

Carefree 331

Chapter 331: Guardian of the Prosperous Land

Golden Sun City.

The caravan entered the city and stopped in front of a mansion. With a few shouts, the goods were being shifted. A few consultants were staring at the helpers as they shifted the goods.

"Lord Fang, are you feeling better?"

A few days before they had arrived, Fang Yuan had already regained the ability to move. He occasionally left the carriage to take a walk and talk with the people of the caravan. By now, he was already rather familiar with the head of the caravan.

The Young Master of the He Family was He Qing. He had a young mindset but was also shrewd for his age. However, that was all.

"Hmm, thank you, Lord He, for your assistance. I must leave today. Your kindness will be rewarded in the future..."

Fang Yuan smiled.

To him, He Qing did not save his life, but rather, assisted him in times of difficulty. Although his intentions were slightly ill, he did not let his heart rule his head. Therefore, Fang Yuan would still repay him for his efforts.

"Lord, are you leaving?"

He Qing was shocked. "Did we treat you with disrespect?"

Based on his observations for the past few days, he realised that Fang Yuan was not a normal person. Sun Ergou's encounter was the best evidence. Therefore, he had plotted to establish good relations with Fang Yuan.

Although Fang Yuan was young, he was matured. His foresight, demeanour and the way he spoke was vastly different from a normal young man. Therefore, He Qing had unknowingly gained respect for him.

"Fate cannot be forced upon. Furthermore, I cannot trouble you for any period longer than this... This Golden Sun City seems rather hospitable. I am deciding to stay here for a period of time. After I have settled down, I will write a letter to you... With this, I shall wish you all the best in joining the Three Suns Sect!"

"Thank you for your well wishes!"

He Qing respectfully sent him off. As he looked at Fang Yuan's back view, he felt as though he had lost something important.

"Young Master?"

A consultant approached him. "The various goods have been shifted into the storeroom. The checks have been completed. Together with the few times that we have traded along the way, we have a total of 50,000 elemental crystals. This is the accumulated amount that your family have given you. We have already prepared the gifts for your future fellow disciples, master and those that you might need to establish relations with!"

"Mmm, alright!"

He Qing snapped out of his trance and had a cold look in his eyes. "And... what about Sun Ergou?"

"I have followed your orders to chop off one of his limbs, as a punishment to warn the others!"

The consultant immediately replied and broke into cold sweat.

Based on his Young Master, the person which they had rescued was likely to be a spiritual knight. Therefore, they could not afford to show him any disrespect.

"Also, Little Ju has been promoted to become the head of the servants. Her pay has been increased to 10 taels per month!"

He Qing heaved a huge sigh. "Although he might not remember us, we should still remain hopeful... there is nothing wrong with being prepared!"

"Young Master, you're wise!"

Consultant He took a bow and gained respect for this young master.

The He Family had risen 7 generations ago. Although they were not considered the most senior of families, it was already considered a gamble for them to send their young master to seek a dream master as a master.

Seeing the conscientious young master was like seeing hope for the family.

As long as he manages to become a dream master, their family would be able to progress by leaps and bounds!

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"Three Suns Sect in the Golden Sun City... He Qing is rather fated to have met me!"

As Fang Yuan went on his way, there was a mysterious smile on his face.

Although the Three Suns Sect was well-known in the city, it was, in reality, only a small sect with a thousand followers. They had 10 Wu Zongs and 5 spiritual knights in the upper management and a dream master as the sect head. This dream master was likely to be a dream master at the 5th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage.

Among big sects across the regions, it was only common for these sects to have at least a True Divine, True Elemental, or a dream master at the 7th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage before the sect could be considered stable.

Of course, being a small family, it was already quite a thing for the He Family to be able to attempt to join the Three Suns Sect. They would rather be the weakling amongst the strong than be the strong among the weaklings.

"He Qing was aiming at joining the direct disciples of the sect. It would be meaningless for him to become an outer disciple, inner disciple or even a core disciple... He would have wasted his potential in becoming a dream master..."

"However... the head of Three Suns Sect is also a member of the Realm Alliance. The Three Suns Sect can be seen as the exterior influence of the Realm Alliance... I shall spend some effort and help him out as a form of repaying him for his kindness!"

As soon as he found himself in an inn, he entered the Dream Realm.

"I am heartened to hear that you, my husband, are alright! I have bought the 9 Smelting Techniques and have hidden it in the Dream Realm for you to retrieve..."

As soon as he looked at his inscription plate, he saw Liu Mengmei's reply and an indication of a certain location.

After all, she was still a reserved Divine Lady of the Divine Lotus Cult and had to consider the fact that onlookers would be looking if she were to meet Fang Yuan face to face. However, she had described a path to the location of the 9 Smelting Techniques and had assured him that it was completely safe.

After receiving the information, Fang Yuan did not think further and rushed on the streets. Soon after, he turned into an alley.

The buildings in the Dream Realm were districts which were split up by the Realm Spirit based on how much contribution points they were paid for. This dark alley was extremely deserted and at the end of the alley, there was a wall. At the corner, there was a dark-coloured mark.

"This is the so-called black market. If it is as such in the realm of dream masters, I can safely assume that the goods being traded on the black market are nothing proper..."

As he pressed against the dark-coloured mark, the wall in front of him started to cave in, revealing a hidden pathway.

The pathway was extremely short. As soon as he walked to the end of it, he saw a small shop. There was no signboard and the door was aged, as though it would crumble at any moment.

Without hesitation, Fang Yuan took a step in and looked at the counter.

This shop was like a grocery store as it displayed many items on the shelves. However, none of the items had a description of its usage, and it was up to one to deduce the purpose and function of these items.

As Fang Yuan scanned across, his attention was drawn to a crystal box on a small purple carriage.

"I've seen this in the recordings before. It is known as the Purple Blood Carriage and can fly in the skies at an extreme speed... However, the process of making it is extremely inhumane. If I remember correctly, one of the ingredients includes the blood from 49 pregnant mothers. Furthermore, these

pregnant mothers need to have a certain level of cultivation and be suited before the blood is drawn from them..."

It was obvious that this shop not only sold improper goods but restricted goods as well.

"Keke... here comes another customer!"

An old man slumped on the tabletop of the counter and exclaimed weakly.

His skin was pale and he had countless wrinkles. From the looks of it, he seemed to be in his nineties. His white hair was long and appeared lifeless.

As soon as he saw Fang Yuan entered, there was a green glow in his eyes. However, he did not seem any more interested.

"I'm here for something!"

Fang Yuan took out his inscription plate.

"Ah, I see it's you!"

The spiritual aura coming from the inscription plate made the old man shake. He stood up lazily from the counter. "Give me a moment!"

He casually walked into the storeroom behind. Not long later, he carried a red box out. "This is the item that your friend had left behind. The seal on it is still there, you can take a look!"

On the surface of the box, there was a red talisman. The spiritual aura on the talisman was extremely familiar. It was indeed from Liu Mengmei!

If someone else other than Liu Mengmei and himself were to open the box, they would burn and die. Only 7th Tier Illusionary Divine dream masters would be able to resist the backlash from breaking the talisman.

"Your friend has already paid for the service to safe keep this item!"

The lifeless-looking old man pushed the box towards Fang Yuan before lying on the table top and drifting off into a deep sleep.

"Many thanks!"

Without another word, Fang Yuan took the box and left.

Although the old man appeared lifeless as though he would die the next moment, Fang Yuan could detect his spiritual aura and knew that his cultivation level was even higher than that of Feng Xinzi!

How could any normal dream master open such a black market?

Before he became stronger, the most he would do was to make use of such black markets. It was unwise to dig up more information about such black markets.

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As he walked along the streets, he realised that other dream masters had colourful protections around them. Looking at the fog around him, he smiled. "I'm really fearful of death... Unfortunately, I'm not strong enough to do without this protection yet!"

He quickly found a corner before tearing the talisman on the box. With a tear, the talisman burst into flames.

In the box, there was a fragrant-smelling napkin with the embroidery of mandarin ducks on it. Following a certain technique, Fang Yuan could access the technique within the napkin using his spiritual will.

"Considering my level of rights in the Realm Alliance, it is extremely hard for me to obtain the complete version of the 9 Smelting Techniques..."

After reading the first few sentences, Fang Yuan nodded his head in satisfaction.

The techniques recorded in the 9 Smelting Techniques were exquisite beyond words. Not only could they get rid of foreign entities within elemental forces, they also had the effect of purifying one's elemental force.

Of course, this was only limited to the elemental force of martial arts and spiritual knights. As for dream elemental force of the dream masters, it had little effect.

"It's rumoured that there is a continuation to this recordings. It is known as Red Night. I am still in the process of helping you get it..."

Behind the recordings, there was a line of writings, which made Fang Yuan sighed. "She is really treating me very well... I would not have such a treatment at the Realm Alliance... Of course, if the world were to be void of all love and feelings, I'm sure she would not hesitate to take a knife and kill me!"

After remembering the technique recorded in the recordings, Fang Yuan destroyed the napkin in an attempt to destroy all evidence. Soon after, he arrived at Realm Alliance Mountain.

"Brother, you've arrived!"

The treatment which Feng Xinzi had received was obviously improved. He now had a standing for himself in the hall of the Realm Alliance. "I have settled the mission which we have talked about previously. Also, take a look at this spiritual land!"

Immediately, he waved and a golden glow appeared. The glow came together to form a leaf with runes on its surface. Rows of words started to form, and there was a huge overload of information.

"Mmm... The guardian of Golden Sun Prosperous Land?"

Seeing this, Fang Yuan's expression changed.

He did not tell Feng Xinzi his exact location. Never would he have thought that he would receive a mission so close to his actual location. It was such a coincidence.

"The alliance assigns you to be the new guardian of the Golden Sun Prosperous Land. Now, go forth and take over from the previous guardian to protect this piece of prosperous land for... 10 years!"

Feng Xinzi smiled and gave a look of 'you've-earned-such-a-good-deal' to Fang Yuan.

"Prosperous land?"

As Fang Yuan gave it a deep thought, he heaved a heavy sigh as his eyes glistened. "Does this mean that other than dispatching batches of resources every year as instructed by the alliance, I will be in charge of everything else? And that in addition to all that, I would have another 60 hectares of spiritual land to myself?"

"Hmmm... you can put it that way!"

Feng Xinzi nodded his head. "After 10 years, whatever you've gained from this 60 hectares of spiritual land will be yours. You can do all the farming by yourself or you can assign it to the guardian of the prosperous farm. However, you'll have to pay him base on how much work he would do."

"This is not too bad!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head. "Alright, prepare to receive the resources!"

In truth, the Realm Alliance would not try to take advantage of him over this. Otherwise, the alliance would lose its credibility and cohesiveness.

Furthermore, Fang Yuan still had other people that he could rely on. He could even ask the Ye Family sisters about anything regarding the alliance.

"That's good!"

There was a look of happiness on Feng Xinzi's face. "After taking over, you shall assume your duty. As long as you do not disregard your responsibilities as the guardian, you can do whatever you like..."

'Are you allowing me to take all of that for myself? To do anything I want with it? No wonder you said that it was a well-paying job!'

Fang Yuan thought to himself.

All he needed to prove his new identity was this golden leaf with the inscriptions on it and the inscription plate he had in the Dream Realm. With these two objects, he could do away with all the hassle.

Chapter 332: Hindrance

"Although I have the evidence as a license to take over my new role, I better recuperate first..."

The handing and taking over was officially endorsed by the Realm Alliance, the possibility of something going wrong was very small. Therefore, Fang Yuan decided to recuperate his strength first as power was the only way one could gain a footing in Da Qian Empire!

Inside the inn, Fang Yuan occupied his own room and courtyard. He sat on the floor cross-legged and absorbed elemental energy from the heavens and earth to recuperate his body.

In his actualised dream world, streaks of magical energy spread across and dug into the dark spots for an awesome energy, as they then turned into a mercury-like dream elemental force. The dream elemental began to restore the 3 swords in the 8 Gates Sword Array.

"After the 3 swords self-detonated, it required a huge amount of dream elemental force as a foundation for its restoration. Luckily, I no longer have the difficulting of gathering dream elemental energy unlike previous times, if not I would have vomited blood..."

Fang Yuan looked at the green energy in the core of the 8 Gates Sword Array and shook his head.

Although he could immediately recover if he utilised this source, that was a reserve for him to breakthrough to the 4th Tier of Illusionary Divine. It could not be easily used.

Unless he was met with a critical life and death situation, it could not be used, else it would be a reckless waste.

His eyes twinkled and he then looked at his stats board:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 20 (42)

Spirit: 20 (42)

Magic: 33 (59)

Profession: Dream Soldier Master

Cultivation: Illusionary Divine (3rd Tier), Wu Zong (4th Meridian)

Technique: [Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique (Grade 5) (50%)], [Hundred Poison Golden Body (1st Refining)], [8 Gates Sword Array (4th Sword) (99%)]

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

"My stats have dropped really hard due to my injuries, but a portion of it has already been recovered. It will now be faster for me to fully recover. Furthermore... the training these few days and the void's turbulence seemed to improve my Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique..."

For his injuries to recover so quickly, perhaps his fixed stats played a part too.

Fang Yuan spiritual will moved as he knew that there was a huge potential in his stats.

He did not care about that for now and looked at the water dragon's pearl.

The resources he dealt with the Realm Alliance previously were actually nothing much. This was the real gains!

"Furthermore... although Yellow Grain Rice is difficult to grow, that might not be the case for me!"

Fang Yuan started from botany in the past, although it was not very useful in Da Qian since he had his own spiritual land now, he could further improve himself!

Also, what was so special about that item the Golden Horned Wing Tribe member was protecting with its life?"

Fang Yuan gazed into the water dragon pearl.

Although the pearl was an essence of its dragon form, Fang Yuan felt he could not fully control the pearl at that moment.

Inside the pearl, the golden-green water dragon was squeezed to a side. The foggy grey glow occupied most of the space.

"What exactly is the treasure left behind by Sage Changli? A technique? An inheritance? A treasure map?"

Through contacting the water dragon within, Fang Yuan could sense that there was a vast sea of knowledge. However, he could not have a share of it currently.

"With my current spiritual will and cultivation, I would be crazy to read the Prominent Divine dream master's knowledge memory! Furthermore, I could even be encroached and become schizophrenic..."

It was not overboard to value and regard a Prominent Divine dream master so highly.

However, leaving such a delicious piece of meat untouched was not Fang Yuan's style too.

Fang Yuan thought, "Thankfully, this Sage Changli was close to dragons and his knowledge was attracted to my water dragon pearl. I can use the energy of the water dragon inside to absorb a bit of the knowledge every day. With this layer of protection, I will start from the outside and slowly dive deeper... This is equivalent to having a teacher teaching me daily..."

Fang Yuan's path as a dream master mostly relied on self-study. With this rare collection, he was elated as he could improve his shortcomings.

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Three Suns Sect.

"Smack!"

A masculine looking youth with thick eyebrows and white clothes threw the valuable treasures onto the floor and sneered, "You think you can enter my sect just with your pathetic background? Dream on!"

Opposite him, He Qing's face swelled with anger, he was infuriated and clenched his teeth.

This youth was the eldest disciple of the Sect Head and was an Elemental Opening spiritual knight! He Qing's current position and standing was no match for him.

Furthermore, He Qing could see there was a hint of jealousy hidden deep inside this youth's eye.

"As he is a spiritual knight, he cannot succeed the legacy of the head of Three Suns Sect. Thus, he is being a hindrance and a prick to me since I came over to be apprenticed... detestable!" He Qing thought.

Although He Qing was furious, he remained silent and did not utter a single word. He bowed to him and left.

"What a pity... if he provokes me again, I'll make sure I'll give him an unforgettable surprise!"

As the youth watched He Qing left, he felt sullen.

Although he was talented, he could not become a dream master and therefore, he could not succeed his master's legacy.

As he saw someone who was qualified to do so came over, he naturally felt unhappy and intentionally hindered He Qing.

"After all... I am Master's nephew by blood, even if I go overboard once in a while, it's nothing much... Although this He Qing is intelligent, his foundation is not strong enough. This is also my way of testing him on behalf of Master."

As the youth mumbled to himself and gazed into the darkness, he justified himself in his thoughts.

In a quiet room deep within Three Suns Sect.

A screen of light appeared in front of a daoist which displayed whatever was happening.

The daoist had red cheeks and three long strands of beard which swayed with the wind. He was closely observing whatever was happening outside and whatever was inside his nephew's mind.

"Legacy... hehe, dream masters live a long life and it's not something you can understand! Perhaps I might even be the one that attends your funeral!"

For dream masters, whether they were accepting disciples or whatever this nephew of his was struggling about were merely inconsequential matters to them.

This was their feeling as they sat high above them and watched these nobodies fought.

Despite so, the daoist felt slightly unhappy.

Just because the eldest disciple was the master's nephew, he tended to go overboard in handling matters...

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"Young Master, what should we do next?" Consultant He asked worriedly as the He family walked out the Three Suns Sect.

Dream masters were secretive and did not meet people easily, they would barely communicate with commoners. The Three Sun Sect was a contact that the He family arduously obtained.

However, due to the hindrance from one of their disciples, they could not even meet Three Suns Daoist. Thus, they were naturally perturbed.

"What else can we do? We just have to slowly wait for another opportunity! That youth is just one man, Three Suns Sect is not a one-man show! Once I can meet the head of the sect, I still stand a chance!"

He Qing gave a mirthless smile.

He did not think of looking for other masters.

Dream masters were not so easily found and they did not accept disciples so easily. Even if He Qing could not enter a sect, there were still many things he could do due to his talents.

The group of them despondently returned to their manor in Golden Sun City.

"Young Master!"

Little Ju was waiting at the gates and excitedly went forward when she saw them arriving. However, just as she saw about to speak, she saw the group's sullen faces and decided not to say anything.

"What's the matter?" He Qing composed himself and asked.

"It is about Fang Yuan! He settled down at Green Cloud Inn and wrote us a letter!"

"It's him?!"

Although He Qing was in a bad mood, he was slightly moved at once, "Ok, prepare some gifts and I will go meet him! Two brains are better than one, maybe he will have some ideas!"

Although He Qing thought Fang Yuan was a spiritual knight but was not certain of his cultivation, he knew Fang Yuan could open some doors for him.

Furthermore, Fang Yuan was wise and experienced, perhaps he could give him some other opinions?

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In a courtyard inside Green Cloud Inn.

A lush fig tree stood tall inside the courtyard.

Fang Yuan wore linen clothes and was enjoying his tea happily under the tree.

"Lord, you are indeed relaxed, I am so envious!"

With the aroma of the tea, He Qing's previous vexation, fear and numerous negative feelings were dispelled at once.

He was even more respectful towards Fang Yuan now and called him Lord.

"It's nothing much..."

Fang Yuan sipped his teeth and smiled.

As a dream master, one had to pay attention to his own soul and self-cultivation. Dabbling in literature, wine, tea and such were ways to purify one's own thoughts.

Meditative tea ceremonies had the same effect too.

Furthermore, that was his own method of training himself. Compared to other dream masters' ways, that was more appropriate for himself.

"Just that..... this person in front of me is a commoner, I don't have to give him the Questioning Heart Tea..." Fang Yuan thought as he raised his teacup.

In Da Qian Empire, spiritual items that could increase magical energy were very rare. Although Fang Yuan was not afraid to reveal, it would be troublesome for him to suddenly reveal his identity.

"Of course... just the Questioning Heart Tea alone would not be very useful. It must be accompanied by a meditative tea ceremony to maximise its effects!" Fang Yuan thought.

As numerous thoughts flashed passed Fang Yuan's mind, he smiled and asked, "Things didn't go successfully at Three Suns Sect?"

"Indeed... although my family had paved the way for me, we were hindered by their master's eldest disciple, Yang Zhantang!"

He Qing sighed as he recounted the unlucky events that happened just now.

"Although I will not interfere with your personal matters since we are fated, I shall help you persuade them!"

Fang Yuan had his own way of settling things.

Spiritual items could not be easily gifted away, however, relaying a message for others was different as it only required him to be thick-skinned. Furthermore, it could help him familiarise with the strength of the dream masters in Cloud Region.

"Ah! Thank you very much, mister!"

He Qing was extremely grateful and bowed to Fang Yuan.

"It's okay, it's just fate..."

Fang Yuan closed his eyes and his magic-splitting arrived in the Realm Alliance Mountain in his actualised dream world.

"Searching for... Three Suns Daoist!"

"Ting! He is a member of our alliance. He is a 3rd Leaf Cultivator, you are able to contact him!"

A response was received on the stone tablet immediately.

"Three Suns Daoist?"

"Yea, you are?"

Using his identity inscription plate, a spiritual will immediately responded.

"My name is Fang Yuan. After a recommendation from Elder Smelter, I am the new guardian of Golden Sun Prosperous Land!"

Fang Yuan did not hesitate to make use of Elder Smelter's name. After all, these were some of the benefits of joining the alliance.

"Oh so its Fang Yuan, we will be close neighbours!"

The spiritual will felt more intimate at once.

"Ah, it's just that, I have a matter..."

Fang Yuan told him everything. After a brief pause, he responded, "Since it's a recommendation from my fellow alliance friend, I will meet him!"

"Great!"

Inside the Inn, Fang Yuan waved his hands and told He Qing, "Settled! If you request to meet him again, your wish will be fulfilled!"

Chapter 333: Taking Over

"Ah... Is it completed?"

He Qing was stunned. He had only just asked for assistance moments ago. All Fang Yuan did was close his eyes for a few moments before telling He Qing that everything was done and that he could directly visit the Three Suns Sect once more.

'Is he trying to trick me?'

He Qing was speechless. Seeing how awe-inspiring Fang Yuan was as he waved his hands, He Qing did not dare to utter a single word as he walked out, confused.

Thoughts ran wild in his mind. In a few moments, he came to a conclusion. "Regardless, I must try a few more times to show my sincerity... As for this place, I shall dispatch a few servants to serve him and we'll see what to do next after knowing the outcome..."

With that, he ordered his housekeeper to prepare gifts once more and headed to the mountain again.

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Three Suns Sect.

"Zhantang, go to the gates. If you see He Qing, bring him to me!"

Three Suns Daoist, who was in meditation, opened his eyes and mumbled.

"Master?"

Yang Zhantang was confused. He did not know what had just happened.

This person has a backing. It is the request of the guardian of Golden Sun Prosperous Land for me to meet him. Furthermore... we've received quite a lot of gifts from them. If he has the potential, we can allow him to join us!"

Three Suns Daoist stroked his beard as his eyes glistened. "Why... are you unwilling?"

"I don't dare!"

Yang Zhantang shuddered. He knew that his master had found out about his doings. Uncontrollably, he knelt down and asked for forgiveness.

"I know what you are thinking. Do you really think I will hand everything down to an outsider?"

Three Suns Daoist shook his head with an impatient look. "The appointment as head of the Three Suns Sect is yours sooner or later. However, looking at your attitude and personality, you still need to undergo training. If you are so unforgiving of others, how can you achieve great things in the future?"

"Master... Uncle!"

Yang Zhantang was relieved and shocked at the same time as he almost teared up. "I'll go out this instant to invite my junior!"

With that promise, he knew he had to change for the better and assume the role of a senior.

"Keke..."

Seeing his silhouette leaving, Three Suns Daoist revealed a mysterious smile.

He was speaking the truth, However, it would be after his death. Seeing how things were, if Three Suns Daoists' nephew disciple could not achieve the 4th Tier of a spiritual knight, he would have to spend his whole life as a disciple, serving his master.

"There's no other choice... a dream master lives for far too long, and I was fortunate enough to have obtained a large amount of Life Redeeming Pills... Everyone wants to take over me, but no one knows that I will live longer than all my disciples. Therefore, I am not lying to you... However, Fang Yuan seems to be hinting that this is the intention of the Smelter's faction! Regardless, I shall just agree to his request for the sake of the alliance..."

To him, it was perfectly alright to have another disciple. This was how carefree a dream master could be.

Furthermore, he would have the chance to squeeze his new disciple dry. After accepting He Qing for the sake of Fang Yuan, he could thereafter reap benefits from him.

This was what he was planning for all this while.

Everything was merely returning to the original plan.

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"After helping He Qing this time, it's time I should go and take over my plot of land..."

By requesting a favour for He Qing, it was enough to repay all that he had done for Fang Yuan.

Furthermore, at this point in time, his physical body had recovered completely and the 3 swords in his actualised dream world were fully restored. He had restored his peak condition and was about to leave to claim his rewards.

Throwing a gold ingot on the counter, Fang Yuan left the inn.

Outside, a few servants were looking about. Ignoring them, Fang Yuan walked straight out.

They were like blind people. Although they had opened their eyes wide, they still could not see Fang Yuan and were still attempting to look into the inn.

Golden Sun City was in the centre of Cloud Region. People from all around the region came here to trade and it was a bustling city.

In the vicinity, there were a few mountains and valleys. According to the Fengshui of this place, it was a favourable location to gather auspicious energy.

Therefore, the Three Suns Sect has chosen this place to set up the sect. Similarly, other sects had followed suit.

Golden Sun Mountain.

In the dense vegetation, Fang Yuan rushed inwards like the wind. As he entered the depths of the forest, he arrived at a place where no hunters or herb pluckers would ever dare to venture.

In the deep mountains, there was an unpleasant stench. Mutated beasts roamed the area and many species of flowers and grass were competing to grow. The entire place was an indescribable danger.

"The Realm Alliance, Baize Mountain, Divine Lotus Cult, Evil Divine Sect and Source Seeking Sect... Even the 5 most powerful organisations of the dream masters are but empty shells, feeding on a foundation and a source of energy. Where does the foundation come from? The Hidden Dragon Guards of the Da Qian depend on the royal family, and on that note, the 5 Grand Organisations would have lost out. However, they can create their own prosperous land filled with spiritual energy... Of course, most importantly, they will have to feed on the spiritual lands created by 7th Tier Illusionary Divine dream masters or the hollows created by the Prominent Divine dream masters! These scattered prosperous lands and spiritual lands are thus created in the process, but are meaningless to them!"

As he continued on his way, Fang Yuan slowly digested the information which he had previously obtained from the Realm Alliance.

"Of course, the great powers would belong to their own factions. As soon as the hollows or spiritual lands are created, they would first use it to benefit members of their own factions and this is only normal... To new members like us, it would be extremely hard even to help them manage these publicly-available prosperous lands!"

Since he was not a direct descendant of a powerful being, it would be even more difficult for him to access such a land. However, things were different now that he had traded for one such piece of land.

Arriving at a valley, the fog started to thicken. However, as a dream master, he could quickly tell that this fog was not made out of water droplets, but instead, created by a dream master.

"This is indeed the location of the Golden Sun Prosperous Land..."

With a smile, Fang Yuan walked into the valley.

"Buzz!"

As soon as he entered the valley, the surroundings started to change. The white fog slowly ascended up and transformed into a bewildering fog. Amidst the fog, a colourful talisman flashed, revealing the fact that this was an extremely powerful array.

"Where have you come from? This is the Realm Alliance's Golden Sun Prosperous Land. If you are an outsider, please take your leave!"

A thunderous voice was heard coming from the inside of the valley.

"Mmm, is this the 99 Golden Suns Gigantic Array? It is able to protect the prosperous land, nourish the energy in it and has the effect of misleading and trapping trespassers. Of course, most importantly, it is being strengthened by the main array. Although you might have the rights to control the array, you cannot be considered the owner of the prosperous land, but a mere manager."

Fang Yuan nodded his head and took out a piece of golden leaf.

"Buzz!"

As the golden leaf glowed brilliantly, the fog started to disperse. A string of messages appeared and flew into the array.

Within moments, the fog had dispersed completely, revealing a piece of prosperous land. In the middle, there was a small mountain which had a faint glow coming from it. Nothing seemed normal here.

"Oh, it's the new guardian!"

A streak of light shot down from a building and an old man with a long beard appeared. He started to examine Fang Yuan.

The missions to become guardians were all lucrative missions. Furthermore, this person was allocated 60 hectares of spiritual land for his private use. He seemed to have a strong backing, but the old man could not guess which faction he was from.

"Greetings, Brother Jin!"

Fang Yuan held the golden leaf in his hands. As soon as he saw him, he could roughly guess that he was a dream master at the 3rd Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage. Compared to himself, his old man was much weaker. If he did not have the protection of the array, he would become very vulnerable.

"Haha... Brother Fang, please give me a moment. I shall bring my manager over to facilitate the process of handing over!"

The previous guardian was Jin Xing. He was aged and had a friendly disposition. However, as a fellow 3rd Tier Illusionary Divine dream master, Fang Yuan could tell that he was unwilling to go.

After all, this mission was a lucrative one. Now that he had to hand over, he would have no idea what the alliance would assign him next.

However, this was none of his business. Fang Yuan came straight to the main hall and ordered for the commencement of the banquet.

"I am about to hand over. This is your new guardian and your new head. Hurry and pay your respects!"

Jin Xing clapped his hands and a group of people entered the hall to pay their greetings. "Greetings, master!"

"This life... is indeed luxurious! Are there over a hundred people here? To have all of them serving me would make me feel like a king..."

With that, the servants started to serve up delicious wine and food. Dancers draped in loose clothing revealed their voluptuous figures as they danced around the hall.

"Here! Let's toast to your achievements!"

Jin Xing raised his cup and toasted Fang Yuan.

"Thank you!"

Fang Yuan drank a cup of wine and smiled. "We've finished the wine and the banquet. Should we discuss how to take over things, especially the stocktaking of the storeroom?"

Jin Xing went pale.

Although this dream master was young, he was not foolish.

In history, when handing over, the storeroom would always be the utmost priority. If there were any miscalculations, the records would go wrong in the future.

Seeing his expression, Fang Yuan smiled to himself. He knew that this old man had taken a lot for himself. However, he was alright with this. As long as it did not affect him, he would not pursue the matter. However, what would matter would be the old man's attitude.

"Of course, naturally..."

After a brief silence, Jin Xing smiled and ordered for the records to be brought over. "Golden Sun Prosperous Land was discovered by our alliance 500 years ago. Since then, they have set up a gigantic array to protect it and have transformed the surroundings into 900 hectares of spiritual farm. Of course, among these 900 hectares, 60 hectares are now yours. We also have 127 servants and 562 other people living here. All these people here are literate and practice martial arts. We have 300 of them who had obtained inner force and 2 Wu Zongs..."

As for spiritual knights, Jin Xing would naturally bring them along with him.

"This prosperous land mainly produces aged gold on the mountain peak. Every year, we would be able to produce 500 catties of it. As for the spiritual farm, we would produce 20,000 catties of spiritual rice annually, together with spiritual fruits and spiritual vegetables... We have already transferred the produce to the alliance this year. Right now, we have 3,000 catties of spiritual rice and 20 catties of aged gold in the storeroom. You can have everything else for yourself, Brother Fang!"

"Mmm!"

Fang Yuan received the records. Although he was doubtful, he silently nodded his head.

This previous guardian was rather considerate not to have created a mess for Fang Yuan to deal with. Of course, this might be due to the fact that Fang Yuan's backing was powerful. Otherwise, no one knew if he would give the same treatment to someone else.

"Although there are some mistakes in the records, no worries! Let's just leave things as such!"

After a short moment, although Fang Yuan had spotted some errors in the records, he did not pursue it.

After all, these insignificant resources were not enough to arouse his interest. Seeing that the previous guardian did not leave a mess for him to settle, he decided not to pursue and press him further.

"Alright!"

Jin Xing was elated. In reality, this was an important mission. Although he had kept some of the resources for himself, Fang Yuan did not pay any attention to all that he had taken.

Seeing how magnanimous Fang Yuan was, he admired him in his heart. "Although I have a few connections and wealth stashed away, I still cannot compare to this direct descendant who is indeed generous!"

Chapter 334: The Deal

The bigger scheme of things had been settled. All that was left were but the small details.

With Jin Xing by his side, Fang Yuan patrolled the spiritual lands and warehouse. He left the message on the other party's inscription plate and the deal was thus formalised.

The whole 99 Golden Suns Gigantic Array roared on. The level of rights had shifted, and the transition from old to new was completed nevertheless.

Jin Xing did not stay long and left after saying goodbye.

After all, he was the previous master and staying on would make him feel awkward.

"Would I be calling the shots on this prosperous land within 10 years?"

Fang Yuan sat in the hall and suddenly remembered his spiritual land on the Green Peak.

"Now that I'm here at Da Qian, I need a temporary place to settle down in!"

"Greetings master!"

At this point, the whole management team entered and fell to the ground in a deep bow. They looked frightened.

After all, the guardian had complete control over them and they had no means of retaliation. The guardian could easily suppress their combined strength of around five hundred.

"Mm, you may all rise!"

Five hundred men were probably not enough to farm a thousand hectares of land and to work a gold mine. But it was different if the five hundred men included three hundred martial artists who had broken through the cultivation levels and two Wu Zongs.

Only the dream masters of Da Qian would employ martial artists to become miners and farmers.

"The servants Meng Tian and Meng Guang, at master's service!"

The two Wu Zongs stood up straight with their hands clasped, their eyes staring ahead unflinchingly.

On the Yuanwu mainland, the both of them would undoubtedly become overlords. Even in the Da Qian world, they could obtain significant wealth. However, in this situation, they were but servants who took orders without question. This was indeed very strange and a huge pity.

"The spiritual energy in Da Qian has always been dense to the extreme. The Golden Sun Prosperous Land is so, with elemental energy so thick that it might fall as spiritual rain. Living in the prosperous land would increase one's longevity and even lead to a higher probability of achieving breakthroughs..."

Fang Yuan glanced about and pointed casually.

"Since it has always been you two in charge, you shall stay in your appointments!"

"Thank you, Master!"

The two Wu Zongs were pleased and bowed repeatedly.

After all, they had gained the approval of their new master, and their authority had been cemented.

Meng Tian was in charge of agricultural affairs while Meng Guang was in charge of the mines.

"Mining will carry on as per normal. What about the spiritual fields?"

Fang Yuan knocked on the armrest of his chair.

"What kind of spiritual rice are we growing these days?"

Meng Tian immediately replied.

"Master, it is the Qinghua Rice!"

The Qinghua Rice was a spiritual plant of the Mystery Grade and regular consumption would build up one's elemental energy. It was good for spiritual knights.

But it was still a lesser crop compared to the Yellow Grain Rice.

"Mm, I do not care about the other fields, but set aside one hundred mu of land from my own one thousand mu for the cultivation of Yellow Grain Rice!"

Fang Yuan rubbed his chin as he gave his orders.

"Yellow...Yellow Grain Rice? Master, I'm afraid that this cannot be done!"

Meng Tian was flustered.

"The Yellow Grain Rice requires farmlands of very high fertility, and the Golden Sun Prosperous Land does not satisfy the requirements. Also, Yellow Jade Fertiliser will have to be used monthly, and we are lacking in this resource, not to mention the technical expertise..."

Meng Tian was an honest man who did not mince his words, and several of his colleagues standing by rolled their eyes at him.

"I know all of these...but this is my private land, and your concerns are uncalled for!"

Fang Yuan might have been suppressing dissent, but in truth, if the Yellow Grain Rice could be cultivated casually, the Realm Alliance would have no need to put in their trade requests.

Perhaps only the master of the Hollow had the means to satisfy the various criteria.

But Fang Yuan himself was different!

He had advanced botany skills, and this was his chance to innovate. Besides, he might even be able to breed plant types of a higher quality.

"Your servant knows his mistake!"

Meng Tian had broken out into a cold sweat after hearing Fang Yuan's reply and apologised profusely.

"Never mind...the arrangements of the tenants can go on as usual. But I will convert my 6 hectares of land into an experimental field!"

"Yes, Master!"

Meng Tian and the other workers were perplexed. Was master intending to go down into the fields himself? But...

...

A tea room in the Realm.

"Many thanks for helping us out in the Hollow, Brother Fang!"

The Ye sisters sat down with their legs crossed.

"How can we ever hope to repay your kindness? Let us offer you some tea as a form of gratitude!"

Fang Yuan glanced at Ye Shuhua. She was dressed like a martial artist while her younger sister Ye Shumin was in her lady clothing. They both looked stunning in their own ways.

"That day, when you got lost in the void, I was worried that Brother Fang might have gotten into trouble. But I also know that luck is on your side and that you will always be able to turn things to your favour."

Ye Shuhua's features were gentle and she gazed at Fang Yuan with an expression laced with complex emotions.

"Hehe...I am indeed fortunate!"

Fang Yuan rubbed his nose.

"Have you found the things that I need?"

"The information that you require about the Golden Sun Prosperous Land and other things are all here!"

Ye Shuhua smiled and passed him a jade disc. Although the Ye family was in dire straits, they were still able to gather information easily. However, she could not resist giving him a caveat.

"The cultivation of the Yellow Grain Rice has stringent requirements. Unless you grow them in the Hollow, you will sustain losses. Only the Da Qian royals can afford to bear that kind of expenditure...I would suggest that you make other plans!"

"But...this should be worth a try anyway!"

Fang Yuan naturally would not admit that he was confident of succeeding. He had revealed the fact that he knew the secret technique to growing the Yellow Grain Rice.

Ye Shuhua forced a smile.

"Then I wish Brother Fang all the best in your endeavours!"

Cultivating Yellow Grain Rice was not an impossible task. Dozens of dream masters had tried to before. But the effort required was more than the potential returns. Nevertheless, Ye Shuhua saw that Fang Yuan had made up his mind, and she let him be.

'He is a proud man and needs to suffer before he comes to his senses...'

The three of them walked out of the tea room. Ye Shuhua kept the smile plastered on her face.

"Guardian of the Prosperous Land is indeed a good appointment. But to stay in the position requires one to take note of several things. The rock tablet of the Realm Alliance also records relevant learning experiences. You have to check it out!"

Engaged in pleasant conversation, they arrived before the rock tablet of the Realm Alliance.

"Hmph!"

Fang Yuan immediately noticed the jealous stare of a young man in nice clothes. The fact that he did not rush forward immediately showed that he was still rational.

"Hmm?"

Fang Yuan looked around and settled his gaze on Ye Shuhua.

"Have you gotten yourself into some kind of trouble?"

'Yes...'

Ye Shuhua leaned in closer to Fang Yuan and contacted him mentally.

'Help us!'

It was then Fang Yuan realised that the sisters each held onto one of his arms. Their grips were tight and he could feel their soft and warm bodies.

'What can I get out of you two using me as a shield? I'll get angry if there isn't a good deal. Don't think that I wouldn't dare to slap the two of you in public. If I do that, everything would be resolved.'

Fang Yuan adopted a cold countenance.

'What do you want?'

Ye Shuhua clenched her teeth in silence. She had not thought Fang Yuan to be this ungentlemanly.

"Get the Red Night 9 Smelting Technique for me, and I'll deal with him for you, regardless of whoever is backing him up!"

The young dream master was not even at the illusionary divine stage of training, but the Ye sisters were still so wary of him. He probably had a powerful backer.

But Fang Yuan had a backer too.

When power is not made use of, it expires. Fang Yuan was not on the best of terms with the Elder Smelter, and he needed another plan.

"The Red Night 9 Smelting Technique?"

Ye Shuhua was shocked by his demand but she gave in anyway.

"Fine!"

"Sign the Realm Spirit Contract or I won't believe you!"

"Fine!"

After Ye Shuhua agreed to his demands, Fang Yuan immediately pulled the Ye sisters close to his body and shot a challenging stare at the young man.

"You..."

The young man's face turned as red as a beetroot. He looked as though he had suffered all the injustice in the world and turned around to leave.

"You can let go now!"

Ye Shuhua's cheeks were flushed and she exclaimed hurriedly.

She did feel a slight attraction to Fang Yuan but it was extremely awkward to be in this situation with him, especially with her sister present as well.

"Haha...maybe you can tell me about his background now?"

Fang Yuan breathed his question into Ye Shuhua's ear. Although he did it unthinkingly, he was making her nervous.

"His name is Li Bai. His grandfather is a dream master of the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage and has some power in the Alliance, that's all...he thinks that with the amount of influence he has, he can possess us..."

Ye Shuhua glared at Fang Yuan before continuing.

"Don't worry, you won't be killed!"

"But it is still a troublesome matter! Remember to send me the payment..."

Fang Yuan then let go of the Ye sisters with a gentle smile on his face. It was as if he had become a different person.

"This fellow..."

As she watched Fang Yuan walk into the distance, Ye Shuhua did not know what to feel.

"This is a wily person. He becomes a monster when self-interest is involved. A pity, but he is not a good match for us..."

As she heaved a sigh, she noticed that her sister was blushing and she became flustered.

"Sister, don't tell me that you've fallen for him? Don't be naive. Just because he saved your life once. You will regret this..."

Ye Shimin bit her lip and questioned her sister instead.

"But sister...isn't he the only person who can help us regain the honour of our family?"

"You..."

Ye Shuhua was surprised and a strange look came over her face.

To think that her sister, a lady sheltered from young, had grown up so quickly following the incident in the Hollow.

...

"Seems like there is another way to mastering the Red Night 9 Smelting Technique. To think that the Ye Family is this resourceful...she actually agreed so readily. I was expecting bargaining to be involved..."

In truth, although Liu Mengmei was already conducting a search, Fang Yuan wanted an additional form of assurance.

The heavenly evil force in his dream elements was no simple matter. No matter the potential opportunities contained within, to him, a force that cannot be controlled should be destroyed immediately.

"Also...we can't let Liu Mengmei do everything. Too large a goal would lead to too much activity. If we expose anything, everything will be for nought..."

Fang Yuan's body dissipated, and he returned to the real world.

When he walked out of the hall, the fragrance of the spiritual fields interacted with his senses. In the mist, he could see some of the farmers working hard.

Fang Yuan overlooked the scene and exhaled contentedly.

Chapter 335: Yellow Grain Rice

Within the Golden Sun Prosperous Land.

A protective array rose up into the skies, enveloping the entire 6 hectares of private farmland.

Elemental energy started to fall towards the farm in the form of spiritual rain, nourishing the ground.

This was the Spiritual Gathering Array, personally cast by Fang Yuan. He had only cast this array over his own private farmland, but since he was the guardian of the prosperous land, no one could say anything.

Of course, Fang Yuan knew the reality.

Although the array might seem like it was gathering spiritual energy, it had a hidden effect of sealing the area as well. After all, he was preparing the farm to sow the seeds of the Yellow Grain Rice and therefore, it had to receive different treatment from the other farms.

"With this array, if any of my servants dare to trespass my private farm, I shall kill them instantly. This is only reasonable, for I had already given all of them a warning!"

Fang Yuan thought to himself silently. "This farm is dedicated to collected the plants which would evolve special traits. When I obtain the complete plot of spiritual land, I'll then attempt to plant it in large scales.

"At my current stage, it is sufficient to eat Yellow Grain Rice alone!"

Although he had given up most of his Yellow Grain Rice to the alliance, he had nothing to worry about for he still had the seeds!

"The remaining Yellow Grain Rice that I have now can be used to sow in the 6 hectares of the farm as well as provide for a few of my meals! This way, I can try them first!"

As Fang Yuan arrived at the kitchen, he ordered for the servants to leave before cooking an entire pot of Yellow Grain Rice for himself.

Once the rice had been thoroughly cooked, the fragrance of it made him twitch his nose uncontrollably.

"It is recorded in : The Yellow Grain Rice is large and thicker than usual rice. Harvest is little and it cannot withstand dry conditions. Therefore, it is extremely rare. It is fragrant when cooked as is regarded as food for the deities! In reality, since it has dream properties, it is best suited for dream masters to consume!"

He filled his entire jade bowl with the rice, used his chopsticks and at a mouthful of it.

"Fragrant and of good texture!"

Considering all that he had gone through before, Fang Yuan had already tried most delicacies! Therefore, his palate was not something that could be easily satisfied!

But now, as he swallowed the Yellow Grain Rice, an indescribable soothing feeling started to rise from his stomach, making its way to his heart.

"This rice is soothing and is perfect for me to replenish my elemental energy..."

Fang Yun silently allowed himself to experience the warm and soothing feeling in his dantian. As the warmth gathered, it was like a stream of hot spring water flowing through his entire body. Finally, it

became a stream of energy which flowed along his spine all the way up, entering a whole new dimension in his body which he had never known about.

"It is indeed rare to come across spiritual objects which would aid in the increase in magical energy... Most importantly, it is neither of Heaven Grade or Earth Grade, which would allow me to produce them in large quantities. This makes it even more valuable!"

In his actualised dream world, streaks of yellow glow appeared. It was as though something had triggered within the actualised dream world. His magical energy was swiftly restored and mighty force within started to calm down.

In the yellow glow, his magical energy started to combine with his mighty force, resulting in a mercury-like dream elemental force which quickly started to fill up in the actualised dream world.

"Mmm... If I can consume Yellow Grain Rice every day, I can restore my dream elemental force 3 times quicker than before!"

As his True Spirit witnessed the restoration of his dream elemental force, he was relieved and nodded his head. "Needless to say, there is still the benefit of absorbing hints of dream property from the rice. It will be rather significant if I absorb large quantities of dream property... this is great!"

In the outside world, he did not hold back. The appetite of a 4th Meridian Wu Zong was huge. Instantly, he cleared the entire pot of spiritual rice before rubbing his tummy in satisfaction. He was now prepared to head to the farm and move about to aid in the digestion of the rice he just ate.

Once he had left, his spiritual will shook. He realised that 2 servants were rushing into the kitchen. They were greedily sniffing the air and fighting over the metal pot.

"Are they really fighting over the water used to wash the pot..."

With that thought, his mind shook. He looked away and arrived at the farm.

"Mmm... The ground is nourished enough. This is much better than any plots of spiritual land in the mainland!"

He grabbed a fistful of soil. The soil was black and loose. It was shimmering as though one would be able to squeeze oil out of it if they decided to do so. Furthermore, there was a thin white layer above the black soil.

This was not a white layer of snow frozen from liquid water. Instead, it was actualised from elemental force. This was comparable to fragments of elemental crystals and was formed from his very own Spiritual Gathering Array.

"This soil might just be comparable to that in the hollow..."

Thinking about the environment in this prosperous land, he started to think about the environment in Changli Mountain Hollow and shook his head. "Even after the passing of the Sage, the environment there is still much more superior compared to the outside world."

Considering the well-nourished soil in the Golden Sun Prosperous Land, it was possible to plant the Yellow Grain Rice. However, it was inevitable that he would use more resources to produce the harvest of Yellow Grain Rice, much more than he could have harvested. Therefore, a loss was inevitable.

"Taking into consideration the current environmental conditions, I must produce a variant of Yellow Grain Rice which has the least requirements to grow."

Fang Yuan's idea was simple. This 6 hectares of the farm was an experimental farm. He would surely be able to produce Yellow Grain Rice. However, he was gambling on the chances that such a variant would be evolved.

If he could create an evolved variant with a higher grade, that would be even better. However, it was not a must to create it. All that he would look for was variant which could adapt to the current environment.

Once he had the seeds of this variant, he would be able to produce the rice in large quantities in the future when he would obtain the entire plot of his private farm.

"Furthermore, if things did not go as smoothly and if the Yellow Grain Rice is extremely hard to evolve any special traits, considering my level in Botany, it is still possible for me to successfully produce a new batch of Yellow Grain Rice. At least, I would still harvest back whatever I had sowed..."

He took a glance at his stats window:

"Botany [Level 5] ----- You're now a master in the Botany Realm! Any plants planted by you would not only awaken but also develop special traits, the maturity period would also shorten based on the conditions!"

With that, he grabbed his hoe and started to sow the seeds of the Yellow Grain Rice.

Because of this secret, he could not ask someone else to do it. Furthermore, in order for there to be any chances of special traits evolving, he had to do it personally.

He would harvest whatever he had sowed. This was always the law of nature.

...

"Fang Yuan! Fang Yuan!"

In Realm Alliance Mountain, within a side hall, Li Bo clenched his teeth. As he read the intelligence he had gathered, he started to grit his teeth. "He is just a half-*ssed dream master who had gotten lucky to become a dream master in the Illusionary Divine stage. How does he dare to belittle me... Yes! It's true that I can do nothing about it! However, although my family might not be as influential as the Ye Family, we were still loyal to the Realm Alliance for 3 generations. Surely, you don't have the rights to bully us!"

His face was flushed with anger. As he arrived at the main hall, he knelt down. "Grandfather! You must upload justice for me!"

"What do you have!"

In the centre of the main hall, on a bed of clouds, a silhouette appeared restless.

Their family was weak. No matter how much effort they had put in, there was only one person among the descendants that had successfully become a dream master. Although he was a lowly-skilled dream master, it was already a huge step ahead for the family. They were now on a different level from the average humans. With such a descendant, their position in the Realm Alliance had been cemented. Therefore, many families were jealous of them.

However, looking at things now, it seems as though it was something the family could not settle.

"Grandfather... I was merely following your orders and therefore went after the sisters of the Ye Family. Although you are the head of our family, we have little heritage to speak of. If we can form a relationship with the Ye Family, our standing in the alliance would be assured!"

Li Bo was not a dense person. "Now, the sisters of the Ye Family are closer to Fang Yuan... Of course, I am not going after them because of their appearances. However, it is a known fact that the resources in the alliance are limited. With the uprising of a family, it would lead to the downfall of another. With the talented Fang Yuan getting involved, if he were to marry the sisters, the position of our family in the alliance would be under threat..."

"This... you make sense!"

The silhouette nodded its head before revealing his body. It was a graceful middle-aged man. He was the grandfather of Li Bo, a 4th Tier Illusionary Divine dream master of the Realm Alliance - Li Qin.

"Realm Spirit, give me information regarding Fang Yuan..."

Considering that he was in the Realm Alliance Mountain in the Dream Realm and that he was a 4th Leaf Cultivator, his level of rights were rather high. With a single thought, he had already gained the basic information about Fang Yuan, which was still more detailed than what Li Bo had described.

"He is only in his twenties and is already a 3rd Tier Illusionary Divine dream master? Indeed, a talent!"

After reading a few lines, Li Qin nodded his head as though he had seen his younger self. "With the uprising of a new member, the few like us with weak foundations will have to do something, for our position will be under threat. Never mind about the fact that he is from a powerful faction... Is he now the guardian of the Golden Sun Prosperous Land? Who would've thought that he would have relied on Feng Xinzi and would have Elder Smelter as his backing..."

"Grandfather... Is Elder Smelter that powerful? We have many up and coming dream masters who are talented as well. Who would pay attention to Elder Smelter? Also, don't we have the backing of Elder Green Wood?"

Li Bo hurriedly answered.

"Although you are right, Feng Xinzi has a close relationship with Fang Yuan. Feng Xinzi is a newly-advanced 4th Tier Illusionary Divine dream master and is a powerful dream alchemy master now. His level of rights in the alliance has also been promoted to a 5th Leaf Cultivator!"

Li Qin spoke with a calm voice but in his heart, he felt a little displeasure.

Many years ago, he had joined the Realm Alliance and was willing to do whatever the alliance had requested of him. However, he was unfortunate enough to have lost everything in his generation. Now

that he had accumulated enough resources and had achieved a breakthrough to the 4th Tier of Illusionary Divine, he had helped his family secure a standing in the alliance. Even so, he was still considered an outsider and therefore, he remained a 4th Leaf Cultivator.

On the other hand, Feng Xinzi was a direct disciple and was promoted to a 5th Leaf Cultivator immediately after he had achieved a breakthrough to the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage and was 1 level higher than Li Qin.

Officially, the alliance would explain that this was as such due to the fact that Feng Xinzi was an alchemy master and would be able to contribute much to the alliance. However, no one knew the truth. This was exactly preferential treatment given to the direct disciples!

Outsiders could only look with jealousy. If they were to have any complaints, they would encounter countless troubles within the alliance.

There is still the problem of Fang Yuan...

Although Fang Yuan's background was similar to Li Qin, Li Qin had zero empathy for him.

He had experienced hardships before. Therefore, in his warped mind, he would want to see others experience similar hardships like him before he would be satisfied.

Although Fang Yuan had it tough when he had just joined the alliance, with his current position now, he would have to look out for himself. Notwithstanding the hatred they had between each other, Li Qin would still be perturbed to see how Fang Yuan had advanced to a 3rd Leaf Cultivator in such a short period of time.

With that, he concluded. "After all, Feng Xinzi is not Fang Yuan. Feng Xizi is newly promoted and has limited influence. Therefore, he might not put in all his effort to help Fang Yuan... Grandson, just you wait. I will set things right for you!"

Within the same alliance, it was not possible for them to have internal conflict. It would do both parties no good if they were to get into a conflict.

However, Li Qin was extremely familiar about the loopholes in the rules of the alliance and knew how to go about dealing with Fang Yuan. After all, he had personally experienced it for himself and had earned this experience through blood, sweat and tears.

'Since the ancient times, high-ranking officials would pressure those of lower ranks. Even though the Realm Alliance might be less uptight over rules, the same phenomenon still applies. It is too simple for me to deal with him without leaving any traces behind... Hehe, after all, he is a new member and deserves to undergo some hardships. If he is not put under pressure, he would not develop and improve. This is my effort in training you!'

Li Qin laughed to himself and was filled with satisfaction at the fact that he was about to take revenge for his grandson.

Chapter 336: Meaning in Cultivation

Dream Realm.

Fang Yuan strolled along the streets of the Dream Realm. The public area formed by the gigantic Kun beast was bustling as always.

Numerous dream masters had a mysterious light shining from them to conceal their body. They walked along the busy streets and gathered at the four-sided stone tablet in the centre to trade or to browse through their missions.

"The dream master who conceptualised and built this Dream Realm is really a genius!"

As Fang Yuan looked at the streets, he sighed and thought, "Absolute power corrupts absolutely! With great power, people would vie for greater authority and status... The Dream Realm enables every dream master in the entire Da Qian to progress rapidly and form groups. Naturally, they would then vie for the absolute power of the whole world! This has nothing to do with being good or evil, it is a natural instinct!"

Although there was a neutral Realm Alliance and a good Baize Mountain within the 5 Grand Organisations, Fang Yuan gained new understandings from the event at Changli Mountain Hollows.

"In the end, doesn't matter if good or evil, we are all dream masters... Thus, we cannot tolerate betrayers. Just from the way the 5 Grand Organisations publicised about the Hidden Dragon Guards, it can be told that they share the same bitter hatred against the common enemy. If only there weren't some internal disputes regarding the benefits that couldn't be resolved, I guess Da Qian would have descended into chaos?"

Fang Yuan went to the Realm Alliance Mountain instead of the public square.

Ever since he received the level of rights, although he could set Realm Alliance Mountain as his main location to be transported to, Fang Yuan still preferred to be transported into the public area.

"After the rank of 4th Leaf Cultivator, one could set a Green Bronze Hall as his location to conduct all sorts of training and experiments..."

In reality, there were still many benefits in joining the Realm Alliance.

The Realm Alliance greatly helped Fang Yuan. Examples included the help he received to fight against the Divine Lotus Cult and also the position of Golden Sun Prosperous Land's guardian.

"Therefore, I still have to stay in Realm Alliance! Dream masters without an organisation usually do not live for long... especially during such a period where conflicts are becoming more intense!"

Fang Yuan had a premonition that the conflict between dream masters and Da Qian's royalties were becoming more and more intense, as though it was about to explode!

Perhaps the recent events at Changli Mountain Hollows were merely just a presage and the real tragedies awaited.

As Fang Yuan came near the rock tablet of the Realm Alliance, he found a pavilion and sat down. He then sent a message, "Ye Sisters, I have reached!"

"Please wait a moment, brother Fang Yuan..."

The inscription plate glowed and not before long, the two sisters arrived hand in hand. The elder sister was forthright as usual and sat down immediately. Whereas, the younger sister's cheeks were slightly red and she was shyly looking around.

"Seems like there's something wrong, her attitude is different..." Fang Yuan thought for a moment.

He did not care further and then asked, "You contacted me and said you have found the technique?"

"Indeed! Here's the Red Night 9 Smelting Technique!"

Ye Shuhua took out a blood-red coloured crystal and said, "This technique is created by a dream master at the 7th Tier of Illusionary Divine. It can banish evil forces and is extremely expensive... however, as my family is still rather reputable, it was found in a family friend's hidden library!"

"Many thanks!"

Fang Yuan received the crystal. As he peeked into the blood-red crystal, he saw a paragraph of wondrous words.

Furthermore, as he compared it to the 9 Smelting Technique Liu Mengmei sent over, he saw that the two were perfectly linked together. Hence, he believed the sisters and assured, "Since I have already received the deposit, rest assured that I will handle that Li Bai and even the Li Qin behind him!"

This was because Fang Yuan also had backings behind him, which were Elder Smelter and Feng Xinzi.

Although it is said that relationships were meant to be cultivated, in actual facts, such favours should be used quickly or else it would bring about greater troubles and resentment.

This time around, with how Ye Shuhua quickly found the technique and closed the deal, it was also a way to put an end to their relationship.

From then on, the two parties no longer owed each other anything.

This was natural for Fang Yuan.

Ye Shuhua stood up slowly and bowed to him. She then dragged her sister who seemed like she wanted to speak and yet did not.

Fang Yuan remained seated and appeared to be waiting for someone.

Indeed, not long after, a middle-aged man came over. He was handsome and had a tall hat; he was calm and at ease. Behind him was an arrogant and haughty looking Li Bai that made Fang Yuan thought of a big cock.

The middle-aged man walked forward and sat in front Fang Yuan. He then spoke in a straightforward manner and sincere voice. He did not sound like he was showing off.

"My name is Li Qin, a dream master at the 4th Tier of Illusionary Divine! A 4th Leaf Cultivator in the alliance!"

"Eh... so what?"

Fang Yuan gave a wry smile.

Fang Yuan had to do his utmost since he made the deal. Just because the man said all those did not mean that Fang Yuan had to respectfully step down.

"Similar... so similar!"

Li Qin lamented, "Seeing you is like seeing the young me! I used to be like you, so witty and sharp, just like a sharp sword out of its sheath! But as someone who used to be like that, I have to advise you to know your place and limits... don't be too brash, else you would have lots of troubles ahead of you! This is coming from an experienced man!"

This man was interesting. He did not mention the Ye sisters nor did he abuse Fang Yuan with his position. Instead, he was like an old grandfather that shared his life experiences and gave warm pieces of advice.

However, Fang Yuan's gaze changed at once and he began laughing, "Old fogey... you are out of date!"

"Eh? What did you say?"

Li Qin's eyes flashed with a cold light; it was as though cracking noises could be heard from the surrounding.

Behind Li Qin, Li Bai covered his mouth in shock. He felt Fang Yuan was extremely insolent and thought to himself. How dare he criticised his grandfather, was he tired of living?

"You want to advise me and say that I am haughty? That I should be more reserved and less sharp-tongued?"

Fang Yuan chortled, "That I should be like you? Like a pebble that has been smoothened? Like a person that made zero improvements in over ten years? Why would I be like a dead tree or a rotten skeleton? If you are really experienced, you would have known that us dream masters can only move forward and not backwards! Why would you be stuck at the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage for over ten years? I will not hesitate to make enemies with people like you!"

"Insolent kid!"

Li Qin was enraged and wanted to kill this kid.

He would have never imagined that such a fearless blockhead would exist in this world. Furthermore, this kid had cultivated to the 3rd Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage! The heavens were blind!

"What? You want to fight me?"

Fang Yuan smirked and stared back at Li Qin, "Come on then, old fogey! Let me tell you, the issue regarding the Ye Sisters is now my issue too! If your useless grandson pesters further, he will have to suffer the consequences!"

"You..."

Li Qin's image was totally gone. As he saw the dream masters nearby gathering, commenting, bantering and staring, he dared not touch Fang Yuan.

Fang Yuan was not afraid as there would be no harm to his body even if his magical clone was destroyed. Most importantly, there were rules governing the Realm Alliance. It was unacceptable if alliance mates fought each other for no good reasons.

Furthermore, it would be even worse if it was a senior bullying a junior.

"This Li Qin doesn't even dare to go against the alliance's rules and he dares to make enemies with me? He even wanted to destroy my meaning in cultivation?" Fang Yuan thought.

Fang Yuan could only give a wry smile at such a scene.

Although Li Qin initially appeared warm, he actually harboured malicious intentions and had ulterior motives. The most important thing for a dream master was the cultivation of his own soul in order to be resolute in his chosen path.

If Fang Yuan believed Li Qin's blarney and his ways of dealing with people, that would have been a real suicide! Not only would his cultivation stop improving and stagnate, it might even regress!

That was what it meant to destroy one's "meaning in cultivation"!

Hence, Fang Yuan brazenly attacked him with words. By making use of the Realm Alliance's rules, Fang Yuan knew Li Qin could not fight him even if he wanted to. Thus, things did not go the way Li Qin wanted and his actions could not match his intentions. Li Qin might even vomit blood when he went back!

Thus, not only was Fang Yuan's meaning in cultivation not destroyed, he managed to disrupt Li Qin's state of mind!

Although swords nor weapons were seen in this exchange of words, the dangers hidden within it was comparable to a fight for death.

Fang Yuan was brought up by Master Heartless. He faced numerous challenges all by himself; even as the world was in chaos, he relied on his own ways and stayed true to himself. It was ridiculous for Li Qin to attack him for his personality.

Furthermore, the world was experiencing a massive turmoil and chaos was imminent. If Fang Yuan cared about being humble and docile in such a time, it would be as though he surrendered himself to his enemy.

"Old fogey... you are so pathetic!"

Even if Li Qin used to be a genius, he had already lost his drive and spirit. If he were to fight in a fierce battle, his outcome would be disastrous.

Fang Yuan had already viewed Li Qin as a dead person. Fang Yuan calmly stood up and gave Li Qin a look of pity before turning away immediately.

He did not even bat an eye at that Li Bai who was convulsing in anger.

Although Li Bai was a dream master, 80% was due to external resources that helped him. Li Bai's character and temperament were utterly horrible and Fang Yuan would be stooping down to his level if he cared about him.

"Fang Yuan!"

"Fang Yuan!!"

"Fang Yuan!!!"

Li Qin was fuming mad. If that image of his was not formed by his spiritual will, he would have really vomited blood. Even so, a gleam of light shined across Li Qin and he became wobbly and unstable.

"Grandpa!"

Li Bai was shocked and immediately went forward to support Li Qin's body. However, Li Qin gave him a slap and shouted, "Scram! I don't need your pity!"

Li Qin's expression turned gloomy. He looked at Fang Yuan's back view leaving and thought, "If this kid doesn't die, my heart will not be at ease!"

...

As Fang Yuan had bafflingly just gained another enemy, it made him sigh too.

In actual fact, dream masters lived a very long life and had numerous powers. If they fought about women, it could be easily resolved usually.

However, Li Qin had an ulterior motive, he wanted to destroy Fang Yuan's meaning in cultivation! That meant Li Qin had the intent to kill!

Fang Yuan had no regrets in brazenly retorting him.

Fang Yuan only regretted not having enough power and that it happened in the Dream Realm. Thus, it was not perfect for him as he could not kill his whole family and display their chopped-off heads.

"Clap! Clap!"

Suddenly, a stream of pill essence gathered beside Fang Yuan and turned in the silhouette of Feng Xinzi. Feng Xinzi clapped his hands and praised, "So mighty! So savage! Whatever you said just now was so true! Just that you have now offended Li Qin and bunch of useless elders in the alliance!"

"Luckily I have you to support me!"

Fang Yuan expression changed and said, "It's just a few words out of my mouths! They can't possibly be rushing over to kill me immediately!"

"The Realm Alliance forbids members from killing each other. For Illusionary Divine dream masters at the same tier, they could still report it to the elders to fight on the Stage of Life and Death. You don't meet this condition and furthermore, amongst the 3rd Tier Illusionary Divine dream masters, no one is confident to take you down! Thus, there's nothing to be afraid of for you!"

Feng Xinzi did not know whether to smile or not and continued, "Just that this Li Qin does have some power with him, especially since he is good friends with the treasurer of the prosperous lands in Cloud Region. You might be in for some small troubles..."

Chapter 337: 9 Smelting Technique

"If I plant one in the spring, I will get back 10,000 in autumn..."

Within the Golden Sun Prosperous Land.

Looking at the golden stalks of rice, his face was filled with anticipation to harvest them.

"Even if the Yellow Grain Rice does not evolve any special traits, the fact that I am able to shorten its maturity period meant that the resources required would be greatly reduced. As long as I am able to harvest them after maturity, I would have already earned!"

After farming for half a day, Fang Yuan walked out of the array and arrived at the main hall.

Beautiful servants with blushed cheeks served Fang Yuan all kinds of spiritual food and started to brew a pot of tea for him.

In the past few days, he had spent half the day farming and the other half practising his martial arts. In his free time, he would read up on ancient recordings or conduct research on martial arts techniques. Occasionally, he would try and understand the mysterious glow from the water dragon pearl. Therefore, his lifestyle was rather regulated.

As time passed, Fang Yuan started to give off a mature vibe. He no longer had the haste of pushing his progress forward.

This was a sign of his strengthening foundation.

"Whooo!"

After finishing his meal, he teased 2 servants and thoroughly enjoyed himself. With a laugh, he arrived at a square, released a breath of white energy and began his training in martial arts.

"Chi! Chi!"

Behind his back, 4 spiritual meridians formed a vague figure. A 5th spiritual meridian was faint, but with time, it slowly formed. Finally, it glowed with brilliance, and the entire illusionary vague figure shook.

"The 5th Meridian of Wu Zong is formed!"

Fang Yuan composed himself before revealing a look of satisfaction on his face. "The 9 Smelting Technique to purify one's elemental force is indeed effective!"

In the past few weeks, he had accumulated experience to fill up his proficiency points. In addition, he had also started to practice the 9 Smelting Technique. It was the simplified version of the Red Night Recordings, but it was enough to purify his martial arts elemental force.

Previously, he had hastily achieved his breakthroughs without a strong foundation. Now that he had practised the 9 Smelting Technique, although it had resulted in a dip in his elemental force, his foundations were slowly being perfected.

Finally, he had achieved a breakthrough today, further progressing on his path as a Wu Zong.

Fang Yuan took a glance at his stats window:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 48

Spirit: 48

Magic: 59

Profession: Dream Soldier Master

Cultivation: Illusionary Divine (3rd Tier), Wu Zong (5th Meridian)

Technique: [Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique (Grade 6) (1%)], [Hundred Poison Golden Body (1st Refining)], [8 Gates Sword Array (4th Sword) (99%)]

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

"The Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique, although fused with the Qian Kun Giant Spiritual Technique from the Yang Family, can only attain the 8th Meridian at most. Although I can form the Divine Body, it is still imperfect..."

From the corner of his eye, he could see the stats for his Hundred Poison Golden Body as he rubbed his chin. "Now that I've settled down, I should improve this technique of mine... Furthermore, these two martial arts techniques that I have can complement each other to form a new technique. This is the path for me to enter the realm of true martial arts!"

He took a look at both his arms.

Even without channelling his elemental force, he could turn his skin into a golden colour with a mere thought.

He had already thought of achieving such a stage, but could only finally achieve it after training in this plot of prosperous land.

This was not only due to the fact that the environment was stable. More importantly, he had obtained information which was once in the water dragon pearl and now had the information that a dream master at the Prominent Divine stage would have.

"That mysterious glow is indeed a library of information. If there are already so many secrets on the surface of the glow, I wonder what I can discover in the core of the glow..."

Up till now, he had achieved the peak condition and had improved as well. Fang Yuan arrived at a meditation room. With the flip of his palms, a blood-red crystal appeared.

"I shall familiarise myself with the 9 Smelting Technique before I shall attempt the techniques in the Red Night Recordings. This way, although slow, I would be able to succeed with low risks..."

Fang Yuan sighed.

The reason why he was so cautious was the fact that through various means, he had gathered more information regarding the evil force in him. Therefore, he would rather deal with it conscientiously.

"This evil force, also known as Heavenly Evil Dream Element, is a unique variant of dream elemental force which comes from the Evil Divine Sect... Dream masters with this variant of evil force in them are mostly dream masters at the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage. Furthermore... Most of them will experience a gruesome death. However, if they manage to survive, they would become accomplished and might even have the chance to achieve a breakthrough to the 7th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage!"

"However, to me, I can achieve the same outcome with an equal probability if I slowly progress in cultivating the 8 Gates Sword Array. Therefore, I have no need for such an evil force in me!"

"Although others would not dare to claim that this evil force came from the Evil Divine Sect, it is most likely that this was the case! They can use this to control or train up dream masters. Ultimately, they would be in control of everything!"

...

With experience, Fang Yuan would not hesitate to assume to worse of his enemy.

Since he knew that this was a trap, he would be a fool to jump right into it.

"Fortunately, I am different from the dream masters of Evil Divine Sect. This evil force is different from my foundations as a dream master. I would only experience a mere disturbance if I were to achieve a breakthrough. However, I could still attempt to get rid of it even at that stage!"

Fang Yuan closed his eyes. Sentences of the recordings from the Red Night Recordings appeared in his mind, and every single word was glowing.

"Red means fire! The Red Night 9 Smelting Technique is basically bringing in an external fire to burn one's foundation and get rid of foreign forces. It might result in both the evil force and one's foundation to be destroyed... However, right now, my cultivation is pure and I have foundations in martial arts. I can still afford to experience some damage to my foundation!"

With a single thought, a small flame appeared in his actualised dream world.

This flame was not a normal flame. It was also different compared to the flames from the Fire Sword. It was red like blood. In an instant, it covered his entire actualised dream world and started to burn.

"Rumble!"

The 8 Gates Sword Array started to shake. Large amounts of dream elemental force started to evaporate, revealing the physical bodies of the 3 magical swords.

Furthermore, the physical bodies of the magical soldiers started to undergo changes as the red flames raged on. It seemed as though it was being purified.

"Bloop! Bloop!"

Of course, dream elemental force was not as hardy as the magical swords and could not hold on for long.

Under the red flames, mercury-like dream elemental force started to evaporate rapidly. In a few moments, the entire actualised dream world was almost bone-dry.

Fang Yuan felt a wave of dizziness and started to feel weak in his limbs.

He did not feel such weakness even when battling Yi Xie of the Evil Divine Sect while he was in the hollow, or when he had escaped from the hollow with all the physical injuries.

"This flames can burn my magical energy..."

Fang Yuan turned pale. The energy in his eyes started to dim.

"Chi! Chi!"

Finally, as the last drop of dream elemental force evaporated, the ground of the actualised dream world suddenly shook. An evil and demonic red dream elemental force started to appear from beneath.

In the next moment, the dim red evil force started to clash with the red flames.

"Buzz!"

The actualised dream world shook. Fang Yuan shook as well, and there was blood flowing out from his mouth, nose, eyes and even ears.

"8 Gates Sword Array, defend the 4 directions!"

He did not care about himself. All he was focused at was defending the foundations of his actualised dream world, allowing the fire to freely burn the evil force.

"Buzz! Buzz!"

Suddenly, the evil force filled his entire body. In the meditation room, a red glow was emitted from his body, giving off an evil vibe in the process.

As the flames raged on, the weakened evil force had nothing else to feed on. It retreated and started to sizzle.

After a long while, everything settled down. Only Fang Yuan's hoarse voice could be heard. "Haha... This is indeed effective. Although the process is painful and that I can only remove 1% of it every time, I have the Yellow Grain Rice to replenish my elemental energy. I have all the time in the world. Slowly, but surely, I will be able to cleanse myself of this evil force and remove all troubles that would come with it!"

This process would consume a lot of his energy and might even result in this cultivation level to drop.

However, with the ability to fix his stats and the resources to replenish his energy, he could recuperate in a short period of time. What would he have to fear?

After his excitement died down, he started to become suspicious. "The things is... did I have that shocking feeling because my heart is pumping? Or could it be a powerful being performing a prediction on me? The only one who can do this to me now should be the owner of the evil force, right? Or could it be the inheritance left behind by Sage Changli? Tian Xiezi has already passed on. Therefore, does this mean that it is more probable for Sage Changli's inheritance to have caused this feeling? Hehe... As I was

purging the evil force, I felt a concentration of spiritual aura around me. That is actually the best form of disguise! Could this be fate?"

...

In an unknown place in mid-air.

A few strong spiritual wills had gathered together. With their combined powers, the space around them shook. "Who would've thought... Dragon Changli has spent so many resources and successfully found clues about the source... If not for the fact that Lord Yin had helped us, the Imperial Court might have snatched it away!"

"I respect Sage Changli for his knowledge and findings. However, there are 6 portions to the entire secret. If we do not gather all portions together, we cannot deduce the findings. Although we had tried out best, we only managed to obtain 2 portions!"

"The Imperial Court might have obtained 1 to 2 portions as well. However, the locations of the other portions are unknown!"

The few spiritual wills started to suspect each other.

Even a dream master of the Prominent Divine stage had to put in so much effort to find out the source of all dream masters. If anyone were to manage to discover the source, they would obtain an unparalleled mighty force!

With such a lure, no one in the right mind would peacefully work with one another.

Unless they were to find the source publicly, otherwise, everyone would rather keep the source for themselves.

Lord Yin remained silent. She began to suspect that among these Prominent Divine stage dream masters, one of them had kept the portions for themselves. 'On the day of the self-destruction of the hollow, one of my magical clones was after a portion. As she entered the chaos, she was destroyed. I do not know where that portion of inheritance went to!'

As a sage, Lord Yin would receive an answer with a single thought.

Even if she did not specialise as a dream future master to perform predictions, she would also be able to get an answer. 'Is the missing portion related to an evil force? Evil Divine Sect!'

Lord Yin started to glare at another spiritual will. 'You hide really well! You almost had me fooled...'

Of course, without evidence, she would not accuse anyone of anything. Furthermore, as sages, they would surely erase all traces that they had done it. She could only let it go. With that, she had decided that in the future, she would test him before giving him what he deserved!

'Something feels weird. Did something happen in the sect?'

A silent spiritual will seemed to have recalled something but slowly became suspicious as well. However, it replied without hesitation. "Although we cannot combine the 6 portions, we can still come to a

decision with all the information that we currently have! If we don't remove the Imperial Court of Da Qian, it will always be in our way!"

As a sage from the Evil Divine Sect, he was not against the Imperial Court.

"I agree!"

The Divine Lotus Cult showed its support.

"I agree! We cannot let the Imperial Court benefit from the efforts of Sage Changli!"

The sage of Source Seeking Sect agreed as well.

"The Realm Alliance... agrees!"

"Baize Mountain... forfeits the vote!"

In a streak of divine light, there was a weak voice.

"Haha... great! Ever since the creation of the Dream Realm, this is the first time that we 5 organisations have arrived at a consensus!"

The spiritual will of the Evil Divine Sect was elated. As soon as the 5 sages came to a consensus, thunder started to rumble outside and a storm broke out!

Chapter 338: Suppression

Within the meditation room in Golden Sun Prosperous Land.

Fang Yuan was emitting the intense red glow of the evil force in him. Slowly, it contracted and became a sinister looking red droplet.

"Rumble!"

As the fire within his actualised dream world raged on, the dark red hint of evil force was being forced to a corner.

"This is the time... get out!!!"

With the flick of his fingers, the dark red evil force started to crystallize and was flung out. As it landed on a wall, a huge hole exploded and the boundaries of the hole started to corrode, releasing a black fog.

"Phew..."

As soon as Fang Yuan had forced the red crystal out of him, he immediately felt more comfortable. Even though he was still weak, it was as though he had put down a huge burden, and the sense of danger that he used to have was now gone.

"In the past two months, I have continuously executed the Red Night 9 Smelting Technique for 81 times. Finally, I have cleared all traces of the evil force from my actualised dream world..."

If he was a normal dream master, even if he was at the 4th Tier of Illusionary Divine, his elemental energy would be adversely affected and he might even experience a drop in his cultivation level, considering the intensity of him executing the smelting technique.

However, Fang Yuan had daily replenishment of energy in the form of food and could maintain his cultivation level at the 3rd Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage. Furthermore, the technique that he had executed had also purified his dream elemental force and martial arts elemental force.

"This is the best condition that I have ever been. Once I recover from this weakness, I will be able to attempt breaking through to the 4th Tier of Illusionary Divine stage..."

The 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage would allow one to trigger spiritual properties within objects and was a significant milestone.

Regardless of whichever path a dream master might choose, as long as one would achieve the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage, one's power would increase by folds and would become much more powerful than before.

This was especially so for the 8 Gates Sword Array.

Once the 4th Sword would be formed, Fang Yuan would be able to cast the 4 Emblems Sword Array. Furthermore, his magical soldiers would gain spirituality and each of their powers would be individually magnified! It would be hard to imagine what power the swords could collectively achieve.

Of course, if he ever revealed the 4 Emblems Sword Array, he would have sealed his identity as Master Heartless' disciple.

Therefore, he would either not cast the array, or he had to kill the person if he were to use the array.

"I have unknowingly arrived at this stage..."

Fang Yuan mumbled to himself as his eyes glistened. "I will take revenge for Master!!!"

A dream master at the 7th Tier of Illusionary Divine was extremely powerful and had limitless powers! How would someone with such powerful die? Master Heartless must have been injured before arriving at the mainland and was already nearing his death.

After all that Master Heartless had done for him, he had to repay his kindness and therefore take revenge for him!

"Of course... In order to keep this secret safe, I should not even mention it!"

The enemy was too strong and Fang Yuan could not afford to be careless!

...

In the Realm Alliance.

Li Qin looked desolate as he walked through a corridor and arrived at a hall.

"Haha... Li Qin, who would've thought that you would be thoroughly embarrassed!"

A sinister but gentle voice was heard from the centre of the hall. In the seat at the centre, a sinister-looking scholar slowly formed his physical body and smiled.

"I've got to admit that Fang Yuan is indeed a talent and a formidable opponent!"

Li Qin had sadness written all over his face. "Now... I'm afraid that he has become the demon in my mind. If he doesn't die, I'm afraid I will be stuck at my current cultivation level forever!"

Dream masters had to have a clear mind in doing things and would fear 'obstacles' in their minds!

As long as their minds were cluttered, they would never be able to achieve their true potential!

"Sigh... an enemy?"

The scholar took in a deep breath. "Are you seeking for my help?"

"Yes. He is now the guardian of Golden Sun Prosperous Land and will be in isolation for 10 years. If he doesn't come out of the prosperous land, I'm afraid that his achievement in the coming 10 years will be too scary for me to imagine..."

A sinister look flashed across Li Qin's eyes. "As the treasurer of Cloud Region, do you have any solution to this? The resources from every prosperous land will have to go through you! Let him personally bring his resources to you for a few times! Is that possible?"

This was a tactic to weaken his enemy, or rather, to prevent his enemy from becoming stronger.

As members of the Realm Alliance, they would often take ownership of their own decision. The only thing that the alliance could request of the members was to do missions.

However, since Fang Yuan would be occupied for 10 years and would not be required to take up any missions, Li Qin could not stand it. The best idea he had would be to relinquish him of his appointment and force Fang Yuan to continue taking up missions from the Realm Alliance.

By then, considering Li Qin's level of rights and rank within the alliance, he could plot against Fang Yuan.

Although he could not brazenly assign Fang Yuan to do risky missions, the fact that he had to do missions means that he could not cultivate in peace. As long as Fang Yuan would be unable to advance in his rank, Li Qin could use many ways to deal with him, making him unbearable.

"The portion coming from Golden Sun Prosperous Land has already been submitted for this year..."

The treasurer of Cloud Region smiled. "However... Brother, you're in luck! There's an opportunity here. Take a look at what the alliance just announced!"

As he spoke, a mysterious glow flew from his hand and landed on Li Qin's palm.

"Oh? The reallocation of resources across regions? What a lucrative job!"

As an experienced dream master in the Illusionary Divine stage, Li Qin could tell that something was fishy. "The armies are still not deployed and the resources are already on the move. Is something big happening in the alliance?"

"There could be an impending war, or they could be gathering resources to invade a few other realms. Who would know? However, as long as they delegate this mission, we will be at liberty to do whatever we want!"

The scholar let out a sinister smile once more as his expression changed.

"Brother, as the treasurer of a region, you can decide how much resources you require. Even if you increase the amount by a little, no one could say anything..."

Li Qin commented.

"However, Fang Yuan is still a force to be reckoned with... Not only is he gifted and would likely become as powerful as us, he is also good friends with Feng Xinzi and is under Elder Smelter's faction!"

"Smelter and Green Wood have been long-standing enemies. There is nothing more to say!"

Li Qin sighed. He knew that although they were good friends, he would only help if he would benefit from it. Unwillingly, Li Qin took out something. "This Mysterious Elemental Crystal has always been a treasure of mine. I shall give it to you today!"

"Haha... great!"

Seeing this, the scholar's eyes glistened and knew that Li Qin was giving it his all. "Alright! Leave this to me! Even if that small kid were to create trouble, I can still keep him in place considering that I am a 4th Leaf Cultivator as well. No one would be able to say anything!"

"I'll leave this to you!"

Seeing this, Li Qin was decided. As he turned around to leave the hall, he revealed a sinister smile. 'How dare you embarrass me. I shall let you know how powerful I am!;

...

Within the Spiritual Gathering Array.

As he walked lazily across the farm and gazed at the huge grains of Yellow Grain Rice, Fang Yuan could not control himself but let out a big smile.

"If outsiders were to see this, they would surely be shocked beyond words, but it's a pity... It's always safer to keep such treasures a secret."

With the ability to evolve special traits, the Yellow Grain Rice was ready to be harvest in merely a few months.

Even though he did not produce a lot of spiritual rice, he could harvest around 100 catties of spiritual rice from the 600 square-metres the farm. Therefore, he was able to accumulate over 7,500 catties of spiritual rice, enough for a dream master to consume for 10 years!

With so many resources to nourish himself, his intense training in the Red Night 9 Smelting Techniques for 81 times was nothing.

"Eh?"

After walking around, he discovered a small surprise.

A few stalks of Yellow Grain Rice resembled a small horned dragon.

"Is this another type of special trait being evolved? This is great! However, I don't know what special trait is it..."

With a flash from his Mountain River Pearl, the seeds of the evolved variant were absorbed into storage.

Considering how large-scale his farming was, it was only natural that there were a few variants being evolved here and there. Although it might not evolve into how he would have wanted it to, it was always good to have improved variants.

He now felt like a wealthy overlord.

"Lord!"

As soon as he exited the Spiritual Gathering Array, he noticed both Meng Tian and Meng Guang frantically running towards him. "Something bad has happened! A messenger arrived, claiming that the contribution requirement has increased!"

"Oh?"

Fang Yuan frowned. Quickly, he sent a magical clone into the Dream Realm to investigate. "This is a piece of legitimate news. However, they have allowed each region to decide the increments for themselves. I'll just go take a look..."

In the main hall.

"Why is the guardian not here yet? Is he showing disrespect on purpose?"

Fang Yuan arrived outside the main hall and heard an arrogant voice followed by a distinct slap. "How dare you useless bum serve me? Get lost!"

Amidst cries, two servants held their red faces and ran out, crying. Seeing Fang Yuan, they quickly greeted him.

"Forget it, please carry on!"

Fang Yuan suspected that something was not right. As he stepped into the main hall, he could see a dream master dressed in black. A table was flipped and wine was spilt across the floor. Everything was in a mess.

"Are you the guardian of Golden Sun Prosperous Land? I am Zhou Hun, the messenger of the treasurer! There is a new order!"

Seeing Fang Yuan's arrival, Zhou Hun snickered. He raised an official document towards the ceiling. There were prints of spiritual light coming from the document.

"You are just a dream-building dream master, yet to achieve the Illusionary Divine stage. How dare you? Where are your manners?"

Fang Yuan chuckled.

If it was a normal mission, they could directly inform him about it in the Dream Realm. Seeing how this messenger reacted, he could guess that the treasurer of Cloud Region must have colluded with Li Qin. Therefore, there was no reason for Fang Yuan to hold back.

"You..."

The messenger was stunned. As his attention was diverted, the official document in his hands disappeared and in an instant, he flew backwards and felt a sharp pain in his face.

"Pa! Pa!"

In a few moments, there were two fresh palm prints on his face.

Zhou Hun, being groggy, took a while before realising what had happened. He was infuriated. "How dare you?"

"You're such a dog, how would I not dare?"

Fang Yuan continued. "Looking at your cultivation, you must be lowly-ranked in the alliance! How dare you show me attitude? If you dare to go against me, I'll kill you this instant. I will at most be punished by the alliance. Do you want to try me?"

The official document was written in the name of the alliance. Regardless if it was fake or not, Fang Yuan had already decided to shoulder any consequences that might come.

However, after taking the official document from Zhou Hun, he would no longer be a messenger but a normal member of the alliance. Therefore, things were different.

All of these were within the rules and no one could argue against it.

"You..."

Zhou Hun was startled and did not dare to speak a single word.

To think about it, the person in front of him was a rogue dream master and would likely kill him if he was enraged. If that really happened, who would be able to help him?

'I wanted to embarrass this person and please the treasurer. However, looking at how things are, I don't think I should take the risk... No wonder none of them was willing to take up this job!'

Chapter 339: Breakthrough

"Get lost!"

Fang Yuan hollered.

"Hmph! Please, know your place and don't get in the way of the alliance!"

Zhou Hun knew that he was at his wits' end. He stood up, paid his respects and left, depressed.

Although he was still responsible for investigating Fang Yuan's background, the fact that the entire Golden Sun Prosperous Land was under the protection of the 99 Golden Suns Gigantic Array as well as

Fang Yuan's own additional array meant that unless he had the ability to completely destroy the prosperous land, there was nothing he could do. Of course, he wouldn't be so dumb as to court his own death.

"Lord..."

Witnessing this scene, both Meng Tian and Meng Guang were stunned.

Even the previous guardian would show some respect whenever a messenger would come. Why was their new guardian, Fang Yuan, so daring?

"Relax... he is just an insignificant person. There won't be any severe consequences!"

Fang Yuan flipped the scroll. Without looking, he could already guess that the figure they were demanding would be an astronomical value.

"What... 3,000,000 catties of spiritual rice and 800 catties of aged gold?"

Meng Tian squinted his eyes and examined the scroll as well. "Are they crazy? Why would the treasurer do this to us?"

As he looked at Meng Guang, both of them could roughly guess that this was likely to be related to the fact that Fang Yuan was now the guardian of the prosperous land.

"This... I will settle it. Carry on with your duties!"

Seeing that these two servants were struck with fear, he laughed inside as he waved his hand and dismissed them.

To think about it, he could tide over this relatively easily. He just had to fork out resources from his own storage.

However, only a fool would use their own resources to cover up for official resources!

Furthermore, by acceding to their demand and revealing his wealth, he would attract more unwanted attention and pressure from onlookers. Next time, the treasurer would then be able to demand 30,000,000 catties of spiritual rice and 8,000 catties of aged gold!

"However... I would also be a fool to resign and put myself against the alliance just because of this unreasonable demand!"

Fang Yuan sighed as he suddenly realised the power of such an organisation.

It was true that an official would be able to oppress the weak!

"Against such a problem, no matter how talented one would be, if one does not have a backing, one would still be toyed around like a fool and remain trapped by the rules! This is like dancing while being chained up!!!"

Fang Yuan rubbed his chin, closed his eyes and arrived at the Dream Realm.

"It seems... a little different!"

As arrived at the rock tablet of the Realm Alliance before walking out on the public streets. "The dream masters are all rushing about. Every mission's payout is now 10 times more, and the prices of war supplies seem to have gone up... is a war about to break out?"

Before the advancement of troops, their rations would have to go first.

Even dream masters were not spared from such ideologies.

From the tense atmosphere, Fang Yuan could sense that something was about to go wrong.

"The alliance is forcing us to take up even more missions! Furthermore, most of them are assassination missions..."

Fang Yuan licked his lips. "I'm fortunate... If it was a little later, I'm afraid I would not have a chance to get this appointment as guardian!"

With this appointment, he could officially be inactive. Even if there were no more resources for him to loot, he would still not give up this appointment!

"No wonder the treasurer is demanding me for my supplies. Of course, the alliance wouldn't be against his decision! It seems like my appointment has gotten some jealousy..."

Fang Yuan's eyes glistened as he contacted Feng Xinzi.

However, he was informed that Feng Xinzi was in isolation. With that, Fang Yuan had come to a conclusion. "I've used up my friendship with him... Or should I say, he has deemed that our friendship is over. Unless I can perform and show him that I am valuable to him, I would no longer receive preferential treatment from him!"

With this thought, he disappeared from the Dream Realm.

Since he could not rely on others, he had to prepare himself!

"Elder!"

Feng Xinzi got up and walked to the hall. "Fang Yuan has attempted to contact me, but I had rejected him!"

"Mmm, the compensation that we've given him is enough. We should not spend any more effort on him!"

There was a serious look on Elder Smelter's face. "This kid is indeed lucky... In fact, I don't even think I might be able to smoothly get the appointment of a guardian for myself!"

"Is it... really about to start?"

Feng Xinzi shuddered.

"Mmm... as the alchemy master of our realm, you have an important role to play. Give it your best!"

Elder Smelter continued. "I have already ensured that higher authorities would not be able to get involved and personally deal with Fang Yuan. As for the internal conflicts, whatever he can guard will be his, and if he fails to do so, it is none of our business..."

"Yes, Sir!"

Feng Xinzi took a bow.

Thinking about the heavy responsibility of producing large quantities of spiritual pills and comparing it with those who could enjoy their lives behind the scenes, it was understandable why Feng Xinzi would be jealous of Fang Yuan.

"This is indeed a challenge for you, Fang Yuan. How do you plan to deal with it?"

Feng Xinzi suddenly felt a hint of worry. Before the impending war, even he had started to feel the jitters.

...

In the Golden Sun Prosperous Land.

"If others are unwilling to help me, I can only rely on myself!"

In his meditation room, Fang Yuan was sitting cross-legged. It seemed like he had understood something. "It seems... my role as guardian is a lucrative job in peacetime, but in troubled times, it becomes a piece of meat that everyone is jealous of and would want... there is an impending chaos! Could the Changli Mountain Hollow be the cause of all this?"

Although his appointment was something small, it was a haven of peace!

"All the more I should not accede to their demand! Although the Realm Alliance is nothing, at least I can gain protection there and benefit from it..."

"It's time to achieve another breakthrough!"

All of this had made him determined!

Within his actualised dream world.

Mercury-like dream elemental force was flowing about. It seemed heavy and dense, giving him a sense of security.

After completely eradicating the evil force, the entire actualised dream world felt as though the shackles on it were removed. With that, it expanded once more.

"Ultimately, this place will become a real hollow in the real world!"

Fang Yuan's glistening eyes could not conceal his greed. With that, he looked at this 8 Gates Sword Array.

4 pillars of sword rose up towards the sky. The fire was blazing, the ice was freezing and the thunder was grand... The elements were fighting. As the 3 magical swords glowed, a hint of spiritual wind was in the centre.

On the green sword pillar, the tip of the sword was still lacking and the sword could not form completely.

However, this was done intentionally by Fang Yuan.

"Breakthrough!"

With this thought, the green ball of energy in the centre of the 8 Gates Sword Array, which was untouched throughout the many times he had fought, started to spread out.

This was energy from the source of a realm and was exchanged using karma from the Water Realm. It was extremely beneficial to the cultivation of dream masters.

Furthermore, this amount of energy was already enough for Fang Yuan to become a dream masters in the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage, but it was forcefully contained.

After all, if Fang Yuan could not rid the evil force from his body and went on with the breakthrough, there might be repercussions in the future. However, now that the evil force was gone, there was nothing holding him back.

"Buzz! Buzz!"

Huge amounts of green glow gathered around the green sword pillar. The lightweight Modest Wind Sword started to form. Green runes glittered on the surface of the sword and finally, they were engraved on the sword.

The Wind Sword! Formed!

"Rumble!"

In an instant, 4 sword pillars glowed and their radiance shot up into the sky!

Red, blue, purple and green... They represented the power of fire, ice, thunder and wind. As a stable foundation formed in the centre, the actualised dream world started to expand.

The actualised dream world shook and trembled as though the ground was splitting. Fog rose up into the air, and the entire space was now increased to twice the size!

"Fire, water, wind and thunder... the 4 Emblems are finally formed!"

Seeing this, Fang Yuan was filled with satisfaction. "Although it is still incomparable to the most basic earth, fire, wind and water, it is still alright, for I will not be able to harness such power. Instead, with these 4 Emblems coming together, it will be something I can manage and something that is suitable for me! This is the best!"

With this, his stats started to change:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 48

Spirit: 48

Magic: 60

Profession: Dream Soldier Master

Cultivation: Illusionary Divine (4th Tier), Wu Zong (5th Meridian)

Technique: [Giant Eagle Metal Body Technique (Grade 6) (1%)], [Hundred Poison Golden Body (1st Refining)], [8 Gates Sword Array (5th Sword) (1%)]

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

"Finally... the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage!"

Fang Yuan heaved a sigh.

Being at the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage meant that he would be able to create spirituality. He was now a dream master to be reckoned with, even in the Realm Alliance.

In fact, the dream master who had troubled him, Li Qin, and even the treasurer of Cloud Region was only at this stage.

In terms of combat power, he would be on par with them, if not even stronger!

"Activate your spiritual property!"

Using his magical energy, he could control the space in mid-air. Immediately, he could feel a mighty force in him as though the heavens had bestowed him with power.

With the point of his finger, an illusionary figure appeared on the Leaving Fire Sword. It was blurred and appeared confused but curious. "Master?"

"Is it intellectually similar to that of a 9-year old kid?"

Fang Yuan sighed. As he waved his hands once more, vibes of intellectual waves were given off from the 3 other spiritual swords.

"The ability of a dream master in the 4th Tier of Illusionary Divine to create spirituality is extremely limited... Of course, it is enough for the sword spirits to be able to have such an intellectual level! In the future when my cultivation improves, the spirituality and wisdom of the sword spirits will improve as well. Once I reach the 7th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage, I should be able to create the Fire Sword Child, Water Sword Child and more..."

In reality, as a sword spirit, they did not need to be very wise. It would be enough as long as they could kill enemies!

"Who should I look for to test out the 4 Emblems Sword Array?"

With a new powerful weapon in his hands, Fang Yuan wanted to kill.

With a snicker, he looked at his sword array.

The 4 Emblems Sword Array appeared sturdy. At the west of the array, a mysterious black sword was beginning to form. Spiritual aura began to disperse as the black sword complemented the array like a puzzle piece.

"This is the Lake Sword. It is graceful on the outside but brute on the inside. It is most suitable to be the heart of the array as it would be able to amplify the power of all the other 4 swords..."

As the 4 Emblems Sword Array formed outside, the next would be to form the array within.

Heaven, Earth, Mountain and Lake, followed by Water, Fire, Wind and Thunder!

"At Master's peak, he should have formed the Heaven Sword at the 8th Tier of Illusionary Divine..."

Fang Yuan knew the power of the 8 Gates Sword Array, and his fear for his master's enemy started to build up. "This is similar to martial arts. After the 7th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage, I would have the chance to achieve a breakthrough to the Prominent Divine stage. Master must have been close to invincible as a Prominent Divine stage dream master! However, he was not a sage!"

"In the 8 Gates Sword Array, could there be... a 9th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage?"

Suddenly, he realised what his Master's resolution and regret. Thinking about it, his heart shook.

Chapter 340: Retaliation

"Fang Yuan...you...mm?"

In the Dream Realm, Feng Xinzi stared at Fang Yuan and the sword essence that surrounded his hands. His eyes suddenly widened.

"You...you have ascended to The 4th Tier?"

Fang Yuan was toying with a ray of sword radiance, which swam in the air like a little snake. It seemed as though it was alive.

To be able to exert such a degree of control over sword essence was incredible. Feng Xinzi was entirely aware that this was the cultivation of the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage, a state where one's spirituality would be triggered.

"That's right!"

Fang Yuan acknowledged with a smile.

In truth, this was impossible to hide. Although there was an increase in strength, but the increase in rank had not yet arrived. To face off with an enemy was unwise, and there was a need for Fang Yuan to search for a backer and prove his worth.

"Congratulations...I am being honest!"

Feng Xinzi was experiencing a flood of emotions. He remembered how he had been painfully stuck at the 4th Tier for years, and how he had only managed to achieve a breakthrough recently. He had sacrificed so much in the process. Now looking at Fang Yuan, he had this intense feeling of having led a wasted life.

Unknowingly, a sliver of jealousy and depression had been born.

Of course, the dream master of the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage was undoubtedly powerful. Feng Xinzi maintained his smile anyway.

"I'll help you to inform the Elder Smelter! Our line has gained another talent. The Elder will be pleased!"

Feng Xinzi left immediately after speaking.

Fang Yuan looked on silently.

Even though Feng Xinzi had not given away anything, all the more it betrayed his true feelings! Anyone would have felt envy upon seeing his achievements. Suppressing it to such an extent could only mean that he was a dangerous person.

Fang Yuan's endless strings of breakthroughs had ultimately led to cracks in his friendship with Feng Xinzi!

...

In the hall.

"What? That Fang fellow has already reached the 4th Tier?"

The Elder Smelter appeared at the master seat in the form of a fire dragon. He was alarmed.

"Such a qualification would at least bring him into the top 10 list of pugilists in the Alliance...no, for a dream master to rank up, there are considerations other than qualifications. Resources matter as well. Either he has inherited the generous legacy of the forebears, or dream-traversing the different worlds has done him much good!"

"This person has immense talent. I cannot compare to him!"

Feng Xinzi was hunched as he spoke.

"Also...it seems like he carries a secret, and his inheritance is an uncommon one. Elder, you must decide what to do with him!"

"But to be fair, has there been anyone who reached the illusionary divine stage without possessing secrets of their own?"

The Elder Smelter was not overly concerned. He was a dream master of the 7th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage, more powerful than True Divine martial artists and True Elemental spiritual knights. He was a man of great ability and did not lack for opportunities.

He was at an elevated position and was not particularly impressed by a legacy of the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage.

However, Feng Xinzi's words had attracted his attention, and he stared at Feng Xinzi.

"So...what do you think should be done?"

Feng Xinzi felt his blood ran cold. He knew that the Elder Smelter had already picked out the jealousy in his voice, and he fell to his knees immediately.

"Hear me out Elder. Our line has produced yet another talent, and I am elated. Even if I might not be entirely reconciled to this fact, I will not allow these feelings to get in the way!"

The Elder Smelter was approving of Feng Xinzi's frankness and nodded.

"You may continue!"

Feng Xinzi heaved a mental sigh. He knew that he had the Elder's trust.

"Now that Fang Yuan is at the 4th Tier, his abilities would be recognised by the Alliance sooner or later and they would give him a higher level of rights. To mend whatever hard feelings there might be between you and him, why not give it to him right now?"

"This person must have been carrying some secrets to be able to rank up this quickly. But our line has a strong foundation and we can offer him so much more. As long as we continue with our subtle recruitment efforts, he will join us one day. Aggressive behaviour might turn him away instead. But it's a good thing that you have grasped the big picture!"

The Elder continued.

"A dream master at the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage can at least gain the level of rights as a 4th Leaf Cultivator. We should give it to him ourselves or he'll owe the favour to someone else. But he is not a core member after all and we will have to place him under probation! Tell him to come in and I'll see him personally, and give him a higher level of rights!"

"Yes sir!"

Feng Xinzi bowed. He was filled with a sort of anticipation.

The Elder had given him an assurance. Yes, although Fang Yuan and he were both of the illusionary divine stage 4, but he himself was around from the start and was a core member while Fang Yuan was only joining in halfway.

Fang Yuan had to undergo a series of tests and training before he could be useful to the organisation.

'Breaking through stage 4 would exhaust all of one's foundational strength, which would have to be accumulated again...we will now start from the same point. I have an advantage because I am a core member. He won't overtake me."

Feng Xinzi's thoughts had given him more confidence and he swaggered off.

Behind him, the Elder Smelter smiled quietly.

Having gained two dream masters the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage under his wing would give him more authority in the Realm Alliance. This was especially important given that there was impending war.

...

Not long after. The Realm Alliance Mountain.

The residential hall of the Cloud Region's Treasurer.

The Treasurer had a scholarly air about him and was listening to Zhou Hun's reports gloomily.

"My lord..."

Zhou Hun was on his knees. His face was streaked with tears and he had a palm print on his cheek that he had put on deliberately.

"That Guardian is an arrogant prick. He humiliated me, which is akin to not giving you respect!"

"Jerk!"

The Treasurer had a dangerous glint in his eye.

"I already knew that this person was excessively proud, but I had no idea that he was violent and temperamental as well... he hasn't stepped out of line yet though. I cannot deal with him."

He laughed coldly to himself.

'Since he has already been assigned a task, the amount of land available for use in the Golden Sun Prosperous Land must be lacking. He would have to put in much effort to maintain his appointment and avoid war at all costs! All the more we should ruin his plans!'

The Treasurer then turned to Zhou Hun.

"Go to him again in a month's time and if he has completed his assignment, issue him another one with a workload that is twice as heavy as his current one!"

"Ah...my lord, this defies logic!"

Zhou Hun was stunned.

Although he wanted to take revenge very much, he did not want to put himself in unnecessary danger.

"So, there is only him! If the Golden Sun Prosperous Land is given a larger share, the Cloud Region and other places will have less to do. This is a good thing, and no one would object other than the Guardian of the Golden Sun Prefecture."

The Treasurer laughed with mirth.

"As for him? Hmph...just a 3rd Leaf Cultivator. If he disobeys orders, it means that he is disregarding the big picture. I could report that to the leaders, who would remove him from his post and send him to the battlefield!"

"My lord is brilliant!"

Zhou Hun felt a chill in his bones.

He could not imagine himself being the one involved in this situation. His lordship's greed could never be satisfied. But these feelings were soon replaced with a sense of satisfaction.

'Haha...to think that this day would come. This must be your retribution for hitting me back then...eh?'

At this moment, he glanced a figure charging into the residential hall from his peripherals.

"Who is that?"

The Treasurer was equally perplexed.

He did not know who the intruder was yet, but it was surely a person with the same level of rights as he. A 4th Leaf cultivator of the Realm Alliance, a force to reckon with.

"Get lost!"

Fang Yuan kicked out casually, and Zhou Hun flew out by several yards with a scream.

"Ahh...are you the Guardian of the Golden Sun Prosperous Land? Fang Yuan?"

The Treasurer was startled.

"You? Have you attained the 4th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage? Do you have the 4th Leaf level of rights?"

The rapidness of his promotion was astounding. He was a prodigy.

"You are the Cloud Region's Treasurer?"

Fang Yuan sized him up defiantly. He considered the Treasurer his equal, which was the truth in terms of power and authority.

"I am Zhou Tian. What do you want?"

The Treasurer frowned.

"What do I want?"

Fang Yuan roared with laughter.

"Zhou Tian! We both know it very well. You dared to interfere in my conflict with Li Qin. Are you bent on challenging me on the Stage of Life and Death?"

"You..."

Zhou Tian choked and was silent for a moment.

The Stage of Life and Death was a method of resolving conflicts between dream masters in the Realm Alliance. They would fight each other to the death on a platform.

The rule was that only dream masters of the same level of cultivation could fight each other, and they had to receive the blessings of the elders. All their weapons and magical tools would be taken from them to ensure fairness.

Zhou Tian had not expected Fang Yuan to make such a huge fuss. He had only antagonised Fang Yuan slightly, and now Fang Yuan was challenging him to a death match. Had all his training been for nought?

Even if he was 90% confident that he would win, a death match was still a worrying prospect.

As a dream master, he was almost immortal. He could expect to live on for a long time. How could he take part in a death match so readily?

The key thing was, how had he offended Fang Yuan? It was not worth it for him to risk his life for a Mysterious Elemental Crystal. He was not stupid.

'Damn it! How did I forget that this person is a mad bull! For the sake of the Ye sisters, he actually dared to challenge Li Qin at only stage 3..."

Zhou Tian was becoming more afraid and beads of perspiration lined his forehead. He decided to smile obsequiously.

"Brother Fang, you need to calm down. Perhaps there has been a misunderstanding!"

"Misunderstanding?"

Fang Yuan smirked.

"How do you explain the issue with the quotas?"

"This was all the fault of my subordinate...this Zhou Hun has made a blunder and I will punish him! As for the stated quota, it will definitely be changed! Changed!"

Zhou Tian took on a fierce look immediately and waved his hand. Zhou Hun gave a shriek and his spiritual will disappeared into thin air.

Fang Yuan giggled to himself as he observed the scene. This was the fate of a servant.

At the same time, he was himself a newbie. To protect his interests, he had to either find a powerful backer, or become so belligerent that his enemies would think twice about crossing him.

Unless they had good reason to kill him, his foes would leave him alone.

There was an immediate shift in Fang Yuan's mood and he gave a gentle smile this time.

"Oh, it must be a misunderstanding then. Treasurer Zhou, although we have the same level of rights, but based on appointment, you are my superior. Please do look out for me!"

"Yes...yes..."

Zhou Tian's face began to spasm.

"This person is very mercurial. He is a scheming character indeed!"

Knowing that Fang Yuan was no push over, Zhou Tian realised that many of his plans were unfeasible. He was suddenly annoyed at Li Qin.