

Daily Life 801

Chapter 801: Wang Ling's New Daoist Name

It was the evening of August 6th on Sunday in the fifteenth week of the semester.

The investment for the new “General Office of Strategic Deception” sect that Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal was setting up was officially agreed upon in the “Midnight Dining Hall” branch opened by Boss Tan's younger brother.

The total investment amount was two billion immortal gold, which would be divided into five lots. Each portion of four hundred million immortal gold would be transferred to the General Office of Strategic Deception's bank account to be used for the development of the sect.

That same evening, the Green Investment Committee, short for Green Sect Enterprise Investment Committee, also announced the news on its official website, and for one moment, hundreds of thousands of Huaxiu light force sects were hugely shaken.

No one expected a newly established sect to actually be capable of attracting such a huge angel investment. This already broke the record in the history of Green Investment Committee investments; previously, the largest investment the Green Investment Committee had pulled in was eight billion, but that was in regular HNY, and couldn't compare with four hundred million immortal gold at all.

A hundred million immortal gold was equivalent to forty billion HNY...

Four hundred million immortal gold was 160 billion HNY, which right away was twenty times more than the Green Investment Committee's second largest investment amount. What kind of strength was this?

The light force sects were ranked according to five levels: Sky, Earth, Black, Yellow, Dust... This rank was assigned after a sect was assessed upon its founding, and was known as the pre-evaluation.

The pre-evaluation was determined based on the line-up of core members, battle strength, the sect head's status and influence in the cultivation circle, as well as the overall preliminary development and economic strength of the sect.

Following the sect's establishment, Huaxiu Alliance would set the day of the sect's founding as the annual deadline for an objective assessment of student enrollments and the sect's operation levels. Using the pre-evaluation as a basis, the sect's rating would then either be upgraded or lowered.

That evening, Huaxiu Alliance announced the pre-evaluation for Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's General Office of Strategic Deception: a Sky-level third-class sect...

A Sky-level sect from the start, and third-class to boot...

The pre-evaluation astonished everyone in the light force circle.

For a lot of people who didn't understand, they might not have any concept of what this pre-evaluation meant, but comparing the numbers was mind-blowing.

There were 320,000 legitimate light forces on record in Huaxiu, 95% of which comprised sects at Black, Yellow and Dust levels. Earth-level sects made up 3%, and Sky-level sects occupied just 2% ...

Based on these percentages, there were over six thousand Sky-level sects. Divided by class, there were less than twenty sects above fifth-class; the vast majority of Sky-level sects were between seventh- and ninth-class.

It was among the Sky-level ninth-class sects that competition was the most bitter, because if they were just a little bit careless, they might drop to Earth-level the following year.

Thus, a Sky-level sect was born after a long history of evaluations. Currently, the top twenty Sky-level sects on record were a hundred years or even a thousand years old.

But Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's sect which had just been set up was actually deemed Sky-level third-class... a lot of complexions changed at this formidable indication of its preliminary strength.

Plenty of light force big shots started investigating the investors behind the new sect, but according to the Green Investment Committee, it was several companies that had jointly invested in Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's sect.

Furthermore, these companies were all involved in different trades and had very broad networks; it was difficult to thoroughly investigate them all, and some of them were even low-profile enterprises. These enterprises typically didn't make the news, and there weren't any tidbits of information on them; they were the type that worked hard and quietly made their fortunes. Even the bosses were all very low-key; their names alone didn't ring any bells.

Credit for all of this naturally had to be given to Ah Mai.

He had already achieved his aim.

"Sky-level third-class... Senior Immortal is too strong! And how did he pull in so many bigwig investments?" After seeing the news, Dharmaraja sent out a series of "damn awesome" memes in the chat group.

Cailian Zhenren: "Senior Immortal is awesome!"

Odd Zhuo: "Senior Immortal is awesome!"

Daoist Guang: "Senior Immortal is awesome!"

Loopy Toad: "Senior Immortal???"

Immortal Toya: "Senior Immortal is awesome!"

Little Silver: "Grenade-Throwing is awesome!"

Wei Zhi: "Congratulations, Senior Immortal!"

Fang Xing: "The pattern is crooked, this OCD person can't take it!"

Wang Ling: "..."

“It’s mainly because of Brother Ling’s reputation that things went well with this investment...” Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal was very modest. To be honest, even he himself never expected everything to happen so naturally and smoothly that it was beyond imagination.

Apart from his many years of hoarding and planning, the person he had to thank the most was still Wang Ling.

Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal wasn’t a fool. He was well aware how all this was possible.

While he did have widespread connections, how could they compare with his Brother Ling? Daoist Guang had pulled in an investor on his behalf because of Wang Ling, who was also a large reason why these bigwigs had responded to his sect’s call for investments.

“On a serious note, I just read the group announcement. If Senior Immortal has fixed the official establishment of the sect for next Tuesday, we have to take corresponding precautions.”

Cailian Zhenren said, “Tonight’s announcements by the Green Investment Committee and Huaxiu Alliance have shaken the light force circle. Senior Immortal will be sending out hero invitations, and naturally there will be friends who offer their sincere blessings. There are times, however, when it’s the reverse, and can provoke jealousy. There are already plenty of people now who are investigating Senior Immortal’s investors.”

“It’s fine, let them investigate.” Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal laughed.

In this situation, the biggest player was Huaxiu Alliance, and investigating the Alliance wouldn’t be easy.

But Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal thought that even if he didn’t say anything, it would be very clear to all the light force sect big shots once the Ten Generals showed up on the day of the sect’s establishment.

In the group, however, only Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal and Wang Ling, as well as Daoist Guang who had been responsible for setting up the connection, knew that the investment was from Huaxiu Alliance.

Because this needed to be kept secret, it couldn’t be made public for the time being, not even to the core members.

Since they didn't understand the situation, many people in the group naturally felt worried.

“Don't drop vigilance against evildoers'; don't worry, I'm already prepared for anything. I have to ask everyone to please do your best and get ready to bear witness at the opening ceremony of our General Office of Strategic Deception on Tuesday, August 8th.”

Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal sent fist salute and good luck emojis. He then abruptly recalled that there was one thing he hadn't mentioned yet. “Oh, by the way, I need to tell you something. After discussion with Brother Ling, he's going to change his Daoist name, which he will use when he joins the sect as our visiting official and leader of our recreation hall.”

“???”

“Ling Zhenren's new Daoist name???”

“What is it?”

A lot of people started to ask questions.

Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal: “Crispy Noodles Dao Monarch. This is Brother Ling's new Daoist name. Take out your notebooks and write it down!”

Everyone: “...”

Chapter 802: A New Sect with Imposing Momentum

For one moment, the establishment of this new sect made all the light forces tense. That night, many of the Sky-level sects received invitations from Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal. For many people, this felt like an initial show of strength, as if the new sect was demonstrating with its actions that it wasn't afraid of any challenge.

A newly established sect with such imposing momentum was very rare. In the history of the founding of famous Sky-level sects, the one with the most prestige had to be Reliance Sect. Most newly established sects gave the familiar feeling of starting anew, so Reliance Sect's reputation was at its height in the first two years after its founding. The head of the sect, Patriarch Reliance, later went on to set up a school attached to the sect, became its headmaster, and started engaging in the education industry.

Patriarch Reliance was a smart man, and naturally understood that tall trees could easily attract the wind. It was because of this that two years after the sect's founding, he deliberately suppressed its momentum, in a tacit move to uphold the balance of power among the Sky-level light force sects.

Sky Light Alliance, full name: Sky-Level Sect Light Force Alliance Social Committee.

This was an NGO set up by the Sky-level sects above fifth class, and was a financial management organization.

The Sky Light Alliance was originally set up in response to the problem some sects at fifth class and above had with funding. Fifth class was a watershed level for Sky-level sects. To achieve a fifth-class rating required a concrete foundation that was a hundred or even a thousand years old... However, many sects who reached fifth class on the whole ran into the problem of funding in the short term, so the Sky Light Alliance was established.

Though, it was more as if the Sky-level sects at fifth class and above were huddling together for warmth, just to make sure that the level of their respective sects didn't drop easily.

It was kind of like getting stuck on a particular game level. Some good players would deliberately get together groups of stuck players and organize them to perform in high-end matches to help maintain each other's levels.

This was in fact something that had been going on for a long time.

Unfortunately, whether it was the balance of power or the Alliance, both were directly smashed apart the night the founding of Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's new sect was announced.

Currently, the number of sects at fifth class and above in the Sky Light Alliance was seventeen, accounting for eighty percent of the total.

Of the four sects that hadn't joined the Alliance, one was the first-class Immortal Palm Tree Sect, backed by Huaguo Water Curtain Group. It was a sect force affiliated with Huaguo Water Curtain Group which trained all types of alchemists as its main business.

As for the remaining three, one was the third-class Fighting Horse Sect which was a subsidiary sect built by the Xiao clan that operated a legal horse racing business. The other was a second-class sect called Myriad Beasts School which raised spirit beasts as its main business. The head of the sect was also an acquaintance of Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's, Crying Old Immortal, who was the vice president of the Pet Trainers Guild. In fact, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal already knew him before he met Wei Zhi.

And the last sect, at third class, was naturally Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's "General Office of Strategic Deception"...

The number of Sky-level light force sects at fifth class and above had stayed at twenty for a very long time. Now, a Sky-level third-class sect had suddenly emerged out of nowhere. The first to feel threatened were the light forces that were part of the Sky Light Alliance.

Most of the sects who hadn't joined the Alliance had backers behind them, so disdained to join at all. The problem was, no one knew if their own sects would drop in level after Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's new sect was completed.

Thus, that evening, the seventeen sects of the Sky Light Alliance came together to begin analyzing and investigating this "General Office of Strategic Deception."

How great were the capabilities of seventeen sects at fifth class and above?

Although they currently hadn't been able to find out who the force behind the creation of Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's new sect was, they had thoroughly researched the core members.

A dozen or so bigwigs sat in the Sky Light Alliance's conference hall.

All of them were the leaders or the deputy leaders of their sects who had specially gathered for this meeting to discuss countermeasures in the light of Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's new sect. Given the urgent situation, some of the bigwigs who were too far away to be physically present directly used holographic projections to participate remotely in the meeting.

The president of the Sky Light Alliance was Lu Youming, head of a fourth-class sect called Evil God Cult.

Evil God Cult might not sound like a decent sect, but it was in fact a proper and lawful sect, whose members were mainly engaged in collecting the sculptures or figurines of evil gods from around the world.

There were usually rare resources or even ancient scrolls with secret techniques hidden inside these crudely crafted figurines and sculptures, because there was a time long ago when it was popular to seal secret techniques inside ugly sculptures. The sect took apart the sculptures and figurines of evil gods they collected and ultimately resold the treasures they found inside at a high price.

At the same time, the head of the Evil God Cult was also a cosplayer.

Today, Lu Youming was cosplaying as Bukubukuchagama 1 .

Sitting in the president's chair, Lu Youming had a sharp look in his eyes. "Everyone... this is a huge challenge in front of us, and truly a time of crisis. What do you think of this new sect that has come storming in?"

"This new sect isn't simple. I recommend that we try roping them in first." The head of a fifth-class sect said, "This Great Death-Courting Senior isn't simple. I heard that he narrowly survived a confrontation with Evil Sword God back then. He must have an expert guiding him from behind the scenes. As for the other core members of the sect, none of them are simple... Cailian Zhenren, known as the Ex-Boyfriend Killer; Immortal Toya, a famous modern-day Medicine Saint; Lightning Dharmaraja, a descendant of the Thunder clan... even that Director Zhuo, who's been in the spotlight recently, has actually joined the supervisory and investigation team."

"That's right... This isn't an ordinary lineup..."

At this point, many of the people present sighed.

The head of the fifth-class sect continued, "Of course, what worries me the most is that Crispy Noodles Dao Monarch; even with the combined might of our seventeen sects, we haven't been able to find any clues on him. Perhaps I'm ignorant or ill-informed, but I've never heard about this Daoist name before... That Great Death-Courting Senior has always been a cautious person, and would never pull in someone he doesn't know to join the sect, so for this person to join out of nowhere is a little unusual."

“Can it be a sect manager?” someone asked.

Working as a sect manager had become more popular in recent years, and mainly consisted of being responsible for improving a sect’s overall economic situation. There had, however, always been a lack of managers in the industry; many sects wanted managers, but couldn’t find any.

“I’m well acquainted with the sect manager circle, but I’ve never heard of such a person.”

Lu Youming shook his head. “Since we’re not familiar with this person, let’s not waste time on him. Let us discuss the matter of the invitations first. Everyone should have received an invitation from that Great Death-Courting Senior, right? So, are we going or not?”

Chapter 803: Wang Zhen’s Tragic Childhood

“Sky Light Alliance? Senior Immortal, are you saying that you received an email from this Alliance?”

In the chat group, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal shared a screenshot of an email with everyone. This email was from Sky Light Alliance, which more or less meant that the Alliance was hoping that the General Office of Strategic Deception would join it. It was also indicated in the email that if they were willing to join, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal would be given the position of deputy head of the Sky Light Alliance.

“What do you think?” Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal asked.

“Clearly, they want us to be part of their faction.” Lightning Dharmaraja said, “I’ve long heard about this Alliance. Currently, it has seventeen Sky-level sects at fifth class and above. During the annual sect evaluation, these seventeen sects help each other maintain their ranking, preventing the sects behind them from advancing. If they want to advance, they have to pay a protection fee and agree to join the Alliance. Our sect has just been founded, and we’re already at Sky-level third class. This was probably beyond their expectations.”

“Does anyone have any complaints?”

“What the Alliance is doing isn’t a crime, strictly speaking. It’s just that the way they go about offering protection is a little shameless... but Huaxiu Alliance can’t do anything to directly control it. There are countless ways that sects compete with each other in business, this is too common!” Dharmaraja shook his head. “Moreover, these are all Sky-level sects. To be able to reach fifth class and above, they naturally have strong foundations which cannot be easily shaken.”

“Clearly, this is a feeler.” Cailian Zhenren sent a sigh emoji. “If we don’t agree, then these seventeen sects will undoubtedly join hands to crowd us out, which will be very detrimental for the future development of our sect! Senior Immortal, you have to be careful.”

“Mm, of course. I just checked, and basically, I can find acquaintances in the three sects who aren’t part of the Alliance. If our four non-Alliance sects join hands, the situation may be very different.” Speaking up to this point, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal smiled slightly.

To panic was to mess up.

So there was no way he would panic.

After all, they still had Wang Ling, this massive trump card!

“By the way, I’m very curious: why is Ling Zhenren’s new Daoist name Crispy Noodles Dao Monarch... It can’t be as simple as being about crispy noodle snacks, can it?” Dharmaraja suddenly asked in the group at that moment.

This was something everyone wanted to know.

As an expert, how high was Ling Zhenren’s realm?

In their eyes, his existence was like that of an immortal living fossil...

How could he come up with such a seemingly meaningless name?

There had to be some profound meaning behind it!

“Oh, about that, Brother Ling explained it to me before. Crispy Noodles Dao Monarch is a pun,” Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal said. “It doesn’t just refer to crispy noodle snacks, it’s also a verb, and means the crisp sound of being slapped in the face 1 .”

Everyone: “...”

What damn “crisp”!

As expected, Huaxiu’s culture was extensive and profound!

When all was said and done, basically no one in the group had deeply experienced what it was like to be slapped by Wang Ling.

But there were actually some risks with this Daoist name; if Songhai First Prison’s Mahjong Squad heard this Daoist name, who knew if they could guess that it was Wang Ling.

Thus, Wang Ling had also previously suggested a very foreign-sounding alternate Daoist name to Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal: Crispy C. Dao Monarch.

This Daoist name was in the same style as Monkey D. Luffy 2 !

...

It was the second day after Wang Zhen had been sent to Immortal Toya’s Chrysanthemum Island.

Wang Zhen was also the second patient to be treated by Immortal Toya on the island in recent months. The first was the girl from the kun’s belly, but after a long period of treatment to wake her up, the girl only switched from a deep coma to a shallow one. After lightly stimulating her skin, her fingers were already showing signs of movement.

” Shifu , shifu , when will she wake up?”

Because Immortal Toya had to take care of Wang Zhen, he had gotten Jin Shi and Yin Shi to be responsible for looking after the girl since last night.

Golden needle acupuncture was a profound area of knowledge, and usually they weren't able to find a suitable target to practice on.

Just nice, there was a vegetative person lying here...

The two siblings, Jin Shi and Yin Shi, were usually very careful, but even if they stuck the acupuncture needles in the wrong place, it didn't matter.

Where else could they find such a suitable opportunity for practice?

Immortal Toya let out a long breath. "This girl's condition is more serious than I thought. If she doesn't wake up soon... then we can only wait for her to wake up after the end of The Daily Life of the Immortal King. That is, when Ling Zhenren finishes his Grade Three senior year..."

Jin Shi and Yin Shi: "..."

Immortal Toya: "This neglectful writer wrote eight hundred chapters which only cover one semester. There are five semesters to go until Ling Zhenren graduates, so that's still another four thousand chapters... If she doesn't wake up, I'm afraid she won't wake up in this lifetime!"

Jin Shi and Yin Shi: "..."

...

At this point, Wang Zhen's eyelids fluttered as he lay in a bed across from the kun belly girl and he started to mumble nonsense.

Wang Zhen was dreaming...

His dreams were fragmented, and were a series of scenes from memories of his childhood.

In his dream, he returned to the moment of his birth, and he dreamt of his parents' joyful expressions as they crowded around him.

“Our Zhenzhen is a divine genius! He’s already mastered a hundred Great Dao right after birth!” The woman in the dream held him tenderly and smiled gently at him.

“Our Wang family’s blood runs through Zhenzhen’s veins; it goes without saying that he’s gifted. Among the younger generation of the Wang family, this is the person who has the best hope of rivaling the Gu family... Gu Yanzhi that old man also has a son who was born not long ago, but the boy only has fifty Heavenly Dao. In the end, he’s still no match for my Wang family’s blood...”

After that, Wang Zhen saw the man hold him aloft. “Look at how sturdy our son is! He only just came out, but has already comprehended a hundred Heavenly Dao. It shouldn’t be long before he awakens his spiritual intelligence, and learns to talk and walk right away.”

“The best would be to use medicine to help along the awakening of his spiritual intelligence. It’ll be gentler.” The woman smiled.

“No, no, no!”

The man waved his hand. “Our Wang family’s blood runs through Zhenzhen’s veins. Blood is the best tonic! Medical supplements will cause him to become dependent on them; I believe that Zhenzhen can awaken himself! But to help his awakening along, it’s better for us to give physical assistance!”

“Physical assistance?”

“That’s right!”

The man nodded.

Then, in the next moment, he directly threw Wang Zhen onto the ground under the woman’s stupefied gaze.

Wang Zhen bawled.

The man stomped on Wang Zhen's head. "Honey! Look! What an iron head our son has! Hurry up and help so that we can stimulate him together! He'll awaken very soon! "

Woman: "Is... this alright..."

Man: "Trust me! This is the right way!"

Under the combined beating from his parents, Wang Zhen, who had been bawling on the ground, finally exploded with a powerful and resounding protest. "Devils! Stop it!!!"

The man picked up the newly born and badly battered Wang Zhen from the ground and laughed. "Look! Zhenzhen has awakened!!!"

Chapter 804: Wang Zhen's Recurring Mental Trauma

Wang Zhen suddenly woke up in a fright, finally roused as if from a nightmare under the combined beating from this couple, who were also his biological parents. When he woke up, however, he checked himself and his surroundings.

Mm... Something was still wrong with the situation!

Because it was his five-year-old body.

And he was in his bedroom, his whole body smeared in anesthetic and unable to move even an inch.

Wang Zhen didn't know where he actually was now because he had fainted after leaving Midnight Dining Hall. Wang Zhen guessed that he had probably entered dreams of his childhood while he was in a coma.

From when he was just born, he had gone back to his five-year-old self?

After waking up, Wang Zhen felt a little nostalgic, and also a little scared.

At that moment, a voice that Wang Zhen was familiar with and also afraid of came from outside.

“Zhenzhen fainted yesterday after his failed awakening? Who knows if he’s awake yet... what should we do? I heard that Gu Cheng next door has already mastered five hundred Heavenly Dao; his mother still came to show off yesterday! Pisses me off! (╯▼╰)”

“Don’t be angry, my dear. Zhenzhen can’t be blamed for this. Actually, it’s all my fault...” A man sighed with some self-reproach. “I was the one who forgot to tell the new therapist that Zhenzhen absolutely can’t use supplementary medicine to awaken. Who would have thought that after the therapist gave him the medicine yesterday, Zhenzhen’s body would actually have a reaction to it.”

“Then what should we do now? Is there still hope for Zhenzhen to surpass Gu Cheng?”

“Zhenzhen has already mastered more than four hundred Heavenly Dao. As long as he can recover quickly, his cultivation progress won’t be delayed. Our Wang family’s blood is amazing!”

“Alright, then what should we do? I’ll listen to you!”

The couple then pushed open the door and entered.

Wang Zhen stared at this pair of demons with wide, frightened eyes.

Seeing that Wang Zhen was awake, his mother hurried to embrace him. The woman’s powerful hands clutched him around the neck, almost choking him to death. “Ah! Zhenzhen, you’re up!”

His father felt his forehead and sighed. “No fever, but his face doesn’t look very good. And it seems that Zhenzhen can’t move for now, probably because of an allergic reaction to the medicine.”

Sitting on the edge of the bed, Wang Zhen’s father gripped his hands tightly. “Zhenzhen, tell me, do you feel sore, painful and numb all over, and also a little itchy? Blink if you do.”

Hearing this, Wang Zhen suddenly opened his eyes wide, and completely didn’t dare blink...

Wang Zhen then saw the man hold up a fist. “Zhenzhen, do you see this sandbag-sized fist?”

Wang Zhen: “...”

His dad smiled at him. “So~ lar~ Fist!”

As soon as he said the words, a dazzling light suddenly burst out from his fist, and Wang Zhen quickly and unconsciously closed his eyes.

When he opened his eyes again, the light from the Solar Fist had already faded, and his father was looking at him again with a serious expression. “Honey, look, Zhenzhen blinked...”

“...”

Wang Zhen was so frightened the hair all over his body stood on end.

He had actually been forced to blink!

His mom looked at him with a pained expression. “Then, what should we do?”

His dad: “It’s just as I thought. We need Zhenzhen to recover from his allergic reaction quickly. When I asked him just now if he felt itchy, didn’t he blink?”

His mom was startled. “Honey, do you mean... that Zhenzhen is feeling itchy right now?”

Wang Zhen: “...”

His dad nodded. “Yes, that’s what I meant! And Zhenzhen blinked!”

Wang Zhen: “...”

His dad: “This child has yet to get over his allergy, and it’s mostly an itch. He’ll be fine after a beating!”

His mom looked like she was suddenly enlightened. “I see!”

His dad: “Mm, honey! Just follow me: left hand, right hand, slowly 1 . We’ll take turns.”

His mom had an aching and teary expression on her face. “Alright, husband...”

“This is all for Zhenzhen’s good!”

His dad nodded. “You have to remember to distribute the hits evenly over every part of his body! I have OCD, if the skin color isn’t well-distributed, I’ll hit him again!”

Wang Zhen: “Stop... stop it!”

Ten minutes later...

Under the combined series of hand strikes, five-year-old Wang Zhen was directly thrashed into a crispy skin roasted duck, successfully activating his body resistance to the allergy and his subsequent recovery.

His mom: “Honey! It really worked! Zhenzhen can move now!”

His dad: “As expected of the most outstanding person of our Wang family bloodline in recent years! He can still move even after being beaten up like this! I think we should use more force next time...”

...

“No!!!”

Following the couple’s words, Wang Zhen woke with a start once again.

Hm...

The dream wasn't over yet.

Wang Zhen was still in his room, but unlike before, he could move this time.

He went to the mirror in the bedroom and looked at himself.

This was his ten-year-old appearance.

This memory...

Wang Zhen searched for a bit and realized that there was actually a gap in his memories from this time.

Wang Zhen recalled that after he grew up, he had used magic to make many of his childhood memories disappear...

In other words, if he couldn't remember this memory, it couldn't be a good one...

Dazed, Wang Zhen suddenly had a bad feeling.

Just then, there was a knock on the door.

"Come in," Wang Zhen said as he straightened his outfit.

An old woman pushed the door open and came in carrying a tray covered with a red cloth. This was an old servant of the Wang family, and was also Wang Zhen's nursemaid who had watched him grow up.

The old woman put the tray down on the table. "Lord Young Master, the Master and Madam are out today."

Wang Zhen was exultant when he heard this.

It looked like the demonic couple wouldn't be abusing him today...

But before he could finish being joyful, the old woman spoke again. "Lord Young Master, Master and Madam request that you summon a clone of yourself to administer your beating today."

Wang Zhen: "Wha- what?"

The old woman: "Same as usual, when you beat yourself, you must control your strength – the color of your skin must be evenly distributed. This old servant will take photos of the whole process for the Master. If you don't do it well, the Master said that you'll have to do it again when he returns, and he'll teach you how to hit yourself."

Wang Zhen: "..."

After that, the old woman lifted the red cloth off the tray.

Under the red cloth was a mace studded with jade and gold nails, a whip as thick as a Cola bottle, and a feather duster made from phoenix feathers...

The old woman: "This is today's equipment. Please choose, Young Master."

Wang Zhen: "..."

Chapter 805: Wang Zhen's Fellow Townsman

Wang Zhen, a man with an extremely tragic childhood.

He had been beaten since he was born. In order to stimulate the power of his bloodline to the fullest extent, his parents used this method of thrashing him into obtaining 1500 Heavenly Dao.

Because it was so painful, Wang Zhen had used magic once he was an adult to forcefully and selectively eliminate his childhood memories. But when all was said and done, this was only treating the symptoms and not the root cause.

After countless recurring nightmares, he eventually recovered all the memories he had already discarded...

When Wang Zhen woke up for the last time, his surroundings were completely different, and he rejoiced when he realized that he had walked out of his nightmares and wasn't dreaming now.

This place was unfamiliar to him.

Furthermore, it seemed that he couldn't do anything but open his eyes and mouth to speak...

Hm...

Someone had used Heavenly Dao to restrain him...

Wang Zhen couldn't be any more familiar with this sort of situation.

Because when he had resisted his parents as a child, the couple had often used Heavenly Dao to restrain him before they started hitting him.

So many years had passed, but Wang Zhen was still very familiar with this feeling.

However, Wang Zhen had already worked out a set of ways to break this restraint.

Wang Zhen closed his eyes and began to recite in his heart, "Key which hides the power of Heavenly Dao, show your true form before me. I, Wang Zhen, command you as your master... Release 1!"

The incantation was done.

Seconds passed...

Wang Zhen didn't feel any response.

Release!

He continued to roar in his heart.

Release!!

Release ah!!!

After struggling for more than ten minutes, he finally gave up resisting.

This were Heavenly Dao seals stronger than what his parents used... That terrifying person had cast at least a dozen or so seal-type Heavenly Dao spells on him.

Now that he had been banned from using his own power of Heavenly Dao, it was unlikely that he would be able to escape.

This... truly was a flood dashing up against the Temple of the Dragon King 2 !

Wang Zhen thought he had most likely gotten it wrong. This person might not be the real thief... the thief had stolen 1500 Heavenly Dao from him at the very most, while this person was clearly far, far stronger, with power already beyond what Wang Zhen could imagine.

If that was the case...

Even if Bai Zhe collected the six Great Outer Dao, it might still be very difficult to fight this person...

For a while, Wang Zhen lay in bed, countless wild thoughts crowding his heart.

The most urgent thing right now was to first figure out a way to retrieve his power of Heavenly Dao, and then leave this place.

Although Earth was just a lesser world in the eyes of the people of Ninefold Star...

It was at the same time the most unpredictable planet.

After all, Dao Ancestor Wang, founder of Ninefold Star, had ascended from Earth...

Wang Zhen sighed inwardly.

In the end, he had underestimated this lesser world!

At that moment, Wang Zhen heard footsteps approach him.

“Are you awake, senior?” It was Immortal Toya’s voice.

A man with idol looks then entered Wang Zhen’s field of vision; from what he was wearing, he looked like a doctor.

“You’ve been in a coma for two days, senior,” Immortal Toya said. “You’ll find that you can’t move; this is because Crispy Noodles Dao Monarch cast several Heavenly Dao suppression spells on you, mainly because he was worried that you would wake up in an agitated state and hurt me.”

“Hurt you?”

“Yes, senior. You suddenly attacked Crispy Noodles Dao Monarch for no reason at all, so we all agree that you have an anger disorder, and possibly a slight mental problem. We had no choice but to take this step,” Immortal Toya answered truthfully.

Wang Zhen smiled bitterly in his heart.

The other side addressed him as senior, but was still worried that he was the type to willfully slaughter the innocent... Wang Zhen had formidable strength, and while it was true that it was certainly terrifying, he always believed that every debt had its debtor, and he would never hurt the innocent.

Just like in Night Chief, when Bai Zhe offhandedly killed a technician who had pissed him off, it was still Wang Zhen in the end who saved that innocent little brother...

Did he seem like such a monster?

Did they have to treat him like this?

He didn't understand.

He was a "senior" who was most like an open book, wasn't he?

Wang Zhen sighed. "Then how long will I be confined for..."

Immortal Toya: "Since senior is awake, I'll let Crispy Noodles Dao Monarch know right away. As long as we confirm that you're not a threat, I'll naturally help to release you. A lot of Heavenly Dao suppression spells have been cast on senior. You can't cast any spells, nor can you circulate your spirit energy as usual. However, if senior can agree to one thing for me, I can use the privilege Crispy Noodles Dao Monarch gave me and undo the seals on senior's upper body first."

"Half is good..." Wang Zhen knew he wasn't in any position to negotiate at the moment, so he could only settle for second best.

Immortal Toya narrowed his eyes and said in a serious tone, "The reason why I'm so cautious is that I'm worried that senior might be impulsive and commit irreversible acts."

As he said this, Immortal Toya took out a golden talisman.

Wang Ling had left this with him after casting the multiple Heavenly Dao seals previously, and it could unlock Wang Zhen's ability to move. To be on the safe side, however, Immortal Toya only restored Wang Zhen's upper body and helped prepare a wheelchair for Wang Zhen... Then, Immortal Toya directly stuck his hands under Wang Zhen's waist and legs.

Wang Zhen was surprised. "The hell?! What are you doing?"

“I’m going to help senior into the wheelchair,” Immortal Toya answered very naturally.

“Then thank you...” Wang Zhen never thought that not only would he become a paralytic in the world below, someone would even lift him in a princess carry!

“You’re welcome, senior.” Immortal Toya smiled slightly.

If Wang Zhen’s friends in the world above found out about this, there would be no place for him to hide his face!

He didn’t come back to his senses until Immortal Toya placed him in the wheelchair.

Who was he?

Where was he?

What was he doing???

He had come down to the world below to look for a thief, but how had he ended up in this situation???

Was this truly retribution for fleeing marriage?

Wang Zhen dropped his forehead into his hand.

“What’s wrong, senior? Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?”

“My head hurts...”

Immortal Toya took out a kitchen knife. “I can do a craniotomy on you!”

Wang Zhen: “It doesn’t... doesn’t hurt now...”

“Alright, senior. If you feel any discomfort, you must tell me.” Immortal Toya narrowed his eyes and smiled.

Wang Zhen: “...”

Wang Zhen felt like he could now tell what type of person this doctor was – it turned out that this guy was a hidden yandere 3 !

Wang Zhen: “By the way... what did you want me to help you with?”

Immortal Toya: “It’s like this, senior: a while ago, I took in a female patient, who has been in a deep coma for a very long time. Crispy Noodles Dao Monarch determined that this patient is likely from the same place as you.”

“The same place?”

“A person from the world above.”

Hearing this, Wang Zhen immediately shook his head. “That’s not really possible...”

There were a lot of processes involved in passing from the world above to the world below, and you had to pass a combined examination and approval check before you were allowed to enter the portal. The issue was that Wang Zhen was very sure that he was the only person who had used the portal recently.

“Senior, take a look first.”

Immortal Toya pushed Wang Zhen in the wheelchair to the bedside of the kun belly girl.

After getting a clear look at the girl’s face, Wang Zhen was so scared that he almost fell off the wheelchair...

The fiancée he was running away from, the young miss of the Liu family... why was she here??!

Chapter 806: Ants' Counterattack

When Wang Zhen saw this young miss of the Liu family, Liu Qingyi, on the bed, there was something clearly amiss about his expression; the specifics could be summed up as flickering eyes and trembling lips, and even his hands jerked extremely unnaturally, like he didn't know where to put them.

Even a simpleton could see that there was definitely something between them!

"It looks like senior recognizes this girl?" asked Immortal Toya.

"No! I don't know her at all! I don't even know her surname is Liu!" Wang Zhen denied swiftly.

It was clear that Wang Zhen's IQ had gone offline at that moment.

"... Senior, I think it's better for you to be honest."

Immortal Toya sighed. "Senior Crispy Noodles Dao Monarch is deliberately giving you a chance. Whether we give it to you will depend on your attitude. Right now, there are so many seals on you, making you no different from a regular person. If you die like this in the world below, you probably won't be able to rest in peace, will you?"

"Are you threatening me?" Wang Zhen grit his teeth.

He never expected that he, the grand young master of the Wang family of the Ninefold Domain of the Gods, would actually be reduced to this. He had spent so much time and effort looking for the thief, but not only didn't he find him, he even lost all his abilities. And this wasn't even the worst bit... after losing all his power, he had run into his troublesome fiancée!

Wang Zhen really didn't know if this was a natural or man-made disaster...

He had been beaten the whole time he was growing up; never did he think that he still wouldn't be able to escape an unlucky fate even now.

It felt like all of it had been planned early on in the dark, only for everything to come out all at once.

It was like a multi-millionaire losing everything in an instant, and then running into his ex-girlfriend who had brought along a billionaire to taunt him.

Was there anything more wretched than this on earth?

Wang Zhen felt like crying.

“Senior, you might not think much of us inhabitants on the world below, but based on information we currently have, the Domain of the Gods was created back then by a man from this world. This time, it wasn't that senior wasn't strong enough, but that you looked down on us too much,” said Immortal Toya.

If it hadn't been for what happened in Beast King's tomb, no one would have known that there was such a place as Ninefold Domain of the Gods, let alone that there were still more terrifying realm stages above Venerated Immortal. For many people, the existence of the Domain of the Gods was too unreal. Even for Immortal Zhenyuan, a cultivation legend recognized by the people, it was a level that was too far out of reach.

But now, Wang Zhen was here...

This was a major opportunity.

Wang Zhen pondered for a long time.

His gaze rested on Liu Qingyi, and he finally sighed. “I can tell you what you want to know, but before that, I have a few conditions.”

“Let's hear them, senior.”

“I need to get away from here – anywhere is fine, as long as it’s not next to this Lady Liu. I don’t want her to see me after she wakes up. Another thing, I hope you’ll keep it a secret that you saw me. Lastly, if I tell you what I know, you must have that Senior Crispy Noodles Dao Monarch undo the seals on me.”

“Mm, these conditions sound reasonable.” Immortal Toya nodded. “But can I ask why senior is avoiding this Miss Liu like the plague?”

Wang Zhen’s face darkened. “She is my fiancée.”

“Senior’s fiancée?”

Immortal Toya was shocked by this answer. “But why did this young lady appear inside the belly of a scavenger kun?”

Wang Zhen: “...”

Earlier, Wang Zhen had been wondering how on earth Liu Qingyi had come down to the world below.

One had to go through checks to come down to the world below, and had to use a portal.

After listening to Immortal Toya, Wang Zhen instantly understood.

This girl actually hid inside a kun’s belly!

At this realization, Wang Zhen couldn’t help looking up at the sky and lamenting, “... She had it coming!”

...

Elsewhere, President Bai was in the middle of collecting the power of Outer Dao.

There were six Great Outer Dao, which represented six ultimate abilities:

Seven Stars Devil Escape (The power of physical immunity).

Yin and Yang Escape Technique (The power of magical immunity).

Pure Heart Magic Ring (The power of ultimate immunity).

Five Elements Ghost Art (The power to manipulate the elements).

The Fury of Heaven (The power of Outer Dao punishment).

Plus the Reverse Polarity which President Bai had mastered, which represented the power to defy heaven and change fate.

At that moment, President Bai had arrived at the edge of a cliff surrounded by clouds and mist.

This was a place inside the border of Mixiu nation called the Valley of the Dead. It was once a popular spot for jumpers, and there were countless bones piled up at the bottom of the valley, creating a dense Yin aura.

Nowadays, it was a tourist attraction instead.

Cultivators unafraid of death often organized group trips and would ride special magic artifacts to visit the place. In the last few years, however, the number of visitors had dwindled given the frequent disappearances that had been happening in the Valley of the Dead recently.

Some sightseeing cultivation groups, and even airplanes flying over the valley, had mysteriously disappeared.

“The Five Elements Ghost Art is here.” President Bai swayed in the wind, his voice sounding a little unreal as it passed through the clouds.

Nowadays, regular people didn’t dare approach this place. If it wasn’t for Night Ghost Spirit Emperor’s True Immortal body, President Bai might also have been a little afraid.

A giant centipede climbed onto President Bai's shoulder, remotely controlled by Long Ming through the Soul Insect Technique. "As Venerated Lord has commanded, I've inspected the valley floor. As expected, there's something unusual about it."

There were numerous poisonous insects in the Valley of the Dead, so the use of Insect Envoy Long Ming's Art of Insect Manipulation was extremely vital; no matter how dangerous the valley floor was, as long as there were insects, he could carry out an investigation by controlling them. Even if these insects died by chance, he wouldn't be affected.

In the past, the Long clan's Art of Insect Manipulation was a secret technique on par with the Bai clan's Creation Art. When Night Ghost Spirit Lord founded Night Chief, he had recruited people from everywhere, and naturally had roped Long Ming into serving under him.

In fact, Long Ming's and President Bai's experiences were surprisingly similar.

"All these years, this Valley of the Dead has never been peaceful, so I long presumed that a power of Outer Dao might have fallen here. Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity to come and investigate, but looking at it now, this seems to very likely be the case."

"What kind of Outer Dao is the Five Elements Ghost Art?" asked Long Ming.

"It's the power to manipulate the elements. As long as I can master it, I can use the five elements to create all kinds of primary spirits. Each and every one of the first great primary spirits were True Immortals. With their assistance, our battle strength will naturally increase."

There was some excitement on President Bai's face as he gazed over the edge of the cliff. "I can't help getting excited."

After that, he directly leapt down from the cliff.

Chapter 807: Leader of the Long Clan, Long Jiangnan

Elsewhere, the seventeen Sky-level sects which had joined hands to set up the friendly organization “Sky Light Alliance” also received Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal’s reply as he gracefully declined their invitation. It could be said that they had expected this result – how could a new sect, directly given a Sky-level third-class ranking, think anything of them? Their foundations alone were already not on the same level.

If the General Office of Strategic Deception was allowed to continue expanding, it would become a real hidden danger. Everyone was well aware of the management abilities of sect head Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal, this Death-Courting Great Senior. Of all the country’s online forums at the moment, only the cultivation forum which he ran made a profit year after year, as it built on its economic benefits to the utmost.

Even without the combined investment from these companies, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal was capable of setting up a new sect on his own.

With this investment, the General Office of Strategic Deception was just like a tiger with wings.

Lu Youming was lost in deep thought as he gazed at Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal’s letter of reply.

Without knowing what the other party’s sect doctrine was, it was impossible to boldly beat them down. Furthermore, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had been pretty tactful in his reply, which indirectly demonstrated that while the other party wasn’t going to join the Alliance, they also didn’t want to make enemies of them.

As the president of the Alliance, once Lu Youming decided to crowd someone out, that was the same as rejecting their good intentions and declaring war.

This was the trickiest part of the whole thing.

On one hand, the Alliance wanted to suppress the strength of Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal’s newly set-up sect so that it wouldn’t grow too quickly, and give the old sects some breathing room. On the other hand, the Alliance couldn’t incite something without knowing the ins and outs of the matter; on the contrary, they might get caught up in trouble themselves.

The three major Sky-level sects that hadn't joined the Alliance — Immortal Palm Tree Sect, Fighting Horse Sect and Myriad Beasts School — had been dissatisfied with the establishment of the Alliance all these years.

If these three major sects seized this opportunity to join hands with Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's new sect, the General Office of Strategic Deception, and incited other Sky-level sects under fifth class, the Alliance was bound to fall, never to get back up again... What kind of situation would that be?

The villages surrounding the city!

What a brilliant strategy!

But Immortal Palm Tree Sect had yet to act for now, mainly because it didn't want to make trouble or provoke dispute.

Once a sect reached the top, it often paid more attention to its image and reputation; the party that acted first in stirring up trouble tended to become the focus of derision.

One of the sect leaders present was agitated. "Can we truly not do anything about the Office of Strategic Deception?"

"There is no other way for the time being." Lu Youming shook his head. "Before we're clear on the exact situation, we can't act carelessly."

"Not necessarily."

At that time, a sect leader waved his hand. His name was Sun Hanzhe, and his Radish King Sect specialized in the study of different kinds of devil insects and spirit insects. Its business of mixing dry insects into medicine and its momentum had been pretty good all these years, which allowed it to advance to Sky-level fifth class several years ago and to join the Alliance.

"Sect Leader Sun, do you have any good ideas?" Lu Youming remembered that yesterday, this conservative Sect Leader Sun had recommended that they wait and see first, but his attitude suddenly changed today.

It was obvious that he had received some sort of expert guidance...

This Sect Leader Sun smiled proudly. "Yesterday, a senior suddenly contacted my sect to say that he was willing to lend our Alliance a hand and find out more details on this Office of Strategic Deception."

"Since he wants to help the Alliance, why did he contact you? Shouldn't he have contacted President Lu directly?" someone asked.

"Don't rush, brothers, listen to me." Leader Sect Sun didn't take offense and waved his hand. "It's like this: this senior contacted me in quite a unique way. The other party directly possessed the body of a flying mantis, one of the insects my sect raises, to speak with me. At that time, I was inspecting the farm."

"He entered the insect's body?"

"That's right." Sect Leader Sun nodded. "I think this senior used this spell in order to hide his true identity, and borrowed this insect's body to pass on his suggestion. He wanted me to explain his intentions to the president at today's meeting."

Borrowed an insect's body?

Hearing this, President Lu narrowed his eyes. For him to be elected as the president of the Alliance, President Lu naturally wasn't an ordinary person, and his vision, insight, and connections were far more extensive than the majority of the people present. Otherwise, it would be hard for him to sway the crowd, even as the president.

"President, have you thought of something?" someone quickly asked when they saw President Lu's expression.

"This is the Soul Insect Technique..." Lu Youming swiftly replied. "This is a secret technique of the Long clan, who was famous back then for the Art of Insect Manipulation. But according to historical records, the Long clan offended its nemesis and the whole family was exterminated; the entire clan no longer exists. When clan leader Long Jiangnan was caught back then, he was still drafting an outline of the clan's story..."

Realization dawned on many of the sect leaders present when he said this

The eyes of an old man with gray whiskers and hair lit up. “I remember this! This old man once participated in an auction many years ago. Clan leader Long Jiangnan’s Long Clan manuscript sold for millions and millions, and is rumored to contain the secret of the Soul Insect Technique.”

“Hm.” Lu Youming said, “It’s always been said in the circle that the reason why the Long clan was exterminated back then was because Long Jiangnan was too slow with his updates, so all kinds of big shot readers dropped in to attack the sect... But this has yet to be verified to this day. Now that the Soul Insect Technique has reappeared in the world, that senior’s identity is very likely related to the Long clan.”

After carefully mulling it over, Lu Youming gazed at Sun Hanzhe, sect leader of Radish King Sect, and said, “What conditions does this senior have?”

“His conditions are very simple.”

Sect Leader Sun replied, “On the day of the Office of Strategic Deception’s founding, we just need to go in and secretly set up transmission crystals prepared by the senior, and he will do the rest. Apart from that, he also hopes that our Alliance will take action to suppress a school.”

“Which college?”

“Not a college; it’s a senior high school.”

“High... high school? It’s just Foundation Establishment students, right?”

“President Lu should have heard of No. 60 High, which has appeared often in the news recently?”

“I have...”

“That senior said that bullying Foundation Establishment students is a hobby of his.”

“...”

This collaboration request from someone they suspected was a descendant of the Long clan actually didn't carry any risk. They just needed to prepare and bring in the transmission crystals beforehand and set them up, which would be a piece of cake for these heads of Sky-level sects. Most importantly, they didn't have to get their hands dirty in this operation, so they could avoid direct conflict with the Office of Strategic Deception.

Lu Youming had always been conservative, which was one of the reasons why he had advocated for the establishment of Sky Light Alliance in the beginning.

It was true that forming a faction would certainly attract criticism, but at the very least it ensured that Lu Youming's sect stood on the same side with the other sects who were willing to join the Sky Light Alliance and unanimously agree to work together. They might face many obstacles to their advancement in the future, but as long as the Alliance existed, the sects' rankings wouldn't drop.

The Alliance was a line of defense which these seventeen Sky-level sects had joined hands to create, and could be described as an iron wall. Most of the sects in the Alliance were at fifth class, and a handful were at fourth class, but they were able to preserve a happy balance of overall strength.

As long as they were part of the Alliance, no sect would easily drop out of fifth class.

If a sect wanted to advance to fifth class, it had to go through the Alliance.

Lu Youming thought he had planned it all out properly, but he never expected this Office of Strategic Deception to suddenly show up now...

After Sect Leader Sun put forward his opinion, Lu Youming pondered for a long while.

Moments later, Lu Youming nodded. "Sect Leader Sun, please convey the message that our Alliance can only guarantee that we will put some pressure on the high school, but we won't do anything to harm it. After all, we don't have any grudge against that high school. If we go too far, we might draw fire instead. If that senior is fine with this, then I will agree."

Sun Hanzhe nodded. “Alright!”

Lu Youming’s decision came as no surprise to anyone. Their president was conservative, and would never let things go too far.

Another main reason why Lu Youming was being so prudent was that he didn’t know where things stood for real with this senior, a suspected descendant of the Long clan.

The other side had actually been able to find Sun Hanzhe to convey his message for him, which meant that he must have done his research on the Alliance. However, there were a total of seventeen Sky-level sects in the Alliance. To figure out the current difficulties the Alliance was facing, and to grasp the heart of the conflict so easily... The other side clearly wasn’t a simple person.

Intuition told Lu Youming that...

This senior, a descendant of the Long clan, perhaps wasn’t the key figure – it was likely that there was someone more powerful working behind the scenes.

...

It was August 8th on Tuesday in the sixteenth week of the semester.

The Heavenly Dao horoscope read:

Do: Start a business, set up a sect, marry, travel, breathe in the smell of cats, look for a job, confess your love, delay chapter updates, cast monthly votes, cast recommendation votes...

Don’t: Nil

Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had thus planned for this day early on. This was a rare auspicious day for this year; if they missed it, they would have to wait for another six years.

As for conceptualizing the Office of Strategic Deception, he had been constantly making all sorts of plans since the day he launched the cultivation forum. Now that the day it was going to become a reality had finally arrived, he was very excited.

On this day, eighty li away from the Wang family's small villa on East Huang Road, the Office of Strategic Deception would finally be set up. This was a sect set against the mountains – surrounded by them on all sides, the Office of Strategic Deception was like a glittering gem set into the mountain range.

To ensure that the founding ceremony proceeded smoothly, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had specially hired a number of sect guides. These sect guides completed all their training in just one day; all of them were college graduates from famous universities, and each of them was the best of the best.

Many of the sect bigwigs who arrived at the designated venue with their invitations were dumbstruck, because the person who greeted them was a very young, bright and handsome cultivator... This was Yang Bingchuan, the youngest professor at Beiyang First Cultivation University in Beiyang city!

Professor Yang even won the National Cultivation Gardener Award last year... Many people remembered him well!

But this person who was renowned outside, and a Void Refinement hotshot professor to boot, had actually come here to work as a tour guide???

You had to know, Professor Yang was one step away from becoming an Itinerant Immortal!

"Welcome, sect representatives, to the founding ceremony of the General Office of Strategic Deception, known in short as the Office of Strategic Deception." Professor Yang smiled slightly. "I am Yang Bingchuan, leader of the patrol and guide team for the Office of Strategic Deception. Perhaps many of you recognize me?"

"Why is Professor Yang here..." Yang Bingchuan's appearance made Lu Youming shiver.

"Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal is a good friend of mine. His new sect fervently invited me to be a visiting official, and also offered me a large salary which I could not refuse. Naturally, I wasn't in a position to reject it. Besides, as group leader, I can leave a lot of things to my subordinates to

handle. Although Beiyang city is indeed a little far from Songhai, it actually won't interfere with my teaching in Beiyang."

"I see..."

Lu Youming and all the other sect heads nodded.

But even then, this was pretty excessive!

Given the list of names which they had received before, they had no idea that Professor Yang would be taking part... Did that mean that they might see other big shots at the sect's founding ceremony today?

Professor Yang was all smiles as he said, "As all of you are leaders of large sects, the sect head specifically asked that I greet you in particular. Please follow me, and we will now take the Office of Strategic Deception's exclusive sightseeing bus."

"Sightseeing bus... haven't we already arrived at the sect entrance?"

"This is just a sect relay station. The Office of Strategic Deception covers a very large area, and you've only arrived at the relay station stated in the invitation. There are a total of 1600 relay stations for receiving visitors within range of the entrance to the Office of Strategic Deception," said Professor Yang, the leader of the patrol and guide team.

"With all due respect... how large is the Office of Strategic Deception?" Lu Youming swallowed.

"Five thousand square kilometers."

While they were already prepared mentally, the jaws of these sect leaders still dropped open in alarm when they heard Professor Yang's words with their own ears.

Five thousand square kilometers – that was comparable to the size of a second-tier city district in Huaxiu... the area which the Office of Strategic Deception occupied was practically unprecedented!

Actually, the sect was only going to cover an area of a hundred square kilometers according to the initial plan, but after Huaxiu Alliance's intervention, the sect approval division directly increased the size of the territory to this extent... Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal only found out after the fact.

Maybe he could open several broccoli farms?

That was what Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal thought when he saw the sect approval document.

But since the Office of Strategic Deception had only just been established, they couldn't use so much land. Currently, the Office of Strategic Deception only occupied a core area around the mountains of about twenty square kilometers.

Even so, this initial momentum of the Office of Strategic Deception frightened a lot of the Sky-level sect big shots.

Lu Youming was already wondering whether to proceed with the matter which that descendent of the Long clan senior had entrusted to him. He somehow felt that even if their seventeen sects exhausted all their foundations... they couldn't provoke the person standing behind the Office of Strategic Deception!

Chapter 809: The Office of Strategic Deception Only Deals In What's Real!

There was an intense kind of cold that came from deep within the bones and sent chills down a person's back, as if they'd fallen into an ice cavern – all the heads of the Sky-level sects who were present basically felt like this. The seventeen sect heads of the Alliance had come together this time, and their average strength was around the Void Refinement stage.

So now, when they saw this Professor Yang Bingchuan, who was at the late Void Refinement stage and was only half a step away from becoming an Itinerant Immortal, actually standing in front of them as a sect team leader, these Sky-level sect heads didn't feel good... grand Sky-level sect heads like them were at most only second fiddle in the Office of Strategic Deception!

This intense sense of difference upset them.

Lu Youming was already pondering whether to give up on the collaboration, but when he turned on his phone, he saw that the chat was very lively.

Sun Hanzhe, the sect head of Radish King Sect, was the first to vent his dissatisfaction in the group. “As a new sect, this Office of Strategic Deception is completely looking down on us veteran sects. This is blatant provocation! Everyone! We must carry out this operation! At the very least, we have to test this Office of Strategic Deception’s strength!”

“I agree.” The other sect heads quickly echoed him after that. “We don’t actually lose anything by proceeding with this. An opening ceremony only happens once for every sect. If something unpleasant were to happen, I’d like to see how this Great Death-Courting Senior handles it.”

Thus, while Lu Youming was still wondering whether to go ahead, passions were already running high in the group.

Lu Youming stared blankly at the phone screen.

It had already come to this point, and it was obviously too late for regrets.

Professor Yang noticed Lu Youming’s expression inside the bus and smiled faintly. “Sect Leader Lu, you don’t look very good. Did you not sleep well last night?”

“Ha ha ha! It might be the chest pain I got last night when I was doing my breathing exercises!” President Lu made up a random excuse and tried to look as natural as possible.

In fact, Lu Youming and his group’s movements were all being controlled by the Office of Strategic Deception.

The organizational structure of the Office of Strategic Deception was more complete than the other sects expected. In addition to the seven main departments that made up the sect’s core, i.e. the supervisory and investigation team, logistics team, medicine team, magic treasures team, spirit beast team, goon squad, and recreation team, there were many other hidden sect departments that weren’t shown on the official website.

That was because the light forces' official website only required a sect to indicate at least six core departments...

Because Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had only written brief introductions and overviews for seven major departments, a lot of people assumed that this was all that the Office of Strategic Deception had, when in fact it wasn't.

In addition to the above seven core departments, there were other departments that weren't mentioned, such as the patrol and guide team, intelligence team, scientific research team, delivery express team, and even a film production team...

The Office of Strategic Deception was an enormous sect that brought together all the types of trade which sects engaged in nowadays. Its future development was naturally geared toward becoming a Sky-level first-class sect!

This was the master sect plan which Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had been putting together for a very long time.

It would be impossible to fulfill such a long-cherished wish without official backing. This was also the reason why Professor Yang had agreed to be a visiting official as well as the leader of a team in the Office of Strategic Deception.

A lot of times, as long as you thought carefully about it, you would be able to figure it out.

Lu Youming was someone who did a lot of thinking, so the moment he saw Yang Bingchuan, he knew that something wasn't right, but the current situation was already beyond his control...

The Office of Strategic Deception's intelligence team had naturally found out that Lu Youming and this group were going to start something. This was because not long ago, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had worked with Ah Mai to secretly launch an attack on Mo Immortal Castle, the underground intelligence organization in Songhai city... Now, all of Mo Immortal Castle was under the Office of Strategic Deception's control. Ninety percent of their assets had been confiscated by Huaxiu Alliance, while the remaining ten percent was absorbed by the Office of Strategic Deception as initial funds for an affiliated organization.

The Lord and the Lady of the Castle had no other choice, because Ah Mai had come bearing the signatures of the Ten Generals. If they resisted with all their might, they would only be thoroughly destroyed and sent to prison to play mahjong!

At present, the intelligence team was being managed by Qin Lang as team leader.

After Devil King woke up from the game, he planned to travel around the world. Qin Lang's method of sending out tree roots into the air to look for information lay a fine foundation for the intelligence department. With Qin Lang in command, the Lord and Lady of the Castle naturally didn't dare act rashly as part of the intelligence team.

"What Sect Leader Lu is seeing now from the bus is just the tip of the iceberg that is the Office of Strategic Deception," Professor Yang said mildly.

Lu Youming nodded. "The scale of the Office of Strategic Deception is truly unprecedented... I am in awe."

Professor Yang's words were a warning.

As an experienced veteran, Lu Youming naturally heard it.

But Professor Yang didn't directly expose Lu Youming's operation.

Because the current Office of Strategic Deception wasn't afraid of trouble cropping up at all.

As the sightseeing bus passed a massive shed, Professor Yang looked out the window and said leisurely, "What you see now is our Office of Strategic Deception's No. 1 Heavenly Dao Broccoli Farm. No. 1 Farm is currently the largest of its kind in all of Huaxiu nation. The Heavenly Dao broccoli which our sect produces will go on the market in the future, and will be sold in supermarkets as well as food markets, marked with the Office of Strategic Deception's label of authenticity."

"How... is a Heavenly Dao broccoli different?" A lot of the sect heads felt like they were choking.

"Studies have shown that the Heavenly Dao broccoli which our sect grows can alleviate the problem of toxins which can accumulate in the bodies of cultivators below the Soul Formation stage. Put simply, it's a laxative."

“...”

“Furthermore, long-term consumption can extend a person’s lifespan. Our sect head, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal, who is also Chief of the Office of Strategic Deception, will personally eat Heavenly Dao broccoli produced by our sect at the opening ceremony,” Professor Yang said.

When he said this, someone gave a sudden sneer. “I was wondering how good it was. Unless eating this broccoli will help you comprehend Heavenly Dao, it’s nothing much.”

“That will depend on how you eat it; who knows, you really might be able to comprehend Heavenly Dao.”

Professor Yang replied with a smile, “Nationally renowned botanist Zhang Xiaohua, who wrote the authoritative work on the cross-breeding of spirit plants, History’s First Chaos , has joined our Office of Strategic Deception as the leader of the spirit plants team.”

“...”

Hearing this, the expressions of these sect heads of major sects froze. Even Zhang Xiaohua had joined...

Professor Yang: “Professor Zhang said that, while the chances are certainly very low, you can sense Heavenly Dao by consuming Heavenly Dao broccoli; that’s why we call it Heavenly Dao broccoli. There is so much false advertising out there nowadays, but our Office of Strategic Deception only deals in what’s real!”

“...”

Chapter 810: The Office Of Strategic Deception’s Protective Barrier

It was a long time before the sightseeing bus reached the Office of Strategic Deception’s northern square. This square was where all the sect disciples of the Office of Strategic Deception did their

morning exercise. It was hideously big, stretching as far as the eye could see... And most importantly, the Office of Strategic Deception still had three more squares like this.

Lu Youming and the other sect heads were all hit one after another.

This sect was just blatantly flaunting its wealth, wasn't it?!

Jealousy was truly a scary thing, and even Void Refinement big shot sect leaders couldn't escape it. Cultivators could expel toxins and impurities from their bodies as well as purify their spirits through cultivation, but they couldn't completely eradicate the emotions and desires of the heart.

In a sense, a person who could completely abandon all emotions and desires would have already lost his soul as a human being...

After bringing the sect leaders to the northern square, Professor Yang looked at the time and said, "There's still half an hour to the opening ceremony. Everyone else is still on the way. Since you are our Office of Strategic Deception's VIP guests, the sightseeing bus took the green passage just now. The wooden house next to the square is a guest teahouse which has drinks and pastries. Sect leaders, please help yourself."

"Alright, many thanks, Professor Yang." Lu Youming nodded.

Actually, while he had been speaking, Professor Yang had already noticed that a few of the sect heads seemed to have disappeared...

Hm, they had probably gone to carry out their plan.

But Professor Yang didn't raise the alert or even ask any questions, and simply turned a blind eye.

Conversely, however, it was this display which made Lu Youming very uneasy.

Because everything was proceeding too smoothly...

On the way here, Lu Youming had already felt that something wasn't right with Professor Yang's expression; it felt like the other side had already learned about their operation...

Lu Youming was restless as he sat inside the guest teahouse on the edge of the northern square and gazed out the window.

At that moment, a new message popped up in the Alliance chat group.

Everything was already in place.

Sect Leader Sun had led four other sect heads to the location specified by that Long clan descendant senior.

Sun Hanzhe: “President Lu, we’ve already set up the transmission crystals!”

“They look a little like the type used especially for summons. Who knows what this senior will summon later.” A few of the sect leaders started speculating in the group. On the other side of the screen, Lu Youming could sense their excitement.

“The few of you, come back quickly...” Lu Youming said nothing more.

The place where the transmission crystals were set up actually wasn’t far from the northern square.

“President Lu, can it be that you’re scared?” Sun Hanzhe laughed. “Lord President, don’t worry. We’re using invisibility talismans, and the other side can’t see us at all. When I placed the crystals down just now, some people whom I assume are sect disciples of the Office of Strategic Deception walked past me, but didn’t notice me!”

Lu Youming sighed and swiftly typed, “Everyone, remember that the reason we agreed to this in the first place was because there’s basically no risk involved and it’s something we can do in passing. But even then, be a little more prudent; nothing good comes out of going too wild...”

“Ha ha ha! Lord President, you’re too cautious. We’ll be right back!” Sect Leader Sun said.

This Sect Leader Sun was clearly completely unaware of how dangerous the situation was.

While President Lu was waiting in the teahouse, Professor Yang walked in with a silk pouch, his face all smiles. “Sect Leader Lu, I forgot to give you this earlier!”

Lu Youming: “This silk pouch is...?”

Professor Yang: “We have gifts for all the distinguished guests who’ve come to our sect this time. There are seventeen pieces of green jade inside this silk pouch. Sect Leader Lu can hand them out.”

Lu Youming’s forehead was still sweating.

He had been startled when Yang Bingchuan suddenly came in.

“Then many thanks, Professor Yang... But this green jade probably isn’t simply an ornament, is it?”

“Of course.” Professor Yang nodded. “When you wear this jade, it can gather a fixed amount of spirit energy as there is a small spirit-gathering array embedded in it. Additionally, these jade pieces are also ID tags for our Office of Strategic Deception’s VIP guests. Our sect’s protective barrier was activated ten minutes ago, but as long as you carry this jade on you, you’ll be able to bypass some of the restrictions.”

“Re- restrictions?”

“All large sects basically have a protective barrier, don’t they? After entering a sect’s protective barrier, you’re restricted from flying, casting spells, and so forth. Does Sect Leader Lu’s sect not have one?”

“Mm... of course it does...” Lu Youming was sweating.

He had been observing every single movement in his surroundings from the teahouse, but completely hadn’t sensed the Office of Strategic Deception’s protective barrier being activated... How brilliant was the array maker, for that to be possible? To actually mask his movements to the point that there wasn’t the least bit activity?

President Lu vaguely felt that things weren’t looking good...

Just as he was about to send a text to Sect Leader Sun and the others to hurry up and come back, Professor Yang continued, “May I trouble Sect Leader Lu to please hand the jade pieces out as quickly as possible? The protective barrier is now active. If you’re not wearing this jade, not only will you be subjected to flight and spell restrictions within the sect, even the talismans you carry on you won’t work!”

Lu Youming: “...”

...

On the other side, on the top of a mountain not far from the northern square, Sect Leader Sun led four other sect heads as they completed their mission of setting up the crystals. However, they weren’t in a hurry to leave.

It took them just five minutes to set up these crystals, and there were still twenty-five minutes left to the start of the opening ceremony.

When they passed through here earlier, they unexpectedly discovered a natural hot spring halfway up the mountain; this hot spring was currently under the jurisdiction of the Office of Strategic Deception’s hot springs team.

“This Office of Strategic Deception really has a lot of trade!” All the sect leaders were deeply jealous.

Because the Office of Strategic Deception had over fifty natural hot springs like this one...

All kinds of supply chains, and abundant and diverse resources for the development of the sect... the Office of Strategic Deception had brought together almost all current sect businesses. This sect was simply like a paradise; who wouldn’t want to come here?

After setting up the crystals, Sect Leader Sun received a message from President Lu urging him to hurry up and go back.

Standing on the edge of the cliff as the wind blew, Sect Leader Sun looked down at the magnificent Office of Strategic Deception below, and felt unsatisfied in his heart.

He wondered how long the Office of Strategic Deception could be complacent for...

“President Lu urged us to go back. To be on the safe side, let’s take a shortcut.” Sect Leader Sun let out a long breath.

“Alright!” The other sect leaders nodded.

“Then, who’s first?” Sect Leader Sun asked.

They were all at the Void Refinement stage, so they planned to jump straight down from here.

“How about together?”

“Alright.” Sect Leader Sun nodded.

Then they all jumped.

They were using invisibility talismans, and thought that no one would see them jump off the cliff.

But they had no idea at all that the sect’s protective barrier had already been activated.

So, as they were falling, they noticed that something wasn’t right about the situation...

Because they realized that there was actually a group of reporters holding all types of recording equipment at the bottom of the cliff.

These reporters were on their way to the northern square...