

Dragon King 211

Chapter 211: The Weakest Pair of Partners?

The River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting Zhao Hongyu used was undoubtedly an advanced Dharma Treasure. It broke into the void and went above the ordinary clouds in the blink of an eye.

The nine layers of heavens were called Zhong Heaven, Qian Heaven, Cong Heaven, Geng Heaven, Zui Heaven, Kuo Heaven, Xian Heaven, Shen Heaven, and Cheng Heaven. Fifth Heaven was also Zui Heaven. Since mortals could reach the first four Heavens, this Fifth Heaven was where the human cultivation world began.

The immortals lived in Ninth Heaven and up, so the range between Fifth Heaven and Eighth Heaven was a buffer territory between the mortal world and the immortal world.

The dragons could move under Fifth Heaven freely. According to Zhao Hongyu, the wood, water, fire, and earth-elemental dragons could soar as high as Seventh Heaven while the gold-elemental dragons could reach the Eighth Heaven.

When Zhao Guang took Hao Ren to the sky to watch the process of rainfall creation, it seemed high for Hao Ren. However, it was only on Second Heaven.

The airplanes flew above the ordinary clouds, but it was still within First Heaven.

Comparatively, Fifth Heaven was much higher!

Even with Dharma Treasures the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting, which was a super fast traveling Dharma Treasure, it took them half an hour to reach Fifth Heaven.

Boom!

The seven-colored light beams broke through a pale blue array formation and got through a thick layer of auspicious clouds.

Fifth Heaven!

Standing on the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting, Hao Ren looked around and saw numerous green mountains.

It was a celestial world.

Standing in front, Zhao Hongyu checked the direction and steered the painting forward.

The speed of the painting had slowed down, and the seven-colored light beams had disappeared.

Flying above the mountains, Zhao Hongyu turned slightly and said to Hao Ren, "Except the Origin Dragon Grand Palace, then there are nine smaller palaces in rings around it. The nine small palaces are Qiuniu Palace, Yazi Palace, Chaofeng Palace, Pulao Palace, Suanni Palace, Baxia Palace, Bian Palace, Fuxi Palace, and Chiwen Palace. They are the branch palaces of the nine ancestors of our Dragon Tribe. There are

four entrances in the Origin Dragon Grand Palace. Once you enter the Nine Dragon Palace, you will appear at the entrance in the east since the East Ocean Dragon Palace is located in the east.”

“Ok.” Hao Ren listened attentively, knowing that the trip was crucial and would probably influence the development of East Ocean Dragon Palace in the next tens of years.

“This is a map.” From an ordinary-looking ring on her finger, Zhao Hongyu took out a scroll. “This map has the route of the Origin Dragon Grand Palace and the information about the parts of the nine branch palaces that we have so far explored.”

Hao Ren took the map and opened it with Nature Essence. He found that the map was very detailed in some parts and vague in other parts.

“This map is the result of the efforts of several generations of East Ocean. It’s very precious, and you must make sure it doesn’t fall into other people’s hands,” Zhao Hongyu warned Hao Ren.

“Got it.” Hao Ren put the map into his hidden space. Since it was not food, he was sure that Little White wouldn’t eat it.

“The Nine Dragon Palace opens every 50 years, and the cultivators must be younger than 100 years old to enter it. Of course, it would be a waste of an opportunity to allow cultivators who are very young into it. Usually, the opportunity was given to those who have 50 to 60 years of cultivation experience, and that was why no one could enter the Nine Dragon Palace twice. Zhao Guang and I entered once and didn’t bring back anything extraordinary,” Zhao Hongyu said with regret in her voice.

“Mom, I’m a lucky girl. I will get good stuff this time!” Zhao Yanzi shouted.

“It’s not a field trip. Although the Nine Dragon Palace has no traps in there, it’s not absolutely safe.” Zhao Hongyu looked at Zhao Yanzi seriously, and the latter immediately shut her mouth.

Zhao Hongyu turned to Hao Ren. “The Nine Dragon Palace is protected by prehistoric array formations. Although the palace is in desolation for thousands of years, the major array formations are still operating. The Origin Dragon Grand Palace is in the center of the Nine Dragon Palace while the nine small palaces surround it. However, their positions are not fixed; each time people go in, they would find that the positions of the small palaces had changed. Since the time interval is 50 years, each person had only six hours to explore it, and the Four Ocean Dragon Clans don’t share information, no one knows about the movement patterns of the nine small palaces. With the current information, no one can be sure if they moved according to astrology or the Eight Trigram. Which branch palace you will enter and what kind of treasures you can get is all based on luck.

“Which small palace did you and Uncle enter last time?” Hao Ren asked.

“We entered Fuxi Palace and got this River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting,” Zhao Hongyu answered.

“Can we only take one treasure?” Hao Ren asked immediately.

“No. You can take as many as you can. Except for the items in the Grand Palace, everything else in the Nine Dragon Palace is legacy left by the ancestors of the prehistoric times and can be taken with you. In fact, the Four Oceans came up with the solution of opening the Nine Dragon Palace every 50 years because we couldn’t agree on a distribution plan of the fortunes. So, each time the Nine Dragon Palace

opens, each ocean would send out two young cultivators to take everything they can with their luck and abilities.”

“It seems that Dad and Mom were not very powerful at the time,” Zhao Yanzi raised her head and said.

Zhao Hongyu smiled helplessly. Hao Ren saw her expression and knew that he and Zhao Yanzi were even weaker. One of them had just reached Li-level while the other didn’t even possess a Dragon Core...

“All in all, if you can take back three ancient treasures or elixirs, it will be a big success. If you get two, it will be good. If you get one, it will still be better than nothing,” Zhao Hongyu turned serious and said.

“Ok!” Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren said in unison.

While they were talking, the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting had flown into the center of a round valley. Hao Ren looked down and saw that some people were already gathered on the meadow below them. Among them were Oldman Zeng and Zeng Yitao.

Zhao Hongyu steered the painting and landed on the meadow slowly.

“Mrs. Zhao!” The representatives of North Ocean and South Ocean came over to greet her.

“Elder Xu, Elder Hu! How are you?” Zhao Hongyu greeted them with a smile.

Since each ocean sent only two cultivators and a representative who led the way, there were altogether 12 people there. Zeng Yitao’s partner was a boy who looked a couple of years younger than him; he was probably Zeng Yitao’s little servant.

South Ocean’s team was comprised of one guy and one girl who were in their mid-twenties. They were holding hands and looked like a couple. North Ocean’s team was made up of one guy who looked 20 and one girl who was about 18; they looked like brother and sister.

“Mrs. Zhao, you are the last to arrive. I thought you are too afraid to come!” Oldman Zeng glanced at Zhao Hongyu and said in a cold tone.

“Well, since West Ocean is eager to open the Nine Dragon Palace, how can we East Ocean not join in on the fun?” Zhao Hongyu replied breezily.

“We proposed to open the Nine Dragon Palace so that the young elites of the Four Ocean Dragon Palaces can come and practice. But from the looks of it, you are in dire need of talented youths, right?” Oldman Zeng looked at Hao Ren to Zhao Yanzi and said sarcastically.

Zhao Hongyu didn’t want to argue with him. She looked away, pretending to have not heard his remarks.

As the most senior and most powerful cultivator in the group, Oldman Zeng stopped his offensive comments after Zhao Hongyu ignored him. He snorted disdainfully.

Eight people were going to enter. Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi from East Ocean were respectively a Li-level cultivator and a mortal. The couple from South Ocean were young elites, and they both had reached top-tier Geng-level; South Ocean had already arranged for their dual-cultivation. This time when West Ocean proposed to open the Nine Dragon Palace, South Ocean had eagerly agreed, hoping that this

young couple could take this opportunity to gain another breakthrough. The siblings of North Ocean were the oldest son and second daughter of the Crown Prince of the North Ocean Dragon Palace. They had both reached Zhen-level and were charging at Geng-level. Zeng Yitao had reached Zhen-level half a year ago, and his servant was just an assistant to him. Zeng Yitao would enjoy all the treasures they get in the Nine Dragon Palace.

Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi were the weakest pair among the eight cultivators and probably even among all the participants in history. After all, the weakest participant so far was at low-tier Zhen-level. That was why Oldman Zeng mocked them, and Zhao Hongyu had no choice but to ignore him.

This opening was only 30 years after the last time, and the Four Ocean Dragon Palaces had sent relatively young cultivators to participate. 20 years later, the Nine Dragon Palace would open again and then again after another 50 years. It meant that any cultivators under 20 years of age could be able to enter the Nine Dragon Palace three times if they were given the opportunity. That was why the Four Ocean Dragon Palaces had all sent young cultivators who were all royal descendants.

“Well, it’s almost time. The Nine Dragon Palace will show up any minute now.” Sensing the undercurrent, Elder Xu and Elder Hu looked up into the sky and tried to smooth things over.

In fact, South Ocean and North Ocean were prompted by West Ocean to agree to the extra opening since West Ocean stated that the reason behind the proposal was to celebrate Zhao Kuo’s success in passing the Heavenly Tribulation. East Ocean had no reason to say no.

The truth was, East Ocean was at its weakest period. In the younger generations, they had no extraordinary talented cultivators. Zhao Yanzi was lazy in cultivation and now didn’t even have a Dragon Core, Hao Ren had just entered the world of cultivation, and others in East Ocean were just ordinary cultivators. East Ocean would gain the least benefits from this opening of the Nine Dragon Palace.

Boom!

While Elder Xu and Elder Hu looked up, a huge palace that was bigger than a mountain appeared in the high sky.

The powerful pressure it released made people want to bow at it.

With a low murmur, Oldman Zeng summoned a huge umbrella and blocked the overwhelming pressure temporarily.

The palace was grey and ordinary-looking, but the buzzing array formation around it was emitting black lightning flashes.

The palace was almost as big as a city.

A small-scale white array formation fell from the sky. In the four corners of the array formation were four circles which had different colors: red, yellow, green, and blue.

“Zi, Ren, stand in the dark red circle in the east,” Zhao Hongyu instructed.

It was Zhao Yanzi’s first time witnessing the Nine Dragon Palace, and she was stunned by it. Hao Ren pulled her into the red circle.

Standing in the green circle opposite them, Zeng Yitao glared at Han Ren. Then, he turned to Zhao Yanzi and said, "Little Zi, you are mine."

Boom!

With a white flash, the array formation on the meadow vanished.

Chapter 212: Little Burden

When the dizziness passed, Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi found themselves on a wasteland.

Everything was engulfed in a white mist as if they were in a forest in the early morning. The air was humid and foggy; they couldn't see anything beyond two meters.

Dressed in the thin Taoist robes, they felt cold. Hao Ren circulated the Spirit Concentration Scroll to keep warm, but Zhao Yanzi, without her Dragon Core, was shivering.

Hao Ren reached out and held her hand. She was about to shake his hand off when a surge of warmth traveled from his hand into her body. Realizing Hao Ren was trying to keep her warm, she nestled her hand into his palm more securely.

In this unfamiliar environment, Hao Ren didn't dare to move aimlessly. Standing at where he was, he took out the map Zhao Hongyu gave him and began to study it.

Looking up at Hao Ren, Zhao Yanzi took out a mini-compass from her bracelet and pointed. "This is east."

Hao Ren turned to look at her, happy with her contribution. He set the map in the right direction and found that they needed to move west since Zhao Hongyu had told them that the place they landed on was to the east of the Origin Dragon Grand Palace.

"Follow me." Hao Ren put away the map and pulled Zhao Yanzi toward the west.

Zhao Yanzi stumbled along with him like a reluctant follower.

"Zi." Hao Ren stopped abruptly and turned to look at her.

"Yeah?" Zhao Yanzi looked up.

"I need you to understand one thing before we move forward. We are not here for fun. As you have seen, the cultivators who have entered the Nine Dragon Palace are all selected elites of the Four Ocean Dragon Palaces, and it's a rare opportunity for us to come here since this place only opens every 50 years." With his eyes locked on her, Hao Ren said the words with emphasis.

Zhao Yanzi pouted when Hao Ren continued, "For me, it's not a leisurely tour. I want to find some godly elixirs to help your Third Uncle recover his cultivation strength."

Zhao Yanzi had been defiant at Hao Ren's lecture. Hearing his last sentence, she froze and bit her lip slightly.

“We have only six hours, which is only one afternoon. I hope you will work together with me since what we are doing is related to the recovery of your Third Uncle’s cultivation strength and related to the power balance between West Ocean and East Ocean.” Hao Ren looked very earnest.

Zhao Yanzi looked at him, and a determined expression appeared.

“Let’s go.” Hao Ren tugged on her hand and continued forward.

This time, Zhao Yanzi didn’t wait for him to drag her along. Instead, she quickened her steps and followed him closely.

She turned to look at Hao Ren and found his serious expression quite cool.

Hao Ren consulted the map while silently counting his steps. He estimated that one step covered a distance of about 50 centimeters, and the product of 50 centimeters and the number of steps would be the distance between the initial position to the Origin Dragon Grand Palace.

This data may not be useful to this trip, but it would be important information for future use.

Zhao Yanzi didn’t know what Hao Ren was mumbling about. If she had known that he was estimating and measuring the distance, she would have admired his attention to detail.

The atmosphere was gloomy while the dense white mist reduced their visibility. Zhao Yanzi clutched Hao Ren’s hand and leaned closer to him, absorbing the warmth from his body.

“Zi, check if our direction is right,” Hao Ren said.

“Ok!” Taking out the compass, she checked carefully. “We are still walking to the west.”

“We have walked 12,859 steps now, which is about 6,000 meters.” Hao Ren calculated in his mind.

“With the walking speed of 5 kilometers per hour, we have spent about one hour here already.”

“Of the six hours allocated to us, one hour has passed.” Hao Ren told Zhao Yanzi.

“Really? One hour already?” Zhao Yanzi was astonished.

“Let’s hurry!” Hao Ren began to jog, dragging Zhao Yanzi along with him.

While jogging, Zhao Yanzi put away the compass, still surprised that one hour had passed already.

They needed to save their energy in the Nine Dragon Palace, but time was more precious!

With the ancient array formations still operating in the Nine Dragon Palace, they couldn’t fly using Dharma Treasures in here.

Even walking was consuming their Nature Essence! Zhao Yanzi got the Nature Essence transferred to her from Hao Ren and didn’t feel the loss, but Hao Ren was conscious that his Nature Essence was dwindling with each step they took.

The ordinary-looking wasteland was not ordinary at all! Hao Ren had been absorbing the essence from this space and turning it into his own Nature Essence. Otherwise, he would have been exhausted.

That was why the Four Ocean Dragon Palaces used to send cultivators who were between 50 to 60 years old instead of younger cultivators even though the younger ones could enter twice. After all, the weak cultivation strength of young cultivators was not even enough to be consumed by the wasteland in the Nine Dragon Palace!

While they were running, Hao Ren felt like his Nature Essence was pouring out like the water in a waterfall!

His Nature Essence was not abundant, to begin with, and it was now almost running out!

Hao Ren stopped immediately and took several deep breaths. He calculated and found that they had just run about 200 steps!

“What? You’re tired so soon?” Zhao Yanzi looked back at Hao Ren in surprise since she knew his physical strength was way better than hers.

Hao Ren released her hand. “Try and run by yourself!”

“Running is not difficult for me!” As the best runner in her school, Zhao Yanzi swung her arms and began to run.

Six steps later, she felt a heavy pulling force on her legs. She lost her balance and fell to the ground.

Seeing her awkward posture, Hao Ren couldn’t help but laugh. He walked over and pulled her up.

Zhao Yanzi’s face reddened, realizing that Hao Ren had dragged her along with his Nature Essence for so long.

“Let’s continue,” Hao Ren said mildly as he grabbed onto her hand.

Zhao Yanzi nodded and blushed.

She even felt like her hands were hot.

Zhao Yanzi turned to look at Hao Ren while walking. “Do... Do you think I’m a burden?”

“What?” Hao Ren froze and then said to her. “No. You know how to read a compass, right?”

Red-faced, Zhao Yanzi pursed her lips and gave him a fierce look, baring her white teeth at him. “Is that all I can do?”

“Let’s move on. Burden or not, you are with me today.” Hao Ren quickened his steps and tightened his grip on her soft hand, dragging her to the west.

Zhao Yanzi slowed down a bit and looked at Hao Ren’s side face, suddenly feeling touched.

Chapter 213: A Wasteland Full of Treasures

The white mist surrounded them, and the visibility there was only half a meter.

If it were not for the compass, Hao Ren would have thought that they were totally lost.

They were wondering how much more distance they needed to cover when the black grand palace made of huge rocks appeared before them.

Even though the tower was in a cylinder shape, the foundation was in a square shape. They looked up and found that the top was not visible in the white mist.

The Tower of Heaven!

The huge tower made with huge crude rocks greeted them with a surge of the prehistoric essence!

Zhao Yanzi tugged at Hao Ren's arm and leaned toward him. "How much time is left?"

"We have walked 16,389 steps which are about 8,000 meters. It took us about one and a half hours," Hao Ren answered her.

"Then we still have four and a half hours." Zhao Yanzi nodded. She realized she had been walking with Hao Ren, hand in hand, for more than 10,000 steps.

She released her grip slightly but seeing the black palace, she became afraid and grabbed Hao Ren's hand again, slightly embarrassed.

Oblivious to her little movements, Hao Ren opened the map and began to study it.

The entrance was a bit further from where they were. After entering the palace, they could follow the route that was drawn by earlier explorers and enter the core region of the grand palace.

"Let's go!" Putting away the map, Hao Ren pulled Zhao Yanzi toward the entrance of the grand palace.

Zhao Yanzi followed him closely through the black gate in the east of the palace and into a dark and gloomy tunnel.

Swoosh!

Hao Ren released a mass of fire which he made with his fire-elemental sword energy. It was used as a torch to illuminate the place.

The black tunnel was made with unknown black rocks. Although there was no skeletons or spider webs, the echoing of their steps and the reflection of the fire made Zhao Yanzi nervous.

Hao Ren consulted the map at each turn. Although there were no traps in here, one wrong step could cost them precious time.

However, in the palace, the suppression they felt out in the wasteland disappeared, which meant that the black rocks could block the pulling power in the wasteland.

"Uncle, I'm afraid," Zhao Yanzi said abruptly after a while.

"With the map, we have nothing to fear," Hao Ren answered, checking the map while walking.

The map showed that they were now only three turns away from the grand palace.

"If we can't get out, we'll spend our lives meandering in the palace, right?" Zhao Yanzi said.



“Damn! You are a small cultivating dragon! Where’s your courage?” Hao Ren thought to himself and almost said the words out loud.

However, when he looked at Zhao Yanzi’s small face illuminated by the fire, he saw she was, after all, a schoolgirl. He comforted her in a gentle voice, “We are fine. If there were any dangers here, your mom wouldn’t have let you come.”

“Ok...” Zhao Yanzi answered hesitantly, leaning closer to him.

They turned left, walked down a slope, then went forward and turned right... A brightly illuminated Origin Dragon Grand Palace suddenly entered their view!

The black stone statue of the Origin Dragon which was nearly 100 meters high stood majestically in the center of the grand palace, emitting glittering black light!

In its 18 black arms were holding 18 different weapons, and its mouth held a huge gold bead!

It was this gold bead that illuminated the whole grand palace as if it was daylight.

They walked around the stone statue and found four incense desks in four corners around the statue. The desks in the south, west, and, north all had three burning incense sticks on them.

It meant that the other three teams had been here earlier than them. Judging from the remaining lengths of the sticks, they knew Zeng Yitao of West Ocean had been the first to reach the place.

“Let’s hurry up and light the incense sticks,” Zhao Yanzi urged.

“Ok.” Hao Ren took her back to the incense desk on the east. Picking up an incense stick emitting Nature Essence, he lit it up with fire style sword energy before respectfully sticking it into an ancient looking incense furnace.

The incense stick burned slowly, emitting fragrant scent. Obviously, in the Origin Dragon Grand Palace, even Zeng Yitao didn’t dare to set a trap for them.

Hao Ren knelt and kowtowed before the stone statue with Zhao Yanzi. Then, he consulted the map and took her to the main gate of the grand palace.

But Hao Ren was baffled. Looking from the outside, the palace had its tower top up into the depth of the mist, and he guessed its height was taller than 100 meters. But in the grand palace, the dragon head of the Origin Dragon statue nearly touched the ceiling of the palace, which meant that there should have been several or dozens of levels. However, while he walked from the eastern entrance to the grand palace, he had not found any path or any ancient delivery array formation leading to the higher levels

But he had no time to mull over his suspicions. Besides, Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi who were really weak couldn’t explore the palace. Hao Ren put aside his bafflement and walked toward the main gate facing the stone statue. The gate emitted a faint white light screen.

The moment they went through the white light screen, their vision suddenly cleared!

The gloomy mist vanished and in its place were mountains, rivers, and meadows!

But they were not ordinary mountains, rivers or meadows.

All kinds of unknown celestial herbs emitting intense essence were spread all over the plain, and celestial water flowed in the rivers with surging essence!

The mountains were so high that each of them was at least thousands of meters tall with their tops out of their sight!

Prehistoric Land! This was the true Prehistoric Land, a piece of land that was there when the world was just created!

Different from the Prehistoric Land in the legends, there were no spirit beasts or demon beasts; there were only lively, abundant, celestial herbs all over the mountains and plains.

Seeming to have sensed the Nature Essence in the air, Little White chirped in Hao Ren's necklace.

He suddenly remembered that Little White had come in here with them in his necklace.

He opened the hidden space and let it out.

Little White made a roll in the air turning into its snow lion form before landing on the ground.

Cultivators liked places with intense essence, and so did spirit beasts. The intensity of the essence was hundreds and even thousands of times of that in the hidden space. Little White ran around Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi in extreme happiness.

In fact, the high intensity of essence in the Prehistoric times was the main reason there were a large number of spirit beasts and demon beasts at that time. As a spirit beast, Little White was really at home here!

"Roar! Roar!" Lifting its head, Little White roared in exhilaration!

Putting away the map, Hao Ren looked around the beautiful scenery of green mountains and rivers. They were now out of the Origin Dragon Grand Palace, and the next step was to find one of the nine branch palaces.

However, the branch palaces had no fixed positions. They could only rely on their luck to find them.

When Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang were here, they had worked hard and were lucky enough to find the Fuxi Palace. With much weaker physical strength and cultivation strength and only four hours at hand, it would be hard for Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi to find any of the branch palaces by foot.

"Zi, you tell me which direction we go." Hao Ren turned to look at Zhao Yanzi.

Uncertain, Zhao Yanzi closed her eyes and turned around in circles before pointing into a direction randomly. She opened her eyes, saying, "Ok. This direction."

"Ok!" Without further ado, Hao Ren pulled her toward the direction she pointed.

Zhao Yanzi was a bit moved by Hao Ren's trust and forgot to scold him for holding her hand without her permission.

Stepping on the rare and precious herbs, Hao Ren felt a bit guilty.

His mission now was to find a branch palace. If they couldn't find one, they would pick some of the spirit herbs as compensation. Anyway, his hidden space was as big as a room. A roomful of different kinds of celestial herbs would be valuable for making elixirs.

Little White rolled and tumbled in the meadow, without the dignity of a snow lion. It looked just like a large dog.

When they reached the end of the plain and came to the foot of the nearest mountain, Zhao Yanzi was fatigued. Under the power of the ancient array formation in the Grand Palace, they couldn't fly on a sword, and walking was their only method of transportation.

To find a branch palace, they must climb to the top of a nearby mountain so that they could have an overview of their surroundings and probably spot a branch palace up there.

Thinking of climbing up the mountain which was at least 400 meters high, red-faced Zhao Yanzi began to pant.

Roar! Roar!

Little White ran around Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi, wagging its head and tail happily.

"Damn you, Little White! You are so energetic, but I'm dying of exhaustion!" Zhao Yanzi gave Little White a small punch.

Her punch on the soft body of Little White was so light that it felt like she was petting it. The 'demanding dog' laid down on the ground and exposed its belly, inviting Zhao Yanzi to rub it.

Frustrated, Zhao Yanzi rubbed its belly frantically.

Suddenly, an idea dawned on Hao Ren. "Zi, you can ride Little White!"

"Huh?" Zhao Yanzi didn't understand.

"With its size, it can carry you with ease!" Hao Ren squatted before Little White and patted its face, getting it to stand up.

"Can I ride it?" Looking at Little White who was like a huge dog, Zhao Yanzi hesitated and asked Hao Ren.

"The lazy Little White has been eating without working. Now we have some work for it." Hao Ren walked over and held down Little White's neck before lifting Zhao Yanzi upon its back.

At first, Little White was a bit reluctant and began to bend its legs. But one pat on its rump from Hao Ren made it immediately stand up.

Obviously, Little White needed some urging to do its work.

Zhao Yanzi had ridden horses in the park, but she had never ridden a lion. Sitting on its back, she felt a bit nervous. With the height of nearly one-meter, Little White was as big as a pony.

"Let's get up to the mountaintop!" Hao Ren clutched the mane beside Little White's ear and led it up the mountain as if he was walking a horse.

With the dragon core and Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, his physical strength was enough to sustain him as long as the land here didn't suck out his Nature Essence.

"Little White, go!" Sitting steadily on Little White, Zhao Yanzi treated it like a horse. She broke off a stick from a tree branch to lightly whip its rump.

Little White looked morose, seeming regretful of its decision to come out of the hidden space...

There was no stair on the 400-meter path, and this made climbing it especially difficult. Time ticked away, and Hao Ren felt the pressure of time. However, he could do nothing about their slow speed.

In the prehistoric times, people had to rely on their natural strength, instincts, and possible innate powers since no one could cultivate at that time.

The people born in the prehistoric times had climbed the mountain step by step like he was doing right now. They definitely didn't fly on swords!

Sitting on Little White's wide back, Zhao Yanzi picked some red, green, and blue fruits from the low bushes and stuffed them into Little White's mouth.

When they finally reached the top, Hao Ren calculated silently and found that another hour had passed. In the past hour, he had quickened his steps almost to a jog, and even Little White had begun to trot under his urging.

The trees on the mountain top were not dense. Standing on the highest rock, Hao Ren looked into the distance.

Around him were vast stretches of plains and tall mountains!

Riding on the back of Little White, Zhao Yanzi came to his side. She widened her eyes and also looked carefully for the clues of branch palaces.

"Over there! Over there!" Zhao Yanzi suddenly yelled in joy.

Hao Ren followed her gaze and saw a black spot in the center of a far-away plain.

"It's too far. We can't reach it in time at our current speed," Hao Ren said.

Disappointed, Zhao Yanzi began to search other places.

In this big world, the nine branch palaces seemed very tiny. Even with an eagle eye view, they were just some small black dots if they were hidden behind the mountains!

Hao Ren circulated the Nature Essence and concentrated it in his eyes. He had a clear view of grasses in the area several hundred meters around him and could make out things several kilometers away!

"Over there!" Hao Ren pointed to the direction ahead on his left and said.

Zhao Yanzi widened her eyes and looked hard but couldn't see it. However, Hao Ren had a clear view of the branch palace concealed at the foot of a mountain. Although he could only make out a pillar, he was certain that it belonged to a branch palace!

"Ok! Let's go there!" Zhao Yanzi couldn't see it, but she trusted Hao Ren's acute sight.

Hao Ren calculated in his mind. This was the closest branch palace they could see. Although he had spotted a branch palace even farther than the one Zhao Yanzi found, time was not on their side now. It would take them one hour to get down from this mountain and another two hours to reach the branch palace concealed behind the foot of the mountain. There would be almost no time left for them to search for treasures.

He understood why Zhao Hongyu had told them that it would be a big harvest if they got three treasures, it would be great if they got two, and even one would be a success!

“Little White, let’s get down from the mountain!” Hao Ren patted its chubby rump.

With a roar, Little White jumped down the mountain swiftly with Zhao Yanzi on its back, dodging the trees on the mountainside agilely.

Hao Ren found it hard to keep up with it.

Suddenly, Little White roared and leaped up over a huge rock blocking its way!

Boom!

In the air, Little White burst out flames from its paws!

Carrying Zhao Yanzi on its back, it didn’t drop onto the ground. Instead, it flew up.

Innate Power!

#### **Chapter 214: Coiled Dragon Golden Spear? Seize!**

Little White’s four paws weren’t moving as if it was standing on the ground. At first, Zhao Yanzi seemed startled. But soon, she began shouting in joy.

“Little White!” Hao Ren clapped his hands.

High up in the air, Little White was awe-inspiring. Pedaling its paws, it returned and landed and landed on top of a rock.

“Haha, Little White, I love you so much!” With her arms around Little White’s neck, Zhao Yanzi almost started rolling on the ground with it in her arms.

Similarly, Hao Ren was also surprised to find that Little White was able to fly. Overjoyed, he patted its back and got on as well.

“Little White, let’s see if you can do it!” Hao Ren patted its rump.

Roar!

Little White let out a lasting howl while exerting force through its limbs.

Woom... Again, flames enveloped all four of its paws, and it flew high up in the air unwaveringly!

It seemed effortless for Little White to carry both Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi at the same time!

Moreover, its four paws looked like they were on hot wheels; flying was its innate power!

“Little White is so cool!” Zhao Yanzi couldn’t help but lean over and hug Little White’s neck tightly again.

“Alright, Little White, fly ahead!” Hao Ren gently patted its rump again while pointing forward.

Little White was very obedient. It immediately spread its limbs and flew rapidly forward.

They realized that the distance that they originally had to travel by foot was now achievable by Little White’s flight ability! Even though its speed could not be compared to Dharma Treasures, they no longer needed to get over high mountains on foot. More importantly, it would save them a lot of time and energy!

Riding on Little White’s back, Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi enjoyed the beautiful sceneries as the Nature Essence-filled air gently blew at them. It was such a marvelous feeling.

Moreover, seated in the front, strands of Zhao Yanzi’s hair fluttered in the wind, and they continued to tickle Hao Ren’s cheeks. As her back kept on touching his chest, Hao Ren couldn’t help but sense a hint of romance.

Zhao Yanzi felt completely at ease and was silently appreciating the vast prairies and the continuously rising and falling mountains below her feet. Hao Ren quietly held onto her by the waist to prevent her from falling off Little White’s back.

“Hahahaha...” Extremely delighted, Zhao Yanzi even opened up her arms to feel the breeze head-on.

Nervously, Hao Ren held onto her waist tighter. For a second, he felt like their poses were extremely familiar.

“We’re here! Little White, descend!” Seeing that the branch palace was now right beneath them, Hao Ren quickly gave out the order while pressing down on Little White’s back with his palm.

Proudly, Little White let out a couple more roars and directly descended.

The black palace was similar to the Origin Dragon Grand Palace as they were both built with black-colored stones. Right before the door, there were two stone statues holding various weapons. They each had the body of a dragon and head of a jackal – Yazi!

This branch palace that was partially hidden away by the foot of the mountain was Yazi Palace!

Yazi was the second son of the Godly Dragon. It was feisty and had an unquenchable thirst for killing. Its embodiment often occupied hilts of blades to emphasize the intent to kill and to annihilate all evil!

Therefore, just from studying the two stone statues, Hao Ren could tell immediately that various offensive Dharma Treasures were awaiting them inside.

“Little White, go in!” Hao Ren opened the hidden space in his necklace and asked Little White to crawl in.

This branch palace was the closest to the Origin Dragon Grand Palace, so they were expecting Zeng Yitao and the others to be in here as well. Hao Ren did not want them to see that Little White brought them here.

“Come on, let’s go in!” Hao Ren dragged Zhao Yanzi and stepped inside Yazi Palace.

Different from the halls in the Vital Dragon Grand Palace, Yazi Palace did not give off an eerie vibe as it was spacious and bright. Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi directly walked into the main hall.

This main hall was in a square shape; its width and height each were a few hundred meters. Instantly, Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi saw countless Dharma Treasures flying above them over a white light-veil.

The treasures were not fancy-looking but seemed rather dark and dull. However, while floating in mid-air, they gave off an incredibly intimidating sensation!

What looked good was not necessarily powerful. Every one of these primitive-looking ancient Dharma Treasures could be more powerful than the combination of a dozen top-tier Dharma Treasures!

At this moment, underneath the sea of Dharma Treasures, Zeng Yitao and his servant, the couple from South Ocean, and the siblings from North Ocean were all striving to acquire the Dharma Treasures they desired!

There were at least a hundred of those Dharma Treasures dancing in the air; therefore, they did not have to fight over them. All they needed to do was to choose the ones they desired and focus on obtaining them using their Nature Essence!

The arrival of Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi had surprised the other teams. It seemed like the others believed that Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren were too weak and might not even be able to walk out of the Origin Dragon Grand Palace, let alone getting to Yazi Palace.

Right now, they were all releasing their Nature Essences and working on obtaining the primitive-looking Dharma Treasures.

Zeng Yitao cultivated Three-Star Destruction Scroll. His palm emitted a dash of blue light, and this light formed a rope. Currently, it tightly wrapped around a black ax that was high up in the air. Next to him, his servant had gotten a hold of a black jade flute.

“Haha, little Zi, what a lucky b\*stard your Fuma must be for being able to bring you here!” While exerting his Nature Essence to acquire the big black ax, Zeng Yitao turned and said to Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren. He couldn’t help himself from spewing vicious remarks when he saw Hao Ren holding Zhao Yanzi’s hand.

“Zeng Yitao, one more word from you, and I’ll knock your front teeth out!” Zhao Yanzi was furious as she shouted back at Zeng Yitao.

Zeng Yitao paid no attention to Zhao Yanzi’s anger. The most important thing right now was acquiring the Dharma Treasures. He believed that there would be plenty of chances for him to deal with Hao Ren in the future.

“Haha.” Hao Ren smiled faintly as he shot out a sword energy from his finger.

The grey sword energy rolled into a ball in the air and hit right into the blue light that was being emitted from Zeng Yitao’s palm.

With a fizz, the blue rope made of Nature Essence instantly fractured, and the black ax which was making its way to the edge of the white light-veil went back to its original position!

The hundun sword energy was capable of cutting through all five elements. Hence, the sword ball that was made of concentrated hundun sword energy was undoubtedly able to sever Zeng Yitao's Nature Essence.

A whole hour of Zeng Yitao's effort was destroyed!

Zeng Yitao who was elegant and gentle-looking had now become enraged. He glared at Hao Ren and yelled, "How dare you!?"

Hao Ren did not flinch. After all, he was not afraid of Zeng Yitao who was a few years younger than him. He remained calm and pulled Zhao Yanzi back to his side, stopping her from going forward to confront Zeng Yitao.

Clenching his teeth and shaking his hand, Zeng Yitao's hatred towards Hao Ren was apparent as he took out a golden spear!

Although he was young, he already had his own Natal Dharma Treasure!

"Crown Prince, we must focus on acquiring Dharma Treasures; we can deal with them later!" Seeing this, Zeng Yitao's servant urged promptly.

"If I don't defeat him now, he'll keep interrupting for sure! You can focus on obtaining the treasures; I will take him on!" Holding onto the spear with one hand, Zeng Yitao waggled his spear and prodded it right toward Hao Ren's face.

The golden spearhead was agile like a wiggling viper, leaving Hao Ren's vision blurred and dazzled!

Moreover, on the surface of the polearm, there were five coiled dragons carved onto it; its appearance alone indicated that it was a very powerful weapon. It was indeed the Coiled Dragon Golden Spear!

"Watch out!" Zhao Yanzi warned Hao Ren as she gasped.

Hao Ren took a stride and released five sword energies from his hand. They were like five small missiles, bombing onto Zeng Yitao's spear! At the same time, he pushed Zhao Yanzi away so that she could stay farther away from the battle!

"Is that all you've got!?" Zeng Yitao simply switched from holding the spear with one hand to with both hands, and his golden spear did not take the least bit of damage!

His movements were agile and varied greatly. He was coming at Hao Ren ferociously and violently, a good indicator of quite a few years of training! As the future of West Ocean Dragon Palace depended on him, even if no one were to discipline him in his daily life, he would never neglect his cultivation and practice of weaponry skills!

The cultivation technique he had was the best in West Ocean, and so were the spear techniques that he practiced! Every day, he spent three hours on cultivation techniques and another three hours on spear technique practices; those were the compulsory classes commanded by Oldman Zeng!



The spear prodded into Hao Ren's shoulder before abruptly changing its course and almost slashing Hao Ren's throat!

Spears were regarded as the king of all cold weapon. They were long and sharp, easy and versatile to handle, and refined and unique. Ordinary weapons could not compete with them, not to mention that Hao Ren was unarmed!

"Crown Prince, let him go this time, we need to hurry and acquire the treasures!" Zeng Yitao's servant advised again.

"I'm going to poke a hole in him!" Zeng Yitao quickly withdrew his spear and swung it around, then aimed for Hao Ren's chest!

On the other hand, the four young cultivators from South Ocean and North Ocean were striving so hard to get the Dharma Treasures in the air that sweat had fully covered their foreheads. Even though they were paying close attention to the fight in the main hall, they had no intention of intervening. After all, a battle between East Ocean and West Ocean could do them no harm.

Woom! Hao Ren sent out two bursts of concentrated sword energies from his palm, barely managing to block off Zeng Yitao's spearhead. Still, with the impact, he immediately had to take five steps backward.

The power of a natal Dharma Treasure could never be taken lightly!

However, as Zeng Yitao was burning with rage and impatience, his spear techniques became chaotic and disorderly; he was unable to win the duel promptly. Noticing that, his servant shouted out loudly again, "Crown Prince, we need to focus on the big picture and let go of personal grudges now!"

"Shut up! One more word and I will cut you up as well!" Zeng Yitao was losing his patience and collectedness. As soon as a hit missed, he would swing the spear again and keep closing in on Hao Ren! Therefore, when Hao Ren had to take five steps backward, Zeng Yitao immediately took five steps forward!

His anger had been fueling since he saw Hao Ren holding Zhao Yanzi's hand! Not to mention, he was still upset and furious over the incident at the birthday party last time!

"Uncle, don't fight him head-on!" While watching, Zhao Yanzi stomped her feet and warned Hao Ren worriedly.

It was not the Dharma Treasures that she was worried about but Hao Ren's safety.

Thump! The couple from South Ocean had worked collectively and retrieved the first Dharma Treasure! It was a charcoal-colored rope. The second it was yanked out from the white light-veil, it began giving off an extremely powerful aura!

Pleasantly surprised, the couple placed the rope around their waist before sending out Nature Essence unitedly for their second Dharma Treasure!

Zeng Yitao was filled with envy. Yet, he still wanted to prove himself and teach Hao Ren a lesson. As he took his anger out on Hao Ren, his attacks with the spear became even messier.

Thump! Hao Ren now had his back against the wall of the main hall, and Zeng Yitao's spear was speeding towards his forehead!

"Crown Prince, you cannot kill him!" Working hard on obtaining the black jade flute, Zeng Yitao's servant saw what was happening and quickly reminded him.

"I'm going to end him!" Zeng Yitao's eyes had turned bright red due to his urge to kill. Revolving the Golden Spear smoothly in his hands, he prodded it right towards Hao Ren's forehead again!

As the Crown Prince of West Ocean, he had always done what he pleased. In his eyes, East Ocean could not hold a candle to West Ocean and should only swallow insults and humiliation quietly!

Pop, pop, pop... In this instant, Hao Ren had released a few dozen sword energies that he summoned in his palm at once!

Like a few dozen mini-missiles, they all exploded on Zeng Yitao's body! Although his glided Daoist robe had defensive functions, it was not able to withstand the bombing of the five-element sword energies. Several large holes appeared on the robe!

Following Zeng Yitao, under the impact, the golden spear which was only a few centimeters away from poking into Hao Ren's forehead had also backed away.

"Cheater!" Seeing that his Daoist robe had been torn, Zeng Yitao threw his spear right at Hao Ren forcefully.

Shuddered with worries and fears, Zhao Yanzi couldn't help but start tipping her toes while she watched!

"Five-elemental sword energy, release!" Once again, Hao Ren's palm released two fierce sword energies!

As the sword energies clashed with the spear, the Golden Spear's power was reduced, and it slowed down. Then, Hao Ren opened the space in his neckless and commanded, "Seize!"

The Golden Spear entered and disappeared right into Hao Ren's chest!

Although it was Zeng Yitao's natal Dharma Treasure, he now could no longer sense the existence of his own Coiled Dragon Golden Spear!

"Zi, let's go!" Hao Ren dragged Zhao Yanzi and headed for the door of Yazi Palace!

At this moment, the siblings from North Ocean had also got their very first Dharma Treasure!

## **Chapter 215: Might As Well**

Dragging Zhao Yanzi, Hao Ren ran for the door of Yazi Palace. Given no time to process what was happening, Zhao Yanzi could only follow Hao Ren.

Greatly shocked, Zeng Yitao realized that his Natal Dharma Treasure had been seized by Hao Ren and immediately began going after him.

“Crown Prince, it’s more important to obtain the treasures here now!” His servant called out again.

After sprinting forward a dozen steps, Zeng Yitao finally stopped. Gritting his teeth, he sent out a burst of blue Nature Essence from his palm, which pierced through the white light-veil and began assisting his servant in obtaining the treasures.

As they were the first to arrive at Yazi Palace, they believed they had sufficient time and decided to each work on obtaining one treasure first. Then, they could make time to get the third one together. Judging from their current situation, it would be extremely fortunate if they were able to obtain even one treasure – it was almost impossible for them to retrieve the second one!

At this moment, Zeng Yitao was grinding his teeth with hatred! He had already achieved Zhen level and had his own Natal Dharma Treasure; yet, he couldn’t even defeat Hao Ren who was merely at Li level!

Following Hao Ren out of the Yazi Palace, Zhao Yanzi looked to Hao Ren with doubts, “Are we not going to try to obtain the treasures?”

“We need to find elixirs. Acquiring Dharma Treasures is not what is most important.” Tapping the necklace on his chest, Hao Ren summoned Little White.

At this time, Little White was toying with Zeng Yitao’s golden spear in the space.

After jumping out of the space, Little White began rolling around on the grass, acting like a spoiled child. Seeing to it, Hao Ren gently kicked Little White in the butt, and it instantly rolled over obediently and became the gigantic Snow Lion that it was.

“We still have time to go to the next branch palace!” Pulling Zhao Yanzi with him, Hao Ren sat on the back of Little White and shot out a burst of very faint sword energy to stimulate the fur around its rear, causing Little White let out a growl and flew into the sky at once!

With its four paws unleashing fire, Little White soared freely in the sky.

As there was not much time left, Hao Ren’s decision had put everything at stake. If they didn’t have Little White, he would definitely have stayed at Yazi Palace to try to retrieve a Dharma Treasure. However, with Little White’s flying ability, there were more possibilities for them.

This time, seated behind Hao Ren, Zhao Yanzi was tightly holding onto Hao Ren’s Daoist robe as Little White tried its best to fly towards the branch palace that was further ahead.

“Hey, about...” She thought for a moment and said in the quietest voice possible, “Don’t ever do dangerous things again.”

“What do you mean?” Hao Ren asked.

“Well...” Yanking Hao Ren’s Daoist robe with her hands, Zhao Yanzi replied, “Things like fighting others bare-handed and unarmed...”

“Okay, got it,” Hao Ren responded. He thought more about it and broke into a bright smile. Needless to say, Zhao Yanzi was not able to see his face as she was seated behind him.

“Also, how were you able to seize his spear?” Zhao Yanzi inquired again.

“The space inside my necklace is as big as a room; I can take in 50 or 60 of them, let alone just a single one!” Hao Ren answered with a laugh.

Last time, he tried putting the bell he got from the Lu sisters into the space to test it and found that the Lu sisters were not able to detect the bell anymore. From then on, he had thought of another way to make use of the space, just that he hadn’t had the chance to try it out until now.

Anything that was within a certain range and had Nature Essence could be seized through mind control. For one, Zeng Yitao’s Natal Dharma Treasure certainly had Nature Essence, and its size also did not exceed the limit of the space. Therefore, Hao Ren was able to seize it without doubts.

With that being said, if the opponent were a lot stronger than he was, Hao Ren would not try to seize things hastily. Even this time, he was lucky to be able to take full advantage of the fact that Zeng Yitao had no clue what was to come. After all, a Natal Dharma Treasure and its user were connected and could communicate directly. Thus, if Zeng Yitao suddenly puts his spear away, the space might not be able to suck it in.

Watching Little White soar in the sky, Hao Ren felt that he could not take its hard work for granted. Therefore, he took out an Elixir Pill and placed it in its mouth.

While flying high up in the air, Little White started chewing the pill. Soon, the flames from its claws were blazing even more fiercely, and its speed had increased considerably!

Thump! After a short period of flying, Little White began descending at an angle onto the ground right before the second branch palace!

This time, Hao Ren did not put Little White away. Instead, he allowed it to follow behind him and Zhao Yanzi.

Similar to Yazi Palace, two stone beasts were standing in front of the entrance of the palace. The two stone beasts appeared like tortoises, crawling on two humongous hearthstones.

“This is the sixth son of the Godly Dragon – Baxia. It had immense strength and could carry many mountains on its back at once.” Zhao Yanzi stated as she recognized the stone beast.

“So, this must be Baxia Palace.” As Hao Ren had no time to waste, he had no intention to stay by the entrance to observe the two stone beasts. Promptly, he dragged Zhao Yanzi into the palace with him. Wagging its tail, Little White followed right behind.

Yazi was a fighter and sought to kill, hence the inside of Yazi Palace was stacked with all types of offensive Dharma Treasures. Judging from the look of the stone beasts by the entrance, Hao Ren estimated that he would find different types of defensive Dharma Treasures inside Baxia Palace.

To his surprise, he and Zhao Yanzi walked into a copious amount of densely placed black-colored stone monuments inside the main hall!

All of the stone monuments had carvings of ancient characters that Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi did not recognize. Still, from the lively auras and the titles of the scriptures, Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi could tell that those were all ancient cultivation techniques!

They were, in fact, the long lost great techniques from the Prehistoric Era!

“What should we do? We can’t take them with us, let’s memorize them then.” As her eyes lit up, Zhao Yanzi’s voice emitted a sense of urgency. Now that they had finally made it into the second branch palace, there was no way they were leaving empty-handed.

“Look carefully. These cultivation techniques were not complete. The writing is all in stanza form, and it seems some key sentences are hidden among the stone monuments. We will have to find the pattern to activate the gear somehow. Only then, we will be able to acquire the complete cultivation techniques from the corresponding stone monuments,” Hao Ren lowered his head and watched Zhao Yanzi, “Think you can do it?”

Zhao Yanzi responded quickly by frantically shaking her head. It would most likely hurt her brain if she were to use it.

“Let’s go then!” Grabbing her arm, Hao Ren headed for the door.

Zhao Yanzi could not take her eyes off of the stone monuments as she was unwilling to leave empty-handed again.

“I know there is not enough time, but we can still copy down an incomplete one and bring it back to study it.” Even when they were already outside, Zhao Yanzi couldn’t help but repeat her suggestion.

“Let’s gamble one more time and see what happens with the next branch palace.” Once more, Hao Ren pulled Zhao Yanzi onto the back of Little White.

He too, understood that there was not much time left. Now, whether they could make it smoothly to the third branch palace and obtain anything useful would be a true test of their attitude and mentality.

Otherwise, if they were able to get to three branch palaces in a row but were unable to obtain anything, it would be... a tragedy.

After reaching his hand to Little White’s mouth and feeding it another elixir, Hao Ren urged Little White to fly toward the third branch palace which they had once spotted.

While they were up in the air, Hao Ren could see in his view that two more branch palaces were located close together at the far end. If they were given sufficient time, he would have loved to visit them one by one... Boom! Little White landed abruptly, even leaving a dent in the soil before the entrance of the third branch palace. On their way there, Little White was able to sense Hao Ren’s anxiety. Hence, it landed in a rush and not as smooth as before.

As they expected, there were also two stone beasts situated by the entrance. This time, the two stone beasts looked like two lions firmly seated on two round boards. Moreover, there were engravings of exquisite incense burners adorned all around the round boards.

Suanni! The fifth son of the Godly Dragon!

The most desolate and distant land of southern Kunlun could deplete the most refined ferocious aura yet was the place that gave life to the clan of spirit beast- Suanni. Speaking of which, Suanni was actually the ancestor of lion-type spirit beast like Little White!

However, Hao Ren now had no time to stay at the entrance to elaborate to Little White about its ancestor. Instead, he again dashed inside the branch palace while yanking Zhao Yanzi by her arm.

By this time, Hao Ren had made up his mind. This was their last chance, and they could not afford to be picky – they would grab whatever Suanni Palace had to offer!

Although it would only take half a minute for them to run into the palace, Hao Ren appeared so nervous and tense that it looked as though they would have to run for an entire hour!

They could sense that there was not much left of the three hours they were granted, as they had wasted most of the time traveling to the different locations. Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi realized that they could be expelled by the Nine Dragon Palace any time now!

Soon, the view of the main hall finally appeared in Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi's sight.

One by one, there was a dazzling display of small cells on the wall – each containing a bottle!

Elixir!

They found Elixirs!

According to legends, Suanni was always puffing and inhaling clouds. Thus, it would only make sense for Suanni Palace, which was representative of Suanni, to have all types of elixirs displayed inside!

Nonetheless, the bottles that contained the elixirs were all placed in the cells that were carved out from the wall of the main hall. However, flying on Dharma Treasures was prohibited in the entire primitive world of the Nine Dragon Palace!

Therefore, as they could see, only a few cells that were located at the lowest points on the wall had been visited by their predecessors using various methods. All the other bottles had remained intact inside their respective cells.

The fact that flying on Dharma Treasures was not allowed meant that they were not able to command Dharma Treasures using Nature Essence. That was why Zeng Yitao was utilizing sheer martial art when he attacked Hao Ren – he threw the spear at Hao Ren using brute force instead of controlling the spear with his Nature Essence!

“What should we do?” Zhao Yanzi turned to Hao Ren anxiously as she also seemed to have realized the restriction.

The ancient elixirs had filled the entire wall, yet, generations of masters before Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi were not able to retrieve them! The surface of the wall was incredibly smooth and slippery that it made climbing it impossible. As for the cells located lowest on the wall, they imagined the cultivators at the time were only able to reach those cells by climbing on top of each other.

“Dumb!” Hao Ren put out his hand and tapped Zhao Yanzi's head, “We've got Little White!”

“That's true, Little White!” Zhao Yanzi suddenly looked enlightened, “Now that we have Little White, we can go as high as we want! Since Little White's flying ability is its innate power, it shouldn't count as a Dharma Treasure!”

Enthusiastically, Zhao Yanzi locked her gaze on Little White. Whereas, widening its innocent big eyes, Little White was confused by Zhao Yanzi's behavior.

“Little White, fly!” Zhao Yanzi directed after she climbed onto Little White’s back and slapped its behind. However, after jumping up a couple of times, only sparks came out of its paws, Little White was not able to fly up at all.

“Looks like it is indeed a special case in here – all forms of flying are prohibited.” Hao Ren’s brows furrowed.

“What are we going to do now? Hurry and come up with something!” Riding on Little White’s back, Zhao Yanzi was so anxious that she almost felt like giving Hao Ren a beating. Watching so many elixirs displayed before them, it would undoubtedly be heartbreaking if they were not able to obtain any.

Suanni was the legendary godly beast of Kunlun, and it meant that these elixirs could be ones created by the legendary Queen Mother of the West!

“We can only count on exhausting you and Little White then!” Hao Ren sent forward a flash of sword energy with his finger, “Game of great joy – Gold Coin Catching! Second row on the left!”

### **Chapter 216: Zi Could Blush too?**

Hao Ren’s sword energy shot at the little bottle on top of the second row as he spoke.

Although there were thin layers of array formations outside of the cells, they weren’t strong since they were only there to separate the bottles. Hao Ren’s sword energy went through the layers and knocked onto the little bottles, making them shake and fall off the cells.

Zhao Yanzi patted Little White’s rump and urged, “Go catch it, Little White!”

Little White ran toward the bottles as Zhao Yanzi reached out to catch them. She was the main player on her volleyball team, so she was good at catching.

“The third row on the left!” Hao Ren said as he shot another sword energy.

Zhao Yanzi hastily opened her arms to the side. Little White understood what she wanted and moved over a few steps.

“The sixth row on the left!” Hao Ren shouted again.

Little White ran over with Zhao Yanzi on its back. Zhao Yanzi caught the bottle again and put it in her arms.

“The fifth row on the right!”

“The eighth row on the right!”

“The fourth row on the left!”

Hao Ren kept shouting, and Zhao Yanzi dashed everywhere on Little White as if they were fighting a fire.

Hao Ren didn't mean to tire Zhao Yanzi. He found that he couldn't fully apply his Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll in this branch palace. There seemed to be a ton of resistant force. He only knew where the sword energy was heading until he made the shot.

Zhao Yanzi moved left and right on Little White, and it almost looked like the mini gold coin catching game in the computer game, Richman. Zhao Yanzi looked nervous and excited at the same time as she screamed time to time. She looked exactly like the character Sun Xiaomei in Richman.

Little White was exhausted; it ran around the palace with its tongue sticking out.

"Hold the bottles tight and don't drop them!" Hao Ren reminded Zhao Yanzi.

"I know! I know! So annoying!" Zhao Yanzi was busy catching the dropping bottles, and she already had a dozen bottles of different colors in her arms. There was a hint of greed on her face.

Boom!

The entire palace turned pitch black all of a sudden!

They sensed the ground shaking.

Hao Ren ran toward Zhao Yanzi's direction in the dark. He felt Little White's smooth, fluffy body, and then he grabbed Zhao Yanzi's arm.

"Uncle! Did we die?" Zhao Yanzi immediately became nervous.

"Nonsense! This space is not stable, so we might be kicked out at any time," Hao Ren's hand moved up along her arm.

"Where are you touching!" Zhao Yanzi suddenly screamed.

"Hand those bottles to me so we won't drop them when we get kicked out," Hao Ren said.

Zhao Yanzi stuffed over 20 bottles into his arm, and he sucked them all into the space in his necklace.

"Come in, Little White!" Hao Ren patted Little White.

Shoo! It shrank into the size of two palms and crawled into Hao Ren's necklace.

Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren both felt a little dizzy. Zhao Yanzi curled up in Hao Ren's arms from being scared, and Hao Ren put one of his arms around her waist and the other one around her head.

Boom...They suddenly fainted. When they slowly came back to their senses, they were already back on the meadow outside of the Nine Dragon Palace where they first began. Zhao Hongyu was looking at them with a smile.

Zhao Yanzi got embarrassed when realizing that she was in Hao Ren's arms. She immediately stood up and hit Hao Ren's chest with her fist.

They looked around and found that Zeng Yitao and his servant, the couple from South Ocean, the brother and sister from North Ocean had all come out already.



Zeng Yitao held an ancient-looking black flute, South Ocean's couple got a black rope and a short black dagger, and the brother and sister from North Ocean got an ugly-looking copper mirror and a wicked-looking staff.

Only Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi came out empty handed as if they didn't get anything.

"Hehe, so this is the new generation of East Ocean? It seems like East Ocean had been training some great talents!" Oldman Zeng said to Zhao Hongyu.

Zhao Hongyu ignored him coldly. In her opinion, it was worth it since Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi protected and cared about each other during this trip; it could help them bond deeper. She didn't expect them to get anything at all.

However, she kept quiet and didn't speak her thoughts.

Although the elders from South Ocean and North Ocean said that Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi were still young with a lot of prospects, they secretly looked down at East Ocean.

Hao Ren noticed Zeng Yitao's stare, but he didn't mention anything about the Natal Dharma Treasure on purpose. In order to save his own face, Zeng Yitao didn't tell anyone, not even his grandma, that his Coil Dragon Golden Spear had been taken away by Hao Ren. However, he was thinking of a way to get his Natal Dharma Treasure back.

It seemed like the flute they got was worth West Ocean this trip. However, since Hao Ren took Zeng Yitao's Natal Dharma Treasure away, this Crown Prince of West Ocean couldn't be that arrogant anymore!

On the one hand, if the Natal Dharma Treasures were even a little-damaged while in other people's hands, the owner would suffer damage to his or her mind and spirit. On the other hand, it was embarrassing that one's Natal Dharma Treasure was taken by a low-leveled cultivator.

If it weren't for Hao Ren's interference, West Ocean could have gotten three treasures.

The representatives of Four Ocean Dragon Palaces said goodbye to each other.

"Goodbye, Mrs. Zhao!" The elders of the South Ocean and North Ocean left with the young cultivators.

Oldman Zeng glimpsed at Zhao Yanzi and then at Zhao Hongyu. He snorted and summoned a jade plate. Then, he pulled Zeng Yitao and the servant onto it and left.

The other three Dragon Palaces all had gotten treasures from the Nine Dragon Palace, so they were all in a rush to get back and learn to use them.

"Let's go." Zhao Hongyu slightly nudged Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi.

Although this trip was an extra practice and was earlier than they anticipated, she still felt embarrassed about Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi not getting anything.

They stepped onto Zhao Hongyu's River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting and headed toward the clouds.

That magnificent Nine Dragon Palace, which looked like a long lost ancient city, had already disappeared.

It would take a while for them to get to First Heaven from Fifth Heaven.

Zhao Hongyu focused on steering the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting as Zhao Yanzi stood behind her, looking worried. She thought for a bit and asked at last, "Hey... Did you... Touch anything just now?"

"Touch what?" Hao Ren was confused.

"I mean..." Zhao Yanzi pouted and said lightly, "When we got out of Nine Dragon Palace."

Hao Ren looked at her and thought for a bit as his eyes slowly moved from her arms up... Zhao Yanzi immediately blushed. "Forget it! You don't remember anyway!"

Hao Ren looked down at his palm and thought to himself, "I forgot earlier... But now that you mention it..."

"What are you thinking! You touched my neck just now!" Zhao Yanzi dashed over and pinched Hao Ren's neck all of a sudden.

Hao Ren yelled. It was as hard to see if she was telling the truth or not since she was too emotional.

"Quit it, you guys! Or you would fall off," Zhao Hongyu turned to them.

Zhao Yanzi finally let go of Hao Ren's neck reluctantly with her face blushing.

Hao Ren stretched his neck a bit and didn't feel any pain. Instead, he felt a little comfortable after being pinched by her soft hands... Zhao Hongyu shrugged at them, but a hint of a smile was on her face.

Although they came back empty-handed, East Ocean got threatened by the other three Dragon Palaces, and the other Dragon Palaces all benefited from this... If the news of Zhao Kuo's Heavenly Tribulation failure got released, the opening of the Nine Dragon Palace would give East Ocean a lot of pressure...

As long as Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi had made improvements, practiced their skills, and bonded from this, everything would be worthwhile.

The River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting went below First Heaven, which was the mortal world. Zhao Hongyu began to speed up and returned to their balcony in a flash that was not visible to an ordinary person.

"Ah... Finally home," Zhao Yanzi breathed out deeply. They left in the morning, and it was already dusk; an entire day had passed by.

Zhao Hongyu put the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting away and entered the house with Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi.

Zhao Guang was sitting in the living room, waiting for their news.

"How did it go?" Seeing the three of them walking down the stairs, he couldn't help but ask.

"It went ok, but we didn't get anything," Zhao Hongyu said.

"Ah, I thought that would be the case." Although Zhao Guang expected that, he was still a bit disappointed.

“Auntie, actually, we did get something. We just didn’t want to take them out in front of others,” Hao Ren said abruptly.

“Oh? What did you get?” Zhao Hongyu’s eyes suddenly lit up.

Hao Ren sat on the living room couch and took a little bottle out of his necklace. Then, he carefully put it on the glass table in front of him.

“Ancient Elixir!” Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang were both amazed.

But Hao Ren slowly took out another bottle.

Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang were astonished.

Then, Hao Ren took out another bottle and put it on the table. Then another one, then another one... Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu were both stupefied even though they had seen many amazing things.

It is always better to hide away your wealth. Comparing to face, East Ocean needed to conceal its power and wealth more nowadays! Instead of showing off in front of Oldman Zeng, it was a better idea to hide these elixir pills and leave other believe that East Ocean didn’t get anything!

Just when Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu were staring at the table full of colorful bottles of elixir pills, East Ocean University’s Electromechanical Engineering Program’s counselor was complaining, “Hao Ren from Class Two is getting more and more ridiculous! It has been a few days since he attended any classes! Professor Wu, don’t you think we should give a warning to a student like this? He thinks he can do whatever he wants just because of his connection with Su Han!”

“Ms. Liu, proceed with the warning. As you said, his skipped classes without sick notes.”

“Yeah, teach him a lesson!” The counselor made up her mind as she knocked on the desk.

Suddenly, the door was pushed open, and the head of the program walked in. “Ms. Liu, here is a note for you from the Vice Principal.”

The counselor took the note and read, “Hao Ren, in your program, has been participating in an important off-campus activity arranged by me lately. He might have to miss a few classes. Please allow on behalf of the program. I wanted to tell you this earlier, but I have been caught up in many things.”

The Vice Principal’s signature, Lu Qing, as well as a huge red stamp was at the bottom of the note.

### **Chapter 217: Such a Slim Waist!**

In a little while, there were already over 20 bottles on Zhao Yanzi’s family’s living room table.

Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu couldn’t believe their eyes when they saw the colorful bottles in the light.

“These... Are all from the Nine Dragon Palace?” Zhao Hongyu was usually calm, but her voice slightly shook as she asked lightly.

“Yes... We could have gotten more, but we ran out of time,” Hao Ren said.

“23 bottles...” Zhao Guang was a little amazed too. He picked up a random bottle and brought over a small plate. Then, he opened the bottle and poured the elixir pills out of it.

Splash... Over ten shining Ancient Elixir Pills fell into the plate, twirling.

The large living room was immediately filled with their aroma!

Hao Ren felt a surge of energy after smelling this aroma. The sleeping Dragon Core inside of him suddenly broke open 12 openings!

The aroma alone was insane! If he were to swallow one, he might be able to break through Li-level or even Zhen-level!

In the legends, the Immortal Pills of the Queen Mother of the West could assist an ordinary person to achieve ascendance realm!

“I’m feeling dizzy, Mom!” Zhao Yanzi shouted out. The aroma could help Hao Ren improve his cultivation, but it was too much for her.

Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu looked at each other, stupefied. Since they realized that there were Ancient Elixir Pills in these beautiful bottles, they hastily put the elixir pills back into the bottle.

It would have created trouble if the elixir pills caused a natural phenomenon.

It was the first time Zhao Yanzi saw her parents panic like this. She blinked and asked, “These elixir pills are that powerful, Mom?”

“One bottle equals an ancient treasure. In other words, you guys took back 23 ancient treasures!” Zhao Hongyu pinched Zhao Yanzi’s cheek and said in excitement.

Zhao Yanzi looked happy with Zhao Hongyu’s answer. “Mom, I told you that we would get a lot of treasures! If it weren’t for the time limit, we could have made a few copies of the techniques in Baxia Palace.”

“What? You went to Baxia Palace?” Zhao Hongyu’s astonishment was beyond words.

Zhao Guang also looked at Zhao Yanzi in surprise, wondering if she was lying or not.

“Yes. We went to Yazi Palace first, but the other three teams were there. So, we went to Baxia Palace. However, it was challenging to get the techniques. Therefore, we went over to Suanni Palace and got these elixir pills,” Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi explained.

Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu knew that Zhao Yanzi wasn’t bluffing since Hao Ren agreed. However, they looked as surprised as before.

They had never heard of anyone going through three palaces in the Nine Dragon Palace and coming out with 23 bottles of elixir pills. There were over ten elixir pills in each bottle; altogether, there would be hundreds of shiny Ancient Elixir Pills!

“It is because of Little White. We might not even be able to get to first branch palace if Little White couldn’t fly,” Zhao Yanzi said.

“Little White?” Zhao Hongyu asked.

“Um! Uncle’s... Oh... Hao Ren’s Spirit Beast,” Zhao Yanzi said. It seemed like she had gotten used to calling Hao Ren ‘Uncle.’ She called him by this even during the most dangerous time when they were kicked out of the Nine Dragon Palace.

Hao Ren let Little White out of the space in his necklace. It had learned to behave and appeared in the form of its smaller self in the city.

“Transform, Little White!” Zhao Yanzi reached out to rub its head.

“Woof!”

Little White made a slight sound as it rolled over into a meter-tall Snow Lion.

“Little White, fly!” Zhao Yanzi pointed at the ceiling. It appeared as if she had already taken Little White for a circus animal.

Little White understood Zhao Yanzi and hopped up. But to her surprise, it didn’t fly up.

“Fly, Little White!” Zhao Yanzi patted its bum, worried.

“Roar! Roar!” Little White tried its best, but it couldn’t get into the air. Its paws sparkled from time to time as it had reached its limit.

“I know! There was plenty of Nature Essence in the Nine Dragon Palace so that the Spirit Beasts could bring their innate power into play. However, the Nature Essence is thin outside, so it can’t put its innate power to use,” Zhao Guang looked at Little White and said.

Little White looked at Zhao Guang and Hao Ren as it appeared to be embarrassed with everyone around it.

It probably felt ashamed for not being able to fly. Having failed at playing the powerful character, Little White transformed back to its small size and started rolling around on the floor.

Hao Ren was embarrassed. “Hey... Please... You are a giant lion. Save the energy and quit acting cute.”

Hao Ren put Little White back into the space in his necklace to save it from the embarrassment. As soon as Little White got back into the space, it bit onto Zeng Yitao’s spear and whipped it around to vent its anger. That poor Natal Dharma Treasure of Zeng Yitao was now a toy for Little White.

“Don’t tell anyone about the elixir pills,” Zhao Guang put the bottles away and said, “I will discuss with the elders about how to put these elixir pills to use. After all, these are all Ancient Elixir Pills, and we might not be able to consume them directly.”

Hao Ren nodded. It was like when Zhao Jiayi and the guys ate the cakes mixed with Essence Replenishment Pills made by the twin sisters. The power was too strong, and it gave diarrhea to all of them. Even ordinary cultivators might die if they weren’t able to handle powerful elixir pills.

“But don’t you worry, Ren. You are the hero this time; as soon as we figure out how to use them properly, I will give half of them back to you,” Zhao Guang continued.

“That’s ok. It was lucky for me to get the opportunity to enter the Nine Dragon Palace. East Ocean is in a critical situation right now, and the elders need the elixir pills more than I do. I am still low in level, so I need to cultivate more rather than using elixir pills,” Hao Ren said.

“Um.” Zhao Guang didn’t insist and put the bottles away. “Come with me to the attic. I need to make some detailed record of what happened in the Nine Dragon Palace. Since you could get into three palaces this time, we can better improve our record. Especially for Baxia Palace; we had never learned about those techniques before.”

It was clear that Zhao Guang was very interested in ancient techniques.

“Ok!” Hao Ren stood up and followed Zhao Guang upstairs.

Hao Ren took the map out when they got to the attic on the third floor. He explained what they did in the six hours inside Nine Dragon Palace in detail.

Zhao Hongyu came to the attic after a little while as well. Since she was an architect, she added onto Hao Ren’s map with a special set of rulers and pens.

No amendment was needed for the Origin Dragon Grand Palace since it was the same as before. Yazi Palace was the one that was the easiest to be found, so there were very detailed descriptions about it on the map. One of the cultivators from South Ocean went into the Suanni Palace before, and East Ocean was able to gather some information about it. However, it was somewhat unclear. This was the first time they learned about Baxia Palace. There were giant stone monuments inside Baxia Palace, and that was very important information.

From five o’clock to seven o’clock, Zhao Guang jotted down every single detail as Zhao Hongyu made accurate adjustments to the map. Although it was a big surprise for them to get over 20 bottles of elixir pills, it was equally important to gather precious information.

The most important thing was that all other three Dragon Palaces thought Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi escaped and never went to other palaces after Yazi Palace, and that was why they came back empty-handed. They could never imagine that Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi would obtain over 20 bottles of elixir pills as well as get information about three palaces!

As Hao Ren explained everything in detail, Zhao Hongyu admired his attention to details. He thought of counting his own steps in order to calculate the distance from the starting spot to Origin Dragon Grand Palace. From that, he calculated the approximate travel time needed. None of the previous cultivators including herself had thought of this brilliant idea!

Although Hao Ren’s cultivation wasn’t very strong at the moment, his intelligence would for sure allow East Ocean to prosper!

The seemingly weak Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll he had been cultivating required him to cultivate all five elements at the same time. However, it demonstrated its strength in the Nine Dragon Palace! Hao Ren didn’t rely on any Dharma Treasure but his own Nature Essence! His hundun sword energies were very similar to the innate power of the people in prehistoric times!

The biggest difficulty in the Nine Dragon Palace was that the cultivators couldn't ride swords or use Dharma Treasures. Even the five elements were heavily restrained. Little White and his Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll were able to solve these problems easily.

Zhao Hongyu put the map away and looked at Hao Ren. As she saw more and more of his potential, she praised her own judgment in choosing her son-in-law.

"Stay here for the night?" She put the map in her Xumi Ring and asked Hao Ren.

"I should go back to school. It's not very good to always stay out," Hao Ren answered.

Zhao Hongyu respected Hao Ren's decision and nodded gently.

After Hao Ren walked out of the attic, Zhao Hongyu turned to Zhao Guang after some quietness. "What do you think about Ren?"

"Um, he is thoughtful and patient with great potential." Zhao Guang confirmed Hao Ren's ability.

"I've always thought that Ren is a great addition to East Ocean. He got over 20 bottles of elixir pills for East Ocean at its most difficult time. There's hope for East Ocean to recover after all," Zhao Hongyu said.

"A person's ability doesn't have to depend on how powerful he is; it depends on how he deals with problems and different relationships. There are many super powerful cultivators around Ren, and each of them has the ability to flip East Ocean City over. However, he is able to coordinate them and make sure that all the relationships are okay; this is talent," Zhao Guang said calmly.

Zhao Hongyu smiled lightly. "It sounds like our Zi is not good enough for him. Hehe, hope he can keep little Daoist Zhen in check as well."

Hao Ren got back to his room on the second floor and changed into his normal clothes from the robe. He was worried about being absent from an entire day's worth of classes.

He went to Zhao Yanzi's room next. After he slowly opened the door, he found her doing her homework at the desk. After a day of adventure, she still needed to go to school as usual tomorrow.

She had probably heard the door open. Zhao Yanzi turned back to face Hao Ren in her pajamas.

"What?" Zhao Yanzi pouted and stared at Hao Ren.

Hao Ren laughed, "There's something that I want to tell you."

"What is it?" Zhao Yanzi straightened up her back nervously.

"Your waist is pretty soft," Hao Ren said.

Zhao Yanzi was stupefied, and then she remembered that Hao Ren put his hands on her waist while they were on Little White today.

She frowned immediately and threw her back cushion at Hao Ren. "B\*stard!"

Hao Ren quickly closed the door as the cushion came right at him. Then, he left happily.

Sometimes, it was fun to tease her.

## Chapter 218: The Pretty Girl is Greedy Too

When Hao Ren returned to his dorm, Zhou Liren and the guys were playing cards noisily. Zhao Jiayi came back from the stadium already, and they were having a lot of fun.

“What’s up? You didn’t come to school today again,” Zhao Jiayi asked Hao Ren.

“I went to deal with some issues outside of school.” Hao Ren yawned.

“Damn, you are so busy now!” Zhou Liren shouted as he played his cards.

“Did you cover me for attendance today?” Hao Ren asked.

“Cover you? You haven’t come to class for a few days in a row, and the teachers already remember you. How can we cover for you?” Zhou Liren shouted.

Hao Ren shrugged and took his basin into the public bathroom for a shower. Then, he went onto his upper berth and cultivated as he listened to them play.

When he was at Zhao Yanzi’s place, the aroma of the elixir pills helped him unlock 12 openings in the Dragon Core all of a sudden. However, some of the aromas turned into Nature Essence and was still in his Dantian.

He could take advantage of this time and slowly consume in the Nature Essence. He circulated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll again and again in his body as waves of sword energies went through his meridians, absorbing all the leftover Nature Essences.

Pa! Pa!

The left-over Nature Essence opened another two openings, and the Nature Essence merged into his body like waves of water. The Dragon Core was like a fully charged engine, controlling the Nature Essence.

“Hu...” Hao Ren took a deep breath, feeling refreshed. He had unlocked 27 openings so far. He had jumped from low-tier Li-level to mid-tier Li-level, all thanks to the aroma of the elixir pills!

However, Hao Ren still felt uncomfortable breaking through with the assistance of external help. Therefore, he circulated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll another 50 times to secure the realm and polish the new openings.

It was hard to imagine that more than 300 openings could be created on the little Dragon Core. If he could, he would be qualified to try to get into the Heavenly Dragon Realm!

Hao Ren slightly grasped onto the metal rail of the bed, and it got crushed flat!

Hao Ren was already more powerful than those men of unusual strength on TV right now!

If Hao Ren were to release the sword energies, he could easily cut through an iron rail like this!

Hao Ren noticed that the guys were putting the cards away. He slightly used some force and tried to rub the metal rail back into its round shape before closing his eyes to rest.



Perhaps it had been a while since Hao Ren woke up in the dorm, he was a little unfamiliar with the feeling of sunshine coming in through the curtains and waking him up.

Zhao Jiayi on the lower berth was already getting dressed; it seemed like he was about to go out for his morning practice with the Basketball Team. Hao Ren hopped off the upper berth with ease, taking out his basin and towel. "I'm coming with you."

Zhao Jiayi looked at Hao Ren in surprise and nodded.

The morning breeze was a little chilly but comfortable, and Hao Ren and Zhao Jiayi slowly walked to the front gate. No matter if he were in the Dragon Tribe or not, the friendship between him and his buddies would never change.

Although Zhao Jiayi wasn't tall, his body had become stronger than before after training for some time.

"You have been busy lately? I rarely see you in school now, and you don't spend nights in the dorm often as well," Zhao Jiayi asked Hao Ren as they walked.

Zhao Jiayi was the oldest in the dorm, and he was also the one who cared the most about Hao Ren amongst the three.

"Um... I'm busy with some family issues," Hao Ren answered.

"Is everything ok?" Zhao Jiayi was worried.

"Yeah, yeah; just some trivial matters." Hao Ren didn't want to lie to him, but it was also hard to explain the Dragon Tribe to mortals.

"Um... Let me know if there are any problems. I will surely help out either financially or else wise!" Zhao Jiayi looked at Hao Ren sincerely and patted him on his shoulder.

At that moment, Zhao Jiayi felt Hao Ren's stone-hard shoulder. But he soon convinced himself that it was only a delusion because Hao Ren didn't seem like a strong person.

Hao Ren was a bit touched. He thought about it and asked, "Speaking of which, you have had so many days of training now. Is the regular game this week?"

"Yeah, the first game is this weekend," Zhao Jiayi said.

"Um, good luck!" Hao Ren smiled at him.

Xie Wanjun, who was very strong, was already waiting for his members by the gate. He was surprised to see Hao Ren there.

Hao Ren only nodded at him without further conversation. Hao Ren respected Xie Wanjun, whom he had only met a few times. Even though this man was leaving for the U.S., he was still scrupulous about every detail in the training and the games.

If Hao Ren didn't have further goals, he might have joined the Basketball Team and followed Xie Wanjun's lead. They would fight for the national championship together as East Ocean University's Basketball Team.

Hao Ren walked toward the street outside of campus as Zhao Jiayi gathered with the team in front of Xie Wanjun. He woke up early in the morning to exercise; however, instead of doing it on campus, he wanted to run on the streets off-campus.

He stretched his arms and legs before running toward an intersection ahead. Xie Wanjun squinted his eyes, looking at Hao Ren from behind. He wanted to recruit Hao Ren, but he also thought that Hao Ren might have bigger goals; he knew that this young man wasn't as simple as he appeared to be!

Boom! Hao Ren suddenly accelerated after the intersection!

A driver who passed by Hao Ren wondered if he had an illusion. "At that speed, it must have been an Olympic runner! He covered a few hundred meters in just a few seconds!"

When he turned back to double check, Hao Ren was long gone from the corner!

As a Li-level cultivator, Hao Ren's physical strength could only be better than that of an Olympic runner! He would be able to easily achieve first place in every single event in the Athletic Games.

The reason he suddenly wanted to exercise today was that he unlocked a dozen openings yesterday. His felt very good as if he had enough strength to lift a mountain! As Su Han said, breaking through the third level of Spirit Concentration Scroll meant unblocking the acupoints in the human body and reaching the realm of a martial arts master

Hao Ren was an actual cultivator now. If he were previously in the World of Cultivation, he would be a cultivator who had successfully established his foundation.

Hao Ren jogged and sprinted from time to time along the quiet morning streets for half an hour until he felt a little tired.

When he was about to turn back, a familiar figure came into his sight, coming toward him.

Su Han!

Hao Ren thought he was seeing things, so he took another look. It was indeed Su Han!

She was in a set of white sportswear, and her hair was tied into a ponytail. Her steps were firm and rhythmic, and she had a bit of flush on the cheeks. She ran toward Hao Ren in the street lined with trees on each side.

Su Han didn't seem surprised to see Hao Ren. She kept her steady pace, and her curves were shown through the set of white sportswear. Comparing to the coldness from before, she appeared to be livelier.

"You jog as well?" She came over and asked first.

"Um, I'm doing some exercises. You jog to school every day?" Hao Ren turned to her and ran together with her. He was wearing his regular outfit, so he looked a bit weird beside Su Han who was wearing a set of sportswear.

"Yeah," Su Han adjusted her breathing and answered.

It would even take a while to drive from the Flower City Complex to the school. Maybe running to school every day was a type of cultivation as well.

“Cultivating every day may not help you with comprehending natural laws. Running in the morning helps with that,” Su Han said.

Hao Ren sighed secretly and thought, “She really couldn’t talk three whole sentences without mentioning cultivation. Most people would have never guessed that she is a cultivator in the city since she seemed like an energetic and healthy white-collar lady. An office lady who runs in the morning and goes to the gym on the weekends and have a boyfriend in a manager position in a big company.”

When they jogged to school, it was just about time for the students to go to their classes. Su Han would usually go to her office to get changed and start cultivating, but she suddenly wanted something to eat. Since she didn’t have a Prepaid Cafe Card, Hao Ren had to go with her.

In others’ eyes, Su Han, the beautiful teacher, was having breakfast with a student. Hao Ren ignored the looks and sat beside Su Han, chewing on his two vegetable steamed buns and drinking a bowl of soy milk.

“It seems like you have made some progress lately.” Su Han chewed on her steamed bun elegantly, staring at Hao Ren with her pretty eyes under the long lashes.

“I was lucky to unlock several openings,” Hao Ren answered. Although he was technically Su Han’s assistant, Hao Ren didn’t want to tell her about the elixir pills.

“It must have been quite an adventure in the Nine Dragon Palace, right?” Su Han stared at Hao Ren and asked.

Hao Ren laughed and didn’t say anything. As an Inspector in the East Ocean area, she definitely knew about Four Ocean Dragon Clans entering the Nine Dragon Palace for treasures.

“Um, kind of. But I’m not going to tell you about the details,” Hao Ren said. It seemed like Su Han had sensed him running near the school, so she came to meet him on purpose.

It would be a big mistake to treat Su Han as an ordinary beautiful woman. Hao Ren knew that fact better than anyone else since he had fallen into her traps a few times now.

“Alright. I’m not here to get information out of you.” Su Han glimpsed at him. “But... I have never been to the Nine Dragon Palace.”

Hao Ren looked at her, wondering what she meant by that. As a Qian-level Master, she was a small part of East Ocean Dragon Clan before she entered the Inspector System. There was no chance for her to become a core member of the clan and enter the Nine Dragon Palace. However, masters like her must be extremely interested in the Nine Dragon Palace.

Hao Ren looked at her and could already sense the ‘plot’ she had been planning.

“I must not fall for it this time,” Hao Ren said to himself as he ate half of a bun.

## **Chapter 219: The Principal’s Grandson-In-Law**

Seeing that Hao Ren was chewing on his bun, Su Han couldn't help but nudge him. "Say something."

In the students' eyes, Su Han was touching a guy on purpose, and it made them so surprised that their mouth opened wide.

Hao Ren kept on eating, deciding not to fall for Su Han's new trap.

"I have a way to get into the Nine Dragon Palace, but I need you to lead the way. The palace could be opened by the Four Ocean Dragon Clans and has a time limit of six hours. But there won't be any time limit if we sneak in. Then, we can share the treasures 50/50."

Seeing how Hao Ren was, Su Han directly put everything on the table.

"No time limits? 50/50?" Hao Ren finally looked up with half a bun in his mouth.

"I'll give you a week to think about it. The Nine Dragon Palace doesn't belong to East Ocean anyway. If you get something, it will be East Ocean that benefits." Su Han stood up with the tray and returned it at the door. Then, she left the cafeteria.

Hao Ren sat there and considered if the deal was worth it. He would be providing the information, and Su Han had the strength. They could share the elixir pills, treasures, and techniques equally. It did sound very tempting.

After a while, Hao Ren stood up, returned the tray, and left the cafeteria as well.

When he went back to the dorm to get his books for class, the guys had already left; he had no idea that the jog and breakfast in the morning took so much time. When Hao Ren rushed to the Academic Building with his textbooks, it was already time for class.

Hao Ren hesitated at the door of the classroom. Zhou Liren, who was sitting in the back row, noticed Hao Ren at the door and waved at him.

He pointed at his mouth and then the empty seat beside him, hinting that the teacher was taking the attendance.

Hao Ren bent his back and tried to sneak into the classroom from the back door, heading toward the back row where the guys were.

"Hey! You are late, and you are trying to sneak in?" The teacher, 'White Tiger,' who was famous for being strict, lifted his arm, pointed at the back row and shouted.

Hao Ren had no choice but to turn around in embarrassment and stand up straight.

"Now that 'White Tiger' caught you, you are screwed, Ren. I forgot to tell you that you weren't here last time he took attendance too. You will probably fail this course..." Yu Rong whispered to Hao Ren from the side of the aisle.

Hao Ren somehow felt like he was taking pleasure in his misfortune.

Xie Yujia turned back to look at Hao Ren with worry from the front row.

“What’s your name?” The teacher in his white suit went through his list with a pen in his hand as he stared at Hao Ren.

“Um... Hao Ren,” Hao Ren gritted his teeth in embarrassment and answered.

This class, Engineering Theories, was jointed, and Class One and Class Two took it together. Right now, all the students from both classes, familiar with Hao Ren or not, were staring at him.

“Hao Ren...” The teacher slid the pen down his list and asked, “You weren’t here for the last class either, right?”

“Last class... I had some family issues...” Hao Ren answered. He was standing in the aisle in the back of the classroom like a model for everyone to look at.

The teacher finally spotted Hao Ren’s name on the list. Then, he noticed a gold star marked in front of Hao Ren’s name and remembered something. His stern face immediately softened. “Oh, Hao Ren. Go ahead and take a seat. It’s alright to be a bit late.”

All the students from both classes were stupefied.

They had all learned about ‘White Tiger’s’ temper after a year, and they wouldn’t have given him this nickname if it weren’t for his bad temper and interest in scolding students.

Hao Ren couldn’t react in time, and he stood still.

“Why are you still standing? Find a seat and sit down for class,” the teacher said. Although he sounded like he was rushing Hao Ren, the soft tone was nowhere near his usual ‘White Tiger’ tone!

“Oh...” Hao Ren squeezed into the seat beside Yu Rong who was stupefied.

“Alright, let’s go on with our attendance! Yu Rong!” ‘White Tiger’ shouted as he noticed that the students all seemed a bit stunned.

The shout dragged everyone back to reality.

“Here, here, here!” Yu Rong put his hand in the air and answered three times in a row. He looked at Hao Ren with a strange expression. “This guy is something else. Not only did he get the principal’s granddaughters’ interests, but the teachers also give him special treatment. When can I get even half of what he has... Either one of the twins would work for me...” he thought.

Hao Ren was confused himself. He rushed to class today since he had missed two days of classes. However, everything was fine once he mentioned his name...

He had no idea that the note from Lu Qing put a special mark beside his name on the list of all his teachers. The teachers all knew that special treatments should be given!

Not only Hao Ren, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili also had this kind of special treatment. However, their gold stars were in the teachers’ hearts instead of on the name list!

It was public information that the twins were granddaughters of the Vice-Principal, Lu Qing! Everyone could see how much Lu Qing cared for them since he had always consulted the teachers for their

performances. He also arranged for them to stay in the comfortable post-graduate apartment on campus!

'White Tiger' started his class energetically, but Hao Ren still felt weird about receiving special treatment. He was able to do other things in class before, but he had to listen carefully now since he felt like 'White Tiger' kept looking in his direction.

"Ren, are you really becoming Mr. Lu Qing's grandson-in-law? Even 'White Tiger' has to let you be," Cao Ronghua sneaked over and whispered.

They couldn't think of any other reason why the teacher would be so nice to Hao Ren. Students had been late to his class before; a guy from Class One was two minutes late to class last week, and they enjoyed the show of him being scolded brutally by 'White Tiger' when he entered the classroom. It had only been a week, and there was no reason for White Tiger to change so much in terms of temper.

"Maybe he is in a good mood today. Stop talking, or you may have to suffer once he catches you!" Hao Ren said.

Cao Ronghua closed his mouth immediately as he saw 'White Tiger's' eyes scanning over. He didn't dare to p\*ss 'White Tiger' off since he was not Lu Qing's grandson-in-law.

Hao Ren remembered what Su Hao had said in the cafeteria today. Indeed, since he had just gotten back from the Nine Dragon Palace, he was very interested in going again.

Even if Su Han was hiding something from him, she wasn't the type of person who would trick him into trouble. Plus, there might be some huge secrets inside of the Nine Dragon Palace.

Hao Ren wasn't sure if it were reasonable to assist Su Han in there as her Assisting Inspector.

He was a little anxious. Once he noticed that White Tiger wasn't paying close attention to him anymore, he logged onto QQ with his cell phone.

There weren't many people online, but Zhao Yanzi's lightened icon caught his eyes.

Hao Ren sent her a message after thinking for a bit. "You are on QQ in class!"

After quite a few minutes, Hao Ren's cellphone lit up with her response. "So are you!"

"Nah, I'm taking a nap in my dorm." Hao Ren didn't want to admit that he was not paying attention in class.

Zhao Yanzi didn't answer, and Hao Ren couldn't help but send another message over. "How are you doing today!"

"How bored are you? I am in my Science Laboratory Class!" Zhao Yanzi replied.

Hao Ren thought to himself, "Science Laboratory Class must be the one where they create small things." However, he decided not to bother her again.

"Ren, which pretty girl are you texting?" Zhou Liren sneaked over.

"Get out of here!" Hao Ren blocked him with his hand while the phone in his other hand flashed again.

"I am a little dizzy today. You don't need to come over and tutor tonight," Zhao Yanzi sent another message on QQ.

"Go back home and rest if you are not feeling well," Hao Ren replied immediately.

"It's fine. So annoying!" Zhao Yanzi answered, shutting the conversation down.

"Damn girl. She just doesn't want to study tonight." Hao Ren thought as he shrugged and put the tutoring materials on his desk away.

Xie Yujia sensed that something was happening in the back and suddenly turned to them.

Zhou Liren was just bothering Hao Ren as he looked to the front and said, "Did you realize that Xie Yujia looks prettier than before? Did she put on some makeup?"

"How would I know!" Hao Ren rolled his eyes at him.

But the moment Xie Yujia turned back, Hao Ren felt like she did have a unique aura.

"I feel like she got prettier too, but her outfit looks the same," Yu Rong added a few seats away.

Hao Ren pulled his Nature Essence and looked at Xie Yujia; he didn't notice any signs of cultivation technique.

It was strange for her to obtain a better aura just in a few days without cultivation.

She was naturally a beautiful girl; if it weren't for the Class President position which put her in charge of a lot of things, she would have been a quiet and charming girl all along. With her originally attractive temperament and some makeup, she would be a man-killer in the future.

Hao Ren got more confused since Xie Yujia hadn't been in touch with him lately as if she was busy with something.

If it were before and she realized that Hao Ren had been missing classes for a few days, Xie Yujia would definitely be calling him and asking him what was going on.

## **Chapter 220: Stuff Is About To Happen**

While the students were still around after White Tiger's class, Xie Yujia dashed to the podium. "Class Two, Please Stay!"

Zhou Liren and the guys stayed where they were. Students from Class One left the classroom as they peeked at her curiously.

"This Sunday will be our school's Basketball Team's first game in the National College Basketball League. Zhao Jiayi from our class will be the main player on the Basketball Team. I am hoping that we could go to Sanmu University in Xinan City to cheer for them as a class activity. Um... I will rent a bus, and I will cover the travel expenses. Let me make a list of who is going now," Xie Yujia said on the podium in a crisp voice.

Although they had heard about this class activity the week before, it was still exciting for the guys to find out about it from Xie Yujia. Since she was covering the travel expenses, it showed that she hoped everyone could be a part of it.

“How about this; I will call your names in order, and you can let me know if you are going or not,” Xie Yujia took her notebook out and continued.

She was wearing a little silver-grey jacket with a silky V-neck shirt underneath. The outfit made her look fresh and energetic. However, it was very similar to what she had on before.

“Class President! Can we go over on Saturday and spend the night there?” Yu Rong cried out from the back row.

“Yes, Class President! We want to spend the night!” A few other guys shouted as well.

Xie Yujia looked at them with the notebook in her hand. “How many of you want to go over on Saturday?”

Shoo, shoo, shoo... The guys raised their hands as if they had agreed on it already.

Xie Yujia thought about it and turned to the few girls in the class. “How about you girls?”

“I have plans for the weekend already. I’m not going,” Wang Jia said.

“I have no issues,” Ma Lina said. A few other girls said that they could go as well. At last, only Wang Jia, who didn’t get along with Xie Yujia, decided not to go.

“Ok, I need to confirm with you guys one by one as well. If there aren’t too many of us, I’ll just book a smaller bus. Are you going, Yu Rong?” Xie Yujia’s crisp voice, as well as her bright eyes, gave others a feeling of perfection.

“Yes!” Yu Rong said immediately.

“Xu Yandong!”

“Yes!”

“Huang Jianfeng!”

“Yes!”

As Xie Yujia called out their names, everyone gave a clear answer. If she had asked them all together, everyone would have said yes. But when the time comes, they might not show up. Xie Yujia was very careful and detailed with things like this.

The list was finalized. Besides five guys who had plans for the weekend, most guys promised to go.

“Since you want to go on Saturday, I will book the bus and hotel tomorrow. Let’s get a budget hotel which is cheaper, and I’ll assign two people to a room according to your dorms. You can rearrange later on,” Xie Yujia said.

The guy got more excited at this remark. Although they got to see each other in the dorms, it was a completely different feeling to ‘travel’ to another city and stay in a hotel.



“You can give me the money for the hotel when you get your rooms, and I will take care of the travel expenses. That’s all for now. You are dismissed!” Xie Yujia put her notebook away and smiled.

“She really looks prettier than before. Could it be the glow of love?” Zhou Liren asked as he looked at Xie Yujia.

Hao Ren lifted his head slightly to check her out, and he could sense ‘bright sunshine.’ However, he rolled his eyes at Zhou Liren’s ‘glow of love’ remark.

Xie Yujia went back to her seat to grab her stuff before she left the classroom with Ma Lina. After Lin Li from Class Three lost her title as the most popular girl in the school, Xie Yujia became more popular in the Program.

Hao Ren knew that many of the guys in their program liked Xie Yujia, but they were too shy to let her know. Also, they got scared once they learned that her brother was Xie Wanjun. However, once Xie Wanjun left for the States, the braver guys would probably start pursuing her.

Hao Ren went to his other classes with the guys as the day passed by quickly. The classes in the day finished around four or five in the afternoon, but Hao Ren didn’t have much interest in the two theory classes in the evening.

Buzz...

Hao Ren’s cell phone vibrated.

“We will come with you to the big class tonight, Gongzi!” Lu Linlin’s text suddenly showed up on his phone.

“They are so energetic...” Hao Ren thought for a bit and replied, “Next time. I have something to do today.”

“We wanted to eat dinner with Gongzi,” Lu Linlin sent another message.

Hao Ren was speechless as he replied “The same thing. Let’s do that a couple of days later.”

“Alright, come to find us in two days, Gongzi. We have something important to discuss with you,” there came another message from Lu Linlin.

“Something important?” Hao Ren dialed her number when he got to the school gate.

“Gongzi!” Lu Linlin sounded very cheerfully on the phone.

“What do you mean by important things?” Hao Ren asked.

“Humph, Gongzi hasn’t talked to us for a few days now,” Lu Linlin complained in a soft voice.

“No... I am busy lately. What did you mean by important things?”

“I’ll let Gongzi know in person. Um? Sis, you want to talk to Gongzi as well?” Lu Linlin was suddenly interrupted.

Soon enough, Hao Ren heard Lu Lili’s nervous voice through the phone, “Ah, there’s nothing much. I just want to hear Gongzi’s voice since it’s our first phone call.”

Hao Ren laughed as he found Lu Lili cute.

“Ok. I’ll go see you guys in a few days.” Hao Ren hung up as the bus was approaching, and he then got onto the bus.

“If I am going into the Nine Dragon Palace, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili should be two very powerful teammates,” Hao Ren thought.

The bus went toward LingZhao Middle School as Hao Ren called Zhao Yanzi, “Is school almost over?”

“Just finished. Why?” Zhao Yanzi answered with a slightly tired voice.

“You caught a cold?” Hao Ren asked immediately.

“Maybe a little,” Zhao Yanzi probably heard the noise of the bus and asked, “You are coming to my school?”

“Yeah, I’m picking you up.” Hao Ren put the phone away.

The sky was a little gloomy as if it was about to rain. It was a bit chilly, so Hao Ren closed the window of the bus and started to cultivate the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

At this moment, he suddenly saw the Nine Dragon Palace amongst the grey clouds above the city. It was about the same size as East Ocean City!