

Battle Through the Heavens #Chapter 371: The Ingenuity of the Secret Technique - Read Battle Through the Heavens Chapter 371: The Ingenuity of the Secret Technique

Chapter 371: The Ingenuity of the Secret Technique

The large, light screen was suspended in midair within the cave. Countless words were layered on it in an orderly manner. Beside the words, there was an extremely complicated diagram of the human figure made of light. Within the diagram of light, numerous complicated lines formed by light intertwined with one another, forming a mysterious and strange route.

Xiao Yan's eyes carried some curiosity as they carefully inspected the screen of light. He immediately turned his head and saw Yao Lao's eyes, which shone brightly. His heart involuntarily leaped as he softly asked, "Teacher, do you know what this is?"

"Yes." The glow in Yao Lao's eyes slowly withdrew as he smiled and nodded. He smacked his lips and smiled as he said with a surprised sigh, "This time around, you have indeed picked up a treasure. This 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' is a very mysterious, high-class Secret Technique."

"Secret Technique?" Xiao Yan's eyebrows immediately rose upon hearing these words.

"Ke ke, other than Qi Methods and Dou Techniques there are still some special Secret Techniques which exist on the Dou Qi continent. Their effects are usually something that will cause others to be envious. Some of them can even greatly raise one's strength. That night back at Wu Tan City, your little female friend used an advanced Secret Technique to enable herself to raise her strength to the Da Dou Shi class for a short period of time." Yao Lao smiled as he explained.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. The scene of that night when Xun Er stealthily entered the Jia Li clan to murder Liu Xi surfaced in his mind. She, whose strength had been at the Dou Zhe level, had suddenly raised her strength to a level where it was sufficient to contend with a Da Dou Shi. That kind of Secret Technique was really so strong that it was a little terrifying.

"According to what I know, this 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' is one of the hidden treasures belonging to the 'Burning Flame Valley'. Although it is a useless kind of Secret Technique for most people, it is undoubtedly a treasure which money cannot buy for a person who possesses a certain extraordinary and unique flame."

“Oh?” Xiao Yan’s heart was moved as he heard this. Possessing a certain extraordinary type of flame? Was there any flame that was more extraordinary than a ‘Heavenly Flame’ in this world?

“If one wants to practice this kind of Secret Technique, the first requirement is that the practitioner must have the fire affinity. The second is that he must possess an extraordinary flame. The extraordinary flame here also includes those flames like your Purple Flame. Of course, the ‘Heavenly Flame’ is naturally the best choice. Ke ke. But since when was a ‘Heavenly Flame’ so easy to find in this world? Therefore, I seem to have heard that only the Valley Leader of the ‘Burning Flame Valley’ possessed a kind of ‘Heavenly Flame’.” Yao Lao smiled as he spoke.

“If I were to fulfill these conditions and practice the ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’, can I also raise my strength for a short period of time?” Xiao Yan’s eyeballs rotated as he hurriedly asked.

“Naturally.” Yao Lao fondled his beard and smiled. He eyed Xiao Yan’s face which was filled with excitement as he said, “This so called ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’ actually relies on a special and bizarre method to draw out the special flame from within the body, and unleashes an extremely great energy, which is then used to push the opponent back and deter them.”

“Is it as strong as the Secret Technique that Xun Er displayed back then?” Xiao Yan suddenly interrupted and asked.

Yao Lao frowned slightly upon hearing this. He mused for a moment before shaking his head immediately and said, “Back then, I observed the complexion of that little girl and seeing that it was still rosy the next day after using the Secret Technique the night before, really surprised me. From the looks of it, I’m afraid that there is still a gap between the Secret Technique she displayed and this one. After all, all Secret Techniques use a kind of compression or overdraw method to obtain strength. This lets a person’s strength soar for a short period of time, but there would usually be a substantial backlash that appears after each use. Using this ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’ as an example. It is said that each time it is used, the wild energy of the flame will cause people’s body to be badly injured. However, from the external appearance of your little female friend the next day, she did not suffer from an overly large loss. From this, the differences of the two kinds of Secret Techniques can be determined.”

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and sighed while shaking his head. In his heart, he felt increasingly strong curiosity of Xun Er’s mysterious background. Given her age, she actually possessed a kind of Secret Technique that even Yao Lao could not stop praising. Just how strong was the faction that supported her?

“Ke ke, you should not be so dejected. This ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’ is actually not weak either. According to what I know, if one possess three kinds of flame,

this Secret Technique can let a person's strength to increase three different times. The scale at which your strength would increase is related to the strength of the flame that you control. Back then, the Valley Leader of the 'Burning Flame Valley' had one kind of 'Heavenly Flame' and two 'Beast Flames', which were obtained from the bodies of two Magical Beasts. His original strength was around the five star Dou Zong level, but if he used the three transformations of the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change', he could easily contend with a Dou Zhun!" Yao Lao smiled and comforted Xiao Yan after seeing his expression.

"Oh? It actually allows the user to fight across classes?" Xiao Yan was a little moved upon hearing this. After seeing Hai Bodong pushed back by a single attack of the Yun Shan's clones, he clearly knew just how difficult it was to cross the gap between each class once one reached the Dou Huang level. Yet this 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' actually lets the user fight across the gaps between classes. From what you just said, it can indeed be considered 'a good thing' as Yao Lao had just said.

"Ke ke, that is the limit that one could raise if they only possess one 'Heavenly Flame'. But it is different for you. The you who possesses the 'Flame Mantra' does not need to worry about the flames in your body clashing with one another. Therefore, as long as you are given enough time and luck to gather three kinds of 'Heavenly Flames', the extent that your strength will rise when you activate the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' to the third transformation would likely be something that even the ancestor who had created this Secret Technique did not ever imagine. After all, he couldn't have also practiced the 'Flame Mantra'." Yao Lao laughed softly.

The blood in Xiao Yan's heart could not help but boil a little when he heard Yao Lao's words. A flush surfaced on his face. His gaze was a little more fiery when he once again looked at the curtain of light.

"Insert your hand into that light green-colored liquid. In this way, you can completely obtain the training method for the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change'. You will not gain anything by looking at this light screen." Yao Lao reminded.

Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded his head. He placed his finger into the liquid which was somewhat warm. The curtain of light that was suspended in midair trembled slightly. Immediately, it appeared to come to life as it swiftly began to move. A moment later, the screen of light turned into a string of light that poured directly into Xiao Yan's head.

The enormous flood of information violently charged into his mind. Xiao Yan's face swiftly twitched a couple of times. He forcefully endured the wave of pain that swept over him as he hurriedly sat down, closed his eyes, and digested the information which contained the practice method of the Secret Technique.

The mountain cave once again descended into complete silence. Yao Lao slowly stroked his beard as he eyed Xiao Yan who was seated with his eyes close. Suddenly, he let out a soft gloating laughter, "It is really unexpected that this heavily guarded

Secret Technique of the 'Burning Flame Valley' would actually find its way into the Jia Ma Empire. Moreover, it was even obtained by this little fellow. Hee hee. That antiquated old fellow Yan Huo wasn't even willing to let the old me borrow and read it back then. Yet it still landed in my disciple's hand. It was even obtained without any effort. If he were to know about this, I'm afraid that he would be extremely furious. Ha ha."

The laugh reverberated throughout the cave. It was a long while later before it slowly faded away. Xiao Yan, who had his eyes tightly closed also gradually opened them. He gently exhaled a breath of air while his eyes flashed.

"The training method for the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' is really strange. I don't know which odd genius could actually create this." Xiao Yan shook his head and sighed. While he was digesting the information that had flown through his head earlier, he had roughly took a look at the training method for the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change'. It could indeed be called incomparably strange.

"Secret Techniques are extremely rare in this world. The extent of their rarity can even be comparable to a high Di class Qi Method." Yao Lao smiled and nodded. He asked, "How is it? Are you satisfied?"

TL: Note that Qi Method > Dou Technique in terms of worth

"Extremely satisfied."

Xiao Yan's mouth parted with a smile. Quickly following it, however, he frowned and said, "But I have gave it a brief glance just now. This 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' does indeed have three transformations. Unfortunately, the information contained within the jade piece merely records the first transformation. There is not even the slightest prospect of the remaining two kinds of transformation."

"Oh? There is only one change?" Yao Lao's eyebrows knit together when he heard this information. A long while later, he could only shake his head helplessly and said, "This is perhaps some small trick of the 'Burning Flame Valley'. In this way, even if someone were to luckily obtain the Secret Technique, it would be difficult for them to practice all of it."

"But if there isn't, then there isn't. The current me coincidentally only has one 'Heavenly Flame' within my body. It is perfect to train one kind of transformation for now." Xiao Yan waved his hand and said in an open-minded manner.

"Ah, then you should temporarily practice it first. Once you have found other 'Heavenly Flames' in the future, then we'll think of ways to obtain the remaining portion of the technique from the 'Burning Flame Valley'." Yao Lao nodded his head and spoke softly.

Xiao Yan quietly nodded.

“You have completely recovered from your injuries. What are you planning to do next?” Yao Lao suddenly asked.

Xiao Yan was startled upon hearing this. He mused for a moment, clenched his fists tightly, and said, “I want to search for my father! Seeing that Yun Leng actually insisted that he had never touched my father just before his death, I’m afraid that what he said should be the truth.”

Xiao Yan’s brows knit together as he spoke this point. He smiled bitterly and said, “If what he said were true, how could my father, with the strength of a Da Dou Shi, disappear in front of the eyes of a Dou Wang?”

Yao Lao flicked his finger gently. A long while later, he narrowed his eyes slightly and spoke softly, “Your father’s strength is really that of a Da Dou Shi. Therefore, it is likely that he did not rely on his own strength to disappear into nowhere. It might be that there was someone else who did something to bring him away.”

“Someone else?” Xiao Yan was momentarily stunned. His expression changed slightly as he said: “If it really was someone else who did it, I’m afraid that the other party’s strength would at least be at the Dou Huang level in order to bring my father away in front of Yun Leng without the latter even realizing it. But other than me, it seems that my Xiao clan has never befriended such a strong person.”

“With the background of your Xiao clan, it is indeed really difficult for them to befriend such a strong person. But the faction behind your little female friend does have this ability.” Yao Lao said blandly.

“Teacher, what do you mean? Someone Xun Er sent?” Xiao Yan’s face was at a loss as he asked after hearing this.

“That little girl may be very smart, but she is far too young. It is unlikely that she possesses such great foresight. What I meant is that this may be related to the faction that stands behind her.” Yao Lao shook his head and said, “Your Xiao clan does have some connection with them, but it cannot be considered to be a good one. The relationship is overly complicated with too much implication. As an outsider, I am also not very certain about the details. The next time you meet that little female friend of yours, you can ask her and you may learn some secrets.

Xiao Yan found it difficult to ask more questions when he saw Yao Lao’s expression. He nodded slightly and said in a soft voice, “Alright. In any case, the clan has already been moved. I can also leave with my peace of mind. This time, let’s hurry directly to Jia Nan Academy.”

“Yes.”

Xiao Yan turned his body around and slowly walked towards the entrance of the cave. He eyed the dark, black night sky and a cold glint flashed across his narrowed pupils. He said faintly, "However, a hard fight is unavoidable if we want to successfully leave the Jia Ma Empire. Given Yun Shan's character, he will definitely not allow me leave the Jia Ma Empire easily."

Yao Lao nodded his head.

"Hei, since they want to get me to stay behind, then they should be prepared to receive a beating. I, Xiao Yan, am not someone who is softhearted!" A green-colored flame abruptly leapt from his long finger. He slowly exhaled a breath of air. A thick, low voice slowly resounded within the interior of the cave.

Chapter 372: Bloody Revenge!

Following the flow of time, night slowly faded away. When the first morning sunlight from the distant sky poured over the land, signs of life once again burst forth in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, which had been quiet for the entire night. A countless number of huge birds were singing in unison, their song remained in the forest and did not fade away for a long time.

A huge rock suddenly rolled aside and fell by the precipitous ravine. The loud sound that it emitted as it fell frightened the bird beasts lingering nearby until they hurriedly spread their wings and fled.

After the mountain rock fell, a dark, black cave entrance was revealed. A black-robed figure immediately walked out. He narrowed his slanted eyes as he swept them across the partially concealed blue sky, hidden behind the thick mist. He gently exhaled and said softly, "Teacher, are there any traces of the Misty Cloud Sect disciples nearby?"

"Yes."

A voice was swiftly emitted from within Xiao Yan's heart, "A few hundred meters on the other side of this ravine, there are quite a number of Qis of varying strength. There are also some scattered ones in other directions. Yun Shan has left an energy trace within your body. Although this trace is being suppressed by me, they are still able to vaguely sense a little of it. Therefore, they can use this to vaguely guess your position. However, it is quite fortunate that the region they can narrow their search to is still very large. They need to search cautiously in order to be certain. Otherwise, they would have found this location last night."

"Hei, they really are persistent. Looks like the Misty Cloud Sect is really keen on killing me." Xiao Yan coldly laughed.

"Now, you cannot be held back by them. Otherwise, if the Elders of the Misty Cloud Sect were to hurry over, you would be in trouble. Moreover, I need at least half a month

before my Spiritual Strength is fully recovered. Therefore, you have to rely on yourself if you want to escape from the Misty Cloud Sect's blockade that surrounds this area during this half a month period of time." Yao Lao reminded seriously.

Xiao Yan quietly nodded. The last time Yao Lao had fallen into a slumber had caused him to understand what it meant to rely entirely on himself. Although Yao Lao was currently unable to take direct action to help him, the vast experience which he had accumulated over the years was still able to provide Xiao Yan a vast amount of help. Therefore, Xiao Yan was not the slightest bit worried despite the situation being quite dangerous.

"Since I am currently surrounded in three directions, I can only continue to move deeper into the Magical Beast Mountain Range and find an opportunity to make a detour. As long as I can throw off the people who are chasing me and hide my identity, I think that it will not be difficult to leave the Jia Ma Empire." Xiao Yan said softly.

"Yes, everything is up to you. I will help by keeping track to the people chasing you." Yao Lao's voice slowly became softer before completely disappearing.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His shoulders trembled slightly and the huge Purple Cloud Wings unfurled from his back. He flapped the wings and his body was like a large bird as he shot directly toward the clouds.

When his body was slightly above the top of the ravine, Xiao Yan turned his body. He immediately landed steadily on the opposite side of the ravine. He slowly returned the Purple Cloud Wings to tattoos and turned around to look at the dense forest which began to rustle with faint disturbances after sensing the movement. He laughed coldly as his body turned into a black line which charged directly into the dense forest. In the blink of an eye, he disappeared under the cover of the heavy tree leaves.

Not long after Xiao Yan disappeared, the branches of the trees on the opposite side of the ravine suddenly swayed a little. A group of human figures released a 'swash' sound as they flashed and appeared. They held shining longswords in their hands that reflected a thick cold glow under the sunlight.

"No one? A moment ago, second senior brother sensed some movement in the air around here?"

"Perhaps it was created by some Magical Beast. However, the ravine here is a little too wide. Looks like only those brothers in the sect who are well versed in wind affinity Qi Techniques can go over first."

"Yes."

"Remember the Elders' order. Do not fight head on with Xiao Yan should you meet him. All we need to do is to use all our effort to try and stall for time!"

“Yes!”

The orderly response sounded by the edge of the ravine. A few shadows suddenly shot out, using a gentle wind to allow their bodies to drift in midair. They were like catkin floating in the wind, gently falling toward the other side of the ravine. The few people exchanged glances when they landed before standing up and rushing into the dense woods with great cooperation.

In the dense mountain forest, a human figure was swiftly flashing across tree branches. Each time his toes gently pressed against a branch, his body would use that force to abruptly shoot a great distance away. Although there were some Magical Beasts, who carried ferocious auras, that appeared along the path where the human figure flashed past, these Magical Beasts did not seem to have the slightest intention of stopping him. Instead, they would lie low on the ground just before the human figure arrived. Their bodies would tremble as they hid their Qis. That manner was as though they had met something terrifying .

“The people chasing are getting further and further away. They seem to have also sensed your swift movement. Now, there is a large group of Misty Cloud Sect disciples hurrying over from all directions. However, it is fortunate that there are Magical Beasts blocking them along the way. With their speed of travel, you should be able to completely escape them by evening.” Yao Lao’s voice suddenly sounded from Xiao Yan’s heart, who was swiftly moving.

Xiao Yan quietly sighed in relief upon hearing this. He nodded slightly and lifted his head to stare at the light not far in front of him. His toes pressed gently once again and his body shot out like an arrow which had left a bow.

As his body grew increasingly closer to the light at the edge of the forest, Xiao Yan frowned slightly. An instinctive feeling within him caused an uneasiness to surface within his heart. However, he could not find anything regarding the source of this uneasiness. Moreover, Yao Lao did not come out to speak. Therefore, he simply forcefully suppressed that uneasy feeling within his heart and stared intently at the bright exit. He increased the strength of his legs and finally turned into a black shadow which shot directly out.

“Be careful!” The moment that Xiao Yan’s body charged out of the forest, Yao Lao’s stern voice suddenly sounded!

“Xiu!”

The sudden, bright, eye-piercing sunlight caused Xiao Yan to habitually close his eyes. Closely following Yao Lao’s cry, as well as the tearing sound that was emitted from the sky, a chill was felt in his heart. By instinct, Xiao Yan’s body forcefully and strangely twisted in midair before landing on the ground. His body rolled a couple of times on the grass, much like a hedgehog rolling down the mountain, before entering a small bush

close to him which was only a few meters wide. He suddenly lifted his head and studied the blue sky. His eyes shrunk abruptly.

At this moment, there were five enormous eagle type Magical Beasts in the vast sky, slowly circling above. What caused Xiao Yan's expression to change slightly was the few human figures who were on the backs of the five flying Magical Beast. Although he was a great distance from them, Xiao Yan could still identify their identities from their robes: the Misty Cloud Sect!

"Dammit. It is really unexpected that the Misty Cloud Sect actually had flying beasts at such a large scale!" Xiao Yan clenched his teeth and softly cursed. If it wasn't because of the great increase in his strength which also provided him with a lot more agility, he would really have received some injuries from the sneak attack earlier.

"I'm sorry. This exceeded my expectations. Originally, I thought that only those few Dou Wangs from the Misty Cloud Sect could fly. Therefore, my attention toward the sky was a little less focused. In the end, I did not expect that they actually had such a tactic. The strongest Misty Cloud Sect disciple on those few flying Magical Beast is around that of a two star Da Dou Shi. This weak aura coupled with their flying height actually managed to escape my perception. I was careless." Yao Lao's bitter laughter sounded from Xiao Yan's heart.

"Teacher, you need not blame yourself. I had already expected that my plan to escape this time would definitely not go smoothly." Xiao Yan smiled. He lifted his head and eyed the sky. A thick, darkness flashed across his face as he said, "However, it is insufficient if they wanted to stop me with just these few people."

"Be careful. Try your best not to be held back by them. Otherwise, it will be very troublesome once their reinforcements arrive." Yao Lao once again reminded when he heard the killing intent in Xiao Yan's voice.

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded his head. His hand slowly grasped his sleeves and a thick cold smile surfaced on his face.

The five flying Magical Beasts in the sky lingered above this area, which was isolated by the forest. There were two Misty Cloud Sect disciples standing on the back of each Magical Beast. At this moment, ten pairs of anxious eyes were directly watching the bushes which Xiao Yan was hiding in.

"Mo Lei sir, the person below is undoubtedly Xiao Yan. What should we do now?" A Misty Cloud Sect disciple on the back of a flying Magical Beast asked a middle-aged, large man respectfully.

"Release the signal flares first." The middle-aged, large man's gaze stared sharply and intently at the small bush as he ordered coldly, "Before the Elders arrive, we must hinder Xiao Yan no matter what. The old Sect Leader said that Xiao Yan is severely

injured. Even if he can strain himself and flee, it is likely that his strength would be greatly decreased. As long as we delay him until the Elders arrive, it will be difficult for him to escape death!”

“The old Sect Leader has also said that an exception will be made to promote whoever captures Xiao Yan, whether he is dead or alive, to the position of a Deacon. Moreover, that person will even be freely allowed to choose a High Xuan Qi Method and Dou Technique!” When these words of the middle-aged man left his mouth, the breathing of the other nine slightly younger Misty Cloud Sect disciples immediately became hurried. An additional greediness and ferociousness appeared in the eyes, which they used to stare at the small cluster of bushes.

“Bang!”

An intelligent Misty Cloud Sect disciple swiftly took out a signal flare from his chest pocket not long after the large man’s words fell. He then pulled it with a great force. As a clear sound appeared, a huge, fog longsword with cloud markings slowly formed in the distant sky.

The moment the Misty Cloud Sect disciple released the signal flare, the gazes of the others in his group continued to stare intently at the small bushes. The sharp longswords which they held in their hands reflected a deep glint. The faint Dou Qi shrank and extended indefinitely on the edge of the swords.

After the signal flare and the sound gradually disappeared, the area once again descended into complete silence. There was not the slightest movement within those small bushes.

The eyes of the middle-aged man stared unblinkingly at the small bushes. The strange silence of the surroundings caused the cold and stern face of the middle-aged man to change slightly. A long while later, some cold sweat involuntarily surfaced on his forehead. Logically speaking, Xiao Yan should know that the longer time dragged on, the more of a disadvantage he would be in. But why is it now...

Just as the large middle-aged man was imagining things, a change occurred within the small bushes below. The leaves suddenly shot out explosively, permeating the sky. A black shadow also borrowed the cover of the leaves and burst out.

“Humph. Where can you go?” The moment the bushes moved, the middle-aged man immediately sensed something. His dark and cold gaze simply ignored the tree leaves that covered his sight and directly locked onto that black shadow. The longsword in his hand swung swiftly, even forming a couple of afterimages in front of him.

As the longsword moved, over ten sharp sword blades were shot out from the tip of the sword. They were immediately and violently aimed toward the black shadow.

The points at which the sword blades landed were extremely ingenious. They coincidentally sealed the path which the black shadow was using to charge forward. If he were to forcibly charge in, it was likely that he would be wounded on the spot.

The black shadow was clearly unwilling to be injured because of this. Therefore, his feet were abruptly inserted into the grass covered ground, borrowing the elastic force to swiftly pull himself back. He immediately rolled in the air and was once again forced back into the small bushes.

“Hee hee, this little fellow is indeed quite badly injured.” The corner of the middle-aged large man involuntarily revealed a gloating expression. Before his gloating smile was completely revealed, however, a seven-colored glow flashed from the corner of his mouth, causing his smile to swiftly stiffen.

“Be careful!” The middle-aged man squat down slightly and roared sternly.

“Ah.” His voice had just rang out when a blood-curling scream was heard. The middle-aged man raised his head and his expression changed drastically as he realized that a flying Magical Beast not far from him had been drenched in a seven-colored liquid at this moment. The bodies of the two people on it’s back had merely blocked it with their Dou Qi for a short moment before their bodies were corroded by the seven-colored liquid into two piles of white bones.

The miserable death of their companions caused the faces of the remaining Misty Cloud Sect disciples around to grow pale. In their panic, they hurriedly directed their flying Magical Beasts to descend toward the ground.

“Stupid fellows. Don’t go near the ground! Xiao Yan is below!” The middle-aged man hurriedly cried out furiously when he saw the action of these Misty Cloud Sect disciples.

“Hee hee, it’s too late.” A thick, dark, cold laugh suddenly rippled through the air. A human figure shot out abruptly from within the small bushes. The Purple Cloud Wings on his back flapped, and he instantly appeared by the side of the three flying Magical Beasts. The Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand was as quick as lightning as it cut out three traces of broken wind. Following three muffled sounds, fresh blood rained down and permeated the sky. The heads of the three Magical Beasts fell from the sky.

The flying Magical Beasts were killed on the spot. The six Misty Cloud Sect disciples on their backs let out terrified screeches as their faces became pale. Their quick falling speed made the wild wind, blowing past, to force their screeches back into their throats.

Once he killed the three flying Magical Beasts, Xiao Yan ignored the falling Misty Cloud Sect disciples. With their mere Dou Shi strengths, falling from such a height meant certain death!

Xiao Yan's body was suspended in midair. He glanced at the only flying Magical Beast in the sky. Without saying any unnecessary words, he flapped the wings on his back and swiftly pounced over.

"Hurry up and leave!"

The middle-aged man's face was completely pale as he eyed Xiao Yan who was shooting over. An eagle-like cry was hurriedly released from the middle-aged large man's mouth. Immediately, the remaining flying Magical Beast swiftly rose into the air, attempting to escape.

"Si"

The Magical Beast had just increased its altitude when a seven-colored light once again surfaced. It was like a sharp arrow that directly shot through the chest of Misty Cloud Sect disciple beside the large middle-aged man who was already frightened by the deaths of his companions until his face was pale.

Hot, fresh blood spilled from behind the large middle-aged man, and finally splashed onto his neck. The blood was originally warm, yet it caused the middle-aged large man to feel a chill, and regret swelled forth from his heart. He regretted being so greedy, and the decision he made to involve these people so deeply within the chase.

"Since you are here, why do you want to leave?" A black shadow abruptly rose in the empty space in front of him. Finally, in a demonic manner, he raised the heavy ruler with his hand and pressed his toes gently on the head of the Magical Beast. His smiling face was like an evil demon in the eyes of the large middle-aged man.

"If you want me to die, you can also forget about getting away so easily!" Having no room to retreat, the large middle-aged man clenched his teeth ferociously. He tightened his grip on his longsword and let out a fierce laughter. The Dou Qi on his entire body surged as he shot explosively toward Xiao Yan while carrying a powerful force.

Xiao Yan watched the large middle-aged man who had charged over with the intent to kill. He gently lifted the heavy ruler in his hand and stepped on the head of the Magical Beast with his toes. His body shot forward like an arrow. As the sound of two swords collided rang out, the two figures also intertwined and passed one another.

Xiao Yan's hand held the Heavy Xuan Ruler. He flipped his hand and inserted it onto his back before whistling with his mouth into the air. A seven-colored light rushed into his sleeves. He then flapped the pair of wings on his back, turned his head, and eyed the large number of small black spots which had suddenly appeared in the distant horizon. A cold smile appeared on his face as his body swiftly landed on the ground. He immediately disappeared into the extremely dense forest. From the moment he stored his ruler until he left, he did not even take a single glance at the large middle-aged man who was still maintaining his stance of lifting his sword.

Not long after Xiao Yan had disappeared, the large group of small black spots coming from the distant horizon, gradually and finally magnified. They immediately carried a wild wind that spread throughout the sky as they arrived at the spot which had just undergone a big fight.

The black spots were enlarged and actually consisted of more than thirty Magical Beasts of similar shape. There were three elders with Dou Qi wings on their backs at the leading position of the flying unit.

“Mo Lei, where is Xiao Yan? What about the other members of your small unit?” The three elders were shockingly the three Misty Cloud Elders who had taken action to stop Hai Bodong when Xiao Yan had first went up against the Misty Cloud Sect. At this moment, one Elder was eyeing the large middle-aged man who was standing on the back of a Magical Beast with his head lowered as he cried out loud.

However, Mo Lei did not have any reaction to his name being called.

“Something is wrong!” As they eyed Mo Lei, who had his head lowered, the expression of the older man suddenly changed as he cried out softly.

As his cry fell, the body of Mo Lei, who was standing on the back of the Magical Beast, suddenly trembled. Immediately, his body exploded with a ‘bang’, much like that of a bomb, in front of the shocked gazes of the nearly one hundred Misty Cloud Sect disciples. The fresh blood which was spread in all directions immediately poured down from the sky.

“Hiss.” The instant after Mo Lei’s body exploded, the Magical Beast under his feet suddenly emitted a painful groan. Its body trembled intensely. A moment later, a ‘bang’ was unleashed and another explosion occurred.

Fresh blood accompanied by fragments of meat came pouring down from the sky, nearly rendering the entire dark, green grassland below into a hell-like scene.

As they endured the dreadful event that occurred in front of them, the nearly one hundred Misty Cloud Sect disciples had pale faces as they descended into a strange silence. Some of the smarter ones seemed to realize something from this tragedy.

Revenge!

This was the revenge that Xiao Yan had given to the Misty Cloud Sect for continuing to chase after him with the intention to kill!

The revenge of a hungry wolf, which was forced into a desperate situation, would cause the coldness to diffuse throughout a person’s heart.

The oldest Elder had a green face as he eyed the fresh blood and remnant bones on the ground. He clenched his fist and abruptly lowered his head towards the many large mountains as he roared out with great enmity: "Xiao Yan, even if I have to continue chasing you for thousands of kilometers, this old man will definitely tear you into tens of thousands of pieces, pull out your muscles, and break your bones!"

The roar was carried by Dou Qi as it mightily spread throughout the entire mountain, not disappearing until a long while later.

In the distant dense woods, the swiftly flashing black shadow suddenly paused. He indifferently glanced at the sky behind him and slowly emitted a soft, cold laughter. His feet immediately pressed against the tree branch, and swiftly fled into the dense woods before disappearing.

Chapter 373: Surrounded and Attacked in The Magical Beast Mountain Range

Within the vast, dense forest, the bright green trees covered nearly half of the sky. Occasionally, however, one could see flying Magical Beasts repeatedly whizzing past in the sky with a bone-chilling killing intent through the gaps of the tree leaves.

In the sky above the enormous sea of trees, tens of flying Magical Beasts were spread out in a circular formation, surrounding the large forest. At this moment, these flying Magical Beasts were moving nearer from afar as they slowly searched toward the center of the forest.

Within a certain dense thicket, a pair of eyes were quietly looking through the gaps between the leaves, eyeing the numerous huge bodies in the sky. Each one carried a dark shadow as they flew past. He could not help but knit his eyebrows tightly together. Although he had already shaken off the unit that had been chasing him earlier, his legs could not outrun a pair of wings. Therefore, the flying units that came from all directions overtook him after an hour. However, it was fortunate that the other party did not know his exact location and were unable to find him within a short period of time.

"Looks like those three old men who would not die are extremely furious. They actually began to search inch by inch without consideration of the labor required." Xiao Yan had shrunk within a dark shadow as he softly muttered.

"The strengths of those three Misty Cloud Sect Elders are not bad. Therefore, they are able to sense the slight movements emitted from the energy trace within your body more clearly than an ordinary person. Although they are still unable to accurately tell your exact location, they are able to sense your approximate location." Yao Lao said in a deep voice, "Now they had begun to form a circular formation and surround the approximate location. After which, they will search inch by inch from far to near. This method may sound stupid but it must be said that this is the only way they can swiftly find you. Moreover, this region doesn't have any Magical Beasts of very high ranks. Therefore, with the suppression of the three Misty Cloud Sect elders imposing

presence, the other Magical Beast would not dare come out and pose as a threat to them.”

“What do we do then? The region that has been surrounded is becoming smaller. If we allow them to continue searching in this manner, we will likely become caged birds sooner or later.” Xiao Yan frowned slightly and asked in his heart.

“We will shift our position within this small area. The region that they need to search is really too big. Moreover, they only have fifty or so flying Magical Beasts. The distance between them is quite large. As long as you can avoid the position where the three old fellows are at and borrow the cover of the dense forest, it will be difficult for the other Misty Cloud Sect disciples to discover you.” Yao Lao mused out loud, “However, that energy trace within your body will ultimately act as a signpost for them. As long as we have not removed this thing, they will be able to discover your position.”

“Can we not completely remove it?” Xiao Yan asked softly.

“Yes it is possible, but I have also said that when removing this energy trace, an intense ripple will instantly burst out. Moreover, that ripple would continue for quite some time. When that time comes, you will be completely exposed. Therefore, if you want to remove the energy trace you must at least shake the people chasing you. Otherwise, if you are not careful, you would unfortunately be totally surrounded like a dumpling being wrapped.” Yao Lao spoke with helplessness in his voice.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He lifted his head and his gaze passed through the gaps of the cover of the leaves to eye a flying Magical Beast that was closest to him. He softly said, “Since this is the case, we will exhaust them first. Once night arrives, the difficulty of their search will increase greatly due to the limited range of their vision. When that time comes, I will take the opportunity to break through the boundary of their search. I will also need teacher to take action to completely remove the energy trace that Yun Shan had placed within my body. Otherwise, this chase will never end.”

“Yes, that’s just as well.”

“Hei, now, let’s go and play a game with this group of people.” Xiao Yan laughed coldly. He hugged the tree trunk with his hands and agilely descended from the large tree. After which, he swiftly ran toward a certain position.

When Xiao Yan had left this spot, a Misty Cloud Elder in the sky frowned suddenly. He exchanged glances with the two beside him and said in a deep voice, “The energy trace of the old Sect Leader is becoming increasingly distant. It appears that Xiao Yan has discovered our plan and has begun to flee.”

“Humph. It won’t be so easy if he wants to leave!” The oldest Elder let out a cold laugh. He shut his eyes slightly before suddenly opening them a moment later. His gaze swept

directly toward the south of the forest. He could sense that the fluctuations emitted by the energy trace were coming roughly from that direction.

The old man waved his hand and suddenly pointed in the direction that Xiao Yan was fleeing before crying out coldly. “‘Eagle Unit’, listen up. Maintain the formation. Change positions and head toward the south to search. Pay attention to the thing that is running at great speed within the forest.”

“Yes!” An orderly response reverberated through the sky. Immediately, a wave of eagle cries rang out. The tens of huge flying Magical Beasts suddenly turned their bodies and swiftly flew past the sea of trees.

Within the forest, Xiao Yan, who was moving swiftly also appeared to have sensed the change in the other party. He let out a cold laugh as his footsteps hurriedly paused. He twisted his body forcefully and actually changed his position before running again.

“Dammit. That cunning fellow has changed his direction!” Not long after Xiao Yan had changed his position, the three Misty Cloud Sect Elders were able to sense it earlier than anyone else. Their faces immediately became green as they angrily cursed.

The old man with a head full of white hair and an age that was clearly the greatest among the three coldly glanced toward the northern region. The corner of his mouth twitched slightly as he inhaled a deep breath of air before saying in a thick voice, “Follow him closely. I don’t believe that injured body of his can last for long! If he wants to run, we will tire him to death!”

As his voice fell, the flying unit that was far away immediately changed their position with great coordination before once again flying in the direction which Xiao Yan was now heading.

However, the chase this time around similarly did not last for very long before Xiao Yan once again swiftly changed his position.

“Follow!” The white haired old man in the sky had a green face as he said in a cold thick voice.

It was as though a performance by the flying unit had begun above the vast sea of trees. One could see the tens of flying Magical Beast were repeatedly changing the direction in which they were flying. If one were to carefully observe, however, one would be able to discover that the direction they were flying in was ultimately revolving around a circle in this region.

This frolic-like farce continued from afternoon all the way until sunset. Only then did both parties began to slow down due to exhaustion. Both groups remained still as though they had agreed to it beforehand.

“Hu.”

Xiao Yan’s back was pressed against a tree trunk at a certain spot within the dense forest. He panted hurriedly and perspiration moved along his face as it rolled down. His chest rose and fell rapidly. Continuously running around at such great speeds for a full afternoon was something that even he, as a Da Dou Shi, would have difficulty maintaining if he were not supported by medicinal pills. It was fortunate, however, that those flying Magical Beasts of the Misty Cloud Sect had also become exhausted after he led them on the wild goose chase for an entire afternoon.

“The sky is finally becoming dark.” Xiao Yan sighed in relief as he lifted his head and eyed the sun which had descended halfway past the horizon. He carefully turned his gaze toward the flying unit in the distant sky and frowned slightly. Even if they were exhausted, it seemed that they were unlikely to do nothing like this? Had they given up?

“Forget it, who cares what exactly they are planning. In any case, once the sky completely darkens, I want to see how they will continue to chase me.” Xiao Yan laughed coldly. He took out an ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ from within his storage ring and stuffed it into his mouth. After which, he closed his eyes and sensed the gradual rolling warm medicinal strength within his body. His originally somewhat numb muscles seemed to have become much more comfortable.

The sun in the distant sky slowly descended. Finally, it completely sank as Xiao Yan had awaited.

When the sun completely fell behind the mountain, this part of the Magical Beast Mountain Range immediately fell into complete darkness.

The moment the darkness enveloped the land, Xiao Yan also slowly opened his eyes. He stood up, lifted his head, and glanced at the flying unit which had actually stopped in midair without any movement. His eyebrows could not help but frown slightly. He immediately let out a cold laugh, leaped down from the tall tree, and rushed toward a spot in the encirclement which seemed to be the weakest.

There was a commotion within the flying unit in the sky just as Xiao Yan made his move. Clearly, they had sensed that the fluctuation emitted by the energy trace was moving further away.

“Elder?” One of the people on the flying Magical Beast closest to the three elders hurriedly said.

“Maintain the encirclement formation. Everyone, do not move.” The white haired elder waved his hand and coldly said, “This time around, I want to see just how he will flee.”

“Yes.”

As Xiao Yan flashed forward, a moment later, he could not resist turning his head and watching the sky. At that spot, a large group of dark, black shadows were still suspended and actually did not make the slightest move.

“What are those fellows planning to do?” Xiao Yan frowned intently and gently sighed. He was just thinking of ignoring them when his expression changed abruptly. His footsteps paused suddenly as his gaze stared intently at the dark black night sky where a flowing light was swiftly flashing past like a falling star.

“This Qi belongs to a Dou Huang’s. Dammit. These fellows were actually waiting for reinforcements.” Xiao Yan appeared to have understood something in that instant. He immediately cursed angrily as his body flashed before entering into the dark shadows. The presence all over his body was withdrawn to the extreme. His gaze also stared intently at the flowing light which was swiftly flashing over.

The flowing light instantly cut past the skyline and finally came to a sudden stop in front of the three Misty Cloud Sect Elders. The bright light gradually faded, revealing the graceful and noble figure of a beautiful woman.

“Sect Leader!”

When she appeared, everyone on the surrounding flying Magical Beasts, including the three Elders all hurriedly bowed.

Sect Leader. When one heard this form of address, it was natural for one to understand that the person who had just arrived was the current Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect, Yun Yun!

“Yes.”

Yun Yun responded faintly. Her beautiful eyes swept across the dense forest in the darkness below. A complicated expression flashed across her pretty face. The cold, delicate, and handsome face of the young man once again surfaced in her mind.

“It is actually her.” Xiao Yan gently clenched his fist within the darkness and said softly with a cold smile.

“Sect Leader, Xiao Yan has killed our Misty Cloud Sect disciples. This offence cannot be pardoned. No matter how much he suppresses the energy trance in his body, he will have difficulty escaping from you since you have the same elemental affinity that belonged to the same line of succession as the old Sect Leader. Sect Leader, please take action and completely search out the energy trace emanating from his body!” The snow white haired Misty Cloud Elder took one step forward and spoke in a deep voice.

Yun Yun’s pretty body gently trembled a little. She was silent for a moment before she immediately closed her pretty eyes.

While Yun Yun was silent, the entire area descended into a deathlike silence. All the gazes were focused intently on her. This time around, whether Xiao Yan would be exposed was completely determined by a single thought of this woman!

Chapter 374: Sudden Arrival of Reinforcements

Within the dense forest, Xiao Yan clenched his teeth and stared intently at Yun Yun in the sky. He knew that the moment the latter appeared, he was likely to have his position completely revealed. It was just that he did not know if this woman who once had some entanglement with him would...

In the sky, Yun Yun, who had her eyes closed, gradually opened them. She slowly lifted her delicate finger which was struggling and trembling a little, and pointed toward the direction Xiao Yan was in. As her finger pointed at that spot, a faint white glow suddenly surged out from within the darkness. Although the white light was not too intense, it was undoubtedly a bright lamp leading the way in this complete darkness.

As he lowered his head to watch the faint white glow that was being emitted from within his body, Xiao Yan's heart was like an icehouse. He laughed softly and lifted his head. His cold gaze watched the person with peerless elegance in the sky before turning his body and running.

In the sky, Yun Yun had also borrowed the weak, white light to clearly see the glance which was so cold that it was void of emotion. She felt a pain that clamped at her heart as her pretty face grew even paler.

“Chase!”

Seeing the faint white light which had risen from the darkness, joy surfaced on the faces of the three elders. They let out a fierce cry and wild winds surged in the sky. Tens of huge shadows were chasing after the faint white light within the forest, ready to slaughter!

Yun Yun's body was suspended in midair. She eyed the flying unit chasing swiftly after the white glow within the forest. Her hand slowly tightened, her long fingers piercing deeply into her palm. Some red blood flowed along her fingers and dripped down.

“I'm sorry.” She laughed mockingly at herself in the night sky, clearly knowing that by pointing with her finger earlier, she had truly killed any feelings Xiao Yan had toward her. However, even if she was extremely unwilling to do this, her position as a Sect Leader reminded her of her duty at all times. Regardless of the time, the sect's benefit was the most important thing! The her who had grown up in the Misty Cloud Sect from a young age had this thought instilled into her for so many years. It was easier said than done if she wanted to change.

Xiao Yan's expression was green as he glanced at the white glow which was being emitted uncontrollably from within his body. The sound of pressuring wind in the sky that was swiftly being transmitted over caused the corner of his mouth to twitch. His shoulders trembled slightly and the Purple Cloud Wings suddenly exploded forth. With a press of his feet against a tree branch, his body rose into the air. After that, his toes pressed against the sea of trees and his body turned into a white light that swiftly passed over it, as though he was chasing the stars and moon.

He did not use the Purple Cloud Wings in the past because he was afraid that his body would be discovered. However, his position was currently totally exposed. It would be useless for him to continue hiding.

Although he had already raised his speed to the limit, the three strong pressuring force behind him did not weaken by even a little. Instead, it was showing a tendency of becoming stronger. The Purple Cloud Wings may have been able to gift Xiao Yan the ability to fly, but his speed was ultimately inferior compared to a pair of true Dou Qi wings.

"Humph, Xiao Yan, little fellow. Tonight is the time you die! You think you can escape after killing my Misty Cloud Sect's disciples?" A dark and cold cry that contained killing intent broke through the air not far behind him and resounded throughout the mountain forest.

Xiao Yan did not even pay the slightest attention to the cry that had been transmitted from behind. He swiftly flapped the Purple Cloud Wings on his back, and his body was like a falling star in the night sky as he flew past the sea of trees in a lightning-like manner. Due to the wind pressure created by the high speed, he left a long trace above the sea of trees.

"Try your best to persevere. The energy trace in your body has been lured out by Yun Yun. Give me a little time and I will be able to suppress it." Yao Lao's voice sounded from within Xiao Yan's heart while the latter focused completely on fleeing.

Xiao Yan could only nod his head slightly. The corner of his eyes drifted toward the three flowing lights behind him which were becoming increasingly close and could not resist twitching. Xiao Yan gritted his teeth hard. The Dou crystal within the vortex in his body, that was emitting a bright light, trembled slightly. Waves of pure liquid energy flowed out from within it before moving along the veins and swiftly circulated. They were finally poured into the pair of Purple Cloud Wings on his back.

Upon receiving this large amount of energy as fuel, a faint purple glow began to gradually appear from the pair of Purple Cloud Wings. Some strange lines had also surfaced on the wings. As they flapped, there was actually a faint wind and lightning sound which appeared somewhat frightening.

After this strange change appeared on the Purple Cloud Wings, his speed had also suddenly soared greatly. It was actually able to increase the gap between Xiao Yan and the three Misty Cloud Sect Elders behind by a little within a short period of time.

“What? This fellow’s speed has actually gone up by so much?” Behind Xiao Yan, a Misty Cloud Sect Elder saw the former’s speed suddenly increase. His expression changed slightly as he spoke involuntarily.

“Moreover, the white light that is being emitted from his body is also becoming increasingly weak. Looks like he is suppressing that energy ripple. Yun Ke, Yun Zhong, let’s not hold anything back. If we let him escape from our hands once more, what right do we have to be Elders?” That old man, who was the oldest among them, had an icy cold expression as he cried out in a deep voice.

“Yes.” Hearing this, the other two people replied in unison. As their voices fell, three powerful forces surged out of each of their bodies. Immediately, the Dou Qi wings which were originally around five feet in length suddenly expanded until they were over ten feet long.

The wings flapped in unison and a thundering rumble resonated through the air. Immediately, the three figures strangely disappeared from the spot they were in as though they had teleported. When they reappeared, they were actually already tens of meters away.

“This is bad.” The ear-piercing sound of rushing wind that had been transmitted from behind him caused Xiao Yan’s expression to change. The corner of his eyes hurriedly drifted back to take a look. He was shocked to realize that three ghost-like figures were actually not even twenty meters away from him.

A few fleeing methods flashed in his heart in a lightning-like manner, but Xiao Yan finally rejected all of them. An instant later, he violently clenched his teeth and stepped heavily onto the sea of trees. Immediately, his body directly landed within a forest.

“Putt, putt.” The dense branches struck his face, causing Xiao Yan to gently inhale a few breaths of cool air. When his feet touched the ground, however, his eyes suddenly shrunk. From his perception, he had suddenly realized that there were dozens of obscure Qis within this forested area where he had landed.

“Have I fallen for the other side’s scheme?” A shocking thought flashed in his heart. Suddenly, a shadow pounced out from the side before the body swiftly nestled close to Xiao Yan. One hand covered Xiao Yan’s mouth.

“Xiao Yan di-di, it’s me. Don’t panic!” Just as the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan’s body was about to spew out and shake the person who had nestled close to him away, a numbing, soft sound could be heard.

TL: di-di - meaning younger brother (not blood related in this case, just a form of address)

When he heard this familiar voice, the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan's body which was about to explode out suddenly became dull. He lowered his head and borrowed the weak white glow being emitted from within his body to see an enchantingly exquisite face that contained some concern.

"Ya Fei jie?" The familiar face caused Xiao Yan to quietly sigh in relief. He said in a surprised but soft voice, "What are you doing here? Hurry up and leave!"

TL: jie - older sister (not blood related in this case, just a form of address)

"Shush. Don't worry, those three Elders from the Misty Cloud Sect are temporarily being held back by Old Hai. This is a map of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. You can use it to help you leave the Jia Ma Empire. Hurry up and leave. Walk toward the south of this place. As long as you get out of the forest and sneak into the city, the Misty Cloud Sect will have a much more difficult time trying to catch you!" Ya Fei swiftly took out a map from within her storage ring, pressed it into Xiao Yan's hand as she spoke in a hurried voice.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He lifted his head and eyed the sky which was covered by the dense tree cover. There were indeed numerous fierce energy ripples which were being emitted from the night sky there.

"You all..." Xiao Yan held the map tightly and eyed the pretty face which was covered with anxiety. He suddenly felt his throat being blocked. After he announced war with the Misty Cloud Sect, this enormous being, only Ya Fei and Old Hai had extended their helping hand toward him. He clearly knew that this action of the Primer clan would bring them a lot of trouble. After all, no matter how one put it, the Misty Cloud Sect was the strongest faction within the Jia Ma Empire.

"Ya Fei jie, I, Xiao Yan, am not some beast who doesn't know how to repay favors given. I, Xiao Yan, will not forget the kindness you and Old Hai have given until I die. If this Xiao Yan were to return to the Jia Ma Empire in the future, I will definitely repay this kindness by a hundredfold!" Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air and said in a deep voice.

"Ke ke, jie-jie believes that you will be a truly strong person the next time we meet. This is the conclusion I came to three years ago." Ya Fei smiled as she spoke. Her delicate hand touched the delicate and handsome face of the young man, which was covered by a piercing coldness.

"Alright, hurry up and leave. The flying unit of the Misty Cloud Sect is about to hurry over. Moreover, Yun Yun will arrive soon."

“Yes.” Xiao Yan nodded his head. He lowered it and eyed the bewitching face. Suddenly, he extended his hand and violently embraced her. His face was extended into her soft long hair and deeply inhaled the refreshing fragrance of her hair. He softly said, “Ya Fei jie, the next time that we meet, I will definitely not refuse any request of yours as long as I, Xiao Yan, am able to achieve it.”

Ya Fei was initially startled when she was suddenly roughly hugged by Xiao Yan. A bright, intoxicating redness immediately surfaced on her enchanting face. After she heard Xiao Yan’s words, a teasing glint flashed in her peach blossom-like eyes. She said in a gentle voice, “Little fellow, this is something you have said. A great man cannot repudiate his promises.”

“As long as I can achieve it, I, Xiao Yan, will not reject it, even if you want to be a Queen.” Xiao Yan released the narrow waist which was so soft that it appeared boneless before laughing boldly.

“Jie-jie is not interested in being a Queen.” Ya Fei covered her mouth and laughed softly. She immediately remembered that they were pressed for time and hurriedly rebuked him by patting Xiao Yan’s head and urged, “Hurry and leave!”

“Ya Fei jie, goodbye. Help me tell Old Hai that I, Xiao Yan, will never forget this favor of his today until I die!” Xiao Yan nodded his head heavily. He ceased procrastinating, cupped his hands toward Ya Fei, and immediately turned around. His body charged into the darkness of the black forest in a lightning-like manner.

Ya Fei stood on the original spot and watched the back of the figure which had faded away into the darkness. A long while later, she sighed in an absentminded manner and said softly, “Little fellow. Jie-jie awaits your return. Three years ago, I knew that this small Jia Ma Empire would not be able to keep you. With your talent, the vast continent is the only stage where you can display your true strength.”

“Jie-jie will await your return. When that time comes, I believe that even the Misty Cloud Sect can only hide and tremble under your feet!”

“Flying unit, go and capture Xiao Yan!” An angry cry suddenly sounded in the sky.

As the cry sounded, tens of flying Magical Beasts in the night sky immediately made a detour around the battleground in the sky, and pounced toward the increasingly weak white glow within the forest.

Within the forest, Ya Fei raised her head and coldly watched the huge flying beasts that had flown over. She waved her hand and coldly cried, “Shadow Guards, listen up. Cut them down!”

Ya Fei's voice had just fell when tens of shadows from the darkness of the surrounding forest suddenly shot out. Their Dou Qi surged immediately and almost expelled all the darkness in this section of the forest.

When he heard the waves of rioting sounds that were transmitted from far behind him, Xiao Yan tightened his fist. He placed the map into his storage ring. The white light that was currently emitted from within his body had completely disappeared under Yao Lao's suppression.

Xiao Yan's gaze swiftly swept in all directions. Once he had regained his bearings, his toes pressed gently against the ground and his body shot forward explosively, like an arrow that had left the string of a bow.

"Shi." The rushing figure shot forward nearly a distance of a hundred meters in a lightning-like manner. Suddenly, Xiao Yan's expression changed abruptly. His feet hooked onto a tree branch and his body was straight as it fell forward. He immediately made a three hundred and sixty degree turn. He twisted his body and steadily landed on a tree branch.

Xiao Yan stood on the tree branch and eyed the edge of the forest not far away with icy cold eyes. At that spot, a moon white robe was gently fluttering. A pretty face that could be called peerlessly elegant was waiting.

Xiao Yan gaze was cold as it swept across the face. He suddenly tightened his fist. The final person who had appeared to stop him was shockingly Yun Yun!

Chapter 375: Escape

Xiao Yan's body was standing completely still on a tree branch. He coldly watched Yun Yun who was at the exit of the forest. His hand shook and the huge Heavy Xuan Ruler flashed and appeared. He waved the heavy ruler, and the pressuring sound of air being cut appeared before it was pointed at the beauty.

Yun Yun slowly raised her head. Her pretty eyes stared at the black-robed young man on the tree branch. A complicated expression flashed over her face as she softly asked, "Are you alright?"

"Thanks to you, I was almost buried here." Xiao Yan smiled, but the words spat out from his mouth were so icy and cold that it seemed to be devoid of any warmth.

"I am also forced to do this. As the Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect, I must shoulder some responsibilities." Yun Yun smiled bitterly, seemingly trying to explain something.

Xiao Yan glanced at her indifferently and said, "Do you want to capture me and bring me back? After that you want to let Yun Shan kill me in public?"

Yun Yun's pretty face paled as she muttered, "Teacher will not kill you."

"Ke ke, perhaps he might not actually kill me, but your Misty Cloud Sect has so many tricks. Just a random seal and then lock me up in the Misty Cloud Sect. That will cause people to be even more crazy than death." Xiao Yan ridiculed as he smiled.

"That won't happen. As long as you return with me, I will try my best to protect your life! Is that alright? Xiao Yan, let's not blow things up any bigger than they are now." Yun Yun took a step forward and said anxiously. Her tone of voice faintly implied that she was begging.

"Is there even the slightest possibility of the Misty Cloud Sect and I reconciling? You are in any case also a Sect Leader. Don't tell me that you cannot even see such a small thing clearly? If I land in the Misty Cloud Sect's hands, there is only one path for me. Death! There will definitely not be another route for me to choose!" Xiao Yan laughed coldly, "Don't tell me that you can even change Yun Shan's decision?"

Yun Yun parted her red lips slightly, seemingly wanting to say something. However, she realized that she could say nothing to persuade him. With her intelligence, she could naturally faintly guess what fate Xiao Yan would face should he fall into the Misty Cloud Sect's hands. However, the her who was caught in the middle of both parties was still somewhat naively hoping that a miracle would occur.

"There is no need to continue speaking any nonsense. Just attack. If you are bent on stopping me, then..." Xiao Yan shook the heavy ruler slightly and said in a bland voice, "You can take my corpse back."

Yun Yun bit her bottom red lip tightly with the back of her teeth. She shook her head slightly. Her voice was somewhat hoarse as she said, "You should know that it is impossible for me to kill you."

Xiao Yan's face was cold as he leaped down from a tree branch. He held the heavy ruler in his hand and slowly walked toward Yun Yun one step at a time. Powerful Dou Qi flowed out from him, forming a flaming armor on the surface of his body.

Yun Yun's pretty eyes stared at the black-robed young man who was walking over slowly. Her lovely body trembled slightly. The pair of eyes which were usually filled with dignity were filled with a complicated expression at this moment. Her hands within her sleeves which were clenched tightly before relaxing immediately. This continued repeatedly, revealing the difficult decision she was making in her heart.

Xiao Yan footsteps landed on the green grass on the ground, releasing a soft 'sha sha' sound. His eyes stared intently at Yun Yun while his hand held the Heavy Xuan Ruler tightly. The Dou Qi in his body was like a flowing river that was surging, ready to erupt at any moment.

The distance between the two slowly decreased. A strange atmosphere wrapped around this small section of the forest.

As the soft 'sha sha' sounded, Xiao Yan finally walked to a spot five meters in front of Yun Yun.

Yun Yun lowered her face. Her lovely body, which repeatedly emitted a gentle tremble suddenly became quiet. A terrifying force slowly rose from within her body. In an instant, it caused the air in this small section of the forest to solidify.

The corner of Xiao Yan's eyes gently twitched. He lifted his hand which was carrying the Heavy Xuan Ruler slightly. In his heart, he knew that if Yun Yun really wanted to capture him, he would have little strength to resist.

Xiao Yan gently crossed his footsteps and finally stopped in front of Yun Yun. He gently sniffed a breath of the faint fragrance that came from the other party's body and asked indifferently, "Are you prepared to attack?"

When she heard Xiao Yan open his mouth, Yun Yun's lovely body trembled again. She slowly lifted her pretty face, which was covered with a trace of bitterness. Her gaze was locked on to the young man's delicate and handsome face as she softly asked, "Are you really not going to return with me?"

"You can bring my corpse back."

Xiao Yan smiled coldly as he repeated his words from earlier. Immediately, he ceased having the slightest hesitation. He turned his body, moved away from Yun Yun and strode toward the edge of the forest.

His feet had just took a step forward when the terrifying force behind him soared once more. Immediately, a force came striking explosively toward Xiao Yan's back.

As he sensed the lightning fast attack from behind him, Xiao Yan's heart was immediately like an ice house. His entire body was cold as he mocked himself and shook his head. He muttered, "She still ended up attacking."

Xiao Yan sighed and actually closed his eyes slowly. His hand gently rubbed his sleeves. In his heart, he clearly knew that if Yun Yun was intent on killing him, the current him did not have the slightest ability to resist. Only the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' could slightly obstruct her.

The force approached Xiao Yan's body in the blink of an eye. Just as Xiao Yan was prepared to release the 'Heaven Swallowing Python', however, that force suddenly turned into a gentle one. It gently struck Xiao Yan's back. Immediately, the latter's body was gently pushed forward.

Under the star filled sky, the young man was a little stunned as he opened his eyes. When the force earlier had struck his back, he could clearly sense that the energy trace which Yun Shan had imprinted within his body had actually quietly dissolved.

Xiao Yan turned around and looked at Yun Yun weakly leaning on a tree trunk. His throat rolled a little. "What do you mean by this?"

"Go, leave the Jia Ma Empire. Do not return in the future. Otherwise, teacher will definitely not let you off. The Misty Cloud Sect will also not let you off." Yun Yun waved her hand. Her soft voice held an exhaustion that was difficult to hide. Being caught between both parties had really caused her to feel extremely tired.

Xiao Yan looked deeply at the woman with a graceful figure. A long while later, he said softly, "Thank you very much. However, I will return. I will definitely return!"

"You..." Yun Yun's eyebrows were vertical. She was a little angry at Xiao Yan's stubbornness. She waved her sleeves angrily and said, "I will definitely not let you off the next time we meet! I am too lazy to bother about whether you live or die!"

"The next time we meet, you may not have this chance to let me go. Because I am also not sure just when I will return." Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and eyed Yun Yun's furious, but pretty face. For some unknown reason, some warmth actually surfaced in his originally icy cold heart once again. Perhaps, the 'Yun Zhi' in the mountain cave back then had not really disappeared.

As he thought of this point, Xiao Yan's heart suddenly had an additional feeling that was difficult to describe with words. He turned around and took a few steps forward to stand in front of Yun Yun. The two of them looked at each other.

"Why are you not leaving?" Yun Yun gaze could not resist dodging Xiao Yan as she said with a mild anger when the latter's dark black pupils stared intently at her. At this moment, her emotions were a mess that she could not straighten out. Logic told her that given the duty and power that came with her status, she ought to immediately capture this fellow who dared to challenge the Misty Cloud Sect and bring him back. However, a certain strange feeling blocked her logic. It was due to this that there was a change in her palm attack earlier as it moved toward her target.

"I believe that the current you is more like the Yun Zhi that I met in the mountain cave." Xiao Yan inspected the graceful, pretty face which was originally covered with a sense of nobility. At this moment, it had some of the panic of a young lady. Xiao Yan was suddenly reminded of the charming and warm days back when they had resided within the mountain cave. His originally cold voice had become much softer.

Yun Yun was startled upon hearing this. Her pulse immediately jumped rapidly. She forcefully suppressed the feeling in her heart which was rattling like a small deer and purposefully acted indifferent as she said, "Yun Yun is Yun Zhi, Yun Zhi is Yun Yun."

This is something that you should have long since known. Moreover, when you were at the Misty Cloud Mountain, did you not say that from now on, whether I am Yun Yun or Yun Zhi, I have no relation to you?"

"I don't have any good impressions of the Misty Cloud Sect Sect Leader Yun Yun. But toward Yun Zhi, I have great amounts of good impressions. Those days in the mountain cave back then was a time that I, Xiao Yan, will never forget until I die." Xiao Yan laughed softly and suddenly extended his hand. Under Yun Yun's completely stunned expression, he slowly hugged that pretty waist under her Sect Leader's robe which appeared too small to be completely embraced.

Yun Yun's pretty face instantly changed, flaring to a bright red similar to a flaming cloud upon being hugged by Xiao Yan. Even the delicate tips of her ears had turned bright red. With her strength, as long as she quietly released a little force, Xiao Yan would be shaken to the point where he would vomit blood and step back. At this moment, however, her entire body had grown numb, and was unable to even summon forth the slightest bit of Dou Qi. She was like a little girl, who was in love for the first time, being hugged by her lover. She was at a loss, but was greedily absorbing this foreign yet soothing, special feeling.

Although a warm fragrance was in his chest, there was not the slightest lust in his eyes. His dark, black pupils were as clear as a deep spring. After hugging Yun Yun for half a minute, he released his hands and slowly pulled back.

"Actually, I feel quite regretful. I regret forcefully enduring like a sage who had no hopes or desires in the mountain cave back then. I think that if I had done something at that time..." As he stepped back, Xiao Yan suddenly laughed. His laughter contained some teasing.

"Then I would have killed you on the spot. If that were the case, we would also be saved from this large trouble today." The redness of Yun Yun's face also slowly withdrew as Xiao Yan stepped back. When she heard Xiao Yan say this, her pretty eyes became slits as she angrily said.

"Ke ke, the farewell ceremony is completed."

Xiao Yan laughed before sighing. He cupped his hands toward Yun Yun and said, "Help me inform Yun Shan that I, Xiao Yan, will still return! When that time comes, I will make him repay today's debts!"

Once he finished saying this, Xiao Yan finally ceased remaining in this location. He suddenly turned around, and strode into the distance before being absorbed into the darkness a long while later.

Yun Yun stood in the same spot and eyed that black figure which had gradually disappeared. The smile on her face slowly disappeared, and a bitterness surfaced. She

muttered softly, "Although it brings pain to my heart, I hope that you will never return. Time will cause all hatred to fade away. However, it may really be as teacher said, I may have to be alone for my entire life."

"However, since you have already left, the identity of Yun Zhi, who became excited because of you will completely disappear. The future me will be the Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect, Yun Yun. These personal feelings originally should not belong to me. Just treat this time as me being willful for once."

Lifting her head, Yun Yun's gaze stared at the vast sky and faintly sighed. The gentleness and weakness on her face swiftly disappeared. Replacing it was the coldness and majesty which controlled the largest faction in the Jia Ma Empire. Her body swayed slightly and slowly disappeared like a ghost.

"Little fellow, remember my words. Since you have already left, don't come back ever again." A faint voice quietly reverberated throughout the forest, lingering for a long while without dispersing.

Chapter 376: Da Ling City

Da Ling City was located in the north-western region of the Jia Ma Empire. Its size may not be comparable large cities like the capital, but when compared to Wu Tan City, it was still quite a lot larger. Moreover, it neighbored the Magical Beast Mountain Range which covered nearly half of the empire. Therefore, countless risk takers and business groups came and went, giving the city a never ending flow of human traffic.

At the northern city gate of Da Ling City, the human flow moving to and from the city nearly clogged the city gate. Not far away from the northern gate was the seemingly endless Magical Beast Mountain Range. Small groups of mercenary troops with differing line-ups were repeatedly entering and exiting from this point, much like ants moving their home. Occasionally, there would be troops which used a horse cart to carry the corpse of a Magical Beast running out of the forest and a wisp of dust behind. This would attract numerous envious gazes from those around. It was not an easy matter to kill satisfactory prey within the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

"Bah, we were really unlucky, losing two brothers in order to kill a tier two Magical Beast. In the end, it is a rock egg without treasures." Seven large men covered in blood cursed as they walked out of the forest entrance. On the horse cart frame behind them, there lay the large corpse of a Magical Beast. The head of the corpse had been cut open and there was only the brain, fresh blood, and some other things without the most precious object: the Monster Core. From the mercenary jargon that appeared in their conversation, this kind of Magical Beast without a Monster Core was called a rock egg without treasure.

TL: brothers here means brothers in arms/companions, not actual brothers

“If there was a rank 2 Monster Core within this damn thing, we would be able to put together sufficient money to purchase a High Huang Level Qi Method from the auction house.” A large man’s face was filled with disgruntlement as he spoke.

“High Huang Level, ah. Those kinds of Qi Methods would need up to one hundred and ten thousand gold coins. It’s just like a blood sucking ghost.” A man who appeared to be the leader spat out his saliva and scolded.

“Hee hee, the Misty Cloud Sect issued a wanted order. Anyone who is able to provide clues would be able to obtain a Xuan Class Qi Method. He could even be given the chance to be accepted into the Misty Cloud Sect. We can go and try our luck. In that way, we don’t have to waste our lives to exchange things for money to buy Qi Method.” A somewhat skinny man wiped the blood trace off his face and spoke with a laugh. When he mentioned the Xuan Class Qi Method, a greed that was difficult to hide flashed across his eyes.

“Skinny monkey, have you become stupid after being with so many women?” That man, who seemed to be the leader, coldly glanced at him. He smacked his lips and said, “Don’t tell me you don’t know the person the Misty Cloud Sect is chasing after? Xiao Yan! That mysterious person who became the champion of the Alchemist Grand Meeting. He is also the frightening person who charged into the Misty Cloud Sect twice, killing Yun Leng, who was of the Dou Wang class, and managed to escape unharmed from the hands of Yun Shan, who is of the Dou Zong class. Do you think that he is the kind of person that people like us can afford to offend?”

“Hee hee, I am only saying it as a joke. How is it possible for us to meet that kind of person.” The skinny man laughed awkwardly as he said, “However, I have heard that the Misty Cloud Sect has already issued this wanted order throughout the entire empire. This kind of attractive condition would really cause people to be interested. I think that even if Xiao Yan escaped from the Misty Cloud Sect, he would have difficulty moving even half an inch within the Jia Ma Empire.

“Does this matter have even the slightest relationship with us? Don’t just naively daydream all day. Even if you were to meet him, don’t tell me that you can use that broken knife of yours to stop him?” The man leading the group laughed coldly, “Don’t dawdle. Hurry up and get back to the city to rest for the day. Tomorrow, we still need to continue staking our lives. Otherwise, with our current Middle Huang Qi Method, just when would it be before we can break through to the Dou Shi class?”

As the leader of the group scolded, the men with the blood stains could only murmur unhappily and start stumbling towards the City Gate.

After the group of men left, a human figure which was completely covered by a black robe suddenly walked slowly out from the deep forest. His gaze swept in front of him. Immediately, he lowered his head slightly, allowing the shadow of his Doupeng to cover nearly half his face.

TL: Doupeng - a conical bamboo hat with a cloth dangling from it to cover the head

“Have they begun searching for me throughout the country? Yun Shan is really willing to fork out money.” The black-robed person coldly laughed. He lifted his head slightly and revealed half of a delicate and handsome face beneath. Seeing the familiar contour, it was surprisingly Xiao Yan, who had escaped from the Misty Cloud Sect!

Ever since the day that Yun Yun allowed Xiao Yan to leave, he had relied on the map which Ya Fei had given him to take a long detour and spent nearly ten days trekking through the forest in order to completely shake off the people who persevered in chasing after him. After that, he rested for one day before following the map and walking all the way to the north-western border of the Jia Ma Empire through the Magical Beast Mountain Range. He spent another seven days hurrying on his journey before he arrived at this Da Ling City, which was close to the north-western border of the Jia Ma Empire.

Using the map as a reference, as long as he passed through this Da Ling City and through another few checkpoints, he would easily arrive at the border of the Jia Ma Empire. When that time came, all he needed to do was leave the Jia Ma Empire and the wanted order by the Misty Cloud Sect would become completely ineffective.

The Misty Cloud Sect may still have some deterrent effects outside the country, but it was far inferior compared to the reputation it enjoyed within the Jia Ma Empire. Naturally, other factions would not bother with wanted orders from whatever sect it was. During these years, the Misty Cloud Sect had remained firmly entrenched within the Jia Ma Empire and did its best to eliminate factions from outside the empire. Therefore, it resulted in the Misty Cloud Sect not being well known outside the empire.

During the nearly one month in which Xiao Yan hurried through the Magical Beast Mountain Range, he had also suffered great hardship. Although the presence of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ had resulted in ordinary Magical Beasts not daring to come forward to block him, the Magical Beast Mountain Range was so vast that it naturally did not lack some unique beasts with terrifying strength. Other Magical Beasts may be afraid of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’, but they were not. Therefore, Xiao Yan was still being chased all over during the journey despite having already escaped from the Misty Cloud Sect.

Although hurrying through the journey during this period of time had caused Xiao Yan to suffer great hardships, the thing which caused him the greatest excitement was that Yao Lao’s exhausted Spirit had finally completely recovered after being nursed back to health for half a month. At this moment, Xiao Yan’s heart, which had been maintaining a cautious state, finally relaxed. No matter how one put it, with Yao Lao present, it at least meant that he had a trump card to protect his life.

Moreover, due to the deposited remnant medicinal effects within his body, Xiao Yan actually had the ability to raise his strength once again during this one month of escape

after his large breakthrough. During an escape from the mouth of a Dou Wang class Magical Beast, Xiao Yan actually raised his strength without realizing it. Xiao Yan had thus become a four star Da Dou Shi in such a short amount of time!

If one were to add the hurried growth from the medicine within the mountain cave last month, Xiao Yan's strength had actually jumped three stars within this one month. This kind of speed could definitely be described by one word, 'frightening'. Although the main reason for this was the life and death battles, that he experienced during this period of time and the remaining medicinal effects within his body, it could not cover up Xiao Yan's training talent which caused even Yao Lao to praise him repeatedly.

Of course, excluding all these, the thing that caused Xiao Yan's heart to be filled with the most joy was that he began to clearly understand some parts of the 'Burning Flame Valley's' guarded Secret Technique, the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change', three days ago after a month's worth of practice and under the guidance of Yao Lao. He may have failed a couple of times during this period, but from the looks of how his strength still managed to soar greatly despite these failed attempts, Xiao Yan could faintly sense the concept of the Secret Technique. He had the confidence that as long as he was given sufficient time, he would definitely be able to truly master the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' successfully. When that time came he would have difficulty finding any opponents that could contend with him at the Da Dou Shi level or even higher with his strength was raised by this 'Secret Technique'!

In summary, the benefits that Xiao Yan had obtained during this one month of flight had nearly caused him to smile until his mouth cracked.

"Hee hee." As he thought of his gains over this past month, he could not resist laughing, ignoring the strange gazes that others beside him shot over. He pulled the Doupeng down a little and hid his entire face within the dark shadows. His gaze scanned the city's entrance a short distance away, where people were coming and going, before slowly walking over. With the situation he was in now, it was better to leave the Jia Ma Empire as soon as possible. The current Xiao Yan did not have the qualification to go and pay back those debts with his current strength. However, it was fortunate that he was not in a hurry. It was because he knew that his greatest advantage was that he was young, and had plenty of time to spend.

Xiao Yan walked closer to the city gate and queued up at the back of the line. His gaze swept all around him before frowning slightly as his gaze settled on a white paper pasted to the city gate. At this moment, there were two completely different faces drawn on the white paper. Xiao Yan's gaze swept over it and realized that of the two faces, one was his current appearance, while the other was actually the appearance of Yan Xiao, the identity he had used to participate in the Alchemist Grand Meeting. Clearly, this was a plan formed because the Misty Cloud Sect was afraid that Xiao Yan would once again use the identity of Yan Xiao and take the opportunity to flee from the Jia Ma Empire.

“Yun Shan has spent quite a lot of effort in order to capture me.” Xiao Yan laughed coldly. His gaze glanced at the city gate and realized that the troops guarding the city were actually checking the identity of those entering the city along the way. Before each person entered, two soldiers would hold a drawing and compare it with their appearance for a long while before letting them enter.

“Is the Jia Ma Empire Imperial family quietly helping the Misty Cloud Sect?” Xiao Yan frowned slightly as he muttered, “With Jia Xing Tian’s scheming mind, he should know just what kind of enemy he would create for the Jia Ma Empire’s Imperial Family should I escape if he went against me at this moment. Moreover, the Jia Ma Empire’s Imperial family and the Misty Cloud Sect aren’t very friendly with one another.”

“Damn Mu Sang. Isn’t he just a city guard? He is actually this arrogant. Does he think that he alone has the final say in Da Ling City? How is he not afraid that if he were to really meet Xiao Yan, the latter would smack him to death with his ruler.” The moment when Xiao Yan felt some doubt, a man who had waited for a long while in front of him suddenly cursed with an impatient face.

“Shush. Don’t be so loud. Although the wanted order for Xiao Yan is not related to the Jia Ma Empire’s Imperial family, Mu Sang is someone who came from the Misty Cloud Sect. Since he received the wanted order from the sect, he naturally needs to prioritize his own interest under the guise of performing public work and perform well.” A man who appeared to be his companion hurriedly grabbed him and whispered.

“Using another’s influence to bully others.” The man spat a mouthful of saliva and cursed unhappily. However, he did not open his mouth and let out abuses as he did a moment ago. Clearly, the person called Mu Sang still caused him some fear.

“It was actually someone who had come from the Misty Cloud Sect.” Xiao Yan absorbed the conversation between the two into his ears. Only then did he come to a sudden realization. The Misty Cloud Sect disciples were spread all over the Jia Ma Empire. With their ability, they were not lacking in people who held official posts within the Jia Ma Empire. Now that they had received the wanted order from the sect, all they needed to do was to quietly use the authority in their hands, and they would be able to swiftly deploy people to intercept at all checkpoints within the Jia Ma Empire. It was only now that Xiao Yan faintly sensed just what kind of power the Misty Cloud Sect had within the Jia Ma Empire. No wonder even the Jia Ma Empire’s Imperial family, which controlled the entire Jia Ma Empire, feared them.

Xiao Yan mused in his heart before pulling out of the queue that was gradually moving forward. After which, he made a turn at a corner and arrived at a remote part of the city wall. He lifted his head and glanced at the sleepy patrol units on the city wall. His back trembled slightly and the Purple Cloud Wings were slowly extended. He bent his feet slightly and in a certain instant, he flapped the wings on his back. His body abruptly soared before his toes pressed onto the city wall and he transformed into a black

shadow which climbed the city wall in a lightning-like manner. After which, he leaped down onto the other side of the city wall before the patrolling soldiers turned their heads.

Xiao Yan's feet had just touched the ground when he hurriedly flashed to the back of a building. He patted his hands and stored the Purple Cloud Wings. Only then did he leisurely walk into this city, which was one of the few that he needed to pass by before leaving the Jia Ma Empire. He needed to obtain some information regarding the Misty Cloud Sect during this one month.

Chapter 377: The Preparation Before Leaving

Xiao Yan slowly walked into the city. He passed through the street which had a turbulent human flow. He swept his gaze, and his brows slightly knit together. This was because he realized that on some of the pillars on the street, there were actually wanted posters issued by the Misty Cloud Sect pasted onto them. On those white papers, his appearance was drawn with great clarity. Moreover, the Xuan Class Qi Method that was listed as a reward had also caused quite a number of people to stop under it with their eyes revealing some greediness. For many people, a Xuan Class Qi Method was something that one may meet, but cannot hope for.

TL: may meet, but cannot hope for - one may be lucky to find something, but one cannot expect to obtain it otherwise

"Looks like there really is some trouble." Xiao Yan carefully hid his face under the shadows of the Doupeng as he softly muttered in his heart.

"Let's leave the Jia Ma Empire as soon as possible. The influence of the Misty Cloud Sect here is indeed too great. With your current strength, it is insufficient to contend with them." Yao Lao's voice suddenly sounded.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. He suddenly sighed gently. The feeling of being driven out like a dog which had lost its home was really not very good. Although he had openly said that he would return sooner or later, there was still a very long route to walk in order for a Da Dou Shi to reach the Dou Zong class.

"Little fellow, why are your thoughts drifting again? With your own strength, you challenged the Misty Cloud Sect and managed to leave in one piece. The result of such a battle would lead a countless number of people from not only within the Jia Ma Empire, but also the Dou Qi Continent to widen their eyes and feel tongue-tied. Moreover, I think that there is likely quite a number of people within the Jia Ma Empire who admire your courage. After all, even some Dou Huangs cannot be compared to you, a little child in your teens, when it comes to boldness." Yao Lao appeared to have sensed Xiao Yan's thoughts and he shook his head helplessly before voicing some words of comfort.

“Hee hee.” Xiao Yan rubbed his head and laughed awkwardly. Upon hearing Yao Lao’s somewhat old voice, Xiao Yan suddenly recalled the plan the former had when he taught him the mysterious ‘Flame Mantra’ Qi Method. He could not resist laughing softly in his heart, “Teacher, I remember that you seemed to have said back then that as long as I worked hard to gather ‘Heavenly Flames’, I will be able to help you refine a perfect body to hold your spirit? Can that be considered as a form of rebirth?”

When Xiao Yan was speaking the sentence about refining a body, he could clearly sense that Yao Lao’s spirit had abruptly trembled intensely. He was immediately a little stunned. Ever since he came to know Yao Lao, this mysterious teacher of his had appeared to always remain calm and amiable. This was the first time Xiao Yan had sensed anything similar to this spirit fluctuation.

“Looks like teacher is very concerned over this matter.” Xiao Yan blinked and suddenly felt an inexplicable shame. During these three years, Yao Lao had spent an extremely great amount of effort in order to help him become strong. Yet, he had nearly completely forgotten about his teacher’s matter because of the so called ‘Three Year Agreement’.”

The vibrating spirit persisted for nearly half a minute before it gradually calmed down. Yao Lao suppressed his emotions as he said with a smile “Ah, speaking of this, back then, after I got to know you and decided to teach you the ‘Flame Mantra’ which I had undergone great hardships in order to obtain, my main goal was for you to create a merged flame after you had successfully practiced the ‘Flame Mantra’. Using this flame, you could help me refine a body, in the future, which can contain my spirit.”

“After all, that never ending darkness in the ring which is like a prison is really too much of a torment. Moreover, there are some matters which still require me to come out and settle.”

When he reached the end of his words, Yao Lao’s voice slowly became a little low and desolate. It was likely that he had remembered the dark times during the period he was in a slumber.

Xiao Yan’s finger slowly caressed the black ring within his sleeve and gently sighed. He mused for a moment before a bright smile suddenly appeared on his face. In a gentle voice, he smiled and said, “Thank you for these three years, teacher.”

“Ke ke, you... child, why have you suddenly become so sentimental? This isn’t like you.” Xiao Yan’s gentle voice caused Yao Lao to be startled. He was immediately so moved that he smiled involuntarily.

“Teacher has invested so much in me. As a student, I may naturally know that I need to repay this kindness.” Xiao Yan’s voice was somewhat hoarse as he laughed softly, “Rest assured, teacher, I will firmly remember the matter of your revival within my heart in the future.”

“I am satisfied that you have this thought. Being able to teach such an outstanding student in my distressed state has settled one wish of mine.” Yao Lao smiled and then replied.

Xiao Yan’s gaze slowly swept across the two sides of the street and suddenly asked in his heart, “That’s right, how many kinds of ‘Heavenly Flames’ are required to be merged together in order to refine a body?”

“This... should be three types. I am also not very certain. That ‘Flame Mantra’ Qi Method is far too mysterious and strange. I don’t have a deep understanding of it. Back then, when I obtained it...” Yao Lao suddenly ceased speaking when he spoke to this point and abruptly became quiet.

“Three kinds huh.” Xiao Yan was not bothered by Yao Lao’s silence. He frowned slightly and voiced his thoughts, “Now that I have control of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’, and I am able to use the ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ with teacher’s cooperation, does it not mean that if I were to collect another type of ‘Heavenly Flame’, I should be able to try to help you refine a body?”

“It should be possible.” The voice of the silent Yao Lao suddenly had a little hint of excitement contained within.

Xiao Yan blinked and laughed softly, “I am very curious just whether teacher’s strength can reach its peak condition of the past after you have recovered.”

“At the start, it may feel a little difficult to control. However, as long as I completely familiarize myself with the new body, my strength might be even greater than it was in the past.” Yao Lao faintly laughed. His voice had a confidence which was difficult to hide. After all, he might not have been able to train his Dou Qi during these years, but Yao Lao’s spirit has become much stronger than what it had been in the past.

“What stage would it reach?” Xiao Yan inquired.

“Ke ke, defeating Yun Shan within ten exchanges without needing the slightest effort.” Yao Lao smiled as he replied. In his smile, there was the haughtiness that belonged to a strong person at the peak.

Xiao Yan’s eyes narrowed slightly and the corner of his mouth curled to form a faint arc. Yun Shan was currently a Dou Zong. Although he was merely a one star Dou Zhong, even a nine star Dou Zong wouldn’t dare to say that they could defeat him within ten exchanges. In other words, if Yao Lao were to recover his strength, he would at least be a Dou Zun!

Xiao Yan slowly exhaled the shock from his chest. A Dou Zun. That was someone who could stand at the top position on the golden pagoda of the continent.

Xiao Yan crossed his ten fingers within his sleeves and said softly, "A very attractive increase in strength. I remember that teacher had said before that there was a possibility of there being a kind of 'Heavenly Flame' within the Jia Nan Academy, no? What is that flame called again?"

"Fallen Heart Flame!" Yao Lao smiled and reminded.

"Ke ke, 'Fallen Heart Flame' huh." Xiao Yan nodded his head and smiled as he said, "Looks like I have another mission to complete during this trip of mine to the Jia Nan Academy."

"Since it is like this, let's not continue wasting time in the Jia Ma Empire. If we can leave early, let's not delay any longer, shall we?" Xiao Yan sighed and inquired.

"Wait a moment. The Jia Nan Academy is located at the junction between a couple of large empires. That region is extremely vast. Although the region surrounding Jia Nan Academy is a peaceful region, other than that, it is in a state where things must be opposite when something is pushed to the extreme. That place is so messy that it causes people to suckle their tongues. Countless numbers of factions interlace with each other there. Each time Jia Nan Academy recruits students, there are instructors who escort them. Moreover, once they leave the borders of each country, more escort troops from the academy will come out and increase the protection. Otherwise, the new students can't truly reach the academy without being hurt." Yao Lao suddenly said.

"Even after leaving the Jia Ma Empire, you must continue to be completely prepared for anything in order to be able to enter that chaotic region. Otherwise, if you are not careful and are caught in someone's dirty tricks, you will be somewhat unlucky."

"When I was looking through your storage ring earlier, I realized that the various types of medicinal pills within it have been more or less exhausted. Even the 'Energy Recovery Pills', the kind that one must definitely have prepared, have already been completely exhausted within the Magical Beast Mountain Range this time around. If you do not prepare some beforehand, we will have to tarry a little if we want to refine some to be prepared when something happens in the future." Yao Lao reminded.

"Uh." Only upon hearing this did Xiao Yan recall that his originally rich reserve of various kinds of medicinal pills had been used to the point of desolation during this one month of escape.

"Then let's first go to the auction house to buy some medicinal ingredients. After that, I will go and inquire about the route out of the Jia Ma Empire. At the same time, I can casually ask just how many officials of the empire along this route originate from the Misty Cloud Sect. This will allow us to be more prepared." Xiao Yan mused for a moment before speaking softly.

“Ah, be careful. Do not expose your identity.” Yao Lao nodded his head only after hearing this. After that, he gradually became silent.

Once Xiao Yan had distinguished the things that he needed to do, he no longer procrastinated. He turned around and walked toward a certain street. He then walked swiftly until the end of the street where an auction house stood. Seeing the sign on top of the auction house, it was clear that this was a branch of the Mite-er clan.

Xiao Yan’s gaze swept in all directions as he walked into the auction house. After which, he stopped at a spot where there was a black curtain. The top of the black curtain had the words ‘VIP Reception’. He thought quietly for a moment before swaying his hand. A card made of crystal appeared in his palm. This card was the highest grade VIP card of the Primer clan, something that Primer Tengshan had quietly given Xiao Yan back at the capital due to his relationship with Hai Bodong. It was said that this card would allow him to enjoy complete assistance from any branch under the Primer clan.

Xiao Yan held the card in his hand and swiftly walked toward the VIP room.

Around half an hour after Xiao Yan entered the VIP room, the black curtain was rustled once again. The human figure who was completely wrapped in a black robe steadily walked out. The face under the shadows had a satisfied smile hanging on it as he walked directly out of the auction house. At this moment, most of the medicinal ingredients and information that Xiao Yan needed had been successfully obtained. The VIP card which Primer Tengshan had given him was as useful as he had expected.

Xiao Yan did not find a spot in this city to refine all the medicinal pills he needed after completely preparing everything. Instead, he quietly went to the city wall toward the south side of the city and flew out without alerting anyone.

Only after leaving Da Ling City did Xiao Yan find a secluded spot in the forest. He hid within it and began to refine a large amount of medicinal pills. These medicinal pills were things he would use to protect his life in the future.

Chapter 378: Black-Corner Region

Three days later, in a certain hidden forested area outside of Da Ling City, a person dressed in a black robe slowly walked out. He lifted his head to eye the occasional passerby on the main road that hurried past him. After determining the direction of the road, he lifted his head and walked toward the main road that headed south.

The pace at which the black-robed person was not that quick. However, if an attentive person were to observe him, they would be able to discover that each time the footsteps of the black-robed person fell, his body would strangely advance by over one meter. The scene was similar to a small scale teleportation was occurring, appearing extremely strange.

The black-robed person who had come out from the forest was naturally and undoubtedly Xiao Yan who had been hiding within it to refine the medicinal pills which he needed. With the help of Yao Lao during these past three days, the various recovery and healing medicinal pills, which he had exhausted, had once again populated his storage ring. With a sufficient amount of medicinal pills in reserve, Xiao Yan also felt a lot more relieved. On this Dou Qi continent, what kind of person would leave their home to go on an adventure without preparing these restorative medicinal pills? After all, these things were used to save lives.

“This road leads directly to the border. However, there are three important military fortresses along the way. We need not be afraid of the governors of the first two fortresses, but a thirty thousand strong army is said to be stationed at the final fortress. Moreover, the deputy commander there is a former Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect. From what the people at the Primer Auction House said, it appears that he is called Meng Li. His strength is at the Dou Ling class. Since the Misty Cloud Sect’s wanted order has already reached Da Ling City, I think that this Misty Cloud Sect’s former Elder should have also received it by now.” Xiao Yan gently walked at a pace that was neither fast nor slow, while his body was strangely flashing on the main road. In his heart, however, he was repeatedly calculating how to successfully leave the Jia Ma Empire.

“Currently, it is difficult for me to even move an inch within the Jia Ma Empire. I’m afraid that Yun Shan will have guessed that I will flee from the empire. In that case, he would naturally place greater focus on this kind of final checkpoint of the border. It was possible that Meng Li has long since received Yun Shan’s special message. From the looks of it, wanting to easily leave from there might be difficult.” Xiao Yan’s face was completely covered under the shadows. When he thought of the troublesome points, Xiao Yan eyebrows could not help but knit together.

“The city wall of that border fortress is nearly as large as a small mountain. There is definitely a large force of archers who are well versed in riding and shooting within the fortress as well as a special energy sensing barrier. Since it is used to guard the border, it is also likely that the fortress should have the ability to defend against people flying past from the sky. Otherwise, if a war were to break out, would the strong people of the other countries be able to come and go as they pleased? Ah, looks like wanting to pass through the last checkpoint as easily as I passed through Da Ling City might be a little impossible.” Xiao Yan softly sighed as he shook his head, feeling a little vexed.

Within the Jia Ma Empire, there was a military order. Flying was prohibited in the sky near any of the important military fortresses beside the borders. If anyone were discovered, it was likely they would receive a destructive blow from all directions.

“We can only take one step at a time and see how things go. If it really is impossible, then we can only take the risk and forcefully charge past.” Xiao Yan shook his head and ceased imagining different scenarios. Instead, he focused all his attention onto speeding up his journey.

Although the distance from Da Ling City to the Jia Ma Empire's border was not short, this was merely something small, relatively speaking. If an ordinary person were to walk these few hundred kilometers, one would definitely not be able to reach the border without ten days to half a month's time. Even with Xiao Yan's speed and the quiet use of the Purple Cloud Wings to fly for some time along the way, it took him three days to pass through the two fortresses that were along the way.

As Xiao Yan had expected, the absence of any people from the Misty Cloud Sect within the upper echelons of leadership of the two fortresses meant that the wanted order, which was not recognized by the Imperial family, was not placed everywhere as was the case in Da Ling City. The troops that were stationed there also did not pay much attention toward the wanted order. This allowed Xiao Yan to successfully yet narrowly pass through the two fortresses without any danger.

Although he had successfully passed through the two fortresses, Xiao Yan's feelings did not relax one bit because of this. This was because he knew that the most troublesome one was the final, huge fortress which was known as 'Zhen Gui Pass'. As the military fortress at the empire's border with the purpose of frightening the strengths of other countries, it would not be an exaggeration to describe the defence there as dragnet. All of the soldiers who were stationed there truly had bloody and fiery battlefield experiences. They were far from anything like the troops guarding the cities within the empire, whose bodies were hollowed from the luxurious lifestyle, and could not be compared.

This fortress was the last defensive line which would try to hinder Xiao Yan from leaving the Jia Ma Empire!

Only if Xiao Yan were able to charge out from this place would he truly be like a dragon that had swarmed into the open sea or an eagle soaring through the heavens. There would no longer be anything binding him.

Therefore, this time around, it was extremely critical to get through this pass.

Two days after passing through the second fortress, that enormous fortress, that was like a prehistoric, gigantic beast standing at the border of the Jia Ma Empire, finally appeared in Xiao Yan's line of sight.

Xiao Yan stood atop a mountain slope and eyed the nearly endless, large city wall. He once again sensed the orderly drill sound that was faintly being emitted from the city wall and could not resist gently exhaling a breath of air. The force of tens of thousands of soldiers merging and the ferocious force which charged up into the sky would likely not pale in comparison to the joint formation of the Misty Cloud Sect.

The freedom of a dragon returning to the vast ocean was on the other side of this city wall. However, Xiao Yan was a slightly battered. This huge fortress was like a vicious tiger lying on his path, blocking his final stretch of road.

“Forcefully flying over will not be a reliable method. Looking at it, I can only try and see if I can sneak through with the crowd.” Xiao Yan’s gaze swept over the road below where those groups of people with horse carts were coming and going. He hesitated for a moment, stepped back slowly and finally disappeared into the ocean of people.

On the yellow dirt road, a large group which had the size of nearly a hundred people was marching forth at great speed toward the enormous fortress at the edge of their sight. Along the way, they carried along curses that charged to the heavens. From the unified clothes that this group of people wore, it appeared that they belonged to a mercenary company. Having a hundred men in a mercenary company meant it could be considered a mid-sized one within the Jia Ma Empire.

Due to the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’ being close to the border, the chaotic atmosphere here was really well liked by certain mercenary company. They did not like to take the secure route of hunting for Magical Beasts and earning money. Instead, they were happy to be the legendary war mercenary company. In other words, it was to help a certain party in a war and reap huge rewards for their assistance from it.

Although this kind of reward was extremely great, the danger level was also very high. After all, in that kind of meat grinder battlefield, a few hundred troops being killed if they were not alert was not something unique.

If one walked a few hundred kilometers east of the fortress and passed through some small countries or tribes, one would be able to enter a special region with was renown throughout the entire continent as the “Black-Corner Region”!

Here, because of its special geography, it was almost the most chaotic area in all of the continent. Countless strong people from all countries would flee there and construct the most barbarian rules. In addition, besides human, there were countless other races in this region. It could be called a miniature continent with its diversity!

There were no laws binding anyone within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. There was was one rule, the law of the jungle!

In other words, it meant that the weak were prey for the strong to consume!

The weak did not have any rights in such a place!

This was an extremely simple region. As long as you wanted to, there would not be anyone stopping you even if you decided to openly rape a woman on the street. Of course, the precondition for this was that you better choose the party that you rape properly. Otherwise, your fate might be relatively miserable. Within the ‘Black-Corner Region’, a woman may at times be even more terrifying than a man. There was only one reason for this. They managed to survive in this place.

Additionally, the 'Black-Corner Region' could also be called an information exchange point within the continent. Immense amounts of information flowed out of this place everyday. After that, there would be countless amounts of information that would flow from the outside world into it. Ah, putting it more bluntly, if you wanted to be famous and wanted to be renown throughout the continent, the 'Black-Corner Region' could provide you with the fastest shortcut. Of course, the precondition would be that you needed to possess sufficient strength and capital. Otherwise, your life would be lost even before your name could leave this place.

As a chaotic region renown throughout the continent, the 'Black-Corner Region' also matched this reputation. Everyday, there would be strong people dying and everyday, there would be strong people swarming in from outside. This region was filled with death, but was also filled with challenges and temptation. In a place like this, things that were difficult for one to see in the outside world, like high class Qi Methods, Dou Techniques and various kinds of magical armors, medicinal cauldrons, medicinal ingredients, high tier medicinal, etc., could cause people to see until their eyes were dazed. Moreover, it was rumored that Di class Qi Methods had appeared twice within the auction house of the 'Black-Corner Region'!

Of course, if one wanted to obtain all of these things, one must pay the price. This price may be in gold coins or perhaps an exchange using other things. In summary, there would definitely not be something like a pie falling from the heavens within the 'Black-Corner Region'.

Loving chaos and leaning toward the darkness appeared to be a factor hidden within the human race. Therefore, even though people knew that this region was shrouded by an air of danger, there were still a countless number of people that swarmed wave after wave into this place. Their purpose may be the shortcut to quickly become renown throughout the continent or perhaps to be able to obtain a higher class Qi Method, Dou Technique, or medicinal pills within this chaotic region or perhaps to obtain a great wealth that could only be compared with the heavens. Regardless of the reason, these people who repeated swarmed in injected an unceasing human traffic into this 'Black-Corner Region'.

Oh yes, something which was nearly not mentioned. Perhaps it was because there will definitely be a reverse effect when pushed to the extreme but located in the middle of the 'Black-Corner Region', was the Jia Nan Academy, which was renowned throughout the Dou Qi Continent!

It was just that a certain region surrounding the exterior of the Jia Nan Academy belonged to a peaceful region. Anyone who brought the atmosphere within the 'Black-Corner Region' into this place would become a corpse on a large tree that was located at the boundary line between the Jia Nan Academy and the 'Black-Corner Region' the next day. In so many years, there did not appear to be any exceptions.

It had been rumored that the corpse of two Dou Wangs and one Dou Huang were hung on the large tree, called 'Dead Spirit Tree'...

Chapter 379: Exposed

A large group of humans and horses whizzed past on the the road, kicking up the yellow dust covering the road. Laughter and curses repeatedly resounded along the way.

At the back of the group of humans and horses, there were some people pushing the horse carts and carrying robes. They did not wear the same clothing as those mercenaries in front of them. This was because they were merely some servants responsible for washing clothes, preparing food, and building tents within the Mercenary Company. Among this group of servants, whose faces were covered with dust, a person pushing a cart while wearing a broken hat on his head suddenly looked up. Other than a pair of black colored eyes being clearly visible, the remainder of his dust covered face was nearly completely hidden under some yellow soil. At a glance, he did not appear any different from the servants with wooden expressions beside him.

"It is indeed worthy of being called the fortress which guards the borders. This size really causes one to suckle his tongue. It is far from what the cities within the Jia Ma Empire can compare with." As he eyed the city wall, which appeared even larger and more imposing as he moved closer, the man suddenly sighed softly. Hearing this voice, this person was actually Xiao Yan. Looking at the situation, it appeared that he planned to rely on this mercenary company and sneak into the final fortress of the empire.

The group grew increasingly nearer to the city wall within the yellow dust. When they were a few hundred meters from the enormous city gate, Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and watched the sky above the city wall. There appeared to be a faint, shapeless, energy fluctuation there.

"There are indeed energy sensors. It is fortunate that I did not try to forcefully fly over. Otherwise, those invisible energy sensors might have immediately exposed me. With the special crossbow equipment that these kind of military fortresses have been equipped with, I would likely become a target for them to wildly shoot at should I be discovered." Xiao Yan frowned slightly. If he were to borrow Yao Lao's strength, an ordinary bow would have difficulty hurting him. However, this kind of rare metal equipment that was specially manufactured would cause him great fear, should he be caught in an unprepared position. After all, Yao Lao's energy could only allow Xiao Yan to unleash strength, but it would not cause his body to be strengthened to the point where it could contend head on with a crossbow. Moreover, as such a large empire, it was difficult for one to believe that there was nothing in this fortress that could deal with a high class strong person. Xiao Yan had heard of those so called 'Air Splitting Three Continuous Crossbows', 'God Fire Bow', 'Soul Piercing Arrow', etc. It was just that these kinds of mysterious equipment were too difficult to create. Therefore, there was only a small number of units equipped with them and Xiao Yan had never had the chance the personally feel the power of them.

As his distance to the city gate grew increasingly close, Xiao Yan's gaze also landed on that towering city gate. When he saw the defenses of the city gate, which could be considered to be extremely fortified, his brows knit tightly together.

When he was around one hundred meters away from the city wall, the quickly moving large group of men and horses finally came to a slow stop. Two men walked out from the front of the crowd of mercenaries. After which, they waved and led the company toward the city gate.

The two men appeared to be the leaders of the mercenary company. Seeing the manner in which the two of them smiled as they conversed with the guards, it appeared that they were quite familiar with one another. It was likely that this was not the first time they had come to the 'Zhen Gui Pass'.

The two of them conversed with the guards for a long while before the hands of the cold-faced guards moved a little, seeming as if something had been shoved into his hands from the leader of the mercenary company. Only then did the latter hesitate a little before nodding. He displayed a hand signal to those behind him. The barricades and other things behind him were moved aside.

"Hu." Seeing that the guards actually did not search the company, Xiao Yan could not resist heaving a sigh of relief. His tensed up body also became much more relaxed. The perspiration filled hand of his held the handle of the cart tightly as he hurriedly lowered his head, pushed the cart and followed the company as they walked toward the tunnel under the city's gate.

Just as the group was about to enter into the city gate's tunnel, however, a cold, stern cry suddenly sounded, frightening the group at the front until they hurriedly came to a stop.

"Who is the one who allowed them to carelessly enter the city?"

As the cry sounded, the sounds of many suits of armor colliding suddenly resounded from the dark, black city entrance. A moment later, dozens of fully-armed, elite soldiers held long lances in their hands and blocked the city's gate. A young man with a dark and solemn face slowly walked out and glanced at the mercenary company in a dark and cold manner.

"Ke ke, it is young master Meng La. I have not seen you for a few months, but your appearance is really becoming more and more powerful." Seeing that his company was being blocked, the Company Leader of the mercenary company hurriedly walked out. When he saw the dark and solemn-faced young man, a smile was hurriedly revealed on his face as he spoke in a fawning manner.

"Ba Nu, enough of your nonsense. In the past, letting you pass was not a big matter, but today, I cannot allow you to do so. Father said that anyone who wants to enter the

'Zhen Gui Pass' must undergo a strict check." The young man laughed coldly. Immediately, he took out a piece of white-colored, announcement paper and threw it to the guard. He said in an evil manner, "Go and search every one of them once. Kill anyone who looks like the person on the drawing on the spot!"

That guard carefully received the announcement paper, and smiled helplessly toward the company leader called Ba Nu. After which, he waved his hand and the nearly one hundred guards at the city's gate raised the long spears in their hands, and began to search the company.

"This is bad." Xiao Yan's quietly cursed to himself when the young man had appeared earlier. Unexpectedly, things were really as he had imagined. The Misty Cloud Sect's wanted order had already been transmitted to the border of the empire.

The guards came searching one at a time from the front of the company. They held the drawing and compared it for a long while before letting them pass. Although these mercenaries were somewhat annoyed by their actions, they did not dare to behave atrociously here. They knew full well that if they were to anger this young man, their mercenary company would likely not even be able to leave the city. Should those tens of thousands of soldiers charge at them, even a strong Dou Wang would have to temporarily take shelter. Only a few strong people were like those legendary people who could contend against ten thousand people by himself.

That young man called Meng La, had his hands supported behind him. His eyes were so cold that they were like poisonous snakes. His footsteps crossed one after the other as he slowly followed the company and walked down. Suddenly, his footsteps came to a stop. His gaze swept over the servants, whose bodies were emitting a musty smell and whose faces were covered in yellow dirt. In a cold voice, he said, "Clean your faces!"

"This young man's scheming is quite deep and doesn't have the slightest haughtiness that those young masters within the empire have." Seeing that Meng La was actually unconcerned about his own status and directly came to the side of these low-status servants, Xiao Yan could not resist frowning. In his heart, he felt that things were very troublesome. If they were to continue checking in this manner, he would sooner or later be exposed. The result for being exposed in such a place was not good.

Hearing Meng La's cry, those servants with stiff expressions hurriedly lowered their heads timidly. After which, they used their sleeves and quickly wiped off the yellow grime which masked their faces.

Meng La's dark, cold gaze slowly swept across the faces of those servants. A moment later, he shook his head with some disappointment. He was just about to withdraw his gaze, when his eyes suddenly stilled. He tilted his head slightly and stared at a gray-robed servant at the back of the group of people. In a cold voice, he said, "You, lift your head."

Upon hearing his cry, the people surrounding the city gate threw their gazes over. The mercenaries also turned their stunned gazes toward this servant of lowly status.

The gray-robed servant sighed gently, and could only raise his head. The face whose features were covered by the yellow soil revealed a pair of dark, black indifferent pupils like the night.

Meng La's gaze came into contact with those dark black pupils. He was initially startled. The black-colored eyes that were drawn within the drawing surfaced within his mind in a lightning-like manner. His expression changed immediately. The fights to death in battlefields throughout the years had endowed him with keen senses. Therefore, as a seemingly conditional reflex, his toes came into contact with the ground and his body shot backward. While his body shot back, a sharp, ear-piercing sound shouted from his throat, "Catch him! He is Xiao Yan!"

His reaction may have been extremely keen, but his strength was after all merely at the Dou Shi class. Therefore, when his body had just pulled back, Xiao Yan let out a cold laughter. His body swayed slightly and caught up to Meng La in a ghost-like manner. His hand was like an eagle claw which shot out explosively with speed like lightning and heavily smashed into the latter's chest. Immediately, a mouthful of fresh blood was spat out from Meng La's throat. His face had turned a ghastly white.

Failing to take Meng La's life in one blow, Xiao Yan was just about to pounce forward when Meng La hurriedly flashed his body and went behind the back of the soldiers. It was really not normal for a Dou Shi to have such an agile body.

"Chi, chi."

Over ten, sharp, long spears that carried the faint glow of Dou Qi viciously pierced toward Xiao Yan's head. The routes of the spears were deadly and were filled with killing aura. They were indeed worthy of being soldiers who had lived on the battlefield. Just this pressure and coordination alone was something that ordinary soldiers could not compare with.

Xiao Yan twisted his head. Although he had dodged the long spears, Xiao Yan's attack was also blocked. As he saw those soldiers gathering together hurriedly, he could only knit his brows together and pulled back quite some distance.

Outside the city gate, everyone were staring at this split second change with stunned faces. This was especially when they saw that Meng La, who was called the most outstanding person among the younger generation at 'Gui Meng Pass', being seriously wounded in one strike. The expressions on their faces became slightly sluggish after that.

"Xiao Yan? He is that Xiao Yan? That Xiao Yan who killed Yun Leng from the Misty Cloud Sect who was a Dou Wang?" Suddenly, there was someone from within the

mercenary company who abruptly shouted out loud. Immediately, numerous fiery eyes were brought up. Hearing the voice, it did not appear to have too much greed. Instead, it contained a taste of worship.

As the shout from this mercenary fell, the surroundings immediately turned into an uproar. Numerous gazes that contained various different emotions stared intently at Xiao Yan. The thing that shook the Jia Ma Empire recently was naturally and undoubtedly the matter of Xiao Yan charging up against the Misty Cloud Sect. Following the issue of the wanted order from the Misty Cloud Sect, almost every citizen in the Jia Ma Empire knew that whoever was able to provide information regarding Xiao Yan to the Misty Cloud Sect would be able to obtain a Xuan Class Qi Method to practice Dou Qi. A Qi Method of this class was equivalent to hundreds of thousands of gold coins on the market. Moreover, it was a situation where there was a demand for it, but a lack of supply to meet that demand.

This generous reward was sufficient enough for many people to risk their lives.

“Xiao Yan, this ‘Zhen Gui Pass’ has tens of thousands of armed soldiers. You will never be able to escape!” Meng La’s expression swelled purple as he glanced at Xiao Yan in a vicious manner. His voice was hoarse as he spoke.

“Young Master Meng La, I want to know something. These soldiers at the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’ clearly belongs to the officials of the empire. When had it become a dog to help work for the Misty Cloud Sect? I think that if this matter was to be sent to the Jia Ma Empire’s Imperial family, I’m afraid that even your father would be severely punished, no?” Xiao Yan wiped the yellow dirt off of his face. His gaze swept over the hundreds of elite soldiers who were blocking the city gate as he coldly laughed.

Upon hearing Xiao Yan’s cold laughter, the soldiers were also startled. Immediately, they became a little hesitant. According to procedures, they were indeed soldiers belonging to the Jia Ma Empire, and had nothing to do with the Misty Cloud Sect. That wanted order was not recognized by the officials. Putting it this way, capturing Xiao Yan was basically something illegal.

“Ke ke, what a sharp-tongued young man!” Just when the soldiers were hesitating, a dark and cold laughter suddenly sounded from within the tunnel behind the city gate. Immediately, a middle-aged man wearing silver armor strode out. His gaze coldly swept over Xiao Yan and cried out, “I am the deputy commander of the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’, Meng Li. You have trespassed into an important city. According to our empire’s law, you should be arrested. I advise you to allow yourself to be arrested without a fight to avoid bringing pain to yourself.”

“You are Meng Li? That dog of the Misty Cloud Sect?” Xiao Yan’s gaze swept over Meng Li’s body and sensed the faint breath that was coming from his body. He muttered in his heart, “Seeing his Qi, he should be around a two or three star Dou Ling.”

“Take him down!” Meng Li’s expression was slightly dark and solemn as he let out a thick laugh. He ceased speaking any nonsense and cried out directly.

Upon hearing Meng Li’s order, a few hundred fully armed elite soldiers came swarming out from within the dark black tunnel under the city wall once again. After which, they surrounded Xiao Yan layer upon layer. The long, sharp lances in their hands were flashing with a thick and cold luster as the sunlight reflected off of them.

“Since sneaking in has failed, I can only forcefully charge through.”

The killing aura that shot up to the heavens from the surroundings caused Xiao Yan’s expression to gradually become cold. He moved both his hands and an enormous Heavy Xuan Ruler flashed and appeared. He waved the heavy ruler and it made a ‘hu hu’ wind sound.

“Kill!”

As he eyed Xiao Yan, who had drawn his weapon, Meng Li laughed coldly. A few days ago, he had received Yun Shan’s message. According to what the latter had told him, the current Xiao Yan was injured in the big fight at the Misty Cloud Sect and could no longer display the terrifying strength he had used to fight with Yun Shan. It was only due to this that Meng Li dared to agree to this killing order. Otherwise, even if he was given a couple more levels of courage, he would not dare to block Xiao Yan, even in his prime condition. After all, a strong person who could fight with a Dou Zong was not someone that could be held back even by using all of the warriors within this fortress.

“Everyone stop!”

Just as those warriors, whose entire bodies were filled with a bloody aura, were about to begin the charge to kill, a stern cry suddenly sounded explosively. Immediately, a shadow descended from the sky like an iron pagoda and heavily smashed into the ground. He shook the entire ground until it swayed. His gaze swept across his surroundings and finally stopped on Meng Li’s body. He laughed coldly, “Meng Li, my ‘Silver Armor Army’ are not people under the Misty Cloud Sect. If you want to curry favor with the Misty Cloud Sect, take action yourself. Do not have the delusion that you can use my people to act as stepping stones for yourself.”

“Mu Tie, you...” Seeing burly, large man who had appeared, Meng Li’s expression immediately became green as he angrily cried out.

“Hmph, ‘Silver Armor Army’, withdraw!” Ignoring him, that burly man who was called Mu Tie turned around, and cried toward the elite warriors who had surrounded Xiao Yan in their midst.

“Yes, Lord Commander!” Those warriors did not have the slightest hesitation when they heard his order. They emitted a ‘shua’ sound, and stored their lances. Their voices were

so orderly that there was not the slightest echo. They then quietly pulled back into the tunnel of the city gate and did not move, just like wooden pillars. Seeing the action of these warriors, it was clear that this person called Mu Tie had a reputation that far exceeded Meng Li's.

"You are called Xiao Yan, right? Ha ha, little fellow, you have courage. In so many years, you are the first person to embarrass the Misty Cloud Sect in such a manner. If I were not dictated by my status, I would invite you to have a few drinks with me." The large man, who was like an iron pagoda, laughed out loudly toward Xiao Yan. His laughter was like thunder.

"Thank you, Commander Mu Tie." The situation, which had suddenly turned for the better, caused Xiao Yan to be startled. When he saw that Mu Tie's face did not appear to have any malice, he immediately smiled and replied courteously.

"You need not thank me. This is just within my job scope. If the Misty Cloud Sect's wanted order was recognized by the officials, then and only then can I capture you. However, it is fortunate..." Mu Tie waved his hand. He glanced at the green faced Meng Li and smiled as he said, "As long as you can escape from this fellow's hands, there will no longer be anyone in this 'Zhen Gui Pass' who will stop you."

"Thank you very much for this." A dense expression involuntarily appeared on Xiao Yan's face as he heard this. He turned his head and eyed Meng Li before saying softly, "Deputy Commander Meng Li, if you want to take my head to get a reward from the Misty Cloud Sect, come and attack me by yourself."

"Little bastard, how arrogant. Today, I don't believe that I cannot settle this injured body of yours!"

Meng Li's face was alternating between green and white. He did not think that he would actually loop himself into the matter. Honestly speaking, in his heart, he was a little afraid of the tactics that Xiao Yan used. After all, even a strong person like Yun Leng had died by Xiao Yan's hands. If he were to soften at this kind of moment, it was likely that his reputation within the 'Zhen Gui Pass' would drop all the way to the bottom of the valley. Therefore, even though he felt uncertain in his heart, he could only harden the skin on his head and step forward.

Chapter 380: Leaving The Jia Ma Empire!

A dense group of people were gathered at the city's gate. Numerous gazes that contained some expectation or curiosity were locked on the two people who stood in an empty area. During this period of time, Xiao Yan's name was nearly known by everyone within the Jia Ma Empire. Many people had merely heard of this legendary person who had dared to contend with the entire Misty Cloud Sect with his own strength. All of the faces of those present were now filled with anticipation. Now that they were lucky enough to witness him fighting with their own eyes, they wanted to know if the rumors

that were running rampant were true or not. Did this young man, who was not even twenty years old, actually possess the strength to kill a Dou Wang?

Mu Tie's hands were crossed in front of his chest, much like a black-colored iron pagoda. He stood quietly, but emitted a powerful and stern Qi despite not being angry, pressuring people to the point where the skin on their heads became numb. From the Qi which he inevitably emitted, his strength clearly far exceeded Meng Li's. According to Xiao Yan's guess, this middle-aged, large man might have already reached the peak of the Dou Ling class. With his age, even with quite good training talent, this was something that would cause one to suckle their tongue. Of course, the reason for this was partly because of him being in bloody battles all year round. The life and death battles on the battlefield were always the training holy ground that could hasten one's growth rate.

The current Mu Tie also stared at Xiao Yan, who had drawn the huge black ruler, with some interest. This extremely special weapon had become a sign of this young man. Due to this, there were even some young men within the Jia Ma Empire who had begun to fashionably use this type of weapon. Of course, with Mu Tie's eyes, he would naturally not think that the rulers of those imitators would be able to compare with this strange black ruler of Xiao Yan's. This was because when the ruler had appeared earlier, Mu Tie had sensed that Xiao Yan's body had actually sunk slightly. Clearly, the weight of this ruler could not be underestimated.

"Since Deputy Commander Meng Li plans to personally take action, it is only natural that you all would need to listen to me. As the highest commander of the 'Zhen Gui Pass', my rules are law when you are competing in my territory." He glanced at Meng Li who had drawn a blood-red, large knife from his storage ring and smiled. His feet abruptly stepped on the ground and two crack lines began to immediately spread out from his feet. Finally, it swiftly agglomerated into a large circle. The circle coincidentally encompassed Xiao Yan within it. "Both of your strengths are not weak. I am afraid that you will cause some damage to the surrounding area, which would be a little troublesome. After all, repairing things also requires quite a bit of money. This circle shall be the boundary. Whoever is forced out of this circle loses. However, I will remind you both some things first. This is not some life and death contest, therefore, there is no need to fight until the other person is dead. Otherwise, if Deputy Commander Meng Li were to be unfortunately crippled off by Xiao Yan, where would I go and find another deputy on such short notice? Ha ha."

The corner of Meng Li's mouth twitched slightly when he heard Mu Tie's laughter, which hid a ridiculing tone. He also knew that within this 'Zhen Gui Pass', he and Mu Tie were basically like fire and water which could not merge. However, he did not expect that the latter would actually not give him any face in public.

"Hmph." Meng Li snorted coldly. His gaze was dark and cold as it turned to Xiao Yan. The bloody-red, large knife shook slightly and a dark yellow Dou Qi swiftly wrapped it. Immediately, the faint scent of blood permeated out from the blade.

Seeing that his provocation did not even cause Meng Li to be the slightest bit angry, Mu Tie simply smiled as if he were pleased and said, "However, Xiao Yan, you should not be careless. Deputy Commander Meng Li practices a Xuan Class Low Level ground affinity Qi Method. Moreover, his 'Blood Killer Knife' Dou Technique, which is also of the Xuan Class Low Level, is something that even I have to treat seriously."

"Mu Tie, you're going overboard!" Hearing Mu Tie actually revealing all his skills in just two to three sentences, Meng Li's expression instantly became green as he spoke furiously.

"Ha ha, alright. I shall say no more." Mu Tie smiled and nodded. He shrugged his shoulders at Xiao Yan and waved his hand instantly. In a faint voice, he said, "Begin."

Xiao Yan exhaled a deep breath. He held the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler and focused on Meng Li opposite him, whose face was filled with killing intent. He was about to strike when Yao Lao's voice suddenly sounded from within his heart, "Allow me. Don't waste any more time. Leave the Jia Ma Empire as soon as possible to avoid having even more problems appearing."

"Uh, alright."

Xiao Yan helplessly shrugged his shoulders. He could only forget about the thought of taking the opportunity to try using the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change'. Under the strange gazes of the people around him, he slowly closed his eyes.

"Hee hee, what a wildly arrogant fellow."

When he saw this stance of Xiao Yan, Meng Li immediately became furious. Given his status, when had he ever been looked down upon in such a manner? At that instant, yellow sand began to surge around the city gate. The ferocious presence that rose from within the yellow sand caused the surrounding mercenaries, who were observing, to hurriedly take a few steps back. Their faces were immediately filled with envy. Dou Ling class. This was a level that countless numbers of people could only dream of.

The yellow sand gradually disappeared and Meng Li, whose entire body was wrapped in a layer of yellow-colored Dou Qi Armor, appeared in everyone's sight. A sharp blade-shaped projection shot out from the blood-colored large knife in his hand, leaving a deep scar in the ground.

The bloody knife in his hand was moistened by Dou Qi and grew increasingly brighter. Meng Li's eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan, who had his eyes closed. His body was quiet for an instant before a sudden, stern cry broke the surrounding quiet atmosphere. His feet stepped on the ground and his body was like a cannon ball, which appeared in front of Xiao Yan in a couple of flashes. The bloody knife in his hand carried a precise, bloody, killing aura as it directly hacked downward, as though he was splitting the ground.

“The bloody knife Dou Technique of this fellow has become increasingly close to the pinnacle. Judging by the force and the power, even an ordinary four star Dou Ling would have difficulty receiving it.” Mu Tie could not resist frowning slightly as he sensed the extreme pressure of the knife’s force that was bearing down. His gaze immediately turned toward Xiao Yan, whose eyes were still closed as though he did not hear anything. He muttered, “What is this fellow doing? From my observation, his breath appears to be only around that of a Da Dou Shi? Don’t tell me this is his true strength?”

Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes as the sharp, rushing noise of wind made its presence known above his head. At that instant, a green and a white-colored flame strangely rose and flashed within his dark, black eyes.

Meng Li’s face, which was filled with killing intent, became dull as his gaze swept over Xiao Yan’s strange pair of eyes. However, the bloody knife in his hand did not have any hesitation as it viciously hacked at Xiao Yan’s head.

“Clang!”

Xiao Yan’s hand was lifted gently. The huge Heavy Xuan Ruler suddenly moved upward and collided with that bloody knife which contained a ferocious force. Immediately, sparks flew and an energy ripple that was visible to the naked eye was emitted from where the two weapons made contact, lifting a yellow-colored sand wave from the ground.

Xiao Yan held the Heavy Xuan Ruler with one hand, while Meng Li’s bloody knife was firmly pressed against the body of the ruler. However, regardless of how flushed Meng Li’s face became and how much force he added, that ruler appeared to have solidified in midair and did not move by even a little.

The flushed face of Meng Li, who was breathing rapidly, was almost too extreme when compared with the calmed face Xiao Yan, whose breathing did not even have the slightest chaos.

“Tsk, what a strong strength and it appears to have suddenly surged out from within his body. This method of Xiao Yan to hide his strength is really very unique. Just looking at his Qi, anyone would only treat him as a Da Dou Shi.” Mu Tie’s brows twitched involuntarily when he saw the tranquil and orderly Xiao Yan as he praised.

The surrounding mercenaries and soldiers around the city’s gate were somewhat stunned as they saw Xiao Yan blocking Meng Li’s ferocious attack with a careless block. It should be known that Meng Li’s strength may not be considered the peak in the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’, but it could be considered ranking among the top five. Usually, when he met bandits, that bloody knife would chop off an unknown number of arrogant and despotic bandit heads. However, today, this bloody knife, which was never at a disadvantage, was actually blocked by a young man in such a steady manner.

“Get lost. With this little bit of strength, you still want to come out and show your inadequacies?”

Xiao Yan slowly raised his head. Two different colored flames gently danced within his eyes. A cold smile curled up from the corner of his mouth. His right hand moved as though it was passing through flowers to pick a leaf as it pressed against Meng Li's chest in a lightning-like manner. His palm was slightly curled and a force suddenly spat out.

“Glug.”

Meng Li's chest felt like it was being smashed by a five hundred kilograms rock. He immediately and wildly spat out a mouthful of fresh blood as his body flew backward. Finally, he smashed heavily against the city wall. After this, he fell down under everyone's dull gazes. Immediately, he spat out another mouthful of fresh blood. His body was curled up like a pupa. The Dou Qi Armor on his body had shattered into pieces by a single blow.

Meng Li's hand wiped the blood stain from the corner of his mouth. His face had a painful, bitter expression of disbelief. “Didn't old Sect Leader say that this fellow's strength had greatly declined? Why is he still so strong?”

Silence!

Everyone at the city's gate fell into silence as they eyed Meng Li, who was struck out of the circular boundary with a single strike. It was a long while later before there was someone who softly moaned. A strong person of the Dou Ling class ended up losing and directly vomiting blood after merely one exchange. This young man who did not appear to even be twenty years old was actually this terrifying?

At this moment, those people, whose hearts were originally tempted by the generous reward for capturing Xiao Yan, instantly gave up any hope of successfully doing so. Seeing the vicious means of the latter earlier, it was likely that the rumor of him killing Elder Yun Leng was true. A person who could kill a strong person of the Dou Wang class. Even if these mercenary company was to unite all their strength, it was likely that it would still not be enough to deal with a few swings of his blade.

“Hu. He is indeed very strong. No wonder the Clan Head sent a letter over to tell me to take the opportunity to sell a favor to Xiao Yan if there was a chance to do so. This strength is worth the price!” Mu Tie slowly exhaled a breath of air. He eyed Xiao Yan who stood still after withdrawing his palm and could not resist muttering within his heart.

Xiao Yan turned his head and the green and white-colored flames in his eyes swiftly disappeared. Just as he had obtained control of his body, Yao Lao's voice suddenly sounded from his heart, “Xiao Yan, leave here quickly. Don't delay any longer! Hurry!”

Xiao Yan was initially startled when he heard Yao Lao's voice. His face immediately changed involuntarily and his heart also suddenly became rapid. From Yao Lao's words, he managed to distinguish a little panic?

Xiao Yan's throat rolled slightly. Some cold sweat surfaced on his forehead. The thought in his heart rolled rapidly. Back then, even when faced with the Dou Zong Yun Shan, Yao Lao did not appear to be even the slightest bit afraid. Why did he actually display such emotion within his heart now? Just what was it?

Xiao Yan's mouth suddenly felt a little dry. He did not dare to ask anything more. The heavy ruler in his hand was swiftly stored in his storage ring as he turned toward Mu Tie and asked, "Chief Commander Mu Tie, may I know if I can leave now?"

"Ke ke, of course. I have already said that as long as you are able to defeat Meng Li, you are allowed to enter and leave this 'Zhen Gui Pass'." Mu Tie laughed out loud.

"Thank you very much."

Xiao Yan laughed softly. Immediately, he walked directly toward the city while being watched by hundreds of people around him. When he was about to enter the dark, black tunnel, his footsteps suddenly paused.

Being the focus of attention of this place at this moment, the private whispers around him immediately became quiet when Xiao Yan paused his footsteps. Numerous heated gazes stared at the young man's skinny figure. The eyes of some of the women were even filled with a worshipful adoration that left people speechless.

"Commander Mu Tie, I will repay this favor to the Mu Clan in the future." Xiao Yan tilted his head toward the slightly stunned Mu Tie and said in a deep voice.

Mu Tie was blank for a moment before smiling. One really had peace of mind when conversing with an intelligent person.

"Additionally, Deputy Commander Meng Li..."

Xiao Yan's gaze turned toward the bright red face of Meng Li, who was being supported by Meng La. Xiao Yan's gaze then slowly swept across the few hundred people at the city gate. He was quiet for a moment before he suddenly turned around. His body disappeared into the darkness in a calm, free, and easy manner. That faint voice of his, however, was quietly being emitted.

"Help me inform Yun Shan. Within two years or at the very most five years, I, Xiao Yan will return. When that time comes, tell him to wash his neck. I, Xiao Yan, will personally take his life to end today's grudge!"

When everyone at the city gate heard the faint voice that was slowly transmitted out, even Mu Tie's face involuntarily turned completely expressionless.

Asking a strong Dou Zong to wash his neck. This young man was likely the first person to ever have such pride and confidence within the Jia Ma Empire!