

Origin Powers 531

Chapter 531 - I Want to Brag Extravagantly_3

"No Talent Source."

Xu Lingjun wondered if it was due to insufficient authenticity, or perhaps once something has been assigned a Talent Source, it couldn't be endowed with another attribute?

No answer could be expected momentarily.

Let's wait and see.

Meanwhile...

Within the stationing area of the Baoxue Empire Army.

All the corpses of the Baoxue Army were piled together, intending to be burned at a previously radiated site... where there were no plants, naturally avoiding the risk of a wildfire.

Handling the corpses were dozens of warriors from the Baoyan Army Legion.

As they dealt with the corpses, they discussed the exhilarating battle they had previously witnessed.

Especially when processing the four bodies of Grandmaster Level.

"These four guys were lucky enough to have left a complete corpse at least."

One of the warriors, Sun Dong, said, "Unlike that strong man, who was directly smashed into pieces, the ground beside him stained red, you couldn't even find a body except for two big feet..."

"So what if they have intact bodies, still buried in foreign soil, aren't they?"

Another named Zhou Ling complained, "It's a pity, according to me, we shouldn't concern ourselves with these bodies at all, letting them decay and become food for Demon Beasts is the proper thing to do."

"Demon Beasts can develop a taste for humans, and after consuming these bodies, sooner or later they'll set their sights on us. We might very well be stationed here for a while."

He said, "Don't forget what the Commander just said, Spirit Stones are very important to us..."

"Exactly, exactly, the Commander definitely wouldn't deceive us, since he promised to share with us, he surely wouldn't keep anything for himself. The best decision of my life was to follow him!"

Thinking of the extraordinary martial prowess Xu Lingjun had demonstrated earlier.

And the fact that he mentioned this already partially involved the capabilities of a Cultivator... and regarding the Cultivation Technique of the Cultivators, after extracting enough Spirit Stones, he would selflessly share them with everyone.

They all felt hopeful.

Maybe, they will be the first batch of Cultivators following the Commander?

Speaking amidst this...

Zhou Ling picked up the corpse of Carlos.

Just as he was about to move, a large pool of fresh blood suddenly rained down on him.

Zhou Ling's pupils shrank suddenly, exclaiming, "Dead for so long, the blood should have coagulated..."

Amidst his shock.

His perspective flipped abruptly, he weakly kneeled and collapsed to the ground with a thud, lifeless.

Carlos, whose throat was slit by Xu Lingjun and should have been thoroughly dead, suddenly had blue light surging in his eyes.

The entire person, like a nimble leopard, fled swiftly away into the distance...

"There's still a survivor!"

With his companion attacked, Sun Dong exclaimed in shock.

Before he finished speaking, a black shadow descended from the sky like a bird.

A pair of enormous steel-blade-like wings plunged fiercely into Carlos's back.

With a light puffing sound...

Carlos's chest was completely pierced, spraying blood.

Without hesitation, he retaliated with a backhand punch...

Han Yun City stood firm, but his entire body was sent flying.

In mid-air, he retracted his wings, landing on a tree with both feet, and stared in astonishment at Carlos who, despite having his chest penetrated, seemed unfazed, continuing to flee forward.

The silhouette soon vanished into the dark night.

He raised his hand, wiping from his back...

It was Carlos's blood.

But although red, it had no stench, instead a slightly pungent smell.

It was a liquid similar to machine oil.

This guy... actually modified himself?

And prior with the battlefield full of smoke, coupled with his perfect disguise, no one realized he was feigning death!

"Don't worry, he won't escape!"

A sudden soft voice echoed in his ear.

Han Yun City was startled, raised his head to see a ginkgo tree beside him swaying gently with the breeze!

Chapter 532 - Benefits Delivered to the Door

"What? Carlos escaped?"

When Xu Lingjun received the news, he exclaimed in surprise, "Didn't I already kill him?"

"Physiologically speaking, you did kill him once. In fact, I also killed him once, a direct hit to the heart, there's no reason he could still be alive. But the blood that flowed from his body wasn't that of a living person. It was more like a mixture of oil and blood..."

Han Yun City shook his head, "He must have undergone some sort of modification, so what would be a fatal wound for a normal person isn't fatal for him. That's how he escaped with his life."

"My people as well. I sent three Level 8 Demon Beasts to encircle him, causing him several fatal injuries, but in the end, he still managed to escape."

The Ancient Tree said, "In fact, with those kinds of injuries, a normal person would probably have died eight times over."

She added, "That 'eight times' is a very accurate descriptor, not an exaggeration."

Xu Lingjun thought back to the scene when he silenced the four with one stroke, each falling to the ground...

Admiringly, he said, "So, his acting skills are that good? I didn't notice at all."

Han Yun City curiously asked, "You don't seem very disappointed."

"What's there to be disappointed about? Just a small fry, nothing that can make any real waves."

Xu Lingjun asked, "The important thing is, we weren't exposed, right?"

"Of course not."

Han Yun City replied, "At the time, everyone followed your orders, concealing their faces, and avoided using their most proficient Martial Skills. They all acted based on the Light Saber and other weapons, making the possibility of them discovering our flaws minimal."

"Well, that's good."

Xu Lingjun said, "In fact, I was considering a problem before, on how to spread the word that the ones who killed them were from the Secret Realm Yanhuang Race. That way, we could distance the Great Xia Empire from the incident to the greatest extent. I even considered letting one person escape deliberately, but our power was too overwhelming. Non-Grandmaster Level experts couldn't escape, and Grandmasters are each more clever than the last. If we did it on purpose, we surely couldn't fool them..."

He continued, "So I thought of annihilating them and then initiating an attack, perhaps encroaching on the Baoxue Empire's border... But now, it seems Carlos's escape has saved us a lot of trouble, because even I didn't expect him to escape from my grasp, so he probably doesn't realize that his escape is exactly what I wanted."

"Indeed... Now is not the right time for the Great Xia Empire and the Baoxue Empire to engage in full-scale war."

Han Yun City suddenly realized.

He glanced at Xu Lingjun and said, "As long as we can extract enough Spirit Stones and have enough time, the top combat power of the Great Xia Empire will surely rise significantly. By then, the gap with the Baoxue Empire will naturally widen... Why clash with the enemy in a brutal battle before we've reached our full strength?"

"What intrigues me more is, Carlos modified himself? How did he do it? A Grandmaster Level expert, modified to the point of being almost immortal, isn't that amazing?"

Xu Lingjun asked, "Did he leave anything behind?"

"Does blood count?"

"Collect the blood. I need to take it back to the Zhanzheng Academy... Let them study it. If this modification has no side effects, then the strength of the Baoxue Empire might be more terrifying than we imagined."

Han Yun City understood what Xu Lingjun meant.

If this modification has no side effects, dealing with a nearly unkillable, and extremely powerful Grandmaster Level warrior might still be manageable.

But a squad of fearless Grandmaster Level Martial Artists...

"Fortunately, you also have that so-called Cultivation Technique..."

"On this point, Old City, I want to ask you for a favor."

"What kind of favor?"

"Spread the news about my Cultivation Technique."

Xu Lingjun said, "It's best to let the entire Baoyan Army Legion know."

Han Yun City asked, "Why?!"

"Because I don't want to leave myself any escape route."

Xu Lingjun thought, considering so many people aren't enough, it's probably because a Cultivation Technique thing is completely out of nothing, and its level is too high, so it requires that much more authenticity.

"Alright, I'll handle this!"

Han Yun City hurried away.

Even he didn't realize, he had unknowingly become the de facto manager of the entire Baoyan Army Legion.

At that moment...

In the shadowy forest.

Carlos kept fleeing, fleeing...

Even though he had been modified to a nearly indestructible iron body, he knew that if that figure in black armor caught up with him, he would be dead for sure.

Clearly, he had obtained an incredible fortune.

He even thought that after completing this mission, he would surely advance his ranking in the Holy Hall... If he could enter the top three, that would be perfect.

But now, Carlos no longer dared to have such thoughts.

His courage had been completely shattered. Facing that figure in black, he felt he might not even have the courage to fight back and would be slaughtered like a mere chick.

And another feeling arose, a primal fear.

If my power, which isn't even worthy to stand in his shadow, can rank in the top three of the Baoxue Empire's Holy Hall List, does that mean the Baoxue Empire can't even find a rival to match him?

Chapter 533 - Benefits Delivered to the Door_2

Earlier, he only lamented that his ranking wasn't high enough, but now, he just felt his ranking wasn't low enough... it would be best if it were outside the top hundred.

He had been completely terrified by Xu Lingjun.

So much so that those Level 8 Demon Beasts he could easily handle on a normal day, he now didn't even dare to look back at them... fearing that if he wasted even a bit of time, that monster would catch up with him.

And when he finally escaped the Mysterious Jungle and saw the open road ahead.

Carlos was almost moved to tears, it was safe, finally safe.

But just as he ran a few steps...

His steps suddenly halted.

Looking at the pile of bodies burned to ash, although the flesh and bones had been completely incinerated, one could still clearly see the deformed but recognizable emblem of the Baoxue Empire Army on the ground.

He suddenly realized.

Why reinforcements never came...

It turned out, the people from the Secret Realm were cunning to this extent, blocking their weapon supplies first and then slaughtering them all.

Though they were considered indigenous savages...

Thinking about those weapons glowing with fluorescence, their advanced nature probably even more terrifying than the most advanced weapons of the Baoxue Empire?

Carlos couldn't help but shiver, realizing that within the Secret Realm, there wasn't just Demon Beasts, but also a terrifying human tribe whose technology far surpassed the Three Great Empires.

Such an important secret, now only he knew, he must survive to relay this message back.

Thinking of this...

Without time to mourn, without time to gather his comrades' remains, he ran as fast as he could toward the nearest populated area, but suddenly, he heard the furious snarls of the Demon Beasts behind him.

Oh no, I haven't lost them yet.

Carlos couldn't help but feel his heart sink, then a strong will to survive surged within him.

He had to survive...

Only by surviving could he pass the message back.

And at this moment.

Xu Lingjun couldn't care less about the escaping Carlos; for him, Carlos's escape was actually doing him a favor.

Or you could say, just a small fry, even if he escaped, he couldn't cause any big trouble...

To Xu Lingjun now, a mere Grandmaster Level Martial Artist wasn't worthy of his attention.

At this moment, all his focus was on the Spirit Stone.

The reason for battling with the Baoxue Empire, wasn't it just for the Spirit Stone?

And now he had successfully completed the task of completely expelling the Baoxue Empire soldiers from the Secret Realm... then the Ancient Tree naturally needed to fulfill its promise.

Fortunately, the Ancient Tree didn't go back on its word.

It simply let Xiaoyun lead him to where they previously found the Spirit Stone...

Along the way, Xu Lingjun sat on Daxiong's back.

Following behind Xiaoyun... listening to her chatter along the way.

Since meeting Daxiong, Xiaoyun's gaze toward Xu Lingjun had become much friendlier. She could see Xu Lingjun really took good care of Daxiong.

If he didn't have a good heart, an average person wouldn't be able to raise such a well-fed Snow Leopard.

But that's not a reason to turn her kind into a lazybones.

Like a tiger, where's the slender build?

Anyway, the chatter all the way was just like this, leaving Xu Lingjun quite helpless, while Daxiong, being called a slacker, was full of disdain. If he wasn't weaker than Xiaoyun, he would have already shouted at her with a meow if he could resist it.

Kidding, you can't even get our Snow Leopard's call right, and your fur isn't even orange... do you even dare scold me?

Just because you're a tad stronger and can beat me senseless, what's there to be overbearing about?

Yet looking at that figure seemingly enlarged by dozens of times compared to Pang Hu.

Daxiong couldn't help but miss Pang Hu...

Enough, just think of a Snow Leopard when missing a cat, let her scold a few words.

The two leopards and a person arrived at a hidden cave.

"This is the cave where we previously found the Spirit Stone, inside, as long as we continue digging, we should be able to excavate more Spirit Stones."

The voice of the Ancient Tree came from a nearby cypress tree, saying: "These Spirit Stones have strong Spiritual Qi inside, and other than me, no Demon Beasts can directly absorb the Spiritual Qi inside, otherwise, they might explode..."

Xu Lingjun replied, "Hmm, strictly speaking, Spirit Stones aren't actually stones, but solidified entities due to overly concentrated Spiritual Qi. In fact, for normal Demon Beasts and humans, the Spiritual Qi in the air is already sufficient, more is too much."

A fervent look flashed in his eyes.

Others couldn't see it, but he could clearly feel the density of the Spiritual Qi in the cave...

This was purer than anywhere else he had been.

To him, it was practically a natural Cultivation Holy Land.

"So, for our deal, I want more... or you could say this is compensation for hiding information."

The Ancient Tree said, "Our deal was just that you repel the Baoxue Empire Army, and I allow you to mine Spirit Stones within the Secret Realm. But now it seems that agreeing to this condition is akin to letting you humans directly take half of this Secret Realm."

"That's fine too, but when the Baoxue Empire won't let this go easily."

"So, I allow you to send soldiers, but I have two conditions!"

"Let's hear them."

"First, from today onwards, all Demon Beasts will retreat from the entrances to the various Secret Realms, and henceforth, I will order the Demon Beasts not to attack humans. But likewise, you must control your academy students, not allowing them to attack our Demon Beasts!"

Chapter 534 - Benefits Delivered to the Door_3

The Ancient Tree explained, "Previously, driving them into the dangerous regions of the Secret Realm was a last resort. After all, the number of Demon Beasts was too large... Resources were too scarce, and for survival, we had to sacrifice some lives. But now, to counter the Baoxue Empire, we have suffered heavy casualties; this is no longer an issue."

Ancient Tree · Ba said, "You should understand my helplessness, right?"

"Survival of the fittest, understandable. Now tell me about the second point."

"Secondly, when you first came to the Secret Realm, your power was strong, but not yet to the terrifying extent it is now... I'm sure your strength is related to Spirit Stones, and you may even possess the means of using them. My condition is that we Demon Beasts will fully assist you in mining Spirit Stones and allow you to enter our Secret Realm, but in return, the Cultivation Techniques for using Spirit Stones to enhance yourself must be shared with us!"

After saying this,

She seemed to feel that her newly added conditions were a bit too much.

Somewhat hesitantly, she glanced at Xu Lingjun and asked, "How about these conditions?"

The implication being, if you're not satisfied, I'll give way... if still not satisfied, I'll give more...

"It's good, but not good enough."

Xu Lingjun did not react as the Ancient Tree had expected, neither erupting in anger nor frowning in contemplation.

Instead, he wore an extremely peculiar expression.

That kind of look...

The Ancient Tree had seen that kind of look before, like a fox when it sees a chicken, revealing a kind of desire.

Xu Lingjun smiled and said, "I can agree to both of your conditions; they are not difficult issues. With my position, I can easily facilitate this matter. In fact, I welcome the peaceful coexistence of humans and Demon Beasts, but the problem is... because of the bloody battles with the Baoxue Empire, many of your Demon Beasts have died, leading to a sufficient population. But don't forget the Demon Beasts' reproductive abilities; soon, you'll face another resource scarcity crisis."

He continued, "At that time, what do you plan to do?"

"This..."

The Ancient Tree wanted to say they'd drive the excess Demon Beasts to the dangerous zones again...

But the words stopped before leaving her mouth.

She knew that if humans and Demon Beasts truly wanted to avoid war, then such actions could never happen again. The Demon Beasts in the dangerous zones, though abandoned, were still siblings. If they all perished at human hands, asking them to coexist peacefully with humans would be too much.

Should they then go violate the Baoxue Empire's side...

But recalling that terrifying nuclear cleansing.

This bunch of mad dogs... really were not to be trifled with.

But facing beasts lacking basic human decency, she truly dared not provoke them.

"Do you have any ideas?"

"I do."

Xu Lingjun smiled, "You want peace, fine. From now on, the Great Xia Empire and the Demon Beasts will be brother nations, working together for peace on Blue Star, which is great. You want the sharing of Cultivation Techniques? No problem. Currently, the Techniques aren't yet developed, but once I create them, if you're capable of Cultivation, I will generously share them. If you're not, I will tailor-make a Technique for you Demon Beasts."

"As for the crisis of rapid Demon Beast reproduction, I really don't see it as a problem. Have you heard of the Polar Star Battlefield?"

Xu Lingjun smiled and said, "Allow me to introduce myself: Xu Lingjun, former Commander of the Qisha Military Region in the Polar Star Battlefield, now Commander in Chief of the Polar Star Battlefield. If you're worried about excess Demon Beasts, why not consider joining the Polar Star Battlefield? Just as Daxiong and I fought side by side, you saw how I've treated Daxiong, showing how much I care..."

"Meow."

Daxiong let out a noise.

Xiaoyun coldly remarked, "Daxiong said the one who fed it was a little girl named Jun Qing, and stated as the master of a Companion Demon Beast, you are historically the most irresponsible master."

Xu Lingjun gave Daxiong's belly a hard squeeze.

Daxiong let out a pitiful meow, helplessly collapsing to the ground...

"Alright, stop pretending."

Xu Lingjun gave it a kick, signaling it to get up.

He said, "Anyway, you Demon Beasts are in excess, why not channel the strength towards the Polar Star Battlefield? From now on, the Great Xia Empire and the Secret Realm can be brother nations, mutually beneficial... Surely, you don't naively believe defending the Polar Star Battlefield is merely for humans, right? Furthermore, if the Baoxue Empire attacks you again, we'll aid you without hesitation."

"This..."

The Ancient Tree contemplated for a while, tempted.

Thinking that while abandonment seems dangerous at the Polar Star Battlefield, there might be a slim chance for survival, at least they wouldn't be alone.

For the moment, she wanted to discuss with her family...

But recalling their nature... forget it, she'd be the one to decide in the end.

She nodded and said, "Okay, but you have to promise that we won't be used as cannon fodder!"

"Of course, we'll arrange the most elite human warriors to work with your Demon Beasts, ensuring humans and beasts don't leave each other. This way, you won't have to worry about being used as cannon fodder."

The Ancient Tree nodded, vaguely feeling that something might not be quite right.

Little did she know, Xu Lingjun was secretly laughing inside...

This was like equipping each elite warrior at the Polar Star Battlefield with a Companion Demon Beast.

Never to leave their side, they must never leave their side.

"Alright, I agree to your conditions!"

"Then I'll arrange for people to start mining Spirit Stones."

Xu Lingjun smiled and said, "Looks like from now on, if the Four Great Martial Mansions want to train soldiers, they can't use Demon Beasts anymore. Well, the warriors of Baoxue Empire will be a pretty good choice... Hmm, let's use them for practice."

Chapter 535 - Cultivation Technique

Inside the cave, the spiritual qi was abundant.

Upon discovering this place, Xu Lingjun immediately ordered Liu Shuang to return to the Imperial Capital, dispatch a large number of mining engineers to extract spirit stones!

This was a grand plan concerning the future of the entire Great Xia Empire for the next century, and thus could not be taken lightly.

Xu Lingjun also had him collect Carlos' blood and send it back.

Carlos was not purely human but a modified human.

Moreover, he was a modified human so subtle that even Xu Lingjun did not sense anything abnormal...

In fact, it was only because his opponent was Xu Lingjun.

Otherwise, if it had been any other Grandmaster facing him, they might have already been outsmarted by him. Carlos likely knew the vast disparity in strength between the two sides, realizing that any sneak attack would ultimately be futile.

Hence, he decided to simply feign death.

Given that they were already enemies with the Blazing Snow Empire, this matter was of great importance.

It must be understood.

With both sides having comparable strength, if one were to be fearless and had a special physique, they would undoubtedly hold a significant advantage.

If there were many modified humans of this caliber, the Blazing Snow Empire might be harboring some dreadful conspiracy.

This must not be ignored.

As for Xu Lingjun, he did not return.

The spiritual qi in this cave was extraordinarily dense. Coming here felt akin to a lecher entering a brothel, or a gourmand entering a restaurant, his instincts compelling him to stay.

After handling all matters, Xu Lingjun sat cross-legged here and began cultivation.

Outside, the actions in Han Yun City were remarkably swift.

Three days later.

When Xu Lingjun habitually took out the "Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique" again.

Sure enough, a system prompt appeared before his eyes.

[Detected Divine Demon Level Cultivation Technique "Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique", do you wish to grant it genuine origin? Requires consumption of 20000 Source Value points!]

20000?!!

This was truly an unprecedented record high.

Xu Lingjun understood that the reason why the "Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique" previously required merely 3000 Source Value points for grant was because this cultivation technique had been created by a martial arts expert who poured his heart and soul into it, only to find it impossible to cultivate successfully.

Thus, out of frustration, he sold it for 20 bucks... or wait... was it ten or twenty?

Time had blurred his memory.

But now...

Undoubtedly, after Xu Lingjun endowed this cultivation technique with new qualities, its potency rose once again, and this time, unlike the previous logical enhancement, it brutally and arbitrarily elevated a martial arts technique to a cultivation level.

Even though authenticity was achieved, such an illogical method naturally required a high consumption of Source Value.

Xu Lingjun hardly hesitated and directly chose to grant origin.

A massive amount of Source Value promptly fell below 20000+.

Xu Lingjun clutched his chest in pain.

Being so poor was unbearable; he couldn't imagine how he had previously survived on just a few hundred Source Values.

I need to grant origin, I must do good deeds.

Yet the "Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique" in his hand evidently underwent significant changes once again.

Xu Lingjun felt heartache for a moment, and once he recovered, he began to slowly peruse the "Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique" once more.

The beginning showed no difference...

After all, when Xu Lingjun initially boasted, he had deliberately preserved the preceding alterations. Having trained with this technique, he naturally couldn't go back and redo it, so he had to figure out solutions from the rear...

And when flipping to the subsequent parts.

Especially when reaching the Guiyuan Realm.

What Xu Lingjun saw again was indeed no longer the "Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique" after being granted origin earlier, but a cultivation technique more profound and powerful.

If this cultivation technique remained a Divine Demon Level Technique earlier,

then by reaching the Guiyuan Realm, the technique's realm was significantly elevated to an Immortal Saint Level.

Moreover, it was no longer a martial arts technique but a cultivation technique.

A genuine cultivation technique...

Xu Lingjun was captivated as he held the book; his current vast knowledge far surpassed what it had been, but precisely because of this, he could comprehend the mystical essence within the technique.

Even surpassing the Divine Demon Level Technique by far.

Were he to cultivate this technique...

How powerful could he become?

Xu Lingjun did not know, but he suddenly had a sense... perhaps, he might lead Blue Star out of this star realm?

Since the Blue Star's arrival,

it has been constantly monitored by the mysterious races of the heavens, like a tightly-knit web ensnaring it.

But if this web were torn apart...

Who knows what kind of magnificence this star realm might reveal?

He was thinking too far ahead, too far ahead.

Xu Lingjun pondered deeply while holding the cultivation technique in his hands.

The technique had become stronger, at a level that made him feel overwhelming fear just by looking at it... or perhaps for the sake of his enemies.

This was not an ordinary technique; it bridged martial arts and Daoism, transitioning from martial to immortal, eliminating the usual flaws of a typical cultivator.

This was a perfect technique.

But due to its perfection, its dependence on spiritual qi had grown to an almost frightening extent.

Xu Lingjun had an instinctive feeling...

If he switched to cultivating the granted-origin technique now,

further cultivation advancement would leave him inescapably reliant on spirit stones and various heavenly materials and earthly treasures.

Chapter 536 - Cultivation Technique_2

The spiritual energy naturally dispersed in the world had become too thin for him... just like an elephant cannot fill its stomach with a few grapes, he would evolve to another level.

For an ordinary cultivator, it might be equivalent to forming a complete dependence on spirit stones.

But Xu Lingjun didn't really mind...

Well, dependency is just dependency.

Which cultivator doesn't rely on spirit stones?

Besides, I'm different from ordinary cultivators. If I run out of spirit stones, I can roam the world looking for fights. The 'Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique' also has a characteristic that allows the absorption of any material.

I find someone to fight, getting hit is also a form of progress...

If all else fails, I'll just blast myself with the Rainbow Cannon.

I just can't believe that even high-tech weapons can't provide enough energy...

I'm not picky, spiritual energy isn't the only thing for me, huh.

Thinking of this, Xu Lingjun earnestly studied the cultivation technique in his hands.

And as he read...

The originally pure spiritual power around him began to fluctuate violently.

If it was said that previously, due to his special encounters, he forcefully elevated his true essence to the level of spiritual power, now he was genuinely purifying the spiritual power again.

The cave began to tremble violently.

It seemed unable to withstand this overwhelming, irresistible force.

At this moment...

Heaven and Earth fell silent.

Boundless and infinite, a terrifying aura surged in all directions.

Ten miles.

Twenty miles.

Thirty miles.

It was as if the most terrifying beast had finally shed its baby teeth, revealing a mouth full of ferocious fangs, ready to devour all the enemies nearby.

In an instant, those Baoyan Army Legion warriors who were training stopped in their tracks.

Cold sweat trickled down their foreheads.

"This feeling, this feeling..."

Han Yun City's legs almost trembled.

He knew the gap between him and Xu Lingjun had widened, but he was confident that with the Emperor Blood Heaven Slayer, he could fight him for hundreds of rounds.

But ever since he came to the Secret Realm...

Ever since he obtained the spirit stones.

The gap between them had completely widened, but he truly didn't expect that the gap would become as vast as this.

Are the effects of spirit stones really this miraculous?

Han Yun City struggled to withstand the oppressive momentum, accompanied by a defiant roar...

The true qi within him surged continuously, accompanied by a silent roar.

His brain roared.

The Ninth Layer of Profound Realm!

He was just a step away from the Grandmaster Realm.

If it were any other day, he might have been thrilled for a moment... but now, the imminent breakthrough to the Grandmaster Realm brought him no joy at all.

What he looked forward to was Xu Lingjun.

He was very curious about what miraculous effects he would achieve if he too broke through using spirit stones.

And as the ancient tree and all the beasts sensed this aura at the same time...

They fell silent instantly.

This time, even the most arrogant and powerful King Xue said nothing more.

Although this aura was just that—an aura—it instinctively made him feel a sense of submission...

Too strong.

Xiaoyun sighed, "I really don't know whether this time we're keeping the wolf from the front door or inviting the tiger in through the back."

Hei Feng complained, "Stop using me as a metaphor..."

The ancient tree sighed, "How have they been getting along with the demon beasts during this time?"

A white ape holding a banana in its hand sneered, "Very well, they seem to be intentionally getting closer to our demon beasts. I don't know what they're planning. A few days ago, a human even came with a bunch of bananas trying to get close to me, saying he wanted to pet me... hmph... laughable, does he think a few bananas would win my favor?!"

He angrily ate the bananas and said, "I'm not that easy to buy."

Xiaoyun rolled her eyes and said, "They're probably looking for demon beasts akin to companion demon beasts... newborn demon beasts have an instinct to recognize parents, and since we have intelligence similar to humans, while we can't establish a bond, it's evident they want to establish some relationship with us so we might fight alongside them in the future."

"In such matters, it depends entirely on the will of the beast. Don't forcibly stop it, but don't encourage it either."

The ancient tree sighed and said, "Xu Lingjun once said something very right, the Polar Star Battlefield doesn't belong to the Great Xia Empire alone. Since our demon beasts can't survive due to territory issues, instead of wasting their potential in the dangerous zones of the Secret Realm, we might as well place them on the Polar Star Battlefield, contributing to the survival of our kind... and if we can form some intimate connections with humans, we might be able to reduce casualties."

Of course, more than that, there was a fear of that human.

And a desire.

She had lived for many years and had seen so many things...

But she would never forget the powerful demon beasts she saw when she was young.

The terror of Level 11 and Level 12 demon beasts.

Fierce bodies traversing the cosmos.

Although Xu Lingjun had not yet showcased such power, the potential he exhibited and that terrifying pressure reminded it inexplicably of then.

Humans are indeed blessed by nature.

The ancient tree couldn't help but let out a wistful sigh.

Perhaps it was time for them to try to approach humans.

Day by day passed.

Xu Lingjun had not come out since he entered the cave.

Even when those subsequent engineers in charge of excavating spirit stones arrived, Han Yun City blocked them outside, asking them to wait for a while...

Chapter 537 - Cultivation Technique_3

Just the strange aura around already made Han Yun City understand that Xu Lingjun is probably at the most critical moment of his life now.

Although I don't understand what's so important to breakthrough after just achieving Grandmaster Cultivation...

But Han Yun City is also a Martial Artist, naturally understanding that this aura fluctuates, apparently in a state of stagnation.

We'll just wait.

And at this moment.

After several days of hard travel.

Baoxue Empire.

The capital, Baofeng City.

On this day, a military armored ambulance quickly drove into Baofeng City.

Inside the vehicle.

Carlos, with an oxygen mask on his head, was already covered in blood, breathing rapidly...

He was already barely breathing in with no breath out.

Although he successfully escaped from the Secret Realm, when he was found by others, he was almost unrecognizable.

The pursuit of the Demon Beasts was not so easy to handle, and Carlos never imagined these beasts would dare to chase out of the Secret Realm. That last terrifying attack caused his already severe injuries to completely deteriorate.

By now, he had only one breath left.

When the ambulance drove into Baofeng City.

They opened the car door.

Seeing the severely injured Carlos, almost beyond saving.

The emergency personnel were instantly stunned, exclaiming, "Quick, quick rescue!"

"Quick, send him to the operating room."

"No, send him to the modification room, use the Wikipedia Liquid... quickly..."

A group of people swiftly lifted Carlos and sent him for emergency treatment.

Until two days later.

The near-fatal injuries finally began to slowly recover.

Except for the neck, which was slashed by Xu Lingjun's sword; something seemed to be obstructing it, making the wound almost impossible to heal... He would likely have to wear a metal neck brace for the rest of his life.

No choice.

That sword seemed to carry an incredibly terrifying energy, so concentrated that it couldn't be dispelled.

If his body hadn't been modified in advance, he might not have made it back alive.

Looking through the mirror at his own form with the neck brace...

Carlos frowned, then quickly let it go.

In this situation, coming back alive is already a stroke of fortune.

He put on his clothes and asked, "Where's Your Majesty?"

"His Majesty is handling state affairs."

"I want to see him!"

"But at a time like this, His Majesty isn't seeing anyone."

"I have significant secrets about the entire Secret Realm that I need to report to His Majesty."

Carlos put on his clothes and walked briskly towards the Imperial Palace.

At this time.

In the Imperial City of Baofeng.

In the deepest part of the Imperial Palace.

The Sovereign of Baoxue Empire, Anduin, was handling state affairs... Although his age wasn't young, already fifty or sixty years old.

But because of his profound Martial Arts Cultivation, he looked only about thirty or forty years old.

His face also appeared very handsome, with a touch of Western-style charm.

But those overly gloomy eyes overshadowed the cheerful expression he showed.

When he heard the request for Carlos to be seen.

He sighed deeply, rubbed his temple...

Sighing, "Let him in."

Carlos returned heavily wounded alone.

Just this news alone told him that the news Carlos brought back couldn't possibly be good.

Although he had no idea how the enemy managed it...

The opponent was a group of beasts, and he had a large number of Thermal Energy Weapons for support, yet they still couldn't win?

Just seeing the prominent neck brace on Carlos' neck, and his pale face.

Even the best Wikipedia Liquid still left such a terrible injury...

His expression turned serious.

He asked, "Was there an accident in the Secret Realm?!"

Carlos nodded, saying, "All the supplies were stolen, the Holy Armor Army was annihilated, and all six Grandmasters aside from me were killed; only I played dead to escape. If not for participating in that voluntary transformation ceremony, gaining life force far beyond an ordinary person, I would likely have died there too!"

Anduin abruptly stood up, asking in shock, "Those Demon Beasts are that terrifying?!"

"No, the terrifying part isn't the Demon Beasts, it's the humans!"

Carlos recalled that attack, which felt like the sky was falling and suffocated him, with a look of fear in his eyes, saying, "Your Majesty, there are people in the Secret Realm. The Original Blue Star not only has Demon Beasts but also native inhabitants... We didn't expect it, we were caught completely off guard, and the entire army was wiped out!"

Chapter 538 - The essence of Martial Arts lies in harmony with nature

Listening to Carlos's description.

Anduin's expression gradually became serious.

Learning that there were humans present in the Secret Realm was already an extremely shocking thing...

Moreover, these humans seemed to possess a completely different technological tree from the Three Great Empires.

Humans could become invisible, and light could be solidified into razor-sharp weapons.

They used all sorts of weapons completely different from theirs.

And there were powerful humans capable of rivaling the combined strength of the Four Grandmasters, forcing them to bow their heads.

Both martial power and technology far surpassed their current level.

They didn't even know how they lost.

"So, both batches of weapons we transmitted were taken by them? And you don't even know how they did it?"

Carlos knelt on one knee in shame, saying: "Yes, I still don't understand what exactly happened!"

"I didn't expect there to be such terrifying opponents in the Secret Realm, I thought it was just a bunch of beasts."

Anduin asked: "Lord Carlos, considering this battle, we are completely defeated, what suggestions do you have for the future...?"

"Abandon the Secret Realm!"

Carlos replied without hesitation: "Enemies, whether in technology or in martial power, far exceed us; we have no chance of winning. Besides, excessive depletion might easily allow the Land of Light and the Great Xia Empire to profit."

"No."

Anduin resolutely said: "We have paid such a great price just to discover the secrets within the Secret Realm... Besides, we have already gained benefits. If we refuse to fulfill our promise, the Mysterious races of the heavens won't spare us. At that time, I don't believe the Desperate Great Wall can withstand their desperate attacks."

He coldly continued: "We cannot be intimidated by the enemy's strength. Lord Carlos, the stronger the enemy, the more we need to discover their weakness and strike at it fatally. If the Secret Realm holds technology far superior to humans, have they possibly obtained the Secret Realm's secrets?"

"This..."

Carlos was momentarily speechless. It was not just possible; they must have obtained the secrets within the Secret Realm. Otherwise, how could they become so powerful?

But does this strength really have a weakness?

"Recall, Lord Carlos, think well; what is their weakness? You don't need to remember it now, but I want you to understand: they are not invincible. Your body has been transformed; it's hard to kill you now - is there any reason to fear them?"

Anduin said: "The stronger the enemy, the greater our potential reward... It's just a matter of cost; only we, the Baoxue Empire, have mastered this secret. It's also the opportunity for our Baoxue Empire's rise. I will not give up; the Baoxue Empire will not give up."

"Yes."

Carlos said: "Your Majesty, indeed, those people have weaknesses."

"What weaknesses?!"

"They seem to lack large-scale long-range attack weapons!"

Carlos recalled previous events and said: "During their assaults, although their gear was not entirely melee-focused, their weapons appeared quite odd, more advanced than ours, yet entirely designed to support close combat - light sabers, cold whips, retractable hand throwing stars, etc... Moreover, when we lacked weapons, they could have blasted us flat with artillery, but they did not do so; instead, they came in for close combat with us..."

Especially in that gear.

Recalling the black armor, it had extremely strong defensive capabilities against attacks.

He delivered two successive punches yet couldn't kill a small leader...

Certainly, the small leader was not weak, but the armor's defense was also significant.

"That makes sense. You said these humans are from the Secret Realm, and the Secret Realm's area is much smaller than our Blue Star's land. Plus, they haven't faced real warfare, so maybe they never had the chance to develop long-range attack weapons."

Anduin's eyes lit up as he spoke: "I felt it when you mentioned it earlier, that their technology is incomplete and unbalanced... Capable of simultaneously matching four Grandmasters including you, these Yanhuang Race individuals are indeed strong, but unfortunately, he has Divine Skill, I have science. Especially our dual-force shockwave device, which can plow through the whole Secret Realm without destroying its fundamental ecosystem, leaving no survivors then!"

"Kill them from afar?"

Carlos's eyes also lit up, pleasantly surprised, "This is indeed a method. I was pondering how to defeat this unbelievably strong enemy... But now it seems, we do not need to consider this question because they cannot escape the range of the shockwave!"

"Very good, let's do it!"

Anduin wrote vigorously on the desk, saying: "Go make arrangements, Lord Carlos, I still trust you."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

Carlos was moved to tears again, respectfully knelt on one knee, and said: "Your Majesty, this time, I will not fail you. I will certainly present what you need before you."

"Go."

Anduin smiled, saying: "The era of pure martial power is over, and the next era is led by our Baoxue Empire... You and I are the pioneers of this age, do not lose to the minions of the old era."

"Yes."

Carlos stood up and walked back.

Chapter 539 - The essence of Martial Arts lies in harmony with nature_2

And as Carlos left, Anduin's expression did not show the slightest relaxation... Using a Gravitational Shockwave to attack the entire Secret Realm, wiping out all the Demon Beasts within it.

This was a method from the very beginning.

But why was he unwilling to use it directly?

It's because such a massive action is absolutely impossible to escape the prying eyes of the other two Empires...

And as such, there's a great possibility they would discover what he's plotting in the Secret Realm.

The Baoxue Empire has paid a huge price, plotting since his father's generation, with years of effort and dedication, how can they share with those people?

I eat the meat...

Not even soup can be given to you.

Anduin thought to himself that he must find a way to give the two Empires an early warning.

Perhaps under the guise of a military exercise?

Hmm... that's a good idea; the Baoxue Empire frequently conducts exercises. If they make a big deal of it this time, they might be able to fool them.

Anyway, they would hardly enter the Secret Realm easily. By then, as long as I seize the initiative, these treasures will still be mine.

Anduin knows well that the secrets hidden in this Secret Realm that attract so many mysterious races of the heavens are definitely significant.

At this moment.

Within the Secret Realm.

After more than ten days.

Xu Lingjun finally slowly opened his eyes.

A glimmer flashed through his eyes, and his gaze was vast and endless like the cosmos...

Yet in the blink of an eye, he had already returned to a normal state.

After several tens of days of diligent cultivation, or rather transformation.

His power did not significantly enhance, but the spiritual power within him had been purified to a more astonishing degree.

And the greatest gain...

Was still the Spiritual Sense.

An extremely miraculous auxiliary function.

Xu Lingjun finally understood what that strange feeling of being able to detect the prying eyes from around and afar was.

He could defeat the Four Grandmasters.

This feeling accounted for at least half of the credit...

And now, Xu Lingjun realized that was clearly the embryonic form of Spiritual Sense.

The "Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique" is a technique that enters the path through martial arts. At the Guiyuan Realm, the cultivation technique gradually breaks away from the fence of the Martial Tao, which is why some capabilities that belong to cultivators begin to manifest.

But it was only a trial, so even the Spiritual Sense was incomplete.

But now, as Xu Lingjun upgraded the cultivation technique to the superior "Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique," the Spiritual Sense finally became complete.

Even with his eyes closed, everything around him was deeply embedded in his heart.

Xu Lingjun felt as if there was a clone beside him...

He reached out to the distant leaves.

Even though they were far away, he felt a tangible sense of touch.

He touched the leaf... with his Spiritual Sense.

Just a slight gesture.

The leaf directly floated into his hand.

Xu Lingjun suddenly recalled an anime he had watched in a past life, where characters were accompanied by invisible aids... they could achieve magical things through these invisible beings.

The Spiritual Sense feels very similar.

However, his Spiritual Sense was much stronger. After all, this kind of Spiritual Sense could not only assist him but also give his body some extremely mysterious perceptions...

Previously it was only a vague perception, but now he could clearly see in a certain corner behind him, a tender sprout just releasing a dewdrop.

The breeze in the sky stirred those originally lazy spiritual qi.

This world filled with vitality has come alive in his eyes.

Even the spiritual qi came alive with it...

The essence of Martial Arts lies in unity with nature.

And now, without a doubt, Xu Lingjun has reached this limit and surpassed it.

How strong is the enhanced "Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique"?

Xu Lingjun no longer knew... he could only feel that this time, among the Grandmasters, no one could threaten him anymore.

Only unsure about the Creation above Guiyuan, what kind of realm it might be.

When there's leisure time in the future, it might be worth exploring.

Stepping out of the cave.

Han Yun City had been waiting there for a long time, although he couldn't absorb spiritual qi, with his power just a step away from the Grandmaster level, he could sense the fluctuation of spiritual qi between heaven and earth, naturally aware of Xu Lingjun's impending awakening.

"You're awake."

He complained, "Do you know how much time you've wasted for us? The engineers arrived long ago, but they had to halt completely because of you alone."

"Sorry."

Xu Lingjun smiled slightly, saying, "However, the closed-door training these past days has reaped astounding rewards, hmm... this cave is full of good stuff, we with Demon Beasts eat meat, not leaving any soup, if nothing unexpected happens, we won't be able to cultivate without these Spirit Stones in the future."

"Rest assured, I had long guessed that there might be more than just one vein of Spiritual Ore, just that the Demon Beasts hadn't discovered it."

Han Yun City said, "I've already sent people to search for new Spiritual Ores, with professional surveyors and samples at hand, I believe there will be results soon. The spiritual qi in this Secret Realm is so rich that there shouldn't be a shortage of Spirit Stones."

"Hmm, very well. By the way, Carlos escaped back; has there been any reaction from the people of the Baoxue Empire?"

"What reaction could there be? Even if there is a reaction, there's no need to care... anyway, we just need to hold on to this piece of land tightly, the rest my father can handle, no need to worry. Having sat on the throne for decades, the old fox is shrewd, playing power struggles, the two of us aren't even qualified to carry his shoes."

Chapter 540 - The Essence of Martial Arts is Unity with Nature_3

Han Yun City eagerly turned to Xu Lingjun and asked, "So what you mentioned earlier..."

Xu Lingjun said, "The cultivation technique?"

"That's right, that's right, the cultivation technique."

"I'll comprehend it once I return."

Xu Lingjun smiled.

Comprehending the "Infinite Divine Demon Body Refining Technique" and directly elevating it to a cultivation technique, he already had a certain understanding of the many mysteries of cultivation.

Writing a cultivation technique is not a difficult task at all, and in this secret realm, they are completely isolated from the world...

Everything he does has nothing to do with the Great Xia Empire.

He could elevate the entire strength of the Baoyan Army significantly, as they were his direct subordinates, so he wouldn't feel any reluctance.

Xu Lingjun had intentionally gathered the people from Bei Xuanwu Martial Mansion, Cuowu Sect, and Baoyan Army together for exactly this idea, didn't he?

Giving good things to others would make him feel heartache...

But giving them to his own subordinates, it was no problem.

Hearing Xu Lingjun's words, Han Yun City finally breathed a sigh of relief.

He was probably the most eager for the cultivation technique to come out.

He said, "By the way, there's one more thing."

"What is it?"

"Someone has come to see you."

"Who?"

Just as Xu Lingjun finished asking and before Han Yun City could answer, his spiritual sense had already perceived the graceful figure in the distance.

A light blue silk dress, an antique long skirt, appeared even more elegant in this natural environment.

Her eyebrows were like a painting, her smile like peach blossoms, but what was most captivating was the mesmerizing blush on her cheeks.

Seeing Xu Lingjun, a gentle smile appeared in her eyes, and she jested, "Xu Tongxue, long time no see!"

Xu Lingjun was surprised, "Huh? Feng'er, why are you here?"

"I came to see you."

Wasn't the visitor Ji Roufeng?

And behind her...

Li Lei had a mischievous grin, and sighed, "Alas, Commander in Chief, you really favor women over men. I'm such a big living person standing here, and yet you don't even call out to me...your eyes and heart are only focused on my sister-in-law, truly favoring women over men..."

Ji Roufeng showed a bit of a shy expression, but this time, she gracefully accepted it.

Xu Lingjun chuckled and retorted, "Nonsense, didn't you hear me say 'Huh' before calling Feng'er? That 'Huh' was meant for you...although it's just one word, it profoundly expresses my deep affection for you; it's concise and yet significant, touching the heartstrings! Its depth is fascinating, leaving endless aftertastes, I've been so enthusiastic, and yet you still doubt my sincerity?!"

"Your skill with words has improved quite a bit."

Li Lei stepped forward two steps and gave Xu Lingjun a big hug.

He leaned in and said mischievously into Xu Lingjun's ear, "It seems you've been practicing your tongue quite a bit during this period, mm, my senior sister is really blessed..."

Xu Lingjun said speechlessly, "Leizi, are you itching for a beating? Did you come all this way just for me to beat you up?"

"Humph, to be honest, our trip here is to ask for help."

Li Lei said seriously, "Dad, please lend a hand to your child, the future of your child is in your hands now."

Xu Lingjun glanced at Ji Roufeng.

Ji Roufeng nodded and said, "The Sect Leader has promised him that if he can successfully negotiate this matter, then he will be accepted as a direct disciple, and it would not be impossible for him to become the Sect Leader of the Sun and Moon Bright Sect in the future. My trip here is merely for personal matters; the main person in charge is him."

Xu Lingjun asked in surprise, "But I remember you also have the right to succeed as the next Sect Leader of the Sun and Moon Bright Sect, I even heard that your support is actually the highest. Are you willing to let this position be taken from you?"

"Of course not, it's just..."

Ji Roufeng couldn't help but blush and said vaguely, "It's just that if a woman wants to succeed the Sun and Moon Bright Sect, she must remain unmarried for life to prevent the sect from becoming someone else's dowry..."

"So if my senior sister wants to be the Sect Leader, she can't sleep with you, and if she wants to sleep with you, she can't be the Sect Leader. Alas...Old Xu, you are deeply sinful, my senior sister has sacrificed greatly just to sleep with you."

Li Lei said emotionally.

Ji Roufeng blushed but didn't refute Li Lei's words.

Obviously...

She agreed.