

## A Record 521

### Chapter 521: Followed

A grim look appeared on Luo Qinghai's face as he made a hand seal, and the ball of white light that had lifted up Nan Kemeng split up into five before entering different parts of his body.

The layer of blue ice crystals on his face quickly faded away, and his trembling also ceased.

"Palace Master, what is wrong with Martial Nephew Nan?" the fair-skinned scholar asked.

"This is not the place to talk. Let's find somewhere to settle down first," Luo Qinghai replied with a grim expression, and the Vast Flow Palace cultivators quickly made their way into Wave View City before taking up residence in a quiet inn.

"Meng'er sustained some severe injuries during the prior battle, and in his injured state, he forcibly activated the Frost Crystal Plaque, resulting in the glacial qi within the plaque entering his meridians. If this isn't addressed in a timely fashion, it could harm his cultivation foundation. I have to immediately use a secret technique to treat his condition.

"I'm sure all of you must be tired after that ordeal in the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, so you can all go and rest," Luo Qinghai said to the other Vast Flow Palace cultivators, then made his way into an independent small courtyard behind the inn with Nan Kemeng.

Moments later, a light barrier rose up from within to encompass the entire courtyard.

"Martial Nephew Nan is in good hands with our palace master treating him, so there's no need to be concerned. Let's all go and take a rest," the fair-skinned scholar as he made his way into a nearby courtyard, while the other Vast Flow Palace True Immortals each picked out a courtyard of their own.

However, one of the Golden Immortals among their ranks, an elderly man with a black beard, remained still on the spot for a moment, then made his way into the courtyard that the fair-skinned scholar was staying in.

The fair-skinned scholar was rather surprised to see him, and he asked, "Why aren't you resting, Palace Master Tie?"

"With our cultivation bases, I'm sure that trip was nowhere near enough to tire us out. I came here because I have something to discuss with you, Palace Master Qiu," the elderly man explained as he swept a sleeve through the air to conjure up a light barrier.

The fair-skinned scholar's expression remained unchanged upon seeing this, and he prompted, "Go ahead, Palace Master Tie."

"Pardon my intrusion, but may I ask what rewards you've managed to reap from the Infernal Frost Immortal Palace?" the elderly man asked as he lowered his voice slightly.

"Why do you ask this, Palace Master Tie?" the fair-skinned scholar asked as his brows furrowed slightly.

"For the sake of reaching the High Zenith Palace as soon as possible, none of us were able to gather many treasures or resources on the way there. To make matters worse, we've expended many treasures, so overall, I would say it was a net loss for all of us. Are you willing to return to the sect like this, Palace Master Qiu?"

Out of the Five Extreme Palaces, we are the only two palace masters to have accompanied Grand Palace Master Luo into the Infernal Frost Immortal Palace. The other three haven't said anything, but I'm sure they're not very pleased. Given Grand Palace Master Luo's personality, if another good opportunity arises in the future, he definitely won't call upon the two of us again," the elderly man said in an indignant manner.

"If you have something to say, then please be more direct about it, Palace Master Tie," the fair-skinned scholar urged in an indifferent voice.

"In that case, I'll keep it concise. Even though we haven't reaped many spoils on this trip, that doesn't mean that others haven't," the elderly man said in a meaningful voice as he pointed outside.

"You're referring to that man from earlier?" the fair-skinned scholar asked as he raised an eyebrow.

"That's right. Seeing as he just came out of the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, he must be carrying plenty of precious treasures and resources with him. Even if his luck in the immortal manor was quite lackluster, the entire wealth of a Golden Immortal is still enough to cover our losses," the elderly man said.

A contemplative look appeared on the fair-skinned scholar's face upon hearing this, but he then immediately shook his head as he said, "No, we can't do that. We don't know who that man is, and Grand Palace Master Luo has already told us to leave him be."

"This may come across as a little disrespectful, but of course Grand Palace Master Luo is unwilling to get involved in this matter, considering he's already achieved his objective of securing a High Zenith Pill. In contrast, we're still both completely empty-handed!" the elderly man said.

"How could you say that about Grand Palace Master Luo? Everything that he's doing is for the sake of our Vast Flow Palace's future!" the fair-skinned scholar said in a cold voice.

The elderly man gave a cold harrumph in response. "I have no intention of slandering Grand Palace Master Luo. That man left in quite a hurry after spotting us, so he's definitely not an ally of ours. In that case, he could be an enemy of our sect, so why shouldn't we take advantage of this opportunity to eliminate him?"

"I suppose you're right. The problem is that his cultivation base is unclear, so even if we join forces, we may not be guaranteed to be able to take him down," the fair-skinned scholar mused with a hesitant expression.

An elated look immediately appeared on the elderly man's face upon hearing this, and he said, "Not to worry, Palace Master Qiu."

He swept a sleeve through the air as he spoke, and two bursts of yellow light shot out of his hand, then transformed into a pair of earthy yellow puppets that were giving off formidable auras intermingled with hints of law power fluctuations.

However, both puppets were quite severely damaged, and the auras that were emanating from them were also fluctuating in a rather unsteady fashion.

"These are Golden Immortal Stage puppets!" the fair-skinned scholar exclaimed as a hint of greed flashed through his eyes.

"With these two puppets on our side, I'm sure you'll have no further qualms, right, Palace Master Qiu?" the elderly man chuckled.

"I didn't think you would have such formidable puppets in your possession. With these two puppets on our side, we'll surely be able to take him down," the fair-skinned scholar replied as a decisive look appeared on his face.

Moments later, the two of them slipped silently out of the inn, then flew away into the distance.

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Han Li emerged from a materials shop, holding a jade box with a pleased look on his face.

Inside the jade box were some Nightlight Herb seeds, a type of spirit plant that was only found on the Primordial Wave Continent.

The Nightlight Herb was the final ingredient that he was missing for refining Infernal Azure Pills, a Golden Immortal Stage pill in the Huanan Pill Scripture.

Nightlight Herbs were quite rare on the Primordial Wave Continent, so he wasn't actually very confident that he would be able to find seeds of this spirit plant here, and this discovery had come as a very pleasant surprise. Even though he had only managed to secure some seeds, as opposed to actual specimens of the spirit plant, it made virtually no difference to him.

After stowing the jade box away, Han Li quickly left Wave View City, flying away as a streak of azure light and vanishing into the distance in the blink of an eye.

Not long after his departure, two faint shadows also flew out of the city, trailing along some distance behind him.

Han Li didn't immediately summon the green jade flying carriage. The flying carriage once belonged to Gongshu Jiu, and even though there was most likely no one in Wave View City who recognized it, it was still better to take a more cautious approach and only summon the carriage once he was a bit further away from the city.

As he flew through the air, he flipped a hand over to summon the white jade slip that had been given to him by Wyrms 3, which contained the route that he could take to leave the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

According to the jade slip, the starting point of the route was a location somewhere in the southwest of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

A contemplative look appeared on Han Li's face as he traced his finger over the jade slip in an absentminded manner.

Even though Wyrms 3 had told him two routes through which he could leave the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, it was clearly not feasible for him to leave through the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace's interregion gate.

Even though his Reincarnation Palace mask still hadn't been exposed yet, the Reincarnation Palace was a sworn enemy of the Heavenly Court, so there was no guarantee that the Heavenly Court didn't have any ways to see through Reincarnation Palace masks.

Hence, the only option available to him was to cross the primordial land.

However, he naturally wasn't going to blindly trust Wyrms 3, so he had to verify through some other avenues that this was indeed a feasible route to take.

Aside from that, he also had to make a trip to the Ancient Cloud Continent prior to his departure.

All of a sudden, Han Li swept his gaze across the surrounding area. He discovered that he was already very far away from Wave View City, and he immediately swung around as he yelled, "Who's there? Come out and face me!"

As soon as his voice trailed off, a masked elderly man appeared ahead of him amid a burst of spatial fluctuations.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly at the sight of the masked elderly man, and he said, "I don't believe we've met before. Why have you followed me all this way?"

Even though the elderly man's entire body was enshrouded within a burst of invisible force, Han Li was struck by a sense of familiarity at the sight of him.

The masked elderly offered no response as he made a hand seal, and nine streaks of golden light shot out of his sleeve, then transformed into nine golden flying swords.

There were countless white runes swirling around the flying swords like radiant white flames, and they swelled rapidly to over 1,000 feet in length each, then arranged themselves into a line to form a formidable sword dragon that swooped down toward Han Li with tremendous power.

Even before the white sword dragon descended upon Han Li, a burst of incredible sharp law powers erupted out of its body, causing the surrounding space to tremble and warp.

However, Han Li was completely unfazed by this, and a mocking sneer appeared on his face as he made a hand seal.

A burst of golden light flashed over his body, and a layer of thick golden fur emerged over his skin as he transformed into a giant golden ape that was several thousand feet tall in the blink of an eye.

The giant ape made a grabbing motion with one hand, and a dark green sword instantly appeared in its grasp. This was none other than one of the three immortal swords that he had just obtained from the storage bracelet that he had dug up from the seabed.

As soon as the green sword was summoned, all of the spirit patterns on its surface instantly lit up, and it swelled to over 1,000 feet in size while giving off a burst of tremendous law power fluctuations.

The golden ape then let loose a thunderous roar as it swung its giant green sword into the white sword dragon, and the two bursts of opposing law powers clashed with an earth-shattering boom.

The white light around the white sword dragon was instantly destroyed, as were the law power fluctuations that it was releasing, following which the entire sword dragon itself was sent flying like a ragdoll.

As the sword dragon tumbled through the air, it split back up into nine golden flying swords, every single one of which had dimmed significantly, clearly indicating that their spiritual nature had been severely damaged.

A stunned look flashed through the masked elderly man's eyes upon seeing this, but right at this moment, a vast expanse of black mist surged out of the nearby space in a frenzy, and it instantly encompassed the entire surrounding area in a radius of several dozen kilometers.

An elated look appeared on the elderly man's face upon seeing this, and he immediately vanished into the black mist.

Enshrouded within the cloud of black mist, Han Li found himself trapped in a turbulent black sea, immediately following which a series of black sea beasts came pouncing at him from all directions.

All of these sea beasts were as enormous as mountains, and their auras indicated that they were all at the Golden Immortal Stage!

## Chapter 522: Joyful Reunion

The giant ape didn't panic in the slightest upon seeing this, and it harrumphed coldly, "Are you really expecting to fool me with such a weak illusion?"

It then slashed its giant green sword horizontally through the air, instantly unleashing a burst of tremendous force that swept outward in all directions.

The surrounding illusion was unable to put up any resistance as it was instantly eradicated, and the original setting re-emerged.

However, at this point, a pair of yellow puppets had appeared on either side of the golden ape, and they were no more than 100 feet away. Both of the puppets were glowing with radiant yellow light that was interspersed with bursts of formidable law power fluctuations.

The two puppets swung their arms through the air, and two balls of yellow light flew out of their bodies, transforming into a pair of yellow dragons that were thousands of feet in length.

The two yellow dragons wrapped themselves around the golden ape's arms in the blink of an eye, binding them into place like a pair of chains.

Right at this moment, the masked elderly man reappeared in front of the golden ape, while another white-robed masked figure emerged behind it.

As soon as the masked elderly man appeared, he immediately made a hand seal, and the nine golden flying swords shot forth once again, fusing as one mid-flight to form an enormous golden sword that was over 1,000 feet in length.

The huge white sword swept through the air in an arc, forming an enormous white sword wheel as it hurtled toward the golden ape while giving off a burst of law power fluctuations that were even more formidable than those of the white sword dragon from before.

At the same time, a burst of dark azure light flew out of his body before transforming into a massive hammer.

Balls of dark azure flames emerged over the hammer, and they were giving off a glacial aura as the hammer swept toward the golden ape.

Meanwhile, the white-robed man swept a sleeve through the air to release an inky-black wooden ruler, which swelled to over 1,000 feet in length in the blink of an eye before crashing down toward the golden ape with tremendous force.

A cloud of black mist was swirling around the giant black ruler, and it came crashing down like an enormous mountain, causing the nearby space to warp and buzz incessantly.



At the same time, the man opened his mouth to release a string of around a dozen purple beads, all of which were giving off an astonishingly fearsome lightning aura.

The golden ape was completely unfazed by all of this, and bright purplish-golden light erupted out of its body as a layer of purplish-golden scales emerged over its fur. At the same time, a pair of heads and two pairs arms appeared on its shoulders and beneath its ribs, respectively, instantly transforming it into a purplish-golden devilish deity with three heads and six arms.

The devilish deity grabbed onto the pair of yellow dragons that were wrapped around its arm with its four free hands, then made a violent wrenching motion.

A burst of indescribably tremendous power erupted out of its body, causing the nearby space to ripple and compress to an extreme degree.

A resounding boom rang out as the pair of yellow dragons were torn apart as if they were made of tofu, then disintegrated into a vast cloud of yellow mist.

Immediately thereafter, all of the spirit patterns on the devilish deity's body lit up, and the immortal spiritual power in its body surged into the giant green sword in its hand like a turbulent sea, causing the silver runes on the surface of the sword to glow several times brighter than before.

As the sword was swung through the air, it released a burst of mountainous interspersed with law power fluctuations in all directions, threatening to tear the very space apart.

A string of thunderous booms rang out as the two puppets, the white sword wheel, the dark azure hammer, and the giant black ruler were all sent flying like weightless feathers as soon as they came into contact with the almighty green sword.

As for the purple lightning beads, all of them exploded into vast balls of purple light upon contact with the giant green sword, and they were giving off bursts of formidable lightning law fluctuations.

However, these purple balls of light were then instantly inundated and swept away by a wave of dark green swordlight.

The masked elderly man and the white-robed man shuddered violently as they were also sent flying back through the air, and they stumbled back for several thousand feet before finally managing to steady themselves.

Both of them had blood flowing down the corners of their lips, and they were utterly astonished by the unfathomable power of their opponent.

The white-robed man gave the masked elderly man a vicious glare, then immediately turned and fled into the distance, doing so in such a hurry that he was even leaving his black ruler behind.

The masked elderly also immediately fled the scene upon seeing this, but the devilish deity wasn't about to let them get away, and it chuckled coldly, "Why don't you stay and keep me company?"

Immediately thereafter, the Mantra Treasured Axis appeared behind it, releasing waves of golden ripples that instantly spread through the surrounding area in a radius of over 10,000 feet, encompassing both the masked elderly man and the white-robed man within them.

The white-robed man's expression changed drastically upon seeing this, and a look of immense horror and regret appeared in his eyes as he exclaimed, "You're Li..."

Before he had a chance to finish his sentence, his voice was abruptly cut off as the time-slowng effect of the Mantra Treasured Axis took hold, and the masked elderly man was also completely rooted to the spot.

Meanwhile, the devilish deity looked down at the giant green sword in its hand as it gave a pleased nod.

The enormous weight of the sword and the immense destructive law powers that it contained made it an ideal weapon to use in this form.

Han Li made a hand seal, quickly reverting back to his human form, and the giant green sword also returned to its original size.

He then stowed the sword away before turning his gaze to the pair of immobilized figures within the nearby golden ripples.

He made his way over to white-robed man, then tore off his mask to reveal none other than the fair-skinned scholar from the Vast Flow Palace.

He raised an eyebrow upon seeing this, then strode over to the masked elderly man before removing his mask as well, and he was able to identify the elderly man as another one of the Vast Flow Palace's Golden Immortals.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as grabbed onto the elderly man's head, and bursts of black light emerged over his fingertips before vanishing into the elderly man's head.

Golden Immortal Stage nascent souls were extremely resilient, so under normal circumstances, soul search techniques were very difficult to execute, but the task was made far easier by the time-slowing effect of the Mantra Treasured Axis.

Moments later, Han Li removed his hand from the elderly man's head, and by then, he had already determined their motive for coming after him.

The elderly man's eyes had bulged slightly outward, but the light within them hadn't faded.

Han Li was just about to destroy both of their nascent souls when he suddenly stopped what he was doing, and a contemplative look appeared on his face.

"I suppose it's your lucky day," Han Li harrumphed coldly as he flicked a finger through the air, releasing a pair of crimson fireballs that landed upon his two assailants, quickly incinerating their bodies into ashes, leaving only a pair of storage tools and a pair of nascent souls behind.

Han Li then swept a sleeve through the to release a burst of azure light that drew the pair of nascent souls into his grasp, following which he plastered a purple talisman to each of their heads.

A series of purple runes instantly emerged over the pair of talismans to restrict the two nascent souls, and only then did he stow them away.

After that, he seized their storage tools, the surrounding immortal treasures, as well as the pair of yellow puppets, then withdrew his Mantra Treasured Axis.

All of the surrounding golden ripples faded away in a flash, and Han Li took a glance at Wave View City before quickly withdrawing his gaze.

Right as he was about to depart, the sound of applause suddenly rang out.

"As expected of one of the paramount laws. That was truly a formidable display!"

"Who's there?"

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as he cast his gaze toward a certain spot, and a pair of figures immediately appeared there.

Much to Han Li's elation, they were none other than Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni, and he made his way over to them as he said, "I'm glad to see you're both safe and well, fellow daoists!"

"I can see that you're also doing just fine, Fellow Daoist Li," Daoist Hu Yan chuckled.

"When did you two get here?" Han Li asked.

"We only just got here, and we arrived just in time to see that impressive display! The five Golden Immortal Stage palace masters of the Five Extreme Vast Flow Palaces are all vastly renowned figures in the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, yet they couldn't even put up any resistance against you!" Daoist Hu Yan praised.

"You're far too kind, Fellow Daoist Hu Yan. They were simply oblivious to my identity and caught off guard. If they had known who I was from the beginning, then it wouldn't have been so easy for me to defeat them," Han Li replied in a modest manner.

"Sorry for leaving you behind on your own to face Gongshu Jiu and Mo Yu," Daoist Hu Yan said with a hint of apology in his eyes.

Yun Ni didn't say anything, but she also extended an apologetic curtsy toward Han Li with a guilty look on her face.

"Don't worry about it. The situation at the time demanded for such measures to be taken. We're all alive and well now, so there's no need to apologize for such trivial things. You've always been a really straightforward man, since when were you the type to get hung up over these things, Fellow Daoist Hu Yan?" Han Li jibed.

"Well, you've certainly become a lot more carefree than before!" Daoist Hu Yan chuckled, while a smile also appeared on Yun Ni's face, and with that, they were once again just a trio of old friends enjoying each other's company.

"We almost died on quite a few occasions back in the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, and the fact that we've survived is very much worthy of celebration. Let's have a drink! Yun Ni doesn't like drinking much, and it's been really boring drinking on my own," Daoist Hu Yan said as he swept a sleeve through the air to summon a table and some chairs in mid-air.

"So you're saying that you don't enjoy my company?" Yun Ni asked as her expression darkened slightly.

"Of course not!" Daoist Hu Yan hurriedly replied. "What I'm saying is that I don't enjoy drinking on my own. Of course I love having you around!"

Yun Ni gave a displeased harrumph and turned away to ignore Daoist Hu Yan.

An amused smile appeared on Han Li's face at the sight of their lovers' quarrel, and he sat down onto one of the chairs as he declared, "I agree that a celebration is in order. Let's all have a drink!"

"Fantastic! No matter what happens from here, whether that be the entire immortal region being swept up into turmoil, or the Vast Flow Palace reigning supreme as the only dominant force, none of that matters here and now. Today, all we're going to focus on is drinking to our hearts' content!" Daoist Hu Yan agreed as he also eagerly sat down.

"Seeing as Fellow Daoist Li is with us, I'll let you off the hook for now. Otherwise..."

Yun Ni's voice trailed off as she gave Daoist Hu Yan a cold glare, following which she also sat down.

"You really saved my skin there, Brother. I owe you one!" Daoist Hu Yan said to Han Li in a grateful voice through voice transmission, while Han Li merely smiled in response.

#### Chapter 523: A Drink with Old Friends

Daoist Hu Yan swept a sleeve through the air, and a burst of red light flashed over the table, upon which an orange wine jar appeared. The jar was around a foot in height, and judging from the antiquated patterns engraved onto its surface, it was clearly a very old jar of wine.

Even before the jar was opened, it was already releasing a mesmerizing aroma throughout the surrounding area. f(r)eeweb(n)ovel

Having discussed wine on so many past occasions with Daoist Hu Yan, Han Li had accumulated a great deal of knowledge on the subject, and he immediately exclaimed, "This is exceptional wine! Judging from its fragrance, this must be Seasonal Dream, right?"

"Precisely! This jar of Seasonal Dream was brewed using Cloudborn Fruits as the main ingredient, and I had to spent countless years brewing it," Daoist Hu Yan said as he removed the stopper from the jar, then conjured up three pristine white cups, all of which he filled with wine.

The wine was as clear and pure as a mirror, and it had a light red hue that was further accentuated by the white cup that it had been poured into.

Han Li took a sip, and his eyes instantly lit up as he praised, "This is indeed exceptional wine!"

As soon as the wine flowed into his mouth, it immediately transformed into a burst of heat that was as mellow as a cloud, filling his entire body with a sense of warm comfort.

On top of that, the wine also contained immense immortal spiritual power, instantly replenishing the immortal spiritual power that he had expended during his battle against the two palace masters.

"Of course! My cultivation aptitude can only be described as decent at best, but when it comes to brewing wine, just this jar of Seasonal Dream alone is sufficient testament to prove that I'm unmatched in the entire Northern Glacial Immortal Region!" Daoist Hu Yan replied in a proud manner.

"As soon as you have a bit to drink, you immediately start bragging like a fool!" Yun Ni scolded with a displeased expression, but she also took a small sip of wine from her cup.

The three of them exchanged some small talk, then began to talk about what had happened after they had parted ways in the immortal manor.

As it turned out, following Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni's departure, they immediately hid somewhere secluded, but not long thereafter, they were teleported out of the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor and ended up in the Black Wind Sea.

After some discussion, the two of them decided not to brave the Soul Stirring Winds again. Instead, they had the same idea of leaving the Black Wind Sea through the teleportation array. However, they encountered the Vast Flow Palace's cultivators there, so they disguised themselves before entering the teleportation pagoda.

"I knew it! Prior to stepping into the array, I detected two familiar auras nearby. That was you two, right?" Han Li chuckled.,

"Indeed. I didn't think you would have the courage to blatantly steal a teleportation spot right under the noses of the Vast Flow Palace cultivators! I have to say, I was really impressed at the time," Daoist Hu Yan also chuckled in response.

"By the time I got to Black Wind City, it was already right on the cusp of the scheduled teleportation, so I didn't have much of a choice," Han Li explained with a smile.

"How did you fare against Gongshu Jiu after we left, Fellow Daoist Li?" Yun Ni suddenly asked, and a serious look appeared on Daoist Hu Yan's face upon hearing this.

"Gongshu Jiu is already dead," Han Li replied in an indifferent voice as he took another sip of wine.

Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni had already guessed that this would be the outcome, considering Han Li was alive and well, but they were still very much taken aback by this answer.

"Your powers are truly unfathomable, Fellow Daoist Li. To think that even a High Zenith cultivator is no longer a match for you. Your cultivation aptitude is truly unmatched!" Yun Ni said as she raised her cup with a hint of admiration in her eyes.

"Even back in the Blaze Dragon Dao, I knew that there was something special about you, but never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined that you would come so far in just a few centuries!" Daoist Hu Yan chuckled as he also raised his cup.

"You're far too kind, fellow daoists. Gongshu Jiu died by the hand of multiple people, and I only made a very minor contribution," Han Li said in a modest manner.

"Then what about that Gray Immortal?" Daoist Hu Yan asked.

"The Gray Immortal immediately left following Gongshu Jiu's demise, and he didn't target me. After that, I left the High Zenith Palace, but I was also suddenly teleported out of the immortal manor shortly thereafter. There was still supposed to be some time left until the closing of the immortal manor, so I presume someone was pulling strings behind the scenes," Han Li replied, refraining from telling the two about Mo Yu and Lu Yuqing.

"Indeed, there's a very good chance that the Gray Immortal was controlling everything from the very beginning. I've heard that he has some ties with the Infernal Frost Immortal Lord, and he was also clearly very familiar with all of the restrictions in the High Zenith Palace. It's a good thing that he's not a bloodthirsty individual. Otherwise, even if we managed to kill Gongshu Hong, there's no way we would've been able to escape from him," Daoist Hu Yan mused.



"We were indeed very fortunate. While it's true that he's a Gray Immortal, his personality seems to be different from what Gray Immortals are said to be like," Han Li remarked.

"The death of an immortal envoy is a very important matter, and I'm almost certain that there will be a new immortal envoy sent to the Northern Glacial Immortal Region soon to investigate this matter. All of those immortal envoys are skilled in secret techniques that allow them to identify members of the Reincarnation Palace, so do be careful," Daoist Hu Yan cautioned with a serious expression.

"Thank you for the warning, Fellow Daoist Hu Yan. I'll be sure to keep myself well-concealed from here onward," Han Li replied.

"With your powers, as long as you remain on your guard, you should be fine. If you can't stay in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, then just leave," Daoist Hu Yan advised.

"Do you know of a way to leave the Northern Glacial Immortal Region?" Han Li asked with an intrigued expression.

"I heard from Dao Lord Baili that there exists an interregion gate in the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace that leads to other immortal regions. However, apparently, each teleportation expends an enormous amount of resources, so even the palace master may not be able to use it whenever he pleases. Hence, that's most likely out of the question.

Even if we manage to force our way to the interregion gate, we'll most likely be confronted by immortal envoys sent by the Heavenly Court before we manage to figure out how to activate the gate," Daoist Hu Yan replied.

"I've also heard about this. If this is an unfeasible route to take, then are there any alternatives?" Han Li asked.

"The alternative option would be to cross the primordial land between immortal regions. However, I've heard that such a journey is no less perilous than forcing our way into the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, and even a High Zenith cultivator isn't guaranteed to be able to make the journey safely. Having said that, it's said that the Reincarnation Palace has carved out a relatively safe passageway through primordial land, but I don't know where this route is," Daoist Hu Yan replied.

Han Li nodded in response.

It seemed that Wyrn 3 had been telling him the truth.

"Fellow Daoist Li, the perils of the primordial land come primarily from how uncharted and unexplored it is. Many cultivators have tried to cross through it in the past, but most of them haven't lived to tell the tale, so I advise you not to pursue that path unless it's absolutely necessary," Yun Ni cautioned.

"Thank you for the advice, fellow daoists. I'll be sure to consider this matter carefully. May I ask what your plans are from here onward? Now that your identities have been exposed, I'm sure the Heavenly Court will be coming after you as well," Han Li said.

"We'll be sure to be on our guard as well, so there's no need for you to worry about us. To tell you the truth, Dao Lord Baili has already taken the High Zenith Stage, and a breakthrough to the High Zenith Stage is imminent for him. Once that time comes, we won't have to fear any immortal envoys!" Daoist Hu Yan replied.

"In that case, I'll be offering my congratulations to Dao Lord Baili in advance," Han Li said with a smile.

"At the moment, Dao Lord Baili is working on refining the High Zenith Pill, so he won't be able to come out of seclusion to see you. However, he's also very interested in you, so if we get a chance to meet again in the future, let's all share a drink together!" Daoist Hu Yan said with a wide smile.

"That sounds great to me," Han Li replied with a smile.

After that, the three of them began to discuss the state of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region and what the future likely held, following which the conversation shifted to sharing cultivation insights and experiences.

The jar of wine was quickly finished, but Daoist Hu Yan had a virtually endless stash of fine wines, and he immediately brought out a new jar.

The time flew by in a flash, and before long, day had already transitioned into night.

The three of them were thoroughly enjoying one another's company, and they were reluctant to part ways, but it was time to say their goodbyes.

"It's about time that we left, Fellow Daoist Li. Look after yourself!" Daoist Hu Yan declared as he cupped his fist in a parting salute.

"Same to you, fellow daoists," Han Li replied with a nod.

Daoist Hu Yan stowed the table and chairs away, then swept a sleeve through the air, releasing a burst of fiery red light that encompassed both himself and Yun Ni.

The two of them then rose up into the sky before flying toward the setting sun in the distance, quickly fading out of sight.

Han Li stood with his hands clasped behind his back while his robes flapped audibly around him in the wind, remaining as still as a statue as he looked on at the setting sun.

A short while later, he swept a sleeve through the air to summon the green jade flying carriage, then sped away in another direction.

Chapter 524: Visiting a Place of Old

Heavenly Cloud City, Ancient Cloud Continent.

It was the end of another year. For cultivators, this was just another insignificant moment in their long and busy lives, but for mortals, this was the most important time of the year.

Light snow was falling from the sky, and aside from some inns and taverns inhabited by cultivators, the rest of the city was completely covered in a blanket of snow. In accordance with an old tradition passed down from time immemorial, newly cut-down peach tree branches were stuck into the snow between the window frames, while vibrant and colorful couplets had been stuck onto the door frames.

The sun had already set, and dusk was transitioning into night.

On a street to the east of Heavenly Cloud City, all of the shops had put up large red lanterns, illuminating the entire street with a festive red glow.

There was steam rising up all over the street as all types of hot foods were being sold, and all of the merchants were loudly advertising their wares, giving the street a lively and bustling atmosphere.

A petite and beautiful young woman wearing a red cloak was currently slowly walking along the street with a delectable tanghulu in her hand.

Her entire face was concealed within the large hood of her cloak, and there was a lonesome look on her face.

"Big Brother and the others aren't here, and Master Li is still gone... I'm all alone..." she sighed to herself in a dejected voice before taking a bite out of her tanghulu.

Right at this moment, she suddenly raised her head, and she spotted a tall azure-robed man at the end of the street, approaching her with a smile on his face.

Her eyes instantly sprang wide open with incredulity, and she hurriedly swallowed the mouthful of tanghulu before hurriedly rushing over to him.

Only when she had almost reached him did she notice that there was an adorable little girl by his side, grabbing onto his robe with both hands as she looked around with a curious expression.

"Master Li!"

The young woman immediately removed her hood upon reaching the azure-robed man, then extended a respectful curtsy.

The man was none other than Han Li, who had traveled all the way here from the Primordial Wave Continent, while the woman was Meng Qianqian.

"No need for formalities. I entered the city through the eastern gate, and I just so happened to sense your aura, so I came to pay you a visit," Han Li said with a smile.

Jin Tong's gaze had been drawn to all of the food being sold along the street, but she turned her attention to Meng Qianqian before pursing her lips slightly in disdain as she asked, "Who's this, Uncle? Her cultivation base is so low, and her aptitude is also terrible!"

An exasperated look appeared on Han Li's face as he scolded, "Don't be so rude! She's your junior martial sister!"

Meng Qianqian lowered her head in a slightly embarrassed manner, then said, "It's a pleasure to meet you, Senior Martial Sister."

"I have a junior martial sister now!" Jin Tong immediately exclaimed in delight, then summoned a vial of pills before tossing them at Meng Qianqian. "Here, this is for you."

None of the mortals dared to stop and stare at Han Li's trio, but Han Li could tell that they were all sneaking furtive glances their way, so he said, "Let's get back to the Moonview Forest first. I have some things to tell you."

"Yes, Master Li!" Meng Qianqian hurriedly replied.

"It smells so good here! I want to eat first before we go," Jin Tong protested as she caught a whiff of the fragrant aroma wafting out of a nearby restaurant.

Han Li naturally didn't dare to leave her here on her own. If she were left unchecked, she could easily eat the entire city!

Hence, he had no choice but to comply with her demands. "Alright, let's have some food then. It's been a long time since I've had mortal food myself."

"Which shop has the best food?" Jin Tong asked in an eager voice, and she was barely able to contain her own salivation.

"Are there any larger restaurants nearby?" Han Li asked as he turned to Meng Qianqian, who hurriedly nodded in response.

"There are two large restaurants nearby. I can take you to them right away."

He had explored the city quite extensively during her time here, so she was very familiar with the food being sold here, and she immediately led Han Li and Jin Tong to the nearest large restaurant.

However, Jin Tong was already unable to wait any longer, and she was drawn to a steamed bun stall on the side of the street.

"The steamed lamb buns here are quite popular. We can have some of them first," Meng Qianqian suggested.

Han Li nodded in response, and the three of them sat down at the stall.

The stall waiter could tell that these three were no ordinary customers, and he hurriedly rushed over to them with a warm smile as he asked, "What would you like to order? Our steamed lamb buns are the best in the city!"

"We'll have three steamers of lamb buns and three bowls of lamb offal soup," Meng Qianqian ordered as she pulled out a silver ingot.

"Coming right up!" the waiter declared before departing, and it didn't take long before the order was brought to the table.

Jin Tong was already at her limit, and she grabbed into a steamed lamb bun, which was even larger than both of her hands combined, then sank her teeth into it.

The soft and sumptuous steamed bun instantly split open, and the golden soup inside spilled into her mouth, bringing with it a delectably meaty aroma.

A blissful look appeared on her face as she began to munch down the steamed bun at an incredible speed.

The waiter was very alarmed to see this, fearing that she would burn herself on the piping hot steamed buns, but before he had a chance to say anything, the first bun was already finished, and Jin Tong wiped the oil from her lips before stuffing a second bun into her mouth.

As she ate, her movements became faster and faster, and by the end, it was as if the steamed buns were being zapped out of existence, vanishing into thin air one after another.

All the while, the waiter gawked on with his mouth agape.

"These steamed lamb buns are incredible, Uncle! Get me 100, no, 1,000 steamers of these!" Jin Tong yelled with an ecstatic expression.

Not only was the waiter completely rooted to the spot, even the other diners had all turned to look at her.

"Are they really that good?" Han Li chuckled.

"They are!" Jin Tong insisted as she smacked her lips.

"How many more steamed buns do you have? We'll take them all," Han Li said as he turned to the waiter with a smile.

The waiter was still reeling from what he had seen, so he didn't reply right away.

Han Li thought that the waiter was concerned that he wouldn't have enough money to pay for the meal, and he was just about to pull out some silver when he realized that he didn't have a single tael of silver on him, only a mountain of Immortal Origin Stones.

Ironically, he was too rich to afford food in this city!

Meng Qianqian immediately came to his rescue, flipping a hand over to place a mid-grade spirit stone onto the table.

Compared with the mortals of the Spirit Realm and the Mortal Realm, those of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region generally lived longer and were healthier. Even though the most commonly used forms of currency among them were still silver and gold, they were not unfamiliar with immortal currencies like spirit stones.

Spirit stones contained the world's origin qi, so even though a mortal couldn't directly absorb spiritual power from them, they could still carry spirit stones around to extend their lifespans and improve their health.

Hence, spirit stones were a type of premium currency that was extremely sought after among the upper class.

However, the spirit stone that Meng Qianqian had just pulled out was of a far better quality than normal spirit stones, making it a very rare sight in the mortal world, and it instantly attracted everyone's attention.

Thankfully, the female boss of the stall had also had her attention drawn to Han Li's table by all the commotion, and after taking a glance at the mid-grade spirit stone on the table, she knew that it was her lucky day.

She immediately hurried over to the table with a wide smile as she said, "I'm extremely honored that you think so highly of my steamed buns, esteemed customers, but this spirit stone is far too precious for me."

Despite what she was saying, she had already silently slipped the spirit stone into her pocket.



After that, she declared that her stall was closed for business, then respectfully urged everyone to return the next day. All of the other customers could also tell that Han Li's trio were no ordinary people, so they duly obliged. Only as they turned their attention back to their own tables did they realize that all of their steamed buns had already disappeared.

"This stuff tastes much better than treasures!" Jin Tong exclaimed with an ecstatic expression.

"Senior Martial Sister, you... you normally eat treasures?" Meng Qianqian asked with a stunned expression.

"Of course," Jin Tong replied as if it were the most normal thing in the world. "What other good stuff is there to eat?"

"There's a ton of delicious food being sold on this street," Meng Qianqian hurriedly replied, then began to rattle off a list of available foods, while Jin Tong listened with a pair of enraptured eyes.

"I don't know what any of those things are, but they all sound really delicious! Let's finish up here, then take me to the next shop!" she urged as she wiped away the drool that was threatening to dribble down her chin.

Right at this moment, the waiter arrived at the table with 10 more steamers of buns, all of which were sucked into Jin Tong's belly in an instant.

A faint smile appeared on Han Li's face as he took a sip of his lamb offal soup.

The soup was a little murky, and it was very flavorful, and it filled his stomach with a sense of gentle warmth.

This was something that he hadn't experienced in a very long time.

Han Li had already forgotten the last time he had enjoyed such mortal delicacies, and that sip of soup instantly sent him on a trip down memory lane, evoking memories of the small village in the Mortal Realm that had been his first home.

He looked around at the lively and bustling street, and he couldn't help but heave an internal sigh.

Having spent all his time cultivating, a change of scenery was quite a pleasant experience.

#### Chapter 525: Bottomless Pit

It was all hands on deck in the kitchen of the steamed bun shop as steamer after steamer of freshly cooked steamed lamb buns were brought to Han Li's table one after another.

Jin Tong was eating non-stop, and it didn't take long before she had gobbled down 70 steamers of buns, while a small crowd of astonished onlookers had gathered nearby.

Han Li didn't want to attract excessive attention, so even though Jin Tong was still eager for more, he dragged her away to the next shop, this one a shaobing shop.

The shop was run by only two people, an elderly man who was close to 80 years of age and his grandson. As a result, they were unable to churn out shaobing as quickly as the steamed bun shop, and it didn't take long before they ran out of food to serve Jin Tong.

Shaobing was one of the most commonplace food items in the mortal world, but the elderly man had over 60 years of experience in cooking shaobing, and during that time, he had made many innovations to the simple dish, setting his shaobing apart from the rest.

Jin Tong was thoroughly impressed, and she immediately declared that the elderly man had to be rewarded, a request that Meng Qianqian happily obliged.

This was the first time that the elderly man had sold so many shaobing in one night, and he could tell Jin Tong truly loved his food, so he was also extremely pleased, praising Jin Tong for her voracious appetite.

After the bill was paid, Meng Qianqian took Jin Tong to eat glutinous rice balls cooked in fermented wine.

Thankfully, the shopkeeper of the stall had already prepared a large pot full of rice balls with all types of fillings, and the entire pot of rice balls was purchased by Han Li.

It didn't take long before news of Jin Tong's extraordinary feats of consumption spread across the entire street.

As a result, all of the shopkeepers were urging their chefs to cook up as much food as humanly possible in anticipation for Jin Tong's visit.

They had even set up tables on the street outside, and whatever food that was churned out was immediately carried out of the kitchen and onto the tables.

Jin Tong was ecstatic to see this, and she swept through the street like a hurricane, eating everything in her wake while Han Li Meng Qianqian footed the bill.

Deep into the night, all of the shops that had been visited by Jin Tong had already run out of food and closed for the night, while the rest of the shops that she was still yet to visit were still open, and there were many shopkeepers standing on the street outside, eagerly awaiting her arrival.

It was said that not only did Jin Tong possess an extraordinary appetite, she was also extremely generous, and anyone who could serve up food that was to her liking would be rewarded. Furthermore, as opposed to silver, her rewards were issued in the form of mid-grade spirit stones, with some shops even receiving high-grade spirit stones, which were extremely sought after even among cultivators!

Meng Qianqian didn't have much savings to begin with, and it didn't take long before she ran out of money. Before she even had a chance to say anything, Han Li casually tossed a storage pouch at her.

As soon as she inspected the pouch's contents with her spiritual sense, she was instantly rooted to the spot.

The pouch was filled with over 10,000 top-grade spirit stones!

Han Li had taken the storage pouch from one of the Golden Immortals that he had slain in the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, and in this rare moment of relaxation, he was more than happy to spend some money so that Jin Tong could enjoy a good time.

Finally, the three of them arrived at one of the large restaurants that Meng Qianqian mentioned, and the shopkeeper was a short man dressed in a silken robe.

As soon as Han Li's trio arrived at the entrance of the restaurant, he immediately rushed out before greeting them with a wide smile.

Han Li noticed that the shopkeeper was a late-Foundation Establishment cultivator, and he asked, "Do you have any vacant seats upstairs?"

"Certainly! Please come with me, esteemed customers," the shopkeeper immediately replied before leading the way up the stairs.

Upon reaching the upper floor, Han Li discovered that it was still brightly lit, but there weren't any other customers inside, perhaps because it was too late at night, or perhaps the entire floor had been vacated by the shopkeeper in anticipation for Jin Tong's visit.

The three of them took a seat by a window-side table, following which Meng Qianqian instructed, "Fill all of these tables with your finest dishes and wine."

The shopkeeper was ecstatic to hear this, and he immediately gave an affirmative response before rushing downstairs.

Meanwhile, Jin Tong was still holding a large cake in her hands, and for some reason, she was only taking small bites out of it at a time with a blissful look on her little face.

"Why are you the only one here? Where is your brother?" Han Li suddenly asked as he turned to Meng Qianqian.

Meng Qianqian's expression stiffened slightly upon hearing this, and she hurriedly replied, "My apologies, Master Li, I completely forgot about that. My brother has returned to the Late Age Nation with everyone else."

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this, and he felt like this name was rather familiar.

Meng Qianqian was feeling a little uneasy at the sight of Han Li's furrowed brows.

"The Late Age Nation is where you and your brother originally came from, right?" Han Li asked.

"That's right. After Brother Sun progressed to the Soul Formation Stage, he wanted to return to the Late Age Nation to avenge his clan. My brother couldn't dissuade him, so he decided to go with him," Meng Qianqian replied.

As the two of them were speaking, all manners of dishes and wine were being brought to the surrounding tables, and there were also waiters standing beside each table, introducing the dishes on their respective tables.

Jin Tong was the only one eating, while Han Li and Meng Qianqian remained seated at their table.

Meng Qianqian was feeling a little uneasy at Han Li's silence, and she said, "Master Li, their intention was never to disobey your orders. It's just that... we didn't know how to contact you, so please don't be displeased with them. Brother Sun always acts like he doesn't have a care in the world, but in reality, this has been weighing on his heart this entire time. Otherwise, with his personality, he wouldn't have worked so hard in his cultivation all this time."

"It's fine. I never forbade you to go and seek vengeance, it's just that you have to ensure that you possess sufficient power before you attempt to do so. I only came back to Heavenly Cloud City this time as I have some things to tell you and the others," Han Li said with a dismissive wave of his hand.

Meng Qianqian's expression eased slightly upon hearing this, and she prompted, "Please go ahead, Master Li."

"It's nothing major. It's just that I'm going to be leaving the Northern Glacial Immortal Region soon, and I don't know how long it'll be before I return. All of us were brought together by fate, so it wouldn't feel right to leave without making some arrangements for all of you," Han Li explained.

"You're leaving, Master Li? Why don't you take us with you? We may not be very useful, but at the very least, we'll be able to perform some servant duties for you during your travels," Meng Qianqian hurriedly said.

"It's going to be a very perilous trip, so I can't take all of you with me. I've already prepared some pills, treasures, and cultivation arts for you and the others, and they're all here in this storage bracelet. Seeing as they're not here at the moment, I'll get you to pass these onto them when they get back," Han Li said.

Meng Qianqian was slightly dejected upon hearing this, but didn't say anything further.

"Additionally, there are 30 masks in this storage bracelet, all of which are exceptional aura concealment tools, and they've been specially treated to alter some of the restrictions within them. There's a jade slip inside that tells you how to use the masks, and you can bring out these masks in your times of need to alter your appearances and auras for concealment purposes," Han Li continued.

He flipped a hand over as he spoke, summoning a white storage bracelet that he handed to Meng Qianqian, who accepted the bracelet as she said, "Thank you for making such thorough preparations for us, Master Li."

"The entire Northern Glacial Immortal Region is going to have to endure a period of turmoil soon, and a storm is coming. Once Yungui and the others get back, all of you must set off for Dark Veil Island in the Black Wind Sea right away. I've already arranged for someone to meet you there," Han Li said.

"Yes, Master Li," Meng Qianqian immediately replied.

The two of them paused momentarily to take a look around, at which point they discovered that all of the surrounding tables had already been cleared out by Jin Tong.

A faint smile appeared on Han Li's face as he flipped a hand over to produce a flagon of wine that had been given to him by Daoist Hu Yan, and he poured a cup of wine each for himself and Meng Qianqian, then raised his own cup to take a sip.

Meng Qianqian hurriedly accepted her cup with both hands, then took a gentle whiff of the wine's aroma, but she refrained from drinking the wine as she stared at Han Li, who was looking out the window.

It was getting quite deep into the night, and a veil of moonlight was draped over the roof of the restaurant, giving it a rather cold appearance.

Han Li was looking up at the moon in the sky as he pondered the journey that he was about to embark upon.

Right at this moment, his brows suddenly furrowed slightly, and he spotted a shadow plummeting into the city.

Immediately thereafter, Meng Qianqian also sensed something, and her expression instantly changed slightly.

"Let's go," Han Li immediately said.

Meng Qianqian hurriedly nodded in response, then summoned a spirit stone before placing it onto the table.

Han Li immediately grabbed Jin Tong, who was still munching on a pair of pig trotters, then grabbed onto Meng Qianqian's shoulder with his other hand, and the three of them instantly vanished into thin air.

Immediately thereafter, they appeared in the Moon View Forest.

There were many restrictions littered throughout the forest, but they completely failed to register their intrusion.

After entering a courtyard in Area A, Han Li spotted the figure that had just plummeted out of the sky. It was a large azure bird with its entire body riddled with wounds.

The bird seemed to have spotted Han Li's trio as well, and its eyes immediately lit up as it began squawking at them in a feeble voice.

"Featheryearn!" Meng Qianqian exclaimed as she hurriedly flew over to the large bird, while Han Li set down Jin Tong before making his way toward the bird as well.

Jin Tong was naturally very displeased to have suddenly been dragged here in the middle of her meal, and she was just about to complain when she spotted the injured bird.

She immediately gobbled down the rest of her greasy pig trotters, then rubbed her hands together as a sinister smile appeared on her face.

Featheryearn seemed to have detected her gaze, and it immediately pressed itself more tightly against Meng Qianqian in a fearful manner.

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## Chapter 526: Revenge

"What happened?" Han Li asked.

"They told me not to come with them, but I was worried about them, so I sent Featheryearn to accompany them. At this point, it's already at the Grand Ascension Stage, so I thought they would definitely be safe, but something must've happened to them," Meng Qianqian murmured with a distressed expression.

Han Li cast his gaze toward Featheryearn, then communicated with it momentarily using his spiritual sense before declaring, "Yungui and the others have been trapped in a restricted area of the Late Age Nation's imperial palace, and Featheryearn fled back here to inform you of this."



Meng Qianqian's expression eased slightly upon hearing this, following which she implored, "Master Li, please allow me to go and save my brother."

Han Li was rather taken aback to hear this, and he asked, "Why aren't you asking me to help you save them?"

"I may not not be very smart, but I know that your departure from the Northern Glacial Immortal Region cannot be delayed. I'm already extremely grateful that you went out of your way to come and see us, and it would be far too greedy of me to delay your departure any longer," Meng Qianqian hurriedly replied.

"If Featheryearn was so severely injured even after reaching the Grand Ascension Stage, then you're surely no match for these enemies, how can you expect to save them? Also, the Late Age Nation is quite far away, so how do you know that they'll be able to last until you get to them?" Han Li asked.

"I..." Meng Qianqian had no response to this.

"Let's go. It won't take much time," Han Li said.

Before Meng Qianqian had a chance to reply, Jin Tong had already approached them, and there was still some oil on her lips as she assured, "You can count on me to look after this injured bird, Uncle."

All of the feathers on Featheryearn's entire body instantly stood up on end at the sight of the approaching Jin Tong, and it desperately tried to get away, but it was too severely injured to do so.

"You're not planning to eat it, are you?" Han Li asked with an exasperated expression.

"Of course not! I'm going to treat its injuries! I've been reading all of the scriptures in the storage bracelet that you gave me," Jin Tong immediately complained with an indignant expression.

"I didn't think you would be interested in reading. I thought you were only interested in eating," Han Li chuckled with an amused expression.

"Don't look down on me, Uncle! While I was reading the scriptures, I discovered that I already knew some of the things outlined inside. That must mean that I have talent!" Jin Tong protested in an indignant manner.

"Alright, then how are you going to look after Featheryearn?" Han Li asked.

"That's simple!" Jin Tong replied with a proud expression, then summoned a pill before stuffing it into Featheryearn's beak.

Featheryearn swallowed the pill, but it was still staring at Jin Tong with an alert and fearful expression.

Jin Tong pursed her lips in disdain as she scoffed, "You're so weak and frail, unlike my Xiao Bai. Xiao Bai, where are you? Are you slacking off again?"

Her gaze fell upon the miniature white jade Pixiu hanging from Han Li's waist as she spoke.

"Leave me alone," the Pixiu groaned.

"I'm calling you so you can come and eat with me, you ungrateful little bastard!" Jin Tong scolded.

"I have no interest in mortal food," the Pixiu replied.

"You'd better not regret this!" Jin Tong threatened in a grumpy manner, to which the Pixiu gave no response.

With that brief interlude, the tense atmosphere instantly lightened up significantly., and Han Li flipped a hand over to produce a few more pills, then instructed Meng Qianqian to feed them to Featheryearn.

"I already know the location. Stay here and rest," Han Li said to Featheryearn, then swept a sleeve through the air to summon the green jade flying carriage.

After that, he swept his other sleeve through the air to carry Meng Qianqian and Jin Tong on the carriage, following which he sped away into the night sky, quickly vanishing into the distance.

.....

Late Age Nation.

The gates of the capital city, Bright Cloud City, had been tightly shut for many days, and all of the city's residents had also been prohibited from leaving their homes.

At the moment, it was very late at night, and the streets in the city were very peaceful. There weren't even many lit houses, and if it weren't for some of the armor-clad soldiers littered throughout the streets and alleys, one could easily mistake the city as one that was deserted.

In contrast with the deathly silence inside the city, the imperial palace situated in the southern part of the city was brightly lit and constantly being patrolled by imperial guards, while the imperial garden at the back of the palace had been surrounded by multiple protective encirclements.

The encirclements were formed by hundreds of people, all of whom were cultivators.

They were led by a tall and thin purple-robed elderly man, whose aura indicated that he was a mid-Spatial Tempering cultivator.

He was the patriarch of the Xu Clan, the cultivating clan that was currently controlling the Late Age Nation from the shadows.

At this moment, his brows were tightly furrowed, and he was clearly not very pleased.

Half a month ago, a descendant of the Late Age Nation's former imperial clan had stormed into the imperial palace with some members of the Yun Clan, and they had collaborated with some officials of the past imperial court to stage a surprise coup.

By the time he made an emergency exit from seclusion, over half of the Xu Clan's cultivators had been killed or wounded. On top of that, the puppet emperor that they were supporting had been constantly indulging himself in wine, extravagant food, and debauchery, and he had been so frightened that he had died from a heart attack.

After settling the unrest in his clan, he had immediately come to the imperial palace to face the intruders in battle.

However, the intruders were both using cultivation arts of a far higher caliber than his, and they also had a seemingly endless supply of treasures at their disposal, so he was unable to defeat them, even though his cultivation base far surpassed theirs.

What was even more astonishing to him was that they were accompanied by a Grand Ascension Stage bird, which had almost killed him on the spot. If it weren't for the timely arrival of his backers, he would already be dead by now.

"Esteemed patriarch, those scoundrels have already been hiding in this dried well for two days. We've been chipping away this entire time at the restrictions that they've set up, and we should be able to break through them in just four more hours," a middle-aged man with a black mole on his face reported to the elderly man in a respectful manner.

"The Yun Clan was a very formidable force in our Late Age Nation for many years, and those restrictions are not to be underestimated. Make sure to be on your guard at all times and ensure that they don't make it out of here alive," Xu Shou instructed with a dark expression.

"If our savior hadn't gone to pursue that demon beast, he could've easily broken those restrictions," the middle-aged man complained.

Xu Shou was just about to scold him for his untoward remarks when he suddenly looked up into the night sky, where a streak of yellow light flashed through the air before landing beside the dried well.

Xu Shou and the others immediately extended respectful bows as they greeted in unison, "Welcome back, esteemed savior."

The yellow light faded to reveal a yellow-robed young man with a set of unremarkable features, and he took a glance at the middle-aged man who was knelt down beside Xu Shou, following which a cold gleam flashed through his eyes as he decapitated the man with a casual sweep of his hand.

Xu Shou's entire body was splattered with the man's blood, but he only flinched slightly and didn't dare to move even a single inch.

The young man drew the middle-aged man's nascent soul into his hand, then casually crushed it in his hand.

Earlier, he had set off to pursue that strange azure bird, but it was even faster than a late-Grand Ascension cultivator, so he was unable to catch it, and that had left him in a very foul mood.

He was looking for someone to vent his fury on, and the middle-aged man had made those careless remarks at the worst possible time.

"How are things going?" the young man asked.

"The restrictions will be broken in just four more hours," Xu Shou hurriedly replied.

"I don't have time for that. After I take care of things here, I have to get back to the sect. From this day forth, the annual offerings that your Xu Clan must submit to our Stone Ditch Palace will be doubled," the young man said, and Xu Shou's heart immediately sank upon hearing this.

The Xu Clan had taken over the Late Age Nation as there was a Sunray Sand mine here, and most of the profits made from that mine had to be submitted to the Stone Ditch Palace. Now that the mandatory offerings had been doubled, there was no profit for them to be made at all.

"Is there a problem?" the young man asked as he raised an eyebrow.

"Not at all, esteemed savior," Xu Shou hurriedly replied.

The young man paid no further heed to him as he swept a hand through the air, and a yellow paper talisman appeared on each of his fingers.

After chanting a brief incantation, the five talismans erupted into flames, then shot forth toward the opening of the well as five bursts of flames of different colors.

A burst of yellow light flashed over the entrance of the well, and an array that had been set up around the well was activated, working with the five bursts of flames to attack the opening of the well.

A resounding boom rang out as a golden light barrier appeared over the opening of the well, only to then explode an instant later.

Immediately thereafter, seven or eight streaks of light of different colors shot out of the well, then rose up into the sky like fireworks before flying away in different directions.

However, before they had a chance to disperse, a giant five-colored umbrella descended out of the sky, revolving on the spot while releasing a burst of invisible suction force to reel in all of the streaks of light, revealing them to be a group of cultivators.

The cultivators of the Xu Clan immediately surrounded the group of cultivators, and all of them were holding weapons with sinister grins on their faces.

Standing beside the well was an azure-robed young man with a crescent-shaped jade pendant hanging from his waist. Beside him was another young man who appeared to be of similar age and was built like a brick wall.

These two were none other than Meng Yungui and Sun Buzheng, while the ones around them were Meng Xiong and the others, and all of them were severely injured.

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Chapter 527: Disappeared?

Sun Buzheng was quite severely wounded, and his face was deathly pale. His voice was rather unsteady as he said, "I owe you for getting us into this mess, Yungui, but it looks like I won't be able to repay you this lifetime. Let's be brothers again in our next lives!"

Meng Yungui heaved a concerned sigh upon hearing this. "How is Qianqian going to be able to fare on her own?"

The guilt on Sun Buzheng's face became even more pronounced upon hearing this, and he gritted his teeth tightly.

The young man withdrew his five-colored umbrella, then pointed his thumb at himself as he declared, "Don't be in such a hurry to decide your own fate. Whether you live or die is up to me."

"If you're going to kill us, then do it! Stop wasting time!" Sun Buzheng yelled in a furious voice.

"Tell me where you came from. How did you obtain all of those powerful treasures, and what's the deal with that bird? If you answer these questions truthfully, perhaps I'll find it in the kindness of my heart to spare one of you," the young man said.

Sun Buzheng's expression changed slightly upon hearing this. If possible, he wanted Meng Yungui to survive.

"So you want to kill us, but you're afraid of our backers, and you want to know who they are before you kill us and get rid of the evidence, right? Save your energy, we're not going to say anything!" Meng Yungui declared in a resilient voice.

"I gave you a chance, but you didn't want it, so you can't blame me," the young man said with a sinister smile, then tossed his five-colored umbrella up into the air with a flick of his wrist, and it rose up into the sky to encompass everyone from above.

The runes on the umbrella were flashing incessantly, while countless bursts of five-colored light emerged over the umbrella's frame, then shot down toward Meng Yungui and the others like a storm of five-colored needles.

Meng Yungui was calmly prepared to face his death, and his final thought was still of his sister.

Right as everyone thought that everything was about to come to an end, the five-colored umbrella hanging in the sky suddenly shuddered violently, following which it was forcibly closed, shutting in all of the five-colored needles of light before the umbrella was sent flying even higher up into the sky.

Immediately thereafter, a hand reached out to grab onto the umbrella, and with just a casual swipe, its connection to its former owner was completely erased.

The young man gave a muffled groan as he looked up into the sky with shock and horror in his eyes.

A green jade flying carriage had appeared in the night sky up above, atop which stood three figures.

"Master Li! Qianqian!" Meng Yungui immediately exclaimed in an ecstatic voice.

Sun Buzheng and the others were also ecstatic, and tears were beginning to well up in Meng Xiong's eyes.

"We pay our respects to Master Li!" all of them declared in unison as they fell to their knees.

"You did very well, Yungui," Han Li said with a nod of approval.

Meng Yungui didn't know what Han Li was referring to, and a perplexed look appeared on his face, but Sun Buzheng knew that he was being praised for refusing to reveal his own identity even in the face of death.

With that in mind, a hint of lingering fear welled up in his heart. If he had let slip even a single word of information earlier, then they would've most likely all been left here to die.

"Big Brother!" Meng Yungui called out as she flew down from the carriage before descending by Meng Yungui's side, then pulled a white jade vial that had been given to her by Han Li and tipped a few yellow pills from within before handing them out to everyone.



Just a moment ago, the young man had been confident and assured, but now, there was a fearful look on his face, and Xu Shou and the others were so terrified that they didn't even dare to breathe too loudly.

"You're from the Stone Ditch Palace, is that right?" Han Li asked as he glanced at the young man's attire.

The young man forcibly composed himself, then replied, "Yes, Senior, my name is Luo Hua, and I am an outer sect disciple of the Stone Ditch Palace."

Even though he was only at the pinnacle of the Grand Ascension Stage, he had seen extremely powerful figures during his time in the Stone Ditch Palace, and he knew that there was no way he could contend against this man, so he didn't even try to put up any resistance.

To his surprise, Han Li suddenly asked, "Do you know Gao Sheng?" (.)com

Luo Hua faltered slightly upon hearing this, then asked, "Are you referring to Elder Gao Sheng, who once served in the Immortal Palace?"

"All I know is that he once served at an Ascension Platform," Han Li replied.

"That's him. Elder Gao Sheng disappeared several hundred years ago, and our sect has expended a huge amount of resources to try and find him, but to no avail so far," Luo Hua explained in a fearful manner.

"He disappeared? How?" Han Li asked as his brows furrowed slightly.

"I'm but a mere outer sect disciple, so my knowledge of the circumstances surrounding Elder Gao Sheng's disappearance is very limited. Please forgive me, Senior," Luo Hua replied in an uneasy manner.

Han Li was unconvinced, and he reached out with one hand before making a grabbing motion, upon which Luo Hua was forcibly wrenched up from the ground.

Han Li caught him by the throat, and he struggled violently with a horrified look on his face as he pleaded, "Please spare me, Senior!"

Han Li extended a finger forward in an expressionless manner, and a burst of light emerged over his fingertip as he tapped it against Luo Hua's glabella to employ a soul search technique.

He then raised an eyebrow as he discovered that there was a restriction in Luo Hua's consciousness that was impeding his spiritual sense.

Of course, this posed no obstacle to him, and as soon as he channeled his Spirit Refinement Technique, the restriction in Luo Hua's mind instantly faded away.

After searching through Luo Hua's memories for a moment, a furious look appeared on Han Li's face, and the light glowing from his fingertip became even brighter.

Initially, there had been a horrified look on Luo Hua's face, but his eyes quickly rolled over into the back of his head, and he began drooling in a slack-jawed manner. His expressions became stranger and stranger until finally, he fainted altogether.

Han Li gave a cold harrumph upon seeing this, then slapped him with such tremendous force that his body was completely embedded into his ground. Not only had he been reduced to a pile of mincemeat, even his nascent soul, which had already been stripped of its spiritual nature by Han Li's Spirit Refinement Technique, was completely shattered as well.

Xu Shou and the others were astonished to see this.

In their eyes, Luo Hua had been an almighty deity, yet it was clear that this dark-skinned young man was countless times more powerful than he was, and they couldn't and didn't even dare to imagine just how lofty his cultivation base was.

At this moment, all of them were knelt down onto the ground, and they were trembling uncontrollably as cold sweat poured down their faces.

Han Li had become so incensed because Luo Hua had been blatantly lying to his face.

He wasn't just some ordinary outer sect disciple, as he proclaimed. Instead, he was one of the disciples of the Stone Ditch Palace specifically assigned with the task of gathering intelligence, and he had only come to the Late Age Nation during the course of his investigation of Gao Sheng's disappearance.

After that, he discovered that there was a Sunray Sand mine here, and in order to claim it for himself, he assisted the Xu Clan in replacing the Yun Clan and destroying the Sun Clan to take over the nation.

As for Gao Sheng, he was a direct disciple to the Stone Ditch Palace's grand elder, and his disappearance had created a massive stir in the sect. The circumstances surrounding his disappearance were indeed quite murky. All that the sect knew was that it had to do with a certain mysterious person, and there were portraits of that person circulating throughout the sect.

That mysterious person was naturally none other than Han Li.

There were many more intelligence-gathering disciples like Luo Hua, and they had been sent out several centuries ago to search for Gao Sheng.

Hence, he had instantly identified Han Li as the mysterious figure depicted in the portraits.

After killing Luo Hua, a hesitant look appeared on Han Li's face as he pondered whether he should make a trip to the Stone Ditch Palace to see if he could find any news about Gao Sheng. After all, the events that had unfolded several centuries ago were still a mystery to him.

However, ultimately, he decided not to make such a detour. It had already been some time since he had left the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, and it most likely wasn't going to be long before the Heavenly Court made its move.

His top priority right now was to leave this immortal region as soon as possible.

With that in mind, Han Li pointed a finger at Xu Shou, releasing a burst of azure light that instantly bound him to the spot.

"I'm going to the mountain outside the city. You only have an hour," he declared, following which the green jade flying carriage vanished into thin air.

"Thank you, Master Li!" Sun Buzheng yelled as he knelt down in gratitude toward Han Li.

Shortly thereafter, the sound of blood-curdling howls rang out as a slaughter ensued.

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On the mountain outside Bright Cloud City, Han Li was seated in a pavilion on the mountain summit, resting with his eyes closed.

Jin Tong was seated on the ground with her legs crossed beside him, and she was holding a white longsword in her hands, which she was breaking up into pieces before eating. As she did this, her gaze was constantly roaming over her surroundings, and it seemed that she was quite interested in this area.

Han Li opened his eyes, then flipped a hand over to produce a disk treasure.

A hint of befuddlement appeared on his face at the sight of the peculiar patterns on the disk.

Just now, as he was channeling his Spirit Refinement Technique, the disk had suddenly reacted.

After some contemplation, Han Li channeled his Spirit Refinement Technique once again, and a cloud of white mist instantly rose up over the disk to encompass its entire surface.

At the same time, a speck of pulsing red light emerged on the disk.

Han Li withdrew his Spirit Refinement Technique, and the speck of red light gradually faded.

After repeating this experiment several times, it became apparent to Han Li that this disk was capable of detecting those using the Spirit Refinement Technique nearby.

He didn't know how large its sensory range was, but the fact that it came from a High Zenith Stage Jade Immortal like Gongshu Jiu meant that it had to be quite a powerful treasure. In the future, he had to be careful when using the Spirit Refinement Technique.

Han Li exhaled as he stowed the disk away, and he suddenly heard the sound of gentle snoring ringing out from beside him.

He turned to discover that Jin Tong had already fallen asleep while laying on the bench under the pavilion, and there was a faint smile on her face.

#### Chapter 528: Come Out to See Me

Han Li tried to rouse Jin Tong from her slumber through their spiritual connection, but she displayed no signs of waking up, so he could only put her back into his spirit beast pouch.

The breeze blowing over the mountain was very cool and refreshing, and the sun was already beginning to rise in the distance.

A short while later, Meng Yungui and the others arrived on the mountain summit to meet Han Li.

He told them the same thing that he had already informed Meng Qianqian of earlier, then departed on his own without lingering any longer, leaving Meng Qianqian to look on with a sullen expression.

"Master Li's cultivation base seems to have advanced even further. I think he's become even more powerful than the Golden Immortal Stage Dao Lords of the Blaze Dragon Dao," Sun Buzheng murmured unadulterated admiration in his eyes.

"That's why we need to work even harder in our cultivation. We may not be able to help him in the future, but we definitely can't weigh him down," Meng Qianqian said.

"Qianqian's right. We definitely can't put ourselves in a position where Master Li has to come and save us again. Once everything is settled in Bright Cloud City, let's follow Master Li's instructions and travel to the Black Wind Sea right away," Meng Yungui said.

.....

A month later.

In the sky above a boundless blue sea, a streak of azure light was racing through the clouds, doing so at such an incredible speed that it was impossible to track with the naked eye.

However, after flying for some time, the carriage drew to an abrupt halt.

Han Li was standing atop the carriage in his usual azure robe, holding a shimmering golden spirit beast pouch.

A surprised look flashed through his eyes as he opened the spirit beast pouch, and a mountainous golden beetle instantly emerged from within.

It was none other than Jin Tong in her true form, and her entire body was glowing with radiant golden light.

Furthermore, her entire body was riddled with countless peculiar patterns that were giving off a terrifying aura.

However, Han Li noticed that the beetle's eyes were still closed, indicating that it was still sleeping.

Through raising Gold Devouring Beetles back in the Spirit Realm, he learned that they evolved by devouring one another, but it seemed that Jin Tong was currently on the cusp of a breakthrough after devouring a large number of treasures.

No wonder her aura's been fluctuating unsteadily ever since she ate that cauldron... Han Li thought to himself, and the concern in his heart faded away as he sensed Jin Tong's steadily rising aura.

Right as he was about to set up an array to conceal the signs of Jin Tong's breakthrough, its eyes abruptly sprang open, and a thunderous burp rang out.

A pillar of translucent light that was over 1,000 feet in length then erupted out of its mouth, covering a distance of several hundred kilometers in the blink of an eye.

The sea down below was completely parted by the pillar of light, to the extent that the entire seabed was revealed.

Immediately thereafter, the golden light radiating from Jin Tong's body rapidly faded, and it quickly reverted back to a little girl.

The little girl stretched lazily with a bleary look in her eyes, seemingly having only just woken up.

Han Li was left feeling rather speechless upon seeing this.

At this moment, her aura indicated that she was already at the late-Golden Immortal Stage. She had made a breakthrough just by eating some things and taking a nap.

He knew that the key to Jin Tong's breakthrough had to have been that pill cauldron from the High Zenith Palace, while the other treasures that she devoured thereafter only had a secondary effect.

It appeared that she had easily made this breakthrough, but in reality, she had devoured so much resources in the process that even the average High Zenith Stage Jade Immortal may not be able to support her.

As Jin Tong finally woke up, her tummy began to grumble, and she asked, "Is there anything to eat, Uncle?"

"Of course!"

Han Li flipped a hand over to produce a giant ax that was riddled with runes before handing it over to Jin Tong, and she grabbed onto the ax with both hands before sinking her teeth into it.

A faint smile appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this, and he dragged Jin Tong back onto the carriage, then flipped a hand over to produce a white jade slip.

Everything in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region had already been taken care of, so it was time for him to leave, but before that, there was one more place that he had to visit.

With that in mind, he made a hand seal, and the green jade flying carriage quickly vanished into the distance as a streak of light.

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The Upper Arr Continent was situated to the south of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, and in contrast with the Ancient Cloud Continent and the Infernal Frost Continent, the climate here was very warm, so it was a continent that was thriving with vitality. There were countless lush forests and swamps that were teeming with snakes and ferocious beasts, making it unfit for mortal habitation.

Hence, despite the continent's fertile lands and abundant resources, it only had a tiny population of mortals, far below that of the northern continents. Due to the abundance of spirit veins here, the continent was teeming with spiritual qi and all types of spirit plants and precious beasts, so there were many cultivating sects here. As the number one spirit mountain range of the Upper Arr Continent, the Ancient Point Mountain Range was vastly renowned across the entire continent.

However, what was even more renowned was the Vast Flow Palace within the Ancient Point Mountain Range, while Grand Palace Master Luo Qinghai was an almighty immortal who ranked alongside the likes of Baili Yan of the Blaze Dragon Dao and Feng Tiandu of the Dawn Fall Sect.

The five extreme palace masters were also all Golden Immortals, and they presided over the five Vast Flow Extreme Palaces that were littered all over the continent.



Aside from them, there were many more vastly renowned figures in the sect, but the Vast Flow Palace had always liked to keep a low profile. Most of its members spent the majority of their time cultivating in seclusion, and they very rarely left the sect, so not much was known about the sect to outsiders.

At this moment, a tall man with a thick beard was currently standing in the sky near the Ancient Point Mountain Range. It was none other than Han Li in disguise.

As he inspected the mountain range up ahead, he was recalling the information that he had gathered pertaining to the Vast Flow Palace.

From his perspective, the Ancient Point Mountain Range was enshrouded in a mysterious veil of cloud and mist.

The mountain range was filled with abundant spiritual qi, particularly that of the water attribute.

A short while later, Han Li continued onward, and not long after he entered the Ancient Point Mountain Range, a streak of blue light instantly flew out from within to greet him. It was a blue spirit boat shaped like a fish, and there were several Vast Flow Palace disciples standing on it. led by a square-faced young man who appeared to be in his twenties.

Judging from their attire, they appeared to be patrolling disciples of the Vast Flow Palace, and all of them were at the Deity Transformation Stage, while their leader was a Spatial Tempering cultivator.

The square-faced young man was observing Han Li with a wary look in his eyes, but he still extended a respectful salute as he said, "I am Attendant Li Ang of the outer place. May I ask your name and the purpose for your visit, Senior?"

Han Li wore a cold expression, and he didn't even take a single glance at these people before a burst of tremendous spiritual pressure erupted out of his body without any warning.

The blue spirit boat was instantly sent flying like a leaf in a tornado, and all of the Vast Flow Palace disciples on it threw up mouthfuls of blood before falling unconscious on the spot.

Han Li continued onward without pause, but Li Ang was able to remain conscious, and he swept a sleeve through the air to send a burst of blue light erupting into the heavens as he yelled, "We're under enemy attack!"

A resounding boom rang out as the burst of blue light exploded in the sky before spreading outward in all directions.

Han Li made no attempt to stop what he was doing. In fact, he didn't even bother to take a glance at Li Ang as he continued to fly onward.

Immediately thereafter, countless streaks of light erupted out of all parts of the mountain range to stand in Han Li's path.

These were all Vast Flow Palace cultivators who possessed far superior cultivation bases to Li Ang, and they were led by a group of early and mid-True Immortal cultivators.

"Stop! Who dares to encroach upon our Vast Flow Palace?" an elderly man yelled in a furious voice.

"Get Luo Qinghai to come out and see me," Han Li declared in an expressionless manner, following which a vast wave of azure light erupted out of his body, sending all of the surrounding cultivators flying through the air.

Right at this moment, an extremely deep and resonant voice rang out. "Welcome, Fellow Daoist. Please forgive these juniors for their rudeness. May I ask your name?"

At the same time, a gentle breeze blew past, instantly scattering the wave of azure light.

Han Li raised an eyebrow as he stopped in his tracks.

Immediately thereafter, a blue-robed elderly man appeared not far in front of him.

The man was quite tall, with a long beard that trailed all the way down to his chest, but his skin was dark green in color, presenting a rather peculiar sight to behold.

The vast aura emanating from his body indicated that he was a Golden Immortal.

Han Li took a glance at the elderly man, but offered no response.

The elderly man wasn't bothered by this, and he cupped his fist in a salute as he said, "I don't think we've ever met before, Fellow Daoist. What is the purpose of your visit?"

"Get Luo Qinghai to come out and see me," Han Li repeated.

"I'm afraid you haven't come at a good time, Fellow Daoist. Palace Master Luo left the sect a very long time ago, and he still hasn't returned yet. If you have something important to discuss with him, you can leave a message with me, and I'll be sure to pass on the message once he returns."

"The Infernal Frost Immortal Palace has already closed, and I ran into Grand Palace Master Luo in Black Wind City some time ago. Back then, he had already set off back to the Vast Flow Palace. Surely you're not telling me that he still hasn't returned?" Han Li asked with a mocking sneer.

The elderly man's expression stiffened slightly upon hearing this.

"It's fine if Luo Qinghai doesn't want to meet me, but in that case, I'll have to advise your Vast Flow Palace to select two more extreme palace masters," Han Li continued with a cold smile.

The elderly man's expression changed drastically upon hearing this. "What did you just say?"

Meanwhile, everyone else was exchanging befuddled glances with one another.

Chapter 529: Visit

"I'll handle this, all of you can go now," the elderly man instructed.

Everyone else was quite curious to see what was going to happen next, but they didn't dare to disobey the elderly man, and all of them promptly departed.

"Please come with me, Fellow Daoist," the elderly man said, then flew toward the Ancient Point Mountain Range.

Han Li seemed to have already anticipated this response, and he followed along as a streak of azure light.

It didn't take long before the two of them were deep in the mountain range, and at this point, the dense mist surrounding the mountains had vanished, revealing the mountain range in its full glory.

There were countless mountains stretching as far as the eyes could see in all directions, and some buildings and restrictions were beginning to come into view.

"We just passed through the outskirts of the Ancient Point Mountain Range, only now have we entered the mountain range's inner sanctum, and this is where our Vast Flow Palace is located," the elderly man said as he continued to fly onward.

Han Li casually took a glance at his surroundings in a completely expressionless manner, and the elderly man was left feeling a little deflated by his reaction.

After flying for a while longer, Han Li suddenly spotted an enormous mountain up ahead that towered over all of its neighbors.

It stretched all the way up into the heavens, and all of the mountains around it were made to resemble tiny hills.

Han Li had witnessed quite a few majestic mountains in the past, but none that could compare with this one.

The world's origin qi near the mountain was far more abundant than it was elsewhere, and there were countless palaces and pavilions constructed on the mountain, packed tightly together to resemble the interior of a beehive.

The mountain summit was enshrouded within a huge white light barrier, and it was impossible to see into the light barrier or pass one's spiritual sense through it.

"I've heard that there are 19 enormous mountains referred to as the 19 Holy Peaks in the Vast Flow Palace, and they are the places where the spirit veins of the Ancient Point Mountain Range converge.

The first grand palace master of the Vast Flow Palace used the spiritual power of the 19 Holy Peaks as a foundation to create a secret area on each mountain summit, collectively known as the 19 Holy Areas. Which one of the 19 Holy Peaks is this one?" Han Li suddenly asked.

"You're certainly very knowledgeable, Fellow Daoist," the elderly man remarked with a surprised expression. "This is the Light Conception Peak."

Han Li nodded in response.

Beside the Light Conception Peak was an extremely wide river that was flowing into the distance.

The water in the river had a vibrant blue color and was giving off extremely abundant water-attribute spiritual power, indicating that it was some type of true water, rather than normal water.

Through the scriptures that he had read back in the Blaze Dragon Dao and the soul search technique that he had performed on the elderly man, Han Li had learned many things about the Vast Flow Palace.

Beside each of the 19 Holy Peaks was a large river, and these rivers were referred to as the 19 True Rivers.

These weren't just ordinary rivers. Instead, the water within them had been converted into true water by the spirit veins in the Ancient Point Mountain Range, and the true water in each of the 19 True Rivers possessed different properties from one another.

The past cultivators of the Vast Flow Palace had created countless water-attribute cultivation arts and abilities based on these 19 True Rivers, and they were an extremely important asset to the sect.

As the two of them continued onward, they passed by several more holy peaks and true rivers, and Han Li could tell that all of the true rivers were converging to a single place.

Close to an hour later, the elderly man suddenly stopped, and Han Li cast his gaze forward, upon which a surprised look appeared on his face.

There was an enormous round crater in the ground up ahead, and it was tens of thousands of kilometers in size, resembling a vast pit that led all the way to the underworld.

This was where the 19 True Rivers converged, and all of them were flowing into the crater as 19 breathtaking waterfalls, presenting a marvelous spectacle to behold.

The green-faced elderly man paused by the crater for a moment, as if he were intentionally showing Han Li the astonishing scenery here, and only after that did he begin to embark on a descent.

Han Li withdrew his gaze and followed along, and it didn't take long before the two of them reached the bottom of the crater.

At the bottom of the crater was a vast body of blue water.

Even though there were 19 massive waterfalls pouring into the crater, the surface of the water was extremely calm without even the slightest wave to be seen, resembling an enormous blue gemstone.

A blue palace was hovering in the air above the water, and the entire palace had been constructed out of some type of blue crystal. There were no visible seams or connective points on the entire palace, as if it had been carved out of a single vast crystal.

The entire palace was riddled with spirit patterns that were glowing radiantly, and hanging directly above the entrance of the palace was a huge plaque that read "Vast Flow Palace".

The elderly man descended in front of the Vast Flow Palace with Han Li, and at this moment, there were already six or seven other Golden Immortals gathered there, with Luo Qinghai present among them, and all of them were looking at Han Li with some degree of animosity in their eyes. [n-ovel.com](http://n-ovel.com)

In particular, there was a brawny man with a single blue horn on his forehead, and he was glowering at Han Li with a menacing expression.

At the same time, all of them were exerting pressure upon Han Li by releasing their auras, clearly trying to intimidate him.

"I believe we had a brief encounter back in Wave View City, Fellow Daoist. Please forgive me for not coming out to greet you sooner," Luo Qinghai said as he approached Han Li with a smile.

It appeared that all of the Vast Flow Palace's Golden Immortal cultivators were present, and this formidable lineup was a strong testament to the Vast Flow Palace's power as one of the top sects of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

If none of the Vast Flow Palace's Golden Immortals had perished in the Infernal Frost Immortal Palace, then the number of Golden Immortals in the sect wouldn't have been inferior in the slightest to that of the Blaze Dragon Dao during its heyday, and three of the people present were at the mid-Golden Immortal Stage, while Luo Qinghai was at the late-Golden Immortal Stage.

The elderly man who had led Han Li was one of those mid-Golden Immortal cultivators, while the other two consisted of a blue-robed young woman and that brawny man with the horn on his head.

In particular, the horned man's aura indicated that he had already reached the pinnacle of the mid-Golden Immortal Stage, so he was only a step away from joining Luo Qinghai at the late-Golden Immortal Stage.

Their collective auras formed a crushing wave of spiritual pressure that surged directly toward Han Li, but having already faced Gongshu Jiu in direct battle, this amount of spiritual pressure was certainly not enough to intimidate him.

"It sure is difficult trying to request an audience with you, Grand Palace Master Luo," Han Li said in an indifferent voice.

It was clear that Han Li was completely unfazed by the surrounding spiritual pressure, and Luo Qinghai's eyes narrowed slightly upon seeing this, but his amicable smile remained unchanged as he explained, "I was cultivating in seclusion in the sect, so I informed everyone that I wasn't going to meet with any visitors. Of course, you're an exception to that, Fellow Daoist."

Han Li merely smiled and offered no reply.

"Please come in and take a seat, Fellow Daoist," Luo Qinghai said as he turned around to lead the way.

Han Li paid no heed to the other Golden Immortals present as he entered the blue palace without any hesitation.

All of the other Golden Immortals exchanged a few glances, then entered the palace as well.

Inside the palace was a guest hall that was around 300 to 400 feet in size.

The layout of the hall was very simple, with around a dozen blue jade pillars inside, every single one of which had a rhomboid crystal embedded into it. These crystals were emitting a faint blue light that illuminated the entire hall, and there were two rows of large blue chairs placed in between these pillars.

Luo Qinghai sat down onto the main chair, then made an inviting hand gesture as he said, "Take a seat, Fellow Daoist."

Han Li duly obliged, and everyone else quickly sat down as well.

Luo Qinghai introduced everyone in the hall to Han Li, then said, "This is our second meeting, yet I'm embarrassed to say that I still don't know your name. May I ask where you've come from, Fellow Daoist?"



"My surname is Liu. As for where I came from, that's not something for you to be concerned about. I'm not from the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, so even if I told you my place of origin, you wouldn't know of it anyway," Han Li replied in an indifferent voice.

"Welcome, Fellow Daoist Liu. May I ask what your intentions are?" Luo Qinghai asked with a smile.

"I should be asking you that. After leaving the Black Wind Sea, I was planning to return to my sect, but I was ambushed by two Golden Immortals from your Vast Flow Palace near Wave View City. Thankfully, I was able to defeat them. Otherwise, I would already be dead by now. Were you the one who instructed them to come after me?"

Han Li flipped a hand over to produce a pair of blue badges as he spoke, then slapped them forcefully down onto the tea table beside him.

These were the identification badges of the two Golden Immortals that he had found within their storage tools, and all of the Vast Flow Palace cultivators' expressions instantly changed slightly upon seeing this.

Luo Qinghai's pupils also contracted slightly, but he didn't say anything.

A cold sneer appeared on the horned man's face, and he cast a provocative gaze toward Han Li as he said, "Surely there's been a misunderstanding. Palace Master Tie and Palace Master Qiu both disappeared back in Wave View City, and they most likely fell prey to enemies of our sect. We've been desperately searching for them as well, yet you proclaim that they ambushed you? I'm afraid we're all very confused."

The horned man's name was Feng Hai, and he was the Southern Extreme Palace Master of the five extreme palaces.

"So you're saying that I'm framing them for something that they didn't do?" Han Li asked as he turned to Feng Hai.

"Do you expect us to just take your word for it? If you're going to claim that they ambushed you, then you need to provide evidence. Otherwise, we're not going to accept any culpability," Feng Hai said in a cold voice.

"I came here today to demand an explanation, but seeing as you don't believe me, then I suppose there's no point in continuing this conversation any further. Two of my juniors just so happen to be missing a pair of Golden Soul Pills anyway," Han Li said as he rose to his feet, then turned to leave the hall.

All of the Vast Flow Palace cultivators' expressions changed slightly upon hearing this, and Feng Hai appeared in front of Han Li in the blink of an eye to block his path.

"What do you take our Vast Flow Palace for? An inn that you can check and check out of as you please? You can leave if you want, but you'll have to leave the nascent souls of Palace Master Tie and Palace Master Qiu behind!"

#### Chapter 530: Negotiation

"Who do you think you are? Get out of my way!"

A cold look appeared on Han Li's face, and golden light flashed over his body as one of his arms abruptly swelled drastically in size as he threw a punch at Feng Hai.

His arm instantly took on a radiant golden hue, looking as if it had been crafted out of pure gold, and it was also covered in countless strands of needle-like golden fur.

The space in the wake of the golden fist screeched and warped violently, as if it were about to be torn apart, and even before the fist arrived, a burst of terrifying force had already descended upon Feng Hai.

In response to Han Li's attack, Feng Hai took a step backward, and a layer of bright blue light surfaced over his body, while his hands transformed into a pair of formidable dragon claws.

He then let loose a thunderous roar as he thrust his claws forward, and a pair of millstone-sized blue dragon claw projections appeared in front of him.

Countless runes were pulsing incessantly on the pair of projections, while rippling waves of blue light were surging incessantly over their surface.

The two dragon claw projections were layered on top of one another to oppose Han Li's fist, and a resounding boom rang out as the golden fist crashed into the claw projections, upon which the latter was instantly shattered into countless specks of blue light.

Not only that, but a radiant golden fist projection had erupted out of Han Li's fist, and it was crashing toward Feng Hai with unstoppable force.

Feng Hai was greatly alarmed to see this, and he hurriedly swept both hands through the air, releasing a pair of small triangular blue shields.

The shields transformed into a pair of translucent walls of blue light in front of him, and they had only just taken shape before they were struck by the golden fist projection.

A thunderous boom rang out as the golden fist projection exploded into a burst of powerful golden shockwaves, which completely inundated the two walls of light.

In the face of these golden shockwaves, the walls of blue light were unable to pose any resistance, instantly disintegrating under the pressure.

A burst of tremendous force exploded outward in all directions, causing the entire palace to shudder violently, and Feng Hai was forced to stumble back close to 20 steps before finally managing to steady himself.

All of this had taken place in the blink of an eye, and by the end of the sequence, Han Li had ended up where Feng Hai had been standing just a moment ago. The two triangular shields were held in his hands, and they had already been shattered into pieces.

Han Li closed his hands around the ruined shields, instantly reducing them to powder that slipped through his fingers before being blown away by a gentle breath.

Feng Hai's expression had darkened significantly upon seeing this, and all of the other Vast Flow Palace Golden Immortals had also sprung to their feet with astonished looks on their faces.

Even though Feng Hai was only at the pinnacle of the mid-Golden Immortal Stage, he possessed a Qiulong bloodline that granted him incredible physical prowess and a body that was comparable to a Profound Immortal's True Extreme Physique. However, he had just been comprehensively beaten in a clash of strength, and it seemed like his opponent wasn't even going all-out.

Han Li slowly withdrew his hands, then continued onward without even bothering to spare a glance at Feng Hai.

All of the Vast Flow Palace Golden Immortals instantly appeared in front of Han Li to block his path, and it seemed that a battle was imminent.

"So this is how the Vast Flow Palace treats its guests? This is certainly some exceptional hospitality!" Han Li chuckled as bright golden light erupted out of his body, and a layer of golden fur emerged over his skin.

In the blink of an eye, he transformed into a giant golden ape that was over 100 feet tall, and his aura also swelled drastically to the late-Golden Immortal Stage. Furthermore, it was an aura that was filled with an astonishing degree of malice and violence, and it was sweeping through the air in all directions.

All of the Vast Flow Palace Golden Immortals were very much taken aback by this abrupt elevation in Han Li's aura, and right at this moment, Luo Qinghai appeared between them and Han Li as he yelled, "Stop!"

"Do you want to have some fun as well, Grand Palace Master Luo?" the giant golden ape asked with a cold smile, displaying no fear at all.

"Please don't misunderstand, Fellow Daoist Liu, I have no such intentions. All of you, go back to abodes and repent on your transgressions! None of you are to come out of seclusion without my permission! Fellow Daoist Liu is an esteemed guest of our Vast Flow Palace, and he must be treated as such!" Luo Qinghai scolded with a stern expression.

The Golden Immortals didn't dare to raise any objections, and they flew out of the palace in quick succession.

Feng Hai gave Han Li a vicious glare before also departing.

In the wake of their departure, Han Li reverted back to his human form, and with that, he and Luo Qinghai were the only ones left in the palace.

"I'll be honest with you, Fellow Daoist Liu. Our Vast Flow Palace suffered severe losses in the Infernal Frost Immortal Palace, and our woes were compounded even further by the unexplained disappearance of Palace Master Tie and Palace Master Qiu, so everyone is quite tense and on-edge right now. I hope you can understand," Luo Qinghai said with a friendly smile.

"Unexplained disappearance? Did I not just explain to you how they disappeared? It sounds like you also think I'm slandering them. In that case, there's no point in continuing this conversation," Han Li said with a cold smile.

"Let's not rush here, Fellow Daoist Liu. At our cultivation base, we're rarely ever overcome by our emotions. Everything that we do is for the sake of personal interest, so I'm assuming you didn't just come to our Vast Flow Palace to demand an explanation, is that correct?" Luo Qinghai asked with a faint smile.

Han Li offered no response to this.

"Palace Master Tie and Palace Master Qiu's Origin Soul Lamps haven't been snuffed out, so you must've spared them out of the kindness of your heart. Please allow me to apologize in their stead," Luo Qinghai said with a serious expression as he cupped his fist in a salute toward Han Li.

"Don't misconstrue my actions, Grand Palace Master Luo. I only spared them because I didn't want to grant them a swift and painless death," Han Li said in a cold voice.

"Let's be calm and civilized now, Fellow Daoist Liu. I don't know why Palace Master Tie and Palace Master Qiu decided to go after you, but as long as you're willing to return their nascent souls to us safe and sound, our Vast Flow Palace is willing to offer you satisfactory compensation," Luo Qinghai said.

"You sound very confident that I'll agree to your proposal," Han Li remarked as he raised an eyebrow.

"I'm a firm believer in the notion that everything has a price. As long as the reward is sufficiently alluring, even sworn enemies can become friends," Luo Qinghai said.

Han Li was silent for a moment, then said, "In that case, I don't have much for their nascent souls anyway, so I can return them to you."

Luo Qinghai was very relieved and elated to hear this, and he hurriedly cupped his fist in a grateful salute as he said, "Thank you, Fellow Daoist Liu. What would you like in return? Our sect has always been rather lacking in resources compared with the likes of the Dawn Fall Sect and the Blaze Dragon Dao, but I'll do my best to satisfy you."

"There's not much that can catch my eye in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, but back in the Infernal Frost Immortal Palace, I heard from Fellow Daoist Gongshu that your Vast Flow Palace has a cultivation art by the name of the Water Divination Time Arts, and that it's related to the laws of time. Is that correct?" Han Li asked as he sat down onto one of the chairs in the hall.

"That is indeed true," Luo Qinghai confirmed as a peculiar look appeared on his face. "By the way, by Fellow Daoist Gongshu, are you referring to Immortal Envoy Gongshu Jiu?"

"That's right," Han Li replied with a nod.

"It sounds like you also entered the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, but I don't recall seeing you there. Could it be that you entered the immortal manor together with Immortal Envoy Gongshu?" Luo Qinghai asked.

"I don't believe that's any of your business, Grand Palace Master Luo," Han Li said as his brows furrowed slightly.

"Forgive me. Please continue, Fellow Daoist Liu," Luo Qinghai said with an apologetic smile.

"There's not much else to be said. Give me the Water Divination Time Arts, and I'll return the nascent souls to you," Han Li replied in a direct and concise fashion.

"The Water Divination Time Arts is the premier cultivation art of our Vast Flow Palace. Even within our sect, we can only access the cultivation art after securing majority approval from the panel of elders, so I'm afraid this may be a little too much to ask. Is there anything else I can do for you, Fellow Daoist Liu?" Luo Qinghai asked.

"That's the only condition that I have, it's up to you whether you want to accept it or not. I'm only going to wait two hours here. If I don't see the Water Divination Time Arts in two hours, then I'll just have to refine those nascent souls into Golden Soul Pills," Han Li said as he casually flipped a hand over to produce an object.

Han Li had summoned a white crystal ball, sealed within which was a blue nascent soul in the appearance of the fair-skinned scholar, and Luo Qinghai's pupils instantly contracted slightly upon seeing this.

The nascent soul was ecstatic to see Luo Qinghai, but it was completely immobilized, and it wasn't able to communicate with Luo Qinghai through voice transmission, either.

Luo Qinghai shifted his gaze from the white crystal ball to Han Li, then said, "Please wait here for a moment, Fellow Daoist Liu, I have to discuss this matter with the others."

After that, Luo Qinghai promptly departed, leaving Han Li on his own in the hall.

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Luo Qinghai emerged from the hall with his brows tightly furrowed in indecision.

After a brief pause, he quickly made his way into a side hall, where all of the other Golden Immortals were already waiting for him, and they immediately rose to their feet as he entered the room.

"How did it go, Grand Palace Master?" the green-faced elderly man asked.

Luo Qinghai gave everyone a brief recount of his conversation with Han Li.

"He wants the Water Divination Time Arts? He must be delusional!" Feng Hai harrumphed coldly.

"The Water Divination Time Arts is the most prized treasure of our Vast Flow Palace. How can we give it to an outsider?" the blue-robed woman chimed in.

"The problem is that this is the only condition that he's stated. If we turn him down, what's going to happen to Palace Master Tie and Palace Master Qiu?" the green-faced elderly man asked with tightly furrowed brows.

The blue-robed woman fell silent upon hearing this.

"He may be a formidable opponent, but if all of us attack him at once with the restrictions in the Vast Flow Palace on our side, surely we'll be able to bring him down! Once he's dead, we'll be able to save Palace Master Tie and Palace Master Qiu's nascent souls," Feng Hai suggested as a hint of killing intent flashed through his eyes.

Everyone else was also quite tempted by this proposal.