

Chapter 281 An explosive rescue

All of a sudden, Ren Xiaosu recalled that every time the palace reset the nanomachines, it would always say “removing remote access protocol” while doing so. Could the problem lie with the remote access program?

The soldiers who were hell bent on becoming nanosoldiers could never have expected they would end up like this, right?

It was no wonder Hu Shuo said the Li Consortium were out of their minds. They were so cruel to treat their own soldiers this way!

Hu Shuo looked at Ren Xiaosu and said, “Your brother, Yan Liuyuan, and the others are living on Baoyuan Alley. It’s about 10 kilometers away from here. Go and look for them, then get out of this place.”

“You haven’t answered my question yet.” Ren Xiaosu said, “When will Li Qingzheng be escorted back to Stronghold 108, and where will he be held?”

Hu Shuo seemed a little surprised. “You want to save him? You’re that type of person?”

Ren Xiaosu said in a serious tone, “It’s true that I’m not a good person, so I’ll have to think about it a little more. But I don’t deny the possibility exists.”

“You won’t get a chance to save him while they’re on their way back here.” Hu Shuo said while looking at Ren Xiaosu, “But I know where he’ll be detained to be interrogated. However, you better think it over carefully. That place is heavily guarded, so I don’t think you’ll stand much of a chance.”

“You don’t have to worry about me.” Ren Xiaosu said, “If I’m not confident, I won’t sacrifice myself for nothing since I’m not that kind of person. Just tell me when he’ll be escorted back and where he’ll be held.”

“The basement of the garment factory.”

Hu Shuo did not take back Ren Xiaosu’s Office of Special Investigations ID. Although Ren Xiaosu had caused him quite a bit of trouble, he was still willing to continue helping out this kid a little.

Before leaving, Hu Shuo even had someone send over a drawing of the Li Consortium’s secret hideout below the garment factory.

“Master, are we going to save the Lord of Wolves?” Chen Wudi asked curiously.

Ren Xiaosu did not say anything and sat there in silence. After a while, he sighed and said, “Let’s go and locate Yan Liuyuan and the others first.”

Ren Xiaosu started the truck after paying the bill. Chen Wudi followed and said, “Master...”

“Don’t try to persuade me. I have to think about it more.” Ren Xiaosu frowned as he clearly knew it would not be easy to save Li Qingzheng, and he might even end up dying. Was Ren Xiaosu someone who would do something like that?

Chen Wudi said, “It’s not that, Master. I just want to say that I’m not full yet...”

Ren Xiaosu said, “...It’s alright, we’ll have Big Sister Xiaoyu make you some food when we get to Baoyuan Alley.”

Chen Wudi got into the truck happily. He sat in the passenger’s seat and hesitated for a moment before saying, “Master, you actually wish to be a good person too, right?”

“Don’t talk about that anymore. I’m not suited to be a good person,” Ren Xiaosu said, peeved. When he stepped on the gas, Chen Wudi nearly threw up the lunch he just had!

While driving, Ren Xiaosu suddenly said, “I doubt Li Qingzheng has spilled the beans on us yet, dontcha think? Otherwise, everyone in the stronghold would’ve already come after us by now.”

Chen Wudi was not sure what point his master was trying to make. “Mhm.”

Ren Xiaosu muttered to himself, “Li Qingzheng is also quite pitiful. He could’ve run away, but he still chose to help us lure those fucking mysterious troops away when they suddenly appeared.”

Chen Wudi nodded. “Mhm.”

Ren Xiaosu got more frustrated the more he thought about it. With a sudden spin of the steering wheel, the large truck completed a beautiful drift on the streets of the stronghold. Wang Yuchi and the others were nearly thrown out of the truck.

The truck made a U-turn and headed back from where they came. Everyone in the truck was wondering where they were speeding to.

Five trucks were zooming back down from Position 313 in the north like a violent storm. Along the way, not one single checkpoint dared to stop them from passing.

Li Qingzheng was sitting in the back of the truck that was traveling in the middle of the convoy. These mysterious troops had not even cuffed him. It was like they were not afraid that he’d try to escape.

Li Qingzheng looked at the officer sitting opposite him and said with a smile, “Sir, where are we heading?”

“The stronghold.” The officer said with an impassive expression, “I suggest you quickly tell us about Ren Xiaosu’s whereabouts and everything strange that’s going on around him. Otherwise, you’ll regret not cooperating with us when we get back to the stronghold.”

Li Qingzheng faked a smile and said, “I really don’t know anything. That Ren Xiaosu is such a jerk. He didn’t even tell me, the platoon commander, about anything when he got into trouble. Let me go. I’ll definitely give him a good scolding for you all when I see him!”

The officer still looked at Li Qingzheng expressionlessly but did not waste any more time talking to him.

While sitting in the back of the truck, Li Qingzheng saw the view of the outside slowly recede from his sight. The snow-capped mountains were beautiful and magnificent. A giant hawk was hovering near the distant mountains. However, he was not in the mood to enjoy it.

“A fortune teller said I would get into the stronghold after meeting my benefactor this year, and I was told I would become a successful and well-known person in the future too.” Li Qingzheng said with a wry smile, “At the time, my father was extremely delighted and specially went out to the market to buy me some meat to eat. I even remember that he drank a little that night. He was really proud that his son was going to become a brave person with a bright future.”

Li Qingzheng lamented, “But I didn’t expect to be coming into the stronghold under such circumstances.”

All of a sudden, a young officer who was sitting diagonally across him laughed. “Where is this fortune teller now? Can I look for him to have my fortune told?”

Li Qingzheng was stunned by his question. “The fortune teller left town long ago. No one knows where he went.”

“Oh.” The young officer did not seem to be particularly disappointed. “I thought of finding out my fate after my revenge is done. Let’s get to know each other. I’m Li Shentan, a friend of Ren Xiaosu’s. Pleased to meet you.”

“You...” Li Qingzheng was at a loss. He still could not understand what was happening, nor did he know who the hell Li Shentan was. But he realized the officers around him did not seem to have heard Li Shentan’s words as all of them sat there unmoving.

Li Shentan laughed happily and said, “I was just kidding with you. I really envy Ren Xiaosu for having a friend like you. You must also be very envious of Ren Xiaosu for having a friend like me, right?”

Li Qingzheng was confused by Li Shentan’s words. Was this young man named Li Shentan acting confident or being narcissistic? What sort of crap was that?

Li Shentan said, “Right now, Ren Xiaosu believes you’re going to be sent to the garment factory in Stronghold 108. To be clearer, it’s the Li Consortium’s secret hideout located under the garment factory. He’s still hesitating about going there to rescue you.”

“What do you mean by that?” Li Qingzheng was even more confused now. “Don’t try anything stupid! Aren’t you his friend? Why would you want to lure him to the secret hideout?”

“Because... it’s fun.” Li Shentan said with a smile, “I want to find out how that friend of mine treats his friends.”

Behind that smile seemed to be a crazy and restless soul that had no place to call home. It was chaotic and temperamental.

But when all of those complexities came together, they suddenly became calm.

If Ren Xiaosu were here, he would have realized it was actually Li Shentan's idea for Hu Shuo to deliberately reveal all that information to him.

The troops who captured Li Qingzheng were not the Li Consortium's mysterious nanosoldiers but the troops Li Shentan controlled. However, no one knew where the remainder of the forces were hiding as there were only 500 of them here.

This was a game. Li Shentan had decided to let Ren Xiaosu lift the curtain in what would be the destruction of the Li Consortium.

But at this moment, a shocking explosion erupted at the head of the convoy. It was as though an extremely powerful bomb had been detonated!

Immediately after, Li Shentan's expression changed. "How careless of me. He's actually come to intercept the convoy!"

He grabbed Li Qingzheng and jumped out of the truck, but a shout echoed in the wilderness, "Old Li, your old bro is here to save you!"

When Hu Shuo relayed the information to Ren Xiaosu, he mentioned the armed forces escorting Li Qingzheng were extremely powerful, so it would be unrealistic to intercept the convoy along the way.

He had said that because he wanted to lure Ren Xiaosu to the underground hideout and make him believe it would be impossible to intercept the convoy.

But Ren Xiaosu felt that something was wrong the more he thought about it. There was a logical problem somewhere. If he could not intercept them along the way, how could he possibly save Li Qingzheng after he was brought to a place with even tighter security?

Furthermore, Hu Shuo had even prepared a drawing of that hideout for him. This caused Ren Xiaosu to suspect that the old man didn't have good intentions!

That was why Ren Xiaosu suddenly drove out of the stronghold after having lunch and ended up rushing all the way here into the wilderness!

After Li Shentan jumped out of the truck, he rolled twice on the ground. When he looked up with his face covered in dirt, he saw Ren Xiaosu dashing towards him while covered fully in his armor.

Li Shentan was in a pathetic state. But for some reason, he was laughing very happily. "Interesting! Hahaha, how interesting!"

Chapter 282 Nearly beaten up!

In the end, Ren Xiaosu still came to rescue Li Qingzheng. However, the process was much easier than he had imagined.

He had planned to blow up the lead truck and throw the entire convoy into disarray by using the Explosive Poker cards he had buried in the ground beforehand.

He and Chen Wudi would then rely on their overpowering individual strength to snatch Li Qingzheng back from the mysterious troops. After that, he would quickly create chaos again with the Explosive Poker cards and escape from the battlefield before luring their enemies to where he had planted the Brambles in order to finish them off!

Although this plan was not very well thought out, he could only make do with it in their haste.

However, he was met by Li Shentan instead of the nanosoldiers he had anticipated seeing!

Ren Xiaosu realized what was going on. The so-called rescue of Li Qingzheng from the secret hideout was just a trap set up for him by Hu Shuo and Li Shentan.

The troops who had arrested Li Qingzheng were not mysterious at all. They were from the combat brigade Li Shentan had abducted!

Although Ren Xiaosu did not know what Li Shentan's motives were, he heaved a sigh of relief. It was still much better than having to face 500 nanosoldiers!

However, it did not feel good to be set up by others. Ren Xiaosu took advantage of the moment Li Shentan was still lying on the ground. His legs tensed up as the heavy armor cracked the ground. He jumped a distance of over 20 meters like he was leaping over a mountain, coming to a rest in front of Li Shentan.

Ren Xiaosu clenched his fists and punched hard at the young man who was smiling at him.

But at this moment, a little girl descended rapidly from the sky. Before Ren Xiaosu could hit Li Shentan, she was already standing in front of him.

She raised her delicate fist and collided it into Ren Xiaosu's metallic fist. When the force of the collision erupted, a large cloud of dust swept up around them!

Ren Xiaosu had no choice but to take a step back. In the cloud of dust, Li Shentan's voice could be heard as he spat on the ground. "I ate a bunch of dust!"

When the dust cloud dissipated, Li Shentan was standing and smiling at Ren Xiaosu with a dirty face. "My friend, long time no see."

"Is this how friends get along?" Ren Xiaosu asked with a frown. He looked at Chen Wudi next to him and thought of beating this guy to death with him.

Although Si Liren just took a powerful punch from him, Ren Xiaosu hadn't wanted to kill just now. So he had not used all his strength.

But the problem was that even though Ren Xiaosu had already encountered quite a few supernatural beings, this little girl was the only one who could fly. Therefore, uncertain of how strong this little girl was, he would have to join forces with Chen Wudi and attempt to kill them.

The soldiers under the control of Li Shentan did not attack them and just stood in a trance in the same spot as they waited for Li Shentan's commands.

Li Shentan smiled and said, "You badly want to beat me up to vent, don't you?"

"Seems like you're quite good at fortune telling yourself, aren'tcha?" Li Qingzheng had just gotten off the ground. As his physical fitness was not as good as Li Shentan's, he almost broke his leg from the fall.

When Li Qingzheng saw Ren Xiaosu, it was as though he had reunited with a family member. "Xiaosu, give him a good beating!"

Li Shentan's smile turned even broader. "I think you may not have the time to beat me."

"Whaddya mean?" Ren Xiaosu got a bad feeling

"The Yang Consortium's nanosoldiers who are responsible for infiltration, carrying out decapitation strikes, and destruction at the rear, are about to reach Stronghold 108. They might even have arrived already. Meanwhile, my troops will start attacking Stronghold 108 in an hour too." Li Shentan said, "No matter which side starts attacking first, the entire stronghold will be caught in the ravages of war soon. Your friends are still in the stronghold, right? I wonder if they can survive without your help."

"If I just kill you, wouldn't your troops stop attacking?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"It seems that you don't understand what hypnosis is. Once the hypnotic command is formed in the subconsciousness, the hypnotized subject will still carry out the order even if the hypnotist is no longer around," Li Shentan explained with a smile. "Furthermore, the Yang Consortium is going to attack even without me. I actually came up with my plan based on their plans."

Ren Xiaosu remained silent. He was calculating the time frame!

Li Shentan asked, "Do you still want to fight me?"

As soon as he finished speaking, Ren Xiaosu decisively turned around to leave. "Wudi, Old Li, let's go!"

Ren Xiaosu had to find Yan Liuyuan before the war reached the stronghold!

Li Shentan watched as Ren Xiaosu left. After Ren Xiaosu walked away, Li Shentan heaved a long sigh of relief. "What a close shave! I was nearly beaten up.

Si Liren floated beside Li Shentan and asked, "Brother Shentan, didn't you say your troops would arrive two hours later?"

"If I had said that, I would really have been beaten up just now. Since we aren't sure we can defeat him and Chen Wudi, we had to lie to make him leave," Li Shentan said with a smile.

Si Liren wrinkled her nose. "I can defeat him though."

Li Shentan patted Si Liren on her little head and said, "When a battle is being fought to its most dangerous point, the winner is not decided by who has more power."

"What decides it then?" Si Liren asked curiously.

"It depends on a person's will to survive, the rage that stems from the unwillingness to die, the desire to protect one's family, and the instincts accumulated in the face of the dangerous world. All of that will give him strength." Li Shentan sighed.

"Bro, you seem to be a little unhappy," Si Liren asked.

"Mhm." Li Shentan said as he looked in the direction of where Ren Xiaosu and the other two were going, "Back when I was hiding in the crowd and while I was in the asylum, I kept thinking what if someone were to shout to me, 'Li Shentan, your old bro is here to save you...'"

Li Shentan said calmly, "How great would that be."

Si Liren blinked at him and said, "I can say that too in the future."

Li Shentan smiled and said, "But you're a girl, so you can't address yourself as old bro."

"Then I shall address myself as old sis," Si Liren said in seriousness.

"But you're still young!"

At a villa in the stronghold, blood was flowing all the way from the yard to the road. Someone in the yard had just cried out for help, but no one came to their rescue. That was because the guards standing outside had already been killed by someone.

Hu Shuo was standing quietly in the living room of the villa and looking at the magnificent decorations in the house. It was as though he had not noticed an injured old man struggling to crawl away. As the old man slowly crawled his way over, the pool of blood seemed to make the marble floor a little more slippery.

But the old man did not give up because a gun was hidden under the couch in front of him!

Hu Shuo said, sounding preoccupied, "What has my daughter done wrong? She only wanted to marry another person, that's all."

The old man who was crawling on the ground roared, "How would I know she was your daughter?! Hu Shuo, if you kill me, the entire Li Consortium will not tolerate you!"

At this moment, the old man finally got his hands on the pistol under the couch. He desperately pulled the pistol out and pointed it at Hu Shuo. But when he pulled the trigger, he could only hear the click of an empty chamber. There were no bullets in it.

Hu Shuo looked at him and said, "The Li Consortium? The Li Consortium will cease to exist very soon."

Hu Shuo had been waiting for this day for nine years.

His daughter was paraded through the streets while his grandson was sent to a psychiatric hospital!

That rage in him would not be satisfied by sacrificing just a few dozen lives. He wanted everyone from the Li Consortium to go down to the Underworld to apologize to his daughter.

Chapter 283 Breaking in

As they drove back to the stronghold, Wang Yuchi and the others could finally let out sighs of relief. That was because Li Qingzheng was the one driving now.

Previously, everyone did not realize how important Li Qingzheng was. It wasn't until they were tortured by Ren Xiaosu's crazy driving that they began to miss Li Qingzheng.

Upon thinking about it carefully, everyone felt that it was truly necessary to rescue Li Qingzheng. With Ren Xiaosu's wild driving, who knew when they would get into an accident.

Ren Xiaosu calculated the time and said to Li Qingzheng, "It should take us about 40 minutes to return to the stronghold. That was how long it took for us to get here. But since your driving isn't as good as mine, you'll definitely take longer."

Li Qingzheng turned his head and looked at Ren Xiaosu blankly. He wondered where Ren Xiaosu found the confidence to even say such words.

He heard Ren Xiaosu add, "Li Shentan said that his troops will attack in an hour. We should be able to get back to the stronghold by then."

When Li Qingzheng heard that, he stepped harder on the accelerator and asked, "Why didn't you dissuade that lunatic from attacking the stronghold?"

Ren Xiaosu was silent for a moment. Yang Xiaojin had mentioned Li Shentan's background to him after they escaped from Stronghold 109. He knew very well why Li Shentan was so against the Li Consortium.

Ren Xiaosu related the entire story to Li Qingzheng and then said, "If I could've dissuaded him, I'd've already done so. However, no one can stop him since he's really determined to have his revenge. Besides, his mother died because of the Li Consortium, so who has the right to persuade him to stop his revenge? Putting myself in his shoes, if the situation had happened to me, I would've destroyed the Li Consortium a long time ago."

What Li Shentan wanted to achieve was not only getting his revenge. He wanted to drag the entire Li Consortium down into Hell.

Although Ren Xiaosu did not agree with Li Shentan's approach, nor was he on the same side as Li Shentan, he understood how he felt.

“But no matter what, I’ll still beat him up if I get a chance,” Ren Xiaosu added seriously.

The truck arrived back in the stronghold 50 minutes later. Just as Ren Xiaosu had predicted, Li Qingzheng’s driving was a little slower than his.

After getting into the stronghold, it would take at least another 40 minutes to drive from the north gate to Baoyuan Alley where Yan Liuyuan and the others were staying.

Ren Xiaosu kept urging Li Qingzheng to drive faster. “Hurry up, or we’re not going to make it in time!”

Ren Xiaosu was getting really worried. If they could not get to Baoyuan Alley when the stronghold descended into chaos, it would become even more difficult to find Yan Liuyuan and the others.

Even though Ren Xiaosu knew that it was already too late, he was still unwilling to give up.

But as the truck sped through the streets, Ren Xiaosu suddenly started wondering about the time. “This isn’t right! It’s already been an hour, but why has nothing happened yet?”

All of a sudden, Ren Xiaosu realized something. “Fuck, that bastard lied to me!”

If it were really as Li Shentan had said regarding the will of the hypnotized subjects not getting disrupted by anything after hypnosis, Li Shentan’s combat brigade should have already launched their attack. However, they did not.

“It seems that time isn’t as tight as we thought.” Ren Xiaosu heaved a sigh of relief and said, “But we still have to quickly get Liuyuan and the others out of this place. Stronghold 108 has become a dangerous place, and who knows when it will turn into purgatory?”

Since they were new to Stronghold 108, they did not know the way around very well. Fortunately, a student had bought a map of the stronghold from the grocery store next door when they were eating lunch. Ren Xiaosu gave directions from the passenger seat while Li Qingzheng drove without any distractions.

“We’ve arrived, this is the place!” Ren Xiaosu shouted. After the truck came to a stop, he immediately jumped out and went into Baoyuan Alley to look for them. He saw a sign in a yard that had a “Ren” and a “Yan” written on it. Ren Xiaosu immediately understood that Yan Liuyuan had made the sign so he could find them easily.

Knock, knock, knock. Ren Xiaosu knocked on the door worriedly while shouting, “Open the door, it’s me!”

He heard someone in the yard trot over to open the door. When it opened, Ren Xiaosu saw Yan Liuyuan standing inside. But before he could step in, Yan Liuyuan calmly said, “Who are you looking for?”

Ren Xiaosu was not stupid. It was impossible that Yan Liuyuan did not recognize him. Unforeseen circumstances must have caused him to say that. There were enemies around!

Ren Xiaosu asked, "Is there anyone home? I'm looking for a friend called Xinfeng."

"You must have gotten the wrong place. We don't have anyone by that name here. Maybe you can try next door," Yan Liuyuan said.

Ren Xiaosu was trying to ask if there were enemies around in the yard by asking if there was anyone at home, and Yan Liuyuan expressed they were not here but next door!

Ren Xiaosu said with a smile, "Alright then, I'll go next door and ask."

He then went to the yard next door and knocked on the door. The door immediately opened, as though the person behind it had been standing there all along.

The moment it opened, Ren Xiaosu reached in and grasped the person by the neck through the gap. He tightened his grip and heard a loud crack!

In that instant, the enemy had probably not expected Ren Xiaosu to not give him any time to react. He was simply too efficient with his actions.

The sound of guns being cocked could be heard from the yard. Ren Xiaosu immediately covered his whole body with his armor. Concentrated gunfire rang out as the wooden door in the yard got shattered by the bullets!

Ren Xiaosu charged the gunfire and saw three people inside. All of them were nanosoldiers, and there were a man and a woman tied up in a corner as well. Those two were probably the rightful owners of the house.

Ren Xiaosu barged his way forward and slammed into a nanosoldier, sending him flying into the wall and shattering it with just a single motion!

One of the nanosoldiers pulled out his sword and slashed at Ren Xiaosu. The other nanosoldier shouted into his radio, "Reinforcements! We request reinforcements!"

They were not dumb. When they saw a beast covered in mechanical armor barge in, the nanosoldiers immediately knew it was not a situation they could handle!

Although they had sent out a request for help, it was a little too late for them to be saved. With his black saber in hand, Ren Xiaosu went forward and cut the oncoming nanosword in half. Right after, he pierced the saber through the chest of the nanosoldier in front of him.

When he exerted more power in his feet again, Ren Xiaosu even saved on the action of pulling out the saber from the body. He forcefully charged forward with the saber in the corpse and stabbed the last nanosoldier dead, pinning him to the wall.

Ren Xiaosu stowed his armor and let out a sigh of relief. When he turned around, he saw Yan Liuyuan, Xiaoyu, and the others had quietly watched him kill all the people from behind the crumbling walls of the yard.

Everyone was surprised by what was going on with this armored man in front of them. But a second later, they realized it was actually Ren Xiaosu. In fact, not even Yan Liuyuan had seen him in that armor before.

But the way Ren Xiaosu had just killed those people was so slick. During the battle, he showed off a strength that shocked everyone.

Ren Xiaosu said, "Stop watching and pack your belongings! We must leave Stronghold 108 immediately!"

Chapter 284 The stronghold gets destroyed

"Bro, what the hell is going on?" Yan Liuyuan asked.

During the period they were living in the stronghold, they did not really have any access to news from the front lines. There was a clampdown on information across the entire stronghold as the radios stopped broadcasting, while the newspapers also did not mention the war.

But Yan Liuyuan realized the tenants next door changed. Usually, the man and the woman who owned the house would head out to work at 7 AM every day, but they did not do so today. This aroused Yan Liuyuan's suspicions. It was not that he was overly paranoid but that they were currently living in an environment that required them to be cautious. They had to pay attention to all "irregularities."

However, Ren Xiaosu did not have the time to explain. As the nanosoldiers had already sent a request for help, the "mysterious troops" would probably be arriving very soon. He beckoned to Yan Liuyuan and said, "I don't have time to explain. Quick, get in the truck."

The truck was currently parked on the side of the road. No one in the yard said another word and just followed Ren Xiaosu's instructions. Their luggage were already packed, as though they were expecting to leave at any moment.

Ren Xiaosu jumped into the truck and asked, "Where's the garment factory?"

"It's in the west," Wang Yuchi shouted.

"Then we'll drive east!"

Li Qingzheng stomped on the gas, and the truck's engine roared as they sped eastward. Usually, no one drove at such speeds inside the stronghold, so the pedestrians could not help but turn their heads to look when the truck passed by.

Someone muttered, "Are they rushing to get reincarnated?" He then headed home as usual after knocking off. He was wondering if he should buy a bit more rice this evening since the grains in the porridge he boiled for the past two days were so tiny they were almost invisible.

While in the truck, Ren Xiaosu paired a batch of nanomachines for Yan Liuyuan once again. Wang Fugui was holding a large backpack as he asked, "Xiaosu, what's going on?"

“A battle is going to break out in the stronghold soon. We have to leave this place quickly.” Ren Xiaosu said, “How have y’all been recently?”

“We’ve been doing pretty fine. A lot of people have already run out of food to eat, and since they don’t have much savings, they can’t afford to get any food the moment prices go up. However, our family still has quite a bit of money left.” Wang Fugui said with a chuckle, “So where are we going this time?”

Of the refugees who entered the stronghold, Wang Fugui and company were probably the ones who led the most comfortable life since they were rich.

But for some reason, Wang Fugui felt that he had already gotten used to running around. In order to survive in this chaotic world, it seemed like they would have to keep escaping over and over again.

But they would eventually get tired of running like this. Sometimes, Wang Fugui thought of asking Ren Xiaosu, “Why don’t we just find a place to settle down in the wilderness so that we don’t have to get involved with all the troubles of the outside world?”

Meanwhile, Xiaoyu only wanted to make sure that Ren Xiaosu was alright by checking up on him. She was only able to set her mind at ease after confirming he was not injured anywhere. “Did y’all run into any danger while fighting the war on the front lines?”

Chen Wudi chuckled and said, “Big Sister Xiaoyu, my master is the ‘danger.’ Wherever we go, there will be great danger there.”

Xiaoyu broke into a smile. “Everything’s good as long as y’all’re fine.”

To Xiaoyu, everything would be fine as long as nothing happened to Ren Xiaosu and the others. As for what happened to the rest of the people, that wasn’t her business. A refugee’s most basic thought would only be how to take care of themselves.

But at this moment, a shocking explosion suddenly went off somewhere in the stronghold. Following that, huge plumes of black smoke filled the sky like a big fire had broken out there.

Ren Xiaosu looked outside from the back of the truck and wondered if it was the Yang Consortium or the Li Consortium’s troops that did it. As of now, he couldn’t determine who the culprit was.

The stronghold residents on the streets all stopped in their tracks and looked into the distance. They still did not realize this disaster was related to the war. Most of the people were still thinking it might have been a boiler or transformer that had exploded somewhere.

Although it was wartime, the residents in Stronghold 108 had not been affected by the flames of war. Only the prices of food had gone up.

On most days, the radio and the newspapers would not mention the situation at the front lines either. As such, the stronghold residents thought they would not be affected by the war.

But following the explosion, gunshots rang out. It wasn't until this moment that the stronghold residents started panicking. Was the war coming here?

Before they could react, they saw a missile with a long trail of smoke flying towards the stronghold from the southern sky. The long and thin missile was zooming through the air and heading east.

As it plunged, another explosion came from the east of the stronghold. That was the direction Ren Xiaosu and the others were heading. Cracks started appearing in the stronghold walls, and a large amount of smoke billowed up into the sky. Someone was bombarding the stronghold walls with artillery fire from outside!

It had to be Li Shentan's troops. Ren Xiaosu did not expect that Li Shentan had even planned on destroying all of Stronghold 108 as well.

Similar scenes were happening throughout the stronghold. The walls that the stronghold residents had relied upon for survival were starting to get attacked with firearms and explosives. Ren Xiaosu made a mental note of the direction of the artillery firing and determined they should be coming from three different directions.

A second later, the city walls in the east suddenly started to collapse. Large pieces of debris from the stronghold walls came crumbling down. All of the stronghold residents on the streets looked over there in a daze with horror in their eyes.

They were dazed not because they did not care about the walls but because their nerves could not bear the intensity of this event. They did not know how to react when faced with such a great shock.

Everyone looked at the crumbling walls at almost the same time. The people on the streets were petrified like statues. Some people were looking out of their windows while their homes were plunged into an eerie silence.

The wall was a protective circle that the stronghold residents relied upon for survival, and it was the source of their innate sense of superiority and belief. Most of these people were born in the stronghold, so the world they lived in had always been surrounded by a wall.

This was where they lived and worked, and got married and had children as well. Most of them had not even thought about what would happen if the wall were to collapse.

Now that the wall had collapsed, the fundamental values that existed in their lives also crumbled along with it.

Ren Xiaosu yelled in the truck, "Just keep driving east. Since the wall has collapsed, it makes it easier for us to escape. It's no wonder Li Shentan dared to attack the stronghold with just a single combat brigade. It's because he's fucking controlling the artillery!"

But since the east had already been breached, that saved Ren Xiaosu the trouble of blowing up the stronghold gate there.

But when the vehicle drove east, Ren Xiaosu suddenly felt that something was wrong, because the residents from the east were fleeing in their direction!

“No, something’s not right. I must’ve missed something.” Ren Xiaosu thought that even if the stronghold was collapsing, these people should not be running so far away from the walls!

As they were still very far from the east end of the stronghold, Ren Xiaosu could not see what was happening behind the crowd.

The east! What was in the east?

Suddenly, Ren Xiaosu yelled at Li Qingzheng, “Turn around! Fuck, I’ve forgotten all about the Experimentals. How could they possibly be absent from this big mess that’s happening here!”

As per Ren Xiaosu’s expectations, the Experimentals had laid an ambush around the stronghold. Now that the humans were infighting, this was their best opportunity to strike.

Chapter 285 My reinforcements have arrived!

Ren Xiaosu initially fled east as the Li Consortium’s mysterious nanosoldiers were chasing after them from the west. Furthermore, the eastern wall had been breached by missiles just now.

But he felt something amiss when he fled here. Judging by the size of the fleeing crowd, something terrifying had to be chasing after them.

Ren Xiaosu asked Chen Wudi, “Can you hear the commotion ahead of us? Are there any strange roars there?”

Chen Wudi nodded. “Yes, I hear some!”

“Sounds like it’s really the Experimentals. Old Li, hurry up and turn around!” Ren Xiaosu shouted.

Ren Xiaosu and his group had to turn back now. If they could find any main road leading in any other direction, they would have to take it and see whether they could shake off the mysterious troops that were pursuing them.

Ren Xiaosu would much rather face the Li Consortium’s troops than the vast number of Experimentals.

When they were at Stronghold 109, the number of Experimentals had already reached over a 1,000. Now that they had absorbed even more people into their ranks from Stronghold 109, Ren Xiaosu would believe it even if someone said there were 3,000 of them!

There were probably only several hundred nanosoldiers pursuing them, so it really wasn’t too difficult to choose between several hundred and several thousand.

“When it rains, it pours.” Ren Xiaosu sighed. This huge stronghold had suddenly become a cage filled with desperate stronghold residents fleeing for their lives.

Ren Xiaosu was not surprised that the stronghold’s air defense system did not play any effective role this time. After all, even someone like Hu Shuo had rebelled against the organization, so it wouldn’t be surprising if the defense system of the Li Consortium had become as fragile as paper.

The Li Consortium had originally been guarding against the Experimentals, but how could they have expected missiles to descend down on their walls and destroy the stronghold!

A couple was strolling on the streets at this time. When they saw the ferocious Experimentals behind them, they started running desperately with the crowd.

As they ran, the girl suddenly fell down. The boy who had promised to protect her for the rest of his life suddenly let go of her hand and continued running ahead by himself.

The girl screamed her boyfriend's name but he still did not turn around.

A middle-aged man was pushing his father in a wheelchair in the streets. Some years earlier, his lower body had been paralyzed due to a construction accident.

When the Experimentals arrived, the middle-aged man suddenly abandoned his father in the wheelchair and escaped by himself. The old man who was left behind sat there calmly and looked at the ferocious faces of the Experimentals. In reality, this old man wasn't keen on living anymore either. He had been getting scolded quite often by his own family members over the years, and even his daughter-in-law called him an old coot right to his face.

The ugliness that existed in the belly of the stronghold and the indifference concealed within the prosperous city had suddenly been exposed.

But in this crowd, there was also a mother who suffered a sprain who pushed her child away. "Go on ahead, darling! Don't look back! Mommy will catch up with you soon!"

The child kept crying and refused to leave. The mother broke into tears and cried, "Will someone save my child?"

Some people were shivering in fear as they hid inside their houses. It was as though they thought they could escape the pursuit of those humanoid monsters by doing so. When they realized the monsters did not break into their houses, they felt a sense of exaltation. It was only a matter of time before the Li Consortium's troops would eliminate these monsters.

Then they would be saved.

What they did not know was that these Experimentals were only letting them off for the time being. Prey that did not run away would not need to be hunted down immediately. They could slowly seek them out afterwards.

As for the Li Consortium's troops, they would not be coming to save them.

Less than two minutes after Ren Xiaosu's truck had turned around, and before they could even find a road to turn off into to escape, he could already see the mysterious troops approaching! Even with the most conservative estimate, there were still over a 100 of them!

It was too late! This battle was unavoidable!

Ren Xiaosu said calmly, "Wudi, follow me! Cover me!"

As he spoke, Ren Xiaosu jumped off from the back of the truck. In that instant, he covered his entire body with his armor. When he landed, the entire ground seemed to shake.

When jumping out of a moving vehicle, people tend to lose their balance easily due to inertia. But as soon as Ren Xiaosu's foot armor touched the ground, he kicked forward and shot out like a cannonball.

With this kick, his speed momentarily allowed him to get ahead of the truck that Li Qingzheng was driving. By the time the mysterious troops came face to face with them, Ren Xiaosu was already charging diagonally into the front of the enemy's vehicle with his body. "Fuck off!"

Ren Xiaosu met the vehicle head-on using his shoulder and knocked it onto its side in an instant!

Even though Ren Xiaosu was wearing his armor, his physique still appeared minute in front of the military transport truck. But it was exactly this minute figure's strength that somehow toppled the vehicle!

The nanosoldiers in the vehicle were not expecting such a turn of events. Then Ren Xiaosu flung his hand out and threw out four Explosive Poker cards at the next vehicle in an instant.

Time seemed to slow down.

The driver in the other vehicle saw the exquisite playing cards spinning in the air and flying towards his windshield. When they were almost touching it, he saw the cards emit a golden glow resembling the burning sun!

With a loud boom, the four "threes" exploded with such force that it sent half of the truck's hood flying off! The entire vehicle tilted and rammed straight into a building next to the road!

The passersby were stunned. They had not expected to see such a shocking sight while they were fleeing. The armor-wearing "robot" was like a godly presence as the stronghold residents had never come across such individual power that went beyond their common knowledge and understanding!

It was as though they were living in the future.

Of course, Ren Xiaosu did not come out unscathed. Although his armor could dampen the collision force, it still proved quite unbearable for him. His entire shoulder was in pain.

Moreover, Ren Xiaosu knew that even though the overturned truck could cause some damage to the nanosoldiers inside, it would not be enough to kill them. After this, he would be facing an attack from over a hundred nanosoldiers.

Ren Xiaosu took a quick breather. He did not know if he could defeat them, but Yan Liuyuan, Xiaoyu, and Wang Fugui were behind him.

Between life and death, he had no other choice!

Dozens of nanosoldiers got out from the overturned military transport truck and surrounded Ren Xiaosu in only three seconds. They were all holding brand-new nanoswords in their hands. If Ren Xiaosu were not careful, he could get slashed by them.

When a nanosoldier slashed his nanosword at Ren Xiaosu, Ren Xiaosu's right hand suddenly reacted and grabbed the spine of the blade. Then he slashed his black saber at the nanosoldier, cutting across from the right of his neck to his chest. The nanosoldier's life was over.

However, there were too many of them. When Ren Xiaosu attacked, someone took advantage and sneak attacked him from behind. The edge of the nanosword suddenly pulsed with a rippling effect.

This slash left a large crack in Ren Xiaosu's armor.

Chen Wudi bravely opened up a path from the rear and came to Ren Xiaosu's side. But there were still another two military transport trucks that were speeding towards them from behind.

What could he do now? Ren Xiaosu was panting heavily. If any more of these nanosoldiers arrived, he would have to seriously consider running away.

But all of a sudden, the fuel tank of a truck behind them exploded. The entire truck conflagrated into a huge fireball that burned up together with the nanosoldiers in it.

Ren Xiaosu froze for a moment. It was only at this moment that he heard a sniper rifle going off.

He looked into the distance in surprise. A girl with a cap was waving at him from a tall building as though she were saying, "Since you didn't come and look for me, I had to come and look for you."

Ren Xiaosu took a deep breath and charged the nanosoldiers on the outside edge of the encirclement at high speed. The nanosoldiers who were just getting ready to establish an effective defensive perimeter were immediately thrown into disarray by the collision.

Whenever anyone tried to deal an effective blow to Ren Xiaosu, a sniper's bullet could be expected to fly in from the sky and deal devastating damage!

Ren Xiaosu was violently gasping as he fought his enemies. Although he had no choice, at least his reinforcements had arrived!

Chapter 286 Will of iron!

Ren Xiaosu's Strength was at 10.5, while his Dexterity was at 10.1. Honestly, these stats weren't that high.

But since he gained the external armor, he had turned into an utter "land beast" in the eyes of others. He did not even need to use any fanciful moves to kill his enemies. He only needed to use his absolute strength to have an overwhelming advantage over them.

But even so, he would still get drained if he had to deal with over a 100 nanosoldiers. After all, when his strength was used up, even the power of the armor would become extremely limited.

Fortunately, Yang Xiaojin was here. With her Perfect Firearms Proficiency, she did not miss any of her shots from hundreds of meters away, even if Ren Xiaosu and the nanosoldiers were moving around at high speed!

Sniper rifles had an extremely high standing in infantry combat operations. It represented a super frightening destructive power that all enemies had to be afraid of, and its existence was the absolute authority in a war between infantry.

Usually, snipers would choose to fire a single shot when carrying out a decapitation strike. But at the moment, Yang Xiaojin was using her sniper rifle like a long-distance artillery cannon that she kept firing.

With a sniper supporting Ren Xiaosu, his attacks became even stronger. This gave him more confidence to effectively kill and cut open a path past the nanosoldiers. The nanosoldiers were trying to surround them, but all their efforts turned out to be futile in the face of Yang Xiaojin and Ren Xiaosu's cooperation.

One of the nanosoldiers raised his nanosword and went to slash at Ren Xiaosu from behind. But just as he raised his arm, he was killed by a powerful shot from the sniper.

Whenever anyone tried to attack from behind, the sniper's bullets were bound to arrive. All of a sudden, none of the nanosoldiers dared to stand behind Ren Xiaosu!

Meanwhile, Chen Wudi was swinging his Golden-Hooped Rod next to Ren Xiaosu at their enemies. No one knew how heavy it was, but every hit the nanosoldiers took from it would leave them with broken bones and tendons!

All the fleeing stronghold residents were extremely shocked when they saw this. It was a fight that only existed in their imaginations. When the "mechanical beast" moved, even the ground under it crumbled.

But all of a sudden, Ren Xiaosu realized the Experimentals behind them were about to catch up!

He noticed in his peripheral vision that there were also Experimentals scrambling up the building Yang Xiaojin was on. Suddenly, a Shadow Door opened in the shadows of the rooftop.

Yang Xiaojin wielded the sniper rifle and continued shooting. Luo Xinyu's voice came through the Shadow Door, "Xiaojin, hurry up. Stop trying to save him. It's gonna be too late if you don't leave now!"

But Yang Xiaojin did not say anything and just kept shooting, reloading, cocking the rifle, and continuously firing at the enemy. Even with her strong physical fitness, she was starting to get hurt by the sniper rifle's recoil. But she could not stop shooting. If she stopped, what would happen to Ren Xiaosu?

Luo Xinyu was freaking out. "Hurry up, the Experimentals have almost climbed to the top of the roof. Girl, I'm begging you, time is running out!"

“Hold on.” Yang Xiaojin calmly tossed aside another magazine and replaced it with a new one. She had already discarded a lot of expended mags around her, though she still had about a dozen mags left in her backpack.

What normal sniper would carry so many bullets like her? No other sniper would do that. Only a Perfect Firearms Proficiency wielder could turn a sniper rifle into a 100% effective fire support control weapon.

Luo Xinyu was burning with worry. She did not know what had gotten into Yang Xiaojin for her to disregard her own safety!

Meanwhile, Yang Xiaojin continued looking through the scope as she wanted to help Ren Xiaosu eliminate any potential threats!

The next moment, the Experimentals climbed onto the rooftop and pounced at Yang Xiaojin!

Even while the Experimentals were in midair, Yang Xiaojin was still pulling the trigger!

Just as the tip of the claw of an Experimental was about to touch Yang Xiaojin’s hair, she grabbed Luo Xinyu’s hand and disappeared in a flash!

Several Experimentals collided midair on the rooftop with angry roars!

Without any covering fire from the sniper, Ren Xiaosu gradually found it very strenuous. The nanosoldiers also realized the sniper had retreated, so they immediately formed a circle to kill Ren Xiaosu and Chen Wudi in this spot.

Ren Xiaosu noticed the power for his armor was about to run out, and the distance between them and the Experimentals was only several hundred meters. He let out a sigh when he saw there was no way out for them.

But just as Li Shentan had said, in the moment between life and death, the rage and strength that stemmed from the unwillingness to die decided whether one would survive or not!

Although Ren Xiaosu was exhausted, he still had a trump card.

Even though 10.5 Strength was not all that high, it would be a whole new world with “City Crusher” activated.

The City Crusher power-up could only last 30 seconds. Therefore, Ren Xiaosu regarded it as his greatest trump card. Ren Xiaosu placed a great deal of importance on it. It wasn’t how great a change City Crusher could give him, but how significant a change it could give the shadow clone!

Ren Xiaosu’s eyes turned crimson and the world seemed to tint red. With the arrival of a new world, the old one was about to get destroyed.

Immediately after Ren Xiaosu activated City Crusher, he summoned his shadow clone!

The formula for calculating the power of the shadow clone was very straightforward. It was twice as strong as Ren Xiaosu, so after he activated City Crusher, the shadow clone would become four times as strong as him!

The moment the shadow clone separated from Ren Xiaosu, it jumped into the air and leaped towards the group of nanosoldiers in front of it. It slashed at them with its black saber, moving as gracefully as a dancer.

The nanosoldiers were dying off one by one in front of the shadow clone.

When one of the nanosoldiers raised his nanosword and slashed at the shadow clone, he did not know the shadow clone had already moved past him. The black saber also cut through the nanosoldier, and his body was split in two.

This so-called City Crusher was a power that could really rock the entire city!

The shadow clone held a nanosoldier up by his neck and used him as a human shield. As it dashed forward, the buildings collapsed upon collision and cracks appeared in the ground with every step it took.

The dense black figure was like a swimming dragon that had descended onto the world.

The shadow clone of the young man was killing people within the panicking crowd in the boundless streets of the stronghold!

When the black saber, City Crusher, and shadow clone were used together, it became a real power that could surpass the ordinary.

Even if it could only last 30 seconds!

Ren Xiaosu was panting heavily.

None of the dozens of nanosoldiers could hold out for even half a second when facing the shadow clone.

The shadow clone stood at the far end of the street, surrounded by neon lights and a prosperity that was about to be shattered. This was a world that was going to be destroyed.

The shadow clone stood there quietly and pointed at the nanosoldiers in front of it with its black saber, as though to convey its iron will to the world.

The nanosoldiers would still have the heart to fight if the difference in strength was not that great, but the shadow clone was simply too terrifying. They felt that it would be very difficult to take on a power like it even if the armored forces were here.

Of course, they were unaware that City Crusher would only last for 30 seconds.

The nanosoldiers began to retreat at this time. They had also noticed the Experimentals closing in. Since they couldn't defeat Ren Xiaosu, they could only retreat.

Ren Xiaosu was relieved when he saw them retreating. The effective duration for City Crusher was almost over. His strength was running out as well. Even the battery of his armor had nearly been used up.

He was at his limits.

All of a sudden, a nanosoldier carrying a rocket launcher pulled the trigger from the shadows!

However, he had aimed it at Chen Wudi instead of Ren Xiaosu!

"Wudi!" Ren Xiaosu roared.

"Ah?" Chen Wudi, who had just killed a nanosoldier, turned around when he heard his master calling his name.

But when he turned around, he saw Ren Xiaosu leaping towards him. His master who always claimed that he was not a good person was like a hero who had descended from above to protect a mentally ill child's fragile dreams. That was because the child's dream was to be a hero and a good person.

'But, Master, you're clearly a good person, the best in the world.'

All of the armor on Ren Xiaosu's body formed up in front of him. It was like he was holding up a shield bestowed by the heavens as he stood in front of Chen Wudi!

He attempted to block the RPG with all the power the nanoarmor could give!

With a boom, Ren Xiaosu and Chen Wudi were sent flying by the massive shockwave while the armor was blown to pieces by the explosion.

Chen Wudi got up from the ground and shouted, "Master!"

The scattered armor suddenly liquefied and gathered back towards Ren Xiaosu, who was lying unconscious on the ground.

Chapter 287 A world without the Great Sage

Chen Wudi rushed over frantically when he saw that Ren Xiaosu had become unconscious. He checked Ren Xiaosu's breathing and found that his master was still alive. Come to think of it, the armor had borne the brunt of the damage for his master, so it probably did not cause any fatal injuries to him. But it still proved a bit too much for Ren Xiaosu to withstand an RPG attack as the huge blast left him unconscious.

Firearms were one of the essences of humanity's intelligence over thousands of years as human civilization developed. It was strong enough to even kill gods.

Chen Wudi thought of carrying Ren Xiaosu, but the Experimentals behind them were approaching. He shouted to Li Qingzheng, "Get over here and help carry Master onto the truck!"

However, Li Qingzheng said bitterly, "The front side engine of the truck was hit by a stray bullet just now, so it's no longer drivable!"

Seeing that the Experimentals were approaching, they were now faced with more and more difficulties. Yan Liuyuan suddenly said, "Everyone, help carry the injured students. Ms. Jiang, you and I will each take turns carrying my brother."

Although Yan Liuyuan had nanomachines in his body now, there wasn't enough power for them to last long. So he couldn't carry Ren Xiaosu by himself for too long. He needed Jiang Wu's help.

As soon as he finished speaking, Wang Fugui was the first to act and carried an injured student out of the truck. Wang Yuchi and some of the other students had still not recovered from their injuries yet. There were five students who were injured, and now, Ren Xiaosu was added to the list as well.

The dozen or so female students were helping out on the side. They frantically carried the wounded students and continued moving forward. Everyone was at a loss. What should they do now that Ren Xiaosu had fallen unconscious?

In the past, Ren Xiaosu was the backbone of the group when he was around. Even if the sky were to collapse, Ren Xiaosu would be there to hold it up.

But now, Ren Xiaosu was in a coma and needed to be taken care of by the others!

This huge stronghold city was going to perish in the war along with the people in it. Prosperity would cease to exist, and the civilization here would become a thing of the past.

As a fleeing crowd of people passed them by, the neon lights in the distance fell one by one.

Even the sky looked like it was falling.

They had no way out. No one could survive this gray tide of Experimentals that were chasing after them.

The Experimentals started getting closer and closer. But Yan Liuyuan acted as though he did not see them and carried Ren Xiaosu on his back!

It would be impossible to escape the Experimentals if they had to carry the wounded with them. That was without a doubt.

But they could not defeat several thousand Experimentals either.

Looking at the oncoming crowd of ferocious Experimentals, everyone was faced with a choice: leave, or stay behind and die together.

When Yan Liuyuan saw the hesitation on the others, he said coldly, "If y'all want to leave, you can leave now."

However, Yan Liuyuan was going to stay together with Ren Xiaosu even if he had to die.

Seeing how the Experimentals had already come within a 100 meters of them, a girl cried out and bowed to Jiang Wu. "Teacher, I'm so sorry."

She then ran ahead by herself and left everyone behind.

Chen Wudi silently watched her disappear. He opened his mouth and tried to say something but did not manage to utter a sound.

No one blamed the girl. In the face of death, there was no other choice.

Jiang Wu silently took Ren Xiaosu from Yan Liuyuan's back. "We've tested it out before. Your nanomachines won't last for long. Since I've got more strength now, let me carry him."

Then another two girls ran away after apologizing to Jiang Wu, but she did not blame them. As of now, she only needed to answer to herself.

The injured Wang Yuchi fell to the ground because no one was supporting him. He said with a wry smile, "You all can go ahead, take the monitor with you. I won't be able to get away. Old Li, pass me a grenade. I know that you still have two left."

Another student smiled and let go of his classmate who was supporting him. "That's just as well, give the other one to me. You guys, go ahead."

These students were supposed to be sitting in a classroom with transparent windows while their teacher lectured to them. They should also be secretly passing around notes under their desks. After their classes, they would play basketball in the schoolyard, then stroll along in the sunset with their backpacks after school.

If they could qualify for university in the future, they might even get to gain more knowledge. There, they would meet the girl of their dreams and then live happily ever after.

But the life they were supposed to live was suddenly interrupted at the age of 18. There was no future for them.

This "long street" that stretched into the future seemed to have no end to it. That "schoolyard" where young men should be sweating it out also collapsed into the abyss.

A determined will that was ready to die manifested itself in Wang Yuchi. He said with a smile, "Remember to live well, guys."

Chen Wudi looked back at the pursuing Experimentals, then looked at Wang Yuchi and said, "None of you are going to die. I'll cover everyone while you all retreat."

"Huh?" Li Qingzheng said anxiously, "Let's leave together."

"There's no need." Chen Wudi said with a smile, "Have you all forgotten that I'm the reincarnation of the Great Sage?"

Everyone fell silent. But even if the Great Sage was here, he couldn't defeat this many Experimentals, right?

Chen Wudi said, "Other disciples always protect their masters, but my master has been protecting me ever since I joined him."

'Master, you always lied and pretended to be the bad guy to protect me, so let it be my turn to protect you. I'm the Great Sage after all! How can the Great Sage be afraid of monsters? Even if I am to die, I have to drag those monsters down with me!'

Chen Wudi walked step by step towards the countless Experimentals. His tiny figure among the gray tidal wave made him look like a lone island facing a towering tsunami.

The afterglow of the sunset suddenly cast a ray of light through the clouds, and it somehow shone down on Chen Wudi.

His master had mentioned before that he was that ray of light!

He was the brightest, the most brilliant, and the most invincible ray of light in this world!

All of a sudden, Chen Wudi sprinted towards the Experimentals as fine beads of blood started seeping out from all over his body. That was the price to pay for his life force being set aflame.

Hints of the golden armor appeared on Chen Wudi, but he was unsuccessful in materializing it fully.

Chen Wudi roared, "That's not enough! More!"

"I said! More!"

His life force started burning so strongly it was draining his life away!

His soul bent on achieving ruling the world was turbulent, as if fluctuating between past and present!

Who was I in my previous incarnation?

Handsome Monkey King of the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit?[1]

No.

Keeper of the Horses of the Heavenly Palace? [2]

That's not it either.

Yes, I'm the Great Sage.

I've already been to the Western Paradise.

I'm the invincible "Victorious Fighting Buddha" of this world!

I've already been to the Western Paradise!

I've already been to the Western Paradise!

A moment later, Chen Wudi's phoenix-feather cap appeared on his head out of thin air. The two striped feathers pointed skyward and touched the clouds. Another moment later, his golden armor also appeared out of thin air. The golden glow was like the burning sun competing for glory with the Heavens. His cloud-walking boots also appeared at the same time, trampling the lands under his feet.

Chen Wudi laughed heartily in the shimmering twilight. "The Great Sage is here, who dares fight me?!"

The gray tsunami finally reached him, but Chen Wudi plunged his Golden-Hooped Rod into the ground, then flipped it upwards. The power of the staff raised a wave of earth over 30 meters high and buried the Experimentals at the very front alive!

The mighty wave of earth was like the wrath of an angry god. The Experimentals buried under the ground struggled as they tried to climb out of it, but the earth had become as hard as metal, and those Experimentals suffocated alive underneath it!

The Experimentals at the back continued rushing forward fearlessly!

Chen Wudi plucked a handful of hairs from behind his ear and blew lightly on them. "Where are you, my little monkeys!"

Hundreds of monkeys appeared in the blink of an eye. "We're here!"

"Subdue the demons with me." Chen Wudi belly laughed as he charged towards the Experimentals.

The monkeys pounced at the ferocious Experimentals and smashed them with their staves!

The originally ferocious Experimentals were unable to stand up to the monkeys. When the staves were smashed into them, their flesh and bones shattered!

Earlier, Chen Wudi had said he would stop the incoming gray tide and cut off their path so that everyone could retreat.

This was what he meant by cutting their path off!

Chen Wudi suddenly felt that the Experimentals in front of him had turned into fiendish demons that attacked from all directions. His entire world was filled with black smoke as evil spirits enveloped the sky!

The intelligent being behind the Experimentals remained hidden throughout. It commanded the large number of Experimentals and attempted to surround Chen Wudi completely. He was the most powerful enemy it had encountered since it ventured out of the Jing Mountains, and it had not expected such a powerful and invincible enemy among the humans.

There were still some humans hiding in the building next to the road. When they heard the commotion, they quietly looked out their windows and saw Chen Wudi dressed in shining golden armor, fighting like an unparalleled hero!

But the Experimentals had already surrounded him!

Chen Wudi spat out a mouthful of blood, but he wanted to ask his master with a smile, "Master, do you think I'm powerful? Master, you should hold on to your ray of light and protect it from now on. It hasn't gone out yet."

In that instant, he raised the Golden-Hooped Rod and pointed it to the sky. "Sky Breaker!"

Then he plunged the Golden-Hooped Rod into the ground with a furious roar. A circle of golden light emitted outwards from the epicenter of the Golden-Hooped Rod.

The golden light was a ripple, the lands a lake, and the Experimentals mosquitoes. In an instant, all the mosquitoes near the center of the lake were reduced to dust!

After that, none of the Experimentals dared to attack Chen Wudi anymore. The gray tsunami of Experimentals quickly fled the stronghold and ran madly for their lives!

This was the first time the Experimentals had been defeated since they headed out of the Jing Mountains!

By burning up his life force, Chen Wudi had reversed an overwhelming situation of adversity. It was like preventing a gigantic building from collapsing at the last critical moment!

But at this moment, Chen Wudi's life also reached its end. He slumped to the ground and sat there with a stupid grin without any hint of sadness in his eyes.

He was thinking that if his master was here, he would definitely praise him, right? Thinking of this, Chen Wudi became even happier. He might even prepare a bowl of fried rice with sausage for him, one that had a lot of meat bits hidden at the bottom of the bowl.

At this moment, the stronghold residents who were hiding in the nearby building came running out. "Hero, are you alright?"

Chen Wudi ignored them as he was already at the end of his life. He was recalling the beautiful moments he had with his master.

He had been sent to a psychiatric hospital as a child. He heard his mother ran away with someone because of his mental illness, and that his father went missing as well.

He did not have any friends there and had nothing to look forward to most of the time. He felt that life was always gloomy.

Actually, Chen Wudi's memories had always remained in the summer when he was eight years old. In that summer, he had vowed to become the Great Sage.

But many interesting things happened since meeting his master, and he even got the chance to eat delicious food too. Everyone protected him and no one called him a fool anymore.

He really wanted to tell his master, "You're such a bad driver. Can you please never drive again? Master, you look like a cow when you wear that armor. Can't you make it look better? Master, is that cap-wearing girl at the top of the tall building the girl you like? She's much better than that Zixia. Master, your cooking is delicious. Master, you're the one who is that ray of light."

Chen Wudi started grinning.

But then he turned his head and looked to his side. He saw a middle-aged man secretly grabbing a handful of soil stained with Chen Wudi's blood.

Startled, Chen Wudi asked, "What are you doing?"

The middle-aged man hemmed and hawed but was too afraid to speak. Chen Wudi shouted, "I'm asking you, what are you doing?"

The middle-aged man got so scared he almost cried. When he saw he had been discovered by Chen Wudi, he immediately knelt down. "The Pyro Company is purchasing blood samples of supernatural beings..."

The Pyro Company's far-reaching advertisements had proven to be effective. Since he was not a supernatural being, he could not sell his blood. All he needed to do was to sell the blood of someone who was one.

As long as he managed to sell a blood sample one time, he would become a millionaire. Then he would lead a very comfortable life.

Chen Wudi laughed silently. So this was what the world was really like.

He remembered the middle-aged person who had incited others to steal his food even though he had saved him along the way while escaping from Stronghold 109. He remembered Liu Zhaojiang, who had secretly run away with everyone's food supplies even though they had spent their days together and helped each other back at the outpost. He remembered that soldier who said that the idiot would offer to carry them if they deliberately acted like they had fainted. He remembered the soldiers who cursed at him even though he helped bring them to the medical center.

Chen Wudi suddenly remembered everything that happened in this world and laughed silently.

He gripped his Golden-Hooped Rod again, and the golden light rippled out around him once more. This time, he reduced all of the stronghold residents who tried to obtain his blood into dust.

Even as the middle-aged man slowly turned to dust, he still held the bloody soil in his hand tightly and did not let go.

This was the first time Chen Wudi had taken the initiative to kill someone, and it would also be the last time.

He remembered his master's words: If you constantly feel like you're being devoured by the darkness, wouldn't it mean that you're the light?

'But, Master, this world is full of darkness. And now, my light has been extinguished.'

Chen Wudi sat cross-legged and gently placed the Golden-Hooped Rod between his knees. The striped feathers on his head dazzled like new and the golden armor on him shone as brightly as before.

Then Chen Wudi started turning into stone bit by bit from his feet. The petrification process moved up his legs like two dragons climbing up towards his neck, until his entire person turned into a statue.

When Chen Wudi first arrived at the psychiatric hospital, his mental illness was still not that severe. He would always ask the nurse there, "Sister, where are my parents?"

The nurse said coldly as she carried the medicine tray, "You don't have any parents since you were born from a rock."

Since he was born from a rock, he should go back to being a rock.

The monkeys gathered around him and vanished after bowing to him. The clouds in the sky scattered and a rainbow emerged.

It was so dazzling it could be seen from ten kilometers away, like a huge rainbow forming after the rain.

A smile touched the corners of Chen Wudi's mouth for the last time.

"Master, I'm leaving now.

"This world no longer needs the Great Sage."

[1] According to Journey to the West, the Monkey King is born from a magic stone that sits atop the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit. |

[2] After angering several gods and coming to the attention of the Jade Emperor, Sun Wukong was given a minor position in heaven as the Keeper of Horses (37559) so they can keep an eye on him.

Chapter 288 A glass of wine

The destruction of Stronghold 108 had far-reaching effects. Over the widespread battlefield, this spacious stronghold itself was the largest forward operating base of the Li Consortium's combat troops.

The troops from the other Li Consortium strongholds in the rear that were heading to the front lines would resupply at Stronghold 108 before continuing to advance northwards. This was also the reason for the sudden shortage of food in Stronghold 108.

The Li Consortium lacked experience as they have never fought any large-scale wars before. Many generals even thought that war was a very simple matter, and all they needed to do was to ensure that the war machine kept operating smoothly. For this, they had been planning for all kinds of possible scenarios and drawing up backup plans over the years.

But the moment war broke out, they realized warfare was unpredictable, with no constant shape or constant conditions. Unexpected situations were the most common events in wartime.

After Stronghold 108 was destroyed, the frontline troops of the Li Consortium immediately lost an entire supply line. The Yang Consortium's armored forces continued to attack Mt. Qingsheng so that they could force an opening for their infiltration troops, and this was undoubtedly a massively successful strategy.

After the Experimentals retreated, the Yang Consortium's nanosoldiers continued to carry out their demolition missions at the enemy's rear and destroyed their main strategic facilities.

However, Yang Xiaojin had already disappeared. As one of the Yang Consortium's core figures, she did not seem to be interested in the war itself, and even the nanosoldiers were unaware that she had arrived.

It was rumored that the Saboteurs and the Yang Consortium were at odds, but no one knew what the truth was.

Major differences wouldn't be felt for a short while after the Li Consortium's supply line has been cut off. But if their rear troops couldn't rebuild the supply line, it would definitely prove to be a disastrous blow

But after the Li Consortium was dealt such a disastrous blow, they decided they would unleash a full retaliation against the Yang Consortium at all costs.

In the southwestern battlefield, the war combatants cared more about things like the supply line and whatnot. But for the supernatural realm, Chen Wudi's appearance could be considered a milestone event.

The Saboteurs had previously termed the current era "The Dawn of Gods." That was because no being in the entire supernatural realm had really surpassed the ordinary yet.

They were all still afraid of firearms and explosives, and everyone preferred remaining hidden in the shadows of the organizations. The power of the ordinary was constraining the entire supernatural realm.

However, the emergence of Chen Wudi put an end to that era. Those who waited silently in the supernatural realm termed the era after Chen Wudi's appearance as "The Rise of Gods."

This was because they could already see the upper limits of a supernatural being reached, and hoped they themselves could get to that level as well.

But throughout the "Dawn" era, Li Shentan was the only person who could be considered a demigod. And Chen Wudi seemed to be the only one who could reach the threshold to be considered a god. He possessed what one would call, in the true sense of the meaning, a power that only gods could possess.

On the empty and run-down streets of Stronghold 108, old newspapers that were scattered on the ground swirled into the air when a cold gust of wind blew.

Dead leaves littered the ground. In the past, cleaners would be working in the stronghold. But now, every stronghold resident had fled from here. Only a few people remained hiding in their houses as they waited for the Li Consortium to come and rescue them. However, Li Shentan's artillery troops had already intercepted all of the Li Consortium's rear troops in the south, so they would not get here for a while.

Li Shentan was walking down the boulevard alone. As he looked at the depressing scene around him, his eyes were calm.

The little girl, Si Liren, hovered next to him in a white robe. She did not say anything and could feel the sadness and loneliness in Li Shentan.

Li Shentan came to the place where Chen Wudi had battled the Experimentals earlier. He quietly looked at Chen Wudi's body that had turned into stone and sat down cross-legged across from him with a sigh.

He sat there for an entire day and night as though he no longer cared about everything that was happening in the rest of the world. He even laid aside his hatred for a brief moment.

The artillery fire in the south and north was still continuing. Meanwhile, the buffer zone of Stronghold 108 had suddenly become a quiet and peaceful land.

As Li Shentan sat there, Si Liren stayed put and waited by his side quietly.

Suddenly, Li Shentan said with a sigh, "I'm a little envious of Ren Xiaosu."

Si Liren asked, "Bro, do you feel guilty?"

"No, I'm not." Li Shentan shook his head and said in a firm voice, "And I wasn't wrong either."

How could someone like a Demon Whisperer with such a strong personality show any signs of wavering? Since he began his revenge, he'd never wanted to have any discussion of what was right or wrong with anyone.

Even if he was in the wrong, so what?

Li Shentan looked at Chen Wudi and said, "We both came out of an asylum."

What he was trying to say was that among those who came out of a psychiatric hospital during times like these, he and Chen Wudi represented two extremes. One of them was pure of heart and always did the right things, while the other willingly sank into Hell.

Li Shentan loved being called the Demon Whisperer. That was because the demons in him were enough to devour this entire world.

But when Chen Wudi died, Li Shentan was a little moved as well.

He wanted to jump off from the edge of the dark and endless abyss where he stood, but someone always seemed to be calling his name from behind. When Li Shentan turned around, he could not see anything at all.

Li Shentan said as he sat across from Chen Wudi, "I don't seem like I'll have goals after getting my revenge. If I'm still alive by then, I'll protect your master on your behalf."

But then Li Shentan froze. He turned around and looked at Si Liren, who was dozing off in midair.

He suddenly laughed and said, "Stop sleeping. The Li Consortium still has several strongholds standing. Those old fogies must've gone into hiding, so we'll have to seek them out."

...

Inside Stronghold 88, Luo Lan was feasting. After all, he was fully hosted by the Yang Consortium, so it wasn't like he had to pay for it.

Before the alliance between the Yang Consortium and the Qing Consortium ended, he would not be allowed to leave Stronghold 88. The reason why the Yang Consortium was willing to establish a platform of trust and cooperation with Qing Zhen was that Luo Lan had personally offered to come into their territory, which showed the sincerity of Qing Zhen and Luo Lan.

Any organization with sophisticated enough intelligence gathering knew that as long as Luo Lan were here, Qing Zhen would not rip up the alliance between the two sides without a valid reason.

Of course, Luo Lan knew he was a hostage. However, he remained very calm since he had already decided that he would be freeloading off them.

Although he couldn't leave Stronghold 88, the Yang Consortium had given him the highest form of treatment.

But at this moment, a crow suddenly landed on the dining table in front of him. Luo Lan untied the small bamboo tube on the crow's leg and extracted the slip of paper from the tube.

Luo Lan unfurled the rolled-up paper with his stubby fingers and was dumbfounded when he read the contents.

Luo Lan's trusted aide asked, "Boss, what's the matter?"

"It's nothing." Luo Lan sighed as he poured the wine in his glass onto the ground in memoriam. The friend who had saved his life before and always accused him of being Benbo'erba was no longer around.

Chapter 289 Humans do not relate to each others' joys and sorrows

When Ren Xiaosu first heard of the term "The Dawn of Gods," he felt that the Saboteurs had decided on using this name too hastily.

Most people would inextricably link the term "The Dawn of Gods" to "The Twilight of Gods," but that made it sound a little inauspicious. But that raised the question of how it should be named to make it sound better.

By calling it the "The Early Morning of Gods"? That sounded really unsuitable.

"The Noon of Gods"? Didn't sound right either.

And what comes after "The Twilight of Gods"? "The Latter Night of Gods"?

When Ren Xiaosu and Yan Liuyuan first started discussing this topic seriously, they were still operating a clinic in Stronghold 109 while Luo Lan was scurrying around in the sewers.

When Yan Liuyuan heard Ren Xiaosu say those words back then, he almost died from the hilariousness of it. But now, the young man who used to crack lame jokes with Yan Liuyuan remained unconscious on Jiang Wu's back. He did not even have any awareness of where he was.

Yan Liuyuan led the group and blended in with the fleeing crowd as they left Stronghold 108. Now that Ren Xiaosu was in no condition to lead them, it was only natural that he, as his younger brother, would step forward.

T

They had to leave since the Li Consortium's forces in Stronghold 108 had not been completely wiped out yet. Currently, the Li Consortium and the Yang Consortium's nanosoldiers were fighting each other out in the wilderness. The Yang Consortium's troops had wanted to withdraw after completing their mission, but it was not going to be that easy.

But if they waited here until the battle was over, they might end up having to face a pursuit by the reorganized Li Consortium forces.

Ren Xiaosu had not held back when he used his shadow clone in battle. Therefore, there was the danger that some of Ren Xiaosu's secrets might have been exposed. After all, some of the nanosoldiers managed to flee from the scene.

Of course, Ren Xiaosu was covered entirely with the armor and did not even show his face when they were fighting. It would still be justifiable if they said it was Xu Xianchu.

Although he had reformed the entire armor into a shield at the end, the Li Consortium had no time to pay any attention to who Ren Xiaosu was amid the chaos, nor did they have any visual references to identify him with.

Furthermore, the Li Consortium's nanosoldiers that participated in that battle might not have survived. When Yan Liuyuan and the others fled from the scene, the Yang Consortium's nanosoldiers arrived and immediately engaged in battle with the Li Consortium's nanosoldiers.

Of course, that was only what Yan Liuyuan thought. Whether anyone discovered Ren Xiaosu's secret was still yet to be confirmed. But for now, the most important thing that Yan Liuyuan had to consider was not Ren Xiaosu's secrets. What he needed to think about was how to stabilize Ren Xiaosu's injury and lead everyone to safety.

As the truck had broken down, they could only travel north on foot with the other escapees. Along the way, Yan Liuyuan was also hoping to get his hands on a vehicle, but any vehicles that they found by the roadside were damaged and could not be operated.

W

Without Ren Xiaosu leading them, they did not even have enough food prepared this time. It was quite different from the previous times when they were always prepared for their escape. This time, Yan Liuyuan and company were just as pathetic as the other escapees.

Even though Xiaoyu had made a lot of preparations, they had six members, including Ren Xiaosu, who were wounded. Just taking care of the wounded was enough to overwhelm them, but they even had to take turns to carry them as well. Therefore, they abandoned some of their supplies along the way and only kept some basic food and necessities like matchsticks for survival in the wilderness. It was not to say that those supplies were not essential, but they felt that their lives were more important.

Yan Liuyuan wore a pair of gloves and concealed himself everywhere below the neck. That was because the entire group would have to rely on Yan Liuyuan's nanomachines in case they fought with the escapees.

Wang Fugui, Li Qingzheng, and Xiaoyu had no combat capabilities at all, so they could only rely on their handguns for the time being. As for the rest, needless to say, all of the nanomachines the few male students had were even less than what Yan Liuyuan had.

Furthermore, they would still experience a delay of about half a second when trying to control the nanomachines. If they got in a fight, their opponents' fists would have already landed onto their faces before the nanomachines could even react.

However, Yan Liuyuan was quite talented at controlling his nanomachines. He could even gather the nanomachines to cover specific parts of his body. As long as he wore gloves while fighting, the silvery strands would not appear on his face.

Previously, Ren Xiaosu was always the one responsible for leading the way within the group of escapees. This was to ensure that the rear of his group would not get lost in the crowd. However, Yan Liuyuan became the person to lead the way this time.

"Liuyuan," Wang Fugui said, "why don't you rest for a while? Li Qingzheng and I will take over from you."

Yan Liuyuan looked back and said, "There's no need to. However my brother did it in the past, I'll do the same as well."

The group of escapees continued heading north. As it was a cold winter with snowdrifts on the ground, they could not travel far in a day.

But they did not dare to turn back around. Who knew if those terrifying Experimentals could still be following them? Although the commotion in the stronghold was rather big, most of the escapees who fled did not even know what actually happened there, nor did they know who saved them.

A minority knew the monsters might have been driven away by someone, but wasn't that person dead? What if those monsters came back again?

On that same night, the escapees stopped at a spot that was not too far north of the stronghold. They stared blankly into the distance at the destroyed stronghold.

Yan Liuyuan headed into the wilderness alone with a pot, a rope, and some dried buns brought by Xiaoyu.

They only had enough food to last them two days. If they wanted to survive longer, Yan Liuyuan would have to go hunting like Ren Xiaosu. Moreover, Ren Xiaosu was injured and needed meat instead of only dried food.

Yan Liuyuan recalled that Ren Xiaosu only taught him how to catch sparrows. That was because catching sparrows was considered the most basic hunting skill.

Sparrows were not migratory birds. So some sparrows would have already run out of food for some time by winter. That made this the best time to catch them.

But after Yan Liuyuan set up the trap with the large pot, he did not even see any sparrows coming to peck at the crumbs below the pot after lying in the snow for four hours.

During this time, Yan Liuyuan did see several sparrows land on the snowy ground. But each time there was a slight change in his breathing, the sparrows would get frightened off.

Birds were one of the most alert animals. After The Cataclysm, the birds became even more alert to their surroundings.

But Yan Liuyuan was not discouraged as he readjusted his breathing. In the past, Ren Xiaosu would always share with him how easy it was to catch sparrows after he got home. But now that it was his turn to try, he realized Ren Xiaosu had only pretended it was easy.

It was extremely tough for a person to lie in the snow like this. Keeping his body hidden in the snow, the bone-chilling wind penetrated through the gaps in his clothes and cut his skin like knives.

Furthermore, with no one around him out in the wilderness, he could not talk to anyone, nor did he have any forms of entertainment. All he had was the feeling of loneliness.

Throughout the night, Yan Liuyuan laid prone in the snow without moving until his hands and feet went numb.

One time, when a sparrow did come and peck on the crumbs under the pot, Yan Liuyuan wanted to pounce on it only to realize that he had lost his ability to move. By then, the large sparrow had already tipped over the metal pot and flown away.

Chapter 290 Yan Liuyuan the hunter

As it turned out, he could not just lie there and not move an inch. He still had to adjust his posture from time to time to prevent his joints from going stiff.

It wasn't until early next morning that another sparrow flew under the pot. This happened when Yan Liuyuan was getting so sleepy that his eyes were about to close!

Yan Liuyuan immediately pulled on the rope, and the metal pot held up by a stick fell to the snowy ground with a thud.

Yan Liuyuan could feel that his joints were all stiff as he clenched his teeth and pounced on the pot. Fortunately for him, he had the nanomachines.

He pinned the metal pot with his entire mass and only dared to put his hand in after he was sure that the sparrow was not struggling anymore. But when he put his hand in, he got nipped by the sparrow so hard he could feel a searing pain!

This was different from what Ren Xiaosu had told him! Yan Liuyuan let out a low growl. After much effort, he finally wrung the sparrow's neck and broke it.

But after breaking its neck, he was left with three bloody punctures on the back of his hand! Yan Liuyuan sat down on the ground with the sparrow in his arms and immediately started crying. With no one around in the vicinity, he cried even harder.

He did not feel grief for himself but rather for Ren Xiaosu.

Ren Xiaosu had always told him how fun the wilderness was and that hunting was extremely easy. Yan Liuyuan knew all along that he was lying.

But humans could not relate to other people's joys and sorrows. Yan Liuyuan initially thought he could understand how much hardship Ren Xiaosu had suffered during the most challenging time of their lives. But he didn't expect to realize that Ren Xiaosu had actually suffered much more at that time than he could imagine.

He finally realized the burden that Ren Xiaosu had to bear for him all those years after his own experience, and why Ren Xiaosu never allowed him to go out and hunt in the wilderness.

The young man who was his brother did not even have any nanomachines or gloves he could use during those times.

Yan Liuyuan wiped his tears and headed back towards the campsite. When Xiaoyu saw the blood flowing down his hand, she quickly dressed his wounds with her heart aching.

"Is my brother awake yet?" Yan Liuyuan asked.

Wang Fugui frowned and shook his head. "Since there's no doctor around, we don't even know where he's hurt. We can only deduce that some parts of his body are fractured. But we don't know what other internal injuries he might have sustained."

Earlier, Xiaoyu had crushed some antibiotics and mixed it into a solution before feeding it to Ren Xiaosu. This would prevent his wounds from getting inflamed, or stop him from getting a fever, cold, or cough if his immune system resistance dropped.

At first, everyone was worried about Ren Xiaosu being unable to open his mouth for them to feed him the medicine. They thought of having Jiang Wu feed him mouth-to-mouth, and she had no objections either. After all, saving his life was the priority.

Fortunately, Ren Xiaosu did not close his mouth tightly. He swallowed the solution from the spoon when it was placed in his mouth.

Yan Liuyuan handed the sparrow to Xiaoyu and said, "Big Sis, can you boil some soup for my brother?" He then sat down in a daze next to Ren Xiaosu.

Wang Fugui said to Yan Liuyuan, "You don't have to worry too much, your brother's hardy, so he'll be alright."

Yan Liuyuan also firmly believed that. Since Ren Xiaosu had the physical fitness of a supernatural being, he would not get tortured to death by an illness as long as he did not suffer a fatal injury. Besides, he also made a wish for Ren Xiaosu to recover. For now, he could only wait and see what backlash he would suffer. Usually, Yan Liuyuan would determine whether Ren Xiaosu was safe based on the severity of the backlash he suffered.

Xiaoyu finished plucking off the sparrow's feathers and even placed the offal off to the side. When this woman first started living together with Ren Xiaosu and Yan Liuyuan, she would scream in fright when she had to kill a chicken, and Ren Xiaosu and Yan Liuyuan kept making fun of her for it.

But these days, she had become very proficient in handling food. Life really made one grow up. Xiaoyu was willing to change herself for Ren Xiaosu and Yan Liuyuan.

After the water boiled, she placed the sparrow into the pot. As soon as the sparrow was inside the pot, the aroma wafted out, carried by the boiling steam.

As it was early in the morning, many of the escapees were suddenly awakened by the smell. They looked over with surprised looks on their faces.

When these escapees fled the stronghold, they only thought of bringing their valuables, such as watches, jewelry, gold and silver, as well as cash.

On the other hand, Xiaoyu and company were very experienced in escaping. They knew exactly what they needed most in the wilderness. Old Wang had already exchanged his money for medicine that was easier to exchange for cash and only had a small amount of gold and cash on him.

In war, gold was not as precious as medicine.

At this moment, someone strolled over to Xiaoyu and her group. The escapees had been hungry for the whole day, so their stomachs were rumbling now.

The middle-aged man said, "Why don't you give me a bowl of soup too?"

The man did not even bother asking nicely. Xiaoyu shot him a glance and said, "Get lost."

Yan Liuyuan stared coldly at the stronghold residents as he knew well the kind of people they were. All who dared to approach their group were shameless people. The honest and kind would remain seated where they were, because they knew how precious the soup was at this time, and they would be too embarrassed to ask for some.

A plump, middle-aged man came over with some other people following behind him. When he saw Jiang Wu and the others, his eyes lit up. Jiang Wu was a beautiful woman, and those around her were all her female students.

Furthermore, the people in this group were either old men like Wang Fugui or the wounded like Wang Yuchi and Ren Xiaosu. Since Yan Liuyuan looked really young, their group looked like pushovers.

The fatso said haughtily, "I'm a director at Stronghold 108's Logistics Division. My name is Xu Shiduan."

Yan Liuyuan sneered as he stood up and walked over to Xu Shiduan. "You aren't welcome here."

Xu Shiduan got so angry he laughed. "Where did this little kid come from? Get out of the way. We're under wartime regulations, so your food has been expropriated "

Before he could finish speaking, Xu Shiduan stared blankly at the dagger in his chest. He had not expected this young man before him to stab him without any warning.

Yan Liuyuan slowly pulled the dagger out and let the blood from Xu Shiduan's wound splatter onto his face. Everyone around him was stunned, then they retreated in fear.

Yan Liuyuan said calmly, "I'll only say it once. No one else is to come near us."

Ren Xiaosu once told him not to be afraid of causing trouble while they were still living back in town. In this wilderness, you could only live longer if everyone was fearful of you. But he also needed to have some discretion when making trouble. He should identify the culprit first and not get too many people involved. In that way, the culprit would be abandoned by the others, and they would not take revenge on him either.

The nature of people was such that they cherished their lives. When the residents who were used to leading a comfortable life in the stronghold realized that some people were capable of killing others and were more ruthless than them, they would subconsciously choose to step back.

In the past, Ren Xiaosu was the one to do such things. Now that he was unconscious, Yan Liuyuan would do the same on his behalf, just like what Ren Xiaosu did for him.

The escapees started retreating far away. Xiaoyu walked up to Yan Liuyuan and helped him wipe the bloodstains off his face with her sleeve.

Yan Liuyuan suddenly sighed and said, "Big Sister Xiaoyu, today has made me fully understand the burden that my brother has been shouldering all along."