

## Bigshot 221

### Chapter 221: Over Limit

Until midnight.

38 Mahayala cultivators had gathered on the high tower!

Every single one of them was amongst the finest cultivators in the Immortal Realm and they were all gathered here at this moment. This shocking sight made everyone hold their breaths.

So majestic!

However, what was even more shocking was that all of them looked weak and worn out as if they could be blown away by the wind.

Reality was harsh. One could cultivate all their lives and end up like a pile of yellow soil in the end.

“For the sake of Wisdom! Today, we’ve gathered here to fight for our last gleam of life! We’ll borrow life from Heaven, find our way there, and seek for longevity!”

The first Elderly Emperor let out a roar, shaking his surroundings!

After he spoke, he rose into the air and soared toward the sky!

He exuded an air of authority and power.

The others did not want to lose out. They went onto the path of Immortalization as well.

Their auras were at their peaks as if it was their last shot at glory in life. It was also as if they were striving toward a new life, exuding an oppressive aura toward the sky!

“Dacheng Immortal Palace, Zhou Yun, fourteen thousand five hundred years of cultivation. Striving for longevity!”

“Tianyun Sect, ex-Sect Master, Li Gan, thirteen thousand two hundred years of cultivation. Striving for longevity!”

“Southern Lin Family, Lin Mofeng, fifteen thousand years of cultivation. Striving for longevity!”

...

Voices resonated in the air. They...wanted to mark their names in this Immortal Realm.

Countless cultivators did indeed mark down their names. Many people looked shocked and surprised. So, this man was that well-known cultivator back in the day...

All 38 of them were no longer powerful like they once were. Now, they were aged and weak like ants, fighting for the last gleam of life.

Someone could not help sighing as he said, “Mark this moment. This represents the arrival of a new era!”

“From now on, the Mahayala realm would no longer be the most powerful rank in the Immortal Realm. Additionally, due to the resurfacing of Spiritual Qi, there’d be more Mahayala realm cultivators!”

“Do you think they’ll succeed?”

“I don’t know. However, the chances are small.”

Transgressing to another space would take up a lot of Spiritual Qi. It required good stamina, something that naturally decreased as one aged. Especially for this bunch who were already half-dead. It was apparent that they did not have much stamina left in them.

However, in comparison to being tied down in this realm, they were considered lucky. They could at least give it one more shot during the last moment of their lives now that the bridge between the two realms was rebuilt.

Vroom!

Suddenly, ripples appeared between the sky and the ground.

The power of the Mahayala cultivators caused a golden gate to appear in the air. It was extremely majestic, and it conjured the urge to worship it at the sight of it.

Meanwhile, a thick wave of ancient aura exploded.

The Heavenly Gate that had remained unused for so many years...appeared in this realm again!

Rays of golden light washed down from above, forming pillars that trapped all 38 of them.

One could see the cells reviving in their bodies as their wrinkled skin started to smoothen.

“Immortal Qi! It’s the baptism of Immortal Qi!”

The cultivators below watched, impressed. Sounds of admiration were heard.

The 38 cultivators looked delighted. They also had looks of determination in their eyes as they rose into the sky even quicker.

“Ha-ha-ha! Heavenly Gate...we’re here!”

“Immortal Land... We’re coming!”

“Going right into it without looking back!”

When the cultivators saw this, they instantly felt a wave of Godly aura washing over them. They clenched their fists in excitement. One day, it would be their turn!

They were extremely excited watching the 38 cultivators as they entered the Heavenly Gate, one after another.

However, the glory was suddenly destroyed in the next moment.

Suddenly, an elder who was Immortalizing rushed out from the Heavenly Gate. It was the Elderly Emperor who took the lead earlier!

He looked shocked. It seemed like he was panicking as he was rushing away from the gate.

Swiftly after, a second figure appeared. It was the other elderly man who did not seem to care where his walking cane had gone. He was running super quickly!

Then, the third man, the fourth...

The crowd rubbed their eyes. They thought they were hallucinating.

What happened to the ‘without looking back’ spirit?

Did they not say they were never coming back?

Vroom!

In the next instance, wild flames shot out from the Heavenly Gate.

The flame was too strong. Too strong! It was like a tsunami of fire that instantly engulfed the entire sky!

Everyone's heart was thumping loudly. They looked up to see the fierce flames shooting across the sky. By then, the sky had turned into a sea of fire!

The sky lit up so brightly all around!

The terrifying heat...increased suddenly!

"This...this...this..."

The crowd's brains blanked out. They could only feel their throats turning dry. They were all dumbfounded by this strange scenario!

Some with better coping mechanisms had snapped out of the shock. They turned around and started running.

"Why run? Do I seem so scary to you?"

A piercing sound rang in the air, penetrating their souls.

Swiftly after, the flame retreated back to the Heavenly Gate. In its place stood a woman in a red flowy dress. She had red hair and red eyes. Her skin was fair like jade.

She was barefooted. Her nails and toenails were painted red.

She reached out with her delicate hand. Instantly, the 38 Mahayala cultivators who were running away could no longer move forward. Instead, they flew toward the woman.

“You accidentally helped me open up the Heavenly Gate. I, the Fire Phoenix, don’t like to be indebted. Therefore, I shall help all of you to Immortalize!”

Her calm voice resonated from her lips, sounding arrogant.

She pushed gently, and the 38 cultivators were instantly engulfed in flames. They were being pushed toward the Heavenly Gate.

The people walking from below were flabbergasted! They had turned into sculptures with opened mouths, looking up blankly.

Vroom!

Deafening sounds resonated in the air again, shocking everyone. A thick cloud started to appear gradually. This cloud was too thick. It was so thick that it engulfed the Heavenly Gate completely.

Streaks of lightning appeared in the cloud like silver snakes. The sight was terrifying. The people watching could only feel their scalps growing numb as all their hair stood up like spikes!

This Natural Tribulation was so terrifying that it was beyond words! It was like the end of the world!

Everyone felt that their scalps were about to explode and yet none of them were able to move.

Vroom!

The cloud...was still thickening!

It was so thick that it seemed as if it was not far off the ground. It looked as if it was about to collapse and fall.

Such a terrifying Natural Tribulation was indeed beyond one’s imagination!

However, the cloud hovered above the woman's head as if she had done something that angered the sky.

The woman looked up at the sky with her unperturbed and arrogant face. Finally, she frowned, "I came down from the Immortal Land and helped thirty-eight cultivators immortalize. I seem to have...crossed my limit..."

Chapter 222: You Just Can't Wait To Ride Me?

Vroom!

Lightning flashed abruptly. Luckily, it was building up inside the cloud. Even so, its effect was shocking. The entire sky almost turned red!

That was right! The sky turned red!

The lightning was red!

The white light had a hint of bloody red in it. It was very terrifying!

The crowd below was so shocked that they no longer knew what to do. Under the oppressive sky, they could not even escape! They all knew that once lightning struck, even just a hint of its aftermath would kill them instantly.

Their pupils dilated in despair. They called out in their hearts, 'I beg you! Please, leave!'

As if she heard the inner pleas of the people, the Fire Phoenix took a glance at the people below her before turning into a ray of light, soaring into the sky.

The extremely thick cloud followed closely behind her, gradually disappearing.

Pheh...

They all let out a sigh. Instantly, all the cultivators and ordinary men in the area felt their bodies go soft. They panted heavily as they fell to the ground.

So terrifying! So ferocious!

Someone said in a trembling voice, "An...an Immortal came down!"

"Immortal? That was a Goddess! So powerful! Way beyond an Immortal!"

"Exactly! My ancestor's an Immortal, but she's incomparable to that woman!"

Although the lightning did not strike, the remaining current made them feel numb and listless.

Gu Ziyu's scalp went numb as he cried out in shock, "Father, the...the woman..."

Gu Changqing had the same shocked look on his face. He took in a deep breath and said, "Don't speak. I'll ask my Grandpa later."

"Everyone," a cultivator stood up and said. "Would anyone like to form a group to investigate this? An existence like her coming to our Immortal Realm is a big deal."

Many people fell silent.

Meanwhile.

Vroom!



A flash of lightning struck from the sky. The woman had flown too far away, but the lightning still lit up the entire sky. The red lightning was like a red dragon, cutting the sky into two halves.

Just one hint of its aftermath could make one shiver and shrink uncontrollably.

“No, I’m not going.”

“It’s too scary. Once we go, we’ll die!”

“Who’d have such a crazy thought? Unbelievable! How did he survive until now?”

“Everyone. It’s not safe here. I should go now.”

“I’m leaving, too.”

Instantly, rays of light rose from the Xia Kingdom. They shot out in all directions and targeted the area where the lightning struck.

The Fire Phoenix’s face darkened. She raised her hand and the flames surrounded the lights, forming a shield.

Vroom!

Another flash of lightning struck from above. The flaming shield reverberated, sending ripples out in waves.

However, clouds were still rapidly forming. Lightning was also building up at a terrifying speed.

Vroom!

This time, lightning struck three times in a row, creating an opening in the flaming shield made by the woman.

Swiftly after came the fourth strike of lightning!

For an Immortal to descend to the Immortal Realm, one would have to go through a Natural Tribulation. The stronger the Immortal, the more terrifying the Natural Tribulation. In the case of the Fire Phoenix, she helped the cultivators Immortalize. That was one extra crime! The severity and power of the Natural Tribulation had gone up a few notches!

Even though she was a Fire Phoenix who had real fire in her and was much stronger than her peers, she was still unable to get away from it.

The authority of Heaven was not to be dismissed.

The real dragons and phoenixes had been wiped out over time. By now, the Fire Phoenix was the only pure phoenix left.

The Fire Phoenix bit her red lip and looked up at the sky. A pair of wings sprouted from her back, followed by a bright flash of red light soaring to the sky.

Instantly, she had transformed into a bright red phoenix. Perhaps it was because she had absorbed some of the fire from the Golden Crow that her tail had some golden feathers, too.

Once the phoenix's wings unfurled, it shot toward the deep end of the forest.

Its speed was extremely fast as if it was traveling at one thousand miles in a blink of an eye. However, the cloud was still following her closely, not willing to let her go.

Vroom!

One could see that countless red lightning strikes were flashing from above as if they had their own free will! Each strike came closely after another, causing a terrifying sight!

“Jeez!” the Fire Phoenix called out gently as fire engulfed her body like a flaming jacket. However, this jacket seemed to fizzle.

The flames were being weakened significantly by the wind.

Its eyes darkened. If this went on, perhaps it would have to go through countless years to build up its strength again.

‘I shouldn’t have come down!

‘I came here to find an unknown expert living in this ordinary realm but it seems that I’ve got myself in trouble!’

Vroom!

Another lightning struck through the layer of flames, leaving a burnt black mark on its body.

It looked at its surroundings in an attempt to survive.

‘Didn’t they say the expert lived around here? Where is he?

‘Right! The Firefinch and the Golden Bees!

‘I can use my bloodline to sense their location!’

The phoenix took a deep breath as it flew in one direction, seeking refuge from the oncoming lightning strikes!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The deadly red lightning strikes crashed at a rhythmic pace, striking one after another from the sky.

The Fire Phoenix was wobbly in the air, trying to avoid the Natural Tribulation. It could not help saying breathlessly, "Are you done yet? Is this even fun?"

Right after saying that, the lightning strikes ended!

In fact, it was building up into a scalp-numbing blow. The force gathered was so strong that it even made the gigantic trees bend from the pressure.

This was going to be a...massive hit!

The Fire Phoenix looked at it in fear. It felt as if it was being punished by the sky. Instantly, it adhered to reality and said, "Bro, I'm sorry!"

Meanwhile, in the deep end of the forest, a simple yet grand four-part architecture appeared in sight. The four-part architecture was sheltered by the trees with layers of mist covering its surroundings, exuding a sense of mystery from within.

Other than the Firefinch Demon and the Golden Bees, there was a hint of Qi even more terrifying than theirs. Not only that, the mist surrounding the four-part architecture was actually...Immortal Qi?!

Why was there such a place in this ordinary realm?

"That..." The Fire Phoenix's eyes lit up. Instead of being stunned, it rushed toward it quickly.

Vroom!

Meanwhile, the Natural Tribulation in the sky had grown to its extremes. The dark cloud had turned into a red cloud—very cruel. One look at it would cause one to lose the will to resist.

Vroom!

A thick, pure red, jagged lightning struck!

Vroom!

The world turned bloody red. The air seemed still, as if numbed by the electric current. So shocking!

“Help! Help me!”

The Fire Phoenix’s scalp was itching. It used up all of its remaining strength to rush toward the yard.

Another lightning struck, illuminating the entire Fallen Town. Once the final hit struck, it might wipe out the entire Fallen Immortal Mountain entirely!

However, just as the final hit was about to strike the Fire Phoenix, half of the strike was suddenly diverted as if it was being manipulated by something else. It struck the sharp rod that was on top of the four-part architecture!

Vroom!

The lightning and thunder vibrated vigorously, coursing through the lightning rod and traveling through the walls of the four-part architecture. It was wild but soon after, everything became calm again.

The remaining portion of the strike landed on the Fire Phoenix’s chest. Instantly, the flame around it dissipated. It cried out in pain before falling from the air, landing on the ground heavily.

The clouds dispersed and the night sky returned to its peacefulness.

Click!

The door of the four-part architecture swung open.

Li Nianfan walked out from within, looking suspicious and shocked.

“What happened? An explosion?” He was uneasy since the thunderclaps were ringing too loudly. Even the world lit up for a bit!

The bigshots in the Immortal Realm really loved thunderstorms!

Meanwhile, his eyes widened as his heart skipped a beat.

A gigantic figure had landed not too far away from the four-part architecture. This figure was too eye-catching. Its red feathers were sparkling with liveliness. It almost looked like a moving flame under the night sky.

Firebird?

Demon?

These were Li Nianfan’s first thoughts.

The bird’s appearance was too extraordinary. It looked exquisite, nothing like an ordinary animal. After living in this Immortal Realm for so long, he knew at least a thing or two about this realm.

Perhaps the crying sound he heard earlier came from this bird?

Meanwhile, the bird’s wings moved slightly. The movement was followed by a burnt smell.

Li Nianfan hesitated. Finally, he gritted his teeth and gradually approached the bird.

This was the first time Li Nianfan had gotten so close to a living demon ever since his arrival in this realm. Although it was a hurt demon, he still felt uneasy.

“Although I’m an ordinary man, I’ve eaten quite some demon meat. What’s there to be afraid of?” He cheered himself up as he approached it while yelling in the direction of the four-part architecture, “Blackie, Xiao Bai, come and protect me!”

If anything were to happen, at least the two of them could help.

If it was not due to the inconvenience, he wanted to carry the old tortoise over from the backyard.

As he went closer, he could finally see the firebird completely.

There were no other words to describe this bird other than beautiful and majestic!

So exquisite!

Both of its eyes were shut and parts of its beautiful feathers were burnt, especially around its chest. Not only were the feathers burnt off, but there was also a big bleeding wound. Its chest was rising and falling weakly.

How cruel!

Li Nianfan became even braver. It was so badly hurt that even if it was alive, it would not cause any threat to him.

He walked over and could not help touching the extremely beautiful feathers on the bird.

‘Wow! The touch is too...tender!’

So warm, so soft, and very smooth!

Li Nianfan could not stop touching it. After touching it for quite a while, he crossed one leg over and reached out to help the bird turn over.

As he touched the bird’s wings and held it gently, the bird opened its eyes in a blur.

When it saw Li Nianfan, it was first perplexed. Then, it noticed that Li Nianfan was on top of its body.

It was in a state of shock. It cried out, sounding embarrassed, “What are you doing? I’m in this state and you just can’t wait to ride me!?”

Chapter 223: Too Caught Up In Pretending

The Fire Phoenix went from being perplexed to being shocked. Then, surprised.

It had the urge to resist. It was struggling. If it was not in so much pain, it would have fought this so-called expert!

He was not a man!

Li Nianfan was shocked, too.

‘Damn! It really is a demon who can speak! The voice sounds like a woman... It sounds good.’

However, he felt wrongly accused. What did the bird mean by him riding it? Why did it sound so embarrassed?



However, the words of the bird demon made Li Nianfan's eyes sparkle. The bird was so big and so pretty. How cool would he look if he were to ride it!

He was envious of the Crane Demon from the Azure Ville. Now, this demon came up to his door!?

Since it was hurt, he could take it in and heal it. Then, it would be touched and look for a way to repay him. After that, he would be able to ride on it!

Perhaps it could also protect him!

This plot was too perfect!

However, Li Nianfan had to make sure of one thing.

"How did you get so hurt? Is someone chasing after you?"

The firebird looked at him in hatred as it said arrogantly, "Chase after me? Who would even dare chase after me in this world?"

"Very well, then." Li Nianfan sighed in relief. He wanted to make sure of it to avoid being dragged into some conflict.

Although the bird sounded arrogant, it was probably not being hunted. Furthermore, it did not seem evil, so it did not look like a bad demon.

Li Nianfan found a good angle and started moving the Fire Phoenix's wings.

Instantly, the Fire Phoenix resisted. It scoffed, "What are you doing? Don't you touch me! Go away!"

“How am I supposed to help you? You’re so hurt, I’d advise you not to move around too much. Beware of your organs falling out!” Li Nianfan said in shock. He then said to Xiao Bai, “Come and give me a hand. We’ll bring it in together.”

The Fire Phoenix continued to struggle. “Don’t touch my feathers! It’s messed up!”

Li Nianfan felt awkward as he explained, “Your feathers are too soft. Don’t blame me for that!”

The Fire Phoenix was big but it was not heavy. Li Nianfan had already brought it inside and settled it down in the yard before he realized Daji was standing there.

She took a look at the Fire Phoenix and said, “Mr. Li, are you going to eat it?”

Instantly, the Fire Phoenix who was crying out stopped crying.

Li Nianfan was shocked, too. He said hastily, “Don’t say that. The bird’s our friend. We can’t treat it like food!”

No way. This was such a beautiful bird, women would be drawn to it by instinct. Yet Daji’s first reaction was to eat it? Perhaps he had turned her into a food lover?

He walked over to Daji and said in a low voice, “Daji, it’s rare for us to come across a flying demon. It happens to be hurt. You need to get close to it and hopefully develop a good relationship with it. Who knows, it might even allow us to ride it!”

Daji’s face changed. She sounded as if she was being treated unfairly. “You want to ride her?”

Li Nianfan did not notice the change on Daji’s face. He nodded, “Yeah, we’re all ordinary people. If we could fly in the sky, we could see more of the outside world. How nice would that be!”

Daji’s eyelids lowered as she said in a soft voice, “I’ll listen to Mr. Li.”

Meanwhile, the Fire Phoenix was looking at its surroundings.

It first looked at the lightning rod. The sight of the lightning striking it was still flashing in its head.

‘So, this rod saved me? It looks ordinary and it doesn’t even contain any Spiritual Qi. How unbelievable!

‘There are quite a few treasures in the yard, but most of them have been transformed after being exposed to the high amount of Insights. If not, they wouldn’t even be as good as Immortal Items.

‘However...the rooms in the house and the backyard definitely contain something terrifying!

‘Oh, and a small Firefinch Demon. It has a slight hint of the phoenix bloodline in it, so it can almost be considered an Immortal Beast!’

Since the Fire Phoenix entered the house, the Firefinch had been trembling in a corner.

That was the Godly Fire Phoenix! The Queen of all birds!

And it was being carried into the four-part architecture? Did that mean it would be living with the Fire Phoenix under the same roof?

Wow! So nervous! So excited! So uneasy!

When the Fire Phoenix looked at it, the Firefinch Demon trembled and instinctively laid three eggs in a row.

Beside it was five eggs waiting for Li Nianfan to harvest.

The Fire Phoenix looked away. It could not bear the sight of it.

Meanwhile, Li Nianfan walked over with the medical box.

The bird was so badly hurt. What a shocking sight! It needed to be treated right away.

“Alright, I’m going to treat you. Don’t move, okay?” Li Nianfan took out a small scalpel and measured the wound. He was about to start the operation.

“The area around your wound has been burnt. I’ll have to remove the dead skin. It’ll be slightly painful but you’ll have to endure it.”

The Fire Phoenix merely turned its head away. It did not speak.

Wow, what an arrogant bird!

Li Nianfan smiled. He straightened his expression, looking focused. He raised his hand and sliced into the flesh surrounding the wound.

Following his movements, the originally unperturbed Fire Phoenix was instantly shocked. Its eyes widened in surprise.

This, this...

It could not help lowering its head to look at its wound.

There was indeed no use of Spiritual Qi. Even the scalpel did not possess any special Qi. Why...

The scariest thing about the Natural Tribulation was its Law of Destruction. Especially the tribulation it faced moments ago. Even if it was just a hint, even if it was not a direct hit, once the Law of Destruction entered one’s body, it would cause death!

This was the Law of the world, the authority of the Law!

The Fire Phoenix had too much Law of Destruction built up in its body. If it did not have a way to remove them, it would need to be reborn at some point. However...

As Li Nianfan made a cut, all traces of the Law of Destruction in its body was removed!

This was too scary! The Law was nothing in front of this man!

More importantly, the man and the scalpel seemed so ordinary!

The most powerful Dao brought one back to its basic form!

This expert was so terrifying!

Countless thoughts went through its head. 'This must be the expert in the ordinary realm without a doubt! They say he has a fetish for pretending to be an ordinary man and it looks like it's true! However, it's not exactly a fetish because even though he has the shell of an ordinary man, he's still standing at the peak of the world! Perhaps becoming an ordinary man is no longer meaningful to him!

'However, if the bigshot wants to pretend to be an ordinary man, everyone else can only play along with him. Only an idiot who doesn't want to live anymore would expose him.

'Especially...what the Nine-Tailed Fox said earlier. So scary! I won't even try. If I was turned into a dish, I won't even be able to cry!'

The Fire Phoenix could not help looking at Daji. Then, it realized that Daji was already staring at it.

The two of them exchanged an unfriendly look.

Smelly fox!

Dead phoenix!

'It seems that this fox is unfriendly. It must feel threatened by me taking away its master's attention!

'Ha-ha, want to eat me?'

The Fire Phoenix rested its head on Li Nianfan's shoulder. "Argh, so painful! Gentler!"

Li Nianfan said, "Hold it, I'll speed up. It'll be over soon."

The Fire Phoenix looked at Daji, challenging her.

'Angry? Are you angry at me?'

It was not until the sky had turned brighter when Li Nianfan finally finished cleaning the wound. Li Nianfan let out a long sigh and said, "I'll apply some medicine and wrap a bandage over it to wait for new flesh to grow."

He did have quite a lot of medicine at home, all made by him during his free time in case of emergencies.

The Fire Phoenix said, "Thank you."

It could clearly feel its body getting better. It was a miracle!

"Ha-ha-ha, no problem." Li Nianfan was delighted. This was a good start.

Swiftly after, he asked with curiosity, "Oh, right. How did you get hurt?"

The Fire Phoenix told him the truth. "I came from the Immortal Land and helped thirty-eight cultivators Immortalize. So, I was punished."

Came down from the Immortal Land?

Helped cultivators Immortalize?

Li Nianfan almost did not believe what he just heard. He looked at the Fire Phoenix blankly as his head exploded.

This, this, this...

Bigshot!

He said in shock, "And you... What kind of bird are you?"

The Fire Phoenix raised its head arrogantly. "I'm a Divine Bird, the Fire Phoenix!"

Li Nianfan gasped, his heart thumping rapidly.

Fire Phoenix?

He saved a phoenix?

Wait, he did not save it, so he could only say he bumped into a phoenix.

This was the legendary phoenix. Did it even need any help?

What he did to the phoenix almost seemed ridiculous now. It was probably silly and useless!

Luckily, what he did probably earned himself a good impression.

The more he thought about it, the more excited he became!

Damn it! A phoenix fell from the sky! When would the Seven Fairies fall for him?

He even touched the phoenix! He played with its feathers!

This would be unimaginable in his past realm! It was like a dream!

Although he knew he would face many unbelievable things after transgressing to the Immortal Realm, he did not expect to come across a bigshot like this phoenix! Could he possibly come across the legendary dragon at some point?

The thought of it really excited him!

He even operated on a phoenix! What a miraculous life!

Oh, right! The phoenix's blood!

Li Nianfan shivered. The novels in his past realm stated that the blood of the phoenix was the most precious thing! It even claimed to have the benefit of retaining one's youth! He had a bowl of its blood!

He hugged the bowl of blood in his arms and tried to ask in a calm voice, "Oh, right. You're a Divine Bird. Does your blood have any benefit?"

"Of course," the Fire Phoenix said arrogantly. "My blood can keep you alive for a thousand years and retain your youth!"



Li Nianfan's face flushed red as his hands that were hugging the bowl trembled. He pulled Daji and ran into his room.

'This is so cool! I got lucky!

'It's a phoenix! Obviously, I won't be able to ride it but I did gain something massive!

'As expected, meeting a bigshot is so cool! A little something from the bigshot is a massive opportunity for ordinary men like myself!'

The Fire Phoenix looked rather stunned. It looked at Li Nianfan who was running into his room while cradling a bowl of its blood as if he was holding onto treasure.

He was so good at pretending?

An expert was indeed an expert, even his acting skills were so good!

It could not help looking at Blackie who was resting by the side.

Blackie yawned and shrugged. "Can't help it. That's my master. He's too caught up in pretending to be an ordinary man that he can't get out of it. Just do your best to play along."

Chapter 224: Why Didn't You Inform Me ?

The phoenix jumped and looked at Blackie strangely. "You're a demon, too?"

'How did I miss that?'

"No, I'm a dog." Blackie shook its head. "I need to make an introduction to you. Listen carefully and make notes. Study it from time to time. It's very important.

“I’m an ordinary black dog, and the Nine-Tailed Fox is an ordinary woman. That’s just a chicken who lays eggs, and the things beside you are the refrigerator and the rockery. The thing in the water is the compressor. The two balls there are the television and the lighter...”

The Fire Phoenix listened and rolled its eyes. What organization was it about to join?

It was trembling inside, but it still listened closely.

It did not have a choice. If it wanted to survive, it had to play along with the expert.

Inside the room.

Li Nianfan hugged the small bowl in his hands. He was very excited.

This was the blood of a phoenix!

He would be able to live for a thousand years while retaining his youth forever!

This must be the opportunity everyone dreamt of!

Li Nianfan felt that this was the biggest blessing he had ever gained since his trip to this Immortal Realm.

He looked at Daji with excitement and said, “Daji, this is the blood of the phoenix. It’ll retain our youth for a thousand years! Let’s drink it. Our lives will be sorted after this!”

“Really?” Daji looked surprised. “Then, let’s drink it right away, Mr. Li.”

“Hmm! We’ll drink it together!” Li Nianfan nodded.

Daji was so beautiful. The thought of her retaining her beauty and accompanying him for a thousand years made him feel extremely fulfilled.

He hugged the bowl and suddenly looked perplexed.

Oh no! He seemed to have forgotten the way to consume it.

Was he supposed to drink it raw or boil it first? If he boiled it, would the nutrients remain? Would it become less effective?

Also, how much did he have to drink for it to work?

Running back to ask how to drink it did not seem right either. Would he say ‘How should we drink your blood’? He might as well ask to be killed!

It was a phoenix that was not to be angered!

Whatever...

Li Nianfan made up his mind. He would drink it raw!

“Daji, I’ll taste it for you.” He held onto the bowl and gulped down a mouthful of blood. It must have worked.

Hmm, it did not taste bloody. Instead, it tasted quite well—it was sweet!

Li Nianfan handed the bowl to Daji. “You try it.”

Daji held onto the bowl and took a sip. She wiped away some blood that was on the corner of her lips. “Oh, Mr. Li, can I have the remaining?”

Li Nianfan looked at her strangely. "You want it?"

"Hmm, I'd like to give it to my sister." Daji nodded.

"Your sister..." Li Nianfan recalled. "The Six-Tailed Fox from the other day?"

Daji said, "Yeah, the last time I saw it, it already had eight tails. This phoenix blood might be able to help it."

Li Nianfan was surprised. "The little fox already has its eighth tail?"

So, foxes could grow more tails?

So, if it grew another tail, it would become a Nine-Tailed Fox?

Gasp...

There was such a bigshot hidden by his side?

Without hesitation, he said, "Give it! Give it everything! Don't give up on your sister!"

Li Nianfan did not know exactly how powerful the Nine-Tailed Fox was in the Immortal Realm, but he had heard a lot of legends about it. Becoming friends with it would be the right thing to do!

Suddenly, he realized he was not doing so badly in the Immortal Realm!

He met Zhou Yunwu, an ordinary man who had the duty to rule all the ordinary men! The Emperor was his brother!

He also knew quite a few cultivating bigshots. He was doing well.

He had met a Nine-Tail Fox and now, he met a phoenix!

Furthermore, he could now live for a thousand years!

Everything turned out well!

As expected, meeting bigshots was the key to survival!

It seemed that he had to work harder in the future to meet more bigshots. With that, his thousand years would be very comfortable.

When he walked out of the room, Xiao Bai had already prepared some breakfast dishes and served them on the dining table.

“My dearest master, please, enjoy.”

Li Nianfan nodded. He looked at the breakfast dishes and frowned.

They were the usual—sweet potato porridge, steamed buns, and a few side dishes.

Li Nianfan was not a fussy man. These would usually be enough but...life was different now!

He had a phoenix bigshot by his side!

If it watched him eat, it did not seem right. If the meal was too simple, it did not seem right either!

If he could please this bigshot and make it stay, he would have no fear in this realm!

Li Nianfan's brain was working at the quickest speed. If he ran toward the phoenix and pleased it, it might not work. It might even work against him. He had to lick its boots smartly.

The best trick would be food!

The first meal was the key!

"Xiao Bai, this meal is too simple." Li Nianfan stole a glimpse at the bigshot phoenix. He said with a serious tone, "Our meals must be the best of the best. A simple meal is out of our style."

As he spoke, he picked up the dishes and walked out to the yard to pour them all into the forest.

He wanted to make a more hearty meal to attract the bigshot phoenix's stomach!

In the forest, a few figures walked out gradually.

They were a few demons.

They were put on duty to help the expert solve some potential troubles. This was to prevent ignorant beings from affecting the expert's mood.

This was a very good job. From time to time, he would throw out some leftovers or fruit peels. These were worldly treasures to the demons here.

A Goat Demon's eyes lit up. It cried out excitedly, "That's the expert's food! The expert poured out his food!"

"Am I mistaken? There's so much food left?"

“Boar Demon King ate a cabbage from the expert and instantly had a breakthrough. This is a whole pot of porridge!”

Gasp...

Instantly, the demons trembled with excitement. They all rushed toward the food.

Gulp! Gulp!

“Argh! So yummy! So delicious!”

“There’s such delicious food in the world. I can’t hold it in anymore. Waaa....”

“I got so lucky! I got so lucky today!”

Gulp! Gulp!

“Big opportunity! Big chance! I feel like I’m flying!”

Meanwhile, the Boar Demon came back with a few other demons to patrol the area. When they saw this, their faces changed and their eyes almost popped out of their sockets.

“That... That’s...a whole meal?!”

Swash!

Without hesitation, they all rushed toward it.

It growled, “What’s going on? Why didn’t you inform me about it?”

“Get out of the way! Let me have some!”

“Why are you pushing me! I’m your boss! Get up! Make space for me!”

“I saw this cabbage first! What are you doing? Do you still want to live?”

Gulp! Gulp...

Chapter 225: Have I Gone Back To The Ancient Times?

Li Nianfan went back to the four-part architecture and took out the frozen wild boar.

The wild boar’s body was big. Its two big trotters were already eaten. This time, Li Nianfan was eyeing its ribs.

This was a boar in the Immortal Realm and it was a demon! It grew up in the wild with fresh air and green surroundings. Its meat was tough with low cholesterol levels and high nutrition. It had no external hormones and no remaining viruses. Overall, it was very healthy.

Li Nianfan smiled. “Today, I’ll personally prepare some Honey Grilled Pork Chop.”

The honey roasted chicken he planned to make the other day did not succeed, so the honey was not put to use. This time, he had to use it.

“Xiao Bai, you’ll do the preparations. I’ll get some honey from the backyard.”

As he spoke, Li Nianfan had started walking to the backyard.

“Alright, my master.” Xiao Bai nodded and walked over with the cutting knife, ready to cut open the wild boar.



The Fire Phoenix stared at Li Nianfan for a moment and said, "I want to look around."

It sensed that the backyard was extraordinary, so it was curious.

Li Nianfan instantly agreed. "Of course!"

Click!

After opening the backyard door, Li Nianfan walked inside.

The doorway was narrow, so the Fire Phoenix did not walk in from the door. Instead, it flew in from the roof.

Upon entering the backyard, the Fire Phoenix jumped, shocked by the Insights in there.

The Insights were so thick. This...could only be so if a Saint was frequently enlightening in here.

It flapped its wings and landed on a tree to take in the sight of the entire backyard.

Suddenly, its inner heart was touched. A sense of familiarity aroused from within.

Swiftly after, a flashback of long-forgotten memories appeared in the deep end of its mind.

These memories came from the...ancient times!

Phoenixes had nature's gift of rebirth. Hence, it was able to live until this day. In its past incarnation, it had suffered great trauma. Thus, it had to be reborn. However, after that, many of its memories were missing.

“Spiritual Roots? The backyard is full of Spiritual Roots?” It jumped and almost screamed!

Those were Spiritual Roots! They were extinct in the Immortal Land as Spiritual Roots were not able to sprout anymore!

It could not help flying closer into the backyard. It closed its eyes to feel them.

“Have I...gone back to the ancient times?”

Unknowingly, warmth aroused from within it. It felt like it was a child who had finally returned to the comforts of their home after being away for a long time. Its eyes were moist.

The Insights in the yard could no longer be called Insights anymore as it had all been mixed with the air in fragments!

The extremely thick Immortal Qi! A yard full of Spiritual Roots!

Was this not how it was back in ancient times?

Back then, the world was full of powerful beings with powerful Qi everywhere! How prosperous!

“I never expected I’d ever see the past world again!” the Fire Phoenix mumbled to itself. It could not help looking at Li Nianfan as it speculated, “He must’ve existed since the ancient times. He must’ve seen everything and finally decided to turn this place into a replica of the ancient times from his memory, so he could live in the shell of an ordinary man and live an ordinary life.”

Li Nianfan was walking toward the pond when he called out, “Old tortoise, come here.”

Splash!

The pond water rose, and a gigantic old tortoise gradually crawled out from the water. It went over to Li Nianfan languidly.

Li Nianfan did not mind it. He climbed onto the back of the tortoise and raised his hand to knock on the beehive of the Golden Bees that was hanging on a nearby tree.

He easily collected the honey.

Countless Golden Bees surrounded him, calling out to him with a loud buzz!

“Basalt, Golden Bees, you’re all here!” The Fire Phoenix’s eyes looked at them with friendliness. Its mouth could not help turning into a smile. Its eyes went back to the water. “And that annoying breath, dragon?”

It then fixed its gaze on the tree by the pond. That was the source of the Immortal Qi!

Its body jumped instantly as its eyes sparkled.

It said without thinking, “Chaos Spiritual Root!?”

It could produce Immortal Qi. Even the water in the pond had turned into Spiritual Water. It must be the Chaos Spiritual Root without a doubt!

Although it was still a small sprout, its effect was already so shocking! Once it matured, it would be majestic!

The Fire Phoenix searched its memories of this sprout. Finally, it took a deep breath and gradually spat out four words, “Tree of Sacred Ground!”

“Done!” Li Nianfan’s voice was heard. “Fire Phoenix, wait up. The delicious meal won’t let you down.”

The Fire Phoenix hesitated for a second. It then turned away, stretched out its wings arrogantly, and flew back into the four-part architecture.

Since this expert was pretending to be an ordinary man, it had to play along with him.

Even though it wanted to lick his boots right away, the expert set its character as a phoenix instead of a chicken, so it would not seem right to bootlick him. It had to wait for the right time.

'The expert's so good at giving me difficult tests. Although I can't lay eggs, didn't you want to ride me? Come on! I don't mind, be it rough or quick!'

Back in the four-part architecture, Xiao Bai had prepared the pork ribs. The ribs were complete and not cut open. The condiments needed for the dish were already placed by the side. The grill had been set up as well.

Li Nianfan placed the honey by the side. He mashed the apple with some ginger, mixed them with some soy sauce, cooking wine, spice powder, sugar, salt, chili powder, and a few other ingredients to make the sauce.

Following that, he made the lighter control the fire, keeping the flame small to simmer the food. He watched the liquid slowly thicken before taking it off the flame to cool. He then poured in the honey and mixed it, creating a special sauce.

Following that, Li Nianfan dunked the pork ribs into the pot of boiling water to remove its bloody scent while loosening up its muscles.

Once everything was prepared, he placed the pork ribs on the grill and used a brush to slather some sauce on the ribs.

The Phoenix looked at him curiously from the side.

It was not exactly looking forward to the so-called delicious meal. As a phoenix, eating was unnecessary. Even if it had to eat, it would eat the most precious things in the world.

It could tell right away that this was merely a Wild Boar Demon in its Combination realm. Small demons were like junk, and eating this little demon would hurt the phoenix's dignity.

If it had a choice, it would rather eat the apple or the honey right away.

If this boar knew that its body was being coated with the honey of the Golden Bees, it would probably wake up smiling.

"Whatever. I'll just pretend that it's very delicious so I can stay here officially." The Fire Phoenix made up its mind.

It started to imagine what looks of satisfaction it could use to avoid being exposed.

Li Nianfan saw the unperturbed look on the Fire Phoenix's face. Instantly, he put in way more effort.

He was merely an ordinary man. He did not have anything to offer, especially things that could impress the phoenix!

He could only come up with this plan. These Honey Roasted Pork Ribs would determine whether the phoenix remained or not!

Chapter 226: Scary Small Mouth

Chi! Chi! Chi!

As the flame burned the meat, a crackling sound was heard. The sauce blended in with the meat gradually.

Li Nianfan slathered more sauce on it again again.

He then repeated this process six more times!

After that, he smashed another apple. The big bowl of honey was already half-empty.

The Fire Phoenix shook its head. What a pity. So much honey was brushed on the boar's meat. More importantly, most of the honey was wasted because of the grilling! This was the perfect definition of waste!

Even to a phoenix, it felt pitiful. The others, even the Immortals, would instantly have a heart attack.

After being brushed with so much honey, the meat seemed like it was glowing, almost as if it was coated by a layer of gold.

Sizz! Sizz! Sizz!

Not long after, golden globules of fat started oozing out, dripping down the ribs and into the flames burning beneath the grill.

Swiftly after, a thick fragrance wafted into the air, filling the entire yard.

With one gentle sniff, the aroma washed over them like a flood, taking over one's senses and making their brains unable to think or do anything.

The only thing one could do was to savor this fragrance.

"Smells so good!"

The Fire Phoenix shivered and was instantly snapped back to reality. It stared at the roasted meat.

What kind of fragrance was this?

It had tasted many treasures in the world and felt that only the Spiritual Herbs and Fruits had fragrance, perhaps even the Immortal Qi or Water.

The ordinary men's so-called fragrance did not exist in its dictionary! So low!

However, in this instance, it had to admit that this fragrance deeply captivated it. Its desire to taste it was way beyond that of the Spiritual Herbs or Fruits.

Was this the food of the...ordinary realm?

What about this fragrance?

'What's this sensation in my stomach? Once the fragrance entered my stomach, it seemed to have solidified and rolled around in my stomach. It's making a gulping sound.'

What power was this? So mysterious! So unbelievable!

Since its birth, this was the first time the Fire Phoenix felt hunger from smelling food.

Gulp!

It could not help swallowing mouthfuls of saliva. It found it hard to look away from the grill. All it could think of was, 'I want to eat it!'

The Firefinch Demon that had been curled up in the corner had gone insane! As if it was sleepwalking it was flying toward the aromatic smoke in the air.

Sizz! Sizz! Sizz!

As time passed, more fats oozed out from the meat, making a loud sizzling sound as they fell like raindrops.

However, this sound worked along with the fragrance to increase one's appetite.

The Fire Phoenix was usually arrogant, especially when facing food that was below its standards.

However, though it had used its entire will to resist, it still could not help inching its head forward.

The fragrance! The fragrance!

Finally, the Fire Phoenix could not hold it anymore. It asked, "How long do we have to wait?"

This fragrance was definitely the biggest temptation it had faced in its entire life. It lured out its basic desire. How terrifying!

The phoenix would not exchange anything for one piece of this meat! If not, it would regret it for the rest of its life!

Li Nianfan had been paying close attention to the Fire Phoenix. He was feeling good inside out.

It seemed that his food-tactic was working!

The most delicious food in the world belonged here. If it had cravings, it could only come here!

It was indeed easier for a versatile man to survive in all realms.

Li Nianfan smiled. "It's ready."

Instantly, the eyes of Daji, the Fire Phoenix, and the Firefinch Demon sparkled. Blackie also stood up and walked toward them.



Li Nianfan made a gesture with the knife in his hands, causing it to sparkle. The ribs were cut into a few rows. He handed them out to them.

The Fire Phoenix could not help staring at the meat in front of its eyes. A faint layer of golden yellow oil covered the surface of the meat. The fats were mixed with the honey, and the crispy roasted skin was a yellowish-black. The meat looked as if it was waving at its eaters and saying, "Hurry up, come and bite me!"

A wave of fragrance rushed into its nose. The Fire Phoenix could not hold it in anymore. It lowered its head and used its beak to grab a piece of meat.

Gulp!

No biting. It swallowed the meat right away.

Even so, the flavors still burst in its mouth. A sense of fulfillment came from its stomach, as if its emptiness had been filled up.

The Fire Phoenix had a glint of dissatisfaction in its eyes. It retracted its wings and turned into the form of a human. Her elegant fingers wrapped around the rib as she ate it without caring about her image any longer.

Bite!

As the crispy skin touched her teeth, a crisp sound rang in the air. The honey sweetly blended with the spices and the taste of the pork rib. Its texture was something she had never encountered before, along with the fragrance that almost overwhelmed her taste buds. It made the Fire Phoenix close her eyes unconsciously as a low moan escaped from her throat. "Argh! Nice!"

Li Nianfan was shocked. He stared blankly at the woman who was eating rapidly beside him. "You can turn into a human?"

“Isn’t that the most basic ability?” The Fire Phoenix no longer cared about what Li Nianfan thought. All she could think of was the pork rib.

She had been thinking of how to perform her act. Now, she realized how foolish it was. No acting was needed in front of food as delicious as this. Being honest was the best performance ever.

Was this the happiness of an expert? So envious!

Crack, crack, crack!

Somehow, the crispy sound made Li Nianfan’s scalp itchy.

To be fair, the woman that the Fire Phoenix transformed into was very beautiful. Extremely beautiful! If Daji was gentle and pure, the Fire Phoenix was hot and unique.

However, when a beautiful lady like her was using her small lips to munch on the big rib as if it was nothing, it was a visual attack! So scary!

This was a big rib! Very big, long, and hard! Yet, she easily cracked it with her teeth, biting the meat along its bone!

Gasp...

What a scary small mouth!

Li Nianfan could not help shivering. So wild! No wonder it was a phoenix! It had a strong mouth and teeth!

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Beneath the table, Blackie called out in injustice!

‘What do you mean?’

‘Although I’m supposed to be an ordinary dog, you’re obviously stealing my bone! Do you want me to unfriend you!’

...

At the same time in the Azure Ville.

Gu Changqing flew out from the Azure Ville looking serious. He landed on an empty mountain with a glowing ancestry stone in his hands.

He asked, “Grandpa, the view’s nice and there’s nobody around. It’ll be good to reside here. I’ll light up two incense sticks for you. What do you think?”

“Okay, here’s good,” Gu Yuan’s voice rang. “Set the stone down and summon me, the way you usually do.”

“Okay,” Gu Changqing nodded. He took a deep breath and spat a mouthful of blood on the stone.

Vroom!

Suddenly, the stone started to vibrate, creating ripples in the air.

All the disciples of the Azure Ville had gathered here. Payne and Gu Yuan stood within the formation.

Payne had five Firefinch Demons tied around his waist who were looking helpless.

Gu Yuan’s face changed as he said, “Sect Master, my Grandson has already opened up the portal.”

Payne nodded and said, "Thank you, everyone. Turn on the Delivery Array, send us to the Immortal Realm!"

With that, he cast a spell. Instantly, the formation below his feet lit up.

Unlimited Spiritual Qi started to accumulate and a gust of strange energy started to gather within the formation.

The Big Elder raised his hands to push the Spiritual Qi into the formation. "Start now. We'll work together to help our Sect Master!"

Instantly, many disciples joined hands. Countless Spiritual Lights flashed in the air and rushed toward the formation.

The Spiritual Qi had turned into wind blades that were so powerful they seemed to be able to cut through everything.

It did not take long for the Spiritual Qi windstorm to turn into a tornado storm.

Clash!

The empty space in front of them seemed to be cut open. It looked like a crack in a mirror.

Payne's face darkened. He said, "Be ready, we're crossing the realm!"

In the Immortal Realm.

Layers of dark clouds started to gather in the sky. A phantom gradually appeared in the middle of the clouds. There was also a golden gate.

Sacred, majestic air exuded out from the gate.

Gu Changqing's face darkened as he was familiar with this sight. He mumbled, "Heavenly Gate."

As time passed, the phantom of the Heavenly Gate became clearer. Finally, the ringing of the clock resonated in the air.

A golden ray of light shined down.

The Heavenly Gate was opened!

Two figures appeared below the Heavenly Gate.

Payne glanced around at his surroundings. He could not help making a remark, "It's been more than ten thousand years. I don't remember this place anymore. Who'd have thought I'd be back again!"

Vroom!

The dark clouds in the sky had thickened. There were sounds of thunder shaking the world.

Payne quickly took off the five Firefinch Demons around his waist. He handed it to Gu Changqing with a serious face and said, "You have to keep the five chickens well. These are the specialties from home I brought for the expert. I'm going to Cross Tribulate, I'll be right back."

With that, he and Gu Yuan went away on a cloud.

Somehow, the night had fallen. The four-part architecture was engulfed by the darkness.

Li Nianfan was lying in bed. He was unable to calm down for a long time. He was excited.

The Fire Phoenix was actually going to stay here! Perhaps it did not have a place to live after coming down to this realm, or perhaps it really liked the food that he made. Whatever the reason was, it was a good sign that the phoenix stayed!

It was an Ancient Beast and it could even transform into an extremely beautiful woman! The thought of living with her under the same roof was so exciting!

The phoenix moved in and he gained a thousand years of lifespan!

What happened today was like a dream. In a blur, Li Nianfan gradually fell asleep. That night, he slept tight...

Chapter 227: Living a Riskier Life

Click.

Under the night sky, a bedroom door was pushed open.

Daji put on a simple nightgown and walked out of the room. The gentle breeze blew her long hair as she exuded a faint glow. Even darkness did not dare to get close to her.

Outside the four-part architecture, a small fox was leaning languidly on a tree branch. Its ears were perked up as it stared at the gate, waiting in boredom.

A Wild Boar Demon and Black Bear Demon were standing beneath the tree. Their bodies were rigid as they were the bodyguards on duty.

By the side, the Green Python Demon's body was rigid well. It stretched from the ground up to the little fox, functioning as its ladder.

The Wild Bear Demon rubbed its hands and said with an anxious and uneasy tone, "Lord, could you speak to your sister at some point? Perhaps she could speak to the expert and get us a small role by his side?"

The Black Bear Demon's eyes sparkled as it said, "Brother, you should be grateful. At least you got to show your face to the expert the other day. You even helped him with something. I'm still doing underground tasks for him. It's so cruel!"

The Green Python Demon said with a look of anticipation, "If only we could hang around the expert's side. I'd be grateful to have a meal from time to time."

The little fox said helplessly, "I haven't even been able to officially tag along with the expert myself."

Suddenly, it looked up and the languidness disappeared from its eyes. It cried out excitedly, "Sister!"

With that, it jumped on the Green Python Demon's head, using it as a ladder to set her down on the ground.

The Wild Boar Demon and the rest jumped as they called out with respect, "De...Demon King!"

“I didn’t ask you to become the Demon King to enjoy life. Now, you’re too lazy to even walk?”

Daji was not in a good mood today. Her delicate hand raised the little fox’s tails and frowned. “It’s been so long. Why are there only eight tails?”

The little fox said, sounding wronged and terrified, “Soon, Sister! The trace of the ninth tail is showing.”

Daji sighed slightly. “Look at you, you’re too lazy! Once you become a Nine-Tailed Fox, you’ll become an official Demon King. Then, my master wouldn’t need a phoenix as a pet!”

Now that the road between the two realms had been connected, things were changing in the world. Her master probably did not want to cause additional trouble, so he recruited a phoenix to function as the most powerful existence in his yard.

If the little fox could become a Nine-Tailed Fox sooner, it could replace the phoenix!

Sigh, the stupid phoenix got lucky!

‘Phoe...phoenix!?’

The simple word struck like lightning, resonating in the ears of the three demons. Their bodies stiffened and they became three sculptures.



They even thought about tagging along with the expert. So, only a bigshot like a phoenix had the right to tag along with him?

They thought too much, they thought too much!

Daji glared at the three demons as she scoffed coldly, "Do I sense dissatisfaction?"

"No, absolutely not!" The Wild Boar Demon jumped, trembling all over as it half-cried out, "Actually, we're just looking for a part-time job. We'd be very happy if we could just get a part-time job!"

The Green Python Demon and Black Bear Demon were so terrified, they were nodding wildly.

Daji did not care about them. She took out the bowl and handed it to the little fox. "This bowl contains phoenix blood. Drink it. I'll help you break through your ninth tail tonight!"

"Phoenix blood?" The little fox was stunned.

This was phoenix blood, a priceless treasure to all demons.

This kind of ancient bloodline could improve a demon's bloodline. It was equivalent to improving the demon's potential without limits.

The other three demons had red eyes. They were sniffing wildly as if a sniff of the phoenix blood would fulfill their lives.

Daji carried the little fox and jumped into the forest. She pestered, "Drink it now, I'll make you a formation."

"Oh..."

The little fox hugged the bowl that was almost as big as its body, gulping down the liquid.

There was not much blood in the bowl, but as the little fox drank, its little tummy increased in size like a ball.

Bam!

It tossed the bowl aside and scratched on its full tummy with its paws. It had a pained look on its face. Its snow-white fur had turned red.

Daji said, "Feel this energy and use it to awaken your bloodline!"

“Argh...” The little fox could not take it anymore. It laid on the ground. “Sister, I’m scared.”

Squeak!

By the side, a burst of mocking laughter was heard. The Fire Phoenix was perched on a tree branch nearby. It was looking at the little fox with intrigue.

It said with a mocking smile, “Oh, so there’s a little fox. Little fox, what does my blood taste like?”

Daji looked at the Fire Phoenix and made a jeering scoff.

The Fire Phoenix smiled faintly. “Your little sister’s quite special. This won’t work. Shall I use my flames to excite her?”

“No need!” Daji shook her head. She carried the little fox in her hands and walked away arrogantly.

Swiftly after, the little fox’s panting voice was heard vaguely, “Waa...sister. I can’t take it anymore... I can’t...”

A moment later, Daji walked back with a dark face. She was embarrassed. She tossed the little fox to the Fire Phoenix and said, "You do it!"

The Fire Phoenix moisturized her lips. She reached out as flaming red rings were glowing on her palms.

It looked at the little fox sadistically, "Little fox, bear the pain. It might hurt more in the beginning and it might bleed slightly. Trust me, you'll feel good after."

"Waa...don't come near me. Sister, save me!"

...

Time slipped past silently like flowing water.

Three days had passed in the blink of an eye.

Three rays of light landed on the foot of the Fallen Immortal Mountain.

There were three elders. One of them had five chickens tied around his waist. He looked rather ridiculous.

Gu Changqing said with a polite tone, "The expert lives on this mountain."

"Wonderful! Wonderful!" Payne adjusted his belt. His eyes were filled with sincerity and respect as he said in awe, "This mountain is not too tall and not too steep. It seems ordinary but it's in fact greener than the others. It has strange flowers and plants, and flowing streams. Especially its name, the Fallen Immortal Mountain, which represents the saying of how the height of a mountain is irrelevant as long as an Immortal lives on it. The expert picked this location with careful consideration. He's indeed an expert!"

Gu Changqing looked at Payne in shock. He looked inspired as he looked at Payne with an admiring look.

However, Gu Yuan was rather embarrassed. He said softly, "Sect Master, the expert isn't here. He can't hear what you say!"

"Nonsense!" Payne scoffed. He scolded Gu Yuan loudly, "I said every word with sincerity. Why would I say it for the expert to hear? Your thinking is too shallow! You can't keep thinking this way! And how do you know that the expert can't hear me?"

Gu Yuan no longer wanted to talk.

The three of them walked up the hill slowly. The path was narrow and zigzagged. It looked ordinary.

The three of them walked on the path anxiously. Even though the path was ordinary, they found it more difficult than climbing a tall mountain.

When facing a bigshot like him, the more ordinary things seemed, the more pressure one felt!

“Oh, right. Grandpa, Sect Master, I haven’t been able to tell you the big news that happened when the two of you were recovering from the Natural Tribulation,” Gu Changqing said suddenly. He had a hint of fear in his tone.

Gu Yuan asked curiously, “What is it?”

Gu Changqing said seriously, “Before the two of you came, a female Immortal came down from the Immortal Land.”

“What?” Payne’s face sunk. “Who is she?”

“I don’t know, but this woman’s easy to recognize. She has red hair and red eyes, and she was also dressed in a red dress. After coming to the Immortal Realm, she even helped thirty-eight cultivators Immortalize!” Gu Changqing’s tone was extremely complicated.

The 38 cultivators got so lucky!

When their lifespans almost came to the end, the road between here and the Immortal Land was reopened. And when they were about to Immortalize, a process that could possibly kill them, they bumped into a bigshot who helped them Immortalize!

They were the luckiest!

Red hair and red eyes?

Gasp...

Gu Yuan and Payne gasped at the same time. Their scalps were itching. They looked shocked.

"It must be her!" Payne gulped. "She actually came down? Could she be looking for the expert?"

Gu Yuan asked hastily, "And then?"

"And then her Natural Tribulation happened..." Gu Changqing's pupils were slightly dilated. His voice trembled as he said in fear, "The Natural Tribulation was extremely scary! The lightning was red! Even a tiny hint of its current made me go so numb that I couldn't even move!"

"That wasn't the Natural Tribulation, that was the Natural Punishment!" Payne said as he looked up at the sky in terror. His face was tense as if the sky was extremely terrifying.

He took a deep breath and said with a soft, trembling voice, "That was the fifth most powerful and destructive Natural Tribulation!"

Gasp...

Gu Changqing and Gu Yuan's hearts thumped loudly. It sounded very terrifying!

Payne said with a heavy voice, "This type of Natural Tribulation is extremely scary, even back in ancient times. I've only read about it from an ancient script. Back then, whenever a tribulation like this happened, it was very unlikely for one to be able to survive it!"

And that was back in ancient times where all the bigshots existed! Even they described the Natural Tribulation so cruelly. Who would be able to survive it now?

Gu Changqing could not help saying, "What you mean is that, the woman...."

"It's very likely that she died." Payne shook his head and sighed. "She's actually a phoenix. To be fair, she indirectly saved our lives. How unfortunate..."

Gu Yuan said with a heavy voice, "Heaven is heartless!"

Payne continued, "She challenged Heaven! You have to admit that the phoenix bloodline is a riskier and more daring family in the Immortal Land."



Gu Yuan sighed. "Power makes one feel numb!"

As they spoke, some mist appeared amongst the green trees ahead. With a closer look, the four-part architecture appeared vaguely in sight.

The three of them jumped.

They had...arrived at the expert's residence!

Chapter 228: The Four-Part Architecture is Growing!

"We're here?" Payne gulped. He was nervous.

Gu Changqing and Gu Yuan had at least seen this place before, so they could handle it better. However, Payne had only heard of the expert through stories. He felt like an ordinary man that was about to visit an Immortal. Nerve-wracking!

Gu Changqing reminded him by the side, "Sect Master, Grandpa, remember to stay calm when meeting the expert. The mentality has to be right!"

Payne nodded. He felt his throat tighten as he removed the five Firefinch Demons from his waist. He said in a low voice, "Knock the door."

The five Firefinch Demons were confused. Their arrogance had vanished completely. They were all anxious.

Judging by the atmosphere, could there be some shocking bigshot in this ordinary realm?

Their buttocks tightened and shrunk.

In the face of unknown danger, they had been training their buttocks. No one would be stupid enough to train their meat.

They wondered if all their training could be put to use? Would the expert be pleased?

This bunch of elders was so mean! They did not even tell them what was happening!

Meanwhile, Gu Changqing had already walked up to the door. He raised his hand cautiously and knocked three times.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Instantly, the three of them held their breaths, as if waiting for some kind of judgment.

A voice rang from the inside of the four-part architecture.

“Xiao Bai, guests are here. Open the door.”

Swiftly after, the walking sound of Xiao Bai was heard.

Click!

Xiao Bai opened the door and looked out to glance at the three people standing there before saying, “Welcome!”

Gu Changqing said hastily, “Xiao Bai, how do you do!”

Swiftly after, the three of them walked into the four-part architecture cautiously.

Upon stepping in, the three of them jumped slightly. They could feel a different kind of Qi coming from the yard.

They could not tell right away what was different, only that this yard was extraordinary.

The three of them looked up at the same time and jumped. Sweat appeared on their foreheads as their pupils shrunk into needles.

If they had not mentally prepared themselves, this sight would have made them scream out loud and their heads would have exploded.

Even so, they still blanked out and shivered before snapping back to reality.

Inside the yard, they saw that Li Nianfan was holding a round piece of wood and a carving knife. He was carving.

Not far in front of him, a phoenix was standing arrogantly. Its neck was stretched up and it held its head high, looking like a model.

It was the Fire Phoenix! That was the Fire Phoenix!

Gu Yuan and Payne had chills all over. They could not believe their eyes.

They were talking about the Fire Phoenix earlier and speculated that it was most likely dead. Yet, upon entering the expert's home, they saw the Fire Phoenix modeling for the expert. This visual attack was in fact a test of the heart!

Gu Changqing's face turned pale. He took a deep breath and said, shivering, "Mr. Li, sorry to come uninvited."

"Don't worry about it. You didn't disturb me. Welcome." Li Nianfan smiled faintly. He was about to put down the carving knife in his hand to greet his guests.

However, his action made the three of them look differently, their scalps itching.

Gu Changqing almost cried out loud. He said hastily, "Mr. Li, please continue with your carving. Don't mind us!"

Gu Yuan and Payne nodded hastily, "Right, right, right. I'll sit and wait by the side. Please, don't be affected."

Test! This must have been a test!

The expert was carving the phoenix. It was a key moment. If they did not play it smart, if they did make the expert put down his work, perhaps neither the expert nor the phoenix would let them live!

So terrifying! It was a dead road ahead!

"Then, please, excuse me." Li Nianfan smiled apologetically. He said, "Xiao Bai, help me entertain my guests."

He knew that these were cultivators, so it was strange if they did not know of the phoenix. Anyone with a working mind would not want to offend a phoenix.

He must have taken some of the phoenix's glory, how interesting!

After the past few days of improving their relationship, the Fire Phoenix seemed to be satisfied with the surroundings here and it did not have any intention to leave yet.

This morning, Li Nianfan was in the mood to carve a phoenix.

After all, it was rare for one to meet an actual phoenix, so he had to make a souvenir. This would be better than carving one from imagination.

Who would have thought that the Fire Phoenix would volunteer to become his model?

This was indeed a very outstanding improvement of their relationship. So obviously, Li Nianfan did not turn it down.

The carving was still going on. Li Nianfan did not plan to get distracted. He held onto his carving knife as his fingers moved with agility, carving again and again.

The wood shavings fluttered to the ground like little butterflies.

The three of them exchanged looks. It was not until then when they sat down politely under the lead of Xiao Bai.

They all looked perplexed, smiling bitterly in their hearts.

Right. If the expert wanted to keep the phoenix as a pet, why would he watch the phoenix get killed by the Natural Tribulation?

They did not expect the expert to save someone from Natural Punishment!

This was a hundred times more difficult than going through a Natural Tribulation!

Since helping someone else to get out from danger was not approved of by Heaven, one would need impressive skills to get away with that.

Was this the bigshot?

As expected, this was beyond an ordinary man's imagination!

Xiao Bai walked over and asked, "Tea or drink?"

'Is it asking us what type of opportunity we need?'

'The expert's so kind. He actually gave us a choice!'

The three of them said at the same time, "Tea, please. Thank you."

Payne brought forward the five chickens and handed them to Xiao Bai with respect. "It's our first visit, so here's a little something. I hope you don't mind."

Xiao Bai accepted them and nodded, "Not bad, five more chickens. Do they lay eggs?"

Payne bit his tongue and said, "This...maybe."

Xiao Bai simply put them by the Firefinch Demon. "It doesn't matter if they don't lay eggs. They can just become roasted chicken."

The five Firefinch Demons were dumbfounded from the moment they entered. Their bodies had stiffened into sculptures. When they saw their original boss, they felt as if they were being recruited back to their organization. They started to tear up.



However, they could not speak. They had been enchanted.

They could only flap their wings—weakly, helplessly, and confused—chirping as they were circling their boss who was in the center.

Their boss's face sank. There was a look in its eyes that suggested it had been through it all. Just like an old employee looking at new ones—full of satisfaction.

It stretched out its wings and signaled for the other five chickens to make some space.

It then pointed to its buttock and pouted slightly.

Drop!

An egg was laid.

It raised its head.

Chirp, chirp, chirp?

'Do you understand?'

Since they used to know each other, the least it could do was warn them. One could be a chicken or a roasted chicken depending on how hard they worked.

Gu Changqing and the other two sat in the pavilion, shaking. They each had a warm cup of tea in their hands. They did not dare to make a sound, terrified of disturbing the expert and the phoenix.

They quietly raised their teacups and saw the tea leaves swimming in the tea. The tea looked clear and beautiful.

This was the tea made by the expert? They had heard about it. Now, they could finally taste it.

Tea with Insights was only served to the top VIP even in the Immortal Land.

Even as the Sect Master in the Immortal Land, Payne was still very excited.

He got lucky! He got lucky this time!

He opened his mouth and gently took a sip.

It was slightly bitter at first. The tea swirled in his mouth, and after a moment, its fragrance spread all over him. Very refreshing.

His throat moved as he gently swallowed.

Instantly, his entire mind went quiet. His initial uneasiness had suddenly calmed down.

Before he could comment on it, Payne's pupils dilated. His eyes were filled with disbelief!

"This...this isn't an Insight!"

His entire body was trembling when he said so. His brain was also exploding.

As he swallowed the tea, a shocking feeling aroused in him. It was very arrogant and rushed to his head. It almost felt like it was taking over the world!

So direct! So powerful!

He was not ready at all.

Payne scoffed. He closed his eyes as he tried to digest this energy.

“Is this the Power of Law!? Indeed, it’s the Power of Law!” His old face had flushed red. He was crying from within. If it was not for his last traces of rationality, he would have screamed out loud.

This was so hard to believe!

The tea contained specks of the Power of Law!

Even the bigshots in the Immortal Land would be envious of them. Yet, the expert served them this tea as if it was just ordinary tea.

‘Do we even deserve such luxurious tea? This feels like a dream!’

Insights could help with enlightenment. It could help the cultivation process and enlighten the cultivators. The Power of Law was much more powerful than Insights!

This was the Law of Nature! For example, Natural Tribulations worked according to the Law!

As long as you possess even a hint of the Law, your skills and power would improve many times more!

For example, Insights were the physics behind how nature worked, while the Law was the reason why this world was formed!

Understanding why wind would blow was the power of Insights. However, what caused the wind was the Law behind it!

In this sense, the Power of Law was very powerful.

To the Immortals, even one hint of the Power of Law was very precious!

Gu Changqing and Gu Yuan were even more embarrassed. They almost threw away the cups.

Such a precious thing would burn their hands!

“The expert is right over there, calm down. Everyone calm down!” Payne warned them both with a serious scoff. However, his voice was also trembling.

“Sect Master, if we keep drinking this tea, I’m afraid...” Gu Yuan gulped and felt his throat getting drier. He had goosebumps all over. “We can become Taiyi Golden Immortals?”

In the Immortal Land, there were Tian Immortal, Real Immortal, Golden Immortal, Taiyi Golden Immortal, Daluo Golden Immortal, Half-Saint, and Saint!

One needed Immortal Qi to rank up. However, there was a huge gap between the Taiyi Golden Immortal and Golden Immortal stages. Only when one had grasped the Law could one become a Taiyi Golden Immortal. One needed to grasp four Laws to become a Daluo Golden Immortal, while a Half-Saint needed more. If one became a Saint, he would be accustomed to the Law, and creating lives and beings would be a simple act.

Unfortunately, there were not many Taiyi Golden Immortals living in the limited and sacred grounds in the Immortal Land. Daluo Golden Immortals no longer existed.

The Fire Phoenix was born with the Law of Flame. As long as it did not give up halfway, it would easily become a Taiyi Golden Immortal.

Payne smiled and said, "Ha-ha, if you could stay by the expert's side, being a Taiyi Golden Immortal is not that hard."

They held onto their teacups tightly, so terrified to waste even one drop of it if their hands trembled. They treasured every last drop as they sipped it slowly.

Meanwhile, they were observing the expert's yard.

Payne looked around in admiration. He said, "I'm so envious of the treasures in here. Being by the expert's side is like being baptized by opportunities every day. These cannot be described as treasures anymore. They're way beyond that!"

Gu Yuan said with a sigh, "Being able to be seen by the expert is already the greatest opportunity in the world."

"Grandpa, Sect Master, look over there. That's the Air Purifier, and the Water Purifier." Gu Changqing pointed in one direction. "Haven't seen them before, eh? It can turn air into Spiritual Qi and the Water Purifier can turn ordinary water into Spiritual Water."

"It can turn stone into gold! These are very precious indeed!" Payne gasped and could not help looking at them closely.

Just like ordinary men seeing a luxurious car for the first time. They became so envious and excited.

These were top-graded treasures! They even had to be sealed for worship back in the Immortal land. Even the Taiyi Golden Immortals would treat these as treasures.

However, upon a closer look, he was stunned. His pupils dilated as if he had just seen a ghost!

He said in a low and hoarse voice, "You're telling me that's Spiritual Qi? Take a closer look!"

Gu Changqing and Gu Yuan jumped. They took a closer look.

Swiftly after, the two of them gasped. Their eyes almost popped out.

Gasp...

“Don’t you gasp! Be calm! Be calm!” Payne’s face was pale. He was trembling, terrified about pissing off the expert.

Gu Yuan said with a low voice in fear, “Immortal Qi? Sect Master, that... that’s...the Immortal Qi?”

No wonder they felt a unique Qi upon entering the yard. The density of Immortal Qi in the yard had gradually increased!

Gu Changqing was dumbfounded as he said in disbelief, “How could this be? I remember clearly that it was Spiritual Qi! A lot of cultivator friends can verify this!”

“I believe you,” Payne said with a flicker in his eyes. He then looked at the tea in his hand and continued, “Just like this tea. Didn’t you say it contained Insights? Now it has become specks of the Power of Law! If I’m not mistaken, the Water Purifier is no longer producing Spiritual Water. It’s now Immortal Water!”

Gu Yuan had goosebumps all over. He was extremely nervous at this point. “Sect Master, what do you think happened?”



“Have you forgotten that the world’s changing?” Payne said, his mind thinking quickly. He took in a deep breath and said with the utmost respect, “This shows that the yard’s possibly growing together with the world. Of course, it could also be the growth of this yard that resulted in the growth of the world! No matter which causes which, it’s a very, very, very shocking thing!”

Chapter 229: Issues Involving Life And Death

Gasp...

“I’m begging you to stop gasping already, just stop!” Payne’s scalp was already numb. He held on to his annoyance. “Stay calm, stay calm! Are you planning to drag me down with you?”

Gu Yuan said hastily, “Sect Master, what you said was too shocking. We couldn’t hold it in.”

“Sect Master, I think what you said wasn’t entirely correct,” Gu Changqing said suddenly, his eyes sparkling. After pausing for a moment, he continued, “Have you forgotten about the expert’s existence? Regardless if it was this four-part architecture or the rest of the world, their growth is all caused by the expert!”

Payne and Gu Yuan exchanged a look and nodded.

“What you just said makes sense.”

“You must be right.”

Meanwhile, a loud ring was heard. Li Nianfan stood up and smiled. “I’ve finished carving.”

The Fire Phoenix’s eyes sparkled. It turned into its human form and landed beside Li Nianfan with anticipation. “Show me.”

A lively carving of a phoenix laid in Li Nianfan’s hand. It was dark red and it was the size of his palm. Its head looked up. Be it the pose or the outline, it was unique like the phoenix itself.

Other than its outlook, the phoenix's eyes were carved uniquely. Somehow, a wave of Qi in the image of the sculpture appeared. It looked as if it was alive.

Li Nianfan was confident in his carving skills. He smiled, "What do you think?"

"Too...too beautiful!" The Fire Phoenix held the sculpture and was stunned by it. The look of delight on her face was impossible to conceal. The sculpture looked as if it was made for her, unable to separate from her.

She was extremely satisfied. She held it gently in her hands and caressed it.

She could not help mumbling, "Mr...Mr. Li, your carving's too good!"

Li Nianfan smiled humbly. "As long as you like it."

"I really like this sculpture, you may..."

The Fire Phoenix paused. She was going to use this opportunity to get closer to the expert. She was going to say he may ride her, but this seemed too soon and it did not sound like something a phoenix would say to an ordinary man.

She said, "You may request one thing from me."

It was so difficult to play along with the expert.

She took another look at the yard. There was an ordinary dog, an ordinary woman, a lighter. Everyone made it seem so easy!

"Really?" Li Nianfan's eyes sparkled. He said hastily, "Thank you!"

He knew when to be straightforward when meeting a bigshot. Only an idiot would turn down the offer.

Daji, who was by the side, saw the sculpture of the phoenix. Her eyes displayed her admiration. "Mr. Li, can you carve me one? I...I really want one, too."

"Ha-ha-ha! No problem! I'll make you one tomorrow!" Li Nianfan reached out and ruffled her head. "If my Daji wants one, I'll give you one."

Daji smiled, her eyes squinting. She was very delighted. "Yay! Thank you, Mr. Li."

With that, Li Nianfan looked at Gu Changqing and the other two.

When they saw Li Nianfan walking toward them, they straightened up their expressions and stood up nervously.

"Sit, everyone, sit. Why so polite?" Li Nianfan smiled. He said in a lowered voice, "Don't worry, the phoenix is easy to get along with. Don't be too nervous."

'The phoenix is easy to get along with?'

'That's only applicable to you.'

Their mouths twitched. They quickly acted along with him. "It's our first time meeting the legendary phoenix. What a delight! What a delight!"

Li Nianfan smiled. He asked curiously, "Mr. Gu, these two..."

Gu Changqing introduced, "Mr. Li, this is my Grandpa. His name's Gu Yuan. This is my Sect Master, Payne. He's the first generation Sect Master."

Grandpa?

Sect Master?

Li Nianfan jumped. He cried out with surprise, “Mr. Gu, are they...Immortals?”

Gu Changqing nodded, “To be honest with you, they descended from the Immortal Land not long ago.”

“They’re really Immortals!” Li Nianfan was very shocked. He stood up and made a greeting gesture, “Hello! Hello!”

Gu Yuan and Payne stood up and returned the gesture. “You’re too polite, Mr. Li. Immortals are just a slighter better sounding title. We’re just cultivators with higher cultivation.”

Still, these were Immortals! They were of the most sacred existence in his previous realm. Now, they were right in front of him! How unrealistic!

Luckily, he met the phoenix earlier. So, he could be calmer now and not too embarrassing.

Cultivators were so cool! A Sect Master, grandfather, grandson, and great-grandfather could all live at the same time! How messy!

However, his lifespan had just been extended by a thousand years. If he could make some babies with Daji, in a thousand years...sigh! What an embarrassing thought to have...

Anyway, the Immortals were still so friendly after Immortalizing. Their family was indeed very polite.

Li Nianfan’s thoughts were all over the place. He sighed, “Being able to Immortalize is so admirable!”

The three of them did not speak. They were unable to continue the conversation.

Who was admiring who? Be clear!

“Oh, right. Why bother bringing a gift? Just come alone next time. So many chickens! You’re so polite!”  
As he spoke, Li Nianfan turned to look at the Firefinch Demons.

Instantly, all the Firefinch Demons stood upright as if they were being examined. Meanwhile, they raised their buttocks and one after another, laid eggs in a row of six.

Looking at the six Firefinch Demons laying eggs so obediently, Gu Changqing and the other two felt mixed feelings.

The arrogant Firefinch Demons conformed to society after all. They would rather become chicken bootlickers.

Payne smiled and said, “Mr. Li, it’s just some chickens, it’s nothing. I was thinking how would one chicken be enough for you so I decided to bring five more. I hope you don’t mind.”

“Mr. Payne, you’re so polite!” Li Nianfan said. “To be honest, one chicken’s indeed not enough. Look at that chicken. It’s been so busy laying eggs lately, it even lost weight. You’re all so thoughtful!”

Payne was delighted. He smiled and said, “As long as Mr. Li likes it.”

Li Nianfan shook his head. Suddenly, he asked in a suspicious tone, “However, I’m merely an ordinary man. Why are you so kind to me? Is there something you need?”

He was suspicious. The cultivators visiting him still made sense as he had a good relationship with them. Now, even the cultivator’s Grandpa and Sect Master—who were Immortals from the Immortal Land—came to visit! This was strange.

Perhaps they looked up to his skills? Still, that seemed unlikely. They were Immortals after all.

Perhaps they came for the good food? That seemed unlikely, too.

Li Nianfan was merely asking, but to the three of them, it sounded like an explosion in their ears. Their minds went blank. They were dumbfounded.

‘What to do? What to do?’

Instantly, their backs were covered in cold sweat and their bodies were shaking uncontrollably.

How unwise! How unwise of them!

They were too excited to finally get to visit the expert, so they did not think it through. They did not have a reasonable excuse to visit him.

Unless they told him, ‘You’re a hidden expert and we came here to gain some opportunities.’

It was likely that before they could finish their sentence, the expert would probably have slapped them to death.

‘Since the expert likes living as an ordinary man and we came here uninvited, aren’t we disturbing the expert’s peace? The expert’s angry!’

A simple question had turned into a life or death situation!

Accompanying an expert was like accompanying a tiger. Very scary!

The three of them held their breaths. Their brains were spinning at the quickest speed. They wished they could use up all of their resources to think of a plan.

Think! Quick!

Their hearts almost jumped out of their chests. Meanwhile, Payne’s body jumped and there was a flash in his eyes. He was delighted.

He bit his tongue and went for it!

He said politely, "Mr. Li, actually we came here because of the 'Journey to the West' and the painting of the Golden Crow."

Li Nianfan was surprised. "Oh?"

Payne composed his thoughts and said, "To be honest, your story of 'Journey to the West' is so captivating. Especially all of the Gods and Demons in it. It really enlightened us and it showed us a whole new world. As for the Golden Crow, I've only read about it from readings of ancient times. That's why we decided to visit you."

Since the expert told them about these things, this showed that mentioning them was not taboo. Hopefully, using this as an excuse would not agitate the expert.

"I see," Li Nianfan nodded and fell silent.

Who would have thought that some Immortals became his fans?

However, he felt it was a little off.

If a phoenix existed in the Immortal Land, perhaps the Golden Crow existed, too! The stories he told them were made-up stories from the previous realm, but in this realm, it might as well be real! No matter if it was real or not, these stories would get the attention of the Immortals.

He overdid it!

He was going to keep a low profile and live a peaceful life. Would he lose this security after telling these stories?

Li Nianfan instinctively looked at the Fire Phoenix and relaxed a little.

He said, "Mr. Payne, these are merely stories. They're made-up, so don't take them too seriously."

Payne continued, "I was shocked after listening to these stories. Although Mr. Li's an ordinary man, your talent's far beyond an ordinary man's!"

"Thank you for your praise," Li Nianfan waved it off. He reiterated, "Please, do keep this as a secret between us."

Payne said, "Don't worry, everyone only knows that the 'Journey to the West' was written by a genius named Wu Cheng'en. Only a few of us know about the painting of the Golden Crow, and we don't talk much."

Gu Changqing and Gu Yuan nodded, "Exactly, we won't spread the news!"

The expert warned them not to, so of course, they would not tell!

"Good, good." Li Nianfan smiled. He said to Xiao Bai, "Xiao Bai, pour more tea for our guests, and bring us some fruits."

The three of them were delighted. They let out a sigh of relief.

Phew...

They passed the test!

And it seemed that the expert was pleased with their answers!

Gu Changqing and Gu Yuan had to give it to their Sect Master. No wonder he lived for more than ten thousand years. With such quick thinking, it would be easy!



If it was up to them, they would have knelt on their knees and begged the expert to forgive them!

## Chapter 230: The Arrival of Lord Demon God

Soon, Xiao Bai had cut a plate full of fruits and served it to them.

There were a few kinds of fruits. The colors were well-matched, making it look good.

Gu Changqing took a piece of orange and put it in his mouth. Instantly, the juices burst, complementing the sweetness of the fruit. It flirted with his taste buds, especially the sourness of the orange. Eating it was a delight.

They all shut their eyes at the same time, feeling the Law exuding from the orange. They were stunned.

All the fruits contained specks of the Law. Who would believe them even if they told the others?

Impossible to imagine! Unbelievable!

One had to know that even in the Immortal Land, one would have to risk their lives just to find something like this from the ancient porter unless one had been enlightened.

They were stunned, but they also felt sad.

Why were the fruits cut into pieces? How great would it be if they were complete pieces so they could take some home!

The expert served them tea and fruits. How filling!

If they were served these fine foods and were unable to stomach it all due to being full, it would drive them crazy!

How could their stomachs be so disappointing!

Feeling that their bonds were strengthening, Li Nianfan asked curiously, "Mr. Payne, what does the Immortal Land look like? Is there a Heavenly Temple?"

Payne smiled bitterly and shook his head. "No."

Li Nianfan paused. "Then who rules the Immortal Land?"

Payne explained, "Mr. Li, the Immortal Land isn't so different from the Immortal Realm. There are Sects, and the most powerful are the Five Sacred Lands. There's no leader."

Li Nianfan could not help shaking his head. "How embarrassing. Like I said, 'Journey to the West' is a made-up story. Yet, I couldn't help comparing the story to the actual thing. How embarrassing!"

"Actually, there is a Heavenly Temple."

The Fire Phoenix appeared next to them and took a seat. She put a piece of fruit into her mouth and frowned. "I have a vague piece of memory in my head. It seems that a Heavenly Temple did exist in ancient times."

Payne and the other two exchanged a look. They were shocked.

As expected, the Heavenly Temple existed! The expert kept claiming that the story was not real. Perhaps only the idiots would believe him.

He was...missing the Heavenly Temple from ancient times?

"The ancient times?" Li Nianfan frowned. So, it seemed they had archaeology in the Immortal Land.

He licked his lips and asked in anticipation, "Then, do you know if there are Spiritual Fruits that could turn an ordinary man into an Immortal?"

Any ordinary man would dream about becoming an Immortal! However, even if this fruit did exist, he would not be destined to obtain it. However, Li Nianfan was still curious and he merely wanted to know.

The three of them exchanged looks.

After a moment of thought, Gu Yuan asked, "Do you mean the Flat Peach from 'Journey to the West'? I haven't heard of this in the Immortal Land."

The Fire Phoenix spoke again, "Back in the ancient Immortal Land, it was indeed possible to turn an ordinary man into an Immortal. However, it seems impossible now."

One needed Spiritual Roots to achieve something like that. Spiritual Root was extremely precious! Now, they were all extinct.

She secretly glanced around at the backyard. The expert's backyard was filled with Spiritual Roots. However, they were merely man-made Spiritual Roots. Under the expert's green thumb, they seemed to be changing.

Spiritual Roots were able to evolve? If she did not see it with her own eyes, the Fire Phoenix would not have believed it!

This expert seemed to have capabilities way beyond Heaven!

"In ancient times again?" Li Nianfan was disappointed. "The Immortal Land's going backward?"

Payne smiled bitterly and shook his head. "Mr. Li, compared to the ancient times, the Immortal Land has deteriorated a lot. It seems impossible for us to return to the glory days of the ancient times."

“The sun comes up and will go down, the moon will crescent once it’s full. Too much water will drown the miller. When things reach its peak, it will start going backward.” Li Nianfan sighed. “This saying is indeed applicable everywhere. It truly is the rule of all lives.”

It seemed that it was about time to let go of his dream of becoming an Immortal. Sigh.

His audience’s head buzzed. They felt goosebumps all over as if they had just been awakened from a deep sleep with loud bells.

Payne said sincerely, “Those eleven simple words precisely stated the Law of the world. Mr. Li’s indeed an admirable genius.”

Being cultured was indeed a well-cherished skill everywhere.

“Thank you, it’s nothing. You guys sealed the Kraken and saved the people—that’s admirable.” Li Nianfan smiled and continued, “Things will go backward from the peak, things will improve from the bottom. I believe that as long as you don’t give up, glory will return one day.”

Payne nodded, “Hopefully so.”

Meanwhile, he saw something from the corner of his eyes that made him jump.

He saw that Xiao Bai was sweeping the ground, clearing up the wood shavings left from Li Nianfan’s carving.

Due to his refined skills, the shavings on the ground were quite complete. They were long wooden strips that looked rather regular.

Of course, that was nothing. The key was that...these were Spiritual Roots!

Payne could not believe his eyes. Even his organs were trembling. He wished he could glue his eyes on them.

Although they were merely wooden shavings, they were pieces of Spiritual Roots—the most precious material in the world! It was way more precious than Immortal Items!

Yet, they were being swept away like rubbish.

He could not help asking, “Mr. Li...what are you planning to do with all those shavings?”

Li Nianfan said simply, “It’s rubbish, so of course, I’m throwing them away.”

Payne took a deep breath. His heart was about to jump out of his chest as he said, trembling, “Mr. Li, we’re about to leave anyway. Why don’t we help you bring the trash out?”

After saying that, it seemed as if he had used up all the energy in his body. His four limbs had gone soft.

“That...” Li Nianfan halted. “Would it be too much of a trouble?”

Payne waved it off. “Not at all, not at all! It’s nothing!”

“Alright, then. Thank you.” Li Nianfan nodded.

Payne almost cried out with excitement. He held the shavings with his trembling hands. “Mr. Li, sorry for disturbing you today. Goodbye for now.”

“Alright, goodbye.”

...

Upon walking out of the four-part architecture, Payne looked at the shavings in his hands as if he was dreaming.

He took another look to make sure that it was indeed Spiritual Roots!

These had gone extinct in the Immortal Land!

According to the legend, Spiritual Roots contained the Law. They had the energy that other treasures did not have. He wondered what energy did this Spiritual Root have.

Payne sighed and said with the utmost respect, "What kind of existence is this! Even Spiritual Roots are just rubbish to him! I've lived twenty-six thousand years and even the greatest dream I've had isn't as outrageous as this."

Gu Yuan said suddenly, "Sect Master, I don't mean to attack you but I didn't think we would get the Spiritual Root so easily."

Payne was stunned for a moment. He then sighed and said, "Of course, I know. Every word the expert said was full of clues. If I'm not able to catch them, I would've been living all these years for nothing."

Gu Yuan gulped as he said nervously, "Sect Master, the expert seemed to be nostalgic about the ancient times. Does he want to...bring back glory to the Immortal Land?"

"Very likely. He asked how the Immortal Land was doing and when he learned that the Heavenly Temple no longer existed, he was obviously disappointed," Payne nodded. He continued, "The bridge between here and the Immortal Land has been reconnected. It shows that the expert's plan has started. Also, you're not able to see it clearly but the pressure I feel is way heavier than you think."

Gu Yuan and Gu Changqing were stunned. "What do you mean?"

"The Spiritual Item that can turn an ordinary man into an Immortal!" Payne sighed. "Since the expert mentioned it, it's obvious that he wants it! Experts like him will never clearly state what they want. They would only hint at it. It seemed as if he was asking about the Immortal Land, but there were other meanings implied. What's the point of cultivation if we can't even catch what the expert implied?"

Higher-ranking people always liked to play dumb.

For example, back in the day if an Emperor went out for a walk and saw a woman he fancied, it would sound distasteful if he said, “Wow, this chick is not bad at all. Bring her home for me!”

The Emperor would have become a rogue.

Instead, he would find out more about the people around her and their habits. If one could not understand the truth in this, it would be over.

The skill of bootlicking was secondary compared to being able to read the bigshot’s thinking.

Gu Changqing said, “If you say so. The expert mentioned the sealing of the Kraken. Was he implying the demons?”

“That’s for sure. If he wants to restore the Immortal Land to its glory like in the ancient times, the demons are the biggest obstacles,” Payne nodded. “However, since the expert intentionally brought it up, it’s likely that something happened. We’ll investigate further once we get back.”

Gu Yuan said with a serious face, “The demons are indeed running wild these days. The expert likes being an ordinary man, so he won’t settle it himself. We’re his best chess pieces.”

...

The Land of the Southern Barbarians was originally an empty land without many towns. The Sects here were also very limited.

Nowadays, it was like a ghost town. Those who could leave had already run away.

Most of the towns of ordinary men had fallen to the demons. Even the surrounding Sects had been taken over by them.

On a tall mountain, the leader had an ax in his hand. He gradually walked forward with an evil look. He looked arrogant and powerful.

Not far ahead of him were eight demons dressed in black robes.

The eight of them surrounded a gigantic sculpture in the middle. There was some strange talisman drawn on the ground. Blood was spinning from within it.

This tall mountain originally belonged to a Sect. However, the cultivators were all killed by now.

A man in black robes said in a hoarse voice, "We're ready, we can start summoning our Lord Demon God now."

The leader walked forward slowly. He placed his ax in front of the sculpture and then knelt on one knee. "Killing one man's a crime, killing ten thousand men makes one a hero. This ax is tainted by the blood of a thousand men. I, Tu Jiu, am willing to be your slave, to work under the lead of the Lord Demon God!"

Bam!

Behind him, countless soldiers knelt on their knees at the same time. "We're the slaves to the Lord Demon God. We welcome you!"

The eight men in black cast a spell. As they raised their hands, black smoke rushed out from their body toward the sculpture.

The black smoke boiled and surrounded the sculpture, shrinking and expanding.

It was as if the sculpture was breathing. Very eerie.

It did not take long before the stone sculpture turned black. Finally, it became as black as ink, sending chills through everyone's body.



The black smoke was boiling and eventually formed a swirl, turning the world black.

Crack!

The sculpture suddenly cracked open. It was followed by wild black smoke rushing into it.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

The crack was expanding rapidly. Finally, it spread across the entire sculpture. During the final moments, along with a loud 'vroom', the sculpture turned into power.

However, the black smoke did not dissipate. Instead, it gathered wildly on the same spot before it finally condensed into the shape of a human!

This was a strongly built man, dressed in black armor with two erected barbs. As he moved, his armor made a ringing sound, exuding a shocking temperament. Very aggressive.

He was laughing unstoppably and his eyes were filled with excitement. "Ha-ha-ha! The first to arrive in this ordinary realm is none other than I, Amon! Who's able to stop me in this ordinary realm?"

He took a deep breath of the ordinary air and let out a look of indulgence.

Swiftly after, he glanced around. He reached out with his hand and his ax flew into his grip. The black smoke in the air rushed toward the ax.

"You're Tu Jiu, right? As long as you can rule this ordinary realm for the Lord Demon King, you can become the Human Sovereign. You won't be able to die or be destroyed!" Amon handed him the ax. "We can't reason much with the ordinary men, so we can't be too direct with them. This ax will absorb murderous energy, so you'll never get tired on the battlefield!"

Tu Jiu was delighted. He said hastily, "Thank you for your kindness, my lord. With this ax, I'll be undefeatable in this realm!"

“Very well!” Amon’s eyes flashed red. “As of the cultivators in the ordinary realm, leave them to us! Oh, right. There’s Yuecha, Gusin, and Backo. Once I discover where they’re sealed, we’ll let them all out! Soon, the demons will take over this realm! Those who oblige will succeed and those who’re against me will die!”