

New Era 651

Chapter 651 - Ruins (Part 2)

"Boom! Boom! Boom..."

The earth trembled as Chen Shouyi took each step, covering hundreds of meters. His feet landed with such force that rocks turned to dust, and shockwaves exploded outward, creating a magnitude that felt like a natural disaster had struck.

The giant creature let out a thunderous roar as a warning, its body covered in dazzling blue magic patterns that emitted terrifying energy waves, causing the air to boil and distort.

The survival in the Forbidden Land was extremely harsh, purely an existence where only the fittest survived, like the law of the jungle.

Every creature had its own territory in this land, and any being that stepped into it was either turned into food or an enemy. It couldn't even remember the last time it encountered such a dangerous situation.

Except for a few terrifying existences deep within the Forbidden Land, this was the first time it felt the need to be so vigilant.

In general, creatures of the same level rarely fought.

Just like lions on the East African Savannah, unless necessary, rarely provoked cheetahs, as even victory comes at too high a price. In the natural world, being gravely injured often means death.

Chen Shouyi moved forward step by step, expressionless.

The terrifying shockwaves ahead kept stacking, whipping up a super typhoon of over ten levels. Even with his massive body, it would only take him dozens of seconds to cover the twenty-kilometer distance, even at a slow pace.

The two quickly approached each other, the oppressive aura from the giant felt like a boulder pressing against Chen Shouyi's chest, making it hard for him to breathe.

But in his heart, he knew it wasn't because the opponent was stronger, but because his own will was too weak.

The giant creature grew restless and uneasy: "Foolish creature, you're courting death!"

"The one who will die is you!" Chen Shouyi roared.

The next moment.

Both transformed into afterimages, instantly closing the distance.

"Boom!"

A pain shot through Chen Shouyi's abdomen, his immense body, weighing nearly eight thousand tons, flew backwards like a bent shrimp. Before he landed, the giant creature quickly caught up, unleashing a storm of attacks. Each punch landed on him with a bursting red glow.

Transparent shockwaves rippled through the air.

The giant creature felt a sense of relief replaced by intense shame and anger. Just a moment ago, it was so scared its legs trembled. Anyone witnessing such a colossal being would fear it. Yet, it turned out to be so weak.

"Boom! Boom! Boom..."

It attacked Chen Shouyi's body furiously.

"Is this all the strength you have?"

Wh... What?

A premonition suddenly hit it, and its body instinctively dodged.

Just as it avoided the strike, a flaming fist brushed past its side, the high-speed airflow it carried felt like a sharp blade, cutting its skin painfully and peeling a layer off.

Before it could catch a breath, another punch came crashing in.

The sky blazed with flames, a massive fist rapidly enlarged before its eyes, and it seemed as if the air would tear apart.

It felt its scalp tingle and quickly dodged again.

This kind of attack was terrifying; once hit, it would probably mean its demise.

Chen Shouyi delivered punch after punch, completely dominating. Yet, he sighed inwardly: His own agility was truly too low.

The opponent's earlier attacks felt like mere tickles to him, but killing it was incredibly difficult.

"Boom!"

A kilometer away, a mountain peak collapsed, shattered by the forceful punches.

Faced with such terrifying power, the giant creature was left with only room to dodge and dared not approach for close combat.

After burning Faith Value, his Intelligence rose to 25 points.

His Strength reached an astonishing 38.2.

Yet, his 22.3 Agility remained his biggest weakness.

But the ferocious strength made up for everything else.

The ground was blasted by fearsome punches, creating craters like meteor impacts, with shockwaves sweeping in all directions.

The retreating giant's bloodshot eyes suddenly gleamed, and soon a blinding beam shot out, reducing the air to disintegrated atomic states wherever it passed.

This was a devastating energy capable of completely disintegrating assembled matter. Even a mountain peak would disappear under its impact, marking it as the giant creature's trump card.

Once the beam is fired, it's impossibly fast to dodge; you see it, and you've been hit.

But there is something even faster.

That is a premonition.

The energy inside him violently surged, reaching an unprecedented peak under the extreme danger.

A magnificent hum rang out like a great bell tolling, resonating as if the entire heavens and earth echoed. The ground within hundreds of meters instantly shattered into dust, while the air within a kilometer blurred from the vibrations.

The red light dimmed quickly as it passed through the air, by the time it reached his brow, it was only a tenth of its original intensity.

But the remaining power was still formidable.

The five-centimeter-thick skin instantly atomized, followed by the nearly half-meter-thick brow bone. Fortunately, by then, the energy was completely exhausted, leaving a massive wound on his forehead.

Narrowly escaping death, Chen Shouyi felt a lingering fear that quickly turned to rage.

"Courting death!"

He roared, covering his forehead and eyes with one hand while charging forward in large strides.

This attack had evidently drained the giant considerably; its blue magic patterns dimmed a bit. Seeing the attack fail, it immediately lost any will to fight and turned to flee.

There was no way Chen Shouyi would allow it to escape.

Think you can just run after attacking?

Unbelievable!

He pursued with a fiery expression and long strides.

Seconds later, Chen Shouyi caught up with it. The giant turned around and shot another destruction beam.

This time, the beam hit the Leather Armor, yet left not a single trace.

The next moment, Chen Shouyi slammed a punch forward.

The giant deftly dodged again, its massive body surprisingly agile.

But Chen Shouyi had been waiting for this moment:

"Imprison!"

The previously turbulent, violent airflow instantly solidified, revealing the texture of the air.

Just as the giant's foot touched the ground, its body halted abruptly, and a chill ran through its heart as terror crossed its face:

"No!"

Though the Air Imprisonment only stopped it for less than 0.1 seconds before it broke free with great force, it was already too late.

A flaming fist zipped past its body.

"Boom!"

A flash of light burst and vanished, followed by a mushroom cloud explosion. Before the dust could settle, Chen Shouyi moved forward again, using Air Imprisonment and stomping down heavily.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

...

After three consecutive stomps, its entire body was nearly turned into a puddle of flesh.

Chen Shouyi spat a mouthful of dust-laden saliva.

He canceled the burning of Faith Value.

This battle had been relatively easy.

Aside from that destructive beam posing a serious threat, he had maintained the upper hand throughout, ultimately seizing the moment for a one-hit kill.

He touched the "small" pit on his forehead, big enough to fit two fingers.

Wondering when it would heal.

He stored the corpse into his spatial space, then headed towards the ruins.

At this point, he was surprised to find that the previous intense battle barely damaged the nearby mountains, but hardly affected the buildings across.

"This building is obviously extraordinary!" he mused inwardly.

Chapter 652 - The Oppressive Force Deep Within the Forbidden Land

Chen Shouyi also didn't cancel the transformation, to avoid any unexpected incidents.

The entire ruins were over one hundred and fifty meters high, with a side length of more than a thousand meters. Some parts had already collapsed, and thirty-six gigantic stone pillars, each over ten meters in diameter, stood at the entrance. All were made of solid stone, and from his current Giant Transformation perspective, these ruins appeared quite majestic.

The stone pillars and rock walls were carved with numerous patterns and designs, but unfortunately, they were heavily weathered and somewhat unclear now.

The surroundings were piled high with a large amount of white bones and garbage, with a foul stench permeating the air.

Chen Shouyi observed for a while and then stepped up the stairs.

As soon as his foot landed, a hint of surprise flashed through his mind.

He discovered that his foot stepping on the ground did not cause the steps to crack or deform at all.

At the moment, his mass was as much as eight thousand tons. Normally, stepping down would result in pulverizing the rock, and even a steel plate would have a deep footprint. However, at this moment, not only did it not pulverize, but he even felt as though the step was a bit uncomfortable under his foot.

Chen Shouyi tried adding some force cautiously, but found it still made no difference.

His expression froze; he applied more force again...

Yet, even with all his might, he was unable to move it.

The rock looked no different from ordinary rock, yet its hardness was unimaginably extraordinary.

Moreover, he noticed that there was not the slightest vibration on the ground, as if the entire ruins were... fixed in space.

Chen Shouyi stood there without moving for a long time; even the excitement from having slain this monstrously powerful creature comparable to medium Divine Power had vanished.

This mysterious creation silently spoke of the strength of its original builders.

If calculating purely by physical strength, his Giant Transformation might not be as powerful as Divine Power, but even this strength couldn't damage these ancient, dilapidated ruins.

Thinking about the distorted space of this Forbidden Land...

Such an existence was to him like a mortal gazing up at a deity in the clouds, filling him with despair.

Fortunately, such existences should all have already fallen.

"But the collapsed areas and weathered traces there..." he pondered: "Are they marks left by time, or the aftermath of some terrible clash of forces?"

"Still, it should be safe here!"

Chen Shouyi looked at the numerous white bones and excrement around him, and the lingering aura of the giant beast—without doubt, this was its lair.

At that moment, two little creatures quickly flew back from afar.

But intimidated by Chen Shouyi's massive form and the arcs of lightning on him, they didn't dare come closer.

Chen Shouyi glanced over at them, not worried at all; after the earth-shattering battle just now, no place nearby could be safer than here.

Then he lifted his leg and walked towards the large door of the palace.

As he entered, he surprisingly felt like he had stepped into another space.

The inside was filthy and filled with a horrendous stench, like a massive landfill.

The walls were full of cracks. Statues up to dozens of meters high stood in the hall, all of them bizarre creatures. Although heavily weathered, they still exuded a terrifying and fierce aura.

The place seemed to have been looted.

Apart from the statues, the place was empty, with no extra furnishings.

It's only logical.

The existence of these ruins might be older than this Forbidden Land, perhaps tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of years, maybe even more ancient epochs. Countless beings may have visited during that time, and anything here would have been taken long ago.

He approached one of the statues and pushed it, finding it immovable, as if the statue and the ruins were one.

Chen Shouyi walked around a bit, feeling that there was no real danger, so he reverted his body back to normal.

Once back in his original form, he could deeply feel the grandeur and immensity of the hall, making him feel like a tiny ant.

The two little creatures finally entered with relief.

They gently landed on Chen Shouyi's shoulders, one on the left and one on the right.

"Great Giant, you're amazing!" The Shell Lady said softly, giving Chen Shouyi a kiss.

"Great Giant is the best!" The second little creature, not to be outdone, also kissed him on the left cheek.

These days, the two little creatures had been fiercely competing. There was no helping it; both were naturally competitive.

"Hurry and look around for any treasures?" Chen Shouyi said. Though small in size, the two creatures had keen instincts, and if there was any treasure, it wouldn't escape their eyes.

"Leave it to the little one, Great Giant." The Shell Lady chirped.

"Last time, I'm the one who found it!" The second little one said triumphantly.

The two small creatures glanced at each other defiantly, with sparks seemingly in their pea-sized eyes, then hurriedly flew apart to begin their search, almost as if it were a competition.

Chen Shouyi joined in the hunt as well.

The giant beast seemed to have no fixed dwelling place, with garbage strewn everywhere. Semi-transparent bones, beautiful beast horns, and large, fierce skulls were evidently prized hunting trophies collected by the beast.

Of course, there were also piles of excrement as tall as little mountains.

Cleanliness?

For this eternal bachelor, it was a concept that simply didn't exist.

Although immensely powerful, its lifestyle was not much different from that of a wild beast.

Thankfully, there were no crawling maggots here.

These small creatures simply couldn't survive here.

"Great Giant, the little one found something good, the same as last time." The Shell Lady flew over excitedly, her face flushed with delight. This time it was her find, not the red-haired one.

"Where?" Chen Shouyi turned his head in surprise and joy.

"Great Giant, follow me." The Shell Lady said, flying ahead.

Chen Shouyi hurried to follow.

Soon, the Shell Lady led him to a pile of excrement as tall as a person, circled around a few times, and pointed to it: "Great Giant, it's inside there."

Chen Shouyi was dumbfounded, his mouth agape, incredulously confirming: "Here?"

The Shell Lady nodded vigorously, urging anxiously: "Great Giant, dig it out!"

Dig, dig what?

Goddamn, what was this giant beast thinking?

Stashing good things in poop?

This is just... what the hell.

Chen Shouyi, expressionless, caused the entire pile of excrement to shatter with a mere thought, revealing a palm-sized purple Crystal Stone emitting a strange divine glow, which flew into his hand.

He beamed with joy; this Divine Stone was much larger than the one he previously acquired, which was only about one kilogram, while this one weighed a full three kilograms.

"Where did this come from?" Chen Shouyi wondered silently.

The second little creature reluctantly searched through all the excrement but returned dispiritedly: "Great Giant, the little one couldn't find any!"

"It's alright!" Chen Shouyi said with a comforting smile; the haul this time had far exceeded his expectations.

He felt that just by absorbing this Crystal Stone, his physical attributes might increase by over 23 points.

...

Chen Shouyi led the two little creatures out of the ruins, preparing to delve deeper into the Forbidden Land.

Just then, an incredibly terrifying power pressed down from afar, as if the heavens would fall, eradicating everything. Chen Shouyi's whole body trembled, and he felt frozen in place, not daring to move a muscle.

This kind of might was unprecedented.

Compared to this pressure, the giant beast's pressure was like a firefly beside the bright moon.

As for the two little creatures, one quickly vanished into thin air, while the other rapidly dove into his arms.

The pressure persisted for a full minute before gradually dissipating.

Chen Shouyi exhaled deeply, realizing that by the time he came to, he was drenched in sweat.

Chapter 653 - Countermeasures (Part 1)

The surroundings were incredibly quiet, with only the rustling sound of the wind blowing through the trees.

Chen Shouyi felt as if he had come back to life.

The pressure just now was truly terrifying, like facing death directly, making one's whole body cold, as if falling into an ice cellar.

Powerful Divine Power?

Or... an even more frightening presence!

"Creak..."

Chen Shouyi heard a noise, suddenly turned his head, and was shocked to see the surface of the indestructible ruins behind him beginning to crack extensively, with countless rocks tumbling down.

With a "boom".

A corner of it collapsed.

"Hiss!"

Chen Shouyi couldn't help but take a deep breath, his expression ugly.

It wasn't just that the ruins were damaged, but he discovered that the "texture" of the space here had also undergone subtle changes.

With his high intelligence of 22.2, as long as he saw, even if there were a few ants on the ground, the specific shape and texture of each leaf, he could remember clearly, completely photographic memory.

But at this moment, he became a little uncertain.

It's really baffling, completely beyond his imagination.

Power so strong that it can alter space, not even powerful Divine Power can do that, right?

Chen Shouyi suddenly realized that this Forbidden Land might be a hundred times more dangerous than he imagined, no wonder it was the Forbidden Land of the Tamu gods, the God of Conspiracy dreaded it like a tiger.

Of course, perhaps even He didn't know.

Just those wicked creatures on the periphery were enough to make a weak Divine Power like Him tremble with fear.

"But why does such an existence stay reclusive in the Forbidden Land?" A hint of doubt flashed through his mind.

At this time he couldn't help but think of that absurd corpse:

"Perhaps... the other party is accustomed to a space affinity opposite to the outside world!"

Chen Shouyi's mood gradually calmed down, and he sighed.

He didn't know if he was relieved or somewhat regretful.

If such an existence were to emerge into the world, the entire Tamu would be thrown into chaos, needless to say, but for humanity, it would also be unclear whether it would be a blessing or a curse.

Chen Shouyi summoned Little Dot No. 2 to come out, decisively retreated immediately along the original path.

He initially wanted to take advantage of the remaining time to delve deeper into the Forbidden Land and try his luck, but now that the entire space had changed, he was worried about unexpected incidents on the road.

A small change in space can often trigger a chain reaction throughout the area.

A butterfly flapping its wings a few times in the tropical rainforest of the Amazon River Basin in South America can cause a tornado in Texas, United States, two weeks later.

This is the butterfly effect.

And in terms of space, it similarly applies; creating a few Kleinian bottle-like traps that reverse space affinity is quite normal, not paying attention could lead to a fatal incident.

He couldn't help but touch the center of his eyebrows, still able to feel the small pit, the wound had long healed, but the dissolved bone was still repairing, at this moment he felt the center of his brow was both itchy and stinging.

He found that his self-healing ability was very slow at repairing bones, after half an hour it was still slowly mending.

He didn't know when it would return to normal.

The two little ones huddled in his arms, like two frightened little quails, trembling all over.

After the previous pressure, the whole forest seemed quite quiet, even the usual insect chirping and bird singing were gone, and an uneasy atmosphere permeated the air.

Chen Shouyi proceeded carefully and quickly along the marks he had left.

In fact, slight space distortions are usually not terrible.

While within it, you don't feel much of anything.

Your body, your mind, your senses, all change with it, even if one day the space of the entire Solar System is shrunk or flattened by an entity,

you would feel nothing unusual because you are also changing along with it.

What's terrifying is the internal and external inversion, as if one's entire being is turned "inside out", with all blood and body fluids losing restraint, yet you remain unaware, a truly terrifying ordeal.

Unfortunately, Chen Shouyi only had three-dimensional vision, lacking four-dimensional vision, facing space distortion, he could only faintly sense it, unable to truly see through it, not much better than a blind person.

Fortunately, signs emerge once stepping into these traps.

For instance... inexplicably bleeding from your body.

During this period, Chen Shouyi encountered it once, hastily backing away.

He circled around in the forest for a large loop, spending all of four days and nights, narrowly finding his path again, almost getting lost in the Forbidden Land.

Ten days later, Chen Shouyi finally left the area of space distortion along the route, chose a direction, and immediately took off into rapid flight, reaching peak speed, only when completely away from the Forbidden Land did he stop, exhaling a long breath of relief.

"I wonder how things are at home?" Chen Shouyi was a little worried that things might have changed.

After all, prophecy is just prophecy.

No matter how accurate the prophecy, once made, everything begins to change.

He glanced at the massive Divine Stone hanging from his chest, even though he wasn't cultivating, he still absorbed energy slowly, but the efficiency was extremely low, after more than ten days, his attributes hadn't increased by even 0.1 points.

"However, it's not too late for these few days, it's better to focus on enhancing my strength now."

With his current power, he might be able to contend with a medium Divine Power Barbarian God, but against the powerful Divine Power God of Lightning, he was on a path to death.

He chose a mountain peak and carved out a cave.

In the following days, Chen Shouyi began closed-door cultivation day and night, his body gradually growing powerful, increasingly widening the gap between perception and will, these two secondary attributes.

The exuberant vital energy in his body boiled, surging, his five viscera shining brightly, pristine and flawless, his bones crystalline like jade, brilliantly radiant.

Chen Shouyi secluded himself for seven days, emerging from the cave three days early.

Strength: 22.7

Agility: 22.7

Physique: 22.7

Intelligence: 22.5

Perception: 21.7

Will: 21.5

Energy Accumulation: 43.23

Faith Value: 25577.2

He glanced at his attribute panel, sighing inwardly: "Time is still not enough!"

The whole Divine Stone had only consumed about one-third.

Then he looked at the substantial Faith Value he had accumulated over this period amounting to more than 25,000, hesitating for a while, he added 20,000 of it to atmospheric control.

"The God of Lightning is undoubtedly a Barbarian God with authority over lightning, facing such a deity, no matter how strong the body, as long as struck by lightning, even if not dead, it would be paralyzed for a while, to battle such, one can only rely on control of the atmosphere."

Electric current needs a medium for transmission, lightning propagates through the air because high voltage ionizes the air, creating free-moving charges that conduct electricity.

As long as a vacuum is created around the body, with no material present, the current naturally can't conduct.

"Boom!"

Torrential heat flowed through his body, an ant-biting pain tingling all over.

Chen Shouyi swiftly flew towards the opposite mountain peak, halfway in the air, a sky-reaching tornado spontaneously formed, countless trees along the path were swept up, enveloped into the storm.

Chapter 654 - The Current State of Humanity (Part 2)

"Atmosphere Manipulation (Super): 20.01%."

He expelled all the air from his belly, and with a thought, the atmosphere within a radius of several dozen meters was rapidly cleared, leaving everything in silence.

Silent.

Incredibly silent.

There wasn't a trace of sound at his ears.

His body began to float under buoyancy.

The vacuum domain and he were one, a system, akin to him being inside a vacuum bubble with a radius of about seventy to eighty meters, quickly floating upwards under the buoyancy of the air.

He suddenly threw a punch, discovering that his sensitive skin still felt a subtle resistance.

However, the resistance was so slight that it was almost imperceptible without careful sensing.

Clearly, this wasn't an absolute vacuum.

Of course, absolute vacuum doesn't exist in this world; even in the void of space, strict vacuum doesn't exist, as matter is present at a density of roughly two atoms per cubic meter.

"I wonder if it can block lightning?"

With a thought, Chen Shouyi's body began to swell, quickly transforming into a Giant over sixty meters tall.

The buoyant body falling from the sky suddenly halted and plummeted straight to the ground.

His feet hit the ground, shattering rocks and raising a cloud of dust.

He examined his body; the transformed form would typically have energy overflow with arcs of electricity jumping across it, but now no arcs appeared.

"Looks like there's some effect," Chen Shouyi mused. "However, the lightning of the God of Lightning clearly won't just have this kind of power..."

The world brightened suddenly.

He looked up towards the distant sky, where dark clouds gathered and lightning streaked across.

"Talk about thinking it, and it happens?"

He dismissed the domain of vacuum and then, in a burst, stomped the ground hard, causing the mountaintop to explode instantly. At the same time, his towering form soared skyward.

With every step he took, sparks of light appeared, and shockwaves burst in mid-air.

He seemed like a Demon God descending upon the world.

Atmospheric manipulation increased to 20%, making the confining force of the atmosphere more frightening. Walking on the solidified atmosphere felt like walking on actual solid ground, with massive reactive forces supporting his eight-thousand-ton body to advance at supersonic speeds.

"Boom boom boom..."

Continuous rumbles, like the earth shattering, the dense cloud layer above, disrupted by such terrifying forces, began to stir violently.

"Boom!"

A bolt of lightning flashed in an instant.

The forked currents, like the claws of a Death, looked dangerous and chilling.

Chen Shouyi's expression didn't change.

Perhaps due to the Giant's perspective, these lightning bolts, even if they were five to six meters thick, appeared only as thick as his arm.

"The lightning might at most injure me, but not be fatal," he thought silently.

He stomped once more, facing the thundering dark clouds.

Then, a slight tingle came to his scalp; before he could react, a lightning bolt struck his body instantly.

"Oww!"

His body stiffened; arcs of electricity danced on his massive frame, producing wisps of blue smoke. Fortunately, he recovered in less than 0.1 seconds, completely unharmed.

Natural lightning usually carries energy in the range of several hundred million joules to several billion joules; some giant lightning bolts can even reach several hundred billion joules. These numbers in the billion range sound terrifying, but when converted to units understood by common people, they're only tens, hundreds, or thousands of kilowatts of power.

Many people have seen lightning strikes, which commonly break a tree, but the energy isn't as big as imagined.

Transformed into a Giant, one punch carries the energy equivalent to a hundred thousand kilowatts, a hundred tons of TNT, enough to shatter a mountain peak.

With his current strength, conventional weapons, except for nuclear missiles, at most can inflict minor injuries.

As for tens, hundreds, or thousands of kilowatts of electricity entering the body, it doesn't constitute life-threatening or injurious impact, the main effect is on the bioelectric balance of his nerve system, causing body stiffness.

A few seconds later, his entire body was already immersed in the clouds.

Lightning struck frequently against his body.

"This is the spot!"

He rapidly cleared the air, forming a vacuum domain swiftly, calming everything down.

Lightning hit the air barrier, blossoming beautiful electric flowers, as if bestowing mysterious patterns upon it, dazzling and enchanting, within the vacuum domain feeling only a slight static charge without much impact.

Feeling this remarkable effect, Chen Shouyi's face showed joy.

...

After testing, Chen Shouyi didn't linger, flying rapidly.

A day later, he stepped out of the Spatial Passage, inhaling the familiar scent of Earth, a sense of fondness arose within his heart.

A legendary Barbarian guarding the passage immediately prostrated upon seeing Chen Shouyi, respectfully saying, "Honorable one!"

The other Barbarian strongmen, seeing this, quickly knelt to the ground.

"Oh, you know me?" Chen Shouyi glanced at him, his mood calm.

"My master issued a divine decree, having seen your image, instructing us that if you should come, we must treat you with utmost reverence, as if... he were here himself!" The legendary Barbarian spoke, trembling involuntarily.

This unbelievable divine decree was simply unimaginable, a ceremony reserved for equal or higher beings.

Chen Shouyi nodded, ignoring him, striding out of the passage.

It was now Earth's evening, a scene of bustling peace and tranquility on the streets, the air thick with the Domain of Faith.

Looking around, seeing things as they were three months ago with little change, he felt relieved.

"Sawadikap!" exclaimed a Young Lady wearing a golden crown and dressed in Tai Buddha Country's traditional garb, respectfully stepping beside Chen Shouyi, her hands clasped slightly in a serene, sacred manner, with a subtle hint of joy on her face.

"Honorable one, you have finally returned!"

Without a doubt, this was the God of Conspiracy dressed as a woman.

Her true form was really getting eye-piercing, becoming more "humanized."

Chen Shouyi showed no surprise, turning, suppressing discomfort to look at her: "How are things now?"

"After Yan State was occupied by the Lord of Lightning two months ago, there's been no movement since." The God of Conspiracy frowned slightly, solemnly said, "Maybe they're intimidated by the European Union's super-nuclear warheads."

Chen Shouyi glanced at her upon hearing this.

Her intelligence was quite proficient.

Regardless, he wasn't concerned, because it was merely a Barbarian God with Weak Divine Power, and he could effortlessly kill it now.

"What's the word?" Chen Shouyi asked casually.

"When the Lord of Lightning captured Yan State, the European Union dropped a super-hydrogen bomb to intimidate. Since then, that entity hasn't taken any actions," the God of Conspiracy respectfully said.

Chen Shouyi pondered.

The European Union was only a step away from Yan State; with Yan State's downfall, the European Union would be the first to bear the brunt, so deterrence was reasonable. Regarding the death toll from the super-nuclear bomb dropped, at the critical moment, nobody cared about such things.

War ceaselessly intensifies, never at its most frantic.

Wondering about the degree of deterrence effect?

Chen Shouyi didn't engage in further conversation.

In a sudden stomp, he shot skywards.

Prepared from the last lesson, the God of Conspiracy swiftly retreated, but was still blown over by the shockwave, clothes torn apart, her golden crown vanished, revealing her figure.

However, even these slight humiliations didn't bother her.

Moreover...

She was already accustomed to it.

Upon landing, she looked at the dot in the distance that was Chen Shouyi, her expression serious:

"This terrifying human has become even stronger!"

Chapter 655 – Preparations for Battle

When Chen Shouyi arrived in Zhonghai, the sky had already darkened.

A full moon hung high in the sky.

It was already September without him realizing, yet the scorching heat showed no sign of subsiding.

The streets were deserted, with no pedestrians except for patrolling soldiers.

A helicopter blinked its signal lights as it flew by at a low altitude, the sound of its rotor blades fluttering was audible from afar.

Two little ones peeked out from Chen Shouyi's head, looking around curiously.

"Isn't it nice here?" the Shell Lady asked, her tone hinting at a sense of superiority.

"Yes, it's nice!" Little Dot Number Two said with a curious gaze and a hint of timidity, whispering: "But there are so many giants!"

"These are the bad giants," the Shell Lady said, "But don't worry, there are good giants too, and he's really powerful."

"Yes, the good giant is the most powerful." Little Dot Number Two nodded vigorously, saying with utmost certainty.

This period has been the happiest days for her; she could eat delicious food every day and play novel, fun games with companions. No longer was she lonely, nor did she need to hide all the time.

At this moment, the two little ones swiftly ducked their heads back in.

"Stop, inspection!"

Chen Shouyi stopped and handed over the documentation he had prepared long ago.

A soldier quickly came over, and after opening it for a look, he couldn't help but shudder, hurriedly handing it back with both hands as if it were scorching hot, saluting and stammering, "Chen... General Manager Chen, hello, I... I didn't know it was you!"

"It's okay, don't be nervous." Chen Shouyi comforted him, casually tossing the document back into space: "Has anything happened here recently?"

"No... nothing!"

"That's good."

...

Chen Shouyi returned home, knocked on the door forcefully, and called out loudly:

"Mom and Dad, I'm back!"

"It's Shou Yi, Shou Yi's back... coming, coming!"

The lights in the parents' room turned on, and soon, Father Chen and Mrs. Chen hurried downstairs to open the door, with his sister following behind. Seeing Chen Shouyi back brought great surprise, and they kept asking questions nonstop.

Chen Shouyi smiled and patiently answered each question, his heart filled with peace and joy.

This is the feeling of home, the harbor of his soul. No matter how big a storm he weathered outside, as long as he could see his family safe and sound after returning home, it was enough.

"You've lost some weight after being in seclusion for three months, have you had dinner?" Mrs. Chen asked.

Chen Shouyi was at a loss for words, he didn't feel he had lost weight, but rather gained a few pounds: "Mom, I've already eaten, don't bother."

His energy acquisition had long ceased to rely solely on food. Apart from supplementing the necessary elements for the human body, he had little need for food. Moreover, ordinary food, even if he ate nonstop day and night, couldn't provide for his high-intensity life activities.

"Brother, is there going to be another war? I heard that there have been a lot of missiles deployed over at Luoming Island recently." Chen Xingyue asked.

Father Chen and Mrs. Chen also looked over.

The disturbances over the past few months had been astonishing, with four exercises conducted, the most recent just yesterday. Even the dullest of people noticed something was off.

Chen Shouyi remained silent for a while, then smiled: "Don't worry, it's nothing, just normal defense arrangements, nowadays there's never a day without some kind of war."

"That's true, alas, these are chaotic times!" Father Chen sighed, speaking.

Actually, he knew through and through that it couldn't be nothing, his son just didn't want them to worry unnecessarily.

...

The family chatted for quite a while, and Chen Shouyi returned to his bedroom with a stack of newspapers, closing the door.

The two little ones immediately jumped out impatiently.

"This is the lair of the good giant and Little Dot, isn't it beautiful?" the Shell Lady proudly boasted. The villa assigned to Chen Shouyi in Zhonghai might not show much from the outside, but inside it was quite lavish.

"It's so beautiful!" Little Dot Number Two couldn't take her eyes off, feeling dizzy and dreamy as she said: "But now it's also my lair."

Chen Shouyi paid no attention to the two little ones, heading to the bathroom for a refreshing shower.

He hadn't showered in three months, and although cleaning with willpower was more thorough, it always felt like something was missing.

After his shower, he returned with a basin of water and was speechless to find the two fighting again.

They arched their heads backward with effort, waving their hands into blurred shadows, with a fierce popping noise as they fought intensely.

Did something just happen again?

However, for these two little ones, this was just a daily activity. Chen Shouyi had long become accustomed to it, and it would be strange if a day went by without seeing it.

He separated the two stubborn little ones with a hand each, tossing them into the basin.

"Stop fighting and wash up!"

Then Chen Shouyi sat at the desk, picked up the newspaper, and began flipping through the news from the past few months.

"July 21: The trilateral military alliance summit was held in the Capital City, attended by the leaders of the Great Xia Country, European Union, and Lucy Country. During the meeting, the three countries signed a military alliance treaty, reaching agreements on cooperation and sharing in areas such as communication, electricity, and military technologies..."

"August 16: Our country's first intermediate-range missile was successfully test-fired in the East Sea, hitting its pre-set target after flying 1,200 kilometers. The success of the missile signifies our country's restored capability for medium-to-long-range nuclear strikes..."

"In My Eyes: Chen Shouyi"

"So approachable."

"Senior Martial Artist Qin Liuyuan said in an interview: 'I knew General Manager Chen from very early on, back when he was a Great Martial Artist... we have maintained good relations since then, and I've benefited from his support on numerous occasions... he's like a lighthouse guiding us martial artists forward...'"

Although he hadn't appeared in three months, reports about him had scarcely ceased.

Of course, he only skimmed over these.

...

Chen Shouyi scanned swiftly through the news, feeling the breath of war approaching.

He checked the local news in Zhonghai and found it to be no different.

"The storm is approaching," he murmured to himself, turning his head to the two little ones frolicking in the water: "Are you finished washing?"

"Good giant, Little Dot is finished washing!"

"Good giant, Little Dot is also finished washing."

Chen Shouyi smiled, dried them off, changed their clothes, then opened the window and silently flew into the high sky.

Soon, he landed on an uninhabited hill.

He took out meat paste with powerful Divine Power from space, first feeding the two little ones, then eating several pounds himself, before taking out a Divine Stone to begin cultivating.

Time was of the essence, and there was no time to waste.

He practiced all night.

Unbeknownst to him, the sun rose from the horizon, chasing away the darkness. The clouds seemed edged in gold under the light. Gazing at the distant skyscrapers of the city, he exhaled a turbid breath.

The breath was like a sharp arrow.

With a "snap!"

A tree several meters away had its bark shattered, creating a small pit.

"Guess there'll be quite a few people seeking me out today." Chen Shouyi thought inwardly, tearing off the ragged cloth on him and changing into new clothes before descending the hill.

Chapter 656 The Greater Good

Capital City.

Early in the morning, Edson, dressed in sportswear, walked out of the villa and nodded amicably to the military police by the roadside.

No one could tell now that he was the notorious leader of the former Pantheon, Anderson, wanted by several countries.

Having fled to the Great Xia Country from Yan State like a dog that had lost its home more than two months ago, he had grown used to being watched, and his mindset gradually became calm.

Although his home, the European Union, had granted their organization amnesty, forgiving past crimes and offering better conditions, they ultimately chose the Great Xia Country.

Because among all the remaining countries, the Great Xia Country was now the strongest one.

He was ambitious, true, but he was also human. He had no desire to become a savage in another world or to convert to some deity.

...

Martial Arts Bureau.

The marble floor shone bright as a mirror.

"Mr. Edson, you've arrived." An attractive young man hurriedly approached Anderson with respect. His face was a blend of Eastern and Western features, with one blue eye and one black eye, quite unusual.

If Chen Shouyi were here, he might recognize him as the legendary recruit of the Pantheon.

"Mark!" Edson showed a faint smile, and the two shared an embrace.

"Have you adjusted to things here?" Anderson asked.

"Relaxing all of a sudden feels quite good, especially as I have half Chinese blood." Mark replied with a smile.

"You seem to be adapting better than I am!" Andre said with a chuckle, his Chinese accented strangely: "The Great Xia Country has a saying, 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do.' From now on, call me by my Chinese name. I've changed it to An Haoran."

"That's a great name, who chose it?"

"The official who processed my residency let me pick one." Edson said, grinning like a child.

"I didn't change mine, it's still Mark, but now it's the Chinese Mark."

From time to time, small groups of people entered the hall, Anderson glanced at them and sighed: "There are truly many martial artists in the Great Xia Country!"

This meeting required the attendance of martial masters and above.

Half an hour remained until the meeting, and given the trend, it seemed likely there would be well over a hundred attendees. These were civilian martial artists, while the military surely had even more, perhaps ten or dozens of times more.

"God Chen has slain quite a number of True Gods. The Great Xia Country does not lack Divine Flesh." Mark said.

Anderson fell silent at those words.

It was indeed a bit disheartening.

Their organization had always aimed to become gods, struggling in Yan State through countless hardships, working tirelessly to develop faith and attempting to ignite Divine Fire to become demigods, only to find that someone not only effortlessly slaughtered demigods but had killed several True Gods.

It was said that the God of Light among them had moderate divine power.

This was truly a sad thing, almost making one question life.

His original ambitions were shattered, yet it made him realize there were alternatives to becoming a god. His coming to the Great Xia Country was partly due to this realization.

He sighed:

"Let's head into the conference room together."

...

The conference room was packed with a sea of heads.

The two Westerners stood out particularly, and many who knew their identities looked at them with reverence.

Though the number of martial artists had multiplied by thousands, there were still precious few legendary figures.

This evolutionary leap in life could not be boosted directly by Divine Blood or Divine Marrow; across the entire Capital City, including the recent breakthrough by Luo Jingwen, there were merely two, and across the Great Xia Country, there were likely no more than five.

Anderson remained indifferent as he and Mark took their seats at the front, labeled with their name tags.

They hadn't been seated long when Ye Zong approached and greeted them:

"You two are here early?"

Anderson and Mark stood up to shake hands with Ye Zong. They didn't know many people, but Ye Zong was one they did know; he had accompanied and received them upon their arrival in the Great Xia Country.

"We've just arrived not long ago!"

The two exchanged pleasantries for a while.

"Ye, do you know what this meeting is about?" Mark inquired.

Ye Zong shook his head; the evidence suggested that the Great Xia Country was urgently preparing for war, with frequent military operations. Although he had some vague guesses, such matters were best not publicly discussed.

The venue filled quickly.

At nine o'clock sharp, the Director of the Martial Arts Bureau stepped onto the stage, his expression grave.

Seeing him, everyone felt a twist in their hearts, their expressions subtly shifting.

"Hello everyone, thank you for attending this meeting. Many of you may have guessed it. Yes, according to the intelligence received, war is imminent. This is no longer a local war, nor a war of a single nation, but a war that decides the fate of humankind.

If defeated, humanity will plunge into eternal night, and all of Earth will be ruled by the Barbarian God."

...

Everyone's faces changed drastically, they didn't expect the rumors to be true, this was a motivational meeting about the war.

A stifling atmosphere filled the venue, each person's heart felt as if it carried a heavy stone.

But Anderson and Mark remained calm; after all, fleeing from Yan State to the Great Xia Country was for this reason, they had long known this day would come.

...

Chen Shouyi returned home, and before long, high-ranking officials from Zhonghai City and the commander of the local military district jointly visited him.

His influence was now so profound that his every move, every word, could impact all aspects of the nation, especially as humanity stood at the brink of peril and uncertainty, underscoring the significance of Chen Shouyi.

...

"If... I say if the Great Xia Country is defeated and utterly falls, I hope that General Manager Chen can assist in escorting humanity's spark to another world." In the reception room, Zhonghai City's high-ranking official spoke with difficulty, this was the last choice of the Great Xia Country:

"This isn't a decision from Zhonghai City; it comes from the highest power of the Military Committee. In the coming days, all national researchers will be headed to Zhonghai City. If the unmentionable occurs, we must preserve humanity's spark as much as possible; this is humanity's last hope, and supporting this hope is you, General Manager Chen."

"General Manager Chen, please prioritize the greater good, for the future of humanity, preserve yourself for future necessity." Seeing Chen Shouyi remain silent, the Zhonghai City military district commander said gravely, his face respectful.

He knew of the prophecy that General Manager Chen would heroically sacrifice himself; such sacrifice was admirable, but ultimately meaningless, even risking humanity's last hope.

Then humanity would be truly doomed.

Chen Shouyi said nothing, silence filled the atmosphere.

"Ring ring ring..." The phone suddenly sounded.

"Excuse me!" Chen Shouyi said, rising to the living room to answer the call.

It was the President.

The other side exchanged some comforting words, soon bringing up the same matter.

Chen Shouyi never thought there would be a day when someone would tell him.

He was alive for the greater good.

"I understand." He said gravely.

Chapter 657 - I'm Not a Coward

Several cars were driving along the road.

Chen Shouyi sat in the back seat as countless heavy-duty trucks formed a long line on the road, kicking up thick dust.

"The other side has been repeatedly scouted. The climate there is suitable, the resources are abundant, and no sign of barbarians has been found so far. The first batch of supplies, including food, books, and clothes, is being transported in preparation," explained an accompanying officer in a timely manner.

He belonged to the military's younger faction, distinct from the old guard. Usually, they have been involved with martial arts since youth, possessing considerable personal strength, unlike the older ones who are long past the age for martial arts practice and lack passion for it.

Although Divine Blood and Divine Marrow can enhance physical attributes, there is no shortcut for skills and combat awareness.

An authentic martial artist, honed through countless days and years, can unleash four to five times their strength with every move, incomparable to a fake martial artist.

Often, even a great or senior martial artist can be lethal.

"If... the situation deteriorates, how many people will migrate then?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"Zhonghai has prepared enough food and supplies for ten million people to last a year, but, in reality, those without a martial artist's physique will have to be abandoned," the officer said.

Chen Shouyi nodded, feeling heavy-hearted.

A martial artist apprentice can barely move in the otherworld, only martial artists and above can act freely, and evacuation to the otherworld doesn't mean the end; further migration is inevitable, away from the spatial passage.

Even if they barely follow, their destiny would be abandonment.

In comparison, it's better to stay on Earth under the Barbarian God's rule.

Now, all hope rests on humanity winning this war.

"In case it happens, would your Zhonghai forces also go?" At this point, Chen Shouyi asked.

The officer said, "According to the principle of voluntariness, one can choose whether to enter the spatial passage."

"What about you?" Perhaps feeling suppressed, Chen Shouyi asked unusually.

"My parents are old, my father is bedridden, and my wife just gave me a child this year..." he spoke softly, his eyes slightly red: "I just... I'm not a deserter."

"I understand, it's human nature," Chen Shouyi consoled, pale.

After that, the atmosphere became silent.

The car drove slowly, unimpeded, and soon entered a heavily guarded underground base.

The spatial passage was located about a dozen meters underground, quite concealed, perhaps the reason for choosing this passage.

Chen Shouyi got out of the car and, accompanied by numerous officials, walked into the spatial passage.

He discovered it bustling inside, with supplies piled high.

Countless treaded steam trucks loaded with containers were neatly arranged in a formation. As far as the eye could see, they were densely packed by the thousands, with supplies continuously being transported in.

This is preparation to rebuild human civilization!

...

Chen Shouyi did not stay long, refused the escort and companionship, and walked out of the base at his own pace. Under the clear sky, the light was glaring, and the asphalt road was baked like soft mud.

He passed by a small shop.

He bought a pack of cigarettes, pulled one out, and lit it. Countless smoke particles danced rapidly, cloaked in a layer of vibrant sheen under the light. With his vision, if he wished, he could capture objects at the micron level.

He could see the cells on his skin and the bacteria crawling on them.

However, he could barely see these, like ordinary people seeing tiny dots, and he would never pay attention to them. To him, these were everyday sights, and he had long since become accustomed to them.

Just as ordinary people wouldn't pay attention to the lines on their skin.

He deeply inhaled, and the cigarette butt burned down in an instant. He exhaled a thick cloud of smoke and then flicked away the cigarette, briskly heading home.

...

In the next few days.

The entire Great Xia Country was in a state of surging undercurrents, with a large number of researchers, including top engineers, ordered to leave their labs or factories and secretly travel to Zhonghai under military escort by train.

These are the essence of humanity.

As long as these people exist, they can recreate human civilization anywhere.

Many have already keenly sensed the unusual, rumors began to spread, but strong measures kept society stable.

Day by day, the atmosphere grew more oppressive.

Then the prophesied war did not occur. The Lord of Lightning had not moved since Yan State, as if the mysterious being was just playing a joke.

Half a month later.

The last trace of energy from the Divine Stone was completely absorbed by Chen Shouyi, turning entirely to dust.

He opened his attribute panel:

Strength: 23.2

Agility: 23.2

Constitution: 23.3

Intelligence: 23.1

Perception: 21.9

Will: 21.7

Energy Accumulation: 50.65

Faith Value: 15802.5

"Apart from perception and will, they finally all reached the 23-point mark."

At his thought, he allocated his accumulated faith value to Giant Transformation.

After a few seconds.

The Giant Battle Body progress, originally at 35.01%.

Has now become 50.01%.

He glanced at the two little creatures collecting nectar nearby and walked several kilometers away.

"Transform!"

In an instant, his body rapidly expanded.

His clothes burst apart and were swept away by the fierce wind.

In a blink, a towering twenty-meter giant stood on the hill, his body covered in black patterns, with streaks of lightning arcs flowing over his skin, exuding a frightening aura.

He glanced at the attribute panel.

Strength and Constitution have respectively reached 41.1 and 41.4.

Boosted thirteen hundred times, his strength neared thirty thousand tons.

At his thought, a massive rock weighing several tons flew into his hand.

His palm gently squeezed.

With a "boom" sound.

The rock shattered like a crisp biscuit under his grip.

"Compared to the Forbidden Land's evil entities, even the Barbarian God does not excel in physical prowess. Their strength lies in divine power and instantaneous lightning-fast cognitive reaction speeds," he mused.

Although not in the otherworld, he believed his 41.1 strength could still crush the Lord of Lightning.

Just as when facing the God of Light, deprived of divine power, relying solely on the physical body, it couldn't even kill him in a short time, but once he caught an opportunity, it was a direct kill.

But that was an altogether fortuitous encounter, unreproducible.

Lately, the immense pressure has been suffocating him, and he constantly contemplated strategies.

He can use the vacuum field to block long-range lightning divine arts, but he cannot block the opponent from breaking through the vacuum field and using divine arts in close quarters.

"The opponent's cognitive speed is about four to five times mine... but their speed should not be much faster than mine. If combined with Air Imprisonment..." he pondered.

He closed his eyes, quickly forming a vacuum around him, surrounded by solidified air, mentally simulating a battle with the Lord of Lightning.

Chapter 658 Thunderstorm

The distant sunset gradually slanted towards the west.

Chen Shouyi called the two little ones, walked down the mountain, took out the bicycle, and rode leisurely.

A giant procession of self-propelled artillery, resembling a massive iron beast, crawled down the road, causing the ground to tremble slightly. Passersby quickly moved aside, whispering among themselves, a touch of unease in their expressions.

Recently, the entire city of Zhonghai has been like a bowstring, full of tension and stifling, with rumors spreading everywhere.

Yet for ordinary people, facing such drastic changes, the only thing they can do is endure, as knowing too much changes nothing.

Chen Shouyi glanced at it and then looked away.

"Now that the Divine Stone is completely exhausted, the only option left is to rely on slow, steady cultivation!"

He sighed slightly, gazing at the distant horizon where the sun's dim yellow light under the white smoke of countless chimneys carried a hint of laziness and powerlessness, like the twilight of a faltering civilization.

...

Originally planning to go straight home, Chen Shouyi suddenly felt a whim and turned the bike towards Zhonghai University.

Despite the increasingly heavy atmosphere of war, the university still conducted classes normally, seemingly unaffected.

Chen Shouyi parked his bicycle in the rack and proceeded towards the dormitory area.

"Hey, do you know Song Tingting?" Chen Shouyi called out to a girl who looked obedient and sincere.

"Ah!" The girl's face turned red upon seeing Chen Shouyi, stammering, "I... I don't know her, but I can help you ask!"

"Thank you, I appreciate it."

"No trouble at all," the girl replied quickly, stealing glances at Chen Shouyi, her heart pounding: "What year and major is she in?"

"She's a junior, but I'm not sure about her major. She just transferred from Jiangnan University this year," Chen Shouyi replied.

...

Chen Shouyi was in luck; with the enthusiastic sister's help, he found Song Tingting in just over half an hour.

When Song Tingting was called down from the dormitory, she was so surprised she was dumbfounded—it was the first time Chen Shouyi had ever come to see her since they met.

"Senior, what brings you here?"

"Just came to see you!" Chen Shouyi said with a smile.

The gentle breeze made the hem of her skirt sway slightly, and Song Tingting's heart leaped: "Senior, have you eaten yet? Let me treat you to a meal."

"No need, I'm leaving soon," Chen Shouyi replied.

Song Tingting felt slightly disappointed but soon smiled again: "Senior is always so busy."

Hearing this, Chen Shouyi couldn't help but feel a bit sentimental.

Indeed, ever since receiving the Book of Knowledge, he hadn't had a single day of relaxation. It was either training or missions, unknowingly neglecting the beautiful scenery.

"Let's take a walk," Chen Shouyi looked at the time and said.

Song Tingting looked up in surprise, her face showing a hint of joy, and without any pretense said, "Sure."

...

"The course pressure is so great now. Last semester, quite a few in our class were held back, and I feel so stupid!" Song Tingting softly spoke about school matters.

"You mean people get held back in college?"

"Yes, it's stricter now, even more painful than high school!"

As they walked and talked, the campus park was filled with pairs of young men and women, making them blend in seamlessly.

"Do you have the strength of a Martial Artist yet?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"Not yet!" Song Tingting lowered her head shyly.

She had only been a Martial Artist Apprentice for two years, nowhere near becoming a Martial Artist yet, although her senior was an exception.

When they first met, he was already a Martial Artist, and now he had become the God of Martial Arts for humanity, appearing in the daily news almost as often as the President, shining like the sun.

If the school knew that General Manager Chen came here, it would likely cause quite a stir.

"Don't slack off on martial arts training; the situation... isn't looking too good," Chen Shouyi thought for a moment and said.

"Okay." Song Tingting nodded vigorously.

Chen Shouyi pretended to take out three syringes of Divine Blood from his pocket and handed them over: "Take these, use them secretly, and don't let anyone see."

The Divine Blood, bathed in the sunset glow, reflected fragments of golden light, carrying a bewildering allure.

"Senior, what is this?"

"Demigod Blood!"

...

Over the Pacific Ocean, a two-seater vintage fighter jet was conducting a reconnaissance mission at high altitude.

In the distance, dark clouds loomed densely, lightning flashing and thunder roaring, the sea surface churned in terrifying waves, as a dreadful sea storm raged on.

"I heard you've got a girlfriend from the Rising Sun Country, be careful the investigation unit doesn't come looking for you," copilot Zhang Wei said with a smile.

The two were from the United Army's military base stationed in the Rising Sun Country.

The situation in the Rising Sun Country was quite severe; after three years of war, almost all men had been wiped out, and many women soldiers served in the base. Before long, many secretly became couples.

"A single man and an unmarried woman, nothing to worry about, at worst I'd resign from my position," Wang Laijun said dismissively.

After three years in the army, even a man starts looking appealing, and not reacting to women would mean not being human... or a man.

"Dream on," Zhang Wei laughed and scolded, then reminded: "Stay alert, ahead is a thunderstorm zone, we're currently flying at 30,000 feet with a speed of 0.5 Mach, fairly safe."

Cloud layers generally exist below 7,000 meters in the troposphere, and a height of 10,000 meters is already quite safe.

"Something's off about this thunderstorm!" Wang Laijun said, licking his lips as he gazed at the stormy clouds below, where lightning flickered fiercely.

He had seen many thunderstorms but never one this fearsome. The clouds seemed to hide a gigantic electrical grid with countless bolts of lightning flickering aggressively.

Feeling uneasy, he asked, "How far are we from the base?"

Zhang Wei checked the instruments and said, "900 kilometers, why?"

"Never mind, maybe I'm overthinking it," Wang Laijun replied.

A few minutes later, as the fighter jet flew over the cloud layer, both felt their skins tighten, their hair rising gently. Zhang Wei's expression changed: "There's static, climb higher."

In fact, even without being reminded, Wang Laijun had already started opening the throttle.

Their expressions grew serious.

"Snap!"

The static in the air fluctuated wildly, small electric arcs flickering occasionally inside the cockpit, instantly disappearing, making crackling sounds and filling the air with the smell of ozone.

Although the fighter jet had lightning protection,

at that moment, it seemed utterly ineffective.

"We can't continue; we need to return!" Wang Laijun said gravely.

However, just as he finished speaking,

the plane began to shake violently, arcs vaulting across the cockpit glass and even appearing on the dashboard.

...

From the outside, the entire fighter jet was engulfed in a dense web of electric arcs. Just as it completed a turn,

it began spewing blue smoke, plummeting headlong into the stormy clouds below.

The next moment, countless bolts of lightning struck the fighter jet.

With a "boom," it exploded into a massive fireball.

Chapter 659 - Prelude (Part 1)

Several hours later, alarms rang out from the north in Korea to the south in Nanyue Province.

A massive high-frequency radar array was constantly rotating; all troops were entering into level one military readiness.

In the nuclear missile silos on Central Sea Luoming Island, numerous soldiers were urgently conducting last-minute checks on the nuclear missiles, each soldier moving at lightning speed.

The evil flesh obtained by Chen Shouyi during his last exploration of the Forbidden Land had all been given to the country, and almost every frontline unit could be called a powerhouse. In an ordinary war, a platoon could easily defeat a battalion, and a battalion could rout a regiment without effort.

However, in this war, humans were facing an unimaginably powerful entity.

...

"Boom!"

A faint rumble of thunder came from afar.

"Is it thunder?"

On the hilltop.

Chen Shouyi paused his training to gaze into the distance.

The sky was cloudless for miles, and the winds were calm.

Yet, he felt a vague sense that something was about to happen.

The Shell Lady quickly flew onto Chen Shouyi's shoulder, speaking sweetly, "Dear Giant, let's play flying chess together; it's no fun playing with the Red Little One."

She didn't always win when playing with Number Two Little One, which spoiled her enjoyment of the game.

"You go ahead and play." Chen Shouyi said with a smile, after looking for a while and withdrawing his gaze.

He then continued his training, burying his head in it.

But he had barely trained for a moment when he sensed a group of soldiers rapidly approaching from the foot of the hill, causing his heart to skip a beat, and he stopped his actions once more.

"President Chen, the war has begun. We ask you to execute the Human Seed Plan immediately and proceed with the evacuation." A soldier saluted firmly, his face grave.

"But... the war has just started."

"This is just in case, otherwise it will be too late when the time really comes!" the soldier replied.

The battles against the Barbarian God were all high-intensity, high-mobility lightning wars: an invasion like fire, and a defeat often came in the blink of an eye.

Chen Shouyi looked up at the sun hanging high in the sky, feeling a bit dazed. He could clearly sense that the higher-ups were pessimistic about this war, with no trace of optimism, and it was understandable.

Even the world's only superpower, the United States, had fallen; how could Great Xia Country be confident?

Not to mention that in the past six months, Lord of Lightning, who occupied more than half of Earth, had clearly grown stronger.

It took a long time before Chen Shouyi nodded heavily, put on his clothes, brought along the two little ones, and turned around: "Let's go."

Down the hill, vehicles were already ready.

...

When the car pulled up at the family home,

he found that his parents and sister were already at home waiting, worried.

"Shou Yi, what's going on?" Mrs. Chen asked.

The store was running well today when suddenly soldiers came to escort them home.

"Mom, don't worry, it's nothing. We'll be going to a safe place soon!" Chen Shouyi forced a smile and said.

"Is something happening?" Mrs. Chen asked again.

Chen Dawei said from the side, "Just don't ask, listen to Shou Yi."

After dealing with his parents, Chen Shouyi remembered something, took out a piece of paper and a pen, quickly wrote down an address, and handed it to a soldier: "This is the address of my two uncles and aunt, I hope they can be brought over."

"Rest assured, President Chen, we will handle it right away!" the soldier rushed to say.

This was a small matter.

He didn't ask whether these people's physiques could withstand three times the gravity; even if they couldn't, there were ways to handle it.

He handed the address to a soldier, who took it and quickly ran off.

...

They didn't really pack any luggage.

The family quickly got into the car and set off.

Along the way, soldiers were jogging everywhere, and the evacuation had quietly begun. Many eligible citizens were being loaded onto military trucks, looking confused and uneasy. No one knew what lay ahead for them or what their fate would be.

More ordinary passersby were looking on in shock and fear at the scene.

Many times, people were not equals: the value of a scientist was not the same as an ordinary person, even if they never trained; the state would find ways to enhance their physical qualities.

Because these talents were the elites of human civilization, they were hope.

Chen Shouyi opened the car window, silently gazing outside.

"Brother, where are we going?" Chen Xingyue couldn't shake the feeling that something wasn't right and asked.

"To the other world." Chen Shouyi replied after withdrawing his gaze, pausing for a moment and then added: "If we're lucky, we'll only stay a few days."

"What if we're unlucky?" Chen Xingyue continued to ask.

"Then it will be a lifetime." Chen Shouyi said, feeling a strange sadness.

The car fell silent; a heavy atmosphere filled the air.

"Actually... it's nothing?" Chen Dawei forced a smile, pretending to be relaxed: "Even in another world, life continues. When I was a child, we used kerosene lamps at night and hadn't seen a car."

"Yes, it was so poor back then, only when you were born did life get better." Mrs. Chen said as well, discreetly wiping her eyes: "As long as we survive, the place doesn't matter."

"Rest assured, nothing will happen." Chen Shouyi said softly, continuing to gaze outside.

...

The roads were congested, the car slowly moving along.

Nearing the Spatial Passage, the vehicles clogged the road, barely moving.

"Mom, Dad, I'll step outside for some air." Chen Shouyi said, opening the door.

The cicadas on the roadside sycamore trees were shrieking furiously, sounding aggravating. He took a pack of cigarettes from space, lit one, and inhaled deeply.

Chen Xingyue also stepped out and asked, noticing him, "Brother, you've started smoking too?"

"Yeah."

He had been smoking more and more lately, as if it had become a habit.

"What will happen to those who didn't enter the other world?" Chen Xingyue asked.

"Most will survive." Chen Shouyi exhaled a puff of smoke.

After all, the Barbarian God's goal was faith, not genocide.

Chen Xingyue hesitated for a long time, then suddenly said, "Brother, could you get those soldiers to take my students too?"

She had grown up and felt a responsibility as a teacher; she couldn't bear to see her students stay behind.

She knew it was just a matter of saying a word to her brother.

"You should know that Martial Artist Apprentices can't freely move in other worlds; even if I gave them Divine Blood, what about their parents?" Chen Shouyi glanced at his sister and shook his head:

"Don't think too much, and besides, going to another world isn't necessarily safer than staying here."

Chen Xingyue was silent for a moment, eyes reddening, quickly turning her head to hide.

"Don't take on responsibilities that aren't yours to bear." Chen Shouyi advised, having witnessed countless life and death situations; he was no longer so sentimental about such things.

"I know, I just... can't help it." Chen Xingyue said, her voice trembling slightly.

Chen Shouyi flicked away the cigarette butt, saying, "The more you experience, the more you get used to it!"

Chapter 660 Prelude (Part 2)

The cars were stuck in traffic for three hours continuously, until evening when Chen Shouyi's family finally entered the spatial passage.

A large open space had been cleared inside, filled with densely packed tents, resembling a massive refugee camp, noisy and bustling.

"Mom, Dad, are you getting used to the gravity in the alternate world?" Chen Shouyi looked at his parents.

"It's alright, it was a bit stuffy at first, but now it's much better," Chen Dawei said.

"I'm fine too," Mrs. Chen said.

Both parents' physical fitness had reached the level of a Martial Artist, and they quickly adapted to the three times gravity here after walking a few steps.

The officials nearby didn't dare to interrupt, and only after they stopped talking did they cautiously speak, "General Manager Chen, the situation was sudden and conditions are temporarily a bit crude, so we'll have to make do for now."

"It's okay, no need for special treatment, something simple will do, whatever others have, we'll have the same," Chen Shouyi said.

He initially thought they would be living in tents like everyone else, but it turned out they were housed in a suite made up of four connected shipping containers.

Of course, the inside was equally simple, but at times like these, one couldn't ask for much.

After the family settled down, it wasn't long before their two uncles and aunts arrived, led by soldiers, causing a significant cheer.

Chen Shouyi greeted each one, and after a while, felt that everyone seemed a bit constrained in his presence.

So he walked out the door at ease.

More and more people were pouring into the alternate world, a sea of people could be seen at a glance.

Everyone's face was filled with concern, confusion, anxiety, or sadness.

...

"Let me go, I have to go back to Earth, my parents, wife, and children are still on Earth, you can't do this," said a middle-aged man with thick glasses, struggling with excitement.

"Professor Zhang, calm down, please calm yourself, the spots are limited, you coming here consumes the nation's precious resources, and no one will be abandoned, our soldiers are preparing for war, and our government leaders are also on Earth on the front lines, you might only have to wait here patiently for a few days before you can go back," said a government worker nearby, tightly holding him, trying hard to console him.

"Can we... really win?" The middle-aged man's passionate emotion slightly cooled down as he heard this, hopefully asking.

"Yes, we definitely can!"

...

Chen Shouyi sighed, walking out of the spatial passage.

The sky had already turned dark, and under the dim moonlight, the trucks still lined the road like a long dragon.

He hesitated for a moment, walked to a secluded spot, stamped his foot on the ground, and his body shot up into the sky.

After reaching several kilometers high,

he began to accelerate.

"Boom!"

With a loud bang, a sonic boom cloud was left in place, racing across the night sky at high speed.

Only a few minutes later, Chen Shouyi had already reached the ocean, and the Earth felt somewhat small to him, merely a dozen minutes later, he slowly stopped, and the Rising Sun Country was already in sight.

In the distance, thick clouds covered half the sky, countless lightning bolts fell like rain, striking the ground.

A scene of doomsday.

Suddenly, a blinding bright light exploded in mid-air, turning the night into day, as if a blazing sun stretched across the sky, even piercing a hole in the thick clouds to reveal faint starlight.

However, compared to the clouds that covered the entire sky, this was just a drop in the ocean.

The terrifying lightning storm still hadn't stopped.

This was not a normal lightning storm, it was filled with an aura of vast divine power, as if the whole world was dominated by a powerful and terrifying will, even though he was standing dozens of kilometers away, it still made him feel a little jittery.

"Is this the Barbarian God with powerful divine power? It's even more terrifying than I imagined."

At this moment, Chen Shouyi's hairs suddenly stood on end, as if an august gaze was upon him.

Simultaneously, accompanied by a strong sense of crisis.

"Not good!"

He silently cursed, barely managing to transform.

The next moment, a thick bolt of lightning appeared out of nowhere, striking his body in an instant.

His whole body trembled, the energy of the lightning was completely incomparable to natural lightning, at the instant of contact, it enveloped him in smoke, and his whole body was ignited, rigidly falling from the sky.

Dozens of seconds later, a huge wave splashed on the sea surface, creating a stormy sea.

Chen Shouyi slowly recovered, feeling intense pain, weakness all over his body, and his mind was a bit fuzzy.

He canceled the transformation, spat out a mouthful of charred blood, gritted his teeth against the pain, and quickly dove into the depths of the sea.

Occasionally, nuclear explosion-like dazzling flashes lit up above, illuminating the entire ocean brightly.

One hundred meters... two hundred meters... five hundred meters...

He saw a cave ahead and quickly slipped inside, while a huge octopus inside was shredded by his thoughts.

"Severe nerve damage, massive internal organ rupture, almost half of the body's cells were destroyed..." Chen Shouyi sensed, his face grim, with lingering fear:

"Damn, what a terrifying attack, and that was just a casual strike. Fortunately, the primary target was the Rising Sun Country, not following up here."

He suddenly realized his vacuum field wasn't safe.

Vacuum could only defend against normal lightning.

When the energy of the lightning reached a certain level, the vacuum might be pierced, forming a stream of electrons.

He opened the attribute panel, looking at over 1,300 faith values.

He added 1,000 points to self-healing.

Feeling the heat flow throughout his body, he leaned back, powerless, in the rock cave and closed his eyes.

He initially had some reckless thoughts, but that strike completely sobered him. Perhaps he could deal with a Barbarian God with moderate divine power, but against one with powerful divine power, he was still not competent.

The opponent's attack was terrifying, one strike severely injuring him, leaving him nearly on the verge of death.

"Fortunately, I left those two little ones in the room, otherwise, they would have been implicated by me." He felt a bit relieved.

And a bit of despair.

The body was quickly self-healing, with stinging itchiness all over, as charred skin slowly sloughed off, and Chen Shouyi felt a familiar hunger, the energy in his body being consumed for self-healing.

He quickly used his will to push away the seawater, retrieved meat paste imbued with powerful divine power from space, and devoured it ravenously.

Feeling slightly restored in strength.

He immediately started his return.

This time, he didn't dare continue flying, stealthily swimming along the seafloor.

Although his speed in the water was far from matching flight, it was not slow, and only three hours later, he found the seawater was getting shallower, flew out of the sea, and the continent was not far away.

Chen Shouyi looked back, the dense clouds were no longer visible, and he breathed a sigh of relief, quickly determining the direction and speeding toward Zhonghai City.