

Bigshot 251

Chapter 251: Maybe This Was Fatherly Love

“Dad, you’re crazy! Don’t do anything foolish! The expert isn’t someone you can mess with!” Dragin was baffled for a second. She hurriedly stopped them, “What are you guys doing? I’m totally willing to work here.”

“Someone I can’t mess with?”

The Dragon King instantly laughed out of anger. He looked at Dragin with pity in his eyes.

Who would willingly work??

The brat must be delusional from abuse.

He said in a low voice, “My daughter, daddy didn’t protect you well. Don’t be scared. Trust me, I’ll bring you justice! You don’t have to work here anymore. Daddy promises you won’t ever have to work again!”

“I don’t need your promise. This is an opportunity given to me by the expert. I got lucky. Don’t ruin it!”

Dragin was frantic. She hurriedly took out the fruits and desserts she brought with her. “Every time I finish my chores, I get a lot of delicious food. Look, these are the treasures I got.”

The Dragon King and Fifth Brother looked at the items she took out. They felt their hearts twitch hard. They looked away because they felt bad.

What were those? Some fruits and steamed bread.

Treasures?

'My dear Dragin, how much torture did you endure? You work just to eat these things?

'Who could be so cruel? They tortured you until you're delusional.'

"Seventh Sister, don't be like this. Wake up." The Fifth Brother could not breathe because he pitied his sister so much. He sounded extremely sorry for her. He could not hide his anger either. He looked like he was about to kill someone.

Crack!

He instantly destroyed the fruits in front of him, turning them into ashes. "Such humiliation. It's an insult. We don't need it!"

"What are you doing?!"

Dragin screamed. She raised her arm and spun the water waves into a Water Dragon figure. She attacked her Fifth Brother and sent him flying.

"Two apples, an orange, and a banana!" Dragin was livid. She yelled with teary eyes, "You have to pay me back!"

"Water Dragon Chant?!" The Dragon King was shocked. His eyes and jaw were wide open. He was disoriented as he asked, "Where did you learn that from?"

Dragin had no time to acknowledge him. She rushed over to her Fifth Brother and started tugging at his clothes. She struggled as if she hated him. "Pay me back, you have to pay me back!"

"Okay, okay, we have a lot of those." The Fifth Brother immediately gestured and a beautiful Clam Demon served up a bunch of fruits. "Look, we have everything. All types of it!"

Dragin almost cried. "You have nothing! I want my apples, my orange, and banana!"

The Fifth Brother was puzzled. He looked at the Dragon King helplessly.

The Dragon King also helplessly shook his head. They exchanged looks.

It seemed like their Dragin was mentally unstable from her abuse. It was not good to agitate her.

However, she knew how to perform a Water Dragon Chant attack. It was a legendary skill that was extinct among their kind. Where did she learn it from? Perhaps she was abused and somehow her Dragon instinct from an eldritch era was awakened?

The Dragon King smiled calmly. "Alright, my sweet daughter. We'll pay you back later. Calm down."

Dragin felt upset. "How can you pay me back when you don't have it? I worked all day for the apple and orange! Boohoo..."

Such little payment for a whole day's worth of work? What a cheapskate!

The Dragon King was furious and sorrowful.

"My dear daughter, us Dragons don't have much, but we do have a lot of treasures. What don't we have in this realm?" comforted the Dragon King. He arrogantly waved and boasted, "It's just a few fruits, right? Don't worry, my dear daughter. I can get whatever you want and I'll let you eat as much as you want from now on."

"Liar." Dragin frowned. She took out her last orange and gave the Dragon King a slice. "These fruits are different. Try it first."

"Alright, alright, I'll try it now. My precious daughter brought food back for her father to eat. I'm so glad to be your dad."

The Dragon King chuckled and simply put the orange slice in his mouth. "Hm, yummy. Hm... Hm?"

His eyes widened. His crown fell off as he screamed in disbelief, "Holy Mother of God!"

The Fifth Brother jumped at his reaction. Perhaps father was going along with the Seventh Sister? What professional acting. Maybe this was fatherly love.

Suddenly, the Tortoise Chancellor rushed in. "Dragon King, ten thousand crustacean soldiers have been gathered. Please, give us your orders, Dragon King!"

The Fifth Brother was immediately intrigued. He quickly said, "Get that senseless fella!"

The Dragon King looked at him. He looked emotionless as he pointed and said, "Tie this unscrupulous son up first!"

"Father, there's no need." The Fifth Brother was slightly baffled. "There's a limit to acting, right?"

"Do you know what you just did?" The Dragon King stared at him with teary eyes. "You destroyed two apples, an orange, and a banana!"

The Fifth Brother was even more baffled. "Yeah, so what?"

"Idiot, you pig!" The Dragon King pointed at him and scolded him but he still felt like it was not enough. He waved and said, "Hurry up and drag him outside. Give him a hundred spansks."

"Father, that's not necessary. What's going on? Why? Don't you have fatherly love for me?"

The voice of the Fifth Brother gradually faded away. Then, it was followed by sounds of hard spanking and his painful screams.

"Phew—that's better." The Dragon King sighed heavily. He looked at the remaining fruits and carefully held them up like they were the ultimate treasures. He had that unbelievable gaze.

His voice was trembling as he said, "Dragin, these fruits... Where did you get them from?"

Dragin said, "I told you, right? The expert gave them to me."

"This..."

The Dragon King's eyes widened. He had goosebumps all over. "You... You're not kidding me?"

They were Spiritual Fruits that contained the Power of Law. In eldritch eras, it was rare getting to eat one of these. Now, it appeared in the Immortal Realm, but more importantly, who would give it away?

"Believe it or not." Dragin was not in a good mood.

Soon, the hundred-spank punishment was over. The Fifth Brother was brought in by two Prawn Soldiers. His butt was slightly swollen.

He looked at the Dragon King oddly and complained, "Father, I don't understand."

The Dragon King hesitated for a long while. Then he pinched a slice of orange. He sighed and said, "Try it."

The Fifth Brother bafflingly took the orange slice and put it in his mouth. He chewed it and it made a 'squish' sound.

Then, his eyes were wide open. He was stumped.

His mind was buzzing and he was in a daze. He felt weak all over and asked as he trembled, "Fa...father, the four fruits I just destroyed... Are... Are they also such magical fruits?"

“What do you think?”

“I... I...” The Fifth Brother’s lips were trembling. He looked lost and helpless. He said, “I think I’m an idiotic pig. Please, continue with the whipping and spanking. Don’t have mercy on me.”

His heart thumped hard. He would do anything to turn back time.

Four Spiritual Fruits were destroyed?!

What was the meaning of being alive in the realm? He was not worthy!

He felt like a beggar who had come across an antique vase and smashed it, thinking it was just a normal vase only to find out later that it was worth billions. More importantly, this beggar smashed four antique vases in one go!

The feeling of despair.

God was freaking playing with him!

Dragin scoffed. She pouted and asked, “Can you pay me back for the fruits?”

The Dragon King and the Fifth Brother shook their heads at the same time. “No.”

The Fifth Brother asked in disbelief, “Dragin, you get to eat fruits like that just from working?”

Dragin nodded, “Yeah.”

The Fifth Brother had tears in his eyes from envy. “Such a good deal... Any positions available for hire? I don’t have any strengths aside from being hardworking!”

Dragin scoffed, “Nope, don’t even think about it!”

The Fifth Brother shamelessly said, “My good sister, help your brother out. I’m begging you.”

“Move aside!” The Dragon King picked up the Fifth Brother and tossed him aside. “You are miles behind your sister. How would the expert ever be impressed by you?”

The Dragon King insulted him hard. Then, he recommended himself, “Dear daughter, tell the expert that if workers are required, he can find me. I can even clean the toilet. I don’t need a lot of payment. One fruit per day would be okay.”

Dragin still shook her head.

“Joking.”

The Dragon King fake-smiled. Then, he looked serious. “Dragin, you’re lucky to be chosen by an expert like that. This is a huge opportunity, seize it well. The expert makes you work as part of your training. You must complete the tasks wholeheartedly! Don’t go today, let my minions train you. You must learn how to do chores well and aim for perfect execution.”

Dragin said, “I don’t need you all to teach me. I have someone teaching me already.”

“The expert gave you a tutor?”

The Dragon King was surprised. Then, he remembered, “Oh, yeah. Dragin, did the expert teach you how to perform the Water Dragon Chant?”

“No,” Dragin shook her head and said with a serious face. “It’s a big secret. I promised not to tell anyone.”

The Dragon King and the Fifth Brother looked at each other. Then, they ordered everyone around them, “All of you, out! Get away from here!”

“Dear daughter, we’re your closest family. Are you going to keep secrets from us?” The Dragon King convinced, “It’s just us here. Who else would know if we don’t tell anyone?”

Dragin looked troubled. She groaned for a moment and said, “You have to promise me not to tell anyone. You have to keep it a secret.”

The Fifth Brother nodded seriously. “No worries, Seventh Sister. Since the beginning of time, keeping secrets has always been the forte of the Dragon kind.”

“Alright then.” Dragin took a deep breath and lowered her voice. She said in a mysterious voice, “I met our ancestor!”

Gasp—

The Dragon King and the Fifth Brother gasped at the same time. They were more shocked at that than the Spiritual Fruit. “For real?”

Dragin immediately said, “Of course. It was saved by the expert. I learned a lot of tricks and skills from it!”

“An ancestor of our Dragon kind is alive?”

The Dragon King and the Fifth Brother were flushed from excitement. “Blessed be the Dragons, blessed be the Dragons!”

“We Dragons owe the expert a lot!”

The Dragon King was slightly flustered. “Not only did the expert save our ancestor, but he also kept you. He’s so nice to the Dragons. Perhaps it’s because he had a good past with the Dragon kind of the eldritch era?”

The Fifth Brother said in a trembling voice, "Who knew we Dragons would encounter such an expert. We have to be his bootlickers no matter what!"

"Naturally! Even our ancestor's doing so. How can we not follow suit?"

The Dragon King looked serious. He was emotional from anxiety and a mix of feelings. He did not know what to do. "Please him. We have to think of ways to please the expert!"

He kept pacing back and forth in the palace. "Not sure what the expert would like. Dragin, you're around the expert a lot. What do you think we should send as a gift?"

"Hm... I think the expert likes food. Maybe we should send him some seafood," answered Dragin.

"Good idea." The Dragon King had sparkles in his eyes. He immediately gave the orders, "Inform the Prawn Soldiers to pick a few big prawns from the nearby coastline. For the Crab Soldiers, tell them to pick a few fat crabs. Remember, the quality must be outstanding! Train them hard so that their meat will be scrumptious when caught to ensure good texture."

"It's not good enough. It's too cheap. I have to take a look inside the Dragon Palace Vault. We have to show our sincerity!"

Chapter 252: Seafood Set Meal

To the vault?

She followed behind him and said, "Daddy, I'll go with you."

The Fifth Brother rubbed his butt and quickly stumbled over. "Father, bring me along, too."

The Dragon King looked serious as he walked into the depths of the Dragon Palace.

The path was shiny and golden. The long hallway was built with gold bricks and many rare jewels drilled into them.

After a while, the three of them were in front of a huge, heavy gold door.

The door opened with a rumble.

Dragin could not wait to run inside.

It was glistening and shiny inside the vault. The treasures were collected over thousands of years from past Dragons.

Dragons were natural treasure collectors. The three levels of the vault were filled up with treasure.

There were all sorts of treasures in messy piles because no one could organize them.

“Dad, you’re not going to give him weapons, right? Because that’s not going to work.” Dragin shook her little head. “The expert came to the Immortal Realm as an ordinary man so he doesn’t need weapons.”

She thought to herself, “Well, apart from the weapons he uses to split firewood and for cooking. The expert’s sword and cooking knife seem to be better than whatever we have here”

“Dear daughter, you don’t need to remind me.” The Dragon King smiled and shook his head. “How can the bigshot use our weapons? Unless we have a legendary weapon, we can’t bring it as a gift.”

It was the same as an ordinary person giving a cooking knife to a martial arts expert. The expert had no use for it. It would be more useful to give him clothes.

The Dragon King stopped and ran straight to the second level of the vault.

He looked disturbed when he sighed. “According to the Dragon Records, when the Dragons were at their prime, the vault had six levels in total. Now, we’re only left with three levels.”

The Dragon Door was closed. The Dragons were out of touch with the rest of the realm so the treasure vault had been abandoned for a long time.

Dragin asked, “So many levels... How much treasure was there?”

“The six levels were filled according to their treasure levels, but it doesn’t mean it’s all full.”

The Dragon King groaned for a moment and explained, “In a faraway era when land had just been discovered, there were a lot of fantastic items. Immortals were everywhere. You could say that opportunities were also everywhere. There were treasures everywhere, too. The first level of the vault was filled with wonderful treasures known as Spiritual Treasures. Followed by Deluxe Spiritual Treasures, Ultimate Spiritual Treasures, Deluxe Ultimate Spiritual Treasures, Heavenly Spiritual Treasures, and Ultimate Heavenly Spiritual Treasures!”

It was a long time ago. He only knew it from stories, too. The treasures were long gone as the Dragons faced extinction.

Dragin asked curiously, “What level would Luck Treasure be?”

“At the very least, on the fourth level,” answered the Dragon King without thinking. Then, he was slightly surprised. He asked, “How do you know about Luck Treasure?”

Dragin said, “I heard it when the ancestor was chatting. The expert gave a Luck Treasure to the Human Sovereign.”

“What?!”

The Dragon King’s mind was buzzing. He tripped and almost fell over.

“He gave away a Luck Treasure?” He almost could not believe his ears. “This...”

He jolted. Was it the recklessness of a bigshot?

Once protected by a Luck Treasure, others would have to think twice before attacking. The Luck Treasure was a hidden asset. It was too useful.

Dragin noticed the reaction of the Dragon King and asked, “Is it that precious? The expert also casually made a lantern and it’s also a Luck Treasure. Even that has been tossed into a corner, too.”

Yikes—

The Dragon King rolled his eyes and almost fainted.

Luck Treasure could be made? It was not created naturally?”

He felt like his worldview was being attacked.

Terrifying, unimaginable!

He would have thought it was nonsense but he knew Dragin would not lie.

Bigshot, unimaginable bigshot!

He could not describe how he felt at that moment. He only knew that his little heart was racing fast and his blood was boiling up to his head.

‘A mere puny dragon being so close to such a bigshot. It’s a lucky thing that my daughter does chores for him. What a breakthrough!

'Can't think about it. I'll probably faint from happiness.'

"Dragin, my precious Dragin! Comparing you to your Fifth Brother, he's scum."

The Dragon King was slightly flustered. He realized he forgot something huge. The only things he knew about the expert were the Spiritual Fruits and the Dragon ancestor. He had no other information about the expert.

He asked in a serious tone, "Dragin, did the expert ever give you a hint to not say anything about him?"

Dragin shook her head. "No, brother's very nice. He wants me to say hi to you, too."

"Good." The Dragon King sighed in relief. Then, he said, "Dear daughter, quickly tell me everything about the expert."

"This is important. Let's go. Back to the Dragon Palace!" said The Dragon King while he walked outside with Dragin.

Dragin and the Fifth Brother were confused. "Dad, we aren't going to choose a treasure anymore?"

"No treasure here's worthy enough for the expert."

The Dragon King waved and hesitated. Then, he said, "I gave it some thought. Since we're giving him something, we must give him the greatest treasure of the Dragon Palace! At least it can show our sincerity, regardless if the expert will be impressed or not."

"We have other treasures?"

"It's a big cauldron!" The Dragon King nodded. "It didn't belong to us in the past, but now, it's the best treasure of the Dragon Palace."

The next day.

Two carps swam out from the Dragon Palace—a big carp and a small carp. They were soon at the lakeshore. Then, they walked straight to the mountains.

Dragin was slightly depressed. She felt sorrowful because she missed out on dinner last night. It seemed like she was going to miss breakfast made by the expert, too. It was hard for a foodie like her.

Sigh, huge mistake.

“Dad, we’re almost there.” Dragin asked, “The expert thinks I’m a Carp Demon. Should we be honest with our identities?”

“Of course not!” The Dragon King instantly shook his head. “Foolish daughter, didn’t you see that I came here as a big carp, too? The expert must have his reasons. We’ll just have to comply. Remember, from now on, we’re Carp Demons.”

They were already at the door of the four-part architecture.

Dragin did not try to be courteous. She knocked and barged in.

The Dragon King was right next to her and he almost had a heart attack.

‘So direct? Isn’t that too impolite? Please, warn me next time! Let your dad be mentally prepared!’

He went stiff and carefully entered the house with Dragin.

Dragin sounded sweet when she shameless said, “Brother, Sister Fire Phoenix, Sister Daji, Blackie, Xiao Bai, I’m back.”

Li Nianfan was holding a big piece of wood. He was sculpturing something. He looked up and smiled, "So early? Weren't you going to stay for a few more days?"

Dragin said, "My home's doing well. Also, let me tell you the good news. The tides have receded."

"Oh? That's good news indeed," smiled Li Nianfan while he nodded. Then, he said, "I have good news to tell you, too. New ice pops were made. They're almost ready. Try it."

Dragin instantly sparked up at the mention of food. She asked, "Really?"

Li Nianfan said, "The ice pops have mixed flavors this time. It's mixed with three different fruits. I promise you it's delicious. Also, I made new moulds in interesting shapes for the ice pops."

"Wow!" said Dragin excitedly. Then, she pushed her dad out and said, "Oh, yeah. Brother, my dad's here with me."

"Mr. Li, gree—greetings." The Dragon King felt his throat go dry. He forced a smile and said, "My name's Urchin. Sorry for coming here without prior notice. Sorry for the disturbance."

"Dragin's father! Nice to meet you." Li Nianfan immediately stopped what he was doing and said in a friendly tone, "Take a seat. Xiao Bai, quick. Make some tea."

Her father must be here to observe what his daughter had been doing. It was understandable since his daughter was so young.

Urchin noticed the Fire Phoenix and Daji. He instantly froze.

The place was as extraordinary as his daughter described.

He took a deep breath and said calmly, "Mr. Li, this is a small token of appreciation. Please, accept it."

He took out a huge box and presented it to Li Nianfan. He felt nervous.

“You’re too courteous. This is a big box.”

Li Nianfan opened it and was instantly intrigued. “Good stuff! This is... King Crab? Australian Lobster? My my—so big! And Large Yellow Croaker, too? This is so nice of you!”

He could not wait to get his hands on them. He dragged the box over to the refrigerator and froze them.

He felt emotional and thankful after seeing familiar seafood.

He had been in the Immortal Realm for five years. He did not expect to see a luxurious seafood set meal again. What a pleasant surprise.

They said kind people would get kind blessings. He saved the little carp, but who knew her family was in the seafood business? He traded some fruits with such expensive seafood. What a treat.

Ordinary people would never go to the oceanic areas of the Immortal Realm. Aside from sea creatures, the sea was rarely calm. Even if the timing was right, oceanic seafood had limited shelf lives before it went bad. Nobody would risk capturing oceanic seafood.

Even in the past realm, those things were considered expensive and luxurious. It was basically impossible to eat it in the Immortal Realm.

What a treat. He could finally reminisce about flavors of the past realm.

“As long as Mr. Li likes it.” Urchin was relieved. He genuinely smiled.

He did not know what ‘King Crab’ or ‘Australian Lobster’ was but it did not matter. He would rename them once he returned home.

What an honor to be named by the bigshot.

“Mr. Li, we also brought another thing.”

Urchin raised his hand and waved.

Suddenly, a big cauldron appeared in the yard. It was about five feet high.

Li Nianfan arched his eyebrow. “A cauldron?”

He examined it for a while. The cauldron was mainly green. It was not rectangular but round instead. The sides of the cauldron were sculpted with patterns. It was not very refined but it had that expensive vintage vibe.

Li Nianfan was weirded out by the cauldron’s lid.

“A cauldron pot?”

What would he use a cauldron pot for?

Chapter 253: Every Lick Was Power

A cauldron for what?

“This...”

Li Nianfan did not know what to say. The cauldron was given to him by others and it was rude to reject it.

Urchin was observing Li Nianfan's reaction. When he noticed the expert frowning, he jumped. He went cold and his hands were shivering.

The expert...did not like the cauldron?

He was too careless. He should have given it more thought. He could have searched across the seas to pick more treasures!

He quickly said in a respectful tone, "Mr. Li, we're poor. We couldn't find any good items, so we could only bring this cauldron as a gift. Please, forgive us."

Li Nianfan looked like he realized something.

Perhaps the cauldron was a gift for the mentor?

It must be. The Carp Demon knew that his daughter was being taught by the Fire Phoenix. He must be giving her something as a token of appreciation.

However, he had limited treasure. That cauldron was supposedly the best treasure he had. He must have said that because he was scared of being despised.

What a poor, loving parent.

Li Nianfan had an idea. He immediately smiled and said, "Mr. Urchin, don't say that. This cauldron is nice. I suddenly remembered that I recently planned to brew some alcohol. This cauldron came at the right time."

Brew alcohol?

Urchin was slightly taken aback. He smiled awkwardly.

The cauldron was a Heavenly Spiritual Treasure. The Xuanyuan Sea Spell Cauldron could suppress any water spells and it had properties that could make Spiritual Water. Was it only worthy of brewing alcohol for the expert?

However, he was relieved after thinking about how the other Immortal items ended up. It was not that bad to be able to brew alcohol. It could be considered as putting the item to good use.

Li Nianfan walked to the Xuanyuan Sea Spell Cauldron. He lifted the lid.

“Huh? The lid looks heavy. I didn’t expect it to be so light. How convenient.” He smiled like he was pleasantly surprised.

Then, he looked inside the cauldron.

Urchin covered his ‘O’-shaped mouth with his hand at the side.

That was the Xuanyuan Sea Spell Cauldron!

After the big tribulation, the Dragon Door was closed. The Above Immortal Realm was worried that no one would look after the oceanic areas and it would cause chaos in the Immortal Realm. Therefore, they placed the cauldron in the depths of the ocean.

The lid was light?

No one had been able to lift its lid before.

The most important thing was when the expert said he wanted to use the cauldron to brew alcohol!

‘As a Heavenly Spiritual Treasure, shouldn’t you show a little more resistance? Do you like brewing alcohol?’

Thankfully, he was mentally prepared. He looked calm on the surface. He, too, looked into the cauldron.

The inside of the cauldron was as smooth as a mirror—flawless and glistening. Reflections could be seen when they stood near it.

“It’s a good cauldron! Perfect for brewing alcohol!”

Li Nianfan was delighted. He put the lid back on. The lid fitted snugly on the cauldron. It was perfect.

He smiled gently and saluted, “Mr. Urchin, your cauldron’s so useful for me. Thanks a lot.”

Urchin smiled awkwardly and said, “Ha, you’re welcome, Mr. Li. This cauldron is indeed suitable for brewing alcohol.”

Suddenly, there was a knock at the door.

“Is Mr. Li home?”

Li Nianfan was surprised. Then, he said, “The door’s unlocked. Come on in.”

Creak.

Two people walked in slowly.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “Brother Lin and Brother Xiao.”

Lin Mufeng and Xiao Chengfeng said at the same time, “Greetings to Mr. Li, Lady Daji.”

“No need to be courteous. Quick, take a seat.”

He did not expect so many visitors today.

Lin Mufeng said in an embarrassed tone, “Mr. Li, sorry for coming by without notice.”

Li Nianfan waved it away and said, “Brother Lin, don’t be a stranger by saying that.”

“Actually, I was the one who wanted to come by, Mr. Li,” said Xiao Chengfeng. He unbuckled the sword from his belt and said, “Thanks for the advice last time, Mr. Li. You helped me understand a lot. I don’t have much to pay you back for that. I only have this sword. Please, accept it, Mr. Li.”

Li Nianfan did not reach out to accept it. He shook his head, smiled awkwardly, and said, “Brother Xiao, you don’t need to do that. It’s not a big deal. Also, I’m just an ordinary man so I have no use for a sword. Please, take it back.”

“This...”

Xiao Chengfeng sighed and said, “Mr. Li, if you need my help with anything in the future, please, feel free to say so!”

Li Nianfan was waiting for that. He quickly smiled and said, “Don’t worry. If there is, I’ll do so.”

Sword cultivators were so earnest.

He simply teased him with a few sentences and got a promise from a sword cultivator in exchange. What a deal!

Urchin noticed that Li Nianfan was happy. He did not want to back down, so he immediately said, “Mr. Li, if there’s anything you need, I can help you out as best as I can, too.”

“Haha, thanks!”

Li Nianfan was overjoyed. He had protection from the sky, the land, and the water!

“Everyone, I must say you all came at the right time. You can try my newly invented ice pops.” He waved at Xiao Bai and said, “Quickly serve it to the guests.”

“Coming, my dear Master.”

Soon, Xiao Bai took out a mould from the refrigerator.

Dragin could not wait and immediately ran over, “Brother, is this the new ice pops?”

She looked at the mould with sparkles in her eyes. She looked excited.

The mould was made from wood that was sculpted into different shapes. They looked amazing because of Li Nianfan’s sculpturing skills.

The ice pops were perfectly shaped from the mould. The visual presentation was outstanding.

“This...”

Urchin and Xiao Chengfeng jumped when they saw the mould. They were terrified.

It emitted a weird aura.

Leftover Powers?

It was Leftover Powers for sure!

When a bigshot performed a high-level spell, the surrounding walls would have Leftover Powers. The Leftover Powers contained spell understanding from the spell caster. A small portion of Leftover Powers was enough to be beneficial in studies and observations for future generations.

The expert simply made a sculpture and had Leftover Powers. No, it was not Leftover Powers. It must be true Power Bestow!

Only people with a deep understanding of their powers could perform a Power Bestow.

The purpose of the mould was to make ice pops. That was...crazy!

Li Nianfan rushed them. "Stop standing around, hurry up and try it."

He picked up a dog-shaped ice pop and ate it. The cool sensation plus the perfect mixture of the three fruity flavors instantly made Li Nianfan feel good.

Xiao Chengfeng did not hesitate. As expected, picked the sword-shaped ice pop.

He held the ice pop in front of his eyes to examine it closely. He suddenly felt like his vision was blurry. It was as if he no longer held an ice pop. Instead, he was holding a real sword—a sword that was about to fly high in the sky!

Sword aura came out from the ice pop. It was as if the ice pop was from another dimension.

Xiao Chengfeng could not wait any longer. He put the ice pop in his mouth.

Suddenly, a chilling sensation traveled from the tip of his tongue to his entire body. The chill was not damaging for him. It was cool and then sweet flavors melted into his tongue. It was not just one flavor but a mixture of three fruits. The flavors teased his taste palettes to the extreme. Sometimes he tasted strawberries, sometimes he tasted the citric sweetness of the oranges, and other times he tasted pears.

Icy, cool, sweet, and sour. The flavors spun in his mouth. There was no better feeling than that.

So... So delicious!

If it was not for the expert, he would never have gotten the chance to enjoy that.

He thought his only passion in life was sword cultivation. That was the first time he realized that apart from sword cultivation, there was also good food.

However, just when he was mesmerized by the delicious food, his mouth suddenly started to shine brightly.

A long sword appeared in his mind without a warning. The sword was in the sky, emitting waves of Sword Intention. It kept expanding before it merged into his body. He gained a better understanding of the power of sword cultivation.

Meanwhile, Urchin chose a wave-shaped ice pop.

Instead of a sword, there were giant ocean waves in his mind. He felt like he was being baptized as he was being washed by the power of waves.

As expected, the ice pops were extraordinary since the mould was so special. How could the expert be impressed by anything less than extraordinary?

They felt like they were not eating ice pops. Every bite—no, it was more like every lick—was Power!

It might not be believable but they were consuming Power by licking.

They would never dream of eating something like that. They would not have even believed magical ice pops exist.

Urchin looked at his daughter. She was holding a bunny-shaped ice pop and carefully sucking on it.

He suddenly looked jealous.

His daughter was able to follow the bigshot around. Even if she was just doing chores, she was living a better life than a Dragon King!

The bigshot could simply bring something out and it would be treasures that no one could get!

Slurp, slurp.

Everyone was slurping in the four-part architecture.

They were all enjoying the moment.

The sounds finally stopped after time passed.

Looking at their satisfied demeanors, Li Nianfan felt pleased with himself. He asked, "Is the taste alright?"

"Alright? It's way better than alright!" Urchin nodded continuously. He sincerely said, "Thanks for the treat, Mr. Li. I'm lucky to be eating something so delicious."

Xiao Chengfeng said in a serious tone, "Mr. Li, thanks for the hospitality! I won't forget your kindness!"

Li Nianfan waved and laughed, "Okay, what an overreaction. It's just an ice pop, it's nothing much."

Urchin and Xiao Chengfeng looked at each other. Their gazes were filled with gratefulness.

The expert did not see the ice pops as anything much, but they could not do so!

That was a blessing from the expert. They had to remember it and thank him!

The two of them had the same idea. They stood up simultaneously.

Xiao Chengfeng said, "Mr. Li, sorry for the disturbance today. We won't be staying any longer."

Urchin looked at the backyard and then said, "Mr. Li, I should go, too. Dragin's in your care now. If she's disobedient, don't show her mercy. Just punish her!"

Li Nianfan walked them to the door and said, "Farewell, everyone."

They walked out of the four-part architecture. Urchin and Xiao Chengfeng walked side by side.

Urchin saluted, smiled, and introduced himself, "The Dragon King of the Eastside Ocean, Urchin!"

"Sword Immortal, Xiao Chengfeng. Greetings to the Dragon King."

Instantly, they went from being strangers to teammates that served the same expert. They chatted as they walked.

Lin Mufeng quietly followed behind them. He did not dare to breathe loudly.

A Dragon King and a Sword Immortal. When did the realm suddenly become so scary? They were not to be messed with.

Urchin and Xiao Chengfeng had a change in their facial expressions just when they were about to reach the end of the mountains. They looked in front of them.

There was a white figure. Her skirt was flowy and she was as cold as a Goddess.

They did not dare to dilly dally. They rushed over and greeted respectfully, “Lady Daji!”

“Cultivators, no need for courtesy.” Daji nodded at them and asked, “I was wondering if you’re free recently?”

Urchin hurriedly said, “Of course. Please, feel free to give us your orders, Lady Daji!”

“There’s a Five-Color Sacred Cow in the Kunxu Mountains at the Above Immortal Realm. The Master wants it.”

Daji paused and said, “However, the cow’s quite powerful and hard to track. I’d like to ask for your help. Let’s help the Master together.”

“As we should, as we should!”

Urchin said without hesitation, “Lady Daji, the expert’s business is our business! Count me in.”

Xiao Chengfeng followed suit, “What are we waiting for? I’ll head to the Kunxu Mountains right now. I’ll be back to update you once I have information on the Five-Color Sacred Cow, Lady Daji.”

Lin Mufeng’s mouth was wide open. Alright, he could not do anything except being amazed by the sidelines.

Daji said, “Sorry for the trouble.”

“You’re too courteous, Lady Daji. This shouldn’t be delayed. We’ll prepare for it immediately and we’ll complete this task perfectly!”

Chapter 254: Ask for the Truth, Predestined Fate With the Buddha

At the Above Immortal Realm.

The Tianyuan Immortal Town.

The Above Immortal Realm was different from the Immortal Realm. The Immortal Realm mainly had ordinary people. Therefore, their major towns would rely on kingdoms, sects, or cultivation families to stop the demons.

On the other hand, the Above Immortal Realm did not need to worry about that. They had locals, too, but a lot of them were cultivators. Some of them were as powerful as some Immortals. Moreover, everyone at the Above Immortal Realm was not weak so they did not want to rely on sects. There were a lot of solo cultivators, too.

A lot of towns in the Above Immortal Realm had a mixture of ordinary people and Immortals. No sane demons would attack the towns.

Thus, people from the towns did not need to rely on other forces. Some towns were even better than some sects in the Above Immortal Realm. Towns were nice places for Immortals to gather and hang out.

The Tianyuan Immortal Town was busy in the Above Immortal Realm. There were clouds above the town and in the marketplace. Various Immortals rode on clouds. They called their friends, and they came and went.

From afar, an elegant lady rode in on a pink cloud slowly.

She walked into the Tianyuan Immortal Town and looked around. She said, "The Above Immortal Realm is gradually looking like the Immortal Realm."

There were few ordinary people in the Above Immortal Realm. They would not live for long but they could give birth. Ordinary people would increase as time passed. Sooner or later, they would surpass the number of cultivators.

"No wonder ordinary people can own Luck from the mundane humans. They're the base species."

The lady walked along the streets of the Tianyan Immortal Town. She felt nervous and held on tight to what she was holding. She soon reached the black market.

The black market was a place for Immortals to trade items. All the stall owners were at least from the Tian Immortal Realm. It did not matter if one was rich. One just needed to have a unique item.

She looked at the stalls with disappointment in her eyes.

Then, she looked around the black market. She seemed to be hesitating.

"I gained too much from my descendants. How unlike an ancestor." She sighed slowly, her eyes glimmering. "Who would've thought that I'd have to rely on my descendants for help. I held them back. This time, I have to redeem myself!"

She looked determined. She walked into the depths of the black market.

"It's nice that my descendants are so exceptional. They were fortunate enough to befriend a Godly expert. The opportunity's right in front of us. As their ancestor, I have to do my best for them! At the same time, this is also my big break. As a cultivator, I must seize opportunities and dare to take risks!"

Soon, she was at a store.

It was dark inside the store. There were no lights at all. It would not affect the vision of an Immortal but it was still creepy.

The lady calmed herself down and wore a mask. She walked in slowly.

The gentle breeze blew the curtains of the store. A voice could be heard all of a sudden, "Have you traded anything here before?"

"No."

“Did you bring an item?”

“I did.”

The lady raised her hand and out came an egg and a small jar of honey.

“Huh?”

A hunchbacked old man slowly walked out from the dark.

He stared at the egg and the jar of honey for a long time. Then, he looked at the lady in shock.

“An egg from a Firefinch Demon and honey from Golden Bees. Rare items indeed!” He groaned for a moment. Then, he smiled and asked, “I’ll take the deal. What do you want to trade it with?”

The lady suppressed her anxiety. She asked, “Do you have any unique Spiritual Items?”

“Unique Spiritual Items?” The elder thought about it then raised his hand. A snow-white long sword appeared out of thin air. It was glimmering with Immortal Qi. “This sword is known as the Sky Pierce Sword. It’s a Deluxe Spiritual Treasure but its power is better than usual Deluxe Spiritual Treasures. This sword can slay Immortals!”

The lady clenched her fists after hearing that. She tried her best to control her heartbeat and said calmly, “I don’t need weapons. It’s best if it’s a Spiritual Item from the eldritch secret borders.”

“Spiritual Items from eldritch eras? These aren’t enough for that.” The old man chuckled. “Everyone knows that Immortal Items are mostly weapons. Spiritual Items are rarer than weapons. Spiritual Items from the eldritch eras are even rarer and more precious.”

He stared at the lady. Suddenly, he grew suspicious. He said, “Tell me more about these two items. I won’t even need them and I’ll give you this sword for free!”

The lady jumped. She took a deep breath and said, "I coincidentally got these two items. It's fine if I can't trade them."

She wanted to turn around and leave.

"Wait, cultivator."

The old man quickly stopped her. He still looked friendly when he said, "It can still be traded. I have a Spiritual Item. It's an Immortal Relic from the eldritch eras. However, it has some sort of spell on it. Nobody seems to be able to open it. If you're interested, I can make a trade."

The lady stopped in her tracks. "What is it?"

The old man flicked his wrist and out came a small vermillion box. The box was round with a gap in the middle, made up of two halves of a sphere. It was unclear what was in it.

A weird aura was emitting from the box. However, it was too antique for her to detect what it was.

"I'll accept the trade!" The lady immediately nodded. She sounded slightly chirpy.

Then, she left in a hurry.

The old man was thinking in the dark. He said, "An egg from a Firefinch Demon, honey from Golden Bees. These two items are too hard to get. How could a Beginner Immortal own them? She must have some secrets. I should get someone to follow her. Also, though we can't open the box, it's not an item to simply give away. It's time for necessary action."

At the Fallen Immortal Mountain.

A sexy figure slowly appeared.

She had the face of an angel and the body of a demon. She was tall, slim, and attractive. It was Yuecha.

She looked at the mountain and frowned. Her mind was somewhere else.

“According to the senses of my figure, the expert should be on this mountain.” She groaned for a moment and slowly walked uphill.

She fell into deep thought as she walked. She looked like she was hesitating.

Since the last fight with Backo and Amon, she realized the fatal flaw in cultivation. The same attack.

She realized she only knew how to perform the Heavenly Dragon attack. It was a powerful move but it was uncool to use the same move all the time.

That was why she failed to kill Backo and Amon. They also made fun of her.

It was not supposed to be that way for powerful Immortals.

She kept thinking about it but had no new understanding.

Not until a while ago when she heard the story of ‘Journey to the West’ at a lousy inn.

She was deeply intrigued by the Buddha, the Guanyin, and the other cultivation disciples. The journey of the Monk and his disciples made her skin crawl. She was emotional and inspired.

She felt the kind of joy one would get from seeing light on a lost path.

That was how Buddhism was supposed to be!

There was truth in Buddhism!

Women in Buddhism were known as Tara.

She heard from a lot of sources and found out that 'Journey to the West' originated from the Fallen Town. The expert lived near the Fallen Town so she had a strong feeling that 'Journey to the West' was created by the expert.

Therefore, she was determined to seek the expert. She wanted to be a Buddhist!

The mountain path was quiet and curvy with no obstacles. However, she was not calm at all. She was very nervous.

Could she see the Truth? Could she pursue Buddhism?

She was excited, nervous, and thrilled at the same time.

Suddenly, she looked up and saw three figures in her way.

Gu Yuan, Payne, and Ding Xiaozhu were slightly taken aback. They were discussing if they should pass the painting of the Lord Immortal to the expert. Then, they unexpectedly ran into a demon.

Payne was instantly threatened. He glared and said, "Demons dare to cause trouble for the expert? You must die!"

He overreacted because he wanted to help the expert. He was ready to attack.

Gu Yuan quickly stopped him, "Hold on, Sect Master. This is the Lord Yuecha that I told you about."

"Oh?"

Payne was slightly surprised. "She's the demon spy?"

Clearly, Gu Yuan had already told them about what happened at the Azure Ville.

Ding Xiaozhu tugged on Gu Yuan and said in a low voice, "Since she's the spy planned by the expert, we can't attack her!"

"Amitabha." Yuecha took out a shawl and wore it. "I have renamed myself. I'm no longer Lord Yuecha. Please, refer to me as a Tara. Greetings to the four of you."

Gu Yuan and the others quickly saluted, "Greetings to Tara Yuecha. Did you come here to visit the expert, too?"

"Yeah, I came to ask for the Truth. To learn about Buddha Sanzang and preach Buddhism," Yuecha nodded. Then, she asked, "Did you know 'Journey to the West' was created by the expert?"

Gu Yuan nodded and said quietly, "Yes, it is indeed the story of the expert. But our guess is that the story happened during the eldritch eras."

"I see! Great minds think alike," Yuecha nodded. "The world has many powerful transcendent beings. They've lived countless eons and experienced countless changes and events. How can the stories they tell be mere fiction? It was a real-life experience for sure!"

Payne asked curiously, "Tara Yuecha, you used to be with the Demons. Do you know if the vanishing of Buddhism has anything to do with the Demons?"

"Must be," Yuecha nodded. "But I'm not sure what happened exactly. I joined the Lord Demon God after the big tribulation."

Payne nodded. "I'm afraid we can only ask the expert if we want to find out why."

Yuecha looked at them and suddenly invited them, “Everyone, Buddhism used to be a big religion, blessed and protected by Luck and Spiritual Qi. Now that Buddhism’s dying, we have no strong members. If you want to join Buddhism, you’d be the founders of the Buddhism sect. Let’s make Buddhism great again. Your status will rise, too. Wouldn’t it be nice to have the title of a Tara or a Lord?”

Gu Yuan and the others were surprised. They could only smile awkwardly and say, “Ha, thanks for the generosity, Tara Yuecha. But no thanks.”

“Amitabha, don’t go. You have a predestined fate with the Buddha. Why not reconsider it?”

Chapter 255: So Stingy

The four of them walked together. Gu Yuan and the others took the lead. They seemed to be running away from Yuecha.

Yuecha was chasing after them, constantly preaching about Buddhism.

Buddhism urged people to be kind. It was a great opportunity that could not be found again once the opportunity was missed.

They endured it until they finally reached the four-part architecture. Gu Yuan and the others looked relieved.

Ding Xiaozhu said, “Tara Yuecha, we’ve arrived at the expert’s home. You have to remain quiet.”

Yuecha nodded, “You’re right. I’ll stop talking now but please, reconsider my offer.”

Everyone went silent.

The four of them felt emotional in front of the four-part architecture.

They each had different emotions.

Yuecha felt magical because the Buddhist Scripture was in there. She could feel it but she could not touch it. It sent a shiver down her spine.

Payne and the others all looked at each other with worry in their eyes. They had a more complex case than Yuecha.

They were here to give the expert the painting from the Lord Immortal in the Above Immortal Realm. They did not dare to open the painting scroll. However, they knew the painting must not be good. If they risked it and gave it to the expert, would the expert be offended?

Should they give the painting to the expert?

What a struggle!

Payne said, "Knock the door. We're the ones to blame for being useless. If that wasn't the case, we would've dealt with the Lord Immortal! If this displeases the expert, we shall bear the consequences!"

Gu Yuan nodded then slowly stepped forward. He respectfully knocked on the door three times.

Creak.

Dragin was the one who answered the door. She looked at everyone curiously and asked, "You are?"

They had never met Dragin before but they did not dare to ignore her. They quickly bowed and said, "Hello, we're here to visit Mr. Li. Pardon us for the disturbance. You are..."

"Oh, I'm Dragin. Come in." Dragin ran back into the four-part architecture. "Brother, it's for you."

Li Nianfan was stirring the cauldron. He heard that and nodded. "Yeah. Help me get some corn and wheat. Ask your Sister Fire Phoenix to crush them into dust."

It must be convenient for a cultivator. They did not need a grinder or a machine to do things normal people needed help with.

Li Nianfan was envious. He looked at the door, smiled, and said, "Brother Lin and Brother Payne, welcome."

Gu Yuan smiled and greeted, "Greetings to Mr. Li. This is our friend, Ding Xiaozhu."

Ding Xiaozhu hurriedly said in a humble tone, "Sorry for coming without an invite. Please, forgive me, Mr. Li."

Li Nianfan said casually, "Haha, all visitors are guests. Don't worry about disturbing me. Take a seat anywhere. Xiao Bai, serve the guests!"

Yuecha carefully introduced herself, "Mr. Li, my name's Yuecha."

"Sit. Take a seat, everyone." Li Nianfan quickly finished his task at hand.

Payne was slightly embarrassed. "Were you busy, Mr. Li?"

Li Nianfan simply said, "No, I'm just brewing some alcohol to drink."

Ding Xiaozhu realized her Dustless Mirror was vibrating hard by the side. She hurriedly tugged on Payne and said in a quiet, trembling voice, "That cauldron...seems to be a Heavenly Spiritual Treasure."

The Dustless Mirror was a Deluxe Spiritual Treasure, commonly known as an Immortal Item. It was incomparable to a Heavenly Spiritual Treasure.

Payne gulped and said, "I felt that, too. Stay calm. The expert's here. Nothing's out of the ordinary."

Only the expert could brew alcohol with a Heavenly Spiritual Treasure.

Gu Yuan had a soda in hand. He felt embarrassed all of a sudden. He said, "Sect Master, I truly feel embarrassed. I'm here again to benefit from the expert."

Breathing in the four-part architecture was also a blessing from the expert.

"Change your mindset," Payne comforted. "It's not bootlicking. We became the expert's apprentices. We're also known as Saint's Apprentices! Therefore, we have to help the expert out more to repay him!"

"Nice, excellent! Sect Master, you're indeed awesome!"

Gu Yuan was in awe. He even started to boast, "I instantly feel like I'm so much more awesome. It's like I have a destiny."

Li Nianfan walked toward everyone.

The four of them felt their hearts tighten. They quickly calmed down and adjusted their postures.

Li Nianfan asked, "Everyone, it's been a while. How have you all been recently?"

Payne nodded and smiled. He replied, "All thanks to Mr. Li, we're doing great."

"Why are you here to visit me today?" asked Li Nianfan.

Payne and the others jumped. They went stiff and started to breathe heavily.

Li Nianfan looked at them with curiosity. Did something happen? What was going on?

“To be honest, Mr. Li. There is something.” Payne smiled awkwardly and nodded. Then, he said nervously, “Please, pardon us, Mr. Li.”

Li Nianfan arched his eyebrow and asked, “What is it?”

“Here’s what happened.”

Payne put his sentence together and said, “Somebody gave me a painting scroll. He said he wanted your comments about it.”

His heart rate was beating at maximum speed. He nearly trembled as he took out the painting scroll.

“Oh? Comments?”

Li Nianfan was stumped. Was someone trying to share their artwork?

More accurately, it seemed to be a showdown between painters.

He looked at Payne with a glint in his eyes. That guy probably took the Golden Crow painting and showed it off to everyone. Or perhaps he boasted about it and attracted some envy that caused someone to challenge him.

Payne and the others felt their skin crawl when Li Nianfan looked at them. They went weak and almost knelt on the floor.

The expert was clearly displeased!

“If you aren’t willing, Mr. Li, I’ll send the painting back right away!” Payne quickly tried to patch things up. He sounded like he was about to cry. He was ready to put the painting scroll aside.

“Why send it back when you’re already here? Let’s take a look,” Li Nianfan said. He looked interested.

He was decent at painting. It was rare to be challenged by another. He may as well take a look.

He took the painting scroll from Payne. Then, he stood up. He placed the painting scroll on a stone table.

He suddenly chuckled and said, “Ha, who knew someone would want to battle me in painting. What a surprise.”

It was the Immortal Realm, the challenger knew Payne so he was probably an Immortal, too. Were all Immortals bored?

He did not expect to be competing with an Immortal. It was unreal.

Everyone was surprised, too.

Who knew that the Lord Immortal would ignorantly ask comments from the expert? He was like an egg against a rock. That was a nice way to put it.

They saw the expert smirk. It was obvious that he was mocking him!

Then, Li Nianfan slowly unscrolled the painting scroll.

A constrained beast-like aura came out from the painting like it had just escaped its cage. The surrounding air was frantic and wild.

Li Nianfan did not feel a thing. He continued to open the painting, revealing a painting of a huge fire!

An endless ocean of fire!

The flames were burning, taking up half of the painting. The red flames looked like they were about to jump out. It was a flat-surfaced painting but it somehow had a 3D visual effect.

There was a town at the center of the fire. The faces of the citizens were unclear. They were running for their lives.

However, the fire surrounded the town. It was high up in the sky and in the shape of a huge fiery dragon. The dragon head looked up!

It was as if the dragon was making direct eye contact with the painting's viewer. It looked arrogant and fierce!

Boom!

Payne and the others were thunderstruck. They felt like the fire dragon was sealed into their minds. It was as if they were also citizens of that town and they were being surrounded by a sea of fire. They felt desperate and hopeless.

It was only for a moment but they were already sweating bullets. Their limbs went stiff and they could not breathe from being overwhelmed by the strong aura.

They quickly looked at Li Nianfan.

He looked normal. He looked like he was intrigued as he observed the painting thoroughly. They instantly sighed in relief.

Right, how would the expert be affected by the painting?

They endured some indirect attacks and felt exhausted. The expert was looking at the painting directly and did not feel anything. The difference was huge.

Everyone glanced at the painting again. They had to admit that the Lord Immortal was powerful.

The Power of Fire was perfectly executed in the painting. Thankfully, the expert suppressed it. Otherwise, the big fire dragon would fly out and burn everything in sight!

His art skills were amazing, too.

A Master Golden Immortal only had to fully cultivate a single power to become a Taiyi Golden Immortal. It was clear that the Lord Immortal went for the Power of Fire. Moreover, he was one step away from his breakthrough!

Powerful, incredible!

Too bad...he went on the wrong path.

At the Above Immortal Realm, the Liuyun Palace.

The Lord Immortal felt it.

He immediately turned around and walked to a room. He sat cross-legged and mumbled, "Has it started? Let me see what you're made of!"

"It's indeed a good painting," Li Nianfan nodded and genuinely complimented. He reviewed, "The painting presents the view of fire perfectly. The painter captures the essence of the flames and it's almost as if the fire's alive. It's not easy to achieve that."

However... The hint of an instigation was too obvious.

Even normal people who did not understand painting could tell the painting was aggressive. The painting was rude, loud, bossy, and arrogant like the flames.

Moreover, the painting had a few empty spaces, meaning that it was incomplete. It seemed to be left there on purpose for the expert to fill the gap.

Combined with what Payne described, the painter did not have a friendly intention.

It was just a painting battle, right? Did it have to be so annoying?

How arrogant.

Li Nianfan frowned and felt uncomfortable.

He was trash at cultivation and battles. However, when it came to painting, he was not afraid to take on a challenge.

‘You dare boast in front of me? How dare you!’

Li Nianfan asked, “Brother Payne, is the painter your friend?”

Payne and the others almost jumped hearing that. Their hair stood on ends.

They immediately shook their heads hard. “No, of course not!”

“This person is arrogant and ignorant. How could we be his friends?”

“Don’t be mistaken, Mr. Li. We aren’t familiar with this person.”

“I see,” nodded Li Nianfan. Of course, the painter was arrogant. Gu Yuan and the others were so friendly. It was unlikely that they were friends. They were probably just the messengers of the painting.

Since they were not friends, he did not have to show mercy.

Li Nianfan smirked, shook his head, and said, "This painting's alright but it could be much better. The painter seems a little stingy. I should complete it for him."

"Daji, bring me a brush."

Soon, Daji brought him a brush. "Here you go, Mr. Li."

"Alright!"

Li Nianfan stared at the painting and thought about it for a moment. Then, he smirked and started to paint!

The brush moved and slithered on the painting scroll without stopping.

When Li Nianfan started to paint, the Lord Immortal groaned. He felt like he had a mountain on his shoulder. The weight of it made it hard for him to breathe.

His eyes were slightly red and he suddenly had a bad feeling.

Li Nianfan did not paint on the flames. Instead, he painted around it!

He painted thick clouds above the flames. The painting seemed to be rumbling with thunder.

The dark clouds gradually grew thicker. All of a sudden, the wild flames were no longer the main star of the painting. The dark clouds were more prominent.

Li Nianfan started to paint a bolt of lightning. Maybe it was a delusion but when Li Nianfan painted the lightning, the painting flashed for a moment. Then, it started raining cats and dogs!

Rumble!

The painting had changed completely. The fire dragon was extremely weak.

Everyone did not dare to breathe.

As Li Nianfan held the brush, he was surrounded by the Power of Law. It was as if he was one with the realm. They could not move at all.

Scary, too scary!

They looked at the dark clouds and the heavy rain.

It instantly sent a shiver down their spines.

It was as if they had become a small boat in a vast ocean. The wind blew and the rain was heavy. They could drown at any moment.

Did the expert use the Power of Water to exterminate the Lord Immortal's Power of Fire?

However... Li Nianfan was not done yet.

He started to paint on the citizens.

It was just a few strokes.

The citizens instantly increased in numbers.

They had wooden buckets in their hands that were filled with water. Their blurry faces became clearer. They looked determined. They went from being frantic, scared citizens who were fleeing to citizens who were fighting the fire together.

Their clothes were blowing in the wind and rain. They fearlessly faced the fire head-on.

The entire painting was changed again. The focus of the painting changed from the heavy storm to the insignificant characters!

The scene was entirely transformed. The fire dragon was instantly weakened. Now, it seemed small and scared.

Buzz!

Everyone widened their eyes. They felt their blood rush to their heads. They went blank and were extremely horrified.

It was not a battle of Power anymore. He turned the whole painting around!

What was the Power of Fire at that point? It was not a dragon. It was not even a snake. It became an insect!

They remembered what the expert said. "Stingy, so stingy!"

Chapter 256: Buddhism, It Was Not A Big Deal

Complete victory!

He won completely without a doubt!

No harm would have been caused if a comparison was not made.

Everyone could feel how depressed and painful it was to be in the fire when they were looking at the Lord Immortal's version of the painting.

They looked at the fire dragon again and it had become pathetic. It was not worth mentioning. It even looked pitiful.

It was not hard to defy someone else's Power, but to change the scene completely was terrifyingly amazing. He turned a scary fire into a pitiful fire.

Was that the level of a bigshot? How deep.

The Lord Immortal was a mere insect in front of the expert.

At the Liuyun Palace.

Spurt!

The Lord Immortal spat out a mouthful of blood. He was as pale as paper. The veins were visible and bulging on his forehead. He was shivering all over.

Cough!

He coughed and spat out blood again. He was instantly defeated.

"How is this possible? How is this even possible?"

He looked horrified. He could not believe what was happening.

How could someone so scary exist in the Immortal Realm?

It was not a big deal if the expert merely countered his Power of Fire with the Power of Water. However, he had transformed his Power of Fire into a weak candlelight flame that was flickering in the wind—it could go out anytime.

Thankfully, he cut off the connection in time. Otherwise, he would be crippled by now.

That person...was too scary!

His heart was racing and his mind was buzzing. He was out of it and did not know what to do.

Why did he instigate a bigshot like that?

It was over. It was over for him!

His hair stood on ends before he could think about it. He was alarmed by a big incoming disaster. It made his skin crawl and his blood freeze.

Kaboom!

He heard a deafening thunder.

Layers of dark clouds rolled in above the Liuyun Palace. It instantly shrouded the place with darkness.

The lightning bolts were like dragons, moving in between the clouds. They slashed through the darkness from time to time, creating panic and chaos.

“This...”

The Lord Immortal looked up. At that moment, he suddenly felt like he was puny. He felt horrible. “A painting turning into reality? Resonating with the realm?!”

He was only asking for advice. Did it have to turn out this way?

Who did he offend? Was it too late to apologize?

He spat out blood again and yelled at the top of his lungs, "Get into formation! To all disciples, listen up. Gather immediately. Cast every spell we've got! Quick, quick!"

...

Li Nianfan stopped painting. He looked at everyone and asked, "Brother Gu, what do you think of the painting?"

Gu Yuan was summoned. He jumped instantly. His mouth was dry and he could not think of the words to describe it. He said in a trembling voice, "Good, it's so good!"

Payne added, "Mr. Li, your painting creates new heights. It's elite."

Li Nianfan shook his head and said, "It's just a niche hobby."

This was the Immortal Realm. So what if he could paint?

The opponent dared to challenge him because he was an easy target. He won the challenge but he was no better than his opponent in the end.

Painting was just a fun hobby. Other than that, there was nothing else going on for him.

Everyone noticed that Li Nianfan was upset. Their hearts were about to jump out of their chests.

The expert...was not satisfied!

Daji and the Fire Phoenix looked at each other.

Everyone was silent. Nobody dared to breathe.

They looked up at the sky and realized that the sky had gone dark. It was slightly depressing.

“Pardon me, I was a little out of it.” Li Nianfan snapped back to reality and smiled awkwardly. He shook his head.

It was a known fact that he could not cultivate. He should be a nice ordinary man that bootlicks occasionally. He should not think too much about it.

What else did he want? To win in a fight? It was too dangerous and he was at a disadvantage.

He could live for a thousand years and he was surrounded by bigshots. If he kept that going, he might get the chance to extend his life with a magical pill. Was it not nice to live a steady and comfortable life?

The depressing sky went away. Sunlight shone through and everyone was relieved.

Payne said in a low voice, “Mr. Li, if you’re unhappy about this, we can bring you justice.”

“Haha, no need, no need!” Li Nianfan was joyous. He waved, “It was just a painting battle, there’s no need for that.”

Nobody said anything but they all made a mental note.

No need? No way!

Li Nianfan acted like nothing happened. He said, “Xiao Bai, hurry up and serve the tea to the guests.”

“Mr. Li.”

Yuecha groaned for a moment. She could not help but genuinely ask, “Mr. Li, is the Buddhism aspect in ‘Journey to the West’ real?”

So, she was a ‘Journey to the West’ and a Buddhism fan. No wonder she had a shawl on.

She was so obsessed that she started to cosplay.

It was rare for a lady to be interested in Buddhism. Not a lot of people cared about it.

He said, “Of course.”

Suddenly, everyone listened attentively.

Daji and the Fire Phoenix listened closely, too. Buddhism had long disappeared. There were some ordinary people who did not know what Buddhism was. It was related to the secrets of the eldritch eras.

Yuecha jumped. She was intrigued. She asked in a nervous voice, “Then, what do you think of Buddhism, Mr. Li?”

“Are you that interested in Buddhism as told in ‘Journey to the West’?”

Li Nianfan laughed. Then, he said, “‘Journey to the West’ is a story about cultivating Buddhism. It did not describe anything about Buddhism. Maybe there’s a description about it when the Monk was first introduced. What do you think of Buddhism?”

Yuecha said without hesitation, “I think Buddhism’s great and it can save the world.”

“Haha...” Li Nianfan laughed. Nice, no wonder she had a shawl.

It was oddly funny.

Yuecha was panicking on the other hand. She asked, “Mr. Li, do you think Buddhism won’t work?”

“It’s not that,” Li Nianfan shook his head. He said, “Buddhism guides people to kindness so it has its perks.”

Yuecha looked overjoyed. She hurriedly asked, “If I study Buddhism like the Monk, can I create a new generation of Buddhists?”

Li Nianfan was silent.

As a modern person, he did not care about religion. He felt like religions were for brainwashing.

However, all religions were useful.

For example, Buddhism. He would not admit it but he was influenced by Buddhism since he was young. Hence, he had the ‘karma mentality’ in him. It was not bad since he would instinctively choose to do good things.

Actually, all religions could be described as ‘wisdom’. The creators of religious practices were wise.

However, all sorts of religions were developed over time. Some of the religions became greedy because of competition. They wanted more members and opted for the brainwashing route which turned some of them into cults.

Somehow, Buddhism did not exist in the Immortal Realm. Perhaps it was because the ordinary people were not very spiritual yet. If they were, they probably would not have such evil demons.

He already allowed Meng Junliang to preach.

Since the lady made up her mind to save the world, he could pass on some Buddhist practices to her. He was unsure how it would turn out but he guessed it would be very interesting to see.

Moreover, the lady was probably an Immortal. He could be a kiss-up again.

He thought about that and asked, “I don’t think there will be new generations, but it could benefit the people. Do you perhaps want to preach Buddhism?”

Yuecha was emotional. She nodded excitedly and said, “That’s right. Please, teach me Buddhist practices, Mr. Li.”

“You don’t have to be so courteous. Just some light Buddhism, it’s not a big deal.” Li Nianfan was flattered. The person was clearly passionate about Buddhism.

He stood up and said, “Wait a moment.”

Yuecha already knew what Li Nianfan was going to do. She hurriedly nodded, “Yeah, I’ll wait for you, Mr. Li.”

Then, everyone watched as Li Nianfan walked into a storage room. They heard some familiar rustling.

Daji and the Fire Phoenix jumped. No way. Was it another Luck Treasure?

Daji took a deep breath. She calmed her emotions and looked at Payne. She asked coldly, “Who owns that painting?”

Payne and the others were drenched in cold sweat. They hurriedly said in a respectful tone, “It’s the Lord Immortal—Liuyun, from the Liuyun Palace in the Above Immortal Realm.”

Daji nodded and did not say anything else.

Everyone knew that the Lord Immortal was now targeted. Nobody could save him. He was probably goners.

Li Nianfan walked out of the storage room. He had an old book in his hand. The cover of the book was slightly yellow and it was wrinkled. A golden halo surrounded it.

The golden glow of the book flew to the sky and almost painted it gold.

They heard an angelic choir. They looked up and saw a figure of Buddha in the endless sky. The humongous Buddha sat cross-legged with a gold halo. It was extremely powerful.

Everyone stood up and had goosebumps.

Yuecha did the Namaste gesture. She looked as devoted as a Saint.

She was tearing up, too. She would kneel and worship on the floor but she remembered the pet peeve of the expert!

Li Nianfan suddenly teased her, "Since you have a predestined fate with Buddha, I shall give you this 'Diamond Sutra'. The mission to save the world is up to you!"

"Amitabha."

Yuecha did the Namaste gesture. Then, she reached out to the book respectfully with both her hands. She took the Buddhist Scripture and said in a serious tone, "Thank... Thanks, Mr. Li! I will!"

She looked at the 'Diamond Sutra' in the Buddhist Scripture. It was unreal.

The expert handed over the Buddhist Scripture to her just like that. She felt like she was dreaming.

Gu Yuan and the others were all jealous.

Just...the Buddhist Scripture?

It was not a big deal?

That was a Luck Treasure though!

Chapter 257: Shameful Skill, I Am Not A Good Fox

Suddenly, Gu Yuan and the others wanted to join Buddhism.

That was a Luck Treasure. It was approved by Heaven. If nothing went wrong, the Buddhism religion could prosper!

Yuecha was too freaking awesome. That was her first visit to the expert. The expert liked her and blessed her.

Why? Was she the lucky Chosen One?

First, it was the Human Sovereign. Then, it was Buddhism. The expert had started his schemes.

Once the Immortals were more reconnected to the ordinary people of the Immortal Realm, it would be more like the eldritch eras.

What a sight to be seen. They were filled with anticipation.

They were so lucky to witness it every step of the way. They had learned a lot.

Yuecha carefully caressed the Buddhist Scripture. She had love in her eyes. It was as if she was looking at her child. The Buddhist Scripture signified the start of something new.

She stood up and bowed respectfully at Li Nianfan. She said from the bottom of her heart, “Mr. Li, you’re like the living Buddha!”

Li Nianfan quickly waved and laughed. He said, “No way.”

Yuecha was silent for a while. Then, she finally said, “Mr. Li, I still have a question.”

Li Nianfan said curiously, “Tell me.”

Yuecha tried to put her sentence together and felt slightly anxious. She asked in a low voice, “In ‘Journey to the West’, the Monk became Buddha. What happened to Buddhism then? Was it successful?”

Everyone started to breathe heavily. They looked at Yuecha in agreement. What a wonderful question!

It would not work if you asked the expert about the eldritch eras directly. Questions had to be asked with technique. Then, the expert would be glad to answer it.

The expert liked to tell stories so she asked a question regarding the story. It would not displease the expert. What a nice touch from Yuecha!

“This...”

Li Nianfan smiled. He sat down and looked like he was reminiscing. He said softly, “There is indeed an excerpt to the ending of the story.”

Here it comes!

Storytime!

Everyone was exhilarated. They instantly sat down and listened closely.

Li Nianfan noticed that and laughed. "It's just a story. You guys don't need to be like that."

Payne immediately said, "Don't mind us, Mr. Li. We like listening to stories."

Li Nianfan did not mind it either. The plot of 'Journey to the West' was more relatable to Immortals, so they liked it more than ordinary people would. There was nothing wrong with that.

He groaned for a moment and said, "When Buddhism was Westernized, it was successful in the West. It was better than all the other religions and became the main religion. A lot of people think that Buddhism is unstoppable. However..."

Everyone felt their hearts beating out of their throats. They wanted to rush him but did not dare to.

Li Nianfan gave them a cliffhanger on purpose. Then, he said, "Something happened in the end. There was a Demon named Lawless that came out of nowhere. He was extremely powerful. He caused a lot of trouble for the Buddhists."

Everyone was simultaneously shocked. "Lawless? What a bossy name!"

"Someone dared to be named Lawless?"

Yuecha asked, "Mr. Li, was Lawless more powerful than Buddha?"

Li Nianfan shook his head, "Lawless was the reincarnation of the Calamitous Black Lotus. It forced the Buddha to reincarnate as a newborn, forcing him to restart his cultivation again. Wukong self-destructed as a Relic to die with Lawless. You tell me if you think Lawless was powerful or not."

Yikes.

Everyone gasped. They felt like it was creepy. They were extremely horrified.

They were familiar with Buddha and Wu Kong. One of them was the main character, another was the final boss. However, they were forced to do those things because of Lawless.

How could they not be shocked?

Only a savage could call himself Lawless.

No wonder Buddhism was left in the past. They encountered such a powerful character!

Lawless did not exterminate Buddhism completely but Buddhism lost Buddha. Hence, when Buddhism lost the main character, Wukong, the fate of Buddhism was set. Plus, they would be targeted by other opponents. It was fated to be lost over time.

The eldritch world was filled with bigshots. How intensely scary!

Yuecha felt an impact on her faith. She asked, "How did Lawless become so powerful?"

"Haha, it's just a story. Don't worry about it. Also, it's the Prehistoric World. There were a lot of bigshots during that time."

Li Nianfan smiled. The story was shortened and simplified by him so he did not expect the Immortals to enjoy it so much. How interesting.

Prehistoric?

What did it mean?

They had a lot of questions but they noticed that Li Nianfan was not willing to answer any more questions. So, they did not continue to ask. They stood up and said their farewells instead. They had a lot to process.

The four of them walked out of the four-part architecture. They could not remain calm.

Yuecha was holding onto the 'Diamond Sutra' like it was the Bible. She could not wait to start reading it.

The book emitted its own golden lights. It also had an audiobook effect as they heard hymns echoing.

Yuecha walked slowly. She was mesmerized by the Buddhist Scripture.

She was obsessed with Buddhism. From time to time, she would say to herself, "Nice, so nice."

Payne and the others were following her by the side. They were jealous.

The Scripture contained Luck and wise Buddhist practices. They thought about how powerful Buddha and the 108 strong men were. They could tell the book was powerful and full of knowledge.

Yuecha finally snapped out of it when they were at the foot of the mountain. She carefully put the Buddhist Scripture away and did the Namaste gesture. She looked at everyone and said, "Amitabha. What are the three of you planning to do next?"

"We plan to check out the front lines of the battle. We're going to stop the demons. If we can, we also plan to check on some Immortal Relics." Gu Yuan paused. He suddenly smiled and said, "It's unexpectedly funny now that we're speaking. For thousands of years, you were sealed in our Azure Ville. Who would've thought you'd become one of us?"

"That's why I said you all have a predestined fate with Buddha," nodded Yuecha. Then, she said, "I plan to preach Buddhism and make it powerful and prosperous again. If you guys change your mind, feel free to join anytime."

“We’ll consider it, ” Payne said sincerely.

Ding Xiaozhu suddenly asked, “Tara Yuecha, did you realize that the expert already paved the way for Buddhism preaching?”

Yuecha nodded, “Yeah. ‘Journey to the West’ is already popular. The success rate for Buddhism preaching will be high. The expert’s schemes are unimaginable.”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

They gradually grew more shocked by the expert’s methods.

One move from a chess piece could change the entire game. A seemingly casual move might be a huge scheme. Once they began to see the light, they then realized there was a meaning behind each move.

They thought ‘the game’ of the bigshots was very cool but they never witnessed it first-hand. They finally admitted they were just insects when they met the expert. They were even proud to be chess pieces.

They thought about it for a while then they said their goodbyes and left.

The sky gradually became dark.

Soon, it was nighttime.

Daji and the Fire Phoenix walked out of the four-part architecture at the same time. They headed into the woods.

Soon, they saw a small fox that was leaping around in the woods. Her nine pure-white tails shined under the moonlight. It was beautiful and pure.

“Hehe, sister.” The little fox wrapped one of her tails around a branch in front of her. Then, she gently swung herself and flew toward Daji. Her nine tails wagged fast as she said, “I grew out my ninth tail.”

“You’re laughing? I spent so much energy just for you to grow out your ninth tail. What’s there for you to boast about?” teased Daji. She smiled and said, “Since you have nine tails now, what’s your natural gift?”

The little fox did not dare to look at Daji. She said quietly, “Oh, yeah. Sister, I don’t think I have any natural powers.”

Daji twitched and held the little fox up by her tail. “Stop bluffing. Tell me now!”

“Okay, okay...”

The little fox had teary eyes. She looked pitiful. Then, she leaped into Daji’s embrace. “Boohoo, no... I can’t say it. I’m not a good fox.”

Daji said through clenched jaws, “Speak!”

The little fox’s ears drooped downward. “It’s too embarrassing. I can’t say it.”

“Hehe, is it fox stench?” laughed the Fire Phoenix. She teased, “Skunk attack to scare the enemies away?”

The little fox was pissed. “No, it’s not!”

Daji frowned. She said in a serious tone, “Stop messing around! The Master wants us to do something. Show me your skills. Let’s see if you can help us.”

“Oh.”

Noticing that her sister was mad, the little fox did not dare to say anything further. She started playing coy.

“Then, I shall show you.”

She raised her nine tails and used her powers.

Daji and the Fire Phoenix noticed the aura of the place changing into a pinkish one. They started having weird emotions. Suddenly, they felt like the Nine-Tailed Fox in front of them was so beautiful. She was so fluffy and her fur was shiny and smooth. So cute. They felt mellow and wanted to reach out to caress her.

Then, they snapped out of it. They were shocked and surprised.

They looked at the little fox.

The little fox wrapped herself up with her tails. She cowered beneath them, sobbing quietly.

Daji shook her head. She was speechless. “What are you doing?”

“Boohoo, it’s so embarrassing!”

The little fox continued to bury her head. She acted as if she had just sinned. “I’m just a pure, innocent little fox. Why would I have this sort of awakening? Boohoo, I’m so ashamed.”

“Where did you hear that from?”

Daji felt awkward. She asked, “You have the most powerful gift a Nine-Tailed Fox could ever have. Why are you embarrassed?”

The little fox sobbed, "Isn't Seduction shameful? I've become the Vixen that everyone hates. Can I not use my power at all?"

"The name 'Vixen' is famous because of Seduction. It's not because Seduction is shameful, but because it's so powerful."

Daji shook her head and explained, "To be more accurate, the real name of Seduction is Mind Control. You can warp a person's mind without them knowing it!"

She looked like she was convinced.

Mind Control, the most powerful skill a Nine-Tailed Fox could have. She could warp minds. How scary! She could get someone into trouble in an instant.

Moreover, her magical power was different from the other Forces of God. It had no consequences!

For example, you would face consequences if you attack the Human Sovereign and it would be difficult to succeed. However, the Nine-Tailed Fox could simply seduce the Human Sovereign. It was twisted.

Daji thought it would be nice if she had that sort of awakening.

Then, her Master could...

She quickly shook her head. How could she think of her Master like that? Such dirty thoughts!

"Is that so?" The little fox looked up at her. "But it's unlikeable."

The Fire Phoenix said, "The skill is truly frightening."

"Seducing civilians is so scary. It's naturally unlikeable." Daji took a deep breath and said, "But it's good and it's powerful. Follow us to the Above Immortal Realm."

“The Above Immortal Realm?” The little fox was immediately intrigued. She could not wait.

Daji nodded, “That’s right. The Master wants to drink milk from the Five-Color Sacred Cow. We have to capture it from the Above Immortal Realm. However, the cow is an Immortal Beast that has lived for a long time. It’s a force to be reckoned with, but we can catch it with your gift.”

“You want me to seduce a cow?”

The little fox did not look happy at all. “No way! Boohoo, I knew having this skill would be shameful!”

Chapter 258: Tell You A Huge Secret

Three days went by in the blink of an eye.

It smelled nice at the four-part architecture. The aroma of alcohol was mesmerizing.

Dragin stood next to the cauldron. She looked up in a daze and salivated.

She sniffed it hard and looked like she was drunk.

She was excited as she said, “Brother, the alcohol smells so good. When can we drink it?”

The aroma of alcohol was different from the smell of food. It was intense and rich.

Li Nianfan shook his head. He laughed and said, “We’ll have to wait. However, you can’t drink it because you’re too young.”

“Argh! No!” Dragin immediately protested. “Brother, I’m not young anymore!”

Li Nianfan did not say anything. He took out a letter instead. The letter was from Nanan.

Nanan had been away for more than three months.

Li Nianfan sighed and smiled.

Li Nianfan felt like a proud parent who had a successful kid living abroad.

The kid knew how to send letters, too, and it seemed like she did not forget her Brother Nianfan. He did not know how she was doing.

The Holy Emperor was sitting respectfully across Li Nianfan. He was sipping gently on a cup of tea.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, "Holy Emperor, you don't need to do that. Tea should be savored, but you can drink more than that."

The Holy Emperor almost cried from surprise. He hurriedly said, "Mr. Li, this is such good tea. I can't bear to drink it all in one go. Don't mind me, this is just my habit of drinking tea."

Actually, he wanted to drink faster, too, but the tea would not allow him to do so!

He could quickly absorb the previous tea that contained Insights. However, the tea he was drinking now had the Power of Law. It was on another level. If he drank it too fast, his brains would probably explode.

He was too weak. He was barely deserving of this tea. The opportunity was right in front of him but he was not fortunate enough to enjoy it.

He felt as if he was an ordinary man eating expensive medicine. He just could not handle it.

There was no such thing as 'the stronger the better' when it came to elixirs in the Immortal Realm. Some elixirs had unique properties. Ordinary people could improve from drinking it or die from it!

Li Nianfan laughed and opened the letter.

It was a long letter detailing the events that Nanan had been through recently. The Immortal Realm was exciting and interesting. She wrote about how she had defeated demons, the fun stories, and what sceneries she got to experience.

She mentioned at the end of the letter that she was going to participate in a Cultivators Convention. It was a very interesting and big event.

It was time for him to go out and have fun, too.

Li Nianfan was interested. He asked curiously, "Is the Cultivators Convention far away from here?"

The Holy Emperor hurriedly said, "Mr. Li, it's slightly further than the Azure Ville."

"So far?" Li Nianfan frowned slightly.

He glanced at the Fire Phoenix and started hinting like crazy, "If we walk, I'm afraid we'll never arrive in time. Too bad I'm not a cultivator. Otherwise, I'd love to go check out the convention. It would be nice if someone could take me there."

It was almost impossible to ride the Fire Phoenix. However, he was close to the Fire Phoenix. Perhaps she would be willing to give him a ride?

He had nothing to lose anyway.

He waited for a while. The Fire Phoenix blinked at him, but she did not say anything.

Li Nianfan sighed. "It seems like nobody will take me there."

He thought too much.

The Holy Emperor was thrilled by the side. How could he miss an opportunity like that? He hurriedly said, "Mr. Li, if you want to go, you can come with me."

Li Nianfan was excited. "You want to go, too?"

The Holy Emperor nodded and said, "To be honest, I'm getting prepared to go there. Cultivator Mengji's going, too."

"Oh? Brother Yao's going too?" Li Nianfan was pleasantly surprised. He knew that Yao Mengji had that skyship. It would be convenient.

The Holy Emperor immediately said, "Yeah, I'll book the tickets. He'll go for sure!"

Brother Mengji would put aside whatever important task he had at hand if he could serve the expert. How could he not go?

"Alright, then. Let's go as a group." Li Nianfan was joyous. Then, he asked, "Daji, do you want to go check it out, too?"

Daji groaned for a moment. She suddenly replied, "Actually, Sister Fire Phoenix and I are about to go out."

Li Nianfan was slightly taken aback. He looked at the Fire Phoenix. Then, he looked at Daji.

Ever since they bathed together, the two women had become so close!

They bathed together all the time and now, they were going out on a trip together. Li Nianfan felt like he was about to be abandoned.

However, Daji would be safe in the company of the Fire Phoenix.

He said, "Alright, nice. Be careful."

Daji nodded. She said, "Take care of yourself, too."

The Fire Phoenix reminded Dragin, "Dragin, stay with the Master. Be obedient and do your chores. Don't be naughty and lazy!"

"Yeah, I will!" Dragin looked excited as she nodded and promised.

Li Nianfan saluted the Holy Emperor, "Holy Emperor, sorry for the trouble but could you help me ask Brother Yao to let me tag along?"

The Holy Emperor was flushed from excitement. He immediately stood up and said, "Don't worry, Mr. Li. I'll notify Cultivator Mengji at once."

He walked out from the four-part architecture. Then, he laughed out loud. He was overjoyed.

He did not expect to receive a task from the expert. He was happy at the thought of it. He had to tell Yao Mengji the good news. He would cry out of gratefulness if he knew about the opportunity the Holy Emperor was about to give him.

Li Nianfan looked at Daji and the Fire Phoenix at the four-part architecture. He asked, "Daji, when are you girls leaving?"

Daji said, "I was about to say goodbye but the Holy Emperor showed up."

"You're leaving now?" Li Nianfan arched his eyebrow. He asked, "Did you pack your things?"

Daji nodded, "Yes, it won't be long anyway."

Li Nianfan did not say anything. That was his first time being away from Daji. He felt bad.

He saw the big cauldron and suddenly asked, "The alcohol's almost ready. Why don't you try some before you leave?"

Daji nodded obediently and said, "Yeah, I'll listen to you."

Li Nianfan smiled and walked to the cauldron. He slowly lifted the lid.

Suddenly, the aroma of the alcohol erupted like a volcano, and the yard was filled with a rich aroma.

It was mesmerizing. Everyone started to blush at the smell of it.

They could get drunk just from the aroma.

The alcohol aroma was intense but it was nice.

Li Nianfan took out a ladle and scooped out some alcohol. Then, he poured it into a ceramic wine glass.

The alcohol was not processed in a complex way but it was very clear. There were no impurities in the alcohol and the liquid was smooth and clear like water from a natural fountain in the woods.

The alcohol reflected the color of the ceramic wine glass so it looked a bit greenish.

Li Nianfan gulped, too.

He had to admit that beautiful alcohol was as mesmerizing as beautiful women.

They were not lovers of alcohol but they genuinely complimented, "Nice wine!"

Li Nianfan gave Daji and the Fire Phoenix their glasses. He poured one for himself at the same time.

Dragin protested by jumping around at the side, “Brother, I want one, too, I want one too!”

Li Nianfan smiled awkwardly. He gave Dragin a small cup and said, “Kids can only try a little bit.”

“The wine’s just right. I can bring it with me on the trip.” Li Nianfan chuckled and raised his wine glass.
“Everyone, cheers!”

Daji, the Fire Phoenix, and Dragin raised their glasses.

“Cheers!”

Then, they drank it in one go.

“Wow!” everyone exclaimed.

The wine was rich and intense. It slowly went down their throats and instantly relaxed them.

The alcohol was cool to the taste. However, it heated up like a fire when it was swallowed. It made them flush instantly—very exciting and nice.

The aroma of the alcohol was still in their mouths.

“Delicious!” Li Nianfan smacked his lips. He started to develop new opinions on alcohol.

With that one shot, he realized he was in love with drinking.

He said, "I have to bring a jar of this beautiful wine with me when I leave for the trip."

"The wine..."

Daji stumbled backward slightly. She was blushing red.

The Fire Phoenix was blushing, too. She kept taking deep breaths. Her stomach felt like it was on fire. She was trying to control the alcohol.

The wine...was slightly scary!

It was made with different types of Spiritual Roots as its base material. Then, Spiritual Water was added. Moreover, it was personally made by the expert with the Xuanyuan Sea Spell Cauldron that was a Heavenly Spiritual Treasure. It had great water properties. How could it not be scary?

Li Nianfan asked, "Daji, do you want to rest a while before you go?"

A white fox tail appeared under her dress for a moment. She hurriedly waved and said, "I'm fine. I didn't know the alcohol would be so strong. I wasn't ready for that."

The Fire Phoenix said, "Sir, we'll be leaving now."

Li Nianfan nodded and reminded her, "Oh, yeah. Goddess Fire Phoenix, please, take care of Daji for me. Safety's first."

He watched Daji and the Fire Phoenix walk out of the four-part architecture. Dragin flopped onto the table before Li Nianfan could get sentimental.

Dragin was not in her human form anymore. Her tail appeared again. So did her scales. Her cheeks were also covered in scales.

"I told you. Little kids shouldn't drink alcohol. Your alcohol tolerance..." Li Nianfan shook his head.

He was about to lift Dragin up. However, Dragin suddenly leaped up.

"I'm a Dragon girl!"

She squinted and walked from side to side while she mumbled, "No, wait, I'm a happy little carp!"

She drunkenly looked at Li Nianfan and mumbled, "Brother, let me tell you a huge secret. My ancestor's alive. He's a giant carp. He's this big. Awesome, right?"

Chapter 259: The Super Busy Yao Mengji

Li Nianfan looked at the drunken Dragin. He forced a smile and shook his head.

Was it rare for an ancestor to be alive in the Immortal Realm?

It seemed like Dragin had a successful ancestor. No wonder her family business dealt with seafood.

Splash!

Dragin fell into the pond in her drunken stupor. She was wasted. Her red tail wiggled fast. "I can fly... I'll fly... I'm going to the sky..."

Li Nianfan laughed and ignored her.

That kid was a Carp Demon. She would not drown. So, he let her soak for a while to sober up.

Blackie was laying down lazily in a corner of the yard. His ears were droopy like a dazed dog.

Blackie moved his ears when Daji and the Fire Phoenix were heading out. He stood up when he heard the door creak.

Then, Blackie turned around. Daji was nowhere to be seen.

Suddenly, Blackie teared up.

Blackie got up and sprinted to the door. He looked around outside.

“She left. The Vixen finally left.”

He shook his head and became energetic. He leaped next to Li Nianfan. He was celebrating.

Bark!

“Haha, Blackie, stop it.” Li Nianfan hugged Blackie. He laughed and asked, “What’s going on with you recently? You’re always lethargic. Are you good now?”

Bark!

Blackie stared at the big cauldron. He barked excitedly.

“You want to drink, too?” Li Nianfan was slightly surprised. Then, he smiled wryly and said, “Alright, I’ll give you some.”

Li Nianfan scooped a small amount of alcohol into the dog bowl for Blackie.

Blackie immediately sprinted toward it and licked it all up.

That was a déjà vu sight for Li Nianfan. "All of a sudden, it's just me and you again. Wait, and a little carp, too. How lonely."

He stood up and said, "Blackie, it's been a while since it's been just the man and dog duo. Let's go to the Fallen Town. We can buy a wine jar."

Meanwhile, Daji was carrying the little fox. She was next to the Fire Phoenix. They were covered by clouds. People could not see them. They would only think it was a cloud that passed by.

Soon, they were on top of the East Ocean.

Splash.

A human-like creature with a tortoiseshell swam out of the water. It was a Tortoise Demon with small eyes and a small nose. Two Lobster Demons followed behind it.

The Tortoise Chancellor bowed respectfully and greeted, "I'm the Tortoise Chancellor of the East Ocean. Greetings to the Nine-Tailed Fox and the Fire Phoenix."

Daji nodded and saluted, "Greetings to the Tortoise Chancellor. Is the Dragon King here?"

"Please, wait for a moment. We've already given orders to notify him," said the Tortoise Chancellor.

Then, the surface of the ocean splashed again. Urchin gradually appeared.

"Greetings to the Nine-Tailed Fox and the Fire Phoenix," Urchin hurriedly greeted them. He did not dare to be boastful.

He looked at the little fox that Daji was carrying. He said, "This is..."

"She's my sister."

“Nine-Tailed Fox, your sister just became a Tian Immortal?” Urchin frowned. He said in a worried tone, “The Five-Color Sacred Cow has unknown powers. I’m afraid it’s not appropriate to bring her along.”

Daji said, “Relax, I’ll take care of her.”

The little fox made a silly face at Urchin.

Suddenly, a sharp aura came out of nowhere. Then, the clouds were split apart. Xiao Chengfeng swooped in with a sword. He landed like a sharp sword, too, as he stabbed the cloud next to them.

Everyone looked at him. “Are you sure it’s the Five-Color Sacred Cow?”

“For sure!” Xiao Chengfeng nodded then said, “However... There are more than one.”

“A parent and a child.” Daji groaned for a moment and said, “According to our sources, the big one’s feeding the little one after its big tribulation.

Urchin was instantly intrigued. “Easy. We should watch the little one and capture it!”

The Fire Phoenix suddenly asked, “Are you aware of how powerful the Five-Color Sacred Cow is?”

Xiao Chengfeng said, “Immortal Beasts are extraordinary. The big cow’s probably at its peak. I’d say it’s at least from the Taiyi Golden Immortal Realm.

The Fire Phoenix said, “The Dragon King and I are Expert Golden Immortals. Daji and Xiao Chengfeng are Intermediate Golden Immortals. It won’t be that troublesome then!”

“What are we waiting for? Let’s depart!”

...

At the Linxian Palace.

At that same ancestor temple.

Spurt!

Yao Mengji was back at it again. He did the familiar steps.

Bowed, spat blood, lit incense, and summoned.

Buzz!

The Immortal Stone instantly shined brightly. However, it dimmed before anyone could look happy about it.

Yao Mengji was distressed. He could not stand anymore. He sat on the floor and said, "I've failed again. Ancestor, you must be joking."

He was overworked. The old man was finally hurt from exhaustion. He looked tired and weak again. He had also lost a lot of weight.

He looked far worse than what he once was.

Qin Manyun said, "Master, how about we stop? You haven't stopped spitting blood over the last few days."

"Fine, fine," Yao Mengji waved weakly. "I have to stop. All my energy is gone with the blood. I don't have any more blood to spit even if I wanted to."

He slowly stood up. He looked pale and fleeting.

He gently sighed. "I was counting on our ancestor to impress the expert. It seems like that dream is shattering."

Qin Manyun was out of ideas, too. She thought about other ways she could help the expert.

Suddenly, they heard laughter from above.

"Brother Mengji, where are you? I come with great news! Hurry up and show yourself!"

The Holy Emperor was so excited that he was out of it. He flew around the Linxian Palace, screaming like a big repetitive trumpet.

Instantly, all the disciples of the Linxian Palace were rattled. They all looked up at the sky.

Yao Mengji did not look happy. He flew to the sky and asked, "Looking for me, Brother Holy Emperor?"

The Holy Emperor saw Yao Mengji and unconsciously stepped back. Then, he exclaimed, "The super busy Yao Mengji. It's only been a few days. Why do you look so skinny and weak? What are you working on?"

"Sigh, it's too hard to explain."

Yao Mengji shook his head. Then, he asked, "Don't mention it. Why are you here, Holy Emperor?"

"Haha. Good news, huge news." The Holy Emperor laughed chirpily. He made eyes at Yao Mengji and said, "Take a guess first."

Cough.

Yao Mengji choked.

Qin Manyun appeared. She looked excited as she asked in a trembling voice, "Perhaps it has something to do with the expert?"

"Clever!"

The Holy Emperor laughed loudly. He was flushed with excitement as he said, "The expert said he wanted to participate in the Cultivators Convention. I took it upon myself and tried my best to get you an opportunity. We're going to accompany the expert to the event. Hurry up and pack. Get ready to depart!"

Boom!

Yao Mengji was mind blown. He jumped. He could not believe his ears.

Did the expert assign tasks?

He suddenly transformed into a figure and swooped next to the Holy Emperor. He hugged the Holy Emperor tightly and wanted to lift him. He growled in disbelief, "The expert wants us to accompany him on a trip? Is this for real? Say it again!"

"I spent a lot of effort getting you this opportunity. Of course, it's real," the Holy Emperor smiled and nodded. Then, he asked, "Oh, yeah. Will you be going to the Cultivators Convention?"

"Yes! I'll go even if I had a broken leg!" Yao Mengji said without hesitation. He was bewildered by the huge opportunity. He stared at the Holy Emperor and said with gratitude, "My good brother!"

His depression about his disconnected ancestor was instantly wiped away.

The expert did not forget him. He could still be a servant of the expert. Boohoo, how unreal.

Qin Manyun was flustered, too. She rushed them, “Master, what are we waiting for? Hurry up and get ready!”

“Yes!” Yao Mengji continuously nodded. “Check the skyship. Change all the equipment. Repair everything in the shortest time possible. Leave the ordinary items and load it up with treasures. We have to give the expert an enjoyable experience!”

“No. To be safe, I shall do it personally!” Yao Mengji flew to the skyskip, “Manyun, get in quick. Let’s get ready to fly it for the expert!”

“Oh, yeah. I have to practice my steering skills to ensure the skyship’s stability. It has to be perfect!”

The next morning.

The door of the four-part architecture creaked open.

Li Nianfan was already packed. He had his breakfast in his hand and a jar of wine on his belt. He walked out.

Yao Mengji, Qin Manyun, and the Holy Emperor were already waiting outside. They hurriedly looked alive and smiled. “Mr. Li, morning.”

Li Nianfan said, “Morning. Thanks for your kindness. Sorry for troubling you to pick me up.”

Yao Mengji smiled and said, “Mr. Li, don’t be a stranger.”

Li Nianfan looked at Brother Yao and was taken aback. He said, “Brother Yao, you lost a lot of weight these last few days.”

He remembered that Yao Mengji looked exhausted previously, too. Was it that hard being at the Linxian Palace?

“Right, have you guys eaten breakfast? Do you want some?” Li Nianfan showed them his steamed bread.

Daji was not around so Li Nianfan made a simple breakfast. He had a lot of steamed bread because Dragin was a big foodie.

Yao Mengji and the others were instantly excited. They licked their lips and asked quietly, “Can... Can we?”

“Why not? You tell me not to be a stranger, but what about you?” Li Nianfan laughed. He shared the steamed bread and gave each of them an apple. “I didn’t prepare much for breakfast. Sorry about that.”

“No, not at all!” Yao Mengji shook his head continuously. He smiled and said, “It’s been a while since I tasted your delicious food, Mr. Li. I even miss it.”

Everyone was extremely thankful for the steamed bread and apples.

The expert gave them such precious gifts during their meetings. He was so nice to them.

It was a blessing to be around the bigshot.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “I have newly brewed wine. We can drink all we want on the trip.”

He turned around and looked at the four-part architecture. Only Xiao Bai was left in the yard. Xiao Bai waved goodbye to everyone.

Li Nianfan also waved back and said, “Xiao Bai, look after the house.”

Blackie followed Li Nianfan with his tongue out sticking out. His tail wagged fast while he circled everyone.

‘Boohoo. The Master’s finally bringing me out on a trip after waiting for so long. Life isn’t easy.’

Chapter 260: I Feel Like Someone Is Against Me

“Blackie, slow down.”

Li Nianfan chased after Blackie who had sprinted into the skyship, looked around, and sniffed around energetically.

“Don’t mess up other people’s skyship!” Li Nianfan said unhappily as he rushed into the skyship. “You silly dog, I’m not bringing you out next time.”

As expected, Blackie laid next to Li Nianfan obediently. He acted pitiful while whining.

“Sorry everyone, this dog’s always like that. So disobedient.” Li Nianfan angrily patted Blackie. “Blackie, hurry up and apologize!”

“No need, no need.”

Yao Mengji instantly went pale. He was terrified. He quickly waved it off.

Apology from the Lord Dog? Who could handle that?!

The skyship would be honored to be destroyed by the Lord Dog.

Blackie stopped but Dragin was being naughty on the other side, too.

She kept touching and playing with anything she found inside the skyship. She was curious. Finally, her attention was grabbed by a big pearl that was at the center of the skyship.

“What a small pearl.” She pouted. She raised her wrist and out came a pearl five times the size of the skyship’s pearl.

The pearl shined brightly like it was a big light bulb. The skyship’s pearl was dim and dull in comparison to the shiny huge pearl.

Yao Mengji and the others were instantly intrigued. Their eyes almost popped out of their sockets from staring so hard.

The pearl was not a powerful Immortal Item but it was extremely expensive and precious. The pearl they had in the skyship was from a Clam Demon that they got lucky with. Dragin had such a huge pearl. What kind of Clam Demon did she get it from?

Cross Tribulation Realm? Mahayala Realm?

Yikes—

Scary.

“Dragin, why are you so impolite?”

Li Nianfan was baffled. Then, he said, “Brother Yao, this brat’s family is in the seafood business. She’s still young and immature. Please, forgive her.”

How dare she show off to other people while she was on their turf? What a silly kid.

Brother Yao waved it off and smiled. “Never mind, never mind.”

Seafood business?

She had status in the ocean?

The people around the expert were indeed extraordinary. Thankfully, he did not offend her.

Li Nianfan looked at that big pearl and was slightly intrigued. "What a big Luminous Pearl. Why didn't you bring it out sooner? It would be so convenient as a lightbulb.

"Is it voice-controlled? Dim the brightness."

The pearl did not react at all.

Li Nianfan was instantly disinterested.

Yao Mengji showed Li Nianfan his room. "Mr. Li, this is where you can stay."

"Thanks."

Li Nianfan nodded and looked around. He complimented, "Brother Yao, this skyship looks more luxurious than the last time. Did you revamp it?"

Yao Mengji replied in a respectful voice, "Just a small renovation. What do you think, Mr. Li?"

Li Nianfan smiled and said, "It's fantastic, of course."

Yao Mengji let out a sigh in relief. As long as the expert was satisfied.

It was worth clearing out all the treasures in the Linxian Palace. He moved it all into the skyship.

He smiled and said, "Mr. Li, I'll fire up the skyship this instant. Rest well."

"Nah, let's do it together."

Everyone was at the deck. Yao Mengji cast spells and the skyship started to glow.

It was not very loud. The skyship shined and levitated steadily. Then, it took off.

The Fallen Immortal Mountain was far away, growing smaller and smaller in Li Nianfan's eyes. He even saw the Fallen Town. The people in the Fallen Town moved as if they were ants. It gradually disappeared.

Then, Li Nianfan could see white clouds underneath him.

Li Nianfan knew the basics about the Cultivators Convention through conversation.

The convention was not a huge event. It would usually be held in the Immortal Realm, and it was for the local cultivators to share their experiences.

They could trade their opinions, treasures, Immortal Items, and shop for Spiritual Medicine and more.

If cultivators were secretive and closed-off, cultivation would not last for long.

Nanan was at the Golden Lotus Sect of the Northside. The convention was held in the Northeast area at a town named Chuchen Town.

Li Nianfan watched the view for a while. Then, he started getting slightly bored so he went back to his room.

Dragin stumbled after him and asked excitedly, "Brother, continue the story for me. Did Chenxiang save his mother in the end?"

Li Nianfan chuckled and laid on the bed. He yawned and said, "My legs are slightly sore."

Dragin immediately understood. She quickly walked over to Li Nianfan and gave him a foot massage. "Is this okay? Is the pressure hard enough?"

"Yeah, it's about right. Keep it that way," Li Nianfan nodded satisfyingly. Then, he said, "Chenxiang found out that in order to save his mother, he had to defeat God Jiro. So, he needed the Buddha of Victorious Strife to be his Master. He went through a lot of difficulties and suffering. He knelt outside Buddha's door for a long while..."

Time slipped by. It was soon night time.

Qin Manyun prepared food for Li Nianfan. It was not as delicious as the food Li Nianfan could make but there was a nice variety.

After eating and drinking, Li Nianfan stood on the deck to bathe in the moonlight. He enjoyed the beautiful night view and went back to his room. He yawned and was ready to sleep.

The realm was extra quiet in the dark. The skyship flickered like a star in the sky, flying at high speed.

Yao Mengji stood at the deck wearing a serious demeanor. He stared straight ahead while steering carefully. He was afraid that there would be an accident because of his momentary neglect.

The skyship did not need manual steering unless it was necessary. However, he did not dare to be lazy.

Qin Manyun and the Holy Emperor accompanied him by his side.

Suddenly, they heard maniacal laughter from afar along with the howling wind.

“Bold maniac, how dare you trespass into the forbidden land of my sect? Die!”

Cling clang—

The sounds of a battle disrupted the quiet night. Yao Mengji and the others were alarmed, afraid that it would disrupt the expert.

Thankfully, the skyship was extremely fast and the commotion was left behind.

However, they did not get a chance to relax. Right in front of them, two figures were chasing after one another mid-air.

The flying swords clashed. It was a heated fight.

“I suffered and waited for you for sixteen years, but you have a sixteen-year-old kid. You scum, I must kill you!”

“Lady, relax. You’ve got the wrong guy. That’s my twin brother.”

Yao Mengji did not look happy at all. He used his powers to speed up and they flew by quickly.

However, someone else was fighting in front of them again. The noise from the explosions was deafening.

“It’s been three years. I’m here today to redeem myself from all my past humiliations! Whatever pain you’ve all imposed on me, I’m going to pay it back tenfold!”

Boom!

Yao Mengji and the others looked infuriated.

Yao Mengji looked inside the skyship. He asked with a serious face, "What's going on tonight? Can't they give it a rest? Don't they know the expert's resting?"

"Ignorant, how ignorant!" The Holy Emperor shook his head. "How about this? I'll clear out the battles in front of us. I'll go and propose to them to fight their battles another day. We can't let it disturb the expert."

Qin Manyun nodded and said, "Good idea. Sorry for the trouble, Holy Emperor."

The Holy Emperor immediately flew off.

The night was once again peaceful. Yao Mengji and Qin Manyun both sighed in relief.

As the night went dark, they jumped anxiously.

Buzz!

The peaceful Spiritual Qi of the realm suddenly started to boil.

Then, a powerful aura appeared out of nowhere. They were distressed. They held their breaths.

The Holy Emperor returned. He looked frantic as he announced, "There seems to be an Immortal who has chosen to descend into the realm right in front of us! Stop! Stop the skyship now!"

The horizon was suddenly golden, painted by the gold streaks of light that were shining down from the clouds.

A golden door appeared out of thin air.

Qin Manyun went pale. She hurriedly said, “Master, turn around. Hurry up and turn the skyship around!”

“I know.” Yao Mengji quickly cast spells. He was sweating from being frantic.

The skyship slowed down and started to turn.

The three of them stared dead straight at the Heavenly Gates. They were nervous wrecks, eyes filled with distress.

What was going on? Could they not travel in peace?

Buzz!

The golden light grew brighter. Then, a figure speedily flew out from the small opening of the golden gates.

The figure was slim and seemed to be panicking. The figure looked like it was desperate to flee. He flew straight toward the skyship without thinking.

Two more figures flew out of the gates, too. They looked like they were chasing that figure.

Both sides used their powers from time to time. Their attacks created a back-and-forth effect. They were clearly in a heated battle.

“I feel like someone’s against me.”

Yao Mengji was utterly baffled. He was mentally exhausted. What an unlucky night.

The Immortals were fighting. How could his skyship handle that? More importantly, what if they disturb the expert who was resting inside the skyship? That would be a huge mistake!

He stared at the three Immortals. Then, he suddenly raised his eyebrows. He was taken aback when he saw the fleeing figure.

“Mas...Master?!”

The fleeing figure noticed him on the skyship, too. He was surprised. He exclaimed, “Mengji? What are you doing here? Hurry up and run, Mengji!”

‘What am I doing here?’

‘I’m supposed to be the one asking that question, not you!’

‘What can I run from?! The ones chasing you are Immortals!’

‘What’s going on with you? Why are you being hunted by two Immortals?!’

‘You could’ve gone somewhere else, but you brought them here to your descendants? Were you perhaps hoping that your student could cover for you? You wretched being!’