

Bigshot 211

Chapter 211: Something Big Happened!

At the Azure Ville.

Gu Changqing suddenly looked toward the direction of the Xia Kingdom in shock.

“Is that Luck? What happened to the mundane people? How did they gain so much Luck?! It’s affecting the entire Immortal Realm.”

He was trembling and talking to himself. “Such intense Luck... What did the mundane people do? Who will stop the revolution?”

He looked upon the horizon and saw a flash of gold light. It stood amongst the dark clouds. It kind of looked like a golden gate in the sky!

Suddenly, his eyes went wide. He said in a trembling voice, “Heaven—Heavenly Gates! The Heavenly Gates...are open?”

The Heavenly Gates were not actual gates. It was more like a taboo.

Previously, the bridge to immortality was broken because of the Heavenly Gates. However, now that the Heavenly Gates were opened, this meant that the bridge between mortal and immortality had been reconnected!

Cultivators from the Mahayala realm were technically half-Immortals—soon-to-be Immortals. It was too bad that the bridge to immortality used to be broken so most Mahayala cultivators could not transcend to the Above Immortal Realm. They could only wait to perish.

He could feel the awakening of powerful forces in the realm. This could have happened because of something that happened a long time ago. Perhaps, it could even be because of a legendary character who was rumored to be dead, or...it might also be because of hidden experts.

At that moment, he could feel them making their comebacks!

This change could flip the Immortal Realm upside down!

No, not just the Immortal Realm—it would affect the Above Immortal Realm, too!

Gu Changqing looked in that direction. He suddenly realized something. That place... The expert was over at the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty, right?

What if...it had something to do with the expert?

Most probably! Who else could do this aside from the expert?

He immediately turned around and headed toward the temple.

He bowed, spat out blood, lit some incense, and summoned.

He was familiar with the procedure.

‘Grandpa, something big just happened. Hurry up and show up!’

However, the Immortal Stone lit up for just a brief moment before it dimmed again.

‘Huh?’

‘Did Grandpa hang up?’

‘No way, I have to try again.’

Again, he bowed, spat blood, lit some incense, and summoned.

Gu Changqing groaned. To be safe, he spat out two more mouthfuls of blood.

“Grandpa, something big just happened. Come on!”

The Immortal Stone lit up again. Gu Yuan’s voice could be heard coming from within it. He sounded like he was in a hurry when he said, “I know, I know. The bridge to immortality has been reconnected, right?! The Mundane King’s here, so represent Azure Ville and pay your greetings. Something big is happening on my side, too! Can’t talk right now, bye!”

The Immortal Stone went dim again.

Gu Changqing was silent for a while. Then, he suddenly slapped himself in the face.

“I’m such an idiot. Of course, the Above Immortal Realm would feel the change. What am I so eager for? I wasted four mouthfuls of blood. That’s about decades of cultivation!”

He did not want to think about how much blood he lost. Otherwise, he would cry from the wastefulness.

At the Above Immortal Realm.

Immortal Qi and Spiritual Qi were at their boiling points.

Everyone was on the move.

At the Azure Ville.

Everyone was busy, sprinting around like clueless flies. They could not wait to pass around information.

At an empty field.

“Something big just happened. The bridge to immortality has been reconnected!”

“I know! It’s because there’s a Mundane King in the Immortal Realm! A Mundane King—an existence from a faraway era!”

“I heard that the Mundane King was tragically rejected by his fiancé three years ago. He swore to change his life. Thus, becoming a Mundane King!”

“That’s not the correct version. According to reliable sources, this Mundane King has a fiancé he grew up with, but then she died in an accident. Because of that, he swore to search for ways to revive his fiancé. His sentimentality touched the Gods from above.”

“Lies! These are all rumors! He fell from a cliff and met a Saint!”

Suddenly, someone ran out frantically with a horrified face. “Something big happened, something big happened!”

“We know! The Mundane King! The reconnected bridge to immortality!”

“No, not that. The Firefinch Demon raised by the Sect Master’s gone!”

Everyone was perturbed. They were horrified. “What? The Sect Master’s going to be pissed!”

“Stop talking! Everyone, hurry up and look for it. The Sect Master’s on his way back!”

Everyone scattered to look for the Firefinch Demon. They were all busy looking for it.

Meanwhile, an elder with white robes rode on a cloud casually.

His face was flushed and he was squinting, almost like he was drunk. He flew in while whistling.

He was more pleased when he thought about the rare creatures he had in his backyard garden.

“Time flew by. I can’t believe I went from an irrelevant nobody to this. Looking back, I’ve been too humble. It turns out I’m incredibly great after all.”

He was about to reach his Azure Ville Sect. He sped up and chuckled, “My babies! I’m here!”

The disciples were still busy. Even when they saw him, they simply greeted him before hurrying off.

The elder was pleased.

He complimented, “What a bunch of hard-working fellows. They must be shocked by the realm’s changes. Look at them sweating so hard.”

He continued walking to his backyard garden. He could not control his joy as he smiled and said, “I’m back, babies! Come out and let me look at you!”

Hm?

Why was it quiet?

The elder arched his eyebrow and walked into the garden. He was instantly thunderstruck.

The garden was still the same. However, all the demons were unconscious.

He glanced around in panic as he felt his heart throb. “What’s going on? Where’s my precious baby?”

He used his powers to scan the area. His Firefinch Demon with Phoenix blood was gone!

Suddenly, his eyes went red. He felt like someone was tugging on his heartstrings.

He took a deep breath and waved. The unconscious demons woke up, looking confused.

The elder asked through gritted teeth, "What's going on? Tell me what happened!"

When the remaining Firefinch Demons saw the white-robed elder, it was as if they had been reunited with their families. Almost all of them wept and cried, "Sect Master, Gu Yuan did this. You have to avenge us!"

"Gu Yuan?"

The elder was stunned. Furious, he yelled, "Order Gu Yuan to meet me at once!"

Soon, Gu Yuan rushed over with a seemingly good outfit. He looked energetic.

The Firefinch Demons went off, "It's him! It's him! That's him!"

Gu Yuan looked calm. He saluted and bowed, "Greetings from Gu Yuan to the Sect Master."

Chapter 212: You Are Insulting My Intelligence

The elder stared at Gu Yuan and questioned him in a low voice, "You did this?"

"I did," nodded Gu Yuan. "But it was too much of an emergency. I needed to take action immediately. Please, forgive me, Sect Master."

"Take action? Forgive you?"

The elder was so angry that he laughed. He asked in a cold voice, "What's more important than my baby bird?"

Gu Yuan adjusted his facial expression and said, "An opportunity of a lifetime. In comparison to that, Sect Master, you wouldn't mind losing that small bird."

The elder frowned. "Small bird? How dare you?! What kind of opportunity are you talking about that's making you so delusional?"

Gu Yuan looked at his Sect Master and said, "There are too many birds here. It's not wise for me to say it. Sect Master, let's move to another area!"

The elder stared at Gu Yuan coldly for a while. Then, he turned around and walked toward the main hall.

The Firefinch Demons behind him screeched, "Sect Master, avenge us. Destroy him and we'll let you ride us!"

The elder had his back turned to Gu Yuan in the main hall. He slowly said, "Gu Yuan, you and I have both transcended from the Immortal Realm. I created the Azure Ville, and you're my beloved student. I've treated you well, haven't I?"

He sounded sentimental. If the culprit was not Gu Yuan, he would have killed him half to death first.

"Sect Master, you've always been nice to me. Truthfully, I grew up listening to your stories since I was young. I always knew you were outstandingly talented. A visionary and a well-mannered man. You're the whole package and you'll definitely end up as a legend in history!"

Gu Yuan said it smoothly without stopping to breathe. He continued, "I've always followed in your footsteps, Sect Master. I worked hard to become an Immortal because I wanted to say a few words to you, the greatest Immortal. When I finally met you, I realized that you were much greater than they said you were."

The elder shut his eyes. He waited for Gu Yuan to finish.

Then, he said, “Gu Yuan, I’ve heard your speech a thousand times since you got here. I repeat, as a cultivator, you have to cultivate with hard work. Don’t rely on flattery. It’s not the right way! Why can’t you learn?”

Gu Yuan hurriedly said, “You’re right, Sect Master, but I can’t help myself. I’m just being honest.”

The elder sneered, “It’s not over yet. Tell me, why did you steal my bird?”

Gu Yuan took out the Firefinch Demon Egg and asked, “Sect Master, please, take a look at this. What do you think this is?”

The elder looked and gasped.

“This is...a Firefinch Demon Egg?!”

He was flustered. He said coldly, “So what? You stole my Firefinch Demon. Did you think giving me an egg would cut it? Or are you asking me to hatch a Firefinch Demon?”

Gu Yuan said, “Sect Master, this egg was laid by your Firefinch Demon!”

“Oh?” The elder quickly sniffed the egg. He looked like he was familiar with it. “You’re right. That’s its scent.”

Then, he stared at Gu Yuan and questioned him with a mean voice, “Where did it go? It laid an egg, yet you still won’t let it go?”

Gu Yuan said hurriedly in a serious voice, “Sect Master, there’s a legendary expert in the Immortal Realm. The death of that Immortal and the changes in the realm are all caused by him!”

“So?”

“So I made up my mind and gave him the Firefinch Demon.”

“Ridiculous, how ridiculous!” The elder pointed at Gu Yuan with his trembling finger. “You stole my baby bird and now you’re somehow blaming it on the changes of the realm?”

Gu Yuan said genuinely, “Sect Master, I’m not lying. The Firefinch Demon was sent to the expert. It laid four eggs under emotional stress. The expert was so impressed that he gave me one.”

“Huh? Four eggs?”

The elder looked at Gu Yuan. He thought he misheard him. He was in utter disbelief. He said in a pained voice, “Gu Yuan, how can you tell me such an absurd lie? You’re clearly insulting my intelligence!”

He waved and said in a tired voice, “I don’t want to listen to your nonsense anymore. I’ll give you half an hour! I want my Firefinch Demon returned to me safely. Otherwise, don’t blame me for disregarding our relations!”

Gu Yuan stood still.

He groaned for a moment and sighed softly. He said, “Looks like I’ll just have to show it to you.”

The elder arched his eyebrow and warned him, “What? Are you going to continue lying? Are you planning on fighting back?”

Gu Yuan carefully took out the painting scroll. He looked extremely serious as he said earnestly, “Sect Master, I got this from the expert. It’s a rare treasure, and its value is on the same level as an Immortal Item!”

“Look at you, saying it as if you actually mean it.” The elder looked at the painting scroll and took it. He was about to open it.

“Sect Master, wait!” Gu Yuan stopped him and warned, “Sect Master, this painting is made by the expert. It contains Insights. Now that it’s in the Above Immortal Realm, its Spiritual Qi is more powerful. It’s lethal, so you can’t just simply open it like that.”

The elder sneered, “Ha, you think you can scare me? Move, out of my way.”

Gu Yuan stepped back and said in a frightened voice, “If you insist, Sect Master. I shall move out of the main hall.”

“You’ve never seen anything yet. Leave,” sneered the elder.

Gu Yuan immediately walked out of the main hall. He stood outside and stared inside, alarmed. He cast a cloud under his feet, ready to flee just in case.

He waited for a short while. Then, the door of the main hall swung open. The elder walked out with the scroll and said, “Fine, follow me into the back hall. Remember, it’s not because I was afraid of danger. It’s because I trust you.”

“I get it. I understand.”

Gu Yuan quickly followed him.

The back hall was not big. Not everyone was allowed to enter either. It was a guarded temple of the Azure Ville Sect.

The temple was the source of defense spells for usual sects. It could suppress power, too.

Three elders guarded the place.

They looked surprised when they saw the Sect Master walking over with Gu Yuan.

They said, "Greetings to Sect Master Payne and Protector Gu Yuan."

Gu Yuan replied respectfully, "Greetings to the three elders."

Payne saluted and said, "Please, start the defense spell, elders. I have things to do!"

One of the elders asked, "What for, Sect Master? Is someone attacking our sect?"

"No," said Payne. He looked like he did not know what to say. He finally took out the painting scroll and said, "It's to suppress this item."

The three elders looked at it earnestly.

They observed it for a long time. The elder was shocked and confused. "Sect Master, if I'm seeing it right, this seems to be a painting scroll?"

Payne nodded.

The three elders looked at him weirdly. They said, "From the looks of it, it's just ordinary paper. From its outer appearance, it also looks like it was recently painted, so it isn't generational. Why are we suppressing an ordinary painting, Sect Master?"

Chapter 213: Was My Sect Going to Be Destroyed by a Painting?

To suppress..." Payne could not continue.

He wanted to know what he was suppressing, too!

Gu Yuan continued, "This painting contains Heavenly Insights. It's a Golden Crow, extremely terrifying. Please, be very careful, elders."

Payne looked at Gu Yuan and nodded. He tried his best to say, "Yes. Right, let's begin."

Golden Crow?

The three elders looked at each other as their eyes were filled with doubts.

The Golden Crow was a legendary Demon King from a faraway era. It went extinct a long time ago.

Even in the Above Immortal Realm, the existence of the Golden Crow was only a record found in an eldritch border.

The painting was made on ordinary paper. The material of the paper was new, so it was not from an ancient time for sure.

Who could possibly paint the Golden Crow?

Even so, it was not necessary to suppress a painting, right?

One of the elders was silent for a while. Then, he said, "Sect Master Payne, you're being awfully careful. Forgive me, but allow me to be straightforward. Just open the painting."

"True, to suppress a painting will be a waste of our talents."

Gu Yuan was worried. He said, "Elders, don't be reckless. The Golden Crow in the painting might be alive! I've had it with me for a long time, but I don't even dare open it myself."

"Ha, ridiculous!" sneered the elders. "You're just an Intermediate Immortal. Just because you're afraid of opening it, you want us to suppress it? You're making a big deal out of nothing!"

It was ridiculous. He was like a kid who was struggling to open a jar, so he begged the adults to open it for him.

Gu Yuan said, "It's fine if you don't believe me, but before you open it, let me step away first."

Payne gestured and said, "Alright, stop fighting. Start the spell."

The three elders sighed softly. "Fine, let's listen to the Sect Master."

The three elders activated the spell and a bright halo appeared. Power poured into the hall like endless ocean waves.

The three elders locked eyes with one another and communicated through their body language.

"Big Elder, what should the spell's power level be?"

"Duh? Level three at best! We can't have people knowing that we're making a big deal out of nothing. Shameless, right?"

"True, very smart of you, Big Elder."

"Let's just make it level one...for appearance's sake."

...

The three elders reached an agreement and slightly squinted. They cast a spell quickly. Golden patterns formed on the ground like a chain. "Sect Master, open it!"

Payne nodded. He looked at Gu Yuan and said, "You better hope for your sake that you aren't fooling me!"

He was worried that Gu Yuan was bluffing. If the painting was nothing more than ordinary, it would be embarrassing for him. The reputation of the Sect Master would be ruined.

God bless. May this painting be cool!

He took a nervous breath and slowly opened the painting!

Starting from the corner of the painting—

Suddenly, everything started to sway. A powerful aura poured out of the painting.

Hm?

Payne was pleasantly surprised. That was interesting.

He uncovered the painting a little bit more.

More power started to pour out from it as rays of golden light started shining from the painting scroll. It seemed like there were special effects.

The Big Elder was shocked. "This painting scroll...is really something else. It's worth a good look."

The Second Elder said excitedly, "Continue, don't stop."

Gu Yuan was excited, too. He unscrolled the painting even faster!

As he unscrolled the painting, a figure started to show!

Boom!

A strong wind started to blow in an instant. Spiritual Qi and Immortal Qi swirled throughout the back hall.

The temperature started to rise. The golden light was blinding.

The Big Elder said, "Hurry, bring the spell up to level two!"

The painting scroll was gradually being unscrolled.

Golden flames started pouring out of it. Payne could feel the heat coming from it as he held onto the painting scroll.

The flames were extraordinarily powerful. They were about to jump out of the painting to burn everything in sight.

Thankfully, the chains of the defense spell trapped it in place.

The three elders were surprised. "Good stuff! That's some good stuff! Sect Master, you were well-prepared and careful. We're impressed."

"Haha, I told you so. This stuff's extraordinary. If we didn't activate the spell, the golden flames would've been hard to control."

Payne smiled and gave Gu Yuan an approving look. "Get ready, I'm going to fully unscroll it."

"Let's go, bring the spell up to level three. That should be enough."

Splash!

It was only unscrolled a little bit more, but its power had suddenly increased significantly. It was beyond their expectations.

Golden flames poured out from it like a water fountain, taking over the back hall.

Everyone was shocked. They hurriedly said, "Quick, bring it up to level four!"

"It's too strong! Level five! Hurry up!"

Splash!

The painting of the Golden Crow was unveiled. There seemed to be golden flames dancing in its eyes. The powerful aura was overwhelmingly breathtaking.

The Big Elder was in distress. He yelled, "We can't hold it! Level eight!"

The three elders were flushed, sweating bullets. They quickly cast their spells and the gold chains transformed into a wall that surrounded the entire back hall.

A terrifying aura settled over the Azure Ville Sect. The powerful aura grew into storms, trying to escape from all sides.

The defense spell was activated. Everyone knew about it.

"What's going on? What's happening again?"

"Hot! It's so hot!"

"What? The back hall's on fire!"

"It's on fire? Damn, I thought I was hallucinating."

"Warning... Something bad's happening in there. Don't look!"

Everyone in the back hall was in shambles. They looked at the painting scroll with fear.

The Big Elder was sweating bullets. Bewildered, he said in a trembling voice, "Sect Master, stop... Please, stop! We know the painting's amazing. Stop opening it!"

Payne did not look happy at all. "Do you think I'm still opening it? I'm trying to scroll it back up!"

He looked at Gu Yuan and yelled, "Gu Yuan, don't think about running away. The back hall's locked. The painting scroll's out of control! Hurry up and help me!"

"No freaking way! The flames will easily end me in seconds!" Gu Yuan shivered in the corner. He was afraid the flames would burn him.

Weak, small, pathetic, and helpless.

"I made a mistake. I should've waited outside even with the defense spell. It's over... I'm a goner..."

The painting scroll was only revealed halfway but the defense spell was already at its highest level.

"No, I can't do this anymore."

The five of them were panting. They were bathed in sweat and their beards and hair had been burned off along with their clothes. They were fully naked.

'Please, stop making this painting so awesome!' Payne almost cried.

'Is my Azure Ville Sect going to be destroyed by a painting?'

Chapter 214: Cruel Flames

Boom!

More golden flames started to pour out. It seemed that they had heard Payne's pleas.

It was powerful enough to burn everything in sight!

Payne stared at the painting scroll that was still slowly being unscrolled. His eyes were wide and his jaw dropped. He was too shocked to speak.

He saw the Golden Crow in the painting...move!

The Golden Crow...was alive?!

His skin was starting to char, but he felt a piercing cold instead. His skin crawled and he almost screamed.

He almost fainted from fear.

The Golden Crow!

That was the ancient Golden Crow!

Did someone paint it alive?

How powerful was the expert to be able to achieve that?

Fume—

Sizzle—

The flames started to spread to the main hall!

The terrifying heat even changed the color of the sky as the golden flames started to devour the entire back hall. The scene was too shocking. The disciples of the Azure Ville Sect were stunned.

Instantly, countless disciples sprinted over.

They tried to rush into the back hall while the people in the back hall were trying to escape.

Some kind-hearted disciples warned loudly, “Don’t go in there, something bad’s happening there!”

“Senior, what’s going on inside?” asked some disciples. They were careful, curious, and afraid.

A senior said fearfully, “Not sure what’s going on but the back hall suddenly burst with golden flames. The Sect Master and the three elders brought the defense spell to its max, but it still couldn’t suppress flames. It’s terrifyingly hot in there, almost as if the fire can annihilate anything. If it explodes, I think the entire Azure Ville Sect will be gone. Hurry up and run for your life!”

Everyone said in disbelief, “The Sect Master and the three elders couldn’t handle it?”

“They couldn’t!” The senior shook his head continuously. “I tried to go near it and my clothes were burned off instantly! If I get any closer, I’m afraid I’ll fade into thin air. So scary!”

Everyone then realized that the senior was running for his life with only a thin bed sheet on.

It was not just him. Other disciples that ran out from the back hall were covered in all sorts of things. Some of them had covered their private parts with cloud spells—very imaginative.

Suddenly, a frantic conversation could be heard coming from the back hall. It pulled on their heartstrings.

“Sisters, don’t go in there. It’s dangerous!”

“I’m a cultivator, I can go anywhere I want. Stop running, everyone! Hurry up and cast the rain spell. Let’s put out this fire.”

“No, don’t, sister...”

Then, they heard a canary-like squeal. “Ah— Our clothes—”

The Azure Ville Sect went temporarily quiet. Then, they were all hyped.

A disciple said with a straight face, “Senior, I’m grateful for the sect and I’m willing to risk my life to save it. Farewell!”

Then, he flew in.

Countless disciples flew to the back hall with him.

“The sisters are right. We can go anywhere as cultivators. I’m willing to fight alongside the sisters!”

“Slow down, everyone! Bring me with you, too!”

The senior rushed over with his bedsheet on. He said in a pious voice, “Fine, it’s a dangerous place, but how can I watch as my juniors risk their lives? I should be the one leading them!”

Suddenly, they heard a yell coming from the back hall. "Everybody, step back!"

The entire Azure Ville Sect was shining bright, especially the spell patterns coming from the back hall.

Along with a rumble, the back hall slowly levitated under everyone's shocked gazes.

Then, the back hall took off at high speed. It looked like a giant comet from afar.

Everyone looked at the faraway fireball, dazed. "Each day you learn something new. So, the back hall seems to be able to fly."

At the back hall.

Payne and the others were pale. Thankfully, the fire was not strong in its attacks.

However, it was menacingly hot. They would have been dead by now if it was not for their defense spell.

Even so, their bodies were quickly dehydrating. If it went on, they would be the first Immortals to die from dehydration.

The Big Elder said in a hoarse voice, "Sect Master, it's not good. From the looks of our situation, the flying spell won't last for long!"

The Second Elder was in despair as he said in a low voice, "Desperate times calls for desperate measures. It looks like we have no choice but to look for our Sect Master's ex!"

Payne felt like he was slapped in the face. He opposed it, "No!"

The painting scroll was out of his reach. He could only watch as the fountain of fire gushed continuously. He was shivering in the corner with Gu Yuan.

At the Heavenly Water Sect.

The Sect Master was a beautiful woman. She was in a meeting with some elders.

Suddenly, their eyelids twitched as they sensed something bad.

They looked up and saw a giant meteor approaching their sect.

They all rushed out to look at it closely.

Someone recognized it and said in shock, "Isn't... Isn't that the...back hall of the Azure Ville Sect?"

"The Azure Ville Sect's so violent. They're moving their entire back hall? They won't stop until they die!"

One of the elders said, "Sect Master, didn't you two just break up? What did you do to agitate him so much?"

The beautiful woman frowned. "He was drunk and tried to feel me up, but I slapped him."

"That's it?"

The elder was shocked. He said worriedly, "The back hall's powerful. I can feel how hot it is from afar. I can't believe the Azure Ville Sect has such hidden tricks up their sleeves."

Somebody analyzed and said, "Maybe they invented a new spell and are trying to warn us!"

The beautiful woman asked, "Did anyone talk to them?"

Suddenly, a disciple with only a bedsheet on rushed over. He said, “The flames are awfully scary! Our clothes were instantly burned off as soon as we went near them. We can’t seem to go closer!”

Gasp—

Everyone gasped.

“Such cruel flames exist in this realm!” An elder looked at her own clothes with a serious facial expression.

Everyone agreed. “If the flames were to fall upon our sect, the consequences will be dire!”

“I can’t believe Payne secretly created such flames. That’s so evil. Was he planning on using it on the Sect Master?”

“That shameless old man!” The beautiful woman was flushed from anger. Immediately, she ordered, “Go find that old man Payne and demand an explanation! Also, tell the female disciples to keep their distance!”

Meanwhile, at the far East of the Immortal Realm, in the mountainside with the forest full of large trees that even Immortals would not simply tread into.

There was a giant Plane Tree residing in the woods. It was high up in the sky, extremely majestic. It also had an aristocratic halo.

A lady in a red dress stood barefoot on the top of the Plane Tree. Both her eyes and hair were a fiery red.

Her red dress flowed with her red hair in the wind. From afar, she looked like glamorous red flames.

She had the most beautiful features. As she looked toward the direction of the Heavenly Water Sect, she frowned. Then, she moved her small white feet and seemingly became a ball of fire, slashing through the sky!

Chapter 215: Lovey-Dovey and Personal Attacks

Boom!

The back hall of the Azure Ville Sect was burning in golden flames. It was flying in the sky like a small sun—incredibly powerful.

It was as if the disciples of the Heavenly Water Sect saw their biggest enemies when they saw the incoming back hall. They backed off frantically while holding on to their clothes.

A lot of disciples were covering their naked bodies with cloud spells. They were dazed and ashamed.

“Payne, stop it right now!” the beautiful woman yelled as she led the elders of the Heavenly Water Sect. They looked at the burning back hall feeling alarmed.

“Bamboo, don’t come near it!” Payne warned frantically. “The flames will burn your clothes off! Be careful! Save yourself!”

“Shut up!” The beautiful woman looked angry. “Speak, why are you manipulating the flames to attack my Heavenly Water Sect?”

“Misunderstanding! It’s a misunderstanding!”

Payne hurriedly explained, “I had nothing to do with the flames. I’m a victim, too! Listen to me, here’s what happened...”

“Are you stupid? Do you think now’s the right time for explanations?” The Big Elder was livid as he frantically interrupted them.

The Second Elder also said, "Sect Master Ding, we don't have time to explain. Hurry up and save us! Our lives are at stake!"

Ding Xiaozhu was baffled. She simply frowned.

Payne hurriedly said, "Yeah, Bamboo, save us! Save me! I'm almost charred!"

"Stop the back hall now!" sneered Ding Xiaozhu. She stepped on a cloud and approached the back hall. She cast some spells and items started to appear around her like a shield. She protected her clothes from every angle.

The four elders behind her followed her up into the sky, too. They layered their protection shields and carefully approached the back hall.

Their hearts sank as they got nearer. They looked more alarmed.

At that moment, they realized they had misunderstood Payne.

Payne could never create such a flame. He was not worthy.

Yeah, it would have been troublesome.

The flames were too powerful and hot. It was terrifying. They imagined that it could engulf the world.

One of the elders worriedly said, "Sect Master, once this fire explodes, we won't be able to handle it at all."

The other elder took a deep breath and said, his voice trembling slightly, "I see. No wonder only the clothes were burned off. The flames aren't trying to attack. Otherwise, the people would've evaporated along with their clothes, too."

The five of them stopped approaching it.

They could not go any further as they could no longer ensure the safety of their clothes.

“If the fire wants to explode, it would’ve exploded by now. I don’t think it’s harmful. Follow me and save the others first,” Ding Xiaozhu said. “Cast the spell pattern!”

The five of them surrounded the back hall, casting more spells. Their powers were in the form of five light pillars. The sky went dark.

Soon, it started raining heavily.

The rain could not penetrate the back hall at all. The golden flames created a huge vacuum that water could not enter.

Ding Xiaozhu did not expect it to work. It was just foreplay at that point.

She pointed at the Heavenly Water Sect. Suddenly, a glamorous bright light emerged—it was a mirror.

The mirror levitated in the air, facing the golden flames. The reflection of the golden flames appeared in the mirror.

Suddenly, the mirror started shaking hard.

The four elders pointed at the mirror as their light pillars became streams of light, reflecting off the mirror.

Ding Xiaozhu glanced and cast a spell, “Dustless Mirror, now!”

Splash!

Frost emerged from the mirror in an instant.

The frost was special, it was creepily cold. One would shiver from just a look at it. It was as if it could freeze gazes, too.

The hot air was instantly relieved.

Payne wept, "Bamboo, you're so nice to me. You used the Dustless Mirror to save me."

The Dustless Mirror was a proper Immortal Item. According to legend, it was inspired by the famous Demon-Revealing Mirror from an ancient era. It was even made from the same material.

The difference was that the mirror could reflect the weakness of anything, and then replicate that weakness.

One could imagine how precious and valuable it was.

Ding Xiaozhu looked serious as she growled at him, "Shut up! The flames don't have weaknesses so I can only hold them off for a short while. Find a hole and get out!"

The frost was guided by Ding Xiaozhu. It formed an ice trail mid-air, heading toward the back hall.

Sizzle!

The ice quickly melted away when it was near the back hall.

However, with the powers of Ding Xiaozhu and the four elders, it reconnected and approached the back hall again.

Payne said with a serious face, “Be ready to get rid of the defense spell.”

They were suppressing the painting with the Azure Ville Sect defense spell, but they were also trapped inside the back hall. They had to remove the spell to get out.

Leave it to Ding Xiaozhu to deal with the painting. They could escape in the meantime.

It was a moment of life-and-death.

Their hearts sped up as they looked at the painting again.

Most of it had already been unscrolled. The Golden Crow was seemingly alive with the Immortal Qi. It spread its wings like it was ready to fly out from the painting.

Thankfully, the artist had no malice in mind. Otherwise, the entire Azure Ville Sect and its surroundings would have vanished.

Too scary!

Who could imagine that unless they had experienced it?

Suddenly, they heard Ding Xiaozhu say, “Get ready!”

Payne realized something and yelled, “Bamboo, remember to close your eyes! The five of us are all naked. It’s no big deal if it’s just me, but the other four would be an eyesore! Remember it!”

The other four did not look too happy.

Being lovey-dovey while delivering a personal attack—how rude!

“As if! It’s an eyesore to look at you!”

“Sigh, I finally know why Sect Master Ding didn’t like you. It’s not hard to see why!”

“Everyone, stop it. Learn to be more understanding. Sect Master Payne must be worried that Sect Master Ding would dislike him even more once she sees our manly bodies.”

“To be very honest, after looking at you all, I realize I’m the one who’s truly ‘talented’ here.”

Chapter 216: The Expert Wants to Ride Me?

All jokes aside...

When it was time to escape, they looked nervous.

They were all old Immortal men. Being naked meant their reputations were on the line. They could not afford to have any cringe-worthy moments in history.

They quickly cast cloud spells to shield themselves when they exited the back hall. They also did not forget to look as calm and collected as experts, like they were Immortals in the clouds.

They cast a spell to regrow their hair and beards.

In an instant, they went from bald old men to cool old men.

Payne quickly flew toward Ding Xiaozhu and smiled. “Bamboo, thanks.”

Ding Xiaozhu was sweating. She said, “The fire’s getting stronger. I won’t be able to hold it much longer.”

The painting scroll was completely unscrolled.

Suddenly, the golden flames emerged and it was getting excruciatingly hot.

The mountains and land nearby started to melt. The trees that were far away instantly dried up, too!

“Retreat!”

Everyone quickly retreated.

The back hall disintegrated within seconds! Nothing was left!

The painting levitated in its place.

The Three-Legged Golden Crow moved its neck around like it was observing the realm.

It suddenly spread its wings and looked up. Then, it cawed loudly.

Fume!

In a flash, golden flames surrounded it like a firestorm.

Everything was engulfed in flames. The Dustless Mirror was defenseless. The frost melted away.

Everyone looked like they were in despair. Their hairs stood on their ends as they ran like they had never ran before.

The Golden Crow did not attack. However, it could kill anything in sight just by stretching.

The golden flames were like an ocean that was about to drown the Heavenly Water Sect.

However, a red figure suddenly appeared.

She was walking on air with bare feet. Red flames could be seen burning under them.

She cast a spell.

Instantly, everything went red.

Fire swooped down from above and formed a huge ring of fire. It contained the golden flames.

The two different flames touched each other but did not make a sound. It was almost as if they were melting each other, or as if they were communicating.

Payne and the others sighed in relief. Then, they looked at the woman and were shocked.

Such...a gorgeous lady!

Not only was she gorgeous, she had unique features, too. She had long red hair, red eyes, and she wore a red dress. She looked demonic yet prestigious, hot yet holy. They were mesmerized.

“Ouch!” Payne yelled. Ding Xiaozhu had pinched him hard in the waist.

He said with a straight face, “This girl...isn’t human!”

The Golden Crow looked at the lady and flapped its wings. It manipulated the painting scroll and it started to fly.

“Demon King, I’m a demon, too. My name’s Fire Phoenix!” The lady spread her wings. Then, she transformed into a giant bird.

The bird had flaming red feathers and a long tail. It was terrifyingly powerful. Everyone held their breaths.

“Phoe... Phoenix?!”

They gulped subconsciously and went stiff. No one dared to move.

That was a Phoenix, something that was as much of a legendary creature as the Dragon. Even in ancient times, it was something no one could mess with. Phoenixes still existed in the Immortal Realm?

Gu Yuan’s eyes widened. He felt thunderstruck.

At that moment, he had the utmost respect towards the expert.

The expert was truly an expert!

He had been living in the Above Immortal Realm for years but he had never seen any signs of Phoenixes. He heard legends about it but no one ever saw a single Phoenix. Yet, the expert managed to attract a Phoenix with a painting.

The Golden Crow locked eyes with the Phoenix.

Suddenly, the painting erupted in flames. Then, the Golden Crow flew out of the painting scroll.

However, the Golden Crow seemed to be an illusionary figure as it was translucent.

The Golden Crow approached the Phoenix. Then, it turned into a pile of golden flames before it merged with the Phoenix.

Suddenly, a skyful of golden flames appeared. It was all absorbed by the Phoenix, too. The realm was once again peaceful. Everyone would have thought they were having a nightmare if it was not for their visible goosebumps.

The Phoenix spread its wings and returned to its human form. She looked at everyone with fiery red eyes and said, "Who's the owner of the painting?"

Without missing a beat, Payne and the three elders pointed at Gu Yuan.

The others were not slow in reacting. They followed and pointed at Gu Yuan, too.

The lady looked at Gu Yuan.

Gasp—

Gu Yuan felt his skin crawl. He almost passed out.

His heart was racing as he said, "Lord Phoenix, it...it was given to me by an expert. It's a long story."

Everyone was intrigued, too, especially Payne. He realized that Gu Yuan was not bluffing at all. The expert he spoke of probably existed, and he was probably much more powerful than he thought.

He could not believe that Gu Yuan actually met a bigshot. Forming a relationship with the bigshot would be a huge breakthrough!

The Firefinch Demon was a good gift! A nice gift!

The lady stared at Gu Yuan and said coldly, "Speak!"

"The expert lives in the Immortal Realm. I got to know him through my grandson. He actually gave this painting to my grandson," said Gu Yuan. He did not dare to lie to her so he told the whole truth.

About the writing that killed the Immortal.

The Golden Crow painting.

The Firefinch Demon that laid eggs.

The taming of the Golden Bees.

The new Human Sovereign that was probably related to him, too.

Everyone's expressions grew increasingly shocked as they listened to his descriptions. If it was not for the mighty Phoenix being there, they would have gasped loudly.

If the Golden Crow was not an example, they would have assumed that Gu Yuan was spewing nonsense.

Too horrifying, utterly unimaginable!

What kind of bigshot was that?!

Why would God allow an existence like that?

The Phoenix lady was shocked, too. Her thin brows furrowed as she said, "You said the expert wanted a ride?"

"Yes," nodded Gu Yuan. He suddenly had an idea. He clenched his jaw and went for it. He said, "I thought the expert gave this painting to me out of nowhere. Now that I think about it, it seems that the expert already predicted that it'd end up in the Above Immortal Realm and that it'd summon you."

No wonder the expert disliked the Firefinch Demon. He already had a goal in mind.

Of course, how would the Firefinch Demon be worthy of the expert? In comparison to the Phoenix, it was more like a turkey, right?

What flawless prediction.

The lady said, "Are you saying that the expert painted it for me? He wants to ride me?"

Chapter 217: How Nice Would It Be if Things Were How It Originally Was

Payne and the others were expressionless. They pretended like they did not hear anything.

They did not know how to answer that question. No matter what the answer was, it would only lead to doom.

Thankfully, the lady did not wait for them to answer it. She raised her chin up slightly and said, "Ha, that's not enough to be worth it!"

Everyone was silent as they did not know what to reply.

Her red hair flowed in the wind. Her eyes were like flames as she said, "Where does the expert live in the Immortal Realm?"

This could be answered by Gu Yuan!

Gu Yuan jumped and quickly replied, "Near the birth of the Human Sovereign."

The lady with red hair did not say anything. She glanced snidely at everyone and walked away before she disappeared into the horizon.

Pheew.

Everyone sighed in relief.

The Phoenix lady gave them too much pressure. They did not even dare to breathe loudly when she was there. They had to tread carefully in fear that she would burn them with her flames and end them.

Scary, so scary!

That was the Fire Phoenix. Her feathers were burning with Phoenix Fire. Nobody could touch it. Only experts would dare to ride it.

Gasp!

“What are you gasping for?”

“I was too shocked earlier on but the lady was still here so I held it in. I feel much better now that I’ve let it out.”

“I should try it, too.”

Gasp!

“Indeed, I feel much better.”

Gasp—

...

Gu Yuan also gasped. “The expert’s truly an expert. A hint plus a plan. We wouldn’t have seen it coming. I stupidly thought I was being helpful when I sent him the Firefinch Demon. In the end, it ended up as a hen.”

“Nonsense! It’s not stupid. It was smart!” Payne said loudly with a straight face. “Being a cultivator’s all about seizing opportunities. Opportunities are considered luck! How do you get lucky? You gave the expert a Firefinch Demon that could lay eggs which pleased the expert. Here comes your luck, right? What’s the use of hard work? Seizing opportunities is more important! You did well. Good job. Truly my favorite student!”

Gu Yuan was baffled. He said, “Sect Master, I don’t remember you putting it that way previously.”

Payne calmly said, “Are you braindead? Go with the flow and adapt to the situation.”

Gu Yuan did not say anything. He was secretly filled with despise.

In conclusion, he was noble in front of others but was secretly a boot-licker. He hid it so well!

How shameless! No wonder Sect Master Ding disliked him.

Ding Xiaozhu nodded and said, “I agree with that. If it’s an expert like that, just focus on pleasing him. If you have a chance to impress him, do it first, no matter what. If you do it correctly, you’ll please the expert. Even if you do it wrongly, the expert won’t exactly dislike it since it’s genuine effort.”

Gu Yuan suddenly felt his heart drop. How did they say that with straight faces?

How shameless!

He felt pressured to work harder since there were new competitors.

Everyone was thinking of ways to please the expert. Suddenly, Payne had an idea. He laughed loudly as his eyes sparkled.

"I know, I got it!" He was flushed and shaking from excitement. "The expert likes Firefinch Demon eggs, but he only has one Firefinch Demon. How's that enough? I have five more in my backyard. Give them all to the expert. He'll be pleased!"

Ding Xiaozhu asked, "Are you sure all the Firefinch Demons can lay eggs?"

"It doesn't matter if they don't. The last time, the expert didn't get the chance to eat 'turkey' because the Firefinch Demon suddenly started laying eggs. He must've felt like it was a pity. The Firefinch Demons that aren't able to lay eggs can satiate the expert's hunger. I'm a genius!"

Payne was excited and chirpy. "Let's go back and catch the Firefinch Demons for the expert!"

Soon, they arrived at the Azure Ville Sect.

The Firefinch Demons were resting in the backyard garden smugly. They cheerfully discussed how the Sect Master would punish Gu Yuan. Then, they saw Payne walking in with Gu Yuan.

"Huh?"

They were baffled. "Is he going to punish Gu Yuan in front of us? That's not good... Isn't it too cruel?"

Smiling, Payne asked, "Everyone, I have a huge opportunity for you all!"

The Firefinch Demons were more baffled. Why did that sound so familiar? They had heard it before. It did not sound right.

"Your leader went ahead of you. Now, you all have to follow suit!"

Payne said, "Those who can lay eggs should practice laying more. Those who can't should tenderize your meat and make sure it's juicy."

Gu Yuan said, "Sect Master, should I gather them up and give them to my grandson in the Immortal Realm so he can give them to the expert?"

"No, we have to show up for something major like this, right? It's basic respect for the expert!" said Payne.

Gu Yuan said, "But as Immortals, descending to the Immortal Realm will disrupt the natural order. We'll get punished for it."

"So what? I'd rather die than not meet the expert! More obstacles are good. It shows that I'm genuine!"

Payne was sure of himself. He said, "Next, gather everyone in the sect. It's time to plan our trip to the Immortal Realm! It's been too many years. I wonder what the Immortal Realm has become. So exciting!"

...

At the foot of the Fallen Immortal Mountain.

The Holy Emperor stood there with Luo Shiyu for a long time. He sighed heavily and slowly walked toward the mountain.

They looked somewhat troubled.

Luo Shiyu asked, "Dad, the expert has helped us so much. Aren't we being a little too stingy if we're only bringing him a jar of alcohol?"

"It's precisely because the expert has helped us too much that I only brought the alcohol."

The Holy Emperor shook his head while looking down. He said, "We can't pay him back for the blessings he gave us. Nothing will be good enough. I've thought about it. The expert doesn't need anything, but it seems like he hasn't had any alcohol yet, so I brought him a jar of alcohol to show our thoughtfulness."

Luo Shiyu was feeling sentimental. She reminisced as she said, “I remember when we first got here. I knew if the expert stayed in the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty, he’d bring us great benefits. But I didn’t expect it to be so great.”

The Human Sovereign was here. He represented the common people. The bridge to immortality was now reconnected, too. That was good news for cultivators. Also, the Human Sovereign was from the Xia Kingdom, which is in the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty!

Therefore, the entire Ganlong Immortal Dynasty benefited greatly as a whole. The luck and Spiritual Qi had significantly increased!

They went from being a small sect to a holy ground that was of the same level as the Linxian Palace!

They had been receiving a lot of visitors recently, too. Some came from powerful and famous sects, but the powerful cultivators did not dare to be smug in front of the Holy Emperor.

However, the Holy Emperor and Luo Shiyu were under pressure.

As they walked, Luo Shiyu looked like she was in a daze. She thought about the first time she met the expert.

It seemed like she was the first one to meet the expert...

She suddenly sighed and said, “How nice would it be if things were how it originally was!”

Chapter 218: Ruthless, He Was Ruthless

The Holy Emperor looked at Luo Shiyu and nodded. “Yeah.”

At that time, not a lot of people knew about the expert. He could visit the expert frequently. Now, there were too many boot-lickers around, each cooler than the last. There was no room for him to kiss-up to the expert anymore.

Sigh, exhausting.

They did not know what other reason they had to visit the expert aside for the benefit of the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty.

“This jar of alcohol is called the Immortal Brew. It was invented by an alcoholic a million years ago. The alcoholic ascended soon after, so that’s how it got its name. This is pretty much the best alcohol in the Immortal Realm. I worked hard to get it.”

The Holy Emperor said, “The expert won’t be impressed by our items, but if we’re to bring him something, it should be the best.”

Luo Shiyu looked down and said, “Unless the expert calls for us, I’m afraid we won’t be hanging around him anymore.”

The Ganlong Immortal Dynasty was an average sect with limited items and resources. They were no longer worthy to visit the expert.

The others could battle with their Immortal ancestors. They did not have that!

Such a cruel world. They were too weak to be worthy boot-lickers.

They were slightly taken aback while they were walking as they saw a figure walking on the mountain road, too.

That person was dressed for the occasion.

However, he looked dazed and distracted. He kept mumbling while walking, “It’s too hard... Too hard... I can’t solve it...”

The Holy Emperor arched his eyebrow. He hurriedly walked forward and said, “Pal, wait up!”

That person snapped out of his daze and looked at the Holy Emperor. "Greetings, cultivator."

The Holy Emperor asked, "Cultivator, may I ask why you're walking up the mountain?"

That person groaned before answering with a riddle, "Confusion in mind, came for answers!"

The Holy Emperor felt like someone had tugged on his heartstrings. He said in a low voice, "Lighter?"

That person laughed and replied, "Refrigerator!"

Suddenly, they both laughed while looking at each other.

The Holy Emperor saluted, "Haha, so you're a colleague. I'm the Holy Emperor from the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty!"

The person replied, "I'm the Chess Fanatic."

"Why don't we go together?"

"Good, good!"

They were instantly close, chatting with each other on the way up.

Truthfully, they both had something in mind.

The Holy Emperor felt like he no longer deserved to be a chess piece for the expert. The Chess Fanatic felt like his chess skills were weak. He had not been playing chess because he felt like something ominous was about to befall upon him.

Soon, they saw the four-part architecture.

At that moment, they felt anxious.

They felt like they were peasants visiting their rich friend.

Luo Shiyu bit her lip and asked, “Is... Mr. Li home?”

Creak.

Li Nianfan opened the door and instantly smiled. “It’s you guys. I saw a magpie on the branch today, so I knew some guests would be visiting me! Please, come in.”

The Holy Emperor and Luo Shiyu were the first cultivators he knew. The Chess Fanatic was a rare intermediate chess player. Li Nianfan knew them well—they were old friends. He was naturally friendly towards them.

The Holy Emperor and the others were shocked and overjoyed. “Thanks, Mr. Li.”

They greeted Daji when they walked in, “Greetings to Lady Daji.”

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “Sit anywhere. Xiao Bai, bring out the soda!”

“Thanks.” The Holy Emperor carefully took the soda from Xiao Bai. He was blushing. The soda was more valuable than his jar of alcohol.

He grabbed the jar and went for it. “Mr. Li, this is a jar of alcohol that I got from someone. A small gift for you.”

“Oh? You brought me alcohol?”

Li Nianfan was surprised. He took the jar and sniffed it. Then, he complimented, "It's nice alcohol!"

The alcohol was fantastic for the Immortal Realm. Fine brewing methods were hard to come by.

Li Nianfan did not like to drink alcohol, so he never made his own brew. He could make some in the future for casual occasions or guests.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, "Holy Emperor, you're too courteous."

He noticed Li Nianfan did not dislike it, so he sighed in relief. He said, "Mr. Li, we know about what you did at the Xia Kingdom. It affects my Ganlong Immortal Dynasty, too. The plague had spread on all sides. You're truly the hero of the people!"

"Haha, that's too much of a compliment. It's not a big deal at all."

Li Nianfan laughed it off but deep down, he felt good.

This old man was good with words!

He looked at the Chess Fanatic and smiled. "Bro, I've been waiting for you to play chess with me but I never see you around anymore."

The Chess Fanatic looked troubled. He said, "Mr. Li, my chess skills are rough. I'm too embarrassed to be your opponent."

At first, he wanted to practice chess with Li Nianfan every day. However, as he got better at chess, he realized that Li Nianfan was mysteriously astounding.

Every time he got better at chess, he realized how terrifyingly good Li Nianfan was.

It was the truth. He felt like he was looking up at a giant. He was truly embarrassed.

Li Nianfan shook his head. "It's just entertainment. Don't be too serious, alright?"

He never imagined that there would be a Chess Fanatic in the Immortal Realm. Was he even a cultivator? He was completely obsessed with playing chess!

He had the talent to be a cultivator. Was it not a waste to stop training?

He thought about it and suggested, "Bro, let me tell you something. Chess is just for entertainment, so don't neglect your cultivation!"

He meant it.

At that moment, Li Nianfan felt like a kid who was not able to go to school. Seeing another school kid fooling around and skipping classes was too painful to watch!

The Chess Fanatic felt his heart drop. The expert was testing him!

He hurriedly replied, "Don't worry, Mr. Li. Chess is so profound. Why would I waste my energy on cultivation? I've already quit being a cultivator to focus on chess!"

Gasp!

Li Nianfan was dumbfounded.

Ruthless, he was ruthless!

He stopped being a cultivator to play chess? This...

Was he trying to show off?

Oh no!

Li Nianfan felt a critical hit. He glanced around. The sword was too far from him. Otherwise, he would split this spoiled rich guy in half!

The Chess Fanatic was happy when he saw how Li Nianfan reacted.

‘It was the right choice to quit cultivating. Look, even the expert’s shocked by my determination. He must think I have huge potential.’

Chapter 219: What Did You Understand?

Fine.

Everyone had different ambitions.

He had already quit, so it was too late to say anything.

Li Nianfan was speechless when he saw that the Chess Fanatic looked like he was waiting for a compliment.

Maybe he was happy and delusional.

Li Nianfan calmed down and said, “Looks like you really like chess.”

“Of course!” the Chess Fanatic said. “Actually, I came here to ask you something, Mr. Li.”

“Oh? Did you want to play chess with me?” Li Nianfan raised his eyebrows. “Sure, I can see how far you’ve improved at chess.”

“Not that. I’m currently facing an obstacle,” the Chess Fanatic said. “If a game of chess becomes too difficult and hopeless, and you don’t know where to place the chess pieces, what would you do?”

Li Nianfan was slightly baffled. “Duh? Restart the game.”

The Chess Fanatic looked at Li Nianfan seriously. “No way, it can’t be restarted.”

Li Nianfan said, “Then it’s unsolvable.”

The Chess Fanatic shook his head. “No, there must be a solution.”

“Then, play it slowly.”

“It’s too hard. I can’t do it.”

Li Nianfan was silent. He suddenly realized the Chess Fanatic was an idiot.

He was a Meng Junliang knock-off.

Not only was he ruthless for quitting cultivation just to play chess, he was also abnormal in the head.

What if he went nuts because of the ‘won-God-by-a-nose’ story?

Suddenly, Li Nianfan felt guilty.

He looked at him with pity and tried to make up for it. He said, “I should play chess with you.”

The Chess Fanatic shook his head. He was in a daze as he said, "If I can't figure it out, I'll never play chess again."

Why was he being stubborn?

Li Nianfan frowned and had an idea. He said, "What if we don't play Chinese chess today? Let's play a simpler one."

The Chess Fanatic shook his head, still in a daze.

It seemed like he was far from sensibility.

Suddenly, Luo Shiyu weakly spoke up from the sidelines, "Mr. Li, maybe I can play with you?"

Li Nianfan groaned for a moment before he said, "Alright."

Luo Shiyu sucked at chess, but Gomoku was way simpler. Playing this should be simple enough to pass the time.

"The game's easy. It's called Gomoku." Li Nianfan roughly introduced the game and explained the rules. Everyone understood it.

It was unimaginably simple.

Was this also considered chess?

The Holy Emperor and Luo Shiyu could not believe it.

The Chess Fanatic started to have hope in his eyes. He was slightly frowning while looking at the chessboard.

Although he said he would not play chess again, he was still interested in chess. He paid close attention to their game.

Li Nianfan gestured at the board and said, "You first."

Luo Shiyu nodded and took a deep breath.

Tap.

She placed a white chess piece on the chessboard.

Li Nianfan placed his chess piece next to hers without thinking about it.

Tap, tap, tap.

In just twenty moves, Luo Shiyu lost due to her carelessness.

"Argh! I didn't notice that there!" Luo Shiyu looked troubled and sighed heavily. "So close. Mr. Li, can we play another round?"

Li Nianfan did not say anything. He merely gestured at the chessboard again.

Tap, tap, tap.

During the second round, the two of them attacked each other, their black and white chess pieces going back-and-forth. At that point, it seemed like it was anyone's game.

However, after a short while, Luo Shiyu still lost.

Luo Shiyu was not satisfied. It was so easy. She almost won. Why did she keep losing?

Then, the third round started.

Then, the fourth round...

The Chess Fanatic was sitting by the side. He was extremely focused.

He looked at the chess pieces on the chessboard and started to breathe heavily.

Sometimes, the white pieces would be blocking the black pieces. Other times, it was the other way around. The two of them were not allowing each other to move. They were constantly playing defense while also poised to attack. It looked simple, but it was hard for either of them to make a move.

Wisdom!

It contained Wisdom!

The Chess Fanatic's eyes widened. He had goosebumps all over. He was trembling from being emotional.

From his point of view, the game was constantly expanding and changing. In the end, the black and white dots formed a small universe that was coming at him.

Gomoku seemed easy, but it was hard trying to connect five chess pieces because it was the opponent's objective to stop that from happening. However, one could start with a seemingly insignificant chess piece as the opening, then expand from there and overcome obstacles!

The goal was clear, the methods were easy, but...the process was difficult.

He was frightened by the difficult process so he did not dare to play chess. How ridiculous was he being?

As long as the goal was clear, he could do it slowly, step by step. Look for an opportunity, stop the opponents, and improve himself. He would win in the end!

'I understand!'

He was flushed from being emotional.

This was not a game, the expert was clearly giving him a hint!

The sixth round was over. Luo Shiyu lost yet again.

"Alright, I'm done." Li Nianfan chuckled. He looked at the Chess Fanatic and said, "Are you sure you don't want to try it?"

The Chess Fanatic suddenly stood up.

He looked determined and respectfully bowed at Li Nianfan. "Thank you for solving my problem, Mr. Li. I understand now."

"You understand?" Li Nianfan was dumbfounded.

'What did I do? What did you understand?'

The Chess Fanatic said humbly, "Luckily, I learned quite a bit from your Gomoku games. Thanks for solving my problem, Mr. Li."

Li Nianfan was quiet for a while before he said, "I didn't even try to solve your problem. It's all in your head."

He tried to deny it because this guy had a pretty abnormal mindset. He did not want to be blamed if anything happened to him.

The Chess Fanatic nodded continuously as he said, "I get it, I get it."

Li Nianfan rolled his eyes. 'What did you get?!'

The Chess Fanatic seemed to be in a hurry to go back and learn from his mistakes. He said, "Sorry for the disturbance today, Mr. Li. Farewell."

Li Nianfan did not want him to stay. He waved and said, "Yeah, goodbye."

The Holy Emperor and Luo Shiyu read the situation and hurriedly say their goodbyes, too.

They walked out of the four-part architecture and chased after the Chess Fanatic. "Pal, wait up."

The Holy Emperor asked, "May I ask, pal, what did you understand? Did the expert give you a hint again?"

"The expert used the chess game to help me solve my issue." The Chess Fanatic paused. Then, he said, "I recall you were troubled because you thought you were worthless to the expert?"

The Holy Emperor sighed softly and said, "Yes."

The Chess Fanatic looked upon the horizon and said respectfully, "The expert's an expert after all. He invented Gomoku, a game that's so complicated in its simplicity. He didn't just solve my problem, he solved yours, too!"

Chapter 220: Group Immortalize

"Solve our problems?!"

The Holy Emperor and Luo Shiyu both stared at the Chess Fanatic with wide eyes.

The Holy Emperor said, "Please, tell us how so, pal!"

The Chess Fanatic looked at Luo Shiyu and asked, "In Gomoku, your goal is to connect five chess pieces. Between the first piece and the fifth piece, which do you think is more important?"

Luo Shiyu answered without thinking, "The fifth piece is more important. It's the piece that decides the game."

"Not exactly." The Chess Fanatic shook his head and said, "They're all equally important! If there's no first piece, the fifth piece won't be of any use!"

The Holy Emperor understood. He said excitedly, "So, to the expert...we're like the first piece. Simple but significant!"

The Chess Fanatic nodded and said, "Yes. Think about it. Doesn't the expert make his first moves through all of you?"

"Yes, you're right!" The Holy Emperor teared up and cried. "So, the expert remembers us after all this time. He approves of our value after all! Boohoo—"

Luo Shiyu was extremely touched, too. She bit her lip and said, "The expert has helped us so much. It's too bad we're incompetent. We might be useless to the expert from now on."

"You're wrong!"

The Chess Fanatic looked away and said, "Gomoku's a game where you can't predict which chess piece is the losing piece. No chess piece is extra or insignificant. That was the expert's hint. Stop deprecating yourselves and do your best."

The Holy Emperor and Luo Shiyu were motivated. "Thanks for pointing it out, pal."

The Chess Fanatic saluted. "I learned a lot from the expert today. I have to go back and study it. Goodbye."

"Goodbye!"

The Holy Emperor and Luo Shiyu watched the Chess Fanatic leave. They looked determined. "Let's go, the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty's lucky to be blessed by the expert. We have to work hard and please him!"

At the Xia Kingdom.

In comparison to before, the Xia Kingdom was on a whole new level. For example, their cities had expanded twice in size. The surrounding banditries had also been completely dealt with.

Apart from appearances, their patriotism was more prominent.

Recently, a lot of cultivators had been coming to visit. Most were from small sects and a few came from bigger sects. They were all here to collaborate and unite.

Additionally, when the bridge to immortality was reconnected, a lot of hidden bigshots showed up and visited the Xia Kingdom, too!

Gu Changqing was with the Gu Siblings.

Gu Ziyu asked, "Dad, is the Human Sovereign fancy? Is he even human?"

Gu Changqing said, "He's human, but he's the chosen one with Luck. He carries the fate of the realm!"

Gu Ziyu frowned and said, "Luck? You mean he's lucky?"

Gu Changqing shook his head and said, "Lucky is used to describe a person while Luck describes a nation. It's more powerful!"

He knew the siblings were too young to understand. He continued, "Luck can guarantee you more opportunities. It can lessen your natural tribulation and make your cultivation easier!"

The Gu siblings understood. Their eyes widened in disbelief as they said, "So awesome."

"Duh, you work for the world. Did you think the world would treat you badly?" Gu Changqing said. "Now that the Xia Kingdom has impressed the world, these sects want to share the glory so they can benefit from it. They'll naturally come to kiss-up to the Xia Kingdom."

Gu Ziyu said, "Then, I want to work for the world, too."

Gu Changqing rolled his eyes. "Are you worthy?"

Then, they arrived at the Xia Kingdom.

"Alright, stop talking," reminded Gu Changqing.

Zhou Yunwu was not in the palace. He was standing on top of a tower.

A lot of humans and cultivators were gathered here. It was a rare sight to see a huge crowd like that.

The humans came to watch, but it was different for the cultivators. They all looked shocked. Discussions could be heard.

"I can't believe the Human Sovereign's here. The bridge to immortality has been reconnected, too. What does this mean?"

“It signifies a new era. We don’t know if it’s good or bad, but from the looks of it, it’s quite beneficial for cultivators.”

“There are so many cultivators today. The Human Sovereign’s waiting outside, too. What’s going on?”

The cultivator did not answer. Instead, he asked, “The bridge to immortality has been reconnected. Have you heard of anyone stepping into the Heavenly Gates?”

“Not yet, but not for long. A lot of bigshots showed up, right?”

“According to reliable sources, they plan to meet tonight and step into the Heavenly Gates together!

“Yikes. But why choose here?”

“There would be dimensional tribulations if they step into the Above Immortal Realm through the Heavenly Gates. It’s also dangerous. Everyone here’s trying to gain some of the Human Sovereign’s Luck. I think it’ll be easier to immortalize with his blessings.”

“Why tonight?”

“Why so many whys? How would I know?”

Time slipped by. It was getting dark.

Everyone was excited. Conversations were getting quieter.

Immortalization. It had not occurred in over thousands of years. Now, they were going to immortalize as a group. It would be a majestic sight to behold.

Suddenly, an elder in yellow robes appeared out of nowhere. He was walking on air.

Very few people recognized him, but he was wearing a robe with a dragon on it so he was clearly an old Emperor. He emitted a powerful aura. It was very impressive.

However, he was as skinny as a bag of bones. He was pale, reeked of death, and was apparently at the end of his life.

He appeared on top of the tower in the blink of an eye. He said in a hoarse voice, "I'm the Sect Master of the Dayun Immortal Dynasty. Greetings to the Human Sovereign. We want to immortalize on this land."

Zhou Yunwu quickly saluted, too.

Then, a shockingly powerful aura appeared from afar. It was an old lady with a crutch. She appeared in a flash.

She was a cultivator from the Mahayala realm. However, she could not maintain her appearance. She, too, was old and did not have many days left.

Suddenly, three more elders appeared in the sky. They were also lifeless and old.

They all greeted Zhou Yunwu.

Zhou Yunwu was the reason why the bridge to immortality reconnected. He gave them the chance to immortalize, so they had to be polite.

Time slipped by and it was nighttime. About thirteen cultivators were ready to immortalize together!

Among these thirteen cultivators, there were three elders who were rumored dead!

And...it was not over yet!

Rare cultivators from the Mahayala realm started showing up one after another!

The aura at the field was utterly intense!