

Daily Life 311

Chapter 311: We Are Focused On the Wrong Thing

The extermination of Immortal Mansion thus headlined the evening news on all major channels, whether it was government or regional media. Its impact was no less inferior to the old devil's arrest previously. As he watched the news, Wang Ling thought in his heart that it was a good thing that he had hidden the holy beast away, otherwise those scary animal lovers groups would take advantage of this event to kick up a fuss.

It wasn't wrong to love animals, but overprotection could often be torture.

The holy beasts were originally formed through the coalescence of the spirit energy of heaven and earth, and since ancient times had relied on the evolutionary strength of bloodlines. In modern terms, it was evolution and mutation. In fact, there hadn't been many holy beasts in ancient times to begin with, and they had now almost completely died out. Now, a silver unicorn had been discovered at long last; simply just handing it over would truly be a pity.

Of course, in Wang Ling's eyes, holy beasts were actually a type of "animal," and in most situations, it was only right that the "animal's" will itself was given more consideration.

The extermination of a dark force powerhouse would naturally cause some to feel glad and some to be grieved.

On the top floor of the most luxurious office building in Jiashi Square in downtown Songhai city, the Lady of the Castle, secretary to the Lord of Mo Immortal Castle, couldn't sit still.

She had seen the evening news about Immortal Mansion's annihilation. Winter city was Immortal Mansion's central headquarters, and none of the hundreds of people inside, from the elders to the disciples to the core members, had been exempted! The rest of their smaller forces scattered across the country were also being cleaned up one by one by local police working together.

The Master of Immortal Mansion was a peak late-stage Itinerant Immortal, but when he had been arrested, he looked as if he had been sick for a long time, given his shrivelled appearance and graying hair... what on earth had he gone through?

The Lady leaned back against the huge sofa, her expression a little absent-minded. She had worked overtime last night wiping clean all accounts between Mo Immortal Castle and Immortal Mansion. Although the fire hadn't touched Mo Immortal Castle, she still felt fearful.

What kind of person had Immortal Mansion offended?

While she was pondering this, a shadow suddenly covered the initially clear French windows. Startled by the figure reflected on the window, the Lady hurriedly stood up and bowed. "My Lord!"

The shadow gave a gentle "Mm," and then stepped out. When it touched the floor, numerous crows appearing out of thin air like a tide. When they scattered, a somber-faced, middle-aged man with a beard and long hair instantly appeared in front of the Lady.

The bearded man gave the Lady a look, and without a shred of politeness, sat down and leaned back in the boss's chair as he waved a hand at her. "Don't just stand there! Go and make me a cup of milk tea. The fresh milk you made last time from the eight-hundred-year old rhinoceros horn milk powder was pretty good. Bring that to me, and add two lumps of sugar."

"Very well... my Lord..." The Lady's mouth twitched. She hadn't expected the Lord to personally show up at all. The cupboards in her office were filled with high-quality tea, but there was one can of milk powder which had been specifically prepared for this leader. In Mo Immortal Castle, she was the only one who knew that the Lord had a special liking for milk.

"Have you finished sorting out the business with Immortal Mansion?" the man asked and asked as the Lady dissolved the milk powder in water. The sound made her hand tremble as she held the spoon.

She nodded. "Rest assured, my Lord. All our recorded dealings with them have been wiped clean; no one will be able to trace anything back to us."

"Weren't there those two girls before? One was called Ah Zuo and the other was Ah You. Both of them went after Song Qingshu, but one is now lying half-dead in the hospital and the other is already dead," the middle-aged man said, sitting in the boss's chair with his fingers steepled and his

chin resting on them. "Although these two girls are from Immortal Mansion's outer sect, we must be especially prudent and avoid giving ourselves away."

"Ah You is already dead and there is no way to find out where she fell. As for Ah Zuo, I will handle it accordingly. Please rest assured, my Lord."

The Lady nodded and brought the man a steaming cup of milk tea. After a moment of silence, she lowered her head and asked, "Since my Lord personally came this time, is there anything that you need to tell me in person?"

The man picked the cup up, blew on it, and directly took a large gulp although it was still hot. His upper lip was covered in a layer of milk foam.

Only then did he nod contentedly. "Mm... I came this time wasn't really for much; I wanted to talk about what we'll be doing after this."

"Previously, my venerable self was going to use the stone ghost mask to climb to the top, but before we could get very far, that devil got caught before he had popped up again for even half a month."

The Lady: "..."

"Then my venerable self noticed that Immortal Mansion was developing quite nicely, but before we could pass them a MOU, their core division was wiped out..."

The Lady: "..."

"Looking at these situations together, have you noticed something? Both of them have one person in common," the man said.

The Lady: "Do you mean the Great Death-Courting Senior whom Song Qingshu relied on for help?"

"No."

The man shook his head and stared at the Lady. "Have you heard of Odd Zhuo?"

Him? Realization dawned on the Lady; this was the rising star of the General Administration of 100 Schools.

"Think about it: from the Shadow Stream incident to the arrest of the old devil and finally the annihilation of Immortal Mansion, aren't all these major events linked together through this person?" The man hmphed. "So, we've been focusing on the wrong thing from the very beginning."

After that, he stroked his beard, and discovered two drops of milk in it. He quickly swiped them with his finger and then licked his finger clean.

After licking his finger, he smiled. "Therefore, I think that our focus from now on should be on this man! It's quite possible that this person is responsible for coming up with all the plans, and he's impossible to predict."

"But Great Death-Courting Senior and that mysterious expert in the villa on the outskirts..."

"Forget these petty things." The man waved his hand. "My venerable self firmly believes that the root of all this evil begins with this person called Odd Zhuo!"

The Lady: "..."

The man stared at the Lady with a very confident expression. "Before coming here, my venerable self investigated this man's past, and I discovered a very interesting person in his high school."

While speaking, spirit light flashed in his hand.

The next moment, he was holding a photo, which he passed to the Lady. "Look at this man."

"This is..." The Lady took the photo and frowned.

The photo showed a fatty in the middle of teaching. He didn't look very old, perhaps somewhere in his early thirties, and he was leaning against a lectern with a latiao between his fingers.

Chapter 312: A New Backer

The Lady stared blankly at the fatty in the photo. "Does the Lord think that there's something strange about this person?"

"This person is a history teacher at No. 60 High School. His name is Wang Zukang, nicknamed Old Antique. He taught Odd Zhuo before. My venerable self speculates that this person may be Odd Zhuo's largest backer and the game-changer. But based on my venerable self's investigation, he probably started using this name only after he retired from the cultivation world hundreds of years ago." The man smiled. "Look carefully at his face; does he seem a little familiar?"

"..."

The Lady stared at the photo for a long time, then blankly shook her head. "Forgive this subordinate's stupidity, my Lord, please tell me..."

The middle-aged man sighed and stroked his beard. "Have you heard of... Gorgeous Itinerant?"

Gorgeous Itinerant?

The Lady was suddenly enlightened. Of course she had heard of him! This was the man who had personally created the international ranking list of killers a thousand years ago! And he was the sole guardian envoy of the list! This was a genuine top expert who had left behind many prominent legends in the cultivation world.

She clearly remembered how, when he had been renowned back then, he had once stabbed and killed a Soul Formation cultivator in mid-air with a one-finger qigong... But it was said that he had already retired a very long time ago due to a mistake he had made.

She stared at the photo with a petrified expression on her face. "My Lord, do you mean to say that this high school teacher is Gorgeous Itinerant?"

The middle-aged man nodded solemnly. "Yes."

The Lady was instantly flustered. "But... Gorgeous Itinerant is said to be one of the most beautiful men in the world!"

Because she had once been interested in Gorgeous Itinerant for a while, the Lady had looked up a lot of information on him before. Although she hadn't been able to find any specific photos of him, according to those who had seen his real face, it could be summed up in short as exceedingly and incomparably beautiful.

So, how could the real Gorgeous Itinerant... be a fatty who loved latiao ?!

The Lady stared at the photo and took a deep breath. "My Lord... this subordinate wonders if this might be a mistake?"

"You don't think he can eat until he got fat?"

The middle-aged man laughed. "Haven't you heard of a different kind of pretty man 1 ?"

The Lady: "..."

After a pause, he stood up and looked gently at her. "You can rest assured, there's definitely no mistake. Furthermore, did you know that back then, it was in fact two guardian envoys who created the international ranking list of killers?"

The Lady: "Two?"

The Lord: "Gorgeous Itinerant was only one of them. There was actually a senior who stood shoulder to shoulder with him in strength. He was given the nickname Taoist Taotie. This was because he was exceedingly ugly, like Taotie 2 . A lot of people who saw his real face were scared to death..."

The Lady: "..."

The Lord: "They were as close as brothers to begin with. However, it seemed that Gorgeous Itinerant was too beautiful, and all the rumors in the outside world were about him... it only took lighting a small fuse after that for Taoist Taotie to break off relations with Gorgeous Itinerant. And it

seems that the mistake which caused Gorgeous Itinerant to withdraw from the cultivation world is also linked to this falling-out."

The Lady was stunned by this story. Her brain felt like it couldn't handle it because she had never heard of that Taoist Taotie who stood on par with Gorgeous Itinerant.

Staring at the middle-aged man in front of her, she summoned up the courage to ask, "This subordinate is stupid. With all due respect, I would like to ask the Lord... why are you so familiar with this matter?"

The middle-aged man laughed. "Because Taoist Taotie told me himself. Though Gorgeous Itinerant has gained weight, Taoist Taotie is sure that it's him — even if the man turns to ash, he would recognize him!"

The Lady: "...Has the Lord drawn Senior Taoist Taotie in to work for you?"

"I wouldn't put it that way; at best we're associates, and we're just taking what we each want." The middle-aged man waved his hand and then looked at the Lady. "This is what I came here today to tell you."

The Lady: "Then what about our plans after that?"

"From now on, our focus is Gorgeous Itinerant at No. 60 High School. According to legend, Gorgeous Itinerant possesses an invincible weapon which intimidated even True Immortals. We can now only rely on this thing for my Mo Immortal Castle to rise in the future..."

The Lady nodded solemnly. "The Lord is wise! I will definitely do my best!"

"Very good." The middle-aged man nodded. "You can send some people to infiltrate this school first as scouts for Senior Taoist Taotie."

The Lady replied, "Yes!"

Speaking up to this point, there was suddenly a look of nostalgia in the middle-aged man's eyes. "Mm... by the way, it seems that one of the classes Gorgeous Itinerant is teaching now is Grade One, Class Three?"

The Lady: "Is there something strange about this Grade One, Class Three?"

"It's nothing, I just suddenly remembered when I was in high school, I also happened to be in Class Three."

The middle-aged man abruptly stared at the cup of milk on the table, and there were tears in his eyes. "My mother gave me two cans of Wang Zai milk..."

The Lady: "..."

...

Wang Ming's exclusive driver parked the Aoguanhai combat vehicle some distance away on the other side of the road opposite the Wang family's small villa. Since Wang Ming's abduction in No. 59 High School by Jiang Liuying, the younger sister of the Master of Shadow Stream, the driver had never left Wang Ming's side whenever he went out, for fear of anything unexpected happening.

It was President Qi who had personally found Wang Ming this driver. His last name was Zhai and his first name was Yin. He was said to be very strong, but Wang Ming couldn't see it. He simply felt that the man was a little scary and that he had a perpetually cold aura... Wang Ming thought this guy shouldn't be called Zhai Yin, but "Grave 3 " instead.

Zhai Yin was about to remove the car key when Wang Ming immediately stopped him and said, "That, you can go back... you can take a break."

Instead of turning around, Zhai Yin raised his head, and that pair of cold eyes gazed at Wang Ming in the car's rearview mirror, causing the latter to shudder. The man's tone was also chilly. "President Qi said that your safety is my responsibility."

"..."

Wang Ming was a little speechless.

Because when it came to safety... with Wang Ling around, there was no need to worry at all!

And the most important thing was... he had come here today wearing the long johns!

Wang Ming pursed his lips and looked at Zhai Yin. "But it's my family in this small villa. It wouldn't be appropriate for you to come in, right?"

Zhai Yin: "President Qi said that your safety is my responsibility."

Wang Ming: "Then can you stay in the car?"

Zhai Yin: "President Qi said that your safety is my responsibility."

"..."

Helpless, Wang Ming in the end could only get out of the car with this old driver... Zhai Yin's face was utterly expressionless as he followed closely behind Wang Ming.

When Wang Ming measured the distance between them with his eyes, he noticed that they were never more than one and a half meters apart, and he instantly felt deep despair.

When the doorbell rang, Wang Ling personally went to open the door since Mother Wang and the old man were busy in the kitchen and hadn't heard it. As soon as he opened it, he felt the blast of a chilly aura coming from the man behind Wang Ming... he felt his face become a little colder.

Without saying anything, he stretched out one hand to pull Wang Ming into the house before slamming the door shut.

This hand speed was so fast that Zhai Yin wasn't able to react at all...

Chapter 313: Real Son and Fake Son

Actually, when Zhai Yin had stopped the car in front of the house, Wang Ling had already heard what was happening outside. He had heard everything clearly, including the conversation in the car. At first, Wang Ling had thought that the miserable expression on Wang Ming's face was a little funny, but it was impossible to say that he didn't care at all when he saw how merciless Zhai Yin continued to be.

No matter what, Wang Ming was still his family. Letting an outsider intrude without an invitation would make Wang Ling feel strange.

In this respect, he was exactly like his father, preferring only to get along with people he was familiar with. If it had been Mother Wang and the old man, they would definitely have pulled Zhai Yin into the house without a second thought. Thus, while they were still unaware, Wang Ling dragged Wang Ming inside and slammed the door in Zhai Yin's face.

How could he let an outsider participate in this joyous family occasion?

Although Wang Ling was a little displeased, this was the task which President Qi had assigned Zhai Yin after all, which was to personally protect his idiot elder brother, so Wang Ling didn't embarrass him too much. He just casually cast a small spell the instant he closed the door, covering the outside of the Wang family's small villa with a steel barrier that even a True Immortal probably wouldn't be able to break through.

After Wang Ling closed the door, Wang Ming felt immensely relieved. He hadn't wanted to leave the institute these two days because of this Zhai Yin! He had been complaining in his heart the entire time that it would have been great if President Qi had given him a beauty... Who would be willing to go out all day tailed by a human ice block?!

Wang Ming stroked his wrist, as if there was still some residual warmth left behind from when Wang Ling had pulled him in. When he saw Wang Ling let go of his hand with a cold face, the corners of his mouth tilted upward slightly — his chance to tease Wang Ling had come!

He pounced on Wang Ling like a cat and wrapped himself around one arm. Swaying in a coquettish manner, he patted Wang Ling on the shoulder with a faint blush on his face and said in a thready voice, "You devil... you're so hateful!"

The sound didn't make just Wang Ling's hair stand on end; even Loopy Toad's dog fur stood up as if it had been electrocuted.

Wang Ling and Loopy Toad: "..."

As expected, this little shit was an idiot!

"Hey, Little Ming, you've arrived?" Hearing the noise, Father Wang got up from the sofa and walked toward them.

Seeing this, Wang Ming immediately let go of Wang Ling's arm and said, "Uncle Wang, how are you?" As he spoke, he slanted a stealthy look at Wang Ling's fist, and could vaguely see the protruding blue veins... He was instantly frightened, and thought that if Father Wang had come a little later, Wang Ling would probably have hit him with a full set of intelligence-recovery punches 1 .

"Come here, Little Ming, come in and sit down." Father Wang put his arm around Wang Ming's shoulders and pulled him down onto the sofa. His face was wreathed in smiles, genuinely happier than seeing his own son...

"What do you want to drink?"

Wang Ming sniffed the air, then chuckled. "I'll just have some soup later! I can smell the coral grouper soup!"

Father Wang laughed. "You have a nose that will catch up to our Loopy Toad's."

Loopy Toad: "..."

Father Wang sipped his tea, then turned his head to gaze at Wang Ming. "Any new results from your research recently?"

Wang Ling had concluded long ago that this wasn't making polite or small talk. This was a question Father Wang would always ask whenever Wang Ling came to the Wang home; supposedly, it could give him inspiration for his writing.

"Yes, there's one." Wang Ming nodded.

Many things related to the institute were actually confidential, and most of them couldn't be disclosed. Therefore, whenever Wang Ming spoke about his "research results," it was about his own small and personal inventions.

"Our biology lab was given eyes left to us by Soul Formation cultivators for study. I recently developed a new invention through this research, but it's still in the trial stage."

"What invention is this?" Father Wang was very curious, and on the side, Wang Ling also raised his eyebrows.

"It's a type of long telescope which is based on the retinal structure in the eyes of Soul Formation cultivators! With this long telescope, you'll be able to see whatever is happening a thousand li away."

"..." Father Wang and Wang Ling both started sweating.

Father Wang: "If this thing ever fell into the hands of lawbreakers..."

"Once it's finished, it's definitely only going to be produced on demand. For example, every police station can be equipped with one to keep an eye on suspects, and no crime will go undetected. There's no way we will sell it on the market."

"Then that's good." Father Wang nodded.

That was because a while ago, there had been news about a kindergarten teacher who had mistreated the kids and threatened them by saying she had a long telescope, so even when they were at home, she could see them clearly. Apparently, this had frightened the kids so much that it had left a psychological shadow on them.

When Father Wang had seen this news, he had been secretly glad that Wang Ling had been strong since childhood. This kindergarten teacher was also lucky that she had never met Wang Ling, otherwise he would already have sent her to hell...

While the three were chatting on the sofa, Father Wang's cell phone rang. As soon as he saw that it was Lie Mengmeng, he got up and went to the veranda to answer the phone.

Father Wang: "I'm going to take this call, the two of you talk first."

Seeing Father Wang leave, Wang Ling was just about to ask about the materials in the Heavenly Materials sword when Wang Ming shut down the topic first.

Wang Ming: "It'll take me a while to give a clear explanation about the materials identified in the screenshot you sent me. We'll talk about it upstairs after dinner."

Wang Ling pursed his lips, then sighed in his heart. While Wang Ming was speaking, it so happened that the evening news was replaying an earlier broadcast, and it was still about the extermination of Immortal Mansion.

This was yet another major event to happen after the old devil's arrest. For this type of big news, the TV would always broadcast it roughly three times, fully putting the policy "important things need to be repeated three times 2 " into practice.

Wang Ling had already watched all the news with Father Wang once, so he had a disinterested expression on his face.

In contrast, when Wang Ming watched it, he said happily, "Tsk, the greatest cultivation dark force in the history of Huaxiu nation? And its core group was destroyed just like that? From what I'm hearing on the news, this Immortal Mansion is supposed to be very well-organized with large numbers of people, but before it could even do anything big, it was already annihilated?"

Wang Ming couldn't help sighing. "Nowadays, these evil forces are becoming worse and worse; they can't even compete with the Dark Cooking Society in Cooking Master Boy ..."

Wang Ling: "..."

When Wang Ming said this, the news happened to show Cheng Yu being escorted away.

He stared at Cheng Yu on the news for three seconds, then turned to Wang Ling. "You did this, right?"

Wang Ling was instantly speechless. "... Wang Ming's eyes and tone were exactly like Father Wang's!

Sure enough... you're actually the real son, right?!

Chapter 314: The Mysterious Substance in the Heavenly Materials Sword

After they finished dinner, the two brothers went upstairs. Wang Ming flopped backward onto Wang Ling's bed and rolled around.

The corners of his mouth twitching, Wang Ling looked at Wang Ming with his hands on his waist, feeling a little helpless. Bed Immortal and Pillow Immortal were more open to Wang Ming than to Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal since this guy had often slept on the same bed with Wang Ling when he had come over to play as a kid, so now they had already acknowledged Wang Ming as their second master.

Sometimes, Wang Ling was really afraid of people who were the most shameless, and Wang Ming was a good example — not only was he an idiot, he was also quite shameless. The worst thing about it was that he wasn't aware of it.

Wang Ming sat on his bed and looked at Wang Ling with an amused face. "You know what?"

Wang Ling: "???"

Wang Ming: "I like when you look angry and helpless like this."

"..." Wang Ling's face swiftly darkened.

His expression made Wang Ming turn chicken in a split-second, and he immediately cleared his throat. "All right... I won't tease you anymore. Let's be serious..." He knew that Wang Ling was now already close to blowing up, and if Wang Ming continued provoking him, he would probably set a second record as a member of Huaxiu's Cultivation Academy of Science.

The first was that he was the youngest academician at the Cultivation Academy of Science in Huaxiu's history.

The second one would be that he was the earliest Cultivation Academy of Science academician to die in Huaxiu's history.

Wang Ming was well aware that there were times when his teasing should stop where it should stop.

He sat on the bed, folded his arms, and looked at Wang Ling. "That previous screenshot of an appraisal report is probably an analytical breakdown of the materials in a spirit sword, right? First, I want to hear about that sword's origins."

If they hadn't completely settled things with Immortal Mansion, Wang Ling absolutely wouldn't have told Wang Ming anything as he didn't want to get Wang Ming directly involved. Knowing Wang Ming's character, if he knew about Immortal Mansion, he would very likely go and explore it for himself. The cultivation circle was very complicated, and it would be better for him not to muddy the waters.

But Immortal Mansion had now been exterminated, so there shouldn't be anything to worry about... Besides, Zhai Yin was like a second skin now, protecting Wang Ming, so Wang Ling didn't think it should matter much.

At the thought of this, Wang Ling released his spiritual senses to perceive the situation outside the villa — Zhai Yin hadn't returned to the car, and was still standing at attention and unmoving outside the door. It could be said that he was quite well-trained.

Although the guy seemed strange, Wang Ling didn't particularly dislike him.

He touched Wang Ming's forehead lightly with one finger and instantly relayed his memories of Immortal Mansion... Of course, he had gotten rid of the memory of him in women's clothes. If Wang Ming knew about this, it would make this guy happy for a year!

Memories flooded into Wang Ming's mind like data, and he clicked his tongue in wonder. "Heh, if this trick could be used to cheat in exams... it'd be too damn convenient! For students who don't know the answer, 'mother never has to worry about my studies 1 '!"

Wang Ling laughed in his heart. "... You wish!

In his opinion, it was better to rely on yourself during an exam than on others. And in class, almost no one would ask him to help them cheat...

Actually, the level in the elite class was pretty much the same; trying to score high marks in a group of elites was the most difficult thing to do. Wang Ling's academic performance was forever average... His marks were always down the middle, so no one in class wanted to copy his answers.

Just a while ago, Dopey Guo had even given him the title of "Balanced Instructor" because of this.

After Wang Ling had relayed his memories to Wang Ming, the other man still spent a full five minutes sorting them out, even if he was the strongest brain.

Although Wang Ming already knew that it was Wang Ling who had destroyed Immortal Mansion, he was still shocked when he learned the truth of the entire matter. An enormous dark force core organization, eliminated in one single day...

According to the main thread in the memories, Wang Ling had surmised that Immortal Mansion had used the underground spirit vein and the holy Ice Crystal Array to construct a mirror space to hide its stronghold. Then, he had blasted through the spatial wall, was summoned to the flat top at Yuntai Pavilion, had had his identity exposed in order to save Dharmaraja and the others, directly knocked out all the inner sect female disciples with spiritual pressure, dealt with a female elder, dealt with a silver unicorn, and finally dealt with the Master of Immortal Mansion...

Wang Ming was a little speechless. The things that had happened this last Sunday were more than what some people experienced in an entire year! If this was a true-blue cultivation novel, the one-on-one confrontation between these two cultivators could fill several days and nights' worth of writing.

But after learning the whole story, Wang Ming felt relieved. "If this is the case, the appearance of this substance inside the sword is just a coincidence."

"?" Wang Ling didn't understand what he meant, and was slightly at a loss.

"After looking at the appraisal report in that screenshot, I realized that it had the same element which is contained in the Dao talisman seal I made for you. Furthermore, this is the key ingredient... This is the key substance in the Dao talisman seal which suppresses your aura."

He looked up at Wang Ling and explained very seriously, "When I first saw this appraisal report of the materials in the sword, I thought that someone had discovered the secret of this substance. But given the current outcome, it's probably just a coincidence. I'm guessing that the Master of Immortal Mansion himself didn't know about this thing when he made the sword."

Wang Ling: "..."

Wang Ming couldn't help but sigh. "You don't know how hard it is to refine this thing... Even with the most sophisticated equipment in our research institute, I can only refine a few micrograms of it every year. The Master of Immortal Mansion incorporated a lot of materials into this sword. If it's a coincidence, then there is a real possibility that this material can be reproduced."

After Wang Ming's explanation, Wang Ling was suddenly enlightened.

He roughly knew now why his Great Purification Spell hadn't worked on Fang Xing. It was most likely because of the resistance effect of this trace substance. It was also because of this strange thing lurking in Fang Xing's body that he had yet to wake up.

"Currently, the only person who knows about this thing's existence apart from me is you; there shouldn't be anyone else. I thought it had leaked out at first, which almost scared me to death..." Wang Ming heaved a sigh and fell back on the bed.

Did this thing have no scientific name?

Wang Ling stared at Wang Ling, unable to resist asking him telepathically.

"A scientific name... I was the one who discovered this thing in the first place, and I'm not prepared to announce it publicly. Why does it need a scientific name?" said Wang Ming.

Wang Ling: "..."

"But I did name it myself." Wang Ming grinned. "I call it Anti-Wang Ling Matter!"

Wang Ling: "... The name could be said to be rather simple and crude, but the substance's unique quality lay in the fact that it had a restraining effect on just him... hence, there was completely nothing wrong with this name.

"That sword contains traces of this element, but it's far less than the amount in your Dao talisman seal. This thing dissipates quickly, you don't have to worry about it. Your friend will wake up in two days after the substance breaks down on its own inside his body."

Speaking up to this point, Wang Ming suddenly sat up straight on the bed and stared at Wang Ling solemnly. "But Lingzi... have you realized it yet?"

Wang Ling: "?"

Cupping his chin with both hands, Wang Ming showed a rare, serious face. "I think your body is getting used to this substance..."

Chapter 315: Old Antique's Time for Gossip

Wang Ming left at nine o'clock in the evening. He had wanted to stay the night and engage in heartfelt conversation with Wang Ling, but when he thought of Zhai Yin still standing erect at the front door, he gave up on the idea.

As a formidable and well-trained military cultivator, Zhai Yin wouldn't feel tired standing at attention for even several days, but Wang Ming would feel a little uncomfortable if he was the reason Zhai Yin spent the night at the front door.

Wang Ming didn't really like Zhai Yin. He was absolutely rigid in his ways, which was quite different from the Academy of Science's policy of flexible and adaptive strategies. But however much Wang Ming disliked him, the other party was just following orders to protect him.

When he left the house, he saw Zhai Yin staring at him coldly. It was only when Zhai Yin saw him come out that the man stood at rest. He then made a perfect one hundred and eighty degree turn and walked slowly toward the car to open the door for Wang Ming.

He stared at Wang Ming, his eyes like that of a poisonous snake in the jungle staring at its prey.

At that moment, Wang Ming abruptly thought that Wang Ling's dead fish eyes weren't bad. He might have facial paralysis, but at least he wasn't freaking cold!

"I'll truthfully report what happened tonight to President Qi. I'm also going to verify the information on all the people in this villa one by one, especially that person who pulled you inside," Zhai Yin said, looking at Wang Ming.

He thought about his earlier embarrassment. When Wang Ling had dragged Wang Ming in, it had been so fast that Zhai Yin hadn't even been able to see Wang Ling's face clearly, and Wang Ming had just disappeared directly in front of him...

Wang Ming looked at him angrily, refusing to get into the car. "That's my little brother! And my uncle and my aunt! And my grandfather! What are you thinking?"

Zhai Yin's face was cold. "Even if it's your second eldest uncle 1, it's useless. Work is work."

Wang Ming's lips twitched gloomily. "..."

Go and check then! He knew Wang Ling had the Great Shielding Spell, so even if he were to be investigated, everything would just be a huge mosaic.

Wang Ming really didn't know where on earth President Qi had found this weirdo...

...

It was June 28th on Wednesday in the tenth week of the semester.

When Wang Ling arrived at school in the morning, he heard the news about two of his "acquaintances," one of whom was Tan Qian. He was the younger brother of the owner of that beef noodles restaurant, Boss Tan. He had come to the villa to stir up trouble, but Jingke had ruthlessly dealt with him in an instant. Under Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal and Boss Tan's assiduous instructions, he had then become a real "erwuzai 2."

It had to be said that Boss Tan was really far-sighted. From the moment he had seen Tan Qian, he had tried all means and ways to help Tan Qian to be rid of Immortal Mansion as soon as possible.

This time, Tan Qian would appear in court as an informant on Immortal Mansion. Previously, he had sent a complete map of Immortal Mansion's branch intelligence networks to the local cultivation police stations. It was because of this that the local police stations had been able to launch a campaign to exterminate Immortal Mansion's branch forces.

This above gossip was from Dopey Guo, Master of Dopey in Grade One, Class Three.

During the morning self-study period, the classroom was very noisy as almost all of the discussion was about Immortal Mansion.

"I heard before that the brother of this informant runs a noodles restaurant?" Super Chen asked.

Dopey Guo nodded solemnly. "Yes, it's authentic lao tan pickled cabbage beef noodles. I have an uncle who went there to eat their noodles. The boss has a scarred face and an enigmatic look..."

Wang Ling: "..."

Then, in addition to the news on Tan Qian, the second person Wang Ling heard about was Tang Youning. Back then, this vagabond singer who had found it hard to even afford three meals a day had quickly become famous after Wang Ling had given him a song.

Actually, Tang Youning also had a connection to the beef noodles restaurant's Boss Tan. Back when Tang Youning hadn't been famous yet, he had pretty much been a regular at Midnight Dining Hall.

"This Tang Youning is really unlucky..."

Speaking about this person, Dopey Guo supported his forehead with one hand and smiled wryly.

"What happened?"

Dopey Guo: "After his song Old Boys hit it big, he released several original songs after that, but it seemed they were all eclipsed by other headlines."

Wang Ling: "..."

"When he released his second song, the younger sister of the Master of Shadow Stream breaking out of prison stole the headlines.

"When he released his third song, her recapture stole the headlines once again...

"After that, this was followed by the elimination of Shadow Stream's headquarters, the arrest of the old devil, and the live online broadcast of the old devil's interrogation." After that, Dopey Guo couldn't help sighing. "Yesterday was his birthday... thousands of fans were going to celebrate together, and everyone thought that this would make the headlines for sure, but who knew that the thing with Immortal Mansion would happen."

Wang Ling: "..."

The class was deep in heated discussion when Old Antique stepped into the classroom, a full twenty minutes ahead of the regular class time, and even using part of the morning self-study period.

The monthly exam was approaching, and this month's exam was very important. It was a joint schools exam, where many schools would be using the same exam paper, so that students could accurately determine their ranking in the entire district. It was no use being king of your own home — it was only when you became king of the whole district or even the whole city that you could consider yourself dominant.

"The teacher setting the paper for the joint schools exam this time is the district history scholar, Teacher Ji Chongkui." Old Antique looked up with a face full of rare seriousness.

When they heard this name, many people in the class couldn't help but gasp.

This name was way too familiar to them, because this was the most brutal and inhuman scholar in Peiyuan district... Every year, the freshmen who entered high school would hear their seniors in Grades Two and Three complain strongly about this person.

As for rumors about this teacher, Wang Ling had heard Clan Leader Yu mention them before when Wang Ling had just entered the school. Last year, there had been three thousand freshmen who had taken the joint six schools exam, and in the end, ninety percent of them had failed... Even the best score among the elite students had only been seventy points.

Therefore, although it hadn't yet been officially determined how many schools would participate in the joint schools exam this time, it was going to be a challenge for both students and teachers given that such a vicious teacher would be setting the paper.

Hence, for the first time ever, Old Antique took advantage of the morning self-study period to enter the classroom ahead of time to announce the tragic news.

His expression was a little solemn, but it wasn't without his usual confidence; Teacher Ji might be ruthless, but Old Antique was very confident in his own teaching.

Last year, the teacher leading the elite class hadn't been Old Antique, hence their very tragic results.

But this year, they would turn it around.

Old Antique cleared his throat and looked at the students. "Last night, I studied the exam papers which Teacher Ji set. Not only do they contain hard historical concepts, there is also a lot of external knowledge as well as historical knowledge derived from recent hot topics, so a lot of people might find this difficult... In view of the recent hot topic of Immortal Mansion, I'm going to share with you gossip on the dark forces..."

Wang Ling: "..."

As expected, after talking so much, in the end, he still wanted to gossip...

Chapter 316: Taoist Taotie and Qiongchi Sect

The dark cultivation forces had actually only been brought up as a concept several decades ago, and were distinctly differentiated from the light forces, which had clear qualifications to run schools. The light forces consisted of the large state-run and private cultivation academies as well as some of the large sects specifically for itinerant cultivators.

To put it simply, the dark forces were a group of unapproved black organizations which illegally recruited itinerant cultivators and opened schools just for profit; they were like those small shops which didn't have food certification and made contaminated latiao .

On the dais, Old Antique briefed them on the history of the concept. "In everyone's eyes, the dark forces are a congregation of evildoers. But we cannot make generalizations. There is both right and wrong among the dark forces. There are even some centuries-old sects that were blacklisted, but only because their founders were in seclusion, and so they couldn't apply for their qualifications in time. Over the past few years, many dark cultivation forces have obtained their qualifications through the standard channels."

Everyone immediately understood; in simple terms, it was a matter of getting certification or not getting it.

After all, the Spirit Energy Information era was already no longer a time when hundreds of sects could freely compete or immortals could freely fight one another. Everything was now restricted by laws and regulations, and to continue in the modern cultivation world, one had to obey them.

Wang Ling couldn't agree more with this point.

The reason why he had eliminated Immortal Mansion was because it hadn't abided by the rules; not only had it disrupted his life, the most important thing was that it had severely affected his studies!

Why couldn't he be left to do his homework in peace nowadays?

But like Old Antique had said, not all dark forces were congregations of cunning villains. Some were really sects that hadn't been able to get certification since their elders were in seclusion, and because of that had been directly blacklisted.

Reliance High School was one example.

Everyone knew that the headmaster of Reliance High School, Patriarch Reliance, was a seclusion maniac. Back then, if several school elders hadn't personally dragged him out of seclusion to get certification, the school would have been torn down straightaway.

Speaking up to this point, Old Antique's eyes lit up. "Looking at the trend in the exam papers which Teacher Ji Chongkui set in previous years, I'm guessing that he will definitely include questions on the history of the dark forces. This teacher doesn't really like testing students on concepts, but just in case, I'll draw up a chronological list of all the well-known dark forces in history for you to remember."

"Teacher, who are the well-known dark forces in history?" At that time, someone couldn't help standing up with a hand raised to ask the question.

"Don't rush, I was just about to get to them."

Old Antique gestured for the student to sit down. "Then, let me tell you about some of history's more well-known dark forces; Teacher Ji Chongkui will very likely test you on this."

Hearing this, all the students in class took out their notebooks.

Seeing that Wang Ling hadn't done the same, Dopey Guo hastily nudged him. "Why are you spacing out, hurry up and take notes!"

Wang Ling: "... As long as he put his mind to it, this type of information would be instantly engraved in his brain once he heard it, so there was no need for him to take notes at all.

Of course, Master of Dopey had been kind enough to give him a reminder. After sweeping his gaze around the class and realizing that most people had taken out their notebooks, Wang Ling could only do the same and take some token notes, otherwise he would really look strange.

He sighed inwardly; nowadays, it was hard to be a person, hard to be a top student... and hard to be a top student trying every means possible to get average grades in class!

Thus, there were times when he would see people in class who were especially good in their studies nod off after gaming all night... Maybe they really weren't studying frantically outside of class; maybe they were relying purely on their very high IQs.

...

The people in class had never doubted Old Antique's expertise at forecasting test questions; this was a living test predictor. Years ago, the district education committee had monitored him for half a year because he had been too precise with his predictions, and had been suspected of leaking the test paper.

However, in the face of his strength as the number one history teacher in No. 60 High School, the committee hadn't been able to find any evidence of misconduct.

After seeing that everyone had taken out their notebooks, Old Antique crossed his hands behind his back, cleared his throat, and said, "An accounting of the infamous dark forces in history must start with the Flying Talismans Gang. Back then, the founder started from scratch by selling shoddy talismans and recruiting relatives and friends as sales agents. To be promoted to Bronze Agents, one needed to sell one hundred flying talismans; one thousand to become Silver Agents; and ten thousand to become Gold Agents... Finally, this gang's numbers expanded to millions of people."

"...What happened to them?"

"Later, they were all arrested in three days for selling shoddy talismans. Because they weren't especially strong, it didn't require much effort to deal with them. After that, this Flying Talismans Gang was called the Fallen Talismans Gang," Old Antique said.

Everyone: "..."

"Based on member numbers, it was the largest gang in the history of the dark forces. Based on overall strength, however, Immortal Mansion currently ranks first. But before Immortal Mansion's appearance, there was one other large dark force which deserves our attention... Have you heard of Qiongchi Sect?"

When Old Antique said this, there was an abrupt and subtle change in his expression. It was only for an instant before it went back to normal, but Wang Ling had noticed it.

"This was a sect made up of top gluttons; anyone who wanted to join them had to eat fifty jin's worth of food 1."

Everyone: "..."

Old Antique said pensively, "When Qiongchi Sect was at its peak back then, its disciples expanded its influence by forming teams that went out searching for local delicacies in the region. They scoured every part of the country with the aim of hunting spirit beasts for food, directly leading to the extinction of seventeen spirit beast species..."

"Shit! Seventeen spirit beast species were eaten into extinction?" someone cried out in shock.

"..." Even Wang Ling had a disbelieving expression on his face.

To be frank, because most of the history of the dark forces was pretty dark, they actually couldn't be found in textbooks.

If Old Antique never spoke to them about it here, Wang Ling would have never known about this bizarre history.

Now that he thought about it carefully, it was no wonder that the silver unicorn utterly despised the human race; if it had run into a dark force like this Qiongchi Sect, that would have been a real pain in the ass.

Since he was speaking about Qiongchi Sect, Old Antique naturally had to introduce its founder, and it was likely that Teacher Ji Chongkui would be testing the students on this point.

After composing himself, Old Antique continued speaking. "Next, I'm going to talk about the founder of Qiongchi Sect... Taoist Taotie."

Chapter 317: Taoist Taotie And Gorgeous Itinerant

Taoist Taotie's achievements had actually once been well-known in older cultivation circles. However, he was so ugly that those who had met him in person would feel sick whenever they recalled his face, and those who had never met him before would still lose their appetites at the mere description of his appearance... After that, the senior cultivators in the circle had started to treat this name as taboo, and had never brought it up again.

A reputation was only considered as such when everyone talked about it; since no one mentioned him anymore, he would naturally be forgotten.

Thus, students Wang Ling's age had no idea at all that such a person existed in history.

"Teacher, exactly how ugly is this Taoist Taotie...?" someone raised a hand and asked.

Old Antique had talked about Taoist Taotie in general, but in the end everyone was focused on his looks. Everyone had seen ugly people before, but they were really curious to know exactly how ugly he could be.

From what Old Antique had said, Taoist Taotie's looks could shake the world and make the gods cry. He looked like the mythological Taotie beast and also had a huge appetite, which was how he had gotten this nickname.

However, Old Antique hadn't gone into detail about Taoist Taotie's appearance at all. Seeing that someone had raised this question, he frowned and smiled bitterly. "You shouldn't place so much emphasis on what other people look like; you should pay more attention to inner beauty. Besides, Taoist Taotie hadn't been born ugly; it was because he cultivated the wrong art. No matter what plastic surgery he had, or what appearance-molding elixirs he used, he would instantly revert back to his original appearance in less than a quarter of an hour."

Everyone now understood why Taoist Taotie hadn't gotten any plastic surgery done — even plastic surgery couldn't fix his ugliness.

"Apart from his identity as the founder of Qiongchi Sect, Taoist Taotie was also the person who set up the international ranking list of killers, and was the guardian envoy of this list," said Old Antique.

"Isn't the legendary Gorgeous Itinerant the guardian envoy of the list?" Dopey Guo was startled by what Old Antique had said; this was completely different to what his uncle had told him.

A mysterious smile flickered across Old Antique's face. "In fact, the list had two guardian envoys. Gorgeous Itinerant as mentioned by Student Hero Guo was also one of them. Back then, Gorgeous Itinerant and Taoist Taotie set up this role together. However, shortly after that, the two of them had a falling-out and withdrew from the cultivation world. Qiongchi Sect was also disbanded during that time. Currently, the number one killer on the list, Killer Taoist, is acting as the guardian envoy."

"Disbanded?" The students couldn't help twitching their lips.

Sure enough, gluttons were the only group of people in this world that could be summoned and dismissed at will. No wonder online searches for Qiongchi Sect didn't yield any results; as it turned out, this dark force had already disbanded before the authorities could crack down on it.

"Why did they have a falling-out?" Someone was very curious.

Old Antique drew in a breath before he slowly said, "Rumor was that Gorgeous Itinerant had slipped up during an operation, but no one knows the precise reason. The only thing we know is that after that, the two of them had a falling-out and went their separate ways. Taoist Taotie, moreover, swore that he would definitely get even with Gorgeous Itinerant."

This answer disappointed the class. Even Old Antique didn't know, which meant that no matter how much they researched it, no one would uncover the reason.

But Feather Lin was clearly excited compared with everyone else. "Teacher! Why is he called Gorgeous Itinerant? Is it because... he's very erotic 1 ?"

Old Antique: "..."

"Obviously it was because he was too handsome, okay?"

Dopey Guo explained in place of Old Antique. Although he hadn't heard of Taoist Taotie's achievements from his uncle, he had heard of Gorgeous Itinerant.

Dopey Guo: "As far as I know, Gorgeous Itinerant was the most magnificent beauty of his generation, and anyone who saw him had their breaths taken away. He's famous for being the most beautiful man in the cultivation world!"

"Is he that good-looking?" All the female students in class were stirred up.

"Let's take that Senior Immortal Toya, the chief instructor for the military training the last time, as an example. If the cultivation circle had a beauty contest, Senior Immortal Toya's looks would put him in the top twenty, but he wouldn't be number one. Gorgeous Itinerant's beauty was widely acknowledged in the cultivation circle back then. I remember that there's a ranking list online, you can go check it out."

Dopey Guo said, "One of my uncles told me that a female cultivator took one look at Gorgeous Itinerant back then, and because he was so handsome, her blood reversed direction and rushed into her brain; rumor is that she's still in a coma now."

"To that extent?"

Old Antique smiled slightly. "...What Student Guo said is true; I've also heard this."

Hearing these stories, Feather Lin grew more and more curious about Gorgeous Itinerant, and her heart felt as itchy as if claws were scratching at it. "Ahh! Wouldn't it be great if I can see him with my own eyes!"

"Perhaps everyone will have the opportunity to meet him."

On the dais, Old Antique rubbed his belly and laughed. "When I was young, I was also handsome in my prime!"

"..."

After he said that, the class was deathly silent.

Old Antique felt like crying but had no tears to shed. "...None of you agree?"

I'm so hurt!

...

Today after school, the three class representatives Dopey Guo, Super Chen and Lotus Sun gathered together and seemed to be discussing something. Wang Ling glanced at them and noticed that Little Peanut was with them.

"Do you guys feel that Old Antique seemed a little strange today?" asked Super Chen.

"That's right, that's right! He was acting very strangely!" Dopey Guo crossed his arms as he gazed at the others. "Old Antique never really cared about his appearance before. But this time after class... can you guys guess what I saw when I passed by the toilet?"

"What did you see?" Lotus Sun asked.

"I saw Old Antique looking at himself in the mirror."

"Damn! Really?" The rest of them were stunned.

It did sound a little weird; even Wang Ling sighed in his heart when he heard this. This was because given Old Antique's normal behavior, if he had the time to look at himself in the mirror, he would rather use it to eat a few bags of latiao .

"Everyone wants to be beautiful."

Lotus Sun sighed before she said earnestly, "I also want to warn everyone about something else; you should be careful this month after school lets out at the end of the day."

"Why?"

"Recently, there's been an organization called Shuigou Sect creating havoc in the district. They're targeting students, forcing them to ingest some unlicensed two-bit product. I heard some students have already experienced mutations in their bodies from taking this product," said Lotus Sun.

Chapter 318: Shuigou Sect

It was June 29th on the tenth Thursday of the semester.

At three o'clock this morning, there had been a major incident on Songhai city's Night Market Street. According to eyewitnesses, a student in uniform had been shuffling down the street like a zombie when his body had promptly started to burn with fire, and he started shooting flames around him like crazy.

The roaring blaze had engulfed the entire street and burned everything completely to ash; even the zebra crossing had been wiped off the ground. With billows of thick smoke over everything, it looked like a scene from a movie.

The cultivation fire department had immediately set up barriers to prevent the fire from spreading, but after everything had settled, it had already been too late.

The fire had truly been horrifying; Night Street Market could no longer be saved. Luckily, however, almost all the shops had already been closed at three o'clock in the wee hours of the morning, so there hadn't been any major casualties.

Only four people happened to suffer minor burns and smoke inhalation from the incident.

Reports said that these four had been pulled into it because they had gone out together to buy snacks in the middle of the night...

So the lesson was to go to bed before midnight; staying up late and eating midnight snacks weren't good for one's health.

Many people could guess the outcome of this incident: the district chief couldn't get away from being sacked, and the Songhai city government had to bear the costs of the four victims' medical fees as well as the damage to nearby shops.

In some sense, this incident was no less serious than a terrorist attack.

And as the instigator of this terrorist attack, that fire-breathing student in the end had disappeared. According to the accounts of those four witnesses who had gone out to buy midnight snacks, while that student had been spewing flames, he had been knocked out by a black figure which had then taken him away.

And so that morning, this incident was the new topic of discussion during the morning self-study period.

Super Chen frowned and crossed his arms with a solemn expression on his face. "I heard that this incident was caused by that emerging dark force, Shuigou Sect. They've targeted many students on the way home after school, and after these students were forced to eat their product, they lost contact with their families and schools."

Suddenly, someone recalled Fang Xing. "Student Fang Xing in Class Two asked for a week's leave. Do you think it has something to do with Shuigou Sect?"

"Shuigou Sect only started acting up these two days. Fang Xing's parents called the school themselves to explain the situation, so this probably isn't the reason why he took leave."

Little Peanut also shook his head, very certain on this point. "When I handed in the homework in the morning two days ago, I heard the teacher-in-charge of Class Two Meng Kaiming and Teacher Pan talking about it; there's definitely no mistake."

Wang Ling couldn't help laughing in his heart. Given Fang Xing's abilities, if this bunch targeted him, they would be the ones to meet a bad end.

Fang Xing was still recovering on Immortal Toya's Chrysanthemum Island. Wang Ming had told Wang Ling that he didn't have to worry too much about that strange substance that could suppress his strength; it would break down of its own accord after a few days, and Fang Xing would regain consciousness in his own time.

Frankly speaking, Wang Ling had previously been on constant guard against Fang Xing. After all, he hadn't known anything about Fang Xing's origins, and hadn't bothered to know either.

For Wang Ling, the biggest gain from the matter with Immortal Mansion this time had been learning everything about Fang Xing's identity, which was a huge relief to him.

While Wang Ling was thinking about this, Dopey Guo suddenly came back to the main topic. "Have you seen the video from this morning?"

"What? There's even a video?"

"Mm, a friend risked his life to film it: a student in school uniform turned into a living, burning man, then shot fire everywhere," Dopey Guo told them honestly.

"What dark art was this student cultivating? Is it possible that it was some evildoer deliberately disguised as a student to create havoc?"

"Probably not." Dopey Guo shook his head and said, "In the video I watched, this student was spouting fire and roaring at the same time; it looked like he'd gone crazy. Besides, my uncle told me

that based on an investigation of the scene, the flames the student was shooting out were as hot as ten thousand degrees at one point."

Wang Ling frowned. An expert at the late Soul Formation stage could release a fireball as hot as ten thousand degrees. But if this person truly was a student, this temperature would be somewhat of an exaggeration.

This reminded Wang Ling of the Mo Immortal Water incident with Mo Immortal Castle. But he had stumbled upon it when it had still been in the trial stage, and he had directly stifled the entire plan in the cradle.

Shuigou Sect this time was employing a different method for the same sort of outcome as the mutation potion which Mo Immortal Castle had produced back then. The only difference was that most of Mo Immortal Castle's mutation potions had been failures, while Shuigou Sect this time was clearly well prepared.

It had developed an item that could boost a Foundation Establishment student's destructive power to the Soul Formation level. Whether it was a pill or a potion, this plan definitely had been in the works for a very long time.

This was a premeditated conspiracy.

Of course, there were some things that puzzled Wang Ling.

For example, of all the names to use, why did this new dark force decide to call itself Shuigou Sect 1 ? Each time he said this name in his heart, it felt like his lifespan was being shortened bit by bit.

...

It was safe to say that as a newly established dark cultivation force, this Shuigou Sect wasn't an ordinary one. The Songhai city government had gone all out to mobilize all the police they could in order to shut down this dark force as soon as possible. Most unfortunately, however, Shuigou Sect hadn't left any sort of evidence behind to prove that it was responsible for the events that had happened.

Without any leads to investigate, things were very difficult for the police.

In the office of the General Administration of 100 Schools, Odd Zhuo was scratching his aching head, feeling like it was four times its size. The Immortal Mansion incident had yet to be completely sorted out and they hadn't finished interrogating the Master of Immortal Mansion Cheng Yu, but now this Shuigou Sect crisis had cropped up...

The worst thing about it was that it was targeting students in particular.

There were currently twelve students from seven different high schools in Songhai city that had gone missing. The fire that morning had been caused by a Grade One student from God Vision High School who was also missing.

If Odd Zhuo couldn't settle this matter properly, the higher-ups would definitely take it out on him, no matter how good his relationship with Secretary Dakang was.

He was frowning when the phone rang. Seeing that it was the deputy director, he instantly picked up. "What's the situation? Have you made any progress?"

"Reporting, Director. Based on all the information we gathered on the twelve missing students, they don't appear to have anything in common."

Odd Zhuo's eyebrows creased. "Were they randomly picked then?"

Deputy Director: "That might not be the case either... when it comes down to it, these students are all very good-looking."

Odd Zhuo: "... " So it was true — ugly looks could save your life!

Chapter 319: Kitchen Knife Sect

Before long, the deputy director arrived at Odd Zhuo's office with the report. He was a young and honest man called Zhong Lang, who had entered the General Administration of 100 Schools at the same time as Odd Zhuo.

Not long after that, Odd Zhuo had become the deputy director, and as Odd Zhuo's colleague, Zhong Lang had become the office head. Now that Odd Zhuo had been promoted, Zhong Lang had naturally become the deputy director.

"Boss, take a look..." After hanging up, Zhong Lang had hastily made his way to Odd Zhuo's office with the report, which was a detailed summary of the information on the twelve students, covering everything from their great-grandfathers to their hobbies.

As Zhong Lang had reported, these twelve missing students were a mix of guys and girls, and they had different hobbies and routines. They had absolutely nothing in common, except that they were all very attractive. Furthermore, it was all natural good looks; the information also contained photos of them as kids, and these students had all been very good-looking since young.

Odd Zhuo drew in a deep breath. "This should be it... I'm guessing that the head behind Shuigou Sect hates good-looking students, and hence is targeting them."

"Then what should we do now?"

"Secretary Dakang has requested that we solve this as soon as possible." Odd Zhuo drew out an individual report on one of the students. "Do you know this Xiao Yuncheng? He's the most distinguished disciple in the Xiao clan's outer sect." Odd Zhuo remembered this person well, because Wang Ling had knocked him out of the survival contest right at the beginning during the combined military training for the six schools.

Odd Zhuo let out a sigh. "This bunch of people dared lay their hands on someone from the Xiao clan... they must be insane. If we can't solve this case quickly, I'm worried that the Xiao clan patriarch might blow up our office."

Zhong Lang: "..."

"Draft up a quick document in the name of the General Administration of 100 Schools and request that every school in Songhai city explain the specifics of the situation to the students' parents. Until this issue is resolved, parents are responsible for taking their kids to and from school from now on."

Zhong Lang: "What if some parents object?"

Odd Zhuo: "Then have them take a paternity test."

Zhong Lang: "Why?"

Odd Zhuo: "Because then they definitely wouldn't be the student's real parents."

Zhong Lang: "..."

...

Odd Zhuo released this announcement at eleven in the morning across Songhai city. After that, teachers started making phone calls like crazy to ensure that they had contacted every single parent. Because the missing group was made up of students from Grade One to Grade Three, almost all the teachers were roped into participating in this call operation once the schools received the notification.

The schools even offered security or for teachers to take home students whose parents really couldn't come to the school.

In short, the schools had to provide comprehensive security.

This was a clumsy method, but it was also a relatively safer one. Shuigou Sect wasn't giving anything away, so it would also be helpful if parents could find some clues while taking their children to and from school.

By releasing this notification, it could be said that Odd Zhuo, more awesome than any army commander, had mobilized all the parents in the city.

This issue thus became the new topic of discussion among the students that afternoon.

One by one, the heads of large sects in the cultivation world announced that they would be personally taking children to and from school... normally, these big shots might not even show up at parent-teacher conferences.

Many students saw this incident as a rare opportunity; while most of them typically made good friends with some of their classmates, they might not know much about their family situations. This incident would reveal more about a lot of people.

The whole school seemed to be bursting with excitement because of this issue.

Lotus Sun's background naturally went without saying; this young miss had been the center of attention since the start of school. Outside school, it fell to the security teams arranged by Huaguo Water Curtain Group to protect her safety.

After the first afternoon class, Wang Ling heard a lot of gossip from Dopey Guo.

"Have you heard? Several big shots have shown up in the normal classes," Dopey Guo said in a low, enigmatic voice.

"These people hid themselves very well. If it wasn't for how big this incident is, no one would have known about their backgrounds." Someone laughed.

"We can't say that." Super Chen shook his head. "It's because their family backgrounds aren't so simple that they kept quiet about it. With that type of background, for them to get into a normal class at an average school would be a pretty embarrassing matter to bring up. If it was me, I would also be ashamed to admit it."

"That's true..."

"In Normal Classes One to Three, there are quite a number of people who are the children of sect leaders. In particular, there's one called Jiang Bai, whose dad is the head of Kitchen Knife Sect."

"Kitchen Knife Sect... what's that?"

"This is a sect famous for making gourmet food. In the cultivation world, it's also known as New East Cuisine Academy," Dopey Guo explained. "I just gave one of my uncles who works there a call to confirm Jiang Bai's background; there's no mistake."

"You actually have a uncle who works at Kitchen Knife Sect..."

"Don't underestimate it, their welfare benefits are great. Apart from receiving a fifth-grade black iron kitchen knife as a gift, sect newcomers can also learn their secret "Ox-Dismembering Knife Technique" for free. They have twenty days of annual leave and even double pay at the end of the year. Newcomers who pass their special cooking exam can be directly promoted to become an elder of the inner sect," Dopey Guo said. "Also, sects are all divided into different levels: Sky, Earth, Black, and Yellow 1 . Kitchen Knife Sect as led by Jiang Bai's dad is one of the top five Black-level sects, and they have branches in several different cities."

Many of the students in Grade One, Class Three were startled by Dopey Guo's words. There were hundreds of thousands of sects among the light forces in Huaxiu nation, and tens of thousands of Black-level sects. To be able to make the top five out of these tens of thousands of Black-level sects... it already went without saying how incredible Jiang Bai's dad's Kitchen Knife Sect was.

So a lot of people were taken aback when they heard this. "If Jiang Bai's family background is so amazing, why are his grades so bad?"

Dopey Guo spread his hands. "That's why this shows that your grades have nothing to do with your family background. Father Jiang is so busy managing his sect that he naturally doesn't have time to care about Jiang Bai's studies. If it wasn't for this aggressive new Shuigou Sect, this head of Kitchen Knife Sect might not have taken action."

Dopey Guo sighed. "So every time Jiang Bai gets a bad grade, the teacher in charge of their class always tells him that if he doesn't study hard, he can only take over the sect 2 ."

Everyone: "..."

Wang Ling: "..."

Chapter 320: Running for the Parents Committee

As reality showed, people had a deeply-rooted fear of the unknown.

From Wang Ling's point of view, the reason why the Shuigou Sect incident had drawn so much public attention was completely because based on the clues which the cultivation police across Songhai city had gathered, the people knew almost next to nothing about this dark force which had suddenly appeared in their midst.

The most significant reason was that until now, there had been no news on those twelve missing students.

Thus, in light of this Shuigou Sect causing chaos and how grim the current situation was, many parents had even set up an interim parents committee to protect the flowers of the motherland, and spontaneously formed protection groups that were responsible for taking students to and from school during this time.

It should have been a good idea.

But then, students started circulating a set of screenshots in WeChat Moments in the afternoon...

...

"Have you guys seen the screenshots in WeChat Moments?" Dopey Guo suddenly said after class.

"What screenshots? Let me take a look!"

A few people sneaked their phones out from their desks; in the end, when they saw what was inside Dopey Guo's WeChat Moments, their expressions twitched violently.

Lazy to use his watch, Wang Ling focused his gaze, and from a distance, looked directly across to where Super Chen was flipping through the screenshots.

They were screenshots from the parents chat group of several parents running for the position of president of the parents committee this time.

The first screenshot:

No. 7 Tang Zhiquan's mother: "Hello everyone, I am No. 7 Tang Zhiquan's mother! Currently, I am in charge of HRD at the internationally renowned cultivation restaurant, Kikkaro Restaurant. I am actually also the restaurant manager. Before that, I was in charge of a top-rated restaurant kitchen for over thirty years. I'm good at making shredded seaweed stew with tomb grass as well as braised spirit pork shoulder! This is the specialty of our restaurant, and I gave it a nice-sounding name: talking pork leg 1 ! Parents in the group, if you have the time, come and try us out for free! Cough cough ... I've said a lot, but I just want to prove that I'm good at interpersonal communication. Furthermore, I have outstanding management skills. I am honored to represent our Little Tangtang to run for president of the committee, and I hope that you will vote for me!"

Everyone: "..."

Wang Ling stared blankly at this screenshot. "..."

The second screenshot:

No. 26 Shen Husheng's father: "I am No. 26 Shen Husheng's father. I am also here to run for president of the parents committee. My wife and I are PhD graduates of Black Ox University in Black Ox Treasure Town. This university was Old Demon Han's former residence which was built by his inheriting disciple, Han Meimei. I believe that I don't have to say too much about its background. At present, my wife and I run an education franchise in Songhai city, Jinrui Education. Earning two billion a month is more than we can take! I especially want to do all that I can for the children. If you vote for me, you can use my name at our education institute, and your kids will be attend to our remedial classes at a ninety percent discount!"

Everybody: "..."

Wang Ling: "..."

And then, the third screenshot:

No. 17 Liang Huihuan's mother: "Teachers and parents, I am No. 17 Liang Huihuan's mother. I graduated from Mi nation's Mashen Cultivation Academy of Science and Engineering, and I'm currently serving at Songhai city's Baida Cultivation Pictures Fund Management Company. His father is the CEO of the company. The reasons why I am volunteering to run for the parents committee are as follow: 1. I served as president of the parents committee when my child was in kindergarten, primary school and middle school; 2. I can be on call at all times due to my flexible work schedule; 3. I sincerely wish to offer my humble assistance and do something for the children;

4. Although I am only at the late Golden Core stage, I am prepared to destroy my golden core at any time in order to protect our children! Please vote for me, thank you!"

Everyone: "..."

Wang Ling: "..."

The fourth and last screenshot was also the most exaggerated one:

No. 13 Lin Zihua's mother: "Hello everyone, I am No. 13 Lin Zihua's mother. I graduated from Hafu Cultivation University with a master's degree and I'm now working for Songhai city's Qianduo Antiques Company. I research large amounts of data in the cultivation circle, and every day I handle transactions of cultivation magic treasures and antiques worth hundreds of millions. Zihua's father is the CEO of a shares company. I'm not running for any position in the parents committee. I just want to warn the parents here that if your kids dare bully our Zihua, I'll get his father to make sure your shares crash! That includes Huaguo Water Curtain Group!"

Lotus Sun: "..."

Wang Ling: "..."

Mostly, it was the parents themselves who decided to set up the parents committee, and who volunteered to run it. While most parents had good intentions, these afternoon screenshots were direct examples of the reverse case. These images which had gone viral in the students' WeChat Moments and QQ zones drew astonished exclamations: Only truly shameless people could say this sort of thing.

In comparison, the parents of No. 60 High School were a lot more harmonious, and the mood wasn't as frantic when they established the parents committee... that was because Huaguo Water Curtain Group had sent out a security notification in the afternoon to every single parent's cell phone to announce that the group would do everything in their power to safeguard all the students of No. 60 High School.

For parents who didn't have the time to take their kids to and from school, they only needed to sign an agreement, and the group would dispatch two cultivators at the Golden Core stage to escort the students to and from school during this time.

For many of the parents, this notification was far more helpful than the screenshots that had gone viral in the afternoon on WeChat Moments.

Wang Ling had always felt that this was the reflection of true strength: the more powerful a person was, the more low-key they were.

...

And so, after school was over that afternoon, Wang Ling couldn't leave straightaway.

At noon, Teacher Pan had already called up each student's parents to personally come and pick up their kids.

Teacher Pan had distributed temporary numbers to everyone during class, and they all had to wait in the school gym.

There were teachers standing guard outside the gym at the school gate; until the last student left with a parent, none of the teachers would be able to get off work.

In school, the students' safety was always the top priority, so in extenuating circumstances, the teachers of No. 60 High School wouldn't complain.

Each parent also had a number which the teachers of No. 60 High School had texted to them so that they could collect their kids. There was also another important use for this number, and that was to verify the parent's identity in case there were criminals who disguised themselves as parents.

After the teachers verified the information at the school gate, they would communicate telepathically with the broadcast room, which in turn would broadcast an announcement to the gym.

"Student number 18 in Normal Class One, your father has arrived! There is a large group at the front gate to escort you home!" The broadcast sounded in the gym.

There was instantly a lot of booing and hissing in the gym.

The student whose number had been called stood up with a red face and headed for the exit with his head lowered, feeling ashamed for some reason.

Sitting next to Wang Ling, Dopey Guo couldn't help laughing when he saw the student that had stood up. "That's Fan Su; his father owns Longman Escort Agency. He has always kept a low profile in class, but after this incident, everyone will now know that he's the young master of Longman Escort Agency."

Wang Ling: "..."

"Student number 7 in Normal Class Two, your father and his fellows are already standing at the school gate with their kitchen knives waiting for you!"

Quickly after that, there was another broadcast. "Student number 8, please follow student number 7 out."

A thin youngster with a buzz cut walked out of the crowd; he was the Jiang Bai whom Dopey Guo had been talking about, and his father was the head of Kitchen Knife Sect. After he stood up, the girl who had been sitting next to him heard the second broadcast and followed him out.

Wang Ling was puzzled when he saw this, and Dopey Guo laughed again. "This girl is Jiang Yan; she's in the same class as Jiang Bai."

Hearing this, Super Chen couldn't help asking, "Is she Jiang Bai's sister?"

"They're not biological siblings."

Dopey Guo shook his head and explained, "Jiang Yan's father is the head of Kitchen Knife Sect's second brother."

Wang Ling: "..."