

A Sword 111

Chapter 111: The Sword Master?

When the Chosen One's words fell, the divine seal shook violently, and a white Dao word flew out from the divine seal. It left a dazzling trail of light as it streaked across the sky.

Boom!

The scenery blurred once more as the power of Heaven and Earth distorted everything. The earth and even the mountains flanking the valley trembled beneath the devastating power. The onlookers were horrified; they were witnessing the might of the Heavenly Dao!

The invisible power was strong enough to kill a Divine Tribulation Realm cultivator. It was indeed an ultimate move.

The Heavenly Dao was now involved, so no one knew how the battle would unfold.

Everyone stared intently at Ye Guan. Is this the end of his journey, or would he defy the Heavenly Dao and live?

Ye Guan defying the Heavenly Dao meant defying the Guanxuan Academy.

After all, the Heavenly Dao was under the control of the Guanxuan Academy.

Ye Guan stared at the Dao word of the Heavenly Dao and asked, "Master Pagoda, am I staring at the Heavenly Dao right now?"

Little Pagoda answered, "Yes!"

Ye Guan asked, "Shouldn't the Heavenly Dao be impartial?"

Little Pagoda answered, "The Heavenly Dao has never been impartial. Fairness is perceived by the human heart."

Fairness is perceived by the human heart. Ye Guan chuckled.

He had always admired the Guanxuan Academy because of the Guanxuan Law.

Ye Guan thought that the Guanxuan Academy was the universe's advocate of justice, but he recently realized that he was mistaken. Both good and evil existed within the Guanxuan Academy.

Master Pagoda was right. Fairness was perceived by the human heart, and everyone's standard of evil and good wasn't absolute. If the Heavenly Dao were fair, Ye Guan would obey the Heavenly Dao, but if it weren't fair, he would defy it.

Ye Guan's eyes flashed violently. He stretched out with his right hand and summoned the Path Sword.

He stomped and shot into the sky.

Hum!

The resonant hum of the Path Sword pierced everyone's ears. A bright flash of light briefly blinded everyone as Ye Guan enveloped the Path Sword with his sword force and sword intent.

The onlookers' faces turned solemn.

The young swordsman from Nanzhou was really going to defy the Heavenly Dao.

They could understand his decision because they would have made the same choice as him if he were in his shoes. After all, he could only make one choice out of two choices: either defy the Heavenly Dao or die.

Ye Guan had evidently decided to defy the Heavenly Dao, but the Heavenly Dao was the embodiment of the universe's order. The onlookers stared with wide eyes, afraid that they would miss even a single detail.

Under the onlookers' intense gazes, Ye Guan swung the Path Sword at the Dao word.

Boom!

The onlookers stared at Ye Guan with bated breaths. They were expecting to see Ye Guan being torn to shreds and dying on the spot, but their eyes soon bulged in shock. An incredulous sight was unfolding before them.

Rip!

Ye Guan's sword split the Dao character.

Boom!

A deafening explosion echoed, and the divine seal—as well as the giant array that had manifested earlier—turned into ashes. However, Ye Guan's sword was still moving, and it made a beeline for the Eye of the Heavenly Dao!

A figure was within the Eye of the Heavenly Dao, and it was infuriated upon seeing Ye Guan's actions.

“A mere mortal dares to defy me?”

Crackle!

The next moment, destructive bolts of lightning flashed across the sky.

Heavenly Tribulation!

The onlookers were stunned. A Heavenly Tribulation wasn't that rare because Divine Tribulation Realm cultivators would have to survive a Heavenly Tribulation before they could step onto the next realm.

However, the Heavenly Tribulation in front of them was obviously not an ordinary Heavenly Tribulation.

Ye Guan's eyes shone fiercely as he yelled, "Break!"

Boom!

The Path Sword split the Heavenly Tribulation clouds.

Hum!

The Path Sword let out a resonant hum as it flew and pierced the Eye of the Heavenly Dao in the blink of an eye.

Boom!

The Eye of the Heavenly Dao was destroyed, and the blurry world returned to normal.

Shock rippled through the onlookers, and they stood as still as statues.

Did Ye Guan just destroy the Eye of the Heavenly Dao? Did he really just do that?

The onlookers were bewildered as they stared incredulously at Ye Guan.

"Ye Guan, you must not destroy the Heavenly Dao!" shouted Gu Chaoyuan.

The Heavenly Dao was being pinned to the ground by the Path Sword.

It was still alive.

Ye Guan turned to look at Gu Chaoyuan.

“The Heavenly Dao represents the order of the universe and the Guanxuan Academy. The Guanxuan Law also states that no one is allowed to harm the spirits of the world.

”The Heavenly Dao is a spirit, and killing it means that you can no longer be redeemed,” said Gu Chaoyuan. He didn’t have any ill intentions because he was aware that Ye Guan and Ye Guanzhi were friends.

Gu Chaoyuan was also confident that the Main Guanxuan Academy would forgive Ye Guan as long as he spared the Heavenly Dao.

After all, Ye Guan displayed such unprecedented talent today, so the Main Guanxuan Academy would definitely accept Ye Guan as a student. In addition, the An Clan had been the aggressor all this while.

Gu Chaoyuan was sure that even those aristocratic families and great clans would have nothing to say. Ye Guan was also a Sword Sovereign despite his young age, so Ye Guanzhi’s department would definitely rope him in as if their life depended on it.

Ye Guanzhi could also make the people behind her get involved in the decision-making process, which would definitely silence the aristocratic families and the great clans. After all, there were quite a number of people supporting her in the Department of Arts. Ye Guanzhi’s master was also Department Chief Shuxian..

The aristocratic families and the great clans of the Main Guanxuan Academy would definitely stand aside to let him into the Main Guanxuan Academy.

However, it would be a different story if Ye Guan killed the Heavenly Dao. Ye Guan's enemies would have enough justification to kill him, and Ye Guanzhi would no longer be able to argue her way into making the higher-ups accept Ye Guan as a student.

In other words, Ye Guan would be digging his own grave if he decided to kill the Heavenly Dao. Ye Guan went silent in mid-air. Of course, he was aware of what would happen if he decided to kill the Heavenly Dao.

The Guanxuan Law stated that no one should harm the Heavenly Dao, even if it had made a mistake.

The Guanxuan Academy was the only entity allowed to punish the Heavenly Dao, and those daring enough to harm it would face extremely severe consequences of up to the tenth degree!

The severity of the punishment that one would receive for breaking the Guanxuan Law went up to twelve degrees. In other words, murdering the Heavenly Dao was a serious crime.

The Heavenly Dao looked up at Ye Guan and jeered, "What? Afraid to kill me?"

The Heavenly Dao was not afraid, for it was under the Guanxuan Academy's protection!

Ye Guan stared deeply at the Heavenly Dao before asking inwardly, "Master Pagoda, should I kill it?"

"The choice is yours," said Little Pagoda.

Ye Guan nodded. "All right, I'll trust you, Master Pagoda."

With that, he raised his sword and swung it menacingly down at Heavenly Dao.

Boom!

A deafening explosion echoed as the Heavenly Dao perished under the Path Sword's attack. Moments later, the spiritual energy of the Zhongtu Divine Continent rapidly vanished.

The spiritual energy of the Zhongtu Divine Continent declined rapidly, as the Heavenly Dao was the array controller of the Zhongtu Divine Continent's spiritual energy.

The Heavenly Dao's death meant that the array would no longer work, which resulted in the rapid draining of the Zhongtu Divine Continent's spiritual energy.

The blood drained from Gu Chaoyuan's face as he muttered blankly, "It's over... it's over..."

Ye Guan had murdered the Heavenly Dao.

Ye Guan had committed a heinous crime, so Ye Guanzhi wouldn't be able to protect him anymore!

The onlookers were dumbfounded as well.

The Heavenly Dao was murdered?

The onlookers couldn't quite wrap their heads around it. One thing was for sure—the Heavenly Dao was dead, and Ye Guan killed it.

The Chosen One was in disbelief. He thought that he could easily kill Ye Guan with the help of the Heavenly Dao. He didn't expect that summoning the Heavenly Dao here would lead to the Heavenly Dao's death.

Gu Chaoyuan's voice was trembling as he muttered, "Ye Guan, y-y-you..."

Ye Guan calmly answered, "My Master Pagoda told me to kill it."

Little Pagoda muttered, "Did I?"

Ye Guan retorted, "You said the choice was mine."

Little Pagoda was at a loss for words.

Ye Guan added, "You have to bear the karma with me, Master Pagoda."

Little Pagoda went silent. You're indeed despicable, all right? I surrender to you.

Just then, Gu Chaoyuan laughed bitterly. "Ye Guan, your Master Pagoda—"

He interrupted himself and sighed.

Ye Guan looked serious as he said, "My Master Pagoda is extremely strong. Really."

Gu Chaoyuan hesitantly asked, "How strong is he?"

Ye Guan answered, "He said that under three swords, he was invincible. Above three swords, it was one-for-one."

Little Pagoda didn't know what to say. Three swords?

Gu Chaoyuan frowned. It's my first time hearing that?

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at the Chosen One.

The Chosen One frowned.

Ye Guan wasn't a fan of unfinished business, so he immediately charged at the Chosen One.

Rumble!

A rift in space abruptly appeared behind the Chosen One, and an arm emerged from it. It grabbed the Chosen One's shoulder and dragged him away.

Shwik!

Ye Guan frowned upon hitting nothing but air. The Chosen One managed to run away. The thought of chasing after the Chosen One crossed his mind, but he decided otherwise.

It was a pity, but the Chosen One had shattered the spacetime rules to run away, which meant that he was most likely shuttling through space at the moment.

In other words, chasing after the Chosen One would be like looking for a needle in a haystack.

Ye Guan shook his head. He would definitely settle the score the next time they met.

Ji Xuan ran toward Ye Guan and said, "You have to run."

Ye Guan frowned.

"Hurry up and run!" Ji Xuan repeated. She was aware that Ye Guan would soon be dragged to the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy to be sentenced because he had violated the Guanxuan Law by killing the Heavenly Dao.

The Main Guanxuan Academy could get involved as well.

Ye Guan thought over it before turning toward Dongli Mo.

Dongli Mo was instantly startled, but before he could react, Ye Guan reappeared right in front of him.

Dongli Mo felt like his heart had popped out of his chest, and he hurriedly clenched his fist to unleash the power of his powerful bloodline.

However, the Path Sword in Ye Guan's hand shattered the power of his powerful bloodline before it could even congeal.

Dongli Mo was horrified. He was aware of his bloodline's power. A regular Divine Tribulation Realm cultivator would find it a challenge to shatter his defenses while he was using his bloodline's power.

In addition, he had forced Ye Guan to retreat a few times earlier using his bloodline's power. However, he no longer stood a chance against Ye Guan for some inexplicable reason, even though Ye Guan had only decided to wield a real sword.

Dongli Mo's mind worked hard to think of a way out of this predicament, but the Path Sword had reached his throat.

Ye Guan didn't kill Dongli Mo. He grabbed the latter and vanished.

Dongli Chen's expression darkened, and he chased after Ye Guan. Ji Xuan and Ye Qing hurried after him.

Ye Guan dragged Dongli Mo to the Undying World.

Ye Guan saw the old man that he met upon his first visit to the Undying World.

The old man gasped in surprise. "You...!"

Ye Guan ignored the old man and dragged Dongli Mo deeper into the Undying World, and a few hundred powerful divine senses locked onto him the moment he stepped into the depths of the Undying World.

Dongli Chen appeared not too far away from Ye Guan.

Ye Guan held the Path Sword at Dongli Mo's throat and said, "Senior, I have no ill intentions. I just want to borrow an item."

Dongli Chen stared deeply at Ye Guan and asked, "What do you want?"

Ye Guan exclaimed, "The Qingxuan Sword!"

"No way!" Dongli Chen snapped, "There's no way I'll give that sword to you."

Ye Guan's expression was indifferent as he stared at Dongli Chen and said, "I'm going to collect what I'm owed one way or another, so you can either lend me the Qingxuan Sword or..."

Ye Guan glanced at Dongli Mo before continuing. "Dongli Mo chose to team up with An Daoxin to kill me. It should be fine for me to retaliate and kill him, right?"

Dongli Chen glared at Ye Guan and roared, "Ye Guan! You're a monstrous talent, and your Dao Protector is extremely powerful, but you're in front of the Undying Clan!"

Dongli Chen pointed at the statue of the Sword Master not too far away from the Undying Clan's great hall and bellowed, "The Undying Clan is under the Sword Master's protection! Your Dao Protector is strong, but can she defeat the Sword Master? Don't go too far, or I'll summon the Sword Master!"

Chapter 112: World Sword Aura

Dongli Chen was not afraid of Ye Guan. The Undying Clan's source of confidence was the Sword Master. The Sword Master was the greatest backer of the Undying Clan.

The Great Sword Sovereign backing up Ye Guan had shown incredible strength, but the Undying Clan wasn't afraid of her. She also said that she wouldn't dare to fight back if the Sword Master fought her.

She was strong, but she was nothing but a baby compared to the esteemed Sword Master born millions of years ago.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed, and the Path Sword quivered, drawing blood from Dongli Mo's neck.

Dongli Mo's eyes widened, and his heart was gripped with fear.

Who could be truly fearless in front of death? He initially thought that he wouldn't be afraid of death, but right now, he was truly afraid. Ye Guan seemed like he wouldn't kill him instantly as well.

"Stop!" Dongli Chen screamed. Dongli Mo was the greatest talent of the Undying Clan, so his death would definitely be a huge blow to the Undying Clan.

Ye Guan stopped and wordlessly stared at Dongli Chen.

Dongli Chen's face grew ashen upon recalling what Ye Guan wanted.

"Ye Guan, are you sure you want to force the Undying Clan's hand?" he asked.

Ye Guan answered, "Why is it that you're making it appear as if I were the one bullying you guys? This talent from your clan joined forces with the An Clan to try and kill me. Have you already forgotten that?"

Dongli Chen glared at him and growled. "It was just an attempt... you're still alive!"

Ye Guan's eyes flashed murderously, and he slashed out with his sword.

Shwik!

Dongli Mo's head flew into the air, and blood spurted out of his corpse's stump.

“How dare you!” Dongli Chen was furious. He didn’t expect that Ye Guan would directly disregard the Undying Clan and the Sword Master’s prestige. However, he was also afraid. Dongli Mo was dead, so what would happen to their clan?

Ye Guan stared deeply at Dongli Chen.

Dongli Chen’s expression fell. He could feel Ye Guan’s killing intent.

Dongli Chen glowered at Ye Guan and roared, “Ye Guan, we’re in the Undying World!”

“You idiot!” Ye Guan roared, “I killed the members of the An Clan and even the Heavenly Dao, do you really think that I’m afraid of the Undying Clan? Lend the sword to me, and I’ll spare the younger generation of your clan. We’ll have nothing to do with each other anymore afterward.

“You already know that I’m capable of keeping my word, so how come you’re still threatening me? Your idiocy is worrying. I’m worried about your clan.”

The powerhouses of the Undying Clan stared at Dongli Chen with dissatisfied looks.

Ye Guan was right. The fact that he dared to come here meant that he wasn’t afraid of the Undying Clan at all. The best course of action that they could take at this point was to agree to Ye Guan’s request.

If Dongli Chen had done that earlier, Dongli Mo wouldn’t have died. Unfortunately, their clan leader still had the gall to threaten Ye Guan, which resulted in Dongli Mo’s death.

Is he stupid??Ye Guan suddenly said, “No, I don’t think you’re dumb. There’s no way the Undying Clan has an idiot for a clan leader.”

Ye Guan’s eyes narrowed as he continued. “I see. I understand. You wanted me to kill Dongli Mo. Correct me if I’m wrong, but Dongli Mo must not be your direct descendant!”

Dongli Chen's eyes widened, and the powerhouses of the Undying Clan stared at their clan leader in shock.

"Dongli Chen, you bastard!" A middle-aged man stepped out and pointed furiously at Dongli Chen. "How come you're still thinking of winning the power struggle in our clan?! Give me back my son!"

The middle-aged man charged at Dongli Chen.

Goodness! This is ridiculous! The powerhouses of the Undying Clan were furious. How come their clan leader could still think of winning the power struggle in their clan with a hostile cultivator standing right in front of them?

Dongli Mo was undoubtedly the most outstanding talent of the Undying Clan so far.

His death meant that the younger generation of the Undying Clan no longer had a leader and a role model. He died as a result of Dongli Chen's scheme, and it was all because he wasn't Dongli Chen's direct descendant.

The Undying Clan was currently in danger, so the clan leader should have abandoned the thought of emerging victorious in an internal strife. The fact that Dongli Chen prioritized his victory left the Undying Clan members seething in anger.

Ye Guan stared alternately between the middle-aged man and Dongli Chen fighting in the distance. He shook his head and asked, "Master Pagoda, is the Sword Master really the Undying Clan's backer?"

Little Pagoda answered, "The old clan leader of the Undying Clan was an outstanding individual, and the Undying Clan members of that generation were great people. It has been millions of years since then, and a clan also changes according to its people."

Ye Guan asked, "Master Pagoda, can you sense the Qingxuan Sword?"

Moments later, Little Pagoda said, "Now that you said it, I can't sense it. This is strange."

Damn it! Ye Guan frowned as he stared at the two people fighting each other in the distance. I came here to borrow the sword, not to see you guys fighting each other for supremacy.

“Stop!” Ye Guan shouted. Dongli Chen and the middle-aged man stopped.

The others also turned to look at Ye Guan.

“Why are you guys fighting each other? Shouldn’t you guys gang up on me? At the very least, you guys should pretend like you’re my enemies. Damn it, why am I even telling you guys about this?”

Everyone went silent as Ye Guan scanned the crowd. “I’m here to borrow the Qingxuan Sword. If you don’t want to lend it to me, then I have no choice but to take it away.”

Borrow the Qingxuan Sword! The members of the Undying Clan glared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan pointed at the statue of the Sword Master and said, “I believe in the Sword Master, and I hereby swear in front of the Sword Master that I will return the Qingxuan Sword once I’m done with it.”

“I...” Dongli Chen was about to say something, but a young woman appeared.

The young woman seemed to be seventeen or eighteen years of age, and her purple skirt swayed gently as she stepped between Ye Guan and Dongli Chen. Her features were distinct, and overall, she was a beauty.

The young woman stared at Ye Guan and said, “Young Lord Ye, the Qingxuan Sword is no longer with the Undying Clan.”

Ye Guan was astonished. “It’s not here?”

The young woman nodded and explained, “Ex-Clan Leader Jing brought the Qingxuan Sword to the Main Guanxuan Academy. We didn’t want the public to know that the Qingxuan Sword was no longer with us, so we made sure to hide the news.”

Ye Guan fell silent. Then, he glared at Dongli Chen and snapped, "Why did you not tell me earlier that the Qingxuan Sword is no longer with you? If you had, I wouldn't have killed Dongli Mo!"

"Ah!" The middle-aged man screamed in agony, "My Mo'er! You died in vain!"

He glared hatefully at Dongli Chen. "You bastard! I will settle our scores today and avenge Mo'er!"

He charged at Dongli Chen, and the two fought each other once more.

Ye Guan was disappointed. He thought that the Qingxuan Sword would be with the Undying Clan. He didn't expect that an ancestor of the Undying Clan had already brought it away to the Guanxuan Universe.

Furthermore, he had just killed the Heavenly Dao of the Zhongtu Divine Continent, so how could he go to the Main Guanxuan Academy?

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Master Pagoda, can you help me barge into the Main Guanxuan Academy? I will take on the small fries, you handle the big fries. If you can help me, I'll go to the Main Guanxuan Academy right now."

"I'm glad to hear that you think highly of me," Little Pagoda replied. Goodness! This brat is more vicious than his grandfather, but he's smarter than his father! Why is the Yang Family becoming more and more outrageous in every generation?!

Ye Guan shook his head and smiled bitterly.

Just then, the young woman in a purple skirt called out to him. "Young Lord Ye!"

Ye Guan turned to look at her.

She hesitated slightly before asking, "Can I ask you a question?"

“What is it?”

The young woman in a purple skirt walked toward him. Her expression turned serious as she asked, “You’re definitely not an evil person, so... are you trying to get the Qingxuan Sword for Lady Nalan Jia?”

Ye Guan did a double take at her and asked, “How did you know?”

The young woman in a purple skirt smiled and explained, “You’ve already become famous throughout the Zhongtu Divine Continent, even though it hasn’t been that long since you’ve come here.

”Truth be told, I’m one of your admirers, so I dug into your background.”

Ye Guan frowned and asked, “What are you trying to say?”

The young woman in a purple skirt turned toward an old man and said, “Grand Elder, can you please bring that ebony wood here?”

The Grand Elder’s expression fell.

The young woman in a purple skirt saw that and said, “Grand Elder, I’m sure you’ll become the next clan leader of our clan once we’re done satisfying Young Lord Ye’s wish.”

The Grand Elder flinched and grinned. Oh, yeah! The clan leader made a huge mistake, so everyone is mad at him.

The Grand Elder went somewhere and returned with a storage ring.

The young woman in a purple skirt explained, “It’s a hundred-thousand-year-old ebony wood, and it contains an energy that is extremely nourishing to the soul.

"Young Lord Ye, Nalan Jia's soul will last for a much longer time if you allow the ebony wood to nourish her. Her soul will also be strengthened by the ebony wood.

"I'm sure you're going to reconstruct her physique once you've obtained the Qingxuan Sword. Her strengthened soul will definitely survive the process by then, and there will also be no sequela whatsoever!"

A hundred-thousand-year-old ebony wood!

The Grand Elder felt slightly reluctant to part with it, but he soon made up his mind and said, "This wood is worth more than a billion gold spiritual crystals, and it is one of our clan's supreme treasures!"

Ye Guan nodded. He stared at the young woman in a purple skirt and asked, "What's your name?"

The young woman in a purple skirt smiled and replied, "Dongli Yu."

Ye Guan accepted the storage ring and said, "Thank you!"

With that, he turned around and left.

Seeing that, Dongli Chen shouted, "Do you really think that I'm going to let you leave just like this?!"

He fished out a command token. The Sword Token!

The expressions of the Undying Clan members turned heavy.

Dongli Chen glared at Ye Guan and shouted, "You ruined my plan, you bastard!"

He activated the Sword Token, and the statue of the Sword Master trembled.

Moments later, a terrifying wave of sword aura shot into the sky.

Boom!

The terrifying wave of sword aura swept across the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

World Sword Aura!

The cultivators on the Zhongtu Divine Continent felt as if they were suffocating when the World Sword Aura swept past them, while every sword throughout the Zhongtu Divine Continent stood upright to pay respects to the sword aura.

Moments later, the swords flew out of their master's hand and flew toward the Undying World.

The swordsmen all had the same thought: is he back?

Dongli Chen glared like a madman at Ye Guan and bellowed, "World Sword Aura! Kill him! Kill him for me!"

Chapter 113: I'll Bury You!

World Sword Aura!

The faces of the Undying Clan's powerhouses turned ugly.

The World Sword Aura was left behind by the Sword Master, and their ancestors had explicitly told them not to activate it unless the Undying Clan was on the brink of destruction.

Obviously, Ye Guan still had no intentions of destroying the Undying Clan, and he was also not strong enough to destroy the Undying Clan, even if he wanted to annihilate them.

In addition, they still had some extremely powerful ancestors in the Main Guanxuan Academy, so there was no need for them to activate the World Sword Aura just to deal with Ye Guan.

However, Dongli Chen's selfishness and fury spurred him into activating the World Sword Aura.

Sure, it would kill Ye Guan, but the loss would be too much.

The members of the Undying Clan felt a pang of pain in their hearts.

Dongli Chen glared murderously at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was right. Dongli Chen had allowed Ye Guan to kill Dongli Mo because Dongli Mo wasn't his direct descendant. In addition, Dongli Mo was a monstrous talent, so he would eventually threaten Dongli Chen's status as the Clan Leader of the Undying Clan.

And that was exactly why he had allowed Ye Guan to kill Dongli Mo.

He succeeded, but he didn't expect Ye Guan to see through his scheme, and he even told everyone about it, which made him the number one enemy of the Undying Clan.

Ye Guan had destroyed his reputation, but Ye Guan was strong with an extremely powerful powerhouse as a backer. Dongli Chen was left with no choice but to kill him using the World Sword Aura.

Dongli Chen quickly made a decision. He would kill Ye Guan first, then kill the clan members who would dare to oppose him afterward!

Sword Sovereign? The World Sword Aura could easily kill a Great Sword Sovereign, so how could it fail to kill a mere Sword Sovereign?

Ye Guan's expression fell upon seeing the oncoming Sword Aura. It's so strong!

Ye Guan wasn't able to appreciate his plain-skirt aunt's power because she killed her targets with one sword move, and she had also never unleashed even a hint of her aura; she only used a plain sword to kill her enemies.

Of course, Ye Guan was also aware that the reason he couldn't quite grasp his plain-skirt aunt's strength was that her sword was never pointed at him. However, Ye Guan could clearly feel the strength of the World Sword Aura!

The Sword Master! Ye Guan stared at the World Sword Aura and clenched his fists. It's just a strand of sword aura, so why is it so strong? If the Sword Master were here, I wonder how strong this sword aura would have been.

Ye Guan took a deep breath, and his eyes flashed in determination as he said inwardly, "His sword aura is still this powerful even after millions of years. Master Pagoda, I think this is what a true swordsman should be; I want to be this kind of swordsman. I'll work hard to become a powerful swordsman like the Sword Master!"

The World Sword Aura quivered. It flashed and turned into a sword that made a beeline for Ye Guan.

Dongli Chen grinned sinisterly and roared, "Ye Guan! I really want to see just how you're going to block that sword!"

Ye Guan's expression was grim as he stared at the oncoming sword. He felt like a tiny boat in the middle of the boundless ocean amidst a typhoon. He felt insignificant!

The sword made him feel as if he were an ant!

He was a Sword Sovereign, but a strand of World Sword Aura still managed to make him feel tiny. However, Ye Guan wasn't afraid. He gripped the Path Sword tightly, and he charged at the oncoming sword with the Path Sword in hand.

He felt like an ant attempting to block a carriage, so what? The World Sword Aura belonged to the Sword Master, so what? I respect you, Sword Master, but I am not afraid of you! Attack me, and I'll bury you!

The onlookers stared with bated breaths as Ye Guan's sword collided with the World Sword Aura.

Boom!

The World Sword Aura quivered before shattering into innumerable sword aura fragments that floated gently toward Ye Guan.

The onlookers were stunned. It shattered? H-he shattered the Sword Master's World Sword Aura?

The Undying Clan members looked like they had been struck by lightning from out of the blue as they stared blankly at Ye Guan.

Dongli Chen was full of disbelief as he stammered. "H-h-how is this possible?"

Ye Guan was slightly stunned as well. I shattered the World Sword Aura?

The innumerable sword aura fragments approached Ye Guan, and he could vaguely feel someone patting his head. It was baffling.

Moments later, the sword aura fragments disappeared.

Ye Guan remained silent. Did I really just break the Sword Master's sword aura? I think I've gotten a bit... a bit too awesome!

However, he seemed to have recalled something, prompting him to look down at the Path Sword in his hand. Does it have something to do with the origins of this sword?

Little Pagoda suddenly said, "It has nothing to do with the origins of the sword. The Path Sword can sever everything, but not the Sword Master's sword aura. The sword aura disappeared on its own."

“But why?” Ye Guan asked.

After a few moments of silence, Little Pagoda replied, “It probably saw through your talent and thought that it would be a shame if you died, so it decided to let you go!”

Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled at that.

“What’s funny?” Little Pagoda asked.

After a while, Ye Guan replied, “Master Pagoda, I have to tell you something.”

“What is it?”

“You need to put more effort if you want to fool me.”

Little Pagoda didn’t know what to say.

Ye Guan also didn’t bother asking because he was aware that Little Pagoda wouldn’t tell him anything. He glanced at the stunned Dongli Chen, but he left without saying anything. He didn’t bother wasting his time on killing Dongli Chen.

The latter was doomed, anyway.

Furthermore, the Undying Clan would just gang up on him in an attempt to kill him if he were to make a move. After all, Dongli Chen was still part of the Undying Clan, even though he was stupid.

Ye Guan hopped onto his sword and disappeared far into the horizon using Sword Travel. The Undying Clan members were too stunned to stop Ye Guan.

How did he break the Sword Master's aura? Unfortunately for them, they wouldn't be able to find the answer to this question for a long time. The Grand Elder approached Dongli Yu and muttered in shock, "He shattered the Sword Master's sword aura..."

Dongli Yu nodded. She found it hard to believe as well. She really believed that Ye Guan would get killed by the World Sword Aura.

The Grand Elder sighed under his breath and said, "The ebony wood..."

Dongli Yu glanced sideways at the Grand Elder and replied, "Do you really think that Young Lord Ye would have left empty-handed?"

The Grand Elder's expression turned heavy.

Dongli Yu muttered, "He even dared to kill that monstrous talent from the An Clan as well as the Heavenly Dao of the Zhongtu Divine Continent, so do you really think he's going to be afraid of the Undying Clan?"

"If we had made a move against him, we would have lost more than just a piece of ebony wood!"

"You're right!" the Grand Elder said as he broke out into a cold sweat.

If Ye Guan had decided to see this matter through to the end and started killing the Undying Clan members just to get what he wanted, the Undying Clan would have been in for a difficult time.

The bastard was just too terrifying.

Dongli Yu stared at the horizon and said, "Representative Ye truly has a great eye for people. It's a pity that the aristocratic families of the Main Guanxuan Academy have become too powerful. Young Lord Ye would have already become a genius of the Main Guanxuan Academy by now."

Grand Elder hurriedly added, "Little Yu, we're an aristocratic family, too!"

Dongli Yu smiled, but she didn't say anything in response to the Grand Elder's comment. However, she seemed to have recalled something as she glanced at the pale-faced Dongli Chen and said, "Grand Elder, are you not going to say anything?"

The Grand Elder emerged from his trance and hurriedly shouted, "Stop fighting, all of you! Stop fighting! Let's decide on who will be the next clan leader, and then I'll let you guys fight afterward."

Everyone was rendered speechless.

...

Ye Guan left the Undying Clan to meet Ye Qing and Ji Xuan. The two had followed Ye Guan all the way to the Undying World.

"Brother Ye Guan!" said Ye Qing.

Ye Guan said in a low voice, "I'm sure I've already been disqualified from the contest, so I won't bother going back to participate. What about the both of you?"

Ji Xuan shook her head and said, "I won't go back as well."

Ye Qing remained silent.

Ye Guan smiled and said, "The Academy won't target you two, so the both of you should participate. We're talking about the Great Dao Destiny Aura here. You'll profit tremendously if you manage to obtain such a thing."

"I'm fine." Ji Xuan shook her head.

Ye Guan was confused. "Why?"

Ji Xuan smiled and said, "I joined the contest to help you, not to fight for the Great Dao Destiny Aura."

Ye Guan's heart felt warm at the response.

"Thank you..." he muttered, slightly embarrassed.

"Why are you being so polite?" Ji Xuan shook her head and chuckled.

"Brother Ye Guan, I'd like to give it a shot!" said Ye Qing. "I want to try for the sake of the Ye Clan."

Ye Guan smiled and responded, "You have a high chance of winning, but I'm not too sure about what's going to happen to the contest. Anyway, just play it by ear."

"All right!" Ye Qing replied.

Ji Xuan suddenly said, "I don't think the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan will give up so easily."

Ye Guan was silent. The An Clan!

His plain-skirt aunt had killed many powerhouses from the An Clan, but the An Clan still had powerful ancestors in the Main Guanxuan Academy. There was also that branch of the An Clan in Qingzhou.

They would definitely not give up so easily.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan had killed a monstrous talent of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan, and Ye Guan was sure that the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan's pride wouldn't take such a blow lying down.

Ji Xuan chimed in, "I don't think that the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan are that much of an issue. Actually, I'm more worried about the Guanxuan Academy!"

Ye Guan turned to look at Ji Xuan.

Ji Xuan explained, "You killed the Heavenly Dao of the Zhongtu Divine Continent! You committed a serious crime even throughout the Guanxuan Universe. After all, the spiritual energy of a world is closely tied to their Heavenly Dao.

"The Zhongtu Divine Continent's Great Spiritual Energy Array has failed, so the spiritual energy of this world is dwindling rapidly."

Ji Xuan's expression turned complicated as she added, "You committed a much more serious crime than what I had committed!"

Ye Guan was silent. He was aware that he had committed a severe crime, but he had no regrets. Fuck! That Heavenly Dao didn't even give me a chance to speak. I would have wronged myself if I hadn't killed it.

If it had begged for forgiveness, admitted its mistake, or offered him a supreme spiritual treasure, he would have considered letting it go. However, it had even taunted him, saying that he wouldn't dare to kill it!

Ye Guan reckoned that he would have died of fury if he hadn't vented it out by killing the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Heavenly Dao. Fuck! I wouldn't have killed you if you had simply offered me something!

Ye Qing suddenly asked, "Brother Ye Guan, what are your plans?"

Ye Guan went silent. He had been planning on visiting the Undying Clan to borrow the Qingxuan Sword to revive Little Jia, but it turned out that the Qingxuan Sword was no longer with the Undying Clan but with the Main Guanxuan Academy.

In other words, he had to go to the Main Guanxuan Academy, but...

Swoosh!

Academy Chief Gu Chaoyuan abruptly appeared in front of them.

His expression was complicated as he stared at Ye Guan.

He took a moment to compose himself before saying, "I've just received orders from the Main Guanxuan Academy. The Main Guanxuan Academy has issued a tenth-degree warrant for your arrest, but your killer will be rewarded with a million immortal spiritual crystals."

A million immortal spiritual crystals!

Immortal spiritual crystals were extremely precious. They could be exchanged for gold spiritual crystals but not vice-versa.

Gu Chaoyuan added, "The format of the Great Dao Destiny Aura Contest has changed. Your killer will become the champion of the contest, and they will obtain three strands of the Great Dao Destiny Aura, which is triple the usual reward.

"I reckon that powerful talents throughout the entire universe will come here just to hunt you down. The age limit of the contest has also been changed from twenty-two to forty-five.

"In other words, monstrous talents from the previous generation can hunt you down as well."

Ye Guan, Ye Qing, and Ji Xuan froze at Gu Chaoyuan's words.

Little Pagoda was also at a loss for words.

Chapter 114: An Imperial Appeal at Qingzhou

It was a bounty issued by the Main Guanxuan Academy!

Ji Xuan and Ye Qing's faces changed. The most important issue here was the change in the Great Dao Destiny Aura Contest's format. Now, the goal was to hunt Ye Guan down and take his head, and the champion would obtain three strands of Great Dao Destiny Aura.

A million immortal crystals were extremely precious, but a strand of Great Dao Destiny was priceless.

Why? It was all because obtaining a strand of Great Dao Destiny Aura was equivalent to obtaining the Great Dao's protection.

Any bad luck could turn into a stroke of good luck, and one could walk freely and leisurely on the dangerous path of cultivation.

In other words, it would be an understatement to say that owning a strand of Great Dao Destiny was incredible. After all, it meant that one would be impervious to all hardships in life.

The Main Guanxuan Academy had taken two thousand strands of Great Dao Destiny for themselves back when Great Daoist Brush Master released three thousand strands into the universe. The other thousand strands floated about in space and were acquired by those who were destined to acquire it.

The aristocratic families of the Main Guanxuan Academy had always longed to monopolize every strand of the Great Dao Destiny out there.

The talents of those aristocratic families had everything aside from the protection of the Great Dao. With a strand of the Great Dao Destiny, any talent would soar to greater heights.

The Main Guanxuan Academy had actually decreed that the champion of the contest would obtain three strands of the Great Dao Destiny, and the age limit was even increased from twenty-two to forty-five.

In other words, the older talents of the many clans and families throughout the universe could now participate in the contest. The many clans and families went crazy at the news because three strands of Great Dao Destiny meant producing three monstrous geniuses.

They would definitely fight for it! The aristocratic families from the Guanxuan Universe were also tempted by the exorbitant reward.

Gu Chaoyuan stared at Ye Guan with a complicated look. He had come here to tell Ye Guan because he wanted Ye Guan to owe him a favor, and he also couldn't stomach the bullying of the aristocratic families within the Main Guanxuan Academy.

This was especially true for the An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan, whose actions had brought down the prestige of many ancient clans like them.

Gu Chaoyuan was aware of this because he was from an aristocratic family within the Main Guanxuan Academy.

Ye Guan stared deeply at Gu Chaoyuan and asked, "Senior, are you from the Academy?"

Gu Chaoyuan nodded and said, "I'm Academy Chief Gu Chaoyuan of the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy."

"And you came here to tell me about the Academy's plans?"

Gu Chaoyuan shook his head and said, "I came here to apologize. I'm sorry. I can't go against the great clans to seek justice for your sake. I cannot even report your true circumstances to the Main Guanxuan Academy... I'm really sorry!"

He wasn't Ye Guanzhi.

He would not live to see another day if he were to stay true to the facts of the matter and report it to the Main Guanxuan Academy.

Those great clans and aristocratic families in the Main Guanxuan Academy had grown too powerful for anyone to oppose them. They managed to suppress Ye Guanzhi, so imagine just what they could do against a mere Academy Chief of the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy.

Ye Guan nodded and said, "I understand."

Gu Chaoyuan said, "Young Lord Ye, you still have one way out. Go to the Main Guanxuan Academy and look for Lady Ye Guanzhi. She's the only one who can withdraw the Main Guanxuan Academy's arrest warrant on you."

"I understand," Ye Guan replied with a smile.

.

Gu Chaoyuan nodded and said, "All the best!"

With that, he turned around to leave.

Ye Qing looked at Ye Guan and chuckled bitterly. He initially wanted to try fighting for a strand of the Great Dao Destiny, but it seemed that he could no longer do that.

Ye Guan swept his gaze across Ye Qing and Ji Xuan before asking, "What plans do you guys have?"

"Brother Ye Guan," said Ye Qing with a resolute gaze. "I'll follow you."

Ye Qing was well aware that there was no way Ye Guan could resist the talents of the entire Zhongtu Divine Continent. There was also a high chance that monstrous talents from the Guanxuan Universe would come down to hunt him down.

However, Ye Guan shook his head and said, "Brother Ye Qing, you have your own destiny, you don't have to follow me!"

He clearly didn't want to implicate Ye Qing. Ye Qing would surely earn the ire of many people if he were to join him in killing those talents from the Main Guanxuan Academy. He didn't want Ye Qing to earn so much bad karma.

Ye Qing wanted to say something, but Ye Guan shook his head and said, "Ye Qing, listen to me. I want you to focus on cultivating. The Ye Clan needs you."

Ye Qing was silent.

The mysterious voice suddenly said to Ye Qing, "If you really want to help him, you have to become even stronger than this. We have to find the remaining Laws as soon as possible so you can help him sooner rather than later."

Ye Qing inwardly replied, "Master, I'm worried about Brother Ye Guan!"

"You're not strong enough to help him," said the mysterious voice.

Ye Qing went silent.

The mysterious voice continued. "You'll become much more helpful to him once you've become even stronger."

Meanwhile, Ye Guan added, "Ye Qing, trust me. I will not die so easily."

Ye Qing wordlessly stared at Ye Guan. After a while, he said, "Brother Ye Guan, I'm going to find the remaining Laws. Rest assured, I'll come back and find you once I've recovered the third one."

"All right!" Ye Guan nodded.

"Brother Ye Guan, take care!" Ye Qing shouted. Moments later, he turned around and transformed into a bolt of lightning that rushed to the skies, disappearing beyond the horizon.

Ye Guan stared at the lightning bolt for quite a while. Eventually, he turned to Ji Xuan and said, "Lady Ji, you should leave as well."

Ji Xuan's reply didn't come immediately as she pondered over something. Soon, she emerged from her thoughts and asked, "How are you going to deal with the Main Guanxuan Academy's arrest warrant?"

"I don't know," Ye Guan shook his head. He truly had no idea what to do. The arrest warrant didn't come from the Zhongtu Divine Continent but was issued by the Main Guanxuan Academy.

"You have three choices at this point," Ji Xuan said.

Ji Xuan raised a finger and continued. "Your first choice is to go to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. They're the only organization strong enough to go against the Guanxuan Academy.

"Unfortunately, I don't think the Immortal Treasures Pavilion will protect you."

Ji Xuan lifted another finger and said, "Your second choice is to look for Lady Ye Guanzhi. She might be able to save you, but I personally think that it's a pipe dream.

"The fact that she was forced to return to the Main Guanxuan Academy and was transferred elsewhere means that she's not strong enough to go against the great clans and the aristocratic families of the Main Guanxuan Academy."

Ye Guan nodded. The thought of visiting Ye Guanzhi never crossed his mind. They were acquainted, but he wouldn't go as far as to say that they were close to each other.

Lady Ye Guanzhi was also a good person, and he didn't want to implicate her.

Ji Xuan smiled and said, "In other words, you only have one option: escape!"

Escape!

Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled bitterly before saying, "This entire universe is under the governance of the Academy. I would still be within the confines of the Academy's territory even if I ran to the edge of the world."

"I'm not too sure about that," Ji Xuan said.

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued, and he asked, "Do you have any good ideas?"

Ji Xuan explained, "Escaping is just a temporary solution, it will not solve your problem. I think you should let the entire universe know about how the Academy has wronged you. You can't go to the Main Guanxuan Academy because they won't let you go there, and there's only one person who can seek justice for you."

"The Sword Master!" Ye Guan exclaimed with narrowed eyes.

Ji Xuan nodded and continued. "The Main Guanxuan Academy is split into three different factions: the academy faction, the great clans faction and the aristocratic families faction.

"The great clans have teamed up with the aristocratic families to suppress the academy faction, so I don't think the academy faction can address your grievances. The Main Guanxuan Academy is also the aristocratic families and great clans' stronghold. They have a million ways to kill you there."

After a slight pause, Ji Xuan added, "The Sword Master is the only one who can save you, but you have to make him show up first."

"How do I do that?" Ye Guan asked.

"Go to Qingzhou and make an Imperial Appeal!" Ji Xuan replied.

Little Pagoda was speechless.

"Go to Qingzhou and make an Imperial Appeal?" Ye Guan repeated.

Ji Xuan nodded and explained, "Many years ago, I had to study Qingzhou's history while I was still a student at the Guanxuan Academy."

“Millions of years ago, the Sword Master was a student of the Canglan Academy, but it was renamed to Guanxuan Academy once the Sword Master founded the Guanxuan Academy.

“The Canglan Academy back then is now known as the Guanxuan Academy of Qingzhou. The Sword Master had been to Qingzhou a few times in the distant past, and as far as I can remember, he left a sword aura behind in Qingzhou.”

Ji Xuan took a moment to take a deep breath before saying, “You should go to Qingzhou and look for that sword aura to make an Imperial Appeal!”

Ye Guan went silent.

Ji Xuan urged. “This is your only option—make an Imperial Appeal so that the Sword Master will show up even as a projection, and then tell him about your plight. He’ll definitely seek justice for you!”

“Okay...” Ye Guan nodded and said, “I’ll try.”

Ye Guan was also aware that being a fugitive wasn’t a great thing in the long run. In addition, those people could use the Ye Clan in Nanzhou to bait him out if he decided to hide from them for an extended period of time.

In other words, Ji Xuan was right—running away wouldn’t solve his problem.

He had to make an Imperial Appeal. The Sword Master founded the Guanxuan Academy to establish a new order in the universe, and Ye Guan reckoned that his intentions were good the moment he decided to establish the Academy.

Ye Guan said, “Lady Ji, can you please go to the Daoist Sect for me and deliver my farewells to my senior disciple and Master? You also—”

Ji Xuan interrupted him by laughing. “I’m going with you.”

“No, I can’t implicate you!” Ye Guan exclaimed.

Ji Xuan shook her head and said, “I’ve already committed a crime, so I don’t care if I commit another crime against the Academy.”

Ye Guan chuckled bitterly and said, “Lady Ji, there’s a bounty on my head...”

Ji Xuan glared at Ye Guan. She looked slightly annoyed as she said, “Why are you so noisy? Are you afraid that I might hold you back?”

“No!” Ye Guan hurriedly shook his head and said, “That’s not what I—”

However, Ji Xuan interrupted him. “Are you familiar with Qingzhou? The Main Guanxuan Academy? Wait, do you even know how to go to Qingzhou? Could it be that you’re thinking of using a teleportation array? Is that so? Do you really think that you can still use a teleportation array with that exorbitant bounty on your head?”

Ye Guan didn’t know what to say.

“I’m not trying to get anything from you, so why are you so wary of me?” Ji Xuan muttered.

Ye Guan shook his head and explained, “No, I’m just afraid of implicating you, I—”

“Well, I’m not afraid!” Ji Xuan exclaimed. She took a deep breath and decided to change the topic by saying, “We should move. We can’t afford to waste time here. You want to say goodbye, right? Let’s go to the Daoist Sect to do just that.”

“All right!” Ye Guan said with a nod. He opened his palm, and a sword made out of sword energy manifested in front of them. He hopped onto the sword along with Ji Xuan, and they disappeared into the horizon using Sword Travel.

Meanwhile, the mysterious voice spoke in the tiny pagoda and asked, “Did the Sword Master really leave his sword aura behind in Qingzhou?”

“Yes!” Little Pagoda replied.

“Did you not hear him? He wants to make an Imperial Appeal!” asked the mysterious voice.

“I’ll let him do that! I didn’t expect that some clans and aristocratic families would become so egoistic after a million years. Time is truly capable of changing the hearts of people!”

The mysterious voice remained silent.

Little Pagoda continued. “It’s great that he decided to go to Qingzhou. Qingzhou can be considered his ancestral land. I’m also starting to miss my Young Master, so it would be great if I meet him again. I think this little brat is the only one who can make the Young Master show up.”

“Actually...” the mysterious voice said, “I think an Imperial Appeal from him would be more effective if he were to do it at that place!”

“The Immortals Treasures Pavilion?” Little Pagoda asked.

He agreed with the mysterious voice’s opinion.

The Young Mistress was famous for her overprotective nature, so Little Pagoda was convinced that the entire Xiaoguan Universe would be annihilated in the face of her wrath, much less the Guanxuan Academy.

Chapter 115: I Like You

Ye Guan was standing at the entrance of the Daoist Sect and saw that the main gate no longer looked as rundown as before. There were two giant steles tens of meters tall and a plaque several meters wide.

The plaque was emblazoned with two golden words—Daoist Sect!

Monk Dao was standing at the main gate with Nanling Yiyi.

Ye Guan was standing in front of them. It was time to say goodbye!

Ye Guan bowed deeply to Monk Dao and said, "Master, I have to go."

Monk Dao stared at Ye Guan with a complicated look. He was aware of the arrest warrant that the Guanxuan Academy had issued. He was furious but helpless.

A coalition of the aristocratic families and the great clans in the Main Guanxuan Academy were targeting Ye Guan, and there was no way a lone Daoist Sect could resist them.

Monk Dao sighed and said, "Little bastard, I hope you won't blame your master for being so useless."

Ye Guan smiled and said, "Please don't say that, Master. This is all my fault, so I have to take accountability for my actions. I will not implicate the Daoist Sect."

"All the best!" Monk Dao said and sighed. He opened his palm, and a storage ring flew toward Ye Guan. "The storage ring contains my savings over the years. Take it."

Ye Guan was surprised to see that the storage ring contained a million gold spiritual crystals.

"Master..." Monk Dao trailed off before continuing in a soft voice. "Master left that money behind for me to rebuild the Daoist Sect and restore our glory."

Monk Dao shook his head and said, "I'm afraid I'm not good enough to do that, so I'm hoping that you will fulfill my master's wish for us."

"Sure, but..." Ye Guan hesitated before saying, "Can you give me a bit more?"

Monk Dao was taken aback. Moments later, he boisterously laughed and said, "I don't have any more money. It's just a million gold spiritual crystals, but it took our ancestors several generations of saving to accumulate that much money!"

Ye Guan was at a loss for words. The Daoist Sect was truly too poor.

Monk Dao patted Ye Guan's shoulder and said, "Little bastard, you're an extraordinary talent. You'll definitely soar to greater heights, but you must stay alive to do that. You have to stay alive!"

Ye Guan nodded and said, "I understand."

"I'll leave you two youngsters alone, then!" Monk Dao said and left.

Ye Guan looked at Nanling Yiyi and saw that she was playing with her fingers while looking down and avoiding Ye Guan's gaze.

Ye Guan smiled and said, "Senior Disciple Yiyi!"

Nanling Yiyi looked up. Her eyes were slightly bloodshot and watery, but she wasn't crying.

"I'm leaving," said Ye Guan, "Please take care of yourself."

"I-I-I..." Nanling Yiyi stammered. She wanted to say something, but she was having trouble saying it.

Meanwhile, Ji Xuan standing behind Ye Guan said, "We have to leave now, or it'll be too late."

Hearing that, Ye Guan took out a storage ring and placed it in Nanling Yiyi's hands.

"Senior Disciple Yiyi, there are ten True Dragon corpses in this storage ring, and there's also a copy of Canon of Divine Abilities and Canon of Laws in the storage ring.

"Master Pagoda said that they're great and that a Divine Mage will definitely find them useful. I'm not exactly sure how useful they are, so it's up to you to find out. I also left a few million gold spiritual crystals for you in there."

Ye Guan smiled slightly and added, "The next time you visit Yong City, make sure to buy whatever you want. I know you've already gotten used to such a hard life, but you should start living a better life from now on!"

With that, Ye Guan turned around and disappeared into the horizon with Ji Xuan.

Nanling Yiyi looked down at the storage ring in her hand in a daze. Moments later, tears fell down her cheeks, and she stared at the horizon before muttering, "Junior Disciple Ye... I like you."

Monk Dao walked over to her slowly and sighed. "Little brat, life is too short for hesitations. We'll eventually lose everything that we have once we die, so if you like someone, why not be more honest about your feelings?"

Nanling Yiyi's eyes remained fixated on the horizon as she replied, "Master, I want to go to the Main Guanxuan Academy."

Monk Dao sighed once again.

Nanling Yiyi's tears wouldn't stop falling, and her vision had turned blurry from the tears as she said, "So many things happened to Junior Disciple Ye, but I haven't been able to do anything for him aside from praying for his safety. I hate how useless I am... I really hate it! I want to go to the Main Guanxuan Academy and cultivate, I want to become the strongest sorcerer[1] in history."

"I understand!" Monk Dao nodded.

After a while, Nanling Yiyi turned around and bowed deeply to Monk Dao. "Master, please take care of yourself. Please drink moderately, even when I'm no longer around."

With that, Nanling Yiyi turned around and walked down the mountain.

Monk Dao wordlessly stared at Nanling Yiyi's departing figure, and he soon realized one thing—he was alone once again.

...

A woman was reading something in a garden somewhere on the Xiaoguan Continent of the Guanxuan Universe. The woman was Ye Guanzhi. She was wearing a plain robe, and her long hair was tidily draped over her shoulders.

A huge pile of memorials was in front of her, and she had to review each and every one of them.

Swoosh!

An old lady suddenly appeared next to her.

The old woman bowed slightly and said, "The Academy's Discipline Department and the Heavenly Dao Department have issued a bounty for Ye Guan's head.

"His killer will be rewarded with three strands of Great Dao Destiny and a million immortal spiritual crystals."

The old woman paused before continuing, "The talents from the Guanxuan Universe are currently rushing over to the Zhongtu Divine Continent, and there were quite a few old monsters among them!"

Ye Guanzhi put down the brush in her hand, but she didn't say anything.

The old woman glanced at Ye Guanzhi and said, "The great clans and aristocratic families look unwilling to compete for Ye Guan's head, but I've found out that some talents and geniuses affiliated with them are already on their way to the Zhongtu Divine Continent. Some talents on the Divine Martial List have also—"

Ye Guanzhi interrupted by asking, “Young Lord Ye killed An Daoxin and defeated that individual from the Five Dimensions Universe?”

The old woman nodded and said, “An Daoxin took out the Martial God Spear, but she was still defeated and killed. The An Clan’s Clan Leader, An Ya, intervened and even sent eighty percent of their clan’s powerhouses from Qingzhou to Zhongtu Divine Continent just to kill him, but they failed.”

Ye Guanzhi remained calm as she asked, “Who helped him?”

The old woman replied, “His Dao Protector is a female Great Sword Sovereign, but everyone forgot what she looked like.”

Ye Guanzhi frowned and asked, “What was she wearing?”

“She was wearing a blood-red skirt,” that old woman said.

A blood-red skirt? Ye Guanzhi pondered before shaking her head. “I don’t know her.”

The old woman nodded and said, “Young Lord Ye is indeed full of mysteries.”

Ye Guanzhi shook her head and said, “I didn’t expect the great clan faction and the aristocratic families faction to think that I was targeting them just because I punished the An Clan for their arrogance. I’m sure they want to kill Ye Guan to warn me.”

Ye Guanzhi’s eyes flashed in an apologetic light as she lamented. “I got too careless and inadvertently implicated him. If I hadn’t intervened that day, things wouldn’t have escalated to this point.”

The old woman shook her head and said, “It’s not your fault. The An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan would definitely not let him go, even if you hadn’t done anything. Even if you hadn’t intervened, what is happening right now would have still happened. It would have been just a matter of time.”

The old woman stared deeply at Ye Guanzhi and said, "I advise you not to intervene anymore. What's right and what's wrong is no longer important.

"The crux of the matter here is that those two factions think that you're helping Ye Guan to suppress them indirectly. In other words, Ye Guan will only find himself in deeper trouble if you were to help him once more."

Ye Guanzhi stood up and walked to a corner of the pavilion. She stood there in silence with her hands behind her.

The old woman said, "Ye Guan killed the Heavenly Dao of the Zhongtu Divine Continent, so he has also earned the ire of both the Heavenly Dao Department and the Discipline Department. We'll make enemies out of the latter two, and I don't think that's a great thing."

Ye Guanzhi chuckled and said, "I think it's important to determine which side is in the right and which side is in the wrong. The An Clan has become brazen enough to bully those weaker than them, and I think you'll also agree that they're in the wrong.

"The Heavenly Dao Department is also in the wrong for colluding with the An Clan to suppress Ye Guan, and the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy is also in the wrong for doing nothing but watch as the An Clan disregards the Guanxuan Law.

"In other words, the An Clan has committed a great crime!"

Ye Guanzhi indifferently turned to look at the sky before continuing. "I have great authority as the representative of the Main Guanxuan Academy's Literary Department, so if I only think about profits and losses rather than holding those who are in the wrong accountable, am I really worthy of such power?

"And why did I even spend so many years studying the Guanxuan Law if I'm not going to enforce it?"

The old woman's expression abruptly changed.

Ye Guanzhi sat back down and held the brush once more. She wrote down two words on an empty piece of paper—to impeach!

She then proceeded to list down the aristocratic families and great clans of the Main Guanxuan Academy.

The old woman was horrified, and she went beyond pallid at the sight. Her voice was trembling as she said, “Is this really worth it, my lady? Are you really going to make an enemy out of all the great clans and aristocratic families for a mere Ye Guan?”

Ye Guanzhi stopped writing. After a moment of silence, she said, “It doesn’t matter whether it’s worth it or not. What’s important is whether it is the right thing to do or not.

”If everyone here only cares about profits and losses, who will address the grievances of the masses and uphold justice for them? The Academy serves the common people, not the aristocratic families or the great clans!”

The old woman shook her head and said, “The aristocratic families and the great clans have long taken root in the Main Guanxuan Academy, so you can impeach them, my lady, but it will be in vain. You’ll only be putting yourself in danger.”

Ye Guanzhi smiled and responded, “It doesn’t matter. I still have to do it.”

“Why?” asked the old woman in a trembling voice.

“Because I want to stay true to my beliefs!” Ye Guanzhi responded resolutely.

Boom!

A pillar of white light abruptly descended and struck Ye Guanzhi.

Rumble!

An aura of righteousness blossomed from Ye Guanzhi and shot to the skies. It parted the clouds and sent tremors throughout the Xiaoguan Continent.

A new Saint was born!

Tens of thousands of divine sense strands surged toward the garden like a deluge.

Ye Guanzhi ignored the awe-inspiring aura of righteousness that she was emitting and wrote frantically with her brush.

Moments later, she took the memorial with her to the Committee Hall. A strand of white light would merge with her with every step she took, and each strand of white light that she absorbed made her aura of righteousness grow stronger!

The powerhouses of the Main Guanxuan Academy were taken aback.

Another Saint was born in the Literary Department!

Ye Guanzhi soon arrived at the Committee Hall.

The Main Guanxuan Academy's Committee was one of the most powerful organizations in the world, and it reached its peak of power upon the Sword Master's disappearance.

An old man walked over to Ye Guanzhi. He bowed slightly at her and said, "Congratulations!"

Ye Guanzhi handed over the memorial to the old man and said, "Old Zhang, sorry to trouble you!"

Old Zhang nodded slightly and accepted the memorial. He turned around and walked into the Committee Hall.

Ye Guanzhi closed her eyes and stood rooted in front of the Committee Hall.

Half an hour later, Old Zhang walked out of the hall.

He sighed upon seeing Ye Guanzhi.

“The Committee’s orders are here! Representative Ye, you shall be dismissed from your position, and you will also be stripped of your authority to mobilize the Guanxuan Guards.

”You are also hereby ordered to stay in closed-door seclusion within the confines of the South Garden, and you are not allowed to leave the South Garden in the next hundred years unless the Committee has explicitly granted you permission to do so!”

Ye Guanzhi didn’t say anything in response.

1. Nanling Yiyi is a Divine Mage, but it is written as?sorcerer in the raws. I think all Divine Mages are sorcerers, but not all sorcerers are Divine Mages

Chapter 116: Blacklisted

Ye Guanzhi wordlessly left.

Old Zhang stared at her departing figure and sighed to himself.

The news of Ye Guanzhi’s?dismissal instantly spread throughout the Main Guanxuan Academy. The Department of Arts was unhappy about the decision, so they started a protest that quickly turned sour.

Unfortunately, the protest was quickly suppressed, rendering it useless.

...

Ye Guan and Ji Xuan left the Daoist Sect. Ye Guan paid the Immortal Treasures Pavilion a visit to look for Qin Feng. The fastest and safest way for him to go to Qingzhou was using the teleportation arrays of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

However, it turned out that Qin Feng had already been transferred to the Guanxuan Universe.

Mo Ya and Ye Guan went outside the Immortal Treasures Pavilion branch.

Mo Ya explained, "Young Lord Ye, Elder Qin Feng told me to warn you about two factions. The first faction is from the Nine Heavens and Ten Lands. The members of that faction have deep roots and histories that stretch back millions of years."

Ye Guan asked, "Is the Hantian Clan from the Nine Heavens and Ten Lands?"

Mo Ya nodded. "Yes!"

Ye Guan remained silent.

"You also have to worry about the powerhouses of the Nine Continents, which are under the Guanxuan Universe's governance. The Zhongtu Divine Continent is one of those Nine Continents.

"Of course, there are powers on the Nine Continents that decided not to join the Guanxuan Universe, and you must not underestimate them!" said Mo Ya.

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "What about the Milky Way?"

"The Milky Way is special. It's an independent universe, and the most powerful organization there is the mysterious Milky Way Sect. The Milky Way is notorious for its strict laws and how difficult it is to visit as an outsider."

Ye Guan nodded in understanding. He could still remember his encounter with Liu Bing, and he had to admit that he got lucky that day. Of course, he wouldn't be afraid to fight Liu Bing once more, and he would most certainly not underestimate the latter.

Ye Guan was also convinced that Liu Bing only lost to him because the latter had underestimated him.

Mo Ya's gaze was complicated as she stared at Ye Guan. She truly didn't expect that things would take such a dire turn. She initially thought that Ye Guan would eventually become a student of the Main Guanxuan Academy, but now, the Main Guanxuan Academy was hunting him down.

It felt like fate was playing a trick on Ye Guan.

Ye Guan cupped his fists together and said, "Lady Mo Ya, thank you so much, but I have another request to ask of you."

Mo Ya asked, "Do you want to use our teleportation arrays?"

Ye Guan nodded. "May I?"

An apologetic light flashed in Mo Ya's eyes as she said, "Young Lord Ye, I'm sorry, but you have been blacklisted by the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. We can no longer offer our services to you. Your assets in the Immortal Treasures Pavilion are also frozen."

Ji Xuan's expression darkened. "This is getting ridiculous!"

Ye Guan could only shake his head and chuckle bitterly.

He knew that the Main Guanxuan Academy would make a move against him, but the Immortal Treasures Pavilion was the last organization he thought would make a move to suppress him. In hindsight, it made sense because the two organizations were closely tied to each other.

Mo Ya gnashed her teeth. She seemed to have made up her mind and said, "Young Lord Ye, I can let you use the teleportation arrays here once."

Ye Guan stared deeply at her without saying anything.

Mo Ya asked, "Where are you going? Tell me, and I'll guide you which teleportation array you should use."

Ye Guan was moved, but he shook his head and smiled. "Forget it, Lady Mo Ya. However, I will remember your kind intentions."

With that, he glanced at Ji Xuan and said, "Let's go!"

The two of them vanished into thin air, leaving Mo Ya by herself.

Once she recovered from the shock, she shook her head and sighed.

...

Ji Xuan made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan and asked, "Why did you not accept her offer?"

Ye Guan explained, "We would have already arrived at Qingzhou by now if I had accepted her offer, but what would happen to her? The Immortal Treasures Pavilion will definitely punish her. She would have died in the worst-case scenario. She would have lost her livelihood at the very least, and her future would have been ruined."

Ye Guan shook his head and added, "I can't drag others down and implicate them with my own issues. She had already given me plenty of help, so I don't think it's right for me to drag her down."

Ji Xuan stared for quite a while at Ye Guan with a smile. "You're right. It seems that we have no choice but to head to Qingzhou on foot. Thankfully, we're not too far from Qingzhou. We should be there in a month."

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Can we hijack a teleportation array?"

Ji Xuan stared agape at Ye Guan. "The closest teleportation array to us belongs to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. Can you even hear what you're saying?"

Ye Guan thought for a while and replied, "I don't think it's a bad idea. We can grab some cash on our way as well."

Ji Xuan rolled her eyes at him and said, "You're dead meat if you rob the Immortal Treasures Pavilion."

Ye Guan asked, "What, why? They already blacklisted me, so why not go all the way?"

"The Immortal Treasures Pavilion has blacklisted you, but it's not really helpful to the Guanxuan Academy. It's just a declaration that shows that they're on the Guanxuan Academy's side.

"However, we're doomed the moment we rob the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. We'll definitely get into their most wanted list, and becoming a fugitive of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion is scarier than being a fugitive of the Guanxuan Academy."

Ye Guan asked, "Why?"

Ji Xuan calmly explained, "The Immortal Treasures Pavilion has a very extensive information network. They have eyes everywhere, so there's nowhere for us to go once we become their fugitive.

"The Immortal Treasures Pavilion's coffers are overflowing as well, and I'm sure that everyone in the Guanxuan Universe would track us down if the Immortal Treasures Pavilion places a bounty of ten million immortal spiritual treasures on our heads."

Ye Guan fell silent.

Ji Xuan shook her head and chuckled. "We can offend Guanxuan Academy but not the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. They're too rich, and money solves everything here. Anyway, I think we should just board a cloud ship to Qingzhou."

Ye Guan nodded. "All right."

Ji Xuan opened her palm, and a streak of white light shot into the sky.

The white light soon dispersed, revealing a hundred-meter-long cloud ship.

Ye Guan glanced at Ji Xuan in surprise. "That's yours?"

Ji Xuan smirked and said, "A cloud ship is a necessary item if you're on the run. Let's go!"

She brought Ye Guan onto the cloud ship and activated the cloud ship's array.

Soon, the cloud ship soared higher and higher until it reached the starry skies.

Ji Xuan pulled up a map and examined it for quite a while.

"I think we're flying... in the right direction?" she said, sounding uncertain.

Ye Guan's expression darkened. "Are you sure?"

Ji Xuan smiled awkwardly and said, "This is my first time using it in space, so I'm not too confident."

Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled. "Well, I'm fine as long as we're heading in the right direction. Otherwise, we're doomed."

Ye Guan's words prompted Ji Xuan to check the map thoroughly once more.

After a while, she looked up and said, "Yeah, we are definitely heading in the right direction."

"That's great," Ye Guan said with a smile.

He took a closer look at Ji Xuan. She was wearing a snow-white robe, which gave her a clean and benevolent impression. The white flowers embroidered on the hem of her robe made her appear as if she were a blossoming flower.

Ye Guan suddenly said, "Thank you."

Ji Xuan made a sidelong glance at him and asked, "For what?"

Ye Guan chuckled. "Thank you for helping me."

Ji Xuan smiled and said, "You don't have to thank me."

After some hesitation, Ye Guan asked, "Lady Ji, if you don't mind, just what happened between you and the Academy?"

Ji Xuan fell silent.

She was silent for quite a while before she finally spoke, "My master... he wanted to use me as a cultivation furnace."

Ye Guan frowned.

Ji Xuan shrugged and added, "I told the Academy, but I was ignored. I ended up killing him, and like you, a deluge of problems rushed toward me once he died. Of course, I killed my enemies one after another."

Ji Xuan stared deeply at Ye Guan and asked, "Tell me. Did I do the right thing?"

Ye Guan nodded. "You definitely did the right thing."

Ji Xuan smiled lightly, but she remained silent.

Ye Guan added, "The Main Guanxuan Academy's investigator must have discovered the truth, but he decided to hide it rather than seek justice for your sake. Am I right?"

"Yes!" Ji Xuan nodded. "It would tarnish the Guanxuan Academy's reputation, so the Main Guanxuan Academy's investigator decided to hide the facts and prosecuted me."

Ji Xuan shook her head and laughed. "Our circumstances are similar, and it's the reason why I've decided to help you. It's not just because we're friends. Anyway, we're the type of people who do things as we please. It's that simple."

"Leaving Nanzhou really opened my eyes to just how complicated the world is..." Ye Guan muttered.

It hadn't been that long since he left Nanzhou, but so many things had already happened. He also didn't expect that things would take such a drastic turn.

Ji Xuan suddenly asked, "If you went back in time, would you still kill the An Clan members and the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Heavenly Dao?"

"Of course," said Ye Guan. Of course, he wouldn't kill those who didn't deserve to die, and he wouldn't let go of those who deserved to die.

"I don't regret it either," said Ji Xuan with a smirk. She looked into the distance and asked, "What do you think? Will the Sword Master seek justice for your sake?"

Ye Guan's answer came a bit late. "I don't know."

Ji Xuan said, "I think he will! If even the Sword Master can't discern the truth, won't it be a matter of time until the world is ruined?"

Ye Guan nodded and stared into the distance as well.

He asked inwardly, "Master Pagoda, are you there?"

Little Pagoda's reply came after a while.

"What is it?" asked Little Pagoda. Honestly, he was starting to be afraid of Ye Guan. The latter was simply too creative for him to handle, and Little Pagoda had to be wary whenever he was talking to the latter.

Ye Guan replied, "I have a bad feeling about heading to Qingzhou."

Little Pagoda asked, "Why?"

Ye Guan answered, "I don't know."

Little Pagoda fell silent.

After a while, Ye Guan asked, "I'm worried that the Sword Master would appear and fight me with the Guanxuan Academy. I mean, wouldn't he cut down all evil? And I'm considered evil in the Guanxuan Academy's eyes..."

Little Pagoda answered, "I don't think so."

Ye Guan asked, "Why?"

Little Pagoda explained, "He has always been a showy individual, but he—"

“Shut up!” The mysterious voice interrupted and snapped, “You dumbass, he’s baiting you for answers again!”

Chapter 117: I Don’t Want to Talk

“Showy?”

Ye Guan blinked and asked seriously, “Master Pagoda, are you really talking about the Sword Master?”

Little Pagoda was silent. Goodness, this bastard is too smart!

Ye Guan was once again baiting out answers from him.

If it hadn’t been for the mysterious voice, he would have spilled some beans.

Ye Guan was smart enough to extrapolate scarily accurate information from mere fragments of information. Little Pagoda felt like he was being pushed into a corner whenever he was talking to Ye Guan.

He really had to pay extra attention whenever he was talking to Ye Guan in the future. Otherwise, he would be screwed!

Little Pagoda went silent, so Ye Guan also went silent.

It seemed that someone else had interrupted Little Pagoda right as he was about to say something.

Ye Guan suddenly asked, “Master Pagoda, is there someone else in the pagoda?”

Little Pagoda remained silent.

The mysterious voice sighed. "Little Pagoda, I don't think you can outsmart him."

Little Pagoda didn't speak. His previous two masters had taken advantage of him completely. Could it be that his third master would take advantage of him as well?

No way! He had to suppress this brat.

Otherwise, Little Pagoda would truly become just a tiny pagoda.

Little Pagoda said, "Actually, your worries are not unfounded."

Ye Guan was stunned.

Little Pagoda explained, "Think about it: the Sword Master founded the Guanxuan Academy, so why would he punish his people because of an outsider like you? Isn't that betraying his roots? The An Clan is also close to him, and his wife is from the An Clan. Who's closer to him, the An Clan or you?"

Ye Guan remained silent.

Little Pagoda continued. "You killed the An Clan members and the Heavenly Dao of the Zhongtu Divine Continent. You had your own reasons for doing so, but if the Sword Master appears, he'll probably help the Guanxuan Academy.

"In other words, you have to be prepared!"

Ye Guan was at a loss for words.

The mysterious voice suddenly asked, "Why are you scaring him?"

Little Pagoda calmly replied, "I have to scare him. Otherwise, this brat will keep on scheming against me."

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Why do I feel as though you know the Sword Master?"

Little Pagoda replied, "I know him, but he doesn't know me."

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "I think you're very familiar with him."

After a few moments of silence, Little Pagoda asked, "Why do you think so?"

Ye Guan smiled and explained, "You said that the Sword Master has always been a showy individual, but how would you know that if you're not very familiar with him?"

"In addition, you even told me to look for another role model when I told you that I wanted the Sword Master to be my role model.

"You also don't really sound respectful whenever you talk about the Sword Master. You always sound like you're describing a friend whenever you mention him. Unfortunately, I still really can't tell just how familiar you are with him."

Little Pagoda was rendered speechless. Damn it! The more I talk, the more I inadvertently reveal! I have to talk less to this brat, or I will eventually let the cat out of the bag.

Ye Guan chuckled and said, "Master Pagoda, I won't ask you such questions anymore."

Little Pagoda asked, "What? Why?"

Ye Guan said, "I don't care about the reason why you suddenly appeared by my side. You've always been kind to me, and you haven't done anything bad to me.

"You've also rescued me many times before, so I believe that you have your own reasons for hiding things from me."

Little Pagoda asked the mysterious voice, "What is he doing right now? Is he trying to bait some answers out of me again?"

The mysterious voice replied, "I think he's telling you his true feelings."

Little Pagoda sighed. "He's making me feel bad now. I'd rather let him bait answers out of me than this."

Ye Guan went silent as he stared at the starry skies. The stars flickering in the distance provided little light in the endless darkness. Ye Guan felt tiny in the vast expanse. He truly didn't expect that things would take such a drastic turn.

Little Pagoda's words also worried him.

Was the Sword Master closer to the An Clan or to him?

The answer was the An Clan. If the Sword Master were to seek justice for Ye Guan, it would be like delivering his own head to Ye Guan, which didn't make sense at all.

Unfortunately, Ye Guan had no choice but to go to Qingzhou. It would be great if the Sword Master was magnanimous enough to seek justice for him. Otherwise, Ye Guan would have no choice but to kill himself using the Path Sword.

"Look!" Ji Xuan exclaimed while pointing somewhere.

Ye Guan emerged from his thoughts and saw a smiling young man holding a long saber.

"They're here!" exclaimed Ji Xuan.

Ye Guan nodded. "They're fast."

Ji Xuan made the cloud ship come to a complete stop before storing it away. She couldn't let the cloud ship be destroyed in the upcoming battle.

The young man stared at Ye Guan and asked, "You must be Ye Guan."

Ye Guan nodded.

The young man grinned. "I'll obtain two strands of the Great Dao Destiny and a million immortal spiritual crystals, so I hope you don't mind if I take your head away with me!"

Swoosh!

Ye Guan abruptly vanished.

Shrieeek!

The air shrieked as Ye Guan executed the Instant Death Strike.

The young man's eyes narrowed. He was about to brandish his saber, but Ye Guan's sword got to him first.

Thwik!

Fresh blood flowed down Ye Guan's sword.

The young man's face was soon covered in his own blood.

Ye Guan's sword scattered into innumerable sword energy fragments. He took the young man's storage ring and saw three million gold spiritual crystals inside of it.

Ye Guan glanced at the young man's saber.

It looked pretty sturdy and durable, so he took it away as well.

Ye Guan walked over to Ji Xuan and said, "I think they're underestimating me."

"I don't think so." Ji Xuan chuckled. "I think the Main Guanxuan Academy's rewards are just too enticing that even those who are clearly unqualified to compete have decided to take part for the sake of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Ye Guan nodded in agreement. He wasn't too familiar with the Great Dao Destiny, but he was aware of just how much money a million immortal spiritual crystals was. It was an amount enough to entice just about anyone.

Ji Xuan abruptly turned.

She stared at the nothingness and asked, "Are you not going to show yourself?"

Ye Guan turned to look as well.

"Hahaha!" A boisterous peal of laughter echoed in the distance. "As expected of An Daoxin's killer. Hehe, you're pretty strong."

A group of people approached Ye Guan and Ji Xuan. The group was composed of two young men and a young woman, and the leader was a spear-wielding young man in his twenties.

He was smiling, but his eyes were as sharp as knives.

He also gave off a terrifying air and was a Major Tribulation Realm cultivator.

A large-framed young man clad in heavy armor stood next to the spear-wielding young man. The large-framed young man gave off an air reminiscent of a huge mountain. He was also carrying a shield with strange markings on its surface.

Meanwhile, the one and only woman in the group was a woman in a white skirt. Her hands were hidden in her pockets, and she glared icily at Ji Xuan.

They were all Major Tribulation Realm cultivators.

Ye Guan turned to look at the spear-wielding young man and asked, "Are you from the Guanxuan Universe?"

The spear-wielding young man shook his head.

"Have you heard of the Dark Mercenaries?" he asked.

They're mercenaries! Ye Guan exclaimed inwardly, but he shook his head. "No."

The spear-wielding young man stared deeply at Ye Guan.

"Are we that low-key?" he muttered blankly.

Ji Xuan turned to Ye Guan and whispered, "The Dark Mercenaries is the best mercenary group on the Zhongtu Divine Continent."

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed at the revelation.

The spear-wielding young man was about to say something, but Ye Guan stepped forward and vanished.

Instant Death Strike!

The young woman in a white skirt lifted her hand, and the surrounding space distorted violently. The spacetime gravity acting on her immediate surroundings immediately increased by a few dozen times.

Ye Guan's speed was reduced significantly.

The large-framed young man saw that, and he charged at Ye Guan with his shield.

His formidable shield folded space itself into multiple layers, creating a crack in space that resembled spider webs.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed, and he held his sword up to defend himself.

Boom!

The collision sent Ye Guan back a few meters, but before he realized it, a spear was already heading for him. The spearhead emitted a dazzling spear light, and it seemed strong enough to carve a path in the middle of a carnage.

Ye Guan stepped back and thrust his sword forward.

Clang!

His sword and the spear collided with each other, creating ripples powerful enough to distort space.

Ye Guan's pupils constricted.

A figure had suddenly appeared behind him.

It turned out that the group had a fourth member, and he was the assassin.

Swoosh!

A saber light flashed.

Clang!

The assassin was sent flying away, but he immediately disappeared like a ghost the moment he recovered from Ji Xuan's attack.

Ji Xuan had come to his rescue, and the reason she hadn't made a move until now was that she was worried about a sneak attack.

Ye Guan no longer had to worry about the assassin, so he swung his sword once more.

Clang!

The spear-wielding young man was sent flying a few meters away. He soon came to a stop and examined his arm. His arm had gone completely numb.

The spear-wielding young man remarked, "It seems that you really did kill An Daoxin. It's a good thing that your cultivation base is low. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for us to kill you."

Ye Guan remained calm at the remark. He stared at the spear-wielding young man before vanishing once more.

Instant Death Strike!

This time, his target was the Divine Mage—the young woman in a white skirt.

Ye Guan knew that he had to kill her first before anyone else.

However, the young woman in a white skirt remained calm. She channeled a spell that would place more layers of spacetime gravity around Ye Guan. At the same time, the large-framed young man stepped in front of her with his shield.

“AAAAH!” He yelled and raised his shield up to defend.

Boom!

Ye Guan’s sword struck the shield, and the impact made the large-framed young man’s arm tremble. The large-framed young man retreated to give the young woman in a white skirt a time window to cast her channeled spell.

She pointed at Ye Guan and shouted, “Slow down!”

Rumble!

A mysterious force enveloped Ye Guan, and he abruptly slowed down. Right then, the spear-wielding young man reappeared in front of Ye Guan, and he immediately thrust his spear at Ye Guan.

At the same time, the large-framed young man ran toward Ye Guan while carrying the heavy aura of a massive mountain. He was attempting to further slow Ye Guan down using his aura.

Ye Guan’s eyes narrowed. He gripped his sword tightly, and his eyes were still fixated on the young woman in a white skirt in the distance.

The large-framed young man was about to reach Ye Guan, but he inexplicably broke through every suppression to reappear in front of the young woman in a white skirt.

The young woman in a white skirt cried out in horror, “You shattered—”

Ye Guan’s sword at her forehead interrupted her. She quivered in fear, and her voice was trembling as she continued. “You shattered the spacetime rules!”

The spear-wielding young man’s face immediately changed.

“Young Lord Ye, please be merciful! We can talk this out—”

Shwik!

Ye Guan pushed his sword into the young woman’s skull.

Ye Guan turned toward the spear-wielding young man and said, “I’m in a bad mood, so I don’t want to talk.”

Chapter 118: You Are The Sword Master’s Son

After hearing Ye Guan’s words, the spear-wielding young man’s expression turned ugly.

“Retreat!” he yelled before turning around to flee at breakneck speeds.

There were two reasons they decided to challenge Ye Guan: his low cultivation base and the fact that they had a Divine Mage in their ranks.

Their Divine Mage could slow Ye Guan down, but their Divine Mage was dead, which meant that they could no longer control Ye Guan’s speed. Ye Guan was lightning fast, and he was a Sword Sovereign as well, leaving them with no choice but to run.

Would Ye Guan let them run?

A shrill sound filled the air, and the spear-wielding young man's eyes narrowed. He whipped around and was just about to swing his spear, but a sword got to him first and pierced his forehead.

Squelch!

Blood spurted out from his head and dyed Ye Guan's sword red.

The spear-wielding young man froze. Is this my end?

He died with eyes full of regret.

After killing the leader of the group—the spear-wielding young man—Ye Guan turned and glared at the large-framed man holding a shield. The latter glared back at Ye Guan, but there was fear in his eyes. He no longer looked as imposing as before.

Ye Guan disappeared once again.

Bam!

A sword light dazzled the large-framed young man. He squinted and raised his shield up, but there was no impact.

Startled, the large-framed young man turned around, but a sword lacerated his throat. Blood spurted out wantonly from the wound in his throat, and he slowly crumpled to the floor.

Ye Guan diligently collected his spoils and took the large-framed man's shield, armor, and storage ring. He also didn't forget the storage rings of the spear-wielding young man and the woman wearing a white skirt.

The group was pretty rich; their storage rings contained a total of ten million gold spiritual crystals.

Ji Xuan walked toward Ye Guan and showed him the storage ring in her hands.

Ye Guan looked to a corner and saw a corpse. Ji Xuan had killed the assassin who had been hiding in the dark.

Ye Guan smiled and gave Ji Xuan five hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals. She was about to say something, but Ye Guan shook his head and interrupted her. "Don't turn me down."

"How can I possibly reject so much money?" said Ji Xuan with a smile before accepting the storage ring.

Ye Guan's smile deepened.

He swept his gaze at the corpses around them and said, "I underestimated them."

Ji Xuan shook her head and corrected him, "I don't think so. I think you were just ignorant of how a Divine Mage fights."

Ye Guan nodded. Nanling Yiyi was the only Divine Mage he knew, but he hadn't really seen her fight. The battle just now had made Ye Guan realize that a Divine Mage was a force to be reckoned with.

Ji Xuan explained, "Divine Mages have their own realms as well. They're categorized within the first nine ranks at first, but afterward, they would enter the Sky Realm, the Immortal Realm, the Saint Realm, and finally, the Imperial Realm."

She pointed at the woman in a white skirt's corpse and said, "She's a Divine Mage, but she's still within the nine ranks. If we had encountered a Sky Realm Divine Mage, we would have had no choice but to be careful."

Ye Guan frowned slightly. "Really?"

Ji Xuan nodded. “Yes, and I think her inheritance wasn’t that great. Otherwise, she would have been much stronger than just now.”

Ye Guan’s expression turned grim, and he made a mental note to himself. He would be wary of Divine Mages. If he found himself in a life-or-death battle against a Divine Mage in the future, he had to kill them first.

“The path to the peak of Divine Mages will require more money than the typical cultivator,” said Ji Xuan. “They burn money just to cultivate!”

Ji Xuan paused before saying, “The Main Guanxuan Academy has a Divine Dao Department filled with Divine Mages. Naturally, the Divine Mages in that department are powerful Divine Mages in their own right.”

“I’m hoping that we won’t encounter any Divine Mages from the Divine Dao Department. Otherwise, we’ll be in danger.”

Ye Guan nodded. He looked around before saying, “We should continue our journey to Qingzhou!”

Ji Xuan nodded and took out the cloud ship once more.

The two boarded the cloud ship and continued their journey to Qingzhou.

Ye Guan stood at the bow of the ship and was staring blankly into the distance in deep thought. The mercenary group that he had encountered earlier was indeed a powerful group.

If the large-framed young man wielding a shield had made sure to protect their Divine Mage, Ye Guan would have had issues finding an opening to kill the Divine Mage.

If the battle had become a long, drawn-out battle, he would have been in danger. After all, his cultivation base was low, so he would run out of profound energy quicker than them.

Unfortunately for Ye Guan, the mercenary group that he had encountered just now was just one of the many groups he would surely have to find in the near future.

One month! Ye Guan gripped his sword tightly. Will I live long enough to reach Qingzhou?

He had no idea. He didn't have an answer, but he was aware that his journey would be a tumultuous one.

He suddenly thought of something, which made him glance at Ji Xuan.

He was about to say something, but Ji Xuan laughed and said, "Are you trying to chase me away?"

Ye Guan sounded serious as he said, "Lady Ji Xuan, we're going to embark on a bumpy road, and I really don't want to drag you down with me."

Ji Xuan smiled and said, "You're great at everything, but I don't like how you love to nag."

Ye Guan smiled meekly.

Ji Xuan sounded serious as she said, "How about this? I'll run if we encounter an enemy that is too strong for me to handle. What do you think?"

Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled.

Ji Xuan glared at him and exclaimed, "I'm being serious here!"

Ye Guan chortled and said, "All right, I understand."

"You don't sound like you understand at all!" Ji Xuan rolled her eyes.

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Lady Ji Xuan, how did they find us?"

Ji Xuan calmly answered, "Why are you asking such an obvious question? They definitely bought information about our whereabouts from the Immortal Treasures Pavilion."

Ye Guan asked, "You can do that?"

Ji Xuan nodded, "Of course, as long as the buyer is willing to spend money. It won't be an issue for them to track us down using the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's extensive intelligence network."

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion! Ye Guan inwardly asked, "Master Pagoda, aren't you familiar with the Immortal Treasures Pavilion founder?"

Little Pagoda was silent for quite a while. He had no choice; he had to make sure that he wouldn't inadvertently leak more information than necessary. In the end, he could only say, "Just ask me directly; don't ask me such questions."

Ye Guan was at a loss for words.

It seemed that Little Pagoda had caught on.

Ye Guan thought about it and asked, "I felt a sense of familiarity with the portrait of Pavilion Master Qin in the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. My name is Ye Guan, and her name is Qin Guan. Master Pagoda, am I related to her?"

Little Pagoda and the mysterious voice cursed at the same time. "The fuck?"

After a while, Little Pagoda answered, "Your name is Ye Guan, and the Sword Master is Ye Xuan, did you also feel a sense of familiarity with him the moment you saw his statue?"

Ye Guan chuckled and said, "Honestly, yes."

"It's a shocking coincidence, then!" Little Pagoda exclaimed and said, "The Sword Master's name is Ye Xuan, and the Pavilion Master of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion is Qin Guan, while your name is Ye Guan. I think you're their son!"

Ye Guan was startled. He took a moment to compose himself before laughing. "I think that's too absurd, even for me, Master Pagoda! I was just curious; you shouldn't have taken my words so seriously. How can I be related to them?"

Little Pagoda heaved a huge sigh of relief. Goodness!

He had to go in a roundabout manner with this brat. Otherwise, he would certainly make a mistake. The brat was too smart for his own good.

Fortunately, Little Pagoda had already left a way out for himself. He had told Ye Guan the truth, and now, it was up to Ye Guan whether or not to believe it. In the future, Ye Guan couldn't accuse Little Pagoda of hiding the truth from him.

Just then, the mysterious voice praised, "Little Pagoda, I think you just made the smartest move you've ever made in your whole life."

Meanwhile, Ye Guan emptied his mind and closed his eyes. He was in trouble, so he had to be careful about his next steps. He knew that it wouldn't be that easy for him to reach Qingzhou.

"Pffft!" He laughed, prompting Ji Xuan to look at him in bewilderment.

"Why are you laughing?" she asked.

Ye Guan grinned. "I'm thinking about our next steps."

Ji Xuan asked, "What's funny about it?"

Ye Guan's grin grew wider as he said, "I will kill everyone in my way."

Ji Xuan blinked in confusion and asked, "Kill everyone?"

Ye Guan stared into the distance and said, "Yes, I will kill everyone! This journey is destined to be bloody. Since I can't avoid trouble, then I will just kill everyone who dares to block my way to Qingzhou.

"I only have one lowly life, so bringing someone down with me to the afterlife would be a one-to-one exchange, while I would profit by killing two people."

Ji Xuan was amused, and she stared deeply at Ye Guan. Ji Xuan had long realized that Ye Guan was warm and gentle on the outside but was a passionate man inside.

Gentle but domineering, kind but cool! He seemed to excel at everything, but he had zero flirting skills. Perhaps he swings that way?

Ji Xuan's face turned red. Bedazzled by him, she was starting to have strange thoughts.

Ye Guan suddenly exclaimed, "Something's off!"

Ji Xuan snapped back to reality and turned to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's eyes were narrowed as he said, "You can't feel it, right?"

Ji Xuan looked around. Moments later, her eyes narrowed as she pointed out. "I can't feel the wind."

The cloud ship was speeding through the starry skies, so it was strange that they couldn't feel any wind despite their speed.

"A Mirage Domain!" Ji Xuan's expression darkened. "We're in a Mirage Domain, but I'm not sure if this was made by an Array Master or a Divine Mage!"

Ye Guan closed his eyes and examined the surroundings. Intense sword intent flowed out of him, distorting the space around him.

Everything felt real.

Ye Guan's eyes shot wide open. He whipped around and hurled a sword.

Whoosh!

The sword sliced through space as it made a beeline for a retreating figure.

The sword struck the figure, and a woman wearing a slit skirt was revealed. Her eyes were sparkling as she stared at Ye Guan, and she was giving off an aura of grace and charm.

"As expected of a Sword Sovereign, you saw through my Mirage Domain so quickly!" the woman wearing a slit skirt licked her lips and stared at Ye Guan seductively before saying, "What do you think of me, boy? Am I pretty?"

Ye Guan vanished and unleashed the Instant Death Strike.

His sword shattered the spacetime rules to instantly appear in front of the woman wearing a slit skirt.

The woman's expression changed abruptly, but before she could even think of escaping, Ye Guan's sword pierced her forehead.

Blood spurted in all directions...

The woman's eyes quivered in fear, and she stared at Ye Guan in disbelief.

Ye Guan stared at her face and said, "As if you're pretty..."

He retracted his sword and slashed out.

Slice!

The woman's head flew into the air.

Chapter 119: Huge Difference

Was chivalry dead? What a bunch of nonsense! How could he be merciful to her just because she was a woman? In addition, she had come here to kill him.

Ye Guan was only concerned whether she was an enemy or not, and she was an enemy, not just a woman. Ye Guan would never hold back just because his opponent was a woman.

I will bury even a goddess if she tries to kill me. Ye Guan opened his palm, and the woman's storage ring flew into his hand.

Ji Xuan walked over to him. She stood in front of Ye Guan and stared at him.

Ye Guan hesitated before asking, "Yes?"

Ji Xuan grinned and asked, "The lady just now was beautiful, right? And she was—Oh! So. Sexy! Did you also see how big she was?"

Ye Guan shook his head slightly. "Women will only slow my sword down."

Ji Xuan froze.

Ye Guan explained. "She came here to kill me, and she would definitely repay my kindness with malice, even if I had let her go. As for her beauty, it has nothing to do with me."

Ji Xuan's grin deepened as she stared deeply at Ye Guan. However, she didn't say anything anymore. Ye Guan took out a storage ring and handed it over to Ji Xuan.

The storage ring contained two million gold spiritual crystals, and Ji Xuan accepted it in a heartbeat.

"Those who have come to kill me so far have been very rich." Ye Guan pointed out.

Ji Xuan nodded and said, "It's not strange. I don't think you'll attract the run-of-the-mill cultivators out there. After all, An Daoxin died at your hands."

Ye Guan sounded serious as he said, "So you're saying that those daring enough to kill me are powerhouses in their own right?"

Ji Xuan nodded. Her expression turned somber as she replied, "Actually, I'm worried about encountering the monstrous talents on the Divine Martial List of the Main Guanxuan Academy."

Ye Guan stared at Ji Xuan.

Ji Xuan said solemnly, "I'm also concerned that they'll send the Guanxuan Guards after you. The Guanxuan Guards are scary, and they will definitely chase you to the ends of the earth the moment you appear in their radars.

"Of course, those on the Divine Martial List are ruthless figures as well."

Ji Xuan paused to let Ye Guan take in the information before continuing. "The An Clan and the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan are definitely going to chase after you as well."

Ye Guan's expression turned grim. His plain-skirt aunt had killed many of the An Clan's powerhouses, but the An Clan was far from annihilated. They still had powerhouses, especially in the An Clan within the Main Guanxuan Academy.

Will the An Clan take such humiliation lying down? Of course not! The powerhouses of the Ancient Heavenly Dragon Clan also died that day, so will they let him go? Most definitely not!

Ye Guan had also provoked the aristocratic families faction and the great clan faction within the Main Guanxuan Academy. Ji Xuan was right; perhaps only the Sword Master could stand up for him.

Qingzhou! Ye Guan stared at the horizon. He was aware that many people didn't want him to reach Qingzhou. Ye Guan's eyes flashed coldly as he stared into the distance.

...

A middle-aged man stood wordlessly within the Ancestor Shrine of the An Clan in Qingzhou.

The middle-aged man was An Wujun, and he was the deputy commander of the Main Guanxuan Academy Military.

It had to be known that even though he was just a deputy commander, he was already in control of the Guanxuan Academy's military because An Lanxiu had inexplicably disappeared a few million years ago.

The Guanxuan Academy made three deputy commanders to take control of the military, and each of them was responsible for a hundred thousand troops.

The three had been maintaining a delicate balance between each other, and of course, An Lanxiu was still the commander.

However, An Lanxiu had long lost all power within the military because the military was already under the control of the Committee.

A hundred thousand troops wasn't a small number. Moreover, An Wujun had always been listening to the Committee's orders, so his position got more and more special as time went on. In the end, he became a confidante of the Committee.

After a long while, An Wujun walked out of the Ancestral Shrine.

The members of the An Clan on the Zhongtu Divine Continent were kneeling in front of him. An Wujun asked calmly, "What are you doing?"

A clan elder's voice was trembling as they spoke, "P-p-please stand up for our clan!"

"Please stand up for our clan!"

The others started shouting as well. The clan leader had perished, and An Daoxin had been murdered as well, along with the powerhouses that they had sent over to deal with Ye Guan. How could the An Clan take such a humiliation lying down?

An Wujun's expression didn't change. He didn't speak as well.

A clan elder stepped up with tears in his eyes and said, "Wujun, our An Clan has become a laughingstock throughout the Zhongtu Divine Continent. We have to take revenge; otherwise, how can we raise our heads in the future?"

An Wujun's expression didn't change. "Everyone, leave!"

The clan elder and the clan members were stunned.

An Wujun glared at them and shouted, "Leave!"

He wasn't angry at them, but his oppressive aura silenced everyone. No one dared to speak another word as they stood up and left. However, a girl didn't leave. She stood rooted, looking neither happy nor upset.

The little girl was wearing a white dress, and she looked to be about twelve years old

Her hair was tied up in a single hair braid.

An Wujun stared at the little girl and muttered, "Daoyun, come over here."

An Daoyun walked toward An Wujun.

An Wujun smiled softly and asked, "Do you have something to say to me?"

An Daoyun looked at An Wujun, "Uncle, what are you going to do?"

An Wujun smiled and asked, "What do you suggest?"

An Daoyun said calmly, "We have to act cautiously."

An Wujun asked, "Why do you say so?"

An Daoyun sounded serious as she said, "Everyone seemed to have forgotten the might of Ye Guan's Dao Protector. She killed thousands of our cultivators in just one sword move. She was also truly looking down on our family, so I reckon that she's not just a Great Sword Sovereign."

An Wujun grinned. "Continue."

An Daoyun obliged and added, "She was daring enough to kill so many of our clan members, so she's definitely not afraid of our clan. We still have no idea of her identity, but it's clear that she's most likely a cultivator from millions of years ago. I think she's from the same generation as our ancestors."

An Daoyun paused before continuing. "I think we've hit a stumbling block."

An Wujun nodded slightly, "Our investigation bore the same results as yours. She's most likely a talent from thirty million years ago.

"I have no idea how she erased her looks from everyone's memories, and that is why we haven't been able to discover her true identity."

An Daoyun asked solemnly, "Uncle, what is the Academy's attitude toward her?"

An Wujun responded, "I don't know; they're still investigating her."

An Daoyun went silent.

An Wujun said softly, "The Academy is worried that she was involved in the Xuzhen Great War many years ago, so they're afraid of putting her on the wanted list. Of course, they're also worried about her power because she's a Great Sword Sovereign, after all."

"The Academy has sent people to the Xuzhen battlefield. They're looking for Great Sword Sovereigns Ye Yu and Tingyun there. I'm sure those two are aware of her identity."

"What about Ye Guan?" asked An Daoyun.

An Wujun remained calm as he said, "The Academy does not intervene in the affairs of clans, so they weren't willing to make a move against him. However, he killed the Heavenly Dao of the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

"He decided to challenge the Academy by violating the Guanxuan Law, so the Academy has already placed him on the wanted list. Ye Guan is a dead man walking, but..." He An Wujun trailed off and frowned before saying, "He's on his way to Qingzhou."

"He's going to lodge an Imperial Appeal!" exclaimed An Daoyun.

“Yes.” An Wujun nodded. “There’s a high chance that he’s going to ask the Sword Master for help.”

“We can’t let him reach Qingzhou,” said An Daoyun.

An Wujun stared at An Daoyun and asked, “Do you think the Sword Master will help him?”

An Daoyun shook her head and said, “We can’t take on such a risk. The An Clan isn’t completely blameless. If the Sword Master appears and deals with the issue impartially, our clan will suffer a lot.”

An Wujun’s expression darkened. That’s right If the Sword Master appears and determines that the An Clan is at fault, the An Clan will surely be ruined. He’ll also lose his position as the Deputy Commander of the Guanxuan Academy Military.

An Wujun hesitated before saying, “We’re the Sword Master’s in-laws, and I don’t think he’s going to punish us for an outsider’s sake.”

“We really can’t take on such a risk.” An Daoyun shook her head and said, “The Sword Master founded the Academy with justice and fairness as the priorities.

”We have truly been unfair to Ye Guan, and it has been millions of years since the Sword Master became our relative, so his bloodline in our clan has already been diluted to the point of obscurity.”

An Wujun went silent.

An Daoyun was right, but the An Clan hadn’t been facing such a fact. No, it was more accurate to say that they had been avoiding it.

An Daoyun added, “Uncle, if the Sword Master appears and punishes us, our special position will cease to exist. We can’t let Ye Guan reach Qingzhou.”

An Wujun nodded. “I understand.”

An Daoyun continued. "Other than that, we still have to do something else."

An Wujun looked at An Daoyun, "What do you mean?"

An Daoyun knelt and said, "Uncle, I'm willing to leave the An Clan to study at the Main Guanxuan Academy."

An Wujun was stunned. He took a moment to compose himself, and his gaze soon turned complex as he stared at An Daoyun.

An Daoyun had gone at it in a roundabout manner, and it was all because she wanted to go to the Main Guanxuan Academy for herself rather than the An Clan.

An Daoyun explained, "I'll leave for the Main Guanxuan Academy and become a student there. It would be great if we managed to defeat Ye Guan, but we have to be ready in case we end up losing against him."

An Daoyun stared intently at An Wujun and said, "I'm willing to become the An Clan's alternative path. Please let me do my role, Uncle."

An Daoyun was from the An Clan on the Zhongtu Divine Continent, and the resources there were limited. She wanted to become even stronger, so she decided to shoot her shot and plead with her uncle to allow her to study at the Main Guanxuan Academy.

"All right." An Wujun nodded and said, "I'll send you to the Main Guanxuan Academy."

An Daoyun bowed deeply. "Thank you, Uncle."

An Wujun looked up at the sky and asked, "Can Ye Guan reach Qingzhou?"

"It is difficult to accurately predict the future," replied An Daoyun.

An Wujun smiled and said, "You're right. However, I'm willing to bet that he won't reach Qingzhou. Otherwise, the entire Guanxuan Academy will be humiliated along with us, and I'm sure the Guanxuan Academy doesn't want that to happen."

An Daoyun was silent. The last person who was so sure of Ye Guan's death was An Ya, but now, her body was already rotting. The An Clan had been consistently making the same mistakes time and time again, and what was that mistake?

It was a mistake to underestimate that young man from the Lower Realm's Nanzhou, but it seemed that the An Clan would never learn that lesson.

An Daoyun could only sigh. If she told the An Clan to give up on taking revenge, the An Clan would definitely throw her out in a heartbeat. The An Clan would call her a traitor if she were to do such a thing.

An Daoyun felt depressed.

She knew what the An Clan had to do, but she couldn't say it.

Why was the An Clan doing all this? To uphold the prestige of their ancestors? The An Clan had always been aware of their prestige, but they had forgotten that the prestige belonged to their ancestors rather than to them.

The An Clan only had two Martial Goddesses, but every An Clan member was acting like they were on the same level as those two Martial Goddesses. There was a huge difference between them and those two Martial Goddesses, okay?!

...

Chapter 120: Top Sect

Ye Guan was sitting cross-legged at the bow of the cloud ship. His hands were on his knees, and his eyes were shut. He was currently a Space Annihilation Realm cultivator, and he was strong enough to annihilate space.

However, Ye Guan found his current cultivation base to be insufficient.

His sword cultivation realm was extremely high, but his cultivation base as a cultivator was low. This was his biggest flaw at the moment. He wouldn't last long in battles. How could a man be just fast? He had to last long as well?

Ye Guan had decided to learn more about the Earth Law Realm. Simply put, the Earth Law Realm was all about taking control of the Earth Law.

The Earth Law was a catch-all term for every remnant power of nature. An example of this was lightning, magma, and wind.

The remnant power of these forces of nature would eventually settle deep underground, and an Earth Law Realm cultivator had to be proficient at using it.

Of course, there was a reason why the Earth Law Realm was a high cultivation realm, and it was all because the remnant power of nature was too strong for weak mortals to handle.

However, there was a power that was more difficult to handle than the Earth Law, and it was the so-called Great Earth Force. The Great Earth Force was endless, and it was born within the deepest part of the earth.

In addition, the Great Earth Force could only be harnessed under the permission of a Great Earth Spirit, so one had to acquire a Great Earth Spirit first before they could dabble into harnessing the Great Earth Force.

Ye Qing had the Great Earth Law Imprint, so he could harness as much Great Earth Force as he wanted as long as his feet were connected to the ground. In other words, Ye Qing was virtually inexhaustible so long as the earth existed.

Ye Guan carefully studied the Earth Law Realm. He had never neglected his own cultivation just because he was a powerful swordsman.

His cultivation base and his sword cultivation base were both important to him, so he made sure not to neglect either of them.

It was unfortunate that Little Pagoda seemed ignorant about the intricacies of the cultivation realms. Every time Ye Guan asked Little Pagoda questions, the latter would always say that he had to find the answer by himself, rendering Ye Guan speechless.

Helpless, he could only ponder over it by himself.

The difference between a rogue cultivator and one with a backing had become even clearer to Ye Guan. Rogue cultivators had to think about everything by themselves, whereas those with backers could always ask others for help.

Rogue cultivators were destined to take the hard path to the summit of cultivation.

Ji Xuan glanced at Ye Guan as she walked past him. The closer she got to Ye Guan, the more mysterious Ye Guan appeared in her eyes.

He was so young, but he was already a Sword Sovereign, and he also had a mysterious master whose name was apparently Pagoda.

Ji Xuan felt like Ye Guan was a young master of a powerful clan who was deliberately abandoned to train and grow by himself. It felt like Ye Guan was being forced to go through so many obstacles to reach the peak of cultivation and unite the entire universe.

But what kind of training is this? This is too much. They're basically letting him die!

Ye Guan's eyes suddenly shot open. He stared at Ji Xuan and said seriously, "Lady Ji Xuan, I would like to ask you a few questions about the Earth Law Realm."

Ji Xuan smiled and said, "Okay."

Ji Xuan and Ye Guan started discussing the dao on an unassuming cloud ship flying through the starry skies. Ye Guan was overjoyed to find that Ji Xuan was knowledgeable enough to answer all of his questions.

Meanwhile, Ji Xuan was surprised by Ye Guan's comprehension. The latter understood the abstract concepts and subtleties of cultivation realms with just a few clues, and he also managed to extrapolate so much information from a piece of information.

His comprehension was high, and he was a monstrous talent. Ji Xuan had no doubt that he would have become an even more terrifying monster if he had become a student of the Main Guanxuan Academy.

Ji Xuan sighed. The Guanxuan Academy had lost an excellent seedling. Of course, Guanxuan Academy probably didn't care that much as they had many talents. They were huge enough to disregard Ye Guan's talent.

Rumble!

A terrifying energy abruptly enveloped their cloud ship, forcing it to stop.

Sword force! Ye Guan and Ji Xuan shot to their feet and looked around. A long-haired young man wearing a plain robe was hovering about a hundred meters away from the cloud ship. A sword case was on his back.

A swordsman! Ye Guan was surprised. He didn't expect to see a swordsman here.

The young man's eyes were transfixed on Ye Guan.

He put his hands together and said, "My name is Cao Bai, and I'm from the Sword Sect. I'm on a mission to fight a Sword Sovereign on the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

"I've heard that Young Master Ye is the Sword Sovereign that I am seeking, so I hope that you'll guide me, Young Master Ye."

Ji Xuan's expression changed. "He's from the Sword Sect!"

Ye Guan looked at her. "The Sword Sect?"

Ji Xuan's expression turned grim. "It's the top sect within the Main Guanxuan Academy."

Ye Guan was stunned. He turned to look at Cao Bai and smiled.

"Are you here because of the bounty on my head?"

Cao Bai shook his head and said, "I investigated the issue myself, and the An Clan is definitely at fault. Your actions of resisting arrest are perfectly justified because it was issued unfairly. Of course, I will not involve myself in politics."

Ye Guan was surprised. It seemed that logical people still existed in the vast universe.

Cao Bai added, "I've told the sect about the injustice that you've suffered. Unfortunately, our three Great Sword Sovereigns are all at the Xuzhen battlefield, and I don't think they're going to return anytime soon."

Ye Guan smiled softly and said, "My friend told me that everyone in the Main Guanxuan Academy is trying to suppress me. However, it seems that my friend was mistaken."

Cao Bai replied, "My Sword Sect is not interested in such matters."

Ye Guan nodded and said, "Brother Cao, I've also been wanting to exchange moves with another swordsman."

Cao Bai gestured. "Brother Ye, we should move somewhere else."

Ye Guan nodded and vanished from the cloud ship with a simple tap of his foot.

He reappeared a few hundred meters away.

Ji Xuan put the cloud ship away for safekeeping.

Cao Bai looked at Ye Guan and said, "Brother Ye, you're definitely a better swordsman than me, but my cultivation base is higher than yours. I guess that balances things out."

Ye Guan smiled. "I agree."

Cao Bai suddenly stepped out and pointed. "Attack!"

Buzz!

A buzzing sound echoed as the sword within the sword case on Cao Bai's back soared into the sky. It left a multicolored trail in the air as it made a beeline for Ye Guan. Terrifying flames covered the sword's blade, and the air melted under the heat that it was carrying. The sword seemed capable of melting just about anything.

Ji Xuan's eyes narrowed. Cao Bai was a Half-step Sword Sovereign.

Ye Guan abruptly vanished just as the sword was about to hit him. He didn't dare to be careless in front of a fellow swordsman.

Cao Bai pointed his palms at his chest before pushing them outward.

"Subdue!" he shouted.

Rumble!

The space around Cao Bai quivered and split. Moments later, the space around him turned into a terrifying cage filled with swords.

A Sword Domain! Ji Xuan was shocked to see the legendary Sword Domain. She truly didn't expect to see a Sword Domain, considering how those books had depicted a Sword Domain as a technique that belongs only in legends.

Ye Guan instantly slowed down, and a flying sword flew toward him from behind. Ye Guan frowned upon being suppressed by a mysterious force. He put his thoughts aside and swung his sword at the oncoming sword behind him.

Clang!

The space was shattered from the collision, and the sword returned to Cao Bai.

A strange light flashed in Cao Bai's eyes. Ye Guan had just shattered the spacetime rules in front of him. However, he set his thoughts aside and reappeared a few hundred meters away from his original location while sending another sword toward Ye Guan.

Bzzzt!

The sword was covered in lightning and was fast as lightning.

Ye Guan's attack had just fallen into empty air, but Cao Bai's next attack was already flying toward him. However, there was a second sword heading toward his head from behind him. It was a pincer attack!

The sword in front of him was covered in lightning, while the other was covered in flames. Ye Guan took a moment to compose himself before opening his palm and sending a sword made out of sword energy toward the flaming sword behind him.

At the same time, he wielded another sword made out of sword energy and charged at the oncoming lightning sword in front of him.

Ye Guan executed the Royal Sword Art and stopped the lightning sword dead in its tracks before reappearing in front of Cao Bai. However, Cao Bai's expression remained as calm as placid water because Ye Guan was within his Sword Domain.

Ye Guan's speed was terrifying, so he had to slow the former down with his Sword Domain. Otherwise, he would die without realizing it.

Ye Guan had slowed down, but a terrifying sword force emerged from him. A Sword Sovereign's sword force! Cao Bai's expression changed. His Sword Domain couldn't contain Ye Guan's sword force and had begun to crack under the pressure.

Ye Guan vanished once more. Cao Bai was horrified. He flipped open his palm and sent another sword flying toward Ye Guan while the flaming sword and the lightning sword hurriedly returned to him.

Unfortunately, Ye Guan's sword reached Cao Bai's forehead first.

The flaming sword and the lightning sword stopped about a meter away from Ye Guan, while the sword that Cao Bai had attempted to use against Ye Guan had only made it halfway out of the sword case.

Cao Bai remained still. He was sure that if he made even the slightest movement, Ye Guan's sword would pierce his forehead.

Ye Guan was just slightly faster than him, and the slight difference determined victory.

Ye Guan's face was beyond pallid. He had used up too much profound energy. If he had failed in his gambit, he would have lost after running out of profound energy.

Cao Bai said, "I've lost."

“You were lenient to me,” replied Ye Guan before his sword shattered into innumerable light particles.

Ji Xuan appeared next to him and asked, “Are you okay?”

Ye Guan shook his head and said, “I’m a bit tired.”

Ji Xuan’s expression was solemn as she said, “We’ve been surrounded by a few powerful groups.”

Ye Guan looked around and frowned. This was troublesome. These people had obviously been waiting until his spar with Cao Bai was over, but Ye Guan couldn’t really blame them because it was the best way to increase their chances of victory.

Cao Bai suddenly said, “Brother Ye, let me protect you.”

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at Cao Bai.

Cao Bai looked around and said coldly, “Whoever dares to attack Brother Ye in the next three days will die, your backers be damned. If you’re unhappy, you can visit the Sword Sect to look for me.”

With that, the powerful auras that had locked onto them vanished.