's strength is average here. Many gangs are much stronger than us. If we go to them, they won't listen to us."

"Yes, sir, how about you come with us?"

"Is that so?"

Chen Fan looked at the two who spoke.

"In that case, you're of no use."

As soon as he finished, the two's bodies directly burst, hot blood mixed with flesh splattering on the others, causing a chorus of wails.

"Anyone else thinks it's impossible?"

Chen Fan looked at the remaining people.

Terrified, they shook their heads repeatedly.

They realized that this person was a stronger version of Boss Guo, killing on a whim.

"Since you understand, get to it. I give you just a quarter of an hour."

Terrified, everyone quickly ran out.

Soon, Chen Fan was the only one left in the room, along with several corpses.

"With such a group, it's probably still not enough. I'll need to find more people,"

A gleam flashed in Chen Fan's eyes.

Quickly, what had just happened repeated, and before long, three groups were following his orders to rescue the hostages.

With their lives in his hands, these people acted even more ruthlessly.

Even those unwilling to hand over the hostages had to comply upon seeing their fierce demeanor.

If they refused, there would only be conflict.

Thus, the hard-won peace in Rat City quickly gave way to chaos again.

As time passed, wave after wave of people were brought before Chen Fan.

Without exception, all were females, ranging from ten-year-old girls, eighteen to twenty-year-old young women, to thirty or forty-year-old women, all in tattered clothes and disheveled.

After being brought, they each squatted down quietly, not daring to look around, much less glance at Chen Fan.

Because experience here had taught them that those who could make such fierce people obey like chicks must be even more vicious and cruel.

Thus, many trembled, unsure of what fate awaited them.

Gradually, fewer captives were brought in.

"Sir."

Chapter 502: Blessing in Disguise?_4

A man with a scar on his face walked up with a fawning expression, "We've already been to the east and south, and we brought back all the hostages."

"Master," a short man also fawned, "We've also searched the north thoroughly, even digging three feet into the ground, there's no way anything could be missed."

"Master, we also searched the west, and brought back the people?" Another man smiled outwardly but was crying inside.

With such a commotion outside, they naturally knew and had obediently stayed at home, behaving well, not wanting to cause trouble.

Yet the front door was kicked open, and this person appeared. After he tampered with their bodies, he sent them to do tasks.

Some rebelled, but were slapped to death on the spot.

They had no choice but to submit.

Even that was not as bad.

What was even more frustrating was later finding out that they were considered the lucky ones, as many who hadn't escaped were not as safe at home.

Upon learning about their plight, others had immediately fled.

Some among them attempted to escape, only to burst once they left Rat City.

Therefore, the three groups, totaling over a hundred people, could only obediently cooperate and do his bidding.

"Hmm, well done."

Chen Fan nodded.

"Master, does that mean?"

Someone eagerly asked.

"Hmm?" Chen Fan glanced over.

That person quickly shut his mouth, not daring to speak.

Chen Fan turned his gaze towards a group of several hundred women not far away,

"Don't be afraid, I am from the Awakened Association. I came this time to take you away from here."

Hearing this, the people crouched on the ground widened their eyes, almost unable to believe their ears.

This person, this person was here to save them?

"Sir, is it true what you say?" A girl in her teens said through tears, "Are you really here to rescue us?"

"Nonsense!"

The scar-faced man seized the opportunity and shouted, "This lord called you over to save you, do you think he would harm you? Hmph, if the lord really wanted to harm you, would he go through all this trouble!"

"Exactly!"

The short man echoed, also feeling wronged.

They had suffered a lot to bring these people over, even losing brothers in the process of fighting.

Was it easy for them?

Hearing this, the hostages cried tears of joy, their sobs echoing.

To be honest, their hearts had become numb. They thought they would end up like the sisters who had been captured before and die here. Who would have thought there would be a day they would be rescued.

"Alright, now is not the time for this; time is precious."

Seeing this scene, Chen Fan felt a mix of emotions and spoke up, "Among you, are there any familiar people who haven't arrived yet? If so, quickly speak up."

The city has many auras. Even he couldn't completely distinguish which ones were hostages and which were villains who had fled here.

"My younger sister hasn't come."

"Several of my sisters haven't come either."

Suddenly, a dozen voices rose.

"Follow them and bring those people back." Chen Fan looked at the three groups.

"Yes, sir!"

The three groups responded quickly.

If before, they wished Chen Fan would die.

After Chen Fan personally confirmed he was an Awakener, each one's heart filled with excitement.

Clearly, this lord was not ordinary.

These women could be saved, maybe they too would have that chance?

They had thought being found by him was the worst luck of their lives, but now it seemed to be a blessing in disguise?

Chapter 503: If Anything, Blame Your Bad Luck

It wasn't long before over a dozen women were brought over.

It seemed that they had heard their companions' explanations on the way, as they did not display the same kind of fear as the previous group; there was even a hint of anticipation in their eyes.

"Lord Awakener, we've brought everyone here."

Scarface smiled ingratiatingly,

"Is there anything else you need us to do? If so, just say the word."

"Yes, yes, Lord Awakener, we'll go through fire and water without a second thought."

"Absolutely."

The group chimed in.

In their hearts, Chen Fan before them was not a calamity but a savior.

As long as they could hold onto him tight, they wouldn't have to live a miserable life here anymore.

Chen Fan saw through their thoughts and said blandly, "There is something, but I'm afraid you can't do it."

The leaders exchanged glances and then asked:

"Lord Awakener, what is it? What if we can do it?"

Evidently, they were unwilling to give up.

Chen Fan didn't bother to say more and turned to walk away.

"?"

Everyone stared as Chen Fan's figure disappeared from view.

The controlled criminals all looked at their boss.

He's gone already? The True Qi in their bodies hadn't been released yet!

The women turned pale.

Didn't he promise to take them away?

Why did he leave alone?

Wouldn't they end up living the same life as before?

At this moment, the sound of footsteps echoed.

Everyone looked up in surprise, but the next moment, they were all stunned, mouths agape.

Returning was none other than Chen Fan.

However, this time, he was using True Qi to conjure two arms, lifting several subway carriages and walking slowly.

He had found them in the underground passages.

Although abandoned for years, the seats and bars inside the cars had been removed entirely, and the exterior had suffered various damages.

He had deliberately selected a few reasonably intact carriages. They should be enough to fit a few hundred people.

"Boom!"

The subway carriages crashed to the ground with a loud bang.

Chen Fan looked at the women and pointed at the two rows of carriages, "Get in. Hold on tight inside; when we start moving, it might be bumpy, and being thrown out is no joke."

Imagine jumping off a speeding train—what kind of result would that be?

If you replace the speeding train with a high-speed train going three to four hundred kilometers per hour?

His speed was even faster than the high-speed train.

If anyone was thrown out, they would undoubtedly be pulverized, dying without a doubt.

The women exchanged glances for a moment, and finally, someone mustered the courage to go in.

For most of them, this might be their only chance to change their fate; if missed, there might never be another.

Moreover, the man in front of them was from the Awakened Association; there was no reason for him to harm them.

The criminals nearby glanced at each other nervously.

Anyone with eyes could see that the Awakener would be lifting the carriages with his arms to take these people away like before.

But if he left, what would happen to the True Qi in their bodies?

Would he release it?

About ten minutes later, all the women were in the carriages, holding onto each other tightly.

Chen Fan nodded slightly.

At this moment, Scarface cautiously spoke, "Lord, Lord Awakener, could, could you also take us away?"

As soon as he finished, the scene went silent.

The women inside the carriages showed terror on their faces.

Some of them were captured by this man and had lived unspeakably horrific lives.

If it weren't for the arrival of the Awakener today, their miserable lives would have continued until death.

Chen Fan looked at him somewhat surprised.

"What did you just say? Say it again."

Scarface's forehead was immediately drenched in sweat.

He knew that asking this was a bit much.

However, as the saying goes, wealth comes from danger.

Indeed, meeting Chen Fan today was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the captive women, but for him, wasn't it the same?

Every prior attempt by the Awakened Association had been foiled by the Rat King.

But this time, the association had sent a true powerhouse, who killed the Rat King, Elder Jin, and over a hundred experts.

If he could follow this powerhouse, his achievements would far surpass the measly life in Rat City.

"Lord Awakener!"

Thinking this, Scarface steeled himself, knelt on the ground with a thud, and said, "I have done many wrong things, hurt many people, but today, seeing your actions, I regret deeply and wish to start anew.

Lord, please give me a chance. I am willing to serve you, to go through fire and water, without hesitation!"

The short man behind him stared, eyes wide.

What is vision?

This is vision!

While the rest worried about whether the Awakener would release the True Qi in their bodies, Scarface had already considered the bright future that lay ahead by following him.

Chapter 504: If There's Anyone to Blame, It's Your Bad Luck_2

"Damn it, this guy is a bit clever, how come I didn't notice before."

The next second, he also knelt down with a thud, tears and snot streaming down his face as he said, "Awakener sir, Scarface is right. After seeing your actions, I realized I had done many immoral things in the past. I am willing to reform and become a new person. I hope you can give me a chance."

Seeing this, the others also followed suit and knelt down.

Instantly, the sounds of pleading filled the air.

The women in the carriage were trembling like leaves in the wind.

They had thought that from now on, they could get rid of these thugs and start new lives. Who knew these people would still try to follow them!

What would happen after that?

They didn't dare to think further.

"Reform and become a new person?"

Chen Fan muttered.

The begging crowd fell silent, nodding like chickens pecking at rice.

"Those eight words are easy to say, but hard to do," Chen Fan sighed lightly.

"Sir."

Scarface shouted, "Please give us a chance. We will prove with our actions that we can do what we say!"

"Sir, please give us a chance?"

"Awakener sir, we can definitely do it."

The others chimed in.

They felt like they could see the dawn of hope.

As long as they put in a little more effort, the bright future was waving at them.

"Actually, this chance is not something you should ask me for."

Chen Fan shook his head.

"?"

Scarface and the others were confused by these words.

They looked around.

It didn't seem like there were any other Awakeners here?

If they didn't ask Chen Fan for the chance, who else could they ask?

"You should ask them."

Chen Fan pointed towards the women in the carriage.

"Ask them if they are willing to give you a chance to reform and become new people."

As the words fell, both groups were stunned.

"They, they..."

A bad premonition arose in Scarface's heart and the others'.

They knew all too well why these women were here.

Sure enough, a few seconds later, a voice filled with hatred rang out, "No way! I will never give them that chance! They killed my husband, killed my son, and brought me here. I wish they would die!"

"Exactly, even if I become a ghost, I won't forgive them! Reform? Become new people? They don't deserve it!"

"Awakener sir, don't be fooled by them. They haven't truly repented; they just want to leave here!"

A single stone caused a thousand ripples. Initially, it was just a few scattered voices, but then hundreds of voices overlapped, getting louder and louder.

Tears streamed from the women's eyes as they glared venomously at Scarface and his group, who were kneeling on the ground.

"You!"

Someone roared angrily, eyes filled with killing intent.

Yesterday, these women went out of their way to please them, and now they dared to ruin their chances!

Don't they want to live?

"Alas."

Seeing this, Scarface sighed inwardly.

He knew, things were over.

But if he could do it all over again, he would still make the same choice.

The noise lasted for more than a minute. Only when Chen Fan raised his hand did it slowly quiet down.

"You all heard it too. They are not willing to give you this chance, so I naturally cannot be generous on their behalf."

"This... "

Some were unwilling and wanted to plead again.

But seeing Chen Fan's expressionless face, the words stuck in their throats.

Many couldn't hide the killing intent in their eyes, glaring at the women in the carriage. If it weren't for Chen Fan, they would have rushed over and killed those women.

"Awakener sir, since that's the case, we have nothing more to say. We just hope you can undo the True Qi restriction on us and give us a way out," Scarface learned his lesson this time.

Otherwise, he feared Chen Fan would turn around and ask the women's opinion again.

If that happened, would they have anything good coming their way?

The women also looked at Chen Fan.

They fervently hoped he would kill these thugs, the more brutal the method, the better!

But they also knew their limits, aware that getting rescued from the pit of hell was already an enormous blessing. Demanding more would be greedy.

"I can't agree to that."

Chen Fan shook his head.

"What!"

Scarface and the others felt their hearts sink.

Some wished they could curse Chen Fan, but a sliver of hope remained in their hearts, just in case something changed?

"Wh-why?"

Scarface was the first to ask, "Awakener sir, there's no enmity between us, right? Besides, we helped you before. We understand if you don't want to take us with you, but why won't you let us go?"

"Good question."

Chen Fan nodded and said, "Because from the start, I never intended to let you go."

"!!!"

Hearing Chen Fan's words, the thugs were stunned on the spot.

So that meant from the moment they were found, their fate was already sealed.

They thought they had a chance to live, so they obediently followed orders and even entertained some unrealistic fantasies.

But the women in the carriage were teary-eyed with joy.

Chapter 505: If There's Anyone to Blame, It's Your Bad Luck_3

Their strength was weak, so they couldn't personally take revenge on their enemies. But it was extremely satisfying to watch their enemies die in front of them.

"If you want to blame someone, blame your bad luck."

Chen Fan sighed lightly.

He had people go rescue the captives, naturally heading to the places with the most people.

This was also the reason why he chose Scarface and his men.

As for what the other side said about working for him, it was simply because they were controlled by him.

Believe it or not, without his methods, these people would definitely not listen to him.

"Then, why before?"

Scarface's eyes were bloodshot, and he asked through gritted teeth, "Why, when I asked you to take us with you, did you still want to ask those women's opinions? Was it just to humiliate us?"

When the others heard this, their foreheads also bulged with anger, furious to the extreme.

Since they had already mentally prepared to die at any moment, but a warrior can be killed but not humiliated!

"You could say that."

Chen Fan said calmly, "They were imprisoned here by you, and the psychological pressure was immense. I wanted them to vent a bit, so they could move on with their lives."

"You!"

Scarface was almost exploding with rage.

"I don't want to be your tool!"

He roared and lunged at Chen Fan.

Knowing that he couldn't escape death, he might as well fight to the death. Perhaps, he might find a sliver of survival!

"You do have some courage."

Chen Fan's mouth curled slightly.

"Bang!"

The next second, Scarface burst apart, dying without a whole body.

The few people behind him, who had just stood up intending to charge, were stunned by the sight, legs trembling.

More people continued to kneel and beg for mercy.

Chen Fan shook his head. The bodies of the dozens to hundreds of people in front of him exploded simultaneously, and the scene fell silent.

His gaze swept around, feeling that many auras still remained in the city.

"With the beast tide approaching, time is tight, and there isn't much energy left to clean up these people."

Chen Fan withdrew his gaze.

Whether they were good or evil, it didn't make a difference to the Fierce Beast.

The people staying in Rat City had a slim chance of survival, a mere tenth at best.

"Get ready, we are leaving."

Chen Fan looked at the women in the carriage. Moments later, he lifted the carriage with both hands and sped towards Anshan City.

The women inside the carriage felt the wind whistling by their ears, and the surroundings turned into streaks of afterimages flying past.

"It's like taking a high-speed train."

Someone said in a low voice.

"It seems faster than a high-speed train, more like flying."

"Oh my God, who is he? How can he still go so fast while carrying us?"

"Are you stupid? He's an Awakener!"

"I know he's an Awakener, but not all Awakeners have this kind of power, right? Just these few carriages alone weigh tens of tons."

"Of course. I heard that top-tier Awakeners can overturn rivers and seas and easily destroy a town. The one taking us away must be this level of Awakener."

"But where is he taking us? Is it to his place? But we might not be able to enter."

"Even big villages aren't places you can enter as you please."

"Anywhere is better than where we were before."

"Yes, yes, as long as we leave that hellish place, even if we wander outside and get eaten by a Fierce Beast, I'd be willing."

This sentiment touched many, and soon, most were crying. Eventually, everyone was in tears.

Hearing the sobs, Chen Fan sighed and continued towards Anshan City.

Bearing the weight and taxing his True Qi, this journey was not the same as when he came alone before.

Fortunately, his True Qi was not something an ordinary True Essence Realm Martial Artist could compare to.

After two to three hours, they finally arrived at Anshan City.

Chen Fan gently placed the two rows of carriages on the ground and said, "We're here. Come out first."

The people inside immediately reacted and began to peek outside through the windows.

Surrounding them were rows of houses, seemingly belonging to a large village, making them breathe a sigh of relief.

But when they stepped out of the carriages and saw the towering city walls ahead, they were all stunned, holding their breath.

A city?

This was actually a city!

Chen Fan took out his phone and dialed Hua Jun's number.

After briefly explaining the situation, he hung up and looked at the frightened people, saying, "Wait here for a while; someone will come for you shortly."

"Thank you, Awakener, sir."

The women hurriedly thanked him.

Just then, Hua Jun arrived with two or three people.

"President!"

He greeted Chen Fan first, then looked at the several hundred bedraggled women before him.

Inwardly, he thought, the President was still as kind-hearted as always.

Even when out hunting Fierce Beasts, he never forgot to save ordinary people.

"You make the arrangements."

Chen Fan said.

"Yes, President."

Hua Jun then turned to the people, saying, "Follow me."

The women looked to Chen Fan.

Some were afraid.

"Go with him."

Chen Fan comforted them, "From now on, you are residents of Anshan City. You don't need to worry about being captured anymore. Live well."

Chapter 506: If There's Anyone to Blame, It's Your Bad Luck_4

After he finished speaking, his figure flickered and disappeared in front of everyone.

"Anshan City? Is this Anshan City?"

"From now on, we are people of Anshan City? Does that mean we can enter the city?"

"Of course you can."

Hua Jun smiled faintly, "After registering, you can move into Anshan City. Everyone will have their own house."

"!!!!"

Upon hearing this, the women were stunned as if struck by lightning.

Is there really such a good thing in the world?

Just like what was said inside the carriage on the way here.

Not to mention cities, even in densely populated villages, it is hard for ordinary people to get in, and even if they do, it's difficult to afford a house inside.

But what did the person in front of us just say?

As long as they register, they can be allocated a house, and from now on, they can live in the city forever?

Could it be that they have suffered so much that even the heavens couldn't stand it and decided to reward them?

"Haha, it looks like you are not from around here." A man behind Hua Jun laughed and said, "The people around here all know that to live in our Anshan City, you don't need to pay anything. As long as you come, you can enter. Of course, once you enter, you have to abide by our rules and don't cause trouble."

"That's right, if you cause trouble, you'll be expelled by our president, the one who brought you here just now," another man added with a smile.

"So, he is the president of the Awakened Association."

The women suddenly understood.

No wonder he is so powerful.

"Alright, follow me. Whether you can live in the city for free, you will know the answer in a moment."

Hua Jun didn't continue to explain, after all, seeing is believing.

The arrival of so many women instantly caused a sensation.

Many people forgot about what they were doing and stood motionless, watching.

Despite these women being disheveled, quite a few of them were still fairly attractive. With some care, they could be very beautiful.

"Strange, why did so many women suddenly come here?"

Two middle-aged men passed by outside the city, and the man on the left muttered.

"Who cares?"

The middle-aged man beside him glanced briefly before looking away.

The Qin family has plenty of beauties, and he worried that looking at these women more would just soil his eyes.

Then he looked down at a jade stone in his hand, with a disappointed look on his face.

"Still no reaction, sigh, we've been traveling for so long, and the jade stone still hasn't reacted. Could we have come to the wrong place? But Fifth Uncle said it was in this direction."

He furrowed his brows.

Last night, Fifth Uncle said it was about five hundred miles north, right here.

Early in the morning, Third Uncle had them split into several groups, each going in different directions to search thoroughly. If anything was found, they should notify the others and not act alone to avoid accidents.

But after so long, they hadn't found anything.

The others likely had the same result, for even Qin Jiming and his son wouldn't dare disobey Third Uncle's orders.

"That's impossible, right?"

The middle-aged man beside him frowned, "This is Fifth Uncle's prediction. How could it be wrong? Be patient, we will find it."

"You're right. Since Fifth Uncle said we would find that wretch today, we definitely will. There's still two or three hours until dark, it should be soon."

"Yes, let's go."

The two continued forward.

Chapter 507: Million Bounty

"Brother Li, I didn't expect we'd meet again so soon."

Han Xu pushed open the door and walked in, greeting Chen Fan with a beaming smile.

After Chen Fan had left last time, he had given special instructions to his subordinates to notify him immediately if this person returned.

After all, even for an A-level Awakened, killing so many Commander-level Fierce Beasts in such a short time was incredibly difficult.

If he could build a good relationship with this team, it would be immensely beneficial both for him personally and for the Awakened Association of Juque City.

Chen Fan nodded slightly.

Han Xu was already used to this.

He sat down on the chair opposite Chen Fan and asked with a smile, "If I remember correctly, Brother Li, it's been less than three days since you were last here? You've made progress so quickly. How was the harvest?"

"Not bad."

Chen Fan finished speaking, and with a thought, he placed the Commander-level Fierce Beast materials he had collected during this time on the ground.

He also included some Elite-level Fierce Beast materials.

Han Xu glanced over them, a barely noticeable hint of disappointment flashing in his eyes.

The shock Chen Fan had brought him last time was just too great.

This time, he had some expectations.

However, the quality and quantity of Fierce Beast materials this time were much lower than before.

Of course, this was only relative.

Other A-level Awakened teams might take ten days to half a month to collect this much Fierce Beast material.

Unbeknownst to Han Xu, even this subtle change in his expression didn't escape Chen Fan's notice. He easily guessed what Han Xu was thinking and felt a bit helpless.

In fact, over the past few days, he hadn't been focused on collecting Fierce Beast materials.

His primary goal was to eliminate potential threats.

Collecting materials was just a side task.

"Haha."

Han Xu laughed again, "Brother Li, your team is indeed formidable. In just under three days, you've collected materials from four or five High-level Commander-level Fierce Beasts and one or two Low-level Commander-level Fierce Beasts. Not bad, not bad at all."

He wasn't just flattering; it was the truth.

"Could I trouble Chairman Han to estimate the value of these Fierce Beast materials?"

Chen Fan didn't dwell on the topic further.

"Sure."

Han Xu smiled and looked more carefully.

Because this time he had to pay points, he examined the materials seriously.

When his gaze fell upon the materials of the two Vajra Rat Commanders, a hint of surprise appeared in his eyes.

He remembered that those notorious rats in Rat City included two Vajra Rat Commanders, both of which seemed to be High-level Commanders.

He smiled bitterly to himself.

How could there be such a coincidence?

Moreover, Rat City had existed for many years. Several teams from the Awakened Association had gone there without success.

Even if Brother Li's team was strong, they probably wouldn't fare well there.

After calculating the points for the Commander-level Fierce Beast materials, he looked at the Elite-level Fierce Beast materials, then at Chen Fan, and announced the prices one by one. Finally, he said, "Altogether, it's 241,000 points. Since we've collaborated so many times, let's round it up to 250,000 points for you."

"Thank you very much, Chairman Han."

Chen Fan nodded.

This harvest was pretty good. 250,000 points were enough for him to buy the Nine-Character Mantra and the Ice Heart Technique, these two martial arts.

With these two arts, he wouldn't have to worry about Heart Demons when using the Star Absorption Technique.

Of course, that didn't mean there would be no Heart Demons at all. It was like weeds in a rice field that needed regular management to prevent them from becoming a problem.

To completely solve the issue of Heart Demons, he would need to obtain the Supreme Martial Arts Heart Method, Carefree Wander.

"Alright."

Seeing Chen Fan so straightforward, Han Xu felt very happy.

"Brother Li, please wait a moment. I'll have someone credit your account with the points."

After saying this, he was about to turn and leave.

"Chairman Han, please wait a moment."

Chen Fan called out.

Han Xu paused, turned back with some confusion, and looked at Chen Fan.

He wondered if this person had changed his mind and was unhappy with the price he had offered?

But from their previous interactions, this didn't seem to be his style.

Then again, if this person insisted, he might have to make some concessions.

However, Chen Fan's next words set his mind at ease.

"Chairman Han, I have something else here. Could you please assess how many points it's worth?"

"Oh?"

Han Xu's eyes lit up, and he smiled broadly, "Brother Li, please go ahead. If it's something good, our association will definitely give you a high price."

"Chairman Han, be prepared."

Chen Fan said and then brushed his fingers over the Spatial Ring. With a thud, a corpse fell to the ground.

"This!"

Han Xu's eyes widened in shock.

Although he had mentally prepared himself after Chen Fan's warning, he hadn't expected Chen Fan to produce a corpse!

"This person?"

When his gaze landed on the corpse's face, Han Xu's eyes seemed to lock in place, unmoving.

This person looked inexplicably familiar at first glance.

Chapter 508: Million Bounty_2

After a second glance, an image of a wanted poster floated into his mind.

Rat King!

In Rat City, he is the most troublesome figure.

Among martial artists of the same realm, his combat strength is not particularly high, but he possesses the unique ability to control fierce beasts, commanding two Vajra Rat Commanders.

This means that the entire rat horde is his loyal gang, the kind that shows no fear and is extremely loyal.

Previous teams of awakeners sent to Rat City faced not only desperate criminals but countless rat-like fierce beasts and two commander-level fierce beasts launching surprise attacks from various directions.

More terrifying is that, according to returning awakeners, the Rat King has an inconspicuous whistle which, when blown, doubles the combat power of the surrounding rat horde.

They fought with all their might and paid the price of their comrades' sacrifices to finally reach the Rat King, thinking they could kill him. But due to that peculiar whistle, they failed at the last moment.

From then on, the Awakened Association gave up on attacking Rat City.

But now?

Han Xu stared intently at the corpse on the ground.

The biggest boss who caused several teams of awakeners to return defeated, now lay right in front of him?

The next moment, he suddenly raised his head, "Brother Li, you just came back from Rat City?"

"That's right."

Chen Fan still had a calm expression, "I heard this guy was a wanted criminal and happened to pass by, so I decided to give it a try. Fortunately, I succeeded in the end."

Han Xu's mouth twitched.

Just happened to pass by?

So, Brother Li and his team killed this guy casually while passing through Rat City?

Really?

But it's Rat City?

"Chairman Han, do you know the bounty for killing this guy?"

Chen Fan asked curiously.

"One million points."

Han Xu swallowed his saliva and slowly said.

"One million points."

Chen Fan's pupils widened slightly.

He had to admit the bounty was beyond his expectations.

Immediately, a wave of joy surged in his heart.

One million points meant he could choose any martial arts below Divine Demon Martial Arts at will.

As for Divine Demon-level Martial Arts, it would require millions of points to buy, and there were probably very few within the Awakened Association, most were controlled by noble families.

"Brother Li."

Han Xu smiled bitterly, "It's not as simple as you imagine."

"What do you mean?"

Chen Fan's face turned cold.

"Don't misunderstand, Brother Li, listen to me first."

Han Xu waved his hand, quickly explained, "The person lying on the ground is indeed the Rat King. I believe in Brother Li's integrity and that you wouldn't do anything shady in such matters, but the Association won't think the same way,

To confirm this person is truly the Rat King, a series of verification measures like fingerprint and genetic tests are required. These data have been stored in the database for ten years, so a quick comparison will reveal the truth."

Fearing Chen Fan's displeasure, he quickly added, "Brother Chen, don't worry. These procedures are fast; within a day or two, you'll get the results. If Brother Li has any objections to the results, you can raise them anytime."

"I see."

Chen Fan furrowed his brows slightly.

He thought he could claim the bounty immediately after presenting the body.

Now it seems he indeed thought too simplistically.

However, the Awakened Association's caution is understandable; there might have been cases of imposters using fraud in the past.

"Yes, Brother Li," Han Xu hesitated for a moment, gritted his teeth and said, "How about this, Brother Li, I personally guarantee that the result will be out within a day. If this person is truly the Rat King, the one million points will be credited to your account by tomorrow afternoon at the latest."

"Alright, I'll leave it to Chairman Han then."

Chen Fan nodded.

It's just a day's wait, he could endure that.

Han Xu breathed a sigh of relief and then his expression became excited.

If the corpse on the ground really is the infamous Rat King...

Both he and his branch office will earn considerable credit.

"Li..."

"Chairman Han, there's another corpse."

"Another one?"

Han Xu's eyes widened, his voice trembling, "Who is it?"

"The people around called him Elder Jin, also an A-level wanted criminal known as the Skinning Demon. Do you recognize him, Chairman Han?"

"Skinning Demon?"

Han Xu gasped.

This one's strength might not match the Rat King's.

But his notorious reputation was even worse.

Even Han Xu couldn't help but feel a chill hearing the name.

"Yes."

Chen Fan took out the second corpse from his spatial ring and placed it on the ground.

Han Xu stared at the face for a moment, then reached out, feeling behind the ear, and then pulled hard.

A human skin mask peeled off, revealing a middle-aged man's face.

"As expected."

Han Xu felt a shiver looking at the human skin mask in his hand.

What he held was likely not just a mask but actual human skin.

Rumor had it that the Skinning Demon loved to wear human skin, which allowed him to evade several attempts at capture.

The next moment, he reached out again, and moments later, pulled off another human skin mask, turning the middle-aged man's face into an old man's.

Han Xu didn't rejoice but repeated his previous action.

After three attempts, when he could no longer pull off any skin masks, Han Xu breathed a sigh of relief. Looking at the wax-yellow face before him, it seemed to be the true face of the Skinning Demon.

"Brother Li, as before, a series of verification measures are necessary to confirm this person is the Skinning Demon, the result will come within a day, if confirmed, you'll get fifty thousand points along with the previous one million points credited to your account."

"Alright."

Chen Fan had anticipated this, "I'll wait then."

"Good, good."

Han Xu nodded like a pecking chicken.

If the first corpse truly is the Rat King, then the second corpse's likelihood of being the Skinning Demon is extremely high.

Because the latter's strength wasn't even close to the former.

"I must say, Brother Li, what you brought me this time isn't just a surprise but a bit of a shock."

He exhaled slowly, pointing to the two corpses, "The Association has invested countless resources to kill these two over the years, all failed. Yet, Brother Li, you and your team managed to reach this achievement. If this news spreads, the entire Awakened Association will be shaken."

"Is that so."

Chen Fan replied indifferently.

He cared little for such fame.

"Chairman Han, if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave."

Han Xu shivered, hurriedly said, "Brother Li, wait a moment, I'll first have twenty-five thousand points credited to your account, the remaining hundred and fifty thousand points, as said before, will be credited by tomorrow if verified."

"Thank you, Chairman Han."

"You're welcome, Brother Li's contribution, the first thought for us deserves gratitude from me."

Han Xu said, quickly leaving the room.

Within a minute, Chen Fan's phone received a notification for the points.

"How was it, Brother Li, did you receive it?"

Han Xu walked in smiling.

"Received, now I'll take my leave."

Chen Fan put away his phone, nodded at Han Xu.

"Let me see you off," Han Xu hurriedly said.

"No need."

Chen Fan waved his hand, striding out.

Chapter 509: It's Just Adding Some Difficulty

When Chen Fan left Juque City and returned to Anshan City, it was already dusk.

The twilight was dim, and the distant mountains looked like giant beasts lurking in the shadows.

Chen Fan inexplicably felt somewhat restless, as if something bad was about to happen.

He shook his head and walked towards the Martial Arts Association.

Before he even entered, he heard the bustling voices inside the house.

"That's wonderful! The President has made a breakthrough. Now, our Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association also has a Celestial Realm Martial Artist!"

"Isn't that right? Our association has always been suppressed by the Jiangbei Martial Arts Association, and the reason is that they have a Celestial Realm Martial Artist while we do not."

"I've heard that our Chairman Shi has condensed a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill, which is much stronger than the one of the Jiangbei Martial Arts Association's chairman."

"Exactly, our President has just made a breakthrough; in terms of strength, he may not be a match for that person. However, with time, our President will undoubtedly surpass him."

"In my opinion, even now, our President can surpass him."

"Has the President really broken through to the Celestial Human Realm?"

Hearing the discussions inside, Chen Fan's mouth slightly opened, and a hint of astonishment appeared in his eyes.

"Brother Chen, you've returned?"

"Hello, Brother Chen."

Suddenly, someone noticed Chen Fan who had just entered, and greeted him immediately.

Other martial artists also showed an expression of reverence upon seeing him.

They knew that, in fact, the most powerful person in the Anshan City Martial Arts Branch Association was not Chairman Sun Wei, but this True Essence Realm Martial Artist in front of them.

A True Essence Realm Martial Artist!

They dared not imagine that one day they could reach such a realm. Most of them would be immensely satisfied just to reach Entry Force.

Thus, despite Chen Fan's young age compared to them, they dared not call him Brother Chen but referred to him as Brother Chen out of respect.

Chen Fan, upon hearing this, found it somewhat amusing and exasperating.

He nodded to everyone, acknowledging their greeting.

At this moment, a familiar voice sounded.

"Brother Chen, you're back."

Xu Jie smiled at Chen Fan, "Are you free? Chairman wants to talk to you about something."

"Alright."

Chen Fan had roughly guessed what it was about, and immediately headed towards the chairman's office.

He knocked on the door.

After hearing Sun Wei say "come in," he pushed the door open and walked in.

Seeing it was Chen Fan, Sun Wei got up from his office chair at once.

"Brother Chen, you've returned."

"Yes, Chairman asked for me, probably to tell me about Chairman Shi's breakthrough to the Celestial Human Realm, right?"

Chen Fan walked over, sat down on the sofa, and poured himself a cup of tea, taking a couple of sips.

"You already know?"

Sun Wei chuckled bitterly and sat opposite Chen Fan. "Did the headquarters tell you?"

Chen Fan shook his head, "I heard it in the hall when I just came back."

He roughly guessed why the headquarters didn't specifically notify him.

Like Chairman Shen.

It was probably to avoid embarrassment, right?

"I see."

Sun Wei nodded and took a deep breath. "Actually, I just found out the news early this morning. Chairman Shi's breakthrough to the Celestial Human Realm is a great joy for our Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, but..."

He looked at Chen Fan, seemingly hesitant to speak.

"Chairman thinks I am not a match for the President, correct?"

Chen Fan smiled lightly.

"Well..."

Sun Wei blushed and then chuckled bitterly. "Honestly, yes. I have full confidence in Brother Chen's strength, of course, that is before the President made the breakthrough."

Now that the Chairman has broken through, I've heard that Celestial Realm Martial Artists can communicate with the power of heaven and earth, enhancing their combat strength manifold. Brother Chen, before you reach the Celestial Human Realm, I think it's best not to go to the headquarters."

After saying this, he sighed inwardly.

The difficulty of breaking through from the True Essence Realm to the Celestial Human Realm was unimaginable.

The Chairman was incredibly strong, and even with the entire association's support, it took him years.

Brother Chen's talent is indeed high, his realm elevation is like a rocket, but who knows if he can maintain the same speed to reach the Celestial Human Realm?

Furthermore, frankly speaking, even if he reaches the Celestial Human Realm, chances of winning might still be slim.

After all, the president isn't a fool. While Chen Fan is rushing to improve his strength, the president must also be enhancing his strength.

"Thank you for the reminder, Chairman. I am aware of the situation."

Chen Fan smiled lightly.

"Good, good, as long as you are aware."

Sun Wei also smiled, though his expression remained somewhat helpless.

He wanted to help Chen Fan in some way, but unfortunately, he couldn't.

He could only notify Chen Fan the first moment he got the news, to mentally prepare him.

"Chairman, if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave."

"No, no, Brother Chen, you go ahead and take care of your matters."

Watching Chen Fan leave, Sun Wei sighed and shook his head again.

He actually wanted to persuade Chen Fan to forget about the previous matters.

However, he knew very well that Chen Fan was the kind of person who stuck to his decisions. Even the president couldn't change them, so how could a branch chairman like him have any influence?

Upon leaving the chairman's office, Chen Fan found a cultivation room.

The president's breakthrough to the Celestial Human Realm was indeed somewhat surprising, but also within expectations.

After all, the headquarters had long obtained the True Qi Pill Formula Chen Fan had sent over. With the combined resources of the headquarters, and the support of Elder Wang behind the association...

Chapter 510: It's Just Adding Some Difficulty_2

A breakthrough is just a matter of time.

"Thankfully, it just adds some difficulty."

Confidence appeared in Chen Fan's eyes.

Isn't it just a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill?

He can condense it as well.

In fact, he even wanted to condense the rumored Heaven-grade Martial Arts True Pill.

"Let Ling Yu enjoy a little longer."

Chen Fan calmed his mind and looked at the Skill Bar.

The Undying Golden Body was finally unlocked.

And the Nine Provinces Archery, also fully unlocked.

Besides these two martial arts, there were also the Undying Seal Technique, and the Wisdom Scripture of All Methods.

Chen Fan glanced at the Experience Points, which had surprisingly reached over thirty million, unexpected.

But after thinking it through, it made sense.

The fierce beasts in the underground space of Rat City far exceeded the Bloodthirsty Ants.

Moreover, he had killed the Rat King and his hundreds of subordinates.

Gaining almost twenty million Experience Points in one go was reasonable.

Chen Fan's lips curled into a smile.

Over thirty million Experience Points should be enough to max out these martial arts.

As for the Nine-Character Mantra and Ice Heart Technique, since they required time to complete even after being exchanged, there was no need to reserve Experience Points specifically for them.

With this thought, he simply opened the Awakened Association Mall and exchanged these two Supreme Martial Arts.

After browsing through them, two more lines appeared in the Skill Bar.

The collection progress of the Ice Heart Technique was the highest, requiring just over a day to complete.

The Nine-Character Mantra required more time, a full five days.

"That seems normal."

Chen Fan thought to himself.

The Ice Heart Technique's function was merely to clear away inner evil thoughts.

The Nine-Character Mantra was much more potent.

It involved nine characters corresponding to nine hand seals, including attack, defense, recovery, and burst; clearing inner evil thoughts was just one of its functions.

After taking a deep breath, Chen Fan decided to start adding points.

The first to add, naturally, was the Undying Golden Body.

Though output is important, survival comes first.

Otherwise, even with high attack power, perishing together with the opponent was meaningless.

Once mastering this martial art, both the imminent Beast Tide and future headquarters invasions would be much easier.

Chen Fan concentrated his mind and added ten million Experience Points.

The progress bar of the Undying Golden Body rose by one-sixth.

Chen Fan nodded.

It matched his expectations; from completely ignorant to beginner level in the Undying Golden Body requires one million Experience Points, but due to the Sun Observation Technique's experience reduction effect, six hundred thousand was enough.

"What kind of traits would be unlocked?"

Chen Fan felt a wave of anticipation.

After all, this was the highest-level martial art he had studied so far.

After adding another fifty thousand Experience Points, Chen Fan immediately felt his blood boil like a great river, and the True Qi in his Sea of Qi also changed.

His eyes lit up at once.

Clearly, this martial art not only enhanced physical attributes but also increased internal True Essence.

Undying Golden Body: Initial Glimpse (0%), Traits: Heaven and Earth Level 1, Solid Essence Level 1

Heaven and Earth: Each skill level permanently increases physical attributes by ten thousand points.

Solid Essence: Each skill level additionally boosts Primordial True Qi by one fold.

After reading the descriptions of the two traits, Chen Fan gasped.

As expected of Supreme Martial Arts, the enhancement it brought far exceeded Supreme Martial Arts.

For example, the increase in physical attributes.

Supreme Martial Arts unlocks Solid as a Rock, which boosts physical attributes by three thousand points per level; reaching the Perfection Realm totals fifteen thousand points.

But the Undying Golden Body, at the beginner level alone, instantly added ten thousand points to physical attributes, thrice that of Solid as a Rock!

If raised to the Perfection Realm, physical attributes could be boosted by fifty thousand points!

Fifty thousand points, what a concept—even Chen Fan’s physical attributes now only stand at seventy to eighty thousand points, almost doubling from one Supreme Martial Art!

Similarly, the other trait.

Supreme Martial Arts level heart methods boost Primordial True Qi by fivefold per level.

But Supreme Martial Arts boosts by tenfold per level.

Reaching the Perfection Realm would quintuple internal True Qi!

"This is Supreme Martial Arts; if it's Divine Demon Martial Arts, how great would the enhancement be?"

This thought leaped in Chen Fan's mind.

Soon, he shook his head—it's too early to think about these.

Unlike Supreme Martial Arts, acquiring Divine Demon Martial Arts is extremely difficult.

He had learned from Song Family about a Divine Demon-level Martial Art, but it was just a part of it—just considered a Supreme Martial Art at best.

Focusing first on learning Supreme Martial Arts will unlock more Supreme Martial Arts.

Otherwise, unless he's incredibly lucky, securing a full Divine Demon Martial Art, he'll just watch helplessly.

How great are such odds? Even noble families rarely hold complete Divine Demon Martial Arts.

"Continue."

Based on previous experience, Chen Fan directly added one million twenty thousand Experience Points.

As expected, the Undying Golden Body's progress bar shot to one hundred percent.

With surging internal blood and expanding True Qi in the Sea of Qi, meanwhile, a white light flashed in his mind.

Undying Golden Body: Slight Achievement (0%), Traits: Heaven and Earth Level 2, Solid Essence Level 2, Indestructible Level 1

Indestructible: Each skill level boosts physical defense by threefold.

"A triple boost?"

Chen Fan was first stunned, then nodded in satisfaction.

Though unlocked at the Slight Achievement Realm, it provides a triple boost—far exceeding the Supreme Martial Arts' single fold.

Reaching the Perfection Realm would be twelvefold, similar to Vajra Indestructible Body's passive.

Although it falls short of Vajra Indestructible Body's active effect.

However, the key is one is unlocked at the Slight Achievement Realm, the other is Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill's core trait.

The real comparison should be with the Undying Golden Body's core trait.

Chen Fan's anticipation grew.

This time, he added three million twenty thousand points.

Undying Golden Body's progress rose to one hundred percent, reaching the Entering the Hall realm.

Three million twenty thousand points...

Chen Fan squinted his eyes—to extrapolate, the next experience point requirement would be six million forty thousand.

From the Great Success Realm to Perfection would then need twelve million eighty thousand...

Including previous expenditures, fully maxing out a Supreme Martial Arts requires more than twenty million experience points!

"That's quite a lot."

Chen Fan thought it fortunate.

Initially, he assumed one million experience points would suffice.

He had underestimated it.

The Undying Golden Body, among many Supreme Martial Arts, ranks at best mid-level, requiring over twenty million points to max.

Stronger ones might need thirty to forty million, even fifty to sixty million?

"To master more Supreme Martial Arts, not only are the exchange points astronomical, but the perfection realm's experience requirement is also a huge number."

Chen Fan sighed deeply.

Next, he looked at the Skill Bar.

Undying Golden Body: Entering the Hall (0%), Traits: Heaven and Earth Level 3, Solid Essence Level 3, Indestructible Level 2

This time clearly did not unlock any new traits.

"Unexpectedly, the core trait of this martial art should appear."

Expectations filled Chen Fan's eyes as he added six million forty thousand experience points.