

New Era 371

Chapter 371: Liar

The nuclear submarine's propulsion method is powered by generating electricity through a nuclear reactor and then using that electricity for propulsion.

However, during the mutation, a series of changes caused the circuit system originally specified for strategic nuclear submarines to malfunction, rendering all electronic equipment inoperative. Even though the nuclear reactor could still operate, it completely lost power.

Chen Shouyi felt a chill in his heart; as Great Xia Country's strategic deterrent force, nuclear submarines are always equipped with nuclear warheads: "Does the naval base on Qinggang City know the location of the nuclear submarine?"

"No, prior to the second mutation, satellite communications had already failed. The nuclear submarine had just completed resupply before the incident and set out from Qinggang City on a mission, specific location unknown to anyone; however, it can't be ruled out that they might have found it, or even obtained the nuclear warheads inside!" Luo Jingwen said.

Indeed, this is a world with mysterious forces. If the Barbarian God intervenes...

Chen Shouyi felt a heavy heart, now only hoping the situation wouldn't worsen to that extent.

The trio quickly left Qujiang City, encountering several blockade checkpoints on the highway, guarded by groups of Southeast Asians carrying weapons, where occasional sight of Barbarians could still be seen.

These Barbarians wore human clothing, generally taller and fiercer than ordinary Barbarians, standing over two meters in height.

Chen Shouyi's face turned grim.

Yet in the end, they bypassed it from afar.

Approaching noon, the group finally arrived at Qinggang City.

Qinggang is a port city, ranked only as a third-tier city in Great Xia Country, yet it is one of Great Xia's nine major military ports, holding significant strategic importance.

However, now the entire city is in ruins, debris and remnants everywhere, as if it had experienced warfare not long ago.

Passing by a ruin, a group of ragged humans were sweating profusely cleaning up rubble, their faces numb, while dozens of armed Southeast Asians patrolled back and forth.

Zhu Xueqing couldn't hold her breath, grabbing a hurried young lady: "Hello, can I ask who they are?"

"Sla... slaves!" The young lady seemed nervous, seeing the three with an imposing aura and carrying swords.

"What did they do wrong?"

"Don't you know... they're all obstinate, desecrating my Lord. Their whole family was deprived and reduced to slaves!" The young lady said in surprise, isn't this knowledge known by all, she instinctively glanced at their Divine Emblem which reflected that of ordinary civilians.

A hint of an unusual light flashed in her eyes as excitement began to stir.

In the society governed by the God of Order Church, the cold and harsh order was reflected everywhere.

Everyone's status was clear.

Slaves, civilians, devotees, warriors, priests, all had distinct statuses that couldn't be crossed.

Civilians couldn't migrate freely or carry weapons; only the Defender Army had the rights to bear arms.

Clearly, these people were either underground resistors or spies sent by the country to gather intelligence.

Chen Shouyi sensitively detected her anomaly, quietly approached.

"Don't... don't misunderstand, I'm not one of those lunatics, let's talk somewhere else." The young lady seemed aware of something, cautiously glanced around, whispered hurriedly.

The three exchanged glances, Luo Jingwen nodded slightly.

Soon, the group arrived at a quiet park, before any inquiry, the young lady exclaimed excitedly:

"Are you dispatched by the nation, when can you rescue us?"

Luo Jingwen nodded, calmly said: "We are indeed dispatched to investigate the situation here, but determining when to rescue you all is beyond us, although the more intelligence we collect, the more hope for victory in the war. We hope you can cooperate with our inquiry and tell us everything you know!"

Hearing this, the young lady's excitement cooled, sighed in disappointment, suppressed her voice: "What do you want to ask?"

"How did you recognize us?"

"With how you asked, anyone would know you are outsiders, plus your emblems are incorrect!" the young lady said.

She then explained the differences between each tier's emblems; Chen Shouyi realized his oversight, but due to the similarities at first glance, those who noticed avoided unnecessary trouble, otherwise they might have been exposed.

"Are there many who persist like you?" Luo Jingwen asked solemnly.

"Are you referring to nonbelievers? No idea, even if one is disbelieving, they would project a firm belief, I don't know how long I can hold on either, maybe half a year, maybe a few days!"

Chen Shouyi remained silent.

"What about the garrison here?"

"They were either killed or captured and reduced to slaves. There are fewer here, many are in mining areas and suburban factories!" The young lady sighed, continued: "Half a year ago, the God of Order descended, the army collapsed within a day, followed by a large influx of Southeast Asians and Barbarians landing here, quickly taking control."

As she spoke, Chen Shouyi clearly saw the profound reverence, along with fear, on her face.

"Have the Barbarians and Southeast Asians exhibited any strange acts at sea in the past half year?"

"I don't know about that!"

"Please think carefully, this intelligence is crucial to the nation."

"I truly don't know! As a civilian, how could I know such things?" said the young lady.

Luo Jingwen continued questioning for a while, then let her go.

She, being an ordinary person, couldn't gather much more.

Soon after, the young lady hurriedly left.

Zhu Xueqing asked: "What do we do next?"

"Let's change emblems first, then head to the military port to check it out. Chen Shouyi, what do you think?" Luo Jingwen said.

"You are experienced, I have no objections."

He might handle killing, but not this sort of matter.

The other was an established Martial Artist with countless accomplished missions, no way he, a new Martial Artist, could compare in experience.

...

In a small alley, four Southeast Asians walked together, chatting and laughing.

"Max, heard you bought another beautiful female slave, you already have five, can you handle it, be careful you don't weaken your legs." A dark-skinned, short, stocky middle-aged man laughed.

"I'm strong enough, ten times a night won't be an issue."

"You sure boast to the heavens." That stocky middle-aged man asked another: "Ah Lai, how come you haven't bought one, you aren't short on money."

"Lust is a bladed knife, I don't want to ruin my Martial Arts, still aim to become a Martial Artist!" a young man grinned, said.

"Still, Ah Lai has big ambitions, once you become a Martial Artist, at least you can be a captain, don't forget to treat us to drinks." a youth who appeared of Chinese descent said.

"Don't joke with me, Brother Huang, you're already a prospective Martial Artist, within one or two years, you'll certainly become one."

"Just afraid we won't last, having occupied East Sea Province, Great Xia Country surely won't let things settle, we might all end up on the front lines."

"Afraid of what? Great Xia Country may be strong, but the great God of Order is above all. Even the powerful United States is just like scarecrows before a god. Surely Great Xia wouldn't drop a nuclear bomb here, it's full of Great Xia's own people."

"A nuclear bomb surely won't be dropped here but that's not guaranteed with our country," said the Chinese descent youth, sighed.

Everyone was stunned, even under the blazing sun, chills ran through them.

Invading the world's second strongest country, still a nuclear power possessing over 10,000 nuclear warheads.

In the past half year, they knew full well how many they killed, and when war comes, nothing will stop the fury of their revenge. If war arrives, their country will likely be erased forever.

"Thud!"

"Thud!"

...

Just then, a sudden gust sent those speaking sprawling to the ground, the youth of Chinese descent showed a horrified expression before a giant hand like forged iron clutched his throat, lifted him entirely.

His face flushed red, gasping loudly, struggling desperately, punching, kicking.

But the opponent stood unmoved as if rooted, his heart sinking into a bottomless pit.

"A Xia Country person?"

The youth frantically nodded, grasping at a chance.

"You're lying!"

In the next moment, a crisp sound of "crack" echoed by his ear, in blurred consciousness, that phrase reverberated in his mind.

Chen Shouyi removed the emblem from his chest, tossed the corpse aside.

He glanced, indeed noticing some difference, not just more refined, but also with silver embedded within the tribe of the eyes.

He discarded the former medal, crumpled it, threw it on the ground, and donned the new emblem.

Zhu Xueqing quickly came over to assist with corpse disposal, surprised: "You are quick!"

"Normal," Chen Shouyi humbly said, then saw Luo Jingwen at the alley's entrance gesture a sign, telling Zhu Xueqing, "Someone is coming, let's hurry."

Chen Shouyi spoke as he opened the sewer cover, grabbed a corpse, stuffed it in.

The two cooperated, seconds later, four corpses already were handled.

Chapter 372: Sea Monster

After dealing with the corpse, the group didn't stop for lunch and headed towards the port.

By noon, the sky gradually turned dark, clouds gathered densely overhead, and the air carried moisture.

"Looks like it's going to pour!" Chen Shouyi glanced at the sky and said.

"Then there'll be no need for restraint," Zhu Xueqing laughed, revealing a set of neat white teeth.

Because there were people everywhere, the speed of traveling had to be maintained at a pace slightly faster than a normal person's.

"That's true!" Chen Shouyi also responded, somewhat dissatisfied.

At this rate, it'll be evening by the time we reach the military port.

Luckily, after just ten minutes, the heavy rain began to pour, with large raindrops striking the cement ground, causing dust to splash up, creating a white mist that was blocked by the rain curtain.

Pedestrians on the road were running around seeking shelter.

The group quickly increased their speed.

After exiting the suburbs, the group's speed increased again.

The surroundings were quiet, only the sound of raindrops and the dense footsteps of the three could be heard.

Zhu Xueqing noticed at this point that despite Chen Shouyi being in the rain for so long, his clothes remained dry, not even his shoes were wet.

Within a foot of him, raindrops seemed unable to get close, as if they were being halted by some force.

Surprised, as if discovering a new continent, she asked, "Hey, Chen Shouyi, do you have a talent ability?"

He naturally had talent abilities, and more than just one, though this wasn't considered a talent ability.

"It's just a simple application of willpower, don't you have it?"

"Should I have it?" Zhu Xueqing responded, somewhat confused, "Also, what is willpower?"

"You should be able to emit Sword Qi, right? I remember once killing a high-ranking martial artist from Pantheon who could emit Sword Qi!" Chen Shouyi said.

"Pantheon, that terrifying organization? Of course, I know Sword Qi, but what does that have to do with Sword Qi?" Zhu Xueqing asked.

Sword Qi is the Martial Artist's condensed mental strength, extreme unity of energy and spirit, delivering an intensely powerful strike.

She could naturally do it too, but it depends entirely on state and luck.

Usually only when facing powerful enemies, when the spirit is highly focused and full potential is unleashed, can one occasionally strike a couple of these blows.

Perhaps only an experienced peak Martial Artist like Elder Luo, whose moves have been finely honed and fused into one, with a spirit reaching the peak achievable by humans, could integrate it into every attack.

But she never heard of this usage!

"If you can emit Sword Qi, this should be simple; aren't they essentially the same? You just need to maintain the state when using Sword Qi, and you can freely control everything around you," Chen Shouyi stated matter-of-factly.

What's so strange about that?

It's always been this way for him!

Without any difficulty, he didn't even train deliberately, just naturally gained control.

Listening to this, Zhu Xueqing was utterly confused, her mind receiving a heavy blow, leaving her somewhat speechless.

Meanwhile, Luo Jingwen, listening with shock, seemed also to ponder.

Can it really be this way?

Can the unity of energy and spirit be maintained over a long period?

He slowed his pace, quietly falling to the back, then silently concentrating his mind, yet for a long while, the raindrops around him kept hammering down on his head and face motionlessly.

Instead, due to being too absorbed, he nearly tripped over a rock on the road and staggered.

He wiped the rainwater off his face helplessly.

Without the pressure of battle, it's indeed hard to concentrate his mind.

Perhaps in a quiet room, it might be possible, but in pouring rain whilst running, amidst various disturbances... It's simply not possible!

This boy is definitely lying.

What's more, while concentrating the mind, this boy was still chatting, not disturbed; if saying while chatting he wasn't disturbed, then why talk about concentrating the mind, energy and spirit unity, it simply doesn't make sense!

I really fell for his trick.

Even secretly experimenting, fortunately, no one noticed.

Otherwise, I wouldn't know where to hide my dignity.

If this isn't a talent ability, he'd immediately eat dirt.

Seeing Zhu Xueqing and Luo Jingwen drenched, Chen Shouyi felt a bit embarrassed, as he was only concerned with himself, he quickly said, "With such heavy rain, why don't I expand my will domain a bit!"

"You can expand it?" Zhu Xueqing glanced at him and asked.

"Yes, about four meters in radius," Chen Shouyi said, "but if the range is too large, it easily depletes mental energy, won't be able to sustain for long. You'd better come closer."

Of course, four meters is just his normal state, if enhanced with Divine Sword's perception, his control span could leap to a fifteen-meter radius, covering around seven hundred square meters of space.

"Making things up, keep on making them up!" Luo Jingwen grumbled inwardly, yet quickened his pace to walk alongside Chen Shouyi.

When he stood firm, Chen Shouyi's thoughts moved, and the willpower space rapidly expanded, enveloping both of them within.

In the next moment, Luo Jingwen and Zhu Xueqing felt a heavy weight in their hearts, as if a large stone was blocking their chests, making it difficult to breathe.

Every wisp of air and every piece of earth here seemed to subtly reject them, making them feel out of place, as if even their minds were clouded with a sense of unexplained unease.

Luo Jingwen felt tormented.

What is this thing?

He could barely stand even for half a minute: "It's too stuffy inside, it's better to be in the rain."

With that, he ran out of the willpower field.

"I won't stay either." Zhu Xueqing quickly said.

Chen Shouyi watched as in no time, he was left alone, feeling somewhat perplexed.

What's so good about getting soaked?

Although, with the physique of a Martial Artist, getting a cold is not a concern, but wearing wet clothes that stick to your body is always uncomfortable.

However, if they wanted to be in the rain, Chen Shouyi couldn't stop them.

He was also happy to be relaxed.

He quickly shrunk the willpower field!

...

The closer they got to the military port,

the more desolate it became, with craters and bones scattered all over the road.

There were both human and Barbarian bones.

Chen Shouyi even saw an unexploded shell stuck upright in the middle of the road, being drenched by the rain.

The military port has always been a forbidden military zone, usually garrisoned by a guard unit, but evidently, it had also met with disaster.

Upon entering the military port, they saw numerous oil tanks and deprecated missile launchers, though the missiles had long been removed, leaving them empty. Additionally, there were abandoned trucks everywhere, many still loaded with goods, the tarpaulins on them now turned black.

"There are Barbarians here, be careful," Luo Jingwen reminded.

Chen Shouyi had also seen them, vague silhouettes in the distant buildings, likely sheltering from the rain.

The rain was heavy, and visibility at more than a hundred meters away was already blurred.

The group did not want to stir up trouble and circled around the buildings from afar.

It wasn't long before Chen Shouyi saw two huge ten-thousand-ton destroyers quietly docked at the port, their sky-blue hulls encrusted with a layer of green algae and hung with marine life like snails and shells.

The group halted their steps.

"Really beautiful!" Zhu Xueqing exclaimed.

"Unfortunately, they can no longer be operated," Luo Jingwen sighed.

The more advanced the technological creation, the more significant the impact of the mutations. It might be ten or even twenty years before Great Xia can build such advanced warships again.

At this moment, a large mass of water suddenly rose from the distant sea surface.

The group's expressions turned to shock.

As the water flowed aside, a massive shadow quickly emerged from the sea.

While still in mid-air, it unfolded a pair of fleshy wings.

It looked menacing, presenting a hunchbacked humanoid form, with large and strong limbs. In one large, rough hand covered with wrinkled skin, it held a black harpoon-like weapon.

It glided over the sea with its wings extended, leaving a long white streak in its wake.

"Hide now!" Luo Jingwen whispered urgently, then quickly dashed toward an abandoned truck at the port.

Chen Shouyi and Zhu Xueqing immediately followed.

A few seconds later, the monster flew to the port, folded its wings, and landed from mid-air.

The group instinctively held their breath. Only then did they feel its enormity, nearly six meters tall, like a small mountain standing in the distance, exuding a sense of oppression. It turned its head to glance in the direction where they were hiding, muttered a sound with a deep rumble, then turned and strode away into the distance.

"What is that thing?" Zhu Xueqing asked with an unpleasant expression.

"It should be an underling of the Barbarian God, very troublesome," Luo Jingwen also had a grim expression, seemingly sensing danger: "We can't stay here, let's go!"

Large creatures naturally suppress smaller ones. If he had the War Bow in hand, he would not be afraid, but now he only has a sword, and close combat is truly uncertain.

He has always refrained from doing things he's not confident about!

He has been a Martial Artist for over ten years. Many of his contemporaries were more talented and outstanding than him. Some have fallen, some have slackened and lagged behind, fading into obscurity, but he not only survived but grew stronger and more powerful, now becoming a peak-level Martial Artist.

On one hand, his love for Martial Arts is incredibly pure, consistent and unwavering; approaching forty, he remains single. On the other hand, he is inherently cautious, avoiding risks whenever possible, and abstaining from fighting unless absolutely necessary.

Of course, in a true deadly situation, he never shies away from battle.

Chapter 373: Resolute

Seeing the monster disappear into the rain curtain.

The three didn't hesitate and quickly got up to leave.

The rain fell harder and harder, mixed with flashes of lightning and thunder, as everyone hurriedly moved forward in the rain.

They had only walked half a kilometer away.

Suddenly, heavy footsteps came from behind, the ground slightly shaking, as if an earthquake was occurring.

Everyone was startled and turned around to look.

"Boom!"

A blinding flash of lightning split the sky, illuminating the world for an instant. In the rain curtain, a blurred and massive figure was striding towards them, every step sending splashes of water flying.

It was the same kind of monster as before.

"Damn it, they're more than just one." Luo Jingwen cursed.

Fortunately, it was just walking at a normal pace, without any intention of chasing them.

The distance between them gradually widened.

A few minutes later, the three hid behind an oil tank, carefully observing.

Three, four... In just three hours, a total of twelve monsters had returned from the ocean.

"What do you think these monsters are doing at the bottom of the sea?" Zhu Xueqing asked gravely.

"They're definitely not fishing!" Chen Shouyi chuckled, then something clicked in his mind, and they exchanged a glance.

"Boom..."

Another flash of lightning streaked across the sky.

Everyone's hair stood on end!

"Damn, they're indeed searching for that nuclear submarine. Someone betrayed us, those damned traitors." Luo Jingwen slapped his thigh heavily, speaking in a grave tone.

He stood up, pacing back and forth anxiously.

This is not comparable to the last missing thousand-ton tactical nuclear bomb.

The reason a thousand-ton nuclear bomb is considered tactical, not strategic, is because it has weak power and a small kill radius. Even if a cult got hold of it, it would just be a bigger bomb with limited casualties.

However, strategic nuclear submarines primarily carry ballistic missiles for second-strike nuclear retaliation. The nuclear bombs they carry are not just a few, nor are they small in yield.

According to intelligence, this nuclear submarine carries 15 intercontinental missiles, each with ten warheads. If each warhead ranges from 100,000 to 300,000 tons, the total yield reaches 15 million to 45 million tons.

If acquired by the cult, the Great Xia Country would be completely hamstrung and fall into a passive state.

The air was thick with a repressive atmosphere, everyone remaining silent for a while.

The rain fell harder, dense raindrops sounding like a symphony orchestrated by heaven and earth.

Luo Jingwen paced for several seconds, seeming to make a decision, and suddenly stopped, turned to the others, and said gravely: "Zhu Xueqing, return to the Capital City immediately and report the situation here!"

He then looked at Chen Shouyi: "You were never part of this mission to begin with. You're still young, with limitless potential. Perhaps soon, you'll become someone like Ye Zong. You shouldn't sacrifice yourself here."

Zhu Xueqing said resolutely: "Elder Luo, do you think I'm someone who would flee? Live or die, we'll do it together!"

"Fool, women just have long hair but short vision. Do you think I'm sparing you on behalf of your brother because I can't bear to see you die? This intelligence concerns the life and death of Great Xia Country. Don't be stubborn! As a newly minted Martial Artist, what can you do here but throw your life away?"

The sky flashed with lightning, constantly alternating between light and dark.

Zhu Xueqing's eyes reddened as she glared fiercely at Luo Jingwen: "If you want to go, you go. I won't. Since my brother sacrificed himself for my life and never returned, I've sworn never to abandon anyone to escape alone again."

Back then, she had just become a Martial Artist, and her brother was already a Martial Artist.

It was the happiest time of her life, when nobody dared offend her, and everyone treated her like a little princess.

No matter how excessive, they closed one eye for her brother's sake.

However, everything changed one day.

That day, she had just become a Martial Artist and eagerly wanted to take on missions to explore other worlds. Her brother was worried and accompanied her, but they ventured too deep and encountered a terrifying fierce beast.

To hold off the beast, her brother told her to leave first, promising to come back after shaking off the beast.

But that farewell was their last. Her brother never returned from the other world!

Luo Jingwen fell silent for a moment: "Your brother is so strong; he will surely come back. Don't be stubborn!"

Chen Shouyi remained silent for a while, suddenly standing up and chuckling: "Aren't they just a few monsters? Why do we need to part with life and death? We can just kill them!"

"Exactly!" Zhu Xueqing said loudly.

"Truly fearless of tigers, huh?" Luo Jingwen murmured, feeling both heavy-hearted and slightly gratified.

Even if he kills one, there are still eleven.

Even if two are killed, ten remain.

A Martial Artist's strength is limited; how long can they hold out?

One by one would be fine, but if overwhelmed, they could be wiped out in an instant.

Besides, apart from these monsters, there are also an unknown number of Barbarians here. Who knows if any strong ones are among them!

If he had known the risk of exposure, he would have brought the War Bow, regretting being overly cautious usually.

"Alright, since none of you fear death, let's do it. Why fear when you're unafraid of death?" He gritted his teeth, testing it out. If it can't be helped, he must ensure they leave first and get the intelligence out.

"When will we act?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"We'll wait until night!" Luo Jingwen replied.

...

The sky darkened.

The heavy rain had stopped.

By the stream, a sea monster from another world lay skinned and gutted.

Zhu Xueqing drew a sharp knife, her hands moving quickly, slicing thin, translucent pieces of meat onto neatly arranged leaves, saying with a smile: "I'm great at making sashimi, but unfortunately, there's no soy sauce or wasabi here!"

Her smile appeared slightly forced, an attempt at seeming calm, though her heart was clearly not as composed as her exterior suggested.

In that time, another nine similar monsters had returned from the sea.

Twenty-one in all!

A terrifying number!

Faced with the impending danger, possibly even the last meal of their lives, who could remain entirely unmoved?

"I don't like wasabi; I usually dip raw seafood in soy sauce," Chen Shouyi remarked.

Since Chen Xingyue prankingly used wasabi on him as a child, choking him to tears and leaving him feeling near-death, he had a fear of it.

Of course, the chief culprit, Chen Xingyue, got a good drubbing from him.

And naturally, he ended up getting a more severe beating from Mrs. Chen.

A perfect food chain.

But after Chen Xingyue went to middle school, the food chain was broken, and he was honored as the lowest in it, though he's now restored to his original position.

"Sashimi without wasabi has no soul; might as well not eat it," Zhu Xueqing said.

"Soy sauce is enough," Chen Shouyi replied.

"Seems like people from Jiangnan Province like salty soy milk!" Luo Jingwen casually remarked, lifting a piece of sashimi to his mouth.

"It depends on the place; where I'm from, people tend to prefer salty soy milk, but of course, some drink sweet as well!" Chen Shouyi replied.

Zhu Xueqing, looking incredulous, said, "There's actually salty soy milk? How do you drink such dark cuisine?!"

"Don't comment if you haven't tried it. Soy milk with soy sauce and scallions, plus some beef, is simply delicious!" Chen Shouyi retorted unhappily. "I can't even stand sweet soy milk!"

"Kid, watch what you say, there are two sweet party members here!" Luo Jingwen jokingly threatened.

...

While eating sashimi, everyone chatted and laughed, seemingly forgetting the upcoming battle.

At one o'clock in the morning, when the last piece of sashimi was placed in Chen Shouyi's mouth.

The atmosphere fell silent for a moment.

A round moon slipped through gauzy clouds, showering the world with its snowy light.

Luo Jingwen glanced at the moon, sighing faintly. Heaven doesn't favor humanity. Yet the next moment, he drove the pessimistic thought from his mind, stating firmly:

"Time's about up. Let's head out!"

Chapter 374: Fierce Battle (Part 1)

In the middle of the night, all was silent.

A group of people in the dark, their silhouettes ghostly, footsteps light, walking silently.

After a full day of covert observation, they had already pinpointed the exact location of the enemy.

The military port was not a solitary harbor.

It served as a supply center for warships, as well as a maintenance and repair center.

In addition to fuel storage tanks, there were also material reserve warehouses, an armory, a repair factory, and a naval military factory, with the Barbarians and those monsters all situated in the factory area of the port.

Unfortunately, their position was far from the armory.

Otherwise, they could simply detonate it, sparing them the trouble.

...

Minutes later, they hid behind a fixed missile defense installation, carefully observing.

A group of Southeast Asians armed with rifles stood on the rooftops on either side of the factory, vigilantly monitoring the surrounding area.

Luckily, those standing guard were all Southeast Asians; neither the Barbarians nor those monsters were present.

"Don't alert them!" Luo Jingwen said coldly, in a low voice, "Move quickly, follow my lead."

Chen Shouyi and Zhu Xueqing nodded, without speaking.

The Southeast Asians were positioned in scattered locations, enough for seven or eight spots, all visible to each other. As soon as one spot had trouble, warning signals would likely follow immediately.

Taking advantage of the momentary distraction of the Southeast Asians, Luo Jingwen quickly said.

"Now."

The three immediately darted out from behind the missile defense installation, swiftly moving forward.

Before any gaze could sweep over them, they quickly dashed to the back of a big tree, avoiding detection once more.

The operation went smoothly, and within minutes, the three had reached the vicinity of the factory where the Barbarians were located.

The guards had already been changed to Barbarians here.

Evidently, the Southeast Asians were only responsible for the perimeter.

Chen Shouyi thought deeply, it seemed the relationship between the Barbarians and the Southeast Asians wasn't as close-knit as imagined!

However, the discipline of the Barbarians was far worse than that of the Southeast Asians.

Of the twelve Barbarian guards, ten were sitting on the ground snoring, only two were still awake, but their eyes were half-open, half-closed, clearly not able to hold out for much longer.

The factory's gate was wide open, inside there were many sleeping Barbarians on the ground. The presence of monsters wasn't visible; either they weren't there or were far away from the gate.

The three of them cooperated swiftly, and the Barbarian guards were easily dealt with, without making much noise.

Then they entered the factory.

The factory was tall and spacious, covering about five or six acres, filled with many machine tools, and in the center stood a rusty giant propeller.

On the left side of the factory, twenty-one monsters folded their wings, squatting on the ground, wrapping themselves up like giant eggs.

Additionally, there were seventy or eighty Barbarians.

All were fast asleep.

The group exchanged glances, faces showing joy,

Luo Jingwen gestured for Zhu Xueqing to stay in place and watch the entrance, in case someone suddenly came inside, and then signaled Chen Shouyi to follow. They tiptoed towards the group of "giant eggs."

The factory, which should have been tidy, had now turned into a huge garbage dump, with the air filled with a strong stench and urine smell. In one corner, Chen Shouyi even saw several piles of excrement, and not far away, a mountain of white bones.

At this moment, a Barbarian scratched his groin, snoring stopped, and he groggily sat up, seemingly ready to relieve himself.

Chen Shouyi swiftly leaped forward.

His hands silently grabbed the neck from behind, twisting forcefully.

The sound of breaking neck bone in the thin air created by the Wind Control ability was barely audible, mixing in with the continuous snores, without attracting attention at all.

Chen Shouyi observed for a moment, seeing no further movement, then laid the still convulsing body slowly onto the ground.

After returning, Luo Jingwen glanced at him in surprise; he was planning to deal with it himself, but the other party had already acted first, and had handled it cleanly and quietly, without causing any disturbance.

This teammate seemed to be performing unlike an ordinary new martial artist.

However, now was not the time for inquiries.

Half a minute later, they reached one of the "giant eggs."

The wings covered in yellow-green fine scales glowed faintly in the dark, emitting a suffocating aura.

Even squatting down, these monsters were about three meters tall and two meters wide, quite large; of course, the two-meter width referred to the area covered by the wings.

They walked around the giant egg once and then stopped.

Luo Jingwen gestured for Chen Shouyi to stay alert, observing the surroundings.

Seeing Chen Shouyi nod, Luo Jingwen slowly drew his sword and approached the giant egg.

He took two steps, suddenly leaped lightly, aimed his sword at its head, and stabbed it. The fleshy wing was instantly punctured, and the sword blade went straight to the hilt. The giant monster did not make a sound, its massive body convulsed violently, unable to stand any longer, and was about to collapse.

Chen Shouyi frowned and immediately stepped forward, trying to support it.

However, as soon as he made contact, his face changed dramatically!

This giant monster weighed six to seven tons, and with his strength barely reaching two tons, even just dragging it was an extreme effort. It wasn't until Luo Jingwen came over to help that they managed to lower it slowly together.

Luo Jingwen had a hint of a smile on his face. This is the meaning of having good teammates.

It's not necessary to have strong combat skills. In special situations, being able to provide support and prevent problems before they occur is enough.

The main battle can be left entirely to him.

One!

Two!

Three!

...

The two continued in the same way, extraordinarily smoothly, and soon solved seven giant monsters without any danger.

The bloody smell in the air grew stronger.

However, at the eighth monster, something unexpected happened.

The giant monster whose head had been pierced did not die completely. It wobbled, trying to stand up.

With sharp eyes and quick reflexes, Chen Shouyi leaped up and sliced its half-brain from the back. Yet it was futile, as its body was already mostly upright. Wounded heavily, it staggered and crashed into a nearby CNC machine tool.

The tremendous impact sent several screws fixed between the machine tool and the ground flying like bullets. The friction between the machine tool base and the ground produced a sharp, screeching sound.

In an instant, the entire factory was in an uproar.

The Barbarians and giant monsters awoke instantly.

Luo Jingwen's eyes widened with anger, his hair standing on end.

These colossal beings, with long strides and great speed, would be impossible to escape from, except by fighting desperately once discovered.

Seizing the moment when one giant monster had just woken up, he dashed forward, executed a slash with his sword, then turned back and shouted desperately, "You two get out of here quickly!"

As he turned, he was stunned to find Chen Shouyi's body rapidly enlarging. His clothes began to tear apart, becoming strips of fabric that slowly floated to the ground.

"Damn Alien Race!"

A thunderous roar brought him back to his senses, followed by the sight of a massive hand passing through the blurred, distorted air, reaching toward him.

Luo Jingwen focused, no longer daring to be distracted. He instinctively dodged while his long sword, like lightning, cleaved through the air, severing two fingers of the giant monster.

This is the scariest aspect of large creatures. Even if you leave them many wounds, unless you strike fatal weak points like the head, throat, or heart, they're useless. And these weak spots are often too high.

Even though a Martial Artist could jump that high, they become a sitting duck in mid-air with no ability to evade.

The giant monster groaned in pain, quickly withdrawing its hand as if shocked, then casually grabbed a machine tool weighing several tons and hurled it at Luo Jingwen.

"Boom!" A loud explosion resounded.

The ground was smashed into a large pit.

Countless parts whistled and flew like missiles.

Just as Luo Jingwen dodged, another massive giant monster raised a huge foot, stepping toward him from behind, like stepping on a mouse.

Only when he sensed the intense wind behind him he quickly dodged.

Before he could take a breath, another one joined the battlefield.

In just a few seconds, virtual sweat broke out on Luo Jingwen's forehead, and his heart sank to the bottom.

If it was only one, he was confident he could quickly handle it.

With two, there was a certain danger, but as long as he seized the opportunity, he could kill them as well.

But with three, he could only dodge their attacks with all his might.

In reality, more giant monsters were already surrounding them, roaring loudly, trying to join the battle. However, their size was too large, and there wasn't enough space for them to squeeze in.

He was completely surrounded. Defeat and death were only a matter of time!

"Damn it! I don't know if Zhu Xueqing managed to evacuate. I hope she remains rational. Intelligence is more important than our lives!" At this moment, Luo Jingwen's greatest regret was agreeing to take risks with them. He really shouldn't have harbored any illusions.

As for Chen Shouyi, he didn't think of him.

Even as a peak Martial Artist himself, struggling under the siege of giant monsters, he assumed the other had likely already sacrificed himself.

The roars of giant monsters, screams, curses, the collision of flesh and ground, and the whooshing of air, all kinds of deafening noises, threatened to blow off the factory roof.

Utterly focused, dodging giant monster attacks with precision every second, Luo Jingwen didn't notice that the number of giant monsters intensely surrounding him was gradually decreasing.

It seemed they were being drawn away by something!

Chapter 375: Collapse

The ground shook violently.

Twelve giant monsters surrounded one spot, roaring continuously, occasionally interspersed with shrill screams, accompanied by the dense sound explosions, causing the dust from above to fall incessantly.

The violent air currents passed through the gaps between the monsters, blowing the surrounding dust and debris into chaos.

"Boom!"

One giant monster flew backward, soaring a good five or six meters before crashing heavily to the ground.

Its leg bones were already bizarrely bent, its abdomen slashed open with a massive blood mouth, it screamed continuously, attempting to stand up, only for a loud splash, as a large mass of intestines surged from its belly, strewn across the ground.

In the seconds when it fell, another three giant monsters flew out.

In fact, trapped within the encirclement, Chen Shouyi was not much better off, his face bruised and swollen, with blood streaming from his nose and mouth, in a state of extreme disarray.

Unlike Luo Jingwen, whose smaller stature allowed him to face at most three giant monsters directly.

Chen Shouyi's height was already half that of the giant monsters.

He faced four giant monsters simultaneously.

Just as he kicked and broke a monster's leg bone, a massive fist, enveloped in twisting air, exploded like a bomb on his back.

His body, under this immense force, was slammed heavily onto the ground.

The concrete ground exploded, its surface pulverized into dust.

Chen Shouyi merely groaned, quickly rolled away, barely leaving the human-shaped pit that was several centimeters deep, when a huge foot landed close to his side, triggering a wave of shock.

Chen Shouyi spat blood, his face cold as if covered in frost, his long sword slicing through, severing the huge foot. However, this was far from over; as the monster's screams rolled in its throat, Chen Shouyi clapped his hands to the ground, springing forth like a spring, directly piercing at its crotch.

The sword hilt disappeared.

The monster's eyes bulged, its body frozen in place, until Chen Shouyi's long sword hacked off the arm of another attacking monster.

The opponent finally let out a shrill howl, staggered backward several steps, and sat heavily on the ground, blood beneath it gushing like a spring.

In his giant transformation, Chen Shouyi's raw power was almost comparable to these monsters, but the explosive power he unleashed was even more formidable than these monsters that relied solely on their instincts, with movements more agile and defense stronger.

The monster's fists could only cause minor injuries to him, at most slightly damaging his lungs.

As for the 0.4 reduction in agility from the giant transformation, it hardly affected him.

His intelligence and agility attributes were so vastly different, the limitation on reaction speed severely impacted the agility performance; even if his agility wasn't reduced, his high agility of 17.6 could not be fully utilized.

As time passed.

The number of giant monsters around him dwindled, while the nearby corpses increased.

When he was surrounded by only the last three, these monsters were finally overwhelmed by fear, turning to flee in panic.

However, Chen Shouyi could not let them leave.

Not only would these monsters, once escaped, likely obstruct their subsequent actions, just from the beating he received earlier, he could not let them off.

Who would be willing to take a beating in vain!

Chen Shouyi slammed his foot down heavily, exploding a large pit in the ground, his body like a cannonball, instantly catching up to one of the monsters. Still in mid-air, his long sword sliced through like a stream of light, halting the monster's body as it ran several more steps, before a massive head detached and rolled to the ground.

His sword was 1.1 meters long, with a sword qi of 23 centimeters, making a total of 1.33 meters, whereas the thickest part of the monster's odd neck was over half a meter, yet less than one meter.

As he landed, he quickly chased down another monster in several strides.

Slashing it down again with one stroke.

The third monster couldn't help but glance back, instantly terrified to the point of being scattered, leaping blindly to break a factory beam, spreading its wings, and shakily flying toward the sky.

Damn it, consider yourself lucky!

He couldn't fly, and the distance was too far, leaving him to watch as it slipped away.

Another severely wounded monster, seeing the situation, hurriedly spread its wings too, dragging long intestines from its abdomen, attempting to escape.

But Chen Shouyi's quick eyes and hands grabbed a machine tool beside him and smashed it heavily into the ground.

This massacre finally drew the attention of the three giant monsters on Luo Jingwen's side and the distant barbarians, as panic spread rapidly, the remaining monsters' morale collapsed, unwilling to fight, seeing Chen Shouyi charging towards them, instantly terrified, their whole bodies shivering, as they leaped to swiftly fly away attempting to escape.

Catching the monsters' chaos, Luo Jingwen immediately seized the opportunity, leaped, and slashed off one of its lower legs with a sword.

Landing, his legs weakened, his body exhausted, he kneeled to the ground, his teeth clenched as he struggled to stand, panting heavily as sweat poured like a spring.

He glanced around somewhat dazed, seeing giant monster corpses everywhere, feeling slightly lost.

Was this all Chen Shouyi's doing?

But how was this possible!

Wasn't he a new martial artist?

Oh right, there's Zhu Xueqing too!

He immediately looked towards the distance, seeing Zhu Xueqing still alive, as giant-transformed Chen Shouyi rushed over at an astonishing speed to rescue her.

His heart instantly relaxed, unable to hold on any longer, he sat heavily to the ground.

In fact, there was no need for rescue anymore.

The barbarians had totally collapsed, fleeing frantically in all directions.

After Chen Shouyi killed over a dozen barbarians, the factory was cleared of them, leaving only the tattered, exposed Zhu Xueqing standing alone, staring at Chen Shouyi as if she had seen a ghost.

He did not pursue them, instead lifting the giant transformation.

As his body reverted, he paled noticeably, swaying before regaining his balance.

Now he noticed the bloodstain on Zhu Xueqing's chest, his heart tightened, and once his stamina slightly recovered, he walked over immediately, concerned, "You're bleeding, are you okay?"

Unlike himself, who could self-heal even if his internal organs shattered, returning to normal.

Once severely injured, given the current situation, even a martial artist could only wait for death.

Seeing Chen Shouyi approaching, Zhu Xueqing suddenly blushed, quickly avoiding his gaze, forcing herself to say calmly, "I'm... I'm fine, just a minor injury."

Chen Shouyi felt somewhat baffled.

Why blush out of the blue?

It was understandable on a first meeting, many girls would blush at seeing him.

But after knowing each other for so long, what's the point of continuing to blush?

A breeze suddenly blew past, and he abruptly felt a chill underneath.

His expression stiffened.

The clothes on his body, including his underwear, had already been torn to rags during the intense battle earlier.

Now, he was completely nude.

This was truly embarrassing.

He decided to feign ignorance, pretending as if he hadn't noticed, naturally saying, "Since you're fine, I'll go check if there're any monsters left alive!"

He said that before turning around, quickly walking away.

Luckily, these barbarians, influenced by human assimilation, were mostly dressed.

He grabbed a piece of clothing from the corpse nearby.

Tying it around his waist.

He finally felt natural again.

Alas!

Even elastic underwear is not dependable!

Chapter 376: Delivering Intelligence (First Update)

The battle lasted only a minute, but it felt like it went on forever.

It took a long while for everyone to catch their breath.

The factory surroundings were filled with sounds of painful groans.

The three of them wielded long swords and finished off the severely injured and dying barbarians and giant beasts one by one.

Out of a total of twenty-one giant beasts, seventeen were killed, and four escaped.

As for the barbarians, more than thirty were killed, and most fled. The ones who died were mostly slaughtered by Zhu Xueqing, as even a newly appointed martial artist is still a martial artist. Unless there are strong barbarians, they simply can't compete with a human martial artist.

During this time, no barbarians or humans returned, obviously completely frightened.

A few minutes later, after handling everything, the group quickly left.

...

The port was deserted, and the Southeast Asian guards had already fled with the barbarians.

But Chen Shouyi was well aware that this was the calm before the storm. They were already exposed, and the cult would never allow their enemies to infiltrate deeply without a response.

The group returned to their original location.

Chen Shouyi walked over to a nearby postal box and said softly:

"You can come out now!"

As soon as he finished speaking, a tiny head peeked out cautiously from the mailbox's gap.

Upon seeing Chen Shouyi, Shell Lady's mouth pursed, and her little face was full of grievance, with tears streaming down:

"Kind giant, finally you remember to come back. Little one has been waiting for you for so long. If you didn't come soon, I would have been eaten by the bad bugs here."

Although Chen Shouyi knew that Shell Lady loved to exaggerate, seeing her look so pitiful as if she were an abandoned kitten, he couldn't help but feel heartache and hurriedly responded:

"I'm back, aren't I? Alright, come on out!"

"Okay!" Shell Lady replied quickly and squeezed out of the mailbox gap.

Chen Shouyi picked up Shell Lady and placed her on his palm.

She stretched out her arms, opened her hand to show Chen Shouyi, and said: "Look, there are so many bad bugs here, trying to eat little one."

Upon looking, Chen Shouyi saw her little hand was filled with mosquitoes smashed into mush, obviously collected as evidence.

Her skin was more resilient than leather, so how could mosquitoes possibly bite her? But he played along and said:

"So many!"

"There were even more, but when I crawled out... some fell!" Shell Lady said, tears falling in grievance as she prepared to go back to the mailbox:

"I'll go find them for you to see!"

Chen Shouyi, breaking into a sweat, quickly stopped her: "No need to find them, it's filthy. Just throw them away!"

"Okay!" Shell Lady quickly threw the mosquitoes away and clapped her hands clean.

...

In the deep night, the moonlight was cold.

The ground was shrouded in a faint mist, and everyone was quickly replenishing their food.

"Zhu Xueqing, soon we will first send you away from the East Sea to deliver the intelligence." Luo Jingwen said.

This time Zhu Xueqing did not refuse and nodded seriously: "Alright, but I can go alone."

"No, this intelligence is quite important, and the risk of you alone is too great. Now with Qujiang City and Nanshan City likely under martial law, we cannot take any risks!" Luo Jingwen said.

Zhu Xueqing felt dejected and said nothing further.

In fact, her strength proved to be the weakest.

Being confronted with a single giant beast was already enough to kill her.

She had originally thought, at least she was stronger than Chen Shouyi.

Unexpectedly, under his harmless appearance, he was actually a Tyrannosaurus Rex in sheep's clothing.

Especially with that terrifying giant transformation, his strength was even greater than Elder Luo's, beyond the realm of martial artists, almost comparable to Great Xia's supreme Ye Zong. Nearly all the giant beasts were killed by him.

After Luo Jingwen finished speaking, he looked towards Chen Shouyi, who was feeding Shell Lady, and tentatively asked: "Shouyi, what do you think?"

"I have no objections!" Chen Shouyi looked up with a smile and said.

Luo Jingwen couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief at his words.

...

In an abandoned factory dormitory, everyone found a set of clothes to change into and quickly hit the road.

The cult reacted promptly, and when they reached Qujiang City, the streets were already filled with patrolling soldiers and barbarians, with giant beasts appearing in the sky.

However, the group had no intention of hiding.

Time was of the essence; the longer they delayed, the more dangerous it became here.

Currently, only lower-level forces could be deployed, so the intelligence needed to be delivered before any high-level forces were dispatched.

A checkpoint had been set up at an intersection, and a group of Southeast Asians, seeing them running from afar, aimed their guns at them, with even two anti-aircraft machine guns among them:

"Don't worry about them, I'll take care of it! Help me take my bag," Chen Shouyi said.

Zhu Xueqing immediately took it, not yet speaking.

Chen Shouyi tapped his toe, suddenly accelerated, and sped towards the Southeast Asians ahead like an arrow released from the bowstring.

In the next second, gunshots rang out, bullets like a storm shooting towards Chen Shouyi.

"Is he alright?" Zhu Xueqing asked worriedly.

Although martial artists have some bullet defense capability, they can only defend against handguns. Even someone like Luo Jingwen at the peak of martial arts can only rely on muscle reflexes to catch bullets from rifles, it's still dangerous, not to mention machine gun fire.

"I don't know, I'll go help." Luo Jingwen said gravely.

However, as soon as he moved his foot, he stopped.

He was stunned, looking at Chen Shouyi, a bit lost. All the bullets, once they reached within about ten meters of Chen Shouyi, quickly decelerated, and by the time they got two or three meters from him, they were completely stationary, rarely breaking past two meters.

"It's the power of heart and mind he talked about!" Zhu Xueqing exclaimed in astonishment from the side.

She had seen Chen Shouyi use it to block rain before and thought it was fascinating, but didn't realize it could be so powerful, even blocking bullets.

"This kid is lying; it must be a talent ability. The power of heart and mind can't possibly do that!" Luo Jingwen said through gritted teeth, though he was already starting to believe it.

He planned to find time to practice it properly once this task was completed.

If he could learn to block bullets like Chen Shouyi, his survival ability would be significantly enhanced.

Although with strong action capability and intuition for danger, bullets rarely hit martial artists. Peak martial artists like him can even see bullet trajectories and dodge in advance or use a sword to block.

But difficult doesn't mean impossible. Mind will inevitably have moments of laxity, and humans have limits. Once bullets become too dense and there's nowhere to hide, even he could be overwhelmed.

"Then he has two talent abilities!" Zhu Xueqing said in shock, the second being Giant Transformation.

"Three, and he can control wind too." Luo Jingwen said expressionlessly.

Feeling a bit sour inside, poor him at his old age, having consumed plenty of divine blood and divine marrow, and even had a few encounters.

But it was useless; he didn't have even one.

Why can't there be fairness between people?

Unfortunately, he didn't know that Chen Shouyi actually had four (including Natural Healing), if they counted the power they believed to be from will.

As they talked, Chen Shouyi had already swiftly charged into the crowd, starting a massacre.

Seconds later, twelve Southeast Asians were decapitated, bodies strewn across the ground.

Feeling his head slightly aching, Chen Shouyi was somewhat excited.

This was his first time using the power of will to block bullets. Initially, he just wanted to try it on a whim to avoid being accidentally hit.

Although being hit wouldn't matter, as the bullets couldn't penetrate his skin, it was still too shocking, and his newly changed clothes would be ruined.

Unexpectedly, it worked.

Yet the mental energy consumption was significant; in just a few seconds, he'd blocked about a hundred bullets, and his mental energy was depleted like a reservoir after a flood.

Zhu Xueqing came over with a briefcase, jokingly saying, "Return your girlfriend to you."

Over time, she found that Chen Shouyi was quite easy to get along with, not very talkative, but gentle, without the arrogance common among young powerhouses.

Mm, people who like to keep pets are always love-filled.

Chen Shouyi awkwardly took the briefcase, stressing again, "My daughter!"

"Hehe!" Luo Jingwen chuckled.

Chen Shouyi wanted to ask what "hehe" meant.

But decided not to bother with a pervert's nonsense.

Too dark-minded!

The little Shell Lady is only slightly longer than a finger, what could I possibly do?

The most is just to look!

...

Encountering several checkpoints along the way, Chen Shouyi and Luo Jingwen alternately took them down.

Chen Shouyi noted that, in normal condition, Luo Jingwen was actually slightly stronger than himself, agile in movement, his sword strikes swift like lightning, and his explosive strength quite formidable.

But it made sense, being a veteran martial artist, Luo Jingwen must've consumed much more divine blood and divine marrow than he did.

He speculated that Luo Jingwen's physical attributes, including intelligence, were all around seventeen points, quite balanced, unlike his own noticeable weaknesses.

At seventeen points, divine blood had minimal effect.

Despite having consumed much divine blood himself, his agility remained unchanged at 17.6, and his strength and constitution were challenging to enhance past 16.9. The current 17 was due to practicing the Horizontal Training Thirty-six Forms.

Of course, if transformed, he completely overpowered Luo Jingwen.

...

They alternately battled.

Along the way, three giant monsters descended from the sky, trying to kill them.

All were slain by Chen Shouyi and Luo Jingwen, and no other giant monsters appeared afterwards.

Approaching dawn, the group successfully entered the mountainous border between two provinces.

"Be cautious along the way, stay hidden, and once in Nanshan City, make no stops, and don't contact the military." Luo Jingwen advised.

"Do you suspect Nanshan City has been infiltrated by cults too?" Zhu Xueqing asked.

"It's safer to assume so. Nanshan City is just across from Qujiang City." Luo Jingwen replied seriously.

Chapter 377: Encountering a Demigod

The two watched as Zhu Xueqing slipped into the forest and quickly disappeared from sight.

Then they turned and headed back.

By now, daylight had fully broken.

The village was bustling, with all the villagers flocking together to an old house converted into a church for morning prayers.

Chen Shouyi and Luo Jingwen avoided the crowds as they quietly left the village.

The return journey was cautious, contrasting their reckless and bold entrance; every time they saw patrolling soldiers, they made a point to evade them.

By noon, the two had returned to Qujiang City.

The entire city was under lockdown, with soldiers and Barbarians everywhere on the streets.

Clearly, they were searching for their group.

Unfortunately, in this era without surveillance cameras or the internet, finding the two was undoubtedly like searching for a needle in a haystack — near impossible.

"Let's grab some lunch first!" Chen Shouyi suggested.

He felt hungry again; after the Giant Transformation, he always had a huge appetite and got hungry easily, as if desperately storing body Energy, though it returned to normal after a day or two.

Luo Jingwen also felt a bit hungry and nodded.

The two entered a small restaurant.

Chen Shouyi glanced at the menu; compared to Hedong, the prices here were skyrocketing, especially for meat, almost three times of Hedong's. He scanned it with an eye and asked Luo Jingwen, first confirming, "You got enough money?"

Luo Jingwen felt his pocket, his expression changed instantly, "My wallet's gone!"

Chen Shouyi was stunned, and the two stared at each other.

He hadn't brought any money for this trip, assuming helping others on the mission covered his meals and accommodation—that's just basic, wasn't it?

Soon after sitting down, they left shamefully empty-handed.

However, just as they were walking down the street, a terrifying presence suddenly descended upon them from above; Chen Shouyi's scalp tingled, and his skin erupted in goosebumps.

His heart sank as he looked at the street's passersby, who seemed oblivious, no sign of awareness; with his peripheral vision, he glanced discreetly at Luo Jingwen, seeing his forehead glistening with sweat but his face expressionless, eyes straight forward. Chen Shouyi instantly understood and carried on walking as if nothing had happened.

...

Up in the sky, a woman with green hair, purple eyes, and naked body floated quietly.

The air around her subtly twisted, with ethereal lights dancing seductively, emitting a terrifying aura.

Her glaring purple eyes coldly surveyed the city below, trying to find any trace of those invading Alien Race.

"Got a girlfriend?" Luo Jingwen suddenly asked.

Sensing the menacing presence, Chen Shouyi got the hint, relaxed, and pretended to chat like a normal person, "Not yet!"

Though honestly, the topic was quite dull.

"You should hurry and find one; I used to be like you, thinking women were annoying, better off alone. Now I'm 38, never even held a woman's hand—thinking back, it's a bit regrettable!" Luo Jingwen remarked.

Personally, I don't find women annoying.

Except for my sister, of course.

She is the most bothersome!

"Just haven't found the right one!" Chen Shouyi replied.

He was still young, only eighteen; plenty of time to find a girlfriend yet!

If he goes to university, he'd be in his freshman year now, and he's heard plenty remain single throughout their four years there!

"How about I introduce you to some? I may lack friends, but I know quite a lot of young ladies!" Luo Jingwen half-jokingly offered.

The presence hadn't moved away, so the two continued their idle chatter.

Until they entered the empty house they had sheltered in yesterday, only then did the presence finally disappear.

They breathed a sigh of relief, as if exhausted.

Their clothes were drenched in sweat.

Really terrifying.

After a while, Luo Jingwen used his finger to write two words in the dust on the coffee table, then quickly wiped them away:

"Demigod"

Chen Shouyi looked puzzled, so he promptly wrote, "That God of Order is only a Demigod?"

Luo Jingwen pondered it briefly, writing quickly:

"Unlikely, Demigods aren't as strong on Earth as imagined. As far as I know, Great Xia Country has already eliminated six Demigods without much need for nuclear weapons. In Hedong, two were killed by Ye Zong himself. With such limited Demigod strength, there's no way they could quickly conquer the entire East Sea Province."

Chen Shouyi couldn't help but feel astir, hearing Ye Zong had killed two—truly powerful!

A lone Godslayer!

Last time, it was just one, and by pure chance, yet now within this short window, another has fallen. This can only mean he truly possesses the power to resist or even defeat Demigods.

His electromagnetic talent certainly maximizes attack efficiency; even gods and demons shy away.

Chen Shouyi pondered for a moment and rapidly wrote, "So, you're saying, that Demigod was recruited by them?"

"Very likely!" Luo Jingwen wrote.

Chen Shouyi's heart grew heavy, not expecting this God of Order to have Demigod subordinates!

Compared to the solo-darting God of Hunting, this God of Order is evidently more powerful, and more troublesome.

...

In the Tamu World, deities have four major attributes: "Divine Fire, Divine Power, Divinity, Divine Position"

Divine Creatures ignite the Divine Fire, becoming Demigods, barely stepping into the threshold of divine beings.

With the Divine Fire, they can gather faith as power, refining it into Divine Power through the flames. Upon crystallizing sufficient Divine Power, Divinity is formed.

Given that faith is provided by believers, it cannot be absolutely pure, invariably containing some obsession.

This causes each Divinity to incline towards specific fields; once such fields gain Tamu World's recognition, they secure authority over that domain, known as the Divine Position, and a deity possessing both Divinity and Divine Position is considered a True God.

In human terms, Demigods are akin to newborns, whereas True Gods are like fully grown adults.

Yet the more potent they are, the greater their influence upon descending to Earth.

A prolonged presence on Earth causes even Divinity-building Divine Power to dissipate slowly under the world's effect, causing Divinity levels to plummet for the least and demotion back to Demigod status at its worst; contrarily, Demigods experience minimal impact.

Even with extensive losses in Divine Power, if reduced entirely, it primarily affects the timeline for Demigod upgrading to True God, maintaining its Demigod status.

With absence of Divinity, no demotion is relevant, hence they can persistently stay on Earth.

...

Since discovering the Demigod, the two stayed inside, with no outside excursions, adopting a low-key demeanor.

At five o'clock in the evening, the city started with evening prayers.

To avoid drawing attention, Chen Shouyi and Luo Jingwen left their swords at home and stepped onto the street with the crowd.

Everyone wore solemn expressions, many devout Cultists whispering silent prayers even while walking.

In a flash, Chen Shouyi snatched two overtly devout Cultists' Divine Emblems and shared one with Luo Jingwen, swapping out their original Warrior Emblems, then discreetly moved away from the duo.

Regarding whether the two who lost their emblems would be unlucky.

Chen Shouyi didn't care; such fools, though he wouldn't kill them outright, gaining any goodwill was impossible.

Walking just for a few minutes, they joined the crowd entering a chapel.

Chapter 378: Arrested (Part 1)

A huge divine emblem hung at the top of the church.

Six Southeast Asians with stern faces stood at the church entrance, holding long whips.

The crowd queued up in succession to enter.

Soon, it was Chen Shouyi and Luo Jingwen's turn.

The soldier carefully examined the badge and then let them pass without issue.

At the front of the church hall, a huge divine statue stood with its arms spread wide, wings sprouting from its back, its face fierce and stern, exuding a sacred yet oppressive aura.

Chen Shouyi took a glance and quickly lowered his head.

Not long after entering, an incident occurred outside; two cultists, whose divine emblems Chen Shouyi had slipped away from them, were stopped by soldiers.

This middle-aged couple looked panic-stricken and fearful, desperately trying to explain.

One soldier impatiently took out a whip and gave them several lashes, causing the two to roll and beg for mercy, crying loudly, their bodies covered with blood marks before being dragged away by the soldiers, seemingly for interrogation.

Losing a badge or forgetting to bring it might seem like a minor thing to ordinary people, a mere violation of disciplinary regulations.

But in this cult-controlled society, it was not a minor issue.

These badges or divine emblems represented the deities.

Losing or forgetting the emblem could lightly imply insincere faith, and severely be seen as blasphemy, disregarding the deity—definitely a political stance issue.

The outcome awaiting them would probably be very harsh.

Everyone watched this scene, some stunned with fright, others indifferent, some with disgust; not one stepped in to stop or plead.

This little incident quickly came to an end.

As the crowd entered the church hall, the noisy sound soon turned utterly silent, so quiet that not even the four or five-year-old children cried or fussed.

Chen Shouyi and Luo Jingwen kept their heads low among the crowd, appearing completely unremarkable.

The air was filled with a faint strange scent.

Using the corner of his eye, Chen Shouyi secretly observed; people were packed tightly together within this roughly three-hundred-square-meter hall, over a thousand flocking in, many with eyes lost, seeming confused.

It was evident that the scent in the air had an effect.

Luckily, this scent did not affect him and Luo Jingwen in the least.

...

As time passed minute by minute, after more than ten minutes, a middle-aged man wearing a silver-trimmed robe, his hair slicked and dressed meticulously, strode into the hall from a small door of the church.

"Dear friends in faith, may the Lord bless you! The Lord says that whoever believes in me, follows my doctrine, I will shelter you."

His Mandarin was fluent, yet still carried a slight difference from that of the Great Xia Country; he was clearly Southeast Asian Chinese.

"Everyone knows human disaster is imminent, electricity disappeared, the internet vanished, human industry was destroyed overnight, and this is just the beginning. Soon, the real catastrophe will come, only my great Lord, the God of Order, can protect you... Now let us begin the prayer."

The crowd quickly knelt down and began to pray aloud.

"Damn!"

Chen Shouyi and Luo Jingwen exchanged a helpless look but had no choice but to kneel, avoiding exposure, and prayed along with the crowd.

"Great God of Order, you are the mighty father, you set the chain of rules, you give reason to all things, order to the seasons, your name is spread among men, you are supreme, all glory goes to you..."

With each seemingly brainwashing prayer repetition, gradually the air grew oppressive, as if a sacred and solemn aura filled the church, everyone seemed entranced, their mouths showing infant-like smiles.

The divine statue seemed alive, emitted a chilly, hazy glow, vaguely as if a mighty creature was descending here, looking down at the crowd.

Chen Shouyi felt as if a mountain was pressing upon his heart, stifling him with a sense of breathlessness.

But he knew this was the dense power of faith here, excluding someone without belief like him; naturally, the God of Order would not come casually, additionally, it was because his sensitivity allowed him to receive more information.

A normal person with dull senses would likely just feel discomfort, not as affected as he was.

This prayer finally ended after a full twenty minutes.

Chen Shouyi stood up with the crowd.

The priest ascended the stage again, led the cultists to sing several praises to the greatness of the God of Order, then held a thick tome: "Today, we speak of the third Chapter, fifth section of the Holy Scripture of Order, The Lord said..."

Chen Shouyi listened expressionlessly.

Damn, all of it's the Bible refashioned.

Truly a burden to those cultists.

Packaging some god of an otherworldly primitive tribe into a modern church of love, peace, order, and protection of humanity.

Could they have a bit of decency?

But the situation outweighs the person, he could only reluctantly listen.

"Dear friends in faith, we'll end today's session here." An hour later, the priest prepared to conclude.

Suddenly, a solemn-faced middle-aged man with a longsword at his waist silently but swiftly walked in, handed over a note.

The priest examined it for a while, nodded, returned the note, face full of reverence.

Chen Shouyi's heart sank, a sense of foreboding arose.

After that middle-aged man left, the priest, with a grave expression, announced:

"The God of Order, in my Lord's name, Saye His Majesty has come to our Qujiang City to hunt down serious criminals, one has already been captured, detained at Hengguan Prison for interrogation, yet

there are still two mixed within our Qujiang City, they are extremely violent, killing on impulse, to avoid friends in faith from injury, tonight's prayer meeting will be extended by two hours."

He swept a glance over everyone, face indifferent:

"Furthermore, if any friends in faith discover any suspicious individuals, please report immediately, once confirmed, the Church will reward the informant heavily. Of course, if you discover but do not report, heavy punishment will be imposed."

The crowd stirred slightly in fear, whispered among themselves for a while, quickly returning to calm.

Chen Shouyi and Luo Jingwen exchanged a glance, their expressions serious.

Then, the atmosphere turned somewhat oppressive.

Chen Shouyi and Luo Jingwen closely monitored the situation outside.

Outside the church it was silent, as if nothing had happened.

After enduring for two hours, the evening prayer finally concluded!

The two walked out of the church with the crowd, realizing the oppressive atmosphere lingered high above.

Chen Shouyi and Luo Jingwen pretended casual, chatted softly, a few minutes later, they returned to their temporary lodging, finally exhaling in relief.

"What do you think?" Luo Jingwen, with furrowed brows, quickly wrote on the coffee table.

Chen Shouyi knew he was referring to Zhu Xueqing's arrest, he pondered slightly, wrote with his hand: "Clearly a fabricated report, they're trying to lure us out."

The demigod arrived by noon, half a day's time, Zhu Xueqing has long since left Nanshan City, absolutely impossible."

"I think it's impossible too, this is a trap for us. I fear if we approach Hengguan Prison or attempt to gather information, we'll be exposed immediately, yet we can't blindly disbelieve!"

Chen Shouyi nodded gravely.

This is the vile nature of such tactics, though crude, even knowing its falsity, you must verify any slight possibility. Zhu Xueqing's life is secondary; the key is the importance of the intelligence.

At present, the choices were twofold.

Either one leaves East Sea Province to pass the intelligence out once more.

Or quickly verify the truth of this report.

However, presently a demigod perpetually monitors Qujiang City from on high, and Qujiang City is but a small town. With the demigod's terrifying hearing and sight, even the slightest stir might be immediately detected, both choices are extremely dangerous, the risk is immense.

Luo Jingwen, likewise quick-minded, evidently considered this too.

The two sat motionless on the sofa, atmosphere silent and oppressive.

After a while of silence.

Luo Jingwen suddenly reached out, paused slightly mid-air, fingers quickly wrote on the coffee table: "Tomorrow I plan to find a way to leave, you stay here, then leave once thoroughly safe."

"Don't rush, I seem to have an idea." Chen Shouyi's mind stirred, he wrote.

Chapter 379: Battle Against the Demigod (Part 1)

"I have a special ability!" Chen Shouyi continued to write.

Luo Jingwen: ...

He couldn't help but glance at Chen Shouyi, wanting to ask, how many special abilities do you have?

Why does it seem like you're wholesale cabbage?

But he still held back and watched as he continued to write.

"I can enter my world of memory, just like the real world!"

There's nothing to hide about this, even if others knew, it's no big deal. After all, there are many with special abilities, it's not like they could dissect him, at most he'd just seem a bit more special in their eyes.

"How real?" Luo Jingwen looked shocked.

Such a special ability exists?

"As real as it gets, even things not seen in many memories can be accurately reproduced. I've experimented more than once, and each time there's been no error at all. However, this ability has limitations and requires a certain cost each time it's used."

Luo Jingwen saw that it required some cost, which seemed natural. Without limitations, this ability would be heaven-defying, and at a mere thought, he could think of several uses for a single person like him.

He could practically do anything he wanted within the memory world!

He didn't have much doubt.

Firstly, the other party had no motive to lie. After all, he was ready to take a risk leaving here tomorrow to deliver the information, while Chen Shouyi stayed. As long as he was careful, there was no risk.

His power in transformation was even stronger than his own, so he didn't actually need his protection.

Secondly, sharing such a secret ability with him was no benefit to Chen Shouyi.

"Don't worry, I'll take this secret to my grave!" Luo Jingwen wrote earnestly and then erased it.

Chen Shouyi smiled and nodded.

In the past two days of interaction, he had come to trust Luo Jingwen's character!

...

Considering they might have to stay for a few days and to avoid raising any suspicion, they began a thorough cleaning of the house.

The house seemed uninhabited for ages, with a thick layer of dust, and spider webs everywhere.

To be cautious, Chen Shouyi did not use his abilities and just diligently cleaned with Luo Jingwen.

They spent a full two hours cleaning the first floor and the two bedrooms on the second floor.

There were spare bed sheets and covers in the cabinet, and after changing them, the place was barely habitable.

Night quickly fell.

Chen Shouyi's stomach was rumbling with hunger.

Since eating something at around one or two a.m., almost twenty hours had passed without any food, and his stomach was burning with hunger.

"Shall we try to find some food?" Chen Shouyi whispered.

"Are you that hungry? I checked earlier, there's still some rice in the rice jar, but the gas and water are cut off. You might have to eat plain rice!" Luo Jingwen said, his stomach also grumbled a little, but he was much better off than Chen Shouyi, able to last until tomorrow just fine.

A Martial Artist, when not exerting themselves, can endure hunger quite well.

Chen Shouyi's face darkened.

Eating raw rice!

This is too harsh, isn't it? He's eaten a lot of raw meat before.

But raw rice, he truly hadn't tried that yet.

"Huh, what's that sound?" Suddenly, Chen Shouyi heard a faint noise.

The two of them tensed up, immediately going to the second-floor balcony, only to discover it was a chicken.

Not just any chicken, but a large rooster, looking proud and mighty, estimated to weigh seven to eight pounds, somehow sneaking into the yard.

Chen Shouyi's mouth watered rapidly: "I'll go catch it!"

A few minutes later!

The poor rooster had a stick shoved through its rear and was being roasted over a fire.

The house had no shortage of wood, and starting a fire was no challenge for the two peak Martial Artists.

Before it was fully cooked, Chen Shouyi impatiently tore off a drumstick and devoured it ravenously.

"How did I do with the roasting?" Luo Jingwen asked with a gentle smile.

"Just average."

"If only we had better seasonings here, I'm sure it'd be comparable to a master chef's. If we make it back alive from this, you must taste it properly next time!" Luo Jingwen said, tearing off a leg and eating it.

The atmosphere turned somewhat silent.

Only the flickering flames of the charcoal provided light and shadow to their faces.

A whole chicken was quickly devoured, leaving them with nothing but bones. They then each returned to their rooms.

Chen Shouyi opened his briefcase and found the Shell Lady still asleep.

So he did not bother her.

He lay down on the bed, immediately closing his eyes to enter the knowledge space.

He chose today's memory from the church and quickly entered it.

This was just as the middle-aged man conveying the command had entered.

Originally bent over with a humble expression, Chen Shouyi slowly straightened up, his respectful and pious face becoming indifferent and cruel. Luo Jingwen beside him seemed to sense something amiss, quickly pulling on his clothes and giving him a look.

He pushed the other's hand aside and swiftly walked forward.

The crowded gathering parted like the sea, quickly moving to both sides.

Screams echoed, and the scene turned chaotic.

The Priest and the middle-aged man at the front, seeing Chen Shouyi advancing rapidly, were terrified and shouted, "He's a desecrator, catch him, catch him."

Several nearby cultists, hearing the Priest's orders, recklessly lunged toward him.

Chen Shouyi twisted his neck, a brutal grin appearing on his face.

Aiming at a cultist ahead of him, he pushed off the ground with his toes, his waist twisting as all his strength concentrated and unleashed a punch.

"Boom!"

It was like cannon fire resounding.

Gale winds howled, the air tinged with faint red.

A headless body flew backwards, crashing into seven people, all of whom suffered fractured bones, the worst one with a severely collapsed chest and continuously coughing blood.

Even cultists nearby, not struck down, fainted on the ground, ears bleeding, evidently knocked unconscious by the sonic boom of the punch, their eardrums torn.

Witnessing this horrifying scene, the crowd regained their senses, screamed, and frantically hid back.

Soon, nobody dared stand in front of Chen Shouyi.

Treading on the blood-soaked ground, he felt a sense of exhilaration.

The suffocating pressure and frustration from the day vanished by more than half.

The middle-aged man who came to deliver orders had a terrified expression, retreating slowly while quickly drawing a sword, attempting to resist.

Chen Shouyi sneered, his footsteps seemed to shrink the distance by meters, and before the sword could thrust, he had grabbed it by the hand.

"Desecrator, His Excellency Saye has arrived, you're doomed, you're doomed..." he said desperately.

Chen Shouyi laughed, suddenly squeezing his neck and lifted him up.

His face flushed red, struggling frantically in fear.

The Priest nearby took the opportunity to try and slip away, only to be kicked by Chen Shouyi right in the chest, his body splitting into two.

All the cultists fled in terror, leaving the scene in chaos.

Luo Jingwen swiftly approached, his face dark as water, eyes blazing, agitated, "Chen Shouyi, what the hell are you doing, run!"

"You go first, I'll catch up," Chen Shouyi said.

He quickly extracted a note from the middle-aged man's pocket.

"Evening prayers extended by two hours to assist His Excellency Saye, search the entire city.

Furthermore, a Great Xia Country operative seeking intelligence, three desecrators were caught, one secretly detained in Hengguan Prison, leak this information!

——Qujiang District"

Chen Shouyi glanced over it, frowning, another piece of information unable to verify its truth.

It could be real or fabricated!

The recipient of the command, just a Priest at a local church, merely followed orders, without any right to understand the big picture.

Luo Jingwen, seeing the note, was also shaken.

Chen Shouyi threw the middle-aged Martial Artist to the ground, his foot pressing on the chest, sword pointed at his throat, coldly asking, "You have one chance, is this information true?"

"I don't know, I truly don't, I'm just a nobody following orders, please don't kill me, I haven't done anything!" The middle-aged man feeling the sword tip piercing his skin, broke down in utter fear, pleading incessantly.

Just then, a sense of oppression began to permeate the air.

Chen Shouyi swiftly turned his head.

In the next moment, he saw an eerily strange woman, stark naked, towering two and a half meters tall, slowly entering the church.

Chapter 380: Battle Against the Demigod (Part 2)

All of a sudden, the surroundings quieted down.

Around her, electromagnetic disturbances occurred, occasionally revealing strands of enchanting auroras, like ribbons of color, beautiful yet filled with intense horror, like a Fierce Beast's arrival, instilling endless terror in people.

Sweat instantly appeared on Luo Jingwen's forehead as his muscles tightened, his gaze filled with despair. He said in a low voice, "I'll hold him off, you must escape quickly, otherwise, neither of us will be able to."

Sometimes emotions are influenced by the atmosphere, especially when there is a passionate comrade nearby, leaving no place for the dark and selfish sides of the human heart, making people fearless in the face of death.

Chen Shouyi was also affected by the atmosphere, his eyes turning red as he said, "No, you go first, I'll hold her off."

He had already started his transformation.

"You are strong; you can escape fast, so stop wasting time!" Luo Jingwen said anxiously.

"Precisely because I am stronger than you, I can hold her back!" Chen Shouyi said with a look of tragic heroism.

Wait a minute...

Damn it!

Almost forgot this is the Virtual Memory World.

It scared the hell out of me, got me all fired up!

Thinking I was really in desperate straits.

Chen Shouyi immediately relaxed.

In the Memory Virtual World, he was never afraid of dying!

What does it matter if it's a Demigod?

I'll kill you just the same!

"Have you finished discussing, warriors from another realm!" The Female Demigod Saye said in the common tongue, her voice carrying a strange resonance, making it horrifying.

She had a mocking look as if a cat toying with a mouse, paying no mind to Chen Shouyi's transformation, appearing entirely confident of victory.

Chen Shouyi's body was rapidly expanding, his clothes tearing apart, as he casually spun a sword flourish, saying sympathetically, "The God of Order forced you to Earth, didn't he?"

Cold sweat dripped down Luo Jingwen's forehead.

Saye's breath also hitched.

"The God of Order is too cowardly and too cruel, doesn't dare to come to Earth himself, and yet presses a poor young woman like you to fight and die for him. How much salary, no, how many benefits did she offer you? Our human government will pay you ten times that."

Beside him, Luo Jingwen couldn't help but glance at Chen Shouyi, filled with admiration.

Chen Shouyi, who was always sparse with words, had become so eloquent when faced with a desperate situation.

He truly possessed a great heart.

"Don't your gods pursue faith?" Chen Shouyi felt incredibly relaxed, speaking nonsense effortlessly.

It's just the Virtual Memory World; merely NPCs are here. In this realm, he could say anything he wanted, do anything without restraint. He continued:

"Can the leftovers from the God of Order's table really be compared to the support from our human government? With 6.7 billion people, reaching the peak of godhood, becoming a Supreme God, might not be impossible!"

"Following the God of Order has no future. As long as you defect, our human government can ensure your safety."

"With just you humans!" Saye said disdainfully, though her stance halted: "It won't be long before all of humanity falls under the control of us gods."

"It seems the God of Order is keeping secrets from you!" Chen Shouyi was surprised to find his random taunting made her hesitate, and he immediately pressed on: "Do you know how many Demigods like you have died on Earth?"

Before she could ask, he answered himself, "Over a hundred, and even more True Gods have perished, a dozen or more!"

He had amplified the numbers tenfold, even twentyfold. It wasn't exactly wrong, as what he knew was mainly limited to the Great Xia Country, specifically Jiangnan Province; the situation in other countries was largely unknown.

Chen Shouyi continued, "Many powerful True Gods have died too! How much longer can you survive even if humans ultimately fail against the gods? Who knows if the gods include you? Isn't a Demigod immortal? Why take that risk; isn't living better than anything?"

Saye fell silent and didn't speak for a long time, her imposing aura significantly diminished.

She knew that several True Gods, far more powerful than she was, had indeed vanished after coming to Earth.

Chen Shouyi threw the slip of paper in his hand on the ground with feigned disdain: "Our companions never left, staying with us all along. There's no way we'd fall for your clumsy tactics."

Saye paused, clearly confused as only two had returned.

Yet, all the intelligence came from those ugly, stupid giant monsters, who might have missed something from the sky. A hint of a cold smile appeared at the corner of her mouth: "So what? You two have fallen into my hands, through you, I'll find her!"

Hearing this, Chen Shouyi relaxed inside. After all his circular talk, he finally coaxed it out. He showed a smirk of mockery: "Sorry, I was just lying to you."

Luo Jingwen gave him a look filled with trepidation.

Saye erupted in rage: "You tricked me!"

Her voice thundered!

Before she finished speaking!

With a "Boom!"

The ground subsided, riddled with cracks.

A figure blurred into a silhouette, darting towards Chen Shouyi, with cushions and decorations getting swept up by the violent wind.

The smile had barely faded from Chen Shouyi's face; before his body could respond, a shrouded, indistinct fist heavily slammed into his chest.

A shockwave burst forth as his chest caved inward, his back protruded, and his body was launched like a cannonball, smashing through several walls of the church, leaving a trail of blood.

Before landing.

The terrifying figure instantly caught up with his body, wrapping her arms around his massive frame, then delivering a fearsome knee strike towards his spine.

Chen Shouyi barely reacted, hurriedly managing only an elbow strike towards her chest.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

The two struck almost simultaneously.

Chen Shouyi's spine broke instantly, his body nearly bent in two, while the Female Demigod couldn't help but stagger back, leaving a series of deep pits beneath her feet, a trickle of golden blood seeping from her lips.

Her anger burned fiercely, countless arcs of electricity and auroras dancing around her.

The next instant, Chen Shouyi saw a blurred fist slam into his forehead...

...

In the darkness, Chen Shouyi abruptly opened his eyes.

"Ow!"

It hurt!

He instinctively touched his chest, which seemed to still ache faintly.

"That Demigod is just mad, chatting one moment, then turning hostile the next without any composure," Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

"But at least the information was extracted, revealing it's indeed a trap. Thankfully, the Virtual Memory World is here; otherwise, I'd have fallen for it."

He lay on the musty-smelling bed, gazing at the patchy ceiling above, silently recalling the battle:

"How terrifying, facing a Demigod I was utterly powerless, dead after merely three hits, and even my robust defense was of limited use. Her physical attributes must be over twenty points, while mine only matched hers in strength after transforming, largely due to my bigger size."

"Oh well, I still have to hide when necessary!"

Chen Shouyi's heart felt heavy, unable to fall asleep. Seeing it was still early, he stood up and began practicing the Thirty-Six Forms of Horizontal Training.

Though training on Earth wasn't very effective, being in an occupied zone, even a little more strength meant a better chance of surviving.

A red moon hung high in the sky outside the curtains, casting a long shadow of Chen Shouyi.

He practiced repeatedly.