

New Era 351

Chapter 351: River God (Double-Length)

Because from the moment one steps forward to the moment their foot lands takes time.

This isn't something he can decide; it's determined by gravity.

However, in the alien world with triple gravity, he can take 17.3 steps per second. Although each step's distance has shortened, the frequency compensates for everything, making his speed not only faster than on Earth but also more agile.

In just a few minutes, Chen Shouyi crossed over a mountain ridge.

He quickly stopped and flattened his body to the ground.

A few kilometers ahead is a large river valley, where a sprawling Barbarian Tribe is located by the wide river.

This is a thriving tribe that has developed a considerable civilization; the stone buildings in the center form a town's prototype. By the riverbank, many barbarians can be seen casting nets to fish.

He wouldn't believe for a moment that such a tribe doesn't have a divine presence backing it.

Even further, there are other similar tribes.

These martial artists are truly bold.

To dare approach such a Barbarian Tribe, even he would hesitate facing such a tribe.

The female martial artist stopped but didn't have time to speak before running to the side, starting to vomit violently, almost bringing up bile.

Chen Shouyi glanced around and didn't see a few martial artists' shadows. Once she recovered, he asked, "Where are they?"

"Just ahead, around that big rock." The female martial artist said weakly, her face pale.

"Stay here, I'll go take a look," said Chen Shouyi coldly.

Bringing her was just a burden, offering no help at all; he spoke without waiting for her consent, then crouched like a stealthy cat, landing silently and swiftly moving forward.

The rock ahead is more of a small mountain than a boulder.

It stands about thirty to forty meters high, over a hundred meters wide, protruding from the wasteland like an ox horn.

Chen Shouyi traversed quickly, his speed surpassing a martial artist's run. Tens of seconds later, he cautiously rounded the rock.

The terrain here is high, offering a vast view; he's close to the tribe, with the closest barbarians already over two hundred meters away. Yet apart from some fresh bloodstains and a lot of chaotic footprints ahead, he didn't see any sign of the four martial artists.

"Judging by the string of shoe prints and bloodstains on the ground, these people attempted to escape but barely managed over a hundred meters before it all ended; they were either killed or captured."

Chen Shouyi pondered internally, then looked at the three barbarians ahead.

The three held long spears, chatting idly with boredom, occasionally glancing around.

"Apparently the discovery of human martial artists made the tribe enhance their guards," Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

He flattened his body, silently observing the environment; trees here are short and sparse, mostly grasses and shrubs, making it hard to hide. However, with the barbarians' lax discipline, there's not much to worry about.

A cold wind blew by, causing the grass to rustle. Using the cover of the grass, he silently sprinted toward some short trees, covering dozens of meters within a breath, hiding behind a short tree before the barbarians could sweep their gaze around.

After waiting for a while, he moved again.

...

Tens of seconds later, he was only thirty meters from the barbarians.

"Those aliens have such white skin, where could they have come from?" wondered a barbarian.

"Probably from the east of the Great Mountain. Their weapons are quite impressive, killing over a dozen of our tribesmen, even injuring Ancient Power, our leader."

"Ancient Power, our leader, wasn't paying attention; otherwise, with his strength, he wouldn't have been injured," another barbarian retorted.

"I meant Ancient Power wasn't paying attention,"

"You didn't say!"

"I did say it!"

As the two barbarians argued, a shadow appeared ghost-like and floated over.

One barbarian happened to glimpse this and was scared out of his wits, about to scream. Before he could, a sword light flashed like a venomous snake, piercing from his chin through the top of his skull.

Chen Shouyi swiftly withdrew his sword, lightly shaking it, then executed the barbarian beside with a swift stroke.

The last barbarian finally reacted, his expression changing drastically.

But it was already too late, a hand grabbed his throat, pressing him into the grass, stifling his cry.

Only then did the two bodies fall successively.

"Answer me one question for one I ask, or you die," Chen Shouyi coldly said, one hand gripping the throat and the other aiming a sword tip at the forehead.

The barbarian was terrified, his face turning waxy, sobbing with tears and snot dripping, his body trembling like a sieve.

The intimidation worked effectively.

He slowly loosened his grip.

"Great River God above, you can't kill me, sob sob, you can't kill me."

Chen Shouyi saw the barbarian was on the verge of a mental collapse out of fright, relieved that not every alien world barbarian was steadfast.

"Where is the River God?"

"Of course, in the Divine Country!" the barbarian stammered.

Chen Shouyi's heart sank, even though he had anticipated it, confirmation still weighed like a stone against his chest, making him feel out of breath.

The invading Barbarian God on Earth is entirely different from the one in the alien world's domain.

The former is just a strong creature with certain extraordinary abilities.

The latter truly deserves to be called a deity.

Perhaps sensing Chen Shouyi's trepidation, the barbarian regained some courage and loftily said, "Alien, you'd better let me go, or the great River God will bring divine punishment."

The Barbarian God wasn't their babysitter; losing a few barbarians would go unnoticed.

His expression chilled as he pressed the sword slightly, piercing the skin and the skull.

The barbarian felt the cold sword tip against his forehead, his throat clicking with fear: "Sob sob, don't... don't kill me, I'll tell you everything."

"Where are my companions?" Chen Shouyi asked coldly.

"Captured... captured!"

So there are survivors, Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

Figuring it made sense; the tribe discovering aliens wouldn't kill them all, but certainly interrogate them. As long as the martial artists were smart, they wouldn't be executed quickly.

He glanced at the sun leaning west.

Time was approaching evening, nightfall was four to five hours away.

No hurry for now.

Chen Shouyi pondered briefly, drove the sword into the skull, the body convulsing repeatedly, mouth and nose bleeding.

Without a glance, he pulled out the sword, sheathed it, and swiftly returned to the original location.

The female martial artist hesitated: "Chief Advisor..."

"Your companions were captured by the barbarians. I'll act tonight; let's go back first," said Chen Shouyi.

The female martial artist dared not say more.

The return journey didn't require a rush; in a matter of ten minutes, the two were back outside the Fluorite Cave:

"You may go back!" Chen Shouyi said coldly.

"But..."

"There's no 'but'!" Chen Shouyi interrupted, "Your task is done; staying here doesn't help, just burdens me. Should I care for you?"

He understood her feelings; those companions handed their sole survival hope to her, whether from basic ethics or mutual camaraderie, she couldn't just leave. After reporting for help, she should act unconcerned, departing alone.

Understanding is one thing, but he didn't want the burden lingering here.

This rescue mission is dangerous; accidents could happen at any moment. If alerted the Barbarian God, he'd be forced to flee, unable to look after her then.

Chapter 352: Infiltration

The night was crisp and cold.

With the arrival of winter, the forest had become much quieter.

Outside the Fluorite Cave, a campfire burned faintly, occasionally sparking with a few embers.

On a stone-built grill, a piece of thigh meat weighing over a dozen pounds was continuously dripping with oil and fat. The outer fat was slightly charred, emitting an enticing aroma, making one's mouth water uncontrollably.

Chen Shouyi slowly sliced the meat with the tip of his sword, sprinkling it with salt, cumin powder, and thirteen spices.

The Shell Lady squatted on Chen Shouyi's shoulder, sneezing several times because of the spices, and complained in a delicate voice, "Great Giant, your seasoning is so smelly!"

Smelly?

"Then move farther away!" Chen Shouyi snorted.

The Shell Lady looked at the pitch-black forest, instinctively grabbed onto Chen Shouyi's ear, her expression struggling for a moment before she seriously said, "It smells really good now!"

Chen Shouyi felt a choke in his heart, almost spitting out a mouthful of blood.

No one could beat her shamelessness!

After continuing to grill for a while and feeling that it was about done, Chen Shouyi quickly stopped, picked up the stick sticking in the meat, and despite the heat, took a bite. He felt crispy outside and tender inside, the oil flowing in his mouth, the taste sweet and rich.

This creature had just begun to hibernate, with a high-fat content, making it seem greasy when stewed but perfectly complementing when grilled. During grilling, the fat soaked into the muscle, like a rich broth that was fragrant yet not greasy, bursting with oil upon biting, without any dryness.

Adding the unique chewiness and fragrance of creatures from another world, Chen Shouyi's appetite was fully opened.

In just a few minutes, the dozen pounds of meat were devoured.

...

The night gradually deepened, and the atmospheric temperature began to drop.

As the last bit of charcoal extinguished, darkness completely swallowed the place.

His pupils rapidly expanded to adapt, turning as dark as ink, absorbing the faint light in the surrounding environment like a black hole.

With his physique of 16.8, he had already evolved a sort of low-light vision, where even with almost no light here, his visibility still exceeded a hundred meters.

Time slipped away bit by bit.

Suddenly, it began snowing lightly in the sky.

Countless snowflakes whirled around Chen Shouyi, not a single one touching him.

"Cold?" Chen Shouyi asked the Shell Lady.

The Shell Lady curled up in Chen Shouyi's arms, saying in a delicate voice, "Not cold!"

After another ten minutes, Chen Shouyi stood up to move his nearly frozen body!

Feeling the hard ground beneath his feet, he estimated the temperature here had dropped below ten degrees below zero.

Even though he was a Martial Artist, with a strong physique, wearing just a few strips of cloth for a t-shirt and shorts, he was almost freezing to death.

He checked the time,

"Damn!"

Only seven hours had passed since dark, with the twenty-hour long night here, only a third had gone by.

If he had known the night would be so cold, he should have waited by the Spatial Passage base for the time to pass.

He practiced the Horizontal Training thirty-six forms several times, finally warming up.

The Shell Lady flew up, then landed back on Chen Shouyi's shoulder, covered in tiny colorful specks of light.

"Soon I'll go to kill the bad Giant; would you stay here?" Chen Shouyi said.

Upon hearing this, the Shell Lady quickly grasped Chen Shouyi's ear, suppressing her fear, saying, "Little Bit isn't afraid of bad Giants; Little Bit wants to go with the good Giant to kill the bad Giant."

Of course, she was afraid of the bad Giant, but she feared the Natural Spirits lurking in the night even more.

"Alright! Then, you must do as I say!" Chen Shouyi hesitated for a moment and said.

He couldn't bear to leave her here forcibly; what if she was carried away by a starving wild beast? Though most animals had gone into hibernation, some cold-resistant species were still active during winter.

"Little Bit will be very good!" the Shell Lady quickly replied.

...

Chen Shouyi continued to wait for another two hours, finally too cold to endure, deciding not to wait any longer.

With night already seven hours deep, in this frigid deep night, he couldn't believe the tribe could maintain its vigilance, just a group of Barbarians, not the People's Liberation Army.

He tidied up his equipment, prepared, and immediately set off.

The ground had accumulated a thick layer of snow, crunching underfoot, sounding quite piercing in the silent darkness.

"This won't do." He frowned slightly.

Immediately, he moved his thoughts, quickly shifting the air beneath his feet, quieting the sound to a hardly detectable level.

With the enhancement of his willpower, his ability to manipulate the atmosphere was also rapidly improving.

In this alternate world, now he could accelerate the air to over thirty meters per second in an instant, roughly equivalent to a level eleven typhoon. Even under triple gravity, if a Barbarian wasn't careful, they would be blown backward.

Although it wasn't lethal, if used suddenly in battle, it could catch the opponent off guard and be enough to decide the outcome in an instant.

As for muffling sound, it was just one of the small techniques.

He immediately quickened his pace.

On his shoulder, the Shell Lady's small face was tense, her bean-sized eyes warily looking left and right, fearing that a bad Giant might suddenly jump out.

It wasn't long before Chen Shouyi arrived by the large stone near the tribe.

The three Barbarian corpses he had killed earlier had disappeared, and the bloodstains were covered by snow.

He wasn't surprised.

His gaze turned to the dark silhouette of the Barbarian Tribe not far away, and he became even more cautious and delicate in his movements.

After walking for a few more minutes, he suddenly stopped.

Not far away was a thin hemp rope, half-buried in the snow.

If the snow hadn't crushed the grass to reveal the rope, it would have been easy to trip over.

He followed the rope and checked; it was over twenty meters long, as thin as a blade of grass, with one end tied to the root of a small tree and the other connected to a simple mechanism. If tripped, the stone tied to the rope would slam into a hollow ceramic jar, creating a loud sound.

It served to alert that enemies were invading.

It seemed one couldn't underestimate the survival wisdom of the Barbarians. He remained vigilant as he disarmed the mechanism and spoke to the Shell Lady:

"Help me see if there are more ropes like this!"

"Oh!" The Shell Lady's spirit was lifted upon hearing this, and she immediately widened her eyes, quickly pointing ahead and whispering, "There's one there too!"

Following her direction, he looked; it was a rope hanging mid-air.

Indeed, there were quite a few.

Next, Chen Shouyi and the Shell Lady discovered eight places in succession, almost surrounding the area. Most of them were found by the keen-eyed Shell Lady.

The snow fell harder, the night was pitch black, and there was little light. Even with Chen Shouyi's vision, he could see no further than fifty meters, yet he approached the Barbarian's residential area smoothly without causing any disturbance.

Outside the Barbarian residential area was a three-meter-tall wall made of piled-up giant stones. Fortunately, he hadn't seen any guards thus far.

As he approached the wall, his expression slightly changed.

He suddenly felt a sense of strangeness in his heart, a pressure like a stone weighing down his chest, as if everything here bore deep hostility towards him.

This feeling was omnipresent.

The air, the ground, the trees, the weeds, even every grain of sand and every breath seemed to reject him.

Domain of Faith!

"Such a huge Giant..." The Shell Lady also felt it, her face turning pale, and had it not been for the Giant still being there, she would have fled.

"There, don't be afraid!" Chen Shouyi gently comforted her.

"Oh, I'm the bravest," the Shell Lady replied quickly.

He took a deep breath and resolutely moved forward, approaching the wall. To be cautious, he gripped his sword and his perception rapidly expanded, probing the surroundings.

"Damn, too treacherous."

The information his perception "saw" nearly made him curse.

Behind the wall was a trench, both deep and wide, filled with sharp long spears. If he jumped recklessly, even he would fall into the trap.

Although with his body's defense, these long spears likely wouldn't hurt him, he would at least be embarrassed, and it would thoroughly alert the Barbarian Tribe.

He estimated the jumping distance and retreated several dozen meters.

"Hold tight!" Chen Shouyi lightly reminded the Shell Lady.

The Shell Lady tensed at his words and quickly grabbed hold of his ear.

Then he took a few running steps and leapt forcefully.

His body seemed to fly through the air, over the wall and trench, a full eight or nine meters, landing heavily, producing only a slight sound in the muffled air.

He stood silently for a few seconds, and seeing there was no disturbance, he continued forward noiselessly.

All around was quiet, only the snoring of Barbarians rose and fell.

The narrow, cramped streets, the primitive stone buildings with a Barbaric Wilderness aura, as he walked through them, Chen Shouyi felt as if he were treading through ancient ruins.

The air was thick with an indescribable stench.

Among them were the smells of feces, the rotten fishy stench of decayed salted fish, and the body odor of Barbarians. Even with the snow partially absorbing the odor here, it would likely be several times more intense under normal circumstances.

Yet despite the stench, Chen Shouyi kept sniffing, trying to discern the scent of humans among it.

Chapter 353: Divine Wrath (Part 1)

Chen Shouyi moved with agility, quickly heading towards the center of the tribe like a ghost.

At this moment, Chen Shouyi stopped as a tall building appeared beside him.

This building was about thirteen or fourteen meters high and covered more than three hundred square meters, the tallest structure here.

Its shape was very peculiar, somewhat like a giant brick kiln. The entire building was constructed of large stone blocks, each stone was uniform in size, fitting together seamlessly.

The surface was also carved with numerous narrative reliefs, including scenes of worship, fishing, hunting, and even sexual intercourse. On either side of the entrance stood four different statues of humanoid creatures with fish tails, adding an air of solemnity and majesty to the structure.

This must be the temple, Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

Through the dark entrance, he vaguely saw a giant beast the size of a mountain lying on the ground, lowering its head to gaze at him, seemingly about to devour someone.

Chen Shouyi's mind focused, and all illusions quickly vanished, everything returned to normal.

"This River God is definitely a true deity!" Chen Shouyi thought seriously, abandoning any thought of chance, dared not look again, and quickly stepped away to avoid the place.

He did not see that not long after he left.

A black creature resembling a Giant Wolf silently emerged from the temple entrance, its green eyes half-squinted as it watched Chen Shouyi's departing figure.

It shook its fluffy fur, following him with light, soundless steps.

A few minutes later, Chen Shouyi finally caught a whiff of human scent with his keen sense of smell.

"Found it!" He said to himself, his spirits lifting, immediately following the scent, he hurriedly walked.

The scent came from a dilapidated stone building, where the wind leaked from all sides. Besides the scent of humans, there was also a smell of blood inside. As he prepared to break open the wooden door with his sword, the Shell Lady suddenly warned nervously: "Good Giant, a very fierce bad creature is coming."

He immediately stopped his actions.

Turned to look towards the alley.

Ahead, dozens of meters away, a black giant beast was quietly staring at him.

"When did that happen?" Chen Shouyi felt a chill in his heart.

It was two meters tall at the shoulder, five meters long, but it was as silent as a ghost. If not for the Shell Lady's warning, he wouldn't have noticed it at all.

"Weak Alien Race, the great King of Darkness, Lorles, has a question for you. Why did you trespass here?" It opened its mouth and spoke in the common language from a high position. It was surprised at this Alien Race's calmness, momentarily feeling a flicker of unease, but this unease quickly vanished. As the mighty King of Darkness, the guardian of the tribe, and servant of the River God, it would not be intimidated by a lowly Alien Race.

It displayed its fangs, slowly pacing closer, its fur rippling like mercury, threatening, "Speak quickly, or I'll eat you."

In the silent night, its sharp, coarse voice was particularly jarring, causing a commotion around.

Although Chen Shouyi was momentarily shocked that a beast could speak, he had no time to dwell on it.

He grabbed his War Bow, ready to deal with this unwelcome guest.

However, as soon as he moved, the Giant Wolf seemed to sense danger, its fur stood on end, and the snow mist beneath its feet exploded. It charged at him like a black lightning bolt, and just as he drew an Arrow, the creature was upon him.

It opened its bloody maw, aiming for Chen Shouyi's upper body.

"Courting death!"

Chen Shouyi's mouth curled into a cold smile, his hand instantly released the bow and arrow, and without time to draw his sword, he steadied his waist, his right leg springing swiftly, his toes heavily jabbed at the Giant Wolf's lower jaw. The force of several tons exploded instantaneously, shattering its jaw, teeth splattering mid-air, its head thrusting upwards, emitting a muffled sound.

Before it could land, Chen Shouyi moved swiftly, catching up with the Giant Wolf in mid-air while unsheathing his Long Sword. The silvery sword light flashed like lightning, slicing through the air.

The black Giant Wolf, its head and chest cleaved open, fell to the ground like a torn cloth sack, left with only convulsive twitches of instinct.

A bloodshot eye rolled to Chen Shouyi's feet, still glaring at him, seemingly filled with unwillingness and fear.

The next moment, Chen Shouyi stomped it until it burst.

He picked up the bow and arrows he had dropped on the ground, suddenly twisted his body, and shot an arrow.

With a loud bang.

A Barbarian who had just stepped out the door was shot into two halves.

At this point, being cautious was no longer useful.

He kicked open the door, seeing two battered Martial Artists lying in a pile of scattered straw inside.

Both had all their limbs bizarrely bent, obviously broken.

Hair and eyebrows were covered in hoarfrost.

One of the Martial Artists was still, even his chest no longer moving, clearly dead.

The other was barely alive, with only a faint breath remaining.

Seeing Chen Shouyi, his expression suddenly became agitated, a sickly flush appearing on his bloodless face, struggling as if in the throes of death, his body squirming like a maggot: "Chief Advisor, don't worry about... me, I am... done for, just go!"

"What about the other two?" Chen Shouyi asked.

A Barbarian burst into the stone hut, caught by the throat by him, snapped, and thrown to the ground.

"Dead... all dead!" He laughed bitterly: "Song Yanhong... is she safe?"

"The Female Martial Artist? She's quite safe now!"

"That's good... that's good!" He said as if releasing his last concern, then closed his eyes slightly, falling silent forever.

Chen Shouyi walked over and checked his breath, finding he had passed.

He sighed softly.

He and these Martial Artists had only encountered by chance, with no emotional ties. Saving them was just out of basic morality, so their deaths did not bring him any sorrow.

But risking such a great danger, only for this result, left him feeling a bit defeated and anxious.

Chen Shouyi remained silent, turning on his heel to stride outside.

A few Barbarians had just rushed in, but he stepped forward, swinging his Long Sword, and three heads soared into the air.

Stepping out the door, more Barbarians were heading his way.

He consecutively drew his bow and fired over a dozen arrows.

Barbarians immediately fell down, littering the ground with corpses.

Some Barbarians, not dead yet, emitted pained wails.

But this was a fight that could never end, the huge commotion here caused the entire Barbarian Tribe to become agitated, the sound of clattering utensils, summoning calls, and curses... more and more Barbarians were rushing in.

"Kill him, that damned Alien Race."

A few short spears whistled towards him. Chen Shouyi, highly sensitive, deftly deflected them aside with a flick of his sword, looking at the Barbarians ahead, he sneered, stepping downwards, the snow shook half a meter off the ground, simultaneously, his body shot towards the Barbarians like an arrow.

The leading strong Barbarian, just ready to resist, was split apart, spear and all.

The Barbarian behind him hadn't even reacted when he saw a blur, a foot broke through the air, stepping down from above.

With a crisp snapping sound of bones breaking, his head and neck were crushed, brain matter bursting, falling to the ground.

He leaped onto the building, swiftly fleeing.

He couldn't stay here long; the longer he lingered, the more dangerous it became. The Barbarians here didn't scare him, unless he encountered a top-notch expert, which was highly unlikely. What he feared most was divine intervention.

Chapter 354: Wrath of the Gods (Part 2)

Chen Shouyi leapt seven or eight meters with each step, rapidly sprinting between the buildings.

The Shell Lady clung to Chen Shouyi's ear like an ornament, eyes tightly shut in fear, not daring to move an inch.

Suddenly, a sense of alarm arose, and his speeding figure came to an abrupt halt.

The next moment, a terrifying chill swept past in front of him, freezing everything in its path, and even the snow atop the buildings turned into a massive block of ice.

Even from a meter or two away, Chen Shouyi's skin tingled with cold from the chill.

"Divine Art?"

His heart jolted, and with a quick glance at the Barbarians to his left, he immediately spotted a Priest performing a Divine Art beside a robust Barbarian.

This was an elderly hunchbacked Barbarian, his face marked with mysterious patterns.

His triangular eyes emitted a gloomy light, and although his body was aged, his aura was stronger than that of the robust Barbarian beside him. After his attack failed, his expression turned grim, and he promptly performed another Divine Art.

Chen Shouyi snorted coldly; his hands blurred slightly, and the Long Sword was sheathed, replaced by an Arrow in his hand. Applying force with both arms, he pulled the two-thousand-pound War Bow into a full arc.

With a "boom," the Arrow transformed into a stream of light.

In an instant, the old Barbarian's head exploded. After piercing through the Priest's head, the Arrow continued through two more Barbarians, its momentum undiminished, embedding deep into the ground, disappearing completely.

Chen Shouyi immediately drew another Arrow, killing the robust Barbarian beside him.

As he ran rapidly, he repeatedly pulled and released the Arrows.

In just a few seconds, six Priests with mysterious patterns on their faces, standing out among the Barbarians, were systematically eliminated by him, each one slain.

Compared to ordinary Barbarians, these Divine Art-wielding Priests posed the greatest threat to him.

On Earth, the power of Divine Arts was negligible, making Priests almost indistinguishable from ordinary Barbarians, but in the other world, a Priest's power was magnified a thousandfold, mysterious and unpredictable; even he would suffer greatly or even die if hit by one.

A tall and strong Barbarian wearing a ferocious gold mask was roaring loudly from afar: "Kill him, the damned Alien Race, I will twist his head off and place it beneath the Divine Statue, his soul howling day and night under the holy light's burn."

Though his tone was infuriated, he dared not come near.

When Chen Shouyi's gaze turned to him, his expression froze, and he instinctively took a step back.

Seemingly enraged by his own cowardice, he stepped forward a few paces and pulled out a short spear from his back.

However, just as he made a move, an Arrow swiftly grazed his body and embedded into a stone behind him. Before he could catch his breath, the next Arrow pierced his chest, leaving a fist-sized hole. His body stumbled back a few steps, staring down in disbelief, his short spear slipping from his grip, a pang of dissatisfaction and regret rising in his heart, before he went limp and slowly fell to the ground.

"Clan Leader! Clan Leader!"

The surrounding Barbarians cried out in alarm.

...

With the fall of this Clan Leader, who had the strength of an ordinary Martial Artist, the Barbarians' spirit plummeted instantly, many falling into disarray, and wherever Chen Shouyi passed, the Barbarians fled like a receding tide.

A few seconds later, the wall was within reach. Chen Shouyi leapt forcefully, the roof crumbling beneath his foot, his body soaring through the air as he cleared the wall, rapidly accelerating to his limits, racing desperately toward the forest.

Yet for some reason, Chen Shouyi felt increasingly uneasy.

It was as if a great catastrophe loomed, and the world was collapsing.

The snow grew heavier, large snowflakes drifting thickly from the sky, disintegrating into powder as they swirled around Chen Shouyi.

A faint rumble of thunder could be heard in the sky, and the air was filled with a nearly stagnant energy.

The air seemed to be agitated, the airflow becoming chaotic, and Chen Shouyi's expression grew grave as he raced on, head lowered. In just over ten seconds, he had already returned to the forest.

The surging pressure continued to rise, enveloping the entire forest in silence. Chen Shouyi could hear only his own bellows, like a bellows puffing.

"Damn it, is this really justified for just killing a hundred or so Barbarians?" Chen Shouyi couldn't help but think, wanting to shout to vent his frustration and unease.

Faced with such a terrifying presence, he couldn't muster any will to fight, only an endless panic. This was not an adversary he could contend with; against a deity, he was like an ant facing an elephant.

He speculated that it might be because he had killed too many Priests at once, not to mention that Giant Wolf and the Barbarian Clan Leader.

If not, there wouldn't have been such a grand movement.

Time seemed to slow unbearably, each second stretching like a year,

Under such icy weather, he was drenched in sweat, steam rising from his body.

Suddenly, a familiar roar echoed from within the forest.

Immediately, Chen Shouyi saw a silver-white Giant Beast with a serpent body and two wings, roaring as it soared into the sky.

Chen Shouyi felt the pressure between heaven and earth lighten significantly as the Giant Beast ascended.

He dumbfoundedly watched the domineering Giant Beast ascend, his mind not quite comprehending.

"Is it stupid?"

Of course, the more altruistic fools like this, the better. Remembering he had shot it with a few arrows last time, Chen Shouyi couldn't help but feel a bit apologetic.

"If I survive, next time I see you, I will definitely steer clear and never shoot an Arrow at you again."

At that moment, a loud explosion sounded, like lightning ripping through the sky, lighting up the entire dark sky, and the earth seemed to shake.

He couldn't contain his curiosity and turned his head, just in time to see the just-ascended Giant Beast's body breaking in half, falling stiffly straight from the sky.

During its descent, it almost seemed to weather away, countless dust particles scattering from its body, the two halves rapidly shrinking in mid-air.

Before hitting the ground, it had already turned into a cloud of dust, dissipating into the air.

The snow stopped, and the strong wind gradually subsided.

The pressure between heaven and earth receded like a tide, and in an instant, the surroundings became calm, as if everything earlier had been just an illusion.

He ran to the entrance of the Spatial Passage and gradually came to a stop.

"Is it over?" Chen Shouyi wondered suspiciously.

"Could it be that the River God mistook the culprit for that serpentine Giant Beast!"

Chapter 355: The Shell Lady Who Was Scared Peepless

Chen Shouyi thought it over and over, and this was the only explanation.

He let out a sigh of relief.

Earlier, he was almost scared to pee himself; the momentum of this divine descent was just too strong.

It was as if the winds and clouds changed colors, and the world was about to collapse.

He had once seen the true form of the God of Hunting from afar in the outskirts of Ningzhou, but whether it be divine power or the commotion it caused, they were incomparably different, like clouds and mud.

"This time was really too reckless. If it weren't for that kind-hearted monster snake taking a disaster for him, the consequences would have been unpredictable," Chen Shouyi thought to himself, secretly reflecting:

"Ultimately, it's because I've become arrogant. Ever since I killed the possessed body of the God of Hunting, I've been noticeably less cautious, feeling that even in another world I could come and go freely!"

This incident taught him a good lesson.

"I still need to be low-key. I must stay cautious and never be so reckless again," Chen Shouyi sighed.

Like this time, if he had been a little more cautious and only considered escaping, there was no need to kill so many. But the more he killed, the more he couldn't stop, and the more excited he became.

Especially those priests, many of whom were a hundred meters away, and he still shot them one by one.

Not only did it waste time for escape, but it also completely alerted the River God.

Who knows what level of deity this River God is?

But at the very least, it must be a True God above a demigod.

At this moment, he felt his ear was wet.

No way!

Chen Shouyi's face darkened and he pulled off the Shell Lady who was clinging to his ear like an octopus.

Her body was still trembling slightly, and most of her little skirt was already wet.

"Why did you wet yourself?"

Chen Shouyi shouldn't have asked; once he did, the Shell Lady's emotions broke down, and she hugged Chen Shouyi's finger and burst into tears, her eyes brimming with tears.

"Boohoo... I couldn't hold it... this place is so scary... good Giant, let's go back quickly, I don't ever want to come here again... boohoo!" She held onto Chen Shouyi's finger tightly, her body shivering.

She was already terrified.

Chen Shouyi scratched his bald head awkwardly: "I told you not to come with me long ago, but you insisted on coming."

Upon hearing this, the Shell Lady stopped crying and mumbled, "But... I was worried about the good Giant."

What an excuse she came up with.

Obviously afraid of the darkness here but made an excuse of worrying about me.

Chen Shouyi didn't expose her: "Alright, let go of your hand."

"I won't let go!" The Shell Lady clung to her index finger and said coquettishly.

Considering she had just been so frightened, Chen Shouyi had to let her hold on to him.

He stood at the tunnel entrance for a while.

The sky was still quiet, so Chen Shouyi bravely returned to the Fluorite Cave to retrieve his backpack, then quickly left the other world.

Fortunately, before leaving the tunnel, the Shell Lady had proactively wanted to hide in the briefcase.

As soon as he stepped out of the tunnel, Chen Shouyi felt a wave of heat rush over him.

His cold skin suddenly warmed up.

The temperature in the other world was already below ten degrees Celsius, while on Earth, even at this time being late at night, it was still nearly forty degrees.

He walked through the long corridor and found the Female Martial Artist named Song Yanhong sitting in the hall waiting, her eyes red and swollen, looking distraught.

As soon as Chen Shouyi came out, she immediately stood up. Seeing Chen Shouyi was alone, her face turned pale with an ominous premonition, and she hurriedly approached him, anxiously asking, "Chief Advisor..."

Chen Shouyi shook his head: "Your companions have all... sacrificed themselves, my condolences."

Song Yanhong staggered upon hearing this, muttering to herself, "How could this be, how could this be..."

Chen Shouyi was silent for a while, bypassed Song Yanhong, walked out of the hall, called over a soldier on duty at the entrance, and took out his Martial Arts Instructor Certificate from his pocket: "I want to see your commander."

...

A few hours later.

When Chen Shouyi left the camp, it was already completely under martial law.

He rode his bicycle, looked back, and saw several large self-propelled artillery vehicles queuing to enter the base gate.

This was his final visit here!

It was already nine in the morning, the sun glaring, and the streets bustling with traffic.

As the number of trucks and buses increased, the urban area of Hedong City regained some of its liveliness.

Of course, it was only slightly restored; with the implementation of conscription, all eligible unemployed males had been enlisted.

The whole street seemed sparse, mostly occupied by the elderly and women.

Now, just in Hedong City, the soldier count was five hundred thousand.

Considering Hedong's ten million population, the ratio was twenty to one; if counting the militia, there were probably a million.

If not for maintaining this large army, Hedong couldn't remain as calm as it is now.

Chen Shouyi ate breakfast at a roadside stall and then quickly went home.

His home was empty. He found a large iron basin and salted the dozens of pounds of pork loin he brought. In such high temperatures without a refrigerator, if not processed, it would spoil by evening.

After doing all this, he returned to his bedroom, opened the briefcase, and found the Shell Lady already asleep.

"Wake up, I'll give you a bath," Chen Shouyi said, nudging her with his finger.

The Shell Lady mumbled unconsciously and turned over to continue sleeping.

Seeing her sleep so soundly, he had no choice but to give up.

He cautiously took off her urine-soaked skirt and brought it to his nose.

It seemed to have no odor.

He carried the little skirt to the bathroom, soaked it in water, applied soap, and began to wash it.

He looked at the mirror and sighed.

Ugh, raising a little child is such a hassle.

Feeding her, buying her toys, giving her baths, doing her laundry, sometimes even coaxing her.

To think he, a dignified Martial Artist, would have to do this kind of thing at home; it's really beneath his dignity.

After washing it, he hung the little skirt by the window to dry.

Then he took a bath, changed his clothes, picked up a large tome borrowed from the library titled "The Mystery of Thinking," and lay on the bed, casually flipping through.

Starting from the emergence of thinking, discussing the connection between thinking and the brain, the training of thinking, and then proposing the concept of thinking as the soul.

If the human body is compared to a computer, the body including the brain is the hardware, and thinking or the soul is the software. Logically speaking, if the hardware fails, the software cannot run, and when a person dies, everything vanishes.

However, since the connection with the other world, the soul has gained the support of the Original Force, allowing it to exist independently to a certain extent apart from the body.

However, this is also the mainstream academic view and has nothing new, being an old story, and Chen Shouyi has read at least several books with similar views.

He scanned through over a hundred pages at a glance, feeling a wave of drowsiness wash over him. He closed the book, put it aside, closed his eyes, and quickly fell into a deep sleep.

Chapter 356: Sandstorm

Chen Shouyi slept until the afternoon, and after waking up, all his fatigue disappeared, leaving him feeling refreshed.

He dressed and glanced at the bulky telephone on his desk, feeling a sudden urge. He walked over to the desk, picked up the receiver, and dialed Bai Xiaoling's office number.

The call was quickly connected.

"Hello, who is this?"

"I'm Chen Shouyi, I need information on the spatial passage around the Safe Zone!" said Chen Shouyi.

Given the recent events, the spatial passage in the lower city is clearly no longer an option. Currently, he is training with the Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Styles, which require a high demand for Original Force. On Earth, its effects are incredibly weak, so he'll have to choose another location.

"Ah, General Manager Chen, when do you need it?"

"It would be best if I can get it today."

"Alright, I'll handle it immediately!"

Chen Shouyi hung up the phone and went to the kitchen to cook some noodles for a simple lunch.

Not long after he finished eating, Bai Xiaoling, sweating profusely, delivered a thick stack of documents.

After seeing Bai Xiaoling off, Chen Shouyi returned to his bedroom.

The information had already been organized.

The spatial passages closest to the Safe Zone were placed at the front, with the nearest one being only eight kilometers away. It was marked with a danger level of high risk, higher than the medium risk level of the one in the lower city.

Of course, that was in the past; now, that passage is at least disaster-level.

In general, anything related to deities was basically marked as disaster-level, and such passages were generally not open, guarded heavily by troops.

He looked at the information on this passage.

The opposite side seemed to be at the bottom of an abyss, dark and damp, without any light whatsoever. According to the description in the document, many Martial Artists had explored it, but most never returned.

Chen Shouyi glanced at it briefly and put the documents aside.

Not to mention this passage being extremely dangerous, the mere darkness was something he couldn't bear.

He was going to the other world to train, not to be tortured.

Chen Shouyi picked up another document, glanced at it, and set it aside again. The exit of this passage was located above a large lake, and he didn't want to go there to swim.

It wasn't until the third one that things started to look promising.

This one was situated in a Gobi Desert, marked with a danger level of low risk, about twenty-five kilometers away from the Safe Zone.

Chen Shouyi's eyes lit up at the sight, his mind made up that this was the one.

It was close, and most importantly, safe!

In such a barren place like the Gobi, Barbarians were unlikely to reside in large numbers, and where there were no Barbarians, there would be no deities paying attention.

Ever since his encounter with a deity yesterday, which scared him half to death, he had been skittish.

In regard to such unpredictable entities, he now stayed as far away from them as possible.

Though the conditions might be harsh, he wasn't planning to reside there, but just using it as a training ground.

...

In the evening, his sister finally returned from school, dressed in Martial Arts Academy training attire, looking energetic and dashing. She immediately asked Chen Shouyi, "Brother, where did you go yesterday? Why didn't you make a call?"

"Went too far in the other world forest and got lost," Chen Shouyi casually made up an excuse.

Chen Xingyue didn't think much of it and said with some excitement, "In a few days, we're also going to have training in the other world!"

"Which other world?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"The spatial passage at the old campus, all the advanced classes will be going there for half a month of training!" Chen Xingyue replied.

Chen Shouyi relaxed upon hearing it was the passage affiliated with the Martial Arts Academy.

The Martial Arts Academy was generally built near safe spatial passages for convenient training purposes.

And since the Jiangnan Martial Arts Academy had been established for almost twenty years, continuously using this passage for training Martial Artist Apprentices, it was naturally safe.

He smiled and asked, "Do you want me to accompany you?"

"What's the point of you going? There's no danger, it's just a training base!" Chen Xingyue said, pursing her lips. She wasn't a little kid who needed parents to accompany her everywhere.

The last time at the funeral home was an exception; it was indeed quite frightening. But if he went again this time, she, as a top Martial Artist in the academy, would lose face.

...

The next morning, after breakfast, Chen Shouyi rode his bicycle out.

On the road, trucks loaded with large amounts of furniture flowed endlessly, as if it were a mass relocation. After asking around, Chen Shouyi learned these were residents from the vicinity of the spatial passage in the lower city.

The City Government's efficiency was very high; in just a day, they decisively relocated the surrounding residents.

Chen Shouyi watched as one truck after another drove by, feeling inexplicably heavy-hearted. Ever since the anomaly, the balance between the two worlds began to break, and the peace of the past vanished.

He hoped Hedong wouldn't end up like Pingzhou!

If it did, regardless of them winning or losing, it would be a huge disaster.

He looked away, gently pushed his bicycle, and it shot forward like an arrow.

...

This spatial passage was located at the foot of a mountain on the edge of a small town.

After showing his credentials, Chen Shouyi smoothly entered the spatial passage.

As soon as he entered, he spat out a mouthful of sand.

Here, the wind howled, and sands flew everywhere.

"Damn, a sandstorm!"

He quickly controlled the wind, calming the airflow and shaking off the sand all over his body.

Looking at the sky covered with a gray-yellow hue, with dried, twisted trees lying scattered in the sand, some trees even had trunks ten to twenty meters thick, like walls.

Not far away, a massive and eerie skeleton lay in the sand. A few rib bones, seven to eight meters long, stood in mid-air like arched pillars, remaining unmoved regardless of how the wind blew.

Chen Shouyi was deeply shocked.

If such a creature were still alive.

Unless he underwent Giant Transformation, he would have to steer clear.

This place used to be a forest.

Primitive or not!

In the other world, there was no such thing as non-primitive forests.

He somewhat regretted choosing here.

Safe it might be, but the environment was really harsh. Apart from scattered bushes, it looked desolate.

He looked towards the bizarre rocky Gobi, preparing to check it out, at least to seek shelter from the wind.

The saying about sightlines being deceptive. The Gobi looked close but was actually far away; Chen Shouyi walked for more than ten minutes before finally arriving.

Upon approaching, Chen Shouyi realized.

This wasn't just a Gobi desert but a series of stone mountains.

After years of weathering, the mountain forms were riddled with holes like they had been eaten by bugs. Some of these holes were as small as a fist, while others were as large as multi-story hallways, appearing quite majestic.

As the wind blew past here, it sounded like ghosts wailing.

He walked up and quickly climbed into a wind-sheltered cave, where there was no wind at all.

He dusted himself off, and with a thought, the wind started to howl as the thick layer of sand on the ground was quickly blown clean.

He placed his backpack down, sat on an outcropping rock, and sighed lightly as he watched the sandstorm.

"I'll settle here for today. If it remains like this, tomorrow I'll choose another spot!"

Chapter 357: Strange Corpses (Part 1)

He opened the briefcase, and the Shell Lady quickly flew up.

She flew around in a circle and soon landed on Chen Shouyi's shoulder, with joy in her eyes, she said, "Good Giant, I like it here!"

What's there to like?

It's just sand and more sand.

Chen Shouyi was speechless: "Go play!"

"Oh!" The Shell Lady said carelessly and eagerly flew towards a hole.

There were holes everywhere here, big holes encased medium ones, medium holes encased small ones, densely packed. To her, it was completely like a labyrinth available for exploration.

"Don't go too far!" Chen Shouyi reminded her.

"Little guy won't go far," the Shell Lady replied, looking back.

Chen Shouyi didn't pay attention to her. She was always cautious and timid as a mouse; she would probably escape back at the first sign of trouble.

He set his posture and began practicing the Thirty-Six Styles of Horizontal Training.

He had not been practicing long when he keenly discovered the anomaly of Original Force here.

"This is..." Chen Shouyi stopped, a look of surprise on his face.

Compared to other places, the Original Force here was not only quite rich, its concentration was at least fifty percent higher, and it was also somewhat violent. After being absorbed into the dantian's cyclone, it even caused subtle disturbances.

Fortunately, the disturbance was very mild and not enough to cause a collapse.

He practiced it again,

Seeing that there were no major issues, Chen Shouyi continued to practice.

A dozen minutes later, he stopped.

After all, it was the first time here, so Chen Shouyi reserved more than half of his strength to be cautious in case of danger.

But even so, the effect was quite intense.

At this time, his whole skin was flushed red, steam was pervasive, emitting waves of heat. His body seemed to swell, and all his muscles moved and twitched as if countless mice were squirming incessantly.

The body felt bloated, the muscles swollen and aching, yet also tingling and numbing.

"I didn't expect the training effect to be so good this time!" Chen Shouyi breathed out a breath of hot air, looking suspiciously at the dim sky in the distance:

"This place is simply a training paradise, but why is it a desert?"

It's not Earth, and Original Force greatly affects the world. With such high Original Force, life would absorb it instinctively, becoming stronger and more adaptable to harsh environments, regardless of whether it trained or not.

Even plants would grow more lush, with more vigorous vitality.

Unfortunately, besides clusters of low shrubs here and there, not many plants were visible, though there were quite a few withered and fallen tree trunks.

Just then, the Shell Lady quickly emerged from one of the holes, landing in a panic on Chen Shouyi's shoulder. Barely stable, she exclaimed:

"Good Giant, the little guy found something terrifying."

"What is it?" Chen Shouyi asked with amusement, not taking it seriously. He figured she had spotted a big bug or something.

"It's a...a terrifying big thing, very big, even bigger than the good Giant," she said quickly, gesturing broadly, her face a mix of fear and excitement.

Chen Shouyi was instantly piqued with curiosity and said, "Take me to see!"

"But it's very scary!" The Shell Lady hesitated to say, then after a while, gathered her courage and seriously asked: "Good Giant, you'll protect the little guy, won't you?"

"Of course!" Chen Shouyi said.

"Then I'll take you!" The Shell Lady bit her lip and said.

"We enter from this hole," she said as she pointed to a hole only a foot in diameter.

Chen Shouyi: ...

"Good Giant, can't you squeeze in?" Seeing Chen Shouyi unmoving, the Shell Lady asked in confusion.

Looking at her silly yet earnest expression, Chen Shouyi's heart stifled; for a moment, he didn't know what to say.

I can grow bigger, but not smaller.

"Then there's no helping it; you're just too big, good Giant," the Shell Lady said reluctantly.

Chen Shouyi ignored the Shell Lady's display, picked up his sword and War Bow, and hung several quivers around himself, surveying the surroundings. He immediately saw a hole over two people high, seemingly leading deep into the mountain.

Suddenly, he leaped, grabbed onto a hanging stalactite, and swung himself to the front of the hole, striding inside.

"Silly Giant, you're going the wrong way; it's not here," the Shell Lady said, jumping anxiously when she saw Chen Shouyi heading in the wrong direction.

"Shh, be careful, don't make a sound!" Chen Shouyi said.

The Shell Lady remembered the terrifying sight inside and quickly closed her mouth, her small eyes full of caution as she surveyed the surroundings.

The cave was deep, with passages branching off everywhere.

Chen Shouyi left finger marks on the corridor walls to avoid getting lost in the depths.

As he went deeper, the light around him grew dimmer, and the air carried a slight scent of decay.

After walking cautiously for several minutes, perhaps having entered a main passage, the corridor quickly broadened, reaching a height of seven or eight meters. Chen Shouyi was surprised to find signs of artificial excavation here.

Everywhere—whether around or above—were smooth cut surfaces left by blades.

Chen Shouyi compared with his hand.

He found that these cut surfaces were nearly a meter wide.

"It seems wise creatures once lived here," Chen Shouyi thought in surprise, his mind slightly alarmed.

Despite the relativity of the world's creatures' strength, this rock appeared relatively fragile. However, cutting such wide surface flats wasn't something an ordinary creature could achieve.

Especially when considering their tools were likely wooden or bone.

Due to the difficulty of burning in this world, metallurgy naturally couldn't develop smoothly.

Despite being able to refine ordinary metals, they would barely compare to the wood everywhere as tough as steel.

Few creatures in this world used metal weapons, aside from divine beings.

At least Chen Shouyi had never seen one.

He was attentive to the ground, but likely due to the passage of time and erosion, he saw no footprints.

Chen Shouyi left another finger mark on the wall and continued.

The airflow within the corridor had all but stopped, the air growing more and more foul, with the smell of decay intensifying.

Chen Shouyi didn't know how long he walked until a turn revealed a massive stone door ahead.

Five giant humanoid corpses sprawled helter-skelter beside the stone door.

These corpses looked quite bizarre, heads with a single horn and four arms, their skin covered in scales.

Each stood four to five meters tall, bodies shrunken and blackened like sun-dried, moldy cured meat. Yet Chen Shouyi could still vaguely see the fear and despair they experienced before death.

"Good Giant, it's here, it's these terrifying things!" The Shell Lady whispered nervously, eyes wide open.

"Hold your breath!"

"Oh!" The Shell Lady replied obediently, pinching her nose.

Chen Shouyi's face turned serious.

He didn't see obvious wounds on these strange creatures; there were no signs of struggle before death, as if their lives ended in an instant.

He noticed they still tightly gripped their weapons.

Some held rotting Wooden Spears, while others wielded bone clubs taken from Giant Beasts.

Evidently, these creatures didn't die unprepared.

Chapter 358: Mysterious Murals

"Good giant, I'm suffocating," the Shell Lady said, pinching her nose with a face full of grievance.

Chen Shouyi noticed that after breathing for so long, there were no unusual sensations in his body.

He breathed a sigh of relief, thinking it should be non-toxic, and then said to the Shell Lady, "You can breathe."

Upon hearing that, the Shell Lady quickly let go of her nose, looked at the bodies of the dead here, and nervously asked, "Good giant, are all these bad guys dead?"

"Dead!"

"They won't eat the little ones?"

"No, they won't!"

Is that really what you should be worrying about?

Chen Shouyi looked speechlessly at the intact stone door ahead, walked forward, and quietly listened for a while. Apart from the faint sound of wind passing through the corridor from outside, it was silent inside.

He hesitated for a moment, stepped back, and kicked it.

With a sudden explosion of several tons of force.

A "boom" sound.

The stone door was kicked out, creating a small pit, rubble scattering, and fine cracks quickly spreading.

He kicked it continuously a dozen times.

Finally, with a rumbling sound, this stone door, a meter thick, was kicked into a large hole.

He quickly retreated dozens of meters.

Patiently waiting for more than ten minutes.

Once the dust settled and the air circulated again, he stooped and entered.

A strong, decaying, moldy odor hit him, filled with the breath of ages, like a long-sealed tomb finally welcoming a visitor.

Indeed, it was actually like that.

This was a giant cavern, over ten meters high, and at its widest, seven to eight hundred meters, and at its narrowest, three to four hundred meters. Large amounts of fluorite on the ceiling were densely scattered like stars, bringing a dim light to the place.

All around was dead silent, filled with the aura of death. Numerous four-armed giant corpses lay scattered on the ground, numbering no less than a thousand, some of which were clearly children based on their size.

Looking around, he saw many murals on the rock wall, painted with stone carvings and pigments.

It could be seen that many of the murals were very old, the carved traces already weathered and blurred.

The first mural depicted a landscape of mountains, rivers, and streams.

The whole land was completely barren, inhabited only by a gigantic creature that was neither man nor beast. To emphasize its enormity, the four-armed giants had it straddling two mountain peaks separated by several rivers.

The two peaks beneath its feet were not even as tall as its instep, resembling mere stones underfoot, while the clouds above the sky only reached its shins.

"This mural is too exaggerated. Such a giant creature couldn't possibly exist; maybe it was intended to show the greatness of the deities they worshiped?" he thought silently.

But then, Chen Shouyi grew more surprised, feeling that it told a mythological story.

The second mural depicted this enormous entity collapsing, with various strange lives emerging from its corpse.

Among these lives, one in particular caught Chen Shouyi's attention: a towering tree, soaring into the sky.

It could be seen that these beings were not ordinary lives.

Some could fly and traverse the earth, some had immense strength, some breathed fire, and some froze all things...

The more Chen Shouyi looked, the more shocked he became. It seemed to describe the origin of this otherworld.

Scientists had once posited a bizarre hypothesis based on the shared language genes among all creatures of this otherworld. It suggested that all beings here might stem from a singular origin, perfectly echoing the mural's depiction.

"Then that towering tree standing centrally and piercing the clouds must be the World Tree."

"Good giant, let's not stay here, let's go back." The Shell Lady, gazing at the giant bodies littering the ground, nervously whispered.

"Don't be afraid, they're all dead," Chen Shouyi reassured.

Not only dead, but even their divine souls extinguished, leaving not a trace of chill behind.

He was utterly captivated by these ancient murals, soothing the Shell Lady and continuing to examine them.

The subsequent murals depicted these beings starting to fight.

It was totally an apocalyptic scene.

The land was breaking apart, the sky ablaze, and numerous lives started perishing.

By the end of the war, Chen Shouyi saw that the towering tree standing centrally in the land, presumably the World Tree, was also broken.

When the war subsided, the remaining lives numbered only a few.

The style of the murals then shifted to record significant events in the history of the four-armed giant race.

Among them, battles occupied the majority.

Many murals showed scenes of four-armed giants battling terrifying giant beasts alone.

The figures in the murals were likely clan leaders from each generation, as ordinary clansmen wouldn't be afforded such a depiction.

It was clear this race was incredibly powerful, facing enemies often far larger than these four-armed giants.

Chen Shouyi keenly noticed that there wasn't any depiction of sacrificial rituals in the murals.

But when he thought about it, it made sense. Such an overwhelmingly powerful race, with almost no natural enemies, wouldn't need any deities.

Initially novel, these murals became monotonous after a while; proceeding further, he glanced rapidly at them without knowing how many he had seen; possibly over ten thousand.

These murals recorded the changes over time, becoming clearer the farther back one went, with artistic styles transitioning from abstract to realistic.

If the murals were only created when major events occurred in the tribe, this race might have lived here for tens of thousands, perhaps even hundreds of thousands of years.

Chen Shouyi soon reached the end of the murals; the last one depicted a scene of corpses and blood everywhere, stained with a black smear.

It might be blood.

The artist seemed visibly agitated, drawing it extremely chaotically.

The image forewarned misfortune, causing Chen Shouyi to pause for a long look, his heart couldn't help but throb violently.

"Could it be that before they died, these four-armed giants foresaw their doom?"

"But if they knew their enemies were so strong, why didn't they flee? What exactly happened?"

Chen Shouyi quickly returned to the previous few murals, and finally discerned some subtle clues.

He noticed in the fourth-to-last mural, numerous four-armed giants seemed to invade a tribe, grabbing little people and stuffing them into their mouths.

In one corner, there was a depiction of a broken statue.

"These little people should be the Barbarians, and the statue is likely a divine statue, offending the divine," Chen Shouyi thought silently.

In the third-to-last mural, a glowing Barbarian and a four-armed giant were fiercely fighting, with two four-armed giants lying nearby, clearly dead.

The second-to-last mural showed the death of the Barbarian, with countless four-armed giants loudly celebrating.

Then followed the ominous final image.

Chen Shouyi stood still, lost in deep thought, feeling as if a heavy stone weighed on his heart.

"This Barbarian shrouded in light was probably an avatar of the deity's will in a disciple. After being slain by the strong of the four-armed giants, the deity was infuriated, casting divine punishment to exterminate the entire four-armed giant race. The desert outside is likely formed in the same way."

If this is indeed true, then the deity is extraordinarily powerful beyond imagination.

Humans have limited understanding of the otherworld, especially regarding deities. The only sources of information are Martial Artists' explorations and captured Barbarians, yet the former have a narrow exploration scope and cannot access deities, while the latter, even Priests, perhaps remain largely ignorant about their worshiped deities.

The information between deities and ordinary creatures is almost disconnected.

Besides deities understanding deities, other creatures struggle to grasp anything about them.

Chapter 359: The Inheritance Weapon

This kind of deity is still too distant for him.

In fact, if it weren't for the unique environment of Earth, which heavily restricts deities as soon as they enter, humanity might have long since fallen.

Chen Shouyi shook his head slightly and decided not to dwell on this heavy topic.

The pitch-black cave was silent and without a sound.

He bypassed a massive corpse in front of him and continued onward.

Perhaps the environment here is sealed and dry, making decay difficult. It may have been many years, yet it still largely retains its original appearance, with little damage.

The entire stone cave can be roughly divided into a storage area, a resting area, and an activity area.

It can be seen that this tribe still maintains a primitive society with no concept of private property.

All the tribe's possessions were piled up together.

Piles of animal skins, numerous long spears as thick as a bowl's rim, and the bones and scales and horns of giant beasts, some of which had been polished and processed into usable weapons.

Many of these emitted a dim, mystical glow in the darkness, clearly not ordinary items.

Chen Shouyi bent down and used both hands to pick up a primitive weapon of a four-armed giant.

"This... should be an axe."

The handle was a peculiar wood twisted in a spiral, measuring 2.5 meters in length.

It was very thick and heavy, with an extremely dense texture. Even with his strength, he could barely lift it, making it quite exhausting, and the axe blade was an oval-shaped green scale.

This scale was covered with mysterious patterns, shining with a dim radiance in the darkness, measuring two meters at its longest and a meter at its shortest, hinting at the enormous size of its original owner.

It was embedded in the handle and firmly fastened with vine as thick as a child's arm through drilled holes. Although crudely made, it was quite solid and durable, and hadn't decayed at all.

Chen Shouyi had no doubt about the terrifying lethality of this weapon.

Unfortunately, this kind of weapon would be useless to him.

He threw it to the ground, and it immediately produced a loud "BOOM" with dust swirling around.

He clapped his hands and continued walking forward.

In one corner, he saw a large pile of dried-up corpses.

Most of them were Barbarians, piled up like a mountain of bodies, spectacular and deeply shocking to the soul. The total number of Barbarians he had killed was not even a tenth of this, and it was estimated to be over ten thousand.

These Barbarians were clearly the food reserves of the four-armed Giant.

This corresponded with the content of the murals seen earlier.

However, the murals depicted only a dozen Barbarians as an artistic presentation. He hadn't expected the real number to be so vast.

"It seems an entire tribe was slaughtered by the four-armed Giant!" he thought, shaken.

As he turned around a stone pillar, Chen Shouyi was suddenly taken aback, his heart skipping a beat.

The Shell Lady on his shoulder was also frightened, clinging tightly to his ear.

Once he saw clearly, Chen Shouyi let out a breath of relief.

This was a standing four-armed Giant, with a height of six meters, exuding an intense aura of oppression.

His eyes were shriveled and sunken, and his scaly face looked ferocious, yet Chen Shouyi could still see an expression of alarm and anger on his face.

He appeared larger and stronger than the usual four-armed Giants, and despite some dehydration and shrinkage, he remained quite imposing, faintly releasing an oppressive aura.

Chen Shouyi's gaze swept over him and landed on the long spear he held. It was a pale silver, transparent spear, occasionally pulsating with faint arcs of light, appearing quite mystical.

"This is... the Clan Leader of the four-armed Giant!" he exclaimed inwardly.

Chen Shouyi had repeatedly seen the image of this long spear in the murals, with different characters holding it each time.

Clearly, this weapon was a legacy of the tribe's Clan Leaders over generations.

He picked up a large stone and threw it with force.

With a dull "thud," the stone struck the head of the four-armed Giant, instantly shattering it. The massive corpse could no longer stand and fell with a crash, the spear slipping from its grasp.

Chen Shouyi pressed the hilt of his sword and moved forward.

Fortunately, the other party had long since had their Divine Soul destroyed, and no accidents occurred.

He dared not touch it with his hands rashly. To be cautious, he drew his sword, intending to first touch the long spear with the tip of his sword.

However, as soon as his sword made contact, he instantly felt a massive spiritual shock. A ferocious four-armed Giant roared at him, and in an electric flash, he swiftly withdrew his sword, wavering as he sat down.

"Great Giant, are you okay?" the Shell Lady flew back onto Chen Shouyi's shoulder, asking with concern.

"I'm fine!" Chen Shouyi replied with a muffled voice.

Damn, I was careless!

He still felt a bit dizzy, and it took several seconds before he shakily stood up.

This spiritual shock was even stronger and more terrifying than the will impact he experienced the last time he used Divine Blood, but luckily he reacted quickly, and it only lasted for a brief moment.

Looking at the long spear, he couldn't calm his heart: "What is the origin of this spear, to exert such a terrifying psychological impact?"

His 16.0 willpower couldn't be considered weak, yet even so, it almost collapsed upon contact. And this was only indirect contact; one could only wonder how the four-armed Giants controlled it?

There must be a special method.

Chen Shouyi didn't attempt again.

He was merely curious about this four-armed Giant's legacy weapon, but controlling this terrifying spear would be useless to him anyway.

The entire spear was over six meters long, thicker than his leg.

Only the Giant Transformation could barely use it.

On Earth, during his Giant Transformation, reaching over three meters tall, he could use it as a long spear, while in the alternate world, at fifteen to sixteen meters, it could serve as a short sword.

But of course, that was just a thought.

The transformation could only last a few minutes, and in normal circumstances, he couldn't drag this massive spear around every day; even moving it would be problematic.

Afterward, Chen Shouyi continued to wander for a few minutes before exiting the cave.

The sandstorm outside had ceased.

The sky turned clear and serene, and gazing at the endless desert, his previously stifled and oppressive mood lifted, becoming more relaxed.

He discovered that the area wasn't devoid of life.

As the sandstorm halted, several large shell-like creatures resembling spiders or crabs crawled out from the sand heaps.

Moreover, a lizard covered with thorny spikes emerged from the bushes at the mountain's base, quickly crawling through the sand pile.

When it saw Chen Shouyi, sensing a threat, it halted, raising its fierce head and issuing a sharp, hoarse warning cry.

"Great Giant, it's so bad," the Shell Lady exclaimed pale-faced, standing on Chen Shouyi's shoulder, loudly complaining.

...

Ten minutes later, this lizard, weighing around ten pounds, was being skinned by Chen Shouyi. He removed its head and innards, slipped it onto a wooden stick, and placed it over the fire to roast.

Chapter 360: The Eerie Mountain Village

With the arrival of September, the scorching heat that could kill a person started to gradually drop, maintaining around forty degrees.

Although it's still really hot, for a Divine Creature like Chen Shouyi, it didn't matter much.

In the evening, after taking a bath, the Shell Lady jumped onto the bed and humbly pleaded, "Great Giant, could I please take another look at that big gemstone?"

"You can only look at it for a little while," Chen Shouyi said with a stern face.

"Just a little while!" The Shell Lady nodded repeatedly.

Chen Shouyi waved his hand, and a red crystal sphere placed on the wall shelf fell onto the bed.

As soon as it landed, the Shell Lady pounced on it, hugging it tightly, rubbing her face continuously against it, a blissful blush appearing on her face.

The walls of his bedroom now had quite a few collectibles.

A giant scale that looked like a Shield, covered with mysterious patterns, a few crystal-clear teeth the size of cow horns, some brightly colored feathers from various creatures, and this red crystal sphere was taken from the forehead of a Giant Beast's skull.

Anything that caught Chen Shouyi's eye was, of course, extraordinary.

Each item emitted waves of Energy.

For example, the scale had a peculiar defensive force field on it, its surface untainted and impervious to water and fire.

And this smooth, round red Crystal Stone, the size of a fist, constantly emitted a gentle red glow.

If the power goes out, it could even be used as a light bulb.

Since bringing it back, the Shell Lady coveted it immensely, almost crying with desire, and requested every day to see it for a while.

These items, compared to the mountains of goods piled up on the Stone Cave side, didn't even count as a fraction; many slightly larger items, he couldn't be bothered to take.

For him, these were merely pretty and rare collectibles.

They essentially served no practical purpose.

Watching the Shell Lady's obsessed look, Chen Shouyi shook his head, went to the bathroom to wash her small clothes, and upon returning, picked up a book and began to read.

A week had passed since he found a new training ground.

During this period, his attributes had changed again.

His perception had increased the most, with the optimized meditation cultivating his body, the effect was quite excellent, increasing by 0.2 points, reaching 14.6, almost growing by 0.1 points every two days.

Strength and constitution each increased by 0.1 points, reaching 16.9.

Now the power of his arms was close to seventeen hundred kilograms.

It's not far from two thousand kilograms.

Unfortunately, the Cultivation Technique for enhancing intelligence had not made any progress.

"Sigh, why is it so hard?"

Chen Shouyi tossed aside the thesis on brain structure, feeling somewhat irritated, as human brain research primarily approaches from biology; but what use is that to him?

He doesn't wish to become a brain expert.

Just then, the phone on the desk rang; he immediately picked it up.

"What!" Chen Shouyi said in shock.

"Alright, I'll be right out."

Chen Shouyi immediately dressed, packed his bags:

"I have to go out for a bit!" Chen Shouyi told the Shell Lady.

"Oh!" The Shell Lady said indifferently, rolling happily with the red crystal sphere.

Chen Shouyi's face darkened in annoyance, he picked up his luggage and opened the door, hearing Mrs. Chen's voice from upstairs:

"Shou Yi, are you going out?"

The house was equipped with two phones, one in Chen Shouyi's bedroom and another in the living room; in the deep quiet of the night, any call could be heard by everyone.

"Yeah, there's a task, I have to go out for a bit, I'll be back in a day or two. Mom, I'm so capable, there's no problem at all, so don't worry."

"Then... be careful."

"Got it," Chen Shouyi replied.

...

Walking out of the villa, Bai Xiaoling was already waiting at the door.

"This task is a bit peculiar," Bai Xiaoling whispered, quickly catching up to Chen Shouyi.

"Tell me the information you know," Chen Shouyi said.

"The incident occurred in a mountain village, the initial sign appeared a week ago when someone reported that there was a demon wandering in the village at night, the local police immediately dispatched officers to check, but after staking out for a whole day, they found nothing.

The villager suspected of making a false report appeared neurotic during the interrogation, disoriented, speaking excitedly and incoherently, repeatedly claiming to have seen the demon and wanting to kill it.

The local police assumed he was mentally unstable and didn't pay much attention, ultimately releasing him without further investigation.

As a result, after returning home that night, this villager killed his wife, mother, and son, ending up killing himself."

Chen Shouyi felt a shiver: "There were no clues?"

"None!" Bai Xiaoling replied, "The local police couldn't find anything, soon more villagers started going mad, by the time it was taken seriously, it was too late.

The entire village was engulfed in a layer of fog, once inside, no one could exit, now a platoon of soldiers and several Martial Artists are trapped inside!"

Could it be Natural Spirits, Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

However, he dared not be careless; Natural Spirits could be strong or weak; a weak one could be crushed with a thought, and a strong one with condensed Divinity could also challenge him.

The two quickly reached the helicopter pad, Chen Shouyi told Bai Xiaoling to return, then swiftly climbed into the helicopter.

...

In just over ten minutes, the helicopter landed in front of a town hall.

Chen Shouyi exited the helicopter and was warmly greeted by a crowd.

After some formalities, Chen Shouyi noticed a familiar face among the group:

"Sister Jin, what brings you here?"

Jin Feiyan, tall and robust, was somewhat flattered: "Chief Advisor!"

"Just call me Chen Shouyi," Chen Shouyi said with a smile, "Did you just arrive?"

"No, Chief Advisor, I just escaped." Jin Feiyan naturally wouldn't take it seriously; she wasn't a beauty, didn't expect special treatment, moreover calling a respectful title doesn't cost her anything, if she was tactless, who knows if the other side might hold grudges.

"What's the situation inside?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"Hard to say, I didn't go in too deep, just managed to escape," Jin Feiyan said without the slightest shame for her fearlessness, despite the strange looks.

In this hazardous era, without understanding survival techniques, she'd already be dead several times over.

So many Martial Artists got trapped, she, a peak Martial Artist, just a little stronger than an ordinary Martial Artist, what could she do to save the day?

"Chief Advisor, perhaps... we should go have a look," suggested a cautious major beside them.

"Alright," Chen Shouyi agreed promptly.

...

Shortly thereafter, Chen Shouyi and several others including Jin Feiyan took a truck, swiftly heading toward the distant mountain village.

"Which Martial Artists got trapped inside?" Chen Shouyi inquired.

Jin Feiyan immediately listed a few names, none of which Chen Shouyi had heard of; with the assessment leniency added to the release of the new-body refinement method, this year saw a surge in new Martial Artists like bamboo shoots after a spring rain.

Among ten Martial Artists, nine seem unfamiliar to him.

Until the name Song Yingjie came up.

"Song Yingjie went in there too?" Chen Shouyi asked with surprise.

"You know her?"

Chen Shouyi nodded affirmatively, then remained silent, and the truck fell into a quiet atmosphere.