

A Sword 151

Chapter 151: My Father Will Repay The Debt

Little Pagoda felt a bit nervous.

There was no way Ye Guan could have known anything, as he had been keeping a tight lid on any relevant information that Ye Guan could use to deduce. But this little bastard is pretty clever. I can't say for sure that he hasn't discovered anything!

Ye Guan suddenly shook his head and laughed. "It's funny, right? Master Pagoda?"

Little Pagoda thought for a little while before he said, "Why is it funny? Is it that far-fetched for you to become the next Academy Master?"

Ye Guan shook his head and explained, "There are two prerequisites to becoming the Academy Master. You must be extremely powerful to attract followers, and you need many powerful backers to support you. Otherwise, there's no way you can restrain the aristocratic family faction and the great clan faction!"

Ye Guan sighed and continued, "I know that it is important to work hard on my own, but it is true that this world is cruel and pragmatic. There are some things that you have to be born with; otherwise, you'll never have them for the rest of your life."

Little Pagoda asked, "Do you blame your parents? They didn't give you a powerful background."

Ye Guan chuckled and replied, "Why would I blame them? Which parent in this world wouldn't want the best for their child? I believe that they left me alone for a good reason.

"As for my family background, I believe that the grass is always greener on the other side. People will also only compare themselves to those who have it better without realizing that there are many people who have it worse than them.

“Let’s take myself as an example. Master Pagoda, your guidance has allowed me to surpass many people.”

Little Pagoda laughed a little, feeling gratified.

Ye Guan added, “My family situation must be a bit complex. Otherwise, you would have already told me everything there is to know about my family. I won’t ask about your origins from now on, as I believe that you’ll tell me the truth at the right time.”

Little Pagoda hurriedly replied, “Yes, I will!”

Ye Guan turned to look at the horizon and said, “The Chosen One is my enemy.”

“Yes, I know,” Little Pagoda said, “What about it?”

Ye Guan calmly pointed out. “You don’t seem worried about me at all.”

Little Pagoda was speechless.

The mysterious voice chimed in, “Again! He’s doing it again!”

Ye Guan laughed and asked, “What is the reason behind your indifference, Master Pagoda? Is it because you don’t care about the Chosen One, or is there another reason behind it?”

Little Pagoda shouted in the tiny pagoda, “Fuck! I really am in awe of this little bastard!”

Meanwhile, Ye Guan continued. “You were also indifferent back then when there was a possibility that I might face two Martial Goddesses. The Chosen One of the current generation has become my enemy, but you still don’t care.”

Ye Guan pondered briefly before saying, "Master Pagoda, am I underestimating your power and origins?"

Little Pagoda was stunned.

Ye Guan added, "I also discovered a massive clue. You seem to be really afraid of me finding out my true identity."

"Didn't we agree that I would tell you everything at the right time?"

Ye Guan smiled and relented. "All right, then."

Little Pagoda asked, "What are your plans? Are you going to the Main Guanxuan Academy just to fight the Chosen One?"

Ye Guan ruminated for quite a while before he replied, "The inner workings of the Guanxuan Academy's Committee are complicated, but the good thing is that the Committee isn't monolithic, which means that not everyone will stand on the Chosen One's side.

"For example, I feel that I could make some friends at the Literary Department. I can also visit the Lingxu Blessed Land and the Time Paradise in the Nine Heavens and Ten Lands!"

"That sounds great!" exclaimed Little Pagoda.

Ye Guan added, "The whole universe will watch my battle with the Chosen One. I don't think he's going to employ any dirty tricks, but it's hard to say the same for his followers. After all, they have a vested interest in the Chosen One's victory.

"In other words, I have to be careful of the aristocratic families and the great clans that are supporting him. They're capable of doing anything for their own interests."

Ye Guan took out a storage ring. The storage ring was from the Shenge Clan.

"I might be able to contact her in the Guanyuan Universe, but I'm not sure if she's going to stand on my side." Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled before saying, "Forget it! I'm afraid that she's going to take the Chosen One's side.

"It would be so embarrassing for me to go there only for her to end up choosing the Chosen One. What do you think, Master Pagoda?"

Little Pagoda said, "She's definitely going—"

"Shut up!" The mysterious voice hurriedly yelled, "You dumbass! He's baiting answers from you!"

"Fuck!" Little Pagoda exclaimed, "Didn't this bastard just say that he's going to stop asking questions? Wait, did he say that so that I'll let my guard down?"

The mysterious voice said blandly, "I guess you're still redeemable since you've finally seen through his intentions!

Little Pagoda was silent for a few moments before he sighed and said, "I'm a bit scared of him now! Damn it, he's too scheming. I think his dad is better than him. His dad often hoodwinks others, but his schemes aren't as devious as this bastard!"

Ye Guan frowned. Master Pagoda had stopped talking mid-sentence.

His intuition was telling him that Little Pagoda wasn't alone in the tiny pagoda.

Ye Guan's face abruptly changed. He stood up and saw that the path ahead of him had collapsed. A terrifying force rushed toward him like a deluge.

Ye Guan narrowed his eyes and thrust his sword forward.

Boom!

The space ahead of him collapsed, and a powerful suction force threatened to drag Ye Guan into the turbulent spacetime.

Ye Guan was horrified. He took out the Path Sword and slashed out.

Boom!

The turbulent spacetime split into two, and Ye Guan soon found himself in a quiet corner of the starry skies.

He turned around and saw that the spacetime tunnel was recovering, but his face was gloomy. Someone clearly didn't want him to reach the Main Guanxuan Academy in the Guanxuan Universe!

Ye Guan turned and saw a woman standing far away from him.

Ye Guan frowned. The woman was the sickle-wielding woman who had tried to frame him for the deaths of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's powerhouses. Ye Guan hadn't expected that the Immortal Treasures Pavilion had simply let her go.

The sickle-wielding woman glared at Ye Guan and smiled crookedly.

"You didn't think that I'd be back, did you?" she said.

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at her without moving.

The sickle-wielding woman was too far away, and he wasn't confident that he could kill her in an instant.

The sickle-wielding woman chuckled and said, "I have to admit—you're pretty gutsy. You not only challenged the Chosen One, but you're also daring enough to go to the Main Guanxuan Academy ahead of schedule. Unfortunately, someone doesn't want you to be there."

Ye Guan thought for a while before asking, "Miss, is there any enmity between us?"

The sickle-wielding woman stared doubtfully at Ye Guan before asking, "What do you mean?"

Ye Guan sounded serious as he said, "If there's no enmity between us, I'd like to talk to you!"

The sickle-wielding woman glared at Ye Guan and asked, "What is it about?"

"I know that you're on a mission to stop me from getting to the Main Guanxuan Academy. I want to know who sent you on that mission."

"Do you really think that I'm going to tell you?"

"Is it really necessary for us to fight each other to the death? If you think otherwise, I won't say anything anymore."

The sickle-wielding woman went silent instead of replying.

Ye Guan asked, "Is it the Academy?"

The sickle-wielding woman shook her head.

Ye Guan nodded and said, "It must be the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, then!"

The sickle-wielding woman replied, "You're half-right."

Ye Guan frowned. "It's not just the Immortal Treasures Pavilion?"

The sickle-wielding woman nodded and asked, “Do you have any idea just how many people and organizations are supporting the Chosen One?”

Ye Guan shook his head.

The sickle-wielding woman explained, “The Head Military Official of the Martial Department—who is also an elder of the Committee—has become the Chosen One’s tutor. His disciples can be found all over the world, and his influence in the Academy is terrifying.

”The Immortal Treasures Pavilion has also decided to stand on his side along with the Milky Way Clan and the Future Clan of Milky Way. He also has the support of quite a few aristocratic families and great clans in the Nine Heavens and Ten Lands.”

Ye Guan nodded slightly, but he didn’t say anything.

The sickle-wielding woman continued. “Their vested interests are tied together. You have absolutely no chance of winning if you go to the Guanyuan Universe ahead of schedule. They’re not going to let you win as well.”

Ye Guan suddenly asked, “Miss, what’s your name?”

The sickle-wielding woman stared deeply at Ye Guan.

“Wanyan Gu,” she said.

Ye Guan nodded and asked, “Lady Wanyan, do you know what the Sword Master told me in Qingzhou?”

Wanyan Gu’s eyes narrowed as she asked, “What did he say?”

Ye Guan opened his palm, and the Path Sword appeared in his hand.

Hum!

The Path Sword quivered violently, and a resonant hum echoed throughout the starry skies!

Wanyan Gu stared at the Path Sword and muttered, "That sword... did the Sword Master give it to you?"

"The Sword Master told me that the great clans and the aristocratic families have dominated the Academy for too long, and they have long become corrupted as well.

"He wishes to see me grow so that I can eventually clean the Academy of all corruption."

Wanyan Gu's expression changed.

Meanwhile, the mysterious voice asked, "Is that a bunch of nonsense?"

Little Pagoda replied, "No, his father does want him to do that. He's probably thinking that he's just speaking a bunch of nonsense, and I'm sure others will think the same, but it really isn't just a bunch of nonsense."

The mysterious voice sighed. "I think he knows something. He's really terrifying!"

Little Pagoda didn't know what to say.

Wanyan Gu stared at Ye Guan and said, "Who are you trying to fool here, Young Lord Ye? If the Sword Master has chosen you as his successor, why did he not announce it? You wouldn't have become a fugitive if he had announced his intentions to the public!"

Ye Guan fell silent. Girls aren't easy to fool nowadays! It's too hard to be a man!

Little Pagoda chuckled and said, "This little bastard isn't as good as his father when it comes to hoodwinking others!"

Ye Guan suddenly said, “Lady Wanyan, do you know why I was daring enough to kill the members of the An Clan? And why am I not scared of their Martial Goddesses?”

Wanyan Gu’s eyebrows furrowed.

Ye Guan was about to say something, but Wanyan Gu interrupted him. “Just tell me why the Sword Master didn’t publicly announce his intentions to take you as his successor. Just tell me why—that’s all I need to know!”

Ye Guan thought briefly before he said, “After that huge battle in that fateful year, the Sword Master...” Ye Guan trailed off. He eventually pointed at his head and explained, “The Sword Master’s brain hasn’t been working properly since then!”

Little Pagoda was about to say something, but the mysterious voice chimed in, “Don’t say anything! Don’t rebut, and don’t give him any advice. I think he’s not trying to fool that girl.

”He’s deliberately digging a hole for you, and he’s waiting for you to jump into it!”

Little Pagoda was utterly speechless.

Ye Guan frowned upon receiving no response from Little Pagoda. Why is Master Pagoda not saying anything? From what I remember, Master Pagoda isn’t that bright!

His intuition was telling him that he might be related to the Sword Master.

Perhaps he was a relative or related to one of the Sword Master’s ancestors.

However, he couldn’t really say for sure, so he had been trying to bait out more answers from Master Pagoda. Unfortunately, it seemed that Master Pagoda had finally caught on to what he had been trying to do. He wouldn’t be careless anymore.

Wanyan Gu was silent for quite a while.

Eventually, she asked, "Do you really think that I'll believe that?"

Ye Guan ruminated briefly before saying, "Miss, I really need to get to the Guanyuan Universe as quickly as possible. However, there are so many eyes on me, including the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

"They don't want me to get to the Guanyuan Universe, which means that the Chosen One is in the middle of cultivating a powerful technique.

"Therefore, I'd like to ask you for a favor, Miss. I have to get to the Guanyuan Universe as quickly as possible!"

Wanyan Gu glared at him and asked, "Why would I help you?"

After a moment of silence, Ye Guan offered. "I'll give you a hundred million gold spiritual crystals!"

Wanyan Gu froze.

"However, I will have to repay you at a later time," Ye Guan added and said, "My father will repay my debt for me once I find him. If you're worried, I can sign a contract to assuage your worries!"

"Don't say anything, Little Pagoda!" the mysterious voice said, "He's baiting answers out of you again!"

Little Pagoda was truly at a loss for words.

Chapter 152: Founder Qin Has A Son?

Wanyan Gu fell into deep contemplation. Her investigation had told her that Ye Guan was from Nanzhou, and he was just an adopted son of the Ye Clan in Nanzhou rather than a direct descendant.

It was interesting because it was impossible for a monstrous talent like Ye Guan to possess a mediocre family background.

Wanyan Gu was convinced that Ye Guan's status was special or he had a powerful family background. Otherwise, how could he have gotten to where he was today?

Without an excellent sword dao inheritance, there was no way he could have achieved so many astounding feats. In other words, Ye Guan's background was definitely terrifying; Wanyan Gu simply had no idea of his background.

In other words, Ye Guan would truly have no issues producing a hundred million gold spiritual crystals in the future.

Wanyan Gu gazed deeply at Ye Guan and said, "I will escort you to the Guanxuan Universe. You said your father will pay me a hundred million gold spiritual crystals, right?"

Ye Guan froze. She actually believed me?

He said all that to bait answers out of Little Pagoda, but he was surprised when Little Pagoda chose to remain silent. However, Ye Guan was even more surprised to discover that Wanyan Gu had actually believed him.

Ye Guan felt like was between a rock and a hard place. He couldn't put his father into debt without his father's consent, and it wasn't the right thing to do as well. What if his father was in a worse financial situation than he was? Wouldn't his father fall into the abyss of debt if he made his father pay a hundred million gold spiritual crystals?

"Master Pagoda," Ye Guan inwardly asked, "I said I won't ask about my father's identity anymore, but I really need to know whether he's rich or not."

Little Pagoda roared, "Shut up!"

Ye Guan didn't know what to say.

He was about to open his mouth to reject Wanyan Gu's help, but she urged, "Let's go! The experts of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion will come soon, so we can't stay here any longer."

She turned around and disappeared into the horizon.

Ye Guan hesitated, but he eventually followed her.

Whatever, I'll just think about this debt later! A father is supposed to help his struggling son, anyway.

An hour later, Wanyan Gu brought Ye Guan somewhere in the vast starry skies.

Ye Guan looked around and saw an ancient city in the distance. It wasn't that big of a city, but Ye Guan was astonished by the fact that the ancient city was suspended in the starry skies.

Ye Guan sighed in admiration and exclaimed, "The universe is indeed full of wonders. I didn't expect to see a city suspended in the starry skies!"

Wanyan Gu looked at him and frowned. Why does this bastard sound like he has never seen much of the world before?

"Lady Wanyan." Ye Guan was curious, so he asked, "How come this city hasn't fallen down?"

Wanyan Gu indifferently said, "It can't be allowed to fall. Otherwise, the people beneath it will die!"

Ye Guan was stupefied.

Wanyan Gu explained, "You're staring at Dark City, and the entire city is a famous black market. It's a special place that is beyond the influence of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion and the Guanxuan Academy."

“Wow,” muttered Ye Guan in stupefaction. “Is this city full of powerful people?”

Wanyan Gu nodded and said, “Yes, but the waters here are muddy, and the people here are from all walks of life, including those on wanted lists. In other words, those capable of making a living here aren’t simple.”

Wanyan Gu stared at Ye Guan and said, “Don’t trust anyone in there, do you understand?”

“I understand.” Ye Guan nodded.

Wanyan Gu remained silent as she stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled sheepishly and added, “I’ll trust only you; I won’t trust anyone else!”

Wanyan Gu was slightly taken aback, and her expression softened as she said, “I know you’re strong, but it seems that you haven’t seen much of the outside world, so I’m sure you don’t know just how dangerous people can be.

“The people here are full of secrets, and they are always scheming. They are the kind of people who will always prioritize profits and their own interests. This city doesn’t have any kind-hearted people anymore.”

“Indeed.” Ye Guan nodded slightly and said, “There are indeed some places that the light cannot reach.”

Wanyan Gu agreed, “Yes! The waters here are muddy, and it is indeed a dangerous place, but it has a silver living. With enough money, you can buy anything you want here. The only issue is that the prices are much higher than in other places.”

Ye Guan suddenly asked, “You said this place is beyond the influence of the Guanxuan Academy and the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, right?”

“Yes,” Wanyan Gu replied.

Ye Guan’s brows furrowed as he asked, “Does that mean they’re not under the governance of the Guanxuan Academy?”

Wanyan Gu smiled and asked, “Do you know who’s the big boss of Dark City?”

“The Guanxuan Academy?” guessed Ye Guan.

Wanyan Gu nodded. “We don’t know for sure, but they are definitely from the Guanxuan Academy, and I’m sure an influential figure from the Immortal Treasures Pavilion is involved with Dark City as well!

”In other words, the Main Guanxuan Academy has to send people down here if they want to bring this place under their governance. An ordinary person will have no luck investigating the dark currents here. Actually, they’ll simply disappear.”

Ye Guan finally understood why the Guanxuan Academy and the Immortal Treasures Pavilion had decided not to make any moves to bring Dark City under their influence.

“There’s simply too much money to earn here!” exclaimed Wanyan Gu. “It is estimated that tens of billions of gold spiritual crystals flow into and out of Dark City every day.”

Tens of billions?! Ye Guan stared incredulously at Wanyan Gu. That’s absurd!

Wanyan Gu added, “Ordinary people couldn’t possibly take a slice of such a massive pie, and the vested interests tied to Dark City are simply too great for it to fail.”

“I see...” Ye Guan nodded.

“Teleporting between worlds in a star field usually requires using the Immortal Treasures Pavilion’s teleportation arrays, but Dark City has its own teleportation arrays. Of course, they aren’t as good as the Immortal Treasures Pavilion’s teleportation arrays, but they are at least connected to the major worlds.

“There are no usage restrictions as well...

“The arrest warrants of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion and the Guanxuan Academy don’t matter here. As long as you have enough money, you can use the teleportation arrays of Dark City,” said Wanyan Gu.

“Are they expensive?” Ye Guan asked.

Wanyan Gu narrowed her eyes at Ye Guan and said, “It’ll cost you at least five million gold spiritual crystals to travel from here to the Main Guanxuan Academy!”

Five million gold spiritual crystals?! Ye Guan inhaled sharply. He thought he had become a rich man, but it seemed that his assumption had been a complete joke.

The greed of those higher in ranks was truly incomprehensible and unimaginable in the eyes of ordinary people. However, Dark City was obviously not as profitable as the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. It had to be known that the Immortal Treasures Pavilion had teleportation arrays and branches in every world!

It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that there would be an Immortal Treasures Pavilion branch where people lived.

Ye Guan shook his head and sighed. “Master Pagoda, why do you think Founder Qin Qin wants to earn so much money? Can she even spend so much money?”

Little Pagoda said indifferently, “She can just leave her money to her son to spend.”

Ye Guan’s curiosity was piqued.

“Founder Qin has a son?” he asked.

“Yes!”

“Is it with the Sword Master?”

“Yes!”

“Wow...” Ye Guan sighed in awe and said, “Doesn’t that mean that the Sword Master and Founder Qin’s son is invincible the moment he’s born? However, I don’t think becoming invincible from the get-go is a good thing, he would never be able to understand the joys of the common people!”

Little Pagoda said, “His son is a bad person!”

Ye Guan frowned and asked, “A bad person?”

“Yes!” Little Pagoda exclaimed and said, “He’s full of schemes, and those unlucky enough to get involved with him will have a miserable future.”

Ye Guan was confused by Little Pagoda’s statement.

He was about to ask more questions, but Wanyan Gu said, “We have to be careful.”

Ye Guan set his thoughts aside and found that they had already reached the city gates.

A black-robed young man with an eye patch over his right eye. He was standing on top of the city gates, so passing through the city gates meant walking beneath his crotch.

Ye Guan frowned upon realizing that.

Wanyan Gu stared at the black-robed young man and asked, “What is it? Do you want to collect a toll from me?”

The black-robed young man smiled crookedly and said, "Wanyan Gu, I'm not going to collect a toll from you, but..."

The black-robed young man glanced at Ye Guan and said, "I've never seen him

before, so he must be new here. In other words, I will have to collect a toll from him!

"However, I can give him a discount for your sake, Wanyan Gu. He just has to give me a million gold spiritual crystals!"

Wanyan Gu tugged at Ye Guan's sleeve and said, "Show him one of your moves."

Ye Guan nodded.

Swoosh!

A ray of sword flight flew and struck the black-robed young man's forehead before the latter could even react. The black-robed young man's head exploded like a watermelon; his brain matter and blood haphazardly spurted in all directions.

Wanyan Gu turned to Ye Guan and shouted, "I didn't tell you to kill him!"

Ye Guan was stunned.

He smiled sheepishly and said, "Oops, I misunderstood. My apologies..."

Ye Guan opened his palm, and the black-robed young man's storage ring flew toward him. Ye Guan examined the storage ring and found that it contained at least ten million gold spiritual crystals.

Ye Guan took out five million gold spiritual crystals and handed them over to Wanyan Gu.

“This is bad...” Wanyan Gu shook her head and dragged Ye Guan into the city.

“What’s going on?” asked Ye Guan.

Wanyan Gu explained in a low voice, “Dark City is teeming with gangs. They have united, and they’re fighting for spare change that the higher-ups of the Dark City couldn’t be bothered to collect. The gangs of Dark City are powerful, and the young man you killed was from the Southern Gang.

“The Southern Gang is one of the two biggest gangs in Dark City, and you’ve basically challenged them by killing one of their own. They’ll definitely not let this matter slide.”

“Is theft a crime here?” Ye Guan asked.

Wanyan Gu stared at Ye Guan with a frown.

“Theft? Why would you even do that?” she asked.

Ye Guan answered, “I’m poor!”

Wanyan Gu was speechless.

The two continued walking until Wanyan Gu abruptly stopped in her tracks.

A middle-aged man was standing in front of them, and many people emerged from behind him.

Wanyan Gu’s face fell. She glared at the middle-aged man and shouted, “Mo Gan!”

She truly didn’t expect that the Vice Leader of the Southern Gang would appear in front of them.

Mo Gan chuckled and said, "Wanyan Gu, I don't think there's an enmity between us, so why did you kill one of my boys?"

Wanyan Gu calmly asked, "Would you believe me if I said that this was all a misunderstanding?"

Mo Gan boisterously laughed and asked back, "What do you think?"

Wanyan Gu fell silent, seemingly thinking of something.

Ye Guan tugged at her sleeve and said, "Don't be afraid; they're not that strong. If they do something, leave it to me. I'll make quick work of them."

Ye Guan had said it in a low voice, but everyone still heard him.

Wanyan Gu's face darkened as she chided, "You could have just told me that using profound sound transmission."

Ye Guan fell silent, seemingly pondering over something.

Eventually, he looked at Mo Gan and said, "I came here to use the teleportation arrays of Dark City, I'm not here to be your enemy. Can you please step aside and let us pass?"

Mo Gan guffawed and taunted, "And what if I don't want to?"

Shwik!

A ray of sword light momentarily blinded everyone, forcing them to close their eyes. By the time they opened their eyes, a sword was already sticking out of Mo Gan's forehead.

Everyone was stupefied by the incredulous sight.

Mo Gan's expression was frozen in disbelief.

"You left me with no choice but to take your storage ring with tears in my eyes!" said Ye Guan before unceremoniously snatching away Mo Gan's storage ring.

Everyone was rendered speechless.

Chapter 153: I Don't Want To Negotiate!

It was a kill that filled everyone's hearts with stupefaction, and even Wanyan Gu was stupefied by the instant kill.

Wanyan Gu's gaze turned deep as she made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan. She came to the conclusion that Ye Guan had become even stronger compared to when she fought him in Qingzhou.

His improvement speed was out of this world!

The remaining riffraff didn't even bother to say anything. They whipped around and ran for their lives!

He's too strong for us to handle! We can't beat him even if we gang up on him!

Ye Guan didn't bother to chase after the riffraff. He examined Mo Gan's storage ring and found twenty million gold spiritual crystals inside of it!

"He's filthy rich!" he exclaimed.

Wanyan Gu explained, "That amount is probably what he had earned so far."

Ye Guan nodded and handed over ten million gold spiritual crystals to Wanyan Gu.

“These are yours, Lady Wanyan!” he said.

However, Wanyan Gu only stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan asked, “What’s wrong?”

“Nothing.” Wanyan Gu shook her head.

She accepted the storage ring and stored it away.

“Let’s go!” she said.

“All right, let’s go!” Ye Guan answered with a nod.

The two walked down the street, and they soon realized that the surroundings had gone abnormally quiet. However, Ye Guan could feel powerful auras within the dark alleys.

Wanyan Gu pointed out. “You were too high-profile!”

Ye Guan smiled sheepishly.

Wanyan Gu suddenly frowned. An old man was standing in the distance.

Wanyan Gu’s face fell upon recognizing the old man.

“He’s Zhang Qi, the Southern Gang’s leader!” she exclaimed.

Zhang Qi was a Seal Shattering Realm cultivator! It seemed that Dark City truly had many hidden powerhouses.

Zhang Qi smiled at Ye Guan and said, "Whatever happened just now was the Southern Gang's fault, Young Lord. Let me apologize to you and to Lady Wanyan Gu!"

Wanyan Gu was stunned.

Ye Guan replied, "I didn't mean to make an enemy out of your gang. I was just passing by."

Zhang Qi cupped his fist and said respectfully, "I understand! I hope we see each other again, Young Lord!"

Zhang Qi turned around and left.

Ye Guan glanced at Wanyan Gu and said, "All right, let's continue."

With that, the two continued on their journey.

However, Wanyan Gu couldn't resist her curiosity and asked, "Did you kill Mao Gan to intimidate the Southern Gang?"

Ye Guan replied, "Strength is everything in this kind of place. The Southern Gang would have kept coming to find trouble for us if I hadn't moved decisively. The grudges between us could have eventually become a death feud.

"I had no choice but to show them my strength by killing that man. They would then have two choices: they could either come at me with everything they have to avenge their fallen member, or they could settle the grudge with me."

"They chose the latter!" Wanyan Gu pointed out.

Ye Guan nodded and said, “Strength begets respect. It is better to act decisively when necessary, as it would most likely prevent future troubles. Of course, it wouldn’t have been a big issue if they had chosen the former.

”I would have just killed them all, so it’s very simple.”

It’s very simple?! Wanyan Gu was astonished by how calm Ye Guan sounded. He sounded as if he were talking about stomping on a few ants rather than reaping the lives of many people.

Wanyan Gu sighed while surreptitiously looking at Ye Guan. He was indeed not just a simple young man; it was no wonder he became a Great Sword Sovereign at such a young age. He turned out to be a heaven-defying talent.

The two soon disappeared at the end of the street.

Zhang Qi watched with heavy eyes as Ye Guan and Wanyan Gu walked away.

A young man standing next to him couldn’t help but ask, “Grandpa, why did we let that swordsman go?”

Zhang Qi chuckled and replied with a question, “Is our Southern Gang powerful?”

“Of course!” exclaimed the young man with a nod.

Zhang Qi shook his head and said, “We’re mere ants—whether it is in the outside world or in the Dark City. They could have easily gotten rid of us. They just need to say the word, and we’ll be reduced to ashes.”

The young man was both horrified and shocked.

Zhang Qi continued. “The young man’s aura was extraordinary, and he’s a swordsman as well. One look is enough for anyone to tell that he’s a monstrous talent. I’m sure he killed Mo Gan to warn us that if we were to pursue the matter, he would wipe us out, not just one of us.”

Zhang Qi ruffled the young man's hair and added, "Small fries like us have to be meticulous and cautious if we want to survive in this world. We must be aware of those we can afford to offend and those we cannot afford to offend at all costs.

"Otherwise, we'll be doomed the moment we provoke those we cannot afford to provoke. Do you understand?"

The young man nodded slightly and said, "I understand."

Zhang Qi smiled and said, "Let's go."

The grandfather and grandson pair walked down the street and soon vanished.

...

Wanyan Gu soon brought Ye Guan to a large square filled with thousands of teleportation arrays.

A black-robed old man walked toward them and asked, "Destination?"

Wanyan Gu replied, "The Guanxuan Universe!"

The Guanxuan Universe? The black-robed old man frowned.

"What's wrong?" asked Wanyan Gu.

The black-robed old man said, "Twelve million gold spiritual crystals for both of you!"

Twelve million?! Ye Guan's face changed. Fuck! That's too expensive!

Wanyan Gu stared with narrowed eyes at the black-robed old man and said in a low voice, "The journey to the Guanxuan Universe only costs five million gold spiritual crystals at most per head!"

The black-robed old man casually retorted, "The decision is yours."

Wanyan Gu's brows furrowed.

Ye Guan handed a storage ring over to the black-robed old man.

The black-robed old man examined the storage ring and found twelve million gold spiritual crystals in it. He nodded and put it away before saying, "Follow me."

Ye Guan and Wanyan Gu followed him.

"He extorted us," said Wanyan Gu using profound sound transmission.

Ye Guan smiled and used profound sound transmission to reply, "He definitely saw that we're in a hurry, so he arbitrarily raised the prices."

Wanyan Gu made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan and asked, "Are you not angry?"

"Why should I?" Ye Guan smiled wryly and said, "It's a free market. He said the price and the decision was up to us."

Wanyan Gu nodded slightly. She still felt indignant, but she remained silent.

The black-robed old man soon brought them to a teleportation platform. A massive teleportation array was sitting on top of the platform. The teleportation array was so big that it seemed at least ten times larger than the other teleportation arrays.

Ye Guan and Wanyan Gu walked up the platform.

“Wait!” the black-robed old man called out to them.

Ye Guan turned to look at the black-robed old man.

“There’s a service fee, and it’s one million gold spiritual crystals!” said the black-robed old man.

A service fee of a million gold spiritual crystals? Ye Guan frowned.

“I’ve never heard of such a fee, Your Excellency,” said Wanyan Gu.

The black-robed old man remained expressionless as he said, “Yes, it’s a new rule that I had just established. What, unhappy?”

Wanyan Gu’s expression turned cold.

Ye Guan smiled and said, “We’re only passing by, and we have no ill intentions, Senior. We—”

“Shut up!” The black-robed old man interrupted Ye Guan and opened his hand. “A service fee exists, and it’s one of Dark City’s rules. Pay it if you want to use the teleportation array. Otherwise, scram! Stop wasting my time!”

Ye Guan pondered briefly before asking, “How did we incur a service fee?”

The black-robed old man calmly said, “I brought you here myself, so you have to pay a service fee.”

Wanyan Gu was furious.

The black-robed old man glared at Wanyan Gu and asked, “What? Are you going to fight me here?”

“Your Excellency, you better not cross the line,” warned Wanyan Gu.

The black-robed old man scoffed, “Cross the line? I’m just doing my job, so how am I crossing the line? Pay the fees if you want to use the teleportation array. If you can’t afford it, then scram!”

Wanyan Gu’s expression had become as dark as the bottom of a pot.

“All right.” Ye Guan chuckled and said, “We won’t use your teleportation array, then. Please return our money to us, Your Excellency.”

The black-robed old man narrowed his eyes and asked, “What money?”

Wanyan Gu was furious. “What? Are you going to steal our money?”

The black-robed old man remained expressionless as he said, “I never took your money.”

Ye Guan’s pupils constricted upon sensing powerful auras around them.

Ye Guan whipped around, and a sword flew out.

Slash!

The sword orbited Ye Guan once, and more than ten heads went flying at the same time.

The black-robed old man’s face instantly changed. He tried to retreat, but Ye Guan’s sword was quicker. A sword pierced the old man’s head and pinned him to a nearby stone pillar.

The wound was definitely critical, but the black-robed old man remained fierce as he glared at Ye Guan and roared, “You’re dead... you’re a dead man walking! How dare you make a move here! Don’t you know who my backer is?!”

“How ludicrous!” a voice reverberated throughout the starry skies, and a powerful aura made a beeline for Ye Guan.

Ye Guan pointed at the powerful aura.

Rumble!

The void was split open, and the head of an old man went flying about a hundred meters away from Ye Guan. Blood haphazardly sprayed out of the stump, pouring down like rain upon the city!

The black-robed old man’s expression changed.

He had provoked someone he couldn’t afford to provoke!

The space above Ye Guan was torn open, and an old man walked out of the rift in space.

Ye Guan waved his sleeve, and a ray of sword light flew out.

Shwik!

The old man had just taken one step out of the rift when his head exploded, scattering blood and brain matter everywhere.

Ye Guan turned to look at the black-robed old man who was still alive, despite the critical wound he had suffered. The black-robed old man stared incredulously at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled blandly and urged, “Call for backup!”

The black-robed old man stared at Ye Guan as if he were staring at a ghost.

His voice was trembling as he stammered, “Y-You’re... You’re a swordsman!”

Rumble!

Space was torn open on the horizon, and a middle-aged man walked out of the rift in space.

A flying sword came hurtling toward him just a second after he had stepped out of the rift. The middle-aged man’s eyes narrowed, and he put his palms together. A golden light surged and covered him, allowing him to nullify Ye Guan’s attack.

The middle-aged man was still reeling from the shock, but another sword was already flying toward him.

Clang!

The sword struck the middle-aged man’s golden barrier, but the golden barrier was like an egg that had been struck by a hammer. It shattered the moment it made contact with the sword.

Slash!

The sword slashed out and sent the middle-aged man’s head flying.

The black-robed old man was beyond pallid.

Sword Sovereign! He’s a fucking Sword Sovereign! Damn it! I wouldn’t have extorted you if you had told me that you’re a Sword Sovereign!

Why are you acting all gentle and polite as if you were a scholar when you’re a Sword Sovereign? Was this all according to your plan? If you had been a bit fiercer to me earlier, I wouldn’t have been so unscrupulous!

Ye Guan slowly looked around. He put his right arm behind him and shouted, "I still haven't killed enough. Send more people here!"

A beautiful woman abruptly appeared about thirty meters away from Ye Guan.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan's sword flew toward the beautiful woman.

"Young Lord, I'm here to negotiate!" shouted the beautiful woman.

The flying sword stopped a few inches away from the beautiful woman's forehead!

"Sigh—" The beautiful woman was just about to sigh in relief, but the flying sword moved and slashed out.

Slice!

The beautiful woman's head flew into the air. A look of incredulity was etched on her face as she stared wide-eyed at Ye Guan. She couldn't believe that Ye Guan had killed her just like that!

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "I don't want to negotiate!"

The black-robed old man's voice was trembling as he pleaded, "Young Lord... It's all my fault, I'll return your twelve million gold spiritual crystals..."

Ye Guan frowned and said sarcastically, "Twelve million? I gave you 120 million gold spiritual crystals. How come you said I gave you twelve million? You forgot to multiply it by ten, old man!"

The black-robed old man's jaw dropped.

He stared blankly at Ye Guan and asked himself. Have I been living an unscrupulous life?

Chapter 154: Wonderful

120 million! Wanyan Gu's eyes widened in disbelief. How fierce! How manly! Wanyan Gu grinned after the initial shock. How wonderful! He's so amazing!

Wanyan Gu had been planning on making a move, but Ye Guan had killed every enemy before she could even intervene. What a domineering young man!

Meanwhile, footsteps echoed behind Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed. He actually failed to detect the approach of the individual walking toward him from behind him. However, Ye Guan didn't turn around. He kept his right hand behind his back, and his expression remained as calm as a placid lake.

Wanyan Gu looked behind Ye Guan and saw an old man in black.

The old man in black was sporting a goatee, and he was skinny, but he didn't look frail at all. The old man in black's eyes were his most striking features. His eyes were giving off a domineering light.

Ye Guan was still facing away from the old man in black.

The old man in black's gaze deepened as he asked, "Are you going to keep facing your back to me?"

The black-robed old man pinned to the stone pillar cried out, "Governor Sang, save—"

A sword tip pressed against the black-robed old man's neck, forcing him to close his mouth.

Governor Sang. Wanyan Gu's expression turned solemn.

Ye Guan turned to look at Governor Sang.

"Did you come here to talk or fight?" he asked.

Talk or fight? Wanyan Gu was stunned, and she stared at Ye Guan in shock.

She truly didn't expect that Ye Guan would remain so straightforward even in front of Governor Sang. Her expression soon turned strange. Ye Guan was truly a cut above the average cultivators.

Governor Sang calmly asked, "Are you that confident?"

Ye Guan stared at Governor Sang and asked back, "Talk or fight?"

Governor Sang glared at Ye Guan. "Do you have any idea where you are?"

Swoosh!

Ye Guan abruptly vanished.

Rumble!

Ye Guan shattered the spacetime rules to reach Governor Sang in the proverbial blink of an eye.

Governor Sang's expression changed drastically. Ye Guan's speed had caught him off guard, but he still managed to make a move by pointing out with his finger.

Crackle!

Thunder crackled as Ye Guan's sword and a bolt of lightning collided against each other.

Governor Sang had to retreat, but a sword was already hurtling toward him just as he thought he was safe. Governor Sang's pupils constricted, and his heart skipped a beat.

Unfortunately, the sword reached his eyebrow before he could make another move.

Governor Sang stared at Ye Guan in disbelief.

"You're Sword Sovereign Ye Guan!" he shouted.

Ye Guan frowned and asked, "You know me?"

Wanyan Gu smiled and explained, "You've become famous. Virtually everyone knows that you've challenged the Chosen One."

Ye Guan smiled and remarked, "It seems that I've been riding on his coattails."

Ye Guan turned to look at Governor Sang and asked, "Your man cheated me of 120 million gold spiritual crystals. How do you think we should settle this?"

Governor Sang frowned slightly as he glanced at the black-robed old man.

The black-robed old man revealed a look of pain. He wanted to speak, but he didn't dare to do so.

Governor Sang knew that Ye Guan was exaggerating things.

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at Governor Sang.

Governor Sang eventually said, "Young Lord Ye, you may kill him and recover what he stole."

The black-robed old man despaired. Governor Sang had just abandoned him.

Ye Guan smiled and pointed out. "It seems that you have no intention of compensating me."

Governor Sang explained, "He's the one who extorted you, so this matter has nothing to do with me."

Ye Guan asked, "He's your subordinate, right?"

Governor Sang said indifferently, "No."

No? Ye Guan's eyes narrowed. Great! It seems that you guys know how to play this game as well. I don't think he has any intention of taking responsibility for his subordinate's mistake.

The black-robed old man felt like he was suffocating from the injustice. He stared at Ye Guan and screamed inwardly, I wouldn't have dared to even attempt to extort you if you had just told me that you're a Sword Sovereign from the get-go. You're a Sword Sovereign, so how come you look so harmless? You're really a scourge!

Ye Guan smiled at Governor Sang and said, "Governor Sang, is there anyone higher than you?"

Governor Sang's eyebrows furrowed. "What do you mean?"

Ye Guan said, "I want to speak to someone else."

Governor Sang's expression changed. "Young Master Ye, you actually have no idea who's behind Dark City? You—"

"How are they compared to the An Clan?" Ye Guan asked.

Governor Sang gazed deeply at Ye Guan as he said, "Stronger!"

They're stronger than the An Clan? Ye Guan froze, briefly surprised. Interesting.

Ye Guan was about to speak, but Governor Sang hurriedly added, "Young Master Ye, I'm not trying to threaten you, but the people behind Dark City are truly terrifying.

"They're powerful powerhouses in their own right, and they're also influential. They're considered true powerhouses even in the Guanyuan Universe, and they also have a relationship with the Sword Master in the distant past."

Ye Guan asked, "They have a connection with the Sword Master?"

Governor Sang nodded. "Yes."

Ye Guan frowned.

Governor Sang continued. "We have indeed offended you, Young Master Ye, but I truly don't have 120 million gold spiritual crystals. How about this? You're going to the Guanyuan Universe, right? How about I send you there for free?"

"What are your higher-ups going to do if I were to kick up a fuss here?" Ye Guan asked.

Governor Sang froze and went silent.

Ye Guan smiled and added, "No, I think I should say—what's going to happen to you if I turn this place upside down?"

Governor Sang's face soured.

Ye Guan calmly continued. "Governor Sang, I've always been very clear when it comes to favors and grudges. I would have perished long ago if I were merciful, so I will not show mercy or pity toward my enemies.

"If you're unhappy, you can summon your higher-ups here. I would love to know who has been hiding behind the scenes and was shameless enough to employ such a dirty trick."

Governor Sang remained silent. The people behind him had to remain hidden at all costs. If things went out of control, and the incident ended up implicating that elder...

Governor Sang could already imagine his horrible fate.

Governor Sang's gaze was complicated as he stared at Ye Guan.

What a scheming young man! He's not forcing that elder to come here. He's betting that the elder exists, and he's trying to squeeze as much value as he can from my so-called higher-ups to pressure me into acquiescing.

Governor Sang seemed to have recalled something as he glared coldly at the black-robed old man.

"What are you looking at, you asshole!" shouted the black-robed old man. He was no longer afraid. He was about to die, so he decided to remain arrogant until the end.

Governor Sang's face turned ugly at the black-robed old man's words.

Ye Guan suddenly said, "Governor Sang, forgive me for being blunt, but no one in Dark City is strong enough to stop me. You have two choices: give me back my money or call your backer to come out. Of course, I will also call for backup."

Little Pagoda suddenly asked, "Who are you calling?"

Ye Guan said, "The other elder in the pagoda."

Little Pagoda replied, “She’s not—”

“Shut up!” The mysterious voice frantically yelled, “Shut up, you dumbass!”

Little Pagoda went numb upon being scolded by the mysterious voice. Damn! This little bastard. What the fuck? What is this brat? Is he a type of poison that is making me dig my own grave? T-this is absurd!

Ye Guan heard Little Pagoda’s words before he was mysteriously interrupted.

“There really is someone else...” he muttered. He had always been suspicious that there was someone else in the tiny pagoda. He had never really been sure, but he finally confirmed that Little Pagoda wasn’t alone in the tiny pagoda.

Governor Sang asked, “Young Master Ye, are you sure you want to go that far?”

Ye Guan stared deeply at Governor Sang before saying, “I’ll give you a discount. Sixty million gold spiritual crystals.”

“Deal,” Governor Sang replied almost immediately.

Ye Guan froze, astonished. He didn’t expect Governor Sang to agree almost immediately. He had been expecting a fight between the two of them, but he was mistaken.

Ye Guan couldn’t help but ask, “Are you sure?”

Governor Sang took out a storage ring and handed it over to Ye Guan.

The storage ring contained exactly sixty million gold spiritual crystals.

Ye Guan fell silent.

Governor Sang hurriedly said, “Young Master Ye, didn’t you want to go to the Guanyuan Universe? You should hurry up and leave. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion doesn’t want you to reach the Guanyuan Universe.

”You’ll have issues going there unless you leave right now.”

Ye Guan glanced at the storage ring on Governor Sang’s hand. “Give that to me.”

Governor Sang’s expression stiffened.

Ye Guan calmly explained, “It belongs to me. Didn’t I win earlier?”

Ye Guan opened his palm, and Governor Sang’s storage ring flew into his hand.

Governor Sang didn’t resist at all.

Ye Guan examined the storage ring and found twenty million gold spiritual crystals.

Governor Sang was truly a rich man. Ye Guan was also aware that Governor Sang had more money, but he didn’t have the luxury to bicker over more money with Governor Sang. Ye Guan decided to be satisfied with this haul.

Ye Guan took the storage ring of the black-robed old man. The black-robed old man was poorer than Governor Sang, which was a given. However, he only had about seven million gold spiritual crystals, which was questionable, considering his shamelessness.

Ye Guan was delighted, and he turned to look at Wanyan Gu.

Swoosh!

A storage ring containing forty-three million gold spiritual crystals floated over to her.

Wanyan Gu blinked. "Is that for me?"

Ye Guan nodded and explained, "Everyone gets a share."

Wanyan Gu grinned. "I won't stand on ceremony, then."

She put the storage ring away. Forty-three million gold spiritual crystals were so much money that Wanyan Gu couldn't refuse the offer.

Ye Guan stared at Governor Sang and said, "Governor Sang, please tell your backer that I'm just a passerby with no ill intent. Of course, don't forget to tell them to please not seek revenge. Thank you."

With that, Ye Guan headed to the teleportation array with Wanyan Gu.

Governor Sang stood frozen and was silent.

Ye Guan led Wanyan Gu into the teleportation array, and the two were soon whisked away from Dark City.

Governor Sang finally turned around.

A shadow appeared in his field of view.

Governor Sang instantly fell to his knees and muttered, "Elder..."

The shadow calmly said, "Leave."

Governor Sang hesitated, but he soon ran away.

The black-robed old man escaped as well. He had suffered a critical wound, but both Ye Guan and Governor Sang had decided to leave him alone. In other words, this was his golden opportunity to escape, and he took it after a brief moment of hesitation.

Meanwhile, the shadow wordlessly turned to the teleportation array that Ye Guan and Wanyan Gu had used to leave Dark City. The shadow was silent for quite a while before it muttered, "You look so similar... it seems that someone's about to run out of luck! Hehehe..."

Chapter 155: Get Accepted by My Clan

Ye Guan silently stared at the end of the spacetime tunnel. The Guanxuan Universe.

Ye Guan knew that the real battle would begin once he arrived in the Guanxuan Universe. However, he had a plan. His plan was to make a big deal of everything, as the factions against him would have no choice but to prioritize their reputation.

The more attention he received, the fairer his fight with the Chosen One would be.

Wanyan Gu asked, "How confident are you in your fight against the Chosen One?"

Ye Guan said, "A hundred percent!"

Wanyan Gu was astonished. "A hundred percent?!"

Ye Guan nodded. "A hundred percent."

Wanyan Gu stared at Ye Guan. "Do you have no idea who you are up against? You're going to fight the Chosen One! The Guanxuan Academy has been showering him with all of its resources.

"I've heard that his tutor is the Head Military Official of the Martial Department, and he was one of the participants of the Xuzhen Great War. The Chosen One is also being supported by the Milky Way Clan and the Future Clan.

"I don't think I have to explain to you what that means. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion has also decided to take his side. Can you really say that you're still a hundred percent confident knowing how many backers he has? You..."

Ye Guan chuckled and asked, "How many percent do you want me to say?"

Wanyan Gu froze and went silent.

Ye Guan said softly, "What do you think is going to happen to me if I lose?"

Wanyan Gu said solemnly, "You'll die."

Ye Guan nodded. "That's right."

Wanyan Gu continued. "What has that got to do with you being a hundred percent confident against the Chosen One?"

Ye Guan smiled, "The Chosen One must have a solid family background, not to mention the support of so many factions and organizations. However, do you really think that I have no backer?"

Wanyan Gu looked at Ye Guan and asked, "Do you have any backers?"

Ye Guan exclaimed, "Master Pagoda!"

Little Pagoda was dumbfounded.

Wanyan Gu's brows wrinkled. "Master Pagoda? A pagoda? Really?"

Ye Guan nodded. "That's right."

Wanyan Gu's expression darkened as she said, "No offense, but do you really think that your Master Pagoda can compare to the Guanxuan Academy, Immortal Treasures Pavilion, the Milky Way Clan, and the Future Clan? Not to mention the aristocratic faction and the great clan faction."

Ye Guan said earnestly, "Master Pagoda is a low-profile individual, but I know that he's an extremely powerful powerhouse. I truly believe that he'll stun the entire Guanxuan Universe the moment he reveals his true might."

"Pfft!" Little Pagoda burst out laughing. "Hahaha!"

The mysterious voice pointed out. "He's digging your grave for you."

Little Pagoda said, "Don't you think your opinion of him is a tad bit too negative? He's a naughty brat, but he's still an honest individual. I don't think it's healthy for you to always assume that he's doing something wicked."

The mysterious voice was speechless.

Meanwhile, Wanyan Gu's brows furrowed. Master Pagoda? I've never heard of that name, but he must be an incredible powerhouse. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to nurture someone like Ye Guan.

Ye Guan inwardly asked, "Am I right, Master Pagoda?"

"Indeed." Little Pagoda smiled and said, "One should always strive to be low profile, do you understand?"

"I understand." Ye Guan nodded. "Master Pagoda, I will carve your words on my heart."

Little Pagoda's smile deepened, and he said, "I'll give you a cultivation method once we've arrived at the Guanyuan Universe. The density of spiritual energy in the Guanyuan Universe is enough for you to cultivate it."

Ye Guan blinked, but he quickly composed himself and asked, "What is its name?"

Little Pagoda grinned. "Universe Beholdment."

Universe Beholdment. Ye Guan was about to speak, but Little Pagoda added, "I made it."

"Didn't Great Daoist Brush Master create that cultivation method?" asked the mysterious voice.

"What?" Little Pagoda calmly asked, "Is it illegal to brag?"

The mysterious voice was rendered speechless.

"Master Pagoda!" Ye Guan called out and said, "Can you give it to me right now? I want to familiarize myself with it so I can start cultivating it the moment we arrive at the Guanyuan Universe."

Little Pagoda thought about it before saying, "Okay."

Boom!

A deluge of information flooded Ye Guan's mind. Universe Beholdment.

"The way of heaven is to compensate for equilibrium; the way of man is to consume..."

Ye Guan's expression soon turned serious. How horrifying! He truly didn't expect that Little Pagoda had such a terrifying cultivation method. It was definitely better than most cultivation methods out there.

Honestly, Ye Guan couldn't believe that Little Pagoda had created such an excellent cultivation method. After all, he had already learned to take Little Pagoda's words with a grain of salt.

Ye Guan eventually exclaimed, "I have truly underestimated you, Master Pagoda! The fact that you managed to create such a terrifying cultivation means that you must have been a formidable powerhouse even during that era thirty million years ago, am I right?"

Little Pagoda chuckled and said, "Formidable might be an overstatement, but even the cream of the crop among powerhouses had to pay respect to me. In fact, even the Elders of the Guanxuan Academy had to greet—"

"Are you sure you want to tell him that?" interrupted the mysterious voice.

Little Pagoda immediately fell silent. I almost fell for it. Damn it, I really can't say anything to this little bastard, and I also can't let him feel too relaxed, or he'll start coming up with his own theories.

Little Pagoda thought about it before continuing. "Times have changed. You have to be strong in your own right to survive. In other words, you have to work hard. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

"I understand." Ye Guan nodded and said, "I guess you're afraid that I will stagnate and slack off the moment I discover my origins, and it must be the reason you're actively avoiding my questions. As the old saying goes, heaven will send one on great missions, but one must go through all sorts of hardships first... I understand!"

Little Pagoda was speechless. I really don't know what to say now that he said that.

Ye Guan went silent to ponder over the complexities of the Universe Beholdment.

He finally had another cultivation method to use. The quality of one's cultivation method would decide the quality of one's profound energy as well as the size of one's profound energy reservoir.

Ye Guan was confident that Universe Beholdment would help him patch up his greatest and most glaring weakness. Moreover, Ye Guan also felt like he was about to make a breakthrough. The feeling first appeared after he fought the Martial Goddess.

The feeling of overflowing. It was not that he did not have to do anything to allow the water to flow in a certain way. He had to keep working hard to guide the water to flow in a specific direction. If he did not do anything, he was just waiting to die.

The feeling was akin to an overflowing container, and Ye Guan had been managing the surplus of profound energy in a certain way and in a specific direction. Otherwise, he would have died from a deviation long ago.

Ye Guan took less than two hours to comprehend the gist of Universe Beholdment. He took a moment to compose himself before he started cultivating.

Boom!

The surrounding spiritual energy was cleanly sucked into him the moment he circulated the Universe Beholdment cultivation method.

Ye Guan was stunned.

Wanyan Gu was shocked, and she hurriedly said, "The spiritual energy in the air here is there to maintain the array's integrity. This spacetime tunnel will collapse if you absorb all the spiritual energy in here."

Ye Guan chuckled sheepishly and stopped cultivating.

"What was that cultivation method?" Wanyan Gu looked at Ye Guan and asked, "That was so scary!"

Ye Guan smiled and said, "My Master Pagoda made it."

Wanyan Gu stared deeply into Ye Guan's eyes, and she sounded serious as she asked, "Does your Master Pagoda need more disciples? I'm available, so can I apply to become his disciple?"

Ye Guan. "..."

Little Pagoda. "..."

Three days later, Ye Guan saw a ray of light in the distance. They were soon enveloped by the light, and the two found themselves in a valley. They looked around and realized that they were surrounded by thousands of teleportation arrays

"What a dense spiritual energy!" Ye Guan exclaimed in awe. The spiritual energy here was at least ten times denser than the spiritual energy on the Zhongtu Divine Continent. It felt like the entire universe was a cultivation ground for all cultivators.

"Are we going to the Academy right away?" asked Wanyan Gu.

Ye Guan shook his head and replied, "No, I'm going to Lingxu Cave."

Wanyan Gu was confused. "What are you going to do there?"

Ye Guan smiled. He didn't answer Wanyan Gu's question. Instead, he gazed deeply at her and said, "I can make my way by myself here, Lady Wanyan. Thank you for staying with me until the end. As for my debt... I'll pay you back once I get accepted by my original clan. Is that okay?"

Wanyan Gu hesitated before asking, "Is your father poor?"

Ye Guan pondered briefly. "I think he earns just the right amount of money."

Wanyan Gu stared intently at Ye Guan. "I'll visit you in your clan one day, so you better not say that you don't owe me anything by then."

Ye Guan smiled and said, "I'll definitely pay you back."

Wanyan Gu nodded. "I'm from the Guanxuan Mercenary Group. If you need anything, find me there."

Ye Guan said, "Till we meet again."

"Till we meet again," said Wanyan Gu with a nod.

Ye Guan cupped his fist toward Wanyan Gu before hopping onto his sword and disappearing into the horizon.

Wanyan Gu stared at the horizon and muttered, "He's a monstrous talent with a great personality, but it's a pity... it truly is a shame that his background isn't that great."

Wanyan Gu sighed, and she smiled bitterly upon recalling Ye Guan's words. "Once he gets accepted by his original clan... it seems that I won't be getting my money back."

...

Lingxu Blessed Land was one of the blessed lands of the Nine Heavens and Ten Lands, so it wasn't that difficult for Ye Guan to find out where the Lingxu Blessed Land was located. Ye Guan hopped in his space ship and embarked on a journey to the Lingxu Blessed Land.

He had no choice but to use his space ship, as he was still on the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's blacklist.

Ye Guan soon arrived at the foot of Mount Lingxu,

Ye Guan walked over to an old man and said, "Senior, can you please inform Brother Longhu that Ye Guan has come to visit him?"

"Ye Guan?" The old man froze and asked, "Are you that Ye Guan from the Zhongtu Divine Continent?"

Ye Guan nodded. "That's right."

"Give me a moment," said the old man before he disappeared into thin air.

Fifteen minutes later, the powerhouses and elders of the Lingxu Blessed Land gathered at Lingxu Palace. The leader of Lingxu Blessed Land—Zhang Yuntian—stood at the helm.

Zhang Longhu and the old man who had gone with Zhang Longhu to the Zhongtu Divine Continent stood next to Zhang Yuntian.

"Ye Guan is here," said Zhang Yuntian. He didn't beat around the bush and went straight to the point, prompting everyone to look at each other.

Soon, an elder said, "He does not get along with the Chosen One like water and fire. If we treat him well, we'll offend the Chosen One. Our Lingxu Blessed Land will be in danger if we offend the Chosen One."

A middle-aged man nodded and said, "The influential figures, organizations, clans, and families in the Guanyuan Universe have decided to stand on the Chosen One's side.

"The Immortal Treasures Pavilion, the Future Clan, the Milky Way Clan, and even the Head Military Official of the Guanyuan Academy's Martial Department have also decided to stand next to the Chosen One."

"In other words, we have to draw a clear line between us and Ye Guan. It is imperative that we keep our Lingxu Blessed Land away from trouble."

Another elder spoke, "Ye Guan is talented, but he cannot possibly compare to the Chosen One. The Academy and the Chosen One are obviously treating him as a stepping stone for the sake of the Chosen One's growth.

"We don't want anyone to misunderstand that we are connected with Ye Guan in any way lest the Chosen One decide to attack us."

The remaining elders nodded to express their agreement.

Zhang Yuntian turned to look at the Grand Elder next to him.

“Grand Elder, you met him, right? What do you think of him?”

The Grand Elder was silent for quite a while before replying, “He’s a monstrous talent with a kind and sincere heart. I’m sure he’ll achieve great things in the future.” The Grand Elder stood up and added, “I’ll go ahead and welcome him myself.”

The Grand Elder’s decision to welcome Ye Guan was akin to a lightning bolt from out of the blue, freezing everyone where they stood and rendering them speechless.

Chapter 156: Master Pagoda, I Want to Call upon My Ancestors!

Ye Guan patiently waited at the foot of Mount Lingxu. He turned upon sensing oncoming presences and found an old man and a young man walking toward him.

The old man was the Grand Elder of the Lingxu Blessed Land Grand Elder, while the young man was none other than Zhang Longhu.

Ye Guan broke out into a grin upon seeing them.

Zhang Longhu waved from afar and grinned, “Brother Ye, you’ve come!”

“I told you I’d come and visit,” said Ye Guan. However, he seemed to have recalled something as he asked hesitantly, “Did I bring trouble to the Lingxu Blessed Land?”

The Grand Elder shook his head, looking slightly unhappy, “What are you talking about? Young Master Ye, follow me.”

He brought Ye Guan and Zhang Longhu to the summit.

The Grand Elder turned to Ye Guan and smiled before asking, “Young Master Ye, are you here to sightsee or—”

Ye Guan went straight to the point. “Can I get the Lingxu Blessed Land’s support?”

Zhang Longhu looked at Ye Guan without saying anything, but he was slightly astonished. I didn’t expect him to just go straight to it.

“Of course,” said the Grand Elder. “Of course, but you have to give us a reason. It has to be an extremely compelling reason to the extent that we’ll have no choice but to support you.”

Ye Guan went silent.

The Grand Elder said seriously, “Young Master Ye, I would definitely love to support you, but I’m sure you know that supporting you is a decision that will influence the Lingxu Blessed Land’s future.”

“I know.” Ye Guan nodded.

The three talked about many different topics, and they soon entered a massive hall.

Everyone in the hall turned to stare at Ye Guan, and they immediately acknowledged him upon seeing him.

What a powerful young swordsman! He was the youngest Sword Sovereign in the Guanyuan Universe, and he would most likely surpass Great Sword Sovereign Ye Yu’s record.

It was a pity that the Chosen One was his enemy.

Millions of years ago, any talent in the same generation as the Chosen One would inevitably be overshadowed and suppressed by the Chosen One. Even the two Martial Goddesses of the An Clan couldn't overcome the Chosen One.

The Chosen One. It was a terrifying moniker, and the Chosen One was destined to become invincible. Everyone in the hall was aware of that, so they could only sigh to themselves upon thinking about Ye Guan.

Zhang Yuntian composed himself and smiled. "Welcome, Young Master Ye."

Ye Guan cupped his fist and said, "My apologies for the intrusion, Leader Zhang."

Zhang Yuntian smiled at Ye Guan without saying anything. He had to prove himself to obtain the recognition of the Lingxu Blessed Land.

Ye Guan thought about it before asking, "Can we speak privately?"

Zhang Yuntian nodded. "Sure"

Zhang Yuntian waved his hands, and everyone in the hall walked out.

The Grand Elder was about to leave, but Ye Guan said, "Grand Elder, Brother Longhu, please stay here."

The two nodded and stood still.

Zhang Yuntian stared deeply at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan wordlessly opened his palm, and a terrifying force enveloped everyone in a flash.

"Martial force!" Zhang Yuntian shot up in his seat and stammered, "Y-you're a Martial God?"

The Grand Elder and Zhang Longhu were stupefied as well. You're a Martial God! What the heck?! Aren't you a Sword Sovereign? How come you've become a Martial God?

"I became a Martial God using the Sword Dao," said Ye Guan.

The three stared blankly at Ye Guan.

Moments later, Zhang Yuntian walked away and paced about the hall.

He felt like going crazy. Damn! This is absolutely bizarre! A Sword Sovereign is already an extremely rare existence, but he's also a Martial God? He's a Martial God and a Sword Sovereign at the same time!

Isn't he more terrifying than the Sword Master? God damn it! Who's the real Chosen One here?

Zhang Yuntian went numb. Ye Guan's revelation was beyond his understanding.

Ye Guan stood quietly. He knew that he had to prove himself to receive the support of other people. After all, who would help those with nothing to prove? This world was all about one's connections and family background, but a connection could only prosper if there were benefits to gain. If others couldn't benefit from you, no one would help you!

Zhang Yuntian stared solemnly at the Grand Elder.

The Grand Elder nodded slightly.

Zhang Yuntian turned to Ye Guan and asked, "Young Master Ye, what do you want? Cultivation manuals? Cultivation resources? Tell me what you need. As long as we have it here, we'll give it to you, no questions asked."

"I have to leave," said Ye Guan.

Zhang Yuntian froze. He looked confused as he asked, "Why?"

Ye Guan smiled and explained, "I'll eventually bring trouble to you if I stay here for an extended period of time. You can just help me secretly; there's no need to announce it to the world. That way, the fallout won't be too much for you to bear if I lose."

Zhang Yuntian's expression turned complicated.

The Grand Elder was right. Ye Guan was indeed a kind young man.

Ye Guan continued. "My biggest problem is a cultivation ground for me to cultivate. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion has blacklisted me, so—"

Zhang Yuntian hurriedly said, "Let us provide you with a cultivation ground."

Ye Guan cupped his fist and said, "Many thanks, Leader Zhang."

Zhang Yuntian turned to the Grand Elder and said, "Grand Elder, bring Young Master Ye to our ancestral ground."

The ancestral ground! The Grand Elder was stupefied. He didn't expect Zhang Yuntian to be so generous to Ye Guan. However, he quickly nodded and said, "All right. Young Master Ye, follow me!"

With that, The Grand Elder led Ye Guan somewhere.

"Father," Zhang Longhu said, "Young Master Ye is too talented."

Zhang Yuntian nodded and replied, "He's a true monstrous talent. I'm sure the entire Guanyuan Universe will tremble in shock the moment they find out that Ye Guan is a Martial God as well."

Zhang Longhu smiled, but he pointed out. "Brother Ye's enemy is the Chosen One."

Zhang Yuntian went silent.

However, He soon gnashed his teeth and cried out, "I know, god damned it, so what if his enemy is the Chosen One? I've been cruising along my entire life, and it's about time I take the risk and gamble.

"I'll take this gamble, and if I win, our Lingxu Blessed Land will soar beyond the skies. I'm sure my spiritual tablet will stand at the helm of the other spirit tablets by then, and our descendants will definitely not forget me—their Ancestor Yuntian!"

"What if you lose?" Zhang Longhu asked.

"Then, I'll put my spirit tablet up myself, and the future generation will remember me as the foolish Yuntian," Zhang Yuntian said calmly.

Zhang Longhu was dumbfounded.

The Grand Elder brought Ye Guan behind a mountain and to a burial ground.

Ye Guan felt the presence of numerous powerful wills.

The Grand Elder explained, "Young Master Ye, we've arrived at the ancestral ground of Lingxu Blessed Land. This is also the inheritance area of the Lingxu Blessed Land.

"Our ancestors left their inheritance here to help the future generation of the Lingxu Blessed Land, but only our core disciples can access the ancestral ground.

"There had only been a few swordsmen among our ancestors, so this place may not be that useful when it comes to your Sword Dao. However, our ancestors can definitely help you when it comes to your cultivation base."

The Grand Elder paused and said, "What you'll get ultimately depends on you."

"I understand." Ye Guan nodded and said, "Thank you."

"Don't mention it." The Grand Elder smiled and said, "Go ahead, Young Master Ye."

Ye Guan nodded and walked to the middle of the burial ground.

He quietly looked around.

"Mmhm?" A middle-aged man appeared in front of Ye Guan and assessed Ye Guan.

"A Sword Sovereign? No a Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign?"

Whirrr!

The spirit tablets in the burial ground vibrated excitedly.

Moments later, hundreds of spirits emerged from beneath the burial ground.

The Grand Elder's jaw fell to the floor. How come hundreds of ancestors came out?

He could still remember that only about a hundred ancestors had emerged when Zhang Longhu first visited the ancestral ground, but hundreds of ancestors had actually emerged for Ye Guan?

Ye Guan was shocked. They actually have so many ancestors?

Ye Guan sighed to himself. It seemed that truly powerful clans were indeed on a whole new level. A clan with hundreds of ancestors would only become stronger as long as its descendants weren't a bunch of good-for-nothing.

Ye Guan seemed to have thought of something and asked, “Master Pagoda, does our clan have many ancestors?”

“Nope!” Little Pagoda said, “Those alive, plus your dad, sums up to a grand total of two.”

“Two?” Ye Guan shook his head and muttered, “My clan is indeed miserable. Doesn’t that mean that my fate is sealed, even if I were to call upon my ancestors for help in a dire situation?”

Little Pagoda went silent. Foolish child! I really want to tell you that either of those two are invincible, unparalleled beings!

“Hahaha...” The middle-aged man in front of Ye Guan boisterously laughed. “A Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign! Our Zhang Clan is about to soar beyond the skies! We’re about to flourish! Hahaha...”

“Wait!” An elder grabbed Ye Guan’s hands. His voice trembled as he asked, “Why do I sense a hint of Martial Aura from you?”

Martial Aura? Ye Guan pondered briefly before taking a step. He had taken just a step, but a terrifying martial force swept across the ancestral ground, forcing the spirits to return to their spirit tablets.

The elder couldn’t believe his eyes. “You’re a Sword Sovereign and a Martial God? What the fuck?”

Whirrr!

The remaining spirit tablets quivered, and more spirits emerged.

He’s both a Sword Sovereign and a Martial God! The spirits stared at Ye Guan in disbelief. It’s already impressive enough to become a Sword Sovereign, but this brat is actually a Martial God as well? This is unprecedented!

The spirits were thrilled after their initial shock.

“What are you guys kicking up a fuss for?” a cold voice echoed from a silent spirit tablet “He’s not a descendant of our Zhang Clan.”

The spirits froze, and their expressions turned ugly upon taking a closer look at Ye Guan. He’s not our descendant! What nonsense is this?

Ye Guan turned to where the cold voice had come from, and a woman in a long dress emerged from the spirit tablet. She was a tall woman with striking features, but her coldness was reminiscent of an icy cavern.

The spirits made way for her.

The woman walked up to Ye Guan and stared at him. “Explain.”

Ye Guan thought about it before replying, “I am good friends with Zhang Longhu.”

The woman was silent for a few moments before she pointed out. “So they want to invest in you?”

Ye Guan nodded. “That’s right.”

The woman looked at Ye Guan. “Who is your enemy?”

Ye Guan calmly replied, “The Chosen One.”

The spirits froze, and their expressions turned strange. His enemy is actually the Chosen One of this generation?

The woman gazed deeply at Ye Guan and asked, “Are you aware that the Chosen One of the previous generation was the Sword Master?”

Ye Guan nodded. "I know."

"Are you confident?" asked the woman.

Ye Guan didn't avoid the woman's gaze. He stared right into her eyes and said, "I have never lost to anyone in the same cultivation realm as me, and I have never been afraid to face even those ten realms higher than me!"

The spirits were rendered speechless.

Chapter 157: Twelfth-Degree Arrest Warrant

He had never lost to anyone in the same cultivation realm as him, and he had never been afraid to face even those ten realms higher than him!

The spirits burst out laughing. How confident!

Was he not arrogant? Unfortunately, arrogance was a word used to describe those who couldn't back up their claims. Powerhouses weren't arrogant, they were simply confident.

The woman stared at Ye Guan in admiration. However, her admiration quickly turned to pity. If Ye Guan were from the Zhang Clan, the Zhang Clan would have quickly risen to power.

A pity, it was truly a pity. She sighed to herself, but she quickly came up with an idea. If he married a girl from the Zhang Clan, wouldn't he become a part of the Zhang Clan?

However, the woman shook her head and laughed. How could she force that kind of thing? It would be better to do him a favor at the moment and let things take its course in the future.

The woman smiled and said, "Inheritance is just a way for us to transfer our wisdom and the knowledge we have accumulated throughout our lives to our descendants.

"We'll enter your sea of consciousness and guide you to the best of our abilities. Of course, the result depends on how much you'll comprehend."

Ye Guan bowed deeply and said, "Thank you!"

The woman nodded.

Swoosh!

The spirits turned into rays of white light that entered Ye Guan's glabella.

Ye Guan staggered at the influx of information akin to a tsunami. He sat down cross-legged and assimilated the knowledge and wisdom that the Zhang Clan ancestors had bestowed upon him.

Ye Guan's aura grew stronger as time went on.

.....

A meeting of elders was ongoing in the Immortal Treasures Pavilion of the Xiaoguan Continent. Nineteen elders had gathered for the meeting, and the Grand Elder of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion was chairing today's meeting.

The Grand Elder of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion was Ge Lianxing, and he was the most influential individual in the Immortal Treasures Pavilion at the moment.

The elders of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion took charge of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion after Vice Pavilion Master Ying Qing's departure to the Xuzhen World, along with the many managers of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

Ge Lianxing was the leader of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's Elder Circle.

Qin Feng was one of the nineteen elders in the meeting. Qin Feng was seated at the end of the room. He was leaning against his chair and was staring blankly into space, seemingly in deep thought.

Ge Lianxing swept his gaze across everyone in the meeting room and said, "Everyone, please take a seat."

Everyone sat down, and Ge Lianxing got straight to the point.

"Ye Guan has arrived in the Guanyuan Universe."

Qin Feng frowned, but he remained silent.

An older manager suddenly said, "I received news that he entered the Guanyuan Universe through Dark City. I've also received reports about how he killed many people there."

He sipped on his tea and continued. "He's evil, and we cannot keep him alive."

"Elder Ouyang," said Qin Feng. "Isn't it common for cultivators to kill each other? Why do you sound like you've never killed someone before."

Elder Ouyang glared at Qin Feng and scoffed, "Qin Feng, do you really think that we don't know that you're on good terms with Ye Guan? You even call him brother."

Qin Feng chuckled. "So what? Is it a violation of the rules for me to call him brother?"

Elder Ouyang's glare turned fierce as he said, "We're on the Chosen One's side, and Grand Elder Ge was the one who had decided on our side. Why are you even speaking up for Ye Guan at this point? Are you trying to provoke our Grand Elder?"

Grand Elder Ge wordlessly stared at Qin Feng.

Qin Feng's expression turned ashen.

Elder Ouyang sneered at Qin Feng.

Just then, Grand Elder Ge suddenly asked, "Elder Qin, how do you find him?"

Qin Feng calmly replied, "Ye Guan is exceptionally talented with a great personality."

Grand Elder Ge nodded and said, "He's indeed an exceptional talent, considering how he became a Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign at such a young age. However, I'm sure you already know that his opponent is the Chosen One, and the Immortal Treasures Pavilion has chosen to support the Chosen One."

Qin Feng hesitated slightly before saying, "Grand Elder, I personally believe that we should sit on the sidelines and watch the fight between Ye Guan and the Chosen One. We can then stand on the side of the winner—"

"How ludicrous!" Elder Ouyang cut Qin Feng off and scolded, "Elder Qin, is your brain even working? If we stand on the sidelines and invest only in the Chosen One once he has risen to power, won't it be too late for us to invest in him by then?"

Qin Feng retorted, "What if Ye Guan wins?"

Everyone in the meeting room was stunned.

Elder Ouyang laughed. "Elder Qin, do you even know what you're saying?"

Qin Feng calmly said, "Didn't the Chosen One lose in their previous battle? If it hadn't been for his backer, Ye Guan would have killed him."

Elder Ouyang's expression darkened, but he quickly composed himself and retorted, "Does losing once even matter in the grand scheme of things? We're cultivators, so we should take defeat gracefully. He who laughs last, laughs best."

"And what makes you think that Ye Guan will fail to have the last laugh, Elder Ouyang?" asked Qin Feng.

"It's simple!" Elder Ouyang snapped, "His opponent is the Chosen One."

"Wasn't the Chosen One his opponent on that fateful day?" asked Qin Feng.

Elder Ouyang glared at Qin Feng and asked, "Elder Qin, are you really going to insist on taking his side?"

"I—" Qin Feng started.

However, Grand Elder Ge interrupted him. "Stop it. Let us not argue about this anymore."

Qin Feng and Elder Ouyang turned to look at Grand Elder Ge.

Grand Elder Ge announced, "The Chosen One has obtained that Dao Imprint."

That Dao Imprint?! Qin Feng's expression fell.

An elder next to Qin Feng asked, "Is it the Sword Master's Dao Imprint?"

Elder Ge nodded and confirmed, "Yes."

Silence enveloped the meeting room.

The elders finally knew why Grand Elder Ge had chosen to support the Chosen One.

Qin Feng's expression was heavy. He truly didn't expect that the Chosen One would obtain the Sword Master's Dao Imprint.

He was the Chosen One, so his status was almost on par with the Sword Master.

However, the fact that he had obtained the Dao Imprint that the Sword Master once owned meant that he would most likely become the next Academy Master.

Qin Feng's frown deepened. Every elder in the room had the same thought as him.

There were two superpowers in the Guanxuan Universe—the Immortal Treasures Pavilion and the Guanxuan Academy. However, the de facto leader of the universe was the Guanxuan Academy.

The universe still had faith in the Sword Master, after all.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion could afford to ignore the Chosen One if the Sword Master's Dao Imprint hadn't fallen into his hands, but the implications were massive with the Sword Master's Dao Imprint in his hands.

What if he became the next Academy Master?

It was a title that carried immense weight, and the possibility that the Chosen One might become the next Academy Master changed everything. After all, the reason behind the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's meteoric rise to power was their founder's investment in the Sword Master millions of years ago.

Grand Elder Ge added, "I'm sure everyone already knows that the elders of the Elder Circle are to be swapped out every three hundred years according to the rules. Elder Qin has become a part of our Elder Circle under special circumstances, so he is the only one who will remain. The rest of us will soon be swapped out.

“However, we will obtain enough justification for us to stay in the Elder Circle the moment the Chosen One defeats Ye Guan.

“In addition, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion will profit handsomely once the Chosen One becomes the Academy Master of the Guanxuan Academy.” Grand Elder Ge paused to sweep his gaze across the elders before continuing. “We will give our full support to the Chosen One, and we’ll make sure that he’ll reach greater heights.”

The elders nodded in agreement. However, Qin Feng remained silent. He could no longer do anything to influence the Immortal Treasures Pavilion’s decision. The Chosen One had obtained the Sword Master’s Dao Imprint, after all.

Qin Feng sighed to himself. Both status and identity were truly important for a person’s growth. Those who wanted to rise to the top from the bottom would have to face many hardships on their way to the summit.

Qin Feng was somber. He truly liked Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was exceptional in both talent and personality.

Wait... Qing Feng suddenly thought of something. What if I support him secretly?

It was risky, but he could give it a try. Qin Feng felt like a thorn had been removed from his chest the moment he decided to secretly support Ye Guan.

Just then, Grand Elder Ge said, “The Head Military Official has asked me to stop Ye Guan from meeting the Chosen One until the day of their fight.

“The Chosen One’s cultivation has reached an important stage, and he doesn’t want the Chosen One to feel discouraged by hearing people talk about how he is bullying Ye Guan.”

“The Chosen One’s reputation would plummet if that were to happen, so he asked me to do something about Ye Guan. With that in mind, I have decided to issue an arrest warrant for Ye Guan.”

The elders exchanged looks, but no one opposed Grand Elder Ge's decision.

They had already decided to stand on the Chosen One's side, so it was about time to make a decisive move.

Grand Elder Ge asked, "What if we issue a twelfth-degree arrest warrant for him?"

The elders were shocked.

A twelfth-degree arrest warrant was the highest degree of arrest warrant in the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion had never issued a twelfth-degree arrest warrant before. An arrest warrant to the twelfth degree was tantamount to declaring Ye Guan as their arch-enemy.

Qin Feng stood up, and the elders stared at him. Qin Feng hesitated briefly before saying, "Won't we ruin the Chosen One's plans if Ye Guan dies as a result of the twelfth-degree arrest warrant?"

Grand Elder Ge frowned, but Elder Ouyang scoffed and said, "Elder Qin, are you afraid to see Ye Guan die? I bet you're just trying to beg for his life."

Qin Feng glared at Elder Ouyang and cursed, "Fuck your ancestors."

Everyone was stunned.

"How dare you!" Elder Ouyang snapped. He slammed his fist on the table and glared at Qin Feng. "Qin Feng! Where are your manners?!"

"Where are my manners?" Qin Feng glanced at Elder Ouyang and said, "Ask your mom!"

"How dare you!" Elder Ouyang roared, and he stood there with clenched fists.

He was dying to punch Qin Feng.

“Enough!” said Grand Elder Ge.

Elder Ouyang glared hatefully at Qin Feng while emitting a terrifying aura.

However, Qin Feng merely shrugged and silently sat back down.

Grand Elder Ge looked at Qin Feng and said, “Elder Qin, we’re in the Elder Circle, so please watch your words.”

Qin Feng calmly said, “I only curse when I can’t handle it anymore. Everyone knows that everything I’ve done is for the Immortal Treasures Pavilion’s sake, but Elder Ouyang has been targeting me since the meeting started. I couldn’t stay silent anymore.”

Grand Elder Ge remarked, “You are all working for the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, and we have decided to support the Chosen One with the Immortal Treasures Pavilion’s future in mind. We should work together to overcome all challenges.”

Qin Feng remained silent while Elder Ouyang glared hatefully at Qin Feng.

What if he killed Qin Feng? He couldn’t afford to do that. Qin Feng was the best at generating profits for the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. He would be hard-pressed to get rid of Qin Feng unless Qin Feng committed a grave crime.

Grand Elder Ge said, “We’ll issue an arrest warrant for Ye Guan to express our attitude toward the Chosen One. We have to show the public that we’re on the Chosen One’s side, and those on Ye Guan’s side are our enemies!”

Grand Elder Ge paused to look at the elders before continuing. “The bounty for Ye Guan’s head is five million immortal spiritual crystals, three Simplicity-rank martial skills, and three Divine-rank demonic beast internal pills!”

Everyone was silent.

Grand Elder Ge swept his gaze across the elders and said, "You're all dismissed."

Qin Feng stood up and left unceremoniously while the rest of the elders left slowly.

Soon, Grand Elder Ge was left alone in the meeting room.

He stood up and walked up to the portrait of Founder Qin on the wall.

He bowed slightly and said, "The Immortal Treasures Pavilion is bound to rise to even greater heights once Ye Guan dies and the Chosen One becomes the Academy Master. Esteemed Founder, please bless us."

Chapter 158: Identity Exposed!

After the meeting was over, Qin Feng walked over to the stone steps. He looked up at the sky in a forlorn manner and sighed deeply after a while.

I can't do anything! He wanted to help Ye Guan, but he was powerless.

The twelfth-degree arrest warrant meant that Ye Guan was an arch-enemy of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, and whoever stood on the same side as Ye Guan would likewise be an arch-enemy foe of Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

They had put their foot down and had taken such a strong stance.

Thinking objectively, Qin Feng thought that the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's action was a bit too excessive.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion still hadn't uncovered Ye Guan's identity, but they had already chosen to become his arch-enemy. It was a risky move, but Qin Feng had to acknowledge that the pros and cons had to be weighed.

The members of the Elder Circle wanted to remain in the Elder Circle, and the only way for them to stay was to accomplish something great.

If the current members of the Elder Circle helped the Chosen One become the next Academy Master, the Chosen One would definitely help them in return, which meant that there was a high chance that they would get to stay in the Elder Circle until the next review.

At that point, Grand Elder Ge would become extremely influential in the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. In fact, he might even gain enough influence to surpass Pavilion Master Ying Qing.

Everything was all about gains and profits!

A look of worry crossed Qin Feng's eyes. The superpowers behind the Chosen One were supporting the Chosen One because of the profits they would reap. Qin Feng felt like the entire Guanxuan Universe was standing behind the Chosen One.

How could Ye Guan fight back? Things would obviously be more difficult for Ye Guan compared to when he fought the Chosen One during the Destiny Contest.

The Chosen One couldn't lose; his supporters would secure his victory for him.

Qin Feng stood in deep thought for a long while before he sighed and turned around to leave.

Meanwhile, Elder Ouyang was staring at Qin Feng with a cold gaze.

"Keep an eye on him. He might help Ye Guan behind the scenes," said Elder Ouyang.

"Understood!" said a figure clad in black robes before retreating into the darkness.

...

Meanwhile, the Zhang Clan powerhouses and elders were gathered in the Lingxu Hall of the Lingxu Blessed Land.

Everyone's expression was dark as they sat in front of a long table. The Grand Elder's face was pitch-black. Evidently, they had heard about the twelfth-degree arrest warrant that the Immortal Treasures Pavilion had issued for Ye Guan.

In other words, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion had declared Ye Guan as their mortal enemy.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion's drastic decision was a curveball that none of them had expected. Furthermore, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion had also announced that Ye Guan's helpers would receive the same treatment as Ye Guan.

The Lingxu Blessed Land was stuck between a rock and a hard place. It was no secret that Ye Guan had come to the Lingxu Blessed Land. If Ye Guan were to stay here for much longer, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion would think that they were defying them.

There was absolute silence in the hall, and the air was so heavy it was palpable, making everyone feel suffocated.

Just then, a white-robed old man walked into the hall.

The Zhang Clan powerhouses and elders gulped upon seeing the old man. The white-robed old man was from the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

Zhang Yuntian turned to the white-robed old man and said, "Greetings Manager Li—"

"Leader Zhang." Manager Li waved his hand dismissively and said, "Let's get straight to the point. I've come here to say that if Ye Guan is still in the Lingxu Blessed Land fifteen minutes later, the Immortal

Treasures Pavilion will blacklist the entire Lingxu Blessed Land. We will never conduct business with you anymore.

"The Lingxu Blessed Land will also have to indemnify the Immortal Treasures Pavilion for the losses incurred due to your actions."

Manager Li whipped around and stomped out of the hall.

Everyone frowned, and the air was tense in the Lingxu Hall.

After some hesitation, one of the elders said, "Leader, Grand Elder, I'm afraid we can no longer keep our rivers polluted. We should ask Ye Guan to leave the Lingxu Blessed Land as soon as possible."

Another elder nodded in agreement. "Young Lord Ye is exceptional, but his enemy is the Chosen One. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion has evidently chosen the Chosen One's side, and we might go into decline if we continue supporting Young Lord Ye.

"I hope that you'll decide carefully. The lives of roughly ten thousand clansmen are on us."

The rest of the elders also stepped forward to express their views.

Zhang Yuntian and the Grand Elder remained silent. They were in a dilemma.

Meanwhile, Ye Guan was still seated cross-legged on the ancestral ground. He was so absorbed in his cultivation that he looked like a monk. It had been a day since he sat down cross-legged, but he still hadn't moved even an inch.

Initially, he was extremely excited, but now, he was calm.

The teachings were enlightening, and they highlighted a path for him to take. For instance, the reason he became a Martial God was that he had received the inheritance of a Martial Goddess. It was almost

like inheriting riches. It was always faster to become wealthy through inheritance than starting from scratch.

Ye Guan's eyes shot wide open, and he placed his right palm on the ground.

Bam!

The ground quaked powerfully, and a mysterious force converged toward him.

A powerful Great Earth Force soon manifested, and Ye Guan could control it freely.

Earth Law Realm!

He had already made a breakthrough into the Earth Law Realm, but his aura was still surging. Ye Guan's voice trembled as he urgently cried out, "Master Pagoda! Am I going to keep on making a breakthrough? What should I do? What can I do?"

Little Pagoda asked, "Isn't that a good thing?"

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "I'm progressing too quickly. I'm afraid my cultivation base might be unstable. Master Pagoda, hurry up and help me suppress it! I don't want to make another breakthrough."

Little Pagoda remained silent.

Ye Guan asked, "Master Pagoda?"

In a deep voice, Little Pagoda asked, "Don't you think you're holding back too much?"

Ye Guan replied, "Cultivation is like crafting a sword; it requires a deep understanding of the art, hard work, and multiple temperings. I'm afraid my long-term progress will suffer if I were to progress too quickly."

Little Pagoda asked curiously, "Why do you think so?"

Ye Guan explained, "I still haven't understood the Heaven Law Realm. If I reach that realm without much understanding of it, my foundations will surely be unstable. It'll be a meaningless breakthrough by then."

Little Pagoda contemplated for quite a while before saying, "I'll help you."

Boom!

A golden light burst out and enveloped Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's surging aura was quickly suppressed by the golden light.

Ye Guan sighed in relief. There were no shortcuts in the cultivation path. Ye Guan was aware that if he wanted to reach greater heights, he had to think about the mountains he would have to climb later down the road.

A moment of rashness would be a costly mistake in the future.

Just then, the woman from the Zhang Clan appeared in front of Ye Guan.

Ye Guan got up and bowed. "Thank you, Senior."

The woman stared at him and remarked, "You suppressed your cultivation base?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes!"

The woman's eyes narrowed, and she pointed out. "A powerful being is within you."

Ye Guan nodded and answered, "Yes, his name is Master Pagoda."

The woman frowned brows and muttered, "Master Pagoda?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

The woman stared deeply at him before asking, "Can I see him?"

A flicker of hesitance flashed past Ye Guan's face, and he inwardly asked, "Master Pagoda?"

Little Pagoda calmly answered, "Do what you want."

He truly didn't care. He reckoned that only a handful of the powerhouses back then would recognize him. After all, it had been thirty million years.

Ye Guan pondered briefly before flipping his palm open and showing the tiny pagoda.

The woman unconsciously took a few steps backward in shock. She was horrified as though she had seen a ghost in broad daylight.

Ye Guan was stunned. Is Master Pagoda that ugly?

Why was she scared?

Ye Guan thought about it before realizing that the woman seemed to have recognized his Master Pagoda.

Little Pagoda was similarly bewildered. “Do you know me?”

The woman bowed deeply, and her voice trembled as she said, “Senior, you were following the—”

“How do you know me?” Little Pagoda immediately interrupted.

Little Pagoda was stupefied to learn the woman was actually aware of his identity.

The great battle back then had simply been too many years ago, so he was convinced that no one here would recognize him.

Little Pagoda had practically confirmed the woman’s suspicion.

The woman bowed deeply and said, “Master Pagoda, my ancestor is Zhang Wenxiu.”

Zhang Wenxiu! Little Pagoda was taken aback. Goodness!

It turned out that the woman in front of him was that lady’s descendant.

Little Pagoda was shocked. He truly didn’t expect that the Lingxu Blessed Land was the hometown of Zhang Wenxiu’s descendants.

However, Little Pagoda didn’t really find it strange that he was unaware of such a fact. After all, he was closer to An Lanxiu and Qin Guan, and he rarely interacted with the Sword Master’s other women.

The woman made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan, and she felt a shiver down her spine as a terrifying thought popped up in her mind. No wonder! No wonder he was so exceptional. He was the son of the Sword Master and that lady.

Oh my Goodness! He was the true Chosen One! The woman was shocked beyond belief, but she soon jumped for joy after the initial shock.

The Lingxu Blessed Land had truly stumbled upon such a massive blessing by establishing a relationship with such an incredible individual. The Lingxu Blessed Land was indeed blessed.

The woman took a moment to compose herself before turning toward Ye Guan. She was just about to bow when Little Pagoda transmitted his voice to her using profound energy. "He doesn't know his real identity!"

The woman flinched. He doesn't know his true identity?

She directed a strange gaze at Ye Guan in a weird manner before replying in the same manner as Little Pagoda. "Master Pagoda, did the Young Master leave him to fend for himself?"

"Yes," Little Pagoda answered.

The woman fell silent. The Yang Clan was truly full of disturbed people. It was absurd how they had been consistently leaving their descendants to fend for themselves!

Little Pagoda added, "I truly had no idea that you're a descendant of Lady Zhang. In a way, the Lingxu Blessed Land is full of Ye Guan's relatives."

Relatives! The woman grinned. Her voice quivered as she asked, "M-Master Pagoda, are you speaking on behalf of the Yang Family?"

"Of course!" Little Pagoda calmly replied, "The Zhang Clan aren't related by blood to this brat, but the Zhang Clan is still considered his relatives in spirit!"

The woman was beyond overjoyed. The Zhang Clan was indeed full of Zhang Wenxiu's descendants, but it had truly been too many years since the Zhang Clan was established. Zhang Wenxiu's blood had been stretched too thin.

The woman was shocked by how the Zhang Clan had stumbled upon the son of the Sword Master. They had even established a great relationship with him, to boot.

"Please don't tell him his identity," said Little Pagoda. "We do not want to reveal it at the moment."

The woman nodded and said, "I understand."

Just then, Ye Guan asked, "Are you two talking secretly?"

The woman and Little Pagoda turned to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan said, "There are no outsiders here, so you don't have to talk secretly. Don't worry, I won't reveal your secrets."

The woman and Little Pagoda fell silent. Suddenly, Zhang Yuntian and the Grand Elder walked into the ancestral ground.

They bowed to the woman and said, "Greetings, Ancestor!"

The woman nodded in acknowledgment and she asked, "What is it?"

After some hesitation, Zhang Yuntian said, "We've received a report that the Immortal Treasures Pavilion has issued a twelfth-degree arrest warrant for Young Lord Ye! They have also warned us that they will consider us their enemy if we continue to shelter him."

Zhang Yuntian's gaze was full of awkwardness as he glanced at Ye Guan.

"Young Lord Ye, I apologize, but the Lingxu Blessed Land can't afford to support you."

"I understand." Ye Guan nodded and said, "I'll leave. I'm sorry for bringing you trouble."

Ye Guan turned around to leave.

However, the woman dashed and grabbed Zhang Yuntian's hand. "What do you mean you can't afford to support him?! I don't think you're qualified to remain as the Clan Leader."

The woman then pointed at Ye Guan and said, "How about you become the Clan Leader? You can do it!"

Ye Guan and Zhang Yuntian were stunned speechless.

Chapter 159: They Will Kneel

Everyone was stunned, and they stared at the woman in disbelief. What's going on?

Zhang Yuntian coughed to clear his throat, and his voice was shaking as he cried out, "A-Ancestor, Young Lord Ye is exceptional, but... he isn't a part of our clan!"

Had she been lying in the coffin for so long that she had lost her mind?

However, Zhang Yuntian didn't dare to utter such words. He wasn't the only one who was shell-shocked, and even Ye Guan was taken aback.

What's going on? Me? The Leader of the Lingxu Blessed Land?

It didn't sound right!

However, the woman was right when she said that he could do it.

Ye Guan had to stop himself from laughing at the thought of it.

The woman frowned at Zhang Yuntian's words. If Ye Guan was willing, she was willing as well. However, she knew that Ye Guan was the young master of the two most powerful superpowers in this universe.

How could she tie him down to the Lingxu Blessed Land?

As she thought of this, the woman sighed to herself. She looked at Zhang Yuntian and transmitted her voice using profound energy. “This young man’s future is extremely bright. The Lingxu Blessed Land must support him. Do you understand?”

“I know, Ancestor,” Zhang Yuntian replied in a solemn manner, “However, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion and the Guanxuan Academy are—”

The woman shook her head and said, “Stop thinking about them and just follow my advice—support him. If the Immortal Treasures Pavilion wants to become our enemy, so be it. They can do whatever they want, but the destiny of the Lingxu Blessed Land has to be tied to this young man. Do you understand?”

Zhang Yuntian stared agape at the woman. He didn’t expect their ancestor to take such a huge gamble. It was a massive gamble that would make or break the Lingxu Blessed Land.

This is strange... Zhang Yuntian glanced at Ye Guan. He was convinced that his ancestor had to have discovered something.

However, he didn’t ask any more questions.

He turned toward Ye Guan and said seriously, “Young Lord Ye, please ignore what I said just now. Don’t worry, you’re the Lingxu Blessed Land’s friend. We are relatively weak, but we will not abandon our friends.

”It doesn’t matter even if the Immortal Treasures Pavilion declares us their enemy. The Lingxu Blessed Land is willing to die with you.”

The woman looked at Zhang Yuntian with a look of admiration. Not bad. It turns out that this generation’s Clan Leader is an excellent individual.

However, Ye Guan was still hesitant.

“Senior, I don’t think I should drag you down with me. I—”

Zhang Yuntian cut him off and said, “Young Lord Ye, you’re not dragging us down at all. The Lingxu Blessed Land is a small clan, but we’re willing to take this journey with you.”

Ye Guan fell silent and remained silent for quite a while. In the end, he stared resolutely at Zhang Yuntian and said, “I will carve Senior and the Lingxu Blessed Land’s kindness in my heart.”

Zhang Yuntian surreptitiously glanced at the woman, and he was finally freed from the burdens weighing down on his heart the moment he saw the woman’s bright smile.

After all, it only meant one thing—Ye Guan’s background was enough for them to take such a gamble!

Ye Guan smiled and said, “Senior, I will head out for a while.”

Zhang Yuntian warned, “The Immortal Treasures Pavilion has issued an arrest warrant for you. I’m afraid that you’ll be in danger once you head out.”

“Don’t worry, I can take the opportunity to take them—” Ye Guan stopped talking mid-sentence.

Zhang Yuntian saw that, and he hurriedly took out a command token.

“Please take this with you, young friend.”

Ye Guan glanced at the command token and asked, “What is this, Senior?”

Zhang Yuntian explained, “It’s a command token of the Lingxu Blessed Land, and it is of the highest grade. A teleportation array is emblazoned on it. If you ever find yourself in trouble, activate it, and I’ll personally lead our powerhouses to assist you.”

Ye Guan was hesitant, but Zhang Yuntian persuaded him. “Don’t turn me down, young friend. It is a type of insurance. You’re strong, but you’re just an individual in the end. You’ll be at a disadvantage against a group of powerhouses.”

Ye Guan pondered for a while before he accepted the command token.

“Senior, thank you very much,” said Ye Guan.

Zhang Yuntian smiled. “Don’t mention it.”

Ye Guan nodded. He wordlessly turned around and hopped onto his sword before disappearing into the horizon.

Zhang Yuntian turned to the woman. He bowed deeply and asked, “Ancestor, can you tell me Young Lord Ye’s true identity?”

The woman was still staring at the distant horizon as she said, “I shan’t tell you.”

Zhang Yuntian was disappointed.

The woman continued. “I want you to remember one thing—the Lingxu Blessed Land will have to stay by his side. Even if the Guanxuan Academy and the Immortal Treasures Pavilion declare him as their arch-enemy, the Lingxu Blessed Land must not abandon him.”

Zhang Yuntian sounded serious as he asked, “Ancestor, can you give me a hint?”

The woman calmly replied, “You’ll thank me in the future.”

“Ancestor...” Zhang Yuntian muttered, “The Immortal Treasures Pavilion, The Guanxuan Academy and the Chosen One—”

He felt like giving Ye Guan's enemies a tip.

The woman scoffed, "They will kneel."

She said no more and turned around to leave.

Zhang Yuntian was left all alone in the ancestral ground, staring blankly into the void.

...

Ye Guan streaked across the skies and gracefully pierced clouds after clouds.

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Master Pagoda, are you acquainted with the ancestor of the Zhang Family? Am I right?"

Little Pagoda didn't respond.

Ye Guan was crafty, and he couldn't allow himself to fall for Ye Guan's tricks again.

Ye Guan said, "My enemies are the Guanxuan Academy, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion and the Chosen One. The Lingxu Blessed Land should have chased me away to avoid becoming enemies with the Academy and the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. However, their ancestor had insisted on supporting me."

Ye Guan for quite a while before continuing. "Could it be that my family background is stronger than the Guanxuan Academy and the Immortal Treasures Pavilion?"

Little Pagoda was still silent.

Ye Guan shook his head and asked, "Master Pagoda, why don't you say something?"

Little Pagoda stated, "You're overthinking it."

Ye Guan frowned and asked, "How come?"

Little Pagoda said, "Perhaps they're just kind, and they truly see you as a friend. It is natural to help a friend in need."

Ye Guan went silent for a few moments before saying, "Master Pagoda, can you stop saying nonsense? You should put some more effort into lying to me."

"I—" Ye Guan started.

However, Little Pagoda snapped, "Why are you concerned with all that? You should just focus on cultivating. Your personal strength is the most important here. It's useless even if you have a powerful family behind you."

Ye Guan was at a loss for words.

Little Pagoda continued. "Your backers and even your family don't last forever, and they might even abandon you eventually. However, your own strength will always be there for you."

Ye Guan nodded. "Makes sense."

Little Pagoda smiled. "All right, that's it. You said this yourself before: For some, their strength comes from their backing, but for others, their strength belongs to them. You want to be the latter, right?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes!"

Little Pagoda continued. "In that case, you have to work hard. Work hard for your goals, and don't bother thinking about everything else. Understood?"

Ye Guan pondered for a while before asking, “Master Pagoda, do you think the Main Guanxuan Academy will pardon me if I were to go there and show you to them?”

Little Pagoda didn’t respond.

The mysterious voice chimed in, “Don’t even try to deceive him anymore. You should just shut up! At this rate, he’ll eventually discover his real identity.”

Little Pagoda sighed; this brat was indeed crafty.

Ye Guan suddenly said, “Master Pagoda—”

Little Pagoda immediately interrupted. “I’m hungry; I’m sleepy. Haaa...”

Ye Guan was at a loss for words.

He called for Little Pagoda a few more times, but he received no response.

Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled. “Master Pagoda, I was just wondering. If I return to my real family and pay respects to my ancestors, how much money do you think they’ll give me?”

Little Pagoda was still silent, leaving Ye Guan helpless.

In the end, he decided to focus on his journey and picked up the pace.

This time, his destination was the Time Paradise.

Divine Mages! Ye Guan was fearful of Divine Mages.

They were a mysterious bunch with inscrutable powers.

He was going to the Time Paradise in hopes of sparring with powerful Divine Mages.

An hour later, Ye Guan came to a halt.

An old man wearing a gray shirt was up ahead. The old man wearing a gray shirt was holding a black rod, and he floated among the clouds while staring at Ye Guan.

It seemed that he had been waiting for Ye Guan all this while.

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at the old man wearing a gray shirt.

Rumble!

The space around Ye Guan vibrated slightly, and a dozen powerful auras enveloped Ye Guan. However, he remained as calm as a placid lake. The old man wearing a gray shirt said, “We’ve been waiting for you, Young Lord Ye!”

Ye Guan calmly asked, “Why?”

The old man wearing a gray shirt responded, “We heard that your head is worth five million immortal spiritual crystals, so we’re—”

Slash!

A streak of sword light flashed, and a dozen heads plummeted to the ground.

The old man wearing a gray shirt was stupefied.

Ye Guan opened his palm and examined the twelve storage rings in his hand.

They contained a total of ten million gold spiritual crystals, but it wasn't a lot of money when compared to his one hundred and fifty million gold spiritual crystals.

Ye Guan stored the storage rings away and turned to the old man wearing a gray shirt. "Did you not investigate me at all?"

The old man wearing a gray shirt's voice was trembling as he said, "The Immortal Treasures Pavilion said that you were just a Space Annihilation Realm cultivator."

Ye Guan thought briefly before asking, "Are there many people who have set their sights on me?"

The old man wearing a gray shirt nodded and said, "Many mercenaries are after the bounty on your head."

Ye Guan fell silent. He reckoned that the Immortal Treasures Pavilion had two goals they wanted to achieve by issuing an arrest warrant for him: they wanted others to stop him from visiting the Chosen One, and they wanted to find out Ye Guan's true strength by sending waves of powerful cultivators toward him.

If the Immortal Treasures Pavilion truly wanted to kill him, they could have just sent their most powerful cultivator to kill him. Of course, it had to be a cultivator as strong as An Wujun at the very least!

Ye Guan wasn't confident of defeating such a strong foe, even with the Path Sword.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion and the Guanxuan Academy definitely had such powerful individuals. They might even have cultivators stronger than An Wujun.

In other words, the superpowers behind the Chosen One wouldn't let Ye Guan die, as the Chosen One had to kill him in front of everyone to redeem himself.

Ye Guan was just a stepping stone for the Chosen One's journey to the summit.

Ye Guan chuckled lightly.

The old man wearing a gray shirt suddenly asked, "Y-Young Lord Ye, are you short of money?"

Ye Guan stared at the elder and asked, "So what?"

The old man wearing a gray shirt hesitated for quite a while before saying, "I have a good friend, and he's very rich. He has at least fifty million gold spiritual crystals. I can trick him, and you can—"

Chapter 160: Ancestor, I Summon You!

Ye Guan didn't bother to reply to the old man's words. He waved his sleeve, and a sword light flashed.

Squelch!

The old man's head exploded, scattering brain matter and blood everywhere.

Ye Guan took the old man's storage ring and found ten million gold spiritual crystals inside of it.

It's not that much money, but it's better than nothing.

Little Pagoda suddenly said, "You could have followed his suggestion and used the Entrapment Technique."

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "It doesn't sound like it's a good idea to extort people by baiting them into committing a crime. I won't go easy on my enemies, but baiting them to come and kill me... it doesn't sound right."

Little Pagoda didn't say anything in response.

Ye Guan hopped onto his sword once more and disappeared into the horizon.

Time Paradise was located in the Time World.

Time World was a world that belonged to Time Paradise.

Powerful organizations like Time Paradise often had their own worlds.

An old man appeared in front of Ye Guan right at the entrance of the Time World. His eyes were narrowed in suspicion as he asked, "Who are you?"

Ye Guan cupped his fist and said, "My name is Ye Guan, and I'm here to visit Lady Qiao Xingyao."

"Ye Guan?" The old man was shocked, and he couldn't help but ask, "Are you the same Ye Guan with an outstanding warrant of arrest from the Immortal Treasures Pavilion?"

The old man was familiar with Ye Guan. Those unfamiliar with the latter had to have been living in a rock.

As far as he knew, Ye Guan had a penchant for burying people.

"Yes, that's me," said Ye Guan with a nod.

The old man wordlessly stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled and explained, "I met Lady Qiao Xingyao before, so can you please let her know that I'm here? If she doesn't wish to meet with me, I'll leave and won't disturb you guys ever again."

The old man thought for a while before he nodded and said, "All right, then, please give me a moment, Young Lord Ye."

The old man turned around to leave.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion had issued an arrest warrant for Ye Guan, but the old man wasn't hostile toward the latter. Ye Guan's status wasn't as prestigious as the Chosen One's, but he was still a Quasi-Great Sword Sovereign!

A mere gatekeeper like him couldn't afford to provoke such a powerful cultivator, and there was no way he would go out of his way to provoke Ye Guan.

Soon, the space in front of Ye Guan was split open, and a woman slowly walked out of the rift in space.

She was none other than Qiao Xingyao!

Qiao Xingyao was wearing a dark green long skirt, and her long hair fell all the way down to her hips. Her big, watery eyes stared at Ye Guan with a tinge of mirth. She was an esteemed Divine Mage, but she wasn't overbearing at all.

She walked up to Ye Guan with a smile and said, "Young Lord Ye!"

Ye Guan smiled as well and said, "Lady Qiao, am I causing you any trouble by coming here?"

Qiao Xingyao reassured him. "Of course not! Come on in, let's go inside."

She dragged Ye Guan by the latter's arm into the Time World.

Ye Guan was awed by the magnificent view that unfolded before him the moment he stepped into the Time World. A cluster of mountain ranges suspended in the air stretched out endlessly and floated leisurely among the clouds. Gigantic waterfalls were at the summit of each mountain, creating an awe-inspiring sight.

Ye Guan also saw flocks of cranes passing by the hanging mountains.

Qiao Xingyao soon brought Ye Guan to the foot of a suspended mountain, and they walked slowly next to a lake. Qiao Xingyao turned to look at Ye Guan. She smiled as she said, "Young Lord Ye, did you come here for me?"

"Um..." Ye Guan froze and fell silent.

"Pfft! Hahaha!" Qiao Xingyao burst out laughing. "I was just teasing you."

Ye Guan shook his head and smiled. Then, he said seriously, "I truly came here to see you, Lady Qiao, but it's because I would like to exchange some moves with you!"

Qiao Xingyao blinked a few times before asking, "Exchange moves?"

"Yes!" Ye Guan nodded.

Qiao Xingyao pondered briefly before she nodded and said, "All right! Follow me, then."

She tapped the ground lightly with her foot, but her figure shot toward the clouds at high speeds.

Ye Guan hopped onto his sword and followed her closely.

Qiao Xingyao soon brought Ye Guan to the peak of a mountain. They landed at a tournament square.

A statue was erected in the middle of the tournament square.

It was a lifelike statue of a woman, and she was holding an ancient scroll.

Qiao Xingyao smiled and said, "You're looking at an ancestor of Time Paradise. Her name is Nanli Meng, and she's extremely strong, even among powerhouses!"

Nanli Meng! Ye Guan inwardly asked, "Master Pagoda, do you recognize her?"

After a long silence, Little Pagoda muttered, "Who would've thought?"

"Who would've thought?" Ye Guan asked.

Little Pagoda snapped, "I don't want to talk to you!"

Ye Guan was speechless.

Qiao Xingyao suddenly said, "Young Lord Ye, let's begin."

Ye Guan had no idea when Qiao Xingyao retrieved a staff, but she was staring at Ye Guan with a staff in her hand.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan suddenly vanished.

A sword reached Qiao Xingyao in the blink of an eye.

However, Qiao Xingyao also disappeared.

Boom!

Ye Guan's sword thrust pierced and shattered space. Ye Guan turned and saw that Qiao Xingyao had already reappeared thirty meters away to his right.

Qiao Xingyao giggled and said, "Young Lord Ye, be careful!"

Multiple rifts in space opened, and ten strange-looking bloodied hands emerged from the rifts and grabbed at Ye Guan.

However, Ye Guan vanished once more before the bloodied hands could reach him.

Rumble!

The space in front of Qiao Xingyao was torn apart, but she had already disappeared and reappeared another thirty meters away to the right.

However, Qiao Xingyao's expression changed. A sword had been waiting for her, and it looked like she had thrown herself toward the sword!

The sword stopped a few inches away from Qiao Xingyao's forehead.

Qiao Xingyao stared incredulously at Ye Guan and muttered, "You..."

Ye Guan hesitated briefly before saying, "I was predicting your moves."

Qiao Xingyao stared at him and asked, "How are your predictions so accurate?"

"I'm faster, so I can afford to take a split second to predict where you'll reappear," said Ye Guan.

"Let's do it one more time!" Qiao Xingyao exclaimed.

Ye Guan nodded. He opened his palm, and the sword returned to his hand.

Qiao Xingyao started chanting in an inscrutable, mysterious language.

Boom!

The space in a three-hundred-meter radius around Qiao Xingyao was torn apart as a terrifying aura descended upon the tournament square. Unfortunately, a sword had already reached Qiao Xingyao's forehead, rendering her speechless.

Ye Guan said, "I got a bit impatient waiting for you to cast your spell."

Qiao Xingyao's watery eyes were soon filled with tears.

Ye Guan's head started to ache. Why are you crying?

Qiao Xingyao felt a little aggrieved. "You're a bully! Why did you not wait until I was done channeling my spell before making your move?"

Ye Guan was silent. He suddenly felt that he had made a mistake by coming here to exchange a few moves with her. I'm here to become even stronger, not to pick up girls! You're very pretty, but I... I just want to become even stronger!

Footsteps echoed as a woman approached them from the side.

She looked to be at least thirty years old, and she had a plump figure resembling a ripe peach. She was both beautiful and alluring, and she was exuding a peculiar aura that Ye Guan couldn't quite grasp.

The woman walked over to Qiao Xingyao and chided her with a smile, "You know you're being a sore loser, right?"

Qiao Xingyao retorted softly, "I've never been bullied like that..."

The woman was all smiles as she turned to Ye Guan and asked, "Young Lord Ye, would you like to exchange a few moves with me?"

Ye Guan pondered over it briefly before saying, "All right!"

The woman smiled and said, "I'm going to make my move now."

Ye Guan nodded, and his expression changed not even a second later. He was about to attack with his sword when a green vine wrapped around him, and it was followed by a ray of light that came hurtling toward him!

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed. With a single thought, a sword manifested and flew out.

Crack!

Ye Guan's sword made out of sword energy couldn't withstand the ray of light, but it bought Ye Guan enough time to cut through his restraints. At the same time, another sword was making a beeline for the woman.

It took quite a while to describe, but everything happened in the blink of an eye as both parties displayed astonishing speed at dishing out their moves.

However, the woman stopped Ye Guan's sword with just two fingers.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed. He retreated while the woman gently destroyed the sword.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan took virtually no time to retreat roughly three hundred meters away from the woman. He stopped, thinking he was safe, but green vines appeared beneath him and immobilized him in just a split second!

The woman leisurely approached Ye Guan with a smile.

“You’ve lo—”

Boom!

A terrifying energy burst out of Ye Guan’s right hand. The woman’s face changed abruptly as Ye Guan’s right hand grabbed her right arm. Ye Guan didn’t give the woman any time to respond as he decisively punched out.

Boom!

The horrible energy sent the woman flying away.

World Devastation Art!

Seize the opportunity, move the heavens by an inch. Cultivate a punch to destroy the world, and you shall be invincible in close-range combat.

It took the woman quite a while to recover, and by the time she recovered, she was already three hundred meters away from Ye Guan.

Ye Guan sent a sword to chase after her, but his expression abruptly changed. He turned around sharply and was about to make his move when the spacetime around him transformed into a cage, trapping him.

It was a cage made out of spacetime, not just space!

The difference between a cage made out of just space and spacetime was immense!

Ye Guan wanted to attack, but he was astonished to find that he couldn’t shatter the spacetime cage.

Meanwhile, the woman glanced at her right arm and saw that it was broken.

Ye Guan had actually injured her!

The woman stared at Ye Guan in astonishment. Her expression soon turned heavy as she said, “Young Lord Ye, everyone thought that you were a Sword Sovereign, but it turns out that you’re not just a Sword Sovereign. You’re a Martial God, too!”

A Martial God?!

Qiao Xingyao’s eyes widened, and her face was painted with disbelief.

The woman was shocked herself, so how could Qiao Xingyao not be astonished?

He’s both a Sword Sovereign and a Martial God?! Who exactly is the Chosen One?

Ye Guan gazed sadly at the woman and muttered, “I admit defeat...”

The woman was furious as she bellowed, “You actually have the guts to feel aggrieved?! Do you know how many cultivation realms I am above you?!”

“Young Lord Ye,” Qiao Xingyao hurriedly said, “This esteemed senior is Nanli Yin, the Paradise Master of Time Paradise.”

The Paradise Master!

Ye Guan froze in shock. Who could have thought that the woman he had just sparred with would turn out to be the Paradise Master of Time Paradise?

It was no wonder she was so strong, and she hadn't utilized the full extent of her cultivation base. Ye Guan reckoned that he would have lost even if he had wielded the Path Sword. The gap between them was simply too big for him to overcome.

Nanli Yin sounded serious as she said, "You're among the top five of the talents I've encountered so far."

Ye Guan fell silent.

Nanli Yin frowned and asked, "Are you not curious about the other four talents?"

Ye Guan shook his head slightly. He cupped his fist and said, "Senior, can I train here with you here, every day?"

Nanli Yin fell silent. Train with him?

If it weren't for the Chosen One, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, and the Guanxuan Academy, she would have immediately obliged. Ye Guan was undoubtedly a heaven-defying talent, after all!

However, Ye Guan was an arch-enemy of the Chosen One, and the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, as well as the Guanxuan Academy, had expressed their support for the Chosen One. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion had even openly declared their support for the Chosen One.

In other words, Time Paradise would offend both the Immortal Treasures Pavilion and the Guanxuan Academy if they were to help Ye Guan.

Nanli Yin's gaze was complicated as she stared at Ye Guan. She was full of admiration for Ye Guan, but she had to consider the bigger picture whenever she made decisions. After all, the lives of a hundred thousand Time Paradise denizens rested on her shoulders!

Ye Guan suddenly said, "Senior, I'm sorry to have disturbed you!"

With that, he turned around to leave.

He felt that his words were out of line and impolite. He didn't consider her status as well. Ye Guan was well aware of his predicament, and he didn't want to implicate anyone else.

"Wait!" Nanli Yin suddenly called out to him.

Ye Guan turned to look at her.

Nanli Yin calmly said, "Wait a minute."

She turned to face Nanli Meng's statue and shouted, "Ancestor, I summon you!"

Ka-cha!

Cracks abruptly appeared all over the statue.

Qiao Xingyao turned to Nanli Yin in shock.

Her voice was trembling as she muttered, "Paradise Master, you..."

Qiao Xingyao was stupefied to see the Paradise Master summon their ancestor. It was only natural that Qiao Xingyao was surprised, as their ancestor should only be summoned in dire situations, such as if Time Paradise faced annihilation.

Nanli Yin fell silent. Ye Guan was like a bundle of mystery in her eyes, so she didn't dare to make any decisions by herself. However, she also felt that this was a golden opportunity for Time Paradise.

Nanli Yin trusted her gut feeling and decided to summon their ancestor to take a look at Ye Guan.

If Ancestor tells us to support him, we'll support him. Otherwise, we'll give up on him.

She had wasted a chance to summon their ancestor, but she felt that it was worth it.

Ye Guan would definitely soar and achieve great things in the future.

Will Ancestor take a liking to him? Let's gamble!

If Nanli Yin lost the gamble, she would be reprimanded, but she could also be dismissed from her position as the Paradise Master.

However, Nanli Yin didn't mind it and decided to take the gamble of a lifetime.