

Martial Arts 571

Chapter 571: A Thousand Years Is Too Long, Seize the Day

"Brother Chen!"

"Brother Chen, you're here!"

"Brother Chen, someone came earlier looking for you."

As soon as Chen Fan stepped into the Martial Arts Association, the voices started rising one after another.

"Someone is looking for me?"

Chen Fan raised his eyebrows, his face showing a hint of confusion.

There were still a few hours until the Beast Tide erupted. He planned to return to the association to find a Cultivation Room and continue absorbing the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

But someone was looking for him?

Who could it be at this critical moment?

"Yes, Brother Chen. An old man came, quite elderly, with a head full of white hair."

"Though he's got a head full of white hair, he looks very spirited, with pretty good skin."

"Yes, yes, wearing a set of gray cloth garments."

"Head full of white hair? Gray cloth garments?" The more Chen Fan listened, the more puzzled he became.

He couldn't recall ever knowing such a person.

"Oh, right, he said his name is Elder Wang." Finally, someone remembered, quickly speaking up.

"Elder Wang!"

Chen Fan's pupils slightly contracted.

A few days ago, when President Shi Tao came, he mentioned this Elder Wang, a person who has lived from the previous era through a thousand years to now.

He was deeply curious, hoping to meet him someday when he went to the headquarters to settle scores with Ling Yu.

But the other party came in person at this moment?

"Brother Chen, do you know him?"

Seeing this, everyone glanced at each other.

"Hmm."

Chen Fan nodded and asked, "Where is he now?"

"The Chairman just came and took him to the office."

"Yes, yes, he should be in the Chairman's office."

"Alright, thank you all." Chen Fan nodded to them and then headed towards the elevator.

"Brother Chen does know that Elder Wang?" As Chen Fan entered the elevator, whispers began.

"Seems so. I wonder who this Elder Wang really is."

"To know Brother Chen, he must be extraordinary."

"No kidding."

Chen Fan arrived at the second floor, outside the Chairman's office.

Sure enough, inside he could hear Sun Wei's voice.

The content of the conversation was related to him, and full of praises, causing the approaching Chen Fan to feel a bit embarrassed.

"Knock, knock, knock."

He reached out to knock on the door, and the conversation inside immediately stopped.

"Chairman, it's me."

Chen Fan spoke, "I heard as I came in that someone is looking for me?"

"Brother Chen is here!"

Sun Wei exclaimed and quickly stood up from the sofa, then looked at Elder Wang saying, "Elder Wang, it's Brother Chen, Brother Chen is here!"

After speaking, he hurriedly ran to the door and opened it.

As soon as the door opened, Chen Fan immediately felt a pair of eyes fall upon him, as if they were X-rays, wanting to see him from inside out.

But those eyes were clearly kind, like those of a neighbor's old grandfather.

At the same time, Elder Wang was also inwardly marveling.

Having lived for a thousand years, he had seen countless people, even the most talented, were common to him.

But this young man before him gave him an inexplicable sense of mystery.

"Brother Chen,"

Sun Wei hurriedly whispered in Chen Fan's ear, "He is the master's teacher, the President personally called me and said so."

As he spoke, he also winked at Chen Fan.

This man is a Celestial Human Realm Martial Artist! His strength likely surpasses the President's.

"Hmm, I understand. Chairman, you can go ahead and attend to your work." Chen Fan nodded to him.

After Sun Wei left, Chen Fan bowed to the elder inside the room.

This man's presence here must be by the President's intention, and with his age, his visit was surely for a significant reason, thus it was proper to show junior respect.

Moreover, Anshan City urgently needed capable people now.

Although Wang Lingling was in the True Essence Realm, she might not exert her full strength, and the True Essence Realm was definitely inferior to the Celestial Human Realm.

If relations were good with this elder and he could offer some protection, then even Commander-level Fierce Beasts would be nothing to worry about.

"Hehehe."

Elder Wang gave a kindly laugh, saying, "I've often heard Shi Tao speak of you, saying you are skilled in Martial Arts and Alchemy. It was because of your help that Shi Tao quickly broke through to the Celestial Human Realm."

"Elder Wang is too kind."

Chen Fan smiled slightly, saying, "Even without my Pill Formula, the President's breakthrough to the Celestial Human Realm was bound to happen."

"That's true, but your contribution goes beyond that. It's not just about Shi Tao; the entire association will be grateful for your efforts." Elder Wang said earnestly.

Chen Fan responded with a smile.

Silently, he thought it might be time to present the best version of the True Qi Pill Formula.

Not just the True Qi Pill Formula, but also some top-level, Supreme Martial Arts he'd perfected could be shared.

After all, the Human Race was at a critical point of survival.

"Sit down."

Elder Wang smiled and pointed to the opposite sofa, "We have plenty of time. Shall we talk?"

"Alright."

Chen Fan walked to the spot where Sun Wei had sat earlier, then asked, "Elder Wang, you must have come by the President's commission, right?"

"Indeed."

Elder Wang looked at Chen Fan, his smile growing broader, "I heard you don't want to go to the headquarters but wish to stay and protect this city's people, right?"

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"Yes."

Chen Fan nodded.

"Do you feel confident?"

Elder Wang asked with a smile.

"Somewhat."

Chen Fan replied honestly.

"Somewhat."

Elder Wang shook his head and said, "If it's just somewhat, then it's far from enough."

Chen Fan remained silent.

Currently, he shouldn't have much trouble defending against several waves of Beast Tide.

But after that...

He could only quickly improve his strength to the level that could rival Beast Emperor Level Fierce Beasts or even surpass them!

However, he couldn't say such things outright and could only take it one step at a time.

"How about this."

Elder Wang said, suddenly revealing an ancient book in his hand, with the words "Sacred Heart Technique" written on the cover.

"!"

Chen Fan's pupils instantly enlarged.

Sacred Heart Technique?

"It seems you have heard a bit about this Supreme Martial Art."

Elder Wang chuckled, placing the secret manual on the coffee table.

"Yes."

Chen Fan nodded and said, "Sacred Heart Technique, after cultivation, can grant eternal life and everlasting youth. It also contains many bizarre attack methods, even a glance can cause the enemy's soul to scatter."

"It's not that exaggerated."

Elder Wang stroked his beard and smiled, "The Sacred Heart Technique as a Supreme-level Martial Art is indeed extraordinary, but it's not as legendary as it is made out to be. There are countless cultivation techniques out there that are stronger, and what they can't do, how could it?"

However, while it cannot make one immortal, it can greatly extend one's lifespan, as evidenced by my own existence of over a thousand years."

Chen Fan wasn't surprised, having already heard it from the President.

He was more puzzled about why this Sacred Heart Technique was placed in front of him. Was it meant as a gift?

"I came here this time specifically at Shi Tao's request to take you away."

Elder Wang continued, "If you are willing to come to the headquarters with me, you can have this Sacred Heart Technique. Don't doubt it; this is the genuine and complete manuscript. With your talent, once you've learned it, even the Three-headed Beast Emperor Level Fierce Beast wouldn't be worth mentioning before you."

Chen Fan was stunned and looked up at him.

So, Elder Wang intended to buy him off with a complete Sacred Heart Technique?

Though he indeed coveted this martial art.

For the average person, without Phoenix Blood, it would be impossible to cultivate this martial art to the highest realm.

But he was different; theoretically speaking, as long as he had enough Experience Points, he could succeed. If not, he wouldn't lose anything.

However, Elder Wang's intent was clear.

If he took this cultivation technique, he'd have to leave with him.

The next moment, a bitter smile appeared on his lips as he said, "Is Elder Wang testing me?"

"It's a test, but it's also not."

Elder Wang chuckled, "What I just said is my genuine concern. It's good that you can resist the Beast Tide, but from a certain perspective, it's a bad thing as well.

Due to Anshan City's remoteness, the longer you hold out, the more firepower you'll attract. You might even alert the Beast Emperor Level Fierce Beasts, and then, do you think you could still hold out?

Rather than facing life-threatening danger then, why not leave early, as wise men avoid dangerous situations, isn't that right?

Even if Yan Country was destroyed someday, with this martial art, you could still rise again, couldn't you?"

Elder Wang's tone was gentle.

Chen Fan took a deep breath and slowly said, "A thousand years is too long; seize the day."

Elder Wang's gaze subtly changed, then he said, "So, you prefer to miss this opportunity and stay behind?"

"Actually, there's no conflict between staying and obtaining this cultivation technique." Chen Fan whispered.

Elder Wang was taken aback, then laughed heartily, re-evaluating the young man before him.

He was extremely mysterious at the headquarters, with few knowing his existence. Only Shi Tao frequently saw him.

But Shi Tao would never say such things out of respect and character.

"You sure have fanciful thoughts."

Elder Wang wiped the smile off his face, "You either stay or go. If you go, you can have this cultivation technique. If you stay, I will take it back."

"Then I'll choose to stay."

Chen Fan sighed lightly.

After all, he couldn't go back on his decision.

As for the Sacred Heart Technique.

Getting the complete version would be great, saving a lot of trouble. On reaching the Perfection Realm, it could directly complement similar higher-level cultivation techniques, like the Longevity Technique.

Once he had elevated it to the Perfection Realm, it indeed unlocked the entire progress of the Longevity Technique, now a bit over one-seventh, nearly one-sixth.

If he couldn't get it, that was fine too.

He could still complete it himself.

Just, it would take more time.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes."

Chen Fan nodded decisively.

Elder Wang nodded approvingly, "Very good, it seems you truly are as straightforward as they say."

"So, Elder Wang was indeed testing me?"

Chen Fan looked at the secret manual on the table.

Could it be fake?

"Why, do you suspect the manual on the table is fake?" Elder Wang smiled, "It's indeed genuine, but without Phoenix Blood, it's difficult to cultivate. Forcing it could lead to devastating consequences. Otherwise, I would have passed it to Shi Tao long ago."

Having said that, he took the manual back into his Spatial Ring.

In the next moment, another book appeared on the table.

"Flying Star Nine Revolutions Technique."

"What's this?"

Chen Fan was startled, looking at the manual and then at Elder Wang.

Was this really meant to be given to him?

Elder Wang smiled:

"This is also a complete Supreme-level Martial Art. Have you heard of it?"

"Yes."

Hearing the phrase "complete version," Chen Fan's eyes flashed with surprise, then said, "I've heard that this martial art enhances explosive power."

"Right."

Elder Wang explained, "This martial art enhances power each time it's activated. One revolution after another, power can be significantly amplified by multiples. However, each revolution has a usage limit, especially the repeat rotations. A person may only use it two or three times in their lifetime."

"I see."

Chen Fan realized, thinking that this cultivation technique had quite severe limitations.

Seeing Chen Fan's thoughts, Elder Wang smiled, "Don't be greedy. This technique can enhance the power of all martial arts, potentially changing the course in dire moments. Even if it can be used only once, it's like having an extra life."

"Elder Wang is right."

Chen Fan quickly said.

"Yes."

Elder Wang nodded slightly, "For techniques without usage limitations enhancing martial arts power, they exist, but collecting and learning them is challenging, like the No Desire Technique."

"No Desire Technique?"

Chen Fan's eyes brightened.

Did Elder Wang possess a complete version of the No Desire Technique?

Was it real?

"I don't have that cultivation technique."

Elder Wang glanced at him.

"Cough, Elder Wang, I didn't mean that." Chen Fan coughed twice.

Elder Wang smiled, "During my time, fewer than this number of people mastered this technique."

He held up three fingers.

"Three people."

"Yes," Elder Wang sighed, "but nearly a hundred mastered the Flying Star Nine Revolutions Technique."

"That's quite a disparity." Chen Fan said.

"Indeed, so I'm gifting this technique to you. After you take it, train hard. If you encounter difficulties, you can ask me anytime. Even mastering one revolution will significantly boost your chances."

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Elder Wang quietly watched Chen Fan.

Previously presenting the Sacred Heart Technique, he indeed had the intention of testing Chen Fan.

If Chen Fan had really agreed, he wouldn't have gone back on his word, but he would have felt a bit disappointed inside.

As for the Sacred Heart Technique, although it was complete, without Phoenix Blood within, it couldn't fully exhibit the effects of Supreme Martial Arts.

Fortunately, Chen Fan's answer made him very satisfied, which is why he took out this "Flying Star Nine Revolutions Technique", hoping it would give him more confidence in the upcoming battle.

After hearing Elder Wang's words, Chen Fan couldn't help but find it amusing.

Mastering only one or two tenths?

Isn't that underestimating people too much?

He had previously spent over fifty million experience points on the Longevity Technique, otherwise, he could have already elevated this technique to its highest realm.

Despite his inner ridicule, Chen Fan still stood up from the sofa, bowed respectfully, and gratefully said, "Junior thanks Elder Wang."

As Elder Wang said, even a temporary boost in combat power could drastically change the outcome of a battle.

Even if there are usage limitations, it is still acceptable.

And most importantly, this technique is complete.

Once he lifts his realm to perfection, he only needs to spend points to purchase the No Desire Technique, and he can complete it.

The No Desire Technique is not something the Flying Star Nine Revolutions Technique can compare to; it's a technique close to Divine Demon Martial Arts.

"Ha ha ha."

Elder Wang let out a hearty laugh, looking at Chen Fan with an increasingly gentle gaze, and said, "In fact, I have a few more Supreme Martial Arts techniques that I can give you, but given the urgent situation right now, more would be counterproductive. When you have practiced this technique to a certain extent, I'll pass the rest to you then."

"Yes, Elder Wang."

Chen Fan felt a bit regretful.

He actually wanted to say, it doesn't matter, Elder Wang, you can give them all to me.

But reason told him, this was unreasonable, and also a bit impolite.

After putting away the technique, Chen Fan hesitated for a moment and said, "Elder Wang, having just met, receiving such a grand gift, I shouldn't be asking for more. However, given the special circumstances with the Beast Tide outbreak, I may not manage to handle everything. If some vicious beasts appear in the city, would you be able to deal with them? Of course,"

Chen Fan paused and said, "If there's any difficulty for you, just pretend I didn't say that."

"So, it's this."

Elder Wang nodded thoughtfully, then smiled, "Since you've already brought it up, why would I refuse? However, let me put it bluntly; I'm not going to help you deal with the beasts outside the city. Doing so would somewhat breach the agreement."

"Breach the agreement? Elder Wang, what do you mean?" Chen Fan was taken aback.

Elder Wang gave him a meaningful look and said, "When you reach the Celestial Human Realm, you will understand. Knowing some things too early may not be a good thing."

"I see."

Chen Fan came to realize, then respectfully bowed to him.

The mentioned agreement should not be with the President but with someone from his own era.

The main content presumably states that their kind should not directly intervene in the affairs of later generations.

"Any more questions?"

Elder Wang smiled and said, "If you have any, feel free to ask."

"For now, no more."

Chen Fan shook his head, glanced at the time, and said, "Elder Wang, during this period, I must trouble you to stay here for a bit. If you have any requests, please let me know."

Elder Wang nodded, stood up, and said, "I seldom get the chance to come out; I'll just wander around the city. You go on with your business; don't mind me."

"Yes, Elder Wang."

Chen Fan stood and escorted Elder Wang out of the meeting room.

After Elder Wang left, he let out a long breath.

He had to admit that facing a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, especially someone from over a thousand years ago, was still quite pressuring.

"I should get back to my own tasks."

He turned around and headed towards the cultivation room.

Time flew by, and soon it was afternoon.

The city walls glowed with a radiance.

Upon closer inspection, rows of cannons could be seen, with calibers ranging from 155 mm to 50 mm. The dark barrels and massive bodies looked like steel guardians.

The range of these cannons was generally over 10 kilometers, with the largest 155 mm howitzers having a maximum range of over 40 kilometers.

Moreover, every one or two meters, there was a 30 mm machine cannon mounted on the city walls.

Despite this, it was not enough to give the people standing on the walls much sense of security.

Those who had experienced the Beast Tide knew that despite the hundreds of cannons on the city walls, a salvo could turn the land in front of them upside down.

However, the number of Fierce Beasts was overwhelming, with the first waves usually composed of mid to low-level fierce beasts serving as cannon fodder.

The ones coming afterward were the real threats, including elite-level fierce beasts. With their sharp claws and incredible speed, they could climb the thirty-meter-high city walls and slash down a swath of people, turning that moment into a true hell on earth.

Some newly joined individuals were extremely nervous, their hands trembling slightly around their gun stocks.

At this moment, a series of footsteps echoed.

Several figures ascended the steps.

"Who is that?"

Many people cast curious glances.

"It's Chairman Hua!"

Chapter 574: Earthquake?_2

Someone exclaimed.

At that moment, Hua Jun was on the city wall, speaking impressively to the people below, leaving a deep impression on many guards who recognized him at a glance.

"Oh my God, President Hua actually came!"

"Is he going to stand on the front line with us?"

"No, President Hua doesn't seem to be at the front; the one at the very front... is it?"

Some sharp-eyed people noticed this scene and widened their eyes in shock.

"Could it be Chairman Li?"

"Chairman Li? Is it really Chairman Li?"

"The one who let us live inside the city?"

Immediately, the atmosphere on the city wall boiled over.

Those newcomers who had felt uneasy and even regretful now felt invincible.

If it was indeed Chairman Li of the Awakened Association standing at the forefront resisting the Beast Tide, what did they have to fear?

The previous guards were equally elated.

They knew well the power of Awakeners, as they were the main force in past city defense battles.

Chen Fan did not pay attention to the gazes around him. He climbed to the highest point of the city wall and looked out towards the north.

Hua Jun stood behind him, looking into the distance, and cautiously asked, "Will the Beast Tide really come?"

Even at this moment, he still held a glimmer of hope.

After all, his family was also in the city. If the Beast Tide came and Anshan City fell, his wife and children would be doomed.

Chen Fan said nothing, standing still like a statue, silently waiting.

Despite his calm exterior, he was actually a little nervous inside.

Though he had faced thousands of Fierce Beasts before, this time was different.

It was unclear how long had passed when the ground began to tremble. The movement was slight, but everyone could feel it.

In an instant, everyone's expressions changed dramatically.

The guards around the telescopes wished they could dive into the lenses.

The tremors became more noticeable, to the point where even ordinary people in the city began to notice.

"Was that an earthquake?"

Someone asked uncertainly.

"An earthquake? Can Anshan City even have earthquakes?"

"Doesn't seem like it. It seems more like... the Beast Tide has erupted?"

"The Beast Tide?"

In an instant, all the discussions around ceased.

Everyone turned to look towards the city gates.

No way, right?

Was the Beast Tide really erupting?

And so quickly? A notification just went out yesterday, and now it's here this afternoon?

In a residential building, Meng Xue stood by the window, gazing into the distance.

"Sister."

Meng Yu walked over and gently took her hand, her eyes filled with worry.

Meng Xue squeezed her hand and softly said, "Don't worry, Chen Fan can hold it."

"Yes!"

Meng Yu nodded heavily.

In a hot pot restaurant, Wang Lingling was about to put a piece of cooked beef into her mouth when suddenly, the chopsticks and the meat fell onto the table.

"It's over, the Beast Tide is here after all."

She instinctively stood up, wanting to turn and run but then sat back down with a troubled expression.

Her Longevity Technique was still in the hands of that Li guy.

True, she could leave and come back in three days, but what if that Li guy died during the fight?

If she returned by then, it would be too late.

If she stayed, she could maybe find a chance to recover the body if he died.

As for the Martial Arts Association, the guy named Chen Fan...

Wang Lingling pouted. Since she had agreed, she would help him out a bit, but if some powerful Fierce Beast appeared, she wouldn't bother.

On the street, an elderly man with gray hair looked towards the city wall with a pained expression.

The Beast Tide had finally erupted.

He knew that Anshan City was just one of many small peripheral cities, and the arrival of the Beast Tide here meant that other small cities were also under attack, or had already fallen.

"That little guy should be on the wall now too."

His gaze swept over the people on the wall, seeing many familiar faces from the Martial Arts Association, including Sun Wei, as well as Martial Artists arriving continuously.

"Strange."

Old Wang looked twice but did not see the familiar figure.

Suddenly, as his gaze swept over the highest point, he paused.

That aura?

His face showed a trace of shock.

It seemed like that little guy's aura? But wasn't that the president of the Anshan City Awakened Association, Li Ping?

He had heard some stories about this man and had some admiration for him.

Then it clicked.

"I see."

A smile appeared on his face.

The two men's styles were so similar that he should have realized they were the same person.

This little guy had some tricks up his sleeve.

A sudden exclamation erupted from the wall.

"Fierce Beasts! Fierce Beasts are coming!"

More voices rose, one after another.

"So many Fierce Beasts!"

"The Beast Tide! It's the Beast Tide!"

"The Beast Tide is here!"

Each voice was like a hammer striking everyone's hearts.

Many people started trembling, barely able to hold their guns.

"Damn it!"

Hua Jun's face turned pale.

The largest telescopes on the city walls had a viewing range of about a hundred kilometers. The maximum range of the cannons was fifty kilometers, so anything beyond that was pointless.

With the speed of Fierce Beasts, a hundred kilometers could be covered in about an hour. Once within cannon range, they could reach the walls even faster, in a matter of minutes.

"How many are there?"

He turned and shouted.

"Too many," someone replied bitterly. "We can't count them all."

"At least hundreds of thousands!"

"So many Elite-level Fierce Beasts, at least ten thousand, and three Commander-level Fierce Beasts!"

Everyone exchanged glances at these words.

The largest Beast Tide that Anshan City had faced in the past was about this size.

This time, the initial wave was already as strong as the worst before?

"President, this time, it looks really tough," Xu Jie said with a bitter smile.

"No matter how hard, we must hold," Sun Wei gritted his teeth. "We have no choice."

"Yes, we have no choice. If the city stands, we live; if the city falls, we die," Gao Shan and the others nodded, their eyes filled with determination.

"Eighty kilometers! The Beast Tide is eighty kilometers away!"

A few minutes later,

"Seventy-five kilometers!"

"Seventy kilometers!"

"Sixty-five kilometers!"

Each announcement marked one step closer to Anshan City.

On the vast city wall, the atmosphere grew so silent that one could hear everyone's heartbeat clearly.

"Fifty kilometers! Only fifty kilometers!" an anxious voice rang out.

"Prepare!"

Hua Jun shouted.

Instantly, the sound of pulling back gun locks rang out.

Everyone gripped their weapons, fully alert.

"President! Forty kilometers!"

Hearing this, Hua Jun looked at Chen Fan, "Chairman?"

"Hmm."

Chen Fan nodded.

Though he didn't need the artillery support, it was a good exercise for everyone behind him.

After all, this was just the beginning.

"Fire!" Hua Jun roared.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

Hundreds of cannons fired simultaneously, the roaring sound deafening, like a thousand thunderbolts exploding at once, shaking the heavens and the earth.

In the blaze of fire, the shells seemed like wild dragons breaking free, dragging long flames, whistling through the sky towards the distance.

Chapter 575: It's about time to make a move

Accompanied by the deafening sound of cannon fire, the last glimmer of hope held by many inside Anshan City was completely extinguished.

When the streets and alleys were plastered with notices of the impending beast tide, they could still deceive themselves, thinking it was like the weather forecasts on TV ten years ago, which could be wrong sometimes. Perhaps the beast tide could be the same.

But now, they had no choice but to believe it.

Because even a fool knows that the guards wouldn't be bored enough to play with cannons; there was only one explanation for this — the beast tide had truly arrived, and soon, it would be at the city walls.

"What, what do we do?" someone asked in trembling voice.

He had only recently arrived here and hadn't yet adapted to city life before encountering this sudden event.

"With the Awakeners here, we should be able to defend, right?"

"Yeah, in the past few years, Anshan City has also faced beast tides, and they were able to defend it. This time, we should be able to as well, right?"

At this moment, the sharp sound of the air raid siren blared.

A large number of armed guards came running.

"What are you all standing around for? Get to the shelters!"

"The beast tide has already erupted. Do you want to die, standing outside?"

"Move! Move!"

Upon hearing this, ordinary people in the shops and on the streets all rushed to the nearest underground facilities.

In an instant, the city became desolate.

Outside the city, shells fell like raindrops, with many of the leading Fierce Beasts blown to pieces, blood and flesh splattering everywhere.

Many more Fierce Beasts, though not directly hit by the shells, were thrown off by the shockwaves. Before they could get up, they were trampled into meat paste by the oncoming Fierce Beasts.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The first round of shelling had just ended when the second round began, even more intense than the first. Dense smoke filled the air.

In the blink of an eye, hundreds more Fierce Beasts fell, the dust raised by the explosions blotting out the sky.

However, even more Fierce Beasts emerged from the smoke, moving at double the speed from before!

"Fire!"

Hua Jun roared.

But in reality, not many people heard his voice.

The guards, like automated machines, continued the actions of loading, closing the breech, and pulling the firing cord.

There was no need to aim, as there were so many Fierce Beasts in sight that even with closed eyes, they would hit.

Forty kilometers.

Thirty kilometers.

Twenty kilometers.

In just ten minutes, the beast tide was less than ten kilometers from the city walls.

Standing on the city walls, even without telescopes, people could see the rolling dust clouds and countless dark figures in the distance.

Relentless shells continued to fall, yet they could not stop their advance.

Some of the Fierce Beasts, even after being caught in the shockwaves of the shells, got up nonchalantly and continued their charge.

"Prepare the machine guns!"

Seeing this, Hua Jun shouted, cold sweat streaming down his forehead.

After so many rounds of simultaneous artillery fire, at least tens of thousands of Fierce Beasts had been killed or injured, but this was nothing detrimental to a beast tide of two to three hundred thousand.

Moreover, they lacked intelligence; unlike human armies, they didn't collapse even after suffering a thirty percent loss. As long as the Commander-level Fierce Beasts behind them continued to command, they would remain fearless in their charge even near total annihilation.

"Hold them! We must hold them back!"

From below the city, dozens of six to seven-meter-tall figures burst forth from the midst of the mid- to high-level Fierce Beasts, like arrows leaving the string, smashing through the walls of two camps outside the city and heading straight for the city walls.

The buildings along the way were like paper, unable to block them in the slightest.

"It's the Elite-level Fierce Beasts!"

Someone exclaimed in surprise.

"Fire!"

Hua Jun roared angrily.

They were wolf-type Elite-level Fierce Beasts, extremely fast, typically serving as the vanguard in a beast tide assault. If they climbed the city walls, the consequences would be unimaginable.

"Taka-taka-taka, taka-taka-taka..."

Countless machine guns spat fire, and the dense hail of bullets shredded everything in their path.

Under such a dense bullet net, even hundreds of Elite-level Fierce Beasts were torn to pieces.

However, in that time, numerous mid- to high-level Fierce Beasts had already reached the front of the camps, less than ten miles from Anshan City's walls.

"Rumble!"

Under their assault, the already shaky walls collapsed into rubble.

Behind them, an endless sea of Fierce Beasts loomed, stretching as far as the eye could see.

"All artillery, aim at the base of the walls!"

Hua Jun urgently ordered.

There was no time to worry about the distant Fierce Beasts now.

If these Fierce Beasts reached the city walls, even a thirty-meter-high wall wouldn't hold against their onslaught.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

This time, even mortars and rocket launchers were used.

Many faces now wore expressions of despair.

Were there too many Fierce Beasts? Were there far too many?

They had assumed that the sheer number of cannons on the walls would at least halve the number of Fierce Beasts, but it seemed to have no effect.

"The barrels are too hot, I can't fire anymore!"

"I'm out of shells here, where are the shells?!"

"Bullets! I need bullets!"

"Where's the supply? Why isn't it here yet?!"

Anxious voices echoed in a cacophony.

Some people were paralyzed with fear, standing motionless, with blank minds. No matter how hard those beside them shook their shoulders, it was of no use.

Chapter 576: It's about time to make a move_2

"Crack."

Xu Jie held a machine gun in one hand, and loaded bullets with the other while firing, smiling bitterly:

"President, the scale of this beast tide is really quite large, isn't it?"

"Yes, it's the largest scale in history."

Sun Wei fired while speaking: "Prepare for close combat."

Beside him, Tu Yue, Gao Shan, and the others' expressions stiffened at his words.

The president's meaning was clear: the city walls of Anshan City probably couldn't hold these beasts. Once they climb the walls, ordinary guards would find it hard to stop them. Firearms could easily cause friendly fire, only martial artists and awakeners like them had a chance in battle.

However, close combat was equally dangerous for them, a single misstep could lead to decapitation.

In another location, the remaining awakeners also wore expressions of a willingness to die.

A day ago, the president had warned them that a beast tide was imminent and Anshan City might fall. Those who wished to leave could do so immediately.

For whatever reasons, they chose to stay and thus must give their all to fend off the fierce beasts.

Though this beast tide's scale was indeed extraordinary, even the hardest defense in the past wasn't this bad, right?

What was even more unsettling was, through the large telescope, they noticed three commander-level fierce beasts still outside firearm range, watching intently.

If those were to come over later, holding the city would only become more difficult.

"President!"

Someone looked up towards the figure at the highest point, their eyes first showing a glimmer of hope, then turning blank.

Yes, the president was indeed an A-level awakener.

But this was a beast tide, with at least two to three hundred thousand fierce beasts. Could the president alone hold them off?

"Rumble..."

The incessant loud noises blurred the line between cannon fire from the city walls and the earth's tremors caused by the beast tide's trampling.

The two previously intact camps in front of Anshan City had now turned into ruins, unrecognizable.

Countless fierce beasts lay dead, their bodies trampled by those behind, blood flowing into the pits on the ground, forming small rivers and lakes.

Ordinarily, these mid to high-level fierce beasts would have succumbed to their nature, halting to feast on their companions' corpses.

But now, they charged forward fearlessly like death warriors.

"Roar!"

The fierce beasts at the front were less than a kilometer away from Anshan City's walls.

They seemed to know the city gates were the weak points, hence surged towards them in large numbers.

"Stop them!"

"Don't let them near the city gates!"

Everyone was horrified, hurriedly aiming their guns downward, bullets raining.

The incoming fierce beasts fell like waves in a wheat field, collapsing in patches.

However, they soon realized a desperate fact: the fiercer they killed, the more fierce beasts there were, an endless slaughter, completely unending!

Not only at the city gates, but other places as well, with fierce beasts charging continuously.

Even though most were mid to low-level, once they piled up, the fierce beasts behind could trample on the corpses of their companions and rush up. The city wall, even if undamaged, would be useless!

"How do we fight this?"

Someone had already despaired, as if envisioning a scene of countless fierce beasts breaking through the walls and slaughtering rampantly.

"Guodong, do you think we're really going to die here today?" Liu Yong smiled bitterly.

Having come from a small village to the city with much difficulty, they had thought they could enjoy a good life, yet just a few days in, they encountered a beast tide.

"I don't know either."

Chen Guodong lowered his head, not daring to look them in the eyes.

Because Chen Fan had said that if it came to the day Anshan City fell, he would lead them away.

Liu Yong and Wei Tianyuan wouldn't be so lucky.

"Oh heavens, is there really no miracle?"

Chen Guodong prayed silently.

It wasn't just for his family, but also for his friends and even the strangers around him; he didn't want to see anyone perish.

"It seems we can't hold it, huh?"

Wang Lingling had somehow come to the city wall, gazing at the beast tide like a vast ocean below, her brows furrowed.

But that man surnamed Li had said that in his predicted future, Anshan City would survive.

This simply didn't match the current reality.

"Was he lying to me? But previously, he knew I was coming and knew Qin Family's pursuers would arrive soon. If he couldn't foresee the future, he wouldn't be able to do that either."

Wang Lingling was deeply conflicted.

"Whatever, that guy's here anyway."

Her gaze fell on the highest figure, "Let's see how he handles this."

"Sigh."

A sigh emerged, quickly drowned out by numerous other sighs.

On the city wall, watching the fierce beasts draw closer, Hua Jun was frantic, at this rate...

"It's almost time."

Suddenly, a murmuring voice reached his ears.

"President?"

Hua Jun jolted, turning to look at Chen Fan ahead, uncontrollably asking: "Was that you speaking just now? Almost time for what?"

"It's almost time for me to act."

Finishing his words, Chen Fan turned, addressing those behind him: "All of you move back a bit."

"?"

Hua Jun and the others were puzzled at first, then their faces lit up with excitement.

The president was about to act!

They dared not delay, retreating a few steps, hearts filled with both anticipation and anxiety, like buckets of water being drawn up and down a well.

Could the president alone really fend off this countless horde of fierce beasts?

In the next moment, Chen Fan's Sea of Qi churned, countless strands of True Essence surged out, transforming into two to three meter long Sword Qi behind him, suspended in the air.

In just a blink, over two thousand Sword Qi had formed.

The spectacular sight stunned everyone who witnessed it.

"Oh my god, what is that? Am I dreaming?"

"Sword Qi? Like in the xianxia novels?"

"One, two, three, four... Too many, can't even count."

Gasps and exclamations echoed.

Amidst the crowd, Elder Wang's eyes widened in disbelief: "Heavens, a Celestial Human Realm Martial Artist?"

He looked at Chen Fan's back like he'd seen a ghost.

If he remembered correctly, Chen Fan was a True Essence Realm Martial Artist. How could a mere True Essence Realm Martial Artist possibly condense over two thousand Sword Qi at once?

Such vast True Essence consumption, even a newly entered Celestial Realm Martial Artist couldn't typically achieve, unless he had mastered the Supreme Sword Technique, Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect.

This sword technique not only enhanced the power of the executed sword techniques but also conserved a lot of True Essence.

"Could it be that he is both a Celestial Realm Martial Artist and has reached a level of mastery in Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect, where he can execute the Secret Technique, Ten Thousand Swords Attack, with one-fifth of its power?"

Elder Wang was stunned.

The difficulty of Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect was comparable to the Sacred Heart Technique, even greater in some ways, requiring an exceptionally high Sword Dao comprehension.

Such Sword Dao talent was rarer than one in ten thousand.

"No, it doesn't seem like Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect."

He soon shook his head.

He had seen others perform it before; what Chen Fan did had the form but lacked the essence.

"No, wait!"

Elder Wang's expression changed again. If it wasn't Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Sect, the difficulty must be even higher, meaning the martial artist was using pure True Qi without the technique's benefits, making the True Qi consumption even more staggering.

"What is this youngster's true strength? When I previously met him, why couldn't I sense he was a Celestial Human Realm Martial Artist at all?"

Elder Wang fell into deep self-doubt.

Could it be that this youngster's realm was even higher than his own? Already at the Late Stage of the Celestial Human Realm?

But this, was it possible?

Was it possible?

Not far away, Wang Lingling was also stunned, standing stiffly like a wooden statue, staring blankly at the thousands of strands of True Qi in mid-air, muttering to herself:

"Is this his confidence in defending Anshan City?"

Chapter 577: Releasing the Tiger Back to the Mountain?

Roars echoed as tens of thousands of Fierce Beasts reached the bottom of the city walls.

Chen Fan remained calm, his attention not on the Beast Tide below, but within his Elixir Field and Sea of Qi.

The two thousand-plus Sword Qis behind him each consumed around ten thousand points of True Qi. In other words, after condensing this many Sword Qis, his True Essence was exhausted.

He did this intentionally.

Firstly, even without the support of True Qi, his Physical Attributes had reached more than three hundred thousand points, making it hard even for a full-force blow from a Commander-level Fierce Beast to injure him.

Secondly, he wanted to see the recovery effect of the Longevity Technique (Water).

The facts proved the recovery effect was indeed amazing. In just two seconds, the exhausted True Qi in his body increased by more than twenty thousand; the True Qi Amount recovered each second was nearly ten thousand.

"If I had more True Qi, the recovery speed could be even faster."

Chen Fan's eyes revealed a look of anticipation.

The consumption unable to catch up with the recovery—this might not be an impossible wish.

In the next moment, he glanced downwards and moved his mind.

The two thousand-plus Sword Qis behind him seemed to gain life, emitting a faint humming sound, then flew downward.

The Sword Qis moved extremely fast. The Fierce Beasts closest to the city walls were still maintaining their charging posture.

With a flash of white light,

huge heads fell to the ground, crimson blood gushing out from their severed necks, and their bodies collapsed only after running a certain distance.

In the blink of an eye, over ten thousand Fierce Beasts were decapitated.

The two thousand-plus Sword Qis had depleted less than twenty percent.

This scene utterly stunned everyone on the city walls.

Were they dreaming?

So many Fierce Beasts, some of which were Elite-level Fierce Beasts, all dead within an instant?

And how many bullets had they previously used to kill this many Fierce Beasts?

"Roar!"

From a distance came an angry roar,

somewhat different.

Clearly, it was one of the three Commander-level Fierce Beasts.

From the beginning, they had been standing far outside the range of artillery fire, and now, they stood less than twenty miles from Anshan City, seemingly with rage burning in their eyes.

They had thought that capturing this small human city would be a piece of cake, and indeed, things had progressed just as they expected. Some damage along the way was also normal.

But just as they were about to secure victory, something unexpected happened.

On the city walls, there was actually a powerful human warrior.

One mere human attempting to block their offensive steps?

"Roar! Roar!"

A Commander-level Fierce Beast roared twice, its voice spreading far and wide. Even the people on the city walls could vaguely hear it.

Instantly, the Beast Tide charging forward seemed invigorated, their speed increasing by thirty percent. The area cleared by Chen Fan's Sword Qi was quickly filled with more Fierce Beasts.

The relieved hearts of the people tightened again. No one dared to speak, afraid that they would disturb Chairman Li and ruin everything.

Chen Fan's expression remained as calm as ever.

These Fierce Beasts coming to him actually saved him some effort.

After all, these Sword Qis did not have an infinite attack range. Compared to arrows, they fell short. He could still control them within three to five miles; beyond that, not just the power but also the accuracy would be much lower.

Below the city walls, the Sword Qi crisscrossed, forming an impassable chasm.

Tens of thousands of Fierce Beasts charged forward, only to end up decapitated and shattered.

One second passed,

one minute passed,

ten minutes passed,

but the Fierce Beasts could not advance an inch closer to Anshan City.

Unknowingly, whispers arose on the city walls.

"It looks like we can hold out?"

Someone swallowed and said.

"I think so too. In this short while, haven't over eighty to a hundred thousand Fierce Beasts died to those Sword Qis?"

"Yeah, I'm dumbfounded; are those beasts idiots? They know they're going to die if they charge forward but still keep rushing in?"

"What do you know? Those Fierce Beasts are dumb; they lack intelligence. Only the three Commander-level Fierce Beasts have some smarts, but compared to us humans, they're far inferior."

"Exactly. Besides, isn't it better this way? If they were as smart as humans and knew how to evade, they wouldn't be so easy to kill."

"Absolutely."

Many people nodded continuously.

"But on the other hand," someone raised their head, looking at Chen Fan with admiration, "this Chairman Li of ours is incredible. His skills are like those of Immortals in Xianxia novels, slaying Fierce Beasts as if they were slicing vegetables."

"Yeah, we put in so much effort and exhausted our ammunition to kill and injure tens of thousands of Fierce Beasts. But Chairman Li, in just a few minutes, killed nearly double that."

"No wonder he's the chairman of the Awakened Association, so powerful."

Praise filled the air.

In the distance, Sun Wei and the others felt something odd as they listened.

If they were not mistaken, this Sword Qi should be a Martial Artist's technique, right? How come the chairman of the Awakened Association is also a Martial Artist?

"I've heard that top-tier Awakeners are also Martial Artists. I was skeptical before, but seeing it with my own eyes today, I know it's true," Sun Wei said with a bitter smile.

Chapter 578: Releasing the Tiger Back to the Mountain?_2

In Yan Country, the status of Awakeners has always been higher than that of Martial Artists.

But now this person also practices Martial Arts. Where can they even complain?

Xu Jie and his group were left speechless.

Indeed, that person is also a Martial Artist. Moreover, who knows how much higher their Realm is, they might even be a legendary Celestial Realm Martial Artist.

With this person present, Anshan City is very likely to hold out this time. Without a doubt, this is definitely good news.

But the gap between the two sides is quite terrifying.

"We don't need to feel too discouraged either."

Gao Shan spoke: "We have average aptitude, so naturally we can't compare to that person, but that doesn't mean Brother Chen can't."

"That's right. Brother Chen isn't even twenty yet and he's already a True Essence Realm Martial Artist. Give him a few more years and he will definitely break through to the Celestial Human Realm."

"Yes, Brother Chen will surely make it!"

"Huh, where is Brother Chen?" Tu Yue looked around but couldn't find Chen Fan. She looked farther, still not seeing his figure.

"Strange, didn't he come with us? Is he still in secluded cultivation?"

Comparing to Sun Wei and the others, the Awakeners had an extremely proud expression.

What does it matter what Martial Artists can do?

It doesn't change the fact that their president is an Awakener.

Moreover, it further proves how impressive their president is!

"Perhaps this time, choosing to stay was the right decision," one Awakener whispered.

"That's right, we should have thought of it earlier. If the president dares to stay instead of leaving, it means he's certain of victory!"

"Indeed, he is an A-level Awakener. Finding a safe place would be too easy for him."

"Perhaps it won't be long before those who left will regret it."

"Absolutely, they might find that their days outside Anshan City are not as good as ours inside the city."

Many Awakeners spoke with a tone of resentment.

Chen Fan had made it clear that they were free to come and go.

In the eyes of those who stayed, those who left were traitors. They didn't want the latter to live well, just as those who left secretly hoped for the fall of Anshan City. Only then would their choice be justified, otherwise their leaving would be in vain.

This is human nature.

Wang Lingling stood on the city wall, questioning herself deeply.

Could it be that Anshan City really can be defended?

Just relying on a single person named Li?

"This isn't looking good."

Among everyone present, only one person saw that the situation wasn't so optimistic.

Elder Wang watched the flying Sword Qi and frowned slightly.

Indeed, many Fierce Beasts had been killed. Of the original twenty or so, less than half remained. But the number of Sword Qi had also decreased from over two thousand to a few hundred.

The Sword Qi's speed was so fast that even True Essence Realm Martial Artists might not see it clearly.

But there was one ironclad fact: the defense line was continuously being pushed back.

"Should I give him a hand?"

Elder Wang hesitated.

Chen Fan's strength had already surpassed his expectations, and he had given his all.

If Elder Wang helped by sending some True Essence secretly, it shouldn't break their agreement, right?

However...

He sighed softly in his heart.

Helping once was possible, but not for a lifetime.

This Beast Tide was likely just the first attack. If Anshan City held, the next attacks would only grow fiercer until the city fell.

By then, even if he personally intervened, he might not stop it.

"Wait, what is that?"

Suddenly, Elder Wang's eyes widened.

Behind Chen Fan, hundreds more strands of Sword Qi had appeared.

"How did this little guy do it? Could it be that the previous two thousand or so strands weren't his limit? He wasn't using all his strength?" Elder Wang's mouth dropped open.

Luckily Chen Fan didn't know what he was thinking, or he might have laughed out loud.

The new Sword Qi had been formed after recovering some True Essence.

With the reinforcement, the Fierce Beasts were pushed back again. The blood stench was almost nauseating.

"Good thing the scale of this Beast Tide isn't large. Otherwise, relying on Sword Qi alone might not be enough to stop them."

Chen Fan controlled the Sword Qi while pondering.

If the scale were tens or even hundreds of thousands, he would have to use the Vajra Lion's Roar.

In terms of lethality, the Vajra Lion's Roar was less effective than Sword Qi for killing Commander-level Fierce Beasts, but it had a large range. Within a ten to twenty-mile radius, it could kill all lower than Commander-level Fierce Beasts instantly.

The remaining Commander-level Fierce Beasts could be dealt with later.

Time ticked by, and with the third batch of Sword Qi joining the battle, the city defense was nearing its end.

The once vast Beast Tide had dwindled to less than thirty thousand. Though still charging, their momentum and threat had dropped significantly, making the scene appear somewhat desolate.

In the distance, three Commander-level Fierce Beasts showed human-like unwillingness in their eyes.

They had thought this small city would be no different from other human cities, easily destroyed or at least severely damaged.

Who would have known they'd lose so many minions without even touching the walls?

"Roar!"

The lion-shaped Fierce Beast in the middle roared.

The two Commander-level Fierce Beasts on either side glanced at the city, then slowly turned away.

They weren't foolish.

The human's strength was beyond their expectations. Even if they personally attacked, they might not gain anything.

These were just low-level creatures. They could regroup and come back to take the city.

The three Commander-level Fierce Beasts turned and walked away slowly.

Yes, walked, not fleeing in panic.

"Oh no, those three Commander-level Fierce Beasts are trying to escape!"

A guard who had been watching the distant Commander-level Fierce Beasts shouted.

Previous Beast Tides had seen Commander-level Fierce Beasts join the attack.

"What? They're trying to run?" Someone looked and then exclaimed excitedly, "Really, they're really running!"

"Excellent, excellent! They must be scared of the Beast Tide's defeat, so they're running."

"Hahaha, we thought they were so tough."

"Exactly, exactly."

Many people cheered, nearly jumping for joy.

The retreat of Commander-level Fierce Beasts meant the city's defense battle was over.

The Human Race had won!

They could return and celebrate the victory with their families.

"What's so good about it? Haven't you heard of 'letting the tiger return to the mountain'? If we let them go, who knows what more beasts they'll bring back."

"Yes, Commander-level Fierce Beasts aren't like Mid to High-level ones. They have intelligence and a strong vengeful nature. They've suffered a loss here and won't let us off easily."

These words froze the smiles on many faces.

That makes sense, doesn't it?

We can't let them go back!

"Hurry!" Realizing, someone urged, "Reload quickly and shoot them while they're still in range!"

"No more shells."

"We're out of shells too."

"We're also out of shells. And those are Commander-level Fierce Beasts. It's hard to hit them even with cannon shots, much less kill them."

Someone said with a grim face.

Even Elite-level Fierce Beasts could withstand cannon fire. The defense of Commander-level Fierce Beasts was even more terrifying, needing armor-piercing or missile bombs.

This was why the three Commander-level Fierce Beasts dared to enter cannon range fearlessly.

"Then, what do we do?"

Chapter 579: True Essence Realm, Fourth Realm?

Noticing the departure of the three Commander-level Fierce Beasts in the distance, only a few people did.

Most people's eyes were fixed in front of the city, their eyes wide open, not daring to blink.

The situation in the field had already reversed compared to before.

The Fierce Beasts were retreating step by step. Although they were still fearless of death and charged forward, in the face of over a thousand streams of Sword Qi, it was like an ant trying to shake a tree, too ambitious to be realistic.

Thirty thousand.

Twenty-five thousand.

Twenty thousand.

Ten thousand...

The number of living Fierce Beasts was decreasing at a speed visible to the naked eye.

"Finally, are we going to win?" Someone clenched their weapon, tears welling up in their eyes.

When the Beast Tide reached the foot of the city earlier, he was almost in despair, his legs trembling uncontrollably.

But when Chairman Li made his move, he turned the tide and annihilated the Beast Tide without a trace.

If he hadn't experienced it himself, he would have thought it was a dream.

"Roar!"

Accompanied by an unwilling roar, the last Elite-level Fierce Beast also fell, its huge head rolling to the side, and its fresh blood flowing like a small river.

Looking around, all that could be seen were the corpses of Fierce Beasts, continuous and unbroken.

At this moment, the whole world fell silent.

"I didn't expect he actually defended it."

Elder Wang was filled with emotion.

Not to mention the people on the city wall, even he had doubted more than once during the process.

But the facts proved again and again that the defense held.

Although...

He sighed lightly in his heart, his gaze looking into the distance.

Although this was only temporary.

"So, this is his true strength?"

Wang Lingling was shocked beyond belief.

She recalled the last battle between Chen Fan and several members of the Qin Family. Compared to this time, it was much easier.

After all, given the strength of the few from the Qin Family, it wasn't a big problem for them to escape, but it was absolutely impossible to stop so many Fierce Beasts.

"Indeed, as he said, Anshan City was defended. But if a second wave of Beast Tide attacks?"

Wang Lingling felt a sense of worry inside.

In this Beast Tide attack, the strongest were only Elite-level, and the three Commander-level Fierce Beasts stayed in the rearmost, never participating in the fight.

If next time, the Commander-level Fierce Beasts joined the battle, Anshan City would not be so easy to defend, would it?

What if there were some flying Fierce Beasts as well?

The situation would be even more critical.

"I hope the next two days will pass peacefully so that I can retrieve the Longevity Technique successfully."

As much as she wanted, she couldn't help but feel concerned.

"Chairman?"

Hua Jun's voice rang out. He struggled to suppress the joy in his heart and asked, "Did we, did we defend it?"

A pair of eyes looked over, everyone waiting for Chen Fan's answer.

"Mm."

Chen Fan nodded, "However, there are still some fish that slipped through the net."

After saying that, his figure disappeared from everyone's sight.

"?"

"Where did the Chairman go?"

"He was just here, how did he disappear?"

The crowd barely had time to be puzzled before they heard the sound of several heavy objects falling to the ground.

They saw Chen Fan, who had just disappeared, reappear in their view, and not only that, but there were also three additional Fierce Beast corpses, their height almost reaching the city wall.

"It's those three Commander-level Fierce Beasts!"

Someone reacted, exclaiming.

"What! Those three Commander-level Fierce Beasts?"

"Commander-level Fierce Beasts' corpses? Was it Chairman Li who brought them back?"

"Nonsense, who else here besides Chairman Li has such strength?"

"My God, how long has it been? In the blink of an eye, Chairman Li brought back the three Commander-level Fierce Beasts that escaped?"

The guards' heads buzzed.

They thought they had already seen the strength of this Awakened Association chairman.

Unexpectedly, they still underestimated him by too much.

By now, Chen Fan had already returned to the city wall.

Actually, whether those three Commander-level Fierce Beasts stayed or left had no impact on Anshan City's fate.

After all, they were just three Commander-level Fierce Beasts.

But since they had already come, he might as well keep them. The materials on their bodies could be worth hundreds of thousands of points.

"Clean up the battlefield. Cut and sort the materials from the Elite-level Fierce Beasts and those three Commander-level Fierce Beasts and hand them to me."

He turned slightly, saying to Hua Jun behind him, "The remaining Fierce Beast Meat, distribute to the people in the city for all those below High-level Fierce Beasts. Meat from High-level and Elite-level Fierce Beasts should be given to those who defended the city. Work quickly."

"Yes!"

Hua Jun hurriedly responded.

Upon hearing this, the surrounding people were overjoyed.

Even the Awakeners were included.

After all, most of them usually only ate meat from Mid to Low-level Fierce Beasts and had to be very frugal.

The slightly wealthier Awakeners could eat meat from High-level Fierce Beasts, but Elite-level was still difficult.

Now, by participating in the city defense, they directly received meat from High-level and even Elite-level Fierce Beasts!

With so many Fierce Beast corpses below these, how many pounds would each person get? They couldn't even imagine it!

As for those Fierce Beast materials, weren't they what Chairman Li deserved?

If it weren't for him, those people, standing here, would still be in question, not to mention getting any meat.

"Chairman?"

Hua Jun asked cautiously, "Are you, uninjured?"

Their chairman was their only hope of defending Anshan City.

If the chairman fell, everything would be over!

"How could I be injured?"

Chapter 580: True Essence Realm, Fourth Realm?_2

Chen Fan glanced at him, "Go and take care of it. If there's anything, give me a call."

"Yes, yes."

Hua Jun nodded repeatedly.

At this moment, the people inside the city also noticed the change in situation.

The deafening sound of firearms had stopped unknowingly, even the gunfire had ceased.

The ground's shaking also stopped, and everything returned to its previous state.

Hiding in underground garages and bomb shelters, the people were filled with uncertainty.

Why had everything suddenly gone quiet?

Was the defense successful?

Or was it not?

"Thump thump thump."

A series of hurried footsteps sounded, accompanied by shouts of 'We held the line! We held the line!', as a guard ran over excitedly, waving his arms, "Good news! Good news! Anshan City held the line! The Beast Tide has been completely defeated!"

The atmosphere instantly fell silent, and those present could hardly believe their ears.

Had they really held the line?

"You didn't hear wrong!"

The guard emphasized, "This wave of the Beast Tide had over 200,000 Fierce Beasts. All of them are dead! Not a single one survived, including the three Commander-level Fierce Beasts leading them. Everyone is safe now, you can all come out."

Only then did the crowd fully believe his words.

Many slumped to the ground, feeling as if all strength had been drained from them, experiencing the relief of surviving a catastrophe.

Some women even cried tears of joy.

While hiding here, every minute and second was torment, fearing the Beast Tide would break through, and countless Fierce Beasts would storm in and tear them apart.

Fortunately, it was just a false alarm, and their worst fears did not come true.

"Brother, how did we manage to hold the line?" someone asked curiously.

"Yeah, you said there were over 200,000 Fierce Beasts this time. How did we manage that? They must've covered the mountains and plains."

"Exactly, exactly,"

many people chimed in.

More than twenty thousand Fierce Beasts weren't just twenty thousand pigs. Even with that many pigs, it wouldn't be slaughtered so quickly, right?

"Well, that's a long story," the guard sighed deeply, his eyes showing a hint of reverence, "We were about to lose the defense. The Beast Tide had already reached the base of the walls, just one step away. At this critical moment, Chairman Li stepped in."

"Chairman Li!"

"Is that the same Chairman Li who let us in?"

Upon hearing these three words, a wave of fondness welled up in the hearts of many present.

"Who else? Do we have a second Chairman Li in Anshan City?" The guard gave the questioner a look.

"And then? What happened next?"

"Yes, could Chairman Li alone defeat tens of thousands of Fierce Beasts?"

"Is that true? If so, it's too impressive."

"Of course, it's true. I was there, clearly witnessing everything,"

The guard puffed his chest out, vividly describing the scene at the time.

Meanwhile, a large number of young men were being organized to head outside the city.

Even before exiting the city, they could already smell the thick stench of blood.

When they stepped outside and took in the scene, they were almost paralyzed with fear.

The ground was covered with mountains of corpses and rivers of blood, resembling a scene from doomsday.

The two camps that were previously there had disappeared without a trace.

"It's terrifying..." someone murmured.

The sight of so many beast corpses showed how urgent and dangerous the situation had been.

If they hadn't moved into Anshan City, staying at their original location, their fate would be beyond imagination.

"Alright, stop gawking, follow me,"

The leading guard turned around and said, "When we reach the destination, not only can you look, but you can also touch."

The crowd snapped back to reality.

Yes, they weren't here to sightsee.

They were here to handle these "spoils," cutting up the Fierce Beasts and transporting them into the city as provisions.

"Hey brother," someone mustered the courage to ask, "Will we really get some beast meat in the end?"

Hearing this, the surrounding people all showed nervous expressions.

Indeed, they were told they wouldn't be working for free and would get some beast meat as compensation.

"Do you think it's a joke?"

The guard wanted to laugh, pointing ahead, "There are so many Fierce Beasts, even if each one has only a hundred pounds of meat, it's enough for everyone in the city to get dozens of pounds. And they have a lot more meat on them. Work hard and don't slack off, everyone can carry hundreds of pounds of meat back."

Upon hearing this, many people's mouths started to water.

Hundreds of pounds per person?

Were they dreaming?

For many, coming from small villages and often struggling to make ends meet, even ten pounds would be a dream come true.

Seeing their reactions, the guard chuckled to himself.

Hundreds of pounds of mid to low-level Fierce Beast meat were nothing special.

Those who fought on the city walls got hundreds of pounds of High-Level Fierce Beast meat. Besides that, each person also got dozens of pounds of Elite-level Fierce Beast meat.

In terms of value, it's dozens to hundreds of times higher than mid to low-level beast meat.

"Alright, you all better be assured and work hard. The City Lord's Mansion won't mistreat anyone."

"Yes, yes, yes."

The crowd instantly responded energetically, ignoring the muddy ground, and with tools in hand, they followed the guard.

Indeed, Chairman Li had let them stay for free, and didn't force them into combat, just cleaning up the battlefield while getting beast meat as a reward. Could they get such a good deal anywhere else?

The only worry was that in a few hours, night would fall.

This intense stench of blood would surely attract more Fierce Beasts, and then the remaining corpses could end up as food for those creatures.

Not long after, the area in front of Anshan City was bustling with activity.

Some people were cutting up Fierce Beasts, some transporting chunks of meat, others moving supplies back and forth, everyone was busy.

But all faces were filled with smiles.

The Beast Tide was indeed terrifying.

But after the Tide recedes, the field of corpses is a treasure trove.

...

When Chen Fan returned to the Martial Arts Association, a figure was already waiting in the hall. Seeing him arrive, the figure smiled.

"Elder Wang."

Chen Fan, not surprised, showed a helpless smile.

Although Disguise and Bone Shrinking Skill could completely change one's appearance and voice, it couldn't alter one's aura.

Normally, a person's perception of aura was mediocre, but for someone like Elder Wang, a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, it was much easier.

"Shall we talk?"

Elder Wang asked with a smile.

"Alright."

Chen Fan nodded.

He had an idea of why the other party had come looking for him.

In the same office as before, the two sat facing each other.

Chen Fan poured a cup of tea and placed it in front of Elder Wang.

Elder Wang waved his hand, indicating there was no need for such formality. He moved his lips and finally spoke, "Chen Fan, when did you break through to the Celestial Human Realm?"

"Celestial Human Realm..."

Chen Fan was momentarily stunned and then laughed, "Elder Wang thinks I'm a Celestial Realm Martial Artist?"

"You're not?"

Elder Wang's pupils widened.

"No, impossible,"

He shook his head, "If you're not a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, how could you have so much True Essence? How could you gather nearly 4,000 strands of Sword Qi?"

Evidently, he had included Chen Fan's last two Sword Qi gatherings in that count.

After all, with Chen Fan not meditating or regulating his breath, to him, it seemed natural that he had some True Qi reserves, reinvigorating his Sword Qi in battle.

"Elder Wang, I'm really not a Celestial Realm Martial Artist,"

Chen Fan shook his head repeatedly, "I'm still a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, just at the Fourth Realm of True Essence, with more True Qi than others of the same realm."

"True... Fourth Realm of True Essence?"