

## Carefree 151

### [Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

#### Chapter 151: Spy

At the Eighth month, The Imperial Advisor of Wu Country, Wu Wudao, led an army of 100,000 troops to invade the Secluded Mountain Prefecture, destroying everything he came across.

Within 10 days, he was able to take control of two counties, as he pushed the boundaries closer and closer to the Secluded Mountain Prefecture City, signalling his intention to destroy the Prefecture. As the word spread, the entire country was in shock.

Cangshan City.

The city was built around the mountainous areas, and its geographical location was of extreme importance, as it was right at the edge of the Prefecture City. Following a plain would lead one straight to the Prefecture City, and was therefore intensely fought over by both sides.

Fang Yuan led his army of 20,000 troops across the wilderness and into Cangshan City, ready to face the 100,000-men strong army from the Wu Country.

"Listen up! The Wu Country's Armed Forces are invincible, and since our Imperial Advisor is generous, he has granted all of you one night's time to surrender. If you don't comply, you will die without a doubt!"

Suddenly from below, they were calvaries and a voice convincing them to surrender. "... Don't say words that you are not prepared to!"

"Hmph!"

Zhang Qingfeng was infuriated. He took a bow, pulled it all the way back and released an arrow.

"Whoosh!"

A deafening sound came from the release of the bow, and the arrow shot into the sky, quick as lightning. It pierced through the soldier on a horseback and pinned him to the ground, as the fletching quivered.

"Good!"

The soldiers on the city walls exclaimed, and as they saw more calvaries approaching, they kept the corpse, all the while in silence.

The difference between both sides was too huge that even Zhang Qingfeng did not have much confidence in his own army.

"Let's go down to the conference, then have a good night's rest before preparing for the big battle tomorrow!"

Fang Yuan wore plain clothes, quietly observed the scene and gestured.

"Yes, Sir!"

...

A group of men walked down the stairs and arrived at the main hall. Unable to hold himself back, Xiang Zilong enquired. "Prefecture Master... The opposing force has a strong army and calvaries, and are five times the size of ours. Furthermore, they have the Flying Dragon General leading them, as well as the Wu Country's Imperial Advisor and three other spiritual knights, how can we match up with them?"

"Don't worry!"

Yu Xinlou walked out, a little dazed and shook his head. "Our Master had made some preparations beforehand!"

This confused everyone, especially Xiang Zilong, who looked at Fang Yuan.

"Please say the truth! The Wu Country's Armed Forces are strong, much stronger than our army. If we clash head-on, we will surely lose!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head and explained the truth. "And this is why I need everyone to defend for three days, and after three days, the situation will change!"

"Three days?"

Xiang Zilong looked at Niu Dingtian in disbelief, as both of them shook their heads.

...

That night, a black figure flew out of Cangshan City and landed in the Wu Country's military camp.

"Three days?"

Xuan Sheng took the bamboo tube from the spiritual pigeon before letting it go. He then instructed a daoist disciple by his side to read it out for him, and his was shocked as he scanned the surroundings.

Even though both his eyeballs were not there anymore, he could still strike fear in those that made eye contact with him.

"A change in situation after three days? Impossible!"

It was Flying Dragon General.

He was middle-aged and had white sideburns. His sharp eyebrows and glaring gaze gave him a gentlemanly feel; he was surely a handsome young lad in his younger days.

As he stared at the map, he shook his head. "Unless he can fly his troops, there is no other way of a change in the situation within three days!"

"Regardless if he was just bluffing us, or if he was really confident, we don't really need to care about him!"

Wu Wudao smiled. "Even if that Secluded Mountain Prefecture Master had gathered his troops in Cangshan City, we can still go head-on and take them down!"

"That's right, a good strategy would be to use plots and deploy more troops to take down their small army!"

Flying Dragon General nodded his head in agreement. "Regardless of what plan he has, I can just break all of them by brute force!"

"Since both of you think this way, then we shall invade them tomorrow!"

Elder Daoist Xuan Sheng said, "Even if we cannot take down the city, at night time, I can still order for our spy to take them down from the inside!"

Even though he did not mention who the spy was, the rest still nodded in agreement.

Afterall, to them, the new Secluded Mountain Prefecture Master did not know what he was doing. Anyone under him could be a spy, and it seemed that it was just fate for the Secluded Mountain Prefecture to fall.

...

As time flew by, it was the second day.

"Orders from the general! Invade!"

100,00 men formed up and lined up in a continuous never-ending line.

Accompanying the order from the general, the other soldiers of the Wu Country repeatedly chanted, "Invade! Invade! Invade!!!"

At the sound of the horn, ladders, arrow towers and invasion vehicles were pushed in front of the formation. The archers took up their spot, looking serious and full of will to fight.

Seeing this scene, the soldiers on the city walls shuddered in fear.

Even though the soldiers of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture Armed Forces had martial arts, they were still in fear. After all, the usual martial arts duel and fighting were different from war altogether.

"Throw the rocks! Throe!"

In the Wu Country Armed Forces formation, more than 10 carts were wheeled into position, and on the command of the Lieutenant, large rocks were continually hurled towards the city walls.

"Rumble!"

"Rumble!"

Rocks ranging from 13 pounds to 130 pounds were directed at the city walls, breaking a large hole in it and making a large rumbling sound.

The rumbling was continuous, and there were even cracks forming at some places.

After a wave of rock-hurling, the rock carts seemed to become defective after much usage and were wheeled away to be serviced. Many ant-like soldiers pushed the ladders and arrow towers and braved the arrows from the city, advancing towards the city gates.

"Prepare the arrows, shoot!"

On the city walls, Zhang Qingfeng roared and ordered as a rain of arrows flew downwards.

Many soldiers were shot down, but they did not back away. Instead, they approached the city walls and as their arrow towers covered them, they began to ascend the ladder upwards.

"Prepare the Golden Liquid! Pour!"

"Where are the rocks? Fire away!"

On the city walls, pots of boiling hot Golden Liquid were poured down the walls relentlessly. Accompanying it were the giant rocks being rolled down, smashing many soldiers and burning many too. In a short while, the bottom of the city walls had a thick layer of blood. The entire scene was extremely gory.

"Leader Niu, Leader Xiang!"

Fang Yuan remained composed as he continuously deployed troops, and called for both Wu Zongs.

"The enemy is ferocious, so be wary of their Beheading Strategy!"

"Thank you for your concern, Prefecture Master, we will be cautious!"

Niu Dingtian and Xiang Zilong bowed, and Xiang Zilong added, "If we still had our experienced soldiers, they would not have the guts to attack us head-on!"

What is the Beheading Strategy?

It was that they might send their elemental force martial artist who would have only one objective: to take out Fang Yuan, or that they would use their soldiers to surround the opposing Lieutenant in order to win the battle without fighting.

Fang Yuan used this strategy before by taking out Lu Renjia, returning peace to the Secluded Mountain Prefecture. It was the easy way.

However, the situation now was different.

His 20,000 strong army was all in the city. Even if the enemy's spiritual knight or Wu Zong made it through the gates, they would be captured by the three of them. Without regard for the soldiers' lives, they could surely exhaust any spiritual knight or Wu Zong to death.

Therefore, to both sides, this was not a fair trade.

Furthermore, it was no secret that Fang Yuan possessed a spiritual bird.

Even if the enemy was stupid, they would not be stupid to the extent of entering and sacrificing themselves.

After a day of gruesome battle, there was a mountain of corpse below the city gates.

"Retreat!"

Under the scorching sun and the bloody mess around, the Wu Country's army retreated out of the massacre site.

"Reporting, Prefecture Master!"

Zhang Qingfeng had many wounds, and his armour was dyed blood-red. "The Wu Country's attack today was ferocious. About a thousand of our men died, and 800 of them were severely injured! Their army's casualty rate would surely be folds of ours!"

As he reported, his eyebrows twitched.

The opposing army was crazy, too crazy than he expected.

If it was like that daily, it would only take 10 days for the Secluded Mountain Prefecture Armed Forces to crumble.

"Since today has passed, it means that we have two days left. Everyone is dismissed, and rest well for the battle tomorrow!"

Fang Yuan casually waved his hands.

"Yes, Sir!"

...

It was nighttime. Pitch-black and there was no wind.

A secret room within the city was brightly lit.

A few Lieutenants of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture Armed Forces were gathered, looking solemn. "We cannot continue this war!"

"It only took one day for our casualty rate to be 10 percent, so how can this be sustainable?"

A bearded well-built man slammed his fist on the table. "That person is Wu Zong and also a spiritual knight, and has a spiritual bird as well. If the situation becomes worse, he can leave, but we would be stuck here awaiting death!"

"That's right!"

The other Lieutenants were deep in discussion, expression their dissatisfaction.

This was partly due to Fang Yuan's inexperience in handling a large army and he was, therefore, unable to appease the army.

In reality, if not for his gifts and martial arts, there might be a rebellion and the army would break free of his control. As of now, there were only holding it in.

"Lieutenant Xiang, what is your plan for gathering us here?"

A few other Lieutenants scolded a few more times, but all shifted their attention to the person in the middle.

"That's right!"

A lieutenant among them all laughed. "Everyone are brothers, so I shall speak the truth. There is no doubt that the Secluded Mountain Prefecture would lose. If we want to survive, or even live a comfortable life, the best plan is to switch loyalties!"

As he spoke, not one of them questioned him, which revealed that most of them had in one way or another thought about it.

"Based on our abilities, to betray would be extremely difficult!"

Lieutenant Qiuran sighed. "Zhang Qingfeng is extremely loyal to that person and is still a martial artist who harnesses elemental force. He even patrols the city gates personally..."

"What if you included us?!"

Suddenly, a shadow appeared, entering the room.

"Mmm?"

The Lieutenant who was discussing the secret was in shock and almost pulled out his knife. As he saw the person's face, he relaxed and looked happy. "Leader!"

"What a coincidence, it's my duty to patrol today. It would be easy to betray and give the city up!"

The leader sighed. "I am doing this not for myself, but to avoid the impending war on the Secluded Mountain Prefecture!"

"Leader, you are right!"

The Lieutenants were all overjoyed. "Under the leadership of leader, what is there to be afraid of?"

A few rash individuals blurted out. "This appointment of Secluded Mountain Prefecture Master should have been yours. Fang Yuna is just an outsider, what rights does he have to claim this appointment?"

"Very well, let's not waste time. Let's..."

This person was deep in thought and suddenly he frowned. "Who's there?"

"Chirp! Chirp!"

A high pitched chirping travelled from outside, and a figure appeared, followed by a voice. "Niu Dingtian, have you seen for yourself and heard it for yourself?"

"

### Carefree Path of Dreams

#### **Chapter 152: Appearance**

"Brother Xiang, I didn't expect that you were such a person!"

Niu Dingtian's voice was deep and was filled with shock.

Xiang Zilong knew that he couldn't escape. He went to the entrance with a few other lieutenants. Illuminating the way with their fire torches, they saw Fang Yuan, Niu Dingtian, Zhang Qingfeng and a few other soldiers already surrounding the whole place.

Niu Dingtian, who was in front, was still in disbelief. "Why are you doing this, Brother Xiang?"

"Hehe....The winner shall be the king, and the loser shall be the beggar. Since I've lost, what can I say?"

Xiang Zilong gave a cold smile and looked at Fang Yuan. "But, how could you have known that it's me? Enlighten me, Prefecture Master, so I can rest in peace!"

"Your plan was perfect, but I had already begun to suspect you from the beginning!"

Fang Yuan shook his head and continued, "Summer Sun Prefecture was so dangerous, but you two Wu Zongs managed to escape, how fortunate!"

In fact, this was just an excuse Fang Yuan used to explain his suspicions of Xiang Zilong.

The actual reason was that he was a dream master and therefore could sense evil in Xiang Zilong.

"Just because of that?"

Xiang Zilong couldn't believe it.

He had always been very loyal to Liu Yan and did not harbour any thoughts of betrayal while on the way to the Summer Sun Prefecture. Hence, he couldn't believe how Fang Yuan was able to see through him.

"Yes, it is because of that.....Plus....."

Fang Yuan chuckled and continued, "Since I'm the Prefecture Master, do I need any reason to suspect you? Oh.....I will need to thank you for sharing the intelligence with the enemy. As a token of appreciation, I shall let you die faster!"

"You....."

Xiang Zilong broke into cold sweat.

He didn't expect that Fang Yuan, a young Prefecture Master to be so profound!

Fang Yuan knew that he was a spy, kept mum, pretended he didn't know anything, and even caused him to share fake intelligence with Wu Country!

An ant would do everything to keep itself alive.

The few other lieutenants around appeared hopeless, but Xiang Zilong was different. Scanning his surroundings quickly, he was prepared to escape this place!

After all, he was a Wu Zong and could go anywhere he wanted to go. If he could escape to the enemy's camp, he could live there comfortably for the rest of his life. Why would he be willing to die here?

As this thought flashed through his mind, there was a sudden change!

"Whoosh!"

Fang Yuan shifted himself quickly like a lightning and in a blink of an eye, he appeared right in front of Xiang Zilong and grabbed him!

"Chi! Chi!"

The surrounding air became tense, and as Fang Yuan started to grab hold of him, the surrounding air became as though they were layers and layers of chains, restricting Xiang Zilong.

Even though he knew that this was just an illusion, it had utterly shocked Xiang Zilong.

The new Prefecture Master was so powerful!

"Aahh!"

Xiang Zilong's face became red and his blood vessels started to explode. Between life and death, he unleashed his potential and freed himself from Fang Yuan's claw to his neck. Suddenly, he retreated 10 yards backwards before leaping forward; the shadow of his legs fell like raindrops.

"Dragon Subduing Kick!"

Xiang Zilong was also a Wu Zong and was very experienced. He also knew that he would be dead if he chose to escape. The only way out was to defeat the other person.

Hence, he chose to strike first and the first move that he executed was his strongest technique.

"Crackle!"

The shadow of the leg reached Fang Yuan and started to noise like how raindrops land on leaves. However, Fang Yuan paid no attention as though his opponent's moves were like a gentle breeze. He went forward and struck another claw out!

"Rough technique? Your technique is scarier than Niu Dingtian's!"

This thought ran through Xiang Zilong's mind. A crisp sound was heard and he fell to the ground, crying out loud.

"Peng!"

There was blood everywhere.

Only now did the others watching realised that Xiang Zilong's leg had already been grabbed and broken by Fang Yuan, and the leg had fallen onto the ground.

In just a few moves, Xiang Zilong, who was well known in the Secluded Mountains and had been a capital leader in the Secluded Mountains Mansion Armed Forces, was defeated?

Not only that, but he was defeated that easily?

Niu Dingtian opened his eyes widely and slapped his cheeks for a few times. He couldn't believe what he had just seen.

"Bring this man away and lock him up!"

Fang Yuan brought out a white handkerchief to wipe off the bloodstains on his hand while he gave that order.

"Prefecture Master, what about these lieutenants?"

At that moment, Zhang Qingfeng were prepared to take down these lieutenants and knelt down to ask for further instructions.

"These betrayers? What more can I say? Just kill them!"



Niu Dingtian's eyes were filled with anger. He was disappointed in Xiang Zilong and these lieutenants.

"Even though they are a bunch of useless crap, there is still some use in them!"

Fang Yuan then thought, "Xiang Zilong had already wanted to betray us tonight. I should use them as baits to lure the soldiers of the Wu Country out..."

"Prefecture Master! Please allow us to achieve something great for you in order to compensate for the sins we have made!"

When they realised that there was hope for survival for all of them, the few lieutenants immediately knelt down and kowtowed.

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It was midnight.

Outside the city gate.

A troop of soldiers stealthily reached the city gate with black masks and weapons.

After they mimicked the cry of a mouse for 3 times, they heard something across the city wall and there were a few noises. A small gap opened in the city gates and a lieutenant was revealed behind the gap.

"Why are you all late?"

"We were making further preparations just in case!"

The leader of the troop whispered, "How is the situation inside like?"

"The lieutenant here guarding the gate has been taken down by us. The rest of them are on our side. Follow me!"

The city gate was opened slowly and there was excitement in the eyes of the leader. He then led the troop of people into the city stealthily.

As they passed through the old city wall, they were not in the city yet. They would still have to take another path, which was why this place was also nicknamed the Urn City.

"Something is not right!"

Within the Urn City, someone besides the leader cried out loud. "Retreat, it is a trap!"

"Close the city gate!"

"Kacha! Kacha!"

After a few loud noises, the city gate was fully closed and the whole place was suddenly well lit. Many archers were already pulling their bows and aiming at the troop and started to fire their arrows.

"Hmm? There is a spiritual knight among them? Since he is here, does he think he can escape?"

Most of the people in the troop were either injured or dead from the rain of arrows. Fang Yuan's eyes lighted up and as he pounced forward, he ordered Niu Dingtian to follow closely.

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"Damn it! We have fallen into a trap!"

Outside the city wall, the army of the Wu Country had gathered there quietly. Taoist Elder Xuan Sheng was surprised when he heard the noises and cries from the Urn City.

"The enemy have their defences up here. We should retreat!"

General Fei Long looked far towards the city walls and heard a few shouts and killing noises. His face was all tensed up.

"Looks like the noises are not from the successful rebellion of Xiang Zilong, but from their revelation and downfall!"

Wu Wudao was disappointed.

One of the men among that troop was one of his disciples, whom he had cultivated with all his heart and soul to attain the status of a spiritual knight!

However, his disciple was now trapped in the city.

With this, he had the urge to lead all the most skilled men to charge through the city walls to save his beloved disciple.

Unfortunately, his magical weapon, the Flying Leaf, had been destroyed and as he looked at the expressionless General Fei Long and the blind Taoist Elder Xuan Sheng, he gritted his teeth.

Who would have known that this precautionary measure would lead to the death of his disciple!

"This is so strange!"

After the Taoist Elder Xuan Sheng had calmed down, he also had the same question in his mind. "As a spiritual knight, how could he not know that something was amiss before entering the city?"

Ever since they had become enemies with the new prefecture master of the Secluded Mountain Mansion, they felt restrained constantly and did not know why or how.

Such a feeling was torturous.

The commanders of Wu Country didn't know that Fang Yuan was a dream master and also considered to be an expert in deception and illusions. Furthermore, he had set up these traps personally. Hence, it would be a joke if a recently promoted spiritual knight were able to see through them.

"Pass the order down. We shall return back to base and attack tomorrow!"

General Fei Long ordered his troops to return to base. Before he left, he looked at the city building and had a bad feeling.

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"They didn't attack?"

Above the city wall, Fang Yuan gave a cold laugh as he witnessed the troops from the Wu Country returning to their base. "They are really able to endure this. However.....they are in a precarious situation!"

"If we don't counterattack them tonight, it will still be the same tomorrow!"

He stood at the city building, deep in thought.

"Counterattack the enemy tomorrow?"

Niu Dingtian and Zhang Qingfeng were behind Fang Yuan. Although they were convinced of his ability, they were still a little startled when they heard what Fang Yuan had just said.

"That's right. Pass the order down to add more meat for tomorrow's breakfast. Let all our soldiers have a good meal before we prepare to attack!"

Fang Yuan gave a mysterious smile.

Beneath him, there were noises at the foot of the city wall.....

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It was the second day. The scorching sun was high up in the sky.

"Men, get the heads of Xiang Zilong and the spiritual knight as a sacrificial gift for the gods!"

Without hesitation, Fang Yuan cut off the heads of the two elemental force experts effortlessly and threw their heads down from the city wall.

Witnessing this, Wu Wudao flinched as General Fei Long gave a huge sigh. Without any reservation, General Fei Long ordered the army to attack the city with all their might.

Even though they experienced setbacks a few days ago, the general still believed in his war tactics.

His ability was still greater than the enemy. If he were to suppress the enemy head-on without fear for anything, Wu Country would surely win the war.

"Rumble!"

"Rumble!"

As the trebuchets were activated, the Wu Country's soldiers were charging straight at the city wall with no fear of death.

Soon, the city wall became like a meat grinder. Both sides suffered heavy losses and there were many bloody bodies piled up. The city wall had turned red because of the blood.

"Reporting! The situation at the west gate is critical. The enemies have already got onto the city wall!"

"Reporting! Critical situation at the east gate. There are heavy losses there and we need backup now!"

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The reports came in like falling snow. This was the consequence of having a small army, and there were breaches everywhere along the city wall.

"Prefecture Master, let me go and help them!"

Niu Dingtian and Zhang Qingfeng knelt down to ask for permission to join the battle.

"There is no need!"

Fang Yuan waved his hand and said, "Order the troops to retreat and fight in the streets!"

"What?"

Everyone was shocked when they heard that order. Once the troops retreated, it would be as though they had lost the battle. Why even bother talking about a counterattack?

"This is an order!"

Fang Yuan glared at them.

Immediately, there was a loud noise coming from the east gate. Then, there were many cheers of 'We've broken through' heard. The soldiers from the Wu Country flooded into the streets of the city.

"The Secluded Mountain Mansion Armed Forces are much more useless than I thought.....Nevermind, it is better this way. This will be more convincing..."

Fang Yuan nodded his head as he looked at the soldiers from the Wu Country, who were given multiple orders to suppress their enemies completely. Fang Yuan gave a smile and raised his right hand.

"Whoosh!"

At every corner of the city walls, the ground started to break. Many flowers appeared, and light was reflected from blades. Within seconds, the nearby Wu Country soldiers were at lost and were soon slashed into pieces.

Outside the city, General Fei Long was stunned. Slowly, he witnessed the entire Cangshan City transforming into a flower city within seconds.....

### Carefree Path of Dreams

#### **Chapter 153: Counterattack**

"Rumble! Rumble!"

As the ground broke, thick and thorny vines extending their way up like demonic hands.

On the stems, there were many thin and sharp Sickle Grass.

"Chila!"

As the Sickle Grass glittered from its reflection, even the most skilled soldier would die after being surrounded by these menacing plants.

"Slurp! Slurp!"

Brightly-coloured and large Serrated Flowers opened their large mouths and without hesitation swallowed these soldiers in whole; they were immensely satisfied.

As the basis of the formation, the spiritual flowers and spiritual grass covered the entire Cangshan City, gobbling up almost half of the entire We Country's army.

Even the most highly skilled could only destroy one or two stems of the Serrated Flower, which did not really hinder things.

The volume of plants and the fact that they could start growing the moment then landed on the floor and had the special ability to become enraged meant that these two evolved spiritual species became a life-sized human meat mincer.

"Ah... This is..."

Outside the city, Flying Dragon General was confused, and his eyes bloodshot. Seeing the number of casualties from his army, he was infuriated and spat out a mouthful of blood.

Even though the few of them were spiritual knights, they were still no match for the entire Secluded Mountain Prefecture.

This big loss not only destroyed the Wu Country's objective but also weakened their strongest army. Even the country itself might not be stable anymore!

Even he the general was at loss facing such a humiliating defeat. The other leaders were angry too and tried to attack in rage.

"They are rather similar to Serrated Flowers and Sickle Grass..."

As Wu Wudao witnessed the scene, he frowned. "Those two are normal spiritual plants, why would they evolve to such an extent?"

Notwithstanding others, just based on their size, brutality and their fire-resistant ability, they could form up a formation by themselves and coordinate an attack; no one could associate them with the two most normal spiritual plants.

...

"Prefecture Master? What's this?"

Niu Dingtian and Zhang Qingfeng were overjoyed.

If previously they were referred to hopeless and desolate, the strong defence now would mean they would be overjoyed without words.

Not just that, but if they took the opportunity, they might just turn it into a victory!

"This is the spiritual plant formation that I have set up! It is thanks to Yu Xinlou that I am able to set it up to such a scale..."

Fang Yuan nodded his head.

"This is all Sir's plan, how would I dare to take credit?"

Yu Xinlou hurriedly knelt down and replied.

He was rather surprised. As a businessman, he knew that there were large quantities of spiritual plants here, but they were only normal spiritual flowers and spiritual grass. He was still confused at how they could become so scary.

Fang Yuan smiled, giving them a mysterious feel.

The ability of a [Botany (Level 5)], together with large amounts of spiritual flowers and spiritual grass, as well as with the help of spiritual land and spiritual fertilizer, and the most crucial being the unique environment of a battlefield; all these created a deadly trap!

'Although the evolved Serrated Flower and Sickle Grass are ferocious, they grow extremely quickly and have little to no requirements for the type of land, especially since there were so much blood and flesh to feed them...'

The casualty rate in Cangshan was now more than ten thousand! It was the best greenhouse for these plants.

Originally being quick growers, and with the help of spiritual fertilizer and his [Botany (Level 5)], the entire underground of Cangshan City was already filled with budding spiritual grass and spiritual flowers, as they began to form their formation.

Based on Fang Yuan's current Botany skills, the chance of normal spiritual plants evolving is already very high, especially with such large numbers of plants.

He was still not satisfied and returned to the Green Peak spiritual land to bring along the Serrated Flower King, using him as a central nervous system to control the other Serrated Flowers to listen to its command.

Otherwise, why would these spiritual flowers and spiritual grasses become so obedient and even knew how to ambush? Why would they stay quietly underground and not create havoc outside?

"The Sickle Grass and the Serrated Flower are companions. As the Serrated Flower has the ability to move around, it can bring along the Sickle Grass, and will become scarier than any killing machine might be..."

He had a tinge of coldness in his eyes. "With the help of my dream master's ability, it would be simple to deny detection from the opposing spiritual knights and Wu Zongs, and therefore able to surprise them..."

The city of spiritual flowers and spiritual grasses in front of him had already become a living hell, and even bore fruits.

"Zhang Qingfeng!"

Fang Yuan exclaimed.

"Yes, Sir!"

Zhang Qingfeng replied, full of excitement.

"Regroup the army, and prepare for the counter attack!"

"Yes, Sir!"

The entire Cangshan City was hard to explain.

Because of his specific deployments of the soldiers, Fang Yuan's army did not suffer that much of a loss. Even the guards all the way at the city gates could run all the way into the city and were not affected by the attack. He could regroup an army of around 5,000.

The Wu Country's army, however, sent all their troops to the frontline. After half a day of battle, they had many casualties, and the change in the situation made them lose their momentum. The entire army was destroyed.

"Kill!"

As Zhang Qingfeng entered the battlefield, his intentions were obvious.

The demonic plants avoided the Secluded Mountain Prefecture soldiers, and only chose to attack the Wu Country's soldiers. Both the soldiers on the ground and the general looking from afar knew that the war was over.

"Retreat!"

"Quickly retreat!"

The soldiers who entered the city became the fertiliser for the plants, and the soldiers behind hurriedly retreated like ducks broken away from one another. They just ran without a lead; the only thing they knew was that the further they were from the city the better.

"Rumble!"

The Serrated Flower King would not give up on such an opportunity! As a rumble was heard, vines popped out of the ground and blocked the path of the retreating soldiers, as it enjoyed its food.

"Kill!"

Zhang Qingfeng opened up a path within the spiritual flowers and gave chase. He killed like nobody's business, as though he was cutting grass.

"Retreat! Retreat!"

At this point in time, the Flying Dragon General finally came to his senses.

He had suffered a great loss! There was no hope for any comeback with such a defeat.

The only thing he could do was to retreat and reduce the casualty rate.

"Good beast!"

Wu Wudao and Elder Daoist Xuan Sheng, together with another spiritual knight, began to fight against the spiritual plants.

As he stuck his finger out, the thorny vines crumbled as though a poisonous snake bit it. Not only that, the entire Serrated Flower shuddered and fell to the ground, and in a short moment lost all its life.

"God Killing Finger!"

Elder Daoist looked at Wu Wudao, as though he could see using his eye sockets. He waved his sleeves and sliced two Sickle Grass into bits.

"This is troublesome..."

The vibration from the destruction of these plants made him tense up.

"This spiritual flower and spiritual grass are working together in an orderly manner. They are extremely ferocious and feed on blood... Every one of it resembles an inner force expert..."

Elder Taoist Xuan Sheng sighed. "If we wait here and become trapped within the plants, it would be even more troublesome. If someone of our skill level were to ambush us then, it is likely we would fall for it..."

"We can still deal with one or two of them, but look at the sheer number..."

Wu Wudao had perfect eyesight and could detect the biggest Serrated Flower amongst all the plants. It just swallowed three soldiers and spat out flower buds, amidst all the blood.

As the flower buds touched the ground, they took in blood and grew at an alarming rate the human eye could detect. In a short while, it became a scary entity all by itself, ready to devour more flesh.

Just a single Serrated Flower and Sickle Grass would not do much, even if it was evolved with special traits.

However, if it exceeded a certain amount, the threat level would increase exponentially.

"Who would've known that the Secluded Mountain Prefecture Master had this move... Control of spiritual plants?"

In Wu Wudao's heart, his alertness against Fang Yuan shot up.

"Let's make a move, it's time for us to leave!"

As the result of the war was obvious, Fang Yuan called for Niu Dingtian. Together, they rode the Red-eyed White King Bird across the city walls. As they circled the sky, soon after, they were able to locate Wu Wudao and company.

Using their spiritual knight and Wu Zong abilities, these elemental force martial artists had to fight their way out, forming a safe route for the normal soldiers to escape.

One of the spiritual knights was using fire-type spiritual spells.

His spiritual fire was different from that of Liu Yan's; it was black as ink, like black liquid oil burning, and had the ability to decompose anything it came into contact with.

Even if the Serrated Flower and Sickle Grass were fire-resistant, they were still reduced to ashes after coming into contact with the spiritual fire, which showed the strength of the spiritual fire.



However, even that spiritual knight was sweating profusely. It seemed like using his spiritual spells was exhausting too.

"It's you!"

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered.

Among the three elemental force martial artists, he had the lowest cultivation level. He had to find the weakest to bully.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

As the Red-eyed White King Bird chirped, its feathers were dyed red as it descended, quick as lightning.

"Die!"

Fang Yuan used his paralyzing scream, which was hard to fend against.

As the spiritual knight froze, an eagle's claw struck towards him. As he awakened from the trance, it was too late.

"Ah..."

He had just enough cultivation to dodge the claw and retreat, but there were already 5 streaks of blood across his chest.

"Die!"

Fang Yuan was merciless as he flew across, striking his leg out this time.

Striking his claw and his leg was a well-planned move which would restrict all the possible escape routes for this spiritual knight. In the next moment, he would take his life.

"Don't be rude!"

As his leg was diverted sideways, the spiritual knight fell back and spat out a mouthful of blood. Suddenly, there was a shadow between the both of them, blocking Fang Yuan from delivering his death kick.

"Flying Dragon General?"

As Fang Yuan examined the middle-aged man in front of him, he began to think of Flying Dragon General.

Only such an experienced Wu Zong would be able to save the spiritual knight's life in the nick of time.

Compared to him, Wu Wudao and Elder Taoist Xuan Sheng were still inferior.

'What a pity I couldn't finish him off, but that is fine too... That spiritual knight is useless now, and can no longer take part in this fight!'

As he glanced at the half-dead spiritual knight, his mood was uplifted, and he scanned the rest of them.

## Carefree Path of Dreams

### **Chapter 154: Resounding Defeat**

"Prefecture Master!"

With the interference from General Fei Long, Wu Wudao and Xuan Sheng recovered. They looked at Fang Yuan with intense hatred.

"That's right!"

Fang Yuan smiled. He did not hold them in regard.

The Elemental Force Realm experts were nothing to him.

The situation remained unchanged even though Fang Yuan previously had the protection of the troops. He did not fear these spiritual knights.

He was the king amongst the spiritual flowers and grass!

As for the few aristocrats of Wu Country in front of him? There 100,000 troops were scattered and their strength was unable to be mustered.

The offensive and the defensive were reversed!

...

A gust of foul-smelling wind.

Not far away, the Sickie Grass and Serrated Flowers were dancing. Like a reaper, they claimed the lives of many soldiers.

Wu Wudao, Xuan Sheng and Fei Long felt like vomiting blood after they witnessed this scene.

How can they rely on so few people to conquer Secluded Mountains Prefecture?

Their army had been destroyed and any plan that they had, had turned into a joke.

The mastermind behind all this was the youth that was laughing in front of them. They did not realise that the reason for all his previous preparations was all for that one moment of attack!

"Good!"

General Fei Long praised, "I have never lost a single battle. To think that my streak would end in your hands..."

"How? Unless you wish to continue?"

Fang Yuan said loftily with no sign of fear.

Wu Wudao was momentarily indecisive.

He still had General Fei Long and Taoist Elder Xuan Sheng at his side. In terms of strength, they outmatched their opponent. However, things were not as simple.

After all, the Prefecture Master was impossible to predict which caused him to worry excessively.

His condition was being suppressed by the Mystical Ice Pill but there was no guarantee that his conditions would not worsen during the battle.

On the opponent's side, Niu Dingtian was the weakest. However, he was trained in rough technique which was enough to harass an opponent. That spiritual beast's aura was also comparable to a martial artist at the peak of the 12 Gates and it had the ability to fly. If it also possessed a few more talents, it would have become a force to be reckoned with... In addition, there was also the unpredictable Fang Yuan...

Given the situation, defeating the opponent was not something that could be achieved in a short amount of time.

Furthermore, they would not be able to stop their opponents from escaping!

Looking at how the situation was developing, he definitely did not have so much time!

If they were unable to swiftly bring down their opponent, they would soon be surrounded by the Secluded Mountain Prefecture Armed Forces and the spiritual flowers and grass!

If that was the case, it would be their side that perished.

General Fei Long was helpless and did not have a plan to turn the tables around.

"Zhi'Er!"

Wu Wudao arrived at the side of the spiritual disciple who was vomiting blood in a flash. He fed the disciple a spiritual pill and looked at Fang Yuan with hatred.

It was not wise to deal with an enemy without knowing the enemy's ability.

He shouldn't let emotions cloud his thinking even though one of his beloved disciples had sacrificed his life for the country and the other beloved disciple was heavily wounded.

Wu Wudao looked bitterly at the Red-Eyed White King Bird and asked coldly, "Prefecture Master, what are your desires?"

"You entered my territories, killed my people and still ask me what my desires are?"

Fang Yuan was bemused as if he heard a joke.

"It is natural that the strong feed on the weak. Given the situation in Xia Country, if Wu Country did not act, there would still be Yuan, Zhu Country...even you, are you really just a subject of the Xia Country?"

Taoist Elder Xuan Sheng shook his head.

"Hmm....never mind!"

Fang Yuan glanced back at Cangshan City which was beginning to quieten down, "I want all of you to leave the Secluded Mountain Prefecture and swear a blood oath that you would not invade us within the century!"

"A century!?"

General Fei Long furrowed his brows.

He might have agreed readily if it was just a few decades. After all, the army of Wu Country had suffered great loss and needed time to recover.

But a hundred years? That was a bit too long.

"What if we do not agree? Unless you think you can threaten us with your troops?"

Wu Wudao coldly asked.

While they were interested in helping Wu Country preserve its strength. It was not feasible if it was a matter of life and death.

"Of course not!"

Fang Yuan's expression grew cold, "I will only guarantee that none of you will leave the prefecture alive!"

"Haha..."

Wu Wudao laughed. "Do you think you can kill us?"

"I am confident of delaying you till the army arrive and surround you!"

Fang Yuan dusted his shoulders, "If my plans fail, at least I would be able to escape with my spiritual beast! What about you all? Care to try?"

Upon hearing this, Wu Wudao's breaths slowed and he shriveled.

The opponent possessed a flying spiritual beast and was shameless to the extent of escaping if he could not beat them.

What the opponent said was true! If he felt that something was amiss, he could turn tail and run.

Furthermore, he was young and had countless of opportunities for revenge.

As for them, a wrong move would result in their deaths!

If they had really miscalculated, went into battle and did not manage to defeat the spiritual knight cum Wu Zong and his spiritual beast, there was a possibility that they would be surrounded and killed.

In an instant, the three of them hesitated.

They did not have much time to consider as they see their troops being defeated and the spiritual plants slowly surrounding them.

Especially...

Wu Wudao looked at Fang Yuan and Niu Dingtian and saw that they had ill intentions for his disciple.

He knew that once the battle starts, he might be able to survive but his disciple would die without a doubt!

"Prefecture Master...well-played. I concede!"

Taoist Elder Xuan Sheng caved in, "I acknowledge the century agreement!"

Wu Wudao felt grateful.

This matter was grave and as such, either General Fei Long or he could acknowledge the agreement first. If not, there would be consequences.

Xuan Sheng knew that and as such he stepped forward and gave in, knowing full well that he would take the brunt of the consequences.

"If that is the case, I agree as well!"

General Fei Long sighed.

Wu Wudao gave his promise.

"That's good, please leave. I will not be seeing you out!"

Fang Yuan waved and smiled as if he was a good host. There was no sign of mutual hostility.

"The Secluded Mountains Prefecture is guaranteed a century of peace..."

Wu Wudao's and General Fei Long's eyes met. They sighed and silently walked away.

"Prefecture Master, why not ...?"

Seeing the view of the people disappearing, Niu Dingtian stepped forward and asked.

"Do you have the confidence to kill the three of them? Wu Wudao is the Imperial Advisor of Wu, General Fei Long is the prodigy in Wu Country. Who knows what trump cards they are hiding?"

Fang Yuan looked at him, "How many of our soldiers' lives must be sacrificed with no guarantee of victory?"

Niu Dingtian could not answer and sweated cold sweat.

Fang Yuan closed his eyes. He still had some stuff that he did not speak out loud.

Wu Wudao and his companions readily agreed to the agreement as Fang Yuan had given several conditions that were beneficial to them apart from their current circumstances.

For example, the agreement only applied to the troops and did not govern the martial artists in the Elemental Force Realm.

If he was met with any danger, there was no guarantee that these powerful individuals would not come to cause trouble.

They would definitely come!

However, without this 'loophole', how would he expect that the Wu Country would so readily withdraw?

Fang Yuan was confident of his abilities.

'It seems like from now on, I am another Liu Yan in the mind of Wu Country. I might even be met with more consequences...the more they come, the more I can hone my skills!'

There were benefits to not declaring war.

For instance, Wu Wudao only knew that Fang Yuan was unpredictable and cunning. He would not expect that Fang Yuan had already reached the peak of the Elemental Gathering Realm!

He could make use of the time he gained to make a breakthrough in the shortest possible time.

Worldly conspiracies would be nothing if he managed to break through the Elemental Gathering Realm.

...

Summer Sun Prefecture.

"The king order that the Summer Sun Prefecture is part of Xia Country. Today, we specially come forward to reassure the citizens that there would be not taxes in addition to other benefits if you all surrender. If not, you will be charged with treason and executed!"

In front of a city, there was a struggle followed by the raising of a white flag in the face of the army of the Xia Country capital.

"Very well, this is already the third city which surrendered without a battle!"

Xie Lingyun celebrated as she dispatched the troops to enter the city. "Out of the 6 counties in the Summer Sun Prefecture, 3 counties have returned to the hands of the royal family. This is a cause for celebration!"

She had no intention to help Wu Country in this battle.

In the eyes of the Xia Country's royal family, the previous Prefecture Master, Liu Yan, was a traitor and that the Wu Country was greedy.

Being attacked by both sides and the benefits taken away by Wu Country? Only a fool would do that.

After receiving the letter from Fang Yuan, Xie Lingyun ordered the troops to put on a front, while the main body of troops heads towards Summer Sun Prefecture with an intention of making the Summer Sun Prefecture the property of the royal family.

She had a similar plan for the Clear Spring Prefecture.

"Such a shame...the Summer Sun Prefecture is in ruins..."

As she thought of the devastating scene that she had witnessed on her journey here, Xie Lingyun could not help but shake her head, her face displaying a sign of worry.

'After Wu Country conquer the Secluded Mountains Prefecture, the next step would be to set their eyes on the remainder of Xia Country...luckily it takes time to implement changes. However, Xia Country do not have many opportunities left, especially...engagement...'

To be truthful, it is natural for the royal family to be connected by marriage.

However, Xie Lingyun was hesitant as that would give the other party another reason to take over Xia Country during times of unrest.

"A letter from the Secluded Mountain Prefecture!"

A messenger hurried forward.

"Is it about the defeat of the Secluded Mountains?"

Xie Lingyun could not help but sigh when she thought of the genius who was highly cultivated but lacked practice. The latest report suggested that he had staked everything in Cangshan. Defeat was imminent for him.

"There was a resounding defeat. But it was not the Secluded Mountains and was Wu Country instead!"

"What?"

Xie Lingyun trembled and looked incredulous.

### [Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

#### **Chapter 155: The Map**

"When the heart is focused, the foundations will strengthen..."

High up in the air, a strange black bird spread its wings and glided into the airspace of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture. On its back rode a Taoist priest.

Overlooking the huge Secluded Mountain City in the air inspired a sense of awe. The looming city walls, the orderly roads and the dots that moved along them...everything seemed to suggest that the city had left behind the shadows of war. The morale of the people had risen and stabilised.

Most people were fine with simply being followers. Whether it was Liu Yan previously, Fang Yuan now, or even the Wu Country. They farmed when they had to farm, paid taxes when they had to pay taxes.

If one could loosen his iron grip on the domain and rule with more benevolence, the people would definitely praise him to the high heavens.

Currently, Fang Yuan had displayed the ability to fend off the advances of the Wu Country, and had consequently boosted his approval ratings among the masses. As the new master of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture, his prestige and authority were increasing by the day.

The priest let out a sigh, for he knew that his lord's schemes were likely to be futile. Besides, the other party was of a surprisingly young age and had unpredictable methods. He could not help but feel uneasy.

At this moment, things on the ground began to get noisy. They had sensed the priest's arrival.

\*Tweet\*

Just as the priest was beginning to look wary, a white flash swooped out of the City Manor with a large screech and positioned itself in front of the black bird.

"What a bird!"

Sitting atop the black bird, the priest could feel the agitation of his mount, and he gave a bitter laugh.

"With the presence of such a bird, the Secluded Mountain Prefecture City's airspace is impregnable. My future plans will probably come to naught."

"Do not worry, I am acquainted with your master, and I am not here to wage war either. You can go now!"

The priest spoke to the King of the Red-eyed White Birds, and patted the crown of the black bird. He then slowly descended under the watchful gaze of the Bird King.

"Haha...a friend from faraway, what a pleasant surprise! Brother Mu Li, you haven't been honest with me!"

Fang Yuan stepped out of the Prefecture Master Manor, his arms open in a welcome gesture. He was adorned with a magnificent rope embroidered in dragons and on his head sat a golden crown. He was a grand sight.

"You mock me, Prefecture Master! You haven't been honest with me either!"

Upon seeing Fang Yuan, the priest's bitterness became more apparently.

This priest was a good friend of Liu Yan, and was in fact an agent of the Xia Country royals. He was the Taoist Mu Li.

"Regarding all that had happened before, we both had our difficulties, so let bygones be bygones. You are an esteemed guest. Please do enter my humble abode and make yourself comfortable!"

Fang Yuan waved his hand with a laugh.

The Taoist Mu Li was partly responsible for the death of Liu Yan, Fang Yuan's predecessor. On the other hand, Fang Yuan barely knew Liu Yan, and had nothing to do with his demise.

Also, Mu Li was here as an envoy of the Xia royals. Thus, Fang Yuan had sent away the people who could potentially make things ugly, like Niu Dingtian. So far, things had gone smoothly.

"Then I shall not stand on ceremony!"

The Taoist Mu Li bowed once more, and looked towards to Bird King with approval.

"This bird has an unrivaled majesty. It will be a great help to you, Prefecture Master!"

Although Mu Li was concealing his identity and was a secret agent, his admiration for the huge bird was true.

It was a pity that the Wind Chasing Falcon had fallen over the Summer Sun Prefecture. With the help of the Xia royals, Mu Li had managed to find this rare black bird, which proved to be an adequate replacement. However, it was still incomparable to the Wind Chasing Falcon. Now that he had seen the King of the Red-eyed White Birds, which was superior even to the Iron-tail Black Eagle, he was forced to accept that his mount was grossly inferior to the Bird King.

"It was simply the workings of Fate!"



Fang Yuan smiled and walked with the Taoist Mu Li into the hall. Two maidservants served the tea and retreated respectfully.

"Sigh..."

The Taoist Mu Li held the teacup in his hand and as he stared into the depths of the spiritual tea, he was overcome by a wave of melancholy.

"Brother Mu Li, you must be here as a representative of the Xia family, I hereby thank you for your trouble!"

Fang Yuan gave a salute by cupping his right fist with his left hand.

Fang Yuan had previously struck up a correspondence with Xia, and since Xie Lingyun and Lan Xiaosheng were also unwilling to get into the mess over at the Secluded Mountain Prefecture, both parties did not take things too seriously. All was fine.

To them, the Secluded Mountain Prefecture had no chance against the Wu army, and was bound to fall sooner or later.

Except that the Battle of Cangshan City was a disaster for the Wu Country. Fang Yuan had used twenty thousand troops against the hundred thousand strong Wu army and defeated them decisively. Fang Yuan had gained a formidable reputation as a result, and had also drawn up the Hundred Year Agreement to secure his power. After that, the Xia Country to sent out ambassadors frequently so as to maintain good relations with Fang Yuan.

As of now, with Wu Country's defeat freshly imprinted on everyone's mind, no one would dare to offend the Secluded Mountain Prefecture. In fact, they were extremely worried that Fang Yuan would make a move on the Summer Sun and Clear Spring Prefectures, or even harm the Xia royal family.

"We are all friendly, no worries!"

The Taoist Mu Li became solemn as the conversation moved into serious matters.

"So, what is the purpose of your visit today?"

Fang Yuan asked directly.

With the Wu letter of credence, even if Fang Yuan wanted to become a vassal of the Xia Country, Xue Lingyun might not accept it, for her prestige as the ruler would be irreparably damaged.

Of course, seeing that the Wu Country was unable to annex the Secluded Mountain Prefecture was great news to Xie Lingyun too.

"Our Lady is pleased that the Secluded Mountain Prefecture is self sufficient. Thus, even if the Prefecture intends to become independent, the Xia Country will be very supportive..."

The Taoist Mu Li grinned.

"Oh!"

Fang Yuan laughed coldly.

"So you intend to push the Secluded Mountain Prefecture out into the cold such that we will become a buffer between the Xia and Wu countries? And we will have to help you spy on and fend off the Wu country?"

The Taoist Mu Li's heart sank.

This was precisely the intention of his Lady.

To let the Secluded Mountain Prefecture confront the Wu country while the Xia country could simply provide reinforcements if needed. This would be a favourable status quo.

After all, the royal family had already reclaimed half of the Summer Sun Prefecture, and if they were allowed to rest and recuperate, they would be strong enough to deal with the issues in the Clear Spring Prefecture.

To think that this young Prefecture Master would be this sharp and point out their ulterior motives unabashedly.

"The Prefecture Master is indeed straightforward. This is the plan!"

The Taoist Mu Li nodded. After all, he was a spiritual knight too, and seeing that Fang Yuan had done away with the pleasantries, he would too.

"To celebrate your ascension, our Lady has prepared a gift. It is already on its way!"

'They have no substance!'

The confession of the Taoist Mu Li was most amusing to Fang Yuan. He now knew that Xie Lingyun was afraid that he would invade the Summer Sun Prefecture and undo the work she had put in to stabilise the territory.

And it was not just him. The Master of Clear Spring Prefecture, Lan Xiaosheng, was probably of the same mind as well.

'If I chose to interfere forcefully, Xie Lingyun and Lan Xiaosheng were bound to join forces against me, and might even rope the Wu Country into the alliance. On the other hand, if I compromise, there is a good chance that Lan Xiaosheng might fall out with the Xia royals...'

These political mind games were detailed in the history books, and Fang Yuan was well read enough to be shrewd.

"If that is the case, many thanks to the Lady for her best wishes...the Secluded Mountain is in a terrible state, and will not be partaking in military action anytime soon. We will have to count on you in the days to come!"

"That's right! That's right!"

The Taoist Mu Li was elated, but then realised that Fang Yuan had spoken of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture as being the equal of the Xia Country. The arrogance emanating from Fang Yuan was depressing to Mu Li.

---

"The time I have left is running out..."

Having gotten rid of the Taoist Mu Li, Fang Yuan half-closed his eyes in deep thought.

The skirmish on the Secluded Mountain was a great victory, and had not betrayed his true capabilities. It would be enough to deter potential enemies.

When the situation stabilises, the politicking and espionage will most definitely resume. The impending chaos was unpleasant to think about.

Not only that, when his foes figure out that he is the second Liu Yan, they might gang up and launch assassination attempts on him.

Fang Yuan did not fear these challenges, but he was tired of dealing with them.

"Why shouldn't I relinquish my authority and live a carefree life beyond the city?"

His position as Master of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture was a powerful one, but it also made him a prime target. He was a sitting duck.

Fang Yuan planned to go into seclusion and meditate for a period of time. He preferred initiation to retaliation.

But regarding whether he could bear to give up his power?

Fang Yuan was not perfect, but he believed in his own abilities. In his opinion, power and influence would naturally come along if one was capable.

It did not matter even if he transferred power to his subordinates. No one could take away his personal strength from him. He had the moral high ground too, and there was no one who could really threaten him.

Even if he came out of his seclusion and returned to a tumultuous world, with his cultivation and prodigious botany skills, no problem would be too difficult for him to handle.

To Fang Yuan, his status as the Master of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture was a dispensable title.

He was prepared to walk the talk!

Still, before he left, he had to make some preparations.

"Master! I would like to request an audience with you!"

Yu Xinlou and Huang Fu Renhe carried a big pile of scrolls and waited patiently outside.

"Come in!"

Fang Yuan shook his head discreetly.

Ever since he had succeeded to his current position, these men were becoming increasingly polite to the point of obeisance. This created a distancing effect and sometimes, Fang Yuan actually felt lonely.

"Master, we have followed your orders and organised the manor books. We have gathered the maps of the Xia, Wu, Zhu countries...as well as the Yuanrong Grasslands. We shall present them to you now!"

"Mm!"

Fang Yuan chose at scroll at random. This map was made of premium goatskin and had been sanitised to prevent rotting. Still, its borders were covered with mold stains.

Although these maps were created decades ago, they should be largely accurate.

Fang Yuan opened the most comprehensive map, where a triangular piece of land was detailed.

On this continent, the domains of the Xia Country were clearly marked and sat in the middle. Beside it lay the lands of the Wu Country. These two countries took up nearly half of the total land area. In the immediate surroundings were the smaller states of Zhu, Yan, Qi etcetera. Other than perhaps the Zhu Country, the tiny states were no better than the Secluded Mountain Prefecture. They were but small players on the game board.

"The great seas on the three sides of the continent were referred to as 'The Deep' in the historical records. They are said to be endless, with life forms few and far between."

Fang Yuan's gaze traversed over the continent to the northern part of the map. It was a sprawling grassland.

"This is the Yuanrong Grasslands. There lay the Yuan Country, where the people rule over the land with their horses and bows. They live like nomads..."

"To get to the Da Qian Empire, one has to journey through the grasslands. This is the only way!"

Fang Yuan stared at the map, his eyes gleaming.

### [Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

#### **Chapter 156: Zhu Country**

The world was huge, even Fang Yuan at his cultivation level could not comprehend the vastness of the world.

As he examined the rough drawing of the map, his fingers ran through the Yuanrong Grasslands, and as excitement filled his eyes, he let out a long sigh.

To reach the Da Qian Empire, he had to traverse through this grassland, and it was still unknown what troubles or dangers he might face.

Furthermore, based on his current cultivation, it was still not very safe.

He was also not in a hurry to go there too.

"Take your leave!"

As he waved, he dismissed Yu Xinlou and Huang Fu Renhe. With the flip of his palm, the treasure map from the Five Ghosts Sect appeared in his hands.

This was so secretive that he did not intend to let anyone else know about it.

At this point in time, the three-pieced treasure map was combined into one, forming an intricate drawing of mountains. There was also an obvious spot which caught his attention.

"This Five Ghosts Sect ancestor from the Da Qian Empire is not simple..."

While examining the treasure map, he had a complicated look on his face.

After all, this treasure had so much affinity with him. Even though it was split into three pieces and circulated far and wide, he could still gather them together, which made him believe that it was fate.

The 'master's' true identity was also very suspicious.

The three of his disciples had their own accomplishments. The Xuan Yin Metal Corpse Spell could develop the Five Ghosts Sect to such a stage, and as for the Blood Demon, his inheritance was of immoral ways.

"An extremely strong immoral demon? That escaped here after failing in the Da Qian empire..."

Fang Yuan touched his chin. "From the act of not directly passing down this treasure to his descendants, I can infer that there must be risks in this... Of course, treasures can only be obtained from risks, and if it was safe, I'll rather not try!"

...

He was an extremely decisive person. Since he had decided, he delegated the internal affairs of the Prefecture down to his subordinates and split his power, and he seemed unafraid that they would go against him with their power.

Afterwards, Fang Yuan rode the Red-eyed White King Bird back to Green Peak spiritual land.

He wanted to settle the minute stuff before putting down everything to look for the secret place in the treasure map.

As Fang Yuan left the Secluded Mountain Prefecture City, many carts contain valuables and gifts were delivered into the city.

If Daoist Mu Li was still here, he would be speechless. Fang Yuan had already left, so what was the point of delivering all these gifts?

Outside the city gates, in a restaurant's private room, there was complete silence. There was a spread on the table, and a 15-year aged wine was opened as its fragrance filled the entire room.

"The Royal Family of the Xia Country have put in quite a lot of money!"

From a window opening, a pair of eyes stared at the carriages of valuables entering the city, as it laughed.

It was a young man in silk robes and was around 25 years of age. He had definitive facial features and would leave a strong impression on those who looked at him.

As he said, there was a hint of anger on his face. "Xie Lingyun did not honour her words and caused my army to be destroyed. She deserves to die!"

"Be cautious with your words, prince!"

At the table, there was another person in green clothes. He had a cloth tied around his hair bun, and although his clothes were plain, there seemed to be extremely clean. He appeared to be about 40 to 50 years old and was originally closing his eyes to rest. As he opened his eyes, he had a warm gaze. "This lady has a marriage agreement with our king. Based on the rituals, she is your unwedded sister-in-law!"

As he spoke, the surroundings shook as his energy spread across the room, as though his instructions were absolute.

His level of cultivation was definitely in the realms of elemental force.

"Hehe... My brother wanted to marry this lady in order to facilitate his future plans and make it official... It seems that this lady is immature and does not have a sense of gratitude. Luckily, we will not sit back and do nothing..."

The internal conflict in the royal family might just kill the new bride.

After all, Wu Country only needed an excuse to invade.

"Even if this is so, you should restrain!"

The middle-aged man shook his head. "Considering the fall of our army and the shock it brought to our country, it would be unwise to create more trouble. Even if Xie Lingyun were to delay the date of marriage, our king can only hold himself back and wait..."

"Delay? This lady is full of pride, that might just happen..."

The young prince smiled. "Compared to her, I am more interested in that young Wu Zong. Cultivating his magic and the path of martial arts at the same time, and is even able to have control over spiritual plants? Wiping out tens of thousands of soldiers?"

"I have done the investigation, it is indeed true... Although there are some restraints on that prefecture, they are nonetheless a force to be reckoned with."

The middle-aged man sighed again. He knew the value of such power. Even the Imperial Advisor, Elder Daoist Xuan Sheng and General Fei Long cautioned against Fang Yuan when they returned to their country.

Otherwise, they wouldn't be here as well.

"The new Prefecture Master's tactics are mysterious, but what is his true cultivation? Based on his progress and potential, he might be at the peak of the Elemental Gathering Realm at 50 years old, and able to reach the bottleneck to the Elemental Opening Realm!"

The young prince rubbed the ruby ring on his finger, appearing solemn.

"This talent cannot be comprehended with common sense. However, since they have made the 100-year agreement, it would be impossible to send in large amounts of troops to take over them. The only way is to slowly plot against the prefecture!"

The middle-aged man answered in a serious tone.

No matter how much these two people estimated Fang Yuan's abilities to be, they would never have guessed that he was already at the peak of the Elemental Gathering Realm, ready to break through to the Elemental Opening Realm.

"Sir!"

A shopkeeper entered, and in a serious and respectful tone, said, "We have news that the Secluded Mountain Prefecture Master has left the Prefecture City a few days ago. The internal affairs are now handed over to Leader Niu Dingtian, Zhang Qingfeng, Yu Xinlou and a few others to settle!"

"This is... weird!"

The young prince hands shuddered. "There is such a person in this world? Who would give no regard to absolute power? Is he not worried that his subordinates would overthrow him?"

"Maybe... Only by doing this would he have accomplishments...."

They were all rather impressed at Fang Yuan.

However, both of them looked at each other, speechless.

Since Fang Yuan was not in the Prefecture City anymore, what use did their preparations here and the spies have?

...

As the news spread, Fang Yuan had already left the Green Peak Spiritual Mountain, riding on the Iron-tailed Black Eagle's back, flying freely in the sky.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

The black eagle was unhappy that the Red-eyed White King Bird took over its role, and used this opportunity to showcase its ability. Its speed was indeed as quick as an arrow, and they flashed across the clouds.

"Now, my influence, martial arts, spiritual spells and even my prestige are at peak levels, or should I say bottlenecks!"

Fang Yuan crossed his legs and sat down, staring into space.

Even though the wind was strong, his clothes did not sway a single bit, which appeared weird.

"Being the Prefecture Master of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture is already my limit, and I have attracted many spies as well. I would sooner or later have to reveal my true strength..."

"The only solution is to keep improving myself!"

He clenched his fist and his blood almost boiled.

Xia Country, Wu Country, Zhu Countr and even Yuan Country all did not have obvious Elemental Opening Realm spiritual knights coming from them.

If he spearheaded and entered this realm first, he could have ultimate control and a firm footing. He would not have to worry about others plotting against him anymore.

"The equivalent of the Elemental Opening Realm of a dream master is the Illusionary Divine Stage. It is incredibly arduous to achieve this stage. One would be required to reproduce something from the dream world in the real world. Even if it was a grain of sand or a spiritual spell, it would still be counted as an overall success!"

The path of making visions into reality as a dream master was the hardest of all.

"Based on the theory of my 'past life', there is a fixed cycle in everything, but as for the Prominent Divine Stage of the dream world, it is to make 'something out of nothing'!"

Fang Yuan bit his lip. "Maybe not really something out of nothing, but based on my current cultivation, I am unable to understand the mystery of the highest stage."

The end goal of a dream master was always to turn vision into reality.

But in order to make objects and beings with souls, and subsequently the world, such power could not be harnessed by ordinary dream masters. Every object had their own law of nature to follow.

To Fang Yuan, however, this exploration was too deep for him now. He could only follow the instructions from Master Wenxin to slowly enter the Illusionary Divine Stage.

He would only slowly unravel the other mysteries after attaining the highest cultivation level possible.

"To attain the Illusionary Divine Stage, I just need to reproduce some part of my dream world into the real world to be considered a breakthrough!"

"Based on the experience of my master, it would be the hardest to reproduce living beings, followed by spiritual objects, then normal objects. The easiest would be to harness the flow of energy from spiritual spells!"

Even if both were to be constructed by sand, Fang Yuan understood that a body of energy would be easier to create than a real physical body

A dream spells master was very common in the Illusionary Divine Stage.

A dream spells master would create spiritual spells in dream worlds and transfer them into the real world.

Since they create the spiritual spells in their dream world, the elemental energy required is far lesser; they could create any type of spiritual spells and could be conversant in all 5 elements, and were especially good in casting illusions and confusion arrays.

This power would overwhelm the others in the same realm.

But a dream spells master would be the easiest path for a dream master to take to enter the Holy Stage!

The path of a dream master is countless, and the possibilities were endless!

Only now did Fang Yuan truly understand the true meaning in Master Wenxin's inheritance.



...

"Chirp! Chirp!"

While Fang Yuan was deep in thought, the seated Iron-tailed Black Eagle let out a long chirp.

"Mm? We have arrived at Zhu Country?"

Fang Yuan looked down in anticipation.

Zhu Country was a small country. It had 10 counties and were neighbouring countries with Xia Country and Wu Country. However, they were slightly weaker and in the past 10 years, there was no news of any new elemental force martial artists, as though they would be a weakening force.

In comparison, it was rather similar to the Secluded Mountain Prefecture which Fang Yuan was in charge of.

"The 'master's' treasure map points towards the middle of the Drunken Moon Lake in Zhu Country!"

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered.

His cultivation had already reached the peak, and any additional consumption of spiritual pills or spiritual rice would not be beneficial to his cultivation. Only by breaking through would his cultivation improve further.

This treasure might do all the difference!!!

### Carefree Path of Dreams

#### **Chapter 157: Drunken Moon**

The Descent Moon Court was a famous landmark in the Zhu Country. The court was located beside the Drunken Moon Lake. It had 7 floors and was over 30 yards tall. The construction of the court was extremely ingenious. From the top floor, the view of the Drunken Moon Lake was spectacular and had a soothing effect. Inside the court, there were a few calligraphies made by famous scholars. The most poetic one was the 'Immortal Drunken Moon' and was considered a treasure in the court. Not anyone would have a chance to see it.

There was a thin layer of fog gliding on the surface of the lake. The lake was huge and it was home to reeds and other aquatic life. The scenery was mesmerising, and the lake had provided a living for many people. One of the best aquatic products that could be caught from the lake was the Drunken Moon Silverfish. It was a delicacy served in the Descent Moon Court. The dish was carefully made and consists of getting the freshest sections from 49 different Drunken Moon Silverfishes. It was delicious beyond comparison. It was said that tasting this dish would be akin to attaining immortality, and other types of meat would taste worthless in the next three months.

Fang Yuan sat boldly in a suite room. There was a jade white wine pot in front of him and the wine in it was very fragrant. A sumptuous meal was laid out on the table, and one of the dishes was the speciality in Descent Moon Court; the 7 Treasures Sliced Drunken Fish. The slices of fish were thin and transparent. There was also an aroma of the wine from the slices of fish, making it very tasty.

"Hmm.....not bad. This is good!"

Fang Yuan took another slice using his chopsticks and tipped the waitress beside him. "This fish is fresh and tender. With the addition of the wine, it is a complete match and a good combination. This taste is extraordinary....."

"Master, you are an expert in food indeed!"

After hearing Fang Yuan's praises, the waitress quickly kept the tips and her eyes were filled with happiness. "This is a top quality Drunken Silverfish. This fish naturally has the taste of the wine and it is rare to catch this fish in the Drunken Moon Lake!"

"The Drunken Silverfish?"

Fang Yuan laughed and his eyes glittered a little. "So the fish knows how to drink alcohol?"

"This.....I'm afraid the fishes do know how. Looks like master, you are not here for the Drunken Moon Festival?" The waitress was a little startled as she asked that question.

"The Drunken Moon Festival?"

Fang Yuan casually enjoyed his meal. "Tell me more about it!"

"Yes!"

The waitress was a little surprised. Nevertheless, she still explained it in detail to Fang Yuan.

There would be a few days in the Drunken Moon Lake where there would be a Lunar Corona. During this period of time, wine aroma would come from the lake intermittently, as it reflects the moon on the surface of the lake. Hence, the name Drunken Moon Lake.

During these few days, the lake would have good stuff like the rare Drunken Silverfish and other spiritual animals!

This attracted many scholars and martial artists to explore the secrets behind this. They would also trade here in the market during this period of the year and since then, this had become an annual festival.

"Oh?"

Fang Yuan laughed and said, "So what a coincidence, I've come at the right time. Looks like I am destined to experience this festival!"

"Of course. Master, you are a lucky person!"

The waitress covered her mouth and laugh politely. However, that was not what she thought.

Not anyone could enter the Descent Moon Court. Even though was Fang Yuan was a stranger to the court, the waitresses were ordered to provide a good service to Fang Yuan and serve him good food. So how could he be just a normal person?

Not to mention, Fang Yuan had an elegant temperament and was wealthy.

She was guessing that Fang Yuan must be from a rich household.

Fang Yuan lifted up his cup. Amidst the cooling breeze and the scenery, his mind was running wild. 'I didn't expect....that the location of the treasure was a tourist landmark. The person who made the map, his actions are very unexpected.....However, since he could hide the map from so many people, the method of concealing the treasure might not be that simple. With the festivities around, I could delay a day before heading to the lake to continue searching....."

.....

Since the Drunken Moon Festival was quite famous in the Zhu Country, preparations were made a few days in advance.

As the festival approached, Fang Yuan realised that more and more people arrived at the lake. Martial artists were walking around with swords and daggers, looking ferocious and all tense up, causing many to subconsciously avoid them.

It was nighttime. The moon was high up in the sky and above the lake, there was a layer of thick fog.

The lakeside was very quiet and there were a number of lone fires burning emerald green in colour, giving one the creeps.

As the number of lone fires increased, horses and cows gathered around. Tents were being set up and the place became like a market. However, to those who had no idea what was going on, it would seem like a gathering of demons.

In fact, it was called the Ghost Market.

Fang Yuan realised that it was just a gathering set up by the cultivation world. This gathering was made mysterious like a cult so normal people would not join in.

"I should take a look at this annual black market!"

Nobody knew who was the one who organised the black market and the people who came were all mysterious. Fang Yuan wore a hat which had covered almost half of his face.

The products sold in this black market had unknown sources. However, there were a few good stuff here.

Of course, there was no guarantee to any of the products sold. One could end up getting a fake product or products that might implicate them with bad blood, and if that is so, one can only blame oneself's bad luck.

"Is it your first time here?"

At the entrance of the ghost market, a few strong men in black were guarding and as they saw Fang Yuan, they welcomed him with a smile.

"Yes.....Are there any rules here when I enter this place?"

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered and he was glowing, startling a few of them.

"No rules....just a few agreements that we have to remind you when you enter!"

The leader of the group laughed and explained. "Inside the market, you can either exchange a good with another good, or you can pay in gold or silver. However, banknotes are not accepted. Once a trade has been made, you cannot ask for a refund. Of course, the most important is that you should not use force on anyone or else you will be severely dealt with."

"Hmm."

Fang Yuan waved his hands and entered the market.

"Big Brother..."

Another man in black beside the leader noticed that Fang Yuan was rather rude. He went forward to talk to the leader.

"Don't harbour any stupid ideas. Are you tired of living?"

The leader's eyes were serious as he berated that man. "We were recommended by everyone to guard this place because we are righteous! It would not pay off to do these meaningless things! Also....."

As he looked in the direction which Fang Yuan had gone, he was feeling a little worried.

Even though Fang Yuan's voice sounded young, the leader was unsure if Fang Yuan was an old master in disguise. No one would be able to help him if he really offended an expert who could use elemental force.

...

This leader obviously didn't know that by being reserved, it saved his life.

Fang Yuan was looking around in the market, surprised.

"A black market indeed. The goods here are of good quality and the prices are rather cheap. The only thing is that no one knows where these goods come from....."

He went past a few stalls and bought a few rare spiritual objects, and was not interested in the rest.

After all, at his current level of maturity and his status as a prefecture master, there were not many things that made him interested.

"Everyone, the Drunken Moon Lake is about to open. There will be numerous spiritual objects around, and therefore is the best time to try your luck. How can you not have a Water Map with you?"

A loud voice was heard from the front.

Among the rather silent market, this voice attracted quite a lot of attention.

Fang Yuan went forward and saw a person wearing a cloak. The person was squatting by the roadside and there was a small stall right in front of him, displaying 3 maps for sale.

"This is the Drunken Moon Water Adventure Map. I have spent decades crafting out this map and I will be only selling 3 copies. Each copy cost 1,000 taels of white silver or any goods that are of similar price!"

He sounded greedy.

"This map is crafted beautifully, but I'm not sure if it's real or fake.....Otherwise, 1,000 taels for this map is not at all expensive!"

An onlooker came forward and took a look at the map. He shook his head and asked, "Is it possible for me to have a look at the complete version of the map?"

"Not possible!"

The man in cloak rejected straight away and said, "Only those who have paid can view the complete version. I am swearing right here that there will only be 3 copies of this map sold this year!"

'Hmm? Indeed a smart person!'

Fang Yuan went forward and realised that the maps were incomplete as the map had missed out many districts. However, the map was crafted beautifully. There were measurements and legends included, which seemed that much effort had been put into when crafting this map.

However, the possibility of it being fake was very high. It would be too late to regret it if he had bought it and realised that it was fake.

Also, who could fully trust that person in the cloak with just a guarantee from him? After all, the person could make a few more copies and make money from it by selling them.

"What a pity.....if it was just 100 taels of silver, I will take the gamble!"

One of the onlookers shouted.

"I, Jiang... will not lie to anyone. If I said there would be only 3 copies, there would only be 3 copies!"

The man in the cloak was little angry and raised his voice.

"Haha.....since you put it that way, I shall support you then!"

At that moment, the crowd made way and an old person dressed in black came forward. "These are good quality Drunken Pearls. One pearl is worth 100 taels. Can I exchange 10 pearls for that map?"

"Of course!"

The man in the cloak kept the pearls from the old man and passed one copy of the map to him with both of his hands.

"Are you two in cahoots to trick the rest of us?"

Seeing the appearance of the old man, the rest of the onlookers felt even more suspicious and were even more hesitant to buy the map as they were afraid that it might be a fraud.

There were all kinds of people in this Ghost Market.

However, Fang Yuan had a different opinion.

'These two knew each other. The man in the cloak only revealed this fact when he became angry. From the reaction of the old man who had bought the map, it seemed that is rather influential.....Even though he seems to be only at the level of the 4 Heavenly Gates...'

With this thought, he had some assurance with regards to the authenticity of the map. He went forward and examined the map once more.

As he looked, he was a little surprised.

Some parts of the incomplete version of the map seemed to coincide with the treasure map which he already had.

"After all, the Drunken Moon Lake is huge. It will be too troublesome to look for it one by one and now I even manage to find clues here. Looks like I have found what I wanted!"

As he thought about this, Fang Yuan went forward and grabbed a copy of that map.

"Hey friend....."

The man in the cloak became angry, but his hair stood on its ends as though he was facing a ferocious beast.

"Don't worry, I'm paying for it!"

Fang Yuan cleared his throat and tossed him a jade bottle.

"Are these....spiritual pills?"

As the man in the cloak poured the contents of the bottle out, his eyes were wide opened and he let out a cry, and the onlookers were in shock.

### Carefree Path of Dreams

#### **Chapter 158: Combined Assault**

Whenever Fang Yuan went out, he would bring along a large amount of gold and silver that were befitting of his status. However, it would be easier to make trades with items in the Ghost Market. For convenience, he brought along spiritual pills and objects primarily.

He took out a Muscle Building Pill. Based on the sheen that caused it to shine like a pearl in the dark, it was obvious that it was not common, and possessed a bit of pill essence.

"The pill's carvings, essence and sheen...this is a real spiritual pill!"

The old man, who previously asked for money to purchase the map, croaked, his eyes fixed on Fang Yuan. "To be able to produce spiritual pills, could it be that you are a medicine master?"

He guessed that the person was either a true alchemy master, although the possibility was very small, or an alchemy disciple who could only use the title of a medicine master.

Fang Yuan could not be bothered to correct him!

This pill is known as the Muscle Building Pill. It is able to treat injuries quickly. How about I trade this pill for your map?

He looked at the person in the cloak and asked directly.

"That would naturally be enough. Your pill is worth much more than that!"

The cloaked man immediately bowed.

Although he was usually proud and arrogant, the man could not be haughty in front of a possible alchemy disciple.

"That's good!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head and left.

"Shuala!"

The martial artists who were there to see the commotion parted to create a path, their eyes fiery. None of them dared to step forward and talk to him without understanding his nature.

The cloaked man had already started to close his stall and did not want to continue his business.

"Wait, I want to buy that map!"

A martial artist boomed after racking his brains.

"That's right, I will pay in silver and add another 100 taels!"

Another man in black shirt with bloodshot eyes said.

They had finally understood the value of the map which was sought after by a mysterious person and an alchemy master.

"I am happy with what I have obtained today, please leave!"

The cloaked man held the spiritual pill tightly and disappeared into the crowd.

Hindered by the rules and regulations of the Ghost Market, some of the people felt that it was a pity. However, there were others that started to gather.

After all, that was a spiritual pill!

According to what that alchemy master had said, the pill would be a lifesaver at a critical moment!

The inner force experts and the martial artists of the 4 Heavenly Gates were willing to pay the price and shed blood for the pill.

People were willing to fight for just one spiritual pill. As such, Fang Yuan, the purported alchemy master, would face much trouble.

He appeared to be unaware. After looking at a few other stalls, he shook his head and headed for the exit of the Ghost Market.

"Sir, wait!"

The old man who purchased the map rushed forward and said respectfully, "I am Yu Feishui, it is my fortune to meet you today!"

"Oh, a lucky encounter!"

Fang Yuan asked indifferently, "How may I help you?"

Yu Feishui revealed his identity which was famous in this district. It was obvious that Fang Yuan was not a citizen of Zhu Country as he had not even heard of his name.

He was cunning and appeared common, "That right, I have a large number of spiritual ingredients that I would like to present to you as a gift!"

"Drunken Moon Festival?"

Fang Yuan asked.

"You are definitely knowing!"

Yu Feishui smiled, "I know the person that previously sold you the map, his name is Jiang Tianwang. He is familiar with the water and thrived in it. His ancestors made a living out of the Drunken Moon Lake. If they had not met any unforeseen circumstances, they would not be here selling maps."

"What does that got to do with me?"

Fang Yuan asked coldly.

"Every Drunken Moon Festival, the Drunken Moon Lake would produce up to 3 times as much Drunken Fish with the possibility of spiritual fish appearing!" Yu Feishui continued, "This time, I have put in the effort and created 3 metal hull flying ship, and the maps of Jiang Tianwang. I am only lacking an alchemy disciple to be able to use the spiritual fish as an ingredient..."

An alchemy master was second to none in fully utilising spiritual animals and plants.

Yu Feishui understood perfectly that it would be a waste if there was no alchemy master at hand to utilize the spiritual fish even if they had a good haul.

As such, he looked at Fang Yuan and gritted his teeth, "If you are willing to help, I am willing to share half of my haul with you!"

He bowed deeply after speaking.

Truth be told, half the portion was too much even for an alchemy disciple.

However, Yu Feishui was cunning and was not thinking about the harvest but rather used it as a mean to approach the alchemy master. As such, he was willing to sacrifice everything he had.

"I have heard your request clear, it is just a shame..."

Fang Yuan shrugged his shoulders and mocked him, "I am no alchemy master! Goodbye!"

He waved his hand and walked out of the Ghost Market in big strides.

"What?"

Yu Feishui's mouth dropped open. He felt like giving himself a slap.

He realized that Fang Yuan only took out a spiritual pill and did not confirm that he was an alchemy master. All the previous guesses were his wishful thinking.

Knowing this, he still ran forward and revealed all his plans?



This was not how he normally behave!

'Wait a minute, when I chased after him just now, I only wanted to test him. Why did I reveal the truth and even my name to him the moment I met him?'

Old Yu felt that something was off the more he thought about it. He was in cold sweat.

"Haha...to think that he would be able to get to Old Yu!"

At this moment, a few people appeared at his side, their looks were ominous. "He must be from another country as he did not even know your name. Rest assured, we will help you!"

They chased after Fang Yuan immediately after finishing the sentence.

Old Yu recognized them as the Long Hair Demons, a famous group of bandits in Zhu Country. It was rumoured that all their members had at least broken through the Death Gate, and they were all united and cunning.

The seven brothers had even managed to escape from a Wu Zong together!

With a strong reputation, they were unrestrained and were notorious in Zhu Country.

"There are to be no fighting within the Ghost Market. However, there are no such rules outside the market..."

Yu Feishui muttered as he looked in the direction that Fang Yuan went.

He did not know why he was not concerned about the youth but was afraid for himself to the point that his limbs started to tremble.

...

"Reckless idiots!"

Fang Yuan had realized long ago that he was being followed.

After all, he flaunted the spiritual pill in the black market and did not display his ability. Was it not to attract the attention of others to tempt them?

Given his current power, they were nothing no matter how many of them came.

He would be able to escape even if they were Wu Zongs and spiritual knights from Wu Country.

Soon after, the Long Hair Demons met their doom.

So what if they possessed a good technique that would allow them to combine their Elemental Force which would in turn rival that of a Wu Zong?

Fang Yuan was no ordinary Wu Zong!

He lifted up the second brother, shook his head and tore him apart.

The second brother was well-built. Under Fang Yuan's hand, however, he tore like paper. Fresh blood and innards spilt onto the floor.

"You are...a Wu Zong!"

The eldest brother did not run away. Looking at his brothers' bodies, he was in utter despair.

They could not beat the person standing in front of him even when the 7 of them combined their strength. Now that he was alone, how could he fight Fang Yuan?

He was filled with hatred!

He had already remembered the features of those experts that should not be messed with from the neighbouring countries but Fang Yuan did not meet the criteria for all of them.

If not, he would not have foolishly took on Fang Yuan and be sent to his death!

"Hmmm, correct guess, sadly there is no prize!"

Fang Yuan used the shadowstep and arrived before the eldest brother. He touched the eldest brother's forehead. "Dream!"

The eldest brother trembled, closed his eyes and when into a deep sleep.

A white fog appeared and slowly swallowed everything in its path...

After a while, Fang Yuan opened his eyes. With a wave of his hand, the eldest brother's head cracked open.

"Long Hair Demons? What kind of stupid name is that?"

He was disgusted and shook his head.

After his dream-building was completed, the martial artists and spiritual disciples who were of the Elemental Force Realm and below were unable to keep secrets from him.

From the dream alone, he was able to delve into the life of the eldest brother, understand his whole family tree and even know where they hid their loot from years of evil-doing.

Of course, he was able to get much more information than that.

From the Long Hair Demons, he noticed the set of technique which allowed them to combine their assault.

After careful examination, he made a new revelation.

"This combined assault technique was passed down for generations. Their ancestor was a common fisherman of the Drunken Moon Lake. It was fate which resulted in him meeting a benefactor who took him in as a servant and imparted this skill to him after he had served for 3 years..."

Fang Yuan stroked his chin. "Based on the timeline, it was very close to the founder of the Five Ghosts Sect. Could they be the same person?"

There was no purpose to further investigate.

What was important was that the technique was now in his hands.

"I have no use for this technique, however, this is not a bad technique to the servants and can be used to guard the house..."

Fang Yuan stroked his chin and wondered if he should impart skills to the Secluded Mountain Prefecture Armed Forces.

While pondering, Fang Yuan dispelled the fog and the misty Drunken Moon Lake appeared before his eyes.

The moonlight lit up the waters.

Fang Yuan touched his nose.

The gentle breeze brought along the fragrance of alcohol. It smelled no difference from the Drunken Silver Fish.

"The lake water carries the smell of alcohol, the moon and the lake meets? The Drunken Moon Festival... is here!"

In the lake, there were many boats.

Since the Drunken Moon phenomenon, there were many martial artists coming from everywhere and seemed to have gone crazy with the fishermen here, as they all gathered in at the Drunken Moon Lake.

After all, the commencement of the Drunken Moon Festival would mean that the volume of silver fishes would increase exponentially, just like the past years.

Needless to say, among the normal silver fishes, there would be the extremely valuable Drunken Moon Silver Fish.

Once they get any catch, the restaurants by the lake would buy the fish in taels at a standard rate.

With this enticement, everyone ranging from three-year-olds to old folks joined in the craze for fishing. Some even went to the extent of just floating around the lake on a piece of wooden board, without any regard for their own life.

Of course, beneath the large profits earned were lives that were lost; there were countless corpses at the bottom of the lake.

A cultivator would have a different taste.

How would they be satisfied with normal fish?

They were all interested in the spiritual fishes and spiritual objects in the depths of the Drunken Moon Lake, and the Wine Spring Source, which was described in the legends to be able to transform the entire lake into wine!

"Of course, the Wine Spring Source is but a myth, and is likely to be fake..."

Since obtaining the whereabouts of the 'master', Fang Yuan had an idea of his own.

He might even be the one behind the weird phenomenon at the Drunken Moon Lake. With his god-like powers, it was scary and almost made him wanted to return home.

After all, this 'master' was not his own master, who would without hesitation teach him everything he knew. Conversely, the chances of him being evil were rather high, and there might be that danger.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

The Iron-tailed Black Eagle flapped its wings, creating huge gusts of winds.

As the gust blew at him, Fang Yuan's clothing remained still.

"Old Fish was right. Jiang Tianwang's ancestors used to work around the lake, and his water map was indeed intricately drawn..."

Fang Yuan crossed his legs and sat on the eagle's back. He opened the map which he purchased and compared it with his own treasure map, as he came to a conclusion.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

The Iron-tailed Black Eagle chirped as it felt a little tipsy from the air full of wine fragrance. Suddenly, it descended and made waves on the surface of the lake with its claws. As he ascended, it had already caught two struggling silver fishes in its claws.

"Mmm?"

Accompanying the struggling silver fishes was a strong scent of wine fragrance, which was extremely mouth-watering.

Fang Yuan looked at the treasure map in his hands, then looked at the water map, speechless.

"The closer I get to the treasure, the more Drunken Moon Silver Fishes there would be. Following, I'm afraid..."

Indeed, at this moment, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle had already eaten both fishes. As it took aim at another school of fishes, something happened!

"Splash!"

In the splashes of water, a silvery fish of 25 inches jumped out of the lake, right into the claws of the Iron-tailed Black Eagle.

Its scales were glittering, and its skin was like jade. Suddenly, it opened its mouth and spit out a stream of water towards the eyes of the Iron-tailed Black Eagle.

"Splash!"

This stream of water came extremely quick. The Iron-tailed Black Eagle could only narrowly dodge it, and as the stream of water landed on its neck, a few feathers dropped. It took a slight turn in its flight path and almost headed into the water. Chirps of anger were heard.

The silver fish was extremely slippery. As its shot landed on the eagle, it slipped into the water and with a flick of its tail, it vanished. The Iron-tailed Black Eagle could only let out a long chirp.

"Nice spiritual fish!"

Fang Yuan witnessed all of it on the back of the Iron-tailed Black Eagle. This silver fish had a spirituality of its own, unlike a normal silver fish. It was truly a spiritual being!

If a martial artist were to eat it, he would become stronger. If an alchemy master were to obtain it, he could extract all the essence from it and turn it into a spiritual pill!

Yu Feishui spent his entire fortune making three metal hull flying ships and sent out all his assistants, all for this spiritual fish.

“Spiritual beings are valuable. Based on the size of this lake, there would be a lot of spiritual fishes in it... Maybe it can train up a batch of highly skilled martial artists just with these spiritual fishes?”

Regardless cultivation or martial artists training, foundation and resources are the most important.

Where do such resources come from? Of course from spiritual beings!

If one was gifted and had enough spiritual objects to supplement, one could follow in Fang Yuan’s miraculous footsteps and break all the gates in quick succession.

“Of course, after the Death Gate, the Wu Zong gate would require affinity and a high magical energy. Not every spiritual object had the ability to increase one’s magic.”

Fang Yuan located a small island and ordered the Iron-tailed Black Eagle to land there and rest. Seeing the occasional shimmer on the surface of the lake, Fang Yuan was lost in his thoughts. “This spiritual fish is not bad. If it can be tamed, I might even try to carve out a pond in the Green Peak spiritual land...”

“Chirp! Chirp!”

After Fang Yuan dismounted the Iron-tailed Black Eagle, it flew to the lake to find trouble for the fishes. At one go, it managed to catch 10 drunken silver fishes, but none of them was spiritual.

On the contrary, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle was sprayed at many times by the spiritual fishes and looked embarrassing.

“Haha...”

As Fang Yuan witnessed this scene, he happily joined in. “I’ll take revenge for you! Let’s go!”

“Chirp! Chirp!”

With his help, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle instantly became much more energetic. It took aim at a school of fishes and dashed towards it.

“Splash!”

The school of fish hurriedly scrambled away. At the side, a splash appeared as a spiritual fish jumped out. With a spray, a stream of water aimed straight at the Iron-tailed Black Eagle.

After all, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle was a bird, and it would be disadvantageous for it to play hide-and-seek with the spiritual fishes in the water.

“Trying to escape?”

Fang Yuan laughed, as he struck his right hand out and crushed the water stream.

“Whoosh!”

Not just that, his energy was gentle as silk but strong as metal. As it entered the lake, it vanished.

Fang Yuan closed his eyes and used his magical energy to control his energy. Suddenly, he exclaimed.

“Up!”

“Splash!”

As the water surface broke, the spiritual fish which took a shot at the eagle was yanked out of the water, and its tail continued to flap.

This mystical move was a testament to Fang Yuan’s superior prowess in giving his elemental energy a form outside his body as well as his developing dream master’s skill in probing into memories.

“Ping! Ping!”

With the flick of this right wrist, he swung the spiritual fish onto the island and scanned the lake for more. Together with the Iron-tailed Black Eagle, he managed to catch 5 more spiritual fishes in a short span of time.

“Alright, that’s enough!”

After predicting the Iron-tailed Black Eagle’s appetite, Fang Yuan stopped catching more fishes and came to the island. He collected some dried twigs, started a fire and began cooking the fish.

The Drunken Moon Silver Fish was a delicacy, the pride of Zhu Country.

He had tried it for himself before at Descent Moon Court, and it was indeed remarkable. Seeing this spiritual fish again, he could not help himself but dig in.

“By smoking the fish, I will remove the fishy stench. Since it already has wine on it, I won’t need other condiments... I shall just cook it directly...”

Fang Yuan quickly slit open the spiritual fish’s stomach, cleaned it before smoking it over the fire. He only added a little salt to enhance its taste.

After a short while, an astonishing fragrance came from the spiritual fish meat, making him drool.

“Mmm...”

Fang Yuan gave it a large bite and his mouth was filled with the freshness and juiciness of the fish. It was indeed delicious.

“This fish meat is chewy and there is no fishy stench from it. In fact, it has a hint of sweetness in its meat, and together with the fragrance of wine, there is also a small numbing spiciness, good! Delicious!”

As he shook his hands, the fish bones separated from the meat smoothly.

After finishing an entire fish, Fang Yuan licked his lips and started to prepare the second one.

Beside him, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle was enjoying the fish too.

After a long while, both Fang Yuan and the Iron-tailed Black Eagle laid on the beach, both full and satisfied.

“Mmm... This spiritual force is therapeutic, with water-type properties. It has a similar effect as the Flame Jade Rice...”

Fang Yuan closed his eyes and rubbed his tummy, as he felt the spiritual energy spreading throughout his body, bringing with it a feeling of warmth. Every pore on his skin was extremely relaxed, as though he was in Heaven.

“After a full meal, let’s take a nap before finding the treasure!”

Fang Yuan placed both his hands behind his head, satisfied and completely relaxed.

All the pieces of the treasure map were with him, and there was no one else to compete with him. Therefore, he felt that it was alright if he delayed it by a day or two.

After a short while of resting, his eyebrows twitched as he stood up and examined the surface of the lake.

“Splash! Splash!”

Three metal hull flying ships were riding the waves and appeared in front of Fang Yuan.

These ships were extremely big and the appearance was very unique. It was entirely covered in metal, and there were two gigantic oars on each side of each ship. Even if they were riding against the wind, they could still sail at an astonishing speed.

“Metal hull flying ships?!”

Just by this, Fang Yuan could guess who the ships belonged to.

Seeing a bright red flag with the image of a whale at the fore of the ship, Fang Yuan said to himself in a mocking tone. “What a coincidence!”

“Grandfather, there is smoke there?!”

As the metal hull flying ships approached, they realised the smoke from the island.

“Mm?”

On the plank of the ship, Yu Feishui stroked his beard. “There are no ships here, but there is smoke. I’m afraid that someone might be stranded there. Send some small boats to take a look!”

He appeared wise and seemed to have absolute control over the situation.

However, shortly after, his eyeballs almost dropped out. He saw a black bird carrying a person as it landed on the ship’s plank.

“This is... a spiritual bird!?”

Yu Feishui was in disbelief and stopped his subordinates from wielding their weapons. Instead, he took two steps forward and greeted Fang Yuan with respect. "Junior Yu Feishui sends my greetings to you, Senior!"

He knew that he could not fend against this bird, and therefore the person who tamed it must be a senior!

Regardless how young he was, he must be a senior!

"Mmm..."

Fang Yuan chuckled inside, as Yu Feishui did not recognise him. "I've heard what you said previously, and you are indeed kind-hearted. Good, very good!"

Yu Feishui heaved a sigh of relief and looked at his grandchildren with a look of gratitude.

#### Chapter 159: Spiritual Fish

In the lake, there were many boats.

Since the Drunken Moon phenomenon, there were many martial artists coming from everywhere and seemed to have gone crazy with the fishermen here, as they all gathered in at the Drunken Moon Lake.

After all, the commencement of the Drunken Moon Festival would mean that the volume of silver fishes would increase exponentially, just like the past years.

Needless to say, among the normal silver fishes, there would be the extremely valuable Drunken Moon Silver Fish.

Once they get any catch, the restaurants by the lake would buy the fish in taels at a standard rate.

With this enticement, everyone ranging from three-year-olds to old folks joined in the craze for fishing. Some even went to the extent of just floating around the lake on a piece of wooden board, without any regard for their own life.

Of course, beneath the large profits earned were lives that were lost; there were countless corpses at the bottom of the lake.

A cultivator would have a different taste.

How would they be satisfied with normal fish?

They were all interested in the spiritual fishes and spiritual objects in the depths of the Drunken Moon Lake, and the Wine Spring Source, which was described in the legends to be able to transform the entire lake into wine!

"Of course, the Wine Spring Source is but a myth, and is likely to be fake..."

Since obtaining the whereabouts of the 'master', Fang Yuan had an idea of his own.

He might even be the one behind the weird phenomenon at the Drunken Moon Lake. With his god-like powers, it was scary and almost made him wanted to return home.



After all, this 'master' was not his own master, who would without hesitation teach him everything he knew. Conversely, the chances of him being evil were rather high, and there might be that danger.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

The Iron-tailed Black Eagle flapped its wings, creating huge gusts of winds.

As the gust blew at him, Fang Yuan's clothing remained still.

"Old Fish was right. Jiang Tianwang's ancestors used to work around the lake, and his water map was indeed intricately drawn..."

Fang Yuan crossed his legs and sat on the eagle's back. He opened the map which he purchased and compared it with his own treasure map, as he came to a conclusion.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

The Iron-tailed Black Eagle chirped as it felt a little tipsy from the air full of wine fragrance. Suddenly, it descended and made waves on the surface of the lake with its claws. As he ascended, it had already caught two struggling silver fishes in its claws.

"Mmm?"

Accompanying the struggling silver fishes was a strong scent of wine fragrance, which was extremely mouth-watering.

Fang Yuan looked at the treasure map in his hands, then looked at the water map, speechless.

"The closer I get to the treasure, the more Drunken Moon Silver Fishes there would be. Following, I'm afraid..."

Indeed, at this moment, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle had already eaten both fishes. As it took aim at another school of fishes, something happened!

"Splash!"

In the splashes of water, a silvery fish of 25 inches jumped out of the lake, right into the claws of the Iron-tailed Black Eagle.

Its scales were glittering, and its skin was like jade. Suddenly, it opened its mouth and spit out a stream of water towards the eyes of the Iron-tailed Black Eagle.

"Splash!"

This stream of water came extremely quick. The Iron-tailed Black Eagle could only narrowly dodge it, and as the stream of water landed on its neck, a few feathers dropped. It took a slight turn in its flight path and almost headed into the water. Chirps of anger were heard.

The silver fish was extremely slippery. As its shot landed on the eagle, it slipped into the water and with a flick of its tail, it vanished. The Iron-tailed Black Eagle could only let out a long chirp.

"Nice spiritual fish!"

Fang Yuan witnessed all of it on the back of the Iron-tailed Black Eagle. This silver fish had a spirituality of its own, unlike a normal silver fish. It was truly a spiritual being!

If a martial artist were to eat it, he would become stronger. If an alchemy master were to obtain it, he could extract all the essence from it and turn it into a spiritual pill!

Yu Feishui spent his entire fortune making three metal hull flying ships and sent out all his assistants, all for this spiritual fish.

“Spiritual beings are valuable. Based on the size of this lake, there would be a lot of spiritual fishes in it... Maybe it can train up a batch of highly skilled martial artists just with these spiritual fishes?”

Regardless cultivation or martial artists training, foundation and resources are the most important.

Where do such resources come from? Of course from spiritual beings!

If one was gifted and had enough spiritual objects to supplement, one could follow in Fang Yuan’s miraculous footsteps and break all the gates in quick succession.

“Of course, after the Death Gate, the Wu Zong gate would require affinity and a high magical energy. Not every spiritual object had the ability to increase one’s magic.”

Fang Yuan located a small island and ordered the Iron-tailed Black Eagle to land there and rest. Seeing the occasional shimmer on the surface of the lake, Fang Yuan was lost in his thoughts. “This spiritual fish is not bad. If it can be tamed, I might even try to carve out a pond in the Green Peak spiritual land...”

“Chirp! Chirp!”

After Fang Yuan dismounted the Iron-tailed Black Eagle, it flew to the lake to find trouble for the fishes. At one go, it managed to catch 10 drunken silver fishes, but none of them was spiritual.

On the contrary, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle was sprayed at many times by the spiritual fishes and looked embarrassing.

“Haha...”

As Fang Yuan witnessed this scene, he happily joined in. “I’ll take revenge for you! Let’s go!”

“Chirp! Chirp!”

With his help, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle instantly became much more energetic. It took aim at a school of fishes and dashed towards it.

“Splash!”

The school of fish hurriedly scrambled away. At the side, a splash appeared as a spiritual fish jumped out. With a spray, a stream of water aimed straight at the Iron-tailed Black Eagle.

After all, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle was a bird, and it would be disadvantageous for it to play hide-and-seek with the spiritual fishes in the water.

“Trying to escape?”

Fang Yuan laughed, as he struck his right hand out and crushed the water stream.

“Whoosh!”

Not just that, his energy was gentle as silk but strong as metal. As it entered the lake, it vanished.

Fang Yuan closed his eyes and used his magical energy to control his energy. Suddenly, he exclaimed.

“Up!”

“Splash!”

As the water surface broke, the spiritual fish which took a shot at the eagle was yanked out of the water, and its tail continued to flap.

This mystical move was a testament to Fang Yuan’s superior prowess in giving his elemental energy a form outside his body as well as his developing dream master’s skill in probing into memories.

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[Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

### **Chapter 160: Spiritual Fish King**

"This is my granddaughter. Xiaohong, come and greet senior!"

Yu Feishui was relieved as he knew he that this person was not evil. He immediately pulled her granddaughter out to greet Fang Yuan.

"I'm Yu Xiaohong. Greetings, senior!"

Her granddaughter was about 20 years old. She had bright eyes and a natural cheerful smile. She had two braids, was tall and had a beautiful figure. Her skin was tanned as she was often under the sun.

"Hmm, alright!"

Fang Yuan waved his hands and came to the bow of the ship. "Did you build this ship to catch the spiritual fishes during the Drunken Moon Festival?"

"You're correct!"

Yu Feishui took a few steps forward and continued, "I'm a water explorer. With the help of this ship, I would be satisfied if I can get some inheritance for my future generations....."

Fang Yuan had no comments.

The spiritual energy was limited. In the entire Drunken Moon Lake, this area had the highest concentration of the spiritual energy, which explained the appearance of spiritual fishes.

Fang Yuan had the spiritual bird, and Yu Feishui had the Metal Hull Flying Ship, both of which would attract attention. After a while, there might be many other martial artists would flock here like as if they were sharks who had just smelt blood.

"Grandfather! It's the silver fishes!"

At this moment, Yu Xiaohong stared at the silver lining on the surface of the lake with her sharp eyes and shouted.

"Hmm? Get the metal nets and the spearguns. We shall use the fishing hooks first. Order the other 2 boats to surround this area and don't let any of the fish escape!"

Yu Feishui told Fang Yuan that he needed to leave to attend to his business.

Even though he appeared cowardly in front of Fang Yuan, he was, in fact, smart and capable.

Along with a few exclamations, many sailors began to sprinkle large amounts of fish bait into the lake. They also tossed a huge fishing hook into the lake, with a golden red coloured earthworm on the hook as bait.

"This golden earthworm is a favourite among the silverfish and the Drunken Silverfish.....There might even be a slight chance to attract the spiritual fish!"

Seeing that Fang Yuan was a little confused, Yu Xiaohong explained to him in detail.

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

Fang Yuan came to the side of the boat and saw a silver glitter on the surface of the water. Many silver fishes had come to feed on the bait.

As many of the fishes snatched to feed on the bait, there were some caught on the hook.

'How could the normal fish bait compare to the golden earthworm? Of course, they would snatch for it! However, naturally, the stronger ones will win the fight! How can the silverfishes be able to snatch the earthworm from the Drunken Silverfishes? And how will the Drunken Silverfishes be able to snatch it from the spiritual fishes? The ones that will be caught on the hook will be the best fishes!'

Fang Yuan looked on and agreed silently.

"Hooks up!"

Yu Feishui gave the order with a calm look.

"Ughhh! Ughhh!"

Two sailors started to turn the winch to bring the fishnets back, pulling up many silverfishes.

"Hmm.....most of them are Drunken Silverfishes. We have a good catch today!"

Even though his goal was to catch the spiritual fish, Yu Feishui also wanted the normal silverfishes and the Drunken Silverfishes.

He stared at the fishing line as it reeled in, nervous.

"Whoosh!"

At that moment, the fishing line came onto the surface of the water and there was a 37-inch long spiritual fish on the hook!

Its shape stood out from the rest of the fishes and it was obvious that it was different.

As the fishing line was pulled even harder, the line was rising slowly and was under tension, as it approached its breaking point.

"Grandfather, it's the spiritual fish!"

Yu Xiaohong shouted.

"Hmph!"

Yu Feishui ran to the speargun at the bow of the ship. With steadied hands, he aimed at the spiritual fish and pulled the trigger.

"Peng!"

The speargun at the bow of the boat was, in fact, a ballistic projectile. It was a few inches long and had a metal hook that was chained to the speargun.

As it was fired, a shocking sound was heard and the whole ship vibrated slightly.

"Pa!"

The struggling spiritual fish knew that it was facing a threat and flicked.

With a light sound, the fishing line finally broke. The spiritual fish flicked its tail and basked under the sunlight as it avoided the speargun, before dropping back into the lake.

"Sigh....."

Yu Feishui sighed and gave another order again. "Spread the metal nets!"

A sailor from the lower decks ran to the upper deck and started waving a flag.

Two other Metal Hull Flying Ships started to surround and spread their metal nets. As the nets slowly combined together, the sailors turned the winch and hoisted the silverfishes caught in the nets.

"With what we have caught, we will not incur any loss. The spiritual fish is too cunning! I'm afraid that that fish will not.....hmmm...."

Yu Feishui was disappointed and approached Fang Yuan. As he spoke halfway, he suddenly stopped and was shocked.

"Hua la!"

Huge waves appeared together with a long silver shadow. This fish was a few yards long and was on the surface of the water. Suddenly, it lifted its head and shot out a stream of water, like an arrow. The metal nets were broken.

"Kacha!"

As the deafening noise was heard, the water arrow struck the metal nets and sparks were formed. A large hole broke open, and the silverfishes fell back into the lake like a waterfall as they escaped with their lives.

"What...what the hell..."

Yu Feishui rubbed his eyes and said, "It's not even possible for a spiritual fish to break the metal nets!"

"All right!"

From the disruption, Fang Yuan was able to see the gigantic fish's entire body.

It was twice as long as a normal spiritual fish and there was a golden line on its back. Immediately, Fang Yuan knew that this fish was a special one; it was the king of the spiritual fishes!

"It's the Dragon King!"

"The Dragon King is angry!"

Some of the superstitious sailors immediately shouted, and some of them even knelt down and kowtowed.

"Grand....grandfather....what should we do?"

At that moment, Yu Xiaohong was stunned as she looked at the surface of the lake.

She saw a big school of silverfishes gathering around the golden line, and together with other Drunken Silverfishes and spiritual fishes, they formed a humongous school. The fins of the fishes were like tiny waves, undulating.

"Tens thousand fishes are coming! Is the Dragon King really here?"

Yu Feishui was extremely experienced, and yet this was his first time witnessing such incident. Looking at the number of fishes gathered below the surface of the lake, it seemed that they didn't want to leave, but wanted to attack instead. Cold sweat started to form on his forehead.

It was never easy to hunt for a spiritual beast, and one had to mentally prepare to risk one's own life in the process.

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

Many fishes followed behind the spiritual king fish and circled around. Waves from the lake started to rise to form a whirlpool, and it started to grow in size.

"Leave now!"

Yu Feishui shouted at the top of his voice and the sailors on the three Metal Hull Flying Ships shouted together. On both sides, the ships started to use oars to get out of the whirlpool.

"Puff! Puff!"

How could the spiritual king fish let them go easily?

Beneath the surface of the lake, many spiritual fishes came together, shooting water arrows at the oars in an attempt to destroy them. Some of the fishes even charged straight at the hull of the ship, producing hitting noises which shocked the sailors.

If their ships weren't the Metal Hull Flying Ships and didn't have the metal boards to protect the hull, the ship would have been destroyed by those fishes and all of them would have drowned!



Even so, Yu Feishui was helpless and in despair as he witnessed the Metal Hull Flying Ships being dragged into the centre of the whirlpool. It seemed that there was no way to salvage this.

"Senior!"

He went to Fang Yuan and took a big bow. "I'm not afraid to die, but I beg of you to bring my granddaughter away with you!"

Yu Feishui knew how the situation was going to end.

The situation had reached a point where it couldn't be salvaged. The only way out was to sit on the Iron-tailed Black Eagle to escape!

"No! Grandfather! I will not go!"

Yu Xiaohong held onto her grandfather's arms and started to tear.

"Hmm...Old Yu, does such a situation happen often?"

Fang Yuan, however, was feeling calm. He was leaning against the railings and looked at the silver shadows beneath the whirlpool.

Hundred of fishes had come to greet their king by forming a whirlpool. This spiritual king fish indeed had the style of being the king of the sea.

"How is that possible?"

Yu Feishui gave a wry grin. "Previously, only a few spiritual fishes gathered together to attack, breaking my wooden ships into pieces.....This was why I spent a fortune to build these Metal Hull Flying Ships. I originally thought that nothing bad would happen as long as we do not enter the Bewildering Fog, but no one has expected this.....Sigh. I guess this is how life works!"

"Bewildering Fog?"

Fang Yuan touched his chin and his eyes glittered. "Tell me more about it!"

At that moment, there were mournful cries everywhere on the ship, as if it was the end of the world. Therefore, Fang Yuan's attitude made Yu Xiaohong furious.

Many of the sailors knew that the only way out was by taking a flight on the Iron-tailed Black Eagle and they surrounded it, looking unfriendly. However, with the respect they had for Yu Feishui and Fang Yuan's mysterious background, they didn't dare to touch it.

Yu Feishui felt that Fang Yuan was a courageous and powerful man. Hence he went straight to the point. "Now, it is the Drunken Moon Festival and there will be an occasional fog. However, this fog is different from any other fog. Whoever sets foot in it will not be able to make it out alive! Ever since, any cultivators who would see this fog would keep a good distance from it. If one enters this fog in an attempt to catch the silverfish, one would surely die.....Senior, if you want to know more, my granddaughter will tell you more in detail..."

At that moment, the ship had started to list to one side. It felt as though everyone on the ship was going to die along with the destruction of the ship.

"I shall fight him!"

"Kill him and snatch the bird from him!"

Those sailors were mentally tortured to their limits. Seeing how Fang Yuan was able to remain calm, they couldn't hold it in any longer. One of the stronger man with a long face led the other sailors, drew out his long sword and pounced towards Fang Yuan.

"You all....."

Yu Feishui blushed but couldn't do anything to stop them.

No matter how respectable he was as the captain, his fellow sailors would still waver when it came to the decision between life and death.

"Sorry senior, I shall teach them a lesson!"

He still wanted her granddaughter to leave with Fang Yuan, as he went forward and stopped the group of sailors.

"That will be unnecessary!"

Fang Yuan waved his hand. "Little Black! Go!"

"Chirp! Chirp!"

Iron-tailed Black Eagle took a glance at everyone and swiped them with its wings.

"Kacha!"

Its feathers were hard as steel it had magical strength. Wherever it swiped, the sailors fell backwards and fractured themselves.

Even metallic daggers and sword were easily broken by its wings.

This scene caused the teary sailors to be stunned.

Only thinking about their survival, they did not care and think much, which explained why they were now stunned.

How would they expect themselves to escape on the bird if they are no match for it?