

New Era 401

Chapter 401: Pinnacle

Chen Shouyi returned to the guesthouse, holding the Godslayer Medal and certificate, turning them over word by word, not missing any detail.

He couldn't help but chuckle.

This thing surely can't be shown to his parents, as it might be more shocking than joyful for them.

Perhaps when he's older, in his years of spoiling grandchildren, he can hold the medal and boast to his grandsons and granddaughters, how powerful their grandpa or grandad once was.

After all, he took down a Demigod.

He looked at it for a long time before carefully placing the medal and certificate back into his briefcase.

This is an honor to pass down through generations.

Just then, there was a knock on the door.

Chen Shouyi got up to open the door.

It was Zhang Miaomiao, dressed in a fitted office lady outfit that accentuated her shapely figure, exuding the charm of a mature woman, sweet like a ripe peach.

"Director Zhang, what's the matter?" Chen Shouyi discreetly glanced, pretending to be serious as he asked.

"I came to congratulate you on receiving a national commendation!" Zhang Miaomiao said with a smile.

"It was just luck!" Chen Shouyi said modestly.

"Chief Consultant, you're too modest. In my view, this award is well-deserved. By the way, the Beijing City Government just sent an invitation for you. I came to ask if you'd like to go?" Zhang Miaomiao smiled.

What's so good about going there?

He hates socializing with unfamiliar middle-aged and elderly people the most. It's not only tiring to pretend, but there's no common topic, it's simply torture.

"No, please decline for me." Chen Shouyi said without hesitation, then asked, "Is there no impact for not going?"

"Of course, there's no impact. They can't control us in Jiangnan Province!" Zhang Miaomiao quickly said, feeling delighted after getting the answer she wanted. "I'll decline similar invitations for you."

"That's troubling you!"

"Not at all!" Zhang Miaomiao said. She was here to do that: "When are we returning to Jiangnan Province?"

Chen Shouyi thought for a moment and said, "It might take another day or two!"

His ultra-elastic underwear hadn't been sourced yet.

"Alright, just let me know when, and I'll arrange the train tickets." Zhang Miaomiao said.

Feeling things were already discussed, Chen Shouyi was about to close the door.

Zhang Miaomiao said, "Wait a moment!"

As she spoke, she took a step closer, accompanied by a gentle fragrant breeze, and her jade hand reached out to Chen Shouyi's chest.

He immediately froze.

"There's a grain of rice on your clothes." Zhang Miaomiao said with a smile.

"Oh, it might have stuck when I ate by accident." Chen Shouyi's face flushed with embarrassment, and the messy thoughts in his mind immediately dissipated like the tide.

He closed the door, sighing lightly.

He realized that these days, his mind has been wandering continuously.

As soon as a woman slightly contacted his body, he would start entertaining wild thoughts, itching to move.

He secretly reflected that this was really inappropriate.

Thinking about it, it's quite normal! It's just the basic interpersonal communication between men and women. On TV, when men and women meet, they even hug and embrace, and in some foreign countries, they even kiss cheeks.

He was still too young, not worldly enough.

His thoughts were quite sordid.

The other party was an older woman, ten years his senior, how could she possibly be tempting him?

Thinking about it, it's impossible.

She was just relatively warm and carefree.

Chen Shouyi sat on the bed, suddenly moved in heart, pulled open the quilt, and saw the Shell Lady sleeping soundly nestled inside.

He immediately breathed a sigh of relief.

Finally knew how to sleep!

He immediately stuffed all the small clothes on the bed into the briefcase.

...

The higher-ups were very efficient.

After he finished having dinner in the guesthouse's dining room, a briefcase escorted by a team of soldiers was delivered to Chen Shouyi.

He opened it, checked, and immediately locked it again, signed the receipt document.

After the soldiers left, he closed the door.

His heart couldn't help but beat violently.

He reopened the metallic briefcase.

Inside were four heavy brown glass bottles still cold, filled with a faintly glowing liquid, lying quietly inside.

The bottles were of the same specification.

However, the two types of Divine Marrow were easy to distinguish.

The Divine Marrow of Weak Divine Power had a more obvious glow, even though the sun hadn't set yet and the room was brightly lit, it still emitted a gently hazy glow.

He cautiously glanced at the bed, swiftly picked up the four glass bottles, and went to the bathroom.

Closed the door.

Then quickly opened a bottle of Weak Divine Power Divine Marrow.

Not waiting for the aroma to spread.

He immediately drank it all.

The thick and cold liquid slid down his throat.

Chen Shouyi smacked his lips.

The taste was salty and fishy, sticky, with a strange undertone.

It was much thicker than the Divine Marrow he drank before, and the taste was much more intense.

As the thought flashed by, his whole body shuddered, his brain seemed to be struck by lightning, his head tingled, his body felt like it was in the clouds, his spirit was in a trance, hazy, his vision totally blurred, seconds later, his whole body shivered, his mind thoroughly sobered up.

Chen Shouyi immediately checked the attribute panel.

Intelligence had increased by 0.2 points, reaching 16.5.

"Compared to Divine Blood, the effect of Divine Marrow on intelligence is astonishing!" He thought with delight.

To know, in the previous period, he drank quite a lot of Divine Blood, at least half a liter, it was at least Weak Divine Power level, unfortunately in the end, the effect on intelligence became less and less, when reaching 16.3, there was no further progress.

Chen Shouyi picked up another bottle.

After opening the cap, he drank it in one go.

This time it again increased by 0.2 points, to 16.7.

However, by the third bottle, the effect decreased significantly, this time only raised by 0.1 points, to 16.8, fortunately, it still increased.

He felt his thoughts becoming clearer, the surroundings seemed to quiet down somewhat.

Chen Shouyi picked up the last bottle, the Divine Marrow of Weak Level Divine Power.

This bottle of Divine Marrow was worth the equivalent of three bottles of Weak Divine Power.

After opening it, he hesitantly drank it all at once.

When the effect of the Divine Marrow faded away.

He quickly checked the attribute panel, he let out a sigh of relief, his intelligence had increased by 0.3, eventually stepping into the realm of seventeen with difficulty.

Strength: 17.2

Agility: 17.7

Constitution: 17.2

Intelligence: 17.1

Perception: 15.3

Will: 16.3

Energy Accumulation: 5.52

Faith Value: 3.89

Looking at the row of numbers over seventeen in front, Chen Shouyi exhaled deeply.

Finally, it looked much more pleasing to the eye.

At this moment, he glanced at the last two items, his brow slightly furrowed.

Only these two hadn't reached seventeen points.

Fortunately, Will was already at sixteen, while Perception was in the fifteen range.

However, Perception was progressing swiftly, the Will being a bit stagnant these days, progressing slowly.

Forget it, out of sight, out of mind, he immediately closed the attribute panel.

At this moment, he felt his mind clear, thoughts lightning fast.

The surrounding light bright and time felt slowed down, he lightly moved his body, completely in harmony, telekinesis achieving, as if his originally sealed body was fully unleashed.

Though it seemed just an enhancement of 0.7 points in intelligence, less than a 40% increase, the combat power had wholly multiplied several times over.

He felt his current self could defeat his earlier self within a few moves.

Now, he could truly call himself a "Pinnacle" Martial Artist.

Strength, agility, constitution, intelligence, all were nearing the limit of a Martial Artist, he had just stepped through the gate before.

He walked out of the bathroom, came to the bedroom window, and pulled open the curtain.

In the distance was the street.

On the road, people were coming and going.

However, in his eyes, all the pedestrians seemed to intentionally slow down, moving leisurely as if they existed in different dimensions of time.

"Now I really feel unprecedentedly powerful." Watching all of this, Chen Shouyi sighed softly.

His face was melancholic.

Alas! I'm only eighteen!

Chapter 402: The Inflated Shell Lady

In fact, an intelligence of 17.1 doesn't represent twice or even triple the thinking speed, but rather 17 times that of an average person.

The world that Chen Shouyi sees is completely different from what an ordinary person sees.

Clearer, with a much slower passage of time.

This is a world where time has slowed down by seventeen times.

The reason Chen Shouyi doesn't feel much different is that this change has been gradual, influenced by the surrounding environment, and he's slowly gotten used to it.

The melancholy on his face lasted less than a second.

It was broken by a slight noise.

"Damn!"

Chen Shouyi remembered something, his expression changed slightly, and he quickly walked from the living room to the bathroom, immediately seeing the Shell Lady holding a glass bottle half her size, tilting it against her mouth, trying desperately to pour it in.

She's really capable!

Wasn't she just asleep? Her nose is sharper than a dog's!

Seeing Chen Shouyi enter, the Shell Lady was immediately startled, like a cat with its fur standing on end, quickly throwing away the bottle.

As the thick glass bottle clattered onto the sink with a clanging sound.

The Shell Lady quickly jumped off the sink and bolted out of the bathroom door.

Chen Shouyi watched all this, speechless.

He put the glass bottle back in place.

Returned to the bed, pulled back the blanket, and found that the Shell Lady had already curled up inside, lying quietly.

Do you really think I'm blind?

Chen Shouyi chuckled, stretching out his finger to poke her body.

Causing her to roll back and forth, her clothes in disarray.

Yet the Shell Lady still didn't move, acting like a dead pig unafraid of boiling water.

After half a minute of rolling.

The Shell Lady finally got thoroughly annoyed by Chen Shouyi, suddenly grabbing his finger and biting hard with her mouth.

Chen Shouyi was stunned, not expecting the Shell Lady to actually bite: "Let go!"

"Woo woo woo..." the Shell Lady mumbled, clearly resentful, biting down with all her might.

"Let go!"

"Woo woo woo..."

No matter what Chen Shouyi said, the Shell Lady wouldn't let go, so he even lifted her off the bed, gently swaying, but unfortunately, his finger was gripped tightly like an octopus, unable to shake her off.

"Alright, alright, I was wrong, just let go!" Faced with the fierce Shell Lady, Chen Shouyi had no choice but to apologize.

The Shell Lady immediately let go, looking as if she had won a great victory, defeated the giant, proudly said: "Bad giant, does Tiny ask you if it hurts?"

"It hurts!" Chen Shouyi cooperatively replied.

"Do you still want to be bitten?"

Chen Shouyi quickly shook his head, glanced at his finger, noticing a faint, almost imperceptible row of fine teeth marks, with quite a biting force, which would probably leave a normal person bitten a piece of flesh.

The Shell Lady, complacent, spat a few times: "Bad giant, if you bully Tiny again, sneak eating good stuff, Tiny will bite you again, and pluck your hair to make you cry in pain!"

Chen Shouyi was speechless: "Okay, okay, you're amazing!"

"Tiny is the most amazing!" the Shell Lady said proudly, lightly hopping down from mid-air, then grinned, showing a small set of white teeth, clattering as she seriously threatened:

"Tiny can bite a worm in half, quickly bring the good stuff for Tiny to eat!"

So fierce!

Have you seen a fist the size of a sand pot?

Believe it or not, one punch and you'll poop yourself?

Chen Shouyi mentally hmped, too lazy to bicker with the silly Shell Lady.

He then went to the bathroom to retrieve a few empty bottles.

The Shell Lady's eyes lit up, immediately jumping off the bed, grabbing Chen Shouyi's pants leg with her little hand, eagerly shouted: "Give it to me, give it to me!"

"Why rush, wait!" Chen Shouyi said grumpily.

There was only some residue inside, adding up to just a drop or two.

Chen Shouyi first poured some boiling water into a cup, waiting for it to cool to lukewarm, then poured the warm water into each glass bottle, shook it a little, then poured it into the spoon the Shell Lady often used to eat.

During this time, the Shell Lady repeatedly hurried him, impatiently.

"Alright, it's ready to eat!" Chen Shouyi put the spoon in front of her.

The Shell Lady immediately grabbed the spoon and started eating eagerly, and in a few seconds, she was getting dizzy, swaying, accidentally burying her face into the spoon.

Chen Shouyi quickly stretched out his finger to support her head.

"All for Tiny, Tiny still wants to eat!" The Shell Lady's face was wet, with a dazed look, her little pink tongue licking her lips, her face silly.

Very quickly, she jolted herself awake, grabbing the spoon and diving in again.

After half a minute, the small half spoon of Divine Marrow Dilution Liquid had been licked clean, then she sat there woodenly, looking around as if in a daze.

Could it be that the more she eats, the dumber she gets?

Chen Shouyi muttered, waving his finger in front of her eyes: "Tiny?"

The Shell Lady looked up at him curiously: "Big giant, why do you speak so slow?"

Seems normal.

"It's you speaking too fast!" Chen Shouyi replied.

The Shell Lady thought for a moment, nodded, her eyes filled with confident light, as if she controlled everything: "That's right, Tiny feels mighty now, Tiny was stupid before, now Tiny is smart."

Chen Shouyi could see it, she's inflated!

Just like when he entered the superhuman state, every time he'd have a delusion of transcending everything.

Simply put, she's inflated.

He couldn't help but worry, a smarter Shell Lady would be harder to trick in the future, then he had an idea, tentatively asked:

"How many elephants do three elephants plus two elephants make?"

"One-one-one-one elephant!" The Shell Lady dismissively glanced at Chen Shouyi, quickly replied: "Big giant, you're so dumb!"

Faced with Tiny insulting his intelligence, Chen Shouyi didn't care, let it be like a breeze past his face, asked again: "Then let me ask you, ninety-five elephants... no, elephants plus a hundred and five elephants? This is a bit hard, right?"

The Shell Lady snorted disdainfully: "Too easy!"

"One-one..."

Listening to Tiny counting like a machine gun, Chen Shouyi felt his heart settle, relieved, finally reassured.

Seems like he was overthinking it.

She's still the same silly Shell Lady as before.

The only difference is that she's become more narcissistic.

Chen Shouyi didn't want to listen anymore, took off the suit and shirt he was wearing, changed into comfortable big shorts, got ready, started practicing the thirty-six forms of Horizontal Training, since he'd been busy all morning, he hadn't properly practiced, his whole body felt a bit itchy.

Chapter 403: Improper

"Big lion, big dolphin, big sea turtle..."

Early in the morning, Chen Shouyi was woken up from his sleep by Shell Lady. The room was barely illuminated and he took the watch from the bedside table—it was only five o'clock.

Will it ever end!

He helplessly glanced at Shell Lady, who was earnestly reading aloud by the pillow, then dejectedly lay back on the bed.

Since yesterday afternoon, Shell Lady has been in an excited state, either darting around the room or talking non-stop like chanting, like a hyperactive child on stimulants.

She only slept a few hours since last night and already got up with a picture book, reading continuously.

He lay there for a few seconds, realizing he was wide awake and reluctantly got up to dress.

"Silly Giant, you're awake?"

Chen Shouyi nodded weakly.

She's full of herself right now, quite cheeky.

"Getting up so early, aren't you tired?"

"Not tired at all, Little One is a diligent Little One." Shell Lady glanced sidelong at Chen Shouyi, speaking earnestly, then continued reading aloud.

Chen Shouyi felt a pang. What kind of look is this?

He wasn't sure if Little One was diligent, but definitely not an upright one!

He put on his clothes and went to the bathroom.

After a while, Shell Lady sitting on the bed perked up her ears, promptly put down the book and followed him, quickly jumping onto the washbasin, staring at Chen Shouyi brushing his teeth in the mirror:

"Silly Giant, Little One wants to use this to grind teeth too!"

Chen Shouyi spat out the foam, rinsed his mouth, and glanced at her: "You don't need to grind them!"

Even if he wanted to brush her teeth, he couldn't find a suitable toothbrush.

"Why not grind them?" Shell Lady asked confusedly.

"Your teeth are already very sharp!" Chen Shouyi saw right through her: "Grinding them more, my flesh would be bitten off by you!"

Shell Lady's eyes lit up hearing this, showing a mouthful of fine teeth, admiring herself in the mirror, then closed her mouth smugly, jumped off the washbasin, and ran back to the bed to continue reading.

Chen Shouyi took his towel and sighed.

Sigh, it's too abnormal!

Should've known better than to feed her the Divine Marrow.

...

After an hour of exercise, the sky finally got bright.

Just as he was about to go out for a meal, he heard the door knock.

Chen Shouyi went to open it, and there stood Luo Jingwen.

The whites of his eyes were bloodshot, and they were crusted with sleep, evidently he hadn't slept well last night.

"Fortunately, you haven't left yet. This place looks decent. Where's your little girl?"

Chen Shouyi noted that the reading had stopped for a while, obviously hiding somewhere: "She's sleeping now!"

Saying this, he walked to the liquor cabinet, picked up a bottle of happy soda, opened it, and took a sip: "Want something to drink? Help yourself."

"Forget it, no sincerity at all, I won't drink!" Luo Jingwen joked, then promptly got to business: "I came to ask for advice on that meditation method you mentioned yesterday!"

"Have you mastered it?" Chen Shouyi asked immediately, curious himself.

"Are you sure what you're practicing is the right one? Don't fool me!" Luo Jingwen said seriously. He'd been practicing since yesterday afternoon, yet getting nowhere, leaving him doubtful.

"Why would I deceive you about this?" Chen Shouyi said with a laugh-cry mixture, asking, "What's your current perception radius?"

"Concerning perception!" Luo Jingwen closed his eyes, sensing around: "About five meters."

Chen Shouyi thought to himself: That means an attribute of around fifteen, slightly weaker than him, and asked:

"So, how many years have you been cultivating, and to what level?"

This was no secret, Luo Jingwen spoke without hesitation: "Been practicing for over ten years, accurately seventeen years, since meditation refining the body first emerged, I've been practicing, now at marrow refining!"

Chen Shouyi pondered slightly; it seems that peak Martial Artists have basically completed marrow refining:

"Then guess, how many years I've practiced, and what level I'm at?"

"Should be around ten years, level likely marrow refining too?" Luo Jingwen guessed boldly, seeing Chen Shouyi's confident look.

Ten years ago, Dongning City didn't have much of a martial atmosphere.

He got into Martial Arts at thirteen, five years ago, influenced by Chen Xingyue.

During an argument, he, who used to make his sister cry, got shoved to the ground without resistance, bruising his ego and realizing he couldn't go on like this, or he'd lose his elder brother dignity.

Sadly, reality showed it's utterly pointless; the gap only widened!

He became proficient with the thirty-six-form body refining, but meditation refining himself just wasn't getting anywhere.

Altogether, he's only been practicing meditation refining for around a year.

However, this was too sensational to admit, so Chen Shouyi nodded and said: "Five years!"

"Five years to marrow refining, that fast!" Luo Jingwen squinted, doubtfully confirming, equivalent to skipping a level every couple of years!

While he painfully practiced for a dozen years, it's like it got drilled into a dog's brain.

"If you master it, you'll be that fast too!" Chen Shouyi said.

"Really?" Luo Jingwen confirmed.

"Really!"

"Then I'll go practice more." Lao Luo couldn't sit still and hurriedly left.

Will he become obsessed?

Chen Shouyi watched him leave, stroked his chin, pondering.

...

By noon, a government staffer finally brought good news to Chen Shouyi, along with samples:

"Mr. Chen, this is a synthetic silk, with an extension of up to eight times, minimal body restraint, breathable, and resistant to deformation. Its strength is quite remarkable, and it's wear-resistant!"

Chen Shouyi took the cloth, pulled it gently; the short piece of cloth stretched nearly a meter long.

He released it, and the fabric quickly restored its original shape.

The extension is indeed high.

More than enough to withstand Giant Transformation.

Just unsure about the strength?

He then pinched the fabric, using his fingers with force, unleashing terrifying power in that limited space. A faint burnt smell filled the air, and when releasing his fingers, there was a hole.

"This..." The staff watched, aghast: "Mr. Chen, your strength is truly astonishing, but this is already the best material for both elasticity, strength, and comfort. If higher strength is desired, we could thicken the fibers or add layers, but it may not be comfortable to wear!"

"No, I'm quite satisfied." Chen Shouyi said with a smile.

Much better than anything he could buy.

Sufficient to handle most battles intact.

Moreover, why wear it thick, it's not meant for defense, comfort is paramount.

The staff breathed a sigh of relief.

"What's the price of this material?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"Mr. Chen, being a pillar of the nation, all these are provided free!" The staff said with a smile, mission completed, now with a cheerful mood: "By the way, do you want a complete outfit made? We can contact a factory to produce whole garments for you. How many sets do you need?"

"Just underwear will do, a hundred sets, please!" Chen Shouyi said a bit embarrassed, "Would that be too troublesome?"

The staff's face froze momentarily, then quickly responded: "Not troublesome, not at all."

Chapter 404: A Fright Without Danger

The efficiency above was very high, one hundred pairs of underwear is not a large quantity, and by evening, someone had already sent them over.

The next day at noon, the group boarded the train and left the Capital City.

In the single sleeper.

This journey to the Capital City was very rewarding for Chen Shouyi. Not only did he gain honor, but his intellectual shortcomings were greatly compensated, and he never had to worry about the embarrassment of being naked after transforming again.

Except for the embarrassment during the Martial Arts Instructor assessment, of course.

Naturally, Chen Shouyi was completely unconcerned about these.

In his life, from childhood to adulthood, the number of embarrassing incidents is countless, he's long been numb to them.

For instance, every time after the mid-term exams, when the scores were made into a table and pasted on the classroom wall, he always just glanced at them once, never twice, quietly walked away, and wouldn't brag or ask classmates about their scores.

Chen Shouyi carefully folded a copy of Everyone's Daily and placed it in the layer of his briefcase.

He wondered if his parents could see it?

Although the article only praised Martial Artists for their contributions to interdimensional warfare, and just mentioned his and Ye Zong's names as typical cases, the Godslayer seemed not to be mentioned for some reason.

But if his parents saw it, they would definitely ask questions!

Moreover, even if they didn't see it, provincial media would surely publicize it, and there might even be someone interviewing them at home already.

"Oh, I hope Dad and Mom won't let slip all my childhood embarrassments, or my glorious image would be ruined."

Chen Shouyi sighed slightly, truly annoying!

In this society, wanting to modestly be a low-key person, why is it so difficult?

Can't I just live peacefully?

...

In the middle of the night, Chen Shouyi was suddenly awakened.

He opened his eyes, the train was still running normally.

He looked at his watch and found it was only one o'clock.

He closed his eyes and prepared to continue sleeping, but before he could lie down for a few seconds, he heard the sound of glass shattering in the distance. He suddenly got up from the bed and quickly got dressed.

Then he pulled open the curtains to look outside.

Before sleeping last night, it had already started raining.

At this moment, there was no starlight outside, pitch black, faintly there seemed to be numerous shadows flying in the air.

Suddenly another glass shattering sound came, accompanied by a woman's scream.

This time the sound was closer, seemingly not far from his carriage.

Chen Shouyi's expression changed slightly, with a wave of his hand, the long sword on the bed silently flew up and quickly landed in his hand.

"Find a corner to hide in, I'm going outside." Chen Shouyi said to the Shell Lady.

She was also awakened by the unusual sounds, but at this moment she couldn't puff herself up and was filled with fearful unease.

"Oh!" She bravely held back her fear and said obediently, "Good giant, come back early, protect little one!"

Chen Shouyi scoffed internally, now you know fear!

In the past two days, you grew bold enough to call me stupid giant all day.

"I'll be back soon!"

...

He opened the door.

In the dim and flickering light of the oil lamp, quite a number of people had already rushed to the corridor.

They were discussing in shock and panic.

"What happened?"

"I don't know! Seems like interdimensional birds are attacking the train!"

"How can there be so many?"

"Didn't you see we're in mountainous terrain!"

With his keen hearing, Chen Shouyi frequently heard glass shattering and screaming in the crowd, more and more people were waking up from their sleep, leaving the room, the surroundings were chaotic.

Then, not far away, a door suddenly opened.

A group of passengers screamed and ran out, followed by an interdimensional bird about the size of a hen. It flapped its wings frantically and fiercely pecked the back of a middle-aged woman falling behind, in just a few moments her back was bleeding profusely, bones faintly visible.

The crowd was instantly terrified and retreated madly, the already crowded corridor became completely blocked.

"Make way, let me through." Chen Shouyi was squeezed in the crowd, frowned, and shouted loudly.

Unfortunately, no one heard him.

Fortunately, not everyone on the train was ordinary. Just as Chen Shouyi was about to forcibly push through, a middle-aged Martial Artist immediately charged forward and killed the fierce bird with a single slash.

However, the middle-aged woman was already beyond help, she fell on the ground, blood everywhere, only left twitching intermittently.

Soon a train police officer quickly came over: "The train is accelerating to leave this area, everyone don't panic, ordinary people stand against the wall, don't block the way, Martial Artist Apprentice and Martial Artists coordinate with the police to protect passenger safety!

Now Martial Artist Apprentice and Martial Artists, all step forward for registration."

The whole country was almost in wartime status, most people even at factories had participated in some military training.

After the panic, rationality recovered, and order manifested.

All ordinary people immediately lined up along the aisle.

Chen Shouyi noticed one sleeper carriage with thirty or forty people had one Martial Artist and three Martial Artist Apprentices, the ratio was almost ten to one, incredibly high.

After registering the four people, it was finally Chen Shouyi's turn: "Name?"

"Chen Shouyi!"

"Level?"

"Martial Arts Instructor." Chen Shouyi said.

"I... I'm sorry, did you say you are a Martial Arts Instructor?" The train police officer nearly thought he misheard.

"This is my certificate!" Chen Shouyi took out the Martial Arts Instructor Certificate.

He was already used to such doubts, after all, he is young!

"No need, no need." The police officer quickly refused, not daring to take his certificate, suddenly remembering that indeed there was one Martial Arts Instructor on this train, unexpectedly it was him: "Mr. Chen, with you here, we are relieved, and hope during the journey, if there is danger, you can lend a helping hand promptly!"

"Of course, as I am on the train as well." Chen Shouyi put the Martial Arts Instructor certificate into his pocket, speaking politely.

The train police officer soon went to another carriage.

The surroundings suddenly became quiet.

Even the middle-aged Martial Artist who had just fiercely slashed the vicious bird was now extremely cautious, not daring to breathe heavily.

To ease the awkward atmosphere, Chen Shouyi smiled, politely said: "That was a good slash just now!"

"Not at all, senior, you flatter me." The middle-aged Martial Artist forced a stiff smile.

Chen Shouyi felt speechless hearing the other address him as senior.

Considering the other's age, he could call him uncle.

Shortly after, Zhang Miaomiao, Bai Xiaoling, and Zhao Ding quickly arrived, they were not in the same carriage as Chen Shouyi.

The three avoided the corpse and seeing Chen Shouyi, finally relaxed.

"How is it on your side?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"Two died, but fortunately killed in time, how come there are so many interdimensional creatures?" Bai Xiaoling said in lingering fear.

"Remote mountainous areas always have more interdimensional creatures." Chen Shouyi said.

Some are extremely rare in mountainous areas, even if there is a spatial passage, it is hard to detect. Especially during this period of human power weakening after the transformation, a large number of interdimensional creatures proliferated and rampant inside, completely unchecked.

Fortunately, the attacking creatures this time weren't very dangerous, and their numbers were limited.

During which, besides another fierce bird entering this carriage, which was instantly slashed by Chen Shouyi.

After that, there were no more attacks.

Half an hour later, the train left the mountainous area, and the alert was finally completely lifted.

Safe and sound in danger.

Chapter 405: Hot-Tempered Little Sister

The rest of the journey was uneventful.

On the third evening at eight o'clock, Chen Shouyi finally arrived smoothly at Hedong Railway Station.

Walking out of the station, he took a deep breath of the familiar fog in the air. Yes, this was the scent.

He thought no one would come to pick him up, but as soon as he stepped out of the station, someone greeted him. Zhang Miaomiao knew Chen Shouyi wouldn't recognize him, so she quickly introduced with a smile, "This is Secretary Zhao Shuping, Mr. Zhao the chief secretary!"

Then introduced to Secretary Zhao.

"This is Chief Advisor Chen Shouyi."

"Haha, Director Zhang, there's no need to introduce Chief Advisor Chen; I've long heard of his illustrious name, as loud as thunder. Chief Advisor Chen, welcome back from the Capital City!" Zhao Shuping said with a laugh, reaching out his hand.

Chen Shouyi shook his hand, "Secretary Zhao, you're too kind. I didn't expect you to come pick me up!"

"It's only right, Chief Advisor Chen is a talent from Jiangnan Province, and our province greatly values him. The province specifically asked me to convey that while Jiangnan's resources are limited, it won't be stingy, and the provincial government will have a significant reward for you!" Zhao Shuping said with a smile.

Initially, Chen Shouyi was somewhat indifferent, but upon hearing this, he perked up and quickly asked, "What kind of reward?"

Zhao Shuping was taken aback. Being a chief secretary, people usually talked to him either very courteously or cautiously. He had never encountered such directness before.

But he couldn't expect too much from this person; ordinary power had no effect on him. Such personal strength required anyone speaking to him to remain calm:

"Uh, the province is still deliberating. Do you have any personal requests?" Zhao Shuping asked tentatively.

"Money isn't necessary, right?" Chen Shouyi thought seriously. With a monthly allowance and task bonuses amounting to millions already, more wouldn't make much difference; just having enough to spend would suffice:

"Do you have Divine Blood or Divine Marrow from True Gods?"

"Uh, no," Zhao Shuping replied. Indeed, Jiangnan had killed a True God-level Barbarian God, but it was incinerated so thoroughly by a nuclear bomb that even the body was vaporized.

"You must have some from Demigods then, right?" Chen Shouyi pressed, looking at him.

Although he didn't need it, he could give it to his parents and sister. Eating more wouldn't hurt anyone.

"They were all allocated to the military and key researchers!" Zhao Shuping, an ordinary person, was feeling the pressure of being scrutinized by such a monstrous level Martial Artist as Chen Shouyi. He broke out in a fine sweat and quickly continued:

"But the lab still has some left, and probably more than needed, so we can adjust and allocate some to you."

"That's quite embarrassing!" Chen Shouyi said with a smile, feeling pleased.

"Haha, it's no trouble, no trouble," Zhao Shuping said with a bitter smile, feeling a chill down his back as a gust of wind blew past.

...

The car dropped him off at his doorstep.

After bidding farewell to everyone, Chen Shouyi knocked on the door at home.

His parents, who had already gone to bed, hurried down to open the door, and his sister, Chen Xingyue, also came down in her pajamas.

"Shouyi, you're finally back!"

"Bro!"

"Did your special training end?" Chen Shouyi asked in surprise, looking at his sister. After not seeing her for a month, she seemed more spirited, exuding an uplifting aura.

To be honest, seeing his sister every day used to irritate him, but when he was really not at home, he found himself missing the lively atmosphere.

"Of course it's over," Chen Xingyue said, "Bro, where's the gift you brought back from the Capital City?"

Gift, what gift?

Chen Shouyi was a bit embarrassed. Was he supposed to bring gifts?

He did bring back lots of underwear!

He wouldn't mind sharing some with her.

But she probably wouldn't want it anyway.

Fortunately, Mrs. Chen quickly smoothed things over: "Don't bother your brother; we're all adults, what gifts do we need? Your brother's already tired from several days on the train!"

Then she turned to Chen Shouyi, "Have you eaten yet?"

"I ate on the train!" Chen Shouyi said with relief.

"How's it over there in the Capital City?" Chen Dawei asked.

"It's quite nice," Chen Shouyi replied with a smile, "but I've been too busy to do much sightseeing."

Chen Xingyue, feeling left out, pouted and sulked quietly, feeling like her brother had stolen her place in their parents' favor.

She mentally noted this, then asked, "Bro, is what the newspapers have been saying true?"

"What's true or false?" Chen Shouyi asked.

Ah, the inevitable question finally came.

"That you're the strongest martial artist in the Great Xia Country?" Chen Xingyue asked, her eyes fixed unwaveringly on Chen Shouyi, bright and searching as if scanning him.

Father Chen and Mrs. Chen immediately turned their attention, seeking confirmation.

To be honest, what was in the newspapers, the parents didn't believe a word. They knew their son was a martial artist.

After the initial surprise, every time they talked about it, they felt there must be some exaggeration in it, something misleading.

Even if he was a martial artist, he would definitely be the weakest of them all.

Considering the 1.7 billion people in Great Xia Country, how could their son possibly be the number one?

He didn't even come first in kindergarten; achieving slightly above average was already worth celebrating. How could he be so excellent when he grew up? It was simply incredible.

If not for the leaders from the province and city visiting them, they would have thought it was merely someone with the same name.

...

Chen Shouyi's face froze, and he couldn't help but blush.

Hasn't Jiangnan's publicity become shameless?

This was... truly embarrassing.

Why couldn't they keep a low profile!

Although he thought his strength was indeed considerable, it wasn't to the extent of being the strongest, probably merely the second at most.

Chapter 406: The Hot-Tempered Little Sister

There's still a lot of room for improvement!

"Nonsense. The province doesn't know the situation. I just happened to complete a significant national task, so I became a role model. But this is a state secret, and it's not appropriate to talk about it," Chen Shouyi said with a nervous smile.

But even so, Mrs. Chen looked delighted and said, "Really? Did you get a certificate or anything? Quickly, take it out and show us."

"Mom, given the current situation in the country, do you think they'd give out certificates? They just held a recognition meeting, that's all!" Chen Shouyi quickly replied.

Something like the Godslayer Medal is, of course, not something one can show.

It would be too shocking for the parents.

"Not even a certificate!" Chen Dawei said somewhat disappointedly. He wanted to keep it as a family heirloom.

Chen Xingyue suddenly and unexpectedly asked, "So, bro, you're at least a Martial Artist now, right?"

Chen Shouyi noticed the hint of dangerous sparks in Chen Xingyue's eyes on her expressionless face and said awkwardly, "Well... actually, I only just recently became a Martial Artist."

Chen Dawei coughed, interrupting, "You guys chat; we're going to sleep first!"

Mrs. Chen chuckled secretly and said, "You two don't stay up too late, go to bed early too!"

Chen Shouyi immediately sensed something ominous and quickly said, "Uh, after sitting on the train for two days, I'm exhausted. I'll take a bath first!"

He said, picking up the briefcase and heading upstairs.

"Bro, we haven't seen each other for a month; let's chat for a while, okay?" said Chen Xingyue sweetly from behind.

"What do we have to talk about? It's so late. Let's talk about whatever it is tomorrow morning!" Chen Shouyi quickened his pace as he spoke, taking a few quick steps to get to his bedroom and open the door.

...

"Bang!"

Listening to the dull sound of the door closing from upstairs, Chen Xingyue gritted her teeth silently.

Hmph, he clearly became a Martial Artist in May and kept lying to me.

Even conspired with mom and dad to keep it from me.

Although I know he's doing it for my good, not wanting me to take risks as a Martial Artist.

But when I think about it, it really makes me angry!

...

The next day, Chen Xingyue got up early.

But she was still a step too late; her brother went out before dawn.

She stomped her feet in anger!

What kind of brother is this, acting so shamelessly?

She still wanted to ask about her own strength!

Too infuriating.

If you have the guts, don't come back every day!

...

Of course, Chen Shouyi wasn't avoiding his sister.

Now he could suppress his sister with just his pinky; what's there to fear?

It's just a paper tiger with a loud roar but no real power!

He simply didn't want to waste time on sleeping and delay his archery practice.

The Martial Artist exam in the Capital City was a huge blow to him and a complete loss of face.

He was determined to practice archery well and compensate for his weakest point.

...

The alternate world was getting colder and colder.

The real harsh winter had already arrived.

The temperature here had dropped to minus forty degrees Celsius.

The knife-like cold wind was recklessly blowing through the desert, and the originally soft sandy ground had now frozen into a hard, solid tundra.

After putting the Shell Lady in her warm little nest, Chen Shouyi practiced the Horizontal Training 36 Styles in the cold wind over a dozen times, sweating profusely as a warm-up.

Before practicing, he checked his attribute panel.

His swordsmanship level had reached "Expert: 3"

But his archery level was a pitiful "Mastery: 11"

The gap between the two was too big.

Chen Shouyi guessed that martial artists were probably at an expert level, and even large martial artists might be at this level!

The main reason was still that he hadn't had enough practice time.

From when he began archery, it had been a year at most.

His swordsmanship reached the expert level, thanks to achieving marrow training level, allowing for precise control over his body's strength.

But there's no shortcut in archery.

Although precise control of strength can allow for quick entry-level progress in archery, to progress further, it requires constant, year-in, year-out, hard practice.

...

Chen Shouyi started from a standing, towering deadwood, took two hundred steps before stopping.

"It should be a hundred and fifty meters now!" Chen Shouyi thought as he looked at the distance.

He threw a large arrow pouch on the ground, then opened it. It was full of arrows, at least three hundred in number.

He drew one, notched it to the bow, pulled the string, and released it with his fingers.

With a "boom", the arrow instantly grazed the huge withered tree in front with a diameter of five meters and flew out of sight.

"I guess my hands are a bit stiff."

Chen Shouyi immediately rubbed his hands, jumped in place a few times, and drew another arrow to the bowstring.

This time, he got serious, took a few seconds to aim before releasing the string.

This time he adjusted and hit the target, but missed by about two meters.

"Damn, the wind is too strong here."

Feeling the three to four-grade cold wind here, Chen Shouyi couldn't help feeling a bit agitated.

He shot ten arrows consecutively.

Only eight barely hit the trunk, the rest flew out of sight.

"This shouldn't be." Chen Shouyi looked at the meager hit rate, feeling out of sorts, unable to accept it: "I'd be better off shooting randomly by feel. During the exam, I could hit a small target nine out of ten times, and with such a large target now, it should be a guaranteed hit. This time I aimed so carefully, yet the accuracy declined so drastically!"

Chen Shouyi hesitated for a moment and then shook his head, dismissing the anxious thoughts from his mind:

"No, this method is completely wrong, not orthodox. Skyscrapers rise from the ground, and the foundation of everything is the most important.

I'm not a Martial Artist right now; I'm a beginner archer. I must be patient, not anxious, and train step by step. Now is the time to make up for lost lessons, I can't be laughed at again."

Chen Shouyi moved from one hundred and fifty meters to one hundred meters.

Not long after, he moved from one hundred meters to fifty meters, and then to twenty meters.

From drawing the bowstring fully, to pulling it halfway, and finally pulling it only a quarter.

This way, the arrows wouldn't be damaged or deformed, and each arrow could be reused.

"Bang bang bang..."

He was ultimately not a novice, and his intelligence far surpassed ordinary people. Plus, with precise control of his body's strength, he quickly mastered the knack of shooting. Soon, within twenty meters, he could hit every target flawlessly, shooting exactly where he aimed.

He didn't immediately increase the distance, but continued to practice at this range. After several hours of practice and reinforcement, he could hit even a coin-sized target flawlessly, before extending the distance back to fifty meters.

The accuracy of his shooting dropped sharply at once, but he continued to practice patiently.

Chen Shouyi kept shooting, from the alien world's noon to dusk, and from dusk to night, not feeling tired at all. Except for taking a break to eat, and practicing the Horizontal Training 36 Styles for half an hour, he spent the rest of the time focusing on practicing archery.

Before leaving, he had improved his shooting accuracy at fifty meters to seven or eight out of ten.

...

The evening sun slanted to the west, dyeing the sky a red hue.

Chen Shouyi left the spatial passage, riding his bicycle and merging into the stream of bicycles.

It was rush hour, and the roads were filled with off-duty workers.

He checked his attribute panel and found his archery had increased from Mastery: 11 to Mastery: 13.

So fast!

Just one day of practice.

Maybe it won't take long before reaching expert level.

Chen Shouyi closed the attribute panel, invigorated, and gave a strong pedal to his bike's pedal.

Suddenly, with a "snap," the bike chain broke into two pieces, and Chen Shouyi dismounted with a blank expression.

Sigh, the quality of bicycles these days is too poor.

...

"Not only did your chain break, but the pedal is broken too and a few gear teeth are gone." Finally, it was Chen Shouyi's turn, and the bicycle repair shop owner said, "If it weren't for the frame still being intact, I would have thought it was in an accident."

"Can you fix it?"

"I can fix it. How about you leave it, and come pick it up tomorrow?" the old craftsman said. "Don't worry, I can give you a receipt. Bicycles are expensive these days, an average person would need a few months' salary to buy one."

"Never mind then!" Chen Shouyi replied, thinking that if he had to wait until tomorrow, he might as well buy a new one.

With that, he walked out.

"Hey, you don't want your bike?"

"Forget it, it's yours now!" Chen Shouyi said without looking back.

Chapter 407: Whoever Gives Milk Is Mother

At the dining table.

"Mom and Dad, I'm going back to my room." Chen Shouyi quickly finished his meal, put down his bowl, and was ready to leave.

Chen Xingyue snorted inwardly, quickly finished her remaining food in a few bites, "I'm full too."

Then she followed Chen Shouyi upstairs.

"These kids!" Mrs. Chen said, "Still sulking!"

"Our daughter, you know her, thin-skinned, she'll be fine after a while!" Chen Dawei said with a chuckle.

...

Bang bang bang!

"Brother, open the door, hurry up." Chen Xingyue reached Chen Shouyi's bedroom and knocked non-stop, saying disdainfully:

"You can hide for a moment, but can you hide forever?"

Behind the door, Chen Shouyi felt a moment of suffocation, as if she suggested that he, a pinnacle Martial Artist, was afraid of her.

What was he afraid of?

It's just that, as an adult, he didn't want to argue with his sister.

It would make him seem childish.

Chen Shouyi immediately opened the door, displeased: "Chen Xingyue, make yourself clear, when did I hide?"

"If you're not hiding, then why weren't you here this morning." Chen Xingyue sneered. As siblings who have argued since young, who doesn't know whom? Her brother's every move gave away his thoughts.

"Who told you to wake up so late? Do I have to wait for you to wake up? I'm a Martial Artist now, I'm busy every day, okay!" Chen Shouyi retorted.

"I got up at five-thirty!" Chen Xingyue was infuriated. If it were someone else who was a Martial Artist, she would respect and fear them, but not her own brother. There's no way she could respect or fear him; he's still as annoying.

Chen Shouyi said lightly, "That's the difference between us. You're sleeping at five, while I'm already training in another world by then!"

"You usually wake up at six-thirty." Chen Xingyue choked a bit, quickly retorting.

"Who is it that wakes up at six-thirty? What does that have to do with me? Are you in love early? How do you know he wakes up at six-thirty? I'll tell mom later!" Chen Shouyi huffed.

Chen Xingyue was stunned for a moment, then reacted with anger. Can't he speak properly? Seeing her brother's annoying face made her want to hit him, but she couldn't beat him anymore.

"Mom, brother is bullying me!" Chen Xingyue immediately used her trump card.

Then Mrs. Chen's voice came from the living room downstairs: "Shouyi, you're working now, can't you let your sister a bit!"

Chen Shouyi felt a bit embarrassed and quickly said, "We're just playing around."

Then said impatiently, "If you've got something to say, out with it!"

Chen Xingyue looked smug; this was the only way to deal with her brother.

Then she suddenly realized, with all her brother's nonsense, she had forgotten what she initially wanted to say.

"Are you really a Martial Artist?"

"Didn't I say so yesterday!"

"Let me see your Martial Arts Instructor Certificate!"

"It's just a certificate, what's there to see!" Chen Shouyi said casually, but promptly walked back to his room to retrieve his ID from the backpack.

Chen Xingyue followed into the bedroom.

Since moving here, she hadn't been in her brother's room yet. As expected, it was as messy as imagined, with the blanket thrown around and clothes scattered everywhere, but at least there were no tissues scattered about.

Then her eyes lit up as she spotted a little dress hanging out to dry by the window, and she quickly walked over.

Chen Shouyi had just taken out the certificate from his backpack when he saw Chen Xingyue looking at the little dress. His face immediately changed color.

This was the Shell Lady's clothes, washed and dried after she changed out of them yesterday. He didn't expect his sharp-eyed sister to discover it.

If he'd known earlier, he wouldn't have let her in.

Then he pretended to be nonchalant and said, "Weren't you looking for the certificate? Here you go!"

"Brother, why do you have this? Isn't this a Barbie Doll's?" Chen Xingyue turned around and said.

"What Barbie Doll, this is an action figure's clothes!" Chen Shouyi quickly retorted, thinking Barbies are only liked by girls or young kids, whereas action figures are relatively normal.

"You never bought these before." Chen Xingyue said suspiciously; she instinctively felt her brother was lying.

"That was when I didn't have money. Now, your brother isn't short of money!" Chen Shouyi replied nonchalantly.

"Then where's your action figure? Let me see it." Chen Xingyue said unbelievably.

It's annoying having such a sister.

Why does she have to dig to the bottom of every issue, find his faults, then report to mom so he'd be scolded or beaten, and then she'd be satisfied?

Couldn't she lighten up on him and be tougher on herself?

Chen Shouyi said impatiently, "Why do you care so much? Do you still want to see the certificate or not?"

"If you don't want to say, fine. Why so fierce?" Chen Xingyue huffed, took the certificate, and flipped through it nonchalantly. Seeing the master-level Martial Artist words and the Martial Arts Bureau's seal, she confirmed her brother was indeed a Martial Artist, then pretended to be dismissive and tossed it onto the bed: "Just that, nothing special, not worth my time to look."

Saying this, she turned to leave.

Chen Shouyi suddenly felt very tired.

I kindly showed you.

Not only did you not express admiration or worship, but instead blatantly lied.

Touch your chest, doesn't your conscience hurt?

Seeing Chen Xingyue about to leave, Chen Shouyi coldly said from behind:

"I originally planned to give you my sword after your special training, but clearly it's unnecessary now!"

Hearing this, Chen Xingyue turned around, flipping her proud ponytail: "Keep it for yourself!"

This tactic is too low-level.

Although she knew her brother's weapon must be better than hers.

But Chen Xingyue also has her pride!

She doesn't lack weapons right now, won't stoop to acting coy or yielding like her brother.

Chapter 408: Whoever Gives Milk Is Mother

Chen Shouyi walked to the desk, picked up the black sword that was already gathering some dust, and suddenly drew it out. With a "zing" sound, the blade shone with a cold light, its sharpness intimidating.

"This sword has been through so many battles, yet there isn't a single nick on it!" Chen Shouyi said leisurely, "I used to wonder what kind of metal could be so tough, even sharper than the nanometer coating sword. I only understood after going to the Capital City—it was forged from divine artifact material."

This relic of Cao Zhenhua likely came from the Pantheon behind him.

Upon hearing this, Chen Xingyue couldn't contain herself and blurted out in surprise, "A divine artifact?"

"Divine artifact material!" Chen Shouyi glanced at her and corrected:

"Since you don't want it, and I already have a new sword, leaving it here is just letting it gather dust. I can only sell it. I'm guessing it could easily fetch ten million."

"Ten million?" Chen Xingyue's eyes widened in shock.

Her savings from living frugally didn't even amount to twenty thousand, most of it earned from sparring with her brother last time. Selling herself probably wouldn't fetch that much.

Chen Shouyi thought for a moment and said, "Hm, I misspoke, not ten million!"

Just as Chen Xingyue relaxed a bit upon hearing it wasn't ten million, her brother continued, "At least thirty million. Martial Artists are wealthy people; buying such a sword made of divine artifact material for ten million would be like picking it up for free!"

Swords like these require exchanging merit points. Although it's second-hand, or rather, third-hand, its value isn't much different. It's entirely a seller's market.

"Brother!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Chen Shouyi heard a faint buzzing voice.

"What did you say? I didn't hear clearly?" Chen Shouyi asked in surprise.

"Brother!" Chen Xingyue's voice became louder, her face slightly red. Although she knew her brother was doing this deliberately, she still had to play along. Who says money isn't potent?

"What do you want?" Chen Shouyi asked, puzzled.

"Can you give me your sword?" Chen Xingyue whispered.

"Didn't you just say you didn't want it?" Chen Shouyi smirked.

"I was just kidding, brother. Let me give you a back massage. You're the best to me." Chen Xingyue squeezed out a sycophantic smile, moving over to prepare a back massage.

"Forget it; I'll still sell it. Thirty million, and I won't have to worry for a lifetime." Chen Shouyi snorted.

Now you realize the goodness of having a brother. It's like whoever has milk is the mother; too realistic.

"How can money be more important than your sister? You have such a lovely sister." Chen Xingyue tried to show her sweetest smile.

"Lovely, my foot. You even reported me when you couldn't out-talk me?" Chen Shouyi retorted.

That was the one thing he despised most, almost like an allergy. He had taken countless beatings for it, all thanks to his tattletale sister.

"I promise, I'll never tell on you again!" Chen Xingyue immediately said.

"Really?" Chen Shouyi felt moved but skeptical.

He had a good memory. When they were kids, every time he hit his sister, she would cry and promise never to report him again, yet she'd turn around and tell on him, utterly untrustworthy.

"This time, it's absolutely true, can't get any truer. Brother, please give it to me, please..." Chen Xingyue clung to Chen Shouyi's arm, swaying back and forth, chanting non-stop.

Chen Shouyi couldn't stand her pestering any longer and freed his arm, "Alright, fine, I'll believe you this one time."

"Thank you, brother! You're the best brother ever!" Chen Xingyue said joyfully, taking the long sword, "Brother, I'll leave you alone now!"

"Go, go, just seeing you annoys me." Chen Shouyi waved his hand. At that moment, he had a thought and called out to Chen Xingyue, who was almost at the door, "Wait, I want to ask you something!"

"Brother, what is it?" Chen Xingyue asked, her smile bright, and in a good mood holding the long sword.

"How's your archery?" Chen Shouyi asked casually.

"My archery is okay, I guess. Indoors at fifty meters, I hit the bullseye with every arrow. At a hundred meters, my accuracy drops a bit. Last time I tested, I averaged 8.9 rings." Chen Xingyue replied, puzzled, "Brother, why are you asking this?"

He couldn't help but cough upon hearing that, slightly embarrassed, "I was just asking casually, checking on your scores!"

"Brother, your archery must be amazing, right?" Chen Xingyue asked.

"So-so!" Chen Shouyi brushed off, "Alright, I need to take a shower!"

...

After Chen Xingyue left, Chen Shouyi sighed.

His sister, a Martial Artist, was slightly better than him, a Martial Artist, in archery.

He felt a bit exhausted.

...

In the ensuing days, he practiced archery in the fantasy world every day, drawing his bow over ten thousand times daily.

However, his rate of improvement slowed down more and more. Despite practicing for several days in a row, he made no significant progress in level.

Nonetheless, Chen Shouyi wasn't impatient at all.

He deliberately ignored his strong intuition, relying solely on his sight.

Through repeated shooting, his foundation became increasingly solid, and his shots landed on target more frequently.

By the fourth day, he could hit an apple-sized target ten out of ten times from fifty meters away. In terms of accuracy, he almost surpassed his previous, intuition-based random shots.

...

A large white fierce bird spread its enormous wings, circling high in the sky, its sharp gaze overlooking its prey below. It flew lower and lower, seeing that its prey was utterly unaware.

Suddenly, it folded its wings and dove swiftly towards Chen Shouyi.

At this moment, Chen Shouyi abruptly looked up, focusing his will. An arrow flew swiftly from the quiver into his hand. He drew his bow and opened his arrow, watching as the fierce bird dove rapidly. He opened his mind, working with the strong intuition in his heart, and released the bowstring.

"Boom!"

The arrow shot through the air like a streak of light, flying over a hundred meters and hit the fierce bird's head, blowing it apart.

It didn't even have time to scream before its massive body plummeted to the ground.

He put down the war bow with satisfaction.

This was the result of his archery practice over the past few days.

The shooting intuition built on a solid foundation is the only truly reliable shooting intuition; otherwise, it's just building castles in the air.

Though it seemed his archery skill improved by merely two points, it was actually enhancing his weak foundation.

In these days, he was essentially catching up on lessons he had missed.

The effects were now quite apparent.

"I was just planning to find some game for lunch, but I didn't expect it to deliver itself," Chen Shouyi thought to himself, quickly running to the site of the fall.

Soon, Chen Shouyi was dragging the massive bird, which was several times larger than an ostrich, back.

Halfway,

the Shell Lady flew out of her warm little nest, facing the cold wind and flying up to meet him, her face flushed with excitement, chattering, "Good giant, you're amazing. Do you need the little sprite's help?"

She had been terrified when she saw the creature as big as a mountain, but fortunately, the good giant quickly killed it.

Chen Shouyi glanced at the overconfident little one and chuckled, "Sure!"

Excited, the Shell Lady flew to the fierce bird's wing, grabbing a feather with her tiny hands, her face turning red as she huffed and puffed while trying to drag it forward, "Good giant, don't you feel much lighter?"

"A lot lighter, the little one's really strong!" Seeing how hard the Shell Lady was trying, Chen Shouyi could only praise insincerely.

"The little one is always strong; I can also, like the good giant, kill really big and fierce bad guys, bigger than mountains!" The Shell Lady giggled as she boasted, gesturing proudly in front of Chen Shouyi.

"Oh no, as soon as you let go, I suddenly feel it got heavy again!"

"Good giant, don't worry. The little one will be right there to help you!" The Shell Lady said urgently upon hearing that, quickly flying over to grab the feather again to help drag it with all her might.

A few minutes later, Chen Shouyi carried the game into a cave.

The Shell Lady was also utterly exhausted, sitting directly on the ground, panting heavily, almost sticking her tongue out. However, her face was full of excitement. Today she had moved a gigantic villainous bird, as big as a mountain:

"Good... good giant, huh... do you think... huh... the little one is amazing?"

"Of course, you are amazing. Otherwise, I couldn't have done it alone."

"Then... huh... next time the little one... huh... will help you again!" the Shell Lady said excitedly.

Chapter 409: Decapitation

After November set in, the weather turned cold quickly.

Last month still looked like midsummer, but this month many people have already started wearing down jackets.

Since the mutation, influenced by Original Force, the climate in Jiangnan Province has become extreme, with unbearable heat in summer and bitter cold in winter.

Early in the morning, Chen Shouyi changed into the suit and tie he had from the Capital City.

He got into the vehicle for transport to the Provincial Government Building to attend an awards ceremony with him as the main character.

During the meeting, he received a certificate, along with several handshakes.

Chen Shouyi also gave his first public speech, reading a pre-written script with a serious expression for a dozen minutes filled with main thematic remarks; the seats at the conference were fully occupied by Martial Artists and senior military and governmental officials.

After the speech, the applause was thunderous, akin to a storm.

Many unfamiliar or familiar Martial Artists clapped emphatically, their faces displaying admiration.

Unfortunately, Song Yingjie and Qin Liuyuan, whom he was most familiar with, did not come, which was slightly disappointing.

Looking at the enthusiastic atmosphere in the audience, Chen Shouyi let out a long breath; a subtle smile played on his once tensed face, clearly surprised at his own speaking talent.

Evidently, in the past, such talent was buried with no opportunity for expression.

The real reward from the province, of course, wasn't a certificate worth a few bucks, nor was it the honor and the thrill from giving a speech amid a monotonic life.

...

In a small conference room.

Chen Shouyi picked up a share transfer document.

Sitting beside him, Zhang Miaomiao wore a fitted office attire, her round, slender legs encased in gray silver stockings were tightly aligned, seamless.

"This is for me?" Chen Shouyi asked in surprise.

"Yes, to reward you for your special contributions to our province, the decision was made in the provincial committee meeting to gift you 1% of the shares in the Jiangnan Province Steam Turbine Group Company," Zhang Miaomiao explained gently, her body leaning slightly towards Chen Shouyi.

1% of shares in Jiangnan Province Steam Turbine Group may not seem much, but even before the mutation, this famous provincial state-owned enterprise in Great Xia Country's steam turbine manufacturing sector was a giant, with assets exceeding tens of billions.

Not to mention since the mutation, with the influx of various resources over the past year, its business has not only not reduced but has rapidly expanded into a behemoth spanning various sectors.

The entire group is involved in steam engines, mechanical manufacturing, steam automobiles, and even military industry.

In Hedong and throughout Jiangnan Province, it holds significant sway.

Though its strategic position has somewhat declined with the gradual restoration of electricity and gasoline/diesel engines.

Yet, 1% of shares, even if reduced to pre-mutation values, would be worth over a billion.

Even Chen Shouyi appeared slightly unsettled facing such a fortune.

His nearly money-filled cabinet, although not counted, had roughly over twenty million total,

His current basic monthly subsidy was 2 million, and sometimes adding bonuses from tasks, the highest being 7 million, averaging around 4 million monthly.

Nearly fifty million annually.

Enough to buy tens of thousands of bicycles, changing thirty daily wouldn't be an issue.

Wait, calculating this way, a billion doesn't seem much, just two years of salary.

Am I really this wealthy?

Chen Shouyi calmly perused the document thoroughly, finding no restrictions; even if he packed up and moved to the Capital City or elsewhere, the shares would still be his, clearly demonstrating the province's generosity in this regard.

Though Jiangnan Province doesn't have as much resources as the country, they never scrimp on money.

Chen Shouyi took the pen, quickly signed his name on the document, pressed his fingerprint, and turned to ask, "Is there any other reward?"

Zhang Miaomiao couldn't help but smile slightly, then took out a briefcase from beside her: "Inside this is the Divine Blood you requested, a total of twenty milliliters, please confirm."

Twenty milliliters!

Back then, when he killed that Demigod, the blood was gushing like a fountain, casually collecting would exceed this amount.

Sigh, should have brought some back if known.

Unfortunately, the situation was too perilous at the time, with the Thermobaric Bomb ready to drop above; all he could think about was running.

Chen Shouyi opened the briefcase, glanced, and immediately closed it: "No Divine Marrow?"

"The Divine Marrow has been used up!" Zhang Miaomiao said.

Compared to Divine Blood, the amount of Divine Marrow is pitifully scarce, and more valuable to researchers; even if available, it's unlikely to be given away.

Chen Shouyi felt slightly disappointed.

Though it's fine without Divine Marrow.

Smart parents and siblings aren't necessarily good things; escaping quickly during danger suffices!

...

In the evening, Chen Shouyi shared the Divine Blood with his parents and sister, needless to mention the family's delightful surprise.

Back in his bedroom, he checked the attribute panel.

These days have not only seen progress in Archery but his physique has arduously increased by 0.1 point, reaching 17.3, matching his strength. He sighed, aside from his perception, other attributes' growth has slowed considerably.

His gaze swept over the other attributes; just as he was about to close it.

"Huh!" He looked at the 12.85 Faith Value, his face slightly surprised.

How could it be this much?

It seems that his Faith Value has been rising at an abnormal speed these days.

The growth curve of Faith Value has been fluctuating greatly. At its slowest, it grew less than 0.1 in a day, with the least being just 0.02 (that day was mostly night in the alien world).

While at most, it could increase by one point.

For example, during sacrificial days.

The difference is fifty times between the two.

Therefore, he usually just glanced at the number, rarely paying attention to how much it grew.

Until today, when he saw the 12.85 Faith Value, Chen Shouyi suddenly realized the abnormal growth in Faith Value over these days. On average, it gained more than 1.23 points per day.

"This is strange!" He frowned slightly, feeling that nothing major happened to his Barbarian Believers?

They eat, sleep, and eat again, occasionally have a fight, or engage in some propagation activities. Other than that, in this severe winter season, there's nothing much to do.

At this moment, he caught sight of a newspaper on the table, with the subtitle:

"The Growth Journey of the Provincial Security Chief Advisor Chen Shouyi"

This newspaper was something he casually bought a few days ago while passing a newspaper kiosk. He thought it was written well, so he brought it back to study.

Although it's heavily fictionalized and completely made up.

For example, it said he encountered Martial Arts at the age of six, became a Martial Artist Apprentice at nine, a Martial Artist at eleven, and a Great Martial Artist at fourteen... In short, it described the growth journey of a genius.

However, this newspaper also happened to address the issue of his extraordinary improvement speed in strength. After all, the span of a year is beyond normal human comprehension.

Of course, these are not the main point.

The main point is, recently, the province has been promoting him quite a lot.

"Could this be the reason for the sudden increase in Faith Value?" Chen Shouyi mused.

Faith, in essence, is a kind of emotion—reverence, admiration, adoration, worship, as well as fear, hatred—various emotions can more or less generate the Power of Faith. Obviously, with the promotion, his name is no longer obscure.

"If that's really the case, the increase is still too little!" Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

Nowadays, newspapers are the only channel to learn about the outside world.

Not to mention the Jiangnan Province, even in the entire Hedong City, there are millions of people reading newspapers every day.

However, even so, the Faith Value generated is only equivalent to those more than a thousand Barbarians on the small island.

At least it's better than nothing.

...

In the middle of the night, a sleeping Chen Shouyi was suddenly awakened by the sound of a ringtone.

He opened his eyes and glanced at the clock on the bedside.

Two in the morning!

He couldn't help but feel a sinking feeling. Receiving a call at such a late hour clearly signified an emergency.

He quickly picked up the phone. After listening for a while, his face slightly changed as he said in a deep voice, "I'll be right there!"

He quickly dressed, grabbed his weapon, and went out the door.

A car was already parked at the doorstep.

In just over ten minutes, he got out of the car at the entrance of the Provincial Government Building.

The place was already under complete lockdown by soldiers, and one by one, corpses were being carried out from the building and placed in the square, amounting to over a hundred bodies. Most were soldiers guarding the place, along with several on-duty government officials.

He noticed that the cause of death for almost all was a twisted neck.

Upon seeing Chen Shouyi's arrival, the police chief who had arrived before him quickly came over with a group of people. After a brief introduction, the police chief, with a grave expression, began to explain the situation:

"The estimated death toll exceeds two hundred, including hidden snipers in the vicinity and machine gunners at elevated points. Based on the time of death, the killer started outside and moved step by step to kill inside the *** building, then left, all within less than half an hour, perhaps even shorter. Our preliminary assessment is that the killer is from the alien world."

After speaking, he couldn't help but wipe his sweat. In such a situation, if anyone bears the greatest pressure, first would be the military for inadequate defense, followed by him.

Moreover, a deputy high-ranking official was killed this time.

Chen Shouyi felt heavy-hearted as he listened. Decapitation tactics work well against Barbarians, and they work equally well against humans.

Clearly, after several setbacks in skirmishes, the Barbarian God realized that it couldn't conquer humans quickly and decisively, so it stopped charging blindly and began to use its advantages.

Human civilization is strong yet fragile.

Once order is disrupted, the public becomes a flock of lambs to be slaughtered.

"Did anyone notice?" Chen Shouyi asked in a deep voice.

"Some soldiers spotted the killer, but the speed was too fast to catch up!" the police chief quickly replied.

A group of high-ranking police officers accompanied Chen Shouyi for a tour inside the building, but what else could he discern?

As soon as they stepped out of the building, a car sped into the square with a screech, and a police officer quickly got out, whispering to the police chief, "The City Government Building is under attack!"

Chapter 410: Court of Death

Chen Shouyi and a group of people immediately set off by car for the Provincial Government Building.

On the way, a large number of soldiers had already flooded the streets, and the whole Safe Zone was under lockdown.

By the time the vehicles hurriedly arrived at the City Hall Square,

the assailant had already left, leaving behind a large number of bodies lying haphazardly on the ground.

Some hadn't even completely stiffened yet, their bodies still twitching endlessly.

In fact, when the Provincial Government Building was attacked, security here had already been heightened, and numerous craters were visible in the square, clearly indicating that there had already been an attack. Unfortunately, it was still in vain.

"Too audacious!" The head of public security's face was ashen.

Chen Shouyi carefully observed the shallow pits on the ground, deep in thought.

"Chief Advisor, have you discovered something?" The public security chief noticed Chen Shouyi's unusual demeanor and quickly asked.

"The opponent is very powerful, otherwise, they couldn't make such deep pits!" Chen Shouyi said. This was much stronger than his non-Giant Transformation state, with a strength attribute of at least 18 or even 19 points.

"Stronger than you!" The public security chief said gravely, quickly asking.

This person had even been featured in People's Daily and was one of the strongest martial artists in Great Xia Country.

Chen Shouyi shook his head, saying, "Hard to say!"

Strength is just a part of one's power; only by fighting can it be determined. But this was not something worth mentioning to ordinary people.

Chen Shouyi looked into the distance, where tall buildings stood close together in the pitch-black night. For some reason, he had a vague feeling that the assailant hadn't left but was secretly watching from there.

But there was no need for him to remind anyone, as a large number of soldiers were already going door to door nearby conducting searches.

...

On the rooftop of a distant tall building, a towering Barbarian quietly watched the scene.

He was dressed in human clothing, had short hair, sported a scruffy beard, and his rough face was as calm as a still pond. His exposed arms had finely toned muscles twisted like steel wires.

At this moment, his eyes squinted, flashing a cold light. Matching a distant figure with the oracle in his mind, he softly uttered in laborious Chinese, "Chen Shouyi!"

This was one of the targets of his mission.

A target that must be eliminated.

He hesitated for a moment as he watched more and more human soldiers gather, then turned and leaped decisively, his body gracefully clearing dozens of meters, landing on the next building's rooftop, and vanished into the darkness with a few swift jumps.

...

In the early morning, Hedong City utilized all its available resources to conduct an all-night search, but to no avail.

As the sky gradually brightened,

the next day, people found that the entire Safe Zone was completely locked down, with helicopters everywhere in the sky.

Everyone was notified to temporarily stay indoors, factories were closed, and schools suspended classes.

The streets were teeming with soldiers conducting extensive searches throughout the Safe Zone, an air of tension lingering everywhere.

The Provincial Government Building had become the command center; aside from essential departments, most civil servants had been given time off, and the City Government, along with the military, had integrated with the Provincial Government to conduct operations.

This kind of direct attack on government departments was the first to occur in Jiangnan Province, causing a significant disturbance.

Unbeknownst to Chen Shouyi, just yesterday, several cities near Dongning had successively suffered decapitation actions. Some had minimal casualties, while others were entirely wiped out, although grassroots organizations still remained, chaos and panic were unavoidable.

For the moment, he couldn't return home and had to stay at the Provincial Government Building to ensure security there.

This is the significance of a powerful martial artist to Jiangnan Province.

Human weapons are powerful, but they lack flexibility and maneuverability compared to individual strength. Once deep into enemy territory causing destruction, there are no effective countermeasures.

However, compared to those soldiers on guard outside,

Chen Shouyi's treatment was much better.

He and Qin Liuyuan sat on the fifth-floor balcony, a small coffee table in front of them with teacups placed on it.

Qin Liuyuan had only come over in the early morning, having just returned from completing a mission without a chance to rest, and was hurriedly called over. But for a martial artist's physique, missing one night's sleep was no big deal.

Since he became a martial artist, Chen Shouyi felt much more at ease, as many tasks were now handled by Qin Liuyuan.

"I heard from the newspaper that you went to the Capital City to receive an award?" Qin Liuyuan asked tentatively.

Recently, there has been a lot of buzz in the newspapers about Chen Shouyi, with exaggerated praise; he's even been hailed as Great Xia Country's top martial artist.

That, he absolutely didn't believe.

He admitted Chen Shouyi was stronger than him, with self-awareness.

But to claim the title of Jiangnan Province's top martial artist, he had no objection, but Great Xia Country's top martial artist? That's truly... I don't believe it.

The official media in Jiangnan Province, in their effort to create a role model and stabilize public morale, have truly gone overboard with their publicity.

"That's true!" Chen Shouyi, unaware of Qin Liuyuan's thoughts, said as he took a sip of tea.

"What earth-shattering deed did you do to even alarm the central government?" Qin Liuyuan asked curiously.

"This..." Chen Shouyi said, glancing at Qin Liuyuan, unsure if he should tell him.

After all, Qin Liuyuan becoming a martial artist was somewhat due to him, and showing off seemed inappropriate.

"If it's confidential, there's no need to mention it!" Qin Liuyuan quickly said.

Ah well, who said he was an honest person?

Besides, if someone asks, he couldn't just not say anything, that would be too hypocritical!

"It's not really confidential, just don't spread it around!" Chen Shouyi put down the teacup and said,
"Last time I didn't tell you, I actually went on the mission in East Sea Province."