

Bigshot 571

Chapter 571 Winning The Lottery Without Having To Buy The Winning Ticket

The assimilation of the white tiger into Shi Tuqin's body made her feel infinite hope for her future. The darkness around her was dispelled and she found herself in a pure white world.

"That's right! I have to eliminate all evil. That's where my Dao Heart lies, how could I have let evil take over me?" muttered Shi Tuqin. Her eyes shone continuously. "I'll never find any excuse for not being able to control myself. I'll win over all evil. Don't even think of turning me into a monster!"

The blood-red mist around her slowly dissipated and so did the redness in her eyes. She stopped trembling and became a picture of serenity. She raised her two hands in the form of white tiger paws and rubbed her face with them. "Thank you, Little White."

The rest of the demons kept staring at the two words. Even though it was only a paper with two words split down in the middle with a black line, in their minds' eyes, they saw a whole world—a world of unimaginable vastness. The world was made up of both good and evil, but who were they to talk about this? They had been traveling between light and darkness for so long. However, after this incident, their moods were uplifted!

What they had experienced was obviously Wisdom Heart Refining! One's mood was an ever-changing phenomenon, no one could ever describe their mood clearly. Sometimes, moods were even ignored but everyone understood the importance of being in a good mood. It could even be said that controlling one's mood was one of the basic foundations of training

One could only reach great heights of Wisdom with good mood and determination. If not, one could easily get lost in the infinite Wisdom and become possessed with evil, losing both body and soul.

Similarly, in the face of illusions, the strength or weakness of a mood would be the deciding factor of how things would end.

It was general knowledge that one would need to train their emotions before training their physical body. However, that was easier said than done. It was easy to extol the benefits of sticking with the practice but how many could really last through the years? Li Nianfan's paper caused the crowd to be immersed in their mood as they engaged in self-reflection, causing them to level up and giving them the foundation for further training.

The experience was too rare of an occurrence, one could only hope one would be fortunate enough to come across this kind of transformation in one's lifetime.

Yet, this transformation happened in such a calm way that they found it hard to believe whether it really happened. No one would ever believe their stories if they were to tell them.

This had got to be the benefits of being near the expert. With wine to drink, fruit to eat, and words that were written-all these could act as an opportunity for transformation.

If it was possible, they would want to be the clothes on the expert's back, leading a normal life.

Li Nianfan saw that Shi Tuqin was slowly returning to normal and a smile broke out of his face.

It worked! All the things he said and all the words he wrote were psychological tactics.

First, he instilled the idea of good and beyond, then he asked her what kind of person she wanted to be. Lastly, he wrote out the words 'good' and 'evil'—anyone in their right mind would selectively stare at the word 'good' and under these circumstances, the person would enter a state of self-hypnosis with only the word 'good' in their mind. From there on, they would be able to control themselves.

A simple technique, nonetheless very useful in unleashing a person's hidden potential. Shi Tuqin looked toward Li Nianfan and said with sincerity, "Thank you for your counseling, Saint."

Li Nianfan smiled nonchalantly and waved his hand. "No need to thank me. It was all you, you're the one who managed to keep your rationality."

Daji nodded at Shi Tuqin and unfroze her legs.

Shi Tuqin looked at Li Nianfan again, bit her lips, and knelt on the ground. "Lord Saint, I humbly request to learn calligraphy from you. I don't mind being your study servant as long as I can stay by your side."

The crowd was silent. Some of them let out a gasp and looked toward Li Nianfan and Shi Tuqin, alternating their gazes between the two anxiously. They could not help but admire Shi Tuqin for her courage.

Training with the expert? This was the dream of many. It would be an overstatement to say it would be easier for pigs to fly than for her request to be granted. She was being too greedy. Then again, one should create opportunities for oneself instead of waiting for them to happen. Nothing would ever happen if one did not grab life by the collar. Cultivator Mosquito and Flying Whale's eyes were wide with shock. They dared not breathe.

Learn calligraphy? A study servant? Truth to be told, they were happy to do anything-even collecting rubbish in the house-if it meant they were able to stay by the expert's side.

Although what the expert had shown them was only the tip of an iceberg, those two words contained all the Wisdom in the world and struck a chord with them. Not even a high-level member from the Heavenly Realm could resist the allure, what more a Chaos Daluo Golden Immortal.

If they were to study calligraphy with the expert, then it was as good as being 'the chosen one'. Everyone was lost in their own thoughts while waiting for Li Nianfan's reply.

Shi Tuqin kept her eyes down. There was still a single teardrop on her long lashes. She looked as fragile as a flower who had survived through a thunderstorm-weak and helpless. "You want to learn calligraphy from me? What about your training?" asked Li Nianfan quizzically.

Shi Tuqin nodded her head and answered him anxiously, "Yes, I want to learn calligraphy from you and forgo my training. Please, accept my request, Lord Saint."

Li Nianfan muttered something under his breath and his eyes flashed with sudden lightness.

Shi Tuqin used to train under the Legendary Beast Sect, but now she had lost her bonded demon through his own sacrifice to protect her. It was not easy to walk out unscathed from that trauma but needless to say, she would never go back to her old training.

Besides, although she looked like she had recovered from the shock, there was the certainty of future emotional backlash. Practicing calligraphy could strengthen both mind and body. Not only that, it was

due to Li Nianfan's calligraphy that she managed to suppress the evil in her heart. Putting all these factors together gave her the reason for wanting to learn calligraphy.

Li Nianfan did not mind having her as a study servant but he was afraid she would not be able to control herself and would hurt someone if she were to go berserk again. He was not sure he would be able to carry that burden.

Suddenly, they all fell silent again.

Shi Tuqin took a deep breath, not planning to back down. She looked at Li Nianfan with her big sad puppy dog eyes.

Only a few seconds ago, she was begging for her own death. Compared to that, this was nothing. She clearly knew the only reason she was able to suppress the evil in her heart was because of Li Nianfan, and that she would sooner or later turn into a monster if she did not stay by his side.

She was doing this for herself, for Little White, and for revenge. She did not care how long she would need to keep kneeling as long as he accepted her in the end.

Li Nianfan looked deeply into Shi Tuqin's eyes, as if he could feel all the emotions coursing through her. Finally, he let out a long sigh and said, "If that's the case, you can stay and learn calligraphy from me."

Shi Tuqin was overjoyed. Tears of happiness flowed down her face. "Thank you, Lord Saint. Thank you!"

Li Nianfan was a little speechless at how easily the young girl in front of him could shed tears.

As for the rest of the crowd, they could not believe their own ears. Jealousy burned on their faces when they directed their gazes toward Shi Tuqin.

“Just like that?”

‘Isn’t the expert being too hasty?’

‘Did this girl save the world in her past lives?’

Qin Manyun bit her lip. So envious was she, tears nearly sprang from her eyes. She wished she had taken the opportunity to kneel in front of Li Nianfan, too, and asked to stay by his side. As her emotions were going through a roller coaster ride, she heard her name being called.

“Miss Manyun,” said Li Nianfan.

“Yes...yes?” She shook with fright and quickly looked at Li Nianfan. “Did you call me, Mr. Li?” she asked with puzzlement.

Li Nianfan organized his thoughts and said, “I was wondering if you’ll be so kind as to stay by Miss Shi Tuqin’s side and play her the song I’ve prepared for her? Miss Shi Tuqin hasn’t fully recovered and I have a song here that can stabilize one’s heart.”

He was doing this as insurance. He knew calligraphy alone would not be enough to suppress the evil in Shi Tuqin's heart, so he wanted Qin Manyun's music to act as backup. After all, it was better to over-prepare than under-prepare. The combination would ensure everyone's safety.

Li Nianfan's request was like music to Qin Manyun's ears. Her brain started to buzz and her blood rushed up to her face. She felt like she was on cloud nine.

She finally knew what it was like to win the lottery without having to buy the winning ticket for it was delivered to her hand by fate.

Shi Tuqin would stay by the expert's side, and she would be by her side. This was akin to her staying by the expert's side. Besides that, the expert would be providing her with the sheet music, it would not be too much if she were to ask him for guidance from time to time.

She had been dreaming of this kind of opportunity ever since her first meeting with the expert. Life was definitely good for her. She had no doubt she would be smiling in her sleep tonight.

"If you're not free, then..." said Li Nianfan when she did not give him an answer. He was slightly annoyed at the thought he would have to play the music himself.

"I'm free, Mr. Li. I'm free! I'd be more than happy to do that," said Qin Manyun, snapping out of her reverie. She wished she had answered him sooner.

Li Nianfan smiled and nodded. "That's great!"

Soon, the crowd dispersed.

Li Nianfan glanced at the calligraphy brush he was holding, passed it to Shi Tuqin, and said, "Now is as good a time as ever to start learning calligraphy. Why don't you draw a line first?"

Shi Tuqin nodded shyly and accepted the calligraphy brush.

However, her expression changed once she grabbed hold of the calligraphy brush. She had to activate her mana to keep the calligraphy brush from dropping.

It was heavy! Very heavy! Her face became red with over-exertion.

She only then realized the calligraphy brush, which was emitting a faint glow but otherwise looked very ordinary, was an Ultimate Chaos Treasure! It felt as heavy as a mountain and she could sense the calligraphy brush was resisting her, as if to say she was unworthy to use it.

She had no doubt she would have lost her hand if it was not for the expert, for this concerned the pride of an Ultimate Chaos Treasure. A beginner who had no working knowledge of calligraphy did not deserve to even touch a hair on the calligraphy brush.

Was this a test from the expert?

She took a deep breath and directed it toward her chest. She then concentrated all the mana into her right hand and started inching slowly toward the blank paper, trembling all the while. Then, with great difficulty, little by little she managed to draw a line on the paper. Li Nianfan had been observing her every action ever since she received the calligraphy brush from him. He pressed his lips together and stayed silent.

He intended to praise her, no matter the outcome. After all, this was her first time. As long as she did not do too badly, she was deserving of praise. However, he could not find anything praiseworthy at all! He did not think it would be appropriate if he were to criticize her straight away.

He was truly speechless.

There was something off about her line. There was only one way to describe her-a total noob!

Taking the example of the horizontal line she had just drawn, the difference between the thick and thin parts was too stark. The thin part was barely visible while the thick part was more like a blob of ink-at the end of the line was a circle as big as the sun, capturing all the attention and nearly tearing a hole in the paper.

If he did not see it with his own eyes, he would never believe someone could be this bad at calligraphy,

“Miss Shi, have you ever learned calligraphy before?” asked Li Nianfan.

"A little..." replied Shi Tuqin weakly, her face as red as a tomato.

'As if! Very brave of you to say that. She's not humble at all. She probably learned calligraphy from the P.E. teacher,' thought Li Nianfan.

"Let me teach you the correct way of holding the calligraphy brush first," said Li Nianfan resignedly.

"First, you rest your index finger here. Don't be nervous, just relax. Your grip can't be too tight or too loose..."

Time passed quickly.

Li Nianfan was in the courtyard, enjoying his pampering treatment from Daji and Fire Phoenix. From time to time, he would provide guidance to Shi Tuqin while listening to Qin Manyun playing on the zither. Life was definitely good.

The blue sky turned black and somewhere in the Chaos, a silver spiritual boat pulsating with infinite glow was sailing across the sky.

On the deck stood a handsome man wearing black silk robes. His thick eyebrows and his clear bright eyes imbued him with a heroic demeanor. Even his breath sounded like a mantra, coming in and out. He was truly an extraordinary man.

He stood in the Chaos, as if the entire starry sky had to make way for him. Suddenly, an old man sporting white hair, white beard, wearing white robes, came out of the spiritual boat and passed a golden brocade box to the handsome man.

“Sire, the Nine Levels Chaos Golden Core is completed,” said the old man.

The handsome man accepted the box and opened it. Inside was a round medicine pill. The pill looked as if it was surrounded by a golden halo. The handsome man smiled with satisfaction.

“The color looks great, Elder. Your medicinal skill is beyond exceptional. You didn’t make me regret taking you in after all,” said the handsome man.

The old man smiled bitterly and said, “I’m unworthy of your praise, sire.”

The handsome man distractedly turned his gaze away. “How long until we reach the Area of the Gods?”

Immediately, a servant came by and laid out a star map in front of him. The star map suddenly reflected the starfield in that area.

“Emperor, here’s the Area of the Gods. It’ll still take us some time.”

The handsome man’s eyes darkened. “Increase the speed! I can’t wait to check it out. I want to see for myself whether the Area of the Gods is as grand as they say.”

All of a sudden, the old man who was standing behind him trembled violently. His pupils shrank, showing the extreme surprise and confusion he was feeling.

Chapter 572: A Very Narrow Perspective

Early next morning, the graceful music of the zither flowed out of Demon City, causing the clouds to swirl and gathering infinite Spiritual Qi which rained down soon after.

All the demons in the city cautiously gathered around the palace as if they were summoned by the music, each waiting patiently in their spot, listening to the music with their eyes closed.

A surge of overbearing energy surged up from their bodies, and with the rhythm of their breathing, it created a whirlpool of Spiritual Qi being absorbed from the sky.

If they were not aware of the expert's taboo, if Daji and Fire Phoenix did not warn them beforehand, they surely would not have been able to control their hot-bloodedness and descend into a frenzy. This should be avoided at all costs to maintain peace under the sky.

This was a sudden breakthrough. Under the sound of the zither, every demon in the city became unbelievably active, as if with every playing of the note, their demon spirit would increase. What was previously an unbreakable bottleneck had now been smashed into pieces as easily as crumpling a piece of paper.

Upon waking up, they were greeted with this surprise, causing them to jump with joy. The music was slowly fading and disappointment flashed in the demons' eyes. They looked at the palace with deep respect.

The expert was probably guiding the new study servant and music servant. Even a simple play could be an opportunity for all of them to reach enlightenment. How blessed were they to be able to stay by the expert's side? Qin Manyun and Shi Tuqin should be dancing with joy.

But they dared not voice their thoughts out loud. Although they wished they were in their position, they dared not succumb to jealousy for the two had become followers of the expert. Hence, the rest of them had no right to be jealous. Their energy would be better spent thinking about how they could be closer to the expert.

In the palace, Li Nianfan stopped his playing and laid his hands on the zither. He looked at Qin Manyun and said, "I'll only demonstrate this once. The name of the song is 'Guangling San'. Listening to it can calm one's heart. It's very easy to play."

'How is this easy?' wondered Qin Manyun. She tightly pressed her lips together and her eyes trembled a little. "Don't worry, Mr. Li! I'll work hard for sure!" she said with determination.

She wondered when she could reach the same level as the expert. If that were to happen one day... It gave her goosebumps just thinking about it.

Li Nianfan's smile showed that he had confidence in Qin Manyun for she already knew the basic foundation. Plus, she truly loved playing music, so naturally, she would be able to progress quickly. He looked forward to the day when she could entertain him with her music.

As for Shi Tuqin...

Li Nianfan looked in the direction of where she was. It was probably something to do with her having paws for hands which made it unsuitable for holding on to a calligraphy brush. It made her writing unbelievably ugly.

Sometimes, a whole piece of paper could be wasted practicing a simple stroke. Li Nianfan felt his nerve was taking a beating and regretted taking her in.

Meanwhile, outside of Demon City, two old men landed with their Merit Clouds near the city wall. There were two demons who had not completed their transformation by their side. One looked like a red bear with golden scales around his neck and the other looked like a wolf with a single horn on his head that was crackling with electricity.

The Unicorn Wolf sniffed the ground and air. His eyes suddenly flashed. "The young princess isn't far from here. She should be inside the Demon City!"

The two old men's eyes flashed at the same time. Then, one of them asked curiously, "Isn't Qin captured by the Ministry? Why would she be here?"

"No matter what, we need to make sure she's safe and scout out the situation before doing anything!" said the other gravely.

They both took a deep breath at the same time and increased the speed of their Merit Clouds toward the Demon City.

The closer they got to the center, the more puzzled they were. They reminded themselves to take more caution as they could feel many demons' spirits gathered there. It was not only the number that made

them cautious but the level of their power, with some of them powerful enough to make them feel threatened.

The most shocking thing to them was the residue of Insights swirling around in the sky. It was truly magnificent, to the extent they began to doubt whether they were mistaken.

“Brother Zhou, something is going on in Demon City. How could it change so much in such a short time?”

“Yes, I instructed my follower to do some scouting here before. How did it develop to such a grand scale? I’m afraid the Demon King isn’t something we should take lightly.”

The Legendary Beast Sect naturally has a close bond, a special relationship, with the demons. Meaning to say, they did not see each party as their enemies. On the contrary, they were willing to cohabit peacefully alongside each other. This had the added benefit of making it easier for the sect to find a suitable demon for their disciples. Hence, it was normal for them to send somebody over to scout around Demon City.

But it seemed like Demon City had just gone through some huge changes. They radiated their intention of coming in peace when they neared the main gate. The two Wild Boar Demons noticed them and greeted them with a group of low-level demons.

“Please, state your official business for coming here,” he said seriously.

At this moment, all the demons in the city refrained from causing trouble and swore they would protect the stability of the city. They had even taken the initiative to patrol around the city to ensure nothing

would disturb the expert. It was an unspoken agreement and done without the order of the Demon King.

Elder Zhou put his hand together in greeting. “Brothers, we’re both elders from the Legendary Beast Sect. We’re here to look for someone.”

The Wild Boar Demon had an inkling of who they were looking for. “And does this person have a name?” he asked gruffly.

“Yes, Shi Tuqin, my follower!” Elder Zhou did not dare to cause any offense. “She was unfortunately captured by the Ministry. We don’t know where she is now but we’ve followed her scent here,” he explained politely.

“Oh, it’s her.” The Wild Boar Demon smiled knowingly. “Yes, she’s here in Demon City. She was rescued by our Lord Demon King.”

“That’s great!” The two old men were jumping with joy, their wrinkly faces creasing even more. “We owe our gratitude to your Lord Demon King. Could you please send word of our arrival so we can thank them face-to-face?”

Shi Tuqin was not only a princess of the Legendary Beast Sect, she was also their most talented practitioner in many decades. Even her bonded demon—the Sky Wing White Tiger—was rare. She was cemented as the future master of the Legendary Beast Sect, her future was as bright as it could get.

The Ministry was notorious for their evil deeds, so when Shi Tuqin was captured, it dealt a huge blow to the Legendary Beast Sect. Now that they knew for sure she was safe and sound, they felt relief wash over them.

“You want to meet with the expert?” The Wild Boar Demon shook his head. “I’m afraid that’s not possible.”

They would never let any Tom, Dick, or Harry meet with the expert.

Without waiting for their reply, the Wild Boar Demon continued saying, “But I can ask Goddess Shi Tuqin to come here.”

“Yes, it’s fine with us. Please, do,” said the two old men quickly.

After some time, the Wild Boar Demon came back with Shi Tuqin. Tears sprang from Shi Tuqin’s eyes when she saw the two old men.

“Grandpa Zhou, Grandpa Xu!”

“Qin!” The two old men were too excited to see her until they saw the state she was in. They started crying and found themselves unable to breathe with the pain they were feeling.

“What... You...”

Shi Tuqin looked at her white tiger paws and in a low voice, she said, "Little White's dead..."

They did not need any elaboration for they had already guessed what had happened. Their hearts were drowned in sorrow.

"You poor thing. You must've been through so much. I'm so sorry I wasn't there to protect you," said Elder Zhou in a raspy voice.

Elder Xu was furious, anger coloring his face red and his hair shot up vertically. He had nowhere to vent his anger. "Those Ministry fools! I, Xu Zixiao, will make them pay for this. They better pray we never cross paths! Come back with us, Qin! I'll find a way to cure you."

Elder Zhou nodded. "Yes, Qin. The past is in the past. Come back with us. There's bound to be a way."

Their eyes were filled with pity and sorrow. Their understanding of how deep a bond Shi Tuqin had with Little White made it difficult for them to comfort her.

Shi Tuqin shook her head and gently stroked her paws. "Grandpa Zhou, Grandpa Xu, I'm okay."

"Good, good. As long as you're okay." The two old men breathed a sigh of relief.

“I’m not going back with you all. I’ve already decided to learn calligraphy!”

“Calligraphy?” The two old men were stunned. Elder Xu’s eyes were as wide as saucers. “Qin, what’s there to learn about calligraphy? Aren’t you throwing your talent away? Come back with us and I promise you I’ll find the rarest demon to be your new bonded demon!”

“Nonsense!” said the Wild Boar Demon who had been eavesdropping from the very beginning. He could not help the sudden interjection when he heard the old man looking down on the expert’s calligraphy. “How dare an old man like you look down on calligraphy? You make me laugh.”

Having the opportunity to learn calligraphy from the expert was akin to being crowned as ‘the chosen one’ in the Chaos. Anyone would have jumped at the chance. The Wild Boar Demon was a fan of Li Nianfan, therefore he would not tolerate anyone looking down on him.

Elder Xu felt offended. “How dare a low-level Wild Boar Demon speak to us this way? How could you compare calligraphy to our Legendary Beast Sect’s practice? Even ignorance has its limits!”

The wild boar demon became even cockier. “I bet you don’t even know what calligraphy is, old man. You’re unworthy to even speak to me.” He truly felt that way for he had seen Li Nianfan’s calligraphy.

Elder Xu felt as if he was talking to the wall. He beat his chest and shouted, “Fool! What a foolish pig!”

He was about to continue but was stopped by Elder Zhou. “Shut up!”

Elder Zhou looked at Shi Tuqin and asked gently, “Qin, do you really wish to learn calligraphy?”

Shi Tuqin nodded and bowed deeply to the two old men. “Thank you for all that you’ve done for me, my two beloved grandpas. Please, pass on this message to my father—from now on, calligraphy’s the only thing I’ll be focusing on. Please, don’t send anybody to come for me. Thank you.”

“Qin, no need to thank us. We’re family after all.” Elder Zhou felt his nose go red. The young Qin who used to follow him around was now all grown up. If possible, he wished she did not have to grow up so she could be a carefree child forever. “Don’t worry, I’ll support whatever decision you make. Study hard. I’ll inform your father of the situation.”

“Okay, I have to go back to my practice now. Goodbye, Grandpa Zhou and Grandpa Xu!”

Shi Tuqin did not want to waste any time, so she quickly rushed back after letting them know she was safe.

Looking at her getting smaller and smaller, Elder Zhou and Elder Xu were filled with sorrow and nostalgia.

“Brother Zhou, what are you doing? How could you agree to her request so easily?” asked Elder Xu.

Elder Zhou glanced at him from the corner of his eye. “You really need to learn how to control your temper. Qin has already gone through so much. It’s a wonder she could still function normally.

Calligraphy can calm the mind and strengthen the heart. That must be the reason she wants to learn it so badly. We shouldn't force her to come back with us now. We should be thankful she's safe."

Elder Xu let out a sigh. 'Those Ministry fools! I'll make them pay!' he thought to himself.

Elder Zhou turned his gaze to the Wild Boar Demon. His eyes became a little brighter. "By the way, you look like a fine demon. Why don't you join our Legendary Beast Sect?"

"Join your sect?" He roared with laughter. "What makes you think I would want to join your sect? Why don't you quickly go back to where you came from and stop bothering me? I won't ever join your sect unless there's something wrong with my brain."

"Do you seriously think there's nothing wrong with your brain?" retorted a raging Elder Xu. "The Legendary Beast Sect has inherited great power, a power so great that you cannot even comprehend. Not to mention, our mastery's suitable for demons to grow with our monks. Isn't that a hundred times—no—a thousand times better than being a guard in Demon City? It doesn't take much brainpower to know which is the better choice!"

"The phrase 'ignorance is bliss' is obviously made for you." The Wild Boar Demon's eyes were knowing, as if it contained all the knowledge of the universe. "Even being a low-level demon here would reap more benefits than joining your stupid Legendary Beast Sect! What more, I'm the captain of the guards here."

"Our captain's right! We'll never join the Legendary Beast Sect even if you begged us!"

"Only those in the know would understand!"

"I'd rather be a pig in Demon City instead of a king of the Legendary Beast Sect!"

The Wild Boar Demon puffed up with arrogance at the egging of the low-level demon.

Elder Xu was about to go mad with fury. His worldview had been challenged. He pointed a shaky finger at them and said, "Who's the ignorant one here? A bunch of narrow-minded fools. Too bad there's no cure for stupidity!"

"Calm down, Brother Xu!" Elder Zhou pulled him away and used the Secret Voice Transmit Method to remind him. "Why do you even bother talking to some lowly demons? Remember, don't fight crazy with crazy."

Elder Xu took a deep breath to calm himself down. "You're right. We're not on the same level so it's natural we see things differently. Why should I argue with them?"

"Don't come crying to me when you've changed your mind," said Elder Xu to the group before leaving. "You'll forever be a pig guarding the door at your level!"

"What do you know? I'm proud to be a guard! In fact, I'll die happy if I could do this forever!"

Chapter 573: The Big Battle of Taotie

Compared to its previous magnificence, the Yunhuang World had now become destitute.

First, there was the dividing of land to be used as indemnity for Blackie. With one-third of the origin gone, the Spiritual Qi became thinner and the Wisdom in the area became incomplete. Even the Saint's fruit position became lesser by two—all evidence of the difficulty the Chaos went through.

Then, a gang of foolish people, who thought that because they had the backing of Father God, came to the Chaos to force a confession of guilt.

To the surprise of everyone, even Father God, not one of them ever came back. They had obviously angered the bigshot and the low-level members all perished in his anger. They originally had the backing of a high-level member of the Heavenly Realm, not to mention the 15 Chaos Daluo Golden Immortal, and eight Saints. Now, there were only six Chaos Daluo Golden Immortals and three Saints left.

But they did not entertain any thoughts of hatred, not even wanting to take revenge. This time, the whole world had become silent, all hoping the bigshot would not do anything to them.

Luckily, the situation was not as bad as they feared. The bigshot did not plan to eliminate them all since he had not appeared for such a long time. They finally felt like they had the chance to breathe out a sigh of relief.

In this kind of situation, one should not blame the enemy but instead, praise him for his great mercy.

Currently, the six Chaos Daluo Golden Immortals and three Saints had gathered. They were the symbolism of the highest power in Yunhuang. They were analyzing the world's situation with a critical eye.

"It's a good thing we've managed to stabilize the situation here," said the white-shirt old man.

"It's just... Now that the Wisdom is incomplete, it'll be hard for us to progress if we stay here, unless something extraordinary were to occur," said the black-robed man sitting next to him.

"Brother Tianmu, do you plan to travel to the Chaos?" asked a purple-clothed Goddess with curiosity flashing in her eyes.

The black-robed man was silent for a while. "I plan to go to the Area of the Gods."

"Area of the Gods?"

They were all stunned by what they heard, their eyes flashed with fear.

They were aware of how they overlooked the Area of the Gods when it had not yet transformed from the Prehistoric era. They had no idea how the Prehistoric era was able to transform to the Area of the Gods. At the thought of the death of their Father God, the fear they had for the Prehistoric era heightened. Thus, the Area of the Gods had become a forbidden place to them.

They would not return alive if anyone from the Area of the Gods were to know they came from the Yunhuang World. Perhaps the most valid reason for not going was the existence of the many powerful figures there.

In short, avoid the Area of the Gods at all cost.

“I know what you’re all worried about,” said Taoist Tianmu with a calm face. “But ever since that incident, no monk from the Prehistoric era ever came by anymore. This just proves they don’t even want to bother with us. Besides, the Area of the Gods has a better environment for training. I’m a monk, so it’s natural for me to go against fate to reach enlightenment. How could I let a little fear in my heart stop me?”

The rest of the group looked at him with admiration. They were about to say something but were interrupted by a sudden sound.

“Well said! But you need not go to the Area of the Gods for there’s a better opportunity!” The voice belonged to an old hunchbacked green man with only one eye, who had suddenly appeared in the air above the group.

The way the old man appeared was very unusual. There were no warning signs, as if Heaven was ignoring his existence. Although he was smiling, they still felt suffocated by the sinister aura flowing out of his body.

They became shocked when they realized the old man’s aura was more powerful than their Father God and wondered whether he was a high-level member of the Heavenly Realm.

The white-shirt old man’s heart was beating wildly. “To whom am I speaking to?” he asked respectfully.

“I am the Ministry’s Right Messenger. Your Father God used to serve under me,” replied the old green man.

The Ministry? Served under him? The hearts of the white-shirt old man and the rest of the group sank deeper into the ocean. They had heard about the Ministry before, but they never knew their Father God used to be a member there. It was still too early for them to tell whether a visit from the Ministry was a blessing or curse.

The white-shirt old man took a few gulps and asked, "May we know the reason for your visit?"

The old green man laughed sinisterly and slowly answered, "Don't you want to exact revenge? Let me tell you all something. Three days ago, I managed to inflict some heavy damage on the giant black dog. If it wasn't for some accident, I would've captured him alive!"

The group looked at each other with shock in their eyes. But their expressions changed when they detected the hidden message. They were not stupid after all.

"What would like us to do?" asked the purple-clothed Goddess.

"Something very simple." The old green man laughed before continuing. "Let the Ministry use this place as our experimental site. Naturally, there would be some compensation for you all which will be more than generous as this world is already broken beyond repair. Think of it as giving it a second life."

The group's expression flared with anger and they pressed their lips into a thin line. They knew that once this place became an experimental site, no creature around the vicinity would be spared. Both humans and demons would all become the Ministry's experimental subjects, turning this place into a purgatory.

The creatures worshipped them as their guardian spirits, some of them were even their followers and Orthodoxy. They would have smited the old green man on the spot for even suggesting this if it was not for the fact he was much more powerful than all of them put together.

The white-shirt old man squeezed out a smile. "That's a good joke. There's no reason to take from us since our Father God is also a member of the Ministry."

The old green man's face was expressionless. "Funny you should say that, for it's known that all the possessions of a member belong to the Ministry. Hence, it's natural for us to take control of this place. I bet he wouldn't even dare to question my decision if he was still alive. It's only for his sake that I took the time to let you know beforehand."

"I won't allow it!" shouted Taoist Tianmu coldly and determinedly. "I forbid the Ministry to turn Yunhuang World into an experimental site!"

"Your courage is commendable but I'm afraid this isn't the time for it," said the old man nonchalantly. "I'll give you another chance."

"I'll never allow it, no matter how many chances you give," said Taoist Tianmu with a grave face. "Father God died for the Ministry and now you're repaying his sacrifice with an evil deed! It's no wonder your less-than-stellar reputation has reached the ears of everyone in the Chaos. The Ministry's nothing but a bunch of evil villains! I'd rather die than let you use this place!"

The old green man laughed coldly. He raised his hand and suddenly, heaven and earth moved while the sky remained still. A surge of power flowed out of the old green man's fingertips—power that was enough to overthrow everything in the world—and flew straight at Taoist Tianmu and the rest of the group.

A loud hum sounded and there were air ripples everywhere. Yunhuang World's Heaven tried to stop the old green man but it was no match for him. The surroundings ended up being caged in a barrier.

The group's spiritual cultivation was obviously not enough to overpower the old green man's attack. They were unable to move or to speak. In their eyes, it looked like there was an infinite number of old green men falling from the sky. There was no way they could withstand the attack.

Taoist Tianmu was suppressed without any effort and was caught by the old green man until they were standing face to face.

"Don't die. You'll be a great experimental subject. It'll be a waste for you to die," said the old green man. He raised his hand again and a bulky black medicine pill flew into Taoist Tianmu's mouth. Then, he proceeded to whack him on the back of his head.

An inexplicable power started to swirl inside his body and he started to get cramps everywhere. His face became contorted as if he was under extreme pain. After a while, his eyes became blood-red and a cloud of red mist enveloped him. The old green man threw him down like a dead dog and ordered his servants to put him in a cage.

After that, he turned to look at the rest of the surviving group with a calm smile on his face, as if nothing had happened. "How about you all?" he asked neutrally.

The white-shirt man glanced at the imprisoned Taoist Tianmu who was writhing in pain. His eyes flashed with deep anger but he managed to control himself. "I'm willing to help you in any way I can," he replied with a raspy voice.

“Me, too,” said the purple-clothed Goddess, biting her lip.

“What a pity,” said the old green man flirtatiously looking at the purple-clothed Goddess. “We at the Ministry love watching the interaction between a berserk Goddess and demon. For your sake, I hope you’ll never get caught by me.”

The purple-clothed Goddess’s body trembled with fear. She lowered her head and with a shaky voice, thanked the old green man for his mercy. This method of deterrence was the epitome of the cruelty that existed in the Immortal Realm. There was no further voice of dissent.

The old green man ordered his servants to capture some people from the Yunhuang World and proceeded to take out a transparent crystal ball from his sleeves. There seemed to be a neon glow flashing in the center of the ball. If one looked closely, there seemed to be a world inside it.

“I’ll also need half of the Origins of Yunhuang World.” His tone was one of informing, leaving no room for discussion. Then, he squeezed a lever which caused the Yunhuang World’s Wisdom to manifest itself. Their world was suddenly thrown into darkness.

It was futile to resist. Speckles of Origins started to gather inside the crystal ball which caused it to glow even brighter.

The white-shirt old man and the rest of the group trembled fearfully at the sight of this. Shame and anger filled their chests and they kept their heads low to keep the old green man from seeing their true feelings.

The old green man did not even bother with them. He immediately left the Yunhuang World with a smile after collecting the Origins. He did, however, leave them some parting words. "If any of you are found to be slacking by the time I'm back, then there'll be no reason for your existence anymore."

He was not worried that the white-shirt old man and the rest of the group would betray him. It would not be difficult to dispose of them even if they dared to do so.

He continued his journey in the Chaos without resting, all the while with only one destination in mind. Although his speed was the thing of legends, it still took him six hours to arrive at this particular galaxy. He slowly descended on a hot red star.

There were already some Ministry people gathered there, including the Left Messenger with her demon mask.

"Did you get it?" she asked when she saw the arrival of the old green man.

"Need you ask?" replied the old green man with a smile as he took out the crystal bowl. "Inside this Origins Stone are the Origins I've extracted from five different worlds. The power it contains is more than one complete world! Taotie won't be able to resist this so I'm sure it'll be easy for you to bait it with this."

The Left Messenger was slightly surprised. "You're asking me to bait him?" she asked with her brows knitted together. Taotie was known for its unassailable power, so the risk of capturing him would naturally be high.

“There’s no one, apart from me and you, who can withstand his attack. Besides, the rest of the group will be busy laying the imprisonment formation. As for me...” The old green man’s expression flashed with a vengeance. “I plan to kill two birds with one stone by taking this chance to eliminate that pesky Deluxe Merit Saint, too!”

A surge of anger bubbled up in him whenever he thought about the Deluxe Merit Saint. Never in his life had he ever felt so aggrieved. He could not wait a moment longer to kill him!

It would take the Left Messenger one day to draw Taotie to this place. He could use that time to lay out the formation to easily kill the Deluxe Merit Saint.

The Left Messenger stayed quiet for a while before nodding her head. Her plans had also been foiled by the Deluxe Merit Saint, so she naturally felt it was best to eliminate him.

Once the plan had been fixed, the Ministry people each went to do their assigned task.

The old green man laughed sinisterly while he was laying out the formation with the ingredients he had so lovingly prepared. The farther the distance, the more difficult it would be to use the Immortal Weaken Spell. Not to mention, the sacrifice needed would be too much to the extent it would take all that old green man had. However, he felt it would be worth it.

“Deluxe Merit Saint, you should feel proud that you’re able to force me to pull out the big guns,” muttered the old green man to himself. “Master would surely reward me handsomely if he knew I’ve eliminated a pesky troublemaker.”

Meanwhile, in Demon City, the past two days had been the happiest two days of the demons' lives. How could they not be happy when they were able to listen to the expert playing on the zither from time to time, resulting in their realm advancing at the speed of a rocket?

The brother-in-law of their Demon King was so infinitely powerful that they were grateful to be alive in the same time and space as him.

Currently, Daji and Fire Phoenix were discussing something with Blackie.

"The Ministry plans to capture Taotie?"

Blackie's eyes were filled with deep hatred. "Not if I can help it! I'll definitely make them pay for what they did to me. From now on, I'll go against them in anything. If they plan to capture Taotie, I'll catch it first!"

Daji's face broke into a smile. "I'm confident we'll be able to capture Taotie with your help." She got wind of the Ministry's plan when she destroyed their stronghold. It was also there where she found out about Taotie's whereabouts.

The ingredients were handpicked by their master, so they must capture Taotie before the Ministry got their hands on it.

"I've already asked Yao Mengji to request some backup from the Heavenly Palace. Taotie's infamous for being the fiercest beast in the Chaos. We shouldn't let our guard down and bring more people just to be safe," said Fire Phoenix.

“We should go now! The Ministry might’ve already put their plan into motion!” said Daji hurriedly with a slight frown on her face.

Chapter 574: The Old Green Man, A Lonely Self-Harming Person

Taotie, the fiercest Chaos Beast, with the ability to consume anything and everything in its path—viewed the thousands of worlds in the Chaos as food. Even a high-level member from the Heavenly Realm would be wise to avoid Taotie.

Daji and Fire Phoenix would never be foolish enough to think they could ever capture Taotie by themselves. Even though Li Nianfan had given them many Ultimate Chaos Treasures after they were married which increased their power tremendously, they understood it was still not enough to deal with Taotie. At most, they would be able to come to a draw with a high-level member of the Heavenly Realm.

That was why they were asking for Blackie’s help. Blackie jumped at the chance to be part of the plan when he heard about the Ministry’s plan. It was the perfect chance for exacting revenge on them after what they had done to him.

‘I, Blackie, must take revenge for the sake of my hairless body!’ he vowed to himself.

Blackie was powerful enough to eliminate high-level members from the Heavenly Realm, meaning to say he could be put on the top of the list of powerful figures. This gave them the confidence boost when it came to capturing Taotie.

The group bid farewell to Li Nianfan after they were done with their preparations.

“Are you all going out? To do what?” asked Li Nianfan quizzically.

Fire Phoenix nodded at his first question and cheekily answered his second question, “We’re going to prepare a surprise for you, Master! So we have to keep it a secret for now,”

“A surprise? For me?” Li Nianfan looked at them excitedly. “Okay, I’ll wait patiently for the surprise. Just make sure you don’t do anything too dangerous and practice caution at all times.” He did not think to ask much when he saw how mysterious they were being. He just kept smiling at them.

Since they had already said it was a surprise, his only job was to patiently wait. He was filled with anticipation for he knew that with their level of spiritual cultivation, the surprise must be really, really good.

Of course, the most important thing would be their safety. The lives they had now could be described as carefree and without worry. As long as all of them were safe, their happiness would continue.

“By the way, I plan to go back home since you all are leaving and I’ve been in Demon City for quite a while. So next time we meet, it’ll be at our four-part architecture.”

Both Fire Phoenix and Daji nodded and said, “Yes, Master.”

Then, the duo left Demon City and flew to the meeting place which was a mountain not far from the city.

Goddess Nuwa was already waiting there. Many things were happening in the Heavenly Palace, so they could not send over too many people to help. Hence, only she came. But the sect master from the Empath Sect and the White Cloud Sect—Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen— both volunteered themselves.

When they heard it was to collect an ingredient for the expert, they did not think twice and offered to help however they could. In fact, they were excited to be of service to him. To them, it was a great honor.

They snapped out of their reverie when they saw the arrival of Daji and Fire Phoenix and greeted them respectfully.

Daji nodded at them and with a smile, she said, “Let’s wait a little longer. Someone else will be joining us.”

Goddess Nuwa was close to Daji and Fire Phoenix so she did not hesitate to ask curiously, “And who may that be?”

“Lord Dog,” answered Daji.

“Lord Dog?!” Goddess Nuwa was very shocked but it was a happy surprise. “Lord Dog’s coming too?”

Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen were a little confused. By the looks of it, they guessed that Lord Dog was of a higher social standing than Daji and Fire Phoenix. But how was that possible?

“Lord Dog was the master’s first follower. He’s been with the master for five years! We won’t be able to handle Taotie without him,” said Fire Phoenix.

Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen’s hearts became cold. They adjusted their clothing out of slight nervousness.

Just hearing Lord Dog’s name was able to strike fear in their hearts. It would be natural for the expert’s famous dog to be as powerful as him. Judging by what Fire Phoenix had said, it would not be an overstatement to say Lord Dog was on par with a high-level member of the Heavenly Realm.

“Goddess Daji, Goddess Fire Phoenix, I can go back to the Empath Sect to get Taishang Elder. He’s also a high-level member of the Heavenly Realm. His power would be extremely beneficial to us,” said Qin Zhongshan, ingratiating himself to Daji and Fire Phoenix.

“I can get the high-level member of the Heavenly Realm from our sect to come, too!” said Bai Chen, wanting to look good in front of them, too.

The two sect masters were not worried that their high-level members of the Heavenly Realm would not come at all. They were confident that once they were told about the expert, they would come running in an instant.

Daji shook her head. “Thank you but there’s no need for that. We can’t wait any longer.”

At this moment, a figure on all fours was coming at them at a rhythmic speed. What was supposed to be a graceful scene was destroyed by the sight of the completely bald... The scene could bring tears to one's eyes.

It only took one glance to know that it was a dog who had been stripped of all his fur.

"Lord... Dog?" asked Goddess Nuwa in disbelief, her beautiful eyes wide with shock. Even though she had not seen him for quite some time, she never expected to be confronted with a hairless Blackie. It was a good thing she had seen him hairless before so she was able to compose herself quickly.

As for Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen, they were first stunned but quickly greeted Blackie after composing themselves. "Greetings to you, Lord Dog."

They could not help but be impressed by Blackie's appearance. So, this was what it took to be the expert's dog.

Blackie was not embarrassed at all. He nodded at them coolly and said, "Let's go. I can't wait to destroy those Ministry b*stard's plan!"

Five people and a dog. Although the group was not large, it was redeemed by the fact that each of them possessed top combat power. They vacated the meeting place at the same time and entered into the Chaos.

Meanwhile, Li Nianfan finished packing and was about to leave Demon City with Qin Manyun and Shi Tuqin. Little Fox looked at him with deep sadness and raised her little paws in defiance before fat tears sprang out of her eyes.

“Safe travels, Brother Li,” said Little Fox.

Li Nianfan nodded and waved goodbye while smiling. “Thank you and goodbye.”

Bull Demon King and the rest of the Demon Kings bid him farewell, too. “It’s our sincere wish Lord Saint would have a safe journey back home.”

Meanwhile, the old green man was sitting cross-legged on top of the red star in the Chaos. He was surrounded by pillars of phantom green fire. The dancing of the flames made it seemed like they were alive. There was also a strange aura blanketing the whole star.

The whole setting made the old green man’s face look even greener. A sinister voice floated out of his mouth, his words containing a force of realm that could not be resisted. “Across the long river of time, across the endless sky, chaotic Yin and Yang, against the universe, descending from the Gods and killing lives! I summon thee!”

As he raised his hand and pointed, a picture scroll in front of him slowly hung in the air. Then, the faint green flames on the surrounding fire pillars sprayed out, encircling the picture scroll.

The picture on this scroll was one of Li Nianfan!

The picture looked like it was drawn on an ordinary piece of paper, but it burned very slowly. The burned part showed a projection.

Other people from the Ministry gathered around, looking at the green-faced old man in awe, staring unblinkingly.

“It has appeared, the Right Messenger’s Immortal Weaken Spell! I finally get to see it with my own eyes.”

“What power! I bet I’ll die instantly if I accidentally touch the flames.”

“This is cursed fire! The most dominating, undefendable, and unassailable!”

“I hope I never get on the Right Messenger’s bad side. If not, I wouldn’t even know what hit me!”

When the picture scroll was all burnt-out, the projection in front of the green-faced old man had already reflected Li Nianfan’s location.

The golden Deluxe Merit Cloud was slowly flying forward. Next to Li Nianfan, Qin Manyun was playing music on the zither and Shi Tuqin was practicing her calligraphy. It all felt very heart-warming.

“The Deluxe Merit Saint really knows how to enjoy his life, but it all ends now!” the old green man sneered cruelly, especially when he saw the golden Deluxe Merit Cloud under Li Nianfan’s feet. His smile became even more sinister. ‘Deluxe Merit Saint? Today, I’m killing a Deluxe Merit Saint!’

He casually raised his hand. "Fire come!"

Immediately, faint green flames gathered on his palm. Then, he slapped the projection of Li Nianfan on the back! The two men were clearly separated by the endless distance but the slap went directly into the projection and appeared behind Li Nianfan.

The green palm of fire was silent and appeared extremely abruptly. Not even a Chaos Daluo Golden Immortal would have time to react and avoid it. What was more to say about Li Nianfan?

The palm print descended on Li Nianfan without hesitation! The old green man's face broke out in a triumphant smile, feeling full of accomplishment in his heart. He had managed to take out a Deluxe Merit Saint who everyone avoided at all cost, not even daring to come close to him.

To the old green man, killing him was just as effortless as raising a pinky finger. What is the definition of all-powerful? This!

The onlookers held their breaths, staring at the Deluxe Merit Cloud that was blinding their eyes, their hearts beating rapidly. Being able to witness the death of a Deluxe Merit Saint with their own eyes earned them enough bragging rights for a lifetime.

Under the watchful gaze of the onlookers, the fire palm struck Li Nianfan heavily on the back.

Gasp!

The body of the old green man seemed to have been hit by an invisible blow. Like a kite with a broken line, he flew upside down, trailing blood along the way. He fell straight in front of the crowd of onlookers.

The old green man was trembling, not caring about what the others were thinking. He immediately fixed his eyes on the projection.

“What’s the matter, Mr. Li?” asked Qin Manyun.

Li Nianfan shook his head. “Nothing. For a second, I thought someone slapped me on the back.”

Everyone was silent, and their eyes fell on the old green man with complex expressions. The old green man opened his eyes wide, his eyes full of disbelief.

“This is impossible!” he shouted his deepest thoughts and looked at his hands in disbelief.

Somewhere near him, someone gulped nervously and whispered, “Right Messenger, this Deluxe Merit Saint seems to be invincible. What should we do now?”

“There’s no need to worry! I was careless just now.” The old green man regained his composure and wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth. “Since he’s a Deluxe Merit Saint, he must have some kind of magic protecting him. The spell rebounded because I didn’t check beforehand.”

He slowly walked to the projection, sat down again, and said bitterly, "Next, I'll connect our lifelines so even the most powerful defense skill in the world would be useless."

At this moment, his resentment towards the Deluxe Merit Saint was brought to its peak. He had lost count of the number of times he had suffered by his hands. He would not rest until he was killed!

"Lifeline Technique?!" cried someone in the Ministry, his voice full of terror.

"What's the matter?" asked someone who was unfamiliar with the technique.

"The Lifeline Technique is a curse that cannot be reversed!" The person took a deep breath before continuing in a trembling voice, "Connecting the lifeline of the caster and the target, the pain that the caster encounters will also directly affect the target's body! Notice the Right Messenger's hunched back and lone surviving eye? He wasn't born like that! He lost that eye in exchange for causing an all-seeing high-level member of the Heavenly Realm to go blind by using the Lifeline Technique!"

Everyone gasped in horror. "What overbearing power!"

Just hearing it made one break out in goosebumps. The immitigable fear sent pins and needles through their entire body.

"What you said is only the tip of an iceberg," said the old green man with a smile. "The true overbearing part of the Lifeline Technique is the price! If the target is on the same level as I am, the price I pay is

often much smaller than theirs. The cost of destroying a pair of divine eyes of the same level was only an eye for me.”

Losing an eye was a source of pride for him. He would not feel inferior just because he had lost an eye. In fact, he was gloating. As soon as this remark came out, everyone shrank their necks, triggering a wave of awe and wonder.

“A Deluxe Merit Saint is nothing but a bug to me!” The old green man smiled disdainfully and sneered, “I could probably take his life for the price of breaking some skin.”

His eyes darkened and he raised his hand to attack again.

“The boundless way of heaven, listen to my orders, the number of fate is uncertain, connected by lifelines!”

The phantom green flames on the surrounding pillars almost rushed into the sky, but it was not hot. Instead, a burst of cold aura spilled out, causing people to quake in their boots.

The old green man flipped his wrist, and a short knife appeared in his hand. He smiled and looked at Li Nianfan before slowly stabbing himself in the chest.

First, his skin tore a little and there was only a faint line of redness. He looked toward the projection, at Li Nianfan who was carrying on as if nothing was happening.

He frowned slightly and increased his pressure on the knife, pushing it an inch more until a drop of blood trickled down. There was still no response from Li Nianfan. He merely continued talking and laughing with the others.

The old green man decided to give it all he got and plunged the knife deep into his chest, until all that could be seen was the handle of the knife. A gush of blood spurted out.

Still, Li Nianfan was still talking and laughing.

For a while, the whole world was silent.

The people of the Ministry's eyes became wide. They turned to look at the self-harming old green man.

"How can this be?!" cried the old green man sharply. The knife might have looked ordinary but it had been imbued with a curse nonetheless. He was seriously injured now, so how could Li Nianfan be unharmed?

Looking at Li Nianfan smiling in the projection, the old green man felt as if he had been mocked by the heavens! 'Absolutely impossible! Something must've gone wrong!' he thought. 'Could the method of self-harming be wrong?'

"Just you wait! I'm going to make you feel the true meaning of pain!" The old green man was starting to go a little crazy. He twisted his face and with a gesture of his hand, the surrounding green flames engulfed him and began to burn his body.

However, he was unbothered by the flames. He just kept staring at Li Nianfan's face with his eyes wide open, hoping to see a little bit of discomfort from his face.

However, he was destined to be disappointed.

The people around him sniffed the air and gently said, "Why don't you take a break, Right Messenger? Before your body is burned to a crisp?"

Chapter 575: Hating Someone Is Being Cruel To Yourself

Huff!

The old green man spat out a mouthful of blood. It was unclear whether it was due to his injuries or his overflowing temper.

His nostrils flared and were full of blood.

"Impossible! How could it be like this? Why did it happen?!"

His worldview had been assaulted. His mind was blank and on the verge of crumbling.

Something was wrong!

That Deluxe Merit Saint was very strange!

He suddenly awakened, his whole body jolting as he felt his spiritual energy about to explode. A sudden chill surrounded his body as he felt incredibly uneasy.

At that moment, he finally realized that his body was still on fire and was burning to a crisp. A sharp pain pierced into his mind as his entire face twisted.

That was a curse he had cast himself, the injuries from that spell were something even he could not reverse as someone from the Heavenly Realm. The pain was akin to what a person would feel being burned by fire. Even if he did not die, it was already a severe injury.

“Men... Men!”

He waved his hands weakly, his forehead full of sweat as he raspily said, “Quickly help me put this fire out.”

“Understood, Right Messenger.”

The others did not dare to delay it, and in an instant, various water-based spells appeared, rushing right at the old green man!

Only, the flames were no ordinary flames and it was hard for them to put it out immediately.

The old green man withstood the pain of being attacked by the spells as he chanted a mantra to try and control the flames.

Just as everyone was working together, right at that moment, the Left Messenger returned in a panic.

She shouted in an incredibly anxious and serious tone, "Taotie's coming, quickly set up the formation!"

She had her mask on and her appearance could not be seen, but her chest was heaving as she panted slightly. It was obvious that luring the beast over had taken up quite a lot of energy.

It was rapidly approaching them.

Everyone's expressions changed and seemed to say at the same time, "Don't come over here!"

The old green man was nervous as well as he shouted, "Lure that beast somewhere else! I need time, you mustn't come here!"

Who cared about the formation?!

Not only did they not have any preparations, they had already used up their strength and even sustained heavy injuries. How could they do anything?

The timing was wrong!

The timing was very wrong!

The Left Messenger's expression stiffened, her gaze glinting with a hint of rage.

'Do you think it was easy for me to lure the beast here?

'I thought that it would be time to reap the rewards, but not only did you useless bunch of people not help me, you're chasing me away?

'This is too much!

'Where can I even go, Taotie's right behind me!'

Even so, she could not help but increase her speed, shouting, "Weren't you making the preparations? Set up the formation now, I'm coming!"

Boom!

Behind her, a massive figure was charging toward them!

A ferocious aura surged, completely suppressing everything. Even though it did not form any strong destructive powers, the aura still smashed into everyone like a hammer, so overwhelming that some of them could not breathe.

“Ah!”

The old green man spat out another mouthful of blood. His green face was even starting to pale as his lips trembled. He was suffering immensely.

The Left Messenger finally saw the state of everyone. Looking around, she even thought that she was in the wrong place. Her mood plummeted.

All she could see was the Ministry surrounding the old green man, all of them doing their best to shoot water at him.

The old green man was laying on the ground, flames dancing on his body which had been completely burnt. There was even a burnt smell in the air.

What were they doing?

What happened to the planned formation?

Why were they playing with water? Why was the old green man acting like he was burning?

Why did she never realize how unreliable that group was before?

Roar!

Smelling the burnt scent, Taotie seemed to get even more excited. With a furious roar, it revealed itself.

It was a four-eyed, black-skinned, long-limbed, four-legged monster. There was a long horn on its head and it was surrounded by a cold aura that was blue and white. Its mouth was extremely big, as if it was another huge body that was growing on itself. It had no face and was dozens of meters long.

Opening its mouth, an incredibly strong suction force started to suck everyone into it. It had just started to use its powers, but the area it was at had turned into a pitch-black whirlpool. Like a black hole, it was sucking in everything within its surroundings.

The horrifying ability caused everyone's expressions to change dramatically.

The Left Messenger, who was the closest, cursed as she did some hand signs, increasing her speed once again as she turned around, moving past that red star and retreating even further.

The others would not be outdone. They used their own skills to retreat backward.

Even the old green man looked down in silence, looking at some parts of his body that still had flames that were not yet extinguished. His gaze hardened as he raised his short sword, slashing downward and chopping them off!

After that, he dragged his crippled and burnt self in retreat.

As for the red star, it had been affected by the suction and was flying toward Taotie.

In terms of size, that star was much bigger than the beast, but its Devour ability disregarded size. Submerged in the black vortex, there was not even as much as a ripple as the beast swallowed it.

The Left Messenger's expression was incredibly ugly, almost losing her temper as she asked, "What did all of you do?!"

"Where's the formation we said we'd set up?"

"Didn't we say we'd capture Taotie?"

Not being prepared had increased the difficulty of capturing it by a few times.

“The Deluxe Merit Saint isn’t simple at all. My Immortal Weaken Spell didn’t affect him at all. He definitely has an immense secret behind him! No wonder nothing’s been going my way ever since I met him. It wasn’t a coincidence. I’ve fallen into his trap! This person...is too horrifying!”

The old green man regularly harmed himself, so he did not care too much about his burnt body. Wiping away the blood on his mouth, he said with certainty, “We might have to report this matter to the leader before we come up with our next move!”

The Left Messenger pursed her lips. “Let’s handle the danger in front of us first.”

She looked back and saw that the blackhole Taotie had turned into was flying right at them at an incredibly fast speed.

Furthermore, the suction force was getting stronger and stronger, causing a lot of anxiety.

“Taotie might be strong, but we’ve mobilized quite a lot of forces this time. It’s enough to deal with it!”

The old green man looked at the beast, his eyebrows furrowing as he raised his hand and pointed at the charging beast.

“Lifeline Technique, connect!”

The mighty spell was cast and ripples could be seen in the Chaos, turning into a gray thread that was barely visible, connecting himself with Taotie.

“Prepare for battle! Charge together!”

The old green man said seriously before looking down at his burnt body. There was a ruthless look on his face.

‘It’s already burnt anyway, might as well chop it off!’

He clenched his teeth. Then, he raised his short sword before slashing downward, slicing a piece of his own flesh off!

Roar!

The beast was affected and let out a pained roar. The black hole disappeared as its body reemerged, trembling slightly.

A wound mysteriously appeared on its body, dripping fresh blood.

“Die!”

Its balfour eyes turned red as it shot toward them like a cannonball!

Its mountainous body broke through the Chaos, leaving a deep spatial crack behind. That charge seemed to be able to destroy everything in front of it!

Below the mask, the Left Messenger’s expression solidified as she waved a white disc at the beast.

The disc suddenly expanded tens of times and charged straight at the beast!

Boom!

The disc slammed into the beast’s body, causing an intense tremor. However, it still managed to stop the beast temporarily!

The others from the Ministry had started to join the battle as well and were rapidly charging toward Taotie. They cast a spell and several chains started to rise into the air.

The chains rang as they rose, emitting an incredible pressure. Like sharp blades, they came from all angles and pierced into the beast's body!

The beast trembled, opening its mouth as it began to suck again.

One of the chains was sucked in, pulling along the person from the Ministry right into the stomach of the beast, disappearing from the world.

All of their eyes widened. Immediately, they retrieved their chains.

The beast roared, once again summoning an intense suction force, turning into a black hole to swallow the infinite Chaos!

The first thing that was sucked in was that disc that had suppressed it. The disc quickly dimmed, and despite the intense resistance, it was swallowed into the beast's stomach not long after!

Treasures were just food to Taotie!

The Left Messenger's expression changed as she pointed right at the black hole!

A massive finger descended from the sky and pressed onto the black hole, causing its suction to stop for a moment. She took the chance to summon the disc back. Its Devouring abilities were incredible.

The horrifying suction rose again, forcing everyone to resist it with all their might.

“At such an important time, all of you still need to rely on me!”

The old green man laughed. The sword in his hand glinted as he did not hesitate to raise it as he slashed at himself again!

“I’ll chop, I’ll chop, and I’ll chop!”

In a flash, he sliced off three pieces of his flesh. Not only did he fail to feel any pain, he even stared at the beast excitedly with a perverted expression.

Roar!

Taotie once again revealed itself in pain, its body struggling as blood spilled all over it.

It roared fiercely and unleashed its full power as it surged to the sky, causing even the space to solidify as its figure rushed forward. In a flash, another Ministry member had been swallowed in!

This time, other than the two Messengers, the Ministry had also sent another Heavenly Realm cultivator as well as five Chaos Daluo Golden Immortals.

Now, they had lost two of them.

“Hey, it still dares to eat?”

The old green man’s face was even crueler. He used the sword to stab his leg forcefully and slowly carved a long wound.

He clenched his teeth as he smiled in a perverted manner.

He really enjoyed that moment of his technique. Even though he needed to harm himself as the price, it still gave him the pleasure of controlling someone’s life.

At that moment, everyone else’s lives were in his hands. Looking at everyone’s helpless expressions was the true joy of his Immortal Weaken Spell!

The pained look on Taotie caused the old green man to laugh even more gleefully, “Hahaha, I bet it hurts!”

The others from the Ministry looked at the old green man and had admiration in their hearts.

They never expected that the old green man would still be willing to cut off the burnt flesh on his body without any hesitation.

And he seemed to be enjoying himself.

Ruthless, way too ruthless.

He was extremely cruel, even to himself.

Taotie's wounds were severe, but they also served to make the beast even more aggressive. Layers of power began to surround itself as it condensed five rays of light. There seemed to be mountains and rivers around him. Thousands of worlds appeared.

It had swallowed the sources of worlds and its power had already exceeded almost everyone in the Heavenly Realm. Just a brush against it was enough to eliminate any Chaos Golden Daluo Immortal.

The Ministry carefully maintained their distance from the beast. The chains were like countless pythons trying to restrict the beast's movements, but the results were minuscule.

Originally, if they had set up the formation earlier and lured the beast into it, then the formation formed by five Chaos Golden Daluo Immortals would have had a noticeable effect.

Now, they did not have the protection of a formation, so the five of them were no different from cannon fodder. Another two quickly perished.

Even the Left Messenger and the other Heavenly Realm cultivator were not having a good time.

Taotie could swallow everything under the heavens. Its skin was thick and it was incredibly powerful. Not to mention, it had a speed that shocked everyone. It had no weaknesses.

Using treasures on it would only end up with them getting swallowed. As for attacking its body, it was hard to do any harm. So, even if the Ministry had planned on capturing it, that was only after meticulous planning and preparation.

It was a pity that their originally immaculate plan had encountered such a huge change...

Now, only the old green man could hurt the beast by cutting out his own flesh.

The mighty energies collided and light encompassed everything. A violent roar could be heard in the chaos as endless amounts of mana surged forward. Even the stars that were tens of thousands of kilometers away were destroyed, turning into ashes.

The horrifying aftermath even made the Chaos appear distorted.

So, the five Chaos Golden Daluo Immortals all perished. Even that Heavenly Realm cultivator had lost half his body. If he was not immortal, he would have died as well.

“Left Messenger, how long are you planning on hiding your power?!” the old green man said, his voice revealing his exhaustion. His lips were already pale as he shouted, “I’m already running out of flesh to cut!”

“I know!”

The Left Messenger answered plainly before raising her hands as a long blade that was glowing in red light appeared.

They called it a blade, but it was actually light—red light!

The redness that contained an incredible destructiveness hummed with sounds of electricity, its horrifying power enough to cause anyone to shiver.

The Left Messenger pointed at Taotie, and the red light suddenly grew many times over, piercing right into the beast within the Chaos.

Looking into the distance, within the endless Chaos, the huge beast was pierced through by a long blood-red light. Its surroundings were annihilated, making for an impressive sight.

“Wow!”

The other Heavenly Realm cultivator took the opportunity to shoot out his heavy chain, encircling the beast and trapping it.

The long and hard battle ended there.

The beast’s remaining struggles were no longer strong enough to worry about.

“Ah, everything’s fine now. I knew everything remained in my grasp.”

The old green man smiled. He was already incredibly weak and the wounds on his body were shocking and impossible to describe.

If he did not have the incredibly strong life force of a Heavenly Path cultivator, he would already have died 800 times over.

The moment the Left Messenger, who had only just started to relax, heard those words, she could not help but feel a sense of uneasiness.

‘Everything’s going fine? Then why did you have to raise a flag?’

Following that, her heart started to race as she looked away, making out a few figures that were rapidly approaching.

Chapter 576: My Master Never Miscalculates

Impossible, impossible...

The Left Messenger's heart sank to its depths. A Heavenly Path cultivator found herself unable to stop praying in her heart.

Yet, as a philosopher once said, 'The more you wish that something won't happen, the more likely it is that it will happen.'

The world was often just that cruel.

After that... He came.

The first thing they saw was a dog that did not have any hair on its body. Its pinkish skin was exposed but its face was incredibly stern. The strange appearance coupled with the stern look was quite amusing.

Yet, the Left Messenger could not bring herself to laugh because she could feel an incredibly strong power coming from that dog's body.

“Someone’s actually coming here at such a time?”

The old green man and the other Heavenly Realm cultivator had naturally also sensed their guests and carefully looked at who was approaching.

However, after looking at it clearly, they still let out a sigh of relief.

Only the bald dog at the helm would be hard to deal with, the others were not even in the Heavenly Realm. Even with their heavy injuries, they were not worried.

Blackie took a step forward, walking along the Chaos as the dog’s eyes glinted, locking on to the old green man before saying in a cold tone, “I remember your aura. The one who caused all that trouble that night was you!”

The old green man frowned, not afraid at all as he smiled. “Ah, so it’s you. A dog’s nose really is quite sharp.

Daji and the others did not speak and merely appraised the situation in front of them quietly. When they saw the locked down Taotie that was floating in Chaos, their expressions turned heavy.

It was better to be there at the right time than to be early. They never expected that their timing would be so precise.

They had come to capture Taotie when they stumbled upon the Ministry. If they were a step slower, Taotie would have been taken away. If they had come earlier, they might have met some trouble.

Now, Taotie was already captured and the people of the Ministry looked like they had sustained heavy losses. It was definitely the best time to arrive.

That timing felt incredibly dreamlike and refreshing.

Looking at their expressions, the Left Messenger seemed to see through their thoughts. Her eyes moved under her mask as she asked, “Do you really think you’re our match even in this situation?”

Daji’s expression was calm as she said plainly, “We came here precisely because of Taotie. However, since we met you so coincidentally, we might as well get rid of you right now.”

She was just a Chaos Golden Daluo Immortal, and yet she was saying those words in front of three cultivators from the Heavenly Realm with such an obvious tone. Anyone would laugh hearing her words.

The three cultivators from the Ministry did laugh.

The Heavenly Realm cultivator said, “With just you guys? If you want to gloat, you first need to have the skills! Who’s the one giving all of you so much confidence?”

"It's fine, you're the ones who destroyed the Ministry branch at Demon City? You found out Taotie's location and chased us here."

The old green man spoke, his eyes deep in thought as if he had seen through everything, "I admit that I was careless before, because I forgot an important figure, which is that so-called Deluxe Merit Saint!

"If I'm not mistaken, the Deluxe Merit Saint should just be a layer of protection."

At those words, Daji and the others' pupils contracted, revealing expressions of disbelief. Even though it was just a flash, it was still detected by the old green man.

He narrowed his eyes and was even more pleased as he continued, "All of our plans have always been foiled right at the last moment. Once is a coincidence, but after so many times, we're just being targeted! The Deluxe Merit Saint... He's really good at hiding!

"Even this time, we were almost fooled! I used my Immortal Weaken Spell to the limit to deal with that Deluxe Merit Saint, but not only did I fail to injure him at all, I was the one who ended up with heavy injuries. I even neglected the formation that was meant to catch Taotie, resulting in heavy losses this time. And at this moment, you lot came right on time. Come to think of it...it should be a ploy by the Deluxe Merit Saint, right?"

His words were all speculation, but it was said in an unbelievably certain tone. His analysis was very reasonable and logical.

Daji and the others had a slight change in their expression, not able to believe such details were involved. However, in their hearts, they had a moment of realization.

So, they and the others were always pawns on the expert's chessboard!

Thinking about it, it was quite true.

Upon hearing the old green man's analysis, there was a sliver of fear in their hearts.

It was to say, if the old green man's Immortal Weaken Spell had not been countered by the expert, then the Ministry's losses would not have been so large. That would mean that when they arrived, they would not have been able to stand up to the Ministry, which would have been extremely dangerous.

The expert really did have no flaws in his plans. Even though he did not make a move personally, he was still able to fix everything with just one move, protecting everyone!

Strong, unmatched!

Qin Zhongshan and the others' respect for the expert grew even greater. He said coldly, "I see you do have some intelligence. The expert isn't someone you can even fathom."

"Hahaha, it's a pity, this time he made a mistake!"

The old green man laughed coldly, measuring the five of them up as he said in a cold tone, "You might outnumber us, and we might be injured, but...you only have a dog from the Heavenly Realm. Do you really think you can snatch Taotie away from our hands?"

"However, I'm a little curious, why do you want to capture Taotie?"

Flames started to dance around Fire Phoenix as she said coldly, "I see no harm in telling you. Taotie is something my master wants to eat, and he's waiting for us to cook it for him when we get back!"

"Food?"

The old green man was stunned and his expression turned even uglier. "Do you think I'm easy to fool? I guess we'll have to capture you and interrogate you!"

Blackie could not stand it anymore and slapped his paw right at the old green man. "Why are we wasting our time with words? Just kill them with a slap!"

The old green man snorted. He faced the Heavenly Realm cultivator and said, "I'll handle the dog with the Left Messenger, the rest will fall on you!"

"That's easy!"

That man stared at Daji and the others, revealing a cruel smile on his face. He did not hesitate to attack, raising his hand as a massive silhouette of a palm appeared in the Chaos, capturing Daji and the others.

The palm closed, and like a five-fingered mountain, it trapped the five of them.

He was a Heavenly Realm cultivator. Even if it was just the image of a palm, it was already a small world that he had created. In that palm, he was the master, and Chaos Golden Daluo Immortals were just like ants that could be killed at any time.

Inside the palm, Daji and the others felt immense pressure. It was like a normal person being rejected by heaven and earth. Even the space itself wanted to squeeze them to death. The power of the Heavens was majestic, and Heavenly punishment had descended onto the world, annihilating everything.

Their expressions were heavy as they chanted protective spells to protect themselves from the pressure. It was as if they were a little boat in an unending, raging sea. The winds and the storm were incredibly hard to hold back.

On the other side, Blackie fought against the Left and Right Messengers alone.

Blackie did not bother to hold back at all. His claws danced around, scratching the Left Messenger everywhere around her body as flesh and blood flew. He was also stabbed throughout. The battle was violent and simple. The clashes never stopped.

The old green man did not use his Immortal Weaken Spell. He was in a bad state and did not even dare to face Blackie head-on, so he could only disrupt them from afar. However, each of his attacks was still terrifying.

He was shocked by Blackie's power, and was even more shocked at Blackie's transformation.

He could not understand how Blackie's combat ability rose by so much just by shedding his fur.

Could shedding his hair cause him to get stronger? Or did that dog have some heavenly skill related to shedding its fur?

The only spectator was Taotie.

Its energy was already spent and it had given up on its struggle. It was busy questioning its own life.

'I'm Taotie, a fierce beast in the Chaos. I'm a majestic existence.

'Yet, one of them wants to capture me to experiment on me, while the other wants to eat me?

'They're even fighting over the right to own me...

'When did I get so easily bullied? Who are these people? They're too despicable!'

The old green man was targeted by Blackie and his condition got worse and worse. He could not help but urge the Heavenly Path cultivator, "Quit wasting time, get rid of them quickly!"

"Very well!"

The man's answer was simple as he coldly said, "It's done!"

He sent out another palm that launched at everyone!

Qin Zhongshan, Goddess Nuwa, and Bai Chen all paled as they felt a fear that came from their souls. It was like they were mere fireflies facing the moon.

The Heavenly Realm was equal to the Heavens, and they were just ants living under Heaven. Even though it was just a realm apart, it was already an insurmountable distance. Even being able to hold on thus far was pushing themselves to their limits.

"You're wrong, my Master never miscalculates!"

Daji's expression was calm as she slowly raised her hand. "You're right, it should end now!"

In her hand, that ring started to emit a white glow as a mysterious aura fell, causing Daji's power to surge massively, shooting up right to the skies and completely piercing through that Heavenly Realm cultivator's seals!

Another palm shot out!

Clank!

A massive frozen palm shot out, heading right toward that person!

In that frozen palm was incredibly powerful energy, even scarier than the attack of that Heavenly Realm cultivator. Even the surrounding Chaos space seemed to have frozen!

"That's... An Ultimate Chaos Treasure?! And it contains such immense power?!"

That man's expression changed as he let out a cry of disbelief.

Yet, before his shock even ended, Fire Phoenix raised her hand as well.

On her body, a golden glow could be seen as an aura surged out of her as well, turning into a golden flaming dragon, charging right at that person!

“Another Ultimate Chaos Treasure?!”

The man’s face twisted in fear as he shivered. His skin felt like it was about to explode as he did not hesitate to retreat.

Yet, an attack of that level that contained the power of the Chaos, was not something easily avoided.

Fire and ice, two elements that should completely reject each other, were working together, completely annihilating everything as they covered that Heavenly Realm cultivator’s body.

In a flash, that man disappeared in a state of confusion and horror, not even leaving any trace behind.

Qin Zhongshan and the others gasped, swallowing as he said, “What... What a powerful treasure.”

Goddess Nuwa, who knew what happened, took a deep breath, exclaiming, “The expert’s Ultimate Chaos Treasures are really horrifying. They’re so strong it defies imagination!”

As for the Left and Right Messengers, their eyeballs almost popped out after witnessing everything. Their hearts turned cold as they lost their voices in fear.

The old green man paled as he shouted, “Quickly get me out of here!”

Right after he said that, he noticed that the Left Messenger had already moved with a speed that she never moved with before, disappearing deep into the Chaos without any mercy, not even bothering to look back.

He was stunned, turning his head around helplessly as he noticed Blackie's face right in front of him, glaring at him with a cruel look.

He shivered. "I'm done!"

He was indeed done. Blackie was not someone who enjoyed torture, He simply shattered the old green man's life force. Then, a strong Heavenly Realm cultivator disappeared from the world!

In the unending Chaos, not many people knew that such a massive battle had just ended.

Daji said, "Let's go, let's bring this fresh ingredient back to Master."

"That's right, Goddess Daji's right."

"Let us carry this Taotie, I'm the most suited for rough labor like this."

Qin Zhongsan and Bai Chen did not hesitate to cry out, trying to prove themselves.

Whether it was Blackie or Daji and Fire Phoenix, their strengths had completely defied all of Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen's prior knowledge. So, they were naturally even more respectful.

Furthermore, they were mere spectators this time and did not help at all, so it seemed like carrying the goods was the only thing they could do.

On the other end, the Left Messenger did not stop moving, sprinting rapidly all the way and using every skill she had to cross the endless distance before she hid in a cluster of dense stars. Only then did she even dare to let out another breath.

'It's too scary, too dangerous. Thankfully, I made preparations and managed to escape quickly.' the Left Messenger thought thankfully.

In truth, when the old green man started to talk about how abnormal that expert was, she had already started to plan her retreat in her mind.

They had encountered too many misfortunes lately and did not manage to achieve anything. Everything seemed to happen in an impossible fashion.

The old green man did not account for that and even thought that he was already assured of his victory. She was different. She felt that the matter would not be so simple, especially after the old green man had raised that flag.

Her teammate was the exact opposite of a compass.

And she was proven right.

When Daji said the words, 'My master never miscalculates', she had already started to retreat.

"That Deluxe Merit Saint is not someone simple at all! With an existence of this level, I'll need to report it to the leader!" she mumbled before her figure flickered, disappearing from the Chaos.

Chapter 577: Paradise, The End Of Dao

In the four-part courtyard.

Everything was peaceful as usual.

Li Nianfan's honeymoon had already gone on for half a month.

However, with Xiao Bai around as a butler, everything was going very well. As for the chickens in the yard and the cows and peacocks at the back, they were all performing very well.

At that moment, whether it was eggs or milk, the production was quite substantial. In fact, they had too much, and Xiao Lin had turned them into braised eggs, cakes, and even fruit yoghurts in order to preserve them.

They had quite a bit of snacks, and many were stored in the fridge. It caused Li Nianfan to feel a sense of familial warmth and comfort.

“It really is the most comfortable being back home! Travelling is to look at different sceneries and expand one’s own horizons, but honestly, it’s not that enjoyable. The whole journey, so many things happened, it was actually quite tiring...”

Lying down on his rocking chair, Li Nianfan some freshly squeezed juice with some freshly baked cake. It was like he was on holiday, and was incredibly content.

Other than that, he could hear the sound of a zither, raising his mood and making him happier. It sounded harmonious with the flowing water, and somehow raised the overall atmosphere of the residence. That was life.

The one who was playing the zither was naturally Qin Manyun.

Even though she felt very lucky to be by the expert’s side, which made her very happy, there was also an unending form of pressure, so she did not dare to relax at all.

If she did not perform well, or if she did not work hard enough, and ended up abandoned by the expert, then her lucky break would turn into eternal regret. So she naturally did the best she could, and tried her best to prove herself.

In front of her was a piece of bamboo with musical scores engraved on it. It did not look very interesting or vibrant, but in Qin Manyun's eyes, each note on the bamboo had a faint light flowing through them, and a powerful aura was circulating within.

Those notes seemed to have been formed by the Dao itself. It contained left, and would dance around her, greatly increasing her comprehension of Musical Cultivation.

On the other side, Shi Tuqin was sitting in front of a stone table in the middle of the room, writing with a very serious expression on her face.

After returning to the four-part yard with Li Nianfan, even though Qin Manyun had been there before, she was still shocked at the changes in front of her. Even she had almost fainted from the shock, let alone Shi Tuqin.

When Li Nianfan went into the storeroom and found a music sheet and a calligraphy sheet for them, and got them to practice by themselves, excitement, shock and disbelief had swallowed them whole, and almost caused their heads to explode.

No matter the musical sheet or the calligraphy, they both contained Dao, it was as if they were inheriting from Wisdom itself!

It was much greater than just training themselves or practicing spells!

Currently, at that moment, Shi Tuqin was still stuck on the first page of the book, and was slowly copying the strokes in great detail!

In her eyes, even one stroke flowed with Wisdom. Copying it herself was as if she was being instructed by Wisdom itself, and had greatly increased her speed of cultivation. It was like she was cheating with her cultivation and her way of cultivation had increased by leaps and bounds.

Furthermore, she knew that it was just the start. Even simple strokes had caused her to feel the deep wisdom within. There were still complete words after that. And based on what the expert said, there were also poems behind that!

If she really managed to completely analyze that book, then her realm...

As for the Ministry, when she was immersed in the way of calligraphy, her heart was incredibly calm, and she felt no pressure at all.

Li Nianfan would occasionally glance at Qin Manyun who was playing the zither as well as Shi Tuqin who was working hard copying calligraphy, and could not help but let out a slight smile. It was as if he had seen a figure of himself in the past.

At that moment, Xiao Lin walked out of the backyard, saying, "Master, the new fruits in the backyard have reopened."

"Oh?"

Li Nianfan got up from the chair, his eyes glinted as he held a sliver of excitement and anticipation, "Let's go, I'll go check it out."

When he got to the backyard, he saw a garden full of fruits. When his gaze fell on those reddish brown, round and juicy fruits, his mouth curved up into a smile as he walked over.

The tree's leaves were incredibly dense, and its body was tall and its trunk was wide.

The surface of the tree was rough, and slightly cracked. The patterns on the trunk were fine and it was reddish brown in color.

Among the dense leaves, the reddish brown fruits bunched together, and were littered around the tree like stars. It looked incredibly vibrant.

"So they've really ripened."

Li Nianfan licked his lips, unable to hold back anymore as he summoned the Deluxe Merit Cloud, flying straight to a fruit and plucking one down.

The outside of the fruit was quite coarse, and on them were complicated patterns. They were definitely lychees, one of Li Nianfan's favorite fruits.

Compared to the lychees before, Li Nianfan could tell that those were much bigger.

They were really large, and were at least two times bigger. They looked incredibly appealing, and really stirred the appetite.

Slowly opening the red outer shell in his hands, he made sure to be patient in order to not ruin the meat. Slowly, a transparent, snow-white flesh appeared. It had a very alluring glow, and oozed with juice.

Seeing that, Li Nianfan was even more careful, not even daring to use any force in case he damaged that jade-like meat.

Slowly stripping away the outer shell from the top, the rich and white flesh was completely revealed. It was like a pure white jade, and looked incredibly pure. It also had an elasticity to it, causing one to be unable to let go.

If his fingers were not careful, it would ruin that layer above the flesh, and the natural and pure fruit juice would ooze out of it.

It was like the most beautiful of nature's crafts, and emitted an alluring aura.

The lychee was definitely the king of fruits, there were many poems written about it, which proved its popularity.

Li Nianfan impatiently opened his mouth, placing that snow-white flesh inside. The first thing he felt was coolness, and after a gentle bite, a mouthful of flesh went into his mouth alongside the juice.

With that bite, the juice within burst out like a river. As it started to ooze out, Li Nianfan did not hesitate to stick out his tongue, lapping out the juices that flowed out, shutting his eyes and enjoying the sweetness in earnest.

He sucked at it, not willing to waste even a single drop.

It had a fragrance that was unique to the lychee, and the coolness of its juices momentarily took over his mouth, causing Li Nianfan to enjoy it greatly. That soft flesh danced around his mouth, causing explosions within. Even the bite he took was filled with elasticity, and would send bursts of juice out.

At some point, a whole lychee had entered his stomach, leaving only a seed the size of a fingernail behind. It really had a lot of flesh and only a very small seed. It was definitely a lychee of an excellent quality.

Li Nianfan licked his lips, enjoying the aftertaste. He forced himself to refrain from continuing with a second one, and started to rapidly pluck them.

That was the magic of lychees, causing one to not be able to resist eating a second or third after the first, until one's stomach could not handle anymore.

However, eating the lychees immediately after plucking them was actually not the best way. The best way was to soak the lychees in water, causing them to cool down. Only then were they at the peak of the taste.

After plucking quite a few lychees, Li Nianfan's gaze fell on the cherries and longans away, revealing a happy expression as he started to pluck them.

At that point, he was just like a fruit farmer who had just made a bountiful harvest, and was filled with a sense of accomplishment.

As he plucked them, Li Nianfan could not help but remark, "Blackie has really proven his worth after I raised him to be so big."

These new fruits had all been brought over by Blackie. He did not know where they were from, but Li Nianfan was incredibly satisfied.

Just as Li Nianfan was plucking the fruits, a cloud rapidly descended from the sky. It was Daji and the others.

Behind Qin Zhongsan and Bai Chen was Taotie. They're faces were incredibly anxious. After all, this time they were visiting the expert's residence!

When the Fallen Immortal Mountain entered their sights, a strange pressure descended on their body, causing them to not dare to stare at the mountain directly.

Looking at the Fallen Immortal Mountain, the mountains were surrounded by clouds, it seemed to flow with culture. The structure of the mountains looked ordinary at a glance, but if one felt it in detail, it was filled with the essence of Heaven and Earth, and was full of wonders.

No wonder the expert stayed there, the place could only be described as deep and unfathomable.

They descended on the foot of the mountain, and started to walk up.

Along the way, the trees were large and tall, the vegetation was lush. On the fields, spiritual power overflowed. Looking at the entire place, it could be regarded as one of the best paradises in the world.

This was one of the central locations of when the Eldritch World turned into the Area of the Gods, so the density of the spiritual energy did not need to be mentioned. It was enough to illicit visions.

Of course, Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen obviously did not have the mood to admire it. Their hearts were just filled with apprehension, and their footsteps were heavy. It was like they were on a pilgrimage, with the top of the mountain being their destination.

In the midst of their nervousness, a building fell into their view.

Daji said lightly, "We're here."

They were simple words, but Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen's hearts started to pound, and they could not help but take deep breaths to compose themselves.

As Daji and Fire Phoenix opened the door, Blackie was the first to run inside, and the others followed.

They did not see Li Nianfan, and only Qin Manyun and Shi Tuqin. The two of them stopped what they were doing and looked at the guests.

Xiao Bai's gaze fell on Blackie as he said, "Blackie, since you're hairless now, I think you should have a new name. Also... welcome home, your dog food will have many new flavors in the future."

Qin Manyun and Shi Tuqin quickly greeted Daji and Fire Phoenix, "We greet Fairy Daji and Fairy Fire Phoenix."

Daji and Fire Phoenix gently nodded, asking curiously, "Where is master?"

Shi Tuqin said respectfully, "The saint is currently in the backyard, plucking fruit."

The moment Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen entered the courtyard, their entire bodies shuddered, and they could not move, turning into statues.

They had thought that they had made enough mental preparations, after all, they had seen how impressive the expert was before. Yet, when they came into the expert's residence, their brains exploded just the same.

It was no longer a matter of being prepared, it had completely exceeded their expectations!

Normally, the brains would only be able to fathom the tenth level, yet, they only realized after getting here that the expert lived in the hundredth level. It had completely shattered their world view. They had already held back immensely by not screaming.

Chaos Spiritual Qi, this was a world filled with Chaos Spiritual Qi!

Furthermore, that flowing water was made of Chaos Spiritual Water, and everything in the yard, including the firewood in the corner, definitely exuded the aura of Chaos Spiritual Roots. The random objects in the house, from the tables and chairs to the fridge and the fake mountain, without exception, were all at least Chaos Spiritual Treasures!

Chaos Spiritual Treasures were enough to make someone unrivalled in the same realm, and were even capable of allowing one to exceed their realms!

For instance, Daji and Fire Phoenix were just Chaos Golden Daluo Immortals, but they had used a Chaos Ultimate Treasure to kill a Heavenly Realm cultivator. That was enough to show the importance of treasures.

Qin Zhonshan's lips trembled as he could not resist mumbling softly, "Is this paradise?"

It was like a child's dream, wanting a roof made of candy, a river made of juice, a house made of chocolate, snacks everywhere to eat...

Every cultivator, and even every Deity, had a dream of owning a courtyard like that as well.

At that moment, Bai Chen and Qin Zhongsan were like children who had seen their own dreams, and felt like crying...

They even felt like being able to witness such a scene in their life already left them with no more regrets!

Bai Chen was in a daze, mumbling to himself, "Is this... the end of cultivation?"

After a long time, they recovered a bit of their thoughts, and looked over to Qin Manyun and Shi Tuqin.

Their gazes stopped at Shi Tuqin for a moment, mainly because of her unique appearance.

Half human and half tiger, it was very eye-catching.

Shi Tuqin said politely, "I am Shi Tuqin of the Legendary Beast Sect, I greet you two seniors."

“Legendary Beast Sect?”

“So you are Shi Tuqin?”

Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen spoke at the same time, their tones full of curiosity.

A while before, the Legendary Beast Sect’s princess, Shi Tuqin had been captured by the Ministry. The sect had searched everywhere, and there was quite a big commotion. After so long, they never expected to meet her here.”

Shi Tuqin said, “I was lucky enough to have been saved by the expert, which was how I escaped danger.”

“I see.”

Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen nodded at the same time, and their gazes unwittingly fell on the brush in her hand.

Their gazes straightened immediately as their breathing became erratic.

A wave of hot air surged to his brain, causing Bai Chen’s tongue to tie, “You, you, your brush...”

Shi Tuqin said, "I'm learning calligraphy from the expert, this was given to me by him."

Learning calligraphy from the expert?!

The two of them let in a breath of cold air, their envy filled their eyes as their bodies trembled.

They then noticed the calligraphy in front of Shi Tuqin, and their brains exploded even more, even their hairs stood up.

Darn it!

They were so envious!

Chapter 578: The Key To Closing The Gap In Skill

Even Bai Chen's moustache flew up as he said hoarsely, "Wisdom Veins, these are definitely Wisdom Veins!"

He stared at the strokes on the calligraphy, and wanted to plant his face right on it. His eyes were almost popping out of their sockets.

Qin Zhongshan was not in a better state. The man's body was trembling intensely, his expression unsteady as various emotions were surging up as he panted roughly.

That thing was way too valuable, the most valuable treasures were worthless in front of that calligraphy!

If it were somehow stranded outside, without a doubt, there would be tremendous amounts of bloodshed immediately. Even Deities of the Heavenly Realm would try and fight for it. Tremendous amounts of bloodshed was probably understating it, it might even plunge the whole of Chaos into a panic.

Looking at the strokes on the paper, Bai Chen's heart ached, his eyes reddened, tears gathered and his mouth frowned, as if he was about to cry.

He then looked at the brush Shi Tuqin had in hand, and he let out a long sigh, "Ah, what a waste of treasures!"

By the side, Nuwa looked at Shi Tuqin with an envious expression. That girl was immensely blessed to be able to cultivate next to the expert. It was obvious how terrifying she would be in the future.

Bai Chen was fixated, and could feel the beauty and power held within each stroke of the brush. It caused him to sink into it, wanting to throw his mind and body into it and give it everything he had.

For Wisdom, even death was a price worth paying.

He could not help but raise his hand and touch the strokes on the paper.

Yet, before he could even touch it, a horrifying energy exploded forward from the paper. The group only felt time stop as they shuddered. After that, with a sound of a scoff, a horrifying attack shot out from that singular stroke, going straight for Bai Chen's throat!

The immense force exploded like a cannonball, and sent Bai Chen flying.

Boom!

Bai Chen slammed right into the walls of the courtyard, forming a massive imprint before he slowly slipped off the wall.

The robes on his body were all ruined.

The place fell into silence.

Cold sweat dripped from Bai Chen's forehead, on his neck, where the wound was, fresh red blood was oozing out, causing him to choke.

Death had never been so close to him.

If the calligraphy had not shown mercy, then... He would have been killed by the power of Dao that it emitted!

"Oh!"

He felt his qi and blood lurch, and the taste of blood filled his throat as blood threatened to pour out of his body.

The next moment, Daji's cold voice could be heard as she shouted, "Swallow it back!"

Bei Chen did not dare to disobey, and without another thought, he forced his mouth shut, forcing his throat to move. With a gulp, he swallowed his blood back.

He did not dare to show any signs of unhappiness, smiling as he said, "I'm so sorry, I almost dirtied the expert's place."

Fire Phoenix shook her head, saying, "Without master's permission, no one can touch anything here!"

"I lost control of myself for a moment, I was impolite, thank you for not killing me."

He faced the calligraphy and bowed deeply, bowing down three times.

The others finally snapped back to reality as they all looked at those words, their emotions flowing. Shi Tuqin was so shocked she covered her mouth with her paws, her eyes were wide in disbelief.

She knew that the calligraphy was especially valuable, but she never expected the strokes on it to have such terrifying powers.

If the expert had not allowed it, she would have already died many times over.

It was way too scary.

Qin Zhongshan took a deep breath as he exclaimed in shock, "A treasure like that, that has already formed its own Dao, isn't something a regular person can touch."

Putting aside Chaos Ultimate Spiritual Treasures, even Ultimate Heavenly Spiritual Treasures would already have formed their own spirits. Normal people would not be able to control them, and would be repelled. The calligraphy had naturally done that.

Just being able to see one was already an immense blessing, and being acknowledged by one was a blessing of several lifetimes. If one made any mistakes and angered the treasure, they would be killed off!

Bai Chen nodded deeply, "I really overestimated myself."

Because of that, it caused them to envy Shi Tuqin even more. Without the approval of the expert, how could she have the qualifications to hold such an amazing brush and write on such an amazing canvas?

The difference between them was way too huge, it made them want to cry...

Sure enough, just like a philosopher had once said, behind every powerful person was an unbelievable amount of luck...

That was the true key to increasing ones skill...

Shi Tuqin carefully looked at the calligraphy, meekly saying, "Senior..."

Bai Chen immediately let out a kind smile, saying, "Senior? That's too much! I'm your Grandpa Bai! If you have any difficulties in the future, come find me!"

"And Grandpa Qin as well!"

Qin Zhongshan did not hesitate to say, "The Empath Sect is good friends with the Legendary Beast Sect. A princess of the Legendary Beast Sect is naturally a princess of the Empath Sect!"

Shi Tuqin's lips twitched at the two old men's words, she said softly, "Grandpa Bai, Grandpa Qin..."

"Yes, good girl!"

Qin Zhongshan and Bei Chen smiled, feeling even happier than being called that by their own grandchildren.

"Tuqin, I knew you were something special the moment I saw you, your future will be limitless!"

"You have a heavenly demeanor, a heavenly demeanor!"

Nuwa, who had been silently observing it, rolled her eyes, feeling speechless.

'Shameless old coots!'

'If I'm not mistaken, the two of you were lamenting this being a waste? Now you're trying to gain her favor?'

'I can tell that this little girl's potential is great, it's time to curry some favor.'

“Ah.”

At that moment, the sound of a door opening could be heard. Causing everyone to quiver, especially Bai Chen and Qin Zhongshan who were playing around. They immediately. Sat up in distress, not daring to breathe.

He’s here, the expert is here!

Li Nianfan’s hands were holding a wooden barrel, and even his pockets were bulging as he carried a bunch of fruits, leisurely walking in. When he saw the visitors, his eyes brightened as he smiled, “Oh, I was wondering why the zither stopped playing and the courtyard felt quite noisy. So Daji’s back, and she brought guests. Lady Nuwa, it’s been a long time.”

Nuwa was surprised, and immediately replied, “Greetings to Lord Saint.”

Qin Zhongshan hurried as well, “Greetings to Lord Saint.”

Bai Chen adjusted his clothes, and nervously and respectfully said, “I am the sect leader of the White Cloud Sect, Bai Chen, greetings to Lord Saint.”

Unlike the others, it was the first time he was visiting the expert. Not only did he know of the expert’s strength, he had also been taught a lesson earlier. Setting aside the respect in his heart, if not for his restraint, he would even have knelt down and kowtowed...

Li Nianfan nodded, replying, "So you're Cultivator Bai, hello."

He slowly walked to the pond in the courtyard, and poured the lychees inside.

The pond had a refrigerating effect, and was the best place to wash the lychees. Feeling the coldness of the water, and looking at the lychees that were resting inside, Li Nianfan felt himself about to drool.

After that, he put down the longans and cherries, those could be eaten at any time.

Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen looked at the lychees in the water, and the fruits in the other two barrels, and their minds stopped working.

They were so pitiful that even an orange had been enough for them to feel elated. Only now did they know that Chaos Spirit Fruits could be mass produced, and there were even so many types.

It was even being washed in Chaos Spiritual Water. That scene was something they would not even dare to dream about.

Looking around them again, they suddenly felt like beggars visiting an extremely rich person.

"Sit down, please."

Li Nianfan said as he walked over, enthusiastically saying, "You all came at the right time, some new fruits have just ripened. You can all try it out."

Bai Chen and the others immediately said sincerely, "Thank you, Lord Saint."

Li Nianfan casually noticed that large Taotie that had already been trapped, and said curiously, "Daji, is this the surprised you prepared for me?"

"That's right." Daji smiled, "This is a Taotie."

"Taotie?"

Li Nianfan was slightly taken aback, and then he felt a sense of elation. Its flavors were incredibly unique, and he was definitely pleased.

That was a massive beast that was said to be able to devour anything, and now it was about to be eaten by him?

That was great.

He hurriedly walked over, and appraised it in detail. He could not help but say, "It probably wasn't easy capturing this?"

Daji said, "it was fine, Nuwa, Cultivator Bai and Cultivator Qin all put in quite a bit of effort."

At those words, Bai Cehn and the others felt a wave of embarrassment.

In all honesty, Bai Chen and Qin Zhongshan merely carried it. As for Nuwa, she had merely cheered from the side...

Li Nianfan saluted them, "Thank you, everyone."

The Taotie's appearance was quite unique. It had a long horn on its head, and had four black eyes. Its mouth took up half its body. It had four legs, and just from appearances alone, it looked incredibly ferocious.

What puzzled Li Nianfan was how he was going to eat that.

First of all, the mouth had to be cut away, but then half its body would be gone...

"The horn on its head looks a bit like a deer's, we can use it like a deer's antlers, it might be very nutritious."

“As for the meat on its body. There are two ways that are the most common and won’t go wrong. The first is to make them into dumplings. Most of the meat is suitable for that. Then we can grill it! Almost every meat can be grilled, and the taste should be quite good.”

Li Nianfan could not be bothered to experiment on other methods, so he said, “the legs will be grilled, the rest of the body will be chopped up and made into cabbage and Taotie dumplings!”

Speaking of which, it had been a long time since he last ate dumplings, he salivated just thinking about it.

Li Nianfan faced Xiao Bai, “Xiao Bai, go handle the Taotie. Chop a leg up first and grill it, I’ll treat the guests.”

“Yes, my honored master.”

Xiao Lin nodded and dragged the Taotie away to prepare it.

Li Nianfan then had Daji bring out fruits and some cakes, and got everyone to eat and chat.

At the same time.

In the Chaos, a massive and majestic spiritual boat was moving steadily, moving toward the Area of the Gods.

On the deck.

A young man sat down cross legged. In front of him was a green Guqin. He did not play it, and was gently stroking it.

Behind him, an old man with a white moustache and white hair was standing uneasily, pursing his lips in nervousness.

The old man looked toward one direction in the Chaos. His eyes constantly flickered as emotions danced through his heart.

Last time, when he saw the location of the Area of the Gods on the star map, he had felt a sense of familiarity. Upon closer inspection, he almost shouted out. Was that not his old home?

‘How could my old home be the Area of the Gods? It’s definitely a mistake!’

Going the wrong way was one thing, but it had locked onto his old home, how could he be so unlucky?

He looked at the young man, and was incredibly anxious. If he really brought the emperor into the Eldritch World, and it turned out to be an underdeveloped world instead of the Area of the Gods, the emperor might just destroy the place in anger!

In the end, the old man resolved himself, and clenched his teeth, "Emperor, I think that... the location on the star map isn't where the Area of the Gods is, I hope that you can reconfirm it."

Only following the emperor did he feel such a sense of dread.

That spiritual boat was floating in the Chaos. As it searched for chances in the Chaos, the emperor would definitely enter any little world that they met.

In his eyes, he did not care if the worlds were strong or weak, and he only wanted to encounter various Daos to prove the strength of his own. He was basically looking for opponents within the Chaos.

Everytime he encounters an opponent that interests him, he would suppress his realm, and face the opponent at the same level, wanting to increase his understanding that day.

However, anyone could see that he merely wanted to trample on various Daos to establish his own. Even though he seemed to control his own realm, he still never lost.

It was like a university student challenging a primary school student, claiming to only compete with primary school questions.

The victors were actually already certain.

Furthermore, not only would the university student win, he also wanted to learn various different ways to solve the questions from different primary school students, perfecting himself.

In truth, discussing Daos was far more cruel than solving questions!

The old man naturally did not want his world to be destroyed, nor did he want to see his world being trampled on. Staring as his home town got closer, he resisted the dread in his heart as he asked.

“You came over to tell me that?”

The young man’s expression did not change, and seemed to be asking calmly.

However, the next moment, his finger gently flicked a string.

Twang!

The sound was very soft, but the next moment, the old man seemed to have been struck by lightning, and his body was sent flying, crashing on the spiritual boat as his whole body spasmed.

That sound seemed to reverberate in his ears, piercing right into his soul, his Primordial Spirit reached the verge of collapse.

“You should just obediently cultivate your pills. Do you really think you have the right to speak in front of me?”

Chapter 579: The Winds And Clouds Of The Hometown

The old man struggled on the ground, his face full of pain. After a moment, he stood up with great difficulty, looking at the young man in horror.

The young man looked at the old man coldly, his eyes so piercing it seemed like it could stab right through someone, saying, “What is it, do you know this place?”

“Yes... I know of it.”

The old man mulled over it for a long time, and finally thickened his skin. “I wandered around the Chaos in my earlier years, and I’ve been to that place before. I found that it was a very backwards world, and was nothing impressive, nor did it have any rare treasures, so I remembered the place. That’s why I was very confused when I saw the location of the Area of the Gods, and I came forward to let you know.”

He knew that he could not hide anything from the emperor, and attempting to do so would only cause the opposite effect, so he told a half truth, emphasizing the fact that there was nothing to see in that world, hoping to reduce the curiosity of the emperor so the emperor would ignore the place.

His heart was filled with desperation as he prayed for the emperor to not go there. After all... for a figure of that level to descend on the Eldritch world would be incredibly horrifying for his hometown.

It did not matter if he could succeed, he still needed to do what he could.

The emperor looked at the old man, and had a meaningful look in his eyes. "There's nothing to do after all. It doesn't matter if it's an Area of the Gods or some broken down little world, there's no harm in taking a look."

The old man's heart shivered, and he felt an intense hopelessness.

The only thing he could do now was hope that the emperor would have no interest in the place when he arrived. If it really was not possible, he would then plead for the emperor to show mercy, and to spare that world.

The spiritual boat continued forward in the unending Chaos, not feeling the passage of time.

In a flash, three days had passed.

The Area of the Gods that was indicated on the map was already very close. The old man stood on the deck, pursing his lips as his heart pounded, his feelings were extremely complicated.

Looking at the distant world, he suddenly felt a wave of familiarity. That feeling was warm and gentle.

Uneasiness, excitement, fear, apprehension, anxiety and various other feelings constantly emerged, causing his eyes to be filled with tears. If he did not forcefully restrain himself for fear of being seen, he would already be sobbing.

The winds and clouds of his hometown.

'I'm back, I've actually come back!'

'I used to be a proud man, and now I've returned an empty vessel.'

'I'm sorry I came back in this manner. The humiliation can be forgotten, but I brought an unwanted guest.'

It was getting closer.

A ray of light started to enter their eyes, causing the old man to close his eyes.

It was not because it was too bright, but because he was apprehensive.

He felt more and more timid as he got closer to his hometown, and did not dare to say anything.

Countless times, he had wanted to see what had happened to his hometown. He had wanted to return countless times as well. However, they had only been thoughts. And now it was right in front of him, but he no longer dared to look at it.

‘It’s probably changed a lot, after all... We’ve all left. It was too broken down.’

‘The Absolute Era should have ended, and the road of cultivation should have ended. There shouldn’t be any more spiritual power, and everything from before should have turned into legends.’

The old man closed his eyes, lamenting everything for a moment. Then, his eyes fluttered as he opened his eyes.

What entered his sight was an incredibly large world.

The unending rays of light shot at him like flowing water. The stars filled up the sky, and spiritual energy surged everywhere. All the life in that world formed an unimaginable picture.

Every breath, everything that could be seen, all showcased the special nature of the world.

The man’s expression shifted from sorry to shock and then to awe.

When did this place become like this?

Did I even forget the address of my own hometown?

Was it possible... Did the eldritch world turn around? Did they rapidly develop?

The old man looked at everything dumbly, his eyes turned red as he felt everything was foreign yet familiar.

"It really is the Realm of the Gods, there is qi everywhere, the force of the realm is high, everything is lush. I can't see through the endless possibilities!"

The emperor looked at the world like a lord, his eyes had a glint of interest as he said imperiously, "I hope it doesn't disappoint me."

After that, he looked at the shifty eyed old man, saying, "Didn't you say this was a broken down world?"

The old man hurriedly said, "I must have misremembered."

The emperor suddenly said, "You did not misremember, this place used to be a broken down world, and was called the Eldritch World."

He looked at the old man, smiling. "Could it be your old world?"

The old man's heart jumped, even breathing was hard as he was both excited and happy.

It really was the Eldritch World!

The place had turned into the Area of the Gods. Then what about his old friends? What had happened to them?

However, the emperor did not continue speaking, and started to descend to the ground from the skies.

Even above the skies, the stars littered the night sky, and there was a vibrant moon hanging there.

Suddenly, a melodious zither could slowly be heard from the moon.

The song flowed with the wind, like waves taking shape, elegant and long.

The old man's expression suddenly changed as he rapidly paled.

“Interesting, this song is interesting.”

The emperor turned around, looking at the moon without any hesitation.

At that moment.

On the moon.

Guanghan Palace, Chang’e residence.

That place was a place of song and dance.

In the palace, a woman was playing the zither, her beautiful figures looked like they were dancing, elegantly plucking the zither. By the side, there were many dancers dancing in accompaniment, their figures were graceful and their beauty was unrivaled.

Chang’e and seven fairies were among them, but they were there mostly for supervision.

They were a very important part of the Heavenly Palace. No, they were the most important!

Even though they did nothing much in combat, they could directly serve the expert!

Every time the expert felt like watching a performance, the importance of this place could not be understated!

Furthermore, they could never fail any of their performances, otherwise no one would be able to bear the responsibility of ruining the expert's mood.

Strictly speaking, the existence of the performers was incredibly important.

The performers also knew of their station and importance, and all of them threw everything they had into their training, all so they could put up a good show in front of the expert.

Chang'e had a smile on her face. "The rhythm finally looks decent, if we're able to perform for the expert in the future, he'll definitely be satisfied."

Ziye remarked, "That's right, I haven't seen him in so long. I wonder when we'll be able to perform for him."

"I miss the expert's food so much. If we perform well and he's happy with it, we'll definitely get something nice to eat."

"I really envy Qin Manyun, she's able to play the zither by the expert, that's such a tremendous honor!"

“Playing the zither just to make someone else happy? You people have no right to play it!”

Suddenly, a furious roar could be heard, exploding like thunder. After that was the twang of a zither.

The sound was not loud, but it shook the whole place, materializing a dense energy that rippled throughout.

At the same time, all the zither's in the moon palace that were being played all snapped, and all the women, no matter if they were playing the zither or dancing, all felt the surge of blood, spitting out blood as their bodies shuddered.

Their expressions suddenly changed as they looked around uneasily.

Boom!

A massive spiritual boat suddenly appeared, and like a dark cloud, had covered the whole Guanghan palace. On the deck of the boat, numerous figures looked down on the women.

The young man at the helm had an electrifying gaze, it was majestic, holy and emotionless.

An immensely strong aura flowed out, applying so much pressure that they could not breathe.

He swept his gaze around, and saw a few of the music sheets in the palace. He reached his hand out, and the sheets flew right into his hand as he started to read it.

The sheets were naturally 'Ambush' and 'High Mountains and Flowing Water'.

They were the music sheets that Li Nianfan had given Qin Manyun, and were the most valuable sheets in the whole palace.

"This music..."

Just from a rough look, the emperor's pupils rapidly constricted, his unchanging face immediately changed as he could not hide his shock. His hands trembled.

"Good, good, good!"

His eyes brightened as he exploded, the smile on his face was very exaggerated. "I can't believe that I found two extraordinary musical sheets the moment I arrived at the Area of the Gods, it really is a place chosen by the Heavens!"

The aura around him started to constantly change, he would suddenly emit killing intent, and then the will to fight, and it would ebb and flow, going up and down.

It was the insight behind the two songs, he had actually managed to absorb it into his own Dao, causing the realm to change and the forces to resonate.

It had to be said, his talent was incredibly shocking, which was why he could be so tyrannical.

He coldly looked at everyone in Guanghan palace, and smiled. "These ants are amusing. They have such a masterpiece, but they don't know how to use it. They're only thinking about pleasing someone else, they deserve to die!"

He casually raised his hand, touching the zither. With just a gentle flick, his music would be enough to turn the moon to ash.

The old man's expression changed, and he immediately stepped up, bowing as he said, "Emperor, please show them mercy!"

"You are begging for mercy for them?"

The old man no longer dared to hide it, and said, "I won't hide it from you, I originally came from the Eldritch World. They are all from the same home as me. Please, show them some mercy in consideration of the pills I have refined for you."

The emperor had already expected that, and was not surprised at all. He said, "I didn't kill you, so shouldn't the pills you made for me be in thanks to that? Also, what do you think you are? You actually dare to offer me words of advice?!"

The moment he said that, the subordinate next to him raised his hand, and a long whip appeared, containing the light of lightning. With a slap, it landed on the old man's body, causing him to roll on the ground. A long black wound appeared on his body, directly hitting his Primordial Spirit!

In the palace, when Chang'e and the other girls saw the old man, they shuddered, thinking they had been mistaken.

Taishang Elder, it was definitely Taishang Elder!

One of the Three Qings had returned!

Yet, it was not the time to be happy. Looking at the state of the elder, they could not help but be angered, and prayed that the Heavenly Palace would quickly send help.

However, looking at that young man's power, they were worried that his skills were unfathomable, and even the Heavenly Palace might not be able to help...

The emperor looked at them, and proudly proclaimed, "It's possible for you to not die, you only need to tell me where you obtained these two songs."

So that was his goal!

No one said anything.

Everyone of them spoke in their hearts, 'This is not something you have the right to touch.', but they all held back.

The emperor issued an order, "Elder, since they're your old friends, I'll allow you to gie them some advice, a wise man submits to the circumstances!"

The Taishang Elder's expression stiffened as he lowered his head, clutching his fists before relaxing them, he was incredibly hesitant.

As one of the Three Qings of the Eldritch World, he had been incredibly proud, and was one of the saints of this world. Yet, at that moment, he was advising them to surrender after having just returned.

It was a tremendous humiliation.

The emperor looked at the Elder in amusement. "You're not willing?"

Hong said in determination, "There's no need to waste your energy, we won't say a word!"

The music sheets were the expert's. If they said that, it was obvious that the young man would cause trouble for the expert. If it ended up disturbing the expert, it would be a tremendous sin!

At that moment, a few auras were rapidly approaching, and a few figures suddenly appeared, crossing tremendous distances.

Cultivator Junjun, Nuwa, Yun Shu, the Jade Emperor, Bai Chen and Qin Zhongshan were there, their expressions incredibly serious.

They had foretold that a large calamity would befall the moon palace, and had immediately rushed over.

Coincidentally, after eating with the expert, Qin Zhongshan and Bei Chen had made the decision to form a relationship with the Heavenly Palace, so they had been at the Heavenly Palace the past few days.

Encountering something like that, they had naturally tagged along.

When they saw the young man, their mind's pounded as their hearts sank to the depths. The immense pressure caused them to feel a chill.

As for Taishang Elder, when he saw Cultivator Junjun, Nuwa and the Jade Emperor, his emotions exploded and his eyes reddened.

As for the others, when they saw Taishang Elder, they were filled with emotion.

They had split up back then to explore the Chaos, and hundreds of thousands of years had passed. They never expected to meet again in that way.

Cultivator Junjun saluted the emperor. "Fellow cultivator, we have no grudges against each other, we should sit down and chat."

"Chat? There's no need."

The emperor shook his head. "Since all of you were the original masters of the Eldritch World, and I've been planning on taking over the Area of the Gods, why don't you just swear your loyalty to me?"

Cultivator Junjun said, "The Heavenly Palace is just a small corner of the Area of the Gods, there's nothing special about it."

"So, you're not willing to swear your loyalty?"

The emperor's expression did not change, and he said, "Don't say I'm not giving you a chance, let's bet on something!"

Chapter 580: For Discussing Dao, There's Someone Else From The Heavenly Palace

A bet?

Everyone's hearts sank. They all knew that a so-called emperor would not let them off so easily.

Cultivator Junjun said carefully, "Might I know what kind of bet you would like to propose?"

"I am a cultivator, and I've always prioritized discussing Dao, I want to compete with you in Dao!"

The emperor smiled as he looked at everyone, his eyes thoughtful and he continued, "You don't have to worry, since it's a discussion of Dao, I won't use my power to suppress you, nor will I bully you with my cultivation. Only, I wonder if any of you are confident enough in your Dao? Would you dare to take up this bet?"

Discussing Dao relied on understanding the opponent's weakness or even creating a weakness in his heart, causing the opponent to lose their spirit and crumble!

By the side, Taishang Elder suddenly shouted out a warning, "He is the String Master, and is the best at discussing Dao, don't bet against him!"

Whips!

The man by the emperor's side raised his hand again, and the whip was as fast as wind, practically invisible. It hit Taishang Elder's back, causing him to collapse on the ground, another wound appearing on his body as his skin split open.

After that, the whips elongated and tied the elder up, lifting him up in the air as it constricted him tightly.

“Stop!”

The Jade Emperor shouted out, looking at Taishang Elder with reddening eyes.

Before, they controlled the Eldritch together. They would scheme against each other occasionally, but they were still tied together from the same origin.

So, when they saw the elder being bullied, they could not help but feel a sense of sorrow and anger.

Qin Zhongshan and Bei Chen who had followed along both exclaimed when they heard their opponent’s name, “The String Master?!”

The Jade Emperor said with a heavy expression, “Who is he?”

“He’s a very powerful Deity who wanders the Chaos.”

Qin Zhongshan felt a very intense pressure, and he said softly, "I heard that he revels in Dao, and can play masterpieces with just one hand. He's learned from thousands of worlds, and is able to seize the hearts of others, causing them to lose faith in their Dao! So, he enjoys looking for strong opponents in Chaos, and by discussing Dao, the Heavenly Realm Deity's that had fallen to him number more than my fingers can count!"

He was someone who loved to fight, and was quite famous in the Chaos.

The fact that someone like that was still well and alive was enough to prove his strength. Even within the Heavenly Realm, he would be considered strong!

Hearing that news, the crowd's hearts sank.

Cultivator Junjun said in a low voice, "What are we betting on?"

The emperor said, "If I win, the Heavenly Palace will work for me, becoming my slaves!"

Nuwa said, "Then what if we win?"

"You can't win." The emperor shook his head, arrogant to the limits.

Cultivator Junjun said, "Without anything at stake, this bet won't take effect!"

The emperor looked at Taishang Elder. "If you win, I will return this guy to you."

The Elder's face was pale, and his eyes were full with rage. He wanted to say something, but being tied up by the whip made that difficult.

Using him in exchange for the whole Heavenly Palace was an uneven bet, it was too unfair!

Nuwa immediately said, "That's not fair!"

"Fair?"

The emperor smiled and mocked, "Are you still asleep? You're actually talking to me about being fair?"

"This is the world of the strong. My bet with you is offering you a chance. Not only do you not appreciate it, you're trying to talk to me about fairness? Hilarious, you have no choice at all!"

The crowd could not help but clench their fists tightly, anger showed on their faces, but they felt a deep sense of powerlessness.

The emperor was right, they had no choice.

That was the plight of the weak.

Cultivator Junjun exchanged a look with Nuwa, saying coldly, "We... will bet!"

"Don't, don't!"

The Elder looked at them with reddened eyes, he wanted to cry.

After spending so much time by the emperor's side, he knew how powerful the emperor was. The moment he played a song, it was enough to sink heaven and earth, disrupting all the laws without anyone being able to fight back.

The most horrifying instance was when he had witnessed the emperor's zither wipe away the Dao of a small world, and even took away their path to heaven!

How could Cultivator Junjun and the rest of them stand up to that?

In order to save him, he stared as they stepped right into the trap. That feeling caused him to despair, at the same time, feeling everyone's concern, he was incredibly touched.

“As long as any of you can stand up to a single song from me, you’ll win.”

The emperor smiled, touching the zither in front of him as he quietly looked at the crowd. “So... who’s first?”

“I’m coming!”

Nuwa took a deep breath and stepped forward with a serious look on her face. After that, she sat down cross-legged and made her preparations.

She raised her hand, and the Lotus Lantern slowly flew out, floating on top of her head. The rays of light shot out from the lantern, enveloping Nuwa and settling her heart.

After that, Nuwa closed her eyes, and Insights began to flow out of her body, twisting the space around her, causing a colorful light to surround Nuwa, covering her whole body.

Discussing Dao was something that came from deep within the heart, so she had some confidence.

After all, interacting with the expert and picking things up, she was much more familiar with Dao than regular cultivators. Furthermore, listening to the expert play the zither, playing chess with the expert, or even eating the expert’s food, were all things that improved one’s understanding of Dao.

It was quite the cheat, and was enough for them to look down on other cultivators.

“Interesting.”

The emperor raised his eyebrow, and stopped speaking as he gently flicked on a string of his zither.

Twang!

The music materialized, and turned into a breeze that blew right at Nuwa, touching the light around her and disappearing.

Everyone widened their eyes and looked on nervously.

Discussing Dao might not be as flashy as fighting, but the dangers involved were actually greater than fighting.

It was possible for their insights to shatter, and they would then lose their way. Many might even begin to question their own lives, and not be able to recover, turning into a cripple.

Twang! Twang! Twang!

The emperor's hands rapidly played the zither, and the music started to increase frantically. In the blink of an eye, the breeze had turned into a storm, heading right at Nuwa.

And finally, it turned into a tornado, surrounding Nuwa. The crowd could see the devastating winds generated by the tornado.

Through the wind, they could see the lights in the middle still glowing.

"It's 'Ambush!'

Even though it was just the start, they were naturally familiar with it. When they recognized the tune that was being played, their faces reddened in rage.

Hong glared at the emperor, saying unhappily, "Despicable!"

That was a song that the expert had gifted them, and contained very high level insights. To someone who cultivated music, it was an incredible blessing.

And now, not only was the song stolen away, it was being used against them. It made them feel like flies, and they were disgusted.

Twang!

Even the ears of the crowd seemed to be filled with the sounds of horses and the cries of an army. Their hearts started to speed up, like drums that were being played.

The tornado around Nuwa started to get more and more intense, as if countless soldiers were assaulting it. Weapons and horses, qi that swallowed up rivers, it was all crashing down on Nuwa, shouting right at her.

At that moment, Nuwa seemed like a weak girl, lost in a battlefield alone, weak, pitiful and helpless.

And what she was facing were countless soldiers, surging at her like a wave, almost swallowing her whole!

She could not help but take a step back.

That one step caused her Dao to falter, and she suddenly spat out blood, her spirits were severely impacted.

The emperor said, "Not bad, you managed to hold on for so long."

Those casual words caused feelings of contempt within everyone.

Bai Chen sighed and said, "It's too difficult to beat the String Master."

Qin Zhongshan nodded. "In the Chaos, his movements are erratic and uncertain, but the moment he has his sights on you, anyone would end up with a headache."

The people of the Heavenly Palace did not understand, but they had heard of the String Master before. Even their sect ancestors would not want to face the String Leader, let alone themselves.

The String Master said, "Who's next?"

"I'll do it."

Cultivator Junjun walked forward, his robes fluttered and his expression was serious. With a wave of his hand, a drum appeared.

He planned on using the drum to drown out the zither!

The String Master said nothing about it, and immediately began to play his zither.

Bam bam bam.

Cultivator Junjun did not bother with words, and immediately started beating the drum feverishly.

His sound came without any rhythm.

Unlike Nuwa, Cultivator Junjun was planning on using offense as defense!

That moment, he used the sound of the drums to transmit his Dao, opposing the String Master and attempting to disrupt the String Master's rhythm.

The two different sounds intertwined in the air, colliding with each other, causing the air to ripple like a violent lake.

Cultivator Junjun lowered his gaze, his expression unchanging. In his mind, the scene of Li Nianfan giving him the disc and witnessing the endless Dao appeared.

He submerged within the Dao, and used the drums to unleash it, trying to affect the String Master's Dao.

Yet, the String Master's music did not change. It was even and deep, like a tall mountain, and like flowing rivers. He maintained his rhythm throughout, and was incredibly clear, completely suppressing the sound of the drums, turning into the only sound!

“This is our song, ‘High Mountains and Flowing Water’.”

Chang’e smiled bitterly, that person was shameless!

He actually used the songs the expert gave them to show off. Shameless!

“Ah!”

Cultivator Junjun’s body suddenly shook, and he spat out blood from his mouth. His expression was pale, and his body swayed.

“Entertaining.”

The String Master was not stingy with his praise, and said curiously, “I never expected your understanding of Dao to be so deep, it’s changed my view of you.”

He then thought of the two songs he obtained. The songs were good, the men were decent, it really was the Area of the Gods. It was definitely something worth obtaining.

He swept his gaze around, and calmly looked at the crowd, asking, “Who else is there?”

The crowd was silent.

They were frustrated to their limits.

Qin Zhongshan and Bai Chen wanted to lend a hand, but after the earlier bouts, they knew they would not be able to compare as well.

Qin Zhongshan said, "I could go back and get my elder to appear!"

Bai Chen said, "I can invite our ancestors as well!"

Their ancestors were all Heavenly Realm Deities, they might actually stand a chance against the String Master!

"If only..."

Jade Emperor said, but did not finish.

However, everyone could guess what he wanted to say.

If the expert was around, then discussing Dao with that dumb String Master would be nothing, the expert would casually suppress him.

Even though Cultivator Junjun and Nuwa had lost, they had still interacted with the expert before. They had felt the Dao that the expert occasionally showed, and they could naturally feel the difference.

If the expert's Dao was an endless sea, then the String Master's Dao was just a little ditch that was on the verge of drying up.

Only, how could they allow the expert to make a move? That was just their inner thoughts.

They were the ones who were useless, they could not ask the expert to help but clean up!

However, Jade Emperor's words reminded Yao Mengji of something. His expression moved, and he suddenly had a thought.

Even though it was a little crazy, he somehow felt that it was possible.

The String Master stood up, looking down on everyone, "Is there no one else? If that's so, then you've lost!"

The elder was still tied up in the air, his eyes had a look of immense sadness, and he felt so awful that his entire body was shivering.

He naturally knew that there was no one else in the Heavenly Palace. Even Hongjun Daozu lost, who else would be able to fight?

He felt a sense of hopelessness.

Qin Zhongshan looked at the String Master, "I am the sect leader of the Empath Sect. Give me a few days, I can invite our Taishang Elder!"

"Empath Sect?"

The String Master shook his head. "I will go see the Empath Sect some day! However, this is between me and the Heavenly Palace, I won't waste time with you!"

"We still have someone!"

At that moment, Yao Mengji shouted out, attracting everyone's gaze.

The String Master frowned. "Oh?"

Nuwa had the same thought as well. "Cultivator Dao, are you referring to Manyun?"

“That’s right.” Yao Mengji nodded. “I think we can try!”

The others suddenly had a sliver of hope when they remembered Qin Manyun. After all, Qin Manyun had been training under the expert, and her skills were definitely rapidly increasing under the expert’s tutelage, and she definitely had a deep understanding of the Dao and the zither.

However, thinking about Qin Manyun’s skill, they felt that it might not be possible.

Even though discussing Dao did not reflect skill, there was still a connection. If the difference in skill was too great, there was no hope when it came to discussing Dao.

However, at that moment, they did not seem to have any other choices, all they could do was hope that it worked.

No matter what, she was still a prodigy by the expert’s side!

With that in mind, Cultivator Junjun took the lead, and he said, “That’s right, we still have someone who can discuss Dao with you!”