

Ancient GM 291

Chapter 291: Invitation, once again

Fan Le was the one that personally witnessed Leng Ning being forced step by step to her death by those from the Leng Clan and Yan Tie. It was a scene that he would remember for eternity.

“Boss. You’ve told me before, this Leng Mao was the person in charge that gave the order?” Fan Le’s eyes looked straight towards Qin Wentian, and in that moment, all traces of fun and laughter had completely faded from his countenance, leaving behind only determination and a terrifying madness.

“I’ve also received news that the Leng Clan has already punished Leng Jian and Leng Lin,” Bailu Yi continued, “The upper echelons of the Leng Clan must have known that Leng Mao was the one that gave that order, which is why they wanted to personally pay a visit to apologize.”

“Apologize?” Fan Le coldly laughed, “Back then when Leng Mao gave the order, he didn’t just want to force Leng Ning to her death, he also wanted to kill you, as well as me and Chu Mang, completely removing the roots of the matter. Back then you weren’t at the Leng Clan, which was why you managed to avoid that calamity. Whereas for me, if it weren’t for Leng Ning’s arrangements to sneak me out earlier, I would have already died there.”

“Not only that, despite already knowing you were a third-ranked Grandmaster, Leng Mao spared nothing in his efforts to get you killed, all to please Yan Tie. If it weren’t for Leng Ning saying that you had a connection to the White Deer Institute, causing them to be apprehensive, Leng Mao would definitely have made a move and sent people after your lives. After which, Leng Ning... committed suicide.”

Fan Le’s voice had grown hoarse, “Apologize? What good would apologizing do now? What can they give in return? Can they revive Leng Ning from the dead?”

“Hu...” Qin Wentian drew in a deep breath, the coldness that radiated forth from him became more intense by several degrees. The memories of Leng Ning were still fresh in his mind, how could she have died just like that? He might not have the qualifications to control the Leng Clan’s decisions, but Leng Ning was more than an acquaintance, she was a friend. Regardless, Qin Wentian would definitely make sure the ones responsible for her death, paid with death.

Moreover, Qin Wentian and his friends had no pre-existing grievances with the Leng Clan. The Leng Clan did all of this for one reason only—they wanted to gain Yan Tie’s favour. Now, did they really think that they could resolve this matter so easily with apologies and some gifts?

“What’s Leng Mao’s level of strength?” Qin Wentian asked Bailu Yi.

“Leng Mao is a disciplinary elder, his strength should have already broken through to the Heavenly Dipper Realm. The Leng Clan banished Leng Jian and Leng Lin because these two were not important in the grand scheme of things. But they still have use for a Heavenly Dipper-level elder. They won’t be sacrificing Leng Mao so easily, hence he was only made to pay a visit and personally apologize,” Bailu Yi stated.

“Mhm.” Qin Wentian nodded his head.

“I will wait here for them. Let the Leng Clan people gather together,” Qin Wentian replied, but it was unknown what he was thinking. Bailu Yi glanced at him for a moment before nodding and departed to carry out his instructions.

Several moments later, Leng Mao and a few other members of the Leng Clan were moving towards Qin Wentian. When Leng Mao noticed Qin Wentian, he smiled and stated, “Grandmaster Qin is already so capable despite such a young age, stepping into the level of a fourth-ranked Inscriptionist before the age of twenty. Grandmaster Qin’s future appears to be boundless.”

“Sit,” Qin Wentian stated as he stretched out his hands and pointed to a patch of grass nearby.

Leng Mao walked towards a pavilion near Qin Wentian as he shook his head, “Today, I, Leng Mao, am here to apologise for the matter regarding Leng Ning. Our Leng Clan is filled with regret and sincerely hopes to resolve the grudge between us. We have already taken steps to severely punish the masterminds, Leng Jian and Leng Lin.”

“In that case, I, Qin, really have to ‘thank’ Elder Leng Mao.” Qin Wentian coldly laughed.

Qin Wentian’s sarcasm was thick in the air, Leng Mao bitterly smiled, “Back then, we were forced by the circumstances, and we truly hope to seek Grandmaster’s forgiveness and understanding for our previous actions. The contents within this interspatial ring represent us, the Leng Clan’s sincerity. Would Grandmaster Qin please accept this?”

Qin Wentian remained motionless, as the atmosphere grew more and more awkward, Leng Mao then added, “If Grandmaster Qin isn’t satisfied with this, you can let us know if you have any other requests and we will try our best to fulfil them. And other than Leng Ning, our Leng Clan has a few other females who are all just as attractive. If they are to Grandmaster Qin’s liking, we will immediately send them over for Grandmaster Qin’s pleasure.”

They were trying this abominable method again, sacrificing one of the Leng Clan’s pitiable females. The females born in the Leng Clan were just tools used in exchange for benefits.

After all in this world, for the majority of females, their status wasn’t comparable to that of males. Generally, the talent of males were higher, and they would eventually end up in leadership positions inside their clan or sect, while females were mostly used for marriage alliances. The only exception was when a female truly had exceedingly outstanding talent. In that case, their sect or clan would then arrange for the male party to be married into their clan, instead of the female marrying out.

Within the major powers, many women belonged to the former category, sacrificial tools to be used for marriage. And in the perspective of such a talented and young fourth-ranked Grandmaster like Qin Wentian, almost any of the major powers in Grand Xia would be happy to make the trade—forming a relationship with him through marriage. It was extremely worth it.

“I have but one request, I wonder if Elder Leng Mao would agree?” Qin Wentian coldly laughed. Leng Mao smiled, “Of course, Grandmaster Qin, anything.”

“I want your death.” As the sound of Qin Wentian’s voice faded, the entire ground lighted up as the terrifying glow from the Divine Inscriptions he had inscribed all burst into resplendent brilliance. Qin Wentian floated up in the air, the boundless gushing Sword Qi from the ‘Tempest of Sword Qi’ Divine Inscription enveloped him.

Those standing behind Leng Mao immediately turned ashen. Leng Mao icily glanced at Qin Wentian, “You have really reached the level of a fourth-ranked Grandmaster, this Divine Inscription is truly powerful indeed. But if the White Deer Institute truly wants to kill me, Leng Mao, wouldn’t this be a little inappropriate?”

A fourth-ranked Divine Inscription would be extremely troublesome to deal with, but Leng Mao was using reverse psychology. He was bringing the White Deer Institute into the picture only because he was confident that as long as the White Deer Institute didn’t make a move, he wouldn’t have any trouble handling Qin Wentian.

With a wave of Qin Wentian's hands, two of his fourth-ranked Puppets, and five peak-tier third-ranked Puppets, all appeared in front of him, floating in the air. In an instant, they moved to the space above Leng Mao, their eyes glancing at him so coldly that they made the onlookers' scalps tingle.

"Don't worry, this matter has nothing to do with the White Deer Institute. In any case, the people you brought here will report back as such." The killing intent in Qin Wentian's voice intensified. "You were the one who gave that order. Do you think I would spare you? DIE!"

As Qin Wentian's roar resounded, his Puppets all simultaneously smashed downwards. These Puppets were from his spoils of victory, and he had already refined them and branded his consciousness within.

With a flick of his fingers, the tornado of Sword Qi gushed towards Leng Mao.

Leng Mao turned pale, he didn't expect that even without the assistance of the White Deer Institute, Qin Wentian's combat prowess would be at such a high level. In fact, just two fourth-ranked Puppets were more than enough to render Leng Mao defenseless, allowing Qin Wentian to attack at his leisure.

"Grandmaster Qin, let's end this peacefully," Leng Mao frantically called out when he saw that his Astral Nova was being totally suppressed after colliding directly with the fourth-ranked bladed Puppet. After all, he had only condensed a single Astral Nova.

A golden beam of light erupted forth from the golden-armored Puppet, blasting towards Leng Mao, while the other peak-tier, third-ranked Puppets also began their own attacks. In addition to the Sword Qi tornado, Leng Mao was practically dead meat.

Fan Le raged, he was standing outside the formation, as the flame in his eyes flickered incessantly. "Leng Mao, maybe back when you made that decision, you didn't even care whether Leng Ning lived or died. An order was just an order, her life had no value. But I care. You shall accompany her in death."

A bloodcurdling scream rang out. In order to defend against the attacks of the Puppets, Leng Mao could only allow what he believed was the lesser of two evils—the Sword Qi tornado—to blast into him. His body was directly pierced through as he roared in agony, "SPARE ME PLEASE!"

Yet how could Qin Wentian show mercy? Did anyone even show the slightest bit of mercy to Leng Ning back then?

The golden-armored Puppet slammed its palm right onto Leng Mao's chest, the power of that strike causing his internal organs to rupture and collapse, while the terrifying Sword Qi coalesced into a gigantic sword that cleaved downwards, splitting Leng Mao into two. The Heavenly Dipper Sovereign, Leng Mao, was no more.

The Leng Clan's members trembled where they stood as they watched with trepidation. A Heavenly Dipper Sovereign had fallen to a Yuanfu cultivator? The disciplinary elder Leng Mao had died!

This terrifying fourth-ranked Grandmaster was too powerful, he could probably kill them all with a thought.

And just at this moment, Qin Wentian's Puppets appeared right on top of the space above them, causing the hearts of the Leng Clan's members to palpitate in terror.

Only to see Qin Wentian leisurely walking over before stopping in front of them. With a wave of his hands, a list of names appeared in their hands.

“Leng Ning was from the Leng Clan, maybe you guys are acquainted with her. She was forced to her death because of Leng Mao's order. Since the Leng Clan refused to slay the true culprit behind her death, I've taken matters into my own hands. As for the list of names in your hands, other than Leng Jian and Leng Lin, these are the names of the others that caused Leng Ning's death. If the Leng Clan truly wishes to resolve this grudge, they should know what to do.”

Qin Wentian indifferently added, “You guys can live. Go and relay my words.”

The Leng Clan members reacted as though they were suddenly released from a state of paralysis, frenziedly retreating as they rushed back towards the Leng Clan.

After they left, Qin Wentian sighed as he lifted his heads and stared at the drifting clouds. “Leng Ning, I believe that you, who were filled with so much kindness, definitely wouldn't have wanted to witness the death of these innocents. Every wrong has a source, every debt has a creditor, I will definitely make those responsible for your death pay with their lives. But if the Leng Clan still wants to blindly obstruct my path, don't blame me then, I shall become the instrument of their annihilation.” A terrifying glint of coldness flashed past Qin Wentian's eyes as he murmured softly.

Fan Le also stared at the skies, praying for Leng Ning to be at peace.

“Let’s go, I’ll meet with the representatives from the Star River Association next,” Qin Wentian spoke to Bailu Yi. How mysterious was the Star River Association exactly? How deep and far have their power infiltrated? Qin Wentian totally had no idea, hence he was interested to see what the Star River Association wanted with him

“Right.” Bailu Yi nodded and led Qin Wentian away. After which, they soon came to another courtyard which was the arranged resting place for the representatives from the Star River Association.

“Junior was held up because of some matters, and humbly seeks forgiveness.” When Qin Wentian arrived at the courtyard, he saw several people within it. Very quickly, he soon noticed a middle-aged man who sat upon one of the stone benches. The air exuded by this middle-aged man was calm and unflustered, yet his eyes flashed with an instant of sharpness before quickly fading back to normal the moment he noticed Qin Wentian’s probing gaze. Qin Wentian knew then, this must be the main representative sent by the Star River Association. Knowing that Qin Wentian had already discovered his identity, the middle-aged man smiled and replied, “Grandmaster Qin is too courteous, and you are indeed as young as the rumors have stated. Stepping into the fourth-ranked so young? You are a genius, most definitely a monstrous genius.”

“Senior thinks too highly of me.” Qin Wentian smiled as he too sat on a stone bench. “Is there anything Senior needs my help with?”

“Since Grandmaster Qin is so direct, I shall not beat around the bush then.” The middle-aged man laughed, “I am the Moon Continent’s Star River Association Branch’s president for the forging division. Our Star River Association has long heard of Grandmaster Qin’s great name and have come here to sincerely extend our invitation to Grandmaster Qin to join our forging division. If you agree to our offer, it is within my power to immediately confer upon you the position of vice-president of the forging division.”

Qin Wentian immediately knew that the designation of power around the various branches of the Star River Association was all the same. The Star River Association here had a forging division as well and this position of vice-president was undoubtedly because of his potential.

“Junior is truly thankful for Senior’s gracious invitation. However, Junior doesn’t really have much interest regarding the forging of Divine Weapons. Hence, Junior can only apologize.” Qin Wentian

smiled. The Star River Association had an unknown origin and was cloaked in so many layers of mystery, he naturally didn't want to be bound to them.

And as the Star River Association was such a major power, it wouldn't be too appropriate if he didn't even show face when they personally came all this way. Hence, he could only meet them first before diplomatically rejecting them.

"Would Grandmaster Qin please consider? The position of vice-president is something that many fourth-ranked Grandmasters wouldn't be able to obtain even if they wished to. Considering the fact that Grandmaster Qin just stepped into the level of the fourth-ranked, our Star River Association is offering you such a high position to show how much we value you," persuaded another old-looking Inscriptionist standing by the side.

"I, Qin, would never force myself to do something I don't want to do, I can only thank the Star River Association profusely for this trust they've placed in me," Qin Wentian continued to tactfully decline.

The middle-aged man could only laugh helplessly when he saw how Qin Wentian directly rejected them with no further consideration. "Then, would Grandmaster Qin consider being a guest elder of our Association? There would also be substantial benefits to enjoy if Grandmaster Qin agrees."

"Guest elder again!" Qin Wentian was involuntarily reminded of Murin's lies back then. This position of guest elder held no meaning to him and he didn't want to entangle himself with the Star River Association if he could help it. He could only reply, "Junior's character prefers freedom, the freedom to do as I want, without being bound by other obligations. I have to thank Senior profusely for this amazing offer, but I will have to reject it once again."

After receiving so many rejections, how could those from the Star River Association still be unaware of Qin Wentian's meaning? The middle-aged man could only sigh, "If that's the case, we thank Grandmaster Qin for the meeting. Farewell."

"Seniors, please take care." Qin Wentian smiled as he stood up to clasp his hands together, bidding goodbye to the representatives of the Star River Association.

Chapter 292: FifthJue Guest Elder

After those from the Star River Association left, Bailu Yi stared at Qin Wentian with a smile that was not a smile on her lips. Qin Wentian was puzzled as he asked, "Am I that handsome?"

"The people that the Star River Association invites are always those with an extremely high amount of potential. This time around, the president of their forging division himself personally invited you. It could be considered that they did you a huge honor." Bailu Yi's eyes flickered with a brilliant light as hints of laughter sparkled within her eyes.

When this fellow was 'infiltrating' the White Deer Institute to learn about the Dao of Divine Inscriptions from her, she didn't expect that in such a short amount of time, he would already have reached such a level.

The president of the forging division had come himself, and he was even rejected.

"Aren't you worried that the president would feel that he lost too much face seeing how you rejected his offer so decisively?" Bailu Yi smiled wryly as she shook her head. Although Qin Wentian might have been slightly diplomatic in his rejection, it was still too direct.

"I don't wish to be entangled with the Star River Association." Qin Wentian casually shrugged.

In life, one could not worry about so many things, it would be too tiring to be so concerned for every small decision.

Why let worries tie you down? Qin Wentian did things in a manner that always followed his heart. If he wanted to do it, he would do it, if not, then don't do it. From the beginning, the Star River Association hadn't left a good impression on him. Perhaps it wasn't proper to make his decision based on his past experience with them, but life was basically just that, there was often no other reason why you liked or disliked something.

"Fine fine, let's go meet the representatives from the Thousand-Jue Alliance instead. I was only wondering why you would feel so strongly against the Star River Association." Bailu Yi smiled as she led Qin Wentian to yet another courtyard. The representatives from the Thousand-Jue Alliance were already waiting there.

After exchanging a round of pleasantries, they cut right to the chase.

“Grandmaster Qin, I’m sure you must have already guessed the purpose of my visit. Our Thousand-Jue Alliance can be categorised into the inner sanctum and outer sanctum. The inner sanctum consists of our core members while the outer sanctums are made up of the guest elders. But even the guest elders in the outer sanctum would all have to be exceedingly talented people before receiving an invite from my Thousand-Jue Alliance.”

Standing in front of Qin Wentian was a middle-aged woman, with looks that could still be considered attractive. She exuded charisma and charm, appearing extremely capable and experienced. Even when speaking, she would allow others to feel a sense of closeness to her.

Qin Wentian nodded his head upon hearing her words, the differences between the inner and outer sanctum were simple and easy to understand. The inner sanctum was akin to the structure of a sect, an extremely rigid structure where the juniors have to listen to the commands of the elders. It wouldn’t be so easy to rise up in ranks there. And for the guest elders in the outer sanctum, the Thousand-Jue Alliance wouldn’t intentionally nurture you, but they also couldn’t command you to do things that you were unwilling to do. The degree of freedom was high and the guest elders they invited were usually unaffiliated stellar martial cultivators of extreme power, or those with exceedingly high attainments in their respective fields.

Evidently, the Thousand-Jue Alliance had already investigated and determined Qin Wentian to be an unaffiliated individual. Their reports showed that he didn’t belong to the White Deer Institute but rather, he was here only because of his feelings for Bailu Yi.

“Grandmaster Qin, if you are willing to join the inner sanctum, you would immediately be treated as a core disciple, and we would nurture you unconditionally. If you choose to join the outer sanctum instead, you would directly be conferred the rank of a Five-Jue guest elder, enjoying the privileges of the rank, with no other commitments needed.” That woman smiled at Qin Wentian. Her smile appeared without artifice, causing those who saw it to feel comfort. Sending her for recruitment purposes was an extremely suitable choice made by the alliance.

Bailu Yi’s heart stopped for a moment when she heard her offer. Qin Wentian’s status shot up exponentially after he stepped into the level of a fourth-ranked Grandmaster, and now his current status was such that he was eligible for the Thousand-Jue Alliance’s recruitment, to the point of conferring the rank of a Fifth-Jue Elder. The Thousand-Jue Alliance’s total power was still weaker compared to the other transcendent powers, hence they usually had very strict criteria for recruitment. Who would have thought that they would immediately confer the rank of a Fifth-Jue to Qin Wentian should he agree to join the outer sanctum.

Bailu Yi knew that the outer sanctum of the Thousand-Jue Alliance had a total of nine rankings. First-Jue was the lowest while Ninth-Jue was the highest.

Those of the First-Jue were juniors that had some potential; the Second-Jue were juniors who had outstanding talents; the Third-Jue were characters that had some fame to their name; the Fourth-Jue were restricted to cultivators that ranked in the Heavenly Fate Rankings; and those of the Fifth Jue were all guest elders who had the qualifications to be at the Heavenly Dipper level. Their statuses were equivalent to the Heavenly Dipper Sovereigns in the inner sanctum and enjoyed a certain amount of authority.

As for the Sixth-Jue, it was useless no matter how much talent one had. One could only reach this ranking if they had made large contributions to the Thousand-Jue Alliance as a whole, and as for guest elders of the Sixth-Jue ranking, they even had the power to mobilise the inner sanctum's Heavenly Dipper Sovereigns for aid.

For the Seventh-Jue, this was already an extremely high ranking.

The Ninth-Jue ranking was the limit, and had another title also known as the Thousand-Jue guest elder. This ranking confers you the same status as the top echelons in the inner sanctum, where one can speak equally with the Alliance Head. It grants you so much power that you can almost command the entire Thousand-Jue Alliance.

Now, the Thousand-Jue Alliance wanted to directly confer a Fifth-Jue ranking to Qin Wentian should he join. This was already the maximum authority they could bestow upon him.

“There would be no other commitments?” Qin Wentian smiled, as his eyes lighted up.

“None.” The woman shook her head, “Our Thousand-Jue Alliance was a group formed from unaffiliated individuals, and our total power is slightly weaker compared to those transcendent powers. This is why we highly prioritise the recruitment of extremely talented individuals, only then would we be able to stand toe to toe against the transcendent powers. For extremely talented individuals, our Alliance will not aid in their development but at the same time, they would have no restrictions placed on them.”

Qin Wentian smiled as he nodded thoughtfully. Their conditions were truly tempting indeed.

“It goes without saying that I should mention this first. For guest elders ranked at the Fifth-Jue and below, our Alliance will provide support such as information reports, buying and selling of items and the lending of powerful resources. However, because the Alliance requires no other commitments, then it has no obligation to be involved in your personal disputes.”

“Naturally.” Qin Wentian nodded in agreement, how could there be free lunch in the world? No commitments, enjoying some power and to even expect the Alliance to protect them in their time of need?

“Yes, but the benefits are different for guest elders ranked at the Sixth-Jue. Because Sixth-Jue guest elders would have contributed immensely to our Alliance before they are promoted. Hence, the Sixth-Jue guest elders could request for protection from our Heavenly Dipper Sovereigns. If the guest elder is at the Seventh-Jue ranking instead, he can directly mobilise our Heavenly Dipper Sovereigns for whatever purpose he needs them for.” The middle-aged woman smiled.

“I accept,” Qin Wentian decisively agreed. With such good conditions, he couldn’t find any reason to reject this recruitment.

“Grandmaster Qin is really straightforward.” The woman laughed. After which, she withdrew a medallion with the words ‘Fifth-Jue’ engraved upon it and passed it over to Qin Wentian.

“I have to remind you that this medallion can only be used by you alone. If it were discovered that someone else faked your name and used your medallion, our Thousand-Jue Alliance would act accordingly to the circumstances, and may even slay the culprit directly.”

“I understand.” Qin Wentian nodded. This rule must have been implemented in case the guest elders died or were killed by their enemies. The whole organization would turn to chaos if there were impersonators freely using the medallions.

“In that case, I shall return and bring back these joyous tidings. My superiors will definitely be happy to hear that Grandmaster Qin has agreed to become a guest elder of our Thousand-Jue Alliance.” The words spoken were extremely pleasant to the ear. Afterwards, Qin Wentian and Bailu Yi personally escorted both representatives of the Thousand-Jue Alliance outside.

A smile appeared on Qin Wentian’s face as he clutched the Fifth-Jue medallion. It was time to complete what he had come to the Moon Continent to do.

To kill Hua Xiaoyun!

Back then, at the Mo Clan in the Chu Country, Hua Xiaoyun dared to plan out such a despicable act and caused Mo Qingcheng to attempt suicide, eventually narrowly avoiding death. This matter was always like a sharp thorn piercing into Qin Wentian's heart.

And after the matter, he didn't even get the chance to say goodbye to Mo Qingcheng. She was directly taken away by her master to the Pill Emperor Hall in the Moon Continent. The chances of Qin Wentian meeting her again were almost nil considering the distance from the Moon Continent to Chu.

Mo Qingcheng must have also suffered a psychological impact from this incident. And now, he didn't even know how she was faring.

He would never be at ease if Hua Xiaoyun didn't die. He would be too ashamed to face Qingcheng.

But just as Qin Wentian was thinking about killing Hua Xiaoyun, wasn't Hua Xiaoyun also thinking about killing Qin Wentian?

Within a tavern, the wine cup in Hua Xiaoyun's hand was shattered into pieces, a direct result from hearing a hated name in the midst of his drinking. Qin Wentian.

The sound of these three characters, Qin Wentian, was exceptionally piercing to his ears. Killing intent cloaked in a deathly chill gushed out from Hua Xiaoyun's body, causing the customers near him to retreat far away.

Of course Hua Xiaoyun hated him, he had good reason to.

Once, as the second young master of the Hua Clan, he could do everything his heart desired, but because of a single trip to Chu, he had almost met his doom.

Back then, Qin Wentian had broken off one of his arms, and news of this matter had been constantly kept simmering ever since. Eventually as the status of Mo Qingcheng in the Pill Emperor Hall grew higher and higher, he was almost imprisoned when the elders of the Hua Clan learned of that wretched thing he had nearly committed. They even intended to send him to the Pill Emperor Hall to give Mo Qingcheng the right to decide his punishment.

Because the Hua Clan wanted his elder brother Hua Taixu to marry Mo Qingcheng. But because of Hua Xiaoyun's actions, this matter was not proceeding as smoothly as they had hoped. And if Hua Xiaoyun wasn't Hua Taixu's younger brother, his fate would definitely be even more miserable.

But even so, now he was also in dire straights; the position he had within his clan had plummeted a thousand feet. He no longer had any authority, and everyone who knew of this matter, despised him and broke off all contact with him. His only remaining piece of security was a Heavenly Dipper Sovereign which his parents had assigned to protect him.

How could all these negative changes have happened to him if not for Qin Wentian? Only the word 'miserable' could describe his current situation.

Hence, the murderous urges in his heart erupted forth the moment he heard Qin Wentian's name.

At this moment, Qin Wentian and Hua Xiaoyun, both separated by a long distance, were similarly directing killing intent to the other.

"Qin Wentian, a fourth-ranked Grandmaster? I really want to see if this Qin Wentian is that same Qin Wentian from Chu." An ice-cold light flickered in Hua Xiaoyun's eyes as he left the tavern.

"Young Master, where are we going?" his protector questioned.

"Shadow Pavilion," Hua Xiaoyun coldly replied, his tone causing his protector's countenance to falter.

"Why are we going there?" the protector asked as bewilderment painted his face.

"To seek information on one person. If the information shows that it is him indeed, I'm going to kill him," Hua Xiaoyun spat. Even Qin Wentian wouldn't have imagined that at the same exact moment where he wanted to kill Hua Xiaoyun, Hua Xiaoyun also wanted his death.

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Presently, Qin Wentian arrived at the exterior of the Pill Emperor Hall.

He was currently clad completely in white. He inclined his head and observed the tight security of this place, as well as the sky-high buildings and pavilions that made up the Pill Emperor Hall.

When the gentle breeze gusted past, billowing his robes, it also set his heartstrings aflutter.

The one he loved, was right inside.

But when would he be able to meet her again?

Within the Pill Emperor Hall, as two youthful silhouettes leisurely walked out, their steps couldn't help but falter when they unintentionally noticed the presence of Qin Wentian. After which, traces of confusion could be seen in their eyes.

These two young men were none other than the two male disciples, Yan Qi and Jing Yu that went to Chu together with Bai Fei. They couldn't believe their eyes, this 'genius' from that little country actually overestimated himself that much and chased Mo Qingcheng all the way over here to the Moon Continent?

As for their confusion, it was because the current Mo Qingcheng was already high up in the skies, far beyond their reach. They could only gaze admiringly from afar.

But of course, that was Mo Qingcheng. As for this small-time character from Chu, their eyes were still filled with the same contempt as before. This Qin Wentian was really a love-struck idiot! A plain crow lusting after a phoenix.

But...so what? Was it heavenly decreed that a crow was destined never to be together with a phoenix?

Chapter 293: Shadow Pavilion

Jing Yu and Yan Qi walked towards Qin Wentian, glancing at him carefully. Although they were looking right at Qin Wentian, because of the significant transformation he had undergone, they only felt some slight resemblance and couldn't be sure if it was him.

But now, after standing right in front of him, they were sure that this young man right here was none other than the one from the Chu Country.

Because they were all men, they had been seized with admiration back then when they saw Mo Qingcheng. At the same time, they unconsciously felt a sense of enmity towards Qin Wentian. This was why Qin Wentian left a deeper impression on them compared to Qin Wentian's impression on Baifei.

"It's really you." Hints of oppression flashed in both their eyes.

Naturally, Qin Wentian had already noticed their presence. He only casually glanced at them before returning his gaze back to the Pill Emperor Hall.

"Hey you, just return to Chu. This place isn't somewhere you should be," Jing Yu calmly stated, with no hints of anger or disdain. If it were in the past, maybe he would have humiliated and shamed Qin Wentian. But now, in front of Mo Qingcheng, he could only incline his head and stare up at her elusive presence. How then could he have the qualifications to humiliate Qin Wentian?

Qin Wentian didn't even look at him. In this cultivation-oriented world, the hierarchy of powers here was absolute. A higher-level power would undoubtedly have the strength to quash and suppress lower-ranked ones. As a transcendent power, the Pill Emperor Hall could be said to be one of the supreme forces situated within the Moon Continent, and its entire structure—the many sky-high buildings—were akin to huge pillars pressing down on people, stifling their breath. How difficult would it be then, if one wanted to step over it?

Yet Qin Wentian's gaze still remained calm. He knew that no matter how huge the pillars were, there would still be people powerful enough to trample it.

"Infatuation would also have to depend on who the other party is. If you clearly know it's already impossible, why even harbor hope? The distance between you and her is just too far apart," Jing Yu continued, his words were spoken to Qin Wentian but seemed to also be directed at himself.

Yan Qi couldn't help but laugh coldly when he saw Qin Wentian ignoring Jing Yu's advice. He walked to the front of Qin Wentian, his eyes filled with contempt as he added, "There are ninety-nine flights of stairs in the Pill Emperor Hall, and at your level, you'd look up to even those standing on the lowest floor. Stop indulging in your daydreams, the consequences of blaspheming her isn't something you'd be able to bear."

Qin Wentian slowly turned his gaze onto Yan Qi. A golden current of lightning flashed past his eyes as they instantly pierced into those of Yan Qi's.

“BOOM!” Yan Qi only felt as though his mind was about to crumble into pieces. In that single glance, he felt a sense of terror so great that he involuntarily retreated tens of steps. He turned pale white with fright, with perspiration drenching his forehead.

His aura gushed forth, as he glared evilly at Qin Wentian. Yet, Qin Wentian had already shifted his gaze away, as though Yan Qi wasn't important enough for him to look at directly.

Qin Wentian's actions caused Yan Qi's countenance to sink, but what had happened earlier? Why would he perspire cold sweat just because of a single glance?

Jing Yu had also noticed the charged look made on Yan Qi, but in the next moment, a sharp beam of light suddenly erupted forth from behind both of them. Yan Qi and Jing Yun turned back, looking at the new arrival with respect in their eyes. The figure moved with such speed, as though he had seemingly materialized behind them.

It was their senior brother, Zhan Chen, who was ranked #11. He was someone that they had always looked up to, or more accurately, he was their idol.

If one had to say who in the entire Pill Emperor Hall would be worthy of Mo Qingcheng, Zhan Chen was undoubtedly the only one that could match up to her radiance.

Jing Yu and Yan Qi immediately stood aside, allowing Zhan Chen to walk through. Their gazes were filled with admiration as they respectfully greeted him, “Senior Brother.”

“Mhm.” Zhan Chen lightly nodded, yet his stare remained fixated onto Qin Wentian. Similarly, Qin Wentian was also observing Zhan Chen; he could sense that despite the passage of time, the killing intent Zhan Chen had for him hadn't diminished in the slightest. That was understandable, given the events that had happened in the secret grounds.

Zhan Chen felt a little puzzled, he didn't know why Qin Wentian would come to the Pill Emperor Hall of his own volition.

Back then Qin Wentian had discovered his secret, so now that Qin Wentian was suddenly here at the Pill Emperor Hall, how could he feel at ease?

But Zhan Chen wasn't that afraid of Qin Wentian divulging his secret. If Qin Wentian dared to reveal what he knew, he would just deny it and use that as an excuse to kill Qin Wentian. After all,

his character was still exemplary in the eyes of those from the Pill Emperor Hall, and considering his status, his words naturally carried plenty of weight.

Qin Wentian should have also understood this point, so he probably wouldn't just reveal his secret so easily. Once Qin Wentian did so, then between them, one would definitely die. And the person that would be dead would undoubtedly be Qin Wentian.

Qin Wentian quietly stood there, outwardly maintaining an unperturbed appearance, but internally he was secretly vigilant. This man may appear humble and elegant, but Qin Wentian already knew the true, manipulative face of Zhan Chen. His current level of power couldn't compare to Zhan Chen; hence it was only natural for him to stay guarded.

"I've heard that you caused quite the commotion in the Eastern Region." Zhan Chen smiled amicably, as though he and Qin Wentian were best friends that had not met up for a long time.

Qin Wentian merely looked at him, not replying.

At this moment, a terrifying aura emanated forth from Zhan Chen, as a fearsome sword intent pressed down onto Qin Wentian.

"But, what have you come to my Pill Emperor Hall for?" Zhan Chen took a step forward, as the pressure he was emitting intensified. It felt as though Zhan Chen could slay Qin Wentian with but a thought, if he so wished it.

"Take another step forward, I guarantee you will definitely regret it," Qin Wentian softly commented, his attitude remained casual and indifferent. Yet the serenity in his tone caused the hearts of the nearby Jing Yu and Yan Qi to tremble.

Qin Wentian actually dared to say something so arrogant like this to their senior, Zhan Chen?

Not only that, Zhan Chen seemed to be acquainted with Qin Wentian and it appeared as though they shared some past conflict with each other.

Zhan Chen halted his steps, Qin Wentian didn't seem intent on divulging his secret. Maybe because he knew that it would still be useless to do so, as it would definitely cause Zhan Chen to go all out and kill him. But Zhan Chen knew that if he pushed Qin Wentian too far, Qin Wentian wouldn't

hesitate to reveal his secret. Although not many people would believe it, it was enough to severely damage Zhan Chen's stellar reputation.

Hence, unless he could finish Qin Wentian off before he could say anything, Zhan Chen wouldn't take the risk. In any case, even if Qin Wentian died, there was still a Bailu Yi who knew of this.

Retracting his aura, Zhan Chen smiled. "Sorry, I've forgotten that you've already broken through to the fourth-ranked, becoming the youngest fourth-ranked Grandmaster in the entire Moon Continent. Even the aura you exude is different from before. But regardless, mastery in Divine Inscriptions is still just that—a mastery in Divine Inscriptions. Do you believe I only need five breaths worth of time to kill you? Please remember this point in the future."

Such threatening words, yet Zhan Chen was still able to say them with a smile.

Jing Yu and Yan Qi's hearts pounded madly, Qin Wentian was the youngest fourth-ranked Grandmaster in the Moon Continent? When did this happen? That small-time character from Chu could even make their senior Zhan Chen feel trepidation?

"I know that the jump from Yuanfu to Heavenly Dipper is a huge watershed, but I will be praying for your success," Qin Wentian calmly replied. He then continued, "If you remain in this realm for too long a time, I'm afraid that you will be the one to avoid me, if we ever meet again."

After speaking, Qin Wentian slowly turned, with his back facing Zhan Chen as he leisurely walked away.

The terrifying sword intent of Zhan Chen gushed out once more, yet Qin Wentian continued on calmly with no fear, showing an appearance of total disregard for him.

Zhan Chen could only tremble in impotent anger as his terrifying sword intent dissipated. The silhouette of Qin Wentian gradually disappeared from their vision.

Jing Yu and Yan Qi stood to the side, watching dumbfoundedly as their minds rumbled from the scene they just witnessed. Qin Wentian already dared to talk in such a manner to their senior brother, Zhan Chen?

And from the start till the end, it seemed as though that young man from that small country had never once looked at them directly.

“Are you guys acquainted with him?” Zhan Chen asked.

“We know of him, this person originated from Chu and used to have an extremely close relationship with Junior Sister Qingcheng. I think his purpose for coming here today, was definitely to meet with her.” Jing Yu didn’t say that they were lovers, but Zhan Chen clearly understood the unspoken meaning behind his words. The glint of light in his eyes became immeasurably sharper.

“Do not allow Qingcheng to know of this matter,” Zhan Chen calmly replied. Mo Qingcheng always secluded herself in the Pill Emperor Hall for cultivation, not bothering about matters of the outside world. Zhan Chen hoped that she wouldn’t know of Qin Wentian’s visit and would forever forget his existence, unless of course, Qin Wentian were to die.

After leaving the Pill Emperor Palace, Qin Wentian headed towards the branch of the Thousand-Jue Alliance situated in the Moon Continent. And when the guards saw the level of Qin Wentian’s medallion, they reported his arrival and swiftly after, that charming middle-aged representative from before personally came out to receive him.

“I didn’t expect Grandmaster Qin would drop by for a visit so fast.” A warm and gentle smile appeared in the eyes of the middle-aged woman.

“I need the help of the Thousand-Jue Alliance.” Qin Wentian smiled as the representative nodded, “As long as your authority level is high enough, the Thousand-Jue Alliance will definitely help you in your request, with no other conditions attached.”

Qin Wentian pulled out a list and passed it over as he spoke, “I need the items listed on it. I will reimburse the Alliance the amount of Yuan Meteor Stones needed for the purchase.”

“Alright, I’ll arrange for our men to help in this. Once the matter is over, I will get my men to send it over to you. You can pass them the Yuan Meteor Stones then.” The middle-aged woman glanced at the items on the list before tucking it away.

“In addition, I also require an information report for one person,” Qin Wentian added, as he moved forward and stood before the middle-aged woman. He then leaned forward and whispered into her ears, “...”

A strange glow flashed in the middle-aged woman's eyes, as she nodded her head. "Don't worry, the requests of our guest elders will all remain confidential. I shall handle this matter myself."

"Many thanks then. If you require resources or expenses for this matter, I will gladly cover the cost myself." Qin Wentian smiled. Seeking the help of others would require the effort of their manpower. For monetary costs, it would be more appropriate to bear it himself.

"There's no need for Grandmaster Qin to reimburse us if the help required is merely that of gathering information. The Thousand-Jue Alliance will bear all costs." The middle-aged woman smiled. Qin Wentian didn't insist, he merely nodded in thanks and departed.

Meanwhile, the person Qin Wentian was searching for, Hua Xiaoyun, appeared within the mysterious Shadow Pavilion of the Moon Continent. He was deep in discussion with someone currently flipping through pages of information reports. Qin Wentian wasn't from the Moon Continent, hence his information was a little troublesome to gather. Luckily, Hua Xiaoyun provided a lead to them—Origins: Chu Country.

"Sir, here." Someone delivered a few scrolls of information over to the man flipping through the reports, whose eyes lighted up at the sight.

"Qin Wentian's origins were from Chu, and the last time he revealed his cultivation level was inside that of the Secret Realms of Divine Inscriptions. Now after a period of time, it is estimated that his cultivation base should be at least the fourth-level of Yuanfu. He is also a fourth-ranked Divine Inscriptionist and has the protection of a female Heavenly Dipper Sovereign. At the same time, his trump cards consist of two fourth-ranked Puppets, and he has slaughtered a number of other fourth-ranked Grandmasters in the White Deer Institute. In addition to that, he has recently made a move and slain Leng Mao by borrowing the power from his Puppets and the Divine Inscriptions he inscribed."

The information broker read out, his words causing Hua Xiaoyun's countenance to sink.

Origins from Chu, with the protection of a female Heavenly Dipper Sovereign? There can be no mistake, it was him! But to think that Qin Wentian had already become a fourth-ranked Divine Inscriptionist and even possessed fourth-ranked Puppets.

"I want him to die," Hua Xiaoyun venomously hissed.

The sinister-looking info-broker smiled, "Hold on."

After leaving the area for a moment, he came back with a piece of paper, which he passed over to Hua Xiaoyun. “This mission is acceptable, this is the price needed to eliminate this target. Pre-payment of 10%, non-refundable. You can pay the 90% after the mission is accomplished.”

Hua Xiaoyun glanced at the piece of paper as he frowned, his expression becoming extremely ugly to behold. “Are you kidding me? Why is the price so high just for eliminating a Yuanfu realm cultivator?”

“Young Master Hua can try killing him on his own.” The broker laughed. Hua Xiaoyun crumbled the piece of paper in a fit of rage. His current standing in the Hua Clan had fallen tremendously, how could he still have the authority to lead people to kill Qin Wentian? The Clan would never agree to his request. After all, Qin Wentian could be considered Mo Qingcheng’s ex-lover, so they didn’t know what Mo Qingcheng’s attitude would be if she ever learned of this news.

Unless it was his elder brother, Hua Taixu, who wanted Qin Wentian dead.

“Fine, I accept.” Hua Xiaoyun gritted his teeth and threw out a substantial amount of Yuan Meteor Stones onto the table. This mission of killing Qin Wentian would definitely suck dry the wealth he had accumulated throughout the years.

After Hua Xiaoyun left, the sinister-looking broker burst into laughter, a sharp gleam in his eyes. “Qin Wentian had the balls to reject the Star River Association, directly to the forging division’s President himself! It was lucky that he did, otherwise, we wouldn’t even consider accepting this mission. He basically signed his own death warrant!”

Chapter 294: To Whom The Deer Falls

The mission hall was part of the Shadow Pavilion and consisted of a total of nine levels. The higher levels would only be accessible for those with a certain level of authority.

This was a safety measure, because aside from the core killers of the Shadow Pavilion, they also retained several contract-for-hire killers. Anyone could become a killer for the Shadow Pavilion—all they needed to do was sign a contract.

This was also the greatest reason why the Shadow Pavilion was so powerful. Because most people desired wealth, they signed up to become killers. This was an extremely lucrative business despite the high level of danger. However, there was a flaw regarding the system—having a large number of killers meant that there would be a higher chance that confidential information pertaining to the mission could leak out. This was something unavoidable. Yet, the Shadow Pavilion didn’t seem to

care. Since they were already in the killing business, they naturally wouldn't be afraid of people taking revenge.

There was also an iron clad rule. They would never accept missions pertaining to the transcendent powers. Other than that, they would accept all other missions.

For the fifth level of the mission hall, only Five-Star ranked killers would be able to enter as the missions given here were all at the Heavenly Dipper Sovereign level. Those that had a rank of Five-Star, were all extremely terrifying people with fearsome combat prowess.

And today, an extremely conspicuous mission appeared on the fifth level of the mission hall.

“Qin Wentian, a fourth-ranked Grandmaster from Chu at the age of nineteen. Cultivation level estimated at the third or fourth-level of Yuanfu, and he has a second-level female Heavenly Dipper Sovereign by his side acting as his protector. He has two fourth-ranked Puppets whose combat prowess were estimated to be at the initial realm of Heavenly Dipper.” Next to the note, there was a picture of Qin Wentian, as well as the reward amount offered.

“Woah, this guy is the youngest fourth-ranked Grandmaster in the Moon Continent. This is the first time I've seen a Yuanfu Cultivator that's worth so much.” A masked man lightly laughed. Those that entered here wouldn't interact with others without obscuring their features. The reason for this was simple, if they fumbled up in killing their targets, especially those with major backgrounds, their identity wouldn't be exposed and there would be no need to fear retaliation.

“I wonder what grudge the mission-giver has with this guy? He's actually willing to pay such a high price to kill off such a talented Divine Inscriptionist.” Although several of the killers were bewildered, they didn't really care about it. They were here to make money, and so they couldn't care less about the story behind each contract.

“I'll accept this mission.” A figure walked up to the mission board and tore down the contract. An avaricious light gleamed in his eyes as he stared at Qin Wentian's photo.

“Heaven's Destruction, can the four of you handle it?” Someone called out the moment that figure tore down the contract.

The killer 'Heaven's Destruction', consisted of four people. It was rumoured that two among them were husband and wife while the other two were their disciples. Their killing methods were extremely vicious and they had plenty of experience as well.

“How difficult would it be to kill a cultivator merely at the fourth-level of Yuanfu? This wealth is definitely mine.” Heaven’s Destruction laughed disdainfully. His team members stood not far away, and two among them were laughing heartily in agreement. “Master, after this mission is completed, you can buy that set of defensive-type Divine Armor for Madam soon after.”

“Yes, the reward paid out would definitely be sufficient for that. What’s more, there’ll be several Yuan Meteor Stones in excess. I’ll get two fourth-ranked Divine Weapons for you guys then, how about it?” The figure grinned, it was as though he could already see the Divine Weapons in front of his eyes.

A mere Yuanfu Cultivator was no biggie, as long as he and his wife blocked the female Heavenly Dipper Sovereign and the two Puppets, his other two disciples could easily kill off Qin Wentian.

This mission might be tough for the other killers to complete, but with the cooperation of these four, it was extremely simple for them. This was just like free money dropping from the skies.

This time around, they would definitely make a killing. He’d have to thank his god of fortune. He wondered briefly who the customer was, why would he be so generous to pay out such a large amount merely for the death of a Divine Inscriptionist, albeit one with exceedingly high potential.

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Qin Wentian naturally wouldn’t know that his name had already been written onto the mission board in the fifth-level of the Shadow Pavilion, or that somebody else had already accepted the mission.

After returning to the White Deer Institute, Qin Wentian quietly waited for news from the Thousand-Jue Alliance, while cultivating a powerful innate technique recorded within the ancient scroll of the Ascendant.

As his consciousness sank into that ancient scroll, a mind-blowing scene appeared in front of his eyes.

A lonely silhouette stood arrogantly in the air. In front of him, an ancient mountain could be seen a few hundred feet away. That silhouette pierced forwards with a single finger, appearing as though it

were made from gold, and as that finger descended, the entire space around him shimmered and turned golden in color, coated by the will of the Mandate of Gold.

Between the Heaven and Earth, the only thing in existence was that golden finger. As he pointed to that ancient mountain, the boundless gold-colored light gathered at the tip of his finger and was concentrated into a golden beam. As his finger's light penetrated past, landing onto that ancient mountain, crumbling sounds echoed as it instantly transformed into countless golden fragments that scattered about, all floating in the air.

“Heaven Breaking Finger. One must cultivate the Gold-Element Cultivation Art for an invulnerable body before cultivating this innate technique to unleash its full potential. At its highest level of mastery, one can even break the dome of Heavens apart with the stab of a single finger.”

A voice sounded out in his mind, causing Qin Wentian to start. This voice reminded the user once again to cultivate the Gold-Element Cultivation Art that he had abandoned.

The more the Ascendant reminded him, the more suspicious Qin Wentian was.

“I don't believe I need to cultivate the Gold-Element Cultivation Art to master this Heaven Breaking Finger..” A sharp light flashed in Qin Wentian's eyes. This innate technique was a Heaven-Ranked technique; the stronger one's cultivation was, the deeper their comprehension and thus, the more power they would be able to unleash.

The Gold-Element Ascendant broke apart a gigantic ancient mountain with a stab of his finger. That scene was etched firmly in his mind, and his heart trembled in awe as he sensed the concept of the words 'Heaven Breaking' behind that finger attack.

This technique was definitely the most powerful innate technique he had ever seen from the start of his cultivation till now.

And for this Heaven Breaking Finger technique, it wasn't necessary to have Astral Energy with a gold-element attribute to power it. Other sources of energy could work as a replacement as well. In that case, he could use his demonic Astral Energy as a replacement to see if he would be successful.

Astral Energy with the demonic attribute was exceedingly violent in nature and the might it exuded would definitely be just as terrifying.

Smiling in anticipation, Qin Wentian closed his eyes and started cultivating this tyrannical Heaven Breaking Finger technique.

And after cultivating it for a while, Qin Wentian discovered that every activation of this finger technique would exhaust an extremely astronomical amount of Astral Energy. The rate of energy consumption was too terrifying. If Qin Wentian used Divine Yuan Energy in replacement of Astral Energy to unleash this attack, he didn't even dare imagine the amount of Divine Energy that would be expended.

This made Qin Wentian lament as cultivation indeed required resources before one could succeed. For example, if he didn't have sufficient Yuan Meteor Stones to replenish the Astral Energy in his Yuanfu, there was no way for him to even start cultivating this technique. If he didn't have the Yuan Meteor Stones, he could only choose to slowly absorb the Astral Energy from the Heavenly Layers to replenish the expended energy. This method was way too slow and inefficient.

Without cultivation resources, the path of cultivation was too difficult to advance. Hence, there were many of common birth willing to risk their lives in a bid to earn a large amount of resources.

After a few moments more of lamentation, Qin Wentian then slipped into a dreamscape of his own creation. Inside his dreamscape, he could give full play to the power of his imagination.

A day passed...

During the next morning, the people from the Thousand-Jue Alliance arrived and delivered the list of items which he had asked for. Qin Wentian reimbursed them and continued with his cultivation.

Looking at the items on the ground, a smile appeared on his face. He could finally proceed with cultivating the second stage of the Fiend Art Transformation.

The difficulty in cultivating the second stage of the Fiend Art Transformation was still much easier compared to the Heaven Breaking Finger.

In the next few days, great billows of demonic qi permeated the mountain slope at the back of the White Deer Institute, drawing the attention of many, as they wondered what in the world was going on. Why would there be such an intense source of demonic qi coming from the back mountains?

Could it be that Qin Wentian had an immensely powerful demonic-type Astral Soul and was currently cultivating some demonic innate technique?

Although many were puzzled, nobody went to disturb Qin Wentian. Occasionally, there would even be manifestations of demonic beasts soaring skywards before gradually fading into nothingness.

Three days later, torrents of demonic qi enveloped Qin Wentian, his whole person was akin to a fearsome demonic beast. The amount of demonic qi was so abundant that even qi exuded by high-grade demonic beasts paled in comparison to the amount Qin Wentian was emitting now.

“Argh...”

A low roar akin to the howling of a beast escaped from his throat as the copious amounts of demonic qi swirled about, gathered together as they transformed into a vortex before gushing into Qin Wentian’s body, the fog of black qi completely obscuring his body. Very swiftly, the fog dissipated as the silhouette of Qin Wentian became gradually visible again. Yet he was now totally different from moments before. His life force throbbed with the exuberant vitality belonging to demonkind.

The Fiend Transformation Art combined the two different advantages of humans and demons, into a single body. Using humanity as the base, this Art causes the essence of the human body to demonize, eventually gaining the vitality of demons and a physique as powerful as them. It basically incorporates all the unique advantages of demonkind into a human body.

At this moment, if anyone went within Qin Wentian’s vicinity, they would be able to clearly sense how powerful he had currently become. Each and every one of his movements was brimming with energy, and the toughness of his body had far surpassed cultivators at the same realm as him.

If he were to compete against someone purely based on bodily strength, without the use of Astral Energy or innate techniques, he would easily be able to tear apart his opponent’s body. His physique had already evolved to the level of demons.

“Stage two of the Fiend Transformation Art, completed.” Qin Wentian smiled, his speed in cultivating this Art was so quick that it was almost unbelievable, most likely something to do with his bloodline.

After mastering the second stage of the Fiend Transformation Art, Qin Wentian continued to doggedly practice the Heaven Breaking Finger, all the while waiting for the Thousand-Jue Alliance to deliver the information report regarding the whereabouts of Hua Xiaoyun.

In the blink of an eye, seven days had already passed. The Leng Clan had also given their answer—they gave in, and chose to execute the Heavenly Dipper Sovereign Leng Mao as well as the rest of the names on the list. They decided that this group's existence wasn't worth it for them to offend Qin Wentian. Moreover, Qin Wentian had already become a guest elder of the Thousand-Jue Alliance. The Leng Clan had no wish to offend Qin Wentian further and hence, immediately acted on good faith and resolved the matter.

As for Hua Xiaoyun, his patience had already worn thin. He visited the Shadow Pavilion again and received news that his mission had already been accepted and the killers were planning an ambush for Qin Wentian in the Eastern Region. After which, Hua Xiaoyun too decided to pay a visit to the Eastern Region, he wanted to see with his own eyes the manner of Qin Wentian's death.

Hua Xiaoyun didn't know that the moment he stepped into the Eastern Region, his movements had already been noted.

Qin Wentian finally received news of Hua Xiaoyun, who for some reason, had actually come to the Eastern Region of the Moon Continent.

An exceedingly ice-cold light flickered in Qin Wentian's eyes. Speak of the devil, and he will appear—this Hua Xiaoyun had come just in time.

Yet, if he wanted to kill him, how could he hide this matter from the informant network of the Hua Clan?

Qin Wentian understood that as a transcendent power, the scope of the Hua Clan's network would definitely be extremely terrifying. If he directly slayed Hua Xiaoyun, he would certainly be discovered. Killing a young master of Hua Clan's direct line of descent? It would be extremely difficult for him to stay in the Moon Continent afterward.

But no matter what, Hua Xiaoyun had to die.

If there were no other solutions and if he really had no choice but to leave the Moon Continent, he would still kill Hua Xiaoyun.

Qin Wentian exited the White Deer Institute silently, he didn't even inform Bailu Yi of his plans. He had no wish to involve anyone else on his quest to kill Hua Xiaoyun. This, was a matter he must undertake himself, this debt of retribution had to be settled by his own hands!

Chapter 295: Which Senior is it?

Qin Wentian left by himself to look for Hua Xiaoyun. He had been informed by the Thousand-Jue Alliance that Hua Xiaoyun had only the protection of one Heavenly Dipper Sovereign. In that case, his two fourth-ranked Puppets should be sufficient to hinder that Sovereign.

As for Hua Xiaoyun himself, the Qin Wentian back then was already powerful enough to slay him, it would be no different now.

Of course, Qin Wentian still didn't know that the reason for Hua Xiaoyun's appearance in the Eastern Region of the Moon Continent, was actually because the killers he hired had already set up an ambush over here for Qin Wentian.

Similarly, Hua Xiaoyun didn't know that the moment he stepped into the Eastern Region, his movements had been noticed and immediately fed back to Qin Wentian.

The two of them wanted the other's death, yet neither were aware of the perilous situation they both were in.

There was someone who noticed the moment Qin Wentian left the White Deer Institute. On the pathway of the streets, a horse carriage slowly advanced. The carriage driver had an extremely ordinary face and was slowly directing the horses to pull the carriage forward.

Qin Wentian would definitely not notice the existence of an ordinary horse carriage. In the luxurious Moon Continent, the pathways were littered by hundreds or even thousands of horse carriages daily. They were an everyday occurrence and of course, also an extremely good cover. The driver maintained the horses' speed, advancing at a normal pace. They definitely wouldn't want to attract the attention of Qin Wentian who was still far away.

But at that same moment, another figure was keeping pace beside the carriage, walking at the same speed. This figure had an ancient sword strapped behind his back and his features were obscured by a silver-mask, revealing only a pair of eyes that were glinting in cold light.

It was as if the driver couldn't see this figure, and he continued leading the horses forward at the same pace as the silver-masked figure following quietly beside it.

"This is my mission." The driver suddenly let out a hiss, as a look of sharpness was directed to the silver-masked figure. The soundwaves of his voice, didn't reverberate in the air, it was channeled into a thin line, drifting right into the ears of that silver-masked figure.

"I know." That figure nodded his head.

"Then get lost and stop hindering me," the driver coldly stated. As someone in the same line of business, he already knew the identity of the silver-masked figure.

Silver Snake was the same as him, an external killer for the Shadow Pavilion. The authority he held was also the same—their ranks were both at Five-Star.

Silver Snake's cultivation base was at the peak of Yuanfu, and by rights, he didn't have the qualifications to obtain such a ranking. The only reason why he was now a Five-Star assassin was because back then he had managed to assassinate an extremely important character alone, which led to him being promoted.

"I won't take a share out of your reward," Silver Snake indifferently exclaimed, his voice was void of emotion.

"But you have to act according to my command, don't make your move hastily."

"He will eventually grow suspicious if we follow him for much longer. It's about time for us to act," the driver argued.

"No, wait a while more. His objective is clear, he wants to find the person that's helping you." Silver Snake grinned.

"My helper?" The driver didn't understand, all his helpers were already hidden inside the carriage.

"Don't worry, my sources told me that the person who set this mission, essentially your hirer, has already arrived in the Eastern Region. Qin Wentian is definitely looking for him, and the best

opportunity for us to act would undoubtedly be the time when the two of them are fighting against each other. In any case, so what if the hirer dies? He has nothing to do with you.”

Silver Snake’s words contained a deathly chill within. Although the Shadow Pavilion would release the mission to all prospective killers, the information of the hirer would absolutely be kept a secret.

But Silver Snake apparently knew who the hirer was?

Not only that, Silver Snake even wanted to make use of the hirer for the sake of them having a better chance to accomplish the mission. In that case, did Silver Snake have a grudge with the target, Qin Wentian, as well?

Who was this Silver Snake exactly?

Despite all his questions, he wasn’t worried that Silver Snake would lie to him. Silver Snake was only at the ninth-level of Yuanfu—it would be as easy as overturning his palms to kill him for his deceit.

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Within a tavern inside the Moon Continent, Hua Xiaoyun was currently enjoying his wine, an expression of extreme satisfaction on his face.

The grudge he held for his broken arm would soon be avenged—the killers of the Shadow Pavilion would definitely not disappoint.

Lifting his wine cup, Hua Xiaoyun started laughing maniacally, yet his eyes gleamed with a cold light. It was about time.

However, his attention was caught by an extremely enchanting woman clad in a fiery-red skirt, projecting a demeanour of unmatched elegance. That woman noticed Hua Xiaoyun glancing at her and inclined her head, returning his gaze.

The instant their eyes locked, Hua Xiaoyun’s felt a jolt to his heart like a bolt of electricity, while he silently exclaimed to himself, ‘What a beauty!’

Her skin was as fair as snow, so soft-looking that it seemed it would break the moment a gentle breeze of wind blew against it. Just a single glance was enough to reveal her devilish figure.

“I wonder which clan she belongs to?” Hua Xiaoyun mused. In the Moon Continent, a beauty of that standard would definitely not be a nobody. Just from her demeanor alone, Hua Xiaoyun could tell that her origins were definitely from a major power.

As expected of a silk pants young master, his judgement regarding beautiful women was extremely good.

A look of unhappiness involuntarily flashed in the young woman’s eyes when she saw how Hua Xiaoyun kept staring at her. That slight fluttering of her beautiful lashes was sufficient to set Hua Xiaoyun’s heart aflutter.

“Hi, my name is Hua Xiaoyun, and I wonder if I may have the honor to ask for such a beautiful lady’s name?”

Hua Xiaoyun moved to clasp his hands together, only to be reminded that he only had one remaining now. The hatred in his heart boiled up once again, but he swiftly suppressed the emotion and went to smile at the beautiful lady instead.

The young woman unhappily glanced at him before coldly replying, “The second young master of the Hua Clan is left with only a single arm, yet he still hasn’t learned from his mistake?”

Hua Xiaoyun immediately stiffened, as his countenance became extremely unsightly.

“Here I am, asking politely, yet the miss’s words are so offensive,” Hua Xiaoyun coldly replied, “I wonder what your background is for you to be so arrogant.”

“Shu Ruanyu,” the young woman indifferently replied, causing Hua Xiaoyun’s countenance to falter. He recovered quickly as he smiled, “Oh, so it is Miss Shu. I’ve heard that Miss Shu will soon be engaged with Brother Yang. Congratulations.”

Shu Ruanyu was from the Shu Clan, a major power in the Eastern Region of the Moon Continent. Her name was extremely famous here and regardless of beauty or talent, she was outstanding in both fields.

Some time before, the Star-Seizing Manor wanted to find a companion for Yang Fan. Yang Fan took an instant liking to Shu Ruanyu and after a period of dating, he even personally went to the Shu Clan to propose marriage. Being in-laws with a transcendent power would open up countless doors of benefits, hence the Shu Clan naturally agreed.

As a Heaven's Chosen from the Star-Seizing Manor, Yang Fan already had a status that was pretty much incomparable.

But of course, Shu Ruanyu was extraordinary and excelled in many aspects as well. Stepping into the eighth-level of Yuanfu at twenty-one years of age, was a feat that undoubtedly indicated her level of talent.

Shu Ruanyu couldn't be bothered with Hua Xiaoyun any longer. Hua Xiaoyun's countenance looked exceptionally awkward, he felt so terrible in his heart.

Now that his status within his Clan had declined so much, he even felt inferior in front of Yang Fan's fiancée. This feeling was embarrassing to the extreme.

Especially after he saw how Shu Ruanyu looked down on him, then he wanted nothing more than to press her down and force her into submission. Regretfully, he wouldn't have such a chance, he could only indulge in this wild fantasy in his heart.

Just then, a silhouette was seen slowly walking on the pathway outside the tavern. He was cloaked in an overly large robe, his weird appearance instantly drawing the attention of many in the crowd.

Because this large figure didn't seem to have any hint of vitality burning within him, his face was as though it were made from gold, and the sharp slits in place of his eyes, didn't appear to be that of a human's.

Was this large figure a Puppet?

"Look over there." In the distance, there was another figure cloaked in overly large robes making his way over as well. It invoked the same feeling the crowd sensed from the large figure with the golden face. How strange, it was as though there was someone intentionally letting their Puppets out for a walk.

At the same time this was occurring, a silhouette in a conical bamboo hat stood in the wine shack directly opposite to Hua Xiaoyun's tavern. He lowered his head, keeping to the shadows, while the centre of his brows seemed to glow, as though a third eye was there.

This person, was none other than Qin Wentian, who had come here immediately after he obtained the report on Hua Xiaoyun's whereabouts. Currently, this third eye was shining with a resplendent light. Abruptly, the sensitivity of his perception skyrocketed, each and every movement of the people around him couldn't escape his notice.

Some distance away, on the pathway, he saw a carriage driver as well as a silver-masked man who had an ancient sword strapped on his back. There was something strange about them...

"Hmm?" Qin Wentian faintly sensed that something was wrong. That silver-masked man actually had a cultivation base at the ninth-level of Yuanfu and that...that carriage driver? Qin Wentian couldn't perceive his strength.

Someone with a cultivation base hidden from his senses definitely indicated that that person was a Heavenly Dipper Sovereign or beyond. But why was a Heavenly Dipper Sovereign masquerading as an ordinary carriage driver?

Not only that, there weren't any goods inside the carriage, there were only three people whose eyes were gleaming with a sharp light.

Something was wrong!

Qin Wentian's sense of danger instantly tingled—he could tell that despite the slow pace of the horses, the carriage seemed to be moving in his direction.

"Bzz!" Suddenly, a silhouette materialized in front of Qin Wentian. This was none other than Qing'er. The moment she appeared, the gazes of the crowd in the wine shack instantly riveted onto her, as an expression of worship appeared on their faces.

It was as though she too could somehow sense someone tracking Qin Wentian's movements.

She was a maiden of few words, hence she didn't say anything more. She appeared instantly because after knowing that danger was incoming, she shouldn't be too far away from Qin Wentian.

Qin Wentian's perception soon discovered Hua Xiaoyun and his Heavenly Dipper Sovereign protector. Not only that, Hua Xiaoyun seemed to be making conversation with an extremely beautiful lady now, but that lady couldn't be bothered with him.

"Huh?" The Heavenly Dipper Sovereign protector who was standing at the back of Hua Xiaoyun frowned, his heart was suddenly seized with a strange feeling. It was as though he sensed somebody spying on him, yet he had no way to locate which direction the spying was from.

Was there a hidden expert observing him from the shadows?

Yet, Hua Xiaoyun couldn't sense this. He was currently staring at Shu Ruanyu with his eyes narrowed, a wretched light flickering in his eyes, as though he were thinking of something disgusting.

"BOOM!" Abruptly, it felt as though a bolt of lightning had gone off inside his mind, causing his brain to rumble. Groaning in pain, Hua Xiaoyun staggered backwards while clutching his head, his countenance had already paled with fright.

"Young Master!" the protector roared, he could sense that something was wrong. The explosions in Hua Xiaoyun's head carried on, each explosion felt like the crazed howling of a terrifying beast that was intent on crushing his mind.

"BOOM, BOOM, BOOM!" His mind continued to be under assault, Hua Xiaoyun's body was instantly drenched in sweat as he trembled involuntarily with terror, trying his best to defend against the attack that seemed bent on dissipating his consciousness.

"Junior was brash, I APOLOGISE FOR ANY OF MY MISDEEDS THAT HAVE OFFENDED SENIOR!" Hua Xiaoyun howled, he could already sense the stench of death creeping up onto him. A technique with the ability to penetrate through space, attacking the minds of others through one's will? At this level of power, the attacker was most definitely a Heavenly Dipper Sovereign!

Chapter 296: Power of Space

The people in the tavern were all shocked by the sound of Hua Xiaoyun's crazed howling.

The eyes of the protector flashed with a glint of sharpness, his instincts were right. There had been someone spying on him earlier and now, that person even directed a will-attack at Hua Xiaoyun.

However, he couldn't sense anyone abnormal enough in the tavern to warrant suspicion. That must mean that the attacker wasn't actually in the tavern and was using a technique that could amplify his will, penetrating space in order to attack. Such an attack method caused even him to feel fear.

The beautiful eyes of Shu Ruanyu also flashed with a hint of shock. Who was this expert? Capable of unleashing such a devastating attack even from a distance.

“ARGHH...” Hua Xiaoyun let out a low-sounding miserable shriek as an expression of extreme distress and agony appeared on his face. The strength of this lightning-like will-attack grew increasingly powerful. A silhouette of an ancient primordial beast took form in his mind; it was emanating the will of a Mandate, wanting to shatter his consciousness.

Hua Xiaoyun's current cultivation base was slightly higher compared to back then when he was in Chu. However, because he was recovering from a grievous injury and with a mind wholly bent on revenge, his improvement was limited. Although he was now at the fifth-level of Yuanfu, his foundations weren't that stable.

And as for his Mandate, it was still in the Initial Boundary stage. It was precisely because the will of his Mandate was weak that he found it extremely hard to defend against these kinds of insidious mind-attacks, powered by the will of the other party. The pain of his headaches, was even worse than death, he felt as though his mind was about to explode into pieces.

“Let's leave.” His protector grabbed Hua Xiaoyun and flew upwards. “Boom!” Since the protector had flown at a terrifying speed, a hole was blasted open on the roof. He had to bring Hua Xiaoyun away, if not, when Hua Xiaoyun's consciousness shattered, he would become nothing but a brain-dead vegetable. It was no different to being dead.

Shu Ruanyu glanced at the hole on the roof as she too, leapt upwards to soar in the skies. Who was this expert exactly?

The moment the protector escaped from the hold, an ice-cold blade's edge cleaved down from the Heavens. The sharpness of that blade light created a chill in the hearts of those who witnessed it.

After which, only a gigantic figure cloaked in large robes could be seen slamming downwards. The eyes of this figure were completely filled with a bone-chilling intent, it didn't seem like the eyes of a human.

“WHO?!”

The protector roared as he slammed up above with his palms several times. A massive wind kicked up as the blade descended, the currents of the powerful wind force altered the angle of the blade, causing it to miss its target.

“Bzzz!” The large figure wasn’t fazed, he immediately swept forth with his legs, both also flickering with that terrible ice-cold light. The protector of Hua Xiaoyun stiffened when he saw that the large figure’s legs were covered with razor sharp edges. With a roar of anger, he immediately unleashed his Astral Nova, which instantly transformed into a huge sabre, colliding directly with the large figure.

A thunderous sound echoed as Hua Xiaoyun’s protector quickly retreated. From the start of the fight till now, he had kept a tight hold on Hua Xiaoyun, yet for some reason, the expression of agony etched onto Hua Xiaoyun’s face seemed to be even more intense. It was as though that will-attack would continue on relentlessly, only stopping after it achieved its objective.

This caused his protector to turn ashen. This meant that there was still someone hiding in the shadows, but if this enemy was so powerful, why didn’t he directly attack?

At this moment, Qin Wentian couldn’t help but feel slightly depressed. His head was still lowered, the glowing of his third eye continued non-stop as it locked down on Hua Xiaoyun. However, his perception told him that the carriage driver and the silver-masked man were now stealthily proceeding in his direction.

It seemed that these two were really here for him.

With two of his Puppets, in addition to his will-attack, he was confident that he could definitely kill Hua Xiaoyun. Not only that, if he was fast enough, he could immediately retreat after he succeeded, killing his target without a trace. Yet he had never expected that he would also be a target for others.

“DIE!” Qin Wentian’s third eye madly shot out his will of Mandate, bombarding Hua Xiaoyun’s consciousness. Hua Xiaoyun screamed repeatedly, yet his howls were getting lower and lower in volume. It appeared that he would soon no longer be able to withstand the pressure. Even if Qin Wentian didn’t directly attack him, he would die to this killing energy that was bypassing space.

They were getting nearer—that carriage driver got off, and walked slowly forwards with a hunched back, in perfect disguise. If it weren't for Qin Wentian's terrifying perception, he wouldn't even have known how he'd died.

A crisp, gushing sound rang out, while Qin Wentian's heart clenched. "Damn!" He knew there was no more time. He could have killed Hua Xiaoyun for sure if he had ten more breaths worth of time.

But sadly, at the climax of his will-attack, the driver chose precisely this moment to act.

Not only that, the will of the driver's Mandate interfered with his, cutting off his connection with Hua Xiaoyun. It enveloped and bore down onto Qin Wentian, and he felt as though his entire movements were restricted, as if trapped in a web.

As he inclined his head, his third eye had already snapped shut. His gaze flickered with an extremely cold light when he noticed the hunched-back driver suddenly straighten and vanish from sight. An intense burst of killing intent gushed forth, while the will of the driver's Mandate bound him from where he stood.

Qinger's silhouette flickered as she instantly appeared in front of Qin Wentian. At this moment Qinger's body seemed to be radiating a bizarre type of energy, and a breath of time later, the invisible restriction binding Qin Wentian, shattered away.

Waving her palms, a lotus materialized, spinning towards the driver at a terrifying speed. At the same time, she grabbed Qin Wentian and soared into the air.

"Mandate of Space? She'd actually comprehended the Mandate of Space at such a young age."

An expression of shock reflected in the eyes of the driver.

The Mandate of Space was an extremely oppressive Mandate. Perhaps the first and second boundaries weren't that powerful, but as one's comprehension deepens, the power of the Mandate of Space would undoubtedly be the strongest. He had once witnessed for himself how terrifying the Mandate of Space was when he saw an expert using it against his opponents.

That beautiful maiden had actually comprehended such a Mandate, using space as an edge to sever away the will of his Mandate.

However, he wasn't slow to react, and in the blink of an eye, he too soared skywards, following after Qing`er. At the exact same moment, three other silhouettes burst out of the carriage and flew upwards, closely following after him.

Their movements instantly attracted the attention of those in the tavern. Only then did the relentless attack on Hua Xiaoyun stop. Hua Xiaoyun heaved a sigh of relief, his face was entirely devoid of blood while his body was drenched in the cold sweat of his fearful perspiration.

He too, sensed the eruption of combat nearby, and as he shifted his glance over, his gaze immediately stiffened.

“QIN WENTIAN!” Hua Xiaoyun’s heart pounded madly. He naturally saw Qinger as well—that will-type attack made on him earlier must have been launched by Qinger.

His face contorted with hatred, Hua Xiaoyun hadn’t expected Qin Wentian would actually be hunting him as well.

“Kill him, KILL HIM FOR ME IMMEDIATELY!”

Hua Xiaoyun’s crazed voice thundered in the air. Evidently, he understood that the people fighting against Qin Wentian, were none other than the killers he had hired from the Shadow Pavilion.

“You bunch of trash, YOU BUNCH OF TRASH!!” Hua Xiaoyun raged. The killers he hired had allowed the target to use himself, the hirer, as bait. How despicable.

Qin Wentian’s eyes flickered with a coldness as he saw a long vine coiling around his body. Qing`er’s palms glowed with a faint golden light as she slashed downwards, breaking the vine apart yet the vine instantly multiplied, as it madly shot forwards once more.

Qing`er frowned, her opponent’s attack was extremely troublesome to deal with. It wouldn’t be a problem for her, but Qin Wentian wouldn’t find it as easy as her to get rid of them.

“Hiss...” Suddenly, a bunch of demonic snakes materialized from behind and swept towards Qin Wentian’s back. This attack was unleashed by the female Heavenly Dipper Sovereign, who was none other than the wife of that driver.

The raging wind whistled as a golden-armored Puppet appeared from nowhere. Initially, Qin Wentian planned to use this Puppet to lay an ambush for Hua Xiaoyun, but now, he had no choice but to summon it back.

The sea of snakes were smashed into nothingness as that Madam and the golden-armored Puppet collided with each other. However, in the instant before they clashed, the Madam sent out her palm as a gigantic python materialized in thin air.

Heaven's Destruction consisted of two Yuanfu cultivators and two Heavenly Dipper Sovereigns. According to their plans, two of them, the master and the madam, would be sufficient to stall Qing`er and the two fourth-ranked Puppets while their two disciples would then easily slaughter Qin Wentian. This was basically money falling from the Heavens.

Yet Qing`er's strength exceeded their expectations. She, who had comprehended the Mandate of Space, could control its form in such a way that the will of other Mandates were unable to penetrate through her protective layer of space, powerless from reaching her and Qin Wentian. To kill Qin Wentian, they would only need to suppress Qing`er for a single moment.

"Get over here." That python wrenched open its huge maw. In the next instant, Qin Wentian only felt a powerful suction force sucking him in that direction.

Although there were some accidents, the protector of Hua Xiaoyun had already blocked a fourth-ranked Puppet for them. It wasn't that difficult for them to kill Qin Wentian despite their original misjudgement of Qing`er.

Qing`er's beautiful eyes changed the moment she saw what was happening. After which, a golden lotus bloomed underneath her feet and spun rapidly, becoming increasingly larger, while a mysterious surge of energy emanated from it.

"I can deal with them..." Qing`er lightly stated, as the golden lotus enveloped the entire space. Qing`er grabbed Qin Wentian's arms and flew towards the opposite direction.

"Let the golden-armored Puppet aid you," Qin Wentian added in a low voice. Qing`er glanced back at him after a moment of thought and replied, "Nothing will happen to me."

Her voice was still cold and aloof, both melodious and crisp, and as the sound of it faded, she pushed Qin Wentian out of the expanding lotus.

After he was pushed out, the petals of the golden lotus came together and closed; it was an extremely beautiful sight.

The golden lotus was half-translucent and one could clearly see everything that happened inside it. The gigantic lotus trapped the two Heavenly Dipper Sovereigns within.

“Mandate of Space, Qing`er is so powerful.”

Qin Wentian murmured, but he had to stop his musings because the other two people hidden inside the carriage from earlier had arrived. An overwhelming killing intent bore down on him, akin to the aura of death.

A brilliant light flashed, a terrifying lance appeared in Qin Wentian’s hands as a blood-colored stone monument floated up in the air above him.

These two attackers weren’t weak; one was at the eighth-level of Yunfu while the other was at the sixth. Qin Wentian could sense an extremely strong threat of danger from the both of them.

“Qin Wentian, you’re dead for sure.” A wretched expression appeared on Hua Xiaoyun’s face. It would be impossible for Qin Wentian to escape even if he were given wings.

Hua Xiaoyun’s protector was still locked down in combat with the bladed Puppet, but with his level of power, he could have broken away from this battle and easily killed Qin Wentian. However, he didn’t dare to. If he broke apart from the combat, this fourth-ranked bladed Puppet would definitely target Hua Xiaoyun. To him, Hua Xiaoyun’s life was the most important thing he had to protect.

“So, he is Qin Wentian?” Shu Ruanyu asked Hua Xiaoyun in an icy voice. The flery red-colored skirt fluttered in the wind as her eyes narrowed, wearing an expression close to hatred when she stared at Qin Wentian.

Zhu Sha, was the husband of her aunt, and according to Yang Fan, Zhu Sha’s death in the secret realm was caused by the youngest, fourth-ranked Grandmaster in the Moon Continent.

“Yeah, he’s Qin Wentian. Does Lady Shu have a grievance with him?” Hua Xiaoyun laughed, only to see Shu Ruanyu icily fix her stare at him as she remarked, “As a young master of the Hua Clan, you are utterly useless. It’s quite a shameful thing, when compared to your older brother. You didn’t have the capabilities to kill him yourself, so you engaged a band of killers?”

“You...” Hua Xiaoyun’s smile froze upon his face, his expression slowly shifting into one of malevolence.

Chapter 297: Miserable Battle

Currently, the two Yuanfu cultivators of Heaven’s Destruction had already surrounded Qin Wentian.

“Fourth-ranked Divine Weapon.” The eighth-level Yuanfu cultivator stared at the lance in Qin Wentian’s hands—this fellow was too much of a gold mine. Their team had been in the killing business for many years and the majority of their wealth was obtained from their targets. To them, a fourth-ranked Divine Weapon was an extremely extravagant item, and as for fourth-ranked Puppets? There was no need to even talk about it.

If they could accomplish this mission, all these priceless treasures would belong to them.

“Gravity.” The eighth-level Yuanfu cultivator unleashed the will of his Mandate. The Mandate he had comprehended was the first level of the Mandate of Great Earth, Gravity. At the Transformation Boundary, the force of gravity was strengthened by a factor of eight within a particular area.

In an instant, Qin Wentian felt his steps sinking into the ground, his body felt heavier, resulting in his movements becoming awkward.

A terrifying demonic qi surged, as the power in his bloodline howled. He wanted to use his tyrannical physique to make up for the loss of his movement’s speed.

“Boom!” The cultivator at the eighth-level of Yuanfu made his move. A long spear appeared in his hands and unleashed a torrent of stabs so quick that they seemed like a volley of explosive arrows being fired. Using his Mandate of Gravity, he then coated his attacks, giving his spear stabs additional force. If this attack were to land on an opponent, there were only two results possible—either being grievously injured, or death.

The long lance in Qin Wentian’s hands also exploded forwards. Although he wasn’t used to the force of gravity restraining his movements, his arms were still steady. As a radiant black-colored light erupted, the manifestation of a black dragon lunged out, directly clashing against the torrents of stabs unleashed by the spear. BOOOM! A deafening sound thundered, Qin Wentian felt his

internal organs vibrating violently from the impact. The will of the Mandate of Gravity travelled through from the vibrations and directly attacked his internal organs, the pain causing him to groan involuntarily.

This guy's power wasn't restricted to the combat prowess of what an ordinary cultivator at the eighth-level of Yuanfu would possess. If it weren't for his tyrannical physique, he would have definitely been seriously injured by his opponent's strike.

"The fourth-rank Inscription embedded inside this lance is truly troublesome," Qin Wentian cursed silently, his Astral Energy frenziedly surging into the long lance, forming a connection with the Inscription within. He hadn't created the fourth-ranked Inscription in this weapon, hence he needed a tremendous amount of Astral Energy before he could even activate a portion of it.

But during actual combat, how could his opponent give him time? Right after his first blow, that eighth-level Yuanfu cultivator immediately followed up with a second spear attack, even more ferocious than the one before.

"Great Earth Tremor." The spear danced about like a dragon, weaving in spirals as it slammed into the ground. The whole earth trembled in response, as the momentum of the attack caused quakes to rock the entire ground. The eighth-level cultivator had already unleashed his earth-type Astral Soul, imbuing himself with 'heaviness' and further augmenting the power of his strikes.

Qin Wentian sliced the skin on his finger, channelling his blood into the Yellow Springs Monument as the monument blasted towards his opponent, interrupting the earth-type innate technique. The sixth-level Yuanfu cultivator didn't hesitate, instantly sending out his palm and manifesting a ghostly-shadow claw resembling that of an apparition. It flew towards Qin Wentian, intending to lock its fingers onto his throat.

The Great Earth Tremor collided with the stone monument, Qin Wentian shifted his gaze towards his other opponent as their eyes locked for an instant. BOOOOM! In the next instant, the power of their wills collided in the air. Qin Wentian's heart involuntarily pounded—this guy was capable of unleashing his Mandate's will through his eyes as well.

The ghostly claw neared, black light shining from all five fingers as it targeted Qin Wentian's throat.

But in the next moment, an extremely demonic aura gushed forth from Qin Wentian as his primordial bloodline sang in his veins. The quantity of demonic qi released was so colossal that it covered the entire space.

“Sleep-Immersion.” Qin Wentian unleashed the will of his Mandate, causing a heavy bout of drowsiness to instantly assail his opponent.

That ghostly claw missed his throat, and ended up clutching onto his arm instead. Yet, the sixth-level Yuanfu cultivator discovered to his dismay that Qin Wentian’s arm was actually protected by a layer of scaly armor. The armor seemed to be created from demonic qi, and looked especially sturdy.

“Swoosh.” The ghostly claw slashed down and the might it contained actually cracked the demonic armor, causing fresh blood to leak out. Instantly, Qin Wentian countered with his shadow lance, directly stabbing forward at his opponent. The cultivator paled at the sudden attack, and hastily retreated. In the blink of an eye, Qin Wentian executed his Garuda Movement Technique to its utmost limits, as two large Garuda wings took form on his back. His body then shot straight forwards like a fired arrow.

“Puchi.” As the sounds of something being pierced rang out, the shadow lance had already penetrated through the throat of Qin Wentian’s opponent and then withdrawn.

“That level of defence...” Shu Ruanyu who watched from afar, was stunned. Qin Wentian’s entire arm had the complete characteristics of a true demon, its defence was almost beyond belief. And because his stone monument seemed to have a will of its own, blocking the path of the eighth-level Yuanfu Cultivator, it gave Qin Wentian enough time, as well as the opportunity, to finish off this sixth-level Yuanfu opponent.

“JUNIOR BROTHER!” An echo of endless rage reverberated through the air. Abruptly, Qin Wentian felt so much pressure, it was as though his internal organs were caving in. His countenance turned white as he spat out a mouthful of blood, which he hurriedly channelled into the stone monument. Instantly, its crimson glow emanated with more intensity, as it vibrated at an increasing rate, creating several mini-explosions to rock the air. His opponent began to feel pain on an unbearable level.

He was constricted by gravity, while the frenzied blood circulation of his opponent caused his heart to pound madly.

The aura emitted by his shadow lance grew increasingly fearsome. Earlier, when he had stabbed the lance through the throat of the sixth-level Yuanfu opponent, he hadn’t activated the Inscription embedded within it. Only a tremendous amount of Astral Energy being channelled into the fourth-ranked weapon would allow one to unleash its full power. To a Heavenly Dipper Sovereign, they

could infuse the weapon with the required energy in the blink of an eye, but Qin Wentian's cultivation base was still too low, he could only try channelling his energy into that weapon as quickly as possible.

"You are going to die." His opponent's earth-type Astral Soul shone brighter and brighter as an Earthen Armor began forming around his body. The eyes of this eighth-level Yuanfu cultivator flared with unspoken hatred as he dashed forwards. Qin Wentian pierced forth with his finger, commanding the stone monument to fly forward while retreating rapidly.

At present, his opponent couldn't care less. He allowed the vibrating shockwaves caused by the Yellow Stone Monument to freely blast his body. That Earthen Armor effortlessly blunted the majority of the vibrational impact, to the point where there was almost no effect.

"Puchi!" The long spear moved with the speed of lightning, stabbing forth while imbued with the power of gravity. Qin Wentian's speed was greatly reduced under the effect of gravity increasing by a factor of 8, it was impossible for him to escape.

A terrifying cold light gushed out from his eyes as his Garuda Wings enfolded him. The amount of demonic qi emanating from him at this moment, was so towering that it even reached the skies.

RUMBLE...

Terrifying shockwaves blasted through the haze of demonic qi, that long spear directly penetrating the Garuda Wings. An extremely wretched appearance could be seen on the cultivator's face as he pushed the spear forward with all his strength. Qin Wentian must die.

"BREAK FOR ME!" the cultivator yelled. The demonic qi dissipated—the Garuda wings were broken apart. When Qin Wentian's silhouette appeared once again, the long spear had already slammed right into the left side of his chest, just a short distance away from rupturing his heart. However, in that exact same moment when the Garuda Wings broke apart, the shadow lance was already flung out of Qin Wentian's hands. Its terrifying black light devoured the skies and earth, as the lance's Inscription activated its tyrannical power.

The hatred etched on the opponent's face was replaced by untold shock. He instantly reacted by flying backwards, only to feel an explosion down his spine as his vertebrae came close to shattering. The Yellow Spring Monuments slammed into his back with explosive speed, forcing him directly onto the path of the shadow lance's attack. A sharp, crisp piercing sound resounded—the shadow lance had pierced directly between the brows of the eighth-level Yuanfu cultivator. The ominous

energy emitted by the shadow lance rumbled inside the cultivator's head and an instant later, he exploded into countless fragments.

Qin Wentian wrenched out the long spear embedded in his chest, the fresh blood leaking from his wound stained his robes red. His body trembled slightly, but the light in his eyes remained as cold as ever.

"Has he gone mad?" Shu Ruanyu couldn't help but feel a chill in her heart when she saw how Qin Wentian fought his battles. A fourth-level Yuanfu Cultivator had actually succeeded in killing two cultivators at the sixth and eighth-level? Although he accomplished that with the aid of his fourth-ranked Divine Weapon and that mysterious stone monument, it was sufficient to show how ruthless Qin Wentian could be, gambling everything for a moment's advantage. Qin Wentian was extremely terrifying! If that spear had pierced him just a few inches more to the centre, he would already be dead by now.

Of course, her judgement could also tell that even without the fourth-ranked lance and that stone monument, Qin Wentian's combat prowess was fearsome in its own right, far exceeding the level of his cultivation base. She even speculated on whether he could kill opponents at the sixth-level of Yuanfu without depending on the aid from his two earlier weapons. In any case, Qin Wentian should have exhausted all the Astral Energy in his body, leaving him incapable of activating the fourth-ranked Divine Weapon. It was only to be expected, since after all, he was still only at the fourth-level of Yuanfu.

"Go kill him for me." Over at a distance, Hua Xiaoyun commanded his protector. His protector was standing in front of him, while a group of Puppets surrounded them, albeit at a distance away. One Puppet was fourth-ranked, while the others were third-ranked.

"Young Master, your safety is more important." The protector tried to dissuade him.

"You useless shit, what do I need you around for then? You can't even finish off these Puppets?" Hua Xiaoyun unhappily exclaimed.

"Young Master, I can easily deal with the third-ranked Puppets, but they're only watching you from far away. As for that fourth-ranked Puppet, it's tremendously difficult to forge and hence its value is several times higher compared to fourth-ranked Divine Weapons. The attacking-type Divine Inscription embedded in it has power equivalent to that of a Heavenly Sovereign's innate technique. Its only weakness is that it's not as nimble as humans. If I didn't have to protect young master, I naturally could defe..."

The protector didn't continue his sentence, yet Hua Xiaoyun's expression darkened considerably. Was his protector trying to say that he was useless?

"No worries, let me settle the third-ranked Puppets for you." A voice drifted over, and they turned to see a person, whose features were cloaked in a silver-mask, dashing towards the third-ranked Puppets. As his sword left his scabbard, a cold light flashed. A Puppet raised its arms in defence but all was useless before the sharpness of his attacks.

Swift, extremely swift. His sword sliced through their metal bodies as easily as if they were made of paper. The third-ranked Puppet was instantly split apart into two.

"What a terrifying sword." The protector of Hua Xiaoyun marvelled, he wondered where had this peak-level Yuanfu expert come from.

Yet, Qin Wentian's gaze stiffened. These third-ranked Puppets just weren't powerful enough compared to the golden guardians in the secret realm, be it in terms of defence or offense.

And wasn't this silver-masked figure acquainted with the carriage driver? To think that his combat prowess would be so high.

"You will die for certain." Shu Ruanyu moved towards Qin Wentian. "It's obvious that the silver-masked guy is here for you and that he wanted those four assassins to kill you. But in the end, you were stronger than expected. He will surely come to kill you the moment the other Puppets are defeated, and without your last trump cards where does that leave you?" Shu Ruanyu smiled coldly.

"Do I even know you?" Qin Wentian stared at the beauty in front of him, it didn't seem that he had met her before.

"You don't need to. It's good enough if I know you. Since you're going to die here anyway, then you might as well DIE BY MY HANDS!" Shu Ruanyu's Astral Souls rumbled as a silhouette covered in flames materialized.

During combat, the majority of Stellar Martial Cultivators at the Yuanfu level would automatically release their third Astral Souls, with the third one being the strongest. Shu Ruanyu's third Astral Soul hailed from the 4th Heavenly Layer, and the flames surrounding it gave rise to a terrifying temperature.

“Are you so confident that you can kill me?” An ice-cold intent shot forth from Qin Wentian’s eyes as the demonic qi he emanated grew increasingly stronger.

“Stop acting, the majority of the Astral Energy within your Yuanfu must have already been depleted. You can’t even activate the fourth-ranked Divine Weapon any more,” Shu Ruanyu faintly spoke, yet her words contained a thick sense of arrogance.

Since it had come to this, she would be the one to avenge her aunt’s husband, Zhu Sha!

Chapter 298: Madness

“And given your current injuries, even though your normal rate of recovery might be astounding, but now the speed of your wounds healing should still be affected.” Shu Ruanyu glanced again at the spot where the long spear had pierced past. If that spear throw had been a little more accurate, or if Qin Wentian’s was just a bit slower in killing his opponent, he would have already died.

Qin Wentian’s recovery was indeed extremely powerful, the blood within his body gurgled, as his wounds had already stopped bleeding.

Qin Wentian glanced at the fourth-ranked weapon in his hands, what Shu Ruanyu said was true, attempting to use this weapon in his current state would indeed be an immense burden on his body. With a slight intention of his will, Qin Wentian kept the shadow lance, his actions causing Shu Ruanyu to be somewhat stunned.

She glanced at him as an arrogant light glinted in her eyes. “I’ll let you die knowing the truth. The man you killed, Zhu Sha, he was my aunt’s husband.”

“ROAR!” The low-sounding growl of a beast resounded in the air. Shu Ruanyu frowned and turning her gaze over, seeing a gigantic demonic beast galloping towards her. Several silhouettes were riding on top of the demonic beast, and one of them was an acquaintance of hers. A Heavenly Fate Ranker, Bailu Jing.

“Huh?”

Not far away, the silver-masked figure was destroying those third-ranked Puppets, he had expected Qin Wentian would die undoubtedly yet he didn’t think that there would be complications once again. Seems like if he didn’t personally make a move, there was no way for the mission to succeed.

Bailu Jing wasn’t someone Shu Ruanyu would be able to defeat.

His sword intent pervaded the air and instantly, the silver-masked swordsman sped over as he unleashed his will from the Mandate of Sword. Qin Wentian felt a terrifying sword intent gushing into his body, as though he would be lacerated apart at any second.

Bailu Jing flew up in the air as his Hurricane and Seven Slaughters Astral Soul exploded into being. His movements blended into the wind as he rose into the clouds, his killing intent covering the whole skies. Unleashing his Great Sun Nine Beheadings technique, the sword intent was dispersed into nothingness, cancelled out by the power of his attack.

“Who are you?” Bailu Jing stared at the silver-masked swordsman, yet he didn’t receive a reply. The silver-masked swordsman slashed out once more with his sword, but he didn’t release his Astral Souls to augment his attack. It was as though he feared that he would be recognized.

“Shu Ruanyu, I’ll make you move faster.” That silver-masked figure exchanged blows with Bailu Jing, entangling him in a fight while he shouted to Shu Ruanyu.

Shu Ruanyu nodded as flames erupted out from her body. The surroundings became so scorched that Qin Wentian felt as though his body was about to burst into flames.

The first level insights of the Mandate of Flames, Ignition. Not only that, Shu Ruanyu’s had already mastered her first level insight up to the Transformation Boundary, and so her flame attacks were exceedingly ferocious.

“The figure of this woman is not bad at all, she seems pretty yummy,” Fan Le murmured, his words causing Shu Ruanyu’s expression to instantly turn to frost. A murderous urge shone in her eyes, yet Fan Le didn’t care at all. He even narrowed his eyes and purposely directed his gaze onto those voluptuous boobs of hers, roaming over it several times while licking his lips. His actions caused the flames surrounding her to crackle even more intensely.

“You’re courting death,” Shu Ruanyu’s tender voice thundered. She took a step forwards as her jade-like hands slammed out, manifesting a blazing palm imprint directly towards Qin Wentian, Fan Le and Chu Mang.

Qin Wentian released both his Heavenly Hammer and Great Dream Astral Soul. Although the radiance of his Astral Souls were dimmed by his cloaking technique, the shine around it was still extremely resplendent.

Unleashing the will of his Mandates, Qin Wentian’s blood surged as the demonic qi he exuded soared up to the skies. Strength against strength, he took a step forward and slammed forth a palm of his own. Runic outlines of a Great Roc coalesced and intertwined, instantly transforming into a corporeal Great Roc, directly colliding with the blazing palm.

Not only that, the Yellow Springs Monument also kicked into action. It flew towards Shu Ruanyu, while the waves of pressure it emitted caused her blood circulation and heartbeat to quicken.

“Big Bro Mang, Flame On!”

Fan Le’s Empyrean Flames bloodline boiled as golden flames flickered into existence all around his body. Channeling the energy of his blood into his hand, he pressed his palm down onto Chu Mang’s back, causing Chu Mang’s body to light up with the golden flames as well.

As his Astral Souls were unleashed, Chu Mang howled in madness, pulling on the strings of his bow and explosively firing three arrows simultaneously.

Shu Ruanyu furrowed her brows, the Astral Light emitted by her flame-type Astral Soul shone upon her as an armor of flame took form, cloaking her entire figure.

“BOOM!” A powerful force pierced right into the armor of flame and the jolt from the impact forced Shu Ruanyu backwards in retreat. Qin Wentian rose into the air, appearing to be channeling his energy.

Within his body, he was converting Divine Energy from third-ranked Divine Inscriptions. Currently, one of his Yuanfu had already dried up, and so he was channeling the majority of Astral Energy remaining inside his second Yuanfu, transforming it into a formidable tempest of combat-type Divine Inscriptions.

Although it was impossible for him to inscribe fourth-ranked Inscriptions during intense combat to deal with his enemies, if he could unleash a boundless amount of third-ranked combat Divine Inscription, fuse them together in an instant, then the resulting power of that strike was definitely something Shu Ruanyu couldn’t defend against. This reckless method of attacking was too crazed, like sacrificing eight hundred allied troops to kill a thousand enemy troops. It would be a pyrrhic victory, as the amount of expenditure with regards to Astral Energy was so astronomical that even the word terrifying wasn’t sufficient to describe it.

But now, he had to try. Having access to Divine Energy as well as three Yuanfu was his advantage.

“Chi, chi, chi...”

An endless volley of arrows landed on Shu Ruanyu’s body. At such a close-distance, there was no way she could accurately block all the arrows that were fired in insta-speed. Especially those annoying arrows that could change their direction, they were extremely troublesome to deal with. Fan Le didn’t attack directly. He used his powerful intention to control the direction of Chu Mang’s

shot, always changing the trajectory of the fired arrows at the last moment, greatly confusing Shu Ruanyu.

In just a few breaths of time, Shu Ruanyu's face had turned red from all her exertions. She kept feeling a peculiar sensation coming from an area around her voluptuous chest.

Fan Le was actually controlling the arrows to repeatedly slam onto her breasts. Although she was shielded by the armor of flames, such an attack provoked her into a crazed state of fury.

Qin Wentian perspired madly in his heart when he saw the target of the arrows' attack. This damn fatty was truly a genius, he wanted to drive this woman to her death just from anger.

But still, that flame armor of Shu Ruanyu's was definitely the product of an innate technique. If not, how could Chu Mang's combat prowess—being at the sixth-level of Yuanfu and in addition to his terrifying archery—fail to have pierced through armor made of Astral Energy?

The glow around the flame armor gradually grew brighter, the light from Shu Ruanyu's Astral Soul cascaded unceasingly down upon it. Her aura now had a menacing quality to it, and as she stepped forwards, the will of her Mandate was reinforced, causing Qin Wentian to feel that his body was about to combust.

However, Qin Wentian continued to channel his Astral Energy. To buy himself time, he decisively slammed a palm towards the injured area of his chest, causing blood to splatter which he channelled into the stone monument. The crimson glow strengthened, and so did its pressure. The waves of tension soared upwards in intensity, boring down onto Shu Ruanyu.

“Ruanyu!” Just at that moment, a stream of light shot forth from behind her, the palms of this silhouette made a grasping motion, as the terrifying might from the Star-Seizing Palm Imprint grabbed towards Qin Wentian.

“Yang Fan.” Qin Wentian countenance sank, and he retreated with explosive speed. In spite of his this, that overwhelming palm imprint still managed to slam into his body, the impact making Qin Wentian cough up blood as he was flung through the air.

“COURTING DEATH!” Yang Fan roared, his eyes were like lightning, as he blasted forth with his Star-Seizing Palms towards Fan Le and Chu Mang. The shrill whistling of the countless arrows all disintegrated under the might of his palm strike. A deafening sound rumbled the void as Fan Le and Chu Mang, were similarly flung through the air.

Compared to the rankers on the Heavenly Fate Ranking, the disparity between them and Chu Mang and Fan Le was indeed too far apart.

“Return!” Qin Wentian’s aura circulated, and as the word of his command rang out, that fourth-ranked bladed Puppet dashed right towards Yang Fan with unbelievable speed. Yang Fan was apprehensive—, that Puppet’s arm slash was compacted with such power that it even tore apart space.

Currently, a brutal, murderous light shone in Qin Wentian’s eyes. He no longer gave a damn who his opponent was. Since things had already come to this, there was no need to show any more mercy.

“Bring me there, and you go kill him!” Hua Xiaoyun screeched the moment he saw the fourth-ranked Puppet retreating. That protector nodded his head and grabbed Hua Xiaoyun as they flew through the air. But before that sovereign could make his move, Qin Wentian already acted. An extremely cold light flickered in Qin Wentian eyes as his silhouette flickered, only a blurry image could be seen as he shuttled towards Shu Ruanyu.

When Shu Ruanyu saw Qin Wentian take the initiative to move towards her, an expression of extreme rage flashed through her eyes. The flames coating her palms intensified to the point it resembled molten lava, containing a blistering hot aura.

“Swish.” A violent wind kicked up as Qin Wentian erupted forth towards Shu Ruanyu.

“You’re seeking death.” Those molten, lava-like palms blasted out, aiming straight for Qin Wentian. The heat generated was so intense that it felt capable of burning even the Heavens.

Simultaneously, Qin Wentian slammed forth with both his palms as well. At that instant, his Yuanfu rumbled as the Astral Energy within was being frenziedly channeled through his arterial pathways. An overwhelming amount of Divine Inscriptions fused together and erupted outwards at the same time, manifesting into a gigantic sword of massacres as well as a terrifyingly gargantuan Roc, whose wings blotted out the sun.

The aura of destruction engulfed Shu Ruanyu, and she felt utter helplessness in the face of such a devastating attack. She unleashed a torrent of palm strikes, hoping to break apart the manifestations of the fused Inscriptions, but in the face of such impending danger, she had long forgotten about the Yellow Springs Monument. The monument explosively slammed into her, causing Shu Ruanyu to moan in agony as she involuntarily coughed out a mouthful of blood, her armor of flames finally shattering into fragments.

In the midst of that tempest of destruction, she could only see a single pair of demonic-looking eyes. And as their eyes met, she felt her mind being jolted by a powerful sense of electricity.

“SCRAM!” Although Shu Ruanyu anticipated that Qin Wentian would use this moment to initiate his attack, but what she hadn’t expected was how fierce his counterattack would be. If not, she would never have made the choice to enter close-combat against him.

“Chi...” A mouthful of boiling blood from Qin Wentian, splattered onto Shu Ruanyu’s face, causing her to instinctively close her eyes. In the next instant, a pair of palms filled with a terrifying energy directly slammed right into her chest, as waves of destruction were frenziedly channelled right into her body.

“BZZZ!” The violent flames combusted, Qin Wentian’s body was burning together as well.

“Do you wish to perish together?” A voice akin to the frost of winter penetrated through Shu Ruanyu’s mind, causing her heart to tremble. Qin Wentian didn’t take pity on her and relentlessly continued, grabbing her with one hand and slamming palm strikes into her with the other, each blow forcing more blood to flow out from her lips.

“RELEASE HER!”

A voice filled with incomparable rage thundered out. As the fourth-ranked bladed Puppet gave up on entangling Hua Xiaoyun’s protector and dashed towards Yang Fan back then, Qin Wentian had already caught hold of Shu Ruanyu. To those viewing from the side, it appeared as though Qin Wentian was hugging Shu Ruanyu in a tight embrace.

Witnessing such a scene, how could Yang Fan not be angered? Shu Ruanyu’s beautiful eyes widened in fright, as her countenance trembled.

She initially had an opportunity to break the hold, but the moment Qin Wentian’s words penetrated through her mind—“Do you wish to perish together?”—caused a slight moment of hesitation in her actions. Qin Wentian didn’t stand on ceremony and even took the opportunity to launch a few more attacks against her, suppressing her completely.

Similarly, Qin Wentian was also grievously injured. If he hadn’t made that desperate gamble on his life, he wouldn’t have the opportunity to suppress Shu Ruanyu at all. And now, the Astral Energy within the three Yuanfu in his body was all almost dried up. Only the Yuanfu corresponding with the Demon Sovereign still had Astral Energy left within it. But, considering this kind of intense battle, the amount of energy he had left wouldn’t be able to sustain him for much longer.

“You are Zhan Chen.” Bailu Jing’s voice suddenly cut through the void.

Qin Wentian’s eyes grew incomparably frigid as he gazed at the silver-masked swordsman, before shifting his gaze onto Yang Fan and Hua Xiaoyun who were near the surroundings.

It seemed like these Moon Continent people could no longer tolerate his existence. But, then again, what did he have to fear?!

As he thought of this, a harsh glint of ruthlessness flashed past his eyes!

Chapter 299: Only to kill you

Zhan Chen, a Heaven's Chosen from the Pill Emperor Hall.

Yang Fan, a Heaven's Chosen from the Star-Seizing Manor.

Hua Xiaoyun, even though he was nothing, his elder brother was Hua Taixu, the number one ranked on the Heavenly Fate Ranking.

These people all hated him. And from Zhan Chen's perspective, death was the best keeper of secrets, and he wanted to silence Qin Wentian for all eternity.

Maybe in Yang Fan's eyes, it didn't matter if Qin Wentian existed or not, but since they happened to meet each other here, he might as well finish him off.

If that was the case, this meant that he could no longer stay in the Moon Continent. Since he could no longer stay here, why fear?

"Hehe." Qin Wentian inclined his head, laughing mirthlessly, as he saw Hua Xiaoyun's protector dashing his way, "If you don't wish for her to die, you had better stand there obediently and not move a muscle."

"What has she got to do with me?" Hua Xiaoyun's protector coldly replied.

"You should say that to Yang Fan, not me." Qin Wentian continued laughing coldly. Hua Xiaoyun's protector froze, he no longer dared to act recklessly. Yang Fan would definitely not spare Qin Wentian if he truly killed this woman. Even a Heavenly Dipper Sovereign such as him wouldn't be able to evade the arms of the Star-Seizing Manor and would be swept up in Yang Fan's rage.

"Release her, and the grudge between us shall come to an end," Yang Fan icily stated.

“Make your move if you wish to. You only wish to settle the grudge between us now?” Qin Wentian’s frigid stare swept over Yang Fan. Release Shu Ruanyu? He might not even live to walk out of the Moon Continent.

He was vastly more experienced compared to before, so how could he believe the lies of his enemies so easily?

“Little Rascal, come here.” Qin Wentian gazed at Little Rascal, and within moments, Little Rascal dashed over with Fan Le and Chu Mang on its back.

“Release me.” Shu Ruanyu felt incomparably embarrassed at this moment. Qin Wentian held her tightly with his arms locked around her, their bodies glued to each other.

“Miss Shu is such a great joker.” Qin Wentian’s palm wavered as he slammed yet another palm strike into Shu Ruanyu. The terrifying might of that strike gushed inside her body, Shu Ruanyu’s body was involuntarily wrecked with pain.

“Didn’t Miss Shu want to kill me earlier? Stop saying things to make me laugh.” Qin Wentian diabolically grinned. Yang Fan expression turned grim and forbidding, the towering rage he exuded was palpable in the air.

He was feeling extraordinary shame and humiliation; Shu Ruanyu was his fiancée, yet she was locked in Qin Wentian’s grasp and subjected to his every whims and desire.

“If you dare to touch her again, no matter how slightly, I guarantee you won’t live to see tomorrow,” Yang Fan threatened.

“Being able to die with a beauty in my arms? I have no further regrets,” Qin Wentian sarcastically replied, no fear in his eyes.

Qin Wentian’s searing gaze swept through the space and landed on the silver-masked swordsman, before shifting back to Yang Fan as he smiled, “However, Yang Fan, your feelings for this woman seem genuine. At the very least, you are unlike Zhan Chen. You are many times better compared to him.”

“BZZZ!:

At the sound of his voice faded, a sword beam immediately slashed his way. Bailu Jing jumped in front of him to deflect the sudden attack, as Qin Wentian coldly laughed, “Seems like you are really Zhan Chen.”

The eyes of the silver-masked swordsman stiffened, knowing in his heart that he just fell for the trap. Qin Wentian then continued, “Zhan Chen, in the secret realm you were afraid to cross that barrier, hence you fed a medicinal pellet to your companion that would ignite her potential and force her to do your bidding. Eventually, you would have forced her to trigger the traps which would have resulted in her death. Yet, this secret of yours was discovered by me, and because you were too anxious to silence me, you became careless.”

After Qin Wentian’s voice had dissipated in the air, the crowd all word dumbfounded expressions on their faces as extreme shock rocked their hearts.

Zhan Chen was the one that personally killed his own companion?

Since Zhan Chen wanted to kill him so much, there was no need to keep this matter a secret any longer. Let’s see how he would explain the incident to the Pill Emperor Palace upon his return later on.

“That pitiful woman, despite knowing you have the heart of the wolf, she willingly consumed that medicinal pill and died for you. Zhan Chen, do you even have any remaining shreds of conscience in that blackened heart of yours?” Qin Wentian coldly stated. The silver-masked swordsman halted his actions, not daring to launch another attack. If he continued forward, it would erase all doubts that his identity was Zhan Chen.

Also, that would mean that there was truth behind Qin Wentian’s words.

Zhan Chen would never admit the fact outright, so even if the hatred within him had reached its boiling point, he would still choose to tolerate it. After all no one had seen his true self before, and as the perfect gentleman, Zhan Chen naturally wouldn’t stoop to actions like this, killing people to silence them.

However, in his heart, he had just sentenced Qin Wentian to death.

“Brother Jing, if in the future Zhan Chen makes a move against you, it can only mean that this silver-masked guy in front of us, is the very man himself.” Qin Wentian coldly smiled. Since Zhan Chen chose not to admit his past deeds, Qin Wentian would add even more coal into the fire. In future, if Zhan Chen dared to act rashly against him, it would mean confessing that he had done all that Qin Wentian claimed. If that happened, even the Pill Emperor Hall wouldn’t help him.

This breath of vengeance, Zhan Chen would only temporarily hold it in. He would never admit it was him even if he had to die, and the very fact of him coming masked to kill Qin Wentian was already sufficient to condemn him should his true identity be found out.

At this moment, his hatred for Qin Wentian could reach to the skies.

“You are dead for sure,” Hua Xiaoyun sneered as the expression on his face became increasingly wretched. Qin Wentian must be a madman; holding Yang Fan’s fiancée hostage and then exposing Zhan Chen’s secret. Whether or not his claims were true, Zhan Chen would absolutely seek his death.

There was no need for Zhan Chen to admit to his identity as the masked figure, or even to react to Qin Wentian’s accusation. He only had to declare that Qin Wentian was maliciously slandering him, and then no one would bat an eye if he chose to slay Qin Wentian.

Without a doubt, Qin Wentian was dead.

Qin Wentian didn’t bother himself with Hua Xiaoyun; he was staring in the direction of Qinger’s battle. Moments later, cracks appeared on the surface of the half-translucent golden lotus, as Qinger appeared once more.

That golden-armored Puppet was already destroyed, and the reason for its destruction was because it worked together with Qing`er to slay that enemy female who was also at the Heavenly Dipper level.

Using a Puppet in exchange for the life of a Heavenly Dipper Sovereign? Worth it.

Three out of four members of Heaven’s Destruction had already died, their assassination mission this time around had been a disaster.

And as for that remaining carriage driver, his eyes were filled with killing intent billowing stronger and stronger as he stared hatefully at Qing`er. Of all four in Heaven’s Destruction, his level of power was the highest.

“Go first,” Qinger’s melodious voice rang out. Qin Wentian knew that Qinger was talking to him.

“Nothing will happen to me.” Seeing Qin Wentian remaining motionless, Qing`er reiterated again, her voice brimming with a quiet confidence.

“I’m not worried about him,” Qin Wentian replied.

Qinger’s beautiful eyelashes fluttered. Qin Wentian couldn’t care less about the Heavenly Dipper Sovereign from the Heaven’s Destruction. He was more worried about the other powers from the Moon Continent, for example, the Star-Seizing Manor joining forces to kill Qinger.

“My master has given me a life-saving treasure...”

This time around, Qing`er’s voice directly channeled into Qin Wentian’s ears, as an expression of understanding flashed on his face.

Yeah, Qinger was Fairy Qingmei’s favorite disciple, how could she not have a few life-saving treasures on her? When Fairy Qingmei sent Qinger to protect him, she would have anticipated a few occasions where Qing`er might be in danger herself.

“Fine, I’ll kill one more before I leave,” Qin Wentian faintly replied, after which his gaze shifted into the direction of Hua Xiaoyun.

Because Hua Xiaoyun commanded his protector to bring him over to kill Qin Wentian earlier, his distance wasn’t that far away now from Qin Wentian’s current position. Currently, Qin Wentian’s fourth-ranked bladed Puppet was stationed in front of them, monitoring their actions.

Qin Wentian’s eyes were filled with a fearsome glacial light, and just a single glance caused Hua Xiaoyun’s soul to freeze. At this moment. Qin Wentian was helpless to defend himself, yet he was still thinking of killing him?

Fan Le and Chu Mang had completed their preparations, and arrows were already nocked in their bows, ready to be fired at a moment’s notice.

The countenance of Hua Xiaoyun’s protector sunk, grabbing Hua Xiaoyun as he begun to rapidly retreat. At the same time, the fourth-ranked bladed Puppet also rushed out.

Qing`er seemingly understood Qin Wentian’s intentions. With a wave of her hands, the will of her Mandate of Space flooded out, creating an invisible spatial wall in front of the space where Hua Xiaoyun and his protector were rushing towards to, causing the protector to slam into it. An instant’s delay, but the time it bought was already sufficient for the bladed Puppet to catch up.

Little Rascal’s silhouette flickered as it dashed towards Hua Xiaoyun with Qin Wentian and the rest on its back.

The purpose of Qin Wentian's visit to the Moon Continent was to slay Hua Xiaoyun. Now that Hua Xiaoyun was so near to him, how could he not seize this opportunity?

"You're crazy!" Hua Xiaoyun howled as he saw Qin Wentian getting nearer and nearer. Hua Xiaoyun's protector fended off the attacks of the bladed Puppet, and just as he was about to send forth a palm strike, he froze in mid-motion when he saw Shu Ruanyu being used as Qin Wentian's shield. If he attacked, the first one to die would be Shu Ruanyu.

"SCRAM!" With a roar of wrath, the protector slammed both his palms containing an overwhelming might onto the head of the bladed Puppet. In the next instant, something inside the Puppet cracked, and it began to tremble, as though it were imploding within.

At the same time, Qin Wentian's third eye appeared, radiating a golden light right into the eyes of Hua Xiaoyun.

Hua Xiaoyun's mind rumbled as he started in fear. The one that attacked him before wasn't Qing'er, but was Qin Wentian instead?

"BOOOOM!" His mind felt as though it were about to explode. Desperately clutching his head with his arm, Hua Xiaoyun howled in crazed agony. At the same time, a volley of arrows rained down upon them, and the protector's countenance drastically changed. With a huge roar, he released one of his palms from the Puppet and slammed it skywards, the might contained within exploded outwards, destroying the entire volley of arrows fired at them. It wasn't so easy for him to finally have a chance to destroy that damnable Puppet, but in order to save Hua Xiaoyun's life, he had no choice but to halt his destruction of the Puppet.

"ARGHH!"

That protector suddenly lets out a bloodcurdling scream. Qin Wentian's mind imprint had not completely faded away yet. At the same instant of that protector's attempt at defense, he had commanded the Puppet to pierce its arms forward, impaling the protector and skewering their bodies.

"RUMBLEEEEE~" The fourth-ranked Puppet self-destructed, the immolation engulfing the Heavenly Dipper Sovereign together in a sea of fire.

The creator of this fourth-ranked Puppet was too vicious; he actually hid a mechanism for self-destruction that would activate just before the Puppet was destroyed.

"HUA XIAOYUN!"

A roar thundered out, so loud that it could tremble the Heavens. Hua Xiaoyun forced himself to open his eyes through a haze of pain only to see Qin Wentian's finger piercing forwards. Right at that instant, boundless amounts of demonic qi spiralled about, gushing outwards, causing the entire space to darken. As that finger descended, the whole region was engulfed in an instant of darkness. The demonic qi was breaking apart the heavens!

"I journeyed to the Moon Continent for one purpose and one purpose only. I came here to kill you."

Hua Xiaoyun's mind was in a state of blankness, only the icy voice of Qin Wentian kept reverberating within.

Did he come all the way to the Moon Continent just to kill him?

"Chi!"

The Heaven Breaking Finger directly penetrated through Hua Xiaoyun's head, instantly reaping his life.

Although he wasn't that proficient in the Heaven Breaking Finger yet, his level of prowess was more than sufficient to slay Hua Xiaoyun with an attack that could penetrate through space.

Only Hua Xiaoyun's death would be sufficient atonement for what he did to Qingcheng. Qin Wentian spared nothing and sacrificed everything in Chu just to chase Hua Xiaoyun all the way to the Moon Continent, if for nothing else but to slay him.

The instant the Heaven Breaking Finger landed, Little Rascal had already turned and blasted off at top speed.

"Ugh..." Hua Xiaoyun's protector finally walked out of that sea of immolation. His body was horribly burned and embedded with countless bladed fragments.

That fourth-ranked bladed Puppet was no more, but he paid his life to kill it. And Hua Xiaoyun, the one he was supposed to protect, had already died. He had to escape now; the protector didn't even have the slightest inclination to kill Qin Wentian any more. He could only think about how to preserve his life. Since Hua Xiaoyun, a person of the direct lineage of Hua Clan had died under his protection, Hua Xiaoyun's parents and elder brother would surely take out their fury on him. He had to escape now!

The battle today could be said to have been extremely devastating—all of Qin Wentian's Puppets were destroyed, and he was also grievously injured in the process.

Yang Fan stepped out, chasing after Qin Wentian who wanted to escape, as he icily stated, "Release my companion."

"If you dare to pursue, try me and see if I don't dare to kill her. Let me go now and I, Qin Wentian, guarantee I won't harm a single hair on her head." Qin Wentian's voice drifted over.

"How can I trust you?"

"As his friend, I can vouch for the veracity of his character. He will definitely release Shu Ruanyu. You can take my life if he really kills her," Bailu Jing added. Qin Wentian was extremely moved—to allow Qin Wentian to leave with no impediments, Bailu Jing stepped out and made a promise with his life on the line.

How could Zhan Chen, a chosen who was ranked #11, be unable to defeat Bailu Jing? It was because Qin Wentian seized the initiative and called him out, resulting in Zhan Chen not daring to release his Astral Souls nor use his strongest innate techniques. Without using his full strength, he found it impossible to overpower Bailu Jing and hence had been locked in combat with him up till now, neither side gaining the advantage over the other.

"Fine, Qin Wentian, you better remember this. If anything happens to Shu Ruanyu, Bailu Jing and Bailu Yi will definitely die." The coldness of Yang Chen's voice was bone-chillingly cold.

"I, Qin Wentian, am a man of my words. Be that as it may, Yang Fan and Zhan Chen, I will definitely remember all that has happened today." The silhouette of Little Rascal soared through the skies and vanished in the horizon. Yang Fan halted his steps, staring into the distance.

All things considered, Qin Wentian was fortunate to barely survive. The appearance of Bailu Jing and Bailu Yu was a good indicator of the White Deer Institute's acceptance of him, but if he hadn't decided to take a gamble and hold Shu Ruanyu hostage, then Yang Fan alone would be enough to hold him back!

Chapter 300: Gazing at the Heavenly Fate Ranking

Yang Fan decided not to pursue him, there would be other opportunities to kill Qin Wentian in the future. Bailu Jing and Bailu Yi had an extremely close relationship with Qin Wentian, and now that they were in his hands, Yang Fan believed that Qin Wentian wouldn't dare do anything to Shu Ruanyu.

Qin Wentian wasn't worried as well. He had already accomplished the things he set out to do in the Moon Continent. Hua Xiaoyun was dead, and the White Deer Institute knew of his existence. There was also no need for him to worry about the Pill Emperor Hall and Star-Seizing Manor from making a move against him. After all, to the Pill Emperor Palace, the only person he offended was Zhan Chen and to the Star-Seizing Manor, the only person he had a grudge with, was Yang Fan.

The transcendent powers would never stoop down to interfere in matters relating to their junior generations. Ultimately, the one power that would bring danger to Qin Wentian was the Hua Clan. Although Hua Xiaoyun no longer had any status in his family, his parents and elder brother, Hua Taixu, definitely wouldn't let Qin Wentian get away with his murder.

This Moon Continent, it was no longer a safe place for him to stay in.

Speeding their way through, Little Rascal's speed was even more breath-taking now compared to before. They traveled straight through the closest available eastern path and exited the boundaries of the Moon Continent.

Amidst the clouds, Qin Wentian's gaze fell onto the countless buildings that made up the Moon Continent. In Grand Xia, there were thousands upon thousands of countries and great cities, and perhaps his deeds in the Moon Continent would only be considered as a miniscule ink stroke brushing across the records of history. Although his exploits were shocking, it couldn't be compared to those major events that revolved around Heavenly Dipper Sovereigns.

But despite how small and inconsequential he was, Qin Wentian's earlier words were powerful enough to cause a tsunami of commotion. Particularly within the Pill Emperor Hall, there were countless disciples discussing the matter regarding Zhan Chen.

Just as Qin Wentian had predicted, Zhan Chen naturally denied his involvement. He maintained an unyielding stance on the matter and repeatedly informed his master that Qing Yue's death solely lay at Qin Wentian's feet.

Whispers of these discussions eventually reached Mo Qingcheng's ears. Very swiftly, she was soon informed of Qin Wentian's escapades, as well as the price he had paid.

In the Pill Emperor Hall's grand hall, situated above 99 flights of stairs, Mo Qingcheng silently walked to her destination. Each step was filled with incomparable heaviness as the bright glint of unshed tears could be seen flickering in her eyes.

Only now did she find out that for her sake, Qin Wentian had slaughtered his way to the Moon Continent, giving up everything just to slay Hua Xiaoyun.

“I journeyed to the Moon Continent for one purpose and one purpose only, I came here to kill you.”

This simple sentence melted Mo Qingcheng’s heart, deeply setting her heart strings aflutter.

For whom did he come all this way, travelling over ten million miles from Chu to Moon Continent, just to slay Hua Xiaoyun?

It was for her, Mo Qingcheng!

She saw her master, Luo He, just ahead. Zhan Chen and his master were similarly present as well.

“Junior Sister has arrived.” Zhan Chen smiled at Mo Qingcheng, yet received an icy look in response, her eyes brimming with unshed tears. The coldness of that gaze could pervade even the bone, causing frigidness to seize Zhan Chen’s heart.

“Does Master know the identity of this fourth-ranked Grandmaster that Senior Zhan Chen keeps referring to?” Mo Qingcheng looked straight at Luo He.

Luo He glanced at her disciple with astonishment in her eyes, “Wait, Qingcheng, are you saying that you’re acquainted with that Grandmaster?”

“Master has also seen him before, back in Chu when I was in a state of unconsciousness from being grievously injured,” Mo Qingcheng calmly spoke, glancing to Bai Fei who stood at the side of Luo He. “Senior Bai Fei should also know of him.”

Bai Fei’s beautiful lashes fluttered. At this moment, she understood that Mo Qingcheng already knew everything.

“Bai Fei, what’s going on?” Luo He questioned, only to see Bai Fei lowering her head before she replied, “Qin Wentian was the male I’ve mentioned to Master before, Junior Qingcheng’s boyfriend back in Chu.”

A bright light flashed past Luo He's eyes. The rumors of that amazing talented fourth-ranked Grandmaster that caused a commotion in the Moon Continent, it was none other than Qingcheng's past companion?

"Zhan Chen says that Qing Yue's death was caused by him, yet Qin Wentian countered this and said that the death of Qing Yue was orchestrated by Zhan Chen. Regardless of the Pill Emperor Hall's attitude towards this matter, I, of course, fully believe his words." Mo Qingcheng's words instantly caused Zhan Chen's countenance to turn dark with hostility. He stated, "Junior Sister, are you implying that I harmed Qing Yue?"

"Don't refer to me as your Junior Sister. There's no relationship between us," Mo Qingcheng coldly shot back.

"IMPUDENT!" Luo He berated, but Mo Qingcheng merely turned her serene gaze onto her, "Master, he disregarded everything and killed Hua Xiaoyun. You should understand why. Even the deterrence of Hua Taixu wasn't sufficient to dissuade him. All that he has done, it was all for my sake."

Luo He's countenance trembled slightly, her eyes involuntarily blinked as she thought back to the vengeance between Hua Xiaoyun and Mo Qingcheng. "For your sake?"

"He said the reason why he came to the Moon Continent, was only to slay Hua Xiaoyun. From Chu to here, all the way through ten million miles, he did it for me." A gentle smile of unmatched radiance blossomed on Mo Qingcheng's face.

"Yet now... my sect, the Pill Emperor Hall, actually wants to kill him."

As she continued, Mo Qingcheng's tone dropped by several degrees. "I know Master is very good to me, I respect Master, but long before I was even acquainted with Master, I had already fallen in love with him. He would traverse ten million miles for Qingcheng to the Moon Continent, disregarding everything to kill Hua Xiaoyun. So if anything really happened to him, your disciple shall do the same thing, no matter the cost. Even if I end up branded with the title of an unfilial disciple, I would avenge him. Disciple really doesn't wish to betray the Pill Emperor Hall, and so I beg Master to forgive me for my disrespect."

After speaking, Mo Qingcheng bowed to Luo He as she added in a low voice, "Your disciple shall take her leave."

Mo Qingcheng turned and departed, while Luo He was so angered that her body was involuntarily trembling. She cursed in a low voice, “Damn!”

How could Luo He not be angered? She had sacrificed several things for Mo Qingcheng, yet without hesitation Mo Qingcheng said she would become a traitor should the Pill Emperor Hall decide to kill Qin Wentian.

Zhan Chen turned ashen, how could his plans succeed now? With Qin Wentian, there would never be a place for him in Mo Qingcheng’s heart. And today, because of Qin Wentian, Mo Qingcheng had become his enemy.

“Qin Wentian.” An intense hatred boiled in his heart, yet his countenance remained calm, every bit as elegant as the gentleman he appeared to be on the surface. “Master, Senior Marital Aunt, Disciple doesn’t wish to explain too much. In any case, my cultivation has met a bottleneck recently, so I wish to go out for a period of time to temper myself, as well as prepare the resources needed to break through to the Heavenly Dipper Realm.”

“Right, just focus on this for now. Try to make your breakthrough within a year and don’t let yourself be distracted by this matter.” Zhan Chen’s master patted him on his shoulder, trying to console him. The Heavenly Dipper Realm was a major watershed, there were several people who were unable to cross this threshold in the entirety of their lives. For someone with Zhan Chen’s talent, stepping cross the threshold wasn’t a problem, it was only a matter of sooner or later.

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Five days later, Qin Wentian was currently residing in a cave dwelling situated in a mountain range, ten thousand miles away from the Moon Continent.

Near this mountain range, there was a small country. With the vastness of Grand Xia, there were countless little countries that dotted the entire region. Some of these countries might have the shadow of transcendent powers behind them, akin to Chu back when they were under the administration of the Nine Mystical Palace.

Outside the cave dwelling, Qin Wentian sat cross-legged, both hands clutching a Yuan Meteor Stone. He had released his Astral Souls and the stones served to aid him in absorbing more Astral Energy. The blood within his body surged; the past few days of meditation had quickened his recovery, and now his injuries were almost healed.

“When are you going to release me?” A figure clad in a fiery red skirt walked out of the cave dwelling. Naturally, this woman was none other than Shu Ruanyu. Currently, her countenance had already regained a sliver of color, but she still looked as haggard as before.

“Why are you in such a hurry?” Qin Wentian opened his eyes, glancing at Shu Ruanyu. “Miss Shu, just rest and nurse your injuries.”

“Damn you.” Shu Ruanyu turned green. During these few days, she didn’t even dare close her eyes to rest. That damnable fatty’s gaze would always roam lecherously over her body, and she wanted nothing more than to gouge his eyes out.

Qin Wentian stood up, walking towards Shu Ruanyu. As she saw Qin Wentian advancing towards her, she involuntarily stepped backwards, as an expression of bashful anger appeared on her face. She glared at Qin Wentian, “What are you planning to do?”

Qin Wentian stopped only when he came face to face with Shu Ruanyu. She clenched her teeth, as an expression of fear flashed past her eyes, while fluctuations of Astral Energy emanated forth from her body.

“If you dare touch me or kill me, Bailu Yi and Bailu Jing will accompany me in death,” Shu Ruanyu threatened.

“Let me remind you again, don’t disturb me when I’m concentrating on cultivating.” Qin Wentian added indifferently, his gaze roaming disinterestedly over Shu Ruanyu’s figure. “And also, I have zero interest in you.”

After concluding his speech, Qin Wentian turned and returned to his original location before sitting down cross-legged. His actions caused Shu Ruanyu to clench her fist tightly, as her countenance grew incomparably ugly to behold. This damned bastard.

“Since you’ve already placed that Inscription on me, could you at the very least allow me to recover my cultivation?” Shu Ruanyu persisted. Qin Wentian had placed a formation on her body that slowed her circulation of Astral Energy tremendously. Even now, her injuries had yet to recover. The Astral Energy in her Yuanfu was still nearly as empty as before.

“You are not a gentleman at all, how could you do this to a weak girl like me?” Seeing that Qin Wentian wasn’t going to bother with a reply, Shu Ruanyu doggedly continued on.

“Fatty,” Qin Wentian abruptly called out. In the next moment, Fan Le descended from the skies. It only took a look from Fan Le before Shu Ruanyu snapped her mouth shut, immediately turning and walking back into the cave dwelling.

“Little Rascal and Big Bro Mang aren’t back yet?” Qin Wentian inquired, looking at Fan Le.

“Big Bro Mang has too much strength, I guess he must have forgotten the time and is having fun clashing with all the demonic beasts in this mountain range.” Fan Le grinned as a hint of laughter appeared in his eyes. He then continued, “If we go on eastwards, after passing by a few more countries, we will arrive at the Azure Continent.”

“Azure Continent.”

Qin Wentian had a look of contemplation on his face. The Azure Emperor Palace was situated within the Azure Continent. It was just that currently, the Azure Emperor Token no longer held the same meaning it did a millennia ago. Not only that, although the Azure Emperor Palace was still a transcendent palace, the disparity between now and then was too great.

Other than the Azure Emperor Palace, the Ouyang Aristocrat Clan was located in the Azure Continent as well.

“If you wish to obtain the top three rankings in the Heavenly Fate Ranking, you definitely have to temper yourself throughout the entirety of Grand Xia.” Fan Le’s expression also turned serious as he stated to Qin Wentian, “The White Deer Institute may very well become the first power under your control.”

Qin Wentian nodded in agreement. He would definitely fight for the top three rankings in the Heavenly Fate Ranking.

Bailu Jing appeared that day because the White Deer Institute wanted him to personally pass on their message to Qin Wentian.

After many days of discussion by the doyen-level elders, they finally formed a consensus. There was no question regarding Qin Wentian’s talent in the Dao of Divine Inscriptions, and if he could achieve one of the top three rankings in the Heavenly Fate Ranking, the White Deer Institute would follow him wholeheartedly, obeying his every command.

And to show their decisiveness, the supreme elder which was Bailu Tong's father, had already been dismissed from office, replaced by another doyen-level elder.

This news was undoubtedly of extreme importance to Qin Wentian. With the White Deer Institute's support, his power and prestige would be greater, smoothing down his path to uniting the other 'hidden' branches of the Azure Faction!