

New Era 251

Chapter 251 - Buddha Aspect

Watching the figure quickly disappear, Chen Shouyi was lost in thought.

"So this is the mark of a Martial Artist, and to think I thought I was an anomaly, affected by Natural Healing."

But then, he felt something was off:

"I clearly haven't reached the standard of a Martial Artist! If I remember correctly, according to Qin Liuyuan, a Martial Artist's arm strength needs to be at least a thousand kilograms, and with my current strength of 15.1, I'm not even at eight hundred kilograms, falling behind both Xiao Changming and Lei Ruiyang. Yet, strangely, they haven't replaced their teeth, but I have."

"Could it be that other attributes are influencing this?"

That's probably it. A person's physical-related attributes include three: strength, agility, and constitution. Of course, in a strict sense, intelligence should be added too. Strength is just one of them, and it's easily quantifiable, measurable by data, which is why it became one of the standards for a Martial Artist.

But this shouldn't be a necessary condition.

And my biggest advantage is relatively balanced attributes, reducing the strength requirement!

So this means I'm a Martial Artist!"

Since he didn't meet the strength criteria, sometimes Chen Shouyi was confused about whether to classify himself as a high-level Martial Artist or a Martial Artist. If he were to call himself a high-level Martial Artist, his combat power far surpassed people like Xiao Changming, but as a Martial Artist, his strength was still at the high-level Martial Artist level.

There was no need to be tangled up about it now.

He was indeed a Martial Artist, a genuine Martial Artist.

"Alright, little one, it's okay now, the bad giant has left." Chen Shouyi snapped out of his thoughts, speaking to a large tree not far away.

No sooner had he spoken than a small figure darted out from behind the tree like a bullet, her calves working hard as she ran toward Chen Shouyi.

As a creature from another world, though her body was small, her running speed was not the least bit slow, reaching six or seven meters per second, comparable to a human running at full speed.

In just an instant, she clutched at Chen Shouyi's trousers and climbed all the way up his thigh, promptly slipping into his arms, poking out a little head to timidly say:

"That mother giant is so bad, it scared me to death."

"Yes, really bad!" Chen Shouyi agreed, nodding.

.....

An hour later, as Chen Shouyi walked out of the small woods, Sun Mengyuan's face turned cold, turning her head away from him.

Heh, this woman...

Chen Shouyi snorted, maintaining a stoic expression.

...

After dinner, a large number of tents were brought over by nearby soldiers.

The mission was at dawn, so to conserve energy, everyone began sleeping early.

Lying in the tent, Chen Shouyi tossed and turned, unable to sleep.

There was an inexplicable pre-battle anxiety in his heart.

Finally, he simply closed his eyes, entering his Memory Space, using combat to ease his anxiety.

He chose the battle scene from ten days ago when he was besieged by three Barbarians in Dongning. As soon as his mind entered his body from ten days ago, he felt his body weakened significantly, and his thinking became slower, making him slightly uncomfortable.

Using the same strategy as last time, he intended to first take down one of the Barbarians who seemed less agile with an arrow.

But two consecutive arrows missed.

On the one hand, this body felt a bit unfamiliar; on the other hand, his battle state was far from what it had been, not just because his mindset was overly relaxed, but his combat skills were also somewhat rusty.

Although he hadn't slacked off his daily training these days, training doesn't bring combat experience.

Faced with the three Barbarians' siege, he barely held on for a few moves before being drenched in blood, ultimately decapitated by a sword.

The second time, despite getting into a serious mindset, the result was the same.

By the third time, his battle state finally returned. He took down one Barbarian with two consecutive arrows, then faced the remaining two.

This battle's purpose was to enhance combat experience, not to win. Chen Shouyi naturally didn't adopt the risky fighting style like last time. After more than twenty intense rounds, with more and more wounds on his body, he was finally decapitated again.

He persevered, and by the fourth attempt, Chen Shouyi could hold out against the two Barbarians' siege for over thirty moves.

...

And by the sixth time, he could endure sixty moves.

No other Martial Artist could absorb experience and lessons like Chen Shouyi through repeated deaths, rapidly improving combat skills.

After all, each person's life is only once, and each battle only has two outcomes.

Victory gives life; failure leads to death.

And with death, everything ends.

Indeed, for a Martial Artist, even real life-and-death battles are scarce.

Having experienced one such battle is considered fortunate, three times means luck is on your side, and ten times? That's a child of destiny.

The virtual combat simulation in the Memory Space is the ultimate weapon for a Martial Artist.

...

In the Memory Space

Chen Shouyi moved like a phantom, his feet shifting rapidly, his figure changing.

Every movement lined the two besieging Barbarians up with him, allowing him to face only one opponent the whole time.

No matter how the two Barbarians acted, they were within his predictions.

These were battle instincts garnered from numerous life-and-death experiences, akin to a beast's intuition.

Chen Shouyi moved rapidly, fighting intensely.

By now, he had completely mastered the rhythm of the battle, able to end it at any time, but the feeling was so exhilarating that he couldn't help but be immersed in it.

The faces of the two Barbarians shifted from surprise to fear, then to despair. The one fighting Chen Shouyi head-on finally couldn't take the pressure, turned to flee, exposing his back to Chen Shouyi.

With a light step, Chen Shouyi lunged, severing the neck.

The next second, the other Barbarian met the same fate.

...

Chen Shouyi opened his eyes, feeling the hot blood coursing through his veins, the sensation of gripping the sword still lingering in his hand, as though he had truly experienced the intense battle.

A thrill flickered through his heart.

"This was just my self from ten days ago. Now, my body is even stronger. If I encounter the same battle again, it might end within a few rounds."

He checked the attribute panel.

Found that the energy only decreased by 0.1.

His anxiety vanished completely, he calmed down, closed his eyes and soon fell asleep, gentle snores sounding.

...

Chen Shouyi was awakened by sharp whistles.

He opened his eyes, glancing at his watch, discovering it was already twelve-thirty.

Quickly getting up, no sooner had he moved than the Shell Lady awoke. She opened her eyes cautiously; here, she felt unsafe, her keen hearing clearly picking up the breathing of all the surrounding humans.

Seeing Chen Shouyi already beginning to dress, the Shell Lady sat up quickly, softly reminding Chen Shouyi, "The bad giants are awake."

"Don't worry, I'm here!" Chen Shouyi reassured her.

"Yes, I'm not afraid!" The Shell Lady nodded vigorously, her little face serious.

"If we need to fight the bad giants later, and I leave you at the side, will you be scared?" Chen Shouyi asked.

The Shell Lady hesitated, then firmly nodded, "I won't be scared either, I'm the bravest."

"Yes, you're the bravest!" Chen Shouyi smiled, praised, and picked up the Shell Lady, placing her in his arms.

When he walked out of the tent, his face was already serious, the mission was finally starting.

...

A crescent moon hung high in the sky, draped in a thin veil, distant hills rolling, dark and profound.

Under the cover of night, the convoy rattled quickly along the road.

The carriage interior was quiet, no one spoke.

Most were resting with their eyes closed.

Luo Jingwen was repeatedly wiping his Long Sword, his movements gentle, as if caressing a beloved.

Ye Zong quietly looked outside, his face composed, this man who gave Chen Shouyi a strong sense of danger was clearly not as light-hearted as imagined at this moment.

He squeezed the sword hilt forcefully, his body slowly relaxing.

Hope everything goes smoothly!

Chapter 252 - Fierce Battle

Sure, here is the translated text:

```html

The vehicle drove for half an hour, and the road became pothole-riddled.

The tarpaulin on the vehicle had already been removed.

Under the hazy moonlight, the ground was littered with craters, and not far away lay an abandoned village, a heap of ruins and broken walls, a scene of devastation. The air was filled with a faint stench of corpses.

This was already the battlefield of that past battle. Since Ningzhou was occupied by the Barbarians, this place had become a complete no-man's land.

A few crows gathered on the highway, constantly pecking at a mutilated and rotting corpse, occasionally letting out creepy cries.

As the convoy approached, these crows squawked in a panic, ready to soar into the sky, yet before they could fly high, they were exploded by several sharp arrows, feathers and blood scattering everywhere.

"Damn, that's unlucky!" Lu Shouhu spat out, lowered his War Bow.

Chen Shouyi glanced at him. The bow was almost as tall as a person, with a complex armature, clearly wielding dreadful power. He hadn't even fully drawn it, just half, yet the force matched a full-power shot of his own.

"You better conserve your strength!" Ye Zong opened his eyes and said.

Ye Zong held considerable prestige among the group, enough to suppress the crowd.

Lu Shouhu nodded, without speaking, he took an Energy Bar, tore open the package, and chewed slowly.

Everyone was conserving their energy, the atmosphere was oppressive yet silent.

Only the continuous rolling sound of the steam truck and the croaking of frogs drummed in the ears.

Chen Shouyi loosely held the War Bow, looking up at the distant sky, many black dots were spiraling endlessly.

...

"Boom!"

A sharp arrow pierced the air, emitting a thunderous roar.

A massive shadow crashed down from the sky, kicking up a cloud of dust.

"The seventh one," Zhang Wenlong relaxed slightly after hitting with an arrow, if this was the extent, this mission would be without much danger.

Ever since the convoy approached, the assault began, but facing eight Martial Artists, these war bird squads couldn't get near at all.

Chen Shouyi and the Hedong City Martial Artists remained calm and hadn't fired a single arrow yet. They couldn't compete with these seasoned Martial Artists from the Capital City, not only was each archer lethally accurate, but their attack range was vast and powerful. They began shooting from three hundred meters away, with few misses.

The arrow speed could reach up to four times the speed of sound.

Each had a sense of competition. Since the Martial Artists from the Capital City arrived, Chen Shouyi subconsciously compared himself to them. The reaction time was hard to gauge, but in terms of attack power, the gap was indeed vast.

Each of them possessed extraordinary strength, terrifying attack power, and their well-honed Archery Skills couldn't be matched by someone like him who had only truly practiced for less than a year.

At this moment, Chen Shouyi keenly heard a faint wind, his heart stirred: "Not good, these Barbarian war bird squads, they aren't ordinary Barbarians. Many likely haven't died from the fall."

His thoughts raced, and without time to alert anyone, he leaped lightly onto the car roof.

He swiftly scanned around and his heart sank as he saw several fast-moving figures under cover of darkness rapidly approaching the convoy. The nearest one was less than fifty meters away from the convoy, practically at hand's reach for the Barbarian's speed.

Fortunately, there was still time,

Chen Shouyi's heart went cold, instantaneously drawing an arrow, pulling the bow, and shooting out in one seamless motion.

"Boom!" One sound.

The swiftly running Barbarian, apparently unnoticed by the upcoming attack, just felt something was wrong, but before he could dodge, an arrow pierced his abdomen followed by another arrow, blowing off his head.

Chen Shouyi shot an arrow, his movements did not pause.

One Barbarian dodged one arrow, still celebrating, and an arrow severed his neck.

The horror of high-speed archery doesn't lie in hitting multiple targets in a short time to deal with many enemies, but in swiftly adjusting predictions mid-shot, so that enemies dodging the first arrow can't evade the second, third arrow...

A figure flashed, Ye Zong had already pulled a bow standing atop the vehicle; he swiftly surveyed the surroundings and found the situation under control. He looked at Chen Shouyi with some surprise, such archery speed far exceeded that of a general Martial Artist.

He then grabbed three arrows, the 2,400-pound War Bow was lightly drawn open, and the next moment, arrows shot with the swiftness of lightning.

The air was torn into a vacuum corridor, leaving a white mist trail.

"Boom!" One sound.

The Barbarian didn't even react before his head exploded instantaneously.

He shot continuously for three arrows, the arrow thunder seemed fused together.

The last three Barbarians had no time to dodge, their bodies simultaneously blown into two halves, a grisly demise.

Chen Shouyi gasped in cold air, stopping his actions.

This attack power, this reactive ability, was simply terrifying.

It was the first time Chen Shouyi saw the opponent in action.

No wonder the opponent could take down a Demigod, paired with heavy Armor-Piercing Arrows, the power could practically match an Electromagnetic Cannon. His strength was probably as Sun Mengyuan said, entirely beyond the Martial Artist level.

"Hedong indeed has powerful figures!" Ye Zong stopped shooting, saying as the bowstring buzzed.

"Far behind you!" Chen Shouyi replied.

"I admittedly have eaten a few more years of meals than you. If I'm still not as good, wouldn't I be living like a dog? By the way, you're a Wind Talent Ability User?" Ye Zong raised an eyebrow, speaking.

Such keen observational ability!

Chen Shouyi nodded, said, "But the power isn't great, it can only play a supportive role."

"Much better than other elements; I know a Fire Talent Ability User, if he didn't go to another world, his ability's only usefulness on Earth would probably be lighting cigarettes!" Ye Zong casually said a cold joke.

Chen Shouyi also thought so. For Martial Artists, ranged attacks had bows, close attacks had Long Swords, in Earth's low Original Force environment, how much combat power could be increased? Instead, supportive abilities were more beneficial to Martial Artists.

"What about your hair?" As the atmosphere seemed reasonably good, Chen Shouyi asked the lingering question in his mind. Such a formidable expert with non-mainstream blue hair genuinely gave him a sense of dissonance.

"You're not the first one to ask about this. After I took Divine Blood, my bloodline changed, receiving Electromagnetic System abilities while my hair turned this color. I used to dye it black often when younger, eventually got used to it." Ye Zong said freely.

Chen Shouyi was slightly stunned.

He subconsciously touched his hair, somewhat relieved it hadn't changed color.

Electromagnetic System abilities turned hair blue.

Wind System would be what color?

Teal?

Or green?

Seems like no difference between the two colors.

"A large batch of enemies is coming!" Ye Zong called out, his face serious.

Everyone responded quickly, on guard immediately, Chen Shouyi quickly followed his gaze, in the distance, shadows flickered, and the gusts echoed from afar.

No, this wasn't just the wind.

There was also a sound akin to a horn.

In a moment, Chen Shouyi saw fireworks rise into the sky, bursting with red sparks.

Clearly, the Barbarian guards nearby had been entirely alarmed.

Chapter 253 - The Fearsome Giant (4k)

Soon, Chen Shouyi saw a large number of shadows emerging from the distance, rushing towards them, the ground rumbling with the sound. Although there were only a few dozen Barbarians, they had the momentum of a thousand-horse army.

Compared to the Barbarians' astonishing speed, the convoy's sixty to seventy yards a minute felt like a snail's pace.

The Shell Lady, hearing the commotion, seemed restless, cautiously poking her head out from her hiding place but quickly retreated in fear. Fortunately, everyone was fully focused, deeply engrossed, and didn't notice her.

"Boom!"

Suddenly, a black short spear, as thick as an arm, came whistling in and landed just a few meters away from their truck, embedding deep into the concrete road, buzzing and vibrating fiercely!

Chen Shouyi's heart tightened.

With razor-sharp eyes, he instantly locked onto a tall figure standing in place, just having retracted his arm. Although they were still a kilometer away, this Barbarian had used sheer arm strength to throw a spear weighing several, even more than ten pounds.

This was definitely an expert among the Barbarians!

While Chen Shouyi was still in shock, Ye Zong had already drawn an arrow, pulling back the bowstring. This time, he didn't release it immediately. Tiny electric arcs flickered across his body, his blue hair seemingly electrified, glowing with a faint sheen.

Simultaneously, bright electric arcs began densely coiling around the arrow.

Chen Shouyi sharply sensed a tremendously dangerous aura emanating from Ye Zong, prompting him to subconsciously step back.

As a high school science student who graduated less than a year ago, he immediately grasped the intricacies behind it.

Lorentz force propelling the arrow?

Electromagnetic Cannon Arrow?

Chen Shouyi felt envious.

There's a talent known as someone else's talent.

Compared to his Wind Element ability, which had little room for exploration, this ability had much more potential areas for development.

I really want this kind of high-class ability too.

Ye Zong's eyes narrowed slightly, as he subtly adjusted the aim of the arrowhead.

With a "Boom" sound, the arrow instantly vanished.

Chen Shouyi tried to track the arrow's path, but failed; within a blink, it traveled a kilometer. The next moment, the Barbarian, having resumed their sprint, was blown into two segments, dying in a gruesome state.

"Is this the peak combat power of the Great Xia Country?" Chen Shouyi contemplated inwardly.

"If I were that Barbarian facing this terrifying attack, I'd probably be killed instantly, unable to dodge or escape. Compared to such might, my own strength truly pales in insignificance.

If I had trained for two more years, maybe I could reach that level."

After shooting an arrow, Ye Zong's expression remained indifferent, as he drew another arrow, the arcs lighting up again in an instant.

He fired arrows one after the other, never missing a single shot.

As the Barbarians approached within four or five hundred meters, he ceased using his talent ability, grabbing four arrows at once, wedging them between his fingers, his hand a blur as he shot quickly.

Chen Shouyi noticed that his opponent's archery technique was completely different from his own.

He would shoot an arrow and then draw another from the quiver, whereas Ye Zong picked up four at once, shooting them individually. The former technique allowed easier control for beginners, with relatively higher accuracy, while the latter was more streamlined and harder to master, naturally faster in shooting speed.

Perhaps he should learn this technique, Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

Although his archery had been optimized once, the optimization was clearly based on the original framework, without significant changes in technique.

Before long, other martial artists began attacking as well.

Chen Shouyi couldn't resist shooting a few arrows himself, but unfortunately saw no results.

A distance of three to four hundred meters was too far for him, never practiced, struggling to hit even a stationary target, much less one moving at high speed.

Besides, his eight hundred pound war bow was too light by comparison with only a thrice the speed of sound initial speed, taking roughly half a second to cover three to four hundred meters, enough time for a Barbarian to run dozens of meters.

"Zzzzz!"

The sound of the mounted gun finally began to resonate, soldiers within the convoy climbed onto the roofs, operating the guns to sweep.

The Barbarians fell in droves.

A few seconds later, when the last Barbarian had their head blown off by an arrow from two hundred meters away, the wave of attack finally ended, with only one unlucky soldier suffering a broken leg from a short spear.

"Your bow poundage is too low, step down! Zhang Wenlong, Luo Jingwen, you two come up." Ye Zong said politely to Chen Shouyi.

Chen Shouyi nodded and jumped off the rooftop.

Weakness must be acknowledged, his attack power was indeed too low, his archery was nowhere near competitive compared to these senior martial artists.

Though hard to accept, he had to admit that Sun Mengyuan's mockery during the day wasn't wrong. Those of them from Hedong City were merely supporting the operation for appearances, because even without martial artists from Hedong City, the martial artists from the Capital City could likely handle the task alone.

Chen Shouyi jumped down from the truck head.

"Incredible!" Xiao Changming whispered.

"Yeah, but that's a good thing; at least it makes our job easier." Chen Shouyi nodded, speaking deeply. Having teammates of divine caliber was certainly better than having incompetent ones. Initially, he was somewhat nervous before setting out, but most of his tension had now been alleviated. As long as the Barbarian God doesn't appear, this mission is essentially secure.

Chapter 254 - The Fearsome Giant (4k)

Xiao Changming nodded.

The convoy moved forward at full speed, only encountering some sporadic attacks, which were resolved by the three people on the roof before Chen Shouyi could even be on alert.

"That should be a nuclear crater, right?" Lu Shouhu spoke up.

Upon hearing this, Chen Shouyi immediately looked over, seeing a circular creation several kilometers away, elevated seven or eight meters above the ground. Its diameter was about three to four hundred meters, resembling a crater.

"Is there any radiation here?" Sun Mengyuan asked with some concern.

"There definitely is, but it shouldn't affect us much. According to the provided intel, there were four nuclear missiles launched last time, the largest being only ten kilotons. With such nuclear missiles, the radiation wouldn't be lethal to ordinary people one or two kilometers away, and we are at least three or four kilometers from the nuclear crater." Lu Shouhu said, not very worried.

Although nuclear weapons have terrifying destructive power and radiation, it also depends on the yield and range.

Chen Shouyi looked at the massive nuclear crater, feeling inexplicably heavy in his heart. This area might become uninhabited for decades.

Of course, there's no point in thinking too much unless we resolve that God of Hunting.

The black dots circling overhead grew more numerous, and under the distant, hazy moonlight, the massive figures of the two nuclear strategic airships were already visible from afar.

Chen Shouyi noticed that these two airships weren't far apart, roughly just one or two kilometers, and happened to have crashed into a village.

This is undoubtedly good news for the mission.

A village means there must be direct roads. If it had crashed into fields, it would be too troublesome.

These nuclear warheads weigh hundreds of kilograms at the lightest and several tons at the heaviest. Not only would transportation be difficult in the fields, but it would also waste a lot of time. The longer the delay, the more dangerous it becomes for this operation.

"Stay alert, watch above." Ye Zong on the roof suddenly shouted loudly.

Chen Shouyi immediately looked up, just in time to see tiny black dots rapidly falling from the sky, enlarging quickly.

Damn!

It's spears!

The Barbarians are starting to throw spears from a high altitude!

"Watch out!" Lu Shouhu shouted.

Soon, the sharp whistling sounded, as one spear after another fell like rain into the fields on both sides of the road, raising clods of earth.

The accuracy of these spears thrown from one or two thousand meters in the air was pretty low, with some spears landing hundreds of meters away.

However, the sheer number made up for the accuracy.

With a "boom," a spear landed on one of the enclosed carriages ready to load nuclear bombs. Fortunately, the carriage armor was thick enough, leaving only a shallow dent on top and continued moving normally.

"Not good, watch out!" Ye Zong shouted suddenly.

A spear whizzed towards the bed of their truck.

The spear rapidly enlarged, and Chen Shouyi could almost see the intense air currents around the spearhead, unfortunately heading right for him.

He quickly dodged to the side, avoiding it swiftly.

At the same time, a small figure flew out from his chest due to the body's momentum, rolling onto the truck bed.

With a "boom."

The truck bed was pierced through, resulting in a bowl-sized hole!

The Shell Lady was a bit dazed from the fall, sitting on the ground with tears welling up.

However, upon seeing the unfamiliar Giants around her, she was scared into a shiver, found Chen Shouyi, and started running towards him desperately on her little legs.

At this point, the attack began to cease.

The Barbarians had a limited number of spears, exhausting them within ten seconds. All the war beasts began flying away into the distance.

Everyone suddenly breathed a sigh of relief.

"What is that?" Beside him, Xiao Changming's sharp eyes noticed the Shell Lady quickly climbing up Chen Shouyi's pant leg, opening his mouth in surprise.

Chen Shouyi snapped back to reality, finally realizing the Shell Lady had been thrown out. He gently picked up the Shell Lady and placed her on his shoulder: "My daughter!"

Xiao Changming looked at the Shell Lady, who wasn't much longer than a finger, and was astonished: "Are you kidding?"

Daughter, whose daughter is that small?

"It's an alternate world creature. This is the first time I've seen such a small humanoid creature. Where did you find it?" Lu Shouhu asked curiously.

"Found it during an exploration of the alternate world," Chen Shouyi said, cutting off his fantasy: "Don't even think about it, there's only one."

"Ah, what a pity! I also want to raise one!" Lu Shouhu said, his face full of disappointment.

Even Sun Mengyuan, who hadn't gotten along with Chen Shouyi earlier, was now somewhat restless, her eyes shimmering, occasionally glancing at the Shell Lady. She had no resistance in the face of such a Thumbelina from a fairy tale.

Only Lei Ruiyang remained unmoved after a glance, a trace of disdain passing through his heart. What use is such a powerless pet apart from being pretty?

"Giant, I'm scared!" Facing the strong gaze of the surrounding Giants, the Shell Lady shivered and said in a small voice.

"Whoa, she can talk!" Ye Zong suddenly leaned his head out from above and exclaimed in surprise.

It's not surprising at all. In my heart, Chen Shouyi thought, my Shell Lady not only talks but can also dance and sing.

"Come, don't be afraid, come over to Uncle here, there are good things," Ye Zong said in a common language.

Trying to lure my daughter!

Seeing the Shell Lady's hesitant expression, Chen Shouyi picked her up and placed her in his jacket's inner pocket, saying: "Alright, stop looking. The danger isn't over yet."

"Tsk!" Ye Zong revealed a hint of disdain, clearly seeing through Chen Shouyi.

For those like them, battle-hardened, even if relaxed, they wouldn't really let their guard down, being aware of everything, almost instinctively.

...

What followed was incredibly smooth, with no more Barbarian attacks.

They might have been scared off.

The strategic airship got closer and closer. Soon the convoy left the road, heading into the village where the airship was located.

It's, it's just too big.

From a distance, it didn't seem like much. But up close, Chen Shouyi found it was like two towering mountains, crushing half the village.

The two nuclear-powered airships were severely damaged, with a large hole, tens of meters in diameter, torn in the armor of one, and half of the other's body nearly ripped apart.

"Look at the road, something's not right," Ye Zong suddenly said.

In the hazy night, huge footprints were faintly printed on the road, surrounded by cracks. Each footprint was six or seven meters long and half a meter wide.

"Damn, what the hell is this creature?" Chen Shouyi cursed.

As soon as the word left his mouth, the ground began to tremble slightly. A series of dull yet rhythmic thuds came from afar, making Chen Shouyi's heart beat violently.

Within ten seconds, a huge Giant about forty to fifty meters tall emerged from behind one of the airships.

"Damn, I wondered why it was so smooth along the way, turns out this monster is guarding here," said Lu Shouhu, stunned, with a shocked expression.

"Damn it, why didn't the intel mention this Giant."

"Maybe it just came through the Space Portal today, maybe it wasn't here before!" Sun Mengyuan said with a serious expression.

The entire Giant looked like a building, standing in front of the massive airship, it wasn't much shorter, with wild hair and naked body, its terrifying knotted muscles showcasing its frightening strength.

His eyes were directly fixed on the convoy, his entire face menacing.

"Tiny humans, without the permission of the Great Kipps, no one can approach here." His voice was grand and impressive, like thunder booming: "Violators will die!"

The driver inside the vehicle, just an ordinary soldier, was apparently so intimidated by the Giant that he lost focus, causing the vehicle to sway slightly. Fortunately, he quickly stabilized and continued forward.

In an instant, all weapons were aimed at the Giant.

"No one can defy my orders." Seeing the convoy continue to move forward, he revealed a trace of malice, bending down and plucking a large tree, like pulling out a weed, and threw it over here.

The tree flew several kilometers, landing heavily behind the convoy, rolling and breaking several large trees along the way, finally falling into the fields, splashing large amounts of water and mud.

Chen Shouyi gasped, his face full of fear. Such pure strength might even surpass that of the God of Courage.

#### Chapter 255 - Shocking Battle (4k)

Just as everyone was still in shock, the giant lowered his head and looked at a four-story building not far away.

The building, standing at just four stories, barely reached the giant's knees; it seemed like a model to him. Without much effort, he easily plucked the entire structure with his hands.

The next moment, he forcefully hurled it towards here.

The building tumbled wildly in the sky, disintegrating continuously in mid-air, producing a wooshing sound. At a certain moment, Chen Shouyi even felt as if he were in a dream, everything appeared so unreal.

"Boom!" The structure crashed into the nearby farmland, kicking up a large swath of mud.

At the same time, numerous disintegrated concrete blocks fell like a barrage of missiles from the sky. The lightest ones weighed less than a pound, while the heaviest ones weighed several tons.

"Not good!" Chen Shouyi watched as a massive wall rolled towards him, secretly exclaiming in alarm.

He quickly drew his arrow and pulled the bowstring, but someone acted faster than him.

In the blink of an eye, the gigantic wall had already been shattered by arrows striking in the air, and then more arrows further broke down the large chunks of concrete into smaller stones.

The stones landed on the convoy, creating a dense clattering sound, but no longer had much impact.

Ye Zong drew another arrow, pulled the bowstring aimed at the distant giant, Lightning coiled around the Electromagnetic Cannon Arrow, "Boom" an arrow shot out, but unfortunately, the distance was simply too great, it missed the target. With a grim expression, he said:

"Five people in the vehicle, stay to protect the convoy; the rest follow me to divert this giant."

"Be careful!" Sun Mengyuan said nervously.

Ye Zong nodded slightly, then leaped from the roof of the vehicle, followed closely by Luo Jingwen and Zhang Wenlong. The three did not follow the road but headed straight for the farmland.

It was the season when the rice paddies were full of water, their toes tapped on the paddies, like explosions, splashing huge waves of water. They continued fast, with their speed no less hindered.

Ye Zong shot arrows while running.

Although the giant was still quite far away, roughly two or three kilometers, at such a distance Ye Zong's Electromagnetic Cannon Arrow would barely have any power if it hit.

Bullets and projectiles with the same initial speed, the projectile's range is more than ten times that of a bullet. The lighter the mass, the more affected it is by air resistance, decelerating more noticeably during flight.

This was why the martial artists from the Capital City were somewhat disdainful when seeing the arrows prepared by Hedong, though heavy arrows had slower initial speeds, within the first hundred meters may not match regular arrows, but at medium to long distances, the speed would be faster than regular arrows and with much greater power.

However, perhaps the giant felt that these three posed a greater threat; his attention was immediately drawn to them, directing his attacks at the trio.

Chen Shouyi watched the giant's fierce attacks with a grim expression, glanced around the vehicle cage, and chosen a spot at the bottom back side of the car head, then unsheathed his sword, slashing open

with one swing, followed by several more, then using his fingers to open the gap. With a tooth-aching sound, the iron sheet was bent open by his fingers.

Inside was the driver's cabin, with a small gap behind the seat. Chen Shouyi pulled out the Shell Lady from his bosom and placed her in the small hole, looking at the Shell Lady who looked uneasy, he softly said: "Stay hidden here, don't come out."

At this moment, he felt some regret, he really shouldn't have brought her out, it's too dangerous here.

"Great giant, where are you going?" The Shell Lady nervously clung to Chen Shouyi's finger, holding back fear as she spoke.

"I'll be around nearby, don't be afraid!"

"I'm not afraid, the little one is the bravest!" The Shell Lady forced a thin smile, slowly loosening her grip.

"Yes, you're the best behaved. When we get back, I'll give you a big gem!" Chen Shouyi comforted.

"Yes!" Shell Lady nodded firmly.

Chen Shouyi stood up, walked aside, glanced at the Shell Lady hiding in the darkness inside the small hole, watching himself intently, and sighed lightly.

"Already settled your little girlfriend?" Xiao Changming intently watched the distant, raging giant, and whispered.

"It's a daughter!" Chen Shouyi corrected expressionlessly, watching the giant.

The gentle breeze blew from afar, filled with a furious aura; the giant had been completely enraged. He began taking big strides towards Ye Zong and the others, trees swayed violently, several small buildings

along the way were directly kicked apart by his feet, countless pieces of concrete, seemed to defy gravity, flying into the air.

With just a few steps, the giant had already left the village and entered the farmland, instantly triggering a massive wave.

"Ye Zong, they're in danger."

Chen Shouyi's expression became heavy, noting to himself.

The three in the farmland quickly retreated, continually firing arrows. In no time, the distance between them and the giant had narrowed to less than a kilometer. At such a distance, to the giant, even at a leisurely pace, it was only twenty to thirty steps away, if he started running, it would only take seconds.

Chen Shouyi felt a sudden wetness on his face, instinctively wiped it, finding a hand full of mud.

How far it splashed out!

"Roar!" Suddenly, the giant let out an angry roar, the sound was like thunder, the car windows shattered one after another. Chen Shouyi sharply saw thin strands of blood seeping from his throat: "Foolish humans, I'll crush you to pulp."

He pulled out an arrow the size of a needle from his throat, covering his eyes with one hand, began to furiously dash towards the three, and with one motion, his body became enveloped in a cloud.

Chapter 256 - Shocking Battle

Chen Shouyi's heart suddenly tensed up, and he gripped the war bow tightly.

These three were the strongest in the team for this mission. If they were to die, the mission might end in total failure, and whether he could survive was also unknown.

In the dim moonlight, Luo Jingwen and Zhang Wenlong quickly dispersed. Only Ye Zong stood still, electric arcs entwining his body, holding the war bow, and releasing arrow after arrow at the fast-approaching giant. The frequency of his electromagnetic cannon arrows was slow, requiring considerable time to prepare, taking almost a second for each arrow.

Chen Shouyi watched the distant battle without blinking.

With the first arrow, only a small blood flower burst on the giant's body, and the distance between them had closed to seven hundred meters.

With the second arrow, the wound on the giant grew to the size of a bowl, and the distance had decreased to less than four hundred meters.

The violent wind made the surrounding rice fields rapidly lay flat.

Ye Zong quickly took out another arrow and drew it back in an instant, bright electric light blazing from his entire body. He paused slightly, waiting until the giant approached within a hundred meters. The next moment, a faint red light flashed by.

This was the arrow starting to burn due to the intense friction with the air.

Before a response could form, the giant's hand shielding his eyes exploded with a bloody hole. Following that was its sturdy skeleton capable of supporting its massive body under three times Earth's gravity, but under such a terrifying electromagnetic cannon arrow, it fared little better than tofu. Its forehead immediately blasted open a large hole of thirty to forty centimeters, while the completely shattered tungsten steel arrow turned into a stream of metal, mashing the brain into a pulp.

The giant's body trembled slightly, continuing with inertia for one step, then staggered in its stride. The massive body fell to the ground, raising a huge splash of mud.

Meanwhile, Ye Zong had already retreated several dozen meters away.

Strong, incredibly strong!

Chen Shouyi opened his mouth slightly, shocked at heart.

This exaggerated attack power was simply inconceivable.

The giant's performance was not much worse than what he had seen from the God of Courage, perhaps even stronger.

In another world, this giant might not compare to the God of Courage, but on Earth, it might truly not surpass this giant.

"Director Ye, truly amazing!" Sun Mengyuan's eyes shone with starlight, she exclaimed excitedly.

"Director Ye can already be called a Martial God. I had only heard rumors of Godslayer before, but now I've truly witnessed it!" Lu Shouhu said, stunned.

"Eye-opening!" Xiao Changming sighed with emotion.

At this moment, Chen Shouyi noticed many barbarians running out from all parts of the village, desperately fleeing, interspersed with quite a few humans. Clearly, with the giant's death, all resistance forces had completely collapsed.

Ye Zong and his group did not return to the convoy but instead headed straight for the village.

Soon, a massacre began.

"Should we go?" Lei Ruiyang asked, unable to contain himself. From the start until now, he hadn't killed a single barbarian, and as a martial artist respected in Hedong City, he felt somewhat humiliated.

"No, ensuring the convoy's safety is more important than anything." Lu Shouhu solemnly rejected.

...

"Chug Chug Chug..."

A few minutes later, the speeding convoy finally stopped in front of the airship.

The soldiers who had already changed into protective suits on the way quickly leapt off the trucks, and several others, including Chen Shouyi, disembarked with bows in hand. He looked up, shocked by the gigantic airship before him.

It was enormous, towering nearly a hundred meters high, and its length spanned the equivalent of three or four soccer fields. For an average person to walk from one end to the other would take seven to eight minutes, and standing beneath it felt like being an insignificant ant.

The village occasionally echoed with the sound of arrows, and the smell of blood gradually filled the air.

The soldiers swiftly entered through the airship's opening. These strategic unit soldiers almost all had the strength of a martial artist apprentice, moving nimbly. Five to six minutes later, the first nuclear warhead was carried by several people and placed into a fully enclosed compartment.

Chen Shouyi glanced over and felt a chill run down his spine. He glanced at the others and found they weren't feeling much better. Apart from the strategic unit soldiers who often dealt with nuclear warheads, probably no one could face a nuclear bomb without trembling.

Just imagining a nuclear explosion vaporizing everyone here felt unnatural.

Fortunately, such a thing didn't happen.

The retrieval of the nuclear warheads went quite smoothly.

In total, fifteen nuclear warheads were moved, taking a full hour. The last one was carried and pushed out of the airship by over a dozen soldiers, the largest of them all, estimated to weigh three to four tons.

Xiao Changming and Lei Ruiyang jogged over to help, but the soldiers declined, handling it with independent care and caution into the compartment.

The convoy continued onward, heading for another airship.

Chen Shouyi noticed Ye Zong and his group standing there, covered in mud, with a group of people not far away.

This group numbered about seventy or eighty people, most wearing protective suits.

His gaze swept over their faces one by one.

Joy, excitement, fear, worry, as well as hatred, rejection—emotions varied widely,

and everyone jumped down from the vehicles.

"Director Ye, who are these people?" the strategic unit's major stepped forward and inquired.

"Major Qi, these are researchers captured by the barbarians! A few had already become cultists and were killed by me," Ye Zong said calmly. "But there are likely more among them!"

"Leave it to us to handle." Major Qi said that the military already had an effective method for identifying cultists. He called over a soldier: "Zhang Luoshan, send a squad over for screening. Those stubbornly refusing to repent, execute them on the spot."

"Yes, sir."

The crowd fell into a commotion, fear flashing across several faces. One person even attempted to flee amid the chaos.

The next moment, his head exploded from an arrow, and he fell face-first to the ground.

Chen Shouyi, with a cold expression, drew another arrow, and seeing this, the crowd fell silent, not daring to make a noise.

The soldiers began the screening, using a method not too different from what he had encountered at the checkpoint on his way through Dongning. It wasn't until the third person that something occurred:

"I'm a professor at Ningzhou University. This is my belief. The mind is free, and so is belief. No one can defile my belief. I want to see your commanding officer," said an excited middle-aged man loudly.

A soldier seemed uncertain, looking at his squad leader.

"Why are you looking at me? Take him away!" Zhang Luoshan said coldly, giving a signal.

Two soldiers immediately stepped forward, restraining the middle-aged man's arms. He finally looked panicked and struggled, but as an ordinary man, he couldn't break free. He said angrily, "You are wantonly killing people, acting against common sense. I'm not afraid of death, oh great God of Hunting..."

"Bang!"

A soldier stepped forward and smashed his mouth with the butt of the gun. His mouth was full of blood as he grunted, stunned by the blow, and was subsequently dragged to the corner by the two soldiers. A gunshot rang out, and the body thudded to the ground, convulsing unnaturally.

The crowd was screened one by one.

Fortunately, being under occupation only a short time, few were truly devout believers; most were just superficial believers or non-believers. Under the threat of death, most chose survival, with only five stubbornly unrepentant.

As their blasphemous words were uttered, their faith lines completely severed, dooming them from ever regaining the God of Hunting's faith. In a sense, they had been blacklisted by Him.

The atmosphere became inexplicably oppressive, as if anger permeated the air.

Chen Shouyi felt something and looked up to the moon, which seemed to have been tinged with a faint red hue.

Fortunately, the God of Hunting never appeared from start to finish.

Then, Major Qi suddenly strode to the front of the crowd, his face serious, and said, "One nuclear warhead is missing!"

Chapter 257 - Return

The atmosphere immediately fell silent.

"Have you checked everywhere?" Ye Zong asked in a deep voice.

"We've checked everywhere, but we're missing the smallest nuclear bomb, a kiloton-level one!" Major Qi said solemnly.

Chen Shouyi breathed a slight sigh of relief at this, fortunately, the yield was not large. A kiloton-level nuclear bomb's power could only destroy a village.

Next, the soldiers individually interrogated the researchers one by one. Unfortunately, the research team had only arrived here two days ago, and the nuclear airship, being one of the most advanced strategic weapons for the Great Xia Country to deter other worlds, had a complex internal structure and a vast space. Without blueprints and professional personnel, entering it would result in getting lost.

After being captured by the Barbarians and brought here, all of their work was still in the exploratory and familiarization phase, with no one having touched the nuclear weapons in the nuclear weapon compartment or knowing the whereabouts of the nuclear bomb.

Without finding any clues, Major Qi decisively ordered the convoy to return immediately.

This deep incursion behind enemy lines was extremely dangerous, and there was no time to waste. The missing nuclear bomb couldn't be retrieved in a short time, and compared to the lost small-yield bomb, recovering the twenty-four nuclear bombs was obviously more important.

Moreover, among them were two ten-million-ton-level hydrogen bombs. Should they fall into enemy hands, it would certainly be disastrous for the entire Jiangnan Province and even the whole of Great Xia Country.

...

The convoy slowly drove away from the village.

A large number of black dots kept hovering in the sky.

Yet they dared not descend to court death again. The combat power Ye Zong had displayed was simply too terrifying; without divine intervention, it would be nothing but a futile sacrifice.

Chen Shouyi leaned against the truck bed, glancing at the group of researchers who had been huddled silently in a corner since boarding the vehicle.

Many were in low spirits.

Understandably so, as those who can live without worries being on their own are a minority; the vast majority have families, whether it's parents or spouses and children.

This farewell is probably the last they'll see of them.

Perhaps, in some people's eyes, humanity already had no hope left. The power displayed by the Barbarian God was overwhelming, so much so that it led one to despair. With humanity's technological

might, there was simply no competing against it. In their hearts, this departure was seen not as a rescue, but a return to the flames.

Passing by the Giant, the Giant was still convulsing, making great noise, turning the entire field into a mud pit.

"Thanks to Director Ye this time, otherwise we might have been annihilated!" Luo Jingwen exclaimed, recalling the moment when the Giant charged at them, he'd nearly lost all hope.

Yet, unexpectedly at the last moment, the situation turned around, and one arrow annihilated the Giant.

"Indeed!" Sun Mengyuan also remarked.

"I was just lucky. If I hadn't hit it then, I would have been the one dead. I'm still scared thinking about it." Ye Zong humbly laughed, without the slightest trace of arrogance one would expect from the strong.

At over forty years old, someone like him no longer wore pride on their face.

Chen Shouyi glanced at his watch; it was already 3:30 AM, about two hours before dawn.

The vehicle continued its journey smoothly, not encountering any resistance along the way. By 4:15 AM, the convoy finally entered Luohu City. Seeing the large amount of defensive forces covering the rear on either side of the road, everyone breathed a sigh of relief as the weight on their minds gradually eased.

Seeing the convoy return safely, soldiers in the distance couldn't hold back their cheers, which echoed throughout the night sky!

The warbirds following overhead, under pressure from a large number of anti-aircraft guns, scattered and fled in panic. One of the warbirds was hit by anti-aircraft fire and rapidly plummeted, getting hit by cannon fire mid-air and its body being shredded into bloody fragments, with feathers flying everywhere.

The convoy didn't stop and continued forward, soon leaving Luohu City.

Seeing the occasional trucks appear on the highway, Chen Shouyi breathed a sigh of relief; they were finally safe.

The inside of the vehicle was quiet, with many people beginning to rest with their eyes closed.

He crouched down and spoke to Shell Lady, hiding in a dark little hole: "Little one, you can come out now."

As soon as he finished speaking, Shell Lady hurriedly ran out. Chen Shouyi caught her, feeling her tiny body trembling in his palm, and carefully placed her in his inner pocket.

Today had thoroughly terrified her.

...

At eight o'clock in the morning, Chen Shouyi and the other two got off at the Hedong City entrance of the highway.

The convoy didn't even pause in Hedong, heading straight for the Capital City.

Xiao Changming watched the departing convoy and sighed, "I just realized we're like frogs at the bottom of a well, this really was an eye-opening experience!"

"Yes, there's no comparison, they're just too strong," Lei Ruiyang also sighed.

In this mission, the three of them had barely participated, almost completing it without any effort.

"Let's go!" Chen Shouyi watched the convoy for a while in silence, then said, taking the lead to move forward.

...

By the time he got home, it was already 10:30.

After greeting his parents and sister, he went to his bedroom, arranged his luggage, and then took Shell Lady out from his embrace.

"Big Giant, we've finally come back," Shell Lady said as she looked at the familiar environment, regaining her vitality, a look of relief on her face.

"Are you hungry?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"Yes, I am!"

He immediately took out some honey and prepared a spoonful for her using warm water.

Shell Lady went over and took a few sips, then, suddenly remembering something, looked up: "Big Giant, where's my reward?"

"I haven't forgotten,"

Chen Shouyi stood up, walked to the cabinet, opened a drawer filled with Crystal Balls, picked one up, and placed it in front of Shell Lady: "Here you go!"

Shell Lady hugged the Crystal Ball with delight: "Giant, you're really nice!"

She ate and played, and after a while, yawned. Her nerves had been taut these past two days, and she hadn't slept well. Now, as she relaxed, she was overcome with drowsiness and soon fell asleep on the Crystal Ball.

Chen Shouyi carefully picked up her body and placed her on the bed. Having returned, he retrieved the Crystal Ball and placed it in another drawer of the cabinet, which was filled with her collection of Glass Beads and Crystal Balls.

After finishing everything, he sat on the bed, quietly contemplating:

"Judging by my assessment, my strength has now reached that of a true Martial Artist, though with significant flaws. My strength is somewhat weaker, akin to a great Martial Artist, but my agility has surpassed the Martial Artist Level, thus reducing my long-range attack power. However, in close combat, I should be on par with an ordinary Martial Artist."

Thinking of this, he felt a spark of inspiration, lay on the bed, closed his eyes, and entered the Memory Space.

He chose the memory from yesterday afternoon when he had a conflict with Sun Mengyuan to enter.

The reason for choosing this memory was that, over the past two days, it was the only instance where he met with a single Martial Artist; all other times, he was surrounded by a group, making a fight disruptive and prone to encirclement.

Additionally, Sun Mengyuan was one of the two weakest Martial Artists who had come from the Capital City this time.

Chapter 258 - Awkwardness (Part 1)

The space shifted, and when he came to his senses, he was already in the small forest.

The next moment, he heard footsteps.

Sun Mengyuan was hurrying over, her face vaguely anxious.

Chen Shouyi clenched his fist, a wicked smile appearing on his face: "Let me see how powerful you are?"

He still remembered Sun Mengyuan's nasty attitude at the time, but in reality, there were too many concerns and restrictions making it hard to act. However, in the Memory Space, there were no such concerns; he could do whatever he wanted.

Sun Mengyuan saw Chen Shouyi and was slightly stunned, stopping in her tracks, and said coldly, "What are you doing?"

Seeing she wasn't carrying a long sword, Chen Shouyi didn't plan to use a weapon to bully. He tossed his sword to the ground, sneering coldly:

"Doing you!"

Sun Mengyuan was taken aback, and just as she appeared bewildered, Chen Shouyi tapped the ground with his toes, his body darting forwards like a nimble swallow.

"Looking to die!" Sun Mengyuan was enraged, and with a vigorous stomp, there was a booming sound as the turf shook. She dashed towards Chen Shouyi like an arrow, the wind caused by her movement howling eerily, as she reached out to grab his shoulder.

Chen Shouyi stopped in his tracks, reaching out to brush away her arm.

"Slap!"

Chen Shouyi's hair fluttered as he immediately stepped back to relieve the force, feeling astonished as his palm was somewhat numb from the shock!

"What terrifying explosive power! A female martial artist, yet her strength is more ferocious than Xiao Changming and Lei Ruiyang."

Generally, female martial artists tend to be weaker in terms of strength and explosive power compared to male martial artists due to innate factors, but they surpass males in agility and are more refined in technique.

However, Sun Mengyuan was obviously not at the initial level of a martial artist; her strength was likely fifty percent greater than his.

After Sun Mengyuan's initial strike was blocked, her foot flashed, and with a whip-like kick, she aimed fiercely at Chen Shouyi's side. He blocked once again, but her legs were as agile as hands, attacking like a storm, either aiming at the head or the waist.

Yet Chen Shouyi could sense that she wasn't using lethal force; each strike was not too powerful, and most of the force was retracted when it touched his arm, using only explosive energy.

"A bit of skill, but to provoke me, you're still not worthy!" Sun Mengyuan said coldly, without expression.

"Really?" Chen Shouyi sneered, and next, his hand grabbed her long leg, swinging it forcefully to the side.

Sun Mengyuan's body spun in the air several times, just landing when a figure approached like the wind. With a loud bang, a fist halted in front of her face, the punch's force exploding like a blast, causing ripples in her skin and her hair to flutter wildly.

"Get serious, or you'll die." Chen Shouyi said coldly.

He noticed a serious problem: the opponent wasn't alert at all, nor did she harbor any intent to kill, merely fighting with the thought of teaching him a lesson, constantly holding back in battle, afraid of seriously injuring him, which wouldn't achieve the effect of sparring.

"Do you dare to kill me?" Sun Mengyuan's face showed a mocking expression.

"Boom!"

He sent his punch forward, hitting her nose heavily, causing it to slant, her nose bleeding profusely.

In reality, he wouldn't dare, but in the Memory Space, what didn't he dare do?

"You... I'm going to kill you!" Sun Mengyuan suddenly became furious, punching fiercely at Chen Shouyi's chest. He hurriedly retreated a step, but his chest was still grazed by the punch, his clothes bursting open, his body blown away.

Fortunately, his defense was strong; apart from his chest hurting and almost losing breath, he wasn't seriously injured.

Bang!

Chen Shouyi's body crashed into a large tree, his back shaking, his feet landing, and then he quickly avoided as the tree bark exploded under the punch's wind. His expression unchanged, he threw a punch towards her chest.

Sun Mengyuan deftly dodged, her teeth clenched, her face full of intense killing intent, then delivered an elbow strike towards Chen Shouyi's head.

The two engaged in high-speed combat, grass leaves, dirt mixed with torn fabric flying everywhere, and as they moved, the grass continuously burst open into craters.

The more Chen Shouyi fought, the more exhilarated he became.

The opponent's strength was quite formidable, far surpassing Xiao Changming and others, even making him feel pressured. Chen Shouyi estimated that her agility was only about ten percent less than his, which, in battle, wasn't enough to completely dominate, but her explosive attack speed exceeded his by far.

In terms of attributes, agility only represents nerve reaction ability, which brings faster attack frequency, not the speed of the attack itself, which only relates to muscle explosiveness.

Just like a frog, its striking speed is only a fifth of the blink of a human eye, but its nerve reaction ability, or agility, cannot reach such an astonishing level and is even somewhat slow, allowing an ordinary person to catch it barehanded.

After a few seconds of intense fighting, for some reason, her body suddenly stiffened slightly. In a fight between experts, there is no room for negligence. Chen Shouyi immediately seized the flaw, took a step forward, and punched Sun Mengyuan's side, her chest retreated to unload the force, but she was still hit, bones breaking visibly, her body quickly flying back like a ball.

After a successful move, as Chen Shouyi rushed up, Sun Mengyuan kicked him back.

Sun Mengyuan twisted her body in the air and fell awkwardly on the ground in a defensive stance, her gaze like a she-wolf staring at Chen Shouyi, blood slowly oozing from her mouth. She spat out bloody foam, shouting fiercely, "Come on..."

Chen Shouyi prepared to attack again but stopped awkwardly when he saw her body.

Her clothes, through the fight, were practically in tatters, exposing a thick black tight wrap around her chest, evidently to avoid embarrassment during combat.

From her smooth thigh's inner side, trickles of water continued flowing down, mixed with a pungent smell of urine.

He recalled her hurried figure from before and how, in reality, she had told him to leave.

Could it be that she was about to relieve herself?

What a mess!

...

Chen Shouyi quickly left the Memory Space.

Fortunately, this was all fake, and a little embarrassment was quickly dispelled, his mind gradually calming down.

"Last time, the retraction task of the nuclear bomb was of great importance. Those participating, even the weakest, Sun Mengyuan, were likely not new martial artists!

Moreover, as a female martial artist, Sun Mengyuan's strength surpassed Xiao Changming's, likely reaching one thousand two hundred kilograms. This level of a martial artist couldn't be a newly advanced one either."

He sat up from the bed, paced back and forth in the bedroom, his mind pondering: "If martial artists are divided into novice, normal, senior, and peak martial artists, I should have already passed the novice stage. Whether I am considered a senior martial artist is unknown, but at least a normal one! As for Xiao Changming and Lei Ruiyang, they might just be peak great martial artists or quasi martial artists."

"Alas, my strength is still too weak." Chen Shouyi sighed.

The current situation isn't very stable. If the God of Hunting regains his strength and expands again, even Hedong City might be affected.

He checked his attribute panel and found that his energy had decreased by 0.05 points: "Can't waste like this again next time, the extra energy must be accumulated for further optimization!"

At this point, the door was suddenly knocked on, and his sister Chen Xingyue called from outside:

"Brother, mom's calling you for dinner."

"Oh, I'm coming," Chen Shouyi responded, snapping back to consciousness.

Chapter 259 - Viscera Refinement Complete

A few days later, the City Government finally confirmed the treatment for Chen Shouyi.

This time, it wasn't Bai Xiaoling from the City Government coming over to sign the new treatment contract, but a Deputy Director of the Provincial Office.

In the villa's tea room, Chen Shouyi was skimming through the new treatment contract.

"I wonder if you are satisfied with the contract. If you have any requests, the Provincial Government can consider them and try to meet them if possible," the Deputy Director said cautiously with a polite smile.

Indeed, being a Martial Artist made a significant difference. The treatment and attention from the Provincial Government were drastically different from before. Not only had his salary and allowance increased by four to five times, but now all weapon expenses, including bow and sword purchases, would be signed off by the Provincial Government, though for his use only.

Chen Shouyi sighed slightly, then flipped to the last page and said, "No problem."

He picked up a pen and quickly signed the treatment contract.

In fact, the reason why the authorities were able to decide his treatment so quickly, even alerting the Provincial Government, was entirely due to a dispatch letter from the Capital City.

This unreasonable demand was naturally ignored and tossed into the trash by the province; they wouldn't allow a valuable Martial Artist to be taken away to the Capital City when they finally got one.

After that, Chen Shouyi's treatment was swiftly confirmed.

As for not being fully evaluated, it wasn't an issue at all.

Chen Shouyi was only eighteen, and even if there was still a way to go before becoming a Martial Artist, with such outstanding talent, as long as nothing happened to him, achieving Martial Artist status was certain. Securing his treatment first and retaining the talent was a priority.

...

Just after Chen Shouyi sent off the Deputy Director, Chen Xingyue came down the stairs.

"Brother, what were you discussing?" she asked curiously.

"Just chatting casually!" Chen Shouyi replied perfunctorily.

At this moment, seeing Chen Xingyue stepping towards the treatment contract on the coffee table with curiosity, Chen Shouyi quickly snatched the contract with an arrow-like move.

"You... you're so stingy," Chen Xingyue said, her anger flaring at her brother's protective actions.

"This is a confidential document with a level of secrecy. Can you look at it?" Chen Shouyi said with a serious face.

"Another lousy excuse, just say you don't want me to see it; it's definitely nothing good!" Chen Xingyue retorted sharply.

Unfortunately, Chen Shouyi was not affected at all: "Alright then, I'll say it— I just don't want you to see it!"

Huff! Annoyed, Chen Xingyue gritted her teeth, staring at her brother's infuriating smirk, wishing to give him a hard bite, preferably drawing blood. She sneered, "Do you think I care? I don't even want to see it."

Watching his sister's retreating back, Chen Shouyi sighed internally:

Alas, it's so painful to wear brocade clothes at night—can't even boast in front of his sister.

He quickly walked to the garbage bin outside, rubbed his hands vigorously, and the contract bearing the Provincial government's seal turned into countless shredded pieces, fluttering as they fell.

...

In the evening, Chen Shouyi sat at his desk, flipping through a book page by page. It wasn't long before he reached the last page, gently closing the book.

The three characters "Eight Pieces of Brocade" on the cover were written in large, dignified script.

This was a Qi Gong manual.

Chen Shouyi frowned slightly, tapping his fingers lightly on the desk. As optimization approached, he read more and more martial arts books to provide insights and directions for the optimization of the Book of Knowledge.

Qi Gong, naturally, could not be omitted, nor could the three pulses and seven chakras system of Yoga.

Out of curiosity, Chen Shouyi secretly practiced, now accumulating various skills in the skill bar. Examples included Mixed Element Qi Gong (novice), Guiding Health Qi Gong (novice), and Yoga Skill (novice).

Unfortunately, these primitive versions didn't significantly enhance his strength,

though it might be that practice time was still short and thus not yet evident.

"Good giant!" the Shell Lady called from nearby.

Chen Shouyi snapped out of his thoughts and turned his head. "What is it?"

"Nothing, just calling you!" she responded while pushing a crystal ball without lifting her head.

She then lined this crystal ball up with the others; seven crystal balls were arranged in a neat line.

She clapped her hands and asked Chen Shouyi, "It's exhausting, does it look good?"

"It looks good," Chen Shouyi replied casually.

"When I arrange all the gems, it'll look even better," the Shell Lady said gleefully.

Watching her tirelessly indulging, Chen Shouyi's forehead was covered with black lines.

...

At midnight, silence reigned.

Chen Shouyi sat cross-legged on the bed, entering a deep state of meditation.

A colorful and vivid four-dimensional image of the human body clearly emerged in his mind.

Bright red and finely detailed muscles, flowing blood vessels and lymphatic tissues, a nerve system as dense as a web, the wriggling stomach, the beating heart... all forming a grand and awe-inspiring picture.

However, compared to the muscles and other tissues outside the chest cavity, the internal organs within the chest appeared slightly dimmer.

But this almost imperceptible disparity was rapidly closing at a visible pace.

Time passed second by second...

At a certain moment, the entire image suddenly trembled slightly, and then, the image began to slowly expand, with numerous dimly intertwined lines at the edges extending towards the skeleton, gradually sketching the outline of the bones...

...

Chen Shouyi opened his eyes, a trace of joy flickering across his face.

"Finally finished refining the organs!"

He glanced at the Shell Lady beside him, tiptoed off the bed, perhaps it was an illusion, but having completely refined the organs, he felt both his entire body felt unified and harmonious inside and out.

Every move made the internal organs respond with a subtle wriggle.

This feeling was incredibly wonderful, as if his body were rejuvenated.

Then suddenly, as he thought of something, his heartbeat began to slow, dropping from thirty or forty beats per minute, quickly down to twenty, then ten...

Ordinarily, a person cannot control their internal organs. Most controllable muscles are skeletal muscles, while the internal organs consist of smooth muscles and the heart's myocardium—those are not controllable by human will.

But this doesn't apply to those who have achieved inner refinement and completed organ refinement.

A few seconds later, his heart stopped completely.

Initially, there was no noticeable difference compared to when it was beating. But after about five minutes, he began to feel weak.

However, this weakness progressed slowly.

He paced back and forth in the bedroom, watching the time attentively.

After eight minutes passed, his body began to go limp, nearly collapsing to the floor, his head buzzing with dizziness. He quickly supported himself against the wall, slowly sitting down.

By ten minutes, his body had grown increasingly feeble, his vision turning intermittently dark.

"Is ten minutes really the limit?" Chen Shouyi pondered thoughtfully, then released control, prompting the heart to beat again, as the sensation of strength returning pervaded his body, he exhaled a breath of impure air, clenched his fists, and stood up.

"Ten minutes is more than enough time. Even if the heart were removed, the speed of Natural Healing would suffice to repair all injuries, including the heart, before death," he thought, excitement glittering in his eyes amidst the darkness.

"If it weren't for this experiment, I wouldn't have known that the heart isn't an absolutely lethal part for me anymore, not much different from other internal organs."

Chapter 260 - Species Invasion

"Boom!"

A large tree the size of a sea bowl was directly knocked flying several meters away and fell to the ground, stirring up a cloud of dust.

Chen Shouyi withdrew his fist and looked at the back of his hand.

The back of his hand was slightly red, but the redness quickly faded away. Then he gave his hand a gentle shake, and the air exploded with a "pop" sound. The wood chips and dirt on his hand were instantly shaken off, leaving his palm clean and smooth, fair and delicate.

He mused for a moment, then rolled up his sleeve, quickly drew his sword, and applied a little force to cut his arm.

He found it completely unharmed.

He applied more force, and only when he used thirty percent of his strength did he make a shallow cut on the oily surface.

His face showed some surprise. This sword was no ordinary weapon; it was the relic of the former Director of the Third Investigative Bureau, Cao Zhenhua, whom he had killed. Razor-sharp, and despite frequent battles since he acquired it, the blade had yet to show any signs of wear.

"Back in Dongning, over ten days ago, my body could withstand pistol bullets. Now I suspect even a rifle wouldn't harm me," Chen Shouyi thought:

"Maybe I should get a rifle to test it out!"

After becoming a Divine Creature, with his extraordinary physique soaring to an Energy of 16, his progress had been rapid. Since returning from the last mission, seven days had passed, and during this short period, his strength and agility had each improved by 0.1.

Now his strength had reached 15.2, and his agility had reached 15.1.

As for his body's toughness, it had increased sharply.

Chen Shouyi opened his attribute panel to check the Energy Value:

"8.92, finally close to nine. I can further optimize tonight." He thought.

After resting for a while, he played with the Shell Lady for a bit and then continued practicing the thirty-six poses of Horizontal Training.

Even though the Cultivation Technique could be advanced to a more powerful version at night, he didn't want to give himself any excuse to slack off.

The atmosphere in Hedong was becoming increasingly tense, with five nuclear-strategic airships already docked in the sky over Hedong.

After half an hour of practice, Chen Shouyi once again exhausted his physical strength.

Looking at his swollen, reddened muscles, he squeezed them hard, feeling the density.

"My weight is increasing!" Chen Shouyi sighed.

Previously, he weighed about eighty kilograms, but since practicing the thirty-six poses of Horizontal Training, although his physique didn't change much, his weight had been increasing day by day. A few days ago, he borrowed his sister's scale and found he weighed over a hundred kilograms, a whole twenty kilograms heavier.

This was clearly a side effect of Horizontal Training.

The Shell Lady sat on the grass, eagerly playing games with a group of pitifully white-fat insects.

Sometimes lining them up, other times stacking them, until several were on the brink of death, motionless.

Suddenly her ears twitched, she stood up and ran towards Chen Shouyi, nimbly climbing onto his shoulder and nervously grabbing his hair, saying, "A Giant's coming to eat the little things."

Chen Shouyi was momentarily stunned and listened closely, indeed hearing a rustling sound from afar.

Probably not a mouse or snake, maybe at most a pheasant.

In fact, thanks to Chen Shouyi's repeated cleansing, particularly with the human radar Shell Lady's assistance, not even a mouse hiding in holes was spared in this several hundred meters radius area. Only harmless insects to Shell Lady were left; no sparrows dared land in the nearby woods.

This creature was evidently an unknown intruder unaware of the danger here.

"Don't worry, I'll go take a look." Seeing Shell Lady's nervous face, Chen Shouyi comforted her, felt his strength had somewhat recovered, stood up with effort, and slowly headed over.

The rustling sound grew louder.

"Seems rather large," Chen Shouyi thought, somewhat surprised.

He followed a path toward a bramble thicket.

Suddenly a grey shadow shot out like a flash and leaped towards Chen Shouyi.

His hand moved, but in his exhausted state, his reaction was sluggish, the next moment, a grey snake as thick as his arm bit down hard on his arm, not letting go.

"This snake has a massive bite force!" Chen Shouyi marveled, his expression unchanged, grabbed the snake's head and neck, and directly pulled it off, even breaking its teeth.

He glanced at his arm, aside from some bite marks, the skin was unbroken.

"Huh, it's not a snake."

This creature had three pairs of legs on its sides, with a crocodile-like flat head full of jagged, terrifying teeth. Except for its elongated snake-like body, it had no relation to snakes.

"No, this isn't an Earth creature, it's from an alien world." He furrowed his brow; all terrestrial vertebrates on Earth evolved from early fish with four pairs of fins, thus having at most four legs. But this bizarre creature had six legs.

This little monster screeched sharply, its body convulsing violently. The terrifying sight startled the Shell Lady, making faint light glimmer around her, tightly clinging to Chen Shouyi's hair, shrinking back repeatedly, her voice whimpered, urging, "Giant, quickly kill it, kill it!"

Chen Shouyi snapped back, exerted force with both hands, "crack," and the strange creature's neck was squeezed flat. He casually threw it to the ground. Seeing it still struggling violently, he stomped hard on it, and it ceased any movement.

"Has the otherworldly invasion become so severe?" Chen Shouyi's face grew solemn, thinking, "Such creatures pose a significant threat to ordinary people."

The Shell Lady, still frightened, finally let out a long breath and settled on Chen Shouyi's shoulder, saying, "Giant, you're amazing!"

"Of course!" Chen Shouyi said casually.

Next, he patrolled the forest but found nothing more.

"Seems it's just a sporadic spread from elsewhere."

...

"Hey handsome!"

Just arriving at the Safe Zone, Chen Shouyi was greeted by a girl about Chen Xingyue's age wearing a green dress and a ponytail, waving at him:

"Don't you remember me? I'm Lin Yawen, we met on the train a month ago." Lin Yawen said with embarrassment.

After not seeing him for a month, he seemed even more attractive, particularly his clear and bright eyes, exuding a mysterious charm.

"Oh, of course, I remember, you're that young lady!" Chen Shouyi's memory didn't fail him, and he wouldn't forget. He stopped and said, "So, you've moved to Hedong now?"

"I've been here a while, didn't get to ask last time, are you a Martial Artist too?"

"Indeed." Chen Shouyi nodded perfunctorily, then pretended to check his watch, saying, "I have something to do, let's chat next time, gotta go!"

"Oh, then I won't bother you." Lin Yawen replied, somewhat disappointed.

As Chen Shouyi walked ahead, Lin Yawen watched his figure receding into the distance, unable to resist asking, "What's your name?"

"Chen Shouyi!" Chen Shouyi replied without turning back.