

New Era 491

Chapter 491: It's Not Shameful

Chen Shouyi withdrew his palm and brushed away the debris on the table, finding it only four or five millimeters deep:

"The power is a bit weak!"

If an ordinary person were to face such a blow, they would likely be left with skin ripped open and flesh mangled. But the enemies he faced were either legends or demigods, making such an attack not even worth a scratch.

Far less effective than a casual punch of his.

However, Chen Shouyi could feel that this was far from the power limit of such a technique.

On one hand, the vibration frequency of the energy wasn't high enough; on the other, its application was still rather crude, even far inferior to that of the legends from the Pantheon.

With a concentration of his will, all the debris gathered into a thin stream of "smoke" and automatically flew into the trash can:

"The main function of this skill right now is still to boost the strength of the body!" While taking off his clothes and walking towards the bathroom, he continuously stimulated the energy vibrations.

He opened the attribute panel.

Strength: 18.4+0.1

Agility: 18.4+0.1

Constitution: 18.4+0.1

Intelligence: 18.0+0.1

Perception: 16.6

Will: 17.1

Energy Accumulation: 22.6

Faith Value: 78.5

Looking at the row of "+0.1" numbers, Chen Shouyi paused in his steps, with an expression of surprise turning into a hint of joy:

"It seems that at this stage, just by activating this skill, all physical attributes can be increased by 5%!"

Five percent doesn't seem like much, only 0.1 points increase in attribute values. However, it boosts strength, agility, constitution, and even the most important intelligence by 5%, which could increase combat power by two or three levels.

In combat, that could be the difference between life and death.

Chen Shouyi finally looked at the skill panel and found that, as expected, a new skill had formed at the end:

"Explosion Force: Entry Level 1"

"This skill must be mastered quickly; it's simply too powerful."

He walked into the bathroom, turned on the faucet, preparing to bathe, but found there was no water:

"Damn, could the pipes be frozen again?"

Chen Shouyi had no choice but to return to his room, take a bottle of hot water, and casually wipe away the sweat left from last night's battle, putting on a clean set of clothes.

...

In the following days, Chen Shouyi stood each day on the rooftop of the highest building in the Safe Zone, facing the bitter cold wind, overseeing the entire urban area.

Five days later, after confirming that the legend from the Pantheon was truly frightened, he ended his watch.

During that time, he didn't intend to selfishly keep the skill to himself. He wrote a report on Explosion Force and had Bai Xiaoling submit it. Although simple, this little skill could comprehensively enhance the strength of Great Xia Country's legends.

Any legend practicing it diligently could learn it.

Chen Shouyi didn't know how significant the response and attention the report received was.

But because of it, he was rewarded with 100 merit points, bringing his total merit points to 350.

This time he didn't exchange them, planning to accumulate until reaching 650 points to directly exchange for a "Soul Pearl" that protects the soul.

The effect of a Lucky Gem valued at 35 merit points was already so significant.

Therefore, a Soul Pearl priced nearly twenty times more would obviously be even stronger.

...

This year's Spring Festival was somewhat livelier than last year's.

Last year, the house was cold and quiet at this time.

But this year, visitors came in an endless stream to pay New Year's respects, not only from his uncle's family but also leaders from the province and city, piling up gifts and New Year's goods in the basement.

Whether he liked it or not, his influence had reached an undeniable level.

Just after sending off a city leader, Qin Liuyuan came over with a stranger, a man looking around thirty years old.

"Lao Qin, what brings you here!" Chen Shouyi said with a smile, "And this gentleman is?"

"General Manager Chen, here to give you New Year's greetings. Aren't you welcoming me?" Qin Liuyuan laughed.

"Of course, you're welcome!"

"Let me introduce you. This is Luo Peibin, a newly appointed Martial Artist."

So there's a new Martial Artist in Jiangnan Province?

Chen Shouyi looked at the young man.

Feeling Chen Shouyi's gaze, the young man couldn't help but feel a bit nervous, quickly putting on a stiff smile and respectfully said, "Elder Chen, I've just arrived in Hedong. I came uninvited to pay my respects!"

Although the news of Chen Shouyi becoming a legendary powerhouse seemed calm in society, it caused a sensation in the Hedong City's Martial Artist circle.

Only Martial Artists could understand what strict hierarchy meant.

One rank higher, and the strength difference is entirely crushing.

A new Martial Artist, facing a legend who could crush them with a flick of a finger, naturally felt nervous.

Not far away, seeing the commotion, Chen Xingyue couldn't help smiling when she heard a young man, almost old enough to be her father's peer, calling her brother an elder.

A Martial Artist's hearing was incredibly keen, and Luo Peibin's face turned a bit embarrassed.

Chen Shouyi glared at her, and Chen Xingyue quickly covered her mouth and walked away. He smiled apologetically, saying, "My sister is a bit unruly; don't take it to heart. You can just call me General Manager Chen or Chen Shouyi!"

General Manager Chen has almost become his name now; his original name was seldom called. No matter who it was, those who knew him called him General Manager Chen.

He's already gotten used to it.

"No, no, General Manager Chen, it's really not a big deal," Luo Peibin hurriedly replied, not daring to call him by name.

"Let's not stand; please, everyone have a seat!" Chen Shouyi invited warmly.

Through inquiries, he learned.

The guest was from Hai Zhou City in Jiangnan Province, transferred to Hedong after passing the Provincial Martial Artist Examination.

Unlike grand Martial Artists, Martial Artists were directly managed by the province.

That's the advantage of a provincial capital city, using policies to attract talent. Even if the local City Government was unwilling, they could only reluctantly let people go.

"I heard that after the Spring Festival, General Manager Chen would be giving a talk on Martial Arts at Jiangnan University?" Qin Liuyuan smiled and brought up the topic.

"Yes, that's true. But who did you hear it from?" Chen Shouyi asked curiously.

"Jiangnan University has already posted a notice!" Qin Liuyuan smiled and said,

"This has become a city-wide sensation now. I expect the venue won't be enough. Many Martial Artists go to Jiangnan University every day to check the notice, afraid of missing the date."

"Oh, it's just a campus lecture. Don't exaggerate too much!" Chen Shouyi said modestly, though a smile appeared on his face.

Luo Peibin, who had been sitting uncomfortably, feeling out of place and unable to join the conversation, finally overcame the psychological barrier of his Martial Artist identity. With great effort to suppress his embarrassment, he flattered,

"General Manager Chen, it's not an exaggeration. This is a lecture by a legendary powerhouse. If it weren't for your undetermined date, other Martial Artists from out of town would have flocked here."

Once he spoke, Luo Peibin felt he had finally blended into the atmosphere here, and everything became natural.

At the same time, after becoming a Martial Artist, some pride and arrogance in his mindset settled back to earth.

What is a Martial Artist in front of him?

When needed, one must flatter; when necessary, one should lower themselves.

Maintaining respect facing a powerhouse,

is nothing to be ashamed of!

Chapter 492: Bees

"Buzz..."

"Buzz..."

"Buzz..."

...

Chen Shouyi slowly threw punch after punch.

The air carried a faint buzzing sound.

Perhaps his will was naturally strong and focused, his progress in explosive power was astonishingly fast.

With practice over the past half month, his proficiency skyrocketed.

From barely being a novice, he leaped to "Novice: 18", just one step away from proficient level.

The power had already surpassed that of the unfortunate legend from the Pantheon.

The energy within him, once like stagnant water, had now become increasingly active, feeling easier and easier to control. With a single thought, the energy vibrated violently, making even the air buzz.

The Shell Lady sat at the edge of the bed, facing the direction of Chen Shouyi's punches. Her entire skin trembled slightly from the air, feeling tingly and unusually comfortable.

She swung her little feet cheerfully, mimicking the sound with her voice: "Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!"

"Stop talking!" Chen Shouyi said.

"Oh!" the Shell Lady obediently replied.

After a while.

She began to revert to her old habits.

Chen Shouyi simply ignored her and continued to repeatedly throw punches.

"Good Giant, are you a big bee?" the Shell Lady asked curiously.

What kind of strange thought process is this?

Chen Shouyi was momentarily speechless and stopped: "In what way do I look like a bee?"

"You can fly and also make buzzing sounds," the Shell Lady said sweetly.

Chen Shouyi laughed:

"You're the bee. You eat nectar, bees eat nectar, you can fly, bees can fly too."

The Shell Lady tilted her head, thinking carefully, and the more she thought about it, the more she felt she was like a bee. Her face immediately fell, and she shook her head vigorously, saying, "Little Dot is a good Little Dot, not a bad bee, not at all alike!

Can you not call Little Dot a bee in the future?"

She had seen Earth's bees, and as fellow food competitors, they were naturally categorized as bad.

"Then you also cannot call me a bee in the future!"

"Okay, you are a good Giant, not a big bee, and Little Dot is a good Little Dot, not a little bee."

After reaching an agreement with the Shell Lady, Chen Shouyi resumed his practice.

Beside him, the Shell Lady was filled with thoughts, the topic of bees being like a curse, her mind repeatedly cycling through thinking she resembled a bee, making her restless.

She held back for a while before she couldn't help but ask, "Good Giant, does Little Dot really not look like a bee?"

"Stop thinking about it, you're not!" Chen Shouyi threw a punch filled with energy, speechless.

"But, Little Dot feels like..." the Shell Lady was so anxious she was about to cry, tears starting to fall.

Chen Shouyi felt helpless. How could there be such a silly creature; where did her usual cleverness go?

"Then what do you think I resemble?"

"You look like a big bee..." the Shell Lady quickly shook her head violently, tears flying: "You look like a big Giant."

"Do you resemble me?" Chen Shouyi guided her gently.

The Shell Lady wiped her tears, sized up Chen Shouyi from head to toe, and then cried again: "Boohoo... not at all, you have a scary big worm, Little Dot doesn't..."

Chen Shouyi looked embarrassed.

You voyeur, still have the nerve to speak, every time I take off my clothes, you're curious and can't stop staring.

"I mean other than that... big worm!"

"There's a slight resemblance," the Shell Lady reluctantly admitted.

"So you don't look like a bee, you look like a Giant."

"Okay, you're a Giant, Little Dot is a little person," the Shell Lady nodded vigorously.

Chen Shouyi finally breathed a sigh of relief, thinking wasn't she clever normally, how come she was fixating on this.

"But, boohoo... Little Dot still feels like a bee!"

...

During wartime, the spring break had ended after just two short days.

On the seventh day after the Spring Festival, Sunday morning.

The calm campus of Jiangnan University seemed somewhat different.

Early in the morning, large numbers of fierce-looking, well-built outsiders began to flock into the campus in groups, making the entire Jiangnan University extremely noisy.

The security guards at the school gate completely ignored this scene.

Some of these people wore military uniforms, some were in casual clothes, some were locals from Hedong, and some had even come specifically from other places.

"General Manager Qin, you're here too." Luo Peibin happened to meet Qin Liuyuan at the entrance and greeted him with a smile.

"Just call me Lao Qin. This is a lecture by a legendary powerhouse; if you miss it, there may not be another chance in the future!" Qin Liuyuan said.

"Indeed, I heard that you, Lao Qin, used to frequently carry out missions with General Manager Chen." Luo Peibin curiously asked, "Can you tell me what the strength of a legend is like?"

"Immeasurable!" Qin Liuyuan said, with some emotion: "He is a true genius, while we are just mortals. I hope you don't mind me saying this."

"No, no, of course I don't mind, I am self-aware." Luo Peibin quickly said. He became a Martial Artist at the age of thirty, naturally considered a genius, but how could he dare to boast compared to General Manager Chen.

"More than a year ago, when I first performed a mission with him, I was a great Martial Artist, and so was General Manager Chen. His strength was somewhat stronger than mine, but such strength was still within reach, with effort it might be possible to catch up.

Half a year later, when we met again, I was still a great Martial Artist, but he had already become a Martial Artist.

When I luckily became a Martial Artist, he was probably already a legend by then.

Now, I can't even begin to fathom his current strength."

The two walked and talked, being greeted respectfully by others from time to time along the way.

As Qin Liuyuan nodded in acknowledgment while speaking, he suddenly paused, turned to Luo Peibin:

"Do you know about the demigod fierce bird during the God of Hunting war?"

"Of course, I've heard about it!" Luo Peibin said.

"Do you know who killed it?" Qin Liuyuan asked.

"Are you saying... General Manager Chen!" Luo Peibin was shocked.

"Exactly, at that time, Hedong had already fallen, the military was defeated and collapsing, yet General Manager Chen singlehandedly slew this demigod. Otherwise, the war would have dragged on, and perhaps Jiangnan Province might still be under siege now!" Qin Liuyuan said.

"General Manager Chen killed a demigod!? How is that possible?" Luo Peibin was incredulous.

As soon as he spoke, he realized his mistake and quickly babbled to explain:

"No, I didn't mean it like that, it's just so..."

"Hard to believe, right? That's why we are just ordinary people." Seeing the look of shock on Luo Peibin's face, Qin Liuyuan felt pleased. At the time, he too was profoundly impressed.

Also feeling honored inside.

After all, he had once fought alongside General Manager Chen.

Before, he still had the heart to compare, but after this, he completely gave up.

The two were no longer on the same level.

As time went on, more and more people poured into the campus, heading towards the auditorium. Qin Liuyuan quickly said, "It seems more people are coming, let's not talk anymore, better grab a seat first."

Chapter 493: Speech

"Knock, knock, knock!"

The door was gently knocked on.

"General Manager Chen, it's almost time." Bai Xiaoling reminded anxiously, with Chen Xingyue standing beside her.

"Brother, hurry up, we're going to be late."

Chen Shouyi sat at the desk, racking his brain with a pen in hand, writing his speech, his heart filled with anxiety.

The desk was covered with crumpled drafts.

Unexpectedly, they hadn't prepared a draft for him this time!

In his understanding, a speech wasn't someone giving him a script to read aloud?

Even the nation's leaders on TV spoke like that.

As for mentioning the refined Cultivation Technique, he planned to do that at the end.

It should have been easy, without any pressure.

But as time grew near, he found out the school hadn't prepared a speech for him at all.

This was simply too irresponsible and unprofessional.

...

Chen Shouyi could face a demigod without fear,

but under the gaze of everyone, he still felt overwhelming pressure, worrying he might embarrass himself.

This was an old habit of Chen Shouyi,

since childhood, he cared more about face than anything!

Moreover, he heard that many people were coming, even his sister was curious and wanted to attend, so it demanded even more attention.

The last time he embarrassed himself during the Capital City's Martial Artist assessment, it only spread within a small circle.

If he embarrassed himself this time... it might spread throughout the Hedong and even Jiangnan martial arts community, wiping out the hard-earned respect he had built in front of his sister.

Chen Shouyi checked the time and noticed there were only half an hour left, frustratedly scratching his head: "There's still plenty of time, why the rush?"

"Brother, are you nervous?" Chen Xingyue asked from outside the door.

"Don't be ridiculous!"

Was he nervous?

Chen Shouyi looked at the sparse lines written on his speech paper, crumpled it in anger, and stood up in self-abandonment.

Whatever happens, happens!

At worst, he'll embarrass himself again...

After all, he had long been used to it since childhood!

He took off his clothes, grabbed a blue-grey cotton tracksuit, changed into it, and opened the door, speaking impatiently to his sister:

"What are you rushing for? What's the rush about? It's just a speech, not a big deal!"

...

The auditorium with three thousand seats was packed, buzzing with noise, even the aisles, the corridors outside, and the spaces by the windows were crowded with people, and more people couldn't even get inside the building, lingering at the entrance.

After all, this was a speech by the strongest in Jiangnan Province, one of the top elites of Great Xia, a rare chance to get close to such a person, and even a bit of knowledge gained from the speech could be a lifelong benefit.

...

"Luckily we came early, or we wouldn't have seats!" a girl beside Zhou Xue exclaimed excitedly.

"There are a lot of Martial Artists outside, is it okay for us not to give up our seats?" Zhou Xue whispered, usually rare to see Martial Artists on campus except for teachers, but suddenly so many came; some looked fierce, making her feel immense pressure.

"It's fine, haven't you noticed many here are students? Some seem like they hardly practiced Martial Arts!" another girl responded indifferently.

"But we aren't students of Jiangnan University." Zhou Xue expressed concern.

"Who will know if you don't say!"

This time, too many Martial Artists attended, not only civilians but military ones too, some even traveled from afar, if a bomb were dropped here, it could eliminate seven out of ten Martial Artists in Hedong.

With such a massive gathering of Martial Artists, it put considerable pressure on both the school and Hedong City, fearing a major incident might spark.

On one hand, a large number of military police was deployed to maintain order, on the other, to avoid conflict, the speech was entirely open to everyone who wanted to attend.

But seats were first come, first served.

Fortunately, no one had the guts to act unruly here.

Martial Artists essentially amounted to nothing; even five or six Martial Arts Masters were present, not to mention two Martial Artists.

Anyone daring to disrupt the venue would, no matter their temper, behave as meekly as a castrated quail here.

Zhou Xue immediately felt slightly at ease.

In fact, she'd always felt a strange discomfort with this top name of Jiangnan Province.

There're plenty of names to choose from, why choose Chen Shouyi!

Ironically, she knew someone named Chen Shouyi,

and whenever people mentioned it, she always felt awkward, as if they were talking about another Chen Shouyi she knew.

...

At that moment, a commotion suddenly came from outside:

"He's here, he's here!" someone whispered.

Zhou Xue turned and looked, noticing people outside the windows pressing closely against the glass, seemingly making a path; soon, the noise outside quickly quieted down.

A buzz-cut round head moved through the crowd.

With the lead of several school leaders, shortly thereafter a handsome young man stepped into the auditorium.

Upon seeing him, Zhou Xue's eyes widened, and she looked as if struck by lightning.

"Chen...Chen...Chen Shouyi, how...how could this be."

Luckily no one was paying attention to her.

All her dormmates kept their eyes fixed on the young man in front, faces flushed.

"Today we are fortunate to have invited our province's Chief Security Advisor, a renowned legendary elite, and our honorary professor, General Manager Chen Shouyi here, we appreciate General Manager Chen taking time from his busy schedule to be here..."

On the podium were several retro amplifiers, and several film cameras below focused on this place.

"Now let's welcome General Manager Chen, everyone please welcome!" the host passionately introduced amidst the feedback, then stepped aside.

A thunderous round of applause erupted from below.

Chen Shouyi smiled, walked onto the podium, and the fierce applause quickly subsided like a receding tide.

He glanced around, noticing quite a few familiar faces.

Not only Qin Liuyuan, Luo Peibin, Song Tingting were there, but also many he used to know but hadn't seen much of since. His gaze momentarily rested on Zhou Xue before moving on, to him, she was just a passerby in life with whom he'd once intersected then parted ways.

Facing numerous expectant eyes, he found a wave of calmness wash over him.

"Testing, testing..."

Chen Shouyi tested the microphone and then began: "Thank you all for finding time to attend my speech. There are quite a few people here, and I almost didn't dare to come in!"

Many people chuckled lightly, quickly restraining their smiles.

"With everyone being so enthusiastic, I heard quite a few came especially from afar. I think there are two reasons for that. One, to see the novelty, to see if a legendary elite has three heads and six arms, or if they're a monster, but having seen me now, I suppose you might be disappointed!"

The second reason, you must be hoping to learn something from my speech, so today I'd like to share some of my experiences and insights on Martial Arts, hoping it might be useful to everyone." Chen Shouyi said with a smile.

The applause once again thundered through the hall.

Standing at the doorway, Chen Xingyue watched the steady, radiant, and seemingly important Chen Shouyi on stage, clenching her fists excitedly, her heart filled with pride.

This was her brother!

Chapter 494: Sensation

"The Body Refinement Thirty-Six is something everyone has practiced. Many people wonder why some people make rapid progress and quickly become Martial Artist Apprentices, then Martial Artists.

While others progress slowly. Besides the intangible physical talents, there must be other reasons."

Everyone's eyes lit up, and many hastily began taking notes.

Those who didn't bring a notebook felt regretful, planning to borrow from others later for copying.

Even if what the legendary figure says sounds like nonsense, it might carry deep meaning and requires careful pondering, perhaps containing profound truths!

Chen Shouyi briefly raised the topic and quickly moved on, continuing:

"As everyone knows, the Body Refinement Thirty-Six has now evolved to its fourth version, with each edition stronger than the last.

The emergence of each version is as significant as the steam engine to the first industrial revolution.

Humanity has become stronger step by step. Previously, there was only one Martial Artist Apprentice in hundreds of people; now it's almost widespread, and the number of Martial Artists is explosively growing,

I remember when I first came to Hedong City, the whole city had only about a thousand Martial Artists; now, there are estimated to be thousands to tens of thousands...

Chen Shouyi found that even without a speech draft, it came naturally and he had complete control:

"But this is still far from enough; Martial Artists are only able to barely survive in other worlds. The physical qualities of even an ordinary Barbarian exceed Martial Artists. To resist these worlds, humanity needs more Grand Martial Artists, Martial Artists, and even Legends.

However, although the fourth version of Body Refinement Thirty-Six is much more effective than the third, it is still limited. For Grand Martial Artists, the effects diminish significantly and for Martial Artists, it's almost ineffective.

Until by chance, I discovered a mystical power.

After continuous attempts...

I revised a new Body Refinement Thirty-Six, and to cultivate this magical power, I also modified the Meditation Cultivation Technique!" Chen Shouyi said casually, his face involuntarily turning slightly red.

That was the only way he could explain it.

He was just that much of a genius, what could be done about it?

As for those who didn't understand, who cares if you understand or not?

With these words, it immediately caused a sensation.

"Boom!"

The conference hall was in an uproar.

Shock!

Astonishment!

Incredulity!

Human cultivation methods generally have no secret techniques.

Whether ordinary people, Martial Artist Apprentices, Martial Artists, or Martial Artists, they all train in the same way, with the differences lying in understanding and perception.

Since the discovery of other worlds, it has only been a few years.

Countries around the world began researching Martial Arts, initially each doing their own research. They found that what they painstakingly developed was easy to be learned by other countries unless they avoided large-scale promotion, which defeated the purpose.

Later... Martial Arts research became a global public welfare project, sharing results and information, funded by the main countries in the world, with an annual budget as high as three billion dollars.

Research institutes spread worldwide, with tens of thousands of participants involved.

This is the crystallization of human wisdom and the spark of civilization.

Even ordinary people can easily learn the same cultivation techniques as Martial Artists.

Then one day, people suddenly heard that someone independently modified the Body Refinement Thirty-Six.

If it were anyone else,

a nobody, they would probably have already been accused of arrogance.

But coming from the mouth of a legendary figure, the effect is entirely different.

A professor involved in the Body Refinement Thirty-Six project research below moved his mouth but didn't dare to stand up to question.

This was no ordinary peer, but a top human strongman, perhaps... the other party truly discovered something remarkable.

Chen Shouyi glanced around, paused, and the conference hall quickly quieted down.

He continued:

"I call this mystical power the power of the mind; many can emit Sword Qi when focusing their mind, which is the power of will, though it's the easiest to trigger."

Below, Qin Liuyuan and Luo Peibin looked at each other in confusion: "Is this easy?"

"Actually, it can achieve anything!" Chen Shouyi continued.

"Manipulate everything!"

In the front row, many people's pens and notebooks were pulled by an invisible force and swiftly flew up into the air amidst the crowd's exclamations.

"Flying!"

His body slowly floated, levitating three feet above the ground, standing atop the air with swirling airflow around him.

The conference hall erupted once again, this time more astonishing.

Although some had seen Chen Shouyi fly, observing so closely was still a first.

Countless people were dumbfounded.

Chen Shouyi soon floated down:

"Including for cultivation."

"Those who excel in cultivation are often those who can forget themselves, free of distractions during practice!"

Song Tingting, covering her slightly flushed face, felt her heart pounding as if it were about to jump out.

He was incredibly charming!

She glanced at the other women around her with shining eyes.

She thought somewhat distressed:

Sigh, the competition has suddenly become so fierce!

...

Outside the auditorium was also crowded with people.

"That legendary figure is explaining a new cultivation method!"

Someone inside said.

Countless people were anxious, leaning forward with their heads outstretched, unable to hear clearly due to the noise inside.

Time passed slowly.

Half an hour...

An hour...

Two hours...

Finally, the crowd started flowing out, faces excited, talking incessantly.

"What exactly did the legend talk about?"

"What is the cultivation method like?"

Countless people stepped forward to inquire.

"Don't crowd here, go outside to talk, make way, make way, President Chen is coming out!"

Upon hearing this, the crowd quickly dispersed. Before long, Chen Shouyi and a group of school leaders came out. When he saw Zhou Xue in the crowd, he nodded slightly, then walked past her.

Zhou Xue stared blankly at the departing Chen Shouyi.

She couldn't help but feel somewhat despondent.

If she had been a bit more patient and less arrogant at the beginning, perhaps the outcome would have been different.

"Zhou Xue, let's go; there's nothing to see, everyone's gone!" a roommate next to her urged by pulling her arm.

Zhou Xue snapped back to reality: "Oh, did you remember everything clearly?"

Only after leaving the county did she realize that geniuses were everywhere, just like this roommate of hers, who had an excellent memory, remembering everything at first sight.

"I remembered it clearly, but the movements are difficult; I don't know if I can do it. Fortunately, I drew a decomposition diagram of the movements, so I can practice slowly!"

"Chen Elder said you also need to gather your mind, attain clarity and tranquility, otherwise, you'll get interrupted when practicing and can't continue properly!"

"Actually, I think the key is the new Meditation Cultivation Technique, once mastered, the Body Refinement Thirty-Six will be smooth sailing!"

The few began an intense discussion.

This scene happened among countless people, forming small groups deliberating the new cultivation method outside the auditorium, even skipping lunch.

Only those who have experienced the despair of war can understand the importance of strength, as it's the only thing that brings a sense of safety in this cruel era.

Chapter 495: Undercurrents Surging

Provincial Government Building.

Conference Room.

An important meeting is in progress.

"The losses in this war have been tremendous. According to statistics submitted by various counties and cities, the post-war industrial output of enterprises above a designated scale has fallen by 30% compared to before the war. The most important heavy industrial output has even decreased by 50%, severely affecting the supply for military units.

This year, the primary task for the entire province is to restore productivity as quickly as possible to cope with the potentially adverse situation of the new year!" The high official spoke while rubbing his temples, clearly exhausted, and continued: "Additionally, there's the recruitment work for this year. Let's discuss the appropriate numbers..."

There was a light knock on the door.

The conference room fell silent.

The chief secretary sitting in the corner, responsible for taking meeting notes, immediately stood up and opened the door. It was the Office Director, looking both suppressed and excited. He said, "Leaders, something major has happened!"

...

February 17th, New Year.

The second year since the second anomaly.

The dim winter sunlight carried a hint of laziness and lethargy.

After noon, an undercurrent began to spread outwards from Jiangnan University, at a speed of one or two meters per second, in all directions.

Human cultivation methods have been popularized for the past twenty years.

Even the most ignorant and indifferent individuals know a thing or two, and some had even practiced for a while.

Especially in these perilous times of war, where safety feels elusive.

Out of every ten people, if not all ten, at least four or five practice daily.

Hence, when the news that the strongest individual in Jiangnan Province released a more efficient new cultivation method during a speech emerged, it was like a nuclear bomb was dropped, and its influence began to spread rapidly.

...

Inside the conference room.

The curtains were tightly drawn, and the light was dim.

At this moment, an old-fashioned projector was set up, and a staff member was slowly turning the handle.

On the projection screen, the image flickered with snowflakes.

An air of old cinema permeated the room.

In the scene, a young man was performing a set of complex and challenging movements slowly yet fluidly.

It looked somewhat similar to the Martial Arts Thirty-Six Styles but was distinctly different.

Once completed, the image suddenly became oddly blurry but quickly returned to normal.

The footage hadn't been subtitled and didn't have accompanying audio yet.

A professor who had attended the speech was providing manual voiceover from memory.

"When cultivating, one needs to concentrate and calm the mind, entering a state of clarity and tranquility..."

This modified version of the Martial Arts Thirty-Six Styles can slowly absorb Original Force from other worlds, quickly strengthening oneself. The effect is about ten times that of the original version..."

...

Time passed slowly.

The attendees sat for more than two hours, and four reels of film were changed.

Until the end of the footage.

Everyone felt as if they were awakening from a dream, their faces showing restrained excitement.

"Professor Wang, you are an expert in the Martial Arts Thirty-Six Styles. What do you think?"

"It's hard to say!" Professor Wang cautiously responded: "I can't quite understand General Manager Chen's set of movements, but I can still see traces and thought patterns of the Martial Arts Thirty-Six Styles.

It seems to be a continuation, potentially genuine.

Furthermore, there's no reason for someone as powerful as General Manager Chen to play a prank.

Did you all notice that each time General Manager Chen completed a round, the image became blurry, indicating that a significant amount of Original Force gathered, interfering with the footage.

However, if it is genuine, no one has yet managed to master it, and the true situation remains unverified."

Although Professor Wang's words were ambiguous, his inclination leaned towards belief.

No one dares to offend a legendary figure without evidence.

"Organize researchers to verify its authenticity as quickly as possible. As for funding... once the provincial government collectively researches and decides, a special appropriation will be made. This is the top priority!" the high official said firmly, feeling invigorated.

If a new, more efficient cultivation method is developed, its impact on the current situation would be like a beacon of light in the darkness, worthy of utmost importance.

...

As for Chen Shouyi, who caused all this, he was warmly entertained by the school and left with his sister after having lunch.

"Brother, when did you perfect this new cultivation method?" Chen Xingyue asked on the way.

She didn't believe her brother comprehended it shortly after becoming a legend. Given his cultivation speed, he certainly had been secretly practicing it long before. Otherwise, how could his strength improve so rapidly, as if he was riding a rocket?

No matter how hard she worked, she couldn't catch up.

"When I became a Martial Artist!" Chen Shouyi said casually.

As expected.

Chen Xingyue pouted, a bit dissatisfied:

"Then why didn't you teach me?"

She only found out about the new Martial Arts Thirty-Six Styles along with everyone else. It was truly infuriating; she was his dearest sister.

If she could have learned earlier, she wouldn't be at her current level of strength. Perhaps... she would be a legend like her brother.

"Didn't I teach you to enter a state of tranquility for self-cultivation? But you couldn't learn it." Chen Shouyi responded, speechless.

"But you didn't teach me the Martial Arts Thirty-Six Styles!" Chen Xingyue said indignantly. He definitely didn't want her to catch up to him.

"Do you think it's that simple? These two cultivation methods complement each other. You can't even learn the tranquility method, and you want to learn the Martial Arts Thirty-Six Styles?"

"Who knows? Maybe I can master it once I try!" Chen Xingyue said defiantly.

From a young age, she had been flexible. No matter how difficult the movement, she could perform it. She didn't believe she needed to master the abnormal tranquility method before practising.

"Fine, fine. Let me know when you've learned it!" Chen Shouyi said, exasperated with a grunt.

She simply couldn't appreciate kindness.

"What if I do learn it? How will you compensate me?" Chen Xingyue said, her eyes gleaming, taking advantage.

"I'll give you five bottles of Divine Marrow. Are you satisfied now?"

Five bottles of divine marrow from a demigod, only five merit points; for Chen Shouyi, who has accumulated 350 merit points, it's just a drop in the bucket.

"You said it!" Chen Xingyue's face lit up with joy: "Brother, you're the best!"

Wait until you learn it, then be happy.

Chen Shouyi snorted quietly to himself.

...

Chen Shouyi returned home.

Walked back to the bedroom and closed the door.

Discovered the Shell Lady was already awake, with a picture book spread out on the bed.

Sure enough, after a while, she emerged from the blanket and greeted politely, "Good Giant, you're back."

"Yes." Chen Shouyi replied.

Went to the bathroom, washed his face, and hung up the towel.

Opened the attribute panel.

The time for the Book of Knowledge to be optimized again was getting closer, and he couldn't help but look at it several times every day.

Strength: 18.4

Agility: 18.4

Constitution: 18.4

Intelligence: 18.0

Perception: 16.7

Will: 17.1

Energy Accumulation: 26.5

Faith Value: 503.5

"Another 74 hours!" Chen Shouyi thought to himself, looking at the value of 26.5.

At this moment, he looked at the Faith Value and couldn't help but exclaim softly.

"I checked this morning, and it was only 502 points, half a day's work increased it by 1.5 points."

The growth of the Faith Value isn't linear; it fluctuates with time.

All his believers are in the parallel world. Observing the growth of the Faith Value can reveal whether it's day or night there.

If the Faith Value grows slowly or stagnates, it must be nighttime; if it grows rapidly, it's definitely daytime, and right now it's exactly midnight in the parallel world, with five to six hours until dawn.

"If it's not a change in the parallel world, then it must be due to my speech!" Chen Shouyi contemplated.

Chen Shouyi didn't pay much attention to it; nowadays, his Faith Value grows by an average of twenty-three or twenty-four points every day, two or five points haven't surprised him for a long time.

However, this was clearly just the beginning.

As time passed, the growth rate of the Faith Value increased rapidly.

By evening, it had grown an additional 5 points.

...

During dinner.

Even Mrs. Chen, who rarely talked about Martial Arts, asked curiously and worried if his modified Refining Body Thirty-Six Styles really worked that well.

After the Spring Festival, the restaurant had reopened.

Today, the people who came for lunch were talking about this passionately, leaving Mrs. Chen surprised and proud.

Many times, listening to the guests' discussions, she almost couldn't resist saying that this was her son!

But she held back every time.

Since the mutation, the situation has become dangerous, and she hasn't bragged outside about her son being a Martial Artist.

In her heart, there's nothing to boast about.

Every time her son goes out on a mission, it's the most nerve-wracking moment; fearing he might not come back, or fearing strangers knocking on the door.

She allows her children to practice martial arts to give them a respectable identity and a chance to stand out, not to take risks and do dangerous things!

Killing barbarians and monsters, let others do it.

Not her son or daughter.

Humans are selfish, and a mother even more so.

Fortunately, her son has always been safe and has now become unimaginably strong to her; missions are fewer, and he has become more obedient and mature, and her daughter has found a stable job, no longer taking risks like her brother.

...

The next day, as the influence continued to ferment and spread, extending to surrounding cities like Hedong.

Faith Value growth accelerated again.

Subtracting growth from the parallel world, in a single day, it gained an extra 20 points.

The third day saw an additional growth of 50 points.

Pushing the Faith Value to over six hundred points.

Chen Shouyi was both thrilled and slightly unexpected; this was much faster than the growth from those barbarian believers.

Fifty points, already twice the previous average daily growth; he seemed to greatly underestimate the impact of this speech.

Of course, he also understood that this kind of burst of popularity fades quickly and can't be sustained.

After a while, it would likely drop back down, unlike true faith which is enduring, but even if it drops, there should still be a lot left.

It's all clear profit.

Chen Shouyi now worried if anyone could practice his optimized cultivation technique.

It might lead to a wave of massive negative emotions then.

But...

It doesn't seem like a bad thing!

His internal World Tree seems to enjoy negative emotions like curses.

Maybe it might even expand the space a bit more.

...

Chapter 496: Visitors from the Capital City

"1+1 equals 11!"

"1+2 equals 111!"

"1+3 equals 1111!"

The Shell Lady lay on a children's book, her small legs leisurely swinging, her fingers tapping, as she read aloud with a serious expression.

Chen Shouyi was practicing the Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Forms nearby, paying no attention!

He had already given up hope on the Shell Lady's bizarre, single-threaded thinking ability.

He had given up on trying to educate her.

For a whole half-month, since his strength, physique, and agility attributes each barely reached 18.4, he hadn't made any further progress, as if he'd completely stagnated. This was even with the assistance of consuming a large amount of Divine Flesh for training.

"Fortunately, I won't have to wait much longer. Tonight, the Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Forms can be optimized again!" Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

"Knock knock knock!"

Just then, there was a knocking at the door.

"Brother, someone is looking for you," Chen Xingyue said outside the door.

Chen Shouyi acknowledged with a "hmm," finished his routine completely, and without putting on a shirt, opened the door bare-chested.

She seemed a bit down these days; seeing Chen Shouyi, her ears almost drooped.

He couldn't help but chuckle—just a few days ago, she was full of confidence, unconvinced, thinking she could practice his released Thirty-Six Forms for Body Refinement immediately. She even took a few days off, and now the results were obvious!

"Who is it?"

Chen Xingyue turned her head, not wanting to look at her brother's smug face. Every action and expression of his conveyed schadenfreude.

There were only three days left; she still didn't believe she couldn't master it.

"Why don't you see for yourself, hurry up!" Chen Xingyue said with annoyance, then ran down the stairs to greet the guest.

Chen Shouyi closed the door again, went to the bathroom, took a shower, and changed clothes before going downstairs.

A large group of people had gathered in the living room; apart from Zhang Miaomiao, Chen Shouyi didn't recognize anyone.

Seeing him come down, everyone stood up from the sofa involuntarily.

"General Manager Chen, sorry to bother you like this!" Zhang Miaomiao said with a bright smile, apologetic.

"No problem, who are these?" Chen Shouyi looked at the crowd.

"Let me introduce you. This is Director Xu of the Martial Arts Bureau's Research Department, Xu Yuanchun; this is Yang Peizong, Deputy Director of the Beijing Life Evolution Research Institute and a fellow of the Science Academy; and this is Li Qinghua, Director of the Mind Research Institute and a fellow of the Science Academy..."

Zhang Miaomiao introduced them one by one. Most were prominent researchers in the field of martial arts.

Chen Shouyi didn't hesitate and quickly stepped forward to shake hands.

Though he had been mentally prepared for this moment, he hadn't expected it to come so soon.

It had only been a few days since he garnered attention from above.

After some brief conversation,

Director Xu Yuanchun, leading the group, politely began, "General Manager Chen, your modifications of the Thirty-Six Forms for Body Refinement and the Meditation Refinement technique have caused quite a

stir. If everyone can successfully practice it and it spreads nationwide, it would be a great blessing for humanity.

Today, we've come abruptly to seek your advice and guidance on some doubts regarding the practice methods."

Xu Yuanchun displayed humility; regardless of his legendary identity or the significance of the new practice methods, both deserved his respect.

This is surely a figure who will be recorded in human history.

If, in the future, human history is still written by human intention.

"No, no, Director Xu, you're being too kind. You are all authorities in martial arts research; let's just exchange ideas," Chen Shouyi humbly replied.

Though he appeared calm, he felt uncertain inside.

These people, despite possibly not even possessing martial artist-level strength, which he could easily defeat,

were clearly far superior to him in theoretical knowledge, by a long mile.

"Let me start!" Li Qinghua from the Mind Research Institute, unable to hold back the questions he'd had over the past few days, eagerly spoke:

"General Manager Chen, I noticed that your Meditation Refinement requires a deep meditative state while maintaining clear awareness. This means you can control your entire consciousness, including both the subconscious and conscious mind. How do you achieve this?"

What appears to the naked eye as a large iceberg, only shows about one-eighth of its total volume above water.

What's hidden underwater is more complex and massive.

Human consciousness is similar.

The conscious mind, as displayed, is like the tip of the iceberg. Beneath it lies a more complex and deeply powerful subconscious—the unexplored territory that influences thought on certain levels.

The conscious mind is controlled by itself, deciding what to do or not to do. It can make minute-to-minute decisions, changing rapidly and freely.

But the subconscious can't be controlled by simple thought. It includes innate information brought by genetic heritage as well as patterns formed from individual experiences and acquired knowledge. These usually go unnoticed, silently influencing human thinking and mental state.

The reason Chen Shouyi's will can perform incredible feats, mentally affecting reality, is because he can effortlessly integrate all consciousness, both subconscious and conscious.

However, his ability comes with the assistance of the Book of Knowledge, evolving through dreams as if he'd practiced countless times, making it naturally achievable.

But how could he explain this!

Chen Shouyi could only maintain a calm face and say, "Talent, I guess! I was born with the ability to control my subconscious, even in dreams I'm lucid."

Could such a talent exist?

Li Qinghua was taken aback, mind blank, swallowing all his questions with that single statement.

How could he continue with more questions?

Like asking a fish how it swims underwater.

It was born with the ability to swim.

"Well, General Manager Chen, may I ask one more question? Have you practiced the original Meditation Refinement? What was that experience like?"

"I practiced it before, but once I discovered my version was better, I stopped!" Chen Shouyi said casually, glancing down at his nails, noticing they were long again and needed trimming.

Li Qinghua opened his mouth... he felt he had no more questions.

Next, others took turns to ask about their doubts.

Chen Shouyi didn't hide anything; he shared what he knew.

To provide adequate material for optimization, he often browsed through martial arts books. Coupled with his insights as a legendary figure in martial arts, he could articulate convincingly and credibly.

For things he truly didn't know, he evaded subtly.

Sometimes, he would demonstrate on the spot.

As time passed, everyone's hearts grew increasingly shocked.

Every edition of the Human's Thirty-Six Forms for Body Refinement is typically the result of massive data, repeated trials, errors, and continuous modifications—an undertaking dozens of times grander than the Human Genome Project.

Although no one had yet managed to practice the Chen Clan version of the Thirty-Six Forms, everyone had a subtle feeling that it was a considerably complete and systematic upgrade. Solving the control of the subconscious might usher in an era of universal martial artists.

Chapter 497: The Fourth Optimization – Great Terror

After dinner.

Chen Shouyi didn't feel like practicing martial arts, lazily half-lying on the bed, flipping through a Martial Arts Book.

However, his mind was elsewhere, occasionally looking up at the mechanical clock on the wall.

The Shell Lady completely treated Chen Shouyi's body like a playground, constantly climbing up and down, occasionally burrowing into his clothes, wriggling around like a little mouse, having a great time.

At this moment, the corner of Chen Shouyi's mouth twitched slightly. He quickly reached out and stopped the Shell Lady, who was trying to burrow into his underwear, pinched her leg, and pulled her out, saying, "You can't burrow here!"

"Why not?" asked the Shell Lady with a bewildered look.

"No reason!" Chen Shouyi looked at the shameless Shell Lady, replying in irritation.

How could she burrow into this place!

"Oh!" The Shell Lady responded in disappointment, then resumed amusing herself.

Time ticked away, second by second...

He checked the time again, suddenly feeling invigorated.

Quickly, he opened the attribute panel:

"Energy Value: 27.01"

"Finally... it's time!" He exhaled deeply, having waited for this moment for over half a year.

Without hesitation, he chose the Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Styles to optimize.

The familiar dream overtook him again, and he fell asleep the moment he closed his eyes.

As the Shell Lady crawled around inside Chen Shouyi's clothes, she noticed the change and curiously crawled out, blinking in surprise at the giant with closed eyes. Then her eyes darted around, and she stomped on the giant's chest a few times.

The giant didn't respond.

She moved to the giant's ear and shouted loudly:

"Good giant! Good giant! Wake up..."

The giant still showed no reaction.

Her eyes lit up, and she tiptoed towards her target.

...

In the dream, Chen Shouyi repeatedly practiced the Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Styles, each run-through bringing subtle changes in the movements.

Here, the concept of time didn't exist.

He tirelessly performed the practice over and over.

Perhaps it lasted for days, or maybe even months.

The quantitative change gradually led to a qualitative transformation; the original Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Styles began to look completely different.

At the final stage of the dream, he suddenly felt a sense of fear, a fear of the impending death, as if all his cells were struggling in this fear, on the brink of death...

...

He awoke with a start, opening his eyes.

Breathing heavily, his eyes still filled with a trace of terror.

His body drenched in sweat.

"How can there be such a perverted cultivation technique that through artificially generating destruction signals, forces the body to evolve and transform autonomously? This is simply... the Demonic Path!" With lingering fears, he thought this optimization was truly terrifying.

This time, the cultivation method had changed significantly, completely abandoning the parts of the Horizontal Training, or it had been modified beyond recognition, but the level of abnormality and pain far surpassed any of the previous kinds.

Practicing this cultivation technique once was like experiencing death once.

Engrossed in his thoughts, Chen Shouyi didn't even notice the wet Shell Lady cautiously slipping out of his underwear, quickly crawling off his body, then pretending nothing happened as she opened a picture book and began reading it loudly.

...

Chen Shouyi lay for a while, then got up from the bed and walked to the window.

Staring into the pitch-black night outside, faint gunshots could be heard.

The post-war Hedong hadn't become entirely peaceful.

Since the mutation, Hedong hadn't had a single peaceful day.

Invading species, wandering Barbarians, occasionally rampaging Natural Spirits... every day, civilians were injured or killed.

But these simple tasks didn't require the intervention of a legendary power like him.

His mind gradually calmed down.

"Let's try it out first!"

He went to the bathroom and washed his face.

After returning, he took off his clothes and began attempting to practice this unrecognizable fourth-optimization version.

With a deep breath, he focused his mind greatly, turning his will into countless tendrils that integrated into every corner of his body. At the same time, he started to perform the new version of the Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Styles.

He had just finished the first style.

A faint unease started to rise in his heart.

Chen Shouyi turned a deaf ear, continuing to practice.

The second style!

The third style!

...

The tenth style!

The fear in his heart grew stronger, as if facing the great collision of heaven and earth, the destruction of stars, that kind of helplessness, where he might dissipate at any moment.

If not for his highly focused will and utter selflessness, he probably wouldn't have been able to continue.

The twelfth style!

His skin's goosebumps stood up, his body began to tremble uncontrollably, sweat gushing out like fountains, accumulating into a large puddle on the smooth floor, and his mind showed signs of instability.

The fifteenth style!

Fear had materialized, a deathly aura emanated from him, and panic uncontrollably rose within him.

His mind trembled, forcing him out of cultivation.

"Huff..."

"Huff..."

He leaned on his knees, his breathing like a bellows.

At this moment, his whole body's muscles spasmed involuntarily, and his body trembled lightly.

"This is several times more terrifying than facing the Divine Power of a True God directly!"

When he broke free from the fear, he found himself somewhat exhausted, not just his body, but also his mind, and he felt a faint hunger.

"The physical exertion is so severe!" His expression flickered slightly.

Originally, practicing the Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Styles barely consumed his stamina, and even without eating Divine Flesh, he could continuously practice four or fifty times, with just this level of exhaustion.

Yet this time, he couldn't even complete one cycle.

"Continue!"

Gritting his teeth, Chen Shouyi resolved in his heart!

He took a piece of Demigod Flesh from space, tore and devoured it with gusto.

Once his mind recovered, he began to cultivate again.

This time, with mental preparation, the situation improved significantly, and he was shocked awake by fear by the eighteenth style.

...

Chen Shouyi rested for a while and continued cultivating.

Time passed slowly, and by dawn, Chen Shouyi still hadn't completed one full cycle.

After reaching the eighteenth style, each step forward became extremely difficult.

The best time, he reached the twenty-third style; the worst, he didn't even make it to the seventeenth.

Chen Shouyi stopped in exhaustion.

Holding his dizzy head, he walked to the bathroom, his peripheral vision swept over the mirror, and his steps paused unconsciously.

The reflection in the mirror looked exceptionally haggard, eyes bloodshot, even his cheeks appeared leaner, as if recovering from a major illness.

"This cultivation method consumes way too much!" he thought to himself, "Without the support of Demigod Flesh, ordinary food wouldn't sustain such cultivation."

He checked the attribute panel.

His expression froze slightly.

His physical attributes hadn't changed.

But his will had increased by 0.2.

"Unexpectedly, this technique has a stronger effect on enhancing will!"

Chen Shouyi thought to himself,

The next moment,

his feet left the ground, and he floated up, far faster than his previous snail's pace.

Now he could compare with... a fly.

Chapter 498: Accomplished

"However, this is just the initiation speed."

Chen Shouyi sensed his own telekinesis, estimating it to be around three hundred kilograms.

With his two hundred kilogram weight, even against gravity, rushing into the sky, the acceleration was half a g; the only thing that could limit his speed was wind resistance!

But his ability to control the wind could greatly reduce the wind resistance.

"When really flying... it should be much faster than walking in the air." Chen Shouyi felt a trace of excitement.

He took a shower, ate some divine flesh, replenishing his body's nutrients, and soon, his previous haggard state was almost completely recovered.

...

On a countryside path outside Hedong.

Surrounding it was remote and deserted.

The heavy snow from ten days ago had yet to melt, and not far away the mountains undulated covered in silver, a vast expanse of white.

Chen Shouyi stopped his bicycle and stored it in space.

He looked around; all he saw were fields, with no pedestrians in sight.

Of course, on this freezing morning, no one would be walking through the fields.

"There shouldn't be any anti-aircraft guns here!" thought Chen Shouyi. He had purposefully come to the wilderness to avoid anti-aircraft fire, as being mistakenly hit would be an aggrieving disaster.

The Shell Lady's small head had just peeked out from Chen Shouyi's T-shirt when a strong force pulled her back down immediately.

"Boom!"

Chen Shouyi jumped fiercely, the frozen ground shattered, and a wave of air surged around him as his body shot upwards like a rocket.

The Earth's gravity seemed to disappear at that moment.

The speed dropped slightly from the initial burst but rose straight into the sky.

His speed had stabilized at a hundred meters per second, the biting cold wind bypassed him automatically, yet the residual wind made his clothes flap noisily.

He flew higher and higher, straight upwards.

Seconds later, he broke through the lead-grey clouds made of countless ice crystals.

The warm, red sunlight unabashedly poured over him, making his body look as though gilded with gold.

Here was the power of will, mysterious and ethereal, and yet containing miraculous force, after initial silent brewing, now finally radiating dazzling brilliance.

Chen Shouyi felt immensely excited.

This was true flight, akin to his instinct.

Far beyond what walking in the air could compare.

He flew higher and higher.

The sky grew increasingly deep, appearing almost black instead of blue.

The air began to thin.

He continued to fly,

Sustaining near two minutes of extreme flight afterward.

He finally felt the fatigue, his spirit nearing exhaustion.

He willed a thought, slowing himself down until he hovered high in the sky.

Looking at the majestic clouds below, he felt immensely thrilled.

Facing this scene, he felt he should shout something!

"Chen Shouyi, you are the handsomest!"

"I am already invincible in the world!"

After all, no one could hear him.

"Mighty Giant, you are the most awesome!" The Shell Lady poked her head out, clutching Chen Shouyi's collar, and said seriously.

Chen Shouyi burst into laughter.

What an adorable little trickster.

He didn't stay in the air long, after feeling the thrill, he promptly soared downward.

...

Desolate world desert.

"Boom!"

Chen Shouyi kicked a rock into pieces.

Irritated, he roared a few times.

The fear generated during cultivation, along with prolonged failure, gave rise to a trace of irritability.

In the distance, the Shell Lady, sitting on the ground reading, fearfully glanced at the Giant before withdrawing her gaze; she had long since grown accustomed to it in these two days.

She flipped a page in the book, eagerly resumed tackling mathematical problems.

These days, she had become obsessed with mathematics.

The more difficult, the greater the sense of achievement upon solving.

" $25+69=11111...$ "

...

Chen Shouyi vented for a while and gradually regained his composure.

"It seems my willpower is insufficient!" he thought.

Without strong willpower, he simply couldn't withstand the terrifying aura generated during training.

...

Third day after practice.

"Finally reached the thirtieth form." He knelt on the ground, chuckling, unable to control the drool flowing from his mouth, shivering incessantly.

In just three days, his body had thinned considerably, his eye sockets sunken.

Yet his gaze grew sharper and brighter.

Like a sword drawn from its sheath, carrying a fierce edge.

Moreover,

Although he still hadn't completed it even once.

His stagnant attributes began to grow again.

When the environment suits life's survival,

muscles relax, the body degenerates and gains fat, accumulating energy.

And in comfort seek pleasures, begin life's reproduction.

When the environment becomes unsuitable, life's survival instinct struggles desperately, making itself stronger, adapting anew.

A person physically weak enough to lift an animal, after three months, could easily move bricks on a construction site.

From some perspective, human cultivation techniques also follow this basic law, through intense and heavy training, growing stronger, gradually evolving, yet this time the Book of Knowledge optimized Horizontal Training 36 Forms, more extreme, cruder.

The effects were also more apparent.

...

Fifth day.

Chen Shouyi was completely red, his body trembling, expressionless, teeth clenched, steadily performing each form.

Thirty-third form!

Countless cells within were fiercely struggling for survival under the information of destruction.

Thirty-fourth form!

Various bodily organs started functioning erratically, going berserk, the cerebral cortex's nerve cells grew extremely active, body's stamina was consumed at a pace a hundredfold higher than intense combat.

Thirty-fifth form!

His skin began to burst with blood spots, cells unable to withstand the destruction information began self-destructing, decomposing into energy, nutrients, supplying to healthier, more vigorous cells.

Thirty-sixth form, the final form.

Fear peaked, he became a person covered in blood.

As he gritted his teeth and completed the final form, finally evils began to turn auspicious, fear instantly vanished.

Simultaneously, endless original force surged in like tides.

Original force penetrated skin, muscles, organs, bones, nerves, brain, and every nook, coordinated by the ability of Natural Healing, swiftly soothing all negative conditions on him.

All at once he felt ethereal as an immortal, his entire being filled with intense euphoria.

He clenched his fists tightly, producing a creaking sound.

Suppressing his inner excitement, his eyes uncontrollably reddened.

These days, Chen Shouyi didn't know how he survived, every single day felt like enduring torture.

But thank goodness, after bearing so many hardships and troubles, it was all worthwhile; finally he had accomplished it.

"Sigh, feeling a bit sentimental." Chen Shouyi sniffed and mocked himself.

Then swiftly checked the attribute panel.

Strength: 18.5

Agility: 18.5

Constitution: 18.6

Intelligence: 18.1

Perception: 16.8

Willpower: 17.5

Energy Accumulation: 1.01

Faith Value: 1185.3

Chapter 499: Rapid Advancement

In five days, strength, agility, and perception each increased by 0.1 points, physique and willpower increased by 0.2 points, and most surprisingly, just now, even the crucial intelligence increased by 0.1 points.

Intelligence cannot be improved through cultivation and has always been a major concern for Chen Shouyi.

Previously, he could rely on the Divine Marrow of a True God, but since reaching eighteen points, even the Divine Marrow was of no use.

Now, this fourth optimized version clearly made up for this flaw.

He wore a hint of excitement on his face: "This is truly a pleasant surprise. I thought it would be the same as before, only improving strength, body, and agility."

Finally, he looked at the already accumulated 1185 points of Faith Value.

In the past few days, the Faith Value has been accumulating at an average rate of seventy to eighty points, but it has become increasingly apparent that it's decreasing, as the outside craze is gradually subsiding.

He simply added a thousand Faith Points to the "Giant Battle Body."

...

Half a minute later, as the burning sensation all over his body subsided.

The original "Giant Battle Body (Advanced): 2.05%"

Suddenly became:

"Giant Battle Body (Advanced): 12.05%."

Chen Shouyi didn't immediately test it. At the moment, the consumption was severe, and his stomach was hungry, so he decided to fill his stomach first.

He took out the Demigod's flesh from the space and gorged on it until his belly was round. He then began to digest and started transforming.

This time, the transformation speed became faster.

His body rapidly expanded, countless muscles appeared out of nowhere on his body, and his vision suddenly elevated.

In just a third of a second.

A lead-gray giant as enormous as a mountain stood in the desert, with its entire lower leg buried in the soft sand.

"Only about 26 meters!" Chen Shouyi roughly estimated.

Compared to the previous 23 meters, there was almost no change.

He checked the attribute panel.

As expected!

Counting the one hundred points consumed not long ago, a total of eleven hundred Faith Points were consumed.

The attributes of strength and physique increased by less than one point compared to before.

But agility has undergone a huge change.

Originally, in the alien world, the agility value was reduced by 2.4, and the actual response was only thirty percent.

Now it was only reduced by 2.1.

It exceeded forty percent of the body.

"In terms of specific combat power, I'm afraid it's more than doubled." He thought to himself.

Thinking, he suddenly took a step, a lunge forward punch.

The terrifying force of tens of thousands of tons erupted instantly, the air violently rubbing against the fist, emitting a red firelight, the atmosphere completely shattered.

"Boom"

A circle of shockwaves spread out, all the weeds and shrubs around were knocked down.

Fifty to sixty meters away, Shell Lady, who was hovering in the air and dumbly watching the situation here, hadn't yet managed to escape and was blown away by the shockwave while screaming, vanishing without a trace...

...

In the evening, at dinner with the family.

Chen Shouyi spoke, "Mom, Dad, I'm going to retreat to another world for a while tomorrow. I feel like I'm going to have a breakthrough soon!"

This period will be a peak for his power growth.

In this era of gods and men battling, peaceful days are like fine porcelain, precious and fragile, just like life; danger could appear at any time. He plans to train well for a period, quickly enhancing his own power.

When encountering danger, having a little extra power means a better chance of survival.

Next to him, Chen Xingyue was about to pick some food, but upon hearing this, her hand shook, snapping the chopsticks with a crack, yet she seemed oblivious and asked in shock, "Brother, are you going to break through!?"

"Getting startled and breaking the chopsticks." Mrs. Chen said, getting up to fetch new chopsticks.

"Your brother has always trained fast, nothing strange about that." Chen Dawei laughed and said.

"But... Brother is already legendary!" Chen Xingyue said awkwardly, still struggling with the thirty-six style body refinement technique!

"I recently had some insights, not a big breakthrough, just a small one!" Chen Shouyi humbly said.

Mrs. Chen came back with chopsticks, placed them in front of Chen Xingyue, sighed, and said to Chen Shouyi, "Don't push yourself so hard, take care of your body, you've lost quite a bit of weight recently!"

"Mom, I'm fine, don't worry! I promise I'll be stronger after I come back from the retreat!" Chen Shouyi quickly assured.

"Do you need anything packed? I'll prepare it for you later!" Chen Dawei said.

"No need, no need, I'm all set."

...

The next morning, Chen Shouyi made a call to Bai Xiaoling, letting her know he was going to enter a retreat at the space passage in Huangling Town.

So, even if something happens, he can be found.

He hung up the phone and then left the house.

...

Chen Shouyi's luck wasn't good, on the fifth day in the alien desert.

A terrible sandstorm began to arrive.

Though it was daytime, the light was as if night had fallen.

The sky was dark, covering the heavens, the dunes moved like waves in the storm, sand and gravel crazily hitting Hollow Mountain, the whole world rumbling.

Chen Shouyi was just curious to see the outside situation, but before reaching the cave entrance, he got a mouthful of windblown sand; if he hadn't reacted quickly, using the Wind Control Ability at once, he would have been blown away.

He hurried back into the depths of the cave.

"Damn it! What kind of crazy weather is this!"

"Pfft! Pfft!" Chen Shouyi frustratedly spat out the sand from his mouth.

Meanwhile, Shell Lady had long shrunk into a corner, like an ostrich, her rear end facing outward, trembling all over. Faced with such an overwhelming alien world's might, she was clearly scared.

As time passed, the sandstorm became more fearsome.

Chen Shouyi felt that the entire Hollow Mountain was trembling slightly. He finally understood why Hollow Mountain was in such a state, why in the desert, only some occasional weeds and low shrubs existed.

Even the most solid mountain couldn't withstand such a storm for long.

He grabbed the frightened Shell Lady in his hand. She didn't struggle at all, curled up in his palm, docile and incredibly gentle.

After a long time, she finally peeked out her head, seemingly feeling embarrassed about her earlier behavior, softly explained, "Little one, I wasn't scared at all."

"Hmm, I know!" Chen Shouyi said.

Upon hearing this, Shell Lady finally felt relieved and shrank back into the palm, nestling inside.

To her, this was undoubtedly the safest place.

The cave became silent, contrasting the deafening roar outside; the small cave seemed to isolate two worlds, giving a sense of being forgotten by the world, both alienating and safe.

Chen Shouyi leaned against the wall, checked the attribute panel.

Strength: 18.7

Agility: 18.7

Physique: 18.8

Intelligence: 18.4

Perception: 16.8

Willpower: 17.6

Energy Accumulation: 3.1

Faith Value: 496.2

He glanced at it, satisfied, turned off the attribute panel, and soon, a wave of exhaustion overwhelmed him, his eyes grew heavy, and he fell into a deep sleep, a faint snore rising.

A total of five alien world days.

A total of two hundred hours.

His accumulated sleep time didn't exceed ten hours.

...

Chapter 500: National Mission

Capital City.

Life Evolution Research Institute.

Since the Chen Clan's cultivation method came to light, it was like a level 9 earthquake, with far-reaching influence.

With the utmost attention from above, cinemas in the Capital City offered free screenings of the Chen Clan cultivation method daily, and existing research projects were halted to focus on validating and deciphering this new method of cultivation.

In fact, it wasn't just the Life Evolution Research Institute; any research institution studying Martial Arts participated in this endeavor.

Unfortunately, post-mutation, computers are no longer usable.

Without computers, research is akin to a tiger without claws.

Especially in Martial Arts research.

After over ten years of persistent development, with the efforts of hundreds of thousands of researchers worldwide, a relatively complete human data model had been meticulously constructed.

Some methods could be preliminarily validated simply by inputting them into servers.

But now we can only proceed slowly by conducting experiments with a large number of volunteers, recording data, reducing efficiency by thousands of times.

...

The institute's demonstration hall was incredibly noisy.

More than thirty people lined up in a row.

There were men and women, old and young, Martial Artists, and ordinary people.

Ever since the newspaper published the news that the City Government would grant a substantial reward to the first person to successfully master the Chen Clan cultivation method.

Lately, every day, many people claiming to be successful came to the institute, but either their version of the Chen Clan method was completely altered, or they were trying to pass off something else as the same.

"Let's begin!" a middle-aged balding researcher said.

At his words, everyone immediately started practicing.

Barely after a few moves, the researcher furrowed his brows, secretly shaking his head.

This was just random practice.

A few of the Martial Artists got the first few moves right, but completely distorted the subsequent actions.

After a set was finished, the researcher barely contained his impatience and said, "Alright, the assessment is over, everyone may go for now."

"Comrade, did I pass?" a middle-aged man hurriedly asked.

"Wait for notification!" the researcher replied, "You registered your address, right?"

"Yes, I'm Wang Dagang, from the Capital Steel Plant."

"That's fine, you may return to work now."

...

The researcher returned to the office.

"Did anyone succeed in this batch?" a colleague asked, looking a bit excited.

"What do you think? I doubt anyone mastered it. I tried too; it's too difficult."

"Don't you know? The Jingxi Human Body Research Institute just called; someone succeeded!"

"Who?"

"Zhu Xueqing, a Martial Artist."

...

At dawn, in the villa courtyard.

Wang Lie, with steam rising from his entire body and muscles quivering, finally completed a full set of movements with difficulty, then widened his eyes, feeling the Original Force gathering around him, as if his whole body had been cleansed.

He stood in place for a long time, taking a deep breath.

Finally... succeeded.

From initial disdain, to skepticism, and then immersion, the past few days he had worked tirelessly, spending half a month refining his practice, only succeeding yesterday with the Chen Clan's method of introspection and self-cultivation.

Previously, he had somewhat doubted Chen Shouyi, but now he was deeply convinced.

He realized how terrifying it was to create a more efficient cultivation method on his own; it was like a slacker looking up to a top student in awe.

He quickly resumed practicing.

"Dad, did you master it?" a thirteen or fourteen-year-old girl asked at the doorway in surprise.

"For a Martial Artist, it's not too difficult if you set your mind to it!" Wang Lie, interrupted by her words, was not angry and decided to patiently guide his daughter, who showed rare interest in Martial Arts.

Many Martial Artists, including some Great Martial Artists, can basically wield Sword Qi.

This is a sign that one can initially control consciousness; the difference lies in the extent of control, at least having the basics for entry, and then it's repeated attempts from there.

"Dad, do you know General Manager Chen?" the girl curiously asked.

"I do. I met him once when he came to the Capital City." Wang Lie, puzzled, still answered patiently.

"Is he really as handsome as in the video?" the girl asked immediately, blushing slightly, "Dad, next time you see him, can you get me his autograph, preferably with a photo..."

The girl chattered on, not noticing her dad's face growing darker.

...

The storm raged for five days and four nights before gradually subsiding.

The cave was filled with fine sand.

He stepped out of the cave entrance to find the outside had transformed beyond recognition, devoid of any green, life extinct.

Even Hollow Mountain had been eroded smaller by the sandstorm.

"This kind of storm... is unimaginable." Chen Shouyi was shaken.

The Shell Lady, previously trembling in fear, was now brimming with energy, eagerly flying out, darting around in the sky.

"Don't fly too far," Chen Shouyi said worriedly.

"Whoosh!"

Before he finished speaking, the Shell Lady landed like a phantom on Chen Shouyi's shoulder.

Initially, Chen Shouyi thought she listened to his words, but apparently, that wasn't the case.

"Bad giants are coming!" the Shell Lady said nervously.

Soon after, figures of several soldiers appeared in the distance.

...

Surrounded by a group, Chen Shouyi exited the passage.

A military Martial Artist, sneaking glances at his smooth, unscarred skin and the imposing aura as solid as a mountain, marveled inwardly; this was a legendary powerhouse, truly a different level of life.

Bai Xiaoling waited anxiously in the hall, worried, and immediately approached when she saw Chen Shouyi.

"What's the matter?"

"There's a national mission, but I don't know the details, the military's special flight is already waiting."

Relieved to hear it wasn't concerning Jiangnan Province, Chen Shouyi nodded.

Enjoying a high position also means being ready to deploy at any moment.

Moreover, in an era when the entire nation is mobilized for war, no one can remain untouched.

As a legendary powerhouse and a Godslayer, his power and influence extend far beyond Jiangnan Province.

In fact, the central government has always intended to directly manage legendary powerhouses, but Jiangnan Province resisted. Only because a war had just ended, this hadn't been implemented, but facing central pressure, Jiangnan Province wouldn't hold out much longer.

...

Outside, a military vehicle was already waiting.

A soldier respectfully opened the door for him.

Chen Shouyi ducked into the vehicle, leaning against the seat, feeling not the slightest tension about the mission, but rather a bit excited, eager to test his skills.

He silently recited his attribute panel.

Strength: 19.0

Agility: 19.0

Constitution: 19.0

Intelligence: 18.7

Perception: 16.9

Will: 17.7

Energy Accumulation: 4.31

Faith Value: 980.1

After a quick glimpse, he closed the attribute panel.

Compared to half a month ago, his strength had undergone a tremendous transformation. Although each attribute only increased by about thirty percent, the synergy among all attributes meant his combat power had increased several times over.

Passing through the industrial area, Chen Shouyi said, "Go to Jiangnan Province's First Heavy Machinery Factory."

The soldier driving didn't ask questions.

Immediately turning ahead, heading towards the industrial zone.

...

The enormous workshop was deafening.

A giant sword, three and a half meters long, lay on the metal stand, surrounded by a dozen workers carefully grinding it with diamond sand.

The long sword was nearing completion, with only some final touches remaining.

"General Manager Chen, the sword isn't fully ready yet, with subsequent processes, it will take another half month!" Director Zhao warmly said.

"I will use it for now, and when I return, I'm counting on you for the subsequent processes." Chen Shouyi replied.

"That's fine, you're welcome to come by anytime, General Manager Chen," Director Zhao hurriedly said.

After signaling the workers to step aside.

In the eyes of those filled with awe, Chen Shouyi stepped forward.

"Clang."

With a light grip on the sword handle, he easily lifted it.

Weighing five to six hundred kilograms, it was nothing to Chen Shouyi with his 3.8-ton arm strength.

He walked out the door, tossing the sword into the space.

Whether someone noticed didn't concern him.

Having displayed numerous "innate abilities", another spatial ability wasn't surprising.

The car drove straight to his doorstep.

Chen Shouyi got out of the car, used his mind to open the door, finding the house empty.

He returned to the bedroom, stepped into the bathroom for a shower, and changed clothes.

Walking downstairs, he left a note on the dining table.

Then exited the house.

Minutes later, a military helicopter took off from the rooftop, flying toward the distance.

...