

New Era 461

Chapter 461: Heavy Is the Head That Wears the Crown

The roar of the fighter jets was getting closer and closer.

Clearly, they were rapidly pursuing.

Chen Shouyi, who had just returned from the brink of death, looked up and almost couldn't catch his breath, feeling so frustrated he almost vomited blood.

Of all times, why now!

He quickly struggled to stand up, and even the wounds that had just started to heal began to tear, but Chen Shouyi didn't care at all, staggering, and using all his strength to escape.

This is no joke; these jets aren't here for reconnaissance, but to bring destruction, possibly even carrying nuclear bombs.

If he doesn't run now, he won't have another chance to run.

Seconds later, the leading fighter jet began to dive from high altitude, producing a heart-stopping roar.

Chen Shouyi couldn't help but look back out of curiosity, his scalp tingling, and hurriedly dragged his heavily injured body to quicken his pace.

"Boom!"

After running just a few dozen meters, a hot wave behind him propelled his body into the air.

He flew over thirty meters.

He only landed on the ground.

He rolled several times, just stood up, and was swept up again by a wave, his body flying once more.

He really had a phrase of frustration in his heart, unsure whether to say it!

He stood up again, mouth overflowing with fresh blood.

It wasn't the shockwave hurting him. With his strong defense ability, even a shockwave traveling three times the speed of sound couldn't hurt him. He wouldn't fly four or five hundred meters away; the wave's speed had slowed to less than the speed of sound. It was just that his movements while running had been too intense, causing the freshly healed wounds to tear anew.

He dare not stop, continued to run for another two or three hundred meters before finally halting and looking back.

At this moment, behind him had turned into a sea of flames, at least one square kilometer in scope, looking as if half the sky was burning intensely. The shockwave from the explosion had turned the surrounding buildings into a wasteland.

Luckily, it was an abandoned industrial area, with not a soul around.

This is a thermobaric bomb, which Chen Shouyi had once seen in action during a mission in East Sea Province, leaving a deep impression.

Its damage range rivals that of a small nuclear bomb.

Eight fighter jets had sequentially dropped more than a dozen heavy thermobaric bombs, turning the sky blazing red!

"Could my credit be stolen?" A thought suddenly crossed his mind.

...

When the message arrived, the command center erupted in joy.

"Order the Air Force and surrounding ground forces to promptly confirm the results!" the commander said excitedly, the pressure in his heart like smog under the scorching sun dissipating significantly.

This is simply a miracle!

Without using large-yield nuclear weapons, just conventional weapons had managed to pin down a True God.

(Due to a lack of intelligence, no one knew that the God of Hunting had already fallen to a Demigod.)

"Already notified!" an adjutant promptly responded.

"Should we notify the strategic forces to launch nuclear artillery?" The deputy commander suddenly asked.

Upon saying this, the surroundings suddenly fell silent.

This kind of bombing is indeed not reassuring; no one can guarantee that the God of Hunting is dead, and humanity has never killed a True God with conventional weapons on record. What if...

The asymmetrical information and lack of wireless communication have led to repeated misjudgments in the war, except for the fighter jets executing the mission, which might have noticed something unusual about the God of Hunting. But they could only communicate simple information to distant observers by shaking their wings. After all, who would dare to risk facing a "True God"?

A Barbarian God that is completely immobile is a good Barbarian God.

"What's the situation there exactly?" The commander lowered his head in silence for a while before suddenly looking up and asking.

"Situated at the suburban Hangchang Industrial Zone, but it's already abandoned!"

"Let's vote on it!"

...

Chen Shouyi watched for a while, worried that the God of Hunting would escape and come after him again, but also thinking about the Shell Lady. He turned and quickly left.

Earlier, knowing certain death was imminent, Chen Shouyi was naturally fearless and willing to risk everything. But now, with a chance to survive right before him, his previous fearlessness had long vanished without a trace.

This has nothing to do with cowardice; only by facing death can one understand the preciousness of life.

Just after he left.

A dazzling light suddenly flashed behind him, under which the sky strangely turned pitch black.

Chen Shouyi's heart skipped a beat; he turned and squinted his eyes, only to see in the distance five or six kilometers away, a mushroom cloud glowing brightly slowly rising.

"Nuke!!!"

He felt a burst of fear, his heart pounding wildly.

Only when a thunderous boom sounded did he suddenly wake up, not daring to look further, he quickly turned and left the area.

The light flashed three more times before it finally ended.

He looked back again, seeing the three huge mushroom clouds already climbing into the sky, feeling his head pounding with pain, and inexplicably feeling a little weary.

The battle here was basically over, perhaps it was time to leave Pingzhou, having not gone home for a long time.

...

"General Manager Chen, you're still alive?" Xu Zhangtian shouted at Chen Shouyi from afar, incredulous.

He had seen with his own eyes the terrifying God of Hunting pursuing General Manager Chen, who transformed into a Giant, like a storm passing by, and thought for sure he had met a dire fate, only to unexpectedly return unharmed.

He then stammered, "No...no, what I mean is...you were pursued by the God of Hunting..."

I took out the God of Hunting long ago!

This is what Chen Shouyi thought in his heart, but the words turned into, "Lucky to escape with my life."

He frustratingly found, if he spoke out, no one would believe it.

This is a True God; who would believe Chen Shouyi could kill or severely wound a True God?

It's possible he could take on a Demigod!

In fact, even now, he was completely clueless about this battle; he only vaguely remembered hearing heavenly sounds from the World Tree while he was in a daze, guessing it might have something to do with the Book of Knowledge lurking in his mind.

Though the real truth is facing the God of Hunting, no matter how hard he struggled, it was a path leading only to death, without a shred of chance. The only difference was whether the struggle lasted a few seconds or more than ten seconds.

But can one deny that the Book of Knowledge is also a part of one's strength?

Forget it!

Surviving is already a gain!

Fame is just an illusion!

For some, he didn't care a single bit.

"General Manager Chen is too modest; this isn't mere luck. If it were me, I'd have died ten times over already," Xu Zhangtian quickly said. To escape with one's life from a "True God" pursuit is a strength in itself. Look at the God of Hunting crashing through and the destructive scene it caused, something an individual couldn't possibly withstand.

"By the way, have you seen my luggage?" Chen Shouyi asked eagerly, feeling frustrated and his head throbbing with pain, not in the mood for chit-chat, wondering about the whereabouts of his briefcase he casually tossed aside in the heat of the moment, having no clue where it landed.

"All your things were brought back, placed in the hotel, under Xu Lingbo's care," Xu Zhangtian said.

"Did you see my briefcase?" Chen Shouyi asked, focusing on his concern.

"Briefcase? That's something I didn't notice!" Xu Zhan Tian paused, who would pay attention to a briefcase out of nowhere.

Chen Shouyi immediately returned to the hotel and found Xu Lingbo.

But found all his belongings there, except for that briefcase.

Chapter 462: Little Fists Hammering Your Chest

Chen Shouyi hurriedly rushed out to search.

At that time, he threw out his briefcase, and although he didn't use his full strength, it was quite powerful. If it hadn't hit a building, it probably could have flown three to four hundred meters.

It's been such a long time; could someone have picked it up?

The more he thought about it, the more worried he became.

Ignoring the shocking nature of it, he prepared to bind the air and step into the sky to search.

However, just as the thought arose, he felt a ripping pain in his head. He couldn't help but grunt, and continued to grit his teeth, stepping into the air one step at a time.

Ever since he escaped from the God of Hunting, his head had been constantly aching with stabbing pains, and it had become difficult to concentrate. He originally thought it was mental exhaustion, but now it seemed more serious than he imagined.

Yet at this time, he didn't have the luxury to focus on it.

...

At several hundred meters high, Chen Shouyi looked down from above, searching inch by inch.

A minute later.

"There it is!"

His face sank as he quickly hurried over, and before long, he landed on the ground.

He looked ahead with disbelief as if struck by lightning.

A briefcase, flattened by the tread of an armored vehicle's tire, lay on the roadside. Fresh blood kept seeping continuously from inside.

He wanted to move forward but didn't dare, fearing to see an unbearable sight. His body became as motionless as stone.

"Good giant, is Little One being good?"

"Wuwuwu, you... you called me naughty Little One. Little One is a good Little One, not a naughty Little One."

"Bad giant, why do you always bully Little One."

"Good giant, after Little One carried for you, did it feel much lighter!"

Scenes from his memories flashed before his eyes, vaguely as if it was just yesterday.

After spending so much time together day and night, this silly and adorable Little One had long become a part of his life.

"Little One!" he called out:

"Little One, come out quickly; the good giant is here!"

It felt as though something was clogging his throat, his eyes reddened.

He truly hoped that Little One would suddenly unzip the zipper and run to him crying: "Bad giant, why did you take so long to come, Little One was so scared, if you hadn't come, Little One would have been eaten!"

However, nothing happened. The flattened briefcase remained motionless, with no sign of movement.

"Pa!" He slapped himself hard, and his face immediately swelled up.

He finally stepped forward, hands trembling slightly as he picked up the briefcase, took a deep breath, and prepared to unzip it to collect her body.

"Oh!" Suddenly, a trace of hope arose in his heart.

He discovered that the zipper of the briefcase was open halfway.

He quickly unzipped it, finding only three dead mice, mostly turned into pus and blood inside, with no sign of the Shell Lady.

Additionally, inside the briefcase was a piece of demigod flesh, about the size of a ping-pong ball, which the Shell Lady had secretly stashed away at some point.

These mice were apparently attracted by it.

...

Inside the pitch-black rat hole, there were fragments everywhere,

The Shell Lady huddled inside, her face like a flower cat's, with patches of black and gray, her uneasy eyes closely watching outside.

Suddenly, she opened her mouth, revealing crystal-clear teeth, her hands poised menacingly, making a threatening gesture: "Bad thing, get lost, or Little One will beat you to death!"

A large mouse returning from foraging outside suddenly got scared and withdrew immediately.

Only then did the Shell Lady slightly relax, discovering that the large mouse hadn't been completely scared away. It hesitated for a while, then cautiously attempted to enter the hole, baring its teeth at the little intruder who usurped its nest.

"Little One is fierce, and my teeth are sharp..." The Shell Lady threatened and threatened, then her mouth drooped, and she burst into tears: "Wuwuwu, Little One is so scared, good giant, come save Little One..."

Animals always bully the weak and fear the strong, and from their prey's actions, they can keenly sense fear towards themselves.

Especially since something so small doesn't look threatening.

The large mouse probed a bit, seeing the Shell Lady retreating in fright, it no longer hesitated and quickly rushed forward.

However, it charged fast, but returned even faster.

And it flew back.

Accompanied by a large incisor tooth dancing through the air.

The mouse slammed heavily against the cave wall, and just as it landed, before it could flee, a small figure rushed over quickly, tears flying in the air, delivering a punch to the head with a cracking sound, shattering the skull.

But her actions didn't stop, small fists punching consecutively, blood splattering everywhere.

"I'll kill you, bad guy... wuwuwu... For scaring Little One, for scaring Little One..."

As a creature from another world, how could Shell Lady be weak, especially after drinking so much divine blood and divine marrow? If her size were increased to human proportions, she'd be almost equivalent to another Chen Shouyi.

Not to mention a mouse, even a cat... uh, perhaps she couldn't beat it.

But she could escape.

This poor mouse was quickly beaten into a bloody pulp.

Seeing that the big rat had stopped moving, the Shell Lady felt it must have been killed by her, then finally breathed a sigh of relief, and promptly pushed the mouse's corpse outside the hole.

Having slain the formidable enemy, she didn't seem pleased at all.

Her body huddled helplessly and uneasily in the dark cave, recalling her distressing moments, her mouth drooped, and tears fell again.

She was very sad, she couldn't find the good giant anymore.

Earlier, after being tossed around in the briefcase, getting dizzy and disoriented, when she cautiously opened it to check the outside, she found the good giant had disappeared, and then she was scared by a large white dog in the distance and ran away.

This place is so terrifying.

Everywhere are bad giants, everywhere are ferocious enormous creatures.

At this moment, the Shell Lady hurriedly wiped away her tears, her ears perked up.

"Little One!"

"Little One!"

It was the good giant.

"Hurry, Little One is here!" she cried out excitedly.

She shouted for a long time, but unfortunately, her voice was too faint, like a mosquito hum, and coupled with the distance, Chen Shouyi didn't hear it at all.

Before her, the voice gradually went farther away.

The Shell Lady, anxious at heart, mustered up courage, ran out of the cave opening, and suddenly flew like a snail, using all her strength to fly towards the direction of the voice, shouting:

"Good giant, Little One is here!"

The good giant's voice suddenly drifted away, then came close again.

The Shell Lady was so anxious that tears fell continuously, feeling wronged and pursuing for quite a while, only to find that the good giant had returned to the place where she had been earlier.

Fortunately, Chen Shouyi quickly heard it and hurried over.

As soon as she saw Chen Shouyi, the Shell Lady's tears fell even faster. She flew desperately towards him and immediately hid inside his clothes at his chest, like an abandoned kitten, not speaking for a long time.

...

"Good giant, don't you want Little One anymore?" After a long while, the Shell Lady poked her head out from his embrace, asking resentfully.

"How could I? A very powerful bad giant tried to hit me, so I threw you far away!" Chen Shouyi comforted with a smile.

"Good giant, did you beat him?" Hearing this, Shell Lady forgot her anger, worried and hurriedly asked.

"Yes, I defeated him!"

"Little One also beat a big mouse, was it impressive?" She proudly raised her small fist, feeling unafraid now that the good giant was here.

"So impressive!"

The sun set in the west.

The reddish-yellow afterglow stretched Chen Shouyi's shadow long, as they walked further and further away.

Chapter 463: Wounds of the Soul

The frontline was jubilant.

The news of the God of Hunting's death spread to every corner!

Listening to the cheers outside, Chen Shouyi felt like an outsider, without a trace of joy.

He and the Shell Lady stayed in the room, looking at the attributes panel, with a serious expression.

The original 15.9 perception was now only 15.0.

This was just the loss in attribute points, not even the worst of it. He found it hard to concentrate, let alone gather his will. If he tried to force it, his head felt like it would split open.

During this time he tried to practice the Thirty-Six Horizontal Training Forms, only to find he could no longer do it.

Similarly, the meditation to cultivate himself also couldn't be done.

"The brain should be fine, even if there was a problem, it's self-healing!" Chen Shouyi thought to himself, "I reckon it's a soul injury!"

He lay on the bed, closed his eyes.

Soon he entered the Book of Knowledge Space.

He found that the World Tree in the center had lost its former luster, its leaves faintly yellowing.

His own once solid body had also become slightly transparent.

"As expected, it's quite serious!"

He quickly exited the Book of Knowledge Space, feeling heavy-hearted.

It should recover, right?

If it doesn't recover, he won't be able to train in the future.

At this time, there was a knock on the door. Chen Shouyi opened it to find two officers standing outside:

"What is it?" Chen Shouyi was in a bad mood, sounding impatient.

The leading lieutenant colonel officer hesitated but showed no concern, politely asking:

"Uh, hello, Chief Advisor Chen. Sorry to disturb your rest. I'm Zhang Luoshan from the Military Region Intelligence Office. We wanted to confirm something with you. According to reports from pilots and several martial artists, at that time, the God of Hunting was fighting with a giant about three to four meters tall, and since you have the ability to transform into a giant and were also hunted by the God of Hunting, we came to confirm if it was you?"

Chen Shouyi's face was expressionless; he nodded. Since it was discovered, there was no harm in admitting: "It was me!"

Mentioning this made his anger rise; the thermobaric bomb almost killed him as well.

After the confirmation, the two officers were dumbfounded. They were just following procedure, having initially thought it was another Barbarian God that suddenly appeared in Pingzhou, unnoticed.

As for why they were fighting, was it necessary to understand battles between Barbarian Gods?

Perishing together would be best!

But to find out it was really true, really Chief Advisor Chen, this... this was simply unbelievable!

After a long while, Zhang Luoshan digested this astonishing intelligence and snapped out of his daze.

He finally noticed Chen Shouyi's subtle discontent, and with a thought, he understood the situation, cursing inwardly that something had gone wrong:

"Our pilots didn't know it was you. They thought you were... an otherworldly being. Here, on behalf of the military region, I apologize to you!"

He felt that he must suggest to the superiors that the entire army should learn to recognize the characteristics of Chief Advisor Chen. His ability to transform into a giant, if the soldiers are unaware, could easily lead to another mistaken bombing!

In fact, the fight between the two was extremely fast, electric and flint-like, each moving at near sonic speed, taking only thirty seconds or so from start to finish.

Now, without high-speed tracking cameras, and the city full of buildings, even if it could be captured from the air, it wouldn't be seen clearly.

Only a vague image of a big and a small giant fiercely fighting could be seen, so bombs were dropped without the slightest hesitation.

Chen Shouyi felt exceedingly frustrated and exhausted.

He was actually mistaken for an otherworldly being.

Blame me!

"Forget it!" he exhaled and said.

What could he do if he didn't let it go? He couldn't take revenge on those pilots; he wasn't that petty.

Zhang Luoshan breathed a sigh of relief immediately, for this was someone who could contend with a "True God." If they sought revenge in anger, who could stop them, and who could punish them:

"Thank you, Chief Advisor Chen, for your understanding and leniency. Once we return, the military region will definitely give you an explanation!"

Then he cautiously asked, "By the way, it seems there were some changes with the God of Hunting afterwards. Do you know...?"

"I don't know about that," Chen Shouyi said.

The Book of Knowledge certainly couldn't be mentioned.

Since it couldn't be mentioned, it was better not to admit it.

Before the two officers left, Chen Shouyi stated that he needed to return to Hedong to recuperate for a period, unable to engage in combat for the time being.

Seeing Chen Shouyi's pale complexion, Zhang Luoshan quickly expressed understanding.

Such intense combat would be abnormal if unscathed.

...

Chen Shouyi closed the door and sat on the edge of the bed, dazing silently.

That night, he did not train at all and slept well.

Early the next morning, a helicopter slowly descended on the rooftop of a building next to the villa area.

Chen Shouyi stepped out of the helicopter, came to the street, looked at the pedestrians and the buildings undergoing repair on both sides, and exhaled a long breath of air,

Hedong had completely restored peace.

Everything was getting better.

It wasn't long before he arrived at the front of his home, the door tightly closed.

He shouted a few times, but there was no one.

Then, disregarding the headache, he forcibly concentrated his will, and with a thought, the lock clicked open automatically.

The living room was clean and tidy. He walked to the dining table, opened the cover, and found some leftovers, indicating that everything at home was fine.

He returned to his bedroom.

Threw all the luggage down and lay on the bed, feeling a bit listless and not wanting to get up.

He couldn't help but look at the attribute panel again.

The perception was still only 15.0, with no improvement.

He finally faintly realized the severity of this soul injury!

He sighed, just about to turn off the attributes panel, when his eye caught the faith value, and his expression changed to surprise.

He found something strange: after more than ten hours, the faith value was still 0.0.

The faith value increased every moment, sometimes growing by nearly two points a day.

Sometimes not even one point.

But no matter how little, it couldn't be absolutely nothing.

"What's going on?" Chen Shouyi quickly sat up, his face puzzled.

He had a feeling, faintly capturing something.

Then he lay back down, closed his eyes, and immediately entered the Book of Knowledge Space.

He looked at the World Tree with somewhat yellowing leaves, carefully observing.

He finally discovered a slight anomaly.

He noticed that occasionally, a sliver of a bright glow would appear on the yellowing leaves carrying countless memory images and then disappear.

"This is the Power of Faith. The World Tree is using the Power of Faith to recover!" he thought in surprise.

Chen Shouyi didn't feel any reluctance. If not for the World Tree's last outburst, heavily damaging the God of Hunting, he would have already been unable to be standing here, and without the World Tree, the Power of Faith was useless to him.

Moreover, he always had a faint feeling that the World Tree was entirely one with him, sharing loss and prosperity.

Even... this World Tree might just be himself.

Otherwise, it couldn't explain why all the leaves of the World Tree were the memories of each day.

"Maybe to heal my soul's injury, it must rely on this World Tree." He mused, then looked at the occasional glow shining on the leaves:

"But, isn't this amount of Power of Faith too little, barely showing any recovery effect!"

"Looks like I should take a trip to Dongning. I wonder if the nuclear radiation there will affect me!"

Chapter 464: Gifts

In the past two days, he felt exhausted for the first time.

Not physically tired, but mentally weary.

No matter how dangerous and brutal the past battles were, or how severe the injuries, he would always bounce back, full of fighting spirit.

With Natural Healing, even the gravest wounds could heal swiftly.

If his powers were lacking, he'd simply train more.

Never before had he felt so helpless and lost.

Luckily, now he finally saw a glimmer of hope.

He exited the Book of Knowledge Space and felt the small, delicate body of the Shell Lady snuggling against his cheek, her breath faint.

She had already come out of the briefcase.

He turned his head to look at her. The Shell Lady, startled by his movement, opened her sleepy eyes and murmured:

"Good giant!"

Then she tugged on his hair with her small hand and closed her eyes again.

Ever since he found her last time, this little creature had grown much more attached and behaved.

Perhaps she was afraid of being abandoned again!

His heart softened.

He closed his eyes and quickly fell into a deep sleep as well.

...

By evening, Father Chen and Mrs. Chen finally returned, and upon seeing Chen Shouyi, they were quite delighted.

"You're leaving again, right?" Mrs. Chen asked worriedly.

"Mom, I'm not going back. The war is basically over. The God of Hunting is dead, they don't need me anymore." Chen Shouyi said with a smile.

Mainly, it was thanks to my efforts!

Of course, there's no need to tell my parents about that.

"Didn't the God of Hunting escape? How did it die!?" Chen Dawei hurriedly asked.

Evidently, the news of the God of Hunting's death hadn't been released to the public yet. But that's understandable since it only happened yesterday, and strong radiation still lingers in the nuclear explosion area. The results aren't finalized yet.

Probably, after the previous slip-up, they've become much more cautious this time.

"I'm not sure either, but the God of Hunting is indeed dead," Chen Shouyi said.

"Thank God, you have no idea how many people secretly left this place these days. If you weren't on the front lines, I would've left too." Mrs. Chen said, feeling a weight lifted from her heart.

Although Hedong had long been liberated, the atmosphere remained tense. For Jiangnan Province, the God of Hunting felt like a nightmare that suffocated everyone.

Pingzhou isn't far from Hedong, and no one could guarantee the God of Hunting wouldn't reappear.

These days, she was even secretly praying to the God of Hunting to bless Chen Shouyi and the family with safety. Now, she finally didn't have to live in fear.

"What a shallow understanding, even if you go somewhere else, would it be much safer? It's all the same!" Chen Dawei said.

"Oh, smart guy, weren't you the one who secretly bought a practice sword a few days ago and started messing around on your own? Even if Shouyi isn't here, Xing Yue is! Let her teach you a bit instead of fooling around!"

Chen Dawei's face reddened as his secret was exposed by his son. He defended himself, "I don't want to become a Martial Artist, just exercising and losing weight."

Chen Shouyi laughed on the side and didn't say anything.

After taking a large amount of Divine Blood, his dad's physical qualities had surpassed ordinary martial artists.

However, that had nothing to do with fat loss; instead, with his increased appetite, he's been showing signs of gaining weight.

"If you're exercising, why did you peek into Xing Yue's textbooks?"

"I'm not talking to you anymore, my son's back, I'm going to buy some groceries!"

"Dad, don't bother!" Chen Shouyi said.

"I need to buy them!" Chen Dawei said, hands behind his back, not looking back.

...

Before long, Chen Xingyue came back from school and was delighted to see Chen Shouyi:

"Brother, you're back!"

"Just got back!" Chen Shouyi said.

"Oh, I almost forgot to tell you, Xing Yue passed her Martial Artist exam." Mrs. Chen said suddenly, smiling.

"Ah, when was that?" Chen Shouyi asked in surprise, wondering how this happened without him knowing.

"Just a few days ago, Xing Yue is already better than you were back then, and many departments are vying for her!"

"Mom!" Chen Xingyue said, a bit embarrassed.

Although no one told her why, she wasn't dumb and knew it was probably because she had a Martial Artist brother.

Besides, none of those departments were combat ones. In today's situation, a new martial artist without connections couldn't even dream of that.

"Where did you choose?" Chen Shouyi couldn't help but ask.

It concerned his sister, and he couldn't stay calm.

"Martial Arts Academy, she's now an intern teacher. I think she should've gone to Jiangnan University, it's more prestigious, but she insisted on choosing the Martial Arts Academy." Mrs. Chen answered before Xing Yue could, smiling with a slight complaint.

Now in university, martial arts have become a compulsory course, and Martial Arts Teachers are needed as well.

Chen Shouyi felt relieved hearing this.

This is good, no danger involved.

One struggling for the family was enough. He saw enough death on the battlefield to know that many military martial artists didn't return in the evening after leaving in the morning, even those as strong as martial artists were no better, three had died.

Even he almost lost his life.

He really didn't want his sister to follow in his footsteps.

If anything happened to him, at least he'd still have his sister.

Chen Shouyi was in a good mood, and for once didn't add fuel to the fire, defending his sister: "The Martial Arts Academy has a lot of martial artists, making it easier to communicate, and it's getting more and more important nowadays!"

"Yeah, I heard the academy might expand enrollment this year!" Chen Xingyue quickly added.

...

After dinner,

Chen Shouyi was about to return to his bedroom.

He saw five soldiers escorting a large box to the door: "Sorry to disturb you, is this General Manager Chen's home?"

Chen Shouyi stood up in confusion and said, "That's me, what brings you here?"

"Hello, General Manager Chen, we're from the 14th Group Army, delivering some local specialties to you. Please accept them!" said the lead officer, signaling the soldiers to move the box into the living room, then turned to leave without waiting for Chen Shouyi's response.

"What's going on? Why is the military giving you a gift!" Mrs. Chen, who was tidying up the dishes, stopped and wiped her hands, curious.

"I have no idea!" Chen Shouyi dodged the question, knowing this was likely compensation for the previous mistaken attack.

"What's inside? Let's see!" Chen Xingyue urged.

The box was large, two meters long and half a meter wide, nailed with steel, making it look like it contained ammunition.

Chen Shouyi forcefully pried open the wooden lid.

The box was packed full.

Chen Shouyi found they were spoils of war.

Just among the beast hides, there were six, all thoroughly cleaned.

However, these were clearly not ordinary items. Each hide was smooth, glossy, and exuded a misty, dim glow, evidently from extraordinary creatures.

In peacetime, such beast hides could earn you a house in Hedong.

Chen Xingyue kept picking and choosing, grabbing a warm red beast hide and exclaiming, "Wow, it's so warm. Mom, Dad, you can use this as a blanket, it's very cozy."

Chen Shouyi: ...

He was speechless inside, silently calling out this re-gifting as the epitome of cheeky.

This was supposed to be my gift!

Mrs. Chen laughed as she took it, saying, "It's really warm, but it's a bit small for a blanket, how about making shoes instead? Everyone can have a few pairs, especially now that winters are getting colder. Last year, the lowest temperature was minus twenty-three degrees."

"I don't need any," Chen Shouyi said.

Ever since he ascended to legend status, he became impervious to cold and heat, this temperature didn't bother him at all.

Chapter 465: Scepter

Chen Shouyi then took everything out of the box.

They were all sorts of odd and peculiar items.

A long spear, spiral-shaped like jade.

A curved horn of an unknown animal, orange-yellow in color and smooth like jade.

...

However, these were of no use to him and could only serve as collectibles.

At this moment, Chen Shouyi's expression changed slightly as he looked at a scepter at the bottom, carved with countless mysterious reliefs!

The scepter was jet black and shiny, covered with carvings of fierce birds and beasts, faintly exuding a bloody and ferocious aura.

Compared to the generally rough style of the otherworld, this scepter was crafted with remarkable delicacy, as exquisite as a work of art.

However, this was not the reason for Chen Shouyi's surprise.

He actually saw, hidden within one of the beast carvings on the scepter, a soul.

Perhaps "sealed" would be a more appropriate term.

As a divine creature, he could see many things that ordinary people could not.

This was a beast soul, looking sinister and terrifying.

Maybe it had been locked up for too long; its temperament was extremely violent. Seeing that Chen Shouyi seemed to be able to see it, it roared ferociously and struggled, seeming to want to break through the seal.

Chen Shouyi's expression changed slightly, and he immediately found an excuse to take this scepter back to his bedroom and close the door.

For some reason, upon seeing this scepter, he couldn't help but think of the totem warriors of the God of Hunting's tribe, with the ghostly images of beasts manifesting behind them during battles.

"Could it be that this scepter and this beast soul are used to create totem warriors?" Chen Shouyi pondered, "If this is truly the case, this scepter might be of great importance to the God of Hunting's tribe."

However, he didn't have the slightest intention in his heart.

To have his body and face covered with tattoos.

Just thinking about it felt shameful.

How could he face anyone afterwards?

His parents could beat him to death... Uh, now they can't beat him to death anymore!

Even if he wanted to become a beast soul warrior, he was clueless about how to transfer the beast soul out, how to seal it into his body, and how to fight; humans know too little about the mysteries of the otherworld.

Seeing the small beast soul constantly roaring at him.

He couldn't help but poke it hard with his finger.

However, at this moment, perhaps because the seal was already weakened upon arriving on Earth, or Chen Shouyi broke the seal, a sudden change occurred.

With a furious roar ringing in Chen Shouyi's mind, the seal shattered instantly, and the beast soul escaped from the statue. Initially egg-sized, the beast soul quickly grew to over two meters in height before lunging at Chen Shouyi overconfidently.

"Huh! It's not afraid of me!"

He was, after all, a divine creature, combined with the vigorous blood energy of a legendary powerhouse.

He was like a blazing sun compared to the thin mist,

Regular spirits wouldn't even dare attack him; just seeing him, they would flee with all their might to avoid him.

"Wait, now I understand."

At this moment, he acutely noticed a barely perceptible sacred glow emanating from the other party.

Unexpectedly, this beast soul was also a divine creature.

A trace of joy flashed in Chen Shouyi's heart.

He then unhurriedly extended his hand, disregarding the splitting headache, forcefully gathering his will and grabbed at the phantom.

With an intelligence of eighteen, his thoughts were incredibly rapid, and the beast soul's speed was too slow for him now, giving him time to think several thoughts.

The initially violent and ferocious beast soul was scared out of its wits, and before it could turn to flee, it was pulled by an invisible force, trembled sharply, and in an instant, was turned into countless tiny light spots, disappearing into the air. Among them, a single large light spot, as pure as a comet, was drawn in by the invisible force, quickly merging into his body and disappearing.

In the otherworld, this beast soul might have been powerful, but on Earth, a low original force world, it was just so.

It took no effort to kill it.

"Ugh!" Chen Shouyi let his mind relax, and a strong headache surged like a tide. He couldn't help but grunt, clutching his head, and it was a long time before he regained his composure.

"Damn! Damn! Damn!"

His heart inexplicably grew agitated.

"Good Giant!" The Shell Lady, who had been sound asleep earlier, now sat up on the bed, her face showing signs of fright, evidently startled by the beast soul that appeared just now.

Hearing the Shell Lady's uneasy call, the agitation in Chen Shouyi's heart quickly subsided. He looked at the little creature and said softly, "It's okay, the Good Giant is here, you can continue sleeping!"

"Oh!" the Shell Lady replied obediently.

Chen Shouyi placed the scepter into his collection cabinet.

Soon after, he also lay down on the bed.

The Shell Lady opened her eyes, glanced at him, and then reassuredly closed her eyes again.

Chen Shouyi entered the Book of Knowledge space and saw that the branches of the World Tree were already enveloped in a layer of faint silvery light, with countless phantoms flickering and layering densely on top.

In the center, a pure light spot seemed to sense a crisis, constantly darting around, struggling violently, yet utterly incapable of escape.

Chen Shouyi's face showed a joyful expression: "Indeed, it's a divine creature!"

Judging from the phantom of the Power of Faith, this beast was still a demigod of a small tribe, containing images of numerous barbarians living within.

Apparently, its luck was not good; it was killed by the followers of the God of Hunting, its soul tethered, and the tribe was likely annexed.

Divinity does not represent strength; it's like a qualification for becoming a god. Encountering some powerful barbarians poses a risk of being killed.

Of course, the vast majority of divine creatures are not weaklings, and they are quite powerful, some even terrifyingly so.

"However, this power of faith is a bit scarce; it's far inferior to that of the Tree God back then. I wonder if it can heal my soul's damage?" Chen Shouyi pondered silently in his heart.

At this moment, he keenly felt that, as the silvery light of faith was continuously absorbed by the World Tree, a corresponding faint sense of euphoria emerged in his heart.

The soul seemed to be slowly healing.

For the first time, he clearly felt that the World Tree and his soul were connected, both as one.

The silvery Power of Faith diminished further, and within a few moments, it was completely absorbed, then the divinity, albeit still struggling, was also absorbed by the World Tree.

As the feeling of euphoria gradually faded, Chen Shouyi returned to awareness and couldn't help but feel a sense of loss.

Such a feeling was simply too delightful, making one unable to resist being captivated by it.

He noticed that the yellowing leaves of the World Tree had started to turn green, and its once slightly transparent body become more solid.

He eagerly exited the Book of Knowledge space to check the attribute panel.

A trace of joy appeared on his face; his perception, which had dropped to 15, increased by 0.4 points, reaching 15.4.

Then, he glanced at his talent abilities.

This time, after absorbing divinity, no new talent abilities were gained. It's possible that, in this state, the World Tree was unable to consolidate any.

However, Chen Shouyi did not care at all.

Talent abilities were sufficient for use; healing the soul's damage was the most critical.

Immediately, he took a deep breath, filled with a faint sense of anticipation.

Once again, he concentrated his will.

...

A moment later, Chen Shouyi furrowed his brows slightly.

The situation is much better than before, but trying to practice the Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Style is probably still somewhat infeasible.

The Horizontal Training Thirty-Six requires extreme dedication, needing one to enter a state of clear stillness and high concentration. Now, even the once-easy act of concentrating his will, like eating or drinking, splits his head with pain. In this state, it's evidently not feasible.

He needs more divinity or power of faith.

Chapter 466: Honorary Professor

Early morning.

Chen Shouyi, who was fast asleep, vaguely felt something crawling on his back. He instinctively reached out and grabbed a fleshy little thing.

He felt something was wrong and opened his eyes, instantly waking up as his sleep vanished, and he quickly sat up.

"Good giant, you're squishing the little one," the Shell Lady complained pitifully.

"Oh, sorry, sorry. Do you feel any pain?" Chen Shouyi immediately asked, looking worried.

He weighed quite a bit now, probably around 200 kilograms. Turning over in bed made it creak as if it might fall apart at any moment.

In the past, he would not have slept so soundly. Last night, he tried to forcibly practice the Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Forms, which left him with a pounding headache, dizzy and drowsy. Once he lay down, he fell into a deep sleep.

The Shell Lady pouted, instinctively wanting to cry, but managed to hold back, obediently shook her head:

"The little one doesn't feel any pain at all!"

"Let me have a look!"

Chen Shouyi, still a bit uneasy, pinched her little arms, her little legs, her little chest...

He carefully checked her body and found that she was indeed fine.

He was just too nervous.

In fact, with the Shell Lady's current toughness, not to mention his weight of 200 kilograms, even if it were tenfold, it wouldn't crush her.

"The little one is really impressive, not feeling pain even like this," Chen Shouyi praised.

The Shell Lady, who was initially a bit aggrieved, beamed with joy upon hearing this: "The little one is very strong and can be of help to the good giant. Last time, the little one even killed a very fierce and bad big rat."

This was probably the greatest feat of her lifetime.

"How did you kill it?" Chen Shouyi played along.

"Just like this, one punch was enough. The little one is very brave, not afraid at all!" The Shell Lady waved her little fist proudly.

...

Chen Shouyi played around with the Shell Lady for a while, looked at the time, found it was already four in the morning, and decided not to sleep anymore.

He got up, picked up his sword, and began to practice.

He couldn't practice the Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Forms and still oneself, but practicing swordplay was no problem.

He practiced swordplay while thinking to himself,

"It's hard to come home once; it's better to stay another day before leaving. It's not urgent for these one or two days anyway."

He practiced until dawn.

Chen Shouyi sheathed his sword, glanced at the glass cabinet, saw the basin of divine blood, and slapped his forehead, almost forgetting about it.

He went to the desk, picked up the phone, and found that the phone line at home had been restored. He immediately dialed the number:

"Hello, Sister Bai? I'm Chen Shouyi!"

"I have some primordial divine blood of a demigod that I need to handle. Please help arrange the laboratory!"

"Your cousin?" Chen Shouyi was taken aback, then hurriedly said, "It's better not to trouble her."

"Okay!"

Chen Shouyi hung up the phone, went to the bathroom to wash up, and took a cold shower.

He dressed in front of the mirror.

His sturdy and fair-skinned body, with finely toned muscles like countless steel wires, gave off a powerful sensation of strength, emitting a faint aura reminiscent of a fierce beast.

He put on a black T-shirt and light gray cotton sportswear.

Finally, he looked at himself in the mirror.

Recently, he had been fighting every day, forgetting to shave his head, and now his hair had grown back, bristle-like on his scalp.

He touched it, and it made a metallic clang like steel wires.

It seemed much more handsome than a bald head and made him look more spirited!

Of course, he didn't care about that at all.

"Forget it; it's too much trouble, better not to shave it," Chen Shouyi hesitated for a moment in his heart, turned, and left the bathroom.

...

Jiangnan University.

The school gate had collapsed halfway during the war, looking dilapidated and desolate.

A large group of people occasionally stood on tiptoes, looking out at the gate.

As the foremost martial artist of Jiangnan Province, Chen Shouyi's fame was much greater than he imagined. Although the feat of killing a demigod was not publicized for certain reasons, and few people knew outside the upper echelons.

However, his astounding performance in the Hedong recovery war spread far and wide.

Too many people had witnessed it.

Especially the rumor that he could fly, which spread like wildfire.

Upon hearing that this person was going to use the laboratory,

from early morning, the vice-principal of Jiangnan University led a group of people, eagerly waiting in the winter chill.

At this time, several unwillingly dragged in female administrative staff, shivering from the cold, suddenly brightened their eyes, and their bodies stopped shaking:

"So handsome!"

"Very handsome!"

In the distance, a young man in sportswear rode a bicycle swiftly toward them.

Chen Shouyi looked up at the group at the school gate, cycled around the crowd, and rode inside.

"Wait!" Bai Xiaoling, sitting on the back seat, immediately said: "General Manager Chen, maybe they're here to welcome you."

Chen Shouyi, hearing this, was taken aback and braked immediately.

"Screech..."

Blue smoke rose from the soles of his feet.

Bai Xiaoling didn't expect the bicycle to stop so suddenly after her words, and she was caught off guard. Her whole body pressed tightly against Chen Shouyi's back, and she almost bumped her chin.

"Sister Bai, sorry, are you okay?" Chen Shouyi immediately apologized.

"Ah, no... I'm fine!" Bai Xiaoling let go of her hands that were clasped around Chen Shouyi with lingering fear.

Seeing Bai Xiaoling was fine, Chen Shouyi breathed a sigh of relief, almost forgetting she was an ordinary person, then curiously said: "Welcoming me? Why would they welcome me!"

It's just handling a bit of divine blood, using a centrifuge would suffice, a tiny experiment.

"Perhaps the school values it. I called the principal's office directly!" Bai Xiaoling said, "I'll go and ask!"

As Chen Shouyi's liaison, although her level wasn't high, like a leader's secretary, she had many implicit privileges.

If she wanted, she could call any department to mobilize the resources Chen Shouyi needed, and usually, they would be fully cooperative.

She got off the bicycle and jogged over.

...

After Bai Xiaoling helped with the introductions,

the vice-principal of Jiangnan University looked at this young and handsome General Manager Chen, who looked like a school student, with a beaming smile: "General Manager Chen, welcome, welcome, I've long admired your name, renowned!"

"Hello, Principal Zhu, I've long admired Jiangnan University too!" Chen Shouyi extended his hand for a handshake, smiling as he spoke.

This wasn't just politeness.

A year ago, if he could have been admitted to Jiangnan University, he would have been overjoyed even in his dreams.

Even now, facing such a top university in Great Xia, he maintained respect and often envied the students who could immerse themselves in the ocean of knowledge here, unlike himself, who only knew violence and fighting.

If he had a choice between being admitted to Jiangnan University and acquiring the Book of Knowledge,

He... would of course choose the Book of Knowledge.

From being a weakling who couldn't even beat his sister, to gradually becoming strong, to... invincible in the world, it was truly exhilarating.

Principal Zhu's smile grew wider at hearing this, and suddenly struck by an idea, he eagerly probed: "How about General Manager Chen honoring us by becoming an honorary professor here? You wouldn't need to come often, just occasionally when you're free, give a lecture and share martial arts experiences with the students!"

How about being an honorary professor?

It seems I have a knack for lecturing.

And being called a professor also seems quite enjoyable.

Chen Shouyi hesitated slightly, thinking it wouldn't waste much time, then said: "Alright!"

Chapter 467: My Little Sister Can't Be This Cute

Hearing Chen Shouyi agree, Principal Zhu immediately became even more enthusiastic.

In fact, as a top university, Jiangnan University doesn't have much it can seek from Chen Shouyi; what it pursues more is social influence, competitiveness in various professions, and scientific research capabilities.

Now the situation in Great Xia Country is tense, the whole society is in a wartime state, and martial arts are becoming increasingly important.

Jiangnan University is already preparing to establish a Martial Arts Academy and will enroll students in the spring. By then, it will inevitably compete with established professional institutions like Jiangnan Martial Arts Academy. Having a renowned honorary professor, known as the number one Martial Artist in Jiangnan Province and even billed as such in Great Xia Country, completely complements this.

Chen Shouyi doesn't really like chatting with unfamiliar old men and women. Mostly, others were talking while he just nodded slightly and rarely spoke.

However, even so, just this handsome face and his status as the number one Martial Artist in Jiangnan Province made it impossible for the women in the crowd to take their eyes off him.

Sigh, being handsome is such a hassle.

Thinking back to before, he used to be ignored in the crowd, and now...

He is numb to this look-based society.

The group soon arrived at the laboratory building.

"Professor Guan, are you ready?" Principal Zhu stepped forward and knocked on the laboratory door.

"Ah, Principal Zhu, why are you here? We're ready!" The door quickly opened, and Guan Miao, wearing a protective suit, came out, slightly stunned at seeing Chen Shouyi, with a hint of astonishment passing over her cool face.

She was wondering who needed the lab, since even the dean was called over to the office.

Didn't expect it was him, and the vice-principal was accompanying as well.

"Professor Guan, Chen Shouyi's matters are up to you, you must make sure he's satisfied!" Principal Zhu smiled without noticing anything unusual on Guan Miao's face.

"Uh, I understand." Guan Miao said gloomily.

Then, after saying a few polite words, Principal Zhu took the group and left quickly.

"Cousin, it's you!" Bai Xiaoling said excitedly, "I was just thinking of finding you, Chen Shouyi said not to trouble you, but it turned out to be you anyway."

Guan Miao rolled her eyes secretly, adjusting her mindset.

She looked at Chen Shouyi and said, "Where's the Divine Blood?"

"Oh!" Chen Shouyi pulled out a mineral water bottle from his sweatpants pocket, filled to the brim with Divine Blood.

"This... this much?" Guan Miao looked at the bottle of Divine Blood, utterly shocked.

This is about five hundred milliliters.

Last time Chen Shouyi came for separation, it was just a thin layer, a dozen milliliters, but this time it was a full bottle.

"This is just Demigod Divine Blood!" Chen Shouyi explained upon seeing her surprise. Divine Blood is heavier than human blood, but it's under two kilograms, and the effect is not as good as one kilogram of Demigod Flesh.

Guan Miao felt confused, is Demigod Divine Blood already so valueless?

Although Demigod Divine Blood isn't as scarce as it used to be, even senior professors in the institution apply for Divine Blood in micro-liters, and someone like her, an associate professor, has no right to apply at all.

Guan Miao concealed her look of surprise and asked, "Separate all of it?"

If not to separate, why would I bring it? Chen Shouyi said:

"Separate all of it."

Separation is quite simple, but this time the quantity was large, and the centrifuge tubes were too small.

Fortunately, this time, Chen Shouyi didn't have to manually crank the centrifuge.

Now that the power is restored, centrifuges and many devices that don't absolutely require chips are working normally.

It took a whole morning to complete the separation and safety testing of all the Divine Blood.

Chen Shouyi packed the tubes containing plasma and the remaining separated materials into an incubator while Guan Miao watched, her eyes filled with infatuation.

Chen Shouyi glanced at her and left the last one or two milliliters of separated material on the lab bench.

He closed the incubator and left.

"You left one behind," Guan Miao resisted her greed and kindly reminded.

"It's for you!" Chen Shouyi said, picking up the incubator and leaving.

"Cousin, I'll be going too, come over for dinner sometime at my place." Bai Xiaoling said hastily and quickly followed.

...

After leaving the laboratory building, Chen Shouyi felt Bai Xiaoling following behind, had a thought, stopped, placed the incubator on the ground, took out a tube of plasma, and handed it over:

"This is for you, consider it a gift!"

"Chen Shouyi, this is too precious, I can't accept it." Bai Xiaoling jumped, quickly refusing.

This kind of top-tier resource isn't even available to Martial Artists, let alone ordinary people who've never even heard of it. It's too valuable. If measured in money, most people would probably be willing to bankrupt themselves for this mere ten-milliliter tube of Divine Blood.

"Take it, your physical condition is too poor; I might hurt you if I'm not careful," Chen Shouyi said.

...

Sitting on the backseat of the bicycle, Bai Xiaoling kept her hand in her pocket, tightly clutching the test tube, her mind still dizzy, as if in a dream.

Then, suddenly, a thought struck her mind.

What did Chen Shouyi mean by his words just now?

Why did he say he might hurt me?

Is it...

Oh my, how embarrassing.

Random thoughts swirled in her mind, and her face grew increasingly red.

"Bang!"

Just as she was daydreaming, Bai Xiaoling lunged forward, her face suddenly slamming hard against Chen Shouyi's back. Her nose felt achy and tears involuntarily flowed out.

"Are you alright?" Chen Shouyi asked gloomily, this time he braked normally.

"I-I'm fine!" Bai Xiaoling quickly replied.

"We're here!" Chen Shouyi noticed her still sitting there dazed and couldn't help but remind her.

"Ah, oh, Chen Shouyi, I'll be going then!" Bai Xiaoling said, embarrassed, wishing there was a hole to crawl into. She quickly covered her nose, lowered her head, and got off.

Chen Shouyi watched her walk the wrong way with a blank expression.

Did she hurt her head?

"You're going the wrong way!" he kindly reminded.

...

Returning home, Chen Shouyi took out the separated blood products from the incubator.

These things carry strong genetic aggression and mental impact, unsuitable for consumption by his parents and sister.

But it benefits the Shell Lady.

There's enough for several months of licking.

...

At dinner, Chen Shouyi brought out the Divine Blood.

"Brother, I thought you forgot!" Chen Xingyue said joyfully.

She had long been envious of the Divine Blood in her brother's bedroom cabinet, but she had been patient, waiting for her brother to return.

"Don't slack on training just because you have Divine Blood. It won't make you a Martial Artist, nor help you reach muscle and marrow refinement through meditation," Chen Shouyi warned sternly.

Though, it actually could, but it requires True God level resources.

In theory, with enough resources, one could lavishly build a Martial Artist from an ordinary person.

This also shows the power of True Gods.

But that's the limit.

Beyond that, legends cannot be built with resources alone.

"Listen to your brother, without him, you wouldn't have such a good life now," Mrs. Chen chimed in, beaming. She's most proud of having such outstanding children; though the oldest wasn't promising at first, he turned out to be a late bloomer.

"Brother, I understand!" Chen Xingyue obediently replied.

She was increasingly enjoying the benefits of having a powerful brother; it was like latching onto a golden thigh as thick as an elephant's trunk.

Chen Shouyi looked at this scene, puzzled.

My sister can't be this cute!

She must be dazed by the Divine Blood.

Then he remembered something and said, "Tomorrow I have to go out for a while, run some errands, and it'll be some time before I come back!"

Chapter 468: Three Years of Exams, Five Years of Practice

Early the next morning.

Chen Shouyi got up, washed up, and began packing his luggage.

A dozen pairs of underwear, several sets of changeable clothes, documents, and a piece of demigod flesh wrapped in white paper, weighing about fifty pounds.

This time going out, developing faith was just a side task.

He was going for the kill.

To quickly heal the wounds of the soul, the fastest way was undoubtedly to kill a few divine creatures, devour divinity, and plunder their accumulated faith over the years.

It would inevitably be extremely dangerous.

And the demigod flesh was the best food to quickly replenish physical consumption and restore strength. Even during self-healing when injured, it could be faster.

Chen Shouyi stuffed everything into the hiking bag.

Packing it full.

Then he picked up the hiking bag, took the Shell Lady and the long sword, and went out the door.

...

"Come back early and stay safe!"

"Mom and Dad, I know, I'll be back after I'm done. No need to see me off," said Chen Shouyi.

After having breakfast at home and saying goodbye to his parents, he walked out with his backpack.

Hedong had been liberated for almost a month, but the city had inevitably declined a lot. In the past, at this point in time, the flow of bicycles going to work was completely overwhelming, almost blocking the road.

Now it had become sparse.

Most of the dilapidated buildings on both sides had not been repaired or rebuilt, and from time to time you could see a wasteland of broken walls.

The damage done by the God of Hunting to Hedong would probably never be fully recovered within a few years.

Fortunately, it was finally over.

Last night, after much thought, he decided to take a look at Dongning first.

On the one hand, judging from the last batch of Barbarians who fled from the sea, that sea area was likely an archipelago. Where there were islands, there might be Barbarians surviving, and where there were Barbarians, there would be guardian totems, which could be divine creatures.

The environment of the other world was too harsh, not only a struggle for survival but also a breeding ground for Natural Spirits.

Without strong creatures for protection, the tribes could not thrive.

The tribe worships the totem, and the totem protects the tribe.

The relationship between the two is symbiotic.

On the other hand, the limited space and resources of the islands could not support the development of large tribes. Just as shallow waters cannot breed dragons, encountering particularly strong divine creatures was also less likely,

Moreover, these remote archipelagos, with scarce religious resources, were unlikely to attract the attention of deities.

Even though he was a legendary strongman in the other world, he was still not invincible.

A deity, a powerful divine creature, extraordinary creatures with special bloodlines, giants as large as mountains... They could all result in his death.

Life is only lived once, being too reckless is playing with one's life.

Chen Shouyi ignored the strange gazes of bystanders, stepping swiftly to reach the highway in no time.

Perhaps because there was a lack of the noise of pedestrians.

Chen Shouyi's chest wriggled, and soon a small head popped out, with a pair of alert eyes.

A large vehicle came roaring by.

Frightening the Shell Lady back in at once.

But soon she peeked her head out again.

She was a brave little one!

...

To conserve energy, Chen Shouyi traveled leisurely, but even so, he was almost in Dongning after two hours.

The place was deathly silent, with stretches of deserted villages, and only a few trucks sparse on the highway.

In fact, from the lack of visible destruction here,

This location was still far from the center of the nuclear explosion. Plus, it was a hydrogen bomb that was dropped, leaving much less nuclear radiation than an atomic bomb. By the time it reached here, there was little nuclear radiation left.

But for the people here, the potential life-threatening danger was a completely irrational fear.

The closer to Dongning, the fewer vehicles there were.

Apart from a few military vehicles passing by, few other vehicles were seen.

"Nuclear Blast Zone Ahead, Do Not Enter."

Shortly after passing a black warning sign bearing the nuclear radiation symbol, Chen Shouyi found the road ahead blocked.

A large number of soldiers were stationed here.

Before Chen Shouyi could get close, a Martial Artist Level soldier approached quickly and ordered loudly, "Danger ahead, do not approach here, please leave immediately."

Chen Shouyi didn't care about the other party's attitude and took out his already prepared Martial Arts Instructor Certificate: "I have matters to attend to in Dongning."

The soldier took a look, his hand trembled, almost dropping it, and quickly handed it back with both hands, saluting as he said, "Greetings, sir. I'm sorry, but I cannot make this decision. I need to report to my superior."

"Go ahead!"

The soldier reported to the company commander stationed there, who also couldn't decide, then made phone calls, and continued to report layer by layer.

After nearly twenty minutes of delay, Chen Shouyi was finally allowed to pass.

...

Flattened buildings, uprooted trees, everywhere was ruins as far as the eye could see.

As he got closer, the ground turned charred black, and a cold wind blew, sending dust flying everywhere.

In some places, you could still see plumes of smoke rising, clearly indicating embers not yet extinguished.

This was his birthplace, his hometown where he had lived for seventeen years.

Now it had become a no-man's land.

He felt a heavy heart, as if a giant stone was blocking his chest, but he had no time for sentimentality.

Once there, he started running at full speed. He had no intention of testing his legendary resilience against radiation nor testing if Natural Healing could mend genetic mutations.

The streets were completely unrecognizable.

He could only rely on memory and the general topography to move forward.

"This should be Changming Park!"

"This frozen ditch should be Yu Jiang!"

He ran at high speed, his astonishing velocity causing a gale that stirred up countless ashes and gravel behind him, forming a "tail" several meters long.

Then he suddenly stopped in his tracks.

Looking into the distance.

This was where his old home was, leaving countless memories. Even now, he could clearly remember every detail of this old house, every childish drawing he had left behind.

And a treasured kindergarten certificate.

However, now it was all just a pile of rubble.

Suddenly, he stepped forward and moved aside several large pieces of concrete, pulling out a slightly charred book from within.

"Three Years of Trials and Five Years of Simulations!"

His expression froze for a moment, flipping through to find most of it already completed.

In that instant, a flood of memories surged forth.

Classmates, teachers, and his wonderful first love, everything seemed like it happened just yesterday.

...

"You bit me."

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry!"

After their first kiss, Zhang Xiaoyue raised her head bashfully and hopefully asked:

"Shou Yi, will you bully me in the future?"

"No, how could I!" Chen Shouyi replied without hesitation.

...

However, no one expected that this meeting would be the last.

Holding the damaged book tightly, Chen Shouyi suppressed the surging emotions and turned, quickly striding towards the passage.

Chapter 469: The Great Island

The defense structures around the spatial passage are built to high standards, incredibly sturdy, and remained largely undamaged amid the terrifying shockwave of a nuclear explosion. It's the only building standing firm in the vicinity.

The risk level of this spatial passage might be relatively low.

Here, a simple closure has been done, and there are currently no military personnel on guard duty.

He walked into the hall, stepping on the thick layer of dust on the ground.

In the oval-shaped passage, a massive iron door was blocking the way ahead.

He took the Shell Lady from his arms, placed her on the ground, and stepped forward.

After stretching his body, he bent down, his fingers reaching into the gap of the iron door. The cement on the ground was pried open by him as his fingers reached deep into the crevice.

He then took a deep breath, the rubber soles of his shoes shattered instantly, his feet sank deep into the ground, sending a cloud of stone dust into the air. His face turned a bright red, veins bulging on his neck, exerting all his strength,

yet the hefty iron door didn't budge an inch.

"So heavy, it must be at least five tons!" Chen Shouyi released his grip, dusted off his hands, and thought to himself.

"Looks like I need to get serious."

He fetched his mountaineering backpack, took off his clothes and underwear, and stuffed them into the backpack.

Then he looked at the shameless, wide-eyed Shell Lady staring at his crotch without blinking, and said annoyedly:

"Stop looking, there's nothing worth seeing, fly away."

This peeping tom, it's not like she hasn't seen it before.

"Oh!"

The Shell Lady obediently responded and slowly flew to a distant spot.

Chen Shouyi immediately transformed, his body rapidly expanding, soon becoming a giant four meters tall.

He looked down at his much larger-than-usual transformed size.

"Is it due to the dense Original Force here?"

He clenched his fist, feeling the powerful strength throughout his body:

"The strength has increased several times."

Not wanting to waste time, he hurriedly grasped the now tiny mountaineering backpack with one hand, broke the concrete with the other hand, reaching into the crevice of the iron door, and with a light lift, accompanied by a creepy creaking sound, the once heavy iron door now seemed almost weightless.

He called to the dazed Shell Lady, bent down, and wedged himself through the iron door.

There were five layers of iron doors in total.

As he advanced, his body continued to inflate.

Four and a half meters, five meters, five and a half meters...

In this passageway that was only five meters tall, he had to stoop to walk.

Fortunately, he was almost at the end.

He opened the last iron door and stepped into the spatial passage.

With a spatial shift, a massive gray-white giant, seventeen meters tall, appeared on the small island.

He checked his attribute panel.

Strength: 18.2+16.8

Agility: 18.2-2.1

Constitution: 18.2+16.7

Intelligence: 18.0

Perception: 15.4

Will: 17.0

Energy Accumulation: 13.1

Faith Value: 0

"Strength has reached thirty-five points!"

Chen Shouyi instantly calculated:

"1300 tons!"

"Such unparalleled strength, if I had the same strength on Earth, the God of Hunting would be nothing!"

"Even if He attacked, He couldn't harm me in the slightest."

After indulging in self-admiration for a moment, he quickly canceled the transformation.

It was only then that the Shell Lady dared to fly over, saying excitedly: "Great Giant, you've become even larger!"

Chen Shouyi regained his energy from exhaustion and smiled proudly.

Seeing the more terrifying strength of the Giant Transformation, he was now full of confidence, even if he encountered a demigod, he dared to have the confidence to challenge them.

Of course, this was just a thought.

In the demigod stronghold of this alternate world, they didn't just rely on brute force!

He stepped out from the giant footprints he had made earlier.

Then surveyed the surroundings, it had been a long time since he'd been on this island. Compared to a year ago, there weren't many changes.

"Great Giant..." A small figure with a trail of sparkling light darted quickly in front of him. Before a few words were spoken, the voice had already drifted away.

"Oh!"

Chen Shouyi now noticed that, compared to her snail-like flying speed on Earth, the Shell Lady's speed here was amazing.

She could nearly reach three hundred meters per second.

"Looks like licking the Divine Blood wasn't in vain!"

Perhaps returning to her birthplace, or perhaps realizing her amazing flying speed, she was extremely excited.

Sometimes flying east, sometimes west.

Occasionally flying close to the ground, then soaring into the high sky.

For a full ten minutes.

The Shell Lady finally landed on Chen Shouyi's shoulder, her face red with excitement. Out of breath and without catching her breath, she anxiously said:

"Great Giant... huff huff... Little Dot... huff huff... was flying fast, right?"

"Yes, fast!"

"Wasn't it... faster than you, Great Giant?"

"Of course you're faster, you really are amazing." Chen Shouyi laughed inwardly and said.

Upon hearing she was mightier than the Great Giant, the Shell Lady was instantly overjoyed, her body swaying drunkenly, her feet staggered: "Great Giant, watch... huff huff... Little Dot can fly faster!"

"Stop flying..."

Chen Shouyi hadn't finished his words.

The Shell Lady kicked off with her calves, trailing a sparkling trail, shooting straight into the sky like an arrow.

He stared, and in the blink of an eye, she had turned into a small dot.

At this speed, if on Earth, she probably would have broken the sound barrier (the atmospheric pressure in the alternate world is much higher than on Earth, with the speed of sound reaching up to six hundred meters per second).

Then half a minute later, Chen Shouyi sighed as he saw the Shell Lady, her face flushed red, drift intermittently from the sky, like a rocket running out of fuel, occasionally shooting up a bit but ultimately helplessly getting closer to the ground.

He quickly ran over, reaching out to catch her.

"Huff huff... this time doesn't count, Little Dot is out of strength... or she could fly even faster, let Little Dot rest for a bit... huff huff... and fly again later."

"You're already much faster than me, stop flying!" Chen Shouyi said helplessly, watching the exhausted Shell Lady collapsed.

"But... huff huff... Little Dot can fly faster... and Great Giant hasn't seen it yet!"

What to do when encountering such a competitive Little Dot?

Waiting online!

...

Chen Shouyi decided to leave her be.

Let her fly to her heart's content until she's satisfied!

He, on the other hand, stepped into the air, observing the terrain.

He found that the ability of air imprisonment here was similarly several times stronger, stepping on the solidified air felt like stepping on solid ground, giving a sense of steadiness.

A few minutes later, he reached several kilometers in the sky.

Looking around.

A multitude of islands scattered like pearls on the ocean surface, apart from island reefs like the one he was on, there were forty to fifty larger islands, and obviously more in the distance.

"It really is an archipelago!" He thought to himself.

Every small island was forest-covered, lush and vibrant with life.

The largest of the small islands, Chen Shouyi estimated, was twenty to thirty thousand square kilometers, in terms of area not much smaller than Nanhai Island.

If there were any Divine Creatures, that was undoubtedly the most likely place.

"However, the exploration of such a large island should be saved for last, who knows, there might even be a demigod!" Chen Shouyi's expression grew slightly serious.

Chapter 470: Losing Its Temper

Soon, Chen Shouyi descended from the sky.

He massaged his temples with his fingers, and after a while, the throbbing in his head slowly subsided.

The previous canoe was still stranded on the beach, but he wasn't planning to row over.

The distances between the islands were simply too far, ranging from thirty to forty kilometers to as much as two to three hundred kilometers. Searching all the small islands would take who knows how long.

Besides, flying wasn't feasible, as it drained his mental energy.

Especially now that his soul was injured, he couldn't persist for long.

At most, he could only fly for five minutes!

"However, it's not like there's no other way."

He glanced at the Shell Lady who was diligently collecting nectar in the flower bushes, then withdrew his gaze and headed towards the beach.

Chen Shouyi had once seen Luo Jingwen, Ye Zong, and others wading through water in the rice fields, their feet not sinking into the mud, like a dragonfly skimming the water. Although he hadn't tried it himself, he was certain he could do it too.

But in a world three times different.

He wasn't too confident.

"I wonder if it will work?" He shook his head slightly, clearing his mind, and took a deep breath.

The gravel exploded beneath his feet as his body turned into a blur, swiftly darting across the sand.

The next moment, his feet landed on the water.

For a moment, the sea surface seemed as if bombs were being dropped one after another, with columns of water shooting up.

One step, two steps, three steps... twenty steps... thirty steps...

However, the good times didn't last long. Like struggling in a swamp, his feet sank deeper and deeper, his steps becoming more laborious, and after thirty steps, his whole body plunged into the sea, splashing a large area of water.

He spat out a mouthful of seawater with a dark expression and slapped the water in frustration.

In the distance, the Shell Lady had stopped her actions, hovering in mid-air, looking disdainfully yet worriedly at the clumsy giant who had fallen into the sea. Seeing him quickly swimming back, she resumed her nectar gathering.

Now she was even more formidable than the clumsy giant.

Even if the clumsy giant ran far, she could quickly catch up.

...

Chen Shouyi stood again on the beach, wiped his face, and calmed his mind: "With my strength, it should be possible; I just haven't found the knack."

"The ground and the sea surface are different, one is solid and the other is fluid. Running on the sea as I do on land definitely won't work," he pondered:

"The toe grip on the ground should be smaller, the area of the sole touching the sea surface larger, enhancing upward reaction force!"

"Let's try again."

He retreated a dozen meters.

Ran once more.

This time, his speed wasn't as fast as before, deliberately adding some ground-stamping motion, yet his speed remained at fifty to sixty meters per second.

"Boom, boom, boom..."

Water columns surged three to four meters high.

"That's it!" A smile flickered across his face as he rapidly advanced over the sea surface.

Effortlessly.

With slight adjustments to his movements, his speed gradually increased.

From fifty to sixty meters per second, gradually increasing to seventy to eighty, but that was the limit; any more and he wouldn't be stable. Luckily, this speed was enough.

He ran around the island seven or eight times on the sea surface before stopping.

Next, he slung a backpack and practiced running on the water with a load.

Aside from a slight decrease in speed, it had little effect.

After all, the backpack, with its various contents, weighed only thirty to forty kilograms, inconsequential compared to his two hundred-kilogram body weight.

Setting out in the morning, it was now noon.

Chen Shouyi indulged in half a pound of Divine Flesh for lunch and fed some Divine Blood to the Shell Lady.

Not only did it completely restore his strength, but it also brought his state to its peak.

...

On the sea surface.

A figure quickly traversed the water.

"Big giant, come catch the little one!"

The Shell Lady flew swiftly past him, shouting with pride, then looped back like an arrow, provocatively brushing past him, full of energy.

"Is the little one fast?"

"Come back, there's fish in the sea!" Chen Shouyi said with a headache.

In this otherworld, she had become so mischievous; she used to be so obedient!

"The little one isn't afraid at all!" The Shell Lady shouted, seemingly wanting to prove her courage, deliberately flying close to the water, stirring up a small wave.

He watched with worry, somewhat regretting feeding her the Divine Blood earlier.

Now she was so hyper as if she had taken a stimulant, completely beside herself.

Just then, suddenly, a one-meter-long ferocious carnivorous fish leaped out of the water, baring its sharp teeth, charging at the Shell Lady flying close to the sea surface...

"Damn it!"

Chen Shouyi's expression changed, and in a flash, he drew his Long Sword and hurled it at the fish.

With a "boom!"

The entire fish was pierced through.

The Shell Lady let out a frightened scream and flew into the sky.

Chen Shouyi quickened his pace.

Before the Long Sword fell into the sea, he caught it.

Soon, the Shell Lady obediently landed on Chen Shouyi's shoulder, clutching his earlobe tightly, her body trembling, all her previous liveliness gone.

Like a wilted kitten, she became terribly docile.

Serves you right!

...

In a valley on a narrow, long island.

The vegetation here was sparse, with dense wild grass interspersed with low, sparse trees.

It was currently springtime in this otherworld. The weather was warming, vegetation thriving, and amidst a gentle breeze, wild animals occasionally darted through the grass, leaving a long, arrow-like trail.

A small Barbarian Tribe of two to three hundred people resided here.

The warm noonday sun bathed the land.

The sky was clear, with a gentle spring breeze blowing softly.

Next to the tribe, a creature resembling a Giant Wolf, as big as a hill, lay lazily on the ground. It lowered its head to gulp down the last animal carcass without chewing, raising its head to swallow it whole.

This was the tribe's offering to it, in exchange for not hunting the tribespeople.

It required at least seven adult Barbarians worth of prey daily, and if they couldn't catch enough... the tribe would voluntarily offer up its own people.

Otherwise, it would go berserk!

Ever since it struck a deal with a Clan Leader of a Barbarian Tribe long ago, it had no regrets about how it hadn't thought of such a great idea before.

No need to bother hunting.

Just help them drive away other strong foes and troublesome Natural Spirits, and food would be delivered to its mouth.

As the apex of the island's food chain, this was all very easy for it.

By lying here, no creature or Natural Spirit dared come near.

Due to the lack of exercise for a long time, it had grown rather plump, its snow-white, floppy belly spread out like a blanket on the ground.

Covered in a coat of blue fur, glossy and glistening, with a splash of golden mane from head to neck, shimmering in the sunlight.

It gazed greedily at a young Barbarian in the distance who was digging up grass roots.

Its mouth watered uncontrollably.

"Lately, this daily portion of food seems less filling. Maybe I should have the Barbarian Tribe increase the offerings," it mused.

As for whether the tribe might refuse due to being overburdened, it had no concerns.

Otherwise, it would go berserk!