

New Era 751

Chapter 751: Aid Initiative

The steam turbine community housing.

After parting with Chen Shouyi, Song Tingting returned to her doorstep with her head drooping, like a salted fish with its nerve cut, looking listless, yet in her eyes there was a faint glimmer of rebellion and hope.

Hmph, even a kiss didn't mean much; what's so special about being a girlfriend?

She took out her keys from her small bag, opened the door, and was immediately startled, almost withdrawing the foot she had just extended.

Her parents were both sitting in the living room, their eyes fixed on her.

"Why are you back so soon?" Song Qiran asked.

Is this really my father?

"Dad, it's almost ten o'clock, of course, I need to be back; I have classes tomorrow."

"Didn't General Manager Chen send you home?" Zhang Jingyi asked curiously.

"He did! Mom, Dad, I'm going back to my room; I just remembered I haven't finished my homework yet." After saying so, Song Tingting slipped to her room and quickly slammed the door shut with a "bang".

"This child, we were just talking to her," Zhang Jingyi complained. "It's always like this."

...

July 30th.

The sky was a gloomy gray.

The international summit of leaders had already lasted for half a month.

Chen Shouyi arrived once again in the Capital City, to conduct the final vote regarding the ultimate decision on the future of humanity.

In reality, there wasn't much room for discussion or argument; for humanity, every choice was a dilemma. Ultimately, it was decided to advance on all fronts: on one hand, to focus all of humanity's power on the development of aerospace technology; on the other, to strive to improve the physical quality of all of humanity.

To prepare for future crises.

...

Holy Alliance Country's capital, Huacheng.

Inside a grand cathedral.

"Useless, you're all useless!"

"Is it only when all the soldiers turn their guns here that you'll start paying attention? Tell me, how many times has it been already..."

For the past few months, he hadn't had a single good night's sleep. Yet, despite his agitated emotions, he showed no sign of weariness, rather, he seemed a bit exhilarated.

During this period, various resistance movements emerged one after another, completely overwhelming to deal with.

But that wasn't the most serious issue; after all, these were nothing but ragtag mobs.

The most serious issue was the army and police showing signs of instability, with prevalent sympathetic sentiments, leading to instances of double-dealing and defiance of orders. Just today, an entire division even collectively defected.

Although this was just a minor ailment, unable to shake the rule of the entire Holy Alliance.

But it was undoubtedly an ominous sign, a precursor of a crumbling edifice.

This rebellion has caught the eyes of many fence-sitters, who are now restlessly eager.

He believed he had done well enough.

Society was transitioning, gradually allowing more freedom; many inhumane and even harsh laws were being abolished.

Now it seemed that his own kindness was the problem, that he had let these people eat too well, leaving them nothing else to do.

Finding himself rebuked so harshly by the Sect Leader, the Director of the Military Police Bureau, Kaisen, lowered his head, with a heavy expression, explaining:

"I admit there has been a severe dereliction of duty on my part. We've had traitors among us; some people's minds have strayed significantly, forgetting the Sect Leader's holy teachings, beginning to admire the old way of freedom."

"Then investigate, thoroughly investigate. Start with your own confidants; investigate everyone. I will have the Holy Alliance Investigation Bureau and the Central Protective Forces assist you." The Sect Leader said, staring intently at Kaisen. "I personally promoted you to this position. This is your last chance; do not disappoint me again."

"Yes, Sect Leader." Feeling the intimidating gaze above his head, Kaisen shivered inwardly, quickly bowing his head and responding loudly.

As a Sect Leader once favored by the gods, few knew he possessed legendary prowess.

"Then get out of here."

"Yes, Sect Leader." Uncontrollably shuddering, Kaisen quickly exited the office, carefully closing the door.

The Sect Leader snorted coldly, but as soon as he turned, his expression drastically changed.

A young man sat leisurely at his desk, flipping through the documents on it.

How?

When did he get in?

Beads of cold sweat quietly appeared on his forehead.

"Nice to meet you!" Chen Shouyi tossed the document aside, lifting his head.

As for how he got in?

Just some simple psychological suggestion.

Even the Destiny Thief and God of Conspiracy could use it proficiently, let alone him.

He just didn't use it often.

After all, he wasn't an old schemer like the Destiny Thief or God of Conspiracy.

What?

Afraid of being harassed by women with excess hormones!

Was he afraid?

"Where are you from, Your Excellency?" the Sect Leader endeavored to maintain composure, not daring to wipe the sweat from his forehead, nor call for the guards.

To have penetrated layer upon layer of defenses, and entered his office unnoticed.

Such an entity was beyond his imagination.

He was certain.

Just half an hour ago, the other party was definitely not inside.

After all, he had been sitting at that office desk, processing documents.

Unless the man had the ability to turn invisible.

"You seem to be nervous?" Chen Shouyi drawled leisurely, showing off his Chinese-style English, like a cat playing with a mouse, fixing his gaze on him.

But this mouse seemed a bit old.

The Sect Leader only felt as if he were being watched by a ferocious, terrifying Fierce Beast, the air seeming to grow thicker, and cold sweat pouring from him like a fountain.

(For better readability, let's switch to Chinese for now.)

"May I ask, who are you, sir, and is there anything this humble one can do for you?" He forced down fear, bending over, with a face full of respect.

"My name is Chen Shouyi, and I have a nickname, God Chen," Chen Shouyi said indifferently.

"God Chen..." The Sect Leader, like a swan caught by the throat... an old swan, nearly lost his voice.

As early as when the Holy Alliance Country was still the United States, God Chen had already shaken the world, known as the Godslayer. The intelligence dossiers on him could fill several cabinets. In fact, according to the news recently smuggled back by the Alliance Intelligence Bureau from the European Union, the Lord was killed by this person.

"It seems you know about me; that makes it easier." Chen Shouyi smiled and stood up, suddenly holding a document: "Here's a document; read it thoroughly and follow through."

Saying this, Chen Shouyi tossed the document in front of him.

Then he leisurely walked past him and out of the office.

The Sect Leader remained slightly bent over, motionless; throughout, he didn't dare make any actions that could be mistaken.

It was a full half-minute before he slowly straightened his somewhat stiff body; he wiped away the cold sweat from his forehead and let out a long breath.

Heart still racing, it felt like he had taken a walk through Hell.

Yet, at this moment, a faint sound, like fine raindrops falling, came to his ears.

He turned with difficulty, his entire body beginning to tremble.

He could only watch as the surrounding office furniture, including cabinets, chairs, documents, and even the thick carpet beneath his feet, began to accumulate dust, rapidly weathering away, turning to ashes in the blink of an eye.

Leaving only a single document, completely intact.

"On the Technological and Talent Aid Project for the Great Xia Country"

Chapter 752: Frenzy

The Sect Leader looked at everything before him, feeling as though he had fallen into a deep abyss. He hesitated for a moment, then picked up the document from the dust and quickly leafed through a few pages.

His expression grew increasingly grim, and even his fear of God Chen couldn't suppress the fury that was about to erupt from his chest.

"This... this is outrageous, truly outrageous. This is robbery, taking advantage of a crisis... damn bastard!"

He roared loudly, his forehead veins popping out.

"Oh, by the way, I left a bit too hastily just now. I haven't asked if you have any opinions?" At this moment, a voice as sinister as a demon's came from behind him again.

His curses stopped abruptly as if he were a kitten pinched by the back of the neck, his body turning stiffly.

He saw Chen Shouyi standing behind him like a ghost, while on his shoulders, two little girls in princess dresses stared at him with wide, bright eyes.

Silence.

In the office, a pin drop could be heard.

The Sect Leader forced out an awkward smile, his face wrinkled like a chrysanthemum, and his laugh more hideous than crying: "Your Excellency, I... of course, have no objections. It is my honor, as well as that of the Holy Alliance Country."

"Then I can be at ease." Chen Shouyi nodded and said.

"I... I was just... just cursing my subordinates, not you. Please... please don't misunderstand." The Sect Leader stammered.

"Oh, is that so? But cursing is not good after all, try to do it less in the future."

"Understood, understood!" The Sect Leader nodded quickly like a pecking chicken.

After speaking, Chen Shouyi decisively walked away.

However, this time, the Sect Leader dared not curse again, lest... he was heard once more.

Even if they don't kill him, another scare and his heart can't take it.

...

Chen Shouyi walked out of the cathedral nonchalantly, and the guards around completely ignored him, as if he were air.

"Was Little Red Dot impressive this time?" the Shell Lady tugged at Chen Shouyi's ear, her eyes as small as green beans cautiously looking at the giant on either side, feeling thrilled and excited, seeking praise, "Little Red Dot wasn't scared at all."

"Impressive." Chen Shouyi said, his voice barely traveled half a meter before being silently smoothed out by his thoughts.

This time didn't wait for Little Red Dot to speak.

"Little Red Dot was also impressive, both of you are impressive."

Chen Shouyi gave a thumbs up to both of them.

Little Red Dot beamed with a happy smile, "Yes, yes indeed!"

.....

Tamu.

The Forbidden Land of the Gods!

The sky and earth were filled with mysterious energies, vast power permeating the air.

Countless boulders and trees defied Tamu's gravity, floating in the air, accompanied by numerous auroras and lightning.

As if the end of the world had descended.

Chen Shouyi couldn't contain his curiosity and quietly approached the edge of the Forbidden Land, observing the situation here. What he saw sent shivers down his spine. The air was filled with a madness-inducing atmosphere. The creatures here seemed to have lost their sanity, their eyes blood-red, running amok, slaughtering one another.

Some creatures even began to mutate, becoming sinister and terrifying.

The distant space seemed alive, constantly writhing.

Occasionally emitting intense pulsations.

As if some monstrous entity was about to be born.

Suddenly, the will membrane on Chen Shouyi's body flashed in and out.

"Boom!"

Nearby, a large tree suddenly burst into flames without any apparent cause.

Burning fiercely.

In a moment, it was reduced to ashes.

The physical laws here had become somewhat chaotic, with changes in electromagnetism, gravity, and even the strong nuclear and weak nuclear forces.

"Damn!" Chen Shouyi felt a pang of unease, cursing in his heart, his face grim.

The sky exudes a killing intent; stars shift, the earth triggers a killing intent; dragons and serpents rise to the land.

At this moment, he had the urge to turn around and flee.

In fact, he wasn't the only one paying attention here; he could clearly feel there were several powerful presences in the void, staring intensely in this direction, recklessly emitting various powers.

This was powerful divine power, the pinnacle beings of Tam World.

However, compared to the terrifying aura of the Forbidden Land in the distance, it was like a firefly against a bright moon.

"Destiny Thief, this idiot. At this level of existence, would they see you as one of them just because of a blood relationship?" Chen Shouyi sneered in his heart, "The only fate is like a moth to a flame, or like a planet towards the sun, ending up as ashes."

"Ancestor God, haha, to beings of this level, all other creatures are nothing but ants..."

He wasn't planning to stay any longer.

This place was simply too dangerous; he got up and quickly withdrew.

He didn't fly into the sky.

He didn't want to confront those powerful divine entities.

Even though he no longer feared them, it's always wiser to avoid unnecessary trouble.

Of course, most importantly, there was more than one powerful divine power keeping an eye on this place.

Unfortunately, many times, trouble isn't something Chen Shouyi can just avoid if he wants to.

Chen Shouyi had only fled a few hundred kilometers when he was targeted.

"Evil being, you think you can leave after coming here?" A dull roar came from overhead, resounding like thunder.

"Damn it."

The veins on his forehead bulged, and he decided not to hide any longer, kicking off the ground and shooting into the sky.

Immediately, he sped away into the distance.

Not escaping means staying and being besieged?

In just a few seconds, he had reached his peak speed, slicing through the air like a streak of light, leaving a long trail behind.

"Hmm?" A soft sound came from the sky.

Seemingly unexpected, Chen Shouyi's speed was that fast.

But clearly, the opponent had no intention of giving up.

These days, Tam's will had become unprecedentedly active, as if the vast will was gradually awakening from slumber. All the gods' attitudes towards the evil being had shifted from disgust to intent to kill.

This happened naturally, even powerful divine beings couldn't detect any signs.

After all, in essence, these gods were a part of Tam's will.

The sky exploded like a clap of thunder, with vast divine power permeating the entire world.

Chen Shouyi strove to escape, but the danger not only didn't diminish; it became more pressing with time.

"Damn it, enough already. Do you really think I'm afraid of you?"

Chen Shouyi's gaze grew cold. Seeing no way to escape, he quickly descended towards the ground, ready to fight.

However, at this moment.

"Aow!"

Suddenly, a silent roar resonated in Chen Shouyi's mind, accompanied by a flood of chaotic and frenzied information.

"Not good!"

Chen Shouyi's expression changed drastically, his eyes almost turning blood-red.

He decisively gathered his will and burned Faith Value to resist the mental onslaught.

After a long while,

The insane thoughts in his mind gradually cleared up and dissipated.

"That roar just now..." He was still shaken, sweating cold on his forehead, "Could it be the Ancestor God... how terrifying!"

This was from a distance of tens of thousands of kilometers.

If it were up close...

Chen Shouyi couldn't even imagine the outcome.

Even if he didn't die, he would be driven mad.

He came to his senses, quickly regaining control of his body, which was nearly crashing to the ground, circled in an arc, and continued to flee the area.

As for the powerful divine Barbarian God pursuing him earlier.

Had long since vanished without a trace.

"It's like the Ancestor God unwittingly saved me?" He realized, pondering with a strange feeling in his heart.

Chapter 753: Protection Money

On the way back, everything went smoothly and no encounters with any Barbarian God.

A few days later.

Chen Shouyi emerged from the Spatial Passage in Tai Buddha Country, even he couldn't help but let out a long breath.

...

The temperature in Zhonghai in August was getting increasingly hot.

Even at night, it felt like being in an oven, and it wasn't even eight o'clock yet, the streets were full of people dressed lightly.

Chen Shouyi did not like summer.

Because he would always witness some awkward situations, yet couldn't avoid looking.

After all, there was no way around this.

Fortunately, having seen it many times,

he had become accustomed to it.

Nowadays, he generally wouldn't pay special attention, he just regarded it as background scenery.

Passing by a square, it was bustling with activity.

Under the guidance of several Martial Artists, many citizens were practicing martial arts, not to mention the children running around, playing joyfully.

Chen Shouyi couldn't help but pause and watch.

He had only been out for a few days.

The policies had evidently begun to be implemented gradually.

However, the result...

Middle-aged people are different from teenagers, many of them had never even touched Martial Arts before, they missed the best time to train, and as their bodies began to gradually age, without special talent or opportunity, they might never become a Martial Artist even if they trained until death.

He sighed lightly:

"Now I just hope this impending disaster comes as late as possible."

...

Just after taking a shower, Chen Xingyue came looking for Chen Shouyi.

Wearing big shorts and naked from the waist up, he opened the door.

"Brother, I want to discuss something with you," Chen Xingyue said, looking a bit embarrassed, hesitating to speak.

It was rare.

Chen Shouyi was a bit surprised: "Go ahead, what's up?"

"A few days ago, the leaders of the education bureau talked to me, intending for me to take up the role of dean at the soon-to-be-established Zhonghai Second Martial Arts Academy." Chen Xingyue spoke, her face slightly flushed, aware that it must be partly due to her brother.

Although her Peak Martial Artist strength was the strongest in the Martial Arts Academy, the role of dean was not solely dependent on strength, experience, managerial ability, nothing should be lacking, and even regarding strength, family knows best the circumstances, much of it is exaggerated.

"I haven't told mom and dad yet, I wanted to get your opinion first."

"What's your own thought?" Chen Shouyi pondered and asked.

"I want to give it a try," Chen Xingyue said courageously, "I will definitely work hard, and if it doesn't work out, I'll resign myself."

Chen Shouyi thought it over and didn't stop her: "If you think it's doable, then go for it."

After all, it's just a Martial Arts Academy dean.

If the leaders above aren't concerned, why should he be?

Probably just as a mascot.

It's not easy to do well, but equally difficult to do badly.

"Yes, thanks, brother."

Chen Xingyue quickly walked away, her face unable to suppress excitement.

He closed the door, his heart somewhat melancholic:

"My sister has grown up, already nineteen, working for two years, having her own career."

...

Holy Alliance Country.

Dozens of buses lined up like a long dragon, speeding on the intercontinental highway.

Inside one bus.

The bus was packed with people.

Some were resting with eyes closed, some were whispering, some had vacant looks, some sighed occasionally, and some quietly read books. Various life states, almost like a small society.

"Aurora, you came from Great Xia, do you know it well?" a middle-aged Caucasian woman asked her companion beside her, eyes glowing with anticipation.

Aurora Huang shook her head slightly awkwardly: "Blaze, you know I haven't returned to Great Xia for nearly over a decade, I'm long without any impression."

After graduating undergraduate, she studied abroad in the United States.

Afterward, she smoothly obtained a green card, joined the U.S. nationality, and later even her parents immigrated over, her impression of Great Xia was long blurred, all information about her homeland came from news, knowing no more than others.

"Whatever it is, it would be better than now in the Holy Alliance Country, it can't be worse," a middle-aged man joined the conversation, muttering softly.

The atmosphere inside the vehicle turned eerily quiet.

"Let's avoid discussing such sensitive topics here," Blaze hastily said, nervously looking around, having been scared too many times.

Two years under Barbarian God's rule had tremendously impacted the scientific community, not only her husband among many scientists persecuted but also research funding greatly reduced and even interrupted.

During these two years, universities mostly suspended classes.

It was only improving slightly in the past few months but limited at best.

Afterward, no one was interested in chatting, the bus sped along, and everyone was lost in their thoughts.

Gunshots sounded occasionally from afar, keeping everyone on edge, but fortunately, it was just a false alarm.

By evening.

The convoy reached the port, finding they weren't alone, as many similar groups disembarked, a large scale. Numerous armed forces from the Alliance Country solemnly maintained order, heavily guarded.

In the distance, dozens of military ships and cruise liners flying the Great Xia Country flag lay like giant beasts.

No one spoke, just exchanging glances, not waiting long, gradually boarding.

Blaze discovered the luxurious-looking cruise liners were modified, each standard room having six beds, completely eliminated comfort for transporting more people.

It reminded her of slave ships from the slave trade era.

But upon arrival, her heart strangely relaxed, shedding layers of constraints and oppression.

"God, how many scientists are sent to Great Xia this time?" Fellow Dina marvelled incredulously: "The people above are so generous."

"You noticed, they surely reached some backstage deal, damn dirty politics."

"Certainly Great Xia paid a hefty price too." Aurora Huang felt inexplicably uncomfortable.

"You don't understand what lengths those people will go to maintain their rule, they'll sell anything." Dina sneered, sarcastically: "Imagine, even our company's non-weapon departments almost got wiped out, there's nothing they wouldn't do."

Remember they were from Bose Company, a global airline industry leader, also one of the largest civilian and military aircraft manufacturers, an undisputed giant, standard national strategic enterprise, in the past, their core researchers faced travel restrictions.

Now all but bundled to Great Xia.

If they're affected, not to mention other projects.

This time the Alliance Country sold out completely.

In fact, not only Bose Company, aviation, space, computing and nuclear industries, related agencies also hit, affecting over a million people, along with countless advanced equipment and instruments.

This bloodless emasculation severely weakened Holy Alliance Country, unlikely to recover within ten years.

But it's not without benefits for the Holy Alliance Country.

It's a protection fee in disguise, stabilizing many upper echelons' minds in the Holy Alliance Country, no longer wavering.

Chapter 754: The Evil Path

In the dead of night, all was silent.

From afar came the faint rumble of factory machinery.

Chen Shouyi lay on the bed, practicing the most basic form of meditation and self-improvement.

A vast and microscopic image of the human body down to the molecular level was reflected in his mind, every detail visible. An astronomical amount of information surged into his brain like a tide.

Every part of his body, including his brain, was illuminated without a shadow in sight. Each cell was like a small light bulb connected to electricity, emitting a faint yet profound glow of will.

It was as if each cell were an independent life form.

At this moment, his thoughts were drawn to the neural network that emanated electrical pulses intermittently.

His nerve fibers were astonishingly thick, and the nerve endings were incredibly dense, resembling tree roots filled with tendrils and branches.

If the brain determined intelligence, then the nervous system, including the spinal cord, determined agility.

Both of these were his weaknesses.

Unfortunately, the former could be compensated for by burning Faith Value, but for the latter, except for more diligent practice, there was no solution yet.

This resulted in a feeling of inadequacy during every battle, never at his fullest.

Suddenly inspired, he thought: "Maybe there is a solution!"

He opened his eyes, which sparkled with light.

Even as a high school dropout, he knew the factors affecting the speed of nerve transmission were mainly related to height, the thickness of nerve fibers, and the myelin sheath.

Height.

This was immutable.

Even if it could be changed, he wouldn't want to become shorter.

Thickness?

He sensed himself and found he was already quite thick.

Almost double that of an average person.

And more concentrated.

Most importantly, directly modifying nerves was too risky.

The nervous system is quite complex.

Every nerve activity involves complex chemical reactions.

Every different pulse frequency represents a different signal transmission. When numerous nerve cells work in harmony, a person can see, hear, smell, taste, feel pain, and even feel happiness and sadness.

It's a chaotic and complex system, where a single move can affect the entire body.

In contrast, the myelin sheath is much simpler.

It only has three functions:

Firstly, to support axons and surrounding tissues, such as insulating between adjacent axons to avoid interference, akin to wrapping insulating layers around exposed wires.

Secondly, to speed up the transmission of action potentials through a mechanism known as "saltatory conduction";

Thirdly, to guide axon regeneration in cases of damage.

Even if broken, it doesn't severely affect nerve transmission.

At most, it slows signals down by about fifteen times.

In fact, some invertebrates, like certain cephalopods, crustaceans, and insects, have nervous systems completely devoid of myelin.

Similarly, mammalian pain and temperature sensation nerve fibers and postganglionic sympathetic fibers also lack myelin, though these nerves are often present in the same nerve bundle with myelinated fibers.

The more Chen Shouyi thought about it, the more feasible it seemed, so he couldn't lie down any longer.

He pulled two little ones out from his chest and placed them beside him, then got up from the bed, pacing back and forth in excitement.

The experiences of the past days left him feeling powerless and desperate, compelling an urgent desire for strength.

Now, his training speed was grinding to a halt, nearly stagnant, forcing him into unorthodox paths.

He suddenly paused, walked to the desk, picked up a cup of cold water, and drank it all.

"Let's give it a try!"

...

The two main principles of natural evolution.

First: Evolution is directionless and random.

Second: Good enough is sufficient.

Life is nature's miracle, yet it is also imperfect, rough, even cobbled together.

Since humans have walked upright, the problem of difficult childbirth has plagued human history like a nightmare.

In ancient times, childbirth was akin to stepping into death's door for women, a situation resolved only with the advent of cesarean sections.

Conversely, this also interrupted natural selection, leading to a dramatic increase in the proportion of large-headed infants and making natural childbirth increasingly difficult for women over the past century.

It can be said that since the rise of civilization, humanity has deeply intervened in its evolutionary process.

...

Chen Shouyi did not rush but instead focused his mind inward, carefully observing the structure and functioning of the myelin sheath on the nerve fibers.

Within seconds, he understood clearly.

In such deep observation at the molecular and even atomic levels, biology held few mysteries, everything lay in exquisite clarity before him.

He found that the myelin sheath's ability for "saltatory conduction" of signals was primarily because of the non-myelinated regions between two Schwann cells (a type of glial cell). This part of the axon was exposed, facilitating local currents between adjacent nodes, allowing electrical signals to transmit in a jumping manner and greatly accelerating the speed of information transmission.

It became straightforward after this.

He immediately devised three strategies.

Firstly, reduce the number of myelin sheaths on nerve fibers, streamlining the structure.

For instance, if it originally required a dozen leaps, reducing it to six or even two would undoubtedly greatly increase signal transmission speed.

Secondly, remodel and enhance Schwann cells and nodes of Ranvier on the myelin sheath to make them work more efficiently.

Thirdly, create some form of superconducting structure.

However, Chen Shouyi still had no clue about the latter two.

But the first could be attempted immediately.

Chen Shouyi took a deep breath and chose a small finger on his left hand for experimentation.

Nearly half of the Schwann cells were silently decomposed by his thoughts, exposing the nerve fibers within, then nearby Schwann cells were lengthened to cover the original space, and the structure was fixed.

The remodeling was simpler than imagined.

All the cells within him were at his command, including neurons, most with just a thought to complete.

In just a couple of seconds.

The little finger was entirely modified.

However, when he opened his eyes, he found the finger not only didn't become more nimble but rather became sluggish and numb. He struggled to bend it, feeling and thinking several steps slower, his brow furrowed:

"I knew it wasn't that simple." He thought reflectively:

"Where exactly did it go wrong?"

"Could it be that removing too many nodes pitted against the efficiency of nerve signal transmission?"

He continued experimenting.

"It affected the membrane potential!"

...

"What else haven't I considered?"

...

Time slowly passed, the sky gradually brightened, and Chen Shouyi lay in bed with no intention of getting up.

He lay there until noon.

He suddenly opened his eyes, filled with delight.

He finally succeeded.

The feeling was akin to shedding a heavy shell. He quickly opened the attribute panel:

Strength: 26.0

Agility: 26.6

Physique: 26.0

Intelligence: 26.0

Perception: 24.7

Willpower: 24.7

Energy Accumulation: 63.35

Faith Value: 21450.2

Inherent Abilities: Self-Healing (Super): 50.01%; Giant Battle Body (Super): 99.99%; Atmospheric Control: 55.01%.

Chapter 755: Endless Malice

"It actually increased by 0.6 points!"

0.6 points seems not much, but in fact, it increased by about 30%, which is quite considerable.

Chen Shouyi stood up, lightly moved his body, feeling like a machine that had just been lubricated, everything was satisfactory.

He felt both surprised and delighted in his heart.

It's as if he stumbled upon a fortune, and also felt like he discovered a new world.

In fact, he just had a sudden idea initially, and with a try-and-see attitude, didn't expect it to really succeed.

"This self-optimization shouldn't have reached its limit yet, it's just that my current knowledge reserve is far from enough to support it." Chen Shouyi the high school student thought to himself: "And it's not just the body that can be optimized, the brain should be optimizable too."

Thinking about this in his heart, he picked up the phone and dialed Bai Xiaoling's office number: "Sister Bai, send me a batch of books on biology, the more the better, and also send over a batch of bookshelves."

Chen Shouyi hung up the phone.

"Good giant, the little one is hungry." Perhaps awakened by the talking voice, the Shell Lady sat up from the bed, bleary-eyed.

"Okay, I'll get it for you right away."

...

A dozen minutes later.

The president's office of Zhonghai University received a notice from above, feeling perplexed, according to the instructions, all biology books needed to be urgently prepared, waiting for someone to come and load them away.

Without mentioning how many people and things were affected by a single phone call from Chen Shouyi.

Chen Shouyi had already dressed, washed, and took the two little ones, riding his bicycle out the door.

Under the blazing sun, the pedestrians were sparse.

"For this operation, everyone be careful, don't lose your life before you get the bonus."

"Elder Hu, please look after us then."

"No problem. Since we're in a team, I certainly won't stand by and watch you die. As long as you don't rush forward recklessly and follow orders, I guarantee all of you will come out safe. But if someone has their own ideas and wants to show off, then don't blame me for being ruthless." Hu Han said calmly.

Listening to a group of martial artists discussing their mission by the roadside from afar.

Chen Shouyi felt an inexplicable sense of nostalgia, feeling like he was already old. He rode his bicycle past them.

Hu Han glanced and suddenly froze, his whole body stiffening as if unable to move.

"Elder Hu, what's wrong?" asked a young female martial artist beside him.

"Ah, ah!" Hu Han regained his senses, his expression excited: "Did you see it? Did you see it?"

Everyone looked at each other, watching the formerly composed Elder Hu, now as if he had discovered something incredible, unable to contain his excitement, yet nothing had happened at all.

"Elder Hu, what did you see?" a major martial artist cautiously prompted.

"Didn't you all see? That bicycle just now... uh, the person on it, it's General Manager Chen!!!" Hu Han said excitedly, as if he had turned into a die-hard fan: "I've seen him once from afar, I won't mistake him."

"Ah!"

"Ah!"

Everyone exclaimed in surprise.

...

Even now, the only truly safe area is the city.

In the suburbs, especially in rarely inhabited mountainous areas.

Various invasive species are often discovered, even everywhere. Without natural enemies, these creatures proliferate rapidly, severely disrupting the ecological balance, and they're quite dangerous for ordinary people.

As for the sea, it's even more of a disaster area.

It can be said that the sea has virtually no native species left.

...

Since escaping from the Forbidden Land last time, he quietly entered the alien world again.

He keenly felt that the aura of the alien world had slightly changed again, becoming more dangerous, giving a faint sense of dread.

He didn't mind, settled the two little ones, took off his clothes, and flew to a distant mountaintop to continue practicing.

However, he had just started practicing when several malicious eyes locked on him.

"It seems with every struggle and riot of the Ancestor God.

The will of Tamu has become increasingly hostile to him!" a shadow flashed through his heart.

He was innocently implicated.

"Hahaha", he let out a low laugh: "Forget about the powerful divine power, but even a few weaklings dare to come seeking death." Instantly a trace of ferocity crossed his mind.

The affairs of recent days already made his heart restless. At this moment, the malice of these Barbarian Gods was no different from adding fuel to his fire.

"Want to die, I'll fulfill your wish."

He transformed into a hundred-meter-tall giant in an instant.

Then his legs bent slightly.

The glacier underfoot suddenly exploded into a spider-web of cracks.

The next moment.

With a "boom", a blinding white light flashed.

An enormous body weighing nearly fifty thousand tons shot straight into the sky at the speed of dozens of Mach, with the great mountain beneath unable to withstand such terrifying physical impact and shattered like tofu.

In just a breath.

He pierced through the clouds and soared to tens of thousands of meters high.

That beast-shaped Barbarian God, still bewildered, reacted just too late. A giant fist, as large as its body, shone with dazzling white light, filling its entire pupil.

Molecule, atom, electron, all particles around fiercely collided under Chen Shouyi's overwhelming giant fist, bursting into dazzling energy, making the sky seem to have risen a small sun, like a miniature nuclear explosion.

For the Barbarian God, it was just a fleeting moment.

High temperature, energy, light radiation, and even worse, terrible kinetic energy, all brutally struck its body.

"No!" In the critical moment, it only managed to let out a terrified angry roar.

The next moment, under this world-destroying blow, it exploded into a bloody rain.

"Oh, it was actually the real body?"

Chen Shouyi softly exclaimed, originally thought this was just an avatar.

In the Tam World, it's rare for Barbarian Gods to act in their true form, usually only avatars are seen. Unexpectedly this one truly descended in its real body.

Truly daring indeed.

"Can't let it go to waste!"

He thought to himself.

The scattered blood rain was drawn together by an invisible force in the world, quickly coagulating into a spherical mass of flesh, which he threw into his space.

Then he stepped on the air, rushing toward another Barbarian God, who, upon witnessing this scene, had already fled in panic and despair.

Chen Shouyi's running speed in the air wasn't quick, but it also depends on who he's comparing to.

Compared to those with powerful divine power Barbarian Gods, he naturally couldn't compare.

But against this one, at most with weak-level divine power, his speed was almost twice as fast.

After several tens of seconds.

He quickly caught up.

A massive hand, seven and a half meters wide, broke through the air, easily clutching the poor Barbarian God frozen in the air, akin to holding a small kitty:

"Who gave you the courage to bother me, perhaps you can tell me what's going on?" Chen Shouyi's giant eyes stared coldly at it.

He discovered this was also a real body, something fishy was going on.

The Barbarian God trembled like a sieve, with an endless look of despair on its face.

"Evil creature, you... you can't kill me?"

Chapter 756: Demi-Plane

A few minutes later.

The Barbarian God was crushed into pulp by Chen Shouyi, his Divine Soul obliterated.

He looked grave.

From the words of the Barbarian God, he learned that during this period, the Tamu World underwent a dramatic change, causing turbulence in many Divine Countries, leading to their collapse. These gods were the unfortunate ones among them.

To protect themselves, many gods formed alliances. In this group, there were five of them, all of weak Divine Power. Unfortunately, aside from the two killed by Chen Shouyi, the other three managed to escape.

The reason they targeted him was merely due to their hatred of evil beings.

Chen Shouyi understood that the reason wasn't that simple and was evidently influenced by the will of Tamu.

"Here, I must be quite infamous by now," Chen Shouyi mused silently to himself.

He gazed at the sky, remaining still for a long time.

Suddenly, he returned to his original form, pushed off with his foot, and with a "boom," a shockwave exploded, propelling his body straight into the sky.

He had always been curious about the Barbarian Gods' Divine Countries and the like, but he had always restrained such impulses.

On one hand, he was previously weak, with countless beings capable of killing him.

On the other hand, he knew that many dangers often arise from curiosity.

Mishaps don't have doors, they only come to those who summon them.

After all, this wasn't a game where you could continuously reload; life only offers one chance, and if it is botched, everything ends.

But today, Chen Shouyi finally had the capital to indulge a bit.

In the vast Tamu World, aside from the Ancestor God and the Tamu not making an appearance, he stood at the pinnacle of the world. Even if surrounded by several of Great Divine Power, killing him wouldn't be easy.

He zoomed a kilometer in an instant, flying faster and faster.

Ten minutes later, the sky gradually darkened, and the air thinned more and more.

"It seems like I've reached near space," he observed, looking around.

Unlike Earth's outer space, there were no stars here, no moon, and even the distant sun seemed not so far away.

This place felt weird to him!

In the vast and seemingly borderless outer space, there loomed endless depths and a biting cold. Fluctuations that felt like cosmic rays, or chaotic streams of Energy, swept by without restraint, occasionally erupting in Energy fountains that seemed to scrape the bones.

It appeared beautiful yet held perilous lethality.

Ordinary people, even a Martial Artist here, might find themselves consumed and obliterated within seconds. But for Chen Shouyi, it was merely akin to a breeze against his face, insufficient to hinder him in the slightest.

However, to say this was a void would not be entirely accurate, as there were occasionally some things in this chaotic Energy stream, mostly extremely hard meteorites capable of withstanding years of Energy storms, not ordinary objects.

Chen Shouyi reached out and plucked a piece of meteorite speeding by.

The dark-hued piece, shimmering with metallic luster, appeared as if it had been polished meticulously, incredibly smooth, reflective enough to see oneself.

He pinched it with his fingers.

Only indents of his fingers appeared upon applying force.

The toughness was almost on par with his Will synthesis, far exceeding any alloy on Earth.

He casually tossed it into his space.

However, he wasn't here to scavenge, and these minerals weren't very useful to him. With willingness, he could synthesize with Will at any time.

This place was still and dark.

There wasn't a sign of life anywhere.

Evidently, for most life forms in Tamu, this place was undoubtedly a lifeless zone.

"Boom!"

At this moment, a spatial ripple suddenly swept past him.

Simultaneously, a blinding light exploded in the distant front.

Chen Shouyi's gaze was immediately drawn in, swiftly flying towards the target.

But halfway through, trouble arose.

Ahead lay chaos, exuding terrifying Energy fluctuations, with massive amounts of matter seemingly erupting crazily. Countless volcanic ashes, speckled with stars, and searing white magma flew at almost a hundred kilometers per second like a storm.

Despite Chen Shouyi's accelerated thoughts and his best efforts to dodge, fragments of magma still hit him, bursting into a continual white glow, leaving him covered in blood.

Fortunately, these were only minor injuries for him. The splattered blood and flesh, as soon as they left his body, coalesced like swallows returning to their nest, healing the wounds.

The eruption of material flow persisted for half a minute before gradually subsiding.

What appeared before him was a vast crimson mass composed of ash, gas, and white magma, stretching tens of thousands of kilometers.

"With such tremendous power, what just happened?" Chen Shouyi slowly halted, observing everything in front of him, deep in thought:

"An asteroid explosion? Or... a half-plane destruction!"

"According to the Barbarian Gods, outer space has become quite unstable recently, causing unrest even in Divine Countries."

"But, exactly where is this half-plane?"

Soon after, Chen Shouyi left this place of destruction, intent on finding the presence of a half-plane or Divine Country.

He reignited his Faith, allowing boundless information to flood his mind, skimming over any anomalies nearby.

During this period, his Faith Value had accumulated back to twenty thousand points, quite abundant.

He was in luck.

Ten minutes later.

His eyes lit up, ceasing the burning of Faith Value, his body accelerating forward.

This was a peculiar location.

From an ordinary person's two-dimensional perspective, this place looked no different from anywhere else.

In fact, even his three-dimensional vision could barely sense the difference here, it felt like the refraction of sight from converging water streams of different densities.

He reached into the void, sensing the faint touch of another space's presence, the two seemed to overlap/merge as one, like a parasite in the Tamu World.

"It seems this is the half-plane?"

So the question is, how to enter?

"But if the Barbarian Gods could enter, surely there's no reason I cannot," Chen Shouyi pondered, his eyes suddenly lighting up, "Perhaps it requires Will?"

He closed his eyes, consolidating his Will, sensing the half-plane.

The next moment, he felt a spatial shift, his body had already broken through the plane barrier, entering a strange space.

"Huh, it's so easy, it must be that the space here is very weak."

He looked around out of curiosity; it was a dead and confined world, with a diameter not exceeding three kilometers. Inside was only a hundred-meter-diameter asteroid and several much smaller meteorites.

This world was akin to the Book of Knowledge, finite yet boundless, small and pitifully limited.

The only odd thing was the dim sun hanging overhead.

But Chen Shouyi guessed it was likely a reflection of the Tamu Sun.

Indeed, it proved to be the case.

Such a miniature universe, not to mention condensing a star, a Moon alone could explode this space.

Chapter 757: Project

Chen Shouyi felt a bit terrified.

This half-plane was unstable, with space ripples appearing now and then.

Obviously, this kind of mini-universe, compared to a real universe, was as fragile as a newborn baby.

He had a thought.

A powerful will extended endlessly, and an overwhelmingly strong aura erupted.

The asteroid cracked with countless thick fissures, spreading rapidly like a web. Some smaller meteors shattered without resistance, even the space vibrated violently, making one worry that this plane might not withstand the pressure and suddenly collapse.

Soon, Chen Shouyi's will gradually merged into every corner of this world, having a faint connection with this plane.

"Sure enough, the Divine Country is built on this foundation."

"From leaving an imprint to controlling a world," he paused his actions, the space's turbulence slowly calmed, and he pondered, "Even though it's just a mini-universe, as long as no power can break this world, it can suppress all enemy gods who enter."

"Divine Country!"

He whispered softly, dismissing the idea of visiting a Divine Country.

In terms of survival, Barbarian God is obviously much stronger than evil beings like the Destiny Thief. At least a Barbarian God with powerful divine power standing in a Divine Country gave Chen Shouyi no thoughts of fighting.

He didn't stay here long and left this half-plane.

He looked into the depths of outer space, where it was dark and cold. Occasionally, there were flashes of light like fleeting sparks. Undoubtedly, each light represented a half-plane or Divine Country's demise.

He felt a slight chill in his heart as he watched.

The turmoil here undoubtedly related to the war of "two terrifying existences."

The will of Tamu was mobilizing power, balancing in a way he couldn't understand.

Its effect would likely be catastrophic for both Tam World and Earth.

He watched for a while, then looked away, turning to leave without any lingering feelings.

...

Sunday, on the street.

"Why do you seem so preoccupied?" Zhang Xiaoyue asked.

"Do I?" Chen Shouyi turned his head and said.

She was wearing a white T-shirt and a gray-and-white checkered skirt, with an unembellished face that could be both angry and cheerful, looking youthful and charming.

To be honest, Zhang Xiaoyue wasn't stunningly beautiful.

Not to mention the alluring and sacred aura of the Goddess of Fertility, even the God of Conspiracy, who now appeared in female form, was far superior. Those were beauties not attainable by mortals.

But there's a kind of love called first love, and a kind of beauty called the beauty in the eyes of a lover.

At this moment, Zhang Xiaoyue, in Chen Shouyi's eyes, was more beautiful than the God of Conspiracy and a little bit more beautiful than the Goddess of Fertility.

"Frowning all the time makes you look ugly!" Zhang Xiaoyue glanced at him, her eyes moist and teased.

Truly speaking nonsense with her eyes open.

Chen Shouyi thought sarcastically.

Were the young ladies, middle-aged women, and elderly women frequently glancing at him all blind?

Or did they have a problem with their aesthetic sense?

"Smiling all day makes you look silly," Chen Shouyi took her hand and laughed.

Zhang Xiaoyue held his hand tightly, feeling sweet inside, she suddenly remembered something: "Oh, I haven't told you yet, I've rented a place outside, but I haven't stayed there yet. I'm planning to move in a few days."

"Where is it?" Chen Shouyi blurted out.

"I'll take you there now," Zhang Xiaoyue's heart couldn't help but beat fast.

The place was right next to the school, mostly rented by students, and the room was just a single space, looking a bit small.

"I haven't tidied it up yet, so it's a bit messy," Zhang Xiaoyue took out her key, opened the door, smoothed her bangs in disguise, forcing herself to stay calm.

"It's nice," Chen Shouyi said casually, closing the door with his hand, his body slowly approaching.

Zhang Xiaoyue's face turned red like a cloth, her breathing started to quicken, like a poor little white bunny watching a tiger approach, she pretended to be fierce and snorted:

"What are you looking at? Is there a flower on my face?"

...

When Chen Shouyi was riding his bike back.

There was a melancholy on his face.

Although Zhang Xiaoyue was very conservative in this aspect, without any thoughts in this regard, dawdling and satisfied, but keep going on like this is not a solution.

What if we get married in the future?

Still dawdle?

Then how to have kids?

And without kids, naturally, there won't be grandchildren.

His excellent genes shouldn't be cut off at his generation, should they?

Although his control over his own cells had reached a meticulous level and he was confident, even if that... there shouldn't be any invasion, but everything had its risks, and if something went wrong, it'd be too late to regret.

"Should I try it out in the Virtual Memory World?" he thought secretly.

He glanced at the status panel.

The energy value had accumulated to 64 points, just 17 points away from optimizing and entering self-refinement at 81 points, at most just a month and a half.

He hesitated to waste such precious energy value here.

"Forget it, no need to hurry," Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

.....

In the Jingjin area.

Steel, metallurgy, aerospace, electronics, nuclear industry...

This was the largest industrial belt of the Great Xia Country, with the most categories, and it was also the largest heavy industry belt in the world, without exception.

War is the best catalyst for technology. As far as heavy industry is concerned, these five years of arduous war not only did not degrade the heavy industry of the Great Xia Country, but there were earth-shaking changes in both quality and quantity.

Of course, this is partly due to the "assistance" of technology from various countries.

In just one short month, countless research institutes from everywhere collectively relocated here.

On the vast networks of roads, long lines of heavy transport trucks flowed endlessly, dust filled the air, and on both sides were rows of giant factories like giants.

Such a situation had not stopped for a single day since last month.

Even the vacant lands beside the industrial area saw more plants being constructed tirelessly day and night, and new factories were put into use every day.

Many foreign personnel from Xuri, Korea, the European Union, Lucy Country, or the Holy Alliance Country were carefully inspecting the construction.

Undoubtedly, this was the most grand and shocking engineering project mankind had ever undertaken.

Compared to it, the Manhattan Project was just trivial, unworthy of mention.

There was no financial limit.

Resources and power were supplied indefinitely.

Everything gave way to the project.

The number of people involved at the project's initial stage alone was as high as 20 million, with 3.5 million being scientific researchers, and the number would probably multiply in the later stages.

In fact, this was just one part of the entire enormous project—although the largest and most essential part—aside from this, the European Union and Lucy Country also had their respective allocated tasks.

Under the threat of human survival, humanity was unleashing tremendous power.

Chapter 758: I Just Want to Study in Peace

Inside a huge factory building, several cranes under onsite direction carefully unloaded the giant objects from the truck.

"Is this the lunar ship of the United States?" Chen Shouyi, mixed in the inspection team, asked the president beside him.

Early this morning, he went up to the Capital City and donated the two divine corpses he had.

These divine corpses were of no use to him now, occupying space even in his realm, so when the president heard about it and warmly invited him to inspect, Chen Shouyi came out of curiosity.

"This is just a component—although it's an antique from decades ago, there's still a lot we can learn from it," the president explained with a smile, feeling very good; after all, anyone who received two divine corpses early in the morning would be in a great mood.

The Great Xia Country still had a significant reserve of divine corpses.

But they were saved from being extremely frugal, making one cent split into two, but if they were freely used, no amount would be sufficient.

Divine corpses were of significant use.

Enhancing individual combat power, cultivating super scientists...

With these two divine corpses, he felt a lot of plans could be carried out more aggressively.

"Recently, we've acquired quite a few good things from the United States."

The president paused, thinking that General Manager Chen likely wasn't interested in these matters and chatted idly, "What have you been busy with lately?"

Chen Shouyi looked at the equipment with interest, responding casually,

"Practicing martial arts and reading books!"

What a pure person he was.

Young, powerful, disciplined, and handsome, as perfect as the very definition of perfection.

The president was moved by this thought, smiling as he said, "General Manager Chen, do you have a girlfriend? Would you like me to introduce one to you?"

He had a granddaughter who was only seventeen, but in this era, it was almost time for her to get married.

Moreover, General Manager Chen wasn't much older.

They seemed like a good match.

Those accompanying the inspection all pretended to look straight ahead, pressed their noses down, and remained calm, trying hard to maintain a benign and harmless smile, deeply hiding their thoughts within their gaze.

"I have one." Chen Shouyi replied.

This sentence extinguished the secret thoughts of many people present.

At this time, Chen Shouyi remembered something and asked, "By the way, Mr. President, have there been any movements with the surrounding Barbarian Gods recently?"

"No relevant intelligence has been received yet!" said the president.

Since the Lord of Lightning fell, the surrounding Barbarian Gods had been as docile as quails, making not only the borders exceptionally stable but also opening convenient doors, cooperating happily, making neighboring relations even more reassuring than before.

In a normal country, there would be concerns about policy changes and public opinion, but in such a theocratic country, everything was decided by the Barbarian Gods, resulting in unprecedentedly stable policies:

"Did you find any issues?"

"Not really." Chen Shouyi shook his head.

It seemed that the Barbarian Gods still had some rationality, Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

He didn't care what hostility these Barbarian Gods had against him.

It didn't matter.

In Tamu, he was insignificant, but on this Earth, those who obeyed him would prosper, those who defied him would perish!

He called the shots!

His remark prompted the president: "This base is of great importance, and security is a top priority. I was wondering if I might ask you to oversee it?"

Chen Shouyi hesitated for a moment, looking at the thick fog here, and straightforwardly refused, "I'd rather not. I'm used to living in Zhonghai, and besides, it's not too far from here. If something goes wrong, I can be there in a few minutes."

The president: "..."

...

Chen Shouyi wasn't lying; he had indeed been reading these past few days.

The bookshelves in the once-empty study, used as a mere decoration at home, were now filled to the brim, resembling a small library.

At this moment, he was sitting cross-legged on the ground, eyes closed.

Of course, he wasn't resting or asleep.

He was reading a book.

Light meant nothing to three-dimensional vision, and similarly, whether a book was flipped or not made no difference to three-dimensional vision. The pages, though seemingly closed, still had gaps, allowing him to easily see the text on the surface of the pages.

Not only that, with an intelligence of 26 points, he was like a supercomputer, able to simultaneously read hundreds of pages of textual information, then combine and digest all the text in his mind.

Under normal circumstances, it took him less than ten seconds to finish a book.

And he could recite it backwards fluently.

At first, he felt a little uncomfortable with this way of reading, but soon he adapted to this efficient method.

One by one, the books on the shelf were quickly consumed by him.

At this time, Chen Shouyi profoundly understood what they meant by saying learning made people happy; he felt so immersed in learning, unable to extricate himself.

Of course, the premise was having a clever mind, or else the outcome would be frustration and pain, along with deep existential angst.

When he finished the last book, he felt a bit unfinished, somewhat lost.

He looked at his watch.

"Alas, without realizing it, I've been reading for an hour."

"Unfortunately, most of the knowledge in the books is repetitive."

He walked back to the bedroom.

Two little ones were sitting properly on the bed, watching cartoons with great seriousness, not noticing him coming in.

Chen Shouyi shook his head.

He had already given up trying to fix these two little ones.

He walked to the desk, picked up the phone, and called Bai Xiaoling: "Sister Bai, I've finished all the books, could you please replace them with another batch?"

On the other end, Bai Xiaoling, covering the phone's mouthpiece, was dumbfounded.

He finished already?

Bai Xiaoling couldn't help but doubt if she had misunderstood General Manager Chen's true intentions, maybe the books weren't to his liking?

General Manager Chen wanted books on biology.

Perhaps it was just a subtle hint... this biology isn't that biology.

Just too embarrassed to say it outright.

After all, no matter how powerful General Manager Chen was, he was still a normal man, only 21 years old, living so self-disciplined and pure, of course he had his needs.

As General Manager Chen's secretary, she felt guilty that she hadn't noticed, secretly blaming herself.

"Hello! Hello!" Chen Shouyi, hearing no response, called twice.

"Ah, sorry, sorry, General Manager Chen, I zoned out," Bai Xiaoling quickly snapped back, apprehensive.

"It's alright, no need to apologize," Chen Shouyi replied amiably.

"General Manager Chen, how about if I apply for a private library for you?" Bai Xiaoling cautiously suggested, "Various books can be stored there, and you can read whatever you want?"

Chen Shouyi was momentarily stunned: "A library?"

"Yes, there are many buildings under Zhonghai Air, and several are near your residence. You could have a cinema inside too, no one would disturb you," Bai Xiaoling said, covering the hot phone, her face red.

"No, I'd rather just go to the university library," Chen Shouyi declined, baffled.

He just wanted to study quietly; what did he need a cinema for?

Chapter 759: Non-Naturalized Individuals

Time flies by swiftly.

In the month of September,

a mid-level Divine Power Barbarian God, uninformed of current events, invaded the Middle East, causing millions of people to suffer, with lives devastated.

The local government urgently requested aid from Great Xia Country.

Chen Shouyi personally made a trip there, transforming into a Giant under the watchful eyes of many onlookers, easily vanquishing the Barbarian God and taking away the Divine Corpse.

The surrounding Barbarian Gods were all intimidated, not daring to even harbor secret intentions from that point on.

Meanwhile, on the Great Xia Country's side, it was only briefly mentioned in the People's Daily to boost the morale of the populace.

But the effect?

Less than satisfactory.

At least the increase in believers was minimal.

The strength of President Chen couldn't surprise the people much anymore.

It could even be said they were "numb."

To ordinary people, Barbarian Gods seemed just that, anyway, seeing President Chen easily disposing of Barbarian Gods frequently.

No matter how shocking, no matter how unbelievable, when witnessed too often, it's not surprising anymore.

Even the authorities felt the same.

When the powerful Lord of Lightning was defeated, what's surprising about killing a mid-level Divine Power Barbarian God?

No blinking an eye.

As for Father Chen and Mrs. Chen, they were even calmer.

...

During dinner.

"When did you go to the Middle East? Why didn't I know?" Chen Dawei asked in confusion.

"Went yesterday afternoon," Chen Shouyi swallowed his food and said, "and returned before evening."

"You weren't hurt, were you?" Mrs. Chen inquired.

"No issues, not a scratch on me."

After that, no more words were exchanged, causing the words Chen Shouyi originally wanted to say to be swallowed down.

He couldn't help but glance at his sister and parents, who were eating quietly.

Aren't you at all surprised, not at all shocked?

This was a mid-level Divine Power Barbarian God.

I fought quite hard, you know?

...

It was just starting to dawn.

On the street.

Ruan Xiong, dressed in Martial Arts Uniform, a long sword hanging at his waist, holding a bow case in his hand, walked briskly towards the passage entrance.

He was not from Great Xia Country but from Luoyue Country.

Back when he flowed in with the refugees entering Great Xia Country, he was dispersed and settled in Zhonghai. At that time, the situation was still unclear, and to be able to return in the future, he chose to retain his nationality when considering joining citizenship.

For this decision, he regretted it countless times.

Unfortunately, there's no medicine for regret in this world.

As policies tightened, the immigration window had closed.

The kind of situation where merely fleeing into Great Xia Country and taking a simple oath could grant one citizenship had long ceased to be possible.

Also, the citizenship conditions have become increasingly rigorous.

For example, needing to reside continuously for 12 years and pass various assessments, including language (scientific researchers, engineers, doctors, and Martial Artists recognized by Great Xia Country can have terms reduced).

Or serving three years in the military and showing good conduct for two years after discharge without a bad record.

Or making outstanding contributions.

...

And he was just a strong Martial Artist; although he had reduced years, he still needed to reside for six years.

Unless he made an outstanding contribution in a major crisis or became a Martial Artist, a long wait awaited him.

There is still a significant difference between citizens and non-citizens.

Firstly, the tax rate is higher; with the same salary, the tax rate is higher by twenty percent.

Secondly, they cannot enjoy the welfare of compulsory education and pensions in Great Xia Country.

Lastly, they cannot become public officials except by joining the army.

But no matter what, living in Great Xia Country is still much better than in Luoyue Country, with sufficient material supplies, a comfortable life, and a prosperous city. Even with his strength, living well in Luoyue Country, and possibly better because of the shortage of strong Martial Artist level personnel there, one thing is incomparable.

That is a sense of security.

Only those who have experienced war and fear know the value of peace.

Especially for someone like him with a family to care for.

Even if he died, his family could live well here.

...

Ruan Xiong walked to the cafeteria hall in the base, where it was bustling and noisy.

Many people were having breakfast.

There were white people, black people, and yellow-skinned people inside.

Ruan Xiong ordered a full plate of breakfast and sat at a table.

"Ah Xiong, you're here."

It was his fellow countryman, Li Lin, who spoke. The other person hadn't joined citizenship either, sharing a similar plight, making the relationship closer.

Ruan Xiong nodded, picked up a bun, stuffed it into his mouth, and glanced at the cafeteria: "Are more people being recruited?"

"The wages here are high, and there's not much risk." Li Lin enviously glanced at several Great Xia Country people and said, "Even those strong Martial Artists of Great Xia Country are attracted here."

"Just wonder how long they can do it?" Ruan Xiong sighed.

Employment positions for non-citizen Martial Artists are narrow, some institutional work is isolated from them, others either involve martial arts training or venturing into alien worlds.

"I asked those in the military; it should last a fairly long time, as Great Xia Country seems prepared to penetrate the entire forest."

"Could it be for road construction?" Ruan Xiong said, laughing at his own joke.

That forest is vast, spanning not just hundreds, but thousands of kilometers; unless Great Xia Country is crazy.

"Haha, maybe it really is."

...

In the alien world.

The machinery roared.

Thirty to forty tracked steam logging engineering vehicles lined up, each wielding chainsaws, frantically cutting down trees.

Trees fell one after another.

Emitting earth-shattering sounds.

In the dense forest, a massive corridor, hundreds of meters wide and several kilometers long, had been developed.

There are five such projects in Great Xia Country, preparing for a potential mass migration and all placed in Zhonghai. The reason is naturally because General Manager Chen is stationed there, capable of handling issues immediately if they arise.

In fact, such trouble is unnecessary at all.

If only Chen Shouyi is willing.

Even just walking normally, he would only need a few days to carve out a corridor thousands of kilometers long in the forest.

But the authorities didn't wish to trouble Chen Shouyi with such a "trivial matter."

Chapter 760: Fifth Optimization of Entering Stillness to Refine the Self (Part 1)

Today, the wind is mild, the weather is clear, and there isn't a single cloud in the sky, spotless and clean as if washed.

Two days ago, a typhoon brought a bit of coolness to the sweltering heat, making it a great day for studying.

Zhonghai University Library, silent as a pause.

Only the slight sounds of pages being turned and pens scratching against paper can be heard.

As one of the top universities in the Great Xia Country, the atmosphere for studying is undoubtedly intense, with solitary souls lamenting their loneliness, couples feeding each other dog food all day, and best friends of all sorts forming their unique cliques.

Chen Dongliang belongs to the in-between.

Although he is also a solitary soul, he does have a secret crush.

It's like white horses and black dogs; through set theory in math, you could easily deduce they are all horses. Likewise, a crush is naturally a type of romance!

It is absolutely beyond doubt, unquestionably so.

Even from five meters away, he can faintly smell her gentle fragrance wafting over.

This fragrance gives him the illusion that she's right beside him, moving him with happiness and warmth, filling his heart with boundless energy.

As long as she's there.

He feels like he could stay in the library forever until the end of time, until the seas dry up and rocks decay, until the universe is destroyed.

Of course, he hopes to sit a little closer to her.

Like two meters closer, or three.

He just isn't fully prepared yet.

If she notices him, what should he do then?

Smile, or nod politely?

If smiling, should he show just two teeth, or eight?

If nodding, is it better to nod 15 degrees, 30 degrees, or even 90?

If he goes further and initiates a conversation with her, how could he appear graceful and humorous while casually and subtly mentioning his second-place scholarship and class leader achievements?

This is really difficult.

This problem, he simply cannot solve.

Luckily, quietly watching the adorable angelic face of his goddess is already satisfying enough for him.

At this moment, he felt a sudden urgency to pee and got up to go to the bathroom.

However, upon returning, he noticed that the atmosphere seemed slightly different.

Like countless flies buzzing around, the library was filled with whispers, leaving him utterly confused.

Did something major happen just now?

He immediately looked toward the goddess.

Only to find her stealing shy glances now and then at a stranger sitting at the table opposite him.

This man was exceptionally handsome, tall, and upright; the afternoon light streamed through the windows, shining on him as if he glowed. It seemed impossible for someone to be this handsome, even as a guy, he felt a sense of attraction.

The scene before him was like a bucket of cold water suddenly pouring over his head, chilling him to the core.

He sat back in his seat, crestfallen, watching as within a few minutes, a dozen girls or so pretended to fill their water bottles or go to the bathroom, walking past the stranger with flushed faces, some even more than once, including his goddess.

Is it that they are parched from staring, hence water gets consumed fast, or have they drunk too much water, causing frequent urination?

Or maybe both.

A strong jealousy arose in his heart.

Why do such people come to the library?

Don't they know they'll cause a disturbance?

Why not just stay in the dorm quietly reading?

He thought bitterly to himself, feeling as desolate as an old dog curled up in a corner.

And his goddess, why couldn't she be a bit more reserved; the guy wasn't even looking at her.

Pretty boys like these, what are they good for besides their looks? They're all unfaithful scoundrels, completely unreliable.

Moreover, he noticed the guy staring at a book for over ten minutes without turning a page.

The more he thought, the angrier he got. When the goddess went to the bathroom for the third time, he finally couldn't stand it, gritted his teeth, adjusted his glasses, and silently stood up.

He couldn't let a bad apple ruin the bunch; the library is a place for studying, not for harassing girls... If this continues, his goddess will be lost to him.

He took a deep breath and went over to the librarian's desk.

"Teacher, I want to report something."

"What's the matter?" The middle-aged librarian looked up surprised, for some reason, her face was also slightly red.

"Someone is disrupting the library's order; we can't focus on our studies."

"I haven't seen anything." The librarian glanced at the library, her gaze quickly sweeping past Chen Shouyi, and blatantly lied.

"Someone is too handsome, affecting many girls' ability to study." Chen Dongliang hesitantly said, somewhat uneasy.

"That's not right, being handsome shouldn't affect studying, should we drive people away just for their looks? Should ugly ones be kicked out too then? One shouldn't be narrow-minded because of oneself... cough, cough." The librarian said, coughing slightly, paused, and then continued:

"If you feel affected, you might consider studying elsewhere."

Chen Dongliang opened his mouth, wishing to ask, because of what?

But ultimately, he didn't have the courage to speak.

Afraid to hear any discouraging words.

"But... but he isn't here to study?"

"And how do you know he's not studying? Enough, stop now." The librarian's gaze turned unfriendly.

Chen Dongliang retreated in embarrassment.

When he returned to his seat, he found his seat occupied by his goddess, with his books moved aside.

"Excuse me, I couldn't find a seat, and this one looked empty. Is it okay if I sit here?"

"Ah... oh... sure, go ahead." His face turned crimson, flustered and unsure.

Even the acne covering his face flushed like tiny glowing bulbs,

"Thank you, you're really a kind person."

"You're welcome, not at all. My name is Chen..." Chen Dongliang was just about to seize the rare chance to introduce himself, but saw his goddess shyly glancing at the handsome guy opposite, completely ignoring what he was saying!

...

Chen Shouyi, absorbed, was completely lost in his studies.

He had long been accustomed to all the fervent gazes in the library.

Anyone who experiences this daily, wreaking havoc even on the streets, would eventually get used to it.

After all, looking handsome is something beyond one's control.

Chen Shouyi suddenly felt something and stopped reading.

Then he opened the attribute panel.

Strength: 26.1

Agility: 26.6

Constitution: 26.1

Intelligence: 26.1

Perception: 24.9

Will: 24.9

Energy Accumulation: 81.01

Faith Value: 43450.2

A trace of delight appeared on his face.

Energy Accumulation had finally reached 81 points, and he stood up, restraining his excitement, put the book back on the shelf, and quickly walked out of the library.

Refined self-cultivation could finally be optimized.