

Carefree 201

[Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

Chapter 201: Traces of Life

"Brother, we cannot proceed further!"

Somewhere not far from the icy plains, two small figures were trotting along.

The larger figure was a boy wearing an animal's hide as a coat. He was carrying a bamboo basket and his shoes were already torn. His face was full of determination. "If we don't enter the icy gorge, how can we obtain enough herbs to cure father's illness? Don't forget that we have to give our contribution to the city master as well!"

"It's too dangerous out there. It's uncharted territories filled with poisonous insects and ferocious beasts, and they're all out to kill you!"

A little girl was pulling on his arm, and her big eyes welled up with tears.

"LEt go!"

The young boy was decided as he licked his lips.

"I'm not letting go!"

The little girl persisted. As the girl pestered her for a while longer, the young boy could no longer hold it in. As he waved his arm away, the little girl fell to the ground.

"Of course I know about the dangers in the icy gorge. But if we don't hand in our contribution, how will our family be allowed to continue living in the village?!"

The young boy continued. "Without the protection from the array in the village, we will all die!"

"Boohoo..."

The little girl knew this fact as well. She sat on the floor and started to wail.

"Ah Xian, don't worry. I have a rather good understanding of the Death Plains. Furthermore, I know a little martial arts, and I am rather confident about it!"

The young boy comforted the little girl. As his expression changed, he was prepared to journey into the unknown.

However, at this moment, he stopped in his tracks.

He could see a huge black shadow slowly emerging from the woods.

It was a white giant tiger from the mountains, and the black stripes on it resembled chains, giving it a mysterious feel.

"Roar! Roar!"

As it leapt, it looked around in its vicinity. The young boy and little girl froze in their positions; they were too fearful to do anything.

'It's... It's too powerful...'

The young boy's legs turned jelly, and he heard a voice from inside of him. "This is only the boundary and there is already such an animal that I am unable to do anything about. How scary is the icy plains? No wonder the village forbade us to leave our houses after sunset and made us give up a portion of contribution every year to maintain the array..."

"Ta! Ta! Ta! Ta!"

As the giant tiger approached, the young boy started to sweat profusely. He clenched his teeth and was unable to speak a single word.

"Kekekeke!"

Although he could still stand, the little girl beside him was chattering her teeth, and there was a foul smell of urine from her legs.

At this point in time, the demonic white tiger bent over, revealing a person's silhouette. It opened its mouth and blabbered a few weird words.

Although no one could understand it, soon after it spoke, the tense atmosphere was no more.

It was as though the seasons had changed from winter to spring. The fearful thought of a ferocious tiger was long gone.

"Lord!"

Anyone who was able to tame such a ferocious beast had to be a highly skilled martial artist. With that, the young boy quickly greeted him respectfully.

"Eh? Who are you people?"

Hearing the young boy speak, Fang Yuan's eyebrows twitched.

This was not the language they used on the mainland. Instead, it sounded similar to the common language spoken in Da Qian Empire!

Why could he speak the Da Qian language?

He had already practised it before in Yang Fan's dream world.

However, even if he did not learn it before, it was still alright. To a dream master, it was only a matter of one dream-accessing opportunity to learn a foreign language quickly.

"I am a villager from the nearby Rock Village, and my name is Yu Jian. This is my younger sister, Ah Xian!"

Yu Jian hurriedly took a bow and stuttered.

"Rock Village?"

The lord on the back of the tiger became curious. "Are there many people here? Where are they?"

Yu Jian started to become nervous and stutter even more.

After his explanation, Fang Yuan finally understood.

'There are people living nearby, and they are split into many different villages. At the heart of all the villages is the Descending Star City!'

'Furthermore, the way he speaks and his mannerism are alike to the people in Da Qian Empire. Could these people have migrated from there?'

Below, the young boy Yu Jian was secretly examining this lord.

'He is so well-dressed! He must be an important person from the city!'

From the young boy's experience, he only had the chance to interact with the people in his village. Descending Star City was the centre of the entire world to him. He would never know how huge the outside world would be.

"Bring me to your village!"

Fang Yuan thought for a moment before directly requesting him.

Seeing the young boy hesitate for a while, he continued. "Were you preparing to pluck herbs with the bamboo basket and the hoe? I shall hire you as my guide, and this is your remuneration!"

As he said, he waved his hand. A special flower with pure white petals and a red hue in the centre of it appeared and slowly drifted to the ground.

"Snow Petal Red Pistil Flower?"

Yu Jian was shocked. He quickly but carefully picked up the flower with both his hands and was left speechless.

Although this was something Fang Yuan had casually plucked, it was hope for his entire family!

"Yes, lord! I'll bring you there right away!"

He rubbed his tears from his eyes, kept the flower properly and pulled his sister together to bow and pay their respects to Fang Yuan.

The little girl was lost for a moment. However, she was sure that her brother no longer needed to risk his life. She let out a long sigh and her eyes examined the giant tiger with curiosity.

"Sorry to trouble you, you can go now!"

Fang Yuan took out a piece of roasted meat and shoved it in the Frost Sword Toothed Tiger's mouth before chasing it away.

To Fang Yuan, a spiritual beast who had not broken through the Elemental Gathering Stage could at most be a form of transportation for him.

Furthermore, this beast would attract too much attention. Since he had already arrived at a place with people, it was better to let it go.

"Wuuuuu!"

As the Frost Sword Toothed Tiger swallowed the roasted meat, it reluctantly rubbed its head in Fang Yuan's palms. Finally, under Fang Yuan's hypnotisation, it grunted before returning to the icy plains and disappeared after a while.

"Lord, is that your spiritual beast?"

Yu Jian witnessed the scene and was full of envy.

"Spiritual beast? If you say so, but I did not raise it up. I only picked it up along the way..."

Fang Yuan smiled and shook his head as he looked at the young boy wearing the beast hide.

This boy was too inexperienced, but he already had the cultivation of a 5th Gate martial artist, and it was not too bad.

"Please lead the way!"

At this point, he had no more reservations. He started a casual conversation with the young boy and tried to learn the way he spoke.

After all, his boy did not owe him anything, and it would be too much for Fang Yuan to read his mind and memories for no good reason.

Furthermore, this young boy was inexperienced and he might not know much.

Yu Jian was leading the way in front. Not long after, a simple village appeared in front of him.

It was really simple!

Fang Yuan was speechless. The village which they spoke about was just a piece of flat land and a few round structures built together. It appeared sturdy, and almost half of it was underground.

This type of construction would shield them from the unforgiving coldness, and the sturdiness allowed it to withstand normal threats.

Of course, aesthetic wise, they could not ask for too much.

In fact, it was normal to most villagers to be constantly putting their lives at risks. Why would they care how pleasing the structure would look?

Fang Yuan noticed something different in the surroundings of the village. "Spiritual inscriptions? No... This is... a spiritual array! Although simple, this is indeed a spiritual array! Who would've thought that there would be a spiritual array master here!"

"Lord?"

It could be because Fang Yuan was staring for too long. Yu Jian anxiously asked Fang Yuan. "This is the protective array of our village. Is there any problem with it?"

"Who placed this array here?"

Fang Yuan asked directly.

"Of course it's the spiritual array master from Descending Star City!"

Although it felt a little weird, Yu Jian answered him honestly. "Every year, we have to contribute huge amounts of staples, spiritual medicine and beasts' hides to Descending Star City, in exchange for the spiritual array masters' arrival to maintain this Rock Array. With it, we can repel wild and fierce beasts at night, and it can even shield us from the cold as well. If we do not contribute enough, the entire village would be exterminated..."

As he said the last few words, he clenched his fists with determination in his eyes. "I must become part of the city so that I can bring sister and Father along with me to enjoy a good life there!"

"Descending Star City?"

Fang Yuan rubbed his chin. "I must pay a visit to that place!"

The villagers of Rock Village had started to notice them. After a commotion, a weak and old man carried a smoking pot and walked out.

"Yu Jian, go home! Be careful not to catch the disease die in the icy plains!"

The old man appeared kind. Seeing that Yu Jian was safe and sound, he heaved a sigh of relief and started to advise him. "It's just a poison! There must be a cure. Don't worry about this year's contribution. If we gather all that we have together, I'm sure it will be enough!"

"Village head..."

Yu Jian's eyes welled up with tears. Hurriedly, he retrieved the Snow Petal Red Pistil Flower from his basket. "This is a gift from this lord. I have fulfilled my family's contribution this year..."

"Keke!"

The old village head looked at it and was shocked. "To find a flower of such maturity, I'm afraid it's only possible in the icy plains! Only a petal of this flower would be enough to treat your father's poison!"

He clenched his smoking pot and gave Fang Yuan a bow. "Thank you for saving our lives. I am Shi Ying, the village head of this small village. Lord, did you come from Descending Star City?"

"Descending Star City? No..."

Fang Yuan shook his head.

He was now clear that Descending Star City was like the capital of this region.

The villages in the vicinity had to depend on it for their survival. Of course, in the process, they were being taken advantage of.

With the protection from the city, the centre of the city would be the safest place. Therefore, it was the ultimate lifetime goal for every villager to make it there.

Seeing the suspicious look on the old village head's face, Fang Yuan laughed, before casually coming up with a story in which he followed his master from young, and had lived his life on the icy plains like a nomad.

"Lord, are you intending to go to Descending Star Country?"

Hearing Fang Yuan's request, Village Head Shi let down his guard as he laughed heartily. "This is nothing much... What a coincidence! Tomorrow, our village would be forming a caravan to head towards Descending Star Country. It'll be on the way!"

In reality, he had planned it extremely well.

Since Fang Yuan was hard to predict, and even he himself could not tell how highly skilled Fang Yuan was, then he must be really highly skilled.

These villagers only had to show him the way, and they could get free protection from him. It was a win-win situation and a profitable agreement!

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 202: Ghosts

On the flat land, a small caravan was trotting along an arduous journey.

Based on what Yu Jian had said, the environment around the region here was harsh. Occasionally, there might be ice storms, and temperatures would drop drastically at night. Wild beasts native to the icy plains might even appear, and without the protection from the spiritual array, it would be a daunting task for them to even survive.

The village would form the caravan on a regular basis and head towards Descending Star Country. Using large amounts of low-quality staples, they were able to trade for top quality salt, weapon, and necessities they need for their survival.

Of course, the largest caravan would be the one escorting the contribution to the spiritual array master in Descending Star Country for him to continue to maintain the array.

It was a pity that the most experienced and respectable person in the village was Village Head Shi. In reality, he was also rather inexperienced and could only boast about his travels and experiences in Descending Star Country when he was younger. To Fang Yuan, this was considered nothing worthy.

"Descending Star Country is just ahead. We will reach there after 8 nightfalls!"

Among the caravan, Yu Jian was extremely excited.

The caravan consisted of many people, and there were many full sacks on the cart. The animal pulling the cart along was a huge black boar. It had a hump on its back and it was covered in blubber.

Based on what Yu Jian had said, the 'Black Peak Boar' was extremely common here. It was the most widely used ride and its thick blubber allowed it to withstand the cold. It could even last a few days without food due to its fatty reserves. Furthermore, it ate anything that was given to him. Most importantly, it was a delicacy.

As he described, the young boy swallowed his saliva; his mind was filled with the fragrant taste of roasted meat.

Fang Yuan had a cart to himself. He was one of the few who did not have to walk on his feet. Looking at the Black Peak Boar, he was speechless.

To serve its whole life, and to end up at a delicacy, it was a selfless animal.

“Eh? This caravan is too quiet!”

The well-built guard who was leading the villagers was Li Hu. He was 7-feet tall and was a proud man. He draped a tiger’s hide around him and held a Hundred Casted Knife. After walking around, he commented.

The region around Descending Star Country was not a safe place to be. As long as it was beyond the lake which surrounded the city, anything could happen here and the soldiers of the city would not care.

Furthermore, the harsh environment produced many hardy beasts native to the region. These were the best type of animals for the caravan to hunt.

Previously, in the many times they had escorted the goods, even with the accompany of villagers from other villages, there were always being ambushed, which caused them to lose their goods.

However, this journey was a peaceful one; there was not even an animal in sight.

‘This is the power of a skilled martial artist!’

Li Hu looked at Fang Yuan and his eyes were filled with admiration.

‘It’s a pity that I’m too old. There is no hope for me in learning martial arts. Also, this lord has not expressed his interest in any of the girls in our village...’

He sighed inside. Suddenly, he saw Yu Jian walking forward to talk to Fang Yuan, and gave a hopeful look.

Perhaps, the entire village’s hope was laid on this young boy.

...

“Beasts native to the icy plains? Compared to normal beasts, these beasts have a little spiritual property!”

As his magical will shook, Fang Yuan detected an icy snake laying in ambush nearby. Slowly, Fang Yuan gave off a hint of spiritual aura.

The snake had killed many animals on its way here and was filled with a murderous vibe.

However, just a little spiritual aura from Fang Yuan was able to strike fear in the snake, and it escaped.

Along the way, if not for Fang Yuan who was secretly helping them, this small caravan would have encountered dangers everywhere, and it would be a miracle if anyone here could survive.

“This region is indeed harsh!”

Fang Yuan grabbed a handful of black rice and thought to himself.

This was the main produce of Rock Village. It had an average taste and it felt like grains of sand; dry and tasteless. The only good thing about this rice was that it grew at an exceptional rate and was resistant to cold weather. This was enough for survival in this region.

Furthermore, there were only a few pieces of land near Rock Village which could support the growth of this rice. It needed constant care and protection, or it would be eaten by wild animals, which would result in a reduced harvest.

In this caravan was almost half of the entire village's stock of black rice.

"Everyone, stay alert!"

Li Hu exclaimed. "We are reaching Red Leaf Village ahead. We have good relations with their village head, and we can request him to let us stay over in their village for the night!"

"It was a peaceful journey this time. If we can make it to the city, we can surely trade for a lot of top quality salt, and over 13 pounds of scrap metal..."

Yu Jian followed the village accountant along the way and slowly learned how to calculate. His eyes were filled with joy.

In the Descending Star Region, every child had to contribute their part to the village. In the face of survival, everyone was equal and there were no priorities given.

"Red Leaf Village?"

Fang Yuan sighed deeply and called for Yu Jian. "You have good relations with their village head?"

"That's right... Red leaf Village is close to Descending Star Village. They have a huge flat and fertile land nearby and their protective array is much stronger than that of Rock Village..."

Yu Jian's eyes were filled with envy. "Our village head had once saved the life of the village head of Red Leaf Village, which laid the foundation for their relationship!"

After these few days, Fang Yuan had a rough understanding of the happenings in this region.

In the Descending Star Region, the land nearer to Descending Star City would be more fertile, and the villages who could occupy these lands were stronger.

Yu Jian's village was only at the fringe of the region and was considered the poorer villages. On the other hand, Red Leaf Village was considered average. However, there were still in a similar situation whereby they were still taken advantage of by Descending Star City.

Red Leaf Village had gotten its name from the red maple leaf that it produces. This maple leaf was valuable as it was an ingredient to many medical concoctions. Since there was a demand for this leaf in Descending Star City, the villagers would harvest some leaves while they hunt, which helped them become slightly wealthier.

Although they only stayed here for a while, Yu Jian was already full of admiration for Red Leaf Village.

"Lord, look over there! That's the Red Leaf Forest!"

After walking for a distance, Yu Jian pointed to a red forest not far from them and exclaimed with envy.

As Fang Yuan looked over, his expression was weird.

"Wait a moment!"

Li Hu's face started to appear serious as well. "We'll stop here temporarily. Follow me, and we'll check it out!"

"What happened?"

Yu Jian let out a curious look on his face.

"I'm afraid Red Leaf Village has run into some trouble..."

Fang Yuan shook his head. "Look... There's no one attending to the surrounding farms and this Red Leaf Forest... Don't you think it's too peaceful?"

"You're right!"

Yu Jian nodded his head and was stunned. "What... what about the villagers? Where have they gone to?"

"Let's take a look for ourselves and we'll know the answer!"

Fang Yuan walked up and looked at Li Hu. "Let's go!"

"Alright!"

Li Hu nodded his head and was excited.

Although it was mysterious and felt ominous, the fact that this mysterious and highly skilled lord was willing to go with him reassured him.

He called for two other villagers, both of which were martial artists who had obtained inner force, and ordered them to follow Fang Yuan as they walked towards Red Leaf Village.

"Lord, wait for me!"

Yu Jian clenched his teeth and followed them as well.

...

"This is..."

As they approached Red Leaf Village, Li Hu gave an unpleasant look.

Red Leaf Village was originally filled with energy and life, but now, all they could see was blood! There were huge patches of blood everywhere! A rotting stench filled the air and Yu Jian immediately became pale and turned over; he did not dare to look at the mess.

"Human blood?"

Li Hu bent over and smeared some blood on his finger. There was fear in his voice.

This scene was too horrendous.

"Furthermore... This would mean that there are a lot of people who died. Where are their corpses? Where did their corpses go?"

Quickly, he arrived at the boundary of the village.

The stone walls were covered in moss and there were a few spiritual inscriptions glowing; it was obvious that it had been here for over a year. There was nothing wrong with the protective array.

However, there was no one behind the village!

"I'm Li Hu from Rock Village! Is the village head here?"

Looking at the village which was partially covered with a thin layer of fog, Li Hu clenched his teeth and exclaimed forcefully, but there was no response.

Seeing this, he remained silent. Clenching his teeth, he turned around and left.

"Let's go, don't look back!"

He instructed Yu Jian and the other two villagers as he headed back to where they came from. "Let's continue our journey without any more breaks!"

As he returned to the caravan, Li Hu quickly chased the Black Peak Boar as though it was a crazy dog and they journeyed on.

"What happened?"

Fang Yuan only caught a glimpse of the village and was unsure of many things. The most crucial thing was that there were no signs or clues of murder.

Li Hu's face stoned. After a long while, he finally spoke, and his voice was hoarse. "Death without a corpse, and coupled with the fact that the protective array is still intact, I'm afraid that they have encountered ghosts!"

"Ghosts?!"

Fang Yuan was astonished.

Even though his cultivation had already reached an extreme level, and that he had seen many things before, it was the first time he had heard of the existence of ghosts.

"Lord, you're unaware?"

Li Hu was utterly shocked. "The place which you come from! Are there are no ghosts? That's not possible... Almost every year, there would be a village that would experience such a thing..."

"I've heard of it before but I'm not too sure about it. Tell me more..."

Fang Yuan rubbed his nose and his eyes were filled with curiosity.

"Oh!"

Li Hu was confused and did not bother to press Fang Yuan any further. Instead, he obediently explained it to Fang Yuan. "Ghosts leave no trace as they come and go, and they do not have a physical body. There is a type of... curse!"

"We don't know where it comes from, or where it wants to go. We only know that every time it appears, many people would disappear and it would leave behind many weird things..."

"No matter how strong the martial artists were, or even spiritual array masters, everyone was defenceless against it. However, the weird thing is that it had never happened to Descending Star City before. That is the only place we can take shelter..."

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 203: Spiritual Array

"Ghosts... curse?"

Fang Yuan revealed a mysterious smile. "Interesting! This is really interesting!"

Ghosts were once described in Master Heartless's inheritance and Yang Fan's dream world, but none of them was described like that.

"If it wasn't an extremely strong evil spirit which wiped out Red Leaf Village, then it must be..."

Fang Yuan was deep in thought. Suddenly, he looked at Li Hu and ordered. "We must be on our way to Descending Star City!"

"Yes Lord!"

Even the laziest person would become extremely alert after such a thing happened. After all, everyone would take their lives seriously. For their own safety, it was better to keep a distance from Red Leaf Village.

Due to their continuous journeying, they did not rest much. Instead, they arrived at Descending Star City a day earlier than planned.

"Indeed a spiritual city!"

Looking ahead, he could see the lake surrounding the city.

Although this city, with walls of only 20 feet tall, could not compare with the many huge cities that Fang Yuan had seen before, it was still rather lively. There were even spiritual inscriptions glowing on the city walls! As it swirled around, it gave the impression of a huge array.

"For sturdiness, defence and prosperity..."

Even Fang Yuan could only understand little about the true potential of the entire array around the city.

'It seems that the spiritual array master here had learnt quite a bit from Da Qian Empire, and is quite impressive!'

"Hold it there! Pay the entrance fees!"

As they arrived at the city gates, a row of soldiers stopped the caravan. The leader of the soldiers wore an armour made of an unknown hide, and this was already considered rather luxurious. "We'll count the people and the goods separately. Are you from Rock Village? You should know the rules, right?"

As the leader looked at Fang Yuan, he continued. "A day's worth of tax can only allow you to stay in the city for a day! If you are caught by the soldiers at midnight, it would not be as simple as paying a fine."

"No worries, we know the rules!"

Li Hu smiled and shoved a piece of black ore in the leader's hands. "Please let us pass!"

"I knew it! Everyone from Rock City is beggars..."

The leader frowned as though he was unsatisfied. However, he still kept the black ore and kicked Li Hu harshly. "Hold on to the license and get lost!"

Facing a person of such authority, not just Li Hu, but even Yu Jian shrugged his head, afraid to speak a word.

Since they were submissive, Fang Yuan did not want to attract too much attention as well. He followed their lead and became an obedient villager as they paid their tax to enter the city.

"This is our license. It allows us to stay in the city for a day. Lord, please keep it well. There are soldiers patrolling in the city at every moment. If we do not find a place to stay by midnight, we would be captured and sent to the quarries, with no chance of coming out..."

"Oh?"

Fang Yuan received the license and realised that it was a clay slab. It was made of a normal material, but there was a small spiritual inscription on it.

The spiritual inscription appeared useless and was only a form of marking. Based on the energy level, it would disappear in a few hours and could not last till the next day.

Descending Star City used this method to maintain order among the people living in the city.

However, to Fang Yuan, it was a useless method.

He looked around and noticed a small market.

Villagers that came from everywhere were following the lead of their leaders, and their eyes were filled with curiosity. They began to start trading at the market and were engaging in barter trade.

"My intention is to explore Descending Star City!"

Fang Yuan went up to Li Hu, who appeared pale. Without hesitation, Fang Yuan said, "Goodbye, I'll see you next time!"

He did not owe them anything. Instead, he provided protection to the entire caravan, and therefore he could leave without worries.

Li Hu was left dumbfounded and remained silent.

"Lord..."

Yu Jian clenched his teeth. "Bring me along! I want to be your servant! I am willing to do anything, and I eat very little..."

"Haha... Thanks, but I don't need a servant!"

Fang Yuan rubbed Yu Jian's head. "Little fellow, you should not take the risk now. Rather, you should continue to work hard on your martial arts and get a strong foundation, and take care of your family and your sister..."

This young boy had fate with Fang Yuan, but it was not enough to change his mind.

After saying his piece, Fang Yuan waved goodbye and disappeared into the crowd in style.

"Lord..."

Yu Jian was stunned.

He thought that based on his relationship with Fang Yuan, even if Fang Yuan would reject him as a disciple, he could still gain something from him.

Never would he have thought that Fang Yuan would leave just like that, destroying all hope that he initially had!

"How would it be so easy to get such a good deal... This is only reality!"

Although Li Hu was not willing, he still went forward and comforted Yu Jian. "Don't think about it anymore. At least you have left an impression of yourself in his mind. If you were to meet him in the future, you will have an advantage over others!"

Thinking about those people who boasted that they had found highly skilled masters in Descending Star City, he realised that all of them were gifted, and their family had enough wealth to support their dream. Some of the families even went bankrupt just to support their children!

If they didn't do this, how would they escape the cycle of poverty and bring hope to their family?

Young people nowadays were too weak!

...

"Indeed, even the words are in Da Qian language... The ancestor of Descending Star City must have migrated from Da Qian..."

Fang Yuan walked down a few streets and were looking at their signs.

The bestsellers in the market were still weapons and food!

Other than Hundred Casted Steel, there were weapons made out of beasts native to the icy plains and spiritual beasts. Their asking price was even higher than normal weapons, but the demand there.

Of course, these were still considered low-quality trades.

The top quality products would not be easily found on the streets, but in the majestic courts.

"Spiritual Array Court?"

Fang Yuan arrived at the centre of Descending Star City and noticed a towering building. The signboard was filled with words that were written with energy, but the most important was still an octagonal

spiritual tablet. It was glittering on its surface and the spiritual inscriptions on it were glowing. This meant that a spiritual array master was in charge of this place.

"We sell all types of protective array plates, array maps, and the services of a spiritual array master..."

Fang Yuan rubbed his chin as he read off the introduction. He became increasingly excited.

To survive in a place with such harsh environments, they could rely on arrays!

Regardless if it was the brutal cold or the icy storm, the harsh natural weather conditions or the beasts native to the icy plains, all types of unknown dangers could wipe out an entire village.

Without the protection from a strong protective array, any prosperous village would still collapse after 3 days.

"It seems that the immigrants from Da Qian have obtained the inheritance to the array techniques in the Da Qian Empire..."

Fang Yuan walked into Spiritual Array Court and had a mysterious look on his face.

He had interest in knowing more about spiritual arrays.

If he was a normal spiritual knight, he had to worry that it might not be applicable to him.

However, on his path as a dream master, there were different paths to take after the Illusionary Divine Stage for him to specialise. There was no harm in understanding another path, and instead, it might even benefit him.

"Eh?"

As he entered the court, he could feel that something was different.

"The concentration of Heaven and Earth elemental energy? It's going up and is many times that of the outside... It has similar effects to a spiritual land!"

As he took another step forward, the surroundings suddenly expanded, revealing a huge hall. The decor was luxurious and did not feel normal at all.

"A new scene with every step? Indeed an array!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head and arrived at the counter.

"Welcome, guest!"

The person at the counter was a middle-aged man smiling. He was wearing a silk robe and appeared wealthy.

Furthermore, he appeared happy and a little chubbier than the rest. Fang Yuan could tell that his living conditions must be much better than the villagers living in Rock Village.

"What do you need, guest?"

He had a professional smile on his face. "We sell an 'immovable array', and it is uniquely designed for defence. It consists of three array plates and eight array flags. If you follow the design on the spiritual

array map, you will be able to achieve at least 80% of the original array's power! This is the top choice for many who are looking to protect their homes!"

"Of course, if you are not satisfied with it, you can leave a feedback. I will contact the spiritual array master, and he will personally help you arrange the array..."

"Immovable array?"

Looking at the sealed up wall behind the counter, together with the array plates that were glowing with spiritual light, he shook his head. "The area covered for this array is too small. What if I want to protect an entire village?"

"That will be a giant array!"

The person at the counter shook his head. "We only sell it at the heart of this court. To add on, you will need to receive approval from the City Lord Manor. If the city master does not approve of it, then we would not dare to bear this responsibility..."

A giant protective array would be protection for an entire village!

The city master of Descending Star City was the source of this spiritual array. This way, he managed to obtain land and control over the villages and therefore would want ultimate control over the distribution of this giant array.

"I see!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head.

He could tell that in Spiritual Array Court, of all the many counters, every counter had a corresponding spiritual array master which was at the level of a disciple.

The giant array of all the villages required a spiritual array master at the Elemental Gathering Stage to personally construct, and therefore people had to pay a premium for it. To add on, there were also many restrictions.

'It seems that the city master has the sole access to the spiritual array master's inheritance...'

Fang Yuan shook his head. "I need to put myself against the city master just for a spiritual array master's inheritance? This doesn't seem... like it's worth it..."

Spiritual knights had all sorts of techniques up their sleeves. If enough time was given to a spiritual array master, he could surely come up with a shocking array capable of killing many. Fang Yuan did not want to test that theory out.

'The Descending Star City is their nest. A spiritual array master would have placed an array here that would last for eternity...'

Thinking about this, Fang Yuan was confused.

"It's alright. This seems not too bad, I'll have it!"

Just as the person at the counter thought that the trade was about to fall apart, Fang Yuan suddenly exclaimed, leaving him dazed.

"Alright. What would you use for payment?"

He rubbed his hands together as though he was extremely excited.

After all, it was not frequent that he would get a sale, and his commission would be quite a huge percentage.

"How's this?"

Fang Yuan smiled and took out a jade bottle.

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Chapter 204: Kongming

"This is..."

The plump person at the counter broke the seal of the bottle and poured out a glowing pill. On the surface of the pill, there were spiritual inscriptions, and he froze. "Spiritual pill?"

His face twitched, and he swiftly kept the pill, acting all suspicious like a thief. After looking around, he bowed towards Fang Yuan. "You have spiritual pills? Please take a seat, and we'll serve you tea!"

"Mm!"

Fang Yuan looked down and acted mysteriously.

In fact, the value of these spiritual pills was beyond his expectations.

'That's true... After all, Descending Star City is on its own, and I don't see any alchemy masters passing down their skills. They are also scarce in resources...'

Looking at the attentive person at the counter, Fang Yuan came to a conclusion. "The value of these spiritual pills are more than what I've guessed."

"Keke..."

The person led Fang Yuan to a beautiful room and personally served him tea. Afterwards, he began to introduce himself. "My name is Hai Fu. I am the representative of array master Zhang Kongfan, who has learnt from Kongming the Godly Monk. Master Zhang is extraordinary and his Immovable Array is indeed remarkable..."

Hai Fu had a glib tongue and could almost describe the elementary version of the Immovable Array into a gigantic array cast by a spiritual array master.

"Keke..."

Fang Yuan smiled and did not say a single word. He sipped his tea gracefully and looked at Hai Fu.

As he stared at Hai Fu, Hai Fu started to sweat profusely. He clenched his teeth. "If you have 4 bottles of this spiritual pill, I'll make the decision to sell you this array, and let's take this as an opportunity to make friends!"

Looking at Hai Fu's face muscles twitch, it was as though Fang Yuan was taking advantage of him.

However, Fang Yuan knew that if the deal would go through, Hai Fu would be able to profit a lot from it.

After all, no one should trust anything a businessman would say.

Amidst the silence, Hai Fu started to sweat even more and started to bargain. "3 Bottles. That's the minimum I can go. Just the array plate of this Immovable Array would already require rubies, Hepu Stones and Mysterious Ice Essences..."

"I am alright with 3 bottles of spiritual pills!"

Under Hai Fu's worrying eyes, Fang Yuan finally opened his mouth. "But I have a condition!"

In reality, these spiritual pills were made by Lanruo and himself and were far more inferior than the ones Lu Renjia made. However, it would already be considered a treasure here in Descending Star City.

"Please state your condition!"

Spiritual pills were in high demand, and there was always a price for it on the market, but no one would sell it.

The moment he heard that there was a chance that the deal might go through, Hai Fu's eyes glittered.

"I want to meet the maker of this array plate, Zhang Kongfan, Master Zhang! Of course, it would be even better if I could see Kongming the Godly Monk!"

Fang Yuan asked in a deep voice.

"You are a big customer. Of course, there's no problem in letting you see Master Kongfan... But as for Kongming the Godly Monk..."

Hai Fu let out an uneasy look and pushed the bottles back. "If you insist, then we have to break the deal."

"Forget about it!"

Fang Yuan smiled. He knew that he had crossed the line. "Zhang Kongfan would be alright. Send him here!"

'What an attitude...'

Hai Fu kept the spiritual pills, passed him the array plates and felt a little suspicious about the whole thing.

However, seeing how Fang Yuan could easily take out so many bottles of spiritual pills made him wonder if he was an alchemy master. In that instant, all his unhappiness and suspicions were gone.

"Please wait out here!"

He took a bow and walked out of the room swiftly.

"Eh?"

Fang Yuan sat down for a while. Suddenly, he frowned and looked at a certain corner of the room.

Just a few moments ago, he realised that an array with the properties of hypnotisation was activated. Hai Fu was testing his skills.

'How dare he!'

Fang Yuan was infuriated and gave a cold look.

"I'm sorry for the wait, Master Zhang is here!"

Indeed, not long after, Hai Fu pushed the door open and appeared extremely humble.

Following which, a man in his thirties walked in with a proud look on his face.

"You have requested to look for me?"

He had an impatient look on his face. "What's the matter? If you are requesting for me to cast an array, we'll have to settle the payment separately. If you are looking at rectifying the protective array over the villages, I'll need the city master's approval..."

"It's not about all these..."

Fang Yuan scoffed. "It's just that I have never seen an array master before, which was why I called you out... What a pity... You're such a disappointment, hehe..."

"What?"

Zhang Kongfan was enraged.

As a prestigious array master - albeit just a disciple for now, they were proud people wherever they went. Never had they experienced such humiliation!

"You... what audacity!"

His body shook, and he stared fiercely at Hai Fu.

"Forgive me, master!"

Hai Fu was scared to his wits and started to kneel down.

Never would he have known that the normal -looking Fang Yuan would be a fraud!

"I was initially intending to talk over some terms with you. It's a pity you have an evil mind. By using your array to spy on me, you have violated my rules..."

Fang Yuan calmly spoke.

"You..."

Zhang Kongfan almost choked.

Every room in Spiritual Array Court was protected with spiritual arrays. This was done in consideration for the spiritual array master's safety.

After all, since he was rather weak, wasn't it normal for him to check on the other party before agreeing to meet him? How would it become violating Fang Yuan's rules?

Although he really had an evil intent, he had not displayed it yet.

"Hai Fu, capture him, give him a good beating and take all his valuables..."

Zhang Kongfan became very serious.

From what he had obtained from the array, he detected that this person was only a normal martial artist. Even though he might have status or a strong backing, he had to get back at him! This was a matter of an array master's pride!

"Yes, master!"

Hai Fu stood up like a loyal dog, as though he was ready to pounce on Fang Yuan anytime.

"Hehe, you're just a spiritual disciple, and yet you don't know where you should stand!"

Fang Yuan shook his head and squinted his eyes.

Hai Fu froze and fell to the ground, with his eyes staring up.

"E? You're not a normal person!"

Zhang Kongfan realised something was wrong. "How could you hide from the spying of my spiritual array?"

"That's because you're too weak!"

Fang Yuan remained seated without moving. Suddenly, he struck his right hand out.

"Whoosh!"

As the air circulated around the room, it was as though there was an invisible hand as it lifted Zhang Kongfan up, pulling him towards the position where Fang Yuan was seated.

"Four levels of Heaven and Earth, Protect!"

Zhang Kongfan retreated and crushed a certain spiritual talisman. A protective glow of light appeared.

Not just that, the array over the entire court seemed to be moving. A huge force was felt, but it was unknown where it came from.

"It's useless!"

Fang Yuan lightly blew.

"Whooooo!"

Suddenly, there were strong gusts of wind.

Zhang Kongfan went pale. He felt as though the person sitting in front of him was not a human, but a mountain! A heavenly mountain!

A shocking amount of energy exploded from Fang Yuan, which isolated him from his array.

"Although I might only have limited control over the array, the fact that you can disrupt my control over the array, it means that you are... Wu Zong..."

Zhang Kongfan clenched his teeth and forcefully remarked.

Never would he have thought that this rude young man in front of him had already broken through the Elemental Gathering Realm!

Even with his potential and the help of his master, he was only a spiritual disciple!

"Have you finally realised what's happening?"

Fang Yuan smiled. A layer of bewildering fog covered the entire room, and suddenly it engulfed Zhang Kongfan!

...

"Namo Amitufo!"

With his control over the array disrupted, and the fact that there was so much commotion, the entire Spiritual Array Court had already known what was happening.

Just as Fang Yuan was about to execute his dream-accessing technique on Zhang Kongfan, a Buddhist bell was heard as a compassionate-looking old monk entered the room.

"My disciple is reckless. May you be compassionate and let him go this time!"

This old monk was tall and his eyebrows were extremely long. His eyes were small and it was as though his vision was not that good.

"Hehe, Master, since he's your disciple, why would I cause trouble for him?"

Fang Yuan let go of his hand and exclaimed forcefully. "I'm just reprimanding him for his mistakes!"

This old monk was Zhang Kongfan's master - Kongming the Godly Monk!

He was different from his disciple; he was a true spiritual array master!

"He is indeed alright, and has merely passed out"

Kongming the Godly Monk walked up and checked on Zhang Kongfan and Hai Fu. Afterwards, he placed his hands together in front of his chest. "Thank you for your benevolence!"

Little did he knew that Fang Yuan was already laughing inside of him.

No one could tell from the outside that he had executed his dream-accessing technique, as Zhang Kongfan seemed perfectly normal.

Even Kongming the Godly Monk would have no idea that in just a short period, Fang Yuan had already learnt all these spiritual array techniques through Zhang Kongfan.

'It seems that a group of spiritual array masters came together to rule the city undercover. They are indeed from Da Qian Empire and only came here because of the disaster...'

Fang Yuan quickly scanned through Zhang Kongfan's memories and sieved out the important information.

The physical bodies of the spiritual array masters were too weak to traverse through the hell-like icy gorges. Therefore, years ago, the group of spiritual array masters were conflicted if they should go through the icy gorges. Finally, they decided not to and settled down here, forming the Descending Star City.

'It should be Star Ghost who is in charge of Descending Star City now! Of course, Kongming the Godly Monk is also at the level of Elemental Gathering Realm, and it the second most powerful spiritual array master in Descending Star City!'

Although these two people were not Elemental Opening Realm spiritual knights, they had already settled down in Descending Star City for quite a while. If enraged, even normal Elemental Opening Realm spiritual knights might not be able to fight against them.

After all, they had the geographical advantage.

"This master..."

Kongming the Godly Monk looked at Fang Yuan with shock. "Why do I find you unfamiliar... I have long known all the highly skilled martial artists in the entire Descending Star City..."

"Unless..."

With his small eyes, he could still assess the situation calmly. "You are not from this city!"

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Chapter 205: 4 Elements

"Where do you think I come from?"

Truth be told, if Fang Yuan were to tell a lie about his background, it might be sufficient to fool those low-leveled lackeys of the Rock Village. However, he would most certainly be unable to fool a person of Kongming the Godly Monk's calibre.

After all, Descending Star City was too small. There was no way that it would suddenly produce an unknown Wu Zong.

"You must be from Da Qian!"

The old monk said confidently.

Fang Yuan felt slightly ashamed.

Great! Due to his exposure to Yang Fan's dream world, he was able to speak the dialect fluently which caused Kongming to be mistaken.

"Could it be that the Da Qian is very close to here? Or that there are no other people gathered around here?"

Fang Yuan asked.

"Oh?"

Kongming the Godly Monk was shocked and twirled his beads faster. "You are not from Da Qian? Then you must be from Vast Deserts? Hell of Thousand Ghosts? Death Corridor?"

'All these places are landmarks behind the Descending Star City?'

Fang Yuan muttered as he considered overpowering the monk and using his Dream Entering abilities.

"Or...from the South? Impossible!"

The monk racked his brains, "No one is able to break through the Ghost Gate in the icy gorge!"

Seeing how certain the monk's tone was, Fang Yuan recalled that if he had not already broken through the Meridian Opening Realm and had the opportunity to strengthen his physical body, it would indeed be difficult to pass it.

From the way that the old monk reacted to the danger, Fang Yuan knew that there were few who managed to break through the Ghost Gate and reach the Yuan Wu Kingdom.

"Enough! What is the use of investigating where I come from?"

Fang Yuan smiled and asked directly.

"Not bad, I am just asking!"

Kongming the Godly Monk acted as though he had attained enlightenment and bowed at Fang Yuan again. "May I know what brings you here?"

While the Descending Star City was isolated, those with authority were in contact with their counterparts from other areas. It was just that news travelled slowly and as such, he was unable to discern Fang Yuan's identity.

"I have no plans. I am just travelling!"

Fang Yuan appeared to be disinterested and said, "I heard that the Way of Array in the Descending Star City is second to none. As such, I specially came here to have a look..."

"Hehe...this is nothing more than lies which are perpetrated to deceive the commoners!"

Kongming shook his head. However, Fang Yuan was able to see the pride in Kongming's eyes.

"I came across something strange on my journey and I would like to pay a visit to the city master. Would it be convenient to pay him a visit?"

Fang Yuan stared at Kongming the Godly Monk and asked suddenly.

“Although the city master is busy running the daily affairs, if he knows that someone of your calibre is here, he would definitely come and personally welcome you!”

Kongming put his hands together, “You said that you witnessed something strange, may I know what happen?”

“I passed by a village known as Red Leaf Village! All the villagers were slaughtered and the village was in a miserable state... I could hardly bear to look at it.”

Fang Yuan said slowly and saw that Kongming’s actions quickened, “Tales of ghosts and monsters cannot be trusted. However, I am interested in this curse and would like to help!”

“Amitufo, you are so kind. You will definitely enjoy karmic reward in the future!”

Kongming nodded his head. “I will pass on this information to the city master. However, how the city master responds would be beyond my control...”

“Ohh....”

At this time, there was a cry of alarm.

Zhang Kongfan clutched his head and slowly got up. He saw Fang Yuan and his face was full of fear. “You...what have you done to me?”

“Cough cough...”

Kongming the Godly Monk coughed, causing Zhang Kongfan to turn around and bow. “Master!”

“Hmmm, this master over here is more senior than you and highly skilled. Why would he purposely make things difficult for you?”

Kongming chided before he spoke to Fang Yuan. “My disciple is stubborn and have not been inducted into the Way of Brahma. He is just a disciple. Please forgive him for all the mistakes he makes! Kongfan! Apologise to this master immediately!”

“Yes, Master!”

A master’s order should never be disobeyed. Furthermore, Zhang Kongfan had no confidence after seeing how his master was respectful towards Fang Yuan. He immediately turned to Fang Yuan and bowed, “Please forgive me for my mistakes!”

The fat shopkeeper, Hai Fu, who was standing by the side nearly fainted upon witnessing this scene.

Since when did the high and mighty spiritual array master have to treat a person with caution?

“It’s okay!”

Fang Yuan waved his hand. He was not interested in dealing with the lackey.

Furthermore, Zhang Kongfan was considered unlucky. His compensation was more than sufficient and Fang Yuan was lazy to pursue the matter.

“Thank you, Master!”

Kongming the Godly Monk was pleased. Zhang Kongfan, who was by his side, had no choice but to follow suit and bow. Hai Fu was still feeling dizzy. Everyone could see his condition but no one took notice of it.

“Do you have any place to stay in the Descending Star City?”

Kongming continued, “If you have not decided on a place to stay, I can offer you a place at the sambhogakaya monastery. It is quite peaceful...”

“Hmmm, then I shall gladly accept it. Thank you!”

Fang Yuan rose and walked out of the shop with the old monk.

Zhang Kongfan followed behind like a servant. He was sullen but had no avenue to vent his feeling. All he could do was glare vehemently at Hai Fu before walking out.

Hai Fu wanted to cry but no tears came as he witnessed this scene...

...

Fang Yuan and Kongming the Godly Monk walked side by side on the path. The soldiers at the sides immediately bowed and parted when they saw the both of them. It was clear that Kongming held a high position in the city. Afterall, he was a spiritual array master in the Elemental Gathering Realm.

“What do you think of the arrays in this city?”

Kongming the Godly Monk asked absentmindedly.

“Excellent...if I am not wrong, this array consists of 4 elements as its foundations. The 4 elements are Green Dragon, White Tiger, Vermillion and Black Tortoise which guarded the four gates rigorously.....however, the array of the Vermillion in the South appears different from the conventional 4 Elements Spiritual Array. It appears to be a variant of the conventional spiritual array!”

While Fang Yuan may not be a spiritual array master, He was knowledgeable and not many could compare to him. His offhanded remark surprised Kongming, “You are so sharp and yet, you only dabbled in the Way of Arrays?”

Zhang Kongfan, who was standing behind, was shocked and felt ashamed.

Fang Yuan was proficient in the Way of Arrays and spying on him with his arrays was similar to provoking him openly. As such, it was no wonder that Kongfan would lose out.

“The Way of Arrays is mysterious and full of potential. How can I say that I dabbled in it? I merely tried it out as an eye-opener to this path...”

Fang Yuan smiled.

Truth be told, with Zhang Kongfan’s experience and his foundation in arrays, his skills were comparable to that of a spiritual array disciple. He was only lacking in terms of practice.

“I see!”

Kongming the Godly Monk laughed but he did not believe Fang Yuan.

Afterall, the Way of Arrays required much effort. His intuition told him that Fang Yuan was gifted as he was able to attain Wu Zong even though he was still young. What would the older generation and he be if Fang Yuan was able to reach his prowess in spiritual prowess so easily?

“This is due to the fact that the South faces the icy gorge and plains which possess hidden dangers. Amongst the arrays protecting the Descending Star City, the Vermillion Fiery Array had been adapted and is the strongest of the 4 arrays...”

However, the old monk did not delve deeper into the explanation and introduced it simply to Fang Yuan with a gentle smile. “Furthermore, there is still a layer of change hidden within the array!”

“Oh! What change?”

Fang Yuan asked while staring at the sky.

“It appears that you have figured out a thing or two, not bad. The answer to this lies in the history of the Descending Star City! The reason behind why the city can stand till today!”

Kongming said with a hint of pride.

“Please teach me!”

Fang Yuan put on a humble front. Suddenly, his gaze changed as he looked towards the city fair.

There, indistinct sounds of quarrelling could be heard. The noise came from a delegation of Rock Village.

“What?”

Kongming the Godly Monk stopped walking. “Are you interested in what is happening there?”

“Yes, I have met a few of them before!”

Fang Yuan said calmly.

“If that is the case, we should go there and have a look!”

Kongming the Godly Monk put his arms together and with the air of an important person, turned and walked towards the city fair.

...

“This is too much!”

Yu Jian’s face was red with anger. He pointed towards a businessman, “This is good quality Black Rice and beast hide! You agreed to trade green salt and casted steel for my goods and now, you dare to use inferior salt and rough steel to appease us?”

“Hehe...”

The businessman stroked his rat-like beard, his eyes shrewd, “Who says that your goods are of good quality? It is already not bad that you are receiving these as a trade for your rubbish! What? Still want to cause trouble?”

The businessman had backing, and as such, he was able to do business at the fair. Furthermore, he was a resident of the Descending Star City and as such, he was not afraid to call upon the soldiers. It was not easy to determine who would have the last laugh.

"Yu Jian, don't be rash!"

Just as Yu Jian was about to leap forward and fight with the businessman, Li Hu grabbed onto his right shoulder and pinned him.

"Whatever! This deal is off! Return my goods to me!"

Li Hu coldly stared at the businessman with a killing intent.

"Okay!"

The crafty businessman smiled, "However, you only gave me 1500 kg of inferior black rice and 200 sheets of torn hide. These are not worth much..."

"You..."

Li Hu was fuming.

He remembered that the opposite party was frantically loading the goods. It was obvious that he had planned to scam them.

At this moment, even though he was well-tempered, he wanted to kill the businessman and his hand reached for the hilt of his sword.

"Soldier! Soldier!"

The businessman immediately shouted as he leapt away.

"What's wrong?"

A group of soldiers who were patrolling came forward. The leader had a high spiritual aura and was a martial artist of the 4 Heavenly Gates.

"Sir...these villagers from outside the city banded together to bully us citizens!"

The sly businessman was brazen in his accusations as he had backing. His uncle was a leader in the patrol.

If he did not have the connections, he would not have dared to do such a thing.

"I see!"

The leader of the patrol was familiar with the businessman as well. Without a second look, he signalled to his troops with a wave of his hand. "Capture all of them!"

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Chapter 206: City Master

"What?"

Yu Jian was only a young boy; this was the first time he had experienced the dark side of society.

These cunning businessman cheated them of their goods and even wanted to send them to jail!

"Foreigners, how dare all of you. It seems that there will be quite a few new additions to the cells!"

The leader of the patrolling guards exclaimed.

In his heart, he was thinking. 'Rock Village has no strong backing. Even if we kill them, no one would stand up for them...'

There was no doubt which side justice would favour.

"Sir, we are willing to give up our good. Please let us go!"

Li Hu was pale. He had no more intention to go against them and started to plead.

"Hehe... This is the consequence of getting on my nerves!"

The cunning businessman was laughing at one side. "All of you... go and reflect on your actions in the quarry! Guards, please!"

"Hold up!"

Zhang Kongfan, who was now a messenger, appeared.

"You are..."

The leader of the patrolling guards was shocked. As he noticed Zhong Kongfan's luxurious clothing and a logo he had on him, he appeared stern and took a bow. "Sir!"

As a spiritual array master, even if he was just a spiritual disciple, everyone in the city would show their utmost respect to them as they were the ones running the city.

"Mm, these people..."

Zhang Kongfan stared at Li Hu intently and clenched his teeth. "They are my friends... What's happening?"

"Ah... Nothing much!"

The leader of the patrolling guards was stunned. Between the businessman and the spiritual array master, he quickly took a stand.

Turning around, he stared at the businessman with justice. "Businessman Min, you have wrongly accused of these foreigners. Follow us to the government court. We'll also need you to seal up your storeroom, and we'll check it!"

"This... This..."

The cunning businessman was stunned.

His backing was only the uncle of the leader. If they wanted to do things 'by the book', he would have no grounds to resist.

Furthermore, as Businessman Min looked at Zhang Kongfan, his legs turned jelly.

Never would he have thought that these foreigners had a spiritual array master as their backing!

How was this possible?

How would a person of such a high status get involved with these lowly people?

Businessman Min's heart was filled with regret. However, he knew that there was nothing more that he could say. Everything was reasonable.

After all, he was a smart person, and without hesitation, he admitted. "I admit to my wrongdoings! I shouldn't have listened to rumours and caused trouble to these people!"

Looking at Li Hu and Yu Jian, he was now smiling. "I'll return you your goods, and compensate you guys another 10 rocks of green salt, 130 pounds of top-quality metal. Please accept!"

Li Hu and Yu Jian rolled their eyes.

In reality, both of them had no clue as to what was happening, and how did the situation change.

The originally fierce looking businessman suddenly became an obedient one, to the extent that he was afraid they might not accept his gifts.

"All of this had become as such, and we owe it to the appearance of this Sir!"

Li Hu looked at Zhang Kongfan and could guess that this person had a high social standing. Quickly, he knelt down. "Thank you for saving our lives, Rock Village will never forget you!"

"No worries, I have been tasked by someone else to do this!"

Zhang Kongfan had an unnatural look on his face. Turning around, he did not accept the gratitude from these people.

After all, if not for his Master's instructions, he wouldn't care less about their survival.

"Since this is so..."

Li Hu knew the limit. Even though Zhang Kongfan was a strong backing, he did not want to force it on him, which might result in a backlash. "Then we shall keep things as such!"

He took a bow towards the leader of the patrolling guards. "Thank you for upholding justice!"

"Mm, you're welcome!"

The leader smiled. He knew that they were thankful for his help. "I am Luo Fan. If you do visit Descending Star City in the future, you can look for me!"

"I've settled this, and I shall take my leave!"

Zhang Kongfan looked down and left. He did not care less about how they were going to settle the issue.

"Eh? That is..."

Yu Jian looked towards the direction where Zhang Kongfan headed towards. Rubbing his eyes, he thought that he had seen a familiar silhouette. After blinking a few times, they were all gone, and it was like an illusion.

"That should be Lord!"

Li Hu walked towards him and exclaimed with confidence. They only had relations with one such powerful person. "Who would've known that he could manipulate a spiritual array master..."

In his voice, there was a hint of regret.

Although they already knew that Fang Yuan was extraordinary, they now could tell that his status was very much higher than what they could have imagined.

...

Just as they were all excited, Fang Yuan arrived at Kongming the Godly Monk's monastery.

"Sambhogakaya Monastery?"

Looking at the huge signboard, he smiled. "I've heard that in Brahma, there are three types of bodies. They are Sambhogakaya, Dhammakaya and Nirmanakaya. Every single type of these bodies have immense capabilities and are all unpredictable. How many of these bodies have you cultivated, Master?"

"Oh? You know about the teachings of Brahma?"

Kongming the Godly Monk was shocked, but afterwards, he shook his head and sighed. "My ancestor was a Buddhist from Da Qian Empire. There were rumours that he had already cultivated his Sambhogakaya. However, his descendants were all weak and they were unable to escape Da Qian. Therefore, we have lost almost half of all our scriptures. How could there be any teachings left for us to cultivate? I am useless, and have only understood and discovered a few illusionary theories on spiritual arrays for me to advance to become a spiritual array master..."

He was in a daze, as though he had started to recall his younger days.

"I see!"

Fang Yuan was interested in the recordings about spiritual arrays.

However, he knew that he could not show his interest right away. Otherwise, it would be as though he was declaring war on them.

'Why do all the authors of martial arts manual dislike recording down their teachings properly?'

He thought to himself silently as he walked into the monastery.

The monastery appeared lavish on the outside, but the interior decor was simple. There was a tall Banyan tree in the middle of the courtyard and it was flourishing. Every pavilion was nicely decorated and the presence of the monastery bells and gongs gave this place a sense of serenity.

"Peace within chaos. This is a good place!"

Seeing this place, Fang Yuan let out a sigh.

"I'm glad you like it!"

Kongming the Godly Monk was welcoming. "If you like this place, you can stay here for as long as you like!"

"Thank you!"

Although the courtyard was a good place, the Banyan tree, statue of Buddha and the arrangement of everything in the monastery gave Fang Yuan a strong feeling that he was within an array.

"Did I walk into a trap knowingly? Kongming the Godly Monk must be glad now, right?"

He was laughing at his own stupidity inside. Following Kongming the Godly Monk, he arrived at a room and settled down.

"Please have your meal!"

The meditation room was plain and simple. Inside, there was a fragrance incense burning, and none of the decors here appeared luxurious.

After meditating for a while, Fang Yuan heard a courteous knock on his door. Following his acknowledgement, a small monk entered. "Grandmaster had informed us that you are our valued guest and you have no dietary restrictions like us. Just let us know what you'd like to have for your meal, and we will buy it back for you!"

"Mm, thank you!"

Fang Yuan took the tray of dishes over and realised that it was a vegetarian meal.

There was a stack of fragrance stir-fried mushrooms. This was an interesting dish that made use of the most common ingredients. The few other vegetarian dishes were all very interesting in their own ways and were fragrant. The rice prepared was a type of spiritual rice known as 'Little Lightning'. Every grain of it was pointy and in each grain were tiny flashes of light. Long periods of consumption would allow one to be immune to electrocution. When eating it, one's tongue would feel as though it was being electrocuted, and it was indeed a memorable dish.

This vegetarian meal was comparable to food for royalties, even though it did not include any meat dishes.

"If not for the things that I have to attend to, this would be a good place for me to settle down for the rest of my life..."

After finishing the meal, he dismissed the young monk, he thought to himself. If not for the quirky things in this city, it would be even better!"

"Hehe... Master Fang Yuan!"

Without letting Fang Yuan rest, Kongming the Godly Monk personally came to visit him. "You have a good reputation indeed. When the city master heard of your arrival, he rescheduled his important matters tonight, and is now rushing down to pay you a visit..."

"This is not about my reputation. I'm sure the city master is concerned for the villagers and is only anxious after hearing about the tragedy in Red Leaf Village!"

Fang Yuan casually replied Kongming the Godly Monk, which stunned him for a while. He could not saying anything else and smiled at Fang Yuan.

...

Sambhogakaya Monastery was rather huge. In the backyard, there was a spacious garden, and in the middle of the garden was a small octagonal pavilion.

At this point in time, under the pavilion, there was a person patiently waiting.

He had sharp eyes and a majestic vibe. Although he had the appearance of a middle-aged man, his skin was glowing white. He was wearing a crown and did not appear old at all. Instead, he appeared full of life.

"Is this my young friend, Fang Yuan?"

He raised his head at looked at the approaching Fang Yuan. As he smiled, his eyes were filled with curiosity.

"I'm Fang Yuan from the wilderness. Greetings, city master!"

Fang Yuan paid his respects and entered the pavilion without any hesitation.

"You've come from afar, and as the host of this city, I have failed to welcome you. Please forgive me!"

He had a deep an attractive voice and gave off a masculine feel. Indeed, he was very welcoming.

However, for unknown reasons, looking at the perfect and masculine face of the city master, Fang Yuan's face twitched and he had the urge to go up and give him a punch.

He could no longer hold it back. "I shall not hide my intentions. I am intending to go to Da Qian Empire. However, I am lost, and I hope that you can provide me with a map..."

"Oh?"

The city master of Descending Star City frowned, expressing his curiosity. Slowly, he nodded his head.

"This is a small matter. Don't keep it to your heart! I will send someone to bring a map over shortly..."

Looking at Fang Yuan, his eyes were filled with suspicion. "Could you have... came from the South of the icy gorge?"

That icy hell was a huge obstacle that came from the heavens. It had blocked the path of many, and therefore, the appearance of Fang Yuan meant a lot to him.

Regardless if it was Descending Star City, the Vast Deserts, or the Death Corridor... all these places were not meant for humans to survive.

They were forced to have so many villages.

All the village ancestors were people who have been defeated during fights in Da Qian, and had no choice but to emigrate.

The path here from Da Qian was only possible with the sacrifice from many ancestors before them.

However, the fact was that the ancestor of Descending Star City was also like the rest; stuck and denied entry by the chilly winds and icy gorge!

‘This is not right...’

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‘It seems that everything has been set in stone. After all, no matter how much the citizens or villagers are suffering, those at the top are already leading a comfortable life. Therefore, they had no motivation to risk their lives and head South... Rather than gambling their lives away to risk it through the icy gorge, why not head back to Da Qian Empire!;

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This could be described as how the people from poorer countries might risk their lives to immigrate to a more prosperous country, and rarely would you see people going the other way round.

‘This is true... Who knows if he was the nth generation of city masters. Since the enemies they made in Da Qian Empire did not track them all the way here, it must mean that they must have given up. If they change their names and secretly return to Da Qian, they might have a good chance of living their entire lives there... However, they would surely prefer to be king and rule over the city here...’

Fang Yuan thought of something else. He felt that he now had a deeper understanding of the people who gave up their initial plans of migrating to the South.

With a smile, he continued. “Does it matter if I come from the South?”

“That’s true...”

The city master of Descending Star City stroked his beard without another word. It was obvious that he would not take the risk to explore the mainland South of the icy gorge.

“City master, are you here to discuss what happened at Red Leaf Village?”

Fang Yuan changed the topic. “Everyone in the village disappeared without a word, and the village was soaked in their blood. There were no corpses lying around, and this phenomenon is mysterious!”

“You might not know about all these since you are not from our region. However, this is a common sight...”

The city master sighed. “It has been an annual affair for these mysterious things to happen. If it’s a small scale event, it would affect 10 people. If it’s of a bigger scale, it might affect te to hundreds of people, or even the entire village! Even so, we would not find it unusual at all...”

“Where do you think this curse had come from, city master?”

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“Based on my predictions... It comes from a higher being!”

The city master appeared serious. “Our existence is miraculous. The only explanation which might sound illogical is the existence of a higher being...”

“Even if the higher being was to be destroyed, a simple thought of hatred and anger from it would linger around for eternity. If it meets a storm, it would transfigure into a poisonous dragon!”

“Their souls would never die...”

Fang Yuan’s eyes glittered. “City master, you are guessing that there is a vengeful soul lingering around?”

“Does it matter if there is or there isn’t?”

The city master laughed. “With the Four Elements Spiritual Array, be in a vengeful soul or a curse, nothing can come near us!”

What about the villages?

The villagers were lowly. Would he even care?

“Indeed...”

Fang Yuan gave out a long sigh.

In this world where power means authority, it would be too naive to place hopes on the powerful.

“Then what is the purpose of your visit, city master?”

“I have heard of the arrival of a Wu Zong and found it to be interesting, which is why I paid a visit!”

The city master examined Fang Yuan with much interest. “Do you want to contribute to Descending Star City? If you agree, I will treat you as well as how I treat Kongming the Godly Monk!”

“”Master Kongming is a spiritual array master!”

Fang Yuan was shocked. “City master, why do you think that a small Wu Zong can be compared to a powerful spiritual array master?”

“I have my own plans!”

The city master smiled, brimming with confidence. “What do you think?”

“I’m sorry!”

Fang Yuan rejected him without hesitation. “My dreams lie in Da Qian.....”

“What a pity...”

The city master did not feel dejected. Instead, he cautioned him out of goodwill. “The Vasts Deserts, Hell of Thousand Ghosts and the Death Corridor are places that are not easy to traverse through. Only patches of areas in these places are suited for survival, and the rest of the region is filled with dangers. If

you regret at any point in time, feel free to return here. The doors of Descending Star City will always remain open for you...”

“Thank you!”

Fang Yuan thanked him and ended their short meetup.

‘This city master is too helpful. I’m sure that he has an ulterior motive!’

It was suspicious that he offered Fang Yuan a high position despite the fact that Fang Yuan contributed nothing to them!

Human nature was the same everywhere.

The next day, the city master had ordered a servant to deliver a piece of map carved on an animal’s hide. Although the lines drawn on the map were thick and not detailed, it could accurately depict the general shape of Descending Star City, the Vast Deserts, Death Corridor and more. It was indeed a sincere act on the part of the city master.

“Please thank the city master on my behalf!”

After getting the map, Fang Yuan wasted no time. He bade farewell to Kongming the Godly Monk and walked out of Sambhogakaya Monastery.

“Master?”

Kongming the Godly Master personally guided Fang Yuan out for a few miles. He held a string of meditation beads in his hand and continuously chanted his mantra.

One of his disciples could no longer hold himself back. “Why not...”

“It is fate to start and end, fate to rise and fall. All of these are sins!”

Kongming the Godly Monk sighed. Without explanation, he waved his sleeves. “We will return to our monastery. All of you, remember! If there is nothing important, don’t leave the monastery...”

...

Walking on the streets of Descending Star City once again, Fang Yuan gained the admiration of many villagers and felt that this was a little interesting.

Unknowingly, he had walked to the vicinity of the East Gate.

“If he were to do anything, he would do it here...”

Fang Yuan let out a sigh.

“Whoosh!”

Indeed, at the next moment, his surroundings spun around and vibrated like waves. As he composed himself, he realized that the surrounding people, streets, the noisy market and the tall walls were all gone. The only thing left was a big square, and Fang Yuan stood by himself in the centre of the square.

“Spiritual array? Changing of the array?”

Fang Yuan looked around and gave a respectable look. "This is indeed impressive!"

"This is the Soaring Green Dragon Technique originating from the Four Elements Spiritual Array. It's my honour that you admire this array!"

In the empty square, a loud voice was heard.

A shadow slowly approached him. It was the city master of Descending Star City!

"It's you indeed!"

Fang Yuan sighed once again. "I have unintentionally seen your secrets, but I am already on my way to leave the city. Why do you want to force me into a corner?"

"This is... indeed my fault!"

The city master remained silent for long. Suddenly, he sighed and continued. "As a form of compensation, I shall explain to you all that has happened from the beginning!"

"Even if you don't explain to me, I can roughly guess... Red Leaf Village and all the other past events were caused by you, am I right?"

Fang Yuan shook his head and sighed. "Your intention... is to either use them as a sacrifice or to trade their lives, in order for you to obtain your power!"

"That's right. In order to maintain the Four Elements Spiritual Array till now, how much resources do you think I would need? Even if we were to bury the nucleus of a star at the heart of the array, it still would not be enough! I will have to maintain it regularly..."

"This is almost similar to how I've imagined it to be..."

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"In order to withstand the brutally cold weather these few years, the Four Elements Spiritual Array was damaged. Although I am in the midst of repairing it, I am lacking in a crucial ingredient. After thinking for long, I have thought of making use of a Wu Zongs' blood essence and a few other ingredients which I already have, so that I can replace this method of regularly sacrificing so many people..."

"In this city, all the Wu Zongs are your own people, except me, of which I have foolishly walked into your trap..."

Fang Yuan sighed.

"That's right!"

The city master took a respectful bow. "Please rest in peace. The entire Descending Star City will be eternally grateful for your contribution..."

As he finished his sentence, his body was surrounded by a sense of 'justice'!

Through his expression, Fang Yuan knew that the city master felt that everything he had done was the correct decision and that under his orders, he felt that even Fang Yuan, who was a Wu Zong, must obediently sacrifice himself to contribute to the foundations of the Four Elements Spiritual Array!

“This mindset of yours... it’s rather irritating!”

Fang Yuan shook his head without any intent to hide his intentions of killing.

“Do you think you can escape?”

The city master of Descending Star City sounded extremely confident and appeared relaxed.

It was totally understandable for him to feel such a way.

After all, Fang Yuan was in the centre of his Four Elements Spiritual Array.

Generations of spiritual array masters had completely transformed this land into a trap that no one would be able to escape!

As he clapped his hands, two Wu Zongs appeared. They revealed a cunning smile and slowly approached Fang Yuan.

With so many advantages for the city master, a normal Wu Zong had to obediently listen to him.

‘Really...’

After Fang Yuan figured out the reason behind the deaths of all the people in Red Leaf Village, he did not know whether to laugh or to cry. He gave a cold look.

“I don’t want to trouble you, and yet you don’t want to let me go?”

Even so, the transformation ability of the Four Elements Spiritual Array did give Fang Yuan a shock, as it was something he had never seen before.

“Forget about it. I’ll let you know that this is a terrible mistake of yours!”

Fang Yuan took in a deep breath as the spiritual aura around him changed.

“Something’s not right!”

At this point in time, the city master was left gaping. “I just had news that this person’s energy consumption is 10 times more than a normal Wu Zong! He is not a normal Wu Zong, but a Meridian Opening Stage Wu Zong!”

“That’s right! I’m sorry, it’s too late!”

Fang Yuan laughed heartily as three spiritual meridians appeared on his body, forming a spiritual armour. Without holding back, he struck a punch towards the city master!

Chapter 207: The Revelation

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Fang Yuan laughed heartily as three spiritual meridians appeared on his body, forming a spiritual armour. Without holding back, he struck a punch towards the city master!

[Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

Chapter 208: Vermilion Bird

Fang Yuan originally had the Fifth Elemental Force. With the 1st Refining Stage of his Hundred Poison Golden Body, he had gained 1 elemental power. In total, he had achieved the Sixth Elemental Force!

What was the implication of this?

Nie Kuang, who had managed to form a divine body and forced his way through the icy gorge, was able to defeat many Elemental Opening realm spiritual knights at his peak! He had the Seventh Elemental Force then!

Fang Yuan was not far from him. By leveraging the element of surprise, his power was multiplied by many folds.

"Rumble!"

The entire square shook.

Before the other two Wu Zong could come to their senses, Fang Yuan's fists had already reached them.

He was quick! Quick beyond imagination!

"Ah! Dragon Tiger Protective Seal!"

"Star Spiritual Aura!"

Both Wu Zongs were caught off guard. Before their minds could even react, their muscle memory had already taken defensive action.

One of the Wu Zongs cast a seal, and silhouettes of a dragon and a tiger appeared around him, forming a huge seal.

The other Wu Zong released elemental force from every single pore on its body continuously, forming a protective energy shield around him.

The martial arts from Da Qian were still far more superior than that of the Yuan and Wu Countries in the mainland.

Even these two Wu Zong migrants skills were rather impressive. They had the Second Elemental Force!

They would be among the best of the best if placed together with the Wu Zongs in the mainland!

However, Fang Yuan didn't care much. Exerting more force, he struck his fists out!

What a fist!

The silhouette of the dragon and tiger disappeared upon touch, and the defensive shield made up of elemental force was broken!

This kind of power was enough to be considered destructive!

"Ah!"

"You..."

"Bang! Bang!"

Both Wu Zongs turned pale and spat out a mouthful of blood. Being struck by the fists, there were countless sounds of fractures coming from their body. Like a dead snake, they fell to the ground!

"Die!"

Fang Yuan swiftly approached the city master of Descending Star City and struck his claw out.

"Ah!"

His expression changed as he quickly retreated.

He was filled with regret!

Never would he have thought that the weak Wu Zong in front of him that he was about to capture would suddenly transform into a powerful demon!

"Soaring Green Dragon, change!"

The good thing was that the death of the other two Wu Zongs bought him some time.

This city master was also a spiritual knight himself. As he recited his spiritual mantra, he altered the array.

Previously, he caught Fang Yuan by surprise and altered the array based on the map. However, now that Fang Yuan was on guard, it would be much more troublesome to alter it once more. Therefore, he decided to cast the array on himself instead of Fang Yuan!

"Whoosh!"

After a flash, he disappeared and managed to dodge from Fang Yuan's claws. He appeared at the edge of the square.

"You are dead! No one can save you in my Four Elements Spiritual Array!"

He appeared serious and cast a technique once again. "Split!"

"Weng!"

As the air shook, Fang Yuan could feel that the natural elemental energy was slowly segregated from him, until there was none of it left.

"Pressure!"

The city master pointed at Fang Yuan, and following which, a huge pressure akin to a mountain started to fall on him. This resulting in a creaking sound on his spiritual armour followed by an uncomfortable screech.

"Is this the power of an array?"

As he felt the huge pressure piling up on him, he felt as though the entire world was against him. With that thought, he laughed to himself heartily.

Previously, he had only seen an array designed to trap. Furthermore, it was only an array map and was similar to the Immovable Array which was sold to him. How could it compare to the huge protective array cast over Descending Star City that was maintained by countless spiritual array masters?

"City master! You have only used the altering technique in the array and even sent out Wu Zongs to capture me. This only means one thing. You are not willing to move this array too much. Could it be due to the fact that the damage on this array has yet to be repaired?"

"Plus... Although the map you gave me was accurate, you had hidden a spiritual tracer inside to locate me, is that right?"

He spoke with confidence. With the experience gained from accessing Zhang Kongfan's memories and his previous experience with spiritual arrays, he could quickly identify the problems. As he threw the map on his hands away, the city master's expression changed.

If he knew that this would have happened, he should have sacrificed one of his men. At least, the situation wouldn't escalate to what it was now.

Not only did he lose two Wu Zongs, he had made a new enemy!

Since Fang Yuan was now his enemy, he had no other choice but to risk it all and destroy him here.

Withstanding the huge pressure, Fang Yuan placed his hands behind his back and stood up straight.

"The purpose of this array is to protect against people from outside. By altering the array and putting me in the centre, you are not using it to its fullest potential. Are you not worried that the damage would become more severe... and that the spiritual array would be destroyed in the end?"

"You think too much of yourself!"

The city master showed a black face. "Considering the foundations of my protective spiritual array, do you think that you, as a weak Meridian Opening Wu Zong, can destroy the whole array?"

"White Tiger Killer Technique! Seven Death Ultimatum, go!"

"Roar! Roar!"

Amidst the roaring, white fog from the surroundings came together to form the shape of a huge tiger. It snared its fangs and appeared ferocious.

Following its tiger instincts, it pounced forward and swiped its claws at Fang Yuan.

It was already majestic to begin with. With support from the array, it was even more powerful!

"Good!"

Fang Yuan laughed out loud. As he mustered his Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique, his physical body appeared normal but the energy level within him was surging. Quickly, he mimicked a huge eagle as he let out a long chirp.

"Giant Eagle Claw!"

"Chirp! Chirp!"

As the eagle's claw met with the tiger's claw, the eagle's claw disappeared.

The white tiger was left shocked and was dazed for a moment. As its body glowed, it swiped another claw towards Fang Yuan.

"The animal is part of the array... it is still not as instinctive as a real beast!"

Fang Yuan rushed forward and the pressure on his body was no more. Quickly, he arrived at the head of the white tiger. "I'll... destroy!!!"

"Rumble!"

Amidst a huge roar, he struck a fist on the tiger's head.

The tiger was stunned and its claws froze in mid-air. In a daze, it collapsed.

"Whoosh!"

The entire Descending Star City shook, and cracks resembling spider webs were formed on the city walls.

"You..."

The city master was in despair. "You even know about arrays?"

He could tell from the weird steps that Fang Yuan took that he had already identified the weakness in the array. Following which, he timed it nicely to end of the tiger and the array in one punch.

Otherwise, how would such a ferocious beast succumb to a single punch?

Furthermore, this had led to the cracks on a part of the city walls!

The city master's face turned green.

"Soaring Green Dragon, Black Tortoise Groundbreaking Technique, White Tiger Killer Technique... All three techniques, go!"

"Roar!"

The dragon and tiger's roar could be heard, and the ground shook as a black tortoise appeared. Three silhouettes appeared once more as they surrounding Fang Yuan.

This was the power of arrays!

Without destroying the foundation of the array, all these attacks would be continuous.

Even though it was temporarily damaged, it could be repaired quickly.

"How can you foolishly think you can go against the power of Heaven and Earth?"

The city master's voice was heard. "Since you are a Meridian Opening Wu Zong, I now believe that you come from the South... Give up and let me restrain you. I might spare your life!"

From all that has happened, he felt that his own skill in casting arrays had dramatically improved.

If the array was perfect, there would not be any weaknesses for Fang Yuan to exploit.

However, with the weaknesses in place, and the continuous techniques that he had to execute, it was as though he was training himself. Therefore, it would be normal for his skill in casting arrays to improve drastically.

"Whoosh!"

Suddenly, Fang Yuan was all over the place. He was using his Shadowstep and once again arrived at the array beast's head. "You have missed out on something. You're too careless, city master! Giant Eagle Claw!"

"Chirp! Chirp!"

As the figure of an eagle formed behind him, his energy was shocking, and it was as though he was like a ball of fire. Rushing into the array of beasts, the wings of the eagle swiped at the white tiger, the claws of the eagle striking the green dragon and the beak of the eagle pecked at the black tortoise. With a shriek, the black tortoise disappeared.

"Rumble!"

The entire Descending Star City shook as though there was a mini earthquake.

Many buildings were tilted as the ground cracked open.

This had never happened before, and this made many of them feel as though the end of the world was coming.

"This is impossible..."

"How can the protective array fail?"

In Sambhogakaya Monastery.

Kongming the Godly Monk opened his eyes in curiosity. "How is this possible?"

The instability of the array must be due to the fact that the city master was drawing energy from the energy source of the array, coupled with the fact that the array had suffered damage!

Based on what he knew, the city master had spent quite a lot of effort in plotting against Fang Yuan. He had even called for the help of two Wu Zongs, and therefore was rather confident that nothing would go wrong!

"If the protective array were to be destroyed, the entire city will crumble and there will no longer be any signs of life..."

Unknowingly, an image of a young boy appeared in front of Kongming the Godly Monk.

"All of you wait here. I have to go out and take a look!"

With a look of determination, he stood up, bowed and disappeared swiftly.

...

"Three of them..."

The city master was in desolation. With a heartless look, he continued. "You forced me to do this! Vermilion Bird from the South! Come out!"

In order to gain resistance from the chilly winds and cold weather, the city master was well-versed in fire-type techniques.

However, the damaged portion of the array was from the Vermilion Bird. Therefore, if there was no need, it was not advisable to activate it.

However, against Fang Yuan, he had to reveal his final move!

"Chirp! Chirp!"

As a fiery glow flashed past, a giant inferno bird appeared. As the flames burned continuously on its wings, the bird let out a distinct chirp.

"Vermilion Bird from the South?"

Fang Yuan froze.

The power of this spiritual beast was much greater than the three illusionary beasts that he had fought previously.

"Weng! Weng!"

Not just that, but there was also a brightly-glowing diamond on the head of this Vermilion Bird.

This was the energy source! The energy source of the entire Four Elements Spiritual Array!

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 209: Compassion

Descending Star City!

This city was a piece of barren land in the past. There were no traces of human life, and it was a disaster-stricken place.

One day, a group of people arrived here.

There were migrants from Da Qian Empire. Because of their own reasons, they had to leave the empire to start afresh in rural places in hopes of survival.

They were the ancestors of the city master of Descending Star City and Kongming the Godly Monk!

They wanted to traverse through the icy gorges but were afraid of being trapped in there. Therefore, they had no choice but to settle down and faced the continuous threat from the cold and brutal weather, and the beasts native to the icy plains.

Finally, there came a day.

A piece of asteroid landed on the plains.!

All it took was one night for the entire barren piece of land to change. The land became much more fertile and they could now plant all types of plants.

Furthermore, at the position where the asteroid landed, there was a huge surge in energy.

The array masters among the migrants could feel it, and from there designed a South Vermilion Fiery Array to separate themselves from the cold. They were the ones who started everything.

Soon after, from the contributions of their descendants, a few array techniques were added to the initial array, forming the Four Elements Spiritual Array. Furthermore, they dug a lake on the position where the asteroid landed in remembrance of the miracle the asteroid brought to them. This was why the city was named Descending Star City!

Therefore, the Vermilion Bird from the South was the core of the entire Four Elements Spiritual Array. It had the energy of the asteroid!

This was the myth behind the name of Descending Star City.

And now, the myth has turned into reality!

The simplest of all arrays; the Vermilion Fiery Array, and the energy source are now in front of Fang Yuan!

“Rumble!”

The shocking tongues of flame and the heat from it were making Fang Yuan dizzy.

The eyes of the Vermilion Bird were filled with life, and the three dead animals which appeared previously was nothing compared to it.

“Good! Good! Good!”

Fang Yuan appeared serious and complimented.

“This Vermilion Fiery Array is the only real array. You descendants don’t know the true power of it and added three extra animals making the Four Elements Spiritual Array. However, all of you are not highly skilled enough, and therefore are just making useless additions to the array!”

“You...”

As the city master heard him, he pulled a long face – he was one of those who made the useless additions!

“Small boy, what do you know... If we didn’t form the Four Elements Spiritual Array, how would we be able to protect such a huge area of land like the Descending Star City... But why do I have to explain all these to you? You are about to be burnt alive by the Vermilion Bird!”

He had a ferocious look as he exclaimed.

“So it’s your greed!”

Fang Yuan sighed softly. “There are no problems with the Vermilion Fiery Array. The problem is with your insatiable greed!”

As he replied, he rushed forward and his hands formed claws. “Giant Eagle Claw!”

“Chirp! Chirp!”

Accompanying a high-pitched chirp, a giant claw appeared as it struck down towards the city master.

“Rumble!”

As the Vermilion Bird witnessed the claw, it swiped its wings.

A circle of flames appeared, forming a wall around the city master.

“Haha... It’s useless! I am still under the protection of the Four Elements Spiritual Array. Your opponent is the Vermilion Bird!”

The city master laughed heartily as he altered the array once again.

“Chirp! Chirp!”

The Vermilion Bird let out a long chirp. As the energy source on its head glowed, it spread its wings and spread a wave of flames towards Fang Yuan.

“Weng! Weng!”

As the asteroid shook, it became dimmer.

“Rumble!”

The Descending Star City shook once more.

Cracks continued to form on the city walls, and the spiritual inscriptions started to disappear.

“Roar! Roar!”

“Hiss! Hiss!”

“Chirp! Chirp!”

...

Suddenly, there was a roar from the storm outside. In the icy plains, there were a few huge shadows appearing.

It was a huge beast from the icy plains. It had a huge body and bloodshot eyes that let out a ferocious glow.

“Chatter!”

“Chatter!”

...

On the city walls, the guards were chattering their teeth in fear, and could not even hold their weapons properly. “Icy... Icy beasts attacking the city?”

“How is this possible? We have the protective array, and they cannot come close...”

From a long time ago, the claim that Descending Star City was impregnable was the emotional support for many of the people living in the city.

“How could this happen?”

Amidst the chaotic crowd, Yu Jian held on to Li Hu’s hands tightly. “Isn’t Descending Star City the safest place?”

“I have no idea. It might be due to the fact that the protective array is having some problems. I’m sure the people in the city will resolve it...”

Li Hu’s face was pale. He didn’t even believe what he had just said, and his right hand started to grip tightly onto his knife.

“How did all of this happen?”

In the walls, a high-ranking general looked at the beast but was thinking all about what was happening inside the city. "City master... You have miscalculated this time!"

"Chirp! Chirp!"

In the centre of the centre, there was a sudden distinct chirp.

A pillar of fire suddenly appeared and rose up into the sky as it pierced through the clouds and headed towards the sun.

This was not a cause for celebration!

As the fiery ball of fire rose up, the spiritual inscriptions on the city walls became increasingly dimmer.

Finally, a huge icy gorilla, which was 3 storeys high, leapt onto the walls and started to pound on its chest!

"Rumble!"

It was destruction everywhere!

One portion of the city walls crumbled and fell down, revealing the streets and houses of the city!

"Keke!"

As the icy gorilla saw it, it stroked its arms, grabbed onto a soldier and started to feast on it.

"Ah... Save me, I don't want to die!"

Although the soldier had broken limbs, he was still alive and was wailing for help.

However, no one could react to what was happening.

There were still caught in a daze from the tremors.

"Amitufo!"

At this crucial point in time, a white silhouette flashed past.

The icy gorilla stopped whatever it was doing. Looking at its hands, the food that it was feasting on was long gone.

"That you for saving me, Godly Monk!"

On the city walls, Kongming the Godly monk slowly placed the soldier down. Looking at the icy gorilla, he was enraged.

"Aw! Aw!"

The icy gorilla did not care much. Instead, it pounded its fists on its chest once again and rushed towards Kongming the Godly Monk.

"The hidden King Kong, immovable like a mountain!"

Kongming the Godly Monk clasps his hand together before pushing it outwards. A faint golden glow appeared in his palms.

“Weng! Weng!”

As the golden glow in his palm intensified, it finally formed a swastika symbol. With that, he exerted the pressure out.

“Roar! Roar!”

The icy gorilla exclaimed in pity and retreated backwards as though it was being held down by a mountain. Soon after, there were golden flames appearing on its body, and it was a matter of seconds before it was engulfed in flames.

“Chirp! Chirp!”

An icy phoenix with three ice crystals on its tail appeared. Quickly, it flew by the icy gorilla.

“Whoosh!”

As the golden flames died out, the icy gorilla laid on the ground and sighed weakly. Together with its burnt fur, it was a comical scene to behold.

However, Kongming the Godly Monk could not laugh.

“Icy beasts with the cultivation level at the Elemental Gathering Stage? And not just one! Where did all of them come from?”

He was feeling unsure. With the meditation beads in hand, he walked to the crumbled wall and chanted six words:

“Weng! Ma! Ni! Bei! Mi! Hong!”

“Rumble!”

Rows of golden runes appeared on the two broken walls at the side. Slowly, they extended out and met in the centre, forming chains of Sanskrit covering where the broken wall once stood.

“Weng! Weng!”

Not just that, but golden runes appeared on every wall. They represented strength and eternal blessing.

“Thank you for saving our lives!”

A few Lieutenants rushed forward and thanked him.

“Amitufo!”

Kongming the Godly Monk shook his head. “I have only activated the restrictive power within the walls, which were placed there long ago by our ancestors. It can merely withstand the altering of the array and hold off the beasts outside for about an hour!”

He could not cast a new protective array over the entire city just by himself.

However, it was different at the walls. With the 'secret ingredient' added by their ancestors years ago, it was an inheritance left for the descendants in case of an emergency. This way, they could still take the geographical advantage.

Even as such, without the most important energy source, the array would not be able to last long.

'This place is barren and cannot be compared to Da Qian Empire. To maintain the array, we need to either use the energy source or... we have to use blood sacrifice...'

Kongming the Godly Monk held his meditation beads in one hand and fiddled with it. "Sins! All these sins!"

...

"It seems to be chaotic outside!"

Within the Vermilion Fiery Array, Fang Yuan looked embarrassed. His expression was one of disappointment. Suddenly, he laughed. "I knew it... You are crazy and don't even care about your city. How could you use energy from the entire city against me! Are you not afraid that your disciples and your relatives might be attacked by icy beasts?"

"That will not happen just yet. Our ancestors have left something within our walls to buy us some time in an event of an emergency..."

The city master looked serious. "Furthermore... This is all the time I need to kill you! Vermilion Bird!"

"Chirp! Chirp!"

In front of Fang Yuan, the Vermilion Bird agreed to the city master and was extremely human-like. Facing Fang Yuan, it opened its beak.

"Rumble!"

"Rumble!"

As red flames burned, the extreme temperatures caused the ground to melt, forming puddles of gooey liquid.

"You are indeed crazy, and there's nothing I can do to help you..."

As the flame burnt through Fang Yuan's silhouette, it failed to burn Fang Yuan. His real body appeared on the other side as he shook his head and sighed. "City master, you are known to be noble. Are you going to continue to be lost in your own personal greed?"

"Of course... it is useless to tell you all these. This is because I have one reason to fight against you!"

In the array, a layer of bewildering fog appeared and spread out.

"And that reason is... The fact that you wanted to take advantage of me! That means you deserve to die!"

As his imagery appeared everywhere, Fang Yuan's real body appeared in front of the city master.

In the face of death, even the Vermilion Bird was in a daze!

[Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

Chapter 210: Takeover

Everything would have a soul!

There would be a mountain god in the mountains, a water spirit in the rivers!

Even on pieces of lands, vast oceans, or even planets of worlds, each and every one of these entities would have their own spirits.

Even so, the minds of these spirits move extremely slow and might take up to a thousand years for a single thought! But they exist!

Since they have souls, we can interact with them and access their dreams!

This would be the origin of the cultivation of dream masters!

This also means that in the array lies an array spirit!

Of course, in small arrays, the spirit would be too weak, or it might have even have been developed yet.

However, on first sight, as Fang Yuan looked at the Vermilion Bird, he could confirm that the Vermilion Fiery Array had a living spirit in it!

If the spirit were to be the likes of those in huge mountains or in dead arrays, Fang Yuan would not be able to access their dreams as his ability was still limited.

However, this strong-spirited array was the perfect opportunity for Fang Yuan to strike!

This was similar to the fact that he could not access the dreams of normal plants, but managed to access the dreams of the Sickly Grass and Serrated Flower!

"Weng! Weng!"

In an instant, the fiery Vermilion Bird fell into a daze, and the entire array came to a halt!

In the next moment, following the tremor of the asteroid, energy flowed back into the Vermilion Bird as it snapped out of its trance.

This was the moment Fang Yuan was waiting for!

This Vermilion Fiery Array had its weakness from the beginning. It was burdened by the other three elements, and after fighting with Fang Yuan for an extended period, Fang Yuan had already figured out the rules that the array would abide by, and the mysteries of the array.

This was the opportunity for Fang Yuan!

"Go!"

Fang Yuan executed his Shadowstep. After leaping on a few weak points on the array, he leapt over the fiery wall and arrived in front of the city master.

"You..."

The city master's expression was one of fury and shock. Just as he spoke a word, Fang Yuan exclaimed.
"Die!"

It was a tremendous shout; akin to a tsunami!

In this shout, Fang Yuan not only used his secret technique but also infused in it the dream master's bewildering fog!

Facing this, even the city master, who was a spiritual knight, was dazed.

"Whoosh!"

This was the golden opportunity!

A Wu Zong was already extremely fast; a Meridian Opening Wu Zong was even more so!

In a few moments, he had already arrived in front of the city master as he struck his fist out.

"Bloop!"

A water bubble appeared as it spun in the air with spiritual inscriptions. It had a weird indentation as it blocked the punch for the city master.

"A time-sensitive spiritual treasure?"

Fang Yuan laughed cunningly. "Even this can't save you! Let the strength of 3 spiritual meridians strike!"

"Kacha! Kacha!"

Three spiritual meridians appeared on his body and disappeared quickly.

At the same time, there were popping sounds coming from his back. Like dominos, the popping sounds travelled down and finally reached his fists, bringing with it an immense amount of force.

"No!"

Finally, the city master was aware of what was happening. Quickly, he ordered the Vermilion Bird to come to his rescue.

But it was too late.

"Whoosh!"

A distinct sound was heard as the bubble popped, allowing Fang Yuan's fist to go through, landing on the city master's body.

After all, he was an array master! Not a Wu Zong!

The outcome was determined from the moment he had allowed a Meridian Opening Wu Zong to come close to him!

Even though the city master was wearing an inner armour and hung a talisman which glowed in spiritual light, all of it was no use!

With an angry grunt, Fang Yuan exploded in strength. In a matter of seconds, he had pushed his own limits.

This fists broke through the city master's robes and landed on his inner armour, forming a huge indentation.

At the same time, an intense tremor was felt through the inner armour and exploded within the city master's body.

"Mmm..."

The crown on the city master's head exploded. His hair was blown and his eyes, nose and ears were bleeding. As he opened his mouth, pieces of his internal organs came out.

There was no way of faking such a death; he was dead beyond hope.

"Eh?"

Fang Yuan could detect a hint of elemental force on the corpse of the city master.

"His soul? His mind? Or his regrets?"

He smiled as his spiritual aura exploded like a burning sun,

"Chi! Chi!"

Suddenly, black smoke started to come out from the corpse, and with it was an intense screeching sound. Finally, the city master's face of resentment exploded.

"The utter destruction of your body and soul would mean that you are truly dead. If you can come back to life, I'll respect you!"

Fang Yuan sighed and looked at the Vermilion Fiery Array.

Although the city master had died, the Vermilion Bird was still a huge trouble for him.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

With the loss of its owner, the Vermilion Bird seemed to have calmed down and was no longer aggressive like before. Instead, it lazily walked about and occasionally pecked its own feathers.

All of its actions made it look like a real living bird, and no one would associate it with a dead array.

"Array techniques are true impressive!"

Fang Yuan complimented as he walked ahead, trying to stroke its feathers.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

A pillar of flames appeared and started to burn the elemental force on Fang Yuan's hand.

Fang Yuan leapt away and waved his hands as a spiritual meridian appeared. Quickly, he extinguished the fire and repaired his armour.

Seeing that there was no more threat, its feathers stood down as it became a carefree bird.

"Without a person controlling the array, the fiery array is already impressive enough. It will balance itself out and defend itself from external threats!"

Fang Yuan was lost in his thoughts.

Based on his understanding of arrays, together with the experience he had just gained, he came to an unlikely solution.

"Dream accessing!"

Facing the spiritual array, he executed his dream-accessing technique once again.

The bewildering fog was the foundation for all dream masters. It would not cause harm to the subjects, and instead, had a soothing effect on them.

The Vermilion Bird did not react. However, based on its spirituality, it became dizzy but quickly composed itself as its own mind dispelled the resistance.

"Another time!"

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered as he attempted his techniques once more.

An extremely short dream soon appeared, and as he took on the role of the Vermilion Bird, he witnessed the forming of Descending Star City and the efforts of the ancestors...

"Chirp! Chirp!"

Time passed. The Vermilion Bird spread its wings and comfortably fell into a deep sleep...

Fang Yuan walked up and lightly plucked at the asteroid.

"Whoosh!"

The asteroid, which was the energy source, was on Fang Yuan's hand.

"Hmm..."

The first thought that Fang Yuan had was that the piece of asteroid was heavy!

Extremely heavy!

After it stopped glowing, the asteroid was only as large as a fist, but it weighed a few thousand pounds!

If not for the fact that Fang Yuan's physical body was strengthened, he might not be able to lift it!

"All of the essence lies in this asteroid. It has an immense amount of energy, but after generations of failed leaders, most of its energy has been used up... This was also why the city master had to continuously supply blood to keep it going..."

Fang Yuan looked at the asteroid on his hand.

On the glittering side of it, there was a blood imprint, which appeared sinister.

"This object... has been made into a magical weapon..."

Fang Yuan was curious. "Furthermore... this object has no owner now. Through the Four Elements Spiritual Array, I might be able to take possession of it!"

It was obvious that the previous owner of the asteroid must be the city master of Descending Star City!

The death of him would mean that the asteroid now had no owner.

More importantly, through dream accessing, Fang Yuan had gained a deeper understanding of the Four Elements Spiritual Array, to the extent that he might be the person who has the deepest understanding of it in the entire city!

Furthermore, the amount of elemental force he had was folds of normal Wu Zongs and spiritual knights.

With a simple release of energy, the asteroid had no resistance as his spiritual will marked an imprint on it.

"So... Do I have complete control over the Four Elements Spiritual Array now?"

Fang Yuan looked at the asteroid, not knowing if he should laugh or cry.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

The Vermilion Bird woke up and looked at him calmly.

"Return! Remove the restriction on the city, and continue protecting it!"

Fang Yuan used his spiritual will to command the Vermilion Bird.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

The Vermilion Bird let out a long chirp as it transformed into an inferno. Soon, it disappeared into the ground.

"Whoosh!"

In the square, the restriction was not lifted, and construction of the walls could be seen.

"City master, how could you recklessly use the energy from the asteroid? Don't you know that this would lead to... Cough..."

As the restriction was lifted, a bald man barged in impatiently and nagged.

Seeing Fang Yuan, he was in shock as his expression was one of disbelief. "It's you?!"

"That's right, It's me! Are you disappointed?"

Fang Yuan mocked him as he tossed the asteroid into the air.

Looking at him toying with the asteroid, Kongming the Godly Monk turned pale. Suddenly, he appeared fearful, greedy, compassion... all sorts of expression flashed across his face.

"I'm Kongming, greetings to you, city master!"

After changing his expression countless times, he clenched his teeth and reluctantly knelt down.

"City master?"

Fang Yuan didn't know if he should laugh or not.

"Regardless of who it is, whoever has possession over the asteroid and control over the protective array shall be the rightful owner of Descending Star City!"

Kongming replied without hesitation.

He was a smart monk. Seeing that Fang Yuan had taken possession of the asteroid, he knew that the lives of everyone in the city were in his hands.

Afraid that Fang Yuan would run away after taking the asteroid, he quickly gave him the appointment as city master, in hopes that with the power and responsibility, he could convince this highly skilled person to stay.

Why not forcefully take it back?

Even the mighty city master with control over the Four Elements Spiritual Array and other resources couldn't last against him. How would he even dare to try?

"You're a smart person!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head. "However... what about the fact that you lied to me..."

"I was useless and could not tell that you were highly skilled. I'll make myself blind!"

With a face of determination, Kongming smashed his eyes, and dark-red blood started to ooze out.

To pay the price of lying to Fang Yuan, he completed blinded himself.

"Very well!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head. With another toss, the asteroid became a flash of light and burrowed underground.

On the city walls, there were glows of lights chasing away the icy beasts. With that came the cheering from inside of the city walls.

"Thank you, city master!"

Kongming the Godly Monk placed his hands together and displayed a face of serenity.