

Menu 1371

Chapter 1371: The Cautious Jason (2)

The Demon's Menu

The woman said this.

Then, she began to tell her husband about what happened in 'Fragrance City'.

After listening, the man raised an eyebrow.

"That guy really doesn't know how to relax.

After so many years, he's still constantly stirring things up.

And the rest of them just watch without intervening?"

The man's tone carried a hint of disdain and mockery.

Clearly, he looked down on those few people.

"Them?

They'd love nothing more than for the world to fall into chaos!

It's only when the world is in chaos that they can take another step forward."

The woman sneered.

Equally disdainful.

"Those guys?

It's not that I look down on them!

I can guarantee that bastard is calmly sitting back right now, just waiting for them to rush forward, then, to directly carry out a great purge.”

The man spoke with certainty.

The woman didn't object either.

They had fought with that bastard several times, and had secretly battled for years, they knew him too well.

The current situation is his intentional neglect.

As for why?

Obviously for saving time and effort, to solve everything in one go.

The great matters of the world have no impact on this couple.

But for that bastard and a few others, they do have quite an impact.

Especially for that bastard.

If the Empire revives again, that bastard's 'Son of Heaven's Dragon Fist' might advance further, reaching the realm they have been pursuing.

Both of them are also eager to see that realm.

However, they still have Dou Bao.

Without fully curing Dou Bao, they dare not take a step forward.

Once they take that step.

They truly can't go back anymore.

Husband and wife are of one mind.

Whatever the wife is thinking, the man immediately understands, he raises his hand to hold the wife's hand.

"This time it will certainly work.

There is said to be a Sage's Stone on the so-called Heaven's Mountain.

It's said to be a panacea.

No problem in treating Dou Bao's illness."

The man said softly.

"Hmm."

The woman nodded again.

Then, the woman suddenly paused.

"I want to soak my feet."

The woman turned her head to look at her husband.

Without any hesitation, the handsome, scholarly-looking man immediately bowed, raised his hand, and placed it in front of the woman.

"Alright, my dear guest, do you need old vinegar or ginger slices, or perhaps mugwort?

Do you want the water temperature high, or a bit lower?

Professional foot washing for twenty years, guaranteed to satisfy you."

The woman smiled like a flower, raising her hand to place it on the man's hand back.

The two stepped back into the cabin together.

...

Fragrance City, headquarters of 'Si Hai Bang'.

Afternoon, in the small courtyard, all was peaceful.

There was only a gentle breeze blowing through.

Occasionally, a bird chirped.

Under the shade of loquat trees, it was cool, the tea in the ru ware cups on the stone table was a jade green.

The irregular crack patterns added a touch of beauty to the verdant tea.

It was a feeling of movement amidst stillness.

If it were a literati, they'd definitely be inspired to write something at this moment.

But facing Jason.

He raised a hand and downed a cup.

After drinking, he still felt unsatisfied.

So, he switched to a large tea mug, threw in a handful of tea leaves, watched as boiling water was poured in, the tea leaves danced up and down inside, until the whole mug was filled with boiling water, then nodded contentedly.

Casually placing the tea mug on the stone table.

Jason lay back into the specially-made bamboo chair.

Because of his burly frame, regular bamboo chairs couldn't accommodate Jason.

Fortunately, within 'Si Hai Bang', they didn't lack skilled craftsmen or materials.

In just an hour, a comfortable bamboo chair appeared in Jason's small courtyard.

Reclining in the bamboo chair, Jason squinted his eyes slightly.

He was contemplating the contents of the "Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm".

Compared to the previous exchange with 'Great Dragon Head' Cui Long about 'acupoints', what's written on this silk about 'acupoints' is much more detailed and clear.

Each acupoint is an incredible existence, but to utilize the effect of the acupoints, you not only have to sense their presence, but you must also arrange and combine them in a particular order.

And by linking and combining the acupoints in a specific way, it forms Divine Skills.

The entire process is one of slow grinding craft.

It consumes both time and energy.

Unless assisted by 'major medicine'.

Because the filling and connecting of 'acupoints' also rely on one's own Qi-Blood.

Therefore, the purer and denser the Qi-Blood, the shorter this time can be.

As for the combinations?

They are truly diverse.

But one thing must be remembered, each 'acupoint' can only be used once.

Simply put, when two sets both require an 'acupoint', you can only choose one, never both, unless you want your skill to be your downfall.

The "Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm" bears the words 'No Regret in Divine Skills'.

And what records each 'acupoint' combination is the most crucial part of 'True Skill': the visualization diagram.

Only by relying on various visualization diagrams can the process be completed from locking, refining 'acupoints', to advancing to 'divine power'.

At this moment, Jason is visualizing the diagram for the "Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm".

A peacock glowing with multicolored rays.

Amidst the five-colored light, the five elements of wood, fire, earth, metal, and water are distinct.

Yet vaguely, spiders, scorpions, snakes, toads, and centipedes also emerge within the elements.

Jason made a considered choice to use the “Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm” as a visualization diagram.

Firstly, the ‘True Skill’ in front of him within this replica world is exceedingly rare.

Obtaining a truly meaningful ‘True Skill’ is no easy task.

Secondly, even if he acquired a ‘True Skill’, who could guarantee that it would surpass the “Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm”?

One is right before him, easily accessible.

One is intangible, with unknown effects.

Jason naturally knows how to choose.

As for temporarily storing the “Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm” and gradually pursuing it?

That is possible to some extent.

But Jason dislikes it.

He doesn't want to have a good card in hand, only to regret when the enemy comes knocking.

'Nightless City' taught him many things.

The most direct point is—

Store food but not guns, your home is a granary.

Store guns but not food, everywhere is a granary.

In the 'Nightless City', is food important?

Important.

It concerns life and death.

But without weapons, even the most important food is someone else's.

Including yourself.

Jason has heard the story of 'fragrant jerky' more than once.

So, after possessing a 'weapon', the most important thing is not to store it untouched, but to learn to use it.

Just like the "Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm" now.

Of course, if conditions allow.

Jason would also choose to store both food and weapons.

Just like 'old man' and others, holding power within 'Nightless City', becoming an existence that ordinary people dare not provoke.

But that's the business of 'Nightless City'.

In this replica world?

He seems to have the conditions.

But Jason won't do it.

Not because he hesitates about the replica world before him, but his real hesitation is about how he was brought here.

Or, the 'black notebook' that brought him here.

Inside the black notebook is a dining table world.

That world is changing.

Very subtly.

But Jason can feel it.

Where does this change come from?

Is it because of his changes in the replica world?

Or...

Did it change by fulfilling certain conditions?

Either represents the unknown.

It could be benevolent.

It could be malicious.

Perhaps no matter how long he spends in the replica world, returning to 'Nightless City' is instant.

But he still hopes to return to 'Nightless City' quickly.

This is his instinctive reaction.

Sensation, in the 'Mystical Side', is not an elusive thing.

Whether it was his never-met teacher or his cousin Gerard, they both told him to trust his instincts.

Or more precisely, inspiration.

Of course, there's still one vital thing!

Thinking about this, Jason suddenly shook his head quickly, casting off the thought.

Even choosing to forget what is associated with it.

Then, he lifted his head, choosing to focus on the replica world.

Outside the yard, Cui Long's daughter and Miss Hong Xiu were walking toward this place.

Little Zhao clutched Cui Long's daughter's sleeve, following behind.

At the moment, Cui Long's daughter held a letter.

It's from 'Boss Dragon' Cui Long Wang.

Chapter 1372: The Cycle of Life and Death Determines the Key

Cui Longnu walked up to Jason and directly handed over the letter.

The envelope was already opened, confirming there were no tricks, Jason pulled out the letter.

The letter read——

Master Mu:

Due to an unavoidable reason, I ask for your utmost forgiveness.

A matter arises in Fragrance City, Northern Capital is in chaos, please come to Northern Capital for a discussion.

Cui Longwang

Year 3 of Yuanfeng, January

...

Northern Capital?

Jason quietly mused in his heart.

Upon seeing the term 'Northern Capital', he thought of many things.

The first was roast duck, donkey roll, pea cake, almond tofu, braised boil, fried tripe, stir-fried liver, douzhi, fried meatballs, stewed elbow, soy sauce pig trotters, and so on.

Then, he thought of the undisputed number one among the top nine masters, 'The Emperor'.

And Gousheng was born from, possessing one of the top nine masters 'Sword Immortal' of the 'Northern Li Family'.

Also, Xu Dashan!

Previously, Xu Dashan had been sent to Northern Capital early by 'the Big Dragon Head' Cui Longwang.

Clearly, 'the Big Dragon Head' Cui Longwang had long made arrangements.

Thinking of this, Jason looked at Cui Longnu.

Cui Longwang inviting him to Northern Capital certainly wasn't just empty words.

Especially after the previous battle, Cui Longwang's astuteness would naturally know what to do.

Indeed, that was the case.

"Master Mu, this is for you."

Cui Longnu directly handed a silk package to Jason.

The blue silk had a unique luster in the afternoon sun.

After opening it, a book appeared in front of Jason.

Jingtou Palm!

When Jason's fingers touched it, words began to manifest before his eyes——

[Discovered special heritage item 'Jingtou Palm', judging...]

[Judged to have reached master-level in Barehanded Combat, judgment passed!]

[Judged perception reaches 6, judgment passed!]

[Judged physique reaches 6, judgment passed!]

[Judged spirit reaches 6, judgment passed!]

[Yes/No to consume 400 satiety points to include it as an additional option?]

...

Unexpectedly, it's 'Jingtou Palm'?

Even knowing Cui Longwang could be very generous, Jason was still startled at this moment.

Each family in this replica world values their martial arts skills immensely, it's not an exaggeration to say they treasure them like precious jewels.

In 'Mountain City', learning martial arts in a dojo required spending a lot of money and going through numerous tests.

And that was just the ordinary martial skills that could train 'muscles' taught by the dojos.

Even the 'Bone Tempering' stage was rare among them.

Not to mention this 'True Skill' that can complete 'apertures', allowing one to achieve Martial Arts Divinity.

Jason had the confidence that if he leaked the news of this 'True Skill', it would cause a bloody upheaval.

Such a grand gesture!

Jason marveled inwardly.

At the same time, he re-evaluated the danger level of this trip to Northern Capital invited by 'the Big Dragon Head' Cui Longwang.

It must be a perilous journey with a nine-to-one chance of survival.

Otherwise, this 'Big Dragon Head' wouldn't take out such precious martial skills as compensation.

Even if Cui Longwang didn't mention compensation in the letter.

Cui Longnu also didn't say much.

But Jason knew very well that by accepting this "Jingtou Palm," he was agreeing.

Upon a slight contemplation, Jason nodded.

Although he now possessed the "Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm", which was clearly a level above "Jingtou Palm" in martial arts divine skills, the phrase 'drawing parallels' was something Jason understood.

Moreover, "Jingtou Palm" could be directly learned.

He just didn't know if the 'apertures' would overlap?

Or, could his 'Talent' make overlapping 'apertures' become 'adaptable'?

Just like what he had done before.

Besides this consideration, there was also the main quest.

After these days, especially after the battle yesterday, his reputation soared directly to [805].

Even now, it still increases by a few points occasionally, but the speed has obviously slowed down, estimating it will reach at most a thousand, so to complete the main quest of achieving a reputation of 3000, a bigger stage was necessary.

And what bigger stage is there than 'Northern Capital'?

Of course, Jason absolutely wasn't tempted by roast duck, donkey roll, pea cake, almond tofu, braised boil, fried tripe, stir-fried liver, douzhi, fried meatballs, stewed elbow, soy sauce pig trotters, and all those foods.

He was purely compelled to complete the mission.

"When do we depart?"

Jason swallowed and asked.

"My father left me a letter, saying it takes seven days to prepare, and there will be others traveling with us."

Cui Longnu said truthfully.

"Traveling with us?

You're going too?"

Jason looked at Cui Longnu in surprise.

Logically, the Northern Capital is about to become the center of attention, 'the Big Dragon Head' shouldn't let his daughter go.

Or is it, compared to the perilous 'Northern Capital', the current 'Fragrance City' is even more dangerous?

Is it because of those martial artists who came for the duel between 'the Big Dragon Head' and 'Knife Monarch'?

Perhaps they are dangerous, especially since a duel ended inconclusively, it can't help but leave them dissatisfied, but it shouldn't be more dangerous than 'Northern Capital'.

After all, the 'Si Hai Bang' members aren't dead.

Though they don't have top-notch 'apertures', there are still two or three grandmasters who have reformed their 'Bone Marrow'.

Such grandmasters are enough to hold the fort.

So, it shouldn't be danger.

So, is it...

Opportunity!

In 'Northern Capital', there's a great opportunity for Cui Longnu?!

Jason couldn't help but think.

"Yes, my father wants me to go.

He also assured me that he would explain everything to me.

Uncle Xu will meet us in Northern Capital."

Cui Longnu was somewhat sullen.

Chapter 1373: Life and Death Cycle Determining Acupoints (2)

Not only was it 'Dragon Head' Cui Long Wang who was deceiving herself, but she also initially thought Xu Dashan had gone out on business, not realizing it was her father who had planned ahead.

"Miss, the Gang Leader must have his own considerations.

And besides, the Northern Capital has plenty of delicious food.

Weren't you always thinking about having roast duck before?"

Miss Hong Xiu comforted Miss Cui Long.

Cui Long completely ignored the first part of the sentence.

But her eyes brightened at the mention of roast duck.

"Hmph, roast duck can't heal my wounded heart, unless... I get to eat it several times."

"We'll definitely let you eat it several times."

Miss Hong Xiu laughed at the childish Cui Long.

Compared to the coldness she showed before, wearing a mask, the current Cui Long was more likable.

Although she didn't know how the two managed it, they owed a lot of gratitude to Master Mu and Sister Dou Bao.

Thinking of this, Miss Hong Xiu clasped her hands in respect towards Jason and Dou Bao.

"Master Mu, Sister Dou Bao, we'll set off in seven days. If there's anything you need in these seven days, please feel free to ask. I will do my utmost to fulfill them."

Miss Hong Xiu promised.

"I need more 'Secret Medicine'."

Jason did not hold back and asked for his needs.

Whether it was building up satiety or refining "", both required 'Secret Medicine'.

Facing two quite skilled alchemists, Jason wouldn't be polite.

Whether it is a 'Major Medicine' or regular 'Secret Medicine'?

Jason didn't mind.

He only had one requirement: the more, the better.

"No problem."

Miss Hong Xiu and Cui Long exchanged a glance and immediately promised.

...

The night was like ink, the moon like frost.

The small building, long table, brightly lit.

Jason sat at the long table, with the "Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm" and "Roaring Wave Hand" in front of him, and to his left was a large wooden tray piled densely like a small pyramid of 'Nourishing Essence Pills'.

Roughly speaking, there were more than five hundred pills.

And on the porcelain plate beside it, there were several dozens of secret medicines similar to 'Ginseng Toad Pill'.

However, there were no 'Creation Pills' or similar major medicines.

Although Cui Long and Miss Hong Xiu had the ability to refine 'Creation Pills'.

But previously in order to refine 'Creation Pills', the basic materials were completely used up.

These secret medicines now were accumulated within the Si Hai Bang's secret vault.

When Jason asked for secret medicines, Cui Long did not hesitate to empty the Si Hai Bang's secret vault.

For this, Jason was naturally grateful.

So he sent Dou Bao with nineteen hundred and five silver notes and 100 pieces of gold leaves.

The market price for more than five hundred 'Nourishing Essence Pills' alone exceeded 1000 gold, not to mention the level of 'Ginseng Toad Pill', although for Jason, it's not the 'Major Medicine', the cost-effectiveness was far less than 'Nourishing Essence Pills'.

However, Cui Long gave them to him.

He accepted them.

Thus he had to express his gratitude.

Perhaps according to the market price, it's still far from enough.

But he had already given all the gold notes; the remaining silver coins were needed for expenses on the road and would have to be delayed and paid later—about this, Jason was rather troubled, just pondering how to pay off the debts, unfortunately, there wasn't a good solution.

It's not about being pretentious.

It's simply about not wanting to owe favors.

Dou Bao agreed with this.

After bringing the sweet soup, she immediately took the gold notes and gold leaves to find Cui Long.

At this moment, Jason was sipping the sweet soup.

The chilled mung beans and sugar water truly lifted one's spirits.

The ice came from the Si Hai Bang's icehouse, not Jason's own creation.

Under conditions where he could, Jason naturally didn't mind enjoying it.

Under the cooling sweet soup, Jason's troubles over debts seemed to wash away.

He sipped the sweet soup and flipped through the book.

Jason's brows sometimes furrowed, sometimes relaxed.

Finally, he let out a long breath.

“‘Roaring Wave Hand’ only requires twelve ‘’, far less than the seventy-two ‘’ of the ‘Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm’, and these twelve ‘’ are fully encompassed by the ‘’ of ‘Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm’.”

Thinking to himself, Jason couldn't help but shake his head.

If the ‘Roaring Wave Hand’ were independent ‘’ outside of the ‘Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm’, he naturally would have no hesitation in learning it.

But now?

Naturally, focus on ‘Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm’.

As for quickly forming 'combat strength'?

Leaving aside that Jason's current overall combat strength compared to 'Roaring Wave Hand' isn't much different.

The fact alone that he found a method for quickly refining " was enough to guide him on how to choose.

Refining ", the key is Qi-Blood.

Qi-Blood is provided by the body.

Walking, running, fighting constantly consumes it.

Eating, sleeping, meditating constantly replenishes it.

Perhaps due to different constitutions, Qi-Blood level differs.

But generally, they are similar.

Therefore, Qi and blood have a certain limit. Excessive depletion leads to withering, emaciation, and even death.

So, using Qi and blood to condense 'hole' is a meticulous effort.

In order to maintain a state where Qi and blood aren't too depleted, a balanced time is needed to accomplish it.

Or, by consuming 'major medicine'.

This is the choice of all great masters.

Almost without exception.

However, Jason is an exception.

Jason's 'talent' is: 'Immortality'.

As long as he is fully satiated, he is immortal.

No matter how much Qi and blood are depleted, once he dies, he can recover to his peak state.

In other words, using 'fullness level' to replace Qi and blood.

Although Jason hasn't figured out the transformation effect, much like his death and resurrection, he doesn't understand it. But he knows it works.

In fact, it does.

Flipping through "Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm" and "Raging Wave Palm", Jason suddenly felt his body shrink.

It wasn't that his whole body shrank.

But his muscles disappeared as if they had shrunk.

His skin lost its luster.

Even his bones seemed hollow.

Death hung in the air.

Jason appeared like a candle flickering in the wind.

Sigh.

The night wind blew.

This represented the extinguishing of the candle of life.

However, soon after—

Sigh!

As if filled with the best fuel and accelerant, the flame of life reignited.

The depleted Qi and blood suddenly became full.

Resembling rushing waves, they roared within Jason's body.

From death to life, it was merely an instant.

Then, wave after wave of Qi and blood surged into the 'hole'.

The first 'hole' needed for 'Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm' was filled an instant, to one-fifth.

According to Dou Bao's mother's records, this process should take at least 'three months'.

But Jason?

He completed it in just one incense stick's time.

Life and death were instantaneous, but condensing 'hole' with Qi and blood took substantial time, yet it exceeded Jason's expectations.

"Not bad."

Jason murmured to himself.

Even after experiencing life and death.

But Jason didn't mind.

He was accustomed to it.

Then, Jason entered the rhythm of showcasing his talents.

Cycling of life and death, Qi and blood surging.

Condensing holes into divine skills.

One 'hole'.

Two 'holes'.

Three 'holes'.

Under the premise of not considering costs, Jason's life and death cycled constantly, condensing hole after hole.

When his fullness level dropped below the safe range of 3000 points, he grabbed some 'Nourishing Essence Pill' from the table and tossed it into his mouth.

The cycle repeated.

He completed a total of six 'holes'.

By then, it had reached the darkest part of the night, just before dawn.

For others, it was the most tiring time.

But for Jason, it was the most exhilarating moment.

The activation of [Chen Xi Sword] always made Jason feel incredibly safe.

He picked up the bowl in his hand and took another sip.

Sweet, icy cool.

It would be great if some coconut chunks were added.

Jason couldn't help thinking.

He remembered that Dou Bao had prepared some coconut chunks in the kitchen, and suddenly, Jason couldn't sit still.

Just as Jason was about to stand up and head to the kitchen to find some dumplings.

Clang! Clang clang!

The sound of a gong suddenly rang out.

"Catch the thief! There's a thief!"

These sounds, accompanied by the gong, echoed throughout the entire 'Si Hai Bang' headquarters.

"Is there really someone daring enough to break into the 'Si Hai Bang' at night?"

Jason was taken aback.

Immediately, he smirked and laughed.

Because—

He, Jason, needed money.

Chapter 1374: A Step Away

Clear wine reddens the face, wealth moves the heart.

The most frightening thing in the world is none other than man.

Especially a heart blinded by greed.

When a place possibly storing large amounts of Secret Medicine, and even possibly True Skill, appears, people of the martial world cannot remain indifferent.

Even if that place is the headquarters of Si Hai Bang.

Exactly half a month ago, upon hearing news that Cui Long Wang invited Knife Monarch for a duel, the Green Mountain Bandits hurried over.

The twelve of them disguised themselves and infiltrated Fragrance City.

Of course, they came to witness Cui Long Wang and Knife Monarch's duel.

Similarly, they were hoping for Cui Long Wang and Knife Monarch to injure each other severely.

Indeed, they are supreme experts, Martial Arts Divinity.

But Martial Arts Divinity doesn't mean they cannot be injured or die.

Once injured, their chance would come.

As the renowned Green Mountain Bandits, ordinary gold and silver treasures were no longer appealing to them.

What they sought now was the great medicine among the Secret Medicine.

And...

True Skill!

Among the twelve Green Mountain Bandits, the leader was the strongest, having completed the remolding of Bone Marrow five years ago, yet stagnated due to lack of True Skill; the second strongest had just refined the internal organs and was on the verge of remolding Bone Marrow, while the remaining ten alternated between the stages of consolidating Qi-Blood and refining internal organs.

But this didn't mean the ten had no desire for True Skill.

They hadn't entirely stagnated. .

Given enough time and Secret Medicine, they could eventually complete Bone Marrow remolding like the leader, and when that time came, they would need True Skill as well.

Moreover, when that time comes, who knows if there'll still be a chance like the present?

Unexpected conflict erupted within Si Hai Bang.

The Dragon Head was heavily injured.

Knife Monarch canceled the duel.

Also, he departed from Fragrance City.

This was truly a rare opportunity for the Green Mountain Bandits.

Therefore, they acted without hesitation.

Experts in exploration, the eleventh and twelfth first scouted the entire Si Hai Bang, acquired an accurate map, and pinpointed the Secret Vault of Si Hai Bang, then the twelve Green Mountain Bandits sprang into action.

The strongest leader and second-in-command were tasked with infiltration.

The remaining ten stayed outside for backup.

The Green Mountain Bandits' leader and second infiltrated the Secret Vault of Si Hai Bang without incident.

However, the two were dumbfounded.

The Secret Vault was empty and deserted.

Not even mentioning great medicine, there wasn't a single Nourishing Essence Pill inside.

We've been duped! Set up in an ambush!

The Green Mountain Bandits' leader and second-in-command thought almost simultaneously.

Years of camaraderie led them to simultaneously draw their Ice Blades.

The leader wielded a spear.

The second wielded a Ghost Head Saber.

The two stood back-to-back, keeping watch in all directions, ready to respond to any approaching danger.

But,

Four to five seconds passed and yet nothing happened.

This did not put the Green Mountain Bandits' leader and second at ease; instead, they grew increasingly uneasy.

They knew this was the Secret Vault of Si Hai Bang.

How could there be no guards here?

Moreover, their entrance had been suspiciously smooth.

While it seemed there were no anomalies at the moment.

Who knows what horrors might await them afterward?

Years in the bandit life had taught them this crucial lesson.

"Boss?"

The Green Mountain Bandits' second-in-command asked softly.

"Withdraw first; something feels off."

The leader answered directly.

The second-in-command held his tongue; following the leader was the consensus among the Green Mountain Bandits.

Those who didn't follow this had long perished.

Remember, there had been thirty-six of them at their peak.

Unfortunately, one didn't heed the leader's word, provoked those he shouldn't have.

This led to the once mighty Green Mountain Bandits becoming no more than stray dogs.

Yet, because of this, he and the leader were able to break through to their current state, and the more so, the better they understood that person's terror.

Must have True Skill!

Otherwise, they stood no chance against that person.

Even though that person had not achieved Martial Arts Divinity, they had perceived acupoints and begun condensing acupoints, their Qi-Blood was far more robust than they had imagined.

This time not finding True Skill, who knows there'll be another chance.

The Green Mountain Bandits' second pondered as he was about to press forward again.

But was stopped by the leader.

The Green Mountain Bandits' leader crossed his spear, cutting off his second-in-command, eyes fiercely fixed on the Secret Vault entrance.

Someone was coming!

In an instant, the Green Mountain Bandits' second reacted.

He lowered the Ghost Head Saber in his hand, aiming its blade at that spot.

Unlike typical saber wielders who favored brute force.

The Green Mountain Bandits' second, though wielding a fifty-pound Ghost Head Saber, moved with a subtle, sneaky style.

At that moment, a figure flashed at the entrance.

The Green Mountain Bandits' second thrust with the Ghost Head Saber instead of slicing, followed by a swift upward stroke.

Thud!

The saber tip passed through the approaching figure's chest and abdomen; with the upward stroke, their head was severed.

Then, the Green Mountain Bandits' second retreated rapidly.

Whoosh, whoosh!

A volley of hidden weapons fell on empty ground.

Four figures followed.

"Fifth brother!"

One of the four figures cried out in despair.

Chapter 1375: A Stone's Throw Away (2)

The remaining three stared fiercely at the two 'Green Mountain Bandits,' one of them observing closely before furrowing his brow.

“‘Green Mountain Bandits’?”

Their opponent was unsure.

However, the second of the 'Green Mountain Bandits' was very certain.

"Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain."

After calling out their name, the second of the 'Green Mountain Bandits' showed no signs of ease but instead displayed a heavy expression.

The 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain,' like the 'Green Mountain Bandits,' were people of the forest.

Unlike their sworn brotherhood, the five were siblings from the same mother, all trained in family martial arts.

Especially the eldest among the Freaks, a master of reshaping 'Bone Marrow,' rumored to have practiced their family martial arts to an unprecedented level.

"Ha, 'Green Mountain Bandits'! It's actually the 'Green Mountain Bandits'!

Earlier we heard you were exterminated, and our five brothers sighed.

Unexpectedly, today you killed my fifth brother!

If I don't gut you and take out your heart and liver to mourn him, how can I face him after a hundred years?"

A burly man wielding a Wolf Fang Club stepped forward coldly.

With such words, the remaining three also wielded Wolf Fang Clubs and immediately spread out, firmly surrounding the two 'Green Mountain Bandits.'

At the same time, their eyes kept scanning.

Clearly looking for something.

In the 'Si Hai Bang's Secret Vault,' what can be found?

Of course, the 'Secret Medicine,' 'True Skill.'

"It's empty here, we got nothing."

The leader of the 'Green Mountain Bandits' said.

Only to be met with cold laughter.

The 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain' didn't believe it at all.

The leader of the 'Green Mountain Bandits' said no more.

Because, if it were him, he wouldn't believe either.

The atmosphere suddenly froze.

"Taste my club!"

The leader of the 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain' swung his Wolf Fang Club down.

Woo!

In the dull sound, the powerful wind swirled, not only pulling the two 'Green Mountain Bandits' towards the club but also full of sharpness, like small daggers scraping one's skin.

The leader of the 'Green Mountain Bandits' was unharmed.

His second stumbled.

Immediately, the remaining three of the 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain' swung their Wolf Fang Clubs as well.

Although lacking the technique of their eldest brother, their force was overwhelming, and just as the second of the 'Green Mountain Bandits' was about to be smashed, he suddenly shrunk, transforming from an adult to the size of a four or five-year-old child.

Instantly, the three Wolf Fang Clubs missed.

Not only did they miss, but they were counterattacked.

The second of the 'Green Mountain Bandits,' in his childlike form, lay on the ground flat, swung his Ghost Head Saber, and slashed across the foot of one of the 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain.'

"Ah!"

A cry of pain ensued, the leader of the 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain' halted the downward strike of his Wolf Fang Club.

It was at this moment that the leader of the 'Green Mountain Bandits' acted.

With a long spear he thrust forward.

No frills, not the slightest tremble.

The spear was straight, as fast as lightning, piercing towards the throat of the leader of the 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain.'

Ding!

In the clash of metal, the leader of the 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain' retreated a step, but his throat wasn't pierced.

"'Green Mountain Bandits' are nothing special."

The opponent sneered, preparing to attack again, but just as he raised his Wolf Fang Club—

Poof!

The leader of the 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain's throat burst.

Along with his entire head flying up.

"Nothing special? Knowing your family martial arts include Horizontal Training, how could I not have anticipated it?"

The leader of the 'Green Mountain Bandits' sneered as he turned, thrusting his long spear at the remaining 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain.'

Like slicing melons and vegetables.

Each of the remaining three Freaks fell with one strike.

"Boss, your spear skills have improved."

The second of the 'Green Mountain Bandits,' having returned to his original form, flattered.

"Stop with the useless flattery, signal the third brother and the others; if we want to get out intact this time, we have to fight desperately."

The leader of the 'Green Mountain Bandits' said, his gaze towards the entrance of the 'Secret Vault.'

An elderly man with a rosy complexion stood there unknowingly, surveying the 'Secret Vault.'

"'Green Mountain Bandits'?"

'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain'?"

The old man's face was surprised, then he shook his head and sighed.

"No wonder the young lady took all the 'Secret Medicine'; she had anticipated this would happen! Without using any resources herself, she made you fight each other. The young lady's strategic insight is truly remarkable!"

The old man praised.

The voice was unmasked, causing the two members of the 'Thief Clan' to glare furiously.

It really was a trap!

"The tiger father begets no dog daughter, I must learn from Miss Cui's tactics someday!"

Saying this, the leader and the second of the 'Thief Clan' charged at the elder.

The elder in front of them was no ordinary person, but the two didn't care about that at the moment.

Just listen outside.

The voices of catching thieves had long turned into a wave; if they delayed any longer, they wouldn't be able to escape at all.

They could only hope that the third brother could respond in time.

Swish!

The leader of the 'Thief Clan' thrust his spear like lightning.

The Ghost Head Saber of the second aimed downwards once more.

Their teamwork was seamless, and the attacks almost arrived simultaneously.

Yet, just inches away from the elder, about to land on him, the spear paused, and the saber slowed.

It was as if they'd sunk into a quagmire.

Unable to advance a bit.

The familiar sensation rose again, causing the leader of the 'Thief Clan' to exclaim.

“‘Secret Technique’?!”

"This old man is still far from it, merely touching the threshold under the Gang Leader's guidance, but dealing with small-time thieves like you is more than enough."

The elder said with a smile, raising his hand.

Crash!

In a sound akin to surging sea waves, the two of the 'Thief Clan' were flung backward.

Blood spurted from their mouths.

In a single encounter, the two of the 'Thief Clan' were injured, but what happened next caught even the elder off guard.

Mid-air, the second of the 'Thief Clan' flew back.

No,

To be precise, he was kicked back by the leader of the 'Thief Clan'.

Then—

Boom!

He exploded into a mist of blood.

The blood mist obscured the vision, making the elder shut his eyes and step back, defending the one-person-wide entrance to the 'Secret Vault', staying alert, and when the sound of wind breaking reached his ears, he launched another 'Raging Wave Palm'.

Bang!

He hit the target accurately.

But the elder frowned.

The sensation was off!

He had struck the body of one of the 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain'.

The elder quickly realized.

Then, he heard—

Swish, swish, swish!

A series of wind-breaking sounds.

The bodies of the 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain' were continuously thrown over by the leader of the 'Thief Clan', two of which exploded directly in mid-air.

Boom, boom!

After two sounds, the blood mist became even denser.

But the wind-breaking sounds continued without stopping.

The corpses were gone.

But the weapons remained.

Five Wolf Fang Clubs spun and smashed towards the elder.

The elder waved his hands repeatedly, catching all five Wolf Fang Clubs, but the leader of the 'Thief Clan' had escaped.

While he was swinging his hands, the leader of the 'Thief Clan' seized the opportunity to slip past him.

A normal person naturally couldn't squeeze through such a gap.

But someone with 'Bone Shrinking Skill' and 'Gecko Wall-Traversing Skill' could.

The leader of the 'Thief Clan', abandoning his spear, shrank himself to the size of a child and proceeded along the ceiling of the 'Secret Vault'.

If the weapon was gone, he could always find another.

Just like if a scapegoat brother was gone, he could find another.

'Now that I've offended the 'Si Hai Bang', I must run away quickly! Those 'brothers' of mine know too many of my secrets; it's better to eliminate them all! Besides, it's easier for me to escape alone!'

The leader of the 'Thief Clan' thought, as the killing intent in his eyes intensified.

He was just a step away from the entrance of the 'Secret Vault'.

He could already see the night sky outside the 'Secret Vault'.

Immediately, the leader of the 'Thief Clan' sped up.

He was about to escape to safety.

Although there were still numerous troubles ahead, the current situation was the most critical.

Thinking of this, the leader of the 'Thief Clan' accelerated further.

Then, he crashed into a 'wall'—

Bang!

Chapter 1376: Departure. Thoughts

What would be the outcome of riding a small electric donkey and crashing directly into a tank speeding towards you?

There is only one answer.

That is: shattering to pieces!

The leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' of course didn't know such an answer; in fact, he didn't even know about the existence of things like small electric donkeys or tanks, but at this moment, he was personally experiencing the agony of being shattered to pieces.

Bang!

Crunch, crunch!

Amidst the dull sounds, a series of sounds of bones breaking and tendons snapping were interspersed, 'Green Mountain Bandits' leader felt as if his body was being torn apart.

Especially when his internal organs kept rolling, a mouthful of blood rushed straight to his throat, about to spray out, but he knew he couldn't let it.

If he sprayed it out, the Qi-Blood in his chest and abdomen would scatter.

Once the Qi-Blood scattered, not only would his martial prowess be severely diminished, but he would immediately be left powerless, his hands and feet weakened.

Given the current situation, if his hands and feet weakened, there would only be one path left for him: death.

He wanted to live!

He had to run!

The obsession with survival made him look up.

Instantly, the leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' narrowed his pupils.

He saw an extremely burly figure.

He himself was also a burly individual, standing out like a crane among chickens in a crowd.

But compared to the person in front of him, he appeared exceedingly delicate.

Even more attention-grabbing was what the other was holding in his hand.

A string of heads.

A total of ten.

Each one was grimacing, yet he still recognized them.

They were his underlings, old third to old twelfth, who he had only just harbored murderous intent towards.

All dead?!

The 'Green Mountain Bandits' leader was startled, and the mouthful of blood he was suppressing surged again; he knew there was only one chance.

Either you die, or I perish!

The leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' launched an attack on the burly figure before him.

Without a spear, it was just a punch.

But this punch was like a spear thrust.

Whoosh!

The sound of breaking through the air was filled with the cut of metal.

Quick, precise, fierce.

So quick it seemed like lightning.

So precise it seemed like auto-aim.

So fierce it was putting one's life at stake.

At this moment, the leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' forgot everything; he just wanted to punch a path to survival.

To live, that is everything.

If dead, then all is gone.

Selfless.

Egoless.

A state the leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' always wanted to achieve but never even touched the threshold of appeared on him.

Mystical and profound.

In this instant, he felt the pulsation in his body besides his heart.

That is...

'Acupoints'!

Weak, yet truly existent.

'Acupoints'!

The leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' was overjoyed.

He had achieved it!

He had found it!

He had ultimately done it!

As long as!

He charged out!

Everything could be started anew!

No!

It would be even better than before!

Buzz!

The sound of a spear appeared in the fist wind, and suddenly a shadow of a spear appeared on the leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' punch, as if misty smoke wrapping around his fist.

It directly thrust towards Jason's chest.

Bam!

The spear stabbed into Jason's chest.

"Die!"

The leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' laughed wildly, but soon the laughter abruptly stopped.

The spear indeed struck Jason's chest.

However, it didn't break his defense at all.

In fact, it didn't even pierce the skin.

However, this was not unexpected for the leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits'; his spear was not only fast but also best at breaking 'Hard Skill'.

The leader of 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain' died this way.

His 'spear' was not just surface-level sharpness.

But contained 'explosive' force within.

Upon seeing the burly figure, he knew that the other must excel in 'Horizontal Training' or similar skills, so in this spear which gathered all his essence, energy, and spirit, there was an unprecedented 'explosive' force hidden.

Yet now, the energy of Qi-Blood strong enough to break a beam had vanished without a trace.

This was the real surprise for him.

Then, the spear shadow broke.

No mistake!

Like misty smoke, the 'spear shadow' shattered.

As if blown by a violent wind.

Swirling and spinning away, gone.

"No!"

The leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' shouted, wanting to retain everything, but it was utterly useless.

The realm he had just touched began to disappear at this moment.

Feeling this, the leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' could no longer suppress the surging Qi-Blood in his chest.

Poof!

A mouthful of fresh blood sprayed out.

The leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' collapsed to the ground, weakened.

Jason looked, strode forward, raised his hand, and took the opponent's head, then began to clean up the battlefield.

Just like handling other 'Green Mountain Bandits' before.

Gold Notes, secret manuals.

But, unlike other 'Green Mountain Bandits', the Gold Notes of this one added up to more than all the others combined, and the secret manual in his bosom was a legacy item.

[Special legacy item 'Inner Explosion Force' discovered, assessing...]

[Barehanded Combat mastery reached, assessment passed!]

[Consume 100 hunger points, list as an additional option?]

...

[Special legacy item 'Bone Shrinking' discovered, assessing...]

[Barehanded Combat mastery reached, assessment passed!]

[Consume 30 hunger points, list as an additional option?]

...

"Not 'True Skill'?"

Jason was taken aback, then smiled.

He was now fully training 'Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm', with no strong need for 'True Skill', unless it happened to avoid the acupoints of 'Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm'.

Otherwise, ordinary additional option would be better.

After storing everything, Jason turned around.

An elderly man with a ruddy complexion was hurrying over.

Upon seeing the leader of 'Green Mountain Bandits' corpse on the ground, along with Jason and a string of heads in Jason's hand, the elder paused.

Chapter 1377: Departure. Thoughts (2)

The leader of the 'Green Mountain Thieves', he had fought against him.

His strength was formidable, only a slight difference compared to him.

If it were a life-and-death struggle, there would be little difference.

Although he had touched the 'acupoint', he was ultimately old, with declining Qi-Blood, whereas the opponent was in his prime, with strong Qi-Blood. All said, the battle could be seen as evenly matched.

Yet such an evenly matched opponent just died right in front of him.

The most important factor was time!

From the obstacle to appearing, arriving here in no more than three breaths.

But within these three breaths, a master fighter comparable to him just died like this.

This is...

The 'acupoint'!

Not a martial artist of his age, who only touches the edge of the 'acupoint'.

But one who truly stepped into the realm of the 'acupoint'.

Moreover, young!

Full of limitless potential!

Truly worthy to be called 'Rip-'er'!

The elder sighed slightly from the bottom of his heart.

Mu Bai, this elder naturally knows him.

Not just because of escorting the young miss, but also due to the importance placed by 'Big Leader' Cui Long Wang.

And now, he has a deeper impression of Mu Bai: At a young age, he has reached a realm unattainable by ordinary people, only a step away from the fabled 'Martial Arts Divinity'!

No wonder the 'Big Leader' values him so much!

Facing such a person, the elder naturally knew what attitude to take.

"Greetings, Master Mu!"

The elder cupped his hands, smiling broadly as he spoke.

"You are?"

The elder scrutinized Jason, while Jason naturally was also evaluating the elder.

His Qi-Blood filled the air like an oven, making it uncomfortable.

Evidently, this was a master fighter!

Moreover, as he walked, it was as though rivers flowed within his body.

A sense of familiarity instantly arose from the bottom of Jason's heart.

'Raging Waves Palm'!

The elder in front of him had practiced the 'Raging Waves Palm'!

This was also one of the foundations of the 'Si Hai Bang'!

On top of the two people in the 'Library', yet another master fighter!

Jason immediately confirmed.

"The old me, Li Er Gou."

The elder responded with a smile.

Li Er Gou?

That name?

So down-to-earth.

Jason, for a moment, didn't know how to respond, but the elder in front of him remained at ease as though he had long been used to it.

"A humble name is easy to sustain, I once wanted to change it, but after doing so, my luck wasn't good, so I changed it back.

Master Mu, please wait a moment, I'll go check again to see if there are any remaining thieves."

While the elder spoke, his smile dissipated, and a murderous intent appeared in his eyes.

Evidently, he had no plans to let off those intruders who entered 'Si Hai Bang' so easily.

This, Jason did not intend to stop.

Things done, naturally have consequences to bear.

There's no taking advantage without suffering losses.

Just somewhat regrettably glancing at the corpse inside the inner vault.

There should be quite some gold notes on it, right?

However, Jason did not move.

That wasn't his spoils of war; he wouldn't touch it, even if he wanted to.

Jason turned away and left.

Pushing open the door into the small courtyard, climbing the stairs into the room.

Dou Bao was putting a sweet soup with coconut fruit, mixed fruit, and glutinous rice balls on the desk beside.

It wasn't the green bean paste from before.

But red bean paste.

Still with extra sugar.

"Master, have some soup."

Dou Bao didn't ask what Jason had done.

With the outside earth-shattering, she naturally knew.

Even a few reckless petty thieves had intruded into the small building.

Then, she fed them snakes and insects.

Because of this, Dou Bao washed her hands thoroughly several times and changed into another suit of clothes.

Just as her father would do when dispatching those reckless people.

'Your mother has a keen sense of smell. After dealing with these guys, wash your hands thoroughly, change into an identical outfit; otherwise, when cooking or serving footbath at night, your mother will dislike you.'

Her father's words were etched in Dou Bao's mind.

"How is it, Master?"

Dou Bao watched Jason as he downed the sweet soup in one go, smiling as she asked.

"Soft, sweet aroma, cool, delicious."

Jason spoke truthfully.

Then, his gaze shifted to the small courtyard outside the building.

From where they stood on the second floor, they could clearly see Cui Long Nu and Miss Red Sleeves hurrying over.

"Just come in!"

Jason spoke.

Since they were spotted, Dou Bao didn't need to go out to welcome them.

Moreover, the door wasn't locked.

"Thank you, Master Mu, for your assistance."

Upon meeting, Cui Long Nu expressed her gratitude.

Miss Red Sleeves even handed over a parchment scroll, along with several gold notes.

"This is 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain's family martial arts 'Horizontal Training', and the gold notes they carried with them. According to Elder Li's account, without Master Mu's help, it would have been difficult to succeed completely, so these rightfully belong to Master Mu."

Miss Red Sleeves smiled.

Jason glanced at Miss Red Sleeves.

He could assure that this was the method of Miss Red Sleeves before him.

As for Cui Long Nu?

Just looking at how she eyed his sweet soup, one could tell what this 'Si Hai Bang' heir was thinking.

"Thank you."

With a word of thanks, Jason took the parchment scroll but didn't touch the gold notes, instead presenting the gold notes he obtained from the 'Green Mountain Thieves' to Miss Red Sleeves.

"This is?"

Miss Red Sleeves was taken aback.

Jason pointed at the Secret Medicine on the table.

Instantly, Miss Red Sleeves caught on.

Dou Bao beside her was even more understanding.

"Go to the kitchen downstairs, there's more sweet soup there."

Dou Bao spoke as she headed downstairs.

The Master had his affairs; naturally, they shouldn't be disturbed.

Cui Long Nu cheered and followed along, Miss Red Sleeves bowed before catching up.

Chapter 1378: Departure. Thoughts (3)

Dou Bao turned to the staircase, turning to give Jason a smile.

Jason nodded in response.

He naturally understood Dou Bao's thoughts.

Very considerate.

Picking up the enhanced sweet soup, Jason took a sip.

'Truly an understanding cook.'

Jason sighed as such.

Then, he picked up the parchment.

[Identified special inheritance item 'Great Horizontal Training', assessing...]

[Barehanded Combat determined to have reached Master level, assessment passed!]

[Physique determined to have reached 5, assessment passed!]

[Yes/No, consume 100 satiety points to list it as an extra option?]

...

"Attribute requirements?"

Jason glanced at the text in surprise, and finally shook his head.

Even though there are attribute requirements, it's not 'True Skill'.

As long as it's not, then there's no issue.

Placing 'Great Horizontal Training' alongside 'Inner Explosion' and 'Bone Shrinking', Jason chose to learn them one by one.

With previous experiences, Jason was well-versed with the 'Illusion Realm for training'.

Although death still lingered like a shadow, the effects were immediate as well.

Soon, after Jason experienced three Illusion Realms, three extra options appeared.

[Inner Explosion: You've mastered a secret technique of conductive attack, you can directly transfer the power of Qi-Blood into the opponent's body, or use a weapon to achieve this; Effect: The opponent will endure an explosion attack above a bullet level within their body]

[Bone Shrinking: This is a widely circulated martial skill in the Jianghu, but few have mastered it to great success, you gradually mastered this, not only can you displace your bones, but also launch special attacks, catching others off guard]

[Horizontal Training: Originating from ordinary Jianghu secret techniques, it's easy to begin with, but to reach a profound level requires water mill work, grinding bit by bit; Effect: Your skin and muscles will gain a bullet-level defense (if there are other defenses, this effect will stack)]

...

By dawn, Jason's [Barehanded Combat] had gained three more extra options.

All of them were good [extra options].

Even at their initial stage, they reached a usable level.

[Horizontal Training] can stack onto his own defense.

[Inner Explosion], combined with [Shockwave], will certainly achieve a $1=1>2$ effect.

As for [Bone Shrinking]?

Not to mention certain situations, a surprise attack during a battle can turn the tide.

Therefore, Jason was in a very good mood. After finishing the breakfast Dou Bao brought — which consisted of soy milk, fried dough sticks, tea eggs, and some bamboo shoots as side dishes — he once again devoted himself to the refinement of the ‘Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm’ to ‘aperture points’.

Using ‘satiety’ to replenish Qi-Blood, it can be accomplished in an instant.

However, the refinement of Qi-Blood in ‘aperture points’ consumes considerable time.

This, Jason had no other way.

He could only proceed little by little.

Therefore, for the next few days, Jason did not step out of the small building.

He hoped to complete the refinement required for the ‘Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm’ as soon as possible.

Time flowed like water.

Until the seventh morning.

This day was the day to depart for the Northern Capital.

Dou Bao got up early to prepare food for the journey.

Remembering this day, Jason also awoke from his immersive state.

He finally refined seventy-one out of the seventy-two 'aperture points' required for the 'Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm'.

Only one 'aperture point' remained before he could claim mastery of the 'Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm'.

However,

This last 'aperture point' stood like a hard diamond blocking the continuous surging Qi-Blood, even as the Qi-Blood resembled waves, this last 'aperture point' was as immovable as a dam.

After several attempts, an unstoppable thought arose in Jason's mind —

"Am I training it wrong?"

Chapter 1379: Jason: My Title Has Been Upgraded!

Did I practice wrongly?

Jason asked himself.

He once again picked up the “Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm,” carefully examining its descriptions, especially the crucial parts, not letting even one detail go unnoticed.

Yet, there was no description of the change to the last “acupoint.”

Similarly, “Stunning Waves Palm” didn’t have it either.

Both pieces of “True Skill” were more focused on describing how to distribute Qi-Blood reasonably, with some minor techniques for quickly replenishing Qi-Blood mixed in.

As for the change of the last “acupoint”?

There’s none.

Neither of the “True Skills” contains it.

"Did I practice wrongly?"

"Or is it because of my special physique?"

"Or maybe it's..."

Jason speculated, his gaze fixed on the “Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm.”

Compared to the “Stunning Waves Palm,” this piece of “True Skill” was more unique.

Not only were the required “acupoints” several times more than the former, there was also a “Spirit Imprint.”

This was something Jason had never encountered in the current dungeon world.

It somewhat resembled the “Night Watcher’s Proof” he used when he became a “Night Watcher.”

Hidden within an ordinary looking notebook, activating automatically upon certain conditions.

"Could this ‘Spirit Imprint’ in front of me be something akin to ‘Night Watcher’s Proof’?"

Jason wondered, furrowing his brows.

If the two were indeed of the same kind, it would be troublesome!

Because he simply didn’t know the activation conditions.

Perhaps the condition itself was: Dou Bao.

Simply put, except for Dou Bao, no one could master the final crucial stage of the “Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm.”

For someone like him who was just one step away, it was incredibly frustrating.

If it were someone who had meticulously trained their “Qi-Blood” for years, or even decades, they would probably be vomiting blood at this point.

Even though he hadn’t spent the same amount of time, he had invested significantly in food consumption.

[Satiety: 5201]

...

This was Jason's current level of satiety, seemingly not decreasing much, but don't forget, within these seven days, Jason consumed over 500 "Nourishing Essence Pills" and dozens of secret medicines like "Ginseng Toad Pills."

In other words, Jason expended over 5000 satiety to get to this one-step-away stage of the "Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm."

Under these circumstances, how could Jason possibly give up?

Sitting there, Jason focused intently, contemplating a solution.

The simplest approach was to let Dou Bao practice the "Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm," reaching the final crucial stage to naturally understand it.

But Dou Bao had just completed "Bone Tempering" and entered the "Skin Training" stage, still a long way from condensing Qi-Blood, not to mention refining "acupoints."

By the time Dou Bao could refine "acupoints," who knows how many years it would take.

Jason couldn't wait.

So, there was only one path left—

Venture himself!

Relying on oneself is better than relying on others!

Since the current Qi-Blood couldn't break through the last "acupoint,"

Then increase the Qi-Blood impact!

If one punch doesn't work, then two punches; if two punches don't work, then three.

If it's not far enough, can't break defense, or the caliber is not enough, then increase the caliber.

Quantitative change can lead to qualitative change!

Believing deeply in this simple truth, Jason took a deep breath and smiled.

Because he suddenly thought of his talent.

Fearlessness!

As long as he didn't die, he would push himself to the limit.

With that thought, Jason stood up and walked downstairs.

Dou Bao was already prepared.

The carriages were the same two they arrived in, as were the horses.

The back carriage was full, packed with various utensils and the initial ingredients.

The front carriage was wiped clean, even the spot where the whip approached the hand was tied with a red string—tied by Dou Bao, in a bow shape.

Looking at this horse whip, Jason suddenly felt a sense of alarm.

His intuition was warning him of danger.

Instinctively, Jason stared at the horse whip.

However, it appeared to be just an ordinary horse whip, except for the prettier bow.

"Master, I modified the whip a little, not yet reaching the level of the two hidden weapons my dad left me, or competing with what my mom gave me, but it's very handy."

Dou Bao proudly demonstrated, flicking the whip.

Crack!

With a crisp sound, a fine needle like a cow hair shot from the tip of the whip, silently embedding itself in the wall.

Immediately, the white wall began to blacken, rapidly decaying from within.

Once the wind blew,

The wall turned into a "doorway."

"Not bad."

Jason nodded, speaking sincerely.

The journey to the Northern Capital would undoubtedly be full of dangers. Although Dou Bao had exceptional talent, he still needed time to grow. While he had plenty of trump cards for self-protection, he lacked in conventional weapons.

This whip was certainly a good choice.

"Don't worry, Master, I'll protect myself and won't cause you any trouble."

Dou Bao promised with a smile.

He also revealed two wrist guards, a belt at his waist, leather boots on his feet, a seemingly ordinary black hairband, and a jade green flute tucked at his side.

Jason didn't know what these things were for at the moment.

But he knew that under normal circumstances, he didn't have to worry about Dou Bao's safety.

Knowing that was enough.

As for more?

Jason wasn't concerned about those.

The pair led the horses, guiding the carriage through the "Si Hai Bang" corridor specially left for horse travel, arriving at the entrance.

Cui Long and Miss Hong Xiu had long been waiting.

Chapter 1380: Jason: My Title Has Been Upgraded! (2)

In the distance, there was a man and a woman.

The man, Jason had met before. He was the elder named 'Li Ergou' whom Jason had once encountered inside the 'Secret Vault'.

The woman?

She posed no threat and didn't have the 'smell of food' on her, so Jason automatically disregarded her.

Behind Cui Longnu, Jason also saw the little Zhao munching on a dried plum.

After a week apart, this female assassin's face seemed to have gotten quite a bit rounder.

Speaking of which, it's not just this female assassin, Cui Longnu and Miss Hong Xiu were the same.

'They look much more pleasing to the eye than before.'

Thinking this, Jason nodded to the group and boarded his own carriage.

He needed to ponder how to break through the obstacle of the 'Five Poisons Godly Annihilation Palm' and didn't have much time for small talk.

Besides, there was Dou Bao.

He believed Dou Bao did things better than he could.

"Master Mu's seclusion hasn't ended yet?"

Cui Longnu asked curiously.

A week ago, Jason had announced going into seclusion.

Apart from appearing when the 'Green Mountain Bandits' and the 'Five Freaks of Sorrow Mountain' attacked, Cui Longnu hadn't seen this Master Mu at other times.

"Hmm, the master has reached a critical moment; we shouldn't disturb him."

Dou Bao said as she placed the basket of roasted pig trotters, whole roast chicken, and dozens of meat buns along with two large flasks of tea inside the carriage.

The pig trotters were freshly roasted, sprinkled with sesame and crushed peanuts with a hint of cumin, truly tempting.

The roast chicken was cooked in a clay oven, not only crispy-skinned and tender, but the entire chicken was marinated through.

Those meat buns, each the size of two adult fists, with thin skin and abundant stuffing, were extremely filling.

The two large flasks of tea, one was sweetened herbal tea while the other was a sweet red bean soup.

As soon as these foods were brought out, Cui Longnu could smell them.

She watched as the food was loaded onto the carriage, swallowing hard.

To the extent that she had to take out a spiced chicken claw and stuff it into her mouth—this was something she had prepared in advance, inspired by Dou Bao, she had specially arranged a carriage filled with various foods.

Watching this scene, Miss Hong Xiu couldn't help but sigh.

She wanted to correct them.

But it was a bit difficult.

Besides, she didn't think there was anything wrong with it now.

Thinking that, Miss Hong Xiu took out a dried plum.

The sour-sweet plum made Miss Hong Xiu squint her eyes.

Then she suddenly woke up.

She still had business to attend to.

"Ahem, ahem, Sister Dou Bao, we're about to set off.

Besides the guards, there are two people you need to meet."

With that, Miss Hong Xiu stepped aside to make the introductions.

The two old men who had been waiting for a long time in the distance immediately came over.

Dou Bao sized up the two men.

Li Laobo, she had heard Jason mention him; she knew he was a master who had touched upon the 'acupoint' level. Observing him now, she saw he had a rosy complexion, not at all like someone over seventy. Many would believe he was in his forties or fifties.

Moreover, his limbs were strong and large, and as he moved, his steps resembled a dragon's stride and a tiger's pace, as if rivers were flowing through his body.

As soon as he reached the front, Dou Bao felt a wave of heat.

"This is our trip's guard leader: Li Laobo, also one of the 'Si Hai Bang's' great masters."

"Nice to meet you, Miss Dou Bao."

After Miss Hong Xiu's introduction, Li Laobo smiled, even with a hint of constraint, and greeted Dou Bao.

Compared to Jason, Li Ergou had a deeper impression of the woman before him.

When the 'Transmigration Cult' leader invaded, although he didn't make it back in time, he had closely reviewed the scene afterward. Coupled with his two old friends' descriptions of those two extremely domineering secret weapons, he had already guessed this person's identity.

Thinking of those two, Li Ergou's legs almost cramped.

Offending the other seven people of the legendary Nine was no more than a death. But offending those two, survival was unattainable, and death wasn't an option.

Especially since those two conducted themselves neither good nor evil, acting with whimsy and caprice.

Thus, this great master from the 'Si Hai Bang' faced the descendants of those two with utmost caution.

"Nice to meet you, Li Laobo."

Dou Bao responded with a fist salute.

This great master from the 'Si Hai Bang' immediately clasped his fists in return and then stepped aside.

Dou Bao's gaze turned towards the woman who walked up alongside him.

The young woman was about twenty years old, wearing a light blue long dress, her long hair not tied up, falling over her shoulders. She stood there shyly, with an elegant demeanor and lively eyes. When she noticed Dou Bao's gaze, she immediately returned the courtesy.

Her face carried a trace of anxiety and unease, but more than that, there was anticipation.

"This is the current leader of the Salvation Association, 'Song Yuewan'. Previously, when Zhao impersonated me, he mentioned this Salvation Association... but most of what he said was deceit. The Salvation Association was originally supported by 'the Great Leader'. The former leader was Yuewan's father, who was also one of our 'Si Hai Bang' elders. He stepped down due to his old age, passing the leadership role to Yuewan."

"Our mission this time is 'Salvation Association's relief mission to the north', therefore, Yuewan is accompanying us."

Miss Hong Xiu introduced softly and in great detail.

"Greetings, Sister Dou Bao."

Song Yuewan bowed in respect.

Although Song Yuewan was obviously older, she addressed Dou Bao as sister.

This was naturally arranged by Miss Hong Xiu.

As for Cui Long?

Dou Bao glanced briefly at Cui Long, who was absorbed with Little Zhao in eating salted chicken feet, then quickly withdrew her attention.

She was more concerned about the term 'relief'.

"Hasn't the drought ended?"

Dou Bao asked.

She had fled from the north.

Back then, the Empire's northern region faced a severe drought. Not a drop of rain fell for a year. The scorching sun for months on end dried up the riverbeds, and the cracked riverbeds could swallow a grown person.

The crops naturally yielded nothing.

Large groups of civilians left their homeland, forming crowds of refugees heading south.

At that time, Dou Bao joined such a group.

But that was more than a year ago.

Especially as they approached the south, where rains became abundant. Coupled with meeting Jason, she no longer paid attention to this matter.

In her subconscious, Dou Bao believed the drought had ended.

"The drought has passed.

However, floods have come.

According to merchants, it has been raining for a month. The water level has already surpassed the previous year's highest peak. The sun-cracked dams have no chance of holding back the floodwaters.

So, we hope to discuss with some businesses in the Northern Capital to transport grain for disaster relief.”

Song Yuewan replied softly, a trace of helplessness appearing on her face.

"I see.”

Dou Bao replied softly, then turned back to Jason’s carriage without saying much.

This left Song Yuewan momentarily stunned.

It was the first time she had encountered someone so indifferent.

Others usually exchanged some polite words, even if they secretly held disdain.

"Sister Hong Xiu, doesn’t Sister Dou Bao like me?

Does she also think I’m insincere?”

Song Yuewan felt somewhat disheartened.

After she took on this task, many people secretly called her insincere.

But she genuinely wanted to help the disaster victims.

"Sister Dou Bao is like that with most people, except Master Mu. It’s not aimed at you intentionally, perhaps she’s naturally a bit aloof?”

Miss Hong Xiu explained.

Then, after comforting Song Yuewan with a few more words, Miss Hong Xiu walked to the front of the convoy, signaling Old Master Song to set off.

Crack!

"Set off!"

With the crisp sound of a whip, the thirty elite guards selected by the 'Si Hai Bang' escorted five large carts on their journey.

Jason and Dou Bao occupied two carts.

Cui Long, Miss Hong Xiu, and Little Zhao occupied two carts.

One cart carried people, the other carried food.

Song Yuewan had a cart to herself at the back.

The five horse-drawn carriages lined up in order towards the 'Fragrance City' docks.

Here, they boarded the ship. With the wind at their backs, they traveled by water to 'Jin Port', then switched to land travel to the 'Northern Capital'.

Under the banner of 'Si Hai Bang', the two large ships traveled smoothly along the water route.

A week later, they arrived at 'Jin Port'.

The ships docked, people disembarked first, followed by the carts and horses.

As Jason and his group disembarked, they saw a fast horse approach.

The man on horseback dismounted before reaching them, clasping his fists in salute towards Jason's group —

"Excuse me, but are you the 'Heavenly Sword' Master Mu?"