

Martial Arts 741

Chapter 741: Acquaintance, Of Course You Know_2

"Old Shao, do you know which noble family in our Yan Country this is?"

He asked quietly.

"Which noble family?"

Shao Yuandong laughed.

"Isn't it?"

Li Jian was stunned.

"It's not some noble family?"

Wang Lu also showed a look of surprise in her eyes.

She had the same thought as Li Jian, and had even guessed it might be one of the noble families in Juque City or other nearby big cities.

"Of course not."

Shao Yuandong laughed heartily.

Han Xu also laughed out loud.

"???"

Li Jian and Wang Lu exchanged glances, filled with confusion.

"Old Shao, since you know, hurry and tell us. Don't keep us in suspense."

"Chairman Shao, please tell us quickly."

Wang Lu urged him.

"Okay."

Shao Yuandong coughed, "That person is the Chairman Li I mentioned this morning in the video."

"What!"

"It's him!"

Sure enough, as soon as the words fell, the two exclaimed in surprise, standing still as stone.

Their eyes fixed on Shao Yuandong without blinking.

Is it him?

The Li Ping who killed two Beast King-level Fierce Beasts and a million Fierce Beasts?

Was Shao Yuandong joking with them?

"Yes, it is him."

Shao Yuandong nodded heavily.

"At first, I also had some doubts about Chairman Li Ping, so I thought to share the burden with you. But you didn't really believe it either, which left all the pressure on me. So, I decided to test, and when Chairman Li came, he placed a few Cyan Jade Fruits in front of Old Han and me, completely dispelling my doubts. Anyone who can casually take out tens of millions of points, if you say he can kill a Beast King, I believe it a hundred percent."

"Yes."

Han Xu also said, "When Chairman Li took out these treasures, I didn't recognize them. It was only after his explanation that I knew these treasures were from a Secret Realm, a place where even A-level Awakened dare not easily venture. But Chairman Li not only went, he returned with a large amount of treasures."

Li Jian and Wang Lu, upon hearing this, looked at the items on the table and believed eighty percent of it.

Indeed, these treasures couldn't be found anywhere but in a Secret Realm.

Those safe Secret Realms were firmly controlled by the domestic noble families.

And the unsafe ones, if they went there, with bad luck, they could die.

They couldn't believe the man in the video, mentioned by Shao Yuandong, was really Li Ping.

The man from a small city, serving as the Chairman of the Awakened Association.

"Chairman Shao, I want to confirm again, the person who took out these treasures is really that Chairman Li?"

Wang Lu asked again.

Shao Yuandong smiled and nodded.

Wang Lu gasped.

It seemed to be true.

After all, the treasures before them were genuine.

And the points needed had to be paid by that person. Chairman Shao had no reason to lie now.

Thinking this, she felt a bit guilty towards Shao Yuandong.

What he said this morning was all true. The Fierce Beasts were indeed not far from Juque City, and an attack was imminent. With his help, they would manage much better.

But they did not believe Shao Yuandong, thinking he was exaggerating.

Twenty million points to recruit an A-level Awakened?

That could recruit dozens of A-levels.

Even giving everyone a million points was doing a favor. If they had directly refused, it would be too disrespectful.

But the reality?

They thought too much.

The person wasn't even someone who could be recruited with twenty million points!

Even if the points were doubled to forty million, he could still take them out.

"Old Shao, does Chairman Li know what happened this morning?"

Li Jian asked cautiously.

In his eyes, the person was no longer just a benefactor, but an unbeatable strong figure.

Because neither he nor Wang Lu could kill a Beast King-level Fierce Beast, let alone a High-level Beast King.

If he knew their initial attitude, even if he didn't say it, he would surely have opinions in his heart, right?

That's human nature. If it were them, they would be unhappy being looked down upon.

"Don't worry, he doesn't know. Otherwise, would there be anything happening next?"

Shao Yuandong laughed.

"Am I good to you? For such a good thing, you two are the first ones I thought of."

"Indeed."

Li Jian immediately gave a thumbs up.

It's just some Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures that can enhance the Primordial True Essence.

Which Awakened Association in other big cities doesn't have these?

Yet Shao Yuandong still chose them.

Thinking this, he felt very fortunate.

Luckily, he came over right after receiving the call, not missing out on this huge deal, and getting to know this strong person with the same surname.

"Thank you, Chairman Shao."

Wang Lu also quickly expressed her gratitude, and then looked around curiously, "Has Chairman Li already left?"

"Yes, where is he?" Li Jian also asked hastily.

"He has indeed left, and for a while already."

Shao Yuandong nodded, "He seemed to have urgent matters to attend to, only stayed briefly and left. But before leaving, he entrusted me with this matter and handed over these treasures."

"Just handed them over to you?"

Wang Lu was surprised.

If she remembered correctly, Shao Yuandong also just met this person this morning, right?

That Chairman Li, just because he is the chairman here, left treasures worth tens of millions of points?

Isn't he worried about any accidents?

"Yes, just handed them over."

Shao Yuandong knew what they were thinking and said directly, "I even have a feeling that the happenings in Anshan City this morning aren't the limit of his strength."

"What, that isn't his limit?"

Li Jian's mouth opened wide.

Holding off a million-strong Beast Tide alone, and that's not his limit?

What then is his limit?

Killing Top-level Beast Kings alone?

Or even killing Beast Emperor-level Fierce Beasts?

That's something not even three S-Class Awakened could do, and if they could, it would be at a huge cost, likely perishing together.

"Yes, specifically, I can't say, just a gut feeling."

Shao Yuandong nodded, considering for a moment, still deciding not to disclose what he heard from Qin Jin.

After all, the ability to foresee the future is too powerful. Even if Chairman Li is strong, if someone schemes, there's still a risk.

"A gut feeling?"

Wang Lu's expression turned serious.

Ordinary people's gut feelings are usually accurate.

Not to mention the gut feeling of an A-level Awakened.

"Old Shao, if your gut feeling is right, it's a huge blessing for Yan Country."

Li Jian sighed.

The sudden occurrence of this Beast Tide likely signifies something big happened among the Fierce Beasts. Otherwise, they wouldn't break this balance.

There are rumors outside saying a fourth Beast Emperor has appeared among the Fierce Beasts.

And Yan Country currently has only three S-class Awakened. If there really are four Beast Emperors, Yan Country is in great danger unless there's another S-class Awakened in the country or they seek help from other countries.

But that would come at a big price, and there's no guarantee others would give their all.

If that Chairman Li is an S-class Awakened, that would be great.

Chapter 742: Thunder Emperor

Chen Fan was heading in the direction of Flame Emperor City.

Along the way, he didn't encounter any Fierce Beasts, but there were many people.

Especially as he was about to reach Flame Emperor City, there were tents set up by refugees everywhere.

The eyes of many were filled with worry.

They were only temporarily safe hiding here; if the Beast Tide broke through, without the protection of city walls, they would surely die.

Some people, however, looked fervently at the distant giant structure.

That was Flame Emperor City.

The city walls alone were over a hundred meters high.

They had never seen the inside, but they could imagine it must be incredibly bustling, as it was one of the three super-large cities in Yan Country.

Chen Fan slowed his steps, looking at everything around him, feeling a bit heartbroken inside.

In fact, these people were relatively lucky; at least they were still alive.

People in the small and medium cities on the outskirts had already fallen victim to the Fierce Beasts.

After walking for a short while, a long line appeared. Like in Juque City, people were hoping for a chance to get an entry permit.

Some had already been rejected but still persisted, lining up.

Chen Fan took a deep breath and walked towards the front.

People in the line saw him but did not say anything.

After all, this was Flame Emperor City. In recent days, they had seen many people walk confidently into the city just like that.

Upon arriving at the checkpoint, the guards, seeing Chen Fan, did not take it lightly and carefully asked for his identity.

Chen Fan stated his purpose for coming.

The guards' eyes immediately showed respect, as two days ago, they had received notice from the Awakened Headquarters inside the city.

"Mr. Li, this must be your first time in Flame Emperor City, right? Do you need us to send someone to take you to the headquarters?"

The squad leader smiled warmly, almost ingratiatingly.

"No need, I can manage on my own."

Chen Fan refused his offer and, under the watchful eyes of countless people outside the city, passed through the city gate.

The squad leader looked for a while before reluctantly retracting his gaze, filled with regret.

In Flame Emperor City, there were still tall buildings everywhere, mostly twenty to thirty stories high. The most prominent building in the center was nearly two hundred meters tall, higher than the city walls, standing out unmistakably.

Logically, such high buildings would also easily attract Fierce Beasts' attention.

Even though there were no Fierce Beasts around Flame Emperor City, there were flying Fierce Beasts.

But over the years, this high-rise still stood, as stable as Mount Tai.

The reason was simple: this was the Awakened Association Headquarters, the residence of Thunder Emperor.

If any flying Fierce Beasts attempted to attack the building, others in the headquarters would kill them without him having to act personally.

"It's rare to come here; if time allows, I'd really like to tour around the city."

Chen Fan felt a pang of regret.

Unfortunately, he didn't have much time.

At the Awakened Headquarters building.

After Chen Fan showed his identification, a woman quickly arrived to lead him to the elevator.

"This is the elevator to the top floor. I'll take you to the room first, and then Thunder Emperor will arrive shortly."

The woman pressed the button for the 89th floor, then turned back with a smile to explain to Chen Fan.

"Alright."

Chen Fan nodded.

As the elevator ascended, the entire landscape of Flame Emperor City came into view.

"Dingdong."

With a soft chime, the elevator stopped.

"Mr. Li, please follow me."

The woman walked ahead, making a few turns, finally leading Chen Fan into a very spacious hall.

It was described as very spacious because its diameter exceeded a hundred meters, and there were no tables or chairs.

Apart from a few early arrivals standing together and speaking softly, the hall was empty.

"Chairman Li, please wait here patiently. Thunder Emperor will be here soon."

The woman reminded Chen Fan, then smiled slightly at the group in the distance before turning to leave.

"It's him?"

One person among the group exclaimed in surprise upon seeing Chen Fan.

"Do you know him?"

"Who is he?"

The others curiously asked.

They all knew each other, having come together.

But Chen Fan, who had just entered, was unfamiliar to them at all.

Logically, someone who could put up a million points shouldn't be unknown to them.

"I don't know him; I've just seen him before." The person squinted and sneered.

The others, understanding the cue, wisely refrained from asking further.

It was evident that some unpleasant encounter had likely occurred between this Flame Monarch and the newcomer.

Not far away.

Chen Fan also recognized the other person, who was called Flame Monarch by those around him at the time.

Back when the Beast Tide first broke out in a village of a few thousand, they had a fleeting encounter.

He thought the guy had already arrived, yet he remembered vividly how the man had just watched the Fierce Beasts slaughter ordinary people.

He didn't expect to run into him here, of all places.

However, Chen Fan wasn't the type to act just because someone else's values differed from his. As long as the other person didn't provoke him, he was inclined to ignore it.

He withdrew his gaze and examined his surroundings.

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To be honest, he was somewhat surprised that the cultivation technique was being taught in this place. However, he couldn't immediately discern what was special about it.

"It seems that you are not very familiar with this place."

At this moment, a voice sounded beside him.

Chen Fan turned his head and saw a slightly overweight man with a friendly smile on his face, looking at him.

"This place is called the Observatory."

The man smiled.

"The Observatory?"

Chen Fan was a bit surprised.

"Hehehe."

The man laughed and said, "You have to experience the wonders of this place for yourself to appreciate them. If I tell you, it won't be as meaningful. Moreover, I've only heard about it and am here to experience it for the first time as well."

As he spoke, doubts arose in his heart.

Did someone really spend 1 million points on something without asking about the process and the situation first?

Of course, information about the Observing the Universe Technique is hard to find online. Only those who have studied it can understand it somewhat.

"I see."

Chen Fan nodded, "Thank you for the reminder."

"You're welcome."

The man smiled slightly, "May I know your name? I am Sun Chen."

"Li Ping."

Chen Fan said.

He knew the other person was trying to find out more about him.

However, even if he didn't say anything, they could find out everything by asking around later, so there was no need to hide it.

"Li Ping."

Sun Chen repeated the name and quickly searched his memory, realizing he hadn't heard of him before.

"Oh, so it's Brother Li. I've heard much about you."

Chen Fan nodded without saying more.

Seeing this, the man also excused himself and returned to his group.

"So, did you find out who he is?"

Someone glanced towards Chen Fan and asked.

"Hmm."

Sun Chen nodded, "He said he's called Li Ping, but the name doesn't ring a bell for me, which is strange. What about you guys, do you know anything about him?"

"..."

They exchanged glances.

They also seemed to have never heard of this person.

"Just a stray dog."

At this moment, Lu Yan, who hadn't spoken much, said with a disdainful tone.

"What, a stray dog?"

The others were quite shocked upon hearing this.

That's not a good term.

It seemed that Lu Yan really had some grudge against the person named Li Ping over there.

Thinking about this, they became even more curious.

After all, it's human nature to enjoy watching drama, and they were no exception.

"Lu Yan, what's going on? Why do you call him a stray dog?"

"Yeah, he doesn't look like a stray dog to me. Could you have mistaken him for someone else?"

"Mistaken?"

Lu Yan snorted, "Even if he turned into ashes, I wouldn't mistake him. Do you know where he comes from?"

Before anyone could answer, he continued, "Anshan City."

"Anshan City?"

"Anshan City?"

"Where's that?"

They frowned.

"Anshan City is a small town at the very edge, so it's natural you haven't heard of it. The reason I called him a stray dog is simple: he was the president of the Anshan City Awakened Association, but the city has been destroyed by fierce beasts and is now nothing but ruins. If that doesn't make him a stray dog, what does?"

Lu Yan said, side-eying Chen Fan.

In his view, except for the three mega cities and some large cities, all other places in Yan Country were already overrun.

Anshan City couldn't have survived.

Sun Chen and the others nodded after listening, agreeing with Lu Yan's opinion. After all, even mid-sized cities were powerless against the beast tide, let alone small ones.

"Actually, the destruction of Anshan City isn't his fault."

A short-haired woman among them sighed, "Anshan City was just a small town. Even if any of us went there, it wouldn't have helped."

"That's true," Sun Chen nodded, "But I'm even more curious why an A-level Awakened would go to such a remote place to become the president of an Awakened Association?"

As he spoke, he looked at Lu Yan, wondering if Lu Yan had gotten some information wrong.

"How would I know?"

Lu Yan glanced at him, "Maybe he's a bit out of his mind?"

An A-level Awakened, avoiding big cities and running to a small place, fine.

But then he even troubled himself to save those lowly ordinary people.

Did it help?

In the end, they all perished in Anshan City, including the city, which was flattened by fierce beasts.

They exchanged glances but didn't continue the conversation.

At this moment, the surroundings suddenly darkened.

Finally, they were engulfed in complete darkness.

However, the people present were at least A-level Awakened, so they could still see clearly in the dark and were not flustered.

At this moment, a small light appeared, followed by more lights, like a prairie fire, illuminating the entire hall.

The people who were standing on the ground started to float up slowly.

"What's this?"

Chen Fan's eyes widened.

At this moment, it seemed like he was in the universe.

All around were celestial bodies visible to the naked eye, radiating colorful lights, and even a few meteors occasionally passed by.

Suddenly, his gaze fell on a red luminous star.

Was that the sun?

No, it seemed a bit different.

"Is this the universe?"

Someone made a sound.

"No, this is just a simulated starry sky."

A luminous star suddenly disappeared, and a burly man surrounded by tiny lightning bolts appeared before everyone.

His eyes were deep, like the starry sky behind him.

"Thunder Emperor!"

Sun Chen and the others exclaimed in surprise.

They never expected the Thunder Emperor to be hidden among the stars around them.

"Greetings, Thunder Emperor."

Chen Fan quickly said.

He held this person in deep respect.

After all, this person repelled the Beast King, allowing Yan Country to continue.

Although many people still died in this beast tide, he understood that a single person's power was ultimately limited. Being able to defend a city was remarkable.

"Did you notice me earlier?"

Thunder Emperor glanced at Chen Fan.

"?"

Sun Chen and the others exchanged puzzled looks.

What did Thunder Emperor mean?

Did Li Ping know that the star was actually Thunder Emperor?

"No! Impossible!"

Lu Yan clenched his fists.

How could Li Ping discover something even he couldn't?

Even if by some chance, he did find out, it was pure luck.

"No, I just felt something was off." Chen Fan said truthfully. He could sense the immense power of the person before him, and even now, if they were to fight, he would likely not stand a chance.

"Very good."

The Thunder Emperor smiled slightly. It was unclear whether he was praising Chen Fan for noticing something unusual or for his humility.

His gaze then swept over the others and he said, "Since you are all here to learn the Observing the Universe Technique, I'll get straight to the point."

Everyone quickly perked up their ears.

"The Observing the Universe Technique, as the name suggests, involves visualizing the entire universe in your mind. However, as you all know, the universe is boundless, and nobody can visualize it entirely. So,

this cultivation technique is actually incomplete. If you regret it, you can exit now, and the 1 million points you have paid will be fully refunded to your accounts."

"We don't regret it."

They quickly responded.

Incomplete or not, it didn't matter.

A mere 1 million points for a face-to-face exchange with one of Yan Country's three strongest individuals was already worth it.

Most people don't get such an opportunity in their lifetime!

Chapter 744: I've Heard of You

"Good. Since no one has any regrets, I will continue."

Thunder Emperor nodded, and was unsurprised by the reactions of the few.

"Observing the Universe Technique, although still an incomplete cultivation technique, its effect is more than a hundred times that of the Sun Observation Technique."

Upon hearing this, including Chen Fan, everyone's breathing became a bit hurried.

More than a hundred times the effect of the Sun Observation Technique?

Doesn't that mean if they learn this incomplete technique, their Spiritual Power could rise to ten billion, even a hundred billion?

At this level, they shouldn't be afraid of those ghosts in the Secret Realm anymore.

Thunder Emperor's voice rang out,

"We divide this technique into several tiers.

The first tier is the galaxy we are in, that is, the Solar System, where several major planets revolve around the star. This is why I recommend only those who have reached the Great Success Realm, or even the Perfection Realm of the Sun Observation Technique, to study this technique."

He glanced over a few of them.

Most awkwardly turned their heads.

Clearly, their Sun Observation Technique hadn't even reached the Great Success Realm.

Thunder Emperor's face remained unchanged, he continued: "Initially, we only need to visualize the sun and one star in our minds, and when that feels effortless, we can then visualize another planet, until we can visualize all eight major planets revolving around the star. Only then is the first tier of the Observing the Universe Technique considered to be perfect."

Everyone's faces turned solemn.

So it means they need to visualize nine planets.

This difficulty is far greater than just visualizing one star.

"Lord Thunder Emperor, are you at the first tier?"

At this moment, someone questioned.

It was Lu Yan.

He intended to make an impression in front of the latter.

"I am at the second tier."

"The second tier?"

"Yes, borrowing concepts from Buddhist Dharma, we named this tier Small Thousand World."

"You all know that the Solar System is part of the Milky Way Galaxy, and nobody can tell how many Solar Systems there are in the Milky Way Galaxy. So, we arbitrarily define the Milky Way Galaxy as consisting of a thousand Solar Systems, which is the Small Thousand World."

"The more small worlds visualized in the mind, the stronger the Spiritual Power becomes, until ultimately visualizing the entire Small Thousand World, which qualifies one to enter the third tier, Medium Thousand World."

"Medium Thousand World?"

Sun Chen cried out in surprise, instinctively asking: "Lord Thunder Emperor, is the Medium Thousand World also composed of a thousand Small Thousand Worlds?"

"That's right."

Thunder Emperor nodded slightly, "This Great Thousand World is what we commonly refer to as a galaxy cluster. As I mentioned earlier, nobody knows how many Solar Systems are in the Milky Way Galaxy? Even less how many Milky Way Galaxies are in a galaxy cluster. So, for ease of visualization, we uniformly define it as a thousand. Even we haven't reached this third tier, Medium Thousand World."

Everyone realized.

So the three lords are still at the second tier, the Small Thousand World.

But thinking about it makes sense.

Visualizing a Solar System made their scalps tingle.

Let alone visualizing a thousand Solar Systems entirely.

And the Medium Thousand World is even more outrageous, visualizing a thousand Milky Way Galaxies!

What about afterward...

"Correct."

Thunder Emperor guessed their thoughts, "The fourth tier is the Great Thousand World, consisting of a thousand Medium Thousand Worlds. The fifth tier is visualizing three thousand Great Thousand Worlds, known as the Total Galaxy."

Upon hearing this, everyone gasped.

Three thousand Great Thousand Worlds, this means visualizing the entire universe?

No wonder it's called the Observing the Universe Technique!

"Lord Thunder Emperor, is this the entirety of the Observing the Universe Technique?"

Chen Fan asked curiously: "But earlier you mentioned that this technique is incomplete."

He thought what Thunder Emperor mentioned was feasible, nothing seemed flawed, following the cultivation steps should pose no issues.

Thunder Emperor's eyes showed a hint of surprise, then a smile appeared on his face, nodding: "Very good, you are the first in years to notice the problem."

"???"

Sun Chen and others were bewildered.

What did Lord Thunder Emperor mean by this?

Could it be that there were flaws in what he said earlier?

None of them noticed, but this guy saw through it.

"Damn! What kind of luck did this guy have!"

Lu Yan's eyes were red with jealousy.

"The first five tiers, though difficult to cultivate, are feasible. The technique is considered incomplete mainly because of the sixth tier."

Thunder Emperor sighed lightly, "Even the Total Galaxy is not the entire universe, which consists of countless Great Thousand Worlds. Each Great Thousand World cycles through creation, existence, destruction, and emptiness, without a moment's pause. Moreover, between the various Great Worlds, there is separation and non-separation."

"Separation and non-separation?"

Everyone was dumbfounded.

What does this mean?

"In simple terms, it means multi-dimensional. From a three-dimensional perspective, we and other Great Thousand Worlds occupy the same place, but due to other reasons, our world is isolated from others. Generally, we cannot access other worlds, and creatures from other worlds cannot come to ours, until the appearance of spatial fissures."

"Lord Thunder Emperor, do you mean those spatial fissures?"

"Exactly, they are our inspiration for the sixth tier."

Chapter 745: I've Heard of You_2

The Thunder Emperor said, "I have entered several cracks, delved into those otherworlds, and at night, the starry sky appeared, quite similar to what we see in our land. Of course, I'm not saying they are the same starry sky, but undoubtedly, they are all within this universe."

It was precisely due to this revelation that we conceived the sixth level after the fifth one, multidimensional space."

"But this level is extremely difficult to imagine. It's hard for us to even comprehend the idea, let alone visualize it in our minds. I think if someone could really achieve this level, he should be the creator of the universe."

The Thunder Emperor said half-jokingly and half-seriously.

Sun Chen and the others were already deeply shocked and speechless.

Despite not understanding the Thunder Emperor's words, they felt it was very profound, and the one million points spent on this was absolutely worth it!

Chen Fan also inwardly sighed with admiration.

Observing the Universe Technique, truly deserving of being a Divine Demon-level Martial Art.

It goes beyond galaxies, encompassing star clusters, galaxies, super galaxies, and even includes space-time.

Other Divine Demon-level martial arts seem to have the effect of breaking the void, such as the upgraded version of Longevity Technique, the War God Atlas.

In this sense, the so-called breaking the void is actually a method to access other worlds?

A thought suddenly popped into his mind,

If he could truly break the void and freely travel between different worlds, could he return to the world before he crossed over?

"I've explained the six levels of Observing the Universe Technique, but due to our own limitations, we can only share the cultivation insights for the first two levels."

"Thank you, Thunder Emperor."

Everyone hurriedly expressed their gratitude and then perked up their ears.

Chen Fan listened carefully too.

Actually, he didn't need to listen further because a line of text had already appeared on his panel.

[Observing the Universe Technique: Not Started (0%)]

It was noticeable that there were no incompleteness marks next to the cultivation technique's name, showing that the approach of this technique was correct and could be continued.

The Thunder Emperor's talk of multidimensional space was recognized by the panel.

However, the Thunder Emperor and others were still uncertain if the sixth layer really existed, and the cultivation technique was incomplete.

Of course, in terms of cultivation insights, it was true that they only had insights into the first two levels; the last three levels and the sixth layer of multidimensional space were just conjectures without experimentation.

"I wonder how much Experience Points are needed to enter the first level."

Chen Fan pondered and directly added one billion Experience Points.

The progress of Observing the Universe Technique immediately increased by ten percent.

He glanced at the remaining Experience Points, seeing several billion left, and sighed in relief.

Enough to reach the first level.

But he didn't continue adding, considering the Thunder Emperor was still sharing insights about the first level, estimating that he hadn't covered one-third yet. Meanwhile, he had directly broken through.

What can one say? It was too ostentatious.

He preferred to stay low-key.

"Just the first level requires ten billion Experience Points; won't the second level need tens or hundreds of billions? What about the third level? Even higher, the sixth level?"

Chen Fan didn't dare to think further.

He figured even if he killed all Fierce Beasts in Yan Country, no, on Blue Star, he might not reach the third level?

"All I can do is take it step by step."

After over an hour, the Thunder Emperor finished sharing all insights regarding the first level.

Everyone present was drowsy.

No other way, it was really interesting at the beginning, but later it felt like listening to a heavenly book.

The Thunder Emperor wasn't surprised by this.

As his gaze fell on Chen Fan, his eyes showed surprise.

Because Chen Fan's eyes were shining brightly, without a hint of sleepiness.

"You're Li Ping, right?"

He asked with a smile.

The others instantly woke up.

"Why is it this guy again?"

Lu Yan gritted his teeth in anger.

He couldn't understand why this guy kept getting the Thunder Emperor's attention.

"Yes, Thunder Emperor."

Chen Fan hurriedly replied.

Actually, he hadn't listened much to the Thunder Emperor's words...

Because he was well aware of his own comprehension.

"I've heard about you."

The Thunder Emperor's eyes showed admiration, "Anshan City where you are from is the only small city that held out amidst the Beast Tide so far."

"What?"

Sun Chen and the others were dumbfounded.

Did the Thunder Emperor just say that?

Anshan City is the only small city that held out so far?

Anshan City defended itself?

But just now, didn't Lu Yan say that Anshan City where Li Ping was from had been flattened by Fierce Beasts, and he himself was a dog without a home?

Someone realized this and looked at Lu Yan as if asking, what's going on? Why's this different from what you said?

Lu Yan couldn't provide answers because he was dumbfounded.

Whether Anshan City held out or not, he hadn't sent people to inquire because he wasn't interested in knowing, assuming that so many medium-sized cities had been flattened by Fierce Beasts, how could a small city escape?

Just relying on a single A-level Awakener?

If A-level Awakeners were really that powerful, the vast land of Yan Country wouldn't have fallen to the Fierce Beasts.

Yet, the Thunder Emperor just said Anshan City held out.

How could that be?

How could it be?

"Just a bit lucky."

Chen Fan said.

After all, the Thunder Emperor was the strongest in Yan Country; it made sense he knew these things. He even suspected the Thunder Emperor might have seen through his Disguise Technique.

"Single-handedly killing a Profound Ice Python and a Three-headed Snake King, repelling a million Fierce Beasts with no casualties in the city, is that luck?"

The Thunder Emperor smiled with deep meaning.

"???"

Sun Chen and the others beside him were not just dumbfounded but their minds went blank.

Profound Ice Python?

Three-headed Snake King?

Weren't those Beast King-level Fierce Beasts?

The Three-headed Snake King was even a High-level Beast King.

And it was killed by this Li Ping guy?

By himself?

And millions of Fierce Beasts?

Lu Yan's eyes almost popped out.

This guy could single-handedly kill two Beast King-level Fierce Beasts, one of them a High-level Beast King?

Even he could only manage to kill a single ordinary Beast King.

This guy was that strong?

Chen Fan bitterly smiled, "The Thunder Emperor lives up to his name; nothing escapes you."

"No."

The Thunder Emperor sighed, "If it weren't for this time when you signed up on the list, even I wouldn't know what you've done."

After all, he was busy cultivating and making important decisions.

A mere small city was really hard to catch his attention.

But Chen Fan signed up, so the people at the Association naturally gathered relevant information and reported it.

Upon investigation, they discovered shocking information.

Among hundreds of medium and small cities in Yan Country, not all were destroyed by Fierce Beasts; there was surprisingly a survivor.

And the key player in this was the president of the Awakened Association of Anshan City, Li Ping.

"Stay here later, I have something to tell you."

The Thunder Emperor said.

"Yes."

Chen Fan nodded, feeling puzzled internally.

What does he want to tell him?

"Brother Li, you are really impressive, hiding your true strength."

Sun Chen was the first to speak, with a genuine smile.

"Yes, yes, if it weren't for the Thunder Emperor, we wouldn't have known Brother Li's achievements, sorry, sorry."

Others also chimed in, regretting internally.

Knowing he was this amazing and could get the Thunder Emperor's recognition, they should have greeted him earlier to make acquaintance.

Chapter 746: My Face, Is Enough

More than an hour later, Sun Chen and the others reluctantly entered the elevator.

They were really unwilling to leave so quickly, wanting to spend more time with that person.

But that person had already given the order, and no matter how unwilling they were, they had to comply.

The elevator descended slowly, and from within they could see the entire scenery of Flame Emperor City, yet none of them had the interest to appreciate it.

"I really envy Brother Li."

Sun Chen sighed.

"Yeah, to be able to have a private conversation with the Thunder Emperor, how fortunate is that?"

"Exactly, the Thunder Emperor's admiration for him was written all over his face, even a blind man could see it."

"He deserves it."

Someone remarked.

Everyone instantly fell silent and then nodded in agreement.

Indeed, they did not doubt the truth of the matter because it was said by the Thunder Emperor himself.

Could there be any falsehood in that?

Someone remembered something and looked towards the back at Lu Yan, who had a pale face and had not spoken a word since leaving the Observatory.

"Lu Yan, are you okay?"

Sun Chen and the others turned to look as well at the sound of this.

Seeing his appearance, they could more or less guess.

Clearly, he was scared.

Putting aside the fact that Li Ping single-handedly killed two Beast Kings and millions of Fierce Beasts,

just the Thunder Emperor's favor was enough to make Lu Yan terrified, worried that Li Ping would secretly trip him up.

"No, nothing's wrong."

Lu Yan forced a smile that looked worse than a cry.

"Lu Yan, do you have some sort of grudge with Brother Li?"

Someone couldn't help but ask.

"Yeah, Lu Yan, if there's been any unpleasant thing between you two, just tell us, we'd come up with a solution for you."

"Exactly, don't keep everything bottled up."

Some were concerned.

While some were just sincerely interested in the gossip.

"Actually, actually, it's nothing much."

Lu Yan said so, but his heart was filled with worry, and before the others could inquire further, he spilled everything that happened in the past in one breath.

"Is that it?"

After listening to his account, everyone felt greatly disappointed.

They thought it was something significant.

It turned out to be just a mutual dislike with some verbal sparring, no physical conflict at all.

"Isn't that enough?"

Lu Yan said timidly, "You all heard about his strength, and he's earned the Thunder Emperor's favor. If he wants to retaliate against me, it would be effortless for him."

"I think you're overthinking it."

Sun Chen said, exasperated.

"He doesn't seem like a petty person, besides, if he wanted to retaliate against you, why didn't he bring it up just now?"

"I agree. I noticed when he looked at you, it was like you were transparent, he didn't seem to have any intention of giving you trouble."

"Lu Yan, stop scaring yourself."

"Re... really?"

Lu Yan felt a little better.

"If you're really worried, why not wait until he leaves and apologize to him? As the saying goes, a smiling face welcomes no fists. Even if he was unhappy with you, he should let it go by then."

"Alright, let's do that."

Lu Yan gritted his teeth.

A real man can bend and stretch, it's no big deal to bow his head.

On the other side, inside the Observatory.

The Thunder Emperor looked at Chen Fan and smiled slightly, "Now, can you show me your true face?"

Chen Fan nodded. With a slight rustle, he revealed his original face.

The Thunder Emperor's pupils widened.

The face before him was so young, it looked about twenty years old.

Much younger than the previous face by more than ten years.

"So, your real name is?"

"Chen Fan."

Chen Fan replied.

He had long guessed that the other had seen through his disguise, so his expression was calm.

Besides, the Thunder Emperor didn't seem to harbor ill intent.

"Chen Fan, I think I've heard that name before."

The Thunder Emperor frowned as if recalling something. Soon, he relaxed his brows, looked at Chen Fan, and said, "I remember now, you're the one who killed a Celestial Realm Martial Artist from the Song Family and Carl from the Revival Association, right?"

"As expected, nothing escapes the Thunder Emperor."

Chen Fan said.

Don't be deceived by appearances,

one could easily guess that people would report the happenings in different cities of Yan Country to him.

Killing people from the Song Family and the Revival Association was definitely no small matter in Yan Country.

"So, is the Thunder Emperor here to avenge them?"

Next moment, he asked.

The Thunder Emperor was momentarily stunned, not expecting Chen Fan to be so straightforward.

Then he burst into laughter, "Interesting, aside from those two, you're the first one in years to speak to me in this tone."

Chen Fan remained silent.

If it came to a fight, he didn't think he could beat the Thunder Emperor.

But if it came to running, maybe he'd have a chance.

After all, with the boost from various Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, his body attributes were comparable to a Beast King-level Fierce Beast.

"What if I said, well done?"

The Thunder Emperor's eyes flashed with a trace of fierceness.

Chen Fan's body jolted.

"These Noble Families only care about themselves. Be it commoners or Yan Country, they don't matter compared to their own safety. Even, ten years ago when Yan Country was on the verge of destruction, they still stood by and did nothing."

Chapter 747: My Face is Enough_2

"When the Awakened Association was first established, it faced obstacles from these noble families. However, due to our reputation, they couldn't do anything openly. Even over the years, the relationship between the association and the noble families remained strained. This beast tide outbreak, I'm certain they won't exert their full effort, as for the Revival Association."

Thunder Emperor let out a cold snort, "This brings us to the Elder Council."

"Some of them inherently enjoy pleasing the Feng Country people. If they can get a single word of praise from them, they're happier than achieving a breakthrough in their realm. So, upon learning that those Feng Country people were homeless, they spared no expense to bring them back to our Yan Country across the vast ocean."

"Initially, these Feng Country people were careful, keeping their heads down. But as time passed, they became increasingly arrogant, even establishing the Revival Association, carving out a territory within Yan Country's cities where our Yan Country people are forbidden entry. Although we reprimanded them and they restrained themselves, due to the support from the Elder Council, we couldn't do much more. After all, just relying on the Awakened Association's power might not be enough to resist the fierce beasts."

Chen Fan listened, engrossed.

He thought to himself that Thunder Emperor was a person of true temperament.

"Regarding this matter, I've heard something. According to the Song Family, it was you and people from the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association who initiated it by killing members of the Revival Association, just

when Song Gang and John from the Revival Association arrived, which then led to the conflict. Is that correct?"

Thunder Emperor asked.

"Actually, the truth is quite the opposite."

Chen Fan shrugged.

"Those Feng Country people intended to harm Chairman Shen. They forced Chairman Shen to hand over his treasures, but that wasn't enough—they wanted to kill him too. That's when I encountered them. As for Song Gang who arrived later, he sided with the Feng Country people. I had no choice but to kill him as well."

"I knew it would be this way."

Thunder Emperor's lips curled into a cold smile.

This matched the arrogant and domineering nature of those Feng Country people.

"So later, the Celestial Realm martial artist from the Song Family, accompanied by Carl from the Revival Association, went to the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association headquarters, where you were waiting for them."

"Yes."

Chen Fan nodded.

"Well, with your strength, killing two early-stage Celestial Realm martial artists is not difficult, but I heard this incident caused quite a stir. The Song Family and the Revival Association are gathering to discuss how to deal with you."

Thunder Emperor took a deep breath and said, "I truly despise those Feng Country people and would love to eliminate them all, but even I must admit, Feng Country people are much better at uniting compared to us Yan Country people. Maybe it's due to their small numbers, always on the brink of extinction or national elimination, which forces them to unite. I am very aware of your Jiangnan Martial Arts Association's strength; not even the Song Family alone can handle it, let alone the Revival Association. Of course, you are an exception, but..."

He looked at Chen Fan: "The two ancestors from the Song Family are mid-stage Celestial Realm martial artists, and the Revival Association has several werewolves and vampires with equivalent strength. Can you handle them alone? Perhaps I should step in."

Warmth surged in Chen Fan's heart.

Then, he shook his head.

"Thank you for your kindness, Thunder Emperor, but I can manage."

"Are you worried about implicating me?"

Thunder Emperor shook his head, "Don't worry. If the entire Elder Council opposes you, then I alone indeed wouldn't be enough; I'd have to convince two others as well, which is quite challenging."

Chen Fan heard this and sensed something.

Because logically speaking, the three of them—Thunder Emperor, War Emperor, and Ice Emperor—fighting side by side must have an extraordinary friendship.

As long as Thunder Emperor's requests weren't too excessive, the other two would certainly agree.

"Ice Emperor, she belongs to a noble family."

Thunder Emperor saw Chen Fan's inner doubt and explained.

"I see."

Chen Fan understood.

Suddenly, he felt fortunate that he hadn't chosen to go to her for learning the Observing the Universe Technique just because she was a woman.

If she learned of his true identity...

"In truth, she struggles as well."

Thunder Emperor sighed, "Caught between the Awakened Association and the noble families, her heart leans towards the Awakened Association, but due to her bloodline and family upbringing, she has to consider the interests of the noble families. Let's not discuss this further."

"Earlier, you mentioned that if you offend the entire Elder Council, it would be tricky. But it's just the Song Family and the Revival Association, my influence should be enough."

His tone was unwavering and resolute.

Chen Fan felt a bit tempted upon hearing this.

Thunder Emperor's words could resolve the whole matter.

Whereas he would have to fight for survival.

Yet after a brief hesitation, he chose to politely decline.

"Thank you for your kindness, Thunder Emperor, but the enmity between me and the Song Family and Revival Association has already been established. Even if you step in, they won't let go that easily. They might hold back openly, but they'll surely resort to covert actions. There's no way to guard against this forever. Since they intend to come, let them come. I will wait for them at the Jiangnan Martial Arts Association."

"Well said!"

Thunder Emperor clapped his hands in approval.

"Since you say this, you must be quite confident. I won't persuade further. But before that day arrives, you can change your mind anytime. If anything happens to you, it would be a significant loss for our Yan Country."

His eyes showed goodwill.

Clearly, Chen Fan's deeds in Anshan City had impressed him.

Therefore, he was willing to share his true thoughts about the noble families and the Revival Association with Chen Fan.

"Alright."

Chen Fan agreed.

Though it was just a verbal agreement.

"Actually, these thoughts came to me after learning your true identity. What I truly want to discuss is about Anshan City."

Thunder Emperor's expression suddenly grew solemn.

"Thunder Emperor wants to advise me to leave Anshan City as soon as possible?"

Chen Fan asked.

"Indeed."

Thunder Emperor nodded, "You've done well up to this point. If I were one of those in Anshan City, I'd be deeply grateful to you. But Anshan City is extremely dangerous now, and as you might suspect, Beast Emperor's attention is now on you."

Chen Fan stayed silent for a moment, then asked: "If I leave, what will happen to the tens of thousands of people in the city?"

Thunder Emperor slightly opened his mouth.

From Anshan City to here, it was thousands of miles.

The journey was fraught with countless fierce beasts.

Even if he intervened, there was no certainty that he could safely bring tens of thousands of people here.

If he appeared, the Beast Emperor would follow, and it's possible that Anshan City might already be under the scrutiny of several Beast Emperors.

If any of them materializes in Anshan City, the consequences would be dire.

And even if prior worries don't come true, how would these tens of thousands be accommodated?

If they were placed outside the city, and the larger cities couldn't hold, these people would die.

If they were placed within the city, it would be even more problematic.

Currently, countless ordinary people are outside the city.

How would they feel if they saw this? All are Yan Country people, all fleeing, why are these barred from entry while tens of thousands are let inside Flame Emperor City?

And Flame Emperor City isn't solely his; the Elder Council would never agree to admit so many ordinary people.

Even with space, they would not be willing.

"Chen Fan, sometimes you have to choose to let go."

Thunder Emperor slowly uttered this sentence.

"Until the last moment, I'm unwilling to surrender."

Chen Fan replied calmly.

"Alright."

Thunder Emperor didn't say more.

Chapter 748: Divine Demon-level Martial Arts! Innate Qiankun Skill!

Chen Fan's answer was also within Thunder Emperor's expectations.

He didn't say much, because he was also very curious about how far Chen Fan could go.

"Thunder Emperor."

Chen Fan spoke, "Actually, this time, not only do I want to ask for your advice on the Observing the Universe Technique, but I also want to observe a few other Divine Demon-level Martial Arts collected by the association. As for points, my account doesn't have many, but I have some Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures with me that should be enough once sold to the headquarters."

"Points are not a problem."

Thunder Emperor waved his hand, "There are a few Divine Demon-level Martial Arts in the headquarters, but I only have two. They are the Celestial Demon Godslaying Technique, and the Innate Qiankun Skill."

"Celestial Demon Godslaying Technique? Innate Qiankun Skill?"

Chen Fan showed a look of curiosity.

He had seen the Celestial Demon Godslaying Technique in the association's store.

The price was 2 million points. This Cultivation Technique was a Demon Skill.

Unlike general Martial Arts that absorb Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, it absorbs Death Qi and Yin Qi between heaven and earth. The names of its nine moves sound like those used by villains in TV shows.

As for the Innate Qiankun Skill, this was the first time he had heard of it.

He guessed that the points requirement for redemption were quite high, and he hadn't unlocked it yet.

"Exactly. The Celestial Demon Godslaying Technique has some Demon Nature. If cultivated too deeply, one's temperament is likely to be affected. Even a Celestial Realm Martial Artist may easily go mad."

Saying this, he looked at Chen Fan and suddenly realized an incredible fact.

"You seem to not be at the Celestial Human Realm yet?"

"Yes, my Sea of Qi is more than a hundred times that of Martial Artists of the same Realm. To advance to the Celestial Human Realm, I still need some time."

Chen Fan said.

"No wonder."

Thunder Emperor took a deep breath.

No wonder Chen Fan wasn't a Celestial Realm Martial Artist but could kill a Celestial Realm.

"This Cultivation Technique, I originally suggested that only Martial Artists who reached the Divine Cultivation Realm could practice it. But maybe, you are an exception."

This time it was Chen Fan's turn to be surprised.

"Thunder Emperor, could it be that you have already?"

"Yes, two years ago, I was already a Martial Artist at the Divine Cultivation Realm."

Seeing Chen Fan's expression, he laughed heartily and continued, "I strongly recommend that you cultivate the Innate Qiankun Skill."

"I'd love to hear more."

Chen Fan quickly said.

"It is said that thousands of years ago, the Yanhuang Land was flooded, and people lived in misery. The Ancient God Xuanyuan prayed to the heavens for forty-nine days, after which the mountain flood receded and colorful clouds filled the sky. At this time, a giant black turtle stepped through the waves and walked to Xuanyuan's side. Xuanyuan discovered that the back of this turtle was covered with vast designs, so he ordered it to be recorded and named it the River Map.

After twenty years of day and night research, Xuanyuan the Great finally comprehended the reason for the Yin and Yang Bagua, thereby creating this grandiose Divine Demon-level Martial Arts, the Innate Qiankun Skill."

Chen Fan couldn't help but breathe rapidly.

Indeed, every Divine Demon-level Martial Arts involves an ancient Divine Demon-level figure. The previously mentioned Celestial Demon Godslaying Technique was probably also created by an ancient Divine Demon.

"The characteristic of the Innate Qiankun Skill is to use the power of Yin and Yang Qiankun, combining hardness and softness. The entire set of Martial Arts consists of Inner Strength, Body Technique, and the Seven Extremes Techniques. Once mastered, it is like an ancient god or demon reborn. A mere Three-headed Beast Emperor-level Fierce Beast would be easy to defeat. It's a pity though..."

Thunder Emperor sighed deeply, "Most of this Martial Arts has been lost over the years. After many years of collection, I only obtained the Inner Strength Qiankun True Qi Technique and the first of the Seven Extremes Techniques."

"Even so, it's still quite an accomplishment."

Chen Fan said.

"Yes."

Thunder Emperor glanced at him, then laughed, "However, don't be too discouraged. Many Martial Arts are interconnected. The moves of the Innate Qiankun Skill also involve absorbing Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and then unleashing it with full force, causing disaster-level damage. The more Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi you can absorb, the greater the destruction. If the user is not strong enough, the effect would be mediocre. Therefore, whether or not there are the remaining six of the Seven Extremes Techniques doesn't matter much. On the contrary, the Inner Strength Qiankun True Qi Technique is the core of this Martial Arts."

"Why is that?"

Chen Fan's heart was stirred.

If he didn't hear wrong, it seemed that Thunder Emperor had this Qiankun True Qi Technique.

"Because even a Celestial Realm Martial Artist can only absorb a limited amount of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi. Once reaching the limit, if they don't stop and continue absorbing, you know what will happen, right?"

"The body would explode and die."

Chen Fan replied.

"Exactly, not to mention the Seven Extremes Techniques of the Innate Qiankun Skill. Each move has disaster-level destructive power. The human body can hardly endure it. Every use causes damage to the body. Therefore, one must practice the complementary Inner Strength, which is the Qiankun True Qi Technique.

Practicing this Martial Arts not only increases one's power but also allows one to advance through different realms, namely the Qiankun Cotton Body, Qiankun Vajra Body, and the highest realm, the Qiankun Unlimited Body. Reaching this stage, one can freely use the Power of Nature without worrying about harming the body."

Chen Fan's eyes brightened.

This seems to be a strengthened version of the Undying Golden Body.

"Come with me."

Said Thunder Emperor, walking forward.

Although he was a Divine Cultivation Realm Martial Artist, he had only cultivated this Martial Arts to the Qiankun Cotton Body, and it still took him several years.

How much Chen Fan could comprehend would depend on his aptitude.

...

Awakener Headquarters Hall.

Sun Chen and a few others sat in the hall, occasionally glancing at the direction of the elevator.

Chapter 749: Divine Demon-level Martial Arts! Innate Qiankun Skill!_2

It's been almost an hour now, hasn't Chairman Li come down yet?

The complexions of several people immediately became complicated.

At first, they thought it would take only ten or twenty minutes at most.

But it turned out to be more than three times that.

"I wonder what the Thunder Emperor talked about with Brother Li that took so long."

"Yeah, it seems that Chairman Li is really valued by the Thunder Emperor."

"Sigh, if only we could talk with the Thunder Emperor for so long too."

Everyone chimed in, filled with envy.

To the side, Lu Yan's face looked extremely ugly.

The longer the other party stayed, the worse the news for him.

"Could he be talking badly about me in front of the Thunder Emperor?"

Thinking of this, Lu Yan's body began to tremble.

Just then, the elevator door slowly opened, and an all-too-familiar figure walked out.

"It's Brother Li!"

In a flash, Sun Chen and the others stood up from their chairs.

They were already the focus of the entire room, and many people were secretly paying attention to them. Seeing their big reaction, everyone else was also quite startled.

The person who walked out of the elevator was indeed Chen Fan.

He was in a great mood.

He had come to the Awakened Association Headquarters in Flame Emperor City and not only obtained the Observing the Universe Technique, but also got two additional Divine Demon-level Martial Arts as a bonus.

The Celestial Demon Godslaying Technique was quite incomplete and was a Demon Skill at that.

Chen Fan wasn't sure if the Carefree Technique he had mastered could counteract the influence of this Demon Skill on his mind.

If the Celestial Demon Godslaying Technique were complete, it might be difficult, since it was a technique created by the ancient gods and demons, and the Carefree Wander was not.

But if the technique was incomplete, then it was different.

On the other hand, while the Innate Qiankun Skill was also incomplete, its Inner Strength was complete and could cultivate the body to its highest realm, that is, the Qiankun Unlimited Body, whose defense could be comparable to that of the ancient gods and demons!

So, he was rather in a dilemma.

He had over a billion experience points and had originally planned to use them on the Observing the Universe Technique to greatly enhance his spiritual power, so that when he entered the Secret Realm, he wouldn't have to worry about being harassed by those ghostly creatures and could isolate them with his spiritual power, and maybe even go in and fight them.

But the Qiankun True Qi Technique was also very powerful!

With enough experience points, he could directly elevate it to the Third Realm, even the Beast Emperor's attack couldn't harm him.

Moreover, there was a battle with the Song Family and the Revival Association tomorrow.

If he mastered this, they wouldn't even be able to touch him.

Just then, a series of footsteps approached.

He looked up and saw Sun Chen and the others, who had left earlier, walking over, each with a very amiable smile on their faces.

Even the A-level awakener, known as Yan Monarch, managed to force a smile that looked more like a grimace.

"Brother Li."

Sun Chen was the first to speak, "I wonder if you have time next. It's almost noon, how about we go for a meal together?"

"Yeah, Brother Li, it should be your first time in Flame Emperor City, right? There are a few dishes here that are really famous. It would be a pity if you left without trying them."

"That's right, Chairman Li, if the food isn't good, I'll write my name backward!"

They all scrambled to speak, fearing Chen Fan would leave.

"Sorry,"

Chen Fan shook his head, "There are still things waiting for me to handle in Anshan City, so I can't stay and have a meal with you all."

"This..."

Their smiles instantly froze.

Because what he said made perfect sense.

To invite him again would be inappropriate.

"Is there anything else?"

Chen Fan glanced at them indifferently, "If there's nothing else, please step aside."

He didn't have any real dislike for these people, but neither did he have any fondness for them. If the Thunder Emperor hadn't kept him, would these people have waited here so long? They'd probably have left a long time ago.

"Chairman Li."

Seeing that Chen Fan was about to leave, Lu Yan mustered the courage and said, "Chairman Li, it was my fault earlier, I apologize to you here."

Saying this, he bowed ninety degrees in front of hundreds or even thousands of people in the hall.

Instantly, the entire hall fell silent.

Everyone around was like they had turned to stone, stunned in place.

"You don't need to do this."

Chen Fan glanced at him, "Are you worried that I will cause you trouble or speak ill of you in front of the Thunder Emperor?"

"I don't mean that."

Lu Yan didn't dare to straighten up, trembling as he spoke.

Such a thing certainly couldn't be admitted.

If it were admitted, it would be indirectly saying the other person is petty.

"The Beast Tide is just outside the city. Instead of worrying about these things, think about how to deal with the Fierce Beasts outside."

Chen Fan left these words and walked forward.

Sun Chen and the others quickly stepped aside, watching his back as he left the hall and finally disappeared from their sight.

"What a pity."

They all had the same thought rise in their hearts simultaneously.

Originally, they were thinking of taking this opportunity to get closer to him, but he wasn't interested at all.

Even so, they dared not have any objections in their hearts.

In contrast, Lu Yan finally felt a weight lifted from his heart.

Anyone with sense could tell that he had no intention of troubling him; if anything, the result would be the same as if he hadn't appeared here.

"Maybe, I really was wrong."

The scene of meeting Chen Fan flashed through his mind.

In the village, countless ordinary people suffered massacre by Fierce Beasts. He stood on the city wall, watching coldly.

He thought those ordinary people deserved to die. Why? Because they were weak! If they were stronger, wouldn't they be able to protect themselves?

Including Chen Fan, who intervened at that time, Lu Yan also looked down on him, thinking he was just showing off.

But just now, although Chen Fan had a chance to humiliate him, he didn't, instead advising him to focus on dealing with Fierce Beasts.

Asking himself honestly, if their roles were reversed, could he do the same?

Probably not.

"Maybe I really was wrong. Even those stronger than me, like Thunder Emperor and Li Ping, do their utmost to protect ordinary people. What right do I have to treat them like grass?"

He sighed, straightened his back, and without greeting anyone, walked outside.

"Lu Yan? Lu Yan?"

Someone called out twice, but Lu Yan seemed not to hear and walked out of the hall.

"What's happening?"

"What's wrong with him?"

They looked at each other, baffled.

Logically, shouldn't he be happy that Li Ping didn't hold a grudge?

"Forget it, let him be."

Sun Chen shook his head. Their strength and status were about the same.

No need to treat him like Chairman Li.

He checked the time, "Since we didn't invite Chairman Li, how about we have a gathering ourselves? This is a rare chance; in the future, we might not get another opportunity."

Hearing this, their smiles gradually froze.

Indeed, some of them also came from other big cities. If Beast Tides attacked their places, they would have to go back to save people, especially their families. Even those in Flame Emperor City would likely join the defense.

Fighting the Beast Tide wasn't like hunting Fierce Beasts. The death rate was much higher. Today's meal might really be their last together.

They soon left, leaving the still-confused crowd.

Everyone looked at the elevator Chen Fan had come out of, picturing him in their minds.

Who on earth was he?

How could he make Yan Monarch bow in apology in public?

Chapter 750: Even if You're Patriarch Song, It Won't Do!

The Song Family's main hall was packed with people.

Song Lianfeng sat in a chair, reviewing the documents handed to him by these people.

After a moment, he threw a few sheets of paper on the ground, looked at the people in front of him, and asked, "Is this the result of your overnight investigation?"

The papers only contained information about where Chen Fan came from, when he appeared in Jiangnan City, and the martial arts he used.

Of course, some information was still valuable.

For example, the process of how he killed Carl, this would greatly aid the family's two elders in dealing with him later on.

However, what he wanted was information like who Chen Fan was before the celestial change, and how he managed to breakthrough to the Celestial Realm in a small city after the change.

Other than the Martial Arts Association helping him in the background, was there another family's influence; this was crucial to him!

Once he knew which family or families were supporting him, he would know who was secretly plotting against his family.

Unfortunately, none of this information was found.

The people below dared not breathe heavily out of fear.

They wanted to say that the time given was far too short.

Times were different now, with many cities destroyed by Fierce Beast attacks, many of Song Family's informants were either dead or injured.

Furthermore, the small city called Anshan City was the first to face the onslaught in the Beast Tide and was destroyed long ago.

This made many investigations impossible to start.

"Patriarch, I just received some news."

At this moment, a voice rang out.

The others breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing it.

"What news?"

Song Lianfeng looked over, it was a man in his thirties or forties speaking.

"Patriarch, I learned that the Anshan City where Chen Fan was located did not get destroyed like other small and medium-sized cities by Fierce Beasts, but still exists."

"What!"

The man's words were like a stone thrown into a calm lake, causing a huge commotion.

Even Song Lianfeng didn't expect this.

"You say Anshan City still exists?"

He stared hard into the man's eyes.

"I don't need to remind you of the consequences of lying, do I?"

The others looked at each other, finding the words absurd.

Why?

Medium-sized cities no longer existed.

But a small city like Anshan City still exists?

Those Fierce Beasts weren't blind.

"Patriarch, this news is absolutely true. Because just this morning, someone came out from Anshan City."

"Who was it?"

"It's the Awakened Association members from Juque City."

The man continued, "They brought back the news that Anshan City still exists, almost everyone in Juque City knows about it. Thus, I also got the intelligence. According to them, Anshan City faced two attacks from the Fierce Beast Tide but managed to hold its ground. The reason they held up was due to the Awakened Association's chairman inside the city, Li Ping. Only under his leadership could those Juque City members return smoothly from Anshan City."

After hearing the man's words, the hall was filled with discussion.

"Li Ping? Who is that? I've never heard of such a person in the Awakened Association."

"Facing two Beast Tide attacks back-to-back and defending against them, is it true? How could any Li Ping alone withstand two waves? Besides, Anshan City is just a small city with at most dozens to a hundred cannons."

"If the attacking Fierce Beasts included burrowers, those cannons would be useless."

"Quiet."

Song Lianfeng uttered two words.

The hall instantly became silent again.

"Is there concrete intelligence?"

Song Lianfeng looked at the man.

"Yes."

The man produced a letter and handed it over.

Song Lianfeng tore it open. Inside was a sheet filled with dense small characters. His heart was delighted; he feared there would be only a few lines.

He then took out the paper and read it voraciously.

As he read, his eyes widened and his mouth unknowingly opened.

The people below were puzzled. Someone, driven by curiosity, nudged the man, trying to ask what the situation was, and what was written on the paper that got the seasoned patriarch so unnerved.

The man acted as if he didn't see this, keeping his eyes straight.

Gathering this intelligence had come at significant cost; he'd be foolish to share it with others.

The Song Family faced a crisis with the unsettling feeling.

He could see a chance here, an opportunity for a comeback.

Song Lianfeng read through the document multiple times before placing it on the table. His gaze directed over, "Are you certain that these things are true? That Li Ping is really that impressive?"

"Considering he brought several Awakens from Juque City across ten thousand miles back to Juque City, it seems highly likely."

The man said.

"En."

Song Lianfeng nodded.

He had to admit, the man made a valid point.

But if that were so, the Awakened Association's strength would grow even more?

Initially, the three S-Class Awakened were already contending with the noble families, and now this suddenly emerging Li Ping would likely become another S-Class Awakened with time. Then, not just the Song Family, but all noble families' power would be impacted.