

## Daily life 581

### Chapter 581 Deliberating And Passing The Sentence (5)

Because they were orange grade formations he was able to do a scan over the area without triggering them.

Through his palace sense he could see the dilapidated facilities, the wastes and the disintegrating sulfur desert lace flower, and finally the outersect disciples. Some were in the same state as Ma Qi when he arrived at the courtroom, sluggish in every sense of the word while others were in an even worse state.

Yang Qing continued his scan upwards and realized the drastic difference in status within the sect. The facilities got better, along with the environment and the vibrancy of the disciples something that was severely lacking in the fringe areas of the sect which was likely the region where the outersect disciples were being housed.

One could hardly believe they were part of the same sect from how wide the difference between the outer sect and the rest of the sect.

Once Yang Qing reached the region covered by the low-tier blue-grade formation he stopped his scan.

"Senior Yen Xu, do you detect the presence of a fourth-stage palace realm expert coming from the region covered with the blue-grade formation..."

"There is, but it is very faint. Doesn't look like he will live long. He has 50-70 years at most..."

"Seems like their fall is almost nigh..." Yang Qing said with a sigh.

The retired supreme elder was like the glue that held the shattered pieces of the Striding Falcon Sect in place.

Once he died, the alliance faction would definitely openly clash with the faction led by the sect master. Regardless of how the clash goes whether it would be forceful and direct or a slow drawn out approach, the Striding Falcon Sect would fracture in the end, and how long would it be before their enemies or those with greedy intentions set their sights on them?

If the alliance faction ends up as the winner in the clash against the sect master faction, how long would it be before they turn on each other, as each member tries to vie for supremacy over the rest?

If they could turn on the sect master and the ideals of the sect, it stood to reason they would just as easily turn against each other.

The way Yang Qing saw it, the fall of the Striding Falcon Sect was all but guaranteed. Now it was only a matter of how long it would take and how bad the fall would be.

"Well, whatever happens next, it has nothing to do with me, and it couldn't have happened to a nicer sect.." murmured Yang Qing.

He felt no remorse for them and actually rather hoped their demise would happen fast. Both the alliance faction and the sect master faction were to blame for what happened in his eyes even the retired supreme elder too.

Yes, the alliance faction instigated a lot of what had happened, but in Yang Qing's eyes, it would not have reached this point if the sect master or the retired supreme elder had not been too passive and accommodating.

They let the rot go on for too long until it infected the whole sect leading to this point, and even with things as dire as they are they still seemed to be adopting the wait-and-see approach leaving the sheep outer sect disciples to fend for themselves in a den of wolves.

Yang Qing quickly pushed away his thoughts as he immediately released the full pressure of his cultivation base.

His robes billowed as if a thunderous cascading tide was being produced from his body. The air seemed to vibrate around his body as his eyes switched to a shade of golden yellow and emerald blue.

Ma Qi took an inadvertent gulp as he felt like he was seeing the force of the sun and the force of an ocean all blend within Yang Qing's body.

He couldn't believe that this was the carefree and easy-going-looking person from before.

Yen Xu had shielded both him and Luo Meili from Yang Qing's pressure but even with the shielding in place, Ma Qi could still vividly feel the boundless presence being released by Yang Qing. He felt like a tiny pebble submerged in a vast ocean with a blinding sun right above him.

It was only now that he truly believed the statement Yang Qing had made earlier of being able to guarantee his life even if the entire sect turned on him. I think you should take a look at [lightsnovel.com](http://lightsnovel.com)

Right below Yang Qing, the arrays of the Striding Falcon Sect that had been the target of Yang Qing's pressure flickered with a sense of desperation. The ones on the outer edges of the sect looked to be at their limit milliseconds after being triggered. They would have been shattered had Yang Qing not controlled his pressure and concentrated it on the core region where the blue-grade formation was centered.

A grey-blue semi-illusory upside-down mountain appeared above the central region of the sect. The mountain looked like an umbrella shielding the core region of the sect against Yang Qing's overbearing pressure.

Countless runic symbols appeared at the center of the mountain in a circular rotation. With every complete rotation, the illusory mountain would release a dense weighted pressure of its own that clashed against Yang Qing's pressure.

An ethereal glow appeared around Yang Qing's arms as his hair changed to a shade of black and white. His energy slowly metamorphosized and grew more majestic, the boundless vastness now had an air of antiquity to it.

The mountain that had been able to neutralize his pressure easily moments ago now seemed like it was being pushed to its limits as the rune rotation grew in intensity almost as if there was a desperation to it.

An instant later Yang Qing immediately dispelled his pressure as an aged voice rife with worry came from within the mountain.

"Friend please stay your hand, if our sect has in any way offended you, we are willing to apologize and make any recompense for any slight done towards you.."

"Thank you for your consideration, friend.." the aged voice added immediately after on noticing Yang Qing had dispelled his aura.

Ma Qi's jaw was wide open along with his eyes as he struggled with the events happening before him.

Yang Qing's hair had returned back to green and his aura was once again normal and unassuming. He was back to his easygoing languid self.

Ma Qi squinted a few times wondering if he had hallucinated those few seconds. However, the inverted mountain below him that looked to be quaking was proof what he saw wasn't an imagination.

Yang Qing's lips tugged when he saw no one making an appearance. His show earlier was just his way of announcing himself. He had controlled it perfectly to avoid disturbing the retired supreme elder in death seclusion but it was strong enough to alarm everyone within the sect, especially the leaders, whom he very much needed their attention.

"Hello, my name is Yang Qing and I am a judge of the Order. I am here to give the verdict of a case filed against you by one of your disciples..." said Yang Qing.

He amplified his voice to travel throughout the sect.

Murmurs of confusion flooded the sect for a few seconds before someone finally came out of the mountain. It was an elderly man with white hair tied in a Daoist top knot who wore fiery daoist robes.

His eyes had a sense of exhaustion, a bit of wariness, and wisdom to them.

Even without any introductions, Yang Qing knew it was the sect master of the Striding Falcon Sect, Pan Xue.

The sect master stood one spot of the inverted mountain using it as a foothold as his gaze warily fell on Yang Qing before it moved over to Luo Meili and finally Ma Qi which drew a look of confusion and surprise from him, which he quickly tried to hide.

Ma Qi immediately shrunk back when he saw the sect master, even though he had never met the person, he had seen a picture of him once at the missions hall.

Fear was soon replaced with unconcealed anger and resentment as he stared fiercely at the elderly man despite the earlier trepidation.

In Ma Qi's eyes, all he and countless others had endured was the sect master's fault. There was no way the sect master wouldn't know all the happenings of the outer sect and the suffering they had endured, which meant he was complicit and supported what was happening to them.

#### Chapter 582 Deliberating And Passing The Sentence (6)

The hate-filled eyes were not hidden from sect master Pan Xue who remained unmoved even by the hostility displayed by one of the disciples of his sect.

"I am sorry judge Yang Qing, but I am a bit lost. You're saying you're about to pass a verdict on our sect but this is the first I am hearing of any sort of grievance filed against us, and if there were, shouldn't we have been present to defend ourselves?

I may have not gone to the courts much but I have had a few acquaintances familiar with its working. As far as I know, unless I am mistaken, both parties need to be present.." said the Sect Master in a tone that was neither overbearing nor servile.

"Ideally, yes, but there are exceptions of which this case happens to fulfill the criterion. The person filing the case is a low-ranking member of your sect, if he were to present his case with you present, I doubt he would be in the right headspace to do it or even be willing to do so considering the nature of his complaint.." Yang Qing calmly said.

"And what is the nature of his complaint?"

"You should already have an idea, shouldn't you?" Yang Qing said with a small smile tugging on his lips as his gaze fell on the area where the outer sect disciples resided.

"But since you have asked, Ma Qi has filed a case against the Striding Falcon Sect for malfeasance on its duty to its disciples, the betrayal and misrepresentation of its duties to its disciples, and mistreatment of said disciples.

Since you have betrayed your duties as a sect to one of your own, it is his wish to be released from being a disciple of your sect.."

As Yang Qing made his announcement he transmitted his voice not only to the sect master before him but to the rest of the sect members.

Immediately after his declaration, a few more figures immediately shot from beneath the inverted mountain.

There were seven of them in total and in the lead was a stern-looking elderly man in black daoist robes that had gold cloud embroidery.

To his left were two men and a woman. They all wore similar-looking robes to the stern-looking elderly man. The two men looked to be in their late forties while the sole woman looked to be in her early forties.

She had long curly pink hair and an amorous charm to her. Though she tried to hide it, her gaze flickered with conceit and mild killing intent when it fell on Ma Qi which she quickly extinguished when she felt a threatening aura come off from Luo Meili who stood next to Ma Qi.

Ma Qi thanked her with his gaze as his expression slowly turned pale when he saw the parade of figures before him.

Even though he knew none of them, based on their robes, he knew they were the core elders of the sect. Now there were seven of those figures along with the sect master staring at him.

His heart started racing madly while his palms started getting sweaty and his tongue dried up. Right now every fibre of his being was screaming at him to undo everything and go back to being the lowly worm he was before.

"Don't worry it will be okay,"

Yang Qing's voice echoed in his mind as he felt something like a protective coat wash over him and bring freshness and calmness to his entire body. His tense state gradually relaxed.

"Trying to overwhelm a second-stage qi circulation disciple with the cultivation pressure of core formation experts, do they not feel any shame? Well again, if they did, this situation wouldn't have happened.." Yang Qing thought to himself as he decided to pay them back a dose of their own medicine.lightsnovel

For a microsecond, he brought his full cultivation pressure to bear before he quickly put it away.

Ma Qi was shocked to see each and every one of these figures who terrified him to no end suddenly keel over as they struggled to breath. One of them, the female even started vomiting.

He looked puzzlingly at the seven elders and the sect master wondering what happened before he saw a brief cheeky smile from Yang Qing. Seeing his goofy look, Ma Qi almost let out a laugh before he stifled it when he saw Yang Qing's goofy smile coupled with the sorry state of the sect master and the elders.

He had to admit, the scene felt rather refreshing. The bitterness he had held within all these years seemed to have healed a bit from the scene. He couldn't help but fantasize about being in Yang Qing's place replicating what he had just done to the smug inner sect disciple and the cold outer core elders from the missions hall.

However, he soon became dejected as he wondered if he could ever reach those heights. Every self-belief he had, was already shattered in those three years. Now all he had was doubt and self-pity.

"Judge is this how the Order does things, terrorizing those beneath you without care?" coldly asked the stern elderly man who seemed to be the leading figure of the seven elders. His cultivation base was at the peak of the 10th stage of the core formation realm. He didn't seem to be that far off from catching up to the sect master who was at the 11th stage of the core formation realm.

"He must be Wei Shen, the chief elder and the leading figure of the alliance faction.." muttered Yang Qing as his gaze fell on the rest of the elders. All of them except the pink-haired woman who was still vomiting were at the late stage of the core formation realm while she was at the seventh stage.

Seeing such a lineup, Yang Qing could see why the sect master's authority slowly waned away the longer the status of the retired supreme elder remained ambiguous.

"Sorry for my poor display, I just recently broke through to the palace realm so occasionally I do struggle to maintain control over my cultivation base, there are slipups.

You understand right, considering you had a similar slipup just moments ago.." Yang Qing said with a meaningful glance.

The face of the chief elder, the sect master, and the rest all contorted at Yang Qing's flimsy excuse, especially the sect master.

He couldn't believe that pressure was of someone who had just broken through considering it rivaled that of his granduncle before he went into death seclusion.

Besides, when Yang Qing released his cultivation pressure it wasn't the pressure that affected them but the illusion created by it. They all felt they had been crushed by a gigantic Yang Qing whose body was made of an entire ocean and whose height reached the heavens.

In that microsecond, they felt what it was like to be crushed by the might of heaven and the earth.

Whether it was the sect master, the chief elder, or the rest of the elders, their bodies were still trembling from the effect.



Whatever casualness, or notion they had before because of Yang Qing's identity as an Order judge which meant he wouldn't act out of turn, was immediately crushed. All that remained was the reality that should have had, had it been anybody else.

At the end of the day they were standing before a palace realm expert, someone who could pulverize them in the blink of an eye. Yang Qing's brief display had exhibited that fact clearly to them.

#### Chapter 583 Deliberating And Passing The Sentence (7)

"Now that you are all here, I can continue. As I was saying I am here to enforce a case made against your sect by one of your outer sect disciples Ma Qi.

He hopes to cut ties with the Striding Falcon Sect as its outer disciple. The grounds for cutting the ties is the mistreatment of the sect towards its outer disciples. The misrepresentation of your sect, the dire conditions provided by the sect towards its outer sect disciple that harms them rather than nurture them.

He has accused the Striding Falcon Sect of endangering the lives of its sect members more specifically the outer sect disciples with the harsh conditions that not only stifle their improvement and growth as cultivators but harm their lives.

As such he no longer wants to be a member of your sect.." Yang Qing calmly said as he used the ascendant grade artifact given by the Judicial Review Committee to state the facts of the case.

His voice not only echoed around the sect but thanks to the artifact that worked in conjunction with the other branches within a 500,000 kilometer radius of the region was able to spread Yang Qing's voice and image to those areas.

"Don't you think the Order is overstepping its bounds? This is interfering with the sect's internal matters besides, like the sect master said, is this proper?

You only heard his side of the story, how do you know what he said was the true picture of the circumstance within our sect? After all, he is only an outer sect disciple. Neither the sect master nor any of the high-ranking figures seemed to have been present when such an accusation was being filed.

It's just the Order and an unfilial outer sect disciple..." said Chief Elder Wei Shen.

"Like I said the circumstances surrounding the case made it unfavorable to do so, besides the verdict wasn't made solely on his testimony. We have a week's worth of recording of the happenings in the outer sect right here.." Yang Qing said as he took out the recording talisman that had been handed to Ma Qi when he first filed the case.

lightsnovel The sect master and the chief elder both managed to mask their emotions well when Yang Qing revealed the talisman, but the other elders had different degrees of emotions showing on their faces, with the primary being shock and wariness.

Without wasting any words, Yang Qing inserted his spiritual essence into the talisman which let out a gentle white mist that transformed into images that were then broadcasted around the sect and every other region within the 500,000-kilometer radius of the sect, with the help of the artifact.

Everything Ma Qi had mentioned during his earlier deliberation on his experiences was perfectly corroborated by the video recording being played.

The disintegrating sulfur desert laceflower which numbered in the hundreds had turned the accommodation area of the outersect disciples into a desert wasteland. The soil was cake yellow there was a mirage forming around the area, and one could see the dried burnt skin of some outer sect disciples who were slowly wasting away in its heat, while at the edge of the area, there were mounds of alchemy and artifact wastes slowly being ground away by the plants.

The harrowing state of their accommodations was highlighted if they were even fit to be called that. They were so dilapidated that it was no different than sleeping outside. Some were just a few bamboo poles, and a thatch of grass stringed together while the better-looking ones were bamboo poles mixed in with what looked to be dung and banana leaves for roofing.

Inside was just as cramped as Ma Qi had said, there were three sharing a room and sometimes it was even five to six and the one that had many occupants seemed to be as a way to protect themselves from other outer sect disciples.

There were muggings and infighting among them, there were others whose sanity had already left them as they walked or sat aimlessly in the dry heat, one could hear muffled sobs and maddened yells coming out from those accommodations.

There were disciples walking around with heavy injuries using leaves and torn garments as a form of treatment. There were even some who passed out as they were walking. Their fellow disciples ignored them as they lifelessly went their way, while those who did stop only did so to check if the passed-out disciple had anything good on him.

This was a place that wreaked of despair and desperation.

Ma Qi who was watching it couldn't help but silently tear up as he clenched his fists.

Everything from how they were treated at the missions hall, to the food they ate, to the competitions they were forced to have just to have one lousy cultivation lesson that would do more damage than good, to the groveling of the disciples, and how they were continuously being broken was all recorded.

He made sure to capture everything he could. Luckily for him, the talisman had a concealment and autonomous feature so he was able to make the recordings without risk of being discovered.

"With what we have seen, do you still think your presence was needed so we could make an informed decision on the matter?" Yang Qing calmly asked as his gaze fell on the eight cultivators whose hearts shook slightly when they saw the coldness within it.

"What do you know? just because you have a recording you automatically assume you have the full picture of the situation?" yelled one of the elders before he flinched back in fear.

"Forgive Elder Jiayi, he sometimes loses himself, please don't take offense. Apologize, elder.." said Chief Elder Wei Shen as he motioned for the elder who had a sudden outburst.

It was a young-looking elder who had red hair. He looked to be in his late twenties and had a tenth-stage core formation cultivation base.

"I am sorry for my earlier outburst.." he humbly said as he lowered his head though it was nothing more than lip service. So Yang Qing didn't even bother to acknowledge it.lightsnovel

"While the elder is at fault for the outburst, his statement isn't. To the outside world, it may seem like we are mistreating our disciples but we are doing it all for their benefit.."

"How so?" Yang Qing coolly asked.

"You obviously know the history of the sect. It started from nothing and it was only through the tireless sacrifices of our predecessors did it manage to reach the heights it reached today.

The disciples joining today, don't know anything about that, all they are doing is chasing the glory of the Striding Falcon Sect that destroyed the Stormcloud Empire.

Character more often than not is what determines the heights a cultivator will reach or the achievements they will have in their lives.

It was a character that united this sect together and fought even against all odds and defeated the Stormcloud Empire.

Honor, an unwavering will was shown back then and it was only them, the sect founder's disciple showed the same tenacity and character which was why many were willing to lay down their lives for her even when some were not members of the sect.

The grounds of the outersect disciples, the things they are enduring now is to help them build that character.

Adversity bonds people and it also draws out the true measure of a person. It is our hope to build that tenacity, indomitable spirit, and sense of togetherness that brought this sect to where it is, and for that, they need to endure.

They need to show they have what it takes to shoulder the weight that comes with being a member of this sect.

Clearly, disciple Ma Qi didn't have that tenacity.." the Chief Elder said with a sigh of disappointment.

Yang Qing was completely overtaken by the impassioned speech before he shook his head with a tired smile.

"I can't tell if you're joking or if you truly believe what you're saying. If it's the latter then I fear for the disciples of your sect.

Sect Master Pan Xue, do you think the same?"

The sect master stood silently with his hands behind his back.

"Figures.." Yang Qing said in response to the silence.

"If your plans are meant to foster character and a sense of worth, why does this treatment only fall to those with no background while those that do enjoy a favorable treatment from the onset?

There's a lack of fairness to it. If it's as you say then the same measure should have been adopted across all the board, it shouldn't just be applied to one group and even so, what I'm seeing here is already beyond what counts as a test.

How many disciples may never get to realize their fullest potential because of your so-called test? They've been repetitively broken over and over again till there is nothing left.

Leaving them to fend for themselves, denying them even the most basic of tools for surviving a test.

A test only serves its purpose if you have empowered those taking it with the basic tools on how to overcome it. Denying them even the barest of minimums, then that test is no longer a test but a show of brutality and torture.

I doubt even fiendish organizations treat their disciples the way you treat yours. I wonder if there has ever been a disciple who has even passed your so-called test. I am genuinely curious.."

"How we conduct our tests is ours to decide not for others. Is the Order planning to insert its will into how sects like ours conduct ourselves? Isn't it overstepping on the autonomous charter?"

"It is not since it's one of your own who has initiated the case and the evidence provided supports the claim and if that isn't enough, then I have these.." Yang Qing said as he took out four cuboid talismans.

"Your case triggered the Organization Coordination Accord and as such I sought the opinion of four reputable rank 3 organizations to weigh in on the matter.." Yang Qing slowly said as he triggered the four talismans that created the projections of four people to instantly appear.

#### Chapter 584 Deliberating And Passing The Sentence (8)

An overbearing pressure was immediately released when the four silhouettes appeared above the skies of the Striding Falcon Sect.

The figures were three men and a woman. Starting from the far right moving westward was an elderly-looking man in green robes, straightened beard that smoothened out and looked like the tip of a sword. He had tied his hair in a daoist topknot and his robes had the image of several mountains joining together to form a mortar and above it was a pestle and mortar. Just standing there one could feel a sense of freshness, the sound of moving water, a harmony between the wood and water elements brought together by a breadth of vast wisdom.

Next to him was a burly-looking man with a rough appearance. He had red and black hair and around his eyes there was a molding that made it seem like the lining of his eyes was made from pumice and magma. He held a hammer in one hand and a crucible filled with boiling metal in the other. Even though he was just a specter, the temperature seemed to rise with his presence.

Next to the burly man was a mature-looking female who had on pure white robes with blue hair neatly tied into a bun. Her beauty was captivating, however, there was an air about her that made it hard for others to even look at her long. She had a solitary air about her like that of a full moon releasing its gentle glow in the silence of the night with only a still lake for company.

Finishing the group was a tall slender handsome young man with black hair smoothly cascading down his back and reaching his waist. Despite the gentle smile he had on and the casual air about him, one could subtly detect a forceful piercing momentum hidden within his body which if released looked like it would pierce through the dome of heaven.

When the sect master, the chief elder, and the other elders saw the four figures, there were visible looks of shock on their faces, a few of the weaker elders had even started to turn pale.

How could they not when one considered the identity of the four figures standing before them?

The elderly-looking man who had the air of nature and an erudite scholar was a renowned alchemist who was close to becoming a gold-grade alchemist and herbalist. He was the current head of the 10,000 Mountain Mortar Manor an alchemy organization whose reputation spread far and wide. His name was Mu Shin.

The burly man next to him was another renowned figure. He was a blue-grade blacksmith with a similar mastery in runes and talisman making. He was the head of the Spirit Fire Wellforging Pavilion an organization famed for its blacksmithing skills and talisman-making. A part of the reason for their well-deserved fame is a natural treasure that has been in the pavilion for tens of thousands of years, the spirit fire well.

Rumor had it that with the flame you could purify and refine any material even the ocean and the skies itself, and the other reason was the burly man before them. He was less than 1,000 years old but his skills could already rival that of seasoned top-tier blue grade blacksmiths who have been practicing and honing their craft for at least 10,000 years. It was said that he had part golem bloodline which was why he was so skilled in both blacksmithing and talisman making. His name was Gu Bing.

The lady next to him was the sect master of the Three Warden Mirrors Sect. The sect was named so because of the core artifact of the sect, the Three Warden Mirror. The mirror had three abilities; to forge the heart, to forge the mind, and to forge the spirit, which was why it was called the three wardens mirror because it helped those from the Three Warden Mirrors Sect to guard their hearts, minds, and souls with its help.

Those from the sect were unwavering and still. Of the four organizations present, it was the youngest, but in terms of overall abilities, it was the strongest. It already had over ten palace realm experts, and their sect master was rumored to have already reached the middle stages of the palace realm and was steadily making her way to the late stages. Her name was Lin Ya.

Finishing the group, the young handsome man was called Ye Cheng and he was the current sect master of the Silver Rain Spear Sect and of the four he was the strongest as he had an eighth stage palace realm cultivation. His name was renowned all over for his skills with the spear. He could shatter mountains, and split rivers with just the movement of his fingers. At four he had already developed spear sense, at twelve he had completed full circulation spear qi in his body, and at seventeen he had already developed spear intent and was now slowly building up in preparation for the next stage, the spear domain.

There were countless tales of him floating around, how if you were to have a friend there was no one like him, he would cross the fires with you as long as he considered you a friend, but if you were his enemy, there was no one worse, he would pursue you to the end, irrespective of the consequences.

The sect master and the other elders couldn't help but feel stifled at being in their presence. Their roles were now just like that of Ma Qi a few moments ago when he cowered before their domineering presence.

Even if the retired supreme elder Liu Kang had been present, they would still have the same feelings as they do now. The Striding Falcon Sect despite being a rank 3 organization like them wasn't fit to be mentioned in the same breath as the four of them. These were organizations that even had the respect of a few rank 2 organizations. For example, Ye Cheng was sworn brothers' with a rogue domain expert from the Horizon Odyssey Guild despite being a palace realm expert himself he had garnered the respect and admiration of said domain expert.

"Seniors, would you please?" Yang Qing said as he left the floor for them.

The talismans he had on his hand were special since they could support a cultivator's spiritual will but it only worked with those at the palace realm.

lightsNovel The specters present were real live representations of the main bodies thanks to the talisman's help that relayed everything the specters saw to the main body while carrying over a bit of the aura of the main bodies, which was why the four figures were able to carry the lifelike auras of the main bodies.

"If you don't mind fellow Daoists, could I go first? My main body is currently Bestial Churning Sea, I can only spare a few seconds.." softly asked Ye Cheng, the sect master of the Silver Rains Sect.lightsnovel



"It's understandable, fellow daoist Ye Cheng you can take the lead.." said Gu Ping the pavilion master of the Spirit Fire Wellforging Pavilion.

"I don't mind either. After you, Daoist Lin Ya can go next, then you brother Gu Ping and I'll finish. What do you think?" asked Mu Shin the manor master of the 10,000 Mountain Mortar Manor.

"It's okay with me.." answered the sect master Lin Ya of the Three Warden Mirrors Sect.

"Good, then daoist Ye Cheng it's yours now.." said Gu Ping.

The sect master of the Silver Rains Spear Sect nodded politely to the three before his face took a drastic change when he faced the team from the Striding Falcon Sect.

"A sect's duty is to serve as a home to nurture all who step through its doors and help them reach heights they couldn't possibly imagine of themselves.

Each organization be it a sect or clan has its way of doing things to ensure its growth and development but even then we all have one thing in common which is in how we treat those we admit and entrust their lives to us.

I've seen prisoners live better lives than how you treat your very own disciples. What you did is despicable, and if I wasn't preoccupied at the moment I would come and subject you all to the same treatment and see if you have that laudable spirit you keep talking about.

I'm utterly disgusted with your kind, petulant children who assume they know what they don't know. What you did has stifled the lives of countless young cultivators who could have probably made something of themselves or maybe even left an indelible mark on the continent, but all that is gone, all they have now is mental and heart demons that may follow them for the rest of their lives.

For what? So a bunch of spoiled children leeching off the laurels of their ancestors can feel superior..."

A murderous intent leaked out of the body of sect master Ye Cheng before he reigned it in an instant later.

"You deserve more than you're getting. You have betrayed your duties as leaders of your sect and thus the disciples you treat like vermin are not beholden to your sect. The sacred bond between a sect and its disciples isn't there and it's only fair that you both cut ties with each other.

Therefore, I Ye Cheng, put my name and honor on the line and vote for disciple Ma Qi and those like him to terminate their discipleship with the Striding Falcon Sect with no repercussion should they wish too.

And for those who still have the heart to chase after the peak, I welcome you all at the Silver Rain Spears Sect, if you dare try, we dare accept you.

If you have the mettle for it, I can promise you this we will give you all the opportunities you need so that in a few years' time you can come here and retake your dignity with your own hands.

As for you.." Ye Cheng shook his head in disgust.

"It's not even worth it to waste another word on your likes. Thank you fellow Daoist and judge Yang Qing for the opportunity, i have to make my goodbye quick, the void ink seal seems to be itching for another round.."

The specter of the sect master of the Silver Rain Spear Sect immediately disappeared after he had made that statement.

#### Chapter 585 Deliberating and passing the sentence (9)

After sect, master Ye Cheng disappeared, the sect master of the Three Warden Mirrors Sect was the next to take the floor.

Her calm gaze fell on the elders and the sect master briefly before it fell on Ma Qi who felt a bit unnerved by the look like all his secrets had been laid bare, before finally it fell on particular parts of the sect below.

Following her line of sight, it was easy to guess which areas she was looking at, it was the same area Yang Qing had noted was the residence of the outer sect disciples.

"No matter how broken and decrepit they look, the worst of them has a better chance of reaching greater heights of the Dao than you all. Your hearts are weak, which is why you did the things you did.

One bullied those under their care, while the other remained impassive through it all despite being the sect master.

Sect Master Pan Xue I am disappointed in you the most. You may think remaining tolerant and being impassive is good for the sect as a whole but you've dug out your own foundations with your naivety.

I wonder what the souls of the previous sect masters would say when they see what their sect has become under your care.

What will you say to them? Will it be the line you keep telling yourself over and over again as you watch the disciples under you get tormented? All in the name of keeping the peace.

None of you has the chance of reaching the palace realm, but some of those disciples you so greatly scorn, ignore, and assume will not amount to much do have a greater chance than you.

They are better off finding that out elsewhere than staying where they're not wanted. It even benefits you all, doesn't it?

Your 'worthy' sect will not be tainted by the undesirables and unworthy.

I, Lin Ya, vote in favor of the dissolution of the relationship between the Striding Falcon Sect and its outer sect disciples..."

Sect Master Lin Ya's voice was soft and gentle, however, her words pierced deeper than sect master Ye Cheng's spear intent.

The sect master who seemed unperturbed at first immediately showed signs of discomfort and doubt in his eyes, while the Chief Elder and his cohorts all had contorted expressions, especially the Chief Elder who was livid at being told in no less terms that he would not amount to much.

"For those willing to leave, my Three Wardens Mirrors Sect will give you a chance to take our entrance examination. Whether you pass or not, you'll get a day to cleanse your minds at the Three Mirrors Pool.."

All who were present immediately had shocked expressions on their faces when they heard the statement from the Sect Master Lin Ya, the only exception was Ma Qi who had no idea of the implications of the words the Sect Master of the Three Wardens Mirror Sect had said.

But whether it was Yang Qing, Luo Meili, the two specters from the manor master of the 10,000 Mountain Mortar Manor and the pavilion master of the Spirit Fire Wellforging Sect, or the sect master of the Striding Falcon Sect and their elders, each one of them had the same look of shock as they turned to look at the disappearing silhouette of Sect Master Lin Ya.

The Three Mirrors Pool was also known as the Three Births Pool. It was rumored to be a condensation liquid that had formed where the three mirrors connected. The liquid condensed over the years to form a small pool. The liquid has the combined effect of the three mirrors, which is it's able to cleanse the mind, the heart, and the soul, though its effects are lower than mirrors.

It was a precious resource that was most coveted, especially by those at the cusp of making a breakthrough to major realms, like from the core formation realm to the palace realm. Objects that could temper the heart and the mind were always high in demand but little in supply, and an object like the Three Mirrors Pool that had three effects was as rare as phoenix feathers.

Merchants and countless organizations tried to get their hands on it, but none of them ever got the chance because the pool is non-renewable. A single drop takes two years to create, let alone the pool that would reduce in size after every use. This was why all the people in the present were shocked the sect master was willing to go that far for a bunch of strangers from another sect.

"Rewards do really follow misfortunesometimes, but I wonder if it's worth it sometimes.." Yang Qing thought to himself as his gaze fell on Ma Qi who was looking around in confusion wondering what he had missed.

"Their steadfastness isn't unfounded.." said Gu Ping still in disbelief over sect master Lin Ya's offer.

"It seems it's now my turn.." added Gu Ping, as he stroked his beard.

"I will be brief and direct. Judge Yang Qing, how far is this thing being projected?"

"500,000-kilometer radius of this place.."

"Good..The Spirit Fire Wellforging Pavilion will not do business with the Striding Falcon Sect and we will cease all business with any party doing business with them. All of you hearing this know my temperament well. I won't say more.

A bunch of spineless traitors. You lot are the disgrace to your sect, and soon enough you will reap all the things you have been sowing.

I, Gu Ping, vote in favor of the termination of the relationship between the Striding Falcon Sect and its outer sect disciples.

Since my fellow Daoists have made the offer, I also extend the offer to those looking to start over, if you have the thick skin to handle a little fire, you're welcome to find me at the Spirit Fire Wellforging Pavilion.." said Gu Ping.

"Brother Mu Shin I heard the king of Brisboar Kingdom gave you 10,000-year-old sagefire dragon wine. I don't know.." a smile that was a mix of awkwardness and greedy anticipation crept out of Pavilion Master Gu Ping's face, who rubbed his hands together and raised his eyebrows a few times as if to motion something.

"Hahaha, you better bring something in return, a few stalks of the fireheart saffron..."

"Forget a few stalks, I'll bring a whole bag's worth.."

Yang Qing whose attention was already grabbed by the sagefire dragon wine, a wine so precious that countless would sell their ancestral treasures and heirlooms for the chance of a drop quickly jumped into the conversation.

"I don't know if Manor Master Mu Shin would not think me too cheap to offer four vines of the starfall jade vine, for a cup.." Yang Qing calmly said, though inwards he was a bundle of nerves.

The gazes of both Manor Master Mu Shin and Pavilion Master Gu Ping flickered at the mention of the vine, especially the former.

"For a wine like this having more company to share enhances its rich flavor even further. I'd be honored to host you, Judge Yang Qing.." eagerly said Manor Master Mu Shin.

The starfall jade vine was even more precious than the fire heart saffron that grew in the spirit fire canyon where the headquarters of the Spirit Fire Wellforge Pavilion was located.

Manor Master Mu Shin would have traded the entire jar for just a single vine let alone four of them. He couldn't help but feel envious of the wealth of the Order if a judge could casually hand out a monarch-grade herb like that so easily.

What he didn't know was Yang Qing had been gifted 200 of them during his promotion ceremony. He wasn't an alchemist at best he was a dabbling herbalist. He had no use for 200 starfall jade vine and had even planned to offload them to a few merchant organizations for something else. He even used one to pick his teeth when he had guests over just to show off and rile them up.

"Judge Yang Qing, I also have a few collections that I could bring that day.." Gu Ping said.

Yang Qing able to read in between the lines responded in kind.

"I recently got a few mineral ores that I wasn't able to deduce their nature, maybe daoist Gu Ping could help me with that. I heard the spirit fire canyon is occasionally frequented by gold flame ducks, I've never seen one.."

"Hahaha, they're quite the sight, I'll bring a few for Judge Yang Qing to see, they're quite the sight, an unmatched taste too.

Daoist Mu Shin, Judge Yang Qing, I'll take my leave.." Pavilion Master Gu Ping said as his specter disappeared, leaving Mu Shin who was about to pass his verdict.

"I, Mu Shin, the Manor Master of the 10,000 Mountain Mortar Manor support the dissolution of the relationship between the outer sect disciples of the Striding Falcon Sect and its sect.

The sect has betrayed its sacred duty of its ethical responsibilities towards its own disciples.

I will also be terminating all business deals the 10,000 Mountain Mortar Manor has with the Striding Falcon Sect, and would also like to serve notice; if any of those we have dealings with do business with them, we will be terminating our relationships with them.

To the outer disciples below me, if any of you wish it, the doors to my manor are always open to you should you decide you want to pursue alchemy or its supporting occupations.

As long as you have an agile mind, and a committed spirit, you will be able to flourish. Best of luck on your travels ahead.." Manor Master Mu Shin said as his silhouette disappeared.

The Chief Elder and the elders all had gobsmacked expressions with increasingly pale faces, and the sect master wasn't any better either.

The last two announcements had effectively crippled them. However this ended, aspects of the sect had already been crippled thanks to the embargo placed on them by the two organizations.

Chapter 586 Cracks that broke the dam

The 10,000 Mountain Mortar Manor and the Spirit Fire Wellforging Pavilion may not be as infamous as the Silver Rains Spear Sect when it comes to battle prowess, or be as mysterious as the Three Wardens Mirrors Sect that was expected to join rank 2 organizations sometime in the future provided nothing changed, but these two organizations were much more terrifying than the two combined.

They had connections all over the continent, countless organizations from merchant organizations to sects, empires, and cultivation clans, down to even renowned rogue cultivators, and even some underworld organizations owed them favors.

Because of the nature of their dealings which was vital to almost any cultivator, and the quality of their products, the announcement they made had effectively cut off the Striding Falcon Sect from the alchemy and artifact community within the sphere of operation of these two organizations.

No organization would risk falling out with either the 10,000 Mountain Mortar Manor or the Spirit Fire Wellforging Pavilion for the Striding Falcon Sect, which didn't have anything that would make those organizations think twice about dealing with them.

The ones who could maybe ignore the hidden threat made by the two organizations were those who were of a similar rank to them or more powerful or had an antagonistic relationship with them. Even then, the Striding Falcon Sect was sure they would be charged exorbitantly by those organizations because they had no other option.

The statement made by the two organizations had effectively stuck them between a rock and a hard place. They either pay through their teeth which was unlikely to be sustainable in the long run as they would have to pinch their resources just to stay in the red, which would cause a lot of unrest and dissent among the members of the sect as some would have to be prioritized over the sect, or the sect finds a way to be self-sustainable.

But there was one problem with that, the sect wasn't exactly known for alchemy, herbology, artifact production, and the like. They would have to find and recruit those skilled in those areas, which would not be cheap considering their situation has been aired out far and wide. Then they will have to retrofit their sect to suit those needs and buy resources inclusive of cultivation techniques, and recipes, so the experts who decide to come in can have something to work with.

Just the preliminary costs alone would put a sizeable dent in the sect's coffers. This was why Sect Master Pan Xue and Chief Elder Wei Shen who were able to do the math couldn't help but have grim looks in their eyes.

"Is this how the Order does things?!" roared Chief Elder Wei Shen.



"What Manor Master Mu Shin and Pavilion Master Gu Bing have decided on was entirely of their volition. We have no influence whatsoever on how they do their business. Who they want to deal with is entirely up to them.

The only thing the Order requested of them was their honest unbiased opinion on the matter as per the guidelines of the Organizations Coordination Accord.

As the leading figures of the sect, you should be both familiar with it.." Yang Qing calmly said.

"Your predecessor was one of the many sect masters and leading figures who put their name to the accord along with the Cultivation Ethics Charter that you all grossly violated..." he added.

"While what we did may have been a tad bit harsh, how is what you and the rest have done no different than destroying us? It is no different than the extermination sentence passed on to the Ice Emerald Sect passed recently.

We do not deserve this, and when it comes to our disciples, everything that has happened was within the bounds of our sect regulation and conduct..."

Sect Master Pan Xue who seemed passive all this time letting Chief Elder Wei Shen run the show, finally spoke up.

"Even now you can't admit your failures. You have shamed your title as the sect master. I know sect masters in sects that have less history or prestige than yours but they did everything in their power to protect and help those below them no matter the cost. Some even went as far as spending countless resources to weave a lie so their disciples could have a path to life, while others went as far as dragging the Order to the mud knowing full well there would be dire consequences.

But they did not hesitate, to them, the well-being of those under their care mattered above everything else even their own lives.

But what have you done? Just because you weren't involved in the happenings of your outer sect disciples, bearing silent witness as the sect master, you're just as guilty as them.

As the sect master, everything the sect is and should be rests with you. Look at those who stood in the seat before you, how did they act?" asked Yang Qing which prompted sect master Pan Xue to slightly avert his gaze in shame and guilt.

"You have destroyed the reputation and bedrock that they gave their lives to protect. Everything they did has been undone by you and those around you.

It's not too late for you to don the hat with honor, to try and undo all that you have let happen. Admit it to yourself and to them, that what happened here isn't right, and let them go.." Yang Qing softly said as he pointed towards Ma Qi behind him.

"Pan Xue don't let him muddle your thoughts..." Chief Elder Wei Shen coldly said with his demeanor hiding other implications behind his words.

Sect Master Pan Xue had a complicated expression that appeared on his face before he let out an exasperated sigh as he said,

"My opinion and that of Chief Elder Wei Shen are the same. What has happened was to help our young disciples grow.."

Yang Qing couldn't help but shake his head in disappointment.

"Have you thought what will happen if the retired supreme elder doesn't come out of his seclusion?" Yang Qing meaningfully asked.

Sect Master Pan Xue's stupefied expression was all the answer he needed to confirm the sect master's thoughts.

Yang Qing guessed that as long as the retired supreme elder came out of seclusion, he could borrow the retired elder's influence to set things right in the sect and overturn everything. But it was an erroneous plan from the start. Counting aside whether the retired supreme elder could emerge from the death seclusion or not, the damage had already been done.

The sect was already fractured, and as for the outer sect disciples, the damage done to them may have permanently ruined the futures of some, and those who had some semblance of a chance to survive it, would never feel a connection to the sect, and Yang Qing had no doubt that if some of them grew powerful enough to contend with the sect they would either turn on it or leave.

The sect's foundation was already cracked but both sides whether it was the chief elder's side or the sect master, they were too delusional to see it or too stubborn.

Yang Qing had hoped the sect master would choose to let them go. The announcement coming from him would help save a bit of the sect's reputation and may very well help the outer sect disciples in some part, to move on.

#### Chapter 587 Fate Of The Striding Falcon Sect

"What do you mean by that?" sect master Pan Xue wearily asked as his gaze inadvertently fell on the area that Yang Qing guessed was where the retired supreme elder was having his death seclusion.

lightsNovel There was a short period of silence as Yang Qing debated whether to secretly transmit what Yen Xue had told him about the odds of the retired supreme elder who was unlikely to take that leap forward into the middle stage of the palace realm and now only had 50-70 years at most to live.

Ultimately, Yang Qing decided against it as he replied,

"Few things if any are completely guaranteed in life, things as they often do, inevitably happen.

As a sect master, those below you hope for the best as for you, it's your job to plan for the worst as with any leader of an organization.

It's common practise isn't it, but none of that matters now.." Yang Qing said with another sigh.

"I Judge Yang Qing on behalf of the Order vote in favor of outer sect disciple Ma Qi to terminate his discipleship with the Striding Falcon Sect on grounds of betrayal of the sacred relationship between a sect and its disciples as listed in the Cultivation Ethics Charter.

In addition, this ruling extends to all outer sect disciples willing to leave. You are free to leave the sect should you wish to do so, and the Order will guarantee your freedom to do so..." Yang Qing said.

"With the continuous practice I had at the Medical Valley, and the improvements to my physique, I should be able to do this in one go.." thought Yang Qing as he brought his palms together.

A vast transcendent aura filled with life was immediately released from his body. Boundless qi was immediately released from his body which brought a refreshing and rejuvenating sensation to all around him.

Immediately after the appearance of his spiritual qi which was waves of blue and green light that had a subtle indistinct weak purple light flashing within it, triggered the growth of vegetation on the ground below him in rapid succession.

The vegetation covered 100 meters within a single breadth and continued to expand outwards without any signs of slowing down.

A radiant light was released from Yang Qing's body as below him the blue-green spiritual qi being released from his body coalesced and formed a small green puddle. From within that puddle grew a small sapling.

Within microseconds, both the puddle and the sapling had grown in size. The puddle was not a puddle anymore but a small pond and the sapling was not a sapling anymore but a two-meter tree.

A presence of eternal and ethereal tranquility was being released from the tree and the pond the larger they became. The tree was crystal clear and was crisscrossed by red and orange empyrean lights which added a more mystical nature to the tree while the waters below flowed with green-blue lights.

The earth rumbled as they both increased in size and it only stopped when the pond was the size of a small lake and the tree had grown to about 800 meters with wide branches and an ethereal light surrounding it.

Yang Qing's tiny figure could be spotted seated in a lotus position with his hands placed in front of his abdomen forming an oval seal.

Fusang's flame water of resurgence

Ma Qi, the elders, the chief elder, the sect master, and every member of the Striding Falcon Sect were all left speechless when they saw a massive tree and lake suddenly appear next to their sect.

Both the tree and the lake looked and felt real if one overlooked the transcendent and ethereal aura that surrounded them.

Yang Qing couldn't help but nod in satisfaction as he saw the height of the tree and the extent of the ocean.

He felt gratified that his labors were not in vain.

The Fusang's flame of water resurgence was a tier-grade cultivation it was a multifaceted cultivation art that had defensive capabilities, healing, purification, and purging abilities in one. It was also one of the few top-tier blue-grade cultivation arts that he had mastered to perfection.

The reason blue-grade cultivation arts and above were so greatly sought after other than their terrifying abilities, was the sentience of the art. The fusang tree below him wasn't any less real than any other palace rank spiritual tree with sentience, while the lake below him was habitable to all manner of lifeforms.

The art could operate autonomously without the user needing to guide it and it could absorb spiritual qi independently without needing to drain the user to sustain it.

Achieving sentience was the symbol that one had cultivated the art to perfection.

Yang Qing decided to go all out and launch the cultivation art for its presence to deter the Striding Falcon Sect from trying anything, and the other was its healing and purification effects. Among the arts

he cultivated it was the best at it, especially in cleansing impurities that had even pervaded the soul and was the one that maximized his yin-yang jade physique the most.lightsnovel

In a single swift motion, Yang Qing waved his hand forward which triggered a reaction from the lake and the fusang tree. The Fusang tree turned into a blaze of red-orange flame that combined with the green-blue ocean, creating a light that was a combination of the four colors.

The light rumbled and dispersed in the direction of the Striding Falcon Sect.

The Chief Elder had wanted to say something, however, he found his whole body firmly restricted in place, him and the other elders along with the sect master. They could not move their bodies an inch, or speak, all they could do was watch the radiant rainbow-looking light descend on their sect like an ocean wave.

The light ignored the protection arrays as it spread throughout the region filled with outer sect disciples.

Limbs regrew in an instant, grievous injuries were immediately wiped out from the disciples that were washed by the light, all sorts of deformities were immediately cured, and their skins were no longer pale or dry, but had rosin and elasticity to them.

It was like the whole outer residence had received a cleansing.

Countless disciples stood there in disbelief shocked at what was happening around them. Those who had missing limbs couldn't help but check and recheck the regrown limbs to confirm if it was real, those with huge injuries felt the parts where the injuries had been wondering if it was an illusion while countless others looked at the changes around them.

Tears started trickling down the eyes of some, while others yelled in joy, and others just stood in silence, overwhelmed by the whole thing.

"Chuanli is this real, is this my hand?"

"Zheng is this skin mine, wasn't it filled with the lacerations of the emerald caterpillar? I thought I'd looked like a shredded human all my life. This can't be real.."

"The purple veins and the choking breath caused by that potion are all gone.."

"My eyes don't feel like I've been submerged in lava.."

"You bastard Sun Qiao, why are you sniffing, stay away.."

"The smell, the smell is gone, that rotten stench is gone. Deiming, you no longer smell like a rotten corpse.."

"Huh, mmmh!! you're right, Sun Qiao. The smell is gone, and I can finally say hi to sister Wengling finally. But wait.."

"Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Brother Qiao can you help me confirm, the smell is gone everywhere.."

"Sister Meilin, is this real, can we leave this place?"

"I don't know, I hope so.."

"Has my mind finally broken that I'm seeing things? Grandpa I tried, I really tried but it seems I couldn't hold on.

Senior brother, can you do me a favor?"

"What?"

"If you see me start to pay respects to the grass and treat them like my parents and ancestors, please knock me out and throw my body to the farm.."

"I will, but you have to do the same for me because I think I'm losing my mind too. Those bastards!!!"

Countless reactions flooded the outer region as the outer sect disciples celebrated the changes while others thought they had lost their minds. No matter the reason, the outer sect region that was a land of desolation and despair now had a transformation to it.

#### Chapter 588 Can We Really Live?

The silence of the area where the outer disciples resided was filled with murmurs and a sense of life and excitement that was not there before. The tears and wails were no longer solely of despair but of celebration, which was something the region had never seen before.

Ma Qi couldn't see what was happening below because of the mist of light that was still shrouding the entire area but he could hear the voices and detect the emotions contained within.

Tears started dripping from his eyes as his gaze fell to the ground below. He didn't even have time to notice that his transformation was the most drastic of all. His skin glistened with a silver glow with a vibrant aura being released from his body. His qi vigor was exploding as the light being released from the fusang and the lake purified and strengthened his body.

As the person closest to Yang Qing, the effect of the fusang tree and the lake was strongest in him. All the impurities that were in the medicinal herbs, and potions that were in his system had been purified, and what remained was refined to his body with the help of the light, and all internal injuries in his entire body down to his soul had been restored and strengthened several times over.

The Fusang's Flame Water Of Resurgence was a top tier blue grade cultivation art that was being released in its perfected form by a palace realm cultivator with one of the deepest foundations and accumulations possible as a palace realm cultivator who had a peerless jade physique skilled in restoration to boot.



Yang Qing circulated the art to its fullest extent. What Ma Qi and the rest of his disciples were receiving was no less than a stroke of fortune, a panacea of rebirth. They were being remolded inside and outside, and they would be hard-pressed to find any treasure that would do a better job than what Yang Qing was doing for them at this moment.

After a few minutes, the commotion died down as Yang Qing dispelled the art, along with waving his sleeves created a wild green fire that burned all the vegetation that had appeared around the area as a result of him executing the art. The flames covered an area of 7,000 kilometers which was the area that had vegetation growth influenced by his spiritual qi.

He was not about to let the Striding Falcon Sect luck out from him. He still remembered the strange evolution that happened on the grounds of the Clear Sword River Sect, and he wasn't about to let the Striding Falcon Sect profit from something similar.

A look of regret flashed across some of the elders' eyes as they saw Yang Qing burn every single piece of vegetation as far as the eye could see into ash. When he was done, Yang Qing didn't even spare the ash as he waved his sleeves again which created a mini cyclone that gathered up the ash all over which he then stored in a straw jar.

Below him the outer sect disciples were still in shock at the happenings around them so Yang Qing decided to reiterate his offer to them again.

"Those who wish to leave the Striding Falcon Sect can do so now without repercussions. If you so wish you can leave right now, and the Order will uphold your choice.

Not only that as you have heard from the announcement made by the seniors who have just left; Should you wish to their doors are open to you. You can try and join the Three Wardens Mirrors Sect, the Silver Rain Spear Sect, the 10,000 Mountain Mortar Manor, and the Spirit Fire Wellforging Pavilion if you want.

Their heads have given their solemn word that has been heard all over, that their doors are open to you, should you wish to join them.

It isn't only them, I am sure there are countless other sects, and organizations out there who would be willing to take you in. lightsnovel

You are all not as stuck as you think, you are not as damaged as you think, and not all organizations are like Striding Falcon Sect.

If some of you are unsure, you can visit the nearest Order branch and they will give you a list of organizations around you with decent reputations and the four organizations that I have just mentioned are some of them.

It is my sincere hope that you all can embark on the journeys that you all envisioned when you started cultivating. Ignite your spirits to live and see what life becomes of it.

Here and now choose how you want your story to be written. Do you want to remain shackled by what you have seen and experienced over the time you have been here? or do you want to take a gamble and take a step beyond the darkness and see what's there?" said Yang Qing as his voice rumbled over the sect, reaching the souls of all who heard him.

"Surely at the very least no matter how it ends up as long as you take that step it's bound to be better than what is, at present.." he added.

Ma Qi who was behind him clenched his fists as he felt his blood boil. The image of four-year-old him flashed in his eyes. He had just started his journey in cultivation then.

It wasn't as glamorous as he had imagined and was tedious and extremely painful as he had to push his body to the extremes every single day so as to excavate more out of it and refine the medicinal herbs and spirit beast ingredients that were used concurrently with the training.

He had almost given up a few times but he steadfastly held on, and the thing that kept him going was the image of his father using a tiny arrow to blow a hole through a bear that was five times his size.

He wanted to pull a similar feat which was what kept him going and when he broke through the first stage of the body refinement realm, the iron body, it was like a new world had opened up before him. He could never forget the exhilaration he felt, it was then that he decided he was going to pursue the boundless path of cultivation and experience its wonderful world.

That sentiment remained strong even after he joined the Striding Falcon Sect and the grim reality of the sect smacked him straight in the face. On the nights he had some sanity left in him, he would remember the feeling he got after every breakthrough and it would give him the energy needed to endure the next day. It was what kept him sane until it didn't. Until the sect slowly by slowly made him forget it, until this moment.

lightsnovel He wasn't the only one triggered by Yang Qing's statement as countless outersect disciples each had their own reasons for cultivating brought to the surface.

It was unknown who said it first but a single wave of one question flooded through the area.

"Can we really live?"

Chapter 589 Each With Their Choice

"You can.."

Yang Qing's soft reply was the tether that they needed as one by one, the outer sect disciples started moving.

Some walked by themselves while others sought additional strength by moving in groups as they excitedly talked amongst themselves.

lightsNovel "Shun Mei, will you head to the Three Wardens Mirrors Sect? I am thinking of going there. The sect master looked so powerful, I want to be powerful like her?"

"I think I will go to the Silver Rains Spear Sect, I have always felt I may have an affinity for the spear.."

"What affinity, you can barely hold up a ladle as it is. There's no need to pretend that you have some deep connection with the spear, you fell for their sect master, didn't you?"

"What do you know?"

"Why are you blushing then?"

"Luli, you, you.."

"Lei Chao, where are you headed?"

"I am thinking of going back home and stay with my parents. Being a farmer isn't that bad, and they must be getting on in their years, I doubt they'd be able to handle all that work.."

"I almost forgot you have been here for 12 years..."

"What about you?"

"I haven't thought about it yet. I don't have any family to go back to, and I know my talent well enough to know I can't get into any of the four organizations.."

"If you don't mind it, why don't you come with me? The land we own is huge, i doubt I'd be able to take care of it all by myself.."

"Really? You're sure it's okay.."

"It is, we survived this hell by looking out for each other. You're my brother in all but blood. I was hesitant to make the offer because I thought you might want to join some sect and continue cultivation.

Even in this place, despite the conditions you still managed to reach the sixth stage of the qi refinement realm despite being here for four years, which is a far cry from my pitiful accomplishments."

"Don't be too hard on yourself. It's only because you shared your resources with us that your cultivation stagnated and ours improved. We can never repay you for all you did for us senior brother, despite being strangers.

If the offer still stands, I would be honored to be a farmhand. Just pay me with decent food and wine.."

"Hahahaha, that is the one thing we have no shortage of. One of the elders there is known for his snow-berry potato wine..

But you're sure you don't want to try joining a sect, brother Xia Guo? With your talent, I'm sure you could get in.."

"The problem isn't with my talent, it's with my mind. With how close to shattering it is, I don't want to risk joining a sect with all those cracks there.

For now, I think a slow life is the best thing for me.."

"Me too.."

"Oi Wen Zhi, are you not leaving?"

"Sorry brother Gong, I think I'll stay.."

"Why? Are you crazy?! Do you have a death wish?!"

"I am already under Senior Brother Nianzu's care. He said he has a way to ensure I become an inner core disciple by next year?"

"Nianzu, that demon in human skin? Wasn't Su Ning made the same promise, and where is he now, look at him!!! He is over there giggling at the Disintegrating sulfur desert laceflower. He was supposed to be an inner core disciple right about now, but look at his state?!"

"Brother Gong, I appreciate your concern, but it's my choice.."

"Leave him, Gong. We all know why he is making that choice. Best of luck Wen Zhi.."

"Thank you, Brother Qin Song, and best wishes to you and Brother Gong on the paths ahead. Maybe we can meet someday.."

"Maybe.."

"Sister Houli, are you not leaving?"lightsnovel

"I want to, but how do we know those sects out there are not the same as Striding Falcon Sect, if not worse?"

"The Order has given us their word.."

"But didn't the Striding Falcon Sect lure us with the same words too? I don't have anyone out there so if I leave I will have to join another sect to protect myself.

If that is my only choice, I'd rather stay here, at least I already know what I will be getting here, rather than the unknown, and who knows with things out in the open, maybe things will get better.."

"Okay, if that's your choice. I'll head to the Order first and then decide where to go, though I do hope I can join the Spirit Fire Wellforging Pavilion and try my hand at talisman making and rune study.."

"You've always liked those things, I wish you success, and if you become some big-shot talisman maker, don't forget your senior sister here.

"I won't. Take care Senior Sister Houli.."

"Take care, Junior Sister Qing Ying.."

There were different reactions from the outer sect disciples. Some stayed, unable to overcome the fear, while others blazed on the path ahead of them, meanwhile, the core regions of the sect were filled with dreadful silence. There was no movement from the inner disciples or the elders who were there.

They seemed terrified to show their faces.

Meanwhile, the faces of the Chief Elder and the other elders turned grim and ashen. Yang Qing lifted the restrictions he had placed on their bodies when the outer sect disciples started to move.

After they were released none of them said anything as a couple of the elders fearfully stared at Yang Qing. As for the Chief Elder and the sect master, each was silent trying to hide their own thoughts on the mass exodus they were seeing.

"We will be keeping an eye on each and every one of them, just incase you decide to pay them a visit.." Yang Qing casually said as his gaze briefly fell on the Chief Elder, who flinched a bit before he straightened himself.

"What about the resources we spent on them. Whenever there's termination of a relationship between a disciple and their sect, they need to leave behind all that the sect has given them. Their cultivation was given to them by us, and the cultivation arts and resources we gave them, shouldn't they at least pay that back?" said Chief Elder Wei Shen.

Yang Qing made a point to isolate the area around them so the Chief Elder's question would not reach the outer sect disciples below or Ma Qi.

"Despicable to the end. It's my understanding that you never guided them on any cultivation arts and the ones you did even the barest of minimums they had to use merit points and the lesson itself was subpar and is liable to even injure them.

I won't even mention those putrid things you call cultivation pills and potions, or the cultivation arts.

How thick-skinned can you be? But so you don't have any justification, here you can have this. One is a top-tier orange-grade cultivation art to pay for the one you exorbitantly charged your disciples to use, and the other is a middle-tier orange-grade cultivation art to pay for the red-grade arts you gave them.

Also, have these pills, so you know what true cultivation pills look like.." Yang Qing said as he tossed two scrolls and a ceramic jar.

"Keep the jar.." he added.

The two scrolls had silver wolf claw technique which was the top tier orange grade cultivation art, while the other contained the alabaster palm storm technique which was the middle tier orange grade art. As for the ceramic jar, it contained an assortment of earth-rank pills of the highest quality, and there were about a thousand of them, while the ceramic jar was an sky rank storage artifact that could preserve the efficacy of the pills.

"They owe you nothing now.." Yang Qing coldly said to the Chief Elder who swallowed his next words as he put away the items Yang Qing had thrown over.

"Senior Yen Xu could i trouble you to take them to the Green Sparrow Branch so that they can make the arrangements to transport them where they need to go.." Yang Qing gently asked.

"No problem.."

"Thank you.." Yang Qing said as he heaved a sigh of relief.

"Ma Qi, you have your freedom. What are your plans?" asked Yang Qign as he turned to face the emotional Ma Qi whose eyes were in disbelief and lips were quivering.

"I think i'll go home first, then decide later.." he said with a cracked voice chalked with emotions.

"Well, i wish you all the best, Ma Qi.."

"Thank you, judge Yang Qing, thank you truly for everything.." he said as the dam broke in his eyes.



"It's nothing, you did well. You were brave Ma Qi, to the very end , you were brave. Be proud of that.." Yang Qing said as he patted his shoulders.

An instant later Ma Qi and the rest of the disciples who had made the choice to leave, disappeared much to the surprise of those looking.

Yang Qing's gaze lingered briefly on those who decided to stay before he sighed as he said to Luo Meili,

"Let's leave.."

Chapter 590 Each With Their Thoughts

Striding Falcon Sect

In one of the core buildings, there were two sides seated facing each other as a palpable tense atmosphere filled the room.

On one side was the sect master, and eight other figures who wore similar black robes with gold cloud markings. Most of the eight seemed young with only three being elderly and from their decrepit looks, they seemed well within their years.

The group stared ferociously at the group seated opposite them that was being headed by Chief Wei Shen.

The group from the chief elder's side didn't shrink back as they let out the pressures of their cultivation base which was able to drown out the side of the sect master.

The group from sect master Pan Xue's side only had two late-stage core formation experts and it was two elderly men who looked to be at the end of their tether. The rest of the group was mostly comprised of early-stage core formation experts with the remaining few being at the middle stages of the core formation realm.

Despite their livid anger, they could barely compete with the momentum from the other side that had twelve cultivators with the weakest being at the sixth stage of the core formation realm.

"Enough..." sect master Pan Xue said as he waved his sleeves dispelling the pressure that was bearing on the elders from his side.

The chief elder along with a few of the seasoned elders all had looks of surprise on their faces when they saw how easily he dispelled the combined force of the twelve elders. Some of the elders from the Chief Elder's side even exchanged wary looks with each other.

"Seems like the rumors were true, Pan Xue has already reached the absolute peak of the core formation realm. I don't know how deep his accumulations are, but if the retired supreme elder were here, I have no doubt he would make a try for the palace realm.

lightsnovel But none of that matters, with our backing, there's nothing much he can do. As for the retired supreme elder, the seniors from the clan said he got injured heavily in the battle against the Stormcloud Empire.

He was unable to completely heal them which ended up affecting his cultivation to date. His chances of breaking through to the middle stages of the palace realm are slim to none.

With his dwindling lifespan he should have eighty years at most. Once he passes we can finally search for the Stormcloud saber which should be the key to the hidden vault of the Stormcloud Empire.

Despite the sacrifices we made, they still had the cheek to hide the presence of a hidden vault that contained the true core wealth of the Empire.

With that old fossil out of the way, finding it shouldn't be hard. Whatever we find should be able to push higher even with the embargo, especially if it has the incomplete gold-grade art as the various seniors surmised is stored in there. As for Pan Xue and the rest..." thought Chief Elder as a strange glint flashed through his eyes.

"Stop, this isn't the time for infighting. Our sect is at a dire moment at the moment because of the Order. We need to put our differences aside and figure out how to weather through this storm.

With the 10,000 Mountain Mortar Manor and the Spirit Fire Wellforging Pavilion terminating their relationship with us we have to be prepared. They will likely ask for payment for the goods we took on consignment and we should also be prepared for other organizations to cut ties with us.

We need to stick together and commit everything we can to the sect to ensure we can survive this. We have survived worse, and I am sure, we can survive this too.." said Chief Elder Wei Shen.lightsnovel

"The Chief Elder is right.." said one of the young elders from the Chief Elder's side with a fawning attitude.

"Stick together?! Stick together?! It's all your fault that we are even in this mess, to begin with! If you had not given free reign to your disciples to do whatever they wanted, do you think we'd be here.." vehemently yelled one of the elders from Sect Master Pan Xue's side.

"Wen'er.." softly said the sect master as his gaze fell on the young elder.

"But master.." said the young elder still rife with indignation.

"What is done is done, no we need to think of a way forward.." said the sect master with a sigh.

"Sect master you need to teach your disciple better. He may be an elder but he is easily agitated which highlights his poor mentality. Maybe we should let him reside with those outer sect disciples.

It should lift their spirits to see an elder sharing the same accommodations with them. What do you think?" said the pink-haired elder with a playful smile.

Her tone was filled with unrestrained mockery and disdain as she said this.

"Are you telling me how to guide my disciple, Wei Ling?" sect master Pan Xue said as a majestic presence was released from his body. The walls and the furniture in the room began to shake.

Chief Elder Wei Shen circulated his cultivation in a bid to dispel the pressure that was bearing on the pink-haired woman whose face was already pallid as she felt like an entire mountain had been slammed into her body.

Even with the Chief Elder's assistance the suffocation the pink-haired woman felt didn't seem to subside.

"Pan Xue are you sure you want to fall out now?" coldly asked the Chief Elder.

"Wei Shen, I will only warn you once! Don't forget the crest you wear and represent. You are a member of the Striding Falcon Sect, not the Wei clan.

The same for the rest of you. Just because I was passive to the way you did your things do not think me a coward.

I may have done things that put shame on my title as Sect Master but do not for one second forget that I am the SECT MASTER OF THE STRIDING FALCON SECT! I will not hesitate to give my life for it..." sect master Pan Xue said as his body burst with a thick battle intent that made even the air shake.

"And I am not the only one who harbors those sentiments, be careful.." the sect master calmly added as he dispelled his pressure.