

Dragon King 501

Chapter 501: The Taste of First Love~~

Returning to the palace, Zhao Kuo needed to rest and recover his strength.

After helping Zhao Kuo stabilize his mystic crystal, Hao Ren took an amount of nature essence from the mystic crystal and needed some time to settle it down.

“Brother, congratulations!”

Standing at the gate of the palace, Zhao Guang greeted Zhao Kuo in happiness.

With the mystic crystal in his body, Zhao Kuo emitted an extraordinary presence with nature essence all over his body.

Usually, the simpler the cultivator’s elemental attribute was, the easier the process of planting mystic crystal.

For Su Han who had both metal and water attributes, it was difficult for her to find a proper mystic crystal and complicated for her to use it.

If not for his previous experience of planting the mystic crystal, Zhao Kuo probably couldn’t have succeeded in using the Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus which had five-elemental nature essences.

In fact, during the entire day when he used the mystic crystal, Zhao Kuo was in danger multiple times! Each time, Elder Xingyue helped him and solved the problems for him.

However, no one knew if the mystic crystals with more elemental attributes were more powerful than those with only one element.

The great increase in Zhao Kuo’s strength that came after he used the mystic crystal was because the Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus was one of the best mystic crystals instead of the fact that it contained five elements.

“Third Uncle, I told you that you would be OK!” Zhao Yanzi rushed into the palace and said happily.

“Hehe, your third uncle is a lucky man. How could anything happen to me?” Zhao Kuo said heartily.

He glanced at Hao Ren who came in with Zhao Yanzi and said, “Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus is indeed a grand mystic crystal. If I can find another one, I’ll bring it to you!”

He didn’t expect Hao Ren to reach Dui-level and didn’t think he needed a mystic crystal. However, Hao Ren’s performance had astonished him, giving him a vague hope that this young man would one day become a master.

Especially when Hao Ren practiced the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll with him a moment ago. He was afraid that Hao Ren, a Gen-level cultivator, wouldn’t be able to withstand the suppression of his nature essence. However, Hao Ren absorbed all the extra nature essence to his surprise.

Zhao Kuo didn't know that the old Grandma who was a Soul Formation Realm cultivator had injected a trace of vital energy of nature into Hao Ren's body, and it even stored Zhao Haoran's 1,000 years of cultivation strength, not to mention the small amount of energy from the mystic crystal.

Zhao Kuo felt like he owed Hao Ren a favor for taking the Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus which Hao Ren could also use. However, his usage of the mystic crystal was, in fact, opening a way for Hao Ren in the future, and he wondered if there was another Seven-Core Five-Color Lotus in the world.

"Ok! I'm glad you'd do that for me!" Hao Ren answered brightly.

"Brother, you are tired. Go and rest," Zhao Guang patted Zhao Kuo on the shoulder and said with concern.

"Ok!" Zhao Kuo turned and entered the palace. In the massive Summer Palace, there was a special cultivation place and bedroom for Zhao Kuo.

Standing by Zhao Hongyu's side, Elder Xingyue watched Zhao Kuo strode away with a trace of helplessness in her eyes.

"Ren, you should go and rest too. You've done a lot," Zhao Guang looked at Hao Ren and said.

"Ok." Hao Ren nodded, expecting Premier Xia to show him the way.

However, Zhao Hongyu said, "Why don't you share a room with Zi?"

"What?!" Zhao Yanzi froze for a moment and yelled in protest, "Mom!"

She had grown more attached to Hao Ren recently and was jealous during the days when Hao Ren kept Xie Yujia company in the U.S.

However, when Zhao Hongyu told them to share a room, she was resistant.

Is there anything wrong with what I said?" Zhao Hongyu glanced at her helplessly before looking at Hao Ren. "The Grade Nine courses are tough. Can you help her out by tutoring her for a bit?"

"I will, Auntie," Hao Ren agreed with pleasure.

Recently, while Zhao Yanzi lived in the palace and he stayed in the forest, they didn't spend long periods of time together. The only time they met was when they joined forces to fight Zhao Kuo each day, and they had grown closer to each other while they worked on their sword techniques together.

Zhao Yanzi pouted but didn't dare to say more.

When they entered Zhao Yanzi's bedroom, Hao Ren shut the door after him.

"What... are you trying to do?" Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren warily.

"Don't you shut the door when you enter a room?" Hao Ren asked before opening the windows facing the ocean.

It was a great pleasure in seeing the sceneries outside from inside the palace.

The ocean breeze blew in from the windows, bringing a chill and comfortable feeling. Even though the sky had been filled with gales and dark clouds only a moment ago, it was all calm now.

“Hey.” Zhao Yanzi turned suddenly and bumped Hao Ren’s belly with her elbow. “Elder Lu said the demon beasts all came from the Demon Sea. Why don’t we go there and play for a bit?”

“Demon Sea?” Hao Ren looked at her with a weird expression. “You?”

“Humph! What do you mean?” Zhao Yanzi wrinkled her nose and snorted.

“When you reach the Core Formation Realm, I’ll take you there,” Hao Ren said.

“Oh... You better promise!” Zhao Yanzi grabbed the opportunity to make him promise.

“I promise. I promise...” Exasperated, Hao Ren pulled over an antique armchair and sat down.

On the exquisite wooden desk were Grade Nine textbooks.

“Have you read them all?” Hao Ren turned his head and asked her.

“Mostly. They are not difficult!” Zhao Yanzi said.

Hao Ren nodded and knew she wasn’t boasting. As one of the best middle schools in East Ocean City, LingZhao Middle School had a tight schedule and taught some concepts that belonged to Grade Nine in Grade Eight. For example, Chemistry was a class that only were taught to Grade Nine students everywhere else at East Ocean City, but LingZhao Middle School had it in Grade Eight.

Such a tight schedule was a bit hard for lazy students like Zhao Yanzi.

However, due to this tight schedule, Grade Nine was comparatively easier since they would spend the whole year reviewing and preparing for the high school entrance exam.

Math, Physics, Chemistry, English... While Hao Ren flipped through the textbooks, Zhao Yanzi sat down beside him and waited patiently.

She got ranked no.3 in the class this time, and it was mainly because of Hao Ren. That was why she no longer doubted Hao Ren’s tutoring ability.

Zhao Hongyu brought her Grade Nine textbooks to learn during the summer in the hope that she wouldn’t lag during the new school year. To maintain her academic performance, Zhao Yanzi could only rely on Hao Ren.

Not used to Zhao Yanzi’s good behavior, Hao Ren felt a bit strange.

He had complicated feelings for Zhao Yanzi. Although he liked her a lot, he also felt weird to be with a young girl from middle school.

While Zhao Yanzi sat quietly by his side, a delicate fragrance unique to girls of her age permeated the surroundings.

The palace was built in ancient times. In those times, girls married at Zhao Yanzi’s age.

Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren quietly, thinking that he was a nice guy. However, she couldn't help messing with him, especially when he was with Xie Yujia...

Now, she thought it felt nice to have Hao Ren sit by her side and read books in all seriousness.

Except for the time when they just met, Zhao Yanzi never regarded Hao Ren as a university student after she got to know him better.

Hao Ren felt like a high school student who was only one or two years older than her to her. His shyness, pure mind, carefulness with feelings, the youthful face which showed every emotion he had...

Subconsciously, Zhao Yanzi leaned into Hao Ren's arms. Instead of pushing her away, Hao Ren brought his arm around her waist, holding her lightly while he continued to flip through the books.

Zhao Yanzi's middle school textbooks were a bit different from those of Hao Ren's, which was why Hao Ren had to study them carefully before he could tutor her.

With a racing heart, Zhao Yanzi lifted her head slightly and looked up at Hao Ren's face.

She blushed slightly with a sense of happiness.

Young girls her age liked to fantasize. Although Zhao Yanzi called him 'Uncle' from time to time, she never regarded him as an Uncle. Instead, Hao Ren was a typical handsome boy in her mind.

While time ticked on, Zhao Yanzi felt cozy leaning lazily in Hao Ren's arms. Like a kitten lying in her master's arms, she didn't want to move.

However, Hao Ren stretched his body and exhaled deeply. "Done."

"Oh..." Zhao Yanzi looked up at him.

With her back against Hao Ren's chest, she felt warm and comfortable.

Hao Ren placed his hands on her delicate shoulders and pushed her up while he looked out of the window. "It's almost time for bed."

"I need to change into my pajamas. You can bath outside!" Zhao Yanzi's blush disappeared, and she yelled at Hao Ren.

"Got it... Why are you so mad...?" Baffled, Hao Ren stood up and walked out of the room.

In the yard outside of the palace was an ancient well.

Hao Ren drew up a bucket of water and washed his body. Then, he circulated the fire-elemental nature essence and dried his body and clothes up.

When he returned to Zhao Yanzi's room, she was already in bed wearing her strawberry pajamas.

"She brought everything here, including her pajamas..." Looking around and finding no place to sleep, he walked to the bed and asked, "Where should I sleep?"

Zhao Yanzi got angry instantly at this question. She just thought he was simple-minded, but now he looked like an idiot.

The Summer Palace was not as big as the East Ocean Dragon Palace, and the room allocated to Zhao Yanzi was far smaller than her bedroom in the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

Likewise, the bed was smaller too.

Chapter 502: Jerk...

"I haven't slept well this month. Maybe... Can I sleep here?" Hao Ren looked at the bed and asked.

During the last 30 days, Hao Ren lived in a small hut in Purple Bamboo Forest. It couldn't keep out wind or rain, and there wasn't even a bed. He had to sleep on dried grasses.

Hao Ren lived an ascetic lifestyle for a month, not to mention the fierce battle he had with Zhao Kuo during the day. Therefore, he was utterly exhausted now and just wanted to have a good sleep on a nice bed.

"You... jerk." Zhao Yanzi turned around with her eyes wide-opened.

In fact, she didn't know where Hao Ren should sleep either. However, she knew Hao Ren had a tough month and wanted to let him rest well.

"Not refusing means you agree," Hao Ren smiled as he looked into Zhao Yanzi's eyes. He grabbed the blanket and got on the bed.

His body and clothes were clean and would not stain Zhao Yanzi's bed sheets.

"You..." Zhao Yanzi didn't know what to say as Hao Ren got onto her bed. She moved and made some space for Hao Ren.

She was always gloating over Hao Ren's misfortune on the surface, but she was worried about Hao Ren when he had to sleep in the woods while it was windy and rainy outside.

Hao Ren got onto the bed and stretched his legs.

Zhao Yanzi who was about to enter Grade 9 was still growing. Therefore, when Hao Ren laid down sideways behind her, her feet were touching Hao Ren's knees.

As Hao Ren's right arm was initially resting between his belly and Zhao Yanzi's back, he wasn't comfortable. Therefore, he put his arm in front of Zhao Yanzi's belly and tested her reaction.

Zhao Yanzi's heart was beating very fast.

After all, they had more sweet moments with each other than arguing. Maybe Hao Ren was insensitive about those moments, but Zhao Yanzi did find it sweet when she recalled those memories.

Hao Ren was as insensitive as a high-school kid. However, Zhao Yanzi liked him that way. The feelings they had when they were with each other were very pure, very clear, much like the definition of first love at her age.

As a matter of fact, Hao Ren was nervous when he moved his arm. Zhao Yanzi was wearing cotton pajamas, and Hao Ren put his arm across her waist and stretched it out. After relaxing his arm, his elbow gently pressed against her small waist.

Hao Ren wasn't trying to take advantage of her. It was way too uncomfortable to put his arm in front of himself when he was lying sideways.

Then, Hao Ren slightly bent his legs and left arm before placing his left arm on the pillow and resting his head on it. Finally, he was comfortable.

Zhao Yanzi's ears were completely red. She thought that it wasn't appropriate for Hao Ren to do that, so she raised her right hand and grabbed Hao Ren's right arm.

Hao Ren's arm was heavier than she thought. The moment she grabbed Hao Ren's hand, her hand was caught by Hao Ren before she had a chance to throw it back.

Uh... Zhao Yanzi was flustered, and all strength left her body as Hao Ren held her hand.

Hao Ren could never understand a teenage girl's eagerness to fall in love. The moment her hand got held by Hao Ren, Zhao Yanzi's mind went to a complete mess, and she started panting.

"What are you doing..." Hao Ren complained.

"You..." Zhao Yanzi gritted her teeth.

"Jerk, jerk, jerk..."

Zhao Yanzi said that over 100 times in her mind. However, she did not make a huge reaction, physically.

When Hao Ren laid his arm across Zhao Yanzi's waist, symbolically hugging her from behind, his mind was struggling as well. As a matter of fact, he liked Zhao Yanzi, especially when she snuggled into his arms. The happiness he felt was as if he was a high-school kid and being in a relationship with Zhao Yanzi.

"I don't know what my mom is going to think if she knows we are doing this," Zhao Yanzi suddenly said.

"What will she think?" Hao Ren asked her intentionally.

Zhao Yanzi pinched Hao Ren's hand twice as a punishment. However, this little act caused Hao Ren's hand to move closer to Zhao Yanzi's belly. He could even feel the warmth of her body through the pajamas.

Hao Ren's slightly movement caused Zhao Yanzi to move her body toward him more. Her shoulders and back moved closer to Hao Ren's chest as if she were being held in his arms.

"Have you... ever done this... with Xie Yujia?" Zhao Yanzi asked hesitantly.

"No," Hao Ren replied immediately.

Even though he was holding Zhao Yanzi, he did not have any wicked thoughts as he thought she was very young. Yet, an indescribable feeling of trust and warmth slowly sprouted like a seed.

It was like two middle-schoolers who were caught in their first love. An intimate hug was already enough to make them happy and nervous.

“Then... Lu Linlin and Lu Lili?” Zhao Yanzi continued to ask.

“That...” Hao Ren could not answer.

“I knew it.” Zhao Yanzi smacked Hao Ren’s hand twice heavily.

“Hey, hey, hey...” Hao Ren immediately tried to pull his hand, but Zhao Yanzi grabbed his arm and refused to let him go.

It was at this moment, Zhao Yanzi moved even closer into Hao Ren’s arms and was wrapped up in his arms and legs.

“Do you hate me?” Hao Ren wrapped his arm around her waist and asked.

“Who...” Zhao Yanzi stopped for a second, “I don’t like you anyways.”

“Who do you like then?” Hao Ren persisted.

“I like... Xie Xiaofeng from our high-school,” Zhao Yanzi answered.

Although he knew she was speaking nonsense, Hao Ren couldn’t help but feel jealous. He grabbed her small hands and asked, “Really?”

“Huh, yes,” Zhao Yanzi pulled her hand away, which caused Hao Ren’s arm to touch her chest.

Soft... A pleasant sensation came back from Hao Ren’s arm.

Zhao Yanzi didn’t wear anything under her pajamas, and the pajamas were made out of a very soft, light, cotton material... Zhao Yanzi was flustered, and her face immediately turned red.

Then, she felt Hao Ren’s chin resting on her shoulder, and his short beard was poking around her neck as she was being held even tighter.

She was shy and blushing, but she was also nervous that Hao Ren’s hand was going to do something else.

Zhao Yanzi was definitely sure that Hao Ren really liked her as he naturally held her in his arms.

“Um...” Hao Ren snorted deeply.

Zhao Yanzi turned around slightly and saw that Hao Ren... had fallen asleep.

Chapter 503: I Didn’t Let You Hold Me!

Zhao Yanzi slightly moved her shoulder.

She was being held tightly by Hao Ren, and her body was very warm.

Hao Ren's right arm that was originally resting on her waist was now laying on her chest through her armpit. Although his arm was only lightly resting on her chest, his thumb was still pressing against her chest.

The rhythm of Hao Ren's breathing passed through Zhao Yanzi's ears, and his strong thighs were supporting Zhao Yanzi's butt. She let Hao Ren hold her tightly as she was afraid to move.

The sound of ocean waves came from outside.

A cool breeze entered the room through the window.

The ocean, dawn, peace, warmth... all the elements of romanticism.

"Jerk..." Zhao Yanzi looked down at Hao Ren's hand that was resting on her chest and complained in her mind.

Hao Ren had been cultivating very hard for many days, not to mention that he also had a fierce fight with Zhao Kuo before he read through all the textbooks. The moment he got into a comfortable bed, all his exhaustion exploded instantly as he was completely burnt out.

Therefore, Zhao Yanzi could understand Hao Ren. What Hao Ren was doing was similar to how she held her teddy bear while falling asleep.

In the past, if a boy dared to touch her, she would have exploded right away.

However, the feeling was different when Hao Ren held her.

Even Zhao Yanzi didn't know how to describe it.

He was always wearing a clean white shirt, and his smile was always silly but pure. He was smart, but he never had malicious intent. Also, he could always solve every problem he faced, and he was always patiently helping her with schoolwork. In addition, he could play sports as if he was on fire when he got serious.

Everything about Hao Ren matched Prince Charming in Zhao Yanzi's fantasy

"Do I like Hao Ren because of these things about him? Or do I see these things because I like him?" Zhao Yanzi wondered as she listened to the waves from the outside, moved gently to the side, and put her head on Hao Ren's arm.

"Um... Uh..." Hao Ren mumbled.

Zhao Yanzi woke him up when she moved while in his arms.

Zhao Yanzi's face suddenly turned red.

The moment Hao Ren opened his eyes, Zhao Yanzi suddenly broke free from his arms and jumped up.

"You... you... who said you could hold me?"

She reacted angrily and fiercely as if she did not know that she had been held by Hao Ren all night. She gritted her teeth and acted like she was about to kill him.

Hao Ren looked at her in confusion. Then, he rubbed his neck and chest before he smelled a sweet scent from his palm.

Zhao Yanzi's cheek got even redder immediately. She pulled out the longsword that was hanging on the side of the bed and yelled, "I am going to kill you! I can't believe you dared to hold me while I was asleep!"

Before Hao Ren figured out what was going on, Zhao Yanzi slashed at him with the sword.

Such a spoiled princess!

Slash! The blanket was cut into halves by Zhao Yanzi's longsword, and Hao Ren quickly dodged.

"Wait, wait. I didn't do anything!" Hao Ren immediately rushed out of bed and explained.

"You, you dare to talk back?!" Zhao Yanzi recalled what happened during the night and opened her eyes wide. At first, she was just trying to hide her panic and gain back her proudness by reacting fiercely. However, she did get a little angry after seeing how Hao Ren looked naive.

Shoo, shoo, shoo...

She slashed at Hao Ren three times in a row.

Hao Ren who wasn't wearing any shoes dodged immediately.

"Come on, my dear fiancée. I was too tired last night, and I fell asleep right away. I didn't know what happened..." Hao Ren thought, "If she becomes my wife in the future, how am I going to live with her if she does this every day?! Perhaps I am going to be beheaded in my sleep!"

Hao Ren was dumbfounded as he saw Zhao Yanzi slashing at him fiercely.

He couldn't remember what happened last night after falling asleep while holding Zhao Yanzi in his arm. All he knew was that the sleep was exceptionally comfortable.

Ding! Ding!

Hao Ren released two sword energies from his fingers and fended off Zhao Yanzi's sword.

Zhao Yanzi was at mid-tier Foundation Establishment Realm. On the other hand, Hao Ren was at mid-tier Gen-level. Of course, he was way stronger than Zhao Yanzi.

Right now, he was worried that she was going to get her third uncle's attention since she was making a big fuss. He was going to be in big trouble if Zhao Kuo came over.

"Stop it!" Hao Ren grabbed Zhao Yanzi's small wrists with both of his hands.

Zhao Yanzi struggled and tried to kick Hao Ren in the stomach.

Hao Ren turned her around with little effort and put her arms into a cross as her back was facing toward Hao Ren.

"I was only trying to find somewhere comfortable to sleep. I didn't do anything, did I?" Hao Ren asked as he looked at his clothes and Zhao Yanzi's and noticed that the clothes were still tidy. He guessed that he didn't do anything bad to her last night.

"Humph! I woke up and found you holding me!" Zhao Yanzi said angrily.

"Oh, come on, all I did was hold you in my arms. You don't have to make a big deal out of it," Hao Ren thought. However, he didn't dare to say that out loud since girls thought differently compared to guys.

"I will not sleep with you again, okay?" Hao Ren said helplessly.

"That..." Zhao Yanzi didn't know what to say in reply; that wasn't what she wanted at all...

"I am going to work out and wake up myself!" Hao Ren let go of Zhao Yanzi's hands and walked out of her room.

"Stupid, stupid, stupid..." Zhao Yanzi looked at the view of his back and thought to herself.

Hao Ren walked outside and let out a long sigh.

In fact, he did remember what happened before he fell asleep. Although Zhao Yanzi was still growing and a bit skinny, some parts of her body were more mature.

"I'm too bad..." Hao Ren patted his chest and walked out of the palace quickly.

It was impossible to have no thoughts at all. However, Hao Ren was considered a nerd since he only dared to think but never dared to act. Since Zhao Yanzi was still young and was moody, Hao Ren couldn't try to do anything at all.

Hao Ren ran to the old well and drenched himself with a bucket of cold water, clearing all the dirty thoughts out of his head.

"Zhao Yanzi is my only fiancée in name. After this summer, she is going into Grade Nine, which means that she is going to be busy studying for her exams..." Hao Ren thought.

Hao Ren poured another bucket of cold water on himself.

After Hao Ren got wet from head to toe, he threw the bucket away and ran to the bottom of the hill.

On the beach, three golden-armored generals were leading their soldiers and practicing their formations.

"Morning, Commanding General!"

The generals saw Hao Ren, marched toward him, and gave him a proper salute.

"Continue," Hao Ren waved his hand and started running around the island.

Without the weight of the 30 big tires, Hao Ren felt much lighter when he ran. Within a month, his strength had grown drastically, which was beneficial for his future cultivation.

Dragon cultivators didn't only rely on nature essence when they were in battle; they also relied on close-range combats and martial arts. That was why this training was effective.

Hao Ren ran as fast as the wind. In a blink of an eye, he arrived at the back of the island.

Wah, wah, wah...

The sound of gigantic waves passed through a small forest into Hao Ren's ears.

Hao Ren walked through the forest and saw Zhao Kuo's 1280 sword energies lining up like huge warships and flying toward the ocean, making huge waves.

Zhao Kuo had his eyes covered with a black cloth. As he slightly pointed his finger upward, the 1280 sword energies that were flying horizontally above the ocean suddenly flew toward the sky.

All these sword energies kept a fixed distance from each other. They formed a magnificent and colorful light wall as they flew upward.

As Zhao Kuo slightly turned his finger, the sword energies changed their direction and started rotating in an eight-trigram formation.

Boom, boom, boom...

A giant water beams rose from the ocean surface and went through the center of the array.

The 1280 sword essences suddenly spread towards all directions. The water that was attracted by the sword essences followed and dashed everywhere.

Whoosh!

In an instant, a thin layer of 'water membrane' that covered a few thousand square kilometers was formed.

As Zhao Kuo withdrew all the sword energies, the 'water membrane' collapsed, and it suddenly started raining within the area.

Hao Ren stared at Zhao Kuo and forgot about running.

Wa, wa, wa...

A little bit of the ocean water sprinkled onto Hao Ren's head.

A few thousand square kilometers, Purple Bamboo Island included, was drenched in water.

Hao Ren finally woke up from the shock and looked at Zhao Kuo admiringly. As expected, only masters like Zhao Kuo could have such power!

Just when Hao Ren was absent-minded, he was surrounded by the 1280 sword energies.

"Third Uncle is mighty!" Hao Ren said immediately.

"Hahaha," Zhao Kuo laughed as all the sword energies shrunk and returned to his right palm.

He untied the black cloth and shook his body, and the water that fell on his body turned into water vapor and disappeared.

“When I master the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, I can probably even fend off the heavenly lightning bolts!” Zhao Kuo grabbed a long robe and put it on.

“Third Uncle’s use of Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll is way stronger than mine,” Hao Ren said.

“Your sword array formations aren’t bad. However, you don’t have enough sword energies. With further training, you might be able to have the power that can destroy heaven and earth,” Zhao Kuo said.

Zhao Kuo didn’t like sticking to rigid array formations. He had been through many battles and were much more experience on array formations compared to Hao Ren. In his eyes, Hao Ren’s sword array formations were powerful, but they lacked in agility and variations.

“Uncle’s sword array formation is more flexible than mine,” Hao Ren smiled and said.

“Kid, you sure do know how to flatter others.”

Zhao Kuo took a glance at Hao Ren and continued, “The sword technique that you used to defeat me isn’t from Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll. Did you get it from my dad?”

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: Mystic Water Sword Techniques – Power of 1,000-Year Cultivation Strength

Knowing that he couldn’t hide it from Zhao Kuo, Hao Ren thought for a second then nodded. “It was left to me by the Old Dragon King.”

He looked to Zhao Kuo again and stated frankly, “Third Uncle, if you’re interested, you can have it.”

“What would I want it for!?” Zhao Kuo stared at Hao Ren and scolded, “The old man must have his reasons for leaving it to you and not me. Do you expect me to fight over something with a kid like you?”

“Uh...” Getting scolded by Zhao Kuo for being bold and generous, Hao Ren surely was at a loss for words.

On the other hand, even though Zhao Kuo had no particular intention in making such a remark, Hao Ren found meaning in it on his own.

Before, he did not think much of the whole situation. But upon hearing Zhao Kuo's words, he felt that he had gained some insight.

"Perhaps these sword techniques have to be paired with Zhao Haoran's 1,000-year cultivation strength?" he thought.

Zhao Hongyu had said that a technique that was stored in a jade slip wouldn't be a simple technique. Yet, when Hao Ren practiced the sword techniques, he only found them to be mystic and nature essence-consuming. They weren't that fierce...

"Maybe the potential of this set of sword techniques could really only be revealed when the practitioner is on the same level as Zhao Haoran?" Hao Ren thought, "If that is the case, then this would certainly be no ordinary technique, and the decision to transfer all of his power to me must have been carefully thought through and premeditated."

Hao Ren felt touched when he realized how highly Zhao Haoran thought of him. He thought it was a pity that he had not officially become Zhao Haoran's grandson-in-law, yet Zhao Haoran had already vanished from this world.

"What are you looking at? We're heading back!" Seeing that Hao Ren was lost in his own thoughts, Zhao Kuo grabbed him by his clothes, soared into the sky, and headed back to the palace at once.

At this time, Zhao Guang, Zhao Hongyu, Zhao Yanzi, and some elders were having breakfast in the palace. Zhao Yanzi was eating silently as if she was immersed in her own thoughts.

"Zi, how are you doing with your preparations for Grade Nine?" Zhao Hongyu asked.

"Ah... oh..." It took Zhao Yanzi a few seconds to react. "I've gone through most of it."

"Good," Zhao Hongyu nodded her head approvingly. "There's less than half of a month left before the start of your new school yet. If there's anything that you don't understand, make sure to ask Ren about it. You'll be entering Grade Nine soon, and you can't afford to lose focus."

Recalling the incident from last night, a hint of unnoticeable glow appeared on Zhao Yanzi's face, and she couldn't help but protest. "Mom, why must I study so hard!?"

"Learning the common way of life is also a type of cultivation. If you can't even be good at being a mortal, how can you be a good cultivator?" Zhao Hongyu asserted.

Pouting, Zhao Yanzi knew she could never win a debate against Zhao Hongyu and could only give up resisting.

"Big brother!" At this time, Zhao Kuo rushed in. "I'm leaving today!"

Since Zhao Kuo had a voice like a foghorn, Zhao Guang and the others who were focused on their meal had been rattled by his remark. With no regards to Hao Ren's pride, Zhao Kuo dropped Hao Ren off as if he was a little chicken.

With a couple of grains of rice stuck to the corner of her lips, Zhao Yanzi looked away as soon as she noticed Hao Ren's presence and pretended to be still angry.

Accompanying Zhao Hongyu for breakfast, Elder Xingyue looked to Zhao Kuo in surprise.

"Today?" Zhao Guang asked with a shred of doubt.

"Now!" Zhao Kuo nodded determinedly.

Zhao Guang knew that Zhao Kuo was destined to travel again since he had finished using the mystic crystal, but he didn't expect Zhao Kuo to be so impatient.

He thought Zhao Kuo would at least stay for a few more days to spend some time with Elder Xingyue.

Since Elder Xingyue had to stay behind in East Ocean Dragon Palace to coach the female cultivators, there was no way she could leave with him.

"Let me... seeing you off." Elder Xingyue said as she slowly got up.

"Thanks... Elder Xingyue." Zhao Kuo responded as he briefly cupped his hands before his chest.

Standing by Zhao Kuo, even Hao Ren wanted to smack him in the head. However, after thinking about the distance between their respective realms, Hao Ren gave up on that idea.

Even Hao Ren couldn't withstand Zhao Kuo's timidity and cowardice toward his relationship with Elder Xingyue. However, Zhao Kuo's pursuit had always been the Heavenly Dragon Realm, and a romantic relationship was just not his priority.

After blankly watching the two of them walk out of the palace, the people in the palace couldn't help but let out faint sighs.

"Ren, come join us for breakfast." Zhao Guang waved at Hao Ren.

"Sure..." After sitting down, Hao Ren picked up a bowl of rice and began devouring it instantaneously.

For the past month, he had never had a decent meal. He could only chew on small berries when he was hungry and drink rainwater when he was thirsty. Even though the palace was only a few hundred steps away from Purple Bamboo Forest, he never gave in to the arduous conditions and didn't try to sneak into the palace.

Glaring at him, Zhao Yanzi was angry and anxious. Soon, she looked away and turned toward the door of the palace instead; she began to miss Zhao Kuo already. Since she was sad about Zhao Haoran's death, she now felt truly alone with Zhao Kuo leaving.

Ever since Zhao Yanzi was a child, Zhao Kuo had always been spoiling her. As a result, Zhao Yanzi was very close and attached to him. Now that Zhao Kuo had left after only being back for a short while, Zhao Yanzi felt a little hollow.

Moments later, Elder Xingyue returned to the palace.

"Is he gone?" Zhao Guang asked.

"He's gone," Elder Xingyue replied calmly.

Zhao Guang nodded pitifully.

Hao Ren also secretly sighed. Zhao Kuo was a tough man after all, decisive and straightforward even when leaving.

Zhao Yanzi quickly got up and rushed out of the door. However, Zhao Kuo was nowhere to be found.

At Zhao Kuo's speed, he was already thousands of kilometers away.

"Ren, you can tutor Zi on her schoolwork today. We'll be heading back tomorrow," Zhao Hongyu said.

"Ok, Auntie." Hao Ren agreed with a nod of his head.

Since he also needed to go to Beijing to watch Zhao Jiayi's basketball game, tomorrow would be a good time to leave.

With her pouty lips, Zhao Yanzi began counting the dates with her fingers; there were less than two weeks left of summer break. The best days she could have before starting Grade Nine were about to pass her by just like that.

With that being said, there would be a small surprise by the time school began, and it seemed like Hao Ren still didn't know it yet.

After they finished breakfast, Zhao Guang went on to deal with the East Ocean Dragon Palace's affairs with the help of Zhao Hongyu, and Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi went to their room to prepare for the upcoming school year.

With the ocean breezes blowing, the air in the room gave off a hint of saltiness unique to the ocean. In her shirt, Zhao Yanzi sat at her desk while facing the window. Her hair was dancing to the pleasant breeze, and the edges of her blouse swayed along softly.

It was a very comfortable environment for their tutoring session.

Hao Ren had already read all the books, and it would take him almost an entire day to help Zhao Yanzi go through them once.

After dinner, Hao Ren went out to the beach to carry out his cultivation. Cultivating in the morning and at night had become part of his routine.

Now that Zhao Kuo was no longer on the island, Hao Ren actually felt a little lonely since he had one fewer opponent to practice with.

"The Heavenly Dragon Realm..." Hao Ren looked up to the white clouds above him.

The only reason Hao Ren was trying incessantly to enhance his ability was so that he could be able to protect those close to him. But for Zhao Kuo, all that he was after was achieving the Heavenly Dragon Realm.

At this point, cultivating the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was slightly dull for Hao Ren. Standing on the beach with his feet half a step apart, Hao Ren began practicing the Mystic Water Sword Techniques instead. Since this was a set of sword techniques so strong that it could even injure Zhao Kuo, it was a lot more profound than the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

The spiritual core that contained Zhao Haoran's 1,000-year cultivation strength was still slowly turning in Hao Ren's Qihai Acupoint. Streaks of incredibly profound energy firmly surrounded the spiritual core, preventing the nature essence from leaking out.

Hao Ren began using his hundun nature essence and meticulously pulled on the shred of mystic energy that was not under his control until the spiritual core started to show a tear.

Boom... The nature essence of peak Qian-level gushed out at once. Instantly, the feeling of an explosion rushed through the meridians in Hao Ren's entire body.

Qingling, Shaohai, Daling, Laogong... The nature essence rushed through these acupoints.

Hao Ren immediately began performing the numerous variations of the first sword technique in the Mystic Water Sword Techniques.

A sword condensed from sword energies appeared in Hao Ren's hand.

He briskly glided forward over a thousand meters and pointed the tip of the sword toward the ocean waves.

After living on the Purple Bamboo Island for a month, he knew where all the generals and soldiers were stationed and made sure never to disturb them when he was practicing.

Shoo, shoo, shoo... Bursts of nature essence flowed out from the meridians on Hao Ren's arms.

As the tip of the sword touched the surface of the ocean, no change was seen.

Just when Hao Ren started to suspect that something had gone wrong, a portion of the ocean surface collapsed.

Hao Ren's sword technique created an immeasurable crater in the ocean that was a few thousand meters deep!

The few dozens nearby military campsites of East Ocean that were at the bottom of the ocean were destroyed by this!

Due to the strong repulsive force, Hao Ren was sent flying into the sky.

He quickly released two sword energies and steadied himself.

"Blech..." Hao Ren spat out a mouthful of blood abruptly and felt as if his internal organs were about to explode as well.

It was certainly no joke trying to use Zhao Haoran's Qian-level power.

Tens of thousands of soldiers of East Ocean, including the guards of Summer Palace, quickly rushed over to check one after another.

"It's alright, it's alright! It was just me trying to practice a technique!" Since Hao Ren did not expect it to cause such a situation, he could only quickly use his nature essence and announce as loud as he could.

The generals and soldiers looked to Hao Ren in disbelief. They were deeply shocked and couldn't help but admire Hao Ren at the same time.

After all, even their former Commanding General, Zhao Kuo, might not be able to exert such power that shook the entire ocean.

When he finished the announcement, another mouthful of blood gushed out along the corner of his mouth.

He was only curious to see the effect of using this set of sword techniques with Zhao Haoran's power. Unfortunately, he found that he was unable to withstand Zhao Haoran's immense power after all.

Right away, those streaks of mystic energy quickly sealed up Zhao Haoran's 1,000-year cultivation strength. Now, Hao Ren's meridians were severely damaged; he might vomit blood for two days. If he were to keep this up, it could cost him his life.

Even Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang had come out to examine the situation. With the sky shaking and the earth rocking, they thought that Purple Bamboo Island was about to collapse.

"This is the true power of a peak Qian-level cultivator..." Hao Ren now had a better idea of the gap between the levels and did not dare to use Zhao Haoran's power again carelessly. He returned to the palace hastily, took a cold shower, and went back to Zhao Yanzi's room.

Huddling under her blanket, Zhao Yanzi saw Hao Ren walk in and immediately began to blush. She turned her back toward him and thought, "What did this jerk go out for? He is making me wait so long..."

Supporting his slightly dizzy head, Hao Ren crawled onto the bed while putting one arm on Zhao Yanzi's shoulder and the other around her waist, resting his hands on hers.

Zhao Yanzi's heart was beating quickly. However, Hao Ren remained in this position for several minutes without any further advances. Shortly, Zhao Yanzi ran out of patience and turned around to face Hao Ren.

"What a jerk..." With his lips against the silky skin of Zhao Yanzi's shoulder, Hao Ren had fallen asleep once again!

For the rest of the night, Hao Ren was completely exhausted and had fallen into a sleepy stupor. He felt as if he was on an expedition in the vast universe; he was bumping into small planets and comets, one after another...

Although the Light Splitting Shadow Sword Scroll had been naturally healing and restoring Hao Ren's meridians, he woke up to find his hands, cheeks, neck, shoulders, and even his chest... covered in bite marks!

Yet, Zhao Yanzi was sleeping sweet and sound in his arms.

Chapter 505: Drastic Changes at West Ocean!

In fact, Zhao Yanzi had been tired in the past two days. On the one hand, she was fatigued from the tutoring sessions with Hao Ren; on the other hand, she wasn't able to fall asleep the night before since Hao Ren took her in his arms tightly.

Last night when Hao Ren returned to their room, he fell asleep without saying a word, which infuriated her. After all, she was quite considerate to share the bed with him, but he showed no consideration to her at all!

During the night, she pinched and bit him, but Hao Ren slept like a log through all this as if he was a cell phone that ran out of battery.

After half a night's movements, Hao Ren showed no response, but Zhao Yanzi was so exhausted that she fell asleep in his arms subconsciously...

When Hao Ren regained his consciousness after the recovery of his body, Zhao Yanzi was sleeping like a pig.

The windows facing the ocean were open, and the cool morning breezes that were blowing into the room were refreshing.

In Hao Ren's arms, Zhao Yanzi's body felt fragile and soft.

Seeing that she was still asleep, Hao Ren couldn't help himself and lightly squeezed her wrists and fingers, feeling her bones and smooth skin.

Hao Ren tightened his arms slightly, and a sweet and soft sensation touched his chest and arms; he felt guilty but couldn't resist the temptation.

Her legs in her pajama pants gave a nice feeling to Hao Ren's knees, and the skin around her neck had turned slightly brown due to the exposure to the sun during her special training in the last month, giving her a healthy and vibrant feel.

Her ears were hidden under her hair, and they were still white and delicate.

"Fiancée ..." This word appeared in Hao Ren's mind.

Suddenly, he no longer minded the many bite marks she left on his body.

Playing on the beach, going to sleep to the hypnotic sounds of the ocean waves, small crazy antics and sweet moments; they looked like a young couple who had just graduated.

Hao Ren held Zhao Yanzi's small round shoulders and placed his cheek against her shoulder while readying himself for her sudden wake and attacks.

"Fuma! Fuma! Something important happened!"

The yelling outside the door almost startled Hao Ren and made him jump off the bed.

Zhao Yanzi turned slightly, looking as if she would wake up at any moment.

Hao Ren got out of the bed, rushed to open the door, and leaped outside in a hurry.

"Fuma... These are..."

Seeing the bite marks covering Hao Ren's face, arms, and shoulders, Premier Xia was astonished.

"Oh, these..." Hao Ren pulled up his clothes in vain and asked with a serious expression, "Premier Xia, what happened?"

Immediately, Premier Xia's doubting and curious gaze turned serious, and his tone became stern.

"Dragon King Zeng of the West Ocean Dragon Clan died in an explosion last night while he was trying to charge at the Heavenly Dragon Realm."

"What?!" Hao Ren was astonished to hear the news.

Undoubtedly, Dragon King Zeng of the West Ocean Dragon Clan was the overbearing Oldman Zeng. Although Hao Ren didn't like him and his grandson, Zeng Yitao, he was surprised to the core.

"The Dragon King is in the Grand Hall waiting for you to discuss this situation," Premier Xia continued.

"Ok!" Hao Ren quickened his steps toward the Grand Hall of Summer Palace.

"Fuma, your face..." With his back hunched, Premier Xia followed Hao Ren closely and reminded him.

Rubbing his cheeks, Hao Ren felt several bite marks on them, realizing that Zhao Yanzi had indeed bit him hard...

"Forget it. I'll deal with them later!" Hao Ren waved his hand, knowing now was not the time to dwell on this problem.

When he walked into the Grand Hall, Elder Lu, Elder Sun, and Elder Xingyue had all arrived. In the middle of the hall sat Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu.

They were slightly surprised when they saw the bite marks all over Hao Ren's body but didn't say anything. Only Zhao Hongyu silently scolded Zhao Yanzi for her extravagant behavior.

"According to the intelligence report we just received, Zeng Xin of the West Ocean Dragon Clan failed and died when he tried to charge at the Heavenly Dragon Realm. Right now, only the young Zeng Yitao is in charge of the West Ocean Dragon Palace. Meanwhile, the demon beasts in the Demon Sea that were close to the West Ocean Dragon Clan are swarming to the West Ocean Dragon Palace." With a gloomy face, Zhao Guang looked around at the people in the hall and said.

Having met and dealt with Zeng Xin a few times, Hao Ren had a deep impression of the old man. But still, he was surprised that the old man had taken such a risk, tried to charge at the Heavenly Dragon Realm, and died in the process.

The path of cultivation was indeed treacherous.

"In the past year, the West Ocean Dragon Clan tried to take more land and treasures from us. However, instead of realizing their plan, their strength was greatly damaged. I suppose Zeng Xin wanted to reverse the unfavorable situation of West Ocean by trying to become a Heavenly Dragon," Elder Lu said with a frown.

“Unfortunately, his cultivation strength was not great enough to reach the Heavenly Dragon Realm. Besides, I guess he was stirred by the fact that Third Lord had successfully used the mystic crystal,” Elder Sun said.

The extraordinary changes in nature caused by Zhao Kuo’s use of the mystic crystal informed the West Ocean Dragon Clan. Judging from the magnificent changes, they must know that the quality of the mystic crystal Zhao Kuo got was extraordinary.

If the West Ocean Dragon Clan wanted to surpass the East Ocean Dragon Clan, it must get a Heavenly Dragon before East Ocean.

“Was Oldman Zeng’s realm high enough to charge at the Heavenly Dragon Realm?” Hao Ren asked in bafflement.

“There are two ways of charging at the Heavenly Dragon Realm. One is to reach peak Qian-level to activate the Heavenly Tribulation naturally, and the other is for the cultivators who are near the end of their lives to take the risk and activate the Heavenly Tribulation by force.”

“Oh...” Hao Ren nodded, knowing that Zeng Xin belonged to the latter group.

Elder Lu and Elder Sun’s analyses were correct, but they didn’t know that after Hao Ren circulated Zhao Haoran’s cultivation strength and created a huge crater in the ocean with the Mystic Water Sword Techniques last night, West Ocean mistakenly thought that this terrifying power came from Zhao Kuo who had successfully planted the mystic crystal. Stunned at the discovery, Zeng Xin had considered for a long time before deciding to take the risk.

More importantly, Zeng Xin thought Zhao Haoran was still alive, supporting the East Ocean Dragon Clan. Zeng Xin once thought that he could outlive Zhao Haoran and then suppress the East Ocean Dragon Clan with his status and realm. However, during the war between West Ocean and East Ocean, Zhao Haoran took the battle head-on with a very healthy and powerful look, plunging Zeng Xin into despair.

He had no idea that the East Ocean Dragon Clan hid the news about Zhao Haoran’s death.

The power of Zhao Haoran, Zhao Kuo’s breakthrough with mystic crystal, and Hao Ren’s show of strength at the Dragon God Shrine; all these scared Zeng Xin and made him regret his decision to mess with the East Ocean Dragon Clan with the excuse of Zhao Yanzi.

“We don’t have time for these analyses.” Zhao Hongyu interrupted Elder Lu and Elder Sun while frowning slightly. “The West Ocean Dragon Clan was the most powerful force among the four Ocean dragon clan, which is why they attacked the demon beasts in the Demon Sea the hardest. Now that the strength of the elders of the West Ocean Dragon Clan decreased greatly, the troops were beaten in the war with us, and Oldman Zeng died in the Heavenly Tribulation, the demon beasts close to the West Ocean Dragon Palace have nothing to fear and are now all rushing to the West Ocean Dragon Palace for revenge.”

She looked around at the people in the Grand Hall. “Now, we need to decide if we should send troops or not.”

Elder Lu and Elder Sun exchanged a look and remained silent.

Elder Xingyue also lowered her head slightly and didn't say anything.

Zhao Hongyu looked toward Hao Ren. Hao Ren was the Fuma and also the Commanding General of East Ocean who controlled all the troops.

"Even if we don't send troops, the South Ocean Dragon Clan and the North Ocean Dragon Clan will send their troops," Hao Ren said.

Zhao Hongyu shook her head. "From what we know right now, these two clans have not sent any troops, and I think they are pretending that they haven't received the news yet. As to the West Ocean Dragon Palace, it is in a mess and probably hasn't been able to send any signals for help yet."

"No. The troops of South Ocean and West Ocean must be on their way right now," Hao Ren said immediately.

Zhao Hongyu looked at Hao Ren in doubt.

"Report..." A loud shout sounded from outside of the Grand Hall.

"What's the news?" Zhao Guang looked toward the gate.

"Commanding General, Dragon King! The South Ocean Dragon Clan and the North Ocean Dragon Clan have each sent 300,000 soldiers to the West Ocean Dragon Palace," the soldier reported in a loud voice.

Zhao Hongyu looked at Hao Ren in astonishment, wondering how he had made such an accurate prediction.

"Mom! What's happening?" In a small shirt, Zhao Yanzi walked into the Grand Hall.

When she saw the red bite marks covering Hao Ren's neck, she immediately lowered her head and tried to go back while blushing.

"Zi!" Zhao Hongyu looked at her in anger, and Zhao Yanzi had to walk over to her obediently.

With his hands on the table, Zhao Guang stood still and looked at Hao Ren. "How many soldiers do you think we should send?"

Now that the South Ocean Dragon Clan and the North Ocean Dragon Clan had sent troops, it would be hard for the East Ocean Dragon Clan not to help.

"Half a million soldiers!" Hao Ren said.

"Isn't 500,000 a bit too many..." Premier Xia reminded in a low voice.

Hao Ren smiled, but the purple bite marks on his cheeks made the smile less radiant.

"Do you think Third Uncle would have sent troops?" Hao Ren asked.

Premier Xia shook his head. "Third Lord hates the West Ocean Dragon Clan the most. He wouldn't have sent troops to save them from this trouble."

"I think so as well." Hao Ren nodded. "However, we need to send more soldiers to take more territory."

Hearing his words, everyone including Elder Lu and Elder Sun was stunned.

Instead of fighting the demon beasts, they were going to occupy the territory of the West Ocean Dragon Clan! Hao Ren's words revealed the real intention of the South Ocean Dragon Clan and the North Ocean Dragon Clan!

Kind and merciful, the East Ocean Dragon Clan didn't turn their thoughts in that direction after getting the news.

"Summon the generals!" Hao Ren shouted.

Chapter 506: Half A Million Soldiers

One hour later, more than 100 golden-armored generals of East Ocean gathered together on the beach of Purple Bamboo Island.

In a set of silver armor and a black cape, Hao Ren stood on the viewing deck of Summer Palace.

With two cloth bags containing ice, Zhao Yanzi stood beside Hao Ren reluctantly and placed the bags against both sides of Hao Ren's neck; this was the punishment Zhao Hongyu gave her.

On the ocean surface stood hundreds of thousands of black-armored soldiers. It was a magnificent sight.

"Left General, Chen Rong!"

"Right General, Lu Yuantao!"

"Middle General, Hu Chunyi!"

Hao Ren injected magnificent nature essence into his voice. "Each of you leads 150,000 soldiers!"

"Yes!" The three golden-armored generals took three steps forward from the team of generals.

In fact, Hao Ren had chosen these three generals at the suggestion of Premier Xia; the latter told him that these three men were all fierce fighters.

After receiving Hao Ren's order, the three generals began to select their assistant generals.

Everything went orderly while the soldiers standing on the ocean surface were quickly divided into three groups under the commands of the three main generals and more than ten assistant generals.

Those generals who hadn't been appointed by Hao Ren and the three main generals must return to their previous positions to guard and patrol the territory of East Ocean.

"Commanding General! I have objections!"

Suddenly, a thick voice sounded on the beach.

Hao Ren looked toward the voice and found that the man who shouted was Liu Yi, the West Gate General who had challenged him at the banquet.

He now had a green dragon crescent blade in his hand, and he was standing tall behind those golden-armored generals in his silver armor.

“Commanding General appointed me as the Pioneer General. Why didn’t you send me to the battle this time?” Liu Yi raised his head and yelled again.

Hao Ren looked at him from afar. “Liu Yi, you’re supposed to guard the west gate of the dragon palace. Why did you come here without permission?”

This time, Hao Ren only summoned the troops outside of the dragon palace, which was why Liu Yi, a general of the dragon palace, was not supposed to be here.

After looking around him and realizing that no one will talk for him, Liu Yi yelled with a loud voice, “I want to join the force and attack West Ocean!”

Looking at him, Hao Ren felt amused. Liu Yi knew nothing but that the East Ocean Dragon Clan was sending troops to the West Ocean Dragon Palace, and he thought the East Ocean Dragon Clan was going to attack the West Ocean Dragon Clan.

“I’ll give you 50,000 black armored cavalymen as the herald general!” Hao Ren said.

Elated, Liu Yi immediately single-kneeled on the beach to thank Hao Ren. “Liu Yi will follow the order and beat them out of their wits!”

In the war when the West Ocean Dragon Clan attacked the East Ocean Dragon Palace, Liu Yi had fought very courageously and fiercely guarded the west gate. However, since the main battlefield was at the main gate of the dragon palace, he didn’t use all his strength.

“If you gain military merits, I’ll forgive you for leaving your position without permission. If not, I’ll spank your behind into a bloody mess after you return!” Hao Ren continued while standing on the viewing deck.

“Hahaha...” The generals around laughed.

With his reddened neck, Liu Yi yelled, “Commanding General, don’t underestimate me!”

He stood up immediately with the green dragon crescent blade. Then, with a somersault, he jumped onto the ocean waves while the 50,000 black-armored cavalries followed him and dashed toward the direction of the West Ocean Dragon Palace.

The black horses that the soldiers rode on were no ordinary horses but demon horses with demon beast bloodlines.

It was a magnificent sight while they galloped on the ocean waves.

Seeing Liu Yi’s heroic presence while leading the troops, Hao Ren thought that this man was powerful but a little arrogant. After all, Liu Yan didn’t even get any assistant generals.

What Hao Ren didn’t know was that the generals inside and outside of the Dragon Palace were in two separate systems, which was why Liu Yi wasn’t familiar with the generals battling outside of the Dragon Palace and thus couldn’t select them as his assistant generals.

“Uncle, I’ll go with them,” Hao Ren looked at Zhao Guang and said.

“Ok!” Zhao Guang nodded gravely.

Seeing Hao Ren's confidence while he gave orders to the generals on the high platform, Zhao Guang felt Hao Ren had far surpassed his expectations, and his hope for Hao Ren increased.

In fact, Hao Ren was forcing himself into the role. After all, as the Commanding General of East Ocean, he couldn't stammer in front of the generals and soldiers.

Dropping the ice bags, Zhao Yanzi yelled immediately, "Dad, I want to go, too!"

"Nonsense!" Zhao Guang looked stern.

"Let her go," Zhao Hongyu interrupted.

Zhao Guang glanced at Zhao Hongyu and then at Zhao Yanzi. "If you make trouble for Hao Ren, I'll deal with you!"

Feeling wronged, Zhao Yanzi pouted, thinking that Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu both favored Hao Ren.

"Hao Ren is sleeping with me in his arms! What can I say?" she thought.

"Take the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting." Zhao Hongyu took out the dharma treasure and told Hao Ren the simple instructions on how to use the painting.

Hao Ren took Zhao Yanzi's arm lightly and spread out the painting with his nature essence.

"Elder Lu, Elder Sun, Premier Xia, you go with them." Fearing for Zhao Yanzi's safety, Zhao Guang instructed.

"Yes, Your Majesty!" The three of them immediately stepped onto the painting.

The River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting flew toward the sky.

Watching the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting shrinking into a red dot, Zhao Hongyu turned to look at Zhao Guang. "Ren is considerate, and Zi needs to learn with him."

"I'm afraid Ren doesn't like Zi," Zhao Guang said.

"Impossible." Zhao Hongyu smiled with confidence

East Ocean's troops traveled on the ocean waves.

The troop was being covered by a red energy sphere and was invisible to mortals.

They needed to cross the Demon Sea to get to West Ocean. Since the demon kings and demon beasts lived at the bottom of the ocean, it was safer to travel on the ocean surface.

Even if a few demon beasts were close to the ocean surface and saw them, they wouldn't dare to mess with such great troops.

After all, the East Ocean Dragon Clan's overall power was great, which was why the big demon kings in the Demon Sea signed a peace treaty with them.

Standing on the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting, Hao Ren and his companions were more than ten meters above the ocean surface, and they caught up with the herald troop led by Liu Yi.

According to Hao Ren's plan, most of the 500,000 soldiers were mainly used to stun the enemies, and the main force that would battle the demon beasts head-on were the 50,000 black-armored cavalries led by Liu Yi.

Some level 8 and level 9 demon beasts rose to the surface and then sank back into the ocean at the sight of the troops of East Ocean.

The demon kings in the Demon Sea usually didn't allow the cultivators to pass through their territories, but they made an exception for the East Ocean Dragon Clan.

While Hao Ren stayed on the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting, Liu Yi galloped on the ocean waves with the black-armored cavalries. Only half a day later, they had crossed the Demon Sea and entered the ocean area of the West Ocean Dragon Clan.

Boom! Boom... The sounds of fierce battles sounded from the bottom of the sea.

"Liu Yi, just block the demon beast and keep the soldiers safe," Hao Ren said.

"As you wish!" Liu Yi cupped his hands.

On the way, Liu Yi had finally understood that his mission wasn't to attack the West Ocean Dragon Palace but to take territory from them. He was fine with either.

Hua! Hua... The 50,000 black armored cavalries submerged into the sea instantly. It was a magnificent sight.

Hao Ren and the group entered the sea after them.

Under the sea surface, the white-armored troops of the West Ocean Dragon Clan were fiercely fighting with a large number of demon beasts coming from the Demon Sea.

The troops of the South Ocean Dragon Clan and the North Ocean Dragon Clan were stationed on both sides of the troops of the West Ocean Dragon Clan, helping with their defense.

Obviously, the demon beasts were attacking the West Ocean Dragon Palace, and the troops of the South Ocean Dragon Clan and the North Ocean Dragon Clan were mainly defensive and didn't try to kill the demon beasts with full forces.

The level 4 and level 5 demon beasts were very fierce. Under their attacks, the soldiers of the West Ocean Dragon Clan fell in waves, and their blood flowed in water.

Zhao Yanzi had just wanted to stay with Hao Ren. She did not expect that the battle would be so brutal, and she immediately closed her eyes.

Liu Yi led the 50,000 black-armored cavalries into battle, and they formed a long snake array which linked the troops of the West Ocean Dragon Clan, North Ocean Dragon Clan, and South Ocean Dragon Clan.

The soldiers of the four ocean dragon clans formed a long wall, making it hard for the demon beasts to cut into the line, thus significantly reducing the casualties of the other three dragon clans.

The generals and soldiers who had been fighting fiercely with the demon beasts had complicated feelings in their hearts when they saw troops from the East Ocean Dragon Clan.

Not long ago, they had traveled to the East Ocean Dragon Palace for a war. But now when the West Ocean Dragon Palace was in trouble, the East Ocean Dragon Clan sent troops to help them!

“Kill!” Liu Yi gave the order.

Boom! Boom... The black-armored cavalries of the East Ocean Dragon Clan charged forward.

At least 10,000 level 1 and level 2 demon beasts were forced back hundreds of meters.

The troops of the four oceans followed closely and pushed the line forward hundreds of meters.

Momentum was important in battles, and the courageous black-armored soldiers of East Ocean boosted the morale of the soldiers from the other three dragon clans.

With the green dragon crescent blade in his hand, Liu Yi leaped up suddenly into the crowd of the demon beasts and slashed his heavy saber at several of them.

“Kill!”

The black-armored soldiers of East Ocean yelled together and forced back the demon beasts hundreds of meters again.

Zhao Yanzi covered her eyes out of fear, but Hao Ren found the sight magnificent.

Liu Yi’s big saber danced around and sent dozens of demon beasts flying. Although he was a general guarding the gate of the East Ocean Dragon Palace and rarely fought outside, he was a great fighter in the battle.

“The leader of the troop from South Ocean is their third prince, and the leader of the troop from North Ocean is their dragon king’s second brother, the Second Duke.” Premier Xia leaned toward Hao Ren and said in a low voice.

Hao Ren looked toward the directions Premier Xia pointed and saw a handsome and dashing young man. He was behind the troop of South Ocean, and he was holding a long white spear while standing on an open white jade chariot.

Behind the troop of North Ocean, a majestic-looking mid-aged man sat on a black panther with a machete hanging on the belt around his waist.

They were supervising the battle and didn’t participate. Obviously, their target wasn’t the demon beasts.

“Fuma, you made the right decision of bringing 500,000 soldiers here,” Premier Xia said.

Hao Ren looked around but didn’t see Zeng Yitao.

Roar! A high-leveled spider-form demon beast waved its eight long legs and dashed out of the Demon Sea.

The Third Prince of South Ocean and the Second Duke of North Ocean who had been supervising the battle finally attacked.

Chapter 507: Three Commanding Generals!

Equipped with the inspector's token, Hao Ren immediately knew that it was a level 8 demon beast.

A level 8 demon beast was equivalent to a Qian-level dragon cultivator. Due to the demon beast's innate techniques and strong body, it was more powerful than an ordinary Qian-level cultivator.

Like cultivators, the demon beasts had a more difficult time cultivating when they were on higher levels. Level 1 demon beasts were equivalent to Zhen-level cultivators, level 2 demon beasts were equal to Dui-level cultivators, and level 6, 7, and 8 demon beasts corresponded to Xun-level, Kun-level, and Qian-level cultivators respectively.

However, just like the dragon cultivators who had hard times reaching Kun-level and Qian-level, the demon beasts would encounter a bottleneck at level 6, and it was challenging for them to reach level 7 and level 8. If they wanted to reach level 10 to trigger the Heavenly Tribulation, it was even harder.

The level 8 demon beasts would have already activated their intelligence, and they weren't dull compared with dragon cultivators. Therefore, they were stronger than ordinary low-tier Qian-level cultivators.

Hua... The Third Prince of South Ocean released a wave of white frost from his long spear.

Hao Ren looked at him and realized that he had reached mid-tier Kun-level. It was clear that he wasn't as young as he looked and should be at least 300 to 400 years old.

Meanwhile, the Second Duke of North Ocean released three black blade energies from his machete and instantly cut down a wave of low-leveled demon beasts.

Even though his low-tier Qian-level strength couldn't be compared to Zhao Kuo's when the latter was at his peak, his strength was still great, and his agile movements, as well as his fluttering black silk robe, gave him a grand presence.

"The Third Prince and the Second Duke are the Commanding Generals of South Ocean and North Ocean respectively," Premier Xia leaned to Hao Ren and said in a low voice.

"Ok." Hao Ren nodded. He was the Commanding General of East Ocean while the other two were Commanding Generals of South Ocean and North Ocean. Obviously, everyone here had the same hidden agenda.

In the blink of an eye, the Third Prince of South Ocean and the Second Duke of North Ocean had dashed to the side of the level 8 demon beast and attacked it with combined forces.

The Third Prince's long spear techniques were way more powerful than Zeng Yitao's. In his white clothes, he moved like a white dragon even though he was in his human form.

The small demon beasts nearby were instantly frozen once his long spear touched them. Then, with one sweep of his long spear, he shattered them into pieces.

The Second Duke's black machete was mighty in his hand, and any demon beasts close to him had their heads cut off without seeing where the black flash had come from.

The incredible thing about the Second Duke was that he rushed into a herd of demon beasts and killed them swiftly, but his silk robe was free from any bloodstains.

Hao Ren had never dealt with South Ocean and North Ocean before, and now he believed that they were quite powerful.

Bang!

The Third Prince's long spear and the Second Duke's machete stabbed toward the eyes of the level 8 demon beast at the same time.

The demon beast's two claws lashed out to block their weapons before retreating hurriedly.

By joining forces, the two commanding generals forced back the level 8 demon beast!

The morale of the soldiers from South Ocean and North Ocean was greatly boosted when they saw this scene.

"Here I come!"

Liu Yi slashed out his green dragon crescent blade and dashed toward the level 8 demon beast as well.

However, the demon beast lifted one long black leg, and the claws on the end of the leg hit Liu Yi's chest, breaking his saber and sending him flying for hundreds of meters.

Boom! At this critical moment, Hao Ren dashed forward like a white light beam.

He lightly reached out his right hand and caught Liu Yi before tossing him toward the black-armored cavalries of East Ocean.

"Thank you, Commanding General!" Liu Yi cupped his hand before he was tossed out.

Without Hao Ren, he would have landed in the herd of demon beasts which would probably kill him. The level 8 demon beast had intelligence and had purposefully thrown Liu Yi toward the demon beasts.

Bang! Hao Ren's sword energies shot out abruptly.

Seeing Hao Ren entering the battle, the Third Prince of South Ocean and the Second Duke of North Ocean quickened their attacks on the level 8 demon beast.

Since the East Ocean Dragon Clan was the farthest from the West Ocean Dragon Palace, the troops of East Ocean were the last to arrive, and South Ocean and North Ocean weren't going to let the East Ocean Dragon Clan take the credit from them!

Roar! The level 8 demon beast spat out black ink, and a stinky smell spread out with it.

Its eight long legs moved abruptly and caught the Third Prince and the Second Duke by surprise. Its claws left deep wounds on their bodies and sent them flying backward.

The level 8 demon beast was equivalent to a Qian-level cultivator, but their overall combat ability far surpassed Qian-level cultivators since their skin and thick shell were like their dharma treasures!

Hao Ren who had been rushing toward the demon beast helped these two commanding generals by supporting their backs with two sword energies, moving them steadily toward the troops behind them.

Then, the 320 sword energies hovering around Hao Ren instantly divided into 640 sword energies, half were real while the other half were fake!

Only Hao Ren knew which were real and which were fake!

“Useless show-off!” The Third Prince of South Ocean snorted as he was now surrounded by his soldiers.

Swoosh! The sword energies suddenly condensed into a huge white sword and pierced into the demon beast’s waist.

“Retreat, and I’ll spare your life,” Hao Ren said lightly.

Having no goal to charge at the Heavenly Dragon Realm, the Third Prince of South Ocean and the Second Duke of North Ocean didn’t mind killing a lot of demon beasts.

However, Hao Ren didn’t like killing and knew that this level 8 demon beast attacked the West Ocean Dragon Palace just to revenge for its many disciples and followers that had been killed by West Ocean.

Hao Ren’s sword energies contained hundun godly lightning which could break the skin and shells of demon beasts. Now that his sword energies entered this level 8 demon beast’s body, if the lightning energy exploded, the demon beast would die or be seriously injured, possibly dropping in realms.

Instantly, the low-leveled demon beasts and the troops of the four ocean dragon clans stopped fighting, each retreating hundreds of meters and watching Hao Ren and the level 8 demon beast in alarm.

They were astonished that the Commanding General of East Ocean could talk directly to the level 8 demon beast and threaten it.

All the soldiers looked at Hao Ren who was hovering in front of the level 8 demon beast as if they were looking at a god.

Boom! Boom... The level 8 demon beast waved its eight long legs and retreated more than 100 meters.

Having reached level 8, it could get the chance to charge at the Transformation Realm, and it didn’t want to drop in realms or even die here just to gain some satisfaction from retaliation.

Hao Ren’s sword energy had cut open its thick shell and entered its body, ready to explode at any moment like a massive bomb.

Seeing the level 8 demon beast retreating, the low-leveled demon beasts all began to back off as well.

Like a smooth and round light ball, Hao Ren’s sword energy shot out from the hot in the thick shell of the level 8 demon beast.

Hua! Hua... The light ball immediately split into 640 sword energies before spreading over the battlefield. One could imagine what would happen if this many sword energies exploded in the body of the demon beast...

Looking at the sword energies and then at the necklace around Hao Ren's neck, horror appeared in the level 8 demon beast's eyes, and it went back into the Demon Sea.

Boom... The weak demon beasts followed suit and fled back into the Demon Sea.

Usually, the demon kings who had passed the heavenly tribulations would stay in the Demon Sea to expand their territory instead of attacking the four ocean dragon clans. The level 9 and level 10 demon beasts also wouldn't run around since they were preparing to enter the Transformation Realm.

It meant that level 8 demon beasts were the highest-leveled demon beasts that might attack the dragon clans. Now with the level 8 demon beast gone, the lower-leveled demon beasts had no reason to stay behind.

"Herald General Liu Yi, organize the troops!" Hao Ren turned to look at the dumbfounded Liu Yi and called out.

"Yes, Commanding General!" Liu Yi, in his tattered armor, stood up from the ground and called out, "East Ocean soldiers, line up!"

Excited, he felt lucky that his abilities were recognized by Hao Ren and thought, "I'll see who dares to mess with East Ocean in the future!"

Hao Ren withdrew his sword energies and returned to the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting.

The battlefield at the bottom of the ocean was in a mess, but most of the casualties belonged to West Ocean while the troops of the other three dragon clans were mostly intact.

"Gongzi Hao, you are extremely courageous and powerful..." Seeing Hao Ren's return, Premier Xia immediately walked over to him.

"Ok, no flatteries." Hao Ren waved his hand. In fact, he had been trying to spot the weakness of the level 8 demon beast when he watched the Third Prince of South Ocean and the Second Duke of North Ocean fight it.

This spider-form demon beast was covered with a thick shell and had only one tiny opening at its belly for moving around. Ordinary dharma treasures and weapons couldn't pierce through, but Hao Ren's sword energies could shrink and contained the hundun godly lightning. Therefore, he was able to take the opportunity and defeated the demon beast.

Everyone only saw Hao Ren's powerful strength, but they didn't understand his thinking process.

Although Zhao Yanzi didn't dare to watch the battle, she saw how Hao Ren defeated the level 8 demon beast. She felt extremely content as she peeked at Hao Ren.

After all, others couldn't do anything to the demon beast, but Hao Ren forced the powerful-looking demon beast back with only one attack.

Her admiration for Hao Ren increased greatly.

“Gongzi Hao, the Third Prince of South Ocean and the Second Duke of North Ocean seem to have poisonous wounds. Do you think we should go over and have a look?” Elder Sun reminded Hao Ren.

Hao Ren looked down on the battlefield and saw that Liu Yi had gathered the 50,000 black-armored soldiers and was doing the counting.

The soldiers of West Ocean were in a mess, and some of them even cried in each other’s arms. Although this was their home base, they suffered the highest casualties.

In contrast, the troops of South Ocean and North Ocean stood neatly; they lost some soldiers but basically remained intact.

The Third Prince of South Ocean sat in his white jade chariot with a big wound on his shoulder. The Second Duke of North Ocean leaned against his black panther while blood flew out from the wound in his knee.

With wounds at different positions, their faces were pale.

The accompanying elders were busy applying elixirs on their wounds, but it seemed like the effects were little.

Hua... The River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting landed beside the Third Prince of South Ocean.

“Third Prince.” Premier Xia cupped his hands at the white-clothed Third Prince.

The Third Prince looked at Premier Xia and then at Hao Ren without saying a word.

His face looked pale as the poison was traveling all over his body from his wound, threatening his life. That was why he showed no intent in greeting the Premier of East Ocean warmly.

“This is a level 4 detox pill, a gift from our Fuma.” Premier Xia walked forward with an elixir pill in his hand.

Chapter 508: Everything Depends on Military Power!

“Level 4 detox pill!” The elders surrounding the Third Prince of South Ocean brightened up at these words.

It was impulsive of the Third Prince to fight the level 8 demon beast, but the accompanying elders might get the death penalty if the Third Prince died here.

Likewise, the generals who came to the battle with the Third Prince would also take the blame.

“Cough! Cough...” The Third Prince of South Ocean put his hand on his wound, and his face turned even whiter.

With a smile, Premier Xia handed the elixir pill to Premier Liu of South Ocean who stood beside the Third Prince.

“Prince!” Premier Liu immediately brought the elixir pill to the prince.

The Third Prince of South Ocean frowned and glanced at Hao Ren who stood behind Premier Xia.

With a faint smile, Hao Ren steered the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting toward the troops of the North Ocean Dragon Clan.

The severely wounded Second Duke of North Ocean was North Ocean Dragon King’s little brother, which was why he was in charge of the military.

It was difficult for dragon cultivators, especially the high-leveled ones, to have kids. The North Ocean Dragon King had only one brother, and their mother had died while she was giving birth to the Second Duke. Being motherless at a young age, the North Ocean Dragon King and his little brother were very close to each other.

If the Second Prince died here, no one knew how enraged the North Ocean Dragon King would be.

Among the four ocean dragon clans, Zhao Guang was the most kind-hearted dragon king. Zeng Xin of West Ocean had been cruel and bad-tempered. After the death of his son, he spoiled Zeng Yitao and punished and even killed the elders and generals who displeased him.

Although the North Ocean Dragon King and the South Ocean Dragon King were better than Zeng Xin, they put great emphasis on the royal family and never deemed the elders and generals as valuable in comparison.

After the Second Duke was poisoned, the elders around him were upset and frustrated when they found that their elixirs couldn’t eliminate the deadly poison from the level 8 demon beast.

“Second Duke.” Premier Xia slowly stepped down from the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting. “This is a level 4 detox pill, a gift to you from our commanding general.”

The Second Duke of North Ocean took the elixir pill and immediately felt intense nature essence from it. He cupped his hands, saying, “Thank you very much!”

He tossed the elixir pill into his mouth and felt a refreshing sensation spread all over his body while the toxins which were moving toward his dragon core and heart were quickly dissolved.

“Level 4 detox pill...” The elders standing beside the Second Duke of North Ocean exclaimed.

Level 4 elixir pills were precious, and detox pills were even rarer.

With its limited usage and the complicated making process, the level 4 detox pills were extremely rare while the elixirs such as the Foundation Establishment Pills and Essence Replenishment Pills were quite common.

“I owe a big one to East Ocean!” the Second Duke cupped his hands and said.

“Our water-elemental dragon clans are a big family. There’s no need to thank us,” Premier Xia answered with a smile.

The Second Duke looked at Hao Ren on the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting and found this Fuma and Great General of East Ocean dashing, just like what the rumors said.

The Second Duke didn't believe the rumor that the Fuma of East Ocean demonstrated great strength during the general exams at Dragon God Shrine. However, after seeing how Hao Ren forced back the level 8 demon beast with his own eyes, the Second Duke was struck with many complicated feelings.

He had thought that East Ocean, with Zhao Kuo, was enough to overshadow the others and didn't expect that the Fuma of East Ocean would be so powerful as well.

Glancing at the Second Duke's mount, Hao Ren found that the magnificent-looking black panther hadn't even reached level 1! It was far inferior to Little White.

No wonder when the Second Duke fought the level 8 demon beast, his black panther didn't attack with him. It was because the black panther didn't dare to get close to a level 8 demon beast.

Hao Ren flew the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting back to the camping spot of the East Ocean soldiers.

After defeating the demon beasts, the soldiers of the East Ocean Dragon Clan received the order to rest where they were, but they still kept the defense array formation so that they could fight at any moment.

From this perspective, East Ocean's troops were more disciplined than those from South Ocean and North Ocean.

Seeing Hao Ren coming back, Liu Yi immediately reported the casualties. Among the 50,000 soldiers, only about 100 died, but they lost thousands of demon horses.

The 500,000 soldiers Hao Ren summoned were the main force of East Ocean's military, and they defended the outer range of East Ocean's territory. Tough and experienced, they had been engaged in constant battles with demon beasts all year round and had a deep understanding of the fierceness of the demon beasts.

Before they came here, they thought that there would be massive casualties. But to their surprise, under the leadership of the Commanding General and the Herald General, they had gained a complete victory. Silently, the soldiers all admired the Herald General for his miraculous military maneuvers and the Commanding General for his unrivaled courage.

The four dragon palaces organized their respective troops and marched toward the West Ocean Dragon Palace.

Now that East Ocean, South Ocean, and North Ocean had helped defeat the demon beasts, the West Ocean dared not to dissuade them.

Having recovered from his wound, the Third Prince of South Ocean sat on his jade chariot and waved his fan, looking confident.

The Second Duke of North Ocean rode the black panther with his machete bound on the back of his black silk robe, looking intense.

Hao Ren also led 50,000 black-armored soldiers toward the West Ocean Dragon Palace.

The current West Ocean Dragon Palace lost all its previous grandeur with collapsed buildings and walls everywhere. After being burnt down by Zhen Congming, attacked by Lu Linlin and Lu Lili, defeated

pathetically by the East Ocean Dragon Clan in the war it started, and attacked by the demon beasts without warning, the West Ocean Dragon Palace absolutely had no fortune nor energy to restore itself into previous magnificence.

Seeing the dilapidated palace, the Third Prince of South Ocean and the Second Duke of North Ocean frowned slightly. They knew the West Ocean Dragon Palace lost pathetically both in business on land and in the battle under the sea after they messed with the East Ocean Dragon Palace, but neither of them had imagined such a pitiful sight.

The irony was that the East Ocean Dragon Clan which had stepped on the head of the West Ocean Dragon Clan was now entering the latter's ocean area without care together with the soldiers of South Ocean Dragon Clan and the North Ocean Dragon Clan!

"Well... I almost can't recognize it." Zhao Yanzi looked around the West Ocean Dragon Palace in disbelief.

It had been a long time since she last came to the West Ocean Dragon Palace, but in her impression, the West Ocean Dragon Palace was no less grand than the East Ocean Dragon Palace; besides, the West Ocean Dragon Palace had a back mountain and thus was bigger than the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

But now, the walls of the West Ocean Dragon Palace had collapsed, and the buildings inside were on the verge of collapsing too; some guards of the palace ran around the palace buildings in alarm when they saw the troops coming near.

Being accompanied by dozens of guards and more than ten elders, Zeng Yitao in his robe came to the main gate to welcome the troops.

Pale-faced and shivering with fear, he lost all his previous arrogance.

The so-called main gate of the Dragon Palace had only two big columns left while the plaque with the words "West Ocean Dragon Palace" was nowhere to be seen.

Zeng Yitao looked like a king who had lost his kingdom coming out to surrender.

At the sight of him, Zhao Yanzi felt disdain and pitied him.

"Zi! Zi!" Seeing Zhao Yanzi, Zeng Yitao seemed to have found his savior, rushing up without caring for his status as the prince. "Help me! Help me!"

Seeing him rush up, Zhao Yanzi immediately took several steps back.

However, Zeng Yitao didn't give up; instead, he reached out to catch Zhao Yanzi's arm. "Zi, take me to the East Ocean! Take me to the East Ocean!"

"What are you doing?" Zhao Yanzi hurriedly stepped behind Hao Ren.

Without Zeng Xin spoiling him, Zeng Yitao became groundless and worthless. Sensing the danger around him, he tried to find some support from Zhao Yanzi, who after all had had some connections with him. Regardless, he once had had a passable relationship with Zhao Yanzi until Zeng Xin botched it by wanting Zhao Yanzi to marry into the West Ocean.

Zeng Yitao tried to find some help through Zhao Yanzi, but she ignored him and clung to Hao Ren.

“Crown Prince! Crown Prince!”

Seeing Zeng Yitao acting so shamelessly before the commanding generals of the three dragon clans, Premier Lu of the West Ocean hurried over to stop him.

Like a frightened bird, Zeng Yitao suddenly turned to Hao Ren. “Help me! Take me out of the West Ocean Dragon Palace!”

Hao Ren looked at him quietly and remained silent.

He still remembered the scene when Zeng Yitao ordered Black Wolf to catch Xie Yujia and also couldn't forget that the West Ocean Dragon Palace sent its elders to launch a sneak attack on Grandma and others.

He remembered all these and didn't think that Zeng Yitao had forgotten them as well.

A sword energy rose suddenly, and the intense chilliness it released stopped Zeng Yitao.

“Humph!” With a dark face, Liu Yi dashed forward from Hao Ren's side.

Startled by Liu Yi's fierce face, Zeng Yitao immediately retreated four to five steps.

“In the past thousands of years, the four ocean dragon clans have been allies, and we should help West Ocean when it's in need,” the Second Duke of North Ocean said suddenly.

“You're right. The Demon Sea holds a grudge against the West Ocean Dragon Palace and will come back to attack again. We South Ocean offers to station 300,000 soldiers around the West Ocean Dragon Palace to help guard the palace,” the Third Prince of South Ocean said immediately.

“We North Ocean will send five senior elders here to help the West Ocean Dragon Palace rebuild the palace,” the Second Duke of North Ocean said in earnest.

His tone didn't leave any space for discussion or any consideration for the opinions of the West Ocean Dragon Palace.

Among the four ocean dragon palaces, due to Zhao Haoran's efforts, the East Ocean Dragon Palace took the No.1 place while the West Ocean Dragon Palace took the second place with its overall strength of its elders.

Now that the West Ocean Dragon Palace's strength was greatly damaged, the South Ocean Dragon Palace and the North Ocean Dragon Palace wanted to take the opportunity to surpass it.

“Since South Ocean and North Ocean will take the responsibility of rebuilding the West Ocean Dragon Palace, East Ocean Dragon Clan will guard the sea area of the West Ocean Dragon Palace from the Demon Sea,” Hao Ren said coolly.

The Third Prince of South Ocean and the Second Duke of North Ocean exchanged a look. With his casual words, Hao Ren had put the vast sea area from the boundary of the Demon Sea to the center of the West Ocean Dragon Palace under the control of the East Ocean Dragon Clan with the good reason of

guarding against the demon beasts so that the remaining small military force of the West Ocean Dragon Clan could rebuild the palace.

“The East Ocean Dragon Palace has a bigger appetite than us! Do you think we only brought small troops with us?” they thought.

Boom! Boom... The nearby ocean waves suddenly surged up.

“Wu Rang, the Zhenguo General of the South Ocean Dragon Palace, arriving with 250,000 troops to aid West Ocean!”

Boom! Boom... Almost at the same time, violent ocean waves surged up again.

“Liu Qingshan, the Huya General of the North Ocean Dragon Palace, arriving with 250,000 troops to aid West Ocean!”

The Third Prince of South Ocean and the Second Duke of North Ocean smiled light-heartedly.

Chapter 509: Meeting Hao Ren’s Friends!

From afar, the troops of South Ocean and North Ocean stood in formations with fluttering flags. It was a magnificent sight.

Looking from the main gate of the West Ocean Dragon Palace, the soldiers standing in dense formations looked like chess pieces, and one couldn’t see the end of them.

After a series of losses, the West Ocean Dragon Clan was defenseless. With each of them bringing nearly 300,000 soldiers here, South Ocean and North Ocean were, in fact, trying to take control of the West Ocean Dragon Clan.

Although Ho Ren defeated the level 8 demon beast and obtained two favors by saving the Commanding Generals of South Ocean and North Ocean with detox pills, that wasn’t enough for the other two oceans to yield to him when he only had 50,000 soldiers here.

East Ocean Dragon Palace was the farthest from the West Ocean Dragon Palace since the Demon Sea separated them. Even if the East Ocean Dragon Clan sent out troops at this moment, they would arrive too late since South Ocean and North Ocean would have finished occupying the areas by then.

According to the plans of the Third Prince of South Ocean and the Second Duke of North Ocean, once they controlled the West Ocean Dragon Palace, they would obtain all the territories of the West Ocean Dragon Clan.

The Crown Prince of West Ocean was too weak to resist South Ocean and North Ocean.

Although the overall military force of the West Ocean Dragon Clan was once great, most of their elite troops had died in the war with the East Ocean Dragon Clan, including several powerful elders of Qian-level and Kun-level. Right now, the West Ocean Dragon Clan was too weak to do anything.

“As close neighbors of the West Ocean Dragon Clan, I think South Ocean and North Ocean can handle the aid of the West Ocean Dragon Clan.” After some consideration, the Second Duke of North Ocean said to Hao Ren.

Hao Ren smiled lightly and remained silent.

Guang! Guang... Huge waves crashed from the ocean surface to the bottom.

“Left General – Chen Rong, Right General – Lu Yuanshou, Central General – Hu Chunyi from the East Ocean Dragon Clan have arrived with 4500,000 soldiers to aid West Ocean!”

“Ha!”

Close to half a million soldiers shouted in unison.

The magnificent sound waves created huge ocean waves.

The Third Prince of South Ocean and the Second Duke of North Ocean, who had been confident a moment ago, looked at each other and knew that they were out-calculated.

The East Ocean Dragon Clan had sent 500,000 soldiers!

The South Ocean Dragon Clan and the North Ocean Dragon Clan only dared to send 300,000 soldiers each, but the East Ocean Dragon Clan sent 500,000 soldiers!

From their formations and auras, they knew that these 500,000 soldiers of East Ocean were the elites!

They looked at Hao Ren in bafflement, surprised that this young commanding general of East Ocean would be so bold as to occupy the territory of the West Ocean Dragon Clan by force while South Ocean and North Ocean had to hide their intentions with the excuse of helping West Ocean to fight the demon beasts.

“I think it’s settled then. With East Ocean’s 500,000 elite soldiers, the area from the Demon Sea to the West Ocean Dragon Palace will be as safe as it can be, and the West Ocean Dragon Palace can begin its rebuilding without any worries.” Hao Ren said as he glanced at Premier Xia, Elder Sun, and Elder Lu beside him. “Can you three stay here and talk about the details while Zi and I head back?”

Premier Xia, Elder Lu, and Elder Sun bowed with cupped hands and said, “Farewell, Commanding General!”

“Liu Yi, you stay here for the time being and take the responsibility of guarding the surrounding areas of the West Ocean Dragon Palace.” Hao Ren glanced at Liu Yi and said lightly.

“Yes, Commanding General!” Liu Yi answered in a resonant voice.

Hao Ren’s intention was evident by leaving an elite troop around the West Ocean Dragon Palace.

South Ocean and North Ocean silently lamented the sharpness of East Ocean. Faced with 500,000 elite soldiers, they didn’t have the strength to object.

The West Ocean Dragon Palace had been shaken to such a pathetic state after messing with the East Ocean Dragon Clan, and they didn’t want to follow that path.

“Zi! Zi!”

Standing dazed at the gate, Zeng Yitao yelled again immediately.

Not even looking at him, Zhao Yanzi took Hao Ren’s hand and stepped onto the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting with Hao Ren. Then, they flew out of the ocean.

She never liked Zeng Yitao who had been an arrogant brat. More importantly, her grandpa, Zhao Haoran, died after the fierce battle when West Ocean invaded East Ocean, and Zhao Yanzi was lenient toward him by not beating him viciously.

The River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting rushed out of West Ocean and bypassed the Demon Sea by flying above South Ocean. With level 8 demon beasts at the edges of the Demon Sea and countless demon kings, big and small, lurking in the center, Hao Ren couldn’t take the risk with Zhao Yanzi by his side.

While they took the route above the South Ocean Dragon Clan’s ocean area, they were stopped and questioned. After Hao Ren showed his identity, South Ocean didn’t block them.

It took Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi a lot of time because they went in a big circle. When they returned to Purple Bamboo Island, it was already nighttime.

Seeing the return of the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting, Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang immediately came out.

“How did it go?” Seeing only Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi on the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting, Zhao Guang asked.

“The demon beasts were defeated. Four generals and the 500,000 soldiers are stationed in West Ocean while the two Elders and the Premier are discussing the details in the West Ocean Dragon Palace.”

“Ok...” Zhao Guang nodded. The picture was clear to him; with the decline of West Ocean, East Ocean couldn’t let South Ocean and North Ocean take all the benefits. By sending 500,000 elite soldiers without hesitation, Hao Ren helped East Ocean gain the upper hand at the very beginning since the number of soldiers they had at West Ocean were South Ocean and North Ocean combined.

If the East Ocean Dragon Clan had hesitated due to their conflicts with West Ocean, all the benefits would have been divided between South Ocean and North Ocean, which meant that East Ocean wouldn’t have any say on the important issues.

Thinking back on Hao Ren’s decisions, Zhao Guang felt like he was a bit similar to Zhao Haoran.

“Uncle, Auntie, I’ll borrow the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting for something else,” Hao Ren said while Zhao Guang was in deep thought.

“Where are you going?” Zhao Yanzi asked immediately.

“I’m going to watch a basketball game, and I’m running late,” Hao Ren said.

“Take me with you!” Zhao Yanzi said quickly.

“Why do you have to follow me everywhere?” Hao Ren looked at her, complaining.

"I'm not following you. I just want to watch the basketball game!" Zhao Yanzi retorted.

Seeing them bickering, Zhao Hongyu snickered and waved at them gently. "Go ahead!"

"We're off then!" Hao Ren ran into the palace and changed back into his regular clothes before stepping back onto the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting.

Whoosh! They shot toward the north swiftly.

Hurriedly, Zhao Yanzi grabbed Hao Ren's arm, startled at the fast speed.

As a primitive treasure taken from the Nine Dragon Palace, the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting was very fast when it was activated.

After using the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting for some time, Hao Ren was now experienced with it. He had tried with each of the five-elemental nature essences, and the speeds were the same.

However, now that he injected hundun energy, a combination of all five types of nature essences, into the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting, the speed increased by ten times abruptly.

After all, the treasures from the Nine Dragon Palace was the most powerful when chaotic energy powered them. Zhao Yanzi rode on her mom's River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting often, but she had never experienced such an insane speed!

Standing behind Hao Ren, she wrapped her arms around Hao Ren's waist with her whole body leaning against his back, knowing it would be a disaster if she fell from this height at such great speed.

The River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting entered the land area and flew toward the big city swiftly.

"Slow down! Slow down!" Zhao Yanzi grabbed Hao Ren's waist tightly with both hands and yelled.

This speed was faster than planes! In fact, this speed was similar to the speed when planes were falling from the sky in a crash!

"We'll be late if we slow down!" Hao Ren was thinking about Zhao Jiayi's basketball game. For him, the game was no less important than the military operation at the West Ocean Dragon Palace.

Boom!

The moment the River-Mountain Qian-Kun Painting landed, Hao Ren instantly put it away.

Zhao Yanzi's legs turned into jelly when she stepped onto the ground.

Suddenly, she realized that her chest was pressed against Hao Ren's back. While blushing, she immediately pushed him away.

"Come on! Let's go!" Hao Ren took her hand and ran like a madman.

Still out of breath, Zhao Yanzi was dragged into the wild dash. She was furious at the way Hao Ren treated her, his fiancée!

The ticket inspectors and security guards were already standing at the entrance of the Beijing Olympic Stadium. It was obvious that the game had begun.

With a snap of his fingers, a red energy sphere engulfed him and Zhao Yanzi. He had become a skillful user of this technique.

When he pulled Zhao Yanzi through the entrance, the ticket inspectors and the security guards only felt a gust of wind but saw no people passing them.

Bang! After entering the aisle of the stands, Hao Ren put away the energy sphere and successfully came into the stadium without paying for tickets that were already sold out.

The stadium was built according to the newest standards. Under the dazzling lights, it felt like they were in a big NBA game.

Hao Ren looked up at the scores on the big screen, and it showed: Jinghua University – 36: East Ocean University – 26.

He used his nature essence in full, but he had still missed half of the game.

“Ren! Ren!” Sitting on the stand and licking a popsicle, Zhou Liren spotted Hao Ren suddenly and waved his hand enthusiastically.

His voice was so loud that it even overpowered the loud music in the stadium, drawing glances from the nearby audience members.

Hao Ren immediately ran over while pulling on Zhao Yanzi.

Zhao Yanzi rolled her eyes, feeling exhausted.

Almost all the guys from their class sat in this row.

Biting into the popsicle, Zhou Liren was a bit surprised to see that the girl Hao Ren pulling behind him was not Xie Yujia but someone else.

“I couldn’t get through to you on the phone, but you are finally here,” Zhou Liren yelled while he looked at Zhao Yanzi.

He felt like he had seen this girl somewhere, but he wasn’t sure. She looked like the arrogant little girl whom he had seen before, but she looked well-behaved today...

“Your cousin?” Zhou Liren couldn’t hold back his curiosity and asked Hao Ren.

“I’m his fiancée!” Zhao Yanzi gave Zhou Liren a sharp glare and pulled Hao Ren into the aisle of the stand.

Seeing Zhao Yanzi’s fierce look, Zhou Liren shrunk his neck and decided that this girl was indeed the one who had come looking for Hao Ren in the school with a poster at the beginning of last year!

“How is it?” Hao Ren sat down and asked.

“Not good. Our team is not in good shape and has been totally dominated by Jinghua University. Besides, Zhao Jiayi is a bit nervous today since today’s game is being broadcasted live nationally on the sports channel.”

While he talked, he peeked at Zhao Yanzi who was sitting by Hao Ren’s side.

Zhao Yanzi was still panting with anger with her small chest rising and falling. Seeing Zhou Liren's glance, she immediately gave him a fierce look.

"Well, well... This girl called herself Hao Ren's fiancée, and I guess Hao Ren's good days will soon come to an end... Oh, wait a minute. Maybe Hao Ren did something to her, and that's why this girl declared herself as Hao Ren's fiancée..." All kinds of thoughts appeared in Zhou Liren's head.

Chapter 510: Love the Person and Everything Around Him

"Why are you so late?" Yu Rong came over and asked.

"I got lost... I got lost... I couldn't find the stadium," Hao Ren said.

He looked around and asked, "Yujia didn't come?"

When Zhao Yanzi heard the question, she pinched Hao Ren's shoulder hard.

"She organized this event and got us here to the game. But I think she has some personal stuff, so she can't make it." Yu Rong looked at Hao Ren in surprise. "Didn't she tell you?"

"She did tell me, but I just wasn't that sure..." Hao Ren said vaguely.

He thought Xie Yujia would come with Xie Wanjun.

On the basketball court, there were dozens of pretty girls cheerleading. Zhao Jiayi was sitting by the court and looked depressed.

"What are you looking at!" Zhao Yanzi saw that Hao Ren was looking on the court, so she put her hand in front of his eyes.

"This pretty little girl is very bossy. I'm not sure if Hao Ren is happy or sad..." Zhou Liren thought.

"I'm not here to see pretty girls. I'm looking at my friend." Hao Ren took her arm away and looked toward Jinhua University.

Compared to East Ocean University, the home team Jinhua University was full of energy. The captain of the Jinhua University's basketball team was about two meters tall and was discussing the strategy of the second half of the game with his team.

"Go, Jinhua University! Go, Jinhua University! Go, Jinhua University!"

A uniformed and loud cheer sounded on the stands across the court.

The stadium could fit tens of thousands of people, and there were over 5,000 students and alumnus from Jinhua University here. They had packed up almost half the stadium.

Most of them were wearing school uniforms, so they looked very organized and aligned. They also had a lot of banners to cheer for the Jinhua University's basketball team.

In contrast, only a few hundred people from East Ocean University came to Beijing to watch the match, and they sat scattered around the stadium.

“What should we do?” Zhao Yanzi sounded a bit worried.

Because of Hao Ren, she still had some feelings for East Ocean University. Especially since East Ocean University represented East Ocean City, and Zhao Jiayi was a great friend of Hao Ren. For many reasons, she didn’t want the team to lose.

After some thought, she took out her phone and dialed a number.

“What are you doing?” Hao Ren, who was watching the match, turned around and asked Zhao Yanzi.

“Nothing!” Zhao Yanzi pouted.

The special music sounded, signaling the start of the second half of the game.

Zhao Jiayi was exhausted, but he shook his head and headed toward the court. Even with his exceptional jumping abilities and stamina, he was still nervous when he faced the players of Jinghua University who had an average height of two meters.

As expected, Jinghua University that was leading by ten points was not nervous at all. In comparison, East Ocean University was a bit rattled.

Hao Ren didn’t understand the flow and the strategies of basketball games before. But after practicing sword energies and learning architecture from Zhao Hongyu, he was able to somewhat see through the game and comprehend the strategies.

There were five players on East Ocean University’s team who were all running in at their own pace, so they were destroying their own defense-line. However, Jinghua University’s team was calm, and each person stood a position that was part of their overall strategy.

Hao Ren observed for a while and suddenly realized that the new captain of Jinghua University’s basketball team emitted a blue light; a Kan-level cultivator.

For dragon cultivators, it was easy for them to reach Zhen-level, so Kan-level was extremely weak. However, for ordinary people, a Kan-level cultivator was equivalent to a martial arts master!

Hua, hua, hua, hua, hua, hua, hua...

Just then, a bunch of people suddenly rushed into the stadium.

They were all wearing white training clothes, and each one of them was more than 1.8 meters tall.

This large crowd sat at the seats on the top, looking down on the supporters of Jinghua University.

When the referee of this basketball game saw this large white crowd come in, he was a bit shocked and almost forgot to pay attention to what was happening on the court.

“Go, East Ocean University! Go, East Ocean University!”

The cheers for East Ocean University was louder and covered up the cheers for Jinghua University. The students of Jinghua University were all shocked to the point that they were scared and became afraid of cheering out loud.

“Where did they come from?” Hao Ren asked Zhao Yanzi.

“Elder Sun’s Martial Arts Dojos are opened all across the country. There’s a big one in Beijing not far away from here,” Zhao Yanzi said with a smile.

Hao Ren turned around and didn’t a rough count. There were about 6,000 of them!

Zhao Yanzi only gave a call to the manager of Sun Yun Martial Arts Dojos’ Beijing branch and got 6,000 people to come and support East Ocean University!

On the basketball court, Zhao Jiayi wasn’t able to score when he shot the ball. However, he suddenly heard the loud cheers and looked up. He saw a big banner spread across the top of the stadium and read, “Hao Ren said: Good brother, you can do it!”

Suddenly, Zhao Jiayi let out a dazzling smile.

“Damn bro, you finally came... and you made such a scene out of it!” he thought in excitement.

He turned around and looked at his teammates. “Brothers! The era for East Ocean University has come!”

“Yes!” The players on East Ocean University’s basketball team were all encouraged by the big white crowd of supporters.

They weren’t fighting alone!

Hao Ren turned around and looked at the banner, and he couldn’t help but smile. This banner was temporarily made from a big red cloth, but the characters on it were bold and strong. It didn’t look anything less than a fancy one!

The words on this banner were indeed things Hao Ren wanted to say to Zhao Jiayi!

He turned to look at Zhao Yanzi and suddenly admired her for her quick wits. Zhao Yanzi smiled sweetly and made a V-sign with her fingers.

“She is becoming cuter...” Hao Ren thought. He didn’t dare to say this out loud since she would hit him for sure.

On the basketball court, East Ocean University’s basketball team was now inspired and had returned to their usual selves...

Zhao Jiayi dribbled the ball agilely, and he turned around and passed the ball. The ball bounced and was in the hands of PlayerNo.6, who was under the net. This player caught the ball and successfully shot the ball into the net. He got two points for the team.

“Great...” Over 6,000 members of Sun Yun Martial Arts Dojo cheered all at once.

The shouts made the rest of the audience a bit scared. Zhao Jiayi actually wanted to hear the loud, high-pitched cheers from girls, but these manly cheers made them look stronger.

“Go, go, go...”

Zhao Jiayi ran on the court while also giving orders to his teammates. He had thought about giving up, but with Hao Ren showing up, he recalled the time when they fought Jinghua University at East Ocean University's stadium. He couldn't give up because of the grudges between these two universities.

Although the captain of Jinghua University's basketball team was at Kan-level, he wasn't that far away in terms of strength compared with Zhao Jiayi, who had subconsciously absorbed some of Hao Ren's nature essence.

Xie Wanjun played basketball for more than ten years and reached the level of martial arts master, which was equivalent to the third level of the Spirit Concentration Scroll. However, Zhao Jiayi slept under Hao Ren's bed while Hao Ren was cultivating, so a part of that energy had leaked into Zhao Jiayi's body. Right now, Zhao Jiayi was equivalent to the second level of the Spirit Concentration Scroll.

Basketball matches were not only a competition of physical strength. Zhao Jiayi's reaction and skill, as well as the ability to manage his teammates, were all superior to the new captain of Jinghua University's basketball team.

Shoo... Shoo... Shoo...

East Ocean University's basketball team were on a roll and had got back six points in a row.

But even with this, they were still behind by two points!

The third quarter of the game ended!

Zhao Jiayi's basketball uniform was soaked, and even his shoes were wet. However, he was the core player on the team, so he had to play all four quarters.

"Dammit. You've gotten to the finals; don't lose!" Cao Ronghua, who was sitting next to Zhou Liren, said anxiously.

"Dammit! Shut your bad mouth up!" Huang Jianfeng glared at Cao Ronghua.

He liked to watch movies when he had time and didn't show much interest in basketball. However, he wanted to support Zhao Jiayi this time, so he had paid for the trip out of his own pockets to take the train with Zhou Liren and the other guys to come to Beijing.

Zhao Yanzi didn't understand bromances and the things that went on between guys, but she could tell that Hao Ren was very devoted. She knew that this basketball match was very important to him, so she hoped that they could win.

On the basketball court, Zhao Jiayi was wiping off his sweat with a towel. Suddenly, he felt his phone vibrate on the long bench.

Zhao Jiayi saw an unfamiliar number on the screen. He hesitated for half a second but still took the call.

"I'm Xie Wanjun." A mature voice sounded on the phone.

Zhao Jiayi straightened up immediately. Xie Wanjun had trained him like a devil, so those memories were still fresh in his mind. Now that he heard Xie Wanjun's voice, he was fully alerted.

“There are only two minutes. Put your phone on speaker and call everyone over,” Xie Wanjun commanded on the phone.

Zhao Jiayi hurried and called everyone over in a hurry. The break between the third and fourth quarter was only two minutes long.

“I wanted to go there personally, but I’m in the U.S. and couldn’t find time for it. That’s why I’ve been watching the game live online. There are only two minutes, so listen closely.” Xie Wanjun’s voice could be heard from the cell phone speakers.

“I saw the first three quarters of the match and noticed that Jinghua University changed captains. We can’t use the strategy we used before to defeat them. Jinghua University used to have long passes and fast offense to take advantage of their dunks. However, even though the new captain is tall, he’s good at shorter passes and fast offense. Their strategy focuses on their captain, so in the fourth quarter, you guys have to play like this...”

The players on East Ocean University’s basketball team had played under Xie Wanjun. Now that they heard his voice, they were all touched.

Although Xie Wanjun was in the U.S., he still paid attention to the team. A lot of players were in their fourth year, and they would be graduating after the game. This was their last chance to shine, so they wanted to win even more.

“Our goal is...” Xie Wanjun asked on the phone.

“Become the champion!”

The players who surrounded the phone and cheered together.

Special music sounded again, signaling that the fourth quarter of the match was about to begin.

The basketball players of East Ocean University went back to the court. The way their eyes looked and how they walked were much different from before.

“What if they win?” Zhao Yanzi leaned against Hao Ren’s shoulder and asked with a smile.

“All thanks to you,” Hao Ren looked at her and said with a smile.

“If they win, I’ll let you kiss me once,” Zhao Yanzi shrugged her shoulders and said.