

New Era 761

Chapter 761: Fifth Optimization of Entering Tranquility and Refining the Self (Part 2)

Although the immense space engineering project is underway with great intensity, the business of Zhonghai City seems to be unaffected, and the city appears to be increasingly prosperous.

There are more factories on the outskirts, and the factory buildings that were previously idle due to the recession are being reopened one by one.

Nowadays, the electricity supply has greatly improved. With the reignition of several nuclear fusion power stations in the Great Xia Country, the electric age has dawned again. Not only are the original coal-fired steam-powered machines gradually being replaced by electric machinery, but most residential areas are already electrified.

This era is rapidly transforming at an unprecedented speed, rising from the ashes.

If it weren't for "Tamu" and the "Ancestor God," this would undoubtedly be the dawn of a golden era.

...

Chen Shouyi sighed softly, quickened his pace, and soon returned home.

No one was home. Chen Xingyue, ever since she became the principal of the second Martial Arts Academy, has been very busy every day, filled with vigor, often coming back late at night.

Chen Shouyi even called the education department to inquire.

It is said she is doing well, and there are frequent praises for his sister.

Of course, Chen Shouyi isn't sure how much of this is exaggeration.

As he expected, the two little ones were still watching cartoons.

Feeling Chen Shouyi enter, they glanced at him simultaneously, then turned back to continue watching.

Nowadays, these two little ones have become quite capable.

After the tape runs out, they even change it themselves.

Despite being small, they are surprisingly strong, easily lifting weights of several kilograms. Except for their pitiful math skills, their intelligence isn't low, working together flawlessly to fix the tape, presenting no difficulty to them.

Chen Shouyi glanced at them sideways, too lazy to bother.

He went to the bathroom to wash his face, then eagerly lay down on the bed.

He opened the attribute panel.

Looking at the words "Cultivate Serenity."

"Optimize!"

In the next moment,

A familiar drowsiness hit him.

He didn't resist and was soon drawn into the dream.

Cultivate Serenity was rapidly deduced and started optimizing.

His consciousness was clear and calm, with his entire body, including the subconscious, under his control, obeying one will. In this little area, he was the master of everything.

No...

There was one part he hadn't completely mastered, like a stain on snow, standing out awkwardly.

This was the light at the deepest part of his consciousness.

It was his divinity.

And this time, the target for refinement was obviously this.

Countless strands of consciousness, as thin as threads and resembling tentacles, reached out towards the divinity. However, before touching it, they were flicked away.

Fortunately, this was just the beginning. With each optimization, his consciousness kept adjusting subtly, gradually transforming, becoming more cohesive and resilient, persevering through repeated failures.

After optimizing countless times.

The consciousness finally pierced through the outer defense when it was about to touch the divinity.

A sudden unexpected event occurred.

"Boom!"

Instantly, accompanied by intense heart palpitations, his mind went blank.

At the same time, the optimization was forcibly interrupted.

Chen Shouyi abruptly opened his eyes, breathing heavily, his forehead covered in sweat.

Just now, he vaguely felt a terrifying will traveling through layers of space, targeting here.

The strength of this will was indescribable, and under its influence, he couldn't even move, his body seemingly petrified and directly intimidated.

"Who is it?"

Who it was, actually required no guesswork.

He exhaled, looking blankly at the ceiling.

After lying there for a long time, the agitation in his heart gradually subsided.

He turned his head to look at the two naive little ones engrossed in watching cartoons, feeling as if he had returned to the human world.

"Divinity, so this is what divinity truly looks like."

"After detecting the oddity of Tamu gods, I hadn't considered this aspect, and this... may well be under the influence of divinity."

Truly terrifying to think about.

Recalling the gods controlled by Tamu's will, Chen Shouyi couldn't help but feel a bit apprehensive.

He got up from the bed, walked to the curtains, and opened them.

Suddenly, the dazzling sunlight shone through the window and spilled inside, but he felt no warmth, instead, his body turned cold.

The only consolation was that this was divinity, not a divine persona, otherwise, he wouldn't even have been able to resist, and his consciousness might have unknowingly become twisted, becoming a puppet of Tamu.

"But this hidden danger must be eliminated quickly." His expression was grim.

The impact of divinity on his strength is negligible, yet even if there were an impact, he wouldn't dare allow divinity to remain in his consciousness.

.....

After dinner.

He respectively notified the high committee and the city government for a record.

The next morning, Chen Shouyi bid farewell to his parents, taking the two little ones, and flew into the sky.

The other world is naturally out of bounds; it's Tamu's territory, going there would be suicidal.

Such a "gaze" between wills is far more dangerous than imagined. Even Earth is so; on Tamu, a slight mistake could lead to soul collapse or twisted consciousness.

Of course, Earth isn't risk-free either.

Unfortunately, unless he flies out of the Solar System, there's no place to hide, and at his speed, it might take years to fly there.

"But if I can withstand such a collision of wills, it might bring immense benefits." He pondered deeply.

He had already checked the attribute panel, and just practicing in dreams had increased his will by 0.1 points.

The more he experiences, the more he realizes the importance of will.

Especially when facing frightening entities like "Tamu" and the "Ancestor God," without a strong enough will, he wouldn't even be qualified to look directly at them.

He flew all the way west, crossing the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

Finally, he landed on one of the peaks of the Himalayas.

...

The cold wind was sharp, and everywhere he looked was covered in white snow.

Chen Shouyi chose a shelter and quickly opened up a narrow cave. After smoothing the ground, he laid thick cotton bedding on it.

"Good Giant, when are we going back? The little one misses home." Shell Lady hurriedly moved her short legs, quickly following Chen Shouyi.

As soon as she saw Good Giant's posture, she had a bad premonition.

"Yeah, yeah!" The red little one eagerly echoed.

Chen Shouyi gave them an annoyed glance: "We'll stay here for a few days."

You want cartoons, don't you?

Don't think I don't know.

The air here is so good, staying home all day is turning you into chubby lumps.

"Is it one-one day, or one-one-one day, or one-one-one-one day?"

"With your fingers plus toes, they're about that many."

Shell Lady paused, hurriedly counting her fingers, then her toes. The more she counted, the more upset she became, and soon, tears couldn't be held back.

It's really a lot!

Chapter 762: Tamu's Gaze (Part 1)

A second ago, the Shell Lady was looking pitiful, silently tearing up.

A second later, she was fighting with Little Red over the ownership of the red crystal ball, her hands moving like a blur, screaming continuously as they fought non-stop.

As for where the crystal ball came from.

Naturally, it was synthesized by Chen Shouyi by extracting silica mixed with metal minerals from the soil, colored red and blue, each the size of a soccer ball.

No way around it, his standards have risen, and small ones no longer catch his eye.

Think about how a string of beads could deceive the Shell Lady back then, laboring tirelessly to dig for gold, yet finding joy in it.

And now look at her.

You can only say, from frugality to luxury is easy, from luxury to frugality is hard.

If he couldn't be self-sufficient, he wouldn't be able to afford it.

Chen Shouyi glanced and then ignored them.

If Little Red wasn't fighting, would it still be Little Red?

He had long since gotten used to it.

They used to fight every few days, now their relationship is better, so they only fight once in a while.

Fortunately, although they seem extremely fierce, full of momentum, they are just like two angry kittens, strong outwardly but weak inside, fighting for a long time without any substantial result.

By the time Chen Shouyi settled his residence for the foreseeable future,

the two little guys had already decided a winner.

Unexpectedly, this time Little Red won.

Though really, he couldn't tell how the winner was decided.

Anyway, the big red glass ball was taken by Little Red, while the Shell Lady, like a cat whose spine had been pulled out, sat on the ground despondently, sulking silently at the big blue glass.

Perhaps she was struck by the loss.

After all, she used to win all the time.

Chen Shouyi noticed this and found it both amusing and irritating.

Simply useless.

But he didn't show bias; he never interfered in disputes among Little Red and her peers, always letting them resolve it internally, keeping it fair.

...

From earlier flight to the later synthesis of the glass ball, Chen Shouyi keenly felt that this optimization brought significant changes to his will, making his power stronger and manipulation more at ease.

Such changes clearly cannot be explained by a numerical increase of 0.1, but because his will had become more cohesive.

Many ordinary people's will is very strong as well.

Some can reach 13 points, 14 points, like some battle-hardened veterans.

But their will is scattered, apart from being better at controlling their emotions, they can't exert strength in the material world.

If the number reflects the quality, then how to exert the strength depends on the degree of cohesion.

"Unfortunately even so, it is far from enough." Chen Shouyi sighed in his heart.

He didn't rush into it recklessly; he had to admit, that terrifying memory still cast a significant psychological shadow on him.

Facing the indescribable terrifying existence, he could never be too cautious.

Because if things go wrong, he might really die.

Previously it was just a sliver of the opponent's power leaking, perhaps not even "attention".

Just like someone looking up at the sun, the sun doesn't care, but their eyes are already damaged.

This is a qualitative gap, sometimes greater than the gap between unicellular organisms and humans.

His expression was grim; he understood that trying to refine divinity was akin to dancing on a tightrope.

Yet he chose to take the risk without hesitation.

Since the Book of Knowledge chose this direction, it in some sense guided his path forward.

Fortunately, he was not without countermeasures. On one hand, he planned to refine in the Memory Virtual World.

Though it won't completely shield the harm, with the protection of the Book of Knowledge, it should mitigate the damage somewhat.

After all, the World Tree, once one of the Ancestor Gods, and the Book of Knowledge made from its materials should have some effect.

On the other hand, he planned to find suitable materials to create a sealed place to block the connection between the opponent and divinity.

Will, momentum, and divine power are essentially the same thing, all can be isolated.

The range and effect in the air are superior to underground, in loose soil better than in rock.

Especially heavy metals.

Special forces and researchers dealing specifically with Divine Corpses can easily block divine power by wearing lead-coated protective suits.

However, Chen Shouyi had no confidence in the effectiveness of this method.

After all, the entity's level was too high, and its power could even radiate to the entire Solar System.

But as long as there was a slight possibility, he must do his utmost.

Even if only to weaken it by a fraction, it's worthwhile.

...

After resting for half a day, he finally started taking action in the afternoon.

Hail began to fall from the sky, the cold wind howling, creating an eerie sound.

Chen Shouyi stood atop the mountain, the peak beneath his feet trembling slightly.

At first, the mountain only shook lightly, almost imperceptibly, but soon the trembling intensified.

The ice cap that had remained unchanged for millions of years cracked and shattered, then slid down the slope like an avalanche, thundering with a deafening roar.

And that,

was just the beginning.

Chen Shouyi took a deep breath and burned his Faith Value.

Thoughts accelerated.

The next moment,

the mountain beneath him suddenly crumbled, levitating in the air.

Simultaneously, it continued to weather away during the levitation, reduced to basic atoms.

As mentioned before, Chen Shouyi couldn't see atoms; he could only sense the various electromagnetic forces representing atoms.

In fact, at the atomic level, the line between energy and matter becomes quite blurred.

Matter is energy, energy is matter.

From this perspective, the entire world is empty, filled with complex electromagnetic forces.

Yet based on the strength of the electromagnetic field inside the atom and corresponding it to the periodic table of elements,

he could clearly distinguish what atom the tiny electromagnetic field represents.

Chen Shouyi found that among all atoms, those superheavy radioactive atoms had the best effect on interfering with will.

"What a pity..."

Chen Shouyi shook his head slightly, not because of fear of radiation, but because such elements were pathetically scarce and nowhere near enough.

Fortunately, mixed with other heavy elements, they could still have quite an effect.

...

The continuous rumbling thunder persisted intermittently for over ten hours before finally ceasing around midnight.

A mountain over two thousand meters in vertical height had completely vanished.

In its place, a massive metal sphere, over twenty meters in diameter and weighing about a hundred thousand tons, appeared.

Decomposing such a large mountain and extracting all the heavy elements left even Chen Shouyi exhausted.

Only after a long pause did he recover slightly from the depletion of his mental energy.

"I hope it comes in handy," Chen Shouyi silently thought as he gazed at the massive metal sphere.

Then, with unsteady steps, he walked towards the cave on the nearby mountain.

He was truly exhausted today, and everything would have to wait until he was rested and ready again tomorrow.

Chapter 763: Tamu's Gaze (Part 2)

The peak where Chen Shouyi was located wasn't Mount Everest; it was an unknown peak within the Himalayas, at an altitude of seven to eight thousand meters.

The only similarity was the climate remained harsh, where drops of water froze instantly.

It was night.

Chen Shouyi held two little beings in his arms, listening to the sounds like ghost cries and wolf howls, unable to sleep for a long time.

...

The next day, it was still dark.

Chen Shouyi had already gotten up early. After gathering some water to wash up, he practiced the Horizontal Training Thirty-Six Forms before coming to the large iron ball.

The enormous iron ball, as tall as seven stories, emitted an eerie glow under the dim light.

The nuclear radiation within had reached the level of uranium mines, prompting his body to autonomously generate a field of will for defense.

Although Chen Shouyi could hammer-blast a powerful divine power into submission, his body still composed of protein and genes, was similarly susceptible to impact.

Fortunately, the nuclear radiation for Chen Shouyi was merely an influence.

He didn't even need to actively defend, as the cells' pure willpower could easily fend off the radiation's intrusion without much consumption.

"Let's begin!"

He took a deep breath and strode forward.

As he approached, the massive metal ball suddenly seemed to turn into liquid, and its surface slowly indented to form a pit.

As he stepped inside, the metal reformed, engulfing him completely.

His body buried within the metal sphere, he proceeded to the center and then sat cross-legged, closing his eyes, nurturing his spirit, and remaining motionless for a long time.

After an hour of sitting silently, he finally began to move.

He entered the Memory Virtual World.

Time seemed to rewind to an hour earlier when he had just entered the sphere.

"What must be faced must ultimately be faced."

Chen Shouyi thought silently, his heart entirely calm, and within breaths, he plunged into the deepest layer of meditation.

A glimpse of divine radiance slowly emerged from the depths of his psyche.

Upon its appearance, the consciousness, long waiting for this moment, surged toward the divinity with the ferocity of a pack of wolves devouring a tiger.

Compared to the difficult struggle during the initial dream, this time it was seamless, as the consciousness easily broke through the protective barrier outside the divinity and aggressively probed into its periphery.

The next moment,

The scene within the dream reappeared.

"Boom!"

A terrible will pierced through layer upon layer of space and projected over...

"Huff!"

His heart skipped a beat, causing him to lose concentration and to be ejected from the Memory Virtual World.

Upon regaining his senses, he couldn't help but feel elated.

"It really works."

Despite cold sweat breaking out all over his body and feeling somewhat weak, he still restrained the delight in his heart.

This tremor was much weaker than in the dream.

If the force in the dream was ten-fold, then this time, the strength was at least halved. Undoubtedly, his setup had worked.

...

Time passed day by day.

As the divinity was continuously refined, its light gradually dimmed, and he felt increasingly at ease.

Meanwhile, his will and perception entered a peak growth phase, even reaching a pace that shocked Chen Shouyi.

On the first day, his perception grew by 0.1, and will by 0.3 points.

On the second day, perception increased by 0.1 and will by 0.2 points.

On the third day, perception grew by 0.2 and will by 0.2 points.

...

On the tenth day, perception increased by 0.4 points, and will by 0.1 points.

In just ten days, perception rose by 1.8 points, reaching 26.8 points, and will rose by 1.6, reaching 26.6 points.

Especially perception, which transformed from a weakness to the highest attribute among all, with will becoming only second to agility, the third highest attribute.

This made Chen Shouyi both pleased and amazed.

Willpower was easier to understand, as each act of refining required him to endure the pressure from the existent being, providing significant hammering and testing to his will, and its growth pattern was logical.

But perception appeared somewhat mysterious and strange.

As refining continued, its growth not only didn't slow but even accelerated.

From initially growing 0.1 points a day to now 0.4 points a day.

As if it was... absorbing nourishment from the divinity.

He wasn't sure if this was good or bad.

For the time being, it was undoubtedly beneficial.

He didn't spend all his time within the sphere, as he mostly remained outside. The expansion of perception caused Chen Shouyi's perceptual range and depth to grow exponentially.

His field of perception could now cover a range of dozens of kilometers and a depth of hundreds of meters underground.

By the fifteenth day, his perception had reached an astonishing 29.1 points, and will also reached 27.0 points. Correspondingly, the divine radiance grew increasingly dim, fading almost to a flicker like a firefly.

...

This day, the sky was gloomy.

A blizzard was imminent.

Chen Shouyi fed the two little beings well and instructed them not to run around, to avoid being blown away by the storm.

The mountains here are steep and the wind strong. The two little creatures weighed less than a few grams, so carelessness could carry them away without a trace.

He returned to the iron ball.

For some reason, since early morning, he felt vaguely unsettled, as if something was happening.

"Perhaps I'm overthinking!" He shook his head.

These days, his endurance improved and refinement quickened, capable even of barely confronting the existent being.

Though it was only in the virtual world, and on Earth, compared to before, he had made obvious progress.

"Something's not right!" Suddenly, Chen Shouyi furrowed his brows thoughtfully.

"Considering the progress, today might be the last day of refinement; could something unexpected happen?"

An ominous shadow shrouded his heart, increasingly giving him a premonition of impending warning.

"Better safe than sorry."

Chen Shouyi decisively halted his steps, looking at the iron ball before him.

...

"Boom!"

Like the explosion of muffled thunder, the ground shook.

With a thought, a massive mountain suddenly turned to dust; countless heavy metal atoms were extracted and transformed into a black stream of matter, spanning tens of kilometers and weighing thousands of tons, like a divine cord hung in the sky, rapidly merging into the metal ball on the ground.

With 27 points of will, close to the strength of a weak divine power, and that was in the Tam World.

Half a month ago, it took him dozens of hours to dismantle a mountain, and now, it took less than 0.1 seconds.

The nearby mountains shattered one by one, and the sky was painted yellow by wind and sand.

It was an incredibly awe-inspiring scene, like a miracle unfolding on Earth.

In just over an hour, twenty-one peaks of the Himalayas disappeared forever from Earth.

At this moment, Chen Shouyi's expression slightly changed:

"Trouble!"

The sudden loss of weight caused the plates to become unstable and the ground to tremble incessantly.

He penetrated a thousand meters underground with his will, and after pondering for 0.01 seconds, came up with a strategy, using his will to continuously nudge the plates, preparing to prematurely release the pressure within the plates.

Soon, the ground slowly rose into a bulge.

Seconds later.

A volcano emerged from the ground, spewing surging lava.

Chapter 764: Tamu's Gaze (Final)

After all, this was just a small volcano forcibly catalyzed.

After a few eruptions, it exhausted all its stock and entered a state of calm.

At the same time, the tremors of the earth gradually subsided.

Watching the volcanic ash rising like a mushroom cloud and the magma clumps crashing everywhere, Chen Shouyi couldn't help but frown slightly and waved his hand.

Immediately, whether it was the magma and volcanic ash in midair or the dust filling the sky, it was filtered by an invisible force, gathering into a large dust ball, then crashing down from midair.

If this power was considered purely in terms of destructive capabilities, it certainly couldn't compare to the fury and strength of transforming into a giant, but its visual and intricate aspects made it more awe-inspiring and magical, completely achieving what the mind wills, thought becoming law.

"Thankfully, it didn't cause much impact!" Chen Shouyi breathed a sigh of relief.

This place was sparsely populated, with an extremely harsh climate, basically an uninhabited area. The existence of a small volcano here wouldn't affect much, and as for changing the surrounding climate, it probably would only improve, not worsen.

Next, he flew back to the ground.

The originally more than twenty-meter-diameter metal sphere had now grown to over seventy meters, with a mass weighing several million tons, resting on the ground like a small mountain, which was quite magnificent.

In fact, many mountain peaks don't necessarily have a vertical height of seventy meters.

It's entirely a miracle.

In terms of value, even a trillion is a conservative estimate.

After all, this was heavy metal, not common metals like iron. Gold, silver, and platinum were ordinary, and there were many rare metals and radioactive elements of equally high value.

However, Chen Shouyi still felt a bit uneasy.

Such crudely condensed material was too loose.

Not only did the atoms not bond tightly, with gaps everywhere, but the atoms in their normal state also appeared too sparse.

Comparing an atom to a standard football field, the atomic nucleus is only the size of a ping-pong ball, occupying only about a billionth of the area, while the electrons surrounding the nucleus are a thousand times smaller than the nucleus.

In a sense, humans have never truly touched matter because the matter that living beings can touch is essentially just the electromagnetic field filling the inside of atoms, the whole world is empty.

And the electromagnetic field can be adjusted to rebalance and contract.

He closed his eyes lightly, trying to penetrate the metal sphere with his will.

Alas, it was both his success and his failure.

Heavy metals have a strong shielding effect against will interference, and his will only penetrated a meter before it could go no further. Fortunately, he could enter the metal sphere and transform it inch by inch from the inside out, which was undoubtedly a difficult project.

Chen Shouyi spent more than ten days to finally complete it.

...

"Buzz!"

Chen Shouyi powerfully slapped the metal sphere.

The sphere emitted a humming sound, blurring the air from the vibrations, yet no mark was left on its surface, showing its toughness.

Now the entire sphere had shrunk to over fifty meters, with its physical and chemical properties having undergone earth-shattering changes, even exhibiting a sort of crystallization phenomenon on the surface, appearing incredibly smooth.

Moreover, due to the tighter bonding of radioactive elements, it generated a kind of chain reaction, enhancing its emitted radiation by more than tenfold.

If it were a normal heavy metal sphere, his will could penetrate a meter.

But with this sphere, he couldn't even manage five centimeters.

"It should be enough." Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

Even though he could do better, like creating a bigger metal sphere, such endeavours are endless. What would be considered safe—a sphere with a hundred-meter diameter? Or a thousand meters...

The world's heavy metals might not suffice.

He had already spent over a month here, skirting the edge of mental exhaustion every day, his body pushed to its limits, losing weight, not to mention the two little ones constantly clamoring to go home, even he could hardly hold on.

...

The next day.

After a night of rest, Chen Shouyi was invigorated, completely back to peak condition.

After washing up, he came to the metal sphere, his body slowly merging into its core.

"To live or to die, it all depends on this time." Chen Shouyi's heart pounded.

As usual, he waited for an hour.

He entered the Memory Virtual World, then began deep meditation.

The divine light in his mind had already dimmed to the extreme, as if it could extinguish at any moment, allowing his consciousness to invade without resistance.

Horrifying pressure descended once again.

It turned out Chen Shouyi's efforts over the past half-month weren't in vain.

The pressure was reduced by half again.

Under the terrifying pressure, Chen Shouyi held on for a few breaths, then a "pop" was heard, as the divinity, which had reached its limit, suddenly shattered into countless starry points, merging into his consciousness.

Like a starving person enjoying a meal, his consciousness rapidly expanded, accompanied by intense pleasure, giving a sense of being satiated.

Meanwhile, as if the dust covering the mind had been wiped away, the entire mind cleared and became transparent.

"Finally succeeded." He was overjoyed, almost coming out of meditation.

However, just as he breathed a sigh of relief.

The pressure suddenly descended again.

Chen Shouyi vaguely saw a pair of blurred eyes slowly opening from the chaos...

"Boom!"

Like staring into the abyss of death, with just one glance, his whole body violently shook, and his mind went blank.

Terrifying, vast, cold.

Brilliant like a glaring sun.

"No!"

...

At this moment, all the Barbarian Gods left on Earth, no matter what they were doing, no matter where they were, suddenly felt a sense of anger, inexplicable, followed by a summoning urge, causing their true forms to descend one by one.

The nearby Goddess of Agriculture was the first to arrive.

She wore a headdress decorated with ears of rice and wheat, dressed in a long skirt embroidered with all sorts of flowers, exuding a strange floral fragrance.

As she arrived, the cold wind receded, the ice and snow began to melt, and numerous sprouts emerged from the frozen soil, rapidly growing. In just a few minutes, everything revived, and spring returned to the Earth, the ground teeming with life.

But her face wasn't so spring-like, instead, it was full of vigilance.

Seeing the abrupt metal sphere on the ground in the distance, she held a delicate short sword and stepped forward cautiously.

At this moment, the metal sphere's surface suddenly squirmed slightly, and then a fair hand slowly reached out.

The Goddess of Agriculture, who was about to have a look at what was going on, felt a sudden panic at the sight of this eerie scene, her heart almost skipping a beat, her reason, clouded by Tamu's will, swiftly returned, and she quickly fled without looking back.

Only feeling a sense of lingering fear.

It was only then that she remembered it was already the territory of the Great Xia Country.

For something to cause such a commotion here, and not to be a god, there was no one else but that one.

Chapter 765: Punching Bag

As it turned out,

The Goddess of Agriculture fled a little too soon. If she had been bolder, it might have been a different outcome.

Several minutes later, Chen Shouyi fell from the metal sphere to the ground, struggling to stand, his body tottering.

At this moment, blood flowed from all seven orifices, his eyes had turned into two bloody holes, looking inconceivably miserable.

He had vastly underestimated the terror of "Tamu".

Previously, nothing happened simply because he wasn't paying attention. When Tamu truly opened his eyes to stare, all Chen Shouyi's preparations and countermeasures were rendered useless, absurdly ridiculous.

If he hadn't decisively activated Insight at the last moment, his consciousness would likely have dispersed under Tamu's gaze.

Even so, he suffered severe injuries.

His injuries were more severe than what the eye could see.

This time, being "looked" at by Tamu, it felt as if his whole body had been contaminated by His will. When consciousness activated Insight, it barely held together, but the weak cellular will seemed to have been "washed away", disappearing without a trace.

At this point, his body felt paralyzed, numb, slow, even standing was wobbly.

Not only that, with his self-healing ability, the wounds should have healed by now, but in reality, there wasn't even a sign of healing.

More severely, a crazy and chaotic will lingered in his mind, refusing to leave, polluting his consciousness. Escaping from the metal sphere had been a Herculean effort.

"However, it's not unsolvable." Chen Shouyi sighed.

He opened the attribute panel with a bit of hope.

Strength: 26.2

Agility: 26.6

Constitution: 26.2

Intelligence: 26.2

Perception: 30.0

Will: 27.3

Energy Accumulation: 12.13

Faith Value: 41670.4

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

Chen Shouyi just took one "look" and felt his heart twitch vigorously.

Faith Value directly dropped by over twenty thousand, leaving only 41670.5 points.

Chen Shouyi originally had some wishful thinking; after all, he was in a Memory Virtual World back then, never expected that the consumption was synchronized in reality too. However, to say again, the illusionary Insight couldn't resist Tamu's gaze.

Thankfully, Perception increased by a full point, as well as a 0.3 point increase in Will, giving Chen Shouyi some solace.

But it required consuming Faith Value once more.

He invested a thousand Faith Value into Self-Healing.

Warm currents rapidly emerged from all parts of his body, grinding away at Tamu's will, yet only lasted a brief moment before plummeting from a peak, disappearing without a trace, leaving Self-Healing progress static, as if it never existed.

"Still not enough?"

Helplessly, Chen Shouyi added another thousand points.

But it was still far from enough.

...

Like a black hole.

He continuously invested Faith Value.

Three thousand.

...

Five thousand.

...

Eight thousand.

...

Chen Shouyi consumed twelve thousand points of Faith Value in total before finally washing away the residual will of Tamu, and even the will's remnants were significantly weakened, no longer greatly affecting his ability to concentrate his will.

He finally breathed a sigh of relief.

But seeing the remaining thirty-eight thousand plus points of Faith Value, Chen Shouyi's heart was again discomfited.

"Forget it, saving a life is already a blessing."

Thinking about it, credit must go to Tamu's apparent lack of emotions, or perhaps thinking he was nothing more than an insignificant ant, thus only briefly looking before losing interest."

He tried recalling the situation then but found he couldn't remember at all.

Memory was a blur.

...

Once the Self-Healing ability recovered, it exhibited astonishing efficiency.

In just a few seconds, eyeballs were regenerated, and the whole body condition quickly restored, strength returning to him.

"Huh!" He noticed a lush green area in the distance, his face turned cold.

"A Barbarian God has been here?"

At that moment, winds and clouds surged again at the distant skyline, cloud layers rolled, and a figure flew in at high speed.

"Another one? True body descending?"

Chen Shouyi's eyes lit up with ferocity, he had a temper that needed venting.

...

The God of Power hurried over enthusiastically, Tamu's will summon was like a sudden whim, and mind was clouded.

Take for example, descending in true form; nonetheless, descending to Earth requires a significant cost, and just the risk alone is enough to make a Barbarian God think thrice, one careless move leads to demise.

Yet, at this moment, not only did the God of Power descend, but approached the Great Xia.

Feeling as if sensing an extraordinary opportunity.

The closer, the more pleased he felt, even the divine personality seemed to begin metamorphosis.

His accumulated Faith Value had long been sufficient, his follower count enough to support a mid-tier Divine Power, only a foot away from achieving it.

Ordinarily, personality advancement is a high-risk endeavor, and time-consuming too.

Quickly taking one to two months, longer ones lasting one to two years is possible, but natural advancement like today never happened before, as if the whole Original Force favored him.

Unfortunately, this was merely a sacrificial banquet before death, what awaited wasn't opportunity, but an abyss of death.

As he barely entered the Himalayas, destructive strikes began descending.

Air suddenly ceased movement.

A will-formed spear of light-speed arrived in a flash.

The spear shaped like illusion, intangible, even passing through air at light speed left no ripple, invisible to the naked eye, yet in reality, it was sharper by thousands than steel.

Flying God of Power prematurely sensed intense danger, originally delighting expression swiftly changed, at the critical moment, godly forces unrestrainedly poured out, simultaneously retreating desperately.

But it was too late.

Though the God of Power was a weak god near mid-tier Divine Power, the force he could exert on Earth was only Weak Divine Power, unable to resist the near weak-tier Divine Power strike of the illusionary spear.

The illusionary spear instantaneously pierced his divine force defense field, penetrated his body, traversed through his chest, leaving behind a massive blood hole.

Such an injury was no mortal wound for the God of Power; what truly despaired was the will impact accompanying the spear. This will was unlike the scattered mixed divine power formed from collective telekinesis, instead unprecedentedly pure and sharp.

His weakened divine force was utterly powerless against this will, akin to empty vessels, consciousness momentarily blanked from the impact of will.

While a single second, in battle, was ample time for him to perish numerous times.

His final vision was of a large hand, tearing through chaotic air, grabbing towards his head.

...

"Boom"

Chen Shouyi grabbed the corpse of the God of Power and crashed down from mid-air, creating a ten-meter deep, thirty-meter diameter crater.

Momentarily, he felt invigorated.

Even the heartache from consuming more than half of the Faith Value temporarily vanished.

After all, everyone needs a punching bag.

And the God of Power appeared just in time, it was his unlucky day.

Speaking of which, he didn't even know who the opponent was?

Though he didn't care, finding out in due course.

Quietly awaiting the divine personality to dissipate in mid-air, he tossed the corpse into the space, just then transforming back when noticing two small figures eagerly flying towards him.

Chapter 766: A Suspicious Clue

"Good Giant, you're amazing."

"Yeah, yeah!"

The two little ones, like two tiny guards, stood on either side of Chen Shouyi's shoulders.

"The brave little ones wanted to come and help you, but before we could get there, the bad guy was already killed by the Good Giant," the Shell Lady said with two excited blushes on her face, chattering in his ear like a chatterbox.

"Yeah, yeah!" the little red one echoed.

How could they say such shameless words without blushing?

"The Good Giant doesn't need your help; just take care of yourselves," Chen Shouyi said helplessly.

"If the little ones can take care of themselves, isn't that amazing too?"

Chen Shouyi nodded helplessly again.

"Then Good Giant, why don't you praise me?" Shell Lady asked.

Chen Shouyi almost stumbled upon hearing this.

Do they seriously have no self-awareness?

...

This period of over a month's refinement, though quite risky, ended without any danger, yielding incredible rewards.

His will and perception made leaps in progress, especially perception, which soared past the thirty-point threshold.

Even though the remnants of Tamu's will still lingered in his mind, causing him occasional distress and anxiety, Chen Shouyi believed that with ten days to half a month of effort, he could gradually wear them down.

If worst comes to worst, he could activate Insight once more.

Suddenly, he felt a bit puzzled:

"Logically speaking, after activating Insight, my own willpower shouldn't improve, so it shouldn't have any effect on resisting Tamu's gaze. But in reality, not only was it effective, it was surprisingly so."

After activating Insight, he could even barely withstand the opponent's gaze.

He had a thoughtful look:

"Could it be because of Ascending Dimensions?"

The more he thought about it, the more probable it seemed:

"Two-dimensional beings can't defend against attacks from the third dimension, and similarly, three-dimensional beings can't defend against attacks from the fourth dimension.

No matter how weak the attack might be.

Just like an army without anti-air capabilities facing an air force, higher-dimensional beings can strike from another dimension, while lower-dimensional life forms have no means of defense other than to endure.

But once my will ascended to the fourth dimension,

I then gained the corresponding 'defense' abilities.

Of course, this is all just my speculation and needs confirmation, but it's probably not far off."

Chen Shouyi silently pondered this, his steps fast and sure, with just a slight push of his ankle, he crossed over a hundred meters, appearing to shrink the ground into inches, with textbook-perfect basic steps.

In a short while, he was back where he started.

The giant metal sphere, he certainly wouldn't abandon it here.

"This thing is worth billions, bringing it back also supports national construction," Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

However, before that, he needed to carry out element separation. Otherwise, given the current technical capabilities of Great Xia, it would be utterly impossible.

After instructing the two little ones to return to the cave,

he focused his will and pointed a finger.

The next moment, the metal sphere began to disintegrate step by step, while various elements reassembled in the air into blocks of ingots.

For a moment, the sky was like dumplings, falling to the ground.

A near accident occurred during the process.

While synthesizing a block of radioactive metal, it suddenly emitted a dazzling blue light and released high heat, obviously exceeding critical mass, starting a chain reaction.

Fortunately, Chen Shouyi responded extremely quickly, and in an instant, the radioactive metal ingot was instantly dissociated, stopping the chain reaction.

Otherwise, it could have been a small-scale nuclear explosion.

After this lesson, Chen Shouyi kept a respectful distance from radioactive elements, allowing them to disperse.

A few minutes later, all the metal ingots were collected into his space.

This was a huge fortune.

Among them alone, there were 2000 tons of gold, in addition to over a thousand tons of platinum.

Well, the gold he would keep for himself.

Though it was of no use to him.

But it was nice to look at the shiny gold at home.

...

"There is no relevant intelligence currently, but I will notify all border defense forces to pay attention to the border situation. If there is any news, I'll inform you immediately."

On the day Chen Shouyi returned to Zhonghai, he called the President.

The death of a Barbarian God was undoubtedly a rather troublesome matter. Not only would the nation where the god resided fall into chaos, but extreme organizations might also emerge, especially if the country bordered the chaos, the border areas would be affected.

"No need to notify me, I'm not interested in knowing," Chen Shouyi said honestly.

"Uh, alright." On the other end of the phone, the President had a wry smile, feeling somewhat fatigued. Although he was very familiar with General Manager Chen, every conversation with him was somewhat unsettling.

However, considering the acquisition of a Divine Corpse, he had no complaints.

"By the way, I also have a batch of metal ingots on hand, you can come pick them up along with the Divine Corpse," Chen Shouyi mentioned.

"I want to ask how much in total, so that related departments can prepare."

"I'm not sure about the specifics, but probably several thousand tons," Chen Shouyi said.

"How... how much?" The President's voice rose unintentionally, thinking he had misheard.

Chen Shouyi had to repeat himself.

One couldn't blame the President for seeming like he hadn't seen the world before; the quantity was truly astonishing. Just last year, the annual steel production of Great Xia barely recovered to a hundred million tons.

Even globally, excluding the mist-shrouded United States, it's estimated to be only two hundred million tons.

He wasn't aware this wasn't conventional metal like iron or aluminum, but heavy metal, and the compressed kind at that, which would astonish him further.

Many minor gods' weapons are made of this metal.

In the industry, every bit is treated like treasure.

...

At a temple on the India and Ba Country border.

The newly ascended god of India, Samir, and the Goddess of Agriculture sat in silence, the atmosphere oppressive and mute.

The news of the God of Power's fall was like a bolt from the blue, filling both with dread.

After a long time, Summit spoke with difficulty, "Honorable Goddess of Agriculture, have you ever wondered why you all went there as if coordinated, and even descended in true form?"

He was the only one who resisted the impulse and didn't go there. It wasn't because he was once an Ascetic and had a strong mind, but because his true form remained on Earth, making the influence minimal.

The Goddess of Agriculture felt a twinge of surprise at his words, "God of Truth, have you discovered something?"

"Everything has a cause, and everything has an effect; no behavior is without reason. Doesn't this strike you as odd? I suspect an unseen force is driving us. Of course, you are an ancient deity of Tamu, so you should know more than I do."

The Goddess of Agriculture seemed to ponder; she recalled Tamu's current chaos, her face turning grim. She murmured, "Perhaps a catastrophe兆 is approaching."

Chapter 767: Thorny

The world of Tamu these past few days has been like a pot of boiling water, completely in turmoil.

Not only are the gods and evil entities locked in frenzied battle, but the gods themselves are also constantly at war with each other.

Those who were unfortunate enough to be caught in the crossfire of the war between Tamu and the Ancestor God, leading to the destruction of their Divine Countries, are wandering around like desperate men with red eyes.

Fighting for followers, destroying nations, and slaying gods, falling is as commonplace as having a meal.

If the anomaly five years ago was just a small disturbance, then what is happening now is truly a catastrophe.

What does it mean for the divine to be like ants, what does it mean to be born in the morning and die by evening.

Many gods, who hadn't provoked anyone, were drinking in their Divine Countries one moment, enjoying the song and dance of their petitioners, living their own little lives, only to have their Divine Countries breached by groups of "Wanderers" (gods who have lost their Divine Countries) the next moment, dying with their eyes wide open.

The idyllic system of tranquility was ruthlessly shattered, and the remaining gods commenced forming alliances for mutual warmth.

Building alliances, establishing Divine Systems!

Civilization, to some extent, is propelled by war, whether actively or passively.

However, being in the midst of such a great momentum is not a pleasant affair, especially for gods like the Goddess of Agriculture, who are not inherently skilled in combat. In addition, the terrifying sounds from the Forbidden Land instill all gods with a sense of impending doom.

"This should be destiny's arrangement, no god can resist," the Goddess of Agriculture said bitterly.

Any god can faintly sense the presence of Tamu's will.

It is omnipresent, emotionless, devoid of good or evil, and it might even be the world itself.

Like the heavenly way, indifferently overlooking the vicissitudes of life.

However, that was in the past; nowadays, its activity is unprecedentedly lively.

If you calm down and think carefully, you can perceive its various traces.

For instance, this time, it is a blatant interference.

Samir remained silent for a while, then suddenly sneered: "Destiny!? Sending us to our deaths? Why not assign a god with Powerful Divine Power?"

After all, he is human, or once was human, and he is not as reverent to Tamu's will as the indigenous gods of Tamu.

"No god can escape destiny; the reason it's us is likely because we all have direct connections to Earth," the Goddess of Agriculture gently warned.

Samir suddenly regretted becoming a god; if even his own will couldn't stand independently, what's the point of immortality? Unfortunately, it's a road of no return, once stepped upon, there's no going back.

He thought for a moment and said, "This is too dangerous. Since Tamu's will drives us to oppose God Chen, it won't be just once; there will be a second time, a third time... I suggest you leave your true form on Earth, at least there, destiny is hard to influence."

If God Chen weren't so powerful, there'd be no need to resort to such measures.

Killing him could even earn Tamu's favor.

But reality is cruel.

Confronting God Chen is nothing short of suicide.

The God of Power serves as a cautionary tale, dying swiftly and decisively, unequivocally.

"I need to think carefully about it," the Goddess of Agriculture felt slightly tempted, but first, she needs to confirm God Chen's stance.

...

Late at night.

In the bedroom.

All was silent except for the rhythmic roar of heavy machinery in the distance.

Chen Shouyi lay in bed, meditating.

This was his first meditation since returning to Zhonghai.

He found he had been overly optimistic; the situation was worse than he imagined.

The once tranquil sea of consciousness now surged with waves, with strands of Tamu's will permeating, like an extremely stubborn virus, madly eroding his sea of consciousness.

Although his consciousness launched a comprehensive attack on Tamu's will, attempting to reclaim lost ground,

the results were not good.

He could barely maintain his basic state; even that was being slowly yet inexorably eroded.

Tamu's will seemed indestructible, unshakable.

This was not a matter of willpower strength but a fundamental dimensional gap. Like a protagonist in a cartoon, no matter how powerful, even if they surpass the heavens, they cannot break through the barrier and cause even the slightest harm to a real person.

Although the actual situation wasn't as desperately disparate, at least by consuming a massive amount of Faith Value, it was still possible to gradually obliterate it, but not by much.

Hours later, Chen Shouyi opened his eyes, frowning, murmuring: "Could it be that I really have to activate Insight?"

He opened the attributes panel.

He gazed at it for a while.

Then he added ten thousand Faith Value points to "Self-Healing," attempting to obliterate the remnants of Tamu's will in his consciousness through this method.

However,

he didn't see the slightest effect.

Watching the progress of Self-Healing jump from 50.01% to 60.01%,

Chen Shouyi felt a wave of frustration.

He took a deep breath, suppressing the agitation in his heart: "I refuse to give in to this submit."

...

"General Manager Chen, this isn't very appropriate," Bai Xiaoling mustered her courage to say on the road.

"What's inappropriate?" Chen Shouyi assumed Bai Xiaoling was concerned about the safety of the supplies, so he casually said: "Didn't you contact the local military and police? Who would dare to steal there?"

Early this morning, he had Bai Xiaoling arrange several warehouses, threw everything inside, clapped his hands, and left.

Naturally, special forces from higher up would come over to take over.

Upon hearing this, Bai Xiaoling felt somewhat powerless.

If she hadn't ultimately called the city government, summoning the local military and police to guard it, General Manager Chen would have left such valuable strategic resources lying in the warehouse.

This was a Divine Corpse, after all.

Even if it wasn't a Divine Corpse, the massive metal ingots filling several large warehouses were worth a significant sum of money.

"That's not what I meant. I just think you have too few social interactions, which might not be a good thing."

"How am I lacking social interactions?" Chen Shouyi said.

He knew plenty of people, from the country's president to factory female workers; he even knew a few Barbarian Gods, such as the God of Fertility.

Bai Xiaoling hunched her shoulders, keeping a step behind Chen Shouyi, cautiously saying:

"Didn't you say those from above would arrive to take over this morning? Isn't it inappropriate not to show your face?"

"I don't even know them, why show up?" Chen Shouyi asked, puzzled.

"Maybe there are beauties among them too."

"I'm not interested in beauties," Chen Shouyi replied without hesitation.

It's confirmed: General Manager Chen, you have a mild case of social anxiety.

Of course, this was something Bai Xiaoling could only think about in her heart.

"By the way, there's a document I'm supposed to pass on to you!" Bai Xiaoling said, handing over a dossier.

Chen Shouyi took it without avoiding Bai Xiaoling, tore open the dossier, and found a research report inside:

"On the Dynamics of Spatial Passages in Various Areas Recently"

Chapter 768: Unmanned Outer Solar System Space Probe

Chen Shouyi glanced at it and put the file back into the folder.

He was deep in thought.

Recently, the fluctuations of the spatial passage have been intense, with measurable physical data frequently oscillating, sometimes increasing, sometimes contracting.

Obviously, the resistance of the "Ancestor God" greatly affected the process of "Tamu" devouring.

This, for humanity, is undoubtedly a good thing.

Bai Xiaoling stepped back two steps, acting as a bodyguard, vigilantly watching her surroundings, silently, without disturbing Chen Shouyi's thoughts, although she probably never imagined that in such a short moment, Chen Shouyi had already read through the ten-plus pages of the report.

Chen Shouyi snapped out of his thoughts, patted the bicycle seat, and said with feigned nonchalance: "Hop on, I'll give you a ride."

"Ah, President Chen, this... then I won't be polite."

...

Human technology is accelerating.

The space program has been underway for less than three months, and humanity has already taken the first step forward.

Just after National Day, Chen Shouyi was invited to attend the launch ceremony of the unmanned outer Solar System space probe, which also had the intention of providing an escort.

Earth is not safe, with quite a few remnants of the Barbarian God still left on Earth.

Although the likelihood of such an attack is small, who knows if some Barbarian God might have a screw loose.

...

AM.

At the launch command center several tens of kilometers away from the Jingjin Industrial Zone, it was brightly lit.

As early as a day prior, the area had already been cleared, with countless soldiers temporarily blocking off various routes.

Beside a gigantic rocket on the launch pad, dozens of engineers, both domestic and foreign, were conducting final inspections.

"Still using chemical fuel for the launch? This can't fly out of the Solar System." Chen Shouyi looked at the large monitor screen and commented blandly.

"President... President Chen, the rocket... is just to deliver the unmanned outer Solar System space probe to outer space. Subsequently, it will rely on its own plasma engine and the deployed solar sail for propulsion. Its speed is tens of times that of Voyager 1. If all goes well, it could reach the Kuiper Belt in just three to five years." The young female engineer specifically accompanying Chen Shouyi hurriedly explained:

"It is equipped with an Original Force detector to detect changes in Original Force and thus determine the range of Original Force, which is the primary goal of this probe's launch."

Because Original Force affects electronic activity, detecting Original Force is not difficult; the technology is already available.

Chen Shouyi nodded.

According to the space program's plan, humanity's ultimate goal is not to leave the Solar System to seek new star systems. This is neither realistic nor do humans have the capacity to transport billions of people to other star systems.

Interstellar travel is no joke.

Although the Solar System is only 4.22 light-years away from its nearest neighbor, with humanity's current level of technology, even if a spaceship powered by nuclear pulses were built, it might still take hundreds or even thousands of years to reach.

And the most likely outcome is running out of fuel and supplies midway, becoming a ghost ship drifting in a dark stellar void.

Being able to bring billions of people to the Kuiper Belt is already humanity's most arrogant fantasy.

According to the idea, even if the Solar System were consumed, relying on this asteroid belt on the outskirts of the Solar System, humanity could still obtain adequate resources and supplies to sustain basic survival and technological development.

If that area remains within the realm of Original Force, humanity's only option would be to migrate to a different world, and then it would be unknown how many people would be abandoned.

Reality is that desperate.

Earth appears to be generally peaceful, but in reality, it has already entered the countdown to destruction.

...

On the other side, after condoling the staff at the launch center, the president walked over with a smile, looking amiable: "President Chen, this is your first time seeing a rocket launch, right?"

"Seen it many times." Chen Shouyi responded succinctly.

"Ah!" The president looked surprised.

"Haha, seen it on TV."

"I meant in person!" The president chuckled: "I didn't expect President Chen to crack jokes."

How novel.

He wasn't born with a face of indifference.

From his childhood to now, the jokes he remembers could be compiled into a book; he just never had a place to use them.

After exchanging a few pleasantries, the president sincerely said: "President Chen, although the country doesn't have much with which to reward you, we still want to thank you for all you've done for the country."

"It was just a minor effort." Chen Shouyi knew the other party was referring to the last donation: "It was of no use to me anyway."

"Useless to you, but immensely useful to the country. By the way, where did you get those metals last time?" The president asked, intensely curious.

Those metals could no longer be described as simply excellent.

The detected physical properties were mind-blowing—you could imagine metals with melting points in the tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of degrees?

Could you imagine metals ten or a hundred times harder than diamonds, yet with ductility similar to ordinary metals?

The key is their enormous quantity, as much as 35 million tons.

Even if they were pure metals, they could be directly used as spacecraft hulls.

"I synthesized them." Chen Shouyi said.

The president was dumbfounded upon hearing this, taking a long time to react.

"You... you synthesized them?"

Chen Shouyi nodded his head with some helplessness.

Some things are just this helpless; things he takes for granted always surprise others.

This is perfectly normal, isn't it?

Even low-level Barbarian Gods can synthesize, let alone him.

Seeing the atmosphere turn a bit awkward, Chen Shouyi broke the silence: "Are those metals still enough?"

"Enough... no, not really enough." The president said, with a slightly reddening face.

Such metals are never enough; even several times more wouldn't suffice, solving the primary material issue for spacecraft.

Chen Shouyi didn't mind either; for him, it was just a minor effort: "When the time comes, send the materials to Zhonghai, and I'll synthesize some when I have time."

The rapid ringing of a bell suddenly echoed in the launch command center.

"President, President Chen, there are only three minutes left until the launch." The chief engineer, who had been standing aside like a log, and was eagerly hoping to be invisible, had to speak up to remind them.

"President Chen, would you like to handle the countdown for ignition? Maybe it'll bring a bit of luck." The president smiled, in a good mood.

"Sure." Chen Shouyi nodded, agreeing to bless the process.

...

"10"

"9"

...

"3"

"2"

"1"

"Ignition!!"

The launch button was pressed.

The next moment, a giant rocket suddenly spewed flames and began to lift off, gradually ascending into the sky, its speed increasing faster and faster.

Chapter 769: The Eerie Eyes

The rocket flew higher and higher, quickly turning into a small dot.

Since the rocket did not explode within the first minute of launch, it meant that the majority of the launch had been successful, and in the ensuing time, the flight of the rocket remained smooth. Chen Shouyi watched the rocket exhaust its fuel in stages and reach near-Earth orbit.

The detector located at the head automatically detached from the debris as the plasma engine started running.

"Successfully received the signal."

"Headed off on the predetermined orbit."

"Clap clap clap!" The President started applauding.

Soon the applause grew increasingly vigorous, and everyone appeared excited.

To be honest, before the launch, everyone was anxious and on edge.

An unmanned Solar System space probe is not just any satellite. It is quite large in size, designed to accommodate a plasma engine and accompanying nuclear fusion reactor, with a mass totaling over a hundred tons.

It is less a launch of a probe

than it is a launch of an unmanned spacecraft.

And the rocket used for the launch was even more astonishing.

It was over 130 meters tall and weighed 45,000 tons.

Undoubtedly, this was the largest payload rocket ever built by humanity and represented a monumental leap in technology.

"Thank you all for your tireless efforts. Everyone has worked hard," the President delivered his speech. "I won't say much more; I hope everyone remembers their mission and responsibilities, reaching new heights in technology without making reckless decisions. We should not discriminate between domestic and foreign scientists, and should promote and reward those with abilities without any prejudice."

He mentioned this for a reason.

The space program involved scientists not only from our country, but also from abroad, with foreign participation making up as much as one-third.

Now is no longer the time when foreign monks are better at reciting scriptures. With Great Xia's status rising, becoming Earth's undisputed hegemon, especially with the mass supply of Divine Marrow, Great Xia produced countless exceptional talents, naturally fostering a sense of superiority.

Added to this were some political notions of differentiation, leading to a severe oppression of foreign scientist groups.

As a result, except for a few scientists with international renown, most foreign scientists could only assist, while some key sensitive departments were completely closed to non-native scientists, even if they had gained citizenship.

This was a serious waste of intellectual resources.

For example, in this launch center, there wasn't a single foreigner present.

In the past, this was certainly correct—politically correct!

But now, with humanity on a countdown, continuing this internal exhaustion was undoubtedly foolish.

...

"Hoo!"

Chen Shouyi suddenly opened his eyes and sat up.

He breathed deeply.

His whole body was drenched in sweat.

He had been awakened by a nightmare.

In the blink of an eye, it was already mid-October, yet the remains of Tamu's will in his mind were still unresolved, seemingly worsening, making it increasingly difficult for him to meditate and concentrate.

This evening, he even dreamt of Tamu's Eye.

A dream!?

For Chen Shouyi, who had control over all levels of consciousness, including the subconscious, this was simply unthinkable.

"Perhaps, this isn't a dream!" Chen Shouyi thought, his expression solemn and contemplative. "But rather, his consciousness is gradually being polluted."

In recent days, he had been attempting to refine Tamu's will residue daily, but not only had it proved ineffective, it had instead worsened over time.

His will had increased by 0.3 points under the pressure.

Unfortunately, this was of no use at all.

He looked at the watch on the bedside table and realized it was only two o'clock. He decided not to sleep anymore, put on some clothes, got out of bed, and went to the bathroom to wash his face.

At this moment, he looked at the mirror.

A pair of chaotic, indifferent eyes stared directly at him, vaguely emanating a terrifying aura.

The bizarre scene before him caught him off guard, causing his muscles to instinctively tense.

"Boom!"

The bathroom seemed to explode with high explosives.

The glass shattered instantly, the floor was stomped, forming a large hole, leaving the bathroom in ruins, and the entire villa reverberated.

However, Chen Shouyi's attention was elsewhere.

His heart pounded ferociously, his mind in a daze.

"Damn it!"

He heard his parents and sister getting up upstairs, evidently awakened by the loud commotion.

"Shou Yi, what's wrong? What happened?"

"Mom, nothing, I just accidentally knocked something over," Chen Shouyi replied.

"It's late, don't practice, go to bed early."

"I understand."

...

Upstairs returned to calm.

With a wave of his hand, countless shattered pieces on the floor seemed to rewind through time, swiftly returning to their original positions.

The damaged floor was silently restored, and the mirror returned to its former state... within less than half a second, everything seemed to have returned to normal, as if nothing had happened.

"I was careless; this thing is truly dangerous," Chen Shouyi thought to himself. "I can't spare Faith Value, I must quickly eliminate Tamu's will residue."

He glanced at the mirror again, but nothing appeared.

He made a swift decision, turned, and left the bathroom.

Then he opened the bedroom window, quietly flying off into the distance.

The night was silent; a few minutes later, Chen Shouyi landed on a nearby mountain.

Though nearby, it was several hundred kilometers away from Zhonghai City.

Upon landing, the surroundings fell silent, with even the noisy chirping of insects disappearing.

With a thought, a massive rock rapidly weathered, quickly forming a smooth platform.

He stepped forward and sat cross-legged.

Taking a deep breath, he gradually calmed his restless mood.

After half a minute:

"Insight"

He silently recited in his mind.

The next moment.

His eyes instantly turned silver-white, emitting an eerie light, his thoughts breaking through another dimension, the world before him changing beyond recognition, colors, shadows, and light rapidly fading.

The essence of the world, presented before him.

No matter how many times he entered, each experience made it difficult to resist getting lost.

The immense Faith Value consumed each instant reminded him of what needed to be done.

He had no time to waste.

0.01 seconds later

He closed his eyes.

...

0.05 seconds.

He entered into meditation, beginning the siege of Tamu's will.

The previously unyielding Tamu's will instantly became surmountable upon accessing Insight, constantly being crushed in the siege, advancing rapidly.

0.15 seconds later

Chen Shouyi had already reclaimed most of the lost ground.

0.2 seconds later.

The feeling of omnipotence suddenly halted, his brain seemed to receive a heavy blow, causing a dull pain as he awoke from meditation.

"Damn, damn, damn, just a little more."

He immediately opened the attribute panel.

His previous 30,000 points of Faith Value had been entirely depleted.

"Damn it!"

He let out his frustration, punching the stone slab with a loud bang, and half the mountain fragmented and shattered.

Chapter 770: Making Money Is Nothing to Be Ashamed Of

"Couldn't quite pull it off, so close." Chen Shouyi felt a rush of frustration rising from his heart, shooting up to his head.

His already splitting headache became even worse.

If only I'd known not to spend that ten thousand faith points on self-healing a few days ago.

Had I taken the opportunity earlier when it wasn't so strong, I could have resolved the threat once and for all.

Trying to save faith points only ended up wasting even more.

Ultimately, it's all because I'm too broke, reluctant to use them, leading to today's predicament.

He looked again at the empty faith points on the attribute panel, feeling his heart clench.

There's a kind of pain called being back to square one overnight.

There's a type of illness called poverty.

That's over thirty thousand faith points!

If invested in self-healing, self-healing could be almost maxed out.

Thinking of the heartache, he punched down hard again.

"Boom!"

The entire mountain top was flattened.

"Eh!"

Chen Shouyi looked surprised.

He noticed that the perception on the attribute panel, originally 30.0 points, had now become 30.2 points.

The frustration in his heart swiftly faded.

The higher the attribute, the harder it is to advance even a step forward.

If an ordinary person's perception is 1, thirty points is over three thousand times that of an ordinary person, even the strongest cultivation technique's effect is pitifully weak.

Since returning from the Himalayas, it has been half a month, and apart from a 0.3-point increase in willpower, other attributes including perception hadn't advanced even slightly.

"Spending thirty thousand faith points for 0.2 points in perception, I wonder if it's worth it?" Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

He recalled the residual Tamu's will in his mind.

Suddenly, he wasn't as bothered.

Maybe... there might be more benefits.

Perception is quite critical. On one hand, it alongside willpower forms the dual aspects of the soul. If perception is the form, then willpower is the substance, much like a small river cannot support a big ship, and strong will is limited, to some extent, by perception.

This can be seen from the fact that willpower has never significantly exceeded perception.

Whereas powerful perception makes it relatively easier to enhance willpower, it's like water flowing naturally.

And ordinary people facing divine power, even battle-hardened soldiers, can end up with only a shattered soul.

On the other hand, perception is also related to intuition, prophecy, and such abilities.

...

"However, by stealing Tamu's power like this, I wonder if Tamu would mind?" Chen Shouyi thought as he rubbed his chin.

Probably not... right?

After all, for such an existence, this amount of power isn't even a fraction, not even a billionth, it's simply the power of a glance.

Plus, there's the distance between worlds.

...

After October, the weather grew colder day by day.

It had rained yesterday, and the puddles on the ground had a thin layer of ice, crackling as he stepped on it.

Upon returning home, Chen Xingyue hadn't left yet.

"Bro, what was all that noise last night? I thought you tore down the house." Chen Xingyue said while eating breakfast.

She was dressed in a conservative business outfit with clear glasses, looking clean and neat, increasingly mature.

Despite being an eighteen-year-old girl, she dressed like she was twenty-eight.

Lacking any youthful vigor.

Chen Shouyi found it quite disagreeable.

"What's it to you?"

"Can't be bothered to argue with you." Chen Xingyue quickly finished her breakfast, grabbed her bag in a rush: "I'm heading to the Martial Arts Academy."

"Go on, go on." Chen Shouyi said, a thought occurred to him.

"Wait!"

"What is it?"

"Being the dean must be tough, right?"

Confronted with her brother's rare concern, Chen Xingyue was a bit taken aback: "It's alright, I don't need to handle specific tasks, just overseeing the general direction is enough."

For Chen Xingyue, life was simple mode.

The subordinates were diligent and hardworking, the superiors were kind and caring, and everyone was friendly and pleasant.

Resources, connections, funds didn't even require her effort; they would all come rushing in.

Even though the second Martial Arts Academy was newly built, the attention it received far surpassed the first Martial Arts Academy.

"As your older brother, I've never supported you. How about setting a time, and I'll give a speech at your academy?" Chen Shouyi said boldly.

"Seriously, bro?" Chen Xingyue said unbelievably. She had long had this thought, but felt bad for troubling her brother with such a small matter.

Chen Shouyi nodded: "It's not a joke."

Of course, it wasn't a change of heart; he was simply desperately broke right now.

Not a single faith point left, making him feel insecure.

Especially with the next outbreak uncertain, things could get bad without enough faith points.

Reality is just so frustrating.

Even someone as strong as Chen Shouyi has to bend for a bowl of rice.

...

Watching an excited Chen Xingyue rushing off to the academy.

Chen Shouyi comforted himself:

"Earning money while kneeling is not bad. It's just making money, no shame in that."

He returned to his bedroom, thought for a moment, then picked up the yellow pages on the desk, quickly flipping through them, and promptly called a number:

"Hello, is this everyone Daily?"

"It's me, Chen Shouyi!"

"It's that General Manager Chen."

"Ever considered doing an exclusive interview?"

"Not about anyone else, it's about me!"

"The sooner the better!"

"It could be tomorrow!"

"Also, I have a speech in a week..."

"Of course you need to send a reporter."

Chen Shouyi hung up the phone, shaking his head.

Talking is really tiring.

The receptionist's quality was lacking, not understanding his hints, forcing him to make things clear.

Next, he made an international call.

The international lines had recently connected, though only within Eurasia, unfortunately...

"You are the CBB?"

...

Great Xia's state media, European Union's state media, Lucy Country's state media, even the state media of other small countries weren't spared by Chen Shouyi.

Even a small mosquito is meat after all!

After dialing through all the calls, Chen Shouyi hung up the phone satisfactorily.

...

Receiving a call personally from Chen Shouyi.

All the media were dumbfounded, almost doubting reality, then frantically reaching out for confirmation.

...

"Joseph, this is real."

"Yes, yes, yes."

"Nothing has happened, it's just that General Manager Chen is somewhat...ahem!"

"Sorry, another call is coming through. We'll leave it there for now and talk again later." The president hung up the call from the European Union's prime minister and answered another dedicated line.

"Yes, yes, yes..."

"I've already confirmed it."

"Okay, okay! I heard your health hasn't been great lately, please take care."

"Haha, alright!"

That day, the president was glued to the phone, even delaying or canceling his schedule.

Inwardly worried: "Such a massive commotion, mustering efforts, really nothing happened?"

He himself began to have doubts.