

Carefree 231

Chapter 231: Dream Soldier Master

In the dream world, purchasing information took little time.

As long as the payment in terms of contribution points was made, the purchased information would appear immediately in the form of jade scroll guarded by a realm spirit which proved its authenticity.

“Dream Master’s Basic Introduction, purchase!”

“Dream Master’s 10 Questions, Shi Huzi requested 20 contribution points for it! Purchased!”

“Dream Creek Records, bought!”

“The Path of Illusion, the Tianlan People requested 50 contribution points! Buy...oh, I do not have sufficient contribution points again!”

Fang Yuan looked at his reduced contribution points on his inscription plate and the 3 manuals in his hand. He could not help but feel dumbfounded. “Selling manuals containing insights in cultivation is daylight robbery...if one more dream master were to purchase this information, they would gain another portion of contribution points.”

However, he knew clearly that unless one was talented or famous, it would be wishful thinking for a dream master to become prosperous with just the manuals alone.

Fang Yuan left the Square and arrived in the alleys. He took out the ‘Dream Master’s 10 Questions’ and flipped through it.

The pages of this ancient manual were yellow and its cover was hard. It appeared glossy and no matter how one looked at it, it looked like a treasure. As Fang Yuan’s hand descended onto the manual, there was a flash of light which engraved itself onto Fang Yuan’s forehead.

“Oh...”

Fang Yuan grew dizzy and in his sea of consciousness, a wall of text appeared. “Dream Masters make use of heaven and earth to become the master of all living things! In the beginning, dream masters were prosperous and were aware of the 10 questions...”

The 10 questions were simple and philosophical. Fang Yuan could tell that the author had reached the pinnacle of being a dream master just by reading the text.

After finishing the book, he turned his attention to the ‘Dream Master’s Basic Introduction’. While the book explained difficult concepts in simple terms, it provided Fang Yuan with a solid foundation and clearly recorded the path after the Illusionary Divine Stage. As such, Fang Yuan was able to have a better understanding of his strengths and weaknesses.

However, what caused Fang Yuan to be astonished was the ‘Dream Creek Records’ which appeared to be handwritten!

The manual was in tatters and was full of colloquial speech. However, it managed to portray the problems that the dream masters faced.

“After becoming a dream master and travelling through the Da Qian Empire, I have discussed swords with the sword masters, compared knives with the knife enthusiasts, ruled the beasts, remained undefeated and studied the different pathways under the heavens. This resulted in me feeling deeply that the path of a dream master is to use the blessings of heavens and earth and might not even be of this world!”

“When one is born, and by the time he reaches adulthood, he would have to ponder upon where he came from and where to go from there. Where do we, as dream masters, come from? Dream elemental force, the ability to actualize objects pique my interest!”

“...After thousands of comparison, I dare conclude that every pathway of cultivation requires the use of heavens and earth’s power for one to be extraordinary. Why do dream masters require so many resources? There can only be one reason! The difference between dream masters and Wu Zongs or spiritual knights! The dream elemental force that we require does not originate from this world! It is from another higher dimension which is able to support the dream master’s ability to actualize objects...we can even say that the Illusionary Divine Stage is entirely based on upon the unknown source of power!”

“The final outcome of any pathway to cultivation is to return to one’s roots, to search for the source of the power... I dare predict, that in order for a dream master to surpass himself, he needs to find his roots, the origin of everything!”

...

The records only contained a few pages but it was enough to shock Fang Yuan.

“It appears that the dream masters already knew the existence of another world and have even started exploring it!”

“It seems that the ability to actualize objects in the Illusionary Divine Stage is not just purely dependent on one’s intense training, it requires the source of the dream masters’ power...”

Fang Yuan had long sensed it.

If he had gone about doing things his previous way, in order for a dream master to actualize an object, he would need to thoroughly analyse the laws of the world which was impossible for anyone to accomplish.

However, throughout history, there were many dream masters who have reached the Illusionary Divine Stage. The only possibility was the addition of an external source of power which greatly simplified the process of reaching the Illusionary Divine Stage.

Fang Yuan’s mind wandered, and he imagined that when he broke through to the Illusionary Divine Stage, a ray of white light bestowed upon him the ability to create an actualized dream world and the ability to actualize objects as the giant door shattered!

“Dream Master World!”

“This is the name that the author give to the world where dream masters originated from! Ever since this writing was published, all the dream masters desired to find this world. However, no one was able to succeed till today...”

Just a small leakage from the Dream Master World was sufficient to supplement a dream master’s power and allow him to actualize an object.

If one is able to find the Dream Master World, wouldn’t he become extraordinary and divine, forever having nothing to worry about?

It was precisely because of this conjecture that spurred the later generations of dream masters to search for leads regarding the Dream Master World.

“There are talents in every generation...there has been rapid progression in the changes in the Da Qian dream master’s world in the few short years that my master lived in seclusion.”

Fang Yuan nodded his head and felt excited. “However... I like this atmosphere!”

Fang Yuan had previously chased after longevity and eternity, but it had always been smoke and mirrors.

Now, he suddenly saw a possibility of success.

The excitement felt was similar to the feelings that a traveler, who had been travelling for a long time in the dark and had suddenly seen the light, would feel.

“Of course...the Dream Master World and the likes are still too far ahead of me. I should be considering the path to take after reaching the Illusionary Divine Stage!”

Fang Yuan grew serious.

After reaching the Illusionary Divine Stage, there were different pathways to take, the simplest being the dream spell master, followed by the dream soldier master, dream alchemy master, dream array master, dream beast master and the mysterious dream prophet master. There were all kinds of abilities and different pathways even though the end goal was to create an actualized dream world. The pathways taken were different and as such, each pathway had its own unique features.

“This is due to the fact that creating a whole dream world is too difficult and as such, the dream masters start with a portion of the laws and expand from there. As such, their abilities are different as well!”

Fang Yuan thought of his own master’s inheritance.

Master Heartless took the path to become a dream soldier master after reaching the Illusionary Divine Stage.

A dream soldier master created magical soldiers in his own dream world by first giving the magical soldiers form. With the condensed dream elemental force, the troop’s prowess increase and their thoughts can become a reality. They will be able to topple mountains and overturn the seas [1]. They are able to adapt and react to all types of situations. In the end, a dream soldier master would be able to use this pathway to have a better understanding of the world!

As for a dream spell master, he would be able to develop thousands of spells with a single thought. A dream array master would be to form an array in his dreams in an instant. If the elder of Xu Family was a dream array master and was able to call upon his arrays from his dream world, he would not have come to such a sorry end.

“A dream beast master create their paths using summoning spells. He uses dream elemental energy to actualize all sorts of wild beasts and summon a large army of beasts. Of course, there is a branch in this pathway which specializes in transforming one’s own body to become ancient beasts etc, inheriting their abilities and at the same time retaining the dream master’s intellect. It is difficult to master...”

The introduction to the basics of dream master was enough to dazzle Fang Yuan.

“Furthermore...all the pathways are not mutually exclusive and are able to complement each other. It is just that the time taken would be multiplied. There is also the issue with aptitude of the cultivator and as such, the cons outweigh the benefits...”

Given his current abilities, he was only able to use a few dream spell master’s techniques. Even other types of dream masters would not reject the use of dream elemental force to create dream spells in order to aid themselves in their chosen pathways. However, they pale in comparison to a true dream spell master who is able to cast thousands of dream spells with a single thought.

Only with single-hearted devotion can one achieve results.

Regardless of which pathway, the outcome was still the same. All the routes lead to the same destination and as such, it was a waste of effort to walk multiple paths.

“Where does my path lies?”

Fang Yuan sighed. Truth be told, he did not have many options.

While a dream soldier master might not be the strongest amongst the dream masters, there was no doubt that the inheritance in his hand was the most complete.

“Firstly, I do not have enough contribution points to search for the techniques of the other pathways. Secondly, these techniques might not be able to compare to what my master gave me...Afterall, my master’s dream soldier master inheritance is a secret inheritance and contain other mysteries. Furthermore, it is extremely compatible with me...”

Fang Yuan shook his head and made up his mind.

Fang Yuan had achieved much in the pathway of martial arts and was not willing to give it up. Choosing the pathway of a dream soldier master would undoubtedly maximize his potential in martial arts.

“Master’s dream soldier master pathway is a secret inheritance called the ‘Eight Gates Sword Array’ which possessed some characteristics of a spiritual array. 8 magical soldiers are created in the dream world to form an array and when required, they can be summoned to assassinate opponents or act as protection for the user! It complements my martial arts!”

The 8 Gates Sword Array used the 8 trigrams [2] as its foundation which encompassed all the living things in the heavens and earth. The fine changes within were limitless.

“While the 8 Gates Sword Array is effective, it does have a downside to it. Its characteristics are obvious and as such, if the enemies of my master see it, I will be in deep trouble...”

“Furthermore, my martial arts is another limiting factor!”

Fang Yuan’s Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique was developed by himself and was currently in the beginning stage of forming the 4th spiritual meridian. However, he was unable to proceed further.

In order to achieve a breakthrough, he only had 2 options.

The first option was to obtain the entire manual of Yang Family’s technique, the Qian Kun Giant Spiritual Technique and combine it to fill up the gaps in the Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique.

The second option was to use his contribution points and request the help of a more skillful dream master to perfect his technique!

Due to their actualized dream world, dream masters were able to deduce martial arts techniques.

Fang Yuan faced difficulties and was unable to further improve his Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique. However, that did not mean that other dream masters were unable to do so!

If that was the case, it would be difficult to keep the technique a secret and as such, Fang Yuan was unwilling to seek the help of other dream masters.

“Maybe...I should put up posters requesting to buy the entire volume of the Qian Kun Giant Spiritual Technique manual?”

Fang Yuan muttered to himself.

The Yang Family was exterminated by Qing Gui. As such, it was likely that the in-house technique was spread to the outsiders.

Afterall, there were so many dream masters in Da Qian with treasures and information as long as one was able to pay the price!

[1] A Chinese saying which means that they possess immense power.

[2] The 8 trigrams eight symbols used in Taoist cosmology to represent the fundamental principles of reality, seen as a range of eight interrelated concepts.

[Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

Chapter 232: Inform

Qin Manor.

In the main library of the manor, Qin Yun was draped in robes of dark gold. He wore a silver circlet on his crown, and a pencil mustache above his lips. It seemed as though he had calmed down.

Incense of premium quality burned on in the room. The rich scent of ambergris permeated the air.

All was silent, except for the steady rattle of an abacus. Qin Qing was present too, and his skillful hands danced on the abacus as if he was playing a musical instrument. Before him lay a huge pile of account books.

As the figurehead of the Qin clan, Qin Yun had not managed to find any reliable underlings. Other than his own sister, there was no one that he trusted.

After a while, the clacking sounds of the abacus beads ceased. Qin Qing scribbled some notes on paper before settling himself down on a chair. He let out a sigh and rubbed his forehead vigorously.

“What is the situation?”

Qin Yun served up a cup of spiritual tea and asked his question casually.

“Last year...the various holdings of our clan, including the group at Soul Mountain, raked in a total of 108,500 elemental crystals. Of course, they are of poor quality...less the amount distributed to the different branches of the family, there would be 50,000 elemental crystals left over!”

Qin Qing displayed no hint of happiness but gave off vibes of depression.

“But other than the usual expenses, we have to manage the Vast Sea Army as well. This year, we are projected to spend at least 20,000 elemental crystals, and we’ll have to pay a tribute of 40,000 of elemental crystals to the Elders’ Hall. We still have to pander to the various requests of the elders and source for valuable spiritual herbs and spices. All of these require a large amount of time and effort...”

Hiss

Qin Yun sucked in a breath of cold air.

“So, this means that the Qin clan is barely making ends meet?”

“Having looked through the accounts, this seems to be the case. In the past few years, Lady Xu has been tapping on the Qin clan’s reserves...regardless of how much wealth our predecessors had hoarded, we’ll go broke if we continue to spend at this rate, unless...we cut down on other overheads!”

Qin Qing shook his head.

“The running costs of the Qin clan are already as lean as they can be. They can be reduced no further. The only things we can potentially cut down on are the tributes to the Elders’ Hall and the Vast Sea Army... and yet, these are untouchable!”

Qin Yun shook his head vigorously in reply.

The Vast Sea Army was the personal guard of the Vast Sea Viscount. After assuming his title, he came into possession of the magical commanding weapon of the Vast Sea Army. He now had the loyalty of 500 men at his immediate disposal. There was no reason for him to restrain his own power.

The tribute to the Elders’ Hall was a large one, but there was no other choice. If the tribute was compromised in any way, the elders could penalise him under the family laws, or even cast him out of the clan!

“If we cannot stem these numerous outflows, we will have to create additional sources of income...”

As Qin Yun spoke, a peculiar change came over his facial expression, and he rubbed the back of his neck.

The imprint of a black datura had appeared on his skin, and the flower petals were spreading as if they were alive.

“Our lord is summoning us...”

Qin Yun murmured.

With regards to His Lordship, Qin Yun was both in awe and grateful.

What was the Xu Clan to them? Even with the backing of a Spiritual Array Master, they suffered great losses anyway and had already dropped out from the list of Dongyi County elite families. The remnants of their clan continue to be on the run from their enemies and were leading wretched lives. The Qin siblings had played a part in damning the Xu clansmen and considered it their revenge.

Also, with Fang Yuan’s help, the Qin clan was now larger than the Xu clan in size, had gotten rid of Lady Xu, and Qin Yun was even raised to the position of clan leader. How powerful was he exactly?

Thus, Qin Yun had nothing but respect and gratitude for Fang Yuan.

“This method...actually managed to fool the clan elders, we should quickly go pay our respects!”

Qin Qing nodded his head, passed down some instructions, and followed Qin Yun out of the manor.

There was a famous place in Dongyi County called Sha Zhou Leng, and it was always crowded with people.

At this point, a horse carriage parked in the shadows discreetly, with the Qin siblings seated cross-legged within. Both of them had looks of unease on their faces.

“Why isn’t His Lordship here yet? Did something serious crop up?”

“Or perhaps...we’ve been tailed?”

Qin Qing, with her ice-cold intelligence, knew that being the head of the Qin clan did not come with complete control over the clan.

At the very least, behind the clan leader, the Elders’ Hall loomed and was influential in every management aspect of the Qin clan.

Qin Yun, even as the clan leader, continued to face severe limitations in his work.

“Will His Lordship...be afraid of the Qin Elders’ Hall?”

As Qin Qing shook her head, a wave of fatigue swept over her without warning. She suddenly felt drowsy and her eyelids were getting heavier by the second. She then fell asleep, head leaning against the carriage walls.

“Ehh? Sister!”

Qin Yun exclaimed in surprise and began to channel his elemental force for self defence.

Qin Yun had already reached the Wu Zong level of martial arts cultivation, having broken through the 12 Gates!

However, following the infiltration of a stream of gas into the carriage, Qin Yun fell unconscious to the floor anyway.

“Where...what is this place?”

Qin Yun experienced a strong feeling of weightlessness, and he sprang to his feet forcefully, only to find that he was in the middle of a foggy wasteland. A wispy figure in the vicinity caught his eye.

“Yun?”

“Sister!”

Qin Yun ran forward and grasped the cold palm of Qin Qing.

“Where are we?”

“If I’m not wrong, we are in our dream world!”

Qin Qing was certain of it.

“Good! Clearly intelligent. It’s a good thing that I have promoted you two!”

The mists converged into the figure of a youth wearing white robes. It was Fang Yuan.

“Oh, I see that His Lordship is a Dream Master. It’s our fault for not realising it earlier!”

Qin Qing pulled Qin Yun along and hurriedly bowed to Fang Yuan respectfully.

Her heart, however, was pounding hard in alarm.

His Lordship had previously proved himself to be a Wu Zong and well versed in spiritual spells. The Qin siblings understood that he was a master of both martial arts and magic, and that was that. They had no idea that he was a Dream Master too!

In the Da Quan world, the status of a Dream Master was much higher than that of a spiritual knight.

To put it brusquely, even the lowest leveled Dream Master could be on an equal footing as Qin Yun, Lord of the Qin clan and Vast Sea Viscount!

“You may rise! Qin Yun, you have done well to assume the leadership of the Qin clan...you’ve even become a Wu Zong?”

Fang Yuan exuded indifference as he spoke.

The changes within Qin Yun’s body was obvious to Fang Yuan.

Besides, this was a low levelled Wu Zong. He had killed too many of them to care.

“His Lordship has astounding eyesight!”

Although he had entered the realm of elemental force himself, in front of Fang Yuan, Qin Yuan spoke as though he was a cowering youth. Even his voice was quivering.

Qin Yun finally understood why the Elders were unable to detect Fang Yuan’s Restriction.

The ways of a Dream Master were indeed unpredictable.

Of course, Fang Yuan had the intention to conceal too.

Otherwise, if the truth was out, the Elders would not have agreed to let a Restricted individual assume leadership of the clan.

Qin Yun's eyes darted about quickly, and his thoughts ran wild.

Fang Yuan's display of power must have been meant to intimidate the Qin siblings and to remind them that having received his help, they were bound to him.

Thus, Qin Yun exclaimed, "His Lordship has aided us in our revenge, and we will forever be grateful to you. From now on, the Qin siblings are at your service!"

"Hey, you are too serious!"

Fang Yuan waved his hand, and the Qin siblings got to their feet quickly.

"Now...all I need you two to do is to find out two things for me. First, the rise and fall of a certain clan, and everything else about it. Second, I want the map of the Da Qian empire, palace layouts, clan territories, the various factions and how they are organised. Give me everything you can find out!"

"You have been careless today, and people are watching. From now on, we shall communicate in the dream world..."

"What?"

The Qin siblings were stunned, and as they looked at each other, they thought of the Elders' Hall.

"Yes my Lord!"

"Very well, you two may go!"

As Fang Yuan nodded, the dream world dissipated.

In the horse carriage, Qin Yun awoke with a start and looked at Qin Qing. As they made eye contact, they understood that everything that had happened was real.

"Let's go back!"

Qin Qing pressed Qin Yun's palm knowingly.

"I understand!"

Qin Yun nodded vigorously. Fang Yuan was the most powerful person in the equation and had to be obeyed. Also, Qin Qing seemed to have the intention of challenging the Elders' Hall with Fang Yuan's backing.

Although the Qin siblings knew that they were playing with fire, they had no choice because they were Restricted.

"But anyway...these people dared to tail me, they must be wiped out!"

Qin Yun pulled the curtains aside and noticed a few shadows darting out of his view. A cold determination settled over him.

At this point, falling out with the Elders' Hall was unwise. But he had to send them a message.

As the newly appointed leader of the Qin clan, how could he not demonstrate his power?

A short distance away, Fang Yuan wore a farmer's hat and blended in with the tourists, looking as though he was enjoying the sights of Sha Zhou Leng. His lips curled up into a slight smile.

'The ways of a Dream Master are mysterious and profound. Only a casual usage of the relevant skills yielded such great effects!'

So what if someone was tailing us?

Even if he had been giving instructions to the Qin siblings right in front of them, they would be powerless to do anything.

Only another Dream Master could challenge a Dream Master!

"Now I believe that the Dream Master is definitely not a native role of the Da Qian world. It is much more complex than the other techniques and defies logic..."

The more Fang Yuan practised, the more he believed the contents of the journals within the 'Dream Creek Records' to be true.

"Absolute martial force would give absolute power and influence!"

He stared at the desert in front of him with a serious look on his face.

"A Dream Master not only wields great power, he also provides vital resources. He is totally self sufficient and can even supply the outside world...with these abilities, is it possible to not crave for power?"

Fang Yuan knew the answer. There was no way he could resist.

"Although I have no idea how the Da Qian royalty continues to stand to this day, it must be a precarious balance. Perhaps, all it will take is just a little push to break them, and when that happens..."

He sniffed and seemed to catch the smell of blood and fire. This was the smell of the war to come!

Chapter 233: Sword Array

Actualised Dream World.

As the foundation of an Illusionary Divine Stage dream master, Fang Yuan's dream world was very small. It was no taller than 2.6 metres and its circumference was no longer than 3.2m.

"The cultivation of the Illusionary Divine Stage is the cultivation of the actualised dream world. One day, this will become a true world!"

In the centre of the heavens and earth, Fang Yuan's true consciousness appeared, one hand pointed at the sky and the other hand pressing against the earth.

“Crash!”

Dream elemental force surged forth and flushed the borders of the actualised dream world.

With every wave, the chaos of the outside world was washed away. The actualised dream world started expanding at a slow rate.

“The journey of a dream master in the Illusionary Divine Stage is a long and arduous one. Who knows how much effort is needed to reach the Prominent Divine Stage!”

Fang Yuan sighed.

Every day after he completed his work, he would go out and arrive at an open field.

“Dream soldier master, in the beginning, his primary focus is to actualize soldiers and uses martial arts as a supplement. In the end, he will walk the path of training his soldiers to have a better understanding of the world...Truth be told, it is to start with laws regarding weapons and the likes before moving on to grasping the laws of the world! Any pathway of a dream master will ultimately reach to the same end-goal!”

“My Master’s secret teachings, known as the 8 Gates Sword Array incorporate the essences of arrays and martial arts. Its prowess is unparalleled. It uses the 8 trigrams as its foundation, and is able to transform and adapt to suit the situation!”

Fang Yuan have read through Master Heartless’s inheritance many times. At this time, verses of chants flashed across the bottom of his heart, and he understood all the verses completely.

He sat cross-legged and his spiritual will penetrated the emptiness. He started to gather his previously-expended dream elemental force.

When his essence, energy and magic had recovered to their peak levels, Fang Yuan stood up, and suddenly shouted, “8 Gates Sword Array, rise!”

“Whoosh!”

Sword radiance flashed!

All kinds of blue, red and golden coloured swords converged, with multiple colours flashing. The sharpness of the blades was threatening. Suddenly, the swords fell to the ground and in the centre of the actualised dream world, 8 hazy sword shadows appeared.

Once the array appeared, the whole atmosphere within the space changed. It was as if sharp wills started to gather.

“Only the path is set at the start. Not a single divine soldier gather...this is merely beginning!”

Fang Yuan looked at the flickering sword shadows and shook his head, “At the peak of my master’s cultivation, he completed the 8 Gates Sword Array. At my current level, it is very difficult to actualize 1 divine soldier. The good thing about this array is that it does not require the 8 divine soldiers to converge. The array can be used even if it was just 1, 2 or 3 divine soldiers [1]!”

He turned his gaze towards the South with a solemn expression.

Over there, under a red cloud, a scarlet sword essence appeared to be holding up the heavens like a giant pillar. Within it, the sword's shadow was hazy.

"The true South gifts flames! This is for the fire-type sword! The easiest to gather amongst the 8 Gates Sword Array! It is the best place for me to start!"

Fang Yuan consumed Flame Jade Rice daily and as such, his fire-type energy was the most abundant. Naturally, it would aid him in his cultivation of the fire sword.

"South-leaving Fire, listen to my command, fire-type sword, gather!"

A beam of light shot from his eyes and onto the red sword pillar.

"Crash!"

Dream elemental force as vast as the sea surged forth and entered the fire-type pillar. The fire-type sword momentarily appeared as it started to actualize.

The sword was around 1 metre long and the blade was scarlet in colour with simple and mysterious markings engraved upon it. The hilt of the sword was in the shape of a fiery dragon. The whole sword appeared to be a raging flame and yet, there was a hint of green will.

The sword shadow, which was originally an illusion started to become real.

"10%?"

After a long time, with his dream elemental force depleted, Fang Yuan looked at the shadow and was pleased.

It was no easy feat to actualize a magical soldier.

What he had done so far was to create a form. He still had to slowly train.

Afterall, even if he had gathered the 8 spiritual swords and complete the array. It was a huge task to separate the array from the actualised dream world and actualise it in the real world.

The path to reach the Prominent Divine Stage was indeed long and difficult!

Every actualised sword and the dream soldier master's cultivation would bring about enormous changes. When the 8 swords are gathered, it would be enough to shock the heavens and earth, make demons and deities afraid. The array would clear the path before him.

"This 8 Gates Sword Array is split into levels according to the number of magical soldiers actualised. The most basic is the 1 sword, followed by 2 swords, when at last the 8 swords form the array, it can affect the heavens and earth, one step at a time, clearing the way forward!"

Fang Yuan stroked his chin, "It feels like this is similar to the spiritual meridians of the Wu Zongs!"

For a Wu Zong in the Meridian Opening Realm, the spiritual meridians were gathered and split into different levels. In each level, the battle prowess of the Wu Zong was different.

"I hear that after a spiritual knight reaches the Elemental Opening Realm, the next step in his cultivation would be to link his spiritual points!"

“Other dream master pathways are roughly similar and can be split into 8 or 9 realms...”

After remembering the recently-purchased information, Fang Yuan no longer had any confusion regarding the cultivation in the Elemental Opening Realm.

For an ordinary cultivator, the main focus of cultivation was to attain the elemental force!

It was only after breaking through the Elemental Gathering Realm could a cultivator be considered extraordinary and considered to be on a path of cultivation.

This step was known as cultivation to become a Wu Zong, spiritual knight or dream master.

The second step was to reach the opening of spiritual meridians of the Wu Zongs and elemental opening points for the spiritual knights. The dream masters were different depending on the pathways taken but they all had around 9 gates to be broken through.

“The third step, which is also the last step, is to return to their roots and seek the real meaning and source of the elemental force. In the pathway of martial arts, it would be to complete the opening of the spiritual meridians and the formation of the Divine Body. The last step is not known for the spiritual knights and as for the dream master, it would be to reach the Prominent Divine Stage!

There are vast differences in power between the levels in the 9 gates of elemental opening. Furthermore, becoming a dream master is much more advantageous compared to the other 2 pathways...”

Fang Yuan looked at his stat board and realized that there were changes to it after he made the realization:

“Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 36

Spirit: 30

Magic: 21

Profession: Dream Soldier Master

Cultivation: Illusionary Divine Stage, Wu Zong (3 Meridians)

Technique: Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique [Grade 4(1%)], Hundred Poison Golden Body [1st Refining Stage], 8 Gates Sword Array [1 sword (10%)]

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)]”

“If I calculated correctly, I am currently at the power level of a Wu Zong in the 4th level and a dream master in the first level of the Illusionary Divine Stage?

Fang Yuan was stumped, “It is just that this is not reflected in my actual battle power...”

At least, with his current cultivation at the Illusionary Divine Stage, he would be able to overpower Wu Zongs who opened 3 or 4 spiritual meridians. The Wu Zong would not even be able to escape.

“The main focus of my cultivation now is to firstly, perfect my Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique and secondly, gather the fire sword...”

Truth be told, this Leaving Fire Sword was the interpretation of the fire-type pathways in the world. In other words, this was the gathering of the laws of fire in Fang Yuan’s actualised dream world.

“Other than slowly grinding using the dream elemental force, it is only in the dream world can one find a treasure which aid in his cultivation...”

Fang Yuan nodded before shaking his head.

“Whoosh!”

Suddenly, the 8 Gates Sword Array shook and the scarlet sword essence exploded, causing Fang Yuan to be surprised.

He looked up and saw that the Leaving Fire Sword pillar, which had started to actualise a few percentage point, supporting the heavens and earth had raised the dream world by another 20 centimeters.

That was not all. Countless of Leaving Fire Sword essence appeared and eliminated the chaos surrounding the dream world, causing his actualised to expand at a rate multiple times faster than when he used his dream elemental force to grind his dream world.

“This is the true way to cultivate the dream world!”

Fang Yuan sighed as he made that realization.

At that moment, he was considered to have just started his cultivation in the Illusionary Divine Stage.

“With the 8 Gates Sword Array in place, my dream world would continue to expand and actualise even without my management!”

Fang Yuan nodded in gratification as he deeply felt the formidability of being a dream soldier master.

In the real world.

In a secluded valley where the vegetation was lush and the area deserted.

Within a cave, Fang Yuan sat cross-legged as he absorbed the surrounding essence to his limit. He suddenly opened both his eyes.

“Fire Sword!”

With a wave of his hand, a scarlet sword essence measuring a few centimetres appeared and fell down swiftly!

“Chi”

On the ground, a scorched mark which extended in a straight line for a few metres could be seen.

“Although the Fire Sword has not been completely formed, its sword essence can be adjusted and its power is no less than an ordinary divine soldier. The most crucial point is that it can be perfectly commanded like how an arm is able moves the finger [2] ... in the future, I will be able to use the sword

essence to fend off an enemy or maybe complement it with my martial arts. How does '8 Meridians Divine Sword' sounds?"

Fang Yuan stoked his chin and drew out a thread of his dream elemental force.

After several bouts of changes, Fang Yuan started to worry as he saw the thread of dark red amidst the chaos.

"It would be better to get rid of the hidden dangers left behind in the Three World Mountain.

His spiritual will shifted and in an instant, he entered a dream and arrived at the dream world.

"Gather information – Three World Mountain, dream master!"

Before the 4 rock tablets, Fang Yuan retrieved his emerald order plate and started searching.

Due to the fact that what he needed was scattered information, the information was not too expensive but his inheritance was completely cleared.

"Three World Mountain divides 3 worlds and hence, its name. 900 years ago, Tian Xiezi, a dream master from the Evil Divine Sect fell here, causing the dream world to transform into an illusionary world, in between reality and illusion. It is a natural stronghold, and all travelers, regardless of whether they go with the flow or against the flow, met their downfall. Dream masters dare not approach for fear of meeting misfortune..."

Fang Yuan's expression changed after reading the contents of the report.

"Nothing...there is no information regarding this type of dark force. It seems that the only lead is Tian Xiezi of the Evil Divine Sect?"

Fang Yuan had heard of, and was very familiar with, the name.

However, it was not from his, but Fang Yan's dream world!

"After becoming the Eagle Lieutenant, I have investigated and finally realized that Qing Gui was a dream master of the Evil Divine Sect!"

Fang Yuan's eyes looked serene: "Looks like...my affinity with him is not so easily broken."

With this type of force mixed into his dream elemental force, Fang Yuan might suffer in the future even if the consequences were not obvious yet!

Given Fang Yuan's character, he would definitely not allow this ticking time-bomb to remain on his body.

As such, it was imperative that he made a trip to Evil Divine Sect and seek out the source of the dark force!

"This trip is still too difficult given my current standard..."

Fang Yuan shook his head, "Perhaps...I can try asking for assistance to search for a method to get rid of foreign force within my dream elemental force...contribution points, the most important is still the contribution points!"

After multiple searches, he had used up all his contribution points.

“I need to quickly raise a huge sum of contribution points!”

He looked towards the stone tablets, his gaze solemn.

Chapter 234: Organisations

In the Dream Realm.

“Look at my spiritual plants! They are full of spirituality and the price is worth it!”

Fang Yuan covered himself in a fog as he looked at a trader in front of him. “10 contribution points! I can’t go any lower!”

“Fine! Since these are new spiritual plants!”

In front of him was a huge golden glow. The dream master concealed inside must be plump-sized. Now that they had come to an agreement, he took over a huge number of spiritual plants.

“Eh...”

After a while, as Fang Yuan looked at his bare looking inscription plate, he shook his head in disappointment. “It’s too slow! Too slow... If I continue at this speed, who knows when I would save up enough contribution points...”

He did not bring the entire Green Peak spiritual land with him and could only spend all that he brought along with him.

Furthermore, the spiritual plants planted in his spiritual land were of low grade and the only selling point for them was the fact that they were a novelty in Da Qian.

“After doing a stocktake, there are a few that I cannot sell, like the mysterious spiritual seed...”

Fang Yuan thought about it. If he really did want to sell it, he was confident that he could get a good offer from Feng Xinzi.

That dream alchemy master was really generous. Unfortunately, he was only interested in new types of spiritual plants and he would only buy small quantities of them. After a few transactions with him, Fang Yuan could only continue to sell his spiritual plants to other people.

“It seems that the only way to get more contribution points is to do missions...”

Fang Yuan took in a deep breath and at that moment, he felt as though he had gone through a bottleneck.

At this point in time where he still could not rely solely on his skill in Botany to make a living, the only way he could get more contribution points was to do missions.

The good thing was that he would be rewarded heavily by the rock tablet regardless if he were to take up the mission to be a helper, assassin or explorer.

“Fang Yuan, are you there?”

Just as Fang Yuan was deep in his thoughts, his jade inscription plate glittered. The symbol of a wind chime appeared and from there was the voice of Feng Xinzi.

"I am in the Dream Realm!"

Fang Yuan was respectful towards this loyal customer of him.

"That's good! Come to the tea house, I have something to tell you!"

Feng Xinzi sounded serious. "You... need contribution points right? I have a mission here, and you might be interested in it..... "

"Oh? I'll be there right away!"

Fang Yuan was decided as he came to the tea house which they first met.

As usual, Feng Xinzi booked a private room and sat inside. The pill essence wrapped around him in the shape of a Lingzhi, making him look like a deity.

"Brother Feng!"

Fang Yuan greeted him and came straight to the point. "Why would you think of me?"

"This is because I have done business with you a few times and feel that you are a trustworthy person!"

Feng Xinzi looked down.

As dream masters, they had a keen sense of feel. The first impression was paramount for them to decide if the person was good or bad.

"Furthermore, you have the ability since you are in the Illusionary Divine stage! I am lacking in one more person, and therefore I thought of you!"

Feng Xinzi spoke the truth.

"Ah... I am honoured!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head. "May I know what type of mission it is?"

"Exploration! Exploring a newly discovered small world!"

Feng Xinzi replied.

'An exploration mission?'

Fang Yuan raised his cup as he hid his fears. 'I knew that dream masters were able to communicate through worlds. I never thought that I would start my first mission exploring a new world.'

"Can I first take a look at the information regarding the mission?"

He asked as he remained expressionless.

"Only after accepting the mission can I tell you the information about the mission. However, I can tell you a little about it. This new world has not been discovered by other dream masters, and the difficulty level is not that high. The rules of this world's reality are similar to that of ours..."

Feng Xinzi appeared extremely confident and sounded like he was tempting Fang Yuan to join.

“This... I will need a few days to consider. Also, if I am decided, I would like to accept the mission and receive the reward through the Realm Spirit!”

The Realm Spirit was originally the consciousness of the Kun. After alteration, it became more like a programmed manager of the Dream Realm. Under the scrutiny of all the dream masters, it would be absolutely partial.

With the Realm Spirit as the middleman, it would be a form of assurance. Unless Feng Xinzi and the other dream masters decide to leave the Dream Realm for good and risk being wanted by other dream masters, everything would be fine. Fang Yuan knew that if it was him instead, he would not be important enough to be placed on the wanted list.

“This of course. However, you only have one day to consider! Our set- up in that small world is about to take effect...”

Feng Xinzi continued. “Don’t miss this chance!”

...

“Exploring a new world!”

After parting with Feng Xinzi, Fang Yuan came to the rock tablet as he browsed through the glistening missions on it.

As his spiritual will shook, 10 contributions were used up and information started to flood into his mind.

In the vast universe, although Da Qian was huge and strong, it was not the only world to exist.

Within worlds, due to different reasons, there would be secret realms as well.

These secret realms or spiritual lands were only partially developed. In other words, they were new worlds that have yet to mature.

Outside Da Qian, there was a whole new world.

Dream masters have predicted that the formation of worlds was from the actualised dream worlds of powerful dream masters!

A newly developed world might be covered with dangers. After braving the risks, explorers would be rewarded heavily. However, the new world might also be a desert with no findings, or it might even be a trap, set up to trap visitors.

In conclusion, the risks and rewards would be there. It was all up to the dream master’s own confidence.

In history, there were stories of normal dream masters becoming sect masters after exploring one new world.

“There are two ways for dream masters to explore new worlds. The first would be to dream-traverse through 3,000 worlds. Through the temptation of the new worlds, they would cast arrays on it, opening a slit to the new world and allow their soul to enter. This would be the most common way of accessing

new worlds. The other way is to bring their actual body into the new world. The requirements are too much and I'm afraid that even Feng Xinzi and his company would not be able to do it yet..."

After reading through a few recordings, Fang Yuan came to a conclusion.

It was worth it to take the risk this time!

It was secondary to earn the contribution points. More importantly, he could gain experience.

After all, if he used the dream-traversing method, even if he died in the new world, it would only be a failed exploration mission and he would at most hurt his spiritual will. He could undergo cultivation and train again!

...

After a day, in the Dream Realm, in a void space.

"This is a space which I have rented from the Realm Spirit using contribution points. It is completely safe and the chances of success by dream-traversing here would be high!"

Feng Xinzi could seemingly see through Fang Yuan's confusion and added a few more words. "Also... let's welcome our new member! Remember to look for a safe place to hold your physical body. After all, even though we have researched on the rate of time flow in both worlds, accidents might still happen!"

"Don't worry, Brother Feng!"

Fang Yuan followed behind Feng Xinzi. "Since I've decided to join, I would already make the necessary preparations."

"Very well, I'll now introduce to you a few group members!"

Feng Xinzi looked at the centre of the space.

At there, there were two other dream masters waiting.

Seeing Fang Yuan, their voices were skeptical.

"Feng Xinzi, is this the new member which you have found?"

Covered in flames, a man's voice was heard. "He doesn't seem hardy enough!"

"That's right! It is no easy task to explore a new world!"

The other voice was from a lady, which was shrouded in illusionary flower petals.

"This is..."

Fang Yuan looked at the lady as his eyebrows twitched. "White Lotus?!"

"Friends, Brother Fang Yuan is handpicked by me! There is no doubt about his ability and personality!"

Feng Xinzi walked in front of the other two dream masters as he calmly spoke.

Following which, he explained to Fang Yuan. "Come, I'll introduce them to you. This is Venerable Fiery Dragon, and this is Deity Clear Lotus! Are you suspecting that she is related to the Divine Lotus Cult

because of her appearance? Keke... This is a misunderstanding! Although Deity Clear Lotus's Nine Lotus Heart Technique looks similar to the techniques of the Divine Lotus Cult, they have their difference!"

"That is true!"

As Fang Yuan took a closer look, he quickly apologised. "I apologise for my reckless opinion. Please forgive me, Deity!"

"That's alright!"

From the lotus petal, there was a clear voice. "I am already used to it. Every stranger I meet would suspect as well..."

Fang Yuan let out a soft laughter. He was indeed afraid of her because of Meng Lian.

After getting rid of her, he did an in-depth investigation on her, which shocked him.

She was part of one of the two evil dream master sects in Da Qian – the Divine Lotus Cult!

Dream masters were good at instilling feelings in other people. By forming a cult, their influence would grow by many folds. Even in Da Qian Empire, their cult was banned. It was rumoured that the ways they adopted spread their teachings were mysterious and they were able to unknowingly affect Wu Zongs, spiritual knights or even dream masters to work for them.

The Divine Lotus Cult and the Evil Divine Sect were the two evil sects among the dream masters. The small sects which originated from these two larger organisations were countless, and they could be described as the source of evil dream masters in Da Qian.

Although Qing Gui's evil name was well-known, he was only a small figure in his sect and was far from being the leader.

"In reality, we are all part of the Realm Alliance!"

After some thought, Feng Xinzi took the initiative to dissipate his own pill essence, revealing his true appearance. He was a middle-aged man.

"Realm Alliance?"

"Mm, most of the members are dream masters who do not belong to any sect. By relying on the Dream Realm, these members came together to form an alliance, and even dream masters with sects would be allowed to join. Therefore, the alliance is extremely powerful and there are almost no restrictions to it..."

Feng Xinzi continued. "Other than that, there are good dream master sects like Baize Mountain. This is the main pillar for all dream masters in Da Qian. Finally, there is also a Source Seeking Sect. That sect is mainly made up of a bunch of foolish people who would do anything to search for the source of power for dream masters. Just stay away from them!"

"Of course, dream masters in these 5 organisations don't just stick to one organisation. They can move around!"

Fang Yuan looked down. He knew that if not for his quick thinking, he would be likely taken in by Meng Lian to join the Divine Lotus Sect.

Among these five organisations, the only good one was Baize Mountain. The Realm Alliance was a neutral organisation, and the remaining three were either evil or crazy people. These people would be the ones causing trouble for the entire world.

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 235: Offerings

“Brother Feng, didn’t you mention that there would be five of us?”

Fang Yuan looked around.

“Mmm. The last one is not here yet. The technique that she is cultivating is a little special...”

Feng Xinzi was ambiguous.

“Feng Xinzi, don’t lie about me in front of our new member!”

As he finished his sentence, a gentle voice was heard, which made Feng Xinzi laughed. “It’s just a joke, don’t take it to heart!”

Quickly, he turned around and explained to Fang Yuan. “Our fifth member is Yu Tianlao. Her cultivation is in dream spells and the Mastery of Curses...”

“I see!”

Fang Yuan nodded his head.

The Mastery of Curses was a cultivation related to karma. The techniques would be activated as soon as the curse was spoken, and it was a rare form of cultivation among the dream masters.

Therefore, after seeing a compassionate looking old lady supporting herself with a walking stick, Fang Yuan immediately became serious.

In the Dream Realm, if dream masters were to reveal their true self, they would either be fools or they were confident of their own skills. It seemed like Yu Tianlao belonged to the latter.

Not just him, but even Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus shuddered.

“Keke..... Feng Xinzi, how is your Ten-thousand Pill Cauldron? Are you still trying to produce a pill spirit? It’s not that I want to put you down, but to create life in a cauldron... Difficult! It is extremely difficult!!!”

Yu Tianlao looked at Feng Xingzi and shook her head.

The path to Prominent Divine stage was tough all along. Although this method is extremely difficult, it is my only hope!”

Feng Xinzi’s face was one of determination and seemed that he was not afraid of death. “I am already almost there, how can I just give up?”

“Creating life?”

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered as he heard him.

Although the Illusionary Divine stage allowed them to create many things, there was a huge difference between normal objects and spiritual objects, from normal metal to divine troops. All of these were small breakthroughs to be achieved in itself.

However, the jump from producing non-living things to a lifeform was a paramount difference. It was a huge step within the Illusionary Divine stage.

Who would've thought that Feng Xinzi was already at this stage?

Fang Yuan was stunned.

'Of course... After being able to form living things, he would be able to form spiritual beasts and birds, followed by humans with intellectual minds! A dream master at this stage can be known as a 'creator'. This is no longer the elementary Illusionary Divine stage, but the Prominent Divine stage!'

How arduous would it be to cross this stage?

Based on Fang Yuan's predictions, Feng Xinzi was already stuck at this stage for long and had no progress.

'Although I don't know this dream alchemy master's combat skills, his cultivation is already comparable to a dream soldier master forming the Fourth Sword!'

"Keke... Say anything you want, and I hope that your evil mouth loses its life one day!"

Yu Tianlao laughed. "I did not come here today to reminisce about the past. The new world is dangerous. If we lose this chance, we might need to wait for other fools to find another one for us. Feng Xingzi, have you prepared everything?"

"Of course!"

Without hesitation, he exclaimed. "Realm Spirit, I want to seal up my void space!"

"Rumble!"

In the Dream Realm, Fang Yuan felt as though the void space which all of them were in was separated, as though they were travelling through the fabric of spacetime.

With the assurance of the Realm Spirit, there was nowhere safer than where they were right now.

Feng Xinzi quickly took out many spiritual equipment, talismans and blobs of spiritual blood as he started to piece together an array.

Although Fang Yuan was familiar with spiritual arrays, he was still confused at the sight of this particular array.

As for Feng Xinzi, Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus, all three of them seemed to have a deep understanding of this array. Together, they quickly completed the formation of the array.

'Dream masters are indeed talented in many aspects. The longer they live, the more skilled they would be...;

Fang Yuan took in a deep breath after seeing them cast the array.

If the three of them were to disguise themselves as spiritual array masters, they would never be seen through.

“It’s done!”

As the finishing touches were completed, Feng Xinzi wiped the sweat off his forehead. Looking at the array which was red, gold and green, he let out an expression of joy. “It is indeed easier to locate the other worlds in the Dream Realm. Next up, we’ll have to send out the signal and wait...”

“Cough cough... let me be the one to send out the signal!”

Without consideration for others, Yu Tianlao stood out at took a quick glance at Fang Yuan. “It will be up to you guys to come up with the energy needed to communicate with the other world!”

“This of course!”

Fang Yuan knew that he was here to make up the numbers and therefore could not avoid doing the manual labour.

“Very well. With the five of us, we should have enough dream elemental force!”

Feng Xinzi was ecstatic as he quickly arranged everyone in their positions. The four of us will position ourselves at the corners and try to activate the array inscription. At the beginning, 10 percent of your strength would be enough. Wait for my command!”

“Alright!”

Fang Yuan stood at the position of the White Tiger. As he waved his hands, waves of dream elemental force flowed into the array.

In front of him, talismans started to glow, and the inscriptions on the array started to glitter as the array continued to take in energy.

“Buzz! Buzz!”

At the four corners, each Illusionary Divine stage dream master exerted their dream elemental force. The array inscription started to expand and the three-coloured glow slowly intensified. Suddenly, it shot into the air and started to link up with another world.

“This is it... This is it...”

Yu Tianlao stood in the centre of the array. With her focus, she hardly looked like she was her age. “The Nine Heavens and Ten Earths, execute the divine searching technique! Go!”

As she executed her curse, physical forms of her spoken word appeared and were glowing.

‘This is using her spiritual will to locate the worlds. To be able to do this, a dream master must have an exceptional amount of magical energy to link up our Dream Realm to the other world... The curse by Yu Tianlao would increase the chances of success...’

Fang Yuan continued to put in his effort as he slowly recalled the information Feng Xinzi provided to him the moment he agreed to join them.

“That located new world is nicknamed ‘Hui’ by Feng Xinzi! The Hui Realm!”

“This world is newly discovered and according to Feng Xinzi, the rules of reality which govern that world is similar to the ones which govern Da Qian Empire...”

“The array is only acting as a bait. We will still need to offer sacrifice to the natives in that world... Previously, Feng Xinzi had already disguised himself as an evil spirit to deliver sacrifices to them. Just like fishing, as soon as they become greedy, we can execute our dream-traversing technique at the right time and location. In the future, it would become much more convenient to revisit the world to conduct further explorations...”

“Buzz!”

At this moment, on the array, there was a red glow.

“We have a response! They have initiated the sacrifice!”

Yu Tianlao and Feng Xinzi were beaming. “Start to locate their world! Let’s begin!”

In a few seconds, all of them were excited.

...

Hui Realm.

There were two suns in the sky. One was glaring while the other one was dim. Both of them were hanging in the sky, stationary. At night time, both suns would become dimmer. Therefore, the moon in Hui Realm was always a full moon. The land in the realm was divided into many regions.

In the middle laid the Heliocentric Region. It was a vast and scorching desert and there were no signs of life. At the outer extremes laid the Corona Region. The nights were extremely long and it was rare to even have a little sunlight in that region. There were almost no forms of life there as well.

Of course, the natives would call these two regions the ‘Death Zones’!

In the middle, where the sunlight was sufficient, a small country was formed and there were finally signs of life.

Within a deserted mansion in Lie Country.

“Are all the sacrifices ready for Deity Feng?”

A wealthy looking middle-aged man asked his subordinates.

His forehead was sticking out and his nose was pointed. His face was flushed and he wore luxurious clothing. At this moment, he continuously rubbed the ring in his fingers as he was deep in his thoughts.

The ring looked normal and therefore felt a little out of place as compared to this man’s clothing. However, to him, it seemed as though all the treasures in the world were incomparable to this ring!

Around him, ten over capable subordinates were working hard as they mixed gold and silver ingots together with jade shavings. With all of these, they arranged a huge array on the floor.

Another ten odd-looking objects were placed in the centre of the array. Everything felt weird and out of place, which made many of them confused.

There was a law in Lie Country which states that anyone performing black magic would be killed!

If anyone were to see them and report it to the authorities, everyone there would be killed and their family members would be implicated as well!

However, this middle-aged man remained focused, as though he at an utmost confidence for Deity Feng.

The famous 'Su Guo' was in a daze as he was deep in his thoughts.

Twenty years ago, he was just a small businessman. With some affinity, he managed to obtain a ring. From then on, he became a priest who preached for Deity Feng.

Although he did not know the true purpose of being a priest, this did not stop him from reaping the rewards after a few rounds of sacrifices. It was because of this that his wealth grew.

'Based on what Deity Feng had told me, the few previous instances were only small offerings. This time is the true sacrifice offering! Whatever I will gain will be 10 times more than before! Also, I will gain the technique to extend my lifespan!'

Su Guo's eyes were red.

In terms of wealth, he was already rich enough to start a country. However, the unknown potential of having more power and the path to a longer lifespan was what he was really hoping for.

"Sir, the offerings are here!"

In the middle of a stone platform, a few weird objects of different spiritual auras were placed.

In the centre of all the offerings, there was a green-coloured wood. It was the trunk of a Thousand Year Dragon Tree. In order to obtain it, Su Guo's caravan suffered deaths of 187 people on the journey there, not to mention the money he had to spend as well.

A red jewel beside the wood was an Aqua Rainbow Coral Jade. It was obtained after the sinking of 30 large vessels and many more divers who died attempting to get it.

...

To put it in another way, only Su Guo who had such wealth was able to collect all these treasures.

"Buzz!"

As the offerings were position in place, the array started to glow.

Su Guo took two steps forward and took in a deep breath. His wish was about to come true!

[Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

Chapter 236: Possession

“The mighty Deity Feng... Please descend into our world and realize my dream!”

Dark clouds formed in the sky as lightning ripped across.

It was as though aliens were about to enter the Hui Realm as everything shook.

Within the abandoned mansion, Su Guo felt uneasy. As he looked at the glowing array, his face was flushed. Subconsciously, he took a few steps forward.

Within the array, the few offerings in the middle were slowly consumed by a brightening glow, forming a bright ball of light.

“Buzz!”

As the ball expanded, it slowly formed the shape of a door and shook.

“Rumble!”

At that moment, there was a huge explosion.

As the winds blew, Su Guo flew along with it, defenceless. He rolled along the floor and in the process fractured many of his bones.

Slowly, the abandoned mansion could not withstand the destructive force as well. Amidst the explosion, it collapsed, forming a pile of rubble.

“Rumble! Rumble!”

At that moment, the dark clouds rumbled and streaks of lightning struck down. It was as though the heavens were enraged as thunder roared continuously.

However, there was something weird. As the lightning was about to strike the abandoned mansion, it would swerve and strike something else.

Amidst the storm, there were multiple light streaks on the roof of the mansion. Slowly, from the light streaks, a dark-coloured door was formed. In an instant, the door opened!

It was as though the gods above were enraged!

As over ten streaks of lightning combined, an extremely thick and huge streak of lightning collectively struck at the top of the black-coloured door!

Su Guo and his subordinates were all unconscious. It was not known if they were still alive or not.

It might be a good thing that they were unconscious.

This was because every form of life in a 100-mile radius was shuddering with fear and sweating profusely as though a disaster was about to happen!

...

The lighting came and went.

Soon after the huge lightning struck, the dark clouds quickly disappeared and the two suns slowly appeared again in the sky. Under the warm glow of the suns, a few white clouds appeared on the horizon. It was a peaceful sight to behold and it was as though the storm was just a dream.

“The backlash did not last too long in this world... d*mn, my leg!”

After a long while, amidst the rubble, a middle-aged man mumbled to himself. “Fortunately, I’ve bought some spiritual inscriptions to reduce the backlash from traversing through worlds and added them into the array. Otherwise, the consequences would surely be much more serious...”

Although he was wearing a servant’s attire, the way he spoke and acted was much different. If someone who knew him was to see him like this, they would give him the title of being ‘possessed’.

“This is the... Hui Realm?”

Fang Yuan raised his head and looked at the two suns in the sky, before looking at his own two hands.

The skin of his hands was tight and appeared young. His fingers were full of calluses, which was a sign that he frequently did manual labour.

“It seems like I have possessed a young servant’s body. Did he survive the storm because he was too lowly to be near the epicentre of the lightning strike?”

At the moment when the array was completed, the five dream masters in the Dream Realm worked together to bring their soul through space to arrive at the Hui Realm.

However, there was already such a destruction even by simply transporting their souls. Therefore, they had to choose to possess the body’s of the natives here and it was up to their luck to see who they possessed.

Compared to the unlucky Feng Xinzi who possessed a person with broken legs, Fang Yuan felt that he was rather fortunate.

“Alright, where are the other three?”

With Fang Yuan’s help, Feng Xinzi finally pulled his legs out from the rubble and looked around. “The time of arrival is very short, so they shouldn’t be too far from us!”

“We are here!”

As he finished his sentence, he could see the silhouette of two people supporting each other as they walked out from the rubble. Looking at their appearance, it was a male and a female.

“Venerable Fiery Dragon, Deity Clear Lotus!”

Feng Xinzi looked at the man. He was 7 feet tall and was wearing a martial artists’ attire. He had a knife around his waist and appeared well-built. He appeared well-skilled in martial arts and gave off a manly vibe. With a tinge of jealousy, Feng Xinzi complimented. “Brother Fiery Dragon, what fortune!”

“Yeah, sure!”

The lady by the side started to nag. “I am Venerable Fiery Dragon!”

“This...”

Fang Yuan and Feng Xinzi were stunned.

This was the problem of possession. Although their own bodies were extremely strong, there might be a deviation in the traversing of worlds, which might result in such an ending.

Fang Yuan looked at the body which Venerable Fiery Dragon possessed.

It was a lady in her mid-twenties. Her eyes were big and beautiful and her lips were puckered. There was a mole at the corner of her lips and her skin was as smooth as milk. He was a beauty.

Of course, this beauty was now brute and her tone did not match her appearance.

“This is...”

Fang Yuan looked at Feng Xinzi with confusion, and both of them looked at the well-built man in black robes.

“I am Clear Lotus. Greetings to you, my friends!”

The well-built man blushed and bowed.

His girly actions were gentle and graceful and it seemed like he was a graceful lady.

However, since it was a male who was doing it, Fang Yuan and Feng Xinzi both started to have goosebumps.

This was especially so for Feng Xinzi.

Previously, he was still complaining about his leg. However, now, he did not feel like it was a big issue already.

“We cannot change the bodies which we are possessing. If not for the protection of the array, as soon as our souls were to leave these bodies, we would be exposed to the elements...”

Feng Xinzi continued with a serious tone. “You two will have to make do with it. The good thing is that the time we will spend in Hui Realm is... Eh? Did anybody see Elder Lao?”

“I’m here!”

In front, a young and gentle voice was heard. A young girl about the age of 16 walked over with a proud face. “I cannot find anyone suitable around here, and therefore have to make do with this young girl...”

With such a weird combination of appearance and personality, Venerable Fiery Dragon, Deity Clear Lotus and even Fang Yuan felt a little uneasy.

The good thing was that all five of them were dream masters of the Illusionary Divine Stage and all of them had seen enough weird happenings in their lifetimes.

Previously, they were only joking. In a short moment, all of them regrouped and started to discuss the important details.

“This realm is ultimately a new realm. Although we have understood some of the dangers of this realm through Su Guo, we are still uncertain of the exact details. Everybody, please be careful!”

Feng Xinzi reminded everyone.

Even normal dream masters would feel half as powerful if they were to be thrown into a new realm. Only dream masters of the Illusionary Divine stage would have enough evolved dream elemental force to alter reality and remain calm.

Therefore, the minimum requirement for explorers of new worlds was to be at least a dream master of the Illusionary Divine stage!

“This goes without saying!”

Yu Tianlao rolled her eyes. “Your useless friend is still here. Do you want to save him? After all, he is a native and will be of use to us.”

“There’s no need!”

Feng Xinzi thought to himself for a while before coming to a decision. “He has already broken the law. Even if we save him, he will have bad luck for his whole life and he will be likely to be captured!”

As the person who brought them in, Su Guo was a criminal and his sins were already too much. He would not be able to right his wrongdoings for a few lifetimes to come.

“Although it might seem convenient at first to follow him, we will still have to suffer the consequences of his wrongdoings in time to come and this would implicate us. It is better for us to explore on our own! After our first attempt at possession, we have already integrated with their realm. Unless the bodies which we are possessing dies, revealing our soul, nobody in this realm would realise what had happened!”

Feng Xinzi looked at Fang Yuan and reminded him once more. “Even if our souls are left here, it is not death for us. However, we would still be severely drained on our original bodies. Furthermore, if we are captured or killed too many times, we might integrate completely with this realm and experience its backlash. Therefore... take care and be careful! Most importantly, if met with danger, we can lose the body and even let it die, but we cannot let our souls get captured!”

“I know this!”

Fang Yuan was appreciative of Feng Xinzi’s friendly reminder and nodded his head to show his agreement.

“Alright! Every array can only transport 5 souls through. Now, we have time to explore the Hui Realm!”

Venerable Fiery Dragon and Deity Clear Lotus looked at each other. “Let’s split up and explore. After three months, we’ll meet up and discuss our findings together. How does that sound?”

Seeing their confidence, Fang Yuan could guess that the few of them had already obtained information from Su Guo regarding the realm and roughly knew what they wanted to do.

"Mm... I'm fine with this plan. Furthermore, I have some other private issues to settle. What are your thoughts on this, Elder Lao?"

Feng Xinzi looked at Yu Tianlao.

"To search base on our own affinity. This is fair!"

Yu Tianlao nodded her head. However, her voice was deep, which made Fang Yuan glance at her with confusion.

Seeing that Yu Tianlao had realised that he was glancing at her, Fang Yuan rubbed his nose. "I am not seeking for anything to gain. I only intend to walk around and understand the happenings in this world!"

"Mm. Regardless, just remember to meet after three months!"

Feng Xinzi nodded his head and looked at the surroundings. "We cannot stay long here. Let's take our leave. Remember to prioritise safety and make sure not to be captured by the powerful people in this realm!"

Such a commotion at the abandoned mansion would surely attract a lot of attention.

Fang Yuan knew that Su Guo's life was over.

Without thinking too much about him, Fang Yuan picked a direction to walk in and was on his way.

"Mm... This physical body is not cultivated. It seems that I must slowly train it. Although I have the experience to achieve breakthroughs, it is still extremely troublesome to train up this body, regardless if I am able to use my power of Illusionary Divine!"

In a short moment, he had turned into a small path.

After a while, Fang Yuan stopped and looked behind. "Elder Lao, why are you following me?"

"Hehe!"

As a shadow flashed by, Yu Tianlao appeared. She had two ponytails on her head and she twirled it around in her fingers. "Feng Xinzi and the rest have decided on what to do and abandoned you by yourself. Young man, do you want to work with Elder Lao?"

"It's alright!"

Fang Yuan's objective was to gather more experience and explore on his own. After all, he still had to contribute his findings after three months and was not interested in gaining anything else. Therefore, he outrightly rejected her.

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 237: Fixed Stats

"Is that so... What a pity! I know of a good place and wanted to bring you there to give you more experience. It seems you are unappreciative!"

The young girl which Yu Tianlao had possessed shook her head and turned around.

Although she was possessing a normal person, there was fog all around her. In a flash, she disappeared.

'Using dream elemental force to strengthen your body?'

Witnessing this scene, Fang Yuan mumbled to himself but did not put it to heart. "Bring me along to give me more experience? I'm afraid you just want to kill me, right?"

He scanned his surroundings with his spiritual will. After assuring himself that no one was following him, he executed his lightness skill and quickly disappeared.

Just as the five of them took their leave, a group of people rode horses and arrived at the scene of destruction. They sealed the entire place and the region was in a chaos...

...

"Whoosh!"

The river was flowing.

Fang Yuan stood at the river bank and looked at his own reflection.

He was a pale looking young man with long eyebrows, and there was a hint of strength in his eyes.

"I'm rather lucky. At least I am stronger than the three of them..."

Fang Yuan nodded his head and waved his hands.

"Buzz!"

Dream elemental force appeared on his palms.

"Dream masters in the Illusionary Divine stage have the ability to alter reality. Although it is still effective in this world, the consumption of dream elemental force is much higher than before. I'll have to use it carefully."

After a few rounds of experimentation, Fang Yuan finally understood.

The physical body which he possessed was a normal young man which was average.

Furthermore, his soul was average as well. Without the strength from his Mind Palace, he was using up the stored dream elemental force in his actualised dream world, and there was no way to replenish it.

"I must quickly strengthen this body!"

After coming to a conclusion, Fang Yuan began to try out something new.

He picked up a green-coloured rock.

This rock was from the river bank and was from the river bank. It even had a layer of moss on it.

In a moment, a bewildering glow glittered from his hands. Around the rock, the air started to vibrate and finally, the rock exploded.

"Whoosh!"

The green rock became a powdery mess and was blown by the wind.

In his actualised dream world, the 8 Gates Sword Array shook and the Fire Sword shimmered, but nothing else happened.

"I failed... is this due to the fact that the realms are separated?"

Just previously, Fang Yuan had attempted to transfer an object from the Hui Realm into his actualised dream world.

If it was possible, he would have discovered a new way to store things as well as transfer objects from the Hui Realm to Da Qian.

However, his plan had failed from the start.

"In Da Qian Empire, dream masters in the Illusionary Divine stage can link themselves to the Dream Realm through their actualised dream world and only consume a little dream elemental force, transferring objects from one place to another in an instant. However, this is not possible here..."

Fang Yuan thought about it. He realised that even though he could still communicate with his actualised dream world, it felt distant and separated from him.

"After all, we are separated by an entire realm. It is possible to transfer energy but not objects. However, this might be possible if my actual physical body is here!"

He shook his head as he concluded that his plan to transfer treasures from Hui Realm to Da Qian was down the drain.

"Something's not right!"

Fang Yuan was a smart person and could quickly pick out the discrepancy. "If there was nothing to be gained, Feng Xinzi and the rest would not want to come here! Or... what they are planning to get their hands on is not something with a physical form and is able to be transported through their souls?"

As he thought down this train of thoughts, he felt that everything was much more logical.

He knocked his head and could roughly guess the plans of these few dream masters.

"They can get what they want, I'll just care for myself..."

Looking at his powerless hands, he gave off a bitter laugh. "Give me my stats!"

"Whoosh!"

In front of him, a window appeared. Information flooded the window, which surprised him.

"I was only testing! Who would know that this would work!"

Fang Yuan smiled. "It seems that this trait is something that is tied to my soul!"

As he changed a physical body, there were extreme changes to his stats as well:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 0.9 (36)

Spirit: 0.8 (30)

Magic: 1.1 (21)

Profession: Dream Soldier Master

Cultivation: [Illusionary Divine (???)], Wu Zong (???)

Technique: [8 Gates Sword Array (First Sword) (10%)]

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)]"

Looking at his own stats, Fang Yuan was speechless.

This body which he was in was the same as his own stats before he had started to train in martial arts while he was in the secluded valley.

Most of his techniques were wiped off. Only the 8 Gates Sword Array, which was related to his actualised dream world, remained.

As for his skills, he was surprised to see that they were perfectly preserved, even the levels of the skills.

"The bodies possessed by other dream masters should be similar to mine. However, they have the advantage of retaining their techniques in their actualised dream world, which means they would have a head start to strengthen their bodies!"

Based on his predictions, the other 4 of them would now be in hiding and attempting to train up their body, or they might even use evil spells to strengthen their body's strength.

If they did not recover at least half of what they use to have, they could do little.

After all, how could there be no highly skilled people in such a big world?

If they could die even in hiding then it would be a big joke.

"What do this original stats mean?"

Fang Yuan looked at the numbers in the brackets and stroked his chin.

As his mind focused on the numbers in the brackets, a mysterious piece of information was revealed, which allowed him to understand everything.

"Fixed stats? This would mean that... regardless of which body I am in, I would retain the maximum skill of what I have? This would be true even for reincarnation..."

"If this is true, then I would not have the problem of being stuck at bottlenecks anymore, but..."

Fang Yuan took in a deep breath and started to execute his Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique.

"Whooooo!"

The winds blew.

The muscles on his body started to vibrate and the shriek of an eagle was heard.

In his stats window, the originally absent Giant Eagle Metal Body technique started to reappear.

"Crack!"

Popping sounds were heard from his body as his joints cracked.

"The rules of reality which govern this world is similar to that of Da Qian. Therefore, the basics of training in martial arts should be similar as well. I just need to adapt a little..."

Fang Yuan closed his eyes and stuck his five fingers out in the shape of an eagle claw. Slowly, he experienced the little differences in this realm as he executed the technique.

"The 12 Golden Gates - Initial Gate, Rest Gate, Life Gate, Restriction Gate, View Gate, Pain Gate, Shock Gate, Death Gate... Open!!!"

At that moment, 8 loud sounds were heard. The energy in his body fused and started to form inner power. Slowly, the inner power came together to form a wire-like inner force.

"The Hui Realm is a little different from Da Qian. There are no Yin, Yang, Earth and Heaven Gates in the 4 Heavenly Gates. Instead, there are only two steps to form and obtain elemental force!"

"Chirp! Chirp!"

Behind Fang Yuan, a giant metallic eagle silhouette appeared.

"The realm of elemental force... breakthrough!"

Fang Yuan was decisive. In a moment, he took in elemental energy from Heaven and Earth into his Dantian, forming the martial artists' elemental force.

Finally, the Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique in his stats window started to settle down.

"This speed..."

Seeing that his Essence was already half of what he used to have and looking at his hands, Fang Yuan was in disbelief.

"How can I so simply recover my cultivation as a Wu Zong? Does this mean that I only need a day's work to get back my full potential?"

Fang Yuan finally understood.

If normal people training in martial arts was compared to a tortoise crawling, then the method which he just used would be akin to cheating and running at full speed!

Even if the dream masters were to lose their ability, they could harness the ability to actualise in their souls to cheat and give themselves a headstart to recover their abilities.

What a headstart for him!

"Fixed stats! This means that no matter how many times I change my physical body, if given time, I would be able to recover my abilities to its fullest potential!"

Fang Yuan clenched his fists and his eyes glittered.

This ability was a comforting one to him.

After all, the highest level of mission in the Dream Realm would be exploration missions!

Even dream masters in the Illusionary Divine stage still would not have the ability to transport their physical body to the new worlds, and therefore it would be common to perform possession on the natives in the world to be explored.

Other dream masters would need one to two months to recover all their strength. However, with the help of fixed stats, Fang Yuan could achieve it in a moment. What a difference!

"The difference in our abilities would mean that I have more time to explore the secrets of this world and reap more benefits from it!"

Fang Yuan glanced at his own stats window and realised a big change:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 12 (36)

Spirit: 12 (30)

Magic: 8 (21)

Profession: Dream Soldier Master

Cultivation: [Illusionary Divine (???)], Wu Zong

Technique: [8 Gates Sword Array (First Sword) (10%)], Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)]"

"My stats window has retained the peak of my abilities. Regardless of any changes, I would be able to recover those abilities extremely quickly..."

Fang Yuan clenched his fists. "Alright, let's recover everything then!"

At this point, his expression changed. As he looked behind, his face appeared serious.

Amidst the ruffling of robes, black shadows appeared in the forest and appeared to be surrounding him.

"That's quick... Wait, how did they find me?"

Fang Yuan was desolate. "The only possibility is that one of them betrayed me. Or should I say, use me as a bait to distract these people away from them to get more time to escape..."

Using his spiritual will to scan, he found something amiss.

Underneath his clothing, there were a few strands of hair. There were so light that he did not even feel them there.

"Keke..."

Fang Yuan shook his head and picked up the strands of hair. "With the loss of my cultivation as a Wu Zong, I even failed to keep my guard up and detect this..."

If the chasing soldiers were to arrive a moment earlier, they would surely give him a lot of trouble, which would make him use up a lot of his remaining dream elemental force to take all of them down. This would slow his progress in recovering his abilities.

But now?

Looking at the soldiers approaching, he appeared mysterious. "Very well... I was still worrying about how I should go about to deepen my understanding of this world, and here all of you come!"

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 238: Zodiac

"The demon who did black magic is in front!"

In the forest, a group of soldiers were chasing Fang Yuan and their expressions appeared solemn.

They were wearing uniforms and it appeared that they were from a single organisation.

At this point in time, a small-eyed man next to the leader twitched his nose.

"Whoosh!"

As a yellow glow emerged, his nose started to change. Facial hair started to grow on both sides of his face, which appeared a little yellowish.

After a deep breath, he came to a decision.

"Very well, let's split!"

The leader of all of them was a young man wearing a bamboo-woven crown. He was wearing long silk robes with an image of a cockerel sewn on it and a pair of cloth shoes. Although he appeared young, his actions seemed matured and he seemed to have a lot of influence.

"Yes, sir!"

Behind him, a few groups started to split and approached the river.

While they were splitting up, behind every leader of each group was a dim glow which took the shape of a tiger or leopard. With this, their speed in the forest increased.

"Great! With Shinto, I'm afraid he won't be able to escape!"

Everyone looked jubilant.

"Hmph! We cannot find any evidence at the site where Su Guo had cast his black magic. This time, with the help of the mountain gods, we might be able to get some leads!"

The young man let out a laugh.

"Sir... We cannot control the gods. Please mind your words!"

The few of them beside him twitched a little.

The presence of the gods in the mountains must be related to the supernatural event. This young man was the envoy of the capital of Lie Country. He was not afraid of anything. After all, he had to lead the country in the presence of the gods above him. How would he dare to be disrespectful?

"Heh..."

The young man was extremely quick, but a little impatient. "We have already investigated that Su Guo must have used illegal means to build his wealth. We wanted to capture him as soon as he was rich enough. Who would know that Deity Feng... Hehe, that deity is most likely an evil one!"

"With such a thing happening, someone must be held responsible and accountable for this. This is my chance to perform!"

Nonetheless, he would not put all his resources here just to capture Su Guo.

"We see him!"

As the soldiers spoke, they continued making their way through the forest. As they arrived at the river, a silhouette of a young man was seen.

The young man was wearing a servant's uniform and appeared to be one of Su Guo's subordinates. He was standing in the middle as the soldiers started to surround him.

"I am Qin Yi, the Silver Badged Envoy of the Six Gates of Lie Country. Surrender!"

Qin Yi leapt towards the young man and exclaimed. It was a sight to behold.

After all, he was on the good side and the young man was the bad guy! It was only logical for him to take the young man down!

After all, the bad people would naturally be a little more cowardly and wouldn't dare to go against a government's official, right?

With such a pressure from Qin Yi, the young man would surely be unable to even use half of his original power. Therefore, he was at an advantage.

"Whoooo!"

As his claws struck towards the young man, a white glow appeared behind which quickly transfigured into the shape of a huge tiger. With such a ferocious strike, the atmosphere was tense.

"Hmmm... is this how energy is being used in the Hui Realm? Interesting!"

Fang Yuan smiled as he looked at Qin Yi.

Although there was martial arts and spiritual spells in the Hui Realm, it was not common.

In this realm, the popular practice was through Shinto combined with royal energy to form a unique relationship.

Those in a position of power would be designated the mountain gods and water gods. They would have spirits protecting them wherever they go. Even lowly officials and citizens were allowed to absorb spiritual objects and harness their abilities based on their zodiacs.

Take for instance, Qin Yi. He was born with the attributes of a white tiger, with his zodiac being the tiger. With his cultivation in a Hundred Year Spiritual Tiger Palm and strength from the royal energy, he was able to form the shape of a tiger. It was impressive and even comparable to a 4 Heavenly Gates martial artist!

In contrast, the poor and lowly people had to train hard and cultivate in martial arts and spiritual spells. They would take a very long time to reach a certain cultivation level.

Qin Yi was only 20. Born with a silver spoon and a high status in the government, he was comparable to a 12th Gate martial artist at his peak. He would still be considered a talent in Da Qian.

With his tiger claw, the people around witnessing it were all doubtful that Fang Yuan could escape from it. Afterwards, it would be the routine capturing and questioning.

"The spirit of a tiger? Spiritual technique? Martial arts? Interesting! Really interesting!"

Fang Yuan raised his right fist and countered his claw.

"Bang!"

His fist was ordinary-looking and there was no white tiger behind him. It was incomparable to Qin Yi's tiger claw.

However, after a loud bang, Qin Yi exclaimed as his right arm shattered. He flew backwards.

"Aw! Aw!"

Behind him, the spirit of the white tiger was making noises as though it wanted to protect its owner.

"What the hell is this?"

Fang Yuan looked at all of them as though they were not worth his time. "Get... lost!"

"Rumble!"

As the energy in him surged, his temperature rose and his blood gushed around in his veins. From him, there was the sound of a huge river gushing its way downstream and he was like a human furnace.

As he shouted, the white tiger exclaimed and exploded into sparkles.

"What... what the hell!"

The soldiers around were stunned."

A punch and a shout were all it needed to defeat the envoy from the Six Gates, the reincarnation of the white tiger, Qin Yi?

And the person who defeated him was a small servant?

Illusion! It must be an illusion!

"This is impossible..."

Qin Yi laid on the floor and shouted with embarrassment. "You are using... martial arts?! How is this possible?"

In this realm, it was a hard and tedious process to cultivate in martial arts. Therefore, it was always being belittled. Even though there were a few people who were at the cultivation level of sect masters, Qin Yi did not put a single one of them to heart.

This was until he met Fang Yuan!

After a punch, he was sure that he did not harness the strength of his zodiac!

If he did, they could suppress his zodiac's strength with the help of the Mountain God.

A simple fist without drawing strength from external sources gave him a new understanding.

Even the simplest martial arts could be so powerful!

Unfortunately, Fang Yuan could not understand a single word he was saying.

By looking at his expression, Fang Yuan could still understand what was going through in his mind.

"Ah... I knew it. It is troublesome to bridge the language barrier. Fortunately..... I have you guys!"

Fang Yuan looked around and smiled.

"Get up!"

Seeing their envoy on the ground, the soldiers were a little afraid. However, they still obeyed and got to their feet.

Not just that, the array which they formed was glowing. It was able to harness strength from the heavens and earth, which resembled elemental force a little.

"No... Rather than describing it as elemental force, I should call it miniature elemental force! This is because they can only draw strength from this forest!!"

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered.

The difference between elemental force and miniature elemental force was the difference between an 11th Gate martial artist and a Wu Zong!

Therefore, after gathering his elemental force, he struck another punch out.

"Rumble!"

As the air exploded, a wave of heat spread.

The trees and grass fell. Even a layer of the ground was shaved off as dust flew about.

As everything settled down, there was a pile of unconscious soldiers lying about.

"What did you do? Don't come over..."

Seeing Fang Yuan approaching him, Qin Yi slowly crawled backwards and appeared flustered. "I knew it... you are not human! You are being possessed by that evil Deity Feng!"

"What I pity! I don't understand a single word you are saying!"

With a face of regret, Fang Yuan shook his head. Swiftly, he struck Qin Yi, making him unconscious. With his right index finger, he pointed in between Qin Yi's eyebrows.

"Dream accessing!"

The dream lasted for 10,000 years.

Within moments, Fang Yuan witnessed Qin Yi's life from a 3rd person's perspective.

From his innocent days while he was a child to his discovery of his zodiac sign, then to his smooth career in the government's office into the Six Gates. Finally, vices consumed him as his personality changed.

Fang Yuan's motive was to learn the language of the Hui Realm.

Along the way, he learnt about the zodiacs, gods and royal energy.

"The zodiac of a white tiger would allow him to train a Spiritual Tiger Palm?"

In the Hui Realm, Fang Yuan opened his eyes and looked at Qin Yi's claws.

Indeed, the bones in his arms were thicker than normal.

"Unfortunately... the path of the zodiacs is too reliant on external strength!"

Fang Yuan shook his head. Looking at Qin Yi's personality, even a martial artist of 4 Heavenly Gates from Da Qian would be able to defeat him easily.

"Regardless, it is still a quick way to cultivate such power. Compared to martial arts which would require patience and a lot of hard work, this path would surely be more attractive, especially for the people of higher status with access to the royal energy!"

It was best to be able to control one's own strength and power independently.

The cultivation on the path of zodiac would require a lot of resources and the approval from the royal family. Additionally, through Shinto, cultivation on the path of zodiac was the preferred choice over cultivating in martial arts and spiritual spells.

"Zodiacs are the heart of how energy is transferred in the Hui Realm. It is through the combination of the royal energy. Without these sources of energy, one would lose their strength. This would be a good way to have control over the cultivators."

"Qin Yi was young and was even a Silver Badge Constable. His status is still considered low and therefore the help he had was limited! He should be around the same status as a 7th Grade official... If it was a 1st Grade official in the Lie Country, with the combination of their zodiacs, he would surely be able to obtain elemental force or even achieve the Elemental Opening Realm!"

"Other than self-cultivation, there is another path of cultivation in Hui Realm! That is Shinto! To be accepted by the gods, the person would have to submit himself to the royal family. Otherwise, it would be classified under the worship of evil gods and he would be captured!"

...

As his thoughts whirled in his mind, Fang Yuan scanned the peaceful forest and scoffed.

"You stalked me before and now you help them secretly. Do you think you can hide from me? Mountain God, come out! Do you want to force me to burn down this place?"

"Aww!"

Within seconds, there was a change in the forest.

Eyes appeared amidst the vegetation. It was a pack of wolves.

With the appearance of the wolves, other animals began to appear as well. All of them remained silent and appeared in an orderly fashion, which makes the entire scene creepy.

"Oh?"

Seeing the animals, Fang Yuan shook his head. "It seems that there is a huge difference in power between the good and evil. Are you only capable of this, Mountain God?"

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 239: Realm Energy

The strength of Shinto would gradually grow and they would control a certain area.

Fang Yuan was clear of this.

Take for instance the Mountain God. If it were to pay attention, it would be able to know everything that happened within the Zhuobie Mountain. It could even transfer its strength and assist government officials who were within Zhuobie Mountain. This was seen in the increased strength of the array formed by the soldiers previously. If the Mountain God did not help in the dark, the array would not have been so strong as to harness miniature elemental force.

Furthermore, it would know about all the treasures in the mountain. All animals would have to listen to its orders and its power was limitless.

However, it was still weak.

After all, it was considered a Yin Spirit. It would be difficult for it to be exposed in the realm for long. Of course, as a god, it could still temporarily break these constraints.

Wouldn't it be giving itself away by revealing itself in front of Fang Yuan?

Therefore, it could only play a supporting role and incite the animals within the mountains without showing itself.

"Not just that... for such a god to continue existing, it would require approval from the royal family. With the high casualty rate of government officials every year and the lack of government positions, it would

be hard to strike a balance between this two. Therefore, in Shinto, the competition is tough... This is seen between the Mountain God in Zhuobie Mountain and Chenghuang God."

Fang Yuan had freshly obtained these pieces of information from Qin Yi's memories through dream accessing.

"The Mountain God of Zhuobie Mountain was a 1st official in its past life and had led a respectable life. Furthermore, his disciples were all capable. This was why it had gained approval from the royal family... Interestingly, this had happened hundreds of years ago..."

Seeing an army formed by the animals, Fang Yuan fiddled with a blood-red sword essence and sighed. "What a pity... I don't want to live such a life!"

"Whoosh!"

In his actualised dream world, the vague imagery of the 8 Gates Sword Array shook, and the fire sword glowed brilliantly.

"Whoosh!"

In a moment, a red sword essence exploded around Fang Yuan like raindrops.

"Chi! Chi!"

As blood splattered around, shrieks from the animals were heard amidst a fiery glow!

Even though Fang Yuan had yet to actualise the complete fire-type divine troops, just the sword essence was enough to hurt an adversary as strong as a Wu Zong!

As the illusionary swords flew out, animals and vegetation alike were caught in a burning inferno.

This fire was not normal fire but spiritual fire. There were sparkles within the blood-red sword essence. As the essence spread, flames broke out everywhere.

In the burning inferno, there was a weak cry. Within moments, it was no longer heard.

"Is it really so weak?"

Although he knew that Shinto was weak, he was a little confused after personally experiencing itself.

There was an illusionary red sword in his hands. Dragons were carved on the sword's handle and there was a greenish hue to it. It was translucent and extremely similar to the one he had in his actualised dream world.

"I was saving this sword for the god. Who knew that it would be so useless..."

Fang Yuan shook his head, turned around and disappeared into the horizon.

After half a day, government officials finally rushed their way here. All of them were left speechless.

...

"It is impossible for Feng Xinzi and company to take any treasures from the Hui Realm..."

Leaving Zhuobie Mountain, he quickly regained his strength as he started to think to himself.

"Even the unique techniques here can only be studied upon but not brought back as the two worlds are ultimately different... Unless a specific treasure can be made illusionary and taken into their souls to be brought back... If that is so, there is only one such thing! Realm energy!"

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered.

To dream masters, anything physical would be a burden. Only treasures which were illusionary were worth keeping!

Realm energy would fulfil this criterion!

"Based on the description of Hui Realm, there is realm energy between Heaven and Earth. It is the source of everything. In a country, there is a country's realm energy. In the wilderness, there are spiritual realm energies and earth realm energies! A country would depend on its country's realm energy in order to transfer energy to government officials to strengthen them. However, Huangchengs Gods, Mountain Gods and River Gods would need to rely on realm energies to survive..."

"Most importantly, if the realm energy can be absorbed, then it can be brought along with the soul!"

If Feng Xinzi and the rest didn't have any other motives, this would be the most probable conclusion.

With this guess, Fang Yuan knew what he had to do.

After two days.

On a green rock, energy surged around Fang Yuan. Three spiritual meridians formed on his body. He had recovered all the cultivation he had in Da Qian.

"Indeed... my unique ability would allow me to quickly recover my cultivation regardless of the physical body I am in."

He stood up and looked at his stats window:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 36

Spirit: 30

Magic: 21

Profession: Dream Soldier Master

Cultivation: Illusionary Divine (1st Tier), Wu Zong (3rd Meridian)

Technique: [Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique (Grade 4) (1%)], Hundred Poison Golden Body (1st Refining), [8 Gates Sword Array (1st Sword) (10%)]

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)]"

As he fidgeted, the joints in his body started to crack loudly.

"Finally, I've recovered all my abilities. It's suffocating to feel bound for so long!"

Fang Yuan had a premonition that this unique ability of his would bring him far in the future!

"Considering their affluence, Fang Xinzi and company would surely not go after the small realm energies!"

"This would leave them with the bigger mountains and rivers with concentrated earth realm energies. If they can absorb those realm energies into their soul, they would be able to bring it back to Da Qian as a form of... resource for cultivation?"

Fang Yuan started to think deeper. "If I had known, I shouldn't have killed the Mountain God, but captured it and do some research on it!"

Based on his cultivation, he was qualified enough to seal the Mountain God's realm energy but lacked the technique to go about doing it.

After all, this was the first time that Feng Xinzi had asked him to come along. Why would he share his knowledge without reservations?

"Luckily, three months is a long time. I have all the opportunities to try!"

Fang Yuan gazed into the sky and appeared deep in thought.

...

Golden Dragon Lake.

This was the biggest lake in Lie Country and stretched across a few counties. By leveraging on transport over the lake, people had a good chance of survival by settling around the lake.

Of course, the most famous thing about the lake was the Water God, Golden Dragon God!

This God was famous since a long time ago. It was approved by the previous royal family and had a lot of experience. By harnessing the realm energy from the huge lake, it survived the previous wars which led to the uprising of Lie Country.

In the growing years of the country, the country had sent envoys to check on the lake. The Golden Dragon God was still powerful and could reveal itself even in broad daylight. Therefore, it was still approved but in fact, it was the country's attempt to establish good relations with it.

"This god is one of the elders in Shinto!"

It seemed to Fang Yuan that by riding to the country's realm energy, the king of Lie Country had resorted to killing the low-levelled gods like Huangcheng God.

However, ancient gods such as the Golden Dragons God, who harnessed middle-tier realm energy, could defend itself. Therefore, it was not worth the effort of the country to kill it.

Therefore, the Golden Dragon God was a strong god among the Shintos in Lie Country. It was not only an elder but was the leader of a group of Water Gods and was rather influential.

With a target, Fang Yuan executed his lightness skill and rushed his way through a road which was less populated by the natives. As he neared the boundaries of Golden Dragon Lake, he slowed down.

After three days, he crossed a mountain peak and arrived at a pier.

"Storm Pier?"

Looking at an old-fashioned wooden sign, he walked towards a jetty. "Is this Changliu River? I want to hire a boat to bring me to Golden Dragon Lake!"

He was speaking the official language of Lie Country, the language which Qin Yi spoke. He even had their accent.

The fishermen around looked at him. "Young man, do you want to go to Golden Dragon Lake? It is a two-day journey and will cost you 20 coins!"

The coins in Lie Country were shaped like tiny knives, and there was a tiny hole at the end of the knives, to provide convenience by allowing it to be strung together.

Fang Yuan took out 20 knife-looking coins. These were contributions from the soldiers he had killed and were new and shiny looking.

"Young man, you are indeed from the capital! What generosity!"

The new coins were limited in production and were worth two old coins. As the fishermen looked at the coins, their eyes glittered.

As they exchanged glances, an old fisherman walked out. "If you don't mind, take my boat!"

"Oh, you are..."

Fang Yuan examined him. The fisherman was in his 40s. However, due to the fact that he was physically strained, his hair was white and he looked older than his age. His fingers were rough and seemed strong, giving him the appearance of a good coxswain.

"What is your name? Call me Yu Da!"

Old Yu chuckled to himself as he brought Fang Yuan to an old-looking boat which looked sturdy. He weighed the anchor, opened the sails and sailed out of the harbour. He seemed extremely familiar with what he was doing.

"Eh? Have you awoken your zodiac?"

As Fang Yuan squinted his eyes, he could see that there was a shroud of water-type energy around Yu Da's body, making him look like a black fish.

"You are right! My zodiac is a black carp and I was fortunate enough to absorb a black carp's scale in my younger days. It didn't help me much except to allow me to swim better and feel the water better..."

Yu Da laughed to himself.

Considering the fact that he was not gifted and had no backing, it was already rather impressive for him to reach such a stage.

Even so, without assistance from the government, it would be extremely hard for him to achieve a breakthrough. He was only a tad bit stronger than the average human.

The boat sailed in the direction of the stream which made it rather fast. Fang Yuan casually engaged in a conversation with Yu Da.

"Why are you going to Golden Dragon Lake?"

"To pray to the gods!"

"I see!"

Yu Da pushed his chest out proudly. "Our Golden Dragon God is the most responsive! That is..."

As he continued, his face started to appear solemn and remained speechless as he stared at the surface of the water.

'The gods under him often bring trouble to the people...'

Fang Yuan thought to himself. 'This is already nearing the region of Golden Dragon Lake. Of course you wouldn't dare to speak your mind...'

Chapter 240: Uncle River

There were monkey shrieks from both sides of the river bank, as the boat sailed through the mountains.

It took only a day before the surroundings around the boat started to change drastically.

The mountainous ridge became shorter and shorter and finally, it became a flat ground.

Changliu River became wider and wider and could no longer be called a river, for it resembled something more like a channel.

"Where is this?"

Looking at the scenery on both sides, Fang Yuan enquired.

"This is Golden Sun City, and the river we are on is called the Golden Dragon River. We are not far from Golden Dragon Lake now..."

Yu Da chuckled.

"This area doesn't seem to be very peaceful..."

Fang Yuan pointed to the riverbank.

"That is..."

As Yu Da looked over, his expression changed.

There was a group of people crowding around the riverbank. They seemed to be praying and there were occasional crying sounds.

A young lady who was dressed up was being sent into the river on a wooden raft.

The raft was not sturdy. If it were to reach the centre of the river, under the pressure from the surging river, it would surely break apart. By then, the young girl on the raft would likely become a meal for the fishes.

Of course, if her soul was captured in the process, it would be worse.

“Praying to Uncle River?”

Yu Da was pale. “What a sin... If I knew that something like this would happen, I wouldn’t have sailed on this boat. What if we anger the Dragon King?”

He whispered the words ‘sin’. If not for Fang Yuan’s strong hearing ability, he would have missed out as well.

“Praying to Uncle River?”

Fang Yuan made a shock expression. “Isn’t Uncle River a god? Why do they need to offer him sacrifices? To make matters worse, the worst form of sacrifice, a human being?”

“This practice of Uncle River’s Marriage dated back to a long time ago. However, this year’s ceremony is already over. It seems like something bad had happened on the river, otherwise they wouldn’t resort to this...”

Yu Da sighed.

Helplessly, their boat drifted close to the river bank, allowing them to witness everything clearly.

On the shore, incense were lighted and paper offerings were drifting about in the sky. A few sorceresses were performing a ritual.

As the moment arrived, the young lady was wailing as the raft she was on was being pushed out to the river.

“Let’s wait it out. If we continue our journey now, it is disrespectful to Uncle River!”

Witnessing this scene, Yu Da refused to budge.

Not just that, he also started to kowtow on his boat. “Dragon King, we have no ill intentions, please forgive us! Please forgive us!”

“Really...”

Fang Yuan shook his head and was speechless. Looking at the river surface, he could clearly see the silhouette of the lady on the rafts.

She was around 18. Even with makeup on, she had a childish look on her face. Although she was not crying, her eyes were filled with tears as she looked over to a couple in despair.

“Kacha! Kacha!”

The raft was already built to break down under pressure. Now that it had arrived in the middle of the river, it started to break apart.

A dark shadow was formed directly under the river. It was mysterious-looking which made the young lady shudder in fear.

“Is this offering ceremony an annual thing?”

Witnessing this scene, Fang Yuan gave a look of displeasure.

“Once a year would be the minimum. If there were any natural disasters, they would perform it again... What are you doing?”

Yu Da was explaining casually about the ritual. However, as soon as he saw Fang Yuan leaping into the water, he was stunned.

“What am I doing?”

Fang Yuan smiled.

Fang Yuan’s legs were firmly planted onto the water surface and remained unmoved as the waves swept across. “To save someone, naturally!”

Although he planned to find trouble for the Golden Dragon God, it was still a good thing to save someone.

“Save... save... someone!”

From the moment Yu Da saw Fang Yuan standing on the water surface, he knew that he was someone special. As he was holding in his shock, he stuttered.

He was filled with regret! Just because he wanted to earn some money, he infuriated the Water Gods! How could he ever think of working here next time?

If the heavens would give him another chance, he would surely not do business with Fang Yuan/

Unfortunately, there was no such thing as a second chance.

As Yu Da looked across the water, he could see Fang Yuan strutting towards the raft. “Young lady... what is your name?”

“I...”

The young lady was stunned. “I’m Ling’er!”

As a final wave crashed into the raft, it shattered into many pieces.

“Come! Grab hold of my hand!”

Fang Yuan stretched out his hand. “Do you want to be fed to the fishes?”

“Whoosh!”

At this moment, another wave struck.

Amidst the screaming of the young lady, Fang Yuan could feel an icy cold hand grabbing on to his own arm.

“Very well, it seems that you still want to live!”

Fang Yuan did not bring the girl back to the river bank.

After all, from their stupidity, even if the young lady were to return, she would surely be sent out as sacrifice again.

Furthermore, by saving the young lady, Fang Yuan angered the spirits in the water.

“Whoosh!”

Seeing that their offering was being snatched away in front of their eyes, the shadows under the water were enraged. They started to send tsunamis on the water surface. Suddenly, there was a whirlpool in the middle of the river which slowly grew in size, drawing Fang Yuan in.

“You are as insignificant as a grain of rice, and yet you dare to glitter like a pearl?”

Fang Yuan snickered and flicked his finger.

“Whoosh!”

A red-coloured sword essence appeared in struck the bottom of the river.

Although his fire-type sword essence was being restrained by the water, it was still nonetheless destructive.

“Bloop! Bloop!”

The shadow beneath them shook. Slowly, bubbles began to emerge from below, followed by a huge black fish that was 8 inches long. With its belly facing the sky, there was a huge hole in it where blood was flowing out from.

“Indeed a spirit... However, based on the perspective of the people in this realm, it should be a spiritual animal, right?!”

Fang Yuan took a quick glance at Yu Da.

If he did not lie, then his cultivation could begin from the moment he took in the scale from a black carp.

Indeed, after seeing this huge fish, Yu Da appeared uneasy.

By the looks of it, he would be considered mentally strong if he did not faint after seeing the dead fish.

“It... is dead? Is this... Uncle River?”

Ling'er was stuttering but could still be understood.

“Uncle River? Lady... you think too much! It is just an animal!”

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes and waved his hand.

“Chi!”

On the river surface, it was as though another sun appeared.

The continuously burning fire-type sword essence was like an arrow as it shot down into the water.

Blood spread everywhere on the surface of the river as many fishes and crustaceans alike floated about. All of them were dead.

“Oww...”

Seeing all the dead fishes, Ling'er turned pale and felt nauseous.

On the riverbank, the few people who were performing the ritual were dumbfounded. There could not believe what they had just seen.

Uncle River, who had pressured them for many years, making them sacrifice so many young ladies, just died like that?

“He is dead! Uncle River would not let him off!”

The sorceresses were spouting nonsense as they started to curse Fang Yuan.

“Whoosh!”

In the next moment, a huge spiritual aura appeared from the river.

“Who was it?”

“Who dares to undermine the power of Uncle River of the Golden Dragon River?”

“Who was it?”

“Who dares to kill my crustaceans army?”

...

As a strong energy surged through the surroundings, a whirlpool exploded, revealing a golden glow which slowly formed the shape of a human in golden armour.

“Human, are you going against the agreement between Lie Country and my people?”

This person's form was illusionary and it was wearing gold armour. There were golden scales on its face and two long beards. All of these gave it a vibe of royalty.

As it waved its hands, a strong pressure was felt.

The pressure exerted combined with a mysterious force which seemed to be coming from inside of it, striking fear in all lifeforms in the vicinity.

“You are Uncle River of this river? You are the Dragon King in the legends...?”

Fang Yuan looked at the person in front of him with curiosity.

“That's right!”

The golden-armoured Uncle River remarked in a proud voice. “You have disturbed my auspicious event and killed my crustacean army. I will skin you and use you as oil to be burnt for three years!”

“Keke...”

Fang Yuan laughed.

Looking at the golden-armoured Uncle River, he had coldness in his eyes. “It seems that the Golden Dragon Lake has given you too much protection. How dare you even appear before me?”

“What do you mean?”

Uncle River felt that something was not right. With the wave of his hands, the river surged and thousands of water arrows were flying towards Fang Yuan.

Not just that, there was a defensive wall in front of him made from water crystals.

This level of water-type spiritual spells was comparable to an elementary spiritual knight.

But to Fang Yuan, in response to the water arrows, he waved his right hand. An illusionary red sword appeared in his hands as it swayed in the air.

“Whoosh!”

The water arrows exploded in mid-air.

Under the illumination of a red glow, the water fell downwards like rain. It was as though all of what had happened was just hallucination.

A sword to counter everything!

Although Fang Yuan’s swordsmanship was only elementary, he could strengthen it with dream elemental force. With divine troops, sword essence and his own martial arts, it was comparable to the highest level of swordsmanship in the legends.

“The previous Mountain God of Zhuobie Mountain was not as daring as you to reveal himself to me!”

After commenting, he struck his sword out.

“Whoosh!”

There was a red glow.

A red glow struck through the defensive wall of water crystals and into the chest of the golden-armoured man.

“How dare you...”

The golden-armoured man looked down in disbelief. “My father will take revenge for me...”

“Idi*t!”

Without reservation, Fang Yuan pulled his sword back out. Soon after, the image of the golden-armoured man vanished as it became a golden carp.

The carp was only three inches long but all of its scales were golden in colour. More significantly, there were two long whiskers on its mouth, making in extraordinary.

Fang Yuan did not care about all these. At Uncle River's moment of death, he released his spiritual will and covered the golden carp in dream elemental force.

"Where is the source of the realm energy?"