

First Order 751

### **Chapter 751 The fate of the two**

Although many groups had entered the Sacred Mountains, everyone here knew they were probably the only ones who were still alive.

There might still be some survivors hiding in the wilderness of the mountains, but it would not be easy to get out of the Sacred Mountains alive. To leave this place, they would either have to walk through the canyon and get hypnotized again before finally dying of exhaustion.

Or feel their way out of it with their eyes closed and come face to face with those terrifying tarantulas.

Someone escaping from the tarantula horde again on their own would be practically impossible.

The heavy fog in the mountains might even trap them forever inside.

Otherwise, they could simply take the main road where Pyro Company troops were still stationed along. Although there weren't many troops garrisoned there due to the encirclement plan, it was not a route that anyone could take. When Cheng Yu saw Vanilla and the Anjing House members, he quickly gathered them around, and they started sharing their experiences. It was as though he had been reunited with his family members.

Cheng Yu grumbled how tough it was that he had the misfortune to lead a team like his. There was absolutely no sense of seriousness in his team, and they still had to put on shows even though they were on the verge of death. Their team had been singing and dancing for the past few days and it did not look like they had come to the Sacred Mountains to thwart the Pyro Company's plans at all.

When he finished relating this to everyone, Cheng Yu realized Vanilla and the others had fallen silent.

"What's wrong with you guys?" Cheng Yu asked.

Vanilla hesitated for a moment before answering, "We went through the same thing too."

Cheng Yu was stunned. When he recalled how the Pyro Company had appeared earlier, he realized Vanilla's plight might not be any better than his.

However, a member of the Anjing House next to them said, "But have you all realized? At the very least, both your teams have managed to survive."

This Anjing House member was named Wang Tianming, and he was previously on the same team as Wang Congyang. As the team leader, he did not make any mistakes and the team was also considered harmonious. There was no trouble at all.

Yet, his team members were all gone now!

He would rather have a troublemaker on the team. At least, they would have been safe.

They were all practical people. Carefully thinking about it, wasn't it a good thing that they managed to survive even though they had to suffer a little?

During the conversation, Cheng Yu happened to glance at Ren Xiaosu. He thought to himself that it was indeed because someone had been secretly helping them that so many of them survived.

Although White Mask was missing again, Cheng Yu realized Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin had to be White Mask's assistants. Without these three around, their team would probably not have as many survivors left.

However, Cheng Yu was surprised to find Ren Xiaosu staring fixedly at the box Si Liren was carrying. He did not even blink.

Li Shentan wanted to say something, but when he noticed Ren Xiaosu's expression, he also fell silent and just sighed.

Ren Xiaosu turned and looked at Li Shentan seriously. "Is it him?"

"Yes." Li Shentan nodded. He wanted to say something but did not know what to say. The people around them did not even know what game they were playing. Ren Xiaosu suddenly said to Yang Xiaojin, "Wait for me here."

Then he turned around and said to Li Shentan and Si Liren, "Can you two come with me for a while?"

Li Shentan nodded.

Ren Xiaosu, Li Shentan, and Si Liren left the group. Ren Xiaosu kept heading up a mountain path until he reached the end of it. Moonlight shone down on the mountaintop. Li Shentan looked at Ren Xiaosu's back and suddenly felt that he seemed both a little excited and lonely at the same time.

Ren Xiaosu turned around and looked at Si Liren. "Little Liren, can you put down the box you're carrying? I'd like to see him."

"Mhm." Si Liren put down the box obediently.

When Ren Xiaosu was about to open the box, he suddenly hesitated as though he was afraid of something.

"Can the two of you step aside for a moment?" Ren Xiaosu looked at Li Shentan.

Li Shentan, who always enjoyed opposing others, was surprisingly cooperative at this moment. "We'll wait for you on the hillside."

After the two of them left, Ren Xiaosu slowly opened up the box.

The moment before seeing Chen Wudi, he felt he was mentally prepared and could bear any grief in this world.

But once he saw Chen Wudi, he nearly broke down. Tears could not stop flowing down his cheeks and dripping off his chin.

Ren Xiaosu once told Yan Liuyuan that this world did not believe in tears. No matter how difficult things got, he would never let himself be vulnerable.

But during the battle that day, he did not even manage to say goodbye to Chen Wudi nor got to see him one last time. By the time he woke up again, all the bones in his body had been broken, and Wudi had already died in that stronghold.

Later on, Ren Xiaosu did not even have the courage to go and see this disciple of his and just calmly continued living his life. He had taken his revenge calmly and came to the Central Plains to find his family. However, Ren Xiaosu never went back to the Southwest to look for Chen Wudi.

He would always tell himself, "Right, isn't this how the world is? Everyone is just living pathetically like they might not get to see the next day."

It was already very tough for those who were still alive, so why dig up memories of the dead to make yourself feel sad?

Everyone knew Ren Xiaosu was very upset, but he was unwilling to admit it.

Just like when he had found out about Chen Wudi's death, he rather used the pain of fixing his broken bones to hide his emotions than admit that he really was sad.

After all, wasn't this how he got through his difficulties since childhood?

But at this moment, he admitted it was not so.

When he saw Luo Lan's superpower, Ren Xiaosu swore he was really jealous Luo Lan could actually awaken such a superpower. Therefore, he desperately wanted to copy his power even if he had to waste two additional Perfect Skill Duplication Scrolls in the process.

When he realized there was a glimmer of hope, Ren Xiaosu finally understood his desire. Actually, that memory had never been erased from his mind. He felt like there was still someone addressing him as master even while lying in bed in the middle of the night.

Ren Xiaosu's body started to glow with a golden light. It was just like how Luo Lan looked when he summoned his martyred spirits.

Ren Xiaosu sat across Chen Wudi and said seriously, "Actually, I'm not qualified to be your master, right? I lied to you and said that if you constantly feel like you're being devoured by the darkness, then it meant that you were the light. When I said this, I didn't even believe it myself. However, you took my words to be true because you were so naive.

"At that time, I even silently mocked you for being such a gullible disciple. But later on, I realized that I should be the one who needed to reflect."

It was like a child asking their father, "Dad, are there any immortals in the world?"

The father would smile and say jokingly, "Yes."

And the child would reply, "Then take me to them."

As such, the father took the child to the top of the mountain as though he was teasing his own child. Then he smiled at the child and said, "Go on, shout for the immortal to open the Gate of Heaven for you."

Aere

The father did not even believe the Gate of Heaven would open that day, or that there were really immortals in heaven. His fantasies about gods when he was young had been worn out by this world, leaving behind a determined but worldly heart. He started learning how to be tactful, how to get along with others, and how to eke out a survival in a secular world.

But he had never thought that when his child shouted for the Gate of Heaven to be opened, it would really open!

This was only a story, but it was just like the talk Chen Wudi had with Ren Xiaosu. "Master, should good people really exist in this world?"

Ren Xiaosu said, "Yes, and you're that ray of light."

But when Ren Xiaosu thought nothing would ever come out of this, Chen Wudi really became the most brilliant light in the world, engraving his goodness in many people's hearts.

Ren Xiaosu was like most people.

He was used to a world without any fairy tales, used to a world that was not fair, and also used to not being a good person. But when he looked back, he realized he had just missed out on the beautiful moments. It was not that they did not exist.

When one braved the snow, one could see the mountains. Because there was light, people dared to dream.

This was the cause and effect of the world.

Ren Xiaosu said, "Maybe I wasn't a good master in the past, but I'm willing to start afresh. Come back, Wudi."

The moon hung bright and clear in the sky, casting a silvery radiance on Chen Wudi's damaged golden armor. Although the armor had turned into stone, its former brilliance could still be seen.

Ren Xiaosu looked at Chen Wudi with much anticipation and thought he would walk out of the statue like Luo Lan's 12 martyred spirits. But in his trance, he heard someone whisper in his mind, "Master, I'm sorry."

Ren Xiaosu looked at Chen Wudi in disbelief. He was completely unable to accept this fact. He had worked very hard to complete his quests in order to bring Wudi back. But in the end, he still failed.

He could not tell who was talking in his mind just now. He did not know whether it was a hallucination or if it was really Chen Wudi answering him.

Li Shentan, who had come back to Ren Xiaosu's side, said, "Don't be too upset."

Ren Xiaosu looked up at Li Shentan. "Why? Why did it fail?"

Li Shentan looked at Ren Xiaosu. He had never seen the young man in front of him lose his cool before. Ren Xiaosu did not even realize he had walked up to him.

Li Shentan said, "Are you trying to use Luo Lan's power to summon him back? But Luo Lan's power is only used to summon the dead. Have you ever considered that Chen Wudi is actually not dead yet?"

Ren Xiaosu was shocked. He looked at Li Shentan in surprise and did not know what else to say.

But Li Shentan already knew this.

Back when he entered the stronghold and sat across from Chen Wudi, he started mumbling many things to Chen Wudi for some reason. In the end, when he said he would protect his master for him, Chen Wudi clearly emitted a golden light that circulated around his body. It was like there was a dragon swimming underneath the stone sculpture.

At that time, he was stunned by that sight. Si Liren even asked him what was wrong back then, but he just said it was fine.

From that day onwards, Si Liren started carrying a huge box everywhere. Li Shentan insisted that they needed to take Chen Wudi with them wherever they went, to the ends of the earth if need be.

So, even though Ren Xiaosu had painstakingly copied Luo Lan's power, it was absolutely useless when used on someone who was still alive.

Ren Xiaosu said with difficulty, "Then do you know how I can wake him up?"

"He's the one who's unwilling to wake up," Li Shentan said in a low voice.

Back on that day, Chen Wudi had lost all hope. Like that monkey born from a stone, he finally became disheartened after experiencing the world of humanity and turned himself back into stone.

From that day on, he no longer believed the world needed any goodness, heroes, or even himself in it.

Li Shentan said dejectedly, "If it weren't for me, he would not have died that day. That's why I always wanted to do something for him, but I didn't know where to start. As such, I brought him along and crossed mountains and rivers to see the beautiful sights of this world."

“Let me continue to take him around. I am the most villainous person in the world, while he’s the nicest. The nicest person died because of this villain. Right now, I want to show him the world still needs him, because even the demon has been changed by him.”

If it weren’t for Chen Wudi, Li Shentan would have hypnotized Vanilla and the others.

If it weren’t for Chen Wudi, Li Shentan would have stayed behind at Luoyang City and tormented everyone before letting them die in that stronghold.

If it weren’t for Chen Wudi, Li Shentan might have turned into a real demon. He was not someone who knew the difference between good and evil.

Therefore, since Chen Wudi was unwilling to wake up, Li Shentan wanted to show Chen Wudi how important he was to the world.

If even the most villainous demon in this world could be changed, what was there that couldn’t be changed by this ray of light?

“Ren Xiaosu, do you believe me?” Li Shentan said softly, “One day, I’ll convince him to return to this world willingly and continue being the Great Sage. On that day, the demon will also get his salvation. This is his destiny, as it is mine. So, please, go and be that ray of light to others too. He’ll be very pleased if you do.”

That very night, Ren Xiaosu sat with Chen Wudi on the mountain. He shared a lot about what he had been through during this period.

For example, he mentioned the bloody fatty, Benbo’erba, had actually awakened his superpower.

How he got separated from Yan Liuyuan.

A new friend he met named Jiang Xu, who was both a good teacher and close friend, and how he also persisted in walking down his own path like a ray of light.

There were also the Riders, who were a group of honorable friends who stood up for others but they weren’t very good at card games. Ren Xiaosu shared many more things, but he said to Chen Wudi in the end, “Come back quickly. Your master is very lonely.”

When the first rays of sunlight radiated down onto the mountaintop in the morning, Ren Xiaosu carefully wiped off the dust on Chen Wudi’s body. He said to Li Shentan, “I believe what you told me, and I’ll be waiting for that day to arrive.”

After that, he turned around and descended off the mountain. Si Liren put the box onto her back again and floated next to Li Shentan.

When Ren Xiaosu came down from the mountain, Yang Xiaojin walked towards Ren Xiaosu. She stood on her tiptoes and hugged Ren Xiaosu gently in front of the others. This was probably the first time that Yang Xiaojin and Ren Xiaosu had hugged each other.

“I’m here for you,” Yang Xiaojin said.

“Mhm,” Ren Xiaosu grunted with a smile.

No matter what happened last night, it was at least better than before. That was because he had thought Chen Wudi was dead. But now he knew Chen Wudi was actually still alive.

As long as he was not dead, anything could be possible.

Zhou Yingxue, who was sitting next to the campfire, said obediently, "Master, Madam, breakfast is ready."

Ren Xiaosu looked at Zhou Yingxue in surprise, then at Yang Xiaojin. He could not understand how the situation ended up like that in the matter of a night.

Six hours earlier.

While Ren Xiaosu was talking to Chen Wudi up on the mountain, Yang Xiaojin turned to look at Vanilla and the others.

However, her gaze landed on Zhou Yingxue as she stared past the crowd.

"You, come with me." Yang Xiaojin headed out of the camp.

Zhou Yingxue curled her lips. "Why should I listen to you?"

But even though she grumbled, she still obediently followed Yang Xiaojin...

The group who had just successfully joined up a while ago was a little confused by this series of unexpected events. Why were those people leaving one after another?

They had already witnessed how powerful Li Shentan was, but he was suddenly no longer crazy like before when facing Ren Xiaosu. Instead, he felt even more normal than a normal person.

As for Zhou Yingxue, that woman was always yelling at everyone on the team and ordered them to look for exotic plants on her behalf.

After being in the Sacred Mountains for a few days, everyone was well aware that this woman was also a being at the top of the pyramid in the supernatural world.

Therefore, nobody dared to say anything despite being ordered around by Zhou Yingxue. This was especially so when they realized Zhou Yingxue and Li Shentan seemed to be on rather good terms.

So why did Zhou Yingxue suddenly become so obedient after that girl in the cap said something so casually?

Moreover, Zhou Yingxue had been walking at the front of their group all this time. But just now, she actually fell to the back of the group.

What the fuck was going on? Could someone explain this?!

Yang Xiaojin just kept walking forward and did not say anything. Instead, it was Zhou Yingxue who could no longer hold it in. "I'm not afraid of you..."

The moment she uttered that, Yang Xiaojin finally turned around and stood still. Meanwhile, Zhou Yingxue regretted her words so much she wanted to slap herself in the face. That was because the sentence itself showed she was scared!

Zhou Yingxue cursed in her head at how useless she was. Why should she be afraid of a mere lass when she was so powerful? The other party was even several years younger than her!

Yang Xiaojin sized up Zhou Yingxue. "I heard you wanted to treat your mother's illness?" Zhou Yingxue nearly cried. Oh no, her master must have found out she had lied again!

However, Zhou Yingxue was not going to admit defeat here. "Wh-What's wrong with telling some lies to protect myself? I'm just trying to survive in this world! Haven't you told a lie before?"

"Yes, I have." Yang Xiaojin nodded as though it was not something she was ashamed to admit. She had once said she would give her dagger to Ren Xiaosu. But in the end, she took it back without feeling embarrassed at all.

It seemed that this girl was born with no sense of shame.

Yang Xiaojin asked again, "How long has it been since you became his maid?" "About half a year..." Zhou Yingxue felt that something was not right. How could she always get intimidated by Yang Xiaojin's imposing manner? This wouldn't do. She had to retaliate! If Yang Xiaojin tried to intimidate her again, she would fight back!

But Yang Xiaojin suddenly asked, "Does he eat on time?"

Zhou Yingxue was dumbfounded. 'Why did you suddenly ask that question? You're totally unpredictable!

The maidservant thought for a moment and answered, "He still eats his meals on time. Master has a very regular routine and usually spends most of his time reading." The moment Zhou Yingxue said that, she felt like slapping herself again. Why was she answering the questions so honestly?!

However, Yang Xiaojin continued asking, "Then did he encounter any dangerous situations?"

Zhou Yingxue replied, "It was quite dangerous back at Stronghold 74 as he nearly got injured by the Experimentals. And the other time in Luoyang City..."

At this moment, Zhou Yingxue remembered Yang Xiaojin was also in Luoyang City at that time. Moreover, her master left her behind and ran off with Yang Xiaojin. Thinking of this, Zhou Yingxue got angry and suddenly said, "Master and I used to stay in the same room!"

Yang Xiaojin made a sound of acknowledgment.

Zhou Yingxue felt as though the heavy punch she threw had ended up hitting air. She asked in disbelief, "Why did you only say 'ah'? Aren't you curious about what happened?"

However, Yang Xiaojin looked at her strangely. "What could possibly happen between the two of you? It's not like he likes you."

Zhou Yingxue nearly cried. Could you not be so blunt?

However, Yang Xiaojin understood Ren Xiaosu the best. With Ren Xiaosu's cowardly behavior whenever it came to the critical moment, it would be a surprise if he did any hanky panky behind her back!

Zhou Yingxue was really unable to accept this. "14"



“Alright, stop speaking. I’ll only believe what he tells me himself,” Yang Xiaojin cut her off.

Zhou Yingxue was completely defeated. “Actually, you’re the only person in Master’s heart. Even when he had to hold hands with me when we entered Stronghold 61, he specifically went to look for gloves to wear. Also, when that female celebrity named Li Ran confessed to him, he flatly told her he already has someone he likes. The same thing happened when we were in Luoyang City. He called out your name once when he spoke in his sleep. I wonder how there can be such an innocent man in this world. He’s the first one that I’ve met.”

Zhou Yingxue thought that since she was unable to intimidate Yang Xiaojin, she should say something nice. At the very least, she could fight for better treatment in the future or something

Yang Xiaojin finally revealed a smile at that. “Anything else?”

“And his favorite hobby is reading. There was one time when I wanted to see what book he was reading while he was out. In the end, I discovered they were even annotated, and one of them was filled with your name on the title page,” Zhou Yingxue answered.

“Anything else?”

“Also, when he went back to Luoyang City for the second time to look for you at Qinghe University, that was the first time I saw him look so anxious. In the past, no matter how great the danger he might encounter, he would still be very calm. It was only that one time that I felt his anxiety,” Zhou Yingxue said feebly.

Yang Xiaojin nodded in satisfaction. “That’s about enough. Now tell me about your powers.”

Zhou Yingxue was downtrodden. Why did she have to come to the Sacred Mountains? Wouldn’t it have been better if she went to the Northwest and started making plans for her master’s seizing of leadership in the future? Why did she have to come here to get intimidated by others? If she knew something like this would happen, she would have run off long ago!

Yang Xiaojin said, “I’m a little hungry now. Go and make some food for me. It would be best if you can cook a pot of porridge so that Ren Xiaosu can have some when he comes back down from the mountain tomorrow morning.” Zhou Yingxue said obediently, “OK...” Yang Xiaojin said nonchalantly, “Let’s see how good your culinary skills are first. If it’s good enough, you can come to the Northwest with us after we’re done with our business in the Sacred Mountains.”

Zhou Yingxue beamed. “Oh, that’ll be great. Just wait and see. My culinary skills are excellent!”

With that, Zhou Yingxue went to do her work. She was scolding herself while cooking, “Scum, what is it that you’re after?!”

However, Zhou Yingxue furtively glanced at Yang Xiaojin and got dismayed again. Why would a young girl like her have such a strong aura?

## **Chapter 752 Research base**

“Look at him, then look at us,” Cheng Yu said peeved while crouching next to Vanilla. “Back when the plans were being drafted, why didn’t you ask the boss why she insisted that we come to a godforsaken place where birds don’t even defecate?”

In the Sacred Mountains, it was not an exaggeration to use “where birds don’t even defecate” to describe the place. There were really no birds that could be seen anywhere. Otherwise, Cheng Yu would not have to resort to doing the splits for a hardtack!

Fortunately, they had already joined up with Vanilla and the others. After all, Vanilla’s team members were all Anjing House hitmen. By helping each other out, they would definitely be more united than the outsiders no matter what. Therefore, there wouldn’t be a need to worry about food anymore. However, as Cheng Yu ate his hardtack, he saw that even Ren Xiaosu had someone taking care of his daily needs. This nearly caused him to throw the hardtack onto the ground.

Comparisons were really infuriating!

But Vanilla handed him a water bottle and said calmly, “What’s the point of comparing with him? Look at the other side.”

While they were eating breakfast, Li Shentan was served by more than a 100 Pyro Company members on the other side and being treated like a king. He did not even have to wash his face by himself. There were also some Pyro Company members washing his clothes next to the stream.

Vanilla was right. What was the point of comparing with Ren Xiaosu? If he wanted to compare, he should be comparing with this person instead.

Cheng Yu flinched. “Who can compare to him? He can control thousands of people like he’s playing a game. If I were him, I would’ve run off to a deserted place and abducted tens of thousands of people to become their ruler!”

“Someone secretly left the group last night.” Vanilla whispered, “When our teams joined up last night, there were 27 people in Cheng Yu’s group and 35 in mine. But look at how many people there are left now? Only 51!”

“Left? Where can they run to now? Since we’ve already come this far, I definitely won’t be satisfied if we don’t go into the Sacred Mountains and have a look inside.” Cheng Yu curled his lips and said, “Do you think it’s true that we can obtain a way to achieve immortality with the legendary No. 001 Experimental’s DNA after we capture it?”

“I think it’s true.” Vanilla said, “Someone has already confirmed with Li Yingyun of the Riders that the Experimentals did mention this when Stronghold 74 got destroyed. And think about it. To say nothing of the No. 001 Experimental, even those failed Experimentals have managed to live for more than 200 years. If the No. 001 Experimental appears, it’ll very likely introduce a revolutionary change to the lifespan of humanity.”

“I hope it doesn’t show up then.” Cheng Yu shook his head and said, “I don’t want to go through any more changes. This kinda life is already good enough, so I don’t wish that we can live that long.”

In fact, Cheng Yu represented the thoughts of most people in this era. They were no longer looking forward to any huge changes to their lives, and it was good enough living as they were with humanity developing slowly.

Was it a good thing to be able to live for a long time? Who the hell knew what other trouble those consortiums might cause?

“Let’s not talk about that for now.” Vanilla continued, “11 people have run away overnight. I suspect they aren’t scattered individuals but people from the same organization. In the battle yesterday, the Pyro Company suffered heavy casualties. Who knows how many T5-ranked experts have died? Y’know, not all the T5 combatants are in the Sacred Mountains. There’s other T5 combatants stationed at their other strongholds to guard the places, so only a few of them are likely left in the Sacred Mountains at this moment.”

Vanilla said this rather loudly as he did not intend to hide it from anyone. Or rather, he just wanted to bring up the topic so everyone could join in the discussion.

When Ren Xiaosu heard them talking about T5 combatants, he wondered if he should feel a little sad. After all, he had just experienced the pain of losing his “son.” That poor T5 combatant had died so soon after establishing a father-son relationship with him.

Vanilla added, “Why did they have to run away now of all times? They just had to disappear when the Pyro Company was left defenseless. I suspect they might’ve seized the initiative and headed into the core region of the Sacred Mountains by themselves.” Vanilla was saying this because he wanted everyone to get moving quickly so they would not fall behind and end up with nothing for the expedition.

But Li Shentan was in no hurry to leave. “Since someone is rushing off to die, why should we join them? Can’t you people look at your conditions first? Some of you have just eaten your fill, and some of you haven’t slept in two days, so how can you compete with others in your current state? Do you think the danger in the Sacred Mountains has already passed? Even though the T5 combatants have been killed, there’s still T6 combatants waiting for us.” Vanilla retorted, “Those 11 people are not dumb either. Since they’ve set off, it means they’re confident.”

Li Shentan waved it off. “There aren’t that many smart people in this world. Most of them are actually just overconfident. For example, you actually dare to rebuke me.”

Vanilla was confused.

Ren Xiaosu suddenly said, “Let’s get moving as soon as possible. There’s no need to give the Pyro Company a chance to redeploy. We might as well end this farce quickly.” “Alright! Let’s move out immediately!” Li Shentan stood up and got ready to set off.

move

Everyone at the campsite was stunned. They looked at Ren Xiaosu and wondered why this young man’s words were so effective on Li Shentan.

Why was the legendary Demon Whisperer so obedient? Who on earth was this young man?!

Moreover, wasn't that young man a little too arrogant in his speech? End the farce quickly? He would first have to be capable enough to speak as arrogantly as that.

While these words might sound arrogant to their ears, it was just an affirmative statement to Ren Xiaosu and Li Shentan. He was merely speaking his mind.

Ren Xiaosu was probably not that confident at the beginning, which was why he sneaked into the group and tried to find an opportunity to fish in troubled waters.

But now that Li Shentan and Ren Xiaosu's maidservant had joined them, not even a few Sacred Mountains would be too difficult for them to take down.

After setting off early in the morning, Ren Xiaosu could see traces of human architecture from afar by noon. "Is that the Pyro Company's research base up ahead?"

The buildings here were not the same as those Ren Xiaosu had encountered before. The structures found in the strongholds had always been designed practically. They were mostly boxy and rarely shaped strangely.

But at this research base in front of them, Ren Xiaosu could not make out any building designs that were repeated. Some of them were built in spherical or trapezoidal shapes, while some were simply covered with glass in full.

Ren Xiaosu even felt the buildings in front of him had unusual aesthetics. However, this research base was probably built a long time ago. Many of the buildings' paint on their outer walls had even peeled off, making them look exceptionally mottled and worn out.

Ren Xiaosu suddenly wondered, "The rest of the world is always saying that there's all kinds of strange creatures lurking in the Sacred Mountains, and that prehistoric pterosaurs can be seen soaring in the sky over it. They make it sound like the Sacred Mountains is full of demons and monsters. But look, we didn't actually come across anything other than the tarantulas."

### **Chapter 753 Master and disciple**

Cheng Yu and the others also fell into deep thought. Everyone had gathered here from everywhere outside the Sacred Mountains. If the Pyro Company really had some prehistoric pterosaurs hidden in the Sacred Mountains, they should have seen them already.

Ever since the Pyro Company gave their assistance during the attack on Stronghold 74, many people started wondering if the Pyro Company had really just been demonized. Jiang Xu, the chief editor of Hope Media, was even one of those who reflected on this.

"Everyone, look over there." Ren Xiaosu said as he pointed to a spot away from the cluster of buildings, "It's a farming settlement. You can even still see uncut corn stalks growing on it. It looks like it has been abandoned for some time already. The Pyro Company actually used to farm in the Sacred Mountains? This doesn't feel like their style at all."

Everything that Ren Xiaosu and the others had just witnessed was in stark contrast to their impression of the Pyro Company. What they had encountered were the bloodthirsty T5 combatants and rumors

demonizing the Pyro Company in the outside world. However, there were many artsy buildings here and a farming settlement surrounding it. It looked like a paradise, except it was quite neglected.

Luo Lan, who was standing at the side, suddenly said, "All of you should know that our Qing Consortium has always been at odds with the Pyro Company, so we've never stopped our investigations into them. In fact, the Pyro Company's foreign policy was not that radical just six years ago. At that time, their main method of obtaining DNA samples was by stealing them."

As he said that, Luo Lan glanced at Li Shentan and said, "For example, the theft of the DNA samples from the psychiatric hospital in the Southwest. If it were today, they would just openly obtain it with force. Their way of doing things is different now. The Pyro Company combatants you encountered back then are not the same as the ones today. They didn't used to be so hostile."

"Six years ago?" someone said puzzledly. According to Luo Lan, six years ago seemed to be the watershed moment for the Pyro Company. What happened to the Pyro Company at that time? "There might've been a leadership change." Luo Lan sighed. "I'm not sure about the specifics either."

Ren Xiaosu looked at the farming settlement and the artsy building complexes. It seemed like all of this was slowly fading with time.

The group started approaching the cluster of buildings. They could not see it clearly when they were a distance away. But as they got closer, everyone realized there were many Pyro Company combatants' bodies strewn on the ground along the way. It looked like they had been dead for several hours.

The blood on the ground had already coagulated and dried into a dark purple patch. Vanilla said as he crouched down and opened the eyelids of a dead victim, "The time of death is less than six hours."

In fact, this was a very simple way of verifying when someone had died. As a professional hitman, Vanilla naturally knew about this.

After death, the cornea of a person would start clouding. In about 36 hours, it would turn so opaque the pupil could not even be seen clearly anymore.

Therefore, judging the time of death based on the degree of corneal opacity was a simple method that could be employed in the absence of any instruments.

"Vanilla is right. Those 11 people who left the group have indeed entered the research base. Furthermore, their methods of killing are very strange. It's obvious these people did not struggle at all when they died, so it shows those 11 must be very skilled at carrying out sneak attacks," Cheng Yu explained. "Y'know, the Pyro Company combatants here are at least T3-ranked, or even T4-ranked."

This time, it was the others that got anxious before Ren Xiaosu's group could get anxious. After all, they were all here for the purpose of either seizing the data or capturing the No. 001 Experimental.

In any case, the Pyro Company's Sacred Mountains was like a treasure trove that had many consortiums coveting it. Now that they realized someone had gotten there first, they could not help but get anxious.

Otherwise, they would not be able to answer to their higher-ups when they got back. "Let's head in then." Li Shentan flourished his hands. "It's also good that we have someone clearing the way for us."

Their group reached the cluster of buildings very quickly. At the beginning, everyone was very alert. But gradually, they realized there were no survivors in the areas they passed through.

All of the Pyro Company members were dead.

The defenses made up of several hundred T3-ranked and above combatants had been taken care of just like that.

Moreover, there was not even a single gunshot wound on the bodies of the Pyro Company combatants. It looked like most of them had been killed by melee weapons. Some of the Pyro Company soldiers did not even look like they had the chance to disengage the safety on their rifle.

Some Pyro Company members also died due to some strange reasons. They did not have any wounds, bruises, nor extravasated blood under their skin and just died very mysteriously.

There were so many corpses lying everywhere that blood had been flowing into the depths of the building complexes. Everyone found it a little hard to imagine. "Just where did those 11 come from? They actually killed their way through all the defenses of the Pyro Company's research base?"

Initially, Vanilla and Li Shentan did not believe those 11 people could cause much of a stir.

The reason why Vanilla kept saying he wanted to prevent others from getting ahead of them was to make everyone start moving quickly so he could carry out the boss's plan.

But something unexpected had happened. The 11 people who broke off from the group were even more powerful than they had imagined. They had actually broken through the Pyro Company's last line of defense?

But which organization did those people belong to? Wang Yun felt that something was off no matter how he thought about it. Those people... seemed very familiar with the Pyro Company's core research base.

And outsiders were not capable of infiltrating this place, not even the Qing Consortium.

After eliminating all possibilities, Wang Yun suddenly froze. Could they be from the Pyro Company? Although he did not know why he arrived at this answer, it was the only one left after the other possibilities had been ruled out.

The group rushed to the center of the building complexes where the largest building that resembled the double helix structure of a DNA molecule stood. It was also the most prominent one among the cluster of strange buildings.

But when they arrived at the bottom of that building, everyone was stunned.

They saw 11 corpses lying neatly under that building while a young man sat cross-legged next to them. He was wearing a golden circlet on his head and had his eyes tightly closed.

The young man seemed to be in a trance and turned a deaf ear to the arrival of Ren Xiaosu and the others.

Ren Xiaosu looked at him in a daze and was momentarily speechless.

Meanwhile, Li Shentan was standing off to the side. Actually, he and Ren Xiaosu knew from the beginning they would definitely encounter another clone here.

ICO

Just as Yang Xiaojin had said, if the Pyro Company could only awaken the superpowers of a few superhumans' clones, they would definitely use their limited methods to create unlimited possibilities.

In the era of the "Rise of Gods," only the strength of two people had been validated by this era, Li Shentan and Chen Wudi.

Since the Pyro Company possessed both their DNA samples, there was no reason why they would only clone Li Shentan and not Chen Wudi.

Meanwhile, this "Chen Wudi" did not disappoint the Pyro Company either. Even though those 11 people easily broke their way through the Pyro Company's last line of defense, they still ended up getting killed one after another by the "Chen Wudi" who was sitting in front of them.

"Chen Wudi" did not even have any injuries, nor did he look like he was in a pathetic state.

As for those 11 corpses, they looked a little ghastly.

"Chen Wudi" said without opening his eyes, "Everyone, your journey ends here. It's time for you all to get some rest."

His voice was calm like water in an ancient well; there were no ripples at all. Or rather, he felt more like a god from the heavens who had abandoned mortal feelings ever since he was born.

#### **Chapter 754 He's only master to one person**

Vanilla and the others had never seen Chen Wudi before, so they wouldn't know it even when they saw him. However, the corpses of those 11 people left them a little bewildered.

After all, these 11 people had killed their way in, and not even the hundreds of Pyro Company combatants could stop them. Yet they all died at the hands of the same person.

If it were Vanilla and Cheng Yu, they had absolutely no confidence they could take out the Pyro Company's last line of defense unscathed, even if the Pyro Company had very few combatants left in the Sacred Mountains.

But when Vanilla looked at Li Shentan, Ren Xiaosu, Yang Xiaojin, Luo Lan, and the others, it was as though they all knew the young man in front of them and were already aware the other party would appear here.

“Who is that person?” Cheng Yu asked softly.

No one answered him. Instead, it was Li Shentan who took the initiative to speak to “Chen Wudi” who was across him. He said with a smile, “I’m very curious. It seems that these 11 people on the ground were very familiar with the layout of this place. Could an internal conflict have arisen among your Pyro Company?”

“Chen Wudi” said, “There’s no need for you to worry about our affairs. Rather, you should think about your own situation first.”

“Chen Wudi” opened his eyes as he spoke and looked at Li Shentan. Then, he swept his gaze across everyone present. Ren Xiaosu stared intently at “Chen Wudi,” but “Chen Wudi’s” gaze did not linger on him at all.

Ren Xiaosu finally sighed in his head. This was not Chen Wudi, and he did not even have Chen Wudi’s memories. All he possessed was Chen Wudi’s DNA.

Right, no matter how good the Pyro Company’s cloning technology was, they couldn’t possibly copy over memories as well. Therefore, all the other party had was Chen Wudi’s appearance. But Ren Xiaosu could not figure out one thing. Chen Wudi had clearly awoken his superpowers due to his delusions by imagining he was the reincarnation of the Great Sage.

Meanwhile, Chen Wudi’s clone, who was standing across them, was clearly a normal person, so why did he also have the same powers as Chen Wudi?

What other strange technology did the Pyro Company still possess?

Vanilla suddenly asked, “Are you the Pyro Company’s T6 combatant?”

Chen Wudi looked emotionlessly at Vanilla. “There are no T6s in the Pyro Company to begin with. At my level, there is no longer a need for rankings to define my strength. I’m Chen Wudi, the one and only.” However, Li Shentan interrupted, “You’re also called Chen Wudi? That won’t do. You’re using the same name.”

Li Shentan was probably the calmest person among all those who were here. It seemed he was not afraid of the “Chen Wudi” in front of him at all. It was just that he had quietly stood behind Ren Xiaosu at some point. However, “Chen Wudi” said, “Same name? You mean that fool? To save others, he even sacrificed himself in the end. He could have become a real god, but he gave up his life because of mere mortals. He is indeed a fool. From now on, I’ll be the only Chen Wudi in this world.”

“You’d better change your name.”

These words came out abruptly, and Wang Yun and the others looked at Ren Xiaosu in surprise.



The name of Chen Wudi was just like the name of the Demon Whisperer, Li Shentan. As they were the only two demigods in this era of the "Rise of Gods," how could anyone have not heard of it before?

But according to legend, it was no secret that Chen Wudi also had a young master who was on good terms with the Qing Consortium and was acquainted with Zhang Jinglin as well.

But after Chen Wudi's death, his master seemed to have suddenly disappeared from the world and never appeared again. As such, he was gradually forgotten by everyone.

Someone said his master was just someone Chen Wudi had acknowledged by himself, and that Chen Wudi's abilities had nothing to do with his master. So it seemed Chen Wudi's master did not possess any qualities that made others take note of him.

But it was not that Ren Xiaosu did not appear again after that. It was just that most of the enemies who had seen him were dead. Meanwhile, friends who knew about him kept quiet, with the Qing Consortium and Fortress 178 classifying Ren Xiaosu's information as top secret.

When Wang Yun heard Ren Xiaosu suddenly speaking, a flood of memories in his mind that was like an incomplete jigsaw puzzle quickly formed into a complete picture.

The young man in front of him was Chen Wudi's master. Those memories included the wars in the Southwest and Northwest, and a series of other bizarre incidents. However, they were all linked together by this single clue.

It seemed the young man had never appeared in each of those memories before. However, Wang Yun firmly believed the other party must have been there.

That was why Luo Lan treated Ren Xiaosu as his backer while a hidden expert like the Great Hoodwinker would follow his lead. That was the only way those incidents could be made sense of.

Chen Wudi's clone looked at Ren Xiaosu and said, "May I request that you repeat what you just said?"

Ren Xiaosu repeated, "You'd better change your name. You can call yourself Chen Liu'er or Chen Mihou;(1) just don't use the name Chen Wudi."

Chen Wudi's clone did not get angry. He only examined Ren Xiaosu emotionlessly. "I understand now. You must be that fool's master, right? But why can't I be called Chen Wudi?"

"Because you don't deserve the name."

The reason Chen Wudi was Chen Wudi was because he was that ray of light.

It was because of that beam of light that Chen Wudi became the Great Sage of this world.

Only with good cause would there be good effect.

But even though the Pyro Company had cloned the DNA sample, they did not clone the other party's willpower. They had neglected the cause of how superpowers were awoken and directly cloned the outcome instead.

This was something Ren Xiaosu could not accept. That was because Chen Wudi was unique to him. Even the Great Sage that Chen Wudi had imagined could only exist because of that light in him.

‘Since there’s no light in your heart, you aren’t fit to possess all of this. You can willingly change your name. But if you’re still unwilling, then I’ll help you change it.’

Chen Wudi’s clone did not want to waste any more time, so he said calmly, “What you’re obsessing about is just the worries of mortals. Why don’t all of you attack together? Once you’re all dead, you won’t have to worry anymore.”

However, after Chen Wudi’s clone said that, he realized Li Shentan and Ren Xiaosu did not even move.

When everyone else saw Li Shentan and Ren Xiaosu staying still, they also waited for the others to make a move first.

“Chen Wudi” asked, “What? Are you afraid now? Death is just a fate that everyone will experience. It’s just that you all will be experiencing it a little sooner than others.”

Li Shentan shook his head and said, “You’re wrong. It’s not that I’m afraid to fight you. Ever since I was diagnosed as a mental patient, I’ve never experienced fear. You kept referring to him as a fool, and since I also came out of the psychiatric hospital, it somehow sounds like you’re scolding me as well. That’s why I’m very tempted to beat you up. Besides, Chen Wudi and I stayed in a psychiatric hospital for several years when we were still in the Southwest, so I consider us to be fellow patients. I’m very unhappy that you’re talking about him like this.”

At this moment, Li Shentan had a glance at the clone and continued saying, “But I don’t want to fight you today. That’s because you can only die at the hands of one person. He will personally put an end to your fate.”

Ren Xiaosu stared intently at the clone in front of him. He hated the Pyro Company to the core.

“Old Xu” walked out from behind a building and gripped a black saber that appeared out of thin air while the same thing happened for Ren Xiaosu.

There was nothing wrong with pursuing science, and neither was there anything wrong with seeking an alternative path of evolution for humans to embark on.

The mistake they made was choosing the wrong person to clone.

Ren Xiaosu was not a saint, nor did he have to consider the future of the world. Whether the Pyro Company was good or bad, it had nothing to do with him. Today, he was only Chen Wudi’s master, and he wanted to protect that ray of light.

## Chapter 755 Manifestation

Holding the saber tightly in hand, White Mask walked towards them step by step with an oppressive aura.

The crowd subconsciously stepped aside for fear of getting dragged in.

Then White Mask came to a stop and stood behind Ren Xiaosu.

Two similar-looking physiques holding two similar black sabers—Ren Xiaosu was filled with killing intent.

Ren Xiaosu stared intently at Chen Liu'er in front of him. He suddenly asked someone next to him, "What day is it today?" The Great Hoodwinker did some calculations on his fingers and smiled, revealing his yellowed teeth. "Today's the ninth day of the new year. It's a day suited for carrying out burials, shifting of coffins, weeding out personnel, and killing people."

Ren Xiaosu nodded. "What a coincidence."

Wang Yun looked over at the Great Hoodwinker. It seemed that neither the Great Hoodwinker nor Ren Xiaosu was surprised by the sudden appearance of White Mask.

But Ren Xiaosu was unaware of the impact his display had on the others.

Before this, Wang Yun thought White Mask was just Ren Xiaosu's friend and comrade. In Wang Yun's eyes, they were two different individuals who worked for the same organization, and all they shared was a common objective and goal.

Meanwhile, Cheng Yu simply thought Ren Xiaosu was just White Mask's assistant. But now, all of those speculations were overturned.

There might be someone who possessed two different superpowers in this world, but there could absolutely be no two people with the same superpower. Even if they were of the same elemental type, their powers would still be different.

However, Ren Xiaosu was the only exception in this world. He could have what the others had, but he could also have what the others did not have.

When Ren Xiaosu and White Mask conjured their black sabers out of thin air at the same time, Wang Yun and the others immediately understood. So it turned out the renowned White Mask was only a manifestation of Ren Xiaosu's superpower. It was no wonder White Mask appeared so often wherever Ren Xiaosu was. During the disaster at Stronghold 74 and the chaotic battle in Luoyang City, Ren Xiaosu had fought alongside White Mask.

Wang Yun thought White Mask was an extremely close friend of Ren Xiaosu's, but it turned out they were actually the same person.

The truth of this matter upended Wang Yun's understanding. That was because White Mask was way too powerful.

When Wang Yun fought the T5 combatant, he needed to join hands with Cheng Yu to do so. Even if he had joined forces with everyone, he would still have gotten slashed by the T5 combatant to the point of still being injured. However, White Mask was able to go head-to-head with a T5 combatant and kill him.

The afternoon sun was glaring and heavy, the mountain peaks in the distance stood tall as knives, and the young man exuded a magnificent aura about him.

White Mask stood diagonally behind Ren Xiaosu. The stance they had when carrying the saber was exactly the same. White Mask... looked just like Ren Xiaosu's shadow.

But this was a shadow that could kill. Chen Liu'er sized up both Ren Xiaosu and White Mask calmly. "Only the two of you? That's not nearly enough."

But Ren Xiaosu ignored him and said to Luo Lan, Li Shentan, and Yang Xiaojin instead, "Luo Lan, Xiaojin, you two know why I'm here. Don't worry about me. If the person captured by the Pyro Company is really the one I'm looking for, please help me rescue him."

Yan Liuyuan was probably still inside the Pyro Company's building right now. Once Ren Xiaosu engaged in battle here, others with ulterior motives would definitely take the opportunity to move in. Ren Xiaosu only asked Luo Lan and the others to save Yan Liuyuan because he did not want the battle to delay the rescue.

Luo Lan looked at Chen Liu'er, then at Ren Xiaosu. He had wanted to stay behind to help Ren Xiaosu fight, but it seemed like it was really as Li Shentan had said. Ren Xiaosu was planning to end everything by himself.

Someone on the team had already taken advantage of this confrontation between Chen Liu'er and Ren Xiaosu to quietly run off towards the building behind them.

Ren Xiaosu and Chen Liu'er's survival had nothing to do with them. They were only here to capture the No. 001 Experimental. So they couldn't wish more for those two to kill each other.

Chen Liu'er stood still. It was as though he did not see those people slipping off into the building. He suddenly said, "Mortals always care only about what they see in front of them. They think that as long as they can get into the building, they can get what they're after. But they've never thought there'd only be death waiting for them in there."

In other words, he meant that other dangers were lurking in the building, so those people were running to their deaths by going in.

However, Chen Liu'er's condescending attitude left everyone disgusted.

Perhaps Chen Liu'er was representing a group of supernatural beings who had already drawn a line between themselves and normal people.

Li Shentan could not bear to hear someone talking to him in such a tone. So he raised an eyebrow and said to Ren Xiaosu, "We'll head in first then. Hurry up and kill him. It's so uncomfortable to hear him speak."

With that, he completely ignored Chen Liu'er's words and walked straight into the building.

Yang Xiaojin looked at Ren Xiaosu but did not say anything Vanilla had intended to stay behind and watch the battle, but what was in the building was still much more important.

When everyone else had gone into the building, Ren Xiaosu's aura suddenly got even more oppressive.

Chen Liu'er looked at Ren Xiaosu who remained behind and asked, "I've always been very curious about something. Why do you all seem to care so much for that fool?"

But Ren Xiaosu did not intend to answer his question at this moment.

White Mask walked in front of Ren Xiaosu from behind, and the two of them gripped their black sabers with both hands at the same time.

Yang Xiaojin once mentioned that after humans had undergone some training, even a simple breathing technique could be used to give themselves a psychological suggestion and allow their bodies to reach a state that was most suitable for killing.

Ren Xiaosu had tried before, and he managed to do it as well.

But later, he realized he did not even need to go through all that trouble.

It seemed that ever since he was born, he possessed an extraordinary talent. As long as he wanted to do something, his body would be ready to serve his will.

If mental strength was the highest caliber of weapon humanity had, Ren Xiaosu would have been holding this weapon in his hands from the moment he was born.

In an instant, Ren Xiaosu and White Mask charged over like two highly coordinated machines.

Looking at Chen Liu'er before him, Ren Xiaosu felt like a fire had been stoked in him.

Chen Liu'er raised his Golden-Hooped Rod and held it out in front of him. At the same time, he nonchalantly blocked the saber attacks from Ren Xiaosu and White Mask.

He thought he could easily block the attack. But to his surprise, when White Mask and Ren Xiaosu's sabers simultaneously landed on the Golden-Hooped Rod, the unstoppable force pushed Chen Liu'er backwards.

Sparks were sent flying. Chen Liu'er finally steadied himself and looked at the Golden-Hooped Rod in his hand. There were two obvious cuts etched deeply into it.

The Pyro Company had used many methods to test the strength of the Golden-Hooped Rod. When the Golden-Hooped Rod was placed into a cutting machine, the machine broke. Then they used a hydraulic press and pitted it against the Golden-Hooped Rod, but that broke apart too.

Just as everyone thought the Golden-Hooped Rod was impervious to damage, someone actually managed to leave a half-centimeter cut on it with a slash.

“Interesting,” Chen Liu’er said.

But he was unaware that Ren Xiaosu was also a little surprised. After all, this was the first time the black saber had failed to cut through something. In the past, the black saber could even cut through a T5 combatant’s body like it was tofu. But now, it could not even cut through the Golden-Hooped Rod successfully.

However, Ren Xiaosu started laughing instead. “My disciple is indeed powerful.”

The more powerful Chen Liu’er was, the prouder Ren Xiaosu was of Chen Wudi. That was because everything Chen Liu’er possessed was bestowed upon him by Chen Wudi. If Chen Liu’er was powerful, then Chen Wudi would only be stronger!

This was the kind of strength the Great Sage of Heaven should possess!

Chen Liu’er could not understand what Ren Xiaosu was laughing about. He looked at the cut made on the Golden-Hooped Rod and said, “But I’ve also discovered your secret. White Mask is much stronger than you are. However, neither of you are as strong as me.”

There were two cuts on the Golden-Hooped Rod, and the one made by White Mask was clearly stronger than Ren Xiaosu’s slash. So Chen Liu’er immediately understood Ren Xiaosu was not as strong as White Mask. But Ren Xiaosu did not feel embarrassed that he had been exposed. Instead, he and White Mask gripped their sabers with both hands again. He said seriously, “Even though you’re full of strength, you don’t understand that it isn’t strength that determines how strong humans are.”

Chen Liu’er wondered, “Then what is it determined by?”

“The courage to go all out and the will to never yield, both of which you don’t possess. What you have is only an incomplete soul.”

Zhang Jinglin once said that life should be a candle, burning brightly from wick to end.

Li Yingyun mentioned before that only faith, the sun, and the moon were eternal.

And Jiang Xu also said he would not regret reporting the truth even if he had to die a 1,000 times.

How did mankind manage to survive the previous disaster? Was it because of supernatural beings? No, they did not exist at that time yet.

Therefore, it was definitely not superpowers that supported humanity til this day but the undying spirit of the pioneers magnificently displayed throughout history. Ren Xiaosu and Old Xu raised their sabers again and started slashing at Chen Liu'er. Every attack they threw out was for Chen Wudi's sake, to prove that in the face of scientific ethics, humans would be the bearers of history, not clones. Perhaps everything in this world could be cloned, except heroes!

He and Old Xu kept circling around Chen Liu'er like two swirling dragons joining hands in battle.

Alternating their attacks, Ren Xiaosu and Old Xu's coordination was flawless as they worked together to kill their enemy.

Chen Liu'er kept his composure and focused on Ren Xiaosu and White Mask as he blocked their attacks with his Golden-Hooped Rod every time. "Is that all you can muster?"

But when Chen Liu'er saw Ren Xiaosu smirk, he immediately looked at his Golden-Hooped Rod. Only then did he realize that no matter which angle White Mask was attacking from, it was always to force Chen Liu'er into a position where Ren Xiaosu could strike at the same spot with every slash!

He could see his Golden-Hooped Rod was close to breaking!

When Chen Liu'er realized Ren Xiaosu's intent, he quickly tried to adjust the position of his grip of the Golden-Hooped Rod. But it was too late. The black saber slashed across in front of him.

Behind the saber, Chen Liu'er saw Ren Xiaosu's cold gaze align with the blade's edge. He realized he was in a perilous situation!

The blade connected with the Golden-Hooped Rod again. It was as though it slashed down at an endless abyss and allowed light to seep in through the gap! 'Wudi, can you see it? If you can still see this, watch how Master protects this ray of light.'

"Do you think you're worthy of wearing the golden circlet? Do you think you're worthy of holding this Golden-Hooped Rod?! Have you been to the Western Paradise before? You've never!"

'You're just a thief who stole my disciple's DNA. You're nothing but a thief.'

The black saber was like a scalpel in Ren Xiaosu's hand, accurately landing on the cut in the Golden-Hooped Rod again!

The Golden-Hooped Rod broke into two!

The Golden-Hooped Rod the Pyro Company had spent so much effort trying just to scratch was broken in half!

Chen Liu'er fell silent as he looked at the rod in his hands that had been split in two.

Ren Xiaosu glared at him and said, "Let me correct you again. He's not a fool, and you aren't qualified to talk about him with me."

"He's just a fool nobody acknowledges. Does anyone he has helped feel grateful to him?" Chen Liu'er asked.

Ren Xiaosu looked at Chen Liu'er. "How could you possibly understand human emotions?"

Chen Liu'er seemed to become more serious. "You still haven't answered my question."

Ren Xiaosu said coldly, "What's there to answer? If a good person doesn't get acknowledged by people, it's the world that's wrong. It isn't his fault!" What wrong had Chen Wudi done? All he wanted was to be a good person.

Looking at this devastated world and era, the wrath in Ren Xiaosu's heart burnt even fiercer.

If this world and era could not accommodate good people, if it could not accommodate Chen Wudi, then it should just perish.

"You're speaking too soon." Chen Liu'er threw his broken weapon to the ground without a care and the two broken rods landed with a loud clang. "I always found this thing to be a little cumbersome. But it's all good now. I have to thank you for breaking it for me so that I'm not bound by it. To express my gratitude, I'll send you to meet that fool." With that, Chen Liu'er's golden chain mail materialized out of thin air. His phoenix-feather cap looked very magnificent as well.

"Did your disciple have these?" Chen Liu'er asked with a laugh.

Ren Xiaosu shook his head. "Compared to him, you're still a long way off."

On that day, Chen Wudi transformed into the Great Sage and fought his way to victory to save his master. His phoenix-feather cap that had materialized on his head had two striped feathers that pointed upward to the sky, forming a connection with the clouds. His golden armor that had appeared out of thin air as well glowed golden like the burning sun competing for glory with the Heavens.

When Wudi shouted "Sky Breaker" back then, even the vault of heaven had to give way.

How could a fake compare to Chen Wudi in all of this?

Chen Liu'er sneered, "Think before you speak!" Then he plucked a handful of hairs from the back of his head and blew them into the wind. "Come on out, my little monkeys!"

Ren Xiaosu saw countless hairs fluttering into the wind. In the blink of an eye, they turned into ferocious armored monkeys with sharp fangs.

Chen Liu'er laughed, "Did your disciple have such a technique?"

But something unexpected happened. After those hundreds of monkeys appeared and landed on the ground, they did not follow Chen Liu'er's wish to fight Ren Xiaosu. Instead, they suddenly knelt down in worship at the building behind Chen Liu'er!

They were like extremely devoted believers, and their faces were full of grief. As though someone had sighed in the building, everyone heard something in their heads.

After kowtowing repeatedly, the monkeys burst into tears and vanished into the wind. The clouds in the sky parted and a rainbow emerged!

Chen Liu'er immediately turned around. Why did his monkeys kowtow in a direction away from him? What could possibly be there?!



Ren Xiaosu started laughing so hard that he nearly cried. Only he knew... that was where Chen Wudi was. Si Liren was in that building, and she happened to be carrying Chen Wudi!

'Wudi, you're still around, right? Wudi, can you see Master right now?'

At this moment, Li Shentan had just arrived on the first floor of the building when the box behind Si Liren suddenly emitted a rainbow glow. Before Li Shentan could get excited, the glow faded away again.

The hope in Ren Xiaosu's heart also dimmed for a moment, but only for a moment.

"Master will kill this Six-Eared Macaque on your behalf." Ren Xiaosu did not have any regrets. Even if Wudi had only shown his brilliance for a moment, it was enough to put him at ease. At the very least, Li Shentan had not lied to him. Wudi was really still alive.

Chen Liu'er was feeling unsettled. Ren Xiaosu laughed maniacally and said proudly, "Did you see that? That's the real Great Sage while you're only the Six-Eared Macaque. What's real can't be faked, and what's fake can't take the place of the real. What did I say just now? You're nothing compared to him!"

'It's a good day today. It's suited for carrying out burials and killing people!'

As he spoke, Ren Xiaosu slashed at Chen Liu'er's golden armor with his saber and forcefully cut through it, leaving a deep and bloody wound on his chest.

If Chen Liu'er had not lost his composure, Ren Xiaosu would probably have a tough and extended battle on hand if he wanted to kill the other party. However, with the manifestation of Chen Wudi's presence, Chen Liu'er got flustered.

Although Chen Liu'er kept saying Chen Wudi was just a fool, he knew deep inside that he was only a clone of that person.

Ren Xiaosu felt that facing battle was definitely not the worst fear for a clone like this but instead the moment he felt ashamed of his own inferiority in the presence of his progenitor.

Chen Liu'er could no longer remain calm. He turned his head and said to Ren Xiaosu ferociously, "So what if he's still alive? After I kill you, he will be next. Then you and your disciple will be reunited on the road to the Underworld..."

Before he finished talking, Chen Liu'er launched a sneak attack. He crouched down and kicked Old Xu aside. Using the momentum, he charged straight at Ren Xiaosu.

But before Chen Liu'er could get close to Ren Xiaosu, he noticed Ren Xiaosu had made a strange move.

Ren Xiaosu took out an ear pick from somewhere and started picking his ear!

Chen Liu'er did not dwell on it and threw a heavy punch straight at Ren Xiaosu's face. However, that punch was completely stopped by an invisible force 30 centimeters away from Ren Xiaosu!

Ren Xiaosu threw his head back and laughed. "I'm giving you a chance by picking my ears, but it looks like you're useless."

Ren Xiaosu was messing with him. It felt like he was trying to humiliate Chen Liu'er by standing there and picking his ear, letting the monster who was one foot away bare its fangs and brandish its claws at

him threateningly. No matter how hard this monster tried to punch or kick at him, it was all but a futile attempt. "Liu'er, do you understand now?" Ren Xiaosu stopped laughing and said in a serious tone, "This is all that the so-called gods you were referring to can do. Let me ask you one last time: Do you know the difference between you and him?"

Chen Liu'er was going absolutely crazy. He even felt a little despair. He could not figure out Ren Xiaosu's power. No matter how hard he tried, he was unable to break through that transparent barrier.

It was like a child fighting an adult. He had already lost before the other party even made a move. This feeling was akin to being roasted on a fire. It was so painful he would rather die.

So it turned out that his strength he was most confident about was not even worth mentioning!

At this moment, Wang Yun, who was upstairs, took the time to look down through the windows of the building. He saw Ren Xiaosu picking his ears in front of Chen Liu'er who could not do anything about it. Chen Liu'er's punches and kicks could even shake the ground, but the young man just held his saber and did not budge. This devastated Chen Liu'er.

The sight was so shocking it rendered Wang Yun speechless. His impression of Ren Xiaosu reached unfathomable levels!

He could not understand something. Didn't they say there were only two demigods in the era of the "Rise of Gods"? How on earth did they miss out on the real god?! In truth, Ren Xiaosu did not display his combat prowess at all. However, the impression he gave when he picked his ears was way too terrifying! Who would pick their ears in the middle of a fight? Could you show some respect to your opponent, please?!

Chen Liu'er stopped attacking. He asked while panting heavily, "Who on earth are you?! And why are you so strong?"

Ren Xiaosu just smiled. "It's not that I'm strong but that you're too weak. You're not even at 0.01% of my disciple's level."

But Chen Liu'er was not dumb either. "Why are you still picking your ear? I get it now. This is your power, right? But you can't hurt your enemy when you're picking your ear!"

Ren Xiaosu stopped talking. When Chen Liu'er saw his reaction, he laughed even harder. "So that's how it is. You're deliberately mystifying things!"

Chen Liu'er laughed so hard he threw his head back. While laughing, he happened to notice Ren Xiaosu conjure a black sniper rifle out of thin air!

Bang!

After a gunshot from the sniper rifle rang out, Chen Liu'er slowly lowered his head and looked at his chest.

Earlier, Ren Xiaosu had slashed at Chen Liu'er's golden armor with his saber and made a chink in it. And now, a shot from the sniper rifle had blown a hole out of that chink and left a huge, bloody wound within!

Meanwhile, Ren Xiaosu was holding the rifle in one hand while picking his ear with his other.

“Where did your saber go?” Chen Liu’er asked bitterly.

Wasn’t the young man holding a saber just a moment ago? When did it turn into a black sniper rifle?

Chen Liu’er suddenly realized his opponent’s goal for breaking the Golden-Hooped Rod by hitting it repeatedly and making a chink in his golden armor was just so he could open fire at him without anything hindering the bullet’s path.

To be safe, Ren Xiaosu even used a black bullet that cost him a 100 gratitude tokens for a sure kill!

He knew full well that it was still unclear who would emerge victorious in the prolonged battle. That was because Chen Wudi was simply too strong, so even his clone would be strong as well!

However, Ren Xiaosu could kill those ruthless people by himself when he was still living back in town. He had never relied on only brute strength to kill people but used whatever means could be used! Ren Xiaosu had already discovered that his Ear Picking skill could block all kinds of close-range attacks, even if it included melee weapons. But at the same time, Ren Xiaosu was unable to attack others barehanded or with melee weapons either.

However, Ren Xiaosu had a sniper rifle, and it was not a melee weapon! So if he and the enemy were engaged in close combat, he could simply pick his ear and use his sniper rifle concurrently, leaving him invincible.

With the Ear Picking and the black sniper rifle, he would be invincible in close combat.

Besides, his black sniper rifle was extremely lethal too!

The purpose of fighting was not for victory but to kill the enemy.

For some reason, Ren Xiaosu was always able to come up with such strange combinations of powers that were extremely lethal as well. In Ren Xiaosu’s opinion, victory would be meaningless if the enemy did not die.

Chen Liu’er slumped to the ground pathetically and coughed up blood.

Ren Xiaosu looked silently at the building. He did not know where Si Liren had gone with the box, nor could he see through the thick glass.

‘Wudi, did you see it? Master managed to protect that ray of light for you this time. When you return, you’ll see that the ray of light is still there.’

### **Chapter 756 Crisis in the underground**

The battle with Chen Liu’er was within Ren Xiaosu’s expectations, and Li Shentan and Yang Xiaojin had also guessed that such a day would come.

However, they probably had not expected Ren Xiaosu would end this battle so quickly. Yang Xiaojin considered herself to understand Ren Xiaosu the best. She knew full well that even though Ren Xiaosu was very strong, he would still have some difficulties when facing Chen Wudi's clone.

After all, Chen Wudi was way too powerful. So even his clone could crush most superhumans in the world. However, Chen Liu'er was still not mature enough. It had only been a few years since he was cloned. No matter how much the Pyro Company trained and instilled knowledge and ideology into him, he would still have some shortcomings.

Besides, Ren Xiaosu's fighting style was really strange, so most superhumans would be caught off guard if they encountered him. As such, it was only natural he would kill Chen Liu'er.

Moreover, the monkeys Chen Liu'er summoned even revolted.

No, it would be more accurate to say it was Chen Liu'er who had revolted while those monkeys remained loyal to Chen Wudi. As a result, Chen Liu'er was unsettled when he saw that.

The sight of the monkeys kowtowing in Chen Wudi's direction was way too shocking for Chen Liu'er. Although they were created through his powers, they were not under his control. The difference between the real and fake Great Sage was immediately established.

At this moment, Li Shentan muttered to Si Liren in the hallway inside the building, "And I thought they were going to battle for seven days and seven nights. That would've been so satisfying to watch. Then at the moment when my friend was in danger, I would make an appearance and shout, 'Xiaosu, I'm here to save you!' How exciting would that be?"

Si Liren turned her head and glanced at Li Shentan speechlessly. She realized the guy still hadn't had enough of the battle that was going on outside. Of course, Si Liren herself was also hoping for more. Actually, these two spectators hoped the battle would last a bit longer.

After all, it should be an extremely intense fight considering it was a battle between master and "disciple." Only a deathmatch with fists to the flesh would feel satisfying to watch.

'Ren Xiaosu, wasn't that such a lackadaisical battle you fought?'

But Ren Xiaosu would definitely not think that way as he was a very practical person. Although fighting for three days and three nights would ease his hatred, wasn't his ultimate goal still to kill that person?

At this moment, Li Shentan heard someone exclaim in front of him. He and Si Liren had been walking at the back of the group while Vanilla and the others had already passed through the hallway and arrived in the main lobby. The entire building was 15 stories tall. Such a building could easily be considered a landmark even in the strongholds. In the wilderness of the Sacred Mountains, it stood out and was especially eye-catching.

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But when they went upstairs, they realized there was actually nothing there at all. It was even Luo Lan who discovered an entrance to the basement of the building first. Only then did the others follow and head down as well.

The style of the basement was clearly different from that of the upper floors. The upper floors were just like a traditional office building, with partitions separating each desk into cubicles. There was nothing strange about it.

But it became strange in the basement. The main door was an alloy gate that required a password to be entered before passing through.

However, this alloy gate was already open and did not pose any obstacle to anyone.

When Luo Lan switched on the lights at the end of the hallway, the group let out a scream.

The hall was filled with transparent birthing chambers. Everyone could see the “clones” asleep in their chambers through the glass.

Wang Yun stood in front of a birthing chamber and said, “I’ve seen a few of these people before. The third one on the left is a superhuman from our Kong Consortium. I didn’t know we actually lost a DNA sample.”

When Wang Yun said this, he still withheld something from the rest. Actually, he could recognize a lot of the clones here from his memory, and he knew the backgrounds of half of them. Based on his memory, the faces of these clones all belonged to superhumans. In other words, it meant these birthing chambers were all filled with superhumans.

Seeing the dozens of birthing chambers in the basement lobby, it seemed the Pyro Company had really succeeded in obtaining a lot of DNA samples over the years.

While Wang Yun was pondering this, someone else nearby, who was also examining the birth chambers, suddenly yelled. The person fell to the ground in fright and even retreated in a flurry.

Everyone looked over and was surprised to see a superhuman’s clone in the birthing chamber across that person had opened its eyes!

The sound of glass shattering rang out through the lobby. The nutritional fluid in the birthing chambers started pouring out through the cracks. In an instant, the floor of the lobby was flooded with the fluid, which reached ankle height.

Li Shentan helplessly lowered his head to have a look. Then he looked at Si Liren. “Being able to fly is way better. My shoes are ruined.”

The clones started walking out of their birthing chambers one by one. Their limbs were slightly stiff and they did not have any expressions on their faces. It looked extremely eerie and terrifying.

Luo Lan slowly retreated. As he did so, he said to Zhou Qi, “The floor is flooded with water, so this can be considered your home turf. Hurry up and kill them.”

Zhou Qi rolled his eyes. “There’s a few dozen of them here. If they’re all superhumans, not even ten of me will be a match for them.”

“You still gotta come up with something.” Luo Lan said anxiously, “I just saw a superhuman from the Li Consortium that had a grudge with me. Do you think his clone will have the same memories? Will he be seething with anger when he sees me? Wait, look over there, there’s two others from the Li Consortium as well. Oh no, they’ve outnumbered us!”

As the conflict between the Qing Consortium and the Li Consortium was not something new, quite a few of the Li Consortium’s supernatural beings had a feud with Luo Lan.

But what was with the Li Consortium!? They actually had that many DNA samples stolen by the Pyro Company?

But as they were panicking, they heard Li Shentan shouting at the clones that had walked out of their birthing chambers, “Hey, look over here!”

The smart ones like Luo Lan quickly looked away. It was obvious Li Shentan was about to hypnotize people again.

It would be really stupid to look at Li Shentan at this moment. Those who did might as well have offered their lives to him. Of all those present, not too many could resist Li Shentan’s hypnosis. Once they got hypnotized, whether they could walk out of this place alive would have to depend on Li Shentan’s mood.

But the clones were unaware of this. So when Li Shentan spoke, all of them looked at him. Li Shentan clapped his hands three times and said, “Everyone, the moment you saw me clapping my hands three times, you surrendered your consciousness to me. Obey my orders now and return to your birthing chambers. When I’m done with my other affairs, I’ll come back to deal with you again.” After that, the clones really went back inside their birthing chambers!

Luo Lan was dumbfounded by what he saw. He was thinking that if he had Li Shentan’s power, would he still need to be afraid of anyone? Just by controlling several dozen supernatural beings, he would be invincible!

He quickly said to Li Shentan, “Since you can control them, why don’t you get them to scout ahead for us?”

Li Shentan shook his head. “You’re all too nervous. These clones don’t have any superpowers, so I don’t know why you guys are so afraid.”

Luo Lan was taken aback. “They don’t have any superpowers?”

Then how on earth did the Pyro Company manage to awaken the superpowers of Chen Liu’er and Li Shentan’s clone?

**Chapter 757 The clone at the end**

There were all sorts of doubts about Chen Liu'er and Li Shentan's clone. Most importantly, nobody could understand why the Pyro Company did not implement cloning on a large scale even though they had the means to awaken the superpowers of their superhumans' clones.

After hearing Luo Lan's doubts, Li Shentan said with a smile, "There's no point in wondering about that now. We might as well continue heading downstairs. I feel that the answer is probably waiting for us up ahead." With that, Li Shentan led the way forward. Li Shentan and the others who were acquainted with Ren Xiaosu had formed a small clique naturally.

Regardless of where the others might be from, Luo Lan and Zhou Qi subconsciously chose to stick with them. With their connection to Ren Xiaosu, at least they could be sure that no one would sabotage one another in this group.

Li Shentan looked at Yang Xiaojin and said, "Y'know, I've had quite a hand in your reunion no matter what you think. Can you tell me what happened after you chased him down?" At first, Yang Xiaojin thought Li Shentan was going to say something serious. But after all that talk, he was actually trying to ask about some gossip. But Yang Xiaojin realized Luo Lan's and the others' eyes were shimmering. It looked like they were also very interested in hearing about it.

Zhou Yingxue, who was standing off to the side, said disdainfully, "Why is a group of men trying to poke their noses into my master and madam's private matters?"

Luo Lan felt jealous. Why couldn't he have a maidservant like her too?

Li Shentan realized the clones in the basement level were seemingly the only ones, and they were not even fully developed yet. Logically speaking, there should be more secrets hidden in this building. When they walked to the end of the basement, two alloy doors on the ground in front of them suddenly opened and revealed a staircase leading down. Luo Lan and the others looked at each other. The doors opening at this moment made it feel like someone was waiting for them to step into a trap.

However, Li Shentan nonchalantly walked down the stairs. "There's nothing to be afraid of. If the Pyro Company really had any more strength to kill us, they would probably have already done so."

When Luo Lan and the others saw Li Shentan walking down, they also braced themselves and followed right behind.

After the incident with the birthing chambers, Vanilla's group had fallen to the back of the group. They thought that even if there were any further danger, it would be Li Shentan facing it first.

But when the Great Hoodwinker, who was the last person in Luo Lan's group, stepped into the stairway, the alloy doors on the ground closed again.

That was to say, only Li Shentan, Si Liren, Yang Xiaojin, Luo Lan, Zhou Qi, Zhou Yingxue, and the Great Hoodwinker had entered this underground tunnel. The rest had been locked outside!

Luo Lan immediately panicked. "What the fuck? Are they trapping us in to destroy us?"

Li Shentan sighed and said, "You're still in the mood to scold yourself at a time like this? You may insult yourself, but don't drag us in with you."

"Ahem, my bad." Luo Lan said, "But why did they only lock just us in? This is obviously someone's doing."

After he uttered those words, lights on both sides of the staircase suddenly lit up. The technologically advanced walls and lights made them feel less threatened. At the end of the stairs, someone said, "Because only you can listen to what I'm about to say."

Li Shentan's interest was piqued. "I like this feeling of getting special treatment!"

Yang Xiaojin suddenly realized Luo Lan and Zhou Qi looked stunned.

They were stunned because the voice at the end of the stairs sounded so familiar!

This time, it was Luo Lan who walked to the front. He walked down the long stretch of steps and looked at the familiar young man in a white suit in front of him. "You're my brother's clone?"

The clone, who was standing in front of him bearing the same face as Qing Zhen, nodded with a smile. "That's right. I was 'born' a year ago and spent three months in the birthing chamber before growing rapidly to my current state."

"Where did they get his DNA sample from?" Luo Lan said worriedly.

"On the day he became the Qing Consortium's head, he walked barefooted on that long mountain path. Even the snow was painted red with his blood, so it wasn't exactly difficult to obtain his DNA sample. By the way, let me introduce myself. My name is Qing Shen," Qing Shen[1] explained.

Just one character difference in their names made their pronunciation completely different. [2]

But everything that was happening here was well beyond everyone's expectations. They had wondered who the Pyro Company would clone, but they never thought Qing Zhen would be one of them, because Qing Zhen was not a supernatural being!

Others might still have doubts about that, but Luo Lan was quite sure his brother was really not a supernatural being.

Qing Shen looked at Luo Lan and seemed to have guessed what he was thinking. "Among those the Pyro Company obtained DNA samples from, Qing Zhen is indeed the only regular person. The Pyro Company had never suspected he was a supernatural being either. Ever since they started cloning, they only sought to create a leader for the Pyro Company."

The Pyro Company really believed in the path they had taken. They firmly believed they could use genetics to change the future of humanity to create a better world and society.

If they only sought to change others, it would be a hypocritical excuse for their deeds. So they started changing from within.



Not only did they create those supernatural beings and Neo-Humans, they even chose a charismatic and intelligent leader to lead them.

During this period, they had considered a lot of candidates. In the end, they chose Qing Zhen and obtained his DNA sample.

The Pyro Company had dealt with many enemies before, but they would only feel a sense of helplessness when facing Qing Zhen. It seemed that Qing Zhen was able to anticipate all their plans.

This might sound crazy to normal people, but the chief scientists of the Pyro Company were not normal to begin with.

They were not trying to create their own army but a leader for themselves!

Luo Lan's eyes narrowed. He said, "Then what is it you want to tell us?"

If Ren Xiaosu could kill Chen Liu'er for Chen Wudi, Luo Lan could also start a killing spree and eliminate any potential threats for Qing Zhen.

Qing Shen explained with a smile, "Don't get anxious yet. It's like this: The Pyro Company wanted me to be as similar to Qing Zhen as possible by gathering all of his relevant information so I could learn how to be him. They were hoping I could become someone like Qing Zhen one day. However, a group of people within the Pyro Company were against this. They were unwilling to hand over authority to a clone like me. So I was being confined here by this group. Those 11 people who died outside just now actually came here to save me." "What are you trying to say?" Luo Lan frowned puzzledly. "Bring me to the Qing Consortium," Qing Shen said in a serious tone.

Luo Lan asked, "Why?"

"Because Qing Zhen and I both know what the Qing Consortium will face in the future, and he will need me in his plan." Qing Shen said, "In the process of studying Qing Zhen, I was always able to feel that I was just his clone. I wanted to surpass Qing Zhen, but I couldn't do it. Slowly, I started to admire him. Sometimes, I even feel that the purpose of my 'birth' might be to help him complete his plan. Bring me to him, and he'll plan everything."

Chapter 758 Blood of God

The clones of Chen Wudi and Li Shentan had kept trying to prove they could surpass their original selves or even sought to replace them. But Qing Zhen's clone was really strange. He was actually willing to become a part of Qing Zhen's plans after learning about him.

Honestly, even Luo Lan might not know about all of Qing Zhen's plans, but Qing Shen seemed to know a lot. Was it because Qing Shen was special? Or was the special one Qing Zhen? This feeling was just like how the Pyro Company had worked so hard to create a leader for themselves, only to realize they had actually helped Qing Zhen.

Perhaps it was precisely because of something Qing Shen had expressed that caused him to be placed under house arrest here.

However, Luo Lan understood the Pyro Company's reaction. Even if the Pyro Company were all scientists who were willing to dedicate themselves to science, some would still prefer holding onto power themselves rather than hand it over to a "leader" they created.

Therefore, differences had arisen a long time ago within the ranks of the Pyro Company, and they were no longer united. One side supported this plan while the other did not. The two sides even had a violent clash over this matter, but the rest of the world was unaware of it. Luo Lan looked at Qing Shen and said, "How do I know if this is part of your plan?" In response, Qing Shen took out a fruit knife and made a cut on the back of his hand. "Take this as my mark. With it, you won't confuse me with Qing Zhen. Besides, you guys should've already noticed that the clones are actually inferior to their progenitors. Surely you should have confidence in him, right? As long as he knows of my existence, I won't stand a chance."

Qing Shen's blood was dripping profusely onto the ground from his hand. It was utterly silent in this underground space.

Luo Lan pondered what Qing Shen had said and analyzed every detail.

In fact, he agreed with what Qing Shen said. Once Qing Shen was at the Qing Consortium's territory, it would be impossible for him to outwit his younger brother, Qing Zhen.

Everyone got rather emotional. Was Qing Zhen so charismatic he could even conquer his own clone? This was a little too bizarre.

In the end, Luo Lan said coldly, "I'll bring you back to the Qing Consortium, but it's up to my brother what we do with you. Think about it carefully. If he wants to kill you then, not even the Heavens can stop him."

Qing Shen smiled and said, "That won't happen. He'll firmly grasp everything he can make use of."

"So that's why you only allowed our group in because you wanted to talk about this?" Luo Lan wondered.

"Yes, all of you here are able to keep secrets, and Qing Zhen's plans have no conflict of interest with you," Qing Shen said.

Luo Lan waved him off impatiently. "As if you can guess what my brother's plans are! Stop talking about this. The outcome of your survival when we get back to the Qing Consortium is another matter altogether."

Qing Shen smiled and said nothing else.

In truth, Luo Lan was quite unhappy with the clone. Qing Shen looked just like his younger brother, but similar to how Ren Xiaosu hated Chen Liu'er, there was also no reason for his dislike of Qing Shen. He

just felt that this clone had stolen something from Qing Zhen. So it was difficult for Luo Lan to have a good impression of him.

However, the clone did not seem to mind Luo Lan's attitude, or rather, he was willing to accept the disdain.

All of a sudden, Li Shentan asked, "Don't keep talking among yourselves. I still have a mission to do that was entrusted to me by someone. Let me ask you, where's the No. 001 Experimental?"

"The Pyro Company never captured the No. 001 Experimental in the first place." Qing Shen shook his head and said, "From the beginning, it was just a standard operation to capture a superhuman. The Pyro Company found out there was a powerful superhuman in the grasslands, so they sent out some T5 combatants to capture him and obtain his DNA sample. But it suddenly became a rumor that the No. 001 Experimental was captured. However, that superhuman was only a khan in the grasslands."

When everyone heard this, they were stunned. To think that all of them had come all the way out here for the No. 001 Experimental, yet it turned out to be just a big misunderstanding?

The Great Hoodwinker wondered, "Isn't this blunder a little too big? I don't believe the rumor was completely baseless."

"Of course it's not baseless. It's just that someone was deliberately trying to mislead everyone." Qing Shen said, "The Anjing House released false information saying the No. 001 Experimental had been captured because only the secret of the No. 001 Experimental's immortality can arouse the interest of the various consortiums' higher-ups. There's a large number of older, high-ranking members in the Kong Consortium and Zhou Consortium. Their interest in immortality might even surpass their pursuit of power. After all, achieving immortality would mean they can hold on to power forever."

"So you mean to say this was not the Pyro Company's trap but bait by the Anjing House?" The Great Hoodwinker muttered. His mind was already working quickly as he considered the rationale behind this.

Qing Shen continued, "The Anjing House attracted the various consortiums' superhumans over here because they wanted to eliminate potential threats in order to facilitate the Wang Consortium's future plans. Even if the Pyro Company makes a clarification at this time, the various consortiums will not believe it. Besides, the Pyro Company won't want to clear up the rumor either. They'd rather have these superhumans come stumbling right into their net. So the boss of the Anjing House already predicted all of this. She knows the Pyro Company will definitely work together with her to put on a good show, so she's not afraid of getting exposed at all."

"Is that all?" The Great Hoodwinker asked doubtfully.

"Also," Qing Shen said with a smile, "they might come up with further bait, but I can only tell Qing Zhen about it."

Li Shentan was speechless for a long time. To think that Ren Xiaosu had asked them to find the No. 001 Experimental on his behalf, but it actually turned out to just be bait in the end. The No. 001 Experimental was not here at all. Then would Ren Xiaosu be very disappointed if he told him about this?

Li Shentan looked at Qing Shen. "I have another question. Since the Pyro Company has the means to awaken the superpowers of their clones, why didn't they use it on a wider scale?"

"Because they only have three chances to do so," Qing Shen said.

Luo Lan realized they could learn a lot about the secrets of the Pyro Company with Qing Shen around.

They listened to Qing Shen explain, "These three chances are extremely precious, so they must choose the clones of the most powerful superhumans to use it on. One of them is Li Shentan, and the other is Chen Wudi. They even went to the Northwest to look for the DNA sample of the Stronghold Destroyer. However, he seemed to have evaporated into thin air and was nowhere to be found, so they went to the Northern Plains instead to capture someone else as the third candidate for cloning."

Li Shentan nodded. "They've got a rather good eye."

Yang Xiaojin shot him a glance and suddenly turned to ask Qing Shen, "So what is this method they're using?" "They have three drops of the No. 001 Experimental's blood that was preserved from before The Cataclysm until now." Qing Shen said in a serious tone, "They call it the Blood of God. Although they can't reproduce it, the blood can be used to create pseudo-gods."

Chapter 759 The head of the Anjing House

Were there really gods in this world?

Li Shentan did not think so, even though he was regarded as a demigod by the others.

In Li Shentan's opinion, there were no real gods in this world at all. These "gods" were just some powerful individuals, as they still ate, drank, defecated, urinated, and had normal emotions and feelings like normal people. Other than being better at fighting, they did not have appearances like gods at all.

For example, Chen Liu'er still had to pretend he was indifferent to the world to make himself appear more like a god. In Li Shentan's eyes, that was being surprisingly silly. He wondered how the Pyro Company managed to mislead that fool most of the time.

And now, Qing Shen suddenly claimed it was because of the Blood of God that Chen Liu'er and the other clone were able to awaken their powers. This stunned Li Shentan. Could there really be gods in this world?

He looked at Qing Shen and wondered, "Are you referring to the No. 001 Experimental's blood? It was left behind from before The Cataclysm? Wouldn't the blood deteriorate after such a long time? Back then, the entire world was out of power, right? 99% of all electronic components had been damaged, so how did they manage to preserve it?"

Qing Shen said, "By storing it in an enclosed container, it could remain intact without any preservation measures."

"I don't really believe that." Li Shentan shook his head.

“Then let me start from the beginning.” Qing Shen thought for a moment and said, “This No. 001 Experimental was sent to the Pyro Company for cancer treatment initially. At first, they had no way of treating him. But seeing that he was on the verge of death, the Pyro Company had no choice but to try an untested drug on him. That drug was called TSX001. As a result, something weird happened. A week later, not only did the patient fully recover, but he also turned into an even more powerful Neo-Human.”

“Do you have any information about that?” Luo Lan asked. “If you have the data, we can have a look at it more intuitively.”

“No, the data was destroyed during The Cataclysm. No one even knows how to develop TSX001 anymore. Otherwise, the Pyro Company would not have had to go through so many years of detours.” Qing Shen said, “However, a blood sample of the No. 001 Experimental had been sent to Laboratory 9 before The Cataclysm, and the Pyro Company was able to retrieve it from there several years ago. The strange thing is that despite it being more than 200 years since The Cataclysm, the blood sample has still remained intact in the extremely harsh environment even though it was not protected by any corresponding measures.”

Qing Shen remembered he had read a short passage from the records that were kept. It was a clinical description of the No. 001 Experimental’s condition after being treated with the drug.

According to the passage, the No. 001 Experimental’s eyes had turned into a sea of stars, and he could even switch his eyes between that of a human being and a wild animal in an instant.

Moreover, he started seeing things that were very far away and could hear whatever he wanted to listen in on. He could also alter the thoughts of others and nearly dissipated into consciousness to merge with the world.

But it seemed the No. 001 Experimental managed to stop himself from dissipating before falling into a coma.

Qing Shen thought to himself, ‘How else can a Neo-Human like this be explained other than by describing him as a god?’

“Since the TSX001 drug was effective, why did the rest of the Experimentals turn into monsters instead of being cured?” Luo Lan wondered.

Qing Shen looked at Luo Lan seriously and said, “This is where the No. 001 Experimental is special. It’s precisely because he was the only one who truly completed the transformation that he’s called a god. The reason why the Pyro Company believes their genetic technology can change humanity is because they really created a god with their own hands before!”

But to the Pyro Company’s surprise, even though they had clearly succeeded, the world had played a huge joke on them as a disaster descended.

If it had not been for this disaster, they would have created a brand new world! The No. 001 Experimental was their key to that new world!

However, it did not matter that the No. 001 Experimental had disappeared. The Pyro Company felt that since they could create a No. 001 Experimental, they could just create a second one.

But countless years had been wasted in between. As time went by, the young scientists turned into gray-haired old men in the blink of an eye. However, there seemed to be no end to the path they had embarked on.

The Pyro Company had to admit the No. 001 Experimental was just a fluke and that they were not actually that smart.

Luo Lan curled his lips. "How are we going to find the No. 001 Experimental when we don't even know what he looks like? Even if that person is standing next to you, you might not recognize him."

"Let's go." Qing Shen looked at everyone. "It's starting to get chaotic outside, so it's a good opportunity for us to leave." With that, Qing Shen found a set of clothes and wrapped himself up tightly. It was as though he was afraid of being recognized. Luo Lan pursed his lips. "You're disguised quite well."

Qing Shen smiled and said, "There's too many people who want to kill your brother. Since we share the same appearance, I naturally have to be more cautious."

Luo Lan snapped, "Why do your words piss me off so much?"

"But don't worry, no one can kill him anymore," Qing Shen said with a smile as he opened the door and walked up the stairs.

The people outside had already left the building. They went off to search the other buildings to see if they could find any valuable information.

Wang Yun headed towards one of the buildings that was specially equipped with a power distribution box outside. This meant there were probably some electronic equipment and servers belonging to the Pyro Company stored inside.

But before he could approach, he suddenly saw a black mist float out of that building!

The black mist floating in the air flew enchantingly into the distance. However, it could no longer move after flying for five to six meters.

Wang Yun sneered, "Wang Wenyan, still not coming down? I've finally got you this time!"

During the battle in Luoyang City, Wang Wenyan, as the director of the Wang Consortium's intelligence agency, had killed a large group of people from the Kong and Zhou Consortiums. Now that the other party had appeared here, it must be for some extremely important intelligence, right?

Although other people might not be able to take on Wang Wenyan, Wang Yun's power was a natural nemesis of Wang Wenyan!

Wang Wenyan's power enabled him to turn into a cloud of black mist and pass through any places without hindrance. Even if it was a gap as small as a pinhole, he could still get in and out of a place easily.

Meanwhile, Wang Yun's superpower was to control the air...

The black mist kept changing its shape in midair, but it was unable to break free from the "cage" imposed on it by Wang Yun. A moment later, Wang Wenyan fell to the ground and revealed his true form. A hard drive also fell out of his pocket, and he looked to be in an extremely pathetic state.

Wang Yun sneered and said, "Wang Wenyan, you probably never expected this day would come, right? You'll pay with your life for killing our Kong Consortium's people."

Then Wang Yun picked up the hard drive from the ground and was about to kill Wang Wenyan. But at this moment, more than a dozen small paper cranes descended from the sky. Wang Yun's pupils suddenly contracted and he retreated quickly!

If the head of the Anjing House had personally come here, Wang Yun would definitely not be a match for her!

However, the paper cranes did not attack him. Instead, they turned around and flew away immediately. When Wang Yun turned his head back, Wang Wenyan was nowhere to be seen.

Chapter 760 Three promises

Wang Yun looked uncertain as he stood there. Everything had happened so quickly he could not tell what the other party's intentions were. However, Wang Yun looked at the hard drive in his hand. All else aside, he had snatched this from Wang Wenyan with his own ability.

Wang Wenyan was someone who didn't act if there was no incentive. If he took the effort to come all the way here, the information he was after must be very valuable!

Thinking of this, Wang Yun sighed. He had almost forgotten his original reason for coming to the Sacred Mountains.

Although he was smart, his combat strength was a lot weaker than Ren Xiaosu's and the others'. This left Wang Yun a little unsure of his future plan.

Looking at the hard drive in hand, at least he would have something to answer to the higher-ups when he returned. As for whether he could become the director of the intelligence agency, that would depend on how important the information on this hard drive was.

However, Wang Yun still had some doubts. Wang Wenyan and the head of the Anjing House had given up the hard drive too easily, which made him a little uneasy. He suspected there were some problems with the hard drive.

But just as the Pyro Company had played along with Yang Anjing's plans, she was not worried at all that Wang Yun would discard the hard drive even if there were really something suspicious about it.

Yang Anjing already knew about Wang Yun's situation. If he left the Sacred Mountains empty-handed, he would not only fail to become the director of the intelligence agency, but he would also have to face the pursuit of his two competitors. His life would be in grave danger.

Just as Qing Shen had summarized, the Anjing House had never needed to worry that you would not play along if they wanted you in on the act.

Occasionally, Qing Shen even wondered if the head of the Anjing House was really a woman.

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woman.

Wang Yun looked at the hard drive in his hand. For some reason, he suddenly remembered the Great Hoodwinker's words in this moment of dilemma: the "Prosperous Northwest"!

There was a long silence.

Wang Yun looked towards the mountains in the distance and sighed. He could not possibly betray the Kong Consortium over some words the Great Hoodwinker told him.

He went to look for his subordinates and said, "Come with me. We're leaving the Sacred Mountains now. Let's go home!" With that, he departed from the mountain range without looking back. Whatever else happened in the Sacred Mountains would have nothing to do with him.

His subordinates looked at one another. They suddenly felt as though their director had come to a decision.

Ren Xiaosu did not enter the building after killing Chen Liu'er, because a small paper crane floated in front of him the moment Chen Liu'er died.

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Ren Xiaosu had wanted to catch the paper crane. But when he remembered this paper crane was Yang Xiaojin's aunt's superpower, he pulled back embarrassedly. He even felt a little guilty as he wondered if Yang Anjing had realized he had caught several of her paper cranes.

When that paper crane flew to the back of a building, Ren Xiaosu followed it in deep thought. After turning a corner, Ren Xiaosu suddenly saw a young woman wearing a black combat uniform and a black cap standing in the shadows.

Ren Xiaosu was taken aback. So he had already met Yang Xiaojin's aunt before. Back when he caught that paper crane outside Stronghold 61, she had suddenly appeared in Stronghold 61's town as well.



This made Ren Xiaosu feel even guiltier. So it turned out she was there to capture him that time? However, she did not manage to do so because the storyteller had covered for him.

Yang Anjing stood in the shadow of the building and scrutinized Ren Xiaosu. She asked, "You were the one who caught the paper crane at Stronghold 61's town, right? Where's my paper crane?"

Ren Xiaosu gave an awkward laugh and said, "Hahaha, paper crane? What paper crane?"

"You know who I am." Yang Anjing said in an affirmative tone, "If you didn't, you would've prepared to fight me at any moment. After all, you're one of the most famous people in the supernatural world."

"No, no, I'm not," Ren Xiaosu replied humbly with a hint of shyness.

"You should know that I don't like you." Yang Anjing said, "I arranged for Xiaojin to study at Qinghe University and deliberately kept your whereabouts from her. Actually, you don't have to pretend like you respect me. I know you're definitely unhappy about it."

Ren Xiaosu slowly straightened his back and stopped smiling. "True, I think that what you did was wrong. What she chooses is entirely her own decision. Even if you're her aunt, you shouldn't be interfering."

Yang Anjing laughed and applauded. "This should be the way the Stronghold Destroyer acts."

Ren Xiaosu muttered to himself, "How did I end up becoming the Stronghold Destroyer?" He thought for a moment before saying, "So, Aunt, what are you looking for me for?"

"Your shamelessness in addressing me as aunt does make you a little cuter," Yang Anjing said.

"Just let me know if there is anything I can help with. You're Xiaojin's aunt after all. If you can give us your blessings, that would be the best, of course. I don't wish to put her in a difficult position either." Ren Xiaosu said.

"Alright, I have to leave as well. After this expedition to the Sacred Mountains is over, head to Stronghold 61. If you two help me do three things, I won't object to your relationship." Yang Anjing said, "I don't intend to threaten you, so it's fine even if you don't come."

After that, Yang Anjing turned around and left. Meanwhile, Ren Xiaosu stood where he was and frowned. He wondered what Yang Anjing was planning

Ren Xiaosu's impression of Yang Anjing was no longer that of an elder or woman. Instead, he saw her as a conspirator who played an important role in the power struggle in the Central Plains.

Should he go as she had requested? Ren Xiaosu felt he still had to discuss this with Yang Xiaojin.

At this moment, the entire research base of the Pyro Company seemed to have become a treasure trove. Everyone was tirelessly searching through the various buildings in hopes of digging out valuable information from them.

After Li Shentan and the others joined up with Ren Xiaosu outside, Qing Shen led everyone up a small path and quickly made their way out of the Sacred Mountains.

When Ren Xiaosu did not see Yan Liuyuan around, he asked anxiously, "Where's the No. 001 Experimental?"

But when Luo Lan explained it to Ren Xiaosu, he realized this expedition to the Sacred Mountains was just a ploy by the Anjing House and the Pyro Company.

This left Ren Xiaosu at a loss for words for a while. He had wasted so much time and risked his life to come here only to discover that it had all been a farce.

But he was here to look for Yan Liuyuan. Even if it was a ploy, how dare they delay him from looking for Yan Liuyuan?

In that instant, Ren Xiaosu had an urge to destroy the Sacred Mountains...

Ren Xiaosu looked at Yang Xiaojin and quietly told her about his encounter with Yang Anjing. "Do you think we should go?"

Yang Xiaojin thought for a moment before saying, "It's your decision. You don't have to choose against your conscience because of me. No one can make use of me to threaten you, because I won't change my attitude towards you based on how they treat you." Ren Xiaosu was a little emotional. The more Yang Xiaojin considered his feelings, the more he did not want to put her in a difficult position.