

Carefree 281

Chapter 281: Revenge

"Haha... Brother Fang, you're really lucky that Elder Smelter admires you!"

As soon as they walked out of the hall, Feng Xinzi congratulated Fang Yuan. "From today onwards, we will be an alliance. Remember to look out for each other!"

He felt that Fang Yuan was his lucky star and it was fate that they met each other.

After knowing Fang Yuan, he not only obtained large amounts of rare spiritual plants, he also had the karma flower now.

"Please guide me along with your invaluable experience!"

Fang Yuan knew that although the Realm Alliance was not as strict, there were different factions within the alliance. Elder Smelter and Feng Xinzi were of a faction and now, Fang Yuan was part of it too.

Of course, it was a good thing that someone was there to guide him through as soon as he joined the alliance and therefore, he would not reject the help given.

"Of course!"

Feng Xinzi quickly agreed. "The requirements to enter the Realm Alliance is the least. The only thing we ask of you is not to betray the alliance and not to fight against our fellow alliance mates. Also, you just have to complete a mission every once in a while. You will sign an agreement with the witness of the Realm Spirit and anyone who breaks the agreement will be hunted down by every dream master alive and will be denied entry into the Dream Realm!"

He explained in detail and Fang Yuan gained more understanding of the organisation structure and the powers in the Realm Alliance.

Since the Realm Alliance was formed from scattered groups of dream masters in the past, there were no sects and physical headquarters; everything was in the Dream Realm.

In the alliance, the ones with the most power were the Elders Association. It was known that the association was formed by a group of 7th Tier Illusionary Divine dream masters. There was an official Alliance Leader who had already entered the Prominent Divine Stage and was the heart of the Realm Alliance.

Below them were cultivators ranked from 1st Leaf to 7th Leaf, and the varying ranks would have different levels of authority and treatment.

A normal dream master who just joined the alliance would have to start as a 1st Leaf Cultivator and complete missions to rise up the ranks.

Fang Yuan had directly entered a faction and was admired by an Elder. Therefore, he was directly conferred the rank of a 2nd Leaf Cultivator without much effort.

"The higher the rank of a cultivator, the greater the chances to accept missions of high rewards and the greater the authority to browse through top-secret documents..."

Feng Xinzi brought Fang Yuan to the square and in front of the rock tablet. "The top of this tablet is the official binding document of the Realm Alliance. You can simply call for the Realm Spirit to witness your signing!"

Fang Yuan looked towards the top of the tablet. Indeed, there was a row of small golden words. These words described the agreement of the Realm Alliance and they were indeed less uptight and strict than the other alliances. With a nod of his head, he called for the Realm Spirit.

"Ding! You've been verified! Let the Realm Spirit take care of the rest!"

After a mechanic bell rang, the inscription plate around his waist flew up. In a flash, there was a new row of golden inscriptions on it.

"This is the rights to enter this place and use this rock tablet. Congratulations, brother! When you first use the rock tablet of the Realm Alliance, your rank will automatically be updated to a 2nd Leaf Cultivator!"

Feng Xinzi smiled.

'Is it that simple?'

Fang Yuan was shocked. The Realm Alliance was indeed a carefree alliance, judging by how his initiation took place.

"Alright, the disciples of Elder Smelter will look for you for the other matters! I'll be on my way to continue my alchemy!"

Feng Xinzi took out his inscription plate and swiped it on the rock tablet. With a look of joy on his face, he quickly disappeared.

"It must be another mission to bring in a newcomer!"

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes but knew that in order to join the alliance, he had to let Feng Xinzi get the longer end of the stick and therefore didn't mind. After which, he placed his inscription plate on the rock tablet.

"Di! Welcome, Cultivator Fang Yuan!"

Many pieces of information flowed out. They were classified into different sections, namely rewards, missions, techniques and secret news. The first piece of information was a congratulatory message from the Realm Spirit.

"Due to the authority of Elder Smelter, you have directly gained the rank of a 2nd Leaf Cultivator. You can straightaway accept missions of 2nd Tier difficulty and below and can browse through a part of the information bank!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head. "It is a good idea to classify missions into tiers so that dream masters will not die in the mission just because they are under-skilled..."

His scanned through everything quickly and found the description regarding karma. It was similar to what Feng Xinzi had described to him, just more generic.

However, there were only pieces of information about people dao karma and none about heavenly karma. It seemed that his authority was not enough to view more information.

'Hehe... This is a good way to motivate the dream masters to serve the alliance so as to rise up the ranks to see more classified information...'

'Of course, this is happening everywhere. As long as they don't take too much advantage of the low-tiered dream masters and don't keep them within the low ranks for too long, it would be alright. Instead, as the low-tiered dream masters rise up the ranks, they would proactively respect the confidentiality of these pieces of information and the system would be able to operate smoothly!'

Fang Yuan snickered and found the piece of information which he needed:

"The different tiers in the Illusionary Divine stage are defined based on the things that are actualised. In every 3 Tiers, a huge breakthrough will be required! The 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage would require the dream master to create something from nothing and actualise a spiritual property in objects!"

The spiritual property would be referring to pill spirits and equipment spirits. The objects would have a spirit and a mind but would be unable to replicate on its own.

Feng Xinzi was at the 3rd Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage. If he were to be successful in creating a pill spirit, he would have broken through to the 4th Tier.

Even to Fang Yuan, it would be an extremely arduous task to form the 4th sword.

At this stage, every magical sword would have their own sword spirit and would be able to form the 4 Emblems Sword Array. It would have half the power of the 8 Gates Sword Array and was something to be feared.

"The 7th Tier of Illusionary Divine would allow one to create a race and actualise a small piece of spiritual land!"

A race would refer to a heritage of living things able to take care of themselves and self-populate in the wild.

Reading up to here, Fang Yuan was deep in his own thoughts.

If his guess was right, his master, Master Heartless, should be at this stage.

In Da Qian, this level of cultivation would be comparable to the martial arts Divine Body and spiritual knights in the True Elemental Realm. They would be able to rule over an area with their might.

There was only a line of description for the Prominent Divine Stage. "Able to create people! Able to create an ecosystem! The creator of all!"

"Oh, the race which was described in the 7th Tier Illusionary Divine Stage did not include people! Does the difference lie in the wisdom of humans?"

Fang Yuan made an educated guess.

Dream masters below the level of Prominent Divine Stage could only actualise animals or even humans with simple thoughts. However, they were unable to create an entire sentient race!

Just by this point alone, dream masters in the Prominent Divine Stage deserved the title of 'Divine'. This was why the Imperial Court of Da Qian had to fear the dream masters.

Fang Yuan roughly understood why the dream masters of Da Qian could feel a sense of superiority here.

It was not just the difference in powers; dream masters were on an entirely new level. As a creator of things, how would the dream masters compare themselves to the things that they could create?

"Cultivator Fang Yuan, my master invites you!"

Just as Fang Yuan was carried away by his own thoughts, a small child in red robes came to him and bowed.

"You are..."

Looking at the child, he could see through the disguise and realised that it was not a real child, but a fiery dragon.

"I am Fiery Dragon, the subordinate of Elder Smelter!"

The child replied respectfully.

"Since that is so, please lead the way!"

Fang Yuan looked at the back of the child and was lost in his thoughts.

The Fiery Dragon was likely to be created by Elder Smelter. Although his actions were no different from a normal human, it was not able to reproduce. Therefore, it could only be created by a dream master and was therefore not considered a race.

"Haha..... Fang Yuan, come over here!"

It was the same hall. Elder Smelter smiled and invited Fang Yuan over.

"You have joined our alliance! That's good!"

He stroked his beard and continued. "I have just talked to the elders of the Divine Lotus Sect. They will not hold you accountable for killing a few servants. However, you have to defend yourself in the event a dream master of similar cultivation comes to you for revenge! After all, it is the testing period for the reserved Divine Ladies. If they can kill you, they will be heavily credited for it!"

"Thank you, Elder!"

Fang Yuan bowed and thanked him sincerely.

He was not at all worried about the fact that a dream master of similar cultivation would seek him for revenge.

'It is indeed different after I have a backing! Of course, the good thing is that this Elder Smelter is very protective. It seems like the right choice to join this faction..."

"Alright, my physical body has already arrived at Victorious East Region. Let's meet at the foot of Thousand Year Mountain!"

This came as a shock to Fang Yuan.

"Thousand Year Mountain?"

"Of course! Does Lin Qianye really think that he can get away with it after killing dream masters?"

Elder Smelter waved his hands. "The previous dream master had no backing and was indeed a little overboard. Therefore, he deserved it. However, ultimately, as a martial artist, you cannot just simply kill a dream master! And don't forget your encounter with him as well! We need to let them know that there is retribution in this world!"

Elder Smelter was indeed an aggressive person. With a snicker, he continued. "I want to see how Venerable Longhu can protect Lin Qianye!"

Fang Yuan remained silent.

A dream master could afford to be overbearing!

...

Thousand Year Mountain.

Ruan Junxian was practising his martial arts and appeared focused.

There was a layer of sweat on his forehead but he did not mind and continued to practise.

Since the previous incident, he had decided to put in more effort in practising his martial arts.

Although Ruan Ming was rescued in the end, it was a disgraceful incident for the Ruan Family. Even though Lin Qianye had promised the family that he would kill the dream master, there was no news of it, which made the entire family depressed.

Finally, they realised that Fang Yuan was only after them for the martial arts technique. However, none of them was willing to admit that they were enemies with Fang Yuan. After this incident, they might seek revenge in the future.

To experience such an unfortunate event in a single day was embarrassing, especially for such a big family like the Ruan Family.

The cause behind all that had happened was a single dream master!

"I must train hard! To achieve a breakthrough to Wu Zong!"

After executing a series of techniques, Ruan Junxian finally stopped and clenched his fists. "From the tests I did when I was younger, I know that my magic abilities were only average. However, after breaking through to Wu Zong, my magic would increase and from there, I can try to cultivate in spiritual spells! However, it's still a pity that I will not be able to become a dream master..."

A spiritual knight had a higher status than Wu Zong but was nothing compared to a dream master.

The strict requirements to be a dream master left many unqualified.

"... However, if I become like the Vice Sect Head with top-notch martial arts, I can still kill dream masters easily. Hmmm... what path should I choose in the future?"

Lin Qianye walked back and forth, deep in thought.

"Han Longhu, come out!"

A loud voice was heard as though thunder roared, and Ruan Junxian was shocked. "Who would dare to call the sect head by his full name? Is he crazy?"

Chapter 282: Death Fight

"Roar! Roar!"

After a few roars, many thick fiery dragons appeared in mid-air and spat out flames towards the mountain.

There was an immense amount of energy in every fiery dragon and after a few moments, the entire Thousand Year Mountain was set on fire.

Black smoke filled the sky and it was as though doomsday was approaching.

"Retreat!"

Seeing this, Ruan Junxian had no intentions of fighting. With the other disciples, he ran towards the headquarters of the Thousand Year Mountain.

This was the power of the heavens! It was not something that humans could go against!

"Roar! Roar!"

The few dragons flew around lazily and slowly shrunk in size. Although they were shrunk, they were still over 30 feet long and were still majestic beasts. On the head of one of the dragons, there were two people.

Witnessing this scene, Fang Yuan broke out in cold sweat.

The fiery dragons were setting everything into a burning inferno but he could feel no heat from where he was standing. This was the perfect control of powers on the part of Elder Smelter, which was indeed impressive.

This was the power of a 7th Tier Illusionary Divine dream master!

Never would Fang Yuan have guessed that Elder Smelter would be so reckless. They had only met moments before Elder Smelter launched an attack against the Thousand Year Mountain.

The entire Thousand Year Mountain would be reduced to ashes if Venerable Longhu was not around!

"Hmph... I'm not even burning down a city. This is merely a mountain! I'll like to see who can stop me!"

Elder Smelter waved his hands majestically.

"Fiery Dragon Child, burn this place down!"

His voice roared across the entire Thousand Year Mountain.

"Yes, Sir!"

A child's voice was heard from all three dragons. Suddenly, the dragons flew up and circled the mountain, spitting fire in the process.

"What?"

Ruan Junxian was confused as he hid among the fellow disciples. From the shout, he could feel pain in his ears and he almost fainted. "Where did this demon come from? How dare he destroy our sect!"

"This person can control fire dragons and use their spiritual awareness to his advantage. I'm afraid he's a dream master!"

The Black Tiger Taisui, He Shantong, had more experience and could vaguely know what was happening. There was a look of despair on his face. "This person is a high-tiered dream master as well! Other than our sect head, no one can stand a chance against him!"

"Dream master!"

Ruan Junxian turned pale and his legs went jelly. "Could it be that they are still after my family?"

"You think too highly of yourself. Do you think they will need such a powerful dream master to wipe out your family?"

He Shantong chuckled and for the first time felt that this disciple of his was causing too much trouble.

"I'm afraid that they are after the sect this time, hmmm... Vice Sect Head!"

At this stage, even He Shantong was like an ant and could not do anything to help the situation.

Under the burning inferno, even a Meridian Opening Wu Zong would be reduced to ashes!

"Ah..."

In the sect head's hall in Thousand Year Mountain.

A person was wearing robes with dragons and tigers sewn on it. As he placed his hands behind his back, another person was kneeling down behind him. It was Lin Qianye.

"Qianye, do you know where you've gone wrong?"

This was the sect head of Thousand Year Mountain, Venerable Longhu. He was 13th in the Dragon Ranks and had already condensed the Divine Body.

"I should not have recklessly chased after that dream master!"

Lin Qianye scoffed. "Why didn't he bring out his backing before? This is frustrating!"

"Sigh... You still don't know where you've gone wrong! This is not the source of the trouble! It was the fact that you previously killed a dream master. Our Thousand Year Mountain is a small sect. Why kill the dream master out of frustration? Do you know why other people are not willing to kill dream masters? They are all waiting for others to do so....."

Venerable Longhu sighed. "It's partially my fault for not being stricter with the rules. Because of this, you have become too proud of yourself. You need to know that the world is huge and even having the Divine Body, I have to think twice before acting!"

"Brother!"

Suddenly, Lin Qianye stood up and walked forward. "What do I have to fear? I will only die at most!"

"Don't be stupid!"

Venerable Longhu waved his sleeves and Lin Qianye could not help it but took 3 steps backwards. Although he had already formed 8 spiritual meridians with the Kurong Mysterious Technique, he was still nothing compared to a True Divine.

"As the sect head of Thousand Year Mountain, how can I not shoulder the responsibility?"

Venerable Longhu looked at the flames in mid-air and took a step out.

"Rumble!"

On his body, a surge of energy condensed and transformed into the figures of a dragon and a tiger.

"Who are you and why are you here?"

The voice was no weaker than that from Elder Smelter as it spread throughout the mountain.

"Chi!"

As the vibrations from the voice swept through the flames, they were extinguished immediately.

"This is the power of a True Divine!"

"You're impressive, sect head!"

As the few disciples witness their sect head taking action, they cheered loudly.

"Remain where you are and don't come out!"

Venerable Longhu shouted once more as he quickly made his way to the top of the mountain to engage the dream master.

"Is this a True Divine with a Divine Body?"

Although Venerable Longhu only glanced at Fang Yuan for a split second, Fang Yuan could feel that his dream elemental force came to a halt and at that moment, he was speechless.

He knew that if he were to fight Venerable Longhu, even after using his killer moves, he would be finished off with a single punch without a doubt!

"A True Divine martial artist will be able to use their pure energy to condense it into power and hurt someone without even touching them! This is godly!"

Seeing the dragon and tiger beside Venerable Longhu, Fang Yuan slowly understood.

"Hehe... Venerable Longhu, you're finally here! Give me Lin Qianye and kill him in front of me and I shall forget all this, otherwise... I will make the Thousand Year Mountain cease to exist!"

Elder Smelter exclaimed loudly.

He wanted to directly destroy the entire sect!

Although Venerable Longhu had a good temper, there was a hint of anger on his face. Holding it in, he looked at Fang Yuan. "Are you the dream master who attacked the Ruan Family?"

"Not attack, but merely collecting debts!"

Fang Yuan shook his head and appeared insistent.

"Alright... I'll apologise on behalf of my Vice Sect Head!"

Venerable Longhu gave a respectful bow. "Please forgive Lin Qianye this time. We'll reward you in the future! If you have any requests, the Thousand Year Mountain will accede to it!"

"This..."

Fang Yuan was tempted to accept his offer.

After all, it was good to establish good relations with a True Divine martial artist. However, it was a pity that he was not in the position to make the decision as he looked over to Elder Smelter.

"Hehe... It's too late for regrets!"

Elder Smelter was unforgiving. "That brother of yours didn't just chase Fang Yuan. How should we settle the score the previous time he killed a dream master?"

With this, Fang Yuan closed his eyes. He knew that there was no longer a chance for a peaceful resolution.

His heart shivered.

'Elder Smelter seems righteous on the outside but he is actually scheming! Firstly, he wants to demonstrate his power on Thousand Year Mountain! Secondly, he wants me to offend the True Divine and be loyal to him! This is indeed a good plot, but it's too cruel!'

"What do you think?"

Indeed, Venerable Longhu felt that there was no room for discussion as he gave off a cold expression.

This was only a high-tiered dream master, and he had the cultivation of a True Divine himself. He stood a chance against this dream master.

"Hehe... It seems that you will not fear until you've seen the coffin!"

Elder Smelter waved his hands "Three Suns Dragons, Go!"

"Yes, Sir!"

As a child's voice responded, the 3 dragons expanded and roared.

"Hmph! Dragon Tiger Massacre!"

As Venerable Longhu leapt backwards, the figures of the dragon and tiger leapt into him, allowing him to form the silhouette of a giant.

The silhouette was extremely clear. It stood tall like a god and there were imprints of dragons and tigers on his body. As the muscles on his body contracted, he looked up towards the sky and struck a punch out.

"Bang!"

There was a loud explosion and the entire Thousand Year Mountain shook.

As the two most powerful people in the vicinity struck, the power that they had generated could potentially destroy an entire city. How could the mountain take the stress?

"Crumble!"

As Giant Longhu took two steps backwards, the buildings crumbled and there were cries and blood spurting everywhere.

"You are... Smelter of the Realm Alliance?"

In the next moment, Venerable Longhu dispersed his Divine Body and smiled, for he had identified the dream master.

"That's right!"

As the fiery dragons exploded, Elder Smelter waved his sleeves and released his dream elemental force. Within seconds, 9 similar dragons appeared. "How's that? Do you want to continue?"

"If you are willing to stop, I will be eternally grateful for that. But if you insist, I can only defend with all my life! The spirit of a martial artist is to never give up!"

Venerable Longhu replied decisively.

Even a 9th Tier Illusionary Divine dream master would have to think twice if a True Divine were to fight with all his life.

'Elder Smelter will not risk his life for me. If I'm not wrong, he should be thinking about something else...'

Fang Yuan watched from the sidelines and thought to himself.

Indeed, in the next moment, Elder Smelter started to laugh. "Alright, how about both of us take a step back? Let Lin Qianye come out and fight Fang Yuan to their deaths. Both of us shall not interfere and after the fight, we're even. How's that?"

"That's a good idea!"

As Venerable Longhu was deciding, a silhouette rushed out. It was Lin Qianye.

He looked at Fang Yuan and was full of confidence.

After all, he had managed to chase him down. That was only a few months before, so what could change?

"Second Brother!"

Venerable Longhu glared at him.

"Big Brother, if we do not settle it like this, what other choices will we have?"

Lin Qianye voice was softly heard in Venerable Longhu's ears. "Even if I die, I can still protect Thousand Year Mountain!"

"Alright!"

Venerable Longhu finally agreed with tears in his eyes.

Lin Qianye laughed and walked forward as he looked at Fang Yuan. "Please!"

'This Elder Smelter just trapped me?'

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes. However, he felt something in his sleeves and heard Elder Smelter's voice in his mind. "Just go ahead with the fight. If you think you can no longer continue, just throw this out. I've hidden a fiery dragon in it. Burn him down!"

After all, Elder Smelter only wanted Fang Yuan to become enemies with Thousand Year Mountain and to be loyal to him. Therefore, he wouldn't let him die. Although this was cheating, Venerable Longhu did not detect anything. It was a scarily impressive move.

Chapter 283: Ups and Downs

"Please!"

It was also Fang Yuan's wish to be able to fight with Lin Qianye once more.

The people of Thousand Year Mountain crept out of their hiding spots to watch, although they were given the order to hide.

It was a rare opportunity to spectate a death match between a highly-skilled martial artist and a highly-skilled dream master.

"Whoosh!"

A Leaving Fire Sword appeared in Fang Yuan's hands and the flames burnt brilliantly. "Have you regretted what you've done?"

"Regret? You dream masters are a poisonous tumour to society! The only regret I have is killing too few of you!"

Lin Qianye laughed. "Even if I die killing you, it will be worth it!"

It seemed that Lin Qianye knew of his predicament.

If he were to lose, he would die.

Even if he were to win and kill Fang Yuan, Elder Smelter wouldn't let him go!

Death was his only option and therefore, the best outcome for him was to die together with Fang Yuan.

This was how pitiful it was to be part of the weaker force!

"Alright, it is only times like this that I can hear what you truly feel!"

Fang Yuan smiled and struck his sword out. The sword essence of the Leaving Fire Sword exploded.

"Lin Qianye is indeed crazy! Nothing could save him!"

Elder Smelter glared at Venerable Longhu. "Is this how you teach your disciples?"

"Of course not!"

Venerable Longhu was stunned. He could feel the death wish from Lin Qianye!

Inside, he sighed. Lin Qianye's parents were killed by dream masters and the love of his life was abducted by a dream master as well. All of these had led to the change in his personality.

"This is just sword essence!"

8 spiritual meridians appeared behind Lin Qianye's back as he rushed forward. "Thousand Leaves Palm!"

"Whoosh!"

Both his hands released elemental force and turned translucent. With continuous strikes, he extinguished the sword essence.

"Kurong Double Posture-Killing the Devil!"

As a Wu Zong with 8 spiritual meridians, he was just one step to forming the Divine Body and become a True Divine.

With a flash, Lin Qianye quickly arrived in front of Fang Yuan and sliced down with his hands.

Behind him, the 8 spiritual meridians came together to form a figure, half of which appeared wilted and the other half healthy. With this, his body was strengthened.

This was putting all of his strength in one strike, preparing to kill Fang Yuan in a single blow!

"Impressive!"

If Fang Yuan was a normal dream master, he would have been stunned by the spiritual aura of the Kurong Mysterious Technique. With a split second of hesitation, he would probably be killed on the spot.

But Fang Yuan was not only a dream master, he was also a Wu Zong!

His thoughts ran quickly as a dim golden glow emitted from his body. The 4 spiritual meridians behind his back quickly formed a spiritual armour as he retreated.

At the same time, in his left hand, a blue Water Sword appeared as well. "Water-Fire Dual Sword Array! Kill!"

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

Streaks of red and blue sword essence trapped Lin Qianye at where he was before exploding.

"Oh? You've achieved a breakthrough? No wonder you dare to fight against me! How can such a dual-sword array be so powerful?"

Lin Qianye shook and could feel a pressure within him. He finally realised that the person in front of him was a worthy opponent and he had to focus.

"Buzz! Buzz!"

The Kurong Figure assimilated into his back and spiritual inscriptions appeared on his body. Even half of his face started to dry up and appeared as though it was wilting.

Although his appearance was disfigured, his body became extremely strong. As the sword essence landed on his body, only pelting sounds were heard.

'Brother, you have finally improved...'

Seeing this scene, Venerable Longhu sighed.

If Lin Qianye could survive the fight, he could possibly condense the Divine Body after 3 years of meditation and arrive at the peak of martial arts!

However, all breakthroughs would require an immense amount of resources.

Even though he might break through to the next stage, his cultivation would not immediately follow.

Witnessing the fight, Elder Smelter started to feel increasingly aggressive.

"Die!"

Lin Qianye roared like a beast, but all his moves were to perfection as he forced Fang Yuan to his limits.

"Hmm... It seems like sword essence alone would not be able to kill you."

Fang Yuan struck his swords out continuously like a river stream.

Although Lin Qianye was immune to the weaker sword essences, the main sword essence could still hurt him. Therefore, the physical body of the magical soldiers would surely be able to kill him.

After a series of exchanges, there were a few bloodied scars on Lin Qianye and his expression became increasingly frenzied.

"Magical Technique of Burning Blood!"

He roared as his skin exploded. Instantly, he became a bloodied person and resisted all the sword essences before arriving before Fang Yuan. "Die!"

"Water and Fire, strike together!"

Fang Yuan clenched his teeth and struck both swords out. A slight rumbling of thunder was heard.

"Whoosh!"

The ground shook and the dust flew.

Venerable Longhu sighed and Elder Smelter seemed worried.

"Great... I finally died in your hands..."

Lin Qianye looked at the sword in his hands and had a mixed expression.

After finishing his sentence, his forehead exploded, revealing a charred scar inflicted by a sword. He fell to the ground, motionless.

'The Water-Fire Dual Sword Array is on par with you. The final thunder-type sword essence made the difference...'

Fang Yuan wiped the blood on his mouth, turned around and faced Elder Smelter. "Fortunately, I did not disgrace the dream masters!"

"Great! This is great!"

Elder Smelter retrieved his fiery dragon, but Fang Yuan could not guess what he was thinking.

"You have returned victorious but you are injured. Have a good rest!"

His expression returned to normal as he looked towards Venerable Longhu. "Since the culprit is dead, we shall take our leave..."

Venerable Longhu was expressionless as he looked at Lin Qianye's corpse.

Seeing this, Fang Yuan sighed. He knew that they would be enemies for a long time to come and there was nothing he could do to establish good relations with them.

"Let's go!"

Elder Smelter chuckled and led the way while Fang Yuan followed behind.

If not for the protection from Elder Smelter, the entire Thousand Year Mountain would tear him apart alive.

...

After a long while, the unforgiving sun rays landed on Venerable Longhu. He was motionless like a statue in the wind.

"Sect head?"

A few elders came out with worried looks on their face.

"Forget it. Bury Qianye and let him... rest in peace!"

Venerable Longhu waved his hands and as he finished his sentence, he almost choked on his words.

"Yes, sect head!"

A few deacons and disciples came out and cleared the mess.

Looking in the direction where Elder Smelter had left, Venerable Longhu was in a daze. Finally, he returned to the building. "I want to meditate in seclusion. Don't disturb me!"

...

"This... This is the power of dream masters! Is this person against our family?"

Ruan Junxian looked at the tattered battlefield and Lin Qianye's corpse, not knowing what to do.

Lin Qianye was the pride of the sect, a highly skilled martial artist with 8 spiritual meridians and was a single step away from condensing the Divine Body. But now, he was killed by Fang Yuan. This was a severe setback for Ruan Junxian.

He felt that even if he were to reach the cultivation level of Lin Qianye, he would still be easily killed by the dream master's single strike of the sword.

Furthermore, in the time that he would take to reach the 8th spiritual meridian, how far ahead would his opponent be?

Their vast difference was discouraging.

"Junxian!"

At this point in time, a few disciples surrounded him with aggressive looks.

As the crowd gave way, the Black Tiger Taisui, He Shantong came.

"Master!"

Ruan Junxian felt even more uncomfortable but forcefully raised his head up to look at his master in the eye.

"You... sigh. Although it is not your fault, it is a fact that all of this started with your family. I'm afraid the Thousand Year Mountain cannot let you stay..."

Ruan Junxian turned pale and took a few steps backwards. "Master.... You..."

He felt a sharp pain in his heart.

He knew that none of them wanted to get implicated and therefore wanted to chase him out of the sect!

Thinking about how much he had offered his master in the past years, there was a burning sensation in his chest.

However, he could only clench his teeth. If he were to display his dissatisfaction, he might get himself killed.

"I can no longer be your master!"

He Shantong sighed. "From today onwards, we shall cut our ties. Leave the mountain!"

"Master!"

At this point in time, a young martial artist stood out. "Although he is being chased out, he still has martial arts which belong to the Thousand Year Mountain!"

Ruan Junxian glanced at him but had no energy to rebut.

Previously, this young martial artist appeared respectful to Ruan Junxian but now, who would've thought that he would turn his back on him!

"That's right, we need to strip him of his martial arts!"

"Master, you're too kind. Why are you only chasing him out? If you ask me, I believe we should kill him..."

...

There were only a few who would be willing to help him, but countless others who were trying to make things worse for him.

Seeing this scene, Ruan Junxian wanted to laugh.

Where had these loyal disciples gone to when trouble arrived at the sect?

After all, they feared those that were powerful and some of them even had the thoughts of changing sides and siding the dream masters.

"That's not appropriate. After all, Junxian had known martial arts before he entered the sect, and... the Ruan Family is still here!"

He Shantong twitched his eyebrows and shook his head. "Go!"

"Thank you master... and everyone else!"

Ruan Junxian stumbled on his way down the mountain like a zombie.

Thinking about the times where he was considered a talent, and the good times with his fellow sect mates, tears started to well up in his eyes.

"Haha... Haha..."

Arriving at a small cave in the mountain, he tried to cry but instead, he started to laugh heartily.

"Who would've thought that I, Ruan Junxian, would end up like this... Haha! If not for my family, I wouldn't even be able to keep my martial arts!"

"Haha... dream masters are bullies and Heaven is blind! Blind!"

As he was wallowing in despair, something miraculous happened in his body.

"Whooo!"

Elemental energy started to flow like a spiral.

There was a distinct popping sound coming from his Dantian.

"Is this... Have I achieved a breakthrough?"

Ruan Junxian was shocked but composed himself. "Have I achieved the breakthrough which I've been dreaming about all day? Am I a Wu Zong now?"

If this was earlier, he would be overjoyed.

But now, he could only smile. Even with a True Divine, the Thousand Year Mountain could not protect Lin Qianye. How would they be able to protect him?

Chapter 284: Delivery Mission

In the mountains, by the river.

Elemental force surged around in Ruan Junxian's hands and he could control it like his limbs.

"I have finally achieved the realm of Wu Zong!"

There were mixed expressions on his face. "If I had achieved the breakthrough earlier, I can become the protector of the mountains. By then, if they want to chase me out, they will still need the approval from 70 percent of the elders and the approval of the sect head... With this, I have a chance to stay and things wouldn't escalate to this stage... What a pity!"

However, Ruan Junxian was not confident of breaking through to Wu Zong if not for the happenings and his fluctuating emotions.

"Regardless, it is rare to harness elemental force. If I join the Imperial Court of Da Qian, I can become an official and might even have special treatment since I am young. I would think that I would be conferred the appointment of an Eagle Lieutenant..."

As a person coming from an influential family, Ruan Junxian was extremely familiar with the hierarchy. "However, after entering the military, I would be bounded by more restrictions..."

His largest obstacle was Fang Yuan; like a humongous mountain, Fang Yuan was a shadow in his mind.

"That high-tiered dream master is likely to have overlooked me. Therefore, the Ruan Family can still survive... As the Young master, the only thing I can do for the family is to search for a strong backing for the family!"

Ruan Junxian's eyes were burning with passion. "The best would be for me to become a dream master myself and subsequently join the 5 powerful organisations. If that were to happen, the Ruan Family would become the most powerful family in the Victorious East Region!"

He knew that the world was unfair and only dream masters belonged to the higher levels of cultivation world.

Any influential family would surely have a powerful dream master to back them up.

If any family wanted to become more powerful, they would have to spend fortunes trying to train a dream master from their family before they could progress to have the rights to fight with other families.

Furthermore, even the Imperial Court had employed a large number of dream masters known as the 'Hidden Dragon Guards'. Otherwise, they could not have ruled over the 99 regions so smoothly.

"Now that my magical abilities have been improved, I can start to cultivate in spiritual spells. However, I am still a little short in becoming a dream master..."

There was a look of depression on Ruan Junxian's face.

A dream master was not only unparalleled in fights, they could create life and was the number 1 profession. Unfortunately, the requirements to become a dream master was too high and it was too hard.

However, all hope was not lost.

For instance... a few natural treasures were rumoured to be able to strengthen the foundation of a Wu Zong and initiate the path to become a dream master.

"Forget it... After all, there are a few Meridian Opening Elders at home maintaining peace and order. There is no need for my presence at home. Why not explore the lands in search of opportunities? I can strengthen myself at the same time!"

Ruan Junxian came to a decision. Looking back at Thousand Year Mountain for one last time, he turned around and walked away.

The world was ever-changing and even a dream future master would not be able to accurately predict the future with complete certainty.

Even as an ant, he had to strengthen himself and believe that he will become powerful one day!

...

"Fang Yuan, how are you feeling?"

A fiery dragon flew around and roared. Mingling in the skies, it was like a deity.

On its back, Elder Smelter looked at Fang Yuan.

"Impressive!"

Fang Yuan sighed softly.

Below them was a small city.

The Fiery Dragon had spirituality and was playful. As it peered through the clouds and revealed its claws, the city dwellers started to panic and hide like ants.

A spiritual light started to glow on the city walls and in the government office, and many archers readied their bows.

"Haha!"

Elder Smelter was overjoyed. "That's right... This is the majestic power!"

He pointed at the people and laughed. "We dream masters are equivalent to gods in the ancient times! How would mortals ever understand our power?"

"The few of you, don't go too overboard! Although the Da Qian is ordinary, it would be troublesome if the 'Hidden Dragon Guards' were to come!"

Elder Smelter had a proud look as he commented, but his face twitched the moment he mentioned the 'Hidden Dragon Guards'

"Oh? Please explain to me, Elder! How does the Hidden Dragon Guards compare with the Realm Alliance?"

Fang Yuan became interested.

"Hmph! Just a few lackeys that depend on the humans for survival. How can they compare to the Realm Alliance? If you see any Hidden Dragon Guard, just kill them!"

"If not for them, hehe... I'm afraid that the Imperial Court would be destroyed by the crazy people from Source Seeking Sect!"

Elder Smelter looked away; it was evident that he did want to continue with this topic.

As for Fang Yuan, he was deep in thought.

"To keep two evil sects and one crazy sect at bay must mean that the Hidden Dragon Guards are rather powerful! They might be on par with the 5 powerful organisations. Since they have the support of the Imperial Court, they should be quite powerful! But... What made the Source Seeking Sect go against the Imperial Court?"

As he thought about it, he subconsciously spoke his mind.

"Hehe... There's nothing surprising as to what that bunch of crazy people can do!"

Elder Smelter knew that he had said something wrong and did not want to reveal more.

"Alright, where do you intend to stay next?"

Elder Smelter changed the topic and asked Fang Yuan.

"I have been cultivation in seclusion. For now, I want to explore Da Qian and visit the capital!"

Fang Yuan spoke the truth but hid his intentions. This was a small trick that he used. After all, he was speaking before a high-tiered dream master who would be sensitive in detecting his tone and emotions.

But now, Elder Smelter could not detect anything fishy. "I need to return. After killing the evil water dragon in Sand Region, I have obtained 3 drops of 'Mysterious Elemental Heavy Water' and I can use them to perform alchemy. Since you have the intention to explore the place, help me with something!"

"Please instruct me. I'll do anything!"

Fang Yuan heaved a sigh of relief and replied.

"Help me deliver an item to the Middle Region since the capital is in the Middle Region as well..."

Elder Smelter took out a small red sword. "Take this sword and bring it to Tianmu Mountain in Middle Region. Ask to see the owner of the mountain and pass this sword to the owner... Don't worry, you won't be doing this for nothing. I will officially assign you this mission in the Dream Realm!"

This mission was assignment-typed and the rewards were not good, but it would count a lot towards his contribution to the Realm Alliance.

"I will do it!"

Fang Yuan took the sword over from Elder Smelter. The red sword which was previously glowing died down in its brilliance as soon as it entered Fang Yuan's hand; it was like a normal sword now.

"Alright, be on your way!"

Elder Smelter waved his sleeves and immediately, Fang Yuan could feel a huge force pushing against him; it was akin to a small boat being pushed by a tsunami. As soon as he realised what had happened, he was already on a small hill on the outskirts of a county town.

"This is the power of a 7th Tier Illusionary Divine dream master!"

Looking at the busy and prosperous county town, Fang Yuan sighed. Without wasting time, he quickly disappeared into the forest.

...

"The journey to Middle Region is long and therefore, I need to make some plans..."

Fang Yuan was neutral about the mission.

He was only a newbie among the dream masters and would not suspect that Elder Smelter would try to harm him by assigning him this mission.

Of course, he had to be wary of the small sword and had to seal its energy up. This was not guarding against Elder Smelter but rather, it was merely being careful.

After finding a secluded spot, he entered the Dream Realm and indeed, on his inscription plate, there was a new ongoing mission. It was assigned by Elder Smelter and after browsing through the details, he could only accept it.

'Generally speaking, this was among the unspoken rules which were already not considered strict. After all, I am a new member and it is only logical for him to test me out...'

Fang Yuan came to the headquarters of the Realm Alliance and started to browse the information on the rock tablet.

As a 2nd Leaf Cultivator, he had certain rights and could access parts of the information bank. Pieces of information from the information bank were either mostly not found on the rock tablet in the Dream Realm, or they were classified. After all, it was not a bad thing to read up more.

Of course, the missions on the rock tablet in the Dream Realm were more generic and it was the place where the 5 powerful organisations would interact.

"I am clear about the cultivation of a dream soldier master and am looking forward to the next dream-traversing opportunity... As for that mysterious force in my body, I need to clear it out as soon as possible before I reach the 4th sword, otherwise, things would get tricky!"

There was a look of depression on Fang Yuan's face.

When he achieved a breakthrough previously in the Three World Mountain, he had the help of the mysterious but evil force.

Although it was not affecting him now, it would be troublesome if he were to lose control over the mysterious force in the future!

"The 4th Tier of Illusionary Divine is a big leap. Among us dream soldier masters, it would mean that we can form the spirit of the swords. This is especially so for the 8 Gates Sword Array. After forming the spirits of the 4 swords, I would be able to harness at least half the potential of the 8 Gate Sword Array... Therefore, I must quickly get rid of the evil force in me!"

Once the magical soldiers get their spirituality, their power would increase by folds and they could potentially fly on their own to attack enemies. This would be similar to the Fiery Dragon Child of Elder Smelter.

The mysterious force might affect the spirit of the sword, making it an evil spirit. If that becomes the case, Fang Yuan would become the slave to his swords.

"Tian Xiezi... Why are you still causing trouble a few hundred years after your death?"

Fang Yuan gave a cold look as he continued to browse the information on the rock tablet.

It was extremely rare to encounter any technique which would dispel evil forces in one's body. Most of them would cheat him of his money and those who potentially could help were charging more than he could afford.

Finally, something was different.

"9 Smelting Technique (Incomplete): Able to purify and remove foreign true energies from one's body. The setback would be that one's cultivation would drop, and the drop is dependent on how polluted one's body is..."

"Only an incomplete version? Furthermore, it can only purify true energy? What about elemental force and dream elemental force?"

Fang Yuan rubbed his chin.

As a 2nd Leaf Cultivator, he could only read up to here. However, from the description, he had the feeling that there was more to it.

If he could get his hands on the complete version, he might be able to purify his true energy, true elemental force and even dream elemental force.

"This is a solution indeed. Of course, the root of the problem is still from Evil Divine Sect!"

Fang Yuan gritted his teeth.

Chapter 285: Black Roc

Tian Xiezi was a dream master of the Evil Divine Sect. After his death at the Two World Mountain, his dream world became the Illusionary World and from then on, Three World Mountain was born.

Just by the dangers of the Three World Mountain alone, it could be deduced that he was at least a 7th Tier Illusionary Divine dream master and was able to create spirits. Even after his death, demons with their own spirits were seen lurking in the Illusionary World.

"What a pity... With my rights as a 2nd Leaf Cultivator, I can only read up to here. There's nothing left below!"

Fang Yuan shook his head and started to worry about how he should travel to the Middle Region.

The world over here was extremely vast. There were 99 regions in Da Qian Empire and every region was already extremely huge. Any average human might not even be able to traverse through an entire region in their lifetimes. Therefore, not many would have been to the capital before.

"The map of the entire Da Qian should be classified information and I need to be at least a 5th Leaf Cultivator before I can get the details... The only information I can gather is the map of the 9 regions nearest to me..."

Fang Yuan looked at the rock tablet as his eyes glittered. "To head towards the Middle Region, the path designated for officials, the Official Path, would be the most convenient path. The officials would report for duty and send troops through the Official Path. However, the requirements to use the path are extremely stringent and there are checks everywhere along the path. Even if I can find my way in, it would take a lot of effort to go through the checks undetected and I would waste too much time..."

As he walked out of the headquarters of the Realm Alliance, he arrived at a public space.

"I am at Victorious East Region. How do I make my way to Middle Region?"

Just a simple thought from him triggered pieces of information which were revealed before him.

"There are mountains and rivers in between East Victorious Region and Middle Region. There are 87 danger areas along the journey and it is a must to take a route around them. The most comfortable and quick way is to take a ride on a spiritual bird. Of course, the journey will also take about a month to a few months..."

Fang Yuan searched and indeed, there were dream masters like the previous Huo Qing.

However, this time, the bird was a huge black roc beast[1] and it was rumoured that the roc had the blood of the legendary Kun Roc. Its body was as huge as a mountain and it flew at incredible speeds. It was the ruler of the skies.

The dream master must be at least a 4th Tier Illusionary Divine dream master to be able to tame such a powerful bird.

"Black Roc, I want to head to Middle Region!"

Fang Yuan used his spiritual will to communicate to the dream master according to the symbol on the tablet.

"Alright, the journey will cost you 200 contribution points. You will have to pay 100 contribution points as a deposit first and tell me your location. I will reserve a seat for you!"

Not long after, there was a reply.

"Reserve a seat?"

Fang Yuan was shocked.

"Do you think you're the only person I'm fetching?"

Black Roc scoffed. "After receiving the deposit, I will tell you when I'm arriving. The earliest would be 3 days from now and the latest would be a month!"

"Alright!"

Fang Yuan was speechless but paid the contribution points. "I am at Sand Region, Dragon's Head Mountain!"

With the Realm Spirit as a witness, he was not afraid that Black Roc would cheat him of his money.

"Very well, wait for my news!"

After receiving the contribution points, Black Roc left, satisfied.

Fang Yuan remained speechless. Although he knew that it was impossible, he had the feeling as though he was being cheated. With a laugh, he left the Dream Realm as well.

"Could I be feeling this way because I don't have enough contribution points? I have not felt such fear and anxiety in a long while..."

Without wasting time, Fang Yuan made his way towards Sand Region.

He did not know how long he would spend in Middle Region. Therefore, he felt that he should at least inform the Qin Siblings of his movement and remind them to be on their guard. After all, they were his backup plan if all else fails.

...

It was nightfall and the stars glittered brilliantly.

In the Qin Family mansion in Dongyi County.

A silhouette slipped into the mansion and the protective array failed to detect anything.

The Qin siblings were already asleep. Disoriented, they arrived at a place.

There were trees, a river, a small bridge and a small pavilion supported with bamboo poles. A young man sat within and there were a few tea bowls placed in front of him.

"Greetings, Sir!"

The Qin Siblings looked at each other and knew that this was Fang Yuan calling for them in their dreams. Together, they greeting him.

"Take a seat! Have some tea!"

Fang Yuan waved his hands.

"Thank you!"

Qin Qing raised her tea bowl and realised that the bowl was made from ceramic. With its average-looking appearance, it gave off an ancient vibe.

The tea gave off a similar vibe; it was sweet and there was a hint of jasmine fragrance.

"How's it?"

Fang Yuan smiled.

"Simple and elegant!"

Qin Qing smiled and replied. However, Qin Yun was observing the surroundings and came to a realisation. "Are you intending to travel, Sir?"

"Hmmm?"

Fang Yuan looked at him, astonished. "That's right!"

After becoming independent as the family head, Qin Yun felt more matured now. Through all that he had gone through and the new experiences, he seemed like a polished gem.

"In my absence, take care of yourselves..."

After reminding them to take care of themselves, Fang Yuan left.

'Why are they not here... Divine Lotus Cult, what are you thinking?'

The purpose of Fang Yuan returning to the Qin Family Mansion was to track the Divine Lotus Cult's movement as well.

After all, he had become enemies with a reserved Divine Lady and would surely attract the attention of many.

Meng Lian's competitors were grateful to Fang Yuan but none of them would solely depend on Fang Yuan for their success to be the Divine Lady.

'The Divine Lotus Cult and Evil Divine Sect are the two most powerful evil dream master sects and by now, they should have known about my background...'

Thoughts ran through in Fang Yuan's mind as he purposely leaked a hint of his own spiritual aura.

...

"Divine Lady!"

In a mansion within Dongyi County.

Although this mansion was no different from other mansions, anyone who entered it would be shocked.

In a row, 18 lanterns were lighted up, illuminating the interior of the mansion.

There was a golden-furred carpet on the ground and a light fragrance of the lotus flower.

Suddenly, one of the lanterns flickered and in an instant, the flame of the lantern exploded!

"Whoosh!"

In the quiet room, the noise was easily picked up. Two servants in white walked up and looked at the woman sitting on the lantern.

"Lantern C2 had detected something. It must be that person!"

This woman was around 20 and had a gentle demeanour. She had pretty eyebrows and gave off the vibe as though she came from a rich family.

Such a lady would be regarded as a beauty in the world and no one would associate her with the cruel Divine Lotus Cult or think that she was an evil reserved Divine Lady.

At this point in time, the Divine Lady smiled. "The cult has placed an order. No dream master of 4th Tier and above are allowed to go after him, for his is now part of the Realm Alliance... However, they did not impose restrictions on the magical equipment that we can use. Of course, looking at my current cultivation level, I'm not skilled enough to use most of them. However, the Changming Magical Lantern is not an offensive magical equipment as has an extraordinary ability to perform surveillance! I can first detect his location before striking him by surprise!"

After Meng Lian's embarrassing defeat, she not only sustained severe injuries but also used up most of her protective magical equipment. The resources of the Divine Lotus Cult in the vicinity were all used up by her and by letting it all go to waste, she no longer seemed likely to become the chosen one, the Divine Lady.

It was good news for the other 7 reserved Divine Ladies that one of them was no longer in the competition.

Furthermore, if any of them were to be able to capture Fang Yuan, it would be a huge accomplishment. Although capturing Fang Yuan would not directly make her the Divine Lady, at least it would give her the edge over the other reserved Divine Ladies.

This was the reason behind the arrival of this reserved Divine Lady.

"Although this person is extremely cautious and even talks to his subordinates through their dreams, after my observations, I can tell that he is preparing to travel somewhere far!"

This reserved Divine Lady was witty and immediately gave her orders. "Order the spies in Qin Family to gather information from the Qin Siblings... Also, start monitoring the skies of Dongyi County. If there are any findings, immediately report to me!"

After dismissing them, the reserved Divine Lady remained seated and smiled. "Before embarking on his journey, he would surely enter the Dream Realm..."

She closed her eyes, arrived before the rock tablet in the Dream Realm and started enquiring.

...

After 15 days.

Sand Region, Dragon's Head Mountain.

The Dragon's Head Mountain was a geographically interesting location in Sand Region. Although it was secluded, the peak of the mountain had a panoramic view of the region and the extreme peak had the shape of a dragon's head. Being unique, it attracted many tourists.

Fang Yuan stood on the top of the dragon's head and looked up into the sky, speechless.

"Handsome... that person seems stupid!"

Tourists behind him were commenting on him. A young girl in red robes looked at Fang Yuan and started laughing.

"Don't cause trouble!"

Beside her was a man with a long sword. He looked like a martial artist and he lectured the girl before apologising to Fang Yuan. "My junior is too direct, please don't blame her!"

Both of them dressed up like martial artists but they only had the cultivation of around the 5th to 6th Gate. Fang Yuan did not even bother to look at them.

"You..."

With such an attitude, both of them were shocked. They knew that the world was huge and there were many highly-skilled people all around. Could they have encountered one themselves?

"Eh? Why is the sky darkening?"

Before being able to continue the conversation, a shadow descended and covered the entire sky.

The tourists in the vicinity looked up and saw a huge bird descending.

In mid-air, a bird the size of a small hill slowly approached. As it came closer, they finally realised that it was an enormous black bird with a huge back and a small building on its back. They were all left tongue-tied.

As the bird descended, huge gusts of wind blew about on the mountain. The martial artist and his junior held on tightly to vines as they were almost blown off their feet.

"Is this the black roc?"

Fang Yuan leapt onto it and felt as though he was standing on a flat piece of ground. Seeing a huge inn ahead, he walked towards it.

"Keke... Brother, welcome to the Black Roc Inn. I hope you will enjoy your stay in the next month with the other guests!"

In the inn, a dream master was standing in the place of an innkeeper. Although he was smiling happily, Fang Yuan could feel his 4th Tier Illusionary Divine Cultivation. "I understand!"

"Whoooo!"

As the black roc spread its wings, it flew up into the sky.

Beneath, the martial artist and his junior were stunned. Fortunately, they did not start a fight with Fang Yuan. Otherwise, they wouldn't have time to regret...

[1]: The Roc is an enormous legendary bird of prey in the popular mythology of the Middle East.

Chapter 286: Mengmei

"That's good!"

The Black Roc Beast, with its black feathers and plump body, gave a genial smile that carried a hint of arrogance.

"Currently, my Black Roc Inn has 19 guests and 36 servants. After I receive 3 other dream masters and their servants, we will set off and arrive in the Middle Region...of course, dear guest, you are a dream master and we will arrange for you to stay in the Tianpin Room!"

"Servants?"

Fang Yuan found it mildly strange.

"Of course... not every dream master is alone like you are. In this day and age, the dream masters trained by the influential clans, even the ones of a lower level, set off on their journeys with at least a few spiritual knights."

Black Roc scoffed.

"Some even have large harems that serve them wherever they go. These people merely rely on their wealth to get by, and they actually hope to achieve great things, hmph..."

Its tone was contemptuous as if it favoured Fang Yuan, a lone cultivator, over the rest of them.

Fang Yuan gave a wry smile as he listened.

It was not that he had nobly decided to go at it alone. His situation had more to do with his foundations being too weak and inability to source for manpower.

Of course, to others, a dream master at the Illusionary Divine stage without followers was a person who had clearly decided to wholeheartedly pursue enlightenment.

Without another word, Fang Yuan went straight to his room and saw that it was spacious and well-tidied. There was a sleeping quarter, a living area and even a meditation corner.

Of course, there was no kitchen.

After all, it was high up in the air, and there were restrictions. Still, there was a common kitchen with a full-time cook.

If the customers were dissatisfied, they could book the kitchen for their own use. The service was indeed rather comprehensive.

"If Huo Qing could be considered a solo journeyman, then the Black Roc is exaggerating slightly..who knows, he might actually achieve something given time..."

Fang Yuan opened up the windows and stared out into the strong winds and blue skies of the world outside, deep in thought.

...

With the darkening of the skies came dinner time.

Most of the dream masters preferred peace and silence and rarely took their meals in the inn's common dining hall. They had their meals sent to them in their rooms where they could frolic about with their concubines and live like gods.

Fang Yuan did not have such a capacity and therefore, ordered a meal in the hall.

The dishes were served quickly by the waiters, who were also cultivators who had obtained elemental force. They were most likely followers of the Black Roc and they seemed completely content with carrying out their menial tasks.

"Dear guest, the served meals are complimentary, free of charge. Of course...if you want more food, you can inform our chefs, or send your servants to the kitchen to prepare the food. For this, we will charge a fee!"

This servant looked to be in his thirties. However, the Wu Zongs would tend to look much younger than their actual age, and Fang Yuan placed his estimate closer to sixty years old. The articulate servant had a white towel draped over his shoulder. He was probably a runner.

"No need, this is more than enough!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head and dismissed him.

The occupants of the dining hall were few, and Fang Yuan picked a corner where he could dine in peace.

The meal was extremely sumptuous and consisted of three dishes and a soup. It was chicken soup which was rich and fragrant and it whetted the appetite. Just one taste and Fang Yuan immediately knew that the chicken in question was fed with spiritual rice. It was truly special.

The other three dishes were: mushrooms and greens, meat slices and a stir-fried mix. They were all fantastic. The chef responsible for this meal was definitely better than the cook he had recruited in the Da Yuan mainland. Fang Yuan helped himself to more servings of food eagerly.

"The rice used is the Cloudy Pearl Rice, which can be considered a luxury good. However, the quality is still somewhat lacking in comparison to the Yellow Grain Rice.."

After he had his fill, Fang Yuan rubbed his tummy and sighed contentedly.

At this time, a gentle voice floated in.

"The Yellow Grain Rice is a top-grade spiritual good and is extremely beneficial to us dream masters. The plant only grows under harsh conditions and is a rare find in the territories controlled by the 5 powerful organisations. Only the Da Qian aristocrats are capable of supplying Yellow Grain Rice in bulk. But to me, this is the most improbable method to acquire the rice!"

Fang Yuan turned around and noticed a beautiful young lady in robes of lotus-green. She looked like she was of noble birth, and blushed when she met his gaze.

"Thank you for your explanation! I am Fang Yuan, may I have your name?"

"I am Liu Mengmei, a member of the Liu Clan in the Middle Region..."

Liu Mengmei had a very sweet-tempered outlook and her manner of speech was demure.

"I see!"

As a traveller, Fang Yuan was unwilling to engage a stranger in anything beyond casual conversation and toasted her before turning around to leave.

He had to concur that the wine served by the inn was of good quality; it was clear and smooth on the throat. Fang Yuan was beginning to feel tipsy after only a few cups.

Fang Yuan was not a hardcore drinker and this amount of alcohol was just right. Fang Yuan thus walked back to his room.

Liu Mengmei watched on as Fang Yuan's silhouette faded into the distance. With a smile on her lips, she retired to her room as well.

"Divine Lady!"

Two female servants in green were already waiting in the room and bowed in greeting as Liu Mengmei entered.

"Mm, that person is indeed heading towards the Middle Region. Our preparations seemed to have paid off..."

Liu Mengmei continued on after a pause.

"It is just that he is extremely guarded. It will be difficult to get close to him. Not to mention that this place is under the protection of Black Roc, and taking action here will break his rules! Set up the Nine Lotus Divine Lantern Soul-infusing Array! I will take him on in the dream world!"

"Yes my Lady!"

The two female servants bowed out of the room and began with their preparations.

To the dream masters, there were many ways to kill someone without spilling blood.

Also, as long as the ongoing conflict between the Divine Lotus Cult and the Realm Alliance did not violate the fundamental laws or inconvenience the other guests, the Black Roc would not dare to interfere!

Liu Mengmei smiled and walked over to the centre of the 9 Perpetual lamps with the seal in her hands. She sat down with a solemn look on her face.

"Chi!"

"Poof"

Around her, the Perpetual Lamps lit up instantly, and a clandestine wave shot out.

...

In his room, Fang Yuan sat down relaxedly with his legs crossed.

"Not bad, not bad! This building is constructed of spiritual wood and arranged based on an arraying technique, which enables elemental gathering and concealment...in fact, the whole inn is a giant magical tool. Every room occupant has a small degree of authority, but the core of power belongs to Black Roc!"

Based on Fang Yuan's knowledge of arraying techniques, this was all he could tell.

Still, he was very sure that the Black Roc was not only a dream master in the Illusionary Divine stage, but was, in fact, an array master.

At Black Roc's level of cultivation, he could lay out sentient arrays that could operate independently of the array master and exert immense power!

However, if Black Roc really had ill-intentions, there was only one way things could end: He could destroy by the many dream masters residing in the Inn.

With this unspoken threat, together with the guarantee of fairness by the divine beings, Fang Yuan's safety and privacy were more or less assured on this journey.

"But...what about that woman, Liu Mengmei?"

Fang Yuan rubbed his chin and a slight smile played on his lips.

Although Liu Mengmei had disguised herself well, and there were no hints of similarities between her and Meng Lian, but Fang Yuan had a feeling nevertheless.

And there was no need to mention that when Fang Yuan had deliberately released his spiritual aura at the Qin Manor, this woman had swooped right in. It was too much of a coincidence.

"I doubt this Divine Lady would be as bold as to fight in midair and endanger the safety of dozens of dream masters...the only possibility would be to engage in the traditional way of dream masters!"

Fang Yuan shut his eyes confidently and entered a deep stage of meditation.

.....

It was deep into the night.

Fang Yuan's aura was in the dream world. Suddenly, he felt a disturbance.

"She has arrived? I cannot wait!"

A cold smile broke out on his face.

"To be able to break through the barriers placed around the inn is no mean feat. However, barging into my dream world is a mistake. This woman is slightly more powerful than Meng Lian since she is at the illusionary divine stage!"

At the borders of his dream world, a fog started to gather.

It was clear that Liu Mengmei had ill intentions and was indeed barging into his dream world.

Fang Yuan had the protection of the 8 Gates Sword Array. If activated the array, the woman's concentration would be severely affected and she would suffer.

"However...this does not fit in with my original plan!"

Fang Yuan sensed that Liu Mengmei was at the 1st Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage and had the help of a magical tool.

He waved his hand and the 8 Gates Sword Array immediately dimmed, allowing the fog to infiltrate. His true aura was momentarily dazed and he nearly fell into the dream.

'If I remain asleep after a certain period of time, the 8 Gates Sword Array will immediately reappear to eliminate the approaching enemy!'

In that moment of unconsciousness, according to the Three Corpse Seven Murderous Magic Splitting Technique, Fang Yuan's thoughts will be separated from his body and be transferred to the 8 Gates Sword Array.

Now that his body and consciousness were both protected, Fang Yuan had no qualms about taking on the Divine Lady.

"She actually dared to infiltrate my home ground with a prowess of only the first stage. Even with the help of a magical tool, this is extreme foolishness..."

Fang Yuan's spiritual will acted up, and he fell immediately into a dark swirl.

...

It was dawn and golden rays fell upon the earth.

Beneath the green mountains, the roosters crowed, and the little village came alive.

"When Heaven is going to give a great responsibility to someone, it first makes his mind endure suffering. It makes his sinews and bones experience toil, and his body to suffer hunger. It inflicts him with poverty and knocks down everything he tries to build. In this way Heaven stimulates his mind, stabilizes his temper and develops his weak points...[Mencius, Gao Zi Part 2]"

A bright voice reciting the classics floated out of a straw hut.

The door opened. A beautiful and kind looking lady walked out. She looked like she was younger than 20 years, and yet her hair was arranged as though she was married. She went over to the chicken coop and picked up two warm eggs, and broke into a smile.

"Good girl!"

She sprayed some grains on the floor to reward the hen.

After that, she busied herself with chopping firewood, boiling water, cooking rice. Beads of perspiration decorated her forehead even though the weather was cold.

The farmer's life was undoubtedly a tough one, not to mention that they also had to support the scholar at home.

Before the morning light was at its peak brightness, breakfast was ready. A pot of porridge, two servings, one thick and one thin. The woman added an egg into the thick serving, and after some hesitation, added another. She then walked over to the adjoining room.

"My husband, it's time for breakfast!"

Chapter 287: Horse Bandits

"Mmm, it's been hard for you, wife!"

With gratitude, Zhang Han commented as he walked out and rubbed his red eyes.

He was around 20 and wore a scholar's attire. However, it was ordinary clothing and one could tell that he was not an imperial scholar. He had a skinny look at they were leading poor lives.

Looking at the egg in his bowl and the soup that his wife had prepared, he had a heavy heart. "Mei'er, it has been 3 years since we've been married. Every day, you're doing the hard labour and it has been hard for you..."

Quickly, he picked up his chopsticks and started to peel the egg, but was stopped by his smiling wife.

"I'm fine. Besides, what's more important is your studies!"

"One is enough for me, have more for yourself!"

Zhang Han insisted and wanted to give her another egg. Although his wife knew that he was persistent, she stood firm and rejected.

Under her supervision, Zhang Han ate his egg. Laughing, Mei'er started to eat her egg as well, delighted.

Could this be happily ever after?

Witnessing this scene, tears welled up in Zhang Han's eyes as he almost cried.

After breakfast, Mei'er cleared the table while Zhang Han appeared dazed.

Hmm, his name was Zhang Han and he was a scholar. His family had about a hectare of farmland, a few hostels, and he had a wife for himself.

When he was young, Zhang Han's family was rather affluent and could afford for him to study. However, afterwards, his siblings were fighting for their parent's inheritance. He had no grounds to fight and only inherited a little. There was no progress in his studies as well and slowly became the joke of the village. Slowly, poverty set in.

"Mei'er, don't you worry! I will become an Imperial Scholar and let you live the rest of your life in bliss!"

Zhang Han was determined as he clenched his fists.

"That's right! I shall wait for then!"

His wife, who was busy, turned around and smiled, filling his heart with encouragement.

In the ancient times, being an Imperial Scholar was a big thing. They were not obliged to greet officials and were exempted from slavery. Additionally, officials would reward them with plots of land. The top students would be given a fixed amount of staples every month. Although they were still not considered rich, they were well-to-do.

However, Zhang Han was a bit of a nerd and was unsuccessful many times in many examinations.

Zhang Han felt a little different today. As he looked at his wife rushing towards the farm, he walked over. "Let me help you!"

"That's not appropriate. You are a scholar, how can you do the menial stuff?"

Mei'er rejected his help and spoke with fear in her voice.

"Let me accompany you!"

There was nothing Zhang Han could do to convince Mei'er.

The couple walked along the farm. It was cold and there was a lining of frost on the leaves of the nearby trees.

Zhang Han casually plucked a branch and waved it around at random. As the branch cut through the air, there was a buzzing sound as though he knew swordplay.

"Husband, it is cold. You should return!"

Mei'er carried a hoe on her shoulders and spoke with worry. "Your body has always been weak..."

Since young, Zhang Han was a weak boy but now, although he did not wear thick clothing, he did not feel too cold. With a smile, he held Mei'er's hands. "Don't worry, I'm strong!"

Although this was a normal act of intimacy, Mei'er started to blush. "No... Don't do this here! If someone else sees us, we'll be in trouble!"

In the olden times, there were many rules and teachings. Even legitimate couples performing acts of intimacy in public would provoke rumours to be spread, which might cause their death!

Zhang Han was a scholar and knew this. However, he did not let go. "Look around. There's nobody!"

Both of them talked and laughed as they arrived at their own farm.

Mei'er started to tend to the farm and Zhang Han had attempted many times to help her out but was rejected. Finally, he sat on a wooden stump next to the farm and started to read his books.

As the sun rose, Mei'er started to sweat and her sweat slowly dripped onto the soil.

"Who would understand how much effort it takes to harvest rice..."

Zhang Han shook his head and placed his book down. He quickly poured a cup of tea. "Mei'er, take a rest. I can help out!"

"It's alright! I'm almost done!"

Although she claimed that she was almost done, she still stopped whatever she was doing and took the cup of tea over.

Before she could say anything else, the galloping of a horse broke the silence.

"Gallop! Gallop!"

At the horizon, a few black dots appeared. The black dots slowly grew in size and the farmers around were stunned as they looked at the horses.

Suddenly, there was a cry. "The horse bandits are here, run!"

After running a few steps forward, the farmer who cried out was soon caught up by the horse. With a flash, his head rolled onto the floor and his blood spurted everywhere. His body continued to run a few steps forward before tumbling to the ground.

"Father!"

A well-built man cried as he waved his hoe. "D*mn you! I'll fight with you!"

"Whoosh!"

Alas, he was only a farmer. His strength, technique and equipment were far off from that of the horse bandits. Amidst laughter, a horse galloped through and the long sword sliced effortlessly through the hoe and slicing the well-built man in half. His intestines and blood flowed out and it was a horrendous sight.

"Run!"

The other farmers finally realised what was going on as they ran for their lives towards the village.

"Haha..."

As the horse bandits laughed, they chased the farmers around and casually killed a few more of them.

Although there were a few hundred people in the village compared to the few horse bandits, the horse bandits were much more highly-skilled than the rest of them and the chaos which ensued made the villagers unable to regroup and defend.

"Go!"

Zhang Han grabbed his wife's hands and ran. Her hands felt cold, but there was no time to think about it.

One of them was a scholar while the other was a woman. Both of them could not run fast and started to trail behind, attracting the attention of the horse bandits.

"Eh? That lady is sweet!"

One of the horse bandits noticed Mei'er and his eyes glittered as he galloped ahead. "Haha... scholar, give me this lady!"

"Husband! Quickly leave! Don't care about me!"

Mei'er was determined as she pushed Zhang Han away.

"No!"

Zhang Han clenched his teeth. "I am willing to die together!"

"What a couple. It's a pity I won't let your wish come true!"

The horse bandit laughed and chased up to them. With a grip, he pulled Mei'er onto the horse and struck his sword on Zhang Han's head.

"Husband..."

Amidst Mei'er's wailing, Zhang Han's expression changed. Although he appeared stunned, he was already taking action.

In that instant, Zhang Han tilted his body and avoided the sword. His right hand quickly struck out and gripped the horse bandit's wrist. With a pull, the horse bandit wailed as the sword flew out of his hand.

"Clang!"

Zhang Han held the sword and sliced it in the air.

A line of blood appeared on the horse bandit's forehead as he tumbled down the horse's back.

The snatching of the sword and killing of the horse bandit happened within seconds. While the horse bandits behind were still cheering, the horse bandit in front tumbled down, which left them in shock.

"Go!"

Zhang Han leapt onto the horse and along with his wife, they galloped away.

The horse was as swift as wind as it rushed towards the remaining horse bandits.

"Die!"

As he swung his sword out, with the strength of the moving horse, he sliced another horse bandit in half.

"Ah!"

The remaining horse bandits galloped ahead and exclaimed. "How dare you kill our people!"

"Hmph!"

Zhang Han did not reply them. Instead, he controlled the horse and swung his sword out a few more times. In a few seconds, another 2 horse bandits were sliced off their horses.

"Spare me! Spare me!"

Seeing this, the last horse bandit was petrified as he turned around and escaped.

"Whoosh!"

After galloping for a few seconds, a glow flashed past and struck into the horse bandit's back. It was a sword.

As the horse neighed, it flung the corpse off its back and continued galloping.

"Phew... I would always know who would awaken first!"

After killing the horse bandits, Zhang Han stopped the horse, kept the sword and gazed at the beauty in his arms. He had mixed emotions.

"Husband... you..."

Mei'er was shocked at what had happened and has yet to compose herself.

"You've sealed your memories? What an effort!"

Zhang Han, nope! Fang Yuan sighed as he pointed his finger at her forehead.

"You..."

Mei'er's mouth was bleeding and she appeared confused. She did not believe that her husband was capable of all that he had just done. Her eyelids became heavy as she started to close them.

At that moment, she opened her eyes and had a mysterious look. "Impossible! I've already harnessed the abilities of the magical equipment and arrays. How can you become self-aware so quickly?"

If Fang Yuan did not become self-aware, the scholar would die under the sword of the horse bandit and Mei'er would act accordingly. This would surely leave a deep impression on her heart.

If she were to repeat this for a few more lifetimes in the dream, she could completely destroy Fang Yuan!

"You don't have to know this... Are you prepared to face the backlash of intruding into my dream world?"

With a sinister smile, the sword essences of the fire and water sword appeared in Fang Yuan's eyes. Slowly, it penetrated Mei'er's eyes. "Reverse this! Dream in a dream! Go!"

Fear was written all over Liu Mengmei's face. Within seconds, she fainted and lost her breath.

"I've caught you!"

With a smile, Fang Yuan carried the corpse in his hands.

He knew that she had the help of magical equipment and her dream world to recreate the past 3 years and force a snippet of memory into Fang Yuan's dream world. Strictly speaking, the dream only started from this morning. Liu Mengmei wouldn't give him so much time, or he might have the chance to become self-aware.

To complete the act to perfection, she used her own mind and sealed her own memories. It was a lot of effort for her to do this to reveal her truest emotions.

"Life is complicated like a dream! Mei'er... thank you!"

Fang Yuan dismounted from the horse, dug a grave and buried Mei'er.

Afterwards, he quickly restored his true appearance and the dream world started to crack.

As a dream master, he needed to have the strong willpower to leave the illusionary. This dream could be the best memory he would ever have, and yet it would not affect how he would live his life in the future.

Entering a dream and leaving it would be akin to being reborn!

Chapter 288: Love Tribulations

Firecrackers erupted as the joyous wedding proceeded.

"First bow to the Heaven and Earth! Second bow to the parents! Spouses bow to each other...."

Under the master of ceremonies' address, the newlyweds bowed to each other and were sent for consummation.

Donned in a wedding garb emblazoned with red silk across his chest, the groom lifted the bride's veil with a jade ornament. Adorned in a grand phoenix tiara and wedding shawl, the belle's indescribable beauty radiated under the red candle lights with a tinge of shyness.

"My lady!"

"My husband!"

As the wedding candles extinguished, nothing could be heard.

...

Out of the blue, the scene changed.

A wedding entourage was happily celebrating, as the bride inside the marriage sedan wept.

Suddenly, as they travelled across a hill, the bride jumped out of the marriage sedan as though she was crazy and dashed towards the tombstone beside the road.

She took off her ceremonious wedding dress to reveal a solemn mourning dress.

"Lady, please don't!"

The matchmaker and the sedan porter were utterly shocked as they looked at the bride wield a dagger in front of the grave, with her face covered in tears.

"If we can't be together when alive, then I rather be buried together in death!"

The bride appeared resolute as she caressed the tombstone. All of a sudden, she rammed her head into it and a stream of blood flowed down the tombstone.

The tombstone cracked open and two butterflies seemingly fluttered out.

....

Abruptly, the scene changed yet again, now to a dangerous mountain peak.

A young couple was being hunted down by a large group of martial arts experts. Both of them wielded swords, and the woman had an infant swaddled in her arms.

"Father!"

As the young woman turned back to look at a senior, a sorrowful expression appeared on her face, "Brother Tian and I are sincerely in love, in this two hundred over years the two families have been feuding with each other as mortal enemies, how many people have died by now? Isn't that enough?"

"Outrageous! Even if you marry a dog or a pig it's still better than marrying this guy!"

The senior was seething with rage as he spoke, "I rather not have such a daughter. Perhaps, I should have drowned you back then!"

"Master..."

The young man looked at his side's people with a forced smile.

The two sides had been in a bloody brawl for hundreds of years. This time, because of the two lovers themselves, they finally joined forces for once.

"Sigh..., you should just take your own life!"

The master directly declared. It was rare for either of the two sides to be in agreement with their enemies.

"Sister Mei, have you ever regretted before?"

The young man laughed and looked at his wife.

"I have no complaints and no regrets! As long as I am with you, Brother Tian, I will never regret!"

Not long after, a bloody battle erupted...

...

Da Qian Empire.

It was a cold night. The black roc beast let out a loud, abrupt caw and sped up, with its back still steady.

Inside a covert room in Black Roc Inn, Black Roc suddenly opened his eyes, "Array? Dream Entering?"

Although he was supposed to respect the dream masters' privacy, he was allowed to monitor them if they were attacking each other in their dreams.

After looking at the room number, it was all clear, with a slight headache, "As long as the issues between the Realm Alliance and the Divine Lotus Cult don't cause too much action and disturb others, I better care less to avoid being implicated!"

"Eh?"

Moments later, he wondered, "Can't believe the Reserve Divine Lady has such a high tiered treasure, this means the Dream Master is in danger. Hopefully, the issues don't become big problems..."

Luckily, the two rooms were still relatively peaceful and he could finally be slightly at ease.

However, a short while later, his expression changed yet again.

He was shocked to see Liu Mengmei coming out from his room, arriving in front of Fang Yuan's room.

Such Sky numbered rooms had a Spiritual Will Imprint on it that could grant limited control powers. As the door squeaked open, it was evident that the person in the room had granted her permission to enter.

Liu Mengmei hesitated a short while before entering the room.

The events thereafter were what he could not see.

Although he was really curious to know who won during this confrontation, he knew if he were to rashly intrude, he would definitely be discovered and this would foster animosity.

"Perhaps, they are evenly matched and might even make peace?"

Perplexed, Black Roc stroked his chin.

...

"You came!"

Inside the room, Fang Yuan sat cross-legged, smiling without saying anything.

"Of course I came, you perverted guy! You got me into deep trouble!"

Liu Mengmei blurted, as her eyes gleamed with both anger and joy, yet with a tinge of tenderness and surprisingly without resentment. Other people would have been pretty shocked to see such a look.

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth!"

Fang Yuan shook his head.

"Nevermind..."

Liu Mengmei sighed, "Anyway, you have already become my psychological barrier. No matter what you do, I will still forgive you!"

Just from her state, Fang Yuan could tell she was fully subdued by him. After a mere moment of happiness, a chilling thought emerged in Fang Yuan.

'Deliberately intruding another Dream Master's Dream World is a highly dangerous move. Of course..., this woman put in lots of money to make use of rare treasures' powers to attempt to fully subdue me. Her Real Spirit entered my homeworld, the first stage Dream World, and I almost lost. If she succeeded, I am afraid I would have become a marionette under her allure by now.'

'Of course, now that the situation is reversed, not only did she not succeed, on the contrary, I entered her Real Spirit's dream and planted the Eternal Love Tribulations Imprint on her heart. Even though it could only affect the inclination of her fondness, it was sufficient!'

Naturally, it was impossible to fully control a Dream Master, even by any means, it would be discovered by an advanced stage Dream Master immediately.

Hence, Fang Yuan chose another method, which was through utilising dreams within dreams, pestering for an eternity and planting hints, which made Liu Mengmei unknowingly fall in love with him.

It was a choice she made herself, out of natural instincts, without being manipulated by any external powers. Expectedly, it would leave no trace behind while appearing seemingly fitting and reasonable.

Clearly, such situations were very rare, it required the Dream Master to deliberately intrude the opponent's dream with its own Real Spirit, and then be fought back by the opponent, with the Real Spirit falling into Dream World, and finally, the opponent can then possibly make its move.

A Dream Master who deliberately invaded another person's dream world must either be profoundly skilled or fully prepared, so how could she make such a rookie mistake?

And it was the fact that Liu Mengmei picked the wrong opponent that led her to such a state.

"What are you thinking about, my dear husband..."

Noticing that Fang Yuan was in deep thoughts, Liu Mengmei said, "I brought with me my whole heart for you to fully trust this time around, with just a command of yours, I will definitely not leak the whereabouts of my dear husband. Although the Divine Lotus Cult is giving us trouble, it's nothing but a death feud between you and Meng Lian, I will scheme for you and there will be no more future complications!"

"This sounds good!"

Fang Yuan then said, "But can you not call me 'dear husband'!"

"My love for you is already deeply rooted and resolute...."

Liu Mengmei was on the verge of tears, she let out a distraught sigh and said, "Besides, in the Dream World, my dear husband has already taken advantage of me. Are you not going to admit it?"

Even though Fang Yuan was shameless, his face turned red upon hearing that.

Initially, she deliberately designed the Dream World and did not let him take any advantage of her.

However, eternities later, it was him who was toying with her Real Spirit. Naturally, he had no scruples. After having formed such a loving relationship, there were no secrets left in front of her.

"Okay, up to you!"

Through that experience, Fang Yuan knew he broke her heart and has already become a psychological barrier in her heart.

For her to progress, she could only either have the wisdom to break the bond between the two of them or to fully submit to him and there was no other choice!

A wrong thought could cause devastating consequences beyond redemption, and such was the horror of battles between Dream Masters.

"Also..., we have to maintain our hostile relationship on the surface, there must be a reason for you to come and find me tonight. Hmm, let's just say we were evenly matched as we fought in the dreams, so you came to provoke me. Let's create a small commotion later to prevent Black Roc from suspecting..."

Now that Fang Yuan had gained so much from her, it was certainly not too much to utilise her even more. Fang Yuan then asked again, "Have you brought any rare treasures with you?"

"As a Divine Lady, I am under the protection of the Divine Lotus Print, the Green Yang Divine Lantern,..."

As Liu Mengmei listed her rare treasures, cold sweat dripped from Fang Yuan's forehead.

Not only has she cultivated to the Illusionary Divine stage, she possessed numerous protective treasures. The odds were definitely even if they fought face to face.

"Very good, you and I continue to do what we should do, after you reach the Middle Region, you notify your cult that you have aborted the mission as I was too troublesome to handle. There is no need to go too overboard in order to protect your own safety!"

Fang Yuan immediately started to plan, as with her as his pawn, it was definitely beneficial.

"Thank you, my dear husband, for caring about me!"

Fang Yuan knew Liu Mengmei was definitely very happy from the way her eyebrows moved as she smiled beautifully.

After all, he experienced so much in the Dream World, he should be extremely familiar with her.

"Also, when you are back, help me take note of two things. First, it's news about the Evil Divine Sect, things regarding Tian Xiezi..., and also, pay attention and look for the refinery of different spells, especially rare dream elemental force spells.

Fang Yuan closed his eyes and said slowly.

Liu Mengmei solemnly said, "Regarding the intelligence about the Evil Divine Sect, I can sort them out for you tomorrow. Whereas, regarding the refinery of rare elemental spells? With my current status, I only have information regarding one kind, which is the complete version of the 9 Smelting Technique that can refine rare elemental forces... However, they are ineffective to dream elemental force, but I also heard my Elder mentioned that the 9 Smelting Technique has another version which was known to exterminate all living matter and I believe the rare dream elemental force would not be able to survive it too!"

"Just exchange the complete version of the 9 Smelting Technique for me!"

Fang Yuan said directly, as he pulled out the small sword Elder Smelter gave him, "Do you recognise this item?"

"I don't recognise it!"

Liu Mengmei shook her head immediately.

Fang Yuan had a small glimmer of hope, but could only let out a sigh as he kept the small sword.

The item had a strange build and Fang Yuan did not dare to court death by keeping such an item with unknown origins in the real Dream World.

Moreover, he suspected the item could not even be kept in the Dream World, else the Elder Smelter would not have spent so much effort to look for people to send him the mail.

'I guess I can only start solving this mystery when I reach the Middle Region, at Tianmu Mountain?'

At that moment, he had already made up his mind that he wanted Liu Mengmei to exhaust all channels to source for information regarding the mountain.

Although the dreams kept cycling, he was detached from it, whereas Liu Mengmei was still deeply trapped in it. The stark differences between their situations naturally resulted in different mentalities.

Truth be told, if Liu Mengmei succeeded initially, the Fang Yuan now would be way more miserable than the Liu Mengmei now.

Chapter 289: Old Mother of Tianshan

Black Roc was experienced in his trade and knew the dangers in the sky. Therefore, their journey was a rather smooth one as he avoided all the spiritual air soldiers.

The black roc beast was the ruler of the skies. By releasing its spiritual aura, the other ferocious animals would make way and would not find trouble for them.

After finish acting with Liu Mengmei, both of them continued to live in their own rooms. After a few days, they made a few friends who were staying in the inn.

Unknowingly, a month had passed and the number of dream masters gradually lessened as they alighted at their destinations.

Finally, the people left behind were just Fang Yuan, Liu Mengmei and a few others.

"Alright, this is the border of Middle Region. If we cross the border, there would be more soldiers patrolling in the skies. By then, even I would not be able to avoid all of them..."

After all, Middle Region was where the royal family of Da Qian stayed. The security was extremely tight here and it was different compared to the other regions.

Needless to say, the capital was there and it was filled with powerful people. Black Roc wouldn't be so foolish as to go there and just by coming to the border of the region was a risk in itself.

"Thank you!"

Fang Yuan and the rest were understanding as they thanked Black Roc and dismounted the black roc beast.

Liu Mengmei left with her servants and took one last glance at Fang Yuan. There was an unwilling look in her eyes and no one could guess that she had completely surrendered herself to Fang Yuan.

"Haha... Brother Fang, be careful! The demonic ladies of Divine Lotus Cult are a troublesome bunch!"

A dream master noticed them exchanging glances and commented.

He was short and plump like a round ball. Wearing a gold robe, he gave off the vibes of a rich person. There were 8 subordinates following him and among them were Wu Zongs and spiritual knights. He called himself 'Qian Kuan'! He was the person behind a small organisation in Middle Region and had a 3rd Tier Illusionary Divine cultivation.

"I only wish for them not to think about me. That would be all!"

Fang Yuan displayed a troubled look.

"You're handsome and talented, but you seem a little empty... Have you gave it a thought? My promise still stands. Take your pick among my girls, and I shall give them to you!"

Qian Kuan laughed while the few servants behind him remained emotionless. A few of them lowered their heads in embarrassment, while others were winking at him, trying to attract his attention.

"This... I don't think this is suitable for me. Thank you for your offer, though!"

Although it was extremely normal for dream masters to exchange subordinates, Fang Yuan would not accept the offer from a stranger! After rejecting Qian Kuan, he promptly left.

Black Roc laughed as he witnessed this scene. After the last visitor had left, he sighed. "He is indeed carefree... It has been awhile since I saw someone like this. I wonder how far can he go... How is this any of my business?"

He walked up the black roc. With a chirp, it shot into the air and disappeared.

...

"Middle Region is indeed the middle of the world. Even the elemental energy here is plentiful..."

As he took a walk in the forest, he sighed.

He could feel that the natural elemental energy was rather concentrated here. It was at least 5 times as dense as that in Sand Region. Therefore, normal humans living here would be able to increase their life expectancy and cultivators would be able to easily achieve breakthroughs. However, the most important was the fact that the capital was here and business was booming. With the increasing population, the Middle Region would be as powerful as 5 other regions combined!

"Of course, the control of the Imperial Court is stricter here in Middle Region. It would be impossible for me to bluff my way through with a fake identity..."

Previously, he was miles away from where everything was, but now everything was in front of him! There were plenty of soldiers and highly-skilled people here!

Even the 4th Tier Illusionary Divine dream master Black Roc would fear the region. Fang Yuan would surely understand that he had nothing to show off here.

"Tianmu Mountain!"

Opening the map, he could see a path. "Mmm... This mountain is at the Northwest of Middle Region. It is only a few hundred miles from the Jade Capital. Or should I say... This is the limit of the 5 powerful organisations of the dream masters!"

He now knew that Tianmu Mountain was an obstacle planted by the dream masters in the Middle Region.

By the looks of it, the dream master in control of the mountain must be powerful.

He had to be at least a 7th Tier Illusionary Divine dream master to stand firm under the scrutiny of the Imperial Court.

"Could his cultivation be even higher... like the Prominent Divine Stage?"

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered.

...

After 7 days, Fang Yuan finally arrived at the foot of Tianmu Mountain. The tall mountain towered before him.

What surprised him was that the mountain did not appear dangerous. In fact, there was a huge city at the foot of the mountain with trade happening everywhere. Business was booming

"The owner of Tianmu Mountain..... How can I find you?"

There were patrolling guards at the city gates. If Fang Yuan wanted to do something to bluff his way through, he would be able to do so. However, there was no need.

He made his way around the city and went straight to Tianmu Mountain.

He guessed that based on the owner's abilities, he should be able to detect Fang Yuan's arrival.

The vegetation was dense and crickets chirped.

Tianmu Mountain was covered with lush greenery and was full of elemental energy. It was an excellent place for cultivators to train for it had gathered energy from everywhere.

Of course, what piqued Fang Yuan's interest was the fact that there were traces of dream masters. He could detect it the moment he entered the mountain.

"Come out!"

After walking a few feet, Fang Yuan sighed and looked in a certain direction. "I have no grudges against you. Why are you stalking me?"

"Whoosh!"

As soon as he finished his sentence, the surroundings started to change. A wave appeared in mid-air and spread, revealing a hidden array meant to kill.

The spiritual light on the array was glowing and the energy around the array was surging. Even Fang Yuan would be troubled by the array if he were to step in.

But now, since the array was revealed, it was no longer a threat.

"Although we have no grudges, the fact that you are visiting Old Mother of Tianmu means that you must have a token! Since you are in the fight as well, this is only normal!"

From the shadows, a dream master emerged. He had white eyebrows but black hair and seemed about 50 years old. With the cultivation of Illusionary Divine, he was considered rather good among the dream masters.

"Oh? I'd like to hear more about it!"

Fang Yuan sighed. He knew that he was tricked by Elder Smelter and had unknowingly gotten himself involved in trouble.

"Don't you know about it? Don't you have a token with you?"

The dream master was confused as well.

"Whoosh!"

At that moment, a red streak of sword essence exploded in mid-air and flashed.

"You..."

He shrieked as the space around him started to bend. As the sword essence struck onto the ground, a charred hole appeared.

"A dream array master? With some illusionary spells?"

Fang Yuan laughed heartily and walked up. He blocked the path of the dream master as the dream master tried to escape into the array. With the wave of his hand, a chilly blue streak of sword essence appeared. "Go!"

Combining the powers of fire and water, the array master started to retreat and quickly shouted a formula. "Strike!"

As he chanted his formula, he started to distort and become translucent. It was as though he was about to disappear in the next moment.

"Keke... What a small trick. Destroy!!!"

4 spiritual meridians appeared on Fang Yuan's back as his muscles started to grow. With that, he exclaimed.

With the Seventh Elemental Force and the thick blood of Wu Zongs, the air around him shook, revealing the shocked face of the dream master.

"You... do you want to live or die?"

Since there might be a possibility of other highly-skilled people observing their fight, Fang Yuan did not want to continue using his powers as a dream master. Instead, he used his martial arts and with a flying kick, he struck the dream master and placed the fire sword on his neck.

"Master!"

Everything happened within seconds. Only when Fang Yuan held the dream master to his neck did a few people appear from the thick vegetation with shocked looks.

"Tell me... what is the use of the token?"

Fang Yuan held the fire sword and forced an answer.

"How can you not know?"

The dream master was in a daze. "Why are we still fighting, then?"

"You speak too much nonsense!"

Fang Yuan frowned. The fire sword flickered and the few surrounding Wu Zongs quickly retreated as though they had been hit.

"A token is a token! It is the item you need to enter the Changli Mountain Hollow!"

With his life on the line, the dream master spilt everything out.

"Changli Mountain Hollow? What has it got to do with this token? Also, where is Old Mother of Tianmu, the owner of the mountain?"

Fang Yuan probed further.

"It has nothing to do with the token. The Changli Mountain Hollow is a joint discovery by the 5 powerful organisations of the dream masters. The token was also created by the 5 powerful organisations and it is

rumoured that with the token, one will be able to get help from Old Mother of Tianmu to enter the Changli Mountain Hollow. Changli is a person rumoured to have attained the Prominent Divine Stage. Even though he had passed away, whatever that he left behind was enough for us descendants to enjoy for a long time to come..."

With a sword by his neck, the dream master blurted out everything he knew quickly.

"I see. You don't have a token, so you wanted to snatch mine. What a person..."

Fang Yuan shook his head and asked a final question. "Where is Old Mother of Tianmu?"

"This... I have no idea!"

"Since you have no idea, what's the use of being alive?"

A murderous look flashed across Fang Yuan's face. He would not let anyone with ill intentions towards him get away.

The fire sword shook and was about to land.

"Bang!"

As the ground shook, a green vine appeared and shielded the dream master from the sword.

"Ding!"

Although fire was the weakness of wood, the Leaving Fire Sword could not damage the green vine. Instead, there was a distinct sound like jade colliding with ice.

A voice was heard in Fang Yuan's ear. "I don't wish to see blood!"

"It's Old Mother of Tianmu! Greetings!"

Seeing the appearance of Old Mother, Fang Yuan stopped and took a bow.

"I know the intentions for your visit. I am willing to see you!"

Fang Yuan kept his sword and followed the vine. Soon, he arrived before a cliff, which was covered in green rocks.

As soon as he arrived, the cliff started to split, revealing a black tunnel.

Chapter 290: Mountain Hollow

The tunnel was dark. As soon as he entered the tunnel, his mind entered a state of confusion.

He could feel as though he was falling. Tensed, Fang Yuan prepared his sword essence.

However, as soon as he woke up, he realised that he was standing in a hall. In front of him was a platform 10 feet wide and 30 feet tall. There was a glow coming from the top of the platform like a sun, and there was a silhouette of a person on the platform.

"Greetings, Old Mother of Tianmu!"

Fang Yuan took a deep bow and felt stunned as he detected the person's vast and powerful spiritual aura.

"Hehe... are you not afraid that you've got the wrong person?"

A clear voice travelled from the platform as though it was from a 15-year-old girl.

'I don't really have a choice here!'

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes inside but gave a respectful look. "Only the Old Mother of Tianmu would have such a majestic entrance!"

"You're right! You're from the Realm Alliance. What are you here for?"

The Old Mother on the platform laughed, and Fang Yuan felt as though he was being seen through.

"Ring!"

At this point in time, there was a chime from his robes. The small sword flew out and shimmered a brilliant red.

"This is a token from Elder Smelter of my alliance. Please accept it!"

Fang Yuan continued respectfully.

"Hehe... This token is not mine, but yours!"

As the glow of the sun spread, the face of a beautiful lady appeared, but all that Fang Yuan could see was a pair of glittering eyes.

Calm and emotionless... yet high up like a god.

She seemed like the gods in the heavens from the other realms which he had visited.

"Mine..."

As he mumbled to himself, he realised that he had fallen into the plan of Elder Smelter.

"That's right! It is extremely rare for anyone from the 5 powerful organisations to get the chance to visit the Changli Mountain Hollow! Who would've guessed that Elder Smelter would give it to you!"

The Old Mother of Tianmu mocked him. "Could you be... his illegitimate son?"

"... If I don't want this token, what will happen to me?"

Fang Yuan was speechless and directly asked about the token.

"There are no ifs. As long as you are a member of the 5 powerful organisations and you have the token, you can enter the Changli Mountain Hollow as you wish. If it is yours, it will be yours. Others cannot take this away from you, and you cannot reject this!"

The Old Mother of Tianmu sounded strict, as though this was a heavenly law.

'This is not good!'

Fang Yuan's hair stood on its ends.

"Be on your way!"

At that moment, from the Old Mother's finger, a streak of light landed on the small red sword.

After receiving the glow, the sword exploded and struck forward, shattering the mid-air. A door was revealed.

Fang Yuan quickly felt a huge force pushing him towards the door. Before he could react, he was sucked into the door.

In the next moment, the platform regained its peace once more, except for the golden glow of holy light which spread across the entire floor.

"You're clever to be on your guard. However, it will depend on your luck to see if this is a good or bad thing for you!"

Old Mother of Tianmu mumbled to herself. Soon, she returned to the glowing sun and disappeared.

...

"What the hell!"

In mid-air, a door appeared and a person fell from it.

Fang Yuan had composed himself and landed squarely on the branch of a tree. Looking at the dense vegetation, he knew that this was no longer Tianmu Mountain, but within a hollow.

While he was travelling to this hollow, a line of information appeared, allowing him to understand where he was.

"This is... the inside of the Changli Mountain Hollow?"

The hollow was, in fact, a miniature version of a small world.

Of course, such a miniature version was yet to be matured. Therefore, it still had to rely on the Da Qian Empire.

Changli was a Prominent Divine dream master and after his passing, his inheritance was a hollow situated near Tianmu Mountain.

Therefore, with the Old Mother of Tianmu in control and together with the power of the 5 powerful organisations, they had finally located the hollow.

Unfortunately, the hollow would reject access to highly-skilled dream masters. Therefore, in every organisation, they had to send a dream master of 4th Tier and below to explore the hollow. Everything would be kept a secret and only when the representatives arrive here, they would be briefed on the details of the hollow.

Of course, Fang Yuan felt like laughing after knowing of this.

"Why didn't he send someone who was loyal and had potential? Why did he send me? I have only just joined the alliance! This place must be full of dangers lurking everywhere!"

The state which he was in was akin to his many dream-traversing experiences. However, the only difference was that the hollow was within Da Qian and that he was using his real physical body!

If he were to die, he would really die and there would be no chance for him to come back.

"Elder Smelter, Old Mother of Tianmu... Although they might seem like respectable people in peacetime, they would be ever so willing to sacrifice those under them in times like this...."

He shook his head and started to gather information about him.

"Now... the hollow has yet to be activated. This should be the boundary of the hollow..."

Fang Yuan looked far and could see a layer of fog all around, surrounding him and the forest within.

"Based on the information, I will need to wait for another 2 months for the hollow to be activated. By then, the few of us selected explorers would have to explore the hollow and retrieve treasures from within. Of course, it would be best if we can obtain the Prominent Divine dream master's inheritance. If we can take complete control over the hollow, the organisation we come from would be heavily rewarded!"

Unfortunately, Fang Yuan was unwilling!

"After my arduous exploration, the rewards will still not go to me!"

"Fortunately, I have 2 months to spare... Furthermore, it seems like Old Mother of Tianmu has intentionally split the explorers up to prevent us from killing each other and wasting our energy..."

The size of a hollow would be as huge as a region or even a few regions combined.

With such a huge area and being separated by an array, other dream masters would not dare to do anything to it and hiding a few people within the hollow would most likely go undetected.

Of course, when the restrictions would be lifted and when all of them would head to the centre of the hollow, they would be detected by then.

"Does this mean that... now is my precious time to rest?"

Fang Yuan laughed, examined the geography of the area and casually came to a cave.

The hollow of this Prominent Divine dream master was indeed impressive. Every flower, every grass, every rock and every tree was exactly the same as the outside world.

Also, there was an exact same sun which glared from the skies.

Fang Yuan could not comprehend such complexity. Instead, he closed his eyes and attempted to enter the Dream Realm.

"I cannot feel it... It seems like I am separated from it by a void space... It seems that although the hollow depends on Da Qian for its existence, it is still an independent world after all..."

Fang Yuan sighed.

As soon as he realised that he was unable to enter the Dream Realm, most of his plans became futile. This would mean that he would not be able to call for backup.

"They didn't even give me time to prepare. It feels like they are plotting something against me... It's a pity that even if I am able to make it out alive, I am unable to immediately get my revenge!"

Fang Yuan's eyes were burning with passion.

"Looking at my 2nd Tier cultivation, it seems like I would be the weakest among all the explorers. Without any magical equipment to protect me, I would be endangered..... Extremely endangered!"

"In the next 2 months, I must quickly increase my cultivation. I must at least achieve the 3rd Tier of Illusionary Divine and gain some experience from the hollow before I become capable enough to explore the heart of the hollow. If I am discovered by other dream masters, I can only fight with all my life!"

"The only solution is the dream-traversing technique!"

Fang Yuan mumbled to himself and a look of determination appeared on his face.

He had yet to reach the maximum potential in the previous Water Realm. Therefore, he had left with the intention to return and reap everything from it in the future.

And now, his physical body was facing a threat. He could not care so much and had to do whatever he could. "Although I will only have 1 to 2 years over there, with careful planning, I will be able to gain enough karma! This is what I can use to protect myself!"

Fang Yuan gritted his teeth. After sealing the cave, he did a thorough check of his surroundings before starting to dream-traverse.

"The previous two times, I had the assistance of the Realm Spirit. Now, I will have to locate the coordinates myself, making it more troublesome. Furthermore, I will have to take care of my own physical body. Fortunately, with the Three Corpse Seven Murderous Magic Splitting Technique, I can leave a hint of consciousness to check on my physical body. If I encounter any danger, I can wake up immediately!"

As for locating the coordinates outside the Dream Realm, Venerable Dream Traverser had also described the process before... Most importantly, it is fortunate that I have gone to the Water Realm before with the use of Realm Evidence. With my incarnation within the Water Realm, it shouldn't be too hard to awaken it!"

He adopted a comfortable posture and laid down before executing his dream traversing technique.

As he closed his eyes, among the universe, it was as though one of the worlds had detected him and started to call out to him.

This was the connection between his real body and his incarnation. They shared the same consciousness and it would be extremely hard to separate them.

"This is the one!"

A Yin Spirit floated out and shook in mid-air. As it condensed elemental force, it started to perform a ritual.

In the middle of the ritual, space started to distort and slowly, a swirl appeared in mid-air. The calling from the incarnation was heard coming from the swirl.

Seeing this, Fang Yuan leapt into the swirl without hesitation.

"Bloop!"

As the swirl shook, it dispersed. As everything darkened, the cave returned to its original state.

...

Tianmu Mountain.

Flames started to appear as a fiery dragon danced around and transformed into a child.

Looking up at the platform, there was a look of fear and respect written on his face. "Old Mother of Tianmu, all my people have entered!"

"The Realm Alliance contributed 5 people and both the Divine Lotus Cult and Evil Divine Sect contributed 6 people each. Baize Mountain contributed 3 people and Source Seeking Sect contributed 1. Including the 10 over lone cultivators that we have attracted, everyone is accounted for..."

On the platform, the glow was glaring. Old Mother of Tianmu appeared and she was calm. "We have arranged it in a way that they will all meet as soon as the heart of the hollow is activated. There will be surely more than 20 deaths and we will fulfil the requirement of blood sacrifice..."

"Sigh..."

The Fiery Dragon Child who was possessed by Elder Smelter sighed. "Who would've guessed that the seal of Changli Mountain Hollow would require the blood sacrifice of dream masters in the Illusionary Divine Stage to be broken for us to enter? All of us have no choice. At most... we shall compensate whoever is fortunate among them to survive!"