

A Sword 591

Chapter 591: Is He Your Enemy?

No sword can hurt him?

The man in the white robe's words made Ye Guan feel indignant. He believed that the Qingxuan Sword would definitely be able to harm this man.

After all, the Qingxuan Sword was known as the sharpest sword in the world. Hence, he chose to borrow the sword. Even though he used it quite frequently, it was only natural for a son to borrow his father's sword.

However, there was no response from the Qingxuan Sword at all.

Ye Guan's face immediately darkened, and he asked inwardly once again, "Qingxuan?"

Qingxuan remained silent. It did not dare to move! It did not mind lending itself for fights with outsiders, but there was no way it was going to lend itself to Ye Guan for him to attack his own father.

The Qingxuan Sword's silence made Ye Guan's face darken. He was going to embarrass himself here if Qingxuan didn't allow him to borrow its power.

Ye Guan said to Little Pagoda, "Master Pagoda, help me out here."

Little Pagoda nonchalantly replied, "Thank you for thinking highly of me, but I'm not that important in the Yang Clan."

Ye Guan was at a loss for words.

The man in the white robe asked, "Young man, where's your sword?"

Ye Guan had no idea what to say.

Seeing Ye Guan's awkward look, the man in the white robe chuckled and changed the topic. "Unleash another sword strike; just use the sword earlier."

Ye Guan was confused, but he still nodded.

"Okay," Ye Guan said and thrust his sword. He didn't use any sword moves, nor did he activate his bloodlines. It was a sword attack made out of brute force. The man in the white robe remained calm in the face of Ye Guan's attack.

Just as the sword was just half an inch away from him, an invisible sword intent stopped it.

Ye Guan stared at the man in the white robe. He knew that the man wanted to guide him, so he said respectfully, "Senior, please enlighten me."

The man in the white robe said, "The power of that sword attack is not as formidable as the sword techniques that you displayed to me earlier, but it is very pure. It is the kind of sword attack that a swordsman is supposed to display. However, it lacks two things: first of all, it lacks intent. You have cultivated a sword intent, but it is not firm enough.

"Why do you think that is?"

sword intent... Ye Guan fell silent. What was his sword intent? It was none other than the Invincible Sword Intent! However, the Invincible Sword Intent had lost its uniqueness and had become mediocre to the point that he was hardly using it.

Ye Guan sighed and smiled bitterly, saying, "Senior, to be honest, I had lofty ambitions when I was young and inexperienced. I believed that I could surpass my predecessors in the future, which is why I managed to cultivate the Invincible Sword Dao Faith. However, I became more and more powerless as I grew even stronger, as the opponents, whom I considered were too powerful, were like ants in front of my predecessors..."

Ye Guan had been trying to avoid considering anyone to be a god in his heart. However, the farther he climbed up the summit of cultivation, the more hopeless he felt upon discovering the true strength of his elders.

He knew that he had to stick to his original faith and beliefs, but it was hard to commit to it.

Ye Guan slowly stopped using his Invincible Sword Dao until he eventually stopped using it altogether.

The man in the white robe nodded slightly at Ye Guan's remark and said, "I see... Let me ask you, then. Is your heart still set on surpassing your predecessors and ultimately becoming invincible?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

"It's not that your belief isn't firm enough. Rather, this matter is too difficult for you. Your belief is firm, but you can only strive for it in a low-key manner. After all, constantly talking about things you haven't achieved will only invite ridicule. You are more remarkable than I thought."

Ye Guan looked at the man silently, but inside, he was touched by the latter's words.

The man in the white robe added, "I have a suggestion. You can listen to it; if it's useful to you, you can try it. If you feel that it's not applicable, then just brush it off. What do you think?"

Ye Guan replied, "I'd be grateful for any words of advice, senior."

"Nothing in this world happens overnight. Since achieving invincibility like your elders is tough, why not set a smaller goal first? For example... becoming invincible among your peers!"

Ye Guan remained silent.

The man in the white robe asked, "What's wrong? Do you think it's too easy?"

Ye Guan shook his head. "I thought it was rather easy before meeting you."

The man in the white robe laughed heartily. "So even that is difficult, right?"

Ye Guan nodded.

The man in the white robe smiled gently and said, "But being invincible among peers is surely easier than surpassing your predecessors, isn't it?"

"Of course."

"Young man, there's no need to put too much pressure on yourself. Your life will become very exhausting if you keep that up. I believe your parents wouldn't want to see you living that kind of life."

Ye Guan suddenly felt an inexplicable emotion rise in his heart. It was a familiar emotion, and he could feel it coming from the man in the white robe before him.

"Senior, is your surname Ye?" Ye Guan asked.

The man in the white robe was slightly taken aback by Ye Guan's question. After regaining his composure, the man in the white robe shook his head and smiled. "No, it's not."

It's not? Ye Guan felt a little disappointed by the man's answer. Then, he chuckled, realizing that he had indeed been overthinking. He stopped dwelling on it and bowed slightly to the man, saying, "Thank you for your guidance, senior. I'll remember your advice."

He genuinely respected the man before him. Losing was not scary; what was scary was being unable to accept defeat. Moreover, his intuition told him that this swordsman had not truly exerted his full power. He was completely outmatched this time.

Of course, that was also a good thing because he had gained a lot today.

The man in the white robe was right. Since achieving invincibility like his elders was difficult, why not take it step by step? For example, by striving to be invincible among his peers first.

Ye Guan suddenly took a deep breath, feeling incredibly refreshed. He felt as if a heavy weight had been lifted off his shoulders. Perhaps sensing Ye Guan's change in mood, the Invincible Sword Intent that had been dormant within him for a long time suddenly rushed out. It wrapped around him, and his aura started undergoing a qualitative change.

It was a "rebirth."

One's sword intent was just like a sword—it was extraordinary because of its wielder. The moment Ye Guan walked out of the quagmire and was reborn, his sword intent also experienced a "rebirth."

The man in the white robe smiled, and his eyes became filled with admiration. The young swordsman's temperament and comprehension and temperament were even better than he had imagined. He wondered whose child was the young man before him.

Ye Guan smiled upon sensing the surging Invincible Sword Intent around him.

He could feel it coming back to life. The man in the white robe suddenly said, "Try unleashing another sword attack."

"All right." Ye Guan thrust forward with his sword. He did not use any sword techniques or activate his bloodlines. It was another sword attack made out of brute force.

When the sword was inches away from the man in the white robe, he extended two fingers again and pinched the oncoming sword. Then, he hesitated slightly before stumbling two steps backward.

The man in the white robe had been forced to take two steps backward! It was just two steps, but everyone could tell that Ye Guan's Sword Dao had become even stronger than before.

Ye Guan looked at the man in the white robe without saying a word.

The man in the white robe chuckled. "You've become much stronger after your sword intent came back to life."

"Yes." Ye Guan nodded. He decided to accept the man's goodwill, even though he could not understand why the man in the white robe was helping him.

The man in the white robe said, "I'm leaving."

"Senior, how do I address you?" Ye Guan asked.

The man in the white robe smiled and was about to speak when something strange happened. The sky was torn open, and a terrifying aura swept towards them. The entire Divine Academy was stunned; they all looked up at the sky in confusion.

The Bishops in the void frowned as well.

An unexpected guest?

Who was bold enough to intrude upon the Divine Academy's territory without an invitation?

Amidst everyone's gaze, an old man slowly walked out from the rift in the sky. He was wearing a luxurious robe, and his expression was cold as if someone had angered him.

A black-robed young man was standing behind him, and his gaze fell on Ye Guan down below. It was a gaze full of undisguised killing intent.

Ye Guan immediately frowned upon seeing the black-robed young man. He was sure he had killed that young man, so how come he was still alive? Ye Guan was truly bewildered.

The old man in luxurious robes also looked down at Ye Guan.

The Wang Clan was influential enough to find just about anyone, regardless of where they were.

Upon discovering that Ye Guan was a student of the Divine Academy, the old man's first feelings were not astonishment but fury and murderous intent. Ye Guan had to die!

There was no way the old man could let Ye Guan grow, as he was a student of the Divine Academy, which meant that he had a monstrous talent. If he were allowed to grow, he would definitely pose a threat to the Wang Clan in the future.

Some enmity could only be resolved through annihilation. Otherwise, the consequences would be unimaginable. There were many times when failure to eradicate the roots of one's troubles had led to one's downfall.

The man in the white robe was about to leave, but he frowned upon seeing the old man in the luxurious robes. The man in the white robe then looked at Ye Guan and asked, "Is he your enemy?"

Ye Guan nodded. "I think so. Anyway, weren't you going to leave, senior?"

The man in the white robe smiled and replied, "Well, I'm not in a hurry."

Chapter 592: A Scene of Blooming Fireworks

Ye Guan was confused.

Just then, the Left Bishop and the Right Bishop suddenly appeared in front of the old man in luxurious robes.

The Left Bishop frowned slightly, looking displeased, as he asked, "Wang Lan, what are you doing here?"

There was no way they wouldn't recognize Wang Lan. He used to be from the Divine Academy, after all, but he was only an Inner Courtyard student.

Wang Lan looked at the bishops and spoke calmly, "Bishops, I am not here to target the academy. I'm here to make sure that an enemy of my Wang Clan will not be able to escape. I hope you can forgive me for the offense."

The Left Bishop was slightly puzzled. "An enemy of the Wang Clan?"

Wang Lan pointed at Ye Guan and said, "Yes. I'm talking about him."

The Left Bishop and the Right Bishop's faces darkened.

Ye Guan!

The Left Bishop said in a low voice, "Wang Lan, what do you mean?"

Wang Lan glared coldly at Ye Guan before explaining, "He killed my grandson, Wang Yun, for no reason and fled. His methods were cruel and horrifying. If it weren't for the fact that the Wang Clan had the means to revive my grandson, my grandson would have died unjustly."

The Left Bishop and the Right Bishop frowned.

The Right Bishop looked at Ye Guan and said, "Tell us your side of the story."

Of course, he had to listen to Ye Guan's side of the story as well. People were selfish and would often speak in their own favor and embellish their stories for their own gain.

Ye Guan stared alternately between Wang Lan and Wang Yun.

Then, he smiled at Wang Yun and asked, "Why do you think I killed you? Don't you have any idea why?"

Wang Yun's face soured. He couldn't reveal the truth. After all, he had started everything to show off, but he had ended up dying after underestimating Ye Guan's strength.

"How dare you!" Wang Lan roared, and a terrifying aura surged toward Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's gaze turned cold.

The man in the white robe frowned as well.

Meanwhile, Plain-Skirt Destiny was already imagining a scene of blooming fireworks

"Stop!" the Right Bishop yelled. He waved his sleeve, and a powerful energy shattered Wang Lan's aura. Wang Lan glared at the Right Bishop, displeased by the latter's intervention.

The Right Bishop glared back at Wang Lan and said, "Wang Lan, you are in the Divine Academy; this isn't the backyard of your Wang Clan."

The Left Bishop also looked at Wang Lan with a hint of disapproval.

They hadn't decided to take on Ye Guan's side. They simply felt that Wang Lan was going overboard. This was the Divine Academy; if they let Wang Lan attack Ye Guan without intervening, everyone would say that the Divine Academy was afraid of the Wang Clan.

Reputation was oftentimes more important than lives, after all.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere between the elders was getting a bit tense.

Wang Lan took a deep breath. "It seems that I've lost my composure."

In the end, he had chosen to compromise. After all, his target was just Ye Guan rather than the entire Divine Academy. Antagonizing the entire Divine Academy in the process of killing a mere Ye Guan was not worth it at all.

The Right Bishop gave Wang Lan a cold look before turning to Ye Guan. "Go on."

Ye Guan smiled and then explained the situation truthfully. He did not exaggerate or embellish. Since everyone here was an experienced individual, they could naturally discern what was true and what was false.

Everyone's expressions turned grim at Ye Guan's remark.

What an arrogant and overbearing spoiled brat! He went too far!

Everyone cast disdainful gazes at Wang Yun.

Wang Yun's face soured.

The Right Bishop looked at Wang Lan and laughed mockingly. "Trying to kill someone arbitrarily? Your Wang Clan is truly domineering!"

Wang Lan's face darkened. In truth, he wasn't aware of what had happened as well. He knew his grandson wasn't the sharpest tool in the shed, but he hadn't expected his grandson to be foolish to such an extent.

Okay, you wanted to kill him, but why did you not come up with a decent reason to do so? Wang Lan thought. However, he had no choice but to stand on his grandson's side.

Wang Lan looked at Ye Guan and said, "Even if there was a misunderstanding between the two of you, you shouldn't have killed him right away. It seems you don't regard my Wang Clan highly."

Ye Guan frowned and asked, "You called that a misunderstanding? Your grandson wanted to kill me, and it's just a misunderstanding in your eyes?"

The Left Bishop and the Right Bishop frowned. When did this old man become so shameless?

Wang Lan ignored Ye Guan and looked at the two bishops, asking, "Bishops, how do you feel about this matter?"

Ye Guan's stance on this matter wasn't important. What mattered was the Divine Academy's stance. The Divine Academy just had to show the green light, and Ye Guan was nothing more than just a slightly larger ant to the Wang Clan.

As descendants of a god, the Wang Clan had a reason behind their confidence to deal with just about anyone.

The Left Bishop and the Right Bishop frowned. Clearly, Wang Lan wasn't going to back out. The Right Bishop spoke frankly, "Wang Lan, this is your grandson's fault. What does it have to do with Ye Guan? Are you saying that he should have allowed himself to die at your grandson's hands? Does that even make sense?"

Wang Lan's expression turned cold. "So the Divine Academy is going to take Ye Guan's side."

The Right Bishop's expression became fierce. "Are you threatening me?"

Seeing that both parties were becoming increasingly tense, the Left Bishop quickly interjected, "Wang Lan, in my opinion, let's just call it quits. After all, your grandson is still alive, so there's no real loss here. Can't we just let bygones be bygones?"

Wang Lan's face darkened. "So my grandson's death should just be forgotten?"

The Right Bishop said, "Wang Lan, you're a highly respected figure. Can't you distinguish right from wrong at all? Your grandson targeted Ye Guan for no reason. If you were in his shoes, wouldn't you resist as well?"

Wang Lan retorted coldly, "My grandson wanted to kill him, but did he succeed? At most, it was just attempted murder, but Ye Guan killed my grandson. Can't my Wang Clan avenge one of our own?"

The Right Bishop frowned. He wanted to reprimand Wang Lan again, but he noticed something amiss.

The Right Bishop looked down at Ye Guan, and something clicked in his head. It seemed that when Wang Lan discovered that Ye Guan was a student of the Divine Academy, he became afraid that Ye Guan would grow up and harm the Wang Clan in the future.

Wang Lan was just trying to eliminate a future threat.

The Right Bishop's expression soured at the realization.

The Left Bishop also came to the same conclusion as the Right Bishop. After a moment of thought, he said, "Wang Lan, I understand that you are trying to resolve the karma between your Wang Clan and Ye Guan, but there are many ways to go about this. It doesn't have to end in murder. Do you understand what I mean?"

Karma was easy to resolve; the Wang Clan just had to compromise. Then, they could offer some rewards and reconcile with Ye Guan. It would resolve the karma between them and create goodwill as well. Why resort to murder?

Wang Lan's face darkened. He understood what the Left Bishop was trying to say, but to compromise with Ye Guan? Was Ye Guan worthy of it?

The Wang Clan were descendants of a god. Why would they yield to a mere mortal? He couldn't afford to lose face, and neither could the Wang Clan afford to do so.

Wang Lan glanced at the Left Bishop and the Right Bishop before saying, "While he's within the Divine Academy, we will respect the Divine Academy's authority and not make any moves against him. However, we will not hesitate to make a move against him the moment he's no longer within the Divine Academy's territory."

Then, Wang Lan turned around to leave with Wang Yun.

"Wait." Ye Guan called out just then.

Wang Lan turned to look at him and said, "It's too late to beg for mercy..."

Ye Guan's figure trembled, and he reappeared outside the Divine Academy in the blink of an eye. He stared calmly at Wang Lan and said, "I'm outside now."

Chapter 593: It's Not Worth It

Everyone was shocked to see what Ye Guan had done.

Wow, are you really that bold? Your opponent here is the Wang Clan! One of the Five Great Gods' descendants Are you really going to confront them head-on?

After the initial shock, everyone was in awe of Ye Guan.

Damn, he's got guts!

They said they'd come after him once he's out of the academy. Well, here he is! Come at him!

That's how a real man should be!

Quite a few students' favor toward Ye Guan increased significantly. After all, he was a student of the Divine Academy, which meant that he was their comrade. Many female students stared at Ye Guan with fondness in their eyes.

How domineering!

Of course, many students were shaking their heads.

A young man standing next to the lady in the tight-fitting skirt sneered and said, "How Foolishness. The Wang Clan is made out of a god's descendants, and their foundations are exceedingly deep. It's foolish to confront them head-on. If I were him, I would choose to swallow my pride for the time being and avoid the Wang Clan for now."

Then, he glanced at the lady in the tight-fitting skirt next to him. The lady was expressionless as she stared at Ye Guan in the distance. Seeing her lack of reaction, the young man frowned and added, "If I were him, I'd yield to them. Doing that would appease everyone..."

The lady in the tight-fitting skirt turned to him and said, "Get away from me."

The young man's expression froze.

In the distance, Ye Guan's actions left both the Left Bishop and the Right Bishop stunned. Obviously, they had not expected Ye Guan to confront the Wang Clan head-on.

The Left Bishop's face darkened. "The recklessness of youth."

The Right Bishop had a differing opinion. "If young people aren't reckless, how can they call themselves young people?"

The Left Bishop sighed and said, "He has essentially pushed himself and the Wang Clan into a dead end. Now, neither side has a way out."

The Right Bishop calmly retorted, "Do you really think that the Wang Clan would spare him even if he hadn't gone this far?"

The Left Bishop was silent.

Meanwhile, the man in the white robe could not help but smile after seeing Ye Guan's actions. He was starting to find the young man to be quite a charming individual.

Wang Lan stared at Ye Guan. He was rather surprised by Ye Guan's decision. Then, he chuckled and said, "You truly are courageous, confronting the descendant of a god so boldly like this... But the consequences that you'll face are—"

"Spare the bullshit!" Ye Guan interrupted him, "I invite you to kill me!"

The crowd was thrown into an uproar. How incredibly bold!

The young man next to the lady in a tight-fitting skirt scoffed and said, "What a fool. Such behavior will only further enrage the Wang Clan. If I were—"

The lady in a tight-fitting skirt turned around and swung her sword at the young man.

Bang!

The young man's fleshly body was obliterated by the lady's attack.

The lady in the tight-fitting skirt looked coldly at the young man's soul and said, "I'm really not interested in you, so stop showing off before me, all right? Do that again, and I'm going to kill you, do you understand?"

The young man was at a loss for words.

Ignoring him, the lady in the tight-fitting skirt turned to look at Ye Guan in the distance. She gripped her sword tightly, and she looked like she was deep in thought.

Wang Lan laughed in exasperation and anger. "Great... what a great young man you are!"

Wang Lan wasted no words and threw a punch at Ye Guan.

It had to be known that Wang Lan was an Imperial Sovereign, so his fist literally carried with it a cataclysmic might!

Despite that, Ye Guan did not retreat. Instead, he thrust his sword forward. He did not activate his bloodlines or use any sword moves. It was just an ordinary sword thrust infused with nothing else but his revamped Invincible Sword Intent.

The sword thrust moved slowly, like a gentle breeze.

Bang!

However, Wang Lan was blasted away by Ye Guan's sword attack. He flew thousands of meters away before he could come to a screeching halt. Wang Lan's face changed drastically. He was about to speak, but Ye Guan did not give him the chance to do so as he slashed out with his sword toward Wang Lan.

Wang Lan's eyes narrowed, and he dared not confront Ye Guan's attacks head-on, as cracks had formed on his right arm when he took Ye Guan's first attack. His arm would undoubtedly become crippled if he were to take Ye Guan's attack forcefully.

He waved his sleeve, and a black light shield suddenly appeared in front of him.

The sword collided with it, and the light shield trembled. Moments later, countless cracks appeared all over it.

Ye Guan unleashed another sword strike.

Bam!

The light shield was shattered, and countless energy fragments flew in all directions.

However, Wang Lan had already retreated thousands of meters away, creating distance between himself and Ye Guan.

Wang Lan looked at Ye Guan standing in the distance, and his eyes were filled with horror as he stammered, "Y-your strength—"

Before he could finish his sentence, Ye Guan unleashed another sword strike. This sword strike was quicker than the previous one, and it arrived before Wang Lan in the blink of an eye.

Wang Lan's heart was filled with horror. He clenched his fists, and a terrifying aura surged out of his body like a tide. At the same time, he retracted his right arm and swung his fist with all his might!

He had nowhere to retreat and could only go all out.

If he won, he would live. Otherwise, he would die!

Boom!

Under everyone's gazes, Wang Lan's fist light shattered, and he was blasted away by the sword attack. Wang Lan's fleshy body began to disintegrate in mid-air, scattering flesh and blood everywhere.

Everyone's expression changed drastically at the sight.

Wang Lan was just an Imperial Sovereign Realm cultivator, but he was famous for his great strength. It was exactly the reason why everyone was so astounded to witness his fleshy body disintegrating after taking just a sword move from Ye Guan.

To make matters worse, it was just an ordinary sword slash.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan transformed into a ray of sword light, racing towards Wang Lan.

"Stop!" the Left Bishop exclaimed and stood in front of Wang Lan.

Ye Guan frowned.

The Left Bishop said in a low voice, "Ye Guan, you must think carefully about this. If you kill him, you will have an endless wave of trouble ahead of you."

Ye Guan retorted, "Would he and his Wang Clan spare me if I were to spare him?"

The Left Bishop fell silent.

Ye Guan chuckled lightly and flicked his wrist. A sword swept past the Left Bishop and pierced Wang Lan's forehead.

Boom!

Wang Lan was immobilized on the spot. He wanted to say something, but the sword on his forehead trembled violently, shattering his soul into innumerable light fragments.

After killing Wang Lan, Ye Guan turned to look at the terrified Wang Yun. Seeing that Ye Guan was staring at him, Wang Yun's face changed drastically, and he turned around to flee.

However, a sword made a beeline for him...

Wang Yun had yet to even run away when a sword pierced him.

Boom!

His flesh and soul were obliterated at the same time. He had died once more!

Everyone was silent.

Ye Guan had killed two members of the Wang Clan in a row, and they were all convinced that the enmity between Ye Guan and the Wang Clan was now irreconcilable.

The Right Bishop looked at Ye Guan and sighed. Ye Guan's relationship with the Wang Clan could no longer be salvaged. It would be a fight to the death, as there was no way the Wang Clan would let this slide.

If the Divine Academy ended up getting implicated...

Ye Guan looked at the Left Bishop and the Right Bishop and said, "Seniors, this is my personal enmity with the Wang Clan. I do not want to implicate the Divine Academy, so I—Ye Guan—will withdraw from the Academy."

Withdraw from the Academy?!

The crowd became a cacophonous din. Everyone was shocked at Ye Guan's decision, and they stared at the Left Bishop and the Right Bishop.

The two bishops were quiet; they were in a difficult position as well. If they disallowed Ye Guan from withdrawing from the Academy, it meant that the Divine Academy was going against the Wang Clan, which could lead to a war between them in the future.

The Divine Academy was not afraid of the Wang Clan, but the Wang Clan was not afraid of the Divine Academy either.

A war between them? The stakes were too high. It was like gambling with the fate of a nation—all for the sake of one Ye Guan...

The Right Bishop glanced at Ye Guan and was about to say something, but the Left Bishop beat him to the chase. "We cannot make a decision about this matter."

The Right Bishop immediately swallowed his words. That's right! This is not something that is up to us to decide! We have to consult with the Academy Chief!

Ye Guan was about to leave when the Right Bishop called out, "Wait!"

The Right Bishop said, "Ye Guan, this matter is of great significance; it is not something that the both of us can decide. We need to consult with the Academy Chief."

Ye Guan hesitated before he said, "Senior, there's no need."

"It is necessary!" the Right Bishop insisted, "Wait here for a moment, just a moment."

Upon seeing the Right Bishop's determined look, Ye Guan had no choice but to nod and say, "Okay."

The two bishops immediately turned around and bowed deeply toward the statue of the First God before chanting an ancient incantation. They had decided to contact the Academy Chief!

Everyone looked at them earnestly. Soon, the two bishops seemed to have received a piece of information that caused their expressions to become sour.

The students sighed at the sight.

Ye Guan smiled and turned around to leave.

"Wait!"

The Left Bishop appeared in front of Ye Guan and said, "Sorry."

Ye Guan replied, "It's fine."

He had never placed his hopes on others, so he would be spared from the disappointment. The Right Bishop hesitated for a moment before saying, "You should go to the First God Paradise."

Ye Guan was somewhat puzzled. "The First God Paradise?"

The Right Bishop nodded. "Yes. That's where the First God was born. There's an array all over the place, so you'll have an advantage over cultivators of higher cultivation bases than you if you go there."

The Right Bishop opened his palm, and a scroll floated over to Ye Guan.

"This is the map that will lead you to that place," said the Right Bishop.

Ye Guan did not refuse and accepted the map. "Thank you."

With that, Ye Guan turned around and left.

Just then, the Right Bishop suddenly asked, "Are you not going to ask me why the Academy Chief had chosen to give up on you?"

Ye Guan didn't even look back as he replied, "There's no need for me to know why."

The Right Bishop laughed bitterly. The Academy Chief was acquainted with the Wang Clan. At their level, geniuses or prodigies were no longer important. They were not going to pick a fight with a god's descendants for the sake of a prodigy.

It just wasn't worth it at all.

...

The man in the white robe returned to Plain-Skirt Destiny's side. He looked in the direction where Ye Guan had left and said softly, "Qing'er, I want to follow him for a while..."

Plain-Skirt Destiny nodded and said, "I'll be with you, then."

Chapter 594: A Lost Cause

Ye Guan walked away and no one attempted to stop him. It was clear to everyone present that the Divine Academy had abandoned him.

A wave of somber realization swept through the crowd. Initially, they all assumed that the Divine Academy would stand by Ye Guan, given his immense talent and the fact that the conflict was the Wang Clan's fault.

However, the academy had actually decided to abandon Ye Guan, and it made everyone feel a sense of disappointment and loss.

If the academy was willing to abandon Ye Guan, what about them?

Nonetheless, nobody stood up for Ye Guan. His tragedy didn't concern them at all.

On the sidelines, the Left Bishop and the Right Bishop wore uneasy expressions. They had expected the Academy Chief to support Ye Guan. However, it turned out that the Academy Chief had ties with the Wang Clan's God. There was no way he'd offend the Wang Clan for the sake of one student. Ye Guan was a monstrous talent, but he was no match for a god.

The Right Bishop sighed dejectedly. "What a pity."

Ye Guan was outstanding, and he would definitely become a monstrous supreme elite given enough time. However, they had decided to abandon him, cutting off all opportunities to build ties with him in the future.

The Left Bishop shook his head and said, "We have tried our best. Anyway, we still have three outstanding students in the Divine Courtyard. Yang Xuan and Qing'er are much more talented than Ye Guan. It's fine—"

Suddenly, an elder in divine robes appeared. He delivered shocking news—Yang Xuan and Ye Qing'er had returned their identity plates and left.

“What?!”

The two bishops exclaimed in shock, and they streaked across the skies.

...

Yang Xuan and Ye Qing'er silently trailed behind Ye Guan.

Ye Guan remained oblivious to their presence.

Rumble!

The space ahead of them quivered, and the two bishops emerged from the spacetime rift.

Yang Xuan frowned deeply.

“Why did you leave?” asked the Left Bishop. His quavering voice made it clear that he was panicking. Ye Guan had decided to leave Divine Academy, and if these two were to depart as well, the Divine Academy would be left with just one student from the Divine Courtyard!

Just one!

Who would represent the Divine Academy in the upcoming Mortal Dao Contest? Who would fight for them against the five major clans and the Sin Continent's representatives?

Mo Yaoyao had already made it clear that she would represent the Mo Clan in the contest.

Yang Xuan swept his gaze across the two and asked, "What do you mean?"

The Left Bishop forced a smile, "Everything was going fine, so why did you decide to leave the Divine Academy? Did we do something to offend you?"

"Yes," Yang Xuan answered.

The Left Bishop and the Right Bishop had no idea what to say.

Ye Qing'er was silent.

The Left Bishop hesitated for a moment, then asked, "Is it because of Ye Guan?"

After some hesitation, Yang Xuan said, "I understand. This matter has nothing to do with you two, and I have no ill will toward you two whatsoever. However, we no longer wish to stay in the Divine Academy. That's all there is to it."

With that, Yang Xuan pulled Ye Qing'er away to leave.

The Left Bishop hurriedly cried out, "Wait! Wait a moment."

Yang Xuan furrowed his brow, looking slightly displeased.

The Left Bishop said in a deep voice, "Yang Xuan, you can make any demands for us to fulfill. Anything! As long as you're going to stay with us."

"Yes, any demands." The Right Bishop nodded hastily.

Yang Xuan calmly said, "Go and bring that young man back."

The Left Bishop and the Right Bishop stiffened.

Disappointed, Yang Xuan shook his head and led Ye Qing'er away. The Left Bishop and the Right Bishop revealed bitter expressions, realizing that there was no point in trying to persuade them any further. They would only be humiliating themselves if they were to do so.

The Right Bishop's face was pale as he sighed. "What a loss."

"Indeed..." the Left Bishop agreed in a solemn tone. They had been eagerly waiting to participate in the Mortal Dao Contest, as it was the first time the Divine Courtyard had five students at once. Now, they were only left with one, and she would eventually return to her clan to represent them in the contest.

In other words, the Divine Academy no longer had any Divine Courtyard students.

"Curse the ancestors of the Wang Clan!" the Right Bishop cursed under his breath.

The Left Bishop's expression remained stiff as he muttered, "Curse them..."

...

Ye Guan traveled on his sword across the starry sky, and he was heading toward the First God Paradise.

He wasn't particularly afraid of the Wang Clan; he wasn't afraid of fighting them as long as he wasn't going to fight the entire clan at the same time. In addition, he still had powerful individuals inside of him, which were Ye An, Ao Qianqian, and Mu Yuan.

However, he needed some time. He had lost against the man in the white robes, but he had profited a lot from that encounter. His sword intent had improved drastically just from that one encounter.

It was a pity that he had forgotten to ask for that man's name!

Ye Guan sighed inwardly, feeling a bit regretful.

Swoosh!

Ye An suddenly appeared not too far away from Ye Guan.

"You left the Divine Academy?" asked Ye Guan.

Ye Guan nodded. "Are you mad that I didn't ask for your opinion?"

Ye An stared at Ye Guan without speaking.

Ye Guan chuckled and said, "Big Sis, you're not angry, right? We're siblings, after all. We share both blessings and misfortunes."

Ye An glared at Ye Guan and chided, "Stop the sweet talk. Let's spar."

Ye Guan was puzzled. "Spar?"

Ye An nodded.

"Your sword dao has just improved, right? Well, I've gotten stronger, too. Come, let's spar."

Ye An wasted no time and transformed into a beam of spear light. The moment she got close enough to Ye Guan, she thrust her spear forward. It was a simple attack, but it was swift, precise, and deadly.

Ye Guan dared not to be careless and immediately drew his sword to meet her spear.

Boom!

The tranquil starry sky was disturbed by a deafening explosion.

On the sidelines, Yang Xuan and Ye Qing'er watched as the two siblings sparred. A gentle smile tugged at Yang Xuan's lips, and he found himself inexplicably drawn to the two before him.

Yang Xuan glanced at the lady wearing a plain skirt next to him and shook his head. He knew that Qing'er knew the answers to many of his questions, but she would never tell him the answers to his burning questions for now.

However, he also knew that she'd definitely answer him if he were to force her. Of course, Yang Xuan had chosen not to do so. After all, he knew that Qing'er would definitely share everything with him if she was willing. Otherwise, Yang Xuan had to respect her decision.

The intense duel between the siblings raged on.

Ye Guan's swordplay remained pure and precise, devoid of any bloodline power. Astonishingly, Ye An's spear arts were pure and precise as well and were also devoid of any bloodline power.

BOOM!

A thunderous boom echoed, and both siblings were forced to retreat thousands of meters away. After coming to a halt, Ye An steadied herself before launching her spear toward Ye Guan.

The air crackled as the spear sliced through space and made a beeline for Ye Guan.

Ye Guan remained calm and thrust his sword toward the oncoming spear. A barely visible sword light was at the tip of his sword.

Clang!

The sword pinned the spear to the ground, but Ye An vanished and reappeared above Ye Guan. Before Ye Guan could react, Ye An lashed out with a kick.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed, but he remained calm. Twisting his left hand, he conjured a sword from sword energy and swung it toward Ye An's foot, blocking the kick with ease.

Their clash shattered the fabric of spacetime around them.

Ye An swiftly grabbed her spear and swung it horizontally, forcing Ye Guan to block the blow with his sword.

Bang!

Ye Guan's sword light shattered, and he was forced to retreat at least a hundred meters away. Before he could steady himself, Ye An was already running toward him. Her spear sliced through the air, creating a myriad of spear lights that rained down on Ye Guan.

Left without any choices, Ye Guan swung his sword frantically to defend himself against the rain of spear lights, but he was being completely suppressed.

Yang Xuan's eyes widened in astonishment. "That girl's strength..."

Before he could finish his thought, a formidable sword intent erupted from Ye Guan, sending Ye An flying backward.

The Invincible Sword Intent had manifested!

Rumble!

Ye Guan turned the tables around and rushed forward, unleashing a relentless barrage of sword strikes enhanced by his Invincible Sword Intent.

Ye An couldn't do anything against the powerful sword lights and had no choice but to keep defending herself. The siblings battled fiercely, exchanging hundreds of moves in the blink of an eye. The cacophonous din from their duel had pervaded the starry sky, shattering its silence.

Yang Xuan stared at them with awe in his eyes. "How exceptional... I wonder who their parents are..."

The plain-skirt lady pursed her lips and smiled briefly.

BOOM!

A resounding explosion echoed as both siblings were forced away from each other.

Ye Guan glanced at his somewhat numb arm and chuckled. "How refreshing!"

They were evenly matched, so the fight felt amazing for him.

Ye An stared at Ye Guan without saying a word, but she was feeling the same emotions as the latter.

The siblings then chose to stop right there, as they'd have to go all out for their duel to have any meaning by then. In fact, it would no longer be a duel but a battle to the death.

Ye Guan took a deep breath. He opened his palm, and the Invincible Sword Intent enveloped his hand. Ye Guan's heart was filled with joy at the sight; he had just discovered that his Invincible Sword Intent had unexpectedly become much stronger after the duel.

Is it a sword intent that grows the more I fight? Ye Guan laughed heartily. It'd be great if that was the case.

Ye An glanced at the Invincible Sword Intent shrouding Ye Guan's hand. She was about to say something when the siblings both turned their heads in unison. The distant starry skies quivered, and a wave of powerful auras swept toward them.

The two siblings frowned.

Yang Xuan hiding in the shadows cast a cold gaze at the commotion.

Chapter 595: Family tree

Ye Guan observed the incoming auras with a calm demeanor. The members of the Wang Clan had definitely arrived.

From what Mu Yuan had told him earlier, the gods' children, much like their parents, also had their own feelings, ambitions, and relationships. Their children came to be known as the Descendants of the Gods.

These divine descendants possessed innate advantages in cultivation. Their bodies and bloodlines far surpassed those of ordinary mortals. For that reason, the descendants of the five major gods were regarded as exceedingly special in the Old Era.

Ye Guan's mind wandered for a moment. Afterward, he turned to Ye An. "Big Sis, do we have a family tree?"

Puzzled, Ye An replied, "Why?"

"I want to acquaint myself with everyone in the family."

A swift slap landed on Ye Guan's shoulder from Ye An. Firmly, she said, "You have to stand on your own. Got that?"

Ye Guan fell silent.

Six imposing figures soon appeared near the two. Leading them was a middle-aged man clad in a loose cloud robe. His right hand was curled around a wine gourd hanging at his waist.

Their leader was a Heavenly Sovereign while the others were Imperial Sovereigns.

The middle-aged man chuckled as he glanced at Ye An and Ye Guan. "I expected the challengers of my Wang Clan to be fearsome warriors, not just two youngsters. I'm curious, did you dare challenge us out of youthful fearlessness or do you have some backup?"

"Does it matter?" Ye Guan calmly asked.

The middle-aged man chuckled. "Not really. The moment you challenged us, you became sworn enemies of the Wang Clan. However, like I said, I am curious. If you simply lost control due to youthful fearlessness, then I can somewhat understand this situation. However, if it's because you have some backing, then I have to ask, who's giving you this much confidence?"

Ye Guan looked the middle-aged man in the eye. "Why waste time with words? Let's fight already. Do you prefer single combat or an all-out brawl?"

The middle-aged man laughed heartily. "Quite audacious! Very well, let's settle this between us two. I want to see just how remarkable the younger generation truly is."

He took a sudden step forward, unleashing a torrent of powerful forces toward Ye Guan.

In the face of overwhelming force—with the might of a Heavenly Sovereign—Ye Guan remained unfazed. Stepping forward as well, he lightly flicked his thumb, causing his sword to unsheathe and swiftly intercept the incoming torrent.

Shwing!

The torrent was destroyed. However, at the same time, a mighty fist crashed directly onto the sword.

With a resounding impact, the sword made of Sword Intent quivered violently. Simultaneously, the starry sky began to boil like a seething cauldron, emanating sheer terror.

The punch stopped Ye Guan's Sword Intent, preventing it from budging even an inch. Grinning, the middle-aged man retracted his right hand and threw another punch.

Bam!

Another resounding impact echoed as the Sword Intent was sent flying. However, in that instant, Ye Guan transformed into a streak of sword light and vanished. Suddenly, a sword fell onto the middle-aged man's fist, sending the middle-aged man hurtling hundreds of meters away.

As he came to a stop, a hint of astonishment flashed across his eyes. "Your Sword Intent..."

Ye Guan could not be bothered with words, however. With his sword in hand, he charged once more.

His sword movements were as swift as lightning.

The middle-aged man's eyes narrowed slightly, a hint of gravity in his gaze. The past two strikes from Ye Guan made him realize that his prowess was on par with a Heavenly Sovereign.

He had no room for complacency.

Hence, the middle-aged man lightly rotated his right fist. The next moment, he threw another punch.

This time, the roar of a demonic beast accompanied it.

Boom!

The sword light shattered, and Ye Guan was sent flying thousands of meters away.

Ye Guan frowned as he regained his footing. He noticed an illusory demonic beast that resembled a bull behind the middle-aged man. The formidable beast had arms as thick as pillars, veins pulsating with blood-red hues, and horns akin to curved blades. The sight of it would have sent shivers down anyone's spine.

Ye Guan's frown deepened. Many of the Old Era's inhabitants seemed to prefer fusing with demonic beasts.

The middle-aged man charged forward, becoming as unstoppable as a raging bull. Wherever he went, spacetime collapsed and disintegrated.

Reacting swiftly, Ye Guan drew his sword. A brilliant burst of sword light followed.

Clang!

However, the sword light shattered upon hitting the man. Ye Guan was once again forced to widen the distance. Meanwhile, the middle-aged man continued his onslaught, launching punch after punch toward him.

Boom!

Around him, spacetime disintegrated.

Ye Guan took a step forward as he thrust his sword forward. The strike was pure, void of sword enhancement techniques.

Kaboom!

However, just like before, the sword light was destroyed again, and Ye Guan was sent hurtling back.

The middle-aged man leaped forward and relentlessly threw punches. Empowered by the demonic beast, his attacks carried terrifying force.

Despite being completely suppressed, Ye Guan remained composed. He delivered simple sword strikes that weren't imbued with his bloodline power or sword techniques. Although he could not match the middle-aged man's might, Ye Guan was calm, gradually acclimatizing himself to his opponent's strength.

Meanwhile, his Invincible Sword Intent was steadily growing stronger.

Bam!

After pushing Ye Guan back again, the middle-aged man stopped pursuing him. Instead, he fixed his gaze on Ye Guan. "Are you underestimating me?"

He could sense that the young swordsman hadn't exerted his full strength yet and that he was being used as a practice target. It was humiliating!

From a distance, Ye Guan calmly glanced at him. "Yes, I am."

"Arrogant!" the middle-aged man roared.

Shooting into the air, the illusory demonic beast above him surged to towering heights. He threw a furious punch downward at Ye Guan, and the demonic beast behind him copied his movements.

Boom!

The entire starry sky seemed to shatter and implode as the punch descended on Ye Guan like an apocalypse.

Suffocated by the overwhelming pressure, Ye Guan slowly closed his eyes. At the same time, countless waves of Invincible Sword Intent gathered inside him.

Right after, his eyes snapped open. He unrolled his fist and sent a Sword Intent—amassed from countless swords—to the sky.

The Sword Intent destroyed the attack of the middle-aged man and cleaved through the beast's fist like a knife cutting through butter. The collision resulted in a deafening explosion.

Boom!

The ear-splitting explosion was followed by a cry of agony.

The faces of the nearby Wang Clan members darkened, immediately realizing that it had come from the demonic beast.

As the sword light and fist aura dissipated, the middle-aged man, along with the demonic beast, was pushed back thousands of meters. The beast now looked feeble, devoid of its former menace.

Disbelief filled the middle-aged man's eyes as he looked at Ye Guan. "How is this possible..."

Before he could finish speaking, a streak of sword light shot toward him.

The middle-aged man's pupils contracted as he hastily crossed his arms.

Bang!

The sword that struck down sent him flying. Right after, another sword strike came after him.

Bang!

The middle-aged man defended himself again, pushing him back once more.

Ye Guan unleashed a dozen strikes in quick succession, each forcing his opponent to retreat hundreds of meters.

With the middle-aged man unable to do anything but defend, the tides of the battle had been completely turned around.

The scene made the Wang Clan members exchange glances. They each activated their profound energy, ready to intervene at any moment.

However, Ye An just calmly glanced at them.

Boom!

Just then, the demonic beast above the middle-aged man shattered, and he was blasted away. In that instant, his body began to crack. Without his demonic beast, he would have been torn to pieces long ago.

Just as Ye Guan was about to deliver the final blow, the Wang Clan members in the distance suddenly disappeared and headed straight toward him.

Single combat? When one could win, then they could demand single combat. However, if they couldn't, it was only natural to resort to an all-out brawl.

The moment the Wang Clan members rushed ahead, Ye An, who had been silently watching, suddenly disappeared as well. Then, in an instant, a long spear swept toward them.

With a single thrust, it bore an unstoppable force.

Sensing the terror within Ye An's attack, the five Wang Clan members' expressions shifted. Daring not to underestimate her, they turned to block her spear.

“Ah!”

A cry of agony pierced the air.

After fending off the attack, the five Wang Clan members turned around just in time to witness a sword piercing into the middle-aged man's forehead.

Their faces turned pale. They had been defeated.

Before Ye Guan, the middle-aged man stood, immobilized by the sword's intent. He couldn't even move a muscle. The demonic beast had been completely suppressed as well.

He attempted to speak, but before he could, Ye Guan's sword swung true.

His head flew into the sky, and blood gushed out in a crimson arc.

After killing the middle-aged man, Ye Guan turned to the remaining Wang Clan members, who were gaping in shock.

Realizing that they had clearly underestimated him, the five attempted to retreat. At the same time, Ye Guan and Ye An vanished into thin air.

Moments later, five more lifeless bodies littered the battlefield.

Almost simultaneously, in a distant world, six divine tablets shattered in the Wang Clan's ancestral shrine.

“Huh?”

A voice echoed within the Wang Clan halls, tinged with both doubt and fury.

Chapter 596: Did We Have Fun Fighting?

The Wang Clan, the descendants of gods, lived in the Divine Wang World—a world so vast that it stretched across millions of miles. It was almost akin to a separate universe.

On that particular day, within their ancestral shrine, six divine tablets shattered. This dire event signified the loss of six of their members.

The clan leader, Wang Zong, called for an urgent family meeting. Thirty-seven elders, along with four god-generals and two Chief Protectors gathered in a hall. Except for those who were in cultivation seclusion, all of their elite members were present.

After surveying the crowd, he solemnly announced, "We have lost six more of our kin. Combined with our previous two casualties, Wang Lan included, we have now lost eight members."

Everyone's brows furrowed out of concern.

An elder with flowing white hair broke the silence. "Have we managed to uncover any information about our foes' origins?"

"Not yet," Wang Zong calmly responded.

The white-haired elder's frown deepened. "Their origins remain shrouded in mystery, then?"

"Does it truly matter, Elder?" interjected a senior figure cloaked in crimson robes from across the room. "We will seek revenge regardless of their background anyway, won't we?"

The Grand Elder regarded the crimson-robed elder with a hint of disapproval. "Elder An, our enemy killed a Heavenly Sovereign despite his young age. How can he just be any ordinary talent?"

The crimson-robed elder, Wang An, answered, "He certainly is by no means a normal individual, but so what? Are we to refrain from attacking him once we learn of his origins?"

Shaking his head, he continued, "When he chose to make an enemy out of our clan, he must have already known that it would decide his fate. Why should we bother about his origins? At most, he would have some backers, but what does the Wang Clan have to fear?"

The rest of the elders nodded in agreement.

"The Wang Clan does not have to fear anyone, but we would be foolish to simply attack without learning more about our opponent," the Grand Elder calmly explained. "We have already lost six people because of our foolishness."

"Grand Elder, if we can't figure out his identity, would we give up on killing him and allow him to reign freely around?"

The Grand Elder's brows furrowed deeply.

Wang An continued, "We're all aware that the background of that young man is far from ordinary. However, have you considered that despite knowing the status of our clan, he still showed no mercy and opted for ruthless tactics? It's a blatant disregard for our status. In all the years we have held our ground in the Old Era, when have we ever been treated with such disdain? Since he's shown no mercy and acted so ruthlessly, it is only fair for us to do the same. We start by taking out the young, then the old. Simple, isn't it?"

Shaking his head slightly, the Grand Elder responded, "This individual must have heard of our clan before, yet, despite being aware of our status, he still dared act so ruthlessly. This only underscores the complexity of his background. Therefore, I think we should exercise caution."

"We've lost eight of our own," Wang An stated, causing the Grand Elder's expression to further darken. He added, "The other four families are watching our every move."

A grim atmosphere enveloped the hall.

In societies like theirs, prestige was paramount. With six more members of the Wang Clan killed, if they remained silent, it begged the question of how the other four families would regard them. Would they still afford them any respect?

This was not just about pride. Their reputation was on the line. If they didn't act now, the Wang Clan's standing among the Descendants of the Gods would suffer a heavy blow.

At that moment, Wang Zong, the clan leader, intervened, "We will follow Wang An's suggestion."

Wang An nodded solemnly. "I won't disappoint our clan."

Wang Zong fixed his gaze on him. "Students of the Divine Courtyard are required to possess exceptional talent. Do not underestimate him. Even when pouncing on a rabbit, a lion must still exert its full strength."

"Understood," replied Wang An.

Wang Zong rose from his seat. "Everyone is dismissed."

He then vanished into thin air.

As Wang An made his way out of the hall, the Grand Elder appeared by his side.

"What is it, Grand Elder?" Wang An calmly inquired.

Gazing into the distance, the Grand Elder replied, "Wang An, although we often vie for power, now is the time for unity in the face of external threats."

Wang An offered a silent smile in response.

Turning to him, the Grand Elder added, "That youth is heading for the First God Paradise. Time is of the essence."

"Got it."

Wang An then transformed into a streak of light and disappeared into the sky.

Watching him depart, the Grand Elder couldn't shake off a sense of unease. He had contemplated suggesting that Clan Leader Wang Zong personally lead a group to kill Ye Guan, a strategic move that would ensure success and leave no room for error.

However, he knew that such a suggestion would be met with ridicule.

Having the clan leader of the Wang Clan personally take out a mere youth?

Even if successful, the Wang Clan would become the laughingstock of the other four major families.

Pride! Even if people died, pride had to endure!

With a resigned sigh, the Grand Elder turned and left.

...

After killing the six members of the Wang Clan, Ye Guan collected their storage rings. He also managed to obtain the Barbaric Divine Bull, an Imperial-Ranked demonic beast!

The Barbaric Divine Bull was surprisingly compliant. It even submitted almost effortlessly, likely driven by Ye Guan's gift of Ancestral Origin strands. No, even if he hadn't given it a strand of Ancestral Origin, it would have still probably submitted to survive.

For Ye Guan, an additional ally was welcomed. The Barbaric Divine Bull already boasted considerable strength, and he believed that he could make it even stronger with his guidance.

Upon inspecting the storage rings of the Wang Clan members, Ye Guan couldn't help but feel disappointed. They contained no Ancestral Origin strands. It was truly a pity.

No wonder the Great Daoist Brush Master had acknowledged that Ancestral Origin strands were rare even in the Old Era.

After securing their loot, the siblings resumed their journey toward the First God Paradise. Meanwhile, Ye An returned to the little pagoda to focus on her cultivation.

Ye Guan spent the next hour traveling through countless starry regions. Afterward, he took out the starry region map given to him by the Right Bishop. After glancing at it, he gazed into the distance.

They were getting close.

He put the map away and transformed into a streak of sword light, vanishing into the distant stars.

Half an hour later, Ye Guan abruptly stopped, his attention drawn by an old, hunch-backed man in the distance. He was covered with layers of iron chains, one end of which was tied to a bronze coffin.

The hunched figure slowly shuffled forward, each step seemingly sapping his strength.

The strange sight made Ye Guan alert. Although he was strong, he knew that there would always be people stronger than him. Hence, he decided to be cautious.

Opting not to disturb the stranger, Ye Guan prepared to veer off course. However, before he could, the old pallbearer raised his head.

"Young man, why do I detect a familiar energy from you?" he asked.

Ye Guan paused, puzzled. "A familiar energy?"

The old pallbearer nodded. "Yes."

Ye Guan's brows furrowed, perplexed.

Locking eyes with him, he continued, "Do you have a divine artifact within you?"

The mention of a divine artifact made Ye Guan even warier.

Noticing Ye Guan's guarded demeanor, the old pallbearer grinned ominously. With a swift motion, he manipulated the space around Ye Guan and trapped him.

Ye Guan's heart jumped. Instinctively, he unleashed a surge of sword intent, shattering the spacetime barrier around him. He then swiftly retreated hundreds of meters away.

"Hm?" The old pallbearer's eyes widened in surprise. "I may have underestimated you."

Ye Guan eyed him warily. "I bear no ill will toward you. Why attack me?"

The old pallbearer chuckled ominously. "Why not? Sometimes, it's as simple as that."

Ye Guan's brows furrowed deeper.

The old pallbearer suddenly extended his hand, causing countless ancient runes to materialize above Ye Guan. With a press of his hand, dark light surged forth, shooting straight toward Ye Guan.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed. Reacting swiftly, he lunged forward and swung his sword down in defense.

Shwing!

The clash of their attacks echoed through the space. Eventually, both lights shattered.

Ye Guan's eyes widened in alarm. Suddenly, dark light morphed into runes and flew toward him. In response, he drew his sword to deflect the onslaught.

Boom! Boom! Boom!...

The area reverberated with thunderous explosions, each blast propelling Ye Guan backward by a hundred meters. In mere moments, he found himself hundreds of meters away, blood staining his lips as he came to a halt.

The old pallbearer grinned, acknowledging Ye Guan's resilience with a nod.

"Impressive," he remarked, then threw a powerful punch.

Boom!

A deadly fist-shaped rune hurtled toward Ye Guan.

Sensing the imminent danger, his eyes flashed with determination. He conjured Invincible Sword Intent from within and turned it into a sword. Right after, he thrust it forward with all his might.

Boom!

The sword erupted in a blinding burst of light, sending Ye Guan flying once again. As he steadied himself, blood trickled from his lips.

After glancing at his opponent, Ye Guan opted out of the confrontation. He transformed into a streak of light, disappearing into the depths of the starry region.

He knew he couldn't defeat the old pallbearer yet. Hence, he decided to return another time instead.

While watching him retreat, the old pallbearer's brows furrowed but did not pursue Ye Guan. Regret clouded his expression.

"I shouldn't have held back earlier. That mysterious aura within him..." he trailed off.

The young man was definitely in possession of a high-ranking divine artifact.

At that moment, his attention was drawn to two approaching figures. One was in white robes. The other wore a plain skirt.

As they drew nearer, the lady in the plain skirt fixed her gaze on him.

"Enjoying yourself?" she asked.

The old pallbearer frowned.

Chapter 597: When The Time Comes, I Will Intervene

The old pallbearer looked at the two, feeling somewhat puzzled. He was about to say something when Plain Skirt Destiny suddenly raised her right hand and pressed it down.

Boom!

The old pallbearer's eyes narrowed. However, before he could react, he fell to his knees with a loud plop.

He was stunned!

What on earth just happened?

He looked at Plain Skirt Destiny in disbelief. "You... Why are you doing this?"

Plain Skirt Destiny looked down at him condescendingly, as if he was an ant. "I can do whatever I want whenever I want. Why do I need a reason for it?"

The old pallbearer's face instantly paled. He had said something along those lines to the young swordsman earlier. Now, his family had come to make a scene.

The old pallbearer looked bitter. He did not expect that someone so strong would be supporting that young swordsman.

This time, he really had gotten into big trouble.

At that moment, the man in the white robe, who was next to Plain Skirt Destiny, suddenly said, "Let's go!"

When her eyes remained locked on the old pallbearer, the man in the white robe added, "Let him kneel until he dies."

The woman's lips curved into a smile as she pulled the man in the white robe and walked into the distance.

As they passed by the bronze coffin, Plain Skirt Destiny glanced at it indifferently. She did not look interested in the slightest!

Soon after the two disappeared into the distant stars, the old pallbearer activated the profound energy in his body and attempted to break the sword energy that Plain Skirt Destiny had left behind inside him.

Boom!

As soon as he resisted, his eyes suddenly narrowed, and his whole figure turned illusory.

Despair filled his heart. He was doomed!

His face turned ashen, and his eyes were filled with horror.

The strand of sword energy in his body was simply beyond his ability to break. He had never felt so helpless before.

At that moment, he suddenly remembered something that his master, the First God, had once told him.

"Do not commit evil deeds for personal gains."

Once a person's strength had reached a certain level, their divinity would start becoming increasingly stronger. Such people often had no scruples and acted based on their whims. Those who were willing to set their boundaries with the weak were few and far between. It was just like how the powerful and privileged rarely reasoned with the common people.

Kneeling in the void, the old pallbearer's face remained pale. He knew he was doomed. He would kneel here until he died.

Although he was not afraid of death, he feared that there were things that he would be unable to accomplish.

He stared blankly toward the depths of the void. With just a few words from the woman earlier, he was now going to spend the rest of his life being punished for the impulsive act that he had done earlier.

The old pallbearer couldn't help but see this treatment as unjust!

As if coming to a realization, a determined look formed in the old pallbearer's eyes. "When First God returns... there'll be hope..."

...

On the other side, amid the depths of the starry sky, Plain Skirt Destiny and the white-robed man followed the young swordsman from afar.

"Qing'er, there are many people in this world who do not act with reason," the man said.

"The most unreasonable ones came from your family," Plain Skirt Destiny replied.

Slightly taken aback, he gently held her hand and said, "It's our family."

The corners of her lips curled up.

The man continued, "Throughout our journey, we've encountered people who act according to their own desires. I don't think it's right."

Plain Skirt Destiny remained silent.

Turning to look at her, he asked, "What do you think?"

"Your opinion is all that matters."

The man shook his head and smiled. "Come on, tell me your thoughts. I want to know what you think."

Plain Skirt Destiny raised her head and gazed into the endless depths of the starry sky. "Cultivators cultivate to follow their desires. The stronger they are, the more this applies to them. When it comes to principles, in their world, strength is the answer. Unless the one who sets the rules is invincible, one will always get to make the rules if they are stronger."

"Invincible..." the man mumbled. "Qing'er, are you willing to abide by others' principles and rules?"

Holding his hand, Plain Skirt Destiny replied, "There will never be absolute fairness in this world. Even if rules have been established, who can guarantee that they won't be used as tools to enslave all beings?"

The man in the white robe fell silent.

Plain Skirt Destiny smiled gently. "Don't think too much about it. Someone's already working on these things. He's having a very hard time right now, but it's okay. When the time comes, I will intervene."

The man grinned. "Alright."

Soon after, the two disappeared into the depths of the starry sky.

On the other side, Ye Guan wiped the blood from the corner of his lip. An icy gaze enveloped his eyes.

Fuck! Am I being targeted by the Great Daoist Brush Master again? I keep getting beat up by random people for no reason!

Ye Guan had decided to deal with that old stubborn man next time. He was smarter now. If he could not beat someone, he would not fight them. Instead, he would spend some time training before coming back to fight them.

For that reason, he decided not to rush into things. After all, it would only put him in a disadvantageous position.

Without further thought, Ye Guan took out his starry region map and examined it. He then looked in the distance. He was close to the First God Paradise.

After putting away the map, he transformed into a ray of sword light and disappeared.

About half an hour later, he stopped amid a galaxy. A huge, beautiful, crystal-clear pearl was floating in the air not too far away from him.

The First God Paradise!

Ye Guan was about to enter when a terrifying aura suddenly attacked him from behind. Instead of turning around, he hopped on his sword and headed straight to his destination.

He didn't need to see the attackers to know that someone strong from the Wang Clan had caught up to him. To make matters worse, there was probably more than one of them. If he did not escape now, they would surely gang up on him.

Just as he was about to charge into the First God Paradise, a phantom suddenly appeared in front of him. A black fist light then rushed toward him.

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed. He had no choice but to draw his sword.

Bang!

A burst of sword light suddenly erupted in front of Ye Guan, forcing him to retreat thousands of meters away. When he stopped, the spacetime around him cracked open, and twelve powerful figures slowly emerged. They were all Heavenly Sovereigns! The only exception was the elder leading all of them, who was in the Ancient Sovereign Realm.

Wang An, their leader, looked Ye Guan up and down. He then said, "You certainly are young."

Ye Guan tightened his grip on his sword.

Wang A said, "You dared kill six people from the Wang Clan, so I assume you have a very strong backing. I can't help but wonder what exactly gives you the audacity to kill members of my family. Care to share it with me?"

The moment he saw Ye Guan and how young he was, his curiosity was instantly piqued. To possess such strength at a young age meant that whoever was behind him had to be very powerful. Hence, he wanted to know who they were.

"No one's helping me," Ye Guan replied.

Wang An chuckled. "You don't want to tell me?"

Ye Guan laughed. "I'm backed by someone invincible."

"Are you trying to scare me?"

Ye Guan was speechless, thinking that this man was full of shit. It did not matter if he told the truth or lied. The strange man before him would not believe him anyway.

Wang An waved his hand dismissively. "If you don't want to tell me, then forget it. The person behind you will surely appear once we start beating you up anyway. I'm quite familiar with this routine."

He then took a step forward, causing Ye Guan's expression to change drastically. He swiftly drew his sword and unleashed Invincible Sword Intent.

Boom!

However, the countless sword lights were helplessly shattered.

Ye Guan was sent violently flying backward. At the same time, Wang An soared into the air, flipped his right hand, and swiftly descended.

Above Ye Guan, spacetime was ripped open. The next moment, a colossal palm fell from the skies, seemingly hoping to crush the entire galaxy.

This was the power of someone who had reached the Ancestral Sovereign Realm!

Ye Guan's expression turned heavy. Wang An's strength far surpassed that of the Heavenly Sovereign whom he met earlier on. If so, then Wang An was far stronger than him as well. To make things worse, he also had twelve other Imperial Sovereigns to deal with.

Hence, he stopped holding back.

"Qianqian," he internally called.

Boom!

A terrifying aura surged out from within him. In an instant, he transformed into a ray of sword light and soared into the sky. He then swung his weapon toward the colossal palm.

Boom!

As his attack tore apart the colossal palm, his figure shook once more. He transformed into a ray of sword light again and launched a counterattack.

Wang An laughed heartily. "Excellent timing!"

He suddenly opened his palm and then gently clenched it. As endless spacetime and galaxies materialized, he threw a punch at Ye Guan.

The spacetime and galaxies within his fist simultaneously exploded, shattering all the star fields in the surrounding area.

However, the First God Paradise remained intact, completely unaffected by the force of his punch.

Sensing the terrifying power that Wang An's punch contained, Ye Guan slowly closed his eyes. Right after he turned illusory, thousands of swords surged forth.

Ye Guan's swordsmanship had greatly improved since he came to the Old Era, and he had Ao Qianqian's support. Hence, the power of his Space Overlap had increased by over tenfold!

A single sword strike was all he needed!

Boom!

A burst of sword light erupted violently from between him and his opponent. The impact sent them thousands of meters backward!

When they came to a stop, Wang An looked at Ye Guan in excitement. "Impressive. It seems like the Wang Clan has underestimated you. I never expected you to be able to fare this well against someone who has reached the Ancient Sovereign Realm."

Ye Guan gazed at Wang An coldly. "Let's continue."

Wang An guffawed. "I'm choosing to gang up on you instead."

He and the twelve Imperial Sovereigns beside him all charged straight at Ye Guan.

Chapter 598: Save Me

Realizing that Ye Guan was more terrifying than he expected, Wang An decided to gang up on him instead. For someone so young to be able to hold their ground against him, an elite in the Ancient Sovereign Realm, was simply inconceivable. Hence, to prevent any unexpected accidents from happening, he concluded that it would be better to use their numbers against him.

They had to prioritize killing the young swordsman. Martial ethics and similar concepts weren't important right now.

With Wang An choosing to gang up on him, Ye Guan's gaze turned cold. He wasn't really surprised, though. After all, he had been expecting this outcome.

In response, he decided not to hold back anymore either.

Boom...

Suddenly, four terrifying auras surged out of Ye Guan. They belonged to Mu Yuan, Ye An, and the two other god-generals.

The moment they emerged, Wang An's expression drastically changed.

"You!" he exclaimed in shock.

Mu Yuan, leading the charge, rushed toward Wang An and delivered a resounding slap to his face.

The old man's aura made Wang An's heart tremble with fear. It was even stronger than his own, so he dared not be careless. With a flick of his right hand, a dark golden armguard appeared on his right arm. He then threw a devastating punch with all his might, causing fist light to erupt!

Boom!

However, the fist light shattered as soon as it appeared. Immediately after, Wang An was knocked thousands of meters away, and the spacetime all around him collapsed. His armguard was also shattered into pieces.

When Wang An finally stopped, he looked up at Mu Yuan, his eyes filled with horror. "You..."

Mu Yuan did not waste any words. His image shook as he transformed into a ray of divine light and rushed toward Wang An, his eyes filled with murderous intent.

His identity was rather special, so it was best not to expose it. Otherwise, he would not be able to let any of these people live since that would bring great trouble to Ye Guan.

Seeing the divine light that Mu Yuan emanated, Wang An's eyes narrowed. "Divine power... You're from the Temple of the Gods!"

Only those from the Temple of the Gods possessed such power!

Upon closing in on Wang An, Mu Yuan threw a punch. Thousands of rays of divine light surged out from his fist.

As his expression grew heavier, Wang An stepped forward and tightly clenched his left hand. A huge black vortex then appeared behind him, from which countless dense dark energies rushed out and converged into his body.

Right after, he threw a straight right!

Black fist radiance formed a shield-like barrier in front of him.

Boom!

As soon as Mu Yuan and Wang An's attacks collided, a terrifying energy shockwave erupted, blasting the two away.

After skidding to a stop, Mu Yuan glanced at Wang An, his eyes slightly narrowed. "Dark Arts!"

Like Divine Arts, Dark Arts were created by the First God. However, Dark Arts were only created after the First God gained full divinity. Moreover, only a few Divine Servants had practiced them.

Wang An glared at Mu Yuan. He spread his hands, then slowly clenched them. In an instant, countless dark energies gathered around him. His aura also skyrocketed, spreading outward like a raging tide. It was incredibly terrifying.

Their eyes locked as they vanished from where they were standing.

Mu Yuan was stunned. Wang An did not rush toward him. Instead, he turned and fled.

You showed such a grand move just to flee?

Mu Yuan was dumbfounded.

Almost at the same time, the other members of the Wang Clan also turned and fled.

Wang An decided to retreat for two reasons. The first reason was Mu Yuan. Since the old man cultivated divine power, he could be affiliated with the Temple of the Gods. In other words, there Ye Guan might be connected to that organization as well. The second reason was the unfavorable situation. Considering half of the people that he had brought with him were slain, he concluded that they no longer had any chance of winning.

At that moment, Mu Yuan suddenly said, "We can't let them leave."

He then transformed into a ray of divine light and rushed toward Wang An. Ye Guan and the others immediately gave chase as well.

Mu Yuan and the others' identities had to remain a secret. Otherwise, things would become very difficult for Ye Guan.

Moving quicker than Wang An, he caught up to him in no time.

Boom!

A ray of divine light descended in front of Wang An, blocking his path. However, he did not stop. While still trying to flee, he threw a punch toward the divine light, shattering it.

Bang!

However, at the same time, another terrifying force reached him from behind.

His face darkened. Unable to escape anymore, he could only turn around and throw another punch.

Boom!

The divine and dark lights collided, the resulting impact sending Wang An flying. Before he could even decelerate, a ray of sword light silently rushed toward him.

Opting to deal with their strongest opponent first, Ye Guan now targeted him!

Wang An laughed loudly. Instead of retreating, he advanced and threw a punch toward Ye Guan's sword.

Bang!

The attack shattered Ye Guan's sword light and blasted him away.

Wang An looked down at his right arm, finding a deep sword mark on his fist. Blood continuously flowed from it. It did not take long for his fist to be dyed red with blood.

He raised his head and looked at Ye Guan, who had stopped some distance away. He could not help but praise him. "Impressive Sword Intent!"

Right after, he clasped his hands together.

Boom!

Behind him, a pure black image thousands of meters tall appeared. It emitted a terrifying black aura as if it were a demonic god.

Mu Yuan, who was beside Ye Guan, narrowed his eyes. "Dark Void Projection?! This guy has some tricks up his sleeves, I'll need to use some of my own too."

Ye Guan nodded. "Alright."

Mu Yuan took a step forward as a divine light surged from within him. After taking another step, divine light emerged from under his feet. With a quick jab, he sent the two rays toward Wang An in the form of two giant blades.

Wang An's eyes narrowed. "Divine Blades? Who exactly are you...?"

As he spoke, he used the Dark Void Projection counterpunch.

Boom! Bang!

Unable to withstand the Divine Blades' power, the Dark Void Projection shattered.

Now aware that he was no match for Mu Yuan, Wang An turned and fled once more. However, Mu Yuan had no intention of letting him escape. Taking another step forward, a Divine Blade suddenly flew out from between his eyebrows and toward Wang An, who had already reached the end of the starry sky.

Sensing a projectile coming toward him, Wang An felt horror rising in his heart. Looking up at the void, he threw caution to the wind.

"Save me!" he roared as he crushed a wooden tablet with his hands.

Boom!

Above Wang An's head, a black, giant finger broke through the void and collided with Mu Yuan's Divine Blade.

Rumble!

With his Divine Blade forcibly stopped in its tracks, Mu Yuan glanced at the depths of the starry sky.

"Let's go," he said.

Ye Guan nodded. He then turned and left with the others. However, as soon as they departed, a group of powerful individuals, the Wang Clan's elites, emerged from the rift in spacetime behind Wang An. Leading them was Wang Zong, their clan leader.

Wang Zong looked into the distance, his brows furrowing.

"Divine Blades," he muttered.

Wang An's expression soured. "He's from the Temple of the Gods."

"No, he's not," a clan elder argued, causing everyone to turn to him.

He continued, "He's from the Daoist Temple."

The Daoist Temple?!

The revelation shocked everyone. The Daoist Temple was the predecessor of the Temple of the Gods. Very few people knew about it today.

"Ye Guan's identity..." the elder said in a low voice.

The faces of the Wang Clan's elites darkened. If Ye Guan was truly connected to the Daoist Temple, then he had to be quite special. Hence, they could not help but admit now that they had underestimated him.

They had already lost more than twenty elites to him, and the weakest of them was an Imperial Sovereign. Such losses were significant even for the Wang Clan.

Some elders could not help but glance grudgingly at Wang An, feeling some resentment toward him. If he had just listened to the Grand Elder's advice and conducted a proper investigation, perhaps they would not have lost another twelve Imperial Sovereigns. Considering those individuals had all been meticulously cultivated by the Wang Clan, losing them like this was truly regrettable.

Noticing that the elders' gazes were on him, Wang An's expression darkened. He couldn't even say anything now that everyone was upset with him.

"We have to find out the true identity of the person who used the Divine Blades and, more importantly, his relationship with the young swordsman," the Grand Elder said.

"We have to seek guidance from the Divine Ancestor," Wang Zong said.

Since this involved the Daoist Temple, they could only seek guidance from the Divine Ancestor. He was the only one who truly understood that era.

Grand Elder nodded. "I agree. That's our only option now."

Wang Zong slowly closed his eyes. Right after, the wooden tablet in his hand began to tremble slightly. A mysterious aura soon emerged around them.

The elites of the Wang Clan immediately knelt, respect plastered all over their faces.

After some time passed, Wang Zong opened his eyes, excitement clearly visible in his gaze.

"Clan Leader?" the Grand Elder hurriedly asked.

Staring into the depths of the galaxy, Wang Zong said, "That person's name is Mu Yuan. He disappeared at the same time as the Divine Painting. Since the First God's inheritance lies in the Divine Painting, now that he has reappeared..."

"Ye Guan has obtained First God's inheritance?!" the Grand Elder exclaimed in surprise.

Wang Zong slowly clenched his fists in an attempt to suppress his excitement, but it still showed in his expression. "It's highly possible. That would also explain why he relentlessly tried to kill Wang An earlier. He did not want his identity to be exposed..."

The Wang Clan's elites were also excited now.

One of the reasons the gods had a civil war in the past was their desire to obtain the treasures and Ancestral Veins the First God had left behind.

Even though so many years had passed since then, the gods still had not given up on their search for it. After all, it not only symbolized a certain status but also contained countless treasures and Ancestral Veins!

It was irresistible!

"This information must not be made public," Wang Zong suddenly said.

Looking toward the distant end of the starry sky, his eyes glinted. "Our clan will slaughter that golden hen and take everything for ourselves."

Chapter 599: Point The Way

Ye Guan and Mu Yuan finally arrived at the First God Paradise.

Mu Yuan's expression was heavy. "The Wang Clan are descendants of a god. They can communicate with those self-proclaimed gods. My identity might get exposed."

Ye Guan smiled and said, "It doesn't matter."

Mu Yuan looked at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan said deeply, "If your identity gets exposed, then so be it."

Mu Yuan smiled. He truly appreciated Ye Guan's confidence. A cultivator had to remain fearless and decisive throughout their journey to the summit of cultivation.

Ye Guan looked at the First God Paradise and asked, "Have you been here before?"

Mu Yuan shook his head. "No."

"No?" Ye Guan was surprised.

Mu Yuan nodded. "I do know about this place, but I've never been here. The First God doesn't really like people coming here, so he sealed it with divine power. This place will suppress everyone, and the higher their cultivation base, the stronger the suppression is..."

"Does that mean the people inside have no cultivation base?"

"I don't know."

"Let's go take a look."

Mu Yuan nodded and entered the world inside the tiny pagoda to cultivate. He had grown fond of Ye Guan's tiny pagoda. It was the perfect divine artifact for cultivation!

Ye Guan stared at the First God Paradise in the distance. His figure trembled as he transformed into a ray of sword light that flew toward the First God Paradise.

Swoosh!

An invisible divine power immobilized Ye Guan before he could approach the First God Paradise. An aged voice echoed, saying, "Outsiders are prohibited beyond this point."

Ye Guan thought briefly before opening his palm, revealing the Divine Imprint.

A few moments later, the invisible divine power disappeared. Ye Guan transformed into a ray of sword light once again and flew straight into the First God Paradise.

Just a few minutes after Ye Guan disappeared into the First God Paradise, two people appeared in front of it. They were a man and a woman—the man was wearing a white robe, and the lady was in a plain skirt.

The man in the white robe stared at the First God Paradise before walking toward it.

An invisible divine power immobilized them, and the same aged voice earlier echoed loudly in their ears, saying, "Outsiders are prohibited—"

Plain-Skirt Destiny waved her sleeve, and the divine power disappeared.

The aged voice sounded helpless. "Please come in."

The man in the white robe had no idea what to say.

...

After an unknown amount of time, Ye Guan opened his eyes and found himself in front of a small town. Ye Guan saw several children kicking a ball around amidst laughter.

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued. He was about to step forward when he sensed something amiss. He frowned, realizing that his cultivation had been suppressed. He tried to resist but to no avail.

Ye Guan was shocked. The First God was no longer around, but the divine power he had left behind was still strong enough to suppress any outsiders.

Sensing something, Ye Guan's brows furrowed even more as he looked up at the sky. He saw two streaks of white light passing by, followed by terrifying explosions that echoed throughout the sky. Ye Guan was stunned. What on earth is happening? Does everyone else here still have their cultivation bases intact?

"A fight broke out!" a child shouted from somewhere near the gates. Ye Guan looked at them and saw that the children were all gazing at the sky with excitement rather than fear.

Boom!

A deafening explosion echoed, and a wave of terrifying energy descended from above.

Ye Guan's expression changed drastically. The wave of energy was incredibly powerful, and it would easily reduce the small town before him into rubble if the wave of energy managed to hit the small town.

Ye Guan's face went blank moments later. The wave of energy had vanished as soon as it got close enough to the town. There was a mysterious force protecting this town!

Just then, a figure descended and landed inside the town.

Meanwhile, an old man was looking down at the town below from the sky, and his expression was extremely grim.

Ye Guan looked at the old man.

The old man sensed Ye Guan's gaze and made eye contact with the latter.

"What the hell are you looking at?!"

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed, and killing intent rose in his heart. However, a sword light pierced through the old man's forehead just then. The old man disappeared, flying thousands of meters away before he was finally pinned to a mountainside.

Ye Guan was stunned. The old man was dumbfounded as well. He did not even have time to react, much less find out who had made a move against him. He looked around, somewhat bewildered.

There weren't any traces of movement whatsoever!

The old man respectfully said, "I don't know which senior is here. If I have offended you, I ask for forgiveness on account of the Virtuous Law Clan."

The old man was confident that the attacker would show some respect upon hearing his clan's name. However, his attacker remained silent.

The old man's face darkened. "Do you really want to become enemies with my Virtuous Law Clan?"

He received zero response.

The old man's expression soured. "I concede defeat today. Give me your name. In the future, my Virtuous Law Clan will come and 'seek guidance' from you."

Since being civil was not working, the old man had no choice but to resort to threats.

"Where is the Virtuous Law Clan? Point the way." A voice echoed from the shadows, and the voice seemed to be laced with a certain power, which made the old man point to the right unconsciously.

Thousands of kilometers away, a sword abruptly manifested above a mountain. The next moment, the sword descended upon the mountain, annihilating the entire mountain along with the Virtuous Law Clan.

Ye Guan looked at the sky with a puzzled expression. The old man had been taken away by a ray of sword light, and he couldn't track the old man, as his cultivation base was under suppression.

Ye Guan's expression became heavy, realizing that the town was more dangerous than he thought. The cultivation bases of outsiders were under suppression, but it didn't apply to the natives of this place.

Of course, it did make sense in Ye Guan's opinion.

Fortunately, he could still use his tiny pagoda and storage ring. Regardless, he had to be careful

Ye Guan walked toward a group of children in the distance. The battle was over, so the children resumed their game earlier. The children were all very young, looking to be about eight or nine years old; the oldest among them seemed to be around ten years old. There were both boys and girls, and they had no cultivation bases whatsoever

However, Ye Guan was surprised upon instantly noticing that the children all had remarkable talent when it came to cultivation. One of the girls, who was around ten years old, became somewhat wary of Ye Guan's approach.

"What are you doing here?" the girl asked.

Ye Guan pulled out a hawthorn candy instead of replying.

The little girl accepted the candy and glanced at Ye Guan. "Do you really think that you can bribe me with candy? You're underestimating me."

Ye Guan took out another hawthorn candy.

Lin Daimei blinked and went silent.

A young boy about six to seven years old tugged at Lin Daimei's sleeve and said, "Sister Dai, our teacher once said, 'one who offers unsolicited hospitality must be harboring evil intentions.' He just came up to us and immediately offered us snacks. He must have ulterior motives. Do not get fooled!"

Lin Daimei silently took another hawthorn candy from Ye Guan, which made the young boy frown. "Sister Dai, how come you're so easy to fool? It's just two hawthorn candies. What if they're poisoned? Come on... let me try them for you."

Lin Daimei turned around and slapped the boy on the head with her palm.

"You little rascal, are you asking for a beating?" Lin Daimei asked with a glare.

The little boy clenched his tiny fists, and his face reddened as he muttered, "Lin Daimei, my name is Guo Dan, not 'little rascal.' Call me that again, and I'll..."

"What?" Lin Daimei glared at him with her hands on her hips. "What are you going to do about it?"

Seeing that Lin Daimei was about to resort to violence, Guo Dan lost a bit of his bravado and hesitantly said, "Lin Daimei, you should think twice. Hit me, and I will definitely complain to Teacher. You'll come back to hit me again once Teacher punishes you, but I'll complain to Teacher again. You'll then be punished again..."

"In the end, you're the one who's going to get hurt!"

Ye Guan was at an utter loss for words.

Lin Daimei glared fiercely at him before she turned to Ye Guan and said, "Teacher says that 'one who offers unsolicited hospitality must have ulterior motives.' Tell me, what do you want?"

Ye Guan smiled. "I just want to ask about a few things."

Lin Daimei's brows furrowed. "That's all?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

Lin Daimei cast a doubtful gaze at Ye Guan and said, "There are seven of us here. Why don't you give us a few more hawthorn candies?"

"Sure!" Ye Guan smiled. He took out more hawthorn candies and handed all of them to Lin Daimei.

Lin Daimei accepted the candies and handed them out one by one to the other children. When Guo Dan received his portion, he hesitantly said, "Lin Daimei, shouldn't we listen to what he has to ask first before accepting the candies? What if he asks something we can't answer or a question we're not supposed to answer?"

"It wouldn't be right to take his hawthorn candies, then, right?"

Ye Guan cast an astonished gaze at Guo Dan, feeling surprised by the latter's intelligence despite his young age.

Lin Daimei tore open the wrapper of the hawthorn candy, licked it once, and then calmly said, "Being cautious is not wrong, but being overly cautious is not right either. This man is an outsider, so I guess he just wants to know more about our world here. If we can answer his questions, we'll answer. If we can't, I don't think he'll insist that we answer, right?"

Ye Guan smiled at Lin Daimei.

Guo Dan stared warily at Ye Guan. "What if he's a bad person?"

Lin Daimei held out her hand and said, "Give the hawthorn candy back to me."

Guo Dan hurriedly shook his head. "I'll be quiet."

Lin Daimei glared at Guo Dan before she turned to look at Ye Guan and said, "Ask away!"

"What place is?" Ye Guan asked.

Lin Daimei took out a scroll and said, "Give me seven hawthorn candies and this map is yours. This map contains the answer to your questions."

Ye Guan nodded and handed over his "payment."

Lin Daimei accepted the candies and handed the map over to Ye Guan.

Just as Ye Guan was about to open the map, Lin Daimei pulled out another map and said, "Give me seven hawthorn candies, and I'll give you this map. This map contains many pieces of information that are missing in the first map."

Ye Guan fell silent. What a bunch of crafty kids!

Chapter 600: Haoran Town

Ye Guan was convinced that the little girl before him would be able to go far as an employee of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion.

Lin Daimei saw Ye Guan's silence and blinked. "I'm not going to force you. You can choose not to take the offer."

Ye Guan smiled at that and took out a box. He handed the box over to Lin Daimei, and she saw that the box contained hundreds of hawthorn candies.

The eyes of the children behind Lin Daimei lit up. Some of them even started drooling, and they looked like they couldn't wait to feast on the candies.

Guo Dan's eyes lit up as well, but he seemed to have thought of something as he looked at Lin Daimei. He wanted to say something, but he dared not speak up.

Lin Daimei took out seven hawthorn candies and handed the scroll in her hands to Ye Guan.

Ye Guan pointed at the box of candies and said, "It's all yours."

However, Lin Daimei shook her head. "This map is only worth seven candies."

Ye Guan was a little puzzled.

Lin Daimei passed the candies around to the other children. They were immediately delighted and licked two candies at once rather than just one.

Ye Guan put away the box of hawthorn candies. The other children felt a little regretful at the sight. There were still dozens of candies in the box!

Ye Guan opened the two scrolls that Lin Daimei had given to him. A few moments later, he obtained a better understanding of this place.

He was in the so-called Haoran World. The outsiders referred to this place as First God Paradise, but the natives here called it "Haoran World."

The Haoran World was divided into two continents—the Southern Wen Continent and the Northern Wu Continent. The Wen Continent gave special attention to arts and culture, while the Wu Continent gave special attention to martial prowess.

Of course, the scholars from the Wen Continent weren't only good at studying, but they were cultivating Haoran Qi as well. However, Ye Guan wasn't sure how strong those scholars were, as their prowess was not mentioned in Lin Daimei's scroll.

There were some unknown Paradises and Blessed Lands throughout Haoran World, and Lin Daimei's scroll did not really contain any useful information about them.

Ye Guan put the scroll away and looked at Lin Daimei with a smile, saying, "I want to know more about this world. Who should I visit?"

"Our teacher!" Guo Dan replied.

Ye Guan looked at him and asked, "Your teacher?"

"Yes, our master knows everything. If you want to know more, you should go to her."

"Can you bring me to her?"

"No. She's out, and she hasn't come back yet."

"I see."

"Do you need a place to stay?" Lin Daimei asked. Then, she added, "One night is seven hawthorn candies."

Ye Guan smiled. "Sure."

Lin Daimei's lips curled up. "Come on, I'll take you there."

"All right," Ye Guan answered.

Ye Guan followed Lin Daimei into the town, which was known as Haoran Town. The town was small, and the houses here were made out of stacked stones that had been weathered by the passage of time, making them look dilapidated.

Lin Daimei seemed to be famous around town. Every single child that passed by them greeted her respectfully, saying, "Big Sister." Even the adults smiled and greeted Lin Daimei.

Ye Guan glanced sideways at Lin Daimei. Lin Daimei seemed to be not older than ten years old, and she was wearing a patched floral dress that appeared clean despite its faded appearance.

Ye Guan's eyes became filled with astonishment, realizing that she had a special physique. She had the legendary Great Dao Spirit Physique. Of course, it wasn't just her; every single child here had a remarkable talent for cultivation.

They'd have a bright future ahead of them if they were to cultivate.

And Ye Guan found it puzzling that the people here were mortals rather than cultivators.

Just then, Lin Daimei led Ye Guan into a small courtyard. The courtyard wasn't anything special, and it housed only three stone houses.

Lin Daimei pointed at the stone house in the middle of the three and said, "That's where my grandmother lives. I live on the left, and the one on the right is yours. We agreed that the cost of staying one night would be seven hawthorn candies. You still have to pay me seven candies even if you end up staying for less than a day."

Ye Guan nodded. "All right."

Lin Daimei asked, "Do you need food?"

"I have to pay for meals with more hawthorn candies, right?"

"Yes."

"Why don't you ask for something else? Like gold or spiritual stones."

"What are those?"

Ye Guan was bewildered. Lin Daimei seemed to have no idea what they were.

Lin Daimei asked, "Are they things that can be found in the outside world?"

"Yes," Ye Guan said with a nod.

Lin Daimei shook her head slightly. "Things from the outside world are useless here. Of course, you can pay with other snacks, too."

Ye Guan fell silent and recalled that the people in this town were mere mortals.

"I'm going to cook meals at the same time every day. If you want to eat, then you can buy it for some snacks. They don't necessarily have to be hawthorn candies; I'll accept any other snacks as well," Lin Daimei said.

Ye Guan smiled. "All right."

Lin Daimei turned around to leave. Then, she came to a halt and looked back at Ye Guan. Her mouth fluttered open to speak, but she did not say anything.

Ye Guan saw that and wanted to say something, but Lin Daimei turned around and left before he could say anything.

Ye Guan shook his head with a smile. He entered his room which contained only a bed with a straw mat on top of it. Ye Guan walked up to the bed and sprawled out on it. He then closed his eyes and asked, "Senior Mu Yuan?"

Mu Yuan replied, "Yes?"

"If you come out of the pagoda, will your cultivation be suppressed too?" he asked.

Swoosh!

Mu Yuan appeared before him and was instantly suppressed by an invisible force.

Mu Yuan's face darkened, realizing that his cultivation base had been suppressed.

Ye Guan asked, "What do you think? Is this the First God's doing?"

"I don't know." Mu Yuan shook his head and explained, "It's a power that exists between the heavens and earth, but I can't sense it at all. I think it's far beyond my realm of understanding..."

"I guess this must be the First God's doing..." Ye Guan muttered.

Mu Yuan nodded quietly.

Ye Guan walked up to the window and looked at the kitchen outside. He could see Lin Daimei whipping up a meal, and she looked very skilled at it.

Just then, Ye Guan asked, "Senior, how come everyone here is so talented?"

"I don't know, but I guess it's related to the First God. After all, he once stayed here for a very long time," Mu Yuan answered.

Ye Guan nodded slightly, deep in thought.

Mu Yuan suddenly asked, "Are you thinking of taking her away from here?"

"I did think of that. That little brat is not just talented, but she has a great personality as well. It would be a pity if she stayed here for the rest of her life. She has a special physique. She'll achieve twice the results with half the effort upon cultivating, but..."

"I know," Mu Yuan said, nodding. "It's going to be difficult to take her away from here, and I think that the seal on this place was to make sure that outsiders would not be able to disturb the natives here."

"That's right."

Ye Guan was about to speak when Lin Daimei walked over to his stone house. Upon seeing this, Mu Yuan quickly re-entered the little pagoda.

Lin Daimei stood by the window and said with a smile, "Time to eat."

"All right, let's go," Ye Guan said, following Lin Daimei into the kitchen. The meal was simple and consisted only of rice, steamed buns, and some wild vegetables. Ye Guan picked up a steamed bun and took a bite of it. It had an acceptable taste.

Lin Daimei glanced at Ye Guan as she ate.

Ye Guan asked, "Where's your grandmother?"

Lin Daimei calmly replied, "She's not feeling well, so I took her back to her room."

Ye Guan stared quietly at the stone house in the middle of the courtyard.

Lin Daimei wanted to say something, but she did not say anything in the end

"Do you have anything you want to say to me?" Ye Guan asked.

Lin Daimei shook her head.

"Are you thinking of asking me something but don't have anything to offer in return?" Ye Guan asked.

Lin Daimei looked at him before nodding slightly.

"Go ahead."

"I don't have anything to offer you."

"Why do you think that you necessarily have to offer something in return in exchange for a favor?"

"Well, I asked you to give me when you asked me questions earlier."

"True. How about this, then? You can ask me all the questions you want tomorrow. In return, I'll eat your meals for free. Deal?"

"Really?"

"Yes."

"Deal."

"All right."

Lin Daimei wolfed her food down and finished her meal in no time.

Ye Guan smiled wryly and shook his head.

It was already nighttime by the time they finished their meal.

Ye Guan was about to return to his stone house to rest when he furrowed his brows upon noticing something. He turned and saw a lady on the ground. The lady was wearing a white skirt, and blood dripped down her lips.

The lady was stunning with the perfect facial features; her skin was as white as snow as well.

Ye Guan was familiar with her. She was the same lady as the one who had been fighting that old man earlier in the day. He had caught a glimpse of her as she fell from the sky at the time.

Ye Guan didn't expect to see that she was severely injured by that encounter. He pondered briefly before walking over to her to take a look at her condition. The lady was unconscious due to her injuries.

Ye Guan lifted her gently and carried her to his stone house.

He put her on the bed and examined her. He frowned upon sensing how weak her aura had become. Her internal organs had been ruptured, and there was a sinister energy in her body that was gnawing away at her vitality.

Ye Guan knew that he had no time to waste, so he opened his palm, and a strand of Ancestral Origin appeared over his palm. He flicked his finger, and the strand of Ancestral Origin melted into the lady's figure.

The lady trembled rapidly, and she opened her eyes in no time. The lady's face changed immediately upon seeing Ye Guan. A dagger appeared in her right hand, and her eyes became filled with murderous intent.

Ye Guan quickly stepped backward to show that he meant no harm.

The lady abruptly froze upon sensing something. Then, she exclaimed, "Ancestral Origin!"

The lady cast a startled gaze at Ye Guan and asked, "You used a strand of Ancestral Origin on me?"

Ye Guan nodded.

The lady asked, "How did you get it?"

"By chance," Ye Guan answered.

The lady stared at Ye Guan for a long time before putting away her dagger. "Thank you."

Ye Guan merely smiled.

The lady sat cross-legged and closed her eyes. After a few moments, she opened her eyes wide, astonished by the fact that her injuries had healed completely. The sinister energy inside had also vanished without a trace.

And it was all because of the strand of Ancestral Origin that Ye Guan had given her!

The lady stared deeply at Ye Guan and asked, "How do I address you?"

Ye Guan replied, "My name is Ye Guan."

"My name is Qin Xue. Thank you for saving my life, Young Lord Ye," Qin Xue said.

Ye Guan nodded slightly and was about to speak when Qin Xue got down the bed.

Qin Xue stared at Ye Guan and said, "Young Lord Ye, I have urgent matters to handle, so I will have to leave now. However, I will definitely repay this favor in the future."

Qin Xue then turned around and left.

Ye Guan looked out of the window and watched as Qin Xue left the courtyard before quickly disappearing into the end of the street. Ye Gun withdrew his gaze and returned to the bed. He sprawled out on the bed and closed his eyes.

Deep in the night, Ye Guan abruptly sat up.

Before he could react, his door was kicked open, revealing thirteen people standing outside. Qin Xue stood at the helm of them, and she stared at Ye Guan, saying, "He has strands of Ancestral Origin!"