

## **A Sword 611**

### Chapter 611: To Kill?

Outside the temple, the Great Daoist Brush Master and the Boundless Master stood in silence. The Great Daoist Brush Master surveyed their surroundings. They were surrounded by the biting wind and swirling snow that felt as sharp as blades against the skin.

"What's the plan?" the Boundless Master asked, breaking the silence.

Calmly, the Great Daoist Brush Master responded, "We establish order."

"Restore the order of the First God?"

Shaking his head, the Great Daoist Brush Master replied, "No, a new one."

"What do you mean?"

The Great Daoist Brush Master gazed into the distance. Softly, he explained, "The First God's order was undoubtedly effective during his era, but it was flawed. When he was present, order prevailed, but in his absence, chaos ensued. His followers began to consume the universe, bringing disaster upon it."

Concern etched his features as he shook his head. "Such an order is unstable."

The Boundless Master disagreed. "There is no such thing as a perfect order."

The Great Daoist Brush Master sighed. "I know. Nevertheless, this universe needs order. Otherwise, its very existence..."

His voice trailed off, worry evident in his eyes.

Meanwhile, the Boundless Master fell silent, contemplating the weight of their words.

Their universe was not eternal. If every universe was like the Milky Way, where cultivation was not possible, then it could last for a very long time. However, that simply wasn't possible with universes that had abundant cultivation.

The countless cultivators vying for power caused a heavy burden on the universe, while rampant greed made those powerful among them drain its resources to bolster their strength. This cycle would ultimately lead to the universe's demise.

Softly, the Great Daoist Brush Master continued, "I've seen many civilizations rise and fall due to greed, including the First God's. Without a new order to guide this universe, it is doomed to the same fate."

"By the Universe Tribulation?"

The Great Daoist Brush Master nodded gravely. "Even though the True God has suppressed it, the threat remains. Her actions defy the natural order and pose a significant danger. Under her suppression, the Universe Tribulation only grows stronger."

"Why not destroy it?"

"The Universe Tribulation is a product of sentient beings. Destroying it would mean the destruction of the universe itself... Thus, the True God can only delay the inevitable."

"You are thinking of letting Ye Qing..." The Boundless Master hesitated to continue.

"We cannot rely on Ye Guan alone to establish a new universe order. He needs strong assistants with the right mindset and mental state, and Ye Qing is an excellent youth destined to achieve great things."

The Boundless Master nodded in agreement.

Looking at the heavens, the Great Daoist Brush Master added, "There are others worth nurturing apart from him."

"Are you no longer concerned about Ye Guan?"

With a smirk, the Great Daoist Brush Master retorted, "Isn't he the safest person in the universe right now?"

Their laughter echoed into the snowy landscape.

As they gazed into the vast expanse, the Great Daoist Brush Master's voice turned somber. "It seems that lady is growing impatient."

The Boundless Master's smile faded. "If she clashes with Destiny... who will prevail?"

The Great Daoist Brush Master remained silent, a knowing smile playing on his lips.

...

The Time River.

Cijing, riding her sword, soared against the flow of time. After the True Universe stabilized, she ventured into the Time River. Her aim? The Old Era.

Her objective wasn't to find Ye Guan, rather, she sought to enhance her strength in the Time River. After all, Ye Guan's power had gradually surpassed hers, which was unacceptable to her.

She missed the feeling of being able to bully Ye Guan at will. She preferred to be on top rather than beneath. The initiative had to be in her hands!

Soon, Cijing vanished into the vast Time River.

...

The Old Era, Wu Clan.

Ye Guan continued the cultivation of his heart within the little pagoda. Apart from cultivation, he also spent his days reading the books that the First God had left behind, which not only contained various cultivation methods but also recorded ancient Divine Magic and techniques from the Old Era. The Divine Magic written in them was exceptionally strong, tempting Ye Guan to explore and study them. However, he refrained from doing so. Right now, he wanted to focus on enhancing his Sword Dao.

Among the ancient texts left by the First God, the most mysterious was a black scroll. The characters within were unintelligible to Ye Guan and even Mu Yuan. Not even their divine sense could penetrate it. Hence, even after studying it for a while, it remained a mystery to them.

As they pondered in silence, a voice suddenly resounded in the chamber. "These are the master's journals."

The two men froze.

That was the voice of the Divine Painting!

Although the Divine Painting had submitted to the spirit of the Divine Imprint, after entering the little pagoda, it behaved differently, maintaining a low profile. Even when the spirit of the Divine Imprint sought to take it away later, it refused.

It wasn't particularly loyal to Ye Guan. Rather, it simply enjoyed the world within the little pagoda. Here, time flowed differently, and abundant spiritual energy from the Ancestral Vein permeated the environment. It was a paradise for cultivation.

Everything it needed was right here!

Moreover, its new master was quite amiable and rarely interfered with its activities. Even when it absorbed spiritual energy from the Ancestral Vein, he generously allowed it to do so instead of objecting.

Hence, it couldn't fathom why the spirit of the Divine Imprint chose the Mistress instead. Why leave such a paradise?

"You mean the First God himself wrote these journals?" Ye Guan suddenly asked.

"Yes. They are related to the master's origins," the Divine Painting replied.

"The First God's origins?"

"Yes."

"Even he had origins?"

"He didn't just pop out of nowhere..."

"Tell me more."

In a hushed tone, the Divine Painting continued, "All I know is that those are the master's journals and that they documented some of his past experiences. When the spirit of the Divine Imprint asked the master about it, I happened to be present."

Ye Guan looked toward Mu Yuan. "Do you know anything about this, Senior?"

Mu Yuan shook his head. "The master never mentioned his past. By the time I started following him, he was already invincible."

Ye Guan glanced at the black ancient scroll in front of him. After contemplating for a while, he shook his head slightly and decided not to delve into the black diary any further.

During the next few days, Ye Guan instructed Lin Daimei and the others in cultivation. They progressed at a terrifyingly fast pace. The cultivation speed of Lin Daimei and Guo Dan, in particular, was truly extraordinary.

Lin Daimei could now perform the Heavenrend Quickdraw that he had taught her. Moreover, although it had only been a short while, she could already execute three strikes of it. Such talent in cultivation made Ye Guan slightly jealous.

Guo Dan's talent was by no means inferior to Lin Daimei's. However, since he preferred to use his fists, Ye An was the one teaching him. Under her guidance, Guo Dan quickly comprehended his Fist Intent.

However, Guo Dan was still very afraid of Lin Daimei and dared not fight her, believing that he would end up getting beaten.

Apart from the two, the other children also progressed very quickly in their cultivation.

Ye Guan couldn't help but sigh. These children were born in the First God Paradise, so they truly had an unparalleled advantage. Given enough time, their prospects would be limitless. His greatest reward in coming to this place was these children.

...

Wu Clan.

In a grand hall, the clan leader of the Wu Clan, Xuan Yin, sat cross-legged on a cushion. She had her hands resting on her knees and her eyes closed in deep contemplation. She was still dressed in a purple dress, exuding elegance and nobility.

She had absorbed all one hundred strands of Ancestral Origins that Ye Guan had given her, greatly enhancing her strength. Although the Wu Clan already possessed Ancestral Origin strands, none of them were anywhere near as pure as the ones that she had received from Ye Guan.

Xuan Yin slowly opened her eyes, her gaze narrowing slightly. "If only I had a little more..."

It had been a long time since her cultivation had last advanced. Now, however, the Ancestral Origin strands from Ye Guan had allowed her to make significant progress. If only she had enough of it, then she could even break through.

At that moment, cold light flashed in her eyes. However, she remained calm. Until they had thoroughly investigated the other party's origins, she wouldn't act rashly.

It was better to be safe than sorry!

Just then, a black-robed elder appeared in the hall and bowed deeply to Xuan Yin. "Clan Leader, we have finished our investigation on that young man's origin."

"Go on."

"He is an outsider who first appeared in the Southern Wen Continent. We also discovered that he has crossed paths with the Yu Hua Clan. However, for some reason, the Yu Hua Clan did not trouble him, allowing him to come to us with ease."

Xuan Yin's brows furrowed. "Is that all?"

The elder nodded. "That's all we could find. However, I believe he was being pursued outside, leaving him no choice but to flee here..."

After a brief pause, he continued, "If he was being pursued, that would mean that he has no family background. Even if he does, in this place, we have the advantage. After all, this is our territory."

Xuan Yin fell silent, her gaze still calm.

The black-robed elder looked at Xuan Yin, his gaze flickering. "Clan Leader, should we kill him?"

Chapter 612: Fortune Favors The Bold

To kill or not to kill?

Xuan Yin remained silent as she slowly rose to her feet. She walked to the entrance of the main hall, gazing at the sky, seemingly deep in thought.

After a brief hesitation, the black-robed elder asked, "Clan Leader?"

Collecting her thoughts, Xuan Yin glanced at him. "Did you really just ask if we should kill him?"

"Do you feel as if we're missing something?"

"You've been blinded by short-term interests."

"What do you mean, Clan Leader?"

"Have you ever considered how he can produce hundreds of Ancestral Origin strands at once and, more importantly, why he dares take them out in front of others?"

"He's not afraid of the Wu Clan?"

Xuan Yin nodded. "There are only two reasons he would dare expose his wealth so easily before me. He either has more money than sense or he's confident and unafraid of the Wu Clan. He might even be mentally prepared to kill us for more treasure."

She then turned to the black-robed elder. "Which one do you think is more plausible?"

The black-robed elder thought about it for a moment. He then answered, "The second one."

Xuan Yin nodded. "When I first met him, although his strength was sealed, he remained calm and composed, neither humble nor overbearing. Such a person is either extremely foolish or extremely confident, completely unafraid of the Wu Clan's power."

"Clan Leader, does that mean we're just going to let him go...?" the black-robed elder asked.



Xuan Yin remained silent.

Give up?

In truth, she still felt somewhat undecided.

She knew that the young swordsman had extraordinary origins. If she were to confront him head-on, it would inevitably incur karma neither she nor the Wu Clan could bear. For that reason, her rational mind was telling her that it would be best to form a friendly connection with him instead.

The other party had already shown her goodwill. As long as she reciprocated it, establishing friendly relations with him would be easy.

However, thinking about the Ancestral Vein that the young swordsman likely possessed made her heart grow restless, especially since it likely wouldn't just be any ordinary Ancestral Vein. Otherwise, the Ancestral Origin strands he had given her could not have been so pure. He might even have other divine items as well...

She could not make up her mind!

Seemingly sensing Xuan Yin's hesitation and struggle, the black-robed elder said, "Clan Leader, fortune favors the bold!"

Naturally, he hoped that the Clan Leader would take action. If she were to benefit from this, he would too. There were certainly risks involved, but as the saying went, fortune favored the bold, and those who were timid starved. What was there to be afraid of?

Xuan Yin smiled. "Everyone knows that saying, but only a few know that that is not its complete version. Fortune favors the bold but may also abandon them in danger. For every success, there are nine other failures..."

She slowly closed her eyes. "We cultivators should abandon the notion of relying on luck and being greedy. We must not dive headfirst into something just because of a fleeting whim, lest we end up losing everything and regretting it."

At that moment, from within her, a powerful aura erupted like a volcano. However, she immediately suppressed it.

Peak Ancestor Sovereign Realm aura!

The black-robed elder was stunned. "You have... broken through?"

Xuan Yin gazed at the sky. "Greed... is truly terrifying."

The moment she learned that the young swordsman possessed an Ancestral Vein, greed enveloped her heart and turned into her inner demon. Paired with desire, it could cause anyone to lose themselves.

The black-robed elder's reminder had enlightened her.

Xuan Yin sensed her own state of cultivation and shook her head with a smile. "Why seek external desires when cultivating the Dao?"

Without hesitation, she said, "Please invite Young Lord Ye in."

The black-robed elder nodded and turned to leave.

A moment later, Ye Guan followed the black-robed elder into the hall.

Today, Ye Guan was wearing a white robe that was as clean and elegant as snow and had his long hair cascading down his shoulders. His graceful demeanor made him look more like a scholar than a swordsman.

Smiling warmly, Xuan Yin gestured for Ye Guan to sit. "Young Lord Ye, please have a seat."

Ye Guan nodded and sat down. He then looked at her, waiting for her to speak.

Xuan Yin sat down opposite him. "The teleportation array will be fixed by tomorrow."

"Thank you," he replied with a nod.

"Aren't you afraid at all that the Wu Clan would rob you and kill you?"

"Would you really do that, Clan Leader Xuan?"

"What if I did?"

"Then I can only try to run away. After all, you are quite powerful. Even if my cultivation was not sealed, I would not be a match for you."

"You're a smooth talker."

Ye Guan smiled.

Xuan Yin glanced at the young man, who had remained calm and collected this entire time. Although she looked just as composed, she could not help but feel a little shocked. The confidence that he was displaying was genuine, not just some mere facade.

Why is he so calm and confident? Does he seriously not see me or the Wu Clan as a threat?

Feeling a little indignant, she asked, "Young Lord Ye, shall we have a sparring match?"

Ye Guan was somewhat surprised. "A sparring match?"

"Yes. A friendly one."

"Clan Leader Xuan, my cultivation is sealed..."

"Don't worry, I will not fight you while you are handicapped. I'll seal my cultivation as well."

Ye Guan fell silent.

"Just a casual match," she reassured him, "nothing serious."

"Alright," he finally agreed.

Xuan Yin got up. With a wave of her sleeve, she instantly transported them to a training ground so huge that they could not see its end.

"I've sealed my cultivation," she said. "Come."

Ye Guan nodded. "Okay."

He took a step forward. Like an arrow released from a bowstring, he instantly closed in on Xuan Yin. He then pointed his finger forward like a sword, aiming it directly at her.

Her eyes narrowed, a hint of seriousness appearing in them. Ye Guan's attack seemed ordinary, but the power it possessed was exceptionally pure.

Such was the simplicity of the Great Dao!

Instead of retreating, Xuan Yin stepped forward and threw a punch at him. A head-on confrontation!

Bang!

When their attacks collided, the two staggered backward. Right after, Xuan Yin quickly leaped forward and closed the distance between them. She swept her leg toward him at lightning speed.

Ye Guan advanced as well. He would face her attack head-on just like she had done earlier!

Boom!

The moment their attacks collided, the resulting shockwave blasted the two a great distance away from each other. Ye Guan stomped on the ground with his right foot backward to stabilize himself. He then launched himself off the ground like a cheetah and thrust a finger out toward Xuan Yin. He was using it like a sword!

Even though his cultivation was sealed, the attack still contained an invisible Sword Intent.

Xuan Yin narrowed her eyes. Instead of directly facing his attack, she turned into a beam of light and evaded it.

Ye Guan's finger missed its target. At the same time, the Sword Intent within it weakened.

Without missing a beat, Xuan Yin sprang forward and tried to punch him in the face.

Like before, Ye Guan advanced and thrust a finger toward her.

Bang!

The two were sent flying backward once more. However, in no time at all, they were at each other's throats again.

They fought for nearly half an hour with neither being able to gain the upper hand. Unable to determine a clear winner without engaging in a battle to the death, they finally decided to stop.

Xuan Yin looked at Ye Guan. "Your swordsmanship is powerful, Young Lord Ye."

He grinned. "You're quite strong yourself, Clan Leader Xuan."

Xuan Yin shook her head, a complicated expression forming on her face. Although they were evenly matched, she believed she had lost. Her cultivation realm surpassed his, and she was also much older than him. Hence, a draw was considered a loss for her.

Previously, she had merely speculated that a powerful force was backing Ye Guan. Now, however, she was certain. Ordinary people could not have nurtured such a talent so well.

"Young Lord Ye, why did you come to this place?" she asked.

"Due to personal circumstances," Ye Guan replied.

Sensing that he did not want to elaborate further, Xuan Yin respectfully stopped pressing him. With a smile, she said, "Ye Guan, the teleportation array should be repaired by tomorrow morning. My people will inform you once it's ready."

"Thank you for your trouble," he replied.

Xuan Yin nodded and then waved her sleeve. The two reappeared back at the Wu Clan.

Ye Guan then returned to his room and entered the little pagoda. The battle with Xuan Yin left him rather unsatisfied. After all, his cultivation was sealed, preventing him from unleashing his true strength.

Instead of continuing his own cultivation, he dedicated his time to guiding Lin Daimei and the others. He spared no effort in mentoring them and treated them as if they were his disciples.

Time passed quickly. Finally, on the second day, Xuan Yin guided him to the teleportation array.

"The teleportation array has been repaired, but activating it requires a substantial amount of spiritual energy," she explained. "You'll have to cover the cost yourself."

"How many Ancestral Origin strands are required to activate it?"

"At least thirty."

Ye Guan nodded and opened his palm. Thirty Ancestral Origin strands floated toward Xuan Yin. She looked at them before waving her sleeve, sending them all flying toward the teleportation array.

Boom!

The Ancestral Origin strands transformed into spiritual energy and were absorbed by the array, immediately activating it.

"Farewell!" Ye Guan said.

As soon as he stepped into the teleportation array, he started to turn illusory. He soon disappeared.

Xuan Yin remained standing in complete silence for a while before turning to leave. At that moment, as if sensing something, she suddenly turned back around.

The teleportation array started to tremble. Ye Guan then reappeared, covered in blood.

Chapter 613: Accept Me As Your Master

Ye Guan was not only covered in blood. He also had gaping wounds all over him, from which even more blood flowed out. It was a horrifying sight.

Confusion enveloped Xuan Yin's expression. "Young Lord Ye, you..."

He stepped out of the teleportation array and looked at himself before smiling bitterly.

It was too terrifying! As soon as he stepped out of the teleportation array, he was ambushed by thousands of the Wang Clan's elite fighters! They even activated multiple horrifying arrays. If it was not for Ao Qianqian's support and his own swift escape, he would have been done for. It was simply ridiculous.

Ye Guan felt numb. He knew that the Wang Clan would not back off so easily and that a huge battle would be waiting for him when he left this place. However, he did not expect them to attack him as soon as he stepped out.

It was fortunate that the teleportation array worked both ways. Otherwise, he might have died on the other side.

"Young Lord Ye, are there people waiting for you on the other side?" Xuan Yin asked.

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

She glanced at him with a strange expression. She could tell that he had stirred up quite a huge trouble outside.

He shook his head and smiled. "I need to stay here for a while. As for this teleportation array..."

"Young Lord Ye, if you wish to use it, you can do so at any time. Of course, you'll have to pay for the costs yourself."

"Naturally," he said.

After a bit of hesitation, she said, "You are also free to stay here."

She felt that this would further develop their friendly ties.



However, Ye Guan shook his head. "No need."

Xuan Yin was puzzled. "Why not?"

"If I stay here, your clan will be implicated."

"Young Lord Ye, we are not afraid of outsiders..."

"Clan Leader Xuan, I appreciate your kindness. However, my enemies are far from mere ordinary people. My presence here will only bring disaster to the Wu Clan."

His enemies were self-proclaimed gods. If he stayed here and they decided to hunt him down, Xuan Yin and her people would be in deep danger. He couldn't let that happen.

After another brief moment of contemplation, Xuan Yin no longer insisted. "If you need anything, you can contact me anytime. If it is something that I can do for you, I will not refuse."

Ye Guan grinned. "Thank you."

Xuan Yin nodded slightly. She then turned to leave. Meanwhile, Ye Guan entered the little pagoda to tend to his wounds. He had been careless this time.

Ye Guan truly did not expect so many people to be waiting for him outside—that the Wang Clan would be insane enough to send their entire army to ambush him. It was ridiculous.

Sigh!

As he sighed, he began to quickly heal his injuries.

...

Outside the First God Paradise.

The Wang Clan's elite fighters stood guard outside the teleportation array and at all other exits of the First God Paradise, waiting for Ye Guan to show up. They would do whatever it took to ensure that he would not get away.

The Clan Leader of the Wang Clan, Wang Zong, presided over the situation himself. Grand Elder Wang Xian stood to his left. The other core elders of the clan were present as well.

Wang Zong had a rather sour expression. Just now, all of his clan's elites had attacked Ye Guan all at once, yet they still failed to stop him from escaping back into the teleportation array.

"Ye Guan has become significantly more powerful since the last time we saw him," Grand Elder Wang Xian commented.

As Wang Zong frowned, Wang Xian added, "Even though he's been in there the whole time, he still keeps growing stronger..."

The Wang Clan's elites frowned. This was not normal at all...

The First God Paradise sealed the cultivation of anyone who entered its premises, yet Ye Guan still somehow found a way to develop his strength!

Wang Xian coldly looked at the First God Paradise. "We cannot just keep passively guarding this place."

Now that the Wang Clan had entered a fight to the death with Ye Guan, they no longer cared about the forces or individuals supporting him. All that mattered to them now was killing Ye Guan and ridding their clan of this scourge.

"Grand Elder, are you suggesting that we enter the First God Paradise?" Wang Zong asked.

Wang Xian nodded. "Yes."

Wang Zong frowned. "Our cultivation will be sealed in there..."

"His cultivation is sealed too."

At Wang Zong's silence, Wang Xian continued, "Clan Leader, you saw how gifted he is. We must not give him any more time to develop. The longer we delay, the more detrimental it will be to our clan. Moreover, if he dies in there, won't his inheritance fall into someone else's hands?"

Wang Zong's eyes narrowed. The First God's inheritance!

The main reason they had sent their entire clan to ambush Ye Guan was the First God's inheritance, which even the gods themselves coveted. If the Wang Clan managed to obtain it...

Wang Zong had already considered the risks. Having it in their possession would naturally put them in danger. After all, it would make everyone target them. However, he was not afraid of it. After all, they had a god backing them. As long as the Wang Clan did not monopolize everything, there would not be any major problems.

"Send some people in to assess the situation," Wang Zong suddenly ordered.

Wang Xian quickly interjected, "We must not do that. Clan Leader, when a lion strikes, it must exert its full force. I suggest we send our entire clan into the First God Paradise at the same time. That is the only way to successfully crush Ye Guan in one fell swoop."

The elder beside him gravely countered, "Grand Elder, it's dangerous to send the whole clan into the First God Paradise together. Our cultivation will be sealed as soon as we enter it. Moreover, it houses a lot of forces that we don't even know anything about."

Wang Xian's expression darkened. "So what if there are local forces inside? If we let them know that we are Descendants of the Divine Spirits, do you think they would still dare attack us? Even if they did, we can simply summon our ancestors."

He then turned to Wang Zong. "In any case, we must not underestimate Ye Guan. If we strike, we must do so with all our might. We must not give him any chances to retaliate."

When Wang Zong chose to remain silent, Wang Xian continued, "This concerns the First God's inheritance. It's worth the risk!"

Seemingly convinced, Wang Zong finally declared, "Let us enter the First God Paradise, then!"

He then walked onward, leading all of the Wang Clan's elites into the First God Paradise.

...

Thanks to the various healing artifacts within the little pagoda, Ye Guan had already fully recovered.

With a solemn expression, Mu Yuan walked up to him. "Their failure to eliminate you will only further fuel their desire to kill you."

"You think they'll risk entering the First God Paradise?" Ye Guan asked.

Mu Yuan nodded.

Ye Guan fell into deep contemplation.

The entire Wang Clan entering the First God Paradise would certainly spell trouble for him. This place would suppress their cultivation, but the same was true for him. If he could still fight despite that, so could they.

However, entering the First God Paradise would put them in a true test of their individual strength. After all, only the strongest could fight even with their cultivation suppressed. Those with weaker strength and willpower would not be able to do so. In that regard, he at least had a slight advantage.

"We have to come up with a plan," Mu Yuan suggested.

Ye Guan smiled. "There's no real plan. We can only face our enemies head-on and adapt as the situation unfolds."

Mu Yuan laughed bitterly. "We need some kind of strategy, at least. Otherwise, they'll simply gang up on us again."

Ye Guan shook his head with a bitter smile. From the beginning, he could not deny that he had experienced being ganged up on many times. It was like starting a new game only to be forced to defeat the final boss right from the beginning.

"Do we have... reinforcements?" Mu Yuan suddenly asked.

He knew that Ye Guan had an extraordinary origin.

Ye Guan frowned. Honestly, he was curious about what his mother, Qin Guan, had been up to...

She should have already integrated the endless universes in the Time River, right?

However, he was even more curious about where his father and Plain Skirt Aunt had wandered off to.

...

Within First God Paradise, amid a vast mountain range, a man and a woman traversed through the air.

The man looked into the depths of the mountains and saw a cave entrance, albeit barely. With a smile, he said, "Another cave ruin."

Besides following Ye Guan, they had been spending their time traveling around the First God Paradise. Simply put, they were sightseeing!

Very quickly, the two walked over to the cave entrance, which had been sealed for an unknown amount of time. A huge stone engraved with a few mysterious symbols was blocking it.

Curious, the man asked, "What are these symbols?"

Looking at the cave, Plain Skirt Destiny's brows furrowed.

"What is it?" the man asked.

She was about to answer when the symbols trembled violently. At the same time, a powerful aura encircled them.

The man frowned, but he did not look afraid. For some reason, he felt so powerful that he thought no one could hurt him... Well, except for Qing'er, but he knew that she would never hurt him.

Not long after, an old man slowly walked out from the symbols. He was wearing a white robe and exuded an aura of immortality.

Looking at the two, his eyes immediately lit up. His lips curved into a smile as he asked, "Are you both willing to accept me as your master?"

Chapter 614: I'll Ask For Your Help In The Future

The old man's eyes burned with desire and excitement.

What promising talents. The potential of these two people are truly terrifying.

Great Dao Spirit Physique and the Mortal Body.

He did not expect that he would encounter such legendary physiques here. He felt as if he was dreaming.

The man in the white shirt chuckled. "We're just here to sightsee."

Stroking his beard, the old man mysteriously smiled. "Do you know who I am? Have you heard of the Old Daoist?"

"We haven't."

"You haven't?" the old man clarified with a frown.

The man in the white shirt nodded.

Staring at him, the old man emphasized, "Old. Daoist. You really haven't heard of him?"

Noticing that the old man was becoming impatient, the man in the white shirt hesitantly replied, "It just occurred to me that I have heard of him."

The corners of Plain Skirt Destiny's lips curled up as she cast a tender glance at him.

However, the old man was not easily fooled. "It's only been a few years. Has the outside world already forgotten about the legendary Old Daoist already?"

The man in the white shirt smiled. "We're just passing through. We didn't mean to disturb you. Please forgive us."

The old man chuckled. "If you enter my sect, you will have a bright future ahead."

The man in the white shirt shook his head, declining once again.

The smile on the old man's face disappeared. "Young man, do you understand what you're rejecting right now?"

The man in the white shirt helplessly looked at Plain Skirt Destiny. When she shrugged, seemingly telling him that she could not do anything about it, he shook his head with a smile.

The old man was a little annoyed now. Back then, he was a dominant figure—a powerhouse in his own right. Now, he was voluntarily inviting these two people to be his disciples, yet they kept hesitating, declining, and pretending to be helpless. They really did not know their place!

With a cold snort, he enveloped the two ignorant youths with an invisible force, deciding to teach them a lesson. However, when the force covered them, he suddenly froze.

They did not seem to be affected at all!

He was startled. "You two..."

The man in the white shirt grinned. "Apologies for the disturbance."

He then grabbed Plain Skirt Destiny's hand and turned to leave.

"Wait," the Old Daoist suddenly called. "I never thought that I would misjudge you."

"We just came here to stroll around. If we've caused any inconvenience, please forgive us."

"And if I don't?" he said.

The man in the white shirt frowned.

At that moment, Plain Skirt Destiny suddenly swung her hand down.



Boom!

Old Daoist knelt down immediately, completely unable to move. His mind blanked out.

"It seems like I've given you too much face," Plain Skirt Destiny said.

The Old Daoist's face filled up with horror. "You..."

"Let's go," the man in the white shirt said.

With that, they turned and left.

Even though they were already gone, the Old Daoist remained bewildered and as white as a sheet.

...

The man in the white shirt remained silent as he walked toward the end of the mountain range with Plain Skirt Destiny.

Plain Skirt Destiny glanced at him. "Feeling unhappy?"

"Most of the people we've met along the way haven't been particularly friendly."

"A good beating can make them friendlier."

He laughed. A good beating! Violent, but effective.

Right after, he decided not to dwell on the matter. Holding her hand, they slowly disappeared into the depths of the mountain range.

...

Inside the little pagoda, on a mountaintop, Ye Guan stood quietly. He could see a young girl riding a sword in the air.

Lin Daimei skilfully maneuvered her sword through the sea of clouds. Every now and then, she would soar into the sky and plunge straight down again. She seemed to be enjoying herself.

Ye Guan's lips curved into a smile as he watched. Lin Daimei seemed to have already mastered Sword Travel. She had also already managed to comprehend Sword Intent and was now starting to explore domains...

Even Ye Guan found her talent rather frightening. Although he was extraordinarily talented, Lin Daimei still seemed more talented than he was. Not only did she excel in swordsmanship, but she also seemed to progress really quickly in her cultivation. She never seemed to come across bottlenecks.

Guo Dan, who practiced with Ye An, was also just as talented. However, he was in quite a pitiful state, fearing Ye An and Lin Daimei. In their presence, he always behaved meekly and dared not speak loudly.

After a while, Lin Daimei flew toward Ye Guan. As the sword light dissipated, she hopped off the sword and smiled at him.

"Master," she greeted.

She was wearing a tight red robe with two red yarn balls tied around her waist. She had undone her braids, letting her long hair hang loose, which made her look a little more mature.

Ye Guan smiled back at her. "How do you feel?"

"Great," she replied.

Ye Guan laughed heartily before opening his palm. Two swords appeared in his hand. "These are for you."

Lin Daimei's eyes lit up. She quickly took them. "Wow, Master..."

Seeing how excited she was, he couldn't help but chuckle lightly. "I used to wield those two flying swords when I was younger. They're called Dragon's Roar and Phoenix's Cry. Now, I pass them onto you."

Dragon's Roar! Phoenix's Cry!

I'll do my best to put them to good use, Master."

"I know you will."

"Why are you so good to me?"

"Why do you ask that?"

Lin Daimei fell silent.

Ye Guan grinned. "There are some things in this world that happen without a reason. Do you get what I mean?"

She merely blinked at him in response.

"You don't?" He asked.

She nodded.

"Let's leave this matter aside for now. You'll understand when you're older."

Lin Daimei lowered her head. "When you first came to the town of Haoran, I asked you for hawthorn candies before I agreed to help you. I took you to my house and also expected something in return before offering you food. Yet, even though I could not give you anything, you willingly helped my grandmother and even taught me how to cultivate..."

She then looked up at him, tears welling up in her eyes. "I feel like I don't deserve your kindness, Master."

Ye Guan had a complex expression on his face. He did not expect that this young girl to have so many thoughts. After a moment of contemplation, he asked, "Would you like to hear what I think?"

Lin Daimei nodded eagerly.

"When we first met, you didn't owe me anything. You weren't obligated to help me for free, so it was only fair for you to ask for something in return. When I helped you without asking for anything in return, it was because doing so was effortless for me. It was within my ability, so I chose to help. However, if the situation had been too risky and endangered my life, I would not have intervened."

After a moment of silence, she nodded. "I think I understand what you mean."

He laughed and ruffled her hair. "Remember, when you're strong enough in the future and encounter injustice in this world, offer help if it is within your capability. Naturally, if it's beyond you, then don't intervene. The premise of helping others is not to put yourself in mortal danger. Got it?"

"Got it."

"As cultivators, we always have to be mindful of our mental state, so don't overthink things. Of course, if you really can't help but worry, then you should talk to someone about it."

"I understand now, Master. For you, helping me and my grandmother is effortless, but to me, it's so much more than that. As the saying goes, 'No one owes you anything in this world, but if you owe others something, don't take it lightly.' I will strive to cultivate and repay you in the future."

"If the day comes when I need your help, I won't hesitate to ask."

"It's a deal!"

"That's right."

"Thank you, Master. I'll go cultivate now," Lin Daimei said. She then hopped on her sword and flew away toward the clouds.

Just then, Mu Yuan appeared beside Ye Guan. Looking into the distance, he softly commented, "Her talent and Guo Dan's are really terrifying."

Although he had met many prodigies during the First God's era, he still found the two children's talents frightening. Furthermore, they were now following Ye Guan, who was an unparalleled talent himself.

Ye Guan smiled. He then asked, "How's the situation outside?"

"They have entered," Mu Yuan replied.

"As expected."

"They went to the Wu Clan."

Ye Guan fell silent.

...

Xuan Yin silently looked at the members of the Wang Clan.

The purpose of their visit was simple. They hoped that the Wu Clan would help them locate Ye Guan. Having the assistance of a local force would make finding Ye Guan easy.

“Now, what say you, Clan Leader Xuan?” Wang Zong asked.

Xuan Yin chuckled. “Clan Leader Wang, my clan does not wish to get involved in this matter.”

Wang Zong frowned and then stood up. “If you help us, my clan will remember it. We will be sure to repay it in the future.”

Smiling, Xuan Yin repeated, “Clan Leader Wang, my clan does not wish to get involved in this matter.”

The faces of the Wang Clan’s elites immediately turned cold. Her tiny clan was truly arrogant. If they were in the outside world, they would not even have the qualifications to negotiate with the Wang Clan.

Some of these elites were about to protest, but Wang Zong stopped them.

“Apologies for the disturbance,” he said.

He then led his clan members out of the hall.

Once they were all gone, Xuan Yin called for someone.

An old man appeared behind her.

“Where is Young Lord Ye right now?” She calmly asked.

"In an unnamed mountain range thousands of miles away," the old man replied.

Ye Guan found it hard to conceal his whereabouts from the Wu Clan while he was in the Wu Continent. After all, he was in their territory and his cultivation had been suppressed.

After a few moments of silence, Xuan Yin said, "Inform him to take care of himself and stop tailing him."

The Wu Clan no longer wanted to be a part of this conflict.

However, if she had to choose between Ye Guan and the Wang Clan, she would still choose to build good karma with Ye Guan.

Chapter 615: Seeking Fortune Amidst Danger

Forging a great relationship...

Upon hearing Xuan Yin's words, the elder hesitated briefly before speaking, "Clan Leader, wouldn't it be wiser to forge a relationship with the Wang Clan? After all, they are Descendants of the Gods. Offending them for the sake of a talented youth doesn't seem worthwhile."

Xuan Yin chuckled softly. "Do you really think Young Master Ye is just an ordinary person?"

The elder appeared puzzled.

Xuan Yin softly added, "Young Master Ye is anything but ordinary."

"More remarkable than the Descendants of the Gods?"

"The fact that the entire Wang Clan is after him speaks volumes."

The elder remarked solemnly, "Clan Leader, you seem to hold this Young Master Ye in high regard."

Turning to the elder, Xuan Yin's smile was enigmatic as he said, "Elder Tie, do you really think that I've taken an interest in him?"

The elder, Elder Tie, seemed hesitant to answer directly as he said, "This Young Master Ye is undeniably handsome."

Xuan Yin laughed. "The way you put it, it almost sounds like that's the case. I guess Young Master Ye is both handsome and powerful..."

Elder Tie's heart tightened at her words.

However, Xuan Yin changed the subject. "Elder Tie, do you know why I answered your questions earlier?"

"It's all because you were concerned for Martial Clan. However, your inquiries seem to be about my personal matters now."

Elder Tie's expression shifted, and he bowed deeply. "I've overstepped, Clan Leader. Please forgive me."

Xuan Yin waved her hand dismissively.

Elder Tie dared not linger and departed.

Turning her gaze to the sky, Xuan Yin revealed an intrigued smile. "Descendants of the Gods..."

...

Outside the Martial Clan...

As soon as the Wang Clan left the Martial Clan's territory, one of the Wang Clan elders spoke with indignation, "This is outrageous! The Martial Clan actually dares to disregard our Wang Clan?! If we were outside, I would annihilate them all!"



The faces of the other Wang Clan elders darkened considerably. Never had the Wang Clan been so blatantly disregarded.

However, the Grand Elder remained calm as he pointed out. "But we're not outside."

Just then, Wang Zong declared, "Let me test the power of this seal."

He gestured at everyone to step back and looked up. Moments later, a powerful surge of energy surged from within him.

Boom!

The nearby spacetime trembled violently, and a terrifying force descended from above, sealing Wang Zong's cultivation.

The expressions of the Wang Clan's elites turned grim.

Wang Zong's face darkened as well, and his hands quivered ever so slightly. The power of the seal was far greater than he had anticipated. He could withstand it for a moment, but the strain on him was so immense that it was unsustainable to do so. After a moment of silence, he said, "Apart from the Martial Clan, are there other powers in the Wu Continent?"

The Grand Elder replied, "Yes, the Immortal Origin Clan is there, but their strength pales in comparison to the Martial Clan's strength."

"Great," Wang Zong said, nodding. "Negotiation should be easier, as they are weaker than the Martial Clan. Let's head to the Immortal Origin Clan, then."

The Grand Elder nodded. "Very well."

And with that, the Wang Clan set off for the Immortal Origin Clan.

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The Clan Leader of the Immortal Origin Clan, Sima Ru, had significant power in the Wu Continent as a Heavenly Sovereign.

Sima Ru was a bit taken aback to hear about the Wang Clan's arrival. He wasn't that knowledgeable about the Wang Clan, as the Immortal Origin Clan lacked the extensive external information network of the Martial Clan.

Sima Ru gazed calmly at the Wang Clan's elites standing inside the main hall of the Immortal Origin Clan.

The natives of the First God Paradise generally harbored unfavorable sentiments toward outsiders. In their eyes, outsiders were invaders.

The Wang Clan's elites didn't look pleased, as they had noticed that the people of the Immortal Origin Clan weren't particularly welcoming toward them. In fact, they could feel a hint of hostility.

Wang Zong turned to Sima Ru and bowed, "Clan Leader Sima, apologies for the intrusion."

Sima Ru nodded and calmly asked, "What brings you here?"

"Clan Leader Sima, we've come to seek assistance from the Immortal Origin Clan."

"Assistance?"

"We've come for a youth named Ye Guan. However, our cultivation is sealed here under the effects of the seal on this place, preventing us from locating him. Thus, we've come to seek the Immortal Origin Clan's help. If the Immortal Origin Clan is willing to assist us, the Wang Clan will surely express its gratitude."

Sima Ru's eyes narrowed. "And what form would this gratitude take?"

"Five strands of Ancestral Origin."

Sima Ru stood up, looking at the Wang Clan. "You have strands of Ancestral Origin?"

An elder from the Wang Clan interjected, "Our Wang Clan are Descendants of the Gods."

Sima Ru frowned. Descendants of the Gods? What's that supposed to mean? I've never heard of something like that

At this point, Wang Zong opened his palm, and five strands of Ancestral Origin floated slowly toward Sima Ru.

Sima Ru's eyes lit up at the sight. Unlike the Martial Clan, the Immortal Origin Clan had yet to acquire any strands of Ancestral Origin, which meant that even a strand of Ancestral Origin was incredibly precious to them.

Wang Zong stared at Sima Ru and said, "If the Immortal Origin Clan helps us find Ye Guan, my clan will express its gratitude once more."

Sima Ru accepted the five strands of Ancestral Origin and glanced at Wang Zong. "This matter is of great importance. I need to discuss it with the elders."

Wang Zong's brows furrowed slightly.

Some members of the Wang Clan were about to protest, but they were stopped by Wang Zong.

Without paying attention to the Wang Clan, Sima Ru turned around and walked into the inner hall.

An elder of the Wang Clan standing next to Wang Zong erupted in fury. "This is preposterous! Absolutely preposterous! It's like a tiger falling into a pit and being bullied by a dog. If we were outside..."

Wang Zong swiftly rebuked them, exclaiming, "Quiet!"

The elder fell silent, but his expression showed frustration.

Wang Zong shot him a cold glance and added, "Drop the arrogance. We're guests here; we're not in our territories. Let's focus on the bigger picture and avoid kicking up a fuss."

The Grand Elder nodded in agreement. "Our goal is to find Ye Guan, so let's try not to antagonize the locals here."

The other elders nodded as well, but they were seething with anger. Unfortunately, humility was indeed necessary here.

They endured, waiting for the tension to ease.

...

In the inner hall, Sima Ru had gathered all the strong members of the Immortal Origin Clan, and they were all intrigued upon hearing Sima Ru's words.

Ancestral Origin! With enough strands of Ancestral Origin, the Immortal Origin Clan's overall power would climb to the apex.

Moreover, it had been ages since any of them had made progress in their cultivation. They might finally be able to make a breakthrough with the help of Ancestral Origin.

"How many Ancestral Origins did they promise?" an elder asked.

"I have no idea," Sima Ru said, shaking his head. "They only mentioned they would give more; they did not specify the amount."

The elder frowned in response.

Just then, a black-robed elder nearby suggested, "What if we take them ourselves?"

All eyes turned to him, intrigued by his proposition.

Taking the strands of Ancestral Origins by ourselves?

The suggestion left them speechless.

Sima Ru was taken aback, as he hadn't considered such an approach.

However, the proposal made by the black-robed elder did make sense.

"If they can easily offer five strands of Ancestral Origins, they must be formidable individuals. This..." an elder voiced his concern.

The black-robed elder rose to his feet, and his voice was cold as he exclaimed, "Exactly! The fact that they're formidable means they possess even more strands of Ancestral Origin. It's worth the risk. And it's not much of a risk at all. Outside, they're a threat, but their cultivation bases are sealed here, so why would we be afraid of them? As long as we stay within the First God Paradise, they pose no threat to us at all."

The room fell silent as everyone contemplated his words.

Excitement grew among some members of the Immortal Origin Clan at the prospect of robbing and killing for such a valuable treasure.

All eyes turned to Sima Ru as everyone patiently waited for his decision. Sima Ru deduced that the group of people outside had extraordinary origins. If they resorted to murdering them for their treasure, there would undoubtedly be consequences.

Just then, the black-robed elder spoke up again, "Clan Leader, we just have to stay here, and we won't have to worry about any outsiders. Let's just go for it!"

The other elders nodded in agreement, signaling their readiness.

Robbing others for their strands of Ancestral Origin... The thought of it alone was exhilarating. They've handed us a feast on silver platters.

Sima Ru swept his gaze across everyone and declared, "We'll share both fortune and disaster. Let's do it."

Let's do it!

...

Meanwhile, Wang Zong and his companions remained patient. Some of the Wang Clan's members were growing restless, but nobody dared to speak out. They knew the importance of keeping sight of the bigger picture.

Wang Zong was composed. He was confident that the insignificant Immortal Origin Clan wouldn't be able to resist the allure of Ancestral Origin. To put it bluntly, the locals were just uncultured peasants, who'd eagerly serve his Wang Clan in exchange for a few strands of Ancestral Origin. That was how Wang Zong viewed the Immortal Origin Clan.

Just then, Sima Ru emerged from the hall.

Wang Zong regarded him calmly.

Sima Ru's face broke out into a smile, but his words sent a chill through the crowd. "Kill them!"

The elites of the Immortal Origin Clan descended upon the Wang Clan.

The Wang Clan's elites were dumbfounded. What was happening?

A Wang Clan elder was enraged. "What are you doing?! My Wang Clan members are Descendants of the Gods! How dare you—Goodness... are you serious?"

Chapter 616: Allies

"Kill!"

The entire Immortal Origin Clan went all-out, killing many Wang Clan members in the blink of an eye.

Meanwhile, Sima Ru made a beeline for Wang Zong—behead the leader, and the dust would settle.

The ambush left the Wang Clan bewildered. They had never anticipated such ruthlessness from the Immortal Origin Clan.

Wang Zong's face turned grim. Had these uncultured peasants lost their minds?

Fury surged within Wang Zong upon seeing Sima Ru charging at him.

Sima Ru raised his hand and sent a palm strike toward Wang Zong's chest.

Wang Zong's gaze turned cold at the oncoming attack. A mere Heavenly Sovereign like was usually powerless Wang Zong outside, but Wang Zong' cultivation base was sealed here, so he had to muster every ounce of strength he had within him to resist the seal and attack Sima Ru.

Bam!

Their clash sent shockwaves throughout the hall, reducing it to rubble.

Sima Ru staggered backward, surprised by Wang Zong's strength.

Wang Zong's gaze burned with murderous intent. "Do you understand what you're doing here?"

Sima Ru smirked. "Trying to intimidate me?"

Wang Zong's glare remained sharp, dripping with hostility.

Sima Ru didn't bother wasting words. He charged forward, launching another devastating blow.

While battling within the clan risked its destruction, the Immortal Origin Clan believed that the reward far outweighed the risks.

Wang Zong turned pale. Every single attack from him drained a ton of his strength, as he had to use a large portion of his strength to resist the seal, which left him vulnerable to Sima Ru's attacks.

As Sima Ru closed in once more, Wang Zong had no choice but to retaliate.

Boom!

A deafening boom echoed, shattering the surrounding spacetime.

Wang Zong regained his balance and looked around. The Wang Clan's members were being slaughtered by the Immortal Origin Clan—yes, it was a slaughter!

Helpless against the seal, the Wang Clan's elites were slaughtered like sheep. In mere moments, roughly ten thousand of them were killed.

Roughly ten thousand lives were lost in the blink of an eye!

Wang Zong's eyes blazed with fury; he turned to the Grand Elder and found the latter staring at him as well.



"Clan Leader, summon the Shadow of a God!" the Grand Elder exclaimed.

Summon the Shadow of a God? The Shadow of a God was the Wang Clan's trump card; it was a shadow that the Wang Clan's god had left behind for the Wang Clan long ago.

However, it could only be summoned three times; the Wang Clan had already summoned it twice. They had just one summon remaining. If they were to summon it today, they'd lost one of their most powerful trump cards.

As for contacting their god... truth be told, the Wang Clan hadn't been able to reach out to Him. Their god had long been unresponsive to them.

If they were to use that trump card, the Wang Clan would be left with no fallback. They'd become truly vulnerable. Stripped of all trump cards, they'd be easy prey for the other major divine clans.

He couldn't risk it!

Wang Zong took a deep breath and growled, "Elders, help me resist the seal and cover the retreat of our clan members!"

Wang Zong charged forward with his palm open. A black bracelet materialized on his wrist, and he started chanting an ancient incantation. The bracelet trembled and unleashed a column of divine energy skyward.

Empowered by the divine artifact, Wang Zong's aura surged crazily. The elders of the Wang Clan went all out as well.

Sima Ru and his allies were stupefied, and their faces became grim at the realization that they'd be no match for the Wang Clan if it weren't for the seal.

However, Sima Ru remained steadfast in his decision and affirmed his resolve by roaring, "Attack!"

The members of the Immortal Origin Clan charged with their towering killing intent toward the Wang Clan members. This was no time for mercy.

Wang Zong didn't back down; he charged as well, and his right arm sliced through the air as his bracelet shuddered violently.

A dazzling golden light erupted, obliterating several members of the Immortal Origin Clan at the helm.

Sima Ru's expression changed drastically. "Careful!"

With that, he and his allies retreated swiftly to avoid the golden light.

Meanwhile, the Wang Clan members retreated frantically, following the lead of the Wang Clan elders.

The golden light unleashed by Wang Zong was swiftly subdued by the seal left behind by the First God. Wang Zong looked pale and weak as blood dripped down his lips.

The strain of activating the divine artifact and resisting the seal was clearly taking its toll on him, and he could barely stand as a result. However, Wang Zong dared not stop moving nor hesitate. He took to the air and flew into the distant horizon along with the elders of the Wang Clan.

Meanwhile, the members of the Immortal Origin Clan scoured the battlefield, picking up the storage rings of the deceased Wang Clan members. Some of the storage rings even contained strands of Ancestral Origin, which brought smiles to the faces of the Immortal Origin Clan members.

Just then, Sima Ru roared, "Chase them!"

At his command, the Immortal Origin Clan members nodded—now was not the time to celebrate.

The Wang Clan was undoubtedly formidable outside, and the Immortal Origin Clan had just antagonized them. In other words, they had to annihilate the Wang Clan members here, as leaving behind any survivors meant they'd have to face endless trouble in the future.

Strike while the iron was hot!

Under Sima Ru's lead, the Immortal Origin Clan elites took to the sky without any hesitation.

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Martial Clan.

Xuan Yin stood at the end of the grand hall, and a black-robed elder was standing not too far behind her, quietly relaying information.

After a moment's pause, Xuan Yin lifted her gaze to the distant horizon.

"Who would have thought that the Immortal Origin Clan would be so..." Xuanyin trailed off.

It wasn't mockery; she was genuinely surprised. Although she had taken Ye Guan, she was not daring enough to confront the Wang Clan.

They were Descendants of the Gods, after all!

The consequences of such an action would be too great for the Martial Clan to bear. However, Xuan Yin was stupefied to learn that the Immortal Origin Clan had actually done the opposite of their decision.

Just then, the black-robed elder chimed in, "Ignorance is bliss."

Xuan Yin smiled faintly. Indeed, she wondered whether the Immortal Origin Clan knew the meaning of the words "Descendants of the Gods" or not.

Xuan Yin believed that it was the latter, otherwise, they wouldn't have dared to make a move against the Wang Clan.

The black-robed elder sounded solemn as he added, "The Wang Clan's relentless hunt against Young Master Ye—this matter is far from simple."

Just then, Xuan Yin asked, "Where is Young Master Ye now?"

The black-robed elder responded, "Our people have retreated..."

After a brief silence, Xuan Yin declared, "Find him. Lend him a hand if he needs it. But it must be done cleanly; you must leave no trace behind."

The black-robed elder glanced at Xuan Yin, questioning her sudden change of heart.

Xuan Yin's gaze narrowed slightly. "The Immortal Origin Clan has dared to take such a risk, and if we can't do that same, wouldn't that mean that we are inferior to them?"

The black-robed elder nodded before turning to depart.

Xuan Yin gazed upward; a faint smile tugged at her lips. "Perhaps this is an opportunity for the Martial Clan to assert itself..."

She had decided to make a bet. If the young swordsman became an enemy, he had to be dealt with decisively, much like the Wang Clan. And if there was a chance to befriend him, she had to seize it.

However, she wouldn't risk everything for him. She could still support Ye Guan without antagonizing the Wang Clan completely. That way, Ye Guan would owe her a favor. This approach promised only modest gains, but it was a safe bet.

After all, if Ye Guan ultimately fell to the Wang Clan, the Martial Clan's subtle assistance to Ye Guan meant that there wouldn't be a deadly feud between the Wang Clan and the Martial Clan.

Maintaining flexibility was the key...

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The Wang Clan's members were fleeing frantically, flying across a mountain range. They had arrived tens of thousands strong, but now, only a mere ten thousand of them remained. The losses were devastating. They didn't expect that the Immortal Origin Clan would resort to such an extreme measure for the sake of a few strands of Ancestral Origin. It was utterly outrageous.

Wang Zong's expression was dark as they retreated deep into the mountain range. His heart was bleeding for the Wang Clan's losses.

Those he had brought with him were the cream of the crop elites, and their deaths were a severe blow to the Wang Clan.

The Grand Elder solemnly suggested, "Clan Leader, why did you not summon the Shadow of a God?"

The other elders also looked at Wang Zong with unfriendly gazes. The Wang Clan wouldn't have sustained such losses if the Shadow of a God had been summoned earlier!

Wang Zong shook his head and replied, "The Shadow of a God can only be summoned for one last time!"

Hearing this, everyone was stunned. The Grand Elder's face grew even more grim as he instantly understood what that meant.

The Shadow of a God had become the Wang Clan's lifeblood. Once exhausted, the Wang Clan would be devoured promptly by the other major clans.

Without a trump card, who'd be afraid of them?

The exhaustion of the Shadow of a God meant the extinction of the clan, but not using it only meant the deaths of some elites.

They had no other choice.

Wang Zong murmured, "Of course, we'll eventually use it, but we're not going to use it on that low-level clan."

Wang Zong's expression twisted with humiliation just then. What a disgrace!

All of a sudden, thousands of powerful auras swept over them. The Immortal Origin Clan had decided to chase after them, and Sima Ru stood at the helm of the group.

The Grand Elder turned to Wang Zong and solemnly said, "We are no match for them here."

The implied message was clear—they had to use that card, or many of them would die here.

Wang Zong gazed at the approaching Sima Ru and others in silence. He never expected that the Wang Clan would end up getting driven to a corner by such a trashy force.

Taking a step forward, Wang Zong opened his palm, revealing a token in his hand. A complex expression flashed in his eyes. He had never expected that he would be forced to use the Wang Clan's final trump card here. How frustrating.

Wang Zong was about to activate the token when something happened—a sword light flashed across the mountain range.

Wang Zong's pupils shrank in horror because he was the target of the sword light.

Wang Zong hurriedly circulated his cultivation base and resisted the seal to send a devastating punch toward the oncoming sword.

BOOM!

Wang Zong was blasted thousands of meters away by the sword light.

When he stopped, he was stunned to find that the token in his hand had vanished.

Looking up, Wang Zong saw Ye Guan clad in white.

Ye Guan stood calmly in the distance with a token in his hand.

"Ye Guan!" Wang Zong roared, his eyes widening in fury.

Just then, Sima Ru and the others finally arrived at the scene. Sima Ru frowned while staring at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan looked at Sima Ru and smiled faintly. "We are allies!"

Sima Ru: "..."

Chapter 617: Which Family Is He From?

In truth, Ye Guan had been following the Wang Clan ever since they entered the Immortal Origin Clan.

Ye Guan was surprised when the Immortal Origin Clan turned against the Wang Clan. He hadn't anticipated the Immortal Origin Clan to be so domineering and brave that they'd resort to murder for the sake of Ancestral Origin.

However, it was an opportunity in his eyes—an enemy's enemy was a friend, after all.

When Wang Zong revealed a token earlier, Ye Guan's figure tensed up. He knew that the Wang Clan still had a trump card, so he did not hesitate to make a move.

Sima Ru scrutinized Ye Guan, his brow furrowing as he asked, "Are you... the Ye Guan that they've been chasing all this while?"

Ye Guan smiled. "Indeed."

Sima Ru was quiet for a while before asking, "They mobilized their entire clan to hunt you down?"

Ye Guan nodded lightly, maintaining a calm demeanor outside, but he was secretly on guard.

The Grand Elder chimed in, "He has Ancestral Veins!"

Sima Ru's gaze narrowed.

Noticing Sima Ru's reaction, the Grand Elder added, "And he has more than one."

Sima Ru turned to the Grand Elder and asked, "Are you trying to sow discord here?"

The Grand Elder glared at Sima Ru. "The Ancestral Veins on him—"

"What a despicable tactic," Sima Ru interrupted, waving his hand dismissively as he said, "Why don't you stop humiliating yourself? So what if he has Ancestral Veins? His Ancestral Veins has got nothing to do with me. Our Immortal Origin Clan is poor, but we have integrity. We won't claim what rightfully belongs to others."

The members of the Wang Clan exchanged confused glances.

The Grand Elder's expression darkened at Sima Ru's rebuke.

Sima Ru's remarks were a blatant insult to their Wang Clan.



Ye Guan glanced at Sima Ru with a faint smile. He had dared to show his face, so he wasn't afraid of the Immortal Origin Clan at all. Moreover, escape was always an option.

Sima Ru turned to Ye Guan and asked, "Shall we join forces?"

Ye Guan smiled in agreement.

"Attack!" Sima Ru commanded. The Immortal Origin Clan members charged at the Wang Clan's elites.

The members of the Wang Clan here had to be annihilated. There could be no half-measures, or the Immortal Origin Clan would never be able to sleep in peace at night.

Almost simultaneously, Ye Guan transformed into a streak of sword light, vanishing from sight. His target—the leader of the Wang Clan.

Wang Zong's pupils constricted at Ye Guan's approach.

"You..." Wang Zong was confused why Ye Guan seemed unaffected by the seal, but it didn't take him long to realize that Ye Guan was actually resisting the seal. It wasn't like he was exempted from it.

No way... how? Wang Zong was in disbelief.

Even Wang Zong found it incredibly taxing to withstand the seal's power, despite being an Ancient Sovereign.

However, Ye Guan was actually facing the seal's pressure head-on while attacking with such strength.

In a heartbeat, Wang Zong's mind raced with a myriad of thoughts. The Wang Clan had vastly underestimated Ye Guan. Unfortunately, they were way beyond the point of no regret.

Wang Zong took a deep breath and turned his wrist. A radiant divine light erupted from him, forcing him to retreat.

Just then, Sima Ru closed in, delivering a powerful blow to Wang Zong.

The radiant divine light shattered, and Wang Zong was blasted away. Before he could stabilize himself in mid-air, Ye Guan appeared above him with a move much more powerful than earlier.

Wang Zong's heart jumped, and he raised his arm to block. A golden shield of divine light formed before him.

The collision of Ye Guan's sword and Wang Zong's shield generated a thunderous boom that ripped across the battlefield.

The two staggered backward, and Sima Ru wasn't going to let that opportunity go as he charged at Wang Zong.

A powerful sword move descended upon Wang Zong, leaving him no time to recover as Sima Ru's sword made a beeline for him.

At the critical juncture, Wang Zong gathered his resolve, and his eyes sharpened as he gripped his fists tightly.

A rumbling noise echoed from within him as he set his fleshly body and soul ablaze, sending his aura shooting through the roof.

Wang Zong swung his fist, delivering a mighty punch containing a torrent of divine light.

BOOM!

Ye Guan and Sima Ru were blasted away. Ye Guan furrowed his brows, surprised by Wang Zong's drastic measure.

Sima Ru remained silent, but a sense of caution stirred within him. Confronting the Wang Clan carried immense consequences, and he knew that the Immortal Origin Clan was no match for the entire Wang Clan outside. In other words, a retreat was not an option for them, and they had to fight to the bitter end, as the Wang Clan outside would surely descend upon them and slaughter them the moment they heard about what the Immortal Origin Clan had done to their elites.

Understanding the gravity of the situation, Sima Ru chose to ally with Ye Guan. The young swordsman was surely anything but ordinary, as he had the entire Wang Clan chasing after him.

If Sima Ru were to show any ill intent toward Ye Guan, it wouldn't do anything other than make more enemies for the Immortal Origin Clan.

Meanwhile, Wang Zong looked around and saw that there were barely any Wang Clan elites around him.

It was a massacre. They had come here as a mighty force, but only a few thousand of them were left, along with the Grand Elder and a handful of supreme elites.

Wang Zong's eyes burned with rage upon realizing that the Wang Clan elites here would soon be annihilated. This wouldn't have happened if it weren't for the seal. Unfortunately, their cultivation bases were sealed, and they didn't have as many methods to fight as they had outside.

Wang Zong was filled with regret. However, it wasn't because he had made an enemy out of Ye Guan, but because he had underestimated the First God Paradise.

The Wang Clan had long grown accustomed to their arrogance, and they truly believed that every other clan was supposed to bow to them.

Thus, they ventured arrogantly into the First God Paradise only to stumble upon a setback in the form of the Immortal Origin Sect utterly disregarding their status.

Was Wang Zong going to blame the Immortal Origin Sect? No, he was blaming himself for his arrogance and recklessness.

Wang Zong took a deep breath as his fleshly body and soul disintegrated into nothingness. Then, he turned to the Grand Elder nearby and commanded, "Once you're outside, I want you to spread the word: the First God inheritance is with Ye Guan."

Wang Zong then lifted his head, and a tremor ran through his arm as the gold bracelet on his wrist erupted into a radiant beam of light and tore through the fabric of spacetime.

The mysterious seal descended once more, suppressing Wang Zong.

However, Wang Zong gnashed his teeth and resisted the seal with all his might.

Sima Ru's expression shifted abruptly upon seeing the spacetime rift.

"Attack!" Sima Ru commanded.

However, Wang Zong turned toward him and swung his fist, unleashing a torrent of divine light toward Sima Ru.

Sima Ru and the other clan members were forced to retreat against the overwhelmingly powerful torrent of divine light.

Even Ye Guan stepped back, refusing to confront the divine light head-on.

Wang Zong had ignited his fleshly body, soul, and his divine artifact, which meant that he had become terrifyingly powerful for them to confront.

Sima Ru and the others retreated frantically.

Wang Zong turned to the rest of his clan members and bellowed, "Leave now!"

The Wang Clan members soared into the rift in spacetime. However, before a hundred of them could fly into the rift, the seal shattered the gold bracelet.

The seal suppressed Wang Zong once more, and his strength was reduced to that of a mere mortal.

Kneeling in mid-air, Wang Zong's figure became transparent. He had sacrificed his fleshly body, soul, and a divine artifact, but he only managed to maintain a rift in the First God Paradise's spacetime for just a few seconds.

However, a few seconds was enough; they could not be annihilated here.

The remaining Wang Clan elites were consumed by fear and despair. The sense of invincibility in their hearts was shattered ruthlessly as the denizens of the First God Paradise trampled on them. They didn't care about their status as Descendants of the Gods at all. Soon, anguished cries filled the air, which signaled the start of another slaughter.

Ignoring the chaos, Wang Zong slowly raised his gaze toward Ye Guan in the distance. A smirk played on his lips as he said, "Soon, the four clans of the Descendants of the Gods will come seeking you..."

With that, Wang Zong vanished into thin air.

Ye Guan remained composed, casting a glance at the sky. Only now did he realize that with enough strength, one could break this seal. However, he did not attempt it. He could just use the teleportation array from the Martial Clan.

Turning around, Ye Guan found Sima Ru watching him.

Ye Guan smiled and remarked, "Clan Leader Ru, that was a fruitful collaboration."

Sima Ru smiled as well. "Indeed."

"Till we meet again," Ye Guan said before turning around to leave.

Staring at Ye Guan's back profile, Sima Ru suddenly asked, "Young Master Ye, their treasures..."

Ye Guan waved his hand dismissively. "Not interested."

Sima Ru's smile faded at the response.

A member of the Immortal Origin Clan approached Sima Ru, and his voice was grave as he said, "Clan Leader, that young man surely has Ancestral Veins..."

However, Sima Ru remained calm. "I know."

The man asked, "Then why—"

"He doesn't even care about so many strands of Ancestral Origin," Sima Ru interrupted and asked, "Which family do you think he's from? Surely, he's the son of a prestigious family. It's best not to provoke him."

#### Chapter 618: Target His Entire Family

The Grand Elder of the Wang Clan led the remaining Wang Clan elites out of the First God Paradise. The moment they were back outside, they all turned to look at the spacetime rift behind them. Their hearts ached, and their eyes filled with fury. The Wang Clan had lost everything. Even the Divine Spirit Token had fallen into Ye Guan's hands. At this point, the Wang Clan couldn't even be considered a third-class power. They were doomed.

The Grand Elder said in a low voice, "Spread the word: the First God's inheritance is in Ye Guan's hands."

At this point, the Wang Clan had to divert the attention of the four major clans to Ye Guan. That way, they might survive and even avenge themselves indirectly.

Otherwise, Wang Clan would definitely be swallowed by the other clans.

The Grand Elder took a long look at First God Paradise before he left with the remaining Wang Clan elites. It did not take long for the news of Ye Guan possessing the First God's inheritance to spread throughout the entire Old Era.

As the Grand Elder had predicted, the four major clans no longer paid attention to the weakened Wang Clan upon hearing the news.

A myriad of supreme elites headed toward the entrance of the First God Paradise.

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Mo Tiandu gathered the elites of his clan the moment he heard the news.

Mo Yaoyao was there as well.

Mo Tiandu swept his gaze across everyone and asked, "What do you guys think?"

An old man wearing an extravagant robe stepped out and said, "We must immediately dispatch people to the First God Paradise."

The remaining elders nodded in agreement. The First God's inheritance was no ordinary inheritance, and it couldn't fall into the hands of others.

Mo Tiandu turned to look at Mo Yaoyao and asked, "Yaoyao, what do you think?"

The old man frowned.

Mo Yaoyao calmly said, "Apparently, tens of thousands of Wang Clan elites had decided to enter the First God Paradise, but only dozens of them came out alive. The leader of the Wang Clan, Wang Zong, had also perished inside the First God Paradise."

The elders' faces darkened at Mo Yaoyao's remark.

However, Mo Yaoyao wasn't done just yet as she added, "The Wang Clan revealed the news of First God's inheritance the moment they left First God Paradise. Their purpose is simple: to attract the attention of the four major clans, hoping to incite us to compete for the inheritance while they recuperate and recover from their losses."

Mo Tiandu looked at her with a smile and said, "Then, how do you think should we proceed?"

"We should eliminate the Wang Clan first and then observe from the sidelines," Mo Yaoyao replied.

"We can't do that," the old man in the extravagant robe said, "Our Mo Clan will suffer significantly if the inheritance falls into the hands of the other clans."

A few elders behind him nodded in agreement.

Mo Yaoyao said, "Uncle, have you not considered how the Wang Clan was virtually annihilated in the First God Paradise?"

The old man frowned.

Mo Yaoyao added, "I've dealt with Young Lord Ye, and he's no ordinary person. The Wang Clan has underestimated him, which resulted in their downfall. Our Mo Clan cannot repeat their mistakes."

"But we're talking about the First God's Inheritance here," the old man in the extravagant robe retorted, "Many gods coveted it back then. The Mo Clan has to seize this opportunity, or we'll fall into a passive position if the inheritance falls into someone else's hands."

Mo Yaoyao didn't reply. Instead, she turned to Mo Tiandu and said, "My suggestion is to get rid of the Wang Clan first and then observe from the sidelines."

Mo Tiandu was silent. However, the old man in the extravagant robe on his robe hurriedly said, "The Wang Clan is already on its last legs, and we can get rid of them anytime we wish, but the First God's inheritance. We cannot afford to miss out on this opportunity. Our clan's destiny is going to change the



moment we obtain that inheritance, which is why I suggest that we seize the First God's inheritance first before dealing with the Wang Clan. And we must make a move as soon as possible."

Mo Tiandu was still silent.

"First God's inheritance definitely includes Ancestral Veins, and those Ancestral Veins are from the First God's era..." the old man in the extravagant robe said, trailing off.

Mo Tiandu's eyes narrowed, and he exclaimed, "We're heading to the First God Paradise!"

Ancestral Veins and the First God's inheritance! The Wang Clan was like an ant when compared to those two.

Mo Tiandu had decided to make a big gamble!

Meanwhile, Mo Yaoyao was silent, and she looked extremely calm to the point that her thoughts were impossible to deduce.

Soon, the meeting was adjourned. The entire Mo Clan immediately set off for the First God Paradise except for one person, Mo Yaoyao.

Mo Yaoyao looked up silently at the sky and a white light streaking across the sky.

A beautiful lady walked up to her side and tugged at her hand, asking softly, "Thinking of leaving this place?"

Mo Yaoyao turned to her and said, "Come with me."

However, the beautiful lady shook her head with a smile.

Mo Yaoyao wanted to say something but hesitated.

The beautiful lady said, "I know that you're the reason your father has decided to keep me here and even give me a status, but... it's fine."

Mo Yaoyao continued looking at the sky, not saying a word.

The beautiful lady added, "I know you want to leave, and I support you."

Mo Yaoyao turned to look at her and said, "You know what? I feel that liking someone shouldn't mean losing yourself; people should never go beyond their limits to compromise for the one they love. Doing so won't earn them love from those they love—only pity or even disgust."

The beautiful lady was silent.

Mo Yaoyao continued, "I'm not going to leave the Mo Clan because they've made the wrong decision this time. It's because I've realized that neither you nor I have ever been truly regarded as part of the clan. Of course, I'd eventually become the Clan Leader of the Mo Clan if I were to stay here. After all, none of them are strong enough to stop me from doing so. However, I no longer have to do that, as the Mo Clan is just not worth it..."

Mo Yaoyao then started walking into the distance, saying, "The saddest outcome for a woman is to love someone who doesn't love her back and to keep compromising for that person. I can love someone, but I'll never be that submissive. Of course, it's your decision, and I respect it..."

Mo Yaoyao disappeared when the final syllable of her words echoed throughout the air. She was the only one in the Mo Clan who had fought against Ye Guan, and she knew well that he wasn't a simple person at all. Moreover, the downfall of the Wang Clan had only proven her assumption.

However, the entire Mo Clan had lost its way in the face of temptation. They couldn't see the danger that Ye Guan posed, but it made sense, considering their status. They were Descendants of the Gods, after all.

The Gods were backing them up! This fact was the reason behind their confidence.

Unbeknownst to them, however, their confidence would soon cost them everything.

Mo Yaoyao had seen through it all and tried to stop them from going down this path, but it was futile.

If she had insisted on her suggestion earlier, she would have been abandoned by the Mo Clan.

A beam of light amidst the darkness was a beam of corruption to that darkness, which was why Mo Yaoyao had chosen to leave.

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Meanwhile, a myriad of supreme elites flocked to the entrance to the First God Paradise. The majority of them were from the four major clans, while the rest were from weaker forces that had decided to come here to earn a bit of profit from the side.

They were talking about the First God's inheritance here, after all. Who wouldn't be tempted?

They knew that this inheritance had nothing to do with them, but it didn't stop them from coming here to take a look.

Of course, it'd be great if they somehow profited.

It was worth mentioning that the Divine Academy had come as well. More specifically, the Left Bishop and the Right Bishop had come here.

The Left Bishop looked around him. "So they're all here."

The Right Bishop nodded slightly. "It's the First God's Inheritance, after all. Another bloody battle is nigh..."

The Left Bishop looked at the First God Paradise with a thoughtful expression.

The Left Bishop wasn't alone, as everyone was stewing in their own thoughts.

They were eager to rush in and take the inheritance away from Ye Guan by killing him, but they were trying to be rational about it as well.

They knew that they couldn't enter be reckless here; they were staring at the First God Paradise, after all.

And that was exactly why they had decided to wait...

Just then, the Clan Leader of the Mo Clan emerged from the shadows. He looked around with a smile and asked, "Fellow clan leaders, how about we have a chat? You're already here, anyway."

Moments later, two people suddenly appeared next to Mo Tiandu—a middle-aged man and a skinny old man.

The middle-aged man was Chen Yu, the Clan Leader of the Chen Clan, and the skinny old man was Qin Yuan, the Clan Leader of the Qin Clan.

Mo Tiandu smiled. "Brother Zhao?"

A young man approached them slowly, and the three clan leaders frowned upon seeing the young man.

The young man walked up to them and bowed slightly. "Junior Zhao Tianji greets the three seniors."

Mo Tiandu looked at him and asked, "You've become the Clan Leader of the Zhao Clan?"

Zhao Tianji smiled and said, "It happened not too long ago. Anyway, every clan affair is now my responsibility."

The other three men exchanged glances, feeling a bit shocked. The previous Clan Leader of the Zhao Clan gave up his authority just like that, and to such a young person, to boot?

"What do you guys think we should do?" Mo Tiandu asked.

Chen Yu chuckled. "Of course, we're going to kill Ye Guan and seize the First God's inheritance."

Chen Yu had decided not to beat around the bush.

"Perhaps we can send someone in to chat with Young Lord Ye?" Qin Yuan suggested, "If he's willing to hand over the inheritance, then we can offer him some benefits and ensure that he'd live a life of wealth and prosperity. This way, we can avoid bloodshed and establish a good relationship with him as well. It would be like killing two birds with one stone."

Chen Yu stared blandly at Qin Yuan and asked, "Can you stop being so naive?"

Qin Yuan didn't get angry at his words. Instead, he smiled and asked, "What if Young Lord Ye is reasonable enough to make peace with us?"

Chen Yu turned to look at Mo Tiandu.

Mo Tiandu looked at Zhao Tianji and asked, "What do you think?"

Zhao Tianji thought for a moment before saying, "I have no opinions. I'm here to learn from the three seniors, and I will follow your decision."

Qin Yuan looked at Zhao Tianji and chuckled without saying anything.

Chen Yu sounded cheerful as he said, "Three seniors? So you've come to learn from this old fox Qin Yuan, too? Does that even make sense/ Do you really think that your humble demeanor will deceive us?"

Zhao Tianji merely smiled at the remark.

Mo Tiandu looked at the First God Paradise and said, "We must find a way to force him out..."

"Isn't that simple?" Chen Yu said calmly, attracting everyone's attention. Chen Yu then added coldly, "Investigate his background thoroughly and capture the members of his entire family. We'll bring them here and kill one of his family members everyday until he comes out. We're going to keep doing that until he no longer has any family members for us to find. I really want to see whether he'd come out or not by then."

Chapter 619: Wreak Havoc

Mo Tiandu frowned at Chen Yu's words, but he didn't say anything.

Qin Yuan hurriedly said, "Don't you think harming his innocent family members is going a bit too far?"

Chen Yu glanced at him indifferently and asked, "Do you have any other ideas then, Clan Leader Qin?"

"I believe we can talk this out with him," Qin Yuan said, "I'm sure he'll voluntarily hand over the inheritance the moment he sees that it's the most logical decision to make."

Mo Tiandu's frown deepened at Qin Yuan's words. To be honest, he harbored a deep disdain for Qin Yuan because of the latter's hypocrisy. He found him utterly insincere as a person. If it were not for his considerable strength, Mo Tiandu would gladly slap him to death. Damn it, do you really think that Ye Guan is an idiot? Handing over the inheritance voluntarily? What kind of nonsense is that?

Ye Guan definitely knew that the four major clans would not let him off the hook even if he handed over the inheritance. After all, one had to remove the roots to get rid of the weeds.

"Since Brother Qin is so confident with his suggestion, why not let him enter the First God Paradise first to talk to Ye Guan?" Chen Yu suggested.

Qin Yuan smiled and said, "If you're willing to trust me, then I can give it a try."

Chen Yu fell silent. Naturally, he did not trust Qin Yuan at all. If this guy went in and killed Ye Guan to seize the inheritance for himself, they'd suffer a huge loss.

However, Mo Tiandu had a different idea. "I don't mind. Brother Qin, you can enter the First God Paradise any time you wish."

"Really?" Qin Yuan asked.

Mo Tiandu nodded.

Qin Yuan laughed heartily before staring at Chen Yu.

Chen Yu looked at Mo Tiandu with a frown, confused by the latter's intentions.

Mo Tiandu did not explain himself. Instead, he looked at Qin Yuan and said, "Wang Zong died in there, along with tens of thousands of elites from his clan. If you're not afraid of dying, you can go ahead. We have no objections here."

Qin Yuan's smile faded away. He was not much stronger than Wang Zong. Since Wang Zong had died inside the First God Paradise, who could guarantee that he wouldn't die as well. While there'd be great a chance for him to seize the inheritance for himself if he entered it before anyone else, the risk of dying was just too high.

Mo Tiandu looked away and turned to the silent Zhao Tianji.

"What do you think?" Mo Tiandu asked.

Zhao Tianji was quiet.

Mo Tiandu said, "Since your grandfather was willing to give up his position and hand it over to you, you must be anything but ordinary. Don't bother pretending to be incompetent in front of us because that will only make you appear foolish."

Zhao Tianji nodded and said, "Our top priority shouldn't be figuring out how to obtain the inheritance, but to understand how the Wang Clan was annihilated in the First God Paradise. That is crucial information that we need to know."

"I agree." Mo Tiandu nodded.

Qin Yuan and Chen Yu remained silent.

How did Wang Zong and the others die? It was like a thorn stuck in their throats. Wang Zong was an Ancient Sovereign Realm cultivator, and he had brought so many elites with him into the First God Paradise. However, the majority of them actually ended up dying inside!

Who killed them? Was it Ye Guan?

If so, how did Ye Guan do it?

"Actually, it's not that difficult to figure out," Zhao Tianji said, "We just need to send someone inside to investigate."

"That's true," Mo Tiandu said, nodding. He was also afraid of making a move until he had enough information as to what exactly happened to the Wang Clan.

Chen Yu suddenly said, "According to what I know, he's from the Time River. We can send someone to the Time River to capture his family and force him to come out of the First God Paradise. I refuse to believe that he'd ignore his family's lives."

Mo Tiandu thought about it for a little while before he nodded and said, "Let's do that."

They had no plans of entering the First God Paradise in such a reckless manner. After all, the First God Paradise had a cultivation seal left behind by the First God. In other words, they needed to lure Ye Guan out, and the best way to do it was to capture his family and threaten him using their lives.



Surely, he wouldn't ignore the lives of his parents, right?

Seeing that Mo Tiandu had agreed with his suggestion, Chen Yu nodded and said, "I'll send someone to the Time River."

"Send more people there to ensure nothing goes wrong," Mo Tiandu said.

"Got it," Chen Yu said. Then, he turned around and left.

Meanwhile, Mo Tiandu and the other clan leaders sent a total of four people into the First God Paradise, one from each of the four major clans.

However, none of the clan leaders actually believed that they'd send only one person from their clan.

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First God Paradise, Immortal Origin Clan...

The Immortal Origin Clan was bustling with activity; they had collected a myriad of treasures after cleaning up the battlefield, including many strands of Ancestral Origin. They had struck it rich!

Although they had also suffered significant losses, they were nothing compared to what they had obtained. Sima Ru swept his gaze across the excited crowd in the hall, and there was a trace of worry in his eyes upon discovering the depths of the Wang Clan's wealth. Evidently, he had underestimated them. The First God's seal was working, but Sima Ru still couldn't help but feel somewhat uneasy.

An elder walked up to Sima Ru and said, "Clan Leader, that young man is in the Yunlong Mountain Range. As per your instructions, we haven't approached him."

"That's good. I will go and meet with him personally," Sima Ru said with a nod. Then, he turned around to leave.

"Clan Leader!" the elder exclaimed excitedly, "Are you going to kill him and seize his inheritance?"

It seemed that the elder had become quite a bit greedy after tasting the sweet nectar of riches, but it was a perfectly normal change in attitude.

After all, the Immortal Origin Clan had just become immensely wealthy after wiping out the Wang Clan.

Sima Ru glared coldly at the elder, making the latter feel as if he had fallen into an ice cellar.

Sima Ru then looked away and muttered, "The Immortal Origin Clan needs allies..."

The Immortal Origin Clan had become arrogant, making Sima Ru feel worried about their future. No, the Immortal Origin Clan had become extremely arrogant. It was imperative for him to curb the arrogance of his clan members, but he did not have the leeway to do anything else; his top priority was to find an ally to rely on. He could not expect support from the Wu Clan, so the only option left was to try and ally with that young swordsman, whom he believed had an extraordinary background.

Sima Ru quietly left the Immortal Origin Clan's great hall.

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Ye Guan was sitting cross-legged with his eyes closed before a tranquil pool of water somewhere in a vast mountain range. He was concentrating on assimilating the insights that he had obtained from the battle with Wang Zong, and the most valuable of those insights was the power of the cultivation seal that the First God had left behind. He discovered that engaging in combat while going against the power of the cultivation seal could greatly enhance his strength. It was somewhat akin to running with ankle weights.

At first, it'd be exhausting to work out with ankle weights, but one would find that their strength had increased significantly after growing accustomed to the added weight.

And once the weights were removed, one would find that one had become considerably stronger.

Ye Guan smiled faintly and looked up. He no longer saw the cultivation seal as a tool of suppression but as a training tool.

Training under adversity!

Just then, a gentle breeze blew from somewhere not too far away from him.

Sima Ru then appeared before him.

Ye Guan stared wordlessly at Sima Ru.

Sima Ru sized up Ye Guan from top to bottom and was shocked. He felt a bit threatened standing before the young man. It seemed that his assumption was right; the young man was indeed anything but ordinary!

Sima Ru smiled and asked, "Are you training here, young man?"

Ye Guan calmly asked, "What's the matter?"

Sima Ru answered in a serious tone of voice, "Young friend, as the saying goes: 'the enemy of our enemy is our friend.' Our enemy is the Wang Clan, and I think we should join forces against them, but... what do you think?"

Ye Guan chuckled. "I don't think the Wang Clan would dare to come back here to seek revenge."

"What if they do?" Sima Ru asked.

Ye Guan fell silent for a moment before asking, "Are you daring enough to take a big gamble?"

"A big gamble?"

"To be frank, I possess an inheritance, and it's not just the Wang Clan who desires it. There are several other major clans outside who can't wait to get their hands on this thing, and I'm sure that they won't give up so easily; they'll keep coming in to try and seize this inheritance. We can work together and lure them into coming here and eliminating all of them. That is the big gamble that I'm talking about. Once they're dead, everything they possess will belong to you. I will not take even a single cent away."

There are other clans on the same level as the Wang Clan? Sima Ru fell silent. He had to admit that he was quite shocked. The Wang Clan was already terrifying, but there were other clans outside on the same level as them, and their goal was to kill this young man?

Sima Ru couldn't help but cast a curious gaze upon Ye Guan. "Is your inheritance really from the First God?"

"Yes," Ye Guan replied with a nod.

The First God's inheritance! Sima Ru had never been in the outside world, but he still knew a bit about the First God. However, his knowledge was limited. After all, the First God had spent the majority of his time outside the First God Paradise.

Sima Ru was a little hesitant. Joining forces with Ye Guan meant that the ire of those major clans would descend upon the Immortal Origin Clan. To make matters worse, the Wang Clan's terrifying might was making Sima Ru apprehensive about the might of the other major clans outside.

Ye Guan suddenly said, "There is no difference between annihilating one clan and five clans."

Sima Ru said in a low voice, "I'm just worried that they might be able to find a way to break the cultivation seal..."

"It's unlikely," Ye Guan said, smiling. "They will not be able to break the seal left behind by the First God. Otherwise, the Wang Clan wouldn't have been annihilated here."

Sima Ru stared quietly at Ye Guan. To be honest, he had some reservations. Working with Ye Guan could lead to immense wealth, but it could also result in total destruction.

"You can take your time. There's no rush," Ye Guan said. Then, he turned around to leave.

Sima Ru was puzzled by Ye Guan's nonchalance. How come this is so calm? It doesn't make sense! He must have some kind of backup plan or someone powerful he can rely on as insurance! His background must be extremely extraordinary for him to be so powerful at such a young age.

"Young Lord Ye!" Sima Ru called out. He had made up his mind and said, "Young Lord Ye, my Immortal Origin Clan is willing to work together with you."

Ye Guan stopped in his tracks and turned to look at Sima Ru.

"Pleasure work with you," Ye Guan said, smiling.

The Immortal Origin Clan's strength was like a mere fart outside, but they were quite formidable here.

Sima Ru asked, "Young Lord Ye, do you have any backers?"

Ye Guan hesitated for a moment before replying, "Quite a few."

"Are they strong?"

"If I brought any one of them here, they'd wreak havoc upon everyone here."

"That's reassuring."

"Really? Do you really believe me?"

"Have you not noticed it yet, Young Lord Ye? The way you carry yourself makes it obvious that you have many powerful backers..."

#### Chapter 620: Experts Entering a Village Full of Elderly

Ye Guan laughed out loud. He found the Clan Leader of the Immortal Origin Clan to be quite an interesting person. He knew that there was a deeper meaning behind Sima Ru's actions, but he couldn't care less.

"I'll be in touch with you again soon," said Ye Guan before disappearing into the distance.

The smile on Sima Ru's face immediately disappeared. After a moment of silence, he returned to the Immortal Origin Clan and conducted a clan meeting.

Every single elite of the Immortal Origin Clan gathered in the great hall of the Immortal Origin Clan.

Sima Ru swept his gaze across the elites and said, "Everyone, I've reached an agreement with Ye Guan. We're going to be his allies in both life and death."

"But Clan Leader... he's just one person..." an elder said hesitantly.

Sima Ru glanced at the elder and retorted, "You fool, do you really think that he's just one person?"

"But..." the elder muttered with a puzzled look.

Sima Ru sounded serious as he said, "Young Lord Ye has revealed his background to me. He's the Young Master of the Ye Family from the outside world... I'm sure you haven't heard of the Ye Family before, but it's a family full of experts, and they're the strongest family in the outside world. Any one of them would be capable of wreaking havoc here."

The elder hesitated for a moment before asking, "Then, why was he forced to come here, and why is he being pursued even now?"

Sima Ru was about to respond when another black-robed elder chimed in, "It might just be their way of raising their children. An extremely powerful family often doesn't adhere to common sense."

"Exactly!" Sima Ru slapped his thigh and said, "It's free-range parenting! The Ye Family practices free-range parenting when it comes to cultivating new leaders of their clan, as the one that grows stronger through adversity are extraordinary individuals!"

"So..." an elder muttered, "So, he came here... to experience life?"

Sima Ru nodded. "Exactly."

The same elder hesitated before asking, "Clan Leader, is he actually reliable?"

Before Sima Ru could reply, the black-robed elder said, "Have you guys already forgotten how Young Lord Ye didn't take even a single penny for himself after we annihilated the Wang Clan? What does that mean? It means that he doesn't care about such things at all. Try and imagine the background of an individual who'd shun even Ancestral Origin."

The other elders hurriedly nodded in agreement. They could still remember how Young Lord Ye had left without even looking back; he had displayed an air of complete indifference to wealth at the time.

Sima Ru immediately heaved a sigh of relief. He was the clan leader, but he was still rather stressed about how he was supposed to explain his decision to stand with Ye Guan. After all, Ye Guan was just one person, and they were about to go against a myriad of powerful enemies. He had to be careful, or the clan members would start harboring resentment toward him. However, everyone had agreed to ally with Ye Guan, which meant that there wouldn't be any discord in the future.

In other words, it could be considered a collective decision! They'd share blessings and carry burdens together.

How about Ye Guan? Did he really have such powerful backers? Actually, Sima Ru himself wasn't sure about that.

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Ye Guan's figure transformed into a ray of sword light that took to the clouds. The next moment, an invisible force descended upon Ye Guan, pushing him back to the ground. Ye Guan resisted fiercely, and the moment his feet touched the ground, the mountains around him were reduced to dust. He was using the power of the seal as a training tool. Since he started looking at the seal from a different perspective, Ye Guan no longer hated the seal. In fact, he was starting to become familiar with it.

He had discovered that the seal's power scaled according to the individual's strength. Simply put, a stronger cultivator would face a more powerful suppression, and Ye Guan discovered that the scaling seemed to have no limits.

It was surely terrifying in anyone else's eyes, but the seal was the perfect training tool for Ye Guan.

Ye An walked out of the world inside the tiny pagoda and started training using the cultivation seal.

Boom!

A streak of sword light fell straight from the sky, and a massive cloud of dust and rubble manifested the moment the streak of sword light pierced the ground.

Amidst the rubble, Ye Guan waved his sleeve, and a wave of sword light swept out, reducing the debris into dust.

Ye Guan looked up and grinned. Then, he stomped with his right foot and transformed into a streak of sword light that flew to the sky.

Swoosh!

Every inch of spacetime in his way was torn apart as he charged at the clouds up above. Moments later, a terrifying wave of energy emerged from above and made a beeline for the flying streak of sword light.

Boom!



The sword light was shattered, and Ye Guan fell straight to the ground. However, he immediately started flying the moment he landed on the ground. The seal sent another terrifying wave of energy to suppress Ye Guan, but the latter no longer had any intentions of taking the beating quietly. When the terrifying wave of energy was just a few meters away from Ye Guan, the latter drew his sword, and his figure became illusory as he slashed out—Space Overlap!

Boom!

The terrifying wave of energy shattered, and a smile blossomed on Ye Guan's face. Before he could celebrate, however, a much more powerful wave of energy swept toward him.

Clang!

Ye Guan's sword light shattered, and he fell to the ground like a kite that had lost its strings. It took him quite a while to crawl out from the human-shaped crater in the ground. When he was finally out of the crater, he sprawled out on the ground as blood flowed out of the corner of his mouth. He wiped the blood away and realized that the seal had a loophole. He could break the seal temporarily by increasing the power of his next attack explosively. However, the seal's scaling would take effect on the next wave of suppression, which would explosively increase its strength as well.

However, Ye Guan had discovered that breaking the seal meant obtaining access to his true strength, albeit for just a few moments. It was just a fleeting moment, but experts at their level could do many things in that short amount of time.

Eventually, Ye Guan stood up once again and transformed into a streak of sword light that took to the sky. This time, he didn't use any sword techniques and focused on honing his Invincible Sword Intent and Sword Dao using the seal as a whetstone.

His Sword Intent and Sword Dao were the true cores of his power!

Just like that, Ye Guan and Ye An confronted the seal nonstop, becoming significantly stronger as a result.

Ye Guan wasn't the only one becoming even stronger. Mu Yuan, the two Divine Generals, and the Barbaric Divine Bull in the world inside the tiny pagoda were becoming even stronger as well. It would be strange otherwise, as Ye Guan had been providing them with a steady source of Ancestral Origin.

The young talents like Lin Daimei and Guo Dan were progressing at a terrifying speed as well. They were all young to be compared with the older generation, but who could say for sure what their future was going to be?

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The four major clans had already surrounded the entrance to the First God Paradise. No forces could get close to the First God Paradise's entrance, except for the Divine Academy.

Clearly, they were attempting to monopolize the inheritance, leaving many people frustrated but unable to express their grievances. The four major clans were simply too strong for them to fight, so they had to suppress their fury.

Mo Tiandu looked silently at the First God Paradise in the distance.

Honestly, he couldn't wait to enter the First God Paradise, but he dared not take any risks after what had happened to the Wang Clan.

He was going to wait for the news from the scouts that they had sent into the First God Paradise.

After a while, the clan leader of the four major clans finally received some news.

Mo Tiandu and the other clan leaders looked at each other.

Chen Yu said, "So, the local forces within the First God Paradise had annihilated the Wang Clan; it wasn't Ye Guan's work at all."

They all heaved a sigh of relief. If the Wang Clan had truly been wiped out by Ye Guan by himself, then they'd have no choice but to start panicking. After all, Ye Guan was only in his twenties, and his cultivation base was surely under suppression as well. However, it turned out that the local forces inside had annihilated the Wang Clan. Things had changed, and they were no longer afraid. After all, their target was Ye Guan, not those local forces.

Mo Tiandu suddenly said, "Should we send someone in to negotiate with the local forces?"

Chen Yu shook his head. "I don't think it'll be easy to negotiate with them. They probably don't even know that we're Descendants of the Gods. Furthermore, I don't think there's a reason for them to work with us, considering how our cultivation bases are sealed inside the First God Paradise."

Qin Yuan said, "What if we offer them something in exchange for their help in capturing Ye Guan?"

Mo Tiandu thought for a moment before saying, "That could work."

"Let's offer them five strands of Ancestral Origin from each of our clans for a grand total of twenty strands of Ancestral Origin. They'll definitely be tempted by that offer," Chen Yu suggested.

"Who should we send in to talk to those natives?" Qin Yuan asked.

Mo Tiandu replied, "Each of us will send one representative."

Qin Yuan smiled. "Sounds great."

Chen Yu and Zhao Tianji nodded in agreement as well. The four of them immediately sent four supreme elites into the First God Paradise.

Mo Tiandu looked at Chen Yu just then and asked, "Have your people entered the Time River yet?"

Chen Yu nodded. "They're already in the Time River."

"Regardless of what's about to happen, it is imperative that we prepare for the worst-case scenario," Mo Tiandu said, "If the local forces inside the First God Paradise are unwilling to cooperate with us, then we will have to use Ye Guan's family members to lure him out."

Chen Yu smiled. "My people will bring his family members here in at most three days. I really want to know if he has a heart of stone and if he can withstand watching his family members die one by one."

Mo Tiandu nodded in agreement. He didn't think that such actions were beneath him. After all, those who had achieved great things had never been concerned with such a trivial matter such as ethics.

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Dozens of supreme elites from the Old Era entered the Time River. They were all from the Chen Clan, led by Chen Qing, a Grand Elder of the Chen Clan.

To ensure that nothing would go wrong, Chen Yu had instructed a Grand Elder to lead the elite members of the clan to the Time River.

Chen Qing was a Peak Heavenly Sovereign Realm cultivator, and the people that he had brought with him were Imperial Sovereigns at the very least.

It was a rather terrifying lineup.

Chen Qing glanced at the distant end of the Time River and chuckled. "Coming here was a bit more difficult than I expected."

Chen Qing was right. The seals that the Gods had left behind here were briefly broken by the joint effort of the four major clans, and it was only through their hard work that they reached the Time River.

"I wonder how strong the cultivators are in this place," said an elderly man who was standing next to Chen Qing. "It'll be boring if they're too weak."

"I think we're like experts entering a village full of elderly. Haha..." Chen Qing laughed.

Everyone else laughed as well. In their eyes, this mission was like taking a piece of candy from a baby. Actually, coming here was an insult to their strength, as they believed that the Time River was like a village full of elderly and children while they were powerful experts who had survived many life-and-death ordeals.

Someone exclaimed, "Someone's coming!"

Everyone turned toward the distant horizon and saw a little girl standing in the distance. The little girl was grinning, and there was a white-furred creature on her shoulder, which was looking around vigilantly for some reason.