

Bigshot 231

Chapter 231: Rare Sight of the Clear Moon Lake, War Begins

At the Above Immortal Realm.

There was a majestic palace on top of the Immortal Mountain.

It seemed to be emitting golden light from within. It was magical.

There were clouds around the palace. Immortals flew by from time to time, riding on clouds. It looked like a painting of Heaven.

A middle-aged man in gold robes was sitting at the center of the palace.

He had deep and mysterious eyes. He looked mighty without even trying.

He said, "Recently, a lot of things have been happening in the Immortal Realm. Even the Above Immortal Realm has been affected. Have you figured out why?"

A woman in a palace dress stepped forward and said, "Lord Immortal, according to sources, the changes in the Immortal Realm happened about two months ago. At that time, an Immortal named Liu Kuang was mysteriously killed. His body fell to the Immortal Realm! Another Immortal tried to reclaim Liu Kuang's body but was stopped. He failed to take back the dead body!"

The middle-aged man was intrigued. "Oh? Really?! Is there an Immortal in the Immortal Realm?"

The woman nodded. "Indeed so, but we're unsure if the Immortal was born in the Immortal Realm or came from the Above Immortal Realm."

“At that time the bridge between mortal and immortality wasn’t connected. I couldn’t go to the Immortal Realm, so it’s impossible!” The middle-aged man shook his head and frowned. “As for being born in the Immortal Realm... It’s also impossible! The only possibility is that they stayed in the Immortal Realm before the bridge was broken!”

“Smart, Lord Immortal. It’s indeed possible.” The woman looked like she was enlightened. Then, she said, “It seems like the bridge to Immortality started to reconnect after this person appeared. Not long after, the Human Sovereign appeared and it completely reconnected!”

The middle-aged man took a deep breath. “Who would’ve thought that a Human Sovereign would be reborn after a hundred thousand years! Who’s making moves in the Immortal Realm?”

The woman groaned for a moment and said, “Lord Immortal, there’s something very important, too. The Phoenix from the Eastside Immortal Forest appears to be...in the Immortal Realm!”

The middle-aged man frowned. It was too unusual!

He looked at the woman. “You’ve neglected something. Didn’t you realize? The bridge to immortality has been reconnected, but the Immortal Qi in the Above Immortal Realm hasn’t decreased!”

Yikes!

The woman jumped. “How... How’s this possible?”

“The Immortal Realm has gone through an enormous change! This is huge!”

The middle-aged man looked like he was thinking. “The Above Immortal Realm, the Immortal Realm, and the Demon Realm. Are the three main realms going to interact with each other? Is it the laws of nature or is someone changing the laws of nature? Interesting, truly interesting!”

“Lord Immortal, what should we do?”

“The Immortal Realm is too troubling. Let’s not do anything reckless yet. Since we know the source of the changes, we should investigate that first! As for the death of Liu Kuang, find out what happened from his sect. Check in with his related sect in the Immortal Realm, too! And keep track of the Phoenix!”

The middle-aged man licked his lips and said, “The world is changing and Luck is all over the place. The benefits must be ours!”

...

At the four-part architecture.

Daji stood next to a chair with her arms crossed. Her hair was up in a bun and she was smiling.

The gentle breeze blew on her hair and her dress. Li Nianfan thought she would be gone with the wind.

Li Nianfan put his chisel aside and smiled. “It’s done! Daji, come over here and look.”

Daji happily walked over.

She held the statue with joy in her eyes as she said, “You’re so nice to me!”

“As long as you like it. It’s only the two of us. Who should I be nice to if not you?” Li Nianfan smiled and asked, “Oh yeah, why did you have to choose this posture? There are more comfortable positions.”

Daji would be absolutely stunning if she posed like a sexy model.

Daji said, “How about I make a statue for you, too? You should sit on the bench. Since I’m standing, we can put our statues together and it’ll look like I’m serving you.”

“Daji, you...” Li Nianfan was suddenly touched by how sweet she was being. The pretty lady wanted to stay with him as his servant. Anyone would be touched.

How did that happen?

A lady like that would never exist in the past realm, not even in his dreams.

Li Nianfan took a deep breath and said, "I told you. We're equals. Stop trying to be my servant."

The Fire Phoenix pouted by the side.

Truly a fox demon. Her methods of seducing a man were fascinating.

However, she was acting like an ordinary human, so the expert could not ride her. It was different for the Phoenix. Her usefulness would be greater to the expert. He would be more pleased with her.

Li Nianfan was in a good mood. He smiled and said, "Daji, let's go. Let me take you to the Fallen Town."

"Yeah." Daji nodded obediently and carefully put the statue aside.

The Fire Phoenix suddenly said, "A town? I want to check it out, too."

Li Nianfan looked at the Fire Phoenix and awkwardly said, "Your appearance would cause trouble."

The Fire Phoenix looked calm. Sparks went off and she suddenly transformed into a small red bird. She landed on his shoulders and said, "How about this?"

"Okay." Li Nianfan was slightly baffled. He envied her at the same time.

You could do anything with great powers. He was finally in the Immortal Realm but could only rely on others to live. What a failure.

The human-bird trio went down the mountain.

Soon, they arrived at the Fallen Town.

Li Nianfan was surprised. "So crowded."

The Fallen Town was busier than ever. There were a lot of sellers and visitors. They all looked like they were used to traveling around.

There were a lot of new faces at the Fallen Town that day.

Did something happen?

The best way to find out was to visit the market. Li Nianfan was familiar with the place, and he quickly found the fishmonger at a corner.

However, he was not alone. There was a little girl next to him. It was Little Fish. She squatted and played with the fishes.

The fishmonger saw Li Nianfan and immediately smiled. "Mr. Li."

Little Fish looked up and said in a sweet voice, "Hello, brother."

She noticed the little red bird on his shoulder. She looked curious.

Li Nianfan smiled and asked, "Fishmonger, how's business?"

The fishmonger looked happy. He said, "Thanks to you, Mr. Li, we've been earning quite a bit recently."

"Oh? Congratulations then," said Li Nianfan genuinely.

As expected, Li Nianfan did not need to ask anything. The fishmonger ran his mouth about all the events that had happened recently.

“Mr. Li, you don’t know about this. Recently at the Clear Moon Lake, there have been big fishes everywhere. A lot of big carps! I got a lot of fish with my fishnet!”

The fishmonger was excited. Then, he mysteriously said, “A lot of people said that it was because of the Dragon King. Rituals to worship the Dragon King were happening by the lakeside.”

Li Nianfan said in a weird tone, “Really?”

“I know, right? I was shocked as well. It almost felt like the fish were bad omens.” The fishmonger continued, “Mr. Li, you should try your luck at the Clear Moon Lake. For your fishing skills, you’d gain a lot for sure!”

“Sure, the next time I’m free,” Li Nianfan said. He continued, “The Fallen Town seems to be getting a lot more visitors lately.”

The Fishmonger sighed. “It’s chaos out there. Only a few places are safe. A lot of people come here for refuge.”

Li Nianfan slightly raised his eyebrows. “It’s not a war, right?”

“It’s definitely a war!” The fishmonger was slightly helpless. “I heard the war started from the Southern borders. Those Southern brutes worship some kind of demonic cult and there’s no reasoning with them. They’re very violent.”

“Demonic religion?”

Li Nianfan was taken aback. Then, he remembered the demons he met at the Xia Kingdom. He looked like he realized something.

It seemed like Zhou Yunwu got busy.

"I heard that the Southern brutes made their way out of the South quickly. There were a lot of destroyed cities. I wonder if any cities remain." The fishmonger looked worried.

Li Nianfan asked, "Fishmonger, isn't it a good thing for an ordinary human to rule the realm?"

"It's good, but not the Southern brutes!" The fishmonger said, "Those people are violent and they treat women like objects. I heard that they even traffic women. If they fought their way here, what then? What about Little Fish?"

"I would have joined the army if it wasn't for my wife and my daughter."

Li Nianfan nodded. His impression of the demon preachers was that they were something like a cult. it was not good at all.

He looked at the stall and said, "Fishmonger, your fishes are big. I'll take these two sea basses."

"Alright!"

The fishmonger efficiently packed the fish and gave it to Li Nianfan. He did not accept the silver.

He waved it away and said, "Mr. Li, you gave Little Fish a saddled bichir last time. It'll be embarrassing for me to accept payment, right?"

"Thanks a lot," Li Nianfan smiled and said. "See you next time, Little Fish."

"Goodbye, brother."

They walked out of the market. Li Nianfan walked for a while and saw a stall in front of him. Armored soldiers were guarding it. Three soldiers sat at the stall. They were in charge of registration.

It was an army recruit stall.

Li Nianfan was familiar with the soldier in the middle. He was the bodyguard who stood behind Zhou Yunwu that day.

Hundreds of people were gathered behind him. They were all signing up for the army.

Maybe their loved ones were harmed, maybe they were forced to, or maybe they wanted to contribute. Whatever the reasons were, Li Nianfan respected them.

He would never dare to join the army. He would avoid it at all costs.

Li Nianfan groaned for a moment and walked over.

He looked at the benefits of joining the army. It was pretty good—a place to live, free food, and payment that was 1.5 times more than the wages of an average male. They even had insurance benefits if they died in battle. Only one requirement—a hard worker.

“Name, age, health conditions, previous occupations.”

The bodyguard felt somebody scoot over. He looked pleased and asked for the four basic information for the registration procedures.

He noticed that the person did not reply, so he looked up.

The bodyguard’s eyes widened in shock. He frantically stood up and said respectfully, “Mr. Li, it’s you!”

Chapter 232: Mr. Li’s Answer, Too Deep

Li Nianfan saluted. He smiled and said, "Hello. I don't think I know your name yet, General."

"Mr. Li, my name is Rich," said Rich respectfully.

He was kind of nervous. The expert was someone the King deemed important. The King planned for him to set up his recruitment post near the expert as he was worried that someone reckless would offend him.

Rich?

What a nice name. He was also a muscular general. He looked like a prosperous soldier.

Li Nianfan laughed. "Nice name."

"Mr. Li, your plan to save the people was brilliant. If it were me, I never would've been able to think of something like that," said Rich genuinely.

He was an unsophisticated person—great in battle but clueless in scheming. He was deeply impressed by the imaginative expert.

"I only provided guidance. The details of the process were all executed by your King." Li Nianfan shook his head and asked, "How's the war?"

"Not good."

Rich looked around and sighed. He said quietly, "The Southern brutes are genetically strong. They're forces to be reckoned with and they're unstoppable!"

Li Nianfan's expression changed slightly. "Not even once?"

“It’d be alright if we manage to stop them even once, but no!” Rich looked troubled. “This can’t be delayed any longer. The King gave orders to recruit more soldiers so we can stop the Southern brutes.”

It had to be dealt with in one go. As the saying went, ‘Failing once is confidence lost forever.’

If the Southern brutes continued to win, it would only unite their army even further. Their opponents would be more pressured. If they could be stopped once, they could tear down their confidence.

Rich told him, “Mr. Li, apart from the ordinary people, a lot of cultivation sects were defeated, too.”

“Is it the deeds of the demons?” asked Li Nianfan.

He knew that the demons were trying to fight against the cultivators. That demon seal incident at the Azure Ville was probably related to the demons, too.

To summarize, Immortals belonged in the Above Immortal Realm and demons belonged in the Demon Realm down below. They did not get along with each other.

“It’s them!” Rich was slightly angry. “How dare they?!”

Li Nianfan frowned. He was slightly panicking.

Looking at the signs, were they going to have a war between Immortals and Demons?

If that was true, he would be useless as an ordinary man. He was not even good enough to be ammo. He could die in random ways.

He finally had a thousand-year lifespan. It would be a shame to die out of the blue!

Li Nianfan looked at the little red bird on his shoulder. He had to be a bootlicker, and he had to lick it clean!

He groaned for a moment and noticed the saber sword on Rich. He said, "General Rich, may I look at your saber sword?"

Rich handed it to him without hesitation. "Here you go, Mr. Li."

Swoosh!

Li Nianfan pulled out the sword and roughly glanced at it. Then, he frowned.

Rich needed some sort of status. His weapon should not be a low-grade sword, yet his current sword was slightly bent and the blade was damaged.

Li Nianfan could instantly tell that the sword was mainly made of iron.

The crafting was rough. It could be greatly improved.

He had a good relationship with Zhou Yunwu and the demons were the evil kind. He should help them out.

Li Nianfan asked, "General Rich, do you trust me? This sword can be stronger and sharper!"

"Really?" Rich was intrigued. He did not doubt it at all and he quickly said, "Mr. Li, you're an awesome man. Of course, I trust you!"

"Follow me then."

Rich hurriedly ordered his soldiers, "Get the nearby blacksmiths!"

Li Nianfan secretly complimented him. The General was a leader that was attentive to details.

Meanwhile, at a tower in the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty.

It was far from Fallen Town, but as cultivators, they could see the entire town from that tower.

The Holy Emperor, Zhong Xiu, and Luo Shiyu were standing on top of the tower. Someone was standing behind them.

That person was surrounded by dark mist and he had red eyes.

“Holy Emperor, I know you participated in the Liu Family wipe out. Tell me, who’s the Immortal living in the Immortal Realm? Is he related to the changes of the realm?”

The Holy Emperor looked pale. He stared at that person and said, “Who are you? Did you come from... The Above Immortal Realm?”

“That’s right! This is one of my figures. It’s as decent as an Immortal.”

That person smirked. “This is a big deal. You’re just a cultivator, you don’t need to guard this secret to your grave. Don’t say I didn’t give you a chance. I might even spare your family. Otherwise, I’ll let my grandchildren kill your wife and your daughter in front of you! It’ll be gory!”

They realized that there were small black mosquitoes on their necks. They had tiny, long proboscises with red eyes. They looked terrifying.

The mosquitoes were excited and lusted for fresh blood.

“No way, I won’t tell you!”

The Holy Emperor sneered, “I’m indeed just a small cultivator, but I’m not afraid to tell you this—you’re also an insect in front of the expert! Let me warn you. You shouldn’t offend the expert!”

“Haha, an ant wants to test my capabilities? He’s just an Immortal that slipped into the Immortal Realm. I wouldn’t even be interested if he wasn’t related to the changes of the realm.” That person could not stop laughing. It was as if he had heard the funniest joke. Then, he suddenly stopped. “Fine!”

The Holy Emperor and the others looked down from the tower. Their expressions changed into excitement and devotion.

That person arched his eyebrow and looked at what they were looking at, too.

A lot of people were gathered there, but the star of the gathering was an ordinary young guy.

He observed quietly.

Li Nianfan was at the blacksmiths. He greeted, “Owner Feng.”

The owner was a middle-aged man. He was forging a piece of metal. He smiled at Li Nianfan and greeted, “Mr. Li.”

Some young people were working in the store, too.

They were slightly nervous when they saw Li Nianfan walk in with soldiers.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “Owner Feng, can I borrow your furnace?”

“No problem.” Owner Feng put his task at hand aside. He asked out of curiosity, “Mr. Li, you know how to forge?”

“A little bit.”

Owner Feng was amazed. “Awesome, Mr. Li. You surely know everything for an ordinary man!”

Ha, what a good compliment.

Li Nianfan observed the long sword then tossed it in the furnace to melt it.

Steel was formed by a mixture of iron and carbon. The heating process was to mix in the carbon, also known as the process of forging.

The sword was softened from smelting. Li Nianfan took the hammer at the side and hit it.

Clang!

It molded the shape at the same time. It was not that different from the usual forging process.

Li Nianfan hit it for a while then took the liquid at the side and poured it on the sword.

The surrounding blacksmiths had a change in their faces. Owner Feng reminded, “Mr. Li, this is cast iron.”

The cast iron was in liquid form. It was high in carbon and other substances.

“I know.” Li Nianfan continued to hit the sword while he explained, “This method is known as steel infusion! It’s to infuse cast iron and wrought iron together!

“Cast iron contains more carbon, wrought iron has more oxidation properties. The oxygen in wrought iron can oxidize the silicon, manganese, and carbon in the cast iron. This creates a boiling point and it helps get rid of the unwanted substances.”

It was a chemical reaction. However, no one around understood it.

They all looked like they heard something terrific but did not get it.

As for Rich, he took out a piece of paper and scribbled on it. He frowned and asked, “Mr. Li, could you repeat that? Did I spell ‘carton’ correctly?”

This was a mission assigned by the King. He had to take notes of whatever the expert said, even if he did not understand it. He was tasked to bring back the golden advice and study it with the others.

Li Nianfan ignored him. He kept forging.

Clang!

The hammer was heavy but Li Nianfan made it seem so light and weightless. It was as if he had some form of rhythm.

Sparks were flying. He looked utterly graceful.

The Fire Phoenix observed at the side with amazement.

She knew Li Nianfan was incredible, but she did not expect him to also know how to forge. He was perfect at it, too. It was as if the forging sounds contained the Basics of Wisdom.

It was like...the realm was performing a tune with him.

Also, she did not expect that she would not be able to understand what Li Nianfan said.

It meant that the information was beyond her and she did not even deserve to know it.

“Huh?”

That person looked oddly at Li Nianfan from the tower. "He's got an outstanding understanding. It's impossible that he's ordinary!"

He looked at the Holy Emperor and others and sneered as he asked, "Is that the expert?"

The Holy Emperor remained expressionless. He calmly shook his head and said, "It's not."

That person mockingly chuckled. "We'll find out!"

That person leaped out from the tower in a black flash. He transformed into a black mosquito and flew toward Li Nianfan.

He had menacing eyes.

If that person was an Immortal who was familiar with Dao, he could suck his blood and destroy his figure. If that person turned out to be just an ordinary man, there was no downside to that either because he could just kill him.

Clang!

The sword started to mold after each hit.

Li Nianfan said, "There's a step that you guys constantly forget, but...it's crucial! The step is called quenching!"

He dipped the sword into a tankful of water as soon as he said it.

Sizzle—

There was a lot of steam. The water was boiling.

“Quenching can make weapons soft and malleable.”

Li Nianfan took the long sword out from the water, and gently pulled on the blade. The blade curved!

He wiped the blade with a cloth. Suddenly... a shine started to appear again. It was blindingly bright!

Li Nianfan smiled and passed the sword to Rich. “General Rich, are you satisfied with the sword?”

“Good sword! It’s a nice sword!”

Rich was astounded. He stared at the sword, feeling almost frantic.

A sword was sort of like a brother to a general.

The surrounding blacksmiths were shocked and in disbelief. It turned their knowledge upside down.
“How?”

Owner Feng hurriedly took out a sword from their store and said, “General, try using the sword on this.”

Rich nodded, took a deep breath, and held the sword up high.

Clang! Owner Feng’s sword was snapped in half!

Yikes!

Everyone gasped. He only changed a bit of the forging process but he achieved a new material.

“Mr. Li, this...” Owner Feng looked at Li Nianfan. He was too astounded to speak.

“Nice sword, nice sword!”

“Legend. Mr. Li’s a true legend.”

“Legendary, it’s a legendary skill!”

Even Daji and the Fire Phoenix were stunned.

The swords alone could not impress them. However, the way it was improved was too powerful. The ingredients were the most ordinary materials, yet he improved it so much just by tweaking the forging process.

Immortals had great alchemy skills, but this ordinary man could do it, too!

Was this what they called a bigshot? How mysterious of him!

It must be related to The Answer!

Sigh, too bad none of them understood him when he spoke. Especially ‘carton’. What did it mean?

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “You don’t have to understand the science behind it. All you need to know is that the weapons will be more solid and sharp this way. The elasticity would be better, too.”

Rich was flushed from excitement. He was trembling all over.

Finally, he knelt on one knee in front of Li Nianfan. “Mr. Li, you’ve blessed thousands of soldiers! On behalf of all the soldiers, I thank you!”

Plop!

All the soldiers behind him knelt, too. They looked at Li Nianfan with sincerity and gratefulness in their eyes.

Li Nianfan quickly helped Rich up. He said, "General Rich, you're so courteous. I'm helping myself while helping you guys. I can live in peace if you win the battle."

Rich immediately said, "Don't worry, Mr. Li. I won't let you down with this sword!"

Buzz.

Li Nianfan could hear a small buzz near his ear.

Then, he felt a tingle on his neck. Something landed there.

He frowned and slapped his neck. Then, he pinched it. It was a huge mosquito.

"What a big mosquito!" He was shocked. The Immortal Realm had such big mosquitoes. It was about the size of a thumb.

The mosquito looked confused. It was so confounded with the fact that it was captured. It struggled like crazy with all its might, trying to escape.

However, it realized its power had disappeared completely!

This was not the scariest part. The most horrifying thing was...its power source was forcefully transferred!

This was initially just one of his figures. Even if he died, he would just have to cut some losses. Therefore, he was very daring.

However, its original power source had unknowingly transferred to this mosquito figure.

Which meant that its figure was now solidified. If it died in this state, it would be dead for real!

How... How was this possible?!

Who was he exactly? How could he do that?

Why was this happening?

Pitiful, helpless, and desperate.

It could not believe it. It wanted to question him, it wanted to beg for mercy, but no words came out.

It seemed like it had become an ordinary mosquito.

All of a sudden, it remembered what the Holy Emperor said. It was just an insect in front of the expert!

It was all too late.

"I don't like mosquitos."

Slap.

Li Nianfan casually slapped his hands together and ended the ugly life of the mosquito.

Chapter 233: Dark Forces

The dead mosquito peacefully fell to the ground.

The Fire Phoenix and Daji were baffled at that mosquito.

The mosquito was not ordinary. It was a figure—hard to notice because of its stealthy powers. Plus, they were too distracted and shocked by Li Nianfan, so they did not notice it at first.

When they finally noticed it, it was too late. They could not attack it while it was on Li Nianfan.

They looked at the dead mosquito and their eyes widened.

How...

The mosquito was dead as expected, but... It was not just the figure that had been destroyed—it was the real person!

That was too scary!

Figure incarnation was a skill of high-level cultivators. The mosquito was one of the figures, which meant the cultivator was probably gifted and could produce a lot more figures. As long as one of the figures was still alive, they would never be dead.

However... They could clearly feel that the original power source of the mosquito had been forcefully transferred. The main cultivator was dead!

Li Nianfan even gently pinched it as if it was just a normal mosquito.

The sight of that—

Too terrifying. Something that had never been done before!

Immortals would be scared soulless at that.

Was this the power of a bigshot?

No, powerful was an understatement.

The Holy Emperor and the others did not see it up close. They only watched the mosquito going up to the expert from afar. Then, the expert simply slapped it dead.

It was kind of unreal.

What did it say? Something about how it was an Immortal?

‘How useless. Told you that you’d be just an insect. Why didn’t you believe us? Look at you, slapped dead as a mosquito.’

The three mosquitoes on their necks were petrified. They went stiff and blank. They could not believe what they were seeing.

They were threateningly powerful previously, but then they saw their God slapped dead so easily?

The visual impact stopped their minds from working. They could not handle it.

How could someone so terrifying exist?

Slap!

The Holy Emperor and the others slapped them at the same time, releasing the three hysterical mosquitoes from their suffering.

“A puny mosquito dares to suck Mr. Li’s blood? Good riddance!”

Rich casually stomped on the dead mosquito. He said respectfully, “Mr. Li, I have the utmost respect and admiration for you. If any idiot dares to insult you in the future, please, come to me directly. I’ll handle it! I won’t let anyone slide, not even mosquitoes!”

A soldier behind him said sincerely, “That’s right, Mr. Li. If anyone dares bully you, our General will be the first to object it!”

Li Nianfan laughed. He saluted them and said, “Haha, thanks a lot, bros.”

Rich said with a slightly apologetic tone, “Mr. Li, your knowledge is far too important. I have to hurry back with it. Sorry about that.”

“Nevermind, go,” nodded Li Nianfan.

Rich looked at the blacksmiths and said politely, “Everyone, I have a request. Could you come with me to the Xia Kingdom? We need to pass on the knowledge of forging. Please.”

Owner Feng and the others were cooperative. They immediately accepted, “No problem, of course.”

“We have to rely on you to stop the Southern brutes. Work hard on that!”

Then, everyone simply packed and they were ready to go.

Rich told Li Nianfan, “Mr. Li, farewell.”

Li Nianfan saluted and said, “Take care, General Rich. I hope you succeed. See you....next time!”

For a soldier, 'see you next time' was the best phrase to use.

"Mr. Li, take care!" said Rich. Then, he yelled, "Let's go!"

Tap tap!

Li Nianfan stood there and watched as the others left. He felt sentimental.

Suddenly, he saw the Holy Emperor and the others walking over from afar.

They quickly walked over to Li Nianfan with smiles on their faces. They greeted, "Mr. Li, did you come to the Fallen Town for a fun trip?"

Li Nianfan smiled and nodded. "It's you guys. Greetings to the Holy Emperor and Lady Luo."

"Mr. Li, your talents are impressive. The improvements on the weapons are directly beneficial to the frontliners at war. You've helped the people greatly," complimented the Holy Emperor from the bottom of his heart.

A bigshot was still a bigshot even as an 'ordinary man'. He was far more superior than a cultivator.

"That's an overstatement. I only tried my best to help." Li Nianfan looked worried as he asked, "Are the demons that good? Not even the cultivators could stop them?"

"It's not looking good so far. The demons have become powerful in a short amount of time. The expansion of their army means more powerful beings. As for us..."

The Holy Emperor sighed heavily and said, "The Immortal Realm has been on a downhill slope for a long time because of the broken bridge to immortality. I'm not sure if we'll even have backup."

It seemed like a war between Demons and Immortals was going to happen!

Li Nianfan was worried. He asked, "Holy Emperor, will they attack us here?"

The Holy Emperor looked determined as he said, "Don't worry, Mr. Li. I won't let that happen."

That was not the answer Li Nianfan was looking for.

Based on the reaction of the Holy Emperor, the situation was not good.

The Southern brutes fought their way from the far South. The South borders and North borders were separated by the Clear Moon Lake. As the Southern brutes were powerful, the North border probably could not hold on much longer. They would definitely get attacked.

The first place in the Northside was the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty.

Dangerous!

Li Nianfan was considering moving away.

He dazedly chatted with the Holy Emperor for a while then he said goodbye and left.

Li Nianfan walked out of the Fallen Town. He looked at the little red bird on his shoulder and asked, "Goddess Fire Phoenix, if you protect me, can you save me?"

The Fire Phoenix glanced sideways at Li Nianfan. She did not want to answer that question.

'Do you even know who you just slapped to death? Me? Protect you?'

He was asking for a beginner to protect a master. How could he say that?

She said, "I, Fire Phoenix, can protect you."

Li Nianfan instantly felt relieved. He was confident in the Fire Phoenix. It should be okay since she promised him.

She was the one who said he could ask for something, right? He could depend on her!

At the Fallen Town.

The Holy Emperor and the others watched Li Nianfan leave. They were deep in thought.

The expert was obviously hinting.

The Holy Emperor suddenly asked, "Shiyu, did you get it?"

"I got it," Luo Shiyu nodded and said with determination. "I'm ready to go to the front lines!"

The Holy Emperor looked down and said, "The expert chose to live in the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty because he trusts us! Now, someone's attacking us and they're about to disturb the expert. We have to stop it even if we die!"

Luo Shiyu nodded. "The expert made the Human Sovereign and he passed on his knowledge to the humans. The human's Luck is off the charts. If we disappoint the expert now, how can we live with ourselves?"

"Now...is the time to shine for us chess pieces!"

...

At the Above Immortal Realm.

Deep in the jungle of an Eastside mountain area.

It was known as the forbidden spot. Not even demons or beasts dared to get close to the area.

It was buzzing inside the jungle and there were mosquitoes everywhere.

The mosquitoes were unusually ferocious. They could suck up blood and Spiritual Blood in an instant. They were also toxic. One would be left with bones once surrounded by those mosquitoes.

Suddenly, a bunch of mosquitoes fell to the ground without warning. Their bodies were stiff and they were instantly dead on the spot.

At a mountain cave in the deeper depths of the jungle.

There were three men with black robes sitting with their legs crossed. They were very skinny and had dark energy surrounding them.

The one on the left groaned. His eyes and mouth widened. He looked utterly horrified. His dark energy faded and he was lifeless.

The other two opened their eyes at the same time to look at him. They looked very confused.

The Second Brother was baffled. He asked in disbelief, "Third Brother...is dead?"

"How's this possible? Didn't he go to the Immortal Realm? How did he die?"

"What happened exactly that gave him that look of despair?" The Second Brother flinched. "And he sent one of his figures, but how did his real self die?"

“The Immortal Realm...has something horrifying!” The Big Brother was serious. “I know something big’s about to happen when the realm changes. Third Brother was too careless.”

The Second Brother said in a trembling voice, “It’s an apparent scheme of a bigshot! I have a feeling that this is bigger than a scheme from the eldritch times! We cannot make sudden moves.”

“Try to think of ways to test the water with some pawns.” The Big Brother looked at the dead body of the Third Brother.

“Spiritual Blood’s too precious. We can’t waste it!”

The Big Brother and Second Brother turned into mosquitoes. They landed on their Third Brother, who was then sucked dry instantly like a deflated balloon...

Moves were made in the Immortal Realm.

There was a scary aura at the borders of the Azure Ville.

When the Liu Family Immortal died, the sect was constantly being interrogated on what happened!

Not a lot of people in the immortal realm knew the whole story. The Immortal that fought briefly with Daji only knew that Daji had great ice powers.

A lot of bigshots were attentive to the death of the Immortal. Liu Kuang would be satisfied with his death.

However, the Azure Ville was getting more attention from the public because it was the Azure Ville Immortal that came down to the Immortal Realm!

Chapter 234: Scoot Over, Bubble Bath Together

Time flew by. Half a month quietly passed in the blink of an eye.

Payne was checking on the demon seal at the Azure Ville. Gu Changqing was studying it behind him.

It became a daily task.

Gu Yuan flew in slowly on a cloud. He looked a bit serious when he said, "Sect Master, according to our sources, aside from Amon, there's another demon servant that was released by the name of Backo."

"The demons work fast!" Payne frowned and said. "No wonder the expert mentioned the demon seal. I'm afraid we'll be facing a big challenge even if we're early."

Gu Changqing asked, "Grandpa, what realms are the demon servants usually from?"

"Not pass the Real Immortal realm." Gu Yuan groaned for a moment and said, "Demons from the Real Immortal realm are demon generals. Then, in the Golden Immortal realm, they're demon lords."

"Demon lords are too rare. They're on the same level as the Lord Immortal in the Above Immortal Realm. A bigshot amongst bigshots. They can control Dao however they like. They can even shred worlds apart."

Payne paused and continued, "Don't worry if it's just demon servants. I'm here. I'm not afraid of two or more demon servants!"

Gu Changqing was in awe as he asked excitedly, "Sect Master, what realm are you from?"

Payne smiled. "Not to brag but I'm from the Real Immortal... Intermediate realm!"

Gasp—

Gu Changqing was envious and respectful. "Awesome."

Payne said arrogantly, "Haha, how else would I be able to create a sect in the Above Immortal Realm?"

Gu Changqing curiously asked, "Sect Master, do you know what realm the expert comes from?"

"Don't gossip about the incredible expert!" Payne hurriedly stopped him. Then, he quietly said, "From what I can tell, I'm not sure if the Lord Immortal's worthy enough to wash the expert's feet."

Gu Changqing fell deep into thought. A figure flew in from afar.

It was an elder with a horsetail whisk at hand. He stopped mid-air.

Gu Changqing was surprised. He asked, "Cultivator Yunshan?"

"Cultivator Changqing, long time no see," greeted Yunshan.

Gu Changqing arched his eyebrow and asked curiously, "Cultivator Yunshan, what brings you to my Azure Ville?"

Yunshan was the Sect Master of the Wuchang Palace. He was also a cultivator from the Dacheng realm, same as Gu Changqing. They got along quite well as they used to study Dao together, but they did not visit each other often.

Sigh.

Yunshan sighed and frowned as if he was trying to put the words together.

Gu Changqing had a bad feeling about it. He quickly said, "Cultivator Yunshan, just give it to me straight."

Yunshan did not reply immediately. He looked at Gu Yuan and Payne instead. He respectfully said, "May I know who these two are..."

“My grandpa and my ancestor,” answered Gu Changqing honestly.

“The two ancestors!” Yunshan did not look surprised. He hurriedly saluted, “Greetings from Yunshan to the two Immortals.”

Payne raised his hand like he was thinking about something. He said, “No need to be so polite. From the looks of it, you’re here for something regarding the Above Immortal Realm?”

Yunshan said, “You’re great at predictions, Immortal. This is a bit hard to talk about. Sorry about that, everyone.”

“Say it,” frowned Payne.

Yunshan quickly put the words together and said, “My ancestor transcended to the Above Immortal Realm a long time ago, too. Yesterday, he sent me a message. He wished that you could hurry back to the Above Immortal Realm.”

“Why?”

Yunshan replied, “My ancestor’s in a sect named Liuyun Palace. He said it was the request of the Lord Immortal.”

“Liuyun Palace? Lord Immortal?”

Gu Yuan and Payne changed their facial expressions at the same time. They were familiar with the two phrases.

They were gossiping about the Lord Immortal earlier, but in an instant, they were wanted by the Lord Immortal. They felt like it was a joke from God.

Payne frowned hard.

The Liuyun Palace was well-known.

They did not have a lot of disciples but they were insanely cool. The lord of the palace was from the Golden Immortal Master realm—unimaginably powerful.

They had not spoken to each other before.

Payne asked, “Can I know what for?”

“He didn’t say why, but my ancestor said you already know the reason.” Yunshan groaned for a moment then bowed again. He anxiously said, “My ancestor said that the Lord Immortal has already invited the Sect Master of the Heavenly Water Sect.”

“What?” Payne did not look happy. His Immortal aura came at Yunshan like a tsunami.

Yunshan was instantly knocked down from the sky. He crashed into the ground as heavy pressure fell on him.

The ground had a man-shaped hole and it was deepening further.

Yunshan was flushed. It was as if he had tonnes of weight on him. He almost suffocated to death.

“Please, don’t be mad. It has nothing to do with me!”

He was helpless, too. His ancestor set him up to be a potentially dead messenger.

Payne slowly relaxed.

Yunshan crawled out of the hole. He had dirt all over him. His horsetail whisk was broken, too. He was a mess.

He did not dare to stay much longer so he hurriedly said, "That's all for the message. I'm really sorry. Farewell."

He immediately left.

He would stay as far as possible from an angry Immortal. So scary.

Gu Yuan looked very worried. "Sect Master, I'm afraid the Lord Immortal's coming for the expert. This isn't good."

"It looks like I'll have to return to the Above Immortal Realm," sighed Payne. He looked around and said, "Gu Yuan, stay on your guard. The demons are for you to handle."

Gu Yuan said, "Should I visit the expert first? It's the Lord Immortal!"

"Not appropriate." Payne shook his head. "We aren't that close to the expert yet so we can't disturb him like that."

"Alright, stop talking. There's a lot of people observing us. I'm leaving!"

Then, Payne left on a cloud immediately.

Gu Changqing and Gu Yuan looked worried. They said, "Farewell, Sect Master."

Nighttime.

At the four-part architecture.

Creak.

A door slowly opened.

Li Nianfan walked out wearing a loose robe with a towel in hand. His hair was slightly wet.

He bumped headfirst into a red figure at the door.

Li Nianfan was taken aback. He quickly checked his clothes to ensure he was not nude. Then, he said, "What are you doing here?"

Was the Phoenix listening to his shower?

The Fire Phoenix twitched her nose. She asked curiously, "What a unique aroma. How did you do it?"

She finally asked the question that had been bothering her for a long time.

Li Nianfan smiled and casually said, "Oh, it's shower gel. I made it myself. It's infused with several types of flowers."

"Shower gel?" The Fire Phoenix was confused.

"It's a thing for showers," said Li Nianfan while he walked back into his room.

The Fire Phoenix most probably did not care about that. Would Immortals need to shower?

Li Nianfan stood at the door of his room and reminded, "Daji, I've prepared the water for your bath. The temperature's just right, so hurry up."

Daji yelled, "Yeah, coming."

The Fire Phoenix stood at the door. She felt like she was missing out on something.

Suddenly, Daji walked over, carrying her clothes. She gracefully stepped into the bathroom.

The bathroom was big and had a big bathtub. The water was drawn by Li Nianfan. It had a layer of white bubbles on top.

Daji smiled and excitedly took off her clothes to soak in the bathtub.

Phew—

The nice temperature made her sigh in relief. Her small face was blushing as she shut her eyes and enjoyed the moment.

However, she heard a 'creak' sound. The door swung open. The Fire Phoenix rushed over.

Daji was shocked. She glared at the Fire Phoenix, "What are you doing?"

The Fire Phoenix sneered as if she figured it all out. "The Master loves to pretend he's an ordinary man, so he showers. But we're never dirty. We're dustless, so what are you showering for?"

She stared at the water that Daji was soaking in. She made an intriguing sound then dipped her hand into the water. Then, she tasted it.

Suddenly, her eyes went wide. She looked like she was in disbelief. She dipped her head into the water to drink it.

"This... Is this really water from the Feixian Pond?!"

Daji looked mad. "Get out of here!"

"You damn fox, you didn't bring me along for something nice like this?"

The Fire Phoenix was flushed from anger. "I knew something was off. You were so excited to shower. There must be something wrong! You have to bring me along next time!"

Water from the Feixian Pond!

She had a very deep impression of the Feixian Pond.

In the eldritch era, the Feixian Pond was well-known for its properties.

Feixian meant to transcend into an Immortal!

It had insanely amazing properties.

Everyone had the chance to soak in it after transcending into an Immortal.

Once ordinary people soaked themselves in the Feixian Pond, they could gain a lot of Insights, Dao, and Wisdom. They would be a body for Basics of Wisdom with improvements. If demons entered the Feixian Pond, their blood could be improved.

According to legends, the Feixian Pond was a gift and a blessing.

However, the Feixian Pond gradually disappeared in a faraway era.

The Fire Phoenix did not expect that the water they used to shower with was water from the Feixian Pond!

That was beyond her imagination.

She stared at Daji and said with jealousy, “You’ve bathed in here so many times already. Move, let me!”

Daji sunk further into the bathtub. “No way, get out of here!”

“Then we’ll just take the bubble bath together!” The Fire Phoenix took off her clothes on the spot and leaped into the bathtub.

“Argh—So nice...”

“What are you doing? Get out, now!”

“Nope! Scoot! Scoot over!”

Chapter 235: ‘Bootlicker’s Guide to the Immortal Realm’

Early the next day.

Li Nianfan was sitting in the yard. He was clearly tired.

He looked at the Fire Phoenix and Daji. He had a question in mind, but when he tried to speak, he stopped himself.

Did they take a bubble bath until midnight? When had they become so close? He had trouble sleeping last night.

The Fire Phoenix acted strangely in the morning, too. She chased after Daji to learn how to brush her teeth.

The friendship between girls was so sudden and weird, even for the Fire Phoenix.

However, it made Li Nianfan excited. The friendship between Daji and the Fire Phoenix meant that bigshots were easy to get along with. There was nothing wrong with it.

The war between Demons and Immortals was upon him. It would be dangerous soon. He had to befriend as many bigshots as he could.

He would shamelessly ask for their protection if they were his friends. They would not reject him then.

He was only an ordinary man. They could easily protect him.

He started to study the 'Bootlicker's Guide to the Immortal Realm'.

'Rule Number One—cater to their hobbies.' Immortals were people, too, and they also had their hobbies. For example, writing, painting, playing instruments, and more. He could do that.

'Rule Number Two—have a forte.' His forte would be his cooking. Immortals were people, too, and they had an appetite. He could win them over with his cooking. It was working well so far.

'Rule Number Three—invest in potential bigshots.' Li Nianfan captured the essence of it. He did not own so many novels in the past realm for nothing. He was excellent at observing people and he thought he was good at identifying bigshots.

'Rule Number Four—only be decent to potential bigshots that have tragic backstories and just be acquaintances with people who are divorced, disabled, or betrayed.' He should not be too close with them. Never become their buddies because usually, he would be the first to die.

Rule Number Five...

Li Nianfan scribbled and wrote a lot. He gained a lot of experience from reading novels in the past realm. Therefore, bootlicking was not considered a low-blow or out-of-character for him. He could do it all effectively.

Li Nianfan finished the 'Bootlicker's Guide to the Immortal Realm'. Then, he made another one.

It was a list called the 'List of Bigshots'.

Li Nianfan listed down his ranking of the bigshots he knew.

The Fire Phoenix was without a doubt the first on the list. Then, the grandpa and Gu Siblings of the Azure Ville. Followed by Yao Mengji, Lin Mufeng...

Li Nianfan listed down every cultivator he knew. Of course, he added some notes next to the names about how close they were.

He assumed...

The Fire Phoenix was 55 percent close to him. They were business partners but not yet friends.

Those who scored 60 percent were friends, 70 percent were buddies, 80 percent were close friends, and 90 percent were soulmates.

He kept listing names. Li Nianfan also wrote Nanan on the list.

"Not sure how the young lady's cultivation journey's doing, but don't forget about me, your brother!"

Li Nianfan mumbled to himself for a while. He thought about it and added the old tree of the Fallen Town into the list.

The two books would be his legacy, his masterpieces. The value of the publications—immeasurable!

Li Nianfan was pleased with himself for a while. He felt like he found his calling. He instantly felt assured.

He was in a good mood and was ready to go out for a walk.

He smiled and said, "Daji, let's go to the Fallen Town, then to the Clear Moon Lake to look at the fishes!"

Daji was as happy as Li Nianfan. She nodded and said, "Yeah, whatever you say."

Li Nianfan walked toward a small bucket that was filled with their recent leftovers. It was processed into nutritional fertilizer.

He planned to pour it on his plants to ensure their growth.

Li Nianfan took some fertilizer and laughed. "Let's go!"

The Fire Phoenix automatically turned into a little red bird and landed on his shoulder.

Blackie watched Li Nianfan leave from the four-part architecture. Suddenly, he fell deep in thought.

Blackie said, "Xiao Bai, I think I might be wrong about something."

Xiao Bai instantly switched modes. Its voice went deeper as it said, "Therapist Xiao Bai is now online. Please, state your problem."

Blackie was filled with sorrow. "I always thought that Master's above it all. He doesn't see the differences in status or gender. I now realize that the fox and the Phoenix are more loved and I'm being abandoned. Isn't this gender discrimination?"

Xiao Bai smoothly answered, "According to science, people will be happier when they are accompanied by pretty ladies, regardless of gender but especially so for guys. But if I'm accompanied by a single dog, my happiness level will decrease instantly. It's just the law of nature. The mood has nothing to do with cultivation."

Blackie excitedly asked, "What if I reshape my form of flesh right now?"

"Why go through the trouble? Surgeon Xiao Bai is now online," said Xiao Bai in an incredibly professional voice. Xiao Bai took out a pair of scissors. "Come on, lay down. I promise it's highly effective and painless."

...

Li Nianfan brought Daji to the Fallen Town again.

It was still crowded and peaceful.

Hopefully, the war would not affect the place.

'Sigh, what's wrong with living in peace? Is fighting and battling that fun?' Li Nianfan thought for a moment. In reality, regardless of where he was, resources were limited. War necessitated more!

He went through the city and walked towards the East door.

He was slightly surprised when he got to the old Locust tree.

The thick branches of the old Locust tree were gone. Only half of the charred trunk was left.

There were also a few elders who were worshipping the tree. Their eyes were filled with nostalgia.

Li Nianfan quickly walked over and realized that the little sapling was still there in the middle of the tree trunk. He instantly sighed in relief.

He asked, "Elder, were the branches cleaned out by someone?"

One of the elders said, "Yeah, there were a few passing Immortals not long ago. They noticed the big old tree was struck by lightning. They said it was Lightning Wood or something. Then they excitedly chopped it away."

The other elder said passionately, "I was there. They controlled a flying sword. It spun in the air and chopped down the branches. It was awesome!"

"The young ones wanted to move the tree trunk, too, but they were stopped by the elder."

"I'll be the first one to say no. The tree's old but a new sapling has sprouted. They'll pay if they try to chop that down, too!"

The elders started to chat and gossip away.

Li Nianfan smiled and walked to the stem.

It was good that the dry branches were cut off. It would be beneficial for the growth of the sapling. He had saved a lot of energy.

He took out the fertilizer that he prepared and sprinkled it around the little sapling. He was assured that the little sapling would grow well.

The little sapling was extremely green. Under the sunlight, it looked alive.

"Come on, old tree. If you're spiritual, hurry up and grow. They'll soon fight their way over here. The Fallen Town depends on you to shield them."

Li Nianfan poured the fertilizer while he mumbled, "I know you'd rather die than see the town get hurt. I know you have feelings for this town. I, Li Nianfan, don't need credit for this."

Li Nianfan finished fertilizing and thought about something. He felt like he did not miss anything. Then, he wiped his hands, smiled, and said, "Daji, let's go to the Clear Moon Lake!"

The old tree was not doing well, but Li Nianfan was not going to let go of any possible bigshots. He could do it casually anyway. Why would he be lazy about making good connections?

He would not look down on the weak. They might bring him along with them if they were strong in the future.

Meanwhile.

At the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion.

There were lightning flashes in the sky. A ray of bright light slashed through the clouds and headed straight for the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion.

The figure arrived in a blink of an eye!

He was flushed and had deep eyes. He looked very cool. His full black outfit made him look powerful, too, and it gave him a fierce aura. His long hair moved with the wind and it looked like he had strands of shiny swords.

The disciples of the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion fell into chaos. They all looked afraid.

Just by a single glance from the man in black, they suddenly realized that they were being overwhelmed by Sword Qi. Their hair stood on ends as they realized they were about to die.

They could not even resist it.

Lin Mufeng was terrified. He rushed into the hall and spat a mouthful of blood on the Immortal Stone.

Suddenly, the Immortal Stone glowed brightly.

He said in a serious tone, "I'm the Sect Master of the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion, Lin Mufeng. I summon the Immortal from above."

He was frantic. He was usually nice to everyone, so why was a powerful enemy attacking them? Was he perhaps in the wrong place?

Thankfully, he got an Immortal Stone from the expert the last time. However, he was unsure if the Immortal was dependable or not.

Buzz!

The Immortal Stone glowed and emitted a special scent.

However, no Immortal showed up.

Lin Mufeng was sweating bullets. He was about to spit out more blood when he heard, "No need to summon me anymore. I'm the owner of this Immortal Stone!"

Bam!

The light flew out the door and landed on the man in black robes.

Lin Mufeng was dumbfounded. Then, he respectfully said, "I'm Lin Mufeng. Welcome, Immortal!"

The man in black robes was very excited and happy. He quickly asked, "Where's my precious disciple? Hurry up and let me meet my precious student!"

Lin Mufeng freaked out slightly. He tried his best to say, "Immortal, there's no disciple of yours here."

"Impossible!" yelled the black-robed man. "He has the Excalibur from the secret border, so at least, he has an unsullied body fated for swords! I didn't think that the Immortal Realm would have someone like that. He's born to be my student!"

The black-robed man glared with wide eyes. "Speak, who's got the Excalibur?"

Lin Mufeng almost cried. He smiled awkwardly and said, "To be honest, it's me."

The black-robed man observed Lin Mufeng closely for a moment. "Blasphemy! You don't have a body fated for swords. You think you can inherit my Excalibur?"

He frowned and said coldly, "I set up ten tests. No ordinary man would be able to pass the tests, and even if they did, they'd have to have an unsullied body fated for swords to pull out the Excalibur. Otherwise, the sword would just puncture their hearts!"

"I spent a lot of effort just to find a worthy student! Not a lot of Masters are as passionate as I am in the world!"

Lin Mufeng had cold sweat all over. He was petrified.

He pulled out the sword. Thankfully, the expert reminded him to bring the lantern. Otherwise, he would be long dead by now, right?

Thankfully, he had the expert. He saved his life.

'It was such a sick and twisted test. Are you sure you're looking for a student?'

Chapter 236: This Student... Is Mine

“I get it!”

The black-robed man stared at Lin Mufeng with wide eyes. He looked like he realized something. “It’s you! You must’ve killed my precious student and stole the treasure! My student died tragically! I have to avenge him!”

He was menacingly strong. The wind blew like sharp blades, slashing through the clouds.

The Lingyun Immortal Pavilion was about to be destroyed.

Plop!

Lin Mufeng went weak in the knees. He knelt and begged, “Immortal, don’t be angry. Please, don’t be angry! I really did pull out the sword.”

The black-robed man sneered, “Impossible! You wouldn’t be able to pass the first three tests. Quick, tell me, Where did you get it from?”

Swoosh!

A sword flew past his neck swiftly. A strand of Lin Mufeng’s hair fell off.

Lin Mufeng instantly went stiff from fear.

He struggled for a long time. Then, he said, “I didn’t go to the secret border alone. There’s an expert!”

The black-robed man looked convinced. "I see. That person's most probably my student! Why did the expert give you the Excalibur?"

He was an expert. Would he even be impressed by the Excalibur?

Lin Mufeng put the words together and said, "This expert is incredibly powerful, free from the bonds of status. He's beyond Immortals or ordinary folks. I'm afraid he has no use for the Excalibur."

The black-robed man frowned. He said coldly, "You think I'll believe that?"

"Immortal, I'm telling the truth!" Lin Mufeng looked serious. "Although I'm weak in cultivation and I've never seen the Above Immortal Realm, I'm certain he's more powerful than an Immortal!"

"Oh?" The black-robed man was slightly surprised. "Bring me to him!"

Lin Mufeng awkwardly smiled and shook his head. "Immortal, without the expert's hint, I can't bring you to him. Perhaps you can wait until I get his permission?"

"You dare speak to me like that? It's as if he's the real deal," growled the black-robed man. He said, "I have a way to know if you're telling the truth. Follow me to the Immortal Relic!"

Then, he carried Lin Mufeng with him to the Clear Moon Lake.

Meanwhile, Li Nianfan had already rented a raft with an awning. It was drifting slowly across the Clear Moon Lake.

There were a lot of boats around the Clear Moon Lake. Fishermen boats came and went. They all looked really happy as if they had won the lottery. It was probably because they could catch all sorts of fish and shellfish through their fishing nets.

It also attracted a lot of cultivators who frequently flew by in the sky.

Of course, a lot of men and women came to lake drift, too. Many fancy boats were floating on the water.

This was why the rental fees were doubled.

Li Nianfan rowed the raft to the center of the lake. The oars disturbed the fishes that were swimming in the lake, causing them to swim away rapidly.

Suddenly, a big fish leaped out of the water's surface. It leaped over the raft and plopped back into the lake.

The fishes in the Immortal Realm were so lively!

Li Nianfan said weirdly, "Awesome. It's been a month, right? Why are there still so many fishes in the lake? Does more fishing lead to more fish?"

He did not say anything unnecessary. He immediately took out his fishing tools and sat crossed-legged on the raft, ready to fish.

He attached the bait and cast his line.

Pap!

The fishing line zipped through the air and landed nicely in the water.

An old fisherman was watching. He said, "Young man, just cast a fishing net. It's rare seeing so many fishes like this. Using a fishing rod will be a waste!"

Li Nianfan smiled and said, "Old man, I'm enjoying the process of fishing. I'm not here to hunt for fishes."

The old fisherman shook his head. "Wasteful, what a waste!"

Li Nianfan did not say anything else. He quietly fished while enjoying the beautiful painting-like view. He was accompanied by a beautiful lady, too. This was a great life.

Daji leaned against Li Nianfan as she dipped her pretty fair feet in the water. Li Nianfan looked at her bare feet and thought to himself, 'Huh, now that's the real fish bait.'

The little red bird on his shoulder spread her wings. She flew and perched on top of the awning.

She curiously tilted her head and looked around, observing everything with interest.

Then, she spread her wings again and glided across the surface of the lake. She was slightly annoyed.

At the bottom of the Clear Moon Lake.

It was extremely turbulent. Water pillars were being formed and powers were shooting back and forth like waves. It was kind of like a boiling fountain down there.

It was happening everywhere, and it seemed to be coming from the Eastside ocean. The water was full of power, causing all the fishes to swim up to the surface.

There was a golden door at the bottom of the Eastside ocean. A terrifying amount of fishes seemed to be swimming into it. Upon closer inspection, it was not the fishes that were swimming into to door. It was the water's current that was forcing the fish to swim inside!

Buzz!

Suddenly, the golden door started to shine. A powerful aura emitted from within it. It sucked in the ocean water, causing a huge wave.

The surrounding fishes instantly fled.

A voice could be heard.

“The Dragon Door’s open! The Dragon Door’s really open!”

“How did this happen? I thought the Immortal Realm was dead?”

“Hold on, hold on a second. The door isn’t completely opened yet. I wonder how the outside world’s doing?”

Suddenly, a panicked shriek could be heard. “Stop gossiping, the Seventh Princess is missing! Hurry up and find her!”

...

Plop!

Li Nianfan raised his fishing rod gently and fished out a big carp. The fish’s tail flapped about, causing water to splash in the air.

Splash!

The fish landed right into the bucket.

It was a big red bucket with twenty big fishes of various types inside. Li Nianfan looked at them swimming actively. He felt joyful and proud.

What nice gains.

Maybe this was the fun part of fishing.

“Too bad. There are too many fish here. I feel like I’m lacking a bit of a challenge.” Li Nianfan put his fishing rod aside. He did not want to fish anymore.

Fishing was just for entertainment on this trip. He mainly focused on the fun of it.

Suddenly, a fisherman’s boat passed by coincidentally. There were three people on the boat—an old man, a middle-aged man, and a lady.

The lady was responsible for sailing the boat. The old man and the middle-aged man were drawing their fishing net. The veins on their arms were popping out from the sheer force they were exerting. However, they looked excited.

The heavier it was meant that they had caught more fish.

The middle-aged man worriedly reminded, “Dad, back up a little. Be careful. Don’t get dragged down there.”

“Hey, you were just learning how to walk when I first brought you fishing. You think you can teach the old man how to do things now?”

The old man scolded, “Look closely!”

He stepped back and bent backward. Then, he lifted the fishing net.

Splash!

The fishing net came out of the water. Splashes were everywhere.

Countless prawns and fishes were wiggling in the net, their scales brightly reflected under the sunlight.

Plop.

The fishing net was pulled up to their boat. The father and son instantly sat down and panted.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, "Old man, you gained a lot."

"Haha, it's alright." The old man instantly smiled. "You came here to lake drift?"

"Yeah." Li Nianfan was slightly curious. He asked, "You guys have so much fish. Where are you going to ship them to?"

The old man replied, "The Xia Kingdom, of course. They're at war now and they lack food."

"I see," Li Nianfan nodded. He was previously worried by the sudden increase in fishes. Would it not disrupt the fish market? He got his answer.

It seemed like the fish came at the right time.

"Sir, let me tell you. The war's crazy. I sent fish to the injured soldiers before. It was a gory sight!" said the old man. Then, he pointed in a direction and said, "If you keep drifting in this direction to the other side, you can see the battlefield. You might even see floating corpses in the water, too."

Li Nianfan looked across the horizon, toward the Southside of the Clear Moon Lake.

"Thanks for the notice, old man. Goodbye." Li Nianfan smiled and rowed. He gently drifted away and stopped disturbing that family.

The raft drifted. The gentle breeze on the face was very nice.

Plop!

Suddenly, there was a loud 'plop', followed by chaotic screaming.

"Somebody fell into the water! Everyone, help!"

"Quick, who can swim?"

Li Nianfan looked over with arched eyebrows.

Usually in this situation, most people around here would know how to swim. It would be easy to save them.

However, the one who fell into the water was a rich guy from a fancy boat. The fishermen were far away from the fancy boats and the other people on fancy boats may not know how to swim.

The rich guy was struggling in the water. It would probably take a while for someone to go save him.

Li Nianfan rowed his boat closer.

"Huh?" said the Fire Phoenix on his shoulder. She looked straight into the water.

Li Nianfan was slightly curious. He stared at the guy who fell into the water, too.

He realized something odd was happening.

The guy did not know how to swim, but he was not sinking. It was like something was pushing him up from beneath the water.

He arched his eyebrow. He noticed that whenever the guy was about to sink deeper into the water, something would push him up from his waist. He rowed closer and looked closely. There was a red-tailed white carp in the water. It was constantly pushing the guy up from his waist.

The carp was not strong. It used all its might to push.

“A kind Carp Demon!”

Li Nianfan was intrigued. He instantly listed it in his list of bigshots.

There were not a lot of kind demons. Since he met one, it would be beneficial to befriend it. Moreover, this was a water demon. He would have someone to look out for him in the waters.

The rich guy was soon saved thanks to the help of the Carp Demon.

However, a figure suddenly swooped down from above. The figure transformed into a young lad in a green shirt. He was levitating above the water’s surface.

He had a Gold Net in his hand. It was shiny. He threw it into the lake and instantly captured the Carp Demon. Then, he pulled the demon out of the water.

“I thought I could get lucky at the Clear Moon Lake. I wasted so much time here so I can’t go back empty-handed. A white carp with a red tail, a soon-to-be demon, interesting,” said the smiling young lad in a green shirt. Then, he hooked the Carp Demon to his belt.

Li Nianfan saw that. He frowned and hesitated for a moment before he rowed over.

He knew a lot of bigshots and he had the Fire Phoenix to protect him. He was slightly confident.

“I’m Li Nianfan. Greetings... bro.”

The green shirt lad glanced at Li Nianfan. He seemed hostile. However, he paused for a moment when he saw Daji. Then, he arrogantly asked, "What do you want?"

Li Nianfan said, "Bro, this Carp Demon saved someone. I don't think it'll hurt anybody. Why don't you spare its life and I'll treat you to some drinks. Okay, bro?"

"You're just an ordinary man. You dare drink with me?" sneered the green shirt lad. "Do me a favor and look at your reflection in the water. Do you think you're worthy?"

Li Nianfan felt his heart drop. It seemed like he was not lucky this time. He had met an unfriendly cultivator.

However, he was not surprised. Not everyone was nice.

He looked at the struggling Carp Demon on his belt. The red tail flapped around like a flickering flame. It was frantic and afraid, looking at Li Nianfan like it was asking for help. A very humane demon.

He groaned and continued, "Bro, the Holy Emperor of the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty's my friend. This Carp Demon isn't that valuable. Spare it for me. We can be friends."

"Shameless nonsense! You and the Holy Emperor are friends? Then, I am God's brother."

The green shirt lad burst out laughing. He was still looking at Daji when he shook his head and said, "It's a crime to be unworthy. How did you, an ordinary man, get such an outstandingly beautiful wife? Be careful! Lady, why don't you follow me instead? I have a Beauty Pill that can stop your beauty from aging for up to ten years!"

A figure darted across the sky.

Then, it turned back quickly.

The black-robed man was carrying Lin Mufeng with one hand but he was staring at Li Nianfan. His gaze was filled with a burning passion.

He was trembling from excitement. It was as if he saw the most precious jewel in the world. "A body made of Dao? He's a natural!"

"God bless. You sent me such an outstanding student!"

He laughed maniacally and swooped down.

"The audacity. How dare you insult my precious student. Die!"

Endless swords fell from the sky along with his roar. Even the clouds in the sky were affected. The clouds were also shaped like swords.

Swords were raining down on the green shirt lad. He was gone in an instant before he could react. It was like he vanished into thin air.

"I'm here in time to save the day from such an insult. Plus, my attacks look so powerful and cool. This student...is mine!"

The black-robed man smiled and stood proudly on the water. He looked mysteriously compassionate.

He said slowly, "Fella, say hello to your Master?"

Lin Mufeng witnessed it all from the air. His mind buzzed and he almost went blind.

He was horrified. His soul almost left his body.

What was a natural body made of Dao?!

He was a real freaking bigshot!

Chapter 237: I Have to Bury Myself on a Good Land

A natural body made of Dao?

‘He wants me to be his student?’

Li Nianfan was stumped.

Perhaps this was his hidden talent?

He was slightly excited. He asked, “Sir, I don’t have Spiritual Root. Can I still cultivate?”

“You don’t have Spiritual Root?” The black robed man was baffled. He looked at the Fire Phoenix that was perched on Li Nianfan. Then, he immediately denied it, “Impossible! Your bird isn’t ordinary either. How could you not have Spiritual Root?”

It seemed like it was useless since he did not have a Spiritual Root.

Li Nianfan smiled awkwardly and said, “Sir, I just coincidentally befriended it out of luck. Truthfully, I’m just an ordinary man.”

“You’re an ordinary man?” The black-robed man was dumbfounded. He stared at Li Nianfan. After multiple confirmations, he exclaimed like he was attacked, “You’re just an ordinary man! But you’re a natural body made of Dao. Why don’t you have Spiritual Root? It’s not justified, it’s not justified!”

He looked weirdly at Li Nianfan.

He was a natural body made of Dao, which meant he was extremely compatible with Dao. Every move he made would be delicate yet powerful. He was blessed. He would be unstoppable with cultivation training and if he were to become a swordsman, his swordsmanship would be off the charts.

However, he did not have any powers. It meant he did not have a Spiritual Root!

A natural body made of Dao would improve over time even without cultivation.

Li Nianfan felt like it was necessary to correct him, "Sir, it's 'just'. Not 'justified'."

He saw that carp on the surface of the lake. It was blowing bubbles while looking at Li Nianfan. He was instantly happy.

He bent down and waved. He said, "Little Carp, be careful next time. Don't get easily captured."

Then, Lin Mufeng swooped down, too. He smiled at Li Nianfan, "Mr. Li."

Li Nianfan saluted, "Brother Lin, who knew I'd run into you here, too."

Lin Mufeng was slightly scared. He said, "Mr. Li, I'm here with the Immortal. I'm sorry for disturbing you."

Li Nianfan smiled and said, "It's not a bother at all. Do you want to get onto the raft?"

He looked at the black-robed man oddly. He did not expect him to also be an Immortal.

So many new Immortals in the Immortal Realm.

Sigh!

The black-robed man sighed defeatedly. He looked demotivated. He did not want to go to the Immortal Relic anymore. He hopped onto the boat with a dispirited look.

Lin Mufeng smiled apologetically, "Sorry for the disturbance."

The Immortal on the boat made Li Nianfan slightly nervous, especially when he witnessed him disintegrate the other cultivator within seconds. He would be lying if he said he was not fazed by that.

He picked up the oar and rowed.

The Carp Demon unexpectedly followed the raft. It leaped out of the water from time to time, too, making splashes.

The Fire Phoenix stared at that white carp with sparkles in her eyes. She suddenly said, "Looks like that Carp Demon likes following us around. Why don't I train it?"

"Nice!" Li Nianfan was instantly excited. He immediately said, "It's a breakthrough for it to train with you! I think it's a nice thing!"

He approved it wholeheartedly.

If the Fire Phoenix took the Carp Demon in as her student, it meant that she would be staying longer in the Immortal Realm. The Carp Demon was pure and naive. It must be touched by its hero that saved its life. It wanted to be thankful.

It could be a kind and helpful demon with the teachings of the Fire Phoenix.

Yes to that!

He dipped the bucket into the water. Then, he waved and said, "Little carp, come over here."

The little carp was hesitant.

Li Nianfan quickly tossed some orange slices into the water. He tempted it like a bad uncle, "You want some? Do you like fruits? I have a lot of delicious food here. It's tasty."

Meanwhile, Lin Mufeng wiped the cold sweat off his forehead. He calmed his racy heart.

That was a torturous sight. A sight that was bad for his heart. Thankfully, he did not make a huge mistake. Otherwise...

Lin Mufeng felt a shiver go down his spine again. He did not want to think about it. He almost cried.

He looked at the dazed black-robed man and rolled his eyes. The ignorant were always fearless!

The black-robed man asked in a calm tone, "You seem upset?"

Lin Mufeng took a deep breath. In a trembling voice, he said cautiously, "Immortal, you almost got into huge trouble!"

The black-robed man smiled and said proudly, "Ha, I'm never afraid of getting into trouble! Tell me about it. Entertain me."

Lin Mufeng shook his head. He sighed quietly and said, "Remember the expert I told you about on the way here? That's the expert!"

"It's him?" asked the black-robed man.

“That’s him! For a bigshot, it doesn’t matter if he’s a natural body made of Dao. It’s nothing even if he’s a Saint body, God body, or Invincible body.” Lin Mufeng said, “Stop questioning it! Look at that lady next to him. That’s actually the Nine-Tailed Fox!”

“Really?”

The black-robed man arched his eyebrow when he looked at Daji.

He realized something was off. He could not read her cultivation. She should be an ordinary woman.

However... It proved that she was either an ordinary woman or he was inferior to her.

He looked at the little red bird bafflingly, too.

The Fire Phoenix did not hide her aura so he could instantly tell she was extraordinary. He thought she was just a little bird demon, but when he looked closely, he realized he could not read the cultivation of a tiny bird demon either!

Yikes—

He gasped and his eyes went wide. He could not accept it.

“Are you for real?” He could not stay calm. He was worried.

“It’s real. I told you on the way that the expert likes living as an ordinary man. You have to be careful next time!” Lin Mufeng secretly felt good.

‘Oh, you know how to gasp?’

‘Where did your cool gusto go? Didn’t you say you wanted to be entertained?’

The black-robed man was dumbfounded.

“Did I just ask a bigshot to be my student?” His mind was buzzing. He had goosebumps all over while his heart raced. “No, I have to find a good land to bury myself!”

It was like a man asking his boss to work for him without knowing who was the actual boss. The moment of realization...was a cringy sensation!

Lin Mufeng quietly said, “It’s not that bad. At least you didn’t cross the line.”

“No, I have to make up for it! I have to save myself!”

He flicked his wrist and a jar of alcohol appeared. He slowly walked toward Li Nianfan.

“Mister, I was impolite just now. Please, pardon me.”

“You’re too courteous, Immortal. It’s not a big deal.” Li Nianfan waved and said in a slightly pitiful tone, “Too bad I don’t have Spiritual Root. I’ve disappointed you, Immortal.”

The black-robed man jumped.

The expert was clearly blaming him! He held a grudge!

He started to sweat. He said, “Mister, I heard from Cultivator Lin that you’re talented and educated. You can do things no one can. You’re incredibly respectable even if you can’t cultivate. Cheers to you!”

“Haha, thanks a lot,” laughed Li Nianfan. It was very effective. “Orange?”

The black-robed man respectfully accepted the orange. “Thanks.”

He still felt uneasy. Then, he ate the orange.

Suddenly, he felt a wave of Power Fragments go straight to his brain!

His eyes widened. He was excited yet terrified inside.

Power Fragments! It was Power Fragments!

He quickly looked at the orange and observed it. Was it a real orange?

Why would an orange like that exist?

Expert, the ultimate expert!

He twitched. How was he alive? Thankfully!

Li Nianfan asked curiously, "What? Is it not okay?"

"No, of course, it is!" The black-robed man put the whole orange into his mouth. "It's too delicious. I've never tasted oranges like this before!"

Li Nianfan smiled and said in a slightly pleased voice, "Good, I planted it myself. It's good enough to serve guests."

Good enough to serve guests?

Only maniacs in the Immortal Realm would serve this orange to guests!

Was this the world of the bigshot?

He quickly adjusted his attitude and said, "Mister, I haven't introduced myself. My name is Xiao Chengfeng. I'm a sword cultivator."

Li Nianfan replied politely, "I'm Li Nianfan, an ordinary man."

Xiao Chengfeng was slightly nervous. He said, "Mr. Li, I was too reckless to ask you to be my student just now. Please, don't mind me."

Li Nianfan asked curiously, "Brother Xiao, you're great at cultivation. Why can't you get a student?"

"It's easy to take in a student, but hard to find one that I'm satisfied with." Xiao Chengfeng shook his head. "There are too few genius cultivators and even fewer genius sword cultivators."

"I see," nodded Li Nianfan.

Xiao Chengfeng sighed softly.

It was one of his unsolvable problems.

It had been more than 7000 years. He did not grow or improve that whole time because he was at the end of his sword cultivation journey. He was lost.

If it kept going on like that, he could only wait for his death. Therefore, he needed a student to pass on his legacy.

Li Nianfan asked, "Brother Xiao, have you ever considered that your student doesn't have to be a rare genius?"

black-robed

Brother Xiao shook his head. “That won’t do. The most important thing for sword cultivation is natural talent. They can’t be a sword cultivator if they’re not a genius, right?”

The old man was a bit extreme. Cultivation required natural talent but it was wrong to rely purely on talents.

Li Nianfan was prepared to share his theory, especially in sword cultivation. He debated, “Brother Xiao, I think sword cultivation has nothing to do with natural talent. A thousand people can hold the sword and have a thousand ways of understanding swords. Ordinary people can hold the sword and point it at an Immortal, too, while Immortals can hold the sword but flee at the last moment. Swordsmanship comes from the heart. Why limit it to just talent?”

Chapter 238: The Three Levels of Swordsmanship, Astonishing Words

‘Swordsmanship comes from the heart. Why limit it to just talent?’

Xiao Chengfeng breathed heavily. He kept replaying that sentence in his mind. He seemed to be out of it.

Buzz!

There was a buzzing in his ears like an alarm clock. He felt like his soul was about to ascend.

The Answer of sword cultivation. It was The Answer!

He suddenly felt like crying because he felt enlightened.

No wonder he did not improve for 7000 years. He was at the end of the road. He relied too much on talent. It was not a commentary on taking on a student. It was a commentary on himself!

The expert was trying to help him!

He thought talent was the most important thing in sword cultivation. He expected to transcend relying purely on talent. Ridiculous, it was ridiculous!

He did not have good swordsmanship. How could he improve?

At that moment, he finally understood!

His dead-end journey had a new path. The new path was wide and endless. It would be amazing for sure!

Xiao Chengfeng looked serious. He suddenly stood up and felt his cells jumping around. "Mr. Li, your quote enlightened me. I learned a lot today. Please, accept my bow."

It was exciting to be enlightened. It could make anyone happy.

“Brother Xiao, no!” Li Nianfan quickly stopped him. “You’re an Immortal and I’m just an ordinary man. There’s no such thing as Immortals bowing to ordinary people. It’s just a casual saying. You know, the observer sees more clearly than the participant. Brother Xiao, you were just too stubborn.”

“Regardless of that, thanks, Mr. Li.”

Xiao Chengfeng was confused. Such generosity was simply shrugged off by the blesser.

‘The observer sees more clearly than the participant’.

What a simple way to put it.

It was terribly difficult to wake the participant up. How would one convince a stubborn person? He was indeed filled with wisdom. There was no one else like him!

However, the expert did not seem to care. What realm did he come from? What kind of suave attitude was that?!

He had never met a bigshot like him before!

“Mr. Li, cheers!” He did not know what else to say. Words were fleeting and meaningless. Only actions mattered!

“It’s a good thing that you realized, Brother Xiao,” said Li Nianfan. It seemed like his theoretical knowledge was elite. He had befriended another Immortal.

He suddenly realized he had another forte—saved knowledge.

For example, ‘Journey to the West’ attracted Immortals. If he put his knowledge to use in the Immortal Realm, it would be too edgy and superior. Besides ordinary people, some cultivators might find it futuristic, too.

Xiao Chengfeng was emotional. He asked, “Mr. Li, how many levels do you think there are in sword cultivation?”

Li Nianfan sipped on the alcohol and asked, “What do you think, Brother Xiao?”

“I used to think there were three levels. The first level would be using sharp swords. The second level would be using Sword Qi, and the third level is Sword Intent. However, after hearing what you said, I think there’s another level—Sword Passion!”

Xiao Chengfeng was like a student giving the teacher his opinion at that moment. He wanted to be praised by the teacher. “What do you think, Mr. Li?”

“You’re not wrong.”

Li Nianfan groaned for a moment. It was time to show off. He said, "But it's still very surface-level."

Xiao Chengfeng excitedly said, "Please, enlighten me, Mr. Li."

Lin Mufeng immediately turned sideways to listen carefully. Daji and the Fire Phoenix also looked at Li Nianfan.

They could not help being excited and emotional. Whatever the expert was about to say must be awesome!

It was the first time the expert directly answered a cultivation-related question. It would be astonishing, groundbreaking!

Li Nianfan said slowly and calmly, "The first level—a sword was once the teacher of millions for a lifetime battle worth three thousand miles!

"The second level—three million sword Immortals from above must be humble when they see me!

"The third level—God wouldn't accept the birth of Li Chungang, but my sword cultivation is still historical like the long night!"

Boom!

Everyone was blown away. It was just a few sentences but their hair stood on ends after hearing that. It was as if they were surrounded by sharp swords.

Li Nianfan did not say it loudly but everyone thought they heard thunder!

Hold on... It was not an illusion. It was actual thunder!

It was Echoes of Wisdom! Even nature was moved!

They thought of a vision—a man with a sword on a mountain full of dead bodies looking over a bloody ocean. The sky was dim. Only the man stood still!

Then, the vision turned into a transcended Immortal with millions of swords. Every sword cultivator looked up to him!

The third vision was a little blurry. They could somewhat see a wasteland that was covered by a gigantic sword!

They almost choked from being shocked. They were also mesmerized by that state of mind.

Suddenly, everything was silent.

Then, they jumped as if they were all suddenly woken up from a dream.

However, they were drenched in cold sweat.

It was a very complex feeling to discover such Wisdom.

“This...”

Xiao Chengfeng kept gulping. He wanted to say something astonishing, too, but he could not say anything. He lacked the vocabulary for it.

How could he talk about something he never learned or experienced?

Finally, he sighed. He sincerely complimented, “Mr. Li, you’re wonderful. Respect.”

He smiled awkwardly. His four levels of sword cultivation were trash compared to Li Nianfan. Shallow! He did not realize how shallow he was until he met Li Nianfan.

“You’re too courteous, Brother Xiao,” said Li Nianfan. It felt good to impress everyone with astounding words, especially when these people were not of the ordinary crowd.

Truthfully, the real three levels he described were the Ordinary level, the Immortal level, and the Godly level. It was not that much better than what Xiao Chengfeng said.

However, he said it with ancient grammar so it sounded much cooler—highly effective, highly impressive.

That was the difference between a cultured person and an uncultured person.

Xiao Chengfeng self-deprecatingly said, “I thought I was at the highest level of sword cultivation. Now, it seems like I’m still far from the second level!”

He looked away. He resonated deeply with the third level Li Nianfan described.

He mumbled, “God wouldn’t accept the birth of Xiao Chengfeng, but my sword cultivation is still historical...”

He went silent. He realized he could not say it even if he sneakily tried to.

It was too cool. He was not able to handle it.

Only two types of people could say something like that—someone who was extremely powerful in sword cultivation and could understand everything, or someone who was extremely weak and shallow in sword cultivation.

Xiao Chengfeng did not have the confidence to say it because he could not accept that.

“If I can confidently say that in front of everyone, my life would have...no regrets!” His eyes glinted. He looked determined.

Meanwhile, the raft reached the shore.

Li Nianfan saluted and said, “I should go back.”

Lin Mufeng instantly said, “Mr. Li, let me fly you all back.”

Li Nianfan smiled and rejected his offer. “No need. Daji and I are going to look at the view on the way back. It’s nice to walk around.”

“Mr. Li, your words are like lanterns on a dark path,” Xiao Chengfeng said seriously. “Thanks a lot!”

“As long as it’s useful. You’re welcome. Goodbye,” waved Li Nianfan. He slowly walked away with Daji.

Lin Mufeng and Xiao Chengfeng watched Li Nianfan leave with complex gazes. They felt like he was oddly cool. They wanted to worship him on the spot.

Truly an expert.

Xiao Chengfeng thanked Lin Mufeng, “Cultivator Lin, it’s a lucky thing I got to know the expert because of you. Thanks a lot!”

Lin Mufeng hurriedly said, “You’re too courteous, Immortal. Since the expert took me to the Immortal Relic to retrieve your Immortal Stone, I suspect he must’ve already planned this.”

“No matter what plans he had, I’m willing to be his sharpest sword!” Xiao Chengfeng was determined. Then, he curiously asked, “Oh, yeah. I didn’t dare to ask the expert. Do you know who Li Chungang is?”

Lin Mufeng shook his head. “No. But since the expert said his name, he must be an amazing elite!”

Xiao Chengfeng respectfully said, “Sigh, who knew such a sword cultivator exists. I wish I could witness his glory.”

“Might be a bigshot from the same era as the expert.” Lin Mufeng was also respectful. He guessed, “He has the same surname as the expert, Li. They might be related.”

Xiao Chengfeng looked like he realized something. He said, “The relatives of the expert. No wonder.”

Chapter 239: Betting Everything in One Strike

Nighttime.

They were out on a trip for the entire day. It was fun but a bit tiring. They brought back a lot of things.

Li Nianfan worked on the ‘Bootlicker’s Guide to the Immortal Realm’. Then, he added Xiao Chengfeng and the Carp Demon on the ‘List of Bigshots’. He soon fell asleep.

The Fire Phoenix walked out of her room in the four-part architecture. She looked at the playful little carp swimming excitedly in the small pond. She instantly smirked.

She said quietly, “Little Dragon, stop pretending! Drop your disguise.”

The little carp instantly jumped. Then, it leaped out of the pond and transformed into a five-year-old child. It was a little girl in a white dress.

She looked nervous and pitiful.

She had a baby-ish voice, too. She nervously said, “You... You’re a Phoenix?”

The Fire Phoenix said, “Don’t be scared. The grudge between dragons and phoenixes was squashed a long time ago. We both vanished. There’s no use for a fight.”

“Oh,” replied the little girl.

The Fire Phoenix asked, “Why are you here? You were almost captured by a cultivator if it wasn’t for the expert.”

The little girl fearfully said, “I sneaked out of the Dragon Palace to play. Then, I saw a gold door. I think it’s called the Dragon Door. I tried to get through it and I did, but I wasted a lot of power. I couldn’t even stay in my form.”

The Fire Phoenix asked, “How are the Dragons?”

“It’s just me, my father, and my Fifth Brother. Even my mother died giving birth to me,” said the little girl truthfully. She looked sad.

The Fire Phoenix sympathized with her. She said, “You’re too naughty. You have to protect yourself better.”

“Sister Fire Phoenix, who’s the man who saved me today? He’s an ordinary man but he seems awesome. Also...”

The little girl looked at her pond. It was filled with Spiritual Water. It was too nice to swim in it, and the orange...delicious.

The Fire Phoenix shook her head. “Ordinary man? He’s a Godly character. He knows how to retrieve glorious things from faraway eras, but I’m afraid that was just a one-time thing.

The little girl was confused. “He can recreate things from the eldritch times? I heard from my father that it’s only a myth and it’s impossible.”

“Let’s not talk about this.” The Fire Phoenix changed the subject. She said, “The Master said you’re a Carp Demon, so you have to be a good Carp Demon from now on. Since I took on the responsibility to teach you, I have to be responsible! First of all, since you’re staying here, I think you should help out

with some chores like washing the dishes, splitting the firewood, gardening in the backyard, or something.”

The little girl was suspicious. “Sister Fire Phoenix, I think you’re causing trouble for me on purpose.”

“I can assure you, she isn’t.” Xiao Bai walked over. “I call the shots. Apart from cooking, chores are your responsibility from now on!”

The little girl hesitated for a long while before saying, “Then, remember to bring me food...”

At the borders of the Southern land and Northern land.

It was still peaceful and quiet in the dark night.

All of a sudden, it was bright with fire.

Followed by murderous screams!

Menacing swords glinted in the dark night. It sent shivers down their spines.

Stab!

A tent fell apart from the stab. Then, blood was spilled everywhere.

Kill!

Suddenly, it got more intense. Heavy, chaotic footsteps could be heard along with sounds of weapons clashing.

The strong wind blew, carrying the menacing aura everywhere.

Zhou Yunwu stood on a nearby hill. He looked at the war and clenched both his fists.

Rich stood next to him and said, "Don't worry, my King. We initiated a surprise attack this time. It must be as effective as expected."

"We're betting everything on one strike. How am I not supposed to be nervous?" Zhou Yunwu took a deep breath. "If we can't win when the time and setting favor us, how can we continue with the war?"

Their opponents were ferocious. They were unstoppable and they had a strong will. It was no use to fight fire with fire so they initiated a sneak attack. Proudful soldiers were the first to fall. It was not smart to face them head-on and their opponents would not be ready for the sneak attack.

If they won, they could destroy the faith of their opponents, but if they lost, it would be hard to win this war. It was a crucial battle.

Both sides tried to kill each other on the battlefield.

One side held saber swords while the other held axes. The swords were more intimidating under the moonlight.

The sharpness of the swords was far better than the axes. The strikes were unstoppable—violent and murderous.

Rich was pumped. He exclaimed excitedly and respectfully, "Mr. Li's such a genius. He thought of such a brilliant technique to forge the swords. If we win, sixty percent of the credit goes to him!"

"The army advisor, Mr. Li's apprentice, was the one who came up with the sneak attack plan. So, if we win this one, ninety percent of the credit goes to Mr. Li!" corrected Zhou Yunwu. He then said, "Mr. Li's the Chosen One. He was born in excellence but he's far beyond that. It's my honor to be chosen by him."

The battle was going well. It seemed like they were going to win. However, things changed when a buff dark figure joined in.

“Shameless rats! How dare you attack sneakily?!”

The dark figure held a giant ax. He yelled and his soldiers behind him sprinted forth like tigers running into a flock of sheep. Several soldiers died under his ax in an instant.

Zhou Yunwu and Rich looked troubled. They clenched their jaws. “Tu Jiu!”

“Die!”

Tu Jiu was as strong as a bull. He swung his ax.

Bam!

The saber sword blocked the ax but could not withstand the force of the attack. The soldier thought his right wrist was about to snap out of place. He was thrown aside.

“Who can stop me?!” Tu Jiu yelled and looked up. His gaze was as sharp as lightning. He targeted Zhou Yunwu.

“Human Sovereign!”

He smirked menacingly and ran toward Zhou Yunwu. He was unstoppable!

Rich hurriedly yelled, “Protect the King!”

The soldiers around Zhou Yunwu joined the battle and ran toward Tu Jiu.

Clang!

Hundreds of soldiers tried to stop him. Their swords collided loudly with the ax. Zhou Yunwu felt that. He looked terrible.

Tu Jiu was alone. He was being surrounded but he did not seem to be at a disadvantage. He was covered with sword cuts but he was still energetic. More soldiers died from his ax.

The key part was that he used a lot of force, so his energy should not have been able to keep up with that. However, his energy seemed to be endless. He grew mightier as he fought, killing anything in his way.

He...was getting closer.

Closer.

Closer!

His path was filled with dead bodies and a long trail of blood.

The soldiers were thinning out. However, they did not retreat. "Protect the King, kill!"

Zhou Yunwu teared up. He stared at Tu Jiu with red eyes. The veins in his arms were popping up because he clenched his fists too hard.

"King, that ax is cursed. It must be the doings of the demons!" Rich had teary red eyes, too. He pulled out his sword and slowly stepped forward. He said, "King, you can't stay here. Go!"

Zhou Yunwu stood still. He did not want to leave. He pulled out his weapon instead.

"King!" yelled Rich.

“Haha, Human Sovereign. You dare to stay? Whoever runs is a coward!” laughed Tu Jiu maniacally. He murdered more soldiers with gusto.

He was tall and buff. In an instant, he was merely a few miles away from them.

“Stop right now!”

Rich ran with his sword in his hands. He ran towards Tu Jiu, about to risk it all.

“Puny insect, you dare fight a stone as an eggshell?!” Tu Jiu sneered and raised his ax. He attacked with the ax!

The saber sword collided with the giant ax. The surrounding soldiers watched horrifically with wide eyes. They rushed to help.

Clang!

The sound was deafeningly loud. Then, everyone’s jaws fell to the floor as they watched the ax snap. Half of the ax flew across the sky.

Chapter 240: The Oblivious Azure Ville

Plop!

That was the sound of the ax dropping to the ground. It was loud even on the noisy battlefield.

Everyone was frozen in place with wide eyes. They looked like they were in disbelief.

Especially Tu Jiu’s army. They conquered battles alongside Tu Jiu, so they knew how powerful the ax was. They were sure they would win. However, the ax broke!

Tu Jiu pulled back, looking dumbfoundedly at the remaining half of his ax. It was like his mind had not come around yet. He still could not believe what happened.

The treasure given by the Lord Demon God...was broken?

He looked at Rich's saber sword. It was still shiny without any cuts or damages.

Rich and the others were also stumped.

They could tell that the ax was extraordinary. They were ready to die with a fight. They had planned to go down with Tu Jiu.

However...they might win for some weird reason!

Rich looked at his saber sword. It was ordinary but it was shinier than most swords. However...it sliced the giant ax in half.

"This... This sword was personally made by Mr. Li!" mumbled Rich. He had sparkles in his eyes and he was instantly joyful.

His voice was trembling because he got too excited. He said loudly, "King, this sword was made by Mr. Li."

Zhou Yunwu took a deep breath and calmed down. He said in a sentimental voice, "I know."

"Mr. Li's the Chosen One. He gave us the ultimate weapon! Everyone, follow me, kill!"

"Kill them!" yelled the soldiers. It was as if they all had steroid shots. They fought back hard.

"This sword was made by Mr. Li. It's the first steel-infused saber sword to ever exist. Today, I'm willing to kill them all with this sword!" He caressed his favorite weapon and sprinted towards Tu Jiu.

The battle was one-sided. It was obvious who was going to win.

Tu Jiu could be heard from the battlefield. He sounded frantic and mad. "Just you wait. I'm going to go back and pick a decent weapon. I'll be back to kill you all!"

"We won, we won!"

Everyone was flushed from excitement and drenched in blood. They celebrated.

Rich wiped his saber sword and mumbled, "My King, we won."

He could not believe it. They won the battle because of one weapon. They managed to turn the situation around.

Moreover, that victory was the first time they stopped the enemy. It could change the course of the war!

The saber sword...was too important!

Zhou Yunwu picked up the sword and said, "From now on, this saber sword is the kingdom's treasure. It carries the Luck of the Xia Kingdom!"

The expert's writings were the Faith of the Kingdom!

The sword made by him was the Sword of the Kingdom!

The golden advice from him was the Legacy of the Kingdom!

Zhou Yunwu suddenly thought of what Meng Junliang said. Li Nianfan was beyond it all but he still came to the Immortal Realm, not for anything else besides passing on his knowledge, preaching... The Answer!

Rich clenched his jaw while he watched the fleeing figure. He said, "It's too bad we let Tu Jiu escape."

"It won't happen next time!" Zhou Yunwu was determined. "I won't let Mr. Li down!"

Rich asked, "My King, this is our first victory. Should we tell the expert about the good news?"

"Do you need to ask? Of course!"

Demons were causing a violent ruckus in the Southern area.

Amon and Backo frowned at the same time.

Amon had a red glare. He screamed, "That useless Tu Jiu. How did he lose with the ax I gave him!"

"It's apparent that someone butted in!" sneered Backo. He said, "I told you. It's not going to work if we only rely on army expansion. We've wasted too much time!"

Amon screeched, "We're not waiting anymore! We, the demons, should move. Find the targets. We have to destroy the sects that have demon entrances! Two birds in one stone!"

Backo immediately said, "We don't need to look for it. There's a famous one, Azure Ville. I think Yuecha's there!"

"Really?!"

Amon was shocked. He angrily said, "How dare someone use the demon seal as their local marketing. How dare they?! What are we waiting for? Let's annihilate them!"

"They look down on the demons. So we have to show them how cruel we are!"

Backo added, "Also, about the Human Sovereign. We have to deal with him when we can."

Amon said, "He has a high status and great Luck. It won't be that easy to make a move. We need to report it to the Lord Demon God and set up a good plan."

...

At the four-part architecture.

In the morning.

Li Nianfan walked out of the room and comfortably stretched. "What a good night's sleep. I feel re-energized."

Then, he was taken aback.

He rubbed his eyes to look closely.

Damn. Why was there a little girl in the yard? She looked pretty and quirky. She also had bubbles on her face. She was doing the laundry very seriously, washing the clothes hard with her little hands.

Where did the child come from?

The little girl saw Li Nianfan. She immediately said, "Brother."

Her voice was soft and adorable.

"You're..."

Li Nianfan walked over. He then noticed that the little girl's neck was covered with a thin layer of shiny scales. There were scales on her wrist, too, but it did not look weird. Instead, it looked kind of like accessories.

"Yesterday... Carp Demon? You can transform into human form?"

The little girl nodded. She stood up and thanked him, "Thank you, brother, for saving my life."

"You're welcome," laughed Li Nianfan. He felt kind of bad. He asked, "Why are you washing the clothes?"

The little girl pouted and pitifully said, "Sister Fire Phoenix told me to. She said she was trying to teach me."

"Morning."

The Fire Phoenix walked out of the room. She looked at the little girl who was pretending to be pitiful and said, "Since I said I was going to train her, I'm going to start when she's young. Don't be fooled by her obedient demeanor. She's quite naughty."

No wonder.

The Fire Phoenix was her teacher. It was not hard to teach her how to have a human form.

She was not fully in human form though. The little girl still had her scales and her red tail peeked out from under her clothes, too. It wiggled from left to right. It was quite funny.

He felt bad for such a cute little girl, but the Fire Phoenix was her Master. He could not do much since it was part of her training.

He smiled and reminded, "Kids, right? It can't be helped if they're a bit naughty. Don't tire her out."

“Oh, yeah. What’s your name?”

“I’m Dragin.”

“Dragin? Like Dragon? Like the popular saying, ‘the carp has leaped through the Dragon’s gate’. What a nice name,” complimented Li Nianfan.

He stood aside and watched Dragin as she washed the clothes. Then, she carried the wooden bucket and clumsily laid the clothes out to dry.

Dragin wiped her hands and proudly examined what she did. Before she could smile, the Fire Phoenix said, “Next, go water the plants in the backyard. After that, chop more firewood.”

Instantly, Dragin looked upset.

Li Nianfan could not help but smile.

He looked at Dragin and thought of the times he was constantly exploited by the System. Thinking back, it was quite relatable.

‘Work hard. It’ll be your time to order others around when you grow up.’

“Brother, I was injured yesterday,” pouted Dragin. She rubbed her little belly and pretended to be pitiful. “So hungry.”

“Rest for a while, then. Don’t worry, your brother won’t let you starve!”

Li Nianfan laughed loudly and said to Xiao Bai who was frying eggs, “Xiao Bai, add two more eggs for breakfast!”