

Canon 731

Chapter 731 Ignorance (2)

"Times have changed. Now that the war has begun, what's the point of your Sima Grotto-Heaven hiding things?" Tang Mao'er snorted.

"Who's hiding things?" Zheng Yongtai said. "Don't blame me for not reminding you if you get beaten up for spouting nonsense. Your Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven might not even have a hundred connate divine weapons in total. You want to ask me for a hundred? Do you think the Sima Grotto-Heaven is mine?"

...

"Doesn't the Sima Grotto-Heaven belong to your Zheng family?" Tang Mao'er pursed his lips.

Zheng Yongtai rolled his eyes, speechless.

From their conversation, Zhou Shu had noticed something.

Zheng Yongtai didn't seem to have lied to him. His status in the Sima Grotto-Heaven might really be extraordinary.

The reason he didn't know many secrets was that his cultivation was not high enough to come into contact with them.

Is Zheng Yongtai a descendant of the master of the Sima Grotto-Heaven?

"I can't be bothered to talk to you anymore. I don't have any!" Zheng Yongtai waved his hand as if he was chasing away a fly.

Tang Mao'er's chest heaved violently. He clenched his fists and stared at Zheng Yongtai.

"What? Do you want to use force to make me sell to you? Hit me if you want," Zheng Yongtai said angrily. "Hit me. I definitely won't fight back. Anyway, I owe you my life. Just beat me to death."

Zheng Yongtai spread his hands and closed his eyes, letting Tang Mao'er do whatever he wanted.

Tang Mao'er looked furious and raised his fist. But when he saw Zheng Yongtai simply standing there, he suddenly felt like a bully, so he retracted his fist.

"Can you listen to me?" Zhou Shu coughed lightly and broke the stalemate.

"You again?" Tang Mao'er turned to look at Zhou Shu, anger rising on his face.

"Yes, it's a small world." Zhou Shu smiled. "Tang Mao'er, you want connate divine weapons?"

"Who are you to call my name?" Tang Mao'er was furious. The fist that had not landed on Zheng Yongtai smashed down on Zhou Shu.

Bang!

Before Tang Mao'er's fist landed, he felt a surging force hit his lower abdomen, and he involuntarily took a few steps back.

Tang Mao'er steadied himself. The anger on his face had disappeared, replaced by a solemn expression. Although he was impulsive, he was no fool.

"Who is it?!" Tang Mao'er shouted.

His gaze swept across the surroundings. Apart from him and Zheng Yongtai, Zhou Shu was the only one present. The others were several steps away, so it was impossible for them to sneak attack him.

"It's you?" Tang Mao'er's gaze landed on Zhou Shu.

"Can we talk now?" Zhou Shu said calmly.

"If you want to talk to me, let's see if you're qualified!" Tang Mao'er shouted, and the aura on his body exploded. He raised his hand, and a long sword appeared in his hand. He slashed forward.

"Tang Mao'er, no!" Zheng Yongtai's expression changed drastically.

He moved, wanting to stop Tang Mao'er, but his cultivation was on par with his. How could he stop him?

He cursed in his heart. The grotto-heavens had rules. Humans were not allowed to kill each other for no reason. Tang Mao'er didn't hold back. If he killed Zhou Shu, he would be severely punished.

Ding!

With a crisp sound, Zheng Yongtai's eyes widened in disbelief.

A tiger-headed saber had appeared in Zhou Shu's hand at some point and blocked Tang Mao'er's sword beam.

The sharp sword beam shattered, but Zhou Shu didn't take a step back.

On the other hand, Tang Mao'er was forced back half a step by the counterforce.

"It's impolite not to reciprocate. How about you try my move?" Zhou Shu said coldly. He raised his hand and slashed out.

Boom!

Tang Mao'er parried with his sword, but an incomparably surging force came. His figure flew away like a cannonball.

Zheng Yongtai's eyes widened even more.

What did I just see?

Tang Mao'er was sent flying?

How is that possible?

Isn't it impossible to cultivate above the first rank of the Martial Dao outside the grotto-heavens?

How could Zhou Shu send Tang Mao'er flying?

No, he seems to have a daughter. That little girl is very strong!

How could I have forgotten about this?

Zheng Yongtai wished he could slap himself. How embarrassing.

He was still recruiting him to join the Sima Grotto-Heaven. He might be a disciple of another grotto-heaven. Otherwise, how could he have such high cultivation?

Boom!

Tang Mao'er rushed out of the gravel. Just as he was about to speak, a half-smiling face appeared in front of him.

Zhou Shu seemed to teleport as he arrived beside him and placed a hand on his shoulder.

The anger in Tang Mao'er's heart instantly dissipated, replaced by cold sweat.

The hand on his shoulder felt as heavy as a mountain. He couldn't move.

"Little Zhou, show mercy!" Zheng Yongtai said loudly.

At this moment, he realized that he had been defeated by Zhou Shu's daughter.

His daughter was already so strong. How weak could the father be?

Zheng Yongtai had yet to discover that Xiaoyu'er was actually here. It was mainly because he didn't expect her to grow from a two to three-year-old child to seven or eight years old in just a few days.

"Don't worry. I won't kill him," Zhou Shu said indifferently. "I just want to talk to him."

Tang Mao'er was like a mouse that had encountered a cat. He was no longer as arrogant as before.

"What do you want?" Tang Mao'er asked tentatively. "Which grotto-heaven are you from? Is it fun to pretend to be a mortal to fool us?"

Zhou Shu smiled lightly. "Would you believe me if I said I'm not from a grotto-heaven?"

Disbelief appeared on Zheng Yongtai's and Tang Mao'er's faces.

"Little Zhou, Brother Zhou, I was blind before. I didn't expect you to be a fellow comrade," Zheng Yongtai said awkwardly. "Tang Mao'er has a foul mouth and no ill intentions. Our grotto-heavens are united—"

"I told you I won't do anything to him." Zhou Shu shook his head. It seemed that no matter how he explained that he wasn't from the grotto-heavens, they wouldn't believe him. He decided not to bother with him over this and went straight to the point. "Tang Mao'er, you just said that you want a hundred connate divine weapons?"

"Yes." Tang Mao'er didn't understand why he asked this, but there was nothing to deny.

"I have a hundred connate divine weapons. What can you afford?" Zhou Shu said calmly.

"You do?" Tang Mao'er and Zheng Yongtai were shocked.

"Are you sure? Do you really have a hundred connate divine weapons?" Tang Mao'er asked in disbelief.

He asked Zheng Yongtai with his eyes. Other than the Sima Grotto-Heaven, which other grotto-heaven can take out so many connate divine weapons?

Don't ask me. I don't know either. Other than the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain back then, no one else has any surplus weapons now, Zheng Yongtai replied with his eyes.

"I do," Zhou Shu said. "As long as you can afford the price, not to mention a hundred, even more won't be a problem."

Tang Mao'er was from the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven. Putting aside whether they were good or bad people, at least for now, he was leading people here to resist the Demon Realm army.

Resisting the Demon Realm army meant that they would face countless battles in the future. What did this mean?

They were good workers!

Even if he didn't want the connate divine weapons, Zhou Shu would think of a way to sell them to them. Moreover, Tang Mao'er was in a hurry to buy weapons.

Not only could he earn money, but he could also increase his number of workers. It would be strange if he let go of such a great opportunity.

"You have more?" Tang Mao'er's eyes widened.

"Of course. That's assuming you can afford them," Zhou Shu said calmly.

"How can I trust you?" Tang Mao'er said.

Zhou Shu pointed at Zheng Yongtai. "Young Master Zheng has the Seven Star Dragon Abyss Sword on him now. It's a connate divine weapon I forge. You can ask him."

Chapter 732 Let the Forgers Compete Too (1)

Tang Mao'er looked at Zheng Yongtai with a questioning expression.

Zheng Yongtai nodded. "I do have a Seven Star Dragon Abyss Sword, a connate divine weapon, but I don't know if he forged it personally."

...

The Seven Star Dragon Abyss Sword had been given to him by the princess of Great Xia after Xiaoyu'er had broken his intrinsic divine weapon in the imperial palace of Great Xia.

At the time, they had said that the Seven Star Dragon Abyss Sword was forged by a king surnamed Zhou, but Zheng Yongtai was really not sure if it was true or not.

In fact, Zheng Yongtai was already 70% to 80% convinced. After all, he now suspected that Zhou Shu might be a disciple of some grotto-heaven. Otherwise, there was no way to explain why his cultivation was so high.

Even Tang Mao'er was no match for him.

If he came from a grotto-heaven, it wasn't impossible for him to be able to forge connate divine weapons. After all, the Sima Grotto-Heaven was not the only grotto-heaven with a forging legacy.

Hearing what Zheng Yongtai said, Tang Mao'er frowned. He looked at Zhou Shu and said, "This doesn't prove that you can forge connate divine weapons."

"Does it matter?" Zhou Shu asked. "What matters is not whether I can forge connate divine weapons but whether I can provide the hundred connate divine weapons you need."

Zhou Shu didn't need to prove his ability to anyone. He just wanted to make a deal with Tang Mao'er.

"You..." Tang Mao'er was speechless.

"I'm only giving you this opportunity once. If you don't grasp it, you'll regret it in the future," Zhou Shu continued. "I think other than you, the other grotto-heavens should also be lacking connate divine weapons."

Zheng Yongtai looked helpless. Why did these words sound so familiar?

He himself had just said he was giving Zhou Shu an opportunity.

Tang Mao'er stared at Zhou Shu, conflicted. Connate divine weapons were very precious to him, and purchasing a hundred connate divine weapons was definitely not a small matter.

Tang Mao'er hesitated for a moment before gritting his teeth and saying, "I'll... buy one first!"

"One?" Zhou Shu rolled his eyes. You spoke so arrogantly just now. After all this fuss, you only want one?

Tang Mao'er also felt a little embarrassed. He explained forcefully, "I have to confirm that the weapon you're selling me is a real connate divine weapon! I'm not familiar with you. What if you use some defective weapon to deceive me?"

"Say, Tang Mao'er, do you have any common sense?" Zhou Shu said. "A connate divine weapon is a connate divine weapon. Can't you tell if it's real or fake?"

"Forget it. You're so petty. I'm not dealing with you anymore. I'm leaving."

Zhou Shu waved his hand disdainfully.

He turned and left.

One step, two steps...

Zhou Shu had just taken three steps when he heard Tang Mao'er shout behind him.

"Wait!"

"What else is there? My time is precious. I can get one or two connate divine weapons in a minute. Don't waste my time."

Tang Mao'er and Zheng Yongtai rolled their eyes at the same time. Who are you bluffing? One or two connate divine weapons in a minute? Do you think connate divine weapons are as common as cabbages?

How many connate divine weapons are there in the grotto-heavens that have been passed down for ten thousand years?

Even if you want to brag, shouldn't it make some sense?

Tang Mao'er gritted her teeth. "Ten! I'll buy ten connate divine weapons first! If there's no problem after trying them, I'll buy the remaining ninety!"

Zheng Yongtai pulled Tang Mao'er and whispered, "Tang Mao'er, are you crazy? Where did you get so much money?"

"Hmph, I have my means!" Tang Mao'er glanced at Zheng Yongtai. "The war is imminent. I've been ordered to form a heavenly army. A hundred connate divine weapons is the support I received!"

"Your old man is really crazy," Zheng Yongtai mumbled in disbelief.

A hundred connate divine weapons worth was a huge fortune even for the various grotto-heavens.

Although Tang Mao'er was a direct descendant of the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven, it was a little exaggerated to receive such support.

Tang Mao'er snorted and ignored Zheng Yongtai. He looked at Zhou Shu and gritted his teeth. "If you agree, we'll make the deal now!"

He didn't lie to Zheng Yongtai. The military funds he had received from the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven could indeed buy a hundred connate divine weapons, but not all the funds were for him to buy connate divine weapons. The funds were for him to form an army of 10,000 people.

Supporting 10,000 experts above the third rank of the Martial Dao required a massive amount of wealth.

However, Tang Mao'er's thoughts were different from the higher-ups of the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven. He felt that more people might not necessarily be better. What he wanted was to use the military funds to build an Earth Immortal army of a hundred people, and the hundred connate divine weapons were the equipment he wanted to prepare.

Of course, he wouldn't explain these thoughts too much to Zheng Yongtai.

"So be it," Zhou Shu said indifferently. "You're so stingy even when buying connate divine weapons. I really don't know how you live."

Zhou Shu's words almost made Tang Mao'er vomit blood.

Was he being stingy by buying ten connate divine weapons in one go?

Not many people of the grotto-heavens were so generous!

"I'll be blunt. If I give you money, but I don't see the weapons in the end, don't blame me for falling out with you!" Tang Mao'er said coldly.

Zhou Shu smiled disdainfully and waved his hand. A seven-colored light flashed, and three weapons were neatly inserted into the ground in front of Tang Mao'er.

The three sabers were several inches into the ground, and they were still trembling slightly.

Chapter 733 Let the Forgers Compete Too (2)

Tang Mao'er's and Zheng Yongtai's expressions froze at the same time. Their gazes landed on the three weapons, and one word flashed through their minds.

Impossible!

...

Only the big shots at the Grotto-Heaven realm could casually produce three connate divine weapons.

Although Zhou Shu's cultivation was higher than theirs, he was definitely not a Grotto-Heaven expert.

"These are connate divine weapons?" Tang Mao'er said solemnly.

"Don't you know after seeing them?" Zhou Shu said casually. "These are my practice works from the past. They're not very good. I'm not trying to show off, but I just want to tell you that connate divine weapons are nothing to me."

The Ming Hong Saber, the Tiger Soul Saber, and the Kun Wu Saber he had obtained from the Heavenly Hub Armory were lined up. In fact, of the three sabers, only the Ming Hon Saber was made by Zhou Shu.

But in order to scare Tang Mao'er, Zhou Shu naturally wouldn't tell him the truth.

Zheng Yongtai and Tang Mao'er were really shocked.

With their statuses, they had only been rewarded with a connate divine weapon when they broke through to the Earth Immortal realm.

Zheng Yongtai was better. He was a forger and had the ability to forge connate divine weapons. It was just that his success rate was not high, but he had seen many connate divine weapons.

Tang Mao'er was different. Although he spoke arrogantly about wanting a hundred connate divine weapons right away, actually, he had never seen so many connate divine weapons in his life.

"Okay, now we should have established our initial trust." Zhou Shu put away the three sabers and looked at Tang Mao'er. "Now, we can talk officially."

"Do you want the ten connate divine weapons to be customized? Or can they be anything?"

"Let me get this straight first. If they're customized, the price will definitely be higher."

"Also, whether you provide the forging materials or use mine, the price will be slightly different."

"By the way, most importantly, what is the currency used in your grotto-heavens? Gold?"

Zhou Shu's series of questions almost stunned Tang Mao'er.

How would he know this? This was also his first time buying a connate divine weapon.

How could he pretend to be an expert?

He subconsciously looked at Zheng Yongtai for help.

Zheng Yongtai rolled his eyes. I'm competitors with this Zhou fellow, okay?

If you buy connate divine weapons from him, won't our Sima Grotto-Heaven lose a lot of business?

Help you?

Yes, I do have to help you, help you fail this deal!

Zheng Yongtai said, "Gold is useless to us martial artists, especially when buying connate divine weapons. According to the rules of our Sima Grotto-Heaven, usually, if you provide the forging materials yourself, you only need to provide two sets of materials."

The two sets of materials Zheng Yongtai mentioned were forging materials that could be used to forge two connate divine weapons. After all, there was a success rate in forging connate divine weapons, and the chances of success were extremely low.

And once it failed, the forging materials would be scrapped.

Therefore, when hiring others to forge connate divine weapons, people usually had to prepare more forging materials for the forger.

After the weapon was successfully forged, the remaining forging materials would be the reward for the forger.

In the Sima Grotto-Heaven, engaging a forger would require at least three times the amount of forging materials. Otherwise, no forger would take action.

Zheng Yongtai doubled the price because he wanted Zhou Shu to reject it because the price was low.

If Zhou Shu rejected Tang Mao'er, he would have to go back to the Sima Grotto-Heaven.

After all, the Sima Grotto-Heaven was also in the weapons business.

"Double the forging materials?" Zhou Shu's eyes lit up. There's such a good thing?

One for two, and I can even get a batch of workers. Tang Mao'er is really a good person.

Zhou Shu had already decided to let go of his previous arrogance.

What was a good customer? This was it.

"Okay." Zhou Shu nodded. "If you provide the forging materials yourself, I can accept two times the forging materials."

"You are willing to accept just twice the amount of forging materials?" Zheng Yongtai frowned. "You'll lose money!"

Even in the Sima Grotto-Heaven, there were very few people who had a 30% success rate when forging connate divine weapons. It would definitely be a loss to forge connate divine weapons with twice the amount of forging materials.

“So what?” Zhou Shu said indifferently. “Tang Mao’er wants connate divine weapons to resist the demonic beasts. I only hate myself for not having the ability to help you. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have asked for any forging materials.”

Zhou Shu said righteously, “It doesn’t matter if I lose a little if I can help with resisting the invasion of the demonic beasts.”

Tang Mao’er was touched by his straightforwardness.

“I was wrong about you in the past. I apologize. You’re indeed our fellow comrade,” Tang Mao’er said seriously. “It’s settled then. I’ll provide the forging materials myself. Two times the forging materials for a connate divine weapon!”

“Wait!” Zheng Yongtai shouted. “Tang Mao’er, why can’t you be more steady? The matter hasn’t been settled yet!”

“Didn’t we already agree on the price?” Tang Mao’er asked.

“That’s only the general price. Can a custom-made connate divine weapon have the same price as any other connate divine weapon?” Zheng Yongtai said resentfully.

“Can connate divine weapons forged by different forgers have the same strength?”

“Also, if the forging fails even with twice as many forging materials, who will bear the loss? Forging isn’t as simple as you think!”

Zheng Yongtai didn’t expect Zhou Shu to be willing to accept such a low price. It made him panic.

He was also very envious of a big order of a hundred connate divine weapons. If he could accept this order, how many benefits would he get?

Previously, he was just probing Tang Mao’er. In addition, he wasn’t sure if he was joking about the one hundred connate divine weapons.

Now that he was sure that Tang Mao’er was serious, how could he not be anxious?

Tang Mao’er cupped his hands at Zhou Shu. “Brother Zhou, what do you say?”

“I just said that although I’m weak, I’m willing to contribute to resisting the demonic beasts,” Zhou Shu said seriously. “Whether it’s a customized connate divine weapon or something else, the price will be double the forging materials.

“If the forging still fails with double the forging materials, I’ll bear all the losses, and I promise to hand over the connate divine weapon to you.”

“This is against the rules!” Zheng Yongtai shouted. “Besides, if the forging fails, how are you going to forge the weapon? Do you have that many forging materials?”

Zhou Shu glanced at Zheng Yongtai. "Brother Zheng, since you've said that, I'll broaden your horizons."

It had to be said that these people from the grotto-heavens might have very high cultivations and might not be young, but maybe because they grew up in the grotto-heavens, their way of thinking was too simple.

Zhou Shu waved his hand, and a pile of forging materials appeared in front of them.

Zhou Shu clasped his hands behind his back and said calmly, "Do you think these forging materials are enough?"

Zheng Yongtai's and Tang Mao'er's eyes widened again.

Gulp—

Zheng Yongtai gulped. Damn it. You already have so many forging materials, yet you're still snatching business from me?

For the sake of the business of a mere hundred connate divine weapons, you can even accept twice the amount of forging materials as the price. Why are you doing this?

How shameless!

Zheng Yongtai cursed in his heart.

Zhou Shu smiled. "Brother Zheng, do you still suspect me?"

Wasn't it just a price war? Zhou Shu was familiar with it. If you want to snatch business from me, your Sima Grotto-Heaven won't have it easy.

"Tang Mao'er, if the forging materials you have are not suitable, I can lend them to you first. After all, war can't wait. The earlier the soldiers use connate divine weapons, the higher their chances of winning when fighting demonic beasts.

"Tang Mao'er, although our Ten Nations have meager strength, we are duty-bound to resist the demonic beasts. This is my sincerity!"

Chapter 734 Transaction with the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven, Rejection (1)

Before Zhou Shu finished speaking, Zheng Yongtai was already cursing in his heart.

If you want to contribute to resisting demonic beasts, why don't you provide connate divine weapons for free?

...

How can someone like you be considered weak?

You can defeat Tang Mao'er with one move.

Zheng Yongtai was depressed that he had lost an opportunity, but Tang Mao'er looked at Zhou Shu with a touched expression. "Brother Zhou, from now on, you're my brother!"

Zhou Shu was speechless. It's just business. Don't talk about friendship with me. If you talk about friendship, won't I have to give you a discount?

Even if you want to be competitive, you can't do this. Zheng Yongtai's eyes were green.

"Tang Mao'er, let's get back to business. Do you have any requirements for the connate divine weapons you want?" Zhou Shu said. "Or rather, who are you planning to give the connate divine weapons to? You can ask them to come over and tell me."

"Brother Zhou, are you trying to say that you can forge any connate divine weapon?" Zheng Yongtai narrowed his eyes angrily.

"Of course," Zhou Shu said matter-of-factly.

Zheng Yongtai laughed loudly. "There are countless types of weapons. No matter how talented a forger is, it's already very rare for him to be proficient in one or two types in his life. How dare you say that you can forge any kind of connate divine weapon? Tang Mao'er, I think he might be a fraud!"

"What a joke. Just because you can't do it yourself, it doesn't mean others can't." Zhou Shu sneered. "I thought you people who came from grotto-heavens were all knowledgeable. I didn't expect you to be so superficial."

Zheng Yongtai shuddered and suddenly realized that Zhou Shu was a ruthless person who could fight. Wasn't he asking for a beating by talking about him like this in front of him? "Brother Zhou, I'm not targeting you. I'm just stating a fact."

"I know." Zhou Shu waved his hand. "Alright, Brother Zheng, this has nothing to do with you. This is between me and Tang Mao'er. Shouldn't you leave?"

"Tang Mao'er is my brother. I have to help him," Zheng Yongtai said.

Zhou Shu rolled his eyes, ignored him, and looked at Tang Mao'er instead.

Tang Mao'er pondered for a moment and said, "I want connate divine weapons to equip an elite army. The goal is to resist demonic beasts, so the lethality of the connate divine weapons must be high enough."

"Then, the saber is more suitable." Zhou Shu nodded. "But it's best to customize connate divine weapons according to people. You can bring your soldiers over. I'll forge a weapon for each of them."

"Well... I haven't recruited anyone yet," Tang Mao'er said embarrassedly.

Zhou Shu: "..."

"Alright. Come find me when you've recruited someone," Zhou Shu said. "At the price I just mentioned, I will forge a hundred connate divine weapons for you."

Buzz—

Before Zhou Shu could finish speaking, he suddenly raised his eyebrows and looked in a direction.

The air rippled like water, and then a bronze chariot slowly drove out of the air.

The bronze chariot was dozens of feet long and had dragons and phoenixes carved on its surface. It looked more like a palace than a chariot.

At this moment, Zheng Yongtai and Tang Mao'er also turned to look, their faces filled with surprise.

"It's my uncle," Tang Mao'er said.

"His uncle is the superintendent of the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven, Tang Qianluo," Zheng Yongtai added.

Just as the two of them finished speaking, they saw the bronze chariot, or rather, the door of the bronze palace open. A male voice came from inside. "I heard that Great Qin's Side-by-side King is here. Please come in."

Zhou Shu's heart skipped a beat. He's here to look for me?

The title Tang Qianluo used for Zhou Shu was quite interesting. This was Great Qin's territory, and he called Zhou Shu the Side-by-side King of Great Qin. Zhou Shu wondered what his intention was.

"Uncle, Zhou Shu is my brother. Don't make things difficult for him!" Tang Mao'er suddenly shouted.

"Impudent!" Tang Qianluo's berating voice came from the palace. "Tang Tang, you're really becoming more and more unruly! King Zhou's status is respected. How can you call him your brother?!"

Zhou Shu glanced at Tang Mao'er. Only now did he know that Tang Mao'er's name was Tang Tang.

With a smile, Zhou Shu patted Tang Mao'er, or rather, Tang Tang's shoulder and stepped forward.

With a step, Zhou Shu arrived at the entrance of the bronze palace. The next step was to enter.

With Zhou Shu's current cultivation, even if it was a tiger's den, he dared to take the risk.

Tang Qianluo's attitude didn't scare him.

After stepping through the door, Zhou Shu felt the door behind him close with a bang. He looked up.

The interior of this bronze palace was several times larger than the outside, and the decorations were extremely luxurious.

But there were only two people in the hall. One was a middle-aged man sitting in the middle, and Zhou Shu actually knew the other person!

It was Tang Shiliu, who had appeared on the battlefield and blocked several Demon Kings during the previous battle.

Now, Tang Shiliu stood behind the middle-aged man like a guard.

Obviously, this middle-aged man was the person in charge of the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven, Tang Mao'er's uncle, Tang Qianluo.

Although the name was a little feminine, Tang Qianluo didn't look feminine at all. As he sat there, the aura of a superior assaulted Zhou Shu. Just by looking at his appearance, he looked more authoritative than the emperors of the various nations.

Chapter 735 Transaction with the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven, Rejection (2)

Tang Qianluo patted the armrest of his chair and said loudly, "I've heard a lot about you, King Zhou. You're indeed a dragon among men, a young hero."

"Senior Tang, you flatter me." Zhou Shu didn't know how to address Tang Qianluo, so he could only address him as senior.

...

"What can I do for you, Senior Tang?"

Although Zhou Shu had thought of negotiating with the higher-ups of these grotto-heavens, he didn't expect Tang Qianluo to come so quickly and find him directly.

Logically speaking, even if the higher-ups of these grotto-heavens wanted to talk to someone, they should go to the emperors of the Ten Nations.

"King Zhou, please sit," Tang Qianluo said unhurriedly. He raised his hand and beckoned, and a chair automatically flew behind Zhou Shu.

His every move was without any aura, like an immortal.

Zhou Shu's expression didn't change as he sat down.

This bronze palace was not bad, but it was just not bad. It was inferior to his Lingxiao Treasure Palace.

After Zhou Shu sat down, Tang Qianluo slowly said, "I came this time to discuss a transaction with you, King Zhou."

"A transaction?" Zhou Shu was a little surprised. He had just discussed one with Tang Mao'er, and then the head of the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven came to discuss another with him?

The problem was that this was the first time he had met Tang Qianluo. What kind of transaction could they have?

Although Zhou Shu wouldn't belittle himself, he wouldn't be arrogant.

These grotto-heavens had been passed down for ten thousand years and had a deep foundation. Zhou Shu didn't think that he could be on equal footing with them.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that Zhou Shu was probably only at the level worthy of interacting with Tang Mao'er, Zheng Yongtai, and the other juniors. Tang Qianluo, the head of a grotto-heaven, had a much higher cultivation and status than Zhou Shu.

To be honest, even the Great Qin emperor and Emperor Yuan Feng were inferior to existences like Tang Qianluo.

It had to be said that the greatest impact of the appearance of the grotto-heavens was the change in status.

A grotto-heaven was comparable to a powerful nation. They would choose how to interact with the various nations. The initiative was completely not with the various nations but with the grotto-heavens.

This was determined by strength. Even Zhou Shu couldn't do anything about it.

Tang Qianluo was not the master of the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven. But if the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven was a nation, he would be the emperor of the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven. The master of the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven should be the god of the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven.

No matter what, Tang Qianluo's status was definitely extraordinary.

"May I know what transaction Senior Tang wants to make with me?" Zhou Shu looked at Tang Qianluo.

Tang Qianluo smiled. "King Zhou, you made storms in the Demon Realm, and you have helped us humans vent our anger."

"I was just trying to survive. Senior Tang, just say what you have to say," Zhou Shu said.

In the Demon Realm, although he had made storms, the whole army had almost been completely wiped out in the end. To Zhou Shu, this was not a glorious thing.

Tang Qianluo was speechless and smiled. "King Zhou, you are a straightforward person. In that case, I won't beat around the bush.

"King Zhou, you should have a Divine Stone. I wonder if you can give it up? Also, I want to buy a batch of the forging materials you obtained in the Demon Realm.

"As for the price, I will definitely satisfy you. I have some gold, silver, and jewelry."

The smile on Tang Qianluo's face was perfect.

Zhou Shu frowned.

He indeed had a Divine Stone in his hand. Ji Lutian had handed it to Zhou Shu through Cao Chenyang and the others.

Not many people knew about this. How did Tang Qianluo know?

As for the forging materials he had obtained in the Demon Realm, it wasn't too much of a secret.

Zhou Shu pondered for a moment before saying, "I'm sorry, Senior Tang. I still have use for the Divine Stone. I'm afraid I won't be able to sell it to you."

Divine Stones were the key to the existence of inner worlds in connate divine weapons. Even now, Zhou Shu wasn't very sure how Divine Stones came about. Back at the Demon Realm Ancestral Court, Bai Qianqian had once said that they were refined from the heavens.

Although Zhou Shu didn't understand the specific process, it was obvious that Divine Stones were definitely extraordinary.

Now, Tang Qianluo's reaction proved this.

If it was an ordinary forging material, was it worth him, the head of a grotto-heaven, personally appearing?

Tang Qianluo wanted to use gold, silver, and jewelry to exchange for the Divine Stone. He was bullying him for his ignorance.

Displeasure flashed across Tang Qianluo's eyes. "Maybe I didn't express myself clearly.

"King Zhou, the Divine Stone is related to the plan to resist the demonic beasts. It's useless for you to keep it. Give it to me. My Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven won't mistreat you."

Zhou Shu sneered in his heart. Are you trying to take the moral high ground?

The Divine Stone is related to the plan to resist demonic beasts?

So what?

Then, should I give you the Divine Stone?

Do you really think I'm a three-year-old child?

"Senior Tang, I will not shrink from resisting the demonic beasts. But this Divine Stone is really useful to me," Zhou Shu said seriously. "To be honest with you, Senior Tang, I've already used the Divine Stone to forge—"

"Impossible!" Tang Qianluo interrupted Zhou Shu. "King Zhou, if you think that my grotto-heaven has been in seclusion for many years and knows nothing about the outside world, you're wrong.

"King Zhou, I know about you. With your current cultivation, you can't use the Divine Stone."

Zhou Shu looked at Tang Qianluo. This isn't going according to plan.

I was just looking for an excuse to reject you. Why did you take it seriously?

Don't you know that the truth hurts?

Zhou Shu looked at Tang Qianluo. "Senior Tang, I'm not selling the Divine Stone."

Tang Qianluo frowned slightly. "King Zhou, I've given you enough face by coming personally. Do you want to reconsider?"

If the soft approach doesn't work, is he going to use the hard approach? Zhou Shu had nothing to be afraid of. Although a grotto-heaven was strong, he wasn't a pushover.

"Senior Tang, since you've investigated me, you should know the origin of the Divine Stone I have," Zhou Shu asked solemnly.

"Of course." Tang Qianluo nodded.

Zhou Shu was stunned. Not many people knew about the Divine Stone. Where did Tang Qianluo find out?

"I obtained the Divine Stone from Ji Lutian. Senior Tang, if you need Divine Stones, why don't you look for him? He might have other Divine Stones," Zhou Shu continued. "As for the Divine Stone in my hand, I won't sell it."

"You want to use Ji Lutian to suppress me?" Tang Qianluo snorted coldly. An invisible aura spread out, and the temperature in the entire palace seemed to drop by a few degrees.

“Senior Tang, why do you say that?” Five towering mountains appeared in Zhou Shu’s mind. He circulated the spiritual essence in his body and activated the Eight-Nine Arcane Art. His expression didn’t change as he said, “I’m just telling you another way to obtain Divine Stones.

“Since it’s a transaction, I can naturally choose not to sell it. Senior Tang, are you planning to use your power to suppress me?”

Zhou Shu looked at Tang Qianluo without any intention of backing down.

Tang Qianluo stared straight into Zhou Shu’s eyes. After a long while, he laughed loudly. “As expected of the person chosen by Ji Lutian, you’re really a young talent!

“Since you’re unwilling to part with it, I won’t make things difficult for you. Let’s forget about this matter.”

Zhou Shu rejected the transaction with the Divine Stone, and Tang Qianluo no longer mentioned the other forging materials. It was as if he didn’t care about the other forging materials at all.

After exchanging a few more words with Zhou Shu, Tang Qianluo directly opened the door and sent him off.

Just as Zhou Shu stepped out of the bronze palace, he heard a bang behind him. When he turned around, the bronze palace had already disappeared.

Tang Mao’er flew over and said nervously, “Brother Zhou, why did my uncle look for you?”

He had asked to purchase connate divine weapons from Zhou Shu privately. The military funds were not for him to do this.

“It’s nothing.” Zhou Shu had a thoughtful expression on his face as he shook his head. “Tang Mao’er, I still have something to do. When you need to forge connate divine weapons later, just bring people and materials to look for me. We’ll meet again!”

Before he finished speaking, Zhou Shu had already turned into a stream of light and disappeared into the horizon. The direction he disappeared in was toward Great Qin’s capital.

Chapter 736 Ji Lutian’s Origin, Dealing with the Great Change (1)

Great Qin’s capital...

The Qin emperor was sitting cross-legged, his pale face flushed.

...

He had already taken the Essence Cleansing Pill that Zhou Shu had given to Xu Shi, and Xu Shi had sent someone to deliver it as quickly as possible.

It had to be said that the Essence Cleansing Pill was indeed very effective for the Qin emperor.

Great Qin’s imperial cauldron had shattered, and the Qin emperor had been implicated. Now, he had lost more than half of his cultivation, and the meridians in his body were almost torn apart.

If not for the Essence Cleansing Pill, even if he could wake up in this life, he would probably be useless in the future.

But the Essence Cleansing Pill had the effect of a complete transformation and could treat the Qin emperor's injuries.

Of course, it was impossible for him to recover his first-rank Martial Dao cultivation. He would have to cultivate it back himself in the future.

The Qin emperor was already satisfied with the current effect. After all, he had already been prepared to die.

Suddenly, the Qin emperor opened his eyes and shouted, "Who is it?!"

A breeze blew past, and a figure suddenly appeared in front of him.

"You've lost most of your cultivation, yet you still have such sharp senses. Qin Emperor, with your aptitude, even if you cultivated step by step back then, you could have still become a first-rank martial artist. Why did you take a shortcut and use the imperial cauldron?" Zhou Shu looked at the Qin emperor.

"So, it's you." The Qin emperor heaved a sigh of relief. He and Zhou Shu had only met a few times, and the process of their previous meeting was not very pleasant.

But when he saw Zhou Shu, the Qin emperor felt an inexplicable sense of security. He didn't know where this feeling came from.

"I didn't expect you to really return from the Demon Realm," the Qin emperor said.

"I didn't expect it either," Zhou Shu said. "Qin Emperor, I didn't come to chat with you."

"I know. There's nothing to chat about between you and me," the Qin emperor said. "Tell me. Why are you looking for me? I owe you my life now. If there's anything you need, just tell me. If I can do it, I won't decline."

Without Zhou Shu's Essence Cleansing Pill, the Qin emperor would have been useless in the future. With his pride, it was impossible for him to accept such an outcome. In the end, he would have just killed himself.

Therefore, it wasn't an exaggeration to say that he owed Zhou Shu his life.

"You're exaggerating. I just came over to ask you something." Zhou Shu shook his head. "Do you still remember Ji Lutian?"

"You want to know about Ji Lutian?" The Qin emperor understood. How could he not remember Ji Lutian?

Speaking of which, the destruction of Great Qin's imperial cauldron was related to Ji Lutian.

If not for Ji Lutian's plan a hundred years ago, Great Qin's imperial cauldron wouldn't have been damaged in the first place. If Great Qin's imperial cauldron hadn't been damaged, it wouldn't have shattered under the attacks of the demonic beasts.

If Great Qin's imperial cauldron hadn't shattered, he wouldn't have been injured.

But then again, without Ji Lutian's plan back then, it wouldn't have been so easy for the Qin emperor to become the number one person in the Ten Nations.

"Yes." Zhou Shu nodded. "I think you should know what happened in front of the barrier between the two worlds. You know Ji Lutian better than me. I want to know his true origin!"

Now, anyone with a discerning eye wouldn't believe that Ji Lutian was just the Great Qin forger Ji Lutian. Or rather, Ji Lutian already wasn't an ordinary person back then.

"I know." The Qin emperor nodded. "Ji Lutian's cultivation back then had already surpassed the first rank of the Martial Dao. If not for this, why would Great Qin have bet on an opportunity with the destiny of a nation?"

"Actually, when we chose to cooperate with Ji Lutian back then, Great Qin already thought of the possibility of failure.

"You are the Side-by-side King of Great Qin. You are qualified to know about Ji Lutian."

As the Qin emperor spoke, he slowly stood up. "Follow me."

The Qin emperor emphasized that Zhou Shu was Great Qin's Side-by-side King to convince himself.

After all, everything about Ji Lutian was a secret of the Great Qin imperial family. A hundred years later, only the Qin emperor knew the truth of this secret.

Even Xu Shi and the officials of Great Qin only knew the modified story.

The Qin emperor walked in front of a wall and swiped his hand across it. With a rustling sound, the wall parted, revealing a dark hole.

The Qin emperor gestured to Zhou Shu and walked in.

Zhou Shu didn't hesitate and followed the Qin emperor in.

After walking down hundreds of steps, Zhou Shu's eyes lit up. He found that they had arrived at an underground space.

The space was not big, only four or five steps long and wide. On the walls, there was a row of priceless night pearls. Other than these things, there was only a table and a chair in the middle of the space. On the table were a few thick books.

"This is all the information related to Ji Lutian that the Great Qin imperial family has." The Qin emperor pointed at the books on the table. "Ever since the late emperor met Ji Lutian, we've been secretly investigating his background. Although we've gained something, we haven't gained much.

"You can read it yourself. You might find what you need.

"But I advise you not to get your hopes up. Ji Lutian is not an ordinary person. He might have deliberately let me obtain this information."

The Qin emperor was a sensible person. He knew about Ji Lutian's mysteriousness from the beginning, but in order to become stronger, he chose to take the risk.

Chapter 737 Ji Lutian's Origin, Dealing with the Great Change (2)

Zhou Shu nodded. He had come to find the Qin emperor only to try his luck. After all, Ji Lutian was missing. Even if he could find him, Ji Lutian might not tell him anything.

Now, Zhou Shu realized that almost everything was related to Ji Lutian.

...

The Divine Stone had attracted the covetous eyes of the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven. Zhou Shu didn't believe that Ji Lutian had been forced to hand over the information about the Divine Stone to them.

Ji Lutian was not an ordinary person. How could he not know the value of the Divine Stone?

In addition, Ji Lutian had asked Yao Yi to give him the forging legacy of the Red Water Heaven of Dan Mountain. Not long ago, Tang Qianluo had said that he was chosen by Ji Lutian. These things made Zhou Shu extremely puzzled.

It was precisely because of this that he was in a hurry to leave the front line and come to Great Qin's capital to find the Qin emperor.

Since he couldn't find Ji Lutian now, he would investigate his background first!

Zhou Shu didn't mind the Qin emperor's presence. He sat on a chair and began to flip through the thick stack of information on the table.

Great Qin's intelligence bureau was very powerful. They had investigated Ji Lutian's eighteen generations of ancestors clearly.

From his birth to where he learned his forging techniques, when he became a forger, and when he revealed his talents in the Great Qin Imperial Court, almost everything was recorded in detail.

But the more Zhou Shu looked, the more he frowned.

He looked up at the Qin emperor.

The Qin emperor's expression was very calm as he said, "This is the result of two generations of Great Qin's investigation. I can guarantee that there's definitely nothing wrong with this investigation.

"On the surface, Ji Lutian's background is clean, and we are able to trace his every step."

"Then, why are you suspicious of him?" Zhou Shu frowned.

"It can't be considered suspicious," the Qin emperor said. "Ji Lutian didn't hide his extraordinariness from my father from the beginning. Otherwise, my father wouldn't have cooperated with his plan.

"He revealed his cultivation that surpassed the first rank of the Martial Dao in front of my father. At the time, he directly said that he didn't do this to help Great Qin but for another purpose.

"It's just that he didn't say what his motive was."

“So, you’ve investigated for so many years and found nothing?” Zhou Shu frowned. What was the point of hiding a pile of useless information in a secret chamber?

“Why don’t you read these first?” The Qin emperor pointed at the remaining books that Zhou Shu had yet to read.

Zhou Shu was puzzled, but he still took the books and flipped through them.

Zhou Shu’s expression changed slightly.

The next moment, he quickly flipped through the pages.

After more than two hours, Zhou Shu finally finished flipping through the last book. Then he raised his head and looked at the Qin emperor.

The Qin emperor’s expression was solemn as he slowly said, “Great Qin has investigated for a hundred years, and we have finally found something.

“This isn’t the first time Ji Lutian has appeared in the thousand years of Great Qin’s history.”

“Even the establishment of Great Qin is related to Ji Lutian,” Zhou Shu said in a low voice. “This can only mean that Ji Lutian has lived long enough...”

“Of course he has lived long enough,” the Qin emperor said with a serious expression. “That’s not the most important problem. You should be able to tell that Ji Lutian is from the Heavenly Mountain Villa!

“Or rather, he’s the master of the Heavenly Mountain Villa and the person in charge of the ranking of the Armament Manual.”

The information that Great Qin had spent a hundred years collecting was extremely detailed after being screened and classified by professional intelligence personnel.

Zhou Shu didn’t doubt the authenticity of this information, nor did he doubt the level of Great Qin’s intelligence personnel.

But even if Ji Lutian was really the master of the Heavenly Mountain Villa, there was nothing strange about it. It still couldn’t resolve the doubts in his heart.

Ji Lutian’s background was definitely not ordinary. There was no doubt about it. Moreover, from the previous situation, Zheng Sanguang of the Sima Grotto-Heaven should know him.

Otherwise, even though Ji Lutian was seriously injured at the time, it would be impossible for Zheng Sanguang to bring him away.

Now that they knew that Ji Lutian was the master of the Heavenly Mountain Villa, it was just another identity. They still knew nothing about the origin of the Heavenly Mountain Villa.

“He’s already mysterious enough. Even adding the identity of the master of the Heavenly Mountain Villa won’t change anything,” Zhou Shu said solemnly. “What I want to know is his true origin and his true goal.”

"I'm afraid only he knows." The Qin emperor shook his head. "I even suspect that he deliberately let us find out about him.

"Otherwise, with how meticulous he is, it's impossible for him to leave any clues."

Zhou Shu nodded. He had personally experienced Ji Lutian's schemes.

He sighed. With Ji Lutian's style, it was unlikely that he would leave any flaws. He had thought too well. It seemed that it was impossible to obtain any useful information in Great Qin.

If he wanted to know the truth, he could only wait until he met Ji Lutian in the future or think of a way...

Zhou Shu suddenly thought of something. "Qin emperor, before Ji Lutian went to the Demon Realm, he was an official in Great Qin for many years. Didn't he have any wives, concubines, or children?"

The Qin emperor shook his head. "Back then, he was obsessed with forging and didn't get close to women. Everyone in Great Qin knows this."

"Did he leave anything behind? Blood or hair or something?" Zhou Shu continued asking.

The Qin emperor didn't say anything. He looked at Zhou Shu with a strange expression.

Zhou Shu was also a little embarrassed. It sounded a little strange to ask for a man's blood and hair. It sounded like a pervert.

But if he wanted to use the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, he could only use these mediums.

Other than the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, Zhou Shu couldn't think of a better way to understand Ji Lutian's secrets.

"How do you know that Great Qin kept these things? Could it be that you also know witchcraft?" the Qin emperor asked.

Zhou Shu was stunned. There's witchcraft in this world?

But after hearing the Qin emperor's explanation, Zhou Shu suddenly understood. The witchcraft he mentioned was different from the witchcraft on Earth in his previous life.

What the Qin emperor was talking about should be curse techniques that could curse others through a medium.

It seemed that Great Qin didn't trust Ji Lutian completely back then.

A smile appeared on Zhou Shu's face. "Qin emperor, if you've really preserved Ji Lutian's hair or blood essence back then, perhaps we will know Ji Lutian's true goal."

What Tang Qianluo had said about Zhou Shu being chosen by Ji Lutian made Zhou Shu feel uneasy. He didn't know what this so-called chosen meant. In order to figure this out, he would rather endure the pain of using the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique.

As for being chosen by Ji Lutian, Zhou Shu even thought of the Legendary Armament Canon!

Ji Lutian's background was mysterious, and Zhou Shu's was not much different.

He came from another world, which was the deepest secret in his heart. He had never told anyone about it. The Legendary Armament Canon was also his biggest secret.

At the thought that this might be related to Ji Lutian, Zhou Shu felt his hair stand on end.

Therefore, no matter the price, he had to figure this out!

“Back then, just in case, my father thought of a way to obtain a drop of Ji Lutian’s blood essence and saved it with a secret technique,” the Qin emperor said solemnly.

The Qin emperor hesitated. “But Ji Lutian is mysterious and unpredictable, and his cultivation is extremely high. Moreover, he hasn’t shown any obvious hostility to us now, so there’s no need for us to do anything to him.”

“You’ve misunderstood.” Zhou Shu shook his head. “I don’t want to deal with Ji Lutian. I just want to figure out his goal. Qin Emperor, the world is probably going to change drastically. Our Ten Nations should be prepared in advance.

“Even if they’re not our enemies, knowing ourselves and the other side will at least put us in an invincible position. Don’t you think so?”

Chapter 738 Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique Failed, Fooling the Qin Emperor (1)

In the secret chamber of Great Qin’s imperial palace, the Qin emperor looked at Zhou Shu in bewilderment.

Zhou Shu was sitting cross-legged with his eyes closed, his breathing barely discernible.

...

His body was enveloped in a layer of faint white light. Those who didn’t know better would think that he was cultivating in peace. It didn’t look like he was using a divine ability at all.

The Qin emperor didn’t know what divine ability Zhou Shu was using, but it was different from what he had imagined. It was also different from the curse abilities he had seen before.

But now that he had already handed Ji Lutian’s blood essence to Zhou Shu, he could only wait for the outcome.

Boom!

A moment later, a powerful aura suddenly erupted from Zhou Shu’s body, and a powerful whirlwind burst out from his body.

The whirlwind smashed the tables and chairs in the secret chamber into pieces.

The Qin emperor couldn’t dodge in time and was slammed into the wall by the whirlwind. His chest tightened, and he spat out a mouthful of blood.

Fortunately, the whirlwind only lasted for an instant before Zhou Shu restrained his aura.

Otherwise, the Qin emperor would probably be seriously injured.

The Qin emperor's face was full of helplessness. If he hadn't lost most of his cultivation, he wouldn't have been in such a sorry state from the force.

Zhou Shu suddenly opened his eyes, his expression changing.

The Qin emperor endured the tightness in his chest and asked, "Did you find out?"

He was also very curious about Ji Lutian's background.

In the end, although it was his own choice that got him to where he was today, it also had a lot to do with Ji Lutian.

The Qin emperor didn't hate Ji Lutian, but he still wanted to know what Ji Lutian's true goal was.

"No." Zhou Shu shook his head with a solemn expression. "Ji Lutian is stronger than we imagined. My divine ability failed."

When the Qin emperor heard this, he didn't have a huge reaction.

But Zhou Shu's heart was in turmoil.

His Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique actually failed!

Ever since he obtained the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, this had never happened!

Previously, even when he entered the Demon King Ao dream, it was extremely smooth. But this time, he actually failed!

Thinking of what had happened when he used the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, Zhou Shu still found it difficult to calm down.

Just now, he had used the blood essence of Ji Lutian that Great Qin had preserved as a medium to use the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique. After entering the dream, he saw a ball of light that was like a sun.

Just as he was about to throw himself into the light, a powerful force erupted from the light and flicked him back to reality.

This unprecedented experience made Zhou Shu realize that Ji Lutian might be stronger than he had imagined. He was so strong that even the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique couldn't pry into his past.

Of course, this might also be because Zhou Shu's cultivation was too low. Otherwise, he might have been able to successfully use the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique.

What Zhou Shu didn't know was that the moment he used the Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique, Ji Lutian suddenly opened his eyes in an unknown place.

"What happened?" a middle-aged man opposite Ji Lutian asked.

"It's nothing." Ji Lutian shook his head with a puzzled expression. "I felt like someone was spying on me just now."

“How is that possible?” The middle-aged man laughed. “No one can enter the Sima Grotto-Heaven without alerting me. Even those beasts in the Demon Realm can’t do it.

“Maybe you’re too heavily injured and your spiritual sense is damaged, so you’re uneasy.”

The middle-aged man continued, “If you hadn’t insisted on cutting your cultivation, how could you have been injured to this extent by those demonic beasts?”

“This injury is nothing. With your help, I’ll recover after recuperating for a while.” Ji Lutian seemed unwilling to say more on this topic. He shook his head and smiled.

The middle-aged man smiled bitterly and didn’t say anything. He activated his spiritual essence and continued to help Ji Lutian circulate his energy to heal his injuries.

...

Great Qin, in the secret chamber of the Qin palace...

Zhou Shu looked at the Qin emperor, who was disheveled with blood on his chest, and said in surprise, “Did an enemy attack just now? How did you end up like that?”

Even with the Qin emperor’s cultivation, he couldn’t help rolling his eyes.

Don’t you know why I’m like this?

So what if your cultivation is high?

If I wasn’t seriously injured, you wouldn’t have been able to hurt me.

The Qin emperor didn’t want to say anything else about this embarrassing matter. He waved his hand and said, “It’s fine. Your divine ability failed, and we won’t be able to know Ji Lutian’s goal. What other plans do you have?”

Zhou Shu was stunned for a moment. “Shouldn’t I be asking you this? Qin Emperor, you are the ruler of a country. Now that the grotto-heavens have appeared, the changes in the world will affect you emperors the most.

“As for me, I’m not bragging, but regardless of whether the grotto-heavens appear or if the Demon Realm invades, even if the worst outcome is that the Demon Realm really occupies the Ten Nations Continent, do you believe that I can still survive?”

The Qin emperor was silent. Of course he believed him.

Although the Qin emperor didn’t know how high Zhou Shu’s cultivation was, he was certain that if Zhou Shu wanted to live, there weren’t many people in the world who could kill him.

“Yes, I believe you,” the Qin emperor said in a deep voice. “But if the Ten Nations Continent falls, is there any point in you living alone among demonic beasts?”

“Heh, Qin emperor, you don’t have to provoke me.” Zhou Shu smiled disdainfully.

“What’s wrong with living among demonic beasts? You might not know, but Ji Lutian has a son with a demonic beast.

“Of course. I’m just saying. I definitely won’t join the Demon Realm. It’s naturally best if I can protect the Ten Nations.”

Zhou Shu was telling the truth. Putting Great Qin aside, Great Xia was the hometown of his body after all. Moreover, one of his two women was a princess of Great Xia, and the other was a female general of Great Xia. It was impossible for Zhou Shu to ignore them.

Chapter 739 Zhuang Zhou Butterfly Dream Technique Failed, Fooling the Qin Emperor (2)

The Qin emperor was silent for a moment before slowly saying, “I don’t know much about the grotto-heavens. So far, all I know is that they’re powerful, far above the Ten Nations.

“From the looks of it, they appeared to resist the demonic beasts of the Demon Realm...”

...

“Qin Emperor, you don’t naively think that they’re resisting the demonic beasts to help the Ten Nations, do you?” Zhou Shu said.

No matter how one looked at it, the people of the grotto-heavens didn’t look like selfless people.

It was true that they were resisting the invasion of the demonic beasts of the Demon Realm, but it might not be to protect the Ten Nations.

From Tang Mao’er’s attitude toward Xu Shi and the others, it was evident that the people of the grotto-heavens thought highly of themselves and didn’t take the people of the Ten Nations seriously at all.

The Qin emperor hesitated. “We’re all humans after all...”

“Qin Emperor, if you really think so, then I’m leaving,” Zhou Shu said angrily. “You’re right. We’re all humans. If you’re willing to submit to the grotto-heavens, they definitely won’t kill you easily.

“At most, there will be no Great Qin and the Qin emperor in this world.”

Zhou Shu stood up to leave.

“Wait!”

Just as Zhou Shu took a step, he heard the Qin emperor shout from behind him.

“Qin Emperor, I’m the Side-by-side King of Great Qin. You can’t control me,” Zhou Shu said.

“You don’t have to emphasize this to me. I know you’re Great Qin’s Side-by-side King!”

How could the Qin emperor not hear the sarcasm in Zhou Shu’s tone? If Great Qin was gone, so would the Qin emperor and the Side-by-side King.

“As long as I don’t die, Great Qin will never become anyone’s vassal!” the Qin emperor said solemnly.

“Do you think it’s hard to kill you?” Zhou Shu asked.

“So what? There are no men in Great Qin who are afraid of death!” The Qin emperor finally regained some of his domineeringness.

"I know you're deliberately provoking me. Don't worry. Even though I've lost most of my cultivation, I'm still the emperor of Great Qin. I won't give up so easily."

"You're thinking too much. Your life and death has nothing to do with me. The rise and fall of Great Qin has nothing to do with me." Zhou Shu shook his head.

"We both know what's with the Side-by-side King title. If I really had to work for Great Qin just because of an undeserved reputation, I'd have to worry about nine of the Ten Nations."

Zhou Shu looked at the Qin emperor. "I said so much because I wanted to ask you if you want to recover your cultivation or even improve further."

"Of course! I dream of it!"

Originally, when he heard Zhou Shu's words, the Qin emperor was a little unhappy. But after hearing Zhou Shu's last sentence, he immediately said firmly, "If you can help me recover my cultivation, then from now on, you will be the true Side-by-side King of Great Qin!"

Zhou Shu naturally understood what the Qin emperor meant by this.

Although he carried the title of 'Side-by-side King', he could at most command Wang Mu and the others. He would never be able to stand side by side with the Qin emperor.

Now, the Qin emperor's words meant that Zhou Shu would truly have the same supreme authority as him.

But Zhou Shu didn't care at all. Not to mention being a side-by-side king, he wasn't even willing to be an emperor.

How many things would he have to worry about? He wouldn't be as carefree as he was now.

"That's not important," Zhou Shu continued. "If you just want to recover your first-rank Martial Dao cultivation, it's not difficult. But if you want to improve further, there's the biggest problem."

"What?" the Qin emperor asked.

"I just learned not long ago that the Martial Dao of the Ten Nations is lacking, and it's impossible to cultivate to the Earth Immortal realm," Zhou Shu said.

"If you want to improve further above the first rank, the first thing you have to do is to complete the Martial Dao you cultivate."

"Ji Lutian should know this. When he said that the power of the Demon Realm would allow you to become an expert above the first rank, he must have fooled you."

The Qin emperor's face turned black. He had actually not blamed Ji Lutian before. After all, he was the one who made the choice back then.

But now that he heard Zhou Shu say this, anger rose in his heart. Ji Lutian clearly knew that this was impossible, but he still encouraged him to do it?

This was different!

The Qin emperor really wanted to find Ji Lutian and grab his collar to ask him what Great Qin had done to him and why he had done this!

"Of course, it's hard to say what Ji Lutian might have planned. We don't know either," Zhou Shu continued.

The Qin emperor was a straightforward and decisive person. He didn't dwell on this problem for too long. He looked at Zhou Shu and asked solemnly, "How do I complete my Martial Dao?"

Zhou Shu raised an index finger. "There's a way. The various grotto-heavens are about to open their doors to recruit disciples. As long as you become a disciple of the grotto-heavens, you can naturally learn the complete Martial Dao."

"Isn't that circling back?" The Qin emperor snorted. "If I'm willing to be a vassal of the grotto-heavens, what's the point of my cultivation recovering?"

"What was the difference between becoming a disciple of the grotto-heavens and making Great Qin a vassal of the grotto-heavens?"

"I knew you wouldn't be willing." Zhou Shu smiled. "Actually, even if you're willing, the grotto-heavens might not accept you."

"Therefore, we can only use another method."

"What method?" the Qin emperor asked.

"A deal."

"A deal?"

"That's right. A deal!" Zhou Shu said. "The grotto-heavens suddenly appeared and even sent people to resist the Demon Realm army. There must be something they're looking for."

"To you, this is an opportunity."

"Qin Emperor, you only need to negotiate with the people of the grotto-heavens. You can satisfy their needs in exchange for a complete Martial Dao cultivation technique."

The Qin emperor frowned. "If I could obtain the cultivation technique myself, I wouldn't need your help at all."

"It's not that simple." Zhou Shu shook his head. "Do you think you can satisfy their requests so easily?"

"Think about it. The grotto-heavens have been in seclusion for many years. Now that they've suddenly appeared, do you think their goal will be something small?"

"Without my help, do you think you can exchange for a complete cultivation technique from the grotto-heavens?"

"I see what you mean." The Qin emperor looked at Zhou Shu. "You don't want to show your face to negotiate with the people of the grotto-heavens, so you want me to negotiate on your behalf."

"Of course you have to do your part." Zhou Shu shook his head. "All I can do is help you."

"If you're not willing to work hard yourself, how can I help you?"

"Qin Emperor, do you think they won't come to you if you don't negotiate with the grotto-heavens?"

"It's only a matter of time. Since they've already appeared, it's impossible for them not to deal with the Ten Nations."

"What you have to do now is to take the initiative."

The Qin emperor looked at Zhou Shu and asked, "What good will it do you if I do this?"

"What good will it do me? I'm just helping you." Zhou Shu shrugged. "Of course, as long as Great Qin isn't destroyed, I, the Side-by-side King, will more or less have some benefits."

"Why do I keep feeling like you're up to no good?" The Qin emperor looked at Zhou Shu suspiciously.

"Qin Emperor, you're judging a gentleman by your own standards!" Zhou Shu said righteously. "Tell me. Which of what I'm saying isn't for your own good? What benefits can I gain from it?"

"I've said what I needed to say. Whether you're willing to do it or not is up to you."

Zhou Shu shrugged. "In any case, having or not having Great Qin doesn't affect me. On the other hand, as the Qin emperor, how much value do you have without Great Qin?"

Chapter 740 Capturing Zhou Shu, Hero or Traitor (1)

Zhou Shu didn't stay in Great Qin's capital for long. After leaving the palace, he returned to the front line.

With him was naturally the Qin emperor.

...

Seeing the bronze chariots that stretched for hundreds of kilometers under the torn section of the barrier between the two worlds, the Qin emperor revealed a look of shock.

"Those are just people casually sent out by the Sima Grotto-Heaven and the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven," Zhou Shu said emotionally.

It had to be said that without the power of the grotto-heavens, it would be impossible for the human race to withstand the invasion of the Demon Realm.

Just the two armies sent by the Sima Grotto-Heaven and the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven had already exceeded the strength of the Ten Nations.

But such strength was far inferior to the Demon Realm army. Without them, the Ten Nations would be unable to resist at all.

"How many grotto-heavens are there in this world?" the Qin emperor murmured.

"Of the human grotto-heavens, I know of sixteen," Zhou Shu said with his hands behind his back.

The 20,000-strong army of the Sima Grotto-Heaven and Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven had set up a defense line at the gap between the Demon Realm and the Ten Nations Continent. Although the Ten Nations Alliance and Great Qin's elite soldiers had retreated, they had also set up camp thirty kilometers away.

Resisting the invasion of the Demon Realm was not a matter of one group, let alone on Great Qin's territory.

"Sixteen..." Although the Qin emperor had obtained some information before, it was only now that he truly understood what Zhou Shu had said.

The strength of the Ten Nations was not on the same level as the grotto-heavens' at all.

If the grotto-heavens wanted to annex the Ten Nations, it would be a piece of cake. The Ten Nations wouldn't even have a chance to resist.

If he, the Qin emperor, didn't make preparations in advance, would he have to watch helplessly as Great Qin became a vassal of the grotto-heavens?

But was he really qualified to negotiate with the grotto-heavens?

The Qin emperor himself was no longer confident. Just the 20,000 people sent by the grotto-heavens were enough to sweep through Great Qin. What right did Great Qin have to negotiate with them?

"Do you feel a little desperate?" Zhou Shu turned to look at the Qin emperor.

The Qin emperor was silent.

Zhou Shu said, "Actually, without these grotto-heavens, you would have been even more desperate.

"The grotto-heaven may or may not be our enemy, but the Demon Realm is our true enemy.

Zhou Shu continued, "If not for these grotto-heavens, with the strength of the Ten Nations, they wouldn't be a match for the demonic beasts of the Demon Realm at all. At that time, it would be true despair. The demonic beasts wouldn't show mercy to the human race.

"No matter what, the people of the grotto-heavens are still humans. As long as they can resist the demonic beasts now, at worst, it will be a change of dynasties..."

The Qin emperor rolled his eyes inwardly. A change of dynasties? You make it sound so easy!

You're not the one who's going to suffer!

But it was true that changing dynasties didn't affect Zhou Shu much. Only he, the emperor, was the most affected.

The Qin emperor pondered and said, "You're right. With their strength, if they wanted to change dynasties, they could have done it long ago. Since they haven't done it so far, it means that there's still room for negotiation."

As the Qin emperor spoke, he walked toward the defense line of the bronze chariots.

He came here to come into contact with people of the grotto-heavens.

Although the grotto-heavens had appeared, neither the Qin emperor nor Zhou Shu knew where they were.

This was the only place they could come into contact with people of the grotto-heavens.

This was why Zhou Shu had brought the Qin emperor here.

The reason Zhou Shu was tricking the Qin emperor into negotiating with the people of the grotto-heavens was actually to test the waters.

What Tang Qianluo said made Zhou Shu feel a little uneasy.

He would let the Qin emperor figure out the details of the grotto-heavens first so that he could decide what to do next.

The Qin emperor walked into the camp of the Sima Grotto-Heaven and the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven. Before he returned, Zhou Shu saw a figure walk out of the camp.

This person didn't seem to be fast, but with every step he took, he covered several kilometers. In a few steps, he had already arrived at the human camp thirty kilometers away.

Zhou Shu's pupils constricted slightly. This person was an expert at the Grotto-Heaven realm!

Previously, Zhou Shu already knew that Zheng Yongtai and Tang Tang were in charge of the defense of the Sima Grotto-Heaven and the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven here. When did this Grotto-Heaven expert come?

He had a bad feeling.

The Qin emperor had gone to the other party's camp to negotiate and had yet to return. What was this Grotto-Heaven expert doing here?

Before Zhou Shu could speak, the person had already arrived in front of him.

"You're Zhou Shu?" The person's attitude was a little arrogant. He sized up Zhou Shu.

"That's me. Who are you?" Zhou Shu had a personality. If someone respected him, he would also respect them. If someone treated him impolitely, he definitely wouldn't hesitate to treat them the same way.

"Tang Qi." The person spat out two words. "Follow me."

"Follow you?" Zhou Shu frowned. "What do you mean?"

"Hmph." Tang Qi snorted. "Because of you, the Demon Kings of the Demon Realm woke early, causing the barrier between the two worlds to be damaged in advance. The human race is in danger. I was ordered to capture you."

"You'll get a chance to explain. But for now, you just have to come with me."

Tang Qi placed his hands behind his back with a proud expression. He didn't consider Zhou Shu's rejection at all.

“Are you joking?” Zhou Shu’s expression darkened.

The person with the surname Tang was most likely from the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven.

Not long ago, he had met the head of the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven, Tang Qianluo. At the time, Tang Qianluo hadn’t spoken to him like this.

Capture me?

Who gave the Xu Ling Grotto-Heaven the right?

Is it because I didn’t sell the Divine Stone to Tang Qianluo that they’ve deliberately come to cause trouble?

But this method of causing trouble was really inventive.

“Who are you? Who gave you the order?” Zhou Shu said coldly. “Capture me?”