

Ancient GM 431

Chapter 431: Appearance of Fairy Qingmei

The stories of Qin Wentian's deeds circulated around Grand Xia, yet Qin Wentian himself seemed to have disappeared from the face of earth.

There were rumors that stated that a celestial beauty appeared in the Pill Emperor Hall and whisked him away. But naturally, the veracity of this rumor couldn't be verified.

It was unknown whether Qin Wentian lived or died.

It was also unknown whether Mo Qingcheng lived or died.

Some said that both had already fallen, while others said that Qin Wentian was still alive, waiting for a chance to storm into the Pill Emperor Hall once more to seek revenge for Mo Qingcheng.

Time slowly flowed on. Today, a news of great importance in the Demon Continent caused a great deal of commotion.

In the area of desolation outside the Demon Continent, there was someone who saw a maiden of unsurpassed beauty carrying a great roc upon her back, slowly soaring through the skies with immense effort. And whenever she stopped for a break, she would involuntarily cough out blood. Such an emotional scenario touched the onlookers, causing them to feel a pain in their hearts.

When this news circulated throughout the Demon Continent, the hearts of many were roused with suspicions. A celestial maiden carrying a gigantic great roc? Could it be that the rumors of what happened in the Pill Emperor Hall was real?

Upon hearing this news, there were several people that immediately rushed out to the region outside the Demon Continent to investigate, yet they didn't find any traces of a celestial maiden carrying a great roc on her back.

In the blink of an eye, another month passed. From the time where Qin Wentian executed that earth-shattering, heaven-shaking deed at the Pill Emperor Hall, it had already been a total of three months.

Near the forested mountain region of the Demon Continent, there were many adventurers and risk-takers about. Yet, even they didn't dare to venture too deeply into its depths, there was too much danger hidden within.

And today, in the depths of the wilderness region, atop an ancient mountain, a gigantic silhouette could be seen lying there, so huge that it resembled a mountain. The eyes of this gigantic silhouette shone like torches, yet they contained an icy coldness within that was mixed with streaks of sorrow.

If one got even closer to it, they would discover, to their great shock, that this gigantic silhouette belonged to a great roc.

And this great roc was naturally none other than Qin Wentian.

After that battle that day, his body and constitution suffered grievous damage. Even though he was already a great roc and had immense vitality, he had almost lost his life. Luckily for him, the power of his bloodline was too monstrous, slowly allowing him to rejuvenate. After three months, he finally awoke, and as for the injuries on his body, they were gradually disappearing as well.

Although the fire of his life hadn't faded, his heart was cold. Qingcheng, was she still there?

With every passing thought, the sorrow in his heart got even more cutting. His gaze was like the edge of a blade, he wanted nothing more than to slaughter his way up the Pill Emperor Hall once more.

But where had the pill Qingcheng refined with her life force gone to?

As he was unconscious, Qin Wentian had no idea of how the events played out after he fainted. He thought that he would surely die, yet when he awoke, he realised that he was on the delicate frame of a fairy-like maiden. Qing'er had been carrying him on her back.

In the distance, a wind gusted by, only to bring a flickering yet beautiful silhouette, instantly appearing before the great roc. In her hands were some medicinal herbs that she wanted to feed to Qin Wentian.

Qin Wentian stared at Qinger, opening his beak and allowing Qinger to place the herbs inside. After which, she crouched before him, preparing to carry him again.

“Qing`er.”

At this moment, the great roc spoke, causing Qing`er’s countenance to falter as she slowly walked to the side of him and stood there quietly.

She was still the same as before, a woman of few words.

Qin Wentian spoke in a low voice, “There’s no need to carry me, I just need a few more days of rest before my injuries fully recovered. But what actually happened during the time I was unconscious? And as for Qingcheng, what happened to her...?”

Qing`er gazed at Qin Wentian, shaking her head as she candidly replied, “I don’t know what happened to her.”

She truly didn’t know. She was only clear that there was an extremely powerful expert who told her not to tell Qin Wentian. She believed that the mysterious figure meant no harm and was instructing her like this for Qin Wentian’s sake. As for Mo Qingcheng, Qing`er wasn’t that clear of what happened to her.

Qin Wentian lapsed into silence. His gaze shifted as he stared once more at the horizons.

Qinger could clearly sense the sorrow in Qin Wentian’s heart, yet she didn’t know what she should say to comfort him. Both of them basked in the silence for a long time and only after several moments did Qinger add, “Maybe, she’s still alive.”

Qin Wentian’s expression changed as he glanced at Qinger. However, he didn’t say anything and his hopeful expression also dimmed. Maybe Qinger was trying to console him.

“Qing`er, thank you.”

Qin Wentian mumbled, his words causing Qing`er’s body to tremble slightly. After which, she just sat on the ground, quietly accompanying Qin Wentian.

In the past, she was always extremely mysterious and would never appear or interact with him, unless there's a good reason to. But now, she actually voluntarily sat down beside Qin Wentian. She could feel the sadness and sorrow in his heart that was tormenting him.

The actions of Qin Wentian in the Pill Emperor Hall had been personally witnessed by her.

Right now, she felt truly exhausted, sitting there like that. As the night arrived, Qing`er closed her eyes and drifted into sleep. Her delicate frame lightly leaned upon Qin Wentian's body. Even in sleep, her beauty was extremely dazzling.

Qin Wentian sighed. In his heart that was drowned by sorrow, he felt slightly moved by Qing`er's actions.

He obviously knew that Qing`er was injured. Not only that, her injury wasn't light. Yet, she still continued to carry him on her back, all the way from the Moon Continent to the forested mountain regions outside the Demon Continent.

Humans weren't made of stone or wood. How could Qin Wentian not be moved?

The gentle rays of the sun cascaded down onto the area, as the myriad beings in the forest stirred to life. Today, Qin Wentian could finally stand up with his own strength and slowly walked forwards. Qing`er was beside him, walking together with him, ready to lend her aid if needed.

A few days later, Qin Wentian's speed gradually increased.

And a few more days after that, he could spread his wings and sustain flight. In the middle of the air, soaring through the clouds, Qing`er sat on his back as she gazed at the scenery below.

During evening, the moon rose and cast its sparkling luminescence onto the forested mountains.

In this forest, there were a few experts currently making their way through it. These were all adventurers who came to hunt demonic beasts.

One of them casually glanced at the rising moon, and as his eyes shifted, he instantly froze as though he just witnessed an incredible thing.

On the peak of an ancient mountain ahead, there was a huge rock. Atop that huge rock, a gigantic roc was standing there, staring at the heavens. The blackness of its body, strangely contrasted beautifully with the silvery moonlight, constituting a picture so beautiful that it caused one to be breathless.

Not only that but there was also an extremely beautiful silhouette beside the great roc. Right now, her features were no longer masked; her countenance was so unmatched that it could only be described as 'out of this world.'

A celestial maiden standing together with a tyrannical great roc. The powerful impact this scene gave to the onlooker was way too intense.

"Hmm, what's going on?" His companions asked, and as they followed his sight, as their eyes fixated on that ancient mountain, they too froze as their attention was totally attracted there.

The celestial maiden walked to the back of the great roc and sat there. The great roc spread its 3,000 metre wings and abruptly flapped it, causing a massive wind to roar through the forest, as it shot straight up the skies, looking as though it wanted to fly towards the moon.

The speed of the roc was astonishingly quick, causing terrifying gusts of wind to buffet Qing`er, yet she remained quietly sitting there, admiring the scenery from the air.

"How beautiful." Qing`er stretched out her hand, trying to catch the silver light, only to discover that it was impossible.

"The secret art you used...are you unable to turn back into a human?" Qing`er murmured, her voice drifting into Qin Wentian's ears.

"The Demon Divinity Sacrificial Transformation Art allows me to form an innate connection with the demon divinities of all eight directions, granting me ridiculous amounts of power. The price of I have to pay is this. This secret art is irreversible," Qin Wentian flew on, as he replied. Yet his heart was sighing as well.

Although his power skyrocketed after transforming into a true demon, he, who was originally a human, how could he be willing to live out the rest of his life as a demon?

“There will surely be a solution.” Qing`er mumbled softly as a look of contemplation flickered in her eyes.

“So what if I have to live forever as a demon? A sky sovereign roc, the sovereign of the skies. Even as a demon, I want to be the overlord of the skies.” Qin Wentian’s voice contained a hint of fierceness, his wings flapped even more furiously as he zoomed forwards like a bolt of lightning.

After a moment of silence, Qing`er continued, “But I still want you to return to being a human...”

Qin Wentian trembled ever so lightly, as he flew onwards.

A human and a demon continued their journey. Finally, a vast demon city appeared in the wilderness, plainly visible when looking down from the skies.

Within the Celestial Lake Palace, a massive windstorm suddenly kicked up as a terrifying great roc descended suddenly from the heavens. The countenance of the members of the Celestial Lake Palace underwent a drastic change, letting out exclamations of alarm when they felt the tyrannical aura the great roc was emitting.

“Wait, isn’t that Qing`er?”

At this moment, their gazes shifted onto the silhouette mounted on the great roc’s back. Only then did their nervousness dissipate, as their heart started beating normally once again.

“Qing`er actually returned on the back of such a powerful roc!” Several figures crowded forwards. The great roc let out a shrill cry; great gusts of wind billowed about, as it landed in the vast courtyard. Its large eyes swept over the surroundings, causing those who saw it to tremble in their hearts.

At this moment, a few figures slowly flew over in the air. The person in the lead was a woman of extreme beauty, exuding an aura of imposingness.

Only to see the her gaze was fixated on that great roc, as a warmth and gentleness could be seen in her eyes. When she arrived next to Qin Wentian, her solemn countenance faded, replaced by one of concern, “Child, it has been tough on you.”

Qin Wentian's countenance flickered as bewilderment flashed past his eyes. That beautiful woman in the lead smiled and added, "My name is Qingmei."

"Fairy Qingmei!"

A bright glow of light glinted in Qin Wentian's eyes, he opened his mouth and greeted, "Junior pays his respect."

Fairy Qingmei stretched her hands out and gently caress his head before sighing and shifting her gaze to the female figure on Qin Wentian's back. "Qing`er, are you alright?"

Qing`er lightly shook her head but didn't say anything.

The other members of the Celestial Lake Palace stood there stunned, Fairy Qingmei actually personally showed up? Not only that why was she so gentle towards the primordial great roc?

Who was this great roc exactly?

The Celestial Lake Palace's location was situated in an extremely remote part of the Demon Continent, deep in the depths of the forested regions. They had almost no dealings with external powers and hence, any news of Grand Xia wouldn't be delivered to them in a timely fashion. Other than Fairy Qingmei and a few selected people, none of the other members knew of what happened to the Pill Emperor Hall.

"Everything that you see now must be kept an absolute secret." Fairy Qingmei instructed, her voice carried the ring of command, resounding in the air.

"Understood, Fairy." Fairy Qingmei was like a legend to them, a vast majority of them had never even met Fairy Qingmei before. Naturally, they held her with great reverence in their hearts, how could any of them disobey her commands?

"Come with me." Fairy Qingmei then turned her attentions back to Qin Wentian and Qing`er, before turning and walking away.

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Chapter 432: Qing`er, a Princess?

Fairy Qingmei brought Qin Wentian and Qing`er to a beautiful garden landscape. Now that Qin Wentian had the form of a great roc, there were no buildings large enough for him to fit in.

“This should be the Demonic Divinity Sacrificial Transformation right?” Fairy Qingmei who was leading the way suddenly halted her steps, glancing back at the great roc.

The great roc lightly nodded its head, “This is a secret art I obtained in the Vermilion Bird Formation World, the Demonic Divinity Sacrificial Transformation Art. This art allowed me to form a connection with the Demonic Divinities in all eight directions, turning me into a primordial demon, allowing my strength to skyrocket explosively. In my current state, the power of the bloodline in my body could be said to have been perfected. The only drawback is that the transformation is irreversible.”

“I’ve once heard of this secret art, indeed it’s truly tyrannical and I would never have expected that you would barge into the Pill Emperor Hall all alone, and taking on your current form.” Fairy Qingmei sighed, “During the ancient era, the power of the Ancient Grand Xia was many times stronger even when compared to all thirty-six of the transcendent powers added together. Since this is a secret art from that era, if they said it’s irreversible, it’s irreversible. Even I who have lived for thousands of years, do not have a method for you to recover.”

Qing`er frowned when she heard Fairy Qingmei’s words. Qin Wentian’s countenance remained as calm as ever as he stated, “No matter. I can still live as a supreme primordial demon.”

Fairy Qingmei stared up at the skies, looking back on her memories as she mumbled, “You and the Azure Emperor are truly similar. The him back then, also had no background to speak of, yet his natural disposition was that of an untamed steed. He didn’t like people to bind him, preferring to soar free throughout the entire Grand Xia, unfettered by others. Because of his temperament, he offended many, there were even some that were jealous of his talent. In the end, in order to contend with the others, he set up the Azure Emperor Palace with the power of one man. Yet sadly, in the end, the genius of a generation still couldn’t avoid death.”

“Although you and the Azure Emperor have different experiences, both of you are one of a kind, just as outstanding as each other. I don’t wish for you to follow in his footsteps.” Fairy Qingmei slowly spoke, the Azure Emperor’s downfall was her greatest pain.

Qin Wentian stayed silent, he had long known that Fairy Qingmei’s love for the Azure Emperor was exceedingly deep. If not, after three thousand years, any emotions between them should have already faded. Why was he still constantly on her mind? She still couldn’t forget the Azure Emperor.

“Although my strength is extraordinary, I’m also very clear that at my current level, to break through to the next level is no longer a matter of absorbing external energy sources. The Celestial Phenomenon Realm requires one to walk through it step by step, deepening their comprehensions and insights of the constellations they had chosen. I’m already at my limit and it’s almost impossible for me to advance anymore. Hence, I can only lay my hopes on the younger generation, and you...are none other than the successor of the Azure Emperor.”

“Since he has chosen you. I don’t wish for you to remain in this form forever. After all, I wish that the Azure Emperor Hall would reemerge with their former glory and prominence, standing at the pinnacle of Grand Xia. Maybe, these are nothing but my own selfish wishes..” Fairy Qingmei mumbled to herself before turning and departing the area.

Qing`er’s expressions flickered. She glanced at Qin Wentian before adding in a low voice, “I’ll go take a look.”

After speaking, she also stepped out, following after Fairy Qingmei.

Qin Wentian inclined his head, staring at the skies. His huge eyes flashed with a sense of loss. Only the thoughts of revenge kept him continuing on now.

“Bzzz!” A raging wind kicked up. The great roc flapped its wings and soared up into the skies.

Fairy Qingmei and Qing`er halted their steps, looking at the silhouette of the great roc flying in the skies, sighing in their hearts.

“This young man has terrifying talent and an even more terrifying will. As a human, he was a human above humans, as a demon, he also wishes to be the overlord of demons.” Fairy Qingmei sighed as she continued, “Sadly, even I who have been alive for so long, have no methods that I know of which would be able to help him.”

“I can try.”

Qing`er softly spoke, her words causing Fairy Qingmei’s eyes to flicker with a sharp glint of light. “Are you going to look for them?”

Qing`er didn’t looked at her master, but rather, she remained silent.

“You should know the reason why I chose to relocate here. If you went to look for them of your own volition, I’m afraid... and, how do you even know they would agree?”

“They will.”

Qing`er treated words like gold, she was a woman of few words. But once she said something, she would definitely make sure to achieve it.

“No. I don’t agree.” Fairy Qingmei vehemently rejected, “Even if they have a solution, they would surely take you away from me. I will never permit that to happen ever.”

“They won’t.” Qing`er lightly shook her head, staring at the great roc flying in the skies.

“I still want to see him dominating Grand Xia.” In Qing`er’s ice like tone, Fairy Qingmei could hear a resolute determination. Looking at her beloved disciple, Fairy Qingmei felt intense waves crashing into her heart.

She understood Qing`er too well.

Once she set her mind to something, nobody could change it. Not even her, her master.

However, she knew of Qing`er’s true background. The energy sealed in her body was powerful enough to even cause an existence like her to feel breathless. As to why Fairy Qingmei ordered Qing`er to protect Qin Wentian back then, she actually had her own motives in mind. Just like what she said to Qin Wentian earlier, she too, wanted the Azure Emperor Palace to rise up again in Grand Xia.

It was because of him she chose to live on for three thousand years, helping his successor to fulfil his legacy.

Three thousand years of conviction and resolution. To Fairy Qingmei, the importance of the Azure Emperor eclipsed everything, even more important to her than Qin Wentian or Qing`er, and even her own life.

However, now that Qing`er was planning to reveal herself, Fairy Qingmei felt a strong sense of extreme reluctance. She didn’t want Qing`er to be taken away. She had long treated Qing`er as she would her own daughter.

“Master, wait for me.” Qing`er stated in a low voice as her silhouette flickered, vanishing from this place. Fairy Qingmei only felt an indescribable emotion in her heart as she stared in the direction Qing`er was speeding off to.

A few hundred miles outside the Demon Continent, there was a land completely filled with mist, a stand-alone region.

Half a year ago, this location was the same as any other place – a forested haven for the demonic beasts. But abruptly, a strange mist descended on this area. When humans and demonic beasts entered the misty region, they could discover nothing except for the fact that the mist would disorient them and only after a long while would they be able to find their way back out.

Hence after that, nobody came to this place. Even the demonic beasts avoided it.

However at this moment, a figure of unmatched beauty slowly descended from the heavens, landing outside the region of mist.

This figure was none other than Qing`er. She stood there just like that, outside the region of mist, serenely and silently, as though she was waiting for something.

A moment later, a number of silhouettes appeared before her.

These silhouettes were all females of extreme beauty and clad in white. They arranged themselves in two rows, coming before Qing`er, kneeling on a single knee as they respectfully greeted, “Paying respects to Princess.”

“I`m not.”

There was no fluctuations to Qing`er`s countenance as she replied in an icy tone.

“Princess, if you please.” Two rows of figures knelt by both sides, leaving a gap in the middle where Qing`er stood.

Qing`er didn`t reply but continued standing there, those figures continued kneeling quietly as well, to the point where the silence felt somewhat terrifying.

In the distance, a sharp glow flashed as a pair of eyes stared over in this direction. That pair of fiery eyes belonged to an extremely powerful demonic beast, a flame-eyed rhino.

However at that instant, one of the kneeling figures frowned as she shifted her gaze onto that rhino. In the blink of an eye, that figure disappeared from sight. An instant later, a blood curdling shriek echoed out as the rhino who had a cultivation base at the peak of Yuanfu was destroyed in an instant.

That figure who acted earlier returned to her original spot, silently and noiselessly, without even a speck of dust on her body. It was as though she had never left her position and had always been kneeling there.

“Sha sha sha...”

Shuffling sounds rang out as a few figures walked out from the mist. An old man, and two young men.

“Paying respect to the princess.” The old man bowed to Qing`er, while the two young men knelt on a single knee, with expressions of pure respect on their faces.

If these two young men were in Grand Xia, they would be cream of the crop, top among their generation. Yet at this moment, they knelt with sincerity in their hearts, with no hint of unwillingness.

“Princess, you can’t break that seal, you would only hurt yourself more.” The old man glanced at Qing`er as he gently admonished her.

“I need a kind of technique, or a special art.” Qinger stared directly at the old man, ignoring his words. She continued coldly, “The Demonic Divinity Sacrificial Transformation borrows the power of the demonic divinities and transforms one into a primordial demon, granting one an explosive increase in strength and allowing their bloodlines to be perfected. Yet, this is an irreversible change. I need a way to negate this.”
The old man’s eyebrows twitched as an expression of pondering appeared on his face. After which, he stated in a low whisper, “Princess, by all means, please remember never to lift that seal again, if not, the damage to your body isn’t something this old subject would be able to bear. As for Princess’s question, this demonic transformation art uses the power of the actual demonic divinities. Wanting to negate something like this is just too difficult, it might even be impossible.”
“I must negate it.” Qinger’s already cold voice dropped several degrees, her words causing the old man to lock his brows. After several moments of contemplation did he speak again, “To my knowledge, there’s only one possible way to negate this transformation. The method i’m speaking of, is a celestial art that allow one to cultivate another true-body, completely replicating himself. According to princess, even if the person in question had already transformed into a demon, the true-self he cultivates would use his original base as a mold. If he successfully cultivates this art, a new true-self for him would be birthed, able to exist simultaneously with his true demonic body together.”

“However, I’m sure princess have heard of the ability of this art before, and should be very clear of how precious it is. Even our clan might have to pay a terrible price, waging a heaven-shaking and earth-shattering great war before we can get hold of it.” That old man persuaded.

“That’s right, that’s the art I want.” Qing`er interjected, causing the old man to be speechless. This princess who had stayed away from their clan for so long might not have a clear idea on how

valuable the art is. With just two words, 'that's right', she replied him that that was the art she wanted.

But how could he acquire that so easily?

At this moment he was contemplating that for whose sake did Princess Qing`er want that art for.

Wasn't that person's luck too godly?

"I have to use the space array to report this matter up, awaiting the clan elder's decision. Not only that, I'm afraid I would require princess to come along with me, and for princess to personally discuss this with the elder." The old man bowed, with his head lowered, no longer saying anything.

"Okay."

Qing`er lifted her foot and walked to the front. She had no hesitation, her decisiveness causing the old man to be taken aback. When she neared the old man, he immediately opened up a path, allowing her to pass through.

"Go and investigate this matter clearly. For whose sake did the princess want this particular art."

That old man transmitted his voice to a girl in white who was still kneeling by the side. As Qing`er stepped into the mist, he waved his hand, giving a signal – the silhouette of the white robed maiden flickered, vanishing from sight, off to accomplish her delegation!

Chapter 433: Even as a Demon, I want to be the Emperor of all Demons

The vast desolate area of wilderness outside the Demon Mountain City was filled with dangers in every corner. However, inside the city, it was a place where powerful cultivators lived together in harmony with powerful demonic beasts.

After stepping into the Heavenly Dipper, the demonic beasts would be able to take the form of humans. There were some demons that were willing to wander the world in the form of a human, but there were also some that preferred to continue living in the world of demons.

Qin Wentian used the Demon Divinity Sacrificial Transformation, sacrificing his humanity and transforming himself in body and essence into a primordial demon. Even though he was at

Heavenly Dipper, it was impossible for him to turn back into a human. At this moment, he was in the world of demons, deep inside the forested regions.

Atop a huge rock, the great roc stood straight, with its eyes sharply gazing at a group of powerful demonic beasts before it.

“Scram!”

The great roc was staring at a Grand Earth Demon Bear. In the eyes of the great roc, there flickered with a supreme sense of majesty, like the monarch of all demons looking down on his subjects.

This Grand Earth Demon Bear was a bear king, a tyrant that was crowned king in an area of about a thousand miles. Upon seeing a great roc appearing on his territory, a brutal and icy intent flashed in its eyes, as an aura of bloodlust emanated forth from it.

However, the stature of the great roc was too immense; it resembled a sky sovereign roc from the ancient times, a demon emperor that was able to soar through the nine heavens. The dangerous aura Qin Wentian was exuding caused the bear king to feel extremely stifled. It didn't dare act rashly.

As the bear king looked, the eyes of the great roc flashed with a heavy disdain as it towered over the bear king. The demonic bear howled in anger, and instantly, the earth was shuddering from the impact, as the group of demon beasts that had submitted to the bear king rushed the great roc.

“BZZZ!” A massive wind kicked up, as a terrifying demonic qi gushed forth. The wings of the great roc spread, fanning out violently. In an instant, the surrounding demonic beasts were all buffeted by that terrifying windforce and sent flying away. The pupils of the demonic bear narrowed, feeling the threat represented by the great roc. It then retreated with explosive speed, only to see the great roc's silhouette flickering by then vanishing from the edge of its vision.

Roc Flash, this technique was now used by Qin Wentian and executed in his roc form. How terrifying was that? In just an instant, the sharp talons directly penetrated the flesh of the demonic bear, piercing its body and pulling the huge body of the bear up into the air.

With a shrill shriek, the great roc shot up towards the heavens, violently flinging the demonic bear out.

“BANG!” A thunderous sound resounded. The huge body of the demonic bear was blasted into a mountain far away, and the full force toss caused the entire mountain to crumble apart from the impact.

The great roc screeched in victory, zooming forward with impressive speed. When its altitude lowered, the forested regions below trembled. As the demonic beasts hiding within prostrated

themselves on the ground, they inclined their heads and stared at the terrifying silhouette in the skies, as though they were looking at their sovereign.

In the air, Qin Wentian imperiously gazed downwards, as his eyes swept over everything. Not even one of the demonic beasts below dared to match his gaze directly.

“BZZZZ!”

The angry howl of a raging wind echoed as the great roc landed atop an ancient mountain peak. His eyes felt as though they were capable of penetrating past everything. He stared at the demonic beasts below as he stated in a cold voice, “In this region of ten thousand miles, I am the Emperor. All demonic beasts can either scam from my territory, or come forth in worship. Now go, transmit my orders to others you find.”

This voice echoed with the ring of command, the sound waves drifting towards the distance, as the demonic beasts prostrated themselves in deeper reverence.

The law of the jungle was something the demonic beasts deeply believed in. The strong would be the leader.

And now, this primordial roc wanted to proclaim himself Emperor in an area of ten thousand miles, wanting the demonic beasts living within the region to come worship him.

“GO!” Seeing how the demonic beasts were still prostrating, not daring to move, the great roc suddenly howled its command. Instantly, the demonic beasts rushed off in all directions, their movements causing the entire forest to shake as they rushed to obey the great roc’s orders.

The great roc stared on impassively at the departing demonic beasts. Even as a demon, he also wanted to be the sovereigns of all demons within this region.

In this life, if he was never able to return to being a human, after he was strong enough, he would lead hordes of demonic beasts and trample the Pill Emperor Hall.

In this region that spanned ten thousand miles, thousands of demonic beasts came to the great roc in worship. Staring at the great roc on the ancient peak, all of them felt a vast magnificence bearing down on them as they prostrated themselves in worship, paying their respect to the sovereign of demons.

An immense commotion completely rocked the region, even the demonic bear who used to be the king of this region came to worship him. Flying beasts, as well as those on land, flooded the area, as this place suddenly became a gathering point for demons.

Such a scene involuntarily caused Qin Wentian to remember the scene in the Dark Forest when he was still back in Chu. Back then, the statue of an ancient demon made the demonic beasts within go forth in pilgrimage, to worship it. Under great risk to herself, Mo Qingcheng went into the depths of the forest looking for him, to tell him of the happenings in Chu. Even now, the scene back then was still vivid in his mind.

However, the grandness of today's views far exceeded the scene back then. There were even more demonic beasts here in the wilderness of the Demon Continent.

Despite the number, right now, this region was in total silence. The vast majority of the demonic beasts had submitted to Qin Wentian completely, not daring to randomly move about because the great roc standing atop the ancient peak had yet to speak.

Qin Wentian stared at the multitude of demons, singling out the strongest among them. These powerful demonic beasts were all hovering in the air with their heads lowered in deference to him.

In the air, below them, there were another group of demonic beasts, followed by the beasts prostrating themselves on the ground. These were the obvious tiers of power, with the strongest standing the highest in the air.

The strongest among these demonic beasts were all glaring at the great roc with sharpness in their gazes. The great roc shifted its gaze onto them as it coldly regarded these beasts. The might radiating from it caused these proud beings to lower their heads submissively. None dared to match its gaze.

Gradually, one after another submitted. This entire region was doused in silence, waiting for the great roc to speak.

"I desire to command the demonic beasts in this entire region. If you are unwilling to submit, get out of my sight. But if you are willing to serve under me, proclaim me as your Emperor." The voice of the great roc resounded out, and, in a moment, all of the demonic beasts prostrated themselves, indicating their willingness to follow him.

For these demonic beasts that came here today, they only had one intention. They hoped that there would be a powerful demon Emperor who was able to lead them. For those that stayed away, they had already left the region, as they were unwilling to submit.

"Before me, who were the kings of this ten thousand miles region?" The great roc emotionlessly spoke. As the sound of his voice faded, a total of nine extremely powerful demonic beasts came forward. The weakest among them had a cultivation base at the fifth level of Yuanfu.

Since they were each kings of an area, they naturally had power far above the other beasts.

“Good. The nine of you shall be the leaders under me, aiding me to govern the others. Since I said to govern, it means that I need you to be able to instill order. Are you able to accomplish it?” The command of the great roc was filled with commanding strength. The nine demonic leaders all bowed, and one among them spoke the speech of humans, “Emperor, we will follow your orders. However, the reason for the chaos among us was because there was no leader powerful enough to lead us all. Now that you are here, we will naturally follow you.”

“As for the other regions about the Demon Continent, each of them has an Emperor of their own. Frequently, they would lead their beasts and invade our region. What should we do if we encounter an invasion?”

“Eight among you shall be responsible for the governance, while the last group will familiarise yourself with the other regions and be in charge of strategy and information collection, keeping me updated with the happenings in the demon city.” The great roc stood on the peak of the mountain as it continued relaying its commands. The light in its eyes were extremely brutal, emanating an aura fit for an Emperor, resembling a true sky sovereign roc and causing the other demonic beasts to involuntarily submit.

Precisely, it was the sense of majesty that the great roc projected which made these demonic beasts willing to submit to it. One has to take in account that demonic beasts were chaotic in nature, and it was almost impossible for them to behave in an orderly manner.

But from this moment onwards, this region of ten thousand miles was re-organised, becoming the first ever bastion of Qin Wentian’s military might.

Qin Wentian fitted the structure of a human sect and educated the demon leaders under him of it. To make the demonic beasts grow stronger, firstly, they had to centralise their power.

Seven days later, the great roc demon emperor kicked off the first storm of commotion.

In the region outside of the ten thousand miles, there was another demon emperor. This demonic beast was an extremely powerful Scarlet-Winged Earth Dragon and was descended from one of the eight ancient demonic divinities. Undoubtedly, it ruled unchallenged in the skies and on the earth; its power enabled it to disdainfully look down on everything. The temperament of this beast was extremely cruel, in addition to having a greedy and lustful nature. It was only because he didn’t want any trouble, as well as the presence of the great roc, that it had not led its demonic beasts to take over the ten thousand mile region.

But now, the great roc actually wanted a war?

The two demonic regions erupted with storms of blood and gore as the fearsome beasts on both sides engaged in an all-out slaughter.

A massive serpent was exceedingly powerful, anything it sank its venomous fangs into would perish without a doubt.

However, right at that moment, in the location where the battle was being fought, a massive windstorm kicked up, as a terrifying demonic qi permeated the area. A group of demonic beasts all revealed looks of excitement on their faces, their newly crowned emperor had arrived.

As for the demonic beasts they were fighting against, all of their pupils narrowed as they stared at the great roc which abruptly appeared in the skies. The great roc coldly swept its gaze onto the participants of the bloody battle down below it.

“Bzzz!” A gust of wind billowed, as blood splattered in the air. That powerful serpent was directly sliced off into two. The sight of its death caused the battle in the surroundings to temporarily halt for a moment.

“Those invading my territory shall be killed without mercy.”

The great roc soared into the air, its killing intent gushing out endlessly, projecting an immense pressure pressing down on the enemies below. This overwhelming pressure caused a primal fear to erupt deep in their hearts. Even the stronger ones were no exception. One of them even prostrated itself straight on the ground, “I’m willing to submit.”

“BZZZ!”

A windstorm kicked up once more as a terrifying silhouette flashed through the skies. The Earth Dragon, that was prostrating, was sliced apart as the great roc once again appeared in the skies. “No surrender shall be granted to those that slay my subjects. DIE!”

As the sound of its voice faded, instantly, the opposing demonic beasts were all slaughtered before they could even blink, leaving only a single survivor behind. “Tell your emperor to come, i will be waiting for him.”

After speaking, the silhouette of the great roc flickered as it vanished. The oppressive might of its actions caused the reputation of the great roc to soar immeasurably.

In the blink of an eye, another few days passed. The great roc stood on the ancient peak together with a beautiful silhouette beside him. That silhouette belonged to none other than Fairy Qingmei. She glanced at the great roc as her heart trembled. She didn't expect Qin Wentian would actually conquer all the demonic beasts in the external regions.

Maybe, this was because of his mettle, or maybe, this was because he lack a better option.

Even as a demon, he wanted to be one above all, an overlord of demons. Since he wanted revenge, he might as well start things off by building up an army, showing his strength of character.

"Qinger has yet to return, even I have no idea where she went." Fairy Qingmei silently sighed, her face painted with worry for Qinger. Comment by Lord Bluefire: a little weird, followed the raws exactly. Anyway to reword?

However at this moment, a raging wind kicked up as the great roc soared into the skies.

"Senior," The great roc spoke, as Fairy Qingmei nodded her head, "Is there something you need my help with?"

"Could you aid me in investigating the movements of Zong Clan from the Sword Reverence City as well as the White Deer Institute from Moon Continent? I might contact them any time." Qin Wentian stated.

"Fine, leave this to me." Fairy Qingmei agreed, "I will try my best to help out in all your requests."

After speaking, she turned and departed while Qin Wentian returned to where he stood earlier, awaiting for the arrival of the demon emperor from another region!

Chapter 434: The man named Qin Yuanfeng

Atop the mountain peak, the great roc stood upright, peering at the heavens, projecting an aura that made people want to fall on their knees.

There would be many demonic beasts that would frequent this place to pay their respects to the demon emperor great roc. The great roc who was standing at the peak of the mountains, could clearly feel the sense of loneliness of one that stood at the pinnacle.

He was supreme and unrivalled, staring down at the masses. Staring up at the heavens, he too felt a drive to break through this piece of sky to see what lies beyond it.

The sky sovereign roc resented the fact that the heavens were too low, and died due to repeated collisions against the ceiling of heavens. If the great roc could break through that barrier, how good would that be?

Today, a raging wind gusted as a fearsome demonic might gushed over. The great roc continued staring at the skies, not even bothering to glance at the oncoming threat. He was like the overlord of demons, in his eyes only the sky exists. He would no longer place any of the other primordial demons in his sight.

“ROAR!”

A roar of rage echoed out, only to see that in front of the mountain, an immense figure roughly the size of the great roc appeared.

Scarlet wings, a malevolent countenance, a horn that radiated sharpness as well as eyes that outlined the brutality and coldness of its temperament. This was none other than the demon emperor of the other region, Scarlet-Winged Earth Dragon.

As a demon descended from one of the ancient demonic divinities, it was also the first time it saw a primordial great roc.

“Do you think you are powerful enough to proclaim yourself the Emperor of this region?” A glacial voice spat out. Its body was akin to a small mountain, it was unknown how heavy it was.

Only now did the great roc shift its eyes onto the Earth Dragon. Coldness erupted in those large eyes, causing the other demonic beasts to tremble. Even the followers of the Earth Dragon bowed in submission when they felt the aura generated by the great roc.

“Before he arrived here, did he slay any of my demonic subjects?” Qin Wentian questioned.

“He did not.” A underling of Qin Wentian replied. Upon hearing this, the Earth Dragon roared, “This emperor couldn’t be bothered with them.”

The eyes of the great roc bored down onto the Earth Dragon, as it spoke in a soft voice, “Submit, or die.”

The Scarlet-Winged Earth Dragon trembled with fury, an instant later, the pressure was punctuated by a thunderous roar as the earth shuddered violently. A power channeled from the geomagnetic core of the world generated an earthquake that rocked the area. The mountain peak Qin Wentian was standing on shook violently as well, appearing as though it would crumble any moment.

Astral Warbeasts were different to humans, they were born with certain abilities in certain spheres of domains. For this Scarlet-Winged Earth Dragon, it was gifted with the talent to control both fire and earth, and could absorb astral energy from constellations of these two attributes up in the nine heavenly layers without a need to condense astral souls from those constellations. This was a talent that solely belonged to Astral Warbeasts.

In addition, the speed and strength of this earth dragon was extremely powerful. Especially in terms of strength, it overshadowed demonic beasts of the same rank as it.

For those more powerful Astral Warbeasts, as they grew stronger, inherited memories of their ancestors would be awakened, allowing them access to certain innate techniques that only those of their bloodline could employ.

The dependence on bloodlines for demonic beasts was much heavier compared to humans. For example, powerful demonic beasts, especially those that were the descendents of the ancient demonic divinities, all of them would be able to cultivate to above a certain realm. For the weaker demonic beasts, they were doomed from birth to stagnate at a certain level, never breaking through it unless they encountered extreme good fortune and obtain a heaven-defying opportunity to change their destiny.

The great roc stared at the earth dragon as a force of absolute obedience, an aura belonging to emperors, blasted out of it. The bloodline of the great roc was burning, manifesting an almost palpable halo shining around him. That was the power of his blood.

The pupils of the Earth Dragon narrowed as its countenance turned incredibly unsightly. Why would this great roc have such a powerful bloodline, even suppressing his? Was its ancestor one of the demonic divinities, the Sky Sovereign Roc?

The aura of the great roc climbed without reserve, before stabilizing at the peak of Heavenly Dipper. Spreading its wings, the great roc soared into the air, staring down at the Scarlet-Winged Earth Dragon as a formidable pressure gushed out of it.

That forcefield, was something a lower-tier demon would face when facing a higher-tier demon. A kind of absolute suppression. That aura caused the Earth Dragon to convulse violently, not only did the strength of the great roc exceed its own strength, the senses of demonic beasts warned it that the bloodline of the great roc was superior to its own bloodline, a higher-tiered being. A natural-born king.

“I shall say it once again. Submit, or die.”

The ice-like words of the great roc were akin to a tyrannical bolt of thunder booming out in the mind of the Earth Dragon. Although its cultivation base was at the same level of the great roc, the pressure it felt from it was too overwhelming, due to a superior bloodline.

Looking into the eyes of the roc, it was as though it could see the shadow of the sky sovereign roc within it. The head of the Earth Dragon gradually lowered in submission, it didn't dare to match the gaze of the great roc.

The other demons upon seeing their emperor in surrender, all felt great shock blooming in their hearts.

“I'm willing to serve under you.” The Earth Dragon spoke, its voice coming out like a rumble. As it spoke the words, the glimmer of emperor's might faded around him.

The hearts of the various demonic beasts were filled with disbelief, but soon after, reverence filled their gazes when they stared at the great roc hovering in the skies. The sharpness in its eyes was something no other demonic beasts would dare to match.

As for the subjects that originally submitted to the great roc, they all felt incredibly moved in their hearts. This was their emperor, a true emperor. Even before they battled, the Earth Dragon had already conceded. How awe-inspiring was that?

“Since you are the emperor of a region, and considering the fact that you never killed a single one of my subjects when you entered my territory, I shall bestow upon you the position of a demon general. The nine demon leaders shall serve under you, and in the future when I'm not here, you will govern the territory on my behalf. However, you will still need to abide by my rules. From now onwards, the demonic beasts of the two regions shall be united under one banner, none among them can fight against each other. For those who break this rule, death awaits them. Do you accept?”

The voice of the great roc was detached, the Scarlet-Winged Dragon knelt on a knee as it roared, "I, the Demon General accept the command of my Emperor."

"My ambition does not rest here. The ownership of these regions will belong to you guys sooner or later. Now, leave me." The great roc emotionlessly spoke, the other demonic beasts exchanged glances before retreating from the area. They understood that the great roc had even higher aspirations, so high that they might not even be qualified to follow even if they are willing to.

His aim, was beyond this piece of sky.

The earth dragon returned to its former territory, informing them of a new world order. The great roc returned to that ancient peak and stood there, gazing up at the skies. It was as though it had been there since all eternity.

The demonic beasts below watched on impassively, they would never understand the loneliness of their emperor, of one standing at the pinnacle.

He, originally a human, had now become an emperor in the world of demons.

Time flowed by, the leaves of the forest all turned into beautiful shades of red and yellow. Deep in the mountains, falling leaves and snow drifted about, painting a feeling of desolation over the landscape. The demonic beasts of the two great regions all hailed the great roc as their Emperor.

However, their emperor seemed to be perpetually standing there. Every night, they could see resplendent astral light cascading downwards as the great roc absorbed the astral energy. The glow it radiated further contrasted and showed even clearer how lonely the great roc was, standing there alone on that mountain peak in the middle of the night.

Fairy Qingmei hadn't appeared again, Qing'er's whereabouts were also known. Qin Wentian's only thought now was how to get stronger and stronger.

In the external world, news regarding Qin Wentian had almost died off. The vast majority believed that he had already died, however, the Pill Emperor Hall didn't step out to publicly make a statement, which further reinforced the belief that Qin Wentian hadn't died yet to his friends.

In the Mystic Moon Sect of the Spirit Continent, a black-colored robe covered a coquettish frame. The soft velvet of that black robe outlined the contours of that alluring body perfectly. Bai Qing just

returned from external training and the first news she heard was that Qin Wentian had fallen during his battle at the Pill Emperor Hall. Upon hearing this news, she didn't cry, not even a single teardrop fell. She only stood there unmoving like a statue for a total of seven days and nights, stunned by the revelation.

"Little Qing..." Behind Bai Qing, Autumn Snow's eyes glimmered with tears as she called out. Yet Bai Qing stood there unmoving, her eyes still staring out at the horizon.

A wind gusted by, causing the robes of both of these maidens to flutter.

Black clouds gathered up ahead, Bai Qing's lips trembled. Finally, a teardrop trickled down her face, just a single tear.

"Wentian gege, if you died... What did I practice the devil arts for?"

Bai Qing's heart was seized by extreme agony. This kind of pain was as though her heartstrings were snapping one by one. Why did she ignore the price and go ahead to cultivate the path of the devil despite the risks it brought?

"If you died, what use would it be even if the entire Pill Emperor Hall was buried along with you?" Bai Qing mumbled. Inclining her head, she stared up at the heavens as her countenance warped. No longer beautiful, but rather, she now resembled an embodiment of darkness. Her eyes turned cold and pitch black as though they were the eyes of a true devil.

Terrifying devilish might wrapped around her, Autumn Snow by the side felt her entire body going cold, shivering uncontrollably. She retreated rapidly, there was no way for her to stand close to Bai Qing.

That devil might manifested a devilish intent, infusing into Bai Qing. Soon after, her silhouette flickered as she soared up the air and flew off into the distance in a certain direction.

"Qing'er!" Autumn Snow shouted, only to hear a voice drifting over from behind her. "Let her go, since she decided to tread the path of a devil, we have no more control over her fate. Now that her devilish intent is soaring, whether this is a blessing or a curse, would ultimately depend on her own destiny."

...

Outside the Demon Mountain City, in that location perpetually cloaked in mist, a group of silhouettes appeared within there and walked out.

Qing`er, that old man as well as the other white-robes maiden walked out of there today.

Within the misty area, all was calm. Yet nobody would know of the tsunami of commotion that lashed out in a place where experts were as common as the clouds, far far away from here.

The Great Nirvana Immortal Art was stolen by someone! An intense war erupted, ten thousands upon ten of thousands of experts were slain. Various factions of powers many times stronger than the transcendent powers of Grand Xia had fallen and disappeared from the face of this world by due to this war.

Nobody knew of the origin of this tempest. Nobody would have guessed that the actual cause would be because someone in a place called Grand Xia that was located a great distance away, orchestrated this entire war on behalf of another.

Qing`er advanced ahead, the old man stopped his steps as he called out, "Princess."

Qing`er steps slowly came to a halt.

"Princess, don't forget your promise to us. This old slave will lead our men away." That old figure bowed deeply in response to Qing`er's light nod. After which she continued on her way, as cold as ever, ignoring the existence of others.

Just moments later, Qing`er's silhouette totally vanished, while a white-robed maiden appeared beside the old man.

"How did the investigation go?" That old man inquired.

"The reason the princess wants this art was because of a young man named Qin Wentian. Qin Wentian should have fallen in the Pill Emperor Hall by right, but a mysterious figure showed up to let him be rescued by Princess Qing`er." The words of the white-robed maiden caused the old man to furrow his brows. Momentarily, a sharp glint of light flashed in his eyes, "Surnamed Qin...?"

Could he be related to that man, Qin Yuanfeng? There shouldn't be any connection between them right?!"

Chapter 435: Seclusion

The misty region outside the Demon Mountain City vanished completely, disappearing in the span of a single night. The demonic beasts that passed by it, all felt that there was something strange but they couldn't comprehend what was going on.

However, this was merely a matter of the tiniest import. In the entire Grand Xia, nobody even knew of something like this happening let alone understand how greatly this event would impact the history of Grand Xia.

In the demon region, atop a mountain, the great roc continued standing there, projecting an aura of extreme desolation.

However today, a silhouette flashed and zoomed over. The demonic beasts snarled and tried to block, yet mysteriously, space shifted completely, they could not do a single thing to bar the intruder and were instead stuck behind a barrier created by space.

"Stand down." The cold voice of the great roc rang out. Instantly, the other demonic beasts all retreated, leaving behind that celestial maiden that resembled a snow lotus. The other demonic beasts all felt a sense of puzzlement in their hearts. Was their Emperor acquainted with this human female?

Qing'er silhouette flickered as she arrived at the mountain top, and stood before Qin Wentian.

Only to see her taking out an ancient golden-colored page as well as an interspatial ring as she passed both items to Qin Wentian. "See if they can be of use."

Qin Wentian received the items, and allowed his perception to sink into the golden page. Instantly, numerous symbols flashed in his mind as the information regarding the cultivation method for an ancient art of exceptional power was branded into his mind.

Upon contemplating the information, Qin Wentian's heart clenched. Even his body was trembling involuntarily from the information recorded within.

"Great Nirvana Immortal Art, this art allows one to form a completely similar true-body avatar of the user who cultivates this." Qin Wentian's body was shaking when the implications hit him. Terrifying light erupted from his eyes, he shifted his gaze onto Qing'er only to see her staring into the distance, as casual and ice-cold as ever.

“Qing`er, where did you get this?” Even the voice of the normally composed Qin Wentian was shaking. This art...this inconceivable art allows one to fully create a true-self, a true body that shares the exact same characteristics as the original. If one of the two bodies died, the other wouldn't be implicated. These two true-bodies could cultivate in totally different directions, choosing different cultivation paths to gain insights into more Mandates and could even act independently.

To a Stellar Martial Cultivator, this was equivalent to having another life. Not only that, these two true-bodies could exist together, and could even linked their thoughts and perspectives together. This art was definitely something that existed in a vastly more powerful place than Grand Xia. No wonder it was called an Immortal Art. The effects were too godly.

“Where has Qing`er acquired this art from? Before this, she was missing for several days. Was it because she went to search for this item? What price has she paid to obtain this art?”

“In the interspatial ring, there's plenty of cultivation resources, other materials and treasures that you can use to form your second true-body.” Qing`er didn't reply to his question. She continued casually, “Can you send me back?”

Qin Wentian clutched the interspatial ring tightly, so tight that the talons on his hands dug deep into his palms. The Great Nirvana Immortal Art required many precious treasures to allow a cultivator to form a true-body. He had never heard of this before, but just from how valuable this art is, there's no doubt that the treasures held within the interspatial ring all bordered on the level of being priceless.

“Mhm.” Qin Wentian nodded his head heavily. With this Great Nirvana Art, not only could he still live as a human, he would still possess a body with the advantages of a great roc. Wasn't it simply perfect? It's like possessing all benefits with no cost at all, yet Qin Wentian didn't seem as happy as he ought to be.

Although Qing`er had an icy personality and didn't really like to talk much, the magnitude of this debt weighed heavily upon his heart.

Qing`er's silhouette flickered before re-appearing on the back of the great roc.

Qin Wentian then spread his wings, the 3,000 metre large wings blotted out the sun as a massive gale kicked up when it soared up to the skies. A booming sound echoed out, “Scarlet-Winged General, this place shall be left to your governance. The nine demonic leaders are to aid him in this.”

As the sound of its voice faded, the great roc disappeared into the clouds. Qing'er sat on its back just like that, constituting a scene right out of a beautiful painting.

“Qinger, you should memorise this art as well. If you acquire enough treasures in the future, you could use it to form a true-body as well.” Qin Wentian reminded in a low voice. Qinger nodded lightly, “I’ve memorised it already, but other than the two of us, as well as my master, Fairy Qingmei, there must not be a fourth person in Grand Xia that knows of the existence of this immortal art.”

Qinger was uncharacteristically solemn as she instructed. Qin Wentian naturally understood, even if Qinger didn’t say why, he also knew what he had to do. This immortal art would cause the entire Grand Xia to go crazy, maybe even resulting in mutual annihilation just to acquire it. And if the news of this art was leaked, the ones that would be involved in the war to obtain it would no longer be merely people from Grand Xia.

After this, even if Qin Wentian managed to form a true-body, the great roc and Qin Wentian must never appear simultaneously at the same time in front of others.

He could afford to let others know that he reversed the Demonic Divinity Sacrificial Transformation and turned back into a human but he can never allow others to know that he formed a second true-body instead.

Within the Celestial Lake Palace, the great roc and Qinger landed into a court yard. Fairy Qingmei suddenly appeared in that location as a smile suffused her face. Qinger had also imparted the Great Nirvana Immortal Art to her, causing Fairy Qingmei to feel gratified in her heart.

“Wentian, I’ve already located those of the White Deer Institute and Zong Clan.” Fairy Qingmei glanced at the great roc as she spoke.

“Senior, I still need your help to locate the other ‘hidden’ Azure Factions. I will indicate the locations they are at on the map, and in addition, for the matter of establishing my own sect, I would need senior’s guidance regarding the location.” Qin Wentian stated, his words causing a brilliant light to flash in the eyes of Fairy Qingmei. Seems like Qin Wentian had already completed his preparations.

He had already started planning, and the next step would be to gather all the remaining remnants of the ‘hidden’ Azure Faction together.

“This matter still needs to be carefully thought out, and take note that safety is of paramount importance. After all, even the combined power of all the ‘hidden’ Azure Factions would not be able to match up to a transcendent power.” Fairy Qingmei reminded.

“I understand, hence when I said to establish my own sect, I meant a total restructuring of all the ‘hidden’ Azure Factions’ current organization structure. Hence I need a secret location that could hide this from the prying eyes of others, accomplishing this in total secrecy.” Qin Wentian nodded in agreement.

“Seems like you already have your plans. Very well, as to the location, I supposed that here, in the Celestial Lake Palace, would be the safest of all places.” Fairy Qingmei recommended.

“Senior, this stele contains within it the nine ultimate arts of Grand Xia, could you send someone to ensure that the leaders of both the White Deer Institute and Zong Clan received this? Tell them to shore up their strengths, they would understand what I intend upon seeing the nine ultimate arts.” Qin Wentian withdrew the Divine Stele and handed it over to Fairy Qingmei, showing absolute trust. For the sake of the Azure Emperor, she would aid him unconditionally.

Fairy Qingmei glanced at Qin Wentian, as a smile sparkled in her beautiful eyes. “Able to so selflessly take out the nine ultimate arts and bestowing on your subordinates. Your spirit surpasses even the Azure Emperor back then. However, if this matter were to leak out, the White Deer Institute and Zong Clan would face endless danger.”

“The leaders of both of these hidden factions will understand what to do. If they truly considered betrayal, even if I spared them, senior Qingmei wouldn’t spare them.” Qin Wentian laughed, his words causing Fairy Qingmei to nod in agreement. Indeed, it was as he said.

After experiencing so many things, Qin Wentian’s temperament had started to change as well. However, the resolve in his heart had never wavered before.

“I need to enter seclusion. However, I’m unsure of how long it will take.” Qin Wentian added in a low voice. The Great Nirvana Immortal Art would form a second true-body by process of nirvanic rebirth. This wasn’t something that could be completed in a short period of time. Depending on how strong the physique of the original body was, the longer the time needed for a perfect second true-body to be formed.

And now, with him possessing the form of a great roc, he would undoubtedly need even more time.

“I will guard you.” Qinger stated, causing Qin Wentian’s large eyes to stare at her. Qinger was still as cold as ever, yet when he stared at her, his eyes were filled with the warmth of a smile.

“Qing`er, you should cultivate as well. I will arrange everything.” Fairy Qingmei shook her head and smiled. “Wentian, just focus on what you need to do. I won’t let anyone disturb your seclusion.”

“Mhm.” Qin Wentian nodded his head.

“Qinger, let’s go.” Fairy Qingmei spoke, only to see Qinger glancing at Qin Wentian before lightly nodding her head, departing the area together with Fairy Qingmei. Very quickly, this location was sealed up and was in total silence, not even sound from the outside was able to bypass the barrier.

Qin Wentian took out that golden page once more as a terrifying light flickered in his eyes. He then stared up at the skies, with a dangerous smile on his face as his eyes radiated an incredible sharpness.

“Qingcheng..” The great roc murmured. In the large eyes of the great roc, it was as though snow was falling. Underneath the ancient trees, that beautiful girl was smiling as she called him dumbo. Just a simple smile from her was sufficient to make the world lose its color.

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Qin Wentian started his seclusion. Time, waits for no one. Major events in Grand Xia still happened without his presence.

Regarding Qin Wentian and Mo Qingcheng, people couldn’t help but to lament, has an immortal couple like them truly vanished forever?

Yet another year has passed. There were too many events of huge importance that had happened in recent years. One of the most attention-grabbing events was the rise of those from the younger generation. For those rankers on the previous Heavenly Fate Rankings, their improvement speed was beyond terrifying as they easily surpassed members of the older generation of the same cultivation level as them.

There were also many characters who rose to prominence despite the fact that they didn’t participate in the most recent Heavenly Fate Rankings.

Foremost amongst their ranks was Hua Taixu. He was only thirty plus years of age and had already broken through to the fourth level of Heavenly Dipper. His combat prowess was such that he could even defeat someone at the fifth level; it seemed as though no one of the same generation could stand shoulder to shoulder with him. He was labeled as a genius seen once every several hundred years with latent potential high enough to step into the Celestial Phenomenon Realm.

Other than Hua Taixu, Chen Wang of the Great Solar Chen Clan, and Shi Potian of the Shi Clan, as well as Ouyang Kuangsheng of the Ouyang Clan were all exceedingly powerful. However, the news that caused the most commotion actually originated from the Unmatched Realm that was famed for staying out of matters of the external world.

Leaving aside the results of members belonging to the transcendent powers, there were some disciples who has no background of the Unmatched Realm that also achieved exemplary results. Qin Zheng, Yun Mengyi, Chu Mang and Fan Le, Grand Xia gradually learnt their names, these few people would often war against those from transcendent powers during their travels outside, and had no concerns about killing them directly. Because of their ruthless acts, several transcendent powers jointly send out a missive for their capture.

Also, Bai Qing from the Mystic Moon Sect was another fast rising figure. Her devil arts are many times stronger now compared to before and she truly resembled a devil that walked out of purgatory, akin to a god of slaughter in the darkness.

It was unknown how many members of the Pill Emperor Hall, Chen Clan, Wang Clan and the Star-Seizing Manor were ambushed and killed off in the darkness. She herself had also sustained grievous injuries from the clashes but was fortunate to escape with her life each time, continuing her killing spree after she recovered, paying no heed to her safety. Very swiftly, she turned into a thorn in the eyes of many transcendent powers and they even issued a kill-on-sight mission for her to the entire Grand Xia.

But naturally, the young man holed up in closed-door seclusion within the Celestial Lake Palace, knew nothing of these matters!

Chapter 436: Tempest in Ginkou

Roughly two years and nine months had passed since the last battle for the Heavenly Fate Rankings. This indicated that the start of the battle for the next Heavenly Fate Rankings, would commence in three months.

However, there were changes to how the ranking battle would be conducted. Before this, the location of the ranking battle would always be held in the ancient kingdom of Grand Xia located in Ginkou. Sounding the drums, bypassing the River of Life and Death, ranking of the battle robes, entering the Vermilion Bird Formation World, plundering of ancient luck and even having an opportunity to obtain secret arts. But today, the formation world was no longer what it was in the past. The controller of this Ascendant-level formation was now the Purgatory Vermilion Bird which Qin Wentian obtained through the ranking battle almost three years ago.

And because of this, the transcendent powers in Ginkou announced that the next ranking battle would be held in the Venerate Heavens Sect in Ginkou instead. Also, because there was no longer ancient luck, the thirty-six transcendent powers of Grand Xia would each take out an extraordinary treasure and bestow them upon the top thirty-six rankers as a reward.

Hence, since the three year time frame was almost up, many talented geniuses of the younger generations arrived in Ginkou. Although all of these people had high aspirations, nobody believed they would be able to match up to expectations, considering how dazzling the participants were during the last ranking battle.

The recent ranking battle more than two years ago was like a golden age, motivating cultivators everywhere to push themselves up to the levels of Qin Wentian, Chen Wang and Si Qiong.

Hidden beneath this bustling period, the chaotic undercurrents in Ginkou could also be clearly felt. Members belonging to the Pill Emperor Hall, Chen Clan and Hua Clan were continually ambushed and killed, creating a palpable terror that hung in the air.

And finally, one day... An astonishing piece of news erupted in the middle of Ginkou.

Hua Taixu caught up to Bai Qing after she killed an expert from the Hua Clan!

Although Bai Qing was powerful, she wasn't able to match up to Hua Taixu. But at the instant before she was captured, Ouyang Kuangsheng, Chu Mang, Fan Le, Qin Zheng and Yun Mengyi abruptly appeared and joined hands, fighting against Hua Taixu.

Geniuses belonging to two different Heavenly Fate Rankings engaged in a heaven-shaking and earth-shattering battle. Hua Taixu had a higher cultivation base and was on the Heavenly Fate Rankings before them, not only that, he was ranked number one.

With a higher cultivation base, it could mitigate for the disadvantage he suffered in terms of numbers. And despite the number of people ganging up on Hua Taixu, Ouyang Kuangsheng and the rest were all still seriously injured. But no one could imagine that at the crescendo of the battle, Hua Taixu actually retreated. He was poisoned!

Nobody knew who administered the poison, nobody saw how the poison was administered. But the fact that Hua Taixu was poisoned, brings to mind a single name – Mu Feng.

This name once again appeared in the public after three years of absence, and instantly caused a huge wave of commotion.

The experts from the Hua Clan and Great Solar Chen Clan all arrived, but those from the Mystic Moon Sect, Ouyang Aristocrat Clan and Jiang Clan also caught up. Both sides were at a standstill, neither could compromise and as such, the result was another intense battle that erupted between the five transcendent powers. In the end, both sides suffered heavy losses from aftermath of that battle.

However, that battle was merely a prelude to something else. That palpable tension in the air enveloped all of Ginkou, it seemed as though a tempest of blood would kick up at any given moment.

Also, from that battle, many things were apparent to the public. The Ouyang Aristocrat Clan was firmly allied with the Jiang Clan, because of the marriage engagement between Ouyang Kuangsheng and the Jiang Clan. Both of these transcendent powers, acted on behalf of Qin Wentian because of Ouyang Kuangsheng's request. From this, one could see how high Ouyang Kuangsheng's current status was, he was directly in line to be nurtured as the next leader of the Ouyang Clan.

At the same time, this incident brought up another name in the minds of the people. Was Qin Wentian truly dead? If he is not, where was he now?

Wasn't it all because of Qin Wentian that terrifying characters such as Bai Qing, Ouyang Kuangsheng, Chu Mang, Fan Le, Qin Zheng, Yun Mengyi and Mu Feng stood together? And if Qin Wentian was added into the mix, what would the end result of the battle against Hua Taixu be?

The deeds of that young man were far more astounding compared to those of Hua Taixu's. Both of them were the blazing suns of their generation, and countless held anticipation in their hearts, wanting to witness a showdown between the two of them. But sadly, this battle of destiny is doomed to never take place.

Although initially there were people who believed that the great roc Qin Wentian transformed into didn't die and may emerge once more in Grand Xia, as time flowed by, more and more people believed that he was already dead back when he stormed the Pill Emperor Hall.

Bai Qing, Ouyang Kuangsheng, Fan Le and the rest would often have Qin Wentian in their thoughts. Especially after their clash with Hua Taixu, the heavy feeling of uncertainty would weigh in their hearts as they stared up at the heavens and sighed. Was he still alive?

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Far up in the skies above the forested regions outside the Demon Continent, in the misty clouds, the great roc spread its 3,000 metre wingspan as it zoomed towards a certain direction.

Standing on the back of the great roc, was a delicate beauty with exquisitely carved features. She exuded no aura and there was a layer of mist in her eyes, her features were so stunning that people wouldn't forget her even if they only glanced at her once.

The great roc streaked through the clouds like a bolt of lightning, speeding past the Demon Continent and continued forwards relentlessly. After a single day, the great roc arrived at the area in Moon Continent that was under the administration and governance of the Star-Seizing Manor.

This place where they now were, could at most be considered a small city in the area under the control of the Star-Seizing Manor. Two years ago, a new power arrived here. Although, the majority of the time they were low profile, when they displayed their strength, was extremely shocking to the public.

This new power was none other than the White Deer Institute, they were forced to relocate to this small and remote city from their original location due to the pressure exerted by the Star-Seizing Manor. Firstly, to avoid trouble, and secondly, they were looking for some opportunities to develop their institute.

About a year ago, Fairy Qingmei herself had personally paid a visit to their institute, delivering to them the cultivation methods of the nine ultimate arts of Grand Xia. From that visit, they also learnt that Qin Wentian was still alive. They naturally understood the intentions behind his decision, the unification of the 'hidden' Azure Factions would soon arrive.

In this past year, the White Deer Institute selected their core members with the most stringent of selection methods before nurturing them. Other than that, for those characters of the older generation that were absolutely loyal were allowed to cultivate the nine ultimate arts, slowly building up the strength of their White Deer Institute. Naturally, they wouldn't display the nine arts out in public.

The White Deer Institute was now waiting, waiting for the arrival of the young man who once trampled the Pill Emperor Hall.

At this moment, in the training field of the White Deer Institute, several of those from the younger generations were sparring against each other. Bailu Yi was there as well, her cultivation base currently has improved by leaps and bounds. She was now at the ninth level of Yuanfu.

As she stared at the lively atmosphere of the younger ones in training, the shadow of a person involuntarily appeared in her mind.

But right at this moment, a massive wind kicked up. The people in the training field stared overhead only to see an immense figure descending from the skies. Abruptly, the gust of wind intensified, knocking down many people who were on their feet.

A few breaths of time later, the gusts of wind calmed down. When the people of the White Deer Institute recovered, they only saw a terrifyingly large silhouette hovering above them, with wings so huge that they blotted out the sun. The sharpness that radiated from its gaze contained an imposing aura that seemed to belong to the monarch of this world.

“Great roc!”

Upon see it, the hearts of the crowd all quaked with terror. Yet, a brilliant glow flashed in Bailu Yi’s eyes as she stared intently at the great roc hovering in the sky.

Had he really transformed into a great roc? And this change was irreversible?

Whistling sounds rang out in the air as the elders and doyen level characters all appeared in this place one after another. All of them were staring at the great roc.

As they stared upwards, they soon noticed a figure standing on the back of the huge roc. Initially, that figure was blocked by the immense body of the roc, but now, they could all see his features clearly.

Why had the great roc brought this man here?

Who was this person exactly?

Only to see that at this moment, Bailu Yi walked up to the great roc as she stretched out her hand, as though she wanted to touch its face. The sharpness in the roc’s eyes never diminished, yet it showed no signs of blocking her, lowering its head allowing the soft hands of Bailu Yi to cradle it.

“Little Yi.” A voice rumbled.

The stretched out hand of Bailu Yi trembled, the rims of her eyes reddened as she stared at the great roc. It was true, he had transformed into a demon.

“How are you?” Bailu Yi sobbed.

“I’m surviving well,” The great roc replied. After which, his sharp gaze turned upon the others. The young man on its back walked forwards and stood on its head, gazing down at the members of the White Deer institute as he stated, “From today onwards, I’ll be the one taking control of the White Deer Institute.”

The gazes of the members of the White Deer Institute stiffened as they fixed their gazes on the young man, before glancing again at the great roc. The great roc nodded its head, as it reinforced the statement of that young man. “From today onwards, seeing him means you are seeing me. His commands, are also my commands.”

The hearts of the crowd were seized with bewilderment. Who was this young man exactly? Why would Qin Wentian trust him so much to the extent of granting him complete authority?

“My name, is Di Tian. From today onwards, I, Di Tian, will unite the remaining remnants of the ‘hidden’ Azure Factions, and restructure the remnants into a brand new power. From now on, all of you shall sever all relations with the White Deer Institute, allowing this name to fade into obscurity. There will be a new transcendent power emerging in Grand Xia.”

The figure standing on the great roc spoke with utter certainty, his voice tinged with incomparable arrogance yet also with a terrifying calmness. He wasn’t a mad man. What wild ambition, he wanted to create the thirty-seventh transcendent power of Grand Xia.

Upon seeing how calmly the great roc was reacting, the members of the White Deer Institute understood that the time to act has come. This was also part of the reason why Fairy Qingmei personally paid a visit here about a year ago. The White Deer Institute shall fade to obscurity as the currents from the river of time washes past, disappearing into the history of Grand Xia.

“Choose three of your strongest members to come with me for a trip.” Di Tian commanded. Although the tone of his voice rang with overbearingness, the elder and doyen level members were all nodding in agreement. Soon after, three old men were selected as they stood with Di Tian on the back of the great roc.

“For the others, make your way to the Celestial Lake Palace of the Demon Mountain City in the Demon Continent. Fairy Qingmei will receive you there. Take note, this matter must be done in absolute secrecy. Split yourselves in batches and leave at different timings to avoid suspicion. The brand new power shall be established in the Celestial Lake Palace.” Di Tian spoke. After that, the great roc flapped its wings, directly shooting through the clouds, instantly disappearing from their vision.

The vast majority of the members were all reeling from what just happened. Bailu Yi's eyes were filled with traces of pain as the memories of the past flashed through her mind. He had transformed into a primordial great roc, even his temperament had changed. Could he ever return to how he was back in the past?!

Chapter 437: Ice Spirit Sect and Skythunder Country

In the ancient kingdom, the great roc soared in the skies. A few days passed. It was unknown how much distance has been travelled. Comment by Kunal Basu-Dutta: should we use the present perfect instead of the past perfect? based on the rejection, that's what i am leaning towards for the future, but want to confirm.

The primordial great roc flying in the skies, the true sovereign of the skies. How scary was his speed? Even the Winged-Dragon of the Nine Heavens had no way to compare in speed to the sky sovereign roc. After the meeting with the White Deer Institute, Di Tian went to the place where the Zong Clan was located and brought along Zong Yi and two of their strongest members along with him.

Naturally, Di Tian was Qin Wentian. It was only because the great roc and Qin Wentian himself couldn't appear in the same location at the same time. Hence he made use of the art of disguise he found in Di Feng's interspatial ring to disguise himself completely, and adopted the name of Di Tian. Firstly, this was to symbolise the Azure Emperor whose surname was Di, and secondly, Tian was from Qin Wentian's original name. When put together, it meant the Emperor of Heavens. It was also an omen of what was going to come in the future.

As for Di Tian, he was exactly the same as the past Qin Wentian. This was a true-self, that shares the memories, perspectives and soul of the original Qin Wentian.

This was by virtue of the Great Nirvana Immortal Art. Regardless of Astral Souls, bloodlines and even character, he was completely the same as the original body, with no differences.

The true-body Di Tian was replicated from Qin Wentian's essence before he transformed into a great roc. Hence, the cultivation level of Di Tian, when he was formed, was only at the first level of

Heavenly Dipper. But after that long period of seclusion, his cultivation base had already climbed to the second level of Heavenly Dipper.

After cultivating the Great Nirvana Art, only then did Qin Wentian truly appreciate how terrifying this art was. Heaven-defying was the only way to describe this art; no wonder Qinger warned him never to expose this. Right now he was thinking, what exactly had Qinger paid to acquire such a heaven-defying immortal art?

Sadly, the nirvana rebirth process of the Great Nirvana Art could only be used once. If one wanted a third true-body after that, he would have to undergo the process of a true nirvana rebirth.

Standing atop of his great roc body, Qin Wentian stared downwards, his gaze encompassing a few ancient mountain peak so high that they touched the clouds. He then turned his gaze onto the map engraved on the command token, and with an intention of his will, the great roc descended downwards. The great roc and Di Tian were essentially one and the same; they could share thoughts and intentions. They were a single entity, not two.

The raging wind whistled as the great roc landed on one of the mountains. Qin Wentian stared at the path ahead as he commanded, "The rest of you just wait here. The great roc will go up with me."

After the others descended, Qin Wentian and the great roc walked up the mountains. They didn't fly, but chose to walk up step-by-step instead.

The mountain paths were treacherous, but to a Stellar Martial Cultivator, the rocky terrain didn't pose any difficulty. Although Qin Wentian was walking upwards, his speed remained the same. A single human and a single demon soon arrived at the peak. Over here, there was a simple and dilapidated house. Outside the house, there was a old man in tattered clothing sitting cross-legged on the ground, silently in meditation.

Qin Wentian and the great roc stood before the old man without speaking. The old man also sat quietly there, with his eyes closed, as though nothing out of the ordinary happened.

Several moments passed before the lips of the old man moved, "Since you are here, why don't you say something?"

"My name is Di Tian." Qin Wentian retrieved the Azure Emperor Token as he spoke. The eyes of the old man abruptly snapped over as he stared at Qin Wentian as well as the great roc standing beside him, before fixing his gaze onto the Azure Emperor Token. It was only after a long moment before that old man stood up, before he entered the house and didn't come out for a long time. When he finally exited, that old man had a baggage with him on his back.

"I heard that the Punishment Branch had undergone huge changes through these thousands of years, and currently, only one person remained. Yet, he still waited here, waiting for the day the successor

appears, living in seclusion from the rest of the world.” Qin Wentian took a step forward, with respect in his tone.

“Although I am but one man, I can also represent my entire branch. For generations past, and generations that will come, the staff of punishment is for the descendants of my clan to wield. Now, I’m willing to follow the young master of Di Clan, to claim back what was once lost.” That old man bowed towards Qin Wentian. Qin Wentian nodded lightly as he climbed onto the back of the great roc. “Let’s go.”

The great roc zoomed downwards after the old man climbed onto its back, returning to the original location where it stopped.

Those from the White Deer Institute and Zong Clan stared at the old man, both of their factions had no idea of this old man’s existence, and at this moment, they couldn’t help but seriously contemplate him. They saw a baggage in the shape of a long staff behind his back, and upon hearing that the old man was the descendant of the Punishment Branch during the Azure Emperor’s era, their countenances all couldn’t help but changed.

“Let’s go.” Qin Wentian’s voice was extremely calm. All of them climbed onto the great roc as it soar through the skies again. Those on the back of the great roc still had yet to recover from their shock. Di Tian seemed to be moving too fast. After Qin Wentian handed over authority to him, he acted with the fastest of speeds, wanting to gather and unite the remnants of the ‘hidden’ Azure Faction together.

Earlier, Qin Wentian had beseeched Fairy Qingmei to do some investigation on each of the hidden factions. If not, he too wouldn’t have known that the Punishment Branch underwent such huge changes.

The current him, with the Azure Emperor Token in his hands, decided to step up and take command.

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In the Spirit Continent, located in a remote corner of Grand Xia, the land was of extremely poor quality here, unsuitable for life. Numerous danger zones surrounded the Spirit Continent, yet those from the Spirit Continent reveled in it. They were all intrepid heroes at heart and found it easier to grow in the midst of such dangerous environments.

In the northern region of the Spirit Continent was a land filled with snow and ice. This region was extremely vast and was known as the Arctic Ice Region. Over here, cultivators, who had an affinity to ice and snow, could be found everywhere. This place was like a cultivation heaven to them; it was far easier to gain insights and master ice-attributed arts in here.

The Ice Spirit Sect already had a thousand year history in the Arctic Ice Region. The history of the sect began with a few maidens, before finally evolving up to now where they had over tens of thousands of disciples. However, regardless of the occasion, the Ice Spirit Sect had always maintained a low profile and wouldn't antagonise others, preferring to live by themselves, disregarding the outside world only focusing on nurturing their strength. Hence, although many other sects feared the Ice Spirit Sect, because of the sect's philosophy, none of the other major powers made a move against it.

And in this region of ice and snow, in a location where many ancient structures could be seen, there were currently several maidens walking about there. Despite their light clothing, it was as though they couldn't feel the cold at all.

“Senior sister, look over there!”

At this moment, one of the maidens stared up at the skies as an expression of shock appeared on her face. In the air, there were a total of eight silhouettes descending.

The young man in the lead projected an extraordinary demeanor while the seven behind him all exuded a powerful aura, giving off a feeling that it was unwise to make them into enemies.

“Report this to the sect leader quickly.” The silhouettes of some of the maiden flickered as they vanished. The disciples of the Ice Spirit Sect were all maidens, the art they cultivated were only suitable for female.

“Who are the lot of you?” At this moment, a middle-aged woman appeared, inquiring as she stared at Qin Wentian and the rest.

“Where is the sect leader of the Ice Spirit Sect?” Zong Yi spoke. His voice was calm, yet radiating a sharpness within as a surge of sword might emanated forth from him, permeating the entire region.

“Sir, do you have any business with me?” At this moment, a voice drifted over. Qin Wentian and the rest turned their gazes onto the horizon as a woman walked over. The appearance of this woman was young, around thirty years of age. Her skin was like snow, as an aura of coldness emanated forth from her.

“The Azure Emperor.”

Qin Wentian's lips murmured, transmitting a voice message to the woman. Instantly, Bing Yuchan's countenance changed abruptly, as she spoke, “Come with me.”

After speaking, she turned and walk away. Qin Wentian and the rest followed after her, arriving in front of a majestic ice statue. The features of this ice statue were incredibly vivid and life-like. It was as though a beauty had been frozen solid in the ice.

“Is this the ice soul of the Ice Spirit Sect’s Ancestor?” Qin Wentian glanced at the ice statue as he asked.

“Mhm, the ancestor didn’t recover from her stupor after she learnt of the Azure Emperor’s death. She instructed the others to seal her soul into ice, as a symbol of remembrance of this grudge. One day, if the successor of the Azure Emperor were to come here, he must personally destroy this ice statue. The disciples of the Ice Spirit Hall doesn’t follow her, but the successor instead.” Bing Yuchan explained. Qin Wentian took out the Azure Emperor Token. Bing Yuchan involuntarily trembled upon seeing it but soon dipped into a bow as she greeted, “Bing Yuchan greets the young master.”

“The heavens can witness how deep the Ice Spirit Sect’s Ancestor’s feelings were for the Azure Emperor,” Qin Wentian faintly remarked. “Relay my orders, this ice statue shall remain here for all eternity, no one can destroy it. Choose three strongest disciples of the Ice Spirit Sect and follow me. Thereafter, commence with the dissolution of the Ice Spirit Sect, and head over to the Celestial Lake Palace in the Demon Mountain City of the Demon Continent. Fairy Qingmei will receive the rest of your sect members there.”

Upon hearing the name of Fairy Qingmei, Bing Yuchan’s countenance changed slightly. But she soon nodded her head, “Allow me to make the arrangements.”

After some moments, Bing Yuchan and two other maidens from the Ice Spirit Sect appeared before Qin Wentian. The eyes of those from the Ice Spirit Sect couldn’t help but narrow when they took note of the great roc, yet they didn’t question too much before climbing onto it.

Qin Wentian spoke, “My name is Di Tian, you guys should have already heard of the rumors floating around Grand Xia. There’s no mistake, this great roc is Qin Wentian. He is then the true successor of the Azure Emperor. However, as he is in the form a great roc, everything will be handled by me. He and I hold the same level of authority. However, do not spread this matter, only members of the ‘hidden’ Azure Factions have the qualifications to know.”

“I hear and obey,” Bing Yuchan nodded. Qin Wentian didn’t continue speaking. This trip to the Ice Spirit Sect was extremely successful; despite the passing of years, they were still loyal to the Azure Emperor. But of course, the fact that there were so many powerful cultivators around Qin Wentian also somewhat influenced their decision. If it was that young man who came to the sect alone, just like how he entered the White Deer Institute when he was in Moon Continent, it was impossible that things would go so smoothly.

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Within Grand Xia, there was a country named the Skythunder Country. This country did not fall under the administration of any of the transcendent powers, and their level of strength was extremely high in comparison.

In the past, this country was not named the Skythunder Country. But about eight hundred years ago, the Skythunder Clan suppressed the then Royal Clan, and it took over the Emperor's Authority. In a violent war, they plundered the rights of rulership, and changed the name of the country to the Skythunder Country. Throughout these eight hundred years, the Skythunder Country had constantly expanded and annexed three other smaller countries, causing their strength to rise as a whole.

The royal clan of the Skythunder Country was also extremely intelligent, proffering immense benefits to attract powerful cultivators from all around. Even if it was experts at the Heavenly Dipper level, the Skythunder Country possessed many of them.

Today, Qin Wentian and the rest arrived in the borders of Skythunder Country. After they stepped down, they didn't immediately make their way to the Royal Palace, but rather, they went to the ruins left behind by the Skythunder Aristocrat Clan in the great war eight hundred years ago. This place used to be the residence of the Skythunder Clan then, but not a person remained here now. Glancing at the scars on the land, a terrifying cold intent erupted in Qin Wentian's eyes.

Regarding the 'hidden' branches of the Azure Faction, it was understandable that throughout the years, some of them have already been swallowed by the river of time. Right now, other than the remnants he had already gathered, the Skythunder Aristocrat Clan was the last remaining remnant.

Yet, it seems that the descendents of the Skythunder Clan had long forgotten the ancestral edicts, instead of keeping a low profile and waiting for the successor, they took high profile actions, conspiring to increase their power, turning the Skythunder Aristocrat Clan into the Skythunder Country of today.

Seeing the ruins where the Skythunder Aristocrat Clan used to be at, a fearsome pressure gushed forth from Qin Wentian. It seems that the Skythunder Aristocrat Clan had long forsaken their roots and wanted to fly up high in their own independence.

Chapter 438: Domineering Fashion

Zong Yi's eyes flickered with sharpness as he added in a low voice, "Skythunder Aristocrat Clan, it seems like that had chosen to ignore the edicts passed down by their ancestors. How should they be dealt with?"

"It has already been for a few thousand years. Who can truly keep to their promises and ensure that their descendants all follow the edicts? The Azure Emperor would surely be gratified knowing about the rest of you. The Skythunder Aristocrat Clan ignored the edicts; although they were in the

wrong, it doesn't mean that they can't be forgiven. Uncle Zong, follow me into the Skythunder Palace. As for the others, temporarily stay hidden for now. Let us go take a look to see what the attitudes of those from the Skythunder Clan will be when facing the successor of the Azure Emperor."

Qin Wentian instructed as the others behind him nodded in agreement as they marvelled silently at Di Tian's arrogance as well as his optimism.

"Let's go." Lifting his feet, Qin Wentian and the rest entered the Skythunder Palace.

The Skythunder Royal Palace was extremely vast. There was an ancient path after the palace gate leading all the way towards the interior of the Royal Palace. There were countless palace guards milling about before the gate, and there was a high vantage point at the back of the Royal Palace, allowing one to gaze down on the surroundings if one stood upon it.

At this moment, there were two figures leisurely advancing forwards. Very swiftly, they soon arrived before the gates.

"Halt." Upon seeing the arrival of Qin Wentian and Zong Yi, the spears in the hands of the guards pointed towards them. However at the same time, both of their silhouettes flickered as they disappeared in a gust of raging wind, directly soaring up the skies, stepping beyond the palace gate and landing on the ancient path behind.

On the vantage point, a burst of lightning flickered as a thunderous sound boomed out. Immediately, several imperial guards rushed over after hearing the signal.

Qin Wentian and Zong Yi continued their leisure pace forwards. When the multitude of guards descended on them, Zong Yi merely took a step forwards as a terrifying sharp sword intent permeated the entire space, causing the imperial guards to become breathless. Nobody dared to make a move randomly underneath that sort of pressure.

"Who are the two of you? This place is a restricted place of my Skythunder Country. If you have any matters, please speak." The leader of the imperial guards walked out, blocking Qin Wentian and Zong Yi's pathway forwards.

"I want to meet with the Emperor of Skythunder." Qin Wentian calmly spoke. Zong Yi continued standing behind him. A terrifying sword might bore down on the leader of the imperial guards. Evident rivulets of sweat could be seen on his forehead as the leader's countenance paled.

How powerful. Although he was one of the lead members in the Royal Palace and had a cultivation base at the fifth level of Heavenly Dipper, the sword might Zong Yi was exuding was so oppressive that he couldn't even breathe.

Seeing how Zong Yi continued advancing, the silhouette of the leader of the imperial guards flickered as he madly retreated. While in the meantime, more and more experts gathered in this place, yet no body dared to bar Qin Wentian and Zong Yi.

After a short while, Qin Wentian stepped into the internal regions of the Royal Palace. Abruptly, a row of figures appeared in front of him. The two figures in the lead were a pair of young man and woman. The young man was good looking with a golden crown on his head; while the woman had exquisite features, projecting an aura of nobility. Whenever she smiled, a charm would twinkle in those eyes of hers, causing people to be mesmerised.

Behind the two of them, there stood several powerful experts. It was evident that they were all extremely powerful characters from the aura they emanated.

“Upon meeting the Majesty, why are you still not on your knees?” An old man with a cold gaze stared at Qin Wentian and Zong Yi as he berated. Anger clouded his features; as the sound of his voice faded, a long spear appeared in his hands as he stabbed it towards Qin Wentian.

Zong Yi lifted his hands as a burst of sword light flashed, breaking the long spear into two. “Let the Emperor of Skythunder speak for himself.”

“Overestimating yourself.” That old man coldly snorted, glaring at Zong Yi. Although Zong Yi's cultivation base was high, weren't his words too arrogant? He wanted the Emperor to personally come out to speak?

As for that prince with a crown on his head, he had a smile on his face as he stepped in to diffuse the situation. “I'm sure both of you must have travelled a long distance to arrive here today. Since you barged in so hurriedly, I'm sure there must be a good reason. Why not share the reason with us? I will 'take good care' of both of you lords.”

“You are the prince of Skythunder?” Qin Wentian inquired as he stared at the young man.

“Yes.” The young prince similarly contemplated Qin Wentian. He wanted to know what identity did these two unwelcomed guests have. They actually dared to barge into the Royal Palace.

“Azure Emperor.” A voice transmitted into his mind. The smiling face of the prince instantly changed, as his pupils narrowed. However, he was stunned only for an instant, and recovered swiftly as he stated, gesturing to a path behind him, “Please.”

After which, he stepped aside, his actions causing the guards by the side to feel extremely puzzled. Why was the prince so polite?

Qin Wentian and Zong Yi didn't hesitate as well and directly went ahead. After the two of them passed him, the prince transmitted his voice to the rest of the guards, "Lock down the entire Royal Palace. Do not allow anyone to enter or exit."

After that, he arranged for some of the guards to remain here, while some followed behind him.

Qin Wentian and Zong Yi arrived at a large public square inside one of the palaces. This place was extremely quiet, making it suitable for Qin Wentian's plans.

At this moment, only three guards followed behind the prince, but soon after they arrived, the sounds of footsteps rang out as experts from the Skythunder Clan arrived.

Their gazes turned to the Skythunder Prince, as a bewildered light shone in their eyes.

"You actually know the secret between the Azure Emperor and our Skythunder Country." The Skythunder Prince's eyes bore into Qin Wentian, his voice carrying a threatening hint of frigidness.

Momentarily, the countenances of the surrounding experts all changed. Shock could be seen on their faces as an ice cold intent radiated out from them when they stared at Qin Wentian and Zong Yi.

"People of Skythunder hear my order." Qin Wentian took out the Azure Emperor Token, stretching his hand out, displaying it in front of the crowd. An instant later, the expression on the prince face drastically changed, yet he had already expected something like this would happen. Expressions of disbelief now echoed on the faces of the others.

That was, the Azure Emperor Token?

"Isn't father here yet?" That prince ignored Qin Wentian, as he mumbled to himself before he spoke, "The Azure Emperor had already fallen for so many years, how dare someone actually use his name in such a pretentious manner. You two ought to be killed."

As the sound of his voice faded, the killing intent in his eyes thickened.

In this eight hundred years, there was always a matter weighing on their hearts – The Azure Emperor.

As one of the 'hidden' Azure Faction, according to their ancestral edicts, they had to await the successor of the Azure Emperor. However, as their power grew, eventually becoming the ruler of a country, how could they still be willing to follow the orders of a successor of a dead man?

And today, the successor of the Azure Emperor finally appeared.

Since he dared to appear here, he shall disappear from this world forever.

“IMPUDENT!” Zong Yi stepped out as a terrifying sword intent whistled through the air. However, the instant his feet landed, the experts behind the prince all dashed out in retaliation. It was obvious that they were already prepared; the prince had been secretly transmitting voice messages to them throughout the whole confrontation.

“Do the others intend to betray the Azure Emperor as well?” Qin Wentian was as calm as ever, sweeping his gaze through the rest in the crowd. For some reason, although their cultivation bases were higher compared to Qin Wentian, when they met his eyes, they involuntarily felt a wave of coldness sweeping across their hearts.

He used the term 'betray.' If the Skythunder Aristocrat Clan had acted the same way as the White Deer Institute back then, adopting a wait and see approach, this matter would still be understandable.

However, because the prince before him wasn't even the slightest bit interested in parlaying, he directly ordered for their deaths instead.

“A dead man using the term 'betray?’” The charming young woman beside the prince giggled. That smile in her eye showed no hints of respect to the Azure Emperor. And her speech, the word 'dead man', had already showed that they had no intentions of pleading allegiance.

“Shut up.” The prince snapped. “The Azure Emperor has close ties to our ancestors and is a character worthy of respect. What's unforgivable is that these people actually dared to use his name in pretense. They must die.”

Although Zong Yi was extremely powerful, but since both he and Qin Wentian had already arrived here, it was impossible for them to exit the Skythunder Palace any longer.

Qin Wentian's perception stretched out, and indeed, the entire region had been sealed. Every entrance and exit were heavily guarded by experts.

How could Qin Wentian not understand the current scenario? However he didn't say anything, and merely stayed silent watching the scene played out before him. He wanted to see if the others of the Skythunder Aristocrat Sect would act the same way as the young prince.

And at this very moment, an imposing man appeared. This man also had a crown on his head, and upon nearing, the others all dipped into a low bow as they greeted, "Your Majesty."

The middle-aged man waved his hands, his eyes instantly landed upon Qin Wentian and Zong Yi as he walked nearer, exuding an imposing presence.

Qin Wentian calmly stared back at him, in silence.

"Kneel!" Beside the middle-aged man, two guards shouted, stepping out as a domineering pressure gushed forth from them, pressing down onto Qin Wentian.

"If there's still anyone who acknowledges the Azure Emperor, kneel down and pay your respect to him in front of his authority token." Qin Wentian took the Azure Emperor Token out once more, but how could there be anyone willing to kneel just like this? The entire place was doused with silence, nobody cared about that token in the young man's hands. Even if they truly respected the Azure Emperor in their hearts, under such conditions, nobody would be willing to take the initiative to stand out and go against the Skythunder Emperor. Everything would still have to depend on the Skythunder Emperor's attitude.

"Show me the Azure Emperor Token." The Skythunder Emperor spoke after a few moments. Qin Wentian's hands flickered as the Azure Emperor Token flew through the air, landing in the palms of the Skythunder Emperor. Upon seeing Qin Wentian's actions, the Skythunder Emperor couldn't help but have a hint of fear in his heart.

Since this man could become the Emperor of a country, it was needless to say that he excelled in schemes. And seeing how calm and unflustered Qin Wentian was when handing over the Authority Token with no hesitation, he couldn't help but marvel.

"Where did this token come from? We would need some time to investigate first, and moreover, both of your identities are unknown, we would still require both of you to stay in our palace for sometime until we conclude the investigation." The Skythunder Emperor calmly spoke. his deadly gaze was fixed directly onto Qin Wentian as though wanting to see through him.

“In front of the Azure Emperor Token, I command all of you to kneel before it in the space of ten breaths.” Qin Wentian crossed his arms as he swept his gaze onto everyone in the surroundings. His voice was filled with imperiousness, causing the expressions of everyone to stiffen. Why was this man so confident?

That charming young woman giggled softly as though she heard the funniest joke in the world.

“Are you kidding?” On the contrary, after hearing Qin Wentian’s words, the vigilance and sense of danger the Skythunder Emperor felt, actually increased.

“I’m not. Seven breaths of time remain.” Qin Wentian emotionlessly stated.

The others all burst out into cold laughter, with the prince and the young woman laughing the loudest. Mockery was evident on all their faces.

Obviously, in their eyes, Qin Wentian was nothing but a fool. Yet at this moment, the sounds of kneecaps hitting the ground echoed out; there was actually someone who knelt on one knee, calling out, “I’m willing to follow the orders of the successor. Your subordinate greets young master.”

“Royal Uncle, you...?” That joviality the prince felt was instantly wiped away, replaced by incredulousness.

“Plop, plop...”

After that, a total of six to seven people all continually knelt down. “Your subordinates pay their respect to the young master.”

This scene caused the expressions on the faces of the prince as well as the young woman beside him to stiffen, as they stared on blankly, completely dumbfounded!

Chapter 439: Punishment

The sight in front of their eyes was beyond any of their expectations and caused great mayhem in the hearts of those still standing. A terrifying cold glint of light erupted in the Skythunder Emperor’s eyes when he saw those who knelt down in acknowledgement of the Azure Emperor Token.

This indicated that those who knelt had already betrayed him. In that case, they could all die here together with the successor.

In the Skythunder Country, he was the Emperor. Throughout the history of the Skythunder Aristocrat Clan of the past, his branch was the strongest. Those of the other branches were suppressed by him, and in normal times when he was high up and mighty with no challengers, these people naturally wouldn't dare to cause trouble.

But now, when one person took out the Azure Emperor Token, this was an opportunity for the branches that had been suppressed by the main branch in the Skythunder Aristocrat Clan. Let alone the fact that the Skythunder Emperor had offended the successor earlier with his actions earlier. These people who chose to kneel, they were all gambling.

Gambling on the fact that the arrogance the successor had shown meant that he came here prepared. As long as they gambled correctly, it didn't matter even if they pledged their allegiance to the successor. Because in that case, the rights to the Skythunder Country would fall to them.

The Skythunder Emperor glanced at those who knelt, these were people of two branches of the Skythunder Clan that had close connections with each other, and if they worked together, their level of power didn't lose out to the main branch of the Skythunder Clan. In addition, when the successor of the Azure Emperor was thrown into the mix, they then would have enough strength to overthrow the Skythunder Emperor.

These people must have discussed in secret and surrendered at the same time after coming to a conclusion.

Since the Skythunder Emperor could tell what these people were thinking about, how could Qin Wentian fail to surmise that? The him now was no longer the naïve young man that he was years ago.

Although they did so, regardless of the machinations and schemes of these people, everything was useless in front of absolute strength.

“Three more breaths.” Qin Wentian calmly spoke, as the eyes of the crowd flickered, their hearts pounding with a struggle. They were now faced with an extremely difficult choice. Now, the matter was no longer as simple as pledging allegiance to the successor, but rather it was to stand with or stand against the Skythunder Emperor.

In the last three breaths of time, another three knelt down, choosing to side with the successor while the others still continued standing. This meant that from the start, their conviction in the Skythunder Emperor had never wavered.

“All of you, excellent.” The Skythunder Emperor’s voice contained a thick killing intent as he stared at those who knelt. The young woman by the side of the prince involuntarily laughed, she never expected that there would be such delicious drama, that the arrival of the Azure Emperor’s successor actually created an internal conflict in Skythunder.

“Time’s up.” Qin Wentian’s detached voice seemed to contain a hint of coldness within. These people hadn’t simply forgotten the ancestral edicts. They wanted to kill him.

“You can have the authority token back.” The Skythunder Emperor tossed the token back yet Qin Wentian didn’t catch it. He took a slight step forward causing a burst of astral light to inundate the area as his silhouette vanished from sight. In the instant he disappeared, a thunderbolt struck down on the area he was standing at an instant ago. It was like a real thunderbolt from the heavens, containing exceedingly tyrannical attack power within. The heat energy contained within that attack was sufficient to roast Qin Wentian to a crisp were he to be struck by it.

As for the Azure Emperor Token, it was already destroyed as the thunderbolt shot out. However to Qin Wentian, the token no longer served any purposes, he had already accomplished the things he needed to do using it. After the remnants of the ‘hidden’ Azure Faction were gathered, this meant that the first step had come to an end.

The Skythunder Emperor struck out suddenly, he had initially planned to slay the successor before taking care of the traitors. Yet he didn’t expect Qin Wentian’s reaction to be so swift.

Inclining his head and staring up at Qin Wentian, coldness flickered within his eyes. The sharpness radiated was so intense that it seemed as though he wanted to pierce Qin Wentian’s sea of consciousness with a bolt of his thunder. However, Qin Wentian’s figure soared higher and higher. Zong Yi appeared behind him as both of them stood in the middle of the air.

“That movement technique earlier...was it Stellar Transposition?” The Skythunder Emperor had a look of astonishment on his face.

As for Zong Yi, he didn’t find it strange that Di Tian was able to use it. Qin Wentian beseeched Fairy Qingmei to pay a visit to impart the nine ultimate arts to the White Deer Institute and Zong Clan back then, it wasn’t weird for Di Tian who was the representative of Qin Wentian to know the nine ultimate arts.

“Since you have made your choice, there’s no longer a need to spare traitors who have turned against the Azure Emperor.” An overwhelming pressure gushed forth from the air. As the crowd glanced upwards, they only saw a group of people descending from the skies. Although the number wasn’t that great, the aura all of them exuded was extremely powerful.

At the very least, every one of the new arrivals was at the third level of Heavenly Dipper which was more than a match for the strongest experts in the Skythunder Country.

The expressions of those from Skythunder all changed. The successor of the Azure Emperor had already subdued so many powerful characters? Maybe, if the Skythunder Country were united, they might still be able to put up a fight against them. But now that they were besieged by internal conflict, in addition to this external threat, they knew that they had no chance of victory.

“The matters between us, are still our internal clan affairs. Join with me to expel these enemies and I shall forget the matter regarding all of your betrayals today. How about it?” The Skythunder Emperor were still extremely composed at this moment.

Yet, nobody replied to him. Those who pledged allegiance to Qin Wentian knew that an arrow that was fired would never return to the bow. The strength of the allies Qin Wentian brought with him far exceeded their expectations. They would not regret their decisions now, because if they did, it only meant death.

The experts on Qin Wentian’s side all landed on the ground, their terrifying aura enveloping this entire region. The crowd only saw that there was an old man clad in extremely tattered clothing, retrieving baggage from his back. After untying the knots, he took out a wooden staff from within and the instant the Skythunder Emperor saw that staff, his countenance paled immediately.

“Staff of punishment.” You are a descendent of the Punishment Branch of the Azure Emperor?” The Skythunder Emperor’s countenance was now incredibly unsightly, as someone from a hidden Azure Faction, he had naturally heard of some secrets. Back in the era where the Azure Emperor was still alive, the Punishment Branch enjoyed the greatest prestige and authority out of all the other branches. They were the strongest faction supporting the Azure Emperor, and there were times where they invoked even more terror than the Azure Emperor himself.

Because, they were the one who meted out the punishment, not the Azure Emperor. They punished those that the Azure Emperor didn’t want to punish, they killed those that the Azure Emperor didn’t want to kill. In the Azure Emperor Palace, their authority was only exceeded by the Azure Emperor himself. Even those of the direct line of descent feared the people from the Punishment Branch.

“Now, the ‘hidden’ factions will all undergo restructuring and I shall take up the position of the Punisher. Today, the whole lot of you turned traitor and even dared destroy the authority token of the Azure Emperor, your crimes are utterly reprehensible and by the rules, all of you shall be killed without mercy. However, taking into account that thousands of years have passed, I shall give you a chance to save the majority of your clan members.”

The punisher spoke in a low voice as a dangerous pressure gushed forth from him. He stared at the Skythunder Emperor as he continued, “You can choose to commit suicide now, or I will exterminate your entire clan using my staff of punishment.”

“I wonder if the punisher of this generation is still as powerful as what the legends mentioned.” The Skythunder Emperor grimly smiled. He soared into the skies and directly faced the old man. Thunder rolled and lightning flashed, as arcs of electricity blinked around him, exuding a terrifying might.

“Although the Punishment Branch has whittled down to one, I will still uphold this mantle.”

The old man of the Punishment Branch serenely stated. Wielding the staff of punishment in his hand, he slowly took a step forward as he smashed forth with a seemingly ordinary-looking staff strike ahead.

However, the countenance of the Skythunder Emperor was extremely complex, he didn’t dare to underestimate his enemy at all. Rushing out, an endless number of lightning serpents sprang into being as they self-destructed, caging the old man inside a forcefield of lightning.

The old man was seething in anger. His hair and beard fluttered in the wind as a layer of light enveloped his body. With a strike of his staff, a black hole manifested at the tip, warping space and tearing apart the void, as he escaped the force field cage of lightning. An instant later, the black hole tore through all of Skythunder Emperor’s defences and pierced through his chest. As copious amounts of blood flowed out, the arcs of electricity around the emperor faded as he fell from the air, slamming heavily onto the ground.

There was actually a cavity that appeared on the Skythunder Emperor’s body! Staring at the old man in the middle of the air, the emperor roared, “FINE, as expected of the punisher, it would be hard to find an opponent able to match you under the Celestial Phenomenon Realm. I will accept your terms.”

After speaking, a sorrowful look flashed past his eyes as he slapped his hands onto his forehead, summoning a bolt of thunder to fry his brain. The ruler of a country fell just like this.

He was very clear that there was no more hope for him to survive. Only through his death would his branch members not be massacred. The Punishment Branch was famed for their iron words, if they proposed a term, they would keep to it and vice versa, if they wanted to punish someone, no matter who pleaded for the offender, they would still administer the punishment. Back then, there was a case that the Azure Emperor himself personally stepped in to plead for leniency, but it was useless. This, was the job of the Punishment Branch, this was their authority.

The expressions of the remaining survivors were like dead ashes. That prince as well as that charming young woman beside him had no way to smile any more in this circumstances. Their pale countenance were also warped by a terror blossoming in their hearts.

“Your highness, I don’t want to die.” That charming young woman looked to the prince with a pleading tone in her voice. Yet, right now, how could the prince have time to listen to her nonsense? As the punisher shifted his gaze onto him, he could feel the impending crisis of death, hovering around him like a spectre.

“I shall follow my father in death. I hope the rest of my branch members would be spared. As for those that surrendered, don’t be too harsh on them, after all regardless of what happened...we, still share the same bloodline.” The prince decisively spoke as he glanced at those who knelt down earlier. After which, he slammed his palms into the heart of the charming young woman before committing suicide as well.

Making the wrong choice at a crucial moment, the only path remaining is death.

For the rest of the traitors that were directly involved, they too knew that they had no hopes to live today. Although they had an intense desire to survive, they knew what their fates were going to be just by looking at the eyes of the old man. In the end, all of them committed suicide, slumping onto the ground, littering the area with their corpses.

Qin Wentian emotionlessly gazed at the scene unfolding before him. The him now had experienced so many things like this that his heart had already hardened. A general builds his success on ten thousand bones. On the path of the strong, corpses were a common sight, there was nothing surprising.

Chapter 440: Devouring Constellation?

Qin Wentian and the rest stayed in Skythunder for seven days, restructuring the Royal Clan, gaining the ruler’s authority. He didn’t request that the Skythunder Aristocrat Clan dissolve and head over to the Celestial Lake Palace. Instead, he chose over ten experts from them to join him on his journey.

As for the rest that remained, they gained control of the Skythunder Country with the royal authority passed on to them.

The Skythunder Aristocrat Clan had controlled the Skythunder Country for about eight hundred years. Naturally, they had strong foundations and deep roots. Also, in Skythunder, there were many experts under them, as well as a huge amount of cultivation resources and wealth. How could Qin Wentian give that up just like that?

Hence, Qin Wentian brought along the strongest experts from the Skythunder Aristocrat Clan and left behind some of his trusted subordinates to work with the remaining core members to govern the Skythunder Country.

The Skythunder Country could act as reinforcements in the future. After withdrawing a large amount of resources from the treasury, Qin Wentian departed.

Currently, the powers under Qin Wentian's control were: White Deer Institute, Zong Clan, Ice Spirit Sect, Skythunder Country, as well as the old man representing the Punishment Branch.

However, all these hadn't come to an end yet. Qin Wentian personally requested that Fairy Qingmei lead the 'hidden' factions to pay a visit in order to restructure the last remaining faction – the Di Clan.

The Di Clan, after that battle back then, had almost been exterminated completely, with only a few survivors remaining. The Azure Emperor handed them the Azure Emperor Token and instructed them to find a new successor to reinstate the Azure Emperor Palace. But sadly, even the Azure Emperor didn't expect for those survivors, a few thousand years later, to be divided.

The ideology of the current Di Clan was split into two schools of thought. One of them was the branch Di Yi (headmaster of Emperor Star Academy) belonged to. They held fast to Azure Emperor's instructions and were involved in the test for the selection of a successor. As for the other branch, Di Feng hailed from there. They wanted to take over the entire Di Clan, choosing a successor from their own bloodline. Their reasoning was that since their veins flowed with the blood of the Azure Emperor, why was there still a need to depend on choosing from outsiders for the successor? Hence they began their investigations, but after so many years, they only discovered that the White Deer Institute was part of the 'hidden' Azure Faction.

Fairy Qingmei brought along a bunch of experts from the 'hidden' Azure Faction and descended onto the location of the Di Clan. Using the most ruthless methods, she suppressed Di Feng's branch, together with the Punisher, even directly slaying those who chose to betray the Ancestral Edicts. No mercy was shown, not even to those who had the blood of the Azure Emperor running in their veins.

In a mere three days, the restructuring was completed at the cost of many lives and blood. The remaining survivors all followed Fairy Qingmei back to the Celestial Lake Palace.

Yet, this matter didn't cause too much of a commotion in Grand Xia. Nobody noticed the actions of the Celestial Lake Palace.

Right now, the attention of the masses were focused on Ginkou. The happenings there determined Grand Xia's future.

Hua Taixu and Bai Qing caused a total of five transcendent powers to clash. This was no small matter and could very well erupt into a terrifying tempest of unimaginable proportions.

And just when the restructuring of the Di Clan was ongoing, the date for the next Heavenly Fate Ranking Battle got nearer and nearer. In preparation for the coming storm, the various transcendent powers were all gathering their strength.

During these few days, the Mystic Moon Sect, Ouyang Aristocrat Clan and Jiang Clan gathered several experts and entered Ginkou. There was no other reason than that a battle could erupt any time against both the Chen Clan and the Hua Clan. Naturally, they had to increase their strength since Ginkou was the territory of the Chen Clan.

Simultaneously, there were endless clashes among those of the younger generations, leading to many wounded and even dead.

Today, a young man named Di Tian stepped into Ginkou alone.

After three years, Qin Wentian stepped into Ginkou once more.

Back then, he came here together with the Ouyang Aristocrat Clan. But today, he was all alone, stepping into the ancient ruins that were once the kingdom of Grand Xia.

Currently there were also other visitors around the area. They, too, wanted to witness the glory of the past era for themselves.

Qin Wentian stood outside the ancient kingdom, lost in his memories as he sighed in his heart.

Three years.

Three years ago, to gain the approval of White Deer Institute, he had to be ranked within the top three on the Heavenly Fate Rankings.

At the same time, for Luo He not to interfere with his matters with Mo Qingcheng, he had to defeat Zhan Chen.

In the following ranking battle, he defeated the talented geniuses of Grand Xia and acquired the position of the top ranker. Yet, what awaited him was a nightmare. For his sake, the Purgatory Vermilion Bird transformed into the formation true soul and took control of the formation world.

Yet the nightmare persisted even after that. Qingcheng was taken back to the Pill Emperor Hall, and Luo He arranged a marriage candidate selection for her. After which, she was taken by force into the abyss of corpses, and up till now, he didn't know whether Qingcheng was dead or alive.

He himself transformed into a great roc; wielding the demon sword, he split apart the Pill Emperor Hall. Now that he thought about it, everything seemed as fleeting as a passing dream.

With the snap of the fingers, three years passed in the twinkling of an eye. Right now, he had already united the 'hidden' Azure Factions and was restructuring them with Fairy Qingmei's assistance. He now had a power to call his own, with countless experts at his beck and call.

As for his other body, the great roc, after sending him to Ginkou, the great roc returned back to the demonic regions near the Demon Continent and continued to wage war, conquering the other demon emperors of the other region, in preparation for an all-out earth-shattering and heaven-shaking war in Grand Xia.

And now, he came to Ginkou once more, standing outside the ancient kingdom.

Right at this moment, a terrifying aura emanated from the middle of the ancient kingdom, permeating the entire region.

"The Vermilion Bird Formation is activated, quickly leave!" Someone shouted, as the other visitors all retreated. The dangerous aura soon enveloped the entire space, including Qin Wentian within. After which, the Purgatory Constellation appeared overhead as the astral light it cascaded fell on Qin Wentian.

"Yiyiyaya!"

A light and familiar voice echoed in his head. Qin Wentian's gaze flickered, only to see a white blur of shadows dashing over and jumping into his hug.

"Little Rascal!"

Qin Wentian smiled. He didn't expect that even after he disguised his facial features, Little Rascal would still know that it was him.

"Bzzz!" A warm current of air blew on his body. Qin Wentian stared ahead only to see the faint shadow of a Vermilion Bird flying over, before hovering in spirals above him, while letting out shrieks of joyfulness.

"Purgatory!" Qin Wentian's heart trembled. Hadn't the Purgatory Vermilion Bird already transformed into the true soul of the formation world?

But there was no mistake, that bird flying in the air was that Purgatory Vermilion Bird which he had obtained back then in the trials of the Heavenly Fate ranking battles.

"Little Rascal," a melodious voice drifted over. Qin Wentian glanced in that direction as he saw a beautiful lady clad in red. The contours of her body were further accentuated by her clothing, as well as that charm in her eyes; it was sufficient to move the souls of those who were looking in them.

Luo Huan stared at Little Rascal, as well as the faint shadow of the Vermilion Bird crowding around the young man, in bewilderment. Moments later, a bright light flashed in her eyes as she probed, "Are you junior brother?"

Based on Luo Huan's understanding of Little Rascal, it would definitely not be so close to a random stranger unless that stranger was a female. Based on the horny nature of that puppy, other than Qin Wentian, it wouldn't allow any other males to touch it.

A warm light flickered in Qin Wentian's eyes as he looked at Luo Huan. Senior Sister Luo Huan had always been intelligent; it was impossible to hide things like this from her.

Naturally, he had complete trust in this senior sister of his.

"Senior Sister," Qin Wentian called out, the corners of his lips curled into a smile as his facial features rearranged themselves and returned to his original look. The glow in Luo Huan's eyes

brightened. She then stuck her hands on her hips and laughed gaily, “You finally remember to come for this senior sister of yours?”

Qin Wentian walked up, glancing at her beautiful figure before embracing her into a hug. “Sis, how are you and teacher faring here? It has already been almost three years.”

“Tormented by utter boredom. Luckily, Little Rascal is here to accompany us, filling our days of boring cultivation with laughter with its antics. What about you? Why are you here so fast? Even if you are in disguise, you have to be careful in Ginkou. Currently there are many transcendent powers here.”

“Don’t worry about it. After the news of our departure was leaked, the various transcendent powers long stopped paying attention to their monitoring of this place.” Qin Wentian and Luo Huan continued walking, when suddenly another figure appeared before him.

Qin Wentian had a smile on his face. Mustang was similarly moved when he saw Qin Wentian. “Wentian, seeing that you are fine, I can put my worries to rest now.”

“Teacher.” Warm currents flowed in Qin Wentian’s heart. Mustang pulled his hand as he continued, “Come sit down, tell Teacher about your experiences and the changes in Grand Xia.”

“It’s a long story.” Qin Wentian sat down as he sighed and informed Mustang and Luo Huan about everything that happened, including Mo Qingcheng’s unknown fate and the fact regarding the unification of the Azure Faction, his words causing a myriad of expressions to flash upon their faces.

After the story concluded, the smiles on their faces became looks of worry and sorrow instead.

“Qingcheng is a good girl, I hope nothing happens to her.” Mustang’s eyes reddened slightly. Back then, in the Emperor Star Academy, Old Gu was the maternal grandfather of Mo Qingcheng, while he himself was Old Gu’s disciple. Of course Mustang was extremely supportive of the relationship between his own student with Mo Qingcheng. Yet he never expected such an ending.

“I hope so too...” Qin Wentian murmured.

“Wentian, in these two years, we actually prepared a surprise for you.” At this moment, Luo Huan suddenly erupted into laughter, as though she wanted to intentionally shift the topic aside, in case Qin Wentian might be hurt from recalling the bad memories.

Qin Wentian naturally understood Luo Huan's intentions; he also smiled and asked, "What surprise?"

"Little Rascal, show him." Luo Huan turned her gaze onto Little Rascal. Little Rascal let out a torrent of excited barks as it jumped out of Qin Wentian's hold, rushing out of it to a location directly under the Purgatory Constellation. An expression of satisfaction appeared on its face as it lifted its head before opening its mouth and deeply inhaling.

Instantly, above the air, the astral light emanating forth from the constellation all transformed into a thick strand of light that flowed into Little Rascal's mouth. And very swiftly, that majestic constellation dimmed, as the light was endlessly devoured into Little Rascal's stomach.

Even the true soul of the formation world was sucked in.

Gradually, Little Rascal's body underwent a transformation. It grew large in size as the wings of the Purgatory Vermilion Bird appeared on its back. Golden runes appeared on its forehead. It seemed as though it had fused together as one with the Vermilion Bird's true soul. It continued devouring the constellation at a frantic speed, appearing as though it even wanted to swallow up the entire sky.

"This..." Qin Wentian was flabbergasted upon seeing this. He had always felt that Little Rascal was extraordinary. Was the reason why it didn't want to leave the formation world back then because of this?

It could actually devour constellations?!