

Dragon King 381

### **Chapter 381: I Trust You!!**

Silently, Hao Ren followed Zhao Haoran to the back of the palace.

As the overlord of the East Ocean Dragon Clan, Zhao Haoran lived in a fancy palace.

After passing four large spired pavilions and crossing a white jade bridge, Hao Ren stepped onto a small training field that was paved by dozens of top-tier spirit stones and had a width of three meters.

He looked up at the plaque over the palace building and read: Hongshou <sup>1</sup>Palace.

The square-shaped spirit stones that had a length and a width of three meters looked very smooth. Hao Ren found that nature essence in his body was activated when he stepped onto the stones. He felt refreshed.

Living with dragon cores, the dragon cultivators were able to absorb nature essence faster than the human cultivators and thus didn't need spirit stones to help them cultivate. However, only the super-rich East Ocean Dragon Clan could afford to pave the ground before the palace where the overlord of East Ocean lived with such huge top-tier spirit stones.

This luxurious use of spirit stones would astonish the cultivators on Fifth Heaven.

The first time when he came to the East Ocean Dragon Palace, Premier Xia had shown him around the dragon palace. However, he didn't bring Hao Ren to this section.

It was because Zhao Haoran's palace was a restricted place even when he wasn't living there.

Four guards in black stood at the gate of the palace, not moving a muscle.

Hao Ren looked at the four guards and sensed a unique aura from them. From his experience with Su Han and the Lu sisters, he could tell that the four ordinary-looking guards were all masters on Qian-level!

They were Zhao Haoran's bodyguards and his trusted servants!

They didn't glance at Hao Ren. Instead, they looked at their surroundings as if they had merged with nature.

Zhao Haoran stepped forward and led Hao Ren into his palace which gave Hao Ren a deeper understanding of luxury.

In the grand hall that had an area of thousands of square meters, there stood 18 coiling golden dragon beams, and golden dragon decorations were everywhere.

A golden dragon throne and a golden screen stood in the middle of the grand hall; it was a magnificent sight!

With a wave of Zhao Haoran's hand, the four guards in black who were standing outside the palace immediately closed the doors.

Bang! The sound of the doors closing echoed through the palace.

Zhao Haoran walked over and sat on the golden throne, looking down at Hao Ren.

With no officials or elders standing by his side, Hao Ren stood in the middle of the grand hall, which was as big as a plaza, and felt enormous pressure as he looked at Zhao Haoran.

“Old... grandpa.” Hao Ren said after a moment of hesitation.

He planned to call Zhao Haoran Old Mr. Zhao, but he changed his mind in the middle and called Zhao Haoran Grandpa instead. After all, Zhao Yanzi called him Grandpa, and Hao Ren was supposed to do the same.

Zhao Haoran’s expression didn’t change.

Hao Ren continued, “I can’t take the position of the Commanding General.”

While he spoke, Hao Ren walked to Zhao Haoran with the token in his hand.

Considering the situation at the time, Hao Ren didn’t refuse Zhao Haoran on the spot, but he had to return the token to Zhao Haoran in private.

“Humph!”

Sitting in the throne, Zhao Haoran gave a cold snort.

A surge of sharp energy shot toward Hao Ren’s forehead and this powerful energy rushed into his spiritual senses instantly, forcing him to back off three steps with a blank mind as if he lost his consciousness for three seconds.

At this critical moment, Hao Ren desperately circulated the nature essence through his Ren Meridians and Du Meridians to regain a clear mind.

Hao Ren sensed a ton of danger.

If Hao Ren were only at Zhen-level, he would have instantly collapsed!

“You have indeed reached Gen-level,” Zhao Haoran said lightly.

Hao Ren was a bit mad that Zhao Haoran used such a violent method to test his realm.

If Hao Ren didn’t reach Gen-level, he might have died!

“Since you’ve reached Gen-level, I can use the bodily-filling technique,” Zhao Haoran continued. Suddenly, he crossed his hands and reached out for Hao Ren.

Standing in the grand hall, Hao Ren suddenly felt a powerful surge of nature essence coming at him from all directions.

Hao Ren wasn’t sure what this old man was up to. However, since he was like Zhao Kuo, he must hold little regard for mortals as well.

Not wanting to be subdued without a fight, Hao Ren released his Gen-level sword energies.

Three Talents Heaven Earth Array Formation!

The 320 sword energies formed three shields and guarded his vital body parts.

“Interesting!” Zhao Haoran’s force suddenly increased!

Like sea water that was going at him from all directions, Hao Ren was instantly engulfed by powerful nature essence; he couldn’t even block it a little with his sword energies.

Having fought with Qin Shaoyang, Hao Ren knew the fierce power of a Kun-level master. Now, he understood the vast difference between Qian-level and Kun-level!

His sword array formation that could release the power of Dui-level couldn’t hold up for even one second before the power of Qian-level.

Swoosh... His feet left the ground, and he was sucked into mid-air by the powerful nature essence!

Two iron-like hands caught his shoulders.

Hao Ren felt that all of his acupoints were blocked, and he couldn’t even shout.

All his nature essence poured out as if a dam was opened!

Immediately, a surge of more powerful nature essence poured into his body through the Jianjin Acupoint in his shoulder.

This pure and powerful nature essence rushed into Hao Ren’s narrow meridians, causing his acupoints to redden and swell!

The nature essence was filling Hao Ren’s body by force! It completely disregarded Hao Ren’s resistance.

With the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, Hao Ren had cultivated all five elemental essences. However, Zhao Haoran poured a vast amount of water-elemental essence into Hao Ren’s body!

If Hao Ren had not reached Gen-level and temper his body, his body would have exploded due to this cramming method!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The aggressive nature essence instantly opened three openings in Hao Ren’s dragon core!

“With your steady foundation and mild temperament, you will be a great cultivator with bright prospects! However, you are courageous but not domineering, which means that you can’t be a successful king or lord!” Zhao Haoran said while he transferred his nature essence into Hao Ren’s body.

In Hao Ren’s body, the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was desperately turning the water-elemental essence into other four elements.

“Zhao Guang is ambitious but lacks fierceness and decisiveness; Zhao Kuo is courageous and fierce but lacks a strategic mind; Zhao Kuan is an unrivaled strategist, but his body type prevents him from cultivating, and he can only ensure riches for his descendants,” Zhao Haoran said in a measured tone as he continued to pour nature essence into Hao Ren’s body.

“Will my East Ocean fall like this? Zi is impulsive and thus is not fit for cultivating and holding power; Zhao Kuo pursues the ultimate peak of cultivation without any wishes to take the throne; Zhao Kuan and his line of descendants are immersed in mortal luxuries, and their dragon mark has begun to dim. I’m old now, so who can steer this ship named East Ocean?!”

Suddenly, the nature essence surged out of Zhao Haoran’s palms at a faster speed.

“The situation of East Ocean is precarious, and I don’t want someone else to take the token as the Commanding General. Although your cultivation strength is weak, your foundation is firm, and you are loyal to East Ocean with a pure heart. I’d rather hand the position of the Commanding General to a less powerful man than to potential evil and ambitious schemers. Before Zhao Kuo returns, you can lead the 1,000,000 soldiers of East Ocean for me!” Zhao Haoran shouted with shiny eyes.

Hao Ren felt like he was under torture, but he understood Zhao Haoran’s words. Although he had no experience in leading troops, his position was closest to Zhao Guang and Zhao Kuo. Thus, he was the safest candidate for the position.

“My life is coming to an end, and I planned to pass my cultivation strength to Zhao Kuo so that my 1,000 years of cultivation wouldn’t go to waste. However, he is gone and didn’t even come back at the life-and-death moment of the East Ocean Dragon Clan. With Zhao Guang’s talent and ability, it will be a waste to pass my strength to him. Also, Zi’s isn’t unstable, and her realm is too low,” Zhao Haoran continued.

Hao Ren, whose body was swelling up, was astonished by Zhao Haoran’s words. He now realized that Zhao Haoran was not testing him but rather transferring all of the 1,000 years of cultivation strength to him!

Zhao Haoran started the war between East Ocean and West Ocean to force Zhao Kuo to show himself, but the plan failed. This meant that Zhao Kuo must have gone to a far-away land.

Zhao Haoran knew that he must take the opportunity to completely defeat the West Ocean Dragon Clan while it was in its decline! He knew this was his only chance, and he couldn’t miss it!

“I’ve cultivated for 1,000 years, but due to my many killings and intense murderous spirit, I couldn’t break through to the Heavenly Dragon Realm. However, after ruling the East Ocean for 1,000 years, I have no regrets in life. This is what I deserve.”

Zhao Haoran’s hands shook slightly.

Feeling the pressure lightened, Hao Ren gained his balance and turned to Zhao Haoran.

Compared with his energetic look when he just returned from abroad, Zhao Haoran now looked very old.

While he was transferring the nature essence into Hao Ren’s body, Zhao Haoran sensed weak but miraculous nature essence hovering around Hao Ren’s dragon core, suppressing all the powerful nature essence which were beyond Hao Ren’s capabilities.

This was a dharma note left in Hao Ren’s body by a grandmaster whose power far surpassed Qian-level, and this dharma note sealed up the 1,000 years of cultivation strength that Zhao Haoran gave Hao Ren.

Zhao Haoran knew Hao Ren got this dharma note from somewhere else, but he didn't point it out.

If Zhao Kuo got this cultivation strength, it probably would help him break through to the Heavenly Dragon Realm. Now that it was stored in Hao Ren's body, it was hard to say whether it would be useful or not in the future.

"Zeng Xin will believe that I'm still alive with powerful cultivation strength so that he will be cautious. You must keep what happened here a secret." Zhao Haoran took out a black longsword from an ancient storage ring, and he stared at Hao Ren as he said, "You must personally hand this sword to Zhao Kuo when he comes back."

With both hands, Hao Ren took the icy, black longsword which was made from mystic iron.

Roar... Suddenly, Zhao Haoran turned into a black dragon sweeping across the grand hall. After flying around for two rotations, this dragon shattered and turned into sparkling light dots. Then, these light dots formed a dragon soul who was only half a meter long.

Boom!

The fierce black dragon soul rushed into the black longsword, turning the blades extremely sharp – Black Dragon Spike!

The intense murder spirit which had been accumulating for 1,000 years instantly spread to the surface of the Black Dragon Spike!

### **Chapter 382: 1,000 Years of Cultivation Strength!**

The four guards in black who were outside of the palace suddenly pushed the door open and rushed in.

When they saw the black longsword in Hao Ren's hands, their faces turned to sadness before kneeling on the ground.

"Dragon king!" they cried.

"Dragon king... dragon king... dragon king..." Their voices echoed in the spacious palace.

Zhao Haoran's dragon presence still lingered around the pillars in the palace. However, he had transferred all his cultivation strength to Hao Ren, and his essence dragon soul had merged into the black longsword in Hao Ren's hands.

From the top of the palace rose a surge of black energy which shot into the air.

The surrounding seawater boiled while the black energy rushed out of the ocean and shot up into the clouds in the high sky which were 1,000 meters high.

Boom... The black energy gradually vanished.

A great fierce hero died.

This strange phenomenon attracted the notice of the nearby soldiers, and they came over to investigate.

The four guards suddenly turned into four black light beams and flew out of the palace.

“The dragon king is cultivating! Anyone trespassing will be killed!” Standing in all four directions of the palace, the four guards yelled at the same time.

Hundreds of soldiers who had been rushing over immediately stopped their steps.

Hongshou Palace gradually quieted down while the soldiers hurried back.

“Tell Zhao Guang that the old dragon king is leaving, and he should do what is appropriate from now on!” The four guards shouted together as they stood on the four corners of the roof.

Then, without any hesitation, they chased after the black energy which was gradually disappearing in the high sky and turned into beams of black lights.

“Azure Dragon Guard, Black Tortoise Guard, White Tiger Guard, and Vermilion Bird Guard will stay with the old dragon king all our lives!”

Together with the remaining presence of Zhao Haoran, they flew toward the west.

Didn't matter what happened, they would stay in Zhao Haoran's mansion in the U.S. to create the illusion that he was still alive!

In this way, the forces that were coveting the fortunes of East Ocean would stay in their territories. Otherwise, they would copy the West Ocean Dragon Clan, trying to attack East Ocean and seize their properties that had been accumulating for thousands of years.

Standing in the center of the palace, Hao Ren hesitated for a few seconds before injecting a trace of nature essence into the Black Dragon Spike.

Swoosh! The tip of the Black Dragon Spike released a black shockwave which shot out of the wide-open gates before hiding a palace into the distance.

Bang!

A corner of that palace was cut off.

Containing Zhao Haoran's 1,000-year dragon soul, this weapon was very fierce!

Meanwhile, a chilling murderous spirit crept along the handle of the sword to Hao Ren's heart!

With Black Dragon Spike in his hand, Hao Ren took several steps back before falling into the golden throne.

Containing the powerful murderous spirit that had been accumulating for 1,000 years, the Black Dragon Spike had a violent impact on the user, and not everyone could handle such a backlash!

Hao Ren had just injected a trace of nature essence into it as a test and caused such great damage. If more nature essence were injected into it, the murderous spirit would cause more damage to the cultivator who used it.

Hao Ren finally understood why Zhao Haoran wanted him to give this weapon to Zhao Kuo.

It was because only a pinnacle master like Zhao Kuo could control such a fierce weapon.

When Zhao Kuo took this weapon, he would find out the truth about the death of Zhao Haoran, and the secret would be out.

To ensure the temporary safety of East Ocean, Zhao Haoran gave up on resting in peace in the dragon tomb.

A heroic feeling rose in Hao Ren's heart.

He once thought that Zhao Haoran was fierce and overbearing, but now he thought of him an iron man of heroic achievements!

Hao Ren carefully put away the Black Dragon Spike before standing up from the throne and walking out of the palace.

It was very quiet, and the entire East Ocean Dragon Palace was illuminated by a red light.

Hao Ren passed the training field paved with spirit stone and passed the white jade bridge, arriving at the grand hall where Zhao Guang was staying.

Sitting behind a desk, Zhao Guang was looking at something under the candlelight while Elder Lu, Elder Sun, and Premier Xia were quietly standing on both sides of him.

"What happened?" Zhao Guang looked up at Hao Ren and asked.

"The old dragon king... Grandpa went back," after some hesitation, Hao Ren reported.

"Yeah, they've reported it to me." Zhao Guang nodded and put the thing in his hand on one side of the table before asking Hao Ren, "I think my father has a deeper meaning in handing the position of the Commanding General to you, right?"

"Grandpa asked me to cultivate more and take care of Zi," Hao Ren said.

"Ok." Zhao Guang nodded again. "After the war with West Ocean, he does want to go back."

Hao Ren remained silent. Obviously, Zhao Guang would never imagine that Zhao Haoran had disappeared into nature.

In the eyes of Zhao Guang, Zhao Haoran was as fierce, bad-tempered, and controlling as before.

"Is Su Han still in the dragon palace?" Hao Ren asked.

"She's still resting in the dragon palace." Zhao Guang turned to look at Premier Xia. "Premier, please take Ren to her place."

Premier Xia walked forward. "Fuma, this way please."

"Uncle, please don't stay up too late," Hao Ren said to Zhao Guang.

With a smile, Zhao Guang gave him a small wave before lowering his head to continue working.

With his hunched back, Premier Xia led Hao Ren to Elder Xingyue's palace.

“Gongzi Hao, congratulations on your promotion to the Commanding General!” Premier Xia turned his head and congratulated him.

“Hehe.” Hao Ren laughed bitterly, not sure how to answer him.

Commanding General of West Peace sounded magnificent, but he had been forced into this position by Zhao Haoran.

“I understand the old dragon king’s intention, but you must be careful, Gongzi Hao,” Premier Xia continued.

“Be careful?” Hao Ren looked at him in confusion.

“Since the old dragon king personally appointed you to be the Commanding General, no one from the dragon palace dares to object. However, the outside...” Premier Xia paused for a few seconds before continuing, “Now that you are the Commanding General of the East Ocean Dragon Clan, the leader of one million soldiers...”

While Premier Xia beat around the bushes, Hao Ren gradually understood his point. He was the Commanding General of the East Ocean Dragon Clan, but he didn’t live in the dragon palace and thus was not under the protection of the troops. This time, although the West Ocean Dragon Clan was almost destroyed, they wouldn’t admit defeat... Zhao Haoran put Hao Ren in the position of the Commanding General to prevent internal turmoil, but at the same time, his decision brought Hao Ren more dangers.

Although the palaces and the soldiers of the West Ocean Dragon Clan were destroyed, it still had quite a few Qian-level and Kun-level cultivators!

“However, from your vigorous look, I see that you have reached a higher realm,” Premier Xia continued.

“Thank you, Premier Xia,” Hao Ren answered politely.

He still remembered that when he first came into the East Ocean Dragon Palace, he asked Premier Xia about how to the Spirit Concentration Scroll. Only a short time had passed, and he now reached Gen-level.

“The old dragon king is fierce and hot-tempered, but he’s a rare good king. If you can get some tips from him, you will reach Dui-level very soon,” Premier Xia continued.

Hao Ren looked at Premier Xia and suddenly found him unfathomable. After all, Premier Xia had worked under two dragon kings, and he was very familiar with the mindset of his bosses.

When Premier Xia and Hao Ren entered the gate of Elder Xingyue’s palace, the female disciple on duty immediately went inside to report to Su Han.

“Senior Sister asked you to come in,” she said to Hao Ren as she dashed out.

Hao Ren walked into the garden while Premier Xia waited for him at the gate.

Walking under the moon and past the flowers in the quiet palace, Hao Ren suddenly felt nervous.



During the war between East Ocean and West Ocean, Hao Ren got a little worried about Su Han who was resting in the dragon palace. But from the looks of it, she wasn't directly involved in the conflict between the two dragon clans.

Knock! Knock!

"Come in!" Su Han's clear voice sounded from the inside.

Carefully, Hao Ren pushed open the door and entered. He found Su Han sitting cross-legged on the bed and cultivating with her eyes closed.

Her bright complexion seemed more beautiful with the increase in her cultivation strength.

"Commanding General of West Peace, what brought you here in the middle of the night?" Su Han opened her red lips and asked.

Hao Ren smiled helplessly and replied, "I just wanted to come and see you."

The moment his words came out, he felt like it didn't sound quite right. It seemed as if he was visiting his secret lover.

"I've fully recovered my cultivation strength, and I'm going go back to the Dragon God Shrine to report the conflict between East Ocean and West Ocean tomorrow," Su Han slowly opened her bright eyes and said.

Hao Ren nodded since he knew it was her duty. After all, the war between the East Ocean Dragon Clan and the West Ocean Dragon Clan under water almost disturbed the mortals in East Ocean City, and the Dragon God Shrine needed to know the details of it. As the regional inspector of the city, Su Han must give them an explanation.

"What happens when a cultivator's lifespan is all used up?" Hao Ren asked after a moment of silence.

"The higher the realm a cultivator has, the longer they live. The dragon cultivators on Qian-level and human cultivators at top-tier Nascent Soul Realm can live for about 1,000 years. Then, they must follow the law of life cycle, unless they can reach the Heavenly Dragon Realm or the Soul Formation Realm to live as long as the universe and shine as brightly as the sun and the moon," Su Han said.

"How about... extending one's life with godly pills?" Hao Ren continued to ask.

"The rare fruits in nature probably can extend the lives of some cultivators, but for those whose ages have reached the limit, no elixirs can keep. Only through hard cultivation and reaching the Heavenly Dragon Realm can one live permanently and become the true masters of the world," Su Han said lightly.

"Got it." Hao Ren smiled lightly.

He thought for a while and asked her, "After you go back to the Dragon God Shrine, will you come back to East Ocean City?"

"I suppose... so," Su Han turned her gaze to him and said.

"And... if you come back, will you return to the East Ocean University?" Hao Ren continued after pausing for two seconds.

“What do you want?” Su Han stared at Hao Ren.

Hao Ren gritted his teeth. “I want you to come back.”

Su Han looked at him in silence.

Hao Ren looked back at her and remained silent as well.

“Ok.” Su Han’s crisp voice sounded after a long while.

### **Chapter 383: Controlling the Dragon Palace’s Lifeline**

After coming out of Su Han’s room, Hao Ren returned to the gate of the palace, and Premier Xia was waiting for him patiently.

“Gongzi Hao, are you heading back now?” Premier Xia walked over and asked.

“No. I need to see another person.” Hao Ren shook his head.

“Who?” Premier Xia asked carefully.

Now that Hao Ren was not only the Fuma but also the Commanding General who controlled close to 1,000,000 soldiers, Premier Xia was subconsciously more cautious with his words.

“Zeng Yitao,” Hao Ren said.

Premier Xia froze, and he nodded immediately. “I’ll show you the way.”

Since Hao Ren was the Commanding General who controlled the military, Premier Xia couldn’t refuse his request to visit a captive.

The night in the dragon palace was so quiet that the only sounds were their footsteps.

Premier Xia led Hao Ren into the Ice Palace where Lu Linlin and Lu Lili were once imprisoned.

“Let me out! My grandpa will destroy East Ocean with great troops!”

Hearing their footsteps, Zeng Yitao immediately yelled.

Premier Xia led Hao Ren around several huge ice blocks and walked to the depth of the palace.

Thin and pale-faced, Zeng Yitao was prisoned in an iron cage. At his feet were some simple dishes which he had kicked aside.

At the sight of Hao Ren, he yelled louder. “How dare you come here! You are all going to die! Within three days, my grandpa will graze you to the ground with the troop of West Ocean!”

Hao Ren looked at him with a smile.

Zeng Yitao was the frog that was living in the well.

Imprisoned in the Ice Palace, Zeng Yitao knew nothing about the situation outside, oblivious to the fact that the West Ocean Dragon Clan had been defeated and that the West Ocean Dragon Palace had been razed to the ground!

“How dare you treat me like this? You have breached the alliance of the four oceans! The other three dragon palaces will deal with you together with full force!” At Hao Ren’s silence, Zeng Yitao shook the cage and threatened more viciously.

As a dignified crown prince of the West Ocean Dragon Clan, Zeng Yitao couldn’t bear the disgrace of being a prisoner in the East Ocean Dragon Clan!

He was planning to bring the most powerful elders of West Ocean to destroy the East Ocean Dragon Palace once he returned.

He didn’t know that the powers of the West Ocean Dragon Clan and the East Ocean Dragon Clan had switched places.

Otherwise, after Hao Ren destroyed half of the West Ocean Dragon Palace, Oldman Zeng would have brought his troops directly to the East Ocean Dragon Palace instead of forming an alliance with the other two ocean dragon clans to suppress the East Ocean Dragon Clan!

“Speak! Why don’t you speak? Are you afraid?! Hahahaha!” Zeng Yitao yelled even louder at Hao Ren’s silence.

“Let’s go,” Hao Ren turned to Premier Xia and said.

“As you wish.” Premier Xia turned and led Hao Ren toward the gate.

“Are you afraid to talk to me? I tell you, when I get out, I’ll deal with you!” Zeng Yitao shook his cage and shouted at Hao Ren.

After walking out of the Ice Palace calmly, Hao Ren suddenly asked Premier Xia, “As the Commanding General, I can deal with and treat the prisoners, right?”

“Of course, you have the power to do so,” Premier Xia answered immediately.

“Then, release him tomorrow,” Hao Ren said.

Premier Xia’s hunched back straightened a little as he looked up at Hao Ren. “Are you afraid that South Ocean and North Ocean will deal with us? Or do you think the West Ocean Dragon Clan will launch another attack?”

“Neither.” Hao Ren shook his head.

“Then, you mean...” Premier Xia looked confused.

“After we release Zeng Yitao, East Ocean will be safe for the next few hundred years,” Hao Ren said.

Premier Xia’s confusion on his wrinkled face gradually cleared.

Last night before the battle, Zhao Haoran had instructed Premier Xia to hold Zeng Yitao if East Ocean was defeated and release him if East Ocean won.

Premier Xia didn't understand at first, and Zhao Haoran explained to him, "This kid has no talents, no virtues, no ambitions, and no strategies; he is a blessing for East Ocean."

Currently, Hao Ren's words showed the same perception.

Zhao Haoran prisoned Zeng Yitao and observed his behavior, and thus knew that this kid was useless.

Oldman Zeng had used a secret method to suppress his realm, so he wouldn't activate the Heavenly Tribulation and could continue to control the West Ocean Dragon Clan!

It meant that the moment Zeng Yitao took the helm of the West Ocean Dragon Clan, the force would enter a true decline.

That was why the East Ocean Dragon Clan must keep Zeng Yitao if they were defeated and must release him if they got the victory.

While the power of the West Ocean Dragon Clan decreased recently, Zhao Haoran took the opportunity to destroy most of their powerful elders with brute force. Now, the West Ocean Dragon Clan couldn't launch a head-on battle against the East Ocean Dragon Clan in the next 200 years. Then after 200 years, Zeng Xin would reach the end of his life, and Zeng Yitao would take over...

This was Zhao Haoran's last move on the chessboard before the end of his life.

"What's wrong?" Seeing Premier Xia standing there like a statue, Hao Ren asked.

"Gongzi Hao, are you heading back now?" Premier Xia asked with a smile.

"Well, yeah."

"I'll show you the way." Premier Xia walked forward with lightened steps.

"Although this Fuma only started as a mortal, his mind and vision are close to those of the old dragon king. On the surface, it looks like the old dragon king doesn't like this Fuma. However, he is in fact quite appreciative of him."

Now, Premier Xia began to understand why Zhao Haoran placed Hao Ren in the position of the Commanding General.

Although Hao Ren had no battle experience, his mind far surpassed those of the generals in the dragon palace!

After all, Zhao Haoran had ruled the East Ocean Dragon Tribe for 1,000 years, and his eyes were really sharp!

"Premier Xia, you said that if the old dragon king could teach me personally, I can reach Dui-level quickly, right?" Hao Ren asked Premier Xia suddenly.

"The cultivation strength of the old dragon king has reached a godly realm. Last night when we were battling with the forces of West Ocean at the main gate, the old dragon king personally battled with Zeng Xin who is also at top-tier Qian-level. Zeng Xin was severely wounded by our old dragon king with only half a strike," Premier Xia said.

Hao Ren thought that the battle must have been thrilling. With two top-tier Qian-level cultivators battling with full forces, the battle must have been earth-shaking!

Half of an attack from Zhao Haoran was enough to force back Zeng Xin! If Zeng Xin had forced himself to continue the battle, he would have died on the spot! That was why he would rather retreat.

It was regretful that a master like Zhao Haoran still couldn't break the limit on his age... If he put his 1,000 years of cultivation strength into hundreds of Gen-level cultivators, it would help them all break through to Dui-level instantly!

### **Chapter 384: Big Zhumu, Little Zhumu (2 in 1 Chapter)**

Hao Ren returned to the house from the dragon palace, and it was still the middle of the night.

Each room on both floors seemed to be quiet.

There were a lot of things on Hao Ren's mind so that he couldn't fall asleep.

"Ruff, Ruff..." Little White squeezed out of Zhen Congming's room and hopped onto the couch like a fluffy ball.

Hao Ren put it on his legs and started to practice the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll to recover.

Zhao Haoran used a bodily-filling technique, which was a very aggressive method. It had caused some damage to Hao Ren's body.

Although he was still on Gen-level, his nature essence was no longer balanced amongst the five elements.

Even though it was the purest water-elemental essence, Hao Ren needed a few days to absorb and convert it.

The tiny sword energies of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll traveled slowly through Hao Ren's meridians. They were like many little detectors that were looking for the damaged spots of Hao Ren's meridians, and they repaired them with soft nature essence as soon as they found the places.

One centimeter above Hao Ren's dragon core, there was a spiritual core that was spinning at a very high speed.

The spiritual core was only half a thumb big. However, it sucked in all the nearby small sword energies like a high-density black hole!

Zhao Haoran's 1,000 years of cultivation strength was compressed and stored in this small spiritual core!

It hung above Hao Ren's dragon core and established its own system.

It captured the nature essence that was passing by, and it would release the nature essence back into Hao Ren's body from the center due to its extremely high density. The core had become a mysterious balancing vertex which couldn't be detected by the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

Hao Ren sent several sword energies there, but none of them came back to him, harming his spiritual senses. Therefore, he had to give it up.

Little White rolled over lazily on Hao Ren's belly. As a level 1 spirit beast, its intelligence was even higher than before. It also got more intimate to Hao Ren.

Hao Ren's dragon core landed steadily in his dantian, and it already had 123 openings on it. The dense spiritual core, on the other hand, was spinning quickly at where the Qihai acupoint was.

One of them was the dragon core of a dragon cultivator, and the other was the internal core of a human cultivator!

There were two systems inside Hao Ren's body, and they didn't interfere with each other at all!

Zhao Haoran didn't even expect this to happen.

As a matter of fact, Zhao Haoran believed that Hao Ren was honest and sincere with no ill intention toward East Ocean. Therefore, he decided to transfer as much of his nature essence as possible into Hao Ren before his life was over. To his surprise, there was something special about Hao Ren's body, and it allowed Hao Ren to collect all the 1,000 years of cultivation strength from Zhao Haoran. Although Hao Ren was still on Gen-level, he gathered a large amount of hidden energy and potential.

Zhao Haoran was able to pass down all of his 1,000 years of cultivation strength, and it left him no regret.

What Hao Ren didn't know was that Lu Linlin and Lu Lili saved his cultivation progress with their natal spiritual lotuses, and the old Grandma, who was cultivating somewhere above Fifth Heaven, also helped out by pouring some natal vital energy into Hao Ren as well.

Hao Ren thought Zhao Haoran compressed the 1,000 years of cultivation strength on purpose and temporarily stored it inside his body. Therefore, what Hao Ren was thinking about was how to transfer it to Zhao Kuo when they met in the future.

The 1,000 years of cultivation strength stored inside Hao Ren's body was Zhao Haoran's top-tier Qian-level strength. Now, Hao Ren was walking around with an extremely precious treasure!

Hao Ren had an internal core which was equivalent to top-tier Nascent Soul Realm. This meant that he was absolutely the most powerful Core Formation Realm cultivator!

Time flew by, and Little White fell asleep curled up in Hao Ren's lap.

Hao Ren tried to search for a new path to circulate his nature's essences in his body, and he finally formed a new circulation path which bypassed the Qihai Acupoint which was above Dantian.

Creak!

A door opened.

Xie Yujia walked out of her room and saw Hao Ren cultivating on the couch. She ignored him and went into the kitchen to prepare breakfast.

Hao Ren saw her walking by right in front of him in her pajamas and didn't know what she was upset about.

Little White hopped off Hao Ren's legs and followed Xie Yujia; she smelled very refreshing.

"Gongzi!"

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili appeared cheerfully at the stairs and ran toward the couch.

Seeing that they were about to knock over the couch, Hao Ren reached out his hands to stop them.

Taking this opportunity, the Lu sisters threw their soft bodies into Hao Ren's arms. Then, they grabbed onto his arms with both hands.

"Metal: 12, Wood: 15, Water: 36, Fire: 18, Earth: 19!" Lu Linlin and Lu Lili reported the numbers in turn and looked at Hao Ren in surprise. "How come all your five-elemental essences are imbalanced after one night's time, Gongzi?"

"I didn't cultivate properly last night. I'll make the adjustments gradually," Hao Ren secretly put force into his arms and lightly push them up.

Xie Yujia was walking out of the kitchen at this moment, and she lightly snorted when she saw this scene.

"Big Zhumu, let us help you!" The twins ran toward Xie Yujia like two butterflies.

Xie Yujia couldn't reject them, and it suddenly put her in a passive position.

"Are we going to Fifth Heaven today, Uncle?" Zhao Yanzi appeared on the stairs surprisingly early in her dotted pajamas.

Little White then dashed onto the stairs and climbed onto her arms and shoulders.

"Um, we'll head out after breakfast," Hao Ren said.

"Great! Great!" Zhao Yanzi nodded happily.

After getting the Big Dipper Constellation Scroll and the Purple Green Treasure Sword, she was more eager to cultivate and get stronger than before. Especially since they were going to Fifth Heaven where Zhao Guang couldn't even keep an eye on her, her dream of traveling around the world with her longsword almost came true.

Xie Yujia also wanted to take care of the spiritual herbs at the Ethereal Peak.

Therefore, the five of them went to their gathering spot on Fifth Heaven as soon as the sun climbed into the sky.

Little White, the level 2 spirit beast, flew extremely fast with Hao Ren, Zhao Yanzi and Xie Yujia on its back. Lu Linlin and Lu Lili flew on their own and kept close to Hao Ren to protect him. It only took them the time of having a meal to arrive on Fifth Heaven.

The Ethereal Peak appeared to be well arranged after Hao Ren and Xie Yujia's tidying-up and cleaning. The herb gardens and creeks added some classic tone to the valley, which used to be very messy.

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili opened their eyes wide to look at the valley; they fell in love with the atmosphere immediately.

Zhao Yanzi went straight to her cave abode. When she saw the Purple Green Treasure Sword still lying quietly on her stone bed, she was relieved and picked it up. Then, she ran to an empty area in the valley and started to practice the first chapter of the Big Dipper Constellation Scroll – Tianshu.

Tianshu was the head star of the Big Dipper. It was steady and would build the foundation for future cultivation.

Zhao Yanzi just reached the Foundation Establishment Realm. She loved this technique the second she got it, so she cultivated it diligently and carefully.

The sword techniques documented in the scroll all corresponded to nature essence absorption. The smoother she used the sword techniques, the better she would be able to circulate her nature essence.

The longsword shone a light green light in Zhao Yanzi's hand, and Zhao Yanzi became happier and liked the sword even more since she felt like a master all over again.

Elixir making was Xie Yujia's way of cultivation. Her technique was the Life-Death Notes that the old Grandma gave her, and all the changes resided in the gold and silver dharma notes. As long as she had sufficient nature essences, the two dharma notes would behave like parent notes and split into many small notes.

In the elixir making room, two layers of gold and silver dharma notes circled the elixir furnace. More than a dozen Foundation Establishment Pills were coming into form and twirling inside the furnace.

Xie Yujia came to the Ethereal Peak every weekend and made enough elixir pills that could last her the entire week.

She ate level 4 pills as if they were snacks. Even a Seventh Heaven Sect Master wouldn't have such a preferential treatment!

Puff... Streaks of white steam came out of the elixir furnace through the lid, and it felt like a pot of porridge was boiling inside the stove.

Little White who was stretching its neck and spitting out demon fire, finally got a break.

The small silver dharma notes circled the lid and suddenly lifted it up.

Then, the small golden dharma notes entered the furnace and carried 16 steaming level 4 Foundation Establishment Pills perfectly into Xie Yujia's palm.

The entire process of opening the lid and collecting the pills was smooth, and Xie Yujia looked like an experienced elixir master!

Her control of the flames and the temperature was perfect, and all the pills were level 4!

In addition, there was barely any residues in the elixir furnace. All the materials had been extracted into essences and turned into elixir pills! Xie Yujia calculated the proportion of the materials according to the formula precisely!



She smiled happily when she saw that all the pills were level 4. She took out a little bottle and put 15 elixir pills inside. Then, she threw the last one to Little White.

Little White caught the level 4 pill with its tongue, and a satisfied expression appeared on its face after it devoured it.

Xie Yujia was only a little satisfied with her result this time. She was glad that the materials weren't wasted because she spent a lot of effort into planting them. However, she had no idea that her elixir making skill had already reached the grandmaster level!

This kind of success rate could make her the Head Elixir Elder of any sect on Six Heaven, even in the Sky Mountain Sect which specialized in elixir making.

Xie Yujia was indeed gifted in elixir making. Her attitude was actually quite simple; she treated elixir making like cooking!

In the cave abode next to hers, Hao Ren had completely circulated his nature essence according to the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll 36 times. Then, he took advantage of the little cloud rain array formation that Zhen Congming set up to complete his lightning cultivation.

Considering the capacity of his body, Hao Ren only performed lightning cultivation once per week, which was just as often as Xie Yujia practiced elixir making.

However, the purpose of this lightning cultivation wasn't to create openings in his dragon core. Instead, he used it to strengthen his own realm in order to activate his meridian fully.

Shoo... a dash of sword energy shot out of Hao Ren's cave.

One became two, two became four, four became eight, eight became 16 ...each sword energy split into two with a slight shiver.

This was the power of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll!

Forming sword energy with nature essence and commanding the sword essences with spiritual senses.

Hao Ren instantly unleashed a powerful sword array formation.

The sword energies absorbed the nature essence in the valley and grew...

Splitting into millions of entities and each absorbing the power of heaven and earth! This cultivation method was incredibly similar to the cultivation method of Soul Formation Realm cultivators!

All 320 sword energies grew and combined into a short, colorful sword essence. Then, it shot back into Hao Ren's cave abode.

Hao Ren raised his hands and completed his cultivation.

Hao Ren thought of this cultivation method while he was dizzy and falling asleep. He could absorb nature essence with his sword energies and then transferring it back into his body. It allowed him to increase his cultivation speed even more.

However, he could only train using this method in the safest place. Otherwise, it would be dangerous for him if the sword energies got chopped off halfway through his cultivation process. It would damage his foundation.

“It’s about time. Let’s head back!” Hao Ren felt refreshed, and he walked to the entrance of his cave abode and shouted.

“Hahaha...” Zhao Yanzi flew toward Hao Ren’s cave abode on her Purple Green Treasure Sword.

The first chapter in the Big Dipper Constellation Scroll, Tianshu Sword Technique, contained an advanced sword-riding technique. Also, this longsword was a top-tier dharma treasure. Zhao Yanzi easily got the hang of this technique within half a day since she was quite talented.

The flying speed of this sword was nothing like the ordinary swords from before!

Satisfaction was written all over her face!

Xie Yujia walked out of her elixir making room and saw Zhao Yanzi flying freely in the sky. She was a little envious that.

Hao Ren flicked his finger, and a sword energy flew out and hit the tip of the longsword under Zhao Yanzi feet. Zhao Yanzi tripped and fell into the grass beneath her.

“Jerk!” Zhao Yanzi rubbed her butt and threw her treasure sword at Hao Ren.

The sword ripped through the air and pierced at Hao Ren.

Hao Ren was already at Gen-level, so he wouldn’t be scared of Zhao Yanzi who just reached the Foundation Establishment Realm. He pinched the sword blade with two fingers.

Ding!

The sword blade made a sharp sound, and the quack made Hao Ren’s fingers hurt a little.

Gen-level was somewhere between top-tier Core Formation Realm and low-tier Nascent Soul Realm. He should have been able to defeat a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator with just one finger. However, Zhao Yanzi was able to obtain such power within half a day by practicing this sword technique. That demonstrated how powerful this scroll was.

In other words, as long as Zhao Yanzi continued to practice this Big Dipper Constellation Scroll, other cultivators on the same realm wouldn’t have a chance to defeat her.

Hao Ren suddenly thought of that arrogant girl from the Sky Mountain Sect and understood where her pride came from. Since she had this technique, she wasn’t too afraid of other cultivators unless they were far more powerful than her.

“Come on. Let’s go back.” Hao Ren put the longsword into her cave abode and said.

“Humph!” Zhao Yanzi wrinkled her nose and climbed onto Little White’s back.

Xie Yujia laughed and hopped onto Little White’s back gently.

When the five of them returned to the house, they saw a light golden Buick parked outside. Someone was visiting while they were away.

“Go get some tea, Congming!”

Hao Ren heard Hao Zhonghua telling Zhen Congming that as he walked in.

“Where did you guys go early in the morning?” Grandma asked Hao Ren in a slight complaining tone.

“I took them and Little White out for a walk on the beach,” Hao Ren pointed at Little White.

Little White was only the size of a palm, and it was wagging its tail and looking at Grandma innocently.

“Your dad’s guest is here, and his daughter is Congming’s classmate!” Grandma said.

Hao Ren looked over Grandma’s shoulder and saw the guests, the mayor and his daughter!

“Hehe, your son is quite a handsome man!” Mayor Wu walked over with a teacup in his hand.

“Hello, Uncle,” Hao Ren greeted him after half a second of hesitation.

Xie Yujia was fast to react. She greeted by saying ‘Uncle’ right after Hao Ren.

Zhao Yanzi followed their example, and so did Lu Linlin and Lu Lili. They all said ‘Uncle’ in sweet voices.

The mayor looked at the beautiful girls beside Hao Ren and smiled. He nodded kindly without asking any questions. Then, he said to Hao Zhonghua, “Academician Hao and Academician Yue are our East Ocean City and our country’s treasures. I wouldn’t want anything to happen to you!”

“It was a small accident, and it doesn’t deserve so much of your attention. This is your second time coming here and visiting us in person!” Hao Zhonghua laughed.

Hao Zhonghua and Yue Yang encountered landslides on Friday night, and they almost got attacked by the hurricanes. This had worried the mayor, so he rushed over on Saturday morning to see if they were alright. However, Hao Ren’s family went on a trip, so the mayor made the trip in vain. Therefore, he drove over in person again.

He did this to express his sincerity as well as to calm the two scientists down.

The mayor also dragged along his little daughter, hoping to build a better relationship with these world-class scientists since his daughter went to the same school as Zhen Congming.

“My daughter, Luoxue, goes to the same school as Zhen Congming, so I brought her along today for them to hang out a little,” the mayor said.

“Definitely! Kids need to learn to get along with each other,” Hao Zhonghua said immediately.

Wu Luoxue stood beside her dad in her colorful dress, holding onto her dad’s hand. She didn’t say a single word.

She looked like a sculpture carved out of jade, and she was particularly pretty and cute even though she didn’t say anything.

“She’s so cute! She’s so pretty!” Lu Linlin and Lu Lili bent their backs to ‘examine’ Wu Luoxue. They almost reached out and pinched her cute little pink cheeks.

Wu Luoxue looked at the two pretty, big sisters calmly; she didn’t have any reaction toward their compliments.

Zhen Congming handed out water and tea for all the adults in the living room in front of Wu Luoxue as if he was trying to earn the Tri-Merit Student Award.

“Go play with your schoolmate, Luoxue. You always read or practice the piano; you need to relax from time to time,” the mayor patted Wu Luoxue’s head softly.

“I have the most classic game, Heavenly Sword, and the graphic is amazing. I’ll show you!” Zhen Congming got excited and flipped out his game disc before pushing it into the console.

Wu Luoxue held the warm teacup in her hands and sat quietly on the couch facing the TV. She stared at Zhen Congming with her black, gem-like eyes as he was busy setting everything up.

“See, it’s like this…” Zhen Congming connected the machines and took out the controllers. He demonstrated for Wu Luoxue as he played.

Although he was very passionate, Wu Luoxue seemed to be cold and calm the entire time. She didn’t even say a word.

“It’s ok to play with your schoolmate sometime, Luoxue,” the mayor, who was in the middle of discussing East Ocean City’s scientific development strategy with Hao Zhonghua, turned around and said to his daughter.

Wu Luoxue slightly nodded at last and picked up a controller.

“I’ll teach you!” Zhen Congming moved over immediately to show her how to use the controller.

Wu Luoxue looked down at the controller and tried it out a few times.

Hao Ren and Xie Yujia looked at them with tremendous interest. Zhen Congming was as passionate as fire while Wu Luoxue was as cold as ice.

“This is very difficult. I have been playing for a long time until I reached the fourth level. I’ll do it all over again with you!” Zhen Congming said enthusiastically.

Wu Luoxue nodded and held onto the controller clumsily. However, her character gradually started to move smoothly…

“I’m on the Sixth level,” she said quietly after half an hour.

Zhen Congming looked at her in surprise. He then shook his head and said, “This isn’t very fun. Let’s play Street Fighters! We can fight with each other!”

He slid in another disc and handed a controller to Wu Luoxue, leaving the other one for himself.

“I’m a master in this game!” Zhen Congming found the game guide in excitement and passed it to Wu Luoxue.

He said proudly, "I know about all the unique skills for all the characters in the game!"

Wu Luoxue read it for a minute and looked up at the screen before choosing a character.

Ready, Go!

Wu Luoxue's fingers danced quickly on the controller as if she was playing the piano. She murmured, "Up, left, down, slight punch, down... hard kick..."

K.O!

Zhen Congming's character fell onto the ground.

Wu Luoxue... won without taking any damage.

Hao Ren looked at Wu Luoxue and suddenly realized that this little girl was even more insane than Zhen Congming!

### **Chapter 385: Forming an Alliance?**

Two important events took place in the science circle on Monday.

Firstly, the world-renowned biologist Hao Zhonghua announced the launch of the project called 'Seeking Dragon' to prove the existence of the mythical creatures. This had attracted all the scientific institutions and magazines' attention all over the world.

Secondly, Yue Yang started an in-depth research project on the East Ocean. She gathered different kinds of funds and large equipment for the research institution at the East Ocean City.

On the same Monday, another event took place in the business world as well.

The Mingri Group announced that they were acquiring the Conqueror Group, and its stock reached its top limit as soon as the market opened.

Hao Ren heard the news when he was in the cab and on his way to East Ocean University.

He handed the driver a 20-yuan bill and got three-yuan of change back.

The taxi driver drove the vehicle away as he watched Hao Ren walk into the school. He could never imagine that this ordinary-looking man was the son of the two world-famous scientists, Hao Zhonghua and Yue Yang, and also the future CEO of Mingri Group.

Hao Ren had steadied his Gen-level realm after one night of cultivation, and he also opened up to 125 openings successfully.

Gen-level gave him an even stronger aura than Zhen-level.

The second Hao Ren stepped inside the gate, a beam of bright red light moved toward him.

Hao Ren was instantly enveloped by the red light since there was nowhere for him to hide.

"Give me my dharma treasure back!"

Qin Shaoyang appeared in the red light with a suit on, and he flipped his palm toward Hao Ren's face!

"Sword array formation!" Hao Ren shot out his 320 sword energies.

The sword energies flew out at the same time like bullets, and they had the same effect as dense area bombing.

A golden light surrounded Qin Shaoyang to protect him from the aggressive sword energies, and he was secretly impressed by the fact that Hao Ren reached Gen-level within just a couple of days.

"At this speed, Hao Ren is going to become a massive threat in the future! We need to eliminate him!" Qin Shaoyang thought as he suddenly increased his strength.

It was a great advantage for him to fight against a Gen-level cultivator as a Kun-level cultivator.

Boom!

A white jade sword appeared between Hao Ren and Qin Shaoyang, and the latter was immediately forced back by three steps!

Su Han slowly landed in the energy sphere in her white dress.

Qin Shaoyang raised his hand and saw a deep wound on his wrist. Blood kept running out from the cut.

He immediately used the metal-elemental essence to block his meridians and stop the bleeding.

Hao Ren was surprised to see Su Han here.

Su Han just rushed back from the Dragon God Shrine. Her hair fell loosely on her shoulders, and her eyes shone like stars. She seemed to be even more powerful than before.

"Su Han!" Qin Shaoyang covered his hand and shouted coldly.

"He is mine! Don't touch him," Su Han said lightly.

"The East Ocean City is under my control now, and I want to punish this little assisting inspector. You have a problem with that?" Qin Shaoyang looked at Su Han angrily.

Su Han looked at him in disdain without saying a word.

"Why are you so protective of this little assisting inspector? Do you like him?" Qin Shaoyang asked.

"What if I do like him?" Su Han said coldly.

As Qin Shaoyang was stunned, Su Han continued, "And what if I don't like him?"

Hao Ren's heart jumped up and down as Su Han spoke.

"He took my natal dharma treasure!" Qin Shaoyang said.

He didn't want to reveal this shameful information. However, the natal dharma treasure, unlike other dharma treasures, could affect his spiritual senses. Su Han was very protective of Hao Ren, and the twin sisters were hanging around on campus, giving him no chance of getting it back.

Therefore, Qin Shaoyang had to state the reason why he risked starting the fight.

“He took your natal dharma treasure. So what?” Su Han said lightly again.

“You...” Qin Shaoyang was so mad that his eyes almost popped out.

Su Han’s cold attitude showed her complete disdain toward Qin Shaoyang!

“Give me his natal dharma treasure,” Su Han said to Hao Ren.

“Um!” Hao Ren took Qin Shaoyang’s golden weaving shuttle out of his necklace and put it in Su Han’s hand.

“Right. We are both inspectors, and there’s no need to get into a fight,” Qin Shaoyang smiled and said, relieved.

Su Han looked down and put Qin Shaoyang’s golden weaving shuttle in her own storage ring indifferently. Then, she ripped open the energy sphere and said coldly, “Come and get it from me if you can.”

Qin Shaoyang stared at Su Han’s back in surprise as she left, but he never gathered enough courage to attack her from behind.

As a Kun-level cultivator, Qin Shaoyang could sense that Su Han got even stronger than before her injury. In other words, instead of losing strength during her recovery, she improved a lot!

“What are you still standing there for, Hao Ren?” Su Han said as she walked.

Hao Ren hesitated for a bit and rushed over to Su Han.

There was a gentle breeze blowing through the campus. The gate was near the lake, and they could see the wind gently blowing on the willow trees. Su Han walked forward as the wind blew the lovely scent of her hair into Hao Ren’s nose.

“Su Han is back!”

A sharp-eyed male student instantly recognized the beauty beside the lake, and he cried out loud since they hadn’t seen Su Han on campus for a long time.

“Su Han!”

“That really is Su Han!”

Other students cried out in surprise as well.

Without a doubt, Su Han was the most beautiful female of East Ocean University. Her reappearance immediately drew the attention of everyone near the lake!

However, her cold temperament made them scared of getting closer.

“Who is that guy walking beside Su Han?”

“Is that Hao Ren? The one who got in a fight with Huang Xujie!”

“A sophomore... good for him. He could walk together with Su Han...”

“You have no idea. They’ve been very close since before!”

All sorts of gossip came into their ears.

Hao Ren and Su Han had acute hearings, so they could hear the gossips even though these students were on the other side of the lake.

Su Han kept walking calmly as she said to Hao Ren, “The Dragon God Shrine allowed me to come back as the East Ocean City’s inspector, but they don’t want to take Qin Shaoyang away for the time being. They might be using him to restrain my authority since they weren’t satisfied with my late report on the situation between East Ocean and West Ocean.”

“Um...” Hao Ren nodded calmly.

Many people looked at him with jealousy from the other side of the lake. However, Hao Ren didn’t panic like he did before. He was walking together with Su Han, so what?

“You are an assisting inspector, and Qin Shaoyang is an official inspector. According to your titles, he could punish you, and you are not allowed to fight back. To get rid of this restraint, you would have to become an official inspector,” Su Han continued.

Hao Ren knew clearly that the Dragon God Shrine and the dragon clans were two different systems. Although he was the Commanding General of East Ocean, he was still an ordinary dragon cultivator in the eyes of the inspectors.

“The Dragon God Shrine has decided to have two official inspectors in every major city in the future. This is to avoid any careless omission of information by either inspector...” Su Han stopped her steps and turned to look at Hao Ren calmly.

She was as beautiful as a delicate painting in her white blouse, and the lake scenery became the perfect background.

“If you can become an official inspector we can work together to kick Qin Shaoyang out of the picture,” Su Han said.

### **Chapter 386: Brothers Indeed!**

Hao Ren had never thought of allying with Su Han.

Now thinking about it, although his realm was far behind hers, he would still be of the same status once he became an official inspector.

“The general examinations of the Dragon God Shrine is soon, right?” Hao Ren asked.

Last time, Su Han told him that the exams were a month away, so Hao Ren tried his best to cultivate during this time.

A while had passed, so it should be any day now.



“More accurately, it will be this Friday. The general examinations will take place over three days. The first day is the written exam and the latter two days are combat exams. I’ve already enrolled you as my assisting inspector when I went back to the Dragon God Shrine this time.”

“Written exam...” Hao Ren hesitated.

“Don’t worry about that. It is nothing important compared to the combat exams. I will help you review some of the things an inspector should know during this week.”

Before Hao Ren could say anything, she added, “Come to my place after six.”

Hao Ren’s lip twitched. He had been tutoring Zhao Yanzi every day, and he never thought that Su Han would volunteer herself to be his tutor.

Without further explanation, Su Han headed to the administrative building along the lakeside road.

Her speed was neither too rushed nor too slow. She walked ahead with her feet touching the ground softly as if she was a fairy on the lake. One might think that she was walking on water.

In addition, her perfect ice-cold face made the males in the area stand where they were and gap.

The returning of Su Han became the most significant news on campus on Monday.

It seemed like the entire campus had been lit up with energy and passion along with her reappearance. Hao Ren admired her charm deeply since she never liked attending school activities in the first place.

Hao Ren walked to Building D for his Introduction to Mechanical Design class. Finals were approaching, so he didn’t let his guard down on his schoolwork. Everyone knew that the professors might ‘accidentally’ point out the main concepts that would be on the final exams in the last few classes. Thus, even if a student skipped the entire semester, he or she should not be skipping the last few classes.

“Brother Ren! Brother Ren!”

Zhou Liren called out his name as soon as he walked into the classroom.

“What...” Hao Ren walked over lazily.

“Su Han is back, right?” Zhou Liren dragged onto Hao Ren’s shirt and asked in excitement.

“Um, I suppose.” Hao Ren sat on the chair calmly.

“Still pretending! Still pretending!” Zhou Liren was so excited that his face twitched. “I heard that you and she were walking along the lake a moment ago!”

“Aoy...” Hao Ren didn’t know what to say to him.

He looked forward and saw Xie Yujia and Ma Lina working on their notes in the front row. The review material Xie Yujia gave him worked very well last time, and he was able to catch up with all the classes he missed.

Xie Yujia was in a long shirt-style dress, and it looked charming compared to her usual conservative style. The silk material made her look lighter, and a thin black belt hung on her waist. She had a perfect

figure: slim waist, long legs, smooth neck, well-developed chest, and smooth skin. She had everything she needed to be a supermodel!

“So, is Su Han going to teach us again?” Zhou Liren suddenly turned Hao Ren’s head to him with his hands.

Hao Ren saw Zhou Liren’s twisted face, and the beautiful scenery was immediately ruined.

“I guess...” Hao Ren answered casually.

Beep, Beep...Hao Ren received a text message on his new phone.

He opened it up and saw Xie Yujia’s message. “You got the new phone?”

He looked up and caught Xie Yujia smiling at him.

“Yeah, I got it,” Hao Ren texted her back.

“Did you buy other things as well?” Xie Yujia sent another message.

“Yes, everything is in my backpack,” Hao Ren answered.

“Um!” Xie Yujia responded with a simple text. Then, she waved at Hao Ren and turned back to her notes.

Even though she was only sitting, she was the focus of people’s attention.

“Going hot and heavy!” Zhou Liren nudged Hao Ren with his arm.

If Su Han was the kind of beauty all men worshipped, Xie Yujia was the kind of beauty that men would find intimate and close.

To guys like Zhao Liren, it would be a great honor for them to get close to Su Han, and it would be a great pleasure for them to date Xie Yujia!

“This is the last class before finals, so pay attention!” Hao Ren patted Zhou Liren’s forehead. “By the way, where is Zhao Jiayi?”

“He is coming because he asked me to save a spot for him.” As soon as Zhou Liren finished talking, Zhao Jiayi rushed into the classroom and sat down beside Hao Ren. He was breathing heavily.

“Damn, you are finally here. I haven’t seen you in ages!” Zhao Jiayi shouted, “What was with the Bentley pickup?”

“Yes! That Bentley! I almost forgot about it!” Zhou Liren shouted as well.

“Nothing... it was just a relative from abroad,” Hao Ren answered casually.

“Here we go again...” Zhao Jiayi looked at Hao Ren and said, “We are all friends here, yet you still lie to us!”

“They picked me up on their way, and I couldn’t say no...” Hao Ren got a little clumsy with his words in front of Zhao Jiayi.

“Also, you are not even staying in the dorm room now. Every night, we have to tell the dorm manager that you are in the bathroom when she comes to count the people...” Zhao Jiayi glimpsed at Hao Ren.

“Um...” Hao Ren was a little embarrassed.

He had been cultivating on Fifth Heaven these days and hadn’t been sleeping in the dorm for a while now. It had cut back the time he had to spend with his good friends.

“I’m not blaming you, but we are worried about you since you are always outside. Some of your foreign relatives probably came back, and you are probably loaded now. We just hope that you will still see us as your friends,” Zhao Jiayi said to Hao Ren.

He talked as the captain of the dorm, but Hao Ren could sense the sincerity in his tone.

Yes, the four roommates were good friends who shared good times and woes no matter if they had money or not. Hao Ren seemed to be slowly drifting away from their group, and it made Zhao Jiayi feel sad.

“Someone on my basketball team told me that Huang Xujie is trying to find people to beat you up. I don’t know if it is true, but you should take care of yourself while you are alone out there. Call me if anything happens!” Zhao Jiayi said to Hao Ren seriously.

Hao Ren appeared to be abandoning his roommates lately, yet Zhao Jiayi was still worried about his safety.

“Ok!” Hao Ren nodded decisively.

In fact, even if Huang Xujie found thousands of fighters, they wouldn’t be able to defeat Hao Ren now.

However, Hao Ren felt thankful that Zhao Jiayi cared about him.

“How is the basketball team doing?” Hao Ren asked.

“We are almost in the finals! It will be in Hangzhou on July 15th! We have been training like crazy these couple of days!” Zhou Jiayi exhaled deeply.

“Can you get into the finals?” Hao Ren asked.

“We will try our best. Now we are in semi-finals, and the team we are playing against the day after tomorrow is very strong! It’s South Ocean University!” Zhao Jiayi answered.

Hao Ren carefully observed Zhao Jiayi and found him stronger than before. The intensive training and matches must have made him even better than he used to be.

Hao Ren sensed an extraordinary domineering temperament from Zhao Jiayi!

He remembered Su Han telling him about how Xie Wanjun was able to sense Heavenly Dao by practicing basketball. Xie Wanjun was in the same realm as the third level of Spirit Concentration Scroll.

As a Gen-level cultivator, Hao Ren could sense Zhao Jiayi’s level. It equaled to the first level of Spirit Concentration Scroll!

Hao Ren didn't know that the extra nature essence he pulled from nature while he cultivated in the dorm sank down to Zhao Jiayi's lower berth. The latter breathed it in during his sleep, and it largely improved his physique. As the saying goes, once a person became an immortal, his relatives and followers would ascend with him!

Hao Ren hadn't been back to the dorm for quite a while now, and Zhao Jiayi had been practicing every day, exhausted from training.

Although Zhao Jiayi's techniques were being improved, his physique stayed the same. Therefore, the path of progressing in the championship was getting more and more difficult now that they were faced with stronger and stronger teams.

The first level of Spirit Concentration Scroll was to connect with the heaven and earth to sense the natural essence as well as to purify the body. Then, the second level was to direct the nature essence into the body to temper it. Last, the third level was to place the nature essence outside the body and control it.

Hao Ren sensed that Zhao Jiayi was already on the edge of the first level, so he patted on Zhao Jiayi's shoulder and said, "Fighting! You will be able to get into the finals!"

"Definitely!" Zhao Jiayi was very confident as well.

Hao Ren laughed as he took his hand back.

Zhao Jiayi was stupefied. Suddenly, he felt like something broke throughout his body.

He just got out of a high-intensity training session, and he felt that his body reached another level.

Zhao Jiayi found it strange, but he couldn't articulate the feeling. A streak of energy went through his body and made each and every joint crack.

"So, this is what it feels like to break through my limit!" Zhao Jiayi comprehended many things at once, and all kinds of basketball skills appeared in his head!

He was even uncontrollably confident about when to stop, when to jump, and when to shoot. Everything was precise to the centimeter!

However, he didn't know how to describe the feeling to Hao Ren, Zhou Liren, and Cao Ronghua. So, he just assumed that it was an illusion.

Zhao Jiayi turned to Hao Ren and found him slightly frowning at his book as if he couldn't comprehend what he was reading.

"Ren, you missed so many classes. I wonder how you are going to pass this exam," Zhao Jiayi shook his head at Hao Ren as he thought to himself.

### **Chapter 387: Passion for Cooking and Planting!**

Ring... The class bell rang, signaling the end of the class.

Xie Yujia walked to the back row with her textbook in her hand.

Her shirt-style skirt made her look even taller. When she walked down the aisle between desks, it felt like she was walking down a runway in a fashion show where all bright spotlights shined on her.

“Let’s go for lunch together!” Xie Yujia smiled sweetly.

“Ren, why do you keep girls before bros!” Zhou Liren shouted as he looked at Xie Yujia.

Xie Yujia kept a low profile while she was the Class President. Now after resigning from that position, she had become more and more beautiful.

During this time, tons of guys regretted not pursuing her back then. If Lin Li from Class Three were to appear in front of Xie Yujia now, she would look as plain as dust.

“I meant all of us together!” Xie Yujia laughed.

Her charming smile stunned everyone there, and they were at a loss for words.

Although she hadn’t reached the Foundation Establishment Realm yet, her youthful yet mature look was more than enough to conquer these guys instantly.

There used to be such a beautiful girl in front of them, but they did not cherish it. It was already too late when they realized it now.

Xie Yujia had been leveling up at a fast speed since she resigned from her old position! She could stun most of the guys around her and defeat most of the girls in the school!

“Let’s go! Let’s go!” Zhao Jiayi shouted. He just got to a level which was equivalent to the second level of Spirit Concentration Scroll without even knowing about it, and he was able to keep his calm.

“Ren got to pay!” Yu Rong shouted next.

“It’s ok! I will pay this time!” Xie Yujia said as she smiled gently.

She noticed Hao Ren’s alienation from his friends during this period, so she wanted to take this opportunity and allow Hao Ren to reconnect with his friends.

They went over to the Hongji Square as a big group, and Ma Lina went along with them.

There would be a two-month summer break after the finals. Therefore, everyone was excited during this meal.

Xie Yujia was no longer the Class President, so she didn’t need to keep a stern face anymore. She sat down beside Hao Ren happily and appeared to be very sweet.

Who would say that Xie Yujia was after Hao Ren’s money now? With her look and temperament, she would find a wealthier partner than Hao Ren.

All the guys could only admire Hao Ren’s luck!

He could make Xie Yujia, who had infinite potential, his girlfriend, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili were always around him, and even Su Han had some sort of connection with him!

However, the guys didn't know that Hao Ren was now the Commanding General of East Ocean and already way above Purple-Robed Elder Lu Qing in terms of status. In other words, Vice Principle Lu Qing had to respect Hao Ren regardless of Zhao Yanzi and Zhao Guang now!

Hao Ren had the ultimate power in the East Ocean Dragon Palace, and he could even kill the purple-robed elder on the spot and report later when there were enough reasons!

"Ok, ok, we are not going to interrupt your sweet date now! We are going back!" Ma Lina pushed the guys out of the restaurant with a smile, leaving Hao Ren and Xie Yujia behind to pay for the bill.

In Ma Lina's eyes, she tried her best to get Hao Ren and Xie Yujia together, and Hao Ren should thank her with great gesture now that he had gotten Xie Yujia.

"Let me pay for it," Hao Ren took out his wallet and stopped Xie Yujia.

"It's ok. I never officially treated Zhao Jiayi and the guys to dinner!" Xie Yujia stuffed the money in the waiter's hand, "Plus, I never paid you back for the things you bought!"

She pouted seriously, and Hao Ren couldn't help but laugh at her cute expression.

"I will be going to Su Han's place in the next couple of days. I'll help you set everything up right now, and I won't be going up this evening. Can you look after Little White as well?" Hao Ren asked.

"Um..." Xie Yujia nodded. She hesitated but didn't ask more questions.

Hao Ren let Little White out once they got outside, and it immediately walked around the Hongji Square in its golden-colored legs, wiggling its tail.

Its cute look attracted many loving girl's attention without a doubt. Even the guys turned to look at Hao Ren and Xie Yujia who were walking the 'dog'.

Fluffy Little White rolled around on the grey tiles with full energy like a rolling ball.

A husky owned by a florist got its head stepped on by Little White as soon as it got out of the flower shop. Although it was about ten times the size as Little White, it had to go back to the shop obediently.

No one could get in the way when Little White wanted to claim its dominance.

"Is that Hao Ren?... His girlfriend is so pretty... Isn't Su Han his girlfriend?... The beautiful twins in first-year are also interested in him... He must be loaded..."

While Little White was having a lot of fun running around Hao Ren and Xie Yujia, some students started to gossip.

The tree wants to stay still, but the wind wouldn't let it be.

Hao Ren wanted to keep a low profile, but he was in the spotlight over and over again. Everyone in the school knew who he was now.

Why would any student cause him any trouble? He even defeated Huang Xujie, the son of the deputy mayor. Why would any professor make his life hard? Everyone knew that Lu Qing, the Vice Principal, had been trying to protect him the whole time!

“Let’s go!” Xie Yujia clapped at Little White when more and more people were walking over to them.

Little White hopped up into Xie Yujia’s arms.

Xie Yujia looked down at Little White and laughed at how naughty it was. Then, she walked out of the Hongji Square with Hao Ren; they seemed perfect for each other.

For some reason, the girls in the area were suddenly jealous of Xie Yujia.

Hao Ren put up a red energy sphere after they walked around the corner.

Boom! Little White turned into its snow lion form.

Hao Ren had taught Xie Yujia how to create the energy sphere. In the future, she could head to Fifth Heaven to look after those spiritual herbs on her own as long as she had Little White with her.

Little White was in a great mood.

Shoo! It reached the Ethereal Peak on Fifth Heaven.

Hao Ren entered the array formation and landed in the valley. He took a lot of things out of his backpack: plastic mulch film, shed film, plant net, little spud, sprinkling kettle, drip irrigation belt, marking board...

If Xie Yujia didn’t learn about these things from Grandma, none of them would know that there was so much to know when it came to farming and planting.

After laying everything out, Hao Ren and Xie Yujia started to work. Hao Ren first made a shallow square pit in the ground with his sword energies. Then, he created a tunnel and directed some water from the little river in the valley into this pit. Lastly, he dug another tunnel and directed the water back into the river, creating a paddy field that was irrigated with running water.

Hao Ren and Xie Yujia next moved the spiritual herbs that liked water into the paddy field.

They opened another area for the fire-elemental spiritual herbs. They built the structure of a greenhouse with bamboo sticks and covered it up with shed film.

For the earth-elemental spiritual herbs, they liked being exposed to the air, but they still needed sufficient water. Hao Ren and Xie Yujia placed the drip irrigation belt in the field to provide them with a certain amount of water.

The metal-element spiritual herbs needed to be placed near minerals. Hao Ren buried a dozen of top-tier spirit stones he borrowed from Premier Xia at the roots of the herbs. He also buried some used and broken dharma treasures in the ground.

Wood-elemental spiritual herbs were relatively easier to take care of. They placed the plant net in the ground and covered it up with mulch film, allowing the spiritual herb seedlings to absorb the nutrition from the ground sufficiently.

Thus, they rearranged the messy herb garden into five sections according to their elemental-attributes. There were metal, wood, water, fire, and earth sections. A modern agriculture planting system had been initially completed.

The Herb King Valley of the Ethereal Peak was slowly becoming the biggest spiritual herb farm on Fifth Heaven...

### **Chapter 388: Disciple of the Sect**

Hu... After they finished, Hao Ren and Xie Yujia both exhaled deeply

Thousands of spiritual herbs swayed gently in the fields. Green, blue, red... they looked like beautiful colorful ribbons.

Hao Ren met Xie Yujia's gaze, and they both smiled with pleasure.

Xie Yujia's white hands were covered in mud, and so were Hao Ren's sleeves.

"Look at you! You have mud on your face." With a faint smile, Xie Yujia reached out to rub the mud off his face. However, her wet and muddy finger put more dirt on his face.

"Oops..." She withdrew her hand immediately and giggled at his dirty face.

At her giggles, Hao Ren touched his own wet and cold cheek and joined in on the laughter.

As two students who majored in engineering, they had planted a large stretch of field, feeling like they had returned to their middle school days when they learned about agriculture.

Growing in better environments, the spiritual herbs would flourish, and their medicinal effects would increase, making them excellent ingredients for high-level elixirs.

At this thought, Xie Yujia was satisfied with their half-day of hard work. Meanwhile, she found it quite rewarding and cheerful to work on this transformation project together with Hao Ren.

"Let's wash our hands." With a wave of his right hand, a narrow water beam came from the nearby river and entered Xie Yujia's hands.

Nodding, she washed her hands before putting a few drops of water in her palm, cleaning the muddy marks on Hao Ren's face.

Feeling her smooth palms on his cheeks, Hao Ren was moved by her caring act.

Dong... At this moment, a light blue voice transmission note rushed into the valley.

"Senior, I'm Liu Yan, the sect master of the Qin Yin Sect. One of our disciples, Ye Su, is dying, and I hope that Senior can save her!" The voice transmission note released Sect Master Liu's message.

"What's wrong?" Hao Ren asked in his resonant voice.

Another voice transmission note shot in.

"Master's disciple came to order us to collect a Three Step Lotus. My direct disciple, Ye Su, stumbled into a nearby mountain which is under the control of the White Sand Sect when searching for the herb and was hunted down by the disciples of the White Sand Sect. Luckily, she escaped from their chase and returned, but she is severely injured!"



“The White Sand Sect! Humph” Hao Ren was not a fan of this sect.

“Master, please help us!” Another voice transmission note shot in, showing Sect Master Liu’s anxiety.

Hao Ren turned to look at Xie Yujia.

She nodded.

“Wait half an hour!” Hao Ren yelled.

“Thank you, Master!” Another voice transmission note shot in.

For a small sect on Fifth Heaven, the voice transmission notes which could penetrate through array formations were high-level dharma notes. Sect Master Liu must care for this disciple of hers a lot since she used several dharma notes in such a short time.

Also, she now called Hao Ren Master instead of Senior, showing that the Qin Yin Sect had regarded the Senior living in the valley as the most honorable guest of the sect.

Until now, none of the three sects near the valley knew how many people were living in the valley. They assumed that the true master was Hao Ren’s Grandma who once visited the Qin Yin Sect, and they thought that she had a female disciple who acted as her companion, a boy who ran errands and give them tasks, and a male disciple who just spoke.

Xie Yujia immediately entered her cave abode and set up the elixir furnace. Then, she tossed the spiritual herbs she had just collected into the furnace.

Last time when she visited the Qin Yin Sect with Grandma, Xie Yujia had a good impression of the sect which consisted of only female cultivators. Besides, this disciple was wounded while she was collecting spiritual herbs to help increase the variety of plants in Ethereal Summit, and soft-hearted Xie Yujia wouldn’t stand by and watch her die.

Little White spat out its demon fire, and the raging fire began to burn under the elixir furnace. A refreshing aroma gradually floated from the furnace.

With a thin layer of sweat on her forehead, Xie Yujia accelerated the movements of the Life-Death Notes.

Boom!

Four level 3 Essence Replenishment Pills shot out of the furnace.

With quick reflexes, Hao Ren caught the four elixir pills immediately.

“I was a little impatient and didn’t control the fire well.” Xie Yujia was disappointed when she saw that the pills she made were only level 3 elixirs.

“Little White, deliver the pills to them.” Hao Ren put the pills into a small silk bag before hanging it around Little White’s neck.

Little White, who was a more intelligent level 2 spirit beast understood his order. Immediately, it rushed out of the array formation that was surrounding the valley.

“We’ll never forget this big favor you did for us, Master!” A voice transmission note traveled through the array and sounded automatically.

Obviously, level 3 Essence Replenishment Pills had far surpassed Sect Master Liu’s expectation, and there were four of them!

Leisurely, Little White flew back into the valley.

After some consideration, Xie Yujia was still unsettled. She took out a small porcelain bottle from her bracelet and hung it around Little White’s neck.

“These are six Beauty Pills that I made while practicing. You go and give them to that sect master!”

Since Qin Yin Sect’s disciple was wounded while she was collecting herbs for Ethereal Summit, she thought it was not enough to just heal the disciple’s injury. That was why she gave them a bottle of Beauty Pills as compensation.

At her order, Little White immediately flew out, but no more voice transmission notes came in. Either the sect master had left to save her disciple’s life, or her voice transmission notes ran out.

“Zhen Congming is really making use of these small sects,” Hao Ren said helplessly when he saw Little White flying back leisurely

“It’s a good idea. Since the small sects have lots of disciples, it can save us a lot of time if they could collect spiritual herbs for us. We just have to remember to share some elixir pills with them when I make them,” Xie Yujia said.

“Yeah...” Hao Ren had no objection to her suggestion. Besides, he wanted to teach a lesson to the White Sand Sect which freely hunted down and killed disciples from small sects.

He still remembered when he and Zhao Yanzi stumbled into the White Sand Sect by mistake. The elders and disciples of the White Sand Sect had tried their best to kill them.

This sect was aggressive and vicious; it had no regard for the lives of cultivators from other sects.

However, Hao Ren’s top priority right now was to prepare for the exams of the Dragon God Shrine in a few days. He decided to postpone his visit to the White Sand Sect.

“Yujia, let’s go!” Hao Ren said when Little White flew back to his side.

“Ok!” Xie Yujia nodded contently and sat on Little White’s back.

When she glanced at Hao Ren, she saw a fierce look on Hao Ren’s face; she knew that this expression meant Hao Ren wouldn’t let anyone bully people who were close to him.

She had seen this look when Hao Ren was in his first conflict with Huang Xujie, and now that look got even more powerful!

However, when Hao Ren turned around to her, his gaze turned mild.

He reserved this mild and harmless side of him for his friends and family.

A sense of security suddenly rose in Xie Yujia’s heart.

## Chapter 389: Getting Looked at in a New Light

When Hao Ren and Xie Yujia returned to school, it was almost six o'clock.

"I will leave Little White with you! Besides, I texted Zi and told her that she could come to you if she wants to go to Fifth Heaven." Hao Ren picked Little White, who was in its mini version, up by the neck and placed it into Xie Yujia's hands.

"Ok." Xie Yujia held Little White carefully. Since it was small, she could bring it into the dorm building and hide it there.

"Oh, another thing. Zhao Yanzi's final exams are drawing near. If you have time, please tutor her," Hao Ren continued.

"Got it." Xie Yujia nodded.

"That's all. Please take care of Little White for me." Hao Ren smiled at her.

"Ruff! Ruff!"

Little White twitched its pink nose and barked.

"You are still playing cute as a level 2 spirit beast!" After casting a disdainful look at it, Hao Ren walked toward the administration building in the school.

Meanwhile, Su Han was sitting in a chair in her office close to the window. With her right elbow on the window sill and right hand supporting her face, she was quietly looking at the garden outside the window.

The square window was like a natural picture frame, focusing in on her upper body.

She was looking distractedly at a small flower in the distant garden, and she could clearly see each vein in its petals. Then, she moved her gaze to the wings of a nearby bee.

She could see the fast fluttering wings of the bee with ease but didn't notice the many guys who were standing on the road below her window gazing up at her beauty.

"Su Han!"

Hao Ren's voice sounded outside her door.

Su Han finally gathered her thoughts. With a wave of her right hand, she released a surge of nature essence to open the energy sphere at the door.

In a simple white shirt, Hao Ren walked in with a shy smile.

The sunlight shone on the floor from the window, and the reflecting light rested on the door, making him look exceptionally clean and crisp.

"Here you are. Let's go." Su Han gave him a slight smile.

It suddenly dawned on her that it was her first time waiting for a man.

Seeing Su Han's face disappearing from the window, the guys who were standing on the road were disappointed.

"Yeah! Let's go!" Hao Ren nodded.

Su Han stood up gracefully. She waved her hand and put out the sandalwood incense on her desk before walking to the door.

Shoulder to shoulder, they walked from the corridor to the stairs, then down the stairs and into the hall.

Those guys who were about to leave the grounds of the Administration Building looked astonished when they saw Hao Ren and Su Han walk out together.

"Gen-level, not bad." Ignoring the gazes from the male students and even some male teachers, Su Han said as she walked alongside Hao Ren.

"What are the levels of the cultivators who will be attending the exams?" Hao Ren asked.

"At least Gen-level. At your previous realm, you could only watch. But now, you have better odds," Su Han continued coldly.

In reality, she had been secretly astonished when she found out that Hao Ren had reached Gen-level.

She had thought that his talent was ordinary, and his future would be limited. Therefore, she didn't have high expectations of him.

In her opinion, it was extraordinary of Hao Ren to reach Zhen-level, and she had never expected that he could reach Gen-level just a few days before the exams of the Dragon God Shrine.

Now, she saw Hao Ren in a new light.

The cultivation speed of Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was slow, but it could significantly improve one's body type by balancing the five elemental essences in the body and making it the natural physique for cultivation.

Although Hao Ren's elevation speed was not as fast as Su Han's, he would be a top cultivator if he were a member of a comparatively smaller dragon clan and gain a lot of support and resources.

"What are the odds?" Hao Ren leaned toward Su Han and asked.

"Very low," Su Han said.

"Ugh..." After hearing her answer, Hao Ren didn't want to continue the topic since his enthusiasm dampened.

He didn't know that most of the dragon cultivators didn't even have little odds at all.

Some of the dragon cultivators who had cultivated hard for 300 to 400 years attended the exams every year but couldn't get in the top 50, thus were not even qualified to become assisting inspectors!

After cultivating for less than half a year, Hao Ren could enter the exams of the Dragon God Shrine and even easily became an assisting inspector at Su Han's recommendation, which made him a target of jealousy for the cultivators who had never entered the Dragon God Shrine in the past hundreds of years!

For example, Wang Xi, the genius from the Earth-Elemental Dragon Clan on Wuyi Mountain, had reached Dui-Level and got the precious collective recommendation of the elders from the Wuyi Mountain Earth-Elemental Dragon Clan.

While Hao Ren and Su Han talked, they walked toward the main gate of the school while the guys nearby gritted their teeth with jealousy. After all, Hao Ren was so intimate with Su Han, the goddess of the East Ocean University.

Of course, their jealousy gained them nothing; they could only watch Hao Ren and Su Han get into a taxi outside of the school.

“Such an animal!”

All the guys cursed silently as they the watched the taxi leave the main gate

In the East Ocean University, no one had a higher profile than this sophomore, Hao Ren, who drove to school in a fancy car and walked with the beauties. Now, even Su Han went home with him!

At this moment, Hao Ren didn’t care about what these guys were thinking. All he could think about was how he could pass the exams of the Dragon God Shrine.

The taxi entered the Flower City, and Hao Ren followed Su Han into her apartment building.

With only two apartments sharing one floor, this building was quiet and high-end.

Su Han’s neighbor was Lu Qing. Not caring if Lu Qing was home or not, she dug out her key and led Hao Ren into her apartment.

“Our dinner is instant noodles; help yourself,” Su Han said as she pointed at the instant noodles on the table and then the water dispenser in the living room.

Exasperated, Hao Ren wished that he had eaten at school before coming here with Su Han.

It had been a long while since Su Han had lived here. The place was covered in a thin layer of dust, and the air had a dull smell in it.

After entering her bedroom, Su Han rolled up the dusty sheets and pushed it into the closet.

Her clothes that were hanging out on the balcony turned hard from being outside for so long, so Su Han tossed them directly into the washing machine without thinking of soaking them first.

Then, she returned to the living room and sat on the couch before turning on the TV. She glanced at Hao Ren and asked, “What are you waiting for? Let’s have dinner.”

“Well...” Hao Ren sighed helplessly. He walked into the kitchen and opened the window above the sink, crossed Su Han’s bedroom and opened the window on the balcony, and walking into the bathroom and opened the window there as well.

Su Han knew nothing about living life, and she didn’t even think about airing out the room at all!

Then, Hao Ren walked to the washing machine and turned on the water to soak the clothes in it.

After that, he re-entered Su Han's bedroom, took out the sheet and quilt that were almost molding, and hung them on the balcony to air.

Su Han looked at Hao Ren in surprise, not expecting Hao Ren to do these chores.

Under her astonished gaze, Hao Ren picked up the vacuum in the corner, plugged it in, and began cleaning the dust in the apartment after turning it on.

While he was doing this, Hao Ren dumped the rotten food and expired drinks in the fridge into the garbage can and put away the books that were tossed around the room...

Sitting on the couch, Su Han continued to watch him work in a daze until Hao Ren pushed the vacuum to her side and pointed at the couch she was sitting on. She stood up and watched Hao Ren clean the leather couch with a damp rag.

Without using any cultivation techniques, Hao Ren turned Su Han's apartment sparklingly clean.

"Well, the water is ready. Let's eat the instant noodles." Hao Ren cleaned the last door frame with a damp rag before picking up the packages of instant noodles and walking to the water dispenser.

Standing before the couch, Su Han watched Hao Ren in a daze with her eyes wide open.

From beginning to end, Hao Ren ignored her, the owner of the apartment, and cleaned the rooms by himself.

"Two bowls of instant noodles. We just need to wait until they are done." Hao Ren carried two big paper bowls of instant noodles to the tea table before sitting on the couch.

Su Han turned her head slightly and looked at Hao Ren; she was at a loss for words.

Her dazzling presence in the school was all gone.

She didn't even lose her temper when Hao Ren walked into her bedroom without asking her for permission.

If it were before, she would have thrown her white jade sword into the door frame to stop Hao Ren from entering while cutting off some hairs on his forehead.

"The noodles are ready." Hao Ren peeled open the paper lid of one bowl, and the aroma of instant noodles filled the room instantly.

He turned to look at Su Han and asked in bafflement, "Su Han, what are you waiting for?"

"Yeah..." Su Han sat down, still in a daze. Distractedly, she opened the bowl and picked up a pair of disposable chopsticks.

Hao Ren lowered his head and began to munch on the noodles.

With chopsticks in her hand, Su Han looked at Hao Ren thoughtfully before eating the soft noodles in small bites.

Her pretty hair covered half of her cheeks but didn't block her red lips and white teeth. She was beautiful even when she was eating instant noodles.

“Let’s begin the tutoring session after we finish the noodles,” Hao Ren said.

“Ok...” Su Han nodded without thinking.

In the dim room filled with the aroma of the noodles, she didn’t notice that she, who was usually as cold as ice, listened to Hao Ren’s advice obediently.

### **Chapter 390: I Hand My Fate into Your Hands**

“The Dragon God Shrine needs its inspectors to not only have great cultivation strengths but high intelligence as well. An inspector who can’t properly arbitrate disputes can’t be entrusted with important tasks. For example, due to the recent war between the East Ocean Dragon Clan and the West Ocean Dragon Clan near the East Ocean City, I have been demoted.” Su Han said as she patted her lips with a paper towel after finishing eating.

Hao Ren knew that the conflict between the East Ocean Dragon Clan and the West Ocean Dragon Clan was beyond Su Han’s mediation power. However, from the perspective of the Dragon God Shrine, she had to take responsibility for not controlling the escalation of the dispute.

“Are there different levels among the inspectors?” Hao Ren asked.

“There are five levels. The lowest is the assisting inspectors whose term is one year, and they need to be tested each year. It means that they are temporary inspectors who can assist the official inspectors with some tasks but are not qualified to enter the Dragon God Shrine. Official inspectors have a ten-year term, so they are tested every ten years. The official inspectors are divided into four levels. Then according to the different duties, they are also divided into patrolling inspectors and regional inspectors. Like Qing Shaoyang, I was the highest level 4 inspector. However, due to the recent incident, I have been demoted to level 3, and my rights and privileges in the Dragon God Shrine have been significantly reduced,” Su Han explained.

“I see...” Hao Ren began to understand the situation.

The assisting inspectors were like the temporary workers of the Dragon God Shrine; they weren’t in the official headcounts and thus couldn’t enter the Dragon God Shrine, let alone getting access to its resources. The only benefit for them was the gaining of experience and knowledge about the Inspector System.

Despite all this, many dragon cultivators tried to become assisting inspectors. After all, it was one step closer to becoming an official inspector, and they could gain some advantage in the official inspector selection process.

As for the official inspectors, they weren’t worry-free since they needed to be tested every ten years. Although the tests were not an issue for Qian-level and Kun-level masters such as Su Han, the younger official inspectors who were on Xun-level and Dui-level would need to worry about being replaced by stronger new blood if they didn’t make much progress over the years.

Su Han’s demotion from the level 4 to level 3 meant not only a reduction of her rights but a disgrace of honor as well!

Hao Ren could imagine the gloating face of Qin Shaoyang who was now one level higher than Su Han. In the past, he didn't dare to mess with Su Han since he couldn't withstand her anger. But now, he could stay in the East Ocean City since he held more authority over Su Han.

With two official inspectors in the East Ocean City, Qin Shaoyang seemed to be the chief inspector while Su Han was his deputy.

Not wanting to allow Qin Shaoyang to take over her territory and have power over her, Su Han certainly hoped to kick him out again.

"As a level 4 inspector, Qin Shaoyang could have found some ways to disqualify you from entering the exams, but we now have a trump card." Su Han continued.

"Trump card?" Hao Ren asked in bafflement.

"Yeah, we have his natal dharma treasure, and that's why he doesn't dare to mess with us." Su Han nodded.

Hao Ren was not used to hearing 'we' from Su Han's mouth. After all, as a lone wolf, she had never used such words before.

Hao Ren was familiar with the importance of natal dharma treasures which had connections with the owners' spiritual senses and minds. Cultivators could control them at will to unleash their full power and could store them in their bodies.

For this reason, if cultivators' natal dharma treasures were taken, they would not only lose powerful dharma treasures. On top of that, a portion of their cultivation strengths would be grasped by the people who seized their treasures.

If the natal dharma treasures were destroyed, the spiritual senses the owners stored in them would be wiped out, thus resulting in a significant decline of the owners' cultivation strengths. If the owners were in danger or a fierce battle, the sudden decrease of cultivation strengths would be deadly.

That was why Qin Shaoyang didn't dare to play any tricks to stop Hao Ren from entering the exams of the Dragon God Shrine.

Otherwise, with his level 4 title, he would have canceled the recommendation Su Han made to the Dragon God Shrine as she was one level lower than him.

"With his natal dharma treasure in my hands, if he makes any moves against us, I can destroy his natal dharma treasure at any time. However, I can only hold the threat over him until the beginning of the exams," Su Han said in a low voice.

"Why?" Hao Ren asked immediately.

"Because... Qin Shaoyang is the chief examiner of the exams," Su Han said lightly.

"Huh?" Hao Ren was surprised.



“In the combat exams, 16 level 4 inspectors are responsible for four sections. As level 4 inspectors, Qin Shaoyang and I were both supposed to be the examiners. However, since I got demoted, I couldn’t take on the position anymore.”

Su Han paused for a second before continuing, “But Qin Shaoyang is still an examiner who is responsible for judging the results of the competitions and maintaining order. As a chief examiner, he must have his natal dharma treasure. Since I don’t want to report the conflict between us to the Dragon God Shrine, I will have to return his natal dharma treasure by that time.”

“Ok...” Hao Ren nodded his head slowly. Su Han had done everything she could. Besides, she sounded quite helpless at the fact that she was demoted.

If Su Han had been the chief examiner, Hao Ren, as her assisting inspector, would have some advantage over others. Now... Su Han just hoped that he wouldn’t be in the group Qin Shaoyang was in charge of.

“Let’s get to business. First, you must pass the written exam on the first day.” Inhaling deeply, Su Han opened her storage ring and took out a heavy law book.

The law book was at least 30 centimeters thick and 80 centimeters wide, much bigger than any dictionaries Hao Ren had ever seen!

“You have four days to memorize this handbook,” Su Han said lightly.

“Hand... Handbook!” Hao Ren almost spat out blood. He had an excellent memory before, and he obtained photographic memory after cultivating. However, could this giant book be called a handbook?

“Everything that inspectors need to know is in here. The written exam will test you on the concepts in this book,” Su Han said.

“Any key points?” Hao Ren asked her and hoped for a good answer.

“No.” Su Han shook her head.

Seeing his disappointment, Su Han continued, “This handbook for inspectors is sealed by a special array, which means that the moment you turn a page, the content on it will disappear. In other words, you can only read it once. Therefore, it doesn’t really matter when you get it. In fact, I think it is better for you to read it just before the exam.”

Speechless, Hao Ren looked at her and thought, “You mean you are doing me a favor by giving me the book so late?”

He guessed that only the Dragon God Shrine could think of such a strange way of testing.

At this thought, Hao Ren asked her, “Do you remember all the content in the book?”

Su Han shook her head.

“Ugh...” Hao Ren immediately asked, “Then, how did you pass the exam?”

Su Han thought for a moment before answering earnestly, “I don’t remember.”

“Ugh...” Hao Ren was exasperated with her.

“I’ll read this book with you. For each of the four nights starting today, we will read one-fourth of it. Hopefully, we can finish it by Friday,” Su Han said.

Hao Ren looked at her and nodded. He couldn’t back out now. After all, becoming an official inspector would benefit himself, Su Han, and the East Ocean Dragon Clan.

On second thought, he knew that studying with such a beauty like Su Han was something many guys would die for.

If the guys at school heard about this, Zhou Liren would be so jealous that he would want to stomp Hao Ren to death.

“I’ll go take a shower and change into my pajamas. If you can, you may make some late-night snacks.” Su Han stood up from the couch and walked to her bedroom.

She had never thought that she would stay up all night with a man. But now, she had to put all her hopes on a man who was only at Gen-level!

If Hao Ren could make it into the top ten, she would be able to find a way to move him to the East Ocean City and squeeze Qin Shaoyang out.

She could only continue her cultivation in peace and charge at the peak of Qian-level with the eyesore, Qin Shaoyang, gone.

Subconsciously, she had placed her future in Hao Ren’s hands!

She had never cared so much about a man’s success or tried so hard to help a man make progress!

For Hao Ren, she even temporarily paused her cultivation for a few days, which was unthinkable and unimaginable in the past.

When Su Han went into her bedroom to change into her pajamas, Hao Ren walked into the kitchen to prepare late-night snacks. Meanwhile, Xie Yujia who was in her dorm room got a phone call from an unknown number.

“Hello?” She answered it.

“Are you Xie Yujia?” An impolite voice sounded through her cell phone.

“Yeah. It’s me.” Xie Yujia walked to the balcony of the dorm room with her cell phone. “Are you Zi?”

“Humph!” The clear voice paused for half a second. “Uncle told me that if I want to go to Fifth Heaven, I can go with you. Where is he?”

“I don’t know where he is. But do you want to go to Fifth Heaven now?” Xie Yujia asked.

“Little White is at your place. I’ll get to the gate of your school in half an hour. After reaching the Foundation Establishment Realm, I must cultivate harder. I’m not like you! Humph!”

With a click, the phone call ended.

Standing on the balcony, Xie Yujia was a little angry with Zhao Yanzi’s tone.

But on second thought, since Hao Ren asked her to take care of Zhao Yanzi, she calmed down and controlled her mood.

“But... Where is Hao Ren...?” Xie Yujia looked up at the moon and thought.