

A Sword 51

Chapter 51: Becoming a Powerful Ancestor

There were two ways to reach the Zhongtu Divine Continent without all the fuss. The first way was to use the teleportation array of the Guanxuan Academy. Of course, Ye Guan couldn't take that path up to the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

In other words, Ye Guan could only choose the second way, which was through the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion had hundreds of thousands of teleportation arrays in many different words. As long as one had enough money, one could go virtually anywhere.

Ye Guan headed to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, and he saw a familiar figure outside the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

The figure was Luo Zhaoqi.

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at her.

Luo Zhaoqi smiled and said, "I knew you would be here."

Ye Guan calmly asked. "Do you have any business with me?"

Luo Zhaoqi nodded and said, "Yes, I've been waiting for you. First of all, the Academy Chief wants you to join the Guanxuan Academy. It doesn't matter even if you join the Upper Realm or the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy."

Ye Guan was silent.

Luo Zhaoqi added, "The True Dragon Clan is the leader of the Demon Realm. They won't target the Ye Clan on the Lower Realm's Nanzhou nor the Guanxuan Academy, but it's a different story when it comes to you."

The True Dragon Clan wouldn't lower themselves to go for the Ye Clan on the Lower Realm's Nanzhou. If they were to do something as despicable as that, their reputation would plummet beyond recovery.

Things had blown up, so there were many eyes watching the True Dragon Clan's each and every movement. Unfortunately, it wouldn't be strange if they went after Ye Guan because the latter had killed two True Dragons.

Ye Guan stared at Luo Zhaoqi and asked, "Are you done?"

Luo Zhaoqi muttered, "My teacher wants to apologize to you. As the Academy Chief, she didn't stand up for you at a crucial moment, so she—"

"I don't need it." Ye Guan interrupted and shook his head. He then turned around and headed for the Immortal Treasures Pavilion, leaving a silent Luo Zhaoqi in his wake.

Zhao Su appeared next to Luo Zhaoqi.

"Teacher..." muttered Luo Zhaoqi while staring at Zhao Su.

"I would be angry as well if I were in his shoes," Zhao Su said.

Luo Zhaoqi shook her head, "He's going to Zhongtu Divine Continent. The True Dragon Clan will definitely go after him. There's no way they're going to let him off scot-free, and they're going to chase him until he dies."

Zhao Su was silent.

She remained silent for quite a while before muttering, "What happened in this decade's martial contest has severely affected the academy. The reputation that we have painstakingly established for so many years collapsed after just one mistake."

Luo Zhaoqi didn't know what to say. It was a horrible plight.

Zhao Su chuckled hollowly and said, "The complaint I sent to the Main Guanxuan Academy bounced back."

Luo Zhaoqi frowned slightly.

"Did the True Dragon Clan interfere?" she asked.

Zhao Su nodded.

Luo Zhaoqi's expression turned grim.

"How about an appeal?" she asked.

Zhao Su shook her head and said, "We'll vanish without a trace if we were to do that and leave the Upper Realm."

Luo Zhaoqi's face turned ugly. She was aware that they were in danger because a mere Academy Chief from the Upper Realm would never attract the attention of the Main Guanxuan Academy.

An appeal? How naive of them to think that they could do that! Zhao Su looked in the direction of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion and muttered, "I'm sorry, there's nothing I can do about it."

With that, Zhao Su turned around and left.

It seemed that not every injustice in this world could be rectified.

Luo Zhaoqi turned to look at the Immortal Treasures Pavilion and shook her head.

She might not see that young man again.

...

After handing over a thousand gold spiritual crystals, Ye Guan walked into the teleportation array that would bring him to the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

The teleportation array activated, and Ye Guan vanished. While waiting for his arrival, Ye Guan sat cross-legged and retrieved a few scrolls from his storage ring.

He had just bought these scrolls from the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

The scrolls contained information about the Zhongtu Divine Continent. He had to know more about the Zhongtu Divine Continent because it seemed that he would have to stay there for a long time.

The Zhongtu Divine Continent was unimaginably huge. It consisted of three thousand worlds, and the entire Upper Realm was just one of those worlds.

The most powerful organization—even throughout such a massive world—was still the Guanxuan Academy. The Immortal Treasures Pavilion was second only to the Guanxuan Academy because of its ubiquity.

Afterward, it would be the six grand clans. The strongest of the six was the Undying Clan, followed by the Shenge Clan, the Shen Clan, the An Clan, the Li Clan,[1] and the Nanling Clan.

The two superpowers of the Demon Realm couldn't be underestimated as well, and they were the True Dragon Clan and the Ancient Monkey Clan.

The Zhongtu Divine Continent's history was deep, and Ye Guan also ended up reading about the Daoist Sect.

The Daoist Sect was an ancient power that had completely fallen long ago. It was rumored that they were once as powerful and as influential as the Guanxuan Academy, but for some reason, they collapsed and were replaced by the Guanxuan Academy.

Until now, no one had any idea just how the Daoist Sect collapsed.

The Zhongtu Divine Continent also had a multitude of clans and sects aside from the six grand clans, the Guanxuan Academy, and the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

A special organization existed on the Zhongtu Divine Continent, and it was the Mercenary Union. The top mercenary group of the Mercenary Union was the Guanxuan Mercenary, and the leader of the Guanxuan Mercenary was the President of the Mercenary Union himself.

They were incredibly powerful, and it was even rumored that the leader of the Guanxuan Mercenary was an acquaintance of the Sword Master.

Ye Guan took a moment to compose himself before picking up another scroll.

The scroll had information about the Undying Clan.

It was said that the entire Undying Clan was once the Sword Master's followers. They were almost annihilated fighting for the Sword Master's cause, so the Sword Master helped them, and they became extremely powerful.

They decided to move to the Zhongtu Divine Continent, and they instantly became the number one clan upon arriving. It was worth mentioning that the Sword Master's mother had come from the Undying Clan.

The Undying Clan didn't become a part of the Guanxuan Universe's Main Guanxuan.

They couldn't enjoy the Great Dao Destiny Aura of the Main Guanxuan Academy, but the powerful clans of the Guanxuan Universe still respected them because of the Sword Master's connection with them.

All these years, the Undying Clan had never done anything impactful other than fighting the top talents of the many different clans for a spot in the Guanxuan Universe's Main Guanxuan Academy.

They were the biggest competitor in the Destiny Contest.

The Destiny Contest was held once every century, and it was ten thousand times more cruel than the Upper Realm's decennial martial contest.

Talents from three thousand worlds would participate to try and enroll in the Main Guanxuan Academy.

To make matters worse, they would all be fighting for just one spot.

The champion would become a student of the Main Guanxuan Academy and enjoy the rumored Great Dao Destiny Aura.

The Undying Clan had been competing in the Destiny Contest for many years now, which resulted in the failure of many clans throughout the three thousand worlds of the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

The Undying Clan's invincibility prompted the superpowers from many different worlds to frantically look for incredible talents. It was all for the sake of the Great Dao Destiny Aura.

"Master Pagoda, I don't think the Undying Clan will just go ahead and hand over the Sword Master's sword to me," said Ye Guan.

Little Pagoda responded, "What are your plans?"

Ye Guan was silent for quite a while before asking, "Can you steal it for me? I'll return once we're done with it."

It was Little Pagoda's turn to go silent.

"I'm afraid I can't do that. I won't be able to do anything for a while," it said.

Ye Guan sighed. Borrow it? Why would they lend it to him? Steal it? It would be impossible without Master Pagoda's help. Snatch it openly and make a break for it? What was he? Crazy?

Even the True Dragon Clan wouldn't dare to offend the Undying Clan, and the Undying Clan also had no reason to help someone with a bounty on his head from the True Dragon Clan.

Ye Guan was sure that the True Dragon Clan would frantically chase after him upon his arrival at the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

In other words, he was in a dire situation.

Little Pagoda asked, "What are you going to do upon arriving at the Zhongtu Divine Continent?"

It took Ye Guan quite a while to respond, "I'll look for a backer. I can't fight the True Dragon Clan by myself, so I need a backer. Let the old fight the old; let the young fight the young. The pressure will be too enormous for me to bear if I have to fight even the True Dragon Clan's ancestors."

Ye Guan closed his eyes and added, "It is impossible for me to move around without a powerful backer, so I have to work even harder. If I can't become a powerful young master, I have no choice but to become a powerful ancestor."

Little Pagoda didn't know what to say.

1. Might be Li Clan followed by the An Clan. Author...screwed up with typos, and I can't tell who is stronger as of now 🙄

Chapter 52: Trash Can

Ye Guan stopped talking to Little Pagoda. He retrieved An Mu's storage ring and saw two hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals. As for the remaining items, such as his internal pills, Ye Guan had already sold them to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

He had a total of 570,000 gold spiritual crystals. It was his entire fortune, and it should be enough for him for the time being.

He decided not to sell the two dragon corpses that he had stored in his storage ring because Little Pagoda had advised him to eat them to strengthen his physique. Ye Guan also thought that it made sense, so he decided not to sell them.

Ye Guan closed his eyes. He took out some gold spiritual crystals and started absorbing their spiritual energy. It was time for him to cultivate!

From now on, he would spend all his free time cultivating. He wouldn't take it easy, even for a moment. This time, his goal was the Space Shattering Realm.

The Space Shattering Realm wasn't as simple as the Spacetime Realm. A Space Shattering Realm cultivator could tear space apart and teleport long distances. A thought was enough for them to travel thousands of kilometers.

In other words, a powerful Space Shattering Realm cultivator could chop off someone's head from thousands of kilometers away.

The realm above the Space Shattering Realm was the Space Annihilation Realm.

A Space Annihilation Realm could detonate space, and a Space Annihilation Realm cultivator could destroy a massive city with a population of millions with just a wave of his hand, especially if he had a powerful spiritual artifact or Divine Way.

A Space Annihilation Realm cultivator was disgustingly powerful.

Time passed, and Ye Guan finally absorbed the spiritual energy from a thousand gold spiritual crystals. He was about to continue cultivating, but a white light appeared in front of him.

Ye Guan stood up. He would soon be at his destination. He hurriedly walked into that white light, and the scenery in front of him peeled away.

Soon, the movement ceased, and Ye Guan opened his eyes once more. He found himself standing in a teleportation array.

An old hunchback was standing in front of Ye Guan, and he was staring at the latter without saying anything.

Ye Guan walked out of the teleportation array and asked, “Senior, how do I go to the Undying Clan?”

Ye Guan was aware that the Undying Clan would most likely reject him, but he still wanted to give it a try. The old hunchback pointed at a teleportation array on the right and said, “Two thousand gold spiritual crystals!”

Two thousand! Ye Guan’s heart was bleeding at the thought of parting with so many gold spiritual crystals. However, he had already made a decision, so he wordlessly passed two thousand gold spiritual crystals to the old hunchback.

The old hunchback accepted Ye Guan’s storage ring and put it away.

Ye Guan walked toward the teleportation array on the right and disappeared into it.

...

Ye Guan soon found himself standing in a sea of clouds. He looked around and saw a stone stele.

The stone stele was emblazoned with two words—Undying World!

Ye Guan walked toward the stone stele.

Swoosh!

An old man suddenly appeared in front of him.

Ye Guan cupped his hands and bowed slightly. "My name is Ye Guan, and I am here to request an audience with the Clan Leader of the Undying Clan, could you please—"

The old man interrupted. "You're Ye Guan?"

Ye Guan froze, but he quickly composed himself and asked, "Do you know me, Senior?"

The old man stared at Ye Guan and asked, "What are you doing here at my Undying Clan?"

Ye Guan replied, "I'm here to help the Undying Clan with the Destiny Contest!"

The old man chuckled and retorted, "Are you sure you're here to help us with the Destiny Contest rather than to seek our protection?"

Ye Guan didn't say anything in response.

The old man shook his head and said, "So what if you're the champion of the Upper Realm's martial contest? You're on the Zhongtu Divine Continent! Do you have any idea just what kind of heaven-defying talents are participating in the Destiny Contest?"

"Our relationship with the True Dragon Clan has always been neutral, and there's no way we're going to offend them for your sake. We also have our own share of heaven-defying talents, so we don't need someone like you—do you understand?"

Ye Guan was silent for quite a while before he nodded and said, "I understand!"

With that, he turned around to leave.

The old man watched as Ye Guan left. He chuckled and jeered, “How dare you get all cocky after becoming the champion of a martial contest on the Upper Realm. You’re overestimating yourself!”

With that, the old man turned around and left as well.

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Ye Guan went back to where the old hunchback was located, and the old hunchback was stunned to see Ye Guan.

Ye Guan walked up to him and asked, “Senior, how do I get to the Li Clan?”

Li Clan! They were one of the six great clans of the Zhongtu Divine Continent. Their ancestor—Li Banzhi—was particularly powerful, and she was an elder of the Main Guanxuan Academy’s Committee.

The Committee was a group of people that made up the core of decision-making at the Main Guanxuan Academy, which meant that they were tremendously powerful.

It was a pity that she also had to abide by the Guanxuan Law, so she couldn’t directly bring the Li Clan under the Main Guanxuan Academy’s protection and influence.

However, the fact that she was an elder of the Committee was enough to bring endless profits to the Li Clan!

If it hadn’t been for the fact that the Sword Master was related to the Undying Clan, the Li Clan would have become the number one clan of the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

In fact, the reason Ye Guan chose to go to the Li Clan next was that the Li Clan would not be afraid of the True Dragon Clan.

The old hunchback replied, "The Li Clan is in the Half Realm. You need to pay 1,200 gold spiritual crystals."

1,200 gold spiritual crystals?! Prices here are indeed different from the prices outside, everything is too costly here!

However, Ye Guan still obediently handed 1,200 gold spiritual crystals to the old hunchback.

The old hunchback examined the gold spiritual crystals.

"Follow me, come here," he said and brought Ye Guan over to another Teleportation Area. He pointed at one of the teleportation arrays and said, "Use that one."

Ye Guan nodded and stepped into the teleportation array that the old hunchback had pointed out for him.

Rumble!

The teleportation array was activated, and Ye Guan disappeared. He soon found himself standing in a sea of clouds.

A massive stone stele that was at least a kilometer tall was standing about thirty meters in front of him. The words emblazoned on the stone stele made Ye Guan realize that he had arrived at the Half Realm.

Ye Guan walked toward the stone stele, but before he could get any closer to it, a powerful divine sense engulfed him.

The divine sense was powerful. Ye Guan reckoned that it came from a cultivator whose cultivation base was above the Space Annihilation Realm.

An old man suddenly appeared in front of Ye Guan.

He glared at Ye Guan and asked fiercely, "Who are you?"

Ye Guan cupped his hands and greeted the old man. "My name is Ye Guan..."

"Ye Guan!" The old man interrupted him with narrowed eyes. "You're that Ye Guan!"

Ye Guan was taken aback as he asked, "Do you know me, Senior?"

The old man glared at Ye Guan. "I've heard that in addition to killing a dragon from the True Dragon Clan, you also killed An Mu from Qingzhou's An Clan!"

Ye Guan nodded.

The old man examined Ye Guan from top to bottom and asked, "Did you come here to join my Li Clan?"

Ye Guan nodded slightly. "Yes!"

The old man laughed. "What can you offer us?"

Ye Guan replied, "I will help your family in the Destiny Contest!"

The old man froze.

However, Ye Guan's gaze was unwavering as he stared at the old man.

A deafening silence blanketed the sea of clouds.

The old man eventually said, "Wait here."

With that, he turned around to leave.

Ye Guan watched him leave, and he eventually closed his eyes upon seeing the old man disappear.

...

The old man left Ye Guan and went over to the Administrative Hall of the Li Clan.

A middle-aged man was in front of the old man. The middle-aged man was none other than the Clan Leader of the Li Clan—Li Yungang.

Li Yungang shattered the ice and asked, “How strong is he?”

The old man replied, “He’s a swordsman capable of killing a young True Dragon, so he’s an extraordinary talent.”

Li Yungang was silent for quite a while before he shook his head and said, “No...”

The old man looked at Li Yungang and asked, “Clan Leader, are you worried about the True Dragon Clan? As long as that young man is talented enough, our Li Clan is capable of going against the True Dragon Clan for him. We have Ancestor Banzhi with us, so we don’t have to be afraid of the True Dragon Clan at all!”

Li Yungang shook his head and explained, “It is not just the True Dragon Clan. The An Clan is also involved. He killed An Mu, so the An Clan will definitely pursue him. The An Clan also has those two martial goddesses...”

A glint of worry flashed in Li Yungang’s eyes as he added, “If we take him in and the An Clan visits us to avenge An Mu, how do you think we should handle that?”

"If we abandon him after taking him in, we'll become a laughingstock, but if we don't abandon him, we'll become the enemies of those two martial goddesses. Do you really think that we can afford that?"

The old man was speechless.

Indeed, they couldn't afford to offend the An Clan's two martial goddesses.

The Li Clan had Li Banzhi, but there was a limit to what she could do for the Li Clan.

Li Yungang sighed. "Ask him to leave..."

The old man hesitated and said, "There's something unique about that young man. In the future, I think he will—"

Li Yungang shook his head and said firmly, "Our Li Clan cannot handle the risk!"

With that, the old man could only sigh and leave.

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The old man appeared in front of Ye Guan once more. His expression was complicated as he said, "I'm sorry, Young Lord Ye!"

"I understand." Ye Guan shook his head and cupped his fists before turning around to leave.

The old man watched as Ye Guan left. He shook his head and muttered, "Perhaps I should tell Ancestor Banzhi about this."

However, he suddenly laughed at himself and muttered, "Ancestor Banzhi's position is high in the Committee, so she must be busy with many different matters every day. In addition, why would she pay attention to something as trivial as this?"

With that, the old man turned around and left as well.

Ye Guan opened his hand, revealing a jade pendant.

The jade pendant was from that mysterious woman he met in the starry sky of the Lower Realm. The mysterious woman said that he should go to the Shen Clan to find her once he was at the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

To be honest, he didn't quite like the idea of disturbing them. The Shen Clan had never really fought for the Great Dao Destiny Aura, and it seemed like they still had no intentions of fighting for it for this century's Destiny Contest.

There was a high chance that he would end up being a burden to them. The mysterious woman had also gifted him the jade pendant out of courtesy. If he went there to ask for their help against the True Dragon Clan and the Clan Clan... even Ye Guan wasn't shameless enough to ask for such a tremendous favor.

Little Pagoda suddenly spoke, "Try your luck at the Shenge Clan before going to the Shen Clan. If it doesn't work out, then go ahead and visit the Shen Clan."

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued. "The Shenge Clan?"

Little Pagoda replied, "Yes! I know one of their ancestors. She's extremely smart, so I'm sure her descendants are as smart as her."

Ye Guan got even more curious. "You know one of their ancestors, Master Pagoda?"

Little Pagoda avoided the question and said, "You should go."

Ye Guan nodded. He entered the teleportation array, and he soon found himself in the Teleportation Area.

The old hunchback wordlessly stared at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan nodded and exclaimed, "To the Shenge Clan!"

The old hunchback stretched his right hand toward Ye Guan.

Ye Guan took out a storage ring and placed it on the old hunchback's hand.

The old hunchback pointed at a nearby teleportation array and said, "Use that one."

Ye Guan obliged, and he was whisked away by the teleportation array's dazzling light. There was a travel time between vast distances, even if one was using a teleportation array as their means of travel.

While Ye Guan was waiting in the teleportation array, he decided to pass the time by talking to Little Pagoda.

"Master Pagoda, did the Immortal Treasures Pavilion build every single teleportation array in this world?" he asked.

Little Pagoda answered, "Yes!"

Ye Guan sighed in awe. "It's such a profitable business! I wonder how much they earn every day from the teleportation arrays alone."

"It's you who—" Little Pagoda barely stopped himself in time.

Ye Guan was confused, so he asked, "It's me who did what?"

Little Pagoda was silent for quite a while before he said, “What you’re seeing is just the tip of the iceberg. They have businesses all over the world in many different industries, so the money they’re earning from operating these teleportation arrays isn’t that much compared to their overall profit from all of their businesses.”

Ye Guan hesitated before saying, “What you said really makes me feel like robbing them...”

Little Pagoda didn’t know what to say.

Soon, Ye Guan arrived in the sea of clouds once again. He looked around and saw another towering stone stele, and it was emblazoned with the words—Lee World.

Ye Guan walked up to the stone stele, and he was soon enveloped by a powerful divine sense.

Ye Guan’s heart turned cold. The divine sense was too strong!

A black-robed old man appeared in front of Ye Guan. “What do you want?” he asked.

Ye Guan cupped his fists and introduced himself for the third time. “My name is Ye Guan, and I came here to—”

“Ye Guan!” The black-robed old man interrupted with narrowed eyes and exclaimed, “You’re that Ye Guan!”

Ye Guan nodded. “Yes!”

The black-robed old man stared deeply at Ye Guan before asking, “Are you here to join my Shenge Clan?”

Ye Guan nodded slightly.

The black-robed old man responded, "Wait here."

With that, he turned around to leave.

Ye Guan obliged and stayed put.

"Don't worry," Little Pagoda said, "I'll show myself if they refuse, and their ancestor will definitely give me some face!"

Ye Guan nodded slightly. "I trust you, Master Pagoda!"

Crackle!

The space in the horizon distorted, and a rift in space appeared afterward. A destructive power descended upon the sea of clouds.

Rumble!

Spacetime distorted as a massive rift in space opened up in front of Ye Guan.

Ye Guan froze, and his eyes narrowed upon seeing a True Dragon.

The True Dragon Clan!

However, the surprise wasn't over just yet as ten powerful cultivators from the Shenge Clan appeared to surround him.

Ye Guan had nowhere to run!

Ye Guan's expression turned ugly. The Shenge Clan had informed the True Dragon Clan of his arrival!

A middle-aged man appeared in front of Ye Guan.

He was none other than the Clan Leader of the Shenge Clan, Lee Yun.

Lee Yun sneered at Ye Guan and jeered, “What were you thinking? Did you really want to join my Shenge Clan? Do you really think that my clan will offend the True Dragon Clan and the An Clan for you? Hilarious.

”However, it’s great that you’ve come here. We’ll use you to obtain the right to ask the True Dragon Clan and the An Clan for a favor in the future!”

Swoosh!

Little Pagoda abruptly appeared in front of Ye Guan. He glared at Lee Yun and shouted arrogantly, “Tell your ancestor, Lee Ge, to come out and meet me!”

Lee Yun frowned at Little Pagoda and mocked the latter. “Why is a trash can^[1] talking like it's qualified to meet one of our family's ancestors?”

Little Pagoda and Ye Guan were rendered speechless.

1. I guess our Little Pagoda is in his tiny pagoda form and that’s why he looks like a trash can. I think ㄟ

Chapter 53: Too Poor

“Fuck!” Little Pagoda was enraged. “Your ancestor would have to address me as Master Pagoda, but a little ant like you actually dares to look down on me? Trust me, I can sever the Shenge Clan’s destiny right here, right now.”

Lee Yun stared at Master Pagoda and jeered, “Sever my Shenge Clan’s destiny? You are really speaking out of your ass right now, threatening us like that.”

Rumble!

The spacetime above them trembled violently—a True Dragon had arrived.

Little Pagoda abruptly appeared next to Ye Guan, and their figures blurred.

Lee Yun’s face instantly changed. “Trying to escape?”

He reached out with his right hand.

Boom!

A rift in space opened thousands of kilometers away, and his giant hand emerged from the rift.

Rumble!

The space around Ye Guan and Master Pagoda’s illusory figure collapsed, but the distorted space couldn’t stop them at all.

Lee Yun’s face darkened. They actually managed to escape!

The True Dragon transformed into a middle-aged man.

“Ao Meng!” Lee Yun exclaimed, slightly flustered. Ao Meng once represented the True Dragon Clan in the Destiny Contest. In other words, Ao Meng was one of the strongest True Dragons among the True Dragon Clan’s young generation.

Ao Meng stared at the horizon and muttered, "Clan Leader Lee Yun, there's more to Ye Guan than meets the eye."

Lee Yun was silent. Indeed, Ye Guan wasn't a simple individual.

Lee Yun also had to admit that the trash can that had arrogantly referred to itself^[1] as Master Pagoda was inscrutable, and it definitely had a few tricks up its sleeve.

Ao Meng said, "Clan Leader Lee Yun, he's a swordsman, so he definitely has a powerful swordsman as a backer."

Lee Yun thought about it for quite a while before saying, "I sent someone to investigate him, and we concluded that his backer is a Great Sword Immortal at most!"

Ao Meng was slightly confused. "How did you get to that conclusion?"

Lee Yun replied, "Guesswork."

Ao Meng frowned.

Lee Yun chuckled and explained, "This world only has a few Sword Sovereigns, and those Sword Sovereigns are in the depths of Guanxuan Universe.

"Sword Sovereign Tingyun often appears among us, but there's no way that Sword Sovereign Tingyun is Ye Guan's master. In other words, Ye Guan's master would only be a Great Sword Immortal at most."

Ao Meng thought about it for a moment before nodding. "That makes sense."

Lee Yun continued. "He's a talented swordsman. However, we have already decided to make an enemy out of him, so we have to kill him to prevent issues down the road."

Ao Meng nodded in agreement. "Our clan will cooperate. Clan Leader Lee Yun, a group of talented True Dragons has just awakened in our clan. If you're willing, you can send two people over to our clan and let them pick their partners."

Jackpot! Lee Yun beamed. "Of course I'm willing!"

If Shenge Clan's younger generation got together with True Dragons, they would become tremendously powerful. Furthermore, the Shenge Clan and the True Dragon Clan's relationship had always been stable and amicable.

What Lee Yun had done today was a worthy investment.

Ao Meng stared at the horizon. He chuckled derisively and said, "I'm looking forward to seeing who would dare to protect him here on Zhongtu Divine Continent!"

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Little Pagoda came to a halt in a sea of clouds.

He immediately became a streak of light that pierced Ye Guan's glabella.

Ye Guan hurriedly asked, "Master Pagoda, are you okay?"

Ye Guan saw that Master Pagoda had sustained a heavy injury.

Little Pagoda replied, "I can't manifest anymore until I've recovered to a certain extent."

Ye Guan nodded slightly and felt a little guilty.

"Master Pagoda, I'm sorry for getting you involved in all this..." he said.

Little Pagoda sighed and asked, "Why are you saying that?"

Ye Guan momentarily hesitated before saying, "Master Pagoda, they're after me. How about you leave me? I mean it."

Little Pagoda's reply came a bit late as he said, "I've taken so much of your profound energy, so I'll feel guilty if I just outright abandon you just because you're in trouble. In other words, let me accompany you for a bit longer. I'll leave once you've become a Great Sword Immortal."

"I—" Ye Guan wanted to say something.

However, Little Pagoda interrupted him by continuing. "Go to the Shen Clan! The woman who gave you that jade pendant is a good person. This time, I'm confident that there won't be any more surprises."

Ye Guan nodded. He had nowhere else to go but the Shen Clan.

He returned to the Teleportation Area.

The old hunchback stared at Ye Guan with raised eyebrows.

Ye Guan said, "I want to go to the Shen Clan!"

He hurriedly passed a storage ring over to the old hunchback. The old hunchback accepted the storage ring and pointed at one of the teleportation arrays on the right.

Ye Guan nodded and started walking toward it.

However, the old hunchback suddenly said, "Are you going to come back?"

Ye Guan came to a halt. He turned around to look at the old hunchback and said, "If there are no more surprises, I won't be coming back for a while."

The old hunchback replied, "Surprises are called surprises because they come when you least expect them."

Ye Guan's expression froze.

Meanwhile, the teleportation array activated and whisked him away.

Moments later, Ao Meng appeared in the same Teleportation Area as Ye Guan.

The old hunchback wordlessly stared at Ao Meng.

Ao Meng calmly asked, "Where did that young man go?"

The old hunchback replied, "The Chamber of Commerce stipulates that the whereabouts of our customers must not be disclosed. I am a professional with a strong work ethic—"

Ao Meng opened his palm, and a storage ring floated over to the old hunchback.

The storage ring contained thousands of gold spiritual crystals.

The old hunchback pointed at the teleportation array that led to the Shen Clan.

Ao Meng sounded sarcastic as he remarked, "Strong work ethic?"

He then walked toward the teleportation array.

A gloomy light flashed in the old hunchback's eyes at Ao Meng's remark.

Ao Meng walked into the teleportation array, but nothing happened. He frowned and stared at the old hunchback.

The old hunchback man exclaimed, "Ai-ya! It's broken! It's currently out of order, so you're out of luck."

Ao Meng glared at the old hunchback and asked, "Are you pulling tricks on me?"

"What are you going to do about it? Hit me?" taunted the old hunchback.

The old hunchback was not afraid of the True Dragon Clan at all.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion was not afraid of anyone. They could easily make the True Dragon Clan pay a painful price for their actions. In fact, the Immortal Treasures Pavilion wasn't afraid of the Guanxuan Academy as well!

Ao Meng glared coldly at the old hunchback, but he didn't dare to do anything. He was aware that the True Dragon Clan wouldn't be able to deal with the repercussions if the Immortal Treasures Pavilion decided to attack them.

Ao Meng weighed the pros and cons. Moments later, he decided to retrieve another storage ring and handed it over to the old hunchback.

The storage ring contained twenty thousand gold spiritual crystals, but the old hunchback man hurled the storage ring to the floor and jeered, "Money? Do you really think that I don't have any money?"

With that, the old hunchback turned around to leave, leaving an ugly-looking, fuming Ao Meng.

...

Ye Guan sat cross-legged while waiting to arrive at his destination.

Within the tiny pagoda, the mysterious voice asked, "How about we take him directly to the Guanxuan Universe?"

Little Pagoda sighed and said, "What's the point of going there? Do you really think that he's already strong enough to inherit his family's business? Take a look at him. If he goes there right now, do you really think that the people there will obey him?"

The mysterious voice chuckled coldly. "So what if they don't want to obey him? Are they going to kill him? Who would dare to do that? Princess Xin? Emperor Moon? The Great Desolate Clan? The Primordial Clan?"

Little Pagoda muttered, "They wouldn't dare to kill him, but they could easily turn him into a figurehead. With his current prowess, do you really think that he's strong enough to manage this vast universe?"

"Is there any meaning in becoming a puppet Academy Master of the Guanxuan Academy? Have you already forgotten how they treated our Young Master?"

The mysterious voice went silent.

Little Pagoda continued. "Young Master does not want this little bastard to go through the same thing as he did, which was why he sent him far away to Nanzhou.

"Have you still not realized that cracks have started to appear within the Guanxuan Academy since Young Master's disappearance many years ago?

"If this little bastard does not slowly climb up the ranks by himself, how would he resolve all those issues by himself?"

The mysterious voice sighed.

Little Pagoda added, "Sister Destiny has also mentioned that one must hone one's resolve... if we drag him to the Guanyuan Universe right now, he will reach the summit in one fell swoop without being able to hone his resolve by experiencing the difficulties of life.

"If we do that, how is he going to become the strongest swordsman?"

The mysterious voice sucked in a breath of cold air. "The strongest swordsman..."

Little Pagoda sighed.

There was a moment of silence before he added, "There's one more thing that you have to understand. We're no longer who we used to be back then. You're half-dead, and my soul is heavily injured.

"We can't afford to be as arrogant as we were back then. If we die at the hands of someone unworthy, we will surely become the laughingstock of the world."

The mysterious voice sighed once again, and it sounded sad as it exclaimed, "I had never imagined that I would end up in such a tragic state, damn it all!"

"If the denizens of the Void World discover his existence... they'll definitely go crazy and destroy the barrier that Young Master had left behind. They'll come down here just to get rid of him," said Little Pagoda.

The mysterious voice finally relented and said, "Then, we should let him go through more hardships! We'll save the talk about him inheriting his family's business in the future!"

Meanwhile, Ye Guan was staring at the storage ring in front of him.

He only had 470,000 gold spiritual crystals remaining.

Cultivation was indeed costly!

Ye Guan gripped his storage ring tightly and sighed. He would have to live a frugal life from now on, and it was all because he was too poor!

Ye Guan told himself that he had to find a job sooner or later.

Otherwise, it would be too hard to get by.

1. Because Master Pagoda is in his pagoda form I guess and Lee Yun doesn't know that. ❸

Chapter 54: My Younger Brother!

Ye Guan soon appeared in the sea of clouds, and he saw another towering stone stele.

The Shen Clan!

He walked toward the stone stele, and an old man appeared in front of him.

"Who are you?" asked the old man while examining Ye Guan.

Ye Guan took out the jade pendant that he had received from the mysterious woman in the starry sky of the Lower Realm.

The old man's face abruptly changed.

"Y-You..." he stuttered.

Ye Guan explained, "A senior gave this to me, and she told me to come to the Shen Clan to find her the moment I arrived here."

The old man bowed respectfully and said, "Young Lord, please follow me!"

The old man turned around and waved his sleeve.

A shining door appeared, and Ye Guan sighed in relief. Fortunately, the jade pendant ended up being useful. Otherwise, he would have no idea where to go if the Shen Clan had outright refused him.

Ye Guan followed the old man to a great hall.

The great hall was three thousand meters tall, and it gave off a magnificent and imposing aura. Its vastness made Ye Guan feel small and insignificant.

So this is what a great clan looks like... Ye Guan sighed in awe.

A guard clad in gold armor was standing in front of the great hall. Ye Guan was stupefied to find that the guard's aura was deep and inscrutable. He reckoned that the guard was at least a Space Annihilation Realm powerhouse.

Ye Guan had to admit that he didn't expect to see a Space Annihilation Realm powerhouse working as a mere guard.

Soon, the old man brought Ye Guan into the great hall.

Ye Guan discovered that the great hall was more spacious inside. The interior was luxurious and resplendent, and it looked like it was a great hall of immortals.

Ye Guan also discovered that the spiritual energy in the air within the great hall was extremely thick and dense. It was at least thicker than the spiritual energy that could be found within the confines of the Upper Realm's Guanxuan Academy. The spiritual energy here was purer as well.

Needless to say, Ye Guan would profit greatly if he received permission to cultivate here.

The old man bowed slightly toward Ye Guan.

“Young Lord, please wait here,” said the old man before turning around to leave.

Ye Guan looked around and muttered, “Master Pagoda, just how much money did they spend to build this great hall? If I had as much money as them, I would save it in the Immortal Treasures Pavilion to earn interest from it every year. I would definitely live a comfortable life for a long time with the interest alone!”

Little Pagoda didn’t even bother to reply.

Soon, a young man and a young woman walked into the great hall. The young man was handsome, and he was wearing a brocade robe. However, he was exuding frigid air.

Meanwhile, the young woman was wearing a white dress. Her hands were behind her back, and they were holding an ancient scroll. She was extremely beautiful, and she was smiling warmly as she walked into the great hall.

The two of them approached Ye Guan.

“How do we address you?” asked the young man.

“My name is Ye Guan, and you may address me as you like,” replied Ye Guan.

The young man frowned. “Ye Guan? The champion of the Upper Realm’s martial contest?”

Ye Guan nodded.

The young man asked, “You killed two True Dragons, right?”

Ye Guan nodded once again.

The young man stared at him and asked, "Did you come here to join our Shen Clan?"

Ye Guan nodded for the third time.

The young man said, "Ancestor is currently in the Guanxuan Universe. You can wait here until she returns. Your admission to the Shen Clan depends on Ancestor, I—"

Roaaar!

A terrifying dragon roar echoed somewhere far away.

Ye Guan's face darkened.

The roar definitely belonged to a dragon of the True Dragon Clan!

The young man frowned. He turned around, and an old man appeared in front of him. The old man bowed slightly and said, "Young Clan Leader, Ao Meng from the True Dragon Clan has arrived, and he wants to meet you."

Ao Meng! The young man stared deeply at Ye Guan for quite a while before walking out of the great hall.

The young woman smiled at Ye Guan and said, "I heard that you killed An Mu."

Ye Guan nodded.

The young woman continued. "That's amazing! The Young Clan Leader of the True Dragon Clan recruited An Mu, so a True Dragon had to have been protecting him, but you still managed to kill him. Your sword must be really strong."

Ye Guan remained calm as he replied, "It was a fluke."

The young woman chuckled and said, "My name is Jian An. Young Lord Ye, the jade pendant you brought with you is from Ancestor, so you're an extremely important person to her. Unfortunately, you have to leave right now."

Ye Guan frowned and pointed out. "Is it because that young man earlier will hand me over to the True Dragon Clan?"

Jian An nodded and explained, "He's my brother; his name is Jian Ao. He's currently in charge of the Shen Clan. I know him very well. He doesn't really care about the jade pendant, and I think he won't offend the True Dragon Clan for the sake of Ancestor's jade pendant."

"I think he's going to hand you over to the True Dragon Clan in an effort to maintain an amicable relationship with them."

Ye Guan was silent.

Rumble!

Ten powerful auras abruptly descended upon the great hall.

Ye Guan's face turned ugly. It seemed that he had severely underestimated the True Dragon Clan's influence on the Zhongtu Divine Continent!

"Come with me!" Jian An cried out to him, but she didn't bother to wait for Ye Guan's reply; she dragged him by the hem of his clothes and waved her sleeve.

A teleportation array came to life and flickered beneath their feet.

Just as they were about to disappear, Ye Guan saw Ao Meng and Jian Ao rushing into the great hall. However, it was already too late for Jian Ao to intervene.

Ye Guan and Jian An vanished right in front of his eyes. Jian Ao's expression turned ugly.

Ao Meng's expression was gloomy, and he directed a questioning look at Jian Ao.

Jian Ao hurriedly said, "I have no idea why she did that!"

There was a moment of silence between them before Ao Meng said, "Young Clan Leader, our True Dragon Clan must kill Ye Guan by any means necessary. I'm sure you're aware of the reason why we have to kill him.

"We have always respected the Shen Clan, and we have always valued our relationship. I don't want to ruin the relationship between our clans."

"I will give you an explanation as soon as I can," said Jian Ao. "Please do not hurt my sister while you're chasing after Ye Guan. Our ancestor values her a lot, so if even a strand of her hair goes missing, there will never be peace between our clans!"

Ao Meng stared contemptuously at Jian Ao before turning around to leave.

Moments after Ao Meng's departure, Jian Ao shouted, "Someone come here!"

An old man appeared behind Jian Ao.

Jian Ao turned around and said, "Gather ten guards. I want them to find Jian An and protect her at all costs!"

"Understood!" the old man replied with a slight nod. Then, he turned around to leave and carry out Jian Ao's orders.

...

A rift in space opened in the sea of clouds, and Ye Guan and Jian An walked out of the rift.

Jian An smiled and said, "We're safe for now!"

Ye Guan stared warily at Jian An and asked her, "Why did you do that?"

Jian An repeatedly blinked before replying, "I did it for my brother and for my Shen Clan!"

Ye Guan frowned in confusion. "What do you mean?" he asked.

Jian An chuckled and explained, "I'm sure Ancestor gave you her jade pendant because you're extraordinary, and I think you've already proven yourself by staying alive for so long after killing An Mu and that True Dragon.

"If my Shen Clan decided to hand you over to the True Dragon Clan, we would be painting Ancestor in a bad light. The Shen Clan would suffer greatly from such a decision, and my brother would probably die."

"I think you're overthinking this..." muttered Ye Guan.

Jian An chortled and said, "Perhaps... However, it is undeniable that you're still alive after killing An Mu and a True Dragon. It is pretty impressive. Anyway, I understand Ancestor's personality, and she won't give away her jade pendant so easily."

"The reason doesn't matter anymore. You helped me, so I would like to thank you, Lady Jian An. I hope we'll see each other again," said Ye Guan. He then turned around to leave.

"Wait!" Jian An called out.

Ye Guan turned around to face her.

Jian An smiled and said, "Ancestor is in the faraway Guanxuan Universe, and she won't be coming back for a while. The two of us will be in danger if I return right now because the True Dragon Clan will definitely try to get an answer out of me about your whereabouts."

Ye Guan wordlessly stared at her.

"Let's go to the Daoist Sect!" Jian An suggested.

Ye Guan lifted an eyebrow and asked, "Daoist Sect?"

Jian An nodded and said, "You are an extraordinary talent, but I can confidently tell you that the six great clans will not accept you.

"However, it's not because they're afraid of the True Dragon Clan. Anyway, I'm sure you know what I'm trying to say here, right?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes. I'm not worthy of such a sacrifice."

Jian An said, "Indeed. The six great clans think that it's not worth offending the True Dragon Clan for your sake."

Ye Guan stared deeply at Jian An.

"There's another reason you rescued me, and you still haven't told me about it," said Ye Guan.

Jian An blinked innocently and asked, "What is it?"

Ye Guan was calm as he said, "You're afraid of accepting me into your clan because it would mean fighting the True Dragon Clan for my sake. You also don't think that I'm worth offending the True Dragon Clan."

A bewildered light flashed in Jian An's eyes.

"It seems that you're quite smart as well, Young Lord Ye. I have truly underestimated you!" she said.

"I understand why you did what you did, and I'm grateful for your help. Rest assured, I will not visit the Shen Clan anymore and become a burden to your clan," said Ye Guan before turning around to leave.

"Young Lord Ye, wait!" Jian An exclaimed.

Ye Guan turned around to look at her once more.

Jian An chuckled and said, "Young Lord Ye, I was sincere when I told you about how we should go to the Daoist Sect. Let me explain, and you'll understand.

"The Daoist Sect used to be extremely powerful, and there's a blood feud between them and the True Dragon Clan. You know the saying—the enemy of my enemy is my friend, right?"

"I understand," said Ye Guan. He nodded at Jian An before turning around and finally leaving the sea of clouds.

Jian An stared calmly at the empty space where Ye Guan once stood. Moments later, Jian Ao appeared with a bunch of powerful guards behind him. He immediately sighed in relief upon seeing that Jian An was safe and without any injuries.

Jian Ao approached her and said, "You shouldn't have let him go."

Jian An merely chuckled at him. "Young Lord Ye is indeed an extraordinary talent. It's a pity..." Jian An muttered while shaking her head.

Rumble!

The space in front of them was abruptly torn open, and the illusory figure of a woman walked out of the rift. The illusory figure belonged to Jian Zizai—the Shen Clan’s ancestor.

The two siblings hurriedly bowed and greeted her. “Ancestor!”

Jian Zizai swept her gaze across the two of them, and her gaze eventually landed on Jian Ao.

“From now on, you are no longer the Young Clan Leader of my Shen Clan. You will be imprisoned for a hundred years, and you are not allowed to take even a single step outside the Shen Clan until you’ve served your time.”

Jian Ao’s eyes widened in shock, and he shouted, “Ancestor!”

Jian Zizai indifferently said, “Take him away!”

The guards behind Jian Ao took him away, leaving Jian Zizai and Jian An alone in the sea of clouds.

Jian Zizai’s expression was complicated as she stared at Jian An.

“I have had high expectations of you...” Jian Zizai shook her head and said, “I order you to a hundred years of closed-door cultivation, and you are not allowed to leave the Shen Clan until you’ve served your time.

“I’ll soon look for the next Young Clan Leader within the Shen Clan!”

Jian An was beyond pallid, and her voice was trembling as she cried out, “Why, Ancestor, why? Everything I’ve done was for the sake of the Shen Clan!”

Jian Zizai’s expression remained unchanging as she spat indifferently, “Leave!”

Jian An clenched her fists. “I can’t accept this... this is unfair!”

Jian Zizai stared deeply at Jian An and said sternly, "I'm his aunt!"

Jian An froze, and she stood rooted in place for quite a while before she retorted, "Does that really matter? He's still not a member of our Shen Clan—he's not one of us. He's not worth offending the True Dragon Clan at all!"

Jian Zizai glared at Jian An and asked, "Do you know who my younger brother is?"

Jian An was puzzled.

"Who?" she asked.

Jian Zizai calmly replied, "My younger brother is the Sword Master!"

Jian An's mind went blank, and she looked like a lightning bolt had just struck her as she stood there staring blankly into space. Aunt... Guanxuan Academy... Young Leader...

Chapter 55: We Can't Let Him Escape!

Jian Zizai shook her head slightly as she stared at Jian An's pale face. "Even if he's not the Young Leader of the Guanxuan Academy, I will still protect him because his father thinks of me as his sister."

With that, Jian Zizai walked away, leaving a frozen Jian An.

Jian An scoffed meekly at herself after realizing her mistake. I underestimated the value of that jade pendant!

Life was like a game of chess—one wrong move could determine the game.

Ye Guan escaped as fast as he could, but a silhouette still managed to catch up to him. The silhouette belonged to none other than Jian Zizai.

Startled, Ye Guan asked, "Senior?"

Jian Zizai smiled and said, "My body is in Guanyuan Universe. This is just my avatar. Anyway, come with me. We're going to the Shen Clan!"

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "There's no need for that, Senior."

Jian Zizai asked, "Are you angry?"

Ye Guan shook his head again and replied, "I'm not angry."

"I already punished them," said Jian Zizai.

Ye Guan was startled. "Senior, you didn't have to punish Miss Jian An! What she had done was for the sake of the Shen Clan. She did not do anything wrong. In addition, I wouldn't have been able to leave the Shen Clan's hall if it hadn't been for her."

Jian Zizai was silent for quite a while before she said, "How about you come with me, then?"

Ye Guan smiled and replied, "Senior, there's really no need for that, and I have already decided where to go."

He was truly not angry at the Shen Clan. He simply didn't want the Shen Clan to become enemies with the True Dragon Clan for his sake.

Jian Zizai's voice deepened as she asked, "Are you going by yourself?"

Ye Guan's answer came a bit late.

"I have Master Pagoda with me," he said. He didn't bother hiding Master Pagoda's existence because Ye Guan reckoned that Jian Zizai was already aware of Master Pagoda's existence.

Jian Zizai was slightly surprised by Ye Guan's honesty. She hesitated for a while before she nodded and said, "All right, if that is your wish, then so be it."

Master Pagoda was with Ye Guan, so Jian Zizai's worries were assuaged. Her body was currently in Guanyuan Universe, and her avatar couldn't really stop the True Dragon Clan from doing what they wanted to do.

Jian Zizai decided to respect Ye Guan's wish and left.

Ye Guan bowed slightly in the direction where she disappeared.

"Farewell, Senior," he muttered.

Moments later, Jian Zizai turned around and stared longingly at Ye Guan's departing back. She looked up and muttered, "Brother... what happened to you in that world?"

...

Ye Guan soon arrived at the Teleportation Area.

The old hunchback squinted at Ye Guan and asked, "What are you trying to do here?"

Ye Guan smiled and said, "Senior, I want to go to the Daoist Sect!"

The old hunchback couldn't help but ask, "Are you trying to visit every power that exists here?"

Ye Guan chuckled, but he didn't reply. He simply handed over another storage ring to the old hunchback.

The old hunchback accepted the storage ring and pointed at a teleportation array.

"Take that one," he said.

Ye Guan walked toward the teleportation array.

The old hunchback suddenly muttered, "The True Dragon Clan is chasing you."

Ye Guan was surprised to hear that, but he simply nodded and muttered, "Yes..."

The old hunchback stared deeply at Ye Guan before saying, "Give me one gold spiritual crystal, and I'll tell them that you went to the Undying Clan."

Ye Guan blinked in surprise.

"One gold spiritual crystal? Is that enough?" he asked.

The old hunchback calmly replied, "It's enough."

Ye Guan hurriedly handed over a gold spiritual crystal and bowed. "Thank you, Senior!"

The old hunchback nodded and said, "Take care!"

Ye Guan nodded, and the teleportation array activated, whisking him away.

Moments later, Ao Meng arrived at the Teleportation Area.

It wasn't strange that he was here because the Teleportation Area was a teleportation hub that one could use to teleport to the teleportation arrays of the many different great clans and powers.

Ao Meng flipped his palm over, and a storage ring flew toward the old hunchback. The storage ring contained twenty thousand gold spiritual crystals.

However, the old hunchback demanded. "One hundred thousand."

Ao Meng's eyes narrowed, and he asked coldly, "Why don't you just rob me?"

The old hunchback casually asked, "Are you going to give it to me or not?"

A cold light flashed in Ao Meng's eyes, but the old hunchback ignored him.

I'm from the Immortal Treasures Pavillion, so this is how things should be!

Ao Meng flipped his palm over once more and sent another storage ring to the old hunchback. The storage ring contained a hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals.

"He went to the Undying Clan," said the old hunchback.

Ao Meng walked toward the teleportation array connected to the Undying Clan.

He made a sidelong glance at the old hunchback. "He went to the Undying Clan again?" he asked with a frown.

The old hunchback nodded. "Yes."

Ao Meng was silent for quite a while before he spat coldly, "Accidents are inevitable, so you better be careful."

With that, Ao Meng was whisked away by the teleportation array.

"What an annoying man!" the old hunchback scoffed before turning around to leave as well.

...

Ye Guan found himself on the foot of a mountain. A long staircase made out of limestone was in front of him. Ye Guan craned his neck to look at the summit, and he saw the silhouette of a wooden door.

Ye Guan walked up the staircase, and he decided to talk to Little Pagoda on his way to the summit.

"Master Pagoda, do you know anything about the Daoist Sect?" he asked.

Little Pagoda replied, "I know just a bit."

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued.

"I heard that the Daoist Sect's history is deep, and it was apparently founded even before the Guanxuan Academy was founded."

Little Pagoda replied, "That's true, the Daoist Sect was the protector of this universe before the Guanxuan Academy took over."

Ye Guan blinked in surprise. "The Guanxuan Academy took over?"

Little Pagoda said, "Yes."

Ye Guan was still puzzled, so he asked, "Isn't it normal to annihilate the roots of an organization before taking over them? Why is the Daoist Sect still standing?"

Little Pagoda answered, "The Sword Master was once a member of the Daoist Sect, so he decided not to annihilate the Daoist Sect after establishing order once more."

Ye Guan nodded. "It seems that the Sword Master is quite open-minded."

Little Pagoda said, "The Daoist Sect has fallen from grace, but they still have a few powerhouses. It would be great if you become a member of the Daoist Sect."

Ye Guan nodded and picked up his pace.

Meanwhile, the mysterious voice inside the pagoda asked, "Are you sure you're okay with him joining the Daoist Sect?"

"Is there a problem?" asked Little Pagoda.

The mysterious voice said, "No, I was just wondering. Aren't you worried?"

"The Daoist Sect had done many great things for this universe back then. Young Master has acknowledged them as well, and it was because of him that the Daoist Sect is still alive. If Ye Guan manages to revive the Daoist Sect..." Little Pagoda trailed off before continuing. "It'll be his destiny..."

Meanwhile, Ye Guan finally arrived at the wooden door on the summit.

He was speechless at the wooden door's state. The wooden door was weathered and dilapidated. The words—Daoist Sect—emblazoned on the door had faded away to the extent of illegibility.

The wooden door was definitely being neglected, and it was proven by the spider webs on its hinges. The Daoist Sect hadn't lost just its power, but it was also in a pitiful state.

Ye Guan was taken aback, and he started thinking about walking away. They're so pitiful. I don't think it's a good idea to bring them trouble.

Ye Guan fell into deep contemplation, and he belatedly noticed the approach of a girl in a long green skirt. The girl's black hair was so lengthy that it seemed like a lustrous veil that fell to her waist.

The soft chime of the bell she was wearing on her bracelet echoed with her every step, and she was carrying a bamboo basket filled with vegetables and fruits.

Ye Guan finally noticed her, and the two of them stared at each other.

Ye Guan was drawn in by her pure eyes and smile.

The girl walked toward Ye Guan and blinked.

"Who are you?" she asked without avoiding Ye Guan's gaze.

Ye Guan stammered, "M-My name is Ye Guan, and I'm here to—"

The girl interrupted. "Are you here to join the Daoist Sect?"

Ye Guan nodded.

The girl's eyes lit up. She grabbed Ye Guan's hand and led him inside. It looked like there was a spring in her steps as she excitedly shouted, "Master! Someone wants to join our sect! Hurry up and come here! We can't let him escape!"

Ye Guan froze in disbelief.

Chapter 56: I Was Just Bragging

Just like that, Ye Guan was dragged into a dilapidated hall not too far away from the wooden door. He was thinking about running away because the Daoist Sect's straits were dire, and he didn't want to bring them trouble.

A monk walked out from the dilapidated hall.

The monk's long beard was like a curtain, and his big belly was exposed. He looked stern, but he was enthusiastically sinking his teeth into a succulent-looking chicken leg, sending the juices of the chicken flying everywhere.

Ye Guan's heart fell slightly at the sight. I'm in a daoist sect, right? Why is there a Buddhist monk here? This is weird...

The girl dragged Ye Guan in front of the monk and exclaimed, "Master, he wants to join our sect!"

Ye Guan remained silent.

The monk examined him and asked, "Are you a swordsman?"

Ye Guan's heart jumped, and he asked, "How did you know?"

The monk calmly answered, "Unfortunately, you have a karmic hindrance, so we cannot accept you."

The monk turned around and left.

"Master!" The girl cried out and grabbed the monk. She sounded desperate as she asked, "We hardly get visitors here, why don't you just let him in?"

The monk sighed helplessly. "He has a ton of karmic hindrance. If I accept him, it will be difficult for the two of us to accumulate good karma!"

The girl turned to look at Ye Guan and remarked, "I think he's handsome."

Her frankness rendered both Ye Guan and the monk speechless.

Rumble!

The sky above the Daoist Sect was suddenly torn open, and a terrifying aura descended.

The monk's eyes narrowed. "A True Dragon!"

Ye Guan frowned while staring at the middle-aged man who stepped out from the rift in space. The middle-aged man was Ao Meng, and his expression was dark.

His arrival was delayed because of the old hunchback's misdirection. Damn it! If that old man weren't from the Immortal Treasures Pavillion, I would have already beheaded him!

Ye Guan glared at Ao Meng. He's fast...

Ao Meng glared at Ye Guan as well.

However, someone snorted and interrupted the standoff. The monk said, "A True Dragon Clan member... Did your leader fail to tell you that members of the True Dragon Clan are banned from entering the Daoist Realm?"

Ao Meng turned to look at the monk, and he cried out. "Monk Dao!"

Monk Dao was one of the twelve strongest elites of the Zhongtu Divine Continent.

The twelve strongest elites were celebrated figures in the continent.

Ao Meng couldn't afford to offend any of them, so he hurriedly explained, "Monk Dao, my clan must obtain the head of this man, so I—"

"Get lost!" Monk Dao bellowed. A powerful energy flew toward Ao Meng, and it folded space into multiple layers, imprisoning Ao Meng in an intricate layer of space reminiscent of spider webs.

Ao Meng couldn't escape the spider web of space. His flesh was lacerated as he flew a few hundred meters away. Blood relentlessly poured out of his gaping wounds.

Ye Guan was stupefied. Holy shit? How is he so strong?

Ao Meng's heart jumped.

He composed himself and immediately ran away afterward.

Monk Dao stared deeply at Ye Guan and asked, "There's a conflict between you and the True Dragon Clan?"

Ye Guan nodded and confessed, "We're sworn enemies."

Monk Dao's eyes narrowed, and he asked, "Sworn enemies?"

Ye Guan explained, "I killed a True Dragon."

"You killed a True Dragon?" Monk Dao frowned, but his eyes shot wide open upon realizing something. "You're Ye Guan from the Lower Realm? You're the champion of the Upper Realm's martial contest?"

Ye Guan was surprised. "Am I that famous?"

Monk Dao chuckled and said, "Aside from killing the Young Clan Leader of the True Dragon Clan, you also killed his contractor—An Mu. You know An Mu belongs to the An Clan, right?"

Ye Guan nodded.

Monk Dao shook his head and said, "I'm not afraid of the True Dragon Clan, but I can't take on the An Clan. They have two martial goddesses, and I cannot defeat either of them, so why don't you try going somewhere else?"

"I'm good at fighting," said Ye Guan.

Monk Dao returned to munching on his chicken leg and scoffed, "Good at fighting? Is that useful? In this era, you need a great backer, young man."

Ye Guan was silent.

Eventually, he shattered the ice and said, "Senior, you're only an individual, but you're strong enough to look down on the True Dragon Clan..."

"Some people need to borrow the power of their backgrounds to look down on others, while some are strong enough to look down on just about anyone without borrowing anyone else's power.

"I believe that you're the latter, and I want to become like you! I want power that belongs to me alone!"

A power that belongs to him alone... Monk Dao smirked and said, "You have a glib tongue, but the reality is cruel and cold."

Ye Guan said in a deep voice, "I heard that the Destiny Contest is about to begin. I want to become the champion of the Destiny Contest to revive the Daoist Sect."

Monk Dao's eyes narrowed. "Revive the Daoist Sect? Young man, it seems that you have no idea about the Destiny Contest's terrors. An exceptional talent from the Undying Clan has just awakened the

Undying Bloodline, and they have also awakened the Mad Demon Bloodline that the Sword Master had left behind...

"I've also heard about someone with A Physique—"

Ye Guan interrupted. "I want to be the champion, and I will be the champion."

Monk Dao stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, "I heard that the chosen one has appeared in the Milky Way. Do you understand what the chosen one means?"

"The Sword Master was the chosen one of his generation, and the chosen one of every generation so far became unrivaled cultivators of their generation! Do you understand what I'm talking about?"

Ye Guan clenched his fists and said, "Nothing is predetermined in this universe. I believe that I'm a dark horse, and I don't believe in destiny. I believe in nothing else but myself."

The girl stared at Ye Guan and blinked. Ye Guan's words had left her speechless.

Monk Dao gnawed at his chicken leg for quite a while before saying, "Wait here."

Monk Dao glanced at the girl and said, "You, come with me."

The two disappeared into the hall, leaving Ye Guan standing outside by himself in silence.

Little Pagoda suddenly asked, "Are you truly confident about becoming the champion?"

"Of course not," said Ye Guan. He could feel Little Pagoda's confusion, so he explained, "I was just bragging. Do you really think that he'll accept me here if I didn't brag?"

Meanwhile, the girl turned to look at Monk Dao and asked, "Master, do you like him?"

Monk Dao nodded and said, "To be honest, I like him. His personality is great, and he's talented as well. He's definitely a talent worthy of nurturing. He's so talented that I think our ancestors sent him here to bless us."

The girl nodded and asked, "Master, are you worried about the True Dragon Clan and the An Clan?"

Monk Dao nodded.

The girl fell into deep contemplation. She soon emerged from her thoughts and asked, "Master, if he weren't wanted by the True Dragon Clan and the An Clan, would he have come here and expressed his desire to join our sect?"

Monk Dao shook his head and said, "No, the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy would have already opened its doors to him if he weren't wanted by the True Dragon Clan and the An Clan.

"The academy is worried about the True Dragon Clan and the An Clan, and I think that is why they still haven't invited him.

"However, it's not just the Zhongtu Divine Continent's Guanxuan Academy, the six great clans also refused to accommodate him—" Monk Dao suddenly cried out, "Ah!"

Ye Guan was an extraordinary talent, so would he really choose to go to a decrepit sect if he had somewhere else to go?

Monk Dao went silent and fell into deep contemplation. Soon, he made a sidelong glance at the girl and asked, "What do you think of him?"

The girl answered frankly, "I think he's handsome."

Monk Dao scoffed, "I asked you about what you think of him as a person..."

The girl blinked and replied, "Well... he's handsome, so I think he's a good person."

Monk Dao didn't know what to say.

Chapter 57: Tragic Background

The girl chuckled and said, "Master, I think you can take him in."

Monk Dao asked, "What do you mean?"

The girl sounded serious as she said, "What if he becomes the champion of the DestinyContest?"

Monk Dao contemplated it silently.

"Well, does it really matter? So what if he doesn't end up becoming the champion? Will that make him less of a talent?" added the girl.

Monk Dao replied, "I'm not afraid of the True Dragon Clan, but the An Clan... I can't handle them. That bastard has accumulated a lot of karmic hindrance as well, and I'm worried about it!"

The girl smiled and said, "I think he's our best shot at reviving our Daoist Sect, Master. However, if you want to live your final years in peace, we can just make him leave."

Monk Dao thought about it for quite a while before he turned around and glanced at the spirit tablet on the incense table.

Afterward, he walked out of the hall.

Monk Dao stared deeply at Ye Guan.

“From now on, you’re one of our Daoist Sect members!” he said.

Ye Guan bowed deeply and said, “Greetings, Master!”

Monk Dao chuckled and said, “There’s still a year before the Destiny Contest begins. In other words, you only have a year remaining.”

Ye Guan nodded and responded, “I don’t need anything else but spiritual crystals!”

Monk Dao shook his head and replied, “We don’t have spiritual crystals...”

Ye Guan hesitated before asking, “Just give me some, please?”

Monk Dao shook his head again and said, “We really don’t have any spiritual crystals.”

Ye Guan was speechless.

Monk Dao explained, “I can guide you in your cultivation, but I have nothing else to offer. It’s not that I’m being petty, but the Daoist Sect did not have even a single grain of rice when I took over it, not to mention spiritual crystals!”

“Ah, there’s no residence available for you to take, so you have to build your own residence,” said Monk Dao. He waved his hand dismissively and added, “This hall is my residence, so visit me if you need anything.”

Monk Dao turned around and left, leaving a speechless Ye Guan in his wake.

The girl who had dragged Ye Guan earlier walked over to him and smiled.

“It’s nice to meet you, Junior Disciple Ye. My name is Nanling Yiyi!” she said.

Ye Guan hesitated, but he eventually greeted her. "It's nice to meet you, Senior Disciple Yiyi!"

Nanling Yiyi nodded and said, "You have to build your own residence, but night will fall upon us soon, so you should do it tomorrow."

Ye Guan nodded. "Okay."

"All right, I'm going to make dinner," Nanling Yiyi said before leaving with her bamboo basket.

Left alone, Ye Guan looked around. The Daoist Sect's state was worse than he thought.

"Master Pagoda, were they really powerful and prosperous in the past?"

Little Pagoda replied, "Yes."

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "Then, how did they fall to such a state? I think even a thief would feel bad about stealing from them!"

Little Pagoda didn't reply.

Ye Guan could only sigh. He wasn't complaining about the environment, but he felt like doing something about it. After all, he had already become a sect member of the Daoist Sect.

In the end, Ye Guan could only sit cross-legged and cultivate.

Ye Guan winced in pain at the number of gold spiritual crystals he had to burn to cultivate.

He only had 470,000 gold spiritual crystals remaining. It seemed like a lot, but it wasn't the case for Ye Guan because his gold spiritual crystal expenditure would always be five digits in every cultivation session.

The length of his cultivation session also influenced the number of gold spiritual crystals he had to burn.

To make matters worse, he was only spending gold spiritual crystals, so it was only a matter of time before he ran out of resources. He estimated that he would run out of gold spiritual crystals in half a month if he were to cultivate every day.

In other words, Ye Guan had to think of ways to earn gold spiritual crystals!

Ye Guan emptied his mind and focused on absorbing the spiritual energy within the gold spiritual crystals.

An unknown amount of time passed. Ye Guan opened his eyes upon hearing footsteps, and he saw Nanling Yiyi walking toward him.

Nanling Yiyi smiled at him and said, "Junior Disciple Ye, it's dinner time!"

"All right." Ye Guan nodded. He stood up, and the two of them started walking toward the great hall. The great hall looked dilapidated outside, but it turned out that the interior was dilapidated as well.

Their dinner table was just an ordinary wooden table with a missing leg.

However, the dinner was sumptuous. There were five dishes and a pot of soup!

"Don't stand on occasion, dig in, dig in!" said Monk Dao before digging in himself.

Ye Guan followed suit.

After a while, Monk Dao broke the silence and asked, “Little Guan, you’re a swordsman, so you must have a Sword Dao Master. Who is your master?”

“I don’t know her name, but she likes to wear a plain skirt, so I call her Plain-Skirt Sister!” replied Ye Guan.

A plain skirt? Monk Dao frowned slightly. He couldn’t think of an expert with a habit of wearing a plain dress.

“How strong is she?” asked Monk Dao.

Ye Guan shook her head and replied, “She’s a Great Sword Immortal.”

A Great Sword Immortal! Monk Dao stared deeply at Ye Guan. He then nodded without asking any more questions. A Great Sword Immortal would be one of Zhongtu Divine Continent’s top figures.

Monk Dao didn’t ask any more questions because he knew that everyone had their own secrets to keep.

Nanling Yiyi asked, “Junior Disciple Ye, can you control your sword with your mind?”

Ye Guan nodded. “Yes, but I can’t do it for a long time. I lack the profound energy to sustain it.”

Nanling Yiyi smiled and said, “Nice! We can visit Yong City together using Sword Travel!”

“Yong City?” asked Ye Guan.

Nanling Yiyi nodded and explained, “Our Daoist Realm is very remote, and the closest city to us is Yong City, but it’s still tens of thousands of kilometers away.

“We don’t have our own teleportation array, so I have to fly there by myself every time I want to visit the city, it’s really exhausting!”

Ye Guan nodded. "I can bring you there the next time you want to visit the city."

Nanling Yiyi grinned and said, "All right!"

After dinner, Ye Guan walked out of the great hall and sat on the stone steps.

He took out his Path Sword and swept his fingers across it. He could feel Little Jia's soul in the sword.

Little Jia! Undying Clan! Ye Guan closed his eyes. It would be a foolish endeavor for him to go there and ask for the Sword Master's sword. He had to find an opportunity to take the sword away.

Ye Guan's heart started to ache as he stared at the Path Sword in his hand.

He should have died back then rather than Little Jia.

He gripped the sword tightly and vowed. "Master Pagoda, I'm going to massacre the True Dragon Clan!"

Little Pagoda didn't say anything.

A cold glint flashed in Ye Guan's eyes as he looked at the sky and muttered, "I know I shouldn't put the cart before the horse, but—"

Nanling Yiyi suddenly appeared next to Ye Guan.

"Am I disturbing you?" she asked with a smile.

Ye Guan put his Path Sword away and shook his head.

Nanling Yiyi sat next to him and said, "It feels great to have someone else here..."

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued. "Has it only been you and Master here over the years?"

Nanling Yiyi nodded. "Yes..."

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at her and asked, "What about your family?"

Nanling Yiyi was silent.

Ye Guan hurriedly said, "I'm sorry for asking..."

Nanling Yiyi smiled and replied, "It's not what you think, they're still alive. Actually, I'm from the Nanling Clan."

Nanling Clan! Ye Guan was stupefied.

The Nanling Clan was one of the six grand clans of Zhongtu Divine Continent.

Nanling Yiyi's smile turned sheepish. "Surprised?"

Ye Guan nodded.

Little Pagoda in the tiny pagoda muttered to himself, "The Nanling Clan... she's the descendant of that person..."

Meanwhile, Nanling Yiyi added, "No, actually I'm just an illegitimate daughter of the Nanling Clan..."

Ye Guan froze.

Nanling Yiyi stopped her hair from fluttering in the wind.

“My mother was just a commoner, but she got acquainted with the Nanling Clan’s Young Clan Leader, and she eventually gave birth to me. However, the grand clans are very particular when it comes to their descendants’ partners. There was no way they would have accepted their marriage, so...” Nanling Yiyi trailed off.

She shook her head and chuckled before continuing. “My mother and I were never acknowledged by the Nanling Clan.

”I thought my biological father would acknowledge my mother once he became the Clan Leader of the Nanling Clan, but he never visited us until Mother passed away.

”And that was when I realized that he had already forgotten us.”

Ye Guan didn’t know what to say.

Nanling Yiyi turned to look at him. She smiled and asked, “You won’t look down on me because of my background, right?”

Ye Guan immediately shook his head and muttered, “I’m an illegitimate child, too...”

Nanling Yiyi was taken aback. “Really?”

Ye Guan nodded. “Master Pagoda told me that I’m an illegitimate child of the Ye Clan. The Ye Clan is a great clan in the Guanyuan Universe, and my dad is just a son-in-law, so...”

Little Pagoda was at a loss for words.

“I’m sure they’ll accept you into the clan once they learn about your talent!” said Nanling Yiyi.

Ye Guan shook his head and sighed.

“No, they won’t accept me. Master Pagoda told me that the Ye Clan would do their best to kill me once they discovered my existence. After all, an illegitimate child really isn’t something to be proud of.”

Nanling Yiyi didn’t know what to say. She was aware that large clans were particularly mindful of their reputations.

Ye Guan lay on the stone steps and put both of his hands behind his head. “I’ll work hard. I can’t change my tragic background, but I can change my destiny.”

Nanling Yiyi’s gaze turned strange as she stared at Ye Guan. She couldn’t help but admit that confident men exuded a special kind of charm.

Silence blanketed the area before Nanling Yiyi shattered it by asking, “Junior Disciple Ye, do you hate your father?”

Ye Guan thought about it for a while. He soon shook his head and said, “No. I think he’s rather pitiful. He chose to live off a woman, even though he was still young and strong. I really can’t understand what he was thinking when he made that decision.”

Little Pagoda was rendered speechless.

A certain person didn’t know what to say.

The mysterious voice also spoke, “Little Pagoda, have you already thought about how you want to die?”

Little Pagoda didn’t respond.

Nanling Yiyi sighed while staring at Ye Guan.

“I used to think that I was pitiful, but it seems that you’re more pitiful than me.”

Chapter 58: Indescribable

Ye Guan sat outside the great hall for the whole night. On the morning of the second day, Ye Guan finally entered the great hall. No one knew what conversation he held with Monk Dao, but their conversation didn’t last that long.

Nanling Yiyi came to find him. She was wearing a long, light blue dress, which perfectly suited her graceful demeanor and bright eyes. Overall, she looked beautiful.

Nanling Yiyi smiled at Ye Guan and said, “Junior Disciple Ye, let’s go!”

They had agreed to head to Yong City to get some shopping done.

The Daoist Sect’s buildings were so dilapidated that Ye Guan had to do something about it. In the end, he decided to renovate the sect. Everything else could wait aside from the gate and the great hall.

Ye Guan nodded in response to Nanling Yiyi’s words.

He opened his palm and created a huge sword out of sword energy. The sword made out of sword energy descended in front of Nanling Yiyi.

Nanling Yiyi excitedly stood on the sword. Ye Guan followed suit, and he made sure to keep a certain distance between them. However, he could still smell Nanling Yiyi’s fragrance, which reminded him of refreshing, fresh herbs.

Ye Guan emptied his mind. With a thought, the sword made out of sword energy turned into a ray of light and soared into the sky. In the blink of an eye, the two found themselves above the clouds, and they were speeding into the horizon.

Nanling Yiyi looked down and saw how the mountains beneath them got smaller and smaller as their altitude got higher.

“You’re so fast, Junior Disciple Ye!” she exclaimed.

Ye Guan smiled, but he didn’t say anything in response.

The two quietly soared through the clouds. Yong City was far, but Sword Travel was faster than any means of travel, so they soon arrived at Yong City.

They descended outside the city and walked their way toward the city gates.

Nanling Yiyi’s face was flushed out of excitement.

“That was so fast and comfortable, Junior Disciple Ye!” she exclaimed.

Ye Guan smiled, but he didn’t say anything.

Nanling Yiyi sighed in awe and muttered, “It’s a shame that my physique isn’t that good. I can’t really do anything else aside from casting a few divine spells as a Divine Mage.”

Ye Guan was slightly puzzled. “Divine Mage?”

Nanling Yiyi nodded and explained, “Yup! I know quite a few spells, and I even know a few forbidden spells. However, I avoid fighting if I can afford to do so.”

Ye Guan wanted to know more, but a cacophony of noises interrupted them.

The two turned and saw that many people had surrounded one person—no, they had surrounded an individual who looked like a half-human, half-beast.

The individual was a woman, and she was covered in blood-red scales. Her limbs, her face, and the upper half of her body were covered in blood-red scales. She looked rather terrifying at first impression.

Everyone seemed to be shouting while pointing at her.

Nanling Yiyi muttered, "She's a half-demon!"

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at her and asked, "A half-demon?"

Nanling Yiyi nodded and explained, "A half-demon is an offspring of a human and a demonic beast. The union of a powerful demonic beast and a human powerhouse would result in a powerful offspring with demonic and human beast forms.

"But if only one of them is strong, their offspring would be a half-demon. Their offspring would be neither human nor demonic beast."

Ye Guan turned to look at the half-demon once again. She seemed to be about seventeen or eighteen years of age. Her demeanor was still quite immature, but her eyes were extremely cold.

Nanling Yiyi said in a soft voice, "The demon race does not acknowledge the existence of half-demons, and the same goes for mankind. The only outcome waiting for her is becoming a slave."

Ye Guan fell into deep contemplation.

Moments later, he wordlessly walked toward the half-demon.

Nanling Yiyi chased after him.

The crowd jeered and laughed at the caged half-demon.

Ye Guan examined her before turning to look at the fat man next to the cage.

“How much for her?” he asked.

The crowd’s eyes landed on Ye Guan.

The fat man examined Ye Guan from top to bottom. He chuckled and asked, “Young Lord, are you interested in buying her?”

Ye Guan wordlessly nodded.

The fat man exclaimed, “Ten thousand gold spiritual crystals!”

Ten thousand gold spiritual crystals! The crowd was stupefied at the exorbitant price.

However, Ye Guan didn’t waste his breath bargaining. He took out a storage ring and passed it to the fat man.

The fat man examined the storage ring and said, “She’s yours!”

With that, the fat man around turned to leave.

The half-demon’s gaze was fixed on the fat man’s departing figure.

Ye Guan swept his gaze across the crowd and shouted, “Leave! There’s nothing left to see here.”

The crowd obliged and dispersed. However, some of them cursed at the half-demon before finally leaving.

Ye Guan turned to look at the half-demon, and he saw her staring at him as well.

“You’re free to go,” said Ye Guan.

The half-demon scoffed and asked, “What games are you playing here, human?”

Ye Guan replied, “It’s useless to be indignant, angry, and hateful. If you want to change your destiny, you have to fight for it. There are two reasons why I saved you: firstly, I’m kind, and secondly, I can afford it.”

The half-demon stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, “I’m just an ordinary half-demon. Your kind actions today will not be repaid. If you think that I’m going to save you one day, I’m sorry, but that only happens in cliché novels.”

“Pffft!” Nanling Yiyi failed to suppress a chuckle.

Ye Guan was speechless as well.

However, he soon recovered and retorted, “I have a hobby of reading novels as well, but I don’t read the cliché novels that you read. I advise you to read them less often, but if you insist on reading them, you should not take them seriously.”

Ye Guan turned around and walked into the city with Nanling Yiyi.

The half-demon stared at Ye Guan’s departing figure. She stood in silence for quite a while before she turned around and ran toward a huge mountain. Soon, she disappeared into the dense forest leading up to the huge mountain.

“Master, are you sure that bastard still has any destiny aura?” she muttered into the air while running.

“Yes,” replied a voice. “It’s well hidden, but who do you think I am? Do you really think that I would be mistaken about something like that? In addition to destiny aura, he also has some other special kind of destiny.”

"Ha... you should have attacked him earlier, you could have killed him and devoured his destiny aura!"

"He did not seem like a bad person..." muttered the half-demon.

The voice hurriedly said, "There's no good or bad. In the Destiny Contest, there are only winners and losers. How are you going to compete with those heaven-defying talents in the upcoming Destiny Contest without devouring his destiny aura?"

The half-demon shook her head and said, "He spent money to save me. It's a bit too much for me to repay his kindness with malice."

The voice was silent for quite a while before it said, "I have experienced the vicissitudes of life, and I can assure you that your benevolence is ruthlessness to yourself. Your kindness will lead to your defeat."

The half-demon replied, "But killing him goes against my conscience and morals..."

The voice finally relented. "All right, fine! Indeed, we shouldn't do something so immoral."

The half-demon boisterously laughed and said, "Master, is it true that you once fought the Sword Master?"

The voice replied, "Of course! What, did you think I was just bragging when I told you about it? I was once extremely strong. You know the Boundless Master, right? He's like the Sword Master's sidekick, but that little bastard ran away upon seeing me!"

The half-demon shook her head. She wasn't familiar with the so-called Boundless Master whom the voice was talking about, so she changed the topic by asking, "The Sword Master... is he really that strong?"

The voice replied, "He's very strong, but if you're going to ask me if he's invincible, then I would say no. His little sister is invincible rather than him! Haaa, I'm getting scared just thinking about her..."

The half-demon was confused.

"His little sister?" she asked.

"Yes. His wife also kept on bringing that destructive little fellow with her everywhere. Damn it! It was outrageous, I tell you!"

The half-demon wanted to say something else, but the voice added, "Let's not talk about this matter anymore. Hurry up! Let's look for any remnant destiny aura and use the Entrapment Technique on it!"

"Master, who taught you the Entrapment Technique? It's a really devious technique," asked the half-demon.

The voice exclaimed, "I learned it from the Sword Master! He used that technique to cheat me. He's shameless! I'm telling you, he really is shameless, I've never met someone as shameless as him. Fuck! I can't even begin to describe just how shameless he is..."

The half-demon was rendered speechless.

Chapter 59: Do Less Evil

After entering the city, Ye Guan and Nanling Yiyi walked down the streets.

They bought many things, and Ye Guan paid for all of them because Nanling Yiyi was poor. She couldn't really be blamed because anyone with such a master would be poor as well.

The two soon found themselves in the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

The Immortal Treasures Pavilion sold so many things that one could buy almost anything here. They walked around the store once, and Ye Guan had already spent a total of fifty thousand gold spiritual crystals.

Ye Guan had to admit that his heart ached upon spending so much money.

The two soon got ready to leave after purchasing the items that caught their eyes.

They left the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

“Nanling Yiyi!” shouted someone from somewhere.

Ye Guan turned around and saw a group looking at them. The group was composed of three men and a woman.

The white-robed man at the helm of the group walked to Ye Guan and Nanling Yiyi.

The white-robed man smiled and said, “It really is you!”

Nanling Yiyi wordlessly stared at the white-robed man.

Ye Guan frowned. Are they here to cause trouble?

The white-robed man said, “Yiyi, I really didn’t expect to see you here.”

Nanling Yiyi nodded slightly and glanced at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan understood that she didn’t want to talk to them, so he turned around and was about to leave with her.

However, the white-robed man interrupted. “Brother Ye Guan, please wait.”

Ye Guan turned and cast a bewildered gaze at the white-robed man. “Do you know me?” he asked.

The white-robed man nodded and said, "I'm not sure if you know this, Brother Ye Guan, but the True Dragon Clan has put a bounty on your head. You've become a wanted man throughout the Zhongtu Divine Continent!"

A wanted man! Ye Guan frowned, but he didn't say anything. He knew that the True Dragon Clan would do something like that.

The white-robed man fell into contemplation before saying, "Brother Ye Guan, I would like to speak to my younger sister for a while if you don't mind."

Younger sister? Ye Guan was astonished. It turned out that the white-robed man was from the Nanling Clan. Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at Nanling Yiyi.

Sensing Ye Guan's gaze, Nanling Yiyi calmly asked, "What do you want from me, Nanling Ren?"

Nanling Ren said, "Yiyi, you should come home with me."

Nanling Yiyi shook her head.

Nanling Ren glanced at Ye Guan before looking back at Nanling Yiyi and saying, "Yiyi, I've heard that the True Dragon Clan is going to do something big. You'll be in grave danger at the Daoist Sect.

"It doesn't matter even if you don't want to return to the Nanling Clan; just stay clear of the Daoist Sect."

Nanling Yiyi shook her head resolutely. She turned to Ye Guan and said, "Let's go!"

Ye Guan nodded and left with her.

“Yiyi, wait!” shouted Nanling Ren. He walked over to Nanling Yiyi and extended a storage ring over to her. “I know that the Daoist Sect is struggling financially, so please accept this storage ring, Yiyi. The storage ring contains three million gold spiritual crystals. Please accept it.”

Nanling Yiyi was silent. Eventually, she shook her head once more before pulling Ye Guan’s arm and walking away with him.

Nanling Ren sighed and said, “Brother Ye Guan, the True Dragon Clan is about to do something big. Be careful!”

Ye Guan glanced at Nanling Ren before saying, “Thank you!”

With that, Ye Guan and Nanling Yiyi soon disappeared at the end of the street.

Nanling Ren looked down at the storage ring in his hand and sighed while shaking his head.

The man next to him said, “She’s just an illegitimate child, Big Brother. If she doesn’t want to return to the clan, so be it!”

Nanling Ren shook his head and said, “Don’t say that. Father hasn’t acknowledged her, but the blood of the Nanling Clan is still running through her veins. She’s still a blood relative.”

Nanling Ren turned to the corner where Ye Guan and Nanling Yi had disappeared before saying, “The younger generation shouldn’t have to suffer or take the blame for the older generation’s mistake. Father had done something wrong as well.”

No one dared to say anything in response. Nanling Ren was the only one who would dare to criticize the Clan Leader of the Nanling Clan. It wasn’t like he had the guts; it was all because Ancestor Nanling Han had declared him the Young Clan Leader.

His position as the next clan leader was extremely stable because of Ancestor Nanling Han’s backing.

Nanling Ren sighed in awe and remarked, "Brother Ye indeed has an extraordinary aura about him. He's truly a rare talent. If I were the Clan Leader of the Shen Clan or the Li Clan, I would have accepted him."

"Big Brother, he offended the True Dragon Clan, and he even killed someone from the An Clan," said one of the men. "Accepting him means offending the True Dragon Clan and the An Clan. He's indeed talented, but I don't think it's worth it to offend the True Dragon Clan and the An Clan for him."

Nanling Ren shook his head and said, "I had that thought in mind, but I'm starting to think otherwise now that I've met him."

The same man frowned in confusion and asked, "Why?"

Nanling Ren smiled and replied, "We're too focused on the An Clan and the True Dragon Clan that we ended up ignoring an important fact. It's the fact that he killed An Mu and a True Dragon!"

"An Mu was a cream-of-the-crop talent that the Committee of the Guanxuan Academy had selected to recruit for the Destiny Contest.

"He's one of the strongest talents not just on the Upper Realm but on the Zhongtu Divine Continent as well. He was also a True Dragon's contractor, and his True Dragon was the talented Young Clan Leader of the True Dragon Clan.

"However, they still died at Young Lord Ye's hands. Of course, Young Lord Ye's achievements aren't the only reason I think that he's worthy of being protected.

"I think the fact that Senior Dao had accepted him as a disciple is an important fact to consider as well. After all, Senior Dao is one of Zhongtu Divine Continent's Twelve Supreme Cultivators!"

Monk Dao!

The man went silent. Monk Dao was indeed a remarkable figure worthy of respect.

Monk Dao was the only remaining powerhouse of the Daoist Sect, but no one dared to underestimate the Daoist Sect because of his existence.

Nanling Ren continued. "There's no way Senior Dao is unaware of what Ye Guan had done, but he still decided to accept him as a disciple.

"I thought about it, and I came up with only two reasons why he accepted Ye Guan: one, he decided to accept Ye Guan as his disciple while he was drunk."

The other man shook his head and muttered, "That's absurd..."

Nanling Ren chuckled and said, "Indeed. In other words, the other possibility I had come up with should be the correct answer—Ye Guan is even stronger than we think. He's strong enough to move even Senior Dao's heart.

"Senior Dao must have been unable to resist the temptation and accepted Ye Guan as his disciple. If my assumption is right, Ye Guan will be the Daoist Sect's representative in the upcoming Destiny Contest."

Destiny Contest! The same man muttered, "The Destiny Contest? It's going to be difficult for him to make waves there."

Nanling Ren nodded and said, "I reckon that the Destiny Contest this time around will be the most difficult Destiny Contest so far."

"Big Brother, are you going to join the Destiny Contest?" asked the same man.

Nanling Ren shook his head and said, "I'm not strong enough to take part in the Destiny Contest, and no one in the Nanling Clan is strong enough, so we can only try to make smart decisions according to the situation, form more friendly relations with others and do less evil.

"I've read from the history books that clans were annihilated mostly because the clan had done many immoral and wicked deeds, which resulted in retribution."

Nanling Ren swept his gaze across the people behind him and added, "Our Nanling Clan is one of the six great clans, but we're insignificant in the grand scale of the universe. We must be careful in what we say, and we must avoid doing evil deeds."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Nanling Ren turned and looked at the end of the street.

"I hope they get past their upcoming trial..." he muttered.

...

Ye Guan and Nanling Yiyi hopped onto a sword and left Yong City.

Nanling Yiyi was silent as they flew above the clouds.

Ye Guan smiled and said, "Don't overthink it. If you don't want to return to the Nanling Clan, then don't do it."

Nanling Yiyi nodded and said, "The Daoist Sect is pretty good. I want to stay there."

Ye Guan chuckled, but he abruptly stopped laughing.

Nanling Yiyi glanced at him in confusion and asked, "What's wrong?"

Ye Guan turned to look behind him and smiled. "Are you not going to come out?"

Rumble!

The clouds parted, revealing a middle-aged man appeared. The middle-aged man was none other than Ao Meng!

Nanling Yiyi's expression changed.

Ye Guan remained calm, seemingly aware that this would happen.

Ao Meng frowned upon seeing Ye Guan's placid look.

His heart was soon gripped with unease. He was about to say something, but a terrifying aura suddenly locked in on him. Moments later, a hundred-meter-long saber light soared into the sky and flew toward him.

Ao Meng's face turned ugly as he roared, "You cunning bastard!"

Ao Meng didn't hesitate to transform into his true form upon sensing the saber light's terrifying power.

A three-hundred-meter-long True Dragon manifested in the clouds. The True Dragon was strong, but it wasn't strong enough to stop the saber light.

Slice!

"Awooooo!" Ao Meng wailed miserably. The saber light sliced through him, causing an immense amount of dragon blood to fall to the ground.

Ye Guan hurriedly flipped his palm over to take Ao Meng's storage ring, and he used another storage ring to store Ao Meng's corpse.

Nanling Yiyi stared agape. How powerful!

Monk Dao finally appeared in front of them, and he was holding a large steel saber.

A monk wielding a saber!

Ye Guan immediately showered Monk Dao with praise.

“Master is powerful and invincible!” he exclaimed.

Monk Dao stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, “Give me half of the dragon meat!”

However, Monk Dao realized that something was off and frowned.

Wait, I killed the dragon, so why should I split half of the dragon meat with this little bastard?

“Master,” Ye Guan said, “The members of the True Dragon Clan will soon come here, so I think we should hurry up and leave before anything else.”

Monk Dao replied, “I didn’t kill him the last time he came here because I didn’t want to completely ruin my relationship with the True Dragon Clan, but I just killed a high-ranking member of their clan. Do you know what that means?”

Ye Guan’s answer came a bit late.

“They’ll hunt you down to avenge their clan member!” he exclaimed.

Monk Dao’s face darkened.

Meanwhile, Nanling Yiyi stared alternately between Ye Guan and Monk Dao.

She finally understood what was going on.

This was a ploy!

A ploy that her Junior Disciple Ye and Master had created against Ao Meng!

Master is too devious! Nanling Yiyi shook her head while staring at Monk Dao. She then turned to look at Ye Guan and sighed in awe. Junior Disciple Ye is truly intelligent and wise!

Chapter 60: Pitiful and Miserable

Monk Dao, Ye Guan, and Nanling Yiyi left and returned to the Daoist Sect.

Shortly after they left, a spacetime rift opened. A golden-robed middle-aged man and an old man walked out of the rift.

The middle-aged man was the Clan Leader of the True Dragon Clan—Ao Tian!

Ao Tian's eyes narrowed as he growled. "We're too late!"

The old man's face darkened. "It must have been Monk Dao!"

"Yes, it must have been him." Ao Tian nodded and said, "Ye Guan is not strong enough to kill Ao Meng by himself."

Ao Tian then turned to look in the direction of the Daoist Realm and muttered, "Since you don't want to live your remaining days in peace, my True Dragon Clan will personally send you on your way!"

...

The three walked into the great hall of the Daoist Sect.

Ye Guan took out Ao Meng's storage ring, and Nanling Yiyi's eyes were glued to it. She wanted to know what was inside Ao Meng's storage ring.

Even Monk Dao was filled with anticipation, and it was all because the True Dragon Clan was filthy rich.

Ye Guan opened the storage ring, revealing three hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals. There were also twelve Sky-grade demonic beast internal pills. There weren't any Imperial-grade demonic beast internal pills, but they still struck it rich!

The three glanced at each other and laughed. It was a pretty big haul in their eyes.

"Master, the True Dragon Clan will definitely avenge their clan member," said Ye Guan.

Monk Dao looked at him and asked, "What do you think we should do?"

Ye Guan thought about it and responded, "I'm still very weak, and I think I can only stand my ground against one of them, so I'll let you handle the rest, Master!"

Nanling Yiyi couldn't help but smile. Her junior disciple was too clever!

Monk Dao wordlessly stared at Ye Guan for a while before saying, "Young man, you look honest and upright, but you're actually a cunning brat. You're not a good person at all!"

He turned to look at Nanling Yiyi and said, "Little brat, you should be wary of him!"

Nanling Yiyi directed a contemptuous glare at Monk Dao, seemingly telling the latter to mind his own business.

Ye Guan chuckled hollowly and said, "I wasn't lying when I said I can only stand my ground against one of them..."

Monk Dao turned to him and asked indifferently, "So why did you even dare to kill a True Dragon?"

Ye Guan thought about it for a moment before replying, "It's not like I'm not allowed to try just because there's a low chance of success."

Monk Dao froze. He laughed heartily upon recovering and said, "You're gutsy!"

He divided the contents of the storage ring into two and split them between Ye Guan and Nanling Yiyi. Ye Guan was slightly puzzled.

"Master, do you not want anything?" he asked.

Monk Dao shook his head and explained, "You two need those more than me."

With that, he turned around and walked away.

Ye Guan examined the storage ring in front of him and saw 150,000 gold spiritual crystals, which meant he now had a total of 580,000 gold spiritual crystals.

Ye Guan reckoned that the gold spiritual crystals in the storage ring would be enough for his cultivation for the time being.

Cultivation! He sighed inwardly. The Daoist Sect didn't really have a cultivation ground.

"Junior Disciple Ye, are you thinking of cultivating?" asked Nanling Yiyi.

"Yes." Ye Guan nodded.

Nanling Yiyi chuckled and said, "You should go to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion."

Ye Guan frowned slightly and asked, “The Immortal Treasures Pavilion?”

“Yes! They own cultivation rooms that are as good as the cultivation grounds of the Guanxuan Academy. The disciples of the six great clans often go there to cultivate.

“Of course, their cultivation rooms are expensive to rent. I heard that their most expensive cultivation rooms will cost you tens of thousands of gold spiritual crystals a day...”

Tens of thousands of gold spiritual crystals per day?! Ye Guan shook his head in exasperation. That’s too ridiculous! It feels like poor people should not walk down the path of cultivation.

“The Immortal Treasures Pavilion is pretty amazing. You can buy anything as long as you have enough money. It’s a pity that I’m poor. Otherwise, I would have already bought forbidden spell books from the Qingqiu Era to study!” Nanling Yiyi explained.

Ye Guan seemed confused as he asked, “Qingqiu Era?”

“You don’t know the Qingqiu Era?” Nanling Yiyi questioned.

Ye Guan wordlessly shook his head.

“The Zhongtu Divine Continent is under the governance of the Guanxuan Divine Continent, and the Guanxuan Universe has had two eras so far. The first era was the Sword Master Era, while the second era—the current era—is the Qingqiu Era.

“The Qingqiu Era is named after Academy Chief Qingqiu, and she’s currently the strongest figure throughout the Guanxuan Universe. Unfortunately, it had already been a thousand years since we heard any news about her.

“Some say that she had decided to look for the Sword Master, while some say that she had decided to hibernate,” said Nanling Yiyi.

She shook her head before continuing. "I'm not sure about the details, and I think the members of the Main Guanxuan Academy's Committee are the only ones who know why she disappeared."

Academy Chief Qingqiu! Ye Guan asked Little Pagoda, "Master Pagoda, do you know Academy Chief Qingqiu?"

"I do!" Little Pagoda answered.

Ye Guan sounded amazed as he said, "Master Pagoda, you're really amazing. To think that you're acquainted with so many powerhouses. I'm sorry to say this, but I had been thinking that you were just lying to me."

Little Pagoda: ???

Meanwhile, Nanling Yiyi said, "If you want to cultivate properly, you should head to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. Their cultivation grounds are great places to cultivate in peace because fights are forbidden in their buildings.

"In other words, the members of the True Dragon Clan cannot lay their hands on you while you're cultivating in the Immortal Treasures Pavilion."

"I understand. Thank you," said Ye Guan with a nod.

Nanling Yiyi grinned and extended her storage ring that contained a hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals over to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan stared at the storage ring in a daze.

"Just think of it as taking out a loan from me," Nanling Yiyi said.

Ye Guan shook his head and replied, "I still have enough gold spiritual crystals."

Ye Guan was well aware that Nanling Yiyi was barely getting by, and he wasn't shameless enough to accept her gold spiritual crystals knowing that fact.

"I—" Nanling Yiyi started.

However, Ye Guan interrupted her with a smile. "I'm seriously fine. Just keep it for yourself!"

Nanling Yiyi hesitated for quite a little, but she eventually nodded and said, "All right then, if you need gold spiritual crystals, just let me know. I don't really have anything to use these gold spiritual crystals for the time being."

"Sure, don't mind me if I do by then," said Ye Guan.

Nanling Yiyi got up and said, "I think we should start building your residence."

"Yep, let's do it." Ye Guan nodded.

The two of them left the great hall.

After roughly three hours of hard work, Ye Guan's simple residence was finally completed. It was neither too big nor too small; it was just the right size for one person.

The two also decided to renovate the daoist temple, which looked dilapidated and abandoned. The two worked hard to renovate both the interior and exterior of the temple, so they managed to complete the necessary renovations on the same night.

The two were sitting on the stone steps of the great hall to rest.

Ye Guan's curiosity was suddenly piqued, and he asked, "Senior Disciple Yiyi, who's the founder of our Daoist Sect?"

"I don't know..." Nanling Yiyi shrugged. She chuckled bitterly and added, "I asked Master about it, but even he has no idea who founded the Daoist Sect."

Ye Guan didn't know what to say.

However, Ye Guan came up with an idea and asked Little Pagoda, "Master Pagoda, do you happen to know who founded the Daoist Sect?"

"Yes!" replied Little Pagoda.

"Who is it?" Ye Guan asked once again.

Little Pagoda answered, "The founder of the Daoist Sect is Great Daoist Brush Master!"

Ye Guan frowned and asked, "Great Daoist Brush Master? Is he stronger than the Sword Master?"

Little Pagoda was silent for a few moments before saying, "Well, if the Sword Master is not considered human, the Daoist Master is stronger. If the Sword Master is considered human, the Sword Master is stronger!"

Considered human? Ye Guan looked bewildered as he asked, "Does the Sword Master's humanity even matter? We're talking about his prowess here."

"It matters!" Little Pagoda exclaimed.

Ye Guan didn't know what to say.

After a while, Ye Guan parted ways with Nanling Yiyi and headed straight to the Immortal Treasures Pavilion. He wasn't planning on wasting his time standing idly by.

His plan was to cultivate whenever he had time. He had to be strong enough for the upcoming Destiny Contest, and he also had to be strong enough to massacre the members of the True Dragon Clan.

Of course, he also had to be strong enough before visiting the Undying Clan to borrow a sword. Otherwise, the Undying Clan would definitely not honor his request.

Ye Guan was well aware that he had no time to waste. Right now, the only thing that mattered to him was becoming stronger, and he would do his best to become even stronger before and after the Destiny Contest.

It didn't take Ye Guan a long time to reach the Immortal Treasures Pavilion using Sword Travel. Ye Guan soon entered the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

Unbeknownst to him, a man had been keeping tabs on him from when he departed the Daoist Sect until he arrived at the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

The man saw that Ye Guan had safely entered the Immortal Treasures Pavilion's premises, so he looked away and drank wine from the gourd hanging from his waist.

The man was none other than Monk Dao!

...

Manager Mo Ya of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion Yong City branch was attending to Ye Guan. Manager Mo Ya was an attractive and intelligent woman.

She smiled at Ye Guan and said, "Young Lord, our cultivation rooms are divided into six ranks—Human, Earth, Profound, Sky, Imperial, and God. May I know which rank you're interested in renting?"

"How much does it cost to rent a Sky-rank cultivation room?" Ye Guan asked.

Mo Ya's smile deepened as she answered, "Ten thousand gold spiritual crystals a day."

Ten thousand gold spiritual crystals! Ye Guan was flabbergasted. It's truly expensive!

Ye Guan hesitated before asking, "What about Imperial-rank cultivation rooms?"

Mo Ya's eyes brightened, and she replied excitedly, "Young Lord, Imperial-rank cultivation rooms will cost you twenty thousand gold spiritual crystals a day!"

"All right, I'll rent a Human-rank cultivation room, then!" Ye Guan said.

Mo Ya's smile instantly vanished. Are you playing around with me? You asked so many questions, but you're actually choosing the cheapest one?

"A Human-rank cultivation room isn't that expensive, is it?" Ye Guan asked.

Mo Ya composed herself and replied, "No, it's only a thousand gold spiritual crystals a day."

"Are there any cheaper options?" asked Ye Guan.

Mo Ya didn't say anything in response. If Ye Guan weren't handsome, she would have already chased him away.

Ye Guan smiled sheepishly and muttered, "My apologies, I'm a bit poor."

"It's fine; I understand," Mo Ya responded politely.

Ye Guan extended a storage ring over to her and said, "Ten days in a Human-rank cultivation room, please!"

Mo Ya nodded slightly and accepted the storage ring. She examined it and confirmed the amount before saying, "This way, please."

Mo Ya brought Ye Guan to a great hall with almost a hundred teleportation arrays.

"What aspect of cultivation would you like to focus on? We have many different rooms for you to choose from," said Mo Ya.

Ye Guan thought about it for a moment before saying, "Spacetime gravity!!"

Mo Ya nodded and pointed at a nearby teleportation.

"That array will bring you to a cultivation room with an additional layer of gravity. Go ahead, and good luck!" she said.

Ye Guan hesitated, but his hesitation didn't last that long as he said, "I'd like a room with ten additional layers of gravity."

Ten additional layers! Mo Ya froze. She sounded doubtful as she asked, "Ten?"

Ye Guan nodded.

"You're only a Spacetime Realm cultivator, are you sure about cultivating in a room with ten additional layers of gravity?" Mo Ya asked in a low voice.

Ye Guan nodded once more.

Mo Ya stared deeply at him before pointing at a teleportation array that was a bit distant from them.

"That teleportation array will bring you to the room you desire," she said.

Ye Guan walked over to that teleportation array, but he paused upon recalling something. He turned around and asked Mo Ya, "Excuse me, may I know the maximum layers of additional gravity available here?"

"Sixteen!" Mo Ya replied.

"Are there any prizes upon clearing that room?" asked Ye Guan.

Mo Ya answered, "Yes. Those under the age of twenty will be awarded three hundred thousand gold spiritual crystals upon clearing the room with sixteen additional layers of gravity, but no one has succeeded so far."

"Really?!" Ye Guan exclaimed in excitement. "I didn't expect that I could earn money just by cultivating!"

Mo Ya wordlessly blinked in confusion.

Ye Guan smiled sheepishly and asked again, "Are there any clear conditions?"

"Yes. Aside from the age limit, one can only attempt it thrice a year," Mo Ya said.

"Thank you for the clarification," Ye Guan said before turning around to enter the teleportation array.

The teleportation array soon whisked him away.

Meanwhile, Mo Ya remained silent and stood unmoving for quite a while.

Eventually, she shook her head and muttered, "He's pretty handsome, but he's dirt poor! I wonder what clan he belongs to... he seemed rather pitiful and miserable."

Mo Ya sighed once more before turning around to leave.