

I'm Actually a Cultivation Bigshot #

Chapter 191: Did He Come to the Immortal Realm to Play?

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Everyone sat in place and stared at the bucket. They felt their hair standing on ends.

They suddenly felt unhappy with the sodas in their hands.

That was the only bad part about being with the expert. He liked playing with their heart rates, and they just simply had to endure it.

Sigh, what a hard life.

They watched Li Nianfan casually reach inside the bucket. He messed with it from the left side to the right side. The Golden Bees were powerless in his hands. They became playthings.

The densely-packed Golden Bees flew around in the bucket.

The visual impact was incredible. It took their breaths away just by looking at it.

There were so many Golden Bees, even an Immortal would die from that.

Li Nianfan was casual about it. He asked curiously, “Oh yeah, Mr. Yao. You look much better now. Problem solved?”

Yao Mengji tried his best to sound calm. He licked his lips out of fear and replied, “Thanks for asking, Mr. Li. I’m no longer in danger.”

Li Nianfan congratulated him, “That’s nice, congrats.”

Li Nianfan picked up the bee nest while he spoke. He observed it closely while everyone else stared in horror.

The bee nest was bigger than a human head. Countless Golden Bees peeked out and glared at everyone. Their souls almost left their bodies—they almost died in peace.

Suddenly, a swarm of Golden Bees flew out lazily and landed softly on everyone.

Everyone instantly clenched their b*tts. They were as stiff as statues.

A Golden Bee slowly crawled onto Gu Changqing's face. He almost peed himself.

Gu Yuan laughed loudly from within the Jade pendant. He laughed at his misery, "Grandson, do you dare to move?"

Of course, Gu Changqing did not dare to move. He did not even dare to speak. He was perturbed.

Trembling, Yao Mengji took a deep breath and found his courage to say, "Mr... Mr. Li, the bees..."

Li Nianfan looked up and laughed. He quickly said, "Sorry, the bees just love flying everywhere."

He simply reached out and grabbed the bees back. He closed the lid and said, "They are too feral. They'll be more obedient once I train them."

Train?

Never in history had anyone heard of training Golden Bees.

Golden Bees were rare treasures in the Immortal Realm. There were people who tried breeding Golden Bees but for millions of years, it was proven to be an impossible task.

The expert was about to break the laws of nature.

Bigshot, what a never-seen-before bigshot!

Yao Mengji and the others were shocked but they were forced to smile.

Gu Changqing asked, “Mr. Li, where did you get the bees?”

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “I got lucky. I was out and ran into Brother Lin. I followed him and went inside an Immortal Relic. The things in there were useless to me but I found these bees. I guess it’s a small unexpected prize.”

Everyone felt emotional when they heard that.

Only Li Nianfan would say Immortal Relics were useless.

The Golden Bees were defined as a small prize, too. Not a lot of items could impress the expert!

Yao Mengji raised his eyebrows. ‘Brother Lin’ must be Lin Mufeng.

He snuck into the Immortal Relic because of the expert!

‘That fellow must have a lot of treasures, what a lucky man.’

Li Nianfan took the bucket and said apologetically, “Alright, sit tight. I’ll go to the backyard and handle these bees. I’ll see if I can extract some honey, excuse me.”

“No worries, Mr. Li. Off you go.”

“Yes, don’t worry about us.”

Yao Mengji and the others hurriedly said. They wanted Li Nianfan to move the bucket away so badly.

So freaking terrifying.

Li Nianfan smiled and nodded. What a bunch of understanding cultivators.

Daji stood up and followed him. She said, "I'll go with you."

"Right. Since you brought the turkey, why don't you all stay and eat?"

Li Nianfan looked at the turkey in the yard and said, "Xiao Bai, clean that turkey and get ready to kill it!"

"Yes, Master." Xiao Bai nodded and approached the turkey.

'Kill?

'Eat me?

'I'm not a turkey!'

The Firefinch Demon flapped its wings and squealed, horrified.

Skree!

It tried to escape but Xiao Bai grabbed it like it was a small chicken. Then, Xiao Bai placed the Firefinch Demon next to the stream and washed it with a hose.

Suddenly, splashes could be heard throughout the four-part architecture, along with the tragic screams of the Firefinch Demon.

Qin Manyun and the others were stunned silent.

Qin Manyun suddenly said, “That water used to wash the Firefinch Demon is Spiritual Water.”

Yao Mengji nodded and said, “To get to bathe with Spiritual Water before death is a luxurious experience. Suited for an Immortal Beast.”

Gu Changqing said, “To be eaten by the expert would also be its blessing.”

Gu Yuan also said from within the Jade pendant, “The expert probably wasn’t impressed by the Firefinch Demon. But it’s good enough for a meal. We made the right decision.”

The four of them stopped paying attention to the Firefinch Demon. They looked around curiously instead.

Gu Changqing smiled and said, “Grandpa, look over there. That’s the Divine Bead that I gave the expert last time. The expert’s soda is made with the help of the Divine Bead.”

Gu Yuan complimented him, “Nice job. You have a bright future if you know how to please the expert. We should work hard together and not keep good items to ourselves. We should give the expert anything he’s interested in. It’s always a good thing if he accepts it!”

Gu Changqing lightly smiled. “Duh? I already knew that.”

Yao Mengji focused on the lightning rod that was on the roof. He said, “Look at that rod up on the roof. It’s called a lightning rod and it was created by the expert. That’s the rod that attracted the natural tribulation away from me and saved me from harm!”

Gu Changqing and the others jolted. They immediately looked at the lightning rod, growing more and more shocked the longer they looked at it.

The lightning rod did not look weird, but it looked too normal. No powers were coming from it or anything. No lights or halos. The material was slightly odd, too. That simple rod defeated the natural tribulation?

They would never believe it, but they knew that Yao Mengji was not joking.

Gu Changqing said sentimentally, “You can tell who created a lot of things here! The expert’s an extraordinary character. Even mundane objects would be full of Insights after his touch. Anything could be transformed into treasure!”

He thought about the paper crane. That was a creation of the expert too, right?

Gu Yuan was disturbed. Li Nianfan had turned his world upside down. No one could compare to him in the entire Immortal Realm.

He respectfully mumbled, “Extraordinary. The complications in simplicity! It’s unbelievable that a bigshot like this exists in our world. Did he really come to the Immortal Realm to play?”

Chapter 192: Grandpa Did It for Your Sake

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Everyone sat in the yard nervously.

Gu Yuan was from the Above Immortal Realm, but he was also astounded by the yard full of treasures. Especially when these items belonged to the expert. They were more valuable than Immortal Items.

One may not be an Immortal, but one would surely feel like one being around the expert!

The Firefinch was washed clean by Xiao Bai. It was placed on the cutting board, ready to be killed.

It trembled with tears in its eyes. It flinched and tensed up when it saw the shiny knife next to the cutting board. It cried fearful tears.

So terrifying, was the master of birds going to die under a knife?

No way!

It had to save itself!

It had to survive!

It thought about all the possibilities on how it could escape but to no avail.

Even the rare Golden Bees were under the thumb of the bigshot, what was a small Firefinch to him? It was probably born to be his food.

Would it turn into sh*t after it was eaten?

No, no way!

It trembled harder and flapped its wings but it could not move or fly.

Suddenly, the backyard door opened with a creak.

Li Nianfan was smiling as he held a jar of honey in his hands.

“Haha, nice gains this time. The bee nest has a lot of honey in it. I can probably keep getting honey after a while.”

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “You’re in for a treat today! We have honey and turkey. I can make a honey-roast turkey.”

Gu Changqing and the others were shocked and flattered. “Thanks, Mr. Li.”

The honey was from the Golden Bees, the ‘turkey’ was the Firefinch Demon that was a descendant of the Phoenix. This meal...was unbelievably luxurious. They felt dizzy just thinking about how luxurious it would be.

‘Thanks?!

‘Is no one going to stand up for me? Am I food to you?

‘I have to save myself! I have to save myself!’ the Firefinch thought to itself and felt its heart race. Li Nianfan smiled like the devil.

Li Nianfan said, “Xiao Bai, deal with the turkey. Remember, fast and clean.”

“Yes, Master.”

Tap tap tap.

Footsteps were approaching and the knife was held up.

The Firefinch’s feathers stood on their ends.

It felt its adrenaline running. It thought to itself, ‘The Golden Bees can produce honey, what can I provide? What’s my value for being alive?’

Chirp—

Suddenly, it had an epiphany as it chirped in a high-pitch tone. It raised its b*tt and with a pop, out came a round egg.

Gu Yuan was stunned. “The Firefinch...laid an egg?”

What was going on?

An Immortal Beast laid an egg—that was an Immortal Egg!

The Azure Ville Lord raised the Firefinch Demon for years and treated it like a God. He begged it to lay an egg for years to no avail.

That meant this egg was rare—a once-in-a-million-years type of egg, right?

It should be a groundbreaking, life-changing, celebratory event, right?

Where was the pizzazz?

Where was the Immortal audience?

That was too hasty!

Gu Changqing was stunned.

Yao Menji was stunned.

Qin Manyun was also stunned.

That was an Immortal Beast. How did it lay an egg?

That egg... A bite of that egg would let any mortal become an Immortal. They could be a cultivation genius!

The rarity and preciousness of that egg were immeasurable!

“Xiao Bai, spare the turkey!”

Li Nianfan hurried over and held the egg in his hand. He was surprised. “It lays eggs? Maybe it’s a hen?”

The egg was warm, round, and a pale pink. It looked good.

“A turkey that lays eggs...”

He furrowed his brows and hesitated.

A hen had value to him. At least he could eat eggs. Moreover, it was a turkey, and turkeys were hard to come by. He could raise it to get its eggs. Li Nianfan suddenly did not want to kill the turkey to eat it.

However, he promised the cultivators a honey-roast turkey. It would not be good to turn them down.

The Firefinch noticed that Li Nianfan was hesitating. It was overjoyed by that.

It realized that it could survive if Li Nianfan changed his mind!

It raised its b*tt again and laid three more eggs in front of Li Nianfan.

“This...”

Gu Changqing and the others felt their skin crawl as they flinched hard. They thought they were imagining things.

The Firefinch Demon laid four eggs at once?!

What was that? That was unheard of! No one would believe it!

Incredible, unbelievable, never heard of before!

“That...” Li Nianfan did not want to kill the turkey.

Nobody would kill a hen that could lay a lot of eggs.

He groaned for a while and then sighed. “A life’s a life. Suddenly, I don’t want to kill it.”

Without a second thought, Yao Mengji understood that it was a hint. He quickly chimed in, “Mr. Li, it’s rare that this hen can lay so many eggs. It would be a waste to kill it. Also, we have things to do and we need to head back. I don’t think we’ll be able to stay for the meal.”

Gu Changqing hurriedly said, “Yeah, Mr. Li, I have to go back, too. I hope you forgive me.”

Li Nianfan swiftly put aside the knife and said, “Sorry, I promised you all a meal today.”

Yao Mengji and the others saluted simultaneously, “You’re too courteous, Mr. Li. Goodbye.”

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “Okay, remember this meal, I’ll make it up to you all next time.”

He filled two bottles of honey, then gave them along with two eggs to Yao Mengji and Gu Changqing.

“This meal’s canceled so I should replace it with gifts. If you don’t mind, you can have the honey and eggs.”

Yao Mengji and Gu Changqing were stunned by the sudden surprise. They were in a daze for a short while and hurriedly took the gifts. They said, “We don’t mind, of course not. Thanks, Mr. Li.”

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “It’s not a big deal, don’t be so courteous.”

...

They walked out of the four-part architecture.

Yao Mengji and Gu Changqing were seemingly still in a daze. They held on tightly to the jar of honey and the eggs as if they were the most precious things in the world.

Truthfully, they were extremely precious.

They were emotional as they cheered loudly, “Nice! Nice one!”

They simply said their goodbyes and left in a hurry. They did not dare to stay for any moment longer.

It would be safer if they went home quickly because they had treasures with them.

“Grandson.”

The Jade pendant shined on his way home. Gu Yuan said slowly, “The credit goes to me for giving the expert the Firefinch. He was pleased. Otherwise, we wouldn’t have received the eggs and honey, right?”

Gu Changqing nodded, “Yeah, you’re right, grandpa.”

Suddenly, Gu Yuan blew his top off. “Are you trying to fool me, child? Isn’t my hint obvious enough? I deserve some of those eggs and honey!”

Gu Changqing said weakly, “But grandpa, you took my painting...”

Gu Yuan was enraged. “Nonsense! I didn’t ‘take’ it! That’s called safeguarding! I didn’t even charge you safeguarding fees.”

“Actually... I don’t need you to keep the painting safe for me.”

“Nonsens! You’re a fool. Something that important can only be safe with me. The world’s a dangerous place and you’re still too young to understand,” Gu Yuan said sentimentally. “Grandpa did it for your sake!”

Chapter 193: My Cultivation... Is a Mistake?

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At the four-part architecture.

Li Nianfan held two eggs and smiled.

It would be a treat to taste eggs laid by a hen that was given by a cultivator.

“Daji, there’s no turkey today, but we got two eggs. I can make stir-fry tomato eggs and steamed fish. That’s enough for dinner.”

Thankfully, they had enough fish from their fishing trip at the Clear Moon Lake.

Moreover, they had the nest of bees. It was good stuff.

Soon, Chef Xiao Bai made a nice meal for dinner. It smelled good and appetizing.

Li Nianfan focused on the eggs.

He saw that the egg whites were clear and white, just like white jades. It was shiny. The yolks were not yellow. Instead, they were red like flames. It looked rather eye-catching.

Good eggs!

Li Nianfan gave his review and thought he made the right decision to spare the hen.

“Daji, hurry up and taste it.” Li Nianfan reached out with his chopsticks and ate a piece of egg.

The egg was crunchy yet smooth. It had a fantastic texture and taste. Moreover, the acidity from the tomatoes was in good contrast with the nice eggs. That sweet-and-sour deliciousness brought joy to the taste palette. It was simple but it was brilliant.

Li Nianfan immediately commented, “The eggs are nice! Softer than a normal egg. It melts on the tongue. The hens from the Immortal Realm are really something else.”

The Firefinch flinched and gulped. It glanced over at them constantly.

It wanted to try the eggs but it was stubborn. ‘Ha. I, the master hen—wait, no. The master of birds, shouldn’t be in comparison with a chicken. This is an insult, do you understand? I would’ve fought you if only I wasn’t under your thumb!’

‘Also, it seems like this bigshot eats trash meals. A normal fish, a bowl of white porridge. The best thing he’s ever eaten are my eggs, yikes.’

However, it noticed that Li Nianfan was looking at it. It jumped and flapped its wings, panicking as it thought to itself, 'I'm sorry, bigshot, don't kill me.'

"Almost forgot there's another mouth to feed." Li Nianfan placed a bowl of white porridge in front of the turkey. "Eat up, lay more eggs."

The turkey scrunched its head and waited for Li Nianfan to turn around and leave. Then, it observed the white porridge.

"I eat ambrosia in the Above Immortal Realm. Did you just give me white porridge? How could you?" it stubbornly roared the white porridge then scrunched its nose. It sipped on the white porridge.

Huh? Why did it taste good?

Was this white porridge?!

Okay, it was not that bad of a meal after all!

...

At a faraway town on the West side of the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty.

A scholar was sitting at a tea inn with a bamboo slip in hand. He looked around at this empty tea inn in a daze.

The bamboo slip had four words on the cover—'Journey to the West'.

However, there was no audience at that moment.

The atmosphere outside of the tea inn was noisy and chaotic. There were sounds of crying, screaming, but mostly, there were sounds of footsteps.

An elder with white hair looked at the scholar and walked toward him to say, "Young man, leave this place. You shouldn't stay."

The scholar asked, "I'm not done with the story yet. Why's everyone leaving?"

The elder shook his head and sighed. "There's a plague. We don't have enough food and people are dying from hunger and sickness. Who has the time to listen to stories? You should hurry up and leave!"

The scholar dazedly asked, “My story contains the ultimate truth. Why should we be afraid of the plague?”

The elder was baffled. He mocked, “People are dying. Who cares about the ultimate truth? Can ultimate truths be turned into meals? Can ultimate truths cure sickness?”

The scholar was silenced like he lost his soul.

Death resonated deep in him.

Suddenly, another young man walked over to support the elder, “Dad, let’s go. This scholar’s out of his mind, ignore him.”

Soon, the tea inn was dead silent.

Meng Junliang sat there for a long while. The words of the elder were buzzing in his head repeatedly.

He had seen too many things. He had witnessed the cruelty of the world.

He saw big cities, lonesome wastelands, the kindest people, the most violent monsters. Every time he learned something new, he was a discoverer of truths.

He thought he understood the world well and that he could share his wisdom throughout the Immortal Realm—to free the general public from their suffering and help them be free spiritually.

However, he discovered that he was wrong.

He shut his eyes and thought about what Li Nianfan said.

“There are reincarnations, which makes longevity impossible.

“The sun goes up and the sun goes down. This is the law of life, if you can’t even grasp this basic fact, how would you understand your own life?”

Even in ‘Journey to the West’, the Buddha said that there was no longevity.

What if...longevity did not exist?

His cultivation...was a mistake?

He looked at the scurrying crowds with dazed eyes.

His preaching!

That elder was right. What was the use of preaching ultimate truths?

Time slipped by.

Three days passed in the blink of an eye.

The scholar sat there like a statue as he simply stared at the weather outside.

He suddenly blinked.

He remembered something. In 'Journey to the West', the Monk and the disciples always ran into problems they could not fix. They would always seek help. They would always seek backup. There was no reason that he should not do the same when faced with problems in his cultivation journey!

He had to seek help from the expert!

He suddenly stood up and walked out of the tea inn. He frowned at the scurrying crowd outside.

These people ran from the Westside and they were heading East.

Meng Junliang looked at the Westside horizon. There were dark clouds over there.

He had to solve a tiny problem before he sought backup.

He walked toward the West.

Countless people moved to the East. He was the only one who rebelled against the crowd. He walked at a normal pace but no one had the time to pay attention to him.

Slowly, dead bodies appeared on the ground. Then, he saw a village.

Dark clouds hung above the village. There were dead bodies everywhere. A lot of people were laying on the ground, waiting to die.

Countless cultivators levitated mid-air. Figures were flying around everywhere. The wind howled and the sky was dark, almost as if it was already midnight!

At the center of the village was a stone statue.

The remaining few who were still alive used all their might to kneel in front of the statue. They prayed and begged, “Lord Demon God, we pray for the sickness to be gone. Bless thy disciple for survival!”

Chapter 194: Welcome Newbie

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The statue emitted a dark energy as the people chanted. The sky turned a different shade.

It was getting weird.

The villagers were motivated. They continued to pray devotedly.

Someone with a black cape stood in front of the statue. His cape masked his face. There was only darkness present.

Suddenly, he raised his hands to the sky and looked up. “Lord Demon God, look at your devoted disciples. Please, come to the Immortal Realm and bless us. Free us from suffering!”

About ten cultivators were surrounding the village. They did not look happy at all. They kept casting spells. Fire and water surrounded them. It looked very magical.

There were about ten demons on the other side. They looked menacing as their dark energy surrounded the village. Black waves rolled in, forming a black wall as if it were a shield.

No matter how the cultivators attack, they could not break the black force shield.

“Stupid, stupid!” an elder with flowy robes yelled at the top of his lungs. He was livid as he stood watching, just outside the village.

Did they think worshipping the Demon God would work?

Would the Demon God come down to save them all?

They were so easily tempted by demonic forces. Did they not have any morals?

The sky was turning black from swirling dark clouds. He shivered and looked unsure.

Finally, he sighed fearfully. “Get the sword!”

The other cultivators’ expressions changed at the same time. A younger cultivator stepped forward and said, “Master, this...”

“Stop talking, get the sword!” The elder looked certain.

The young cultivator clenched his jaw and passed the sword to the elder.

It was a long magenta sword. It looked more traditional and old. Somehow, it had a killer aura.

“Master, do you have to do this? Your...”

“Shut it! We’ll all die if the Demon God is summoned.” The elder held the long sword. “It doesn’t matter, I shall endure the price of death alone.”

He did not hesitate any longer and levitated into the air. He swung the sword and a long trail of fire ensued like a fiery snake in the sky.

He looked serious and powerful. “Everyone, help me...kill the demon!”

The other cultivators all looked at each other. They cast spells and transferred their powers to the body of the elder.

“The sky is my witness today. This is an act of defense against demons. I’m forced to kill because we have no choice. If this means it’ll affect my cultivation, so be it. It has nothing to do with the other cultivators!” said the elder.

Then, he held the long sword up high.

Suddenly, the dark sky was split apart!

Flames ensued like an angry dragon, pouring out from the long sword. The sky lit up. There was a stream of bright light amongst the darkness.

Then, he swung the long sword!

Fuuuum!

The darkness disappeared into nothing. The powerful fire sword was unstoppable. It attacked the center of the village!

Fuum!

The flames whipped the swirling darkness. It shook like it was about to fall apart.

The flames continuously whipped it, almost like it was going to split the dark swirl open. The village brightened up.

It was like the apocalypse for the village and the flames were the meteor. If it fell upon the village, the entire village would be wiped out!

Along with the thousands of villagers!

The cultivators looked like they did not want to do this.

A cultivator's journey was always dangerous and played against fate. Sects were opened to ensure safety. Cultivators would be praised if they acted out of kindness and they would have a smooth-sailing cultivation journey.

However, if cultivators acted out of malice and had too many lives on their hands, their cultivation would be affected. The best-case scenario would be to stop being a cultivator. The worst-case scenario was having their cultivation corrupted!

That would be worse than death.

Therefore, besides demonic cultivators, cultivators would never bully or kill anyone unless it was absolutely necessary, not on purpose at least.

However, once you were a cultivator, you would no longer have the choice for power over the weaklings. The journey to pursue immortality was cruel, most would rather be an ordinary person and live a simple life.

That elder would be ending his journey if he destroyed an entire village!

Suddenly, something happened.

The sky swirled like the ocean and poured down on the demonic man!

The demonic man looked hysterically menacing as he laughed loudly, “Thank you for the blessing Demon God! Thank you for the blessing Demon God!”

He levitated and went toward the flames, his eyes a bright red gleam.

He reached out slightly with his wrist.

Suddenly, the surrounding dark energy went toward him. A black ball of dark energy formed in his hand, first translucent, then as black as ink. It was a terrifying sight.

Then, he simply threw the black ball toward the flames.

Poof! The black ball snapped the flame trail and went toward the cultivators.

Boom!

A burst of dark energy!

The cultivators instantly went pale and spat out blood.

The demonic man in the black cape laughed and levitated smugly. “Will you look at that! This is the power of the Demon God! As long as you’re devoted and loyal, the Demon God shall grant you longevity and revive your loved ones!”

The villagers looked fanatical. They hugged the statue. “Lord Demon God! Lord Demon God!”

Suddenly, a scholar slowly walked over from afar.

He was barefooted and frowning. He saw everything.

At that moment, he was questioning his cultivation journey.

The villagers were chanting to their Demon God like how he shared his preaching. In ‘Journey to the West’, the Monk and the others also preached their truths to the West. The only difference was in their methods.

However... What was the use of these truths?

What was the meaning of realizing ultimate truths?

He walked toward the village.

The cultivators helplessly laid on the ground. They hurriedly said, “Don’t go in there!”

“Scholar, are you perhaps under the Demon God’s temptation?”

Meng Junliang pretended like he did not hear anything. He continued walking into the village and headed toward the demonic statue.

Huh?

The demons were slightly confused. Was he another new member?

He looked like a scholar. They could use this scholar to preach about the Demon God. It would be effective.

The Demonic Man smiled. He said, “Another newbie. Everyone, welcome him with applause!”

Chapter 195: Bros, Let’s Chat in the Toilet

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Clap clap.

Everyone applauded.

Jun Mengliang acted as if nothing happened. He walked into the crowd and looked up at the statue.

“Although I’m lost in my ways, I know one thing. Your truths...are wrong!”

His soft voice was as loud as bombs in the ears of everyone.

“Huh?”

The Demonic Man frowned and looked extremely menacing. He yelled angrily, “He’s a lunatic, toss him out!”

Bam!

Meng Junliang activated his powers so that no one could approach him. Everyone looked over and felt a powerful aura surrounding the scholar.

It made him look unreal. He was standing there but it felt like he existed in a superior dimension.

“This... This is...” That elder widened his eyes. “Insights shielding the body from all forces of evil? The Chosen One?”

“Die!” The Demonic Man targeted Meng Junliang as endless dark energy surrounded him with the wave of a hand.

However, he was stumped by what happened next. The dark energy stopped when it got near Meng Junliang. Meng Junliang walked forward and dodged the attack instead.

Everyone watched as Meng Junliang slowly raised his hand and pointed at the statue!

“Dao in the Immortal Realm isn’t something you should be messing with! I...shall erase it for you!”

Boom!

He targeted the statue like it was Judgement Day.

Suddenly, thunder rumbled and lightning struck. A ray of sunlight shined through the dark clouds and landed on Meng Junliang.

Crack!

The statue cracked open with a soft crack!

Then, the crack spread incredibly fast all over the statue!

Bam!

It shattered like glass!

The statue was blown apart into bits.

The Demonic Man was stunned.

The cultivators were stunned.

The villagers were also stunned.

They looked at the empty spot, dumbfounded. Nobody had time to react.

The dark clouds faded away. It was suddenly bright.

How was the Demon God statue gone just like that?

It was too sudden. Nobody was mentally prepared for that. It all felt like a dream.

“You...”

The Demonic Man pointed at Meng Junliang as he trembled. He almost went crazy with rage. “You dare offend the Lord Demon God, I’ll kill you!”

He flew toward Meng Junliang at lightspeed as soon as he said that.

Suddenly, the dark energy that was surrounding him faded into thin air.

All his powers went away as soon as he was near Meng Junliang. He turned back into an ordinary man and went down like a plane crash. He became human mush as he splattered on the ground.

The other demons jolted. Their dark energies left their bodies and they instantly fell to the ground.

It was dead silent.

The dazed villagers looked at all the dead bodies on the ground. Their gazes went from shock to panic, then, confused. Finally, they turned into desperation and anger.

“What are you doing? We’re about to die!”

“Why? Why would you destroy our last hope!”

“Give us our statue back!”

“Lord Demon God, don’t forsake us!”

A lot of people were scolding him angrily. Most of them were shivering on the ground as they caught the plague.

One of them suddenly knelt before Meng Junliang. “I beg you! Please, save us! Please, save us!”

The others were taken aback. Then, they started to kneel and beg him, too.

Meng Junliang held his bamboo slip tightly in his hand. He was feeling lost. He said, “Sorry, I...can’t save you!”

The villagers were once again in despair. They were ready to fight Meng Junliang with all their might.

Thankfully, the cultivators rushed in and stopped the crowd.

That elder sighed and said, “These villagers have all caught the plague. They can’t be saved. Let’s go.”

Meng Junliang asked, “They can’t be saved at all?”

“There’s too many of them and we don’t have enough Spiritual Herbs. Also, ordinary mortals can’t handle eating the Spiritual Herbs.” The elder looked like he was making a tough decision. He was silent for a while before he continued, “Plagues happen sometimes. It’s a natural disaster. For us cultivators... Even if we wanted to help, we don’t have the power to do so!”

Which cultivator would spend their days helping ordinary mortals and finding Spiritual Herbs to cure their sickness?

What about curing them with their powers? That was even more impossible.

The young cultivator behind the elder said, “It’s a dangerous world. All we can do is to prevent the demons from causing chaos and fend the world from evil.”

“There must be a way!”

Meng Junliang looked upon the horizon on the Eastside. “But, my comprehension isn’t deep enough yet. I can’t think of anything.”

He had to go back and ask the expert!

He looked at the ordinary people on the ground again. They were helpless and desperate. It made him emotional. He wore a complex expression.

At that moment, he felt as helpless and lost as those people.

The elder shook his head and said, “These ordinary people are so stupid. Let’s leave them alone.”

“Stupid? It was just their survival instinct.” Meng Junliang left and walked toward the Eastside.

“Master, I remember!” The young cultivator suddenly said, “That scholar’s the guy who preaches ‘Journey to the West’!”

The elder was surprised. “He is? No wonder!”

He chased after him and asked respectfully, “Are you Senior Wu Cheng’en?”

Meng Junliang did not stop walking. He casually said, “I’m just his scholar.”

The elder chased after him while saying, “Senior, can you please visit our sect? I’m willing to serve you as our sect’s Master!”

He only received silence as a reply.

Meng Junliang was not walking fast, but he was incredibly speedy. The elder tried to chase after him but could not catch up. He could only watch as he disappeared.

...

At the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty.

Two figures swooped in from the sky and landed on an empty field.

They were two demons with black capes.

They sneakily looked around and made sure there was no one around. Then, they put down the carriage they were carrying. The carriage was huge. It was more like a giant cage. There were about ten unconscious people inside it.

These humans had large red marks on their necks. Some of them had it on their faces, too. It looked horrifying. Those were plague symptoms.

The demons looked at each other and smirked. They destroyed the carriage and left the humans there. They leaped away and went off into the woods.

“Hehe, we’ll let this plague spread. Pain and despair will take over the land. By then, everyone in the Immortal Realm will know how powerful Lord Demon God is. How will those cultivators stop us now?”

“The bridge to immortality is reconnecting. Everything’s changing. This plague came at the right time! It’s really helpful to the Lord Demon God.”

“Wait until the people start believing in Lord Demon God. We can summon Lord Demon God from the Demon Realm, too. At that point, even if Immortals were summoned we’d have nothing to fear.”

They were laughing smugly while discussing their bright future.

Suddenly, one of them was stunned. He glanced into the woods and asked in a surprised tone, “Oh? Look at that person’s back. Is that person carrying the Fallen Demon Sword?”

“No way. You must be seeing things.”

The other simply glanced in the same direction and was instantly stunned. “It’s the Fallen Demon Sword! How did an ordinary person get hold of the Fallen Demon Sword?”

They went toward it without a second thought.

“Rich, we’re going to be rich! This is a blessing from the sky! If we get the Fallen Demon Sword, maybe Lord Demon God will be impressed with us! We’ll be successful!”

“Don’t let your guard down. If he’s an ordinary person, he would’ve been affected by the Fallen Demon Sword by now, but he’s fine. Don’t you think it’s strange?”

“Awesome! You’re so observant. Maybe he’s pretending to be vulnerable?”

“I’m afraid so. Let’s hide in the dark and approach carefully. We’ll give him a fatal blow.”

“Nice plan!”

The two of them hid in the woods and approached Li Nianfan carefully. They held their breaths and stared attentively.

Suddenly, they felt someone tapping on their shoulders.

They did not mind it at first because they were way too focused. They were finally annoyed after ten taps on the shoulders.

They turned their heads.

They flinched hard because there were two humongous heads in front of them—a boar head and a bear head. They were smiling wide at them.

Their jaws dropped as they felt their skin crawl and their hairs standing on ends.

They did not get the chance to scream. The bear and the boar covered their mouths and dragged them deeper into the depths of the woods. “Bros, let’s chat in the toilet...”

Chapter 196: Her Charm... Awesome

Chapter 196: Her Charm... Awesome

Time flew by.

Three days passed in the blink of an eye.

It was unclear what the cultivators were busy doing, but they did not visit the expert anymore. The four-part architecture was quiet once again.

Li Nianfan went back to living a simple and peaceful life.

At the four-part architecture, there was a lightbulb, a refrigerator, a television, and other Spiritual Stones. There was also a hen that could lay a lot of eggs. It was enough to satisfy his life.

However, he was not used to the sudden silence. There was usually a crowd present.

“I’m thinking too much. I’m just an ordinary man. Why did I expect cultivators to visit me constantly? I can’t think like that! They don’t appreciate us!” Li Nianfan mocked himself.

“Daji, let’s go eat breakfast at the Fallen Town. It’s time to go out for a spin.”

“Alright, I’ll listen to you.” Daji smiled cheekily and simply packed some stuff. Then, she went out the door with Li Nianfan.

Creak.

The two of them walked out.

“Blackie, guard the house,” said Li Nianfan from afar. He had already walked into the woods with Daji.

It was the start of autumn. The morning sunlight fell upon them along with the breeze of autumn winds. It was kind of chilly.

The two of them walked on the ground full of leaves, slowly descending the mountain as they headed straight to the Fallen Town.

Soon, they were at their familiar stall.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “The usual, Soup Dumplings and two bowls of Tofu Pudding.”

“Yo, Mr. Li, our favorite guest. Welcome!” The stall owner quickly made their table and wiped their bench. He welcomed Li Nianfan to take a seat, “Hold on, I’ll serve you your meal soon.”

Soon, hot breakfast was served at their table.

Li Nianfan chuckled and sneakily took out a small plate and a small jar of vinegar.

Daji was intrigued. She said in a surprised tone, “You brought vinegar.”

“That’s because vinegar’s your favorite, so I have to bring it along,” laughed Li Nianfan.

Daji was suddenly touched. She looked at Li Nianfan with her pretty ocean eyes. “You’re so nice to me, Mr. Li.”

Her charm... Awesome!

Li Nianfan was slightly overwhelmed. He hurriedly said, "Okay, stop flirting with me. I don't buy it. The vinegar makes the Soup Dumplings tastier and it's also good for digestion."

The two of them enjoyed their breakfast peacefully.

Meanwhile, at the other side of the Fallen Town.

There was a rich guy who was dressed lavishly. Behind him was a muscular man. They were walking slowly.

They walked amongst the crowd. Anyone could tell that these two were not ordinary. They could also tell that the muscular man was the rich man's bodyguard.

The rich guy frowned slightly. There were hints of anger.

The muscular man sounded as loud as a bell as he worriedly said, "Prince, we've been here for five days. If we don't go back soon, the King will blame us."

“What’s the use of going back?” waved the rich guy. He said in a carefree tone, “I’m not going back without the mysterious man!”

“Prince, do you think a mysterious man like that exists?” The muscular bodyguard frowned. “He’s not a cultivator, yet he can save lives and heal wounds? It all sounds like a conspiracy of the people. I think it’s just a popular myth.”

“It’s our last hope.”

The rich guy sighed and looked angrier. “If it wasn’t for our useless guests, I wouldn’t have had to do this, right?”

He was enraged as he glared. “My dad treated them as the most important guests. We treated them with utmost courtesy and privilege. But they were useless! What do we need them for?!”

The bodyguard jolted fearfully. He went pale and hurriedly said, “Prince, don’t say that! Those were powerful cultivators. You’d be in trouble if this gets back to them!”

The rich guy smirked. “You said so yourself. They can’t attack ordinary people and they also can’t be involved in war! I’m a prince. What can they do about it? They don’t dare to help me rid evil, yet they can’t think of ways to solve the plague! Useless!”

“Prince, cultivators are above all that. All they want is to become Immortals. They won’t risk their cultivation journey with mortal sins.”

The bodyguard shook his head and continued, “But they have powers, and we need them for things to be successful. Also... The plague is recent news. It’s still far from us. We don’t need to worry yet.”

The rich guy glanced at him. “Preparing for the worst is the most basic rule of survival for a kingdom. You don’t have to worry about it, but I do!”

The bodyguard said, “Prince, those cultivators said that if something were to happen, they can save you and the King.”

“At that point, I won’t need any saving. Let me die with my people!”

The rich guy gestured to him to shut up. He did not want to talk about it. They continued walking along the streets.

At the breakfast stall.

Li Nianfan and Daji wiped their mouths.

Li Nianfan took out some silver. He smiled and said, "Check, please."

"Alright. Thanks, Mr. Li." The stall owner smiled as he accepted the silver. Then, he suddenly said, "Oh yeah, I remember. A while ago, a rich guy was here looking for you. He asked a lot of people in the Fallen Town about you."

Li Nianfan looked confused. "Looking for me?"

The stall owner continued, "Yeah. I observed him, but I don't think it's something bad. That rich guy looks extraordinary but he's quite polite."

Suddenly, the stall owner was taken aback. He was looking at something. He quickly whispered, "Mr. Li, that's them."

Li Nianfan looked up and saw a guy walking toward them. He wore white robes and a crown. Behind him was a muscular man, following him closely.

That rich guy stopped frowning when he saw Li Nianfan. He quickly whispered to his bodyguard, "I need to make sure you don't say anything stupid. From now on, zip it!"

Then, he walked towards Li Nianfan with a smile. He saluted and said, “I’m Zhou Yunwu. Greetings.”

Li Nianfan stood up and saluted, too. He introduced himself, “I’m Li Nianfan.”

Zhou Yunwu said, “Sorry for the disturbance, Mr. Li. I want to ask if it’s okay for us to sit at the same table?”

“Please do.”

Li Nianfan gestured for them to sit. Manners maketh man. There was no use rejecting someone so polite. The rich guy did not look like he had bad intentions either.

Daji got up and sat next to Li Nianfan.

“Thanks!” Zhou Yunwu looked happy. He sat across from Li Nianfan.

His bodyguard did not take a seat. He stood behind him instead.

Chapter 197: Kingdom

Li Nianfan looked like he was thinking.

Usually, someone as polite as him was mostly royalty.

Zhou Yunwu rolled up his sleeves. He was not pretentious. He said, “Owner, give me some Soup Dumplings.”

Li Nianfan asked curiously, “Mr. Zhou, do you know me?”

Zhou Yunwu shook his head. “No, but I’ve heard of you, Mr. Li. Especially about the pregnant lady incident. I was very impressed.”

“I just got lucky,” said Li Nianfan humbly. Then, he continued to ask, “How did you recognize me?”

Zhou Yunwu laughed. “Everyone says that Mr. Li has a wife who’s prettier than a Goddess. It’s easily identifiable.”

“I see,” laughed Li Nianfan while he shook his head.

Was he well known around here?

“Sir, your dumplings.”

The stall owner placed the dumplings on the table.

Zhou Yunwu looked at Li Nianfan and gestured to him to enjoy the dumplings.

Li Nianfan rejected his offer. “Mr. Zhou, we just had some.”

“I shall eat it, then.” Zhou Yunwu rubbed his nose. He was slightly embarrassed but he picked up a dumpling with his chopsticks.

Suddenly, he noticed the plate of vinegar on the table. He asked in a shocked tone, “Huh? Why’s there a plate of ink on the dining table?”

Ink?

Li Nianfan almost laughed at the sudden humor.

He explained, "This is vinegar, a kind of seasoning sauce. You can try dipping the dumpling in it."

"Oh?"

Zhou Yunwu was curious. He dipped his dumpling in the vinegar and ate it.

Suddenly, a sour taste filled his mouth along with the taste of the delicious dumpling. It brought a new sensation to his taste palette.

The vinegar was appetizing. It made Zhou Yunwu salivate.

The bodyguard behind him looked worried. He wanted to speak but he remembered what the prince told him. He could only worry in silence.

That was too careless of the prince. This was their first meeting. What if the vinegar had been poisoned? He would easily die from it, right?

Zhou Yunwu complimented genuinely, “Delicious! I didn’t know there was something so amazing in this realm! I heard that this stall makes delicious food because of your advice, too! Mr. Li, you’re a man of mystery.”

“Thank you, I was just bored so I made something,” smiled Li Nianfan. He did not expect to be complimented like that.

Zhou Yunwu felt like Li Nianfan was important. He groaned for a short while and suddenly said, “Mr. Li, do you know that a lot of places have been struck by the plague?”

“Plague?” Li Nianfan furrowed his brows and shook his head.

Zhou Yunwu looked like he was worried about his people. He sighed and said, “This plague started in the far West. We’re not sure how, but it appeared in the Southside, too. It’s spreading incredibly fast. Hundreds of villages and ponds were affected in mere months. Countless people are dead.”

Li Nianfan was perturbed. “So serious?”

He was not unfamiliar with the word ‘plague’. However, he did not expect it to be so serious. It seemed to be spreading fast and wide.

Then, he thought about it and asked, “The cultivators didn’t do anything about it?”

“Them?” Zhou Yunwu shook his head. He sounded like he was betrayed. “Why would cultivators care about the lives of ordinary people?”

Li Nianfan did not say anything. He was not surprised.

Ordinary people were too common. Cultivators were elites. It was not realistic to expect them to spend their time and energy on curing the plague.

It was the cold hard truth.

Zhou Yunwu looked at Li Nianfan with hope as he nervously said, “Mr. Li, since you have the skills to heal people, can you perhaps cure the plague, too?”

“If it’s spreading fast, I can try it.”

Li Nianfan did not reject him. His healing skills were considered strong if it was just the plague. He had to do something about it in case the plague were to spread to his area.

However, he was in no rush. He was just an ordinary man. It was best to be careful.

“Mr. Li, you’re confident enough to try it?” Zhou Yunwu was overjoyed. He hurriedly got up and said, “No matter what the results are, I represent the people and thank you for your generosity, Mr. Li!”

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “You’re welcome, I’m doing this for me, too.”

What if everyone had the plague? Conquer the world alone?

Maybe Zhou Yunwu was in a better mood, or maybe it was because he liked their conversation, but he suddenly sighed and asked, “Mr. Li, what do you think of the cultivators?”

Li Nianfan answered without a second thought, “They can fly around and shatter the earth. They’re endlessly powerful. I envy them.”

Zhou Yunwu said, “Yeah, envy. It’s too bad that they have all the powers but aren’t willing to help the citizens!”

Li Nianfan groaned for a short while and finally shook his head and said, “Mr. Zhou, have you heard of the saying, ‘non-politicians won’t be involved in politics’?”

Zhou Yunwu jolted. His expression changed as he fell deep into his thoughts. He suddenly realized something but was once again at a loss.

He was flushed as he said excitedly, “Non-politicians won’t be involved in politics! Mr. Li, you’re a genius. You summarized it so perfectly!”

“Cultivators fight demons and ensure safety. They’ve done their jobs.” Li Nianfan was not trying to defend the cultivators. He interacted with cultivators constantly, so he knew how cultivators were. Cultivators fought demons, sealed demon entrances, and rid the evil in their lives, too.

If they interfered with everything, they could not become Immortals.

“I was blind.”

Zhou Yunwu had an epiphany. He looked embarrassed. “Because cultivators are powerful, I expected them to do everything. I relied on them to solve our problems. Even our war. I expected them to deal with everything. How’s that different than doing nothing and taking credit for it?”

“War?” Li Nianfan was taken aback. Now, he was more sure of his guess.

Zhou Yunwu must be a prince from a kingdom.

Mundane problems should be solved by mundane people. Cultivation kingdoms existed, too, but those kingdoms were more like sects that dealt with issues of the Immortal Realm. They did not care about the problems of the common people.

It was like asking a human to interfere in an ant colony's problems.

Li Nianfan thought of joining the royals when he first got here. He wanted to make a living in the kingdom with his talents.

However, he felt like it was not suitable for him. This was the Immortal Realm—kingdoms were strict and dangerous and wars were a constant.

He thought about it and decided to stick with the cultivators.

Of course, Zhou Yunwu stood up again and said in a serious tone, "I'm not trying to hide my identity on purpose. I'm the Prince of the Xia Kingdom, Zhou Yunwu. Greetings, Mr. Li!"

Chapter 198: The Talented Mr. Li, Another One Who Wanted to Be His Student

Li Nianfan hurriedly saluted, “Prince Zhou, how impolite of me.”

Zhou Yunwu was still standing. He bowed and said sincerely, “I was speculating wrongly. Thanks for the quick reminder, Mr. Li. You’ve made me realize important things. Can you please be my teacher?!”

His earlier mentality was completely wrong. Not only was he overly dependent on the cultivators, he was also holding grudges against them. If he kept thinking like that, it would have troubling consequences.

He imagined what would happen and had cold sweat all over.

Li Nianfan simply waved and said, “That’s too much of a compliment, Prince Zhou. I’m just an ordinary man in the mountains. How can I be your teacher? Please, don’t bring it up again.”

Li Nianfan did not need anything else here. He had a beautiful woman as his company and he could occasionally show off to the cultivators. He had an awesome time.

‘He wants me to work for the kingdom? To be busy all day and battle in war?’

‘Does he think I’m foolish?’

‘Yet another person who wants to be my student? Indeed, talented people are popular in the Immortal Realm,’ Li Nianfan thought to himself happily.

Zhou Yunwu was more respectful of him. At the same time, he sighed pitifully, “Mr. Li, you don’t care much for fame or fortune. Your mind is as still as water. I’m so embarrassed because I’m nowhere near your level.”

He groaned for a moment and continued, “Mr. Li, you’re a legendary genius. Don’t you have ambitions? I’ve visited all the famous places and realized cultivators were powerful. However, ordinary people are more common in this realm. If someone can gather the common people and inspire them to work together, cultivators won’t look down on us anymore. We can put ordinary people on top again!”

Li Nianfan stared at Zhou Yunwu.

It seemed like his sincere apology was not sincere at all. In the end, he still wanted to battle the cultivators as an ordinary man.

It could not be blamed. He was a noble prince. He must be mad that the cultivators were on top. The unfairness he felt was impossible to get rid of.

However...that was very ambitious of him.

There were no other proper kingdoms in the Immortal Realm, so if he did gather the people, it would be a force to be reckoned with. As the saying went, 'teamwork makes the dream work'.

Li Nianfan shook his head without a second thought. "No, not at all. I don't have any kind of ambition."

It would take a lot of time to rule the world. Li Nianfan did not want any part of it. He could not wait to say goodbye to Zhou Yunwu.

Zhou Yunwu looked disappointed. He tried to speak but did not know what to say.

After a while of silence, he said, "It seems like this isn't where your ambitions lie, Mr. Li. I shall not force you to do so. Actually...apart from the plague, I have another question for you, Mr. Li."

"Say it." Li Nianfan did not reject him because he was an ambitious prince. He wanted to be on his good side.

“The Xia Kingdom is in a central region, but there are cases of banditry coming from three sides. We’re not afraid if it’s only coming from one side, but these three areas are secretly working together because they fear our kingdom’s power. If we attack one side, the other two will charge and attack my kingdom.”

Zhou Yunwu looked worried after saying that. He had a headache because to him, this was an unsolvable issue. He felt like the only solution was to use all their might to attack.

His ambition of ruling the world seemed far from reality every time he thought about this issue. He could not even deal with three banditries. How could he rule the Immortal Realm? Such a joke, right?

“I see.”

Li Nianfan looked at the table. He took out a dumpling. Then, he placed a pair of chopsticks, a spoon, and a plate around the dumpling.

“To better visualize it, let’s pretend the dumpling is the Xia Kingdom. The chopsticks, spoon, and plate represent the three banditries. Which one is the biggest banditry?”

Zhou Yunwu was taken aback. Then, he pointed at the plate and said, “The plate’s the biggest!”

Li Nianfan looked at the table and thought for a moment. He had a plan in mind. “The chopsticks, plate, and spoon seem to be working together, but they’re not made from the same material. Naturally, they would have some mistrust and greed between one another. Breaking their attack...wouldn’t be that hard!”

Zhou Yunwu felt his heart skip a beat. He was instantly overjoyed.

He was only trying to give it a go. He did not expect to receive an actual solution to this issue.

What a man of mystery!

He had sparkles in his eyes as he excitedly asked, “What should the dumpling do?”

“I have a plan. It’s called...instigation!” Li Nianfan smiled and teased him on purpose.

Too bad he did not have a long beard. He could stroke it and give off the ‘hidden expert’ effect.

He could think of ten different solutions while yawning. How talented of him!

Zhou Yunwu immediately stood up and bowed at him politely. He exclaimed, “Please, teach me, Mr. Li!”

Li Nianfan smiled and asked, “Does the dumpling have hostages of the chopsticks, spoon, and plate?”

“Naturally, yes,” said Zhou Yunwu.

“How do we deal with the hostages?”

“Kill them all!” said the bodyguard behind the prince.

Li Nianfan stopped him. “Ha, the killing will show that you aren’t to be messed with but it’s not the solution to the problem. It will make the chopsticks, plate, and spoon work together more seamlessly.”

Zhou Yunwu frowned. “So, no killing?”

“You have to, but only a part of it!” Li Nianfan paused. “If you kill the spoon and chopstick hostages but you release the plate hostages, how would the spoon and chopsticks feel?”

Zhou Yunwu realized what he meant and thought about it.

Li Nianfan continued, “Right now, the dumpling sends someone to bring gifts to please the plate. What would be the results?”

Zhou Yunwu stood up. He felt like he was enlightened. He mumbled, “The plate will think that the dumpling’s scared, and the plate will be greedy. But the chopsticks and the spoon won’t be happy about this!”

Power imbalance worked every time!

However...it was not enough.

Li Nianfan continued, “Suddenly, the dumpling releases a classified rumor saying that the plate is on the dumpling’s side and that the plate is ready to work together with the dumpling to get rid of the chopsticks and the spoon. However, the dumpling suddenly leads a big army to ambush the plate, wanting to get rid of it. What would happen then?”

“The spoon and the chopsticks would think this is the dumpling and plate’s plan. They wouldn’t dare to do anything reckless, so they won’t help the plate!”

Zhou Yunwu felt goosebumps all over. His scalp was almost numb. He walked back and forth on the spot. His voice trembled as he said, “Amazing, amazing!”

He did not need Li Nianfan to continue. He talked to himself, “Just when the spoon and the chopsticks are hesitating, the dumpling will use that time to annihilate the plate! Their plan...will be completely destroyed!

“The talented Mr. Li, please, accept my bow!”

He looked serious and bowed at Li Nianfan. He said sincerely, “If you help me, Mr. Li, the world will be at peace. Please, reconsider your decision. I’m willing to share the world with you as your student!”

He called himself a student. He was being very humble.

Li Nianfan said without a second thought, “No need to reconsider. Good luck on your side.”

“Mr. Li, if you have second thoughts about this, find me anytime at the ‘dumpling’. I’ll welcome you as your student!” Zhou Yunwu bowed again. “Thanks for all the great help today. I should return. Farewell!”

Chapter 199: The Exhausted Yao Mengji

Chapter 199: The Exhausted Yao Mengji

Li Nianfan watched as Zhou Yunwu rushed to leave. He smiled.

A prince from a royal kingdom. If he could achieve his ambitions, the Immortal Realm would be interesting.

He tidied up and said, “Daji, let’s go back.”

The stall owner yelled from behind him, “Mr. Li, safe travels and come again.”

As for Zhou Yunwu, he left town with his bodyguard. They headed straight to the Xia Kingdom.

However, they were stopped by a scholar.

The scholar was dressed simply and minimalistic, yet, he somehow managed to stand out. “I’m Meng Junliang. Greetings.”

Zhou Yunwu politely replied, “I’m the Prince of the Xia Kingdom, Zhou Yunwu!”

Meng Junliang went straight to the point. “Prince Zhou, I have an impolite request. Can you please share with me your conversation with Mr. Li?”

Zhou Yunwu frowned. “That...”

Meng Junliang said, “I’m Mr. Li’s apprentice. I have a lot of questions in mind to ask Mr. Li, but I fear I will annoy him. I saw you both getting along well, so I got curious.”

“Oh, you’re Mr. Li’s apprentice.” Zhou Yunwu was instantly friendlier. “Why don’t you be my guest at the Xia Kingdom? We can chat along the way.”

Meng Junliang nodded. “Okay, let’s go!”

They chatted while walking. Meng Junliang repeatedly processed what Zhou Yunwu told him. Sometimes, he would look shocked, other times, he would look like he realized something.

“Non-politicians won’t be involved in politics.

“Instigation... What a good plan!

“To describe a country as a dumpling, and the banditries as the chopsticks, spoon, and plate. So simple yet so clear. Only Mr. Li can do something like that.”

Meng Junliang felt sentimental. The confusion in his eyes faded away. He was left in awe.

“Mr. Li’s deeply insightful of the world.”

Meng Junliang gasped and said, “I finally realize where I went wrong.”

Zhou Yunwu asked curiously, “Where, Junliang?”

Meng Junliang took a deep breath. “Application! Mr. Li understands the world and can apply it to his actions and words. That’s the true Dao! I thought I knew everything, but it’s just theoretical, so it’s useless.

“For example, this instigation plan. I can see through their greed, too, and I’d want to instigate them, too. But I wouldn’t be able to show you how to do that specifically. Why can’t I think of that?”

Zhou Yunwu saw the opportunity and took it. Invitingly, he said, “Junliang, if you feel like you lack real experience, why not work for the Xia Kingdom? You can showcase your strengths.”

Meng Junliang did not reject his offer. “If that’s the case, I shall accept it.”

“Haha, let’s go! The Xia Kingdom welcomes you, Junliang!”

...

At the Linxian Palace.

Countless figures flew in from afar. Qin Manyun did not look good. Some disciples followed behind her.

Zhou Dacheng asked, “Manyun, how’s the situation out there?”

“Not good!”

Qin Manyun shook her head. There was worry in her voice as she said, “The plague’s spreading way too fast. It seems like demons are the ones who helped spread it. The

Northside and Westside are infected. Not only the ponds and villages, but a lot of sects were wiped out, too! There have been a lot more demonic worshippers, too!”

Zhou Dacheng was shocked. “It’s gotten that serious already?”

Qin Manyun sighed and said, “Too many people were affected by this disaster. The bridge to immortality has been broken for too long. A lot of Immortals didn’t want to be summoned, so people are losing faith in Immortals, too. Plus, the demons were preaching their beliefs on the Lord Demon God, so the people were easily swayed.

“Even in the Southside, they have built a kingdom for the Lord Demon God. They’ve waged wars and colonized areas. If they manage to gather the common people in the Immortal Realm, I’m afraid that...”

Zhou Dacheng frowned and said, “All these years, as cultivators, we’ve underestimated the power of the people.”

Common people were the majority. It would be deadly if mainstream mindsets were to change.

“The more important thing is...” Qin Manyun took a deep breath and said, “It seems like there are signs of the plague in our area!”

“What?!” Zhou Dacheng exclaimed in disbelief. “It has spread so fast that it’s in our area?”

“It’s not supposed to be, but it’s a different case since the demons interfered.” Qin Manyun slightly fumbled as she continued, “That’s why it’s an emergency. We have to find the Master. He has to decide how to deal with this.”

“Your Master?” Zhou Dacheng instantly looked strange. It looked like he had something to say but could not say it.

Qin Manyun had a bad feeling about this as she asked, “What?”

Did something happen to her Sect Master?

Zhou Dacheng stuttered, “Sect Master, he... I’m afraid he doesn’t have the energy to deal with this for now...”

Qin Manyun was shocked. She worriedly asked, “Did something happen to Master? Where is he?”

Zhou Dacheng said in a conflicted tone, “At the temple.”

Qin Manyun immediately flew to the temple of the Linxian Palace.

Yao Mengji was there, along with the three elders of the Linxian Palace.

However, Yao Mengji was in a terrible condition. He looked dirty and pale with sunken eyes. He seemed to have become slimmer. He went from a cool old man to a weak old man in merely a few days.

Qin Manyun jumped. She teared up and said in a pitiful tone, “Master, you’re old... Were you attacked by some powerful demon? How inhumane of them!”

Yao Mengji did not look happy. He glanced at Qin Manyun and said in a hoarse voice, “Manyun, you know it’s not easy being this old, stop insulting my reputation.”

“Then, Master...”

“I exhausted myself for the future of the Linxian Palace.”

Yao Mengji sounded miserable and stubborn. He continued, “I’ve been spitting out blood for the last few days trying to summon the Linxian Palace Immortal. But the Immortal won’t show up, so I kept spitting blood until I’m now like this.”

Qin Manyun was instantly speechless. She said, “Master, you don’t have to do this. Maybe the Immortal’s busy. Summon him some other time.”

“My student, times have changed. Once the bridge to immortality is reconnected, we’ll be in the new era of battling with Immortal ancestors soon. The two Gu Siblings and their grandfather of the Azure Ville will be our strong competitor! It’ll be too late if we don’t summon our ancestors soon!”

Yao Mengji said, “I’ve had enough rest. Give me an energy pill. I can spit out blood one more time!”

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Qin Manyun frowned and said worriedly, “Master, you have to stop for a while. You can’t keep spitting blood like this.”

“Haha, don’t worry, I’ll show you the definition of a strong old man!” Yao Mengji said. “Hurry up and get me an energy pill! I’m telling you, after all these times, I’ve learned the trick. I know how much blood to spit for it to work.”

Soon, a disciple brought him an energy pill.

Yao Mengji swallowed it. Suddenly, his pale face started to flush red and he stood up straighter.

The effects were visible.

He bowed, spat out blood, lit an incense stick, and summoned the Immortal.

It was pitiful how familiar he was with the steps.

However, after he spat out blood, Yao Mengji was exhausted. His mouth went dry as his whole body trembled.

“Ancestor, I’ve tried my best. If you don’t show up now, I can’t do this anymore. I’ll die from spitting blood!”

Yao Mengji prayed, “Please, I’m begging you. Work! Show up!”

It was as if his prayers were heard. The ancestor stone flashed a milky white light.

Buzz!

A powerful aura took over the area.

Everyone was surprised. They looked serious. It worked!

The Immortal...was summoned?

Yao Mengji trembled emotionally. He stared dead at the flash of light and yelled in a trembling voice, "Mas...Master!"

The Immortal figure started to form.

However, they were stumped and looked weirdly at that figure. They were in disbelief.

It was a woman. She was not the most beautiful woman, but she was very beautiful. Moreover, she was not beautiful like a young lady. She had that mature aura. Her curvy figure made her attractive in her unique way.

She was the type of woman people would daydream about.

She was very stunning.

Among Immortals, the male Immortals rarely focused on their appearances. They liked to have beards to look cool. It was different for female Immortals—they actually cared about their looks.

The elders were all astounded.

However, they remembered how old this figure was and instantly calmed down.

That was not the point.

The point was, this woman was not in good condition. The figure was weak and lifeless. The figure was not standing up. Instead, she was on the ground, blood trickling from the corner of her mouth.

She was kind of like how Yao Mengji was—almost dead.

Yao Mengji was stumped. “Mis...Mistress?”

That woman looked at everyone and said weakly, “Mengji, why are you like this, too? Are you also dying?”

“I’m just exhausted, Mistress. You said you...you’re...” said Yao Mengji in a trembling voice. His eyes were wide in shock.

Everyone looked at the woman and felt emotional.

They were not prepared for the sudden sadness.

That was an Immortal!

The only Immortal of the Linxian Palace was dying?

How did this happen?

That woman smiled and said, “Alright, nothing to be sad for. The Above Immortal Realm isn’t that different from the Immortal Realm. Immortals die, too. It’s too bad I can’t transfer my powers. It’s so wasteful to die like this.”

She looked at Yao Mengji and asked, “Where’s your Master?”

Yao Mengji answered sadly, “My Master ascended and went to Cross Tribulation after two hundred years. He never returned.”

The figure paused for a while but was not surprised. She said, “He was too stubborn and reckless. As I expected, he didn’t pass the test. He was only two-thousand-years old. How short-lived.”

Yao Mengji endured his sadness and introduced, “Mistress, this is my student, Qin Manyun.”

“Oh? A girl?”

The figure smiled and observed Qin Manyun. She gasped with wide eyes.

“You’re from the... Yuan Ying realm? Little girl, how old are you?”

Qin Manyun respectfully replied, “Ancestor, after this year I’ll be thirty years old.”

“A cultivator from the Yuan Ying realm who’s barely thirty? You have more potential than I did when I was your age!”

The figure took a closer look at Qin Manyun. She was very satisfied as she complimented, “Her appearance isn’t bad, too! She looks as good as I do! Mengji, you’ve got a good student here!”

Yao Mengji nodded and teared up.

It had been thousands of years but his Mistress was still the same. Her narcissistic style had not changed.

He remembered when he was only a teenager. Time flew by and a lot had changed. The Immortal achieved her goal but her life was in danger.

Memories flashed by. His throat was dry as he held back his tears. He said in a hoarse voice, “Mistress, how can we save you?”

“Don’t worry about me. What I need is far beyond your reach in the Immortal Realm.” The woman shook her head and said in a cool voice, “I can die in peace knowing that I have such a nice student.”

She smiled and raised her hand. A fruit appeared in front of Qin Manyun. “I can’t help you all, and I don’t have gifts. Take this as a gift.”

The fruit was small like a longan. It was mainly purplish and it looked like a plum.

Yao Mengji sneakily glanced at his Mistress. She was looking at everyone like she wanted to try it, too. Her pale face was slightly flushed. He thought it was funny.

He knew her too well. He went along with it perfectly. “Mistress, what’s this? I’ve never seen it before. Is it food from the Above Immortal Realm?”

The woman looked at Yao Mengji proudly like he was a great student. She simply introduced, “This is a special Spiritual Fruit, known as the Dao Fruit!”

“Dao Fruit?” Everyone was surprised.

The woman was satisfied with their reaction. She said in a pleased voice, “This Dao Fruit is rare even in the Above Immortal Realm. I got lucky and found it in an eltrich border. I even fought two Immortals for it. Thankfully, I won in the end.”

“Eltrich border? Fighting Immortals?”

Everyone was intrigued and shocked. They looked at the Dao Fruit with fascination.

The woman smiled and said, “Do you know what are the effects of this Dao Fruit?”

Everyone shook their heads simultaneously.

“You couldn’t imagine it!” She purposely tried to be mysterious. She said in a low voice, “It contains Insights!”